

**Note of Common Language Group (CLG) meeting held at Billingsgate.  
Wednesday 6 November 2013.**

For the CLG minutes and meeting presentations see:  
<http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/discussion-forums/the-common-language-group>

**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Mike Kaiser welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Attendees**

Alex Caveen	Seafish
Alex Olsen	Esperson
Andrew Pillar	Interfish
Angus Garrett	Seafish
Bernadette Clarke	MCS
Carl O'Brien	Cefas
Catherine Pazderka	BRC
Charlotte Bury	Tesco
Chris Middleton	Seafish
Claire Tibbott	Fishmongers' Company
Clarus Chu	WWF
Cristina Fernandez	Seafish
Dale Rodmell	NFFO
David Parker	Youngs Seafoods
Denise Fraser	Seafish
Emi Katoh	MRAG
Emma MacLaren	SFP
Estelle Brennan	Lyons Seafoods
Hannah MacIntyre	M&S
Huw Thomas	Morrisons
Jess Sparks	Seafood Scotland
Jim Portus	SWFPO
Jon Harman	ASMI
Karen Green	Seafish (Minutes, Secretary of group)
Laky Zervudachi	Direct Seafoods
Laura Partridge	ISU
Lewis Colam	Interfish
Libby Woodhatch	Seafish
Lucy Holmes	ISU
Melissa Pritchard	ClientEarth
Michael Platt	Co-op

Mike Berthet  
Mike Brummitt  
Mike Kaiser  
Mike Park  
Mike Short  
Paul Williams  
Peter Stagg  
Rebecca Fordham  
Richard Stansfield  
Samuel Stone  
Stefan Asmundsson  
Stephen Lockwood  
Stephen Stansfield  
Suzanne Clift  
Toby Middleton  
Tom Pickerell  
Will Le Cain

**Apologies**

Allen Townsend  
Ally Dingwall  
Arthur Neiland  
Caroline Miller  
Chris Lamb  
Claire Pescod  
Claire Eno  
Colin Charman  
David Jarrad  
David Jones  
Griffin Carpenter  
Hannah Norbury  
Harvey Jones  
Iain Pollard  
John Atkinson  
Jo Royle  
Karen Galloway  
Katie Miller  
Jim Masters  
Lucy Blow  
Marina Richardson  
Martin Jaffa  
Max Goulden  
Melanie Siggs  
Neil Auchterlonie  
Nigel Edwards  
Phil McMullen  
Stephen Devlin

M&J Seafoods  
Regal Fish Supplies Ltd  
Bangor University, Seafish Board (Chair)  
SWFPA  
FDF  
Seafish  
Le Lien Ltd  
MSC  
Flatfish  
MCS  
NEAFC  
Consultant  
Flatfish  
ASC  
MSC  
Seafish  
Cefas

Icelandic Seafood Limited  
Sainsburys  
IDDRA  
Aldi  
Seafish Sector panel  
MSC  
Natural Resources Wales  
Natural Resources Wales  
SAGB  
New England Seafoods  
New Economics Organisation  
MRAG  
Common Seas  
SFP  
Co-op  
Common Seas  
Seafish  
Client Earth  
MCS  
New England Seafoods  
Youngs  
Callander McDowell  
MacAlister Elliott & Partners Ltd  
ISU  
Cefas  
Seachill  
Seafish  
New Economics Organisation

Stephen Parry  
Steve Cadwallader  
Steve Mackinson  
Tracey Heyworth

Findus  
Cefas  
Gap2  
Birds Eye Iglo

## **2. Minutes from the last meetings held on 3 July and 22 July 2013.**

It was agreed the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. The final minutes have been added to the CLG web page. In the following minutes Seafish will provide a link to the various presentations given at the meeting but not summarise the whole presentation. In the main we do not now attribute the comments made at the meeting. A paper was sent round listing forthcoming events. A full list can be found on the Seafish website:

<http://www.seafish.org/about-seafish/news-and-events/events>

### **Theme: Fish stocks**

## **3. Review of the latest ICES advice – improving stocks, declining stocks and implications – overview of global stock status.** Carl O'Brien, Cefas.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1123661/clgnov2013\\_cefas\\_stockstatus2.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1123661/clgnov2013_cefas_stockstatus2.pdf)

Carl gave an overview of the latest ICES advice (published in June and October 2013). This indicates a generally improving situation – fishing mortality is declining, an increasing number of stocks are now at or below Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) is increasing but there are some stocks awaiting improvement.

### **Discussion**

- I was not aware of the change in the way ICES reports. Can you please explain? Before the ICES advice on the TAC for the following year was for landings (this took into account the discard rate for this fishery). Now the Commission has asked for a headline catch figure which is a sum of landings and discards on the assumption that what is in the net stays in the net.
- I have a concern that if discards were not reported it does not mean that there are no discards in a particular fishery. Is this justified? ICES has been monitoring discard patterns for the last three years so this won't be the case going forward. ICES needs to work more closely with industry to reflect the positive benefits of selectivity measures and changing fish patterns.
- How will the ICES move to mixed species advice work? There is already a mixed fishery model for the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. In the Baltic Sea single species advice should be consistent with mixed species advice, however there are more problems with this model in the North Sea. The mixed species model is only ever an indication.
- The state of the herring stock is generally very good except for Area II, whilst above MSY it has shown poor recruitment for eight to nine years. Can this be explained? Most herring stocks have average recruitment but this stock has long periods of low recruitment and then various spikes. A

stock can have a healthy biomass but might still experience periods of poor recruitment and there are lots of reasons for this.

- Does ICES have a view on the humane killing of fish? This has arisen recently because of a request concerning trawlers electro-fishing. A Dutch pilot study has become an experimental fishery and there have been reports of dead fish floating in the Thames Estuary as a result of this. ICES does have a view with regard to the voltage and the impact this has on survivability and on other species. The prevailing view seems to be there is not enough evidence to show electro-fishing is detrimental to other species.
- I like the work being undertaken by Cefas but lack of data is a key issue and I have heard that Cefas will be cutting back on data collection and observer trips? There is certain work that is mandatory but the frequency of observer trips might for example drop. There will also need to be a change of focus when the landing obligation comes into effect as discard observers will no longer be needed.
- Defra is likely to cut back funding on marine science so funding to Cefas will decline. Is there a threshold below which cuts can no longer be made and is there a point where beneficiaries (such as industry) have to step in? What role can the fishing industry play in this? There is ongoing work with Defra and the MMO but we do need a greater partnership between industry and science and for vessels to become scientific platforms. This is part of a project NFFO is looking into to make best use of the information we have. In effect the whole structure could change. Self-sampling platforms are already being introduced in Scotland but the key is maintaining the integrity of the data. Part of this is making sure fishermen understand the worth of this data and its importance in influencing management decisions. There are also concerns that less funding for marine science could mean even less ability to look at data limited stocks.
- Is there any indication or insight yet into how discards will impact on the market for seafood ie volume of fish expected, timescales, quality and weight of fish? The quick answer is no. Improved selectivity is the aim to reduce potential discards, so with improved selectivity the situation will have changed by 2016. At the moment there are a lot of scenarios and we are not sure what the size of the problem will be. There are also big differences between major fishing areas. The comment was made that this issue needs to be kept on the horizon. If there are changes to fishing patterns this does impact on the market – if there are no fresh landings the foodservice sector in particular has to switch to frozen supplies and it is not always easy to switch back.
- We seem to be moving towards MSY and a discard ban concurrently, should we be doing both at the same time? ICES has always given advice to avoid discarding large quantities of fish so the two can sit side by side.
- There are concerns that under a landings obligation we could end up with under-utilised stocks? If the Commission followed ICES mixed species advice in the North Sea then yes this would be the likely outcome because

ICES advice will try to protect the most vulnerable species. There needs to be a balance/trade-off. A decision has to be taken as to how much under-utilisation is acceptable in a large ecosystem and the debate is currently polarised.

**4. North East Atlantic mackerel: stock status and prospects.** Stephen Lockwood, Coastal Fisheries Conservation & Management.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1123664/clgnov2013\\_lockwood\\_mackerel.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1123664/clgnov2013_lockwood_mackerel.pdf)

This is a robust stock. ICES in 2012 estimated that stock was around 3 million tonnes, compared with an estimate from the Nordic countries of 8.8 million tonnes. An ICES benchmarking exercise in the New Year should offer some clarity on this however ICES has advised a TAC for 2014 of 889,886 tonnes. There is every indication that the stock is not being over-exploited. In essence the cake has got bigger and there is now the opportunity to slice it in a different way.

Discussion

- The pelagic RAC echoed many of your comments that SSB is at a record high.
- There seems to be a staggering lack of information with reference to mackerel spawning. Why is this? This is because female mackerel are either determinant spawners (release all their eggs in one go) or indeterminate spawners (dribble their eggs out over a long period) and this has implications for stock size estimation. For a determinant spawners it is possible to take a sample before spawning to estimate how many eggs will be released. For indeterminate spawners it is very difficult to estimate how many eggs will be produced by one fish in one year.
- Is mackerel cyclical? There is no real data to support this but I have never found it in mackerel.
- Does this big increase in biomass have an impact on other stocks? In any ecosystem the total biomass is relatively constant. So if one species is in abundance there will be a decline elsewhere. Take as an example Barents Sea cod where there are concerns that the stock has overshot its management capacity.
- Is there a link between increasing mackerel abundance and a decline in the Atlantic herring stock? They use the same feeding ground so this can't be ruled out.
- Could it be a coincidental that the huge increase in mackerel biomass coincides with the need to resolve a political dispute? I am inclined to believe that the increase is there.

Theme: Media spotlight

**5. Recent issues and horizon scanning.** Chris Middleton, Seafish.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1123667/clgnov2013\\_seafish\\_mediaspotlight2.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1123667/clgnov2013_seafish_mediaspotlight2.pdf)

Chris explained how Seafish had reacted to issues that had been raised in the media and the aim to: improve quality and quantity of positive media sentiment; refute negative messages; work with media, industry and Government to

demystify the UK seafood industry; improve industry standards to reduce reputation risk; improve online engagement; track messaging and deliver tactics that will significantly improve sentiment within mainstream media; increase audience reach.

#### Discussion

- It is very helpful to know in advance what is likely to appear in the media and what stories are likely to break. Would it be possible to create a media group across the various press offices with a flash alert on new stories?
- There can be tension between science and industry and there is a need to bridge the divide. Whilst we need to be accurate being responsive means having an opinion, which sometimes does not need all the scientific detail.
- Proper media engagement is essential. Fish has been identified as the second most likely food product at risk of fraud. The industry looks to Seafish to be its advocate.

**Action:** Seafish to make contact with FDF and BRC press offices to set up a media group.

## **6. Headline news**

### **6.1. Seafish groups**

#### **6.1.1 Discard Action Group (DAG).** Karen Green, Seafish.

Latest news and minutes can be found on the Seafish web page:

<http://www.seafish.org/fishermen/responsible-sourcing/protecting-fish-stocks/discards>

<http://www.seafish.org/fishermen/responsible-sourcing/protecting-fish-stocks/discards/discard-action-group>

The DAG meeting on 14 October was entitled 'Pathway to a landings obligation'. The intended output will be a report to the devolved administrations containing industry views on how the landings obligation should be implemented. The meeting covered:

- **Perspectives**
  - Fishermen overview – Barrie Deas, NFFO
  - PO perspective – Jane Sandell, Scottish Fishermen's Organisation and Sandy McLeman, Rosebloom
  - Scientific perspective – Carl O'Brien, Cefas
- **What Government needs to know to address this**
- **Practical studies**
  - Results of Seafish case studies – Rod Cappell, Poseidon
  - CEFAS/Defra ASSIST Project – Tom Catchpole, Cefas
- **What has happened in other countries?** Chilean discard law and the Chilean research program. Luis Cocas, Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Chile

#### **6.1.2. Aquaculture Common Issues Group (ACIG).** Karen Green, Seafish.

Latest news and minutes can be found on the Seafish web page:

<http://www.seafish.org/aquaculture>

<http://www.seafish.org/aquaculture/aquaculture-common-issues-group->

The ACIG meeting on 12 September covered:

- SFP's approach to aquaculture improvement projects (AIPs) and Aquaculture Profiles on FishSource. Anton Immink, SFP.
- MMO/Seafish project to collect economic information on UK aquaculture for 2012. Suzanne Hamilton, Frontline.
- LAPs and PAPs in aquaculture feed – horizon scanning. Stephen Woodgate, Foodchain and Biomass Renewables Association.
- Certification in practice in the UK.
  - First native oyster cultivator in the UK to meet the requirements of the new ASC standard. Tony Legg, Jersey Sea Farms.
  - New GAA mussel standard and collaborative working. Daniel Lee, GAA.
  - GLOBALG.A.P. Full Production Chain - Finfish, Crustaceans, Molluscs. John Barrington, Scottish Sea Farms.
  - Certification + complementary public and private governance. Dave Little, University of Stirling.
  - Benchmarking/certification update. Tom Pickerell and Karen Green, Seafish.

There were also five minute updates on : the UK Aquaculture Forum ; the Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill in Scotland ; the English Aquaculture Plan; aquaculture under CFP reform; an industry position statement on greenhouse gas emissions; a look forward to Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers Annual Conference; and a discussion on recent issues facing the shellfish sector.

#### **6.1.3. Skates and Rays Group.** Karen Green, Seafish.

The Skates and Rays Group was re-convened on 8 October. This was the first time the group had met in three and a half years. The key points were:

- Although the publication of the University of Salford report was the catalyst for re-convening the group in reality the report itself was not damning of the skates and rays sector. The real issue was the media interpretation of the report and this did cause a ripple of panic through the sector with calls on suppliers to justify what they were doing, however it was reported that retail customers did not pull away from skates and rays as a result and customer bases have remained the same.
- Cefas gave a very good presentation on the ICES assessment of the status of the stock however there were numerous comments on the lack of good data, that the science does not really reflect the true status of the stock and the budgetary restrictions that Cefas is under. Defra did comment that it planned to put more money into small scale sampling surveys.
- Lots of comments about MCS ratings – asking for the evidence to support the MCS scores. There was a request from MCS for help from the group to develop descriptors for a decision-making tree for data limited stocks. This could help in assessing stocks on a more regional basis and could potentially more positively reflect local conservation initiatives.
- There was mention of couple of new initiatives that should be watched – Shark By-Watch UK and Project Neptune.

- The crux is that the supply chain wants help to instill confidence in buyers and that attendees on Tuesday saw merit in the group and that skates and rays could be promoted on the back of what this group is doing to keep the sector up-to-date with new developments and new information.
- There was unanimous agreement that attendees wanted the S&R Group re-convened to meet once a year; Seafish to create a web page to support the group; Seafish to introduce an adhoc news alert to keep the group up-to-date with the latest news.

## **6.2 Policy**

### **6.2.1. Balance of Competencies.** Ruth Willis, Defra.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1123677/clgnov2013\\_defra\\_balanceofcompetencies.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1123677/clgnov2013_defra_balanceofcompetencies.pdf)

Ruth Willis reported that Defra is looking for evidence on how current arrangements benefit or disadvantage the UK, The review will look at the impacts of the EU on fisheries as a whole including the wider supply chain, food production, markets etc. Key areas are: the level at which fisheries decisions should be made i.e. EU, regional or Member State level? How do the current arrangements affect the national interest? How successful are the current regulations in balancing a level playing field for operators versus flexibility to meet local needs? Access to EU Markets and common standards on fisheries products: Do they benefit or disadvantage the UK? Future challenges and opportunities in achieving our goals for fisheries management. The review was launched on 21 October and will close on 13 January 2014.

#### **Discussion**

- Will this come to any conclusion? No. It will show the landscape and the range of views. It will be publically available.
- I have an issue with the term 'evidence', opinions and views are more straightforward. How can we produce evidence? We know that the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has been a disaster but how can we evidence that? We acknowledge that producing evidence would be difficult and that assumptions on what alternative scenarios would look like may be necessary. Case studies are also a useful tool.
- Can we bring labelling, directives and access to justice into this? Yes and the information could be passed on.
- What is the point if this will not influence Government policy? This will provide a weight of information.

**Action:** Response details to be emailed to CLG circulation list.

### **6.2.2. Progress re Marine Protected Areas/Marine Conservation Zones.**

Karen Green, Seafish.

#### **In Scotland**

There is a proposal for 33 Nature Conservation MPAs. A further four search areas have been identified to protect dolphins, whales and basking sharks, while proposals for black guillemot, sandeels and tidal fronts would enhance protection for seabirds. Final designation will be in 2014 - the proposed sites cover 11% of Scottish waters making 23% protected



areas in total. There is also a consultation: Planning Scotland's Seas: 2013 - Possible Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas Consultation:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/07/2072> Launched on 25 July 2013. This covers Marine Planning, Marine Protected Areas and the future of Marine Renewables and is due to close on 13 November 2013.

### **In England**

Defra issued a consultation in December 2012 to seek views on proposals for the designation of MCZs in English inshore and English and Welsh offshore waters. The MCZ consultation closed on 31 March 2013. Defra was proposing that up to 31 sites (from an original 127) were good candidates for designation in 2013. Data is being collected for the remaining sites and any new regulations will have to take account of the remaining sites in management decisions. An announcement is expected early in November. Natural England is in the process of altering its conservation advice to meet revised European Commission guidance and has established the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Conservation Advice Project. The Government has decided to revise the approach to fisheries management within European marine sites (EMS) in England. The revised approach will be more proactive, assessing the potential impact of commercial fishing activities in these sites and, where appropriate, introducing local management measures in consultation with the fishing industry and other marine interests. An implementation group has been set up. Prioritisation of sites within 12 nautical miles will be achieved by the implementation of a matrix approach, which shows, at a high generic level, gear types and their likely effect on relevant features. Under the matrix, fishing activities will be classed as red, amber, green or blue according to the impact of the gear type on the feature(s) for which a site has been designated.

### **In Wales**

In Wales a Task and Finish Team has been established within the Welsh Government to advise how to take forward MCZs in Wales. A consultation in 2012 presented 10 potential sites as options for further consideration as highly protected marine conservation zones. Although these sites have now been withdrawn. Wales is currently behind England and Scotland in the planning process. The Act requires a statement of public participation which is the beginning of the process and this lays out the main stages and their accompanying activities. Wales expects the SPP to be produced by the end of 2013 with the first plans available at the end of 2015. Meanwhile the WFA has initiated an alternative ecosystem based approach and with Seafish assistance is working with Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and NGOs (WWF and RSPB) to demonstrate how this could work.

### **In Northern Ireland**

The Northern Ireland Marine Bill was introduced in February 2012 for consideration by the Northern Ireland Assembly. This is still a work in progress.

### **6.3. Key initiatives**

#### **6.3.1. Industry position statement on greenhouse gas emissions.** Angus Garrett, Seafish.

In addition to the wider concern for climate change, one of the reasons for undertaking GHG emissions related work in the seafood industry was as a reaction to unsubstantiated commentary in the media concerning food miles and seafood trading. Several months ago there was a level of interest in finding a common position on carbon and food miles as these issues relate to seafood. As such, Seafish and several industry stakeholders, have discussed the issue and produced a draft position statement. The hope is that we can reach a finalised statement that can be used as a generic industry statement (providing overarching context for various energy/GHG emissions work currently underway) and that could potentially be tailored for use by particular stakeholder groups and individual companies. This draft position statement was circulated before the meeting for discussion and endorsement at the CLG meeting (it was previously discussed at the Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting in September). This is about providing a common sense statement – it is not about imposing a single statement. The group was asked whether the position statement was useful and how can we make it fit for purpose?

#### **Discussion**

- I had not seen this as a particular issue for the seafood industry and I am not sure we really want to say something voluntarily. In its current draft I do not think it is fit for purpose – the opening is too vague, to do it comprehensively it would be too long and is it even wise.
- This needs to concentrate on the bullet points at the end, also there is no sense of the volumes of fish involved.
- This could cause internal tensions for those sectors that don't deal with fish alone. I don't think we want to deliberately compare, we don't want to set ourselves up and this is very defensive.
- I think we have lost the plot here – what we should be doing is more on the back of the profiling tool that has been developed and looking more at life cycle analysis.
- I feel that different issues have become mixed up here. This group needs to decide whether this document is right and where do we take this work.
- I am not sure that GHG emissions are a particular problem for the seafood industry and I would be interested to see what media stories there have been. I feel this is just one part of a much wider sustainability agenda and I am not sure we need a position statement.
- In my view the issue has been UK fishing vessels burning a lot of diesel compared with the air miles associated with imports. But the focus is on relative scales and that the industry is doing something about it.
- This is more like a reactive response rather than a position statement.
- A guide to the whole issue would be a lot more useful.

#### **Action:**

6.3.1.1 Seafish to look into producing a guide to GHG emissions and food miles.

6.3.1.2 Seafish tool to be presented at the next meeting.

### **6.3.2. Fishing into the Future (FITF).** Lucy Holmes, ISU.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1123670/clgnov2013\\_isu\\_fishingintothefuture.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1123670/clgnov2013_isu_fishingintothefuture.pdf)

Lucy outlined vision and planning behind the Fishing into the Future event at Brixham in July 'Charting a course to sustainable UK fisheries'. There are four main themes: Science, management, business and skills development and consumer engagement. Seafish is pulling together a formal response to the event which will ally Seafish on-going work streams with the outcomes of FITF to identify what we are already doing and where there are gaps. The aim is for FITF to continue as a platform and a forum for on-going industry engagement, knowledge sharing, support, communication and advice; any actions will be taken forward by sub committees; Seafish to host secretariat, GMRI and ISU to continue to advise and support

**Action:** CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

### **6.3.3. Project Inshore,** Toby Middleton, MSC.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1123673/clgnov2013\\_msc\\_projectinshore.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1123673/clgnov2013_msc_projectinshore.pdf)

Toby updated the group on the progress of the project which aims to map all English inshore fisheries, provide pre-assessments for all English inshore fisheries and develop sustainability recommendations. This will highlight the pinch points of individual fisheries. The stage 1 mapping exercise and the stage 2 pre-assessments have both been completed. The next steps are to complete IFCA site visits and host an industry/stakeholder workshop in December 2013; draft sustainability recommendation reports for each IFCA (shellfish focus) and to draft sustainability recommendations reports for other species where IFCA management is not an appropriate scale (eg. DEFRA/MMO) for demersal, flatfish and pelagic species.

#### Discussion

- Will the IFCA reports be publicly available? Yes.
- What do the recommendations to the IFCAs cover? There are 33 indicators that make up the pre-assessment which is precautionary in nature. The recommendations basically provide a roadmap of issues they may like to consider.
- Has the project as a whole thrown up any surprises? It has provided general insights and a lot more information on areas where the ecosystem is less well understood.

**Action:** CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

### **6.3.4. MCS ratings.** Sam Stone, MCS

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1124278/clgnov2013\\_mcs\\_ratings.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1124278/clgnov2013_mcs_ratings.pdf)

Sam updated the group on MCS ratings changes which are due to be announced on 14 November. 194 FishOnline listings (36 species) were reviewed following the release of ICES 2013 summer advice (ratings changes following the ICES autumn advice will be announced on 14 February 2014). This has resulted in 38 changes to ratings : 21 improved, 17 deteriorated and seven new entries – six scallop fisheries and one sardine. MCS will be holding a public consultation on

specific areas of the MCS methodology in spring 2014. The MCS Fishonline and Good Fish Guide websites are due to merge in February/March 2014.

MCS are also looking at a new initiative – Project Porthole. This aims to promote the widespread adoption of environmental best practices in the UK seafood industry and recognise seafood businesses who are currently implementing environmental best practices. The idea is to provide online working case studies to encourage business to business sharing of information relating to best practices. MCS is looking for industry engagement and funding.

**Action:** CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

#### **6.3.5. GSSI Initiative.** Tom Pickerell, Seafish

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative is a three year programme to bring clarity and transparency by providing a tool to benchmark seafood certification schemes. Three expert working groups have been set up to cover processing, catching and aquaculture and all have met for the first time. The real aim is to determine whether an eco-label is credible. The first task is to transfer the FAO guidelines into a metrics and then identify what is missing to create a baseline. The GSSI board was due to meet w/c 11 November. The timeline is for the tool itself to be completed by the end of 2014 and for the benchmark process to be completed by the end of 2015.

**Action:** CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

#### **6.3.6. Sustainable Seafood Coalition.** Melissa Pritchard, ClientEarth.

The labelling code has been shortened to two pages and activity is now focussing on the guidance document to implement the code. The sourcing working group met in July, this has now been re-drafted and the members meeting is taking place on 11 November.

**Action:** CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

### **7. Any other business**

Mike Kaiser invited attendees to stay behind for a presentation and discussion on the Environmental Evidence Database of Research Syntheses (EEDRS). The database will list available (published and unpublished) syntheses of primary research (e.g. critical reviews, meta-analyses, systematic reviews) conducted to assess evidence on a specific question of environmental policy or management relevance. The database will provide an independent assessment, conducted to preset quality criteria, of the reliability and transparency of each synthesis.

### **8. Date of next meeting**

The date and venue for the next meeting will be confirmed. It was agreed that the format for the day's meeting had worked well and it was also agreed that it would be easier to set all the dates for 2014 at the beginning of the year. The CLG Steering Group will meet to discuss the agenda for the next meeting which will be in late February/early March. Any ideas for agenda items should be sent to

[p\\_macmullen@seafish.co.uk](mailto:p_macmullen@seafish.co.uk) or [k\\_green@seafish.co.uk](mailto:k_green@seafish.co.uk)