

Cross Party Group on Fishing – Minutes of Inaugural Meeting

Introduction. On the initiative of Stewart Stevenson MSP, a cross party group (CPG) on fishing had been proposed, with Stewart and Tavish Scott MSP offering to co-convene. On request, the Scottish Fishermen's Federation had agreed to assist with the inaugural meeting and to offer their services as the secretariat. The initial meeting of the CPG was held on the evening of Tuesday 7th February in the Scottish Parliament. A wide selection of stakeholders had been invited and response was very encouraging: 39 people, listed at Annex, attended the first meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting

Agenda. The principal business of the inaugural meeting was to elect office bearers and secretary and to agree the purpose of the group.

An agenda had been circulated with invitations. After round-the-table introductions, a summary of the structure and process of CPGs was provided **by Messrs Stevenson and Scott, who were duly elected unanimously as co-conveners.**

There was a lively discussion on the provision of **secretariat services for the group.** The meeting gave its assent to the SFF acting initially as secretariat and it was agreed that since arrangements for such services were in the hands of the group they could be changed at any time the group so decided.

The CPG purpose was then addressed and after some more energetic debate approved as: ***“To inform Parliament on matters of wild capture fishing and to provide a forum for exploration of policy, regulation and any other issues as decided by members.”***

Some suggestions had been made on the agenda as to items that future meetings might consider. The matter was opened to the floor and there was again an active debate. The possibility of themes was discussed, perhaps under the headings: environment; inshore; wild capture; seafood processing. Recognising the importance of the economics of fishing, suggestions were made both by industry and academic stakeholders on looking at the relationship between socio-economic and environmental considerations. Further suggestions included: a briefing on the fishing opportunity cycle including scientific advice; trust building between sectors; revision of the Inshore Act; a vision for Scottish fishing post Brexit, and of course Brexit itself.

Allotted time for the meeting was fully utilised and members were reminded by the Conveners that 90 minutes was the usual span.

The co-Conveners thanked participants for their attendance and contributions stimulating debate. **It was agreed that the next meeting be held on a date to be decided in May or June and at the suggestion of the Conveners, the first meeting should address broad themes around Brexit.**

CPG Secretariat

February 2017

**CPG Inaugural Meeting
7 February 2017**

Attendee List

1. Stewart Stevenson, MSP
2. Tavish Scott, MSP
3. Ross Thomson, MSP
4. Finlay Carson, MSP
5. Peter Chapman, MSP
6. Gail Ross, MSP
7. Joan McAlpine, MSP
8. Maree Todd, MSP
9. Kate Forbes, MSP
10. Rhoda Grant, MSP
11. Sandra White, MSP
12. Michael Bates, Development Officer, Scottish Seafood Association
13. Jimmy Buchan, Business Manager, Scottish Seafood Association
14. Guy Grieve, Director of Ethical Shellfish and Co-Chair of Scottish Scallop Divers Association
15. Alistair Sinclair, Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation
16. Robert Younger, Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation
17. John Anderson, CEO, Scottish Fisherman's Organisation
18. Professor Michael Heath, Strathclyde University - Science
19. David Bailey, Glasgow University - Science
20. Kevin McDonnell, WSFPO Ltd
21. Alex Watson Crook, Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust
22. Charles Millar, Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust
23. James Mackenzie, Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust
24. Robin Parker, WWF Scotland
25. Alasdair Hughson, Keltic Seafare (Scotland) Ltd
26. Dr Sally Campbell, Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation
27. Howard Wood, Chair, Community of Arran Seabed Trust
28. James Cook, DR Collins
29. Elaine Whyte, Clyde Fish
30. Kenny McNab, Clyde Fish
31. Helen McLachlan, WWF
32. Michael Park, SWPPA
33. Alex Kinnimouth, RSPB Scotland
34. John Campbell, SCFF Environmental Adviser
35. Nick Underdown, Openseas
36. Ian Gatt, Scottish Fishermen's Federation
37. Bertie Armstrong, Scottish Fishermen's Federation
38. Kenny Coull, Scottish Fishermen's Federation
39. Malcolm Morrison, Scottish Fishermen's Federation