

# REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## South West

14:00 – 16:00 Zoom Conference Call

### Attendees:

#### MMO

Rachel Irish (Chair)  
Edward Baker  
Katie James  
Richard Hoskin  
Carley Elson  
Julian Roberts

#### Defra

Phil McBryde  
Lydia Osborne

#### Cefas

Carl O'Brien

#### IFCAs

Sam Davis - CIFCA  
Ian Jones – Southern IFCA  
Matt Mander - D&SIFCA

#### INDUSTRY

Dave Smith  
Tich Preston  
Steve Parker  
Nick West  
Dale Rodmell  
Paul Trebilcock  
Scott Wharton  
Jim Portus  
Graham Searle  
Andrew Pillar  
Gus Caslake  
Juliette Hatchman  
Karen Pringle  
John Balls  
Stefan Glinski

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.

Request from group on a response from government on Fly shooting in the Channel.

### **3. Collaborative science**

Introduction to the group on the intention to pursue collaborative science projects where they are needed, giving the fleet an opportunity to work with the scientists and regulators, focusing attention on the questions we deem pertinent to the progression of the group and its aims.

#### **Small eyed Ray (*Raja microocellata*) discussion**

Group discussed small-eyed ray issue in the Bristol Channel as a potential project, the group asked Carl O'Brien (Cefas) to clarify the UK's position on the science behind small-eyed ray.

Group agreed that a project could be progressed through collaborative science to support Cefas/ ICES science and advice. Group keen to progress new and innovative technology as a means in which to provide data, fill knowledge and fill knowledge gaps.

**ACTION** – Scientists to talk to industry to develop methodologies and ensure data is collected and submitted in a consistent way.

**ACTION** – Group to decide how to develop this collaborative science question – through working groups or a scientific advisory panel?

Question to the group – how do we progress this, where do we get funding from, how do we approach academia to develop this in a way that is robust and peer reviewed?

### **4. Quota management – Presentation (Katie James)**

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

### **5. Annual negotiations**

Phil McBryde explained that annual negotiations are still ongoing, that the UK had agreed TACs for the rest of the year to give the fleet stability, but if negotiations concluded these would supersede our current TACs.

Group discussed small-eyed ray allocation in 7E with Carl O'Brien, data gaps could be filled for this stock and could be a good collaborative science project. Possibly need more restrictions on thornback ray and less on small-eyed. Group agreed to start the conversation based on the 2016 work done by Cefas.

**ACTION** – Dale to send 2016 report to the group.

**6. AOB**

Question to Phil McBryde about fly shooters, who in government was responsible for these negotiations? Government weren't aware of the negotiations; these were carried out between East coast PO's.

**Group agreed to meet Quarterly**

- Discussion on ring netters and Bass as a by catch species
- Discussion on Blue fin Tuna – MMO and Defra have agreed one fish per day can be landed as a by catch of trawls and ring nets – this condition will come in via licencing, but the time frames are still unknown.
- Cefas have a collection of YouTube videos on data collection

**ACTION** – Carl O'Brien to send round link.

**Meeting Closed**

Appendix 1

Stock	U10's Comments	O10's comments
Angler 7	Quota to stay at 4t / or could incentive a fishery with additional quota allocated through EU Exit. Group were not keen on progressing a quota uplift as incentivising a fishery could create additional pressures and unforeseen issues.  Fishery is gear led so we need more of a lead in time to progress a fishery	Fishery is gear led so we need more of a lead in time to progress a fishery
Cod 7B-K	No comments	No comments
Haddock 7B-K	No comments	No comments
Western Hake	No comments	No comments
Herring 7E/F	No comments	No comments
Western Mackerel	Additional quota allocated to the UK through EU Exit – proposed that catch limit goes up to 10t month without gear restriction, this quota uplift also covers 7d What would the fleet advise we do on how we utilise additional quota? Request from the sardine association to in to cover by catch. We can also trade out to support other fisheries.	

	<p>Comments from the group – swap mackerel for Sole, use quota to do both?  <b>Reiteration to the group that Defra reserve the right to reallocate unused quota if deemed necessary</b></p>	
Handline Mackerel	Quota managers have agreed trades outstanding	
Plaice 7D-E	Group agreed to increase from 8t catch limit to 10t and possibly 12+	No plans to increase
Plaice 7FG	No comments	No comments
Pollack 7	Additional quota 696t now available, increase catch limit to 6t month than 10t May/June	No comments
	Complaint about pollack restrictions earlier in the year – MMO re-iterated this was due to ongoing annual negotiations.	
Skates & Rays 7xD	No comments	No comments
Sole 7E	Increase catch limit to 2t in May. Quota managers will trade in this stock where possible.	
	General concern that sole is targeted by dredgers	
Sole F&G	No comments	No comments
Whiting B-K	No comments	No comments
Undulate Ray 7D&E	No comments	No comments
Small eyed Ray	By Catch limit may need to be cut later in the year.	