

## **Recreational Angling Sector Group – 16/01/2019**

**IFCA Office, 64 Ashley Road, Poole**

17:00 - 16/01/2019

### **Attendees**

Chris Holloway (Ch)  
Patrick Cooper (PC)  
Sarah Birchenough (SB)  
Alan Deeming (AD)  
Phil Higgins (PH)  
Charlie Annear (CA)  
Tim Ferrero (TF)

### **Apologies**

Steve Porter (SP)  
Rob Clark (RC)  
Rayner Piper (RP)  
Brian Bleese (BB)  
Paul Tomlinson (PT)  
Kim Gibbs (KG)

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meetings were signed off, incorporating slight amendments from AD.

- PC updated that with a number of outstanding items Southern IFCA would be advertising an internship to focus on recreational angling.
- Wrasse Biosecurity – CH indicated he had not heard back from CEFAS regarding his enquiry and stated he would check his emails for when it was sent.
- AD raised concerns over the lack of attendance from senior members of staff, PC indicated that he would try to highlight when the Chief Officer would not be in attendance so questions could be put to him in advance.

### **Bass Measures**

PC and SB highlighted the updated bass measures with the group. The measures which included one bag limit from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019, no bass landed in January to March (inclusive) and November/December for recreational fishers, and slight alterations to the commercial catch limits. The measures would come into force when published in the European Council Journal later in January, but until then the 2018 measures would be in place, which means no bass to be landed by recreational fishers in January.

AD highlighted that previously IFCOs had required cross warranting to enforce certain European Legislation, what would happen if we left Europe with no deal, or the move was delayed, would IFCOs and be able to enforce European Legislation? – Update – The Authority does not currently anticipate problems enforcing the measures in EC 850/98, these measures are to be transposed in the EU withdrawal bill.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bass-industry-guidance-2019> - Update - for bass measures please direct anyone to this page.

## **Netting Consultation – update**

SB thanked the group for the assistance in the build up to the consultation as well as the assistance provided by members of the group, the suggestion of extending the period was especially well received and allowed for greater discussions with stakeholders. SB then provided an update to the group on the netting consultation. 250 responses were received to the consultation, the highest received in any consultation. Across the 8-week period, officers met with individuals, groups and held drop in sessions. Feedback was that the approach was really useful, giving stakeholder the opportunity to provide feedback as well as discuss proposals with officers. The responses were diverse and included recreational and commercial fishers, NGOs, land owners, harbour authorities, merchants and tackle shops. SB stated that that it was positive that individuals from all sectors had responded, not just clubs, associations and larger organisations.

AD stated that he was keen that the relative numbers of different responses were highlighted. AD also asked about ring netting and whether the response was entirely negative, SB stated that it had been mixed, a trait seen throughout the consultation with all sectors represented.

SB indicated that the next step was that the report would go to the TAC and then feed into the byelaw working group for detailed consideration by members.

## **Weymouth – Tale of Two Fisheries update**

The group were made aware of another New Economics Foundation report, which considered the value of the small-scale commercial fishing fleet and recreational charter fleet to Weymouth. The report looks at the commercial crab and bass fleet as well as the recreational charter fleet and highlights the economic importance of these industries to the local economy. The group were interested to see the high value of these fisheries, combining to almost £4000000 for Gross output and indirect output, with the charter fleet accounting for over half of it.

## **IFCA conduct and operations report**

The group discussed the IFCA conduct and Operations report for the period of 2014 to 2018. The report describes how the 10 IFCAs in England have worked in four years up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. The report includes information provided by different IFCAs as well as information provided by stakeholders as part of DEFRA's call for evidence. Southern IFCA received the most responses and these were generally positive. One thing the report highlights is a growing tension between the commercial and recreational sectors. PC suggested to the group that it might be interesting for key members to get an insight into how the different sector worked and that a way to start might be inviting the chairman of the RASG to the fishermens council and vice versa, the group agreed this as an action and PC to follow up with fishermens council.

AD raised that only one of the responses within the report there 1 from an angling club. Members of the group felt that this may be because they are often run by volunteers with a limited time.

## **EMFF Smooth-Hound project**

PC raised that there was interest from CEFAS to attend a meeting and present around their EMFF project to look at the discard survival and movement rates of starry smooth-hounds and some of the tagging work associated with this. CH stated that it would be fine for them to attend.

## **Marine Conversation Zones**

PC reiterated the MCZ proposed timeline, and reminded the group that it was anticipated based on current timelines that there would be an announcement by June regarding designations. PH stated that there were still significant concerns over potential regulation of bream fishing.

AD enquired as to whether Southern IFCA had been consulted on any potential management measures for offshore overfalls. PC indicated that although outside of the Southern IFCA district he could see whether anything had been highlighted through the AIFCA project. PC update – no update other than MMO leading on assessments.

## **Any other business**

The group enquired as to whether there was any update on the high interest case regarding the removal of bass in a bass nursery area. PC could not provide any details on an active investigation, however was able to highlight that the first hearing was due where pleas would be entered. PC agreed to share further information when available.

CA also wanted to raise that there was a lack of cod on the wrecks currently. Other members agreed that there had been low levels of catches this year in particular.

## **Actions:**

PC to circulate summary of responses to netting consultation- complete

PC to invite relevant CEFAS staff to attend the next meeting to discuss tagging study - complete

PC to share press release regarding prosecutions when available - Complete

PC to consider an appropriate date to invite chairmen of Fishermen's Council and RASG to alternate meetings – date TBC