

[Channel demersal non-quota species Fisheries Management Plan Evidence  
Advisory Group](#)

**Meeting Minutes 18 November**

**Meeting 1**

11:00 – 12:00 MS Teams

**Agenda**

**1. Introductions and purpose of evidence advisory group** (see slide pack for details)

See Annex for attendees

**2. Introduction to evidence requirements of the FMP**

A presentation circulated with these meeting minutes was given to the Evidence Advisory Group (EAG) on why an evidence plan for the Channel demersal non-quota species fisheries management plan ('Channel NQS FMP') is required, an explanation of the phased approach and examples of 'must' and 'should' evidence requirements.

Comments from group:

- Query over species prioritisation - The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) looked at prioritisation of species in the first working group meeting, but the working group wanted to see more evidence before making any decision. Therefore, MMO have commissioned evidence on all 14 species.
- MMO should gather evidence beyond fishing effort to help with stocks e.g. habitat loss and other environmental impacts. Recommendation that all FMPs should include other impacts to fisheries.
  - United Kingdom Marine Strategy (UKMS) descriptors look at indirect links between other activities to some extent.
  - Due to limited timeframes, MMO may not be able to include evidence on this topic in the first iteration but could look into including in the evidence requirements for future iterations.
- Query from the Centre for Environmental, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science's (Cefas) over the 17 species that have been given to them to produce evidence reports on when only 14 are listed in the Joint Fisheries Statement.
  - Cefas' list includes several species of cephalopod which is where the discrepancy in the number of species comes from.
- Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCAs) can be used to sense check initial evidence findings and identify data held by the IFCA and help fill gaps.
  - Rob Clark from the Association of IFCAs is involved in collaborating with Cefas to gather data where needed.
- The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) has commissioned work from statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs). SNCBs will provide evidence outputs to Defra who will then decide how to take it forward. Unsure how it will flow from Defra to the FMP delivery partners yet.

- Clarity is needed on how existing information is being utilised. In particular, information that was collected within the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) working groups which is not only data but stock assessments e.g. French fisheries statistics for cuttlefish.
  - Cefas is leading on stock assessment and collating existing evidence for all species within the FMP with the help of the IFCAs. Cefas delivery is based on existing and published information, they are not producing new information. All fisheries dependent data falls under the remit of the MMO Statistics Team.
- Query over which organisations are involved in collecting data on management measures.
  - Aspects of management measures would be included under Cefas' commission related to the Harvest Strategy Standard (HSS). MMO have also completed work to understand current management measures and have commissioned students to review international management measures.

### 3. FMP vision

The draft vision for the Channel demersal NQS FMP was presented to the group. This draft was developed at an MMO/Defra workshop and is being shared with the EAG prior to bringing the draft vision to the working group for discussion and development. This aligns with the collaborative approach agreed by the working group.

Presentation of draft vision and questions to the group circulated with these meeting minutes.

Comments from the group:

- Suggestion to change 'natural capital' to ecosystem approach. Natural capital is a tool but can't deliver ecosystem approach. Could also include wider consideration of Good Environmental Status (GES).
- Include further detail on precautionary approach such as including that management will be proportional.
- The vision should have a direct link to the definition of sustainability in the Fisheries Act and should have wording to make it clear relating to the three pillars of sustainability– environmental, social, economic.
- Should change wording to: 'Fisheries **\*for\*** demersal species' as we manage human activity not the fish.
- All FMPs should refer to the Fisheries Act objectives. [NB – the FMPs contribute to them but don't have to meet them all individually]. Need to say the long-term vision is about meeting the Fisheries Act Objectives.
- Need to review climate change section and check ability to fulfil commitments e.g. mitigating climate change.
- Suggestion to include a sentence on the impact of the wider environment on fishing and not just the impact of fishing on the environment.

- Natural England highlighted that work has been completed on incorporating environmental parameters within stock assessments which could be useful.
- Suggestion to include supporting the industry through climate changes and wider environmental factors e.g. Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines). This might also help manage the equal access issue.
- Should wording on how the stocks will be managed according to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) be included?
- Vision is long and some elements are more like principles. Change format to have a few sentences on the vision and then outline principles, related to Fisheries Act (FA) Objectives. Need to also have the measurable goals upfront.
- The evidence package being given to the FMP delivery partners on climate change and ecosystem approach includes collated lines on these policy areas which could be used for the vision.
- One element missing from the vision is fishing into the future e.g. current access with European Union (EU) vessels. Currently stocks being swapped with EU is affecting inshore fishermen and what they can catch. Need to include in vision about supporting inshore fishing fleets and understand what will look like in 4/5 years' time and who is going to get open access.
  - The equal access FA objective touches on this.
- Need industry engagement on the vision and what indicators would be useful to monitor the plans' effectiveness. Sian Rees at Plymouth has developed a good approach to establish fisher co-developed evaluation<sup>1</sup>
- Could change 'impacts of fishing on wider environment' to 'contribute to the delivery of UK environmental targets for the marine environment' e.g. UKMS, the ecosystem and climate change objectives and the 25 Year Environment Plan.

1. Rees, S.E., Ashley, M., Evans, L., Mangi, S., Sheehan, E.V., Mullier, T., Rees, A. and Attrill, M.J., 2021. An evaluation of the social and economic impact of a Marine Protected Area on commercial fisheries. *Fisheries Research*, 235, p.105819.

#### 4. Next steps

See presentation slide circulated with these meeting minutes on next steps.

Rui Vieira agreed to share the outcomes of this meeting with the working group on the 25 November.

No further comments from EAG.

#### **Annex: Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Jessica Duffill Telsnig	Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Principal Fisheries Manager (Chair)
Isobel Johnston	MMO Head of Fisheries Management Plan team
Rachel Thirlwall	MMO Fisheries Manager (Secretariat)
Aisling Lannin	MMO Head of Evidence and Evaluation team

Carole White	MMO Head of Social Science
Katie St John Glew	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) non-quota species evidence team
Leonie Remm	Defra non-quota species evidence team
Rui Vieira	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) Evidence Specialist
Mat Mander	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority Fisheries Management Plan representative
Sarah Coulthard	MMO Social Science Evidence Specialist
Jean-Paul Robin	University of Normandy
Sam Fanshawe	Blue Marine Foundation
Libby West	Natural England
Chris Barratt	Cefas Evidence Specialist
Aubrey Banfield	Lyme Bay Four Ports Community Interest Company
Jim Ellis	Cefas Evidence Specialist
<b>Apologies</b>	
Sophy Phillips	Cefas Evidence Specialist
Gwladys Lambert	Cefas Evidence Specialist