

South West Inshore Fisheries Group

Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes

2nd March 2016

Atlantic Quay, Glasgow

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| Chair | Alastair McNeill, SWIFG Chair |
| SWIFG Attendees | Andrew and June Lochhead (independent), Kenny McNab (CFA), Calum macLachlainn (MFA), Nick Turnbull (MAFA) , Bill Wiseman (SWFPA) |
| Also attending | Stephanie Dickens (MS Science), Kirstie Dyson (SNH), Nick Lake (MS contractor), Fiona Mills (SWIFG secretariat) |
| Apologies | Tom Bryan-Brown (Mallaig & North West FA), George Cunningham (MS Compliance), Jo Holbrook (MS Compliance), Ally Young (MS Compliance), Pam Taylor (Solway Firth Partnership), Elaine Whyte (CFA) |

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| <p>1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the SWIFG (as the West Coast IFG will be meeting next time) and all attendees introduced themselves Apologies are indicated above</p> |
| <p>2. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved</p> |
| <p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>Michael McLeod thinks the issue of hydrochloride use in fish farms is more an issue for SEPA and so it would be appropriate to invite SEPA to the next meeting to discuss this and any other questions.</p> <p>Most feedback received from members has been in support of developing positioning statements The only comment in terms of layout was that it may be better to order the headings differently for each positioning statement. A statement on cable laying is already drafted The Chair will circulate others as they are developed for comment by email.</p> <p>The Chair wrote to Marine Scotland around the concerns from the SWIFG regarding the Port a'Mhiadair Argyll to Ardsneil Beach Ayrshire cable project by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission LTD. Marine Scotland is aware of concerns that the location and height of rock beams installed in this case may not be as described in the Licence MS Lot colleagues have advised that the situation is that SSE has commissioned both a level 1 bathymetric survey and an AUV/ROV survey in the area SSE has a procurement process that must be followed to award contracts to do work of this nature, and that this has inevitably caused some delay Our current understanding is that the work be done in March in the case of bathymetric survey and the AUV/ROV survey will be done a bit later Until we have the results of the bathymetric survey we cannot determine for certain whether the cable has been laid and protection put in place in accordance with the licence or whether any additional action is required</p> <p>CFA have held meetings with SSE and they have admitted that the laying has not been done correctly and so they are pushing for the surveys to be completed. SSE also assured CFA that burial of the Jura cable will be completed in the summer Jim Mackie from the Marine Scotland Licensing team has also met SSE but the outcome of that meeting is as yet unknown. There are issues with the planned cable from the Wirral to Hunterston whereby the contractor is proposing to leave 12km of cable uncovered in the Clyde for a year or so</p> <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair to invite SEPA to the next meeting. |

4 Sub Groups Update Reports

i) Clyde

Following a meeting in December, a detailed letter from SWIFG went to Marine Scotland in response to the proposed Regulating Order

For information, Argyll & Bute Council has published results from their Economic Forum – the section on fishing is sparse. The CFA will be challenging the report and will discuss it with Mark Steward

ACTION

- Secretariat to circulate this report and Mull report to SWIFG members for information
- Chair to draft a SWIFG response to Argyll & Bute Council supporting CFA concerns re lack of acknowledgement of fishing issues

ii) Mull/Argyll/Tiree

A focus session was held in January and was seen as a good event generating some clear objectives. One of those was around gear conflict and a further meeting has been held to consider spatial planning as a tool. A Development & Research MPA could be a solution on the west coast of Mull (but wording 'MPA' may be an issue) to demonstrate which gear/effort/time model would deliver a sustainable static fishery (brown crab) and mobile fishery (scallop dredging) within the same area. The Fair Isles D&R MPA is more about using the marine ecosystem to support the community on the islands, so is wider than just fisheries. CFA has also had discussions with the Cabinet Secretary around the possibility of a D&R MPA. Policing is a concern given limited Marine Scotland resources, but it could be mostly self-regulated as the industry would need to agree the models that would be considered in the first place and it would be in their interests to comply. EMFF funding could be used to deliver the research that is required. Mull has good co-operation between fishermen using different gear types on Mull but it also requires wider agreement with other fishermen who are using the area. From a scientific point of view it would be worth considering how to establish a baseline against which to measure any change. Next step will be a further meeting to talk through some of the details of a potential D&R MPA on the west coast of Mull. There will probably not be time to get this in place before the next season (October – January) and so there is a requirement for a voluntary agreement in the interim. For information, CFA are going to carry out some research in the cod box in the Clyde.

iii) Solway

There have been some delays in the field work for the various projects that are underway in the Solway. Kevin Scott from St Abbs marine research station has been brought in to make sure that this happens over the next few months. Data loggers have been recalled due to issues but are being redistributed. There is a Focus Session organised for 24th March and this could be raised at that workshop.

ACTION

- Chair will draft a letter to Marine Scotland on the principle of a D&R MPA and circulate Mull meeting notes to the rest of the SWIFG
- Chair to organise a follow-up meeting for Mull to discuss details of a potential D&R MPA and a 1-year voluntary agreement, potentially with independent facilitation
- There will be a Focus Session for the Solway on 24th March to bring up local issues

5 Update on West Coast rIFG

This will be in place from 1st April. A date for a first meeting of the new West Coast rIFG will be put in diaries at the end of the meeting. The closing date for Chair applications was on 29th February. Sub groups will continue to operate but the system will be flexible. There will also be outreach officers as additional resource that can support the sub groups.

6 FLAGS/EMFF

There is a FLAG for Dumfries and Galloway with around £500k and there is a FLAG for Argyll & Bute and Ayrshire with around £900k. The current Chair is on the Strategic Management Group (SMG) in D&G and the FLAG for A&B and Ayrshire and there are other SWIFG fisheries representatives on these bodies. There should be good opportunities for the IFG to seek funding to support initiatives, eg the potential D&R MPA mentioned.

above

7 Marine Planning Developments (Clyde)

This item was moved to last on the agenda Fiona Mills gave a presentation and there was discussion around the following

- There needs to be proper representation of the fishing industry CFA are already members as they have been involved with the Firth of Clyde Forum for many years WCrIFG needs to consider how best to be represented within the Partnership, with the Chair potentially applying for individual membership In any case the National Marine Plan is clear that IFGs need to be involved in the marine planning process.
- Chair should respond to the Clyde Public Notice that the SWIFG, soon to be WCrIFG, is interested in being a member.
- This would be a statutory plan and so statutory bodies need to take it into account when making decisions But this does not change the statutory role of other bodies The regional marine plan would act as an umbrella bringing all other initiatives together

8. Marine Scotland Updates

See below

9 AOCB

Consultation for management measures for Crab and Lobster

This has come about because various proposals to increase the MLS have been put forward by different areas This consultation is to consider whether it would be possible to put in a single MLS for the whole of Scotland. It would be good to put in a response from the WCrIFG – it may be necessary to put in different proposals for the different areas Consultation closes 20th May

Wavenet energy at Mingary Bay

There is a proposed renewable test project in this area and the developers have sought feedback from the SWIFG It was felt that as this is close to the shore and involves a small area, then this was not of concern The cables should be buried in the seabed as one is over 1,000m Otherwise, this would probably be more relevant for the Mallaig and North West FA to consider and they are aware of the proposal

Food Standards Scotland

There is a review of sale of small volumes of bivalves (defined as 25 tonnes per annum) This may be an issue for the cockle fishery in the Solway Nick Lake will send the information to the Secretariat to send out to members

Thanks to the outgoing SWIFG Chair

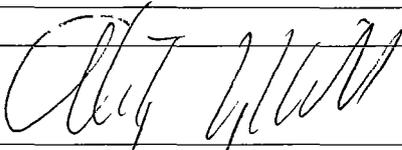
The whole group wanted to give their thanks to Alastair McNeill for all his work over the last few years in developing the SWIFG and the sub groups for the area It was agreed that he has put in a lot of effort to get the SWIFG to where it is now

ACTION

- Chair to draft a response to the Crab and Lobster MLS consultation
- Nick Lake/Secretariat to distribute information on the Food Standards Scotland review

10 Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 1st June and this will be the first West Coast IFG

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| Signed as an accurate minute by Chair |  |
| Date | 01/06/2016 |