

**Recreational Angling Sector Working Group Meeting – 02/05/2018 – 17:00**

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

Present:

Chris Holloway (CH)

Alan Deeming (AD)

Paul Tomlinson (PT)

*Rayner Piper (RP)*

*Charlie Annear (CA)*

*Phil Higgins (PH)*

*Tim Fererro (TF)*

*Patrick Cooper (PC)*

*Apologies*

*Robert Clark, Pia Bateman, Tim Ward, Wayne Comben, Steve Porter, Kim Gibbs and Brian Bleese*

*Agenda*

1. Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed off.

a. Matters Arising from the Minutes

ACTION – Members to forward information to PC to collate and consider producing a handling guide. – **Members have provided PC with information, PC to work with members (CA and RP volunteered) on producing handling guide.**

ACTION: PC to draw together information into a report considering the decline in Flounder – **Ongoing – awaiting Flounder landings from MMO.**

ACTION: RC to send letter to Poole council regarding the noticeboard on Poole Quay - **Complete**

2. Membership

The group discussed the current membership of the group and ways to encourage further membership from the East of the district. It was suggested that advertising may through the angling trust and the IFCA may help.

3. Wrasse Update

PC provided an update on the Wrasse fishery explaining that a Habitats Regulation Assessment had been produced by the IFCA and was to be submitted to the members for sign-off. This had followed in depth discussion with NE in the development of the HRA and considers the Southern IFCA Wrasse guidance in mitigating for overexploitation. CH raised concerns over two points regarding the fishery, first that without knowing the total biomass of the stock the wrasse fishery cannot be truly sustainable, and secondly that the water used in

transportation was not screened for non-natives. PC reminded the group that the Wrasse Guidance meant that the wrasse fishery was under significant restrictions to reduce the impact on the total biomass, and also stated he would obtain a point of contact at CEFAS to address queries relating to the biosecurity. AD raised that fish legal were continuing to work in more detail on the Wrasse Fishery. CH also asked that members who were part of other organisations raise their concerns regarding the Wrasse Fishery.

#### 4. Netting Review Update

PC provided the group with further information on the netting review being undertaken by Southern IFCA with the scope to review netting in estuaries and harbours across the district. PC explained that a working group had been set up made up of members of the IFCA's technical advisory committee, and that currently Officers were taking a staged approach to the review of netting, and that currently the working group was focussed on salmonid interactions but following this socio-economic impacts and bycatch would be considered. PC also explained that when this progresses the group will be consulted. AD enquired about the information requested by the IFCA regarding the socio-economics of anglers and whether previous work such as the angling 2012 data could be used with information on the population of the Southern IFCA district. PC explained that the review would try to consider all available data, but that they may be looking for data specific to the value of estuaries and harbours to the angling community as opposed to all angling in the IFCA district.

Members of the group highlighted the importance of the review and the need to consider the socio-economic value of these areas to recreational fishers. CH and AD also requested that information be provided as to the scope of the consultation in advance of it going live so they would have an opportunity to gather the information in an appropriate format.

#### 5. IFCA – Minimum size boards

The IFCA minimum size boards were discussed. PC mentioned that officers were looking for places across the district to attach the boards in areas frequented by anglers, so far this has included piers etc. PC asked that if any of the group had any suggestions regarding places to attach the board and contacts for the owners that they send through. RP suggested Southsea Pier, Round Tower and Hayling Island. TF suggested that the wildlife trust managed areas may be possible. It was requested that members contact PC with any further suggestions.

#### 6. MCZ Consultation

PC explained the current timeline for tranche three designation. It is anticipated that in the summer of 2018 DEFRA would be announcing the sites which it would be consulting on. Following this there would be a consultation period, following there would be a period of time until designation, then a timeframe of up to 2 years before management measures are put in place. Discussions turned to the bream feature and CH raised that they had had early discussions about voluntary bag limits. PC stated that the IFCA could not plan for management measures until it knew the sites, features and conservation advice upon designation. Members of the group indicated concern that catches of bream had been poor so far this season.

#### 7. RP – Acoustic Partnership Project

RP shared with the group a proposal regarding a fish telemetry project looking at the use of acoustic tracking of key fish species of importance in the area. RP explained that the bid would likely need funding, but that he would be happy to work on this. CH stated that this

might be of more relevance to the IFCA separate from the angling group, RP agreed and it was decided to take up the matter further outside of the meeting. PH indicated that he would be interesting in assisting if any projects were to progress.

#### 8. Any other business

AD enquired about the status of the 'Sea Fishing (enforcement) Regulations 2018 which was out to consultation. PC explained that the regulation was out to consultation until the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2018. The feedback was being analysed and that following that it would be required to sit before parliament.

Date of the next meeting

- 1<sup>st</sup> August - TBC

*Relevant Papers:*

*Wrasse HRA*