

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

FULL AUTHORITY – 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority held in the Learning Zone, Sea City Museum, Southampton on Thursday 27 September 2018.

Present

Prof J Humphreys (Chairman, MMO Appointee)
Cllr Mrs A McEvoy (Vice Chairman, HCC)

Cllr Mr M Winnington	(Portsmouth City Council)
Dr S Cripps	(MMO Appointee)
Mr N Horsman	(MMO Appointee)
Mr S Kershaw	(MMO Appointee)
Mr T Legg	(MMO Appointee)
Mr R Stride	(MMO Appointee)
Mr G Wordsworth	(MMO Appointee)
Dr R Morgan	(Natural England)
Dr K Sims	(Environment Agency)
Dr V Nye	(MMO)

The Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive Bateman and Richardson, the Finance and Administration Officer and IFCOs Dell, Pengelly and Smith attended. Messrs Varndell attended in the public gallery.

Apologies

69. Apologies for absence were received from: Dr A Jensen, Ms L MacCallum, Cllr M Roberts, Cllr L Price, Cllr J Savage, Mr M Ratsey (Accountant), Mr P Johnson, Cllr M White.

Declaration of Interests

70. Members then declared their pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the following minutes: Mr Wordsworth (80c, 96) Mr Stride (80c) Mr Legg (80b, 80c, 86)

Minutes

71. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018. The Minutes having been suitably amended for typos, were confirmed and signed.

Presentation – SIFCA Tactical Co-Ordination Group

72. IFCO Dell gave Members a very informative talk on the processes involved for the Tactical Co-Ordination Group (TCG). He explained that the group following the High Level Objectives worked through risk based emerging issues, profiling problems whilst considering current or seasonal legislation, the weather and tides and availability of boats and officers. The TCG worked closely with partner organisations, shared intelligence and tasked officers dependant on resources and identified risks. IFCO Dell informed Members of the last quarter statistics. The Chairman thanked the TCG team for their professional approach.

DFO Richardson gave Members a summary of the quarterly Compliance and Enforcement report, including recent court cases and incidents of joint working. The Chairman thanked the officers for the informative report.

Resolved

73. That the Compliance and Enforcement report be noted.

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Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

74. Members considered the Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held on 30 August 2018.

Resolved

75. That the Minutes of the TAC held on 30 August 2018 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Executive Committee

76. Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 14 June 2018.

Resolved

77. That the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 14 June 2018 were received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Extraordinary Executive Committee

78. Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 4 September 2018.

Resolved

79. That the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 4 September 2018 were received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Progress Report on Outstanding Matters

80. **a. Office Infrastructure.** The Chief Officer updated Members on the progress of exploring options for an office move. A modern business unit had been chosen and although requiring a certain amount of remodelling the space that would provide first floor office space and workshop area below. The Vice Chairman told Members she had viewed the property and had been impressed with the space and felt it would provide what was required for the Authority. The Chief Officer confirmed that space would be offered to other agencies and this would enhance the joint working arrangements.

b. iVMS Project. The Chief Officer updated Members on the progress of this project. He explained that the Project Board had decided that IFCA's would not be required to facilitate the funding as previously debated; this would now be managed by the MMO. IFCA's were still committed to assisting with the implementation of the project. DEFRA would be starting the public consultation for the introduction of iVMS for under 12m in length commercial vessels in the next couple of weeks.

c. Net Fishing Management Review. IFCA Pengelly updated Members on the Netting review that would develop regulations if required. The Byelaw Working Group had formulated a series of draft measures that would now be used in a pre-consultation of the local community. Stakeholders would be asked for their views on an evidence package, by post and through drop in sessions that will be arranged around the district. A summary of responses will be tabled for the Technical Advisory Committee.

Resolved

81. That the reports be noted.

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Budget Control Statement

82. The Chief Officer presented the budget statement for the first quarter of 2018/19 financial year and worked through some of the notes for Members. Dr Cripps asked that Mr Ratsey be thanked for the clear accounts. The Chairman asked Members to agree the reports under general consent. All Members agreed.

Resolved

83. a. That the Budget Control Statement to date 31 July 2018, as set out in Annex “A” to these minutes, be approved.

Annual Audit

84. The Chairman asked Members to receive the clean audit correspondence from Francis Clark Ltd. The Vice Chairman asked how often the auditors were reviewed and the Chief Officer explained this was the second year with this company. Review could be raised through the Executive Committee. The Chairman asked Members to agree the reports under general consent. All Members agreed.

Resolved

85. That the correspondence from Francis Clark, as set out in Annex ‘B’ to these Minutes, be received, approved and adopted.

Solent Oyster Fishery

86. DCO Bateman explained that following the Solent Stock survey the TAC had discussed the options for the coming season and after great debate had decided on the recommendations before Members today. She asked them to note the Impact Assessment that provided the rationale underpinning the designation of Ryde Middle. The Chairman added that there had been a difference of opinion at the TAC meeting and not all the recommendations to that committee had been agreed. He reminded Members that this would be the last time this byelaw would have to be used for this fishery as a new more flexible and evidence based byelaw would be in place next year. Cllr Winnington proposed and Cllr McEvoy seconded the recommendation to let two areas remain open. Eight Members voted for the recommendations, one Member voted against and three Members abstained. The other recommendation was agreed under General Consent.

Resolved

87. a. That the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw be applied in the Solent with the exception of the following beds:
Ryde Middle to remain open,
Portsmouth Harbour to remain open.

b. Members noted the Impact Assessment.

DEFRA 4 Year Review

88. The Chief Officer asked Members to consider the self-assessment report. He thanked Members for sending helpful comments for the draft. DEFRA were currently collating responses to their consultation on the performance of IFCAs. Dr Cripps asked if the IFCA could not be more involved in the selection process for appointing General Members. He felt that better governance would be achieved if the Chairman was on the interview panel. The Chief Officer explained that things had improved and the IFCA were asked what skills they felt they needed before interviews took place and Chief Officers were asked to sit on panels for neighbouring IFCAs.

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Resolved

89. That the report be noted.

Annual Report

90. The Chief Executive asked Members to agree the Annual Report. Members asked for a few amendments to wording and the format for recording attendance. The Chairman would make a few amendments to his introduction to include joint agency working. He asked Members that if they had any other additions to email the Chief Officer direct. Members agreed the Annual Report under general consent.

Resolved

91. That Annual Report be approved.

Meeting Dates 2018

92. The Chairman asked Members to consider a report setting out suggested dates of meetings for 2019. Members were concerned that moving of meeting dates into the summer period could clash with holidays. Members were asked to send their comments to the Finance and Administration Officer if they had an issue with the dates.

Resolved

93. That the dates of meetings for 2019 be adopted.

SIFCA Quarterly Report

94. Members considered the latest report which covered proceedings from May to July 2018. The Chairman felt it was a very useful Authority document that showed Members the amount and variety of duties carried out by officers. He thanked the officers for their input.

Resolved

95. That the report be received.

A Tale of Three Fisheries.

96. The Chief Officer reported to Members that following the failure to get funding under the FLAG for Poole the New Economics Foundation (NEF) took up the objectives and looked at the value of the small scale commercial fleet, aquiculture and recreational charter fleet within Poole Harbour. Members were concerned with some of the conclusions but overall the Chairman felt it was a useful document. The Chief Officer asked Members if they had comments to forward them direct to the author Chris Williams who would be happy to receive any feedback.

Resolved

97. That the report be received.

Marine Stewardship Council Award

98. The Chief Officer briefed members on the background to the award. The Authority were the first to achieve this award for innovation. Dr Cripps led Members in the support for this and thanked the Chief and officers for their foresight and hard work involved in getting the fishery to this level.

Resolved

99. That the report be received.

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South Coast Fishermen's Council (FMC)

100. Members considered the Minutes of the South Coast Fishermen's Council meeting held on 6 June and 8 August 2018. Mr Stride worked through the details for Members. He thanked the Authority for providing support for the Council.

Resolved

101. That the Minutes of the 332nd meetings held on 6 June and of the 333rd meeting held on 8 August 2018, of the South Coast Fishermen's Council be received.

Mr Horsman left the meeting and took no further part in the discussions.

Recreational Sea Angling - Minutes

102. The Chief Officer presented the Minutes from 27 June 2018 for Members. He confirmed it had been a challenging meeting due to the discussions regarding the MCZ Tranche three proposals. These Minutes were tabled for information.

Resolved

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

Association of IFCAs

104. The Chief Officer presented an update from the AIFCA. The Chairman reported that Dr Bolt was reviewing the HR policies for the Association. He continued that IFCAs would need a strong, viable representative to voice the issues that will face the fisheries following Brexit.

Resolved

105. That the update be received.

Date of Next Meeting –13 December 2018

106. The next meetings of the Full Authority would be held on 13 December 2018 in the Colliton Club, Dorchester.

Christmas Lunch

107. Members discussed whether they would like to have a pre-meeting lunch (at Members expense) prior to the next Full Authority meeting. It was agreed that this should be arranged.

108. There being no further business the meeting closed at 17.05.

Chairman:

Date: