

# REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## North East – 4b

14:00 – 16:00 Zoom Conference Call

### Attendees:

#### DEFRA

Phil McBryde  
Lydia Osborne

#### MMO

Richard Hoskin  
Ed Baker  
Katie James  
Sarah Allison  
Julian Roberts  
Andrew Newlands

#### CEFAS

Carl O'Brien

#### IFCA

Mike Southerton  
David McCandless

#### INDUSTRY

Kevin Henderson  
Stan Rennie  
Andrew Shaw

1. Chair Welcome & Introductions
2. Scene setting and Introductions – Phil McBryde/Richard Hoskin

There are 6 regional groups; these will be a forum for bringing together policy makers, scientists, fishermen and regulators in order to work together to compliment and deliver an intelligent approach to fisheries management.

This is picking up the Future of Our Inshore Fisheries action plan which came out of the conference. We are trying to move away from top-down one size fits all management as that approach doesn't work.

There are opportunities from having left the EU, we want to listen to your priorities and concerns to see how we can do things differently. These groups are a platform in which to elevate conversations, produce trials, pilots and collaborative science ideas.

There will be an opportunity for 1:1 surgery after meetings when we move into face to face environment.

These won't be perfect to start with and are expected to evolve. It is important that you feedback on these group meetings so we can collectively learn and improve.

Terms of Reference have been drafted and we will send those out after the meeting to be commented on before future meetings are held.

MMO / Defra will chair these meetings and provide a secretariat for the rest of the year but going forward you can recommend/ make suggestions for this role.

The objective is to work together and identify challenges with different regulators which affect your region.

### **3. Annual negotiations**

Negotiations are still ongoing. The UK has extended TAC for the rest of year to give certainty, details are on gov.uk. If agreement is reached in negotiations, that would override the current provisional TAC.

As an Independent Coastal State, we have been following ICES science and recommendations. We have recently published SoS determination for the whole year.

The prospects for getting back to EU- Norway negotiations this year are slim. We understand you need simplicity to understand what you can fish.

Whiting went up but U10 could do with more whiting for summer months.

This year is not representative; we usually have 50-60 visiting prawn boats from Scotland, NI and Netherlands. Nomadic boats come here as soon as prawns show up.

Nets are a waste of time because seals take catch out.

O10m allowed 6-700 pots, U10 allowed 500 pots. Concern that some boats fishing thousands of pots.

Suggestion of a 12-mile IFCA looking after management.

### **4. Quota management – Presentation (Katie James)**

Katie presented the Quota management presentation; group discussed stock and catch limits (see appendix 1).

### **5. Collaborative science**

We want ideas from you around collaboration you'd like to see. Fisheries science partnership initiative started in 2003. North East has seen a number of projects- trials of net grid to minimise bycatch of cod, survival of plaice and lemon sole, Landing Obligation exemptions and analysis of stomach contents of whiting for changes in feeding preferences.

There has been a lot of seasonal change on available fisheries in last 25 years.

**ACTION:** IFCA to revisit razor clam classification.

Request to explore how to catch squid but there is a lot in the closed areas. Requests were made last year from trawlers to use derogation from Farnes Deep measures. 2- 3 boats have gear to target squid.

North Eastern did a study in 2005 on seal predation and interaction. Trialled acoustic deterrent devices which showed some effectiveness. This could be revisited.

Gear conflict been an issue for scallop dredgers, interested in trials looking at AIS technology or standards for surface markers to prevent conflict.

Request for an update on Review UK licencing process: Defra plans to run Call for Evidence for Over 10s in summer. We recognise you need flexibility and we need to work through unintended consequences. Can't give timeframe but we'd like to come back to this group with relevant policy colleagues.

**6. AOB**

Attendance: apathy from past may be deterring as many have been down this route before and would rather go to sea. There is no one from Blythe or North Shields, the use of Zoom is maybe off-putting.

This group will hopefully grow as word gets out about the interesting discussions around things that matter.

Regional boundary was drawn on from workshop and previous conversations. Groups will evolve and we are happy to look at changing the region. Would be good to include Bridlington, Holderness and Whitby groups.

Can you add a reminder of all quota for all stocks when doing licence variations to make it easier for skippers to understand?

**ACTION:** MMO add webpage link onto variation.

**Meeting Closed**

**Appendix 1**

<b>Stock</b>	<b>U10's Comments</b>	<b>O10's comments</b>
<b>NS Cod</b>	If cod showed up, there wouldn't be enough for us to target so it wouldn't matter if you put it up.	-
<b>NS Angler</b>	No Comments	No Comments
<b>NS Mackerel</b>	Suggestion handline should be taken off quota altogether and have an unlimited catch limit similar to the South West. Mackerel come in in summer, we'll need an increase for when they come. Agreed to put up for next month. This is the first year we've been given an allocation as a direct result of leaving EU. Hopefully we can get the catch limit up.	-
<b>NS Nephrops</b>	This is a summer fishery- will get in touch nearer the time	This is currently overfished- MMO looking to get more in.
<b>NS Skates &amp; Rays</b>	No Comments	No Comments
<b>NS Plaice</b>	Industry used to catch more but it's thinned out.	-
<b>NS Sole</b>	It's a bit early for nets but there has not been much in the last few years.	No Comments
<b>NS Whiting</b>	No Comments	-

