

Minutes of the Seafish South West Advisory Committee Meeting

Held virtually on Tuesday 12 April 2022

Attendees:

Present	Ed Vidler, Independent Chair Martyn Youell, Waterdance Beshlie Pool, South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen Ltd Samantha Davis, Cornish Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority John Balls, North Devon Fishermen's Association Carly Elson, Marine Management Organisation Karen Pringle, South Western Fish Producer Organisation Juliette Hatchman, South Western Fish Producer Organisation Chris Ranford, Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation Adrian Bartlett, Ecomotus Jason Munro, Ecomotus
Seafish	Marcus Coleman, Chief Executive Officer Aoife Martin, Director of Operations Gus Caslake, Regional Manager – South West England
Observers	David Brooks, Seafish Board Felix Ameye, Seafish Regional Manager – London & South East England
Minutes	Phillip Quirie, Seafish Project Co-ordinator and Administrator

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 Apologies were shared on behalf of Nathan de Rozarieux (Falfish), John Holmyard (Offshore Shellfish), Tim Barnes (National Deferation of Fish Friers), Barry Young (Brixham Trawler Agents), Hazel Bennett (Western Maritime Training), Chloe North (Western Fish Producers' Organisation).

2 Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 1 November 2021

- 2.1 The Chair invited feedback on the circulated minutes. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 2.2 Gus reported on actions arising from the last meeting, as per below:

No.	Action	Timeline (Status)	Update
1.	Phillip will upload the approved minutes of the March 2021 meeting to the Seafish website.	December	Complete

2.	Aoife to share the Seafish report on blue carbon produced for government.	November	Made available to members on request.
3.	Gus to email the Seafish South West budget to committee members.	November	Complete
4.	Gus to explore ways to use remaining allocated budget to maximise recruitment and labour retention in the South West fishing industry.	Next meeting	Gus looked at ways to adapt the 'Sea a Bright Future' careers campaign into one with a South West focus. However, it was realised that there isn't sufficient budget to launch the campaign on the scale required to make a notable difference across the South West industry. Aoife added that a campaign focusing on the South West catching sector is being considered.
5.	Gus to include WFPO in future ecological risk assessment planning.	Next meeting	WFPO now form part of the client group for future planning.
6.	Gus to raise the issue of rope recycling at the forthcoming gear recycling workshops with the devolved administrations and report back with any responses and proposed solutions.	Next meeting	Non-lead rope can now be recycled at net recycling points in ports across the South West.

ACTION 01: Phillip will upload the approved minutes of the November 2021 meeting to the Seafish website.

3 **Seafish Executive update**

3.1 Marcus gave an update on the recent progress made in the Seafish Strategic Review process (Attachment: *01 Seafish Strategic Review April 2022*), outlining what the review is, why it took place, and the primary outcomes. The review involved stakeholder workshops, gathering views from across the UK seafood industry. Through consultations, the seafood industry told us there are six areas they want more of our support with:

1. Workforce issues.
2. Reputation.
3. Climate change.
4. International trade.
5. Insight and innovation.
6. Fisheries management.

3.2 Recommendations have been agreed by the Seafish Board following the Strategic Review and are now under consideration by Ministers from all four devolved administrations.

3.3 As a result of the demand for more focus on these issues, we are making immediate changes to some of our existing activities – it has been decided that we will stop consumer marketing through the 'Love Seafood' brand, and the increased focus on industry reputation will indirectly support businesses with their own consumer marketing in the future. It was strongly felt by stakeholders that Seafish are better placed to effectively assist with challenges with supply rather than demand, for example through facilitation of fishery management plans – members generally acknowledged this was a more appropriate allocation of Seafish resources.

4 Seafish South West work activity update

4.1 Gus provided an update of Seafish work activity in the South West, summarising progress and outlining the work going forward (Attachment: *02 SSWAC 120422 Seafish update*, pages 2-3). Gus encouraged members to contact him if there are any challenges or issues in the South West not being addressed by current Seafish work activity.

4.2 The preliminary SSWAC budget for period April 2022 to March 2023 is £70k, which Gus will use to match-fund project work in the South West in accordance with industry needs.

4.3 A brief discussion took place on the sumwing gear trials, and it was asked if much interest had been expressed in the gear. Gus reported that a vessel using the sumwing recently broke a port landing record, but the gear itself has limited applicability – the grounds the open gear can be worked on are limited, and only two or three vessels operate open gears. The aim is to increase applicability by opening the gear up to the other beam trawl vessels in the South West, working with Waterdance and WFPO.

5 South West Ecological Risk Assessment update and report

5.1 Gus gave a progress update of the project over the last six months:

- The report is currently being reviewed and edited by Seafish and Geoff Tingley (Chair of Seafish Expert Panel).
- The report focuses on the impact of fishing on fish stocks, habitats, and Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species.
- It brings together information not previously collated on non-assessed species in the South West.
- Future work will focus on high-risk species and interactions.
- The report will be available in early May.
- The ERA work was presented at a recent Sustainable Seafood Coalition workshop.
- Discussions have taken place with retailers and suppliers, including Morrisons, Waitrose, and Flatfish.
- The information can be used to support guidance on data deficient fish stocks in the South West.

5.2 Aoife confirmed this is a broader area of work and other resources will be sought to scope out similar work in other areas of applicability.

6 Ecomotus catalytic hydrogen system

6.1 Adrian and Jason gave a brief background to Ecomotus, who specialise in the manufacture of emission reducing solutions for diesel engines. The EcoPro catalytic hydrogen system has been in development for ten years and is a stand-alone system, aiming to reduce emissions of nitrous oxides in the catching sector and improve the environmental credentials of fishing. Trials have taken place on South West vessels, with further trials now taking place in Wales and Scotland. A video was played, outlining the main features of the system and how it works.

6.2 Adrian reported that English vessels over the next five years can avail of FASS funding to the tune of 50% for over 12 metre vessels, and 80% for under 12 metre static gear vessels. He added that savings on fuel

emissions have been at least 10% and the saving in fuel costs covers the cost of installing the EcoPro – every litre of fuel saved using the system prevents 2.26kg of carbon dioxide emissions. Adrian confirmed that the system is not exclusive to fishing vessels – it can work on any desired diesel engine.

- 6.3 There is appetite in the South West catching sector to trial the system and provide a report to inform other skippers and vessel owners. Juliette confirmed SWFPO are keen to trial the system across a broad spectrum of member vessels and asked if Seafish can assist with the data capture and analysis. Aoife confirmed that it fits into the wider programme of Seafish work in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

ACTION 02: Gus will work with SWFPO to analyse the performance of the EcoPro system on vessels in the South West and produce a report informing South West skippers of the system's capabilities.

7 **Roundtable discussion: an opportunity to raise issues or successes across the seafood supply chain**

- 7.1 The Chair offered the opportunity for members to report any challenges or intelligence pertinent to the group.
- 7.2 Martyn has been working with Keep Britain Tidy to deliver talks on gear recycling at Brixham harbour.
- 7.3 Beshlie reported that the skipper of the Emma Jane – a vessel using the EcoPro catalytic hydrogen system – has been impressed with the performance and will happily talk to other skippers about his experience with it. Anyone interested can contact Beshlie.
- 7.4 Many members took the opportunity to comment on the strong agenda and useful meeting.

8 **Any other business**

- 8.1 Aoife took the opportunity to share two links of potential interest to the South West:
1. [Responding to the latest update on the MCS Good Fish Guide](#)
 2. [Modelling impacts of the rising price of fuel](#)

9 **Date of next meeting**

- 9.1 The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and asked Seafish to arrange the next meeting in October or November, with a return to face-to-face format.

ACTION 03: Gus will arrange the next meeting in-person in October or November 2022.

Action List

No.	Action	Timeline (Status)	Owner
1.	Phillip will upload the approved minutes of the November 2021 meeting to the Seafish website.	May	Phillip
2.	Gus will work with SWFPO to analyse the performance of the EcoPro system on vessels in the South West and produce a report, informing South West skippers of the system's capabilities.	Once trials arranged	Gus
3.	Gus will arrange the next meeting in-person in October or November 2022.	October	Gus