

SEA FISH INDUSTRY AUTHORITY



Notes on the

Seafish Aquaculture Common Issues Group (ACIG) Meeting

Held in London on 6 July 2011

James Wilson (JW)	Deepdock Limited, acting Chairman
Mike Mitchell (MM)	The Seafood Company
David Jarrad (DJ)	Shellfish Association of Great Britain
Martin Jaffa (MJ)	Callandar McDowell
Dawn Purchase (DP)	MCS
Walter Speirs (WS)	ASSG
Alex Adrian (AD)	Crown Estate
Tracey Heyworth (TH)	Birds Eye Iglo
Hugh Gordon (HG)	Tesco
Daniel Lee (DL)	GAA
Ian Pike (IP)	Consultant
Marcus Windsor (MW)	Seachill
Andrew Nicholson (AN)	The Co-operative Food
Scott Landsburgh (SL)	SSPO
Blake Lee Harwood (BLH)	SFP
Anthony Murphy (AM)	Skretting
Matt Whittles (MW)	Defra
Simon Kershaw (SK)	Cefas
Craig Burton (CB)	Seafood Scotland
Chris Brown (CBr)	Asda
Piers Hart (PH)	WWF Scotland
Andrew Mallison (AM)	International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation
Richard Slaski (RS)	SARF
Neil Auchterlonie (NA)	Cefas
Ann Moffat (AM)	Marine Scotland
Peter Southgate (PS)	FishVet
Mark Seager (MS)	The Seafood Company
Andy Cummins (AC)	Surfers against Sewage
Karen Galloway (KGa)	Seafish
Karen Green (KGr)	Seafish and Group Secretary
Mandy Pyke (MP)	Seafish
Tricia Jordan (TJ)	Seafish – minutes

Apologies	
Paul Williams	Seafish
Anne Chamberlain	International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation
David Bassett	Trout Association
Martin Syvret	Aquafish Solutions
Mike Berthet	M&J Seafoods
Steve Bracken	Marine Harvest
Ian Carr	EWOS
Lucy Blow	New England Seafoods
Jim Landry	Lyons Seafoods
Nigel Edwards	Seachill

Doug Low	EWOS
Paul Morris	Skretting
Keith Jeffery	Cefas
Clare Mason	Defra
Ally Dingwall	Sainsbury's
Richard Luney	M&S
Emily Howgate	Seafood Choices Alliance
Jonathan Moore	ClientEarth
Richard Prickett	Consultant
Niall MacDonald	EWOS
Jeremy Langley	Waitrose
Nick Bradbury	Biomar
Peter Staff	Le Lien Limited
Tom Pickerell	Shellfish Association of Great Britain

1. Introduction apologies etc

James Wilson was standing in for Paul Williams who was attending a devolved meeting in Edinburgh. Apologies were received from Anne Chamberlain, David Bassett, Martin Syvret, Mike Berthet, Steve Bracken, Ian Carr, Luc Blow, Jim Landry, Nigel Edwards, Doug Low, Paul Morris, Keith Jeffery, Clare Mason, Ally Dingwall, Richard Luney, Emily Howgate, Jonathan Moore, Richard Prickett, Niall MacDonald, Jeremy Langley, Nick Bradbury, Peter Stagg and Tom Pickerell.

KGa gave an update on the current position following the court case ruling on 15 June which concluded that it was legal for Seafish to collect levy on imports. Seafish are now in the process of collecting back levy. KGa went through a review of the work Seafish had completed over the last 15 months.

2. Minutes and outstanding actions from previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

2.1 New factsheets on Pangasius and Tilapia

There are still some minor changes to be made to the final versions of the pangasius and tilapia factsheets, but once completed these will be placed on the Seafish website. KGr enquired whether any of the committee members would be interested in commenting on the warm water prawn and Atlantic salmon factsheets. There were indications of interest. Anyone else wishing to do so to email their interest to KGr.

Action – Committee members interested in commenting on warm water prawns and Atlantic salmon factsheets to email KGr.

2.2 Who's who - aquaculture organisations

A Who's who in UK Aquaculture had been produced and this was tabled for comments. WS advised that Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group should include Shetland and add shellfish to Shetland Aquaculture. The draft version will be circulated to committee members and the final version placed on the Seafish website.

Action – KGr to circulate draft version of Who's who for comments and place the final version on the Seafish website.

3. Standing items

3.1 UK Aquaculture Forum

The next meeting will be held in Brussels on 4 and 5 October 2011. Day 1 will cover aquaculture development issues and Day 2 will cover aquatic health issues. An evening reception will also be held.

AM asked for any agenda items for this meeting to enable her to target key people in EU fisheries. The deadline for agenda items was 15 July.

Action – Agenda items for UK Aquaculture Forum to be emailed to Ann Moffat on Ann.Moffat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

3.2 Progress on English Aquaculture Strategy

Matt Whittles and Clare Mason have now taken over progressing the English Aquaculture strategy from Kerry Oldfield who has left Defra. MW advised that the consultation was still not ready to be circulated. A Cefas report on the regulatory burden on aquaculture businesses has been completed - this requires reading prior to circulation.

3.3 Update on Aquaculture certification

The latest species by species summary of how the certification standards were progressing was tabled. GAA salmon standards have now been finalised. BLH said that the SFP report comparing the tilapia aquaculture standards had been completed and the link would be provided. BLH commented the report 'was deep but valuable'.

MM flagged up that a small industry issues group had been set up with Melanie Siggs consisting of suppliers and processors i.e. Seachill, Icelandic Group and Findus to produce a list of standards. This is now in the final stages of consultation with the group. No formal announcement regarding the group has been made and MM was not sure when a press release would be issued. DJ advised that this would have impact and enquired whether a presentation could be made at the next meeting. MM advised he would look into this.

DL reported that there had been a conference call involving Tracey Heyworth from Birds Eye, and Richard Wardell and Karen Galloway at Seafish, on certification and an update on progress will be provided at the next meeting.

Action – MM to investigate industry group presentation on certification at the next meeting.

4. SAGB conference - issues arising

TP was unable to attend today's meeting so DJ gave an update on the SAGB conference held in May this year. For the first time the conference had been over subscribed. The feedback from the conference had been very positive. JW reiterated this by saying it had been a very good and interesting conference.

5. The Campaign for Clean Water: Surfers against Sewage

Andy Cummins from Surfers against Sewage gave a presentation on "Exposing the UK's Dirty Little Secret".

Surfers against Sewage were formed in 1990 by a group of surfers. They are a pressure group focused on the protection of the UK's oceans, waves and beaches to ensure safe

and accessible access and use for all, through a combination of campaigning, volunteering, conservation, education and scientific research.

Surfers bathing in sewage can become sick with ear, nose and throat infections, and even hepatitis A, E. coli and dysentery. To help combat this they now issue Sewage Alerts via text to their members advising them when sewage is about to be released into the sea.

JW stated that as a pressure group what they had achieved so far was incredible and commendable.

WS pointed out that there are 13-18 beaches in Scottish waters and he was not sure whether SEPA provided this service for surfers, but he knows that this service was not available for shellfish farmers. Under the Shellfish Directive there is a requirement that sewage alerts are sent out, but he has been unable to obtain this information. He asked whether Seafish would be able to obtain his information.

MP has spoken to some water companies and reported she had found they do not appear willing to engage on this subject at this time. However tackling microbial pollution in England's coastal waters is a key issue. Engagement with water companies must be progressed sooner rather than later. Due to the way they operate, through funding rounds, a proposal must be agreed with the water companies and OFWAT by 2013 for any funds to be allocated to the next Asset Management Plan for the period of 2015-2020. This means a pilot to convert a surfers against sewage model to a shellfish model must be completed next year. This can only be done if we can get the water companies to agree with any proposal. This may mean industry modifying its approach to water companies. MP referred to a letter from Richard Benyon praising the Cleaner Seas Forum and urging further work with the water companies to improve how shellfisheries operators are notified of emergency and intermittent discharges. MP asked the group to make a decision to take this issue forward at the earliest possible moment.

KGa advised that these points would be relayed back to Paul Williams and Jon Harman for further consideration on the water quality issue and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

DJ also referred to the support from Richard Benyon to Water UK to come forward and do a pilot similar to SAS rapid alert for shellfish farmers. Water companies made every excuse possible but there could be litigation in the future if there should be a public health issue. WS pointed out that there was a need to be subtle when dealing with the media on this. AD from the Crown Estates advised that as they are not a regulator they had no role and are therefore not directly involved with the water companies. The presentation is on the Seafish website.

Andy Cummins details are Email: andy@sas.org.uk
T: 01872 555 952. M: 07711 767548. F: 01872 552615. www.sas.org.uk
Unit 2, Wheal Kitty Workshops, St Agnes, Cornwall, TR5 0RD

Action – Update on water quality issue for next meeting.

6. Shrimp farming: an introduction to farming methods

Mark Seager gave a presentation on "Warm Water Prawn Aquaculture".

BLH commented that there had been no mention of feed. He advised that the feed was issued 4/5 times a day and 90% of fishmeal was from South America and some trash fish.

The key is to responsible sourcing is to know your source. MM pointed out that this was a global issue. IFFO have launched a Responsible Supply Scheme for fishmeal and fish oil that has already been adopted in Europe and South America, and they were hoping to roll out in S E Asia though an Improvers Program designed to address data deficiency or other obstacles to certification. IP noted that the main problem was disease not sustainability. AM pointed out that the challenge was to do with the supply chain, origin of product and route to market. He agreed with IP on local difficulties and culture. There are a lot of industry problems but change can be accomplished with setup of appropriate partners.

MM expressed a need to develop markets responsibly. Youngs are developing a fair trade standard for prawns which should be concluded by 2012. They are present piloting with several good operators.

The presentation is on the Seafish website.

7. Food Security: What does this mean for the UK seafood sector.

The Chairman commented that it was good to see Cefas recognise food security. Neil Auchterlonie stated Cefas hoped to be in the following position in one year's time:

- Cefas hope to have in place a production site in partnership with industry (sector is not known at present)
- English Aquaculture Plan - to be closed off and provide roadmap for England
- Cefas strategic partnership with Seafish. R&D work with producers and supply chain processing sector

MJ pointed out that to make the English Aquaculture Plan work government needed to pay shellfish farmers to grow fish - people farm fish to make money. Questions were raised about who drives food security initiatives. If fish can be imported why do we need to grow our own? NA stated it was down to economics. WS advised that shellfish farmers are having more and more regulations enforced upon them and the latest threat is appropriate assets. No one is willing to pay more and there is no incentive to expand their businesses. There has to be an incentive do this or this will not happen. RS pointed out that there as money left in EEF south of the border. The presentation is on the Seafish website.

8. Retail perspective on fishmeal/fish oil substitution

Karen Green tabled a paper which noted statements from four retailers on their views about substituting fishmeal and fish oil in fish feed diets and the effect this would have on the Omega-3 profile of the fish. Discussion centred around whether the consumer wishes to take Omega-3 in tablet form, or by eating fish.

IP advised that taking fish in capsule form was not as easily absorbed as eating fish. Consumers would need to take a lot of capsules to equal the benefits of consuming one portion of fish. People need DHA in their diet which is found in fish. EFSA has recently supported an opinion on DHA, which states DHA intake helps with visual development of infants and development of the foetus, and is one step nearer in helping with mental health problems.

KGa stated that the University of Aberdeen was progressing a human intervention study on the health effects of consuming two portions oily fish (Scottish farmed salmon) per week (current UK recommendation) using fish raised on different feeding regimes, using a very wide range of health biomarkers. In addition they are also analysing the composition of fish including Omega-3 fatty acids (EPA, DHA and DPA), micronutrients (selenium, zinc, copper and iron), and antioxidants within fish fed marine-based versus more sustainable feeds.

This is a very complex debate currently surrounding land animal proteins and substitution generally. Once one of the major retailers takes a position on this it is likely the others will follow. WS enquired who was funding the University of Aberdeen study. KGa agreed to find out.

Action – Invite the University of Aberdeen to present on their proposed salmon intervention study and look into funding – Karen Galloway

9. Fish Disease and Salmon

Peter Southgate gave a presentation on "Farmed Salmon: Health and Disease". There has been a big improvement over the past 10 years in addressing sea lice issues. The presentation is on the Seafish website.

10. An Introduction to SARF

Richard Slaski gave an introduction presentation on SARF. The presentation is on the Seafish website.

11. Any other business

11.1 Future Topics

KGa to present work on Scottish Aquaculture consumer/retailer research.

11.2 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 3 November 2011** at the MIC Hotel and Conference Centre, 81-103 Euston Street, London, NW1 2EZ. Any ideas for agenda items would be most welcome.