

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes Thursday 3rd March 2022

South West 7.efg Regional Fisheries Group

16:00 – 18:00 MS Teams

Attendees:

DEFRA

Andy Carroll
Matt Darlison
Lydia Osbourne
Matthew Radford

CEFAS

Paul Dolder
Jim Ellis
Ana Ribeiro Santos

MMO

Ed Baker
Gordon Chittenden
Hubert Gieschen
Eleanor Holford
Rachel Irish – Chair
Katie James
Emily Theobald
Meg Stafford

IFCA

Mat Mander - Devon & Severn
Simon Pengelly - Southern

INDUSTRY

Jon Ashworth
John Balls
M Bingle
Richard Caslake
Juliette Hatchman
Steve Parker
Tich Preston
Karen Pringle
Dave Smith
Nick West
Scott Wharton
Martyn Youell

1. Introduction – Rachel Irish, MMO

Updates from the National meeting held on 20th January 2022:

- Bass FMP will begin consultation this year as Defra want to develop the management of Bass and are asking industry to contribute.
- Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) – Defra has launched a 12-week consultation on the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) which sets out the legally binding policies the UK Government and Devolved Governments will follow, at a UK level and individually, to create this vision for the fishing industry. The [consultation](#), running from January 18th to April 12th 2022, will welcome views from industry and all those interested and affected by the proposed policies. You can read the full statement, including key objectives, [here](#). Stakeholders can send their questions to: jointfisheriesstatement.consultation@defra.gov.uk

Other actions from previous meeting:

- Have your say: Fisheries Traceability

Fishers and businesses involved in England's seafood sector are invited to have their say on traceability in the industry. Learn more and complete the survey here:

<https://bit.ly/3GD1g4x>

- MMO Evidence seal deterrents trials – The St Ives Bay hook and line mackerel fishery was chosen to conduct trials on the seal deterrent technology. Trials have just finished. Recognising the widespread interest in this work the Evidence team are looking to share the results when completed and explore further ways to test the devices in other fisheries. Thank you to all those that expressed interest in supporting the programme and we are hoping there are still more opportunities yet.
- Small eyed-ray – MMO Evidence have agreed to fund the initial phase of research to be done by CEFAS to analyse existing data (landings, discards, survey data and other relevant published information) to provide a robust overview of the available data for the English Channel stock of small-eyed ray (rje.27.7de) and identify key data gaps. The project will also provide details of how a future collaborative science-industry work plan (including initial engagement with relevant fishers) could facilitate additional data collection to better inform the assessment and advisory process for this stock.
- Quota team have created a breakdown of stocks and gear type.



SW 2021 Gear Type
Breakdown.pdf

2. 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.



RFG Slides (003)
FISP.pptx

The **FISP Network** delivered in collaboration between Fishing in the Future, Fishmongers and Fishing Animateurs is a platform that supports industry 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 by clicking on the following links:

- <https://youtu.be/jQVY9pHJWz8>
- <https://www.fishinganimateur.co.uk/>.

The first funding round awards have 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: organisations that have been awarded grants and contracts in round 1 of the scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [FISP projects - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The second round of funding is open and closes midday 25th April 2022.

How much grant funding is available to an individual: Part A up to £20,000 to develop a research proposal. Part B up to £300,000 and a minimum of £50,000 to carry out the proposal. There is match funding available from the FISP Network. There is no specification for who can apply from industry in terms of gear type or licence.

Industry raised concerns about how much time there would be available to collect data given the seasonality of different fisheries and potential delays due to the weather:

- Part A - the grant application proposal timeline is 5 months.
- Part B - for the delivery of the project (data collection, reports) is up to 2 years, depending on the timeline submitted in the application. You can bid for a contract to deliver a full project proposal (FISP Part B) by midday 16th May.
- You can access the opportunity and full requirements on our e-tendering system called BRAVO through this link [UK Seafood Fund: Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

3. Devon and Severn IFCA - Mat Mander, IFCA

If you have a mobile gear permit from D&S IFCA

IFCA have updated the permit conditions – the purpose of this is to give fishers the opportunity to use the grant funding for IVMS roll-out.

The IFCA have provided the opportunity for fishers to choose between 3 devices (not Maritime Systems Ltd device which at the time of the meeting is suspended). D&S IFCA have an immediate requirement that any device fitted needs to begin transmitting data immediately to the national IVMS data hub. The Maritime Systems Ltd unit will not do this as the company has not yet completed this integration process. IFCA advises any industry member wishing to choose this unit to please wait until the company has integrated its systems with the national IVMS hub and in the meantime use the existing unit which is transmitted the data required.

ACTION: Mat Mander to send an email to North Devon fishers about this update.

The Statutory Instrument will be introduced at the end of the year which gives the MMO time to manage the roll-out and gives fishers time to get devices installed before it becomes a legal requirement. MMO will be communicating more about tranche windows and the suspension of Maritime Systems.

- 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

Gear marking

D&S IFCA are bringing in a project this year to improve compliance with gear marking requirements. This will involve lots of consultation to make sure industry are aware of these requirements. The aim of the project is to increase compliance for the legal requirement to mark gear. The project will start with communication, emails and consultation but will move to boardings and inspections for fishers who continue to not comply with gear marking regulations.

Review of netting permit byelaw

If the Annual Plan is agreed by members, the IFCA will be carrying out a review of netting permit byelaw this year. There are lots of interested parties and this is a considerable piece of work. Please see the [website](#) for updates and more updates are to come via the SW RFG.

Question for Southern IFCA – consultation on net fishing byelaw including gear marking. At the authority meeting on 17th March 2022 Southern IFCA are hoping to seek confirmation of this byelaw. They are also looking to implement a pot fishing byelaw which again will cover the marking of pots to ensure there are regulations for the marking of static gear across the Southern IFCA district.

4. Quota presentation

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

5. Small-eyed ray updates – Jim Ellis, Cefas

Cefas are currently writing up a report of their findings from this project. There is no data to show a decline or increase in small-eyed ray stocks, but positive signals that the populations are stable. We need to bear in mind that the current trawl surveys do not cover inshore areas where they are abundant.

More data is needed and there are two options for this:

- Dispensation for Defra/MMO to allow some retention of RJE to do a time series study in 7d and 7e.
- Charter commercial inshore boats to create something analogous to a fishery independent survey.

The next stage would be for Defra policy to review the non-retention policy. This is an opportunity to show how science and industry can work together if this is something Defra policy progress.

6. Industry slot

7. 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

From **28 February 2022**, we will begin enforcing the associated licence condition, in line with [our Compliance and Enforcement strategy](#).

ACTION: Ed Baker to contact the Catch App team - adapting the catch app to include information on catch limits and summaries of a vessel's total landings.

8. Annual Review of the RFGs

We would like feedback from attendees on how the groups are run, what you think is working well and what we could improve. Please send us an email if you have any feedback regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk

Key actions and outcomes:

- Cefas have been undertaking a desk-based review of existing data for small-eyed ray in the English Channel. This report will be completed by the end of March 2022 and will inform on the options for next steps. Potential future work could include working with a small number of vessels, each surveying parts of the distribution range of the stock, including sites such as Mounts Bay, St Austell Bay, Bigbury and Start Bay.
- Industry requested data on stock uptake by gear type – this has been created and disseminated.
- The Lyme Bay spatial conflict issues are ongoing, but the RFG team were key in setting up meetings held last year to work through these issues and will continue to work to resolve these issues with IFCA and the MMO coastal offices.

Industry is keen that the RFG does not become too big as it becomes difficult to manage and harder to contribute in meetings.

Bass question: Bass Fisheries Management Plan will be completed by 2023, there will be consultation on how this plan should be written with industry this year. The Joint Fisheries Statement is focused on the recreational and commercial sector.

Official Sensitive

Suggestion from industry to record the amount of Bass they discard on the Catch App as evidence to support a change to the management of Bass stocks.

9. AOB

Meeting closed

Next meeting 14th June

Appendix 1

Stock	U10's Comments	O10's comments
Angler VII	No comments	No comments
Cod VIIb-k Ex d	No comments	No comments
Haddock VIIb-k	No comments	No comments
Western Hake	No comments	No comments
Herring VIIe-f	Has been very good and high quality. Problems with seals.	No comments
Western Mackerel	No comments	No comments
Handline Mackerel	No comments	No comments
Plaice VIId-e	No comments	No comments
Plaice VIIf-g	No comments	No comments
Pollack VII	Pollack season hasn't been great, and catches will begin to decline in the netting. Intention is to keep the catch limits high.	No comments
Skates and Rays Area VII ex.d	Storms have impacted the catches.	No comments
10m Sole VIIe	No comments	No comments
10m Sole VIIf-g	No comments	No comments
10m Whiting VIIb-k	No comments	No comments
Undulate Ray VIId-e	No comments	No comments
Small Eyed Ray VIIf-g	See comments above about CEFAS project.	See comments above about CEFAS project.