

# Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

## AUTHORITY – 08 JULY 2021

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority held in Function Room 1, The Lighthouse, Poole at 1400 on Thursday 8 July 2021

### Present

Cllr Mr M Roberts (Chairman, Dorset Council)  
Cllr Mrs A McEvoy (Vice Chairman, HCC)

Cllr Mr R Hughes (Dorset Council)  
Cllr Mr M Guthrie (Southampton City Council)  
Cllr Mr P Fuller (Isle of Wight Council)

Dr A Jensen (MMO Appointee)  
Mr R Stride (MMO Appointee)  
Mr G Wordsworth (MMO Appointee)  
Dr R Morgan (Natural England)

Mr I Jones (Chief Officer, SIFCA)

Members attending virtually via Teams: Ms R Irish (MMO Appointee), Cllr Mrs D Curnow-Ford (Hampshire Council), Mr M Ratsey (Accountant), Finance and Administration Manager, DCOs Bateman and Dell, IFCOs Pengelly, Parry, Small and Cooper. There was one member of the public, Mr A Deeming and Mr J McClelland (NE).

Cllr McEvoy took the chair for the first item of the agenda.

The Chief Officer said he had received one nomination of Cllr Roberts for Chairman, Mr Stride seconded the proposal. There were no other nominations and all Members present agreed the proposal.

### Election of Chairman

#### Resolved

42. That Cllr Roberts representing Dorset Council be elected as Chairman for the period June 2021 to June 2022.

On taking the Chair Cllr Roberts thanked Members for their support. He then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Cllr Fuller proposed Cllr McEvoy, Cllr Hughes seconded this proposal. There were no other nominations and all Members present agreed with the proposal for Cllr McEvoy.

### Election of Vice-Chairman

#### Resolved

43. That Cllr Alexis McEvoy representing Hampshire County Council, be elected as Vice Chairman for the period June 2021 to June 2022.

### Apologies

44. Apologies for absence were received from: Ms L MacCallum (MMO Appointee), Mr L Stantiford (MMO Appointee), Mr N Fisher (MMO Appointee), Dr S Cripps (MMO Appointee), Mr P Rudd (EA).

The Chairman asked Members and officers to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new Members present.

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### Declaration of Interests

45. There were no Interests declared.

### Minutes

46. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021. Ms Irish asked for a name spelling to be corrected. The Minutes were then confirmed and signed.

### Executive Committee

47. Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 18 March 2021.

### Resolved

48. That the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 18 March 2021 were received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

49. Members considered the Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held on 6 May 2021. For the benefit of new Members Dr Jensen explained the role of this committee.

### Resolved

50. That the Minutes of the TAC held on 6 May 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

### Progress Report on Outstanding Matters

#### 51. *Chief Officers Reports*

**a. EU Exit and COVID 19.** The Chief Officer updated Members on the current regulations. He reported that some survey work had recommenced, officers were continuing to work in bubbles however one officer was confirmed with the virus last week and a further 3 officers were self-isolating. Other unrelated absenteeism's has put a strain on the staffing resources.

**b. HPMAs – Government Response to the Benyon Report. AIFCA Update.** The Chief Officer explained for Members that in summary the Government had accepted the main recommendations from the Review. A number of pilot HPMAs would be designated in 2022 in English waters to improve understanding of the marine ecosystems, how these should be monitored and managed, the effect on stakeholders and should the M&CAA (2009) be the best legislative tool for the protection. A team from the MMO, NE, JNCC, CEFAS and AIFCA would work together to identify suitable sites for the pilots. The JNCC have published the ecological principles on their website. Natural England and the JNCC would develop an initial list of possible sites; shortlisting and public consultation would follow. Results and recommendations would be proposed to DEFRA by the end of 2021 with formal consultation on the proposed sites opening in Spring 2022. IFCA's will be involved in all the processes. Cllr Fuller asked how the consultations would be advertised so that stakeholders would get adequate opportunity to respond. The Chief Officer explained that social media would be used and TAC Members would be involved in consultations.

**c. Fisheries Act – Fisheries Management Plans.** The Chief Officer reported that DEFRA were working on the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) and developing guidance accordingly. Regional Fisheries Groups would be working with stakeholders to develop fisheries plans. The DCO from Devon and Severn IFCA would be working on a pilot FMP developed by the AIFCA.

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**d. Member Recruitment.** The Chief Officer explained that the MMO were liaising with IFCAS to understand the requirements for General Members. Two Southern Members have had their tenure extended and the Authority would be losing two Members in April, although the MMO were exploring ways to allow end of term appointees to re-apply. There was one vacant position and an advert from the MMO for recruitment to the IFCA's had been issued yesterday. He asked Members if they could assist in finding relevant candidates to contact him direct.

**e. Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw.** IFCO Pengelly updated Members on the progress of this byelaw. He gave Members a short history of the byelaw and reasons for its introduction for the new Members of the Authority. He confirmed that the quality assurance with MMO had been complete and this process was now completing with the DEFRA legal team so the byelaw should be confirmed by the Secretary of State in the near future. The Chairman thanked IFCO Pengelly for his tireless work on this long procedure.

### **Resolved**

52. That the reports be noted.

### **Budget Control Statement**

53. Mr Ratsey explained to Members the figures in the Budget Control Statement. He presented the budget statement to May 2021. He worked through the details of the report, how the figures were reached and the usefulness of having the previous year for a comparison. He explained that at this stage the Authority appeared to have a lot of funds as all the levies had been paid. Over the year this fund would decrease. He reported that he was happy with the budget that was on track.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ratsey for the details in the statement. Cllr Fuller proposed and Cllr McEvoy seconded the recommendation. All Members present agreed the proposal to receive the Budget Control Statement.

### **Resolved**

54. a. That the Budget Control Statement to date 31 May 2021, as set out in Annex "A" to these minutes, be approved.

### **Statement of Accounts 2020-2021**

55. Mr Ratsey briefed Members on the draft report and background. He highlighted areas of the report and explained that approval was required before it could be sent to the external auditors, Francis Clark. He explained that internal controls were in place for the accounts to be scrutinised by the Executive Committee each quarter and the reintroduction of the Appeals and Scrutiny Sub Committee would involve more elected Members in the future.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ratsey for putting the figures together and he asked Members to agree the accounts. Cllr Hughes proposed and Cllr McEvoy seconded the proposals. All members present voted in favour.

### **Resolved**

56. That the Statement of Accounts for the year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, as set out in Annex 'B' to these Minutes, be received, approved and adopted.

### **Fisheries Protection Team Strategy 2021-22.**

57. IFCO Dell briefed Members on the strategy for the coming year. He explained that the objectives and priorities were in line with the published Annual Plan. Mr Stride asked for some clarification on acronyms used. The Chairman asked for his thanks to be passed to

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officers involved in the recent weekend joint operation. He was able to join in and had a trip in the patrol vessel Protector.

### **Resolved**

58. That the report be received.

### **Behind the Scenes – with the FMP team officers**

59. DCO Bateman explained for Members the new quarterly report format, which aimed to present some of the 'behind the scene' work undertaken by the Fisheries Management and Policy officers. She explained this was work that Members often never got to see or be involved with directly as it often forms the background research or evidence gathering that then feeds into the wider areas of FMP work. She asked Members to provide comment on the format to the Chief Officer. Mr Wordsworth said he enjoyed the new 'behind the scenes' format that the FMP Officers had prepared and hoped that in addition the Chief Officer would continue to produce a quarterly report as this forms an important historic record. The Chairman thanked the officers involved for the reports that illustrated some of their varied daily activities.

### **Resolved**

60. That the report be received.

### **Compliance and Enforcement. Quarterly FP team highlights**

61. IFCO Dell reported to Members the activities over the months of February to April 2021. He explained the figures for the working at sea and land inspections and the joint working practises with MMO, PHC and ABP. He continued that he had included news, court outcomes and working with the latest asset, the M300 drone which has already been used for coastal research and enforcement operations. Cllr McEvoy congratulated officers Dell and Taylor for achieving their drone pilot licences. Cllr Guthrie asked on the capabilities – could the drone be launched from one of the vessels? IFCO Dell explained that the Authority boats were not large enough but there was a smaller drone used for training and to keep flight hours up which would be used from the vessels. The Chairman thanked officers for all the compliance work achieved in the period.

### **Resolved**

62. That the report be received.

### **Call for Information – Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes**

63. CRO Small reported that following on from her literature review to profile 50 species the call for information had gone live in May and stakeholders have until 20 July to reply. The Call was advertised on the website, posters have been put up and officers have been asking stakeholders to provide evidence/feedback where possible. This information will be used as part of the review of minimum sizes. She confirmed she would provide a summary of feedback at the next TAC in August.

### **Resolved**

64. That the item be noted

### **Marine Licencing Update**

65. IFCO Cooper explained for Members that the Authority was a consultee for Marine Licence Applications that were considered by the Marine Management Organisation in their role to facilitate economical and sustainable use of the marine environment to allow construction, removal and dredging, whilst avoiding negative effects on the environment

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and navigation interference. The Authority provided advice relevant to its remit as a fisheries regulator and regard was given to the South Marine Plan, launched in 2018 that introduced a strategic approach to planning within the inshore and offshore waters between Folkstone in Kent and the River Dart in Devon. IFCO Cooper added that in the future a summary of MLA applications highlighting concern would be submitted to Members on a quarterly basis. Those included in today's agenda were for the period Mar – Jun 2021. He asked Members if they had any questions. Members agreed this was a good item to include and would allow Members to see the types of consultations undertaken by the officers.

### **Resolved**

66. That the report be received.

### **Membership 2020-21**

67. The Chairman informed Members that the IFCA was made up from a number of Sub-Committees, which included the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Executive Committee (EXE), Permit Interview Sub-Committee (PISC) and the Appeals and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (ASSC).

The Chief Officer explained the current situation. He reported that the Executive committee had discussed the range of sub-committees and had decided to re-instate a Scrutiny committee as this could be undertaken virtually giving busy Members more opportunity to attend. Cllr Roberts explained that Appeals could be held ad hoc when required. Cllr McEvoy asked elected Members to consider joining the Scrutiny committee as interrogating the spending and costs of the Authority was important and interesting. The Chief Officer asked Members if they were willing to join either the Scrutiny Committee or the Executive Committee to let him know so he could make these committees quorate. All elected Members present were happy to become involved. The Chief Officer continued that the Standing Orders would need to be amended at the next Authority meeting to explain the changes.

### **Resolved**

68. **MEMBERSHIP 2021-22:**

#### **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Simon Cripps	MMO Appointee
Nick Fisher	MMO Appointee
Rachel Irish	MMO Appointee
Antony Jensen	MMO Appointee
Ted Legg	MMO Appointee
Louise MacCallum	MMO Appointee
Richard Morgan	Natural England Appointee
Phil Rudd	Environment Agency Appointee
Lyle Stantiford	MMO Appointee
Richard Stride	MMO Appointee
Gary Wordsworth	MMO Appointee

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Full Authority
Vice Chairman	Full Authority
Chairman	Technical Advisory Committee
Vice Chairman	Technical Advisory Committee
Elected Member	Isle of Wight Council
Elected Member	Hampshire County Council

#### **PERMIT INTERVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE**

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An Interview Sub-Committee be appointed to approve the issue of permits throughout the District. Vice Chair to act as Deputy, when required.

Chairman	Full Authority
Chairman	Technical Advisory Committee
Elected Member	Full Authority

### **SCRUTINY and GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

A Scrutiny and Governance Sub-Committee be appointed to consider and scrutinise the accounts and financial statements and report to the Authority

#### **Membership 2021-22**

Elected Member	Hampshire Council
Elected Member	Southampton City Council
Elected Member	Dorset Council

### **APPEALS PANEL**

An Appeal Panel that would be appointed ad hoc when required to consider any decision made by the Authority or any Sub-Committee regarding Staff matters and the operation of Fishing Permits or Poole Order and to decide whether any such appeal be upheld.

Three elected Members to be appointed when required.

### **South Coast Fishermen's Council (FMC)**

69. Members considered the Minutes of the South Coast Fishermen's Council meeting held on 10 March, 12 May and 9 June 2021. Mr Stride offered to answer any questions. Cllr Fuller asked about the fly dragging and Ms Irish offered to bring back more details to the next Authority meeting. Members were concerned about the cruise ships that had been anchoring in the district and understood that this had been happening all around the coast. Incidents should be reported to the MMO.

#### **Resolved**

70. That the Minutes of the 351<sup>st</sup> meetings held on 10 March, the 352<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 12 May and the 353<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 9 June of the South Coast Fishermen's Council be received.

### **Recreational Sea Angling - Minutes**

71. IFCO Cooper presented the Minutes from 16 December 2020 and 13 April 2021 for Members. These Minutes were tabled for information. He explained the background of the group for the new Members of the Authority. The IFCA acted as secretary for the group.

#### **Resolved**

72. That the Minutes of the Recreational Sea Angling meeting be received.

### **Date of Next Meeting –23 September 2021**

73. The next meetings of the Full Authority would be held on 23 September 2021. The Chairman reported this meeting was planned to continue in this hybrid format of face to face with some virtual involvement.

74. There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:10.

Chairman:

Date: