

## Minutes

### RAFTS/ASFB Joint Working Group

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting: ASFB/RAFTS Office, Edinburgh

10 June 2015

#### Present:

Alasdair Laing  
Andrew Wallace, Chair  
Brian Davidson  
Jamie Ribbens  
Craig MacIntyre  
Nick Yonge  
Simon McKelvey  
Roger Knight  
Mark Bilsby  
Alison Baker  
Jim Henderson  
Giles Curtis  
Anson MacAuslan

#### Apologies:

Chris Horrill

#### 1. Minutes of last meeting

**FMO structures/functions** – It was agreed to amend the wording relating to finance required to operate an FMO, acknowledging that this would be variable, depending on local needs and priorities. **ACTION: BD**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2015 were agreed.

#### 2. Matters Arising

- i) **Proprietors' representation on Scottish Government Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG)** - It was agreed that ASFB will contact Boards to raise the matter of fishery proprietor representation on the SRG, with a view to seeking interest for a representative. **ACTION: AL/BD**

- ii) **SFCC** – Simon McKelvey is in discussion with Sean Dugan about future alignment of SFCC activity and where it might ‘sit’ in any future framework – this is also linked to the role of IFM and its activity in relation to training/CPD provision. SMcK will report back.  
**ACTION: SMcK**

### **3. Licensed killing of salmon – Verbal update / discussion**

There was no further discussion on this proposal – details are awaited on implementation.

### **4. Update on progress with WFR**

#### **i) Consultation response – co-ordination and update**

BD explained the rationale for the scoping document. This was felt to be helpful in starting to process a central view. Comments on the key questions are being sought, and this will help identify priority areas from a member’s perspective. The JWG will also inform the process in view of its work streams – much of the JWG input will focus on technical and practical matters to provide a good base of information from which members can work. A draft response will be built on members views, informed by the work of the JWG, for approval by ASFB/RAFTS management boards and circulation to the membership.

#### **ii) Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) – Update MB**

There was little of a substantive nature to report from the last SRG meeting. Representation of views is a challenge – this is made difficult by time constraints and lack of feedback and input from the constituents represented by each SRG member. The importance of sufficient time being given for members to prepare information in response to Scottish Government requests was emphasised.

### **Report on work streams**

#### **iii) Geographical issues**

AB displayed some indicative maps showing some theoretical permutations for local/regional breakdowns for possible FMO areas. It was acknowledged that significant modification to and rationalisation of the current trust structure was envisaged by the WFR panel. The group discussed whether it was worth considering whether 26 (ie the current trust structure) should stay within the range of options. The consensus of the Group was to continue to examine options up to 20 but that the map of the current Trust structure would continue to be referred to and used in discussions with members and Government.

The following points were raised/agreed:

- The 11 AAG boundaries should be taken into consideration.

- It was agreed that there was recognition that future areas would have to consider how best to balance affordability, practicality and local relationships with a strong emphasis on creating areas which would retain the volunteer effort and involvement so vital to the success of management bodies. The group agreed that it needed to consider challenging current preconceptions, possibly with some radical thinking such as using geographic alliances, rather than redistribution of funds, to provide a better solution to address funding and capacity issues. An example of this would be to ally east and west to help build capacity in less well-resourced trusts.
- It was agreed to present the options presented at the JWG meeting to the members' meeting on the 16 June. These would be presented not as hard and fast ideas but ideas to promote discussion. It was agreed that, after a discussion with the membership (assuming that the idea was well received), RAFTS and ASFB should consider how best to help facilitate discussions with the membership on this difficult issue.

#### iv) FMOs – constitutional issues

It was generally accepted that the list of tasks for future management requirements was now becoming clearer and that it would be logical that form should follow function. It was also agreed that options for the sort of vehicle for delivery of these functions should be considered. Legal advice is now being commissioned on what sort of vehicles might best deliver local management. The group also agreed that further information on SCIOs - as a possible vehicle – should be sought, given the reference to them in the WFR report. It was agreed to seek further information from our legal advisors. **ACTION: AWA/AL**

## 5. Communications

The Group recognised that various communications on the WFR, and the work of the JWG, were becoming more systematic, but that they appeared to be not always being picked up by the membership. It was agreed to continue to push communications hard on the WFR/JWG, and this message would be underlined at the members meeting on the 16 June. It was agreed to use the following means:

- JWG Website – update with minutes (ensure quicker turnaround of minutes/reporting)
- Monthly reporting via joint news update
- Members meetings
- Fortnightly bulletin
- Email updates as required and as interim measures

## 6. Scottish Government (SG)

Welcome and introductions were made to Alan Wells, Carole Barker-Munro and Andrew Henderson (AH would be replacing CBM). AWA provided background on the role of the JWG. The following update was provided from SG on the reform process:

- **Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG)** – Still at an early stage, and has met twice. The group will help SG work closely in partnership with the wild fisheries sector in developing the reform proposals, and for managing the transition process. SG fully recognise the uncertainty caused by the reform process. SG want to engage closely and discuss the issues. It was emphasised that the process is about principles for management at this stage, and not about detail. Further consultation on detail will begin in 2016. CBM explained that the work of the SRG will start to accelerate. It is important to build up the confidence of the group. The SRG will exist throughout the bill process until passed. It was explained that it has no decision making authority but allows testing of ideas, discussion demonstrates to Ministers one of a number of levels of engagement with the sector.
- **Draft bill** – a timeline for a draft bill and subsequent implementation will be produced. The aim of a draft bill will be to provide an impression of how legislation might look – it does not go to Parliament. It will provide a real understanding of potential legal clauses so that practical and legal issues can be examined in detail.
- **Timeline** – there will be further consultation in New Year 2016 - possible bill lodged in Parliament in autumn 2016. The process for Tweed will be managed through the Scotland Act.
- **Drop in meetings** – A series of 9 local drop in meetings will be announced shortly to allow an opportunity to ask questions on the process.

AWA thanked SG for providing an update. In relation to the form and function of FMOs, it was hoped that ideas generated by the JWG and ASFB & RAFTS members could be discussed with SG – this was agreed as sensible. It was recognised that geographical boundaries and numbers should be driven by capacity, funding and other factors, and CBM advised that Ministers have not considered this – CBM underlined the importance of considering the key criteria to support an optimal number. It was agreed that subject to agreement at the members' meeting a close working relationship with Government officials on matters of detail would be valuable for all parties.

## 7. Any other business

None.

## 8. Date of next meeting

1 July, Pitlochry (venue tbc)