

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

Present:

Councillor Ron Allcock
 Dr Stephen Axford
 Councillor David Chance
 Councillor John Copsey
 Councillor Stephen Harness
 Miss Rebecca Lynam
 Councillor Chris Matthews (Chair)
 Mr Mike Montgomerie
 Miss Donna Marie Mear
 Councillor Paul Stewart
 Mr Jon Whitton

Representing:

North Lincolnshire Council
 MMO appointee
 North Yorkshire County Council
 East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 North East Lincolnshire Council
 MMO appointee
 East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 Sunderland City Council
 MMO appointee

Mrs Caroline Lacey, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer, Mr Stephen Chandler, Treasurer, Patrick Grey, MMO, Claire Argent, Natural England and Tim Smith, Senior Environmental Officer also attended the meeting.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via video teleconference. The meeting started at 09:30am.

24.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Apologies of absence were received from Councillor members Bell and Randerson, MMO member Carter, Elliott, Redshaw and Collins. The Chair also welcomed new member Councillor John Copsey, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and MMO members Rebecca Lynam, Graham Collins and Donna Marie Mear onto the Authority.
25.	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS
	Resolved –The Clerk asked Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests. No interests were declared.
26.	MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY
	The Clerk reported that the following new Members had been appointed to the Authority: Councillor John Copsey – East Riding of Yorkshire Council Mr Graham Collins – MMO Appointee Miss Rebecca Lynam – MMO Appointee Miss Donna Marie Mear
27.	TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN

	The Clerk reported that the Authority had received one nomination from Councillor Chris Matthews, East Riding of Yorkshire Council member and asked the Authority if there were any other nominations. There were no further nominations. Councillor Chris Matthews was proposed and seconded and was elected Chairman by a unanimous vote by the Authority.
	Resolved - That Councillor Chris Matthews be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.
	TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN
	The Clerk reported that the authority had received one nomination from Dr Stephen Axford, MMO Appointee, and asked the Authority if there were any other nominations. There were no further nominations. Dr Stephen Axford was elected Vice Chairman by a unanimous vote by the Authority.
	Resolved - That Dr Steven Axford be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuring year.
	TO APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
28.	Resolved – That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman Councillors Bell, Randerson and Allcock Mrs Kirsten Carter, Mr Nigel Proctor, Mr Gary Redshaw and Professor Mike Elliott be appointed for the ensuing year.
29.	TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE
	Resolved - That Councillors Bell, Randerson and Clerk be appointed for the ensuing year.
30.	TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP
	Resolved – That Chair, Vice-Chairman Mrs Kirsten Carter, Mr John Whitton, Mr Robert Houghton, Professor Mike Elliott, Mr Michael Montgomerie, Mr Nigel Proctor, Donna Marie Mear and representatives from the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency be appointed for the ensuing year.
31.	TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AND REPORT QUARTERLY
	Resolved - (a) That the following be appointed for the ensuing year to serve and report quarterly on :- <p style="text-align: center;">Flamborough Harbour Commissioners (2 representatives): Councillor Chris Matthews Mr Bob Houghton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Staithe Harbour Board (4 representatives) Councillor David Chance</p>

	<p>Mr Steven Mallinson Mr Jon Whitton Mr Richard Pennall</p> <p>The Chief Officer informed members that there had been some communications with the Staithes Harbour Board, and they had recognised the difficulty in appointing 4 representatives from the Authority, so they had suggested appointing an external representative, Mr Richard Pennall, members supported the recommendation.</p> <p>(b) That the following be appointed for the ensuing year to attend meetings of:</p> <p>The Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities Forum (3 representatives):</p> <p>Chairman/(the Vice-Chairman to substitute when the Chairman is unable to attend) Clerk or Deputy Clerk Chief IFC Officer</p> <p>(c) That it be noted that the Chief IFC Officer was a Director of The Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities .</p>
32.	MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 05 DECEMBER 2019
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 05 December 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
33.	MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 17 August 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
34.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 16 April 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
35.	NEIFCA FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2019/2020
	The Treasurer of the Authority presented a report of the Annual Accounts for NEIFCA for the year ended 2019-20. The report provided the income and expenditure account, detailed balance sheet and position on reserve accounts.
	Resolved – a) That the Statement of Accounts were approved as presented b) That Members Approved the Outturn position
36.	MANAGEMENT OF SCALLOP DREDGING
	The Chief Officer presented a report to support consideration of recommendations for the 2020/2021 fishery. A detailed background was included in the report for members information. Members were informed that following a meeting of the

	<p>Science Advisory Group held on the 11 March 2019, the group endorsed the fishery moving out of the trial with future management informed by the provisions of the draft plan. The plan would ensure that fishery is managed appropriately going forward taking account of the status and health of the supporting scallop stock, associated habitats and by-catch species. The plan outlines how local measures compliment national regulations in achieving sustainable management, including commitments surrounding optimum yield and protection of designated habitats and species. The Chair praised staff on the development of the management plan and its aims and objectives.</p>
	<p>Resolved – (a) That members note the report. (b) That the fishery moves from a trial to being managed under the provisions of the be-spoke plan endorsed by the Science Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 11 March 2020. (c) That the fishery re-opens on 1 November 2020 with a maximum of 3 permits offered for the 2020/2021 season.</p>
37.	<p>MANAGEMENT OF PERMITTED INTERTIDAL SEA BASS FISHERY 2020/21</p>
	<p>The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on the current situation surrounding the issuing of intertidal fixed netting permits to target sea bass and ongoing legislative conflict with European Fisheries legislation, a detailed background on the fishery was included in the report for members information. The Chief Officer discussed that the legislative conflict had been ongoing since the end of 2017 and despite extensive lobbying, had remained unresolved leaving the Authority no option but to withhold the issue of its intertidal fishing permits between October 2018 and March 2019 across the main sea bass season. A new Council Regulation, (EU) 2020/123, was published on 27 January 2020 which has maintained the longstanding prohibition governing the commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore until at least 31 December 2020. Members questioned if permits would be issued for a limited period to enable fishermen to target dover sole, however the Chief Officer informed members that these permits had been issued in 2019 based on the understanding that the sea bass bycatch would be minimal which proved not to be the case and three associated fisheries offences were detected in the previous year. The Chief Officer highlighted to members that given the continuing conflict with the European legislation, prohibiting the commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore, no intertidal sea bass permits should be offered for the 2020/2021 season which under the supporting byelaw regulation would have been scheduled to commence on 1 October 2020. The status of this fishery will remain under review and a further report will be presented to the full Authority at its meeting in December 2020.</p>
	<p>Resolved – (a) That Members note the report. (b) That given the continuation of the European ban on commercial sea bass fishing from the shore, no intertidal permits are offered for the 2020/2021 season (c) That the situation surrounding intertidal permits remains under review pending any formal legislative changes following the end of the UK EU exit transition period on 31 December 2020. (d) A report is presented to the full Authority at its meeting in December 2020 to provide an update on the recommendations.</p>

38.	NEIFCA DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020
	The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a draft Annual Report covering the period, 2019/2020, summarising the Authority's outputs and activities during the year. The Chief Officer requested any additional comments or feedback from members to be submitted by mid-October, the report was to be formally submitted to Defra by the 30 November 2020.
	Resolved – (a) Members note and endorse the report.
39.	SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE
	<p>The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on considerations and recommendations emanating from the most recent meetings of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) held on 11 March 2020.</p> <p>At the meeting members considered the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scallop dredging fisheries management plan • The future development and implementation of 'flexible' byelaw regulations • Mariculture management • Revised research plan 2020 • Annual research report 2019/2020 • Licensing consents and project updates <p>The group considered the draft management plan for scallop dredging in detail and whilst they fully recognised the highly invasive nature of the associated fishing activity they felt that sufficient evidence had been presented across the supporting three-year trial to continue the fishery under the provisions outlined within the draft plan. In terms of considerations surrounding other agenda items members supported proposals to develop more flexible byelaw regulations and welcomed receipt of first drafts for review. Members also welcomed the development of a more proactive approach to the management of mariculture activities within the NEIFCA district. The Chair of the Science Advisory Group provided an overview of the Group and its main purpose and role for the benefit of new members.</p>
	Resolved - Members note the report and consider the Group's recommendations.
40.	CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL REPORT
	The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational summary covering the period December 2019 to August 2020, a large proportion of recent months had been dominated by the national crisis and ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the report highlighted that from an operational perspective the first priority was to be to follow UK government advice and take all the necessary steps we could to reduce the spread and impact of the virus and protect our staff whilst still delivering our statutory functions. At operational level within NEIFCA, contingency planning continues to evolve in response to the ever changing situation. Outside managing operational risk resulting from COVID, one of the other key challenges had been the relative closing down of the judicial system with the exception of all but the most serious offending, which led to the ultimate postponement of a number of fisheries related cases which had been progressing through local Magistrates courts. Where possible and appropriate to do so, officers had been utilising administrative sanctions such as fixed penalty notices, warning

	letters and formal cautions to deal with recent infringements detected post 'lockdown'. The Chair wanted to thank all staff on behalf of the full Authority for continuing to deliver and maintain service delivery during very challenging and difficult times.
	Resolved – That the notes be received.
41.	FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS – PROSECUTIONS
	The Clerk submitted a report on the fisheries enforcement activities taken by the Authority during the period December 2019 to August 2020.
	Resolved – That the notes be received.
41.	BUDGET MONITORING 2020/2021
	The Treasurer presented a report to advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 4, (July) in 2020. At the end of July 2020, the Authority has net expenditure of £263,684 against an expected £359,803, underspending by £96,119. The forecast outturn underspend is £160,828 mainly due to employee underspends due to vacancies (£106,661), vacancies had not been recruited to due reduced operations at the start of the financial year due to COVID-19 restrictions and the ongoing organisational review, patrol Vessel Running Cost underspends of £40,198 due to savings on fuel due to reduced operations in the first quarter of the year; Travel & Subsistence underspends of £21,494 due to reduced expenditure on public transport and expenses following the introduction of the COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020. It was anticipated that the outturn position would be an underspend of £160,828 which allows for the planned transfer of £102,900 plus accrued interest into the Renewals Fund and £10,000 into the Vehicle Replacement Reserve. It was proposed that any underspend at the year-end be transferred to the General Reserve to support pressures from the staffing and organisational review.
	Resolved – (a) That the budget monitoring position is noted. (b) That any underspend at the year-end be transferred to the General Reserve to support pressures from the staffing and organisational review.
42.	REPORTS FROM PARTNER AGENCIES AND BODIES
	Partner reports were unavailable at the time of printing, Patrick Gray from the MMO provided a verbal report to members, highlighting that the MMO are currently undertaking a spending review which is focusing on budget monitoring and spending over the next 4 years, a recent workstream they are also focusing on is the 'MMO Story', the aim of this workstream is to share the MMOs strategic vision with external stakeholders. Members requested an update from the MMO at the December Authority meeting on the replacement EMFF program. Claire Argent from Natural England also provided a verbal report to members, during the Covid 19 pandemic, Natural England had undertaken a reprioritising program, they had encountered a 25% loss in their workforce and all proactive workstreams had been put on hold and staff had been redeployed across other areas of DEFRA, it was anticipated this would continue until the end of the financial year.
43.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS

	Nothing to report.
44.	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND STAFF MEMBERS
	That the public and Staff members be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 45) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
	Resolved – that the public and staff members be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (minutes 45).
45.	STAFFING AND ORGANISATION REVIEW – VERBAL UPDATE
	The Clerk provided an update on the Staffing and Organisational Internal review.
	Resolved -
	The meeting closed at .