



**Fisheries Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 13:30**  
**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 Roger Spink- Deputy Chair	RS
	Director of Natural Resources – Dr Andrea Clausen	DNR
	Mr Michael Poole	MP
	Mr Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr Tom Blake	TBI
	Mr Chris Moorey	CM
	Mr Matt Jenkins	MJ
	Mr Andreas Winter	AW
	Mr Simon Young	SY
	Mr Alex Blake	AB
	Mr James Bates	JB
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Mrs Claire Young	CY

**PART I (Open)**

		ACTION
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
1.1	<b>MLA John Birmingham Cheryl Roberts Alex Reid</b>	
<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 4<sup>th</sup> December 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 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	

	<p><b>2023</b></p> <p><b>Illex Licensing Policy</b></p> <p>4.1 4.7 MP noted that he may have referred to G licence but meant B licence as that was the licence under discussion. MP requested that this be noted for clarity.</p> <p><b>Brexit and ATQ</b></p> <p>4.2 4.2 MP noted the new ATQ rules commenced in January 2024; industry is waiting to see the Spanish authorities' interpretation of these rules, in order to identify if they are comparably beneficial to the previous rules. Looking at usage of ATQ so far, the indications are not positive having only used 247mt out of the 75,000mt allocated, but it was noted that it is still early in the season. TB asked where the information will be sought. MP noted it was the Conxemar Sales Association as well as industry's own sales partners</p> <p><b>ITQ Fees 2024</b></p> <p>4.3 4.1 RS noted that on 14th September 2023 the KPMG report was stated to be in preparation for October 2023. The key findings were presented on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 which stated that detailed assumptions were included in the final report however this final report has not been shared. RS asked if industry intend to share this final report.</p> <p>MP stated that industry received the final report late January/early February 2024, FIFCA have had a meeting to discuss it with DNR, although DNR remains unsighted on its contents. MP advised that the report's terms of reference are narrow and designed to inform and lobby for the 2024 fee setting process. Statistics from that report were used in the letter industry submitted to that process. FIFCA's opinion is that the report has limited value to the current discussions for 2025 fee setting due to the focus on capital spending projections for the next decade which does not help decisions regarding the best fee setting mechanism.</p> <p>RS stated that it would be really useful to see the detailed assumptions in the final report. TB noted that more detail is helpful as it may support governance in other decision making and projections beyond fee setting by being able to quantify what the expectations are for capital expenditure.</p> <p>MP stated that relevant information will be made available. RS asked if the full report will be made available. MP stated it will be available in conjunction with more planned work to model specific mechanisms which are to be commissioned from KPMG in the next few months.</p> <p>4.4 DNR outlined that FIFD will identify in the project plan to Executive Council, a wide range of mechanisms for fee setting, FIFD will have their own list of options and these will be considered alongside those suggested</p>	
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	<p>by industry.</p> <p>DNR noted that it was understood that the KPMG report would build on the previous report and look forward using interim period data from industry including the challenges of investments and requirements for further investment for the future. There is a benefit to knowing if the January report will be made available, as the information required going forward will be very different from that included for the 2024 fee setting.</p>	
4.5	<p>RS noted the letter submitted by FIFCA stated the detailed report would be available with the detailed assumptions.</p> <p>DI stated that the KMPG report finalised in January was commissioned to set a position about 2024 fee setting and that now the fees are set the issue is closed.</p>	
4.6	<p>DNR noted the early KPMG work contained industry supported assumptions, following review by MEP, several questions were raised and still need to be answered as a basis to move forward with the fee review. It was anticipated that seeing the full KPMG data set would support the early work assumptions as well as provide updated assumptions which would be useful.</p> <p>TB noted that sight of the full report would also build confidence around the FIFCA letter which highlighted the risks industry were facing.</p> <p>MP stated that all parties wish to ensure decision making is correctly informed and FIFCA will provide the data that is required as the process is ongoing. The reticence to releasing all of industry's data is due to the risk of misinterpretation and misuse of data.</p> <p>MP states that the board will be asked to revisit this decision.</p>	<b>FIFCA</b>
4.7	<p><b>Compensatory Days</b></p> <p>4.4 DNR confirmed that a meeting with FIFCA regarding compensatory days has been held.</p>	
4.8	<p><b>Admin Penalties</b></p> <p>4.5 DNR noted that admin penalty work is on hold due to the prioritisation of resources. Work remains ongoing with the legal team and once this is completed a meeting will be scheduled to feedback.</p>	
4.9	<p><b>Toothfish Bycatch Paper</b></p> <p>4.13 DNR noted that Frane has given a presentation to the wider fishing industry and provided FIFD with a management approach to implement should we be faced with a sudden increase in abundance of juvenile Toothfish in the Loligo fishery. So far, a large recruitment has not been seen in 2024, however FIFD will circulate this management approach. MJ will speak to LPG in due course to formalise the management route should it arise next year.</p>	<b>FIFD</b>
	<p><b>IOG update re Korean flag rules</b></p>	

4.10	<p>5.9 - MP discussed this with WS regarding whether the Korean flag rules will allow for charter parties. DNR requested a formal response regarding this. MP stated that a formal note should be submitted from legal representatives who have liaised with the Korean equivalent Director of Fisheries, and Korean Head of Maritime and the conclusion is clear that charter parties are not permitted under Korean Flag rules. However, all parties want to find a solution so there is the possibility of a contractual arrangement which is not a full charter party but achieves a similar outcome. This will be sent by the Korean operators.</p> <p>DNR thanked MP for the update.</p>	
5	<p><b>Fishery update</b></p> <p>5.1 DNR introduced the new format for the fisheries report. In science operations, DNR noted that both the pre-season survey for Loligo and groundfish survey were successful with the reports currently being prepared. The Loligo biomass modelling is ongoing as the season is in progress and briefings will occur when the reports are ready.</p> <p>5.2 DNR noted the Catch report was accurate at writing and updated the current findings. Illex is proceeding well, the current trajectory would indicate a strong catch compared to recent years. The Loligo season appears to be more moderate, with current predictions making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in recent years. The arrival of hake has now been noted in the zone which is being monitored and Toothfish catches are strong.</p> <p>5.3 FIFD were approached last year about inshore fisheries by an interested party, who followed the process of undertaking an EIA for their proposed operation. FIFD will implement a cautious approach and an experimental licence was issued yesterday. The licence is for crab potting within specific areas with data collected by us so that the distribution and abundance of this species can be monitored. DNR stated that no feedback letter was received by FIFCA, as requested in previous FAC.</p> <p>MP confirmed that no written feedback had been submitted.</p> <p>5.4 DNR noted that some of the staffing posts had progressed since the report was written and provided an update. The Deputy Director is awaiting medical and dental approval. MJ has just started as the Head of Fisheries Management this week and recruitment will begin soon for a new Licensing and ITQ Manager.</p> <p>The three Compliance Officers are in the process of arriving, there are four posts and the fourth post will go back out to advert in due course.</p> <p>FIFD are now recruiting two Fishery Protection Officers as one FPO is moving to a different department in FIG.</p> <p>5.5 DNR noted that most of the policy and legislative projects are either on the</p>	

	<p>agenda today or on hold. ITQ access fees are the priority, this is being progressed with an aim to submit a paper on the project plan to Executive Council in the coming months. FIFD has been working with FIFCA on this with the consultants commencing early analysis for potential options which will all be considered including feedback from industry.</p>	
5.6	<p>MP noted the Loligo catches are strong but variable and asked AW about the concentration of the Loligo biomass this year.</p> <p>AW stated the biomass was concentrated at the beginning but now depletion is commencing. AW did not class this as an abnormal distribution.</p> <p>MP stated that with the pre-season biomass figure industry expected higher average catches at the start of the season. MP stated from previous seasons with similar biomass figures, average catches would be 80-90T per day but this season they are getting only 40-50T across the fleet.</p> <p>TB asked if this was based on trends or data analysis.</p> <p>MP stated this was estimates from an anecdotal basis.</p> <p>AW noted that it is normal to have a range of variability in biomass concentration each year.</p>	
5.7	<p>MP asked if it was now too late to see a Toothfish recruitment event?</p> <p>AW noted that whilst it is not impossible the chances of this being a strong recruitment year decrease every day.</p>	
6	<p><b>Maritime report</b></p>	
6.1	<p>CM highlighted three elements of the report. David Fuller (Maritime Consultant Chief Surveyor) has been down for 3 weeks and visited merchant and fishing vessels, as well as a number of companies. The visit was highly useful and he will return again next year.</p>	
6.2	<p>CM noted the maritime team have arranged back brief meetings with industry after inspections which is helpful for raising understanding about findings and preventative measures.</p>	
6.3	<p>CM noted that following a letter of agreement between DNR and Director of Emergency Services to transfer the FPV across to DESIS for SAR purposes, this agreement has been activated twice recently, on both occasions in a very smooth manner. CM read out a statement of thanks from Stuart Barlow praising the Master of Lilibet and the crew.</p> <p>TB asked if the statement was in response to the wildfire on Sea Lion Island.</p> <p>CM stated that it was actually in response to search and rescue efforts, noting that they had also been part of the Sea Lion fire response.</p>	
6.4	<p>MP noted in regard to hydrocarbons preparations, FIFCA will look to have a meeting with FIMA and FIFD together to plan FIFCA's review of</p>	

	<p>Navitas’s EIA from fishing sectors perspective. DNR noted that the first stage of the process is a legislative compliance review, following which, Executive Council will consider and hopefully approve the full public consultation, which is expected to commence in June.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Compliance Update</b>	
7.1	<p>MJ on behalf of SB. All licensed vessels have been inspected. MJ noted that across the fleet there has been significant improvement in standards on board the jiggers and that the issues noted in the update are not the significant issues seen in the past but all relatively small issues. This is a reflection that standards are good across the fleet.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>FIFCA update</b>	
8.1	<p>JB noted that FIFCA are going to membership soon to discuss options for the ITQ fee mechanism. They have utilized an external resource to assist. There is a meeting planned with FIG’s consultants next week to talk about the process before scheduling a meeting with DNR mid-April.</p>	
8.2	<p>In overseas news, there are 23 representatives leaving April 12<sup>th</sup> going to Barcelona, where they will showcase Falkland Fisheries products along with local products such as gin and beer.</p>	
8.3	<p>JB noted that FIFCA is sponsoring the sports awards event for next 3-5years depending on the events popularity.</p>	
8.4	<p>JB acknowledged that a few items are on hold such as Admin penalties and ITQ however FIFCA remain involved in the projects.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Oceanography</b>	
9.1	<p>AB presented an Oceanography report, prompted by observations that many vessels in the high seas were not actively fishing in mid to late January.</p>	
9.2	<p>AB stated that this year is slightly different to previous as cold water extends right up through the shelf up to the spawning grounds, cooler temperatures are noted on the high seas and that overall current speeds were higher with a strong current flowing down from the Blue hole. AB suggested that it may affect the movement of squid through the blue hole to avoid the stronger colder currents.</p>	
9.3	<p>CM asked if ice melt was a likely causal factor. AB noted that seeing these changes in a 12month period would be unlikely, it is more likely to be a result of the el Nino last year coming through on the current.</p>	
9.4	<p>DNR noted that this report marks the start of a process to embed regular</p>	

	ocean data analysis, which will be shared with industry. DNR suggested a focus on investigating if the currents are pushing the squid on/off the shelf. The science team could look to confirm if this is supported by the catch data.	
9.5	TB noted this was interesting and hopefully reassuring, as the stock may avoid the over exploitation currently happening in the blue hole.	
9.6	DNR suggested that the analysis could explain why industry and FIFD are now seeing higher catches as the squid may have moved down in to Falkland waters avoiding this strong current. DNR noted this is all hypothetical at this stage until the modelling has been completed through the season.	
9.7	MP acknowledged this was interesting and hoped that in the future it could progress to being predictive.	
<b>10</b>	<b>Date of next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b> <i>Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 4 &amp; 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to Inshore Fishery proposal</i>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b> The Minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair	
<b>13</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>  FIFCA agreed to revisit the decision regarding sharing KPMG full report. FIFD will reshare the work on Hake’s stomach research.	
<b>14</b>	<b>Draft ExCo Paper Fisheries Observers</b>  The Draft ExCo paper was shared by DNR and industry had no points to raise.	
<b>15</b>	<b>Illex Licence Allocation Policy 2025</b>  FIFD are consolidating the feedback from industry and seek to find a possible solution; options and recommendations will go to Executive Council.	

*Confirmed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024*

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*Chairperson*