



N.E. Scotland Fisheries
LocalActionGroup



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**APPROVED MINUTE OF NESFLAG MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 01 MARCH 2017 AT 2.00 PM
THE CHAMBER, BUCHAN HOUSE, PETERHEAD**

Present

Jimmy Buchan (Chair)	Amity Fish Co Limited (private)
Robin Maddock	Banffshire Partnership Ltd (private)
Iain Maddox	North East Coast Region Inshore Fisheries Group (priv)
Andrew Newton	Kincardineshire Development Partnership (private)
Jo Robinson	Visit Scotland (public)
Capt. Tom Hutchison	Montrose Port Authority (public)
Darren Broadley	Peter & J Johnstone Ltd (private)
Mark Cessford	Rix Shipping (Scotland) Ltd (private)
Jamie Bell	Scottish Enterprise (public)
Derek McDonald	Aberdeenshire Council (public)
Ian Watson	Fraserburgh Development Trust (private)
Bruce Fleming	Angus Council (public)

Officers in Attendance

Martin Brebner	Team Manager - European Policies & Programmes
Jamie Wilkinson	European Programmes Co-ordinator
June Jaffrey	European Programmes Claims Officer

Guest

Clare Dean	Seafood Scotland
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Observer

Rebecca Ross	Banffshire Partnership Ltd (private)
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Apologies

Roger Goodyear	Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership (private)
Anne Birnie	North East Scotland Fishermen's Organisation (private)
Shelley Hague	Angus Council (public)
Linda Hope	Scottish Maritime College (public)
Nik Scott-Gray	Montrose Port Authority (public)
David-John McRobbie	Aberdeen Fish Producers Organisation (private)
James Bream	Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (private)
Andy Willox	Federation of Small Businesses (private)

1. Welcome & Apologies

1.1 Jimmy Buchan welcomed those present.

1.2 Apologies were noted as above.

1.3 With 7 private and 5 public member organisations in attendance, it was noted that quorum was reached.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Ian Maddox declared an interest for noting in an EOI from a member of Moray Firth Inshore Fishermen's Association.

3. Minute of Meeting 14th December 2016 and update on action points

3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted.

3.2 Actions from the Last Meeting

3.2.1 A draft communication plan has been drafted and will be circulated for FLAG comment. The Co-ordinator will meet with Aberdeenshire Council Marketing colleagues shortly for additional information and guidance prior to circulating.

3.2.2 A press release was issued before Christmas; which was well received and picked up by some publications local and national publications.

3.2.3 The Co-ordinator will meet with Donna Speed, Funding Officer for Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action to discuss funding and Match Funding opportunities for potential applicants.

3.2.4 Clarification was received on the AFPO and Don Fishing Company NESFLAG membership. Martin Brebner advised that the Don Fishing Company is a member of the AFPO and therefore sits on the FLAG as AFPO representative.

3.2.5 An issue with attendance and representation will see a letter be issued to MacKay Boatbuilders highlighting their lack of representation at the last four NESFLAG meetings reminding them of their required attendance.

3.2.6 The Co-ordinator spoke to John Howland of the Skin Pack Bulk Fish project application for a status check. John advised that he was grateful for the NESFLAGs verbal support. The company were due to come back with responses to earlier queries regarding testing etc. It was noted that they are awaiting the outcome of applications to other EMFF funds and may withdraw their application should they be successful in securing funding through another EMFF scheme.

Marine Scotland advice is that large scale processing applications go through the main EMFF programme.

The Co-ordinator advised that this project application will remain on the electronic application system meantime should the applicant wish to proceed.

3.2.7 Derek McDonald met with Mark Nicoll of Marine Scotland regarding demarcation between NESFLAG and the main EMFF programme. Derek clarified that there is nothing to suggest applications cannot come forward to NESFLAG for consideration.

3.2.8 **Action:**

- Co-ordinator to write to MacKay Boatbuilders regarding meeting attendance.

4. Clare Dean (Seafood Scotland) – Connect Local

4.1 Clare Dean of Seafood Scotland was invited to give NESFLAG a presentation on Connect Local.

Clare advised that she is the lead regarding the seafood element of the “Connect Local” advisory service (for local food and drink marketing). The group were shown a presentation outlining marketing activities for raising awareness of Scottish Seafood and for developing opportunities for the industry at all level levels.

NESFLAG were pleased to hear there has been significant interest in this scheme from the Seafood sector and that there may be opportunities for future collaborative projects i.e. East of Scotland Seafood project.

Work has been undertaken on one-to-ones for Marketing and Media training and one-to-many engagement will be in the form of small scale workshops.

Clare’s presentation and contact information will be circulated to NESFLAG members.

5. Co-ordinator’s Update

5.1 Update on Activities

The Co-ordinator gave a brief update on activities since the last FLAG meeting.

- FOI – an appeal to the FOI request went to Marine Scotland who agreed with the NESFLAG decision to reject MFIFA membership. The complainant indicated he wishes to pursue the matter further.
- PBP Services – having been approved at the last meeting was with Marine Scotland for a formal decision through their technical check process; concerns were highlighted with State Aid as Marine Scotland felt there were difficulties with the cover, benefit to the fishing industry and level of grant required. Discussions with Marine Scotland

resulted with the zinc spraying of fishing boat hulls and equipment being advised to be exclusively used for fishing business; the applicants confirmed that this would be the case. The project has now been granted Marine Scotland approval.

- The Chair, Co-ordinator and Team Manager met with Marine Scotland colleagues recently to clarify application process, claims process, monitoring requirements and project management post approval etc. The Chair advised that they now have a clearer steer and can give greater clarity to potential applicants on the application process and how this sits within the wider EMFF programme.
- Co-operation projects – 10% of the budget is allocated to co-operation projects. The Co-ordinator advised he is now fully aware and more comfortable with the application process for these. He advised that there were positive discussions with the other FLAGs present. It was advised that a first co-operation project around an East Coast Seafood project may come forward. The scale of the project and outcome of NESFLAG input is yet to be determined.
- Regeneration projects were discussed with Council Officers recently who advised that there is cross-over in the regeneration and NESFLAG strategies and that they have substantial budgets which could be matched with NESFLAG funding; this may see an Aberdeenshire Harbours project come forward in the next round.
- An Estonian FLAG is to visit Scotland in May and will be in Aberdeenshire visiting Skipper Expro. The Co-ordinator has been asked to draft a ½ day itinerary for the visiting group – he asked NESFLAG for any suggestions on projects that the visitors may like to visit. Ian Maddox suggested that inshore fishery associations be approached to encourage a collaborative day.
- The Co-ordinator has been invited to a FARNET event in Latvia in March 2017, where he will present a workshop on social inclusion of migrants in Aberdeenshire.
- A “Ways of Working” event – held recently in Stonehaven was attended by the Co-ordinator and generated interest which may bring projects applications forward from South Aberdeenshire.
- SIS event – an event will be held by Social Investment Scotland in Laurencekirk in Mid-March 2017; NESFLAG members are requested to circulate this to their networks.
- Round dead-line – The Co-ordinator advised that the next round closing date is 14 April 2017. The co-ordinator will be looking to work up the applications with potentially eight projects looking to come forward in that round.

5.2 Approved projects update

NESFLAG were advised that the two approved projects have begun project activity, although some unexpected works have caused some delays.

- Peterhead Port Authority’s supplier has commenced production and they will take delivery at the end of the month.

- Buchanhaven have submitted a claim which the co-ordinator has been advised is currently in the queue for payment by Marine Scotland, who advise they have a six-week turnaround for payment of claims.

5.3 Expression of Interests Received

The EOI list was circulated to the group. The Co-ordinator advised that two EOIs have been received since the last meeting – unfortunately this does not reflect the volume of on-going work undertaken by the Co-ordinator with other potential projects. The group would like to see approved projects removed from the EOI list to save confusion.

- The position of the Peterhead Prison EOI was advised; the EOI went no further as the applicants did not wish to engage further.
- Aberdeenshire Council small scale harbour EOIs could be scaled up into larger projects. The Co-ordinator is meeting with the applicants shortly and will raise this suggestion.
- NESFLAG members would find it useful for a column to be added to the EOI table identifying the potential for projects to be delivered.

Actions:

- Remove approved projects from the EOI list.
- Add a column to the EOI database to identify projects deliverability.

5.4 FLAG Membership Update

It was confirmed that Michael Bates is no longer Development Officer with SSA therefore no longer a NESFLAG member. Jimmy Buchan advised that although he himself has joined SSA he will not represent SSA on NESFLAG but will continue to represent Amity Fish Co. An appointment is sought from SSA for a representative; the Chair will write to the organisation.

Action:

- Chair to write to SSA members requesting NESFLAG representation.

6. Election of Vice-Chair

6.1 Michael Bates (Scottish Seafood Association) has resigned from the position of Vice-Chair thus leaving the position vacant.

NESFLAG members were invited to nominate themselves or other NESFLAG member for the position of Vice-Chair. Derek McDonald and David John McRobbie were both nominated for the position; the Chair took that view that enough NESFLAG members were in attendance to make a reasoned vote.

NESFLAG agreed to:

- Approve Derek McDonald, Aberdeenshire Council, as NESFLAG Vice-Chair. Proposed by Iain Maddox and seconded by Mark Cessford with unanimous agreement from the group who felt that Public Vice-Chair representation would be fitting.

7. Mark Nicoll – Marine Scotland

- 7.1 Mark was unable to attend today's meeting due to changes in his work scope. The Chair advised that on meeting with Marine Scotland he better understood the position of NESFLAG and Marine Scotland in the wider EMFF programme sense. NESFLAG are to fund projects i.e. feasibility studies that would look to add value to bigger projects which in turn would be supported through the wider EMFF programme. Small scale or local projects would still be achievable through NESFLAG funding i.e. pilot projects which would have wider benefits or capital projects.

The Co-ordinator will draft a summary report on case studies from project information on the FARNET website and will discuss with the Estonian FLAG projects that they have funded.

Action:

- Co-ordinator to draft a summary report on project case studies.

8. Discussion on stimulating projects

- 8.1 The Co-ordinator advised that commissioned projects can now be considered but highlighted that uncertainties remain on how these will be managed i.e. a FLAG organisation would have to run the project (as a legal organisation has to submit the application). It was noted that greater scrutiny from Marine Scotland is placed on commissioned projects.

At the next meeting commissioned projects will be an agenda item for further discussion.

9. AOCB

- 9.1 Andrew Newton sought an update on the request to Marine Scotland to expand NESFLAGs areas of interest e.g. tourism. Martin Brebner advised that due to internal procedural issues whereby changing strategies has to be by way of approval from the two Local Action Groups; North have approved the change but South have not been able to meet quorate neither by written procedure or physical meeting. Until South LAG have quorate and have approved the changes the request cannot be submitted to Marine Scotland.

- 9.2 Angus FLAG invited NESFLAG to join them at an event at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh; which was attended by members of the Scottish Parliament to publicise and promote the work of the programme. Evaluation studies from the previous EMFF funding programme were issued. It was generally felt that good discussions were had with MSPs but no tangible information was offered on any future plans.

The group wish to invite Mark Nicoll to the next NESFLAG meeting.

Action:

- Invite Mark Nicoll of Marine Scotland to the next NESFLAG meeting.

10. Date of Next NESFLAG Meeting

- 10.1 The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 28 June 2017, venue TBC.
- 10.2 Capt. Tom Hutchison proposed we meet in the Board Room at Montrose Harbour – this will be considered.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBLE
Letter to be issued to MacKay Boatbuilders regarding meeting attendance.	JW
Remove approved projects from the EOI list.	JW
Write to SSA members requesting NESFLAG representation.	Chair
Summary report on project case studies to be drafted.	JW
Add a column to database to identify a projects deliverability.	JW
Invite Mark Nicoll to next meeting.	JW

Minute Taker – June Jaffrey, European Claims Officer
07/03/17

APPROVED