# **Minutes**

# **Southwest crab & lobster FIP Steering Group**

Monday 3rd July 2017, 14.00 – 16.00

MSC Office, 1 Snow Hill, London, EC1A 2DH

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

**Attendees:**

Andy Hickman (AH) Tesco

Adam Green (AG) Lyons

Beshlie Pool (BP) South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen

Bill Badger (BB) Defra

Chloe North (CN) MSC

Claire Pescod (CP) MSC

Doug Hoult (DH) Scilly Isles IFCA

Gus Caslake (GC) Seafish

Jessika Inkster (JI) Falfish

Laky Zervudachi (LZ) Direct Seafoods

Robin Masefield (RM) Cefas

Sarah Clark (SC) Devon & Severn IFCA

Time Huntington (TH) Poseidon

**Apologies:**

Colin Trundle Cornwall IFCA

Ewen Bell Cefas

Emma/Mark Rowse The Real Cornish Crab Company

Helen Hunter Defra

Juliette Hatchman Macduff Shellfish

Neville Pitman Seafood & Eat it

Will Harvey W Harvey & Sons

1. Minutes & Action Points

CP explained about the form of the call and the webex presentation that the participants followed. She invited people to send in feedback or comments on having the meeting this way, afterwards.

There were no comments on the minutes from the last meeting.

CN went through the actions from the minutes from last time. The summary table is below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Minutes Action point number | Steering group member | Action | Status |
| 1 | CN | will make changes to the Terms of Reference and send it round the group for final sign off dated today, CN will bring it to the next meeting. | Complete |
| 2 | SC | to work with TH in updating the pre-assessment about the IPA management. CN to facilitate this. | Complete |
| 3 | TH | to check if the adaptive management of over 15s has been taken into account. | Complete |
| 4 | GC | to pitch to Seafish SW panel about funding | Ongoing |
| 5 | CN | to get quote from Cefas and put into funding bids | Complete |
| 6 | TH | to remove the retained column in the final pre-assessment because it is not specific to this fishery. | Complete |
| 7 | TH | to give info on the GGGI to GC on ghost gear. | Complete |
| 8 | BP | to investigate whether there are synergies with the Seascope work and the data that we are wanting to gather and to investigate if the data exists elsewhere | Ongoing |
| 9 | CN | to investigate how the other certified crab fisheries have addressed this Performance Indicator – secondary species information | Complete |
| 10 | CN | to circulate paragraphs by MSC on legislation that is included in their definition of ETP | Complete |
| 11 | GC | to find the report on the Alliance & Leicester leatherback turtle project | Complete |
| 12 | CN | to pull out the ETP sections of other UK certified fisheries and similar species assessments and send round the group. | Complete |
| 13 | CN | to investigate with the MMO & JNCC if they are able to do the ETP species risk assessment | Complete |
| 14 | CN | to put the fisher based survey and risk-assessment on list to talk about at the next meeting | Complete |
| 15 | GC | to investigate with JNCC whether there are codes of practice for handling ETP species | Ongoing |
| 16 | TH | IFCAs to give TH a list of what has been done on the HRAs. SC to coordinate on behalf of the IFCAs. | Complete |
| 17 | TH | to go back to the author of the pre-assessment to get the score changed for ecosystem PI | Complete |
| 18 | CN | to look into adding into ToR that the group has a transboundary harmonising discussion at each meeting. | Complete |
| 19 | BP | to circulate the minutes of the North West Advisory Group brown crab focus meeting | Complete |

1. Project update

CP gave an update on the year 1 outputs from all the FIPs. All outputs of the project should be transparent; therefore, we are uploading them all onto the PUKFI webpage on the Seafish website: www.seafish.org/pukfi

CP gave an update on Seafish’s involvement in the project. Tom Pickerell was responsible for the other strand of Project UK (PUK), which was looking to carry out a large-scale pre-assessment and identify other FIPs around the UK. MSC is meeting with Seafish soon to discuss their involvement now that Tom has left, Helen Duggan is discussing this internally. Gus Caslake is representing Seafish in the FIPs in the Southwest.

*Minutes action 1: CP to update group after meeting with Seafish.*

MSC is being asked about other species that people want to be included so they are thinking of starting another round of FIPs. MSC are aware of a lot of interest from the industry and supply chain for Scottish scallops, North Sea monkfish and nephrops.

The actions in the action plans are being carried out through a number of means, through steering group members themselves, through consultants, through a postdoctoral researcher and through two masters students who are working on the monkfish and scallop FIPs.

CP explained the point of this meeting is to ask questions about your actions, highlight if you need support, or advice from TH, to update the group on whether your actions are on track and to discuss if we need to update the action plan.

1. Action 1 – Harvest Strategy

CN updated the group that we were unsuccessful in the application to the MSC Global Fisheries Sustainability Fund, which is a fund aimed at FIPs in small sale and developing world fisheries. We were shortlisted but unfortunately the pot was relatively small, only £200,000, and there were other larger, developing world projects that were selected. We had applied for funding to cover a Cefas paper on the Harvest strategy and whether the current harvest control rules are working together coherently to achieve an objective; and also for some camera work to collect data on the other species that are being caught in the fishery, such as discards and pot bait.

The Cefas work has been quoted as costing £10,000. It was suggested to open this up to the group and that we could maybe ask the Seafish SW panel for the funding.

GC – Seafish don’t usually get involved in management measures but he will put it forward to the group if they have any flexibility in their funding pot.

*Minutes action 2 – GC to look into whether there may be funding in the Seafish SW panel projects fund.*

It was discussed if students could do it but TH advised that the author needs to have a deeper understanding of the fishery than a student would have. The quote from Cefas was created very quickly for the funding deadline, RM suggested that he could look into a more detailed quote which may be more accurate.

*Minutes action 3 – RM & TH to work together to get a more detailed quote for the position paper on Harvest Strategy*.

BB gave an update on the Defra regional management plan work. They have commenced work in the North East of England with two workshops to consult fishing industry and other stakeholders on their ideas for a regional management plan. There have been no outputs from the workshops yet.

*Minutes action 4 – BB/HH to give more of an update on the Defra regional management plan work at the next meeting.*

1. Action 3 – Primary & secondary species management

GC reiterated that management measures are not Seafish’s expertise but he thinks that a lot of the management measures that come from Principle 1 actions, will have knock-on effects to Principle 2 species. He suggested that we need to improve log-book keeping, fill licence forms in daily and submit them monthly. Another measure that could be brought in would be escape gaps. They are already required in Devon & Severn IFCA and they could be rolled out to all the IFCAs. Southern IFCA are doing research on escape gaps but the Scilly Isles do not have them at all. Defra has put a consultation out on banning landing berried lobster so this is a possible nationwide measure, there is no plan for a nationwide escape gap measure though.

BP – SD&CS have a code of conduct which includes stipulations on soak time and lost fishing gear. This code of conduct could be rolled out across the whole fishery. The management measure that would most impact the fishery though would be pot limitations.

TH – Pot limitation for Principle 1 would be important. Looking at Principle 2, we need fleet level approaches. A code of conduct should stipulate that discarded animals should be released unharmed to maximise their escape. Soak time has an impact on how much gear is lost at sea and therefore ghost fishing. TH is working with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative on a best practice document which has targeted actions for fishermen and for associations. Adopting this would be an easy win.

GC – Fishermen do all they can to recover gear because it is in their interest.

Some species listed in the pre-assessment are 0.5% of the bycatch so we would not have to try to minimise the mortality of these, as any species that is less than 5% of the catch by weight is considered ‘minor’ and only considered at the ‘100’ scoring level, which is best practice. We are aiming for the 80 scoring level in this project, which is an unconditional pass.

RFS has codes of practice within its standard as well. GC – as some of the crab boats are RFS certified, it will be an easy win to get a code of practice which may be just what their current operation is doing.

BP – Agrees with GC but it may be taken as condescending to get the industry to sign up to a code of practice that they are already doing. Also, the fleet operates differently in different areas so one code of practice may not be appropriate for all.

TH – It would be ok to have the code of practice at a broader level and not be so prescriptive as to the operations on the vessel, rather the outcomes of actions. The review of these measures needs to be a traceable documented effort.

SC – The review of alternative measures needs to be circulated because it needs to meet the standard.

TH – It needs Cefas and scientists to feed in as well.

*Minutes action 5 – IFCAs and industry members to send Gus a list of all of the management measures and initiatives like escape gaps and code of conduct, that is happening on these stocks that has an effect on minimising the mortality of non-target species caught in the fishery.*

CP - We also need to identify which vessels are involved.

*Minutes actin 6 – CN to gather information from steering group members are which vessels are involved.*

1. Action 4 – Secondary species information

BP gave an update on the Seascope work, they also had a funding bid turned down. They have done a report from some work they did with cameras in Scotland.

*Minutes action 7 – BP to send this report round the group.*

CN explained that she had been in touch with Michel Kaiser from Bangor University who is planning to do some camera work on-board crab vessels potentially with the SD&CS. He has said that we could join up with that research.

SC had a Phd student working on some data collection but needs to get the data off the student.

TH – There is no formal risk-assessment process for bycatch in this fishery. We need wide survey work to get a reasonable understanding of which species are getting caught across the whole fishery and if it is likely to change across area or time.

SC offered to work with BP about a literature review to put a report together.

*Minutes action 8 – SC & BP to look into a literature and research review of bycatch for this fishery.*

Cefas offered to help as well. The horizon 2020 project plans to look at retained and discarded catch on the brown crab and lobster fisheries. They are planning on designing a system and software to analyse the data. There is a meeting in 6 months-time.

*Minutes action 9 – Cefas to gather more information about the horizon 2020 bycatch in the crab and lobster fisheries project, and feed back to the group at the next meeting, as well as highlighting this action plan to the group within Defra.*

1. Action 6 – Fishery specific objectives

TH explained that this Performance Indicator is one of the more formulaic requirements of the MSC standard. You need to state your objectives for Principle 1 and for Principle 2. However, with this fishery there is no single management plan that spans the whole stock, so it comes down to various management authorities that they have status objectives for the stock status of crab and lobster, and also objectives on how to manage Principle 2.

Defra referred to their plans for regional stock management. TH confirmed that that approach could work, we could explicitly define short and long-term objectives for this area in the regional management plan.

BP pointed out that the regional management plans wouldn’t cover the exploitation by the French and Irish.

TH – If other countries have significant catch, you would need co-management.

BP – If it’s in UK waters then it could be a condition of the licence after Brexit.

GC – 25% of the catch is by the French from the Western Channel. The French are key players.

TH – As long as the management plan takes into account the 25%, that should be ok.

*Minutes action 10 – CN to explore with French colleagues what their thinking on FIPs and MSC would be.*

SC pointed out that there is also significant Welsh catch. CP highlighted that there is a Welsh FIP project as well which includes crab. SC also explained about the North Devon Marine Pioneer project which looks at natural capital.

*Minutes action 11 – SC to introduce CN to the Marine Pioneer Project*

CP told the group about the Irish and Welsh FIP projects. There have been some pre-assessments commissioned for the Celtic Sea. We could invite them to the next steering group meeting and see if there’s linkages. The Irish FIP project is using fisheryprogress.org

*Minutes action 12 – CN to invite the welsh and Irish FIPs to dial in briefly to the next meeting to discuss the co-management issue*

CP then explained what Fishery Progress is. It is a website platform for FIPs where you can upload all the information for the FIP, and then your FIPs get put on this global platform where all FIPs can be seen, compared and found out about. It is a way of formalising information from all FIPs worldwide and brings an international aspect. AH confirmed that they use Fishery Progress at Tesco. LZ supports the idea of these FIPs being included. CP points out the resource it would take to maintain the FIPs on the website. It was suggested to set a webinar where Fishery Progress can explain the idea to the steering group and we can then discuss it at the next meeting.

*Minutes action 13 – CP/CN to progress the Fishery Progress webinar*

1. AOB & date of next meeting

Many people felt it is worth having another meeting in October.

*Minutes action 14 – CN to send poll for next meeting*

TH told the group they can always email him if they have questions about what they are supposed to be doing.

1. Summary of minutes actions from this meeting

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number | Lead | Action | Status |
| 1 | CP | update group after meeting with Seafish | At meeting |
| 2 | GC | look into whether there may be funding in the Seafish SW panel projects fund. | Complete |
| 3 | RM & TH | work together to get a more detailed quote for the position paper on Harvest Strategy. | Ongoing |
| 4 | BB/HH | give more of an update on the Defra regional management plan work at the next meeting. | At meeting |
| 5 | IFCAs & industry members | send Gus a list of all of the management measures and initiatives like escape gaps and code of conduct, that is happening on these stocks that has an effect on minimising the mortality of non-target species caught in the fishery | Ongoing |
| 6 | CN | gather information from steering group members are which vessels are involved. | Ongoing |
| 7 | BP | send the Seascope research report from Scotland round the group. | Complete |
| 8 | SC & BP | look into a literature and research review of bycatch for this fishery | Ongoing |
| 9 | Cefas | gather more information about the horizon 2020 bycatch in the crab and lobster fisheries project, and feed back to the group at the next meeting, as well as highlighting this action plan to the group within Defra | At meeting |
| 10 | CN | explore with French colleagues what their thinking on FIPs and MSC would be. | Complete |
| 11 | SC | introduce CN to the Marine Pioneer Project | Complete |
| 12 | CN | invite the welsh and Irish FIPs to dial in briefly to the next meeting to discuss the co-management issue | Complete with Irish, ongoing with Welsh |
| 13 | CP/CN | progress the Fishery Progress webinar | Complete |
| 14 | CN | send poll for next meeting | Complete |