# Project UK Fisheries Improvements

# SW Crab & Lobster Management sub-group

Attendees:

Martin Youell MMO

Hubert Gieschen MMO

Vicki Gravestock Southern IFCA

Colin Trundle Cornwall IFCA

Bill Badger Defra

Time Huntington Poseidon Ltd

Chloe North MSC

* The MSC pre-assessment for this fishery reported that the fishery would fail an MSC assessment due to two performance indicators: Harvest Strategy & Harvest Control Rules. This is because the management measures in place are not adaptive to the state of the stock, and do not work together in a holistic way.
* Any action we take needs to be scientifically justified.
* The MMO needs to be able to demonstrate that this work will have positive implications for all English crab & lobster fisheries.
* Defra has a focus on regional management for crab & lobster
* The aim of this group is to:
* define overarching objectives for the fishery
* define harvest strategies, these may be different for different sections of the fleet
* define the harvest control rules that achieve these strategies
* CN will write this up into a short ToR for the group
* As well as the harvest strategy and harvest control rules, TH suggested we should look at creating a regional management plan which would be a good structure to set out all the management measures and decision making systems.
* It was decided that this is a group responsibility, rather than one particular body, so everyone will feed in and create the document together.
* CN is moving on from MSC but her replacement will continue to coordinate this group
* Stakeholder buy-in for whatever management is decided, is key
* The SICG was brought up as an example of semi-co-management where the industry has an opportunity to feed in to decisions on scallop management. This sort of group could be an option for crab & lobster
* The status of the crab & lobster stock in the SW is good, therefore it is not a top priority for working on management, as government tends to priorities those stock is a worse state.
* George Eustice has said that they will be looking at the WW Effort Regime and considering what is best to replace it. This could put crab & lobster management higher up the agenda.
* CN explained about the lack of resource for the planned consultancy work which was going to do the work listed below. However, with the expertise in the group we can do part of this work ourselves
* Collect data on and assess the current Harvest Control Strategies (HCSs) and Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for the two fisheries, focusing on the multiple layers of regulations and legislation in place due to the geographical extent of the stocks.
* Provide advice on appropriate management tools for the two fisheries, which may lead to each fishery passing full MSC assessment should management be implemented effectively
* As the stock status is good, we could be looking more at a ‘contingency’ management plan
* TH sent an example template of a management plan around

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/ifmp-gmp/guidance-guide/template-app-a-ann-modele-eng.htm>

* We could meet based around when other key meetings for the fishery are. It was decided to meet again after the next PUKFI Steering Group meeting, but before CN leaves, on Monday 9th July
* The best way to get industry comments may be to create the bones of the management plan first and then do an informal consultation such as though IFCA websites etc

**ACTIONs:**

For the next meeting on **July 9th**, everyone to list:

* What management measures they are currently implementing
* What the current options to adapt management
* What are possible future options to adapt management

CN to create a short ToR for the group

CN to set up meeting on July 9th