

Recreational Angling Sector Group Meeting – 27th July 2016 – Minutes

Meeting Venue – Southern IFCA Office, 64 Ashley Road, Poole, BH14 9BN.

Time - 1700

Present:

Chris Holloway
Alan Deeming
Dick Stubbs
Charlie Annear
Robert Clark
Patrick Cooper
Brian Bleese

1. Apologies

Steve Porter
Phil Higgins
Wayne Comben
Trevor Gibbs

2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 27th April 2016

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed off by the chair. A number of the actions were considered and Mr Cooper provided the group with information in the form of a tacklebox card as a methodology for distributing angling information – as discussed in the previous minutes. The group considered the card and suggested a number of improvements/adjustments.

Action PC to update and distribute

3. Port update

The idea of a port update at the beginning of the meeting was discussed. The chair suggested that this should be trialed at the beginning of the next meeting and that it would be useful for group members to receive information from the IFCA on any recent developments as part of the port updates.

4. EU Referendum and the UK Environment

The group discussed the recent decision to leave the UK and asked Mr Clark the potential impacts to legislation. At this point Mr Clark stated that the position was unclear and there was no definitive response, but did remind the group that much of the EU legislation was preceded by previous treaties and overarching international regulations. Mr Deeming enquired as to whether it would delay tranche 3 MCZs but Mr Clark stated he had not heard as much. Mr Clark agreed to update the group as he found out more.

5. Angling Guide

Mr Clark introduced a new partnership project the IFCA was considering with Natural England and had been discussed with the Angling Trust. The project focused around a 'Angling Sustainability Atlas', an idea proposed by Randy Velterop from Natural England to consider the development of an app that would not only consider the idea of sustainability but also encourage angling as a positive activity. Although this is still in the plan stage Mr Clark indicated that this could include an interactive map with the following:

- Information such as species caught, season, recommended bait etc.
- Safety Information, accessibility
- Location of nearby tackleshops
- Location of closed areas
- Information on the MPAs and their designations

From initial conversations amongst the organisations involved the idea of mirroring the Anglings Trusts freshwater equivalent was something that interested AT. The group discussed that this could be a joint project with other organisations e.g. the wildlife trusts. Members considered the aim of the app and Mr Clark assured them that the aim would be to educate, promote and assist, not purely reference sustainability. The group considered the resources and local intelligence that would be required and considered that there would need to be much input. The group discussed funding and Mr Clark clarified that currently there was no funding, but that opportunities existed (e.g. EMFF, NE matched funding etc).

The group considered this a positive move, Mr Deeming agreed to encourage this to the Conservation Angling Group.

6. Angling Strategies

Mr Cooper provided the group with copies of other IFCA's angling strategies. The groups discussed aspects they liked from each. Members also discussed what they wanted from a Southern IFCA strategy including:

- Something to raise the group and the IFCA's profile with the RSA sector.
- Something measurable with goals to consider the work of the group against.
- A strategy that considers the balance between commercial and recreational.
- Yes - take away - Cornwall - easy to get into, digestible,
- Need something to raise profile with the RSA sector.
- Want equivalent statement to MSY for recreational

Action – IFCA officers to further Southern IFCA's angling strategy

7. Bass information

Mr Holloway discussed the possibility of putting together a joint proposal between the wildlife trusts, Angling Trusts and IFCA's for future bass management. The proposal would include making bass a rod and line fish. This would allow some form of commercial activity whilst also allowing the recreational a fishery. It would benefit the local community through both sectors. Mr Bleese, attending the meeting from the Dorset Wildlife Trust, indicated that this would be something the wildlife trusts might support. The group discussed this in terms of the ICES advice and Mr Clark raised that although there was a need for a long term plan/position this was overshadowed by a requirement for a 2017 position.

Mr Clark discussed the ICES advice which is currently for no fishery to take place. Concerns were raised about the advice not working/not being followed. Mr Clark discussed that he agreed that the only deviation from no catch should reflect the least impacting methods or the most valuable to the economy. The group agreed that the ICES advice should be supported and but that if methods were to be let in it should be the most sustainable/selective.

8. Southern IFCA Surveys

Mr Cooper thanked participants from angling groups for participation and feeding into the surveys for the Summer of 2016. The group was also updated that the IFCA would be involved with the annual Solent bass survey this year.

9. AOB

Membership - CH – The issue of membership was discussed and Chris Holloway suggested that Mr Bleese, attending to discuss the bass proposal, proved a beneficial addition to the group also being an angler. The group agreed, Mr Deeming enquired as to whether Dr Ferrero from the Hants and Isle of Wight Angling Trust could also be invited as he too was an angler and could provide further representation from the east.

AD - South Marine Plan delayed

Mr Deeming updated the group that the South Marine Plan was currently delayed.

Minimum sizes – AD

Mr Deeming raised the issue of minimum sizes and that if they are reconsidered in the future could the issue of ray skinning be considered? Mr Clark stated that these were issues that would be considered when the minimum size byelaw is reviewed.

10. Next meeting date

October 26th 2016