

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Thursday, 7th June 2018
9.00am

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
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	SA
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC
	Mr. Stuart Wallace	SW
	Mrs. Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Dr. Andreas Winter	AW
	Miss. Amanda Kuepfer	AK

Minute Taker: Miss Beverley Reid

Public: 6

- 1 Apologies for Absence** **ACTION**
- 1.1 Mr Hamish Wylie, Mr Barry Rowland, Captain Chris Locke
- 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 28th February 2018.**
- 3.1 LC would like it added that he raised the concept of ALARP (as low as reasonably practical) which is widely understood in other industries and in his opinion had good merit for adoption to deal with seabird mortality. **BR**
- 4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 28th February 2018.**

- 4.1 Item 4.5 – DI requested an update from AA about genetic sampling from Peru. AA explained that we will be using the samples in Aberystwyth as it proved impossible to get the samples from Peru, out of Peru.

5 Fishery Update

- 5.1 DNR gave a brief overview of the fishery as set out in the paper on Agenda Item 5. CR would like it noted that the deployment of seal observers cost the industry £800,000 over the two seasons and in addition to the licence increase fee of £300,000 that makes it £1,000,000 contribution for the industry and would like to see this jointly funded in the next budget. DNR said that the current industry funded arrangements will continue for the next season and that contribution is recognised. The department will be looking into getting the costs down for future seasons.
- 5.2 DNR said that the FIPASS berthing policy has been approved by ExCo.
- 5.3 DNR mentioned that on their way back from Argentina though Chile they spoke to one of their main science institutes there and discussed some collaboration with them.
- 5.4 SW asked if it will be possible to know if in the future it will be possible for the industry to know how many Catch Verifications were carried out over the year. DNR agreed and that indicated that 7 have been carried out, in this financial year. DNR said that he would ideally like all vessels that are leaving the zone to have their catch verification done before they leave, but with access to FIPASS this may not always be possible. Vessels leaving the zone should factor in the likelihood of catch verification at FIPASS.
- 5.5 DI questioned if the Data Exchange will be both ways and DNR and AA confirmed this is how the data exchange will work

6 Total Allowable Effort & Catch-2019

- 6.1 DNR presented the annual paper currently in draft form which comes forward at this time – recommended limits for catch & effort for 2019 on all ITQ fisheries. Includes all the individual fishery details. Comments from FIFCA and members are invited by noon on **Friday, 10th August** as it needs to be gazetted by the end of September. This is the lighter version of the paper as there is a second part which has more detail of stock assessments and science if members want that, it can be made available as well. AW went through the highlights of the document and indicated it's in the same format to previous years. Starting with Calamari, there is little change from previous years. The allowable effort will allow the normal fleet of 16 vessels to fish. Finfish - many of the industry

FIFCA

members were at the recent meeting discussing the licensing approach for finfish so this is in transition. So for the present time the licensing advice is based on the same procedure as previous years. Rock Cod remains the index species, the population has decreased substantially over the last few years. A recent stock assessment shows that it's still several hundred thousand tonnes biomass so it's not actually extinct and on that basis it's still feasible for the time being to index it.

6.2 TB queried the TAC level for rock cod. AW said right now we are projecting that more will be caught than has been the case in the last 2 years, but it's also possible for the stock to shift and return but that it remains under review. For the time being that same threshold has been carried forward from last year. SW asked if that's the reason that the VU have not been increased although the recent annual catches have been less than the allowable catch. AW indicated there are no grounds for change, and an alternative system is being looked at. AW indicated as far as categories are concerned for the different licences – again this procedure is carried forward from last year. 'A' licence – looking at the graph, no correlation between GRT and VU's so they have all been equalised. For 'W' and 'G' there are statistically significant correlations. One calculation that was done slightly differently this year was weighting the regression line by how many days a vessel was fishing and that did change the numbers a bit from what they were previously. It can be left like that or mitigated by changing the weighting factor but that's the only change that has been made to these licence categories.

6.3 Regarding Patagonian Toothfish, one issue we still have and that we have had since last year is that we have had quite a lot of by-catch in the finfish fisheries and also in the Calamari fishery. The stock appears in good shape and the biomass is in the range we want to be in and therefore the recommendation is to maintain the same TAC of 1040 tonnes. There followed a discussion about the by-catch level, juvenile Toothfish (and possible additional information to be gathered for Seal observers) and Toothfish movements (one tagged Toothfish had been caught in Southern Chile. DI raised the issue of the 1.5% toothfish bycatch limit in trawl fisheries and if it was possible to identify 'hot spots' in the calamari fishery which could be avoided. LC queried the impact of longliners fishing just outside FI zones. AW then talked about skates – straightforward – no significant changes. Catches lower than previous years which may be due to change in ownership of quota or other factors. Overall maintaining reasonable biomass and VU will be in line with previous years.

7 Discard Management in the Trawl Fishery

7.1 AK said everyone should have seen the document and went through a brief summary of the paper. A substantial discussion followed as industry members felt that the emphasis of the paper had changed

from what had previously been distributed to them for comment. Points of concern were 5.5, 5.8, 5.9, 5.14, 5.18 and 5.19. As the policy won't come into effect until 2021 industry members felt that a delay of a few weeks while they consult with industry members, should not have too much of an effect. DNR indicated that the objectives should be according to the report, but that dispensations could be applied for and there is flexibility within it but we don't want to go backwards. Chair requested that the outcome and final position reached be reported back to the next meeting of the committee for it to be recorded.

DNR

8 Date of next meeting

8.1 The date of the next meeting is **6th September 2018 at 0900.**

Minutes confirmed this day of 2018.

Chairman

Secretary