# **Project UK Fisheries Improvements Stage Two**

# ***Nephrops* FIP Steering Group**

# **(Facilitated by the MSC)**

Thursday 14th June 2018, 10.00 – 14.15

Courtyard Glasgow Airport, Marchburn Drive,

Glasgow Airport Business Park, Glasgow PA3 2SJ

**Attendees:**

AJ Aisla Jones Co-op

AH Andy Hickman Tesco

AB Amali Bunter Lidl (dial in)

BC Ben Collier ANIFPO (NI gear trials)

BH Barry Harland Whitby Seafoods

CM Cameron Moffat Youngs

CN Chloe North MSC (minutes)

CP Claire Pescod MSC (Chair)

DW Daniel Whittle Whitby Seafoods

FdB Femke de Boer SWFPA

IK Ian Kelly NIFPO

JB Jimmy Buchan SSA

JF Jim Fyall Fife PO

JP Joseph Prosho Morrisons

JW John Watt Macduff

JH Juliette Hatchman Macduff

KM Kevin McDonnell WoSPO/SAFPO

KMcH Karen McHarg IoM (dial-in)

LF Lauren Ferrari Marine Scotland

LG Lynn Gilmore Seafish

MMo Malcolm Morrison SFF

MMi Mike Mitchell Youngs

MP Mike Park SWFPA

NM Neil Milsom Defa, IoM

NA Nicole Anderson Clyde Fisherman’s Trust/Association & SIFA

PM Paul Macdonald SFO

PD Peter Duncan Defa, IoM (dial in)

RH Rhiannon Holden MSC

RG Roy Griffin DAERA

WD William Davies Seachill

VW Victor West Associated Seafoods

**Apologies**

Alan McCulla (ANIFPO)

Ally Dingwall (Sainsbury's)

Clarus Chu (WWF)

David Donnan (SNH)

Emilie Devenport (ScotLINK)

Harry Wick (NIFPO)

Helen Duggan (SEAFISH)

Hannah Macintyre (M&S)

Ian Glasgow (DEFRA)

Jeremy Langley (Waitrose)

John Anderson (SFO)

Lynn Forman (Macduff)

Mathieu Lundy (AFBI)

Sheona McCormack (ASL)

Welcome, apologies and introductions

CP welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the background to the project, highlighted that MSC was facilitating this project and process and not ‘doing FIPs’ or becoming a FIP practitioner but here to show how the MSC process can be used to develop fishery improvement projects and drive improvements in the sustainability of the fisheries involved. CP introduced the concept of Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUKFI) and the MSC FIP tools and updated the group on PUKFI Stage 1 and how that model was being replicated in Stage 2.

Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUKFI)

CP gave the background on the origins of Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUKFI). This began with Project Inshore which was developed at a time when people were saying to eat underutilised species and it was assessing the sustainability for inshore fisheries. The idea was to map all fisheries that interacted with the English inshore, where it was felt that at the time the Inshore Fisheries Groups were not fully set up enough to support the project and therefore Scotland was not involved. Project Inshore identified best practice but also data and management gaps. Several Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) have used the outputs to inform improved fishery management, for example Southern IFCA and the Poole Harbour fishery.

CN showed the group which businesses were involved with developing the idea for PUKFI, and the businesses that funded Stage 1, this includes some foreign funders such as Coop Switzerland and WWF Switzerland, which shows the foreign interest in these UK fisheries becoming MSC certified. The species that were chosen for Stage 1 are key commercially important fisheries. A prioritisation exercise was conducted to identify these fisheries, it looked at landings value, consumer demand and iconic fisheries. Stage 1 built on the initial pre-assessments conducted through Project Inshore. MSC has developed tools to help Fishery Improvement Project (FIPs), such as the definition of a credible FIP, Capacity Building Toolkit, the Bench-Marking & Tracking tool (BMT), and the Action Plan Template. The PUKFI FIPs use these tools. The MSC UK fishery outreach team is facilitating the process but the MSC is not showing fisheries how to get certified. Consultants are hired to help the Steering Groups answer questions on what to do in the action plan. CP is independent chair of other steering groups, with the chair being reviewed on an annual basis.

CP outlined PUKFI Stage 2 initiation and funding structure with some new funders including more funding partners from the fishing industry. Stage 2 will be replicating the same model as Stage 1. Generally, the internationally agreed time limit for a FIP is 5 years therefore these action plans will have a maximum timeline of 5 years. The current funding will cover the set up and running of the FIP. It will cover a coordinator for 3 days a week, the pre-assessment, development of action plans, BMT, annual reviews, consultancy support and logistics of steering groups. CP highlighted that the delivery of the actions isn’t funded yet.

CP introduced the PUKFI stage 2 areas consisting of the North Sea, Irish Sea & West of Scotland and the group discussed the ambitions of the project whereby it could be used to identify where the change is needed and inform improvements but not about just getting MSC certification, although it would be great to get the validation at the end.

Some funding partners and stakeholders gave a statement on their involvement in the project. MP said that Nephopsis different to other FIPs. The North Sea AC has provided advice on long term management plan for NS Nephrops, which has influenced North Sea Multi-annual plan (MAP) & Western Waters MAP. MP Explained about SFSAG group which puts species through certification to assist market place to meet demands. In 2010 they put Nephrops through certification. Fladden ground could have been certified, they thought that all effort going there, couldn’t collapse the stock. ICES every year says that Functional Unit (FU) management should be adopted. The new MAP says that measures can be introduced per FU which can drive the fishing away from that FU. Once WWMAP is adopted, there will be an overall management plan. This should be next year sometime.

CP pointed out that this FIP will be on the new version of the MSC standard – the SFSAG assessment was on an older version. Pre-assessment will be useful. There is also wider interests that include other POs as well.

There was a discussion on timelines and how quick this FIP could be done, with a commercial interest which wants this to be a faster than the 5 year timeline. It was mentioned that BIM are conducting FIPs in Ireland which are 3 years, it was then clarified that there are different forms of FIPs - Basic and Comprehensive as defined by Fisheries Progress. It was discussed that the pre-determined timeline of 5 years under the MSC credible FIP definition is the maximum time-limit and the FIP can decide whether to progress this faster according to results in the pre-assessment and action plan, as long as they are feasible. A timeline of less than 5 years can be decided by the SG. CN gave some examples from PUKFI Stage 1.

It was mentioned that it is important to capture the consumer and NGO demand for improvements in the Nephrops fishery. Key to the development of the FIP and identifying improvements is to commission the pre-assessment. SFSAG vessels have passed certification on P2 (through their certified fisheries), however there are other vessels on this group.

DW gave an account of Whitby production and supply to the UK with 50%-75% of the market in the UK. Most of the customers are from Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC) or have pledges to the sustainable fish cities. Explained about the pledge to improve or remove. Without improvements they will see the market disappear. 5 North Sea FUs are rated 4 or 5 on the MCS website. So Whitby can’t put NS nephrops into products for some customers. This is impossible for traceability. Improvements needs to be UK wide. Foodservice pub chains are demanding the same as retailers. Industry needs to face up to ethical trading requirements now. MSC is the gold standard. Whitby are dedicated to take this FIP to the conclusion.

Industry wants MCS to re-rate nephrops when the NS MAP is adopted. Also, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) would need to re-rate. Discussion was had about the importance of communicating the project to NGOs, eg. using Fishery Progress (FP). There is interest from NGOs to be involved and LINK were invited and were interested in attending bu they sent their apologies. MCS are just about to start feeding in FIP info to their ratings. Retailer highlighted to POs that FP is a good platform. CP explained the FP platform and how it is a global platform for FIPs.

Scottish industry highlighted that scampi is bycatch for langoustine. They have no problem selling langoustine so need to think how to communicate what is in it for the fishermen. Marketing tool is not the selling point. Irish fishermen pointed out that tails are over 50% of Irish catch. There may be different incentives for different areas. Need to compete with Danish MSC certified product. SFSAG have also said to fishermen about retaining market share, not price for fish. If demand leaves market, price falls. SFSAG are taking as much through MSC especially with Brexit.

MP explained about the new Nephrops management measures that are being put in place in the NS MAP. He feels this will solve many of the issues the Nephrops fisheries had in the past with MSC. CP highlighted that the Nephrops assessment in the past were on an old version of the standard and the requirement for habitats and ecosystems have been strengthened but that this FIP would help identify a way forward.

What’s involved?

CP explained about the steps of a FIP and the MSC’s definition of a credible FIP.

CP explained the MSC scoring mechanism and that there is different scoring per gear-type because it is a different ‘Unit of Assessment’. Below 60 is a fail, 60-80 is a conditional pass, and above 80 is an unconditional pass. The action plan is based on all Performance Indicators that score sub-60 and 60-80. Sub-60 is high priority for work. Sub-60 scores don’t necessarily mean the fishery is unsustainable, it could be data deficient. CP explained about the bench-marking and tracking tool (BMT) and expected score changes over the 5 years.

RH gave an overview of expected timelines for the project, referring to the presentation slides about what has been completed over the last four months and next steps, mentioning that the pre-assessment will be commissioned following the group’s agreement and after a tender panel evaluation. There has been a lot of outreach carried out in the first 6 months to create the steering groups. MSC will ensure that results from the pre-assessment will be fed through before the next meetings.

Case Study: PUKFI Stage 1- Channel Scallops

CN gave a presentation of the case study of the Stage 1 scallop fishery, and what they are addressing through their action plan and what they have done so far, and what they are planning to do, to give the group an idea of a real-world example of a FIP. See presentation.

PUKFI Stage 2 Nephrops

There was a discussion on which areas are involved and the extent of the project and whether to widen the area if resources are there. The MSC have sent out a tender to include the North Sea, West of Scotland and Irish Sea covering various FUs. 7a was discussed and it was mentioned that there is a lot of fishing in Jones’ bank and porcupine bank. These areas were mentioned to be included in WW MAP, with a diverse group fishing including Spanish and Irish. Foreign interest was mentioned here and seeking external funding.



Figure 1 Estimated extent of pre-assessment and scope of FIP i.e. North Sea, West of Scotland and Irish Sea

There was then a discussion about whether there will be an action plan per area. CP explained UoA concept and CN described the economies of scale with this project in terms of cost.

RH is still working to get Irish stakeholders involved. Tesco sell Irish langoustine in Irish stores. BIM are looking at 3-year FIP. Tesco told BIM they would like them to use the BMT. We need to understand what stage they are at and also the scope of their FIP. The example of the crab FIP was highlighted where the scope of the Irish FIP is looking at fewer performance indicators than the SW crab FIP.

* **Action**: RH to speak with BIM/Fisherman Frank to understand the extent of Irish Nephrops FIP and whether there is any overlap with the two fisheries and gauge stakeholder membership. Maintain long-term dialogue.

The question was posed about who else needs to be in the room. The fresh sector and the creel sector was highlighted saying that creel is usually of high value however have a small catch representation of 5-10% but should definitely be included in the project. RH has been in touch with the creelers already.

* **Action** for RH to follow-up this contact with creelers.
* **Action** RH to follow up with others:Helen Dobby or Ewen Bell were suggested, as well as Bill Lart who feed into ICES working group - there was a general consensus that scientists would be very valuable on the group. MCS were suggested, to have them on-board from the beginning. It’s good to have people who can help deliver actions with their time or expertise. Membership is evolving over time.
* **Action:** Discussion: Industry needs to decide about relevant representation whether it be SFSAG, or POs individually. Also action for CP and RH present about PUKFI at next SFSAG meeting.

The question was posed about how the group wanted to have the chairing set up. Sub-groups in the future by for example area or issue were suggested and co-chairs were suggested. The role of the co-chair would help support the action leads and sub groups. The stage 1 steering group thinks it’s useful to have MSC chair as independent and knowing the MSC standard. It was decided to wait for the action plan to de delivered and then decide on sub-groups which may have other chairs or leads. Having an industry or supply chain partner co-chair for the project may also be useful.

There was discussion about the landings obligation and discarding in the fishery. Discarding has come down from where it was. There may be a high survivability exemption.

Terms of Reference

The group then looked at the ToR. It has been based on the ToR for Stage one but Fishery progress has been added, and co-chairs have been added. CP explained the role of steering group members to work with consultants to feed in info, and also to disseminate info to their members. Members should be willing to take responsibility for a part of the delivery of the action plan work and report back to the group. Members should also help provide support for funding applications and in some instances provide funding. It was thought that the requirements for membership section of the ToR should be expanded to ensure members understood they needed to help deliver actions and commit to the use of the MSC process, the delivery of the actions win the action plan and agree to help move the fishery closer to meeting the MSC standard. It was acknowledged that in kind funding provision was equally as important as funding contributions as it could be called upon for support and work to deliver actions. MSC would update the draft ToR to reflect this.

* **Action:** SFSAG will be included in the commissioning of the pre-assessment and selection of the consultants and scope of commission – through the tender evaluation panel.

There was discussion over the maximum timeline and can the FIP be done quicker. CP explained that if it can be done quicker than the proposed 5 years and that the PA and AP would help identify an achievable timeframe.

* **Action:** change timeline in ToR to say ‘a pre-determined timeline, up to a maximum of 5 years’.
* **Action:** include in kind funding on steering group membership section and update as per discussion.

Steering group chair

The question was posed to the group whether they agree to act as the FIP steering group and whether they agree for MSC to commission to pre-assessment and action plan and report back at the next meeting in approx 4 months. It was suggested that Dan Whittle should be co-chair and this would be revisited at a future meeting once the AP and PA were available.

Next Steps

Some dates were highlighted to avoid for the next meeting such as the Seafish Seafood week in October and the group decided on Edinburgh for the venue next time as that was easier for most people than Glasgow.

Question was posed about how different the MAPs (NS and NWW) are from each other when it comes to P1. This would be looked at in the PA.

Tesco requested to add labour issues as a standing agenda item. It was said that Nephrops is covered as part of the fisherman’s welfare alliance. Some orgs not covered. FWA have a MoU with SFF. Its task is to create a standardised contract taking ISO 188 into account. It is similar cross-stakeholder group. It was thought that we need to be careful this group does not become too broad and that the FIP improvement work and actions would be a big enough task to get through in the meetings that having something else as well may be too onerous particularly if there are other perhaps better placed meetings for this. There is work going on with RFS as well but there was concern to keep the workstreams separate. It was decided that for the moment it should only be included if it feeds into the action plan and only if in scope of the MSC standard – however in the future the group may want to revisit this.

* **Action**: to put labour work update on the agenda at the next meeting. Tesco to update.

Negative NGO press releases were raised. How do we keep NGOs on side and do some positive PR. MSC explained the NGO discussions that have happened so far and it was pointed out that Open Seas have been contacting retailers about MPAs. There was some discussion about VMS and getting VMS on all vessels in the FIP. Some systems can inform catch location data. This could be explored more in the future if identified by the action plan or thought necessary by the group.

* **Action:** SFSAG to update group on MPA work going on already, at the next meeting and the outcomes in the haddock surveillance to do with the LO.

**Next meeting**

RH would send out a doddle poll.

**Close**.

CP thanked everyone for coming and agreeing to form the FIP Steering Group, she said that the PA and AP would be commissioned and circulated before the next meeting and then presented at the next meeting and she wished everyone a safe journey home.

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| **Number** | **Lead** | **Action** | **Timeline** | **Status** |
| 1 | RH | **Action**: RH to speak with BIM/Fisherman Frank to understand the extent of Irish Nephrops FIP and whether there is any overlap with the two fisheries and gauge stakeholder membership. Maintain long-term dialogue. | Before next steering group meeting |  |
| 2 | RH | **Action** RH to follow-up this contact with creelers. | Before next SG meeting |  |
| 3 | SFSAG and POs represented | **Action:** Discussion: Industry needs to decide about relevant representation whether it be SFSAG, or POs individually. Also action for CP and RH present about PUKFI at next SFSAG meeting. | ASAP |  |
| 4 | RH | **Action:** change timeline in ToR to say ‘a pre-determined timeline, up to a maximum of 5 years’**Action:** include in kind funding on steering group membership section and update as per discussion. | ASAP |  |
| 5 | RH | **Action**: to put labour work update on the agenda at the next meeting. | Next SG meeting |  |
| 6 | SFSAG, FdB | **Action:** SFSAG to update group on MPA work going on already, at the next meeting and the outcomes in the haddock surveillance to do with the LO. | Next meeting |  |