**FIPS Steering Group – Meeting # 1 – Minutes**

Meeting Date: June 20th 2023

Meeting Venue: In-Person / BIM Dún Laoghaire Office

Meeting Attendees:

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| **Name** |
| Rory Campbell (BIM) (Chair) |
| David Evans |
| John Nolan |
| Sean O Donoghue |
| Aodh O'Donnell |
| Patrick Murphy |
| John Lynch |
| Ruth Dalton |
| Dermot Magrath |
| Joe Hannon |
| Catherine Morrison |
| Elizabeth Tray |
| Frank Fleming |
| Mike Fitzpatrick |
| Ciara Dower |

Meeting Agenda:

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|  | **Agenda Item** | **Time** |
| 1 | Roundtable | 10:30 – 11:00 |
| 2 | Steering Group TOR | 11:00 – 11:15 |
| 3 | Overview of FIPS | 11:15 – 11:30 |
| 4 | Coffee Break | 11:30 – 11:50 |
| 5 | Current FIPS Work Programme | 11:50 – 12:30 |
| 6 | Next Steps & Action List | 12:30 – 13:20 |
| 7 | AOB & Next Meeting Date | 13:20 – 13:30 |

**Minutes**

1. **Roundtable**
   * All members introduced themselves.
2. **Steering Group TOR**
   * Rory reminded everyone that the main aim for the steering group is to provide a strategic outlook to bolster the sustainability of fisheries through FIPS and make the high-level decisions necessary to achieve & improve sustainability certifications of various fisheries.
   * A very lengthy discussion around TOR’s occurred. Topics addressed where:
     + Board Bia Certification
     + Marine Stewardship Council Certification (MSC)
     + National Brand Certification
   * **Action**: All members to agree the TOR’s before the next meeting. BIM will revise and send out the TOR’s before the next meeting, and members are expected to confirm they approve of the TOR’s through email correspondence.
3. **Overview of FIPS**
   * A brief PowerPoint from VeriFact was given. As the presentation progressed, the following topics were discussed:
     + The UK came up with FIPS with MSC in mind as the end goal
     + From the PO’s – very concerned with the MSC as the end goal due to concerns around a lack of control/transparency over the certification scheme (example given on Mackerel).
     + From the Buyer’s – emphasized that consumers will not take into account any type of detailed certification scheme (e.g. FIPS ratings), and that MSC is the most recognizable certification for consumers.
     + Discussion on the different ratings systems - FIP Report (A to E rating) and the Fish Source Score (1 to 10)
     + Discussion on decommissioning scheme and future effects on key fisheries
4. **Current FIPS Work Programme**
   * A brief PowerPoint from VeriFact was given. As the presentation progressed, the following topics were discussed:
     + Discussed the FIPS Report’s current grades and lessons learned from the crab FIP going from a B to a D. Also referenced how the Tuna FIP going well and that the by-catch data from the Observer programme is instrumental in supporting the FIPs
     + Social assessment discussed.
     + New approach discussed to improve industry data provision. This involves each of the 4 POs and Co-ops providing 1 vessel name and contact details per month to the MI Fisheries Liaison team for involvement in the sampling at sea program. This is to be implemented as of August 2023.
     + Got into the detail of each of the FIPS but then the discussion then circled back into what the TOR’s of the group are, and also on what the main goal of the various FIPS should be (e.g. a national brand or MSC).
5. **Next Steps & Action List**
   * **Action**: PO’s to ask their members to sign up to the Vessel Database
   * **Action**: Verifact to generate an options paper for each FIP
   * **Action**: Verifact to generate report analysing the implications and effect of the decommissioning scheme for FIPs
   * **Action**: BIM to make a one-page diagram on the various certification options
   * **Action**: BIM to make a one-page road map on a FIPS establishment and progression.
6. **AOB & Next Meeting Date**
   * **Action**: BIM to send out Doodle Poll to find a suitable meeting date in September.