

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

AUTHORITY – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lymington on Thursday 26 September 2019.

Present

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

Cllr Mr R Hughes	(Dorset Council)
Cllr Mr M Roberts	(Dorset Council)
Cllr Mr J Savage	(Southampton City Council)
Cllr Mr M White	(Hampshire County Council)
Cllr Mr M Winnington	(Portsmouth City Council)

Dr S Cripps	(MMO Appointee)
Mr N Horsman	(MMO Appointee)
Dr A Jensen	(MMO Appointee)
Mr S Kershaw	(MMO Appointee)
Mr T Legg	(MMO Appointee)
Ms L MacCallum	(MMO Appointee)
Mr R Stride	(MMO Appointee)
Mr G Wordsworth	(MMO Appointee)
Dr K Sims	(Environment Agency)

The Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer Bateman, the Treasurer, the Finance and Administration Officer and IFCOs Dell, Pengelly and Smith attended. Ms S Burton represented Natural England and Dr T Ferrero (Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust) attended in the public gallery.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Rob Hughes from Dorset Council to the Authority. Members each gave a brief description of their role on the Authority. And he thanked Cllr White for suggesting the meeting venue.

Apologies

88. Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr P Miles (BCP Council), Dr R Morgan (NE), Cllr R Rocca (BCP Council), Ms R Irish (MMO), DCO Richardson.

Declaration of Interests

89. Members then declared their pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the following minutes: Cllr Roberts (109), Mr Wordsworth (95b, 95c), Mr Stride (95c, 93) Mr Horsman (95c, 111), Dr Cripps (109), Mr Kershaw (109), Mr Legg (95c, 95d, 101, 103), Dr Sims (95c).

Minutes

90. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019. The Minutes were confirmed and signed once a typo was corrected.

Executive Committee

91. Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 13 June 2019.

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Resolved

92. That the Minutes of the Executive Committees held on 13 June 2019 were received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

93. Members considered the Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held on 15 August 2019. Mr Stride worked through the main items in the Minutes.

Resolved

94. That the Minutes of the TAC held on 15 August 2019 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Progress Report on Outstanding Matters

95. **a. Amendment to the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010.** The Chief Officer explained the reasons for the amendments; with the formation of BCP Council and Dorset Council the Order needed to reflect the breakdown of the relevant local authorities. He confirmed there would be no change to the number of councillors appointed and the levy breakdown would alter slightly to reflect the move of Christchurch from Dorset Council to the new BCP Council. He thanked Mr Ratsey for explaining the levy breakdown to DEFRA.

b. EU Exit. The Chief Officer updated Members on the changing responsibilities of the Authority Officers should they be required to offer service to other government departments as part of BREXIT. Officers could be tasked to assist with shellfish health and identification and patrol vessel support.

c. Netting Review Update. Dr Jensen reported to Members that progress had been made on the review. Evidence had been gathered through the summer and officers were working on the habitat assessment.

d. Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw. DCO Bateman updated Members on the sequence of the byelaw progress through the MMO and DEFRA legal teams for quality assurance, which was turning out to be a slow process.

Resolved

96. That the reports be noted.

Budget Control Statement

97. Mr Ratsey explained to Members the figures in the Budget Control Statement. He presented the budget statement for the first five months of the 2019/20 financial year. He explained depreciation of a premises and the savings made on the staff budget this year. The Chairman thanked Mr Ratsey for including the new column on the statement and he asked Members to agree the reports under general consent. All Members agreed.

Resolved

98. a. That the Budget Control Statement to date 31 August 2019, as set out in Annex "A" to these minutes, be approved.

Annual Audit

99. Mr Ratsey briefed Members on the report and findings of the auditors Francis Clark, who had also reviewed the Authority internal systems and controls and had not found any weaknesses in the processes used. He explained that at the Executive meeting Members had spotted an error in the figures that was not material but would need clarifying with the auditors before the Chairman and Chief Officer could sign the audit documents. Cllr

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McEvoy proposed and Cllr Roberts seconded the recommendation; all Members present agreed.

Resolved

100. That the Statement of Accounts for the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, as set out in Annex 'B' to these Minutes, be received, approved and adopted.

Solent Oyster Fishery – Application of Temporary Closure Byelaw

101. DCO Bateman explained that following the Solent Stock survey the TAC had discussed the options for the coming season and after great debate, with the knowledge that the Solent permit byelaw would not be confirmed by the Secretary of State in time for this season, had decided on the recommendations before Members today. DCO Bateman added that Members now had the Impact Assessment that supported and underpinned the recommendation to apply the Temporary Closure Byelaw to all oyster beds in the Solent from 1 November 2019 to 29 February 2020. Members discussed again the previous years decisions and hypothesised the impact of opening ground verses keeping all beds closed. They discussed again what was causing the depletion of oyster stocks in the Solent including water quality, global warming, predation from tangles, chemical and discharge runoff. Dr Jensen explained for Members the reproductive survival rates and the current projects to re-introduce oysters to the Solent. Dr Cripps proposed and Ms Burton (NE) seconded the proposal to apply the Temporary Closure Byelaw to the Solent. Mr Legg did not vote; all other Members present agreed the proposal. Members agreed the second proposal under general consent.

Resolved

102. a. That the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw be applied to all oyster beds (*Ostrea edulis*) in the Solent
b. That the Impact Assessment be noted.

Ms Burton left the room and took no further part in the meeting.

Chichester Harbour and Sussex IFCA Nearshore Trawling Byelaw 2019 and Netting Permit Byelaw 2019.

103. The Chief Officer explained to Members the introduction of two new byelaws that would be affective in the whole of Chichester Harbour, including the part within Southern IFCA district. He explained that the Authorities had an agreement enabling the Sussex byelaws to apply to the whole Harbour, to allow a consistent management approach. Members concern was the process of consulting and notifying Southern stakeholders of the new byelaws; did Sussex IFCA follow the same practise of pre-consultation as Southern, did that include informal consultation with this Authority and was there a requirement that Southern IFCA notify their stakeholders of the new regulations?

Ms MacCallum proposed and Cllr McAvoy seconded the proposals. Mr Legg did not vote, Cllr Hughes had left the room; all other Members present agreed the proposals.

Members asked that the Chief Officer discuss the Southern IFCA consultation process with Sussex IFCA and highlight potential improvements in the consultation process adopted for these byelaws.

Resolved

104. a. that the Sussex Nearshore Trawling Byelaw 2019 apply to the entire Chichester Harbour,
b. that the Sussex Netting Permit Byelaw 2019 apply to the entire Chichester Harbour.

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Annual Report

105. The Chief Executive asked Members to agree the Annual Report. Members asked for a few amendments to wording. Members agreed the Annual Report under general consent.

Resolved

106. That Annual Report be approved.

Meeting Dates for 2020

107. The Chairman asked Members to consider a report setting out suggested dates of meetings for 2020. One date was altered and Members agreed the schedule under general consent.

Resolved

108. That the dates of meetings for 2020 be adopted.

FLAG Community Planning for MPAs

109. IFCO Smith updated Members on the progress of the FLAG projects. She explained that the four management plans had been completed. She continued that there were no coherent guidelines for the production of management plans for MPAs; these documents would be developed as a template that could be adapted for use within other MPAs around the country.

IFCO Pengelly added that the plans illustrated how the Authority would carry out its statutory duties, review site fishing activities and engage with stakeholders. Members agreed the plans were useful as a summary but they asked if there could be more emphasis on the final MPA aims of the plans. The Chief explained that the plans can only focus on our work as the MPAs are owned and monitored by other organisations. Cllr Winnington proposed and Ms MacCallum seconded the recommendation; two Members abstained and all other Members present agreed the proposal.

Dr Cripps, having declared his interest, asked if the forward could be amended to include reference to the context of the importance of management of these sites. The Chief Officer agreed that this would be useful.

Resolved

110. That the four MPA Fisheries Management plans be published on the website.

Amendments to the Sea Fishing (Enforcement) Regulations 2018

111. The Chief Officer informed Members that amendments made to the regulations were being considered by DEFRA. He would keep Members apprised of the progress.

Resolved

112. That the update be noted.

SIFCA Quarterly Report

113. Members considered the latest report which covered proceedings from May to July 2019. The Chairman felt it was a very useful Authority document that showed Members the amount and variety of duties carried out by officers.

Resolved

114. That the report be received.

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Compliance and Enforcement

115. The Chairman asked Members to receive the quarterly report.

Resolved

116. That the report be received.

South Coast Fishermen's Council (FMC)

117. Members considered the Minutes of the South Coast Fishermen's Council meeting held on 5 June and 7 August 2019. Mr Stride offered to answer any questions.

Resolved

118. That the Minutes of the 340th meetings held on 5 June and of the 341st meeting held on 7 August of the South Coast Fishermen's Council be received.

Recreational Sea Angling - Minutes

119. The Chief Officer presented the Minutes from 28 August 2019 for Members. These Minutes were tabled for information. Mr Horsman asked for a copy of the Natural England advice.

Resolved

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

Conservation Group

121. Ms MacCallum presented the Minutes from 13 September 2019 for Members. These Minutes were tabled for information. She offered to answer any questions.

Resolved

122. That the Minutes of the conservation group meeting be received.

Date of Next Meeting –12 December 2019

123. The next meetings of the Full Authority would be held on 12 December 2019 in the Colliton Club, Dorchester.

Christmas Lunch

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

125. There being no further business the meeting closed at 17:15.

Chairman:

Date: