

Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreational Angling Sector Group - 10th March 2020 at 17:00 – Southern IFCA Office

Attendees:

Chris Holloway

Alan Deeming

Phil Higgins

Chris Holloway

Tim Ferrero

Patrick Cooper

Sarah Birchenough

Robert Clark

Apologies

Rayner, Charlie Annear, Steve Porter, Brian Bleese

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

– After minor amendments the minutes were signed off by the chair.

3. Minimum Size byelaw

RC raised that as mentioned at previous meetings the committee continued to pursue the minimum size byelaw, as presented at the most recent TAC meeting. Members agreed that this was important to provide protection to the various species harvested within the district. CH enquired as to whether the minimum size for Ballan Wrasse could be higher to provide further resilience to commercial exploitation. RC reminded members of the group that the minimum sizes were being put in place to replace those existing, in the case of Wrasse those from the Wrasse guidance, and further work would be undertaken, as set out in the IFCA's 5 year forecast to review all these sizes against best available evidence. AD restated his support of progression of the current proposed byelaw, on the understanding that the minimum size review would still take place. The minimum size byelaw was anticipated to be put before the committee for confirmation at the next full authority meeting.

4. Netting Byelaw

SB took members through the HRAs associated with the proposed netting byelaw for the River Itchen and the River Avon SAC, and the Rivers Test and Frome SSSIs. SB indicated that this information would be provided to a future working group as well as any further representations that had been made to the authority since the previous consultation.

CH and AD raised concerns over 100m exclusion zone size around piers, proposed in the management measures for the Netting byelaw. Particularly on it not being large enough for full casting. RC reminded the group that overhead casting is restricted on many piers, however AD suggested that this was not always the case, referencing Sandown in particular. CH and AD both indicated that 200m would be more appropriate to them and their fellow pier anglers.

5. Wrasse Measures

RC took the group through updates to the Wrasse Measures from the Technical Advisory Committee. RC indicated that as a threshold for the fishery had been reached, work was required in the Monitoring and Control Plan review and where necessary mitigate impact to the Wrasse populations. RC indicated that as the total number of wrasse removed had triggered a review, the authority would meet with buyers to discuss a reduction and ensure the guidance was still effective. Members raised concerns over the fishery, CH highlighted that at the start of the process it was stated that industry was investigating the breeding of Wrasse to stop relying on the South Coast live Wrasse fishery and that the industry had had three years to undertake this and without more knowledge of the biomass the fishery could be impacting on the Wrasse populations. RC restated that the measures in the guidance were being adhered to and provided a range of restrictions on the fishery to avoid overexploitation.

6. Bream MCZ

PC reminded members of the timeline relating to bream, and that the Authority were still awaiting conservation advice from Natural England. PC also took members through plans, in their early stages, to work with the local community and partner agencies to assess the location of the bream nesting sites in Dorset. Further updates to this would follow as matters developed.