In Attendance
Alison Austin, Chair  
Kim Cullen, Secretary  
James Fox-Davies, ALG Chair  
Dr Mark Berry, SEP Chair  
Nicola Robinson, Defra

Ally Dingwall, Sainsbury’s  
Hazel Curtis, Seafish  
Sarah Hussey, Sea Farms

With Apologies
Nigel Edwards, Hilton Food Group  
Victoria Cook, M&J Seafood  
Nathan de Rozarieux, Falfish

Andrew Pascoe, Fisherman  
Paul Trebilcock, Cornish Fishers Producer Organisation  
Stuart Caborn, Young’s

Meeting Minutes

1. Agenda #1: Welcome

2. Agenda #2: 11 July Minutes
   SILG accepted the 11 July minutes.

3. Agenda #3: Update from Aquaculture Leadership Group (ALG)
   - SILG was asked to review the ALG Update paper in preparation for discussion.
   - JFD updated SILG on ALG’s Year 2 priorities.
   - Overall SILG is in agreement with the Year 2 priorities as stated in the Update.

Rec 13: English aquaculture strategy
   - SILG agreed this is an important and necessary piece of work to achieve in Year 2
   - SILG agreed that part of the £74k surplus should be used to fund the development of the strategy.
   - The case for the benefits of increasing aquaculture investment to be included in the scope
   - Strategy scope to include food security, health, and the case for affordability (not cheap, but affordable)
   - JFD and KC will continue to work with the potential consultant identified and submit a Notification for Change and proposal to MMO-EMFF for approval

Rec 14: A roadmap to review the aquaculture regulatory framework
   - The red tape in the current regulatory framework is restrictive and needs to be streamlined
   - SILG agreed that JFD, AA and KC should work with Defra and the regulators in Year 2 to determine a roadmap – a commitment to look at what is involved, mapping out the blockages with time frames for undertaking the work to be agreed, recognising the impact of EU Exit and The Fisheries bill
     - How long will a review take?
     - What are the steps?
     - Who should be involved?
     - What can industry do to be a productive and constructive part of the review process?
General Comments
- Seafish’s ‘Size of the Aquaculture Prize’ and the upcoming English Aquaculture Strategy will be helpful tools to communicate the potential of the sector
  - Defra, Seafish and the industry can use the information to garner support at high levels in government and with MPs
- The Recommendation 6 research results can also be of use to the sector as a comms tool as it will provide evidence about the socio-economic impact of increased seafood consumption on population health and government budgets. Info could be useful to the English Aquaculture Strategy.

Action Points from ALG Update
1. KC to add the Rec 6 research results to the scope of the English Aquaculture Strategy project
2. NR to confer with Sara Catahan regarding the commitment to prepare an aquaculture regulations roadmap with implications.

4. Agenda #4: Update from Seafish Expert Panel (SEP)
- MB updated SILG on SEP activities.
- Recommendation 2 - Science and Innovation Framework
  - SEP to promote innovation in the industry and encourage productive partnerships between industry and academia
  - SEP to ask industry for the top 10 technical challenges and then will connect “challenge owner” to an innovation team and a funding body to help solve it
  - SILG discussed the need for greater robotics in processing and more technical assistance and innovation required in selective fishing gear – part of the ‘enduring’ challenges
  - What are individual SILG members’ proposals for top 10 technical challenges?
    - Contact markberry98@gmail.com
- Recommendation 11 - Eliminate data limited stocks
  - Focused contributions
    - Steve Mackinson will input advice to sprat fishermen whose businesses are threatened by data limitations
    - Geoff Tingley is assisting with the Ecological Risk Assessment of the Southwest Mixed Fisheries
- Recommendation 18 - Maximise seafood resource
  - Liam Fassam working with Seafish Responsible Sourcing Team on proposal for addressing the circular economy in seafood

Action Points from SEP update
1. Individual SILG members to contact MB at markberry98@gmail.com with their suggestions for a technical challenge
2. AA to consider adding the enduring technical challenges in SF2040 report back to the Minister in an annex t to be given to him at the 28 Nov meeting
3. MB to send AA and KC text for the Annual Report annex by w/c 28th October
4. KC to contact Aoife Martin and support SEP’s call for technical challenge input

5. Agenda #5: Update from Defra
- NR updated SILG on Defra activities.
- The EU Council summit is 16 Oct
- Due to prorogation, all proposed legislation will fall unless it was agreed to carry over
Agriculture and Fisheries Bill (FB) were not carried over and Defra will need to start over again.
- This provides Defra with the opportunity to learn from the lessons of the attempt to pass the FB to date and to make necessary tweaks but there will no fundamental changes made to the bill.
- There is sufficient legislation in place for after 31 Oct should the UK leave the EU with No Deal.
  - Continuity is provided by:
    - The EU Withdrawal Act contains the Common Fisheries Policy.
    - The arrangements for quota will be the same for the last two months of 2019.

6. **Agenda #6: Update from Seafood**
   - HC updated SILG on Seafish activities on the developing marketing strategy.
   - Seafish has a revised strategic approach to consumer marketing:
     - Seafish will focus on shifting attitudes of those resistant to seafood.
     - Industry is best placed to be responsible for promoting sales of seafood.
     - This is a 20 year project – will take a generation to change hearts and minds.
       - Campaign will look at attitudes, perceptions and the consumer culture.
     - Seafish will not be measuring success by direct sales but focus on attitudes and overall volume of sales (quantity).
   - Love Seafood will be the new consumer brand – to be launched in 2020.
   - The Seafood Marketing Optimisation Group (MOG), listed against the SF2040 marketing recommendations, will be discontinued and a new group will be convened, called the Love Seafood Group. This group will focus on supporting delivery and implementation of Seafish’s new strategic approach to consumer marketing.
     - As a result, Seafish will be listed against the S2040 marketing recommendations.

   SILG members were supportive of Seafish’s new consumer brand and strategic approach to marketing.

7. **Agenda #7: Update from SF2040**
   - SILG was asked to review the SF2040 Activities Update paper and the Measures of Success paper.
   - SILG approved the SF2040 Measures of Success.
   - National Food Strategy:
     - SF2040 continues to work with Defra on securing a meeting with Henry Dimbleby and his team to encourage the inclusion of seafood and aquaculture in the review.
     - SF2040 will provide a submission for the Call for Evidence.
   - Fisheries Science Partnership (FSP):
     - Following conversations with Mike Cox of Cefas and Jerry Percy of NUTFA regarding this scheme the consensus was that whilst valuable it was disappointing to see the funding steadily decline over the last couple of years. Critically FSP has lost the ability to fund trend data sets and too few projects can be supported. SILG was supportive of the schemes purpose and objectives commenting that it should be linked into a comprehensive picture for addressing Rec 11 on data limited stocks.

**Action Points from SF2040 activities update**
1. KC to submit to the NFS Call to Evidence on behalf of SILG.
2. KC to follow up with PT re: his thoughts on the FSP.
8. **Agenda #8: SF2040 Budget Surplus in Year 2**

- SILG was presented with the rational for the budget underspend and asked to review the ideas to spend the £74k surplus
- Rec 2 - Establish a multi-stakeholder group (SEP), bringing academic, private and public sectors together to agree a common approach to research through a shared Seafood Science and Innovation Strategic Framework
  - AD confirmed that Scotland is doing work on mapping current public and private sector funding mechanisms for science and innovation relevant to the supply chain via Dr Michel Kaizer
    - SILG is interested in knowing more and joining up with this work
    - MB to investigate further
    - SILG initial decision: reserve £5k + VAT
- Rec 9 – Create a market demand for English domestic species
  - SILG questions if the creation of a map on Seafish website will have any lasting impact
  - It was agreed that the science surrounding stock assessments/FIPs was needed first before promoting potentially unsustainable regional fish outside the Big 5. SILG initial decision: do not fund
- Rec 19 – Establish a Seafood Exporters Group
  - SILG initial decision: once Seafish have decided upon type of support for exports then consider funding an initial supplier meeting through the SF2040 meetings allocation
- Young Seafood Leaders Network
  - 70 individuals are a part of the Network with value in significantly raising SF0240 awareness across the industry
  - SILG initial decision: confirm a targeted proposal – what do we want of the Network. Defra confirmed they would be pleased to be involved with proviso re: dates and timings. This can be funded through the SF2040 meetings allocation
- Rec 11 – Eliminate data-limited stocks
  - Whelks pre-assessment
    - SILG initial decision: no funding as predominantly Welsh stocks
  - Ecological risk assessment in Southwest mixed fisheries
    - Complicated stock issues
    - KC to get more detail and circulate to SILG – concerning outcome and impact
    - AA to engage with NdR to secure more information
    - SILG initial decision: fund for £20k
  - Phase 1 – map data limited pre-assessment FIPs and other related projects
    - This would be a valuable exercise and a good source of information for diverse audiences
    - Important to work in collaboration with Cefas, MSC and Seafish
    - SILG initial decision: fund for £20k + VAT
  - Phase 2 – develop a process for preparing for and entering a voluntary scheme to create a fisheries management plan
    - Not enough money to fund Phase 2 as well – could be done if SF2040 is extended into a second phase or alternatively if there is unspent EMFF funds in early 2020.
    - SILG initial decision: do not fund
  - Rec 13 – Develop an English aquaculture strategy
    - Important and necessary piece of work for the sector
    - SILG initial decision: fund £20k + VAT
Rec 14 - Develop a roadmap to review the aquaculture regulatory framework
  ▪ Important work for sector to grow
  ▪ SILG initial decision: SF2040 Secretariat and ALG Chair to facilitate meeting(s) with Defra, regulators and industry to outline a roadmap

**Action Points from SF2040 budget surplus**
1. MB to follow up with Dr Kaizer re: his work on Rec 2
2. KC and AA to rewrite the budget surplus proposal and email SILG for approval and progress once comments received.
3. KC to follow up with SH re: proposal for increased engagement with Young Seafood Leaders Network
4. KC to find more information on the ecological risk assessment for the Southwest mixed fisheries and email SILG

**9. Agenda #9: Annual Report for EMFF reporting**
   - SILG was asked to review the Annual Report required for reporting back to the MMO/EMFF
   - There were no comments in the meeting but the Document will be circulated outside the meeting for final approval

**Action Points from Annual Report**
1. AA and KC to review the Foreword and then send to SILG for approval and then send final version to the Seafish Executive, Defra and MMO.
2. AA and KC to write a 2nd variation for submission to the Minister at the 28 Nov meeting. Emphasis to be altered and focus on credible narrative for aquaculture, highlight the Young Seafood Leaders Network (a good news story), and develop a short but compelling list of Key Asks. This will be circulated to SILG for input in early November.

**10. Agenda #10: Year 2 Priorities**
   - SILG was asked to review the Year 2 priorities
      ▪ A review of recommendations in spring 2020 by SILG and with involvement from
      ▪ The Young Seafood Leaders Network as well.
   - The purpose to revise the SF2040 vision for the next 10 years and where relevant the priorities should be linked to the Fisheries Bill, the Environment Bill and the National Food Strategy.

**11. Agenda #11: AOB/Next Steps**
   Next meeting:
   - 28 November meeting in London from 9 am – 1 pm
      ▪ KC will investigate organising a 1 hour meeting and then dinner the night before (27 Nov)
      ▪ Preliminary 28 Nov agenda
         ▪ The Minister will be joining SILG for the first hour (9-10 am)
         ▪ ALG, SEP, Defra, Seafish and SF2040 updates (10 – 11:30 am)
         ▪ The Rec 6 researchers will present their initial findings (11:30 – 1 pm)