



**Fisheries Advisory Committee**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 09:00**  
**Fisheries Meeting Room**

**OPEN MINUTES**

*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- Deputy Chair	JB
	Director of Natural Resources – Dr Andrea Clausen	DNR
	Mr Michael Poole	MP
	Mr Drew Irvine	DI
	Ms Cheryl Roberts	CR
	Mr Alex Reid	AR
	Mr Chris Moorey	CM
	Mr Matt Jenkins	MJ
	Mr Andreas Winter	AW
	Ms Veronica Iriate	VI
	Mr Alex Blake	AB
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Mrs Claire Young	CY

**PART I (Open)**

		ACTION
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
1.1	Zoe Fowler and Hamish Wylie	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	
2.1	Industry representatives declared an interest for all items on the agenda. TB declared an interest in any SAAS related items	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>	
3.1	The Minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>	
4.1	4.2 MP stated that the KPMG report work is ongoing, FIFCA have shared an executive summary, attached in the closed section, the report is in its	

	<p>final stage of completion and unlikely to change substantially. Once completed FIFCA will share it.</p> <p>TB asked for clarification that there is already a draft report which is being discussed with KPMG. MP agreed that a discussion took place last week and some points are just being finalized now.</p>	
4.2	<p>4.3 Brexit group meeting- a Brexit group meeting which included DNR has occurred and notes have been circulated to the FIFCA board. Industry is still looking for solutions to the issues faced and are awaiting confirmation of the definition under the newly agreed ATQ.</p> <p>DNR noted that she had raised the issues faced by industry with both the visiting MP's and Minister Rutley regarding the trade agreement with UK and lack of mandate for Overseas territories. DNR and TB have requested that the UK government seek to involve overseas territories in the 2025 review of the trade agreement.</p>	
4.3	<p>4.6 Industry didn't have any written feedback or concerns from FIFCA members regarding G Licence proposal. DNR confirmed that the proposal was a pragmatic approach and if people are content with that then this will go ahead.</p>	
4.4	<p>4.7 -MP confirmed that FIFCA did not follow up in writing about compensatory days but have requested a meeting, DNR acknowledged the request and will send a diary invitation for this next week but asked FIFCA to email key points to be discussed in advance of this.</p>	<b>FIFCA/ DNR</b>
4.5	<p>5 Fisheries update</p> <p>5.6 MP confirmed that work for admin penalties is still ongoing, FIFCA submitted a list of questions and points from members. MJ confirmed that FIFD forwarded this to Government Legal services, who have gone back to review legislation and return a draft response. The response is to be reviewed with DNR and legal feedback will be shared with Industry. CR questioned the time taken, DNR reassured that it is still ongoing but has been secondary to higher priority work.</p>	<b>FIFD</b>
4.6	<p>8 Illex Licensing Policy 2024</p> <p>8.1 MP confirmed that IOG made comments but have some questions to be raised regarding Illex licensing in closed section part2 if DNR agreed.</p>	
4.7	<p>8.2 MP requested clarification on what was agreed in ExCo regarding Trawling in G licence policy, DNR confirmed that the policy is set but the law has not been not changed, which aligns with the agreement in FAC.</p>	
4.8	<p>8.4 FIFD wish to encourage transshipment before the fishing license inspections, if the company wish to do this, ExCo approved that any pre-license transshipment (for B licenses) are free from transshipment charges.</p>	
4.9	<p>8.6 MP confirmed that FIFCA had completed this action.</p>	
4.10	<p>8.7 DNR confirmed that a Draft Licence application form was available</p>	

	prior to the licence application pack being circulated.	
4.11	12.4 DNR confirmed that FIFD had looked in to why the Loligo box was set out as it is. Whilst records as far back as 2008 were reviewed nothing was found, DNR reiterated her assumption that perhaps the line had been a balance in order reduce bycatch of other species.	
4.13	13.7 A meeting between Frane and FIFCA members to talk through his paper has not yet taken place, AW will ensure this occurs, likely early 2024.	<b>FIFD</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Fishery update</b>	
5.1	DNR summarised the catch report.	
5.2	DNR Summarised the staffing changes at FIFD many following on from the restructure. Deputy Director candidates have now been shortlisted and interviews are planned for next week. Fisheries development officer will be revisited following a failed recruitment round.	
5.3	DNR summarised the Fisheries managers report. 106 Illex offers have been made with a deadline of 4:30pm on Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> to accept/reject the offer. Tender process has started for compliance observers - FIFD is taking a different approach where the observers will be split between the Loligo and the Finfish fisheries. The Compliance Observer (for Loligo fleet) tender is in and awaiting moderation by DNR before it goes to the tender board for decision.	
5.4	DNR summarised the FIFD policy, legislation and Projects report, ITQ Fees 2024 - paper is with Gilbert House for ExCo 12 <sup>th</sup> December and is also on the closed agenda of this meeting. DNR noted that given the ever-challenging process of allocating Illex license (due to the good work implementing changes in the fleet by all operators), that in order to provide stability for 2025, she will bring an early allocation policy to ExCo (following discussion with industry) in the first quarter of 2024.	
5.5	The task of setting fees will depend on the 2024 fishing season so will be presented in a separate paper later in the year.	
5.6	MP asked for clarity if number of allocations is accurate at 106. DNR stated that this will be addressed in the closed section. MP asked if all the vessels awarded a licence have 3year commitment, why is there a need for an allocation policy? DNR clarified that the vessels have preferential access for a period of 3 years. Since it is likely there will be more vessels with letters than there are available licenses a policy will be needed. Further questions would need to be moved to the closed section.	
5.7	DNR stated position of the Illex economics tender, which is a joint project between IOG and FIG, FIFD have received the feedback from industry	

	representatives, the scores are awaiting moderation before it is passed to the Tender board and then the award will be issued.	
5.8	Illex in to ITQ has not been progressed yet but will be in 2024.	
5.9	MP asked is FIFD waiting on anything from IOG. DNR is awaiting feedback regarding Korean Government's decision. DNR has been advised that they are not able to permit charter arrangements for their flagged vessels. DNR requested that she receives this information before policy work is progressed. DNR noted that the Korean Government committed to provide a copy of the agreement between the government and industry regarding the provision of soft loans for the rebuilding of Korean vessels. MP will feed this back to IOG.	<b>IOG</b>
6	<b>Maritime report</b>	
6.1	CM read through the report. Port state fishing vessel inspections no change since last meeting, new season starts in the new year. Accident and reporting figures are as per the report, there are no significant concerns. IMO audit is now routine business. The recent Maritime Compliance Steering Committee were fully briefed on the progress towards addressing the 8 audit findings.	
6.2	Ship to ship transfer regulations were published in the Gazette, focus is on reporting the compliance with operational plans onboard the tanker and appropriately qualified people overseeing the transfer. Reporting burden is on the providing vessel. No change in operational practice however maritime will have an increased awareness about when bunkering/cargo transfers takes place in order to meet agreement.	
6.3	CM acknowledged that GMDSS VHS radio installation has taken longer than desired but now Mount Kent and Sappers hill are fully operational, tangible results have been noted with good comms at ECMP.	
6.4	CM stated that once all antennae sites are operational East and West, results modelling indicated that it will be possible have GMDSS VHS communication out to 17miles from the coast. Second stage is to install GMDSS medium and high frequency which will give radio for the entire zones. Aids to Navigation contractor is in place and working on maintaining and replacing A-to-N around the coast. Installations can be seen at Cape Pembroke.	
7	<b>Compliance Update</b>	
7.1	AB read through the report and stated that due to a low number of vessels there are currently fewer boarding's. AB noted that observers will now report on compliance daily.	
7.2	MRAG observers noted only minor compliance issues mostly around under	

7.3	<p>reporting of discards. A notice to owners to remind them that there should be no discard until warps stop moving has been issued.</p> <p>Lilibet patrols have been affected by poor weather days, with 1 more day of sheltering than Protegat in 2022. Lilibet has performed some exercises with the MOD SAR helicopter.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>FIFCA update</b>	
8.1	<p>MP stated that with regards to EU tariffs, FIFCA had a session with Richard last week which was helpful. Awaiting imminently to hear about ATQ system for next year. This is related to avoiding tariffs by processing in an EU market and potential some change of working, unknown if this will help until the final wording has been seen and circulated</p>	
8.2	<p>TB stated it was good to see all the overseas work FIFCA has been doing.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>MMO program 2023</b>	
9.1	<p>VI talked through the presentation and statistics.</p> <p>There has been 100% observer coverage from 2017.</p> <p>More than 7000 seals were sighted, almost 60% in 2 grid squares near Beauchene island.</p> <p>SED was compulsory for both seasons; 35 seals were noted to escape through the SED hatch; however, mortalities can occur when turning.</p> <p>Most animals' behaviour was foraging and eating around net.</p> <p>In 2023 there was a significant decrease in seals -55% which could be due to low squid numbers.</p> <p>73% of Seabird activity was also around Beauchene island.</p> <p>Most of the interactions are with nets or Birds scaring lines.</p> <p>Split in thirds between live escapes, mortalities and released alive.</p>	
9.2	<p>MP asked if the data can be adjusted the data to normalise for fishing effort e.g. mortality per fishing hours. VI explained that this level of detail is contained with the reports. DNR and CR agreed that this data is present in the reports.</p>	
9.3	<p>DNR stated that a survey was carried out last November to assess the size of the breeding population of Albatross, on Beauchene Island. Whilst the report is not yet finalised, the figures indicate that the population is stable, meaning the large increase in interactions is not a direct result of population growth, but more a reflection of concentration of birds. CR noted that it is also reassuring that there has been no decrease in population.</p>	
9.4	<p>VI stated that it is not just increased interactions but also that the behaviour is different in the South Vs the North.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Veterinary Inspection Fees 24/25</b>	
10.1	<p>DNR explained why Veterinary Inspection Fees featured on the agenda. As part of a review of FIG budget setting process, it was asked that where there is an appropriate committee the fees proposals should be taken to it, allowing members of committee to provide comments and feedback to be logged by the committee and sent with the Treasury Paper to the Budget</p>	

