

## South East Area 7d Quota Advisory Group

### Proposed Terms of Reference and Constitution

Circulated May 2020

#### **1. Purpose**

- To promote and further the aims of quota management in the South East.
- To discuss and develop management options for sustainable exploitation of fish stocks and highlight stakeholder priorities to the relevant organisations.
- To help coordinate and evaluate different quota management techniques.
- To be advised by, make recommendations to and work closely with the statutory bodies and regulators.
- To support and develop detailed proposals and work with the wider stakeholder group.
- To engage in stakeholder liaison, review the data and where necessary identify how the data gaps can be filled.

#### **2. Principles of the South East Quota Advisory Group (SEQAG)**

##### **Transparent and Accountable**

- The name of the organisations (but not the names of the persons) attending SEQAG meetings will be publicly available.
- Minutes of the meetings will be made publicly available after they have been approved by the group.
- Queries regarding the group or outcomes of meetings will in the first instance be directed via the MMO Inshore Quota Manager who will only provide contact details for members SEQAG after contacting that member and gaining permission to do so.

##### **Fair and Balanced**

- Members of SEQAG must provide an even representation of all fishing activity within the management area.
- The group must allow different local interests to be represented and their views heard.

##### **Expert**

- Bring together expert local knowledge and scientific expertise to help inform and further the approach of the group.

##### **Efficient**

- Address issues in a timely manner as they arise.

#### **3. Representatives of the SEQAG**

The Marine Management Organisation will be the chair and secretariat of the SEQAG.

Representatives from local fishing industry include but are not limited to:

Rye Fisherman's Association  
Hastings Fisherman's Protection Society  
Eastbourne Fisherman's Association  
Newhaven representatives  
Newhaven Fish and Flake Ice Society  
South East Fishermen's Protection Association  
Brighton Fisherman's Protection Society  
Shoreham Fisherman's Protection Society  
South East Fisherman's Protection Association  
Brighton and Newhaven Fish Sales  
South Coast Fisherman's Council

- i) In addition to the above representatives it is recognised that experts may be invited to attend from time to time or on an ongoing basis to assist the SEQAG in achieving a specific purpose or request.
- ii) Meetings should be as inclusive as possible and therefore non- members will be welcome to attend in the public gallery.  
Representative bodies can nominate an alternative representative prior to each meeting to attend in their place.

Non-attendance by any organisation three times in a row without any form of communication to SEQAG will result in a new person found to represent that organisation.

#### **4. Voting rights**

- SEQAG members may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of these terms of reference.
- Decisions should ideally be taken unanimously. If unanimity cannot be reached decisions will be made by majority vote with the chair person having a casting vote but not a second vote.
- In the event of a vote being called, irrespective of the number of representatives sitting on the Committee, only one vote will accrue to each organisation, body or association, or specific fishing interest.
- All attendees must declare who they are representing and the Chair must then decide if there is even and sufficient representation to allow a fair vote (taking into consideration the subject matter e.g. if it is an issue that could be weighted in favour of a specific sea area or fishing gear, depending on those attending the meeting), if not the vote will be postponed until sufficient representation can be provided.

#### **5. Calling a SEQAG meeting**

Unless otherwise agreed between the representatives, the SEQAG shall meet four times in any 12 month period.

The date and time of forth coming SEQAG meetings will be published on the MMO webpages.

#### **6. Meeting Records**

Minutes will be taken at all meetings circulated to all those who attended for approval within 2 weeks of conclusion of the meeting.

Attendees will have 1 week to comment on the minutes and final agreed minutes will be published on the MMOs webpages within 1 month of the meeting.

## **7. Resources and representation**

Any funds received by the group will be held solely for the furtherance of the purpose of the group as set out in section 2. If at time the SEQAG is dissolved then these funds will either:

- i) be returned to source: or
- ii) be forwarded to an organisation with the same Purpose (with the agreement of the SEQAG).

No representative of the SEQAG may commit the group to an action or liability without minuted or written approval of the SEQAG. No individual will represent the group except where agreed by the group and with reference to items agreed by a majority.