

REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUP

Meeting Notes 9th May 2023

North East 4b

15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees:

Industry:

Jo Ackers

Sharon McDade

Giles Bartlett

Andy Faichney

Defra

Andrew Carroll

Kate Kurton

Samira Anand

Thamy Duffield

Matt Darlison

CEFAS

Ewen Bell

Groundwork

Ashleigh Tinlin- Mackenzie

Celine Gamble

Matt Uttley

NIFCA

Mark Southerton

NEIFCA

Ralf Bublitz

MMO

RFG Team: regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk

- Rebecca Thomas: Fisheries Officer
Rebecca.thomas@marinemanagement.org.uk
- Courtney Inch: Principal Fisheries Manager –
Courtney.inch@marinemanagement.org.uk
- Caley McIntosh: North East Fisheries Manager –
caley.mcintosh@marinemanagement.org.uk

Quota team: inshorequotamanager@marinemanagement.org.uk

- Katie James: Quota Manager - 07747638655
- Jacob Bestwick: Quota Manager - 07469443840

PMO/ Chair

- Patrick Gray – North East Principle Marine Officer -
patrick.gray@marinemanagement.org.uk

Other MMO personnel

James Pearson

Andrew Earle

Stephanie Ingram

Sarah Fox

Daniel Thompson

Julian Roberts

Amy Fielding

Andrew Wills

Michael Johnson

Jane Louth

Sean Douglas

1) Welcome and Introductions - Patrick Gray (MMO)

- This meeting has been recorded to accommodate those that were unable to attend and a link can be found here: <https://t.co/6dBVbiiVy3>
- Lex Palmer, from the under 10m catch recording team, is seeking participants for a focus group to feedback on functionality of the catch recording app. This group will provide insights

You said	We did
Fishers asked for more information regarding potential grant funding and why the engine replacement scheme does not include trawl boats.	We have been in discussion with Defra regarding available grant funding and have brought the team along in this meeting to answer your questions.
The inshore fleet wanted an opportunity to speak with the minister.	We hosted a national meeting in March. Thank you to all those who participated. We are still working through the actions and will provide updates when we have them.

on catch recording practices. The time commitment will be minimal, with virtual calls taking place once every three months or so. Interested volunteers can contact Caley McIntosh from the RFG team at : Caley.McIntosh@marinemanagement.org.uk.

- Jo Ackers requested that Caley send her the information so she can share it with fishers she represents.
- Action item: Caley to send the information to Jo Ackers.

2) Quota update - Katie James & Jacob Bestwick (MMO)



NE Quota
Presentation May 23.

- Katie introduced Jacob Bestwick who is the new inshore quota manager, sharing the role alongside Katie. Jacob may be presenting the quota presentations in the future.
 - Katie James: 07747638655
 - Jacob Bestwick: 07469443840
 - inshorequotamanager@marinemanagement.org.uk
- Katie explained that the graphs on the PowerPoint slides all represent the under 10m fleet, however there is a box in the bottom right corner with the over 10's allocation if this is of interest.
- Katie explained that she is willing to explain quota allocations to members of industry in further detail if anyone would like a greater understanding. Please contact Caley McIntosh if this is of interest to you: Caley.McIntosh@marinemanagement.org.uk.
- Katie updated on the quota allocations for 2023. Please refer to the PowerPoint slides for further information.
- NS Nephrops –Katie will look to trade quota in to support the fleet into the winter

- NS Sole- Has dropped in allocation this year, but this is okay as there isn't much uptake. It is possible to increase the catch limit if this arises.
- Katie emphasised that fishers can get in touch regarding catch limits, via email, text or call.
- There were no questions from industry on the call.

3) Oyster reef project update - Ashleigh Tinlin Mackenzie (Groundwork)



Wild Oysters Project
- Fisheries Group Pre

- Ashleigh explained that they have an Oyster reef restoration project in the North East.
- The wild oysters project has 3 national partner, ZSL, BLUE and British Marine, and it is funded by PPL and South Tyneside Council.
- Native Oysters create structures known as oyster reefs, creating habitats for many species, boosting biodiversity and providing a nursery ground for juvenile fish increasing fish production. Groundwork explained that Native oysters have declined by 95% in Europe. This is due to the lack of brood stock and the lack of habitat.
- Groundwork outlined a three-pronged approach to Native oyster restoration.
 - 1) Oyster nurseries.
 - 2) Seabed restoration
 - 3) Outreach, events, and education programme

Groundwork is consulting on the seabed restoration now.

- Groundwork has used models to select the best sites for seabed restoration, and are also aiming to avoid key fishing areas, spoil disposal areas and ship wrecks.
- A small site has been selected that appears to be a beneficial area for reef restoration.
 - Whitburn reef sites – Reefs will be 100 meters by 75 meters.
 - Groundwork hopes to create one reef site in 2023 and one in 2024. These areas will not exclude fishing.
 - The Reef deployment plan will include cultch being added to the seabed in August 2023 and vessels in the area for a few days or weeks. Notice of dates will be given to mariners beforehand.
- Any questions can be directed to wild.oyster@zsl.org
 - There were no questions from industry on the call.

4) Available Grant funding - Matt Darlison and Kate Kurton (Defra)



Regional Fisheries
Groups - May 2023.p

- Defra recapped the available funding schemes in England.

- Defra advised anyone who is considering applying for funding to submit an expression of interest before completing the official application, to find out whether the bid is applicable for funding.
- Please refer to the PowerPoint slides for more information on available grant Funding.

Open Funding Opportunities

FaSS

- The FaSS is currently open for applications and is aimed at small, local projects supporting either individuals or multiple businesses. The FaSS can provide a maximum contribution to a project of £250,000.

[Fisheries and Seafood Scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

- This is a rolling opportunity that does not have a deadline date – you can apply throughout the year.

Infrastructure Round 4: Recreational Sea Fishing (Closing 19 June 2023)

- You can apply for a minimum of £10,000 and a maximum of £100,000 for projects supporting the recreational fishing sector to develop and improve infrastructure and promote sustainable growth.

[Apply for the UK Seafood Fund: Infrastructure Scheme round 4 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\).](http://www.gov.uk)

Infrastructure Round 3: Fleet Modernisation (Closing 31 October 2023)

- Funding is available to replace engines for the small-scale coastal fleet; up to a maximum £40,000.

[Apply for the UK Seafood Fund: Infrastructure Scheme round 3 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

- Defra explained that 'Fleet modernisation' is a pilot. This trial has been aimed at the small scale inshore fleet for now due to the ease of executing and monitoring the trial, but further decisions will be made in the future about extending the funding.
 - There were no questions from industry on the call.

5) I-VMS update – Sean Douglas (MMO)

- Sean Douglas, Head of regulatory assurance for the MMO gave an update on I-VMS.
- Last year the MMO rolled out I-VMS devices through grant funding to industry. Feedback was then received suggesting that some devices may not be compliant with the MMO's Type Approval specification. In response, MMO have been undertaking an independent testing process to provide additional assurance to fishers ahead of the wider rollout of the I-VMS programme.
- Suppliers were advised not to market, sell, or install any devices pending the outcome of the independent testing assurance process.

- On 21 April 2023, MMO took action to suspend one of the suppliers after receiving evidence the supplier has disregarded this instruction. Whilst this suspension is in place fishers are advised not to purchase this device if they intend to seek MMO grant funding.
- MMO will shortly advise suppliers and fishers of the outcome of the independent testing process and the Type Approved status of all devices.
- If there is an issue with the device individuals have on board, the MMO will be in direct communication with affected vessels. The MMO will also be updating the government website with advice on the government in the coming weeks.
- The MMO stated that there is a lot of misinformation on social media and asked industry members to ignore that.
- The MMO will follow up with more information in due course.
 - The most recent update can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mmo-announces-the-results-of-i-vms-device-testing>
- If you have any questions, please contact the I-VMS team or the funding team, depending on your query...
 - I-VMS emails to ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk
 - Grants team email: FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk
 - Michael from the grants team Telephone: 0208 026 5539
- There were no questions from industry on the call.

6) NIFCA update - Fisher forum (NIFCA)

- Mark Southerton, the Chief Officer for Northumberland IFCA covered several important topics:
- NIFCA provided an overview of the recent fisher forum meetings, sharing key discussions and outcomes.
- NIFCA discussed the ongoing HMPA consultation and emphasized the significance of increased industry engagement, this initiative has been extended to multiple ports, fostering broader participation.
- NIFCA emphasized the importance of addressing port-specific concerns during the Fisher Forum meetings.
- NIFCA highlighted the successful collaboration between Northumberland IFCA and Newcastle University. It was shared that students from the university conducted quayside surveys to interview fishers on cross-border issues. These surveys have been concluded, providing valuable insights.
- NIFCA expressed the intention to incorporate the survey findings into the upcoming round of fisher forum meetings as the significance of these insights in shaping future discussions and decision-making.
- NIFCA acknowledged the commendable collaboration between Northumberland IFCA and the industry.
- Patrick Gray described the collaboration as a successful case study for Northumberland IFCA.

- There were no questions from industry on the call.

7) AOB – Patrick Gray

- The RFG team would like your opinion on the format of these meetings moving forward. Due to there being a geographically divide in the themes for the North of 4b and South 4b region, conversations have been had about whether to split the region. The RFG team wanted to ask industry for their opinion on splitting the region into North and South.
 - **Action:** The RFG team will send this in an email survey. Click yes or no whether to split the region. The split would likely to be around Staithes, forming a North East RFG and a Yorkshire and Humber RFG.
- **Marine Planning:** The Marine planning team would like your feedback on what your experience has been of using Marine Plans in your work? Whatever your thoughts are, this is your opportunity to share them with us by completing a monitoring survey.
 - Please follow this link for the North East survey: [North East Marine Plan Monitoring Survey 2023 \(qualtrics.com\)](#)
 - If you have any questions regarding marine planning, please contact...
 - Amy Fielding (Scottish border – Flamborough Head, Yorkshire):
Amy.Fielding@marinemanagement.org.uk, 07341 102271
- **Fisheries Management Plans Engagement – have your say**
- Have your say on how the development of Fisheries Management Plans could be improved.
- Do you have views on Fisheries Management Plans? Have you been made properly aware of what a Fisheries Management Plan is? What do you think of the process of developing Fisheries Management Plans so far? Have you been able to participate? Has the collaborative approach been meaningful? Is it meeting your expectations? Have your say!
- Defra have commissioned an independent research team to assess how the development of Fisheries Management Plans is progressing. It will provide evidence and advice to Defra, the MMO and others on how to improve the development of the plans. Your views and opinions will be a key part of this evidence.
- If you would be interested in discussing the FMP stakeholder engagement with the research team or would like to know more about this research please contact:
 - Ellie Cook at: [FMPEvaluation@icf.com](#) or +44 20 3096 5511