

# FISHERIES COMMITTEE

## OPEN MINUTES

**Fisheries Department**  
**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**9:00am**

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 Roger Spink	RS
	Director of Natural Resources – Dr Andrea Clausen	DNR
	Dr Andreas Winter	AW
	Ms Sheena Ross	SR
	Mr Alex Blake	AB
	Mr Michael Poole	MP
	Mr Hamish Wylie	HW
	Mr Drew Irvine	DI
	Mrs Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Capt Joanna Cox	JC
	Mr Chris Moorey	
CM		
	Mrs Wendy Shelbourne (via MS Teams)	WS
	Mr Simon Young (via MS Teams)	SY
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Mrs Beverley Glanville	BG
<b>Public:</b>	7	

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.1</b>	Chief Executive- Mr Andy Keeling & MLA Birmingham	
<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 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	Item 6.4 CR said mentioned the typo “it says ran though the data where is should say run”	<b>BG</b>
<b>3.2</b>	Item 10.2 CR said there was another typo “came not can”	<b>BG</b>

#### **4 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**4.1** Item 4.1 TB asked ExCo and they said that they required more information on how the economic data was used in reviewing licence fees.

**4.2** Item 4.4 DNR said there will be a census carried out on Beauchene Island using a drone and the Protegat as a platform, permission has been secured from the environment committee. This will take place early November 2022.

**4.3** Item 5.5 DNR said that the timeline has been delayed for a number of reasons, but expects to have a Teams meeting with MEP in the next couple of weeks.

**4.4** Item 6.3 MP said the communication from the Marine Mammal Observers and Scientific Observers this year has been excellent. CR asked for the end of season reports sooner this year, DNR said that we will do our best.

**4.5** Item 9.1 CR asked about the vessel units on Finfish licensing advice paper that was prepared by the Stock assessment scientists. DNR said that she talked to AW about this and he said it was practiced last year because it was such a significant change. We had a meeting with industry about it to explain what happened and there was no further feedback, therefore no change to the licensing advice.

#### **5 Fishery Update**

**5.1** DNR gave a brief update on the fishery.

**5.2** HW asked what are the terms with the new Catch Verification contract as there has been huge costs incurred by the old contract. SR explained that the new contract allows for 24 hour working. HW asked if the basic terms and conditions of the contract could be shared with industry. DNR said we will make a note of some key points and send them out, but we have to respect the confidentiality of the contract.

SR

#### **6 Maritime Update**

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

**6.2** JC introduced Chris Moorey the new Head of Maritime, Chris will be joining the committee instead of JC in the future.

**6.3** MP mentioned that we shouldn't lose sight of the Vanuatu flag, JC said recent communications have been with their flag state representative, Michael DeCharles and this will continue.

**6.4** HW asked if the audit is an audit on FIMA or the industry, JC confirmed it

was looking at FIMA and how they discharge their III Code obligations.

## **7 Illex Licences 2023**

- 7.1** DNR gave overview of the paper.
- 7.2** JC is also in full agreement that the age of the vessel be removed from the point system.
- 7.3** MP said that vessel age is used globally as an indicator of standards and feels it still has a place here for 2 reasons: 1. MP considers the risk is higher for something to go catastrophically wrong with an older vessel. 2. MP would like to see investment in newer vessels that are Torremolinos compliant incentivised using this process.
- 7.4** JC said that the age of the vessels over time will become self-limiting as those vessels that have got exemptions will no longer be able to maintain the requirements and the older vessels will start to disappear through natural wastage.
- 7.5** WS said that Dragon and their professional Maritime consultant that they have been dealing with, agree with removing the age criteria from the system as many of the vessels do go through significant refits and modernisation, so how could this be recognised in a points system which takes into consideration vessel age. Also, they feel the only way to do a proper assessment of the vessel and its management, is to audit the vessels safety management system and rigorous PSC (Port State control). WS said looking back at Dragon's incidents since 2015, there have been 3 major incidents and none of these were related to the age of the vessel, 2 were possibly related to the lack of a reasonable safety management system and the other was due to poor maintenance on one of the items on the vessel. WS mentioned that she is aware that some new vessels don't comply with Torremolinos as well as some older vessels, so you cannot compare the two.
- 7.6** MP although the vessel age was only 5% of the criteria anyway, they would like to see it recognised in some form.
- 7.7** HW said that he was fully in agreement that the exemptions will drive vessel replacement, but hopes that in the future we will also look at the economics of the fishery at the time and if everything is going along nicely, push for newer vessels but if not, then we have to be a little more pragmatic and keep the vessels in the fishery if it is safe to do so.
- 7.8** DNR noted that the industry would like a bit more definition on accidents and incidents, including transparency about how the different roles (fishing master, vessel operator, FI partner) are assessed. This will be clear in the final version of the points scoring matrix. **DNR**
- 7.9** MP added that it would be useful at the start of each licencing process for FIFD to issue a list of what they have on our record that we are using to

	<p>assess your application. DNR explained that most of the data sources are shared but that some data is confidential. DNR noted that they will continue to compile data from the Observer reports and licence inspections and will provide companies with a summary at the end of each season.</p>	<b>DONR</b>
<b>7.10</b>	<p>MP mentioned that only 25% of the scoring on this application is to do with local company involvement, DNR explained that we are looking at the scoring in the other categories and that it might change. DNR added that if industry wanted to give feedback on this after the meeting for the ExCo paper we could append, but asked for it to be one letter that includes all points if possible.</p>	<b>FIFCA</b>
<b>7.11</b>	<p>DNR understands there will some timing issues, with regards to companies securing the correct paperwork for their application, however where companies are applying for a 3-year licence they will be expected to provide an ‘International fishing vessel certificate’ or a ‘Certificate of compliance’ from either the flag state of a class society with any exemptions noted and evidence that mitigations have been approved alongside the stability book. HW asked about the window for submission, DNR stated that it must be before you to pick up your licence. SY added that we would potentially need to change the regulations to issue multi-year licences, so the best route is to use the annual licence with pre-qualifications.</p>	
<b>7.12</b>	<p>MP asked if the goal is that once we have got the final list, the companies could run their vessels though it and get close to what the score is going to be? DNR stated they should be able to get a rough idea yes as some of the data assessed is binary, but this is caveated with other data sources.</p>	
<b>7.13</b>	<p>HW asked who will have access to the application data, DNR said that SR and AB will be asked to assist with assessments of applications, the legal team will probably also have some involvement but all sensitive commercial data will be protected.</p>	
<b>7.14</b>	<p>HW asked if industry could have a list of who has viewed their data as part of the assessment, DNR said this can be done. HW added that there is increasing concern throughout the industry, that their data will be shared with people that are now working with the competition. HW asked who would be at the licencing presentations, DNR said it would be herself, the Fisheries Manager, the Operations Manager and someone from legal, probably the Attorney General. HW asked if the presentation could be split in two parts to further corral the distribution on the sensitive data, DNR agreed they would ensure data is protected.</p>	
<b>7.15</b>	<p>MP explained how he could see the incentive for vessels to go to a 3-year licence, but if the vessel doesn’t have certificate due to time restraints at the start of the season, it could then be penalised for not having it. MP feels that the discount should be 10% across the fleet. HW agrees and added that even if they have their certificates and stability books completed, they may not be signed off in time. JC said that she understands that stability books can take</p>	

time to get signed off by the MCA, but said we are willing to accept provisional approval. DNR concluded that industry is welcome to give more feedback.

**7.16** HW explained how the catches of Illex on the high seas are dragging the prices of the squid down on the market and would like to see FIG do more with IUU fishing on high seas to make the fishery more viable. DNR said that she spoke about this while she was away and FIG will support in any way they can, along with the Fisheries Overseas Development Council in Taiwan. DNR added that the industry should be using the fact that their product is caught by safe vessels with robust crew welfare systems making this a ‘better more sustainable’ product than that caught outside the FI EEZ.

**BG**

**7.17** MP asked when the deadline line will be, DNR asked for feedback by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**7.18** DNR suggested that they have a meeting once the paper has been submitted to ExCo to talk about what has been presented.

## **8 VU options for vessel replacement in the calamari fishery II**

**8.1** AW gave a brief overview on the VU options for vessel replacement in the calamari fishery.

**8.2** HW asked how much in the changes in the years 2,3,4 & 5 were to do with the change in the Cat 3 vessel as opposed to the increase in the productivity of a Cat 5 vessel. AW said he could do this but whether it is conclusive or not, it is hard to say. HW asked if we have been using the VU in year one, AW agreed that is what we have been using.

**8.3** MP asked if we could reverse the principle and go from a higher category to a lower category, AW said this is possible.

**8.4** HW said that now there are quite big catches until the end of the season and historically sometimes the fishery closed early and asked if this is considered. AW said it is not explicitly considered in these calculations, however if you are catching more on the day, then that day is worth more money in your pocket. AW added it if doesn't change the ratio on those vessels then it won't affect the calculation.

## **9. Skate survey biomass**

**9.1** AW gave a brief overview of the Skate survey biomass paper.

**9.2** TB asked if this was new data being considered in this report as in the last fisheries committee, we were told that there wasn't a viable skate fishery. AW replied that Daryl Parkyn's presentation was only for the most recent survey in 2021 and there was an action for FIFD to review this data against other survey's as well. There has been an internal discussion and it has been recognised that we had other data that should have been reviewed alongside

the 2021 survey data. Today's presentation does that. SR added that she had been approached about supporting a National Plan of Action for Elasmobranchs (NPOA), a meeting between interested parties has taken place and FIFD have identified an observer who will stay on at the end of their contract to complete some tasks to contribute to the development of this NPOA - Elasmobranchs. This project will start in July 2023 and will last for 3 - 4 months. Andreas will provide Scientific support and the FIFD will support the observer during this time. Following the completion of this work we will reflect on what this plan means for the existing Skate fishery and discuss next steps with the relevant parties.

**9.3** MP mentioned that there are 3 licence holders in this fishery currently (Fortuna, Sullivan and RBC). Sullivan and Fortuna's view is that they are happy to accept the recommendations for this paper which is for a TAC of 500mt TAC for 2023. They prefer to have the allocation there just in case we want to use it and they would make a commitment to engage closely with the Fisheries team in an experimental way even though it is a commercial TAC. RBC would prefer to see no commercial fishery next year, on the basis of the information that was presented by Daryl as a precautionary approach and they would prefer for there to be more research using E licences to monitor for any stock recovery.

**9.4** SR added that a member of the environment department attended the two meetings on the NPOA the 'Terms of Reference' are currently being drafted. TB asked if it will be presented to the Environment Committee at some point to inform them, SR said not at the moment but will work closely with them.

## **10 Date of next meeting**

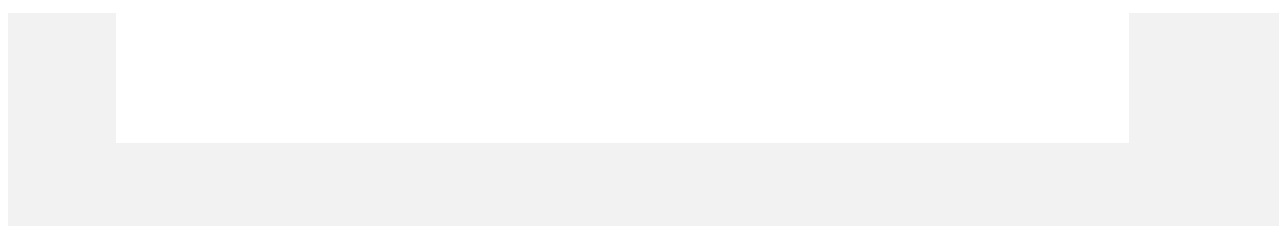
**10.1** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 09:00am

## **11 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

*The Committee resolved to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the next items of business to be considered were exempt within the terms of paragraph 4 & 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012 relating to ITQ fees 2023.*

## **12 ITQ fees 2023**

**12.1** DNR gave a brief overview of the ITQ fees for 2023 paper and this was followed by a discussion with the group which included mention of the global volatility at the moment which should be taken into account when setting fees. This forms parts of the exempt Minutes that are not for publication.



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