

# REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Tuesday 8<sup>st</sup> February 2022

## North West 7a

15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call

### Attendees:

#### MMO

Eleanor Holford  
Sarah Allison  
Edward Baker  
Tim Dixon  
Richard Hoskin  
Katie James  
Mark Taylor  
Andy Wills

#### Defra

Andy Carroll  
Thamy Duffield

#### CEFAS

Jim Ellis  
Kieran Hyder

#### IFCA

Dr Cristina Steliana Mihailovici  
Joe Moulton  
Steven Atkins  
Phil Capper

#### Industry

Brian Phillipson  
Steven Brown  
Ron Graham  
Stu Fagan  
Simon Ward

#### Project UK

Jo Pollett

### **1. Introduction – Mark Taylor, MMO**

Updates from the National meet held on 20<sup>th</sup> January:

- Bass Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) will begin consultation this year as Defra want to develop the management of Bass and are asking industry to contribute.
- Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) – Defra has launched a 12-week consultation on the JFS which sets out the legally binding policies the UK Government and Devolved Governments will follow, at a UK level and individually, to create this vision for the fishing industry. The [consultation](#), running from January 18 to April 12, will welcome views from industry and all those interested and affected by the proposed policies. You can read the full statement, including key objectives, [here](#). Stakeholders can send their questions to [jointfisheriesstatement.consultation@defra.gov.uk](mailto:jointfisheriesstatement.consultation@defra.gov.uk)

Actions from previous meeting:

- Explore Plaice 7a exemption with Defra – Mark Taylor is discussing with Defra.
- NWIFCA 27 netting bass permits - Mark Taylor raised with IFCA.

## 2. Nephrops – Project UK, Jo Pollet

Project UK are developing technical measures as part of the Harvest Strategy for nephrops in 7a. The Project UK Steering Group want to include the views of regional stakeholders involved in this fishery. If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact: [jo.pollett@msc.org](mailto:jo.pollett@msc.org)  
There is more information on the slides below.



Project UK - NW  
RFG Feb 2022.pdf

## 3. Quota – Sarah Allison, MMO

See presentation provided for the meeting and comments in Appendix 1.

**ACTION:** Eleanor Holford and Emily Theobald to contact relevant fishers not in the meeting to hear views on Cod VIIa, Sole VIIa and Plaice VIIa catch limits.

Reminder to contact [InshoreQuotaManager@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:InshoreQuotaManager@marinemanagement.org.uk) with questions and quota enquires.

## 4. IVMS Q&A – Andy Wills, MMO

The roll out starts on the 15<sup>th</sup> February and funding is available, please find the relevant information on links below.

For English vessels fishing in Welsh waters - the Welsh government have introduced an SI which requires vessels fishing in Welsh waters to obtain a device, if this affects you, please contact [IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk)

- Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/inshore-vessel-monitoring-i-vms-for-under-12m-fishing-vessels-registered-in-england>
- News story: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inshore-vessel-monitoring-systems-in-2022>
- One stop Shop: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1044850/IVMS\\_On\\_stop\\_shop\\_FINAL\\_050122.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044850/IVMS_On_stop_shop_FINAL_050122.pdf)

Any I-VMS queries should be directed to the mailbox: [IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk)

- *If a device breaks, will the vessel be stuck in port?*

No, MMO are looking into grace periods to allow vessels to continue to fish if they have contacted the supplier to get it fixed.

- *Why is the funding window only 3 months for certain boat sizes when enforcement won't start until the end of the year?*

The roll out is planned in stages to stagger the demand. If there is a legitimate reason a fisher not getting a device fitted during the relevant stage the funding team will still consider applications and claims for grant funding.

**ACTION:** Andrew Wills to take back to this point back to the IVMS team.

- *When will the airtime start, given that enforcement will not start until the end of the year?*

Depends on the supplier, you are not required to report data until after the SI comes into force.

- *Why must fishers have the devices fitted?*

Vessel monitoring is a tool that will enable a better understanding of scale, location and seasonality of fishing activity. In time, it may enable steps towards self-regulation for fishers who demonstrate a consistently high level of compliance. Data about the location, scale and seasonality of fishing effort from the majority of English fishers will give the industry powerful information they can use when presenting their case for example in planning consents for marine development, fisheries management or resolution of gear conflict issues with other marine users. It will enable more precise delineation between fishing grounds and protected areas meaning a better balance between keeping fishing grounds open and protecting sensitive marine habitats and species can be established. It will enable improved control of non-English vessels in English waters as the current requirement is for all under-12m vessels to carry a vessel monitoring device

- How is that all the sets cost the same price?

The devices are different prices, they come with different packages and airtime. Fishers can claim up to £650 for a device – this includes fitting for one device.

## **5. Feasibility Study update – Richard Hoskins, MMO**

At the previous meeting the group decided to develop a feasibility study to make recommendations on where the issues are and what can be done to improve things for industry in the NW whilst maintain a sustainable fisheries management system. The idea has received support from industry, NFFO, MMO, NWIFCA, Defra and Seafish. Funding has been secured the following steps will be taken:

- Analyse previous studies and projects which looked at the fishing industry to see what they found. The study will also identify the key issues in the NW – markets, transport etc.
- Workshops with industry, processors, local authority will be held to understand the problems faced by different stakeholders and see whether the ideas raised at the previous stage are supported by stakeholders.
- Finally, to work on the agreed actions.

Industry raised concerns about these sorts of projects which have been carried out numerous times in the NW but not, according to industry delivered tangible results.

We are hoping this project is different and will deliver results but the quality of the outcomes can only be judged once the work is complete and actions have been carried out. The NW RFG will be kept updated on the progress of the study.

#### **6. Annual Review of the RFG's – Eleanor Holford, MMO**

The NW RFG has been running for a year and we have delivered positive outcomes for industry:

- The commissioning of the feasibility study
- Maintaining higher catch limits for Sole
- Including Skate on Quota presentation

The Terms of Reference are very flexible, and the groups are designed to be driven by industry. If industry have feedback on how the groups are run, please send an email ([regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk)) or call Emily or Eleanor. The RFG team will be sending round a survey for fishers to complete, we would appreciate you taking 5 minutes to complete it. We plan to hold the next RFG meeting in person, with the option to dial-in through Teams.

#### **7. Catch Recording – Katie James, MMO**

Fishers with under-10m vessels who are not yet submitting their data to MMO via the catch recording app are urged to download and familiarise themselves with this software as soon as possible.

A link to this app can be found in the invitation sent by MMO to all under-10m vessel owners. If you didn't receive this, or need assistance setting the app up, you should call our dedicated helpline on the number below.

**Contact Centre: 0300 0203 788**

From **28 February 2022**, we will begin enforcing the associated licence condition, in line with [our Compliance and Enforcement strategy](#). More details on the PowerPoint below.



Catch Recording  
Presentation.p...

## 8. Fisheries Industry Science Partnership - Matt Darlison & Matthew Radford, Defra

The FISP scheme will improve and share knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture by funding data collection and research to support sustainable fisheries management. This will be done through collaboration between the fishing and seafood industry and research organisations.

The FISP scheme and the existing Seafood Innovation Fund share the £24 million of funding allocated to the science and innovation part of the UK Seafood Fund.

To get funding, you must either bid for a contract or apply for a grant. Contracts of up to £300,000 are available to carry out a full research project. Grants of up to £20,000 are available to develop research proposals. Here is a more detailed breakdown of the FISP funding areas. The ITA (FISP Part A) and ITT (FISP Part B) from the first funding round which provides full detail on scheme and applicant requirements.



The **FISP Network** delivered in collaboration between Fishing in the Future, Fishmongers and Fishing Animateurs is a platform that supports with identifying ideas aligned with FISP objectives and funding areas, connecting industry with scientists and support with writing a proposal and matched funding. Further information can be found on the link:

<https://youtu.be/jQVY9pHJWz8>

<https://www.fishinganimateur.co.uk/>

Further updates about the opening of round 2 will appear here and you will also be able to access the e-Tendering portal Bravo to apply:

[UK Seafood Fund: Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The first round of funding has been published:

[£1.4m delivered to projects supporting sustainable fishing and fisheries science across the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Public sector bodies can bid for this funding. Industry is frustrated that they see little benefit from these sorts of schemes. They would like to see results and subsequent developments from the scientific studies.

Here's the link to the GOV.UK page: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafood-fund-infrastructure-scheme>. This will be updated with on 7 March when the scheme launches with information about how to apply.

9. AOB

**Meeting closed**

Next meeting – 10 May 2022

**Appendix 1**

<b>Stock</b>	<b>U10 Comments</b>	<b>O10 Comments</b>
Cod VIIa	No comments	No comments
Herring VIIa	No comments	No comments
Plaice VIIa	No comments	No comments
Nephrops VII	It would be useful to keep the catch limits high. Swap some more in and increase catch limits in March to 8t.	No comments
Sole VIIa	Do the catch limits for Sole need to go up? 2t throughout the year would be great.	No comments
Skates and Rays VII	Problems selling it, more supply than demand.	No comments