

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

FULL AUTHORITY – 21 MARCH 2019

Minutes of the Quarterly Full Authority Meeting of Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority held in The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Borough of Poole Council on Thursday 21 March 2019.

Present

Prof J Humphreys (Chairman, MMO Appointee)

Cllr Mrs A McEvoy (Vice Chairman, Hampshire),

Cllr Mr J Hobart	(Isle of Wight Council)
Cllr Mr J Savage	(Southampton City Council)
Cllr Mr M White	(Hampshire County Council)
Cllr Mr M Roberts	(Dorset County Council)
Cllr Mr J Hobart	(Isle of Wight County Council)
Cllr Mr M Winnington	(Portsmouth County Council)

Dr S Cripps	(MMO Appointee)
Mr N Horsman	(MMO Appointee)
Dr A Jensen	(MMO Appointee)
Ms L MacCallum	(MMO Appointee)
Mr R Stride	(MMO Appointee)
Dr R Morgan	(NE)
Dr K Sims	(Environment Agency)

The Chief Executive, DCO Bateman and Richardson, Mr M Ratsey (Accountant), MPA Project Officer Small and IFCOs Birchenough, Cooper and Pengelly attended. Dr V Nye attended representing the MMO and Mr S Matthews attended in the public gallery.

Apologies

1. Apologies for absence were received from: Mr S Kershaw, (MMO Appointee), Cllr Ms L Price (Bournemouth), Mr T Legg (MMO Appointee), Mr G Wordsworth (MMO Appointee)

Declaration of Interests

2. Members then declared their pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the following minutes: Mr Horsman (9b, 13, 17, 39), Mr Stride (9b), Dr Sims (9b, 23), Dr Morgan (9b, 19)

Minutes

3. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2018. The Minutes which had previously been circulated were confirmed and signed.

AIFCA MPA Presentation

4. MPA Project Officer Jamie Small updated Members at the end of the project that Southern IFCA had been involved in for the past year. The project had been funded by DEFRA through the Association of IFCAs and IFCOs Pengelly and Cooper had been involved throughout the project. The scheme had been a major undertaking for the IFCAs and involved 122 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) all with different objectives and different management requirements. Project Officer Small presented Members with the AIFCA report that summarized how IFCAs met the obligations of the revised approach, assessed the risks and where necessary, introduced management measures to address the conservation objectives of MPAs. Project Officer Small worked through the statistics involved for Members and highlighted projects and work streams of individual IFCAs; an

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interactive giving details of all of the MPA sites was available through the AIFCA website. The Chairman thanked PO Small and IFCOS Pengelly and Cooper for the quantity and quality of work involved in the project. He continued that the project was useful to publicize and raise awareness of the work of the IFCA's and agreed that the report highlighted the responsibilities and obligations required of the IFCA's.

Executive Committee

5. Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 13 December 2018.

Resolved

6. That the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 13 December 2018, having been amended, were received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

7. Members considered the Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held on 7 February 2019. Dr Jensen went through the minutes and asked Members if they had anything they wished to raise. He thanked IFCO Birchenough and Pengelly for putting together the summary of responses received following the consultation process. He explained that Members and officers would continue to develop measures in the Working Group meetings.

Resolved

8. That the Minutes of the TAC held on 7 February 2019 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Progress Report on Outstanding Matters

9. **a. FLAG Project.** IFCO Pengelly gave Members an update on the management plan for this project which is funded under the Dorset and East Devon Fisheries local action group with the aim to bring together a range of partners and community stakeholders to produce a series of MPA Fishery Management Plans that are easy to understand and communicate to a wide audience.

Southern IFCA's primary role in the project will be to develop 4 MPA fishery management plans for Lyme Bay SAC, Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ, The Chesil and the Fleet SAC/SPA and Studland to Portland SAC. To inform these plans a series of 3 stakeholder workshops hosted by Dorset Coast Forum, were held in December in Lyme. Weymouth and Swanage. DCF have produced a report of the workshop findings and Southern IFCA officers are now developing the draft plans and aims to consult the project steering group during April. Following feedback these plans will be updated and brought to the Authority.

During summer 2019 Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) will lead in communicating the benefits of well managed MPAs across the FLAG area. The jointly managed MIU will be central to this engagement approach and Southern IFCA will support this process.

To conclude the project DWT will produce a report to publicize this best-practice approach to the development of MPA fishery management plans.

b. Netting Review. Dr Jensen informed Members that the Working Group had already convened to continue discussion following the first consultation. He explained that this was a very large piece of work, Members had to give it full consideration and the next scheduled Working Groups would focus on the next steps.

c. Compliance Planning – EU Exit. The Chief Officer updated Members on the joint working plans arranged with the Marine Management Organization. A number of patrols

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had already been undertaken and officers were ready to provide support to partner organisations when required. The Chairman added that that Authority patrol vessels were now equipped with iVMS and were available to be deployed by the MMO to high risk areas if required to collect evidence.

Resolved

10. That the reports be noted.

Budget Control Statement

11. Mr Ratsey explained to Members the figures in the Budget Control Statement. He explained the deviations in the budget which were reported in the notes for variances in excess of £1000 and he worked through these for Members. He explained that recent expenditures over £5,000 all related to the purchase of the new premises. The Chairman thanked him for the efficient financial planning.

Resolved

12. That the Budget Control Statement to date 28 February 2019, as set out in Annex “A” to these minutes, be approved.

Authority Five Year Legislative Forecast

13. The Chief Officers asked Members for comments on the report that sets our priorities for the forthcoming five-year period. He explained that TAC Members had already had opportunity to comment on the report that describes the legal duties of the Authority. He continued that the report prioritized the duties of the IFCA and the demands of national legislation, with the understanding that new issues would emerge within this period. The Chief Officer briefly discussed the seven identified priorities and Members worked through the details. Members agreed the report under general consent.

Resolved

14. Members agreed the plan and timetable for delivery.

Financial Performance and Benchmarking

15. The Chief Officer explained for Members the report that presented the financial performance of Southern IFCA using the output of all IFCAs as a benchmark. Part one explained the levy savings to local authorities since the IFCA had been formed, highlighting the 20% core saving to the constituent local authorities. Part two compared Southern IFCA outputs with the other nine Authorities as a guide to Members to show how Southern manages to deliver the service with less resources. Mr Horsman thanked the Chief Officer for an excellent report and asked if future funding would be sought by individual IFCAs or as a collective? The Chief Officer explained that the AIFCA would seek further funding from DEFRA and this report would feed into that. Members agreed the recommendations under general consent.

Resolved

16. Members approved the future funding plan.

Annual Plan

17. The Chief Officer reported that the Marine and Coastal Access Act, sets out that the Authority should have an Annual Plan, it states that it should be short and to the point, then describes the required content of the plan. He highlighted the key priorities throughout the year and Cllr Winnington thanked him for the Portsmouth view used on the contents page. Members agreed the plan under general consent.

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Resolved

18. That the Annual Plan be received.

Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw

19. Deputy Chief Officer Bateman provided an overview on the progress of the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw (Permit Byelaw) to date. She reminded Members that the Authority had made the decision to make the Permit Byelaw and the Scallop Dredge Fishing Byelaw 2019 at the meeting of the Full Authority on the 13 December 2018 and following this, the Authority undertook a period of formal public consultation in January 2019.

A 28-day period for objections closed on the 28 February 2019. A total of eight consultation response letters were received during this period. Six of which provided general objections to the proposed Permit Byelaw. Two of the letters received were in support of the proposed Permit Byelaw. DCO Bateman provided a brief overview of the main matters raised in the objections. She discussed the main points received from one merchant and five commercial fishers in the Solent which were of relevance to the 'Permit Byelaw'. These included objections to the financial costs (£215) associated with a permit, the potential for the Authority to limit (1) the number of permits available and (2) fishing effort. DCO Bateman discussed the fact that full rationale and clarity in relation to these matters is covered in the Southern IFCA Management Intentions Document which accompanies the Permit Byelaw. This document was written in order to provide full transparency to stakeholders with regard to the Authority's management intention and associated process.

DCO Bateman discussed the measures undertaken by the Authority following receipt of an industry led petition, which was presented to the Authority at the December meeting, in that all signatories (88) were contacted directly by IFCO Dell to discuss any concerns or objections that they had. The feedback highlighted that the majority of those who signed the petition were unfamiliar with the scope of the Permit Byelaw. Where concerns were raised by 11 signatories (7: eligibility for a permit, 2: concerns regarding stakeholder engagement, 2: timelines for introduction of pump scoop dredge), IFCO Dell was able to provide clarity.

Mr. Stride provided an overview of discussions carried out by Members of the Executive earlier that day, with regard to the objections received following the period of formal consultation in January 2019. In line with the powers delegated by the Authority, Mr. Stride, on behalf of the Executive Committee recommended that the Authority did not need to consider any amendments to the Permit Byelaw, and as such the byelaw was ready to be submitted to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for confirmation by the Secretary of State.

Cllr Roberts proposed and Ms MacCallum seconded the proposals to make the byelaws. All Members present agreed the proposals.

Cllr McEvoy thanked DCO Bateman for the work involved in getting the byelaw to this stage.

Resolved

20. That the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw and the Scallop Fishing Byelaw 2019 be submitted to the MMO for confirmation.

Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Review

21. IFCO Birchenough asked Members to consider the review outcomes of the permit conditions prior to the new season 2019-20. She explained that the consultation had entailed a two stage process. Permit holders were offered the opportunity to meet with officers to discuss the scope of the review. Following this permit holders were asked to consider three proposals relating to proposed amendments to the permit conditions; the first being an addition to the catch return form. Following the award of the Marine

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Stewardship certification an ongoing condition was to indicate specific areas of the Harbour fished. The second proposal was reporting of interactions between fishers and Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species and the third was to increase the annual permit fee. The responses received in writing indicated 100% agreement with the amendments.

Members agreed the proposals under general consent.

Resolved

22. a. That permit condition 2.2 be amended to include defined zones.
- b. That an additional permit condition be included under section 2 regarding interaction with ETP species.
- c. That the annual permit fee be increased to £600 for the 2019-20 season.

Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Access Policy 2019

23. IFCO Birchenough explained the Access policy had been reviewed and changes had been incorporated that included criteria to allow new entrants into the fishery should permits become available. Previously a ballot system had been used for those that had met the criteria in the 2016-17 Access Policy and all eligible applicants had taken up entitlements. The revised Access Policy had provision to allow new entrants into the fishery who would not have previously met the existing criteria. Members agreed the proposal under general consent.

Resolved

24. That the PHDP Access Policy 2019 be adopted.

Cllr White left the meeting and took no further part in discussions.

Standing Orders

25. The Chairman explained that, at the last Full Authority meeting Members had been given notice that revised Standing Orders needed to be formally adopted. Members agreed the Standing Orders under general consent.

Resolved

26. That Standing Orders as set out in Annex "B" to these Minutes be adopted.

Future Funding

27. The Chief Officer reported that the paper had been developed by the AIFCA to support the anticipated Government Spending Review in 2019. The paper highlights that future funding of IFCAs was essential to support the Local Authority funding. He continued that individual IFCAS would also submit their own reports for consideration. Dr Cripps commented that many organisations would support this paper.

Resolved

28. That the report be noted.

SIFCA Quarterly Report

29. Members considered the latest report which covered proceedings from November 2018 to January 2019. The Chairman thanked the officers for the time committed to producing the report. He felt it was a useful indication of the varied work undertaken by the officers and all Members agreed the different styles made interesting reading.

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Resolved

30. That the report be received.

Compliance and Enforcement

31. DCO Richardson updated Members on compliance and enforcement for the period from November 2018 to January 2019. He highlighted different operations and risks identified in these months and talked through recent court cases. The Chief Officer thanked the officers that participated in the recent cases for the work involved in taking the cases to court.

Resolved

32. That the report be received.

Compliance Risk Register

33. DCO Richardson explained to Members the progress of the risk-based enforcement approach and the compliance risk register that had been developed by officers using an evidence based approach and information from stakeholder focus groups. He explained that the register would allow officers to have clear understanding of compliance priorities when carrying out their normal duties. Additions to the register included new legislation for recreational bass fishing.

Resolved

34. That the report be received.

DEFRA – Conduct and Operations of IFCAs

35. The Chief Officer asked Members to receive the report that had already been circulated to Members. The Chairman was happy with the finding for Southern IFCA and he congratulated officers on their involvement.

Resolved

36. That the report be received.

South Coast Fishermen's Council (FMC)

37. Members considered the Minutes of the South Coast Fishermen's Council meeting held on 5 December 2018 and 13 February 2019. Mr Stride highlighted that landing obligations had been discussed and the Members had hoped for more exemptions. He continued that he would be happy to attend a Recreational Anglers meeting.

Resolved

38. That the Minutes of the 336th meetings held on 5 December 2018 and of the 337th meeting held on 13 February 2019 of the South Coast Fishermen's Council be received.

Cllr Winnington left the meeting and took no further part in the discussions.

Recreational Sea Angling - Minutes

39. IFCO Cooper presented the Minutes from 16 January 2019 for Members. These Minutes were tabled for information. He confirmed that Mr Holloway would be happy to attend a meeting of the Fishermen's Council and he would look at arranging this.

Resolved

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40. That the Minutes of the recreational sea angling meeting be received.

Association of IFCAs

41. The Chairman presented the AIFCA Minutes to Members for information. Meetings were held on a quarterly basis in which Chairmen and Chief Officers from most of the IFCAs attended these meeting. DEFRA officials were usually invited to attend.

Resolved

42. That the Minutes be received.

Date of Next Meeting –13 June 2019

43. The next meetings of the Full Authority would be held on 13 June 2019 in the Solent University Southampton.

Members of the public left the room for the next item.

Exclusion of the Public

Resolved

44. That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act.

Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 – Transfer of Lease

45. DCO Richardson reported to Members that notice was being given to transfer a lease to a new leasee. He would instruct the solicitor to draw up the papers. The new owner would contribute two thirds of these costs. Dr Sims proposed and Mr Stride seconded the proposals. All Members present agreed.

Resolved

46. That the changes to the lease be approved.

47. There being no further business the meeting closed at 17:10.

Chairman:

Date: