

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
On 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

**PRESENT**

SUSSEX IFCA:

***Members***

Tony Delahunty (MMO Appointee) Chairman  
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Brighton & Hove County Council) Vice Chairman  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)  
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)  
Audrey Jones (Natural England)  
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)  
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)  
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee)  
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)

***Staff***

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Ian Jones (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Catherine Holcombe (Finance Manager)  
Erin Pettifer (MPA Officer)  
Andy McMahon (Senior Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Kathryn Nelson (Fisheries and Conservation Research Officer)  
Rachel Griffin (Committee Manager & Personal Assistant)

***Invitees***

Angus Radford (Marine Area Manager-South East, Marine Management Organisation)

Tony Delahunty opened the meeting by welcoming Andy McMahon, Senior Fisheries & Conservation Officer, to his first principal meeting and Angus Radford of MMO, who was giving a presentation later. Tim Dapling explained that after the last, long meeting, it had been decided to start the meetings earlier and have a short break between the Decision Items and the Information Items. The Chairman added that on this occasion it would also allow the members to meet the two newly appointed Fisheries Officers, Matt Wiseman and Alice Tebb.

**211. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor John Hodges (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor John Rogers (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Nigel Peters (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)  
David Guy (MMO Appointee)  
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)  
Stewart Harper (MMO Appointee)  
Joe Watt (MMO Appointee)

**212. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

212.1 Tony Delahunty declared his fishing interests and that he was Chairman of the NFFO South East Region.

**213. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

213.1 Tony Delahunty pointed out a misspelling on 196.1 FFO should read NFFO.

Proposed by Cllr. Ollie Sykes and seconded by Steve Hanks.

**213.2 Matters Arising**

213.3 Tim Dapling commented on minute 205 *re E.ON and the Wind Farm Planning Application process*, the Authority had sent some comments back to questions from the planning authority, clarifying issues concerning impacts on specific methods of fishing.

213.4 A teleconference meeting was being called about implications of piling activities. The Authority had been asked for input specifically on sensitive spawning periods for black bream and Tim Dapling was responding accordingly.

**214. DECISION ITEMS**

**214.1 Sussex IFCA draft Annual Report 2012 to 2013 Framework**

214.2 Tim Dapling had provided a report framework for members. It was a statutory requirement under the Marine and Coastal Access Act, he said, to produce an Annual Report and an Annual Plan. Both the plan and report were intended to inform the community and raise public awareness. Compliance, Research, Marine Operations and MPA Development would all be focussed on as key work areas over the last year.

- 214.3 Robert Yorke requested that there be a paragraph included on the FIPAD initiative.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendation.

## 215 **Review of Management Measures**

- 215.1 Ian Jones reported on the Technical Subcommittee Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September. After some discussion and taking into consideration the Authority's capacity, the subcommittee agreed on a prioritisation matrix to inform decision making for common theme management measures. Immediate priorities included the IFCA's statutory obligations to EMS management and the pending designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ).

- 215.2 The Subcommittee discussed the flexibility of having a permit byelaw for common themes and the need for specific byelaws, for example fishing instruments, authorisations for scientific purposes etc. Members continued to recognise the need for transparency when changing regulations. The Subcommittee agreed that a shellfish permit byelaw should be developed together with oyster management as an initial step towards theme management.

- 215.3 Tony Delahunty asked if the meeting accepted the recommendations. It was proposed:

**2.1 That the Authority notes the contents of the report.**

**2.2 That the Authority approves the development of a draft shellfish permit byelaw.**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

Officers apologised to John Ungar for having been omitted from the Technical Subcommittee in error.

- 215.4 Jim Partridge reported that for some years, Shoreham boats had voluntarily been limited to 300 whelk pots each to ensure stocks remained. Boats from outside the area had arrived when no whelks were left in their own area and were using circa 1,000 whelk pots per boat. The local fishermen were pressurising for some action from the Authority because, not only had they limited their pot numbers, but also, they had been using 25mm riddles when the new boats had been using 22mm riddles. There would soon be no whelks left, said Jim Partridge.

- 215.5 The Chairman confirmed that the fishermen at Littlehampton felt the same. Steve Hanks asked if the two whelk summits had been of use in the management of whelks. Keith Schofield questioned the value of pot limitation and if it could be achieved or enforced. It was recognised that

proper tagging and marking of gear was what was required, with the ability to prosecute if limits were exceeded.

215.6 Ian Jones said that the permit scheme would cover these issues and new technical steps would be included. Tony Delahunty asked what the timescale was, Ian Jones thought it would be possible to draft potential conditions for a permit scheme for the next Technical Subcommittee Meeting which would take place in December.

215.7 Keith Schofield said that a tagging process was imperative to enable prosecutions to take place.

215.8 Tim Dapling described other areas' tagging processes which were already in place, notably Jersey, where a very effective tagging system exists.

**Action: Ian Jones to look into other tagging and permit scheme processes.**

215.9 **Assessment of new, non-permitted methods and activities for the exploitation of sea fisheries resources**

215.10 Jim Partridge left the meeting due to prejudicial interest.

215.11 Tim Dapling reported that the Technical Subcommittee had discussed the development of this process and a mechanism to enable the Authority to consider changes to permitted fishing methods and instruments by way of an Inshore Fisheries Environmental Statement (IFES) process. The subcommittee had approved the process subject to some minor recommendations and subsequent amendments. Tim Dapling said he would circulate the final document now the amendments had been agreed.

215.12 Keith Schofield said that the introduction of new methods of fishing would have a destabilising effect and would bring unforeseen consequences. Keith Schofield said he was particularly concerned about the potential impact on bass and discarding associated with ring netting. Tim Dapling explained that the process the Authority had now adopted was a robust and thorough process and ultimately any changes to the existing regulatory regime required a public consultation process. There was further discussion concerning the growth of fly-dragging and the risks it presented.

215.13 Steve Hanks requested descriptions of different fishing methods as they appeared in the District. Paul Johnson suggested that he gave an hour long talk before the next Technical Subcommittee Meeting to all interested parties, all committee members agreed this would be a welcome event.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendation to adopt the process to approach '*the assessment of new, non-permitted methods and activities for the exploitation of sea fisheries resources*'.

216. **Chichester Oyster Fishery Management – CHOPI Update**

216.1 Ian Jones introduced this item which aimed to provide members with an update of the outcomes of the recent Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative (CHOPI) meeting.

216.2 Ian Jones reported back on the CHOPI meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October, he said that the group proposed that a draft oyster permit byelaw be developed containing the preferred and required management options from the management plan. Relaying of existing Chichester oyster brood stock and survey work had been discussed and had been carried out last week.

216.3 Regarding Operational Management – the group had been advised that a joint agency approach to compliance had again been developed for this season which included both Southern and Sussex IFCAs, CHC, EA and EHOs. The group had supported this approach. Discussion had also taken place about the development of a permit scheme for this fishery and the group had agreed that a draft oyster permit byelaw should be developed. Two meetings had been scheduled per year prior to each season, for developing work plans.

216.4 Tony Delahunty asked if the meeting accepted the recommendations. It was proposed:

2.1 **That the Authority notes the contents of the report.**

2.2 **That the Authority supports the work plan for 2013/14**

2.3 **That the Authority approves the draft development of an oyster permit byelaw**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

216.5 Tim Dapling said that there had been considerable concern at the CHOPI meeting about the forthcoming oyster season in Chichester Harbour. Previous years had seen improvement in the numbers of mature oysters in the harbour and consequently, at the beginning of the season, there had been large numbers of boats from different area arriving to benefit from this increase. Approximately 60 tonnes were fished in total last year. The fear from the CHOPI members and stakeholders was that it would be overfished this year. This concern was complicated by the fact that Southern IFCA were changing the management of their oyster fishery by closing off all public oyster fisheries in the Solent area, while only Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours would remain open for a four week period at the start of the season. Displacement activity would be the knock-on effect from this in other harbours, including Chichester, it was suspected.

- 216.6 The CHOPI members keen for Sussex IFCA to take emergency measures to respond to the situation. The planned relaying process (1¾ tonnes of oyster were collected and relayed) took place and was able to supply further information on stock levels and catch rates. The results had shown that less than a tenth of samples were below minimum size, indicating poor recruitment for next season, this provided appropriate grounds for pursuing an emergency byelaw.
- 216.7 The Emergency draft byelaw had been drafted in mid-October and had been submitted to Defra and MMO. Tim Dapling explained that the Authority were able to make an emergency byelaw without confirmation by the Secretary of State. Procedures were described under Section 157 of The Marine and Coastal Access Act to make emergency byelaws . Tim Dapling had provided relevant material to Defra and the MMO concerning the intended byelaw and its justification.
- 216.8 Legal Advisor, Alan Hogg, at MMO, confirmed there were good grounds for the byelaw, Tim Dapling explained, as had Defra’s legal expert, Sean Mclennan. Andrew Oliver, at Andrew M. Jackson Solicitors, had been consulted for his independent legal advice, Tim distributed copies of Andrew Oliver’s (Solicitor to AMJ) feedback to members. The feedback included some minor grammatical changes, but, essentially, the legal opinion was that there were appropriate and sound grounds for the emergency byelaw.
- 216.9 The amended emergency byelaw was presented to the members for approval.
- 216.10 Jim Partridge queried whether an emergency byelaw was the best way to proceed and that he hoped the Authority could introduce a byelaw in the near future to ensure parity with other authorities along the coast.
- 216.11 Charles Bacchus asked why this need for an emergency byelaw had arisen. Tim Dapling explained that recent research sampling had shown the extremely low stock of juvenile oysters in Chichester Harbour and that, coupled with the possible impact of fishery closures in Southern IFCA’s District, had resulted in the urgent requirement for an emergency byelaw. The Authority had shown due diligence by asking for independent legal advice. Unlike neighbouring Authorities, the IFCA had no present legal mechanism to close shellfish beds in such circumstances.
- 216.12 Peter Pragnell asked which subcommittee would be authorising the temporary prohibition. Tim Dapling said that it would be the role of the Technical Subcommittee and the intended process would establish a closure threshold. Paul Leonard emphasised the need for appropriate data. Jim Partridge expressed concern about the displacement of activity which would inevitable take place when the fisherman were denied access to Chichester Harbour, with particular reference to whelk fishing.

Keith Schofield and Tony Delahunty both agreed. Ian Jones then described the areas affected in more detail with a presentation and chart.

216.13 Officers also circulated very recent catch data assessments supplied by Kathryn Nelson. Southern IFCA's jurisdiction extended to that part of Chichester Harbour in Hampshire (the west side of Emsworth Channel). There was discussion on the potential management of this area. This included the opportunity for a formal agreement between the Authorities to allow Sussex IFCA to manage the whole harbour. Given appropriate conditions this was considered by members a sensible, practical solution to pursue.

216.14 The chairman referred members to the three recommendations for the meeting to agree to:

1. The necessity to make an emergency byelaw, including final amendments as shown
2. Delegate to the Technical subcommittee the authority to implement a closure of the fishery
3. Emergency, immediate temporary closure of Chichester Harbour areas, as defined.

216.15 Robert Yorke asked how it would be implemented. Tim Dapling said there would be an evidence based approach with officers monitoring and assessing catch rates; when a predetermined threshold was reached the fishery would be closed. To enable the process, a fourth recommendation was proposed accordingly:

**An additional temporary closure for the remaining Chichester Harbour areas within the District are introduced when stock levels reach a predetermined threshold, based on the existing stock.**

Notification would take place when the decision had been taken by the Technical Subcommittee.

216.16 Paul Johnson drew attention to the use of the word 'covert' in the Work Plan, Ian Jones agreed to remove it.

216.17 Tony Delahunty asked if the meeting accepted the four recommendations Proposed that:

1. **The Authority make the emergency byelaw, 'Emergency Byelaw made pursuant to s157 Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 - TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SHELLFISH FISHERIES BYELAW', with final amendments**
2. **That the Authority' delegate to the Technical Subcommittee the authority to close the oyster fishery.**

3. **That, in respect to the emergency byelaw, the Authority implement an immediate temporary closure on those areas described and shown in the relevant supporting documents.**
4. **An additional temporary closure for the remaining Chichester Harbour areas within the District are introduced when stock levels reach a predetermined threshold, based on the existing stock.**

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept all the recommendations.

## 217. **South Marine Planning, South Plans Analytical Report Consultation**

- 217.1 Tim Dapling introduced the item, which aimed to provide members with information on the MMO's South Marine Planning process and to provide details of the *South Plans Analytical Report* consultation and receive comments. Many links were supplied to members for information.
- 217.2 Tim Dapling had been to a meeting in Portsmouth and had made provided significant input on the evidence described. Some sets of data were difficult to interpret, he said, and he went through a presentation. Given the information presented in the report, there were concerns regarding the accuracy and extent of information shown within the 6 mile limit and how that might in future inform planning decisions and the implications to the management of the District.
- 217.3 Tim welcomed comments from members, following receipt of which he would provide further comments to the MMO.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

## 218. **Customer Service Plan**

- 218.1 Tim Dapling explained that he and Rachel Griffin had produced a draft 'Customer Service Plan' defining 'Performance Standards' and associated procedures. The Authority currently had a list of promises and this more detailed plan clarified its approach to customer service.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations and adopt the proposed Service Plan.

There was a short break for refreshments at this point.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

219. **'Update on CFP negotiations and implementation' presentation by Angus Radford, Marine Area Manager-South East, Marine Management Organisation**

219.1 The Chairman introduced Angus Radford to the members, who gave a presentation for Defra regarding CFP reform, which was followed by a short discussion among members.

220. **Staff Development and Training**

220.1 Ian Jones said that this was solely a good news report to introduce the new Fisheries Officers, Andy McMahon, Matt Wiseman and Alice Tebb. Ian had facilitated a successful one week induction course with them at the

end of August and had been happy to welcome two members of Natural England and a Fisheries Officer from Eastern IFCA to the course. Ian congratulated Andy on receipt of his warrant card. Tim Dapling said that standards of personal development were currently being developed nationally and that Ian Jones was a now member of the IFCA's National Training Group.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

221. **Chichester Harbour European Marine Site (Specified Areas) Prohibition of Fishing Method Byelaw**

221.1 Erin Pettifer updated the committee on Chichester Harbour European Marine Site Prohibition of Fishing Method Byelaw via the associated impact statement following the end of the public consultation on 26<sup>th</sup> September (following Defra guidance). The recommendation was that the Committee agreed to publish the byelaw, upon receipt of an MMO response to the Authority's application for confirmation of the byelaw by the Secretary of State.

221.2 All responses had now been considered and responded to in writing, with explanations for decisions made. Erin Pettifer referred to Appendix I for the consultation response summary and said that two minor amendments had been made to the byelaw and impact statement following the consultation.

221.3 The byelaw had been submitted to the MMO on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with all associated documentation and she recommended that the committee accept the recommendation to publish upon receipt of a response from the MMO. Tim Dapling congratulated the officers on their efforts to develop and introduce the legislation in the limited time frame.

**'Chichester Harbour European Marine Site (Specified Areas)  
Prohibition of Fishing Method Byelaw'**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendation with the two amendments:

**That the Authority agrees to the amendments to the Chichester Harbour European Marine Site (Specified Areas) Prohibition of Fishing Method Byelaw**

**That the Authority agrees to publish the aforementioned byelaw, upon confirmation of the byelaw by the Secretary of State.**

**222. Natural England Conservation Advice Package**

- 222.1 Erin Pettifer provided members with information on Natural England's (NE) Conservation Advice consultation. NE was working to improve and update all their conservation advice for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Erin said. They had established a new project to develop advice that aimed to be clear, consistent, easily understood and met the needs of the organisations and individuals that used it.
- 222.2 As a key stakeholder within the Eastern Channel region, Sussex IFCA had been invited to comment on NE's draft MPA Conservation Advice and feedback had been submitted. Audrey Jones said that members would have more opportunities to respond as the process went on.

ALL RESOLVED to note the Items.

**223 Marine Conservation Zones Update**

- 223.1 Erin Pettifer explained that an announcement on the first tranche of MCZs to be designated was expected shortly. There was an expectation that management measures should be put in place as soon as possible after designation to protect the features for which a site has been designated.
- 223.2 Potential broad management measures for first tranche sites were being discussed nationally. Defra was currently developing site specific factsheets to accompany the site designation orders which described why the site was important, the features which were to be protected and an indication of site management where possible. Defra had sought information from local IFCAs regarding both current and potential management for sites. Potential management measures indicated in Appendix I, which Erin supplied, were drawn from Balanced Seas regional group discussions.

- 223.3 Erin Pettifer said that detailed site specific management action plans were also being progressed between NE and the MMO. This included prioritisation of the most high risk sites, development of management options by the lead regulator, engagement with stakeholders and putting in place management measures to protect the site.
- 223.4 As previously discussed, Erin said that, in taking forward the management of MCZ sites, the Authority was using the Community Voice Method (CVM) as a tool for helping explore potential measures and issues with the local community. This work would help support IFCA staff to take forward MCZ management discussions in a timely manner once site designation announcements are made. Interviews with identified stakeholders would commence in November 2013. Steve Hanks queried why there was a slight delay in designation and Erin Pettifer said that it was as a result in part of the change in Minister.
- 223.5 Robert Yorke asked what guidance, if any, IFCAs had received regarding archaeological heritage in MCZs. Tim Dapling said that other than the guidance within the Act, there was no specific information on archaeological heritage issues. Robert Yorke was very concerned as nothing had been provided by Defra and he would like to discuss the issue with them.
- 223.6 Erin Pettifer thanked everyone for their input and asked members to supply names of further key stakeholders, a spread of people and viewpoints was required, but weighted towards commercial fishery representatives and anglers.

ALL RESOLVED to note the Items.

224. **'Commercial Fishing & the Marine Historic Environment consultation, Fishing Industry Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries' presentation by Robert Yorke**

- 224.1 Robert Yorke updated the meeting about Fishing Industry Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (FIPAD). He said that this area had been chosen as a sample area and Wessex had finalised their report to English Heritage and there had been 41 finds this year.
- 224.2 There was new project started by English Heritage and he hoped that the success gained from working with the Authority would result in a national rollout.
- 224.3 The report of the fishing impact on wrecks showed there is little historical blame for damage from the fishing industry. Robert Yorke proposed the following:

- That both new and legacy information on finds was used
- That there was a need to work with fisherman to avoid future damage
- That early reporting of sites were improved
- That this was rolled out on a national basis
- That initiatives were developed with Hastings FLAG

224.4 Tim Dapling said that the report was extremely interesting with many benefits through interaction, particularly with the proposed Hastings Flag connection.

ALL RESOLVED to note the Items.

## 225. **Interim Research Report**

225.1 Kathryn Nelson presented a report to Members on the research activities of the authority during the first half of the financial year, from April to September 2013. She said that this was a brief overview of the research carried out, often in partnership with other organisations.

225.2 Kathryn listed the range of research which had been carried out: there had been a crab and lobster sampling program set up; oyster sampling for the CHOPI project; ongoing video projects at Hastings and Selsey, all GIS data had been given to Sussex Biological Biodiversity Record Centre for the Sussex Undersea Project; much work had also been carried out in MCZs and MPAs; video surveys for the Panache Project; sea grass surveys; small fish surveys and beam trawling.

225.3 Tim Dapling said that Kathryn Nelson was to be congratulated for the large amount of work she had completed over a short space of time, which had been of great help in informing management.

ALL RESOLVED to note the Items.

## 226. **Compliance & Enforcement Report**

226.1 Ian Jones presented the latest report to members and brought their attention to 3 prosecutions taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> November at Brighton Magistrates Court. He will be reporting back to the committee about the outcome at the next quarterly committee meeting. Ian said that the report was self explanatory and that Andy McMahon, Senior Fisheries Officer, will be presenting the report at the next meeting.

ALL RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

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

- 227.1 Catherine Holcombe said that there had been extra expenditure in this quarter on kit for three new staff members, but a saving on salaries. Robert Yorke thanked Catherine for the addition of the forecast which showed not only that the Authority may be under budget at year end, but also gave an idea of future expenditure.
- 227.2 Tony Delahunty said that the auditors had sent back the report submitted by Catherine without any comments. Tim Dapling thanked Robert Yorke for his development of input into the report and his assistance with the longterm forecasting.

ALL RESOLVED to note the the report.

228. **Preliminary estimate of income and expenditure for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

- 228.1 Catherine Holcombe presented the preliminary estimate of income and expenditure for 2014/15. The purpose of the preliminary estimate was to enable IFCA funders to agree a budget for the coming year. The actual budget would be presented to committee in January, she said.
- 228.2 Tim Dapling said that there was a £20k reduction in the budget overall for the next year against last year's. He said it was a challenging time in public expenditure but the authority had kept its levy on local authorities static since the Authority was formed in 2010.

ALL RESOLVED to note the the report.

229. **FPV Watchful – Arrangements for provision of vessel 2014 onward**

- 229.1 Tim Dapling said that the purpose of this report was to inform members about the legal and financial arrangements developed to continue provision of FPV 'Watchful' after the existing 10 year lease ends in early December.
- 229.2 The original vessel purchase and lease documentation was drawn up to provide the present Authority with control of post primary lease period options at competitive financial terms, Tim said. The Authority is now utilising those options to best suit the present circumstances and potential needs for future marine activities.

- 229.3 Tim Dapling said that absence of specific management information meant that the Authority was unable to make a fully informed decision on the vessel's future role for the medium to long term. Before taking these longer term decisions with significant financial and operational implications the Authority needed to fully understand implications of:
- Designated sites and management measures for Marine Conservation Zones.
  - Management activity arising from the Byelaw review
  - The IFCA relationship with MMO and their potential needs as regards vessel provision and joint working.
  - Wider ecosystem research including habitat monitoring from acoustic, video and grab work.

Therefore, Tim said, until greater clarity on these issues existed, it had been concluded that provision of the vessel should be maintained on the basis that the Authority remains sole operator. The associated liabilities would be that capital and operating costs were minimised; that flexibility in future decision making was maintained; that the present solution was affordable in respect to available budgets and reserves and that the Authority was in control of any decisions in regard to Charter conditions.

- 229.4 To this end, Tim Dapling had approached the IFCA's three constituent authorities' finance officers to develop an appropriate solution. Subsequently, he had developed a detailed plan with WSCC. The intended solution was to transfer ownership of the vessel to an authority, with a view to operate the vessel through them or at a future point potentially returning the vessel to Sussex IFCA ownership. Steve Hanks said that this was an elegant solution. Throughout the process the Finance Subcommittee and the Chairman were kept apprised of developments, explained Tim Dapling.

ALL RESOLVED to note the the report.

### 230 **Vessel and Vehicle Maintenance log 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September**

- 230.1 The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the immaculate condition that the vessel was kept in and congratulated Charlie Hubbard on this. Tim Dapling said that the Duke of Gloucester would be visiting the vessel and the Authority's offices on 13<sup>th</sup> November, following a recommendation from the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex.

ALL RESOLVED to note the the report.

231. **Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities**

231.1 Tim Dapling reported that, significantly, the AIFCA had hosted a visit by the Natural England Marine Director, Alan Law. He discussed the relationship between NE and the IFCAs and how to work more closely in the development of shared evidence.

227. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

227.1 Angling 2012 would be giving a presentation at the next meeting the Chairman was going to the ministerial launch in November.

228. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

228.1 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 – venue 12a Riverside.

Tony Delahunty  
Chairman Sussex IFCA