

Recreational Angling Sector Working Group Meeting – 28/11/2023 – 19:00

Virtual Meeting – MS Teams

Attendees: Emily Condie, Fred Harris, Dr Alice Hall, Chris Holloway, Allan Green, Mike Spillsberg, Sam Cumming, Dr Tim Ferrero

Minutes

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (11th September 2023) and Apologies

Apologies from Alan Deeming and Colin Smith.

Previous minutes identified to have the wrong date. Amendment made.

2. Introductions

IFCO Condie introduced Dr Alice Hall.

3. Presentation: Dr Alice Hall and Dr Peter Davies, University of Plymouth

Update on FISP project Angling for Sustainability (Annex I)

4. Southern IFCA Updates/Ongoing items:

Staff Updates

Liberty Cast has the research and policy team, the team have recruited Hester Churchouse and FMP project officer Celie Mullen has taken a permanent role as a fisheries officer on the Research and Policy Team. Emily Condie has moved into Senior Policy Officer on the Research and Policy Team. The Control and Enforcement team are currently recruiting new a new Fishery Officer.

Southern IFCA Byelaw Update

Pot Fishing Byelaw (update from IFCO Condie): No change from the previous meeting.

Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw (update from IFCO Condie): The reviewed Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw has been submitted to the MMO for the first round of QA.

Net Fishing Byelaw (update from IFCO Harris): At the previous meeting the Net Fishing Byelaw had just been confirmed as signed by the Secretary of State. The byelaw is now in force with prohibition, permit and restriction areas applying around the district. Poole Harbour, Christchurch, and Lyme Bay now have restriction areas. Also permit areas in Southampton Water and the Hamble and Christchurch Harbour as well as Net Prohibition areas in other areas across the district.

Net fishing vessels can no longer net within a bass nursery area with bass on board. Bass must be landed if caught outside a nursery area before netting recommences within the nursery area. As a result, bass fishing regulations are strengthened in bass nursery areas.

IFCO Harris will ensure leaflets are circulated, specifically to areas in Poole Harbour.

5. Any Other Business

Current Catch Limits: 10metres and under non-sector pool (Chris Holloway)

A member requested discussion on the 'Current Catch Limits: 10metres and under non-sector pool' that had been circulated by the MMO the afternoon of this meeting. The member raised concern over 0.5 tonne of Undulate Ray being permitted per trip to commercial vessels. IFCO Condie will research into this figure.

Thresher Sharks – Doctor Tim Ferrero

Dr Tim Ferrero is involved with a project named '*Secrets of the Solent*' which has funding for satellite tagging thresher sharks. He is looking for an experienced and conservation minded shark fisher that is familiar with the eastern end of the Isle of Wight.

Fisheries and Industry Science Partnership: FinVision (IFCO Condie)

FISP - Southern IFCA are one of several partners on another project from the University of Plymouth called FinVision. Through FinVision the partnership will deploy a 'smart' underwater camera system (known as a JHaM-Cam unit), capable of seeing the smallest juvenile life-stages of fish, in a range of inshore habitats. Later in the year, anglers, and other members of the public, will be able to join in analysing the videos by counting the numbers and size of fish living in different types of habitats via a specially-developed interactive website.

There is a virtual meeting on Thursday starting at 7pm to explain more, details for sign up will be recirculated.

Skates and Rays FMP Meeting (Chris Holloway)

There will be a meeting on the 18th of December at Broadstone Conservative Club.

Scallop Fishery (IFCO Harris)

As a result of the Autumn scallop fishery survey raising concern on scallop stocks in the Solent, the scallop fishery remained closed an extra month and the fishery is currently open for reduced hours, in order to reduce pressure of the stocks. Fishers are happy with catch levels and are catching significantly more than this time last year.

Trawler in Poole Bay

Answer by IFCO Harris

A trawler was reported in Poole Bay. The situation being dealt with therefore minimal discussion can be had. Gear Conflict is a matter for the police, concerns to Southern IFCA would be that a vessel has the necessary permits for the activity it is undertaking and that its activity occurs outside of prohibited areas.

Southern IFCA has a drone that can track coordinates and fishing activity whereas AIS does not provide information on activity.

Shore Patrol Citizen Scientists (Allan Green)

A member asked if a project involving citizen scientists patrolling the shore and asking questions about catch was still ongoing.

This is thought to be an Angling Trust Project and to still be ongoing.