

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

AUTHORITY – 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority held in Function Room, The Lighthouse, Poole at 1400 on Thursday 23 September 2021

ITEM A

Present

Cllr Mr M Roberts (Chairman, Dorset Council)
Cllr Mrs A McEvoy (Vice Chairman, HCC)

Cllr Mr P Fuller (Isle of Wight Council)

Ms R Irish (MMO Appointee)
Dr A Jensen (MMO Appointee)
Ms L MacCallum (MMO Appointee)
Mr G Wordsworth (MMO Appointee)
Dr R Morgan (Natural England)

The Chief Officer, DCO Dell and Finance and Administration Manager attended. Members attending virtually via Teams: Cllr Ms D Curnow-Ford (Hampshire Council), Mr M Ratsey (Accountant), Mr T Legg, Mr S Cripps, Mr R Stride, DCO Bateman, IFCOs Cooper, Mayne, Smith and Pengelly.

Apologies

75. Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Mr M Guthrie (Southampton City Council), Cllr Mr R Hughes (Dorset Council), Cllr Mr P Miles (BCP Council), Mr L Stantiford (MMO Appointee), Mr N Fisher (MMO Appointee), Mr P Rudd (EA).

Declaration of Interests

76. Members declared the pecuniary interest in the following Minutes: Mr Stride (86), Mr Legg (86, 88) and non-pecuniary interest in the following Minutes: Mr Stride (80b, 86), Dr Morgan (88), Mr Wordsworth (80b), Mr Legg (80b)

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman updated Members on the SIFCA activities he had been involved in recently; a drone demonstration in West Bay from IFCOs Pengelly and DCO Dell which had been most impressive, showing the capabilities of the equipment by fully trained officers. He continued that he had also been impressed with his visit to the Othniel Oysters in Poole Harbour to how the shellfish are processed and an opportunity to see the clam fishers in action. He thanked Mr Wordsworth for inviting him. The Chairman reported that he had attended a recent AIFCA meeting and had been involved in the MMO recruitment process with the Chief Officer for the vacant general member post. Interviews were taking place and Robert Clark from the Association, was part of the interview panel.

Minutes

77. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021. Ms Irish asked for a number of typos to be corrected. The Minutes were then confirmed and signed.

Executive Committee

78. Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 7 July 2021.

Resolved

79. That the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 7 July 2021 were received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

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Progress Report on Outstanding Matters

80. **a. Chief Officers Updates.** He explained to Members that he was introducing a quarterly report to provide updates on nationally important developments within fisheries management and to include any AIFCA highlights.

He worked through the details updating Members on current IFCA funding with a spending review timetabled for Autumn 2021. Members were interested in details of the proposed Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs).

The Chief Officer explained that a long list of proposed sites would be developed based on ecological criteria and more detail would become available once the short list had been agreed. He updated Members on the involvement of the AIFCA to develop a project to support IFCAs in their engagement and development of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs).

The Chief Officer and DCO Bateman had attended recent Regional Fisheries Group meetings that brought together industry, science, regulators and policy makers to work together on development of fisheries management. The Chief Officer updated Members on the General Members representations. Mr Wordsworth and Mr Legg had had their memberships extended and the recruitment had begun for the current vacancy. He told Members that the MMO had received a good level of applications for the Southern IFCA recruitment. He continued that the MMO were currently consulting on the general members tenure and processes to extend Membership or allowing these members to reapply.

b. Netting Review. IFCO Pengelly updated Members on the progress of the review. Members of the TAC had confirmed management intentions and agreed that Officers draft a byelaw and associated documents based on these measures. The TAC would consider these documents at their next meeting and consider whether to recommend that the Authority makes the Net Fishing Byelaw in December. The Chairman thanked IFCO Pengelly, Birchenough and DCO Bateman for their involvement and the tremendous amount of time and effort spend on getting to this stage.

c. Staffing Updates. The Chief Officer reported to Members the recent staff changes. CO Jamie Smith was leaving to use her MPA knowledge and skills in a new role with JNCC and all members wished her well in this new challenging venture. DCO Neil Richardson was leaving to spend more time with his animals and work with his local community. The Chief Officer passed on Neil's thanks to the Members and they wished him all the best in his new endeavours. He continued that Debbie Vivian would be leaving at the end of November to take up a post with BCP Council library services. He said it was a huge loss for the IFCA and wanted to recognise her 14 years of service with the Authority. Members wished her well in the new position.

Resolved

81. That the reports be noted.

Budget Control Statement

82. Mr Ratsey explained to Members the figures in the Budget Control Statement. He presented the budget statement to August 2021. He worked through the details of the report, how the figures were reached and the usefulness of having the previous year for a comparison. He asked Members to note the spending over £5K; a legal fee that covered a 10 month period and two payments towards the vessel build. He reported that he was happy with the budget that was on track.

Cllr Curnow-Ford reported that she had attended the recent Appeals and Scrutiny Sub Committee meeting and had received a detailed introduction to the Authority's spending and budget procedures.

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The Chairman thanked Mr Ratsey for the details in the statement. Cllr Fuller proposed and Ms MacCallum seconded the recommendation. All Members present agreed the proposal to receive the Budget Control Statement.

Resolved

83. a. That the Budget Control Statement to date 31 August 2021, as set out in Annex “A” to these minutes, be approved.

Annual Audit 2020-2021

84. Mr Ratsey briefed Members on the report and findings of the auditors Francis Clark, who had not found any accountancy issues in the processes used. The Chairman thanked Mr Ratsey and Ms Vivian for their involvement in the audit process. The Chairman and Chief Officer signed the audit documents. Members present agreed the Audit under General Consent.

Resolved

85. That the Statement of Accounts for the year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, as set out in Annex ‘B’ to these Minutes, be received, approved and adopted.

Minimum Conservation Reference Size Review

86. IFCO Pengelly explained that at the recent TAC Members considered the Summary of Responses from the recent Call for Information and recommended that the review proceeds to Stage 2. He asked Members to agree the recommendation to proceed to the development of draft measures and further consultation with the community. Members agreed the proposal under General Consent. The Chairman thanked Jamie Small for her excellent contribution to this area of work.

Resolved

87. That the Minimum Conservation Reference Size Review move to Stage 2 Draft Measures.

Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review

88. IFCO Cooper explained that at the recent TAC Members had been given the progress details of the review. He asked Members to agree the recommendation from that committee to move the review to the next stage which would be the development of draft measures and consultation with the community. Dr Morgan asked if external sea grass projects would be considered and included when drafting measures and IFCO Pengelly reported that as part of the consultation process these projects would feed into the review. Mr Stride asked if new evidence would be included that the TAC would not have agreed and Dr Jensen explained that at this stage any new evidence would be considered and included.

Resolved

89. That the BTFG Spatial Management Review move to Stage 2 Draft Measures.

Annual Report

90. The Chief Officer asked Members to agree the Annual Report for the year 2020-2021. He thanked staff for their involvement in putting together the report. Officers had demonstrated the delivery of statutory duties and specific priorities as set out in the Annual Plan 2020-2021. He asked Members that following any amendments they agree that the Chairman have final sign off of the document which would then be sent to the Secretary of State as stipulated in Section 178 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Ms MacCallum thanked the officers for their work, seeing it all consolidated in one report highlighted the amount of work they do. Dr

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Jensen echoed the praise and he asked if a zone map could be included under the monthly reporting of infringements. Mr Wordsworth asked that staff be thanked for the development of the website which was launched in April. He had been told by fishers that they found it much easier to integrate now from mobile devices. DCO Bateman thanked IFCO Smith, as the lead in that workstream and the feedback from users had been very good.

Cllr Fuller proposed and Ms MacCallum seconded the proposals. All Members present agreed both recommendations.

Resolved

91. a. That the Chairman approve any further amendments.
- b. That Annual Report be approved.

Meeting Dates for 2022

92. The Chief Officer asked Members to consider a report setting out suggested dates of meetings for 2022. He reminded Members of their commitment to attend meetings to maintain the quorum. He also provided Members with the details of the membership of Sub-Committees and that at the last Authority meeting it had been agreed to amend Standing Orders to reflect the Appeals and Scrutiny Sub-Committee being divided into the Scrutiny and Governance Sub-Committee and the Appeals Sub-Committee. The Chief Officer advised Members that this is an opportunity to conduct a full review of the Standing Orders to bring to the next Authority meeting for consideration. Cllr Fuller proposed and Ms Irish seconded the recommendation. All Members present agreed the dates. Dr Cripps asked if other video conferencing providers could be explored and the Chief Officer agreed to look at the benefits of other providers.

Resolved

93. That the dates of meetings for 2022 be adopted.

Compliance and Enforcement. Quarterly FP team highlights

94. IFCO Dell reported to Members the activities over the months of May to July 2021. He explained the figures for the working at sea and land inspections and the joint working practises with MMO, PHC and ABP. He highlighted the partnership working covering wildlife crime and search and rescue. IFCO Dell reported that the Marine Interpretation Unit had been used at the Sea Angling Classic Event in Portsmouth. He thanked the officers for continuing to work flexibly with the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic. Dr Morgan asked if the drone policy included procedures in designated sites, so no disturbance is caused by the equipment. IFCO Dell confirmed this was covered in the operator's manual. The Chairman thanked officers for all the compliance work achieved in the period.

Resolved

95. That the report be received.

Behind the Scenes – with FMP Team Officers

96. DCO Bateman updated Members on the duties of the Fisheries Management and Policy Team. She explained that the report captured some of the work that the officers were involved in that complimented and supported the policy making.

Resolved

97. That the report be received.

Recreational Angling Sector Group - Minutes

98. IFCO Cooper presented the Minutes from 25 August 2021 for Members. These Minutes were tabled for information. He added that it was important to get feedback from this sector. The IFCA acted as secretary for the group.

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Resolved

99. That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2021 of the Recreational Angling Sector Group be received.

South Coast Fishermen's Council (FMC)

100. Members considered the Minutes of the South Coast Fishermen's Council meeting held on 11 August 2021. He explained some of the concerns of local fishermen. Mr Stride reported that Mrs Stella Dean, secretary of FMC would be resigning after 44 years working with the Council.

Resolved

101. That the Minutes of the 334th meetings held on 11 August of the South Coast Fishermen's Council be received.

Marine Licencing Update

102. IFCO Cooper explained the role the Authority had as a consultee on Marine Licence Applications (MLAs) from the Marine Management Organisation. He updated Members on recent applications and reported that the South Coast Fishermen's Council had been added as a consultee for MLAs.

Resolved

103. That the report be received.

Conservation Group Minutes

104. IFCO Pengelly gave Members an overview of the Minutes of the group that covered Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Cllr Fuller was interested in developments regarding cruise ship anchoring off the Dorset and Hampshire coast. Ms Irish reported that the MMO had been involved with the UK HO to include sensitive areas on charts and with notifying the cruise ship operators of the MPA sites. They were continuing to monitor the areas although most of the large vessels had moved on.

Resolved

105. That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2021 of the Conservation Group be received.

Date of Next Meeting –9 December 2021

106. The next meetings of the Full Authority would be held on 9 December 2021. The Chairman reported this meeting was planned to continue in this hybrid format of face to face with some virtual involvement. If possible, a Christmas lunch would be arranged for those interested, prior to the meeting.

107. There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:07.

Chairman:

Date: