

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Thursday, 6th June 2019
09:00am

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

Present:	The Honourable Teslyn Barkman – Chairperson	TB
	The Honourable Ian Hansen	IH
	Acting DNR- Steve Pointing	SP
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	AA
	Capt. Christopher Locke	CL
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr. Stuart Wallace	SW
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC
	Mr. James Bates	JB
	Dr. Thomas Farrugia	TF
	Dr. Haseeb Randhawa	HR
	Dr. Andreas Winter	AW

Minute Taker:	Mrs Beverley Glanville	BG
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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | ACTION |
| 1.1 | Mr. John Barton, Mrs. Cheryl Roberts, Mr Hamish Wylie & Mr Barry Rowland | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 2.1 | Industry representatives declared an interest for all items on the agenda. SW declared a particular interest to Hake, as Fortuna have a Hake licence. | |
| 3 | Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2019. | |
| 3.1 | All minutes were confirmed | |
| 4 | Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 20th March 2019. | |

- 4.1** Item 5.1 -SW asked in the FIFD are looking into an earlier start for Illex, AA replied that we are looking into it as it may be possible to start from the 1st February.
- 4.2** Item 5.3 if there is any report or results from the Argentine cruise, AA said that the Argentines are creating this. TB mentioned that there will be a meeting held in July to discuss this and other things.
- 4.3** Item 5.5 – JB asked CL if there were any updates on the SAR report, CL said that John Barton had a meeting with MLA’s at the end of March and that he would talk with the Director and get back to JB

CL

5 Fishery Update

- 5.1** AA gave a brief report on the Fishery update.
- 5.2** SW asked AA why Loligo catches were so good this year. AA the biomass from last season was really high and he said that even the relationship between biomass and recruitment is quite poor it makes a difference to the catches.
- 5.3** DI mentioned that 90,000 tonnes that Argentine caught in Illex is quite low; AA explained that these catches are all below 45 degrees latitude.
- 5.4** AA would like to thank LPG for the funding of the external marine mammal observers, it has been very successful programme. AA mentioned that the biological data and interactions between the vessels and the seabirds. SW asked what sort of data, AA replied that there more is biological data on Loligo & Toothfish, general catch and a better understanding of net cleaning. Support from industry is commendable.
- 5.5** AA explained that if Falkland Islands Companies would like to sell squid in the future, to the USA under the USA Marine Mammal Protection Act, we recommend that you contact the FIFD and we will add you to the list. The deadline for the report is the 31st July 2019.
- 5.6** CL highlighted his growing concerns on the overloading of vessels, particularly of fishing vessels during a bumper year as it was this season especially those involving the Loligo fleet where this year there have been high daily catches. It is possible that some vessels may have been close to their marks or even overloaded before undertaking transshipment in the early hours of the morning. Similarly when vessels have completed fishing and are preparing to return to Spain with full catches some may have been overloaded with their catch and stores. Sailing from here overloaded is illegal. While Fishing vessels are not required to have a load line carved into the ships side they are still required under law to remain with

FIFCA

their stability parameters and that is part of the Marine Officer duty and responsibility. CL stressed the importance of ensuring vessels remain within the requirements set by a vessel's stability documentation. We can't be seen to be allowing vessels to arrive or depart overloaded.

5.7 CL mentioned that he and Mr Baker attended the Red Ensign Conference which was held in Montserrat this year. The main focus of discussions was on the UK and OT/CD Compliance with the IMO's instruments Implementation Code (III Code) which included progress updates from each Administration. The conference also covered Coastal State responsibilities including SAR capabilities and development along with pollution response and Port State Control. The IMO are undertaking an audit of all flag states which will include the Red Ensign Group. However it is unknown if the IMO will visit the Falklands, they may opt to audit the Islands through the UK Flagship. IH asked CL if the Falklands are going to be hosting the REG in 2020. CL said that the FIG has assigned £30,000 towards the Conference and that the MCA will be contributing towards the support of the event by assisting with costs for internet provision, accommodation and flights. CL went on to suggest that it may be an opportunity for members of the fishing industry to be involved in the Conference and give a suitable presentation to the REG. CL said the main issue that he can see at this stage is flight availability and this is currently being looked into. SW asked when this is due to happen, CL said the provisional dates are 1st -5th February 2020.

5.8 CL also mentioned the lifeboat as a result of the III code and as recommended by the MCA Coastal State Audit in 2018, the lifeboat will undertake coastal SAR duties. These will be primarily focused in Stanley Harbour and Port William but would also include, as is safe and practicable, all inshore coastline in range of the boat. SW asked the about the cost of the boat, cost to run the boat and who was going to run the lifeboat. CL and TB said that the Fire and Rescue service will man the boat. The value of the RHIB was around £250,000 but had been gifted to us by the FCO. The budget for the start-up cost is IRO £10,000 and this will be used to train the Fire and Rescue service to man the boat. DI asked how long the boat will last and who will replace it, CL said that the RHIB is 20 years old but undergone a full overhaul and inspection and anticipates there is at least a further 10 years of life left in the boat. CL stated that RNLI run on a volunteer basis and if resources become an issue then we could look at having a volunteer lifeboat service here. He has already made contact with the Lizard Station and the RNLI HQ in Poole who have offered their support. SW asked what the annual running cost will be, CL said that this is hard to be quantify at the moment but would include maintenance, training and fuel. JB said that he has talked to the Fire and Rescue

services and a policy document is being put together regarding this matter.

6 Total Allowable effort and catch- 2020

- 6.1** AA gave a brief report of the total allowable effort and catch for 2020. The Licensing Advice document is out for comments and should be submitted to us by 9th August.
- 6.2** SW asked if we are committed to making the change to TAC? AA replied that we are just reviewing the options at the moment.
- 6.3** LC mentioned that nett cost in the reductions over the last 5 years up until last year has been an increase in the cost of 44.4%. So when you had another 12% reduction based on licence fees and the closed areas which represent another 14-15% in catch values then clearly the economic model failed a long time ago. AA explained that it has got to the behaviour of stocks and nobody had predicted that in 2006 there would be so much Rock cod and then it declined, but not due to overfishing. AA said that some companies may find it difficult on “G” and “W” Licences, but we have to look at the sustainability of stocks. SW said he feels is almost true to say that there is no viable restricted finfish fishery in the Falklands now. AA said that we won't have any drastic measures at the moment but have to look to the future and the sustainability of the species. LC wanted to know what models are being produced for Hake at the moment, AA said that we cannot do a model on Hake at the moment as both G & W licences are not allowed to target this species.
- 6.4** SW asked if the evidence of the demise of Rock cod was not due to overfishing. AA said that until and including 2017 a few biological features, including length frequency, did not show that the demise was due to overfishing. SW asked why this happened so quickly and AA explained that this could be down to shrimp eating the larva inshore, like what is happening with Hoki in Argentina. SW asked in the Hake abundances in Argentina have gone up like ours, AA would like to check this but feels that we could have more Hake due to the northerly winds that we have been having during the last few years.
- 6.5** LC asked about the change of circumstances of fish, AA said that we are collecting the data but need more sequential data to ecosystem modelling.
- 6.6** DI said Page 19 with reference to the finish fisheries; he would like to see the VU added for every licence category to aid the calculations (i.e. 12.2 VU's for the A licence finfish fishery).

AW

7 Discussion on Finfish Bycatch Mitigation Measures

- 7.1** TF introduced the paper as a consultation document for comment from Industry members. He presented the analysis of alternative

mitigation measures and the need to address the lack of success with the current mitigation measures.

- 7.2 DI asked for the feedback date on this paper, TF said that comments before the next fisheries Committee meeting in September would be useful so further discussions can take place then.
- 7.3 LC would like to see this work coalesce over the foot print over what is currently the closed area rather than increasing the closed area.
- 7.4 AA said the options are to keep the current closed areas closed (which isn't working well) or we can do a larger limit of Hake bycatch or remove A,W and G licences and just have a finfish licence. AA and HR said that there is more Hake being caught on G licence than on A licence.
- 7.5 TF said that some of these bycatch mitigation issues would be addressed by switching from a TAE to a TAC system.
- 7.6 SW mentioned that you with TAC more people and resources would be needed to implement the regulations. AA agreed.
- 7.7 SW asked if the ELogbooks that we have now would need amending to do Trawl by trawl data. TF responded that some trawl by trawl is already available but not from everyone, and only daily grid square data is required to be reported. TF said that this would be easier & more precise and that the midday and midnight position no longer reflects what is required.
- 7.8 SW mentioned that A licensed vessels are not excluded from any grids other than the Loligo area, but if we moved to the new system these grids would be closed off to A licence holders. TF said probably not but we have grouped all the licences together for the maps. If this proposed measure were to be implemented, hake catch in A licence would not be considered bycatch, therefore high hake catch areas would not be closed to A licence

8 Proposed changes for Longline Bycatch Conservation Factors

- 8.1 TF gave a brief talk on the paper to make the industry aware of this proposed change which he has already discussed with Janet Robertson. Maybe implemented on 1st January next year or in September when CFL Hunter returns. No drastic changes, just for information.

9 Date of next meeting

- 9.1 The date of the next meeting is 5th September 2019 at 09:00.

No Part 2.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2019.

Chairman

Secretary