

## Seafood Industry Leadership Group Meeting Minutes – 25 April 2019

### In Attendance

Alison Austin, Chair

Kim Cullen, Secretary

James Fowey, Aquaculture sector

Nathan de Rozarieux, Processing (Commercial)

Martina Di Fonzo, Defra (in person)

Ally Dingwall, Retail sector

Nigel Edwards, Processing sector (Technical/CSR)

Paul Trebilcock, Producers Organisation

Dr Mark Berry, SEP Chair

Martin Adams, Defra (phone)

### With Apologies

Hazel Curtis, Seafish

Andrew Pascoe, Catching sector

Victoria Cook, Foodservice sector

Nicola Robinson, Defra

Ben Franks, Young Seafood Leadership Programme

Stuart Caborn, Processing sector (procurement)

### Meeting Minutes

#### Agenda #1

##### Welcome

#### Agenda #2

##### 31 Jan Minutes

SILG accepted the 31 Jan minutes.

##### Update on Rec 11

SILG interested in knowing more about the Fisheries-Science Partnership which is facilitated by Cefas and mentioned in Rec 11.

**Action Point:** KC to conduct preliminary research on FSP and talk to Michael Fox, the facilitator at Cefas. KC to email SILG with an update.

#### Agenda #3

##### Update on Aquaculture Leadership Group

The Chair shared excerpts from minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> ALG meeting held on 7 Feb 2019

- ALG focus is on food including shellfish
- Lots of research being done on aquaculture
  - Industry and academia links need to improve. The relationship and opportunities between industry and academics needs to be formalised
  - ALG considering a website where institutions list their ongoing and potential research projects/interests and contact details so industry can contact them. ARCH-UK will be contacted due to their role as a link between academia and the industry. Does their website do this?

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## 2040

- The Defra workshop on the EMFF replacement fund was a good opportunity for the industry to engage on the future of the fund
- Seafish will be working on 'the size of the aquaculture prize' which should help govt and others understand what the sector has to offer through an economic lens
  - The Seafish Responsible Sourcing team will be presenting their findings to an ALG meeting.
- ALG accepted SILG's requests for changes to Recommendations 13 and 14
  - Recommendations now final

### General Comments:

- The interface between the industry and academics will always be a challenge because industries have short-term challenges and academics think long-term. SILG will have to be realistic to the extent that we can solve it.
- An ALG strategy for the next 10-20 years (Rec 13) can set the narrative/tone and encourage Government to get behind aquaculture with ideas such as seed investment schemes

**Action Point:** KC to review Scottish Aquaculture website to see how they communicate/link with academia.

### Agenda #4

#### **Update on SF2040 activities**

- EMFF Proposals
- Stakeholder engagement (Feb- April)
- Progress on recommendations

**SILG was asked to review this document for the 25 April 2019 meeting in preparation for discussion.**

### EMFF Proposals

#### *Rec 6*

- The Invitation to Tender and the resulting successful bid were summarised.
- An EMFF application is under way now that the tendering process is complete and will be submitted w/e 10.05.19.
- It is anticipated this project will run for 9 months: June 2019 – March 2020.
- SILG noted this was good progress.

#### *General comments:*

- Consumers' behaviour need to change and that's huge and needs to happen across the board
- There are many barriers to why people don't buy seafood such as expense and contaminants. We need to ensure we are driving the right incentives

#### *Rec 11*

- The move from an EMFF proposal to the 26 April workshop with Cefas, Seafish, and Defra was explained. The workshop will lead to clarity over direction – possibly a roadmap.
- SILG was clear that positive movement has to be made.

#### *General comments:*

- Mapping of all actors and the different programmes would be valuable in order to see where the gaps are and what are priorities for action. It is the non-quota fisheries that need management but it can

take a long time to see the benefits and mixed fisheries such as those off the South West are problematical.

- There needs to be a pathway leading to MSC
- Tom Pickerell, then Seafish Technical Director, completed a document that ranked un-managed stocks by value and importance to the market which would be valuable to source from Seafish and could inform the debate
- Retailers and brands are in discussions with MSC to improve their approach to for a credible assessment of mixed fisheries
- There are other countries such as Iceland that have effective fisheries management models that could be considered
- Project UK Fishing Improvement Plans (FIPs) are another model
- Data deficiency is also about the habitat and eco-systems – do we know enough about our coastal waters and is there a management plan in place (e.g. one for protected areas, one for zoning?)

**Action Point:** KC to locate the project and any relevant reports by Tom Pickerell and circulate.

### Stakeholder engagement

#### *General comments:*

- SILG confirmed monthly updates on Secretariat's stakeholder engagement. Updates at the SILG meetings are appropriate.

**Action Point:** KC to remove action point stating that SILG will receive monthly updates on Secretariat stakeholder engagement.

### Progress on recommendations

#### *General comments on Rec 9:*

- Defra spent money on social research in 2012 called 'Fishing for the Markets- there are 6 report packages entitled Fishing for Markets

**Action Point:** KC to investigate the 'Fishing for the Markets' reports

#### *General comments on Rec 3:*

There was a discussion on Fishing into the Future's (FitF) proposal for a Great British Seafood Portal that brings best practice into a 'one-stop shop' around. What does best practice mean and has this been captured elsewhere online? SILG wondered if there is a duplication of effort.

### Agenda #5

#### **Update on the Seafish Science Experts Panel (SEP)**

Dr Mark Berry introduced a discussion on the role of SEP within SF2040. SEP will look to increase innovation in seafood and identify public funds such as Innovate UK and the Global Challenges Research Fund that should be better used by the sector.

SEP is listed under 5 SF2040 recommendations:

2:

- Identify and map information needs across the seafood value chain from catch to plate
- Engage with academia and funding bodies to raise awareness of industry needs, engage relevant funding bodies and target key academic institutions

- Map current public and private sector funding mechanisms for science and innovation relevant to the supply chain and identify how funding could be leveraged from other sources

11: Eliminate data deficiency and have effective stock management plans in place

13: Develop an English Aquaculture Science and Innovation Plan

15: Identify barriers to maintaining and improving key infrastructure and facilities, from deep water berths, ice production and vessel new build and maintenance, to physical and virtual auctions, digital connectivity, distribution and storage.

18: Maximise the use and value of the seafood resource (waste minimisation and co-produce optimisation)

## **Agenda #6**

### **Determine SF2040 areas of interest for SEP based on the recommendations**

#### **Rec 2**

- Rec 2 will be pushed forward first by SF2040 – an Expression of Interest will be developed summer 2019 to seek an academic interested in fisheries science and working with SF2040 to source funding to do some work within the recommendation.

## **Agenda #7**

### **Geospatial Commission and the alignment with SF2040 via SILG/ALG**

SILG discussed the concept of geospatial data and the Geospatial Commission, a government entity with a view to understanding potential for the seafood sector.

Geospatial data is

- data or information that identifies the geographic location of features and boundaries on Earth, such as natural or constructed features, oceans, and more. Spatial data is usually stored as coordinates and topology, and is data that can be mapped
- an increasingly valuable tool for businesses and public-sector orgs to access and use that publicly-held data to make better decisions such as tackling crime hotspots , finding quick routes for emergency services or deciding where best to locate supply chains

The Commission is an expert committee that will set the UK's geospatial strategy and promote the best use of geospatial data. The overarching objectives of the commission are to increase economic growth and improve social and environmental outcomes by:

1. setting cross-cutting geospatial strategy, policy and data standards
2. promoting competition within markets for geospatial data, products and services
3. improving accessibility, interoperability and quality of data
4. improving capability, skills and resources to support the growth of new and existing geospatial businesses and improve public services

#### ***General comments:***

- Geo-spatial data in the seafood industry would be important for bio-security reasons e.g. to control disease spread in the fish
- Aquaculture is a good fit e.g. the identification of potential sites and there would be value in ALG entering into an initial conversation and identifying if they have funding for pilot work?
- The Geospatial Commission should be in contact with MMO (Dr Chris Sweeting) as his modelling project has geospatial elements.
- Additionally links should be made with Ben Franks, Seafish and a SF2040 SILG member.

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**Action Point:** KC, AD and JFD to consider the links between aquaculture and geospatial data and the commission and determine a way forward.

## **Agenda #8**

### **State of the Nation – Seafood Consumption**

Leanne Gunn, Seafish Marketing Manager, was unable to attend the meeting. This presentation will be on the 11 July meeting agenda.

## **Agenda #9**

### **The Future Fisheries Innovation Fund – Note the name change: THE SEAFOOD INNOVATION PROGRAMME**

Martina Di Fonzo from Defra presented in person and her colleague, Martin Adams, was on the phone.

#### *General comments:*

- The SIP will be administered by Cefas, is still under development, and will be based on the Innovate UK model.
- The £10m Innovation funding was announced in the November budget to be spent UK-wide over three years starting in 19/20 aimed at transforming the UK seafood sector.
- Focus is on supporting R&D to develop new technologies that will enhance both productivity and sustainability of the industry, including catch, aquaculture and processing, post EU Exit.
- The aim is to support the development of new innovative solutions and technologies that will deliver a step change in productivity of the UK's fishing industry through more sustainable practices.
- It is not intended to disseminate and deliver existing commercialised technology
- Project bids will have to:
  - Improve productivity of the seafood industry and demonstrate benefits for the UK economy.
  - Deliver and stimulate the development of new, more sustainable and productive ways to harvest/generate biological resources from our marine environment to the benefit of the UK catch sector, aquaculture, and seafood processing and reduce environmental impact.
  - Encourage collaboration and partnerships to create new links with businesses and industry.
- Bids may be funded by procurement and/or grant based schemes.
- A tentative timeframe is as follows:

<b>May</b>	Publicise the imminent Invitation to Tender (ITT).
<b>Early summer</b>	Fund opened with call for innovation ideas.
<b>Q3</b>	Ideas evaluated by the Steering Group and the best ones selected as pilot projects (indicative budget <£50k).
<b>Q4</b>	Best pilot projects will be developed into large projects (indicative budget <£250k).

- There is an opportunity to secure patents as per the Innovate UK model – the programme is about funding technology development, not funding academic papers
- The examples in the presentation are primarily catching sector – SILG would like to see a wider representation of examples from across the sector. Innovation is important to the processing sector as well.

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## 2040

- SILG posed various questions on co-funding, restrictions on applicant size, are consortia required, must an SME be involved?

**Action Point:** KC to source examples from SILG members for Defra where Innovate UK or other funds were used to support value-added projects in processing and aquaculture.

**Action Point:** KC to consider recs that are relevant to the programme and if there is potential develop a proposal and manage under electronic business.

### **Agenda #10**

#### **Next Steps**

11 July meeting in Grimsby

- Planning for the next SILG meeting has begun. Members asked to book early at Royal Humber Hotel for 10 July. SF2040 will reimburse non-govt members. [www.thehumberroyalhotel.co.uk](http://www.thehumberroyalhotel.co.uk) SILG members to ask for Seafish discount
- SF2040 will buy dinner at Papas Fish and Chips restaurant on Cleethorpes Pier on 10 July from 7-9 pm
- Meeting will be from 9 am – 1 pm on 11 July in Seafish Grimsby office

SAGB conference

- AA is speaking on behalf of SILG at the SAGB conference and will liaise with JFD re: aquaculture

New Fisheries Minister

- Seafish CEO, Marcus Coleman, is talking to the Robert Goodwill on 30 May and requested an update from SF2040
  - AA and KC to provide text