

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Thursday, 6th December 2018
2:00pm

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

Present:	The Honourable Ian Hansen	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	AA
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC
	Mr. Stuart Wallace	SW
	Mr James Bates	JB
	Ms. Megan Tierney-SAERI	MT
	Mr. Jonathan Poynter	JP
	Miss Amanda Kuepfer (present by Skype)	AK
Minute Taker:	Miss Beverley Reid	BR

Public: 5

- 1 Apologies for Absence ACTION**
- 1.1** The Honourable Teslyn Barkman, Mrs Cheryl Roberts, Mr Barry Rowland, Captain Chris Locke
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 2.1** Industry representatives declared an interest for every item on the agenda. SW would like to declare a particular interest in relation to the item on the Skate Mesh trials, Item 8.
- 3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2018.**
- 3.1** The minutes were confirmed.
- 4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 6th September 2018.**
- 4.1** SW asked on item 4.1 what progress has there been on work on the squid from Peru. AA said that work is on-going, but there is a good chance that it will be described as a new species. Additional

samples from Chile would be useful to confirm the differences.

4.2 IH asked what the status of the action at 4.2 was. JB indicated FIFCA had communicated back in mid-November and they were awaiting a response from DNR.

DNR

4.3 DNR said on 5.2, the NW barge of FIPASS has been closed to berthing.

5 Fishery Update

5.1 DNR gave a brief overview of the fishery as set out in the paper on Agenda Item 5. It has been a record calamari year.

5.2 AA said that the toothfish tagging cruise is on its way back the objectives had been firstly to continue the tagging programmes and secondly to gather habitat information. A good number of tags were deployed.

5.3 DNR indicated the department was planning to come up with a scheme to keep track of conservation measures online.

5.4 DNR said that Bernard Meehan is leaving his role as Senior Fishery Officer in the department just before Christmas. IH and the committee would like to thank Bernard very much for all his hard work over the last 11 years.

5.5 DNR provided a brief overview of the 25th meeting of the SSC which took place recently in London. SW asked if the cruise plans were available and DNR confirmed they could be made available. SW asked how we could be sure that any agreements reached in this process would be implemented bearing in mind previous history on SBW and other factors in Argentina. DNR indicated that points had been learned from the previous experience, and that if similar arrangements are to be made now it would be necessary to have greater detail to avoid any subsequent confusion.

DNR

6 Draft National Plan of Action-Seabirds in Trawl Fisheries

6.1 MT gave a brief overview of the draft of the National Plan of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in the trawl fishery. She outlined the achievements of the previous plan including; Observer coverage, Fixed Aerial Arrays, Waste Management Systems and communication. MT also pointed to some of the tasks which had not been completed. It was emphasised that the Department Of Natural Resources is the lead agency for the plan with input and support from other agencies.

6.2 SW said that it was great to see the success that we have had together in improving the situation. SW mentioned that we have all put a lot of resources into this work and he believes that on this issue the Falklands are ahead compared to other countries in this

part of the world. SW suggested that one of the biggest challenges would be getting other countries around us to “up their game”.

6.3 LC asked MT in relation to Objective 8 which territories would be involved and how would this work. MT explained that this would be the wider South Atlantic territories and region. LC asked MT what ACAP are doing to ensure that those countries in the region are a doing there bit. MT indicated there is scope to monitor and share information through the ACAP process and there is another ACAP meeting in May 2019. DNR mentioned that the topic of mitigating seabird mortalities in fisheries is now on the next SSC agenda so was something which could be directly discussed with Argentina.

MT

6.4 SW said that MT made reference to the availability of additional resources and his impression was this could be from elsewhere? MT said this is correct that they recognise that the government, the industry and the Fisheries department do contribute a lot already, there may be some actions in the program which might need additional resources, and this could include the ACAP small grants scheme or attract PhD students or Post-grad students to undertake specific components of work and other applicable grants.

6.5 SW asked about Page 21, Objective 5.2 and that it was a big topic (incentive options including Ecolabels) and introduces some areas for consideration that have been absent so far. MT indicated that as currently stated it is to investigate and review any relevant options. SW considered that this is ‘stepping outside’ a bit.

6.6 IH asked if this draft NPOA went to ExCo. DNR said it that if it was accepted and endorsed by the Fisheries Committee then that would be sufficient.

7 Seal Mitigation measures in finfish fishery

7.1 AA gave a brief overview of the paper. IH said that it great that this is all working well and the industry are on board, but on Point 3.7 if the number of seals increases in the next few years, how will this affect the fishing industry. Al Baylis contributed as a member of the public and said that the population is not the sort of increase which will cause the population to double any time soon for example. The population may ultimately be limited by suitable breeding sites. AA said that last year a cruise went past Beauchene Island and there were quite a lot of fur seals there but none breeding as yet. SW said the industry will continue to work together with the FIG to make adjustments to SED’s, if needed.

7 Skate mesh trials-Research Cruise 2018

7.1 AA said that the results of the Skate Mesh trials were very clear cut. SW asked if there was a timeframe to carry of the Korean tests. AA indicated not yet, will see if it can be done next year. SW asked if the changes will be made for this coming season, AA said that he would hope the implement them next year. SW questioned if less Skate was caught was the CPUE very different? AA said that this was difficult to compare as Korean and Spanish vessels have very different CPUE's. SW asked if the trials were sufficient and AA confirmed that they achieved all the information required.

9 Date of next meeting

9.1 The date of the next meeting is 20th March 2019 at 09:00.

10 Exclusion of Press & Public

10.1 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 exempt minutes 6th September 2018.

11.1 The minutes were confirmed.

12 Matters arising from exempt minutes 6th September 2018.

12.1 SW expressed disappointment that fees had increased despite FIFCA representations on the point.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2018.

Chairman

Secretary