

Strategic Framework for Farmed Fish Health Working Group Terms of Reference

Introduction

In March a [Joint Ministerial Statement](#) on aquaculture was endorsed by the Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing and Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham. The statement emphasises the Scottish Government's focus on enabling aquaculture to realise its potential in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way.

In order to ensure that growth is sustainable, addresses biological and environmental challenges and support the ambition of industry Mr Ewing proposed the development of a strategic framework for farmed fish health at a meeting of the AILG. Members were receptive to the proposal and Scottish Government has committed to progressing the delivery of this framework in its [Programme for Government](#). The framework will be co-owned with industry, reflect the importance of fish health in sustainable production and provide a mechanism to map out key milestones and address the biological challenges faced by industry.

While acknowledging that understanding the scale of any interactions between farmed and wild fish and addressing these is of importance, it is recognised that this is not the appropriate forum to consider these issues. The discussions of the group will focus specifically on farmed fish, whilst acknowledging that many of the anticipated outputs from the discussions and the final framework document may have wider benefit.

Group Objectives

The group has two clear objectives:

1. To deliver a high level framework for farmed fish health by Spring 2018. This will include prioritised work streams, each with clear milestones and measurable outputs.
2. To oversee and facilitate the implementation of the fish health framework and provide biannual updates on progress against agreed milestones within each of the priority work streams.

Membership

Prof. Colin Moffat	Co-Chair	Head of Science, Marine Scotland (MS)
Ben Hadfield	Co-Chair	MD Marine Harvest Scotland
Scott Landsburgh		CEO Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO)
Oliver Robinson		Chair British Trout Association (BTA)
Jim Gallagher		MD Scottish Sea Farms
Ronnie Soutar		Fish Vet Society (FVS)
Heather Jones		CEO Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC)
Anne Anderson		Chief Officer - Compliance and Beyond, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Prof. Colin Bean		Senior Science and Policy Advisor, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Shiela Voas		Chief Veterinary Officer for Scotland, Scottish Government
Alastair Mitchell		Head of Aquaculture and Recreational Fisheries, MS

Dr. Rob Raynard	Head of Aquatic Animal Health, MS
Charles Allan	Head of Fish Health Inspectorate, MS
Dr. Sandy Murray	Head of Epidemiology, MS
Jill Barber	Aquaculture Health, Welfare and Innovation Policy Manager MS

Dr. Alan Wells (Observer) Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)

Subject to the agenda, an invitation will be extended to the Chief Planner from the Scottish Government. An independent scientific adviser will be sought and membership updated upon appointment.

Meetings and Reporting

Following the initial meeting on 19 December 2017, the group will meet on a monthly basis until the draft framework has been developed.

Thereafter, six-monthly updates on progress will be made against each of the priority work streams and published on the Marine Scotland, SSPO and AILG websites.

This working group reports directly to the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity.

Prioritisation of work streams and consideration of new work streams will be reviewed on an annual basis. The framework will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Terms of reference will be kept under review.

Marine Scotland
Secretariat
January 2018