

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Wednesday 23rd November 2021

IVc South

15:00 – 17:00 Microsoft Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

MMO

Ed Baker – Quota Team
Tim Dixon – Fisheries Management
Eleanor Holford – Regional Fisheries
Katie James – Quota Team
Justin Rowley – PMO, Chair
Emily Theobald – Regional Fisheries
Chris Sweeting – Evidence Team

Defra

Andy Carroll – Inshore reform
Ross Deadman – Future Fisheries Management
Paul Harvey – Quota Management

CEFAS

Jim Ellis

Seafish

Rebecca Treacy
Lewis Tattersall

IFCA

Julian Gregory
William Wright
Ron Jessop

Industry

Chris Attenborough
Fran French
Lee Doughty
June Mummery
Ken Bagley
Thames and Estuary Fisherman's Association
Paul Lines
Charles Lines
Wayne Brewster
Shaun Hayter

1. Chair Welcome & Introductions - Justin Rowley, MMO

2. Quota management presentation – Ed Baker, 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 how swaps and trades have changed since we became as sea state.

There has not been much change internally or internationally.

3. Thames and Blackwater herring – Ross Deadman, Defra

In response to requests from industry, the opening of the Thames and Blackwater herring fishery was discussed. Defra are aware of the issues around the late opening of the fishery and are looking to pick up on these in the new year and feedback to the group.

Licences are being processed but industry were frustrated that the fishery was opened late.

ACTION: Justin Rowley to chase on the licencing of Thames and Blackwater herring.

4. Industry

Question on whether regulations on bass will changes?

Current ICES advice [here](#).

There are talks and discussions happening between industry and Defra. As Defra are looking to have bass as a front runner for a Fisheries Management Plan. But there will be no further update until after negotiations with the EU end.

ACTION: Ed Baker to put Chris Attenborough and Charles Lines in contact with Defra team who are involved in talks on bass.

5. Community 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.



Pilot Schemes
Expression of In...

6. National Group Reps – Andy Carroll, 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. It would be impractical to invite everyone from RFG mailing list so we need to nominate reps.

If you would like to volunteer or have issues you would like to suggest as agenda items please contact regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk

7. Collaborative Science – Jim Ellis, CEFAS

The [UK Seafood Fund: Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships](#) scheme - CEFAS are looking at carrying out small fish surveys and work on sole in 4c/7d with Defra as more funding is available.

Update UK FISP has identified the young fish survey as a priority for future funding. This means CEFAS will be looking at the inshore areas to developing a better understanding of status of inshore stocks and recruitment.

CEFAS are aware that in the Thames estuary there are various issues which are affecting the fishery and have raised these with Defra.

Question about where the survey data from beam trawlers which informed the 2018 decision to increase uplift in sole quota by 40% can be found.

ACTION: Jim Ellis to look at the ICES advice and feed back to the group at the next RFG.

8. Evidence Team - 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 NE or the inshore fishery more generally.

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 – Contraception is not currently a possibility that Defra is considering as the interaction with nets and gear is the issue not the number of seals. The 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 or if you know anyone who may be interested in getting involved with the trials of seal deterrents: evidence@marinemanagement.org.uk

ACTION: Chis Sweeting to contact Chris Attenborough about the possibility of trailing the deterrents.



RFG 4.pptx

9. Whelks, Crab and Lobsters – Lewis Tattersall, Seafish

Shellfish Industry Advisory Group is divided into Crab and Lobster Management Group and Whelk Management group. The groups are industry led and unites stakeholders throughout the supply chain, fishers, POs, fishermen's associations, academia, government. Objectives are evolving based on the needs of industry so get involved if you would like your opinion heard.

The groups are looking at latent capacity, markets, data gaps and bait sourcing.

For those interested in joining or if you have questions please contact lewis.tattersall@seafish.co.uk

ACTION: Regional Fisheries Groups to circulate information that comes out of these groups.



WMG RFG slides
021121.pptx

10. The Wash Cockle fishery – Ron Jessop, IFCA

The Wash cockle fishery is managed under the Wash fishery 1992 regulating order which is due to be replaced with a by-law. There are 63 licences or entitlements. The Wash is managed by various environmental designations - FMP 6 technical measures, 8 cockle stock sustainability measures, 9 environmental conservation measures and 5 measures for monitoring the fishery.

TAC is 33% of adult cockle stock biomass. The IFCA protection for juvenile cockles (year zero's) with spatial closures and minimum thresholds.

There was a wide ranging and lengthy discussion about Eastern IFCA's management of the Wash cockle and mussel fisheries generally and in particular the replacement of the Wash Fishery Order with a bylaw. There was considerable dissatisfaction expressed by Wash fishermen present at the meeting, which was responded to by Ron Jessop and Julian Gregory. In recognition of the importance of the subject matter the discussion continued until 7.30pm to allow a healthy exchange of views.



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ockle_briefing.pdf

11. AOB

Meeting Closed

Appendix 1

Stock	Under 10 metres	Over 10 metres
NS Cod	No comments	No comments
Herring IVc / VIId	Local inshore vessels have requested extra quota which has been traded in from direct requests from the fleet.	No comments
NS Mackerel	Not much uptake but will make sure some is available for next year.	No comments
NS Skates & Rays	Poor market for skates and rays. Landings are down and industry are not seeing them on the ground.	No comments
NS Sole	Requests from industry to increase catch limit as catch is up slightly for this year.	Industry concern that the decline in sole is spreading along the coast. In response to industry CEFAS carried out an investigation into the abundance of Sole in the North Sea. The research vessel Endeavour has been task to include sole abundance surveys in the current North Sea survey work. The high TACs compared to the low level of landings of NS Sole is the fact that estimates of recruitment into the stock where ultimately higher than reality.
NS Sprats	The quota has been increased at the request of fishers in 4c.	No comments