

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Thursday 7th October 2021

South West

16:00 – 18:00 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

MMO

Ed Baker – Quota
Carley Elson – PMO South West (Chair)
Eleanor Holford – Regional Fisheries

DEFRA

Andy Carroll
Paul Harvey
Edward Hind-Ozan
Lydia Osborne

CEFAS

Jim Ellis – CEFAS
Carl O'Brien – CEFAS

IFCA

Samantha Davis – Cornwall IFCA

INDUSTRY

John Balls – North Devon Fisher / ND FA / NFFO
Richard Caslake – Sardine Association
Ben Eglinton
Juliette Hatchman – SWFPO
Stephen Parker – U10 Devon Fisher
Brackan Pearce
Andrew Pillar – PO Interfish
Jim Portus – SWFPO
Karen Pringle – SWFPO
Chris Ranford – CFPO
Dale Rodmell – NFFO
Scott Wharton

1. Chair Welcome & Introductions

2. Quota Presentation (Edward Baker)

See presentation provided for the meeting and comments in Appendix 1

Question regarding allocation of additional quota to the ring-net fleet.

Edward Baker response this is a matter for the POs to decide how they support the ring-netters in their membership.

UK landings of 7e Sole are potentially not going to match the TAC advice, why?

Some vessels switched target stocks this year (from sole to plaice).

Many inshore vessels did not target this stock until summer this year.

Question from Cornish FPO – could there be some flex from 7e into 7h.

Carl O'Brien response – CEFAS are looking into this.

7fg Sole is hard to target in the inshore due to abundance of spider crabs which has increased in recent years. Window for targeting sole without spider crabs has reduced to September/October-March.

Question about whether banking mechanism will remain in place?

Paul Harvey answered that banking will remain the same as previous years and, as normal, some stocks will be exempt.

3. Cornwall IFCA update on Crustacean Management Plan – Samantha Davis, IFCA

CIFCA are working to develop a Crustacean Fisheries Management Plan and are looking for responses to their questionnaire regarding topics such as max/min landing size and effort management. The questionnaire went out to permit holders 3 weeks ago; the closing date is 15th Oct.

CIFCA are looking for volunteers to form a stakeholder group to assist with the development of this. If interested, get in touch with Colin Trundle.

4. Small Eye Ray in Area 7e – Jim Ellis, CEFAS

Currently no quota for this stock. An indicator of stock size is needed to progress development of a quota for this stock. Please contact Jim on Email: jim.ellis@cefass.co.uk if you can assist with evidence gathering to assess stock size. Specifically looking for fishers from St. Austell to Portland.

5. National Representatives – Lydia Osborne, DEFRA

We are looking for representatives from this group to attend a national RFG meeting. They would need to attend to 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.

Thoughts from the group:

- Need more like 3-4 reps to ensure full group opinions are covered.
- Do you need a rep, why can't everyone attend? Perhaps people could just listen in?
- There is a lack of industry reps now as the industry has shrunk over the years and Fisherman's Associations have disbanded.
- Very hard to enter the fishing industry (very hard to buy boats/quota) and we need to support young fishermen, if we support young fishermen to join then there would be more available to be a rep.
- The rep for the group may depend on the agenda of the national meeting.
- The national meeting should be recorded and posted online.
- Suggested that we need to persevere with the inshore working group as there will be issues such as non-quota stocks that affect all groups.

ACTION – RFG team to investigate: Suggested that there could be a knowledge sharing slot in these meetings where members of other RFGs share their developments.

6. Community Quota Schemes – Paul Harvey, DEFRA

The aim is to pilot is 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 or phone 07769285656.



**Pilot Schemes:
Expansion of In...**

7. AOB

Capped licences

Question regarding whether capped licences could be un-capped? And suggestion that if a licence were un-capped there could be a ban on aggregating the licence.

Andy Carroll stated that Capped licences would be reviewed by DEFRA next year as part of a wider licencing review.

Bass

Request for bass management to be on the agenda for next meeting. Industry wants to be involved in the development of new bass measures.

It was highlighted that non-powered vessels (kayaks) are 'free' to land as much bass as they like.

Bass permit transfers to vessels with larger KW/tonnages than the originating vessel has caused contention as this was previously banned.

Question as to whether capped licences could extend to bass?

Andy Carroll said he would update.

ACTION – include bass management discussion in next meeting and invite Lewis White from DEFRA.

Date and Time of next meeting

21st December 1600-1800

Meeting Closed

Appendix 1

| Stock | U10's Comments | O10's comments |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Angler VII | NC | NC |
| Cod VIIb-k Ex d | U10s will not use their full allocation. Potential to trade out or maybe re-distribute. | |
| Haddock VIIb-k | NC | NC |
| Western Hake | NC | NC |
| Herring VIIe-f | Catch limits ok but prices too low to make a viable fishery. | |
| Western Mackerel | NC | NC |
| Handline Mackerel | NC | NC |
| Plaice VIId-e | NC | NC |
| Plaice VIIf-g | NC | NC |
| Pollack VII | NC | NC |
| Skates and Rays Area VII ex.d | NC | NC |
| 10m Sole VIIe | May not land all quota this year. But this will benefit our banking position. | Proposed increase to 2t. |
| 10m Sole VIIf-g | Potential to trade to POs. Quota Mangers to discuss trades. | |
| 10m Whiting VIIb-k | NC | NC |
| Undulate Ray VIId-e | NC | NC |
| Small Eyed Ray VIIf-g | NC | Catch limits OK, one of the North Devon vessels will be out the water from November. |
| Megrim VII -Additional Quota | NC | NC |
| Ling West Coast -Additional Quota | NC | NC |
| Sprat VIIde-Additional Quota | NC | NC |