

DARD/AFBI Inshore Fisheries Strategy Project Steering Group

Dundonald House Wednesday 07th July 2011

Present: - **Dr Matt Service** **AFBI** (Chair)
 Paddy Campbell **DARD**
 Dr Carrie McMinn **AFBI**
 Dr Lynn Gilmore **Seafish**
 Dick James **NIFPO**
 Ben Diamond **Marine Task Force**
 Myrtle Ferguson **DARD**

Welcome and Background

Matt Service welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the group

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising

- Irish Skipper – Dick James confirmed that this had been done;
- Press Release – Carrie McMinn had drafted this and it was ready for issue;
- CNCC Representation – Matt Service will write to the organisation inviting them to appoint someone to join the Steering Group;
- Brown Crab Meeting – This had taken place. Carrie McMinn had attended;
- Stake Holders meetings - Plans for these were ongoing;
- Web Site – This is in the preliminary stages. Content will be circulated to the Steering Group before publication.

Project Initiation Document (PID)

The document had been circulated to the group in advance of the meeting. Matt Service asked for comments.

Dick James thought it was quite science orientated with not enough on development. It was possibly better to identify the important sectors then develop the science.

Paddy Campbell agreed and thought it needed more flesh on the strategy eg what pressures are on inshore fleet, what needs addressed, what are the priority areas for development, management structures required etc, perhaps looking at fisheries elsewhere.

Ben Diamond commented that there was no mention of sustainable needs. He felt it strategy must focus on sustainable fisheries.

Lynn Gilmore felt that if there was something more on marketing and developing sustainable and profitable markets this could be a carrot for the industry to move this way.

Discussion continued with Ben Diamond asking if the project could look at which fisheries were compatible with sustainable development.

Paddy asked if the PID could say more about the socio - economic issues. Carrie McMinn agreed that these will be taken into account as work was being done by the AFBI economists which included sea angling.

Paddy also asked if, along with the potential for new fisheries the limitations could also be shown to give a direction about what is feasible and what is not. This would then show what fisheries we can focus on.

Paddy asked if the project team could be more specific on the dates of milestones.

It was agreed that Carrie McMinn would redraft the PID in line with these comments.

Way Forward and Stakeholder Engagement

Matt Service said that the plan for the next few months is to develop the strategy through stakeholder engagement.

Lynn Gilmore suggested it was better to engage with stakeholders at industry meetings. Groups representing North Down and South Down fishermen were being formed and these would facilitate communication.

It is also important to speak to whelk processors. The big problem with intertidal fisheries is that organised gangs are used to pick and it is very difficult to engage with them. This should be highlighted in the strategy.

Sea angling groups are also a problem to meet with. A suggestion that contact with charter boat owners would be a way would be followed up. Carrie's suggestion that the "Holiday Show" in Belfast may be a contact for sea anglers would be followed up by her. Paddy Campbell informed the group that the MMO were also doing a survey on the impact of sea angling on cod stocks and other quota species as required under the control regulation. If impacts are significant this may lead to greater regulation of charter boat based sea anglers.

Matt Service said that Carrie could also attend meetings of the Marine Task Force groups but Ben Diamond thought a small briefing document, which he would circulate, would suffice.

Matt still thought it important that the project should be discussed at these groups and Ben said that he would put it to the groups that Carrie should meet with them and report back.

AOB

Paying for observers on boats – This was not something Dick James had come across. Lynn Gilmore suggested putting a call out for charter boats and their rates.

Dick James flagged up that the V notching scheme carried out by North East Coast Lobster Fishermen's Co-Operative (NELCO) and QUB as very successful and it would be good if the North Coast Lobster Fishermen could agree to it also.

Matt advised that there was money in the project for tagging etc. Dick James and Lynn Gilmore both asked if feedback could be sent to the individuals who had participated. This would allow them to see the benefits of the scheme. Dick James suggested possibly putting an article into the Irish Skipper on the subject.

Actions

- **Carrie McMinn to redraft PID;**
- **Ben Diamond to either arrange for Carrie to visit Marine Task Force Groups or circulate briefing document.**

Date of next meeting

Thursday 6th October at 10.00am in New Forge.