

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

23 May 2018

Present

Dr Stephen Axford (Chair)
Miss Emma Brown
Mrs Kirsten Carter
Mr Bob Houghton
Councillor Tony Randerson
Mr Gary Redshaw
Mr Paul Slater
Mr John Whitton

Representing

MMO Appointee
Natural England Nominee
MMO Appointee
MMO Appointee
North Yorkshire County Council
MMO Appointee
EA Appointee
MMO Appointee

Chief Officer David McCandless, Senior Environmental & Scientific Officer Tim Smith, Tom Pagett, and James Duke, Environment Agency and Dr Bryce Beukers Stewart, York University also attended the meeting.

The group met at the Authority's offices in the Green Lane Centre, Whitby. The meeting started at 12:30.

96.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Marine Management Organisation appointees Mr Nigel Proctor, Councillors Allcock, Bell and Matthews and MMO representative Newlands.

97.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PRESENTATION & UPDATE

James Duke from the Environment Agency provided members with a verbal update on the Wheatcroft Long Sea Outfall. Mr Duke provided a brief history dating back to 2014 when the Environment Agency requested that a new permit application be submitted by Yorkshire Water following the installation of the new discharge pipe. Members were informed that as of 15th May 2018, a 'local enforcement position' commenced, piloting operations are underway by Yorkshire Water and they, along with McCain must prove that they have sufficient infrastructure in place collectively before a permit will be issued. Members were informed that the EA are aiming for a 'good' bathing water quality as a minimum standard and a level of bacteria in the effluent, which Yorkshire Water must satisfy, will form a base line to the permitting condition.

Resolved – That an update be provided to Members at the September Executive Meeting.

98.

SCALLOP DREDGING 2017/2018 UPDATE

The Chief Officer submitted a report to support a review of data and information gathered from the 2017/2018 permitted fishery and the consideration of recommendations for the 2018/2019 fishery. The report detailed sampling and monitoring regimes, which had been carried out by the Authority's Officers during the 2017/2018 season. Senior Environmental & Scientific Officer, Tim Smith, provided a presentation which detailed comparison figures for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 season, which included the number of active days fishing, levels of bycatch, area fished and landings data.

Dr Bryce Beukers Stewart, York University informed members that based on that data collected, there

was encouraging signs of positive recruitment within the fishery, and endorsed that 3 vessels should be permitted for the 2018/2019 season, with a continuation of the environmental study and impact assessments. Members requested that a longer term strategy be considered for the fishery, and external funding options should be explored to enable further habitat data and environmental impact assessments to be carried out.

Resolved – (a) That the notes be received.

(b) The fishery is opened for the 2018/19 season on the same basis as previous years with a maximum of three permits offered and that the supporting monitoring regime is maintained.

(c) That a longer term plan for the fishery is considered.

99.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 14:45.