

## Recreational Angling Sector Working Group - Minutes

**Date: 26/10/2016      Time: 1700      Location – 64 Ashley Road, Poole, BH14 9BN**

### **1. Introduction & Apologies**

#### **Present:**

Chris Holloway (chair)  
Phil Higgins  
Dick Stubbs  
Brian Bleese  
Trevor Gibbs  
Paul Tomlinson  
Alan Deeming  
Patrick Cooper  
Simon Pengelly

#### **Apologies:**

Wayne Comben  
Charlie Annear  
Steve Porter

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by the chair including minor amendments.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- PC to follow up with Angling Strategy and provide a first draft - complete
- PC to update tacklebox cards for circulation - complete

### **3. Progress on outstanding matters:**

#### *a. Angling Strategy*

Mr Cooper provided members with a copy of a draft angling strategy for Southern IFCA. Members were happy with the first draft and that they would send comments to Mr Cooper. A deadline of the 11/11/2016 was agreed for comments. Mr Cooper then explained that before being agreed by the IFCA the committee would have to agree the document.

Further to the angling strategy Mr Cooper explained that the document set out a requirement for a MoA between Southern IFCA and the Recreational Angling Sector Group (RASG). Members agreed this would be useful, but wanted to express that the group should not produce only policy documents and that when result come in they need to promote these.

**ACTION –** Members to provide feedback on sea angling strategy by the 11/11/2016.

**ACTION –** PC to update with feedback and submit to the IFCA committee.

#### *b. Partnership Project*

At the previous meeting Mr Clark provided information on a project to support sustainable angling between Southern IFCA, Natural England, Angling Trust and the Wildlife Trusts. Mr Cooper stated that the partners had been considering concept notes and that the IFCA and Natural England had provided comment. Further details would be provided as they are made available. Mr Deeming stated

that he had discussed this and endorsed the project with the Angling Trust's national Conservation and Access Group. Mr Deeming stated that although the AT supported the principle where the funding would come from was still an issue. Mr Bleese stated that the wildlife trust was looking to fund a marine conservation app, and that this could tie in with the proposed project.

#### *c. Under Reporting – AD*

Mr Deeming discussed a report produced by DEFRA regarding the under reporting of fin fish caught by the under 10m fleet. Mr Deeming stated that as far as the AT were aware it was with the MMO currently but wondered if the IFCA had any further information on this. Mr Cooper stated that the IFCA had no further information on this but would update the group if any came available.

#### **4. Wrasse – Simon Pengelly**

Mr Pengelly provided the group with information on an emerging fishery in parts of the Southern IFCA district involving the catching of Wrasse using creel pots, for use as cleaner fish in Scottish fish farms. Mr Pengelly described the fishery following its first year in operation. The most common species removed is the Ballan Wrasse, these appear to be the most resilient to transportation. Mr Pengelly stated that the IFCA had some concerns regarding the impact to the species, and would welcome input from the group prior to putting together a paper to the Southern IFCA committee to consider the issue and whether management measures should be taken.

The group provided the opinion that wrasse provided a useful angling resource in the district and that at certain times of year, or in certain locations recreational anglers relied on catching wrasse. Mr Bleese raised that wrasse populations could be easily impacted and take a long time to recover.

#### **5. Review of Management Measures – Simon Pengelly**

Mr Pengelly discussed the requirement for Southern IFCA to review its management measures and byelaws, many of which it had inherited from other organisations and required updating to ensure they are relevant to the current fisheries and able to achieve their aims. Mr Pengelly explained that although the IFCA had consulted on a number of these measures, the timeline had been slightly delayed due to MPA commitments, including the introduction of a number of management measures. Of particular interest to the group were management measures relating to nearshore netting and the Southern IFCA minimum size byelaw.

Members of the group were updated that with the nearshore netting the IFCA were still waiting on the reports regarding DEFRA's review of bass nursery area legislation and the EA assessments regarding the risks to highly migratory fish in coastal waters. Mr Deeming stated that previously it was encouraged that fixed engine not be used as a term to describe the legislation due to confusion, but, since it came to light the extent of activities included in fixed engine this should be continued.

Regarding the minimum size, Mr Pengelly highlighted that the IFCA could consider Wrasse within the minimum size legislation.

#### **6. Recent Publications**

##### **a. Watson new bait digging report (AD)**

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/PressRelease/pressReleaseld-128866.html>

Mr Deeming introduced a paper produced by Dr Watson of Portsmouth University. Mr Deeming stated that the report drew significantly on a previous paper and was concerned over some of the findings based on the amount of time it would take to catch the worms required for a day's fishing.

The group then discussed future management of bait across the Southern IFCA district and enquired as to whether an approach similar to that used in Poole would be rolled out across the district. Mr

Holloway raised how the inclusion of a number of parties from different backgrounds during the Poole bait working group meetings was particularly useful.

#### **b. Bream report**

<http://icesjms.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2016/09/06/icesjms.fsw151.full?keytype=ref&ijkey=qLO9He2JOEC3HZo>

The group discussed a paper produced by Pinder et al. considering the impacts of catch and release angling on bream. Mr Deeming raised a review he had compiled for the Angling Trusts Conservation and Access Group stating he felt the figures did not tie up with previous published data (e.g. SA2012) relating to angling related mortality.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

- Mr Cooper told the group that the tacklebox card discussed at the previous meeting was now available on the website and that a number would be printed and made available. These would then be updated with the new bass legislation when that was updated.
- Mr Stubbs stated that unfortunately he would be unable to attend future meetings. He stated that he would find a replacement from his local area to attend meetings in future. The group thanked Mr Stubbs for the time he had put into attending meetings and his contributions.
- A discussion regarding signage around certain areas was held. Mr Pengelly and Mr Bleese discussed the possibility of providing angling information at the Chesil beach centre, run by the Angling Trust. Mr Pengelly and Mr Bleese agreed to hold further discussions on this.