

**Note of Common Language Group (CLG) meeting held at Billingsgate.  
Wednesday 14 November 2012.**

For the CLG minutes and meeting presentations see:

<http://www.seafish.org/retailers/responsible-sourcing/the-common-language-group>

**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

**Attendees**

Alex Olson	Espersen
Andrew Clayton	Defra
Andrew Young	Co-op
Angela Mead	University of Plymouth
Angus Garrett	Seafish
Bernadette Clarke	MCS
Caroline Miller	Aldi
Catherine Pazderka	BRC
Charlotte Cawthorne	ISU
Chris Lamb	Seafish Supply Chain Panel Chair
Chris Leftwich	Fishmongers Company
Chris Williams	New Economics Foundation
Claire Pescod	MSC
Claire Tibbott	Fishmongers Company
Dale Rodmell	NFFO
David Parker	Youngs
Edward Willstead	MacAlister Elliott & Partners Ltd
Emma McLaren	Seaweb
Hannah Macintyre	Marks & Spencer
Hazel Curtis	Seafish
Huw Thomas	Morrisons
Ian Pollard	SFP
Karen Green	Seafish (Minutes)
Katie Miller	ClientEarth
Laky Zervudachi	Direct Seafoods
Laura Partridge	ISU
Lucy Blow	New England Seafood
Matt Watson	MSC
Mike Kaiser	Bangor University, Seafish Board (Chair)
Mike Platt	Global Trust
Mike Short	FDF
Paul Williams	Seafish
Peter Stagg	Le Lien Ltd

Phil MacMullen	Seafish
Prof Bill Sutherland	University of Cambridge
Rachel Bower	ClientEarth
Sam Stone	MCS
Sarah Hickman	BRC
Stephen Lockwood	Consultant
Steve Cadwallader	Falfish
Tracy Cambridge	WWF
Tracey Heyworth	Birds Eye Iglo

### **Apologies**

Ally Dingwall	Sainsburys
Colin Charman	Countryside Council for Wales
Chris Brown	Asda
Chris Ninnes	ASC
CJ Jackson	Billingsgate Seafood Training School
Emily Howgate	Consultant
George Russell	Princes
Jamie Smith	SSPO
Jim Masters	MCS
Jim Portus	SWFPO
Libby Woodhatch	Seafish
Martin Jaffa	Callander McDowell
Melanie Siggs	SFP
Simon Rilatt	Trident Seafoods
Stefan Asmundsson	NEAFC
Stephen Parry	Findus Group
Toby Middleton	MSC
Tom Rossiter	Succorfish

## **2. Minutes from the last meeting held on 11 July 2012**

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 actual presentations.

## **3. Matters arising and standing items**

Progress as summarised below, with more detail elsewhere in these minutes. (In the main we do not now attribute the comments made at the meeting).

### *3.1 What has been appearing in the press/recent events/Keo Films*

[http://www.seafish.org/media/703353/clgnov2012\\_seafish\\_communicationactivities.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/703353/clgnov2012_seafish_communicationactivities.pdf)

Karen Green updated the group on the latest knowledge on the next instalment of the Fish Fight series which is due to air in January 2013:

- **Discards** – To keep in minds of Ministers and MEPs Fish Fight campaign and achievement (800,000+ signed up to the petition).
- **Marine Protection** – The arguments for and against. Focusing on a MPA in South Georgia and Jersey. Linked to fishing gear and environmental impact. Filmed on beach in Weston-super-Mare.
- **MCZ process in England** - spoken to Richard Benyon and wants to hear views of fishermen.
- **Mackerel** – Will continue to follow the mackerel story and concern about MSC suspension. Visited the Faroe Islands/filmed in a mackerel costume outside the Coastal States meeting in October.
- **Asian prawns** – Filming of various ‘operations’ has taken place in Thailand. Approached GAA and ASC, major processors and most recently the Co-op.

In addition the presentation covered Seafish events including the Humber Seafood Summit, the South West Fisheries Conference in Brixham and a consumer buying trends event in Birmingham; two debates ‘Can we save our seas?’ and Unsustainable Fishing; the Westminster Forum; and new Seafish publications.

### **Discussion**

Paul Williams informed the group he was meeting with *The Times* journalist responsible for the story ‘Only 100 adult cod left in the North Sea’; Phil MacMullen commented on the Westminster Forum event and the comment by David Symes that the EU was providing an ‘empty building plot’ but little detail on CFP reform; comment that Monty Halls, who was the guest speaker at the Brixham event had been pragmatic and generally supportive of beam trawling as part of our fishing landscape. Informed and constructive dialogue must be the way ahead, citing the importance of sound evidence, hard data and local control.

### **Actions**

3.1.1 Re Fish Fight Seafish to continue to monitor approaches made to industry.

3.1.2 Seafish to maintain contact with Keo Films and report feedback to CLG participants.

### **3.2 Up and coming seafood events and meetings**

A paper was tabled listing forthcoming events. A full list can be found on the Seafish website [http://www.seafish.org/media/620429/events%20list\\_300712.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/620429/events%20list_300712.pdf)

### **3.3 Discard Action Group (DAG)**

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>

### **Latest DAG activities**

- **Catch Quota Trial (CQT) fact sheets** - Three fact sheets have been produced giving the background and an explanation of the current Catch Quota Trials (CQT) and two CQT case studies – one in Scotland and one in the South West.

- Seafish regional foresight reports - As the output from the DAG themed meeting in July Seafish has instigated a desk top impact study of the N Ireland *Nephrops* fishery to provide an analysis of the potential changes to fisheries management and operation that may be required under the adoption of proposed CFP reform.
- ICES Annual Science conference. There was a DAG presentation on what is going on in the UK by Mike Park and Mike received various requests for DAG material and reports. DAG will also be submitting an article for a special issue of the ICES Journal of Marine Science.
- Westminster Forum – Three DAG participants spoke at the Forum which covered CFP reform and sustainability - lot of discussion on discard ban.
- Bulk uses study - Initial feedback from a study to look at utilising discards not destined for human consumption in bulk outlets.
- Pot bait study – A new study is due to commence to determine the possibility for using all (or part) of the discarded fish currently generated by the English fishing fleet, for pot bait.

**Meeting on 24 October 2012 looked at:**

- Next instalment of Fish Fight
- Latest on CFP reform and how a discard ban could be implemented
- Impacts of CFP Reform on the langoustine supply chain.
- Community Supported Fisheries
- Progress on Cefas discard ban trial (due to start Nov 2012)
- Latest on selectivity initiatives particularly in the Irish Sea and in Scotland
- Catch Quota Trials in 2013
- New NFFO projects

**Next steps:**

- Meeting in Brussels on Tuesday 20 November for the catching sector, NGOs and Government to map out a checklist of how industry can deliver a discard ban ie what the legislative architecture needs to be to deliver a discards ban.

3.4 Aquaculture Common Issues Group (ACIG)

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 latest meeting on 25 September covered: the forthcoming UK Aquaculture Forum meeting in Brussels; Report on consultation on Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill in Scotland; Report on 24 September meeting on English Aquaculture Plan; Perspective on the Seafood Summit; Update on aquaculture certification; and progress on Sustainable Seafood Coalition

Presentations covered:

Shellfish focus

- Asian farmed shrimp and prawn – sustainability myths and reality; s Murray, University of Stirling; Shellfish issues – David Jarrad, SAGB; Shellfish Waters – Working in Partnership – Clive Harward, Head of Water Quality & Environmental Performance at Anglian Water.

## General

- Seafish presentation - The Consumer and their Understanding of Fisheries Science. Maureen Reynier, Seafish; Development of a British Standard for assessing GHG emissions in seafood and aquatic foods. Angus Garrett, Seafish.

## Finfish focus

- 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 – Baukje de Roos, University of Aberdeen: Issues/challenges/positive developments facing the farmed salmon sector – Jamie Smith, SSPO.

### 3.5 Update on Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI)

Karen Green informed the group on the latest progress re the GSSI. The project has now been endorsed by the German Government and funding has been approved. There are 13 organisations who are participating including three from the UK: Seafish, Birds Eye and Morrisons. A consortium agreement has now been circulated for signing. Likely to be a first meeting in Frankfurt in February. First outcomes will be delivered late 2013/early 2014.

**Action:** CLG to keep up-to-date with progress.

### 3.6 Update on labelling/sourcing policies. Katie Miller, ClientEarth

Katie Miller updated the group on the progress of the SSC labelling and sourcing codes. The hope is to sign off the labelling code w/c 19 November. Once signed-off this will be followed by a six week public consultation period. The labelling code has now been extended to the foodservice sector. Progress on sourcing policies is underway.

**Action:** CLG to keep up-to-date with progress.

### 3.7 Seafish news

Paul Williams talked about the industry consultation process run by the devolved administrations and the three new Seafish operational panels: Importers/Processors; Domestic/Catching; and Consumer/Supply Chain. As a result the panels have agreed seven Seafish work programmes with consumer messaging, responsible sourcing, legislation and industry reputation as key work streams. There have been some areas of dispute such as fishermen's safety where industry did not feel it was appropriate to subsidise individual fishermen's training. The new Seafish Corporate Plan has very defined outputs and outcomes with clear deliverables and measures, and needs Government approval. The Plan should be published within the next month.

## **4. Session A – Fisheries under the spotlight**

[http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/CLGNov2012\\_Lockwood\\_Mackerel.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/CLGNov2012_Lockwood_Mackerel.pdf)

**4.1 North East Atlantic mackerel: stock status and prospects.** Stephen Lockwood.

## Discussion

- Q. The clock is ticking. What has to be done and when? A. In an ideal world now. Some disappointment that interested parties have not convened their own meeting and gone to politicians with a possible solution. In reality the parties to the Coastal States will have to accept a smaller share of the quota and must come to an agreement.
- Q. Isn't this really a business/economic issue that involves a relatively small number of people? Economics is the driver but the fishing industry has changed a lot over the years and there is certainly the feeling that the current generation do want to preserve stocks for future generations.
- Q. Banks are crucial and need to support the fishing industry. Can pressure be brought to bear?
- Q. With the herring collapse other fisheries were able to fill the gap and the herring fishery lost market share, presumably this could happen to mackerel? A. The biomass of NEA mackerel needs to be constant 3 million tonnes. In the natural order if that level drops there would be a regime shift and another fishery will fill its place and that could be cod or blue whiting, or even jellyfish. Equally when a fishery gets very big (Barents Sea cod cited) there can be concerns that the ecosystem can't support the fishery.
- Q. Is a regime shift likely? A. Spikes are common with intermittent strong year classes. Recruitment is likely to decline.
- Q. The triennial egg survey is due in 2013. Does this usually result in an adjustment of the current assessment? A. Not usually. There was one instance in 1993 when this occurred.
- Q. Can you comment, based on ecological criteria, what would be a fair distribution of the quota given the distribution pattern of the stock? A. I have no enthusiasm for allocating quota on the basis of where fish are likely to be. Biologists are only interested in how many fish are caught and whether this is sustainable.

### **4.2 Marine Conservation Society methodology.** Bernadette Clark, MCS.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/703338/clgnov2012\\_mcs\\_methodology.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/703338/clgnov2012_mcs_methodology.pdf)

The Good Fish Guide (aimed at consumers) was first published in 2008.

Fishonline provides more information for seafood buyers. MCS uses a methodology for rating fish to determine what consumers should be eating (rating of 1 and 2) and avoiding (rating of 5). The website gets 650 visits a day and up to 20,000 a month. Good Fish Guide gets 10,000 visits a month.

The Good Fish Guide (aimed at consumers) was launched in 2002 and Fishonline, which has more detail and is aimed at buyers, was launched in 2004. These are now split into two websites. This has created the danger of some buyers only using the Good Fish Guide and not looking at the further detail.

Sustainability criteria are weighted and ranked:

- Stock status (x5)

- Vulnerability (x4) - uses FishBase scores
- Management (x3)
- Capture Method and Ecological Effects (x2) – lists 24 different gear types
- Certification (x1)

### **Discussion**

- Q. How often is the website updated? A. Currently twice a year but will maybe move to once a year to coincide with ICES advice.
- Q. Is your advice based on ICES? A. We are ICES centric because we cover a lot of NEA stocks but we also cover species such as tuna, so have to look elsewhere for advice.
- Q. How do you address concerns? A. We have an Industry Review Group which is a group of individual (not representative of an organisation) experts who advise MCS. Instant change is possible as a result of the IRG process. Comment from group that the IRG evolved out of the CLG but that MCS has not always been prepared to accept the advice.
- Q. Gear impact criteria is crucial, but are mitigation measures being recognised; how do they feed into the assessment (citing latest developments re VMS and catch quota trials); and how is 'acceptable' determined? A. We need as much information as possible to allow us to be objective.
- Q. Can you differentiate per stock between by gear type? A. We can be specific in our assessment by stock and gear used.
- Q. Do the management scores simply reflect fishing methods. Is any credit given to management methods that limit environmental impact? A. We need to get hold of as much information as we can get
- Q. Why is vulnerability criteria needed. It should be included within stock status. It is creating an imbalance and being scored twice? A. We need to convey to the general public the importance of vulnerable species. It is difficult to convey these concerns without a separate category.
- Q. Do you consult with other NGOs because conflicting advice is very confusing for consumers? A. We did consult through the Seafood Choices Alliance but there was no real agreement.
- Q. When will you start looking at aquaculture? A. The methodology for aquaculture will be publicly available in January 2013 and will be emailed to the CLG.
- Next steps are the launch of a 'Fish of the Month' focussing on seasonal species; a product directory to link sustainable fish to products; an alternative presentation of the website.
- MCS feedback questionnaire (81 responses) asked what sources were used to aid buying decisions (17.6% Seafish).

**Action:** Circulate questionnaire link and methodology link to CLG.

## **5. Session B – Influencing the seafood supply chain**

[http://www.seafish.org/media/703341/clgnov2012\\_defra\\_cfpreform.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/703341/clgnov2012_defra_cfpreform.pdf)

**5.1 CFP reform – current position and what it will mean.** Andrew Clayton, Defra.

Andrew detailed the progress of the CFP reform proposals and UK priorities are to maintain progress of the CFP reform process, push for agreement on General Approach to EMFF, influence European Parliament momentum, look at a management capability and infrastructure to support a landings obligation and make regionalisation happen in practice. The whole process has been delayed. There is potentially a vote on the main proposal in the Fisheries Committee on 18 December but the plenary vote in the EU Parliament is unlikely to be before February 2013. Looking at the end of 2013 (at least) before final agreement and there are fears that discussions will degrade the longer the process goes on.

### **Discussion**

- Q. There are three components of the CFP reform process (Basic Regulation, CMO and EMFF) which have to go through the co-decision process. Do they all need to be agreed together? A. Whilst it is preferable for all three components to be agreed together there is the potential for the CMO to be agreed and come into effect on its own first. There is always the potential for inconsistency between the three components.
- Q. is there still the opportunity to lobby MEPs? A. MEPs have a long list of votes coming up and Defra will be actively speaking to MEPs in advance of the big votes.
- Q. If this process drags on what impact does this have? A. The EU could take the proposals off the table at any time but this is unlikely. The current CFP will automatically stay in place until a new programme is agreed.
- Q. Regionalisation is deemed to be one of the stumbling blocks. Do you have any sense of the Parliament's views on potentially giving up some of its powers? A. The UK is pushing hard for regionalisation but needs the goodwill of the Parliament.
- Extra quota will have to be allocated as part of the potential new landings obligation rules. This will need to be carefully explained.
- It is not easy to categorise exactly what we take out of the sea. Some removals have been called unaccounted mortality. Once it is landed is it all quota? A. There is a difference between the total amount caught that can be landed and the total allowable catch.
- Q. Who will cover the extra handling costs? A. EMFF will focus more on the implementation of CFP reform rather than decommissioning. EMFF could be used to make the discard ban work.

**5.2 Feedback on the Seafood Summit.** Phil MacMullen, Seafish.

There were six parallel sessions running (too many). Themes that emerged: Certification was a key issue; ENGO attitudes to Government, retailers, industry and lobbying; increasing consideration of aquaculture; GSSI (by 2015) aims to create a level playing field for global seafood certification programmes: differing attitudes to sustainability; focus on retailers sustainability policy; sustainability

within certification schemes; emerging trends ie LOHAS (Lifestyle of Health and Sustainability).

#### **Issues raised**

- Human cost of fishing ie pole and line tuna fishing in choppy seas – but there is no data on safety. This is possibly an issue that needs to be addressed – the human cost of more selective fishing methods.
- The Summit was held in Asia to encourage more suppliers in that region to attend. However only parts of the Summit were available in translation. There was also a pitiful RFMO participation.
- Question was posed as to what it will take for the seafood industry to start taking the human price of fishing into account. This particular issue has the potential to derail good work in other areas. There was also mention of Thailand labour issues in the prawn feed sector.

**Action:** Look at the human cost of fishing. Chris Lamb volunteered information on other sectors.

#### **5.3 Proposal for innovations in fisheries workshop with UK fishermen in June 2013.**

Charlotte Cawthorne, ISU and Hazel Curtis, Seafish.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/703344/clgnov2012\\_isu\\_eventsummer2013.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/703344/clgnov2012_isu_eventsummer2013.pdf)

Charlotte outlined the activities of the International Sustainability Unit to exchange information. The ISU has joined forces with Seafish to hold an event in June 2013 (for hopefully 80 – 100 vessel owners) to: form new collaborations; create a forum for industry-led knowledge exchange (facilitated and funded); and create opportunities for industry-led developments in management, science and marketing.

#### **Issues raised**

- Q. What do you hope to achieve? A. We hope to establish a national group with regional representation which could feed into regional management plans.
- Q. There is always the risk of engagement fatigue. Vessel owners will have to give up a days' fishing. How will you address this issue? A. We are looking at addressing this. Fishermen will shape the agenda for the meeting.

**Action:** More information will follow.

#### **5.4 NERC Knowledge Exchange programme for Sustainable Food**

**Production.** Professor Bill Sutherland, University of Cambridge.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/703347/clgnov2012\\_knowledgeexchangeprogramme.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/703347/clgnov2012_knowledgeexchangeprogramme.pdf)

Knowledge Exchange is about ensuring that UK funded science has some relevant impact for UK businesses. It is also about ensuring that UK businesses inform and shape research funded by NERC (Natural Environment Research Council). The focus of this KE is Sustainable Food Production and specifically how this affects marine biodiversity.

Due to the short timescale of the project (ending May 31st 2013) the KE will not look at marine wild capture fisheries but will focus on the contribution of aquaculture to global food production. The rationale is that marine wild capture fisheries have reached an asymptote whereas aquaculture is on an upward trajectory and therefore will have an ever increasingly important role to play in the future. The CLG membership is seen as key contributors to the initiative to identify and prioritise the main threats and mitigating measures with respect to aquaculture and biodiversity.

**Action:** Further information will follow.

### **5.5 Development of a British-led standard for assessing GHG emissions in seafood and aquatic food.** Angus Garrett, Seafish.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/703350/clgnov2012\\_seafish\\_ghgemissions.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/703350/clgnov2012_seafish_ghgemissions.pdf)

Part of a collective action on GHG emissions in seafood systems.

#### **Discussion**

- Is this issue on the radar? Felt that it was, but was not currently a high priority.
- Reputation management is a priority area for Seafish. Need to address the inconsistency – with the meat industry it is all about the food, with seafood it is all about the environment. GHG is just one of a whole host of issues affecting seafood as a key part of the global food chain.
- Need to address how we feed a growing world population.
- **Links to FAO fisheries and food issues was raised:**
- FAO Right to Food homepage:  
[http://www.fao.org/righttofood/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/righttofood/index_en.htm)
- FAO: Fisheries and the Right to Food Report:  
[www.fao.org/righttofood/publi09/Fisheries\\_en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/righttofood/publi09/Fisheries_en.pdf)

### **6. Other items**

The stage 1 project Inshore report is nearly complete and will be circulated.

### **7. Date of next meeting**

The date will be confirmed but could dovetail with a NERC event or the IUU Conference, both in February. The Steering Group will meet to discuss the agenda for the next meeting. 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)