

**NORTH EAST SCOTLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

**WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE, 2018**

**Present:** **Aberdeenshire Council** – Councillors J Cox (Chair), D Beagrie, C Buchan, and A Kille.  
**Aberdeen City Council** – Councillors C Allard and A Donnelly.  
**Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners** – J Murison  
**Grampian Seafood Alliance:** M Clark  
**Members of Parliament** – D Duguid  
**Members of the Scottish Parliament** - M Foley (on behalf of M Watt MSP), S Stevenson and Katrin Wagener (on behalf of P Chapman MSP).  
**Peterhead Port Authority** – J Wallace and S Brebner  
**Scottish Enterprise** – G Ford and I Garrett  
**Scottish Fishermen’s Federation** – B Armstrong  
**Scottish Pelagic Fishermen’s Association** – I Gatt and H Gatt  
**Seafish Industry Authority** – I Land  
**Seafood Scotland** – D Fordyce and P Hughes

**Apologies:** Aberdeenshire Council - Councillor G Reynolds.  
Aberdeen City Council - Councillors R Houghton and J Laing.  
Moray Council - Councillor S Warren and C Cowie.  
MEPs: I Hudghton, D Martin, N Mobarik, A Smith and C Stihler.  
MPs: A Bowie and C Clark.  
MSPs: A Burnett, P Chapman, G Dey, M Gougeon, J Fitzpatrick, L Kerr, L Macdonald, M McDonald, J Marra, G Martin, S Robison, M Rumbles, K Stewart and M Watt.  
Aberdeen Fish Producers Organisation - D Anderson  
Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners – T Boyle  
HIE Moray - A Kearney  
Lunar Fish Producers Organisation - R Stevenson  
Marine Scotland Science – C Needle  
North Sea Advisory Council - L Duguid  
North East of Scotland Fishermen’s Organisation - A Birnie  
North & East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group - I Maddox  
Scottish Pelagic Producers Association – I McFadden  
Scottish Seafood Association – J Buchan  
Scottish Fishermen’s Federation – F Lord and M Morrison  
Scottish Fishermen’s Organisation - J Anderson  
Scottish Maritime Academy NESCOL - L Hope  
Scottish Pelagic Fishermen’s Association – A Wiseman  
Scottish Seafood Association – D Leiper  
Scottish White Fish Producers’ Association Ltd - J Mouat and M Park

**Officers:** D McDonald - Industry Support Executive, AC  
S McKen - Employee Development Officer, AC  
A Reid – Team Manager, Economic Development & Protective Services, AC  
D Shaw – Project Development Officer, AC  
A Ziarkowska – Committee Officer, AC.

**In attendance of:** Mr Richard McLeod – Scottish Government

## **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. Members were asked if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and no declarations were intimated.

## **2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY**

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Partnership **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality and opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment had been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

## **3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018**

The minute of meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 was circulated and **approved** as a correct record.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING**

Derek McDonald confirmed that the presentations from the previous meeting were available online. Thereafter, he went through the action sheet from the last meeting advising on progress of each point. It was reported that a letter had been sent out on behalf of the Partnership to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution seeking parity on business rates charges for processors in NE Scotland with Humberside and that a holding response has been received. It was further reported that Mr Mike Palmer could not attend the present meeting of NESFDP, but that Mr Richard McLeod was attending in his place.

## **5. PRESENTATION: PREPARING FOR BREXIT: A MARINE SCOTLAND PERSPECTIVE BY RICHARD MCLEOD, MARINE SCOTLAND.**

The Chair invited Mr Richard McLeod, Marine Scotland to deliver a presentation on 'Preparing for Brexit: Marine Scotland perspective.' Mr McLeod gave an overview of the Marine Scotland 'EU Hub' by describing their key areas of work including legislative deficiency analysis, negotiation priorities, ministerial briefing and support, stakeholder engagement and operational readiness. Reference was made to issues which are outwith the Marine Scotland EU Hub remit, including future fisheries management (and other marine and fisheries policy), trade, food and drink and transport policy, along with labour and migration policy. Mr McLeod continued by explaining the context in which his Team currently operates including ongoing engagement with the UK Government and the other Devolved Administrations, in which political and constitutional tensions can be a factor. Thereafter, Mr McLeod advised that The Marine Scotland EU Hub Team recently established the Marine and Seafood Stakeholder

Group on EU-Related matters, chaired by the Director of Marine Scotland Graham Black, which serves as a forum for engagement and exchange of information which will help inform Scotland's approach to the Brexit negotiations and to EU-related matters longer term, including the potential effects on the sector on leaving the EU within and beyond the UK.

Discussion then followed on the Scottish dimension to fisheries and Brexit, the impact of Brexit on UK Fisheries Policy, and the future of wider fisheries sector.

Thereafter, the Group thanked Mr McLeod for his informative presentation and **agreed** to note the information provided.

#### **6. BULLETIN REPORT: BUSINESS RATES LETTER TO DEREK MACKAY, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND THE CONSTITUTION**

With reference to the minute of the meeting of the Partnership on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 (Item 7) there was circulated a report dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, asking members to note the letter sent to Mr Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution and his reply (appendices to the report).

It was explained as background that following on from the presentation delivered by Grampian Assessor and Aberdeenshire Council's Head of Finance at the meeting in November on business rates, Members agreed that the Partnership should write to Mr Mackay to seek mitigation of the high business rates burden being borne by large and medium-sized seafood processing businesses in NE Scotland. In particular, the letter sought parity for North East processors' business rates charges with Humberside. Appendix 2 to the report contained Mr Mackay's response advising that Mr Fergus Ewing met with representatives of seafood processors in Fraserburgh to identify current issues and concerns. The letter from Mr Mackay advised that further information on some specific issues has been requested by Mr Ewing.

During discussion, the Group reiterated their determination to help the sector to find a solution and to stimulate meaningful engagement with Ministers.

After consideration, the Group **agreed** to acknowledge the detail within the report and appendices.

**Action point 1a: To provide a progress update in relation to this matter at the next meeting of the Group and work collaboratively with fish processors to help ensure their voice is heard.**

**Action point 1b: To invite Mr Mackay to the next meeting of NESFDP**

#### **7. BULLETIN REPORT: SEAFOOD TRAINING CENTRE PROJECT**

There had been circulated a report dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which provided Members with an update on the Seafood Training Centre project. The report reminded Members that in November 2017, North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) approved the allocation of over £60,000 from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for training equipment and to fund a part-time training post for the duration of a two-year seafood industry Training Centre pilot project. Key components of the project include boosting the level of training within the industry and getting out into wider community and into schools, colleges and the hospitality sector to promote

seafood industry-related careers. This project aligns closely with Scottish Government's Ambition 2030 strategy which aims to double the value of the Scottish food and drink sector to £30 billion by 2030.

The report noted that SSA had agreed terms in March 2018 with Michael Sim, former Managing Director of Young's Seafood in Fraserburgh to deliver technical advice and training to local seafood companies under the project. Mr Sim, who took up his new role on 4 June 2018, has 30 years' experience in delivering food related training and accreditation to the highest level (BRC) and his appointment is a very significant development. The report advised that training will be delivered primarily in Peterhead and Fraserburgh. However, much of the training kit is portable and so it can be transported to wherever training needs lie. The hope is that the project can develop sufficient momentum beyond the term of the two year pilot to become self-sustaining. Mr McDonald advised that Members will be provided with a progress update at a future meeting of NESFDP.

After consideration, the Partnership **agreed** to note information provided in the update.

**Action point 2: Seafood Training Centre Project progress update to Members at a future meeting of NESFDP.**

## **8. BULLETIN REPORT: GOVERNING UK FISHERIES AFTER BREXIT – LESSONS FROM ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE FAROE ISLANDS**

There had been circulated a report dated 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which provided Members with an overview of the report on 'UK Fisheries Governance After Brexit' published by the University of the West of Scotland. The report explained that the Economic and Social Research Council set up the 'UK in a Changing Europe' programme in 2015. As part of this work the University of the West of Scotland had published a report on fisheries governance in April 2018 to help inform policy makers in the UK. The report is based on an analysis of the fishing industry within the UK and its devolved administrations along with an assessment of how independent coastal states outside the EU - Iceland, Norway and the Faroe Islands - regulate their fisheries. The report made several policy recommendations including enshrining key principles of fisheries management in law; the creation of an effective and enduring institutional structure comprising the government ministry/department, a scientific institute and directorate which conducts and oversees the day-to-day management of UK fisheries; that scientific advice should be enshrined in law to ensure that sustainability of fish stocks is a key consideration in the decision-making process; that decision-making on day-to-day management, future reforms and negotiations with other coastal states should include industry and other relevant stakeholders in both a consultative and advisory role in order to ensure transparency and the fostering of a culture of trust, cooperation and consensus; and that fisheries policy in a post-Brexit UK should ensure that any economic benefits accruing from leaving the CFP should benefit fisheries-dependent communities.

After consideration, Members **agreed** to acknowledge the content of the report.

## **9. WORKSHOP SESSION: FUTURE PROOFING THE FISHERIES SECTOR**

There had been circulated a report dated 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which provided Members with an overview of a proposed workshop session to help inform a future piece of work. The report stated that at the last meeting of NESFDP on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 an action point had been agreed whereby an analysis of the vulnerabilities, risks and challenges facing the local fisheries supply chain should be carried out. Formative

discussions with NESFLAG to fund such a study have been productive, but further work is required to define the scope, time frame and extent of the work. It was proposed that the collective knowledge of NESFDP Members be deployed to progress the study's terms of reference prior to developing a formal application to the FLAG. A one hour workshop was therefore proposed for the meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018 to carry out a SWOT assessment of the fisheries supply chain comprising the following three elements: Catching & landing; First sale & processing; and Value add, logistics (inward and outward) & marketing.

After the introduction to the agenda item, Members were invited to form three (self-selecting) groups to take part in facilitated discussions to consider one of the three elements of the supply chain to help scope the above project.

**Action point 3: To pull together comments & suggestions from the workshop session to produce a briefing paper and progress the commissioning of the 'Future-proofing' study.**

## **10. INDUSTRY REPORTS AND ROUND TABLE ROUND-UP**

The Partnership **noted** updates from the industry representatives in respect of their areas of responsibility and interest.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr McDonald advised that Ian McFadden, Chair of Scottish Pelagic Processors Association has retired and he will no longer be attending future NESFDP meetings. Mr Michael Clark would be representing the association in future. The Group agreed a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr McFadden for his excellent contribution to NESFDP over the years. No further items were reported.

**Action point 4a: To send a 'Thank you' letter to Mr McFadden.**

**Action point 4b: Presentation from the meeting to be posted on NESFDP webpage and Members to be advised accordingly.**

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **agreed** that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018, potentially at Peterhead to enable members to visit the recently opened new fish market.

