

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

**Minutes of the Authority Meeting
held on 11 December 2015 at Exeter Racecourse, Exeter**

Present: Elaine Hayes (Chair)
Cllrs. Eileen Wragg (Devon), Jim Knight (Devon), Chris Clarence (Devon), Stuart Hughes (Devon), Jonathan Hawkins (Devon), Robert Griffin (South Gloucestershire), Terry Napper (Somerset), Nick Bye (Torbay), Nick Kelly (Plymouth), Stan Waddington (Gloucestershire)
Natasha Barker-Bradshaw, John Butterwith, Michael Cominetti, David Rowe, Mike Williams, Richard White, Simon Pollentine, Dave Cuthbert, Stephen Gledhill, James Marsden, John May, David Murphy, Jim Portus
Rachel Irish (MMO), Simon Toms (EA), Andrew Knights (NE)

Also Present: Tim Robbins, Chief Officer
Sarah Clark (D&S IFCA) Phillip Higginbottom
Mat Mander (D&S IFCA) Kevin Mowat
Hazel Mitchell (D&S IFCA) Simon Excell
Karlien Bond (DCC Finance) Joanna Smith (NE)
Angela Stirland (DCC Finance) Nik Ward (NE)

Apologies: David Morgan, Martin Hutchings, Kathy Derrick, Brian Glasson

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2015

That the minutes be approved

Proposed: Cllr Jim Knight Seconded: Cllr Robert Griffin

Resolved

4. Business Arising

- a. Confirmed all background papers on information used for decision making of byelaw review on female crab had been put on the website.
- b. Fishermen had been notified of the outcome of byelaw review on female crab and the 150mm measurement is now being enforced.

- c. The additional word suggested in Success Criteria 3 of the High Level Objectives had been sent to the national group dealing with the process. The latest is that the Minister will not now be providing advice, therefore it has been decided that the IFCA will unilaterally adopt the High Level Objectives which will now be the reporting mechanism for the next 5 year block. DEFRA will be informed of this outcome.
- d. The General Reserve Account clarification would be addressed at Agenda Item 7.
- e. The Tidal Lagoon paper had been put on the website.

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

There were no matters brought forward by the Chair.

6. **Budget Setting**

The Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2016/17 was put to the Authority for discussion and approval after being recommended by the F&GP Committee. The Chief Officer advised the proposed budget would only enable the IFCA to deliver its statutory duties.

A figure correction in Appendix B, Other Fees and Charges. £11,600 should read £11,000.

Cllr Knight requested written evidence/clarification of who is responsible to pay MMO appointees expenses as he disagrees with the outcome that the IFCA is liable to pay them. The Chair agreed to provide clarification she received from DEFRA including the relevant sections of the Act and the Standing Orders which indicate how the Authority is supposed to be constructed and fund its business.

**ACTION
E HAYES**

Natasha Barker-Bradshaw was querying whether the £77,916 that the 5 northern Authorities were holding back from New Burdens funding was being invested for future Work in the Severn area especially as future New Burdens Funding has not as yet been decided. Cllr Waddington replied that as far as Gloucestershire County Council was concerned the difference goes towards costs of actually participating in this service, officer time to be paid for and travelling expenses. He suspected too that this was not enough to cover the real cost.

Minutes of the pre-budget meeting of the F&GP Committee of the 16 November 2015 to discuss in detail the setting of the 2016/17 were included but no questions were raised.

A recommendation to accept the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2016/17 as set out was proposed.

Proposed: Cllr Jim Knight

Seconded: John Butterwith

All in favour, none against

Resolved

7. **General Reserve Account policy**

Concerns and clarification of some figures on the previous submission have been clarified. It was recommended that Section 3, paragraph 3.2 that it state it is a legal obligation for local Authorities to provide funding if required.

A query over the setting of the risk management figure of 25% at Section 3, paragraph 3.5 was expressed and Cllr Waddington requested in writing how this figure set by Angie Sinclair, Assistant County Treasurer of Devon County Council was reached and for the full Authority to be notified of the explanation. **ACTION K BOND**

A recommendation to accept the General Reserve Account Policy as provided was Proposed.

Proposed: Cllr Jim Knight Seconded: Cllr Stuart Hughes

All in favour, none against, Cllr Stan Waddington abstained.

Resolved

8. **Presentation of Demersal Landing Obligations by the MMO**

Julian Roberts from the MMO provided a presentation on the landing obligations. Members should note the position paper drawn up by the IFCA Chief Officers' Group with regard to the work that will be undertaken by the IFCAs to support the MMO delivering the DLO.

9. **iVMS Update**

Initially 30 Succorfish SC2 iVMS units were fitted to vessels on 1 November 2015, some minor problems were sorted whilst trialling. Due to a requirement by IFCAs and the MMO that the units needing to be national type standard approval the Company submitted this unit for testing but it failed to reach this approval status. With the tight deadline of having to get all the units fitted by the end of 2015 to ensure the funding awarded, failure to complete the project will mean that the secured funding awarded will be lost. The opportunity to apply for a new round of EU funding which still includes iVMS units opens in January 2016 where we can roll forward our original bid for funding.

The recommendation that the fitting of further units therefore be suspended until the units pass national type standard approval to ensure the equipment is correct but in the meantime re-apply for EU funding was agreed.

10. **Bass Update**

The latest proposals that the Chief Officer is aware of that will be put to the Council of Ministers on Bass will be:

- Total ban on all Bass fishing for the first 6 months of 2016 to both recreational and commercial with a 1% bycatch allowed for mobile gear boats.
- Subsequent 1 ton a month fishery for commercial fishermen and 1 bass per day limit for recreational.

This is recognition the danger the bass stock are under.

This is an evolving situation and may change by the time the final decision is made by the Council of Ministers.

DEFRA have been reviewing the Bass Nursery Areas around the coast. Following an initial feedback request from the IFCA's during 2015 a consultation document has been drawn up which will be available in January 2016, the need for a review is questionable in light of new possible restrictions.

IFCA's nationally are considering how to protect/manage juvenile bass within Nursery Areas post current proposed restrictions. Twenty three new Nursery Bass Areas are being proposed and suggested 4 existing areas be removed from the list, 9 boundary changes made. Seasonal closures are also being looked at. A change of overall title to either Nursery Areas or Protected Nursery Areas to encompass other fish species that are protected by management measures is also being considered.

Links to all members will be sent out if they wish to respond.

**ACTION
T ROBBINS**

A request to provide bass figures for landings for inshore and offshore fisheries to end of 2015 was put to Sarah Clark.

**ACTION
S CLARK**

11. Quarterly Report

- a. A request for Sarah Gall to give a final report/presentation on her PhD thesis with the IFCA to the Authority was made.

**ACTION
T ROBBINS**

12. Report on the F & GP Committee meeting and minutes of the previous meeting of 24 September 2015

- a. Reported that as part of the work the IFCA are doing with the MMO to look at synergies and opportunities all of the IFCA's have been asked to contribute money to match fund the MMO to look at priming any changes to be made. It was agreed for the Chief Officer at his discretion to contribute up to a maximum of £3,000.
- b. To aid with putting emphasis on the ability to chart accurately on fishermens plotters a flash pen drive of digitised special control charts will be purchased and issued to all mobile gear permit holders using their preferred system. Two companies were approached and Norcom Technology are able to produce the software at a cost of £4,200. Any software updates will be put on the website. The cost will be covered by underspend in 2015/16 budget.

13. Any Other Business

- a. Michael Cominetti has advised the Authority that he would provide feedback of the outcome of his letter to the Environment Agency about Hinckley Point C and his concerns about changes to the cooling water system. He wished to update his Information G paper in that at paragraph 2 the intakes at HPC should read 134m³ and not 125m³
- b. The Chief Officer provided an update on the Communications Officer vacancy by informing the Authority that the post was advertised but only produced 8

applications that were not considered suitable and interviews were not held. A decision to look at an external Communications company short term will be looked at pending the option of readvertising at a later date.

14. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 17 March 2016 – Brixham Laboratory, Brixham