

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 22 NOVEMBER 2018

Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held in the Poole Harbour Commissioners Offices, Poole at 1300 on Thursday 22 November 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 T Legg	(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 IFCO Pengelly and Smith were also present. Dr T Ferrero (Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust), Ms E Rance from Dorset Wildlife Trust, Mr S Matthews, Mr C Smith and Mr M Klink attended in the public gallery.

Apologies

80. Apologies for absence were received from Ms L MacCallum and DCO Richardson.

Declarations of interest

81. Members declared the pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the following Minutes: Dr Cripps (83c) Mr Stride (83a, 83b), Mr Wordsworth (83a,87), Mr Legg (83a, 83b, 85), Mr N Horsman (83a, 83b, 83c), Mr Kershaw (83c, 85) Dr Jensen (85, 87)

Minutes

82. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2018 and these were then confirmed and signed.

Progress Report

83. a. **Review of Netting Management.** IFCO Pengelly updated Members on the progress of the 8-week long consultation. A number of drop-in events had been arranged, meeting with individuals and fishing groups to capture views from the local community. There had been a wide range of comments received and the closing date for replies was 7th December. Once the replies had been collated a summary will be presented to the TAC. Mr Horsman asked when the areas outside harbours and estuaries would be reviewed. Would that come in a second phase? The Chairman reported that the first area to concentrate on had been the harbours and estuaries, driven by the requirements of the EA to protect the migratory species. The Chief Officer reminded Members that one objective of the Authority was to review nearshore netting; the current consultation was the start of this process.

b. Bass Regulations. The Chief Officer reported that the regulations for 2018 had been amended in October and he handed out the 2019 ICES proposals that would be debated by the December European Parliament Council.

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 22 NOVEMBER 2018

c. FLAG. IFCO Pengelly updated Members on the progress of the Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) which has obtained funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to enable a partnership project to provide greater community awareness and support for local MPAs. Workshops facilitated by Dorset Coast Forum have been arranged for three dates in December. Following on from these the Authority will provide four fishery management plans to provide relevant information on the value of sites, management and the legal framework required. Members were concerned over the costs involved and the Chief Officer confirmed that the Authority would receive part of the EMFF to cover costs. Mr Wordsworth reported that similar projects in other counties have greatly benefited the local communities, economically and environmentally.

d. Asian Date Mussel. The Chairman told Members that Dr T Ferrero from the HIWWT had asked to bring to Members attention details of a newly identified invasive species. Dr Ferrero explained that evidence of this mollusc in Southampton Water was becoming more frequent having first been seen in 2011. In 2016 there were nine recordings in the Netley area and further reports in Hythe and Town Quay. He had brought this to the attention of the Authority because of the negative effects over seagrass beds or aquaculture cages as the habit of the species was to form mats. Dr Ferrero reported that HIWWT would be happy to assist the Authority in evidence gathering. Mr Stride asked if the obligation of fishers was to not return them to the sea. The Chief Officer said he would seek advice from the MMO and Mr Kershaw added he would ask advise of the native species team within CEFAS. The Chairman thanked Dr Ferrero for bringing the matter to the attention of Members.

Resolved

84. That the updates be noted.

Draft Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw

85. DCO Bateman briefed Members on the background review of existing management of bivalve fisheries and the requirements to develop appropriate measures to ensure sustainability of these fisheries. She worked through the papers to describe the flexible permit scheme. Two supporting papers; Access policy and Management intentions document would require further in-depth discussion by the Byelaw Working Group. At this stage she asked Members to comment on the draft byelaw that would be tabled for the Full Authority in December, agree the proposed permit fee and agree to amend the Standing Orders to reflect the introduction of the new permit. Part of the package included the Habitats Regulations Assessments completed by IFCO Smith, awaiting final confirmation from Natural England and the Impact Assessment completed by IFCA Cooper.

The Chairman thanked DCO Bateman for the details. He told Members that a date had been arranged for a BWG to discuss the accompanying documents so these documents could be formalised in time to support the Permit Byelaw when it is publicly consulted on early next year.. Members briefly discussed these papers and feedback was taken by DCO Bateman to feed into the BWG meeting. The Chairman asked Members to comment as he worked through the individual parts of the draft byelaw. Under the heading 'Interpretations' Members decided that 'seabed zones' was better than 'bivalve harvesting zones'.

Under 'Prohibitions' Members discussed whether dredge gear would ever be used recreationally as the permit would only be issued to commercial fishers and discussion

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 22 NOVEMBER 2018

regarding 'other materials' concluded with no changes. There were no comments under 'Exceptions'.

Under 'Dispensations' Members decided that 'education' should be added to the list of purposes. Under 'Issue of Permit' the Vice Chairman asked that majority shareholder is referred to but in the case of equal shareholders this would need to be amended. Under 'Cost of Permit' Members asked what the figure of £215 covered and DCO Bateman explained this would cover the administration costs of setting up and running the permit scheme; surveys costs had not been added to this fee at this stage but the byelaw allowed for this to be taken into consideration.

Members had no comments under 'Number of Permits' or 'Flexible Permit Conditions'. Under 'Review Procedure' Members Mr Horsman asked why these measures were not specified in the byelaw. DCO Bateman explained that the flexible conditions had to be in the accompanying documents as these could be amended or updated accordingly but the wording within the byelaw could not be altered once agreed. Mr Legg asked if the Authority would be able to determine the classifications and open or close areas to fall in with these. The Chairman explained that it was the Food Standards Agency that determined the classifications through the environmental health departments within the local councils. The Authority has done and would continue to include the local authorities in updates to the fishery regulations. DCO Bateman hoped that one of the positive outcomes of the permit could be showing viable fishing ground would generate regular monitoring and lead to robust classifications. Prof Humphreys asked for editing of some of the numbering. Members had no comments under 'Breach of Permit Conditions'. The Vice Chairman asked for explanations of wording within the 'Revocations'. The Chairman asked Members to agree the byelaw wording. Mr Legg left the room and took no part in the vote. Dr Cripps proposed and Mr Kershaw seconded the proposal and all Members present agreed the byelaw. The Chairman asked Members to decide on the fee for the individual permits as recommended. Mr Stride proposed and Mr Horsman seconded the proposal. All Members present agreed the fee. The Chairman asked Members to agree the amendment to Standing Orders. Mr Stride proposed and Mr Kershaw seconded the proposal. All Members present agreed the changes.

Recommended

86.
 - a. That the byelaw be tabled to the Full Authority.
 - b. That at the time of implementation the fee for each permit will be £215.
 - c. That Standing Orders be amended to allow the Licence Interview Committee to issue permits.

Portland Mussel Seed Fishery Application

87. IFCO Pengelly briefed Members on the application to remove seed mussels from east of Portland Bill to be laid in Poole Harbour. The site is adjacent to the Studland to Portland Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The Authority had to consider the potential effects of the proposed activity. Natural England had been consulted and IFCO Smith had completed a TSLE for the proposed activity. The applicant had conducted their own survey of the seabed and also looked at the impact to other users of the site. Members asked if the original site, which fell partially within the SAC, could be used and Dr Morgan reported that the original beds had not recovered sufficiently from storm weather so the applicant had been asked to go outside this area. Members were happy with the proposals to provide written consent for one year to 31st December 2019 and agree the recommendations by general consent.

**SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 22 NOVEMBER 2018**

Resolved

88. a. a total of no more than 500 tonnes of mussels be removed during the period
b. Mussel fishing is restricted to the agreed area.
c. All mussels landed shall be relayed for a minimum of 6 months on a Several Fishery within Poole Harbour.
d. The vessel will be fitted with an operational VMS unit.
e. Notification to the SIFCA office is required before fishing operations begin.
f. That the Authority retains the right to alter or suspend the permission.

Byelaw Process

89. IFCO Pengelly explained to Members the importance of formalising the byelaw making process. Officers use the DEFRA guidance issued in 2011 and Southern IFCA byelaw making flow diagram. IFCO Pengelly asked Members to note the report.

Resolved

90. That the documents be noted.

Date of Next Meeting

91. That the next meeting of the TAC would be held on 7 February 2019 in Poole Harbour Commissioners Office.

92. There being no further business the meeting closed at 15.13

Chairman:

Date: