

**Note of Common Language Group (CLG) meeting held at Billingsgate.  
Thursday 27 February 2014**

For the CLG minutes and meeting presentations see:  
<http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/discussion-forums/the-common-language-group>

**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Mike Kaiser welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Attendees**

Alex Olson	Esperon
Bertie Armstrong	SFF
Catherine Pazderka	BRC
Colin Boag	Fishmonger's Co
Charlotte Bury	Tesco
Chris Lamb	Seafish panel
Chris Leftwich	Fishmongers' Co
Chris Middleton	Seafish
Dale Rodmell	NFFO
David Dickens	Fishermen's Mission
David Jarrad	SAGB
Emily Howgate	IPNLF
Emi Katoh	MRAG
Estelle Brennan	Lyons Seafoods
Harvey Jones	Pig Shed Trust
Heather Middleton	Seafish
Huw Thomas	Morrisons
Iain Pollard	SFP
Ivan Bartolo	Seafish
James Simpson	MSC
Jess Sparks	Seafood Scotland
Jennifer Mouat	SWFPA
Jim Gray	Pew
John Atkinson	Co-op
Jon Harmon	ASMI
Julie Carlton	MCA
Karen Galloway	Seafish
Karen Green	Seafish (Minutes)
Kate Wilcox	MSC AM
Katie Miller	ClientEarth
Keith Wiggins	National Crime Agency

Laky Zervudachi	Direct Seafoods
Liane Veitch	ClientEarth
Libby Woodhatch	Seafish
Matt Watson	MSC
Max Schmid	EJF
Melissa Pritchard	New England Seafoods
Mike Kaiser	Bangor University, Seafish Board (Chair)
Mike Short	FDF
Mike Weavers	Defra
Paul Williams	Seafish
Sam Stone	MCS
Suzanne Clift	ASC
Tom Pickerell	Seafish
Tracy Cambridge	WWF
Tracey Heyworth	Birds Eye
William Davies	Seachill

**Apologies**

Andrew Mallison	IFFO
Andrew Young	Co-op
Carl O'Brien	Cefas
Chris Brown	Asda
Chris Williams	nef
David Parker	Youngs
Denise Fraser	Seafish
Ed Willstead	Macalister Elliott
Emma MacLaren	SFP
Hannah MacIntyre	M&S
Jims Portus	SWFPO
Jim Masters	MCS
Lucy Blow	New England Seafoods
Marina Richardson	Youngs
Martin Jaffa	Callander McDowell
Mike Berthet	M&J Seafoods
Mike Brummitt	Regal Fish Supplies
Nigel Edwards	Seachill
Patrick Blow	M&S
Peter Stagg	Le Lien Ltd
Phil Huggon	Seafish panel
Richard Stansfield	Flatfish Ltd
Stefan Asmundsson	NEAFC
Steve Cadwallader	Falfish
Steve Mackinson	Cefas
Stuart Hetherington	Cefas

## **2. Minutes from the last meeting held on 6 November 2013.**

The final minutes have been added to the CLG web page. In the following minutes Seafish will provide a link to the various presentations given at the meeting but not summarise the whole presentation. In the main we do not now attribute the comments made at the meeting. A paper was sent round listing forthcoming events. A full list can be found on the Seafish website:

<http://www.seafish.org/about-seafish/news-and-events/events>

## **Theme: Working conditions for migrant workers on UK vessels**

### **3. The legal framework (Government response to incidents over the last 18 months).** Keith Wiggins, National Crime Agency.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144329/clgfeb2014\\_nca\\_humantraffickingandfishi ng.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144329/clgfeb2014_nca_humantraffickingandfishi ng.pdf)

Keith highlighted 'Human Trafficking and Fishing - Ten Years of Hard Learnt Lessons'. He highlighted the major legislative changes and the issues that still needed addressing including industry buy-in: at arrival - potential victim crewmen – identification and prevention; at joining ship – education and awareness; during port visits – safe interaction; and upon escape; legal powers to stop, board and recall vessels at sea.

#### Discussion

- A very dramatic picture has been painted. A lot of non-EEA nationals (mostly from the Philippines) are employed on Scottish vessels who are working under a transit visa. They are employed on 600 vessels in Scotland. There is a lot of opportunity for unwarranted and unnecessary reputational damage to the industry if the facts are misconstrued. No-one condones criminal activity or slave labour. This must be proportional.
- I think there will be more balance with later presentations. The NCA presentation portrayed a rogue element and yet in many ways the North Sea could be used to demonstrate best practice.
- This is not a Scottish issue it is a developed world issue and in many instances the UK is ahead of the game. A couple of bad examples have been illustrated. We do have to be aware however that crew coming to work in this country are usually desperate for work and generally they are happy with the working conditions, but we must be wary of the possibility of rogue elements.
- Q. How much internal coordination is there? How much of a control network? A. There are a very large number of anti-trafficking groups and with large numbers travelling for work they are likely to come into contact with an Embassy or High Commission and it is through these channels that we identify potential problems.
- Q. How can industry get involved? What is the best way for a retailer to engage and use this information? All the retailers have ethical programmes. In terms of protecting people how can retailers address this? A. I can't think of an obvious retailer angle. Q. And yet Government is constantly calling upon retailers to act. It is difficult when there is no apparent means to engage.

- Focussing on legislation could be the route and there could be a role for retailers to be giving messages to Government on the legislation that needs to be in place to protect those working on fishing vessels.
- The Responsible Fishing Scheme is one area where the UK fishing industry could have a role. The Scheme is being revised and there will be a greater emphasis on social and ethical elements. These messages could work across the supply chain.

**4. Welfare Framework.** David Dickens, Fishermen's Mission.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144320/clgfeb2014\\_fishermensmission\\_migrantworkersinukfishing.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144320/clgfeb2014_fishermensmission_migrantworkersinukfishing.pdf)

David highlighted the role of the Mission in providing emergency welfare assistance and pastoral support for the longer term. He mentioned some of the crew issues that can be raised such as with-held or unpaid wages; with-held passports/documents; repatriation costs; poor living conditions esp. in harbour; verbal/physical abuse; illegal contracts; working hours/practices. As well as the concerns over: patchy response from authorities; lack of guidance for Mission staff; enforcement; contracts/manning agencies; terms and conditions; and equal pay for equal work. He also mentioned the Merchant Navy Welfare Board Foreign Fishermen's Working Group (FFWG). This is currently an ad hoc group which will be subsumed into the Working Age Seafarers Forum from quarter two 2014. He mentioned they were currently investigating 30 cases, but with 2,000 migrant workers currently working in the UK fishing industry, this is a very small proportion.

Discussion

- Q. How long do these workers stay in the UK? A. They can stay for up to seven years.
- This is not a UK issue. There is a floating population of mariners moving around the world finding work, all working on transit visas. This is the norm. The ILO is working hard to support this around the world. This is not a means of encouraging migration into the UK, this is not an immigration issue. This is how the world maritime industry works and it is very carefully monitored.
- Q. Contracts are clearly important. Could a minimum-basis contract be enforced legally? A. The Philippines Overseas Employment Agency have a perfectly good contract (and this is very important to them as the export of fishermen is a big part of their GDP), however there is no approval for a manning agency and this should be the next step. The GLA licences the agencies employing workers. A minimum basis contract would at least set a bar.

**5. Foreign labour on UK vessels.** Jennifer Mouat, Scottish White Fish Producer's Association (SWFPA).

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144341/clgfeb2014\\_swfpa\\_noneeacrew.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144341/clgfeb2014_swfpa_noneeacrew.pdf)

Jennifer explained the importance and size of the fishing fleet in the North East and highlighted there had been a reduction in TAC and quota for cod and

haddock, that since 2000 the number employed in the NE catching sector had decreased by 43% and that between 2009 and 2010 the number of fishermen employed had decreased by 5.1%. Employing foreign workers is a business decision. SWFPA employs around 350 foreign workers, some of whom are employed for up to seven years. These are mostly from South East Asia, Philippines and Indonesia, and now from Sri Lanka and Ghana. To formalise the process SWFPA (along with SFF and the Fishermen's Mission) has established a Code of Practice for Employment of Non EEA Fishing Crew. This covers: contracts for all non EU crew covering wage details, terms and conditions all agreed before agreement to join a vessel; accommodation on board vessels as per EU crew; illness and accident care available under NHS; repatriation accommodated where required with wages paid.

#### Discussion

- Q. How often can fishermen come ashore? A. They can't live ashore. They can come onshore for a very limited time and only on vessel business.
- Q. SFF and SWFPA clearly have a Code of Conduct. Is anyone else working in the same way? A. SFF, which represents nine associations, is doing this. SWFPA is the biggest and the most active. This is a Code of Conduct but we must all be aware of the limitations of what we can do to enforce and monitor it, and that criminal elements will unfortunately still be there. Anything that deviates from this Code of Conduct is unpalatable.
- There have been concerns expressed that non EEA crew are viewed as a commodity. This is not the case – each of them is hugely valued.
- Q. Is everyone a member of SFF? A. Most of the vessels that employ non EEA crew are members.
- Q. What is the situation in England? A. There is not a significant use of foreign labour within the English fleet. This Code of Conduct has created awareness – we all want to seed good practice and to the extent that we can support this we will.
- Q. Is equal pay included under the Code of Conduct? A. No pay scales are not covered.

#### **6. ILO Convention on Work in Fishing (ILO 188) and UK proposals as regards implementation.**

Julie Carlton, Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144326/clgfeb2014\\_mca\\_ilowork.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144326/clgfeb2014_mca_ilowork.pdf)

Julie explained what the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (ILO 188) ILO covered. Namely: it is a global labour standard as part of the ILO 'decent work' agenda; is applicable for all sea-going fishing vessels; is agreed by governments, owners, fishermen; was adopted in June 2007 and allows flexible implementation. It establishes responsibilities of owners, skippers and fishermen and sets a variety of minimum standards. The convention will come into force 12 months after it has been ratified by 10 countries, including at least eight coastal states (currently four countries - Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa and Morocco have ratified). The UK working timetable is aiming for ratification at the end of 2016. This will allow time for a gap analysis on what changes are required to bring UK

legislation into line; impact assessments; consultation – Working Group reporting to Fishing Industry Safety Group; to prepare legislation and bring it into force. In addition an EU Social Partners Agreement is in the pipeline.

#### Discussion

- Q. Will the EU Social Partners Agreement become part of ILO 188 or is it separate? A. Probably both.
- Q. You mentioned two Marine Guidance Notes: A Voluntary Code of Practice for Employment of Non-European Economic Area (EAA) and Fishing Crew and Health and Safety at Work: Protecting those not employed by the ship owner (MGN 492(M+F)). What is their authority? A. They explain a duty of care and can hang off legislation by interpreting what the legislation means. But they are for 'guidance' and nobody is bound by this guidance.
- Q. There appears to be a lot of rules, legislation and guidance and yet press reports seem to indicate that this is not working properly. How does all this information reach the skippers and how is it policed? A. The larger vessels are inspected every five years and any complaints are followed up. The message about legislation does need to get out and we do sometimes struggle to let the people who need to know actually know. SFF is a membership organisation and the fishermen are paying SFF to keep them informed. A lot of work has already gone into this but you are never going to catch everyone who is breaking the rules. This ILO legislation is an attempt to raise maritime standards generally.
- Q. A query over terminology. Is it always non EEA rather than non EC. A. The migrant rules apply to non-EEA.
- Q. Are complaints confidential? A. Yes but that is not always easy to maintain.
- It is very positive that the UK is doing all of this and it is important that developed countries sign up to this convention.
- Q. It is often happens that IUU fishing is linked to social conditions. Could IUU legislation possibly cover this? This would help UK retailers and help establish a level playing field. A. This is possible.

#### **7. Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS). Current position.** Libby Woodhatch, Seafish.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144332/clgfeb2014\\_rfs.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144332/clgfeb2014_rfs.pdf)

Libby summarised the feedback on the external review of the RFS. The conclusion was to reform and re-launch. The intention is to: upgrade standard to ISO17065 status; Seafish should own the standard (not the case currently); remain business-to-business; retain name and logo; do not seek Chain of Custody at this time. Next milestone is completion of revised standard by September 2014. Today there are 594 vessels engaged with RFS and 347 certified. The five key priority areas are: safety, health and welfare; training/professional development; the vessel and its mission; treating fish as food; care for the environment.

**Action:** Send RFS twitter feed to CLG.

## General discussion

- Q. It is worth looking at the possible industry perception that the UK fishing industry is employing migrant workers and not paying them the minimum wage, and that this is not equivalent to other industries. How will consumers see this? This could also be a risk and a challenge to the sector. A. It is the intention of the UK fishing industry to 'grow its own'. We are about to enter a period of significant change – the move to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), the introduction of the landings obligation, a reduction in fishing mortality. We want a viable UK fishing industry with a 'minimum cost crew' and good levels of recruitment. I don't think this perception exists in the press.
- There is a real perception issue and there is a view of exploitation. The recent example was the scallop boats. Perhaps we need to gauge the extent of this. We need basic information to be able to assess the level of risk. It would be good to be able to feed good news stories.
- We have to be careful in talking about this as a small issue. Yes it is in terms of numbers but not in terms of its seriousness and the level of media/consumer attention. We could do with more media engagement on this, some human interest stories, examples of best practice.
- I don't want to downplay this but we did not take one call after the Sunday Times article, Seafish did not take any calls and it was not picked up credibly elsewhere. I would have expected more pick up. Proportional is the key word.
- We can't be complacent and we should be ahead of the game.
- Transparency should be paramount. If migrant workers are so important to the UK fishing industry why don't we talk about it more, why do I feel it is being kept in the shadows? Fishing is international – why can't we celebrate the entirety of the whole international seafood industry? Why can't we paint a stereotypical picture of the UK fishing industry and bring this to the fore with some good, positive stories?

## **Theme: IUU Fishing**

### **8. Update on latest developments re IUU.** Ivan Bartolo, Seafish.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144338/clgfeb2014\\_seafish\\_iuuupdate.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144338/clgfeb2014_seafish_iuuupdate.pdf)

Ivan updated the group on the latest developments. Red cards have been proposed for Belize, Guinea, Cambodia. These have consequences - no importation if caught by flagged vessels; restrictions relating to fishing vessels flying the flag: sanctions on trading fishing rights; no joint fishing operations; and changes to bilateral fishing agreements. In addition Fiji, Panama, Sri Lanka, Togo and Vanuatu have been shown to have made tangible progress. Korea, Ghana and Curaçao are newly yellow carded and have six months to show cooperation. There is also a new vessel blacklist.

### **9. Combatting Pirate Fishing (IUU) – A retailers guide to due diligence.** Max Schmid, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF).

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144317/clgfeb2014\\_ejf\\_iuuediligence.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144317/clgfeb2014_ejf_iuuediligence.pdf)

Max highlighted that the aim of the guide was to stop IUU fish entering the UK market; to illustrate compliance with the EU IUU Regulation; to protect supply and reputations of UK retailers and brands; and highlight areas for policy changes. Initial feedback had been discussed at a meeting on Wednesday 26 February.

#### Discussion

- Q. Does EJF take into consideration the US list of countries deemed to be involved in illegal fishing? A. EJF does monitor and there are moves to align the different lists.
- Q. How will this due diligence guide work in practice? A. it will be a basic assessment of risk which can be used and adapted by retailers.

### **10. Headline news**

#### **10.1. Media update**

##### **10.1.1. Last Fish Fight transmission. Sunday 2 March 2014. 7pm Channel 4.**

This was due to air the following Sunday and was due to cover: how hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world came together, and forced the politicians in Brussels to radically reform fishing policies; the North Sea to find out how a more sustainable future for fish and for fishermen might work; coverage of how one of the biggest food companies in the world and the Thai Government have announced they are taking steps to improve the sustainability of the prawns they sell to British supermarkets; a fresh investigation into tinned tuna. This was a wrap up programme where Hugh and the team will look back at the campaigns over the past couple of years and the impact that has been made. Seafish was going to monitor all online and social media over the next week and respond if necessary and also draft a 'wrap up' blog post from industry's point of view on the campaign. Seafish was also aware that an independent consultant has been commissioned to evaluate the Fish Fight campaign on ending discards.

##### **10.1.2. Food Unwrapped. Monday 3 March. Channel 4, 8.30pm.**

This will include a feature on the freshness of supermarket fish and the difference between chilled and frozen at sea. The *Food Unwrapped* team worked with technician Richard Chivers to carry out a Torry Assessment on fish purchased from supermarkets and compared the results. The outcome shows that fish frozen at sea scores better on the assessment than the chilled fish and the potential benefits of choosing fish frozen at sea. The Seafish communications team worked with the programme producers and arranged for them to work with Richard in order to remove Seafish from the direct process of the testing but ensure we could maintain contact with the producers.

#### **10.2. Seafish groups**

##### **10.2.1. Discard Action Group (DAG).** Karen Green, Seafish.

Latest news and minutes can be found on the Seafish web page:

<http://www.seafish.org/fishermen/responsible-sourcing/protecting-fish-stocks/discards>

<http://www.seafish.org/fishermen/responsible-sourcing/protecting-fish-stocks/discards/discard-action-group>



The DAG meeting in October was entitled 'Pathway to a landings obligation'. Since this meeting Seafish has published a [report](#): with a case study review of the potential economic implications of the proposed CFP landings obligation, as well as two briefings: Seafish [industry briefing](#): The Landings Obligation and Seafish [summary](#): Stakeholder activities leading to a landings obligation. December 2013.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12 March 2014 at Fishmongers' Hall, London and will cover: Update on devolved administration activities from: Defra (including the pelagics consultation); Cefas; Marine Scotland; DARD and Welsh Government; STECF activities; discussion about what is happening with the North Sea RAC 'vision'; EDF paper with respect to the landing obligation and possible solutions for industry in implementing the requirements; Cefas-led session on industry-led data collection, when it works and when it doesn't, examples of good and bad practice, practical pointers and recommendations on how to set about establishing industry-led data collection exercises that provide valuable input to management decisions; UK gear selectivity database; DAG's role going forward.

#### **10.2.2. Aquaculture Common Issues Group (ACIG).** Karen Green, Seafish.

Latest news and minutes can be found on the Seafish web page:

<http://www.seafish.org/aquaculture>

<http://www.seafish.org/aquaculture/aquaculture-common-issues-group->

The next ACIG meeting is on Wednesday 9 April and the agenda will cover: aquaponics and the formation of the British Aquaponics Association; welfare of farmed fish - new Farm Animal Welfare Committee opinion; species focus on seabass and sea bream; aquaculture under CFP reform re Multi Annual Plans and EMFF; UK Aquaculture Forum; latest news on water quality and norovirus; certification update and Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative; and an update on Seafish Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood.

#### **10.2.3. Skates and Rays Group.** Karen Green, Seafish.

Latest news and minutes can be found on the Seafish web page:

<http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/discussion-forums/the-skates-and-rays-group>

Activities over the last three months have covered: a follow up to the One Show. Monday 13 January feature on Skates and Rays and a Seafish report on Shark By-Watch UK showcase event. 24 January 2014.

### **10.3 Policy**

#### **10.3.1. Marine legislation update.** Karen Green, Seafish.

A consultation on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD): proposals for UK monitoring programme opened 8 January 2014 and closes on 2 April 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/marine-strategy-framework-directive-measuring-progress-in-uk> This consultation seeks views on the ways in which the marine environment around the UK is monitored.

There has been a recent announcement re MPAs and MCZs going forward Defra has committed to two further tranches with the aim of completing the English component of the UK contribution with pre-consultation in 2014 to verify activities occurring on sites, i.e. fact based information gathering and to discuss potential site management, and a formal consultation on a second tranche planned for early 2015 with designation by the end of year. Third tranche expected to follow a year later in 2016. The second tranche will be aimed at addressing 'big gaps' in the network. The designations will consider - ecological importance; social and economic considerations; evidence; using regional projects' recommendations. The provisional list of candidate sites for the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche is 37 (from the Regional MCZ Project recommendations as suitable candidates for consideration).

### **10.3.2. Ongoing mackerel situation.** Karen Green, Seafish.

An update was given on the current position as at 27 February 2014.

- The reality is the continuing failure of the Coastal States to reach agreement on quotas shares. The EU and Norway have not yet concluded their bilateral negotiations.
- There have been four mackerel Coastal State meetings during January and February 2014. Parties are much closer, but a final agreement hasn't been reached yet. A further meeting will begin on 3 March. The positions of each party have closed dramatically since the turn of the year resulting in a real opportunity to secure an international agreement for this stock.
- **Current status of the NEA mackerel stock**  
The latest ICES advice was published in October 2013<sup>1</sup>. ICES was not able to present an analytical assessment, however the survey results, taken together with estimates of mortality based on catch, give strong indications that there has been an increase in stock size and that current levels of catch and landings do not pose a threat to the stock. The advice from ICES was that landings should be no more than 889,886 t in 2014. This advice is based on average landings and is a big increase on the TAC advice for 2013 of 497,000 tonnes to 542,000 tonnes.
- **MINSA - Group action** In June 2012 the MSC welcomed an action plan aimed at solving the ongoing mackerel dispute in the North East Atlantic. The plan was submitted by the Mackerel Industry Northern Sustainability Alliance (MINSA) – the seven MSC certified mackerel fisheries above. The successful development of the action plan means fisheries' certificates may remain suspended until 20 January 2014 (now extended to 30 April 2014). If the situation is resolved in the interim then certification can be reinstated without the need for a full reassessment.
- **Trade sanctions** were imposed by the EU against the Faroe Islands in August 2013 to ensure the conservation of the Atlanto-Scandian herring stock. As the Faroe Islands catch mackerel with Atlanto Scandian herring sanction measures also include Faroese mackerel imports to the European Union.

- **Marine Conservation Society (MCS).** In January 2013 the MCS changed its advice on mackerel and advised only eating it occasionally. This was revised in May 2013 to - Best Choice: Cornish hand-line caught mackerel (rated 2); Best Alternative: UK/EU/ Norwegian pelagic caught mackerel (rated 3); Least Sustainable Choice: Icelandic and Faroese pelagic caught mackerel (rated 4). This advice will not change in March 2014.
- **ICES benchmark.** ICES has benchmarked the mackerel stock during February 2014<sup>1</sup>. This process involves reviewing all available data and assessing the suitability of any new data. The output from this exercise is to develop a new assessment method in a bid to improve the quality of the advice. If successful it will provide up-to-date information on biomass, mortality and recruitment. ICES will also consider several alternative models as well as a suite of possible survey indices not currently used in the assessment.

**Action:** Seafish industry briefing note on mackerel to be updated.

#### **10.4. Key initiatives**

**10.4.1. Project Inshore,** Matt Watson, MSC.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144344/clgfeb2014\\_msc\\_projectinshore.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144344/clgfeb2014_msc_projectinshore.pdf)

The aim of Project Inshore is to consider all inshore fisheries against a consistent framework of common criteria; to recognise where management is working and feed into areas which could be improved upon; to develop Strategic Sustainability Reviews which can feed into IFCA management plans; and to overcome the market barriers to small scale fisheries engaging in the MSC programme. As of Feb 2014 the stage 3 reports (results of IFCA stock scoping exercise) have been sent out for peer review.

##### **Discussion**

- Q. Could the implementation of CFP reform drive a wedge between different elements of the industry? We need to guard against the maxim small is beautiful and big is nasty. Big campaigns tend to focus on big but simple messages ie discards are bad, MPAs are good. There is a lot of focus on artisanal fisheries and we need to be aware of the bigger picture.
- Q. How have you addressed the issue of straddling stocks? Have you looked at how to join up the dots? A. Defra, Natural England and MMO all sit as advisors on Project Inshore. The MSC realises we can't sort all the problems but we can highlight them.
- Q. What is going to be the end result? A. The Project Inshore model, which is based on the MSC risk-based approach, can be replicated, and could be used to support FIPs.

**Action:** CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

**10.4.2. MCS latest ratings.** Sam Stone, MCS.

Sam Stone highlighted the MCS ratings changes following ICES Autumn Advice 2013 and other information. 17 species (32 listings) were reviewed following ICES Autumn advice. Of note - no change to ratings for North Atlantic mackerel; new entries for general, all areas and Scottish wild-caught Atlantic salmon with

the entry for England and Wales updated; and updates on changes to tunas (84 listings) and swordfish. Sam also mentioned the launch of the new Fishonline website.

#### Discussion

- Q. Do you know what the angle of your launch press release is likely to be? A. This has not been decided yet.
- Q. What do you expect will happen as a result of these ratings changes? Stock status is cyclical and management measures reflect this. What help is it to anyone to give advice to allow them to make informed choices – if it is available to purchase then it is OK to eat. Certain announcements (like the mackerel changes in January 2013) didn't help anybody.
- The industry is changing. The MCS provides an indication of where the industry was. If the management is right it should follow that the environmental issues will get resolved.
- How often is this updated? The printed guide is updated once a year and the website twice a year.

#### **Action:**

10.4.2.1. Ratings changes to be circulated around CLG.

10.4.2.2. CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

#### **10.4.3. GSSI Initiative.** Tom Pickerell, Seafish.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144323/clgfeb2014\\_gssiupdate.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144323/clgfeb2014_gssiupdate.pdf)

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative is a three year programme to bring clarity and transparency by providing a tool to benchmark seafood certification schemes. Expert working groups have been formed and the first draft of GSSI Benchmarking Criteria and Indicator Document and Process is due to be presented at the GSSI Annual Conference on 18 March, and to the Steering Board for approval on 19 March. Consultation workshops are due to be held in May and June and this will be the first time that the seafood industry will become involved. From July-September pilot testing of the benchmarking framework and process will take place with six inter/national certification programmes.

**Action:** CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

#### **10.4.4. Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC).** Katie Miller, ClientEarth.

The SSC now has 27 members. Two voluntary codes are progressing – covering self-declared claims for sourcing and labelling – and these will now be launched together. There is likely to be phased implementation – retailers will be phase one, foodservice phase two). The six week consultation period is due to start very soon.

**Action:** CLG to be kept up-to-date with developments.

### **11. Any other business.**

#### **11.1 GHG emissions**

As mentioned at the last meeting Seafish is working on a guide to GHG emissions and food miles and the Seafish tool will be presented at the July meeting.

### **11.2 Seafish Corporate plan**

Seafish is working on its new Corporate Plan (2015-2018) and has asked industry what are the key questions it wants answering to help define key objectives going forward. The closing date is 28 February and the responses will be published.

### **11. Date of next meeting**

The date for the next meeting is Wednesday 9 July. It was agreed that this would be held at Fishmongers' Hall. The CLG Steering Group will meet to discuss the agenda for the next meeting. The third meeting in 2014 will be at Billingsgate market on Wednesday 5 November. Any ideas for agenda items should be sent to [p\\_macmullen@seafish.co.uk](mailto:p_macmullen@seafish.co.uk) or [k\\_green@seafish.co.uk](mailto:k_green@seafish.co.uk)