

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Tuesday 1st February 2022

South 7d

15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

MMO

Sarah Allison - Quota
Tim Dixon – Fisheries Management team
Katie James – Quota
Paul Johnson – Chair
Eleanor Holford – RFG team
Emily Theobald – RGF team
Andrew Wills – Future fisheries

Defra

Matt Darlison
Matthew Radford

IFCA

Simon Pengelly – Southern
Tim Dapling – Sussex

Industry

Alan Bacon
Charlie Brock
Anthony Hills
John Kennet
Scot Marchant
Jim Partridge
Neil Whitney
Martin Yorwarth
Matt Wyles

1. Introductions – Paul Johnson, MMO

Updates from the National meet held on 20th 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.
- Fly shooters update – ministers are interested in this topic as the Greenpeace campaign did draw attention to the issue so there will be updates on this topic.
- 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

Questions from previous meeting:

Question about the reduction in lobster fishery and relationship between this and the MMO licensed project to pump sand onto shore at Bournemouth.

Response from Marine licencing - The material is being extracted from existing licensed marine aggregate sites. Every marine aggregate site has been through the Environmental Impact Assessment process and impact to fisheries will have been assessed.

Monitoring is required by the licence, and this was submitted in June 2021. This monitoring covers water quality and was discharged by the MMO in November 2021. We do not have any further update for you currently.

ACTION: Eleanor Holford to go back to Marine Licencing to find out what monitoring is taking place aside from the single buoy mentioned by industry. Send updates to Matt Wyles and Richard Stride.

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

Again, we have no specific answers at this time, but the RFG team are looking into potential projects, and this could be an option for further exploration e.g. the FISP item on today's agenda.

2. Quota Presentation - Sarah Allison – MMO

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

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

There is funding available for industry to invest in gear to explore new fisheries.

ACTIONS: Sarah Allison to put Anthony Hills and Scot Marchant in contact with the funding team of MMO.

3. IVMS – Andy Wills, MMO

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.

A supplier said they are waiting for a data upgrade from MMO before they can install a device, when will this be fixed?

ACTION: Andy Wills to investigate.

How long will funding last?

The reclaimable amount is available to every fisher for every vessel if they submit the claim before the SI comes into play late in 2022.

A supplier has said they are waiting for the MMO to complete integration?

ACTION: Andy Wills to pick this up.

How would a fisher know if there is a fault with the device?

Fishers can look at the light in the device firstly, but this does not necessarily mean the device is working. Then look at their own data via an app or other facility provided by the supplier. It is the fisher's responsibility to check this.

Can fishers go to sea with a faulty device?

Yes, the MMO is developing grace periods so fisher can still go to sea while waiting for an engineer.

How is the device powered?

The 4 devices are all different, but they use onboard electrics, portable power banks and integrated with solar panels.

Where does the data go?

Data goes to the MMO, IFCA's and possibly Cefas. Possibly EU if a vessel goes into EU waters.

Is IVMS here to stay?

Yes.

Will there be funding available in 5 years to replace device when it gets old?

ACTION: Andy Wills to investigate.

Will the data be available to anyone outside government e.g. Freedom of information request or used for spatial access?

If there was a freedom of information request the MMO have rules about publishing personal information in individual vessels. If the request was related to a broader request, then the MMO would aggregate data to keep it anonymous.

How long are the warranties?

Devices have durability for 5 years, but individual warranty is down to individual companies.

- 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

Any I-VMS queries should be directed to the mailbox: IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk

4. Annual Review of RFG's – Emily Theobald, MMO

The RFG's have been running for a year and we have made progress in 7d:

- Defra are reviewing capped licences
- The group contributed topics for the National meeting: bass management and fly shooting

- 7d fishers are contributing to the Defra community quota schemes

Suggestions for future meetings:

- Independence science projects the RFG could develop with a scientific partner.
- MCA Coast guard inspections is a big issue raised by various fishers across 7d.

ACTION: Emily Theobald to investigate getting a representative from the MCA to attend the next meeting to answer questions.

In the meantime, if industry have questions they would like to pose to the MCA or on any other topics please contact: regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk

5. 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...

6. 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.



Annex E FISP Part B Lots.pdf



UK Seafood Fund: Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Part B - Invitation to Tender...



IFG Slides.pptx

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

ACTION: Matt Darlison to contact Jim Partridge about a potential project.

If industry require support completing the forms, please contact the local MMO office who can assist at Hastings or Shoreham. The FISP network can also provide support with this.

7. AOB

Question about MF funding: more on the link below or call the Poole office

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/commercial-fishing-fisheries/funding>

Question for Tim Dapling on near shore trawling ban, MPA's and whether there have been any studies into the benefits of these regulations?

Beachy Head West - Natural England carry out a Condition Assessment and IFCA have not seen the results of this yet. Assessment work is being carried out at Kingsmere MCZ, Pagham and Beachy Head East but there are no definitive results yet. IFCA are monitoring the fishing activity in the area and returns from the Shellfish permit by law which gives an indication of changes in population of shellfish and levels of fishing effort required.

Question on prosecution of Greenpeace – the case was challenged by Greenpeace in Newcastle based on jurisdiction. The case is still on-going.

Group agreed that they like Paul Johnson chairing the meetings.

Question about fly shooting in the Channel

The fly shooting in the Channel is a matter for MCA who use a Vessel Tracking system which they track and archive. If you complain to MCA they will use this data. If you have issues with navigation or anything under International Collision regulations contact the MCA. The MMO know what the vessels are catching based on their logbooks and continue to carry out inspections at sea.

Meeting closed

Date of next meeting: 3rd May 2022

Appendix 1

Stock	Comments U10	Comments O10
Cod VIId	No confirmed Quota allocation yet for 2022. Responding to criticism that Quota team are too cautious at the beginning of the year.	No comments
Plaice VIId & e	No comments	No comments
Skates & Rays VIId	Have b-k flexibility been used yet? Not yet but will use again if necessary.	No comments
Undulate Ray VIId & e	Closure will continue for the breeding season.	No comments
Sole VIId	Seasonality would see a run late March April and again in the Autumn. What is a good catch limit when it comes into season – 4t.	No comments
Western Mackerel	Quality of mackerel in 7d is not high so does not fetch a high price. But there are periods when it is higher quality and there is lots of quota. August is when you see most mackerel but it is often small and not the highest quality compared to the west.	No comments
Herring IVc & VIId	No comments	Uptake likely in March by Martin Yorwarth. Industry has been struggling with infrastructure and transportation.