

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

**Fisheries Department
Thursday 7th December 2017
9.00am**

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

Present:	The Honourable Ian Hansen - Chairman	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	AA
	Capt. Chris Locke	CL
	Mr. Stuart Wallace	SW
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC
	Mr. Hamish Wylie	HW
	Mr. James Bates	JB

By invitation:	Miss. Amanda Kuepfer	AK
-----------------------	----------------------	----

Minute Taker:	Miss Beverley Reid
----------------------	--------------------

Public:	3
----------------	----------

1	Apologies for Absence	ACTION
----------	------------------------------	---------------

1.1	MLA Teslyn Barkman, Mrs Cheryl Roberts, Mr. Mike Summers and the Chief Executive
------------	--

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 7th September 2017
----------	---

3.1	The minutes were confirmed
------------	----------------------------

4	Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 7th September 2017
----------	---

4.1	Item 4.1 – HW said that FIFCA have looked into Atlink being able to do a sweep of the beach at the back of FIPASS. Atlink are going to come back with some prices for consideration it may be something which can be implemented after transhipments.
------------	---

- 4.2** Item 8.1 – HW asked if the point on Terms of Reference had progressed. DNR indicated that we will continue to use the current Terms of Reference for now. The new AG is just taking up the post and it may be some time before the work of which this was a part is picked up.
- 4.3** Item 8.2 JB explained that as the bill didn't progress through the Legislative Assembly so that will return after resolving some of the outstanding issues. The plan is there will be further consultation. The results of the consultation should be conveyed to Exco with an update on the issue, and from there the matter may return to LegAssy. SW said that the industry welcomes this action.

5 Fishery Update

- 5.1** DNR gave a brief overview of the Fishery. SW asked AA if there was any indication as to what is happening with the Hoki. AA explained that we are still waiting for data, meanwhile Argentina's stock is still in decline and as our Hoki stock is shared we may unfortunately see the same trend in the Falklands. DNR said that on Seal bycatch mitigation the Seal Exclusion Devices have proved effective and reduced Seal mortalities to virtually nil. Specifications for 3 different Seal Exclusion Devices (SED's) have been drawn up and have been circulated around the industry so that there is time for the vessels to have then built ready for use in the next season. The FIFD is recommending that all trawlers involved in the Falklands fishery have SED's installed. SW added that they welcome the success that all have achieved together on this issue. LC asked if when a vessel comes in for a net inspection will the SED be inspected and if the vessel doesn't have a SED will it be penalised. DNR said that the SED will be inspected where it is available on vessels. If a vessel fails to have a SED on-board it will be recorded, and in the event that SEDs are made a requirement in any fishery any vessels which have not had SEDS inspected and approved will need to go through that process before fishing.
- 5.2** CL gave a brief update on FIPASS works. DNR said that we had a helpful visit from the Operators of the Vigo Port Authority. On Maritime legislation the two ordinances were passed by the Legislative Assembly earlier this year and now await a commencement date. We had a visit to look at re-certification and assessment for Marine Stewardship Council accreditation of the Toothfish Fishery.
- 5.3** Jigger applications for the 2018 Illex season are currently being processed and include a number of new larger jiggers applying for licences. CL added that as we had 2 jiggers run aground in

2017 Illex season, he has drawn up a chart with 12 suitable moorings. This will mean that the last vessel into the harbour will be the first one out to prevent any more incidents and the information will be sent out.

CL

5.4 DNR said that the area of the Southwest of the zone has been closed for conservation reasons relating to Grenadier and toothfish bycatch. HW asked if this closed area is likely to become a regular feature. DNR said that this will be looked into, and a more focused toothfish bycatch measure needs to be developed. The general 10% bycatch limit may no longer be sustainable.

5.5 SW asked how the visit to Peru went. AA replied that the cruise is still ongoing but all samples have been collected and we will try to arrange for them to be sent to the Falklands. Once the samples are here they will undergo genetic analysis along with Doryteuthis squid. DNR added that if as hypothesized squid from Peru and here are separate species the Latin name for our squid will remain the same, otherwise we could have gone for something catchier.

AA

6 Discard Management options for Falkland Islands Trawlers

6.1 AK recapped on the report that she circulated on Discard Management in the Falklands for Trawlers. AK would like to thank all who have replied to her report with their ideas. From the responses it has showed that a batching system is the preferred solution. This option was reconsiders in the ACAP best practice mitigation criteria and looks like is it feasible & suitable possibility for existing vessels. The newer vessels that will eventually enter the fleet maybe able have higher levels of waste management. After a waste management policy has been produced we would hope that all vessels could be fitted with temporary waste disposal systems in the next two years. This system would allow for the waste to be stored on-board until such time as the net is hauled onto the ship, and wraps are no longer in the water. DNR added that this would make the vessel unattractive to the seabirds, so that the interactions with seabirds are greatly reduced. IH asked if 3 months was long enough for consultation to the industry, SW added that he would like the industry to have up to 5 months to reply would be better to give the industry time over this busy time of year. It was decided that the end of April 2018 was the deadline.

6.2 SW said that the industry were proud of the contribution they make to the sustainability of the fishery and the contribution that we all make working with Amanda and others with regards to seabird conservation. SW said that it is encouraging to know that the population are stable and increasing and had meet all targets of bird impacts. The industry has invested significant

resources and intends to keep our fishery as a world leader in this field.

- 6.3** LC asked what the national objective for seabird mortality is, what is going to happen to the seabirds when we stop feeding them and what we are going to do about our neighbours and fishing vessels outside our zone. DNR said that nil impact would be ideal but otherwise as low as feasibly possible. DNR said with regards to our other countries seabird mortalities we must sort our own issues first to lead by example. Conveying the message to adjacent countries and those visited by FI ACAP species is part of the National Plan of Action. DNR said that the prevailing view seems to be that making fishing vessels unattractive to seabirds and hence no interaction or mortalities is preferable to the opportunistic feeding such vessels provide. Issues may arise around this in the future but most populations do not increase inexorably, they fluctuate.
- 6.4** SW asked if the figure of 5.4% of their food that the birds are getting from the trawlers is removed will result in reducing the populations of the birds. DNR said that in years to come if it shows that seabirds are impacted negatively by reduced waste then most likely there will be discussion about food supply and competition for resources.
- 6.5** HW asked on Page 16 where it says “the vessel ceases fishing in the event of large catches of unwanted whole fish” he would like to know how this would take place. AK explained by example if on a Loligo trawler there was a large catch of juvenile Blue Whiting and there was too much to go into the temporary storage tank then it would be disposed of as quickly as possible with the net onboard. DNR added that the vessel should move to another area to avoid catching more of the same. HW also asked what it meant when it is said “to ensure that only the smallest particles are washed out between waste storage” AK said that it should read “during” not “between”. HW asked what was the average catch of seabirds before tori lines were introduced, AK did not have the figures on her, but thought it to be around 1500 per annum. This is observed mortalities and some may go undetected. HW then asked what is the revised estimate since the introduction of Tori lines. AK said that in some years it is around 1450 but this fluctuates. HW said the original estimate after one year of using the Tori lines was a 90% reduction and then it fluctuated after that. DNR said there were years where the estimate had reduced to 700 or so but other years the estimate was higher. He also said that monitoring has also changed and we are getting more frequent information. HW asked do our neighbours have Tori lines, AK said that they will become mandatory in Argentina they are using them and so are Chile. HW then asked is we know how many seabirds our neighbours

AK

