

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN)

20th April 2021, 1300 – 1500

Zoom Virtual Meeting c/o Dorset Coast Forum

Present

Angela Mead	Biomealgae
Brett Trafford	Fawley Waterside
Chris Lyons	Innovate UK
Chris Reeder	Eco Coast
Elena Piana	Noola Redclaw Foods
Emma Greenwood	Dorset Bio Solutions
Greg Clifford	Scallop Ranch
Hazel Bennett	Western Maritime Training
Helen Sweeney	Horizon Europe
Howard Gunstock	Carbon Kapture
James Grant	University of Exeter
Joann Rufus	Dorset Council
Kevin Forshaw	University of Plymouth
Kimberly Cullen	Seafish
Lee Cocker	Seafish
Lisa Bickley	University of Exeter
Louise Smith	Cefas
Martin Sutcliffe	Dorset Coast Forum
Oliver Robinson	British Trout
Peter Miller	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Phoebe Chadwick	RS Aqua
Richard Prickett	Dorset Cleaner Fish/Jurassic Sea Farms
Ross Brown	University of Exeter
Ryan Mowat	RS Aqua
Sarah Fear	University of Plymouth – Impact Lab
Sheldon Ryan	Maritime UK South West
Tom Birbeck	ARC Marine
Joanna Gosling	ARCH UK/University of Stirling
Ben Goymer	Chelsea Technologies
Michiel van de Meer	Signify
Sam Kirby	University of the West England
Sahil Shah	
Nathanael Dannenberg	Signify

Apologies

David Harris	Weymouth Town Council, Leader
Huw Thomas	Cornish Shellfish
Jayne Codling	Innovate UK EDGE
Keith Jeffery	Cefas
Lawrence Brown	N/A
Rob Emony	DIT Investment Services Team
Martin Syvret	Aqua Fish Solutions

Welcome and apologies - Martin Sutcliffe, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Officer, SWAN Chair

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

Last meeting minutes - Martin Sutcliffe

There were two actions completed after the last meeting:

- RS Aqua receiving support from Innovate EDGE.
- RS Aqua introduced to ARC Marine re ROVs. JR also followed up with Global Marine Systems however there was not sufficient common business interest to justify collaboration due the size of ROVs used by Global Marine Systems.

Dorset's One Health event was held on 24th April 2021 virtually and attended by approximately 60. Hosted by Dorset LEP. Another success and as a result a One Health Nucleus "Sandpit" event to take place 12th May 2021, 1300-1600.

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/news-article/one-health-conference-2021-launches-one-health-nucleus>

G7 Summit, June 2021, Cornwall. JR had obtained permission from sea food producers who wished to be submitted. A list which SR, MUKSW has forwarded to Cornish Council. SR stated that MUKSW will exhibit with the G7 conference event. SWAN promotional collateral to be included in the MUKSW exhibit.

ACTION: SWAN collateral. MS to complete draft and forward to designers. Completed collateral to be forwarded to SR as soon as possible.

SWAN Conference, Website and LinkedIn group - Martin Sutcliffe

- **Web site now available** with a dedicated SWAN page added to the MUKSW web site: <https://maritimeuksw.org/oceanscienceaquaculture/>
- The page will hold an asset library for SWAN where all documents held e.g. Terms of Reference, Positioning Paper, Minutes and Presentations. This is to enable ease of use for all members - <https://maritimeuksw.org/oceanscienceaquaculture/south-west-aquaculture-network-swan/>

SWAN Annual Conference

- **Provisional date: Tuesday 26th October 2021** to be held in Exeter, as central to the Network.
- Enquiries to host made to University of Exeter and the Met Office.
- Aim to hold a hybrid conference/marketplace to enable industry experiences and networking.
- SR commented on security aspect of entry to Met Office.

ACTION: JR to follow up with respective Met Office booking.

LinkedIn Group

- MS stated his increasing use of LinkedIn as a useful tool to interact/collaborate with the sector/industry. He recommended setting up a LinkedIn group for SWAN as a closed group to which the network could post relevant features/articles. Would enable another dimension to the network.
- No objections received.

ACTION: MS to enable the setup of the group on LinkedIn.

Maritime UK South West Update - Sheldon Ryan, Co-ordinator, MUKSW

Appledore Shipyard, North Devon

- Recently acquired by Harland & Wolffe. MUKSW has been invited to provide an evidence base for the redevelopment/potential use of the shipyard. Some specific aspects such as the 100m dock wall alongside the former Babcock site.
- Consulting on appropriate use e.g. Floating offshore wind. In negotiations with local council re dockside access.

Freeports

- Plymouth City Council and Devon County Council together with Heart of the South West LEP successful in their bid for freeport status for Plymouth. Further working up of the detailed bid.
- Well timed to coincide with £64m Strength in Places Fund bid contained within the Ocean Futures framework of the Great South West. This details the key strengths of MUKSW in promoting marine autonomy and geospatial data, Smart Sound Plymouth, and clean maritime/clean propulsion. Together with the aligned opportunities to high value aquaculture and the blue economy.

Marine Eye

- Cornwall & IoScilly LEP and Heart of the South West LEP funding this innovation service. However, there is no equivalent with Dorset yet.

Low Carbon Demonstrator

- £20m project. Please contact SR for more information.

Marine Tech Expo

- Due to take place digitally June 2021. Further details to be released asap.

SeaTech Brest 2022

- MUKSW is invited to attend with a free stand. SR stated a worthwhile event which he has attended in the past. Last event held December 2019. A large focus on aquaculture and the ability for the organisers to set up bespoke sub sector meetings, network advised to take advantage of that aspect.
- SWAN advised to contact SR and MS should they consider attending. Some funding available for travel expenses. SWAN could take advantage of taking space on stand.

Project Tiger

- MUKSW are delivering a programme of supply chain event for tidal energy.

Department of International Trade High Potential Opportunity Round 2 Marine Autonomy

- Inward Investment opportunity to promote our excellence within this sector. Will be promoted to Commercial Officers in our embassies etc overseas. Awaiting release of draft 3 which is hoped to be final draft. Case studies agreed and have been sought.

Maritime UK

- Careers event held in February 2021 particularly aligned for FE colleges and maritime skills.

Comment: Emma Greenwood - Emma wished to draw SWAN's attention to commercial seaweed production and the necessary onshore processing capabilities. Necessary to liaise with local partners in identifying suitable sites or the possibility of mobile processing.

ACTION: SR and MS to follow up re the overall requirements and how to progress.

ARCH-UK Overview - Joanna Gosling, Co-ordinator, ARCH-UK

Joanna completed a PhD at SAMS, contributing to the environmental monitoring of sediments beneath fish farms. Since then, Joanna's career has centred around encouraging wider engagement in science and research, after gaining an appreciation for industry governance and regulation through an internship with the Scottish (now 'Sustainable') Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC).

Joanna's presentation is available on the SWAN webpage.

- Funded by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) for 5 years
- 2 funding rounds
- Knowledge Exchange
- Please note that ARCH-UK is not a funding agency.
- To foster collaboration and ensure innovative practises are adopted using academic research.
- Career researchers are volunteers.
- The Advisory Board works closely with industry.
- ARCH UK runs a series of events, 20th May – gene editing
- Would appreciate feedback from SWAN in an active and collaborative relationship.

Comment: Sheldon Ryan

Arch UK and SWAN collaborate on:

- Public messaging and sustainable aquaculture
- Sustainability

ACTION: SWAN - Joanna Gosling requested collaboration and assistance in mapping seaweed clustering in South West. Seaweed producers please contact Joanna Gosling directly.

Signify – Michiel van der Meer “Shine a light on photoperiod”

Dr ing. Michiel van der Meer, holds a PhD in physical chemistry with main subject spectroscopy from the University of Amsterdam in 2000. He Started working in Philips Lighting in June 2000. Since then in several roles in R&D and business development. Mostly in specialty lighting. Since 2017 he has been active as R&D manager in Signify aquaculture. Responsible for the Research programs at marine biology universities in Norway, Scotland, and different ones in China. Michiel is also responsible for the development of aquaculture products, both for on-land and at sea.

Michiel's presentation is available on the SWAN webpage.

- Michiel's work focuses on aquaculture R&D.
- Nine years' experience of working with this technology.
- Signify was within the Philips corporate group until 4 years ago when Signify became listed stock and independent.
- Aim of Signify to manufacture a product which is used in the farm environment to reduce stress of farming industry and to improve animal welfare.

- Other uses of Signify lighting are within poultry and horticulture.
- Discussion re eye receptors. Shrimps have a more complex photo receptor system.

Comment: Lee Cocker

Interested in the use of light with bivalves, e.g., has there been R&D carried out within the depuration process.

Michiel commented that light manipulation usually always produces advantage. Almost certain that shellfish would optimise and would take that back to his team.

Comment: Lee Cocker

Interested to know if light had been used for photo manipulation in brood stock and any limitations on the economy of scale that would produce.

Comment: Elena Piana

How close to obtaining results within shrimp farming as regards the benefit of improved lighting.

Michiel stated that the final trials are currently being undertaken.

Comment: Greg Clifford

His business a scallop hatchery with associated algae plant. He has also been researching the enhanced growth rates due to lighting.

ACTION: Take conversation offline.

Michiel commented that macro algae has some specific issues with application which provide difficulties.

See CHAT.

Chelsea Technologies - Ben Goymer, Aquaculture Development Manager

Chelsea Technologies have designed and manufactured water quality sensors for over 50 years. Here, Ben, who joined the company last year will explore the application and importance of monitoring novel water quality parameters in aquaculture, using lessons learned from wastewater treatment.

Ben's presentation is available on the SWAN webpage.

- Use of sensors and their application.
- Their focus is marine science and aquaculture.
- Importance of algae monitoring, and the negative impacts occasioned by algae growth.
- Develop an early warning system to minimise risks – Trilux – water quality monitoring – detection – mitigation.
- Always open to collaboration and would welcome further conversations.

Comment: Lee Cocker

Interested in following up research into norovirus levels in shellfish.

Ben stated the business was in the early stages of researching this aspect of work.

Comment: Ross Brown

Stated that research was being carried out into the faecal contaminants as opposed to agricultural compounds and other types of contamination. An extremely difficult environment to work, however although there are considerable challenges the work could be undertaken, not currently being undertaken. The results would enable shellfish farmers to pinpoint origins of contamination and mitigate.

- MS stated there was already research being undertaken by local authority town planners into mitigation.
- Exe catchment could be offered as a model/trial with real time data provided by the Met Office.
- University of the West of England is already working with Chelsea Technology.

Innovate EDGE UK update - Jayne Codling

Jayne has given her apologies today. Her continued support to SWAN very much appreciated.

Jayne's presentation is available on the SWAN webpage. Follow up with Jayne with any questions.

Innovate UK/Innovate EDGE/Horizon Europe update - Chris Lyons

Chris Lyons' and Helen Sweeney's continued support to SWAN is very much appreciated.

Chris' presentation is available on the SWAN webpage.

- Chris drew particular attention to UKRI grant finder <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/> please take the opportunity to browse the current opportunities.
- Smart Grants open – current window January to May 2021, any sector, £25 pot.
- Horizon Europe – the calls are not currently open, but the process is nearly completion to launch so please be aware. The UK as an associate country has the same access to this funding as EU member states. Key collaboration projects in which there must be three international partners.
- Pillar 2 – Euros 8.953 Billion available over 7 years for aquaculture.
- There will be international events to attend, please contact Helen Sweeney.
- Cluster 6 – currently in draft however first calls expected late April/early May.
- LinkedIn is used to promote these opportunities.

Comment: Lee Cocker

Seafish would also be interested in signposting to this funding. Lee also stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had hit the industry very hard indeed and would there be any skew in funding if businesses were interested but did not have the necessary match.

Chris explained to follow up with Helen as there were different dynamics within the funding and some offered 100%. He drew attention to this as the Innovate UK funding always matched.

Comment: Martin Sutcliffe

Stated that a Credit Union was offering a “safety net” to fisherman who wished to take advantage of current funding without being able to provide the necessary “match”. This could also be opportunity for aquaculture.

Any other business and Next meeting

No other business was brought forward.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 20th July 2021, 1300-1500