

Note of Common Language Group (CLG) meeting held at Friends House, London.
Thursday 16 November 2017

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 (Bangor University and Chair of the CLG) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees

Adam Green	Lyons Seafoods
Aisla Jones	Co-op
Alex Caveen	Seafish
Alex Olsen	Espersen
Alison Austen	Consultant, Seafish Board
Ana Nicula	Ocado
Andy Hickman	Tesco
Andy Matchett	Coombe Fisheries Ltd
Angus Garrett	Seafish
Brad Soule	OceanMind/Catapult
Caitlin Schindler	Lovering Foods Ltd
Carl O'Brien	Cefas
Cassie Leisk	New England Seafood
Chiara Vitali	World Animal Protection UK
Chloe North	Marine Stewardship Council
Chris Brown	Asda
Claire Sammons	Lovering Foods Ltd
Clare Eno	Vitalox
Clarus Chu	WWF
Courtney Farthing	Pew Trusts
Dale Rodmell	NFFO
Dan McGlynn	Authenticate
Daniel Owen	Fenners Chambers
Daniel Suddaby	Ocean Outcomes
David Jarrad	Shellfish Association of Great Britain
David Parker	Young's Seafood
Emi Katoh	MRAG
Estelle Brennan	Lyons Seafoods
Hannah McIntyre	Marks & Spencer
Ian Rolmanis	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
Indrani Lutchman	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
James Hind	Greenwich Forum
Jerry Percy	LIFE
Jess Sparks	Seafish
Joana Smith	Natural England
John Butler	Oscar Mayer Group

Joseph Prosho
June Mummery
Karen Green
Katherine Maltby
Kevin Powell
Kristin Sherwood
Libby Woodhatch
Mark McCombe
Mark Newbold
Martin Purves
Martina Jensen
Max Goulden
Max Schmid
Mike Berthet
Mike Brummitt
Mike Kaiser
Mike Mitchell
Mike Park
Mike Short
Nick Neeld
Nigel Edwards
Oliver Tanqueray
Paul Lines
Phil Taylor
Pim Visser
Richard Stansfield
Ruth Quinn
Sam Stone
Sarah Johnson
Stella Bartolini
Steve Hall
Tania Woodcock
Toby Middleton
Tom Evans

Apologies

Alma Bonilla
Amali Bunter
Barry Harland
David Moore
Dawn Welham
Estelle Brennan
Huw Thomas
Jim Portus
Jonathan Shepherd
Katie Miller
Laky Zervudachi
Marcus Coleman
Martin Jaffa
Michael Crawford
Neil Auchterlonie

Morrisons
Lowestoft Fish Market Alliance
Seafish (Minutes)
Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology
Icelandic Seachill
FishChoice
Seafish
Caterers Choice
Lidl UK
IPNLF
Sustainable Restaurant Association
MacAlister Elliott & Partners Ltd
Environmental Justice Foundation
Global Aquaculture Alliance
Regal Fish Supplies Ltd
Bangor University (Chair)
Fair Seas
SWFPA
Seafood Industry Alliance
The Big Prawn Company
Icelandic Seachill
ClientEarth/Sustainable Seafood Coalition
Lowestoft Fish Market Alliance
Open Seas
VisNed
Flatfish Ltd
Chatham House
Marine Conservation Society
ASMI
Defra
Avalerion Capital
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
Marine Stewardship Council
Consultant/Key Traceability Ltd

Joseph Robertson Ltd
Lidl UK
Whitby Seafoods
New England Seafood
Authenticate
Lyons Seafoods
Pew Trusts
SWFPO
Consultant, Seafish Board
Sustainable Seafood Coalition
Direct Seafoods
Seafish
Callander McDowell
Imperial College London
IFFO

Nikolas Evangelides
Peter Hajjipieris
Steve Simpson

Pew Trusts
Seafish Board Member
University of Exeter

2. Minutes from the last meeting held on 22 June 2017.

The final minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting and have been added to the CLG web page. Attendees were asked to take note of the meeting guidelines. 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 attribute the comments made at the meeting. Papers were sent round and tabled covering the activities of the other Seafish groups (Aquaculture, Discards, Ethics and Skates and Rays) and a list of forthcoming seafood events. A full list can be found on the Seafish website: <http://www.seafish.org/about-seafish/news-and-events/events>

Seafood consumption

3. Seafood 2040 strategy. Alison Austen, Consultant, Seafish Board.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1727452/clg_nov2017_seafood2040.pdf

Alison explained the 2040 journey and the all-sector approach to developing this framework. The ambition is for a thriving and sustainable seafood industry with the key aims to see:

- Seafood consumption has almost doubled to reach recommended levels of 2 portions per person per week, fuelling economic growth within the sector and returning substantial health gains and associated cost savings.
- Our wild-catch fisheries are sustainable and flourishing: a new data framework has ensured all stocks are well managed, fuelling an increase in demand for a wider range of species, which is fully exploited by the enhanced role of Producer Organisations.
- The aquaculture sector has seen significant growth, with a new Aquaculture Leadership Group providing support to allow the sector to thrive within a safe regulatory framework.
- Business growth has been enabled by infrastructure improvements, ensuring potential is maximised right across the value chain from ports, transport and logistics, to skills and recruitment, production efficiency and waste reduction.
- With production volumes increased, opportunities for exports have also grown; sustainable seafood is firmly positioned at the heart of the 2020 Export Drive, growing the volume and value of sales plus extending market reach.
- Access to international markets for responsibly sourced seafood has been assured, with favourable trade and tariff agreements in place with all seafood producing nations.

There are three phases of delivery and 25 recommendations.

Discussion

- **Question.** How much discussion has there been about the linkages between the aquaculture environment and the marine environment. **Answer.** There was a big focus on slow clean water and the need for a more holistic approach and to very clearly link the two. The same standards are needed across the two.
- There are 25 recommendations and it is gratifying to see that, whilst this is an industry-led framework, some of these recommendations fall to Defra and that they are engaged with this. **A.** Defra has been very supportive and is keen to use

the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for funding and accelerating some of this. This is the vision it is now the time to find the way to achieve this.

- **Q.** One of the key objectives is to increase consumption. Did the group agree the key levers to do this? **A.** There is no silver bullet but a whole suite of levers that can be used and there will be a group leading on this with more engagement needed. This was the first question from the Minister – how do we increase consumption? There needs to be a whole series of shifts and changes and there are early signs of growth. The aim is to make the whole seafood sector much more investable.

Action: Circulate link once the framework is published on the Seafish website.

Fish stock status

4. Overview. Carl O'Brien, Cefas.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724355/clg_nov2017_fishstockstatus_cefas.pdf

This covered: stocks in the North-East Atlantic, an overview of regional status and the thoughts on the December Council 2017 and the setting of TACs and quotas for 2018. Overall for stocks in the Greater North Sea Ecoregion, the Celtic Seas Ecoregion, Icelandic water, Baltic Sea and Norwegian Sea generally the prospects look good with continuing improvements in terms of sustainable fishing in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, and in the West of Scotland, Irish Sea and Celtic Sea. With regards to the UK MSY data rich stocks and the TACs for 2017: out of 45 stocks that are MSY assessed and targeted by the UK, 29 are now being exploited in line with MSY which is resulting in the gradual rebuilding of stocks. At their peak, fishing pressures on UK stocks have been more than three times above sustainable levels, though these rates are now substantially reduced. There are thought to be around 200-250 stocks in total that are of interest to the UK market.

5. SFP Ocean Disclosure Project (ODP). Tania Woodcock, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724358/clg_nov2017_oceandisclosureproject_sfp.pdf

The ODP is a global platform for voluntary disclosure of seafood sourcing. It was launched in October 2015 and a new website, with nine participants, was launched in September 2017. Participation is free and companies are asked to share the list of main wild-caught seafood species sourced and review their draft profile. Each profile has five elements: fishery name, location and nationality; gear type; certification status; stock status and management rating; and environmental notes.

Action: Circulate link to ODP website.

6. View of a signatory to the agreement. Chris Brown, Asda.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724361/clg_nov2017_oceandisclosureproject_asda.pdf

For Asda the direct benefits of being a participant in the ODP are: internal sustainability housekeeping audit across the portfolio of seafood offerings which identifies products no longer sold, new species etc. and meets (more or less) all the needs of external data/sourcing queries on fisheries. The indirect benefits are: complete transparency of other products, demonstration of progress, communicating company policy and performance on seafood, and the challenge for aquaculture.

Overall discussion

- **Question.** Are Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) recognised in the ODP? If so what are the criteria and how do you check status? **Answer.** FIPs are not tracked but they are included. Businesses were keen for FIPs to be part of this but FIPs are mostly covered by FisheryProgress.org.
- **Q.** Is there a risk that businesses taking part will only include gold star fisheries and be very selective about what goes on? **A.** In an ideal world all would be included but generally business will select the fisheries where there is a good level of information. However if they choose to only highlight one section of a fishery this would expose them to criticism.
- **Q.** In terms of stock status and the generally improving picture re stock status where are the challenges? Is it climate change, the landing obligation, MSY? **A.** We still have a large number of data limited stocks with far more data limited stocks compared with data rich. We have 45 stocks that are MSY assessed out of 250 stocks that are utilised so going forward we need a formal framework to assess these.
- **Q.** Looking at herring and mackerel the Commission proposal is lower than the ICES advice. How does the Commission reach these decisions? **A.** There are always complications and other factors to take into account. In the case of mackerel and herring they are subject to the Coastal States agreement and whilst the group has a whole have agreed to a total TAC and a four year management plan there has been difficulty in agreeing the percentage split.
- Modern slavery was mentioned related to the SFP Ocean Disclosure Project and whether the ODP purely covered environmental factors. There was some discussion re wild caught certification and the fact that these were generally environmental standards with the recognition that going forward they should be addressing social as well. There was reference to the fact that MSC had not ruled out including social components going forward. SFP mentioned their involvement in a partnership to develop a social risk tool. There was recognition of the need to link environmental and social criteria and a mention of the Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme being rolled out globally in 2018.

Driving improvement - FIPs and certification

7. FisheryProgress.org - FIP Progress Tracking Website. Kristin Sherwood, FishChoice.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724364/clg_nov2017_fisheryprogress.org.pdf

FisheryProgress.org is a one-stop shop for reliable, credible and verified information about fishery improvement project (FIP) progress. Currently there are 85 FIPs on the site with 30 more in the pipeline. There are 900 registered users of the site. FIPs must report every six months; all FIPs are measured against the same yardstick; there is open access to all FIPs of various stages and sizes; FIP implementers upload their own information; and the information is reviewed by an independent party.

8. Benchmarking sustainable practices. Mike Park, Scottish Whitefish Producers Association.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724367/clg_nov2017_drivingimprovement_swfpa.pdf

The industry recognises that it needs to benchmark progress and fishers need to deliver improvement. The North Sea cod and haddock fisheries are MSC certified, as well as the North Sea and West of Scotland saithe fishery. A number more are undergoing

certification. It is important to recognise and acknowledge the activities of fishers, which have pushed North Sea to achieve MSC status including closed areas to protect spawning stock, the introduction of advanced selectivity measures to target the best quality cod. Sustainability is all about economics – it is difficult to be green when you are in the red.

9. Project UK Fisheries Improvements. Chloe North, Marine Stewardship Council.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724370/clg_nov2017_projectuk_msc.pdf

Project UK Fisheries Improvements is a collaborative stakeholder partnership working towards an environmentally sustainable future for UK fisheries, facilitated by the MSC. It builds on the outputs and methods of Project Inshore and uses a pre-assessment process as a tool to inform management. It aims to improve and ultimately certify key commercial UK fisheries by facilitating FIPs for priority species identified by the supply chain; to use the MSC FIP tools and definition of a credible FIP and use the model to establish a 'FIP conveyor belt' to identify, improve and certify UK fisheries. Stage 1 has identified six fisheries: monkfish, scallops, crab, lobster, plaice and lemon sole, with more targeted in stage 2.

10. Certification and defining the unit of assessment.

10a. Martin Purves, International Pole and Line Foundation.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724373/clg_nov2017_ipnlf.pdf

This presentation presented the IPNLF view and focussed on the MSC definition of a Unit of Assessment 'The target stock(s) combined with the fishing method/gear and practice (including vessel type/s) pursuing that stock, and any fleets, or groups of vessels, or individual fishing operators or other eligible fishers that are included in an MSC fishery assessment. In some fisheries, the Unit of Assessment and Unit of Certification may be further defined based on the specific fishing seasons and/or areas that are included' and what are the implications when a CAB places all the focus on 'fishing practices' and subdivides a fishery into 'sustainable' and 'unsustainable' compartments when it is assessed? The examples used were: a bottom trawler that fishes on vulnerable corals, but is certified; the tuna long liner using circle hooks on some sets; the tooth fish long liner that catches seabirds; and the FAD-free purse seiner that also fishes on FADs.

10b. Toby Middleton, Marine Stewardship Council.

In June 2017, the MSC convened a round table discussion with 40 stakeholders representing NGOs, three fisheries, academia, Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), brands and retailers to review how the MSC programme currently defines units of assessment (Utah) in MSC certified fisheries, and to exchange views with respect to its application within MSC assessments. The stakeholders at the workshop were concerned that allowing vessels to fish on certified and uncertified units of assessment within the same trip raised practical and reputational risks for the MSC. Following the workshop, the MSC drafted three potential options to address the issue and consulted on these in September 2017:

- **Option 1:** improved recording and reporting. It would require that any activity outside of the Utah that takes place on a single-trip is recorded and presented in the certification report.
- **Option 2:** uncertified activity enters a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) and enters MSC full-assessment within five years. In this option, as a condition of certification a fishery would be required to establish a Fishery Improvement

Project (FIP) which is consistent with the MSC's definition and develop a Fishery Improvement Action Plan to cover all activity outside of the Unit of Certification that takes place on single trips, which has the objective, and a condition, to enter MSC full-assessment at the completion of the FIP. The existing certified unit would be unaffected.

- **Option 3:** All activity on a single trip must be certified. This option would require that all fishing activity on a single trip is certified. If an uncertified unit is unable to meet the standard, vessels could alter their fishing activities to avoid fishing them on the same trip as certified units.

There were 48 responses to this consultation and a lot of the comments were around tuna. There was no consensus view on a single solution but that is the aim and MSC, under their Theory of Change, is looking at how to take this forward.

Overall discussion

- **Question.** What proportion of FIPs on FisheryProgress.org is MSC compliant? **Answer.** 50% of them state that is their aim.
- **Q.** Tuna has been highlighted here but could this 'single trip' issue affect other fisheries as well? **A.** There could be up to 30 other fisheries where issues could be raised.
- **Q.** There has been lots of focus on FIPs; could we have a similar platform for certified fisheries? **A.** MSC certified fisheries have to stand alone and are all highlighted on the MSC website.
- **Q.** Are FIPs driving positive change in fisheries management? Is this evident in project UK? **A.** Yes the regulators are involved in Project UK and this is driving change. There are also clear progression stages which are being monitored and this is all clearly detailed on Fisheryprogress.org.

Seafood integrity

11. Port State Measures Agreement. Courtney Farthing, Pew Trusts.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724376/clg_nov2017_psm_a_pewtrusts.pdf

The 2009 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing regulates foreign-flagged fishing vessels involved in fishing operations that seek entry into port to land or tranship fish. It allows States to refuse access to port services or inspect suspicious vessels. It stops illegal seafood making its way to the market; fewer ports are available to offload illegal catch so there is a reduced incentive to continue IUU activities; it gets different national agencies to work together; it requires improved communication protocols between flag, coastal and port States; and it increases transparency. It entered into force in June 2016 and now 50 States plus the EU are Party to the PSMA. The point was made – there is nothing else coming – this has to be implemented.

12. OceanMind/Catapult work on fisheries compliance. Brad Soule, Chief Fisheries Analyst, OceanMind/Catapult.

http://www.seafish.org/media/1724490/clg_nov2017_oceanmind.pdf

OceanMind supports fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS); targets Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; provides risk management for the seafood supply chain, as well as unbiased, independent monitoring, verification and

validation using in-depth activity and maritime domain awareness, remote sensing, and monitoring maritime traffic. They have been involved in a lot of activities in Thailand – there are now 7,000 Vessel Monitoring (VMS) units installed on Thai fishing vessels, 1,000 in the Philippines, 8,000 in the USA and 4,000 in India which is a massive positive change.

Overall discussion

- **Question.** Is the PSMA driving change and is this evident? Can you check who has ratified? **Answer.** Change is there to be seen. You can see who has ratified but it is much more difficult to see if it is being enforced. Looking at which countries have held FAO workshops is one indication.
- **Q.** With the heat maps shown can you see the actual vessel? **A.** We have an enormous database and you can cross-reference so you can get a strong sense of which vessel it is.
- **Q.** Are satellite images expensive? **A.** OceanMind does not own any satellites but this can be asked for at a cost. There is a lot of lower resolution Government data that is collected which can be analysed at a much lower cost.
- **Q.** How up-to-date is the data collected by Ocean Mind? **A.** The automatic identification system (AIS), an automatic tracking system used on ships and by vessel traffic services came online in 2010 and the number of satellites has increased massively over the last few years. How up-to-date they will very much depend on when they were installed on the vessels.
- There was mention of a research paper comparing AIS and VMS technology

13. Date of next meeting

The next CLG meeting will be on Tuesday 20 March 2018 at Friends House, London. The Common Language Group Steering Group will be discussing the agenda.

Follow on meeting from 3.30 to 5.00pm facilitated by VisNed on Dutch innovation in fisheries.

CLG attendees were invited to engage in discussion on Dutch innovation in fisheries. The Dutch Fisheries organisation is keen to have a dialogue on innovation in their fisheries. Over recent years pulse gear has been developed as a possible sustainable alternative for the traditional beam trawl using tickler chains. This gear has reduced fuel consumption and seabed impact. Its characteristics indicate higher selectivity for sole and less plaice discards. Scientists and NGO's, as well as fisheries representatives, have been invited by the Dutch to present their views on this development and engage in a discussion. This session will be led by Pim Visser, VisNed.