Seafood Industry Leadership Group
Meeting Minutes – 11 July 2019

In Attendance
Alison Austin, Chair
Kim Cullen, Secretary
James Fox-Davies, ALG Chair
Nathan de Rozarieux, Falfish
Nicola Robinson, Defra
Gavin Hatton, Seafish
Naomi McCann, Seafish

Ally Dingwall, Sainsbury’s
Nigel Edwards, Seachill
Stuart Caborn, Youngs
Dr Mark Berry, SEP Chair
Lydia Osborne, Defra
Leanne Gunn, Seafish

With Apologies
Hazel Curtis, Seafish
Victoria Cook, M&J Seafood

Andrew Pascoe, Fisherman
Paul Trebilcock, Cornish Fishers Producer Organisation

Meeting Minutes

1. **Agenda #1: Welcome**

2. **Agenda #2: 25 April Minutes**

SILG accepted the 25 April minutes.

3. **Agenda #3: Update on Aquaculture Leadership Group**

SILG was asked to review the ALG Update paper in preparation for discussion.

JFD updated SILG on the 17 June ALG meeting.

MMO and Cefas/Dorset & North Devon FLAG projects that map and identify potential aquaculture sites

- SILG is interested in knowing more about the Department for International Trade (DIT) High Potential Opportunity (HPO) scheme.
- Martin Syvret of Dorset Council is an Aquaculture Development Officer – he is active in the region promoting aquaculture and is part of the Cefas/FLAG project. Can this role be replicated in other councils where aquaculture is an option?
  - It was suggested that NR meet with JFD and Martin Syvret separately for a discussion about this role

English aquaculture strategy

- Needs to include technology (keeping up to speed with what’s happening and working to ensure the sector is using the latest technology).
  - The ‘science of aquaculture systems’ such as recirculation technology for example
  - What are the needs for new farms and need to consider the role of renewable energy
  - Investment in aquaculture technology is also a consideration?
  - Access to technical information expertise and knowledge is key

- Strategy will include food production, specifically shellfish.
Linking academia/research with industry

- ARCH-UK has successfully connected a number of academic institutes but industry is really not well connected.
- ARCH-UK, Innovate UK and Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) have opportunities to assist and promote the sector – to identify potential funding streams and communicate and exchange info.
  o What specific actions can ALG take to facilitate these opportunities?

General Comments

- Funding and incentives are key for sector growth - how can ALG better influence/impact on this?
  o Big funds not looking at aquaculture because of high risk
  o Need to ensure incentives are improved
- ALG is supportive of the Seafish and KTN ‘one-stop-shop’ initiative
- More market data is required – what are consumers buying? Which species? Aquaculture should be linking into trends.
- Concerns were expressed that media coverage of aquaculture tends to be negative – need a positive message for aquaculture, part of the narrative and linked to the size of the prize.
- Seafish’s ‘Size of the Aquaculture Prize’ should include species that are eaten by the population rather than new ones which take longer to become familiar.

Action Points from ALG Update

1. KC to email more info to SILG on Seafish’s ‘Size of the Aquaculture Prize ’ scope
2. KC to find out more about DIT’s HPO scheme and email SILG before 12 Sept meeting
3. KC to talk further to NR and JFD re: a future discussion on the Aquaculture Development Officer role

4. Agenda #4: Update on Seafood Expert Panel

- 1st SEP meeting held 29 April 2019; objectives, scope and ways of working were agreed.
- One of the aims is to help deliver the science and innovation actions outlined SF2040 through assistance, advice and support
- The ‘hub’ of SEP is Mark Berry, Liam Fassam (supply chain), and Steve Mackinson (Fisheries) with a vacancy for Consumer Science which is hoped to be filled this autumn.
- The ‘spokes’ of SEP will be recruited as extended team members. Topics of interest include gear technology expertise, climate change, waste and co-products (which relates to SF2040 Rec 18).
  o If SILG members have specific experts they would like to suggest for the ‘spokes’, please contact Mark directly.
- Suggested approaches for increasing innovation in the seafood industry
  o 1. Industry brings technical problems to SEP; response could be a research proposal to solve the problem.
  o 2. SEP brings new science ideas to Industry for consideration; Response could be a collaboration or application of the new idea.

Action Points from SEP update

1. KC to email SEP slides to SILG
2. MB to ask SEP to consider what role they play in championing the improvement of engagement with industry and academia and disseminating new knowledge to those parties.
5. **Agenda #5: Update from Defra**

For a full account of NR’s Defra update, please refer to Annex 1, page 7.

**General Comments**
- Rec 11
  - The key is the data; we need to build the data up and then assess the fisheries
  - With regard to collaboration, we need to create opportunities for collaboration and compiling information without other parties feeling threatened.
  - This would be a valuable subject to engage The Young Seafood Leaders Network in particularly around thinking about how to manage future assets; AA, KC and SH to explore further.

**Action Points from Defra update**
1. AA, KC, and SH to discuss how to engage the YSLN with Rec 11.
2. AA to continue progressing with Defra and Seafish a recommendation for an EMFF bid to address mapping existing landscape of organisations involved in FIPs and clarifying steps needed to embark upon this and MSC certification to better inform potential entrants.

6. **Agenda #6: Update on SF2040 activities**

SILG was asked to review the SF2040 Activities Update paper and the National Food Strategy Terms of Reference in preparation for discussion.

- **National Food Strategy**
  - It was noted that Seafood is not mentioned in the current Terms of Reference.
  - The Chair called on SILG to think about what key messages and evidence were required to present to Henry Dimbleby (HD), tasked with writing the strategy, to redress the imbalance.
  - SILG are in agreement that NFS should include seafood and aquaculture.
  - NE recommended that KC contact Andrew Kuyk at the Seafood Industry Alliance as well to ensure alignment in key messages and submissions.
  - It was agreed that ideally several interests/orgs should go together to demonstrate unity and provide wider expertise. Inevitably dates will dictate who might be available to attend.
  - SILG’s comments on key messages:
    - SF2040 can essentially be embedded in the strategy; key recommendations can be sighted, food security
    - Seafish’s, upcoming annual report and work on size of Aquaculture Prize, can play a role in informing HD of the economic opportunities within the sector
    - Seafood has a role to play in a healthy nation and is an alternative along with plant based foods in the need to reduce meat consumption.
  - KC to ask Defra for advice on the protocols for such a meeting with HD.

**Action Points from SF2040 activities update**
1. Defra to provide insight on how to capitalise on meeting with HD and provide evidence
2. KC to contact the Seafood Industry Alliance
3. AA and KC to update SILG on key message/evidence progress and eventual meeting date.
7. **Agenda #7: Consumer research and brand strategy (Seafish)**

Leanne Gunn, Seafish Marketing Manager, presented research on consumer seafood consumption and the new brand strategy.

**Action Points from Consumer research and brand strategy**
1. KC to email LG’s presentation to SILG with the caveat that they are not to disseminate any further.

8. **Agenda #8: The role of a Seafish Regional Manager in England to support the delivery of SF2040**

England Regional Mgrs – Gus Caslake, Gavin Hatton, and Julie Waites and their manager, Lynn Gilmore – are supporting the following recommendations through their work:

- **Rec 9** – Create domestic market demand for a wide variety of English-caught species
- **Rec 11** – Eliminate data limited stocks
- **Rec 12** – Strengthen the role of Producer Orgs to better support fisheries management and the provision of data
- **Rec 13** – Establish an industry-government English aquaculture leadership group to drive sustainable growth. This group has the responsibility to do a variety of work that will promote and expand the sector
- **Rec 16** - Map skills, recruitment and retention needs and issues across the entire value chain and review of best practice with regards to training, skills development and workforce retention, within the UK and overseas
- **Rec 18** - Maximise the use and value of the seafood resource by investigating opportunities to reduce waste and maximise value and production
- **Rec 19** - Establish a Seafood Exporter’s Group to promote opportunities and drive progress

**Action Points from the Role of a Seafish Regional Mgr in England to support the delivery of SF2040**
1. KC to follow up with GH when the next England Regional Management meeting is so SF2040 can attend to further the discussion about integration with their work as part of embedding SF2040 into the business as usual and beyond the life of the project.

9. **Agenda #9: Measures of success**

KC presented on the current draft of the SF2040 Measures of Success established for the project.

- Progress against the measures will be reviewed in August 2019 for the Annual Report and Sept 2020 when the EMFF funding for the SF2040 project concludes.
- **Goal 1: Construction of project foundations** – Build SF2040 into an effective project to prepare the industry for ‘the long game’ through:
  - the creation of two leadership groups
  - successful funding for further work; and
  - stakeholder engagement across both the seafood value chain to generate awareness and the SF2040 partners to support and encourage their active roles in the project
- **Goal 2: Progress against the 25 Recommendations** – Progress of the 25 recommendations is made throughout the two years ensuring actions and quick wins are achieved where possible as well as agreement and/or long-term strategies and plans put in place for continuation of work
**Action Points from Measures of Success**

1. SILG to receive Measures of Success for approval at the 12 Sept meeting.

10. **Agenda #10: Annual report**

KC described the process in which the Annual Report will be developed, written and submitted to MMO (EMFF) and Defra in September 2019.

- SILG is part of the process particularly around the development of key messages and achievements to include in the report. Approval of the final document will be sought at the 12 Sept meeting.
- **Process**
  - Develop key messages and achievements with SILG via email (July)
  - Draft report with Chair (August)
  - Peer review by Seafish (late August)
  - Discuss and approve report at 12 September SILG meeting
  - Make any final edits/tweaks as a result of SILG meeting
  - Email to MMO-EMFF, Seafish Executive team, Defra (NR & JM), and Minister (last 2 weeks of September)

11. **Agenda #11: Next steps/Any other business**

Next meetings:
- 12 September meeting in London
- 28 November meeting in London – the Minister will be joining the 1st hour (subject to his schedule)
ANNEX 1

Defra update to SILG - 11 July 2019

Nicola Robinson, Assistant Director, Defra, provided an update to the group that covered 3 broad areas:

1. **General Defra Update**
   - **Political situation**
     - In terms of what Defra knows, it’s the same as we all know. No inside track.
     - Nicola said her team follows the *Politico* newsletter closely.
   - **Voting on the leadership is underway**
     - The announcement of the next PM will be 23 July
     - New Cabinet announced shortly afterwards
   - **Defra has been making preparations based on 3 Brexit scenarios**
     1. Out on 31 Oct
     2. A deal with an implementation period to 2020
     3. An extension to Article 50

   However, focus is increasingly on No Deal Exit in October. Defra is strengthening its preparations for Day 1 by, for example making the catch certificate scheme and licensing arrangements for foreign vessels more robust. Defra is not undertaking new Exit work in fisheries at this stage.

   - **Other information SILG may want to be aware of included:**
     - International quota swaps may not be available if there’s no deal in October. Instead we would look to negotiate the equivalent of quota swapped on an annual basis with the EU.
     - Defra is bidding for funds to create a digital quota management platform to help increase efficiency and transparency. Very early days so nothing concrete yet.
     - On legislation, the Fisheries Bill has stalled during its passage through Parliament. Hope to bring it back in the autumn but no guarantee. However, the Bill is not essential for Day 1. We introduced contingency legislation to cover the most pressing Day 1 need – foreign vessel licensing – in March. This was England only. Each Devolved Administration introduced their own legislation in parallel. The Bill is needed to amend the CFP which will become retained UK law when we leave the EU.
     - Business readiness for Brexit is a big challenge for business and Government. In the run up to Exit in March/April this year we believe business could have been better prepared. We continue to urge business to get ready for no deal Exit.

2. **Key topics on NR’s desk at the moment**
   - **Scallops**
     - No agreement between the English and French industry on access to scallop fisheries in the Baie de Seine. Discussions are continuing.
   - **Quota**
     - Leaving the EU gives the UK an opportunity to negotiate a fairer share of fishing opportunities.
     - Defra will shortly be issuing a call for evidence to gain information from industry, NGOs and the public.
This is a first step towards designing how we could allocate any additional quota we might receive in England.

- **Inshore fleet**
  - Seafish with support from NFFO and Defra is undertaking a lot of work in preparation for an inshore conference taking place in October in London. The scope of the conference is England only.
  - SILG member Nathan de Rozarieux attended a recent meeting in preparation for the conference.
  - England has a highly diverse inshore fleet. Need to identify the issues in each area before we consider solutions.

- **Spending Review**
  - Preparations underway although a Spending Review has yet to be formally commissioned. Expect that to be once new PM in place. Could be for one, two, three or four years. Preparing for all scenarios.
  - Opportunity to set out our spending requirements for capital spend, R & D, and resources.

3. **An update on areas that relate to SF2040**

**Rec 10:** *Review impact of a preferential English landings regime on downstream economic activity, onshore infrastructure and other social impacts in coastal communities*

- This is a perennial ‘hot potato’ of great interest to MPs and the press.
- Rec 10 is being left as it is.
- Defra will consult on the economic link once the EU negotiations are over.

**Rec 11:** *Eliminate data limited stocks*

- There was a meeting on 27 June between Defra, SF2040 and Seafish; there is enthusiasm to bring diverse information together.
- Defra has put forward a bid within the upcoming Spending Review to create a system to bring together stock data that can be built upon to create a more detailed picture.
- This is a 10-15 year programme in fisheries management to establish a comprehensive dataset and process.
- A big piece of Rec 11 is in Defra’s court; Defra can add most value here (in addition to the aquaculture Recs 13 &14) and has increased their ambition for Rec 11.
- Jen Ashworth (Defra) has done work on commercial species and will share with Aoife Martin (Seafish Operations Director).

**Rec 12:** *Strengthen the role of Producer Orgs to better support fisheries management and the provision of data*

- Defra currently involved in an EU infraction proceedings concerning Producer Organisations. Unable to progress this recommendation until infraction is over. Defra will shortly publish guidance for POs to help them meet the level of compliance sought by the European Commission in the case.