

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw
Committee**

15th May 2018: 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
12**

RAZOR CLAM COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Purpose: i) to provide information to members of progress made on razor clam collaborative research since the last meeting.

Recommendation: i) that Members approve the work of Officers to develop a research project with industry.

Background:

1. TSB approved the report tabled at the last meeting entitled "Razor Clams in the North Western IFCA District: is there potential for a sustainable fishery?"
2. Members asked Officers to extend a call to industry for a collaborative approach to a razor clam research project.

Progress to Date:

3. Officers made efforts to contact the companies that had previously been involved in discussions about razor clam fisheries in the NWIFCA District, and also posted a notice calling for industry interest prominently on the website.
4. Three companies came forward expressing an interest in collaborative research.
5. A meeting was held between science officers, the HoE and the three companies on Friday 4th May 2018 to discuss ways of progressing collaborative research into razor clams fisheries in the District.
6. A list of actions was agreed to be carried out before organising a further meeting, the first of which was to gain approval from TSB to develop the work.
7. Should Members approve this work, Officers will report back to TSB regularly and seek further approval on any concrete matters.

Recommendation:

8. That TSB approve the work of Officers to develop a razor clam research project with the three companies.

**Mandy Knott
Senior Scientist
8th May 2018**