

South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN)

25th January 2022

13:00 to 15:00 hrs

MS Teams Virtual Meeting c/o Dorset Council

Present

Martin Sutcliffe (Chair)	Dorset Coast Forum
Joanna Rufus (Secretariat)	Dorset Council
Nikki Parker-Goadsby	Dorset Coast Forum
Sheldon Ryan	Maritime UK South West
Jayne Codling	Innovate UK EDGE
Chris Lyons	Innovate UK
Helen Sweeney	Horizon Europe
Ross Brown	University of Exeter
Lisa Bickley	University of Exeter
Louise Smith	Cefas
Rob Watson	Marine Technology Business Centre, University of Plymouth
Rob Passmore	North Devon Biosphere
Rob Emony	DIT – Investment Services Team
Elizabeth Warham	Department for International Trade – Food & Drink – AgriTech Lead
Ian MacLaren	DIT - Trade
Oliver Robinson	British Trout Association
Lee Cocker	Seafish
Sharon Jones	BCP Council
Martin Syvret	Aqua Fish Solutions
Isabel Griffiths	Southern Ifca
Finn Morgan	Dorset LEP/Dorset Gateway
Emma Greenwood-George	Dorset Bio Solutions
Richard Prickett	Dorset Cleaner Fish/Jurassic Sea Farms
Chris Anderson	Gill, Jennings & Every LLP
Sandie Wilson	Portland Port/Portland Harbour Authority
Jason Scott	Scott Aquaculture
Rod Wilson	University of Exeter (Biosciences)
Benjamin Coppin	MMO
Elena Piana	Noola Redclaw
Vincent Waldock	
Louise Rutherford	University of Exeter (Research Student)
Afsoon Sadeghi Azadi	University of Exeter
Adam Diego	

Apologies

John Sellgren	Dorset Council
Lawrence Brown	L J Brown
Dougie Allen	RASTECH Ltd
James Fox-Davies	360 Aquaculture
Angela Mead	Biomealgae
Huw Thomas	Cornish Shellfish

1) Welcome and housekeeping

- Jo Rufus started the meeting.
- JR stated that a transcript of the meeting being taken. No objections.
- Apologies - Listed above.

2) Last Meeting's Minutes and Actions

- JR reviewed actions and confirmed all undertaken with the exception of coordinating with GJE (Chris Anderson) re setting up workshops and IP.
- The minutes are published on the SWAN web site [SOUTH WEST AQUACULTURE NETWORK \(SWAN\) - Maritime UK South West \(maritimeuksw.org\)](https://www.maritimeuk.org.uk/south-west)

3) Maritime UK South West update

- Budget

£230 million for a UK Shore which is essentially a centre to help decarbonise maritime. It is a fund that will be administered through DfT to help decarbonize the sector as part of that, there will be a clean maritime demonstrator. Subsequent rounds likely to be launched possibly June. Quite significant funding for clean propulsion and to include the modernisation of shoreside infrastructure.

Seeking a greater kind of maritime efficiencies - how they can be applied to aquaculture? SR asked the question of those in charge of the Fund, whether fishing would be exempt. That the fund would be there to solve technology problems, therefore it should be relatively agnostic, does marine or maritime market picks up that funding?

- The National shipbuilding strategy was released, and the new National Shipbuilding Office will be touring the country, explaining the relevance of the strategy. SR would encourage SWAN to read the strategy go, as it appears all encompassing.
- Maritime UK are hosting a webinar 3pm, 26th April 2022 to introduce the Department for The Maritime Capability Campaign Office which was recently set up by government to help coordinate campaign activity across the civil and military maritime sectors, aiming to make UK maritime exports more competitive abroad.
- From a national perspective, MUKSW has been working on finding more companies who are keen to invest and support early stage businesses in marine technology. Some of the organisations that appear quite capable, who are assisting marine businesses, whether it be through investment, investment, support or early stage business support.

- New groups which SR is assisting to administer nationally that has maritime UK SW members. The Technology Innovation Group is basically a mixed group of research, business and government officials working around the maritime 2050 strategy. For example digitisation, decarbonisation. New Hydrogen Group working around decarbonisation.

Action: Any interested parties please contact SR.

- Events

Oceanology International, Excel, London - Funded by heart of the South West LEP very well attended. Excellent networking event.

There is a marine tech innovation event in North Devon on the 13th of May addressing floating offshore wind supply opportunities. [Northern Devon marine- Floating Offshore Wind supply chain opportunities Tickets, Fri 13 May 2022 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

The Green Technology Boat Show on the 16th to 18th of June in Plymouth.

- Sea Tech Week, 26-30 September 2022, Brest Expo, France

MUKW are taking a stand. A great opportunity to network with the aquaculture cluster in Brittany. Please contact SR to attend/exhibit/network.

PML, University of Plymouth, University of Exeter and the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult attending the stand. Keen to promote the DIT High Potential Opportunity for Marine Autonomy.

SR volunteering to organise bespoke meetings for SWAN members.

Action: JR to contact AEUK and Coda Octopus Martech if they wish to attend.

Action: Lee Cocker requested MUKSW news & events to include in Seafish newsletter for 1,000 stakeholders, SR to facilitate.

4) Funding updates

Innovate UK EDGE – Jayne Coding

Innovate UK – Chris Lyons

Horizon Europe – Helen Sweeney

Joint presentation attached.

Action: Lee Cocker requested funding update for Seafish newsletter which is produced monthly, CL to facilitate.

Action: Rob Passmore keen to engage in UKRI bids.

Fisheries & Seafood Scheme

MS drew attention to the above administered by MMO, SME targeted, now open to 2025.

5) Applying a framework for identifying positive tipping points for food system transformation relating to SW aquaculture

Dr Ross Brown, College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Exeter

Presentation attached

Action: Ross Brown will leave the survey open for 2 further weeks.

Priorities for ensuring the sustainable development and growth of aquaculture in SW England

Short 5 minute questionnaire

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfs9pbrb4gnif732HyIn04SV2vksRCmIVYidXcN-Wx5fglUWA/viewform>

Further enquiries to:

Ross Brown ross.brown@exeter.ac.uk and Lisa Bickley L.K.Bickley@exeter.ac.uk

Action: From Chat: Happy to advise on relevant legislation in the Southern IFCA District. Also happy to answer anyone's questions - my email is isabel.griffiths@southern-ifca.gov.uk Isabel Griffiths (Southern IFCA)

Comment: JR stated not to lose the emphasis and direction of Heart of the South West LEP and Dorset LEP with their Local Industrial Strategies and aquaculture within the process of setting up Combined Authorities and County Deals with Levelling Up.

Comment: Lee Cocker stated the importance of Seafood 2040 strategy, the emergence of the project to establish an English Aquaculture Innovation Hub and the DASHH project. He also drew importance to attending the APPG for Aquaculture.

Action: Lee Cocker to provide copy of DASHH pdf.

6) North Devon's Emerging Aquaculture Strategy

Rob Passmore, Commercial Director, North Devon Biosphere

Presentation attached.

Chat: Emma Greenwood-George, Dorset BioSolutions. Had been in the Seaweed Academy Launch webinar all morning, and stated the need to have such a centre of excellence and training within the South West. Dorset BioSolutions are to launch a whole range of onshore wet (no need to dry 70% of embodied energy of some seaweed products) seaweed processing services, that can be utilised for land & sea crops alike.

Chat: Rob Emony - when the bio-refinery will be constructed? Rob Passmore stated the infrastructure in place and phasing by end of June

7) Ocean Futures and South West Marine Innovation Collaboration

Rob Watson, Director, Marine Business Technology Centre

Presentation attached

8) SWAN AGM '22 – Funding, round table discussion and poll

MS confirmed that the SWAN AGM 2022 will be held on 20th October 2022 at Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

DCF kindly set up a poll for those present to vote on how to fund the 2022 conference, last year's funded entirely by sponsorship.

How would members prefer the SWAN AGM conference to be funded?

- 1) Tickets alone (circa £28 to £30 per ticket)
- 2) Sponsorship alone (approx. £4k required)
- 3) Combination of sponsorship and a nominal ticket fee of £10

23 votes cast

- 1) 4%
- 2) 21%
- 3) 73%

MS confirmed this largely reflected response to Doodle Poll sent out earlier this year. Therefore, tickets for the SWAN AGM '22 will be £10 each with the remaining funds being sought from industry/partner sponsorship.

9) AOB and next meeting

MS stated he would continue as Chair of SWAN until at least January 2023 when the current term ends. Dorset Coast Forum as yet to seek direction from their membership as to a replacement for MS.

10) Date of next meeting:

Tuesday, July 26th at 1300hrs to 1500hrs on MS Teams.

MS Teams Chat – useful links

Helen Sweeney's email helen.sweeney@iuk.ukri.org

UK Seafood Fund - UK Parliament Committee Inquiry.

"This inquiry will evaluate how effectively the UK Seafood Fund will meet its stated objectives and how well the Government is delivering on the promises it has made to the fishing industry, and is intended to influence the implementation of the Fund to maximise its effectiveness....can submit evidence until **Tuesday 10 May 2022**".

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6653/uk-seafood-fund/>

Funding competition

Innovate UK Smart Grants: April 2022

[Competition overview - Innovate UK Smart Grants: April 2022 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Jayne Codling

I have a number of clients that tap into such resources and have done for a quite a while for example ARC Marine : <https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org/success-story/ARC-Marine-turning-offshore-constructions-thriving-ecosystems>; Hydrosurv <https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org/news/Uncrewed-marine-vessel-developer-makes-waves-Canada-after-GBIP>; and Frontier Technical: <https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org/success-story/Offshore-renewable-energy-to-isolated-coastal-communities> and an advocate of such an approach to support innovative SMES.
[ARC Marine: Accelerating reef creation | Innovate UK EDGE \(ukri.org\)](#)