



**FISHERIES WORKING GROUP**

**WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY, 2019 at 11.00 A.M.**

**(PRECEDED BY TOUR OF A PELAGIC VESSEL AT 9.55 A.M.)**

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **FISHERIES WORKING GROUP** to be held in the **CRAIGEWAN ROOM** at **BUCHAN HOUSE, ST PETER STREET, PETERHEAD, AB42 1QF**, commencing at **11.00 A.M.** on **WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY, 2019**.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FORMAL MEETING WILL BE PRECEDED BY A TOUR OF A PELAGIC VESSEL AT EAST QUAY, PETERHEAD HARBOUR.**

Members are asked to gather at **9.55 am** at East Quay. To get there, please proceed beyond the new fish market on Greenhill Road and the Denholm premises to the Lunar Factory. The vessel (probably the Kings Cross) will be moored nearby. (For satnav users please use AB42 1JF to assist).

8 May, 2019

Director of Business Services  
Aberdeenshire Council  
on behalf of Fisheries Working Group

To: Councillors I Sutherland (Chair), A Allan, C Buchan, M Findlater, P K Johnston, A Kille, M Roy and S W Smith.

**Contact Person:-**

**Alison McLeod**

**Tel: 01467 535544**

**Email: Alison.mcleod4@aberdeenshire.gov.uk**

## **PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY – GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS**

### **What is the duty?**

In making decisions on the attached reports, Members are reminded of their legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The “protected characteristics” under the legislation are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; and (in relation to point (i) above only) marriage and civil partnership.

### **How can Members discharge the duty?**

To ‘have due regard’ means that in making decisions, Members must consciously consider the need to do the three things set out above. This requires a conscious approach and state of mind. The duty must influence the final decision.

However, it is not a duty to achieve a particular result (e.g. to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination or to promote good relations between persons of different racial groups). It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve these goals.

How much regard is ‘due’ will depend upon the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the needs to the decision in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact that a decision may have on people with protected characteristics, the higher the regard required by the duty.

### **What does this mean for Committee/Full Council decisions?**

Members are directed to the section in reports headed ‘Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications’. This will indicate whether or not an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals and, if so, what the outcome of that assessment is.

An EIA will be appended to a report where it is likely that the action recommended in the report could have a differential impact (either positive or negative) upon people from different protected groups. The report author will have assessed whether or not an EIA is required. If one is not required, the report author will explain why that is.

Where an EIA is provided, Members should consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision. Members should also be satisfied that the assessment is sufficiently robust and that they have enough of an understanding of the issues to be able to discharge their legal duty satisfactorily.

For more detailed guidance please refer to the following link:-  
[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/EqualityAct/pseud\\_technical\\_guidance\\_scotland.doc](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/EqualityAct/pseud_technical_guidance_scotland.doc)

## **B U S I N E S S**

### **1. Welcome and Declarations of Interest**

### **2. Statement on Equalities:**

Consider, and if so decided, adopt: "In line with the Council's legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 the Committee, in making decisions on the attached reports, shall have due regard to the need to":-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

### **3. Minute of Meeting of 23 January, 2019 (Pages 4-7)**

### **4. Matters Arising (Page 8)**

### **5. Report: Review of Fisheries Working Group (Pages 9-11)**

### **6. Bulletin: Scottish Government Future Fisheries Management Discussion Paper (Pages 12-14)**

### **7. NESFLAG update (Pages 15-18)**

### **8. Verbal Updates:**

- **Proposed Southern Trench MPA**
- **Future-proofing Fisheries Study**
- **Skipper Expo 17-18 May 2019**
- **Seafood Centre of Excellence Project**

### **10. Any Other Business**

### **11. Date of next meeting – 11 September, 2019, 10am in Banff/Macduff (tbc)**

## **FISHERIES WORKING GROUP**

### **WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN**

**WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2019**

**Present:** Councillors I Sutherland (Chair), C C Buchan, M Findlater, S W Smith, A Kille); A Allan; M Roy; P Johnston

**Apologies:** None

**Officer:** Derek McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural and Maritime);

### **1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were intimated.

### **2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY**

In making decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Working Group **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 of 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.
- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision.

### **3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Minute of the Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 had been circulated. Cllr Smith pointed out that the venue was incorrectly noted as Woodhill House when in fact the meeting was held at Fraserburgh Community and Sports Centre. The minute was otherwise **agreed** as a correct record.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

There were three action points from the last meeting. Derek McDonald provided a progress update on each point. There were no further matters arising.

### **5. PRESENTATION: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES BY JENNIFER MOUAT, THE AEGIR CONSULTANCY**

The Chair introduced Jennifer Mouat, an independent fisheries consultant who specialises in delivering internationally recognised sustainability accreditation for the Scottish fisheries sector and more recently in the development of fishing gear to enhance catch selectivity. Ms Mouat started by outlining the Total Allowable Catch limits for 2019 as they currently stand (they are subject to confirmation) and noted sharp cuts in North Sea cod and haddock (32% and 31% respectively) compared to 2018, and the zero quota for West of Scotland cod which

was expected to create major issues for the fleet. However there had been significant increases in the TACs for hake, saithe, monkfish and Rockall haddock.

Ms Mouat then went on to describe the work of GITAG, the Gear Innovation and Technology Advisory Group. Formed in 2015 and led by the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, the Group's aim is to develop and trial innovative fishing gear to find practical solutions to reduce the level of fish discards. The work of the Group has mostly been funded by Scottish Government and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Ms Mouat described the geographic and sectoral scope of the project and some of the innovations currently under development to reduce the volume of small fish (below 'Minimum Conservation Reference Size') and non-target species ending up in the cod end. Gear trials in the flume tank in Hirtshals, Denmark had been particularly useful in fine tuning performance and precision.

Ms Mouat concluded her presentation with a summary of the Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) and its track record in achieving stock sustainability accreditation for Scottish fisheries. Created in 2006, SFSAG delivered Marine Stewardship (MSC) accreditation for North Sea haddock in 2007. Subsequent successes include North Sea/West of Scotland saithe, North Sea cod in 2017 (hugely significant), and the addition of West of Scotland haddock, whiting, hake, plaice and Rockall haddock in 2018. The beneficial impact of the work of SFSAG was revealed by an analysis of the main whitefish species which revealed that 81% of haddock landed in the UK in 2017 was MSC accredited, while the figures for saithe, cod and whiting were 81%, 73% and 73% respectively.

Questions were asked on the marine science underpinning stock assessments, on the technical details of innovative gear under GITAG and on potential fisheries impacts posed by the proposed Southern Trench Marine Protected Area (off the north Aberdeenshire coast). The Chair thanked Ms Mouat for her excellent presentation.

**Action point 1: Derek McDonald to forward supplementary information from Ms Mouat to members.**

**Action point 2: Derek McDonald to circulate presentation slides**

## **6. NESFLAG PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

There had been circulated a NESFLAG update report dated January 2019 by Jamie Wilkinson, NESFLAG Coordinator which set out the background to NESFLAG programme, its budget and the timeline for its completion (December 2020). It was noted that the budget for North Aberdeenshire and for Angus was now on the verge of being fully committed but that £120,000 remained in the pot for South Aberdeenshire. The report included details of the 22 projects already approved. Questions arose from members on the likelihood of unspent funds from elsewhere in Scotland being made available to NESFLAG (unlikely) and on project cashflow challenges for applicants lacking financial wherewithal to incur and settle project expenditure prior to making claims (which are paid in arrears by Marine Scotland on proof of payment). Members will be kept informed of progress of the NESFLAG programme at future meetings. Further details are available at <http://nesflag.org.uk/>

## 7. BULLETIN: ANISAKIS

There had been circulated a report dated 14 January 2019 by the Head of Economic Development which provided Members with an update on the issue of the Anisakis parasite in whitefish species. The Managing Director of Whitelink Seafoods Ltd had explained during a visit by FWG on 12 September 2018 to the factory that whitefish caught in Scottish waters enjoyed a quality advantage over the same species caught in more southerly waters in that levels of parasitism were significantly lower and that steps should be taken to preserve that natural advantage. The issue had also been raised at the NE Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership meeting in Peterhead on 2 November. Mr Stewart Stevenson MSP was present and undertook to raise the matter with Mr Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy. On 26 November 2018 a letter arrived from Mr Stevenson, attached to a letter from Mr Ewing which set out the Scottish Government's view on Anisakis - that the population density of marine mammals was the principal driver and that onboard treatment of fish offal before discharge at sea would not be cost-effective in reducing Anisakis levels.

After consideration, the Working Group **agreed** to note information provided in the update.

## 8. BULLETIN: FISHERIES PROTECTION FLEET

There had been circulated a report dated 14 January 2019 by the Head of Economic Development which provided Members with an update on correspondence received from Marine Scotland on the issue of the adequacy of the fisheries protection fleet post-Brexit. No response had been received from DEFRA.

After consideration, the Working Group **agreed** to note information provided in the update.

## 9. BULLETIN: SCOTTISH SEAFOOD ASSOCIATION UPDATE

There had been circulated a report dated 14 January 2019 by the Head of Economic Development which provided Members with an update on the progress being made by the Scottish Seafood Association (SSA), most notably on the launch in December 2018 of the NESFLAG-funded Seafood Industry Workplace Ready scheme, a two-week training programme free of charge to trainees to help them prepare for a career in the seafood industry. Members were encouraged to disseminate news of this new training opportunity.

<https://www.scottishseafoodassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Introduction-to-Fish-Processing-6.12.18.pdf>

After consideration, the Working Group **agreed** to note information provided in the update.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Derek McDonald provided a brief verbal update on the proposed Southern Trench MPA, on the recent Seafish Information Note on NE Atlantic Mackerel and on the Seafish Briefing Paper on business rates for fish processors in NE Scotland, dated November 2018.

After consideration, the Working Group **agreed** to note information provided in the update.

**Action point 3: Derek McDonald to circulate links to enable Members to obtain further information on the above.**

## **8. DATE OF 2019 MEETINGS**

- 10am on 15 May 2019 in Peterhead (venue and site visit tbc)
- 10am on 11 September 2019 in Banff/Macduff (tbc)

## ACTION SHEET

### FISHERIES WORKING GROUP – 23 JANUARY 2019

<b>No.</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>ACTION OWNER</b>	<b>UPDATE</b>
1.	Supplementary information from Ms Mouat to be circulated to members.	Derek McDonald	
2.	Ms Mouat's slides to be circulated to members	Derek McDonald	
3.	Further information on Southern Trench MPA & Seafish papers on business rates & mackerel stocks to be circulated to members	Derek McDonald	
4.	Peterhead site visit to be arranged immediately prior to next FWG meeting on 15 May 2019	Derek McDonald	



## REPORT TO FISHERIES WORKING GROUP - 15 MAY 2019

### REVIEW OF FISHERIES WORKING GROUP

#### 1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

##### 1.1 Consider and make recommendations on the following future options for Fisheries Working Group:

- a) Integrate Fisheries Working Group into NE Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership;
- b) Reduce the frequency of FWG meetings;
- c) Make alternative proposals;
- d) No change.

#### 2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 On 1 June 2017 Infrastructure Services Committee (Item 7) agreed on the membership, and re-appointment, of Member Officer Working Groups (MOWGs) including five such groups which are managed by Economic Development officers along with the chairs of these groups. These MOWGs are as follows:

European Member Officer Working Group (EMOWG)  
Fisheries Working Group (FWG)  
North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership (NESFDP)  
North East Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group (NESAAG)  
Rural Affairs Working Group (RAWG)

Martin Brebner manages EMOWG; the rest are organised by Derek McDonald.

- 2.2 All of the above groups have been in existence for over 15 years. **Appendix 1** gives a brief description of the membership and remit of the five Working Groups. Owing to an increase in the commitments of Committee Services elsewhere in the council, the general level of Committee Officer support offered to MOWGs has been reduced in recent months, creating additional work for organising officers from Economic Development.
- 2.3 NESFDP and NESAAG are influential bodies hosted by Aberdeenshire Council comprising representatives from outside organisations and neighbouring councils and they have been subject to periodic review. No change is proposed to how NESFDP and NESAAG operate or to the level of Committee Officer support provided.
- 2.4 In contrast to NESFDP and NESAAG, there has been no corresponding review in recent years of the other Working Groups. A review of Fisheries Working Group at this time, in consultation with FWG members, is therefore

considered appropriate. It is anticipated a report on the future arrangements for FWG and RAWG will be presented to Infrastructure Services Committee towards the end of the year once an informed view has been formed.

- 2.5 There is therefore a requirement to establish the additionality of FWG over and above the work of NESFDP in order to secure resources for its continuation. FWG has actively lobbied Scottish Government and UK Government on various issues over the years and has also generated numerous consultation responses, albeit that they have been submitted by Infrastructure Services Committee. In some cases, NESFDP was unable to arrive at a collective view on certain issues (most recently on the matter of the Pelagic Landing Obligation consultation in 2017). Members have also commented that FWG has been a useful channel for communicating industry issues to members and has helped to explain how the council is interacting with the wider fisheries sector. However a clear justification will be required for FWG to continue in its current form.
- 2.6 NESFDP currently comprises five Elected Members from Aberdeenshire Council (with five each from Aberdeen City Council and The Moray Council). Should it be concluded that Fisheries Working Group is to be subsumed into North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership, consideration could be given to increasing the number of places for Aberdeenshire Council members.
- 2.7 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

Fisheries Working Group is able to consider this item in terms of its remit to provide a focus to enable issues and concerns across the wider fisheries sector in Aberdeenshire to be addressed.

### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 There are no equality impact implications arising from this report
- 4.2 There are staffing implications in that, if approved, this change will mean that certain officers will have more time to spend on policy and project work.
- 4.3 No risks arising from this report have been identified for the council at Corporate Level
- 4.4 No issues have been identified in relation to the Town Centre First Principle

**Belinda Miller**  
**Head of Economic Development and Protective Services**

Report prepared 7 May 2019 by Derek McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural & Maritime),

## **Appendix 1**

### **European Member/ Officer Working Group**

Membership comprises the Provost, the Chair and Vice Chair of Infrastructure Services Committee, the six Area Chairs, the Leader of the Council, three other Members with a specific European interest and all four representatives on the North Sea Commission Thematic Groups.

Remit – To co-ordinate the channelling of information on EU matters and to represent the interests of Aberdeenshire Council in Europe.

Number of meetings – quarterly.

### **Fisheries Working Group**

Membership comprises eight Elected Members from Aberdeenshire Council and officers.

Remit – To advise the Council on issues affecting the industry and fishing dependent communities.

Number of meetings – three times per year.

### **North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership (NESFDP)**

Membership comprises five Elected Members from Aberdeenshire Council, five from Aberdeen City Council, and five from Moray Council, MPs, MSPs and MEPs, representatives from the fisheries industry (fishing and processing), ports, enterprise agencies (e.g. Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprise), Seafish, and Marine Scotland.

Remit – To act as an advisory body to the Councils and industry, and provide support to fishing dependent communities and a communication channel between the wider industry and its political representatives at all levels.

Number of Meetings – three times per year

### **North East Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group (NESAAG)**

Membership comprises seven Elected Members from Aberdeenshire Council, five from Aberdeen City Council, and five from Moray Council, officers, and farming communities and industry.

Remit – To act as an advisory body to the Councils, encompassing all rural affairs, with particular interest in agriculture and rural employment; farm incomes; farming policy; conservation; diversification of farming including forestry, tourism and farm industries; the implications of changes in farming practice and land use; and the provision of infrastructure, services, and facilities in rural areas. NESAAG lobbies on behalf of the sector as well as providing support and advice both to the agricultural sector and the wider rural economy of the North East.

Number of Meetings – three times per year

### **Rural Affairs Working Group**

Membership comprises eight Elected Members from Aberdeenshire Council and officers.

Remit – To provide an Aberdeenshire focus and enable local agriculture, as well as other rural issues and concerns, to be considered.

Number of meetings – three times per year.



## REPORT TO FISHERIES WORKING GROUP - 15 MAY 2019

### SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FUTURE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION PAPER

#### 1 Recommendations

**It is recommended that members consider whether a response should be made to the Discussion Paper and what form a response could take.**

#### 2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 In March 2019, Scottish Government launched a discussion paper setting out proposals for Future Fisheries management in Scotland. The deadline for responses is 7 June 2019 and the paper can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-discussion-paper-future-fisheries-management-scotland/>
- 2.2 The Discussion Paper proposes a new approach to fisheries management in Scotland and will be followed by a consultation comprising a firm set of proposals in 'Winter 2019'. The Paper reflects at a high level the input gathered by Scottish Government since it commenced dialogue in November 2017 with industry and stakeholder on future fisheries policy. No questions are asked in the Paper; respondents are invited to forward any views they may have.
- 2.3 The Paper starts by setting out a vision for an environmentally conscious and sustainable Scottish fishing industry and a world class marine environment in line with Scotland's National Marine Plan. Chapter 2 covers Governance, Engagement and Accountability and commits to securing a Scottish seafood levy – it is not clear whether this commitment constitutes a new levy or a share of the existing Seafish levy. That Scottish fisheries are a national asset is stated throughout the document – as is a desire for more effective local management of resources, largely through strengthened Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups.
- 2.4 Within the international context (Chapter 3), an expectation is expressed that Scottish ministers will be allowed to lead the UK delegation during Coastal State negotiations on fish stocks 'predominantly present' in Scottish waters, and that the Scottish fishing industry will have the opportunity to engage with ministers. The importance of maintaining positive and constructive relations with Coastal State nations (eg Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands) and the EU post Brexit is also highlighted to enable favourable reciprocal access.
- 2.5 The Discussion Paper goes on to describe the importance of marine science in setting sustainable fishing opportunities. There is however a divergence from current EU policy in that the timeframe to achieve MSY (Maximum Sustainable Yield) for the main stocks moves away from a defined ('arbitrary') date. Reference is made to difficulties arising from 'data-limited' stocks and a commitment is offered to addressing gaps in knowledge and data, in part by

utilising new technology. The Paper commits to using Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits as the primary method of managing stocks in future (as opposed to 'effort' control) and the issue of future quota and its distribution is also addressed. The 'Fixed Quota Allocation (FQA) system will continue but the Paper declares that the 'speculative' use of Scottish quota will end and that any post-Brexit increase in fishing opportunities is likely to be utilised – to some degree – to create opportunities for new entrants and those for whom quota access is currently prohibitively expensive.

- 2.6 The Paper confirms that 'zonal attachment' will take precedence over 'relative stability' in future fisheries management (echoing the UK Government White Paper on Fishing). The 'Economic Link' for the pelagic sector is also to be revisited to try to secure a higher share of landings in Scotland from Scottish quota (or obtain quota 'gifting' for re-distribution). A commitment is given to a practical, workable discards ban and to effective Technical and Spatial Conservation Measures. Chapter 5 addresses fishing licences and capacity and considers how and in what way access to fishing could be distributed more fairly. Steps are proposed to better define and manage inshore fishing opportunities, evidenced by pilot projects currently underway and significant investment in data gathering. A new permit system for fishing exclusively within the twelve-mile limit is proposed to bring Scotland into line with England. The paper concludes with an exploration of a possible successor scheme to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, to how the sector's future labour requirements can be met, and the potential use of new, cost-effective technology in fisheries management.
- 2.7 The Paper is generally consistent with policy positions previously adopted by Fisheries Working Group and it is suggested that the Group considers whether a response is necessary and if so, what form it might take.
- 2.8 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

Fisheries Working Group is able to consider this item in terms of its remit to provide a focus to enable issues and concerns across the wider fisheries sector in Aberdeenshire to be addressed.

### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 There are no equality impact implications arising from this report
- 4.2 There are staffing implications in that, if approved, this change will mean that certain officers will have more time to spend on policy and project work.
- 4.3 No risks arising from this report have been identified for the council at Corporate Level

4.4 No issues have been identified in relation to the Town Centre First Principle

**Belinda Miller**  
**Head of Economic Development and Protective Services**

Report prepared 7 May 2019 by Derek McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural & Maritime),



N.E. Scotland Fisheries  
**LocalActionGroup**



Part-funded by the European Union's European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

## **NESFLAG PROGRAMME UPDATE – MAY 2019**

North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) is a partnership of over 20 organisations from the public, private, community and fisheries sector. NESFLAG delivers the community-led local development elements of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020.

The NESFLAG budget for the programme period is £1.437m which covers the Aberdeenshire and Angus coasts, encompassing most fishing communities and coastal settlements. Aberdeenshire Council administers the programme through a dedicated co-ordinator and part time support staff. The programme is split between three Local Development Strategies (North Aberdeenshire, South Aberdeenshire and Angus) and is linked to the LEADER rural development programmes.

Since its launch NESFLAG has worked with a wide range of applicants: community groups, third sector organisations, public bodies, private companies, business collectives, fishermen's associations and others. Projects can cover a wide range of activities but must address at least one of the following priorities set out by the FLAG's strategy:

- a) *adding value and promoting innovation at all stages of the fisheries and seafood supply chain*
- b) *creating jobs, attracting young people, encouraging lifelong learning and facilitating training in fisheries areas*
- c) *supporting diversification inside or outside commercial fisheries*
- d) *enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets of the fisheries areas*
- e) *promoting social well-being, cultural heritage and community development in fisheries areas*

Following the EU Referendum there was uncertainty about EMFF timescales, and the programme was initially limited to making final grant awards in March 2019. However, Marine Scotland advised late last year that the UK Government has guaranteed any budget committed beyond the date of Brexit. Grant offers can therefore now be made up until September 2020. We are currently working to a deadline of December 2020 for projects to be completed and draw down all funding, although there may be some flexibility to extend this date.

NESFLAG launched in March 2016 and the first application round was held in July 2016. Although initially the number of applications was lower than expected, interest gradually increased and the programme gathered momentum during 2017 and 2018. As of May 2019, 28 projects have been approved with a total grant commitment of £1,108,293.40. This equates to 77.13% of the programme budget.

Following the most recent approval of applications, the budgets for North Aberdeenshire and Angus are now fully committed (subject to two projects currently in the approval process) and NESFLAG is currently closed for new applications in those areas. There remains around £200,000 in the South Aberdeenshire budget for new projects, and application deadlines have been set for July and November 2019.

Subject to budget constraints, the NESFLAG Co-ordinator continues to work with potential applicants. There has been an effort to focus publicity in South Aberdeenshire to encourage further applications,



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particularly in Stonehaven, Gourdon and Johnshaven. Anyone with a potential project idea in these areas should approach Jamie Wilkinson (NESFLAG Co-ordinator) at [nesflag@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:nesflag@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or 01467 537377.

### Approved Projects

Applicant	Project	Grant	Summary
Buchanhaven Harbour	Buchanhaven Boat Shed	£28,568.90	Construction of a boatshed workshop and community space
Peterhead Port Authority	Port Henry Marina	£45,189.69	Extension of the pontoons in the Port Henry Basin to provide 15 new berths
PBP Services	Corrosion Protection Equipment	£36,346.76	Purchase of machinery for zinc spraying boat hulls and other equipment
Sandhaven & Pitullie Harbour	Sandhaven & Pitullie Harbour Redevelopment	£23,650.00	New pontoons at Sandhaven Harbour
Scottish Seafood Association	Seafood Training Centre	£60,808.25	Establishment of a new training centre for new entrants into the seafood processing sector
The Captain's Table Ltd	The Captain's Table	£10,149.38	Fitting out costs for a new seafood restaurant in Fraserburgh
Davidsons Painters	Coatings Removal Multi-worker	£67,582.70	Purchase of an innovative high speed canon system for removal of old paint from boat hulls.
Rosehearty Community Boat Club	New Rosehearty Clubhouse	£63,252.07	Conversion of a former council-owned caravan park toilet block into a clubhouse and workshop for the community sailing club.
Peartree Fraserburgh Limited	Peartree Coffee House & Bistro	£29,675.97	Establishment of a new restaurant in Fraserburgh which will have a focus on fresh local seafood.
Stonehaven Paddleboarding	Stonehaven Paddleboarding	7,695.07	A new business based at Stonehaven Harbour which offers stand-up paddleboarding lessons and tours
Portsoy Community Enterprise	Portsoy Traditional Boatbuilder	£43,168.00	Employment of a traditional boat-builder who will work with volunteers, school children and the wider community to develop heritage boat projects
Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners	New Materials Handler for Inshore Fleet	£41,210.50	Purchase of a telehandler which will provide increased flexibility and benefit inshore vessels at Fraserburgh Harbour
East Grampian Coastal Partnership	EGCP Beach Litter Campaign	£53,256.73	Employment of a beach litter officer who will work with local communities and school children to organise beach cleans





Part-funded by the European Union's European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

			and promote the issue of beach and marine litter
Angus Alive	Spotlight on Arbroath's Fishing Heritage	£39,829.07	Conversion of disused gatehouses and creation of permanent fishing heritage exhibits at the Signal Tower Museum in Arbroath.
Angus Council	Arbroath Harbour Pontoons	£54,165.43	Installation of a new pontoon (primarily serving inshore fishing vessels) in the outer basin of Arbroath Harbour
Stonehaven Sea Safari Ltd	Stonehaven Sea Safari	£52,443.09	Establishment of a new tourism business at Stonehaven Harbour which will operate wildlife boat tours from a RIB.
Aberdeenshire Council	Banff Marina Improvements	£85,011.38	Construction of a new slipway at Banff Harbour for much improved access in and out of the water.
Whitehills Inshore Fishermen's Association	Fish Market Ice and Chill	£41,455.09	New fish landing facilities led by the fishermen at Whitehills Harbour including a chill room, ice machine and electric landing davit.
North East Creel and Line Association	Reflective Tracer Buoys	£13,525.20	Purchase of larger and higher-standard buoys for the inshore fishermen in Fraserburgh which will reduce gear conflict with larger vessels
Stonehaven Tolbooth Association	Stonehaven Tolbooth Museum - Development Phase	£44,813.00	Employment of a consultant to drive forward plans for extension and redevelopment of the Tolbooth Museum at Stonehaven Harbour
Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners	Waste Management & Environmental Impact Reduction	£29,189.16	A project with a number of elements which all improve the environmental impact of Fraserburgh Harbour, including recycling, cleaning of oil spills and marine litter
Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners	Modular Access Towers for Vessels and Shiplifts	£55,500.00	Construction of bespoke towers which will vastly improve access to vessels undergoing inspection and maintenance on the shiplift at Fraserburgh Harbour
Aberdeenshire Council	Aquarium Touch Pool and Interpretation Upgrade	£32,714.60	Refurbishment of the 'touch pool' room at Macduff Aquarium, including new tanks, cameras and interpretation.
Rediscover Peterhead	Peterhead Seafood Festival 2019	£31,173.50	Peterhead Seafood Festival 2019 will celebrate locally caught seafood, increase town centre footfall and offer



N.E. Scotland Fisheries  
**LocalActionGroup**



Part-funded by the European Union's European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

			an opportunity for local processors and retailers to showcase their produce
Rosehearty Harbour and Inshore Fishermen Association	Fish Landing & Catch Quality facilities improvements	£69,367.75	Creation of an ice machine and chill room facility at Rosehearty Harbour, and installation of new access ladders and landing davit.
Angus Council	Cold Room at Arbroath Harbour	£10,314.16	Conversion of a section of the former fish market at Arbroath Harbour into a chill room for use by inshore fishermen.
Findlay's Fish Bar and Diner	The first accredited gluten free fish diner in North East Scotland	£17,299.95	Installation of a new frying range at a fish diner which will allow gluten free fish to be prepared, cooked and served.
Pennan Harbour Trust	Enabling Works to Enhance Access for Vessels at Pennan Harbour	£20,938.00	Refurbishment of access steps at Pennan Harbour to encourage the use of tourist and leisure vessels.

**Jamie Wilkinson**

NESFLAG Co-ordinator

7 May 2019