

# REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

## Meeting Notes 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

### South East 4.c

15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call

#### Attendees:

##### Chair

Ian Hiscock

##### DEFRA

Andy Carroll  
Thamy Duffield  
Charlotte Floyd  
Benjamin Hegarty

##### CEFAS

Jim Ellis

##### MMO

Edward Baker  
Tim Dixon  
Jessica Duffill Telsnig  
Charlotte Floyd  
Eleanor Holford  
Katie James  
Christie Powell  
Justin Rowley  
Emily Theobald  
Andy Wills

##### IFCA

Julian Gregory

##### INDUSTRY

Trevor Armstrong  
Ken Bagley  
Wayne Brewster  
Lee Doherty  
Fran French  
Paul Garnett  
Paul Gilson  
Shaun Hayter  
June Mummery  
Paul Lines  
Martin Yorwarth

#### **1. Introductions – Ian Hiscock**

#### **2. Quota presentation – Katie James, MMO**

See presentation provided for the meeting and comments in Appendix 1. Reminder to contact [InshoreQuotaManager@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:InshoreQuotaManager@marinemanagement.org.uk) with questions and quota enquires.

Industry would like to make sure the Thames and Blackwater herring licences are issued earlier this year as there were delays in 2021.

The delays were due to Cefas designating the species an at-risk species. Cefas are conducting more survey and working with Defra to ensure the fishery is open by September/October. If there are any delays industry will be informed.

**ACTION:** Justin Rowley to inform Cefas that Fran French and her boats would be happy to help with the survey work.

The IFCA has a fish local scheme and Thames and Blackwater herring has been identified as a species they wish to promote. This has created more impetus to open the fishery on time this year.

**ACTION:** RFG team to re-circulate CEFAS FSP report on NS Sole.

Industry has concerns about factory ships and the impact of this on the ecosystem. Industry would like more surveys done on NS Sole including from a social/economic perspective which covers the effect of pulse fishing, fly shooting and how this has affected the capacity of the fleet.

Otherwise, the stats show a spurious data curve and an inaccurate conclusion.

One industry member is also concerned about the number of EU vessels in UK waters and would like the Merchant Shipping Act reinstated. They would like a minister to attend the next meeting.

**ACTION:** MMO/Defra colleagues to feed the concerns raised in the RFG to senior Defra and MMO colleagues and to feedback the answers to industry at the next meeting.

### **3. Annual review of the RFG – Emily Theobald, MMO**

The 4.c group has been running for a year, so we wanted to get feedback from the fleet about how the group is run. The group requested coastal visits, which are planned for March. The group also raised issues regarding seals and the MMO Evidence team is now carrying out trials of a seal deterrent acoustic device.

If you have feedback, please send it to: [regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk)

#### **Coastal visits:**

##### **14<sup>th</sup> March:**

9:00 – 12:00 Boston

16:00 - 19:00 King's Lynn

##### **15<sup>th</sup> March:**

9:00 – 12:00 Lowestoft

16:00 - 19:00 Southwold

##### **16<sup>th</sup> March:**

9:00 – 12:00 Harwich

16:00 - 19:00 West Mersea

##### **17<sup>th</sup> March:**

9:00 – 11:00 Whitstable

12:00 – 15:00 Ramsgate

16:00 – 19:00 Folkstone

**ACTION:** Emily Theobald to invite Ramsgate Fisherman's Association, NUTFA and NNSO.

The RFG team will be at every port listed to publicise the RFGs, hear about regional challenges and opportunities and how the RFGs can support the inshore fleet.

#### **4. IVMS – Andy Wills, MMO**

Legislation is due to come into force which will make it a legal requirement for all vessels under 12 metres in length to have an inshore vessel monitoring system (I-VMS) installed and transmitting data to the MMO when they are at sea in English waters. This is part of the Government's strategy to improve data collection to support development of more responsive fisheries management measures and practices that will enable industry to benefit from leaving the Common Fisheries Policy.

- 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](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](mailto:IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk)

The MMO is developing a grace period policy if a device breaks to allow fishers to go to sea whilst the supplier sends an engineer out to fix the device.

*How will fisherman be alerted if the device stops working or see their own data? (Particularly those unable to use a computer)*

The suppliers have different methods to alerting the owner of the device, some have a text alert, apps for example.

*As one device has been suspended should the roll-out be paused so the MMO ensure the device is fit for purpose?*

Andy Wills to feed this back to senior colleagues. However, the project only has funding available for a specific time frame and it is a ministerial intent of Defra to progress this. Some fisheries rely on the roll-out of IVMS devices to manage effort e.g. the Wash brown shrimp fishery.

*Is there a contract between fishers and the MMO to agree to share the data?*

The legal requirement means the data from vessels is sent to the MMO I-VMS hub and to the supplier. The MMO and the suppliers will follow all the associated data protection regulations required and will not sell data on without the permission of fishers.

*When does it become law to have a device?*

The legal requirement comes in late December 2022.

*When is the funding available until?*

Tranche	Vessel length group (metres)	Tranche start	Device must be installed by	Grant to be claimed by
*	<b>Any English under 12m vessels that enters Welsh waters</b>	<b>Priority vessels. Devices must be installed and operational early 2022, in order to be compliant with Welsh legislation.</b>		15/04/22
1	10m to 11.99m	15/02/22	w/c 28/03/22	15/04/22
2	8m to 9.99m	16/03/22	w/c 16/05/22	17/06/22
3	6m to 7.99m	18/05/22	w/c 15/08/22	16/09/22
4	Below 6m	17/08/22	w/c 12/12/22	13/01/23

*How often will IVMS device be calibrated? Will the IVMS device have the ability to show fishers where marine protected areas are, set up alerts and other useful information.*

That is an option with some devices, so if fishers are interested in this they should speak to the suppliers.

The devices do not need to be calibrated as they can determine location.

50% of all reports must be accurate to +/-5m.

95% of all reports must be accurate to +/-10m.

*Are there on-going costs?*

Yes, for airtime (around £10 month).

*Is there a cap on costs?*

No

*Are foreign vessels expected to have IVMS?*

Yes, if they fish in English waters.

## **5. Boston Energy facility – Christie Powell, MMO**

The MMO feed into the Planning Expectorate process for this facility, offer advice and raise concerns. Following this process and the Secretary of State decision the MMO can enforce the marine licence which cover marine activities. The MMO have raised the concerns about shipping and navigation.

- The MMO have encouraged the applicant to engage with the Boston Fishers Association. The applicant has applied for dredge permissions – including depth, sampling etc which much be approved by the MMO before any work takes place. The MMO has requested a sediment sample plan request with samples for the depth they plan on dredging to, and this is put together with Cefas. The sediment will be tested for toxins.
- If the project is granted permission the applicant must also submit a Navigational Management Plan and a Navigation Risk Assessment which must be approved by the MMO and the port of Boston.
- The port of Boston does not need permission from the MMO (or any other body) to conduct the dredging which it is currently undertaking. If industry is concerned, they need to raise this directly with the port of Boston.

## **6. 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**



Catch Recording  
Presentation.p...

**ACTION:** Eleanor and Emily to feedback Trevor Armstrong's concerns onto the Catch Recording team.

## **7. UK Seafood Fund: Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships scheme – Matt Darlison, Defra**

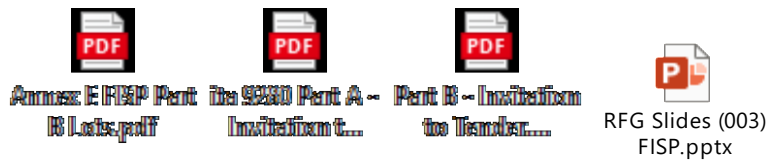
The [FISP scheme](#) will improve and share knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture by funding data collection and research to support sustainable fisheries management. This will be done through collaboration between the fishing and seafood industry and research organisations.

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.



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/>.

The first funding round awards has been published, read more about this here:

- [£1.4m delivered to projects supporting sustainable fishing and fisheries science across the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [FISP projects - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [FISP projects: organisations that have been awarded grants and contracts in round 1 of the scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The second round of funding opens 2<sup>nd</sup> March and closes midday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Meeting closed**

Next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Appendix 1**

<b>Stock</b>	<b>U10's Comments</b>	<b>O10's comments</b>
NS Cod	<p>Few anglers caught quite a few in November. But there is very little around. CEFAS are doing spatial Cod assessments which Jim will feedback to group at the May RFG.</p>	No comments
Herring 4c/7d	<p>Fishers are expecting herring at the end of the month. Winter has been bad and this combined with the impact of fly shooting means industry are struggling.</p>	No comments
NS mackerel	<p>There is an opportunity to develop this fishery, possibly in the Wash – if anyone would like to explore this, please get in touch with the Quota team. Reports that fly shooters are catching largest quantities of mackerel in the southern North Sea.</p>	No comments
NS Sole	<p>114 tons landed on NS Sole (around 13% of available quota was used). The CEFAS Sole team are meeting in April and Jim will liaise with them to explain the discrepancy between what the fishers are seeing and what the scientist think is happening. Industry would like it noted that the capacity of the Sole fishing fleet has also been depleted over the years (by windfarms, pulse fishing and other issues) which may also explain the reduced uptake of NS Sole.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Jim Ellis to feed this back to CEFAS Sole team who feed into the ICES working group on NS stocks.</p> <p>CEFAS are liaising with Defra to try and get more coastal surveys which would include the Thames area. FSP report CEFAS liaising with Defra to get more surveys done on the southern NS e.g. pulse fishing, wind farms.</p>	No comments
<b>NS Skates and Rays</b>	<p>Thrownback ray is doing well according to CEFAS surveys.</p>	<p>Very little market for this stock. Industry are not seeing as much of the stocks around. It seems to have moved into the rivers.</p>

<b>NS Sprats</b>	Sprat season is coming to an end. Industry did not see many in the traditional grounds.	Industry would like more traded in for January 2023.