

**FTOWDG Commercial Fisheries Working Group: Meeting Note****Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013****Brook Queensferry Hotel, North Queensferry****Facilitator:** Rebecca Radford (Brown and May Marine Ltd)

**Attendees:** Zoe Crutchfield (Mainstream), Ewan Walker (Mainstream), Nick Brockie (Seagreen), Laurie Winter (Seagreen), Stephen Kerr (Repsol), Paul English (Emu), Stephen Appleby (Brown and May Marine), John Watt (Scottish Fishermen's Federation), Malcolm Morrison (Scottish Fishermen's Federation), Sandra Turnball (Fishermen's Mutual Pittenweem), Sandy Ritchie (Anglo Scottish Fishermen's Association), Neil Teviotdale (creel fisherman from Arbroath), Noel Wight (prawn fisherman from Dunbar), Billy Thompson (prawn fisherman from Port Seton), Edwin Todd (Port Seton Fishermen's Association), Gareth Jones (Marine Scotland Science), Phil Alcock (Marine Scotland Renewables), Alan Donaldson (scallop fisherman from Montrose)

**Apologies:** John Hermse (Scallop Association), Colin Warwick (The Crown Estate), Bill Hughes (Fishermen's Mutual Pittenweem), Stephen Small (prawn fishermen from Pittenweem), Colin Maciver (Repsol)

**Meeting Notes:** Rebecca Radford**Meeting Objective**

To discuss three proposals to be taken forward by the Working Group:

- Proposal for a 'live' fishermen's register and fisheries baseline
- Proposal for development of a fish monitoring programme
- Proposal for opportunities for fishermen and offshore renewables

**Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Sign off 8<sup>th</sup> November 'Note of Meeting' and 'Terms of Reference'
3. Agree remuneration of local fishermen's representatives for meeting attendance
4. Proposal for a 'live' fishermen's register and fisheries baseline
  - Present proposal outline
  - BMM to present fishermen's register
  - BMM to introduce fisheries baseline and present fisheries statistics
  - MS to present over-15m data analysis
  - MS to present ScotMap
5. Proposal for development of a fish monitoring programme
6. Proposal for opportunities for fishermen and offshore renewables
  - Present proposal outline
  - Visit to an operational offshore wind farm
  - Vessel opportunities for monitoring commercial species
  - Training and certification of offshore personnel
7. AOB
8. Date of next meeting

**Item 2: Sign off 8<sup>th</sup> November 'Notes of Meeting' and 'Terms of Reference' (ToR)**

- Notes of meeting and ToR passed and signed off

**Item 3: Remuneration of local fishermen's representatives**

- £150 remuneration agreed per meeting
- Accommodation, mileage and subsistence (including supporting vouchers where appropriate) to be sent to RR to accumulate and forwarded to SFF. SR to send expenses form to RR.
- Mileage can be claimed at 45p/mile

**Actions**

- SR to send RR expenses form
- RR to distribute forms to attendees and organise reimbursement

**Item 4: 'Live' fishermen's register**

- RR presented proposal for 'live' fishermen's register and fisheries baseline
- RR explained how the FTP site would be managed and how access would be given
- Concerns were raised over the confidentiality of the site and preventing dissemination of information
- An alternative action would be to provide sections of the register to FIRs on an annual basis (or as needed) to ensure the information is kept up to date
- RR explained potential issues with ensuring up to date data is available
- Marine Scotland presented VMS and ScotMap data
- VMS data will be updated annually. It is not currently planned to annually update ScotMap however options are being explored to fund VMS systems for the under-15m fleet (e.g. Succourfish), which might assist in the gathering of data

**Actions**

- RR to quality check the register against the raw data to ensure there are no errors
- RR to disseminate information to FIRs to be checked to ensure the register is up to date. The register will be split into the three regions covered by each FIR
- Marine Scotland to check with compliance what information can be disclosed. Data will be sent to RR to distribute as necessary

**Item 5: Fish monitoring programme**

- Emu presented proposal for monitoring programmes
- Discussion followed regarding potential monitoring options, it was agreed that in the first instance questions need to be defined that require answering through monitoring
- To further discussion on monitoring, it was agreed to establish a sub-group which would meet over the summer. Volunteers for the sub-group included Sandy Richie, Gareth Jones, Zoe Crutchfield and Rebecca Radford. It was also agreed that the group would require scientific advice possibly from Marine Scotland Science. The sub-group will be discussed internally before a final group membership is agreed
- There may be some overlap with the monitoring undertaken by Marine Scotland. Marine Scotland are currently conducting a review of all the monitoring being undertaken and will have an internal workshop in the next couple of months

**Action:**

- Marine Scotland to investigate monitoring already undertaken in the region and to report back once review of monitoring concluded
- Developers and RR to progress sub-group

**Item 6: opportunities for fishermen and offshore renewables**

- BMM presented proposal for opportunities for fishermen and offshore renewables which included:
  - Visit to an operational wind farm
  - Training and certification of offshore personnel
  - Certification of vessels for guard vessel work
- It was generally agreed that it would be a useful exercise to take members of the Working Group to see an operational wind farm, followed by discussion with individuals currently fishing the area
- Concerns were raised over the standard of vessel required for fishing vessels to be considered for guard work. The standards vary depending on the contractor.
- Concerns were raised over the likelihood of under-10m vessels being given guard work as vessels under-15m cannot obtain a load line exemption. It was clarified that vessels under-15m can however be brown coded to undertake offshore work
- Fishermen would require a guarantee that the work would be available if they are to consider spending money on their vessels. False hope of work should be avoided
- Questions were raised over the jobs that may arise from the development of the wind farms. It was suggested that research into existing developments and the jobs arising there would be beneficial. An example of who to contact could be the recruitment officer at Ramsgate
- There is potential for fishermen to be trained as Fisheries Liaison Officers (FLOs), however when FIRs requested volunteers for training in the past, no one came forward. It was considered that further information needs to be provided to fishermen to increase interest. Anyone who is interested in FLO work should contact the SFF directly (Cheryl Gove – 01224 696944)
- There may be specific requirements for FLO on wind farm developments. Developers to outline work

**Action:**

- RR to look at logistics of organising a trip to an operational wind farm and discuss with developers
- Developers to undertake a joint review of their standards for vessels undertaking guard vessel work and what work may be available
- Developers to outline specific requirements for FLO work with regards to wind farm developments

**AOB**

- The SFF raised the possibility of developers undertaking scallop gear trials which are currently being considered by the MORL development in the Moray Firth. Marine Scotland may be considering this on a national scale shortly
- RR mentioned that the developers of the HVDC cable from Peterhead to Redcar have been in touch with BMM to discuss the possibility of participating in the next Working Group meeting as there could be cumulative impacts associated with the installation of the cable. More information was requested regarding their route and timeframe before the group decide if they would like a representative of the HVDC project to participate at the next meeting

**Actions**

- Marine Scotland to discuss scallop gear trials on a national scale internally and report to the group
- Developers to discuss scallop gear trials internally, if this work is agreed, it will be undertaken by commercial fishermen

- RR to obtain more information from the representative of the HVDC cable and report to the group

**Date and Location of next WG Meeting**

- Meeting in October/November
- Sub-group meeting to be confirmed

**Actions**

- BMM to confirm location of meeting and distribute agenda.