



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# MMO Board Minutes: 21 January 2021 MMO BM 8101



...ambitious for our seas and coasts

<b>Attendees</b>
<b>Board</b>
Hilary Florek (HF) – Chair Belinda Howell (BH) – Board Member Bill Dickson (BD) – Board member David Lyall (DL) – Board Member Peter Judge (PJ) – Board Member Robert Wilson (RW) – Board member Terence Jagger (TJ) – Board member Tony Delahunty (TD) – Board member William Roberts (WR) – Board member
<b>In attendance</b>
Tom McCormack (TMc) – Chief Executive Officer Andrew Wareing (AW) – Director of Digital and Analysis Jenny Stewart (JS) – Director of Planning and Change Michelle Willis (MW) – Director of Finance and Resources Phil Haslam (PH) – Director of Operations Selina Stead (SS) – Chief Scientific Advisor Trudi Wakelin (TW) – Director of Licensing, Marine Planning and Blue Belt Anne Freeman (AF), Deputy Director, Domestic Fisheries and Reform, Defra Richard Hoskin (RH), Head of Fisheries Management & Marine Conservation Management Sarah Cullen (SC) – Board Secretariat Danielle Lee-Moulding (DLM) – Board Support
<b>Defra – by invitation</b>
Neil Hornby - Defra Director, Marine and Fisheries
<b>Apologies</b>
None

**NOTE:** Meeting held via MS Teams due to the Coronavirus pandemic  
Attendees:

## 1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

1.1. Hilary Florek (HF) opened the meeting and noted that there had been a tremendous amount of activity since the previous meeting. HF thanked all attendees and asked for her thanks to be shared with all colleagues across MMO. HF particularly noted the work undertaken by coastal teams and asked Phil Haslam (PH) to comment.

## 2. Declaration of Interests

2.1. HF asked for any new declarations of interest.

2.2. Terence Jagger (TJ) noted that while it was not a new declaration, he was a governance and development advisor for Immarsat. TJ had noted an item in the agenda requesting approval for invitation to tender for a new satellite framework for Blue Belt and while he did not feel that there would be a conflict, TJ wanted to remind the Board of this role.

2.3. Robert Wilson (RW) noted an existing position with the Drugs Policy Research Group providing consultancy on Covid 19 which enter into the public domain in due course.

### Governance

## 3. Draft minutes of 18 November, 2 and 22 December Board Meetings

3.1. HF asked for any points of accuracy on the draft minutes of the 18 November, 2 and 22 December Board meetings. HF noted that minor typos had been identified out of committee for correction. Selina Stead (SS) noted a minor typo with the draft minutes of the 2 December meeting. Minutes were accepted pending a correction of the typo's.

## 4. Actions arising and the Decision Log 18th November, the 2nd and 22nd December meetings

4.1 HF queried whether the Board were comfortable that the action and decision log accurately reflected the actions and decisions and the Board confirmed they were content.

### Operational and Financial

## 5. Post EU Summary/Round-Up

5.1. JS noted developments in relation to the new EMFF/MFF replacement fund Fisheries and Seafood Support fund (FaSS). The system needed building and also noted that two

operational readiness reviews which been undertaken before Christmas had assured the fund was ready to launch.

5.2. TMc advised that MMO was in a good position to launch and administer the funds though action to set up the funds was required quickly to respond to the need to support the sector. The Fisheries Response Fund had demonstrated that MMO could respond quickly and safely.

5.3. PH updated the Board on control and enforcement, quota and access to the 6-12nm in the light of EU Exit and Covid 19 and noted that progress with maritime security had been good.

## 6. Business Planning Update

6.1. On Capital we were still awaiting the final figure we think it would be broadly 12 million for 21/22 which was allocated to EU exit transition. This had been led by Andrew for Marine and Fisheries.

6.2. MW acknowledged that whilst this budget was based on a normal year pre-Covid, any savings we had made were not yet clear to input into offsetting the wider pressures. This would be clarified when we get the indicative EU allocation. Looking forward in preparation for the forthcoming Spending Review TJ offered to support to MW on how MMO could refine the response to Defra in making a stronger description of impact in light of the potential of reduced budgets.

## 7. Performance, Finance and Risk Pack (incl. H&S) – Q3 and YTD

7.1. Q3 and YTD position discussed

7.2. Commercial decision, the paper highlighted that the framework we use for Blue Belt surveillance expires in May, decision is needed to go out to tender to ensure a new framework is in place. It would return to the Board once tender is completed and at that point the funding envelope will be known, .

### **Strategic Developments**

## 8. Fisheries Management: 2021 & beyond

8.1. HF welcomed Anne Freeman (AF), Deputy Director, Domestic Fisheries and Reform and Richard Hoskin (RH), Head of Fisheries Management & Marine Conservation Management to present to Board on the future of Fisheries Management.

8.2. RH advised that the purpose of the paper was to signpost the Board on the future of fisheries management in the light of the UK becoming an independent coastal state and to explain the transition to new working arrangements through the next 5-10 years.

8.3DL queried what how MMO could strengthen the partnership with Defra. AF advised that she was aware of the complexities of the work and of the skills and capabilities needed. This would need to be worked through along with consideration of the balance of the responsibilities between Defra and MMO.

## **Committee Reports and Subgroups**

### 9. Draft minutes from 8 December ARAC

9.1. No comments noted from MMOB. WR highlighted marked improvement on licensing and income streams. Little variance in income compared to previous years. Accounts were delivered on time, congratulations to MW and finance team. .

### 10. Update on strategy work

10.1. HF noted that the strategy of the MMO was a fundamental part of the Board's purpose and that since leaving the EU, it was an opportunity to reset the strategy .

10.2. JS advised that following a meeting on 20 January, there were three key points to draw to the attention of the Board. The plan to gather data and brainstorming with ELT had been completed which would allow the strategy document to be drafted. JS would continue to review the timeline to investigate whether it could be brought forward. The first draft would be shared with the Board to review and agree the main ambitions. These would include funding, international standing and services, commercial services, role within the environment and use of technologies and would be unconstrained by legislation and current divisions of responsibilities.

### 11. Evidence updates

11.1. AW updated the Board on progress with Evidence. AW advised that there was more focus on evidence for fisheries than ever before.

11.2 TJ queried whether the work on KPI's had progressed. AW advised that Simon Dixon and his team had reviewed the statistics to investigate the areas for improvement with the Operations team and would include the KPI's within the whole suite.

## **Closing Matters**

### 12. MMOB review of meeting

12.1. HF advised that the dates for the coming two years of Board and Committee meetings had been confirmed.

12.2 Stakeholder events had not yet been programmed into the Board cycle though HF noted the importance of Board-led events and that other ALB's such as Natural England had undertaken successful events already. HF asked for any additional ideas to be shared.

12.3 HF asked for any 'AOB' items, none were offered. HF offered her thanks to everyone and acknowledged the huge amount of work that was ongoing across the MMO and confirmed that the next meeting was 28 April. HF closed the meeting.

**End of Meeting**

**Actions**