

MINUTES OF THE SUSSEX RSA PARTNERSHIP

Time 19.00
Date 4 July 2018
Location Sussex IFCA Offices, 378-380 Brighton Rd, Shoreham, BN43 6RE
Chair Brett Lomas
Present Andrew Coombes, Mark Gillen, Barry Goodhew (Sussex IFCA), Steve Green, Barry Jones, Dickie Leggett, Tim Macpherson, Francis Parfremment, Reg Phillips, Dave Ponsford, Steve Tapp.

1 Welcome to Members and Apologies

The chairman, Brett Lomas, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Graham Furness, John Small, Tony Chant and Kathryn Nelson.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting 27 March 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2018 were agreed.

3 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4 Sussex IFCA Small Fish Surveys (Kathryn Nelson-SxIFCA)

Kathryn Nelson, SxIFCA Senior Fisheries & Conservation Research Officer, was unable to attend the meeting. Byron, a student from Sparsholt Collage in Hampshire working with the SxIFCA, explained that juvenile fish surveys in Chichester Harbour were now part of the Sparsholt syllabus. Surveys followed the same protocol to those of SxIFCA surveys and could be found on the SxIFCA website, together with reports of SxIFCA surveys. <https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/research-and-science>

5 Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM) Update (Barry Goodhew-SxIFCA)

Barry Goodhew reported on the 8th Annual IFM Specialist Conference – Fisheries Management in Estuarine and Coastal Waters which he and other members of the SxIFCA had attended. Kathryn Nelson has presented 'Small Fish Surveys in Sussex Coastal Waters: Catches and Collaborations' in Session 3, Survey Methods, Citizen Science and Partnerships.

- Wrasse fishery: Research into the use of wrasse by Scottish salmon farms was being led by the Devon and Severn IFCA. There was no wrasse fishery in Sussex other than for pot bait. In the Devon and Severn district some 47,000 wrasse had been removed. In Sussex a potting byelaw was in place which was not specific to shellfish (wrasse were caught in pots).
- Coastal and Estuarine Management: Research around estuaries and coastal waters was being driven by the Water Framework Directive. Fish could be an indicator of water quality.

- Citizen Science: Students and volunteers were increasingly being used to support surveys. The UK Shark Tagging Programme (now within the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme) was trying to get funding to expand its work.
- Bluefin Tuna fishery: David Mitchell of the Angling Trust had given a presentation on Bluefin tuna in UK waters. Members felt that Bluefin tuna had been seen in Sussex waters.
- Sea Angler Survey 2018: Some of the outputs of the Sea Angler Survey 2018 were presented by Barry Goodhew. The Partnership discussed the estimates of the number of sea anglers and the angler spend. The number of anglers estimated by the annual Watersports Participation Survey (commissioned by British Marine, Royal Yachting Association (RYA), Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA), Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), British Canoeing (BC) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)) was also discussed.

6 Sussex IFCA (Barry Goodhew-SxIFCA)

- Nearshore Trawling Consultation/Netting Byelaw Review Consultation: Barry Goodhew explained that the consultation had generated a number of responses though more would have been welcomed. The comments were being collated into a spreadsheet and a report would be distributed to the SxIFCA committee by the end of the month.
- Tranche 3 MCZ Consultation: Barry Goodhew explained that the consultation on Tranche 3 would come to an end shortly. Tranche 3 included Selsey Bill and the Hounds as well as Beachy Head East. In answer to a question, Barry Goodhew explained that the Pagham Harbour MCZ byelaws had not yet been signed off by DEFRA.

7 Projects and Updates from Members

- The Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme: Steven Tapp gave an update on the line recycling project. A press release with details was being released today. An online survey of anglers' attitudes to recycling and quantities of line used had generated over 1000 responses. Over 100 tackle shops were now involved. The press release is at annex 1 and relevant links are below.
- <https://www.facebook.com/AnglersLineRecycling/>
<https://www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk/recycling-locations>
- Byelaws for Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England: Reg Phillips explained that Natural England had a consultation underway about introducing byelaws for sites of special scientific interest.
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/byelaws-for-sssis/>
He was concerned that angling might have to prove 'no detrimental effect' on SSSIs. Francis Parfremment explained how Local Nature Reserve byelaws had increasingly restricted angling in Pagham Harbour for no conservation benefit.
- MCRS for Mullet: Andrew Coombes explained that there was no MCRS for mullet and wondered why. There was no quota for mullet. If numbers were declining then the precautionary principle should be invoked. After discussion it was not clear why there was no MCRS. To bring in a byelaw for mullet fishing more data would be required to make a decision.
- Mesh sizes used by commercial fishermen not reflecting the increase in bass MCRS: Andrew Coombes asked whether commercial fishermen had

increased mesh size to accommodate the increase in bass MCRS to 42cm. He felt that 90mm mesh would catch bass below the MCRS. Nets targeting mullet could catch undersize bass.

8 Any Other Business

Brett Lomas asked whether the byelaws for the Kingmere MCZ were working. It was felt that boat numbers were down and that some anglers were not confident about boundaries.

9 Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed.

ANNEX 1

ANGLERS NATIONAL LINE RECYCLING PRESS RELEASE

As you may be aware the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme, founded by Local Independent Sea Anglers, has grown quickly over the last 3 months since it was launched. We now have 120 shops across the UK, a dozen fisheries and some sea charter boats signed up with recycling bins in situ. To date we have had over 400,000 m of line returned to us in the last three months and know this will grow rapidly with many shops planning on sending line back to us soon as their bins are filling up.

Back in March we, as in LISA / ANLRS, created an online survey for anglers about line use and recycling preferences with our friends at Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI). This has now been completed and we received 1060 responses from anglers, which is a high number for any type of independent angling survey.

The results of the survey can be seen via the link below and is downloadable as a PDF if you so wish.

<https://www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk/survey>

There is a media briefing page at the end of the document for you as well. The survey has thrown up some fascinating information including a potential annual line usage figure for the UK of over 1.25 million kilometres with an estimated weight of around 175 metric tonnes. From these figures alone, it is obvious that as an industry we need to be responsible in trying to encourage as much of this to be recycled as possible rather than going to landfill or incineration.

The ANLRS volunteers would be greatly appreciative of any publicity you can give this survey in your magazine or via social media along with getting anglers and the trade involved in the scheme. It is vital to get the message about the availability of recycling points to the grass roots anglers and hopefully you can assist us with this.

If you require any further details about the survey, the scheme or the organisation behind it please have a look at the website or drop us an email. Alternatively, you can call Viv Shears on 07843 3306661

Many thanks

Viv & Steve
ANLRS Volunteers

Angler's National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS)

www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk

[ANLRS Facebook Page](#)