

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes 21st December 2021

RFG South West 7efg

16:00 – 18:00 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

DEFRA

Lydia Osbourne
Amrita Rose

CEFAS

Jim Ellis

MMO

Sarah Allison - Quota
Ed Baker - Quota
Hubert Gieschen – Fisheries Management
Eleanor Holford - Regional Fisheries Groups
Rachel Irish – PMO and Chair
Emily Theobald – Regional Fisheries Groups
Andrew Wills – Future Fisheries

IFCA

Sam Davis – Cornwall IFCA
Sam Dell – Southern IFCA
Mat Mander – Devon and Severn IFCA
Simon Pengelly – Southern IFCA

Seafish

Rebecca Treacy

MSC

Matthew Spencer

INDUSTRY

Rob Adams
John Ball – ND FA / NFFO
M Bingle
Lee Carter
Richard Caslake – Sardine Association
Sam Dell
Thomas Lambourn
Steve Parker
Andrew Pillar – PO Interfish
Sam James Plumbing
Beshlie Poole - South Devon and Channel Shellfish
Tich Preston - SWHLA
Karen Pringle – SWFPO
Chris Ranford - CFPO
Graham Searle
Jonathan Shuker
Anthony West
Nick West - Mevagissy FA
Scott Wharton
Gareth Williams
Martyn Youell

1. Chair Welcome and Introductions - Rachel Irish, MMO

Actions from previous meeting:

- a) Paul Harvey, Community pilot schemes – Defra are still receiving applications; they are reviewing responses and will be contracting group who submitted responses individually.
- b) Answer to question about Bass and capped licences, response from Defra: 'Bass is a non-quota species so does not fall under the cap of capped licences. Whether it could in the future would be a question for future policy/management measures. Bass is being considered for a bespoke Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) but the list of proposed

FMPs won't be published until next year and only after that list has been announced will Defra again be approaching industry for input to any potential new management measures.'

2. Quota Presentation – Sarah Allison, MMO

See presentation provided for the meeting and comments in Appendix 1

Reminder to contact InshoreQuotaManager@marinemanagement.org.uk with questions and quota enquires.

Compliant from industry as Gillnetting has not been included in the [updated bass authorisations](#) for 2022.

Sole 7e uptake broken down into gear type – Under and Over 10's. This is included in the Quota presentation at the request of industry. The graph highlights that scallop dredgers are catching a large amount of Sole. This is likely caused the removal of the 5% rule. Ed Baker has raised this with Defra and MMO and it will be included when the landing obligation is reviewed, including how it is written.

Industry would like to see a breakdown of other stocks in future.

ACTION: Quota managers to put together more graphs and circulate.

Small Eyed Ray (7e) project update

Sarah Allison and Cefas have written a funding bid which will go to the MMO Evidence Team. The project is split into two sections: data trawling and observers on boats looking at discards. The first stage will begin in January - March. Call for volunteers to participate. Graeme Searle has two people in mind from Plymouth.

Frustration from industry that volunteers would not be able to land small eyed ray as part of the project.

John Balls to contact fishers who might be interested.

Question about why small eyed ray cannot be landed in 7e?

Reason for non-retention of small eyed ray in 7e was due to a political decision from a December Council meeting with no scientific basis. ICES never said it needed protection. The Belgian fleet called it Sandy ray and the commission wanted to increase the number of prohibited species and as Small eyed ray accounted for a small proportion of landings (except in the UK as it was recorded correctly here) it was listed as a prohibited species. Cefas put in a case to have the non-retention rules removed for 7f and g but there was not enough data for 7d and e. Cefas need an abundance index to take to ICES.

Industry would like more incentives to get involved in this kind of projects.

Question about looking at other species which are prohibited but perceived to be abundant.

Spurdog - benchmark stock assessment has been carried out by ICES in 2021. ICES will be providing new advice. Stocks are increasing, it dropped to being endangered from critically endangered. There is currently a by-catch scheme in place. In the future the ICES advice may change.

Porbeagle – more interested parties in these species, ICES are doing a bench market assessment next year but there is not enough data to assess the status of the stock.

3. Updates to Landing Obligations - Amrita Rose, Defra

The majority of discard exemptions in force in 2021 were extended from 1 January 2022 and until the end of 2024. However, a number of amendments were made to some of these exemptions. These amendments will ensure the exemptions in force in 2022 are up to date and are scientifically justified. The amendments relevant to 7efg are outlined below.

A list of the exemptions in force in 2022, outlining any amendments, has been published on the MMO website and please find the link here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-conservation-and-landing-obligation-rules-and-regulations-2022>

Introduction of 3 new exemptions:

1. A survivability exemption for sprat and horse mackerel caught in the UK fishery targeting pelagic species mostly not subject to quotas caught in non-Union ICES divisions VIIe and VIIf. There is a similar exemption currently applying to mackerel and herring, and we are extending it to also cover sprat and horse mackerel in the ring net fishery (changes will be made to Article 2 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1393/2014)
2. A survivability exemption for sole caught within six nautical miles of the coast, but outside identified nursery areas in the under 10m otter trawl fishery in ICES divisions VIIa, VIId, VIIe, VIIf and VIIg. There is currently a sole exemption in VIId, and we are extending it to these neighbouring ICES areas (changes will be made to Article 4 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2239).
3. A *de minimis* exemption for monkfish, up to a maximum of 7% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using beam trawls in ICES divisions VIId – VIIj (this makes changes to Article 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2239).

Other Amendments relevant for 7efg:

1. *De minimis* exemption for boarfish in ICES division VIId - j. To support compliance with the landing obligation, the exemption will be expanded to cover a larger geographical area and also include VIId and e. ICES areas 7b, c and k will also be revoked as they are not in UK waters (this makes changes to Article 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2239).
2. High survivability exemption for Norway lobster (Nephrops) caught with otter trawls in ICES area VII. Currently the exemption refers to vessels with bottom trawls with a mesh size equal to or larger than 100mm, or equal to 70 - 99 mm in combination with highly selective gear options. The SI will simplify the current legislation by removing these two requirements and changing the mesh size for vessels fishing with otter trawls so that it is equal to or greater than 70mm in ICES area VII (this makes changes to Article 3 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2239).

3. *De minimis* exemption for sole in ICES division VIIId, e, f, g and h. The limit on discarding will be increased to 6% in areas VIIIf and g to match the discard rate and hence ensure fishing occurs within the TAC limit. The limit on discarding will remain at 3% for areas VIIId, e and h (this makes changes to Article 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2239).
4. The use of the following exemptions will also be made conditional on fish being released during the net hauling process, whenever possible:
High survival exemption for plaice in ICES areas VIIId - g (this change amends Article 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2239).

Separately, there are also a number of amendments to exemptions in force in EU waters from 1 January. These amendments are outlined in the attachment to the email sent 17th December 2021 Under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, all fishers, UK or EU registered, fishing in EU waters have the option to use these exemptions, as long as they meet the conditions of the exemptions (and vice versa for all fishers in UK waters).

Industry requested the discard exemptions be simplified into stocks, areas, and percentages, and simplified so information is easier to find on the MMO website and easier to understand.

ACTION: Amrita Rose, Eleanor Holford and Emily Theobald to investigate this.

4. I-VMS - Andy Wills, MMO

Update: The specification for requirements of i-VMS devices has been developed and in November 2021 four devices were approved. The intention is that there will be a requirement for all vessels under 12 meters to have an i-VMS tracking device installed under the SI by Autumn 2022. The timetable for this project aims to allow fishers time to fit a device before any compliance or enforcement measures will take place. The role out dates, grant process and more details about what fishers should do if a device has a fault are available on the MMO website.

- 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

Any I-VMS queries should be directed to the mailbox IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk

Questions from industry:

It says on the supplier's website that you can claim the money back for the device, how can I do that?

Fishers must make the claim (not suppliers) and there is funding available for all fishers. The reimbursement amount will be confirmed in January 2022.

- *What happens if the device stops working but I have gear at sea that I need to retrieve?*

It is the responsibility of fishers to contact the device provide to fix the fault. The MMO is looking at grace periods for fishers when this occurs.

- *Are the roll out dates published on the internet still correct?*

No, they are being revised and re-released in January 2022.

- *Can we use the grant for a new device to replace an existing older device?*

Yes, if a grant not used to purchase the original device.

Yes, if you had used grant funding but a period of 5 years has elapsed.

Yes, if it is related a device being installed because of a Devon Severn permit condition.

- *Will the IFCA accept any of the suppliers' devices?*

Those who installed a device under the Devon and Severn EMFP would qualify to replace the unit under this new project. The timeline is still being confirmed. Permit conditions will be changing to recognise this new MMO I-VMS project.

- *Who is responsibility is it to recognise a fault?*

Fishers, who can check the status of their device through an app or there means provided by the supplier.

- *If suppliers are taking a long time to send an engineer to fix a fault can the MMO put pressure on the suppliers?*

Yes, contact: IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk

Industry said they would be willing to remote manually if a device was broken to allow them to continue fishing.

If you have questions, please contact: IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk

5. Industry slot

Question for CEFAS on the state of the Bass stock.

ACTION: CEFAS to feedback on the status of Bass stock.

Comment from industry on the National meeting which is set for 20th January 2022. Industry would like those attending to introduce themselves and declare who they represent to allow the meetings to be more constructive.

Catch Recording update:

From 28th February 2022 the MMO will begin enforcing associated licence condition, in line with compliance and enforcement strategy which lays out the approach in general:

- Primary aim for MMO is to ensure U10 fishers are submitting required data on time. If industry have problems, get in touch. The MMO will be writing to those who have not yet registered for this service and those who are not consistently using the app.

Question on the state of the Bass stock.

ACTION: RFG Team to follow this up for the next meeting.

6. Whelks, Crab and Lobsters – Rebecca Treacy, 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 rebecca.treacy@seafish.co.uk



WMG RFG slides
021121.pptx

7. Project UK, Matthew Spence, MSC

Project UK in the SW is working on Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIP) for: crab, lobster and monkfish. They are looking for information from vessels U12 not in a PO using beam or otter trawl gear in mixed fishery that catch monkfish. They are looking for vessels interested in certification to join to FIP. Finally they are looking for interest crab and lobster fishers to join a harvest strategy workshop.

Contact Matthew Spencer at Matthew.Spencer@msc.org



Project UK - SW
fisheries.1.pptx

8. AOB

Question ADFA Andy Bell running the North Devon buyer fair – request for Devon and Severn IFCA to help with the project.

ACTION: Sam Davis to follow up with Mat Mander.

National Meeting – set for 20th January 2022 at 16:00 on MS Teams

Next meeting: 3rd March 2022

Meeting Closed

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	No comments	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	Quota team have swapped in extra quota and set the catch limit at 30 tons for the first quarter to maximise fishing opportunities at the start of the year.	No comments
Skates and Rays Area VII ex.d	No comments	No comments
10m Sole VIIe	Can the catch limits be increased at the end of the year; will this be the same for 2022? This may be the same this year. Fishery is changing with more small beamers fishing for Sole all year round. 1.5 tonne in Jan and Feb seems fair but quota is also needed for netters who target Sole later in the year. Quota managers think the catch limits will start high and stay high through the year (around 2 tonnes). The group would like to consider using this stock for an FMP and possibly community trials.	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.