

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
On 26<sup>th</sup> July 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 Pieter Montyn (West Sussex County Council)  
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)  
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)  
Audrey Jones (NE)  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Dr. Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)  
Olle Akesson (MMO Appointee)  
Prof. Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Marc Thain (MMO Representative)  
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)

**Guests**

Momo Zama (Research volunteer)

**Staff**

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Rachel Griffin (Committee & Office Manager)

**97 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

97.1 Stewart Harper welcomed all to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Committee Meeting, including Marc Thain, who was representing the MMO in Paul Johnson's absence, and Momo Zama, who was an observer, volunteer and student at the University of Brighton.

**98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)  
Councillor Carolyn Lambert (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Tania Charman (East Sussex County Council)  
Rob Greenwood (MMO Appointee)

Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)  
Michael Newton-Smith (MMO Appointee)

**99. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

99.1 The Chairman requested any personal or prejudicial declaration of interests. Charles Bacchus declared his interest in Item 6: Review of Management Measures, Netting & Associated Nearshore Management Training.

**100. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

101.1 The Chairman asked for any member's comments on the minutes, there were none.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

**101. MATTERS ARISING**

101.1 None.

**102. DECISION ITEMS**

102.1 **Review of Management Measures, Netting & Associated Nearshore Management Training.**

102.2 Stewart Harper said that the informal consultation had now been completed and asked Sean Ashworth to update members on progress. Sean Ashworth introduced his report, which included data presented to the recent Technical Subcommittee meeting. The recommendations were to note the initial analysis of the consultation responses.

102.3 Seven drop-in sessions along the coast had taken place for a wide variety of stakeholders as part of the informal consultation and a questionnaire had been distributed which had also been published on the Authority's website. Sean Ashworth took the opportunity to thank those members who had been able to attend the successful drop-in sessions.

102.4 A good number of responses had been received both by post and online, Sean Ashworth gave details to members of the initial analysis of the 'yes/no answers' on the questionnaires, meanwhile, extensive analysis of the full text responses was currently underway. Numerous communications had been received by letter and email contributing to the consultation.

- 102.5 James Partridge queried whether seine nets from the shore were included, Sean Ashworth replied that that was open for discussion at the moment and no members were aware of anyone who practised this.
- 102.6 General discussion took place on the role of stakeholders' views in creating new management options. James Partridge underlined the importance of marking gear and its enforcement.
- 102.7 Cllr. Sykes informed members that, at last week's full Brighton & Hove council meeting, a motion had been passed in recognition and support of the work of Sussex IFCA in its review of netting and trawling management measures. The Chief Fisheries Officer thanked Cllr Ollie Sykes and BHCC for their welcome contribution to the discussion.
- 102.8 Cllr Purnell raised a letter received from Save Our Sea Bass organisation, which had not been received by the Authority. Sean Ashworth noted that a separate slide of his report had been produced on the numerous emails received in support of Save Our Sea Bass' response to the informal consultation.
- 102.9 Tim Dapling said that keddle net fishers had attended the Rye drop-in session and more information was being gathered about keddle netting and the licenses currently in use. Marc Thain said that there were historic laws in place, allowing their use which should be investigated. Tim Dapling explained the legislature briefly in the context of keddle net fishing.
- 102.10 Sean Ashworth then ran through the initial trawling response analysis slides in his report and general discussions took place with members on, amongst others, the extent of historic habitats including kelp, seagrass and oyster beds. The Technical Subcommittee had recently more fully discussed the initial analysis. Further analysis would be presented to another Technical Subcommittee prior to discussion at the next Quarterly Committee meeting. The Chairman thanked the Authority for its hard work on this Item.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

**103. Defra Consultation: Second Report to Parliament on the conduct and operation of the IFCAs.**

- 103.1 Tim Dapling explained to members the ongoing process in respect to Defra's Second Report to Parliament on the conduct and operation of the IFCAs. Every four years, commencing September 2014, the Secretary of State was required to prepare a report into the conduct and operation of IFCAs, which would be presented to Parliament, in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

- 103.2 Tim Dapling said that Defra intended the six-week consultation to launch on 24<sup>th</sup> July and conclude on 4<sup>th</sup> September. The Chief Officer reported that there were many positives to report in the successful delivery of the High Level Objectives which had been set in the last Report: the management of the 4 designated MCZs was up-to-date, as it was on EMS, Audrey Jones confirmed. Fisheries management had also advanced via the introduction and running of the shellfish permit scheme and the Byelaw review process.
- 103.3 The Sussex IFCA would provide its own response through a standard Defra self-assessment form based upon the 5 success criteria. Tim Dapling regarded it as an opportunity to display to Parliament the good work achieved by the Authority.
- 103.4 Paul Leonard remarked that Defra would also want to hear about the challenges, in funding for example, which had been encountered by the Authority whilst fulfilling their Objectives.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

#### **104 Defra Consultation: Fisheries White Paper 'Sustainable fisheries for future generations'**

- 104.1 Tim Dapling led on the report and the associated links to Defra's consultation process. Stewart Harper provided his overview on the White Paper and its purpose in the context of the UK leaving the EU, the consultation period would end on 12<sup>th</sup> September.
- 104.2 Tim Dapling described how the paper set out the Government's intended policy in relation to 'Sustainable fisheries for future generations' which they would use to inform the new Fisheries Act. The Act would provide the new legal framework from which UK fisheries management through the present Commons Fisheries Policy would be transferred to domestic legal structures.
- 104.3 A strategic response from AIFCA was considered necessary. Tim Dapling presented members with a draft response to Defra's consultation and associated questions. Tim Dapling had previously prepared much of the evidence submitted by the EFRA enquiry in late 2017 and the draft response was informed by that material, he said. Surprisingly little reference to IFCA's was included in the White Paper, he said this was a concern regarding Government's understanding of the vulnerability of the UK's inshore fisheries and communities and the role of IFCA's.
- 104.4 The UK Government continued to develop its negotiated fisheries and conservation position and future relationship with European Union representatives. Tim Dapling said that it had become increasingly evident that achieving a unified negotiating position on fisheries between the

devolved administrations and Westminster presented a considerable challenge. The complexity and challenges associated with defining a future management position could not be understated, the Chief Officer said.

- 104.5 Stewart Harper said that the Government and industry believed that the UK did not have a fair share of the fishing stocks that were fished within its EEZ but interestingly the White Paper identified only ten specific stocks where the share was unfair. The aim was to reset the allocation arrangements defined under 'relative stability' and make the overall share a fairer percentage. However, as around 90% of UK shellfish catch, for instance, was sold to EU buyers this meant that access to trading markets for shellfish could be used by the EU to argue to retain existing rights to resources. The Chairman said that he believed there would be some future changes in quota allocations but these would be smaller than envisaged by some.
- 104.6 Tim Dapling explained that effort management, as opposed to quota management, was being considered for saline inshore fisheries. The new legislation needed to recognise that Natural Capital, of which commercial fish stocks as a public asset formed a part, and the principles of ecosystem management should underpin and be central to the future direction of regional fisheries and marine environmental management. Where possible, this should ensure that the long term maximum socio-economic benefits were realised from the marine environment and the fisheries it supported. Tim Dapling welcomed members' comments and said that he would be happy to discuss further with them individually once they had had a chance to process all the information.
- 104.7 Stewart Harper said that his belief was that the response to Government would be better received if it was in the form of one, strong national response sent from AIFCA and not with many responses from individual IFCAs. Given the Chief Officer's involvement, he felt that it gave the Sussex IFCA a good influence in the national response from AIFCA. Discussion took place amongst members. Charles Bacchus agreed with the Chairman. Dr. Peter Jones disagreed, as he believed one response would perpetuate the under-recognition of the IFCAs in the White Paper, as IFCAs were autonomous and independent with different issues. It was agreed that any further comments should be sent to Tim Dapling and, providing they could be incorporated in the response, a single national position was sufficient.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations except Charles Bacchus, who abstained.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 105 Annual Research Report

- 105.1 In Kathryn Nelson's absence, Sean Ashworth asked members to note the Annual Research Report.
- 105.2 Paul Leonard queried whether there was a report available on the Elasmobranch Discussion Day which had taken place recently. Sean Ashworth said that there would be one available shortly.

### 106 Inshore Vessel Monitoring System, Project Progress

- 106.1 Tim Dapling introduced the report. The Chairman explained that Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) utilising satellite communications are currently fitted to all licensed fishing vessels of 12 metres length and over as a requirement under EU regulations. Tim Dapling said that Defra intended that iVMS would be mandated nationally for all licensed fishing vessels that do not presently carry any form of VMS. He went on to explain the process by which that was intended.
- 106.2 The mandatory introduction of iVMs was associated with the traceability of different fish stocks landed by the inshore fleet and was viewed as a necessary measure by Government. A joint venture had commenced between MMO and the IFCAs, utilising EMFF, with each IFCA applying for funding for vessel installation in the local fleet. It was a complex project and the final process was still subject to clarification.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report and current progress.

### 107 Marine Protected Area update

- 107.1 Sean Ashworth highlighted a few points from this report:
- 107.2 Both *Pagham Harbour* Schedule 3 of the Marine Protected Area byelaw and *Utopia* Schedule 4 of the Marine Protected Area Byelaw 2017 had been approved by the Secretary of State in the newly confirmed MPA Byelaw.
- 107.3 Defra had now launched its consultation with regard to Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zones should be designated. The sites relevant to Sussex IFCA were *Beachy Head East* and *Selsey Bill & The Hounds*. Dr Peter

Jones commented that *Beachy Head East* was a very large site, Sean Ashworth recommended that members view details of the areas on the links supplied.

- 107.4 Audrey Jones said that, subject to approval, it was anticipated that the sites would be designated by the end of December 2019. Sean Ashworth reported that at the Technical Subcommittee it had been agreed to send a letter of broad support for the Tranche 3 sites and had now been sent.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

## **108 Research Report**

- 108.1 The Authority had written an environmental policy in which the impact of its internal operations on the natural environment was recognised. 'Internal operations' included travel, waste and resource use within the rented office space, the vehicles and the vessels, during working hours.

- 108.2 Cllr. Carol Purnell praised the report but queried the use of fluorescent bulbs when LED would be more environmentally friendly. James Partridge commented that every set of meeting papers used many trees in its production; Sean Ashworth pointed out that the papers were also available on the Authority's website should any member not wish to receive printed copies.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

## **109 Sussex Recreational Sea Angling Partnership**

- 109.1 Tim Dapling explained that Barry Goodhew, the IFCA with angling liaison responsibilities, had supplied minutes of the last meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July, which had been well-timed for disseminating information about the informal consultations on netting and trawling.

- 109.2 Sean Ashworth informed members that the partnership was not a Sussex IFCA venture but members were encouraged to send any suggestions for matters to be raised to Barry Goodhew.

- 109.3 Dr Peter Jones commented on Annex 2 of the MAIB report, regarding the sinking of the sea angling vessel '*James 2*' by the commercial fishing vessel '*Vertrouen*'. He expressed his shock at how little responsibility was apportioned to the commercial vessel. Stewart Harper pointed out that it was reported that the angling vessel had had no lights on and it was therefore impossible for the '*Vertrouen*' to be aware of its position. Tim Dapling commented that it was telling that neither vessel had maintained

a look out which was a first principle for safe navigation. All agreed that it had been a very sad incident.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

## **110 Communications and Engagement Q1 2018-19**

110.1 This report was taken as read.

## **111 Compliance & Enforcement**

111.1 Sean Ashworth introduced the report and apologised to members that no Compliance meeting had been arranged in the last quarter as he had hoped to do.

111.2 Paul Leonard raised the issue of the licence which had been issued to dredgers between Brighton Marina and Newhaven by the MMO, he expressed interest to see its contents and form. Marc Thain added that MMO was aware of the concerns re dredging in the area and was currently investigating new methods used. There was further discussion on the issue and continuing concerns about any impacts on fisheries and the MCZ.

111.3 Tim Dapling described again the strong feelings that had been expressed to him at a recent Newhaven Port Users Meeting.

113.4 Marc Thain confirmed that the outfall end for the new discharge arrangements was at the same location as that of the original barge discharge point. It was recognised that to pump material through the system it would need to be suspended when compared to bulk material dumped from barges. Marc Thain explained that the MMO needed to receive a formal complaint to get the matter examined in detail.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

## **112 Summary of Expenditure for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 against the budget**

112.1 Tim Dapling introduced the report of expenditure against the budget in Estelle Barton's absence and detailed the figures. Tim Dapling said that overall it had been a positive quarter. The expenditure for the first quarter totalled £231,989 against budget for the same period of £255,990.

112.2 Stewart Harper reported that the best auditing processes were currently being investigated by the Finance Committee, as statutory internal and external auditing requirements had recently changed. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Robert Yorke for his input.



ALL RESOLVED to approve the report and expenditure to date.

**113 Vessel & Vehicle maintenance log 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

**114 Chief Officers Group**

114.1 Tim Dapling reported that a lot of discussions had taken place of late with regards to Brexit and the Government's White Paper. Both Defra and NE attended these meetings and their interest was encouraging and enabled them to hear from all IFCAs in one place. Amongst many matters, COG's function was to cover operational issues, identify best-practice and training.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

**115 Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities**

115.1 Tim Dapling reported back on recent AIFCA meetings and the benefit of talking to IFCAs' Chairs and Chief Officers, again, Brexit and the Government's White Paper were also main topics for discussion. AIFCA's function, amongst many matters was development of national policy positions and collective communications with Defra and other government bodies. The AIFCA received support from COG whenever necessary.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

**116 A.O.B.**

116.1 Stewart Harper introduced a letter written by Jim Partridge to Tim Loughton, local MP, regarding cuttlefish.

116.2 Jim Partridge explained that his letter regarded fishing for cuttlefish caught in pots. In the last few years, Jim Partridge said, the south west had developed a cuttlefish trawling activity which fished largely on immature cuttlefish, in one year it quadrupled its size. No regulations existed regarding cuttlefish. Along the south coast the fishing had been extremely poor recently, caused by offshore fishing, Jim believed. He said it was a crisis and needed addressing with emergency measures which he thought should be implemented as soon as possible.

116.3 Tim Dapling commented on the Authority's efforts to support improved cuttlefish management including research and the Shellfish Permit

byelaw. It was rapidly becoming clear in IFCAs as to the severity of the situation.

- 116.4 All agreed that a letter of support, outlining Jim Partridge's concerns, be sent from Sussex IFCA to the Fisheries Minister.
- 116.5 Dr Peter Jones had asked the MMO for their results from last summer's survey results from Kingmere in January, he remained concerned that he had only received holding replies. He would welcome an update. Audrey Jones agreed that it was important to keep pushing for this information. The Authority agreed to write to MMO about this issue.

**117 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 117.1 A new date of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 was agreed – venue 12a Riverside.

Stewart Harper, Chairman Sussex IFCA.

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