

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 13 MAY, 2016

- Present:** **Aberdeenshire Council** – Councillors A M Allan (Chair), A Buchan, C Buchan, P K Johnston and A Robertson (as substitute for P Argyle).
Aberdeen City Council – Councillors A Finlayson and A Malone
Moray Council – Councillor M Howe
Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners – J Murison
Members of the Scottish Parliament – S Stevenson and M Watt
North East of Scotland Fisherman’s Organisation – A Birnie
North Sea Advisory Council – L Duguid
Peterhead Port Authority – A Watt
Scottish Seafood Association - M Bates
Scottish Enterprise – G Ford and D Fordyce
Scottish Fishermen’s Federation – R Dougal
Scottish Maritime Academy – L Hope
Scottish Pelagic Fishermen’s Association – I Gatt and Z Gatt
Scottish White Fish Producers Association – I Young
Seafish UK – I Land and A Motova
- Apologies:** Councillor P Argyle, Aberdeenshire Council; Councillors J Corall and B Crockett, Aberdeen City Council; Councillor G McDonald, The Moray Council; I Hudghton MEP; D Anderson, Aberdeen Fish Producers Organisation; J Anderson, Scottish Fishermen’s Organisation; and N Bailey, Marine Scotland Science.
- Officers:** D McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural & Maritime); J Wilkinson, European Programmes Co-ordinator; 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. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality and opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment had been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 6 NOVEMBER, 2015

There had been circulated and was **approved** the Minute of Meeting of 6 November, 2015.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Mr McDonald stated that the presentations from the last meeting were available online and that he would circulate a link to these to members.

On the issue of writing to Scottish Government to emphasise the importance of adequate resources being provided for research in order to ensure that TACs were being set based on the most reliable research data possible, it was advised that this would be pursued once the new Government minister had been appointed.

5. PRESENTATION: ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE LANDING OBLIGATION

The Chair welcomed Arina Motova, Senior Economist from Seafish UK to the meeting. Ms Motova gave a presentation to the Partnership on the Economic Impact Assessment Report of the Landing Obligation. The presentation covered the EU timeframe for implementation of the Landing Obligation; intended and unintended outcomes and exemptions from the Landing Obligation; Seafish study aims; phases of work for the study – choke analysis, scenario analysis, onshore analysis; factors affecting fleet performance and dynamics; bio-economic modelling approach; summary of findings; and planned future work.

During discussion, members asked questions about choke species; timeframe for future work; the process of implementation; and regionalisation.

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

The Chair thanked Ms Motova for an interesting and informative presentation.

6. UPDATE ON FRASERBURGH TASK FORCE AND RELATED ACTIVITY

Donna Fordyce, Scottish Enterprise, provided members with an update on the Fraserburgh Task Force and related activity. It was advised that the Task Force had last met in March 2016 and that the next meeting date was still to be confirmed. The primary focus of the group's work was employees and PACE support; supporting the sector; and regeneration and economic support for Fraserburgh.

A PACE event had been held in the previous week for employees affected by redundancy. There number of job losses currently stood at 650. Help was now needed with training and supporting the remaining workforce.

With regard to helping the sector, there had been an audit to address inefficiencies but it had been proving difficult to get engagement and a decision was to be made whether it was worthwhile to continue with this. On the subject of helping to support skills, a skills action plan had been developed for the area and the possibility of putting together a bid for Blue Careers was being investigated.

During discussion, members asked questions about contracts for Young's Seafood; user numbers for the shuttle bus service for workers; and measuring numbers of new entrants to the industry.

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

The Chair thanked Ms Fordyce for an informative update.

7. PRESENTATION: NORTH EAST SCOTLAND FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP (NESFLAG)

Jamie Wilkinson, European Programmes Co-ordinator at Aberdeenshire Council, provided members with a presentation on the North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group. The presentation covered the 2014 – 2020 aims of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF); the areas of focus for the EMFF programme in Scotland; community led local development (CLLD); the NESFLAG partnership and its priorities; the application process; FLAG process for assessment and determination; and the 2016 deadline and Committee dates.

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

The Chair thanked Mr Wilkinson for a detailed and interesting presentation.

8. INTRODUCTION TO COMMERCIAL FISHING PROJECT UPDATE

There had been circulated a report dated 4 May, 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.

A second intake of trainees was originally planned for June 2016 but this had been deferred. Whilst the first phase of the project had exceeded expectations, it had been decided to undertake a review before committing further resources.

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

9. ELECTRONIC AUCTION FEASIBILITY STUDY

There had been circulated a report dated 4 May, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised that, with 2014 landing values respectively of £164m, £40m and £75m, Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Lerwick/Scalloway were three of the UK's leading fresh fish landing ports. In 2003, Shetland Fish Market installed an electronic fish auction whilst Peterhead and Fraserburgh had continued to operate very successfully as 'shout auctions'. The Fraserburgh Task Force, which had been set up by Scottish Government, had new business development opportunities within its scope and, at one of the Task Force meetings, senior representatives from Fraserburgh Harbour had advanced the case for a detailed study to assess the feasibility of introducing an electronic auction to Fraserburgh Fishmarket. As part of its commitment to the Fraserburgh Task Force, Aberdeenshire Council had agreed to cover the cost of the feasibility study which was being carried out by BDAplus on behalf of Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners.

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

10. INDUSTRY REPORTS AND ROUND TABLE ROUND UP

Ian Gatt stated that there was a bad news story with West of Scotland herring. There was no TAC for this year in comparison to 11 tonnes in the previous year. This would lead to a huge drop in revenue. A proactive approach was being taken on the matter with research being commissioned on the DNA of stocks and the additional plan of undertaking acoustic surveys.

Ross Dougal advised that the Landing Obligation continued with lots of negotiations ongoing. A cabinet announcement and committee structure was awaited.

Michael Bates advised that a proactive approach was being taken on engaging with members on training for staff. Progress was being made on offering more training programmes and having equipment in place which could be moved around. A kiln was also due for delivery for the demonstration of smoking. All equipment was transportable.

Derek McDonald stated that the East of Scotland Seafood Trail had partners from Shetland to the Borders and was, essentially, a food tourism project. There had been lots of interest generated and an eagerness to develop this further.

Alexander Watt advised that fishing for scallops and mackerel was progressing well whilst levels of prawn catches were currently low. The decline in the oil sector had reduced guard duty work for fishing vessels. It was expected that the build project at the Port would commence in August, subject to EMFF grant approval.

Ian Land stated that a Seafish sponsored delegation had come up to the NE for a visit from the Humber in late 2015. The visit had gone well and business opportunities were identified. A reciprocal delegation from the North East visited the Humber area in Spring 2016 and actions had come out of this. Work on upskilling the processing workforce in Scotland was being undertaken through the seafood action plan.

11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Cllr Johnston spoke about the Ellen McArthur foundation report on plastic levels in ratio to fish and requested for more information to be circulated on this at the next meeting of the Partnership.

The successful beach clean operations, with industry participation, which took place in 2015 were highlighted.

It was advised that John Wallace was due to retire from Peterhead Port in July. The Chair offered thanks to John for his input to the group and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Thereafter, the Partnership **agreed**:

- (1) to request officers to provide more information to the next meeting of the Partnership on the Ellen McArthur Foundation report on levels of plastic in ratio to fish,
- (2) to encourage further beach clean operations, with industry participation, to be undertaken going forward, and
- (3) to write to John Wallace, thanking him for his invaluable contribution to the Partnership and wishing him well for his retirement.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **agreed** that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place on Friday 4 November, 2016.