

Recreational Angling Sector Working Group Meeting – 27/03/2019 – 17:00

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

Attendance:

Kim Gibbs (KG)
Sam Cummings (SC)
Steve Porter (SP)
Robert Clark (RC)
Rayner Piper (RP)
Alan Deeming (AD)
Chris Holloway (CH)
Charlie Annear (CA)
Patrick Cooper (PC)

Jane Lancaster (JL)
Chris Griffiths (CG)
Serena Wright (SW)

Apologies:

Tim Ferrero; Phil Higgins; Brian Bleese.

Agenda

1. Election of chairman

AS proposed that CH stand as chair again, SP seconded. The vote was carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

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

3. Aquind Marine Cable – Jane Lancaster

Jane Lancaster joined the group from Natural Power, the consultancy responsible for producing the environmental statement for the Aquind marine cable route. The project aims to build an interconnector subsea cable between the South Coast of England and Normandy in France. The route makes landfall in the Southern IFCA district at Eastney. JL took the group through the method of deployment, route and relevant sections of the environmental statement. The project was a nationally significant infrastructure project, and JL encouraged relevant members of the group to consider the consultation and make comment where appropriate. AD raised concern over the angling interests around an area known as Bullocks patch, which was important for bream fishing to anglers in the East of the Southern IFCA district, suggesting that the existing point data did not reflect the topology within the area and that there could be interaction with the proposed cable route.

JL directed anglers to the following website for more information:

<http://aquindconsultation.co.uk/>

4. CEFAS tagging program – EMFF smooth-hound project

Chris Griffiths (CG) and Serena Wright (SW) from CEFAS provided details on a tagging program CEFAS were undertaking of starry smooth-hound in order to better understand their

movements and discard survivability. Smooth-hound had been chosen as a species of interest due to emerging commercial/recreational species, the increasing trend of observations from trawl surveys and as they did not currently fall under any quota or other management system. The aim of the program, which was granted EMFF funding, included:

- Quantifying discard survival in a range of fishing fleets.
- Examine movement patterns, migratory behaviour and seasonal habitat use.

The project included a tagging program, which to date (at time of presenting) included >250 fish sampled, and tags deployed on those fish sampled using a combination of electronic tags, data storage tags and pop up data storage tags.

The work was ongoing and it was hoped that further analysis would provide data on:

- Movement patterns/behaviour
- Spatial temporal trends
- Length/mass/growth
- Post release survival rates

CG and SW asked the group to pass on information about the tagging program, and vitally to keep a look out for tags!

Members of the group highlighted that the majority of anglers return smooth-hound and also suggested contacting the Angling Trust to circulate details of tagging programs. AD also provided information on an area to the East of the IoW which was known to produce smooth-hound.

5. Landing obligation – AD

AD asked a question regarding the landing obligation not applying to recreational anglers and checking whether this meant that the minimum legal sizes would need to remain published. RC agreed that this was the case, although IFCA byelaws e.g. the skates and rays byelaw and were amended to ensure they did not conflict. RC also confirmed to the group that it was the opinion of the authority that minimum sizes applied to recreational anglers.

6. Outcomes of recent prosecutions

RC provided details on recent prosecutions within the Southern IFCA district, having circulated press releases regarding:

- A scallop dredger breaching a Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Closure
- An angler fined for not returning bass
- Removal of a quantity of undersize bass from a nursery area

RC highlighted the fines and costs associated with each. The group agreed that it was important to highlight when prosecutions and enforcement action taken in order to ensure that fishers are aware of potential consequences to illegal fishing.

7. EU exit preparedness

RC updated Members on the joint working plans arranged with the Marine Management Organization. A number of patrols had already been undertaken and officers were ready to provide support to partner organisations when required. Where appropriate Southern IFCA assets were available to be deployed with the MMO to high risk areas if required to collect evidence.

8. Bream IEG project – TBC

PC highlighted that there was currently a project bid for funding from the Impacts and Evidence Group subcommittee looking at populations of black bream on the South Coast and whether the populations were mixing or sub-populations. PC stated he would update the group if this project progressed.

Reports provided:

- Aquind consultation document
- Press releases:
 - o Tran and Tran
 - o Barron Bass Angling
 - o Crystal Waters Bull
- Minute of the previous meeting