

**DEVON & SEVERN  
INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Authority Meeting  
held on 14 September 2017 at Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Chard**

**Present:** Elaine Hayes (Chair)  
**Cllrs.** Linda Hellyer (Devon), Cllr Stuart Hughes (Devon),  
Nick Kelly (Plymouth), Robert Griffin (South Gloucestershire),  
Vic Ellery (Torbay), Terry Napper (Somerset), Peter Bryant (North  
Somerset), Will Windsor-Clive (Gloucestershire)  
John Butterwith, Michael Cominetti, John May, Natasha Bradshaw,  
Richard White, Mike Williams, Simon Pollentine, Dave Cuthbert,  
Stephen Gledhill, James Marsden, David Morgan  
Andrew Knights (NE), Rachel Irish (MMO)

**Also Present:** Tim Robbins, Chief Officer                      Simon Excell  
Sarah Clark (D&S IFCA)                                      Martin Hutchings  
Hazel Mitchell (D&S IFCA)                                  Steve Dury  
Angela Stirland (DCC Finance)

**Apologies:** Cllrs: Rufus Gilbert (Devon), Ian Hall (Devon), Simon Toms, Jim Portus,  
David Rowe

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Interest

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were noted

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017**

- Throughout 'metrix' should be changed to 'metrics'.
- Paragraph 12, page 5, sub paragraphs i and ii to move text to below proposal.
- Page 6, paragraph 1 – insert 'been' on line 2 between 'has' and 'done'.
- Page 6, heading 2, 'are' should read 'area'

That the minutes be approved

Resolved

**4. Matters Arising**

18. The Chief Officer had written to Cornwall IFCA concerning a possible change to the boundary line between the IFCAs. A formal meeting will be set up between the 2 Chairs and 2 Chief Officers in the Autumn and feedback will be given at the quarterly meeting in December.

## 5. **Matters brought forward by the Chair**

There were no matters brought forward by the Chair.

## 6. **Byelaw & Permitting Sub Committee Update**

- **Proposed Netting Byelaw** – The paperwork has not been signed off yet and is still with the MMO. On the 8 September 2017 the Byelaw permit conditions and Impact Assessment were returned to the IFCA by the Quality Assurance Team with no major issues but with some comments to be addressed. They considered that the Impact Assessment was too long in its original format and needed to be significantly cut down in size. Concerns that the reduced size of the Impact Assessment contains a lot less detail and did not reflect the amount of work officers had done to raise it were expressed with a debate of style over substance. The IFCA has decided to produce a final Impact Assessment report which will go along with our publications showing the actual amount of work done by the officers. Necessary changes will be looked at by Mat Mander and Neil Townsend before being returned to the MMO for further analysis.

The Byelaw Committee placed an action to obtain clarification what the role and function of the Quality Assurance Team from the MMO is in terms of process, procedure and timescale for the byelaws. This will be to learn from past and current issues and aid management for future byelaws. Suggestion of a meeting with the MMO on completion of the proposed netting byelaw to consider a service agreement to set expectations, standards, time lines for both sides was made.

- **Consultation Period** - A phase 1 consultation period of 6 weeks from 11 September to 23 October has started for 2 issues. The 3 year review of the Potting Byelaw permit conditions and also the Mobile Fishing permit byelaw which is focused on 5 items. This has gone out to all permit holders, a well developed list of consultees and is also available on the website. Neil Townsend will gather any responses and compile a report for the next Byelaw Committee meeting on 13 November 2017 to discuss any recommendations and comments.
- **Hand Gathering Byelaw** – Discussions have commenced and development is in process.
- The belief by Michael Cominetti that sea anglers be charged was again made. As there is currently no mechanism to incorporate a fee the issue would be put to the Byelaw Committee to discuss.

### **a. Wrasse Fishery**

A lot of correspondence has been received re the fishery and work undertaken by IFCA officers. It was confirmed that still only 4 boats provided with tags were operating from Plymouth Sound, 3 on the Devon side and 1 in Cornwall. The area had not spread. Contrary to information issued by the press and some organisations the value for live Wrasse is approximately £25 per kilo. Management measures were on track and a fully documented fishery was working effectively, with regular on board surveys (20 to date), catch returns/transportation documents being submitted/received, and fishermen abiding by the voluntary closed areas, liaising weekly and being extremely cooperative.

Correspondence received from the Salmon Farm in Scotland indicated that there were few mortalities in transit, vaccinated against all known Wrasse pathogens and checked for disease and damage on arrival. When put in with the salmon they are checked weekly for disease/damage and are kept for 2 salmon populations (up to 3.5 years). A site in Anglesey is in operation to rear wrasse and they envisage that the live wrasse fishery in Devon will not extend beyond 2018. At this point they expect to be self sufficient.

Information collaborated was being shared with Cornwall IFCA. Data gathered would be reviewed and analysed with a full report given to the Byelaw Committee to review at the meeting on 13 November.

As the area is concentrated in Plymouth Sound, Cllr Kelly who had been approached by concerned parties suggested a press release be issued in the local paper to give the benefits so far to the research that is going to come from the study, to raise the profile of the IFCA and to provide reassurance to anglers. A brief summary report would also be put on the website. Rachel Irish was happy to submit any initial findings to DEFRA.

#### **7. Presentation by Adam Kinnerly from Severn Vision**

Mr Adam Kinnerly provided a presentation entitled ‘Severn Vision – Unlocking the Potential of the Severn Estuary’.

#### **8. Quarterly Report**

- Confirmed a positive meeting had taken place with the Welsh Government and that it was agreed to hold regularly quarterly meetings in the future.
- Natasha Bradshaw and Michael Cominetti both raised concerns about the development at Hinckley and potential fish kills. It was suggested they liaise and continue discussing their concerns with Libby West.
- A lot of joint enforcement work had been undertaken with the MMO.
- Funding for iVMS from the EMFF had been agreed and the process to start fitting the black boxes on vessels with a mobile fishing permit would be instigated by the end of the year.
- Funds from DEFRA (33k) and Natural England (7k) to undertake a survey on impact assessment of otter trawls on the mud habitat in Torbay MCZ has been designated.

Cllr Ellery requested whether the survey will include the impact of anchoring by leisure craft on the sea grass beds of Torbay and for clarification on what is being surveyed, on whose behalf, in respect of what industry and who is responsible to control this activity. This remit falls within the duties of the MMO and Rachel Irish who is aware there currently are 2 sea grass moorings in Torbay will look into this and report back. The IFCA will be looking at the impacts of fishing gear/activity on the beds but still concerned about increasing anchoring occurring. Discussions with the MMO have taken place with potential for talks with the Harbour Authority who actually put the buoys out, and for them to put more information out to avoid doing this action. Greater collaboration was encouraged to ascertain who actually has control over these areas. Any information obtained should be shared across all Authorities. A routine of publishing the finding of studies undertaken should be made automatically.

A press release from Alison Heimann of the nature of the study to keep people informed and clear of what is actually being undertaken was recommended.

9. **Staff Issues**

- a. Interviews for the Enforcement Officer vacancy due to the departure of Laura Bullock took place on Monday 21 August 2017. The successful candidate was Adam Walters and he will start on 2 October 2017. Previous interview candidates had been approached but it was decided to undergo a new round of advertising.
- b. The Committee noted the change of name and expressed their congratulations to Libby West (nee Ross) who recently got married.
- c. With the current uncertainties over Brexit and how coastal waters would be managed in the future it was proposed to defer the decision to review whether to employ an additional Enforcement Officer until September 2018. A request to consider employing a part time person to take on the administration of the current permitting scheme, a job that has increased and is likely to increase further with the introduction of subsequent byelaws, was put for proposal. The post would be initially for 2 years and the cost would be covered primarily by the income received from permits issued.

The following proposals were put to the Authority for recommendation:

1. The D&S IFCA defer a decision on the employment of an additional enforcement officer until September 2018
2. The Chief Officer employs a Permitting & Admin Officer for an initial two years following D&S IFCA Policy for the employment of an officer.

Proposed: Cllr Stuart Hughes                      Seconded: Cllr Vic Ellery

All in favour, none against

10. **Social Media report by Alison Heimann**

The Chief Officer informed the Authority that Alison Heimann had been appointed to take on the Communications work based on 9 days per month.

Alison Heimann produced informative material as to the response from both Twitter and Facebook accounts. She would be attending the December quarterly meeting to provide an insight into what she does and provide a more detailed explanation of the reports she is producing.

11. **Report on the F & GP Committee meeting and minutes of the previous meeting of 15 June 2017**

James Marsden who chaired the earlier F& GP Committee meeting provided a summary of items discussed at the meeting, all of which were present on the main Authority agenda.

12. **Any Other Business**

- Chair reported that a discussion between herself, Vice Chairs and the Chief Officer on the AIFCA had taken place as no information had been received on how they had progressed with the requests made by the D&S IFCA. A letter would be sent to Dr Bolt asking for an update and any response received would be put to the Authority at the December meeting for them to decide on how to go forward with the status of continued membership of the AIFCA.
- The request for a report on what the IFCA would do post BREXIT if the area boundary was extended from 6 to 12 miles was requested. The Chief Officer advised that a letter from DEFRA has been requested for guidance on what their expectations were for the IFCA's.
- Cllr Nick Kelly informed the members that Plymouth MP, Luke Pollard, has publicly announced that he wants to make the Plymouth Sound into the first National Marine Park. The Chief Officer confirmed that a meeting to discuss this and the Wrasse Fishery was planned.
- Cllr Nick Kelly asked for a cost analysis of the different venues that have been used for meetings.

**13. Date of next meeting**

**Friday 15 December 2017 – Exeter Race Course, Exeter**

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>
4	Meeting with Cornwall IFCA concerning the change of boundary line between the 2 IFCA's	Chief Officer
6a	Organise a press release to the local paper in Plymouth to provide an update on the wrasse fishery study in the Plymouth Sound	Sarah Clark
6a	Brief summary report on the IFCA website on the Wrasse fishery	Sarah Clark
8	Provide clarification for Cllr Ellery as to who is responsible for monitoring leisure craft anchoring in Torbay	Rachel Irish
8	Issue press release on sea grass study being undertaken in Torbay	Sarah Clark
12	Provide Cllr Kelly with costings of Venues	Chief Officer