

**Aquaculture and wild salmon Interactions Working Group
(Meeting 2/2018)**

Wednesday 28 November 2018

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
Ben Hadfield (BH), Marine Harvest	Alan Wells (AW), Fisheries Management Scotland
Julie Hesketh-Laird (JHL), Scottish Salmon Producers Association	Robin MacLean (RM), Secretary, Scottish Government

Agenda

1. Intro (Chair)
2. ToR & update of Actions from Previous meeting (AM/Chair)
3. Parliamentary Inquiry (AM)
4. SEPA plan (DP)
5. Sam's work plan (SC/Chair)
- Lunch
6. Future strategic approach to finfish farming
 - A. Emerging areas of possible consensus
 - B. Marine Scotland future planning approach
7. FIDR Letter
8. AOB

1. Intro (Chair)

1.1. All members were in attendance.

2. ToR & update of Actions from Previous meeting (AM/Chair)

2.1. The aim of the Group is to make recommendations to Scottish Ministers to inform decision making around any regulatory changes to the current framework governing farmed salmon.

2.2. The Ministerial commission for the group and the wider salmon interactions workstream is on salmon. However, it was agreed that the ToR would reflect the wish of the group to consider interactions between farmed and wild salmonids.

Actions Arising

Action 1 – Amendments to TOR circulated. Agreed that RM further re-revise the ToR and issue to the group.

Action 2 – Norway Paper circulated. Agreed that RM fact check Norway traffic light system with colleagues in Norway.

Action 3 – Regulatory Comparison paper circulated. Agreed that RM revise to include Ireland, Iceland & Faroes in the regulatory comparison table and to split Scotland into voluntary and non-voluntary (regulatory) measures. Also to circulate the Taringer papers.

Action 4 – Papers by JA on sea lice science and rod catches circulated. SSPO questioned the methodology employed. JA agreed to circulate relevant papers including those by Volstaad et al and Hall & Murray.

3. Parliamentary Inquiry (AM)

3.1. The Scottish Government has already acknowledged that the current status quo around salmon farming issues is not an option and there is consensus that appropriate and proportionate change is needed.

Actions Arising

Action 5 – JHL to circulate SSPO view on the REC report.

4. SEPA plan (DP)

4.1 The SEPA Finfish Aquaculture Sector Plan is live. A number of road show stakeholder engagement events have been planned and the consultation is due to finish on 24 December 2018.

5. Sam's work plan (SC/Chair)

5.1 The Group will adopt the work plan put forward by SELINK

6. Future strategic approach to finfish farming

6.1. Emerging areas of possible consensus

6.1.1 The Group agreed a joint position *'to acknowledge the potential hazard that farmed salmonid aquaculture presents to wild salmonids and agrees to examine measures to minimize the potential risk.*

6.1.2. The Group will focus efforts on the following key areas:

- Sea lice
- Escapes
- Disease transfer
- Spatial planning
- Transparency of information
- Active improvement of the habitat
- Wild salmon and the regulatory environment

6.1.3. The Group would like to see the sea lice trigger levels reduced but accepted further work is needed to determine the appropriate level.

6.1.4. More discussion is required on site size and location but there should be a mechanism to allow poorly sites farms to be relocated to better locations.

6.1.5. To tackle the issue of escapes, it was agreed that the potential should be explored for genetic profiling for every farm so that escaped fish can be traced back to the source. It was agreed to further discuss the question of sanctions in respect of escapes at the next meeting.

6.1.6. The framework around reporting of escapes needs to be improved.

Actions Arising

Action 6 – JA to circulate update on heat maps project that is identifying areas of opportunity and constraint for further fish farm development.

Action 7 – JHL & BH to develop a form of words on the issue of sea lice from a farmed perspective (management strategies, trigger levels etc).

Action 8 – AW & RB to develop a form of words on the issue of sea lice from a wild fisheries perspective (management strategies, trigger levels etc).

Action 9 – AM & RM to develop a form of words on the Group's consensus on recommending the relocation of sites under certain conditions.

Action 10 – AW & RB to supply the Group with locations which they considered to be sensitive for wild fish.

Action 11. JHL to take the issue of transparency reporting back to the SSPO board for further discussion.

6.2. Marine Scotland future planning approach

6.2.1. A technical working group will be established to develop a risk-based policy framework on managing the interactions between marine cage salmon farms, sea lice and wild salmon and trout and will report its progress and actively consult the Interactions Working Group. Membership of the technical working group will comprise Marine Scotland/SEPA/SNH and local authority aquaculture planning leads.

7. FIDR Letter

7.1. The Group will respond to FIDR.

Actions Arising

Action 13 – JG & RM to reply to external organisations that have contacted the Group.

8. AOB

8.1. The Group will meet again at Saughton House on 15 January 2018.

The meeting closed at 16:45

List of Actions

Action 1 – RM to Re-revise the ToR and issue to the group.

Action 2 – RM to fact check Norway traffic light system with colleagues in Norway.

Action 3 – RM to include Ireland, Iceland & Faroes in the regulatory comparison table and to split Scotland into voluntary and non-voluntary (regulatory) measures. Also to circulate the Taringer papers.

Action 4 – JA to circulate the papers by Hall, Volstaad and Murray.

Action 5 – JHL to circulate SSPO view on the REC report.

Action 6 – JA to circulate update on Heat maps.

Action 7 – JHL & BH to develop a form of words on the issue of sea lice from a farmed perspective (management strategies, trigger levels etc).

Action 8 – AW & RB to develop a form of words on the issue of sea lice from a wild fisheries perspective (management strategies, trigger levels etc).

Action 9 – AM & RM to develop a form of words on the Group's consensus on recommending the relocation sites under certain conditions.

Action 10 – AW & RB to supply the Group with locations on where they would rather fish farming activity was restricted.

Action 11. JHL to take the issue of transparency reporting back to the SSPO board for further discussion.

Action 12 – JG & RM to reply to external organisations that have contacted the Group.