

All Party Parliamentary Fishing Group



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 13th September 2016 in Room 11.

Attendance: Sheryll Murray MP (Chairman), Peter Aldous MP, Oliver Colvile MP, Melanie Onn MP, Ms Margaret Ritchie MP, Martin Vickers MP, Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP.

1. Chairman's welcome to the meeting

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed members that she would be not be seeking re-election given her appointment as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. DEFRA's policy portfolio includes fisheries. She thanked everyone for their support and highlighted the number of constructive meetings that had taken place throughout the year.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alistair Carmichael MP and Danny Kinahan MP.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and approved.

4. Matters arising

Peter Aldous asked what was the response from DEFRA to Melanie Onn's letter seeking clarification on the commitments given on fishing during the EU Referendum campaign. Melanie Onn reported that Minister of State, George Eustice, had replied but that the response could have been more fulsome. The Group agreed that this should be an area of discussion when the Minister speaks to the Group on 25th October. Sheryll Murray reminded members that the next DEFRA Oral Questions were on 13th October and encouraged the tabling of questions.

5. Election of Officers

Chairman: Oliver Colvile MP.

Vice Chairmen: Alistair Carmichael MP, Melanie Onn MP, Ms Margaret Ritchie MP, Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP, Baroness Wilcox.

Secretary: Peter Aldous MP.

6. Programme of work / Forthcoming events

It was agreed that the Group should conduct an inquiry into the opportunities and impacts of 'Brexit' on the fishing industry, commencing with a session with the DEFRA Minister of State, George Eustice, on 25th October (details below).

AP: Members should write to the Chairman with their suggestions for future meetings before 25th October. Initial thoughts on stakeholders included Scottish white and pelagic fishermen and processors, the National Under Ten Metre Fishermen's Association (NUTFOR), Plymouth Trawler Agents and NGOs.

7. Any other business

Peter Aldous reminded members of the need to ensure a fisheries debate takes place before the Christmas recess. He agreed to approach the Backbench Business Committee, working together with Melanie Onn, Margaret Ritchie and Eilidh Whiteford.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 25th October at 2pm in Committee Room 20 (subject to change). Minister of State at DEFRA, George Eustice, will be speaking.