

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA
On 26th January 2017**

PRESENT

SUSSEX IFCA:

Members

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

Staff

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)
Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)
Estelle Barton (Finance Manager)
Erin Pettifer (Conservation and Research Manager)

Invitees

Stephen Bolt (AIFCA)
Allen Kingston (University of St. Andrews)

Cllr. Nigel Peters welcomed all members to the meeting and informed members that the next meeting would be his last as Chairman, as he was retiring.

436. **CHIEF OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION**

Tim Dapling welcomed members, gave an overview of the Agenda and introduced Stephen Bolt and Allen Kingston, who would both be giving presentations.

437. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee)
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)
Staff:
Kathryn Nelson (Senior Fisheries & Conservation Research Officer)
Rachel Griffin (Committee & Office Manager)

438. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

438.1 The Chairman requested any personal or prejudicial declaration of interests. Steve Hanks said that he owned a fishing tackle shop, and Michael Newton-Smith declared that he was a commercial fisherman who fished in the MPA area to be discussed in the meeting in Item 6. No other interests were declared.

439. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

439.1 Jim Partridge, referring to pt 440.1, said that he was concerned that the Quarterly papers for the current meeting were so numerous and therefore likely to go unread. The Chairman noted his comment but said that this was due, on this occasion, to the MPA Byelaw necessitating making process associated reports and papers.

439.2 Michael Newton-Smith asked that 434.4 be amended to say that fishermen's view of the stock was impacted upon by escape hatches as smaller lobsters were observed less often. Agreement was made to put a note on the website.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

440. **MATTERS ARISING**

440.1 There was a brief discussion concerning prior correspondence sent to Shellfish Permit holders, pt. 423.6, and it was agreed that any further clarification would be addressed through website information to Permit holders.

441. **DECISION ITEMS**

441.1 **Marine Protected Area Byelaw 2017 incorporating Schedule 3 Pagham Harbour Marine Conservation Zone**

441.2 Before discussion took place, Tim Dapling said that a correction was required to 2.3 of the Recommendations:

The Recommendation should be renumbered to 2.4 and the word 'during' should be deleted from the last line.

- 441.3 Tim Dapling explained how the Byelaw had been drafted and went through the Byelaw itself and its associated papers. The Technical Subcommittee had approved all management measures included in the Byelaw Schedule 3 at a meeting on 19th December and had agreed to take it forward to the full committee meeting for agreement, prior to entering the formal consultation process. Schedule 3 only would be subject to consultation.
- 441.4 Audrey Jones queried why, in management measure 12) pt 3. of Schedule 3, 'General Conservation Area' only had been included and not 'Bird Conservation Area' as in pt. 2. Also, it was unclear whether it was only to be enforced between 1st April and 31st August, she said. Erin Lawes suggested the bag limit was intended. Officers noted the amendments required to reflect management intended within the Bird Conservation Area. All members supported the necessary amendments.
- 441.5 General discussion took place and Stewart Harper, Robert Yorke and Dr. Peter Jones drew attention to numbering, lettering and formats in Schedule 3, which needed minor amendments. Any available comments from the MMO would also be received and incorporated before the Byelaw went out for consultation, Tim Dapling said.
- 442.6 1A map (figure 5) to be updated, and, additionally, all maps to have clearer labels.

Recommendations:

- i. That, the Authority make the 'Marine Protected Area Byelaw 2017' and therein, Schedule 3 Pagham Harbour Marine Conservation Zone, in accordance with the relevant IFCA Byelaw making provisions of The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.**
- ii. That, in making the Byelaw the Authority revoke the recently confirmed 'Marine Protected Area Byelaw 2015'**
- iii. That, the Authority approves the associated Impact Assessment for Schedule 3 Pagham Harbour Marine Conservation Zone (appendix 2).**
- iv. That, in accordance with Defra's published 'IFCA Byelaw Guidance' the Authority commences a public consultation in respect to Schedule 3 Pagham Harbour Marine Conservation Zone before 1st April 2017.**

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations, subject to minor amendments identified at the meeting.

442 **Recreational Sea Angling Strategy, Review**

- 442.1 Sean Ashworth said that the results of the 2015 Sea Angling Survey had been presented to members, following which Barry Goodhew and Sean Ashworth had created a Sea Angling Strategy which was now on the website.
- 442.2 As well as the recommendations listed, Sean Ashworth suggested that he, Barry Goodhew, Charles Bacchus, Steve Hanks and Graham Furness made up the group which would consider the strategy and present it to the Technical Subcommittee. All comments would be welcome. Cllr. Ungar asked if he could be included in the group and said that he was a member of the Angling Trust.
- 442.3 Jim Partridge and Chris Williams queried the high participation numbers included in the strategy, it was explained that these were referenced from specific reports and papers published by Cefas et al. General discussion took place.

Recommendations:

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations.

There was a 10 minute Break for Refreshments.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

443 **Bird and Cetacean Bycatch in Marine Fisheries**

- 443.1 Allen Kingston gave his presentation to members and took questions afterwards.
- 443.2 Sean Ashworth noted that the RSPB were keen to hold a fisheries sector workshop this year, looking at bycatch and archaeology reporting.
- 443.3 Tim Dapling asked Allen the extent to which the bycatch data had been used to inform recent negotiations on EU bass management.

INFORMATION ITEMS

444 **Publication of Annual Report for 2015 to 2016**

- 444.1 Tim Dapling presented the report item and outlined the requirement of the Authority to publish its annual report. He asked members if they had

any questions for himself or Sean Ashworth, who had collated much of its contents. The framework of the report reflected that described within the Annual Plan, as suggested within Defra guidance it was a 'mirror document'. It was intended that the IFCA Report was printed and published in the same format as the IFCA Plan in order that the same year's plan and report were recognised as matching documents.

- 444.2 It was intended that future plans and reports would be more concise, as the Authority had adopted a 4 year plan in 2016 to better reflect longer term workstreams, Tim Dapling said. The Chairman praised the Report and took the opportunity to thank all who had been involved in its production.

445 **Marine Conservation Zones Update & European Marine Sites**

- 445.1 Erin Lawes updated members on the MPA Byelaw and Beachy Head West T1 MCZ, which was now in force. T1 final management proposals for Pagham Harbour had been formulated and a 3rd Schedule for the MPA Byelaw drafted with formal consultation on measures scheduled for the next few months.
- 445.2 It was envisaged that informal pre-consultation with stakeholders on T2 MCZs would take place during spring, with the draft byelaw being taken to the April Quarterly committee meeting to make, and formal consultation on regulation over the summer.
- 445.3 Defra would be running a formal consultation on T3 MCZ sites in the autumn, Erin Lawes said.
- 445.4 Erin Lawes gave an update on European Marine Site (EMS) work progress, which involved a significant workload for the Authority, who had worked closely with NE for a review deadline of the end of 2016 and continued to do so as the process continued.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the reports.

446 **2016 Fish Surveys**

- 446.1 Erin Lawes, in Kathryn Nelson's absence, briefly introduced the report on fish surveys which had taken place in 2016. The report was a brief summary, with more detailed reports available on the Sussex IFCA website.
- 446.2 Paul Leonard asked if data was compared with other sources within the UK. In reply, Erin Lawes said that WFD methodologies were used to ensure that the Authority's data was comparable.
- 446.3 The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Kathryn Nelson for her work on this report.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

447 **Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority Presentation**

447.1 Stephen Bolt, Chief Executive of AIFCA, gave a presentation to members on what had been achieved over the last five years by the Association and its future aims.

447.2 The Association's function was to support and represent IFCAs nationwide, often to Defra, but not to dictate policy, Stephen Bolt said. He provided an overview of the circa 70 management measures which had been introduced by all 10 IFCAs since 2012 and their funding sources past, present and future.

447.3 Stephen Bolt answered questions from members following his presentation, and Tim Dapling said that there were complex future issues to be considered at a national level with Defra about the role of IFCAs post Brexit, which covered everything from compliance, seaward limits and resourcing to relationships with partner organisations.

448 **Agenda Information Items 12 to 18**

448.1 The Chairman asked if these Items could be taken as read by members and asked for comments.

448.2 Michael Newton-Smith queried the increase in salary figures within Item 16 'Budget for the year commencing 1st April 2017'. Estelle Barton explained that the increased figure was due to a provision for 2 possible new part time posts being created plus significant extra costs for the maintenance of the Authority vessel, 'Watchful', and other equipment costs.

448.3 Tim Dapling explained that financial decisions were the responsibility of and oversight by the Financial Subcommittee, which was formed of councillors from all three funding councils. This process enabled strong accountability to the funding bodies.

ALL RESOLVED to note the reports.

449 **A. O. B.**

449.1 Cllr. Peters asked members if they had any issues they wished to raise.

449.2 Michael Newton-Smith reported to members that a femur had been caught by one of the larger scallopers working from Shoreham, this was subsequently discovered to have belonged to the missing fisherman Darren Brown, who was sadly lost from the 'Our Sarah Jane' last summer. Its discovery had provided closure at least to the Mr Brown's family.

449.3 Robert Yorke distributed copies of the first issue of Fishing Industry's Archaeology magazine 'Discoveries'.

450. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

450.1 Thursday 20th April 2017 – venue 12a Riverside.

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

Nigel Peters, Chairman Sussex IFCA