

**Aquaculture and wild salmon Interactions Working Group  
(Meeting 3/2019)**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

10:30 – 15:00

**In Attendance**

John Goodlad (JG), Chair	Roddy Mackay (RMY), Orkney Islands Council/Heads of Planning Scotland
John Armstrong (JA), Scottish Government	Alasdair Mitchell (AM), Scottish Government
Roger Brook (RB), Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board	Peter Pollard (PP), SEPA
Sam Collin (SC), SE LINK	Cathy Tilbrook (CT), SNH
Julie Hesketh-Laird (JHL), Scottish Salmon Producers Association	Alan Wells (AW), Fisheries Management Scotland
Gideon Pringle (GP), MOWI.	Robin MacLean (RM), Secretary, Scottish Government

**Apologies**

Ben Hadfield (BH), MOWI

**Agenda**

1. Welcome & apologies
2. Minutes & actions from previous meeting
3. Updates from Group members
4. Hazards:
  - Sea lice
  - Escapes
  - Disease transfer
5. Additional areas:
  - Spatial planning
  - Transparency of information
  - Active improvement of the habitat
  - Wild salmon and the regulatory environment
6. AOB
7. Date of next meeting

## **1. Welcome & apologies**

1.1 It was agreed that members will make a concerted effort to attend meetings but on occasions when this is not possible, substitutes will be allowed to stand-in.

## **2. Minutes & actions from previous meeting**

2.1. Corrections to Minutes from the second meeting where discussed and agreed.

2.2. It was agreed that further amendments were needed on the Terms of Reference (ToR) to incorporate the Group's desire for marine trout to be included.

*Action 1 – RM to issue revised ToR.*

2.3. The Scottish Government is awaiting a response from Faroes, Iceland and Ireland regarding sea lice regulation.

*Action 2 – RM to circulate Faroes, Iceland and Ireland sea lice regulation response and circulate the Taringer papers.*

2.4. JA informed the Group that a technical working group will be considering Heat Maps and an update will follow at the next meeting.

*Action 3 – JA to bring an update on Heat maps to the next meeting.*

2.5. JHL will raise transparency reporting at the next SSPO board meeting.

*Action 4 – JHL to discuss transparency with the SSPO board.*

## **3. Updates from Group members**

3.1. AM gave an update on the ongoing Parliamentary Inquiry into Salmon farming and members were informed that a debate will likely take place in early February following the Scottish Government's formal response to Rural Economy Committee's final report.

3.2. PP gave an update on the SEPA aquaculture sector plan consultation which closed on 24 December 2018 and involved around 115 written responses and over 300 stakeholder conversations. Analysis is ongoing but there is an early indication that interactions is a key feature of responses.

3.3. AW informed the group about the upcoming Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) conference taking place in the Edinburgh National Museum on 29 March 2019. 2019 is the International Year of the Salmon and members of the Interactions Working Group are invited to attend and participate in planned workshops on the day.

3.4 In order to create a record of areas of agreement and consensus, JG proposed that the Secretariat create a template of bullet points (based on the agreed list of hazards and additional areas) for the next meeting. This would be a live document that could eventually form the basis for the IWG report to Ministers. This was agreed.

*Action 5 – RM to develop a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of areas of agreement and consensus.*

## **4. Hazards**

### **4.1 Sea Lice**

4.1.1. AW gave an overview of the FMS paper on the management of sea lice on wild fish. It was agreed that SSPO will consider the paper with a view to offering comments on areas where consensus and progress can be made.

*Action 6 – JHL to review the FMS paper on the management of sea lice on wild fish paper and offer comments and areas where consensus and progress can be made.*

### **4.2 Escapes**

4.2.1. Genetic profiling was discussed and JA informed the Group that related conversations with colleagues in Norway are ongoing. JA is hopeful to have a paper on the subject ready for discussion at the next meeting. It was agreed that discussion on an improved technical standard be supported. AW & RW agreed to develop a paper around escapes.

*Action 7 – JA to circulate genetic profiling paper for next meeting.*

*Action 8 – AW & RB to put together a paper on FMS views on escapes.*

### **4.3. Disease Transfer**

4.3.1. It was agreed by members that there is potential risk of disease transfer and that further work on testing of smolts would be useful. It was agreed that good communication between farmers and with the wild fish sector was important. RM agreed to circulate a paper by Mark James for consideration by the group.

*Action 9 – RM to circulate Mark James paper*

### **4.4. Spatial Planning**

4.4.1. There was broad agreement that the group would like to see a move to a fish farm management scheme at a water body level. AM to develop some wording on this. AW gave an overview of the FMS paper on spatial planning. It was agreed that SSPO will consider the paper with a view to offering comments on areas where consensus and progress can be made.

*Action 10 – AM to develop wording for the group on area management approach to spatial management. And JHL to review FMS paper on spatial management and offer comments and areas where consensus and progress can be made.*

## **4.5. Transparency**

4.5.1. It was agreed that transparency is a major theme throughout the Parliamentary Inquiry and that the group will await to see what comes out of discussions before making any recommendations in this area.

## **4.6. Active Improvement of Habitat**

4.6.1. Notwithstanding the commitment by the sector to support related projects to improve wild fish numbers, the group agreed to remove this item from its recommendations.

## **4.7. Wild salmon and the regulatory environment**

4.7.1. There was agreement from the group that on the following wording:

*In our view, identifying who will assume responsibility for management of impacts on wild salmonids is less important than ensuring that the body in question has appropriate powers, resources and sanctions available to properly discharge this function.*

## **AOB**

5.1. There was no other business.

## **5. Date of next meeting**

6.1. The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will take place on 27 February 2019 and the 5<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for 23 April 2019.

The meeting closed at 15:00.

## **List of Actions:**

*Action 1 – RM to issue revised ToR.*

*Action 2 – RM to circulate Faroes, Iceland and Ireland sea lice regulation response and circulate the Taringer papers.*

*Action 3 – JA to bring an update on Heat maps to the next meeting.*

*Action 4 – JHL to discuss transparency with the SSPO board.*

*Action 5 – RM to develop a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of areas of agreement and consensus*

*Action 6 – JHL to review the FMS paper on the management of sea lice on wild fish paper and offer comments and areas where consensus and progress can be made.*

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