



Sea Fish Industry Authority Waste Working Group Newsletter – October 2006

Introduction

This is the tenth edition of the Waste Working Group Newsletter. The Seafish Waste Strategy Group (WSG) met again in early October. A summary of this meeting and the action points that will be followed up are contained in this newsletter.

We are keen to make as many people as possible aware of the problems with waste disposal and to share any possible solutions. With this in mind, please forward this newsletter to anyone you feel should be reading it, and let us know if there are any innovative solutions that we should be making more widely known by covering them in future editions.

Further details on seafood waste and the Waste Strategy Group can be found at the following Seafish webpage - <http://www.seafish.org/land/sustainability.asp>

General Progress

The project on land application of shellfish by-products has been completed and a report prepared. A summary of the findings is currently under consultation and will be issued shortly. It includes a review of the properties of shellfish and the legislative framework within which land application can be carried out. The report will shortly be posted onto the Seafish website but a copy can be obtained by contacting m_archer@seafish.co.uk

A project with Yorkshire and Humber Seafood Group and Food Processing Faraday to assess the feasibility of developing a resource efficiency club in the Yorkshire and Humber region has recently been completed. Such a club would address issues such as seafood waste, packaging waste, energy consumption, water and effluent minimisation, lean manufacturing etc. Approximately 50 companies in the region were surveyed and the resounding response was that they did not want to attend meetings and workshops, preferring one to one help and information on other sources of help and funding. Results of the feasibility study will be available in due course.

Seafish is currently supporting other regional initiatives including anaerobic digestion in NE Scotland, composting in Dumfries and Galloway, land application in SW England and uses for shell in aggregates. Updates will be provided in future newsletters.

Sources of Information

NetRegs is a free website that offers practical help and guidance for small businesses on complying with environmental legislation - <http://www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs/>

Envirowise produce a range of comprehensive information on environmental and resource management - <http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/home.aspx> with specific

information for the food and drink industry -
<http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/page.aspx?o=tips>

Tenth Waste Strategy Group Meeting, Tuesday 3rd October 2006

Present

Michaela Archer	MLA	Seafish / Chair
John Croy	JC	Young's Bluecrest Seafood Ltd.
Ian Farley	IF	British Frozen Foods Federation
Steven Park	SP	Food and Drink Federation
Meg Patel	MP	Defra
Fiona Wright	FW	Seafish

Apologies

Clive Askew	CA	Shellfish Association of Great Britain
Sam Evans	SE	Kildavanan Seafoods Ltd.
Malcolm Large	ML	Seafish
Alastair Schofield	ASc	State Veterinary Service
Nina Sweet	NS	Environment Agency

1. Welcome & introduction

MLA thanked everyone for attending the meeting but expressed disappointment at the low attendance. MLA confirmed that this was the last meeting of the Group.

2. Minutes / newsletter of the last meeting

The amended minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Legislation

3.1 Animal By-product review

FW explained that a Seafish response had been prepared to the Animal By-product Regulation Review and queried MP for an update.

MP confirmed that the ABPR review had been ongoing and that there had been numerous revisions of the texts and a number of developments during September. On 1 September Defra had submitted a lengthy document to the Commission, outlining key areas and suggested changes to the text following the request for views from stakeholders over the summer. The Commission had consulted relevant stakeholders on 7th September and MP queried whether Seafish had been involved. SP believed the European Fish Processors Association had attended the meeting.

MP explained that many EU countries had expressed concern at the Commission's approach, with some of the revisions proposed by the Commission for the ABPR and how Member states' views had been addressed. The latest text and a regulatory impact assessment were now available, and Defra will soon be issuing the former for consultation.

MP confirmed that most of Seafish's points had been incorporated or addressed in the Commission's proposal – most of it originally proposed by the UK. Other developments

of note included Member States being given a derogation from approving certain premises handling derived products which have already been treated in accordance to the Regulation or which do not pose a risk of spreading communicable diseases to humans or animals.. In addition, free-of-flesh shell had not been taken out of the scope of the Regulation but its placing on the market, subsequent use and disposal is derogated. The Commission have also committed to the production of good practice guides for certain aspects of the ABPR.

Given the numerous changes and revisions, the Commission intends to repeal Regulation 1774 and replace it with a new Regulation incorporating its proposal for amended articles. An implementing Regulation will be negotiated after the primary legislation is agreed through co-decision in order to incorporate up-dated and amended annexes from the existing Regulation. This is envisaged to add 18 months to the whole process, during which the existing Regulation will continue to apply.

Although the proposal by the Commission takes account of the seafood perspective, there is still further consultation to undertake once the text enters the co-decision process during which changes will be proposed and agreed by the European Council and Parliament.

Action Point

- MP to send the latest version of the proposed changes to FW.

3.2 Environmental permits/licensing

FW confirmed this would simplify the existing requirements for waste management licensing and pollution prevention and control. There would be no major changes for seafood businesses. However, it presents an opportunity to address some of the outstanding issues in waste management licensing and ensure parity between English and Scottish legislation. For example, in Scotland shell is listed in the waste materials that can be used for construction of paths and tracks whereas it is absent in the English list although this did not preclude its use.

MP explained that there had been ongoing discussions between different Government departments and the Environment Agency regarding waste management licensing and when is waste no longer a waste. Essentially, you need to provide evidence that the waste has been recovered in some way i.e. that it has gone through a recovery process and is interchangeable with another similar product.

Action Point

- MP to send their response on waste management licensing to FW.

3.3 Shell

MLA tabled a summary document on the licensing requirements for shell. This had been produced to provide clarity on the differences between free of flesh shell and non-clean shell. Members were asked to provide feedback by October 18th.

SP asked why disposal at sea was included on the table. MLA confirmed that disposal at sea is theoretically permitted for the utilisation of free of flesh shell but that it wasn't a guaranteed option. Other Seafish guidance notes provided clarification on utilisation or disposal outlets. SP suggested that it should include a definition of free of flesh shell.

Action Point

- MLA to develop guidance on free of flesh shell including methods for cleaning shell.
- All members to respond to the draft legislation tables by 18th October.

4.0 Update on projects and initiatives

4.1 Land Application

MLA explained that the land application project had now been completed. ADAS had been contracted to undertake a review of the application of shellfish by-products to land and they had completed the study in August. Copies of the report were tabled.

The report finds that few previous investigations have been undertaken to prove or disprove the benefits of shell on land. Available information does demonstrate a benefit to agriculture from shell, including as a liming agent, aggregate materials, general crop nutrients and as a nitrogen source. The report confirms the regulatory requirements for utilising shell on land and the differences between 'dirty' and free of flesh shell, and concludes that land application is a potentially viable outlet with benefit to seafood processors and agriculture.

A draft summary of the report has been produced (tabled). Members were asked to provide feedback by 18th October.

The National Farmer's Union had agreed to put the report on their website to raise awareness with their members.

Action Point

- Members to provide feedback on the summary by 18th October.

4.2 Anaerobic digestion

MLA explained that a company in NE Scotland is operating an anaerobic digestion facility. Seafish had provided a small amount of cash to evaluate *Nephrops* waste and scallop viscera, with the intention of developing improved fertiliser products. The project is scheduled for completion by end February 2007.

4.3 Feasibility study for a resource efficiency club in Yorkshire and Humberside

MLA summarised a recent regional project which had been undertaken in conjunction with Yorkshire and Humber Seafood Group and the Food Processing Faraday. The project had been funded by Envirowise.

Essentially the project was to assess the feasibility of developing a resource efficiency club in the Yorkshire and Humber region. It would address issues such as seafood waste, packaging waste, energy consumption, water and effluent minimisation, lean manufacturing etc. Approximately 50 companies in the region were surveyed and the resounding response was that they did not want to attend meetings and workshops, preferring one-to-one assistance and information on other sources of help and funding. Results of the study should be available in due course.

Following this, MLA is now talking with two other organisations in the region to develop a more targeted way forward for the seafood industry in the region. A meeting has been scheduled later in October.

4.4 Shell as aggregates

MLA has been liaising with a consortium in SW England to develop a project on uses for shell. This project would review methods for cleaning shell, markets and outlets for shell from simple to complex uses, and a longer term research project to assess the properties of shell and evaluate its uses in the construction industry. The project partners had completed an application for FIFG funding and a decision was anticipated.

JC queried which species the project would cover. MLA confirmed these included scallop, whelk, crab, cockles and slipper limpets. Seafish had also requested the inclusion of *Nephrops*.

4.5 Gaining value from crustacea waste

MLA tabled a summary of the Seafish crustacea waste project. Essentially crustacea is the major outstanding issue to address and the project intend to evaluate options, costs, markets, opportunities for crustacea. This would not be another research and development project and would not reinvent existing information.

Unfortunately little progress had been made to date because of the amount of work in other areas. However, a meeting was scheduled later in October to discuss sub-contracting this project to another organisation. Members would be kept informed.

SP confirmed his members were positive about the project and FDF were keen to be involved.

4.6 Composting initiatives in Scotland

MLA outlined the progress on the Dumfries and Galloway project. The consortium had agreed a site and equipment. The regulators had been consulted and concerns about the equipment were being addressed. A business plan is being prepared to attract financial backing whilst the seafood industry, other businesses and the local authority are being consulted to gain their commitment to using the facility in future. Scottish Enterprise is supporting the initiative which looks very promising so far.

The project at Glasgow Market appears to have been cancelled.

4.7 Seafish's Industry Project Fund

MLA tabled a summary document and outlined the main details of the funding programme. Seafish is providing £1million each year, for three years, to fund industry related projects. The projects can be on any subject, including waste. In future, if any projects on waste are required they would only be commissioned and funded through this initiative. Members were urged to raise awareness of the funding scheme.

Action Point

- MLA to send copies of relevant documents to members.

5.0 Outstanding issues, progress against the Waste Strategy and priorities to address

MLA had studied all previous minutes and newsletters and confirmed that all action points and projects had been addressed. No new initiatives or priorities had been proposed in recent months by members. The only outstanding issue was the crustacea project which is being progressed.

In terms of progress against the waste strategy and regional initiatives, Seafish had covered all the major regions where problems were identified. However other areas, such as Northern Ireland, had seen little effort. A Seafish colleague had recently taken over the Northern Ireland region and would be asked to look into this further.

SP agreed that the Group had done as much as possible and that it no longer needed to continue. He reiterated the *Nephrops* and crustacea issue and felt that businesses should receive one-to-one help from Seafish. He also felt that Seafish should define 'free of flesh' shell and should discuss waste with Northern Ireland Seafood.

MP asked whether guidance on the legislation and enforcement of ABPR would be welcomed, particularly if businesses are having difficulties and local enforcement officers are calling Seafish with queries. Although SP expressed some concern about the support from industry for producing a document for enforcement purposes, MLA felt it would have dual benefit and would particularly help to clarify the confusing requirements for shell. MP agreed to contact LACORS to discuss this further.

JC explained that Young's Bluecrest had a range of initiatives on environmental issues and waste but that the overall problem was co-ordinating activities between sites. He felt that information from Young's would be made available to industry in due course. He supported the idea of collective projects in areas such as Grimsby and the need to address wider issues such as energy management, segregation of waste streams, business efficiency etc. More complex issues, such as recycling and getting a financial return for waste, needed to be addressed in the longer term. He suggested effort should concentrate on business support rather than research.

Action Point

- MP to contact LACORS about the development of guidance and to report back to MLA.

6.0 Disbanding the Group and Future Work

MLA confirmed this was the last meeting of the Group. Seafish would deliver existing commitments, would provide periodic updates on the ongoing projects and areas of work, and would continue to keep abreast of legislative developments.

MP confirmed that Defra would continue to make Seafish aware of developments in ABPR via e-mail. MLA said that some other members, notably SP and IF, may want to be included and so it would be referred to Seafish's Legislation Expert Group for a shortlist of contacts.

MLA thanked all members for their attendance at meetings, valuable help and input over the past two years. Members thanked Seafish for arranging the Group and for completing all the work.

Action Point

- MLA to continue to produce periodic updates on waste at least until end March 2007.
- FW to ask the members of the Legislation Expert Group if they wanted to be included in direct e-mails from MP/Defra in future.