

Aquaculture Leadership Group Meeting Minutes – 17 June 2019

In Attendance

James Fowey, ALG Chair	Roger Covey, Natural England
Kim Cullen, SF2040	Michael Gubbins, Cefas
Martin Syvret, Dorset Coast Forum	David Jarrad, SAGB
Dr Stuart McLanaghan, Seafish	Dr Lewis Le Vay, Bangor University
Oliver Robinson, British Trout Association	John Holmyard, Offshore Shellfish
Kelsey Thompson, Morecambe Bay Oysters	Sara Catahan, Defra
Dr Christopher Sweeting, MMO	

Guests

Celine Gamble, Native Oyster Network	Gavin Hatton, Seafish
Benjamin Coppin, MMO – Marine Planning	Keith Jeffrey, Cefas

Meeting Minutes

Agenda #1

Welcome & Introductions

Agenda #2

7 February Action Points

- ALG accepted the 7 February action points

Agenda #3

Seafish Update

- SM updated ALG on Seafish aquaculture activities
- ALG supports Size of the Prize
- There was a discussion on lack of industry reps attending the ACIG meetings. Suggestions include Seafish developing themes of importance to the industry. Seafish will take recommendations in increase industry attendance on board

Agenda #4

Defra Update

- SC updated ALG on Defra aquaculture activities
- There are now two Defra staff working specifically on aquaculture at .6 FTE each
- Rebecca Redrup (Beccy) will focus on aquaculture regulation. Beccy will also attend ALG meetings so ALG will be informed of clarification and changes.

Agenda #5

SF2040 Aquaculture Update

- KC updated ALG on SF2040 activities that impact on aquaculture.

- In principle ALG supports the ARCH-UK concept for an annual/bi-annual 'UK Aquaculture Research Review'. More information would be helpful however such as who is the anticipated audience and what will the research be – all aquaculture or just shellfish for example.
- In principle ALG supports the proposed KTN one-stop-shop resource.
- ALG would like to meet Environmental Finance at the next meeting (October) to know more.
- KC and JFD are attending the ARCH-UK conference 26-27 June.

Action Point: (KC) Contact Environmental Finance to present at October ALG meeting.

Agenda #6

Aquaculture 2040 Strategy

- Decision made to submit EMFF application for funds to hire a consultant to do the work
- Tentative timeframe (with consultant):
 - Summer 2019 – write scoping document and complete an Invitation to Tender; with several ALG members, select the winning bid; SF2040 to apply for EMFF funding
 - Autumn 2019 – if grant awarded, consultant to begin work; ALG to serve as Project Steering Committee (oversight, review, challenge, agree)
 - Winter 2019 – Spring 2020 – Consultant will do the stakeholder engagement, research and writing
 - Summer 2020 – ALG and SILG approval of strategy; publish document
- If the grant is not funded, the SF2040 Project Manager will do the work with an ALG sub-committee.
- The Size of the Prize can inform the strategy and bring value to its development. Thus, phasing of strategy is important and should be published after Size of the Prize. SF2040 to coordinate timings with Responsible Sourcing.
- Ambition and scope inclusion/exclusion to be more fully developed once a consultant is on board
 - Scope inclusions – food production only, eco-systems services, food security, population/public health, seaweed, breadth of species (variety), animal welfare, promotion of aquaculture
 - This strategy must be concise and focussed
- Documents to inform strategy:
 - 25 Year Environment Plan
 - Size of the Prize
 - 2012 English Aquaculture Strategy
- Concerns were raised about ensuring government engagement and buy-in otherwise the strategy will not be realised. With 2 Defra Aquaculture Advisors on the ALG and therefore inputting into the strategy this concern can be addressed.

Action Point: (KC) Ensure strategy planning and development aligns with Size of the Prize work

Action Point: (OR) Email KC the details of the nutritionist

Action Point: (KC) Email the 2012 strategy to ALG

Agenda #7

Lunch

Agenda #8

MMO and Dorset & East Devon FLAG: Mapping and identification of potential aquaculture sites

- Presentations and discussion/questions

Next steps for ALG on progressing MMO and Dorset & East Devon FLAG work

- Before SF2040 can develop projects or promote the use of the MMO planning tool and consider further implementation/support of the Cefas/Dorset & East Devon FLAG project into other areas of England, both MMO and Cefas/DED FLAG need to complete their projects. This will be end of 2019.
- Possible advantage of the MMO model – if it works well then some factors that are reviewed in an application are already sorted. Thus could potentially fast-track an application.
- Cefas/DED project process (local scale mapping project which can recommend species in certain areas):
 - Data collation & synthesis
 - Lit review
 - Mapping
 - Consultation
 - Pressure and opportunities analysis
 - Mapping refinement – produce report and final data for FLAG, MMO and Defra
 - Dissemination – fisher and stakeholder workshops
- Info to be passed on to Aquaculture Development Officer in Dorset/East Devon for use; info can also be put on the FLAG resource hub
- Cefas to come back to October meeting to discuss ongoing progress
- Project has potential for other FLAGs – but these groups have limited resources and funding as well as expiry dates. Some are more active than others. Other key players include LAs, LEPs, and fishing industry
 - Whilst MMO and Cefas are completing their tools, SF2040 could be identifying partners and regions ‘open’ to aquaculture business
- Do other LAs have an Aquaculture Development Officer (ADO)? It would be a council role.
- DED area was identified as a High Potential Opportunity (HPO) by DIT
 - What other coastal areas were identified as HPO?

Action Point: (KC) Invite Keith Jeffrey to Oct meeting

Action Point: (OR) Email KC the details of the nutritionist

Action Point: (KC) Maintain correspondence with Gavin Hutton (Seafish Regional Manager) who will be checking if Holderness FLAG is interested in knowing more; potential area of aquaculture use

Agenda #9

Next Steps /AOB/Finish

- Next meeting will be in London in October

Action Point (KC) Circulate Doodle poll to determine Oct meeting date

Action Point (KC) Circulate MMO and Cefas presentations to ALG