



MINUTES OF KIMO UK BUSINESS MEETING

FRIDAY 1st December 2006

**HELD IN: CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES (COSLA)
SALTAIR ROOM, ROSEBERY HOUSE, 9 HAYMARKET TERRACE, EDINBURGH**

14:00 - 16:00

Present:

Councillor Angus Nicolson – Western Isles Council (CNES) - Chair
Councillor Mike Sullivan – Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor Mike Rumney – Fife Council
Councillor Jeff Hamilton – Moray Council
Councillor Jim Foubister – Orkney Islands Council
Councillor Jim Henry - Shetland Islands Council
Councillor Joanna Strathdee – Aberdeenshire Council
Ian Robertson – Aberdeenshire Council
Bob McLellan – Chief Officer – Fife Council
Jan Falconer – Aberdeen City Council

**Secretariat – Mr Rick Nickerson
Mr John Mouat – Project Officer**

Apologies:

Councillor Bob Wilson – Moray Council
Councillor Robin Banks – Argyll & Bute Council
Councillor Iris Hawkins – Shetland Islands Council
Councillor Jenny Watson – Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor David Selfridge – Angus Council
Councillor Friel – Aberdeen City Council
Mr John Rimington – MHK – Isle of Man
Mr Harry Miller - Western Isles Council (CNES)
Mr Martin Hall – Isle of Man
Ms Belinda Miller – Aberdeen City Council
Mr Tony Marsh – Orkney Islands Council
Mr Stewart Turner – Argyll & Bute Council

	Action
<p>Item 1: Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Nicolson welcomed all those present and the apologies were noted.</p> <p>Item 2: Draft Minutes of the KIMO UK Business Meeting held on Friday 1st September 2006</p> <p><u>The draft minutes were approved.</u></p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>(i) Recent trends in Levels of Tc 99 In the Marine Environment</p> <p>Mr Nickerson outlined the report on Tc 99 levels that had been produced by Northern Europe Nuclear Information Group (NENIG) at the request of Cllr Foubister at a previous meeting. The report showed that the reduction in Tc 99 discharges from Sellafield had not yet resulted in a reduction in levels of Tc 99 in UK waters. No response had been received from the Norwegian authorities however as the transport time to Norway was up to five years it will still be some time before the full effect can be analysed.</p> <p>The dose for seafood consumers has risen however this is a result of an increase in consumption of fish rather than an increase in concentrations. SEPA are also investigating the loads to agricultural land through the use of seaweed as fertiliser. Cllr Strathdee asked what the dose levels to consumers were and Mr Nickerson stated that he did not have the figures to hand however they would be included in the RIFE 2006 report.</p> <p>Cllr Foubister stated his concern that there could be transport of nuclear material in ballast water from the Murmansk area in northern Russia due to the increase in the oil trade from that region. However Cllr Henry informed him that as oil was being shipped from the region ships would only be travelling under ballast on the inward journey and therefore there should be no transport of ballast water out.</p> <p>Cllr Sullivan asked what the half-life of Tc 99 was and Cllr Nicolson explained that it was thousands of years. He also explained that it was used as an indicator of the transport of nuclear material from Sellafield as it was not naturally occurring and its only source was the Thorp reprocessing plant.</p> <p>Cllr Nicolson informed the group of the new 'Links to the Action Plan' section in the report, which will be included in every new report showing how its contents tie into the strategic plan for the organisation. This was welcomed by the Group.</p>	

	Action
<p>(ii) Report back on incidents of Algae Blooms</p> <p>Mr Mouat informed Cllr Foubister that there were several types of algae responsible for the blooms around Orkney earlier this year. The first was <i>Kerenia Mikimotoi</i>, which blooms offshore and then is forced onshore by the winds and tides. These blooms were entirely natural and depending upon a combination of nutrients, temperature, sunlight and other factors. Therefore there were no specific reasons for this years bloom such as pollution or global warming. <i>Pseudonitzschia</i> and <i>Alexandrium</i>, which are responsible for anaemic and paralytic shellfish poisoning (ASP and PSP) caused the other blooms. Rather than occurring offshore these occurred within Scapa Flow caused by the warm shallow waters and inputs of nutrients from farming. Resuspension of algae from the sediment by wave action also prolonged the blooms. Mr Mouat explained that as these blooms were affected by inputs from land they would continue to occur each summer when the conditions were favourable.</p> <p>Item 3: Draft Minutes of the KIMO International Annual Meeting and Conference held on the 8th of October, Helsingborg, Sweden</p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated these minutes were for noting and highlighted that the revised financial package for the provision of the Secretariat by the Shetland Islands Council had been approved. The Strategic Plan was also approved pending the submission of the Netherlands/Belgium Action Plan. The report on Thematic Groups was also approved at the AGM. This will allow individual members to take the lead on specific projects, which are approved by the Board, and produce a work product in conjunction with other like-minded members that can then be used or disseminated by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Item 4: Ship-to-Ship Transfers (STS) in the Forth Estuary</p> <p>A report was presented by Mr Nickerson which outlined progress made since the last meeting on implementing the action plan. <u>Frontline Scotland was to be approached about covering the issues surrounding the proposed transfers in the Forth.</u> The Resolution on STS had been passed by the AGM and had also been supported by the Shetland Islands Council, which would be writing to Fife Council to state their support.</p> <p>The issues surrounding ballast water and invasive species had been devolved to the MCA however they don't have the necessary expertise and therefore a letter was written to Rhona Brankin requesting that she instruct SNH to do a investigation into the possible impacts of an invasive species establishing itself in the Forth.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UK Co ordinator DONE</p>

	Action
<p>STS transfers had also been raised again at the Scottish Parliament where Forth Ports shareholder Linden Jarvis had entered a second petition on STS with the Parliament's Petitions Committee.</p> <p>Mr Nickerson outlined the Resolution on STS Transfers, which had been agreed at the KIMO International AGM in Helsingborg, Sweden. The action requested was that individual members take the Resolution back to their councils for ratification. <u>This was agreed.</u></p> <p>Dr McLellan stated that Fife Council had legal proceedings against Forth Ports Ltd in place if a transfer was approved. Edinburgh and East Lothian Councils had also now agreed to support Fife Council in any formal legal proceedings should they go ahead.</p>	<p>KIMO UK Members</p>
<p>Item 5: Finance</p> <p>(i) Report on Meeting with Wexford County Council in November re Irish Membership Campaign</p> <p>Mr Nickerson outlined the preliminary meeting he had held with Wexford County Council and other interested parties in regard to establishing an Irish network. The response had been positive and it was agreed to further promote the possibilities in conjunction with the next KIMO International AGM, which would be held in Wexford in October. The possibility of combining KIMO Ireland and KIMO UK and developing Irish Sea and Scottish Forums was also raised and Mr Nickerson asked for authority to discuss this proposal further. <u>This was agreed.</u></p> <p>(ii) Home Working Data Trawl Project</p> <p>Mr Nickerson explained that this project had been initially approved by KIMO 5 years ago however due to time constraints and lack of funding it had not gone ahead. The proposal was to use the skills base within the Shetland community to undertake internet based research on environmental issues. It would employ one part time co-ordinator to compile a database of suitable home workers, develop procedures, oversee the individual data trawls, and compile the final report. The project would be a one-year pilot to see if it was feasible to develop the idea further.</p> <p>Cllr Foubister asked when the funding package needed to be in place and Mr Nickerson explained the intention was to start in January so as soon as possible. It had been hoped that funds might be available from OSPAR however these would not be allocated within the timescale required. <u>Delegated authority was given to Mr Nickerson to develop the project and submit other applications for funding.</u></p>	

	Action
<p>Item 6: KIMO Press Release on MOX Shipments to Switzerland</p> <p>Mr Nickerson explained that the shipments could be leaving at any point over the next few days and would be carrying weapons grade materials in the ex roll on roll off ferry the Atlantic Osprey. The press release called for the use of the best available technology as was used on the MOX shipments to Japan. The Chair stated that Irish radio station RT2 had contacted him for a quote on the shipments.</p> <p>Cllr Rumney informed the meeting that there had been an application from the MOD to SEPA to ship low-level waste to Sweden for smelting. The most likely source of the waste was the decommissioning of nuclear submarines at Rosyth.</p> <p>Item 7: Update on Fishing for Litter Initiatives</p> <p>(i) Fishing for Litter Scotland</p> <p>Mr Mouat informed the group that there were now 11 harbours participating in the project with the addition of Ullapool to the network. The total number of boats involved in the project was now 88 and nearly 25 tonnes of waste had been collected. A new size of waste bag had been ordered as some of the smaller boats had too little space for the current bags and the contents were starting to putrefy before they were full. It was hoped this would help reinvigorate harbours such as Stornoway where there was low participation.</p> <p>An approach had been made to the project by the Solway Firth Partnership to include Kirkcudbright harbour in the project and the co-ordinator and project officer would be attending a meeting in Kirkcudbright on the 4th of December to discuss the possibilities.</p> <p>(ii) Proposal for Fishing for Litter South West England</p> <p>Mr Mouat explained that since the last meeting he had attended a seminar on Fishing for Litter in Newlyn, Cornwall. There had been significant interest in the project at the meeting and it had been decided that KIMO and Seafood Cornwall would develop a proposal for a three-year project. The aim would be to establish a network of four harbours with 60 participating vessels and a target of 200 tones of litter collected. A part time co-ordinator would be based in the Cornwall Fisheries Resource Centre to administer the project. Mr Mouat asked for approval to approach funders and implement the project with a projected start date of April 2007. <u>This was agreed.</u></p>	<p>FFL Project Officer DONE</p>

	Action
<p>(iii) Other Fishing for Litter Initiatives</p> <p>Mr Mouat informed the meeting that there had also been interest from Wales in Fishing for Litter and an approach had been made from West Wales Fishing Communities (WWFC) who were interested in setting up a project. This was still in the early stages however there was potential for co-operation in the future. Mr Nickerson also informed the group that he and the project officer had given a presentation to members of the Morecombe Bay Pollution Task Force on KIMO at the invitation of Lancaster City Council. Interest was expressed about membership of KIMO and they were also interested in the FFL concept.</p> <p>Item 8: Marine Environment Inquiry by the Scottish Parliament</p> <p>Mr Nickerson outlined the inquiry, which covered the marine environment as a whole, which was being conducted by the Scottish Parliament and asked members if they thought KIMO should make a response. Cllr Henry thought that KIMO should respond. Cllr Nicolson stated that the Western Isles had already entered its submission and he would forward it to the Co-ordinator for this information. <u>It was agreed that KIMO UK should make a submission.</u></p> <p>Item 9: Progress on UKAEA Consultation on Radioactive Particles</p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated that he had given many verbal updates on this issue however as the process was now progressing a written update was required. UKAEA was in the process of conducting the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BEPO) study to determine the best strategy for managing the particles legacy. The number of options had been reduced so only the feasible options remained and a number of these would form the management strategy.</p> <p>Mr Nickerson explained that he represented KIMO UK on the Scrutiny Committee for the process, which had brought up several issues including involving national stakeholders in workshops on the management strategy.</p> <p>Cllr Strathdee, Cllr Sullivan and Mr Robertson left the meeting.</p> <p>Item 10: Date and Location of KIMO UK Meeting</p> <p>The Chair explained that KIMO UK meetings were usually held in conjunction with the COSLA Environment and Sustainability Executive Group. The Group had however only confirmed two of its dates for next year due to the Scottish and local elections and these were the 2nd February and 30th March.</p>	<p>UK Co ordinator DONE</p>

	Action
<p>The Chair suggested that due to the proximity of the first date in February that the next meeting should be held on the 30th March. <u>This was agreed. (Subsequent to this the COSLA Environment and Sustainability Executive Group had been moved to March 26th)</u></p> <p>Item 11: AOCB</p> <p>Mr Mouat informed the meeting that he had just attended a EU Marine Strategy Stakeholder meeting in Brussels. The meeting had discussed progress in relation to the Strategy Directive and the current position of the negotiations between the Council of Ministers and the Parliament. Another meeting had been scheduled for the spring and the series of stakeholder meetings would continue during the implementation of the Directive. Mr Mouat also attended a conference on climate change and its impacts on the marine environment in London. The Marine Climate Change Impacts Annual Report Card presented at the conference highlighted the possible effects on the marine environment around the UK.</p> <p>Mr Nickerson highlighted that the UK National Contingency Plan, which KIMO had been involved in revising, had now been published. The KIMO Secretariat had also been interviewed by consultants on behalf of DG Transport to ask our views on the development of a EU coastguard. They had been instructed to consult KIMO as the organisation is regarded as important stakeholder.</p> <p>Mr Nickerson expressed his thanks to Mrs Paula Nicolson KIMO's Administrative Assistant, who had gained promotion within the SIC, for all her hard work and dedication over the years. <u>The Chair agreed and wished Mrs Nicolson all the best in her new position.</u></p> <p>Cllr Hamilton informed the meeting that Moray Council had undertaken a best value review and as a result they would not be renewing their membership in KIMO in 2007. The Chair thanked him for his efforts in trying to secure Moray's future membership.</p> <p>Cllr Nicolson wished to thank everyone for a productive meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair DONE</p>