

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Tuesday 10th August 2021

North West Area 7a

16:00 – 18:00 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

DEFRA

Lydia Osborne – Fisheries & Reform

Lewis White - Bass

Rebecca Korda - FMPs

MMO

Mark Taylor – Chair (PMO)

Ed Baker – Quota

Katie James – Quota

Adam Kennedy – Grants Team

CEFAS

Carl O'Brien – Chief Advisor

Jim Ellis - Director of Cefas' Fisheries

International Centre of Excellence

IFCA

Mark Wilson – Cumbria county council

Dr Cristina Mihailovici – Member

INDUSTRY

Ron Graham – Whitehaven Fishing Coop

Brian Phillipson – U10m Whitehaven
Fisher

Kevin Lewney – U10 Estuarine Fisher

Simon Ward – U10 Fisher

1. Chair Welcome & Introductions – Mark Taylor

2. Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) – Rebecca Korda

Rebecca Korda provided a presentation on Fisheries Management Plans if you have any further questions or requests to be involved please contact Rebecca or Jon on the contact details below.



FMP Presentation –

Contact details for Rebecca Korda / Jon Davies below:

Rebecca.Korda@defra.gov.uk

Jon.Davies2@defra.gov.uk

3. MMO Grants – Adam Kennedy - Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS)

FaSS - Designed by Defra administered by MMO financial support for projects in England across a number of sectors. Commenced in April 2021 – Closes March 2022

Applications are via an online portal.

<https://fass.marinemanagement.org.uk/Public/Home.aspx>

Industry mentioned about the divide on why there are different percentages for grants - Small scale coastal fishers up to 80% funding / Coastal fishers up to 50% funding

In particular the industry is unhappy with the difference between static gear and mobile gear with the latter coming worse off in the % they receive e.g. a static under 12m fisher would receive 80% and trawled/mobile gear would be 50%

Discussion over recent projects – Direct selling – Refrigerated trailer / vehicle

Haulers are not eligible under the current scheme

Webpages link - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fisheries-and-seafood-scheme>

Telephone: 020802 65539

Email: FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk

4. Quota management – Presentation (Katie James)

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

5. Collaborative science – Carl O'Brien / Jim Ellis / Lewis White

Carl re visited the last meeting comments where the abundance of Sea Bass in the NW Region was discussed. He gave a summary of the information which was attached in the documents and papers provided in calendar invite & email sent to members invited to NW RFGs on Friday 6th August.

Any further updates on Bass in the future CEFAS will ensure to share with group.

Comments relating back to the FMPs where it was suggested an FMP for the Northwest. This would then hopefully be able to look at the more regional issues relating to Bass as current research is into the Bass stock as a whole not region specific.

ACTION - Mark Taylor will contact Rebecca Korda to discuss the idea of an FMP for the NW

Question raised about if surveys had been carried out on run off from land into sea affected water quality? Surveys had been carried out and Jim Ellis explained about the affects it can have.

6. AOB

Question to the group – What do you want on the next agenda? – Please email the Regional Mailbox with suggestions

It was raised how the lack of buyers in the area are having an effect on the fishermen.

ACTION - Pilot Scheme initiative – managing our own quotas. – Lydia advised this was still being looked into and would find out any updates

Meeting Closed

Appendix 1

Stock	U10's Comments
Cod VIIa	<p>This is a seasonal stock; we move to cod in late autumn and then it is more of a bycatch.</p> <p>Cod recovery plan was a disaster for the Irish Sea; we lost a lot of boats because of it and the cod has never come back.</p> <p>Is a rolling catch limit on the cards? With 100kg a month, industry would appreciate more flexibility. ACTION: MMO to look into practicality and possibility of rolling / quarterly catch limits.</p> <p>Problem with cod is we use different gear from prawns and sole. If we target cod, we can only target 1 species. Some don't even have the equipment, but if we had 300kg we would buy the gear.</p> <p>Target with trammel nets later in season. Currently only viable because of bycatch e.g. bass and crab. Would like 300kg per month but condensing quota to quarterly will be beneficial.</p> <p>Would like 200-300kg monthly. MMO could put the limit up in September and notify industry when that quota is available.</p>
Herring VIIa	<p>We don't catch enough to warrant targeting them.</p>
10m Nephrops VII	<p>Nephrops trail off now, there is another 2 months of reasonable fishing then it will drop for 6 months. There is plenty of quota for now.</p> <p>There is a need to keep informed of other sustainability projects such as Project UK's Nephrops Action Plan. They have made a recommendation to strengthen measures with minimum 90mm cod end and rigging.</p> <p>ACTION: MMO to find out what work Project UK are undertaking and how to align.</p>

10m Sole VIIa	<p>Sole is something you have to target. It can be caught as bycatch but to make the most of it, it needs to be targeted which requires specialist gear. Can't use twin rigging inside 6 mile.</p> <p>People don't target sole the same way as other fish stocks.</p>
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