

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN)

20st October 2020

Zoom Virtual Meeting c/o Dorset Coast Forum

Present

Anna Woodley	Agrimetrics
Ben Gowers	BG Renewables
Ben Ramsden	Digital Catapult
Carly Daniels	University of Exeter
Chris Lyons	Innovate UK
Digby Sowerby	Wessex Internet/5g Rural Dorset
Helen Sweeney	Innovate UK, Horizon 2020 National Contact Point Sustainable Agriculture and the Bioeconomy
Huw Thomas	Cornish Shellfish
James Fox-Davies	360 Aquaculture
Jayne Codling	Europe Enterprise Network/Business West
Joanna Rufus	Dorset Council
Keith Jeffery	Cefas
Kimberly Cullen	Seafish
Lucy Mather	KTN
Martin Sutcliffe (Chair)	Dorset Coast Forum
Martin Syvret	Aqua Fish Solutions
Neil Auchterlonie	Seafish
Peter Miller	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Rhiannon Jones	Dorset Coast Forum
Rob Smith	Lyme Regis Town Council
Ryan Mowat	RS Aqua
	RS Aqua
Sheldon Ryan	Maritime UK South West
Tim Huntington	Consult Poseidon
Tim Messenger	KTN

Apologies

Dougie Allen	Great British Prawns
Richard Prickett	Jurassic Sea Farms
Gary Wordsworth	Othniel Oysters
Hilary Charman	DIT/Business West
Rhodri Baines	Cefas
Pia Bateman	Southern Ifca
Sarah Clark	Devon & Severn Ifca

1) Welcome, housekeeping and apologies, Last meeting's minutes

Martin Sutcliffe, Dorset Coast Forum
martin.k.sutcliffe@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Martin Sutcliffe (MS) welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked the speakers volunteering to give presentations and Dorset Coast Forum for hosting today's meeting virtually on Zoom.

MS very encouraged that SWAN has now grown to just over 90 members in total since February 2020.

Actions from last meeting's minutes:

JR continues to circulate relevant emails to the network. Will continue to do so.

2) Apprenticeship Pathway

Martin Sutcliffe, Dorset Coast Forum

MS updated on the current position regarding a minimum number of 10 volunteers were required to set up a Trail Blazer Group to lead the Apprenticeship Pathway. Requirement to be led by industry. MS stated the challenging times we are experiencing at present and this may have impacted the ability of industry to volunteer at the present time. Definite requirement for the Trail Blazer Group to be chaired by an industry representative.

MS gave two options to the group that we endeavour to continue in setting up a Trail Blazer Group or we leave it dormant for a period and raise again at a future date to be agreed.

Kimberly Cullen, Seafish, suggested giving support and pursuing at a national level, therefore moving forward without the 10 representatives from the South West. Lee Cocker, Seafish also stated interest in being part of the Trailer Blazer Group.

Keith Jeffery, Cefas stated that 90% of Dorset's land-based aquaculture was in fact freshwater and as such it would be useful to include this element in any pathway.

Cornwall is currently developing a sea fishing apprenticeship.

3) Dorset Mariculture Strategy

Martin Sutcliffe, Dorset Coast Forum

MS stated the Dorset Mariculture Strategy was published at the end of August 2020. It has been well received and is available on the Dorset Coast Forum web site

https://www.dorsetcoast.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Dorset-Mariculture-Strategy-2020-2025_WEB-FINAL.pdf

The strategy contains four years of consultation and engagement with the wider maritime and marine sector and was led initially by the work of the East Devon & Dorset FLAG. A governance group has been established and held a first meeting which will guide and develop the work of Dorset Coast Forum for the next six months. The output from that governance group will also assist in giving direction to MS.

MS thanked Martin Syvret for his valuable contribution and to the Dorset Aqua Hub and the Mariculture Strategy

www.dorsetaquaculture.co.uk

The web site includes the Cefas mapping tool which is extremely useful in drilling down to a finer scale for locations, constraints etc.

4) Maritime UK South West Update

Sheldon Ryan, Maritime UK South West (MUKSW) Coordinator

sheldon.ryan@maritimeuksw.org

The public/private sector organisation now within its fourth year, officially launched 31st January 2020. MUKSW covers the geographical area of the Great South West (Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Devon, Somerset and Dorset).

MUKSW focus is to demonstrate the South West's capacity for economic development in

- Offshore Renewables
- Marine Autonomy and Geospatial Data
- Ocean Economy and Aquaculture

Marine UK is the national lead partner with a key focus on the ocean economy.

Jim Stewart, CEO, Poole Harbour Commissioners is the board lead on shaping a Comprehensive Spending Review bid to secure a position for future Government funding, £1bn, the focus of which will be "clean maritime", covering both port side and shipping, the benefits to reach a wider marine network including aquaculture.

The South West is developing a bid programme through the Future Ocean Institute at Plymouth to bring together innovation with investment, particularly addressing marine autonomy, Smart Ports, clean maritime agency and aquaculture.

A positioning paper being written which accurately reflects the opportunities and must therefore have a pipeline of "oven ready" bids.

Action: SWAN must address this challenge as a group.

Within the recent Maritime UK week, MUKSW took part in a careers event, which will be followed up by two more events later in the year. Two specialist interest groups to be set up to address

- Low Carbon
- Smart Ports

Strength in Places Fund

£65m full submission November 2020 with result mid-2021.

South West Ports group to provide evidence to BEIS for accommodating the manufacture of offshore wind sector. The new port infrastructure would be located opposite Devonport. Experiencing some controversial publicity however the carbon reduction initiative should quell opposition.

[MUKSW newsletter](#)

Please make sure all are signed up to receive.

[MUKSW Twitter](#)

Please follow as this is the media item used to promote funding calls.

[Promotional Video](#)

Please follow the link to view this film, released as part of Maritime UK Week, which demonstrates the capability and scope of the South West <https://vimeo.com/463359284/aff2267d8c>

5) FeedUK

Ben Ramsden, Partnership Manager for Food and Drink, Digital Catapult

ben.ramsden@digicatapult.org.uk

FeedUK is an initiative being led by the Food & Drink Sector Council set up in part to address the issues raised in Spring 2020 from the onset of the Covid-19 outbreak and the effect on food and drink supply chains.

At present being led on a voluntary basis with support from Sainsburys and Ocado, hoping to secure government funding and create a programme with a wide stakeholder engagement.

At the current time the sector is seen as fragmented and lacking oversight. Wastage is a problem being absorbed by the environment and community.

FeedUK an internet innovation programme. Data is seen as very “siloes” at present.

Progress to date has been viewed as good with a CSR request to Defra placed. The business case is to give the system visibility and develop services.

To enhance the data quality with a FeedUK infrastructure and leverage of data.

Key areas:

- Risk management
- Transparency of food standards

To develop a data driven policy leading to an accurate performance.

Key enablers:

- Trust the system
- Governance
- Permissions
- Interoperability
- Incentives

Enable simulation with a digital twin.

The food and drink sector has very sector specific infrastructure which needs to be unlocked and encouraged to participate.

A sub-sector has been selected upon which to concentrate initially – livestock – and crucial that it is industry led.

Volunteers:

- KTN
- 4 agritech centres of excellence

Proposal to be submitted to Government by April 2021.

Momentum to be kept up on government as this infrastructure needs to be addressed.

Leverage all lines of investment.

Aquaculture a sector which requires representation and would fit well within the programme.

SME workshops for representatives to feed back to primary source of products.

Sign up to offer support. Would prefer LEP single point of contact.

5g Rural Dorset support already given and could lead a LEP workshop.

6) English Aquaculture Strategy

Neil Auchterlonie, Chair, Seafood 2040

neilauchterlonie@btinternet.com

Presentation already circulated.

Seafood 2040 has been developed from a ministerial report of 2015. It is a partnership of industry and government, pan UK but with predominantly English policies due to the nature of government by the Devolved Administrations.

Seafood 2040 offers much scope and will feed into a national food strategy via

- Collaboration
- Best practise
- R&D

Seafood 2040 addresses the whole supply chain and a delivery of 25 recommendations which can be viewed on the Seafish web site. A refresh is underway to account for Brexit and the impact of Covid-19.

Point 13

Addresses the potential and what requirements need to be undertaken to achieve the outcome necessary. Our waters are busy and there is competition for space and resources. Development of sites is not a straightforward process.

The type of fish eaten in England is not so diverse, mainly comprising of

- Rainbow Trout
- Mussels
- Oysters
- Farmed produce versus wild

The applied research to benefit the farming of produce is not necessarily in place combined with the pressures of Covid-19 leading to a lack of strategic direction.

Coastal communities need to see the benefits of revenue generation and that aquaculture does not necessarily just provide a niche market product. The wild catch has been over exploited and therefore reached the peak of its productivity. There is potential in seaweed cultivation, bivalves however these must take account of marine protected areas.

The English Aquaculture Strategy has stakeholders across a wide range of sectors from retail, Defra, Seafish together with other public sector and private enterprise.

Consult Poseidon has developed a draft strategy and it is expected to reach publication within the next few months. It must take account of current and anticipated government policy together with the overall recommendation to increase seafood consumption to two portions per person per week.

This is the vision to increase seafood consumption to be a low carbon food and beneficial contribution towards the blue economy. The fundamental principle must be SUSTAINABILITY.

SWAN has a good alignment to meet these expectations. Aquaculture is a decades old industry which has not adapted particularly to innovation. However, the horizon looks completely different at present with the arrival of 5g and subsequent technologies which can advance the industry with faster adoption of technology. The production of low trophic species work very well towards the net carbon ambitions.

Objectives

- + 15% challenge
- 2040 realistic target date

The South West is well placed for macro algae, shellfish, potential for finfish production within recirculatory aquaculture systems and line cultivation.

A summary document of the strategy will be produced and that is expected to be most commonly used to form a delivery plan to engage with non-hierarchical aspirational partnerships with reference to Seafish and other regulators. A leadership group formed and led by James Fox-Davies.

The regional local initiatives are important and how they work together to offer national/local mutual support. It also needs to have a flexible approach to localities e.g. Working with existing policies, water quality etc. The development of the industry requires it to take on board the necessary amendments and legislation.

To date the funding has come from EMFF, however the need is to address its successor and broaden the funding base, again looking at public/private collaboration.

Critical Actions:

- Consider the differences, unique environment.
- Busy waters.
- Creation of a knowledge innovation hub – potential funding?
- Financial support needs to be reassessed.
- Government and regulation – clear policies.
- Fisheries Bill and the need to make regulation as efficient as possible.
- Regional hubs
- Training requirements
- 52 actions altogether

Comments:

Peter Miller commented on the timeframe of 20 years and the scope available to take this sector forward with the use of remote sensing, water quality monitoring, 5g and possible expansion of the use of recirculatory aquaculture systems in the South West.

Huw Thomas commented on past national aquaculture strategies and their failure. Regulators are often perceived to present barriers and this must be addressed in this strategy.

Further discussion:

It was agreed that there is a fundamental change in the landscape with increased political support both nationally and locally. The Fisheries Minister appears to give support, and this is seen as an important development for securing future Defra funding which again is considered crucial to this sector.

The strategy is seen as a strong platform to take this sector forward and lead to expansion and sustainable growth.

ARCH UK is engaged.

7) 5g Rural Dorset – Smart Aquaculture Technology

Digby Sowerby, Project Manager, Wessex Internet
digby.sowerby@wessexinternet.com

5g Dorset formed early 2020 with DCMS funding with the task of deploying 5g to the rural areas and how best to achieve that.

Wessex Internet formed from a farming background in North Dorset and has now invested in fibre network rolled out across North Dorset and border areas.

Commercial coastal innovation space with agri/aqua sector based at Portland Port. Imperative that the technology is both useful and affordable.

Jurassic Sea Farms testbed using 2 frequencies – low and high.

Low – use for water monitoring e.g. oxygen, salinity

High – underwater cameras.

Open to more trials being undertaken e.g. offshore energy farms.

Connectivity is often overlooked, and this is being addressed by the project. Vodafone is a prime supplier of connectivity.

Monitoring of activity across a farm can be recorded e.g. vessel movements, duration of stays, security aspects and evidence for co-existence provided.

Security is a main issue with many clients. The technology has to be resilient however pricing is a major component to the future of projects and take-up.

Comment:

Ryan Mowat commented that 5g provides a powerful tool to farmers in real time data to illustrate their real capability.

8) Europe Enterprise Network

South West contact: Jayne Codling [Jayne Codling jayne.codling@businesswest.co.uk](mailto:jayne.codling@businesswest.co.uk)
UK contact: EENNationalGateway@bradford.gov.uk
<https://www.enterprise-europe.co.uk/contact-us>

Enterprise Europe Network (in brief)

[EEN](#) is a fully funded international business support programme funded by the [European Commission](#) and [Innovate UK](#). It operates in [65 countries](#) through 600 organisations and [17 sector groups](#) and is a key part of Innovate UK's delivery. Through a team of sector specialists, innovation and international advisers we deliver value added tailored support to help clients grow internationally, access new markets, develop innovation strategies, find international partners and access finance and European funding. We can work with anyone - SMEs to Corporates, Universities to Local Authorities. See our [full list of services](#). Businesses can also [sign up](#) to the network to receive the newsletter and this is a good way of finding out what is happening across the network.

Brokering Partnerships

Developing international and UK collaborations and partnerships is a key area of focus for Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). Using the [search facility](#) on the partnership database potential partners can be identified with scope to use using different key words and also to set up alerts. (You can also search by country and collaboration type.). This is part of "EEN toolkit" and widely used in normal circumstances but have seen an increase in activity since COVID-19 and remote working. This is an

ideal opportunity to connect and progress discussions and opportunities. Direct introductions can also be made. Organisations can set up their own alerts.

Key word searches:

Aquaculture - 12 opportunities

Portuguese company offers a precise monitoring technology for aquaculture systems. Commercial agreements and technical cooperation agreements are sought: <https://www.enterprise-europe.co.uk/opportunities/TOPT20190711001>. (Co-operation opportunities include the university sector and research organisations)

Fish > 60 opportunities

Catch tracking system to manage fishing fleets or fish markets: <https://www.enterprise-europe.co.uk/opportunities/TOIT20190610001>

Renewable energy > 80 opportunities

Water sensors x 42 * this will be broad as could be drinking water, but you can narrow/filter the search

Lodging an expression of interest at the first stage required responses to 3 questions.

- Short description of your organisation, activities, products and services (include your contact details etc., company name, website,
- What interests you about this opportunity?
- Is there anything further you would like to know about this opportunity?

Organisations can also register to receive alerts directly into their inbox switching them on and off as needed: <https://www.enterprise-europe.co.uk/partnering-opportunities>

Events

EEN are involved in several events both in the UK and overseas. These will usually involve matchmaking opportunities with the ability to schedule in meetings in advance. These are quite often run alongside exhibitions and conferences are taking place virtually currently due to the pandemic. Facilitating collaboration - how brokerage events work – [You Tube link](#) . I have included below a list of events have synergy with the aquaculture sector e.g. marine, maritime, renewable energy, IOT and digital.

Virtual BE MariMatch Odessa | Ukraine

27-28 Oct 2020

<https://marimatch-odessa20.b2match.io/>

Focus on shipping and related industries

eMariMatch - Online B2B meetings

29 Oct 2020 - 30 Oct 2020 | Athens, Greece

Shipbuilding, Maritime transport: logistics /ports

Electronics, communication & navigation

<https://emarimatch-2020.b2match.io/>

EIF 2020 - Digital Energy Congress & Expo | Virtual B2B Meetings

4 Nov 2020 - 6 Nov 2020 | Turkey

Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Alternative Energy

Energy Conservation & Saving Electric Vehicles

Energy Production, Nuclear Energy

<https://www.maabir.co/>

Balearic Yacht Show Brokerage Event | Palma de Mallorca, Spain – Virtual

18-20 November 2020

The event is dedicated to SMEs, shipyard, interiorism and naval design, ship equipment, nautical equipment, repair & refit; marine technologies, marines, marine service, charter, fish, diving nautical sports activities.

<https://virtual-nautical-brokerage-event-2020.b2match.io/>

India Europe Digital Collaboration | Bangalore, India – Virtual

18 November 2020

An opportunity for Companies that are looking for business-opportunities for offshore development, joint development, business collaboration with Indian companies in the field of digital technologies.

Application deadline: 11.11.2020. (Focus on Digital/IOT - multi-sector)

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/tools/services/EVE/Event/Detail/084595f1-4a32-4d20-a5f0-87d64f0133e5>

B2Blue Seaology | Italy – Online & Virtual

19-20 November 2020

1:1 virtual meetings to match supply with demand for technology and business within the blue economy.

<https://b2blue.b2match.io/home>

Korea Eureka Day - | South Korea – online

24 November 2020

This Innovate UK and Enterprise Europe Network event is aimed at innovative, technology focused, R & D performing SMEs and provides a platform and opportunity for companies to meet other R & D performing companies and research organisations from Korea and [EUREKA](#) member countries, to initiate and build research, technology and innovation partnerships and explore and develop project ideas.

**Of interest to businesses that may wish to be seeking some form of international collaboration including overseas funding partners*

<https://korea-eureka-day-2020.b2match.io/home>

GREEN DAYS 2020 – POLLUTEC – Online & Virtual

1 Dec 2020 - 4 Dec 2020 | Lyon Chassieu, France

Boost your business and find opportunities in the Environment, Energy and Circular Economy sectors.

<https://green-days-pollutec-2020.b2match.io/>

Global Business Innovation Programme | Singapore - AI/5G Virtual

7–11 Dec 2020

Innovate UK funded Global Business Innovation Programme for companies active in Artificial Intelligence (AI) or 5G. **Application deadline: 25.10.2020**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/global-business-innovation-programme-singapore-ai5g-tickets-122959183227>

9) Innovate UK and Horizon 2020 update

Chris Lyons, Innovation Lead, Innovate UK and

Helen Sweeney, Innovate UK, Horizon 2020 National Contact Point, Sustainable Agriculture and the Bioeconomy

chris.lyons@innovateuk.ukri.org

helen.sweeney@innovateuk.ukri.org

CL stated he has now been at Innovate UK for about 6-8 months but has a very good knowledge of agritech in the South West from his previous role with Business West.

Keep in touch with the Innovate UK web site looking for positive opportunities to work internationally. South West agritech and aquaculture is at the front of cutting-edge technology.

Agritech Catalyst Round 11 – robotics within Ag/Food production to launch Spring 2021.

CL also stated that he attended with JR the Trade & Agriculture Commission, South West consultation held virtually on Thursday 15th October 2020, chaired by Tim Smith. Sustainable

aquaculture as an emerging key sector was brought to their attention. Tim Smith admitted this key ag/food sub sector had escaped their notice. CL and JR also drew attention to the South West's cutting edge agritech technology and knowledge held within such institutes as Rothamsted Research North Wyke, AgriEPI dairy centre at Shepton Mallet.

HS gave an update on Horizon 2020 Green Deal

- Worth Euros 1bn
- Will influence future CAP policy and debate within the European Parliament.
- Food to fork

Aspirations:

- Accessibility
- Affordable food
- Balancing all considerations
- Looking for sustainable growth
- UK business can still apply

Reference Call 6 particularly relevant to aquaculture, open to 26 January 2021, far reaching re carbon neutrality and sustainable economic development.

HS reinforced that all the agencies Horizon 2020, Innovate UK, EEN and KTN work co-ordinate and facilitate their programmes, therefore it is important to make contact and follow any signposting they offer. Never too early to prepare a bid!

10) An overview of Agrimetrics

Anna Woodley, Head of Sales & Marketing anna.woodley@agrimetrics.co.uk

Presentation and case studies already circulated.

Limited involvement with aquaculture to date but this is to be rectified and there is a keen will to advance innovation and technology in this sub sector.

Agrimetrics: The Agri-food Data Marketplace

Agrimetrics one of the four government funded agritech centres of excellence to accelerate growth within agri innovation, throughout the ag/food supply chain.

Data marketplace with layers of collaboration and where appropriate this data can be shared. Data "silos" present a real problem and Agrimetrics formed to solve this problem.

Link the data in order to provide a journey from relationships to effects therefore connected relationships provide the solutions.

Semantically linked to explore relationships and this is quite unique in the ag/food sector.

Sustainability | Accounting | Finance – three pillars which represent innovation within

- Regenerative agriculture
- ELMS – Environmental Land Management Scheme
- New markets – provenance backed evidence.

Core pillars

- Data
- Enablement
- Markets

- Platforms e.g. Smart Cow research across the EU leading to innovative processes.

Keen to engage in aquaculture and with Horizon 2020 and FeedUK.

Please have a look at the 5 case studies.

11) Any other business and next meeting

i) Role of SWAN Chair and Secretariat

MS stated that he and JR had taken on the role of Chair and Secretariat at the start of 2020 to enable the network to move ahead and it was Kevin Forshaw's (Chair MUKSW) recommendation that these roles be undertaken for a period of 12 months. Therefore, MS said he would organise the next meeting with JR and then look to hand on the roles for the next 12-month period.

ii) Trade and Agriculture Commission

As stated, JR and CL attended the South West consultation. The Commission is willing to take further evidence by email submission: TACInfo@trade.gov.uk

iii) Date of Next Meeting: **Tuesday 19th January 2021, 1300-1500.**