

# SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2018

Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held in the Purbeck District Council Offices, Wareham at 1300 on Thursday 30 August 2018.

### Present

Dr A Jensen (Chairman, MMO Appointee)  
Mr R Stride (Vice Chairman, MMO Appointee)

Dr S Cripps	(MMO Appointee)
Mr N Horsman	(MMO Appointee)
Prof J Humphreys	(MMO Appointee)
Mr S Kershaw	(MMO Appointee)
Mr G Wordsworth	(MMO Appointee)
Dr R Morgan	(Natural England)
Dr K Sims	(Environment Agency)

The Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer Bateman, Finance and Administration Officer and IFCOs Birchenough, Cooper and Pengelly were also present. Dr T Ferrero (Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust), Ms S Wilson from Portland Harbour, Ms M Crabb (EA Student) and Ms S Minns (SIFCA Intern) attended in the public gallery.

### Election of Chairman

#### Resolved

57. That Dr Jensen be elected Chairman for the year 2018 - 2019.

### Election of Vice Chairman

#### Resolved

58. That Mr Stride be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2018 – 2019.

### Apologies

59. Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Legg, Ms L MacCallum and DCO Richardson.

### Declarations of interest

60. Members declared the pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the following Minutes: Mr Kershaw (68) Mr Wordsworth (62c, 66, 68, 70) Mr Horsman (62c) Mr Stride (62c, 62d,74,76) Dr Jensen (64) Dr Cripps (70)

### Minutes

61. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2018 and these were then confirmed and signed.

### Progress Report

62. a. **MCZ consultation response.** The Chief Officer explained that DEFRA had consulted on the Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ). He asked Members for their comments on the consultation response he had sent to DEFRA. Members were pleased that the cost to the Authority had been highlighted. They were concerned with the lack of detail and accuracy in the DEFRA consultation document.

b. **Solent Review** DCO Bateman updated Members on the progress of the review. Following pre-consultation it had been decided to present the Authority with a draft byelaw at the next full meeting in December with formal consultation to follow in the last quarter

## **SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2018**

of the financial year. DCO Bateman worked through the paper for Members. Many scenarios were being considered to create a flexible, enforceable byelaw. Mr Kershaw asked about harvesting areas and suggested it would be helpful if boundaries matched existing classification zones. Mr Stride said that the new byelaw would do what the Temporary Closure Byelaw had been made to do and asked if this byelaw would be revoked once the new byelaw was made? He asked that if temporary closures were to be incorporated into new measures, early notification to fishers would have to be achieved. The Chairman asked that the measures be future proofed for the different species of oyster in the Solent.

**c. Review of netting management** IFCO Pengelly updated Members following the recent Byelaw Working Group (BWG) meeting. Members had discussed the balance between the social and economic benefits and the different needs of users in the fisheries in question. Members had supported the use of estuaries and harbours for bass and other fish populations as nursery and refuge areas. He added that further consultation would follow. A consultation package was being developed to gather further evidence from users of the fisheries which would include new stakeholders who used the rivers. There would be targeted meeting and drop in sessions and he would bring the results to the TAC. The Chairman thanked the Members of the BWG for the time and effort involved.

**d. Cuttlefish.** Members considered the letter sent to DEFRA from the Chief Officer. Mr Stride thanked the Chief Officer for highlighting the fishery with DEFRA however he felt that more urgency was needed; he hoped he was not witnessing the collapse of the fishery which he thought DEFRA did not appreciate the importance of.. Mr Horsman added that cuttlefish were also important in the food chain not just to commercial fisheries.

### **Resolved**

63. That the updates be noted.

### **Solent Oyster Survey**

64. IFCO Cooper asked Members for their comments on the stock survey for the Solent. He explained that in this 5<sup>th</sup> year of surveying new areas were added following consultation with stakeholders. The report in its draft form had been put together with intern Sophie Minns who had put in a lot of effort into collating the data. Results depicted as part of a time series used the measure of individuals per metre of dredge per hour and the measure kg of oyster per metre of dredge per hour. Further analysis of data collected will follow and will be collated in a future report.

The Vice Chairman asked why a second dredge to collect smaller oysters had not been used and IFCO Cooper explained that this had been considered in a report presented to Members at a previous committee meeting. The decision to use the existing dredge was made as a finer mesh made the catches unrepresentative as the dredge would fill with other material and thus make the dredge in-efficient for targeting oysters. The Chairman agreed and said that the survey had to focus on sizeable oysters; there were not the resources to include collection of juveniles in the survey.

Members asked if Blue Marine would consider funding a recruitment survey and the Chief Officer agreed to suggest it.

The Chairman thanked IFCO Cooper and intern Sophie Minns for the work to produce the report in a short space of time.

### **Resolved**

65. That the Solent Oyster survey be received.

# **SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2018**

### **Solent Oyster Season 2018**

66. DCO Bateman asked Members to discuss the options for the forthcoming season. Having discussed the survey results from this year Members looked at the evidence to support the recommendations. DCO Bateman summarised that the findings of the Solent Oyster Survey. Based on the evidence from the stock assessment, DCO Bateman recommended that the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw is applied to all beds within the Solent with the exception of Ryde Middle, Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone Harbour.

Members were concerned that opening any areas could have a detrimental effect on the juvenile stock. Prof Humphreys felt that opening Ryde Middle may give useful data for next year to gauge the effect of working a previously closed bed. Dr Morgan said that Portsmouth Harbour had been open last year and showed some improvement however Langstone had not. Mr Wordsworth asked Members to appreciate that the oyster densities being discussed, despite being better than last year in some locations, were still at a low level when considered against historic fishing practices, but he did highlight the benefits of turning the ground, and how this could encourage spat to settle and therefore opening Ryde Middle would be useful for comparisons next year. The Vice Chairman felt that the duty of the Authority was to support sustainable fisheries but was opening areas, to give fishermen a short fishery, sustainable? Dr Sims was not convinced that the recommendations would address the problem. Mr Horsman asked about the Impact Assessment; would this be ready for the Full Authority meeting.

At the direction of the Chairman the Members considered the application of the temporary closure of shellfish beds byelaw, its intent and wording, in the context of the recommendations in the officer's report. Specifically, Members having regard to the data presented, considered that in the Solent fishery, the oyster beds, or parts therefore are so severely depleted as to require temporary closure in order to ensure recovery.

The Chairman thanked Members for their input and asked that recommendations be considered. Prof Humphreys proposed and Mr Horsman seconded the first recommendation that the byelaw be applied to all beds within the Solent with the exception of Ryde Middle. Of the nine Members present seven voted in favour and two voted against. Mr Horsman proposed and Prof Humphreys seconded the recommendation for Portsmouth Harbour to also remain also open. Of the nine Members present six voted in favour and three voted against.

Prof Humphreys proposed and Mr Horsman seconded the recommendation for Langstone Harbour to remain open. Of the nine Members present four voted in favour and five voted against.

The Chairman asked Members to agree the recommendation for an Impact Assessment for Ryde Middle to be presented to the Full Authority. Members agreed this under general consent.

### **Recommended**

67. a. That the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw be applied in the Solent with the exception of the following beds:  
Ryde Middle to remain open,  
Portsmouth Harbour to remain open,
- b. That an Impact Assessment be presented to the Full Authority in September.

### **Portland Harbour Several Order**

68. The Chief Officer explained to Members the background to the report. He welcomed Ms S Wilson from Portland Harbour Authority (PHA). He explained that the application for

## **SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2018**

a several order would enable PHA to balance the needs of users with interests of aquaculture in Portland Harbour. Prof Humphreys asked if the IFCA would have any responsibilities if/when the Several Order was confirmed? The Chief Officer explained that he had provided advise to PHA for their application, that Southern IFCA is a member of the PHA Harbour Consultative Committee but the management and administration of the Order would be for the PHA.

Members were supportive of a development that would bring more employment, food security and aquiculture growth to the area. Mr Kershaw asked what the relationship was between Portland Port and PHA. Ms Wilson gave a brief explanation of the group; PHA were the statutory authority and Portland Port were the commercial section which financed the management of the Harbour. She continued that the Several order proposals were not being made the generate income but to enable operators to make better use of the Harbour resources. Dr Cripps proposed and Dr Sims seconded the proposal to support the application. All Members present agreed.

### **Resolved**

69. That the Chief Officer write in support of the Several Order application.

### **Poole Harbour SSSI Consultation**

70. IFCO Birchenough explained to Members that Natural England are consulting on the notification to extend the Poole Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The extension includes areas below mean low water which had previously not been covered by the designation. This may impact in particular the Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 in relation to the placing of leased ground at the point of renewal of the leases in 2020. Prof Humphreys asked if fishermen would have to be notified of changes that could affect them? The Chief Officer did not think that would be necessary at the moment but there could be a regulatory burden put on the Authority. Dr Morgan agreed that the Management Plan currently being developed between the IFCA and NE would include reference to additional regulatory duties required of the Authority. IFCO Birchenough asked Members to provide comment that would form the consultation response from the Authority. Members agreed the recommendation by general consent.

### **Resolved**

71. That a formal consultation response be provided to Natural England.

### **Solent Bivalve Stock assessment 2018**

72. IFCO Birchenough explained the background to the survey which had commenced in 2017 and would be undertaken twice a year in the autumn and in the spring. The collected data would, over time when trends could be compared, be used to form a time series dataset to monitor trends and potential changes to populations which would support development of management measures. Members thanked IFCO Birchenough for a well-designed report.

### **Resolved**

73. That the report be received.

### **Whelk Intern Report**

74. IFCO Birchenough asked Members to receive the report written by intern Laura Baker on the review of research and management approaches for whelk fisheries in the UK. The data will be shared with other IFCA's at the Technical Advisory Group. The Vice Chairman said it was a welcome report however he did not totally agree with the

**SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2018**

conclusions for the breeding seasons. The Chairman thanked Ms Baker and IFCO Birchenough for the very informative report.

**Resolved**

75. That the report be received.

**CEFAS Crab and Lobster Stock Assessment 2017**

76. IFCO Pengelly explained for Members that the bi-annual CEFAS published report described the status of the European Lobster and the Edible crab stocks. These findings have relevance for the ongoing Authority potting management review.

**Resolved**

77. That the report be received.

**Date of Next Meeting**

78. That the next meeting of the TAC would be held on 22 November 2018 in Poole Harbour Commissioners Office.

79. There being no further business the meeting closed at 16.15

Chairman:

Date: