



SCOTTISH SEAFOOD EXPORTS TASKFORCE FINAL REPORT 2021



Scottish Seafood Exports Taskforce

Final Report

19/07/2021

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1. Background

1. The Scottish Seafood Exports Taskforce, hosted by the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland and chaired by Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, David Duguid, emerged from consultation with the seafood and aquaculture industry on the run up to and following the end of the Transition Period. The Taskforce met for the first time on Friday 12 February 2021 and, while background work took place daily at official level and with industry, the Taskforce convened formally fortnightly on seven further occasions.
2. The Taskforce brought together Ministers, industry representatives and UK and Scottish Government officials, in an effort to solve ongoing problems with exports. The core industry members were present throughout the Taskforce; the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, Scottish Seafood Association, Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA), the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) and Seafood Scotland.
3. As well as the support received by members of the Taskforce, input was also received from industry experts including Amber Knight, MacNeil Shellfish and Artus Galiay, NordFrance Invest, with input also provided by Food Standards Scotland. The Taskforce was also attended by Government Ministers including the UK Government Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs George Eustice, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Victoria Prentis, the former Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Fergus Ewing and current Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, Mairi Gougeon.
4. The Taskforce's remit was to act as an overarching body delivering action on medium to long-term issues for the industry, and to complement the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) weekly seafood working groups, with the aim of increasing confidence in the seafood and aquaculture supply chains. It had a core membership drawn from the catching, processing, exporting and aquaculture sections of industry and invited industry experts and specialists to join on an ad hoc basis. Moreover, led by industry stakeholders, the Taskforce convened a number of complementary 'expert sub-groups', utilising industry stakeholder expertise to generate agreed recommendations for the Taskforce action log.
5. The Taskforce has been successful in driving forward issues remitted to its action log. We have always said this Taskforce is intended to deliver on the medium and long term actions. Examples of actions that have been completed include improvements to Export Health Certificates Online (EHCO), with the first round of improvements going live on 29 March (including numbering of pages) and the reduction of regularity of Supplier Declaration forms, now approved to be submitted monthly.
6. These outcomes would not have been possible without the joint efforts of colleagues in Defra, the Scottish Government, Border Protocol Delivery Group (BPDG), HMRC

and most importantly industry representatives. This co-production approach to problem solving combined with a genuinely collaborative spirit has driven positive outcomes for stakeholders and represents a significant achievement for the Taskforce and should be acknowledged as such. The Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland wishes to extend its sincere thanks for the contributions of officials and industry. The OSSS acknowledges that challenges remain outstanding and hopes to build on these relationships to ensure stakeholders are supported as the UK moves forward in its future as an independent coastal state.

2. Action Log (Annex A)

7. OSSS officials, along with colleagues at Defra and the Scottish Government, worked together on a comprehensive account of the actions discussed throughout the Taskforce. The action log accompanies this report and can be found at Annex A. Where actions remain outstanding the log contains, where possible, dates and targets for each workstream.
8. The action log brings to light the progress the Taskforce has made since February, this has been achieved by working together across governments and with stakeholders, although it also serves as a reminder of the work still to do. The remit of the Taskforce was always intended to deliver on the medium and long term actions. The action log is a live document and as the Taskforce draws to a close, the log will remain live and will be a key part of post Taskforce engagement with industry.

3. Meetings

9. The Taskforce has met on eight occasions. The meetings have followed a regular rhythm of updates from different policy workstreams and the Taskforce expert sub-groups, as well as a substantive thematic discussion on issues proposed and agreed by the Taskforce.

10. **Inaugural Meeting 12/02/2021**

The Taskforce's first meeting established the process of setting achievable actions that would have a visible impact on seafood exports in the medium to long term. This first meeting identified issues for discussion at future meetings and began the action setting process for officials and expert working groups to pursue in between Taskforce meetings.

11. It was at this meeting that it was agreed that process mapping would play an integral role in the development of policy changes and that this resource should be looked into. The actions that were noted were, for:

1.01 OSSS to work with colleagues in the Scottish Government and Defra to identify existing process mapping. [complete]

1.02 OSSS to look at external resource to lead wider process mapping [complete]

12. Following the meeting, OSSS sourced an external expert to lead on wider process mapping and to produce a final analysis to be presented at a later date.

13. **Costs & Efficiencies 26/02/2021**

At the second meeting, members of the Taskforce were invited to provide insight into the issues around cost and efficiency that the seafood industry in Scotland has faced since the end of the transition period, including the time taken to complete Export Health Certificates (EHCs) and the associated costs with this. A sub-group of technical experts, led by Tavish Scott, Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) was convened to consider those issues in more detail. The actions that arose were to:

2.01 Convene a sub group of technical experts (convened by Tavish Scott) to look into issues raised during the second meeting of the Taskforce. [complete]

2.02 Scottish Government sought clarity on 11 Defra working groups that had taken place with industry [complete]

14. In response to the actions, Tavish Scott led an expert sub-group on 4th March and reported the group's findings back to the Taskforce at the following meeting (see below). PuSoS Prentis wrote to former Cabinet Secretary Ewing regarding the Defra working groups that had taken place with industry.

15. **EU Facing Issues 12/03/2021**

The third meeting of the Scottish Seafood Exporters Taskforce focussed on EU facing issues, including the financial impact of EU checks on small importers and the need for the import/export systems to be simplified due to the current system being

too costly and time consuming for the hauliers. It was agreed that a sub-group be established to consider further (Amber Knight of MacNeil Shellfish agreed to convene). Artus Galiay of NordFrance Invest, joined the discussion to give an insight on the experience in the Boulogne region. The Scottish Government also circulated a paper on EU vessels landing in Scottish ports and raised issues with produce then transiting across the UK for sale in the EU market.

16. Actions that were noted were:

4.01 Minister Prentis agreed to provide an update at a future meeting on the prospect of digitalisation of paperwork processes [complete]

4.02 Officials to look at the prospect of a Scotland based 'customs clearing house'. [complete]

4.03 OSSS officials to consider a Comms Strategy for the Taskforce to provide updates for industry [complete]

4.04 Sub-group of technical experts (convened by Amber Knight) to look into issues raised during the third meeting of the Taskforce [complete]

4.05 To take forward work offline outside of Taskforce (referring to the Scottish Government paper on EU vessel landings) to confirm next steps [complete]

17. In response to these actions, Defra officials provided an update on digitisation at the following Taskforce meeting which took place on 26th March. BPDG also attended that meeting and explained the reasoning behind the prospect of an EU customs clearance house outside of the EU not being a possibility due to current legislation.

18. Following the action for a Comms strategy to be put in place, OSSS considered and took forward with updates published following each meeting. Work was taken forward offline between the Scottish Government, BPDG, HMRC and Defra regarding the Scottish Government paper on EU vessel landings and discussions are ongoing to finalise guidance.

19. At this meeting, Tavish Scott also provided an update on the progress made by the expert sub-group on Costs and Efficiencies, which gave rise to various actions. These were:

3.01 Hubs to continue to work with suppliers to rectify paperwork issues [in process]

3.02 Hubs to continue to train staff to prepare draft EHCs [in process]

3.03 To update EHCOnline for smoother operation to achieve correctly completed EHCs first time [in process]

3.04 For EHCO be made editable to account for the industries varying requirements and processes [in process]

3.05 Force filling of fields in EHCO [in process]

3.06-3.10 Amendments to be made to the formatting options of EHCs [largely still in process]

3.11 EHCO - Clarity on how many language copies are required, and should BCPs retain the original or the driver [in process]

3.12 A new modern system to be designed – industry believes that a reconfigured digital system must be the objective [in process]

3.13 *Commodity codes - exporters to use Seafood Scotland spreadsheet, once tested and checked, to help obtain codes [complete]*

3.14 *Supplier Declaration to be updated and given a validity period of 1 month, thereby reducing the administrative burden on Food Business Operators [complete]*

3.15 *Explore if it is possible to remove support attestations [complete]*

20. While most of these actions have been completed, others are still in progress. Defra are working to a first quarter 2022 timescale for delivering the outstanding digitisation actions and have in place a fully digital EHC system, providing a fully digitised journey that will result in an eCertificate. Defra will engage stakeholders throughout the evolution of this process. It has also been approved that Supplier Declarations can be provided monthly, although not possible to remove support attestations altogether.

21. Certification Issues 26/03/2021

The fourth meeting of the Scottish Seafood Exports Taskforce focused on Certification Issues. Discussion during the meeting centred on continuing issues with processing paperwork. The importance of timings and dates for delivery on the action tracker document was noted and it was taken as an action that timings should be included going forward.

22. BPDG officials updated on border issues and Defra officials provided an update on digitisation. The Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary was represented by George Burgess, Head of Food & Drink. Thereafter, a sub-group was established by Donna Fordyce, Seafood Scotland to consider further processes and costs.

23. Actions that arose were for:

6.01 *BPDG to share with the Scottish Government and industry an analysis paper on landings of EU flagged vessels [complete]*

6.02 *Timings for completing actions to be added by OSSS to action tracker [complete]*

6.03 *Donna Fordyce to convene a sub group on the costs export companies are bearing and paperwork errors [complete]*

6.04 *HMRC figures on Salmon exports due to be revised [complete]*

24. In response to these actions, an analysis paper on EU Vessel landings was shared by BPDG to relevant parties. OSSS officials engaged with Defra to clarify as far as possible timings for actions to be completed and are continuing to work across government to understand timings for actions. Defra and OSSS worked with HMRC to review the data from January this year for salmon exports. HMRC liaised with industry to explain the methodology and offer reassurance that issues with the system have now been resolved and figures should be correct for future months.

25. Amber Knight of MacNeil Shellfish also presented findings from the expert sub-group on EU facing issues. The group made the following recommendations:

5.01 *To consider whether there could be a central forum/group to liaise with BCPs on behalf of the industry [complete]*

5.02 Defra colleagues to investigate whether BCPs require paper copies for organic seafood exported via the TRACES system [complete]

5.03 To investigate what, if any, third countries have systems which can interface with TRACES, and whether these can be imported for use in the UK [complete]

5.04 To explore whether UKG can approach BCPs to encourage more flexibility on the 4hr wait to deal with revised EHCs [complete]

26. Defra are considering how the UK Government can best assist with a central forum to liaise with BCP's, although are keen for industry involvement and in their work to digitalise the EHC journey, Defra have considered third country interface with TRACES.

27. UK Government Systems 09/04/2021

The fifth meeting of the Scottish Seafood Exports Taskforce focused on the theme of UK Government Systems and officials from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) provided an update on the Fish Export Service. MMO have been working with processors and industry representatives to identify the main improvements needed, the six main requests from industry were: cloning of catch certificates; cloning and voiding and resubmit with updates; data uploads to enable landings to be updated separately; process statements and documents; redesigning product and landing pages; redesigning the user flow to more of a checklist system so information can be uploaded as it is received.

28. The Taskforce also received an update from Donna Fordyce, Seafood Scotland on the findings from the two expert sub-group meetings on processes and costs, with a further presentation of findings to follow. The group have looked to determine if it is possible to gather data on costs and to understand where these originate to understand the exact costs to business of EU Exit.

29. The Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary was again represented by George Burgess, Head of Food & Drink, due to pre-election period rules.

30. An action in relation to EU vessel landings was again raised to -

7.01 Explore ways to ensure that the Scottish Government are involved more closely in discussions relating to EU flagged vessels [complete]

31. The end of the transition period has presented some practical difficulties for those EU vessels landing their catch in northern Scottish ports and moving it across the UK for sale in the EU Market. The Taskforce helped coordinate for officials at the appropriate level of government collaborate to produce guidance. OSSS officials have assisted with ensuring the relevant officials are in contact and discussions between the Scottish Government, BPDG, HMRC and Defra are ongoing to finalise guidance for EU Vessels landing in the UK.

32. Non Quota Stocks and Exporting Beyond the EU 30/04/2021

The sixth meeting of the Scottish Seafood Exports Taskforce focused on the themes of non-quota stocks and exporting beyond the EU. The meeting received input from Amber Knight (MacNeil Shellfish) and Andrew Brown (MacDuff Shellfish) regarding

non-quota stocks and from Hamish Macdonnell (SSPO) on exporting beyond the EU. The Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary was again represented by George Burgess due to pre-election period rules.

33. Action Log 14/05/2021

The seventh meeting of the Scottish Seafood Exports Taskforce focussed on the action log and progress arising therefrom. The meeting contained updates from Defra officials on the progress of various actions. The Scottish Government were again represented by George Burgess, who noted that the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy would be in post for the next meeting.

34. The action that arose was for -

8.01 SSE Taskforce secretariat to look at ways of continuing to engage on Taskforce issues once the group has been disbanded [complete]

35. Section 4 of this Report sets out a summary on Post Taskforce Engagement.

36. Final Meeting: Discussion of Final Report 11/06/2021

The final meeting saw Taskforce attendees discuss this final report.

4. Post Task Force Engagement

37. The Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Scottish Government have agreed to meet with Taskforce stakeholders once per month for the remainder of 2021. Other UK Government departments and stakeholders will be invited to support where necessary. The meeting will consider progress on the actions from the Taskforce action log, but also to raise other actions that may have arisen since the final Taskforce meeting.
38. The OSSS acknowledges that industry stakeholders continue to face challenges in exporting to the EU. Indeed, this is reflected by the actions that remain live in the Taskforce action log until completed and new challenges may emerge as the new trading relationship with the EU is further established and demand for our produce increases through Covid-19 recovery. In acknowledgment of this and as a reflection of the success of the collaboration fostered by the Taskforce to date, colleagues in the UK and Scottish Governments are keen to ensure dialogue with industry is normalised and maintained. This will ensure the relevant policy teams are sighted on the latest practical issues faced by stakeholders, allowing them to drive solutions internally.
39. While it is appreciated that different issues may affect different parts of the seafood sector, the Taskforce has provided a central forum for issues to be raised and considered. It is acknowledged that events and schedules are fluid and it may not be possible for all parties to always attend future engagement but it would be beneficial for all to have the opportunity to contribute and be represented. There should be sufficient fluidity to allow for more focused meetings, if significant issues emerge that affect a particular part or parts of industry, to ensure relevancy for all parties and ensure the unique elements of each part of the industry are supported. It is important that future engagement remains action focused to ensure valuable use of time. Government attendance at these meetings will be determined by availability and competence with a view to ensuring the right colleagues are available to support industry at the right time.
40. It will be important to have a review mechanism in place for any future engagement, to ensure industry support accurately reflects industry need and to take stock of the resource commitments faced by all parties. This engagement will be reviewed every third meeting.
41. Above all, the OSSS wants to put on record its appreciation first to industry for its input and expertise and second for the support of colleagues across the UK and Scottish Governments. The Taskforce has successfully made progress in a number of influential policy areas and established relationships that will be key to continue meeting stakeholders' needs in the near, medium and longer term future. It is our sincerest wish that this spirit of collaboration and co-production continues and we continue to make progress on these issues together as the UK seizes the opportunity of becoming a truly independent coastal state.

Action Log

	Meeting	Action Item #	Category	Action Item Description	Assigned to	Status	Comments
14.2.21	SSE Task Force	1.01	Process Map	OSSS to work with colleagues in SG and DEFRA to identify existing process mapping.	OSSS	COMPLETE	OSSS discussed existing process maps with SG officials - https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-published-to-support-commercial-fishers-merchants-and-exporters-from-1-january-2021
14.2.21	SSE Task Force	1.02	Process Map	OSSS to look at external resource to lead wider process mapping	OSSS	COMPLETE	Consultant's work being considered.
26.2.21	SSE Task Force	2.01	Expert Sub-group	Convene a sub group of technical experts (convened by Tavish Scott) to look into issues raised during the second meeting of the Taskforce .	Tavish Scott	COMPLETE	Group met on Thursday 4 March.
26.2.21	SSE Task Force	2.02	Working Groups	SG seeking clarity on the 11 Defra working groups that have taken place with industry	DEFRA	COMPLETE	PuSoS Prentis wrote to former Cabinet Secretary Ewing.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.01	Hubs	Hubs to continue to work with suppliers to rectify paperwork issues.	FSS	IN PROCESS	Ongoing.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.02	Hubs	Hubs to continue to train staff to prepare draft EHCs.	FSS	IN PROCESS	Ongoing.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.03	EHC Online	Update EHCOOnline for smoother operation to achieve correctly completed EHCs first time.	DEFRA/AP HA	IN PROCESS	EHCO is being updated to provide a fully digitised journey resulting that will result in an eCertificate. Defra are keen to work with the industry to ensure that the journey can be completed first time.

4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.04	EHC Online	EHCO be made editable to account for the industries varying requirements and processes.	DEFRA/APHA	IN PROCESS	Defra note that this is part of the wider asks around ECHO. Defra are keen to work with the industry to better understand the 'editable' ask. This work is being planned with the aim of releasing in Q3. DEFRA are still identifying traders to support with the design of the solution.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.05	EHC Online	Force filling of fields in EHCO	DEFRA/APHA	IN PROCESS	EHCO is being updated to provide a fully digitised journey. The fully digitised journey will load data from EHCO into Traces NT. The revised EHCO will force the filling of fields.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.06	EHC Online	Amend EHCO to allow the system to number pages.	DEFRA/APHA	COMPLETE	Change introduced 29/03
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.07	EHC Online	Amend EHCO score out unnecessary areas	DEFRA/APHA	IN PROCESS	Work is starting on 'strikethrough' with the aim of delivering in the Autumn 2021. It is an integral part of eCertification scheduled for delivery in early 2022. EHCO is being updated to provide a fully digitised journey that will result in an eCertificate. The fully digitised journey will load EHC data from EHCO into Traces NT, allow certifiers to complete an attestation and strikethroughs electronically to allow the import notification. Defra exploring options, including working with businesses to understand user process (Autumn 2021).
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.08	EHC Online	Amend EHCO to remove none required text	DEFRA/APHA	IN PROCESS	This work is being planned with the aim of releasing in Q3. DEFRA are identifying a couple of traders to support with the design of the solution. The fully digitised journey will load data from EHCO into Traces NT, allow certifiers to complete an attestation and strikethroughs electronically to allow the import notification. The revised EHCO will remove 'none required' text.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.09	EHC Online	Amend EHCO to introduce electronic stamping	DEFRA/APHA	IN PROCESS	Electronic stamping is part of eCertification scheduled for delivery in early 2022. Initial delivery is being planned with a Northern Ireland focus with other EU trade soon after. The fully digitised journey will load EHC data from EHCO into Traces NT, allow certifiers to complete an attestation and strikethroughs electronically to allow the import notification. The revised EHCO will include electronic stamping.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.10	EHC Online	Amend EHCO to introduce electronic signatures.	DEFRA/APHA	IN PROCESS	Electronic signatures is part of eCertification scheduled for delivery in early 2022. The revised EHCO will include electronic signatures.

4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.11	EHC Online	EHCO - Clarity on how many language copies are required, and should BCPs retain the original or the driver.	DEFRA/AP HA	IN PROCESS	DEFRA are providing guidance which includes an English version, the language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry and also the destination. For example, if goods are exported passing through France to enter Italy, they will only need one EHC but in two languages. The exporter will apply once but will indicate the route they are taking, and they will receive an English version, a French version (entering via the BCP) and an Italian version (destination). The original certificate needs to accompany the consignment to the BCP/destination. EHCO is being updated to provide a fully digitised journey resulting that will result in an eCertificate. Defra are currently asking the EU to agree on the future need for paper copies of EHC's.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.12	EHC	A new modern system to be designed – industry believe that a reconfigured digital system must be the objective.	DEFRA/AP HA	IN PROCESS	Plan is for a fully digital EHC system by early 2022. Initial delivery is being planned with a Northern Ireland focus with other EU trade soon after. EHCO is being updated to provide a fully digitised journey resulting that will result in an eCertificate. Defra are keen to work with the industry to ensure that the journey can be completed first time. EHCO is being updated to provide a fully digitised journey resulting that will result in an eCertificate. The fully digitised journey will load EHC data into Traces NT, allow certifiers to complete an attestation and strikethroughs electronically to allow the import notification.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.13	Commodity Codes	Commodity codes - exporters to use Seafood Scotland spreadsheet, once tested and checked, to help obtain codes.	SEAFOOD SCOTLAND	COMPLETE	Seafood Scotland have placed the Commodity Code spreadsheet on to their website. https://www.seafoodscotland.org/brexit/
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.14	Supplier declaration	Supplier Declaration to be updated and given a validity period of 1 month, thereby reducing the administrative burden on Food Business Operators	DEFRA	COMPLETE	Updated Supplier Declaration approved by 4CVOs and updated in guidance.
4.3.21	Expert Sub-group 1	3.15	Supplier declaration	Explore if it is possible to remove support attestations	DEFRA	COMPLETE	Not possible (attestations required for hubs to work)

12.3.21	SSE Task Force	4.01	Digitisation	Minister Prentis agreed to provide an update at a future meeting on the prospect of digitalisation of paperwork processes	DEFRA	COMPLETE	Defra attended Taskforce meeting on 26th March to provide an update on digitisation. EHCO is being updated to provide a fully digitised journey resulting that will result in an eCertificate. The fully digitised journey will load EHC data into Traces NT, allow certifiers to complete an attestation and strikethroughs electronically to allow the import notification. Defra are keen to start working with representatives of the industry to ensure that the system meets their needs.
12.3.21	SSE Task Force	4.02	Customs	Officials to look at the prospect of a Scotland based 'customs clearing house'.	DEFRA/BP DG	COMPLETE	BPDG attended taskforce to provide update on this. Due to EU law it is not possible to have EU customs clearance outside of the EU.
12.3.21	SSE Task Force	4.03	Comms	To consider a Comms Strategy for the Taskforce to provide updates for industry.	OSSS	COMPLETE	OSSS has published updates after Taskforce meetings.
12.3.21	SSE Task Force	4.04	Expert Sub-group	Convene a sub group of technical experts (convened by Amber Knight) to look into issues raised during the third meeting of the Taskforce.	Amber Knight	COMPLETE	Sub group met on 19th March.
12.3.21	SSE Task Force	4.05	EU Vessel landings	To take forward work offline outside of Taskforce (referring to SG paper on EU vessel landings) to confirm next steps.	OSSS working with OGDs and SG	COMPLETE	Work to confirm next steps was completed and guidance finalised.
19.3.21	Expert Sub-group 2	5.01	BCPs	To consider whether there could be a central forum/group to liaise with BCPs on behalf of the industry.	DEFRA	COMPLETE	At post-Taskforce meeting on 20 July 2021, Defra advised for live immediate issues the engagement with BCPs should be industry-led due to ensure speed of issues being addressed.
19.3.21	Expert Sub-group 2	5.02	BCPs	Defra colleagues to investigate whether BCPs require paper copies for organic seafood exported via the TRACES system.	DEFRA	COMPLETE	All organic exporters are required to be registered with their organic control body, in this case. The exporter needs to raise a Certificate of Inspection (COI) on Traces NT. The French ports will received a notification via Traces NT that the consignment is coming. When the consignment appears, the French port needs to download the document, stamp and sign it and then upload it back onto Traces NT. The COI is an electronic document with quite a bit of information included. Some details do not need to be included when it is raised as the actual transport details and weight of the consignment may not be known in advance.

19.3.21	Expert Sub-group 2	5.03	Digitisation	To investigate what, if any, third countries have systems which can interface with TRACES, and whether these can be imported for use in the UK.	DEFRA/AP HA	COMPLETE	As above, plan is for delivery of a fully digital EHC system by early 2022. Defra have considered and a third party system will not be brought in.
19.3.21	Expert Sub-group 2	5.04	BCPs	To explore whether UKG can approach BCPs to encourage more flexibility on the 4hr wait to deal with revised EHCs	DEFRA	COMPLETE	It is Defra officials understanding that the wait is caused by the lorry having to return to the back of the queue.
26.3.21	SSE Task Force	6.01	EU vessel landings	BPDG to share with SG and industry an analysis paper on landings of EU flagged vessels.	BPDG	COMPLETE	Paper shared on 16.4.2021
26.3.21	SSE Task Force	6.02	Action Log	Timings to be added to action tracker	OSSS	COMPLETE	OSSS have added as far as possible and are continuing to work with DEFRA to obtain timings for ongoing actions.
26.3.21	SSE Task Force	6.03	Sub-group	Donna Fordyce to convene a sub group on the costs export companies are bearing and paperwork errors.	Donna Fordyce	COMPLETE	Sub-group met on 1st April and 6th April.
26.3.21	SSE Task Force	6.04	Salmon	HMRC figures on Salmon exports due to be revised	DEFRA / HMRC	COMPLETE	Engagement between SSPO and HMRC has taken place.
09.4.21	SSE Task Force	7.01	EU Vessel landings	Explore ways to ensure that the Scottish Government are involved more closely in discussions relating to EU flagged vessels.	BPDG / SG	COMPLETE	Lead officials from SG, BPDG, HMRC and Defra are all in contact. Discussions are ongoing to finalise guidance.
14.5.21	SSE Task Force	8.01	Future Engagement	Taskforce secretariat to look at ways of continuing to engage on taskforce issues once the group has been disbanded	OSSS	COMPLETE	OSSS and SG have agreed on engagement for the rest of 2021.