

Recreational Angling Sector Working Group Meeting – 16/12/2020 – 17:00

Southern IFCA Office – MS Teams Meeting

Present:

Alan Deeming (AD)
Ian Jones (IJ)
Steve Porter (SP)
Chris Holloway (CH)
Patrick Cooper (PC)
Simon Pengelly (SP)
Kim Gibbs (KG)
Charlie Annear (CA)
Tim Ferrero (TF)

Apologies: Rayner Piper, Sam Cummings, Phil Higgins and Brian Blease.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. At the nearest opportunity, the chair will sign along with minutes from other meetings held virtually.

2. Introductions

- New Chief Officer

IJ Introduced himself to members as the new Chief Officer of Southern IFCA, 4 months into the role. IJ provided details of his background prior to this role, including previous appointments with the Association of IFCA's and Sussex + Southern IFCA's. IJ also expressed a keen interest on working with the recreational angling sector group closely in the future.

3. Update to IFCA Membership

IJ provided members of an update to IFCA membership following the departure from the authority of Nigel Horseman and Simon Kershaw. Members were reminded of the role the IFCA play in appointments, and that the authority had expressed an interest in ensuring some recreational representation. Following the recruitment process, led by the MMO, two new members had been appointed. Nick Fisher and Lyle Stantiford. A summary of their backgrounds can be found on the Southern IFCA Website (<https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/the-authority>).

Members of the RASG discussed whether Mr Fisher and Mr Stantiford should be invited to the next meeting to observe. The group agreed that, at the chairman's discretion, an invite should be extended to the following meeting.

ACTION: PC to invite new committee members to observe.

4. MCRS Byelaw Update

SP provided an update of the MCRS byelaw, which the Authority has now made, but is awaiting completion of the MMO QA and secretary of state sign off. SP reminded members of the importance of the regulation, not only in applying regulations to commercial fishers, but to all including recreational, unlicensed and throughout the supply chain. The byelaw also updated sizes for some key species where the evidence base had been investigated. SP stated that on sign off an awareness raising program would begin, and this would include an

update of the popular Southern IFCA minimum size fish stickers. Members of the group were also reminded of ongoing minimum size review undertaken by Jamie Small who is compiling literature reviews of at least 26 species. The group were supplied with a sample of Jamie Small's species profiles. AD queried whether, if in the profile the size of maturity does not match the existing landing size using thornback ray as an example, the minimum size would be increased. SP stated that the information in the profiles would help inform the wider species MCRS review.

5. Netting Review Update

SP introduced members to recent updates in the development of netting regulation in harbours and estuaries. CH and SP highlighted recent discussions held between CH and the chair of the South Coast Fisherman's Association regarding the issue of netting around Piers. CH informed the group that a voluntary approach would be considered in the first instance applying to a 200m no netting area around piers. This would allow the issues to be addressed at a local level. AD enquired as to whether the 100m could be included in the byelaw, and 200m the code, however SP stated that in the first instance the 200m would be included in a voluntary measure and monitored for compliance.

6. Any Other Business

CH enquired as to whether the IFCA, having previously contributed to the notice board used by anglers on Poole Quay, would consider contributing towards its replacement. IJ stated that this could be considered and would follow up with CH. AD hoped that further boards could be considered elsewhere in the district, including the no digging areas on the IoW.

AD enquired as to the HPMA timeline. IJ stated that as far as he was aware there was a 6 month delay on the initial proposals.

AD also enquired as to the updated bass regulations for 2021. IJ stated that the December Council was postponed, and that the 2020 regulations would continue into January.

IJ encouraged members to read the recent and upcoming committee meeting papers to follow the current Southern IFCA workstreams.

Date of the next meeting – 13/04/2021