

All Party Parliamentary Fishing Group



Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 in Room 20.

Attendance: Sheryll Murray MP (Chairman), Scott Mann MP, Melanie Onn MP, Baroness Wilcox.

1. Chairman's welcome to the meeting

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Martin Vickers MP.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting / matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and approved. There were no matters arising.

4. Update / questions from members, including RNLI *Respect the Water* campaign launch

A general discussion took place on fisheries issues, including the National Lobster Hatchery in Padstow, Cornwall.

The RNLI campaign launch is taking place on Wednesday 8th June, 13:15-15:45 in Room R, Portcullis House. Photos will be available for MPs and Peers with the RNLI. Baroness Wilcox reminded members that the RNLI now patrol the River Thames.

AP: Secretariat to investigate with the Serjeant At Arms the possibility of the RNLI arriving at Westminster by boat via the River Thames / Terrace and an associated photo opportunity.

5. Seafish Seafood Strategic Outlook – Climate change adaptation update

The report was circulated amongst members.

AP: Secretariat will share the report with regular APPFG members.

6. Any other business

Scott Mann MP raised small-eyed ray. There is some concern that they are not part of the quota and that this is impacting North Cornish fishermen. He mentioned that Geoffrey Cox MP has raised similar issues in relation to West Devon fishermen during the recent Commons debate on the sea bass quota. Clarification is needed from the Minister on what's actually happening.

AP: Secretariat to write to the Fisheries Minister, George Eustice, on behalf of the APPFG raising the concerns and requesting clarification.

Sheryll Murray MP asked if George Eustice should be invited to a future APPFG meeting. This was agreed.

AP: Secretariat to draft letter and send invitation.

Sheryll Murray MP also flagged that if there was an 'out' EU vote there would be implications for fisheries policy. She referenced Owen Patterson's "Green Paper" written whilst he was a shadow minister. Members agreed to ask Libby Woodhatch from Seafish to give an industry perspective on the impact on leaving or staying in the EU at a future APPFG and to alert Owen Patterson MP, Alex Cunningham MP and Callum Kerr MP.

AP: Secretariat to arrange the meeting as above.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th May at 3pm in Committee Room 9 (subject to change).

