

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN)

Date - 20 July 2021

Time - 13:00 – 15:00

Online via Zoom c/o Dorset Coast Forum

Present

Martin Sutcliffe (Chair)	Dorset Coast Forum
Joanna Rufus (Secretariat)	Dorset Council
Nikki Parker-Goadsby	Dorset Coast Forum
Oliver Robinson	British Trout Association
Ryan Mowat	RS Aqua
Lee Cocker	Seafish
Kimberly Cullen	Seafish
Keith Jeffery	Cefas
Louise Smith	Cefas
Sheldon Ryan	Maritime UK South West
Jayne Codling	Innovate UK EDGE
Chris Lyons	Innovate UK
Helen Sweeney	Horizon Europe National Contact Point Sustainable Agriculture and the Bioeconomy
Anas Sattar	MolEndoTech
Ehren Milner	Bournemouth University
Julian Connor	The Cold Water Salmon Corporation Limited
Junna Strelnikov	The Cold Water Salmon Corporation Limited
Nikki Loubser	The Cold Water Salmon Corporation Limited
Lawrence Brown	CIEL
Rob Bunn	CIEL
Lisa Bickley	University of Exeter
Martin Syvret	Aqua Fish Solutions
Neil Auchterlonie	Seafood 2040, Chair
Peter Miller	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Robert Ellis	University of Exeter
Sharon Jones	BCP Council
Tom Birkbeck	ARC Marine
Howard Gunstock	Carbon Kapture

Apologies

Gary Wordsworth	Othniel Oysters
Lettie Tanner	Carruther Stanner

1) Welcome and housekeeping

Martin Sutcliffe, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Officer, Dorset Coast Forum, SWAN Chair

- MS stated the meeting would be recorded. No objections received.
- MS thanks Dorset Coast Forum for their support in hosting the meeting.

2) Last meeting minutes

Martin Sutcliffe

Actions from previous meeting:

- SWAN collateral – Martin confirmed the collateral was moving forward and awaiting receipt of final permissions.
- SWAN AGM & Conference – Jo confirmed an agenda item to be discussed later; however, the Met Office, Exeter had confirmed their recent Covid-19 risk assessment no longer enabled them to confirm bookings for use of their Collaboration Building for Autumn 2021.
- SWAN LinkedIn – Martin to circulate link.
- ARCHUK – Joanna Gosling requested collaboration and assistance in mapping seaweed clustering in South West. No feedback received as yet. Further evidence required in building the supply chain.

3) Maritime UK South West Update

Sheldon Ryan, Co-ordinator MUKSW

- Parent organisation Maritime UK <https://www.maritimeuk.org/> taking a leading role in innovation within this key sector and liaison with the Department of Transport.
- Maritime UK South West represents the marine and maritime sector in the Great South West geographical area – Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset.
- The focus is to drive forward economic growth within this sector. A vast sector therefore a focus is given to the key subsectors:

- Floating offshore wind energy production
- Marine Autonomy and Geospatial Data
- Blue economy – which includes aquaculture

Ocean Futures

- Leading innovation for MUKSW with key partners: Plymouth City Council, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK Hydrographic Office, Met Office, University of Plymouth, University of Exeter, Marine Biological Association, Princess Yachts and Babcock Defence.
- Submitting a Comprehensive Spending Review bid by November 2021 working around digital ocean, clean maritime, marine autonomy and aquaculture.
- Very important to approach the DfT Minister Robert Courts with one voice. The minister has received face to face meetings over the last six months. He fully understands the fragmented nature of the sector but is seen as a champion for MUKSW.

MarineTech Expo 2021

Two day virtual conference for 2021, 12th and 13th July 2021. A great success.

London International Shipping Week, 13th to 17th September 2021

MUKSW to attend. Government will be in attendance. Audience tends to reach a greater maritime audience than shipping alone.

National Innovation Role

A small amount of funding for promotion which in affect could do with more. Challenge led innovation. Events to be led by Princess Yachts and Workboat Association. £950m per year over a period of 20 years. Liaison with ORE Catapult as the largest users of workboats. Cleaning of ports and harbours. Address common market failures.

ACTION: Sheldon Ryan requested “Assist to curate” a national footprint.

Sea Tech Week, Brest 2022

MUKSW to take a trade delegation. SR to organise stand and design.

ACTION: Contact SR as regards opportunities to attend.

Focus:

- Water Quality
- Invasive species
- Antifouling

Action: Peter Miller asked that this be coordinated with Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

Comment: Ryan Mowat, RS Aqua to take up the opportunity in water quality monitoring. Gave as examples working with Jurassic Sea Farms and particularly interested in contributing to the South West.

Comment: Neil Auchterlonie raised the importance of collaboration in innovation and bringing evidence to the attention of the Minister for Fisheries.

Comment: Lee Cocker stated the importance of highlighting the positive outputs and their effects upon the circular economy. They act as crowd pleasers focusing attention on eco system services and the reduction in carbon food miles.

Comment: Jayne Codling stated the importance of connecting up with supporting agencies eg Innovate UK EDGE.

ACTION: Feedback to Sheldon Ryan from the Steering Group of the 2050 Strategy. Curate an agenda with strict objectives.

4) The Effects of IHN in Denmark and the supply of live trout eggs into the UK

Oliver Robinson, British Trout Association – Presentation available on SWAN website

Comment: Lawrence Brown stated the expertise of the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh within this sector and recommended a discussion to be started asap.

Comment: Keith Jeffery stated collaborative work with the Roslin Institute already established with Cefas.

Comment: Lee Cocker stated the UK seafood sector worth £100m, DEFRA made an announcement that they are working up a package which would require further funding.

Comment: Oliver Robinson stated the hope to work with a collaborate body of Denmark producers in order to establish a breeding unit here in the UK. Would require at least 2 years of preparation and again where would the cashflow be found to fund that production gap. British Trout Association see their role and have the will to drive this forward in order to alleviate the over reliance on imports.

5) Funding and Investment Opportunities Updates

Innovate UK EDGE

Jayne Codling – Presentaion available on SWAN website

Horizon Europe

Helen Sweeney

UK National Contact Point (NCP) – Presentation available on SWAN website from April 2021 meeting

Flagship funding for all sectors, launched June 2021. AgriTech/Aquaculture Cluster 6 First Call closes 6th October 2021.

Comment: Lee Cocker asked if Helen was able to precis the opportunities.

ACTION: Lee and Helen to take offline.

Comment: Chris Lyons stated the importance of seeking opportunities and working with the 5 AgriTech Centres of Excellence.

6) An introduction to CIEL (Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock)

Dr Lawrence Brown, Animal Health and Aquaculture Specialist and **Rob Bunn**, Business Development Manager – Presentation available on SWAN website

Comment: Lee Cocker stated that aquaculture in the UK leads in excellence and should be promoted more.

7) Project REFAS: Reef Enhancement for Aquaculture Sites

Tom Birbeck, ARC Marine – Presentation available on SWAN website

Tom gave an introduction to ARC Marine, it's foundation being carbon neutral marine construction with marine crete and ARC Marine's reef cubes of which Tom has published research papers with results.

Comment: Martin Sutcliffe on preferred use of ties and their make up.

Comment: Ryan Mowat – is there a dominant species around the reef cubes, baseline results for how biodiversity is improved.

Tom stated post survey results to be published Summer 2022.

Comment: Lee Cocker questioned whether a buffer zone around marine cubes, if they presented a border to a respected zone, could be a safe haven, and therefore excluded from fishing. Thereby creating a restricted buffer zone, eg 50m.

Comment: Howard Gunstock to follow up with Tom seaweed variants established on reef cubes.

8) SWAN Conference and date of Next meeting - round table discussion

Jo advised that the Met Office had reviewed their ability to hold conferences this Autumn and could therefore not commit to a booking for Tuesday 26th October. Jo stated that the date and venue required confirmation asap in order to work up a programme, book speakers and seek sponsorship to cover costs.

Two further venues available on the following dates:

- 26th October – Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy.
- 28th October – Kingston Maurward College, nr Dorchester.

Kimberly Cullen then stated that an All Party Parliamentary Group on Aquaculture had confirmed to meet with Seafish on 26th October and as a result key SWAN members would be required to attend.

A poll was swiftly organised by DCF in which the majority of SWAN present voted for 28th October at Kingston Maurward College. Jo confirmed it would be a full day conference 0830 to 1630.

Jo stated she would confirm the date to SWAN asap with details of sponsorship.

ACTION: Jo to distribute confirmation of date and opportunities for sponsorship of the SWAN AGM/Conference.

9) Any other business and meeting close

None.