

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 6 NOVEMBER, 2015

Present: **Aberdeenshire Council** – Councillors A M Allan (Chair), P Argyle, A Buchan and C Buchan.
Aberdeen City Council – Councillors J Corall, A Finlayson and A Malone
Moray Council – Councillor M Howe
Aberdeen Fish Producers Organisation – D Anderson
Members of the Scottish Parliament – C Allard and M Watt
North East of Scotland Fisherman’s Organisation – A Birnie
Peterhead Port Authority – J Wallace
Scottish Seafood Association - M Bates
Scottish Enterprise – G Ford, D Fordyce and I Garrett
Scottish Pelagic Fishermen’s Association – I Gatt
Scottish Pelagic Processors Association – I McFadden

Apologies: Councillor P Johnston, Aberdeenshire Council; Councillor B Crockett, Aberdeen City Council; Councillor G McDonald, The Moray Council; A Smith MEP; C Stihler MEP; R Baker MSP; S Stevenson MSP; B Armstrong, R Dougal and M Morrison, Scottish Fishermen’s Federation; A Birnie, North East Scotland Fishermen’s Organisation; L Hope, Scottish Maritime Academy; I Land and J Sparks, Seafood Scotland; D Leiper, Peterhead and Fraserburgh Fish Processors Association; D-J McRobbie, Aberdeenshire Council; and R Stevenson, Lunar Fish Producers Organisation.

Officers: R Matheson, Service Manager- Industry Sectors; D McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural & Maritime); P Pliatsikas, Fisheries Project Officer; and V McCaskill, Committee Officer.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting. Members were asked if they had interests to declare. No declarations of interest were intimated.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 8 MAY 2015

There had been circulated and the minute of meeting of 8 May, 2015. It was highlighted that the attendance list within the minute did not include the names of everyone who was present at the meeting. It was **agreed** that, subject to the list of attendees being revised to include the names of all members present, the minute was a correct record of the meeting.

3. MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF 4 SEPTEMBER 2015

There had been circulated and was **approved** the minute of special meeting of 4 September, 2015.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. PRESENTATION: OVERVIEW OF ICES ADVICE 2015

The Chair welcomed Nick Bailey from Marine Scotland Science to the meeting. Mr Bailey gave a presentation to the Partnership on an Overview of ICES Advice 2015. The presentation focused on three specific areas – North Sea, West of Scotland and Pelagic. Detailed

information was provided on catches, recruitment, fishing mortality and spawning stock biomass.

After discussion, the Partnership **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the content of the presentation,
- (2) to request that a copy of the presentation slides be circulated to members by email, and
- (3) to write to Scottish Government to emphasise the importance of adequate resources being provided for research in order to ensure that TACs are being set based on the most reliable research data possible.

The Chair thanked Mr Bailey for an interesting and informative presentation.

6. PRESENTATION: IMPACT OF PELAGIC LANDING OBLIGATION ON EUROPEAN PELAGIC FLEET

Ian Gatt, Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association, provided members with a presentation giving early reflections on the implementation of the Landing Obligation for the European pelagic fleet. The presentation began by giving a brief introduction on the Pelagic Advisory Council's (PELAC) recommendation on implementing the Landing Obligation and went on to cover specifics such as freezer trawlers; refrigerated sea water systems; use of exemptions; interspecies flexibility; monitoring, control and enforcement; and the role of PELAC.

During discussion, members asked questions about Norway's compliance with the Landing Obligation; how the UK quota was distributed across the UK; and issues around differing minimum landing sizes.

Thereafter, the Partnership **agreed** to note the content of the presentation.

The Chair thanked Mr Gatt for a useful and informative presentation.

7. OVERVIEW OF FORTHCOMING LANDING OBLIGATION FOR DEMERSAL SECTOR

David Anderson, Aberdeen Fish Producers Organisation, provided members with an overview of the forthcoming Landing Obligation for the demersal sector. He advised that a lot of the issues which affected the pelagic sector, also affected the demersal sector. Marketing would be a priority issue over the next year. At a recent meeting with processors, it had been advised that there was good demand for small haddock. There were issues relating to Nephrops which stemmed from nature rather than fishing and this was leading to a lack of prawns. There were also access issues for West Coast vessels but there was still a good level of demand for prawns.

With regard to the Landing Obligation, it was advised that there were lots of issues relating to the landing of Nephrops especially as undersized catches were not fit for human consumption. This meant that they could not be consumed by the public and could not be returned to the sea.

After consideration, the Partnership **agreed** to note the content of the update.

8. UPDATE ON YOUNG'S AND THE FRASERBURGH TASK FORCE

Roddy Matheson, Service Manager- Industry Sectors at Aberdeenshire Council, provided an update on Young's and the Fraserburgh Task Force. He advised that the Task Force had three principle work streams and that they were: supporting staff at Young's who were affected by redundancy; wider economic regeneration of Fraserburgh; and a focus on the seafood

industry and processing sector. The group had been looking at costs relating to the industry and aiming to learn from recent lessons, such as the redesign of Northbay Pelagic to create efficiencies. The Task Force presented a unique opportunity, with Government and Scottish Enterprise buy in, to help the industry and encourage positive change. The next meeting of the Task Force was due to take place in January 2016.

During discussion, members asked questions about the possibility of attracting other industry to Fraserburgh and when Northbay Pelagic would be back on stream.

Thereafter, the Partnership **agreed** to note the content of the update.

9. INTRODUCTION TO COMMERCIAL FISHING PROJECT

There had been circulated a report dated 22 October, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised that the Introduction to Commercial Fishing Project was launched on Friday 30 January, 2015, as a two-year pilot to provide local school leavers, with a career interest in fishing, with a structured introduction to the industry. There had been fifteen applicants for the twelve trainee places which were allocated after interviews. Five trainees were going on to undertake the Modern Apprenticeship in Seafishing and one had secured a place on a marine engineering course at the Scottish Maritime Academy.

After consideration, the Partnership **agreed** to endorse the report.

10. PROGRESS UPDATE ON NORTH EAST FISH PROCESSING STRATEGY

There had been circulated a report dated 27 October, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised that the North East Scotland Fish Processing Strategy had been published on 11 May, 2015. The aim of the study was to plan for and invest in growth in the fish processing sector in North East Scotland in light of the new Common Fisheries Policy and in advance of the launch of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Study findings had been first presented to senior officials from the Scottish Government food and drink team on 30 April, 2015. The final report was presented to NESFDP members on 8 May, 2015, and the public launch at the Buchan Braes Hotel attracted over fifty delegates and broadcast media.

During discussion, Cllr Alan Buchan expressed his disappointment with the strategy and requested that it be noted that he did not endorse it.

After consideration, the Partnership **agreed** to endorse the report.

11. INDUSTRY REPORTS AND ROUND TABLE ROUND UP

John Wallace, Peterhead Port Authority, advised that landings were largely on track with the exception of the Northbay issue. The picture was not so good for oil and gas which was expected to be down by 15% next year.

Ian Gatt stated that it was pleasing to have a mackerel agreement in place at this stage. Extreme challenges were anticipated for Western herring next year but there was better news on the MSC programme with five fisheries in it and moving in a positive direction.

Roddy Matheson advised that the power cable at Fraserburgh Harbour would be up and running by December 2015.

12. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

It was advised that Panos Pliatsikas was leaving Aberdeenshire Council to take up a post at Marine Scotland Science. Thanks were passed to Mr Pliatsikas for his hard work during his time at Aberdeenshire Council.

13. PROPOSED DATES FOR 2016 MEETINGS

It was **agreed** that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place on Friday 29 January, 2016.

It was advised that the proposed date of 13 May, 2016, for a future meeting may be problematic for MSPs to attend and it was **agreed** that officers would look again at this date and report back.