

Recreational Angling Sector Group – 26/04/2017 – 1700

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

AGENDA

Attendance

Chris Holloway

Alan Deeming

Trevor Gibbs

Brian Bleese

Charlie Annear

Phillip Higgins

Simon Pengelly

Paul Tomlinson

Robert Clark

Patrick Cooper

Apologies

Steve Porter

Wayne Comben

Tim Ward

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Ongoing actions include the further interrogation of flounder data from CEFAS surveys.

The previous meetings presentation regarding Ray identification and monitoring was discussed. Phil Higgins mentioned that he had followed up with Martin and Shiela Openshaw regarding potentially tagging but that they had decided not to proceed with this. Rob Clark mentioned that this was due to home office guidance regarding tagging.

ACTION – Rob to circulate home office guidance

2. MCZ Consultations - NE

It was explained to the group that due to the government currently being in Purdah Natural England were unable to attend the meeting to discuss MCZs as originally planned. Instead Rob Clark offered to discuss the previous round of consultations and the process behind MCZs including previous designations. MCZ meetings were held at various sites across the IFCA district, organized by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA and a number of members of the group stated they attended. At the meetings discussions were held over the MCZ process and to inform stakeholders that a third tranche would be considered. These meetings fell prior to formal consultation.

Members of the group discussed other designated sites and the possibility of management. Rob Clark stated that although it was positive that these conversations were being held, it was too early to discuss management measures. The attendance of the other DEFRA agencies at the meetings was discussed. Rob Clark raised that it may be useful in the future to invite the MMO along further to discuss their role, also regarding their responsibilities under the RBS scheme and landing obligations.

It was agreed that this matter could be discussed further when there were not governmental Purdah restrictions in place and other agencies could discuss.

3. Update on Outstanding matters

a. Wrasse (SP) -

At the previous meeting Simon Pengelly provided information on an emerging Wrasse fishery in the South West. Since the previous meeting officers had met with neighbouring IFCAs. All agreed that some form of management was required to protect the sustainability and to maintain the role of the species in the ecosystem. A 7 point plan had been devised by Southern IFCA which included:

1. Species specific minimum conservation reference sizes would serve to maintain recruitment into the fishery as through aligning minimum sizes with the size of sexual maturity individuals would be afforded the opportunity to reproduce prior to capture. The maximum size will maintain a balanced population structure through protecting the larger established family groups from capture.
2. Closed Areas to wrasse collection – Complete no take zones could be established likely linking up with parts of the MPA. As the species has a small home range these could be very effective.
3. Depth limits, with recommendations that fish are collected deeper than the 10 metre contour.
4. Effort limitation, restricting fishery for smaller vessels, pot limitation suitable for the size of vessel used.
5. Closed seasons – looking to gather evidence to protect the season during the reproductive season and spawning progress.
6. Bio-security – work with partners at CEFAS to monitor biosecurity issues, try to keep a responsible chain of custody.

7. Catch data – catch levels are important, collect catch information and work with the MMO to provide buyers and sellers information.

The group discussed the 7 point plan, particularly whether the measures were industry led and how they could be enforced if they were voluntary. Simon explained that having two main buyers, it meant it was unlike other industries as measures could be coordinated by the buyers who were keen for a sustainable supply of fish, Rob also stated that if this plan did not work regulation was an option. It was also reiterated that the measures would be based on evidence not industry led. Alan Deeming also asked whether it was clear when the closed season was. Indications suggest that the literature may not represent local communities, and Simon stated that Southern IFCA would work with the other affected IFCAs to investigate this further.

Action : - SP to circulate proposed closures.

b. Nearshore netting (SP) - BNA

Simon Pengelly set out the updates since the last meeting on nearshore netting and bass nursery areas. Simon raised that a paper had been submitted at the last meeting which set out a proposal to begin a round of consultation to identify fishing activities within the site prior to a more detailed consultation with all users. A more detailed update can be provided at subsequent meetings when Purdah restrictions do not apply.

4. IFCA Position Paper

Rob Clark shared the IFCA position paper with the group which had been produced by the association. The aim of the position paper was to highlight the opportunity for sustainable fisheries, avoid putting pressure on stocks, but allow coherent management decisions to be made. The group raised some concerns regarding the lack of detail on anglers. Rob stated that this had been taken on board and that the content and context of the paper could be discussed further outside of Purdah.

5. Any Other Business

Simon Pengelly shared new minimum landing size stickers with the group. The group was in agreement these were positive and suggested that a link to the Angling Trust Website could be included.

6. Date and Time of the next meeting – 26th July 2017 – TBC