

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA
On 14th July 2015**

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)
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)
David Guy (MMO Appointee)
Michael Newton Smith (MMO Appointee)
Audrey Jones (Natural England)

Staff

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

Invitees

Cayce Harburg (Student and research volunteer, Kings College)

Cllr. Nigel Peters welcomed all members to the meeting.

335. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor John Rogers (West Sussex County Council)
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)
Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee).

336. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 336.1 The Chairman requested any prejudicial declaration of interests. David Guy declared that he was Secretary for Newhaven Fisheries and was also involved with Rampion's surveys. Michael Newton-Smith and Jim Partridge declared their interest in the Shellfish byelaw, as it affected them directly.

337. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 337.1 Cllr. Nigel Peters asked if there were any comments on the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting. There were no amendments.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

338. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 338.1. Tim Dapling said that following the Subcommittee of 2nd July, Stewart Harper was now the appointed chairman of the Technical and Byelaw Subcommittee.
- 338.2 Tony Delahunty, as fishing representative, Robert Yorke and Tim Dapling had all signed the application for an Archaeological Discoveries Officer, Tim Dapling reported.
- 338.3 Jim Partridge expressed his concern with the lack of depreciation in the Authority's accounts. Estelle Barton explained the Government's legislation which did not allow depreciation in non-commercial accounts. In *Accounting Guidance for Local Councils* pt 3.69 it stated '*Commercial concepts of depreciation, impairment adjustments, etc. are not appropriate for local councils. For reporting purposes therefore, the 'book' value of fixed assets will stay constant throughout their life until disposal.*'
- 338.4 In the absence of depreciation figures in the accounts, Tim Dapling said, there would be a mechanism in future for showing the declining value of the Authority's largest assets included in the papers, which would allow for planning on asset replacement and funding requirements.
- 338.5 Tim Dapling informed members that the outgoing chairman, Tony Delahunty, had sent a message of thanks for his leaving present from the Authority.
- 338.6 Cllr Peters introduced Cayce Harburg to members, who was a student of Kings College and had been assisting Kathryn Nelson as a research volunteer for a week. He was observing the meeting.

339. **DECISION ITEMS**

339.1 **Oyster Permit Byelaw**

339.2 This Byelaw was coming to the end of its establishment process, Tim Dapling said, as the formal consultation had now finished. The byelaw had been made at the April Committee meeting, in accordance with Defra guidance, it had been advertised in 'Fishing News' and a period had passed of 28 days for anyone to respond to the consultation. A limited number of responses had been received and responded to, none had resulted in changes to the Byelaw.

339.3 The matter had been referred to the Technical and Byelaw Subcommittee at the beginning of July for discussion of responses received and whether amendments were considered appropriate. Sean Ashworth said that the Subcommittee members had recommended that the byelaw be referred to the Principal Committee for final approval and subsequent submission to the MMO, who would then submit it to the Secretary of State for final approval and confirmation.

Recommendations:

- i. **That the Authority supports the replies made by the officers to consultation responses.**
- ii. **That the Authority moves to submit the final byelaw to the MMO for confirmation by the Secretary of State.**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

340. **MPA Byelaw and Kingmere MCZ Regulatory Notice**

340.1 Tim Dapling said that although not as advanced as the Oyster Permit Byelaw, the Authority had reached an important part in its advancement. The Officers had been involved in drafting the 'framework byelaw' under which regulatory notices could be developed for specific management requirements. This approach had been utilised by another IFCA and had been successfully submitted to the MMO and subsequently Defra.

340.2 Following the Technical and Byelaw Subcommittee, comments, agreed amendments had been inserted in the current draft submitted for members' approval. The intention was to progress the byelaw in good time and make and advertise the byelaw as soon as practicable, Tim Dapling explained.

340.3 Audrey Jones queried the removal of point 9.6 regarding 'catch and release' of injured fish. Tim Dapling said that it had been concluded that 'injured' was virtually impossible to define, plus the complications which

would arise if injured fish were caught as extra to the bag allowance. Discussion of this point then took place.

- 340.4 Jim Partridge asked if MCZs would be marked on charts, he suggested a 'no anchoring' sign could be one option. David Guy said that some MPAs were marked on other European charts. Sean Ashworth said that he didn't think there was a mechanism in place for doing this yet in the UK. Tim Dapling said that it would obviously be useful to put these designated MCZ areas on charts in future. Chart management was the responsibility of the MCA and hydrographic office and they would be specifically interested in regulations that applied within the areas and how they might affect the navigation and operation of vessels.
- 340.5 Dr Peter Jones recommended that a matrix be compiled to simplify what regulations existed at different times of the year, for compliance purposes. Dr Jones said he was happy to work with IFCA Officers to create the document. Support in describing the regulations could always be had from any Fisheries Officer, Tim Dapling said, when Graham Furness queried how he should explain the regulations to anglers.
- 340.6 Tim Dapling said that the MMO were yet to respond with any drafting alterations required. A special meeting would be arranged to 'make' the byelaw, preferably before the date of the next quarterly committee meeting, to ensure that, following the public consultation, the regulation would be in place before next year's bream season started. A quorum only was required, and it was anticipated that the agenda would be restricted to the Byelaw making process.
- 340.7 Cllr Peters asked that members vote to accept the following recommendations:
- i. **That the Authority approves the defined management measures within the MPA Byelaw and MCZ Regulation Notice. (subject to any minor non-substantive drafting amendments).**
 - ii. **That the Authority approve the Impact Assessment to support the proposed MPA regulations.**
 - iii. **That the Authority intend to make and publically consult on proposed Protected Area Byelaw and Regulatory Notice no later than end of September.**
 - iv. **That a Special meeting of the Authority is arranged for the purpose of making the byelaw.**
 - v. **That with stakeholders the Authority officers develop a supporting code of conduct for suitable measures considered inappropriate for regulatory measures.**
 - vi. **That the Authority officers develop a supporting guidance information to support the proposed regulations.**

Proposed by Cllr. Ollie Sykes
Seconded by Cllr Janet Mockridge

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations.

341. **Shellfish Permit Byelaw**

341.1 Sean Ashworth clarified that the byelaw had been 'made' at the Committee meeting in April, which had been followed by the 28 days' consultation period. This period had ended on 10th July and Sean detailed the 10 responses received. The responses had been detailed and were generally supportive, they were currently being considered to establish what changes, if any were required. Whelk pot numbers, sustainability of whelk and lobster numbers, size limits and the feasibility of implementing a tagging system were all subjects covered.

341.2 David Guy asked which ports had responded to the consultation, Sean Ashworth said that the responses had originated from a variety of areas, from Selsey to Hastings and Eastbourne. The Selsey Fisherman's Association had recently held a meeting, which Tim Dapling and Sean Ashworth had attended, and a collective response had been received from the Association.

341.3 Jim Partridge expressed his unhappiness with the proposed introduction of any permit byelaw, he did not believe that it would be possible to enforce pot limitation. Michael Newton Smith agreed with him, and suspected that pot limits might result in more boats being employed which would be counter-productive.

341.4 Tim Dapling said that there would be a Technical & Byelaw Subcommittee meeting scheduled, hopefully in August, which would enable further detailed discussion. Tim took the opportunity to thank members for their varied input and support.

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations.

342. **A 10 minute break was followed by a presentation given by Barry Goodhew and Alice Tebb, Fisheries Officers entitled 'Our work with recreational sea anglers'**

342.1 The presentation included a brief summary of the results of an online survey. Tim Dapling asked that a full description of responses to the survey be included in a document and be added to the Authority's website. Steve Hanks queried the statistical validity of results. Dr Peter Jones pointed out that although the survey results were not suitable to establish 'hard' statistics they could be regarded as indicative of the views of the respondents only. General discussion took place about the

first tagging survey and the results achieved. Tim Dapling thanked Barry Goodhew and Alice Tebb for their contributions and efforts to progress the work.

343. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

344. **Defra MPA Letter**

344.1 Tim Dapling said that the letter had been sent to both the Chairman and all Authority members. It was positive to recognise that Defra appreciated the work of IFCAs on progressing the MPA network, Tim Dapling said, and pointed out that the next important work deadline was the end of 2016.

ALL RESOLVED to note the letter.

345. **Annual Research Report 2013-2014 & MPA Update**

345.2 Kathryn Nelson answered questions on the content of the report and explained the terminology used. Michael Newton Smith volunteered to take sample numbers of crabs and lobsters for research purposes; Sean Ashworth said that this would be helpful and that there was a precedent set with fisherman, Peter Storey, already supplying numbers.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

346 The Chairman suggested that **Items 12** (Compliance Report) and **Item 13** (Communications Report) on the Agenda be taken as read. Sean Ashworth said that a flyer with information on the bass 3-bag limit was available both on the website and also as handouts for distribution.

347 **Summary of Expenditure for April to June 2015**

347.1 Estelle Barton went through the accounts report for the benefit of members, she said that the Authority accounts showed anticipated expenditure against budget for the quarter.

348 **Vessel & Vehicle maintenance log 1st April to 30th June**

348.2 James Partridge queried fuel costs for Authority vehicles, he wanted to know why were they so high when fuel cards were available and VAT should be returned on costs. Tim Dapling said that the Authority held a

fuel card and they would check which outlets were used and continue to utilise economic options.

349. Cllr Peters suggested that **Items 16** (AIFCA) and **Item 17** (COG) on the Agenda be taken as read.

350. **A.O.B.**

350.1 Tim Dapling said that a date would be confirmed via doodle poll for the special meeting

350.2 David Guy reported that the Rampion wind farm had now been given the go-ahead.

350.3 Steve Hanks enquired about bass bag limits and minimum size. Tim Dapling said that the Authority Officers were cross-warranted and were working with the MMO. Dissemination of information would take place before September 1st when new regulations would be in place.

350.4 Jim Partridge warned of the danger of introducing foreign species into Sussex's waters. Paul Johnson said that there was an ongoing investigation by the MMO into a recent alleged incident involving Canadian lobsters.

351. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

351.1 Thursday 22nd October 2015 – venue 12a Riverside.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Peters', written in a cursive style.

Nigel Peters
Chairman Sussex IFCA