

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA
On 26th April 2018**

PRESENT

SUSSEX IFCA:

Members

Stewart Harper (Chairman, MMO Appointee)
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Deputy Chairman, Brighton & Hove City Council)
Councillor Carol Purnell (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor Paul High (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor Carolyn Lambert (East Sussex County Council)
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)
Audrey Jones (NE)
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)
Michael Newton-Smith (MMO Appointee)
Dr. Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)
Olle Akesson (MMO Appointee)
Prof. Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)

Guests

Ruth Cantrell (NE)
Alistair Byford-Bates (FIPAD)

Staff

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)
Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)
Estelle Barton (Finance Manager)
Charlie Hubbard (Marine Operations Manager & Master of Vessels)
Rachel Griffin (Committee & Office Manager)

78 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

- 78.1 Stewart Harper welcomed all, including Ruth Cantrell from Natural England and Alistair Byford Bates from FIPAD to the April 2018 Quarterly Committee meeting, and then formally stood down from his role as Chairman.
- 78.2 The Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer congratulated and thanked the newly reappointed MMO appointee members for their continuing support: Stewart Harper, Dr Peter Jones and Jim Partridge. Their re-appointment

maintained continuity in the membership going forward, Tim Dapling said.

- 78.3 Stewart Harper had received the only nomination for the role of Chairman and Cllr Ollie Sykes had received the only nomination for Deputy Chair, so both were unanimously accepted by members as continuing in their previous roles for the next 12 months.

79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)
Councillor Tania Charman (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor Pieter Montyn (West Sussex County Council)
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)
Rob Greenwood (MMO Appointee)

80. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 80.1 The Chairman requested any personal or prejudicial declaration of interests. Michael Newton-Smith declared his interest in Item 7: Review of Netting Management Measures. Charles Bacchus also declared EA's interest in Item 7.

81. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 81.1 The Chairman requested removal of 'A white paper was due out in February, the Chairman said' from point 64.4.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

82. MATTERS ARISING

- 82.1 Tim Dapling took the opportunity to update members on discussions and developments which had taken place nationally with regard to the introduction of iVMS. Defra intended to carry out a consultation and introduce a Statutory Instrument relating to mandatory installation of iVMS on all vessels under 12 metres registered length going forward.
- 82.2 The MMO and IFCA's had been working together to enable fishers to apply for financial support from EMFF through their local IFCA, to cover the cost of installation of the monitoring system. The cost of installation was estimated to be between £1,200 and £1,500 per vessel.
- 82.3 It is intended that payment would be made in advance by IFCA's and then recouped from EMFF. Current assessments of registered vessels and

home ports indicated that Sussex IFCA may have up to 266 eligible vessels in its District, Tim Dapling said.

- 82.4 Stewart Harper said that the installation was expected to take place over 3 years and had been discussed in detail by the Finance Subcommittee. Cllr. Carol Purnell asked if there was any risk to the Authority's finances, Stewart Harper replied that this possible problem had been discussed and guarantees were being sought from Defra, he believed that there was no risk providing current assurances were met. Paul Johnson said that he saw no risk and that the MMO was aiming to turn payments around in 4 weeks, with 8 weeks as an absolute maximum.
- 82.5 Michael Newton-Smith asked how this service would be advertised to fishers recognising it was an opportunity for the IFCA to demonstrate how it was supporting the industry. Tim Dapling agreed and explained that the project's communications would be led by Defra with IFCA input where possible. Cllr. Purnell suggested that information could be made available at local consultation meetings already planned, this was agreed to be a good idea and publicity would also take place via other mediums.

83 DECISION ITEMS

83.1 Appointment of members to Authority subcommittees

- 83.2 Tim Dapling proposed a change to Statutory Orders regarding the election of future Chairmen to enable the election process to be clear to members and nominations to be made in an orderly fashion:

'The Authority shall, 3 weeks prior to its first meeting each year, which takes place after 1st April, ask members for nominations for chair and deputy chair, to be given within the next two weeks, thus closing nominations a week before the meeting takes place.'

- 83.3 Tim Dapling detailed the different subcommittees and their current membership and asked if any members wanted to join or leave them:

Finance Subcommittee

Chairman Stewart Harper, Cllr Ollie Sykes, Cllr Pieter Montyn, Cllr Tania Charman, Cllr Paul High, Cllr Laurie Loe, Robert Yorke

Technical & Byelaw Subcommittee

Chairman Stewart Harper, Charles Bacchus, Peter Jones, Chris Williams, Audrey Jones, Michael Newton-Smith, Jim Partridge, Graham Furness, Paul Johnson, Paul Leonard, Robert Yorke, Steve Hanks, Robert Greenwood, Olle Akesson

Cllr. Ollie Sykes was added to this membership.

Compliance Subcommittee

Chairman Stewart Harper, Cllr Ollie Sykes, Charles Bacchus, Graham Furness, Paul Johnson, Paul Leonard, Steve Hanks

The Chairman suggested that the agreed annual meeting of the Compliance Subcommittee might be held before the next Quarterly Committee meeting.

Staffing Subcommittee (ad hoc)

Chairman, Deputy Chairman & 1 other member tbc

Appeals Subcommittee (ad hoc)

Graham Furness, James Partridge and Paul Leonard.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations and new appointments proposed.

84 Sussex IFCA Annual Planning

- 84.1 Tim Dapling reminded members of the statutory requirements from Defra, that is for delivery of an Annual Plan which sits with the IFCA's four-year Strategic Plan. Annual Planning objectives had been presented and discussed at the last Quarterly Committee meeting and subsequently at the Authority's team staff meeting. The agreed report had now been submitted to Defra.
- 84.2 Cllr Carolyn Lambert asked how Brexit would be likely to affect the Authority's future planning. The Chief Officer said that Brexit was unlikely to affect the Authority's present planning; however, as part of closer collaborative working the IFCA may be asked to support MMO's/Defra's compliance needs for Brexit as part of 'Day One Readiness' planning and beyond, as the UK leaves the EU.
- 84.3 Members discussed possible future problems following Brexit. Stewart Harper expressed interest in reading the government White Paper and Fisheries Bill currently being written and to be published soon. Tim Dapling said the IFCAs had undertaken considerable byelaw work in recent years to support the UK Government in meeting requirements under European Conservation Directives and associated UK legislation. Such work had made a significant contribution toward marine sustainability; protecting the marine environment and fisheries they support. It was important this work was recognised and continued in future.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

**85 Review of Management Measures
Netting & Associated Nearshore Management of Trawling**

- 85.1 Stewart Harper explained that the report supplied to members was a culmination of much work which had been produced by the Authority and which had been discussed at length by members at three Technical Subcommittee meetings.
- 85.2 Tim Dapling explained that the report both informed members of the 'Review of Management' and its progress in respect to both netting and nearshore trawling. Appended to the report were two documents, one on netting and the other on nearshore trawling management, as amended and recommended by the Technical Subcommittee on 21st March 2018. The Item also provided proposed informal consultation plans for the forthcoming netting and nearshore towed gear operations consultation process. Tim Dapling asked members to consider planning arrangements for the forthcoming consultation process subject to their approval of the consultation documents.
- 85.3 The Chief Officer provided members with the management basis for reviewing netting management, which included salmonid (salmon and sea trout) protection in coastal and transitional waters, while still allowing fisheries to continue. Reducing unwanted bycatch and protecting relevant life stages of stocks were further reasons. Some document graphics had been amended following recommendations at the last Technical Subcommittee.
- 85.4 Tim Dapling hoped that the consultation documents would enable draft byelaw management measures to be presented at the July Quarterly Committee meeting; it was, however, recognised that the Technical Subcommittee may need to meet more than once before any principal meeting recommendations were considered. Adequate time should be given to the development of management recommendations following the informal consultation. Cllr Carolyn Lambert offered to include details of the consultation meetings in a regular newsletter she distributed when they were finally confirmed.
- 85.5 Steve Hanks queried the heavily technical content of the draft consultation documents for distribution to stakeholders and the general public. Tim Dapling replied that he understood his concerns, however, it was necessary to provide sufficient development of appropriate measures, and Fisheries Officers would be on hand at the consultations to explain. The Chairman added that the fishermen's associations would likely be involved in the consultation process and be able to answer any queries.
- 85.6 Paul Leonard was worried that few responses would be received and also expressed his desire to have 'stakeholders' clarified; he suggested the inclusion of more detailed questions about individual's involvement level

in marine matters. Tim Dapling agreed that it was a good idea to include the sector the individual came from in the document and ask for their signature. Sean Ashworth said that it was important not to overestimate response levels to the consultation and that a summary guide would also be included, which gave a helpful overview and simplified the contents.

- 85.7 Michael Newton-Smith agreed that fishermen's organisations' involvement would be welcomed by fishermen, as they respected their responses. Steve Hanks expressed concern that responses from associations would adequately represent the views of their membership. It was noted that both individuals and associations could respond.
- 85.8 Sean Ashworth ran through the draft trawling document which had been brought forward following the netting review. This was an informal consultation document, Sean Ashworth said, that was intended to gather views from the fishing community and other stakeholders on the future management of nearshore trawling within the Sussex IFCA District. The document tried to balance the amount of information needed to understand the process whilst not providing an excessive detail for readers. The content briefly described the Authority's management review process, and specific objectives and issues in respect to nearshore trawling management. Subsequently, management options had been identified that could address existing issues. It was considered that at this point the management options would flow from the consultation process
- 85.9 Michael Newton-Smith suggested inviting trawling specialists to Technical Subcommittee meetings, as no members were knowledgeable on the subject. Whilst agreeing that the expertise would be helpful at the meetings, Sean Ashworth pointed out that the purpose of the consultation itself was to ascertain trawler fishermen's views on management of trawling activity. General discussion took place about possible changes to the graphics and specific wording included in the report.

Recommendations:

- i To approve the proposed draft informal consultation documents for:
 - a. The management of commercial and recreational netting activity within the District (Appendix 1).**
 - b. The management of nearshore trawling within the District (Appendix 2)****
- ii To produce a 'summary information' to help raise awareness of the consultation documents and process.**
- iii To promote the consultation widely through existing communication channels and encourage responses from a broad range of stakeholders.**

- iv **If feasible and practicable to use Survey Monkey or a similar online facility to support the consultation process.**

- v **To support the consultation through stakeholder drop in 'surgeries' at which individuals can discuss the consultation with officers and obtain support to complete the questionnaire.**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

INFORMATION ITEMS

86 Annual Research Plan 2018-19

- 86.1 In Kathryn Nelson's absence, Sean Ashworth asked members to note the Annual Research Plan, which listed the projects planned in the next year and which fitted within the framework of the Strategic Research Plan 2016-20.
- 86.2 Paul Leonard congratulated Sussex IFCA on its continued good research work. He queried the data sets used on page 67 to produce 'Interactive habitat map'. Sean Ashworth said that a new map had been created using high resolution data sets which were Sussex specific and not available elsewhere. All the habitat information produced was available to all through the national record meta database.

87 A Presentation was given by Daniel Davies, Assistant IFCO: EMFF Fisheries Local Action Group Project '*Supporting Sustainable Sepia Stocks*'

88 Communications & Partnership

- 88.1 This item was taken as read.

89 A Presentation was given by Alistair Byford-Bates, Historic Environment Fisheries Liaison Officer Fishing Industry Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries II (FIPAD II)

90 **Items 14 & 15 were taken as read.** Tim Dapling drew members' attention to the new Item 15 RSA Partnership Report (Barry Goodhew) as being of particular interest.

91 **Summary of Expenditure for the 4th Quarter from 1st January to 31st March 2018 against the budget**

91.1 Estelle Barton, Finance Manager, went through the draft 2017/8 financial report. In the draft Income and Expenditure account we have a Surplus of £233,726 which is well ahead of budget. The main reason being the decision to capitalise the years high expenditure on the refurbishment of *Watchful* (less the EMFF grant contribution). However, Income was also higher than budget due to higher Project Income. We also made savings during the year in expenditure against budget in several areas of operation. The draft Balance Sheet reflects the treatment of the net expenditure on *Watchful* and also a revaluation of *Watchful* (after an independent valuation following the refit) and *Merlin*, mentioned below.

91.2 The balances from the book values to the revaluations of *Watchful* to £1,000K and *Merlin* to £140K were also added to the balance sheet in October 2017. These factors had considerably increased Sussex IFCA's fixed asset values for the financial year 2017/18.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the report and expenditure to date.

92 **Vessel & Vehicle maintenance log 1st January to 31st March**

92.1 Robert Yorke thanked Charlie Hubbard for his interesting and informative reports.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

93 **Chief Officers Group**

93.1 Tim Dapling reported that IVMS had been a key topic of discussion. The Chair and Secretary had been re-elected and Tim Dapling had been voted in as the Deputy Chair.

93.2 Members had been keen to establish national service level agreements and working arrangements for working with Cefas and MMO on vessel operations.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

94 Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

- 94.1 Tim Dapling reported back on recent AIFCA meetings and the draft plan of priorities for 2018/19 which the Association had produced.
- 94.2 Dr Peter Jones asked about the current situation with regard to Devon and Severn IFCA, which had left the Association. Local council funding had been withdrawn and forced their own withdrawal from AIFCA.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

95 A.O.B.

- 95.1 Dr Peter Jones asked about monitoring at Kingmere MCZ and what was being done if the bream were found to be nesting during the dredging period. Sean Ashworth said that there was a new report due from the aggregate companies, who had previously reported to Natural England that bream nesting had not been discovered out of season.
- 95.2 Cllr Paul High asked if pulse fishing was legal locally. Stewart Harper said that it was practised in certain areas but was under investigation. Tim Dapling said that pulse fishing would be illegal in Sussex IFCA's District because of the Authority's byelaws.
- 95.3 Paul Leonard asked whether the Authority was addressing the issue of GDPR. Tim Dapling replied that an Authority GDPR policy had been written and Rachel Griffin was the newly created Data Protection Manager.

96 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 96.1 Thursday 26th July 2018 – venue 12a Riverside.

Stewart Harper, Chairman Sussex IFCA.

