

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

at Sussex Yacht Club, 85/89 Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-Sea

**PRESENT**

***Members***

Prof. Peter Jones (Chair)  
Councillor Leo Littmann (Deputy Chair, Brighton & Hove City Council) Online  
Councillor Julia Hilton (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Sam Adeniji (East Sussex County Council) Online  
Councillor Pieter Montyn (West Sussex County Council)  
Prof. Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Jim Partridge (MMO Appointee)  
Garry Walker (MMO Appointee)  
Gary Edwards (MMO Appointee)  
Dr. Paul Driver (MMO Appointee)  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Corina Ciocan (MMO Appointee)  
Sally Ashby (MMO Appointee) Online  
Paula Daghish (MMO Appointee) Online  
Mark Thain (MMO Appointee) Substituting for Paul Johnson

***Staff***

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Angharad Purcell (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Lucy Francis (Finance Manager)  
Jen Lewis (Senior Research Officer) Online  
George Balchin (Senior Conservation and Research Officer)  
Rebecca Belleni (Committee Manager and Personal Assistant to SMT)  
Jake Wilson (Fisheries & Conservation Research Officer)  
Vanessa Simons (Fisheries & Conservation Research Officer) Online

**1 CHIEF OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Prof. Peter Jones opened the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Committee meeting of the financial year 2022/23 and welcomed all who were in attendance in person and online. Highlighting to members and staff this was the last quarterly meeting of our current planning year.

- 1.2 Tim Dapling continued introductions with a welcome to Mark Thain from the MMO who was standing in for Paul Johnson and Pete Davies from Plymouth University who will be presenting on the FISH INTEL project today.
- 1.3 Tim Dapling highlighted to members that there were some interesting decision items on today's agenda, the most significant being Beachy Head East MCZ development and work around the informal consultations which we will explain in detail. He also noted that a short film will be shown today as part of the workshops.
- 1.4 Tim Dapling mentioned Rebecca Belleni, Committee Manager who had now been with the Authority for over six months and had quickly settled in to administering Authority meetings.

## **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mark Bennett (Environment Agency)  
Councillor Tom Liddard (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Emma Evans (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Noel Atkins (West Sussex County Council)  
Andy Read (MMO Appointee)

## **3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 Gary Edwards, Jim Partridge and Garry Walker declared an interest.

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 The Chair, Prof. Peter Jones, asked for any comments and corrections from members on the minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Committee Meeting.
- 4.2 Paula Daghish emailed comments with regards to item 14.5 to amend wording '*While the zonal management is preferable to no management, (and therefore NE support the management as noted) NE have concerns that angling may be causing disturbance to Black Bream when they are most sensitive as set out in our response to the Guiding Principles.*'

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

## **5. Matters Arising**

- 5.1 Tim Dapling began with the DEFRA consultation for flyseine vessel pressure on demersal Non-Quota Species and thanked members for their input. The final response was sent to DEFRA but there has been no response to points raised in the letter or developments on the introduction of measures.
- 5.2 Tim Dapling informed the committee on the increase of work with regards to developing Fisheries Management Plans, advising that this is a result of leaving the European Union, creation of the new Fisheries Act 2020 and domestic requirements for the management of UK's marine fisheries. This was previously managed under the Common Fisheries Policy. DEFRA is progressing with new domestic FMP's with key frontrunner species plans for crab, lobster, whelk and non-quota channel species, all of which are particularly significant in the Sussex area.
- 5.3 Tim Dapling continued by advising that Seafish were taking the lead on engagement and development of the crab & lobster and whelk FMPs. They had recently held public meetings to consult with the industry on management of these three species.
- 5.4 Jim Partridge who attended the Seafish crab and lobster stressed that in theory it's a good idea, but they need to look at other aspects that contribute to this, such as fleet management, mortality being a result of trawling, fixed gear, scallop dredging. He feels it's a wasted effort without taking these factors into consideration.
- 5.5 Tim Dapling commented on the extremely low attendance at these meetings which were organised by Seafish and which could have been very beneficial if more fishermen had been present. He followed on to mention that as an individual IFCA and collectively through the AIFCA we are trying to engage and raise awareness around FMP's and the importance of inshore fisheries, the concern being that offshore fisheries management can dominate management considerations. It was essential that inshore fisheries are protected with appropriate data and science being considered.
- 5.6 Paul Leonard advised on an online symposium on crab and lobster that is useful and very informative.
- 5.7 Jim Partridge raised the importance of a balanced fishery and concern around the gap between 10m – 30m boats, with reference to the bigger boats buying up units and continue to expand.
- 5.8 Garry Walker wanted to highlight the relationship between commercial fishermen and SxIFCA. He feels this needs to be improved on due to the turnout to Seafish meetings that were spoken of previously.

- 5.9 Tim Dapling explained to Garry that these meetings were organised by Seafish and not SxIFCA. We did however circulate the invite to all contacts including fishermen.
- 5.10 Gary Edwards added that if fishermen are expected to turn up to meetings and therefore potentially lose a day's work they should be paid by the organisers.
- 5.11 Tim Dapling agreed that it was difficult for fishermen to give up work time for such meetings. He concluded by reminding members of the expenses and lost earnings form that can be submitted for reimbursement on attending today's meeting.
- 5.12 Prof. Peter Jones asked if there were any other matters arising today.
- 5.13 Paul Leonard made reference to the Nearshore Trawling Byelaw monitoring report with Blue Marine Foundation and Plymouth University from item 7.7 on previous minutes. Paul thanked George Balchin for supplying this and asked Tim Dapling if the Byelaw was being reviewed this year.
- 5.14 Tim Dapling confirmed there was currently no intention or plan to review the Nearshore Trawling Byelaw.
- 5.15 Paul Leonard added that the report was extensive and for the benefit of the committee should be summarised.
- 5.16 Paul Leonard secondly mentioned item 14.8 from the previous minutes where Jim Partridge had spoken on the electro-magnetic fields in breeding grounds. He advised CEFAS has been working on this and he will be visiting them in February to which he will hopefully have more updates thereafter.
- 5.17 Prof. Peter Jones thanked Paul Leonard for this information.

## **6 DECISION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Annual Management Plan Priorities 2023/24**

- 6.2 Prof. Peter Jones introduced the first of three decision items to be discussed and approved. He explained to the committee that as it was the final quarter for this year, we need to start our forward-looking cycle in planning for next year.
- 6.3 Tim Dapling presented the report which states our focus and priorities at SxIFCA for 2023 to 2024. He explained our statutory requirements for producing this plan and submitting Annual Reports to DEFRA. Tim Dapling highlighted the latest Annual Report, copies of which would be sent to the members.

- 6.4 Tim Dapling referred back to the report that he stated was driven by our high-level objectives, which are defined by DEFRA in Government guidance. He further added that these objectives link back to our duties, which are detailed in the Marine and Coastal Access Act, section 153 – 154 in relation to establishing sustainable fisheries and balancing the needs of the community along with management of marine protected areas.
- 6.5 Tim Dapling highlighted to members the annual objectives under section 4. He noted that SxIFCA will continue to work on byelaws going through quality assurance with MMO and confirmation from DEFRA. He highlighted that there are currently three byelaws in that process – the hand gathering and minimum size byelaws, which are in quality assurance at present, and the netting byelaw, which is with DEFRA awaiting confirmation.
- 6.6 Tim Dapling highlighted his disappointment with the length of time the netting byelaw has been with DEFRA with continued attempts made for progress confirmation. He voiced concerns with regards to the existing references to legislation within it, which had been subject to change since it was originally made. He did reassure the committee that the process does allow for amendments to the byelaw that don't make a material difference to the regulation. Recent communications had suggested some renewed efforts by Defra to proceed and he would continue to work with officials on progressing confirmation.
- 6.7 Garry Walker asked if management can send a copy of the proposed draft byelaw for the introduction of netting. He stressed that due to being 3 years he would like to reread this. He also advised that there are new committee members who may not have seen it.
- 6.8 Tim Dapling confirmed he would be happy to share the Netting Permit Byelaw that was submitted with the caveat of version control. He advised that since submission this will have been amended during quality assurance and shared as a draft version and not the final byelaw, it is imperative to not circulate beyond the membership.
- 6.9 Jim Partridge raised the issue in rapport between the fishing community and the IFCA. He feels the IFCA was too focussed on byelaw making and should do more to help them with regards to new fishing methods or marketing as opposed to enforcement and byelaws without anything to aid them positively.
- 6.10 Tim Dapling thanked Jim Partridge for his comments. He explained that procedurally the members are presented with regular reports on byelaws focused on regulatory development, noting that when a new byelaw is passed, they typically revoke a historic byelaw, therefore modernisation of existing legislation does not necessarily result in more byelaws.

- 6.11 As regards supporting fisheries and marketing Tim Dapling highlighted the work of the IFCA on the Sussex Bay project in partnership with Adur & Worthing District Councils. The project was intended to support the marketing of local Sussex fish with a potential branding of locally sustainably caught produce. He said that this took a substantial amount of work to initiate. He followed on to say we will continue to seek opportunities to support fisheries in this way.
- 6.12 Garry Walker raised concern on the byelaws and specifically enforcement. He believes they should be simplified and no loop holes for people to exploit. He made reference to the proposed netting byelaw and questioned the ability to enforce a minimum headline depth on the net with movements of tides.
- 6.13 Tim Dapling advised that he is very conscious of these issues and a lot of thought and work is done with regards to the enforceability. He suggested a separate meeting with Garry Walker and Gary Edwards on compliance after they have read through the draft netting byelaw.
- 6.14 Tim Dapling refocused the attention of members back to the current item which stated the inshore fisheries management priorities for 2023 to 2024 for SxIFCA. He explained these have been spilt into two areas, (fisheries management and MPA protection), with an emphasis on moving the byelaws through to confirmation. He then highlighted the workstreams within research work in regards to partnerships and memberships which we continue to be part of, as well as work with national partners which will continue.
- 6.15 Jim Partridge made comments on the committee meetings being sent to press and believes this would raise the profile of SxIFCA.
- 6.16 Garry Walker asked if the public could attend committee meetings.
- 6.17 Prof. Peter Jones responded and advised this is already a provision and members of the public can observe these committee meetings.
- 6.18 Prof. Peter Jones thanked Tim Dapling for the overview on the focus and priorities and advised the members there are three recommendations.

**ALL RESOLVED to accept the following Recommendations:**

- i. That members note the legal requirements and guidance concerning IFCA annual plans and reports.**
- ii. That members agree to the management priorities described.**
- iii. That members agree that annual planning priorities are provided to Defra as part of the Sussex IFCA's four-year planning cycle, 2020 to 2024.**

## **7 Utopia Marine Conservation Management Review**

- 7.1 Prof. Peter Jones introduced the agenda item and handed over to Tim Dapling.
- 7.2 Tim Dapling gave thanks to the officers who had worked on this review and explained to members that Utopia site is a small MCZ in the eastern part of our district. He highlighted management in place and significant features within it, including the voluntary code of conduct for elasmobranch species.
- 7.3 Tim Dapling continued by informing the conclusion on the review was that management, as it currently stands, will remain with no proposed change.
- 7.4 Jake Wilson further explained that as part of the review they examined the sightings log on MVP Watchful over a 5-year period and there was only one sighting of crab / lobster fishing in that timeframe. Aside from this we have no historical evidence of fishing in the site aside from angling in the last 20 years. He also advised there had been no formal condition assessments of the site's designated features and therefore in the absence of this the sites features remain in the condition they were initially.
- 7.5 Prof. Peter Jones thanked Jake Wilson for this information and added that similarly to Beachy Head West one of the challenges with this site is proceeding with the review in the absence of a 6-year condition assessment. He added in time we hope NE will have the resources to provide this condition assessment.

### **All resolved to accept the review:**

**Proposed: Graham Furness**

**Seconded: Garry Walker**

## **8 Beachy Head East Marine Conservation Zone – Management Development.**

- 8.1 Tim Dapling began by advising members that this has been a significant piece of work which has been in the pipeline for some time. He made reference to the report and annexes in which provides details on the MCZ.
- 8.2 Dr George Balchin provided a summary on primary updates to the MCZ assessment, which included updating evidence across data sets as requested by NE. This has all been updated to 2017 – 2021 data using the most current and available evidence. Also included is a subtidal sediments assessment that came from conservation advice from NE. This had very



few implications. He lastly explained the final piece of work involved in the updates was the assessment of static gear pressure over the site through increasing the sophistication with which we can assess where potting is taking place within the district and at what level.

- 8.3 Dr George Balchin added that NE sent a formal letter requesting these changes to which he wrote a response assisted by Tim Dapling and Angharad Purcell.
- 8.4 Dr George Balchin finally mentioned the two stage informal consultation workshops in partnership with MCS that are taking place in February and highlighted the annex pages enclosed in relation to stakeholder mapping and the process.
- 8.5 Tim Dapling explained to members the 'Community Voice Method' previously applied in MCZ informal consultations and the advantages of this process as part of the initial byelaw implementation stages as per the byelaw making guidance provided by DEFRA. He added that previously this method proved beneficial with formal byelaw management such as BHW and Kingmere and this process has been adapted for forthcoming BHE management.
- 8.6 Tim Dapling continued by advising that MCS approached Authority officers with regards to collaborating on the BHE consultations and were in a position to contribute funding and staff time; they will partner with SxIFCA at the workshops and have created a film which will be shown today. He informed on the details of the workshops which will be held in Bexhill, Eastbourne and Hastings over two weeks in February.
- 8.7 Tim Dapling also highlighted that there is a small area outside the six-mile limit which falls under MMO jurisdiction, which has resulted in discussions with Mike Buckingham and Nick Greenwood with regards to MPA work and the MMO attending the workshops.
- 8.8 Jake Wilson presented updated maps that have been introduced to the MCZ assessment for BHE, which highlighted key species within the site and the fishing effort in this area. He also explained the catch return data that was used to calculate pot days at the site.
- 8.9 Jim Partridge questioned how officers onboard Watchful would be able to differentiate between fishing methods aside from trawling. He explained unless close you would not be able to identify what they are fishing for.
- 8.10 Tim Dapling responded that the officers aboard Watchful can see from a reasonable distance (1km) with binoculars what fishing gear is being deployed. He assured members that it would not be recorded without definite confirmation on what type of fishing activity is taking place. The maps are to provide an indicative picture.



- 8.11 Tim Dapling added that these maps and data allow us to understand the relative amount of effort in certain areas. He explained that it enables us to also assess certain areas that may not have significant effort and related impacts and consequently may not require any additional management restrictions. He concluded by using static gear as an example of a fishing method that may benefit from the results showing less pressure on the BHE site than might have been expected, which could result in no additional management.
- 8.12 Dr George Balchin further explained by using the two data sets from the long-term sightings log and shellfish permit catch returns for potting days per kilometre square; he is confident that the results are a sophisticated spatial estimate of where potting is taking place within BHE.
- 8.13 Gary Edwards questioned if the new netting byelaw is passed, would this then push fishing activity further offshore and add a heavier concentration to this smaller area.
- 8.14 Dr George Balchin responded by explaining the value in the data and if there was a significant change in the spatial distribution of netting, we would be aware of this. He advised it is hard to predict the consequences of a byelaw but displacement will be considered and monitored. Tim Dapling said, he thought this scenario was unlikely given the proximity to the coast in which netters would still be able to operate under the new byelaw.
- BHE Workshop Film played to members – created by MCS.**
- 8.15 Tim Dapling followed the film with adding that he hoped the members found this to be beneficial and well-produced by MCS to take to the BHE workshops. He highlighted that the film in previous consultations had proven to be illustrative of the range of issues and perspectives prior to separating into groups to discuss management.
- 8.16 Dr Paul Driver raised the question with regards to a response from NE on the 500m buffer zone.
- 8.17 Paula Daghish responded by explaining that NE will be attending the workshops to support conversations around the 500m buffer. She advised this buffer was set for a different site therefore, it is a point for discussion. SxIFCA will then set out their management based on this feedback.
- 8.18 Paula Daghish had a further point with regards to condition assessment and ongoing survey work; however, her connection was lost and we were unable to hear the entirety of this update.
- 8.19 Tim Dapling referred back to the report in discussion. He advised this was to provide an update on our plans and the workshops.

**ALL RESOLVED to accept the following Recommendations:**

- i. **To note the updated conclusion to MCZ assessment.**
- ii. **To note and agree the updated anticipated timelines for moving forward with planned management development.**

**Proposed: Graham Furness**

**Seconded: Paul Leonard**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**9 Presentation FISH INTEL – Pete Davies (University of Plymouth)**  
***Insights from the FISH INTEL project from Sussex and beyond.***

- 9.1 Jim Partridge questioned the size of bass they were landing and using for the project.
- 9.2 Pete Davies responded and advised they are in the range of 2-5kg.
- 9.3 Gary Edwards asked for more information on what time of year and location of tagging. He provided advice informed from his career in fishing within Chichester harbour on residential and migratory bass and the time of year to tag, based on migrating fish, to benefit the research.
- 9.4 Peter Davies thanked Gary for this insight and agreed that this is something they will draw on.
- 9.5 Prof. Peter Jones thanked Pete Davies for this very insightful presentation on the FISH INTEL project.

**10 Conservation and Research Update**

- 10.1 Dr George Balchin introduced this item but in the interest of time he advised it would be a brief run through as a lot of the updates were covered within the decisions items.
- 10.2 Dr George Balchin briefed members on BHE MCZ assessment which has been a substantial piece of work along with the upcoming informal consultations.

- 10.3 He highlighted Utopia MCZ and the minimal change with regards to fishing activity at the site which the members approved in agenda item 7.
- 10.4 Pagham SPA is up for review in 2022/2023 financial year. Dr George Balchin added that the team are close to completing the MCZ assessment for this and will likely be a decision item at the following quarterly meeting.
- 10.5 The conservation and research team are also looking at the monitoring control plans for all the MCZ's within the SxIFCA districts. Initially with BHE and with working alongside Southern IFCA who have already developed monitoring plans, we hope to learn from challenges they had to streamline the process.
- 10.6 Dr George Balchin concluded with an overview on all the collaboration and partnership work which has continued this past quarter. Highlighting FISH INTEL work, Hackathon through Wild Coast Sussex, which the team attended and fed into outcomes for SKRP. Small fish Survey work continues with Sparsholt College and we are looking to restart small fish surveys alongside the RSPB in Medburry.
- 10.7 Dr George Balchin added that he delivered a webinar in December for Sussex on Elasmobranchs. He added that the team presented various topics at the Ocean Symposium which was a UN and SWT event.
- 10.8 Finally he advised with regards to the Shellfish Permit Database that the conservation and research team continue to process the catch returns from this for data.
- 10.9 Prof Peter Jones thanked Dr George Balchin for this update from the Conservation and Research team over the quarter. He asked members if there were any questions.
- 10.10 Dr Paul Driver raised the crab and lobster issue and asked if there was capacity for a research student working solely on this.
- 10.11 Dr George Balchin responded by advising on various groups we partner with such as CHASM who are looking to acquire funding in order to aid this.
- 10.12 Corina Ciocan who is part of CHASM added an update on funding and the the research which will have three main priorities. 1) Quality of sediment and water 2) Historic data on landings 3) Toxicological data and analysis on lobster and crab caught in Sussex.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the report and appendices.

## **11 Compliance Report**

- 11.1 Angharad Purcell (Deputy Chief) presented the update on compliance to the committee members, highlighting that due to the time of year over the Christmas period the IR numbers are lower. There were also mechanical issues which meant Watchful was unable to do as many sea patrols during this time.
- 11.2 Angharad Purcell advised that the recruitment of two fisheries officers has helped with patrol capacity.
- 11.3 Angharad Purcell added that although there has been unsettled weather which affected sea patrols, there have been frequent road and drone patrols within this quarter. Training has continued, details of which are listed in the report.
- 11.4 Concluding the report, Angharad Purcell stated that the shellfish permit database information and active permit numbers have now been included in the report and will be moving forward as per request.
- 11.5 Dr Paul Driver commended the Enforcement team on the extensive training and refresh of courses that are listed and ongoing.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

## **12 Communications Report**

- 12.1 Angharad Purcell advised this could be taken as read.

ALL agreed to be taken as read.

## **13 Financial Performance Report Quarter 3 2022/2023**

- 13.1 Lucy Francis the Finance Manager introduced the finance performance report for the past quarter and advised the members that prior to the quarterly, we held the Finance Subcommittee meeting, where the report was covered in great detail. She added that the following was a summary of the report.

- 10.2 Lucy Francis presented an overview of the financial results for quarter 3 which ran until the end December. She advised the results were broadly in line with forecasts in budget for most areas and the financial position is looking strong with healthy reserves at present.
- 10.3 Lucy Francis stated total expenditure for the quarter was greater due to the pay award which was approved November and backdated to the 1<sup>st</sup> April. This led to a deficit of nearly £22,000 for the quarter. However, she continued to add that after a reforecast to account for funding from DEFRA, we are projecting to end the year in a balanced position.
- 13.4 The budget for next year was reviewed and approved by the Subcommittee members. Lucy Francis explained that we have set a balanced budget for 2023/24 which has been supported by an uplift of 5% in the levy amounts from the councils.
- 13.5 Prof. Peter Jones thanked Lucy Francis and confirmed to members that this was discussed in more detail and agreed at the Finance Subcommittee earlier today.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the report and expenditure to date.

#### **14 Vessel & Vehicle maintenance log**

- 14.1 Prof Peter Jones highlighted that this item can be taken as read.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

#### **15 Chief Officers Group**

- 15.1 Tim Dapling introduced this agenda item with a brief overview, highlighting that the COG had managed their first in person meeting post Covid. They also used this meeting to discuss Defra's Fisheries Management Plans and how the IFCAs would engage and support the process.

- 15.2 Tim Dapling noted that a lot of discussion was focused on the need for additional Defra funding to support IFCA work. Positively, similar to all IFCAs, Sussex had received funding of £50,000 for this financial year to support fisheries management plan activities. This was expected to continue for at least the next two years. Significant additional funding was also expected, following the AIFCA Spending Review 2021 bid, which sought resources to secure delivery of requirements Defra had placed on the IFCAs since their inception.
- 15.3 Tim Dapling added that the COG provided a comprehensive response to Defra's Conduct & Operations four-year report, which goes to parliament and reflects on the IFCAs work. This has been held up but will be with parliament imminently.
- 15.4 Tim Dapling further expanded on the national training and coordination work and discussion which cascades down to compliance training that was mentioned earlier in the meeting.
- 15.5 Prof Peter Jones thanked Tim Dapling and asked members if there were any questions regarding this item.
- 15.6 Paul Leonard queried the funding for the marine licencing system for the MMO. He firstly asked if we received any benefit as consultees and secondly, he advised when the MACCA act was being produced the MMO was supposed to have a regularly review of all licencing, in particular licences associated with sediment disposal. Paul Leonard stated he and never seen a report on this therefore he would like evidence from the MMO regarding the system's effectiveness. He would like this noted.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

## **16 Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities**

- 16.1 Tim Dapling updated members on a recent meeting with AIFCAs, the minutes of which are included in the committee papers to read.
- 16.2 Tim Dapling advised that at the recent meeting they decided to increase the subscription by 4.5% to support the Chief Executive and three team members. He followed on to stress that the work the AIFCA does is fundamental. The increase closely reflects the percentage uplift forecast for Sussex IFCA for the next financial year.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

**17 A.O.B.**

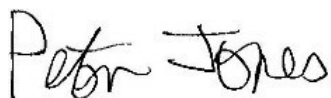
- 17.1 Prof. Peter Jones asked members if they had any other business to raise.
- 17.2 Gary Edwards wanted to raise that there have been a lot of dead birds out at sea. He is aware of the avian influenza but just felt concern at numbers he had seen and asked if that's something we cover.
- 17.3 Tim Dapling explained if the fatalities were due to fishing activity it may involve us. Regrettably avian influenza is prevalent particularly in seabirds but disease control and monitoring is dealt with by Defra.
- 17.4 Jim Partridge thanked for the Acronyms that have been added to the committee pack, though he advised that some were missing.
- 17.5 Tim Dapling responded that this was a work in progress and to contact Rebecca Belleni if there are any acronyms members would like added.
- 17.6 Corina Ciocan raised two suggestions pulling on her experience as a teaching and in relation to communications between SxIFCA and the fishing community. She explained that similarly to the staff and teacher forums at university, this would potentially work for the fishing community to raise concerns and be heard through a forum.
- 17.7 Corina Ciocan secondly suggested a 5-minutes video summary of new byelaws when passed to aid with public understanding what the management entails without reading a 10-page document. She continued to add that this works well in education and believes it would work well for enforcement.
- 17.8 Cllr Julia Hilton asked on behalf of the Hastings Fishermen regarding the released seals which have created a 100 strong colony that did not exist off Hastings. She advised that the fishing community see this as another pressure on the fish and if there are any issues elsewhere with rescued seals created new colonies rather than being released to an establish one.
- 17.9 Tim Dapling explained that SxIFCA are not responsible for seals or management of this where releasing is concerned. There can be authorised destroying of seals if there is imminent threat to gear or aquaculture sites but this is licensed through DEFRA.
- 17.10 Paul Leonard also added that SMRU (Sea Mammal Research Unit) would be able to answer questions relating to seals.



- 17.11 Paul Leonard raised the Tees Bay crustacea situation. He told the committee he was approached by the Science Media Centre with a request to help understand the science underpinning this. The conclusion in brief from the report is that this is probably a virus. He also suggested contacting Cefas in Weymouth who will be doing further research on this. He concluded that threats to crab and lobster populations could be spread to other areas due to this virus.
- 17.12 Cllr Sam Adeniji wanted to raise his learnings from communications engagement effort with regards to West Quay in Newhaven, as the feedback from fishers is that SxIFCA do not interact with the fishing community.
- 17.13 Tim Dapling responded to this by advising we attend the Harbour-users group at West Quay, which is run by the harbour master and we are invited to attend. Some of the issues raised are fishing-related and he explained he usually gives an update on behalf of SxIFCA on current news or relative information such as BHE informal workshops in Eastbourne. Tim Dapling also added that the minutes for these meetings are not provided in the committee packs as most is unrelated to fishing.
- 17.14 Cllr Sam Adeniji thanked Tim Dapling for this response.
- 17.15 Prof Peter Jones thanked officers and members for their contributions today and for input on a very useful and informative agenda.

**18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 18.1 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Jones'.

Prof. Peter Jones, Chair Sussex IFCA.