Seafood Industry Leadership Group
Meeting Minutes – 28 Nov 2019

In Attendance
Alison Austin, Chair                        Ally Dingwall, Sainsbury’s
Kim Cullen, Secretary                    Hazel Curtis, Seafish
Nigel Edwards, Hilton Food Group          Sarah Hussey, Sea Farms
Dr Mark Berry, SEP Chair                  Nicola Robinson, Defra

Guests
Rocio Salado, Risk & Policy Analysts        Daniel Vencovsky, Risk & Policy Analysts
Joanna Messini, Defra                       Alyssa Gilbert, Grantham Institute

With Apologies
Paul Trebilcock, Cornish Fishers PO        Stuart Caborn, Young’s
Nathan de Rozarieux, Falfish               James Fox-Davies, Fowey Sea farms

Meeting Minutes

1. Agenda #1: Welcome

2. Agenda #2: 12 Sept Minutes
   - SILG accepted the 12 Sept minutes.
   - No comments on Action Points.

3. Agenda #3: Update from Aquaculture Leadership Group (ALG)
   - KC summarised the paper in JFD’s absence.
   - SILG was pleased to hear of Defra’s progress in reviewing the aquaculture regulations (Rec 14).
   - Ally Dingwall is on the Advisory Board for the Aquaculture Research Collaboration Hub (ARCH-UK)
     and is keen to take any comments or requests from SILG/ALG to his first meeting in the New Year
     o There is a strong academic presence throughout ARCH-UK but little English industry presence
     o ARCH-UK and the English industry need to connect better – would be useful for ARCH-UK to
       have a more overt engagement plan.
     o SF2040 ALG met with ARCH-UK at the 15 Oct meeting and both parties agreed to improve and
       increase communication. ARCH-UK was encouraged by ALG to visit England aquaculture
       farmers and to ensure that research interests and projects align more with industry’s needs.

4. Agenda #4: Update from Seafood Expert Panel (SEP)
   - MB updated SILG on SEP activities.
   - Recommendation 2 - Bring academic, private and public sectors together
     o Dr Liam Fassam met with SILG member Nigel Edwards to discuss opportunities to improve
       traceability and data-led work that draws together vessel data with landings data. Currently,
       meetings are happening at the trade level to discuss potential projects.
SEP are currently making connections but on an ad hoc basis but are seeking a more strategic approach.

- One way forward is to identify ‘Top 10 Enduring Technical Challenges’ in the seafood industry.
- Propose ideas to solve them incl. blog / comms and then build funded expert consortia for each challenge to deliver best ideas to resolve those challenges.
- SILG and ALG have already provided input into the list.
- SILG advised MB that in order to be of benefit to the entire seafood industry, the challenges should be wider than scientific and include social and environmental as well.
- A number of the challenges relate to salmon, a non-levy species, and thus not within Seaﬁsh remit. SILG queried their presence on the list. Other organisations within salmon aquaculture may already be addressing these topics.
- AD advised MB to first assess what work is already being done by other organisations.

Top 10 enduring Technical Challenges (DRAFT) – numbering does not mean priority
1. Automation/robotics in processing plants (e.g. ﬁlleting and de-boning small ﬁsh, scampi de-veining)
2. Fully integrated traceability system – data entry at sea and in processors
3. Development of improved selectivity in mixed ﬁsheries (particular species and/or size)
4. Life Cycle Analysis – carbon and other impacts. Seafood vs. other protein sources
5. Farmed ﬁsh health – vaccine development
6. Offshore cage technology that is “bio-secure”
7. Effluent and disease control in Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)
8. Sea-lice control (aquaculture)
9. Technology on how to ship live shell-ﬁsh for export
10. Technology to retrieve lost gear

- Recommendation 11 - Eliminate data limited stocks
  - Focused contributions of SEP members include:
    - Steve Mackinson provided advice to sprat fishermen in the SW whose businesses are threatened by data limitations. He advised on how to improve the data richness of their ﬁshery and focused on the ﬁsh stock rather than the businesses.
      - SILG interested in seeing this work.
    - Geoff Tingley is assisting with the Ecological Risk Assessment of the Southwest Mixed Fisheries. SF2040 is hoping to provide £20k (part of the surplus) toward this assessment pending EMFF approval.

Action Points from SEP update
1. KC to source and collate comments for AD’s ﬁrst meeting with ARCH-UK from SILG & ALG.
2. MB to check with Steve Mackinson if SILG can see his report on sprat and data limitations.
3. MB to add ‘live’ to #9 of the Top 10 Technical Challenges.
4. KC to email Top 10 Technical Challenges to SILG and ask them to think about any direct or indirect work/research already occurring.
5. **Agenda #5: Update from Defra**
   - NR updated SILG on Defra activities.
   - If the Conservative party is unsuccessful in the general election, Defra will talk to the new Minister re: the future of SF2040 and SILG. Given the value it seems counterintuitive to halt the work.
   - Defra is hoping for a Fisheries Bill reference in the Queen’s speech and suspects work already done will be useful one way or another as it covers solid ground.
   - Defra is still refining the plans for a No deal Brexit whilst also preparing for deals being proposed.

6. **Agenda #6: Update from Seafish**
   - HC updated SILG on Seafish activities relevant to SF2040.
   - Live Brexit updates are on Seafish’s website: https://www.seafish.org/article/uk-exit-from-the-eu
   - The industry launch of Love Seafood will be March-April 2020 and the brand will be live May 2020.
     - Aim is to reverse the decline in seafood consumption – will take a generation.
     - Love Seafood will be an ‘always on approach’ so Seafood Week may not be the right vehicle.
     - There will be a seasonal campaign and the continued use of seafood champions.
   - The Responsible Fishing Port Scheme has launched. It is a voluntary programme developed by industry to certify food safety and responsible operational practices within fishing ports.
   - The Future of Our Inshore Fisheries conference, jointly run by Seafish and Defra, was held in September. It is a project to transform how we manage our inshore resources over the medium to long-term, to ensure that our fisheries, marine environment and coastal communities are sustainable and thriving. For more info: https://www.seafish.org/article/future-of-our-inshore-fisheries-conference
   - Seafish now regularly produces The Forward Five a look ahead featuring upcoming events, publications, research, and shining a spotlight on the services Seafish provides. This enables Seafish to better engage with stakeholders on the breadth of activities taking place at any one time.
   - Seafish is providing export advice to UK businesses: https://www.seafish.org/article/export-advice-and-support-for-uk-businesses.
   - There is growing concern about the handling and slaughtering of shellfish within the UK where animal welfare is a topic high on consumer and NGO agendas. Seafish is alerting its stakeholders that care and concern of all animals in the food chain now clearly includes seafood of all types.

7. **Agenda #7: Update from SF2040**
   - KC and AA summarised the process to refresh the 25 recommendations in spring/summer 2020
     - SILG comments on topics currently missing from the recs:
       - labour (critical shortages of key skills in processing and catching) and ethics of labour
       - the increasing relevance of animal welfare
       - The recs should avoid getting caught up in Brexit but there should be an acknowledgement of its impact and an effort to signpost those relevant issues
     - Seafish has a great deal of data and information that can be of use to the refresh.
   - SILG will be asked via electronic comms to review the text for the SF2040 promotional leaflet.
Action Points from SF2040 activities update

1. KC to email SILG the SF2040 promotional leaflet text and ask for any comments.

8. Agenda #8: Alyssa Gilbert, Grantham Institute – ‘Climate change: The role of diet and seafood’
   - Grantham Institute is Imperial College London’s hub for climate change and the environment. It was established to promote inter-disciplinary working, train future leaders, encourage discovery and innovation, and communicate academic knowledge to businesses, industry and policymakers to help shape their discussions.
     - There is an urgent need now to focus and find solutions on climate change and to reduce emissions.
   - Diet changes will be required – food production is responsible for approx. 20% of UK’s carbon footprint.
     - Choosing more seafood and plant protein and less red meat and dairy can make a difference.
     - Influencing consumer behavior change is a challenge; requires gentle nudging.
     - EAT-Lancet Commission Brief presents a global planetary health diet that is healthy for both people and the plant. Fish is part of their recommendations: https://eatforum.org/lancet-commission/eatinghealthyandsustainable/
     - How will the seafood industry grasp this opportunity?
   SILG comments:
     ▪ Aquaculture is part of the solution.
     ▪ Seafood needs to be part of the climate change global agenda. We need to ensure commentators remember us and that we can play a part when sustainable seafood is offered as a lower carbon alternative.
       • Step-by-step approach
       • Regular review and monitoring
       • Include the entire value chain in the discussion
     ▪ SILG asked if a net-zero approach was appropriate for the seafood industry.
       • If not, we need to re-frame our role in a net-zero environment.

9. Agenda #9: Update on the SF2040 Recommendation 6 research project
   - Rocio Salado and Daniel Vencovsky from Risk & Policy Analysts updated SILG on the research.
   - A comprehensive literature review has revealed links between increased seafood consumption and decreased rates of cancer and Type 2 diabetes.
   - The modelling exercise and resulting analysis will reveal more about the relationship between health, socioeconomic status, impact on government budgets, and increased seafood consumption.
   - The project is on target to finish in April 2020 with a final presentation to SILG.

10. Agenda #10: AOB/Next Steps/Finish
    Next meeting:
      • 30 January meeting in London from 1 – 5 pm