

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

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)
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor Nigel Peters (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)
David Guy (MMO Appointee)
Stewart Harper (MMO Appointee)
Joe Watt (MMO Appointee)

Staff

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

Invitees

Dr Kieran Hyder (Cefas)
Delyth Dyne (Defra)
Mike Armstrong (Cefas)

Tony Delahunty welcomed all members to the meeting and Tim Dapling gave a quick overview of the information items and decision items which would be included. He also introduced Kieran Hyder and Mike Armstrong from Cefas who would be giving a presentation on Sea Angling.

229. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee)
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)
Councillor John Rogers (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor John Hodges (East Sussex County Council)
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)
Andy McMahon (Senior Fisheries & Conservation Officer)

230. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

231. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

231.1 Tony Delahunty went through the minutes asking for comments. James Partridge queried 217.2 on page 8, Tim Dapling agreed that the word 'made' needed to be removed.

Proposed by Cllr. Ollie Sykes, seconded by James Partridge.

231.2 Matters Arising

231.3 Tim Dapling commented on minute 229, he mentioned the verbal update given at the Finance Subcommittee concerning the sale and purchase of 'Watchful'. He thanked West Sussex County Council for their invaluable help and support during this process. When the end of the 10 year lease had been reached with Lombard, WSCC had purchased the vessel temporarily, and, after all appropriate requirements had been fulfilled, had sold 'Watchful' to the Authority. Sussex IFCA was now the owner and operator of the boat. Tim Dapling explained that the Authority had received 90% of the residual value of the sale of the boat, less the final charter party and no further leasing payments were required. There only remained one final charter lease payment to WSCC, to be made before the end of the financial year. The outcome was very positive for the Authority in respect to future marine operations and financial planning.

231.4 James Partridge enquired about the condition of the vessel and its value. At the end of the leasing period, Tim Dapling replied, Lombard Business Leasing had carried out a valuation of 'Watchful' which had determined the sale price of the vessel to WSCC. An independent valuation had also been obtained.

231.5 Tony Delahunty asked if Paul Johnson could give his presentation at the next meeting. It was agreed that the IFCA staff should present to members on inshore fishing methods and the MMO on offshore fisheries.

231.6 **Action: Minutes to be produced in two weeks and circulated.**

232. **DECISION ITEMS**

232.1 **Sussex IFCA Annual Report 2012 to 2013**

232.2 Tim Dapling introduced the final published Annual Report for 2012 to 2013 and thanked members for their contributions, this was the formally adopted, published report of the second year of the Authority's work, he said. It had been sent to Defra in accordance with statutory requirements. Copies were being posted out to appropriate organisations and individuals and Tim asked members to supply contact details for further parties they felt should receive a hard copy.

232.3 **Sussex IFCA draft Annual Plan 2013 to 2014 Focus and Priorities**

232.4 The Annual Plan was now the next priority, and with a view to this Tim Dapling had provided members with the Authority's proposed Focus and Priorities for 2014 to 2015. Key areas were highlighted to members.

232.5 Audrey Jones pointed out that 'Beachy Head East' on Success Criteria 2 should read 'Beachy Head West' and Pagham should also be included.

232.6 Tim Dapling said that the report would be finalised by the end of March.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

233. **Sea Angling 2012 Presentation**

233.1 Kieran Hyder gave a presented Angling 2012 on behalf of Cefas called, the project had been running for three years in collaboration with different partners including Sussex IFCA. He thanked the Authority for their help, mentioning Belinda Vause and Kat Nelson in particular.

233.2 Kieran Hyder said that, as an IFCA, the Authority needed to represent all stake holders and provide evidence-based policy and management, which was what the project intended to provide.

233.3 Kieran went through the project's summary findings with regards to numbers, catch amounts, frequency, fishermen's expenditure and the social benefits of sea angling.

233.4 Group discussions followed. Defra will use the data embedded into future policy. Tim Dapling concluded by saying that the report's results were significant and highlighted what a challenge it was to deliver balanced management measures for the benefit of both recreational and commercial anglers.

234 **Review of Management Measures**

- 234.1 Ian Jones went through his report. At their recent meeting, the Technical Subcommittee had been provided with an overview of some of the potential management options from previous meetings and the RMM consultation, an update for MCZ designation and EMS management and outcomes from the emergency byelaw for oyster management in Chichester Harbour.
- 234.2 Some of the main discussion topics had been open/closed access permits, harmonisation between IFCAs, pot tags, types and pot limitation, Ian Jones said, but he added that a full summary would be provided for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee would reconvene in February and progress recommendations for the development of a draft shellfish permit byelaw.
- 234.3 James Partridge expressed his concern about time slippage. Ian Jones and David Guy agreed that speed was necessary but accuracy was also important and it was a complex issue. Tim Dapling said that it was important that the Authority provided evidence to the community and listened to their feedback before defining measures.
- 234.4 Steve Hanks asked if there should be more meetings arranged to discuss the permit, Ian Jones said that there had been a general consensus at the Technical Subcommittee that more bite size meetings would take place in February to ensure there was enough time for in depth discussion.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

- 234.5 Ian Jones raised the possibility of splitting up the Technical Subcommittee, which had a large membership currently, into smaller, more specialised groups for discussions. Audrey Jones had suggested that this might be the way forward to facilitating earlier responses and an easier decision making process when their findings were presented to the whole membership of the subcommittee. Ian Jones and Erin Pettifer both agreed this was a good idea. Tim Dapling said that proposed groups could be suggested by officers for consideration by members at their next Technical Subcommittee meeting.

235. **Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative – CHOPI Update**

- 235.1 Ian Jones recapped on the closure of Chichester Harbour from 31st October to 1st November 2013 which had taken place by means of the implementation of an emergency byelaw based on a harvest control threshold.

- 235.2 A joint agency approach to monitoring compliance had been implemented commencing two weeks prior to the start of the season, during the season and following temporary closure measures. There had been no significant breaches of legislation, Ian Jones said, and positive feedback had been received from the majority of fisherman in relation to the measures put in place by the Authority. Monitoring of the area was an ongoing compliance priority for the Authority.
- 235.3 The next steps were to develop a draft proposed CHOPI Work Schedule for 2014/15, Ian Jones said, that would include a research and monitoring program, development of new regulation and operational management. The draft proposed CHOPI work plan would be implemented through the Technical Subcommittee and CHOPI principal meetings, both scheduled for February 2014.
- 235.4 Kathryn Nelson reported on the breed stock relaying, ongoing monitoring, associated data gathering and sampling which had been taking place in Chichester Harbour. Sussex police divers and Environmental Health Officers had been assisting in sampling and video habitat work, which would in turn assist in EMS work.
- 235.5 Tim Dapling thanked everyone who had been involved in the closure of the harbour process and said that most feedback had been very positive. The Authority should be pleased with the outcome and have increased confidence in addressing future situations with a similar approach.
- 235.6 Tim Dapling explained the byelaw and management complexities associated with the boundary between Sussex IFCA and Southern IFCA following the county boundaries in the Emsworth Channel. A solution was being sought with Defra via a formal agreement between Sussex and Southern IFCAs as to how Sussex IFCA could take over fisheries management throughout the harbour. Tim sought approval from the Authority to pursue the formal delegation of powers to Sussex IFCA from Southern IFCA under appropriate terms and conditions.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report and support the 'agreement' proposal in consultation with the Authority.

236. **MPA Update on EMS & MCZ management developments**

- 236.1 Erin Pettifer reported that the Chichester Harbour EMS (specified areas) Prohibition of Fishing Method byelaw had been confirmed by the Secretary of State (SoS) on 26th November 2013. This was the first EMS red risks byelaw in the country to be signed off.
- 236.2 The next stage was to look at feature and gear combinations assessed as Amber risk. Sussex IFCA had begun to gather some baseline information

to potentially inform assessments on oyster dredging impacts within Chichester Harbour, Erin Pettifer said. Close liaison with Natural England local advisers had been ensured throughout the ambers prioritisation and evidence gaps identification process.

- 236.3 Erin Pettifer said that close working between IFCAs nationally, in particular on cross-boundary sites, would also be essential throughout the forthcoming EMS ambers process. The IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG), a national partnership between IFCA research and environment officers, was working to facilitate coordination between IFCAs with the formulation of specific EMS working groups which Erin, as MPAO, would be participating in.
- 236.4 Erin Pettifer discussed a letter to Defra written by Tim Dapling, on behalf of COG, and offered to send a copy to interested members. Tim Dapling reported that the Chief Officers' Group (COG) had had a meeting in early January when Chief Officers had reflected upon the challenges in the year ahead. Many had been apprehensive of the scale of future work surrounding EMS assessments due to experiences in 2013. There was a real concern that there needed to be a balance between EMS issues and other priorities, including fisheries management measures, for the benefit of both commercial and recreational fishing communities.
- 236.5 Erin Pettifer updated the members on MCZs. All 3 of the MCZ sites off the Sussex coast, Kingmere, Beachy Head West and Pagham, had been confirmed by George Eustace on 21st November 2013.
- 236.6 Links and more information were to be found on Sussex IFCA's website. Erin Pettifer told the meeting that management timescales were still to be confirmed once prioritisation had taken place. Defra had conducted a national MCZ site management prioritisation but this was being refined at a local level by Sussex IFCA and Natural England.
- 236.7 The Community Voice Project (CVM) was progressing well, Erin Pettifer said, with positive feedback from people who have previously felt unengaged in the MCZ process. 38 stakeholders had been interviewed to date, and there would be a maximum of 45 interviews taking place, Erin welcomed suggestions for potential additional interviews.
- 236.8 MCS were currently capturing and coding the interviews, once the first edit of the film is complete, Sussex IFCA will review and agree any changes where necessary. Dates for screenings of the final film and associated workshops were yet to be confirmed.
- 236.9 Erin Pettifer thanked all who had been involved in the Anglers' meeting on 21st January. There had been successful discussions on black bream, MCZs (particularly Kingmere) and associated management measures resulting in an increase in understanding by all.
- 236.10 Stewart Harper queried how the opposition to the CVM project had been addressed. Tim Dapling explained that extensive correspondence had

been provided to the individual who had raised concerns to the Authority. The rationale behind the Authority's decision to support the work had been explained. Both Tim and the Chairman had invited the stakeholder to come in to the office and discuss his concerns and officers had encouraged his input to the CVM project, but the individual had chosen not to. Defra had been given copies of all correspondence as the individual had copied in Defra officials.

- 236.11 Robert Yorke asked that archaeological concerns be taken into account in MCZ management.
- 236.12 Paul Leonard flagged up the new Defra consultation regarding MCZs. Ian Jones will be circulating information to members. James Partridge raised the risks of time shortage to introduce bream management, Tim Dapling said that the same concerns had been raised at the Angling meeting. Tim added that the Authority and others had the opportunity to collect data this season with a view to developing management measures in time for 2015.
- 236.13 Stewart Harper suggested the Authority make one overarching broad byelaw, which would cover many different requirements. This would, Stuart argued, replace the need for creating numerous individual byelaws and would reduce the considerable time spent on producing them. Tim Dapling and Ian Jones agreed that there was a need to keep the legislative process as straightforward as practicable and would investigate what options could be pursued.

ALL RESOLVED to note the items.

237. **IFCA Research –Small Fish Surveys**

- 237.1 Kathryn Nelson explained the data in her report and said that there had been 3 small fish surveys conducted in 2013, at Chichester Harbour, Cuckmere and Rye, with 17 partner organisations and involving 52 people.
- 237.2 In total across all sites, there were 49 species and a total abundance of 11,090. Kathryn invited all members to study the resultant data supplied.
- 237.3 Paul Leonard requested more detail and technical specifications in the report and a comparison to previous surveys' data collection methods. It was agreed that Paul Leonard, Charles Bacchus and Kathryn Nelson would discuss options.

ALL RESOLVED to note the items.

238. **PANACHE**

- 238.1 Ian Jones introduced this item by explaining how PANACHE was an INTERREG funded France (Channel) England European Program. Its aim was to lead to better protection and management of the marine environment through the development of a more coherent approach for MPAs in the Channel Area.
- 238.2 The Authority was committed predominantly to 3 Work Packages, Ian Jones said, however, our input and involvement in the other WPs was not only beneficial for the Authority and the project but very useful for a wider understanding of the programme.
- 238.3 Ian Jones explained how the work packages had already benefitted the Authority which included: they had contributed to other organisations' MPA monitoring best practices; conducted video trials within one of the District's first tranche of MCZs at Kingmere; provided additional evidence base held for this site to help inform management development; embedded MPAs within Sussex IFCA's compliance risk management and developed case studies which were now being used to target our EMS red risk compliance work.
- 238.3 The next PANACHE three day WP workshop meeting was scheduled for March 2014 and hosted by Kent WLT, Ian said. Two Authority officers would be providing updates to specific WPs and an opportunity existed for two committee members who had specific interests and expertise in this area to attend.

ALL RESOLVED to note the items.

239. **Projects & Partnership Update**

- 239.1 Tim Dapling introduced the item by saying that this report detailed various initiatives and actions which had been taken over the previous quarter by Sussex IFCA Officers. The extent of its contents demonstrated the breadth of work in which the Authority engages.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

240. **Compliance & Enforcement**

- 240.1 Ian Jones presented the Compliance & Enforcement report. The purpose of this document was to report on compliance and enforcement activities for each quarter of 2013/14. The 3rd quarter report was appended to the document which also contained agreed regulatory enforcement strategies for the 4th quarter of January to March 2014.

- 240.2 The Compliance subcommittee had convened on 9th January 2014 and had been satisfied that the agreed regulatory strategies and performance targets had been met for the 3rd quarter, October to December, and had agreed the regulatory strategies for the next quarter, January to March.
- 240.3 Eel Grass assessment had taken place and, at Paul Johnson's request, an undulate ray assessment had been carried out and both would be joined to the risk assessment.
- 240.4 Ian Jones made members aware that a scallop dredge breach had been found by the Authority's officers inside 3 nautical miles a few days previous to the meeting.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

241. **Summary of actual expenditure from 1st October 2013 to 31st December 2013 against the budget**

- 241.1 Catherine Holcombe presented this summary and went through the balance sheet first. Looking at the summary, she said that there was a surplus for the quarter of £22k, mainly due to the lease cost now being zero following the end of 'Watchful's lease.
- 241.2 Catherine Holcombe asked for comments on the forecast, which was showing a surplus of £23k, but there still remained some end of lease repairs for 'Watchful' to be paid for, following which there would be a £1k deficit on the balance. This result was better than expected, she said.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

242.1 **Budget of income and expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2014**

- 242.2 Catherine Holcombe presented the proposed Budget of income and expenditure for 2014/15. The budget for 2014/15 was based on the income and expenditure in the current financial year and recognised the severe restraints imposed on Local Authority expenditure.
- 242.3 Catherine Holcombe said that the main differences between this document and the estimated budget supplied at the previous quarterly meeting, were the absence of lease costs for 'Watchful'. Depreciation of the vessel was built in over ten years now that the Authority owned 'Watchful'. Jim Partridge asked if there would be increased maintenance costs as the vessel was ageing. Tim Dapling acknowledged that maintenance costs were expected to increase, however, they were factored in the Authority's 5 year financial forecast. Any significant unexpected costs could be covered by mechanical insurance.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendation:

To approve both the proposed budget and the associated levies in the sum of £712,917.

Proposed by James Partridge and seconded by Stephen Hanks

ALL RESOLVED to note the report

243. **Vessel and Vehicle Maintenance log October to December 2013**

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

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

244.1 Tim Dapling reported that the new minister, Mr George Eustace, had attended their latest meeting in early January. Members were concerned that the good relationship which had been built with the previous minister had now been lost and they were interested to learn what the new minister's approach and perception of IFCAs was. He had been well briefed, Tim Dapling said, and recognised the role IFCAs played between the community and management. The minister shared good news with the Association, that the new burdens budget would be maintained in the years 2015/2016. Tim Dapling said that budgets of course may change beyond the general election on May 7th 2015.

244.2 Cllr Ollie Sykes queried the previous concerns about the structure of AIFCA. Tim Dapling said how challenging it was for the CEO of AIFCA to be representative of all IFCAs nationally and it was clearly important to support him in his efforts.

245. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

245.1 Graham Furness requested that minutes be published as soon as possible and said that a user-friendly version could be produced for anglers. The Chairman also requested that the minutes be circulated sooner and Paul Johnson asked that committee meeting papers be supplied two weeks before each meeting (currently one week). James Partridge expressed concern about the amount of documents supplied. Tony Delahunty suggested that an agenda item be included for discussion at the next meeting.

245.2 Tim Dapling sympathised with the members on the volume of papers and reflected on the need to report on work completed in the quarter for the purpose of recommendations and public transparency.

245.3 Robert Yorke said that the final version of 'Fishing in a Historical Environment' had now been published. Tim Dapling asked Robert Yorke to alert the Authority when the 'National Heritage Protection Plan' was produced so that the Authority could develop a suitable response.

245.4 Stewart Harper brought the meeting's attention to the fact that Tony Delahunty had become Chair elect of the National Federation of Fisheries Organisations. The members all congratulated the Chairman.

228. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

228.1 Thursday 24th April 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

