

Recreational Angling Sector Group – 25/01/2017 – 1700

Southern IFCA Office, 64 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole, BH14 9BN.

Minutes

Present

Brian Bleese
Chris Holloway
Phil Higgins
Steve Porter
Charlie Annear
Tim Ward
Wayne Comben
Alan Deeming
Paul Tomlinson
Simon Pengelly
Sheilah Openshaw
Martin Openshaw
Rob Clark
Patrick Cooper

Apologies

Trevor Gibbs

1. Apologies and Introductions

Tim Ward introduced himself as a new representative on the recreational angling sector group replacing Dick Stubbs from Portsmouth who can no longer attend meetings.

Martin and Sheilah Openshaw introduced themselves as members of the black bream project and undulate ray project and attending the meeting to provide information on the latter.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Agreed and signed off minutes.

3. Talk from Martin and Sheila Openshaw – Recognising undulate rays

Martin and Shiela gave a talk on the work they had been involved with relating to Undulate Rays. Martin and Sheilah described the process of how undulates can be identified from their unique patterns and how they had been using photographs from anglers and divers to be able to track the movements of individuals of the species along the South coast. The aim of the project in its current form is to encourage divers, anglers and anyone who is likely to come across and take a photo of an undulate ray to send the image into the team with where it was caught. This will enable the project to try and track more of these rays and start building up a pattern of where the rays hunt, nest and breed.

Martin and Sheilah discussed how the number of photos sent in to the project had significantly increased in recent weeks following the relaunch of the project and its new

website. The group were provided with leaflets and information on the project and asked to consider taking part and passing the information on to fellow anglers.

Following the presentation the group discussed the project agreeing it was particularly interesting, especially due to the great recreational resource undulate rays had become. The group asked whether there was benefit in tagging alongside the project and member of the group discussed their involvement in similar tagging programmes. Rob Clark raised the issue that the system Martin and Sheila had developed was effective without the requirement of tags, the project was also currently self-funded and was running independent of the funding required for larger scale tagging.

The website for the group is:

<http://undulateray.uk/>

And the email to send photos to is:

Billy@undulateray.uk

4. Update on Outstanding matters
 - a. Wrasse

Simon Pengelly was asked to provide an update on Wrasse management since the last meeting. Simon thanked the group for their helpful feedback and that the information had fed into a report to the Southern IFCA Technical Advisory Committee at which point the authority indicated a requirement for more information on the fishery. Simon discussed recent meeting attended with industry where there was some support for a minimum and a maximum size, with the current suggestion being 18-25cm. Discussion with industry and other salmon farms will continue and other methods have not been dismissed at this point. Simon went on to put out the plans to gain more information on the next season considering catch rates and stock impacts.

Alan Deeming expressed concerned over management measures led by the industry not being sufficient to protect the stock and not mitigating what could be over-exploitation. Rob Clark stated that the focus of the IFCA would be to ensure that any proposals were appropriate to the protection of the stocks.

- b. Nearshore netting

Simon Pengelly discussed the nearshore netting review which was discussed at the previous meeting. The information from that meeting went to the TAC and a second paper was on the agenda for the TAC in a weeks' time reviewing the existing management measure for netting in estuaries and harbours. Simon stated that the next steps for this was for the byelaw working group to meet and scope out aims.

Members discussed the potential impacts of unlicensed netting and Rob Clark stated that further measures had the potential to give more powers to the IFCA for enforcing netting which currently often fell outside of the IFCA's powers.

PC to circulate TAC Papers - COMPLETE

- c. BNA update

Rob Clark stated that the bass nursery review started in 2015 and undertaken by DEFRA was still not completed. Southern IFCA's would look to provide further information on bass catch in surveys going forward especially in the estuarine environments. Discussing the feedback the IFCA had provided in the past Rob stated that the information the Recreational Angling Sector Group had provided in relation to the lack of support for the Poole extension had been passed on.

5. Bass Regulations

Rob Clark discussed the situation with the bass regulations for 2017, as in 2016, being catch and release for the first 6 months and 1 bass per person per day in the second half of the year. Detail on the bass restrictions (commercial and recreational) can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bass-fishing-guidance/bass-fishing-guidance>

6. Recreational Sea Angling Collaborative Engagement Project

Simon Pengelly provided information on a joint working project between (initially) the IFCA, the Dorset Wildlife Trust and the RASG. Simon has since met with Brian Bleese and his colleagues at the wildlife trust and discussed possible projects to raise public awareness and participation of responsible recreational sea angling practices and the management of the marine environment. From the meeting a concept note had been drafted and circulated to the group promoting the use of extra signage, guides and minimum size stickers to be distributed to anglers to promote sustainable angling. The group then discussed previous collaborations where a joint approach had been successful and the group considered other areas in which a collaborative approach to engagement could be positive (e.g. around gathering closed areas, tackling litter left by anglers).

The group agreed that they were happy with the concept note in principle and to move discussions forward on this.

7. Poole Harbour – Flounder

Members of the group discussed recent focus on poor angling catches relating to flounder in Poole Harbour. The group agreed the importance of flounder to local anglers with it often being a species to target when restricted from leaving the harbour and being a good entry level fish to target for newcomers to recreational sea angling. Other members of the group discussed the decline district wide and seeing similar issues in Portsmouth, Langstone and the Medina.

The group were provided the commercial landings data for Flounder and the competition figures. It was suggested that perhaps the issues were not localised.

ACTION – IFCA staff to look at possibility of interrogating CEFAS trawl data further off in relation to Flounder.

8. Portland Oystermen – Several Order Proposal

A Several Order Proposal from the Portland Oystermen was discussed by the group and concerns over the location were raised.

ACTION – Details of SO provided to the local angling representative - COMPLETE

9. Any Other Business

Alan Deeming enquired as to whether there was any information from IFCA colleagues in Sussex relating to Utopian and Overfalls.

ACTION – RC to follow up with Sussex IFCA

Alan Deeming asked whether there was any news relating to the DEFRA under 10 reporting report. No information has been provided to Southern IFCA yet on this.

Alan Deeming asked whether English Heritage had approached the IFCA about restrictions around Wrecks. Southern IFCA has not been approached on this subject.

10. Date and Time of the next meeting – 26th April 2017