

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018**

**PRESENT**

***Members***

Stewart Harper (Chairman, MMO Appointee)  
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Deputy Chairman, Brighton & Hove City Council)  
Councillor Pieter Montyn (West Sussex County Council)  
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)  
Alison Atterbury (NE)  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Dr. Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)  
Olle Akesson (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)  
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)  
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)

***Guests***

Matt Doggett (Marine Biologist)

***Staff***

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

**118 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

118.1 Stewart Harper welcomed all and advised that two members of the public, David Curtis (representing Save Our Sea Bass) and Tony Geal (representing Angling Trust) were attending what is always an 'open' meeting. The Chairman told members he had agreed prior to the meeting that David Curtis would be invited to say a few words at the beginning of the Decision Items. Paul Johnson expressed his concern that hearing from one stakeholder's representative and not all stakeholder's representatives was unfair. The Chairman advised that through the consultation processes all stakeholder's comments would be very carefully considered.

- 118.2 The Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer introduced Matt Doggett, a marine biologist who would be giving a presentation of underwater imagery of black bream.

**119 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Carolyn Lambert (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Laurie Loe (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Tania Charman (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Paul High (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Carol Purnell (West Sussex County Council)  
Prof. Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)  
Michael Newton-Smith (MMO Appointee)  
Rob Greenwood (MMO Appointee)  
Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)

**120. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

- 120.1 The Chairman requested any personal or prejudicial declaration of interests. Charles Bacchus declared EA's interest in Item 6.

**121. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

**122. MATTERS ARISING**

- 122.1 Tim Dapling took the opportunity to update members regarding 102.9: Graham Furness had been involved with Rye Harbour Advisory Committee. Tim Dapling would be attending the Committee himself in the following week and would be discussing the netting and trawling reviews. He expected that he would meet some members of the fishing community there and gain a further Rye perspective on the reviews.
- 122.2 With regard to Item 103.1, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Defra four-year Report to Parliament on the conduct and operations of IFCAs, Tim Dapling reported that Sussex IFCA had submitted a full consultation response to Defra in early September. Defra were producing a consolidated report on all 10 IFCAs to Parliament for publishing in February or March. Tim Dapling took the opportunity to thank members for their input.
- 122.3 The Chief Officer circulated copies of summary papers on Defra's White Paper 'Sustainable fisheries for future generations'. The AIFCA had

submitted a comprehensive response with considerable assistance from both the Sussex Chief Officer and Chair.

- 122.4 A six-week consultation was underway on the development and introduction of legislation to mandate iVMS on all boats under 12m. The IFCAs were originally intending to provide short-term financing to the EMFF iVMS' project. However, administration complexities meant that now the process would be run by the MMO, with IFCA involvement limited to non financial support through supporting communications and raising awareness.. General discussion took place among members.

### **123 DECISION ITEMS**

#### **123.1 Review of Management Measures: Netting & Associated Nearshore Management of Trawling**

- 123.2 Stewart Harper explained that the Review had been thoroughly discussed at the recent Technical Subcommittee meeting. The management options were not yet finalised and members were invited to consider next steps for the development of management and consider the report recommendations.

- 123.3 Sean Ashworth read out the Recommendations for members' benefit:

- i. To approve the proposed next steps for the process, as recommended by the Technical Subcommittee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018;**
- ii. That officers draft detailed management proposals for the management of netting and nearshore trawling within the District;**
- iii. Both sets of draft management measures would be presented to a further Technical Subcommittee before being brought to a subsequent Principal Committee meeting.**
- iv. To note that the management measures may require an amendment to the Fishing Instruments Byelaw;**
- v. To note the consultation response report documents, for public release, as presented at the Technical Subcommittee 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.**

- 123.4 Paul Johnson and Jim Partridge queried the quotes used in the review, Sean Ashworth explained how those included had been captured and he believed it was important they were included. The Chairman and the Chief Officer agreed with Graham Furness that the selection was representative and concise. The idea had been to reassure the stakeholders that they were being listened to and to reflect what had been said, Sean Ashworth said.

- 123.5 Tim Dapling suggested that anyone wishing to read all responses received could visit the Authority's offices and do so. It was proposed that the response files be available at the next Technical Subcommittee meeting for members to review.
- 123.6 Erin Lawes referred back to the CVM project, she believed that all stakeholders had interesting and important views to share, as had been demonstrated in the project's report document. Sean Ashworth agreed.
- 123.7 Sean Ashworth presented the management measures in detail by slide presentation, all of which details had been agreed at the recent Technical Subcommittee meeting.
- 123.8 Discussion among members took place on the headrope measurement regulation. Cllr. Ollie Sykes asked if the headrope regulation of 1.5m was effective enough to protect salmonids. Sean Ashworth explained that EA recommended between 1.5 and 5m, Dr Peter Jones queried whether a measurement between the two would be a good compromise. Charles Bacchus said that, as had been discussed at length at several Technical Subcommittee meetings, 1.5m gave good protection and most netting did not take place on the surface. Tim Dapling explained the practical implications of having 5 metre clearance in areas with relatively shallow coastal waters such as the Sussex IFCA District. He compared the situation with coastal areas with deep rock drop-offs, associated with cliffs nearshore in the southwest and northeast.
- 123.9 General discussion took place on other proposed management details, including minimum distances from shore for net setting.
- 123.10 Paul Johnson said that there were some possible complexities created by bringing in exemptions, bearing in mind new landing obligations to be introduced by MMO.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations

## **124 Presentation given by Matt Doggett on black bream on the south coast**

- 124.1 Matt Doggett took questions following his presentation.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **125 Annual Report 2017-18**

- 125.1 Tim Dapling updated members on the progress of the latest Annual Report, which was going to print in a couple of weeks' time.
- 125.2 Members were provided with a short presentation on the Executive Summary and key outputs.

**126 Annual Research Report**

- 126.1 In Kathryn Nelson's absence, Sean Ashworth asked members to note the Annual Research Report. The Annual report was welcomed and recognised as a thorough piece of work.

ALL RESOLVED to note the Report.

**127 Marine Protected Area update**

- 127.1 Erin Lawes gave an update on Tranche 2 and 3 MPAs and EMSs.
- 127.2 Defra's consultation on T3 MCZ designation had taken place between 8<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Sussex IFCA had submitted a response supporting both proposed sites within its District, comprising Selsey Bill and The Hounds and Beachy Head East.
- 127.3 Final decisions on which sites would be designated would take into account any relevant information submitted as part of this consultation. Defra would be publishing details of evidence received and a full Government response to these together with the final decisions on each site within 12 months.
- 127.4 Sussex IFCA continued to support partner organisations over the last quarter by providing information as requested for the T3 MCZ designation process, including additional inshore fishing activity information to Defra.
- 127.5 Erin Lawes informed members that small fish surveys had been conducted within both Chichester Harbour and Romney Marsh and Rye Bay EMS, to monitor small fish populations and provide essential evidence to help Sussex IFCA secure sustainable fisheries. Although fish species were not listed as component features of the EMSs, they were essential for supporting a number of the bird species for which the SPAs were designated. Deterioration in fish populations was likely to cause accompanying declines in the bird species which relied on them as prey, thereby indirectly impacting the SPA designated features.

- 128 Items 13, 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.

**129 Summary of Expenditure for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 against the budget**

- 129.1 Jean Hunter, temporary Finance Manager, joined the meeting for this item and went through the expenditure for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter noting variances against budget.
- 129.2 Tim Dapling highlighted to members that to date expenditure was within budget with a modest surplus.
- 129.3 The expenditure for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter totalled £237,617 against budget for the same period of £255,990.
- 129.4 Jean Hunter pointed out that as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September, the Authority was awaiting the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of levy payments from ESCC & WSCC. (These had subsequently been received.) Regarding depreciation, assets were continuing to be depreciated on a monthly basis. Jean Hunter had been working closely with the Chief Officer and members of the Finance Subcommittee to gain improved functionality from the Sage Accounting Program to automate various processes further. The Chairman thanked Robert Yorke for his substantial input to this work.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the report and expenditure to date.

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

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

**131 Chief Officers Group**

- 131.1 Tim Dapling reported on the most recent COG meeting.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

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

- 132.1 Tim Dapling reported back on recent AIFCA meetings and internal review being commissioned. He explained much work by the AIFCA was associated with the pending Government spending review for 2019.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

**133      A.O.B.**

**134      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

134.1      Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – venue TBC

Stewart Harper, Chairman Sussex IFCA.