

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Thursday 6th May 2021

IVc North

14:00 – 16:00 Zoom Conference Call

Attendees:

Defra

Phil McBryde
Lydia Osborne

MMO

Richard Hoskin
Ed Baker
Katie James
Sarah Allison
Justin Rowley
Paul Tyack
Julian Roberts
Phil Haslam

IFCA

Julian Gregory

Industry

Wayne Brewster
June Mummery
Ken Bagley
Paul Gyiff – Left at start of meeting
Lee Doughty
Paul Lines

1. Chair Welcome & Introductions
2. Scene setting and Introductions – Phil McBryde/Richard Hoskin

There are 6 regional groups; these will be a forum for bringing together policy makers, scientists, fishermen and regulators in order to work together to compliment and deliver an intelligent approach to fisheries management.

This is picking up the Future of Our Inshore Fisheries action plan which came out of the conference. We are trying to move away from top-down one size fits all management as that approach doesn't work.

There are opportunities from having left the EU, we want to listen to your priorities and concerns to see how we can do things differently. These groups are a platform in which to elevate conversations, produce trials, pilots and collaborative science ideas.

There will be an opportunity for 1:1 surgery after meetings when we move into face to face environment.

These won't be perfect to start with and are expected to evolve. It is important that you feedback on these group meetings so we can collectively learn and improve.

Terms of Reference have been drafted and we will send those out after the meeting to be commented on before future meetings are held.

MMO / Defra will chair these meetings and provide a secretariat for the rest of the year but going forward you can recommend/ make suggestions for this role.

The objective is to work together and identify challenges with different regulators which affect your region.

3. Annual negotiations

Still ongoing – provisional TACs set for the year - if agreement made that will supersede the provisional TACs

CO – has been involved in the negotiations so far this year.

Quota updates –

TAC 2020 to 2021 comparisons given for area related stocks

Concerns over Dover sole raised – concerns over ICES advice – no sole around why the increase
Ongoing work into Sole – Further information given at IVc South meeting that ICES are looking at it and it will be reflected in the future

4. Quota management – Presentation - Sarah Allison

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

5. Collaborative science

Bass - Used to be mullet in the Wash which has gone and replaced by a lot of Bass – request to look into why this has happened

Sole - No sole around – A project to investigate where the sole has gone

ACTION – Possible idea - project to investigate the Sole disappearance to be looked into by CEFAS

Cockles – The Wash - 1/3 birds 1/3 regeneration (spawning) 1/3 to fishermen – of adult stock – losing too many cockles – request to look at the formula and science behind this - maybe a different approach needed / revise the approach

Cockles - Closure of Sands in the wash – issue over the closures and the approach – requested evidence-based system as to why the sands are closed and if it has had any positive impact closing them.

6. AOB

Look to merge the IVc North & South groups going forward.

Raised for the industry to pick the agenda – idea welcomed

Raised 1-2-1 surgeries can be held after these meetings

Meeting Closed

Appendix 1

Stock	Under 10 metres	Over 10 metres
NS Cod	Traded out 100t as agreed – thoughts on it going forward? No Comments	No Comments
Herring IVc / VIId	No Comments	CL increase – 15t? Discussion over volumes need to make a viable fishery for the non-human consumption market. No conclusion
NS Mackerel	CL limits to be raised? Not enough fish to raise catch limits	-
NS Skates & Rays	CL the same and trades coming in. No comments	No comments
NS Sole	No Comments	No Comments
NS Sprats	re visit for winter months when new allocation issued. No comments	-