

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN)

26th July 2022

13:00 to 15:00 hrs

MS Teams Virtual Meeting c/o Dorset Council

Present

Martin Sutcliffe (Chair)	CIEL
Joanna Rufus (Secretariat)	Dorset Council
Elena Piana	Noola Redclaw
Ian McLaren	DIT (Trade)
Claire Eatock	University of Exeter
Oliver Robinson	British Trout Association
Sarah Birchenough	Southern IFCA
Max Morgan-Kay	ARC Marine
Elaine Hayes	Plymouth Council
Helen Sweeney	UKRI
Douglas Allen	RASTECH
Imogen Taylor	CIEL
Brett Trafford	Fawley Waterside
Frank Cox	Portland Port/Portland Harbour Authority
Amy Spreadbury	BCP Council
Keith Jeffery	Cefas
Finn Morgan	Dorset LEP
Rob Emony	DIT Investment Services Team
Lisa Bickley	University of Exeter
Mark Walker	Barclays Eagle Labs
Chris Anderson	Gill Jennings & Every LLP
Charles Bowyer	AgriEPI
James Kayam	DIT AgriTech (HQ)
Benjamin Coppin	MMO
Esther Harper	BBSRC UKRI
Jack Jarvis	University of Exeter
Sharon Jones	BCP Council
Emma Greenwood-George	Dorset Bio Solutions
Elizabeth Warham	DIT AgriTech (HQ)
Jayne Codling	UKRI Innovate UK EDGE
Natasha Andrews	CIEL

1) Apologies

Chris Lyons	UKRI Innovate UK
Rob Passmore	North Devon Biosphere
Martin Syvret	Aqua Fish Solutions
Hilary Charman	DIT (Trade)
Gary Wordsworth	Othniel Oysters
Simon Pengelly	Southern IFCA
Richard Prickett	Jurassic Seafarms

2) Welcome and Housekeeping – Martin Sutcliffe, Aquaculture Specialist, Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock, SWAN Chair

3) Last meeting minutes and actions – Martin Sutcliffe and Jo Rufus, SWAN Secretariat

Actions – completed.

4) Presentation 1 – Elena Piana, Noola Redclaw “Can robotics and machine vision help in crayfish farming?”

Presentation uploaded to SWAN website

Elena Piana is the founder of a company called Noola Redclaw. The company is developing the technology to intensively farm the Redclaw Crayfish. A tropical species. It achieves a high market price. Collaborative project with University of Lincoln to address cannibalism in crayfish.

Questions:

Keith Jeffery: Does providing hiding tubes in the tank for the crayfish help cut down aggression?

Ian McLaren: Elena, do you see NR just as an R&D Company or N&R turn into a producer?

James Kayam: What countries are strong in this area at the moment? Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Mexico. These countries experience problems in scaling up their production.

Action: Elena Piana to discuss further with Brett Trafford, Fawley Waterside, please see CHAT for details.

5) Maritime UK Southwest update - Sheldon Ryan, Co-ordinator MUKSW

Update:

1. *Work continuing with fishing decarbonisation group. Anyone interested in having case studies on their vessels to get in touch. That and/or shore side power.*
2. *Clean Maritime Roadmap Event planned for 9th Sept. Again, get in touch if you would like to be invited.*
3. *Work on the Centre for Smart Shipping as part of UK SHORE £220M investment from DFT.*
4. *Attending Sea Tech Week Brittany with a group from the SW. Anyone going who wants to link up let me know.*
5. *New MUK national newsletter/page*
<https://www.maritimeuk.org/priorities/innovation/innovation-news/>. *May be a little left field but worth a look for some maybe.*
6. *Great South West recognised and funded to £1.5M. MUKSW wrote the marine element of the prospectus 4 years ago. Does have an aquaculture strand so would be desirable/targeted to have some kind of intervention resultant. Now in the hands of the three LEPS and steering group to decide what should be done. MUKSW has pushed to have same funding for a Marine Tech Expo to showcase ocean tech in the SW.*

Action: Anyone interested in being part of the decarbonisation group with MUKSW to contact Sheldon.

Jo Rufus stated that she had decided not to attend Sea Tech Week in Brest, 26th to 30th September in Brest to represent SWAN due to the demands of preparation for the SWAN AGM. Sheldon put out a last call for anyone who is interested in attending with MUKSW.

Martin Sutcliffe will be attending Aquaculture Europe in Rimini, Italy, 27th to 30th September.

6) Funding updates – Jayne Codling, Helen Sweeney, Chris Lyons, Martin Sutcliffe

Jayne Codling and Helen Sweeney kindly produced a presentation for circulation which includes updates from Innovate UK EDGE and Horizon Europe.

Comment - Esther Harper- A couple of open (non-time limited) funding opportunities from me. Firstly, BBSRC standard Research Grants are open year-round, and we actively welcome proposals in the aquaculture space. Our IPA scheme is for academic-led research with significant industrial involvement where an industry partner contributes a minimum in cash of 10%. More info here, <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/bbsrc-standard-research-grant/> also, for anyone interested in bringing computer vision/ other fundamental ICT experience back to their home discipline, EPSRC runs a discipline hopping in ICT scheme

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-discipline-hopping-in-ict/>

CIEL Seed Funding

Caveat that the applicant has to become a member of CIEL, through that membership you access a wide network of academic partners, industry representatives and retailers. A total of £100,000 split into 2 broad themes.

Keith Jeffery Stated that Elisa Capuzzo, Cefas, has won an award for research into carbon sequestration in seaweed.

Also, that Cemax, Malaysia is to visit UK, Cefas this Autumn re: community aquaculture farming eg, oyster farms.

7) Presentation 2 – Mark Walker, Barclays Eagle Labs – Barclays Eagle Lab’s “Ecosystem”

Presentation uploaded to SWAN website.

[Barclays Eagle Labs Bournemouth](#) | [Barclays Eagle Labs \(uk.barclays\)](#)

8) National Food Strategy – Oliver Robinson to introduce and open for discussion.

Oliver Robinson led a discussion re: the recent publication of the National Food Strategy and its lack of reference to sustainable aquaculture as opposed to the recently published Food Strategy for Scotland which includes a large reference to sustainable aquaculture.

References 1.36 and 3.7.

We as a membership organisation, SWAN, need to raise our concerns as to the lack of mention to this emerging key sector for the South West.

Action: Martin Sutcliffe to draw together a special SWAN working group.

Action: Jo Rufus to raise with John Sellgren, Exec Director of Place, Dorset Council and Cecilia Bufton, Chair, Dorset LEP for them both to raise with Dorset MPs.

Action: SWAN members to bring to the attention of their South West MPs.

Comment - Max Morgan-Kay I agree quantifying the benefits and of aquaculture is needed, in my mind aquaculture was born of the need for sustainable protein, this is the true value, if SWAN could coordinate this it would drive real value for the whole sector, especially with strides taken to reduce aquacultures initial stumbling blocks of the sector

9) SWAN AGM AND Conference 2022 – Martin Sutcliffe and Jo Rufus - sponsorship and tickets

Martin Sutcliffe outlined the sponsorship packages for the 2022 AGM and conference to be held at The Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth on Thursday 20th October 2022, 0845 to 1600.

Gold - £750, Silver £500, Bronze £250

One Market Stall for each sponsor, but tickets available on sliding scale from three to one (Gold to bronze). We are limited on exhibition space this year.

Action: Jo Rufus to circulate list of hotels.

Jo Rufus stated that PML had made her aware of a special discount from SW Trains if enough delegates travelled by train.

Comment - Elaine Hayes – offer to present on National Marine Park

Comment - Emma GG – would like more information on travelling by train to Plymouth.

10) AOB

Comment - Jayne Codling Increasingly I am seeing an interest in seaweed within R&D and innovation both in the UK particularly SW which is where I am based but also with overseas partners. Happy therefore to speak to businesses evidencing this innovative approach. Case studies I find are always useful. Happy to connect with SW organisations. Innovate UK EDGE operates across the UK, Contact details and more information about Innovate UK EDGE can be found here <https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org/contact-us>

Action: Ian McLaren to follow up with Jo Rufus re: SW seaweed production.

11) Date of next meeting is Thursday 20th October 2022, SWAN AGM and Conference to be held at The Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth, 0845 to 1600.