

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

**Fisheries Department
Tuesday, 16th February 2016
9.30am**

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

Present:	The Honourable Phyl Rendell - Chairperson	PR
	The Honourable Ian Hansen	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Captain Chris Locke – Marine Officer	CL
	Dr Sasha Arkhipkin	SA
	Mrs Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Mr Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr Alex Reid	AR
	Mr Hamish Wylie	HW

Minute Taker: Miss Beverley Reid

Public: 2

1 Apologies for Absence

ACTION

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest

2.1 FIFCA members declared an interest in the whole agenda.

3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 2015

3.1 On page 2 of the minutes, point 5.3. HW suggested that it should read “When the Draft Legislation has been finalised CL will take it to the Fisheries Committee for feedback and comments” It was decided that prior to being a bill and going to ExCo, a meeting to look at the Draft legislation will take place to discuss this further, sometime in April.

CL

3.2 On page 3, point 6.2. HW said that he believed an MSP was an important tool, but that it should be high level and holistic in nature. The proposed MSP

drilled too far down into the detail.

- 3.3 On page 4, point 6.2.2 CR asked for the minutes to read “Falklands objectives need to be taken into account in considering the Blue Belt proposals.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 2015

- 4.1 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 3rd December 2015 Item 5.2 – PR has spoken to the Chief Executive about the approval process & procedures for initiating works and suggested that we can do things a little more quickly.

5. Fisheries Update

- 5.1 DNR said that there are 2 research cruises currently being conducted. SA informed that there is a lot of Hoki around at the moment and this is what the finfish vessels are targeting. He added that unfortunately there is no big concentration of Illex inside or outside the zone at the moment. For Falkland Calamari he said that it is not looking too good at present, probably because of the Illex entering the Loligo breeding/feeding ground last year and dispersing the 1st cohort and possibly impacting the spawning of the 2nd cohort. We now have confirmation that out of 100 Illex squid sampled, of the squid that had full stomachs, 70-80% had eaten Loligo. There will still be Loligo in the water, but both in the North and South abundances are relatively low. AR asked if it is worthwhile looking inshore for Loligo. This may be done. HW asked if we have any idea what is happening with the Rock Cod Survey. SA said that some preliminary reports have been received from the cruise. He will ask Michael Gras to do a fuller report when he is back onshore with comparisons with previous years.

SA

- 5.2 CL said that an investigation will be undertaken on the North West barge to give us a better assessment of the options and costs of extending the life of that barge if feasible. PR stated that £1,000,000 per annum has been allocated over the next 5 years for FIPASS, and that MLA’s are clear on this commitment.
- 5.3 CR asked about the SSL fuel pipe. CL said that the fuel pipe is here but due to the condition of the North West barge and the repairs required, there is now a

question over timing. It is likely to be better to do the repairs first.

5.4 DI asked if FIG has asked Premier and Noble about possible use of TDF. PR said the Director of Central Services had a remit from ExCo to review port requirements for traditional/exisiting industries. PR said that this study should look at any options for integrating the TDF if it is an option.

PR

5.5 DNR said the jiggers that have been arriving have been well prepared and ready for inspections. He said that been 1 incident, where crewmen had asked to leave a vessel. The officer who was the source of the complaints had also been removed by the company. The process had generally worked well.

6 Fisheries Protection & Boarding's 2015

6.1 DNR gave an update of the 2015 boarding's. CR, HW and AR all suggested that boarding's could be higher and CR indicated that the Protegat needs replacing for a better sea going vessel so that more boarding can be done. DNR indicated that it was largely sea state which dictated whether boardings could proceed, although conceded that having the PV remain in the vicinity of the fleet would be more productive.

7 The Illex fishery: new access arrangements

7.1 HW asked why there is no reference in the report to consultations and if the FIFD plans to do this. DNR said the paper will go to ExCo and if approved, it would then be set out in more detail before it goes out for consultation. FIFCA members agree that the Illex fishery should be in the ITQ system. HW suggested that the allocation should be granted free of charge as a charge would effectively be taking money from the industry that could be used to develop the fishery. As for duration HW said it should be for 25 years as with the original ITQ, 15 years is not long enough for some investments and developments.

7.2 DI mentioned the refund policy and said that it works and could continue in an ITQ system. It hadn't been necessary in other fisheries but could also be relevant there.

8. Assessment of Seabird Bycatch-Trawlers

8.2 SA gave a short presentation on the report which had

been produced by Seabird Observer Amanda Kuepfer.

- 8.3** It was mentioned that the Fixed Aerial Array bird scaring lines are only on Loligo vessels at the moment. CR would like to see them trialled on finfish vessels; she also said that it had been in trials for quite a few years. CR, AR & DR pointed out that work needs coordinating with adjacent countries to ensure consistency across fisheries. HW indicated that in terms of supply of BSL materials, local suppliers should be included in the information. The discard tender will be progressed once the seabird observer returns.

9. Date of next meeting

- 9.1** The date of the next meeting will be 16th June 2016. It is possible that there will be a meeting sometime in April to discuss the draft of the Maritime bill.

10. Exclusion of Press & Public

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 Paragraph 17 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012.

11. Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes held on the 17th September 2015

- 11.2** On page 2 of the minutes Point 12.4, 2nd line; “at” should be changed to “had”.

12. Matters arising from the Exempt Minutes hold on the 17th September 2015

Matters Arising from the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2015, Item 14.5 - PR asked DNR if the paper was published with redaction. DNR said that he will check.

DNR

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 17 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to the preparation of budget

13. Fisheries Budget 2016/17

- 13.1** DNR gave an outline of the Fisheries Department budget submission for 2016/17. This included the operating budget, capital items, together with a brief

explanation of areas for new or additional expenditure.

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 17 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to the preparation of budget

14 Budget Proposal-Catch Verification

- 14.1** DNR set out proposals for introducing Catch Verification in the fishery and some of the issues which need to be considered. The committee were generally in favour but it would depend on the detail of how it would be implemented.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2016.

Chairman

Secretary