

Recreational Angling Sector Working Group Meeting – 17:00 01/11/2017

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

Agenda

1. Apologies and Introductions

Present

Chris Holloway (CH) - Chair, Charlie Annear (CA), Phil Higgins (PH), Alan Deeming (AD), Tim Ferrero (TF), Paul Tomlinson (PT), Kim Gibbs (KG), Brian Bleese (BB), Rob Clark (RC), Pia Bateman (PB)

Guest

Josie Pegg (JP)

Apologies:

Patrick Cooper, Steve Porter, Wayne Comben, Tim Ward

1. Introductions

PB introduced herself as the new Deputy Chief at Southern IFCA. She explained her function to provide the Evidence Team with strategic direction moving forward. She expressed her desire to learn more about the RSA sector and looks forward to working with the group in the future. The group members briefly introduced themselves providing a background as to their experience in relation to the recreational angling sector, including the club affiliations and positions related to the angling trust. The Chair briefly explained function of the RSA Working Group.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

The group agreed the minutes of the previous RSA meeting dated 02/08/2017. Accordingly, the Chair approved and signed the minutes.

RC provided feedback from Prof J Humphreys (Chairman of the IFCA) following his attendance at the previous RSA meeting, expressing the value and importance of the group in providing valuable information and knowledge with regard to the role of the RSA sector in the district.

3. Group Administration

RC provided background of a recent membership request from a Mr David McCune (DM), an angler from Portland area.

ACTION: The group have asked that a CV to be provided to the Chair and if appropriate the Chair would invite Mr McCune to a RSA Group meeting in the near future.

4. MMO

An invitation had been provided to the MMO to attend and provide information of their role in fisheries management (quota, RBS etc) for those unfamiliar. On this occasion the MMO were unable to attend.

ACTION: to engage with MMO on date of next RSA meeting.

With respect to quota, RC updated the group on the latest ICES Advice on Bass stocks, which has recently been released. The advice is in line with that given in the previous year, whereby to achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) within a year the fishery would need to be closed (zero catch by both commercial and recreational sectors).

The group agreed there was a lot of Bass on the ground at present at the moment, but aware that the issue relates to spawning stock and its sustainability over the next few years.

The Chair raised the point that it would be interesting to know if Bass stocks were improving as a result of management actions to date.

CA informed the group that RSAs were losing faith in Bass management, as restrictions for the commercial sector were not in line with the recreational cohort. PH agreed that these feelings were echoed across the charter angling sector.

RC discussed the 250kg netting allowance for Bass as an unavoidable bycatch.

Angling measures considered the following measures:

- Fishery to be open for first 6 months of year for RSAs
- Seasonal closure (opening April to October)
- Bag limits
- Rod and line fishery only
- Remove 'unavoidable bycatch' in commercial sector

The group raised the issue that any Bass restrictions must be applied equally across both the commercial and recreational sectors.

5. Wrasse Fishery

AD asked the SIFCA if they had a potting byelaw relevant to the wrasse fishery, in line with the D&S IFCA Potting Byelaw. The Chair asked if there were any biomass assessments available on this fishery to help understand the sustainability of this fishery over the next 2-3 years.

RC stated that there isn't a potting byelaw in this district and explained the Southern IFCA code of conduct. RC described the recent developments in the fishery. RC also discussed the SIFCA Wrasse Fishery Guidance (8-point plan) in place, which covers both minimum and maximum sizes applied to the Wrasse in the district and additionally a study with Natural England on the functional ecology of wrasse and stock biomass was undertaken. RC provided with the group a case study example of how the Norwegians had allowed exploitation before protection of the species, and now manage the fishery using minimum and maximum sizing and an MPA. These measures are in line with those used by the SIFCA.

RC alluded to downstream SIFCA workstreams, which may consider in future options for a potential 'general byelaw' which would seek to require consent before taking from a novel fishery or for the purpose of aquaculture.

6. Beam Trawl

The group raised the concern of a lone beam trawl vessel operating in the district, and its impact on the inshore fishery as a result. The group raised concerns that the vessel is not contributing to social, economic or environmental gains within the district, and as such would like restrictions to be placed on this vessel. RC highlighted to the group that the district has a very small beam trawl fleet and in addition the largest network of MPAs in the country, which offer comprehensive restrictions to towed gears.

7. DWT Angling Position Paper

A draft angling code of conduct for angling, produced by the Dorset Wildlife Trust was circulated and discussed.

ACTION CH and others to engage with their respective angling governing bodies and liaise with DWT on the adoption of the Angling Code.

8. Josie Pegg – Angling Records

JP explained that in her role as Lecturer and Researcher at University Centre Sparsholt, she would like to seek to use historic datasets where available across the RSA community in order to detect changes in fisheries overtime. JP worked on the Angling Strategy 2012 and whilst undertaking data collection for this project recognised the wealth of information in the RSA sector. The group raised concerns about sharing data given previous experiences in this area. PH made the group aware that the charter angling sector often maintained comprehensive diaries dating back 20 years, which may be of use to JP. RC highlighted the benefits that such a project could have in developing a database which could support the RSA sector

ACTION: The Chair invited JP to email proposals, and details of third party assurance in order for the group to gain a greater understanding of the data requests.

9. Any other business

AD asked for background on the official complaint about a SIFCA Committee Member. RC highlighted that the matter had been presented to members in the record of the last IFCA meeting.

AD raised concerns over an organised event at Ryde Sands where a group of people were engaging with the shore crabs etc. RC noted that the SIFCA byelaw is relevant only when hand gathering and removing Sea Fisheries Resources.

Included Papers:

RASG Meeting 02/08/2017minutes (via email)

DWT Angling Position Paper

ACTION TABLE

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