

# FISHERIES COMMITTEE

## OPEN MINUTES

**Fisheries Department**  
**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**09:00am**

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

<b>Present:</b>	The Honourable Teslyn Barkman– Chairperson	TB
	The Honourable Ian Hansen	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – Dr Andrea Clausen	DNR
	Dr Alexander Arkhipkin	AA
	Capt. Christopher Locke	CL
	Mrs. Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Mr. Stuart Wallace	SW
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC
	Mr. Hamish Wylie <i>Arrived 9.30am</i>	HW
	Mr. Jorge Ramos Castillejos	JRC
	Dr Haseeb Randhawa	HR

<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Mrs Beverley Glanville	BG
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**Public:** 5

**1 Apologies for Absence** **ACTION**

**1.1** Chief Executive- Mr. Barry Rowland and Mr. Drew Irvine

**2 Declarations of Interest**

**2.1** Industry representatives declared an interest for all items on the agenda.

**3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

**3.1** TB said that page numbers were out of sync, BG to change. **BG**

**3.2** Item 5.9 TB pointed the typo “always of risks” **BG**

**3.3** Item 5.14 SW would have liked the minute to read “the industry would be consulted on the draft finfish report” SW noted this report has now been received and that FIFCA’s Executive Secretary and the DNR have had a discussion and they are content with the approach they are taking. DNR indicated she would give an update on this in Item 5 of this agenda.

3.4 Item 8.2 TB noted that trail should read trial.

3.5 The remainder of the minutes were confirmed. **BG**

#### **4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

4.1 Item 4.3 -SW asked AA if the industry had received a copy of this, AA will check and if not send it again. **AA**

4.2 Item 5.12 TB said that the re-forwarding of the KPMG report response had been sent to FIFCA on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

4.3 Item 5.8 SW mentioned that the industry does stand by their point about having meetings with MLA around that time, but they wish to move on from this.

#### **5 Fishery Update**

5.1 DNR gave a brief update on the fishery.

5.2 SW asked what DDCS stood for DNR confirmed it stood for Director/Department of Development and Commercial Services.

5.3 DNR said that an audit was completed on our Oil spill response equipment, and the CSSF-Conflict Security and Stability Fund (UK government) offered to fund this, so we are up to the standard we need to be for NOSRP. DNR said that an operational review is to be undertaken regarding the storage and training of our equipment.

5.4 SW asked if there was any indication of the implications of the capacity of FIPASS whilst the work is being done, DNR said the proposal is for a much-reduced impact, but wherever that impact is, it will be wrapped around operational use.

5.5 CR asked when it will be possible to see the Port Contract. TB & DNR said that the DDCS has a plan to carry out full stakeholder engagement. These meetings were about to start in March but were delayed due to Covid. It is expected that this process will still take place but with a new timetable.

5.6 SW welcomed the emphasis on consultation and bringing people with us and the local context. In particular to Foreign flagged vessel inspections SW would like to update the Committee that a consultation process has been begun on the Jigger Vessel safety, the

relevant legal standard MSN1873 has already been adopted into Falklands law has been the basis of some difficulties. Operators have expressed concerns that jigger compliance with the MSN in total is unrealistic and FIG has accepted that permanent derogations will be necessary. FIG have asked operators for feedback on the level of existing compliance and that there are reassurances from FIG that operators will be held harmless in this in respect of the highly confidential information that they are providing during this process. SW noted that this affects 110 vessels and large proportion of our GDP and the change in emphasis is welcomed.

- 5.7** SW suggested it would be relevant and useful to have benchmark comparisons of the SAR & Maritime data, DNR said this is in order.
- 5.8** CR asked for the procedure to get dispensation from pilotage to be a little easier and not so onerous. DNR said that the temporary pilotage notice was reviewed a couple of months ago given that the repairs to FIPASS had not been carried out it was maintained. The work that is being carried out as part of the pilotage direction will cover dispensation. DNR informed the industry that this will go out to stakeholders for feedback before the maritime authority finalises the proposal. CR would like to know if this will be for all vessels and not just for fishing vessels, DNR explained that the process will be generic for all vessels, so that anybody can apply for a dispensation.

## **6 Total allowable effort and catch - 2021**

- 6.1** AA gave a brief report on Licencing Advice for 2021.
- 6.2** AA announced that the recommended Vessel Units for skate is lower this year because the model relies on catch data to work, and there has not been much effort this year and last.
- 6.3** AA said that Southern Blue Whiting are still small in size and that it will take a few more years to reach the commercial size of >52cm, following which we can do another survey and probably recommend opening up the fishery.
- 6.4** TB said the recommendation for this paper is that stakeholders have until the middle of August to respond. SW asked for a presentation and talk between the scientist and industry to be fully briefed and discuss the paper.
- 6.5** SW asked if the arrangement for the Hake be the same as in the past. DNR responded that for this year the process is the same.

DNR said that a presentation will be organised.

**AA**

## **7 Toothfish Bycatch: Review (Summary)**

- 7.1** HR gave a presentation on a review of Toothfish Bycatch.
- 7.2** DNR said that this will be looked at with the advice from the MEP Finfisheries review as they also looked at Toothfish taken as a bycatch.
- 7.3** SW thanked HR for the presentation and said they will be looking at it in detail.
- 7.4** LC asked now the catches of Toothfish as a bycatch have declined to a more acceptable level, has the cohort from 2008 now passed though, if so what replaced that? HR said that it takes 7-12 years to be recruited into the longline fishery so it is very hard to tell. HR mentioned that only since around 2012 the Fisheries Department have been confident that fishermen and new observers have been trained to identify juvenile Toothfish, as before they were getting confused with juvenile Rockcod.
- 7.5** DNR said that we could have a separate meeting to discuss any potential changes we might propose to manage this issue, before there is any formal recommendation to change the conservation measures.
- 7.6** LC asked if we have any information from Argentina, AA replied only catches.

**BG &  
FIFCA**

## **8 Groundfish Survey- February 2020**

- 8.1** HR gave another presentation of February's groundfish survey.
- 8.2** LC asked with the prevalence of Hake is there an impact on Rockcod. Haseeb replied the declined of Rockcod started happening before the increase of Hake, it is not directly related but perhaps indirectly related.
- 8.3** SW mentioned that this survey was conducted in February but said for many of the species this is not the most optimum time, he asked if this was due to a lack of resources.
- 8.4** TB said conducting surveys at the same period in the year provides a good measure to benchmark results. Commenting on available resources, TB said it would be presumptuous to assume that one is completely related to the other, once the MEP report is through we will be able to analyse all the information.
- 8.5** DNR would like to assure the industry that the resources of the department are fully considered in the Finfish review.

**TB**

## **9 Biomass estimation during Research Surveys 2010–2020**

- 9.1** JRC gave a presentation on Biomass estimation during Research Surveys.
- 9.2** SW said our borders and the implementation of apparent regulations from our neighbour’s fisheries are variable.
- 9.3** SW asked the value for doing a Research Cruise on Hake, AA replied we need to know what stocks are here compared to 46 degrees to be able work out the VU’s for Stock Assessment. The survey is not only for Hake.
- 9.4** CR asked is there is likely to be another Joint Cruise, TB talked about the non-government organisation called OPRAS (Organisation for the protection & resources in the South-West Atlantic) and the “Blue hole” where there is over exploitation on the high seas predominantly with Chinese fishing vessels. TB said there is a growing public perception issue that the Argentine government will also have to deal with at some point.
- 9.5** DNR said if there is any change we will let FIFCA know.

## **10. Preliminary results for MMO Program in *Loligo* fleet (2020-C)**

- 10.1** AA gave a brief presentation on the MMO Program.
- 10.2** SW was surprised to see the paper from the Marine Mammal Officer getting involved in the marketing of seafood. DNR said the Officer wasn’t wanting to get involved, but more making the comment that because of this programme it gives the opportunity for a different approach, if wanted.
- 10.3** DNR provided an update to the committee on the MMO programme. An invitation to tender for a long-term contract to utilise Marine Mammal in the *Loligo* fishery has been issued, and closed on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June. This tender was issued subject to 2 factors:
- 1) That FIG approves the increase to the DNR budget to cover the costs of the programme (9th June).
  - 2) To a discussion with the industry to see if they are content to continue the joint project.
- Those two things will happen in the next couple of weeks. 4 tenders have been received and are currently being evaluated, mindful of the impact of Covid during this time.

