

# FISHERIES COMMITTEE

## OPEN MINUTES

**Fisheries Department**  
**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
**09:00am**

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

<b>Present:</b>	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 Tom Blake	TBI
	Mr Michael Poole	MP
	Mrs Janet Robertson	JR
	Mrs Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Capt. Joanna Cox	JC
	Ms Veronica Iriarte	VI
	Dr Daryl Parkyn	DP
	Dr Jorge Ramos-Castillejos	JRC

**Minute Taker:** Mrs Beverley Glanville BG

**Public:** 3

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.1</b>	Chief Executive- Mr Andy Keeling, Hamish Wylie and Alex Reid	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	Industry representatives declared an interest for all items on the agenda.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.</b>	
<b>3.2</b>	Item 3.2 MP said mentioned the typo “it says onion where is should say opinion”	<b>BG</b>

#### **4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

- 4.1** Item 4.6 MP asked if TB had asked about this, TB said that she has but she has nothing in writing and so will ask ExCo for a specific quote from the minutes. **TB**
- 4.2** MP asked if the licence fee setting was due to be discussed at the September Fisheries Advisory Committee. DNR hopes to, but does not think that we will have an Economist by September. DNR said that she has advised EXCO that it will be difficult to review the fees, other than in the round, without any detailed expert support. DNR will bring a paper to the next FAC in September and it will be in Part 2.
- 4.3** CR asked for it to be written in the minutes that all financial confidential information from the now on, will always be in Part 2 of the agenda, like has been done before.
- 4.4** Item 8.5 TB asked if BG had actioned the meeting regarding seabird data. DNR confirmed that she has spoken with AA about this and he is in talks with Al Baylis from SAERI. **AA**

#### **5 Fishery Update**

- 5.1** DNR gave a brief update on the fishery.
- 5.2** DNR thanked MLAs for supporting our requests for an Economist and Cephalopod Scientist in the recent budget session and said that the job descriptions will be completed and recruitment started shortly.
- 5.3** DNR noted a typo under Illex Fishery, she stated that the paper will be presented to the FAC in September 2022.
- 5.4** TBI asked if they could be provided with a department organogram. JR as they could also have a brief note on all job descriptions. AA to ask out Data Manager to put the organogram on our website and BG to prepare a list of job descriptions for all staff. **AA/BG**
- 5.5** MP asked about the MEP report and who has the Economic data and is it publicly available, DNR replied that she has the data and only the Finfish headline data has been supplied to MEP and it won't be made public. A draft of the report will become available, once completed around the end of July, DNR to check this date. **DNR**

#### **6. Compliance Report**

- 6.1** SR gave a brief overview of the report.
- 6.2** CR said she was told that Compliance issues, when they occurred, would be

reported to the company concerned at the time they happened. CR would like to know who is collating the data and what is the process and if they are going to be told when an incident arises in real time. SR said that she hopes that the data will be shared and this will become more accessible once we have a new Operation Manager in post. DNR noted that the observers may need a bit of extra training to ensure their practice for reporting compliance is as we planned.

**6.3** JR mentioned the Scientific Observers and that she feels they also need training as to what they can and can't say to the captains. JR also feels that the incidents need to be recorded in real time and there have been cases that they didn't know about any issues until they see the observer reports, over 8 weeks later.

**6.4** DNR mentioned that our internal database for keeping track of all of the compliance issues. The industry had concerns that they don't know what information is stored on the database. DNR run through the data sources and explained that all of it is seen by industry but not necessarily in the same format. DNR also stated that the compliance records note when mitigating measures are put in place.

**6.5** CR asked why the draft MMO reports were not sent to the industry, DNR said there are two reasons for this:

1. The Observer programme is 100% FIG and so the data should naturally come to FIG first.
2. There is nothing about compliance in the MMO reports, this is dealt with separately. DNR added that of course all of the raw data that these reports are built on come to industry twice weekly.

CR asked the DNR is she was aware that MRAG was asking for Companies to sign an agreement between the companies and MRAG, DNR said that she was aware of this and they asked her if she felt this was necessary and she did not feel it was necessary but told them that they could ask the companies, but there was no obligation to sign. CR asked DNR if the MRAG reports could be released sooner, DNR agreed they would try.

## **7 Maritime Update**

**7.1** JC gave a brief overview of the paper.

**7.2** MP asked JC if Roger Gee will be back, JC said she hoped so, but that he was not on contract to FIMA at this point in time. JC said that with Roger's advice and support they could continue on from what they did last year.

**7.3** JC explained how she needed a meeting room for the 29<sup>th</sup> June meeting. JC to check with BG if Fisheries room is available. **JC**

**7.4** MP said other than the couple of minor incidents that happened at the start of the season, industry feedback has been very positive and thanked the Maritime Department and FishOps for all the work they have done on this.

**8 February bottom trawl survey biomass of fishery species in Falkland Islands waters, 2010-2022**

- 8.1** JRC gave a presentation on the biomass from the February surveys.
- 8.2** JR noted that for most on the species there seems to be upward trend and asked why this is. JRC said that more oceanography needs to be done on this.
- 8.3** JR asked if part of the reason Rockcod has increased is due to it being mistaken by other species. AA said maybe on the vessels by the crew, but not the observers.
- 8.4** TBI mentioned that if the overall catch has decreased, then it should be in total catch, not by total discard as this effect the biomass. JRC said that you discard the little Rockcod and in doing so, they cannot reach maturity. TBI said it isn't about what has been discarded, it is about what has been caught.
- 8.5** MP asked how strong is the correlation is between the biomass estimates and the CPUE data. JRC said that he hasn't done correlation analysis between the patterns, but noted that the threads are similar on the graphs. JRC said that as the survey only happens in February, the timings might not be the best for some species.
- 8.6** MP asked for more information on this and what the implications for each stock and how its translated into management measures and is there anything else the industry can be doing, DNR said the scientific data that is collected to help inform the setting of the allowable catch by species, but different models are used. DNR asked if they wanted more environmental data or more understanding of how we use the data. MP said they would like a mixture of the two, oceanographic information and more high seas/Argentine data. AA said that we do not have any high seas scientific data, only catch data, which is being monitored. TB said they are still asking DEFRA and Fisheries experts for more high seas regulations rules.

**9 Finfish Licensing advice-2023**

- 9.1** AA gave a brief overview of the stock assessment scientists paper on finfish licensing advice.
- 9.2** CR asked if individual vessel units for Finfish vessels are being worked on, DNR said that it will be allocated per company and will come back in the FAC in September as the final agreed vessel unit allocation for 2023.
- 9.3** TBI asked about the VU rating and vessel categories, DNR said this was done on an average but when divided up it will reflect the actual vessels. TBI asked about the increase in G and decrease in W effort and the only difference is G also targets Illex, why are they being changed. DNR said it is to do with timing of the seasons. DNR said that we have to catch what is in the zone, when it is there. AA added that the biomass is taken from the

ground fish surveys, but for some categories we are using catch data. TBI added that Hoki is one of the species that is influenced by the catches, DNR confirmed this is the case. AA added that according to this formula if they stay in the north and catch Hake as a bycatch, next year the bycatch will decrease your allocation further. DNR added that it would be great if the G & W licence holders, caught the fish that they are entitled to catch to stop this from happening. TBI said that he hadn't thought about it like this. CR asked we could restrict some of the grid squares to stop this from happening, AA said then they just fish the borders. DNR suggested a separate meeting to go through this with Andreas once he is back, BG to organise.

**BG**

## **10. VU options for vessel replacement in the Calamari fishery**

**10.1** SR gave a brief overview of the paper that was prepared by Andreas.

**10.2** CR explained that that had a 3<sup>rd</sup> option which was to stay in the Status quo and if a new vessel comes into the fleet whether it be temporary or permanent the vessel units are worked out and it will have the lesser amount of days. CR said that if the biomass was to increase, we wouldn't want to penalise 1 vessel because it came in at X point and can never be changed. AA said if the biomass increases then the proportions increase equally through fleet.

**10.3** TBI said the operators are happy with the system we have now, DNR added that they it might have unforeseen issues further down the line as we get new vessels. CR said a quarter of the fleet has already been replaced and the biomass has increased, DNR said that is about relativity. CR asked why we would change it if the current system works well and it has been agreed, SR said that we wanted to give the industry and option to change it.

**10.4** MP added that the industry as happy to take the risks of the impact and said that it encourages others to invest. DNR asked SR and Andreas to do some examples to show how it is going to work, all agreed.

**SR**

## **11 Preliminary results for MMO program in Loligo fleet (2022-C)**

**11.1** VI gave a presentation on the first season 2022 MMO program.

**11.2** No questions were asked, VI was thanked for her presentation.

## **12 Skate Abundance Survey and Mesh Trial ZDLV 2021-10**

**12.1** DP gave a presentation on the results from the Skate Abundance Survey and Mesh Trial on Petrel in October 2021

**12.2** MP appreciated that the data is conclusive that there is not a commercial fishery there at the moment and asked when we would look at this again. DP said that it could because the by-catch of some of the skate is so high, it

could be suppressing the recovery of those skate species and it should be monitored on regular basis.

**12.3** TBI asked if the by-catch in the Finfish fishery is preventing the recovery of the skate, DP said it could be. TBI asked some main species were endangered, so does that indicate an increase in abundance to the endangered ones, DP said it could be that or it could be when ICUN made the assessments for those species, they may not have included all of the information on those species and the maybe regionally abundant and it isn't reflected in their analysis.

**13** The date of the next meeting is 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 09:00

Post meeting note:

Item 4.1 TB has confirmed that "One ExCo member responded to the request of an explanation from the Chair outlining that the financial position and market value of fisheries does relate to the license process, they are commercial fisheries. However, they felt that the information was not complete and more should be requested this year"

No Part 2.

Minutes confirmed this      day of September 2022  
**Chairman**                      **Secretary**