

ADO Update – FLAG Meeting June 2019

- **Project SWEEP;** DCF through the ADO has supported a collaborative project proposal under South West Partnership for Environment and Economic Prosperity (SWEEP). The project entitled 'Water quality management underpinning sustainable aquaculture and its expansion in SW England' has now been approved and funded. DCF will be attending the launch of this new project.
- **Aquaculture Film;** The Aquaculture Film highlighting career paths into the sector in Dorset and East Devon has now been finished and is undergoing final editing prior to being released.
- **Aquaculture Park;** The Aquaculture Park concept continues to be discussed with commercial ports to see if a multi-port case study can be developed.
- **Virtual HUB & Cefas Marine Aquaculture Mapping Project;** The development of the Aquaculture Virtual Hub is now underway. Several meetings have been held to help identify likely users of the site, and from this, to develop a suitable site map. The Aquaculture Mapping Team at Cefas are also working closely with the web developers to bring the mapping outputs to as many stakeholders as possible.
- **Seaweed Cultivation;** Seeded ropes have now been deployed on Dorset's first commercial seaweed farm and initial growth rates have been encouraging.
- **High Potential Opportunity;**
 - The region has been awarded an HPO which is a mechanism whereby the Aquaculture sector within the region will be highlighted and promoted to attract inward investment. The final draft of the HPO has now been reviewed and should be realised shortly.
 - A first overseas investor visited Dorset in early May 2019 to investigate potential on-shore sites for recirculation aquaculture systems. Initial indications are positive that this visit may result in a new aquaculture operation being established.
- **Seafood 2040 Strategic Framework (SF2040);** Support work for the Aquaculture Leadership Group (ALG) is ongoing. The ADO attended the last Seafish Aquaculture Common Issues Group Meeting (ACIG) and, together with Cefas, highlighted the aquaculture work that is ongoing in Dorset and East Devon through DCF and The Dorset & East Devon. The ADO has also been extensively involved in a number of consultations regarding projects that will be of direct value to the cultivation sector in Dorset and East Devon.
- **Shellfish Purification Training;** A local shellfish farm has approached the Southern Shellfish Training Centre (SSTC), a Seafish Approved Training Provider, about the possible provision of a locally delivered shellfish purification training course. Plans for this course are being developed with a likely deliver date of July 2019. Please contact training@aquafishsolutions.com for further details.
- **Other work;**
 - **SAGB;** The ADO attended the SAGB's 50th Annual Conference in May 2019. The Keynote Speaker on Day 1 was Alison Austin OBE who is the Chair of Seafood 2040. Alison's presentation highlighted and praised the work that Dorset Council, the

FLAG, DCF and the LEP are doing in promoting aquaculture. This work was highlighted as being a pathfinder approach that could well have national relevance and significance.

- The ADO attended a meeting at Exeter University to discuss a potential new project aimed at investigating mitigation approaches for shellfish producers to Harmful Algal Blooms and algal biotoxins. An Innovate UK approach is being considered.