

## **South East (Area 7d) Quota Advisory Group**

### **Meeting Minutes 12 June 2020 (by dial in)**

#### **Attendees**

Richard Stride (South Coast Fisherman's council) RS

David Guy (Newhaven Fish and Flake) DG

Neil Whitney (Over-10m, Newhaven) NW

Paul Johnson (Chair, MMO) PJ

Edward Baker (Quota Manager, MMO) EB

Phil Haslam (MMO) PH

Richard Hoskin (MMO) RH

Jonny Peters (DEFRA) JP

Phil Mc. Bryde (DEFRA) PMcB

#### **Apologies**

Charlie Brock (South East Fisherman's Protection Association)

Rodney Simmons (Rye Fisherman's Association).

#### **Introduction**

Paul Johnson introduced the meeting, set ground rules and confirmed who was on the line.

#### **Catch limits and Quota uptake**

EB presented quota uptake and catch limit information for the following fisheries as per the slide pack provided.

#### **Cod Vlld**

RS Quota ok for now so long as there is sufficient available towards the end of the year.

DG Maintain the catch limit as it is so long as it stays open till the end of the year.

NW Keep the over-10m allocation going. There are only a few codling about at the moment.

### **Plaice VIId/e**

RS fishers relying on plaice to keep direct sales to customers going. This will be more an autumn / winter fishery.

DG leave catch limit as is.

NW leave as is for O10.

### **Skate VIId**

RS low price at moment so many fish put back but will need quota in the autumn.

DG leave as is.

NW a lot of skate on the ground. Keep catch limit as is if possible.

### **Undulate Ray VIId/e**

EB in response to request from industry MMO and DEFRA are considering allowing catches of undulate ray to resume from 1 August. This is not a certainty but opinions were asked for.

RS happy with the status quo. Tendency to fish skate later in the year so don't need it open in August but happy to agree if it helps other fishers.

RS asked if once we were out of the CFP we could make our own decisions on undulate ray?

RH said that as an independent coastal state we will be able to make our own decisions.

NW discarding 6 per haul and finding them in places never seen before.

PJ 20 years ago you did not see undulates east of Newhaven.

RS asked if fishers could supply evidence that would help with setting undulate ray quota next year.

**ACTION POINT** RH said he would take that away.

DG will ask fishers in Newhaven what their opinion is.

### **Sole VIId**

RS not restricted by current catch limit.

DG leave as is.

## **Mackerel**

EB introduced the potential for a handline only fishery, potentially up to 10t per month supported by quota from the SW Handline Association's allocation.

PJ suggested this would be better later in the year because flesh quality is poor at present and suggested we could manage the fishery by slowly opening it over the next few months.

RS some interest in this idea but no definite uptake yet. Most vessels only have 1-2 crew and are therefore not capable of reaching 10t but others may have ago if there was sufficient quota available.

PJ suggested an initial 2t handline allocation additional to the current 2t for all gear types.

DG fear of an early closure if too high a catch limit.

NW confirmed mackerel scarce at the moment and agreed with an initial 2t.

EB reiterated this was a trial only and there was sufficient quota to maintain the existing 2t limit. Only the new handline allocation would be closed if necessary. Asked how many vessels may take this opportunity and suggested 15?

RS stated 4 possible vessels in his area.

PJ agreed 15 sensible estimate but noted the fishery was fickle.

DG agreed 15 and that it is a fickle fishery so not many vessels would make the effort to change gears.

## **Herring**

RS an opportunistic fishery in Poole in winter.

DG small fishery but there may be more interest in local landings now there are more sales direct to the public.

NW transport cost currently makes it non-viable to send to fish meal.

## **AOB**

NW a lot of spurdog on the ground that has not been seen for a long time.

PJ Reports of significant catches of spur dog in Lymington area.

**ACTION POINT** What is the current situation with spurdog TAC ? **PH to answer?**

### **Terms of Reference**

EB explained MMO intention was to publish minutes of these meeting on internet along with list of represented groups to ensure transparency and allow comment from non-attendees.

RS good idea to publish minutes and questioned how individual interests would be represented if a vote was required.

DG agreed we need to be clear how voting will take place.

NW Sussex Fishing Council has been set up on Facebook and ideas are being fed in.

**ACTION POINT** EB to consider voting rules.

### **Bass**

RS request to MMO/DEFRA to be allowed to catch bass in Feb/March.

**ACTION POINT** RH to consider and respond.

NW 5% by-catch is a problem because it causes discarding of good quality fish.

**ACTION POINT** PMcB said CEFAS advice on bass is due at end of June. P Mc B will provide update.

RH called for any comments / thoughts on how we can improve these meetings

PH Thanked all attendees for their time and contribution and acknowledged that government needed to explain how fisheries management will work in 2021 and onwards in spirit of co-management.

### **Next meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> of August 14:00