

**Farmed Fish Health Framework Working Group (FFHFWG)**  
**Meeting 1**  
**19 December 2017**  
**Note and Actions**

**Attendees**

Prof. Colin Moffat, Co- Chair, Scottish Government (SG); Ben Hadfield, Co- Chair, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd; Scott Landsburgh, Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO); Oliver Robinson, British Trout Association (BTA); Jim Gallagher, Scottish Sea Farms Ltd; Ronnie Soutar, Fish Vet Society (FVS); Dr. Robin Shields, Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC); Dr Alan Wells, Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS); Anne Anderson, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); Prof. Colin Bean, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Jeff Gibbons, SG; Dr Rob Raynard, SG; Charles Allan, SG ;Dr. Sandy Murray, SG; Jill Barber, SG.

**Apologies:** Heather Jones, SAIC; Alastair Mitchell, SG

**Agenda**

<b>11:00 – 11:10</b>	Welcome/Introductions/Apologies/AOB
<b>11:10 – 11:30</b>	Agreement of Group ToR
<b>11:30 – 13:40</b>	Draft Framework Document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial impressions of objectives and associated activities</li> <li>- Discussion of key themes</li> </ul>
<b>13:40 – 14:00</b>	Agreement of Next Steps & AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- January and February meeting dates</li> </ul>

**Compiled List of Actions**

**Action:** Doodle poll to be circulated by **SG** to confirm next meeting dates.

**Action:** **SG** to amend ToR and recirculate by 22 December. Comment required by **WG** members by 10 January.

**Action:** **WG** to consider webcasting future meetings (rolling point).

**Action:** **SG** to set up FFHFWG website and make papers available.

**Action:** **SG** to discuss group remit and membership with Chief Planner

**Action:** **FMS** agreed to discuss involvement in the group with wild sector interests

**Action:** **SG** to identify potential independent scientific membership

**Action: SG** to arrange for Scottish Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) to be invited to join group

**Action:** Industry to provide precise marine mortality data for last five years.

**Action: SG** to circulate a second draft of the FFHF by 10 January.

**Action: All** – request that where comments are provided on draft documents alternative text is also suggested.

**Action: SG** to circulate link to MSS observational climate change data.

**Action: SG** to provide update on the 10 year sea lice interactions project at Meeting 2.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Welcome/Introductions/ Apologies/ AOB

- The background to the fish health framework was outlined in the context of the joint Ministerial statement on aquaculture and the PfG commitment.
- The expected deadline for agreeing a draft framework was discussed. The group agreed to work towards a late February/early March 2018 target. The group also agreed to meet again in January and February.

**Action:** Doodle poll to be circulated by SG to confirm next meeting dates.

[Prior to the meeting draft ToR and starter framework documents written by SG officials were circulated to the working group.]

Agreement of ToR

- The draft ToR was considered by the group. There was consensus that the current remit of the working group was not clear.
- Members concluded that the framework should be titled the 'Strategic *Farmed* Fish Health Framework'. It was noted that although the group will specifically focus on farmed fish, the outputs and objectives may be of wider benefit.
- As it was concluded that the framework would be for farmed fish, FMS agreed to discuss the basis of their involvement in the group with wild sector interests. It was agreed there may be the case for an alternative SG interactions forum or working group.
- The importance of the framework being evidence based was noted.
- It was requested that the wording of the introduction of the draft ToR was revisited – to include reflection that the group aims to improve the health of farmed fish and make clear that the 2030 targets are industry owned.
- The group expressed its intention to remain open and transparent. SG plans to create a website were discussed. The group agreed that it was important to communicate the work of the group.
- There was agreement that meeting minutes and ToR should be published.
- There was general support within the group that once the framework had been developed and ready for deployment, the potential for webcasting future

meetings of the group would be worth considering. Membership of the group was discussed. It was considered that membership of the group could be widened – however it was agreed that the availability of meeting minutes online was a suitable mechanism to keep interested stakeholders up to date.

- SG committed to speaking to the Chief Planner to make sure this arrangement was suitable ( with regards to a potential for planning representation on the group).
- The group agreed that there was value in seeking independent scientific input. It was also agreed that the CVO for Scotland or a nominated deputy should be invited to join the group.

**Action:** SG to amend ToR and recirculate by 22 December. Comment required by WG members by 10 January.

**Action:** SG to set up FFHFWG website and make meeting minutes and ToR available.

**Action:** WG to consider further webcasting at future meetings (rolling point).

**Action:** SG to discuss group remit and membership with Chief Planner

**Action:** FMS to discuss involvement in the group with wild sector interests.

**Action:** SG to identify potential independent scientific membership

**Action:** SG to arrange for Scottish CVO to be invited to future meetings

#### Draft Framework Discussion

- The SG starter draft Framework circulated amongst members was discussed. SG outlined that this was very much a starter document for input from the group.
- An update on the MSS 10 year sea lice project was requested for Meeting 2.
- There was consensus that the framework should start with a focus on improving marine survival and ensure that recommendations or targets emerging from the framework are evidence based.
- It was agreed that the first theme should focus on improving marine survival/ mortality reduction. This would incorporate some of the items in the draft framework, such as sea lice and gill health.
- Industry agreed to provide marine mortality data for the last five years for the farmed fish health framework.
- It was agreed that the next theme (theme 2) should focus on maximising health and welfare of farmed salmonids.
- There was consensus that the framework should incorporate cleanerfish under an appropriate theme. This could include a table of farmed and wild fish requirement/ supply and investment by the industry. In addition the framework could address cleanerfish health tools(e.g. vaccine development).
- Members agreed that theme 3 should focus on Innovation and research priorities, and theme 4 – communications/ knowledge exchange.

- An industry request for delivery of applied aquaculture science and increased engagement specifically from Marine Scotland Science was noted.
- It was agreed that the suggested additional aspects of the FFHF, such as international comparisons, case studies and technological innovation would add value.
- It was agreed that part of the strategy must reflect to the changes in the salmonid farming cycle (reduction of time in sea, larger smolts).
- The group requested that the pre-amble of the draft FFHF is redrafted. This is to include recognition that work streams are to be evidence led, the challenges faced and include recognition of changes in the marine environment (particularly in relation to biological parameters which are temperature linked – e.g. sea lice cycle)
- The pre-amble could include changes and investments that the industry has been making over the last few years to deal with the environmental and biological challenges e.g. use of cleaner fish, physical removal, shorter cycle, more fallow periods).
- SG agreed to circulate link to MSS observational climate change data and offered a future presentation on the work of the work being carried out by the climate change impact partnership network.

**Action:** Industry to provide marine mortality data for the past 5 years.

**Action:** SG to redraft draft FFHF based on feedback and circulate by 10 January.

**Action:** All – request that where comments are provided on any draft documents alternative text is suggested.

**Action:** SG to circulate link to MSS observational climate change data.

**Action:** SG to update on the 10 year sea lice interactions project at Meeting 2.

Marine Scotland  
Secretariat  
January 2018