

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Thursday 16th November 2021

North East 4b

15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call

MMO

Ed Baker - Quota
Tim Dixon – Fisheries Management
Patrick Gray – PMO & Chair
Eleanor Holford – Regional Fisheries
Katie James - Quota
Chris Sweeting – Evidence Specialists
Emily Theobald – Regional Fisheries

DEFRA

Paul Harvey
Lydia Osbourne
Emma Westling

INDUSTRY

Malcom Cooper
Brian Dunn
Terry Pearson
Stan Rennie
Jo Redfern
Tom Yale

IFCA

Mark Southerton
Tim Smith

Seafish

Rebecca Treacy

1. Introductions - Patrick Gray, MMO

2. Quota Presentation - Katie James, MMO

See presentation provided for the meeting and comments in Appendix 1

ICES advice update 2022 is going to increase overall for NS Nephrops, the TAC increasing by 27%. However, there is an advised reduction in Farne deeps of 16%. Defra will be considering ways of reducing up take of nephrops in the Farne deeps with input from industry. This is a very early heads up and nothing is set to change at the beginning of the year. If anyone has ideas of how to reduce the Farne deeps uptake or has questions please contact regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk

Example of how the Quota team can help the inshore fleet:

- Small Eyed Ray which is banned in 7e but the SW RFG are working with Cefas to try and get a TAC for this species, hopefully next year.

- Undulate Ray in 7d was closed for 4 months last year but the Quota team got it opened a month early after a request from the inshore fleet in this area.
- The team has responded to requests from the NE for increased Mackerel quota which has been done through trading out other stocks.

Reminder to contact InshoreQuotaManager@marinemanagement.org.uk with questions and quota enquires, if there is something you would like to catch please get in touch and the team will try and help.

3. Community Quota Schemes – Paul Harvey, DEFRA

Community schemes: working with industry over the next 12 months and have pilot studies ready for 2023. Trying to engage the level of interest, who is interested and who can we work with? Looking at trialling different management techniques and views as to what could work. There has been some interest around the coast but none from the NE.

Please return the completed questionnaires to Paul Harvey: Paul.Harvey@defra.gov.uk and if you have any questions please also contact Paul Harvey by email or phone 07769285656.



Pilot Schemes
Expression of In...

4. Teesside and Redcar crustacean mortality – Patrick Gray, MMO

There are reports that dead crustaceans are washing up further south (Runswick Bay) and the effect appears to be spreading. EA and Cefas are leading the investigation with the NE IFCA, MMO, Food Standards and UK Health Agency are all collaborating to find the cause. EA and CEFAS leading (analysing sediment, water, shellfish, and san) to see if a disease or pollutant contributed to the deaths of the marine crustaceans. No contaminant had been identified yet but EA are looking at the possibility of a pollutant. MMO has not found any unlicensed dredging which has gone on in the areas, but this has not been ruled out.

Sewage, storm activity, seismic events or cable associated with offshore wind are unlikely causes.

Industry have provided photo and video evidence of the pollution around Hartlepool. Fishers are going out, but catches are down from Redcar and to Whitby.

There is nothing at this point to suggest the crustaceans are harmful for human health but there are concerns about reputational damage. The multiagency team are doing all they can.

5. Evidence Team - Chris Sweeting, MMO

The Evidence Team find the scientific information that the MMO needs to support decision making, working with industry, academia, CEFAS and IFCAS. They may be able to develop ideas and deliver the science required on issues raised in RFG meetings for NE or the inshore fishery more generally.

Two example projects:

- Traceability – Evidence Team will be working with independent facilitators to go to industry, the MMO and hold discussions to see what traceability technology is out there and what would be suitable for the fleet. There is funding available to carrying out trials next year which the RFG's may want to be a part of.
- Seal deterrents – MMO trailed prototype of a device which emits sound to startle seals in 2018 which was very effective, but the technology is new and developing. The Evidence Team are looking to trial new versions of the device with the inshore fleet early next year.

The Team are looking for a fishery and collaborators in which to conduct the trials. Trials will be most effective where seal issues are greatest.

Please contact Chris with questions and for more information or if you know anyone who may be interested in getting involved with the trials of seal deterrents:

evidence@marinemanagement.org.uk



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6. Crab and Lobster Management Group - Rebecca Treacy, Seafish

Shellfish Industry Advisory Group is divided into Crab and Lobster Management Group and Whelk Management group. The groups are industry led and unites stakeholders throughout the supply chain, fishers, POs, fishermen's associations, academia, government. Objectives are evolving based on the needs of industry so get involved if you would like your opinion heard.

The objectives of the group are driven by industry but are evolving and contribute to FMPs.

For those interested in joining or if you have questions please contact rebecca.treacy@seafish.co.uk

As FMP are developed this is these groups hosted by Seafish and RFGs are the forum to have your input as inshore fishers.

IFCA rules it is an offence to use soft brown crab as bait. By-law for Northumberland and Yorkshire/Humber but there is a provision around using cooked brown crab. Boats have struggled to get bait at times for commercial fishing, why is this and how can we support local industry?

ACTION: RFG team to explore the issue of bait and possibly add this the next RFG agenda.

7. National Representatives – Lydia Osborne, DEFRA

We are looking for representatives from this group to attend a national RFG meeting, probably in January 2021. The purpose of the national meeting is to bring together the regions a few times a year to provide a platform to distribute messages about policy of national interest and share knowledge from different areas. We have only held one since disbanding the Inshore Working Group so we'll be looking to hold one again in next few months. The purpose and definition of these meetings can still

be moulded by the RFGs and we are looking for reps. We are hoping the Chairs of each RFG will attend along with representative from industry.

The meetings will be held twice a year and will take around 2 hours.

Please contact if you are interested or would like to be a rep for the NE regionalfisheries@marinemanagement.org.uk

8. AOB

FMP discussion plans which were held with the East and there was less input from the North East. Was there any update from Defra.

ACTION: Lydia Osbourne to discuss with the Defra FMP team.

We have the option next time to hold this meeting face-to-face possibly with the option to dial in. We can also change the time of the meeting to allow more to join the call. If anyone had ideas, or comments please contact regionalfisheries@marinemanagement.org.uk

Meeting Closed

Next meeting: 16th February.

| Stock | U10 Comments | O10 Comments |
|------------------|---|---------------------|
| NS Cod | No comment | No comment |
| NS Angler | No comment | No comment |
| NS Mackerel | Not many around. But it would be good to trade some in for next year. | No comment |
| NS Nephrops | No comment | No comment |
| NS Skates & Rays | No comment | No comment |
| NS Plaice | No comment | No comment |
| NS Sole | No comment | No comment |
| NS Whiting | No comment | No comment |