



Note of first meeting of Marine and Seafood Stakeholder Group

22/09/2017

Attendees

Members

James Cook	DR Collin and Sons and SCFF
Calum Duncan	Marine Conservation Society
Andrew Kuyk	Provision Trade Federation
Lucy Greenhill	Scottish Association for Marine Science
Scott Landsburgh	Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation
Patrick Hughes	Seafood Scotland
Lyndsey Dodds	WWF Scotland

Scottish Government officials

Graham Black	Director, Marine Scotland
Mike Palmer	Deputy Director, ACRE, Marine Scotland
Louise Montgomery	Post-EU Referendum Legislation Co-ordinator
Richard McLeod	Post-EU Referendum Policy Advisor
Ben Williamson	Post-EU Referendum Policy Officer
Ruth MacDonald	Post-EU Referendum Policy Advisor

Apologies

Robert Duthie	Denholm Seafoods
James Harrison	Edinburgh University Law Department
Iain Laidlaw	Peterhead Ports Authority
Ally Dingwall	Sainsburys
Simon Collins	Scottish Fisherman Federation
Stephen Cameron	Scottish Shellfish
Jimmy Buchan	Scottish Seafood Association
Helen McLachlan	WWF Scotland



Summary of discussions

- **Welcome and introductions**
- **Remit/role and purpose**

It was agreed that the aims of the group would be:

- a) to provide rapid input to issues as they emerge
- b) to help develop longer term strategic thinking for marine interests in Scotland and how this can aid achievement of marine objectives.

Clarification was sought as to whether Oil, Gas and Renewables stakeholders should be considered as part of the remit for this group. Scottish Government officials did not envisage Oil and Gas issues to feature on this group as they were reserved matters but recognised the case for providing a seat for off-shore renewables interests. Any further suggestions for additions to the membership were invited via email.

Clarification was also sought about how this group ties in with the Marine Strategy Forum (MSF). Scottish Government officials explained that the MSF has a broader remit whereas this group focuses purely on EU-related matters. They also stressed that this stakeholder group is not meant to replace any existing channels that stakeholders have with the Scottish Government.

- **Key issues for Scotland in relation to EU exit**

Scottish Government officials presented narrative paper outlining the key issues facing the sector in relation to the EU.

Members agreed that this paper broadly covered their main issues as they saw them. They welcomed the wider approach taken in this, and mentioned that non-tariff barriers such as IUU certification, delays at customs, State Aid and reputational risk (e.g. being seen as anti-competitive regarding pricing) were of particular importance.

Clarification was sought about the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) regulations and whether these were a topic of discussion with the UK Government. Scottish Government officials re-affirmed the commitment of the Environment Cabinet Secretary to maintaining EU environmental standards and confirmed that MSFD was a topic included within the remit of the marine working group operating between DEFRA and the devolved administrations on EU exit issues.

Members of the group highlighted some of the work that their organisations had already undertaken on some of the areas covered in the narrative paper (including, for example, the work undertaken with industry by Seafood Scotland.)



- **Key timeline of events**

Scottish Government officials presented a short paper providing an overview of important events and legislative developments related to EU exit. It was suggested that future group meetings could coincide with these key milestones, e.g. UK Fisheries Bill publication.

- **European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and the impact on Scotland**

Scottish Government officials gave an overview of the key provisions of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and the practical implications this might have for Scotland, including the intrusion into the devolved settlement if it were to be enacted as drafted and the intended significant problems that would be introduced for the management of devolved areas of policy. With regard to the UK Fisheries Bill the Scottish Government confirmed that as yet it has not received any information on the Bill from the UK Government. There was a distinct possibility that the Bill would require a legislative consent motion in the Scottish Parliament.

- **Engagement with the UK Government and others**

Scottish Government officials gave an overview of how the Scottish Government is working with DEFRA and DEXEU at official and Ministerial level, explaining that a Marine and Fisheries Working Group has been established between DEFRA and the devolved administrations to address issues such as Day One readiness, legislative developments and the consequences of those developments, such as the possible establishment of UK frameworks in certain areas of policy. Scottish Government Ministers had made clear that they were unable to enter into substantive discussions on such frameworks until such time as the EU (Withdrawal) Bill had been amended to address concerns regarding its impact on the devolved settlement.

The Marine and Fisheries Working Group fed into a Senior Officials Group at director level overseeing the various different working groups operating (totalling seven), which in turn fed into a Ministerial Group attended by Michael Gove and the relevant Ministers from the devolved administrations.

Actions agreed

- Members agreed to act as a 'rapid response' forum as well as addressing more strategic policy questions. E-mail address for members to respond to is: mseugroup@gov.scot.
- Agreed that email would be the main means of communication, with face-to-face meetings as needed.
- Members will email with suggestions of who might be added to the group.
- Members will email suggestions of topics for further discussions.



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- Members and Scottish Government officials agreed to circulate relevant papers they-produced.