Fishing into the Future

Jim Masters, Executive Director
Jim Masters – Executive Director
jim.masters2014@gmail.com
01392 758806
07900244507
@fishing_future
Fishing into the Future
Imagine a world where

• UK Commercial fish stocks are robust - managed in close collaboration with fishermen and underpinned by a healthy marine environment.

• Sustainable fishing yields high catches; profits increase; a vibrant industry sees a prosperous future.

• Contributions of fishermen are valued: they understand fisheries assessments; they work closely with scientists; data they collect improves stock assessments.

• There is a long-term view of fisheries management; ecosystem function and connectivity is maintained through well-supported Marine Recovery Areas

• Fishermen demand best practice from their industry with reduced impacts on ecosystems; fishermen lead by example and are seen as professional stewards of the sea.

• Retailers source from sustainable fisheries across the sector; consumer-demand for sustainable seafood remains high; ‘seafood security’ is assured.
We started life as a Strategic Partnership.
Brixham 2013

A ground-breaking event
Brixham
2013

A unique opportunity for the fishing industry
Brixham 2013

Fishermen welcomed this kind of engagement
Brixham 2013

A highly motivating event

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Original Priorities

A need identified by fishermen

- Sustainability and Prosperity Through Training
- Science and Industry Collaboration
- Fisheries Management and Innovation
- Rewarding Good Practice
- Engaging stakeholders and consumers

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1. To promote sustainable development in UK fisheries for the benefit of the public by:

- Preservation, conservation and protection of the marine environment and prudent use of marine resources

- Promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration in UK fisheries
Highly Regarded Team of Trustees

Our Chairman
Executive Committee Members

Vice Chairman
Executive Committee Members
Executive Committee Members
Other Trustees

Over 50% Active Fishermen

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Other Trustees

Industry Representatives

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Other Trustees

Science and academia
Other Trustees

Retail
Other Trustees

Government
Mission

- To: ‘Chart a course towards sustainable and prosperous UK fisheries’.

- Our USP is to fully leverage the experience and insights of our ‘fishermen trustees’.

- Work collaboratively to deliver fisheries that maximise their environmental, social and economic potential and build ‘seafood security’.

- We embrace the concepts of co-management, co-design and co-production.
Higher Level Objectives

- Support Sustainability
- Promote Innovation
- Build Prosperity

Mutually-supportive Goals
Organisational Goals

We occupy a unique place in the ‘sustainability’ landscape

• Build capacity of fishermen to engage with sustainability issues, practices and challenges,

• Improve contributions of fishermen to fisheries science, assessment and management,

• Provide enhanced engagement opportunities for fishermen to share knowledge,

• Raise awareness for and promote good practice,

• Build a constituency of leading fishermen and advocates for sustainable fishing businesses.
Work Programme Priorities

- Training for Sustainability
- Science and Industry collaboration
- Communications and Engagement
Training for Sustainability

Working towards better sector engagement

Fishermen currently operate with no formal knowledge of marine science

Don't fully understand assessments and quotas

Distrust scientists

Fail to influence sustainability debates

Slower to adopt sustainable fishing practices

Oppose quotas and management

Oppose protection of the wider marine environment

Status quo remains

Fishermen operate with working knowledge of marine and fisheries science

Understand fisheries assessments and quota decisions

An engaged and motivated sector

Desire to contribute to fisheries assessments

Want to work with scientists

Welcome fishing practices that sustain their businesses

Stronger buy-in to wider marine management and protection

Sustainability of the industry is enhanced

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Benefits of this work

• Fishermen gain tools needed to engage with sustainability agenda and influence policy landscape.

• Support for fisheries assessments and collaborative science.

• Provide a forum for fishermen to engage with each other, managers, scientists and policy-makers: a collective, two-way engagement mechanism.

• Build a cohort of leading fishermen who drive the development of better practice and the sustainability agenda from the bottom-up.
Science and Industry Collaboration

- Fishermen-Science Interface Programme (FSIP)
- Project UK

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Fishermen-Science Interface Programme

A virtuous cycle

- Sustainable fisheries delivered
- Fishermen’s knowledge and science aligned
- Fisheries assessments improved
- Fisheries assessments include fishermen’s data
- Fisheries better managed and measured
Fishermen-Science Interface Programme

Embodying co-design

• **Data Collection Protocols** – a nationally endorsed recipe for successful fishermen-scientists

• **National Framework** – strategy to finance and support data collection by fishermen

• **Sentinel Surveys** – representative fleets who contribute data to improvement management of the whole fleet

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Benefits of this work

Better assessments, better management, better fisheries.

• Provide a real-time application of our training programmes –
• Collectively builds bridges of trust
• National level guidance to fishermen
• Establishes partnerships for new ways of doing science
• Trains fishermen and scientists of the future.

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Project UK

- Broadens Scope to commercially interesting UK fisheries

Phase 2 of Project Inshore

- A partnership established by Marine Stewardship Council, Seafish and Industry

- FitF will be developing the funding bid and managing certain elements of the project

- Chloe North will explain more

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Outreach and engagement

Building a constituency of fishermen

• **Online media:** twitter, Facebook, website, films, publications

• **Fishermen’s Forum:** A strategically significant, neutral platform for debate and action - further leveraging the experiences, motivations and commitments of leading fishermen.

• **Fishermen-Champions:** looking to develop an online resource that highlights and promotes best-practice across fishing sectors.

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Benefits

Neutral, credible and effective coordination

- Allow us to occupy a unique space in the UK fishing industry.
- Building model for replication elsewhere.
- Supporting wider engagement with consumers and other sectors in the supply-chain.
- Enhanced engagement opportunities for all involved.

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How you can help

Support, engagement and finance

• Engage with us across all channels

• Provide access to essential supply-chain intelligence

• Support projects and initiatives directly

• Contribute to our Advisory Committee (in development)

• Support our Revenue Streams – we need un-restricted funds to operationalise our work programme and organisational goals.

• Our current target is to raise upwards of £80,000 from retail and supply chain over the next three years to support core-functions.

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Stuart Hetherington, Marine Biologist
Science & Fishery Collaboration
Engaging the fishing industry in data collection

Sustainable Seafood Coalition Members Meeting
London, 11th February 2016
Cefas

- Over 100 years of applied marine science
- Government’s foremost source of marine evidence, applied science & impartial expert advice

A sustainable marine environment

Energy & Climate Change

Healthy & productive marine environment

Food security & Public health
Benefits for involving stakeholders in participatory management and data collection

Rather than relying solely upon traditional approaches……

Work directly with fishermen who regularly encounter the study species +

Scientific platform – skippers knowledge, appropriate gear……

Rapidly & efficiently collect data in real-time

Provides evidence to inform policy
What do we mean by a participatory approach?

Define the question to determine which participatory approach is best

- **Scientist led**
  - UK Fisheries Science Partnership

- **Self collection**
  - Dutch self collecting discards programme

- **Self recording**
  - Shark Trust’s Shark Fisheries Project

- **Self sampling**
  - Shark By-Watch UK
    - Self-sampling in the inshore sector (SESAMI)

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**Shark Trust**

**GAP**

**Connecting Science Stakeholders and Policy**
“the FSP initiative has transformed the relationship among the fishing industry, scientists and policy makers and delivered better outcomes”

Barrie Deas NFFO Chief Executive
It’s not dumbing down the science

Quality is Credibility

- Has the science met the needs?
- Is understanding better?
- Are policies easier to implement?
- Is compliance better?
- What are the views? Feedback
- Publications
- Uptake of technologies
An example of the data that is required

- Limited data available for regional UK shark and ray populations.
- Lack of understanding between frustrated fishermen, fisheries scientists & management measures.
- Loss of fisher knowledge & understanding of UK shark and ray populations.
- Unpopular management & conservation measures e.g. high levels of discarding.
- Significant loss of income to UK fisheries.

(e.g. reduced quotas & zero TAC).

of shark, skate & ray discards. Reduction in shark, skate & ray landings.
Forward thinking project, supported by scientists, led by fishermen

www.facebook.com/sharkbywatchuk
FV Govenek of Ladram Fishing zones 8th – 13th October 2013

4 porbeagle bycaught
(1 ♀ Gill net; 1 ♀ & 2 ♂ Trammel net)

77 spurdog bycaught
(25 ♀ & 20 ♂ Gill; 8 ♀ & 22 ♂ Trammel)

147 Blue Skate (all Trammel)
(34 ♀, 17 ♂ & 102 Unk)

6 Flapper Skate (all Trammel)
(3 ♀ & 3 Unk)
How does this improve monitoring for policy and management?

Unrivalled data collection on the level of spurdog bycatch, discard rates, discard survival and other biological information to better inform on stock status

⇒ Aligning zero quota species and improving fisheries management – a spurdog case study

A UK lead initiative for the alignment of spurdog management measures with a reformed CFP, for the NE Atlantic
Thanks for listening!

Any questions?