

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN)

25th January 2022 13:00hrs – 15:00hrs

MS Teams Online Meeting c/o Dorset Council

Present

Martin Sutcliffe (Chair)	Dorset Coast Forum
Joanna Rufus (Secretariat)	Dorset Council
Ross Brown	University of Exeter
Lisa Bickley	University of Exeter
Chris Anderson	Gill Jennings & Every LLP
Chris Lyons	Innovate UK
Greg Clifford (part)	Scallop Ranch
Helen Sweeney	Horizon Europe
Isabel Griffiths	Southern IFCA
Jayne Codling	Innovate UK EDGE
Keith Jeffery	Cefas
Lee Cocker	Seafish
Mark Tibbert	Thomas Westcott Chartered Accountants
Ian McLaren	DIT Trade
Richard Prickett	Jurassic Sea Farms
Louise Smith	Cefas
Rob Emony (part)	DIT Investment Services Team
Ryan Mowat	RS Aqua
Afsoon Sadeghi-Azadi	University of Exeter
Amy Spreadbury	BCP Council
Sharon Jones	BCP Council
Oliver Robinson (part)	British Trout Association
Elizabeth Warham	DIT HQ AgriTech
James Kayam	DIT HQ AgriTech
Peter Miller	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Hugh Wiltshire	Quest
Elena Piana	Noola Redclaw
Sandie Wilson	Portland Port/Portland Harbour Authority
Sheldon Ryan	Maritime UK South West
Tom Birbeck (part)	ARC Marine
Emma Greenwood-George	Dorset Bio Solutions
Louise Rutterford	University of Exeter, student
David Harris	Weymouth Town Council, Leader
Gary Wordsworth (part)	Othniel Oysters

Apologies

Rael Zieve	Farmed Fresh
Tom Hallam	Kingston Maurward College
Hilary Charman	DIT Trade
Claude Kaplan	Hatch
Dougie Allen	RASTech

1) Welcome and housekeeping

- Martin Sutcliffe welcomed all attending to the first meeting of 2022.
- MS explained the transfer of meetings to MS Teams from DCF hosted Zoom.
- MS stated that a transcript of the meeting being taken. No objections.
- The last meeting was in fact the SWAN AGM and Conference held at Kingston Maurward College, 28th October 2021. It was well received and the feedback from sponsors and delegates was excellent.
- Elections Martin Sutcliffe to serve another year as Chair, Joana Rufus - Secretariat
- Apologies - Listed above.

2) Last Meeting's Minutes and Actions

- Reviewed and none.
- The minutes are published on the SWAN web site.

3) Maritime UK South West update

- Sheldon Ryan drew SWAN's attention to the call for Maritime UK national awards. The Maritime UK Awards 2022 will be held in Glasgow on 10 March. Innovation and trade awards, closing date 28th January 2022.
- SR working up a clean water event but has heard from British Marine that the UK is soon to adopt A Clean Water Act. Await further development as to Act and further discussion with Martin Sutcliffe.
- Clean Maritime has £100m competition to decarbonise the marine sector. Entering Phase 2.
- SR exhibiting at a national innovation event at the National Composites Centre in Bristol in late March early April. Will also exhibit at the Clean Maritime Boat Show in June 16th to 18th and as part of that event looking to run a breakout session on innovation within fisheries.
- Anyone interested in the decarbonisation agenda please follow up with SR.
- Ocean Futures is the project absorbing most of the work programme at present. The ambition is to create a southwest wide innovation service covering Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. If anyone is not signed up the MUKSW newsletter then please do so asap. <https://maritimeuksw.org/news-and-events/>
- Martin Sutcliffe stated he had recently been in discussions with a company with an anti-fouling product. To discuss further with Sheldon Ryan. Interest from Jayne Codling, Ian McLaren and Ryan Mowat for further details. Peter Miller also drew attention to PML's solutions for anti-fouling <https://biofoulingcorrosion.co.uk/>.

ACTION: Martin Sutcliffe to follow up interest

- Joanna Rufus stated she was now attending the Maritime UK Solent meetings. Earlier that morning had received a very interesting presentation given by Rod Paterson on The National Shipbuilding Office. Their strategy shortly to be published.
- MUKSW representation at Sea Tech Week, Brest, 26th to 30th September 2022, enquiries re a trade delegation to please contact Sheldon Ryan.

4) R&D Overview and Benefits

Mark Tibbert, Partner mark.tibbert@thomaswestcott.co.uk

Thomas Westcott Chartered Accountants

Presentation published on the web site.

- Mark Tibbert outlined the benefits to limited companies, especially those SMEs with less than 500 employees and less than Euro 100m turnover.
- Targeted to R&D in the UK only.

- Martin Sutcliffe asked whether there were existing templates for guidance, however Mark confirmed there are none. The application form leads through the process.

5) The Importance of IP in the Aquaculture Sector

Christopher Anderson, Senior Associate chris.anderson@gje.com

Gill, Jennings and Every LLP

Presentation published on the web site.

- Of increasing important to the aquaculture sector.
- May look at delivery of an IP workshop in the Southwest.
- Jayne Codling commented on the support of Innovate UK EDGE for IP and Patent Box tax relief. The importance of an IP audit.

ACTION: Martin Sutcliffe and Chris Anderson to follow up.

6) English Aquaculture Innovation Hub concept development

Martin Sutcliffe martin.sutcliffe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

SWAN Chair

- Presentation published to web site.
- Martin Sutcliffe outlined the work of Dorset Coast Forum in leading Phase 1 of a study to develop an English Aquaculture Innovation Hub and to be established in Dorset.

7) Funding updates

Innovate UK – Chris Lyons

Innovate UK EDGE – Jayne Codling

Horizon Europe – Helen Sweeney

- This is considered a very valuable addition to the agenda.
- Oliver Robinson drew attention to the market in the USA, a large market but in no way straightforward. Directed to DIT Trade and US Post activity.

ACTION: Presentations will be drawn together and circulated post meeting via email with minutes and published on the web site.

UK Seafood Fund

There have been 2 recent briefings:

- £65m Infrastructure, opens 7th March 2022, 6-week window
- £10m Skills and Training, timings tbc

ACTION: JR to circulate UK Seafood Fund – Skills and Training slides from the MMO presentation plus her own notes.

- Lee Cocker drew attention to the fact that Infrastructure will hold multiple calls whereas Skills and Training will be one only. The fund also likely to be structured in a similar way to previous similar EU funding calls.

- Lee Cocker drew attention to the SIFP with a focus on innovation and disruptive technology in fisheries and highly competitive and requires an academic lead.
- Elena Piana drew attention to the Fisheries and Science Partnership.
- Martin Sutcliffe advised that there would most probably be a FaSS Round 2 for smaller projects.

9) SWAN Conference Venue and dates for 2022 quarterly meetings

The feedback received from 2021 as regards the format of the AGM and conference received well and would be the basis of the build for 2022.

Joanna Rufus explained that because a “Covid Window” of opportunity had appeared to hold the 2021 event, sponsorship was taken as the quickest and easiest way of covering the costs.

ACTION: Martin Sutcliffe to hold a poll on how 2022 should be funded (i) sponsorship (ii) ticketed.

SWAN AGM and Conference will be held at Plymouth Marine Laboratory on Thursday 20th October 2022, running from 0845 to 1600.

The last hour will again be dedicated to networking.

JR stated there may be discounted rail tickets available due to the expected number of delegates. She would also circulate a hotels list.

2022 Next Virtual Meeting Dates

- **Tuesday 26th April 2022, 1300-1500**
- **Tuesday 26th July 2022, 1300-1500**

10) Any other business and meeting close

Martin Sutcliffe thanked SWAN attendees again for their support in making the group a successful, industry led representation of the sector.

MS encouraged all to join the SWAN LinkedIn Group.

MS stated his intention to attend Aquaculture UK, Aviemore, Scotland 3rd to 5th May 2022. Seafish are also to exhibit.

Dorset LEP – One Health Conference – please hold the date - Thursday 10th March 2022

To be held at Kingston Maurward College, near Dorchester, a full day’s agenda with a Market Place for networking/exhibiting.

Useful links from Teams Chat

Funding competition

UK-Singapore Collaborative R&D

UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £3 million for the purpose of developing innovative proposals with Singapore.

Competition opens: Monday 24 January 2022

Competition closes: Wednesday 20 April 2022 11:00am

[Competition overview - UK-Singapore Collaborative R&D - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition-overview)

Recently launched national Agri-tech portal

[Developing UK export activities in high growth markets globally - Agritech UK \(agritech-uk.org\)](https://www.agritech-uk.org/)