

# REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Southwest 7efg

16:00 – 18:00 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

**INDUSTRY**

Aubrey Banfield  
Ben Eglington  
Joe Emmett  
John Balls  
Michael Johnson  
Lee Carter  
Nick West  
Scott Wharton  
Duncan Murt  
Dave Smith  
Graham Searle

**MMO:**

Rebecca Thomas  
Sarah Bedingham  
Pete Cosgrove  
Hubert Gieschen  
Oliver Goldsmith  
Courtney Inch  
Rachel Irish  
Chloe Kingston Jones  
Wendy Lethbridge  
Caley McIntosh  
Louise Price  
Alicia Shepard  
Emily Theobald  
Rachel Thirlwall  
Rachel Knowles  
Edward Baker  
Katie James

**Defra:**

Andy Carroll  
Lydia Osbourne

**PO's:**

Chloe North  
Karen pringle  
Juliette Hatchman

**Cefas:**

Ana Riberiro Santos  
Richard Buck

**Environment agency:**

Imogen Douglas

**University of Hull and  
Poseidon:**

Rod Cappell  
Sarah Roberts  
Alex Caveen

**IFCA:**

Mat Mander  
Sarah Birchenous

## **1. Welcome, Introduction and actions and updates – Rachel Irish (MMO)**

Rachel Irish introduced the meeting. Actions from the last meetings were mentioned:

- There were requests to see how much effort there is/are from EU vessels in UK waters. Those who asked to see this data received it from the Bass team, at Defra.
- There was a question about whether funding covered tier 3 engines? The answer from the MMO was that they currently don't fund tier 3 engines, however more funding options for new engines can be found in the document below:



Fleet Modernisation  
QA.pdf

## **2. Quota – Katie James (MMO)**

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



SWQAG December  
2022.pdf

- A member of the fishing industry raised concerns about the 25% cut in small-eyed ray quotas, as advised by ICES in area 7fg.
  - Ed Baker from the MMO reassured the industry that the ICES advice is based on scientific research but acknowledged that the industry may feel that the advice and the industries experiences do not match up. Ed also mentioned that the MMO will continue to work to ensure that the science from Defra is as accurate as possible.
- Another member of the industry expressed frustration that this issue has been ongoing for over two years and would like to see quotas for small-eyed ray in area 7e. Another member reported that EU vessels fishing just outside the 6 nautical mile limit may misreport the species they catch. A third member of the industry emphasized the importance of both scientists and fishers listening to each other, as the current situation is a waste of resources. Rachel Irish emphasised importance of reporting bycatch on catch recording; if anyone doesn't know how to use this, they can ask their local marine officer how to do so.
  - Action: RFG team will provide feedback to the group on the decision made for 7e small-eyed ray quota.
  - Action: Defra will speak to their enforcement team regarding report that EU vessels may be misreporting their catches.
- Rachel Irish provided an update on tuna quotas including information from Julian about the current quotas for bluefin tuna being used for scientific purposes and bycatch for certain gear types. It is not yet clear if there will be a recreational catch for this species. Communications about updated quota will be communicated via the usual channels.
- Members of the industry also raised concerns about bass entitlements, stating that they are unable to fish for any bass, which they feel is wasteful and discriminatory.

If anyone has any questions about quota, they can contact Katie James at [katie.james@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:katie.james@marinemanagement.org.uk).

### **3. Devon & Severn IFCA Scallop REM – Mat Mander D&S and IFCA**

The Devon & Severn IFCA is conducting a project to evaluate the effectiveness of certain technologies in preventing infringements of marine protected areas. These technologies include the installation of Marine Ultra Star Light 1080p cameras and Beacon sensors on towing plates. The software associated with these technologies allows the IFCA to receive alerts if vessels are fishing within restricted areas.

The IFCA is interested in this project because it could potentially reduce the costs associated with enforcing marine protected areas by reducing the time spent on enforcement efforts.

- A member of industry asked if this would apply to the entire fleet.
  - Mat Mander of the D&S IFCA responded that this is still being considered as more tests need to be done on the reliability of the system, and it is likely to start with scalloping vessels before looking to extend out to the rest of the fleet.
- A member of the industry raised concerns about the ongoing costs of the system and whether it would be fair to ask fishers to pay for it on a monthly basis, as they already pay for the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).
  - Mat Mander of the D&S IFCA responded that the next stage of the project is to secure funding to extend it and pay for the project in its entirety, and that the IFCA is still a long way from requiring the use of this system across the entire sector.

You can read more about this project here: [Successful Trial of Remote Electronic Monitoring \(REM\) - Devon and Severn IFCA](#)

If you are interested in participating in this trial, please contact Mat Mander on [m.mander@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:m.mander@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)

### **4. Traceability Project – Rod Cappell (Poseidon) Sarah Roberts (University of Hull)**

The Marine Management Organization (MMO) has commissioned Poseidon and the University of Hull to conduct a traceability project on UK seafood. The project aims to explore the benefits and challenges of traceability in the industry. As part of the project, events will be held in the South West region, where stakeholders involved in the Dover sole supply chain will be interviewed. A workshop will also be held in March to discuss the findings with relevant stakeholders. Please do contact us on [regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk) if you have any questions regarding this project.

Please see Appendix 1.

### **5. Lyme Bay Update – Ed Baker (MMO) and Ana Riberiro Santos (Cefas)**

The Marine Management Organization (MMO) commissioned Cefas to conduct a desk-based study on Sole in Lyme Bay and the wider 7e. The study aims to analyse the impacts on the stock and population of Sole due to increased fishing effort and examine the effects of different gear types on the industry, and address concerns of industry. There is going to be opportunity in early 2023 to input on this process.

The presentation can be found here:



Cefas\_Sole in Lyme  
bay.pdf

## **6. Wind transmission – Pete Cosgrove (MMO)**

It was requested to inform on the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), from fishers in the last SW Regional Fisheries Group. This is the National Grid trying to understand how to plan the undersea cable network, with the massive growth of offshore wind, in a way that will have the least impact on the environment and economy, whilst meeting electricity demands. There are channels and pathways for fishers to get involved with this process, which is essential in informing what channels offshore wind cables are going to take back to land.

- A question/statement from industry – we have been in talks for the last few months on this, and it needs to be noted that cables need to be trenched correctly. It's hard for certain gear types to work about undersea cables, and this is really important and needs to be heard.
  - Pete Cosgrove (MMO) responded by saying that with comments like this, they need to be passed to your contact in the MMO, and these can then be fed into the correct channels.

Presentation can be found here:



SW Renewables FOR  
NW RFG KEEP.pdf

## **7. NQS Update – Rachel Thirlwall (MMO)**

Rachel came to update on the Non-Quota Species Fisheries Management Plan. Rachel explained that the FMP is one of the front-runners from Defra, and MMO are the lead delivery partner of this FMP. The species included in the FMP are in the presentation below. The FMP team have had working group meetings, and these are helping to draft and review certain parts of the FMP. The working group wants to see fishers involved early, to utilise their knowledge.

In the November working group, they focussed on the vision and goals of the FMP. Fishers mentioned they want to see more mention of coastal communities in the FMP. The group were also asked what goals they wanted, and they specifically mentioned the precautionary principle and using this to develop the FMP.

A summary of the working group feedback can be found here: [FMP working group](#).

This team have also recently set up an evidence advisory group, and the purpose of this group is to provide expert advice to advise on policy. This group is made up of several stakeholders, including fisherman.

The presentation can be found here:



FMP.pdf

## 8. AOB- Rachel Irish (MMO)

- Industry complained about the increase in bass hook and line allowance, saying it was unnecessary. A question from industry – how many of the handline Bass entitlements caught their full amount? Is there anyway this can be spread around fishers if others don't use their full quota.
  - Emily Theobald from the MMO responded by stating that she will gather bass statistics and come back to industry in the new year.
- A question from industry – what is the situation with capped licenses?
  - Ed Baker responded by saying that the licenses will be capped again from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023, the uncapping was a trial. There will be a consultation on the permanent uncapping of licenses in 2023.
  - Andy Carrol from Defra also responded by saying that a consultation will be planned for early in 2023, but we know there are a lot of people relying on this. We can't lift the cap again without consulting on this.
- A statement from industry – we would like to see how much Bass has been landed by hook and line fisheries here in the SW.
  - Emily Theobald from the MMO responded by stating that she will gather Bass statistics and come back to industry in the new year.
- A statement from industry – we would like to see a spurdog fishery, alongside the uncapping of licenses. This gives people a chance to diversify.
  - Rachel Irish updated that spurdog will remain prohibited in UK waters until it's prohibited status is lifted, this is expected in the Springtime. Once the UK water prohibition is lifted, western waters allocation is 4825t.
- A statement from industry – discards of bass need to be sorted before we begin looking at allocating additional tonnage.

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#). If you have any questions about these roles and how to get involved with IFCAs, please contact [leanne.tan@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:leanne.tan@marinemanagement.org.uk).

- **The closing date is 13th February.**

Many thanks to everyone for their contribution, if you have any questions or queries, please contact us on [regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk).

### **Meeting closed**

Provisional date of next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> May

### **Appendix 1:**

## **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 2:

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3:

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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> September date.

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

#### **Appendix 4:**

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

**UKSF Round 2** is currently open and is focused on infrastructure: The deadline for applications is February 3rd, 2023.

**UKSF Round 3** is not yet open, but it 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

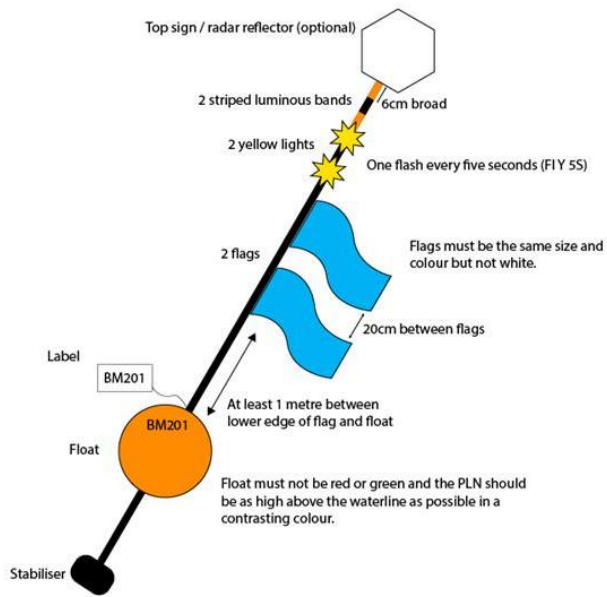
If you would like to ask further questions you can register and submit questions on the system here: <https://scis.marineservices.org.uk/workbench.ofml>

#### **Appendix 5:**

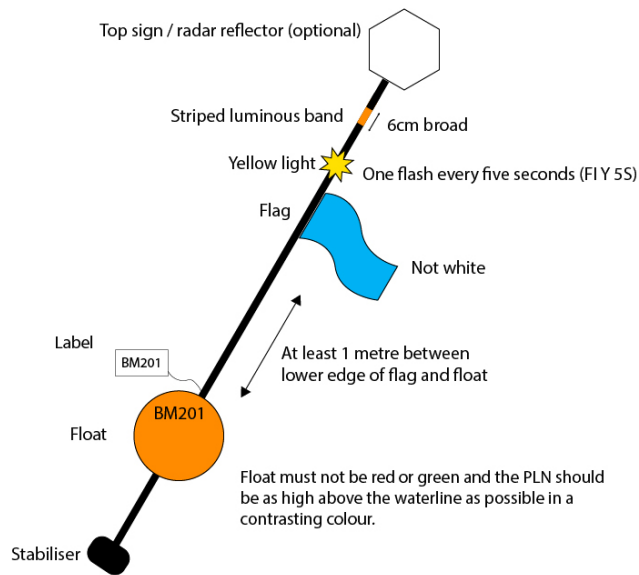
##### **Guidance on marking of fishing gear, retrieval, and notification of lost gear**

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

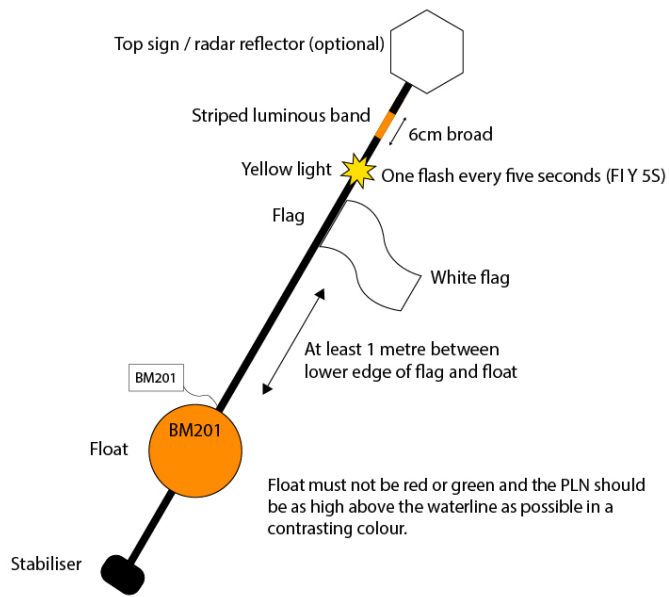




**Figure 1:** Diagram of a western sector marker buoy



**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)