

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014**

**PRESENT**

SUSSEX IFCA:

***Members***

Tony Delahunty (MMO Appointee) Chairman  
Councillor Nigel Peters Vice Chairman  
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Brighton & Hove City Council)  
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Trevor Webb (East Sussex County Council, replacing Cllr. John Hodges)  
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)  
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)  
Stewart Harper (MMO Appointee)  
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)  
Joe Watt (MMO Appointee)  
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)  
Audrey Jones (Natural England)

***Staff***

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Estelle Barton (Finance Manager)  
Alberto Kavadellas (Acting Senior Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Erin Pettifer (MPA Officer)  
Kathryn Nelson (Fisheries and Conservation Research Officer)  
Charlie Hubbard (Marine Operations Manager)  
Rachel Griffin (Committee Manager & Personal Assistant)

***Invitees***

Olle Akesson (Wildlife Trust)  
William Bantock (Angler) Present for Items 11, 12 only

Tony Delahunty welcomed all members to the meeting and Tim Dapling briefly introduced the agenda.

290. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

David Guy (MMO Appointee)  
Councillor John Hodges (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)  
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee)

291. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

291.1 Tony Delahunty declared his fishing interests and that he was Chairman of the NFFO.

292. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

292.1 Approval proposed by Steve Hanks and seconded by Peter Jones.

292. **MATTERS ARISING**

292.1 Page 5 **Angling Strategy**.

Since the last meeting there had been an opportunity for market research: the Authority had had a stall at 'The Festival of the Sea', an angling festival in Bexhill, where a questionnaire had been circulated to attendees to gather information on how Sussex IFCA was perceived and anglers' views on how the seas should be managed. 60 questionnaires had been completed and analysed, the resulting information had been fed to Charles Bacchus, Steve Hanks and Graham Furness.

292.2 Suggestions had been made by anglers that the questionnaire should be made more widely available, and to this end, Rachel Griffin had familiarised herself with 'Survey Monkey' program and uploaded the questionnaire online, ready to become live if agreed by members, and thereby supply further information to the Technical Subcommittee.

292.3 Steve Hanks said that anglers always welcomed the opportunity to have their views heard, their only concern being how the information would be used. Both he and Graham Furness believed that the online questionnaire should go ahead without further discussion.

292.4 Paul Leonard was concerned that the questionnaire should be focussed on local information as online it could be filled in worldwide. Tim Dapling said that the questionnaire was specifically designed to be completed by those fishing in Sussex. Graham Furness was keen that printed copies be distributed via angling clubs and suppliers. Cllr. Trevor Webb pointed out that not all anglers were English speakers.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendation to publish the questionnaire online.

292.5 Steve Hanks asked how recommendations had been reached that made to Defra on bass management. Tim Dapling said that broad EU proposals were being developed in consultation with member states through working stakeholder groups. There were also communications place between IFCA officers on opportunities for IFCAs to improve bass management at an inshore level.. Steve Hanks said that anglers had not been involved as yet in any consultation on the subject. The impact of the large offshore pair trawl fisheries remained a concern that had to be addressed, Tim Dapling said, which included issues with cetaceans. Paul Johnson and Tony Delahunty said that the EU would be providing a package on the subject in December.

293. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

293.1 All invitees, staff members and non-committee members left the meeting at this point.

293.2 Tim Dapling gave a verbal update on recruitment of the Deputy Chief Fisheries and Conservation Officer. The Authority had received ten good applications of which five had been shortlisted for interview. Interviews had taken place on the previous Friday, the interview panel had consisted of Tim Dapling, Chief Fisheries Officer, Tony Delahunty, Chairman, and a representative of ESCC HR department.

293.3 All candidates had demonstrated an interesting mix of key skills, but Dr Sean Ashworth had stood out as the preferred candidate. He was currently the Strategic Marine Manager with the Environment Agency and had considerable experience, including managing an area team. There had been unanimous agreement on the interviewing panel that he was the preferred candidate.

293.4 Discussions were needed with him, his employer and our HR department as to what his terms of employment might be. It was important to have someone permanently in post as soon as possible from the Authority's point of view, but there had been some complications regarding the possibility of a secondment or transitional arrangement rather than a permanent contract of employment.

293.5 Tim Dapling was concerned that the Authority should, as far as practicable, be accommodating in its approach to negotiating his terms of employment; if not, there was a risk he may not accept a role on either a permanent or secondment basis.

293.6 Discussion followed amongst members, Charles Bacchus requested clarification on how the process had evolved following a previous emergency staffing Subcommittee meeting, held a couple of months previously. Cllr. Nigel Peters said a review would be carried out of the staffing structure and a secondment by Sean Ashworth had been

recommended. However, given that the recruitment for a Deputy was proceeding it was important to wait until the process had completed, particularly given that Dr. Ashworth was an applicant for the position. Cllr. Peters referred members to the confidential papers provided to them, he expressed his preference that Sean Ashworth took the full time post with the Authority.

- 293.7 Robert Yorke said that it was a positive situation for the Authority as Sean Ashworth could carry out an ongoing review of staff structure and was in an ideal position to do so as a new member of staff. Steve Hanks expressed his belief that an independent review of the staffing structure was needed, Paul Johnson agreed and was keen to take a less flexible approach when offering Sean Ashworth the job. It was recognised that the local Authority HR support could provide an independent review process.
- 293.8 Tim Dapling asked for a clear mandate from the members to progress with the employment of Sean Ashworth, permanently if at all possible by the secondment route if necessary as he was keen not to lose such a strong candidate. There followed a discussion on existing examples of secondment arrangements between government organisations, including MMO and NE.
- 293.9 Stewart Harper, Peter Jones and Audrey Jones agreed with Tim Dapling that a flexible approach was the correct one to secure the best outcome. Tim said that if a secondment was pursued for a maximum period of secondment that benefitted the Authority as well as providing security to this candidate was preferable.
- 293.10 **The Proposition was as follows:**
- To progress with the recruitment of Dr Sean Ashworth, securing his employment on a permanent basis, if feasible or for the maximum secondment period if that were not possible.**
- Vote decision: Unanimously agreed by members to accept the proposition, (Charles Bacchus abstained).**
- 293.11 The Compliance Manager vacancy had been advertised and candidates had been shortlisted, Tim Dapling reported. The Deputy Chief Fisheries and Conservation Officer role had been regarded as being more urgent to fill, hence it had taken precedence.

A ten minute refreshment break took place.

294. **DECISION ITEMS**

294.1 **Chichester Harbour Oyster Fishery management for season 2014/15**

294.2 Tim Dapling introduced the two parts to the report: firstly, to provide members with a plan on intended management arrangements for the Chichester Harbour oyster fishery; secondly, to approve an extension to 2013 Temporary Closure of Shellfish Fisheries Byelaw' so that stock could be protected. The application had been approved by Defra, Tim Dapling said, following an application made after it had been approved by members at the last Quarterly Committee meeting. This would be in two stages as last year.

294.3 Tim Dapling requested that the members consider the recommendation:

**That in regard to the 'Temporary Closure of Shellfish Fisheries Byelaw' 2013**

- i. **That the Committee approves the implementation of the Extension to the existing emergency byelaw.**
- ii. **That in respect to Byelaw Section 2 Closure of Shellfish Fisheries, management and implementation of staged closures of the oyster fishery is undertaken as described (appendix 3). Reflecting the approach used in the 2013 season and the same harvest threshold.**

**Vote decision: Unanimously agreed.**

294.4 The latest amended version of the 'Oyster Permit Byelaw' was available now for members with supporting information supplied. The byelaw would be next discussed at a byelaw subcommittee meeting prior to which there would be a formal consultation period, Tim Dapling said. He recommended that the subcommittee be allowed to agree any changes necessary following the consultation.

**That in regard to the draft 'Oyster Permit Byelaw' (appendix 1)**

- i. **Final drafting amendments (non-substantive in respect to fisheries management functions) are completed with appropriate legal support; specifically in reference to identifying and drafting any amendments to existing Authority byelaw regulations.**
- ii. **That the impact assessment and any associated documentation to support the new byelaw be developed.**
- iii. **That the Technical subcommittee support as required the remaining activities prior to making the byelaw at the next available quarterly meeting (subject to completion of supporting documentation).**

**Proposed by Steve Hanks  
Seconded by Graham Furness**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

295. **Review of Byelaw Documentation**

- 295.1 Tim Dapling had recommended that all documentation for forthcoming byelaws be reviewed by East Sussex County Council's legal department.
- 295.2 Requirements were to ensure the Authority identified all amendments to existing legislation during the process of introducing new byelaw legislation during the byelaw review process. Immediate needs included shellfish permit byelaw, oyster permit byelaw and pending MCZ management measures.
- 295.3 It was also necessary to identify what approach might be best in terms of putting the byelaw record into a consolidated legal form to meet future needs, Tim Dapling said.
- 295.4 Other issues to review were around pre-existing language, did it need modernising? Were there necessary amendments to be made? Had any byelaws or clauses fallen into disuse?
- 295.5 It was also important to consider where the material could be stored and extent of certified copies required for legal purposes. Documentation went back to the nineteen fifties, with records going back further.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

296. **IFCA Membership**

- 296.1 Tim Dapling gave a verbal report about the six month extension of MMO appointees' membership and the 2015 members' appointment process. Tim Dapling said that MMO Appointees should have already signed and returned a letter from the MMO accepting their extended membership, following the completion of the four year cycle membership process. MMO requirements meant that if they had not signed and returned the acceptance they were no longer legally members. The Chief Officers' Group (COG) had sent a letter to the MMO, Tim Dapling said, requesting an update on the situation as no correspondence had been received from the MMO to date.

297 **Marine Conservation Zones update**

297.1 Erin Pettifer introduced this item. At the last meeting of the Technical Subcommittee in September, Natural England (NE) had presented their draft Conservation Advice for Kingmere MCZ. Copies could be circulated to members of the full Committee on request, Erin Pettifer said.

297.2 On the basis of NE's Conservation Advice, and in close liaison with local NE advisors, potential management options which met Kingmere MCZs conservation objectives had been formulated to help inform management discussions with the community.

Balanced Seas management recommendations had also been incorporated. Government guidance stipulated that public authorities had to have regard to measures proposed by stakeholders during the site designations stage and it was important to build on all the work done previously.

297.3 Management scenarios put forward for consideration by the community aimed to encompass the range of potential management measures, from the most precautionary with less complex management, to as adaptive as possible whilst still meeting the sites conservation objectives with an associated increased management complexity.

297.4 A series of facilitated community workshops to discuss potential Kingmere MCZ site management scenarios had taken place on 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2014. These formed part of Sussex IFCA's informal pre-consultation with the community to help develop management for 1<sup>st</sup> Tranche sites Kingmere and Beachy Head West.

297.5 57 people had attended these first 3 workshops, Erin Pettifer reported. Equivalent workshops to discuss potential management scenarios for Beachy Head West MCZ would be conducted on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014. All workshop outputs, including the 41 indepth interview outputs, would be taken back to the Technical Subcommittee for discussion and to help members formulate potential management measures for 1<sup>st</sup> Tranche MCZ sites.

297.6 Erin Pettifer suggested early December for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting, to be confirmed.

297.7 There was the expectation by government that management measures for 1<sup>st</sup> Tranche MCZ sites should be put in place as soon as possible after designation. IFCOs would therefore work towards the very tight timeline of attempting to bring in management for Kingmere prior to the next breem season if possible.

297.8 A survey report for the side scan sonar (SSS) survey of Kingmere MCZ had been completed and data interpretation was ongoing. Cefas had completed the SSS data processing, and outsourcing of the final SSS and

video ground truth data interpretation to assess bream nest location, and potentially density, was being investigated.

- 297.9 Initial analysis of the pilot tagging survey data had begun, Erin Pettifer said. 4 out of the 5 fish with acoustic tags were re-found on at least one occasion, and 18 floy tagged fish had been recaptured.
- 297.10 Steve Hanks asked how well the CVM meetings had gone; Erin Pettifer had collated initial results from feedback forms and shared the findings with the members, which were very positive. Robert Yorke congratulated all the officers on the hard work which the workshops had entailed. Jim Partridge was keen to receive detailed feedback. Tim Dapling said that a presentation of completed findings should be given to the Technical Subcommittee in due course, after the final three workshops had taken place.
- 297.11 Tim Dapling said that the position was clearly that this structure provided the starting point for involving the community, to inform management and feed information and views to the Authority to assist it in management development.
- 297.12 Tim Dapling said that he had been receiving feedback from various quarters and distributed copies of a draft Frequently Asked Questions document which he and Erin Pettifer had written, to aid response in a timely and structured fashion.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

## 298. **European Marine Sites Update**

- 298.1 Erin Pettifer referred to the IFCA MPA reporting tool, which had been developed to report on MPA work progress, Erin had included Appendix I for EMS site information and amber/green risks gear-feature assessments progress.
- 298.2 Work on the tests of Likely Significant Effect (tLSEs) for all gear-feature interactions within Sussex EMS had been ongoing. 40 'simple' tLSEs had now been completed, comprising 49% of the total number of tLSEs required.
- 298.3 Erin Pettifer said that 'simple' tLSEs all concluded there was no likely significant effect. They were conducted firstly, where activity did not occur at the site; secondly, where activity was already managed through Sussex IFCA byelaws; and lastly, where there was no feasible/unlikely interaction.
- 298.4 Oyster dredging within Chichester Harbour had been identified as requiring an Appropriate Assessment to consider its impact primarily on subtidal sediments, Erin reported. This fishing practice was potentially high risk due to low recovery rates associated with softer sediments and the level of potential damage from towed gear. Preliminary literature



reviews by Cefas, Natural England and Sussex IFCA had, however, identified an evidence gap around oyster dredging impacts.

- 298.5 Erin Pettifer said that she was waiting to hear whether IFCA would be receiving some extra funding from Defra to carry out a partnership research project with Southern IFCA and Kent and Essex IFCA, plus the National Oceanography Centre, the National Environment Research Council, the University of Southampton and Natural England.
- 298.6 The project would be specifically assigned for fishing impacts evidence collection, Erin Pettifer said, and had been formulated in partnership and submitted. Video, grab, multibeam and sidescan sonar surveys were intended to be carried pre and post the 2014 oyster season in October and November, and after a recovery period in April and October 2015.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

299. **Interim Research Report April to September 2014**

- 299.1 Kathryn Nelson introduced the Interim Research Report to members, she ran through the report and highlighted items described.
- 299.2 Stock assessments had been made prior to the Emergency Byelaw being made and work had been carried out in partnership with the University of Southampton to monitor brood stocks. Amongst other findings, the sex ratio was becoming more balanced, they had found.
- 299.3 Kathryn Nelson had been very busy over the summer working on a large variety of projects including habitat research, EMS work and evidence had been gathered to support the management of Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone using a range of techniques including acoustic, tagging and observations, as well as community engagement. Four fish surveys had been taken, details of which were available in the report.
- 299.4 This year's annual research plan was the most ambitious to date, setting out over thirty projects covering a diverse range of techniques and evidence requirements. A prioritisation process had been undertaken to identify the projects that either had a commitment of continued monitoring or where there was a need for evidence to support potential management. In particular, continued monitoring of the small fish population had expanded this year to include more sites, gathering more data and reaching out to work in partnership with more people.
- 299.5 On all projects, a collaborative approach had been sought with clear benefits for sharing resources, skills, knowledge and data. In the first half of this financial year, good progress had been made against almost all of these projects and in some cases, additional work had been undertaken.

Peter Jones praised the breadth, volume and quality of the work briefly described in the interim research report.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

300. **Summary of Expenditure for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September**

300.1 The Chairman introduced the new Finance Manager, Estelle Barton, to the members.

300.2 Estelle Barton went through the financial report for the last quarter, highlighting several items and explaining the preliminary forecast for the next quarter.

300.3 Jim Partridge queried the diesel reporting, the budget was the same as the forecast, and, bearing in mind that diesel costs had dropped, did that mean that 'Watchful' was being used more than expected?

300.4 Stewart Harper asked why costs for the x-trail were so much lower than budgeted for. Charlie Hubbard replied by explaining that using the van was a lot more expensive and less reliable than using the Belingo, hence the latter had been deployed more often. Stewart Harper initiated a discussion on the usefulness of coding items to simplify recording. Estelle Barton was looking at reviewing the accounts systems, she said.

300.5 Tim Dapling summed up by saying that this quarter had showed a surplus of just over £2k, considering extra recruitment costs it had been a positive quarter in terms of expenditure. Robert Yorke would like to see balance sheets and other quarter's expenditure alongside for comparison.

ALL RESOLVED to note the items.

301. **Vessel & Vehicle Maintenance Log**

301.1 Tony Delahunty introduced this item by informing members that Charlie Hubbard, Marine Operations Manager & Master of Vessels, had been working at Sussex IFCA, formerly Sussex Sea Fisheries, for twenty years. Tony Delahunty said what a pleasure it had been to work with Charlie over the years and that the condition of the boats were a credit to him. The Chairman then thanked Charlie Hubbard on behalf of the Authority and gave him a commemorative present.

ALL RESOLVED to note the items.

302. **Compliance & Enforcement Report**

- 302.1 Alberto Kavadellas gave an overview of the latest report and detailed activities carried out over the last three months.
- 302.2 Jim Partridge queried details in the pie-chart data as he found it misleading. Alberto Kavadellas explained how the recording of hours took place and agreed that the information could be recorded differently if desired. The time sheets, however, could not be changed as the timesheets were linked to other information, one of which was pie charts.
- 302.3 During this quarter the whelk fishery had moved further to the south into the deeper waters of the channel. Fishers were hoping that with the colder weather this fishery would return inshore, Joe Watt agreed.
- 302.4 Steve Hanks asked how much emphasis workwise had been put into management of Chichester Harbour Fishery which seemed very heavy proportionately. Tim Dapling agreed that significant resources were directed at Chichester it was an important site, as it was an MPA area and management was particularly intensive now as the season approached and would continue as the byelaw was finalised, he anticipated the Authority's focus would then lessen.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

303 **Communications Report**

- 303.1 Tony Delahunty asked that the meeting note this report.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

304 **FIPAD and support for archaeological project**

- 304.1 Robert Yorke said that they were aiming to appoint someone to integrate within the Authority's area on a two year Heritage Lottery funded basis. The person would be employed by Wessex Archaeology but the position was still in early planning stages. There were three aspects of work to be covered: examining fishermen's historic collections, fishermen's fasteners and getting out into the community to publicise efforts being made by fishermen to record historic environments.

304.2 Tim Dapling said that desk space would be available for someone and could bring in some small income, as well as enriching the work of the Authority with an interesting archaeological element.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report

305. **Association of IFCAs & Chief Officers Group**

305.1 Tony Delahunty asked if members were happy to take these items as read and note the report. Tim Dapling said that he would be happy to answer any queries from members.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

306. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

306.1 Steve Hanks asked if Tony Delahunty would be attending the next meeting to discuss the previous Bass Summit outcomes and would be reporting back. The Chairman confirmed that this was the case.

267. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

267.1 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 – venue 12a Riverside.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Delahunty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tony Delahunty  
Chairman Sussex IFCA