



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

Ministry for Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Joshua Hassan House
Secretary's Lane
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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First meeting of Fishing Regulations working group

The Working Group set up under the recently published Marine Protection Regulations met for the first time on Tuesday. The Group, which is chaired by the Minister for the Environment, Dr John Cortes, consists mainly of persons nominated by stakeholder groups.

The composition of the Group is:

Christian Borrell (representing the Small Boat Owners' Club)

Danny Gabay (representing the Big Game Fishing Association)

Francis Martin (representing Catalan Bay Traditional Fishing Association)

Mario Ramos (representing the Federation of Sea Anglers)

Shane Shacaluga (representing the Spearfishing Association)

Eric Shaw (representing the Ornithological & Natural History Society)

Liesl Torres (CEO, Department of the Environment)

Alfred Vasquez (independent)

Stephen Warr (Senior Scientist, Department of the Environment)

The first meeting lasted over two hours, and included discussion on possible improvements to, and administrative details for implementation of the Regulations, licensing conditions, enforcement, and permissible sizes. In particular, concerns about the ownership of vessels in relation to fishing licences were discussed and resolved.

It was also agreed to encourage and remind members of the public who want to fish to ensure that they have the necessary licences in place by 1st January.

Commenting on the meeting, Minister for the Environment, Dr John Cortes, stated: "It is a significant step forward in sustainable management of our seas to have all these stakeholders together for the first time, constructively discussing how we take this forward. We are all aware of the challenges, but determined to build on the progress made. It is important that we clearly demonstrate that Gibraltar is willing and able to administer the use of its waters."