

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis on 23rd September, 2014

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation (Chair)
Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation
Neville Copperthwaite, Project Coordinator/Committee Secretary
Andy Woolmer, Fishery Adviser
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA
Rachel Irish, Marine Management Organisation
Liam McAleese, Marine Planning Consultants
Caroline Chambers, Marine Planning Consultants
Professor Martin Attrill, Plymouth University
Fiona Wheatley, Marks & Spencer
Gus Caslake, Seafish
Lizy Gardner, Natural England
Rowena Taylor, Graphic Designer
John Worswick –West Bay, scallop diver
Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay, static gear
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Aubrey Banfield, West Bay, static gear
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust.
Jon Shuker, Lyme Regis scallop diver
Katrina Borrow, Gap-2
Stewart Rosoman, West Dorset District Council
Lewis Coats, Cefas
Steven Ireland, Weymouth Port Health Authority
Tom Hooper, RSPB
Allison Collins, Kingston Maurward College
Craig Gilpin, Kingston Maurward Collage

1) Apologies:

Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA
Jerry Percy, NUTFA
Mark Machin, – Samways

Nick Wright, MMO
Tom Rossiter, Succorfish
Mike Green, Beer representative.
Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum
Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear
Michael Coyle, Marine Management Organisation
Mark Cornwell, West Bay towed gear
Jim Portus, SWIFA.
Sarah Clark, Devon and Severn IFCA
Neil Richardson, Devon and Severn IFCA
Adam Reese, Plymouth University

2) Agree minutes of the 22nd Working Group meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

3) Updates on implementation of the Management Plan

a) Potting Study

Professor Martin Attrill informed the Committee that all of this season's video data collection had been completed. The replacement pots had arrived but Axmouth was still short of a few. However, fishermen had agreed to make-up the shortfall and the potting study had resumed following the interruption caused by last winter's storms. Tim Glover appealed to those fishermen involved with the study to take care of the pots as we could not afford to lose any more. Tim and Martin would be attending a DEFRA steering group to present a progress report and to obtain further funding for the additional year that was now required to complete the study.

b) Ports Infrastructure.

Neville reported that the Axmouth planning and land ownership issues had been resolved with the East Devon District Council and Angus Walker and Dave Hancock had begun work on the concrete foundations for the ice making equipment and chiller room. It is hoped to have the ice facilities up and running in the near future. Negotiations are continuing with West Dorset District Council (WDDC) regarding sites and planning consent in both Lyme Regis and West Bay.

c) Fully Documented Fisheries

Tom Rossiter was unable to attend the meeting but had sent an update by email. He is having trouble organising the fitting of iVMS equipment to the Beer boats and is concerned that the project time is slipping by. Jim Newton explained that fishermen are reluctant to lay-up their boats for a day whilst the weather is good for fishing. He said the weather will break soon and then the boats will be available onshore for fitting. Tom noted that in half of

the vessels iVMS had stopped reporting. The tech guys are in the process of investigating the issues (which are presumed to be power related) and contacting the skippers to get them back up and running. It is possible that the skippers have disconnected them to save battery power when tied up. Most of the vessels have had GUI accounts setup; The App is nearly finished and would have been except our Chief Technical Officer has been ill for the past week; Depth and Temperature tag is still in development and delivery early next year in line with the project plan is expected; not all RFID tags have been deployed as yet (still with the engineers) and as such is falling behind. It is suggested that we get a clear plan of action and circulate the tags ASAP. Adam Reese has been supplied with 125 for his potting study trial but none appear to have been used yet and Succorfish had not had communication with him in several. Alex would be asked to contact Tom.

d) Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS)

Gus Caslake said that all boats had now been audited. Tim remarked that it has been a brilliant response from the fishermen to enable the Lyme Bay Reserve to be credited as the first fishery to be considered 100% signed-up to RFS! Tim thanked the fishermen for their participation and Gus for his hard work and total success in the initiative. Fiona Wheatley said that this was a fantastic achievement. Martin suggested that it would be worth getting some PR about this.

e) Schools outreach programme.

Dave Sales said that he is ready for the second season of school visits but was waiting for the schedule from Blue. He suggested that it might be worth considering targeting older children. Tim said he would instruct Harriet to liaise with Dave and get the programme under way.

f) Voluntary codes (to include a presentation from Southern IFCA on lobster V notching)

Tim said it was time for the annual review of the commercial fishermen's voluntary code of conduct and asked if there was anything that needed updating, adding or removing. The general consensus of the group was that the code of conduct was adequate for the time being. Simon Pengelly then gave a PowerPoint presentation on V notching, taking great care to explain precisely where on the lobster tail the notch should be taken from. Angus Walker said he thought the practice was barbaric. However, Aubrey Banfield disagreed and John Worswick asked if the lobster catch per unit is increasing. Andy offered to provide the IFCA with papers on post-v notching survival that he had. Simon informed the group that it is and added that the Southern IFCA would provide fishermen in ports within the Southern IFCA area (West Bay and Lyme Regis) with free clippers Neville asked if the free clippers could be given to fishermen in Axmouth and Beer as these two ports were part of the Lyme

Bay Reserve. Simon responded that the Southern IFCA could not provide these to vessels outside their area. Dave Sales said that he didn't require clippers anyway as he dextrously used a machete to do the job! It was pointed-out that the lobster landing size in Southern IFCA half of the Reserve is 87mm carapace length while in the Devon and Severn half it is 90mm. Simon said he would be interested to see if anyone in the room would be against Southern IFCA raising the landing size to 90mm. There were no objections to this. Andy Woolmer said that we have paid for Cefas advice on lobster stocks and the relative benefits of different management measures including MLS increases so we should use it.

4. Integrated Fisheries Management Plan – MPC

Tim reported to the committee that a well-attended workshop had been held in early September to present the report to the LBF&CR committee and lots of issues had been raised and had been then taken into account and accommodated in the final report which was tabled. Liam McAleese said the only action which came out of the workshop that had not yet been addressed is that he had not yet spoken with Cefas regarding lobster data. Andy said that he and Tom Rossiter were due to meet with Cefas to discuss iVMS collaboration and he would take the opportunity to discuss lobster data with them. Liam said that it is up to the group to decide if the report goes to a wider audience. Dave said that he did not think the report could be improved upon and that it would be useful evidence that would enable continued fishing. Tim asked if the final report could be approved by the committee for publication. This was unanimously agreed. Tim thanked Liam and his team for their hard work in producing the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan and reminded the committee that it formed a major part of the foundations for future management of the Reserve to be used in conjunction with the other important studies and initiatives being implemented.

5. Presentation on algal toxins

Lewis Coats of Cefas explained with the aid of PowerPoint that he was here to highlight an issue to do with algal toxins which have been going on for some time. This year there has been a toxic algal bloom along the South Coast. Of the 45 samples of scallops that were taken for analysis, 43 were found to have dangerously high levels of toxin. - The adductor muscle and roe of the scallop is clear of toxins but the frill and gut is infected, so the selling of whole scallop has been banned in order to avoid cross contamination. John Worswick said that banning is too draconian considering the bit of the scallop you eat is clear; the ban should be reviewed in light of this.

Stewart Rosoman reinforced the Environmental Health view that there is a danger of cross contamination. John pointed out that all chicken contained salmonella but all chicken sales had not been banned for fear of cross contamination. Professor Martin Attrill said he thought that the wrong parts of the scallop are being tested and that perhaps just the edible

parts need to be tested. The problem has arisen because you are not monitoring what people actually eat, therefore the method should be changed.

Tim thanked Lewis for coming along to the meeting and for an interesting presentation which sparked lively debate.

6. Communications

Social Media

Rowena Taylor reported that Twitter numbers is up by 58 to 1,072 and Facebook is up by 25 to 491.

Weymouth Seafood Festival

12th and 13th July was the Weymouth Seafood Festival. The good weather attracted thousands of people over both days. Big thanks to John Shuker in providing the tank, crabs and lobsters, which was a real crowd pleaser and attracted many to the stand.

Filming

ITV Westcountry News filmed a news piece with John Shuker and Simon Pengelly from Southern IFCA about the GAP2 exchange trip. Reef Television came to film with Dave Sales, Aubrey Banfield and Neville Copperthwaite for a new series called British Villages for BBC2.

Angling Voluntary Code of Conduct

Packs of the Angling Voluntary Code of Conducts have been sent out to tackle shops, charter boats, tripping boats and angling clubs with the help of Mike Spiller of the Angling Trust.

Interpretation Boards

Planning consent has been approved for the 3 locations in East Devon. Planning applications for West Dorset boards are underway.

Great Dorset Seafood eNews Letter

An article and link to the Lyme Bay Reserve website has been included in the next edition of the Great Dorset Seafood eNews Letter, part of Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Seaton Jurassic Centre

Tim and Rowena met with the project coordinator and interpretation designer of the new Seaton Jurassic Centre to see how the Lyme Bay Reserve can work with them as a means to communicate the Reserve to a wider audience. Interpretation concepts and planning is now underway.

GAP2

Katrina Borrow of GAP2 came to Lyme Regis to film with John Shuker, Andy Woolmer and Simon Pengelly about the forthcoming knowledge exchange trip to Morro Bay, California. The film will form part of the overall communications about the GAP2 initiative, which will be shared online. Katrina also presented to the Working Group about GAP2 and her involvement in the project.

7. MMO and IFCA updates

Rachel Irish said that she had nothing to report from MMO other than to inform the group that the iVMS timeline will be released in a couple of weeks' time.

Simon Pengelly informed the group that the main event at the forthcoming Skippers Expo show in Bournemouth will be the Southern IFCA stand. Gus Caslake disagreed and thought it would be the Seafish stand. Gus took the opportunity to announce that Seafish and Seafarers UK are rolling out 1,600 specially designed lifejackets to fishermen. Contact Gus at Richard.Caslake@seafish.co.uk for an application form.

Simon reported that Southern IFCA had made a Poole Harbour Dredge Order and Devon and Severn IFCA had made their potting and diving bylaw which will now go out to consultation. In addition, both IFCA's have met to discuss regularizing management within the Lyme Bay Reserve.

Tim said that there is an informal consultation by MMO on quota distribution. Aubry said he believed that there is a realignment of quota distribution on the cards. Although the consultation is now closed, Tim informed the group that EDF are interested in this and perhaps we as a committee could help in moving this forward. All agreed and Tim said he would make inquiries of EDF and report back.

8. Funding update

Tim reported that fundraising for the project by BLUE continued with a lot of work going into it, but he had nothing to report at this time.

9. Media and PR

Charles Clover showed a film of a trip he undertook to Morro Bay, California, to investigate the success of the Risk Pool management system operated by local fishermen and the Nature Conservancy which enables them to avoid overfished species and to catch more of those in plentiful supply. It has many parallels with the situation in Lyme which Charles hopes the Gap 2 trip will tease out, primarily the use of technology to report in real time.

10. AOB

There was no other business.

11. Date of next meeting

2nd December, to be held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis at **7pm**

Duration of meeting:

6pm – 9:30pm

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