

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Thursday, 3rd June 2021
09:00am

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 Ian Hansen	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – Dr Andrea Clausen	DNR
	Dr Alexander Arkhipkin	AA
	Mr Timothy Costelloe	TC
	Mrs Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Mr Mike Summers	MS
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr Alex Reid	AR
	Mr Andreas Winter	AW
	Mr Jorge Ramos Castillejos	JRC
	Ms Veronica Iriarte	VI
	Mr Callum Ellis	CE

Minute Taker: Mrs Beverley Glanville BG

Public: 7

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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | ACTION |
| 1.1 | Chief Executive- Mr Andy Keeling and Mr Stuart Wallace & Mr Hamish Wylie | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 2.1 | Industry representatives declared an interest for all items on the agenda. | |
| 2.2 | TB passed the committee condolences to Fortuna on the passing of Fraser Wallace. | |
| 3 | Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd December 2021. | |
| 3.1 | The minutes were all confirmed. | |

4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 3rd December 2021.

4.1 Item 4.2 CR asked when the Pilotage paper is going to ExCo. DNR replied that is expected to go at the end of June 2021. A discussion was had as to what the paper is facilitating what is going to happen next. CR would like the board to see the content of the paper before it goes to ExCo. MR asked when the next step will happen after this paper has been passed, DNR said as soon as possible, but will check the timeframe. **CE**

4.2 Item 4.3 CR asked for an update on the Port State Control, DNR said the MCA expert advisor that raised a number of issues at the time, no longer works for the MCA. The paper and outstanding issues are still with the legal team, so there will be a further delay.

4.3 Item 4.5 DNR would like it noted that it was interesting that the draft ITQ fee paper that had only been seen by Government officers was commented on by industry members at the Fisheries Committee. The final version of this paper was the only version to be public.

4.4 Item 5.2 DNR and AA discussed the table that is provided to FFLG, also needs to be included in the Fishery update paper. **AA**

4.5 Item 8.2 CR & DI asked about adding context to the MMO report, i.e populations of seabirds and marine mammals. SA confirmed that we do not have the resources to assess the population levels of seabirds but that we could include data held by other organisations for comparative purposes. TB mentioned where data is available we should use it. **AA**

5 Fishery Update

5.1 DNR gave a brief update on the fishery and welcomed our new Operations Manager, Timothy Costelloe and the new Deputy Harbour Master for DESIS, Callum Ellis to the committee.

5.2 MS asked AA why Hake catches have been so high, AA said this is due to W & G licences catching hake, and the relatively high abundance of hake in our waters.

5.3 MS mentioned that the finfish licence holders are concerned about the consequences of ITQ renewal and lack of trading between ITQ A & ITQ B Holders and will raise it next week at the FIFCA briefing.

6 Maritime Update

- 6.1** CE gave a brief overview of the paper.
- 6.2** CR requested to meet the Maritime team at a later date, CE said the three of them are hoping to meet everybody over the next couple of weeks.
- 6.3** CR asked if the III code audit will be done remotely, CE confirmed this is correct. MS asked if they started the UK audit, CE will check this. **CE**
- 6.4** AR asked what H & S issues has been seen at FIPASS, CE replied mostly transshipping issues that have been flagged by FIMA, Atlink, FIG H & S inspector and stevedores. CR mentioned that all issues should be flagged to the company the same day of the event happening.
- 6.5** MS asked if everyone in the department has done PSE training, CE said that one of the parts has been completed and the other parts are on-going. They are waiting for the appointments to be completed when the Port State Control is in place.

7 Licencing advice

- 7.1** AW gave a brief overview of the paper which demonstrates Hake catch trends by G and W license holders.
- 7.2** MS asked if we are managing the fishery from a holistic perspective or just from a scientific management control perspective. DNR said that ultimately it is both. Right now, we have carried stock assessments on a species by species basis and are proposing to use this to inform a TAE management system for 2022. The work that involves ownership and licenses is yet to be started and completed. Ultimately the fishery must be managed using science to inform the ITQ ownership system. DNR posed some questions to the finfish fishery ITQ holders at the end of this paper and would like start the conversation by mid-July and finish off mid-August if needed, to be finalised before the next FAC at the beginning on September.
- 7.3** MS mentioned that as Research cruises only happen in February before Hake arrives into the zone, therefore we are relying entirely on catch figures from the previous year. MS asked if you had twice as much effort you would have twice as much catch, how does that work in assessing the size of the stock? AW said that the

catch effort is not that varied. AC asked AW if we had used the most recent Hake survey data to help inform this process, AW said no and if there was huge variability in the effort from one year to the other we would have to approach that differently.

- 7.4 DI asked as if we can retrospectively look at the model to get 3 years' worth of data, AW said that we cannot go back and undo fishing behaviour. DNR added that the basis should be on ITQ ownership, if industry decided as a group that they would like to share the Hake (A license) biomass with G and W license holders then we can. We could assess and distribute according to the last 3 years of catch data for example. But this needs to be discussed between the finfish ITQ owners and responses sent to DoNR. DI asked about the move on rule for A Licence holders who are avoiding 10% of the other species and possible increasing A licence effort, DNR said A should be able to be increased without too much impact on the other species, because at the same time A increased, G & W would decrease. MS asked if had any stock data from Argentina, DNR replied not at the moment, we only have access to FAO published data.

DI asked how many years of data were used to calculate the TAC, AW said 3 year averages for Category 5, Category 3 is 5 years.

8 Biomass estimations of research biomass survey in 2021

- 8.1 JRC gave a presentation on the biomass estimations of research biomass survey in 2021.
- 8.2 DI mentioned that February isn't the time of peak abundance for Hake and that Hake is a migratory species so questioned the validity of the conclusions that can be reached by the data. JRC said it's not the timing of the survey that is bad as we are consistently having a survey every February, but for some species it might not represent the total biomass in the area, as the might not be here during February.
- 8.3 MS asked if the methodology used in 2010-2011 is consistently used in later year, AA said it is the same method and vessel. AR asked why 3 years were missing; AA explained that we surveyed something else during that time. JRC mentioned that from 2012-2014 that could have been a ground fish/pre-recruitment survey, but if they them simultaneously we cannot use that data.
- 8.4 DI asked how this data compares to Argentina with the same species; JRC said they show similar patterns to us.
- 8.5 DNR added that the industry would like see a bigger scientific budget, CR said as long as it is not industry funded.

8.6 CR asked for a deadline for feedback so the report could be finalised, DNR suggested 2 weeks.

JRC

9. Seal and seabird mitigation. Season C-2021

9.1 VI gave a presentation on the preliminary results for the MMO program for the 1st Season 2021.

9.2 VI asked where possible for the vessels to ensure the seals are helped off the deck as soon as possible after capture and it is less stress on the seals and likely to have less harm to the crew.

9.3 VI reminded the industry that as part of the licence conditions the vessels must cover their wrap splices as these are dangerous to the birds, and it makes difference to the number of mortality's. VI also asked the companies not to have any grease on the streamers as this can also cause mortality.

9.4 DNR said that this presentation shows us how we do our best to respond to the different challenges that the natural environment throws at us, although we cannot control the behaviours of the animals we can do our best to control the mitigation and that happens as a team effort. DNR acknowledged the vessel operators and the fleet on the work they have done with their discard tanks and added if that if anyone thinks they are going to have any problems, to let us know and we can create a plan.

10. Date of next meeting

10.1 The date of the next meeting is 2nd September 2021 at 09:00

No Part 2.

Minutes confirmed this 2nd September 2021

Chairman MLA Barkman Secretary Beverley Glanville