

Seafish interests in safety and training were also noted, with safety committees established elsewhere in the UK:

- Northern Ireland - one
- England - two
- Wales - one

There then followed an open session where the priorities and expectations of the group were discussed. Below is a summary of the points that were made:

- The main difference between the SFSG and existing UK groups is the direct involvement of active fishers on the group. We believe this first-hand knowledge and expertise will prove vital.
- It was noted that the creation of more, tighter regulations might be required. The group should not however work in isolation from the regulators.
- The MCA noted it was time to look towards a culture shift and the timing is favourable with the Ministerial and Scottish Government support.
- The MCA are in the process of updating the fishing vessel code and are working to clear a backlog of MAIB recommendations. A consultation on under 15 metre fishing vessel stability was planned later this year. The MCA are planning roadshows around the UK to reach out to fishers and explain the new code, and receive feedback. Ways of getting the message out to the industry was discussed, such as through social media. Spreading the message of the new code is a prime example of where the SFSG can add value.
- Trust and fear culture - a reluctance from some fishers to contact the coastguard, for fear of a subsequent inspection or consequences was suggested. It was agreed that this is an area in need of a culture change and buy-in from fishers.
- It was noted that there needs to be more transparency in terms of changes made to vessels, and the confidence to request an inspection or advice prior to vessel modifications being made.
- The group discussed ILO88 and considered what support is needed to become compliant. For example, certification for smaller vessels?
- It was recognised that a lot of good work had been done and progress made on safety in the fishing industry, and it was important not to forget about this.
- Simplification of message and tailoring communication - reducing larger documents / new legislations / etc. into salient points and communicating in a more digestible format for fishers was suggested. The current way a lot of safety related information was presented may present an unnecessary barrier.
- Whether AIS must be switched on at all times was discussed. Certain exclusions such as areas of piracy were raised. The use of AIS in Iceland and associated

obligations on fishers of search and rescue, along with recent initiatives for inshore vessels in Scotland were discussed.

- **ACTION: SFSG secretariat to contact the MCA for clarification on existing rules on the use of AIS, and to outline any plans to bring eligible vessel down to below 15-metre vessels.**
- Inshore vessel tracking – the Scottish Government commitment to introduce tracking technology across the inshore fleet was noted. It was suggested there could also be safety benefits.
- Recognised that change will not happen overnight, and that a culture shift is required. An example of the 4,500 life jackets issued was provided, where preventing a person going overboard should be the first step. Change cannot happen by simply making safety mandatory and providing kit, education is also necessary to improve safety.

3 - Terms of Reference

The SFSG was reminded that the Group was established by the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and that this was something he was taking a keen personal interest in. The Purpose, aims and Objectives and governance arrangements were outlined. There were no substantive comments from Board members with regards to the Terms of Reference.

ACTION: Board members are invited to provide comments on the Terms of Reference by 30 August 2019.

4 - Group Representation

It was stressed that the group should have a good mix of fishers, across all sectors of the industry and a good geographical spread.

The group size should also be within a workable tolerance, with previous experiences of safety groups growing to an unmanageable size highlighted.

The importance of fluidity in the membership was suggested with inviting additional members based on their experience / skillset as and when required.

It is important that the SFSG does not become political and retain its main objectives.

The MCA wish to support the SFSG.

5 - Next Meeting

ACTION: All members are now asked to highlight 3-4 pressing issues, in advance of the next meeting, that they believe the group should consider.

ACTION: The group were asked to send any suggested agenda items to the SFSG secretariat.

The next meeting will be held in November and six monthly thereafter.

Actions

Action	Actioned by	Date (if applicable)	Actioned
Share FISG Documents (x4)	SFSG Secretariat	26 July 2019	Yes
Share MCA Roadshow with secretariat	MCA	26 July 2019	Yes
Provide feedback on roadshow locations	SFSG Board	30 August 2019	
Share Terms of Reference	SFSG Secretariat	26 July 2019	Yes
Provide Feedback on Terms of Reference	SFSG Board	30 August 2019	
Check AIS for 15m + requirements with MCA	SFSG Secretariat	By 9 August 2019	
Highlight 3-4 pressing issues with secretariat	SFSG Board	By 18 October 2019	
Send agenda items to secretariat	SFSG Board	By 18 October 2019	

SCOTTISH FISHING SAFETY GROUP

Note of Meeting held on 22nd November 2019

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1 – Welcome / Introductions

[REDACTED], Head of Domestic Sea Fisheries, Marine Scotland opened the second SFSG meeting. He explained why the SFSG had been created earlier this year, and noted the first inception meeting was held back in July 2019.

It was reiterated that the SFSG was created to look at all aspects of fishing safety in Scotland and put in place measures that would make a difference to the health, safety and wellbeing of the Scottish fishing industry.

There were introductions from those present with their respective backgrounds and experiences in the industry.

2 – Minutes of Previous meeting

Noted that no comments had been received by the group on the minute of the previous minute. Four actions had been taken forward, and the minute was approved by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] seconded by [REDACTED]

3 – Terms of Reference / Group Representation

Members agreed that representative members of different groups would only be invited as the situation, such as the agenda, requires. It was agreed that the MCA - as the regulator - would be a regular attender to provide guidance and answer questions as necessary.

The group was surprised that no volunteers had come forward from Orkney and were keen to have someone from that area on the SFSG. This would help ensure appropriate coverage of all geographic areas of Scotland, including size of vessel and fishing type to be appropriately represented. Preferably a volunteer from Orkney Fishermen's Association - [REDACTED] to explore options.

The group discussed the possibility of having future sub groups, to provide some focus and tackle sector specific incidents.

All members agreed to their contact details being shared with other members within the group to improve open communications.

Suggestions were put forward pertaining to spending avenues for the group for two reasons: -

1. Costs incurred for attending meeting should not be a barrier
2. In response to taking on board additional work to progress the committees objectives

ACTION: [REDACTED] agreed that changes would be made to the Terms of Reference regarding membership decision and sharing details.

ACTION: [REDACTED] to approach Orkney fishermen to get a representative of their sector within the work group.

5 – Priorities and Key Points for the SFSG

It was decided by the group that for now all three areas of concern - as highlighted in the FISG strategy document – and listed below, would be looked at in tandem by the group unless clear evidence was presented to highlight more lives lost through one of the causes more than the other.

- Man overboard
- Stability losses
- Accidents to individuals

[REDACTED] provided an overview on each item and illustrated points raised within the paper that needed consideration.

5.1 - Man Overboard

The group thought there was huge benefit to the environmental pool training course especially as one member had recently attended the course and remarked how he lasted 37 seconds. The group felt the experience of the pool environment would be best targeted at those who currently aren't wearing appropriate safety gear, i.e. target those who need to hear the message most.

ACTION: SFSG agreed to attend a course as a group. Aim to fill at least three dates with a mix of local fishermen early in the New Year. Undertake some comms/promotional activity to generate interest and raise profile of the SFSG. Each

board member, as far as possible, to get up to nine fishermen from their local area to undertake this training.

Classification of what would be suitable for offshore fishermen as opposed to inshore fishermen in terms of personal floatation device (PFD) buoyancy was discussed.

For the questions on having a personal location beacon (PLB) on a PFD, group members were split due to the nature of the fishing involved i.e. single handed vs crewed vessel and whether or not the vessel involved had AIS. The time and cost of servicing the PFD and PLB equipment was also seen as limiting factors which some thought may impact on a fishermen's decision to use the equipment.

It was suggested that the funding SFSG had secured could be used to acquire the PFD's and PLB's which, if the group were happy, could then be handed out to fishermen who attend the environmental pool training sessions, specific to their sector.

The group discussed other options such as: -

- **Altering the specifications on the life jackets**
I.e. stop the removable crotch straps and reduce the amount of hanging clips which can get caught while working
- **Looking at inherent buoyancy waistcoats such as the Guy Cotton and Regatta types. The group discussed that these may also be able to hold a PLB**
- **Installing / offering help to install ladders at harbours. The group also discussed ladders on small fishing vessels to aid recovery from the water.**
I.e. to allow those who fall into water to get themselves out again
- **Securing a budget for 10 training sessions a year**
As group feels the scare factor from real experience best way to get people on board
- **A Portable pool to carry out environmental pool training around the Coast**
Long term project to reduce cost of individuals travelling to environmental pools and losing days fishing – both probable barriers to active fisher participation.

5.2 - Stability

Concerns were raised that the MCA are unable to appropriately check stability of vessels during inspections. Some members remarked that the "full stability" programme was better than the "Wilson Mark" at helping to alert fishermen when their vessel would be in danger of losing stability. A more reactive tool and doesn't fall out of sight when the vessel becomes heavy with the days catch.

Emphasis was placed on the knowledge of what vessels can do and how to avoid unstable situations so that action can be prioritised over reaction. In which endeavour the tools used as aids to the knowledge should be accessible and easy to understand. One member noted the Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet programme (SIFIDS) and using the technology developed here to improve safety in the inshore fleet.

The group discussed other options such as: -

- **Using the hardware available or with slight changes to help improve stability or to inform the fisher if vessel entering dangerous parameters**
Suggested conservative safety parameters would provide better protection but too wide and they may cause a nuisance to the individual i.e. constant beeping in swell
- **Bringing in a nominal fee for vessels to undertake inspections**
Current high cost for inspecting vessels with some better services than others. Suggested that having an inspection service regularly (like motor vehicles) would make the MCA inspection process easier and in the long term, safer and cost effective.

5.3 – Accidents to Individuals

The Safety Folder web based system was discussed at length as a safety management system to help fishermen comply with risk assessments and safety considerations when working at sea. A number of comments were raised, including asking those who currently use the Safety Folder for their forms to feedback any issues or improvements so that these can be taken on board. E.g. having a mobile accessible application, paired it with FISH1 submissions, regular updates and reminders for upcoming service warnings etc.

On the subject of a “Crew's Voice” campaign members were keen to stress that this would include the entire crew on the vessel filling out the risk assessments and safety forms. Safety awareness training could assist with this.

The group discussed other options such as: -

- **Project to look at behaviour change**
Why aren't people following proper procedures? Why not wearing life jackets? etc.
- **Mandatory induction to include risk assessment**
Get people involved in assessing risks and knowing how to fix issues before they endanger life
- **Apprenticeships / Training before boarding a vessel**
Allow people to get training and experience before going to sea. Possibility of a one page example on how to carry out a risk assessment, drill in safety messages
- **Have MCA monitor and target outdated areas for upcoming inspections using the Safety Folder – i.e. as an online audit**
Emphasis on the fishermen's responsibility and could help make the process easier and overall safer for all

Objectives:

- Engage the MCA
- Promote the existence of the Safety Folder through various media, repetitive messages more likely to sink in

ACTION: Group members to further consider all options presented in paper 2.1 to evaluate where the available funding will be best targeted in the short and long term to achieve the priorities of the SFSG. Each member to provide a recommendation on the mix of measures to utilise available short term funding (£500k), and consider the longer term mix - to be returned by Monday 9th December.

6 – Informing SFSG Priorities

Focus was placed on Outward communications to get messages to grassroots. There were discussions around data collection such as statistics on number of lives lost and how. However the group acknowledged that due to the nature of incidents data is often behind reality.

The group expressed an interest in exploring models from other countries such as the Danish risk assessment model. Through this system each fishermen pays into the scheme and the scheme assists with any risk assessments e.g. dates and times of drills which fishers can partake.

One member remarked that of the 75 PFD's that he has serviced recently less than 50% had been used. The 2015 PFD project issued 11,000 PFD's [check], at the time estimated <5% wore PFD's. It is estimated that now currently <15% of fishermen wear them.

A recent marketing campaign received negative feedback from SFSG members as it termed that returning from a day of fishing was down to luck, many felt this sends the wrong message to the sector.

7 – AOB

7.1 – MAIB Report

Report was introduced by [REDACTED], noted the recommendation list 2019/120 could be something to work on for the group i.e. addressing the known issues to prevent similar tragedies. There were key lessons to learn, including that the individual was shooting gear that was too wide for the vessel gate.

One member noted going through 600 pages of information sent to him from the MCA pre inspection. On going through the documentation it was stated that only one page was relevant to single handed creel fishing. The group had a good discussion around how to get messages out on the particular issues that have contributed to lives lost at sea. It was pointed out that the MAIB has since reduced reports to make them more digestible to make it easier for individuals to participate and get involved in solutions. It was recognised much more needed to be done here.

7.2 – Elog

Elog use was felt a distraction by some members as it is slow, unreliable and needs improvement. Particular reference was made to a situation which led to stress on Compliance and the involved Skipper.

7.3 – Aquaculture Safety Group

[REDACTED] noted that the Aquaculture sector had recently set up a safety group. There may be some cross learning, and he would be happy to liaise between the two group on matters pertaining to small vessels.

8 – Next Meeting

It was stressed that buy in was needed from the group and communications should be frequent between now and December.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th May 2020 in Aberdeen. Will be tied in with the Aberdeen Expo and European Safety Group.

Action: [REDACTED] to check availability of SFF Board room.

Actions

Action	Actioned by	Date (if applicable)	Actioned
Update Terms of Reference	[REDACTED] Marine Scotland		
Share member details with rest of group	SFSG Secretariat		
Approach Orkney fishermen to get a representative within the work group	[REDACTED] SFSG Co-Chair		
Organise SFSG pool training course early 2020 Organise three sessions for fishermen's training in the New Year. Each member to get people from their local area to go to the environmental pools with them.	SFSG Co-Chair / Board	By early January 2020	
Feedback comments on mix of measures to take forward in the New Year.	SFSG Board	By 9 December 2019	
Feedback comments on how to use funding for measures in the New Year.	SFSG Board	By 9 December 2019	