

## Recreational Angling Sector Group minutes – 23/06/2020 – Remote Meeting

Present:

Members

Chris Holloway (Chair) (CH)

Alan Deeming (AD)

Charlie Annear (CA)

Kim Gibbs (KG)

SIFCA

Simon Pengelly (SP)

Robert Clark (RC)

Patrick Cooper (PC)

Antony Jensen (AJ)

John Humphreys (JH)

Apologies

Phil Higgins, Steve Porter, Charlie Cummings, Tim Ferrero, Brian Bleese and Rayner Piper.

### 1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

### 2. Introductions

RC introduced members of the group to the Southern IFCA chairman John Humphreys and the chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee Antony Jensen. JH and AJ indicated they would be observing the meeting to understand better how the group worked.

### 3. Impact of Covid 19

RC took the through impacts of COVID 19 on Southern IFCA, including amended working arrangements, a continued enforcement presence across the district and support provided to industry through continued engagement and continued to projects such as classification surveys and MSC certification. RC also provided members of the group requested clarification on developments in enforcement, in particular the Fisheries Enforcement Points, developed to ensure inspections could continue in a safe manner.

RC gave an overview of the impact to the commercial fishing sector, including the significantly reduced capacity of fishing effort at the start of the pandemic and its slow but not complete recovery. RC was also provided information by PH, unable to attend the meeting, on the impact of restrictions on the charter vessels and the work PBA was undertaking with DEFRA on their advice.

### 4. MCRS byelaw

SP took members through the progress of the MCRS byelaw. Highlighting that unfortunately the March Authority meeting was cancelled due to Covid19 restrictions, but the byelaw had been submitted to the full authority in June, where members elected to make the byelaw. SP reminded members of the reasoning behind the byelaw, to close the gaps left by an update to EU legislation, to amalgamate MCRS or MLS held in various byelaws and national legislation, and to ensure they apply to all users. Most sizes in the byelaw will remain the

same, but would be subject to review by the Authority scheduled for 2021-2023, whilst certain species such as Grey Mullet, Crawfish and various Wrasse species were added or had their sizes amended. In these instances research into the sizes had already taken place. SP highlighted that the byelaw was now in a formal consultation stage and that the 28 day period would close on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July. Members were encouraged to circulate to relevant stakeholders and that letters of support were welcome as well as objections. CH queried the protection afforded Wrasse in the West of the district. SP highlighted inclusion of those sizes from the Wrasse guidance in the MCRS byelaw as well as reminding members of the other measures involved in the Wrasse fishery.

#### 5. Netting Review Update

SP updated members on the progress of the netting review, highlighting the additional high level input received from organisations in January and February, and that the authority had formed a working group, meeting remotely to work through some of the evidence provided and further develop proposals. CH asked for update regarding the proposed pier legislation, indicating many of his club felt that 100m was not enough and 200m was more appropriate as some could cast that far. AD added that he felt 200m would allow a zone between nets and anglers reducing conflict.

#### 6. Marine Conservation Zone Update

An update was provided to the group on progress on the MCZ work. PC provided information that a survey plan had been worked up in order to progress this work and identify areas of bream nesting. Unfortunately, COVID19 restrictions had led to this being cancelled for this year, but the aim is to pursue this further next season working with the local community where possible.

#### 7. HPMA review

RC introduced the HPMA Benyon review undertaken by the HPMA panel, released on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. RC reminded the group that this was a report to government and not current government policy. Members of the group felt that anglers had not been consulted throughout the report or represented well on the panel. Concerns were also raised by group members as to the potential move away from local management.

#### 8. Any other business

AD raised the point that the committee had recently lost an angler from its membership. RC and JH stated that during this period with limited angling representation the CEO, JH and AJ would look at options, consistent with policy and standing orders, for co-option or further consultation to ensure that these could be represented where necessary. CH offered his assistance where appropriate in relation to this.