

## Recreational Angling Sector Group Meeting – 05/02/2018 - 1700

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

Present:

Chris Holloway (CH), Phil Higgins (PH), Alan Deeming (AD), Kim Gibbs (KG), Charlie Annear (CA), Steve Porter (SP), Paul Tomlinson (PT), Brian Blease (BB), Tim Ferrero (TF), Rayner Piper (RP), Robert Clark (RC), Patrick Cooper (PC)

Apologies

Tim Ward, Wayne Comben

*Agenda*

1. Minutes of the previous meetings
  - a. Matters Arising

Actions of the previous meeting:

**ACTION:** The group have asked that a CV to be provided to the Chair and if appropriate the Chair would invite new members to a RSA Group meeting in the near future. - **Complete**

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

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

**ACTION:** The Chair invited Josie Pegg to email proposals, and details of third party assurance in order for the group to gain a greater understanding of the data requests. – **JP had been unable to follow up due to other constraints but hoped to follow up on this soon.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed off by the chair.

2. New Members

RP was introduced as new member from the Emsworth area.

3. Bass Measures

December council meeting to determine bass has been published and measures are now in place. In communique the council implied that measures would be informed by further information including a paper considering catch and release mortality for Bass. It had been raised that in March further consideration to scientific advice may inform the council's decision to alter the recreational restrictions.

The paper in question was discussed further by the group, particularly in its assessment of fish mortality relating to proper handling of fish. The group discussed further measures used by anglers and best practice for handling fish. The group agreed that although they were aware of a number of different sources of information, no single source was obvious as providing an effective handling guide. The group agreed that there may be some benefit to developing and circulating best practice guidelines amongst anglers to reduce fish mortality rates associated with angling.

**ACTION** – Members to forward information to PC to collate and consider producing a handling guide.

4. TAC Agenda

#### a. Annual Plan

The Southern IFCA annual plan had been presented to members of the Southern IFCA authority at the full authority meeting. The 10 areas of focus within the plan was discussed by members of the group. AD asked about the development of a conservation group and RC explained that this would follow a similar framework to the Recreational Angling Sector Group and fishermen's council aimed at targeting conservation based NGOs who do not share the same level of engagement that other sectors currently do.

#### b. Fish Monitoring Report

The Southern IFCA fish monitoring report was discussed and members were encouraged by the number of species caught. CH enquired about the use of the data and whether it could be shown as a time series. PC explained that that would be the aim if developed with enough years worth of data. RC explained the value of having a longer time series but also the issues regarding effort and resource to develop and maintain this data.

#### c. Colter Appraisal Well – Poole Bay application

RC raised the issue of an application in Poole Bay for an Oil and Gas appraisal Well. The application had been submitted to the department of business and industry. RC shared the Southern IFCA response to the consultation which was open until the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. The response highlighted a number of possible interactions the well could have with key species at certain times of year including bream and also identified that the Authority considered the current level of engagement with the commercial and recreational sector to be insufficient. CH asked whether the response was public and RC stated that it had been provided to the IFCA committee and therefore was in the public domain. Other members of the group highlighted that other organisations - Poole and District Fishermans Association and the Professional Boatmans Association had drafted responses.

### 5. Flounder

CH brought to the groups attention recent concerns held by Poole anglers as the low levels of flounder and how the recent national flounder competition had seen historically low catches. The group discussed possible causes including seal releases and commercial fishing. RC raised that the commercial landings for Flounder were very low as it was not a high value species and unlikely to be the sole cause of the decline. It was also raised that the number of commercial fishers netting in the Harbour had decreased in recent years as well.

AD raised that a similar trend had been observed in recent years in the East of the district around the Solent and RP highlighted that this had occurred in the Hamble also. RC highlighted this as a national issue and reminded the group of the CEFAS report relating to Endocrine disruptors. The group agreed it was important for the IFCA to consider and stated they would like various sources of information to be compiled into a report.

**ACTION:** PC to draw together information into a report considering the decline in Flounder

### 6. Seal Release

CH raised the recent seal release into Poole Harbour and highlighted that a number of local anglers were concerned by this as the seals were not from the local population. BB explained the framework around the release of the seal and that as a native animal, with land owners permission it could be released. BB also stated that further work could be done with regards to the stakeholder engagement element and that currently the RSPCA terms of

reference only made consideration towards the animals welfare when releasing seals and did not consider any other local issues.

RC highlighted that no licence was required for the release of seals into the harbour, but that there may be some merit to production of MOU to encourage consultation regarding the release of seals into the local area. The group agreed to support any push for an MOU or further consultation in the future.

#### 7. Any other business

CH raised that the noticeboard on Poole Quay had been removed which included information to anglers from Poole and District Sea Angling Association and Southern IFCA. CH requested a letter of support to encourage its reinstatement. RC agreed but also encouraged considering alternative areas to ensure that the sign was returned to the quay as soon as possible.

AD queried the Solent Forums concerns over bait in the Solent and what the IFCA's response would be. RC replied that the IFCA had responsibilities when it came to the harvesting of bait, as did other organisations e.g NE and the landowners. As the SEMs management group (<http://www.solentems.org.uk/>) had raised as an issue the IFCA would be exploring that with the other organisations when it had the resources.

Date of the next meeting

- TBC

*Relevant Papers:*

RASG Meeting Minutes 01/11/2017

Lewin et al., paper

Oil and Gas application – Southern IFCA **Draft** response – Not sent electronically

Southern IFCA Annual Plan - **Draft**

Fish Monitoring Report