

# Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

## JOINT QUARTERLY – 29 JUNE 2017

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority held in the RNLi Lifeboat College, Poole on Thursday 29 June 2017.

### Present

Prof J Humphreys (Chairman, MMO Appointee)

Cllr Mr M White	(Hampshire County Council)
Cllr Mr B Trite	(Dorset County Council)
Dr S Cripps	(MMO Appointee)
Ms E Davies	(MMO Appointee)
Mr N Horsman	(MMO Appointee)
Mr S Kershaw	(MMO Appointee)
Mr T Legg	(MMO Appointee)
Mr R Stride	(MMO Appointee)
Dr R Morgan	(Natural England)
Mr A Perry	(Marine Management Organisation)

The Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive Richardson, the Finance and Administration Officer and IFCOs Birchenough and Pengelly attended. Dr K Buchan (Dorset County Council) and Dr T Ferrero (HIWWT) attended in the public gallery.

Ms E Davies explained to Members that she had been Chairman of the IFCA for 5 years, and Member of the Authority, from its creation in October 2010. She was no longer involved to the same level, with the fishing industry. She had decided not to stand for Chairman and would be formally resigning from the Authority. She congratulated the Authority and Members on their many achievements and thanked them for their support.

Ms Davies then proposed Prof Humphreys for Chairman and Mr Horsman seconded this proposal. There were no other nominations and all Members present agreed with the proposal.

### Election of Chairman

#### Resolved

33. That Prof John Humphreys be elected as Chairman for the period June 2017 to June 2018.

On taking the Chair Prof Humphreys thanked Members for their support. He then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Ms Davies proposed Cllr Alexis McEvoy and Mr Stride seconded this proposal. There were no other nominations and all Members present agreed with the proposal.

### Election of Vice-Chairman

#### Resolved

34. That Cllr Alexis McEvoy representing Hampshire County Council, be elected as Vice Chairman for the period June 2017 to June 2018.

The Chairman explained that following the local elections new councillors had been appointed to the Authority. He welcomed Cllr Trite from Dorset County Council and Cllr White from Hampshire County Council.

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### Apologies

35. Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr K Brookes (Dorset), Dr S Cripps (MMO Appointee), Dr A Jensen (MMO Appointee), Mr P Johnson (MMO), Cllr Mrs A McEvoy (Hampshire), Ms L MacCallum (MMO Appointee), Mr M Ratsey (Accountant), Cllr Ms L Price (Bournemouth), Dr K Sims (Environment Agency), Cllr Mr M Winnington (Portsmouth) and Cllr Mr J Savage (Southampton).

### Declaration of Interests

36. Members then declared their pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the following minutes: **Ms Davies (51), Mr Horsman (57), Mr Kershaw (51), Mr T Legg (57), Mr Stride (57)**

### Minutes

37. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017. Mr Horsman asked that it be made clear that Mr Johnson's advice in Minute 13 was not official MMO advice but his own personal opinion. Mr Stride asked that Minute 23 be amended as the ray identification presentation had been given to the Recreational Sea Angling Group. This change was noted and the Minutes were confirmed and signed.

### Executive Committee

38. Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 2 March 2017.

### Resolved

39. That the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 2 March 2017 were received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

### Executive Committee

40. Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 4 May 2017.

### Resolved

41. That the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 4 May 2017 were received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

42. Members considered the Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held on 11 May 2017. Prof Humphreys reported that Members had been given a very informative presentation from Sheilah and Martin Openshaw relating to their work developing an identification method for undulate rays.

### Resolved

43. That the Minutes of the TAC held on 11 May 2017 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

### Progress Report on Outstanding Matters

44. **a. Member Appraisals.** Ms Davies explained that the annual appraisals of general Members appointed by the Marine Management Organisation, had been undertaken by her and Mr Ratsey. The draft appraisal forms were emailed to individual Members who were given the opportunity to comment and the completed forms have been agreed and signed.

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### **Budget Control Statement**

45. The Chief Officer explained to Members the figures in the Budget Control Statement. The statement indicates that the Authority had remained within the budget for the year April 2016 to March 2017 except for the areas that had been unknowns when the budget was set. The two most significant areas were National Insurance Contributions, which had increased and the court costs as a consequence of successful, but protracted court cases. He stated that the Authority was in a positive finance position starting the new financial year. Mr Horsman said that the accuracy and ability to stay within the budget should be praised. Upon review of the statement Members agreed with his comments. The Chief Officer also thanked the Finance and Administration officer for her input in the day to day running of the accounts.

He also presented the budget statement for the first two months of 2017/18 financial year. With the changes to staffing numbers there was a temporary underspend in salaries. A reorganisation of staff had been completed and the Executive Committee had agreed the appointment of a second Deputy Chief Officer. The Authority noted their thanks to IFCO Steve Axtell and DCO Ian Jones for their service with the IFCA.

The Chairman asked Members to agree the reports under general consent. All Members agreed.

### **Resolved**

46. a. That the Budget Control Statement to date 31 March 2017, as set out in Annex "A" to these minutes, be approved.

b. That the Budget Control Statement to date 31 May 2017, as set out in Annex "B" to these minutes, be approved.

### **Statement of Accounts 2016-17**

47. The Chief Officer briefed Members on the 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.

Mr Horsman asked if the information relating to the Poole Fishery Order on page 15 was still relevant, highlighting the excess of income over expenditure, which, given the work on this area did not seem to account for actual costs. Ms Davies explained that this was an item added when the Authority was a Sea Fishery Committee. The Chief Officer explained that the details are required as a duty of the Sea Fish Act 1967, and relate only to the Poole harbour Fishery Order, 2015. He agreed that they needed to be revised, to now exclude income from the Poole Harbour Dredge Permits, and that a note could be usefully added to explain that income from rents included the recovery of costs incurred at the setting up of the Order. It was agreed that these amendments should be made and that this should be completed before submission to the auditors.

Mr Horsman proposed and Mr Stride seconded the proposal and all Members present voted in agreement.

### **Resolved**

48. That the Statement of Accounts for the year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, as set out in Annex 'C' to these Minutes, be received, approved and adopted.

### **Poole Shellfish Management Plan**

49. IFCO Birchenough explained to Members that to meet one of the high level objectives the Authority had to develop management plans for priority species, to focus on conservation measures and inform the development of future management interventions. She explained to Members that the TAC had already discussed the plan

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and she was asking Members to adopt the final version. This was a reactive document that would be updated regularly.

The Chairman told Members that a lot of work had been done to improve the Poole fisheries and this was a well-researched and detailed report. He thanked IFCO Birchenough for all the work involved in producing the plan. He asked Members to agree the plan under general consent. All Members agreed.

### **Resolved**

50. That the Poole Harbour Clam and Cockle Fishery Management Plan be adopted.

### **Poole Harbour Fishery Order Management Plan**

51. DCO Richardson explained that as a grantee of the Order the Authority was required to produce a revised management plan each year. He reported that the body of the report had not changed however the Statutory Instrument had been added as an annex. Mr Kershaw asked if a date could be added to the Biosecurity Plan and that the CEFAS contacts listed needed to be updated. DCO said these would be added and he asked Members to approve the 2017 Management Plan with these amendments made. The Chairman asked Members to agree the plan under general consent. Ms Davies abstained as she had declared an interest. All other Members present agreed the plan.

### **Resolved**

52. That the 2017 Poole Harbour Fishery Order Management Plan be adopted.

### **Comments and Complaints Procedure**

53. Chief Executive explained that the procedure had been updated. He worked through the revision with Members which included a clearer process for objection to Authority decisions, complaints about Members conduct and dealing with persistent complaints many of which come through social media. The Chairman thanked the Chief Officer for updating the procedure. Cllr White agreed that the document was very clear and all circumstances had been covered. The Chairman asked Members to agree the Comments and Complaints Procedure under general consent. All Members agreed.

### **Resolved**

54. That the Comments and Complaints Procedure be approved.

Dr Cripps arrived and joined the meeting.

### **Wrasse Fishery Guidance**

55. IFCO Pengelly presented the updated wrasse fishery guidance paper to Members. Upon the recommendation of the TAC updates had been made to provide additional protection for reproductively active wrasse, whilst also better recognising the value of the species to recreational users. Members felt that the guidance measures should only apply to the live wrasse fishery and should not affect the removal of wrasse for use as pot bait, it was agreed that the guidance would be amended to reflect this.

The Chairman summarised and asked Members to agree the amended formal guidance and engage with users and monitor compliance.

Mr Kershaw proposed and Ms Davies seconded the proposal. Mr Horsman abstained and all other Members present agreed the proposal.

### **Resolved**

56. a. That the draft Wrasse Fishery Guidance be agreed.

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- b. That compliance is monitored through routine patrols.
- c. That the guidance be developed to include the wider stakeholder group across the district.

### **Near-shore Netting Management**

57. The Chairman explained that this item had been postponed from the TAC because of the purdah period before the general election. This was an item for information and for discussion. He added that it was unfortunate that there was no one present from the Environment Agency to receive comments. Mr Horsman felt that this document demonstrated a pressing need to conclude the review of nearshore netting. Some of the timings mentioned of current restrictions were not in line with current conservation legislation. Dr Cripps was concerned that the Authority was not compliant with the law. The Chairman said there was no evidence of non-compliance however a balanced approach was required and the EA paper was not very clear. Ms Davies added that this was a paper from the EA not an Authority produced report. In her opinion the Chief Officer was fulfilling all the duties imposed on the IFCAs. Other organisations like the EA and NE always had access to the legislation but had never implemented it. The IFCAs had now been given the responsibilities to review the legislation, and they has embarked on this task, in accordance with their plan. Mr Stride added that Byelaw Working Group comments had not been included in the paper which was full of inaccuracies and conclusions without evidence to back it up. Mr Legg agreed that the paper had no substance and that the EA need to engage with the industry to gain a better understanding of the fisheries; also no definition of 'near-shore'. He asked if this meant one mile or 6 miles? Mr Horsman asked what the economic consequences of restricting commercial fishing would have on the recreational sector and what other species would be affected? Members felt there were many questions still to be discussed and points to be raised at the TAC before the paper was next tabled for the Joint Committee again.

### **Resolved**

58. That the paper be tabled to the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

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

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

59. DCO Richardson updated Members on compliance and enforcement for the period from May to July 2017. He highlighted different operations and risks identified in these months. The Chairman asked if the Joint Committee could be given another presentation on the enforcement issues faced by the officers in their normal duties.

### **Resolved**

60. That the report be received.

### **EU Exit**

61. The Chief Officer explained that the Association produced pamphlet had been produced to help promote and highlight the IFCAs future opportunities. DEFRA have been receptive to initial ideas and the IFCAs want to be part of the national and local work streams. DEFRA have recently been reviewing how current fisheries management authorities operate and a project steering group of MMO and IFCAs representatives have started looking at a series of options for collaboration. Mr Stride questioned the need for an expensive glossy brochure and the Chief Officer explained the usual format

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for dissemination would be electronic. Mr Horsman commented that there was no mention of recreational sea angling or conservation of the stock.

### Resolved

62. That the report be noted.

### Membership 2017-2018

63. The Chief Executive informed Members that the IFCA was made up from a number of Sub-Committees, which included the TAC, Executive Committee, Permit Interview Sub-Committee and the Appeals and Scrutiny Committee.

### Resolved

64. **MEMBERSHIP 2017-18:**

#### **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Simon Cripps	MMO Appointee
Evie Davies	MMO Appointee
Nigel Horsman	MMO Appointee
John Humphreys	MMO Appointee
Antony Jensen	MMO Appointee
Paul Johnson	MMO Appointee
Simon Kershaw	MMO Appointee
Ted Legg	MMO Appointee
Louise MacCallum	MMO Appointee
Richard Morgan	Natural England Appointee
Kerry Sims	Environment Agency Appointee
Richard Stride	MMO Appointee

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Joint Committee
Vice Chairman	Joint Committee
Chairman	Technical Advisory Committee
Vice Chairman	Technical Advisory Committee
Elected Member	TBA
Elected Member	TBA

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

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

Chairman	Joint Committee
Chairman	Technical Advisory Committee
Elected Member	Joint Committee

#### **APPEALS & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

An Appeals and Scrutiny Sub-Committee be appointed to consider any appeal made against any decision made by the Joint Committee or any Sub-Committee with regard to Staff matters and the operation of the Poole Regulated or Several Fisheries and to decide whether any such appeal be upheld. The Sub-Committee would scrutinise the accounts and financial statements and report to the Joint Committee.

Elected Member	Poole Borough Council
Elected Member	Bournemouth Borough Council
Elected Member	Southampton City Council
Elected Member	Hampshire County Council

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The following Members would be on standby to sit on the Appeals & Scrutiny Sub-Committee if required:

Elected Member  
Elected Member

Isle of Wight CC  
Portsmouth City Council

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

65. Members considered the Minutes of the South Coast Fishermen's Council meeting held on 8 March and 3 May 2017. He added that the management of the bass regulations appeared to be difficult for the MMO to administer with many incorrect and inappropriate authorisation being processed and leading to applications for appeal.

#### **Resolved**

66. That the Minutes of the 323<sup>th</sup> meetings held on 8 March and of the 324<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 3 May of the South Coast Fishermen's Council be received.

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

67. IFCO Pengelly presented the Minutes for Members. These were tabled for information. Mr Stride asked for a typo to be corrected.

#### **Resolved**

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

### **Association of IFCAs**

69. The Chairman presented the AIFCA Minutes to Members for information. Meetings were held on a quarterly basis.

#### **Resolved**

70. That the Minutes be received.

### **SIFCA Quarterly Report**

71. Members considered the latest report which covered proceedings from February to April 2017. The Chairman felt it was a very useful Authority document that showed Members the amount and variety of duties carried out by officers. Dr Cripps agreed it was a good report and asked if this could be moved further up the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **Resolved**

72. That the report be received.

### **Date of Next Meeting –21 September 2017**

73. The next meetings of the Joint Committee would be held on 21 September 2017 in the Cattistock Room in Borough of Poole Council Offices.

### **Appointment of General Members**

74. As a consequence of the resignation of Ms Davis Members debated the appointment of a new General Member. Mr Horsman asked how the process of appointing a new General Member would be undertaken. Ms Davies said that the MMO would make the appointment and they would ask the Chairman of the Authority to provide an opinion if there are any particular skills that would benefit the Authority through the appointment of a new Member. The Chairman asked Members to consider the skills being lost; in this case aquaculture. Members agreed that expertise in this area

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would be valuable given the balance of the Authority Membership. Mr Horsman asked if there was a plan B if no one applied as he felt that a non-statutory conservation representative would be appropriate.

75. There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:50.

Chairman:

Date: