



MINUTES OF KIMO UK BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY 26th March 2007

HELD IN: CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES (COSLA)

SALTAIR ROOM, ROSEBERY HOUSE, 9 HAYMARKET TERRACE, EDINBURGH

14:00 - 16:00

Present:

Councillor Jeff Hamilton – Moray Council
Councillor Jim Henry - Shetland Islands Council
Councillor Joanna Strathdee – Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor Mike Sullivan – Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor Mike Rumney – Fife Council
Councillor Jim Foubister – Orkney Islands Council
Linden Jarvis – East Lothian Resident – Petition
Bob McLellan – Chief Officer – Fife Council
Jan Falconer – Aberdeen City Council

Secretariat – Mr Rick Nickerson

Mr John Mouat – Project Officer

Apologies:

Councillor Angus Nicolson
Councillor Iris Hawkins – Shetland Islands Council
Councillor David Selfridge – Angus Council
Ian Robertson – Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor Jenny Watson – Aberdeenshire Council
Nick Wheeler - Pembrokeshire Coastal National Park Authority
Mr Tony Marsh – Orkney Islands Council
Mr Harry Miller - Western Isles Council (CNES)

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<p>Item 1: Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Hamilton informed the meeting that Cllr Gorn had broken her hip while in France and it was agreed to send her a card. Mr Nickerson also introduced Mr Linden Jarvis, a shareholder of Forth Ports who was against the Ship to Ship proposal.</p> <p>Item 2: Draft Minutes KIMO UK Business Meeting held on Friday 1st December 2006, Edinburgh</p> <p><u>The draft minutes were approved.</u></p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>(i) Letter from SEPA re Tc 99 in Scottish Waters.</p> <p>SEPA had responded to the FOI request for information on the levels of Tc 99 in Scottish waters however they did not answer the specific questions asked and only referred to the RIFE report. Mr Nickerson thought we should write back asking for an assessment not just the figures but not as a FOI request. <u>This was agreed.</u></p> <p>(ii) Letter from Norwegian Radiation Protection Board.</p> <p>Mr Nickerson explained that the Norwegian RPB had been more helpful in their response however there had still been no reduction in the levels of Tc 99 as there was a five year gap between discharges and an effect in Norwegian waters. <u>It was agreed that the Norwegian RPB should be contacted in 2008 to see if there were any change in Tc 99 levels.</u></p> <p>(iii) Results of KIMO Press release on MOX shipments to Switzerland</p> <p>As a result of the press release NFLA Wales had written to the Welsh First Minister. Mr Nickerson explained that the office of Civil Nuclear Security had responded to questions relating to the use of the Atlantic Osprey in Europe by stating that the response time for security forces was smaller in Europe and therefore the lower specification INF2 class vessel could be used. This campaign would continue in the future and <u>Cllr Rumney agreed to thank or Welsh colleagues for their help.</u></p> <p>(iv) Marine Environment Inquiry by the Scottish Parliament Environment and Rural Affairs Committee</p> <p>Mr Nickerson outlined the Inquiry report and where KIMO had had an influence especially on Ship to Ship issues (STS).</p>	<p></p> <p>UK Coordinator</p> <p>UK Coordinator</p> <p>Cllr Mike Rumney</p>

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<p>Item 3: Ship to Ship Transfers in the Firth of Forth</p> <p>Mr Linden Jarvis asked why the Scottish Executive and Parliament were not taking more action to stop STS in the Forth. Mr Nickerson explained that they were constrained as Shipping was a reserved matter however he also thought they could be taking more robust action. Mr McClelland informed the group that the three councils around the Forth; Fife, Edinburgh and East Lothian, were ready to take legal action if any transfers were approved. Mr Nickerson asked what legal route they would take and was informed it would either be judicial review or injunction depending upon QC advice. Forth Ports had also reneged on a promise to conduct an oil spill contingency plan exercise on STS and were conducting a holistic exercise instead.</p> <p>Mr Jarvis explained that Forth ports were required to provide SNH with an assessment of the potential impact of an oil spill from STS on the Firth of Forth. A draft had been sent and returned with considerable amendments required. A second draft is expected to be submitted around Easter. Once this is submitted SNH and the Executive will meet to discuss whether the assessment is acceptable if not they will ask Forth ports to apply for a licence. Mr Jarvis also explained that just sightings of cetaceans were not enough to constitute the presence of a protected species under the Habitats Directive they are required to have resting places. Erik Hoyte an expert in this field was currently investigating if there were any resting sites in the Forth. The SNH officer in charge of dealing with the oil spill assessment from Forth Ports was hoping to delay a decision until the parliament returned from recess in May.</p> <p>Mr Nickerson explained that he had approached Frontline Scotland about undertaking a programme on STS. A producer had been allocated to investigating the possibility and he had been given contact details for the main people involved. Cllr Rummney stated that BBC Country File had covered the issue but that the programme had only been shown in England. Cllr Strathdee suggested we should write to the BBC and request they show the programme north of the border. <u>This was agreed.</u></p> <p>Mr Nickerson suggested that it would be worthwhile writing to the EU Commissioner and Mr Jarvis informed him that MEP's Cathy Styler and Alan Smith had both raised the issue. Mr Jarvis asked where else STS transfers were and was informed they had been undertaken at Scapa Flow, Southwold and Sullom Voe and in addition Falmouth were also interested in undertaking transfers. There was also some discussion as to whether transfers were still happening off Skagen in Denmark and <u>it was agreed to ask the Danish EPA what was happening.</u></p>	<p></p> <p>UK Coordinator</p> <p>UK Coordinator</p>

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<p>Mr Nickerson thanked Mr Jarvis for all his hard work on this issue and <u>reminded members that they should put the STS resolution to their own councils for adoption.</u> Mr Jarvis asked what action could be taken if Forth Ports went ahead with a transfer during the parliamentary recess and was informed that the councils were ready to take legal action to block any transfers should they be approved.</p> <p>Mr Jarvis left the meeting.</p> <p>Item 4: Finance and Administration</p> <p>(i) Update on meeting with Wexford County Council re Irish Membership Campaign</p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated that the meeting had been positive and was attended by three county councils and as a result Fingal County council from north of Dublin had joined KIMO. It was also hoped that more County Councils would join after the AGM in Wexford.</p> <p>(ii) Update on Home Working/Data Trawl Project</p> <p>Mr Nickerson informed the group that this was a project that had been sitting on the shelf for several years that he had managed to secure funding for at short notice. A project officer, Jane Macaulay, had now been hired for the project and would be starting on the 16th April and a further update would be given at the next meeting.</p> <p>(iii) Provision of the UK Co-ordination Service</p> <p>Mr Nickerson and Mr Mouat left the room for this item.</p> <p>General discussion took place regarding options to deal with the possible departure of Mr Nickerson – KIMO Secretariat and UK Coordinator if successful in the upcoming local authority elections as he is required to give 24 hours notice is if elected to Shetland Islands Council.</p> <p><u>It was agreed to suggest to Shetland Islands Council to consider the appointment of Mr Nickerson as a consultant on a part time basis until the end of the current funding period for FFL Scotland.</u> The basis for this recommendation was based on the premise that the current Fishing for Litter Scotland funding would cease at the end of March 2008. It was therefore likely that within the restricted time frame and taking into account the time it would take to recruit and appoint another candidate that this would not be cost effective or manageable. Members also were concerned that Mr Nickerson's considerable experience and knowledge of KIMO would be lost during this period of transition when possible new staff would have to be appointed.</p>	

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<p>Item 5: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR)</p> <p>(i) Summary record of the Impacts of Human Activities Working Group (EIHA) 7th-9th November 2007 Galway, Ireland</p> <p>Mr Nickerson outlined the report on encounters stating that there had been over 300 encounters reported in the UK alone vindicating the need for central reporting of incidents. Two reports on Fishing for litter (FFL) were also presented, a background report on activities and guidelines on developing a FFL project. Several countries suggested amendments and an updated version would be presented to the Biodiversity Committee in Brussels.</p> <p>Dr Richard Thomson was also invited as a guest of KIMO to present his work on microplastics to the working group. Several countries were interested in this area and the report will be forward to an expert group for further discussion later this year.</p> <p>Operational objectives on marine litter had still not been developed by OSPAR however it was considering developing a litter strategy for the first time.</p> <p>Item 6: Update on Fishing for Litter Activities</p> <p>(i) Fishing for Litter Scotland</p> <p>Mr Mouat informed the group that Kirkcudbright harbour was now participating fully in the project and initial approaches had been made to Pittenweem in Fife to participate. The number of vessels participating was now over 90 very close to the overall project aim of 100. The tonnages of waste coming ashore had also increased although with over 25 tonnes coming ashore this year however they were still well below the target figure.</p> <p>(ii) Update for Fishing for Litter South West</p> <p>Mr Mouat explained that there had still been no response from the Crown Estate on the progress of our application. Nathan de Rozareieux of Seafood Cornwall was in the process of applying to the waste company Biffa under the Entrust scheme for additional funding as this had too be done locally in Cornwall. Due to the delay in securing funding it was now more likely that the project would start in June rather than April.</p>	

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<p>(iii) Other Fishing for Litter Initiatives</p> <p>Mr Mouat Informed the group that there had been no progress on the Fishing for Litter project in Wales due to the current workload with the Fishing for Litter South West Project but that it would hopefully be revisited next year. However the Isle of Man were developing a Fishing for Litter project at four harbours on the Isle which would be up and running shortly. Mr Mouat had been invited to attend a seminar to mark the launch of the scheme.</p> <p>Item 7: Report on the Grounding of the Napoli in Lyme Bay</p> <p>Mr Mouat informed the group that he had travelled to Lyme bay in the days after the incident to assess the accident first hand and to promote KIMO's policy on compensation and liability in relation to non-toxic goods. Good press coverage of KIMO's concerns was achieved with interviews on BBC and Belgian television, BBC and Local Radio and for local newspapers.</p> <p>Since the incident the Local Authority has decided to hold a public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the grounding of the Napoli and the subsequent looting of containers washed ashore on Branscombe Beach. The MCA were also making inquiries into whether the ships manifest correctly identified the contents of some of the containers onboard.</p> <p>Item 8: Strategy for KIMO Membership for New Councils</p> <p>Mr Nickerson explained that we needed to develop a strategy to make sure we retained all our existing members after the elections and to ensure that a Councillor and Officer were nominated to KIMO from each authority. <u>Authorities should also invite the secretariat to give a presentation on KIMO to the first appropriate committee meeting to explain the organisation to new members.</u></p> <p>Item 9: Marine Climate Change Impacts - 2006 Report Card</p> <p>Mr Mouat explained that this had been raised at the last meeting and that it very clearly explained the current impacts of climate change on the marine environment based on the best current knowledge. Mr Mouat suggested that members take it back to their own councils as information document.</p> <p>Item 10: Date and Location of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting was tentatively tabled in for the 22nd June to be confirmed by letter at a later date.</p>	<p>UK Coordinator</p>

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<p>Item 11: AOCB</p> <p>Mr Mouat informed the meeting that he had been in touch with Ray Drabble, from the Marine Consultancy EMU, who had approached KIMO a year ago about taking part in a project dealing with monitoring pollution from wrecks. He was now further advanced with the application and was still interested in participation from KIMO. The main area of interest for KIMO was that one of the wrecks to be monitored was scuttled containing a cargo of chemical weapons. Mr Mouat told the meeting he would report back on any developments in this project.</p> <p>Cllr Henry asked what was being done in relation to wrecks containing radioactive material in the north of Russia. Mr Nickerson informed him that the Norwegians and spent a lot of money addressing this issue and <u>that we would prepare a briefing.</u></p> <p>The entire meeting also sent condolences to Cllr Hawkins following the sudden death of her husband and passed on their respects her and her family at this sad time.</p>	<p>UK Coordinator</p>