

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Wednesday, 1st March 2017
9.00am

These minutes are draft minutes until confirmed by resolution at the next meeting of this committee

Present:	The Honourable Phyl Rendell – Chairperson	PR
	The Honourable Ian Hanson	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	SA
	Capt. Chris Locke	CL
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr. Hamish Wylie	HW
	Mrs. Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Mr. Stuart Wallace	SW
	Mr. Joost Pompert	JP

Minute Taker: Miss Beverley Reid

Public: 2

- 1 Apologies for Absence** **ACTION**
- 1.1** The Chief Executive, Mr Barry Rowland
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 2.1** Industry representatives declared an interest for every item on the agenda.
- 3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st December 2016**
- 3.1** CR mentioned that her apologies were sent for the last Fisheries Committee meeting but were not recorded
- 4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016**
- 4.1** **Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016**
SW asked CL what experience is required for the Assistant Marine Officer post. CL said that a STCW 95 II/2 – Chief Mate’s Certificate was required. We advertised locally in December 2016, unfortunately with no applicants. CL would like to advertise overseas and needs to arrange this. PR asked DNR to look into this
- DNR/
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and speed the recruitment process up.

4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016

Item 4.2 –HW asked for an update on the Maritime and Harbours Bill. CL said that this is currently with the AG's and the MCA are coming down to have a discussion with all concern to see where we are going and support us with this. DNR indicated the Bill is in 'advanced draft' and the issues now are more about implementation and choices on extent of maritime regulation to be put in place. The Bill facilitate a range of options in some areas it does not prescribe a unique solution to all the issues. The plan is to look at some of this in a reference group. CR asked who will be on reference group. CL confirmed it would be himself, Capt. Malcolm Jamieson, George Betts, Robert King and one other person who has yet to be contacted. If there is anybody who has Maritime experience on a practical side who feels that they can contribute then they would be welcome to join the group. CL hoped the draft would be finished by the end of March 2017. CL said that it will probably take 5 – 10 years to fully implement the Bill. There are potentially several years of regulations to draft. DNR said that some sections will start at different times to other sections.

4.3 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016

Item 5.2– HW said that the minute did not represent the actual issue that we are going to have which is 1 berth for 20 days during a busy season and would like to highlight the importance of everybody working together to make sure the users are well informed. CL thanked him for his comment and said that FIG have made the decision to spend £1M per annum over 5 years for the refurbishment of FIPASS and much of it has to be implemented over the summer months. CR asked if there was any scope to use the TDF. It was explained that it is not ready yet but it is understood meetings have been held this week to discuss this.

4.4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016

Item 5.4 – PR asked CL how the Oil Spill Training went. It was indicated this had been most useful although unfortunately due to Fishery Officer's leave rosta and other commitments only one Officer could attend the course however it would be worth taking up again if offered in the future.

4.5 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016

Item 6.2–

HW asked if the business plan had been finalised and if so can the industry have a copy. DNR said this can be made available.

4.6 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016

PR asked why the licence fees are set in November and not set in the government budget process. DNR said that although the process starts in November it does not finish until the following May and

budgets are submitted in December. This would mean setting the fees almost a year in advance. Fishing is currently assessed on the basis of a calendar year rather than the mid-year to mid-year style of the budget. HW suggested that the fees are set to the value of the stock not the FIG budget. DI would like to see a long term view of the fees.

Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016

Item 8.1– JP would like the minutes to be amended to say “there is no evidence and limited scope for speculation, that Hake discards and seabird interactions lead to increased parasites loading in Hake”

Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st December 2016

Item 9.1– PR asked for the 4th line up from the bottom to reading “during shooting” not “doing shooting”. PR asked if we still advise vessels about to discard during the day and not at night. SA explained that this is reinforced in the licence brief and we currently have an observer working a Spanish version of this.

5 Fishery Update

5.1 DNR recalled that 2016 had been one of the lower catching years due to the poor Illex fishery. The current year had also started slowly with most vessels electing to remain on the high seas.

SA explained that 2 research cruises had taken place so far this year. One of the Cruises main objectives was to find small toothfish which was very successful. Half way through the cruise the net was changed from a Pelagic net to a bottom trawl net with much more success. There were many small toothfish around 100m depth to the south of the islands. On examination of the toothfish stomachs it was noticed that they have been eating rockcod. SA would like to have further studies on toothfish across the shelf, for the reason that last year’s toothfish is found at more than 100m and as this year’s stock is still around 100m it is not getting eaten by the bigger toothfish. Once the Toothfish has moved into deeper water they are caught by the Loligo fleet, which operates with smaller mesh than other fisheries. SA said that the same cruise found 8 King crabs from several locations, usually only found in south Patagonia. They possibly migrated here during larval stage. A Company has already expressed their wishes to target the King Crab. During this cruise Loligo was also found in abundance, they have grown and already moved into deeper water. The other cruises were working on Loligo and Rockcod. Andreas has been working on the biomass of the results from this cruise and confirmed that we have good Loligo recruitment. It was found that there was plenty of 12-13cm Rockcod in the zone also, but not so much larger rockcod.

5.2 CL said that SatCo were delayed with flights for 3 weeks. There are currently 12 workers, split into 2 teams at FIPASS working for

SatCo. They started work on the SE barge; unfortunately the sea chest and valves operating the ballast system have failed and until repair work is undertaken ballasting operations will not be possible on the SE barge so they have moved to the SC barge. As previously advised the berthing c will osuresl be as follows, 15-25 March for the NE barge and 26 March-5 April for the Centre barge. If anybody knows of transshipments happening during these times please let Atlink know ASAP so that can arrange this around sand blasting times. If transshipping is notified in time then FIPASS will seek to accommodate those operations. CR said that it would have been better to start earlier. CL explained that due to the contract signing the work started later than planned. DNR asked if there is someone coming to look at the NW barge, CL said there is a company called Marine Design coming in the middle of March for 2-3 weeks to survey the barge and provide information on costs to repair it. IH asked how quickly the TDF could be running if it can be used, CL said that it would need fendering and proper management put in place, DNR suggested that it could be run by the private sector if indeed it did become available.

- 5.3** CL mentioned the two groundings and explained that vessels may be given anchoring positions. Also an option is to close the harbour to jiggers when winds are over 30 knots.
- 5.4** DNR gave a brief report on the Jiggers, reporting that over 75% of jiggers have been to collect their licence so far. No crew welfare issues have been reported so far.
- 5.5** PR and DNR went to Vigo to see the launch of the CFL Hunter which was a splendid event. They also met the President of the Vigo Port Authority who offered assistance with port issues in FI. It was also useful to see something of the industry in Vigo. The potential impact of Brexit is an issue for the industry there.
- 5.6** DNR and PR would like to thank all involved in Fish Day, it was a great success. It was suggested there should be another event in 5 years.
- 5.7** SW asked if there were any evidence of illegal activity in the Zone, DNR said there was not.
- 5.8** HW would like the FIFD to provide the industry with another table to show the number of fishing days allocated during 2016 for each category and the number of days fished.

DNR

6. Fishery Protection and Boardings 2016

- 6.1** SW asked for the next report to outline what proportion of time is being spent in each sector, DNR said that some information can be provided. Patrolling has been adjusted to respond to the number of vessels operating just outside the zone. Equally, effort has to be adjusted to reflect the main fisheries particularly if it is a busy

DNR

season. Reports of activity near the boundary are useful to have particularly if they are vessels new to the area.

- 6.2** HW asked if the MoD helped with the use of their radars. DNR said the department gets regular information from BFSAI flights.

7 Observer Deployments 2016

- 7.1** JP gave a summary of the observer deployments
- 7.2** CR asked why observers are only on one year contracts as opposed to 2 years like other government contracts. JP and DNR said that some observers do extend after 1 year. In our case it is often a first job and a stepping stone to a career in fisheries, conservation or a related area. Some fisheries do work more on the basis of career observers but we have not adopted that approach.
- 7.3** SW said that the table is useful as it shows that observer effort is spread across the fleet.

8 Trawl Rubbish: storage and disposal

- 8.1** JP introduced the proposal, indicating it has been implemented elsewhere. It was intended to be a step to clean up the fishery and also Falkland shores. Industry representatives queried the costs.

DNR

DNR said the Fisheries Department will fund the rubbish removal cost in this scheme. CR said that industry will support this as long as there is no cost to the industry. HW asked about what happens with Marpol certification when “3rd party” rubbish comes in. It was indicated it should be possible to cover this in the existing certification process. HW would like to see it introduced at the start of 2018 to be given to captains with licence brief. DNR suggested that it might be possible to introduce it in mid 2017 even if only partially across the fleet which would enable any problems to be sorted out.

10. Date of next meeting

- 10.1** The date of the next meeting is **15 June 2017 at 0900.**

11. Exclusion of Press & Public

The Chairman moved as follows:

“I move that the press and public be now excluded on the ground that the next items of business to be considered are likely to disclose exempt information under Paragraphs 4 & 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012.

12. Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes held on the 1st December 2016

- 12.1** The minutes were confirmed.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2016.

Chairman

Secretary