

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING

30 JUNE 2023

Present:

Councillor David Chance
Councillor Stephen Harness
Councillor Neil Poole
Councillor Sean McMaster
Councillor Paul Stewart
Councillor Mark Wilkes
Councillor Ernest Gibson
Councillor Marie Ibbotson
Councillor Tony Randerson
Councillor Rachael Creevy
Prof Mike Elliott
Miss Rebecca Lynam
Mr Michael Montgomerie
Mr Graham Collins
Mr Andrew Wheeler
Mr Gary Redshaw
Ms Rachel Hanbury
Mrs Donna-Maria Mear
Mrs Clare Fitzsimmons

Representing:

North Yorkshire County Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Lincolnshire Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Sunderland City Council
Durham County Council
South Tyneside Borough Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
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MMO appointee

Mrs Caroline Lacey, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer, Mr Ian Davies, Deputy Chief Officer, Mr Stephen Chandler, Treasurer, Mr Julian Neilson, East Riding of Yorkshire Council also attended the meeting.

The Committee met at The County Hall, Beverley, members were also able to attend the meeting via Zoom. The meeting started at 10:00am

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| 62. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENSE |
| | Apologies of absence were received from MMO member Woodcock, Councillor Members Gamble and Furley, Natural England Appointee Argent and MMO representative Gray. |
| 63. | 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. |
| 64. | TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2023 |
| | Resolved – That the minutes of the Special Executive Committee meeting held on 20 June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. |
| 65. | EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC |

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| | That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 66) 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 be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (minutes 66). |
| 66. | NEIFCA VESSEL REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE – PROCUREMENT OF A NEW 24.5M FISHERIES PATROL VESSEL |
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| | Resolved – a) That members note the report. |
| 67. | ANY OTHER BUSINESS |
| | <p>The Chair had received one item of urgent business from the Chief Officer relating to a rapidly developing fisheries management issue in the Authority’s district. The Chief Officer informed members that towards the end of 2022, a pioneering method of using a beam trawl to fish for king scallops had emerged in the North of the district. Initially, just one fishing vessel based in Whitby was fishing using this method, but the situation was rapidly expanding with interest from other vessels becoming increasingly apparent. The Chief Officer informed members that the Authority has no management measures in place to control the activity, and the innovative method was impacting on the tightly regulated permitted scallop fishery which had been developed over a number of years, with a fixed number of permitted vessels able to operate in designated areas of the district.</p> <p>The Chief Officer informed members that the only option at this stage was to implement an emergency byelaw to stop the activity initially, and then utilise a scientific dispensation to work collaboratively with the industry to gather an understanding on how invasive the fishing method was, analyse ground interaction, landings data and bycatch. The Authority’s Officers were currently preparing the evidence base and supporting Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to support the implementation of the emergency byelaw.</p> <p>The Chief Officer gave notice to members that it was his intention to implement the emergency byelaw in the coming days to gain control of the fishery, members would continue to be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Members discussed the potential impact of the pioneering fishing method and were conscious that the Authority and its members should not stifle innovation, as these alternative methods could prove to be less invasive than more traditional fishing methods. The Chief Officer reassured members that utilising the scientific dispensation was the most effective way to gather a better understanding of the fishing activity. Members discussed what the longer term approach should be when approaching such innovations, such as widening the scope of the provisions included</p> |

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| | <p>in the byelaw with flexible components to allow for such innovations.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all members for their attendance and informed them that there were currently 2 vacancies for MMO appointees on the Authority. The Chair urged members to notify any individuals that may be interested, particularly individuals from the commercial and leisure fishing industry.</p> |
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| | <p>Resolved – That Members support the decision to implement the emergency byelaw.</p> |
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| | <p>The meeting closed at 11.30am.</p> |

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