

# SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2017

Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held in the Council Chamber at Purbeck District Council at 1300 on Thursday 23 November 2017.

### Present

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

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Prof J Humphreys | (MMO Appointee)      |
| Mr S Kershaw     | (MMO Appointee)      |
| Mr T Legg        | (MMO Appointee)      |
| Ms L MacCallum   | (MMO Appointee)      |
| Mr G Wordsworth  | (MMO Appointee)      |
| Dr R Morgan      | (Natural England)    |
| Dr K Sims        | (Environment Agency) |

The Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officers Bateman and Richardson, Finance and Administration Officer, IFCOs Cooper, Birchenough and Pengelly were also present. Ms E Rance (Dorset Wildlife Trust), Mr T Ferrero (Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust) and Mr A Narozanski (Natural England) attended in the public gallery.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr Gary Wordsworth as a newly appointed MMO General Member to the Authority.

### Apologies

63. Apologies for absence were received from Dr S Cripps, Mr N Horsman and Mr P Johnson.

### Declarations of interest

64. Members declared the pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the following Minutes: Mr Legg (68, 70, 74) Dr Jensen (68) Mr Stride (70, 74) Mr Kershaw (76) Mr Wordsworth (68, 78)

### Minutes

65. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2017 and these were then confirmed and signed.

### Progress Report

66. **a. Secretary of State Confirmation of Byelaws.** IFCO Pengelly reported to Members that the byelaws Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016 and the Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw had been confirmed by the Minister. He updated Members on the additions to the restricted areas in the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw and explained about the seasonal closed areas and curfew times contained within the Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw. Mr Legg had some queries that had been raised at a recent Solent Oyster Fishermen's Association (SOFA) meeting regarding interpretation of regulations.

**b. MCZ Assessment and Management Update.** IFCO Pengelly gave Members an update on the assessment of the fishing activities and associated management measures for the Marine Conservation Zones within the district. He explained that the Tranche one assessments had been completed and formal advice from Natural England had been received. The Authority had one site in Tranche two; The Needles and the part

## **SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2017**

A assessment had been completed for bottom towed fishing gear and formal advice had been received from Natural England for part B trawling activities. The Chairman asked if DEFRA had indicated the timeline for the third Tranche. The Chief Officer reported that the consultation was due to start in May 2018 with the designation to follow within 12 months of that date. The Chairman thanked IFCO Gravestock for keeping to the Authority timetable and fulfilling the commitment of management of the MCZs.

### **Resolved**

67. That the updates be noted.

Dr Jensen passed the Chair to Mr Stride for the next item on the agenda as he had declared an interest.

### **Solent Oyster Restoration Project**

68. Members considered the draft document that outlined the Solent Oyster Management Plan (SOMP). The Vice Chairman asked for clarification on some of the terms used and Mr Kershaw asked if there could be more precision in the language so there was no confusion with other legislative terms. The Chief Officer offered to include a glossary with the final version. He continued that the draft plan highlighted the number of partners involved and their differing roles and responsibilities and the vision for the future. Members agreed that it was a positive start, it was good to involve the partner organisations in the future plans even though they may only be able to commit short term.

Ms MacCallum asked if the wording of the vision could be reviewed as she felt the second paragraph could give a negative impression. Mr Legg asked that the commercial sector continue to be involved in the future plans and he asked if more could be included on predation; mainly tangles. The Chairman agreed that inclusion of all sectors was important and as both the previous recent studies had shown, there were many factors that contributed to the decline of oyster stocks. Mr Legg asked if cultivation of the non-native Pacific oyster would be considered and the Chief Officer said this was not being considered at this time.

The Chief Officer asked Members to forward any further comments for him to formulate into the final draft plan with Professor Humphreys for consultation with the stakeholder community prior to its adoption. Ms MacCallum proposed and Dr Sims seconded the recommendations and all Members who had not declared an interest agreed.

### **Resolved**

69. a. That the Solent Oyster Management Plan be further improved with comments forwarded to the Chief Officer.

b. That stakeholders be consulted over the Plan.

Dr Jensen re-took the Chair for the next items.

### **Inshore VMS**

70. The Chief Officer updated Members on the progress of the project to use the inshore vessel monitoring systems (iVMS) as a tool to support and manage inshore fisheries in England. He reported that this system used the inexpensive 3G/GSM/GPRS network rather than global satellites and was typically used to monitor smaller fishing vessels working inshore. This would be a useful tool for both the MMO and IFCA in managing Marine Protected Areas and other restricted areas. A specification has been developed by a team led by IFCA and the MMO that would capture accurate and timely information

## **SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2017**

about location and activities of regulated vessels. The team had developed policies and processes that would give a consistent approach across IFCA districts and with the MMO. Authority officers have been heavily involved in the testing of the equipment with Devon and Severn IFCA and the Chief Officer thanked IFCO Dell for the commitment and time spent on the trial project and his continued involvement with the project team.

Mr Legg said that he thought this could be a very useful tool for the industry but he was concerned over the reliability of the equipment and the processes for breakdowns, malfunctions; had these issues been considered or overcome in the testing. Mr Wordsworth agreed it would be beneficial to be monitored to prove legitimate activity for the industry but he shared the concern of reliability and asked what funding would be available. Prof Humphreys felt that this could free up officer time and allow resources to be used elsewhere and asked if the Authority could be involved in the pilot project with fishermen using the system voluntarily. The Vice Chairman was also concerned of the reliability and added that this system would be beneficial to many organisations who would use the statistical information gathered and therefore should be funded by central government.

In summing up the Chairman reiterated the concerns on robustness of the system. He added that the Authority would like the opportunity to be involved in a pilot project if offered.

### **Resolved**

71. That the report be noted.

### **Berried Lobsters**

72. IFCO Pengelly updated Members on the introduction of a Statutory Instrument (SI) to prohibit fishing for or landing of berried (egg bearing) lobsters in English waters. Whilst the existing Southern byelaw prohibits the removal of berried lobsters from the districts waters, the new legislation goes a step further by prohibiting the fishing for berried lobsters outside 6nm in English waters, importantly also prohibiting the landing of any berried lobsters into English ports. Members agreed this SI was a good step forward.

### **Resolved**

73. That the update be noted.

### **ICES Bass**

74. The Chief Officer updated Members on the recently published International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) bass stock advice for 2018. He explained that this advice should be noted.

### **Resolved**

75. That the report be noted.

### **Southampton Water Bivalve Stock Assessment 2017**

76. IFCO Birchenough asked Members to receive the report on the initial findings from the first year of a dredge survey carried out in Southampton Water to look at the population of bivalve species. The study would show the activity of the commercial clam dredge fishery which operated in Southampton Water and across the wider Solent. A local fishing vessel assisted using a box clam dredge as used by the commercial fishers. She explained that it was difficult to determine any patterns at the end of the first year of survey but over time the dataset on the population would be useful when identifying trends and patterns for future management. Mr Legg asked if any of the prohibited areas had been

**SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2017**

used and she confirmed they had been avoided. Mr Kershaw offered to send more accurate wording for hygiene regulations. Prof Humphreys asked if a wider size range could be included but in discussion, it was decided that this would prove difficult using the commercial dredge which would not retain undersized clams. The Chairman thanked IFCO Birchenough for the informative report.

**Resolved**

77. That the report be noted.

**Poole Harbour Clam & Cockle MSC/RFS Demonstration Project**

78. IFCO Birchenough updated Members on the progress of the assessment of the Poole Harbour Clam and Cockle fishery under the Marine Stewardship Council Sustainability Certification. She reminded Members that in September they had viewed the Client Draft Report produced by ME Certification Ltd. This report included two conditions that had to be addressed by the third year audit. The report and conditions would go for peer review followed by a public consultation.

She continued that the timeline for the certification continued to be consistent and it was anticipated that the MSC process would be completed prior to the end of the funding period in April 2018. Mr Wordsworth who was also a member of the Poole and District Fishermen's Association, who were partners in the scheme, thanked IFCO Birchenough for her involvement in organising the scheme and Ms Rance for taking on the process of instructing the permit holders.

**Resolved**

79. That the report be noted.

**Date of Next Meeting**

80. That the next meeting of the TAC would be held on 1 February 2018 in Solent University Southampton.

81. There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:05

Chairman:

Date: