

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes 17th January 2023

North East 4b

15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

INDUSTRY

Alan Faichney

David Wilkins

Giles Bartlett

James Wood

Jamie Robertson

Jennifer Price

Jo Ackers

John Medcalf

Michael roach

Philip Walsh

Brian Douglass

Graham McDonagh

Charlie Wiseman

MMO:

Paul Gilliland

Chris Graham

Patrick Gray

Amy Balding

Jude Hannah

Lynsey Mardsen

Rebecca Thomas

Courtney Inch

Caley McIntosh

Ryan Porteous- Ford

Daniel Wardle

Martin Tunley

Eleanor Holford

Katie James

Linda Porteous

Sarah Coulthard

Defra:

Lydia Osborne

Andrew Carroll

Sarah Roberts

Seafish

David Warwick

Cefas:

Ewen Bell

IFCA:

David McCandless

Ralf Bublitz

Mark Southerton (IFCA)

External

Luke Perry

Environment agency:

James Cole

1. Welcome & Introductions – Patrick Gray (MMO)

2. Update from Jude Hannah from the Grants team (MMO):

All FaSS grant information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fisheries-and-seafood-scheme> (Please see Appendix 1 and 2)

- Support is available in health and safety; all applicants eligible for 80% providing vessel length is under 12m, gear/method of fishing is not a consideration for funding rate in this specific measure like it is on other vessel-based applications.
- Within H&S, funding is available for non-slip decks on any vessels that aren't new build (pre 2021) up until September 2023.
- The Defra policy team are considering the options available for all vehicle applications (M28 under "support to improve the resilience and sustainability of a shore-based facility) as there has been an influx of applications into the scheme in this area and there is a pressure on the budget. These applications will remain on hold/not be receipted until the decision is taken on how to proceed.
- If you have any questions about FaSS, please do not hesitate to contact the Grants Team using the details below.
- UKSF under DEFRA will be offering support to replace engines for a limited time. This funding pot should open sometime soon; keep an eye on the website.
- All information about this is in the attached document. Applicants and interested parties must register as directed in this document and all questions must be put forward through that system. The MMO Grants team will not be able to answer your questions and will only signpost you back to the UKSF



Fleet Modernisation
QA.pdf

3. Traceability in the UK seafood supply chain project - Sarah Roberts (The University of Edinburgh and The University of Hull)

- Sarah Roberts explained that a traceability project is underway to track fish as it moves through the supply chain with the intention to improve the MMO's understanding of the UK Seafood supply chain and business operations.
- Call for anyone who would like to participate in interviews, specifically those involved in the following places of interest.
 - Peterhead, Scotland – Mackerel
 - Bridlington, England – European lobster and brown crab
 - South-west England – Dover sole
- Please see Appendix 3 for information on the Traceability project
 - To raise interest for interviews and for further information please contact the research team at A.Caveen@hull.ac.uk , Charlotte.Hopkins@hull.ac.uk, Sarahiroberts@hotmail.co.uk .

4. Quota update – Katie James (MMO)

Katie James from the Quota Management team updated the group on quota allocations for the coming year. Presentation can be found here:



NE Quota
Presentation Jan 23.r

Katie gave an update on the uptake of North Sea (NS) Anglerfish, Mackerel, NS Nephrops, NS Sole, NS Whiting, Ns Skates and Rays, NS Cod in the area and explained the allocations in 4b.

A discussion on Whiting took place regarding concerns for the marketing and low sale price of whiting currently. Katie expressed that any information is useful to be made aware of.

Question from industry: what is the quota for Haddock in the North Sea? 2.5 tonnes per month for the under 10's fleet. If you find this isn't enough, get in touch with Katie.

If anyone has any questions about quota contact Katie James at katie.james@marinemanagement.org.uk.

5. Inspection Procedures – Ryan Porteous- Ford (MMO)



Fisheries Monitoring
Centre (FMC).pdf

Ryan from the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) provided a detailed summary on the Surface Surveillance program and the role of offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) in monitoring and enforcing fisheries regulations. He explained that the MMO employs a variety of methods for surface surveillance, including the use of offshore patrol vessels, offshore personnel, and the Maritime and Coastguard agency. These methods are used to detect and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities and to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures.

Ryan outlined the specific inspection routines used by the FMC. The process begins with the targeting of specific vessels based on factors such as their fishing activities, location, and previous inspection history. The FMC uses vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and individual vessel monitoring systems (IVMS) to track and identify vessels of interest. Once a vessel is targeted, the FMC makes initial contact with the vessel via radio channel 16, and then moves to a different channel to ask questions and gather information. Not all vessels that are contacted are boarded, it depends on the information obtained during the initial contact.

In preparation for boarding, the inspection team gets into personal protective equipment (PPE) and gathers the necessary inspection equipment. The team then approaches the vessel, inspects the boarding ladder and access points, and may ask the skipper to manoeuvre the vessel to enable a safe boarding.

Once aboard, the inspection team introduces themselves to the master and crew and accommodates for fishing times, tide, and weather as much as possible. The team then inspects the skipper's logbooks and documents, such as certificates of registry and licenses, which can be found digitally. On vessels 17m and over, the team will also inspect the Fishroom plan. The team will then

conduct gear inspections, looking for any violations of conservation and management measures or indications of IUU fishing activities.

Please see slides for Inspection and infringement rates – example offences and fines issued at Court. The fines are designed to deter violations and to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures.

If there are questions or you would like more information, please contact: Ryan.Porteous-Ford@marinemanagement.org.uk

6. Seafish coverless trawl trails and Defra legislation update – David Warwick (Seafish)

David Warwick, the fishing gear innovation manager at Seafish, discussed coverless trawls as a method for reducing unwanted bycatch, specifically Whitefish, in the Nephrops fishery.

Coverless trawls have been used in various fisheries for years, but with the introduction of the Landing Obligation, they have become a popular choice for reducing bycatch. In the past, the footrope was shortened to match the length of the headline, but now it is common to make the headline the same length or slightly longer than the footrope. Studies, including underwater video footage, have shown that different species react differently to encountering a net on the seabed. Haddock and Whiting tend to rise away from the footrope to avoid danger, while flatfish, Monkfish, and Cod stay close to the seabed.

Coverless trawls can be further adapted to increase selectivity, such as adding a seltra panel or increasing the mesh size in the wings. Ongoing trials in the Irish Sea have shown a decrease in whiting and haddock catches by 30% and 60%, respectively, with no decrease in prawn catches.

CEFAS will also be starting a series of trials in the Northeast of England prawn fishery, funded by the Fisheries Industries Science Partnerships Scheme, in which Seafish is a partner. A total of 8 boats will be involved in the trial, covering 3 ports, with 5 boats using coverless trawls, 3 with standard square mesh panels and 2 with further changes made to add larger meshes and longer square mesh panels. The results of the trial will be reported back to the group

Feel free to get in contact with any gear related enquiries : David.warwick@seafish.co.uk



Coverless Trawls.pdf

7. NEIFCA pot limit byelaw - David McCandless (NEIFCA)

David McCandless from North Eastern IFCA summarised the North Eastern IFCA Shellfish Permit Byelaw Proposals.

The number of permits offered would be capped at current levels and a charge would be levied to support the administration and management of the scheme. Pots would be allocated on application up to a maximum of 1000 per vessel, with initial applications prioritized to existing permit holders. There will be mechanisms to appeal initial allocation and apply for more pots if business develops. The permit would include mandatory declaration of fleet numbers, surface markers and a tagging system, and could be transferred onto replacement vessels. New vessels entering the fishery must apply for a permit, with a waiting list system in place if no permits are available.

The byelaw would also include provisions for future change through consultation and agreement.

Further informal consultation will take place in the coming months, followed by formal consultation in March-April 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact: david.mccandless@eastriding.gov.uk



NEIFCA potting
effort management p

8. Marine Protected Area Fisheries Management Update – Charlie Wiseman (MMO)

Charlie Wiseman, MPA manager (MMO) summaries the Marine Protected Area Fisheries Management Update.

The MMO has proposed management measures to prohibit bottom-towed fishing over the moderate energy circalittoral rock features present in Farnes East, biogenic reef (*Sabellaria* spp.) features present in North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, and Haisborough, Hammond, and Winterton. The proposed byelaw also revokes the current MMO Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton European Marine Site (Specified Areas) Bottom Towed Taking Gear Byelaw.

Formal consultation on the proposed management measures will take place from **January 17, 2023, to March 28, 2023.**

MMO will also gather and analyse evidence for a call for evidence on the impact of mobile species such as harbour porpoise and marine birds in five sites planned for **Summer 2023.**



2023_01_17_NE_RFG
_MPA_Update.pdf

Discussion from industry about spatial data missing out the under 10 vessels. Charlie responded that the Call for evidence and consultation allow fishers to put forward data on how the proposed measures will affect them in the areas they utilise.

AOB – Patrick Gray (MMO)

- IFCAs across England are looking to recruit general members. The general member roles are voluntary roles and are appointed from various sectors (commercial fisheries, marine environment specialists, recreational fisheries and anything else i.e. divers). The link to the job role and how to apply can be found here: [Exciting opportunity to participate in the management of inshore fisheries and marine conservation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exciting-opportunity-to-participate-in-the-management-of-inshore-fisheries-and-marine-conservation). If you have any questions about these roles and how to get involved with IFCAs, please contact leanne.tan@marinemanagement.org.uk.
- **The closing date is 13th February.**
- A member of industry raised concerns over Tees and Hartlepool maintenance dredge disposal licence. As the MMO is currently considering the contents of a pre-action protocol letter from Leigh Day Solicitors, dated 16 December 2022, and will respond in due course. In the meantime, it would not be appropriate for us to comment in detail on matters relating

to the letter or on evidence being assessed by an independent expert panel at the request of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee.

- An industry member raised concerns over the removal of red diesel, which is commonly used in tractors for launching, and the difficulty of obtaining it from HMRC. They pointed out that this section of the industry is being overlooked. Courtney from the MMO reassured that these concerns have been relayed and that they will inform of the response as soon as possible
- Industry stakeholders raised concerns over the data being used to form the proposed IFCA byelaw- Fish1 forms only request number of pots at sea, does not specify whether they are in the district or distinguish between CRE, LBE or WHE pots. There are lots of concerns over the data that is being used to form the proposal. IFCA responded that the byelaw is a framework for managing the harvesting of the stock more effectively and is designed to level effort where it currently exists but can be flexible. The IFCA also acknowledged the need for more accurate data and plans to rebuild the relationship with the industry in the region. The industry also asked if information from the Catch app could be utilized, but the IFCA stated that while this is a goal, it is currently not available.

Invitation to join the Survey Steering Group for a new UK Commercial Fishing Social Society

We (the Countryside & Community Research Institute and Fishing into the Future) have been commissioned by Defra to co-design a Commercial Fishing Social Survey with fisheries stakeholders to provide social sustainability data that will be used by both policy makers and the fishing industry. The survey will regularly (annual or two-yearly) collect social data not currently collected as part of the Fleet Survey administered by Seafish.

The project will involve identifying and drafting survey questions and social indicators that will be used in the new survey – this will be undertaken through a series of workshops with fisheries stakeholders between February and April – we are planning four workshops across England. The project runs until July 2023 when we deliver the final draft of the survey to Defra, and this will be followed by a further phase of work where the survey will be piloted and refined.

To help guide the project and ensure that we include appropriate stakeholders in the co-design process, we are establishing a stakeholder Survey Steering Group (SSG). The role of the SSG will be to advise the research team on where to conduct the workshops, who to invite and to comment on survey question drafts prior to the workshops, and to comment on a final draft of the survey. We anticipate this will involve two online workshops with the research team (likely at the end of January or early February and May 2023) and a small amount of correspondence by email.

We would like to invite stakeholder representation from all the Regional Fisheries Groups to sit on the SSG. If you would be interested in undertaking this role (as outlined above), please get in touch with Julie Urquhart jurquhart1@glos.ac.uk.

Appendix 1:

The UK Seafood Fund (UKSF) are providing two rounds of funding.

UKSF Round 2 closed on February 3rd, 2023.

UKSF Round 3 opened Friday 27th January and will be focused on fleet modernization and engine replacement for the SSCF. Defra held an industry webinar recently and have circulated a Q&A document about Round 3 which can be found here:



Fleet Modernisation
QA.pdf

If you would like to ask further questions you can register and submit questions on the system here:
<https://scis.marineservices.org.uk/workbench.ofml>

Appendix 2:

Schemes/ grants which might be useful for the inshore fleet/non-sector.

We've seen a healthy uptake in FaSS2 which opened for applications in April this year and continues to be available for prospective applicants up until March 2025.

If you are interested in applying please contact the grants team at FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk to discuss their project.

We have 3 confirmed panel dates for 2023 for those projects where the total cost exceeds £150,000, listed below.

Finally, there is a phasing in period for safety rails and non-slip deck which are two common items in Health and Safety apps we often receive. MCA have confirmed that these items will become mandatory on 5th September 2023 so for any vessel that isn't classed as new (built after 6 September 2021) applicants can apply for these items until that 5th September date.

3 Panels		
Deadline	Panel	Days between
31/01/2023	23/03/2023	51
31/05/2023	26/07/2023	56
30/09/2023	21/11/2023	52

Appendix 3:

Traceability in the UK Seafood supply chain

Context

Improving traceability, the extent to which fish can be verifiably tracked as it moves through the supply chain, is a key priority for Defra's Control & Enforcement policy team and the Marine Management Organisation.

This project is the second of three traceability projects commissioned by Defra and the MMO in Q3-Q4 of 2022-23:

1. Benefits of traceability (Poseidon Ltd)
2. Traceability in the UK supply-chain (SRUC and University of Hull)
3. Use of technology in traceability (Poseidon Ltd)

Key Aims and Objectives

Through investigation into 3 case studies of UK fisheries, the project will:

- Identify the different kinds of supply chain in operation in the UK.
- Produce system maps of UK seafood supply chains.
- Identify examples of best practice.
- Identify the main challenges in the UK seafood supply chains.
- Produce suggestions of how to address challenges improve processes into UK seafood supply chains.

This project therefore aims to improve the MMO's understanding of the following questions within the context of different types of UK seafood supply-chains and business operations:

1. Where does traceability potentially break-down and where is key information lost?
2. What information is currently captured, and how it is typically transferred at various stages of the supply-chain to help organisations manage inventory and day-to-day activities?
3. How do unique identifiers for the final consumed product link back to key product information?
4. Where do organisation's interests lay in relation to the need for improved traceability?
5. What are the potential barriers and opportunities of using technology and/or modifying systems to move away from paper-based records, spreadsheets and/or incompatible software?

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder workshops, interviews and questionnaires will be carried out to validate and build upon desk-based findings.

This request: 30 mins – 1 hr interview

Case study locations and produce of interest

- Peterhead, Scotland – Mackerel
- Bridlington, England – European lobster and brown crab
- South-west England – Dover sole

Team members

Neil Burns <Neil.Burns@sruc.ac.uk>
Alexander J Caveen <A.Caveen@hull.ac.uk>

Charlotte Hopkins <Charlotte.Hopkins@hull.ac.uk>
Sarah Roberts <Sarahiroberts@hotmail.co.uk>



Appendix 4:

The i-VMS project is progressing whilst independent testing is taking place on the 4 type approved devices, fishers can still research and order devices during this period.

The funding for the devices is available until the 4th May 2023.

The SI has not been laid or implemented as of yet but with a view towards this being set for later in the year.

Update on IVMS can be found here:



IVMS.pdf

Appendix 5:

Guidance on marking of fishing gear, retrieval, and notification of lost gear

Information can be found here: [Marking of fishing gear, retrieval and notification of lost gear - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/markings-for-fishing-gear)

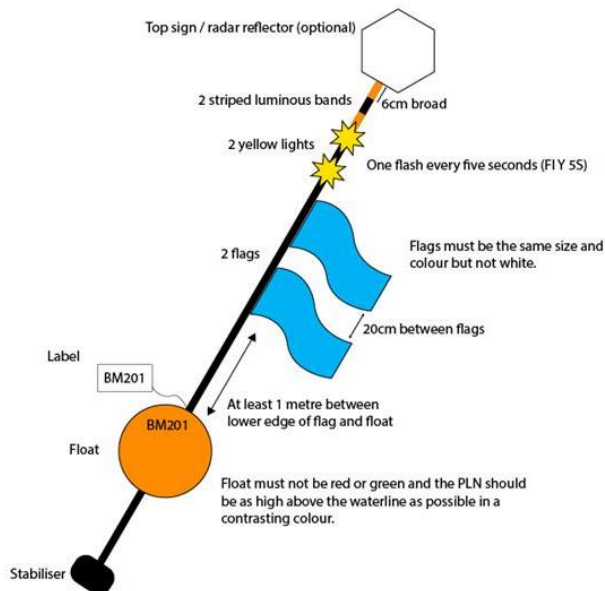


Figure 1: Diagram of a western sector marker buoy

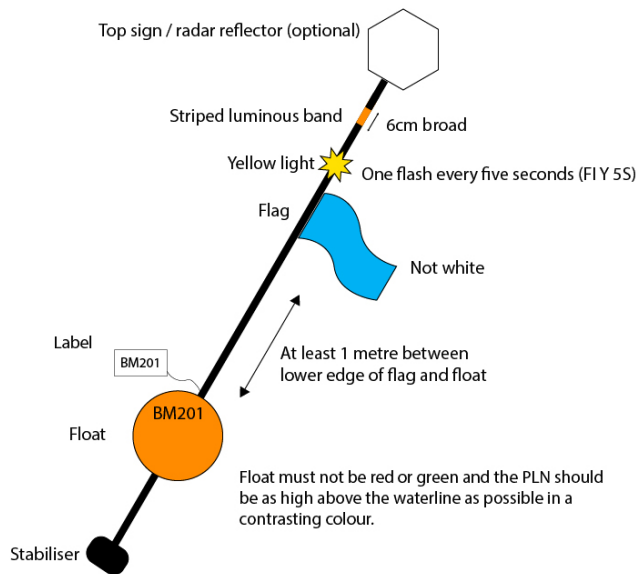


Figure 2: diagram of an eastern sector marker buoy

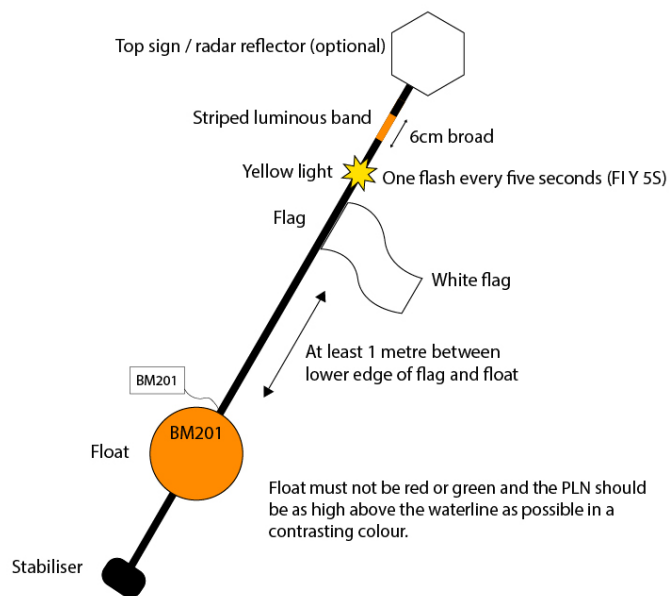


Figure 3: diagram of an intermediary marker buoy

Other useful resources:

[How to Label \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Boarding Ladder infographic \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Electronic Logbook V5 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[How to complete a Paper Log Book \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)