

# FISHERIES COMMITTEE

## OPEN MINUTES

**Fisheries Department**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017**  
**9.00am**

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

<b>Present:</b>	The Honourable Phyl Rendell – Chairperson	PR
	The Honourable Ian Hansen	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	SA
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC
	Mr. Hamish Wylie	HW
	Mr. James Bates	JB

**Minute Taker:** Miss Beverley Reid

**Public:** 3

- 1 Apologies for Absence** **ACTION**
- 1.1 Mrs Cheryl Roberts, Mr Stuart Wallace.
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017**
- 3.1 An amendment was noted in page 2, Point 5.4 PR – indicated it has been to ExCo and the reference to the end of June refers to publication in the Gazette (actually mid July) rather than proceeding to Legislative Assembly. **BR**
- 4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017**
- 4.1 Item 8.1 – DNR updated the Committee on trawled rubbish and said that system is in operation. PR said that there had been some concerns that so much plastic has been washed up into Whalebone Cove. In many cases the name of the ship was recorded on the bags. AA had highlighted the issue in FFLG and it can be reinforced. **AA**

- 4.5** Item 6. LC asked for any feedback from RSPB, DNR said that there was little further to report. DNR was aware that one company had entered into correspondence. The reports are available on the RSPB website.
- 4.6** Page 4- Data Exchange with Argentina. DI asked if there was a Data Exchange with Argentina at the moment, DNR said that there was no exchange at the moment. Late in 2016 DNR has issued a template to the FCO to discuss with the Argentine Government and they are looking into it at the moment.
- 4.7** Page 6. Item 7-Total Allowable Catch/Effort 2018; DNR reported that there had been meetings with some of the companies in relation to restricted finfish.
- 4.8** Page 10 Item 10.1 PR informed the committee that the Fishing Fees paper will go to ExCo, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. HW asked if the industry representations regarding fees will be going with the paper, both PR and DNR said that both letters will be attached to the ExCo paper.

## **5 Fishery Update**

- 5.1** DNR gave a brief overview of the Fishery. He informed the committee that it has been a good 2<sup>nd</sup> Calamari season. Hake has been the main finfish catch. Maintenance works at FIPASS will be resuming shortly and the TDF should be available to cover this period. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coin is now for sale. DNR indicated that the Maritime legislation should proceed to Legislative Assembly at the end of this month. This marked the culmination of a major process with MLA Rendell chairing the Select Committees held to review the legislation. A project is underway to review some aspects of ITQ and the lead consultant had visited recently and met with fishing companies. DNR said we have hopefully recruited an Assistant Marine Officer. Unfortunately Joost Pompert has recently indicated he will be leaving the Fisheries Department after 20 years' service. The committee recorded their thanks him for all of his hard work and wished him well in his future endeavours. GSGSSI has been helpful in having a FIG scientist participate as an observer in the SG toothfish MSC recertification process which will be useful experience for a similar process due to happen in the FI fishery.

## **6 Seal Bycatch Mitigation during 2<sup>nd</sup> Calamari season 2017**

- 6.1** PR congratulated the industry, regulator and conservation organisations on how well they have all worked together to get the seal bycatch under control. AA then gave a presentation on the Seal

Bycatch issue and Mitigation trials. AA said that there will be another item in Penguin News about this work and the re-establishment of the fur seal colony on Beauchene. AA

6.2 There was a discussion between HW and AA about reporting practices in relation to seals by vessels with or without observers. Some vessels with observers are not showing mortalities so the difference may not be so stark. HW said that it will be interesting to see the same chart at the end of the season with the latest results. PR asked if more cameras monitoring the nets would be helpful. DNR agreed that it would be interesting to have more cameras deployed to see squid and seal behaviour. This would be particularly useful in a poor catch year to see if catches are adversely impacted by the seal exclusion devices.

6.3 PR asked if the seals are South Georgia Fur seals and LC asked if they could have come from S. America. AA said that they are Falkland Island fur seals not South Georgia fur seals and a DNA test can be done on the seals to check whether they were local or from S. America.

6.4 LC asked is the seal exclusion devices will have to be used in other fisheries next year. DNR said that it is a possibility. DNR indicated with the current monitoring of SED performance in the Calamari fishery it should be possible to set out what makes an acceptable design. If it becomes apparent that there is a seal problem in 2018 then a requirement to use an approved SED will be imposed on that fishery. Therefore it is inevitable that vessels operating in the fishery should have approved SEDs onboard and ready for use. DNR

## 7 Fish exports to USA-Marine mammal protection

7.1 DNR indicated the paper was largely for information but it did set out the position in terms of fish exports to the USA and requirements to provide marine mammal protection equivalent to the US act. It was emphasised that this applied on a fishery by fishery basis. So far FI has toothfish listed for export to the US. This is a fishery where there are no marine mammal mortalities or injuries. i.e. there is no marine mammal issue in the toothfish fishery. PR asked if there are any other fish products that may be sold to the US in the future. DNR suggested Calamari might be an option but DI said that the US prices are just not good enough yet. It was an indication that the current seal problem in other fisheries was not simply a 'backyard' issue.

7.2 HW said that although it is good to be open and transparent he feels we are at risk of making more information public than is necessary. Other countries don't always report at this level. PR said that if we continue to have success with the Seal Excluding Device then we will be able to show how the industry overcame the problem and will want to get that information out there. If we can write a AA

scientific paper about it, it ensures there is something encouraging to point out in years to come. AA believes that the problem is virtually fixed, we now have between 0 and at the most 1 mortality a day. This has been a success with good cooperation with industry and Falklands Conservation.

DNR emphasised if there are other FI products to add to the list for export to the USA to let him know in good time.

**DNR**

## **8 FIFCA Points- Fisheries Committee ToR**

- 8.1** Fisheries Committee-Terms of Reference: JB recalled the process which has been ongoing with the Fisheries Committee's Terms of Reference. PR suggested that DNR asks for a view from the new AG in November as to whether the paper is going to be picked up again or if the Fisheries Committee submit a paper to Exco setting out the terms.. DNR said the wider paper on Effective Decision Making which includes the operation of FIG committees is to be discussed at CMT. The outcome can be considered in due course.

**DNR**

### **Administrative Penalties**

- 8.2** Administrative penalties: HW asked what FIG are proposing to be the process to deal with this bill. PR said that the meeting with FIFCA on this issue had been useful. She hopes the intention is for the bill to go to Legislative Assembly on the 28th September and that will be its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. The amendments and points that the AG has taken note of would be addressed. PR highlighted 2 key points. Firstly there was the issue about penalties and potential prosecutions being applied to the ITQ holder. The issue about transfer of Catch Entitlement needed to be addressed here as highlighted by the industry. The second point related to the overall escalation in the scale of fines. Further work would be done on this. LC asked when will FIFCA be shown the amendments. PR said that this will need to be checked with the AG now to establish what the process is. HW considered that the Exco paper and process had been unsatisfactory and said that FIFCA would like to see the amendments before they become final. Proper consultation and consideration needs to be undertaken.

**DNR**

## **9 Date of next meeting**

- 9.1** The date of the next meeting is **7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 0900.**

## **10. 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.*

**11. Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**11.1** Minutes were confirmed.

**12.0 Matters arising of the Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**12.1** PR said that two submissions had been made and they are both attached to the Fishing access fees paper.

**Minutes confirmed this                      day of                      2017.**

**Chairman**

**Secretary**