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**From:** [REDACTED]@st-andrews.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 February 2016 10:52  
**To:** [REDACTED], International Animal Rescue; [REDACTED], Sainsbury's;  
[REDACTED] (Seal Protection Action Group); [REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk; [REDACTED]  
Marine Scotland; [REDACTED]@waitrose.co.uk; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@rspca.org.uk; [REDACTED], SSPO; [REDACTED]@bornfree.org.uk;  
**Subject:** Progressing SASWG  
**Attachments:** SASWG meeting Aug 15 - Draft Minutes.docx; FF Members Meeting Nov 2015.docx

Dear SASWG,

When we last met in August we agreed to meet again – possibly by teleconference in February. I regret that this has not been and won't now be possible for me due to teaching commitments this month. However I am about to circulate a Doodle Poll for dates that are possible for me at present in March and half of April. Please could people fill in the poll and also advise whether a teleconference is feasible or desirable, and if not what alternatives people might have in mind.

I attach again the draft minutes of the last meeting FYI.

Action points were as follows:

**Actions:**

1. **RSPCA/SMRU to organise a meeting with marine Scotland to discuss FF 'last resort' requirement and its applicability to government license conditions**
2. **FF/SSPO to consider ways of improving information gathering on seal predation mitigation techniques and dissemination within industry**
3. **SN to circulate list of issues, group to comment on points worth seeking industry feedback on**
4. **FF to circulate questions to industry members based on agreed key issues with a view to getting responses in time for December STAG meeting**
5. **FF (in consultation with MH/SMRU) to approach ADD manufacturers to follow-up on feedback on device innovation and monitoring, and arrange a meeting**
6. **MH to report back to group on its investigations into increased seal shooting incidents in 2015, and to feed back to FF on how standards might evolve in light of its findings**
7. **AD encourage Waitrose/Aquascot to participate in the group**
8. **FF to inform the group on the agenda and outcomes of its October meeting with its members**

At least some of these actions points have been progressed; I attach the notes from a FF meeting held in November (AP8) and forwarded to me by [REDACTED]; I gather FF will be organising another meeting soon that will explore seal issues in more detail with industry partners.

Waitrose/Aquascot have indeed agree to join the SASWG and have been included in this email (AP7).

**Other news:**

- Sainsbury's and MHS have agreed to fund us (SMRU) to do a small study to look at the issue of sound shadowing – that is to see if we can find areas around a farm site with ADDs where sound shadows might exist, and which seals might exploit. We have taken extensive acoustic measurements from one MHS site and my research assistant is currently working these data up – and is nearly done.

- We (SMRU) have just submitted a draft final report to SARF looking at seal behaviour in relation to nets in captivity –some interesting findings I hope we can share at the next meeting.
- I understand [REDACTED] has been to Canada and has asked industry people there about their approach to damage caused by seals – I understand from [REDACTED] that anti-predator nets are widely used; not so clear about ADDs.

**If others have any news on the action points above – or any other issues of relevance to SASWG – please advise me or the group and I can prepare a draft agenda.**

With best wishes

[REDACTED]

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