

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2019

Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held in Unit 3 Holes Bay Park, Poole at 1300 on Thursday 7 November 2019.

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)
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 Officer Bateman and Richardson, Finance and Administration Officer and IFCOs Birchenough, Pengelly and Smith were also present. Members of the public in attendance were Mr C and Mr S Matthews (Warsash Inshore Fisherman's Group) and Dr T Ferrero (H&IW Wildlife Trust)

The Chief Officer explained that following the confirmation of a general election scheduled for 12 December the Authority meeting arranged for that day had been postponed until Monday 16 December and would be held in Poole. He continued that as a local authority body during the pre-election period the Authority would be constrained by purdah and one item on the agenda would be for information only to be discussed following the lifting of the restriction.

The Chairman welcomed Messrs Matthews who had requested their correspondence be read to the Members; he continued that this would be done following the approval of the Minutes of the last meeting in keeping with Standing Order 7b vii.

Apologies

60. Apologies for absence were received from Ms R Irish (MMO Appointee)

Declarations of interest

61. Members declared the pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the following Minutes: Mr Legg (63b, 63c, 65), Mr Stride (63d, 65), Mr Horsman (63b, 63d, 65, 69), Dr Sims (63d, 65), Mr Kershaw (63c), Dr Morgan (63b, 63d, 65), Mr Wordsworth(63c, 63d, 65, 67), Dr Cripps (67)

Minutes

62. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2019 and these were then confirmed and signed.

In accordance with Standing Order Schedule 2 the Chairman read to Members the letter submitted by representatives of the Warsash Inshore Fisherman's Group regarding netting practises in Southampton Water. In the correspondence the Group asked for a

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meeting to discuss new evidence. The Chairman was happy to agree this request stating that it would have to be in the new year when purdah would be lifted.

Progress Report

63. a. **Review of potting management.** IFCO Smith updated Members on the progress of the review of whelk, cuttlefish, crab and lobster fisheries in the district. She reported that the working group had started developing draft management measures for recreational fishers and further meetings were scheduled (next in December) to consider commercial activities and evidence that she was gathering.

b. **Marine Conservation Zones.** IFCO Smith reminded Members that the third tranche of MCZ designations had been announced in May 2019. Officers had identified the high risk activities and Natural England were considering the draft reports for part A assessments. IFCO Smith continued that she was now concentrating on the part B assessments which would be considered by Members before they were sent to Natural England for their advice. Members had previously stressed concern that the extra workload could not be managed with the existing resources. The Chief Officer reported that he had written to DEFRA with these concerns and they had confirmed that the cost to IFCA had been incorrectly attributed to the MMO in the Impact Assessment which accompanied the designation of the new sites.. He and Prof Humphreys would be discussing these issues later this month with DEFRA. The Chairman thanked IFCO Smith for the updates.

c. **CEFAS Biosecurity Inspections Poole 2019.** DCO Richardson gave Members a brief background on the aquaculture regulations currently in place and the requirement of an annual inspection of imported stock by the Fish Health Inspectorate. Under the Poole Fishery Order 2015 the Authority operated an Aquaculture Production Business (APB) which came with a high level of responsibility through conditions attached to the authorisation. Records of applications for imported shellfish are retained in the Biosecurity Measures Plan and this can be inspected at any time by CEFAS officers to ensure compliance with import and movement regulations. DCO Richardson reported that following the inspection last month, he had received a letter formally confirming that the APB was fully compliant. Mr Wordsworth told Members that CEFAS had stated that the Southern IFCA regime was the strictest and the best in the country. Members thanked DCO Richardson for the well managed processes that he had put in place.

d. **Netting Review Update.** IFCO Pengelly updated Members on the progress of the review undertaken by officers and the working group who were now at the draft byelaw stage. He explained that officers would draft the byelaws and work on the associated Habitat Regulation Assessments and SSSI requirements to meet the conservation objectives. The development of Impact Assessments would set out anticipated costs and benefits, nature conservation, sustainable development, environmental, social and economic implications. He continued that further informal stakeholder engagement to consider the draft byelaws and associated papers would be undertaken following purdah then the revised draft byelaws would be considered by the Authority, in line with scheduled meetings in 2020 and follow the standard procedures for formal consultation and confirmation of the byelaws by the Secretary of State. Mr Legg said he understood what the cost and benefit would be to the fishermen but asked if it could be shown how the fish species would benefit from the intervention of management measures and Prof Humphreys agreed that quantifying the 'worthwhileness' of introducing restrictions was important. Dr Cripps asked if the letter to stakeholders could include a paragraph saying

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why they were being contacted; why SIFCA were reviewing the fisheries. The Chairman thanked IFCO Pengelly for the detailed update.

Resolved

64. That the reports be noted.

Net Fishing HRAs and SSSI Assessment

65. IFCO Birchenough asked Members to note the revised Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) for the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and River Avon SAC. These assessments were needed as both sites had Atlantic salmon listed as a feature and were 'functionally linked' to the proposed Harbour and Estuarine Net Management areas of Southampton Water and Christchurch Harbour respectively. She also explained the introduction of a template SSSI Assessment as these would be required in the future for any management changes, and for designated rivers that were linked to net management areas where Atlantic Salmon or Sea trout were noted in the SSSI citations.

Mr Horsman asked if this would increase the workload and IFCO Birchenough told Members that it was hard to predict how much staff time would be required; assistance from Natural England and Environment Agency would be available.

The Chairman thanked IFCO Birchenough for the amazing well put together HRAs. Members agreed the quality of the evidence gathered and compiled was incredible. Members agreed the recommendations under general consent.

Recommended

66. a. That informal advice be sought from Natural England
b. Officers are delegated to amend the HRAs in consultation with the Chairman of the BWG, before seeking formal consultation with Natural England.

Mr Wordsworth left the room and took no part in the next item.

Poole Harbour Dredge Permit

67. IFCO Birchenough explained for Members that the Permit byelaw requires a review of permit conditions every three years or sooner. The review would include a consultation of permit holders and other key stakeholders. A review can be triggered by a request from a percentage of permit holders. A request has been received and IFCO Birchenough asked Members for their permission to review the permit conditions specifically relating to the timing of the dredge season. IFCO Birchenough worked through the permit condition flowchart. Members asked when the last permit review had taken place. IFCO Birchenough explained that it had been the previous year, relating to conditions imposed by the MSC certification. Members discussed if it was an appropriate use of officer time to undertake another review so soon. They asked if permit holders could be consulted on other aspects of the conditions, not just the season timing to pick up any other concerns they may have. Members agreed the recommendation under general consent.

Recommended

68. That the review is approved.

Repeal of EC850/98 - Update

69. The Chief Officer explained that The Sea Fishing (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2019 had been made and as a consequence The Sea Fishing (Enforcement) Regulations 2018 Schedule has been amended. The Inshore Fisheries and Conservation

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Officers were as a consequence, amongst other things, empowered to enforce Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy This measure re-instated powers lost through the repeal of EC850/98.

Resolved

70. That the paper be noted.

Date of Next Meeting

71. That the next meeting of the TAC would be held on 6 February 2020 in the office.

72. There being no further business the meeting closed at 14:40

Chairman:

Date: