

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**PRESENT**

SUSSEX IFCA:

***Members***

Councillor Nigel Peters (Chairman)  
Stewart Harper (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Brighton & Hove City Council)  
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Pieter Montyn (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)  
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)  
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee).  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)  
Michael Newton-Smith (MMO Appointee)  
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)  
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)  
Audrey Jones (Natural England)

***Staff***

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Estelle Barton (Finance Manager)  
Erin Pettifer (Conservation and Research Manager)  
Kathryn Nelson (Senior Fisheries & Conservation Research Officer)  
Rachel Griffin (Committee & Office Manager)

***Invitees***

Antony Firth (Wessex Archaeology)  
Alistair Byford-Bates (Wessex Archaeology)

Cllr. Nigel Peters welcomed all members to the meeting.

419. **CHIEF OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION**

Tim Dapling welcomed members and gave an overview of the Agenda to members.

420. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Tania Charman (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)  
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)  
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)

421. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

421.1 The Chairman requested any personal or prejudicial declaration of interests, no interests were declared.

422. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

423. **MATTERS ARISING**

423.1 Jim Partridge expressed his appreciation that members had received minutes earlier than they had previously. He was also glad to note that the Committee meeting pack was only 70 pages long for this meeting.

423.2 Paul Leonard queried what progress had been made regarding the lobbying of Defra for re-instatement of IFCA powers to enforce EU fisheries legislation. Tim Dapling said that this issue was high on the IFCA's agenda in meetings with Defra. Paul Leonard also asked about the cross-warranting of MMO & IFCA. Tim Dapling explained to members what was involved in cross-warranting and that the reinstatement of the SI was needed to enforce current bass regulations.

423.3 Chris Williams asked if there were any positive outcomes from the Cefas meeting which Tim Dapling and Kathryn Nelson had attended in Lowestoft. Tim Dapling explained that various presentations had been given on the tagging, tracking, monitoring of seabass stocks and research on their movement. Forthcoming EU December council meetings will provide clarification on agreed management.

423.4 The Chairman took the opportunity to introduce and welcome Cllr Pieter Montyn, the new member from West Sussex County Council.

423.5 Tim Dapling updated members on the progress of the MPA Byelaw. A meeting had been scheduled with Defra to finalise the drafting. He emphasised there were no changes in management and issues to be resolved related to final text, explanatory and guidance notes.

- 423.6 Tim Dapling informed members on the Shellfish permit implementation progress. The byelaw which had been posted out with permit guidance documentation was not the final, confirmed byelaw version and contained reference to a deeming clause that were subsequently absent from the confirmed version. One individual had drawn attention to the error and the correct version had subsequently been posted out to all permit holders.
- 423.7 Keith Schofield expressed his dissatisfaction that this had happened and said that he was unhappy with the response which had been sent to the individual. Sean Ashworth explained the process which had been employed and stated that the correct protocol had been followed.
- 423.8 Keith Schofield was very unhappy with the Authority's management approach and Jim Partridge said that he hoped the error was not an example of 'legislative creep'. Michael Newton Smith was concerned that removing the 'berried hen' clause would possibly result in problems with future policing. Tim Dapling reassured him that other wording within the byelaw covered the issue.
- 423.9 The Chief Fisheries Officer said that it was disappointing if this unfortunate error marred all the good work which had been carried out by Officers and staff in the rolling out of this permit scheme. Over 125 permits had been issued along with approximately 42,000 tags, as planned, following byelaw confirmation in April.
- 423.10 Cllr Nigel Peters said that all MMO members who had been appraised had agreed that early involvement in decision making was a key issue, which was thus a priority for the Authority. The Chairman believed that the wealth of knowledge in the IFCA combined with that of its members should ensure that the future of local fisheries would be secure, a goal that everyone concerned was working towards.

424. **DECISION ITEMS**

424.1 **Pagham Harbour MPA Management**

424.2 Erin Lawes introduced her report, the purpose of which was to provide members with information on the Pagham Harbour management consultation and relay the outcome of the last Technical Subcommittee meeting. She sought members' approval to draft a Pagham Harbour Schedule prior to the next full committee meeting.

424.3 Erin Lawes went through the report and maps. Sean Ashworth pointed out that members did not have to agree to the maps at this meeting. The recommendation was to move management measures into a draft byelaw as early as possible.

- 424.4 Jim Partridge believed that the area should be a complete no-go zone. Sean Ashworth said that the main area of interest from anglers was regarding access to areas on the eastside of the entrance. Angling representatives had attended the consultation workshop and it was evident that recreational angling could continue if managed appropriately. A Technical Subcommittee would be needed before Christmas, with a view to drafting a byelaw for the January committee meeting.

**Recommendation:**

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendation.

425 **Review of Management Measures & Development of Netting Regulations**

- 425.1 Tim Dapling explained the agreed process to review management measures and specifically netting regulations. He went through the papers supplied, identifying the five core priorities and objectives already agreed and established by the Authority. As part of the review process it had been necessary to review all existing inherited byelaws, delete duplicates and put in place plans for updating them.
- 425.2 The review process had identified common themes for priorities which were MCZ development, shellfish, netting, trawling and bait digging. A prioritisation matrix had been created linking themes to existing byelaws and Tim Dapling explained to members the progress to date by means of a RAG process. The information presented illustrated the positive progress achieved toward the review over the past years, through management of oyster and potting shellfish fisheries and MPA protection.

**Recommendations:**

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations.

**PRESENTATION ITEMS**

426 **FIPAD II**

- 426.1 Alistair Byford-Bates of Wessex Archaeology gave an update and presentation on the Fipad II project.

427 **Project 7171 Fishermen's Fasteners Archaeological project**

- 427.1 Antony Firth then gave a presentation, explaining the project's aims and processes. He requested any information, co-ordinates and images from

members who had encountered possible sunken objects/vessels on the seabed. Keith Schofield was able to share a film of a possible find on the seabed.

428 **New Website update**

428.1 Sean Ashworth presented the new website design to members and explained that staff were now able to upload information themselves to it. He showed where all information was to be found and described the secure section for members. Cllr. Peters asked if there would be a secure method on the site to send messages to other members, and Sean Ashworth was able to confirm that this facility would be available in the near future.

428.2 He said that the plan was to develop the Learning Resources section to include projects like 'Wild Beach', which Erin Lawes was involved with.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

429 **Marine Protected Area Update**

429.1 Erin Lawes gave a verbal update. Tranche 2 MCZs management measures were currently being discussed with Natural England and Defra.

429.2 Audrey Jones told members about Tranche 3 sites, which included Selsey, Beachy Head East and two offshore sites, plus an additional feature to Kingmere. The consultation will take place next summer.

429.3 MCS and the local MP were particularly interested in Beachy Head East MCZ, Michael Newton Smith said. Tim Dapling said that the Authority had a good working relationship with MCS, having worked with them on the CVM project, to support the T1 consultation process.

429.4 Tim Dapling asked Audrey Jones when additional T3 sites would be made public, she replied that there were a few options, and members would be informed of these at the next committee meeting in January.

429.5 European designated SPA consultations were now continuing, following Brexit, which included an area from Hastings to Folkestone.

429.6 EMS progress tests of likely significant effect were now, in keeping with the 2016 deadline, with NE for final review. Erin Lawes didn't anticipate the need for any new regulatory management to be added, which would help with keeping to the end of 2016 deadline.

429.7 Michael Newton Smith asked if it would be a good idea to highlight which fishing processes were more sustainable following the first round of MCZs. Sean Ashworth reported that he had attended the latest COG meeting, where it had been suggested to put a national spotlight on MCZ sites' work, choosing 2 sites from each IFCA to promote them.

430 **Interim Research Report, April to September 2016**

- 430.1 Kathryn Nelson introduced the report to members on research activities during the last six months. The great range, volume and quality of work had been assisted by many volunteers and had demonstrated the Authority's commitment to working with partner organisations.

**Recommendation:**

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

431 **Agenda Items 13 & 14: Compliance & Enforcement Report & Communications Report**

- 431.1 The Chairman thanked Sean Ashworth and Alberto Kavadellas for the reports, which were taken as read.

**Recommendation:**

ALL RESOLVED to note the reports.

432 **Summary of income and expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 against the budget**

- 432.1 Estelle Barton asked for questions on the report.

**Recommendation:**

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

433 **Agenda Items 16, 17 & 18 were taken as read.**

- 433.1 Tim Dapling commented that Stephen Bolt, Chairman of AIFCA, had expressed a desire to attend Sussex IFCA's January Committee Meeting which members supported.

**Recommendation:**

ALL RESOLVED to note the reports.

434 **A.O.B.**

- 434.1 Keith Schofield raised a matter concerning the 'transfer the Grandfather Clause' on a boat he had sold to two joint owners. One of the owners of the vessel 'Jacoba' had recently died and his wife had inherited his half of the vessel. Keith Schofield said that he had been informed that the Authority had declined to transfer the historic right to fish under the new owner's name.

- 434.2 Tim Dapling responded by saying that he felt this was a confidential matter; however, he was able to describe the process of transfer of rights under the vessel length byelaw. This byelaw, which had allowed over 14 metre vessel and owners to be entered onto a register that enabled them to continue fishing between 3 and 6 mile limits. They were allowed to remain on this register, providing that the boat stayed in the same ownership or was a replacement vessel of a lesser power and length, but still under the same ownership. Tim Dapling understood that the vessel in question had not been operating in the District under this ownership. There was no legal allowance for extenuating circumstances within the byelaw.
- 434.3 Jim Partridge alleged that two Fisheries Officers had given misinformation on two separate occasions and he was concerned that this possible misinformation damaged the IFCA's reputation. Michael Newton Smith asked for elaboration on the training of Fisheries Officers. Tim Dapling clarified the extent of training received by all Fisheries Officers and explained that it was a continuous process; Tim Dapling also said that it was important for members to support the Authority and its staff and not undermine it by possibly exaggerating incidents. Michael Newton Smith expressed his belief that mistakes were not dealt with. Sean Ashworth said that all mistakes were dealt with as they arose and any issues were addressed immediately. Sean Ashworth thanked the members for their input and said that Sussex IFCA always welcomed feedback.
- 434.4 Michael Newton Smith said that fishing was negatively impacted upon with escape hatches in place. Sean Ashworth said that there was a partnership bid in place with Sussex University regarding shellfish population studies which could be of help in the future. Cllr Nigel Peters suggested that escape hatches were discussed at Technical Subcommittee at which their benefits had been explained.
- 434.5 Tim Dapling raised the issue of use of a device for clearing netting gear, also known as a 'net transporter', which had been raised at the recent Technical Subcommittee meeting. As agreed, correspondence had been handed to the individual involved, pointing out the compliance required by EU technical regulations legislation on the immediate return of undersize animals to the sea.

435. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 435.1 Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – venue 12a Riverside.



Nigel Peters, Chairman Sussex IFCA