



## FISHERIES INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

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Articles of Association



*Company number: SC477579*

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

*Company limited by guarantee  
and not having a share capital*

**ARTICLES of ASSOCIATION**

**of**

***Fisheries Innovation &  
Sustainability***

*Scottish Charity Number SC045119*

J. & H. Mitchell, W.S.  
Pitlochry and Aberfeldy

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

*Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital*

**ARTICLES of ASSOCIATION**  
**of**  
**Fisheries Innovation & Sustainability**

**1 NAME AND REGISTERED OFFICE**

- 1.1 The name of the company is “Fisheries Innovation & Sustainability” (“the Company”).
- 1.2 The Registered Office of the Company is situated in Scotland.

**2 DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 The definitions and meanings specified in this Article shall apply throughout these Articles of Association and the two Schedules hereto, as follows:

<b>WORDS</b>	<b>MEANINGS</b>
AGM	– the Annual General Meeting.
Articles	– these Articles of Association, and any ancillary regulations thereunder, in force from time to time.
Authorised Representative	– as defined in Article 5.2 in relation to organisations which are members.
Board	– the Board of Trustees.
Board of Trustees	– the Board of Directors of the Company.
Charitable Purposes	– as described in Article 3 on the basis that these fall within section 7 of the Charities Act and are also regarded as charitable in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts.
Charities Act	– the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and every statutory modification and re-enactment thereof for the time being in force.
Charity	– a body on the Scottish Charity Register which is also regarded as a charity in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts.
Companies Act	– the Companies Act 2006 as amended and every statutory modification and re-enactment thereof for the time being in force.

Company	– Fisheries Innovation & Sustainability.
EGM	– an Extraordinary General Meeting, and any General Meeting which is not an AGM.
In writing	– written, printed or lithographed, or partly one and partly another, and other modes of representing or producing words in a visible and non-transitory (albeit electronically-based) form.
Members	– all members of the Company.
Month	– calendar month.
Named Depute	– as defined in Article 5.2 in relation to organisations which are members.
Organisation	– any body corporate, unincorporated association, society, federation, authority, agency, union, co-operative, trust, partnership or other organisation (not being an individual person).
Property	– any property, assets or rights, heritable or moveable, wherever situated in the world.
Subscribers	– those persons and/or organisations who have subscribed these Articles.
Stakeholder Committee	– as defined and described in Article 14.
Trustee(s)	– Director(s) for the time being of the Company.
Vote	– made on behalf of a member by its Authorised Representative or Named Depute

2.2 These Articles supersede any model Articles contained within the Companies Act or any regulations pertaining thereto.

2.3 Words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number, and *vice versa*.

2.4 Words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender.

2.5 Subject as aforesaid, any words or expressions defined in the Companies Act shall, if not inconsistent with the subject or context, bear the same meanings in the Articles.

2.6 The two Schedules to these Articles are deemed to form an integral part of these Articles.

### **3 CHARITABLE PURPOSES and POWERS**

3.1 The Charitable Purposes of the Company ("the Charitable Purposes") are:

3.1.1 the advancement of education;

3.1.2 the advancement of citizenship or community development;

- 3.1.3 the advancement of environmental protection or improvement; and
  - 3.1.4 the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science.
- 3.2 In furtherance of the Charitable Purposes, the Company shall support and facilitate innovation in United Kingdom seafood, by carrying out activities including the following:
- 3.2.1 advance research, education, expertise and training in relation to prosperous and sustainable UK seafood; and
  - 3.2.2 provide information and support to members, other organisations, members of the public, public bodies, and governments.
- 3.3 The Company shall have powers, but only in furtherance of its Charitable Purposes, as expressed in Schedule 1 annexed to these Articles.

#### **4 GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMPANY**

The structure of the Company comprises:

- 4.1 **Members** – those organisations which, through their Authorised Representative or Named Depute, have the right to attend the AGM (and any General Meeting) and have important powers under these Articles and the Companies Act, particularly in electing people to serve as Trustees and taking decisions in relation to any changes to these Articles; and
- 4.2 **Trustees** – those individuals who have the powers given in these Articles to be exercised in accordance with the duties imposed by these Articles, the Companies Act, the Charities Act and other relevant legislation, hold regular meetings between each AGM, set the strategy and policy of the Company, generally control and supervise the activities of the Company and, in particular, are responsible for monitoring its financial position and, where there are no employees or managers appointed, are responsible also for the day-to-day management of the Company.

#### **5 MEMBERSHIP**

##### **5.1 Members**

- 5.1.1 Membership shall be open to any organisation which supports the Charitable Purposes (as defined in Article 3.1) and supports the activities detailed in Article 3.2;
- 5.1.2 has a demonstrable track record as a stakeholder in relation to UK seafood; and
- 5.1.3 which both applies to join and is accepted for membership by the Board in terms of Article 5.5.

##### **5.2 Authorised Representatives of Organisations**

- 5.2.1 Each member which is an organisation shall, within one month of admission to membership, appoint one named Authorised Representative and one Named Depute. The Authorised Representative, whom failing the Named Depute, shall represent, act and vote for such member at all General Meetings of the Company. The Named Depute may represent and act for such member only in the absence of the Authorised Representative.
- 5.2.2 Any change in the appointment of an Authorised Representative, and/or of a Named Depute, may be made at any time by the appointing member, but only by written notice served by the appointing member to the Company. Such notice will take effect in respect of any meeting taking place 48 hours or more after receipt of the notice to the Company to allow sufficient time for the appointing member to serve a copy of

the notice to anyone named therein and to enable the Company to act upon such notification.

- 5.2.3 In the case of any dispute as to the correct Authorised Representative and/or Named Depute serving at any time, the matter will be settled by the Secretary in accordance with the most recent notice validly received by the Company.

### 5.3 **Employees**

Employees of the Company may not act as Authorised Representative or Named Depute of a member. A person who becomes an employee of the Company after admission to membership shall automatically cease to be an Authorised Representative or Named Depute thereof.

### 5.4 **Register of Members**

5.4.1 The Board shall maintain a Register of Members, setting out all relevant details of each member and the relative category of membership, together with details of the Authorised Representative and Named Depute.

5.4.2 The Register of Members is open to all members of the Company.

5.4.3 The Register of Members is open to non-members of the Company, provided that the applicant provides:

- (a) the applicant's name and address;
- (b) the purpose for which the information is to be used; and
- (c) whether the information will be disclosed to any other person and, if so, the name and address of that other person and the purpose for which the information is to be used by that other person.

The Company must within 5 working days either supply the information, subject to the data protection rights of its members, or apply to the Court for an order that the application is not for a proper purpose (and intimate this to the applicant). Where the information is provided, the Company may charge a fee for providing the information.

### 5.5 **Application for Membership**

5.5.1 Any organisation which wishes to become a member of the Company must sign a written application for membership in the form prescribed, if any, by the Board from time to time and lodge it with the Company.

5.5.2 The Board shall consider such applications for membership promptly and shall inform each applicant whether it has been successful and, where relevant, in which category of membership it shall belong, the decision of the Board in these respects being final. The Board may, at its discretion, refuse to admit any organisation to membership.

5.5.3 A successful application for membership will not become effective until payment of the appropriate annual membership subscription has been received.

### 5.6 **Membership Subscriptions**

5.6.1 Members shall be required to pay the appropriate annual membership subscription.

5.6.2 The members may at each or any AGM fix the annual subscriptions.

5.6.3 Only those members who have paid their current subscription (where these are fixed) are entitled to take part in and vote at any General Meeting.

5.6.4 If the membership subscription payable by any member remains outstanding for more than three calendar months after the date on which it fell due (and providing the member in question has been given at least one written reminder), the Board may expel that member from membership.

5.6.5 An organisation which ceases (for whatever reason) to be a member shall not be entitled to any refund of membership subscription.

5.6.6 Those members who pay the minimum subscription level, as fixed from time to time by the members in terms of Article 5.6.2 (and which initially is set at £25,000 or more in each subscription year), shall be entitled to appoint one Elected Trustee to the Board in terms of Articles 8.1 and 8.2.

## 5.7 **Cessation of Membership**

Any member, or Authorised Representative or Named Depute thereof appointed in terms of Article 5.2, may no longer serve as such in any one or more of the following events:

5.7.1 if by not less than 7 days' prior notice in writing to the Company it resigns its membership; or

5.7.2 if the terms of Article 5.6.4 are invoked by the Board; or

5.7.3 if a resolution that a member be expelled is passed by a majority of at least 75% of the members present and voting at a General Meeting, of which not less than 14 days' previous notice specifying the intention to propose such resolution and the grounds on which it is proposed shall have been sent to all Trustees, all members and the Company Secretary and also to the member whose removal is in question, such member being entitled to be heard at that meeting; or

5.7.4 if it goes into receivership, goes into liquidation, dissolves or otherwise ceases to exist.

5.8 Membership is neither transferable nor assignable to any other organisation or to an individual.

## 6 **GENERAL MEETINGS**

### 6.1 **Convening an AGM**

6.1.1 The Board will convene one General Meeting as an Annual General Meeting in each year, at such time as it may determine, although the first AGM need not be held in the first year provided that, if it is to be held, it be held within 18 months after the date of incorporation of the Company.

6.1.2 Thereafter, if an AGM is to be held, not more than 15 months shall elapse between the holding of one AGM and the next.

6.1.3 The AGM does not need to be held exclusively in one place, provided that, where two or more members are not in the same place as each other, they are all able to communicate together and vote thereat.

### 6.2 **AGM Agenda**

The business of each AGM shall include:

6.2.1 the report by the Chair on the activities of the Company;

6.2.2 the election of Trustees (where relevant);

6.2.3 the fixing of annual subscriptions;

6.2.4 the report of the independent financial examiner;

6.2.5 receiving the annual accounts of the Company; and

6.2.6 the appointment of the independent financial examiner.

### 6.3 **Convening an EGM**

6.3.1 Any three or more Elected Trustees may convene an EGM whenever they think fit.

6.3.2 The Board must convene an EGM within 28 days of a valid requisition. To be valid, such requisition must:

(a) be signed by not less than 10% (5% if more than 12 months have elapsed since the last General Meeting) of the members;

(b) clearly state the objects of the meeting; and

(c) be deposited with the Company.

Such requisition may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more requisitionists.

6.3.3 Any such meeting convened in terms of this Article shall not be an AGM.

#### 6.4 **Notice of General Meetings**

6.4.1 14 clear days' notice at the least shall be given of every AGM and EGM.

6.4.2 The notice shall specify the place, the day and the hour of meeting and, in the case of special business, the specific nature of that business.

6.4.3 The notice shall be sent, in the manner specified in Article 17, to all members and to such persons or organisations as are under these Articles or under the Companies Act entitled to receive such notices (including those in terms of Articles 14.9 and 15).

6.4.5 With the consent of not less than 90% of the members having the right to attend and vote thereat, a General Meeting may be convened by such shorter notice as they may think fit in the circumstances.

6.4.6 The accidental omission to give notice of a General Meeting to, or the non-receipt of such notice by, any members, persons or organisations entitled to receive notice thereof shall not invalidate any resolution passed at or proceedings of any AGM or EGM.

#### 6.5 **Chair of General Meetings**

The Chair of the Company, whom failing the Vice-Chair of the Company (if any), shall act as chair of each General Meeting. If neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair is present and willing to act as chair of the meeting within 15 minutes after the time at which the General Meeting in question was due to commence, the Trustees present shall elect from among themselves the Elected Trustee who will act as chair of that meeting.

#### 6.6 **Quorum at General Meetings**

6.6.1 The quorum for a General Meeting shall be the greater of (a) three members or (b) 10% of the members, present via its Authorised Representative or Named Depute as its proxy in terms of Article 5.2. No business shall be dealt with at any General Meeting, other than the appointment of the chair of the meeting in terms of Article 6.5, unless a quorum is present.

6.6.2 If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes after the time at which the General Meeting was due to commence - or if, during a General Meeting, a quorum ceases to be present - the General Meeting shall stand adjourned to such time and place as may be fixed by the chair of the meeting.

#### 6.7 **Voting at General Meetings – General Provisions**

6.7.1 The chair of the meeting (see Article 6.5) shall endeavour to achieve consensus wherever possible but, if necessary, questions arising shall be decided by being put to the vote.

6.7.2 Each member of the Company is able to attend and speak at any General Meeting and shall have one vote, to be exercised via its Authorised Representative or Named Depute as its proxy in terms of Article 5.2.

6.7.3 In the event of an equal number of votes for and against any resolution, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote as well as any deliberative vote.

6.7.4 A Trustee who is not an Elected Trustee may attend and speak at any General Meeting, but in those circumstances may not vote thereat.

6.7.5 The chair of the meeting may permit any other person or persons to attend a General Meeting who otherwise has no right to do so, as an observer or observers. In that



event, it shall be at the discretion of the chair of the meeting whether any such observer may be invited to speak thereat.

6.7.6 No objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting shall be valid. Any objection made in due time shall be referred to the chair of the meeting whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

#### 6.8 **Voting at General Meetings – Proxy Voting**

Whilst personal attendance at a General Meeting is encouraged, a member shall be entitled to complete one form of proxy in order to appoint a proxy to attend a General Meeting on their behalf, in respect of which the following apply:

6.8.1 a proxy need not be a member;

6.8.2 a proxy appointed to attend and vote at any meeting instead of a member shall have the same right as the appointing member to speak at the meeting and to vote thereat;

6.8.3 the form appointing the Proxy, which may specify how the proxy is to vote (or to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions, shall be in the general terms (to be varied as required to fit the circumstances) of the form shown in the Schedule 2 annexed to these Articles;

6.8.4 the form appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a certified copy thereof, shall be lodged with the Company not less than 48 hours before the time of the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the form proposes to vote, and in default the instrument of proxy shall not be treated as valid;

6.8.5 no instrument appointing a proxy shall be valid after the expiration of twelve months from the date of its execution, unless it expressly states to the contrary, in which event it shall be treated as valid until rescinded by the granter in writing to the Company;

6.8.6 a vote given in accordance with the terms of a form of proxy shall be valid notwithstanding the previous death or mental incapacity of the principal or revocation of the proxy or of the authority under which the proxy was executed, provided that no intimation in writing of the death, mental incapacity or revocation as aforesaid shall have been received by the Company before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the proxy is used (not having been deliberately withheld);

6.8.7 appointment of a proxy may be revoked by the granter by written notice received by the Company not less than 24 hours before the time of the start of the General Meeting (or adjourned meeting) to which it relates; and

6.8.8 any reference in these Articles to voting being “in person” shall include voting by proxy.

#### 6.9 **Voting at General Meetings – Secret Ballot**

A resolution put to the vote at any General Meeting shall be decided verbally or on a show of hands, as appropriate, unless a secret ballot is demanded in the following terms:

6.9.1 such demand must be made either by the chair of the meeting, or by two or more members having the right to vote on the resolution;

6.9.2 such demand may be made at any time prior to a show of hands on that resolution;

6.9.3 a demand for a secret ballot may be withdrawn by its proposers prior to the secret ballot taking place, provided that the chair of the meeting consents to the withdrawal; and

6.9.4 the secret ballot shall be conducted in such a manner as the chair of the meeting may direct, and the chair of the meeting shall appoint and instruct tellers, who may cast

their own personal votes if members (or Authorised Representatives, Deputies or proxies therefor) and the result shall be declared by the chair of the meeting at the same meeting at which the ballot is taken.

#### **6.10 Voting at General Meetings – Special Resolutions**

6.10.1 At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be voted upon by a simple majority of the members who are present and voting thereon, except for decisions relating to any of the following Special Resolutions, which shall require to be decided upon by not less than 75% of the members present and voting thereon (no account therefore being taken of members who abstain from voting or who are absent from the meeting), namely:

- (a) to alter the name of the Company; or
- (b) to amend the Charitable Purposes; or
- (c) to amend these Articles; or
- (d) to wind up the Company in terms of Article 20; or
- (e) to amend the maximum number of Trustees in terms of Article 7.4; or
- (f) to purchase or sell any heritable property owned by the Company or any of its subsidiaries and to purchase any heritable property wherever situated; or
- (g) to form, acquire or dispose of any subsidiary; or
- (h) to acquire or dispose, whether by the Company or by any of its subsidiaries, of any shares of any other company or the participation or cessation of participation by the Company or by any of its subsidiaries in any formal Company or joint venture; or
- (i) to create or issue or allow to come into being any mortgage, security, charge or other encumbrance upon any part or parts of the property or assets of the Company or to obtain any advance or credit in any form other than normal trade credit, or to create or issue by any subsidiary of any debenture or loan stock; or
- (j) to grant any guarantee or indemnity to any party, other than any wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company; or
- (k) all other Special Resolutions.

6.10.2 An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a General Meeting may be amended if:

- (a) written notice of the proposed amendment is received by the Company from a member entitled to vote thereat not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or adjourned meeting; and
- (b) the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chair of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.

6.10.3 A Special Resolution to be proposed at a General Meeting may be amended if:

- (a) the chair of the meeting proposes the amendment at the General Meeting at which the Special Resolution is to be proposed; and
- (b) the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical, interpretative or other non-substantive error in the Special Resolution.

6.10.4 If the chair of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chair's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

#### **6.11 Voting – Written Resolutions**

6.11.1 Ordinary and Special Resolutions may be passed in writing, rather than at a General Meeting, provided that the terms of this Article are followed.

- 6.11.2 An ordinary resolution in writing signed by or on behalf of a simple majority of all the members shall be as valid and effective as if the same had been passed at a General Meeting of the Company duly convened and held, provided that the terms of this Article are followed.
- 6.11.3 A Special Resolution in writing signed by or on behalf of not less than 75% of all the members shall be as valid and effective as if the same had been passed at a General Meeting of the Company duly convened and held, provided that the terms of this Article are followed.
- 6.11.4 Written resolutions may not be used either for the removal of a Trustee prior to the expiration of their term of office, or for the removal of an independent financial examiner prior to the expiration of their term of office.
- 6.11.5 Any written resolution must be issued in hard copy (by hand or by post) or in electronic form (by fax or e-mail), or by means of a website at the same time, to all members on the Circulation Date (that is, the date on which copies of the written resolution are sent to the members).
- 6.11.6 Where such a written resolution is proposed by the Board, it must include the following express statements:
- (a) an explanation to the eligible members how to signify their agreement to the resolution;
  - (b) how it can be sent back by them, and whether in hard copy (by hand or by post) and/or in electronic form (by fax or by e-mail);
  - (c) clarification that a failure to reply will be deemed to be a vote against the resolution in question; and
  - (d) the date by which the resolution must be passed if it is not to lapse (that is, the date which is 28 days after the Circulation Date).
- 6.11.7 Where such a written resolution is proposed by members, the following shall apply:
- (a) the resolution must be requested by not less than 5% of the members (“the members’ request”);
  - (b) the members’ request may be made in hard copy (by hand or by post) or in electronic form (by fax or by e-mail);
  - (c) the members’ request must identify the resolution to be put to members. The Board can reject this if it is, in its opinion, either frivolous, vexatious, defamatory of any person or would be ineffective (whether by reason of inconsistency with any enactment or these Articles or otherwise);
  - (d) the members’ request can include an accompanying statement (not exceeding 1,000 words) which they can require the Company to issue with the written resolution to all members;
  - (e) within 21 days, the Company must circulate the resolution and any accompanying statement with the express statements referred to in sub-clause (f) hereof; and
  - (f) the Company may charge a reasonable fee to the requesting members to cover its costs of circulation of the members’ request.
- 6.11.8 Any such written resolution may consist of several documents in the same form, each signed by or on behalf of one or more members.
- 6.11.9 Once a member has signed and returned a written resolution in agreement thereto, their agreement is irrevocable.

## **7 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- 7.1 The strategy and affairs of the Company shall be directed and managed by a Board of Trustees elected in terms of Article 8. The Board may exercise all such powers of the Company, and do

on behalf of the Company all acts as may be exercised and done by the Company, other than those required to be exercised or done by the members in General Meeting, and subject always to these Articles and to the provisions of the Companies Act.

## 7.2 **Limitation**

The members may, by Special Resolution, direct the Board to take, or to refrain from taking, specified action, but no such Special Resolution shall invalidate anything which the Board may have done prior to the passing of such Special Resolution, nor shall it require them to act or refrain from acting in a manner which would be incompatible with their duties under the Companies Act, the Charities Act or Article 8.6

## 7.3 **Delegation**

7.3.1 The Board may delegate any of its powers to any sub-committee or persons or person, by such means, to such an extent and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, and may at any time revoke such delegation, in whole or in part, or alter such terms and conditions. If the Board so specifies, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the Board's powers by any sub-committee or persons or person to whom they are delegated.

7.3.2 Any sub-committee so formed or persons or person to whom delegation of powers is made in terms of Article 7.3.1 shall, in the exercise of the powers so delegated, conform to any remit and regulations imposed on it by the Board.

7.3.3 In the case of delegation to any one or more sub-committees, each shall consist of not less than one Trustee and such other person or persons as the Board thinks fit or which it delegates to the committee to appoint. The meetings and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be governed by the provisions of these Articles for regulating the meetings and proceedings of the Board so far as applicable (and, without prejudice to that generality including Articles 12.4.5 and 12.6) and so far as the same shall not be amended or superseded by any specific regulations made by the Board for all or any sub-committees. A sub-committee may invite or allow any person to attend and speak, but not to vote, at any of its meetings. Such sub-committee shall regularly and promptly circulate, or ensure the regular and prompt circulation of, the minutes of its meetings to all Trustees.

7.3.4 Unless expressly part of such delegation, no decision of any such sub-committee or persons or person shall bind the Board.

## 7.4 **Number of Trustees**

7.4.1 The number of Trustees shall be not fewer than three.

7.4.2 The Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in it, but where the number of Trustees falls below the minimum number specified in this Article, it may only do so for the purpose of appointing sufficient Trustees to match or exceed that minimum.

# 8 **TRUSTEES**

## 8.1 **Composition of Board**

The Board shall comprise:

8.1.1 one individual elected as a Trustee by each of the members who subscribe in terms of Article 5.6.6 and who choose to do so as described in Article 8.2 ("**Elected Trustees**"), some or all of whom will be the Subscribers; and

8.1.2 up to three individuals co-opted as Trustees in terms of Article 8.4 (and specifically subject to the proviso therein) ("**Co-opted Trustees**").

## 8.2 Elected Trustees

- 8.2.1 On receipt of the Notice for each AGM of the Company (or if and whenever one or more AGMs are not held, then on an anniversary date set by the Board), each of the members which subscribes in terms of Article 5.6.6 in that subscription year may serve a written notice on the Company to intimate the Trustee being elected by it at the AGM (or anniversary date) for the period until the next AGM (or next anniversary date). If sent, such written notice must be received by the Company not less than forty-eight hours before the start of the AGM (or by noon on the anniversary date), failing which the Trustee previously appointed by it (if any) shall remain in office (so long as the electing member in question is still subscribing in terms of Article 5.6.6).
- 8.2.2 A member which subscribes in terms of Article 5.6.6 may elect or remove its own elected Trustee or Trustees at any time, by written notice to that effect served on the Company not less than forty-eight hours before the Board meeting at which the change is to take effect. Any notice intimated within forty-eight hours of a meeting of the Board or of the members of the Company shall not take effect until the following Board meeting.

## 8.3 Alternate Trustees

An Elected Trustee may appoint an Alternate Trustee to attend any Board meeting on their behalf, subject to the following provisions:

- 8.3.1 such an appointment should be made sparingly, in exceptional circumstances only;
- 8.3.2 where such an appointment is made, it does not remove any element of responsibility or liability from the Elected Trustee in question; and
- 8.3.3 where an Alternate Trustee is appointed, they will be an individual previously intimated to the Company by the Elected Trustee in question as their Alternate Trustee.

## 8.4 Co-opted Trustees

Up to three individuals may be co-opted from time to time by the Board of Trustees itself, provided that at no time can the number of Co-opted Trustees be more than one-third of the total number of Trustees before co-opting, as follows:

- 8.4.1 Subject to Article 8.4.3, a Co-opted Trustee shall serve until the next AGM after their co-option.
- 8.4.2 A Co-opted Trustee can be re-co-opted by the Board immediately after such next AGM.
- 8.4.3 A Co-opted Trustee can be removed from office at any time by a simple majority of the Board.
- 8.4.4 For the avoidance of doubt, a Co-opted Trustee may participate fully in and vote at all Board meetings which they attend.

## 8.5 Retiral and Deemed Retiral of Trustees

Any Trustee must cease to be a Trustee if they:

- 8.5.1 are prohibited from being a charity trustee by virtue of section 69(2) of the Charities Act; or
- 8.5.2 are considered by the Board to have been in serious or persistent breach of either or both of the duties listed in sections 66(1) and 66(2) of the Charities Act, such Trustee being entitled to be heard prior to the Board taking a decision; or
- 8.5.3 hold any office of profit or is employed by the Company (except where the provisions of Article 10.4 shall apply); or
- 8.5.4 have a significant conflict of interest which the Board considers has and is likely to continue to undermine their ability to act impartially as a Trustee; or

- 8.5.5 become incapable for medical reasons of fulfilling the duties of their office and such incapacity, as certified if necessary by two medical practitioners, is expected to continue for a period of more than six months from the date or later date of such certification; or
- 8.5.6 are absent (without permission) from more than three consecutive meetings of the Board, and the Board resolves to remove them from office; or
- 8.5.7 resign as a Trustee by notice in writing to the Company; or
- 8.5.8 are prohibited from acting because the member who elected them is no longer subscribing to the Company in terms of Article 5.6.6 during the current subscription year; or
- 8.5.8 die.

## 8.6 **Principal Duties of Trustees**

As specified in the Charities Act, the principal duties of each Trustee are:

- 8.6.1 to act in the best interests of the Company;
- 8.6.2 to ensure that the Company acts in a manner consistent with the Charitable Purposes;
- 8.6.3 to act with the care and diligence which is reasonable to expect of a person who is managing the affairs of another person; and
- 8.6.4 in circumstances capable of giving rise to a conflict of interest between the Company and the organisation responsible for the election or appointment of the Trustee to the Company, to put the interests of the Company before those of the appointing organisation.

## 9 **CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The Board shall meet as soon as practicable immediately after each AGM (or anniversary date) to appoint both a Chair and, if desired, a Vice-Chair of the Company from the Board (either or both of whom can be Co-opted Trustees).

## 10 **CONSTRAINTS ON PAYMENTS/BENEFITS TO MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES**

- 10.1 The income and property of the Company shall be applied solely towards promoting the Charitable Purposes.
- 10.2 No part of the income or property of the Company shall be paid or transferred (directly or indirectly) to the members or Trustees of the Company, whether by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise, except where such members or Trustees are in receipt of income or property of the Company as a beneficiary of the Company in terms of the Charitable Purposes.
- 10.3 No Trustee shall be appointed as a paid employee of the Company.
- 10.4 No benefit (whether in money or in kind) shall be given by the Company to any member or Trustee except the possibility of:
  - 10.4.1 repayment of out-of-pocket expenses to Trustees (subject to prior agreement by the Board); or
  - 10.4.2 reasonable remuneration to a member or any Trustees in return for specific services actually rendered to the Company (not being of a management nature normally carried out by a director of a company, with the exception of the Chair who can receive reasonable remuneration for acting as Chair); or
  - 10.4.3 payment of interest at a rate not exceeding the commercial rate on money lent to the Company by any member or Trustee; or

- 10.4.4 payment of rent at a rate not exceeding the open market rent for property let to the Company by any member or Trustee; or
- 10.4.5 the purchase of property from any member or Trustee provided that such purchase is at or below market value or the sale of property to any member or Trustee provided that such sale is at or above market value; or
- 10.4.6 payment to one or more Trustees by way of any indemnity where appropriate.

## **11 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS**

- 11.1 Any Trustee and/or employee who has a personal interest (as defined in Article 11.2) in any prospective or actual contract or other arrangement with the Company must declare that interest either generally to the Board or specifically at any relevant meeting of the Company. Where such an interest arises, the provisions within Article 11.3 shall apply.
- 11.2 A personal interest includes the following interests:
  - 11.2.1 those of the Trustee or employee in question;
  - 11.2.2 those of their partner or close relative;
  - 11.2.3 those of any business associate;
  - 11.2.4 those of any firm of which they are a partner or employee;
  - 11.2.5 those of any limited company of which they are a director, employee or shareholder of more than 5% of the equity; and
  - 11.2.6 those of any person or organisation responsible for their appointment as a Trustee.
- 11.3.1 Whenever a Trustee finds that there is a personal interest, as defined in Article 11.2, they have a duty to declare this to the Board meeting in question. In that event, in order to avoid a material conflict of interest arising, the Trustee in question cannot partake in discussions or decisions relating to such matter.
- 11.3.2 It shall be for the chair of the meeting in question (or if it be the chair of the meeting who is potentially or actually conflicted, it shall be for the other Trustees present) to determine whether the Trustee in question should at the least be required to be absent during that particular element of the meeting. In terms of Article 12.1, where a Trustee leaves, or is required to leave, the meeting in question, they no longer form part of the quorum thereat.
- 11.3.3 The Board may at any time resolve, but without taking a specific vote on the matter, to authorise any Trustee to continue acting where a real or potential conflict of interest exists in relation to a personal interest of that Trustee, but where it considers that the interests of the Company have not been nor are likely to be prejudiced as a result. The Trustee in question cannot be considered as part of the quorum for that part of any Board meeting giving consideration to this authorisation.
- 11.3.4 The Board may resolve at any time to require all Trustees and employees to deliver a Notice of Relevant Interests to the Registered Office (or elsewhere as it may determine), as they arise and at least annually. In that event, the Board shall determine from time to time what additional interests to those listed in Article 11.2, if any, shall be relevant interests and shall ensure that a Register of Notices of Relevant Interests is maintained.
- 11.3.5 If existing, the Register of Interests shall be open for inspection by both the Board and members of the Company and, with the express prior written approval of the Trustee or employee concerned, by members of the public.

## **12 BOARD MEETINGS**

### **12.1 Quorum**

- 12.1.1 The quorum for Board meetings shall be not less than 50% of all the Trustees, provided that the Co-opted Trustees present are always in a minority. No business shall be dealt with at a Board meeting unless a quorum is present.
- 12.1.2 A Trustee shall not be counted in the quorum at a meeting (or at least the relevant part thereof) in relation to a resolution on which, whether because of personal interest or otherwise, they are not entitled to vote.

## 12.2 **Convening Board Meetings**

- 12.2.1 Meetings of the Board may take place in person or by telephone conference call, video conference call or by any other collective electronic means approved from time to time by the Board.
- 12.2.2 Not less than 14 clear days' notice in writing shall be given of any meeting of the Board at which a decision is to be made in relation to any matter requiring to be decided by Special Resolution (as listed in Article 6.10), which notice shall be accompanied by an agenda and any papers relevant to the matter to be decided. All other Board meetings shall require not less than 7 days' prior notice, unless all Trustees agree unanimously in writing to dispense with such notice on any specific occasion.
- 12.2.3 A Trustee may and, on the request of a Trustee, the Company Secretary shall, at any time, summon a meeting of the Board by notice served upon all Trustees, to take place at a reasonably convenient time and date.

## 12.3 **Chair of Board Meeting**

The Chair, whom failing the Vice-Chair (if any), shall be entitled to preside as chair of all Board meetings at which they shall be present. If at any meeting neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair is present and willing to act as chair of the meeting within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the remaining Trustees may appoint one of the Elected Trustees to be chair of the Board meeting, which failing the meeting shall be adjourned until a time when the Chair or Vice-Chair will be available.

## 12.4 **Voting at Board Meetings**

- 12.4.1 The chair of the Board meeting shall endeavour to achieve consensus wherever possible but, if necessary, questions arising shall be decided by being put to the vote, on a show of hands only, each Trustee present having one vote.
- 12.4.2 All decisions of the Board shall be by a simple majority at any meeting which is quorate at the time the decision is taken.
- 12.4.3 The decisions requiring a Special Resolution (listed in Article 6.10) cannot be taken by the Trustees alone, but must be taken also by the members in General Meeting in terms of Article 6.10 and only thereafter acted upon by the Board as directed by the members.
- 12.4.4 In the event of an equal number of votes for and against any resolution at a Board meeting, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.
- 12.4.5 A resolution in writing (whether one single document signed by all of the Trustees or all of the members of any sub-committee), whether in one or several documents in the same form each signed by one or more Trustees or members of any relative sub-committee as appropriate, shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board or of such sub-committee duly convened and constituted.

## 12.5 **Observers**

- 12.5.1 The Board may invite or allow any person to attend and speak, but not to vote, at any meeting of the Board.



12.5.2 Those members entitled to appoint an Elected Trustee in terms of Article 8.1.1 but who have chosen not to do so are entitled to send an observer to attend and speak, but not to vote, at any meeting of the Board.

**12.6 Minutes**

The Board shall cause minutes to be made of all appointments of officers made by it and of the proceedings of all General Meetings and of all Board meetings and of sub-committees, including the names of those present, and all business transacted at such meetings and any such minutes of any meeting, if purporting to be signed after approval, either by the chair of such meeting, or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting, shall be sufficient evidence without any further proof of the facts therein stated. The minutes shall be retained for at least 10 years.

**12.7 Validation**

12.7.1 All acts *bona fide* done by any Board meeting, or of any sub-committee, or by any person acting as a Trustee shall, notwithstanding it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or continuance in office of any such Trustee or person acting as aforesaid, or that they or any of them were disqualified, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified to be a Trustee.

12.7.2 No alteration of these Articles and no direction given by Special Resolution shall invalidate any prior act of the Board which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made or that direction had not been given.

**12.8 Ancillary Regulations**

The Board may from time to time promulgate, review and amend any Ancillary Regulations, Guidelines and/or Policies, subordinate at all times to these Articles, as it deems necessary and appropriate to provide additional explanation, guidance and governance to themselves, members, employees, stakeholders and/or others.

**13 COMPANY SECRETARY, MINUTE SECRETARY, TREASURER & PRINCIPAL OFFICER**

**13.1 Company Secretary**

The Board may appoint a Company Secretary for such term and upon such conditions as it may think fit. The Company Secretary may be removed by the Board at any time, subject to the terms of any prevailing contract.

**13.2 Minute Secretary**

The Board may appoint a Minute Secretary, for the purposes of Article 12.6, for such term and upon such conditions as it may think fit. The Minute Secretary may be removed by the Board at any time, subject to the terms of any prevailing contract. The Board may award an annual salary, honorarium or other appropriate fee to the Minute Secretary at its discretion, but can only do so if the Minute Secretary is not a Trustee.

**13.3 Treasurer**

The Board may appoint a Treasurer for such term and upon such conditions as it may think fit. The Treasurer may be removed by the Board at any time, subject to the terms of any prevailing contract. The Board may award an annual salary, honorarium or other appropriate fee to the Treasurer at its discretion, but can only do so if the Treasurer is not a Trustee. Whilst in post, the Treasurer may be required to attend (but shall have no vote at) Board meetings during

their tenure as Treasurer, except any part or parts thereof dealing with their employment or remuneration, or any other matter which the Board wish to keep confidential to itself.

#### **13.4 Principal Officer**

The Board may appoint a Principal Officer of the Company on such terms (including a decision on the most appropriate job title) and conditions as it may think fit, who shall attend Board and Sub-Committee meetings as appropriate or required, but who shall not be a Trustee and, for the avoidance of doubt, will have no vote thereat.

### **14 STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE**

The Board of Trustees shall appoint and maintain a Stakeholder Committee, in respect of which the following shall apply:

- 14.1 The Board of Trustees will provide the Stakeholder Committee with its remit and will ensure that the Stakeholder Committee may only make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, and may not in any circumstance bind the Board of Trustees to any decision, course of action or absence of action.
- 14.2 The Board of Trustees shall appoint all members of the Stakeholder Committee as and when it wishes to do so and, in doing so, may consult with the membership as it considers appropriate and relevant in its discretion.
- 14.3 Those members entitled to appoint an Elected Trustee in terms of Article 8.1.1 but who have chosen not to do so are entitled to appoint a member of the Stakeholder Committee.
- 14.4 The Board of Trustees may ask any member of the Stakeholder Committee to demit office at any time, excepting any appointed in terms of Article 14.3, on giving not less than one month's notice to the member in question.
- 14.5 The Stakeholder Committee will meet twice a year, unless the Board of Trustees requests it to meet more often or on a specific occasion when it requires advice or recommendations from the Stakeholder Committee.
- 14.6 The Stakeholder Committee shall appoint one of its own number on any annual basis to act as its Chair.
- 14.7 The Stakeholder Committee will ensure that it circulates the draft Minutes of all its meetings to all Trustees on the Board of Trustees within one month of each such meeting.
- 14.8 The Stakeholder Committee, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, may make any other rules relating to its work and conduct.
- 14.9 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Company, whilst not being members of the Stakeholder Committee, may attend any meeting of the Stakeholder Committee and each of them will be included in the circulation of all notices, agendas and papers relating to each meeting..
- 14.10 Members of the Stakeholder Committee are entitled to attend any General Meeting of the members of the Company, but not of any meeting of the Board of Trustees (although any one or more of them may be specifically invited to do so from time to time).

### **15 HONORARY PATRON(S)**

The members in General Meeting may, on a proposal from the Board, agree to the appointment of one or more Honorary Patrons of the Company, to be appointed either for such fixed period (usually of five years) as those members determine or for an unspecified period until such appointment be terminated by them. The Honorary Patron or Patrons would

be entitled to notice of all General Meetings and to attend and contribute to discussion but not vote thereat.

## **16 FINANCES AND ACCOUNTS**

### **16.1 Bank Accounts**

The banking account or accounts of the Company shall be kept in such bank or building society and/or banks or building societies as the Board shall from time to time determine.

### **16.2 Cheques etc.**

All cheques and other negotiable instruments, and all receipts for monies paid to the Company, shall be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed, as the case may be, in such manner as the Board shall from time to time by resolution determine.

16.3 The Board shall ensure that all funds and assets of the Company are applied towards achieving the Charitable Purposes.

### **16.4. Accounting Records**

The Board shall cause accounting records to be kept in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act and other relevant regulations.

16.5 The accounting records shall be maintained by the Treasurer (if there is one) and overseen by the Principal Officer (if there is one), or otherwise by, or as determined by, the Board. Such records shall be kept at such place or places as the Board shall think fit and shall always be open to the inspection of the Trustees and of those members entitled to appoint an Elected Trustee in terms of Article 8.1.1 but who have chosen not to do so. The Board shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions or regulations the accounting records of the Company or any of them shall be open to the inspection of the members of the Company.

### **16.6 Independent Financial Examiner**

Once at least in every year, or as otherwise provided for by the Companies Act, the accounts of the Company shall be examined by an independent financial examiner, who shall be appointed by the Board on the direction of members in General Meeting.

### **16.7 Accounts**

At or before each AGM, or otherwise after the Accounts have been approved by the Board, it shall provide the members with a copy of the accounts for the period since the last preceding accounting reference date (or in the case of the first account since the incorporation of the Company). The accounts shall be accompanied by proper reports of the Board and the independent financial examiner. As an alternative, the Accounts may be available for inspection on the website of the Company (with all members, Trustees, the Company Secretary and the independent financial examiner being made aware that they are so available for inspection there).

## **17 NOTICES**

17.1. A notice may be served by the Company upon any member, either personally or by sending it by post, fax, e-mail or other appropriate electronic means, addressed to such member at their or its address as appearing in the Register of members.

- 17.2 Any notice, whether served by post or otherwise, shall be deemed to have been served on the day following that on which the letter containing the same is put into the post or is otherwise dispatched.
- 17.3 A member present at any meeting of the Company shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purpose for which it was called.
- 17.4 The business of the Company and all its correspondence with and notification to or from members may be conducted equally validly and effectively if transmitted by fax or e-mail or other appropriate electronic means (except where a member specifically requests all such correspondence and notification by post) or otherwise if publicised on the website of the Company where the Company has advised each member of this and has taken due steps to notify by other reasonable means all other members who state that they do not have access to the Internet.

## **18 INDEMNITY**

Subject to the terms of the Companies Act and without prejudice to any other indemnity, the Trustees, or member of any sub-committee, the Company Secretary, Treasurer and all employees of the Company shall be indemnified out of the funds of the Company against any loss or liability (including the costs of defending successfully any court proceedings) which they may respectively incur or sustain, in connection with or on behalf of the Company and each of them shall be chargeable only for so much money as they may actually receive and they shall not be answerable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of each other, but each of them for their own acts, receipts, neglects or defaults only.

## **19 ALTERATION OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

Subject to the terms of Article 6.10, no alteration in these Articles may at any time be made unless by the decision of not less than 75% of the members present (in person or by proxy) and voting at a General Meeting called specifically (but not necessarily exclusively) for the purpose.

## **20 LIMIT OF LIABILITY**

- 20.1 The liability of the members is limited.
- 20.2 Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £1) to the property of the Company if it should be wound up whilst it is a member or within one year after it ceases to be a member (for whatever reason), for payment of its debts and liabilities contracted before it ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up.

## **21 DISSOLUTION**

- 21.1 The winding-up of the Company may take place only on the decision of not less than 75% of its members who are present and voting at a General Meeting called specifically (but not necessarily exclusively) for the purpose.

- 21.2 If, on the winding-up of the Company, any property remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, such property shall be given or transferred to any one or more charities having the same or a similar object to the Charitable Purposes.
- 21.3 The charity or charities to which the property is to be transferred in terms of Article 21.2 shall be determined on the decision of not less than 75% of the members of the Company who are present and voting at a General Meeting called specifically (but not necessarily exclusively) for the purpose or, failing that, by a decision of not less than 75% of the Board or, failing that, as determined by an arbiter to be chosen amicably by the Board or, failing such amicable choice, as determined by the Sheriff of Tayside, Central and Fife at Perth (or any successor thereto), whose decision shall be final and binding upon the Company.
- 21.4 If the Company is a charity at the time that its winding-up is decided upon in terms of this Article, the prior consent of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (or any successor thereto) must be obtained in terms of Section 16 of the Charities Act.

### ***Annexation***

**Schedule**      Powers

## Schedule

### **Powers available to the Company**

Further to Article 3.2, the Company shall have the following powers (but only in furtherance of the Charitable Purposes) and declaring that the order in which these Powers are listed or the terms of the sub-headings above are of no significance in terms of their respective priority which shall be deemed to be equal, namely:

#### **1 General**

- 1.1 to encourage and develop a spirit of voluntary or other commitment by individuals, unincorporated associations, societies, federations, partnerships, corporate bodies, agencies, undertakings, local authorities, unions, co-operatives, trusts and others and any groups or groupings thereof willing to assist the Company to achieve the Charitable Purposes;
- 1.2 to provide advice, consultancy, training, tuition, expertise and assistance;
- 1.3 to promote and carry out research, surveys and investigations and develop initiatives, projects and programmes;
- 1.4 to prepare, organise, promote and implement training courses, exhibitions, lectures, seminars, conferences, events and workshops, to collect, collate, disseminate and exchange information and to prepare, produce, edit, publish, exhibit and distribute articles, pamphlets, books and other publications, tapes, motion and still pictures, music and drama and other materials, all in any medium;

#### **2 Property**

- 2.1 to purchase, take on lease, hire, or otherwise acquire any property suitable for the Company and to construct, convert, improve, develop, maintain, alter and demolish any buildings or erections whether of a permanent or temporary nature, and manage and operate or arrange for the professional or other appropriate management and operation of the Company's property;
- 2.2 to sell, let, hire, license, give in exchange and otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property of the Company;
- 2.3 to establish and administer a building fund or funds or guarantee fund or funds or endowment fund or funds;

#### **3 Employment**

- 3.1 to employ, contract with, train and pay such staff (whether employed or self-employed or external contractors) as are considered appropriate for the proper conduct of the activities of the Company;

#### **4 Funding and Financial**

- 4.1 to take such steps as may be deemed appropriate for the purpose of raising funds for the activities of the Company;
- 4.2 to accept subscriptions, grants, donations, gifts, legacies and endowments of all kinds, either absolutely or conditionally or in trust;
- 4.3 to borrow or raise money for the Charitable Purposes and to give security in support of any such borrowings by the Company and/or in support of any obligations undertaken by the Company;
- 4.4 to set aside funds not immediately required as a reserve or for specific purposes;
- 4.5 to open, operate and manage bank and other accounts and to invest any funds which are not immediately required for the activities of the Company in such investments as may be considered appropriate and to dispose of, and vary, such investments;

- 4.6 to make grants or loans of money and to give guarantees;
- 4.7 to employ as a professional investment manager any person who is entitled to carry on investment business under the supervision of the Financial Conduct Authority (or its successors) and to delegate to any such manager the exercise of all or any of its powers of investment on such terms and at such reasonable remuneration as the Board of Trustees thinks fit, and to enable investments to be held for the Company in nominee names, but subject always to the provisions of the Charities Act;

**5 Development**

- 5.1 to establish, manage and/or support any other charity, and to make donations for any charitable purpose falling within the Charitable Purposes;
- 5.2 to establish, operate and administer and/or otherwise acquire any separate trading company or association, whether charitable or not;
- 5.3 to enter into any arrangement with any organisation, government or authority which may be advantageous for the purposes of the activities of the Company and to enter into any arrangement for co-operation, mutual assistance, or sharing profit with any charity;
- 5.4 to enter into contracts to provide services to or on behalf of others;

**6 Insurance and Protection**

- 6.1 to effect insurance of all kinds (which may include indemnity insurance in respect of Trustees and employees);
- 6.2 to oppose, or object to, any application or proceedings which may prejudice the interests of the Company;

**7 Ancillary**

- 7.1 to pay the costs of forming the Company and its subsequent development;
- 7.2 to carry out the Charitable Purposes in any part of the world as principal, agent, contractor, trustee or in any other capacity; and
- 7.3 to do anything which may be incidental or conducive to the Charitable Purposes so long as these are charitable.

Fisheries Innovation & Sustainability is a coalition of experts driving strategic innovation for a prosperous and sustainable UK seafood industry. Our remit is to facilitate, coordinate and leverage investment for innovation in UK seafood.

Our Member Organisations include:



Scottish Charity No: SC045119 | Company No: SC477579

