**Project UK Fisheries Improvements Stage One: Crab & Lobster Management Sub-Group**

**(Facilitated by the MSC)**

Thursday 6th June 2019 11.00 – 12:30

Remote Call

**Attendees**

TH         Tim Huntington                            Poseidon

TR          Theresa Redding                            Natural England

CS          Chloe Smith                                    Southern IFCA

SC          Sarah Clark                                     Devon & Severn IFCA

AH         Alex Holsgrove                               DEFRA

MB        Matthew Bamping                        MSC (minutes)

JP           Jo Pollett                                         MSC

**Apologies**

              Beshlie Pool                                    South Devon & Channel Fishermen

              Hubert Gieschen                           MMO

              Rachel Irish                                     MMO

              Helen Hunter                                 DEFRA

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Action Number | Lead | Action |
| 1 | **Theresa Redding** | **edit table from Sarah Clark’s previous report and develop the framework for IFCA strategy reporting** |
| 2 | **Group** | **Develop Internal position statement after IFCAs have inputted their management strategies, to determine whether current management is stringent enough** |
| 3 | **Matthew Bamping** | **Set up a DropBox-style sharing platform for joint documents** |
| 4 | **Tim Huntington** | **update Fishery Management Plan template to be more Management Sub-Group specific and then send to Matthew Bamping circulation** |
| 5 | **Matthew Bamping** | **Develop a ‘to-do’ list for each member of the Management Sub-Group to complete their management strategies section** |
| 6 | **IFCA Reps** | **Input current and possible future IFCA management strategies within framework laid out by Theresa and Tim**  |

**Introduction (MB)**

Meeting Attendees were introduced and a brief background to the management sub-group was given.

**Actions to be Addressed and Work Required (Led by TH)**

* Management Sub-Group to focus on Actions 1,2 and 6
* First 2 actions use Fishery Management Plan as reporting tool/archive
* Action 2 –
	+ subsequent process after Fishery Management Plan has begun to be developed
	+ To be taken up after next SGM meeting
* Action 1 – Formal Harvest Strategy
	+ Reminder – strategy is an explicit written formal approach to managing fishery
	+ Can come in the form of Input controls (no. pots, boats etc), effort/output controls (quotas), regulatory controls (min landing size)
	+ Timescale milestones – 6 months and yr3
		- Work originally planned to be done undertaken by MEP but tender too expensive
		- Idea to set out on paper different strategies by different IFCAs etc
		- Look at all of these and consider what similarities and differences there are between different management authorities etc
		- Full MSC assessment will look across whole UoA and take into account lowest common denominator and why this might be weaker than the others
		- Sarah Clark work  TR thinks this could be expanded to review additional management features
		- Internal position statement must be developed to determine current management is acceptable, what common strategies there are and is there any harmonisation that could be done to raise this lowest common denominator (See Actions)
		- This will then be embedded into Management Strategy
		- CS: Can each IFCA have different HSs?
			* Some commonality should be found across the wider UoA
			* No quotas but input controlled
			* May be particular tailored strategies
		- TR: Each IFCA should put down their harvest strategy to see if there are any major mis-matches between management strategies
		- SC: summaries could include current AND future management strategies – some IFCAs may be developing new byelaws
			* Good idea
			* Flexibility is a must, IFCAs should have summary within doc as well as changes that may be made into the future
		- TH: Fishery Management template is generic and can easily be adapted for sub-group’s specific uses
		- Plan must be revisited each year and can be adjusted accordingly
		- Living document to be updated across the 3 remaining years of the FIP and into certification by client group
		- TR: all representation from all IFCAs
			* Going forward each IFCA rep should write their current strategies down
			* Framework to be developed by TR (see actions)
			* Sarah’s work to be developed further and completed by next meeting to understand what is currently in place  SGM
			* Either SGM or Sub-Group meeting in July
		- AH: developed crab byelaw map
			* Cross-reference with Sarah’s table
		- TR: add more to rules – permits, max pot limits etc – to Sarah’s table that might feed in (see actions)
			* Comparative analysis and identify critical areas to be looked at by Theresa and Tim and S-G M to discuss potential gaps and adequacy of the strategy and draft each IFCAs section  holistic to be developed by Tim
			* Cornwall IFCA representative to be added

**Actions:**

* **TR to edit table from SC report and develop the framework for IFCA strategy reporting- identify common strategies, differences and why these have occurred before next meeting**
* **Group: Internal position statement to be developed after IFCAs have inputted their management strategies, to determine whether current management is stringent enough**
* **MB to set up Drop Box for all materials related to**
* A6 – Fishery Management Plan
	+ Look at structure – (Table of Contents)
		- ID and description of fishery
			* Geographic scope
			* Vessels
			* Catch
			* Landings
			* Etc
		- Fish Man Structure
			* Legal framework and national and regional frameworks
			* Who’s responsible for management etc
		- these all need to be developed at some point
		- TR: lots of this will be in pre-assessment etc
			* Much of this already written up and just needs to be pulled together
			* Might need an update
		- CS: local management plans being developed and can be sent across
		- TH to strip out template but cannot physically write it (see actions)
			* Put place holders in place for everyone
		- TR appointed as Chief editor/Manager of document

**Actions:**

* **TH to update Fishery Management Plan template to be more Management Sub-Group specific and then send to MB for circulation on Drop Box**
* **MB to develop To-do List for each IFCA rep with the aim for this to be completed by next Sub-Group Meeting**
* **Each IFCA and MMO to write a strategy themselves based on guidance questions/framework from Tim**
* **Each IFCA to complete the FMP with text they already have available**
* **TR to high level edit the document once MB notifies that all inputs have been received**

**Terms of Reference**

* MSC to update ToR with new members etc
* Will update doc and re-circulate for sign off

**Next Steps**

* Look at when next full SGM is to be and then DP for this S-G
* Minutes to be circulated
* TR: Question regarding value of Crab and Lobster in current market
	+ Crab £2 per kg and Lobster £12-13 per kg
	+ This is because of demand from Chinese market
	+ BP post-meeting comment:
		- Live crab going to Asia this week (17 – 21.06) is about £3.50p/g - last week it was £4.
		- The price depends on the sex of the crab, the quality and amount available and has been as high as £5.
		- The average UK price has been around £1.80 - £2.20 for about 20 years, with lower quality crabs (toes missing etc.) around £1.40/50 ish.
		- Some firms are able to offer more for the good quality crab and are trying to compete with Asian demand- buyers set the prices, and it can get a bit complicated!