

South West Inshore Fisheries Group

Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes

9th September 2014

Atlantic Quay, Glasgow

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| Chair | Alastair McNeill, SWIFG Chair |
| SWIFG Attendees | Dick James (NIFF), Andrew & June Lochhead (independent), Jennifer Mouat (SWFPA), Patrick Stewart (CFA), Bill Wiseman (SWFPA) |
| Also attending | Greg Allan (Marine Scotland), Dr Nick Lake (Marine Scotland contractor, before lunch only), Fiona Mills (SWIFG secretariat), Pam Taylor (Solway Firth Partnership), George White (National Liaison Officer) Presentation from Kyla Orr and Ali McKnight (Seafish Inshore Fisheries Project) David Palmer (Marine Scotland, after lunch only) |
| Apologies | Tom Bryan-Brown (Mallaig & North West FA), David Donnan (SNH), Iain Gatt (Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association), John Hermse (Scallop Association), David Hodge (Ayrshire/Clyde Static) Alistair Sinclair (SCAD), Nick Turnbull (MAFA) |

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| <p>1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and all attendees introduced themselves. Apologies were noted. The Chair then asked for a few moments of silence to acknowledge the loss of Archie McFarlane of the CFA who sadly passed away after a motorcycle accident. Patrick Stewart is acting as interim Secretary for the CFA.</p> |
| <p>2 Minutes of Meeting of 6th February 2014</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed with a change noted for NIFF and 'retaining notches' in section 6 under lobster v-notching. With these changes the minutes were approved.</p> |
| <p>3 Matters Arising</p> <p>Clyde 2020 Summit – The Chair has written to Marine Scotland (MS) following comments at the last meeting and David Palmer will be attending this meeting later on in order to answer questions on this subject.</p> <p>There was some discussion around the word 'consensus' as contained in the IFG Remit. Marine Scotland stated that the Remit was written to allow the IFGs to make progress, ideally through consensus. CFA stated that the Remit does not mention a way of making decisions if no consensus is reached. MS will reconsider the wording centrally and noted that any change would need to be agreed by IFMAC and would affect all IFGs. In the meantime the Chair continues to follow the Remit as it stands.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the request for funding for the lobster v-notching project for the Clyde has been sent in to MS. The same project for the Mull area is also pending approval. The Solway v-notching project is underway.</p> <p>The Chair wrote several letters to Marine Scotland and various agencies on the concerns around Gaffkaemia and responses regarding the legal position were received from Marine Scotland, SEPA, Renfrewshire Council and Scottish Water.</p> <p>The National Liaison Officer had reviewed the constitution and membership of The Scottish Scallop Divers Association and they are entitled to join the IFG network. In view of their membership and operations, they have decided to join the NWIFG.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Greg Allan to review the IFG Remit centrally to consider if the decision-making process needs to be clarified for the situation where no consensus is reached. |

4 Development of Actions from Management Plans (Draft Action Plan)

There was discussion around the word 'restore' from the Draft Action Plan. Whilst this wording has been taken directly from the Clyde and Mull & Small Isles Management Plans, it was agreed that the Chair will insert an additional page to clarify that for the purposes of the Action Plan, the Biological objectives will be 'to conserve and enhance commercial stocks'

It was agreed that the sub groups will seek to develop fisheries management actions within their respective geographical areas. Developments identified by sub groups will be reported to the Executive Committee in order that management strategies and actions can evolve. Whilst the Clyde sub-group has now been formed, there has not yet been a first meeting – this will be organised soon especially in light of the EFF funded Seafish Inshore Fisheries Project. The Chair will endeavour to hold all sub-group meetings in the next couple of months in order to report outcomes to the next Executive Committee meeting in December.

ACTION

- Chair to insert additional text to Draft Action Plan
- Chair and Secretariat to arrange sub-group meetings

5 EFF Projects Update

A presentation was given by Kyla Orr and Ali McKnight on the EFF funded Seafish Inshore Fisheries Project. For further information on all the work packages for this project see www.seafish.org/research-economics/evidence-gathering-in-support-of-sustainable-inshore-fisheries

1 Establishing the location of fishing activities within Scottish inshore areas - Succorfish

- Concern was expressed that as AIS information is available publicly, then not only can MS see that fishermen are fishing responsibly, but competitors can also see where boats are
- A mobile phone system (as opposed to AIS) would be private but would cost a lot more and be limited by mobile coverage – although the gadget can store data until coverage is restored
- In the north west both trawlers and creelers are signing up for the project as they can see advantages in avoiding gear conflict and also in improving safety
- The project team need to find a way to convince fishermen that these projects are worthwhile. The benefits need to be convincing. There will probably be a mixed reaction to start with but it helps that the fishermen will receive £1k of free kit for their boat
- For information there was a Datalogger project in the Clyde in the early 1990s run by Dr Sue Marrs – the project team could take learnings from that project. Also look at experiences from Lyme Bay
- In Northern Ireland fishermen found it useful to link Succorfish to the creels to get data on salinity and temperature. However there are some technical issues with the gadget now (the project was from a few years ago)
- It is useful to tailor the project regionally to address any local issues. An open meeting with local fishermen in another area proved useful

2 Monitoring fishery catch to assist scientific stock assessments in Scottish inshore fisheries and

3 Identifying catch composition using technology to enable self-reporting

- SFF have had researchers on nephrops vessels in the Clyde for the last year
- The contractor has infrastructure to help install the monitoring equipment
- This may be an issue as fishermen are just adjusting to the discards landings regulations. However, the camera could show how difficult it is to sort discards on the vessel
- This project only requires 10 boats and mostly static shellfish vessels. It is important to inform stock assessments as no data is currently available for a major contributor to coastal inshore fishing revenues
- The Secretariat was asked to send out the link to further information

4 Pilot study to define the footprint and activities of Scottish inshore fisheries by identifying target fisheries, habitats and associated fish

- This will be discussed at the Clyde sub-group with project managers from SAMS to discuss what data

is needed by the IFG and how to present it in a meaningful way to make decisions

- 5 Improving market intelligence and co-ordination in Scottish inshore fishery production
6. Integrating stock management considerations with market opportunities in Scottish inshore fisheries
- 7 Establishing a dedicated information resource base for Scottish inshore fisheries

These work packages were briefly discussed with only one input to 6 – is there an option to look at returning berried female velvet crabs as well as looking at MLS?

Kyla Orr and Ali McKnight handed out further information sheets and leaflets with information on the work packages and how to get involved

ACTION

- Secretariat to send out link to further information on these projects
- Kyla Orr and SAMS to attend the Clyde sub group meeting to further discuss work package 4

6 Scottish Government Updates

David Palmer from Marine Scotland Policy & Planning gave an update on funding for the Clyde 2020 project. There will be a new member of staff for the Firth of Clyde Forum in 2015 who will be responsible for supporting marine planning and the Clyde 2020 project. In the meantime Marine Scotland are providing £11k for start-up workshops during November to scope out an overarching framework, to look at work packages and to look at structure. Marine Scotland invite other stakeholders to contribute to the funding as the project moves forward. There will also be the opportunity to make a bid to the new EMFF to fund the work packages.

Discussion then moved to marine planning in general and in the Clyde

- There was concern expressed that there seemed to be many different organisations in fisheries and marine management with many meetings that fishermen's organisations felt obliged to attend. The IFG, the Firth of Clyde Forum, the Marine Planning Partnership (MPP)
- David Palmer explained that the Firth of Clyde Forum will become the MPP and there would be a close link between the IFG and marine planning. The MPP would have an advisory group of which the IFG should be a member and also a decision making group.
- The CFA stated that Marine Scotland had confirmed that MPPs would have power to make decisions about fisheries management and yet that there could potentially be little fisheries expertise in those partnerships. There was concern that fisheries would not be represented in the decision-making body. It was questioned whether the IFG should associate with the MPP.
- Ultimately the MPP would look to the IFG to provide the fisheries expertise and it would be an opportunity for the IFG to ensure their interests are well represented.

It was agreed that the SWIFG should revisit this issue as regional marine planning develops.

The Chair thanked David Palmer for taking the time to attend the meeting in person.

ACTION

- Kyla Orr to speak to Fiona Mills regarding the Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group and potential input to work package 4

7 IFG Chairs Update

The National Liaison Officer gave a quick update on the IFG Chairs Meeting held on 17th 18th July as follows

- MS to consider a formal inshore representation on the Scottish Discards Steering Group
- MS to provide updated summary document on the EFF project for circulation
- MS to present report on Gear Conflict Task Force's findings at next IFMAC meeting
- MS to extend deadline for project submissions to end August
- MS to consider how the level of technical support available to IFGs can be improved
- MS to consider format changes to the Inshore Fisheries Conference that will lead to an increased attendance by active fishermen
- MS to report on status of Seafood Scotland's work at the next IFMAC meeting.

8 AOCB

The National Liaison Officer gave an update on the inshore mackerel quota. The catch is currently well below the quota and therefore Ross Parker will provide a projection for <10m fleet to keep the fishery open. The balance of the quota will then be given back to the pelagic fleet and licences amended as of 1st October.

The National Liaison Officer has been asked to collate IFG feedback on the Consultation on the allocation of Scottish fish quotas. The suggestion was made that he prepare a draft response with a deadline for comments. If no response is received then it is considered as approval.

The Chair wrote to MS Science, SEPA, Argyll & Bute Council and The Scottish Salmon Company regarding concerns over aquaculture developments in Loch Fyne. Argyll & Bute Council have confirmed that they will keep SWIFG as consultees on any developments. MS Science sent a very detailed response. CFA will review the history of their discussions on this issue.

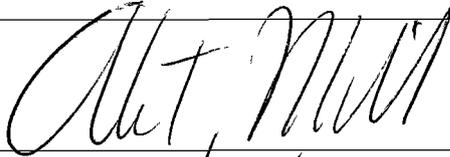
The CFA had been asked in the past to draft a constitution for the IFGs due to the requirement for them to employ staff and hold a bank account. This request was superseded by the Remit which copied what was happening at a national level where fishermen's organisations were coming together to decide on issues using a simple Remit. However the CFA suggests that a constitution is required. It was agreed that whilst now may not be the right time, as IFGs change this may need to be revisited and a copy of the draft constitution can be circulated.

The SWFPA stated that whilst they fully support attendance at the ICES course, they do not support the proposal for the IFG to fund attendance.

ACTION

- CFA to review the history of their discussions on aquaculture developments in Loch Fyne
- CFA to circulate draft constitution to be considered for the future

Date of the next meeting: 2nd December 2014

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| Signed as an accurate minute by Chair |  |
| Date | 02/12/2014 |