



**Consultative Committee Meeting
Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 6:00pm
The Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis**

Minutes

Present

Tim Glover, BLUE Marine Foundation, Chair
Mandy Wolfe, BLUE Marine Foundation, Secretary
Gerry Irwin, MMO
Natalie Askham, MMO
Martin Sutcliffe, FLAG & Dorset Coast Forum
Simon Pengelley, SIFCA
Cllr Kate Wheeler, Dorset County Council
Jerry Percy, NUFTA
Pete Tinsley, Dorset Wildlife Trust
Kim Aplin, Beer Fisherman
Angus Walker, Axmouth Fisherman
Dave Hancock, Axmouth Fisherman
Simon Tothill, Axmouth Fisherman
Gavin Ziemann, Axmouth Fisherman
Charlie Ziemann, Axmouth Fisherman
Nigel Birt, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Sam Birt, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Aubrey Banfield, West Bay Fisherman
John Worswick, West Bay Fisherman
Matt Toms, West Bay Fisherman
Jamie Smith, West Bay Fisherman

Apologies for absence

Charles Clover, BLUE Marine Foundation
Ian Hendy, BLUE Marine Foundation
Rowena Taylor, BLUE Marine Foundation
Rob Clark, SIFCA
Gus Caslake, Seafish
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust
Ken Buchanan, Dorset County Council
Martin Attrill, Plymouth University
Adam Rees, Plymouth University

Peter Blyth, East Devon County Council
Sarah Clark, D&S IFCA
Matt Maunder, D&S IFCA
Maxine Chavner, Natural England

1. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

2. Updates

A. SIFCA Update from Simon Pengelley

- FLAG funded project SIFCA & Dorset Wildlife Trust. Entered into joint project to promote benefits of well-managed MPAs within the FLAG area. Four sites in particular, Studland-Portland SAC, Lyme Bay SAC, the MCZ off Chesil Beach, Fleet SAC-SPA. Three main threads (1) consult people with interest in fisheries and fisheries management within those sites to develop fisheries management plans (2) engagement with general public, hold events and (3) production of engagement material which was led by Dorset Wildlife Trust. (dorsetmpas.co.uk). The Project now has come to a close.
- Update on potential management – call for evidence for pot fishing regulations, carried out last year. SIFCA has considered the evidence and the aim is to come back out for pre-consultation, which will be carried out over summer this year. Looking at measures for crab and lobster potting and whelks. Best contact at SIFCA is Chloe Smith.
- Going to the committee in March with two potential new by-laws, (1) netting review within harbour and estuary environments and half of review was considering the existing fixed engines by-law; that by-law restricts use of nets within 3 metres of the surface within a specific season, incorporates into a new fishing by-law. That new measure for Lyme Bay will remove the seasonal element and have a year round restriction for net use within 3 metres of the surface up to 1 nautical mile of the coast from the Devon and Dorset border down to head point just east of burton, burton cliffs. (2) Second by-law is minimum size by-law, the aim there is to amalgamate all our existing minimum size regulations under one single by-law to make easier for people to understand. Removing 5 and fitting into one. At this stage looking to increase MLS of grey mullet species. MLS size of 42cm for thin-lipped and 36cm for golden grey. For those here & fishing over the border, we are looking to align MLS of Crawfish with Devon & Cornwall IFCA's up to 110mm length. Particularly in response to reports of increased numbers of juvenile on the ground.
- Still within 5-year management review forecast. By-laws considered by authority in March, formal consultation period of 28 days will follow in which there is the opportunity to respond.

B. MMO Update from Gerry Irwin

- U10 catch recording still getting rolled out, looking to finish near 14-18 February 2020. There have been a few glitches. Call centre now is better staffed, now manned until 6 pm. Aubrey Banfield raised concerns that something was put in place that they haven't fully tested. Because of that you are going to have nothing but trouble for next few years.
- Bass regs, using the 2019 now because the new limits haven't been published yet. There will be a slight change for 2020. The Recreational's have been doubled and existing that had Bass allowance. Dave Hancock asked why couldn't something have

been given back to people who had it taken off them for not fishing during the period they deemed applicable?

- Concerns were raised over having to round up to 1kg even though you are only landing 600gram. Dave Hancock raised the issue that by forcing Fishermen to estimate, you are automatically making them into criminal's, if you guess wrong they can prosecute In addition, if landing just one Lobster and bring it in and it is just average 600 grams, it has to be declared as 1kg. I have lied and broken the law. I ring the MMO office and they say to me, it's OK we have a sliding scale. I have asked for a copy of that "sliding scale" in writing. I still have not received anything in writing to confirm this. I want something in black and white because they have the ability to prosecute me under these conditions that they decided to implement. Aubrey Banfield spoke up to clarify that they feel the problems are not that great because at the time they decided to implement the app 80% of the inshore fleet were not at sea.
- Gavin Ziemann asked about the issues with, multiplying landing weight to get the live weight? Because if you use an excel spreadsheet you can build the cells and it will do it for you Must have been thousands of pounds sent on this app. Jerry Percy spoke up and confirmed that the app cost £1.8M.
- Questions were raised about the loss of phone or signal when landing and the necessity of going home before landing to record catch landing, then having to go back down to the boat to then land the catch. When you get to the quayside, if you don't have a signal what are you supposed to do? Gerry responded saying that the MMO knows there are problems but advised that if you put your catch on the phone when you have no signal, once you hit signal it should send it. Aubrey Banfield asked what happens if you get back to the quay and you don't have a phone signal, what are you supposed to do? You can't unload the fish and you can't sit there all night. Gerry replied we know that it is a catch 22, we know that there are problems.
- Matt Toms asked if once you are sent the details, are you required to use it? Gerry confirmed that it is a legal requirement to use once you have been sent details.
- MMO has had a slight realignment with Plymouth, Brixham and Hayle. Poole & Brixham are together and Hayle & Portland and Portsmouth & Eastland. Gerry now comes under Poole & Brixham, so should make it easier.
- TG asked if there was any update on the introduction of U10 vessel tracking. Gerry responded that it had been put back a little while in order to get the catch landing app up and running. The SI was consulted on by DEFRA, statutory instrument ready to be laid before parliament.
- A.P. Get an official update from DEFRA on where we are with the SI.

C. Harbour's Committee Dorset Council Update from Cllr Kate Wheeler, Chairman

- Waiting to work with the MMO for harbour revision order for Weymouth. Just agreed today with officers to put in revision orders for Lyme & West Bay, so all harbour revision orders will be in date.
- There was disappointment voiced, that at Kate's level there isn't stakeholder representation within her committee to understand the revisions that are put forward.
- In Weymouth, Harbour Committee did have that input all the time. In the process of writing the constitution.
- Hope that before new season starts, consultation groups will be holding meetings both in Lyme Regis and West Bay. Invitations will go out to all Fisherman, Charter boats, Recreational boats, businesses around harbours and any other stakeholders, to nominate representatives and think carefully over the next few months who you

want to sit on the committee, to make representations. Committee meetings are open, anyone can come along, minutes are publicised. Kate is available to every single Harbour user, in all three Harbours, please email and she will meet you.

- Aubrey Banfield asked for a copy of the revisions they are putting forward. Kate responded that for West Bay and Lyme Regis, they are not written yet. If you have thoughts in the meantime, speak to James or to Kate. Representations will be most certainly be considered.
- Simon Pengelley mentioned? a company in SW, recycling litter, nets, trawls, plastics, sending off for recycling to make plastic related products. Keith in Weymouth is being a great help trying to set it all up, but there has been a bit of an issue with transport and getting enough storage. Cllr Kate Wheeler asked to be put in touch, thought it was a great project.

D. Dorset Wildlife Trust Update from Pete Tinsley

- Simon Cripps has recently resigned, Brian Bleese is acting Chief Executive until March when they decide what happens after that.

E. FLAG Update from Martin Sutcliffe

- FLAG Remains closed; committed fund a long time ago, only four claims left. Still trying to figure out what to do next. Very keen to keep things moving forward, continue momentum.
- Funding in general, MFF has now been launched, in November 2019. Fisheries block exemption scheme. £15.4m available for England. Slight nuances in some of the funding rates, public bodies do not qualify. Purely for associations of Fisherman and private limited companies and sole traders, open until March 2022. Martin here to help facilitate new claims and can help in East Dorset as well.
- There is an Aquaculture event on Thursday, funded with FLAG and Seafast to carry out spatial mapping exercise. It is fully booked, approximately 90 people are coming down.
- Today we formally opened the Lobster Storage Facility in Axmouth. It was great to see project finished.

F. Update on the AST APP from Mandy Wolfe

- Currently we have 7 faulty phones and 2 new members who need phones. I have ordered a spare battery, at a cost of £20, to see if the problem can be solved with a new battery. Failing that, to replace the phones will cost around £180 per unit, plus £35 for AST to install app onto the new devices.
- Between Oct-Dec, 17 vessels landing to RS Man & Van, 10 vessels have active phones are transmitting, the other 7 vessels were actively fishing but have faulty phones and were unable to track.

G. Update on Reserve Seafood from Mandy Wolfe

- Meeting on 28th February with The Lucky Onion Group. There are five hotels and two restaurants within the group and the aim of the meeting is to encourage them to buy direct off the market and we will then employ the Man & Van service to bring the catch to them that day. It will be a faster service that using Quayside or Cornwall and cost less.
- Matt from the Hilton Group in Bournemouth is keen to get involved with Reserve Seafood, so plans are to get in contact with him to see if we could offer the same service.

- Meeting with Rowena next week to set a launch date for the Reserve Seafood website. The plan for the website is to have 4 pages. Page 1, introduction to Reserve Seafood. Page 2, Meet the Fleet, Page 3, Where to eat. Page 4, Where to buy.
- Spoke about page 5 being for fish boxes delivered direct to end consumer. Both Beer Fisheries and The Fish Shack are interested.
- Currently Reserve Seafood is funded by BLUE and the participating members. The idea is that it will become self-sustaining at some point. We are in conversations with Martin about potential for funding under the MFF fund.
- It is a complex thing to try and put together. The public doesn't buy off the markets, so you have to organise with the Fisherman to get it to the market, then you have to bring the restaurants and the merchants directly to the market and then use the Man & Van service to transport the fish the next morning to merchants, who can then sell to the public. We are also working with both Beer Fisheries and The Lyme Bay Fish Shack to organise fish boxes for home delivery.
- A.P. Martin Sutcliffe will put Mandy Wolfe in touch with Dorset Food & Drink.

H. Future Management Sub-Committee Update from Tim Glover

- The future of the Reserve involves research, it involves Reserve Seafood and trying to get fish to market, to make sure it involves evidencing anything that comes up. If you remember way back when, there were views from the Fishermen about how things should be done and there were different views from the IFCA's about how things should be done, but no one was talking and there was no evidence, or a great lack of evidence.
- Since then a lot of evidence has been gathered, we now know the levels of potting that are acceptable for sustainability and written in the codes of conduct. This has all gone on over last 8 years. The sub-committee was set up to decide what we should be doing as a group in next five years to back up the evidence. Do we need to continue evidence base, add year on year, does it help the case, help strengthen the management of the Reserve? We talked about a Marine Park, could it be something that be put in Lyme Bay? Harmonisation of regulation across the Reserve was discussed, but only with SIFCA as D&SIFCA rarely attends committee meetings.
- Sub-committee slow to take off with other stuff going on, but it is time to pull together the ideas and put together a management plan for the next five years and bring to this committee for discussion.

I. Update on main issues being dealt with by NUTFA from Jerry Percy

- Jerry was running LIFE (Low-Impact Fishermen of Europe) for some time and retired in October 2019. In November 2019 was asked to take over NUFTA as we need effective voice at policy level.
- A good word for fishing policy in 2020, is terrifying. There is so much now on the table. Obviously, BREXIT potential opportunity, depending on which media you are listening. Keeping feet to the fire for future allocations.
- DEFRA has let a contract (awarded) for a study, which is being led by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) on what constitutes a "low-impact". Talking to senior DEFRA folk and looking through the contract, they will probably look to get rid of Under 10 or Over 10 affiliation. The thorn in their side for decades, has been this issue between U10 and Over 10 quota allocations and access. They hinted at last consultation that they are also going to do a project on effort management, not quota management with an U10 fleet somewhere. Guessing North Sea but could be wrong.

- Fisheries Bill is now being brought back to life and will apparently march through House of Commons in June. Massive issues for every Fishermen in room. Discards issue is massive. The MMO has stated we are moving from previous education phase to an enforcement phase in 2020. Still misunderstandings, but the concern is that U10 are low hanging fruit.
- Big issue with bycatch certification, is that we need to be careful as inshore sector that we don't get tarred by the same brush.
- Jerry sits as Chair of the Seafish Industry Authority Domestic Export Panel.
- Meeting with chief executive at MMO next month about the Catch App. Have sent an extensive letter, raft of comments, from a raft of Fishermen all the way around the country. Most disappointing part, when asking the MMO what they are doing with this data, and they say nothing. The only thing data they will use are weights from the First Buyer.
- Big focus for future: discard bans, catch reporting, Fisheries bill. Looking at a new regime.
- A major concern, we need data to underpin our comments if we are going to get a fair crack of the whip. Developing a science plan to bring together hard evidence of the whys and wherefores. Example, spur dog in the North Sea, went downhill, now coming back and causing problems because it is so prolific.
- Looking at skates and rays here, to gather info and underpin the sustainability of the inshore fleet. Strong arguments for effective recognition. We must be able to collect data that will relate to data at Seafast. If you do not produce data in the right format in the right way, we are wasting our time.
- The main message tonight, Jerry when asked to be consulted and he is feeding in advice or comment to DEFRA, he phones around to speak to Fishermen, please give comments and concerns to him by calling or emailing him.
- A.P. (1) Tim Glover asked if after meeting with MMO Chief Executive, would you be willing to feedback to the committee? Jerry confirmed anything said to him will get fed back. No conversations behind closed doors. (2) Mandy Wolfe offered to forward Jerry's email address to all the Fishermen on her database.

3. Update on BLUE policy activities, Tim Glover

- A lot happening with the overseas territories with BLUE but not relevant to this committee.
- Series of government round table talks on HPMAs.
- BLUE is also trying to fight the potential negative impacts of planned nuclear power stations' cooling systems.
- Working with the Defra Pioneer group in North Devon, have identified a separate Herring stock on North Devon coast, spawning area very near the cooling intake. Even before it gets to juvenile stage it will get sucked into cooling intake.

4. Codes of Conduct review discussion opened up by Tim Glover

- Crab Crushers, should be added to Code? The Fishermen believe it should be made into regulation. Some suggest it should be a licence condition because that is how MMO regulate attach equipment that is on board a vessel. Suggestions were made that the same could be said about buried Lobsters.
- It was suggested that once we include in our Code of Conduct, the committee should make formal representations to DEFRA that this needs to be implemented nationwide.

- All closed areas there to protect cold-water reefs, should not allow crab crushers. This committee should set an example, will hopefully lead to a licence variation. Terms of wording from Code of Conduct, *use of net cleaner*
- Divers Code of Conduct needs to be compiled. Obey local by-laws. Cut from PADI handbook. Don't interfere with fishing gear. Don't bounce on the bottom or crawl. Respect other people's property. If you're going to take something, take only what you need.
- A.P. Mandy Wolfe to speak to Simon Pengelley for help with terminology. We want it clear that the use of crab crushers commonly known as "Net Cleaners" is prohibited.

5. A.O.B.

- Update from Rowena at next committee meeting.
- Kate Wheeler reminded the group that the two new consultation groups for West Bay and Lyme Regis will be meeting 1 week to 10 days before Harbour meeting, 4/5 times per year maximum. She asked if anybody from this committee would find having a seat useful? The more stakeholder input the better.

6. Date for Next meeting: 21st April 2020 @ 7pm