

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

**Minutes of the Authority Meeting  
held on 20 March 2015 at Exeter Racecourse, Exeter**

**Present:** Elaine Hayes (Chair)  
Cllrs. Eileen Wragg (Devon), Jim Knight (Devon), Chris Clarance (Devon), Cllr Stuart Hughes (Devon), Heather Goddard (South Gloucestershire), Terry Napper (Somerset), Cllr Rufus Gilbert (Devon) agreed deputy for Cllr Jonathan Hawkins (Devon), Cllr Nicole Amil (Torbay)  
Natasha Barker-Bradshaw, John Butterwith, Derek Clifton, David Morgan, Jim Portus, John May, David Rowe, Mike Williams, Richard White, Simon Pollentine, Dave Cuthbert, Stephen Gledhill, David Murphy, Lynda Rodwell  
Nick Wright (MMO), Simon Toms (EA), Andrew Knights (NE)

**Also Present:**

Tim Robbins, Chief Officer	Joy Williams
Sarah Clark (D&S IFCA)	Aidan Winder
Hazel Mitchell (D&S IFCA)	Rachel Irish (MMO)
Libby Ross (D&S IFCA)	Dr Emily Baxter
Karlien Bond (DCC Finance)	Verity Roberts (NE)
Angela Stirland (DCC Finance)	Gary Kennison
Cllr Jonathan Hawkins (Devon)	Kevin Mowat

**Apologies:** Cllrs: Stan Waddington (Gloucestershire), Cllr Daniella Radice (Bristol)  
Brian Glasson, Kaja Curry, Simon Excell

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair gave a farewell speech to the departing 3 MMO Appointees Derek Clifton, Lynda Rodwell and Jim Portus along with Joy Williams, the officer supporting Somerset, thanking them all for their time, effort and energy.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Interest

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were noted

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014**

That the minutes be approved

Resolved

**4. Matters Arising**

6. Notification to the funding Authorities when details of new burdens funding was made had been sent by DCC Finance.

6. Request by Cllr Morris for details of breakdown of individual levels of staff pay rates which made up staff cost figures on proposed 2015-16 budget had been provided.

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

- a. A reminder that the DEFRA 4 year report on the IFCA's had been circulated and though not delivered as expected should provide interesting reading.
- b. Informed the Authority that the Fisheries Minister announced at a recent AIFCA meeting that an additional £300,000 funding would be given to the 10 IFCA's to help support the work on the MPA's and that the Devon & Severn IFCA would be submitting a bid for its share.
- c. With changes to the way pensions are working a Pension Board has been set up to monitor pensions for DCC. The IFCA decided not to nominate someone to sit on this board but was still entitled to a vote. Recommendation that Angie Sinclair will vote on behalf of the IFCA was proposed.

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Wragg                      Seconded: Cllr Jim Knight

All in favour, none against

**6. Byelaw Update**

In the absence of Mat Mander, David Rowe, Chairman of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub Committee provided an update. The potting and diving permit byelaws had been signed off by the Secretary of State on 18 March 2015. He expressed thanks to all existing MMO appointees and Jim Portus and Derek Clifton, departing members who have assisted in the process. As the byelaw review process is to be completed by the end of 2015 the Sub Committee has started to address the 'netting' issue where a decision to start with a clean sheet was made. David Cuthbert provided a presentation to help with the initial understanding of the netting complexities. The Sub Committee would also review and consider a first change in the Trawling Permit due to concerns raised by local fishermen.

A letter to all current permit holders was in the process of being sent requesting their opinion about possible changes.

**7. Presentation on Netting**

Dave Cuthbert provided an informative presentation on types, methods and usages for nets within the fishing industry.

**8. Quarterly Report**

**Page 4** - An outcome on the investigation by the prosecuting authority of the MMO for an offence dated 26 February 2014 was requested. Nick Wright advised that in this instant a formal warning was issued.

**9. Bass Update**

The IFCA has been receiving pressure on the management of Bass stocks and how to best protect them within our area. The South West IFCA's have discussed how to

operate as a group to protect stocks in the South West. Changes required under the ICES Evaluation of Bass stocks for an 80% reduction in catches, if not enforced scientific data indicates it could lead to the loss of the entire stock. DEFRA are looking to nationally introduce legislation to increase the minimum landing size and a consultation paper is expected soon. The IFCA's have been asked to review and look at the Bass Nursery Areas and how to bring in better protection and management. The introduction of a deeming clause within these areas is seen as a current priority. Another area of Bass Aggregation Sites will be looked at. It is hoped both national and EU legislation will be implemented by the autumn.

The Bass paper would be put onto the main page of the website with a paragraph highlighting what the actions locally are being implemented alongside the national levels being addressed.

**ACTION  
T ROBBINS**

#### 10. **Signage Projects**

Libby Ross gave an oral presentation on recent partnership working in the Severn Estuary which included a project with Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT), Natural England and EDF Energy which has developed signage to be placed along a new stretch of the England Coastal Path from Minehead to Brean Down. The IFCA attended a public shore survey with SWT, celebrating the lowest tide in Somerset in 20 years. A third project saw Devon & Severn IFCA and the Angling Trust run a family sea angling day in Minehead which gave free angling taster sessions and taught people about fish and fishing in the Minehead area.

#### 11. **Annual Plan**

The 3 main priorities within the Annual Plan for the work of the IFCA 2015-16 would be leading on MPA Management, Bass stocks and their management levels and the development of recreational sea angling.

A quick question and answer session on the Annual Plan would be planned for the June quarterly meeting.

#### 12. **Report on the F & GP Committee meeting and minutes of the previous meeting of 9 December 2014**

- a. Notification of resignation of Bill Lawrence and that it was agreed the Chief Officer could refill his post and the vacant Enforcement Officer post with flexibility on the grading of both posts.
- b. It was agreed to instigate an employee assistance programme under HR One at DCC.
- c. Agreed to call for HR Support for special projects and policies.
- d. Evaluating the performance of MMO appointees was brought to the attention of the Committee and that ongoing discussions on who and how this process was going to be implemented.
- e. Standard Terms of Reference for task and finish groups was agreed and would be put on the website.

**ACTION  
T ROBBINS**

13. **Any Other Business**

- a. The Chair expressed her apologies in advance for her absence at the next meeting in June.
- b. An update on the Whelk fishery in North Devon and if any changes were envisaged was requested. The Chief Officer advised that work on minimum landing size and research would continue this summer and hopefully the results would be brought to the Authority at the end of the year.

13. **Date of next meeting**

**Thursday 18 June 2015 – Brixham Laboratory, Brixham**