

**Isle of Man Scallop Management Board**  
**Minutes of the Electronic meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Emailed to:** Jennifer Mouat (Chair), David Beard (DB – MFPO), William Caley (WC – Isle of Man Seafood Products Ltd), Juan Canipa (JC - Manx fisherman), Geoffrey Chambers (ANIFPO/NI Scallop Association), Phil Comber (PC – Manx fisherman), Domhnall MacLachlainn (DMcL – Scottish fisherman), Carrie McMinn (AFBI), Scott Merrick (SM - A M Seafoods), Neil Milsom (NM – DEFA), Mark Roberts (MR – Welsh fisherman), Brian Horne (BH – Manx Fisherman), Robyn Hughes (RH – DEFA, Minutes)

## **1. Meeting opened**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 16:23 on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November. The Board were asked to consider and vote on the following proposal;

**Cancel the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. Allow DEFA carry out a four week review of the fishery and for the Board to make a recommendation to the Minister based on week 4 data.**

This was agreed to in writing by four members of the Board.

## **2. Landing estimates**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> November DB provided the Board with an excel document with landing estimates based the effect of keeping the DCL at the current level of 560kg, raising it to 630kg or raising it to 700kg. A number of assumptions were made in the calculations summarised as follows;

*Increase to 630kg attracts 10% more boats and 700kg attracts 20% more boats - fishing trips increase accordingly. Increase is limited to 5% if DCL remains at 560kg*

*Percentage catching DCL*

*The percentage catching the full DCL will reduce if the DCL increases as some boats may not reach the new quota. Assumption is that the current rate reduces to 47.5% meeting the DCL if 630kg and 45% if 700kg DCL.*

*One week of poor weather*

*It has been assumed that there will be one week of poor weather in the remaining weeks.*

*Effect of Christmas break*

*It has been assumed that in the last week (week 8) before the Christmas break that fishing will tail off slightly as boats return to their home ports*

*The calculations based on these assumptions lead to estimated total landings of 647t if the DCL stays at 560kg, 671t if it increases to 630kg and 713t if the DCL increases to 700kg. The total 'soft' targets for November and December are 677kg. The estimates based on the three scenarios are all relatively close to the 'soft' targets with 630kg DCL being 6t under and 700kg DCL being 34t over the soft targets while remaining at 560kg landings are 30t under.*

## **2. Discussion**

DB expressed the opinion that an increase in Daily Catch Limit would not overheat the fishery but that an increase of above 700kg would be too great a risk. The Chair asked the Board to consider the following;

**That a recommendation should go to the Minister on the basis of an increase to 630kg with a further review at 8 weeks to review any impact and manage accordingly.**

Board members discussed the recommendation. A number of Board members favoured a larger increase to 700kg to capitalise on Christmas markets. It was suggested that this could be lowered back to 630kg if there was too big an increase in landings. It was also raised that an increase to 700kg could encourage larger boats to fish further offshore. The option of distribute quota according to class of boats was raised as something that could be discussed at the next face to face meeting.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December a quorum was reached. While there was support for an increase to 700kg from respondents, with a view to ensuring a viable fishery for the whole season it is proposed that there should be an increase to 630kg.

### **3. Recommendation**

- Increase the Daily Catch Limit to 630kg.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> December (Christmas closure) the DCL will revert to the original figure of 560kg
- A further Board Review will be carried out as soon after the Christmas break as possible where the DCL may be readjusted if required at that point.