



4th Advisory Group Meeting

Monday 14th June 2021

Online Meeting

In attendance:

Project Staff

Lewis Le Vay - Chair and Project Director
Karen Tuson - Project Manager
Shelagh Malham - Senior Research Fellow
Jane Smith - Minutes

Advisory Board Members

Paul Jones (Standing in for Bekah Cioffi –
Welsh Government)
Jim Evans - Welsh Fishermen's Association
Colin Charman - Natural Resources Wales
John Holmyard - Offshore Shellfish Ltd.
Trevor Jones - Extramussel
Eunice Pinn - Seafish
Andy Woolmer – Salacia Marine Ltd

Minutes

1. Chair's announcements

The Chair welcomed members of the SC Advisory Group to the meeting, and all present introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

James Wilson, DeepDock Ltd

3. Minutes and actions of last meeting

The Chair apologized for the infrequency of the meetings, partly due to disruptions caused by Covid 19 [to be noted as C-19 herein]

Discussed action points of the meeting that took place on the 29th June 2020.

Razor Clam Fisheries – Reported progress with some desk- based work. Discussed further under agenda item 4.

Workshop/Conference on 'Expansion of Shellfish production in Wales' this has been postponed due to C-19.

Will be discussed further under agenda item 4.

4. Project Update

- Project Extension

The Chair began his report with an update on the status of SC activity.

Main focus to discuss plan future work priorities of remainder of project.

- Covid-19 update

The Chair updated on the impacts of C-19 on SC projects.

C-19 restrictions have limited or delayed research activity.

Staff working mainly from home but easing of restrictions allowing some lab and field work.

12 month no cost extension negotiated with WEFO, new end date of SC project 30 November 2022.

- Project progress summary

The Chair presented an update on the numbers of SC collaborations to date, an overview of the active projects by work package. The SC is on track to meet most of the targets but most challenging areas are likely to be securing evidence of total number of 'companies supported' and given the current challenges 'increase in employment in supported enterprises' may be beyond our control.

In terms of workshops and wider engagement SC hosted or participated in several online webinars in conjunction with native oyster network including the Native Oyster Restoration (NORA) meeting, hosting an international workshop on norovirus in shellfish and hosting a special session on mussel aquaculture in the United States National Shellfish Association annual meeting.

Other wider engagement included a project on prevalence of coronavirus in wastewater across Wales and the UK supported by Office of National Statistics and Welsh Government (staff time spent on this work all externally funded).

Number of grant proposals have been submitted with one successfully awarded by Maritime and Fisheries Fund (MFF) for native Oyster Hatchery project.

Website and Newsletter continues to be developed as an information portal and to aid dissemination of information.

5. Future plans

Priorities for commitments of remaining time/resources (until end of Nov 2022).

Water Quality and Shellfish Production - number of projects in development, potential collaboration with Welsh Water.

Pacific Oysters – project in development on status of Pacific Oysters in Menai Strait.

6. Points of discussion

Coastal Microbial Quality

Water Quality Classification - Discussed potential opportunities presented in the Seafish Report by SSWG 'Official Control Regulations (OCR) for shellfish production' now published with a list of recommendations.

EP can provide link to Publication.

Link for the OCR review:

<https://www.seafish.org/document/?id=621ffa11-4943-4698-bdd4-bcf3784bdda8>

Suggestion that if main area of work in the future is focused on water quality that Welsh Water may be interested in joining the Advisory Group. LLV: First step to establish projects that Welsh Water would be keen to sign up to.

Discussed importance of information sharing – NRW, Welsh Government, FSA and EA and SM stated that regular yearly meetings were held to ensure that everyone was kept informed that could be taken forward.

River Basin Management Plans and Water quality issues - Colin Charman /Mark Charlesworth contact.

LLV confirmed that there would be technical and budget resource for new projects for the remainder of the Shellfish Centre running period.

Cockles Fishery Water Quality

LLV updated on status of Burry Inlet cockle fishery project. Requirement to have agreement with SME partner which has proven very challenging.

CC – NRW very supportive of project and offered help to mitigate the barriers.

JH: commented that Shellfish Centre was focused on research addressing industry needs, which was positive. Raised opportunity to collaborate with other labs in England on catchment related projects.

Native Oyster Hatchery

Maritime and Fisheries Funding (MFF) Fund.

SM reported on the recently launched native oyster hatchery project, focusing on guidelines and protocols for producing early native oyster spat.

7. AOB

No other business

Date for next meeting TBC.

Doodle poll will be circulated to confirm date for the next meeting.

LLV thanked everyone for their time and contributions.

Action: KT

END