

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes 10th May 2022

North West 7a

15:00 – 18:00 MS Teams Conference Call & Summergrove Halls Whitehaven

Attendees:

DEFRA

Andy Carroll
Jon Davies
Lydia Osbourne

CEFAS

Kieran Hyder

MMO

Ed Baker
Matt Baxter
Sarah Coulthard
Eleanor Holford
Meg Stafford
Emily Theobald
Elizabeth Wyatt

IFCA

Joe Moulton
Christina Mihailovici

INDUSTRY

Alistair Bews
Terry Davies
Stu Fagan
Paul Fagan
Ron Graham
Brian Leigh
Kevin Lewney
Brian Philipson
Steven Brown
Simon Ward

RECREATIONAL ANGLERS

Phil Williams

MCA

Kate Webb
Bart Lubeck

- 1. Welcome – Ed Baker, MMO**
- 2. Introduction to Fisheries Management Plans – Jon Davies, MMO**

The Fisheries Act (2020) enables Defra and the devolved administrations to publish Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) to help achieve our ambition for sustainable fisheries. The Act describes an FMP as "a document ... that sets out policies designed to restore one or more stocks of sea fish to, or maintain them at, sustainable levels".

Defra see FMPs as an opportunity to significantly improve the way we manage our fisheries into the future. Our FMPs will shift how fisheries management is approached with a greater focus on involving the fishing sector in the management of their activities.

The draft Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) included a list of proposed FMPs with a timetable for their publication. Defra are reviewing the responses to the JFS consultation, and a final list will be published by November 2022.

- [Consultation draft of the Joint Fisheries Statement.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/consultation-draft-joint-fisheries-statement)

Defra and the Devolved Administrations are responsible for fisheries in their waters and will prepare and publish plans to meet their needs. The four UK administrations will collaborate on all FMPs, particularly where stocks are shared, or their fleets operate in the waters managed by another administration. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the plans.

Scottish Government is presently working collaboratively with Defra, DAERA (Northern Ireland) and Welsh Government to prepare 21 joint FMPs that cover our important and most valuable northern stocks of finfish species. Members of the Inshore Regional Fisheries Groups will have an interest in some of these FMPs. Defra are keen to hear views from RFG members.

FMP title	Fishing area
North Sea Cod FMP	North Sea
West Coast of Scotland Cod FMP	West Coast of Scotland
Atlantic Cod FMP	Rockall, North East Atlantic
North Sea and West Coast of Scotland Haddock FMP	North Sea and West Coast of Scotland
Atlantic Haddock FMP	Rockall, North East Atlantic
West Coast of Scotland Whiting FMP	West Coast of Scotland
North Sea Whiting FMP	North Sea
North Sea and West Coast of Scotland Saithe FMP	North Sea and West Coast of Scotland
Northern Shelf Hake FMP	Northern Shelf
North Sea and West Coast of Scotland Monk/Angler FMP	North Sea and West Coast of Scotland
North Sea and West Coast of Scotland Megrim FMP	North Sea and West Coast of Scotland
Northern Shelf Ling FMP	Northern Shelf
North Sea Nephrops FMPs	North Sea
West Coast of Scotland Nephrops FMP	West Coast of Scotland
Northern Shelf Mackerel FMP	Northern Shelf
Atlanto Scandian Herring FMP	North Sea and Arctic
North Sea Herring FMP	North Sea
West Coast of Scotland (and Clyde) Herring FMP	West Coast of Scotland
North Sea Greater Silver Smelt FMP	North Sea
West of Scotland Greater Silver Smelt FMP	West Coast of Scotland
Northern Shelf Blue Whiting FMP	Northern Shelf

FMPs in English waters

Defra is accelerating its FMP projects in 2022. Our first projects, known as 'frontrunner FMPs', will explore ways of preparing plans to build a shared understanding of everyone's roles in learning to work in partnership in fisheries management. Lessons learnt from these frontrunner projects will shape our future FMP work.

The current list of frontrunner projects in 2022 are:

- 📄 Crab & lobster FMP
- 📄 Whelk FMP
- 📄 King Scallop FMP*
- 📄 Bass FMP*
- 📄 Channel Non-Quota demersal species FMP
- 📄 Southern North Sea Eastern Channel Mixed flatfish FMP

The King Scallop FMP and the Bass FMP are being developed jointly with Welsh Government.

These projects are being taken forward collaboratively with industry groups, Seafish, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), AIFCAs (Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities), and IFCAs (Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities).

Defra is encouraging our partner organisations and industry groups to collaborate with us in preparing these plans. We are seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders who have an interest and knowledge of their fisheries.

To get in touch, send us a message to FMPs@Defra.gov.uk

3. Bass Fisheries Management Plan – Kate Langham, Pina Sadar, Policy Lab

The presentation contains more detail:



Policy Lab_RFG
presentation.pdf

If you would like to take part in the development of the bass FMP please complete the form: tinyurl.com/seabassFMP

Question about the identification of Fleetwood by Policy Lab and whether this was based on bass landings or overland landings.

4. Seafish Shellfish Management Groups – Ella Brock, Seafish

- The Crab and Lobster Management Group (CMG) and Whelk Management Group (WMG) are currently working to identify and review current measures used to manage fisheries, identify

knowledge gaps, and explore opportunities to improve the science and data behind the fishery's management.

- Key work areas include: FMP development; Crustacean welfare issues; Data improvement; Fisheries Industry Science Partnership research projects (FISP)
- The inaugural meeting of the Finfish Industry Advisory Group (FIAG) took place in March 2022 and was well attended by fishers, fishers' associations, regulators, scientists, recreational interests, and the wider supply chain. Future FMP sub-groups could include the bass FMP, southern North Sea flatfish FMP, and Channel non-quota demersal fisheries FMP.
- Seafish will have a phased stakeholder engagement process and will engage with industry in a number of ways, including the Seafish website, shellfish working groups, external sharing sites, workshops, external meetings e.g. RFG meetings and mailing lists.
- In terms of FMP implementation, an Annual Plan will be produced each year by SIAG setting out priorities and actions/activities that will be progressed during the coming year. Annual monitoring report produced at the end of each year to report on progress.



Policy Lab_RFG
presentation.pdf

5. Fisheries and Seafood Scheme – Thamy Duffield, Defra

- The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) relaunched the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme last month.
- The new iteration of the scheme will deliver investment to safeguard the long-term sustainability, resilience and prosperity of the seafood sector across England.
- Fass is available for organisations in England only. The scheme will have simplified guidance – reflecting feedback from the first year – and will continue to evolve and improve throughout its lifetime.
- We are very keen to work the fishers and our matching rates reflect that, micro entities have a rate of 60%.
- If you have a project you would like to progress through the scheme, please do look out for the new guidance published on the MMO's website more details on [Fisheries and Seafood Scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fisheries-and-seafood-scheme)
- Or for any queries please email MMO at FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk



Grants Team
Presentation (002).p

6. Quota – Meg Stafford, MMO



NW Quota
10.05.2022.pdf

7. I-VMS – Matt Baxter, MMO

Vessels under 12m long will be legally required to report positional data from an approved device to the MMO operations room during fishing trips. This data will enable a better understanding of the scale, location and seasonality of fishing activity.

MMO website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/i-vms-type-approval-programme>

FAQs: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/i-vms-frequently-asked-questions>



iVMS.pdf

8. Development of scientific projects – Kieran Hyder, Cefas

- Ron Graham raised the issue of by catch exemptions for plaice in the nephrops fishery.
- Paul Fagan raised the management of bass and the disconnect between what industry see and what the science says. There are big data gaps which the RFG could look to fill, this could allow for regional management of bass.

9. Regional Fisheries Groups Feedback – Sarah Coulthard, MMO

What do you think is most important for the RFG to deliver?

- Price of fuel
- Access to markets
- Price for fish
- LBM regulations
- MCA attendance to answer questions

How can we increase attendance?

- Deliver on issues
- Reduce the length of meetings
- More face-to-face meetings
- Weather has a big impact

Appendix 1

Stock	U10's Comments	O10's comments
Cod 7a	No comments	No comments
Plaice 7a	No comments	No comments
Nephrops 7	No comments	No comments
Sole 7a	No comments	No comments
Skates and Rays 6 & 7 excluding 7d	No comments	No comments