

Recreational Angling Sector Working Group Meeting – 10/12/2019 – 17:00

Southern IFCA Office – Unit 3, Holes Bay Park, Sterte Avenue West, Poole, Dorset, BH15 2AA.

Attendees

Chris Holloway (CH)
Kim Gibbs (KG)
Tim Ferrero (TF)
Brian Bleese (BB)
Charlie Annear (CA)
Phil Higgins (PH)
Steve Porter (SP)
Alan Deeming (AD)
Robert Clark (RC)
Patrick Cooper (PC)

Apologies:

- Kim Gibbs
- Rayner Piper

1. Minutes of the previous meetings
The minutes were signed off by the group.
2. Report from the Chair regarding South Coast Fishermen's Council

CH provided a short summary of the meeting of the South Coast Fisherman's Council he attended in December, following the Chair of the South Coast Fishermen's Council's attendance at a RASG meeting. Chris noted that his presence at the meeting was positively received and he was treated well by the attendants. CH discussed the MMOs involvement with regards to quota setting and the discussions at the meeting and he reported some concerns over increases in a quota allocations on a number species and the impact this could have to recreational fishermen, particularly as regards to quota uplift for plaice, skate and Ray. RC suggested that he might consider inviting the MMO to a future meeting in order to explain how quota are determined and the process behind uplifts.

Action – Ask MMO to attend a future meeting to discuss how they come to quota decision.

CH wanted to thanks the South Coast Fishers Council for allowing him to attend and suggested extending invite again in the future when relevant.

3. Development of Evidence for Black Bream Management

RC took the group through the current timeline in relation to Black Bream designations within MCZs. As discussed in previous meeting, NE were still working on formal advice although the previous meeting did set out what this would likely include. RC discussed other projects now underway including the work towards assessing the stock of the species, however he advised the group to keep in mind that the designations for bream was as a breeding feature and not a stock measure, and whilst acknowledging that the two are linked that conservation objectives would focus of nesting seabream objectives not the total stock.

RC also discussed another project to fill data gaps which the IFCA had proposed, this project seek to address the current lack of data around where the bream nest within the MCZs. CH

asked how this could be mapped and quantified, RC suggested that this would be achieved by assessing the density and distribution of nests using acoustic sonar to map nests on the seabed. This data challenge had been raised by the IFCA and accepted as a priority by DEFRA's MPA monitoring group (MPAG), which is responsible for providing evidence for Marine Protected Area workstreams. RC suggested that the IFCA's preference was that this work could be undertaken in collaboration with the angling charter fleet to ensure that the best available evidence is used to inform and undertake the survey. RC and PH agreed to take the discussion further beyond the meeting.

4. Netting Review Update

RC stated that the netting review was briefly discussed at the most recent TAC but further progression was delayed into the New Year as a result of the pre-election Purdah period. In the New Year more detail would be provided to stakeholders including modified proposals, HRAs and SSSI assessments. These would highlight the evidence underpinning the assessments.

5. Fish Handling Project Proposal

PC highlighted the fish handling documents which had been circulated to the group. The documents were collated by Owen Jackson an intern who worked at Southern IFCA over the summer. The documents include information from a number of sources and the group agreed that the information was useful, but in its current form was too long and broad. Suggestions from the group included:

- Tacklebox card size information
- Z cards
- Species of interest
 - o Particularly flat fish, sharks and rays.
- Having a look in tackleshops to see what was available.
- Splitting into shore and vessel
- Focus on inexperienced anglers

The group also recommended working with partners with the wildlife trust and potentially Wessex angling trust being suitable.

- Action PC to put paper together for a future angling trust meeting.

6. Any other business

CH updated the group on the recent meetings held with the HPMA review panel during their visit to Poole.

AD enquired as to whether clauses could be introduced to the new Min size byelaw to assume fish were caught in the district. RC stated that this referred to a deeming clause which were rare and ran contrary to a lot of English law principles.

PH raised concern with the findings of the REAF (Renaissance of East Anglian Fisheries) project in relation to recommendations made regarding recreational fishers.