

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Monday, 6th March 2023
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 John Birmingham	JB
	Director of Natural Resources – Dr Andrea Clausen	DNR
	Dr Alexander Arkhipkin	AA
	Ms Sheena Ross	SR
	Mr Alex Blake	AB
	Mr Michael Poole	MP
	Mr Hamish Wylie	HW
	Mr Drew Irvine	DI
	Mrs Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Mr Chris Moorey	CM

Minute Taker:	Mrs Beverley Glanville	BG
	Miss Louise Newman (Apprentice/Data Manager)	LN

Public: 8

1	Apologies for Absence	ACTION
1.1	Chief Executive- Mr Andy Keeling & MLA Birmingham apologised for arriving late, as he had another meeting to attend.	
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 the 28th September 2022	
3.1	The minutes were confirmed.	
4	Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th September 2022	

4.1	Item 4.2 TB asked DNR if the scheduled census of the bird population on Beauchene Island had been carried out, DNR confirmed it had been completed within 2 days in early November and the photos of the colonies are still being processed.	DNR
4.2	Item 5.2 TB asked if this has been addressed. SR explained that she had started this email in October, but had forgotten to finish it and as she had mentioned at FAC the Catch Verification company were happy to work 24hrs and she thought that was the main area of concern. The CV contract is due to be tendered once more and will be for a period of 3 years (with possible annual extensions for a total of 2 years on top of that). This will be advertised later in March.	
4.3	Item 7.9 TB asked if a report had been sent out and DNR said that AB will produce this at the end of the Illex season.	
4.4	Item 7.11 HW asked for some clarity on 3-year licences and the fact that the paper mentions the AG setting out details. DNR stated that a draft had been sent to the AGs chambers for review. Every vessel that met the requirements as set out in the application packs will receive a Letter of Comfort. DNR explained that there are 2 options moving forwards: 1. We develop and implement legislative changes that will provide for 3-year licenses and/or 2. We start work on bringing Illex into the ITQ system. HW said industry would like security, currently nobody has security. DNR said the Letter of Comfort is the security and it will be issued ASAP to those who qualify. MP explained how there might be companies that don't receive a Letter of Comfort, so asked for a template. DNR said this can be supplied once the draft has been approved by the AG.	
5	Fishery Update	BG
5.1	DNR gave a brief update on the fishery.	
5.2	DNR mentioned that the Economist position has been advertised overseas and the Cephalopod Scientist position has been advertised locally and about to be advertised overseas.	
5.3	It was noted that the committee had not received the correct item 5 and was decided to discuss it at the committee, but send the corrected lengthier version out after the committee meeting.	
5.4	DNR mentioned that the MRAG contract had been extended for 6 months and would expire at the end of November. CR asked on the Catch Verification contract, does that mean calendar year or FIG budget year and if that would affect our budget? DNR confirmed that it would break our budget year, but it would all still be manageable as the money is in the budget for future years.	

5.5	TB asked if there was time frame on when the Skate research might be done, SR said it depends on the urgency as an individual had been identified but is now not, due to other commitments, therefore we would need to find someone else to undertake the research. DNR said that once the ToR is ready will we ask non-government organisations if they would like to work with us, if not we will advertise the role.	DNR
5.6	SR mentioned the current issues of bycatch in the finfish fishery and said that the fisheries team are giving some thought as to how we can assist to help companies avoid breaking bycatch limits on a continuous basis. A possible solution is to allow 2 licence types (G&A) to be fished at the same time so that they do not have to move on or close grid squares. DNR said that this has been mentioned so industry is aware and that FIFD is more than happy to have further separate discussion before anything is agreed or implemented. MP welcomes anything to make life a little clearer and if it could be discussed at FFLG this would be a good starting point.	
5.7	DNR gave a quick update on Policy and legislation. DNR confirmed that the draft of the project plan for Admin and General Penalties has been sent to the legal department. CR asked for Admin Penalties to be completed ASAP as it has been on the agenda for more than 5 years and if there are any infringements, we end up with Captains that have criminal records which is unfair. MP asked if this could be done as a matter of policy and agree a set of fines with industry, DNR suggested this will be acting outside of the law if we did this and therefore is not likely to be possible.	
5.8	Regarding Illex into ITQ DNR will email the Illex Operators Group and ask them to review the existing law and guidelines for ITQB and to come back with any feedback with any potential issues.	
5.9	MP asked TB if she had received any briefings from the UK government about the Global Oceans Initiative. TB replied that she has emailed Rachel Cooper to find out more, but has nothing to report at the moment. DNR has been in contact with the UK government regarding the UN meetings (review of the SOFIA report) due to take place in March and May.	
5.10	MP asked if FIG has a next step following the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership meetings last week, DNR said that this was an industry-initiated visit, not an FIG initiated visit therefore we don't have a next step. There were some pieces of information that they couldn't find on our website, so we will make these things more publicly available.	BG
5.11	MP asked if there were any updates on the new FPV, DNR confirmed it was due to leave Cape Town on Thursday 9 th March to come straight here to have 2 weeks of training with FISHOPs, Observers and Maritime. We will issue more information on the arrival programme, once the vessel is on its way.	
5.12	MP asked if the industry could be consulted about any items they might	

want to see on the FAC agenda, before it is finalised

6 Maritime Update

6.1 CM gave a brief overview of the paper.

6.2 Industry thanked Jo Cox for her assistance over the last couple of years. CM said that Jo valued her time here and thanked everybody in return.

6.3 MP asked CM about the FIMA feedback and what it noted that it was him when he had a conversation with MLA Spink and Jo Cox, it was 2nd hand feedback about out of hours working. Fortuna have not had a problem, neither has the rest of the industry according to FIFCA. CM said if people have genuine concerns please come directly to FIMA.

7 Compliance Update

7.1 AB gave overview of the paper.

7.2 TB asked about the firefighting equipment if there if there is anything we can do to assist, AB confirmed there had been a few issues. DNR said the ships should check these things themselves as we have limited resources/access to specialist kit in the Falklands. Once all of the inspections are completed and data has been entered onto our system, we will issue reports to companies as previously. DNR suggested to AB that we should tabularise the data for the quarterly reports. MP asked if we are having fewer issues now than we were 5 years ago, AB said he couldn't comment on the data, but thinks that we have been picking up on the smaller issues, rather than the bigger issues than before due to things being better. DNR added that FIFD had changed approach to how we carry out inspections a few years ago and initially a significantly higher number of issues were identified, over the past 3 years this has reduced significantly. we will be more vigilant about how we look at some trends. HW would like to see this narrative attached to the data, so it is clear what has driven the changes.

AB

8 Date of next meeting

8.1 Thursday 8th June at 09:00am

9 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Committee resolved to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the next items of business to be considered were exempt within the terms of paragraph 4 & 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012.

10	Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2022	
10.1	The minutes were confirmed.	
11	Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2022	
11.1	Item 12.2 & 12.4 MP & CR said that the 90% that was quoted will be checked and possibly corrected, FIFCA to check.	FIFCA
11.2	TB asked if any more efforts have been made to build an EU relationship to collaborate to gather support from the Spanish government. CR said that they have discussed this with their Spanish partners, but the feedback is that the politicians that they deal with are the Galician politicians and the politicians that deal with Brussels are the Madrid Politicians and the two are vastly separated. CR said that Javier Touza has been working on in this and she has emailed him, but no reply as yet, so will chase him up.	CR
11.3	TB suggested they have another Brexit meeting. CR said this would be useful once the CE is back and FIFCA have a new chairperson in place. MP suggested that Alison Baker collect the Brexit data when collecting the sales data.	FIFCA

Minutes confirmed this day of June 2023
Chairman **Secretary**