

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

09:00, 3rd December 2015
Venue: Fisheries Department

AGENDA

PART 1

- 1. Apologies for absence:**
- 2. Declarations of interest:**
- 3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2015**
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2015**
- 5. Fishery Update** Paper
- 6. Marine Spatial Planning presentation (0930)**
- 7. Port Welfare Committee**
- 8. Date of next meeting: TBA**
- 9. Exclusion of Press & Public**

The public are likely to be excluded from the meeting for this/these item(s) of business by virtue of paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to Economic Interests & International relations.

The Chairman to move as follows:

"I move that the press and public be now excluded on the ground that the next items of business to be considered are likely to disclose exempt information under Not for publication by virtue

PART 2

- 10. Confirmation of the Exempt minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2015**
- 11. Matters arising from the meeting held 17th September 2015**
- 12. Illex fishery 2016-Vessel standards & Operation practices** Paper

NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to Economic Interests & International relations.

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

Fisheries Department
Thursday 17th September 2015
9.00am

These minutes are draft minutes until confirmed by resolutions at the next meeting of this committee

Present:	The Honourable Phyl Rendell - Chairperson	PR
	The Honourable Ian Hansen	IH
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	Capt. Malcolm Jamieson – Marine Officer	MJ
	Andreas Winter	AW
	Mr Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr Tom Blake	TB
	Mrs Cheryl Roberts	CR

Minute Taker: Mrs Katrina Stephenson

Public: 0

1 Apologies for Absence

ACTION

- 1.1** Apologies for absence were received from the Chief Executive, Hamish Wylie and Andy Pollard.

2 Declarations of Interest

- 2.1** CR, DI & TB declared an interest in the whole agenda and the Chair declared an interest in Item 8.

3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st July 2015

- 3.1** IH commented that he wasn't included in the apologies for absence at the last meeting and the Chair said that on page 6, item 8.5, 4th line from the bottom of the paragraph should read needs and not need.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st July 2015

- 4.1** Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st July 2015 Item 4.2 – refers – The Chair informed members of the Treasury's concerns about releasing

aggregated tax figures from over the last 3 years from the fishing industry as it will be easy to distinguish companies and some fishing companies have other businesses. If FIFCA are happy for this information to be released a letter is to be sent to the Treasury confirming this. Tax paid by fishing companies can be of the order of £ 4 million in a good year, less in a year with poor results.

FIFCA

4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st July 2015 – Item 4.5 refers – A report on the actions from the ITQ recommendations will be done by the Natural Resources Economist who will be arriving soon. It is anticipated that some of the actions for Natural Resources will be carried forward by him.

4.3 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st July 2015 – Item 4.6 refers – The DNR indicated that the paper on Fishery Protection is yet to be added to the Fisheries website, which is in need of refreshing more generally.

DNR

4.4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st July 2015 Item 5.5 refers – MJ said that the priority works on the Ro-Ro are on track. Welders have arrived and are working but the bad weather may delay work.

4.5 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st July 2015 Item 7.8 refers – Joost Pompert will be contacting FIFCA to discuss the National Plan of Action – Seabirds – Trawl Fisheries.

JP

4.6 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st July 2015 Item 8.3 refers – MJ told members that there was nothing to report from the correspondence group re the Red Ensign Group Conference & Work in Fishing Convention.

4.7 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st July 2015 Item 8.5 refers – There has been no more news or developments since the last Fisheries meeting on the Work in Fishing Convention coming into force in the last quarter of 2016.

4.8 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 1st July 2015 Item 9.1 refers – MJ said that there has been no substantial feedback since July on the code of practice for fishing vessels over 24m.

5. Fisheries Update

5.1 The DNR informed members that there are a few

staff changes within the Fisheries Department. This would be Captain Malcolm Jamieson's last committee meeting and he would like to wish those leaving the department good luck for the future. The Natural Resources Economist, Dr Stefano Mainardi will be arriving to take up post in early October and will be dealing with resource rents & the ITQ Review. Advertising is currently taking place for a replacement for Dr Paul Brewin.

- 5.1.1 The Chair thanked Malcolm for all his work over the last 5 years and also sent grateful thanks to Lars Jürgens and Dr Paul Brewin for all their work in the Falklands Fishery over the past few years.
- 5.2 The Falkland Calamari fishery closed some 3 weeks early due to conservation reasons. Vessels on restricted Finfish licences have been excluded from an area of high hake abundance. Vessels with finfish licences can continue to fish there. The restriction is in place to 14 October 15.
- 5.3 The results from the FIPASS UTM survey have been received but the DNR is not in a position to report on them until they have been to ExCo next week.
- 5.4 SATCO arrived in early September and have started work on the Ro-Ro

6. Proposal on terms & conditions for 2016 *Illex* Fishery

- 6.1 The DNR told members that the information in relation to the Code of Practice on Crew had been sent out previously. The recommendation is now a matter for ExCo. It is anticipated that the terms and conditions for *Illex* licences will also remain much the same for 2016. Provisions in relation to crew care and welfare will be strengthened.
- 6.2 In the *Illex* licence allocation policy it is proposed that there is more reference to the conditions on-board vessels. Also to be included will be the code of practice for fishing crew. CR asked if posters outlining the main points will be ready for next season along with a map. She said that the displaying of the poster on-board vessels should be made part of the licence agreement. In reply the DNR said that the poster which includes a map is currently in draft format and he will be seeking to have it translated into the relevant languages and it will be in place for this season.

6.2.1 The Chair said that the poster and map should also be given to other industry vessels to display as well. At Farmers Week this year it was suggested that a leaflet be given to all vessel crews in Falkland waters. She said that FICFA and FIG need to be resolving these issues.

6.3 The Port Welfare Committee has met and is now preparing their Terms of Reference to go to ExCo. Members of the Port Welfare Committee are:

Chair – Cheryl Roberts (FIFCA Chairperson)

Secretary – Andy Pollard

Captain Malcolm Jamieson

Betty Turner (Seamen's Mission)

Cannon David Roper

Paul Kultchar (on behalf of the jigging industry sector)

Bernadette Eivers (Hospital Manager)

The committee will invite agencies, police & customs to their meetings and they will co-ordinate together. CR wished to make it clear that she was Chair of the committee as she is the Chair of FIFCA so it will change when positions do.

6.4 The Chair asked when do the information packs go out to fishing agencies, is it prior to applications? In reply the DNR said that information can be circulated in advance of the application information. The application packs will go out with the fees later in the year. The message on some of these other aspects will be communicated earlier.

6.5 CR said that she did not understand the excel sheets on enhanced inspections. The DNR used personal protective clothing as an example and explained that out of 27 vessels inspected 3 had survival suits and 24 didn't. All vessels had routine inspections but 27 had enhanced inspections.

6.6 The Chair commented that the *Illex* fishery issues should be set out with bullet points and say this is what you must have, no arguing. CR also said that the Code of Practice for the crew of vessels should also be included.

6.6.1 Members asked if point c) Safety Equipment could be defined more. In reply the DNR said it could be anything from firefighting equipment to flares.

Generally vessels are equipped under their flag state requirements which vary depending on flag state. The exact requirements for Korea and Taiwan involve lots of technical documents in their own language so are not readily accessible. He emphasised that the main priority to deal with is ensuring crew members who wish to leave their vessels can do so safely and we need to stop crew members jumping into the water as the way to leave their vessels.

- 6.7 TB asked if there was any intention for making enhanced inspections part of the licence. The one thing that jumps out is the number of vessels that don't have survival suits, should something be done about this? In South Georgia it is part of the conditions that every crew member has a survival suit. Members agree that this could be discussed and addressed with agencies and would be easy to make as a licence condition. It could also be highlighted in the information pack.

7. Careers in Fisheries

- 7.1 This item was put on the agenda as requested from the last Fisheries meeting. It has not been progressed in the interim as a lot of people have been away on leave during the winter months. It was agreed that FIFCA and FIG should work together to produce a brochure with job opportunities available in the Fisheries/ Marine industry. The Careers Fair would be a good place to attract young people and FIFCA and the Fisheries Department could share a stand and show what job opportunities there are. It was also suggested that FIFCA should do an article for the Penguin News to raise the profile of jobs available within the industry. It is hoped to have the brochure done and a report for the next meeting.

**FIFCA/
FISHERIES**

8. Updating fisheries legislation and regulations

- 8.1 The DNR informed members that this paper reflected what had been submitted to ExCo. The updating of the schedule was pretty straight forward and the licence code that has been added was useful to have. There is an issue on changing some penalties and discussions are still ongoing on that. It is hoped to try and make those more consistent. The 2 sets of regulations the 2015 fees for ITQ fisheries and the 2015 fees for the *Illex* fishery are largely retrospective.

- 8.2** There has been a slight change in the *Illex* fishery regulations where transshipment fees have been set. The changes that will be put into place will be carried forward into the future. The same fees will apply for the first and second half of the year. Falkland Island flagged vessels are exempt from these transshipping charges.. The Fisheries amendment bill will go to Legislative Assembly at the end of October and will then be gazetted. That will be the date that it comes into force.

9. Allowable Catch & effort 2016

- 9.1** This paper was circulated at the last meeting and the DNR said he didn't get much feedback, only 1 submission about the fishing effort being curtailed over a period of years. The DNR has been in discussions with the company who sent in the submission. Whilst it is true that fishing time has been curtailed over the years the catches had not reduced to the same extent. Notices will be gazetted showing the limits for each fishery.

10. Date of next meeting: 3rd December 2015

- 10.1** The next meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 0900.

11. Exclusion of Press & Public

The Chairman moved as follows:

"I move that the press and public be now excluded on the ground that the next items of business to be considered are likely to disclose exempt information under Not for publication by virtue".

12. Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes held on the 1st July 2015

Not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 4 & 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to Economic interest & information about others financial & business affairs

- 12.1** The Exempt Minutes of the 1st July 2015 were confirmed without amendment.

13. Matters arising from the Exempt Minutes hold on the 1st July

- 13.1** *Not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 4 & 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to Economic interest &*

information about others financial & business affairs

- 13.2** Matters Arising from the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2015 – Item 14.2 refers
Progress is happening slowly on the extension to the fuel pipe on the west berth at FIPASS.

14 Fishing access fees 2016

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Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access)
Ordinance 2012, relating to Economic interest &
information about others financial & business affairs*

- 14.1** The Chair declared an interest in this agenda item.
- 14.2** This paper sets out information on fees and gives members the opportunity to comment. Industry members informed the DNR that they will make a written submission. DNR indicated it would be good to have this within 2 weeks.

FIFCA

Minutes confirmed this day of 2015.

Chairman **Secretary**

Fisheries Committee Paper

Part: I

Title: Fishery Update

Agenda Item: 5

Date: 03rd December 2015

Report of: Director of Natural Resources

Paper for information only

Brief update on fishery issues:

- Cruise Vessel incident: The Marine Officer and Fishops were involved in the recent successful rescue, recovery and aftermath of the cruise vessel *Le Boreal*.
- FIPASS: The results of the UTM survey have been communicated to Executive Council and are available as a public paper. Phase 1 of the FIPASS capital programme has been ongoing which has involved resurfacing the ro-ro barge, replacing some link spans, maintaining the causeway amongst other works. Phase 2 works are at the planning stage and the department has been tasked to produce a paper setting out the options for responding to the issues identified in the UTM survey report.
- The *Castelo* recently undertook a 2 week survey in the South of the conservation zones, including the Burdwood Bank. The survey was aimed at locating juvenile fish and toothfish and fish eggs, to find out more about early life histories. The results are being analysed and worked up.
- The Natural Resources economist, Dr Mainardi, has been reviewing data available for working of the main tasks which emanate from the previous consultancy work on fees and the recommendations of the ITQ review. Further data may need to be obtained from companies.
- Dr Arkhipkin recently participated in the 3 yearly CIAC (cephalopods) meeting in Japan.
- The department has recently hosted 2 scientists from the Ascension Island Government to gain experience on various fish science techniques.
- Recruitment is underway for a Fisheries Biologist and Fishery Observers, with good candidates applying.

- A number of vessels are being investigated in relation to alleged contraventions of the Fisheries Ordinance and Licence conditions. This is ongoing and has involved substantial work.
- Work has been ongoing in relation to the conditions for the 2016 Illex fishery (on agenda)
- The work on updating marine and harbour legislation has been progressing with a major draft bill produced. Discussions are ongoing on the preferred approach for including provisions on eventual updating to ensure marine legislation remains current in the longer term.



