

**Minutes of Scottish Seafish Advisory Committee
Held on Tuesday 9 November 2021 by video conference**

Attendees

- Members:** Mike Park, Scottish White Fish Producers Association (Chair)
Iain Matheson, Skye fisherman
Colin Hinds, Whisky Forager Restaurant
Michael Clark, Nor-Sea Foods / International Fish Cannery
Sheila Keith, Shetland Fishermen's Association
Elaine Whyte, Clyde Fishermen's Association
John Anderson, Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Lynne Forman, Dawnfresh
Jimmy Buchan, Scottish Seafood Association
- Observers:** Vikki Halliday, Seafood Trade Division, Scottish Government
- Seafish:** Aoife Martin, Director of Operations
Helen Duggan, Head of UK Regions (East).
Jess Sparks, Regional Manager
Angus Garrett, Head of Horizon Scanning and Long Term Issues (in part)
Lewis Tattersall, marine Sustainability Manager (in part)
- Presenters:** Paul Macdonald, Scottish Fishermen's Organisation (in part)
Kara Brydson, Fisheries Innovation Scotland (in part)
- Minutes:** Phillip Quirie, Project Co-ordinator and Administrator

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
1.2 Apologies were shared on behalf of Yvonne Rae (George Campbell & Sons) and Donna Fordyce (Seafood Scotland).

2 Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10 August 2021

- 2.1 The Chair invited feedback on the draft minutes. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

ACTION 01: Phillip will upload the approved minutes of the August 2021 meeting to the Seafish website.

3 Update on actions arising

- 3.1 Jess reported on the previous meeting actions. A 'watching brief' will continue should any future energy intensive grant scheme become available. Other actions had been completed, with an overview of the climate change work in agenda item 6.

4 **SSAC work programme update**

- 4.1 Jess provided a summary update of Seafish activities and work programme in Scotland (Attachment: *01 SSAC 091121 Seafish Update, pages 3-9*).

Aoife also reported that Marine Scotland recently asked Seafish to lead on a project assessing greenhouse gas emissions of the Scottish fleet, and it was agreed that Seafish and Sheila should link up more closely on this.

ACTION 02: Aoife will organise a call between Seafish Economics and Sheila to update and explore potential collaboration on work assessing greenhouse gas emissions of the Scottish fishing fleet.

- 4.2 Aoife explained that preliminary work is underway to explore supply chain integration opportunities and support routes to market for domestically caught small haddock. The project will look at opportunities for domestic haddock to be a substitute for imported product (haddock and other whitefish). Preliminary discussions have been held with Scottish industry contacts and the Humber processing sector. Seafish will be setting up a steering group to guide the project. Any SSAC members interested in being part of that group are invited to contact Aoife. External funding has been secured to deliver this work, in addition to the £15k requested from the SSAC budget. **The committee approved the allocation of £15k from the SSAC budget for the supply chain integration research work.**

Michael said this was a good initiative and requested further information on what consideration is being made regarding the expected issues with cost and product size.

Further updates will be provided at future SSAC meetings.

ACTION 03: Aoife will discuss this work in more detail with Michael Clark on the use of haddock in other whitefish supply chains.

- 4.3 Helen provided an update on the 'Sea a Bright Future' careers campaign (Attachment: *01 SSAC 091121 Seafish Update, pages 9-12*). Campaign #2 is underway and will promote entry-level production roles more heavily, and new media assets have been created, including videos and several sea shanty radio adverts.

ACTION 04: Phillip will share the sea shanty assets produced for the 'Sea a Bright Future' campaign.

Colin suggested the inclusion of Twitch as a platform to target a younger audience and mentioned that he is creating an introduction to social media training course – Aoife and Helen asked to be contacted when the course is available.

ACTION 05: Colin Hinds will contact Aoife and Helen when the introduction to social media training course is available.

Jimmy took the opportunity to record his gratitude for the time and effort Seafish put in to develop materials and deliver the SABF campaign to such high standard.

- 4.4 Kara presented an overview of Fisheries Innovation Scotland and updated on recent and current projects (Attachment: *02 FIS Update 091121*). The projects include:
- [A Digitalisation Roadmap for Scotland's Fisheries](#): Assessing what digital tools the most sustainable and prosperous fishing vessels of the future will use; how the Scottish fleet can progress to this level of digitalisation; and what value it will add across the industry. A twelve-month pilot is now underway to capture data and put in place a digitalisation infrastructure.
 - Assessing climate impacts on fish size and distribution.

- [Understanding greenhouse gas emissions from Scottish vessels](#), and assessing what fuels and designs are realistic for the Scottish fleet.
- [Smartrawl](#): In-water improvements in gear selectivity.

The Smartrawl project generated interest from members and it was agreed that Kara will be invited to the next meeting to update in fuller detail.

ACTION 06: A FIS update on the progress of the Smartrawl project will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

4.5 Paul presented an overview of the real-time reporting project, the development and trial of a digital by-catch avoidance tool in the west of Scotland (Attachment: *03 Real-Time Reporting Update 091121*). The project saw fishermen on the west coast of Scotland trial a bespoke software application called BATmap (By-catch Avoidance Tool using mapping), to report hauls for certain by-catch species in 'real-time'. If catches are too high, an automatic alert is triggered to inform other participating vessels in the vicinity so they can avoid these areas. The next step is to engage with industry to discuss the long-term future of the application.

5 Annual horizon scanning output

5.1 Angus delivered a presentation providing an overview of Seafish horizon scanning work (Attachment: *04 Introduction to Seafood Horizons*), explaining the rationale and value being sighted on longer term issues, how this is captured and processed. The information is then used in a variety of outputs, including issues maps, dashboards, and special reviews of the more significant changes evolving which will impact seafood supply chains.

6 Climate change in the seafood industry

6.1 Lewis presented an overview of the recently launched Seafish climate change activity (Attachment: *04 Climate Change and Seafood*). The presentation explained the importance of climate change to the seafood industry; the challenges it brings; the potential impacts and opportunities it brings; and what is being done to support the industry to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. There is a variety of climate change information, case studies, and assets available on the [Seafish climate change webpages](#). The campaign is looking to showcase further case studies of climate change innovation, Lewis asked committee members to contact him if they know of any other potential case studies.

ACTION 07: Jess will circulate a link to the climate change information on the website.

Iain reported that there could be a potential issue with media and NGOs targeting bottom trawlers in relation to blue carbon releases. Aoife confirmed Seafish are keeping a watching brief on this.

7 Seafish Executive update

7.1 Aoife shared a presentation summarising a high level overview of key activities proposed for the Seafish Annual Plan for 2022-23, with activities categorised by the 5 Challenges (Attachment: *05 Seafish Annual Plan 22-23 Proposed Content*).

Aoife asked the committee to consider the following questions:

- Are we focusing on the right things?
- What other activities should we focus on?
- Are there areas that are important to you that we are not addressing?
- How can we ensure that industry is engaged on this work?

It was agreed that more time was required to fully consider the proposed content, therefore the presentation will be circulated after the meeting to gather initial views and feedback, with a fuller discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION 08: Jess will circulate the summary of proposed Annual Plan 2022-23 activities to the committee.

ACTION 09: Committee members will comment and feedback on the proposed Annual Plan 2022-23 content and a full discussion will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

8 SSAC members update

- 8.1 The Chair invited committee members to provide an update from their sector, outlining any pertinent challenges or opportunities.
- 8.2 It was reported that access and retention of processing labour in the north east of Scotland remains the most significant challenge.
- 8.3 Climate change and green issues are becoming an increasingly prominent topic in Shetland, along with cuts in fishing quota.
- 8.4 The 'new build' costs for fishing vessels are expected to rise by up to 40% due to increases in material and labour costs, this could have a detrimental effect on the ability of vessel owners to meet net zero targets without fiscal assistance.

9 Any other business

- 9.1 No other business was noted.

10 Date of next meeting and close

- 10.1 The Chair asked Phillip to establish the most suitable dates for the four meetings in 2022 and arrange accordingly, with the first meeting of 2022 in February.

ACTION 10: Phillip will circulate a poll for 2022 meeting dates.

No.	Action List	Timeline (Status)	Owner
1.	Phillip will upload the approved minutes of the August 2021 meeting to the Seafish website.	December	Phillip
2.	Aoife will organise a call between Seafish Economics and Sheila to update and explore potential collaboration on work assessing greenhouse gas emissions of the Scottish fishing fleet.	November	Aoife
3.	Aoife will follow up with more detailed discussion with Michael Clark on the use of haddock in other whitefish supply chains.	December	Aoife
4.	Phillip will share the sea shanty assets produced for the 'Sea a Bright Future' campaign.	December	Phillip
5.	Colin Hinds will contact Aoife and Helen when the introduction to social media training course is available.	December	Colin

6.	Jess will invite FIS to the next meeting to give specific update on the progress of the Smartrawl project.	Next meeting	Jess
7.	Jess will circulate a link to the climate change information on the website.	November	Jess
8.	Jess will circulate proposed Annual Plan 2022-23 activities to the committee.	November	Jess
9.	Committee members will comment and feedback on the proposed Annual Plan 2022-23 content.	December	All
10.	Phillip will circulate a poll for 2022 meeting dates, with the first meeting in February.	09.12.2021	Phillip