

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Thursday, 6th September 2018
2:00pm

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

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| Present: | The Honourable Teslyn Barkman – Chairperson | TB |
| | The Honourable Ian Hansen | IH |
| | Director of Natural Resources – John Barton | DNR |
| | Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin | AA |
| | Mr. Drew Irvine | DI |
| | Mr. Lewis Clifton | LC |
| | Mr. Stuart Wallace | SW |
| | Mr. Hamish Wylie | HW |

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| Minute Taker: | Miss Beverley Reid | BR |
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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | ACTION |
| 1.1 | Mrs Cheryl Roberts, Mr Barry Rowland, Captain Chris Locke | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 2.1 | Industry representatives declared an interest for every item on the agenda. SW would like to declare a particular interest in relation to the item on the FIPASS Incident in Item 5. | |
| 3 | Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2018. | |
| 3.1 | The minutes were confirmed. | |
| 4 | Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 7th June 2018. | |
| 4.1 | Item 4.1 – HW requested an update from AA about genetic sampling from Peru. AA explained that Fortuna had given 3 boxes of Peruvian squid to the department. These are currently being worked on to compare the Peruvian squid with Chilean squid and Falkland Islands squid. AA added that the department together with | |

colleagues working on genetic analysis have analysed the samples and confirmed that there is no genetic exchange between Peruvian squid and Falkland's squid. Therefore Chile and the Falklands seemingly share one species of squid and Peru has another species. AA would like to see some further squid samples from Chile to confirm this. AA thanked Stuart and Fortuna for the squid samples.

- 4.2** DNR asked if the industry had consulted the members regarding Item 7.1 from the last committee meeting. DI said that although something had been sent out by James Bates he was unsure of it had gone any further. DI remembered that there had to be a discussion about the discard tank and its capability to store waste longer than 2 hours on some occasions and that the term "technical reasons" needed to be defined. DNR suggested that the wording of the document be changed slightly to "which will not unreasonably be withheld", in sections 5.5, 5.8 and 5.9. FIFCA will consider and respond on this point.

FIFCA

5 Fishery Update

- 5.1** DNR gave a brief overview of the fishery as set out in the paper on Agenda Item 5.
- 5.2** DI asked as to what is happening with the North West Barge at FIPASS. DNR indicated it was hoped to get a submission to ExCo for October 2018. The paper is likely to look at additional restrictions which could be applied to the NW barge, it will also set out some of the options and costs for repairs, and provide the opportunity to consider whether it is preferable to put such sums into FIPASS or a potential new port. TB said that the MLA's have discussed this and they would like to see minimum impact as far as possible on the industries using the port. SW asked what the main concerns are with the NW barge. DNR replied that is mainly with the berthing face. DI asked about the costs, DNR said that would be in excess of £1,000,000. HW asked in there is a timeframe on a new port, TB said that there isn't one as yet, but appreciates that there is an urgency to decide this.
- 5.3** SW asked if Bernard Meehan (Senior Fishery Officer) is leaving and DNR confirmed that this is the case. Bernard has worked in fishery protection for many years and is scheduled to leave before Christmas.
- 5.4** SW asked AA is there had been any oceanographic data; AA said that the water was warmer which brought in the Jellyfish. These changes have been happening over the last 2 or 3 years and are due to global warming. DNR asked if this is the reason for the bumper Calamari season, AA said that it is because of good management and their faster growth is down to the warmer water.

- 5.5** AA said that a proposal will be submitted to ExCo for a temporary 2 year fixed contract Post-Doctoral position looking at the fine structure of Loligo stocks, which is important for stock assessment.
- 5.6** LC mentioned that as we all know the seal population has increased and wanted to know if this has affected the Loligo and disappearing finfish. AA said that a report from Al Baylis at SAERI should be available in due course. We already know from the preliminary report that we have the largest population of Fur seals in the South-West Atlantic, which is good for conservation and the Falklands. There have been a small number of mortalities so far this year. This was due to the seals being so small that they got stuck in the grids. The observers have observed 3700 seals in the water this season, so far, although some may be the same seal! AA mentioned that a SAERI team will be returning shortly from Bird Islands, with data on what the seals have been eating. AA said that Argentine finfish catches are dropping, this included Hoki, which is MSC certified. This highlights the benefits in communicating with Argentina about shared fish stocks. AA said that there are 2 reasons for the outlook of the next Illex season not looking promising, meteorological conditions are changing and the high seas fleet including a build-up of Chinese vessels is increasing. SW asked if attempts can be made to get an RFMO for Illex. DNR referred to the Islands plan, which includes this but emphasised there was a way to go on bilateral issues never mind progressing to multilateral issues. TB reiterated that talks had been recommenced with Argentina on fishery issues and Illex conservation is a major agenda item.

6 Total Allowable Effort & Catch-2019

- 6.1** DNR said that the letter received back from FIFCA had concentrated on the longer term proposal to consider change from TAE to TAC control in the fishery. Ideally folk will look at how they are fishing this year so can compare what a TAC style system might look like compared to the TAE system. The TAE system will apply to 2019 and the earliest a TAC system might come in would be for 2020. SW said that with the finfish catches going down and with this the effort, he would like it noted his concern is for the transition to be done fairly.

7 Date of next meeting

- 7.1** The date of the next meeting is **6th December 2018 at 0900.**

8. Exclusion of Press & Public

- 8.1** 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 Paragraphs 4 & 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012.

9 Fishing Access Fees – 2019

9.1 A discussion was had on the Fishing Access Fees.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2018.

Chairman

Secretary