

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Thursday 2nd November 2021

South 7d

15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call

MMO

Ed Baker – Quota
Tim Dixon – Fisheries Management
Paul Johnson – PMO South (Chair)
Eleanor Holford – Regional Fisheries
Rachel Irish – PMO SW
Katie James – Quota
Cara Morris – MMO Comms
Megan Stafford – Quota
Chris Sweeting – Evidence Team
Emily Theobald – Regional Fisheries

DEFRA

Andy Carroll
Paul Harvey
Edward Hind-Ozan
Lydia Osborne

INDUSTRY

Geoff Blake
Tommy Colwell
Pete Dadds
Richard Stride
Tommy Russell
Neil Witney

Seafish

Lewis Tattersall
Rebecca Treacy

IFCA

Tim Dapling
Will Wright

1. Chair Welcome & Introductions

Follow up on actions from previous meeting:

Additional Quota for capped license holders came out of the 7d meeting. This has been welcomed by industry but came rather late in the year. Next year DEFRA will be carrying out a review of capped license as part of a wider licencing review.

Question regarding why the additional quota needed to go through the PO.

Response from Katie James explained that there is no current policy in place for the MMO to lease directly to the capped licence holders. In order to offer the additional quota as soon as Defra had approved the request, MMO approached CFPO who agreed to act as a third party to save any delays in making the quota available.

There is still additional quota available between now and the end of year. Please contact InshoreQuotaManager@marinemanagement.org.uk for a list of stocks and to access the additional quota.

2. Quota Presentation - Katie James, MMO

See presentation provided for the meeting and comments in Appendix 1

Reminder to contact InshoreQuotaManager@marinemanagement.org.uk with questions and quota enquires.

Question about Bass take-up in relation to the total allowable catch.

Ed Baker response, the MMO publishes this data.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-and-foreign-vessels-landings-by-uk-port-and-uk-vessel-landings-abroad-provisional-data>

Question about Bass and changes to legislation to allow accidental bass bycatch to be kept.
Response, there is no plan to change this.

3. Evidence Team Introduction - 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 7d or the inshore fishery more generally.

Question about the reduction in lobster fishery and relationship between this and the MMO licensed project to pump sand onto shore at Bournemouth. No report yet from MMO on impact of this.

Question about the relationship between water temperature and a reduction in lobster fishery in Isle of White.

ACTION - Chris Sweeting to investigate these issues further and meet with Paul Johnson.

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: Christopher.Sweeting@marinemanagement.org.uk



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4. National Representatives – Lydia Osborne, DEFRA

We are looking for representatives from this group to attend a national RFG meeting. They would need to attend meetings online and then feed back to the wider RFG.

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. 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.

Reponses from the group that this would be welcome to feed the regional perspective into the national. Momentum was perceived to the be lost when the Inshore Working Group disbanded.

Suggested agenda items for the national group:

- Bass management
- License capping
- Growth of fly shooting

5. Whelks – Lewis Tattersall, Seafish

Whelk Management Group is led by industry and was created due to the expansion of the Whelk fishery. Its membership includes fishers, POs, fishermen's associations, academia.

For those interested in joining the group please contact Lewis.Tattersall@seafish.co.uk 07970154238

Key work areas of work the group:

- Stock assessment
- Establishing stock boundaries
- How Whelks interact with other species
- Bait sourcing and provisioning
- Marketing issues.

Question regarding consequences of removing Whelks from seabed and whelk's role in cleaning the ecosystem.

Question regarding environmental impact of bait.

ACTION - Lewis Tattersal to take back to the Whelk Management Group.

6. Community Quota Schemes – Paul Harvey, DEFRA

The aim is to pilot a new process/management approach for fisheries in England. They are looking for ideas from you on how this should work, what can be learned from the current system, and what should be done differently. There is more information about the schemes on the questionnaire document. If you know anyone who might be interested, please send this information onto them.

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.



7. AOB
Question about fly-shooters and what is happening in 7d.


ACTION - Ed Baker to investigate and get back to the group.

Date and Time of next meeting

TBC

Meeting Closed

Appendix 1

Stock	Comments	Actions
Cod VIId	Question about the low rate of uptake of Cod 7d and that this does not reflect the capacity of the fleet, there are concerns about the impact of foreign vessels in 7d, fly dragging, what is the uptake in the 12-mile limit or English side of the channel compared to the rest of quota.	ACTION - Quota team to investigate.
Plaice VIId & e	No comments	
Skates & Rays VIId	Question about the breakdown of 7d ray species being landed.	ACTION - Katie James responded in AOB with breakdown of Rays attached in PDF.  South 7d Skates Rays MAC slides bre
Undulate Ray VIId & e	No comments	
Sole VIId	No comments	
Western Mackerel	Question regarding whether any new vessels are landings of Western	ACTION - Katie James responded with 2020 / 2021 uptake data break down in the

	Mackerel because of the increase in catch limits.	PDF and will investigate further.
Herring IVc & VIId	No comments	