

Fisheries Management Scotland

Enforcement Committee – Minutes

7 December 2020

By Videoconference

Present

Alan Wells (FMS) (Chair)
Alison Baker (Forth)
Chris Conroy (Ness)
Brian Davidson (FMS)

Edward Rush (IFM)
Jamie Urquhart (Dee)
Bill Whyte (Wester Ross)
Keith Williams (IFM)

Apologies

Richard Whyte (Spey)
Diarmid Hawkins (Dee)
Craig Duncan (Tay)
Karl Ferguson (RTC)

1. Welcome

AW welcomed all to the meeting and noted the apologies.

2. Update on training review and delivery

2.1. *Framework for delivery*

BD reported that the FMS/IFM sub-group has now met twice to review the bailiff training course materials with a view to updating and re-writing it to make it more accessible and user friendly. This will include how the current training manual can be converted into shorter standalone modules which can be hosted as short online courses. A framework paper, with module title, outline content and target audience was circulated to the committee to demonstrate the outline structure of online training, including a range of different audiences for various courses/modules – this could include SEPA, Police Scotland, COPFS and other stakeholders as appropriate. This approach was welcomed and supported by the Committee and the sub-group will continue to meet to review the content.

2.2. *Agreeing the process for development of content*

Based on the structure outlined in the framework, the process of reviewing, editing and re-writing training materials is time consuming and the revised content will be converted into separate documents for review. It was agreed that the Enforcement Committee will be an important part of the review process, and that the revised content will be shared with the enforcement committee for input/comment. It was also agreed that the questions relevant to each module should be reviewed, edited and re-written as appropriate, with new questions where relevant. It was recognised that the development of appropriate questions will require specific expertise, and the IFM Training Committee was discussed in this regard. This would be explored further. **ACTION: KW/BD**

The following comments were made:

- The committee welcomed the overall approach to tailor different training content to different audiences;
- It was agreed that the Committee should assist in providing resources to support the online training materials – this to include images and video footage. **ACTION: ALL**
- Consideration should be given as to how the courses fit within a broader training picture in Scotland – for example how it might fit with other fishery management training such as those offered by SFCC – the customers will often be the same for such training;

2.3. Annual bailiff examination 5 December 2020 & sample exam

BD reported that the first online examination was held on 5 December. This was a good opportunity to launch the online delivery of training. A sample exam was also created to allow candidates to familiarise them in advance with the online approach and what to expect in terms of functionality. There were no issues reported and all candidates completed the examination. The scores achieved for section A were automated so this reduced the time spent marking and candidates received their score on completion of this section. Overall, the process was significantly easier than convening a physical examination. IFM will assess the section B scores for the candidates and organise third party assessment of a sample of papers before marks are released. **ACTION: IFM**

3. Enforcement seminar – options for delivery

A number of options for delivery of the seminar were considered. Under the current COVID-19 circumstances, the only current realistic option is to plan a virtual seminar in 2021 should the committee wish to proceed with an event. The views on whether to convene a virtual event were mixed. Whilst a number of other online events have proven successful with good engagement over the past year, there was also a view that it may be challenging to effectively engage the enforcement network through a virtual event. The focus has always been on practical initiatives and training and a move to a virtual event may well have very limited appeal. There may however be scope to offer other resources and services, for example short drop-in sessions to share information, training discussions or other enforcement-related discussion online. Further thought will be given to the points raised and consider what, if any, event should be planned for next year. **ACTION: BD/ALL**

4. Enforcement priorities – wild salmon strategy

Whilst the process was at a very early stage, AW provided an overview of the Wild Salmon Strategy process being facilitated by Marine Scotland. This will be the opportunity to feed in the enforcement priorities for change developed by the committee and to articulate why these changes are required and what they will look like from a policy perspective.

The terms of reference for the strategy are still under development and these will be circulated once agreed. The committee recognised that the work of the strategy will be high level and were generally encouraged to see that Marine Scotland are looking for ideas from the sector and that Fisheries Management Scotland are well positioned to influence the discussions across a range of areas. The potential for early legislation arising from the process to deliver changes was raised – it was recognised that there are a number of factors which may influence this,

including the 2021 Scottish Parliament elections, COVID and Brexit. Clarity on when a legislative timetable might be possible will be sought as part of the strategy discussions.

It was agreed to reconsider the committee paper on enforcement priorities in light of the opportunity for change and whether the paper covered everything from an enforcement perspective. The committee were asked to review this paper and for any comments to be submitted by 11 December. **ACTION: ALL**

5. AOB

None.