

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

**Fisheries Department
Wednesday, 28th February 2018
9.00am**

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

Present:	The Honourable Teslyn Barkman – Chairperson	TB
	The Honourable Ian Hansen	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	SA
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr. Lewis Clifton	LC
	Mr. Hamish Wylie	HW
	Mr. Stuart Wallace	SW
	Mr. James Bates	JB
	Mr. Bernard Meehan	BM
	Mr. Jonathan Poynter	JP
	Mr. Kyran Evans	KE
	Dr. Haseeb Randhawa	HR
	Mr. Benjamin Keningale	BK
	Miss. Amanda Kuepfer	AK

Minute Taker: Miss Beverley Reid

Public: 3

- 1 Apologies for Absence** **ACTION**
- 1.1 Mrs Cheryl Roberts, Mr Barry Rowland
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 2.1 Industry representatives declared an interest for every item on the agenda.
- 3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th December 2017**
- 3.1 An amendment was noted in page 4, Point 6.5 HW noted that it “AK said that it should ready” should be changed to “should read” **BR**
- 4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 7th December 2017**

- 4.1** Item 4.2 – TB asked if there was timeline for the Terms of Reference for the Fisheries Committee. DNR said that this has been a long process, but at the moment will continue to use the old Terms of Reference.
- 4.5** Item 5.5. DI asked if there was an update of the Genetic samples from Peru, AA said that it has been a struggle but hopefully they will be here soon.
- 4.6** Item 7.1 SW asked why the UK hasn't signed up to the Working fishing convention; DNR said that the UK was not one of the 10 states that originally signed up and doesn't know the reason. The UK is looking to be compatible with the convention by later this year. And it remains to be seen if they will seek to sign up at that point. DNR added that if the UK were to join the convention that they would then ask the OT's if they wish to have the convention extended to them. The department is to look at the Jiggers this year to see how easy it would be for them to comply with the convention, in the event that FI does sign up and wishes to extend the provisions to all vessels which fish here.

5 Fishery Update

- 5.1** DNR mentioned that there was a serious accident on FIPASS late afternoon on the 27th February which is going to be investigated and would like to wish those involved a speedy recovery.
- 5.2** DNR gave a brief overview of the Fishery. He informed the committee there has been a fire on a jigger, but fortunately all the crew have been evacuated safely. The jigger is currently drifting in the zone there has been some complications try to arrange a tow but the intention is to have it towed away. TB said that the MLA's would like it to be noted that the more orderly management of jiggers in the harbour has been very well received and would like to thank all involved.

- 5.3** AA gave a brief update on the 3 research cruises, he said that with the new data it is still showing that rock cod abundance is lower than expected. It looks like it will be an average season for Calamari. AA also mentioned that the Spanish newspapers have been asking for information on catches. AA said that there was a low presence of seals due to them staying around their colonies this time of year. CFL Hunter had 2 scientists on board and tagged and released over 1000 toothfish which is about 10 tonnes, from the east of the zone to Burwood bank. The teams also collected underwater footage from the CFL Hunter and it may be interesting to give a presentation on this. SW asked about the umbrella footage, AA said that we have this also and it is useful. DI asked if there had been any response to the Spanish newspaper regarding the catches, AA said that we haven't yet but will. DI and SW said that the information given to the newspapers may affect the price of the catches; DNR added that we will give the facts. DNR said that all vessels in the Calamari fishery are equipped with the seal exclusion device and that the fishing industry has funded observers to be on all of these vessels. DNR said that the TDF is open until the end of March and currently has its 2nd vessel alongside. The Assistant Marine Officer Jonathan Poynter was then introduced to the committee. TB asked if the Phase 2 works had been postponed until after the investigation on the accident at FIPASS, CL said that work will continue on FIPASS but not in the area of the incident.

6 Fishery Protection and Boarding's 2017

- 6.1** BM said at all targets, except one, were met and this is due to a few reasons. One additional reason that was not listed in the paper was that an area was closed off within the zone that was exclusive to "A" licenced vessels. Many other vessels fished south or east of that area but then moved out of zone, therefore the fleet was reduced.

7 Observer deployments 2017

- 7.1** BK gave a brief overview of the paper. SW asked why high seas coverage decreased, BK said that it was not intentional. Deployment of observers to the high seas depended very much on having suitable vessels with voyages compatible with deploying the observers and retrieving them.

8.0 Fisheries Science Programme 2018-20

- 8.1** AA presented a slideshow of the Fisheries science programme 2018-20. Stock assessment of many resources could be improved through data exchange with Argentina. That was something being explored.

8.2 DI asked a question about page 14 “introduction of TAC in the finfish fishery run in parallel”. DNR said that the current TAE system is what will be used for 2018 but we will seek to get information out so companies can see how a TAC system might operate.

8.3 SW asked about the SAFC. DNR said there had been some exploratory contacts.

DI questioned the terminology about incidental mortalities of seabirds on Page18, whether reduction to very low or negligible levels was feasible. Both AA and AK said that this is taken from the National Plan of Action from 2014. DI mentioned that the Falklands is spending money and resources on addressing incidental mortalities but other countries are not, DNR said that we are doing what we can and then we can try to influence others, AA explained that it is a good image for our fishery. LC would like the term defined where it be very low, negligible or zero. DNR indicated with some of the developments on waste management that these objectives are increasingly attainable. SW would like it to be mentioned in the paper that the industry is collaborating with the Fisheries Department in the science that supports the fishery.

9 Toothfish Bycatch levels in Finfish fishery

9.1 HR gave a presentation on the Toothfish bycatch levels. LC asked for the presentation to be circulated to the members.

HR

9.2 HW asked if there is a way of active reporting to look at the overall monthly bycatch compared to the current daily bycatch. DNR said that ultimately if we go from TAE to TAC then everyone with an individual quota for all these species, whether they catch it all on day one or over a few months will be up to them. DNR said that they will monitor how the new bycatch limits work.

10 Seabird Mortality Annual Report 2016/17

10.1 AK gave a presentation on the report. SW would like to emphasise the industries work and investment in this and it would be good to let the world know that the Falklands are leading this. DNR would hope that the annual mortality rate will plummet over the next few years after all the effort that has been put in on waste management in particular. HW asked whether we should highlight the lack of such measures in adjacent and neighbouring waters. TB said that it would be better to engage constructively and seek to influence by our knowledge, work and achievements on the issue. DNR queried if ACAP is effective. AK considered they are effective although some countries are more active than others. If the agreement wasn't there then the situation would be worse for these species. TB would like to meet with Amanda to talk about the issues with seabird mortality. LC asked if there was anything known on the relation between food availability and the population of the albatross. DI would like the words manoeuvring changed to hauling and shooting.

AK

A discussion was had about a presentation to the public about seabird mortality, DI argued that in the wrong hands this information can give the wrong idea but both DNR and AK said that it is better to get our point out first before someone else does.

11 Date of next meeting

11.1 The date of the next meeting is **7th June 2018 at 0900.**

Minutes confirmed this day of 2018.

Chairman

Secretary