

# Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Full Authority Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

A meeting of the Full Authority was held at 2pm on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the St Alphege Building, Winchester University, Winchester.

Marked A

## Present

Cllr Mark Roberts	Dorset Council (Chairman)
Dr Antony Jensen	MMO Appointee (TAC Chairman)
Mr Richard Stride	MMO Appointee (TAC Vice Chairman)
Mr Neil Hornby	MMO Appointee
Mr James McClelland	Natural England
Cllr Rob Hughes	Dorset County Council
Cllr Paul Fuller	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Matthew Winnington	Portsmouth City Council
Ms Louise MacCallum	MMO Appointee
Mr Gary Wordsworth	MMO Appointee
Ms Rachel Irish	MMO
Dr S Cripps	MMO Appointee
Ms Elisabeth Bussey-Jones	MMO Appointee
Ms Pia Bateman	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Mr Sam Dell	Deputy Chief Officer (DCO)
Dr Sarah Birchenough	Deputy Chief Officer (DCO)

Mr Ted Legg (MMO Appointee) and Ms Gemma Roberts (Accountant) attended virtually.

**296.** The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing thanks to the CEO, DCOs and Permit & Administration Officer Jo Wilson for their work on administration and finance matters following the departure of the Finance and Administration Manager. Thanks were also given to Southern IFCA's new accountant Gemma Roberts and the support she has provided to the CEO. The Chairman recognised and thanked Council Members who are no longer serving on the Authority; Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford, Cllr David Furnell, Cllr Alexis McEvoy and expressed thanks to Cllr Paul Fuller who had been acting as Vice Chairman for the Authority and indicated he would take this role for the first agenda item of the meeting covering the Election of Chairman in accordance with Standing Orders.

### **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2023-2024**

**297.** That Cllr M Roberts be elected as Chairman for the year 2023-2024. The CEO explained that in accordance with Standing Orders, two nominations had been received in writing nominating Cllr. M Roberts to continue in his role as Chairman. In accordance with Standing Orders, the CEO asked the Vice Chairman, Cllr P Fuller to propose this motion, which was subsequently seconded by Mr R Stride. All Members were in favour.

That Cllr P Fuller be elected as Vice Chairman for the year 2023-2024. This motion was proposed by Cllr M Roberts and seconded by Cllr R Hughes. All Members were in favour.

### **Appointment of Sub Committee Membership for 2022-2023**

**298.** The Chairman outlined that the Authority are expecting new elected Members from Hampshire County Council, BCP Council and Southampton City Council. It was therefore outlined that, once those Members are known, that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and CEO organise a Teams meeting with all elected Members to arrange appointments to Sub Committees. The Chairman outlined that Cllr P Fuller would now serve on the Executive Sub-Committee and expressed that he hoped Cllr R Hughes would continue to serve on the Executive Sub-Committee and Cllr M Winnington on the Audit and Governance Sub-Committee.

## **Apologies**

299. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Colin Francis (MMO Appointee) and Mr Phil Rudd (Environment Agency). The CEO outlined that Mr P Rudd has had an internal promotion and will no longer sit on the Authority, the Environment Agency has yet to appoint a new Member.

## **Declarations of Interest**

300. The following pecuniary interests were declared: Mr G Wordsworth (8d, 11), Mr T Legg (10). The following prejudicial interests were declared: Mr G Wordsworth (17). The following non-pecuniary interests were declared: Mr James McClelland (10), Mr Neil Hornby (11).

## **Minutes**

301. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The CEO provided an update on Recommendation 269, in that Defra are still working towards a spring/summer date for a formal consultation on the frontrunner FMPs. The CEO outlined that DCO Birchenough and PO Mullen have been working to structure a Working Group for Members which will assimilate information for all 6 frontrunners and will be arranging a suitable date with Members shortly.

The CEO provided an update on Recommendation 278 regarding the Annual Plan and High Level Objectives (HLOs) which sit under the IFCA Vision. At a MAFCO meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May, a Defra led agenda item confirmed that it was likely, following the release of the Conduct and Operations Report, that the HLOs may be looked in addition to an update of the annual reporting metrics. The CEO outlined that the matter of HLOs sits with Defra but that it was positive that Defra were looking at the IFCA model and modernisation. If action is not taken following the release of the Conduct and Operations Report, the CEO will seek further clarity on this matter.

DCO Birchenough provided an update that Recommendation 281 had been completed, to include a footnote to reference Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as a term that is aligned to the Net Fishing Byelaw for the Southern IFCA Juvenile Fish Surveys in the Research & Policy Team Plan for 2023-2024.

DCO Birchenough provided an update that Recommendation 282 had been completed, to include a footnote to reference that the use of EFH in relation to the Angling for Sustainability Project in the RPT Plan for 2023-2024 is in response to the term being used directly by the project lead.

DCO Birchenough provided an update that Recommendation 283 had been completed, with Mr Steve Matthews having been contacted directly on the points raised on his behalf at the Authority meeting in March 2023.

### **Resolved**

302. Cllr P Fuller proposed that the minutes be confirmed and signed, seconded by Mr R Stride. All Members in favour.

## **Chairman's Announcements**

303. The Chairman referred to the Oil Spill Incident in Poole Harbour and thanked the Team for their input, rapid response and provision of equipment which played a key role in the response effort.

## **Sub Committees**

304. Members received the minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

### **Resolved**

305. That Members received and agreed the minutes of the Sub-Committees.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

### **Chief Executive Officer Updates**

**306.** The CEO referenced that the AGM was being held on World Oceans Day and that the main decision item would be consideration of making the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 which brings home the impact that the IFCA is able to have at the local and District level and the contribution that this management makes to national and international agendas to commit to marine environment management. The CEO thanked all Members and staff for the part that they play in this process and emphasised the privileged position that the IFCA is in to make a difference.

The CEO covered national matters. At the Authority meeting in March, the CEO outlined a business case which was made to Defra aiming to secure £250,000 funding to contribute to the purchase of the cabin RHIB. The business case was directly related to a wider business case by the AIFCA and an investment for all IFCAs. The CEO confirmed that this funding has now been received and that the Accountant is working with the CEO and DCO Dell on a Capital Replacement Program which would form one aspect of a Reserve Policy which will be presented to Members at a future meeting following consideration by the ESC. The CEO also outlined that £150,000 had been received from Defra for the previous financial year to support Defra in achieving work under the Fisheries Act 2020. There are now two Policy Officers in post, Celie Mullen in the FMP role and Chelsea Perrins in an MPA role to aid the Research & Policy Team in delivering MPA workstreams working towards the Government 2024 deadline.

The CEO referenced the Conduct and Operations Report, Defra are no further forward in the process of delivering this with delays experienced during the May local elections. Defra are aiming to deliver on this in June/July.

The CEO covered General Member updates. Mr R Stride has extended his tenure by 2 years, the CEO thanked Mr Stride for his ongoing commitment to the Authority and welcomed the extended tenure. The CEO advised Members that in recent months the MMO have undertaken a number of General Member recruitment campaigns, one specifically for our District for a recreational sea angling member, and that there was no interest from this sector for this position in our District. This matter has been raised with the ESC and the CEO will continue to work with the ESC and the MMO Governance Team to resolve the situation. The CEO also discussed that General Members appraisals will be carried out over the summer.

The CEO spoke on Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) and outlined that Defra were holding two online meetings this week, one of which overlapped with the Authority meeting. The CEO explained that the PO for FMPs is attending both meetings and will incorporate information into the Members Working Group which is planned for the Formal Consultation. Mr G Wordsworth queried whether information on FMPs would be disseminated amongst the fishing industry, the CEO confirmed that the PO would be keeping resources such as the website up to date and providing information to stakeholders. The CEO outlined that the upcoming Formal Consultation is likely to be short and contain a lot of information so there will be a requirement to direct significant resources to this workstream. Dr A Jensen outlined that there was not a large amount of information of note in the public domain at this time. Mr R Stride commented that there are stakeholder opportunities for fishers but that they don't tend to be organised at a time which is suitable for the fishing industry and that there is little information on management measures and outcomes which is the main point of interest for fishers. The CEO outlined that the current meetings were tending to focus on the process of development rather than management measures but that the focus of the Member Working Group for the Formal Consultation would be on proposed management measures and the relationship between these and the Southern IFCA District.

The CEO covered District matters. On 24<sup>th</sup> April, the CEO and DCOs met with the MMO CEO Tom McCormack, the MMO Head of Operations Peter Clark and the SMO for the Southern Team Gordon Chittenden. The CEO thanked Rachel Irish for organising and facilitating the meeting. Discussion was had on annual strategies, directions of both organisations and joint challenges that both organisations face with the meeting being very useful. Discussion was also had on the way that the two organisations work together with recognition of the relationship between Southern IFCA and the MMO Southern Team and this being a blueprint for how the MMO wish to take forward working relationships between the MMO and IFCAs.

The CEO provided a staffing update following the resignation of the Finance and Administration manager after three months in post, with the CEO's current focus since the resignation being delivery of finance and securing sourcing of an external payroll provider, which forms part of a wider consideration of the Southern IFCA business model.

The CEO outlined there are three recruitment campaigns underway at present, one for an IFCO role in the Compliance and Enforcement Team and two focusing on the administrative and finance positions. In addition we will shortly begin the recruitment process for a Senior IFCO in the Research & Policy Team.

The CEO covered the recent oil spill incident in Poole Harbour outlining the IFCA remit for the wild fisheries, aquaculture, recreational fisheries and hand gathering but emphasising that the IFCA is not the responsible authority for determining if these fisheries should be open or closed in response to a pollution incident, rather this duty sits with the Food Standards Agency (FSA). Southern IFCA worked closely with BCP Council Environmental Health Officers to provide their expertise on Poole Harbour to Cefas and the FSA. The priority following the incident was related to shellfish fisheries, with the aquaculture fishery as the main priority, given the seasonal closure of the wild dredge fishery at the time of the incident. The incident underwent debate at the House of Lords and resulted in questions being raised in Parliament, the work of all agencies involved including Southern IFCA was recognised at this level. The CEO emphasised the impact that the incident had on the business-as-usual function of the IFCA and extended thanks to the DCOs and the wider team who worked long hours during a sustained two-week period. The CEO outlined that the incident remains ongoing but that the intensity of the work for the Southern IFCA has eased. The aquaculture fishery was able to open relatively quickly, which was made possible as a result of the quick actions of Southern IFCA and BCP Council, but it is recognised that there was a business impact to aquaculture operators. The wild dredge fishery opened as usual on 25<sup>th</sup> May therefore there was no impact to activity under this fishery which is a positive outcome. Mr G Wordsworth expressed his thanks to Southern IFCA and BCP Council for their actions in supporting the aquaculture industry and wider fisheries.

**Resolved**

**307.** That Members noted the verbal update.

**Budget Control Statement**

**308.** The CEO provided an overview of the draft Budget Control Statement for the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 which showed an excess in income of £121k. The CEO reviewed the main headers. Under the administration header, there was a positive variance of £63k, majority (£45k) due to a reduction in staff salary and pensions and associated reductions in costs for training, PPE etc. The detailed results show a c. 16k variance in prosecution costs due to the issuing of three FAPs in the past year. An additional saving of c. £4k was made as a result of the breakdown of the national AIFCA training model and training commitments not being delivered. In addition, there was a saving of c. £4k from survey work planned for March which had to be deferred to April following bad weather. The positive variance under the Marine Assets Header (c. £9k), was due to a lower than anticipated maintenance costs for vessels and FPV Endeavour coming into service sooner than expected. The c. £11k positive variance under Vehicles & Travel header is primarily due to a reverse of a prior year's accrual for MMO Appointee Expenses (c. £8k). The negative variance under the Capital Equipment Header (c. £5K) is due to the earlier arrival of the new FPV Endeavour. The CEO explained the increase in income of c. £43k which arose from project income, chartering of patrol vessels, interest and an increase on permit fees for Poole which is ringfenced for the MSC fishery Recertification.

Mr S Cripps queried whether surplus could be carried forward and if so whether it was carried forward under the same budget headings. The Chairman indicated that yes it could be carried forward into General Reserves. The CEO outlined that c. £20k will be ringfenced for office improvements which have not been made since the Southern IFCA moved to the new office just prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and that additional funds (c.10k) would also be made available for staff training.

**Resolved**

**309.** That Members noted the report.

**Marine Asset Procurement**

**310.** DCO Dell provided Members with an update on the Southern IFCA MAR and its continued progression. The update related specifically to the build approval for the Cabin RHIB. Since the Authority meeting in March, the DCO and Senior Officer have attended a further two meetings with Ribcraft Ltd. to confirm and finalise technical detail prior to the commencement of the build. The build commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> May

as scheduled with the lamination of the cabin and hull structures now underway. A visit with the factory surveyor is likely to go ahead in August. At this stage, delivery is anticipated in October 2023. Following a recommendation from Officers and agreement from the Executive Sub-Committee it has been agreed that the new vessel will be named Vigilant. This allows coding paperwork associated with the new vessel to be progressed by DCO Dell.

**Resolved**

**311.** That Members noted the update.

**MSC Recertification of Poole Clam and Cockle Fishery**

**312.** DCO Birchenough outlined that the Poole Clam and Cockle Fishery has been certified under the MSC program since 2018 with the certification valid for five years. The recertification audit for the fishery took place in September 2022 and the fishery has continued to maintain high standards in sustainability as well as showing improvements in scoring under the certification through the undertaking of a project on the management of the fishery in relation to Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species. The fishery has been successfully recertified for another five years from 2023 and MSC produced media outputs to celebrate this fact promoting the positive story of the fishery in line with the opening of the 2023 season, which is especially important following the oil spill incident in Poole Harbour. The Chairman queried whether the certification is supported by the fishers, DCO Birchenough commented that it was, the Chair of the PDFA Tommy Russell has been instrumental in taking the certification forward and engaging other fishers in the process. He has been invited to attend a number of engagement and media events to promote the fishery and there have been additional market opportunities from the certification for example the selling of Poole clams and cockles in Waitrose. The Chairman also queried the level of work required for the recertification and DCO Birchenough explained that the resource input had been much less than was required for the original certification process. Dr A Jensen commented that there is a continuous commitment to this as the survey work carried out by the IFCA each year contributes to the annual audits and is central to the evidence of a sustainable fishery. Mr S Cripps commented that there is likely to be a link between the success of this fishery and the decline in prosecutions for the IFCA.

**Resolved**

**313.** That Members noted the update.

**ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**Draft Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**314.** The Chairman outlined that the update is similar to the Budget Control Statement previously discussed. The Accountant presented the Statement of Accounts which sets out the overall financial position of Southern IFCA covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and is a statutory record of the information provided in the Budget Control Statement. The Accountant outlined the increase in income over budget and sought approval from the Authority to submit the accounts to Southern IFCA's accounting firm PK Francis to carry out an independent review and issue a limited scope assurance report. Dr S Cripps queried whether the Executive Sub-Committee had reviewed the accounts, the Chairman confirmed that both the Executive Sub-Committee and the Audit and Governance Sub-Committee had reviewed the accounts. Members express their thanks to the Accountant for preparing the accounts.

The recommendation was proposed by Cllr P Fuller and seconded by Cllr M Winnington. All Members were in favour.

**Resolved**

**315.** That Members authorise the submission of the draft Statement of Accounts to the external auditors for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw**

**316.** DCO Birchenough outlined that the Authority was being asked to make the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 ('the Byelaw'). DCO Birchenough informed Members that there was a detailed discussion on the Byelaw at the TAC meeting in May and expressed thanks to TAC Members for their input.

DCO Birchenough outlined that there had been some changes made to the principles and policy which underpinned the Byelaw as a result of these discussions. This included clearer definitions of feature-based management for different types of National Site Network Sites (MCZs and SACs/SPAs) with features being managed within MCZs and within or adjacent to SACs/SPAs under Phase 1 of the review.

The other discussion point from the TAC was on areas currently closed under the BTFG Byelaw 2016 with the initial proposal being to re-open those areas under the Byelaw. DCO Birchenough outlined that a new Principle had been developed for Phase 1 to maintain these areas as prohibited under Phase 1, with the intention to re-visit these areas in Phase 2, taking into account socio-economic evidence in combination with conservation considerations.

DCO Birchenough informed Members of the contents of the Byelaw package which included the Byelaw, an Impact Assessment and a Management Intentions Document. She explained that the proposed Byelaw creates prohibited areas for BTFG covering 743.12km<sup>2</sup>, which equates to 27.2% of the district, which is an increase of 46.8km<sup>2</sup> or 1.7% compared to the BTFG Byelaw 2016.

DCO Birchenough explained the process that would be followed should the Authority resolve to make the Byelaw will include a period of Formal Consultation and consideration of the outcomes of that Formal Consultation by the Authority prior to submission to the MMO and Secretary of State.

Mr T Legg raised whether there were any methods by which the fishing industry could receive updates to regulated areas electronically that could be transferred to the equipment used on fishing vessels. DCO Dell commented that this matter had been discussed previously and that historically the Kingfisher Project had helped in this regard, DCO outlined that he would be progressing this and determining whether updates could be made and improvements to the usability by the industry. Cllr P Fuller supported that this should be explored and queried whether DCO Dell could provide an update on progress with this. Dr A Jensen outlined that the issue of access to electronic spatial information is wider than the IFCA as the issue of cruise ships anchoring in sensitive areas during the Covid-19 Pandemic was also partly a result of those areas not being marked on charts and that this may be being looked at by other groups as well. Members discussed the issue of anchoring in relation to MPAs, engagement and the role of different authorities, DCO Dell clearly outlined that this sits outside the remit of the Southern IFCA.

Mr S Cripps raised a disconnect between what the Government is saying is being done in relation to progression to 30x30 and what is being done in practice in terms of feature-based management. Dr S Cripps referenced the IFCA legal duties and queried whether the IFCA has the ability to go further than those requirements where it is felt that there is a genuine advantage, for example managing within the areas between prohibited areas to achieve more holistic management. DCO Birchenough outlined that the aim of Phase 2 was to consider wider sensitive habitat management across the District, both within and outside of MPAs. DCO Birchenough outlined that once Phase 2 commences, the Authority will have the ability to define the scope of that Phase and Principles for defining management in accordance with IFCA duties under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and consider socio-economic information in combination with that of conservation, to ensure marine protection is balanced with a sustainable fishing industry. DCO Birchenough acknowledged that Phase 2 this will require extensive consultation.

Mr James McClelland discussed the assessments which underpin the Byelaw, committing that NE require confidence that the assessments carried out in 2016 had been reviewed more recently. DCO Birchenough outlined the process that had been followed since receipt of the updated evidence base from NE in 2020, with changes in evidence identified for reef and seagrass features informing updated District-wide assessments for those features. The conclusions in the HRAs referenced from 2016 were deemed to still be appropriate under the updated evidence base and were therefore carried through into the BTFG review which commenced in 2020. DCO Birchenough informed Members that additional protections had also been afforded to areas within the Solent which were covered by these assessments through the introduction of the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw which was underpinned by separate environmental assessments.

The recommendations were taken as one, proposed by Cllr P Fuller, seconded by Ms L MacCallum, all Members were in favour.

### **Resolved**

**317. a)** That the Authority proceeds to make the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023.

- b) That the Byelaw is advertised in accordance with IFCA Byelaw Guidance from Defra.
- c) That the TAC will consider outcomes of the formal consultation, prior to review by the Executive Sub-Committee, who, under delegated powers, are required to report with recommendations to the Authority following the making of statutory interventions, prior to MMO quality assurance and an application to the Secretary of State to confirm the byelaw.

### **Recommended**

**318.** That DCO Dell provide an update to the Authority on the Kingfisher Project, considering the ability to update IFCA regulations and improve usability to aid the fishing industry in having access electronically to locations of spatial regulations.

**319.** That DCO Birchenough add information to the Management Intentions Document as a supporting document for the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 to reflect that environmental assessments carried out in 2016 were reviewed in line with the 2020 Natural England database.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

### **Poole Harbour Oil Spill Incident**

**320.** DCO Dell provided Members with an update on Southern IFCA's response to the Poole Harbour Oil Spill Incident. On 26<sup>th</sup> March a leak was detected in a pipeline owned by Perenco and a major incident was declared with Southern IFCA contacted by Poole Harbour Commissioners requesting assistance including the use of FPV Endeavour and the drone. IFCA Officers worked with Oil Spill Response Ltd. personnel between 27<sup>th</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> March to help carry out Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques (SCATs) using the drone for aerial surveillance and FPV Endeavour to reach remote parts of the Harbour.

Southern IFCA worked closely with BCP Council, Cefas and the FSA to help coordinate a shellfish sampling program to test multiple shellfish species to help inform the FSA position on harvesting and marketing of shellfish for aquaculture and the wild fisheries.

DCO Dell outlined the current situation and advice provided, in that fishing and netting for fish within the Harbour was able to resume from midnight on 5<sup>th</sup> April, providing that activities avoid any areas of the Harbour which are obviously contaminated with oil, which is now mainly contained to the spill site. Any fish found to be dead, dying or visibly contaminated with oil residue should not be consumed or marketed. Aquaculture areas have been open since 20<sup>th</sup> April with the FSA advising that operators should continue to take appropriate action to ensure any harvested shellfish are fit for consumption. Sampling of wild shellfish beds was also undertaken; the results have now been received and the dredge fishery was able to open as normal on 25<sup>th</sup> May with hand gathering activities for shellfish also able to resume.

DCO Dell informed Members that Southern IFCA has committed significant time and resource to date to support the initial and ongoing incident. DCO Dell thanked the IFCOs involved, their commitment shown has been exemplary and feedback from Poole Harbour Commissioners and other authorities was that the knowledge and assets held by the IFCA were key in helping the operation progress without delay. DCO Dell also added that the impacts on fisheries in Poole Harbour were reduced as much as possible by the dedicated work of the team in carrying out sampling and working closely with the appropriate authorities and that thanks has been expressed from both the commercial and recreational sectors. The Incident Commander has passed on thanks to the IFCA.

The Chairman stated that recovery of the costs to the IFCA as a result of the incident are being sought. DCO Dell elaborated that a full cost recovery assessment has been undertaken by the DCOs and has been passed to Perenco via the claims process with confirmation that the claim has been received. DCO Dell was unable to provide the value of the cost claim due to the ongoing process with the insurance company for Perenco. DCO Dell confirmed that the claims process was open to all sectors which had been affected and both commercial and recreational fishers were able to submit a claim if they wished. Ms L MacCallum queried whether any IFCOs were trained oil spill responders from previous roles, DCO Dell outlined that no officers were formally trained to the level of oil spill responders but there was some experience from those who had held previous roles with harbour authorities. Members recognised the role that the team had played in the response and expressed their thanks.

### **Compliance and Enforcement Report**

321. DCO Dell reported to Members on the compliance and enforcement activities for the quarter, describing the statistical nature of the first part of the report referring to numbers of inspections, patrols, intelligence reports and offences detected. DCO Dell outlined that the figures are reported on an annual basis to Defra via the AIFCA and are made available through the Southern IFCA website. DCO Dell outlined that the report also provides sanitized information on enforcement outcomes and a summary of key enforcement operations and activities for the last quarter.

### **Research and Policy Team: Behind the Scenes**

322. DCO Birchenough provided Members with an update on aspects of the work that the Research and Policy Team have been delivering behind the scenes through a series of reports. DCO Birchenough outlined that the last quarter has been dominated by survey work, necessitated by the movement of planned surveys due to bad weather.

### **Sector Group Meetings**

323. DCO Birchenough provided Members with the minutes of sector meetings to include the Recreational Angling Sector Group (RSAG), the South Coast Fisherman's Council and the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group. Mr R Stride provided some additional detail on the minutes for the South Coast Fisherman's Council, centering on FMPs and medicals for fishers.

DCO Birchenough raised a point in relation to the RASG and the Marine Conservation Group that attendance of these groups was low and asked Members for thoughts on moving to meetings being conducted at the request of the respective groups rather than arranged every quarter to improve the efficiency of running these groups. DCO Birchenough outlined that the aim was for those meetings to provide the ability for discussion and sharing of information which was not able to be realized as much currently due to low attendance. Ms L MacCallum commented that attendance could be improved by pre-setting meeting dates a year in advance but recognises that if Members of each group do not have agenda items to raise then the meeting doesn't need to be held. Dr A Jensen commented that meetings could be reduced to twice a year rather than four per year (quarterly) and stated that if meetings are pre-arranged then it is more likely that agenda items will develop. The Chairman added to this by suggesting that a meeting could be called between two fixed meetings if required.

### **Proposed Meeting Dates 2024**

324. Members considered a report from the CEO on proposed meeting dates for Authority meetings and Sub-Committee meetings for 2024.

The CEO also asked Members for input on the venue for the Christmas meal for Members for 2023. It was determined that Members wished to use a different venue to previously and alternative venues would be explored taking into account access to public transport and the venue of the December Authority meeting.

#### **Recommended**

325. That the CEO and DCO Birchenough explore alternative venues.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

326. The next Authority Meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2pm at The Lighthouse, Poole. Prior to the meeting a boat trip has been arranged for Members in Poole Harbour between 10:00 and 12:00. More details will be provided to Members nearer to the time.

### **Exclusion of the Public**

327. In accordance with the Local Government Act (1972), Members of the public accessing the meeting left the meeting on the grounds that the following item of business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Para 7 part 1 of the Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act (1972). There were no members of the public present in person at the meeting.



### **Poole Harbour Several Order – Request to Amend Business Plan**

**328.** DCO Dell asked Members to consider a confidential report giving details of a proposed change to the Business Plan for Lease Bed 3, which the Southern IFCA manage under The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015. The proposed changes have been reviewed and the proposed changes to the Business Plan are in line with the current Appropriate Assessment for the issuing of leases under The Order. Mr R Stride queried whether the vessel in question under the amendment conformed with requirements for vessels under the Order, DCO Birchenough confirmed the vessel was already in use on other lease beds under the Order. All Members gave mutual consent.

#### **Resolved**

**328.** That Members approve the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2020-25 for lease bed 3.

**329.** Mr N Hornby raised a matter of AOB, he outlined that the Cefas vessel Endeavour would be coming to the District on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July with an open day held in Portland and extended an invitation to the Membership and members of the Southern IFCA team to attend.

**330.** Dr S Cripps raised that a paper had been published by the scientific team at the Wildlife Conservation Society exploring a new methodology using AI to calculate productivity of multi-species fisheries in data poor areas to aid developing management. Dr S Cripps stated he was happy to distribute the paper to interested Members.

Meeting concluded at 16:51.