

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Wednesday, 20 March 2019
09:00am

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 Roger Spink	RS	
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR	
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	AA	
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI	
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC	
	Mrs. Cheryl Roberts	CR	
	Mr. Hamish Wylie	HW	
	Mr. Simon Browning	for Item 6	SB
	Mr. Ludovic Goyot	for Item 7	LG
	Dr. Thomas Farrugia	for Item 8	TF
Minute Taker:	Mrs Beverley Glanville	BG	

Public: 3

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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | ACTION |
| 1.1 | The Honourable Ian Hansen, Mr Stuart Wallace & Mr Barry Rowland | |
| 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 6th December 2018. | |
| 3.1 | HW noted he had submitted his apologies for the meeting on 6 th December 2019, but they were not recorded. | |
| 4 | Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 6th December 2018. | |
| 4.1 | Item 4.2, DNR said that the discard policy is close to being resolved. | |

- 4.2** LC asked on Item 4.3 what was happening with the new port process, to ease FIPASS congestion. TB confirmed that the plan is now go through with a tender process. CR asked if the west berth can be repaired, TB said that this will be looked into, but the current plan is to use the £1million per year to keep the other barges running. DNR said that it depends on how long the process to construct a new port might take. If it proceeds apace then it may be better to spend on the new port rather than FIPASS. If it becomes a more lengthy process it may be worth revisiting the NW Barge repair.
- 4.3** CR questioned the impact on containerisation. DNR said that the West barge could not be used for transshipment operations in any case. CR agreed this but said that if the west berth was available it would free up space on the other berths that other non-transshipping vessels could use. DNR said Atlink are doing their best to accommodate all vessels needing to tranship. LC asked if there was a paper, RS said there will be an announcement shortly.
- 4.4** Item 6.3 -DNR said that the final report has just been circulated.

5 Fishery Update

- 5.1** DNR gave a brief overview of the fishery as set out in the paper on Agenda Item 5. The Calamari season has been going well, Illex is modest. Hoki has also had some reasonably high catches.
- 5.2** DI would like to clarify that it is not a review of the ITQ system but a review of the ITQ extension. DNR said it was a bit of both. The ITQ extension was one of a number of issues in the ITQ review report.
- 5.3** DNR said that the scientists are back from the joint Illex Research Cruise with the Argentines, and we are analysing the results.
- 5.4** DNR highlighted a number of maritime incidents and accidents that had already happened this early in the season. A lot more work has been done on safety issues with both FIG and the Fishing Companies focusing more intently on safety, particularly in the jigging fleet. There have been some unfortunate incidents and we would like to try to stop this happening in the future.
- 5.5** DNR said that a meeting is happening next week with the MLA's to discuss the SAR report. LC asked if it was publicity available. It was indicated the report should go to Exco in the first instance.
- 5.6** RS asked what the market situation for squid at present. FIFCA representatives responded indicating the first season catch has yet to reach the market. CR indicated the industry does provide price

information to the DNR.

- 5.7** LC asked about the joint Argentine research cruise, DNR said that the Argentines are still working on their results. Our Scientists on board said that it was modest-low catches. Although we have a better understanding this year of the Illex stock as a result of the cruise, we cannot manage and conserve Illex unless we can extend conservation measures to the high seas. Collecting basic data from the high seas would be a useful first step.

6 Fishery Protection & Boarding's 2018

- 6.1** SB briefly introduced the paper. SB would like to add two things to the paper about the Protegat schedule in 2018, time offline included a maintenance period and a visit to dry dock, which amounted to 41days in total. SB suggested a priority scheme might need setting across the fisheries.
- 6.2** HW noted the finfish target is 80%, if this is the historical target is it usually met and if so should it be adjusted? DI asked if the reason why some targets were not being met was due to weather & jigger incidents. SB mentioned that it was due to limited resource and would like to know what the industry would like us to focus on. DNR said that much depends on the Illex season. If it is a busy season which runs for the full licence period then the FPV inevitably spends more time around the Illex fleet. CR thought that the Illex fleet should be targeted more due to the number is incidents on jiggers.
- 6.3** RS asked if there was a report on how many incidents have been reported. HW said that in the Jigger safety code there is a system and should be in place from the beginning of next year. CR said that under Port and Welfare Board they tried to get the information from KEMH, but it wasn't possible. DNR said that in the SAR review it is a recommendation to ensure SAR statistic across FIG are collected in a comprehensive manner and in a format which allows some analysis. The department has put more effort into investigating accidents and incidents this year.
- 6.4** HW asked when there was last a review on policing the fishery as far as new technologies go. DNR said that there hasn't been independent review but in the department people have set out proposals for drones, etc and there may be a role for these things but we need more experience. A lot of new technologies tend to be more of an additive in nature rather than a replacement, particularly for the FPV role. You need to be able to intervene. HW commented that the investment made by government has reduced over the years.

7 Observer deployments 2019

- 7.1** LG introduced the paper. LG mentioned that in table 2 there is a correction to be made. It should read that 100% of E Licences are

observed. LC asked if the observers are now shifting into compliance. DNR said that no great changes have been made. The observers have always collected and collated the biological data first, but if there are compliance issues on the vessels they will report on that also.

8 Toothfish Bycatch in Finfish trawls

- 8.1** TF gave a presentation on toothfish bycatch in the finfish fishery between 1st January and 21st February 2019. LC asked if the presentation could be made to FIFCA, both DNR and TF agreed. LC also asked if this data could be compared to previous years. DNR and TF said that it would be difficult to compare previous year's data, as many years are quite different. This year was unusual due to the level of trawler activity in many years the vessels would have been fishing for Illex on the high seas.
- 8.2** DI asked about the impacts on the TAC on the W fishery, TF said that this will only happen, over time if we get catch over 330T. HW would like to know where 330T came from; TF said it is based on an historical average. HW is concerned that the finfish fishery is getting squeezed into a box with no fish in it. HW also said that if the FIFD close grid squares they would need to be looked at regularly and not be closed forever, TF agreed.
- 8.3** LC asked why there was no observer coverage in January and February 2019, AA & TF said that it was because there were so many research cruises on at one time. There were 3 research cruises which had taken up scientists and observers.

9 Date of next meeting

- 9.1** The date of the next meeting is 6th June 2019 at 09:00.

No Part 2.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2019.

Chairman

Secretary