

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Thursday, 5th September 2019
09:00am

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

Present:	The Honourable Roger Spink – Chairperson	RS
	The Honourable Mark Pollard	MP
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Dr. Andreas Winter	AW
	Mrs. Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr. Stuart Wallace	SW
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC
	Mr. Hamish Wylie	HW

Minute Taker:	Mrs Beverley Glanville	BG
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Public: 7

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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | ACTION |
| 1.1 | Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin, Capt. Christopher Locke, Mr. Jonathan Poynter, Mr Matthew Jackson, MLA Barkman, MLA Hansen & 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 June 2019. | |
| 3.1 | HW asked if the minutes that were sent out with the paper and agenda for this meeting were the final set; it was thought that they were. This will be checked and the committee advised. | BG |
| 3.2 | The remainder of the minutes were confirmed. | |
| 4 | Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 6th June 2019. | |

- 4.1** Item 4.3 –DNR indicated that on Search and Rescue (SAR) it is hoped to get a paper to EXCO in the near future to address the issues raised in the review of SAR capability in the Falklands by the MCA. Also some SAR training will be delivered in September. SW asked if there were any major matters brought up in the review? DNR said there was a range of matters including how we respond to our existing commitments and obligations relating to SAR. The Falklands has not adopted the SAR convention but some obligations come in under SOLAS. DNR mentioned that if the Falklands wishes to adopt the SAR convention it will need to ensure it can satisfy the obligations of the convention. SW asked if many other resources would be required and asked DNR if we should sign up to the convention. DNR replied that the scale of resources is limited, but communications and 24hr monitoring are aspects which need addressing. RS asked if the findings will be published, DNR said they will be. HW asked what the expected useful life of the ‘life boat’ is? DNR said hopefully if maintained and kept under cover, around 10 years.
- 4.2** Item 5.5 RS asked if FIFCA had anything to add on this item? SW indicated there was nothing further and there was no immediate requirement to add additional fisheries. DNR said that the information that we needed to provide to the US Government has now been submitted well in advance of the deadline.
- 4.3** Item 5.7 – DNR confirmed the REG conference is still happening in February 2019.
- 4.4** Item 6.6-DI asked if the VU’s have been added to the report for easy calculations, AW confirmed that they have been added to the paper.

5 Fishery Update

- 5.1** DNR gave a brief update on the fishery.
- 5.2** DNR explained that we may have to close the calamari fishery this coming Monday 9th September, which is 3 weeks early to keep the level of calamari biomass above 10,000 tonnes in the fishery to produce next year’s stock. Unless there is a sudden influx of squid the fishing will close early. RS asked if it was the second highest 2nd season in the last 5 years, it looks close to that in the graph. The other point of note is that the hake fishery is proving to be a record in the modern era.

- 5.3** DNR advised that the RV Victor Angelescu is now on its way and will spend 2 weeks looking for Southern Blue Whiting in the south of the Falklands. SW asked what work the Joint research cruise will do on SBW whilst in the Falklands. DNR said that they will follow a set transect pattern, conducting what is primarily an acoustic survey. They will be doing some trawling to verify what they are seeing with the acoustic system. SW asked if they had good acoustic gear, Haseeb Randhawa confirmed that it is impressive equipment. SW also asked if we had completed the report on the last Joint research cruise that took place on Illex. DNR explained that they have compared notes when the Scientific Sub-committee met in July 19 and both results were very similar. AW said that there will be a report finalised.
- 5.4** HW asked the FIFD to expand on what Tobias Büring will be doing when he studies the ecological relations between Calamari and their prey and predators in the Falklands shelf ecosystem. DNR indicated that he will ask Dr Arkhipkin to provide further information.

AA

6 Total Allowable effort and catch final- 2020

- 6.1** DNR gave an overview of the paper and indicated that a relatively high number of responses had been received. DNR highlighted the main points made in the paper.
- 6.2** DNR said that the one outstanding matter required a response from industry regarding the Hake fishery. The choice is between continuing with it as the all species finfish licence in which case the effort reduces by 12% or the licence and fishery is temporarily converted to a Hake target fishery with fishing period restrictions. SW said that the “A” quota holders are having a meeting this Friday and anticipate that they should have a reply to the Fisheries Department next week.
- 6.3** DI asked in relation to C(iii) on Page 3 if is it a one off proposal for 2020 or if it might become a more permanent change, or will a similar process and discussion be had prior to 2021. DNR said the view is that it is tried for 2020 if that option is preferred by the industry. In future years we will see if that is the best option or if we revert to the previous arrangements or consider some other option. It will depend on whether the trend for greater hake abundance and presence continues or not.
- 6.4** SW mentioned that as the TAE & TAC limits will be gazetted at the beginning of October, there is a need for prompt input from the “A” quota holders. DNR agreed.

7 Date of next meeting

- 7.1** The date of the next meeting is 5th December 2019 at 09:00.

No Part 2.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2019.

Chairman

Secretary