

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN)

19th January 2021

Zoom Virtual Meeting c/o Dorset Coast Forum

Present

Carly Daniels	University of Exeter
Chris Lyons	Innovate UK
Connor Conneely	Torbay Development Agency
Douglas Allen	Great British Prawns
Emma Sheehan	University of Plymouth
Frank Roberts	University of Plymouth
Gary Wordsworth	Othniel Oysters
Helen Sweeney	Innovate UK
Howard Gunstock	Carbon Kapture
Huw Thomas	Cornish Shellfish
Jayne Codling	Innovate UK EDGE/Business West
Joanna Rufus	Dorset Council
Kasi McReddie	Agri-Epi Centre – Livestock and Aquaculture
Keith Jeffery	Cefas
Kevin Brooks	Dorset LEP/Brooks Kebbey/SetSquared
Kimberly Cullen	Seafish
Lawrence Brown	DIT HQ AgriTech
Lee Cocker	Seafish
Lisa Bickley	University of Exeter
Lucy Mather	KTN
Martin Sutcliffe	Dorset Coast Forum
Martin Syvret	Aqua Fish Solutions
Neil Auchterlonie	Seafood 2040, Chair
Nick Field	DIT International Trade Advisor
Nicola Rogers	University of Exeter
Oliver Robinson	British Trout
Peter Miller	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Richard Prickett	Dorset Cleaner Fish/Jurassic Sea Farms
Rob Emony	DIT Investment Services Team
Ross Brown	University of Exeter
Ryan Mowat	RS Aqua
Sheldon Ryan	Maritime UK South West
Tim Messeder	KTN
Tom Birbeck	ARC Marine
Brett Trafford	Fawley Waterside
Phoebe Chadwick	RS Aqua

Apologies

Clare Embling	University of Plymouth
Jason Buck	Torbay Development Agency
Ian Jones	Bournemouth University
John Holmyard	Offshore Shellfish
Luke Rake	Kingston Maurward College
Oliver Symons	Kingston Maurward College
Pia Bateman	Southern Ifca
Rhiannon Jones	Dorset Coast Forum
Thecla Keizer	Plymouth Marine Laboratory

1) Welcome, housekeeping and apologies, Last meeting's minutes – Martin Sutcliffe, Aquaculture Development Officer, SWAN Chair, Dorset Coast Forum

- MS welcomed all to the meeting. Current membership stands at 95 in a little over 12 months of activity.
- Apologies noted.
- One outstanding ACTION from the last meeting in that SWAN is requested to put forward projects requiring funding in order that they be aligned with MUKSW. This is a challenge however with the SWAN network being relatively young. SWAN members are seen to be working across the different sectors groups in the South West the opportunities for investment will be highlighted and noted to be put forward to the new national funding scheme to be announced by MMO.

2) SWAN Chair and Secretariat – Sheldon Ryan, Co-ordinator, MUKSW

- SR took the chair to discuss the roles of SWAN Chair and Secretariat. As with other MUKSW leadership groups the intention was for Chair and Secretariat to fulfil a term of office for 12 months. The current term has come to an end and therefore the Chair and Secretariat are offered for new appointments should any be forthcoming. MUKSW would like to see a good geographical representation as both roles currently performed from a Dorset base.
- Volunteers requested at the last meeting. None received. SR therefore understands MS and JR are happy to continue for a further 12 months.
- JR stated that although MS and herself both from Dorset they are both involved in cross key sector groups across the wider South West, such as South West AgriTech.

Elected Chair until February 2022 – Martin Sutcliffe

Proposer – Lee Cocker

Secunder – Ryan Mowat

Elected to provide Secretariat until February 2022 – Joanna Rufus

Proposer – Keith Jeffery

Secunder – Oliver Robinson

- MS stated he was pleased to see the progress of SWAN as a working group and the network has the potential to:

- Aid and grow a high profile for sustainable aquaculture in the Great South West
- Potential to increase investment in the sector
- Be a useful tool for information sharing

MS added that SWAN sits within the region's three LEPs' strategic development and contributes to their Local Industrial Strategies.

MS thanked SWAN on behalf of himself and JC for continued support and re-election to Chair and Secretariat.

3) SWAN One Year On – Sheldon Ryan, Co-ordinator, MUKSW, Martin Sutcliffe, Joanna Rufus, SWAN Secretariat, Dorset Council

SWAN is now officially 12 months old and a network membership of over 95 ranging across government, academia, research and development, regulatory, marine and maritime and the aquaculture industry.

SWAN Timeline

- **August 2018** - Dorset LEP, a member of the South Coast Marine Cluster (SCMC) awarded a Department for International Trade High Potential Opportunity (HPO) (Round 1) for Sustainable Aquaculture.
- **August 2018** Heart of the South West LEP awarded a Department for International Trade High Potential Opportunity (Round 1) in for Photonics and Microelectronics. These two HPOs are complementary to each other.
- Soft launch of Dorset HPO in **February 2019** at KMC – South West stakeholders invited to attend which was the first time that members of the Dorset cluster attended in person. Sheldon Ryan increasingly approached re aquaculture at networking events.
- **May 2019** - Dorset LEP Annual Conference, Bournemouth University - Dorset's HPO for Sustainable Aquaculture official launch
- **August 2019** - Joanna Rufus presented Dorset's HPO to SCMC (now MUKSW) working group
- **5th September 2019** - Sheldon Ryan and Joanna Rufus hosted a meeting at Cefas, to introduce Dorset's HPO to various representatives of the sector from across R&D, academia, industry, regulatory, LEP and public sector. There was much criticism from industry and academia that the sector in the SW had received very little support, if any, over the last decade, and how would the HPO hope to improve this. **NB** First mention of a centre of excellence to be based in the SW.
- **6th September 2019** - Dorset's first One Health conference held Kingston Maurward College
- **10th December 2019** - First meeting SWAN held at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, chaired by Sheldon Ryan, despite initial scepticism from stakeholders, decision made to continue to support SWAN and endeavour to meet quarterly.
- **31st January 2020** - Launch of Maritime UK South West
- **19th February 2020** - Second meeting SWAN held at Kingston Maurward College, chaired by Kevin Forshaw. Martin Sutcliffe – Chair, Joanna Rufus – Secretariat elected for 12 months
- **4th March 2020** - Aquaculture Expo presented by Dorset LEP and held at KMC
- **21st July 2020** - Third meeting SWAN – virtual
- **20th October 2020** - Fourth meeting SWAN – virtual
- **19th January 2021** - Fifth meeting SWAN – virtual

- **25th March 2021** - One Health virtual conference to be presented by Dorset LEP
- **20th April 2021** - Sixth meeting SWAN - virtual

MS stated the important of “shining a spotlight” upon the South West and the gains to be made from potential government funding to be announced shortly.

SR stated the obvious potential of the cluster promoting offshore wind, marine autonomy/geospatial data and ocean technology/aquaculture within MUKSW and the collaboration of government/LEPs/local government/industry.

4) Maritime UK South West Update – Sheldon Ryan

- MUKSW is part of the national cluster Maritime UK <https://www.maritimeuk.org/> the collective voice for the UK’s maritime industries.
- Close collaboration with government predominantly with Department for Transport but others such as Department for International Trade together with LEPs, local government.
- Highlight key sector cross working e.g. G7 to be held in Cornwall June 2021. Presents an excellent opportunity to profile the region “raise the flag” and exhibit key sectors of offshore renewable energy and seafood.

Action: JR to email SWAN to gather potential interest from those seafood producers who would like their produce to be placed before G7 Summit Leaders. JR to liaise with SR.

- MUSWK provides access to best practise and aids strategic development with a focus on:
 - Offshore wind renewable energy
 - Marine autonomy/geospatial data
 - Ocean technology/aquaculture

MUKSW Board

- Annual plan in review – aims and objectives for a 12 month period.
- Stakeholders are kept informed via social media, e-newsletter – sign up via MUKSW website
- Presence at external events e.g. London Shipping Week

2050 Maritime Innovation Strategy based on research, ocean technology

- Presents opportunities to leverage funding.

Current bids

- Marine Autonomy (DIT High Potential Opportunity Round 2)
- Smart Ports
- Low carbon
- £64m Strength in Places Fund with a focus on floating offshore wind renewable energy (Celtic Sea)
- Special Interest Group – low carbon propulsion (DfT)
- December 2020 – presented to a net zero ministerial event across all four pillars of work
- Network/business development with MARI UK
- Project Tiger

- Currently working up a strategy to deliver a programme of careers events which will include the aquaculture sub sector.
- Middle East investment opportunity re increased food security.

Further MUKSW sponsorship opportunities will be made available shortly.

5) Realtime Environmental Monitoring for Aquaculture – Ryan Mowat, Director of Fisheries and Research, RS Aqua and Phoebe Chadwick, Marine Scientist

Presentation circulated. *Please do not share any content without permission from Ryan Mowat.*

Ryan is a marine scientist and leads on RS Aqua’s aquaculture, wild fisheries and ecological research work. Most of his work involves using underwater acoustics to track animals and monitor the environment.

Phoebe is also a marine scientist at RS Aqua, and she’s been with the company for just under a year. She currently works with Ryan on aquaculture, fish tracking, and passive acoustic monitoring research work.

- RM stated that there are some advantages to working in the virtual arena.
- With bases both in Ireland and the UK RS Aqua monitors the aquaculture environment. The largest supplier of marine science technology.
- Specific companies working in specific sectors of marine require different aspects of marine science from aquaculture to offshore energy, oceanography, oil & gas sector.
- RS Aqua produces sensors to monitor both wave and tidal movement. Expansion to acoustics working in both aquaculture and wild fish and marine mammal environments.
- The largest supplier of marine technology in their field continually working to improve their technology and manufacturing and developing their own solutions e.g. fish tracking.

Support a variety of sectors:

- Aquatic animal monitoring
- Aquaculture
- Marine Science
- Freshwater Science
- Survey
- Offshore Energy
- Autonomy and robotics
- Defence and Surveillance
- Maritime and ports

Question from Tom Birbeck, ARC Marine

- ***Would be grateful to know if Seamor ROVs available to purchase and at what price.***
 - *RM stated selling only at present but would envisage leasing becoming available in the foreseeable future. Contract yet to be firmed up with Seamor.*

Action: RM to follow up with TB.

Question from Joanna Rufus, Dorset Council

- **Was RM aware of the ROV technology designed and manufactured for Global Marine Systems and used within their offshore wind renewable energy contracts. JR able to introduce RM to Global Marine Systems, main operational base Portland Port.**
 - *RM - thought the translation of technology substantially different for the use in aquaculture. Supporting the development of the aquaculture sector within the South West seen to be fundamental different in the use of technology. RS Aqua is currently working with Jurassic Sea Farms at Portland Harbour. However, he stated that the client has a clear intention of measurement process.*

Action: JR to follow up with RM

Question from Martin Sutcliffe, Dorset Coast Forum, SWAN Chair

- **How does sensor technology previously used for salmon farms work in relation to the shellfish and seaweed industry as power could be an issue at remote sites without feed barges as a base?**
 - *RM - Working with Jurassic Sea Farms and illustrate translation. Very keen to see this technology translated across to South West aquaculture. Batteries are not large and can be contained within a buoy, trickle fed from solar power.*

Question from Jayne Codling, Innovate UK EDGE

- **JC volunteered to introduce RM to her South East England colleague.**
 - *RM stated no existing relationship with former EEN. JC links to Canada where RS Aqua has won a recent bid.*

Action: JC to follow up with RM

6) Seafood 2040 update – Neil Auchterlonie, Chair, Seafood 2040

Presentation circulated.

- Post release of The English Aquaculture Strategy 2020 and Seafood 2040 which unusually provides a full supply chain overview. Aquaculture – processing – retail – consumer.
- Seafood 2040 originally funded to Feb 2021. Low cost extension with match from Seafish. Facilitated by Seafish.
- EMFF successor, Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS) application submitted for a further 12 months interim funding.
- The strategy is very low in terms of resource to draw upon. Seafood 2040 secretariat just one full time Kimberley Cullen, Neil part-time.
- Thank you to Tim Huntingdon, Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management for his excellent work.

Press release via Seafish on publication of the strategy has drawn some media interest to date together with a positive response from many stakeholders.

Relevance to SWAN

- Gain feedback and comments of mutual interest
- Regional development within EAS
- Opportunities for project funding and therefore align with mutual interests and delivery
- Avoid duplication of effort
- Disparate funding opportunities
- Keep strategic working overlapping on key messaging

MS stated Dorset very pleased with the mention in EAS and confirmed that Tim Huntingdon had held sessions with various South West stakeholders.

7) Agri-EPI – Enabling R&D in Aqua-Tech – Kasi McReddie, Business Development Manager – Livestock and Aquaculture, Agri-EPI Centre

Presentation circulated.

About Agri-EPI

Agri-EPI is one of four UK Government centres of agricultural excellence. Agri-EPI focus on the delivery of research and development, demonstration and training of precision agriculture and engineering for the livestock, arable, horticulture and aquaculture sectors. Agri-EPI provides technical expertise, business support, project management and access to world-class research and innovation facilities and research assets, and builds links between research, agri-tech innovation, industry and the value chain, through its membership of >150 companies across agriculture, technology and the value chain.

Kasi McReddie has held the role of Business Development Manager for Livestock & Aquaculture for the Agri-EPI Centre since January 2020, having spent previous years working in the Business Development team for the Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock. Additionally, Kasi leads on identifying and managing key relationships within Agri-EPI's membership base and the wider livestock & aquaculture industries and find funding for a pipeline of innovative projects.

The other 3 centres are:

- CIEL – Centre for Innovation and Excellence in Livestock
- CHAP – Crop Health and Protection
- Agrimetrics - enables food and farming organisations to find, manage and monetise agricultural data.

Aquaculture Genetics Research Facility

- Roslin is hosting their research into aquatic genetics with BBSRC. Roslin a brand-new r&d centre.
- Gene editing.
- Freshwater research into the early life of farmed fish including some tropical varieties.
- Hatchery to grow out facilities and a disease challenge room.
- Provides in depth research with a commercial relevance e.g. feed trials to lead to industry technology developments.
- AgriEpi is granted funded and therefore fully funded partner and able to draw down 100% funding.

Questions from Lee Cocker, Seafish

- How much interaction is there with the Scottish Innovation Centre?
 - Yes, there are development opportunities.
- What is the relationship between AgriEPI and SAIC?
 - Can contact through AgriEpi and flexibility to sharing expertise.
- Would the Second aquaculture centre work with more aquaculture sub sectors?
 - It will have more of a marine focus, which could be useful for SWAN.

8) Update – Jayne Codling – Innovate UK EDGE formerly Enterprise Europe Network

Presentation circulated.

Quarterly update, JC introduced her slides

9) Update – Chris Lyons and Helen Sweeney – Innovate UK

Quarterly update.

- CL emphasised the relationship between KTN – iX – Innovation UK EDGE and their work with the 4 AgriTech centres of excellence.
- HS stated that the period of access had been agreed for another 6 years. Access to Euro 95.5Bn with an emphasis on collaboration and cooperation across Europe to be continued.

10) Any other business and next meeting

Events:

- KTN Food Industry Innovation – Food, Nutrition and Health – 3rd and 4th March 2021
[Food Industry Innovation 2021 – Food, Nutrition & Health - KTN \(ktn-uk.org\)](https://www.ktn-uk.org/food-industry-innovation-2021)
- Dorset LEP One Health Conference (virtual) 24th March 2021 – Eventbrite sign up will be circulated to SWAN by JR at the end of January.

ACTION: JR to circulate Dorset LEP One Health conference information when available

Next Meeting: 20 April 2021 – 1300 to 1500 (virtual)