**Project UK Stage two: Environment sub-group**

**(Facilitated by the MSC)**

**Sub-group committee dial in**

Thursday 7th November 2019 10.00 – 11.00

**Attendees**

Emily Gibbs WWF EG

Fiona Nimmo Poseidon FN

Annika Clements Seafish AC

Mike Kaiser Heriot-Watt University MK

Bill Lart Seafish BL

Calum Duncan MCS CD

Cass Bromley Scottish Natural Heritage CB

Jo Pollett MSC JP

Matt Spencer MSC MS

**Apologies:**

Kenny Coull SWFPA KC

David Donnan Scottish Natural Heritage DD

## Introduction

The overarching Project UK ToR updates are nearing completion, and the Environment Sub-Group ToR will be completed shortly after.

## Scallop catch composition

JP gave a presentation on Project UK scallop FIPs to the ICES Scallop Working Group to inform them of how we align with the ICES work plans. ICES confirmed that surveys are being undertaken in the Clyde and we will receive more information once they are complete.

BL is still working on the juvenile report and will investigate survival reports as well. BL has a juvenile presentation to share, which develops work conducted by Andy Brown’s (Port Erin Marine Laboratory Isle of Man) group work in the early 2000’s. This work found that some juveniles survive and some don’t. They focussed a lot of their work on additional mortality besides what is seen on the deck.

**Action: MS to share ICES WG ToR with the group via dropbox.**

**Action: MSC to keep a watching brief on progress with Lynda’s work on bycatch**

**Action: BL to continue with this work on juveniles and survivability**

## Nephrops catch composition

We are still waiting for an update on when the discard reduction plans will be available. Mike Park or Kenny Coull will be able to update on these once they are approved internally.

JP followed up with SFF to access their observer data, which goes to Marine Scotland. SFF provided the main contact at MSS (Liz Clarke) to request the observer information from. It could be useful to cc in another member of Marine Scotland that Project UK has already been involved with.

**Action: Contact Liz Clarke at Marine Scotland for more information on SFF observer data.**

**Action: BL to formulate a written review document from groundfish trawl.**

Annika has made progress with the bait information required from the creel fishermen in Northern Ireland (N.I). Having spoken with an inshore specialist who works around Strangford Loch (where they record bait and bycatch), AC believes they can easily give us a list of catch composition, but weight might be a tricky issue- FN confirms that even estimates would be a powerful start. The data is not quantitative and is limited so AC is unsure as to whether it is of value to the group, but in general they seem to use herring. The surveys are done every few years as there are only a few (2-3) fishermen still potting for Nephrops in Strangford Loch. Anything that can describe the fishery better and can be added to a database is useful.

**Action: AC to ascertain accessibility of N.I data and to reach out to the individual creelers in Strangford Loch.**

BL has sent FN information on work that has been done in the Clyde area, and recommends looking up work from Jonathan Aide – a 2007 PhD researcher at Combray Marine Lab who did a lot of work around Torridon Loch. Glasgow University were also doing a lot of work in this area. BL is aware of a small, seasonal creel fishery on the Northumberland coast who he will reach out to for more information. CD mentions that Mike Heath conducted a thesis that focussed on stock assessments in the Clyde for haddock and whiting, which he believes has relation to bycatch work being done for this FIP.

CB will have to talk with DD about an internship to help progress this action further. BL believes this action might not work for an intern- the group either mounts a serious, large survey to gather data or just assembles what is already out there.

**Action: BL to circulate Glasgow research and review of Jonathan Aide PhD.**

**Action: BL to reach out to D.R Collins of the Northumberland creel fishery**

**Action: CD to make contact for JP with Clyde fishery and/or Mike heath.**

**Action: CB to speak to DD and report back to the group on the possibility of an SNH internship by the November steering group meeting, including an outline of what they think the process is.**

## Scallop and Nephrops ETP

MSc projects to undertake the GIS mapping of Scallops and Nephrops overlap with ETP species have been circulated to three universities with funding support from Fishmongers’ Hall. It will be useful for the sub group to help review the applicants that come through. This will probably need to be done at the start of December.

EG has been continuing to build out the ETP list with input from AC and JNCC. EG has also added species that may not be ETP species currently but are under significant fishing pressure. It will be helpful to have as many people review this list as possible, but it is important to track why each species or organism was removed/added. AC offers to reach out to DAERA again, as they might not be too aware of Project UK as their conservation and management departments are managed separately.

**Action: AC to pass over DAERA contacts (Claire Vincent and Colin Armstrong) to JP.**

**Action: JP and MSC to reach out to DAERA to re-introduce Project UK.**

**Action: EG to share the ETP list with the group for review.**

**Action: Group to review MSc candidates when they come through.**

## Scallop and Nephrops Habitat

FN has received shapefiles needed for the habitat work and has asked JNCC for a timeline for the availability of their data. They will have a lot of information coming soon but it is waiting on their website update. Might be best for Project UK to ask for specific updates rather than wait for general release. In regards to the work being done for the MSc, the group agreed that FN will only need to have the data ready for the PhD student to use, but may need to do more to support the MSc student with the mapping exercise.

A PhD student has been appointed to start on the 6th January 2020. MK has several other PhDs in the pipeline:

- a meta-analysis of static gear

- oceanographic connectivity of scallop populations

- genetic research and techniques for monitoring bycatch

This work will focus on Scottish waters as the Irish Sea research has already been carried out. A post-Doc at Bangor University is about to submit a paper on connectivity, but less is known about the English Channel.

**Action: MSC Reach out to Doug Spears to ascertain workings and overlaps.**

**Action: MSC to share findings with stage one Scallop FIP.**

**Action: MK to circulate work by Bangor University Post Doc, Natalie Hold, on scallop connectivity in the English Channel and Irish Sea**

## Ecosystems- SICA update

The group agreed to this about experts outside of the steering group who may need to be consulted for the SICA analysis. FN suggested using survey monkey to start collecting the required data, and will look into this option further to report back to the group.

**Action: FN to begin thinking about the use of survey monkey, and how it has been used in the SICA process before**

## AOB

**Action: MS to draft a document outlining rules and correct procedure for sharing work on drop box e.g. folders, naming files**

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| **Task** | **Responsibility**  |
| Scallop catch compositionMS to share ICES WG ToR with the group via dropbox.MSC to keep a watching brief on progress with Lynda’s work on bycatch BL to continue with this work on juveniles and survivability | **MS****MSC****BL** |
| Nephrops catch compositionContact Liz Clarke at Marine Scotland for more information on SFF observer data. BL to formulate a written review document from groundfish trawl.AC to ascertain accessibility of N.I data and to reach out to the individual creelers in Strangford Loch.BL to circulate Glasgow research and review of Jonathan Aide PhD. BL to reach out to D.R Collins of the Northumberland creel fisheryCD to make contact for JP with Clyde fishery and/or Mike heath.CB to speak to DD and report back to the group on the possibility of an SNH internship  | **JP****BL****AC****BL****BL****CD & JP****CB & DD** |
| Scallop and Nephrops ETPAC to pass over DAERA contacts (Claire Vincent and Colin Armstrong) to JP.JP and MSC to reach out to DAERA to re-introduce Project UK.EG to share the ETP list with the group for review.Group to review MSc candidates when they come through. | **AC****JP****EG****GROUP** |
| Scallop and Nephrops Habitat MSC Reach out to Doug Spears to ascertain workings and overlaps.MSC to share findings with stage one Scallop FIP.MK to circulate work by Bangor University Post Doc, Natalie Hold, on scallop connectivity in the English Channel and Irish Sea | **MSC****MSC****MK** |
| Ecosystems- SICA update FN to use of survey monkey for input to SICA process. | **FN** |
| AOBMS to draft a document outlining rules and correct procedure for sharing work on drop box e.g. folders, naming files | **MS** |