



All Party Parliamentary Group on Fisheries

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021, 11.30am,
Online Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

Sheryll Murray MP (Con)	Eleanor Adamson (The Fishmongers' Company, Secretariat funders)
Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Lib Dem)	Katrina Ryan (Secretariat)
Lia Nici MP (Con)	Jacob Ashton (Secretariat)
Martin Vickers MP (Con)	Jax Keenan (Secretariat)
Liz Saville-Roberts MP (Plaid)	
Lord McColl of Dulwich (Con)	

1. Chair's welcome

Sheryll Murray MP welcomed all attendees, and mentioned her enjoyment of the immediately preceding public event on Data, Tech and Innovation in UK fisheries. She officially thanked The Fishmongers' Company for their generosity in funding the Secretariat, and to Mindfully Wired Communications for providing the Secretariat service. The other Parliamentarians in attendance endorsed this thanks. Eleanor Adamson of The Fishmongers' Company expressed her thanks to Sheryll Murray MP and the Secretariat for the service they provided.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Dr Philippa Whitford MP, Deidre Brock MP, Rosie Duffield MP, and Angus Brendan MacNeil MP. All had expressed a wish to be APPG members for the upcoming year.

3. Minutes of the last AGM

It was noted that the minutes of the last AGM had been circulated. Alistair Carmichael MP proposed they were accepted. The proposal was seconded by Liz Saville-Roberts MP and Lia Nici MP. All attendees agreed that the minutes were accepted.

4. Income and Expenditure Statement

It was noted that the Income and Expenditure Statement had been circulated, and was publicly available on the APPG website.

5. Election of Officers

Liz Saville-Roberts MP nominated Sheryll Murray MP to continue as Chair of the APPG on Fisheries. Alistair Carmichael seconded the nomination and all other attendees agreed.

The following were duly nominated and elected as Vice Chairs:

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Lia Nici MP, Martin Vickers MP, Liz Saville-Roberts MP, Lord McColl, Dr Philippa Whitford MP, Deidre Brock MP, Rosie Duffield MP, Angus Brendan MacNeil MP.

Attendees also agreed that any APPG Members from the previous year that were not present and were still eligible to be a Member would be welcome to continue their role in 2021.

6. Update from the Secretariat: Programme of work and upcoming events

Katrina Ryan, Director of Mindfully Wired Communications who provide the Secretariat, gave an overview of the progress of the APPG over the last year. She reported that the APPG had held nine public events, eight virtual, since the last AGM, covering a wide range of industry-relevant issues. She noted that attendance had grown considerably, with over 100 attendees at all recent events and over 300 at February's event covering the Fisheries Act and Brexit. She drew attention to online resources produced by the Secretariat including policy briefs, timely online articles, newsletters, and social media presence.

Looking forward, Ryan said that upcoming events will cover topics such as marine planning, aquaculture, and international approaches to building resilience and inspiring innovation. She mentioned that the Secretariat intended to reach out to other APPGs, and to undertake research, pending funding. She also said that the Secretariat hoped to hold a celebratory event within Westminster showcasing UK seafood.

Ryan concluded by welcoming the involvement of the Secretariat's Parliamentary Members in the year ahead, and stated that the Secretariat was looking forward to the upcoming year.

7. Discussion

Sheryll Murray MP (hereafter the Chair) welcomed ideas and suggestions from APPG Members in attendance.

Alistair Carmichael MP noted that the planned session on aquaculture was of interest given the prominence of aquaculture within his constituency. He noted that there were political sensitivities worth bearing in mind, but welcomed a well-focused event. He said the Secretariat would be welcome to contact his office to discuss the idea.

The Chair asked whether any Vice Chairs would be interested in chairing any future sessions, noting Carmichael's interest in the proposed aquaculture event as an example. Lia Nici MP said she would be interested in topics involving skills and fish processing, given that there is a need to move the processing industry forward. The Chair asked the Secretariat to contact Nici on this note, and mentioned this could include promoting the industry to domestic workers to reduce reliance on employees from other nations.

Liz Saville-Roberts MP said that the industry in her constituency is dependent on wholesale suppliers, and that she had had conversations regarding 'hubs' to relieve export issues, and on the implications of the classification of waters by the Food Standards Agency. She noted these are all issues that affect the shellfish industry and expressed an interest in pursuing this further with the APPG.

Martin Vickers MP suggested that the APPG investigate the role the fishing industry can take in regenerating coastal communities. The Chair added that this lent itself to collaboration with the APPG on Coastal Communities.

The Chair concluded by asking the Secretariat to invite Parliamentarians who could not attend to raise any ideas for the future of the APPG. She then closed the meeting.