



Consultative Committee meeting

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 at 6pm at The Royal Lion Hotel  
Lyme Regis

### **Minutes of the meeting**

#### **Present**

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation (Chair)  
Mandelai Wolfe, Project Coordinator/Committee Secretary  
Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation  
Morven Robertson, Blue Marine Foundation  
Catherine Whitley, Blue Marine Foundation  
Adam Rees, Plymouth University  
Martin Sutcliffe, FLAG  
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA  
Gerry Irwin, MMO  
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust  
Aubrey Banfield, Fisherman, West Bay  
Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Gavin Ziemann, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Jamie Smith, Fisherman, West Bay  
John Wallington, Fisherman, Axmouth  
John Worswick, Fisherman, West Bay  
Matt Toms, Fisherman, West Bay  
Nigel Birt, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Nigel Hill, Fisherman, Lyme Regis  
Oscar Fearnley-Derome, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Phil Abrahams, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Robert King, Fisherman, Lyme Regis  
Virgil Turner, Fisherman, Lyme Regis  
John Shuker, Fisherman, Lyme Regis

#### **1. Apologies**

Clare Brook, Blue Marine Foundation  
Martin Attrill, Plymouth University  
Emma Sheehan, Plymouth University  
James Newton, Fisherman, Beer  
John Shuker, Fisherman, Lyme Regis  
Mark Dack, Fisherman, Lyme Regis  
Michael Coyle, MMO  
Robert Clark, Southern IFCA  
Sam Dell, Southern IFCA  
Jerry Percy, LIFE  
Grahame Forshaw, West Dorset District and Weymouth Council  
Richard Caslake, Seafish  
Laky Zervudachi, Direct Seafoods



Lukasz Kalinowski, Direct Seafoods  
Peter Tinsley, Dorset Wildlife Trust  
Ken Buchan, Dorset County Council  
Rowena Taylor, Blue Marine Foundation  
Luke Holmes, Plymouth University  
Sarah Clark, Devon and Severn IFCA  
Andrzej Narozanski, Natural England  
Allen Dowse, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Barry Trevitt, Fisherman, Lyme Regis  
Bob Carless, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay  
Kieran Perree, Fisherman, Lyme Regis  
Oscar Fearnley-Derome, Fisherman, Axmouth  
Paul Godfrey, Fisherman, Beer

## **2. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes and actions of the last meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May were reviewed and approved.

TG noted the Coastal PO were invited but could not attend.

## **3. Updates**

### **a) Marine Authorities and Agencies**

Simon Pengelly from Southern IFCA updated the group on a collaborative project with the Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset Coastal Forum. The project will be funded by FLAG to develop management plans for established MPAs within the district. Feedback from multiple stakeholder engagement workshops will help inform these plans. Simon asked if members of the group would like to be engaged and to what extent. He also noted the steering group is open to additional representation from the fishing industry. Morven Robertson questioned whether IFCA boundaries would dedicate management, or if management would be established within an MPA. Simon replied both would apply, similar to the Lyme Bay Reserve. Southern IFCA is also reviewing net management arrangements within district, mainly for estuaries, harbours and piers, to achieve better coherence between commercial and recreational users.

Gerry Irwin from the MMO provided a quick update on behalf of Devon and Severn IFCA to inform the group the IVMS rollout for over 12m vessels is continuing throughout the district.

Gerry went on to announce that since yesterday, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October, recreational anglers can keep one bass per day. This was decided based on figures from last year showing a plateau in decline rates. Therefore, the date has been brought forward from January. The consultation for the White Paper closed on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September and the MMO received many responses. From 1<sup>st</sup> September, fishermen in Dorset will have a 50kg by-catch allowance for undulate rays. There has been an increase in tuna sightings and request for quota. However, if quota is granted, more fishers will target tuna and numbers will decline again. The group discussed the recent tuna landing in Brixham market which ended up going to the university for autopsy as there is no quota for commercial landings. Aubrey Banfield stated how the UK has 5t of quota for tuna, but it is all assigned for scientific research, however, the French have quota and can land in the UK. The group debated tuna landings in



the context of the Landing Obligation. Dave Hancock pointed out he had a small boat and therefore not enough space to retain every fish. He asked what he should do if he puts the extra fish on the hull and it's taken by seagulls or knocked over board. Gerry replied it wouldn't count against him.

Simon Pengelly discussed the MMO's staged approach to IVMS rollout based on size categories. The next stage is the under 12m vessels. Gavin Ziemann asked if this was for any vessel with a licence. Gerry replied it was and explained the rollout will be grant funded and go nationally to all under 10m vessels. They are developing a catch recording app to determine what is brought to market from catch landings. Simon explained the EU will require more reporting. Fishermen argued everything the MMO propose is a targeted attack on under 10ms before they give the quota away and give less to the under 10ms.

#### **b) Continuation of the Potting Study**

Adam Rees acknowledged the comments he received from his presentation at the last meeting. He thanked the group and has subsequently incorporated them into his final report. Adam and Tim Glover presented the Potting Study to an audience at Defra in June. Defra are now conducting an internal review. Adam expressed his interest in continuing the designation and monitoring of the reference areas as no potting zones. BLUE would like to include these in the voluntary code of conduct and review after a year. Any concerns would be considered but urged members to avoid fishing in the area. Still needs further discussion with fishermen present and absent. Tim Glover supported this notion as the evidence of sustainable potting would be very valuable to the reserve but highlighted the designation requires full commitment from all fishermen as it will be pointless if fishers ignore it. Aubrey Banfield warned BLUE that newcomers may not agree to it. Dave Hancock said he would refer with the rest of the fishers in Axmouth. Angus Walker asked if there was a long-term date as it would be easier to sale to the fishermen. Adam reassured the fishers it would be reviewed on an annual basis. Simon Pengelly questioned looking at other activities to increase the scientific strength, but Aubrey stated the sites had been chosen based on the fact they were prime potting sites and weren't suitable for other activities. Simon Pengelly suggested getting the study peer reviewed which Adam confirmed would be the case once Defra approved it.

**Action:** Adam to liaise with each port and confirm their agreement.

#### **c) Recreational angling**

Mike Spiller provided an updated on recent meetings which haven't been well attended. Mike met with Mandy Wolfe and Catherine Whitley. Plan to get Catherine out on the boats. Mike asked Simon if they were any updates on the wrasse fishery. Simon said he couldn't give an update on Devon and Severn IFCA, but Southern IFCA covering it via a fishery guidance approach including: a minimum and maximum landing size; closed season and extensive NTZ aligned with protected area boundary. Exeter university has been commissioned to carry out research into wrasse fishery. Simon updated the group on the reduction of requirements by salmon farms as their understanding of stocks increases and they wish to spread their sourcing. The fishery takes place with different gear types, 80% taken though rod and line. Mike noted there were only three active wrasse fishermen using quota. Anymore and the quota would be spread out more, not increased. Simon reported the IFCA were using best available evidence to adopt best fishery practice and may look towards Norway where a NTZ is effectively managing wrasse due to site fidelity and population structure. We currently don't know the acceptable level of removal.



#### **d) Chiller Stores**

Tim Glover asked each port for an update. Jim Newton from Beer said their chiller was fine. Angus Walker from Axmouth said theirs was working well with £1000 spent on maintenance for new wiper blades in the ice machine. Following a Lyme Regis Chiller Association meeting earlier in the evening, the chiller unit has a number of issues, but these have been discussed and will be resolved. In West Bay, Aubrey reported there were curtains to put up, the chiller was no longer tripping out, but now more people are using the chiller unit and an ice making machine is needed. Tim Glover replied BLUE will look into funding.

#### **e) iVMS/App**

Morven Robertson updated the group on the new mobile phones BLUE has bought for the fishermen. The mobile will house a new app, developed by AST, to track the fishers when they are out in the Reserve- this is a cost-effective alternative to the Succorfish IVMS units. Morven stipulated that if fishers are landing to Reserve Seafood, the phones must be switched on and later returned to BLUE if a fisher leaves the project. Morven asked everyone to sign the code of conduct again due to the increase in members, as well as the AST phone agreement. Morven asked all fishers to return their Succorfish units to Mandy.

#### **f) Reserve Seafood**

Mandy Wolfe reported it had been 12 weeks since the Man in the Van scheme started delivering fish landings to Brixham and Kingfisher and then changed to Blue Sea Food Company buying the crab and lobster and all wet fish delivered to Plymouth Trawler Agents. Mandy updated the group on the new marketing programme and updated website to enable fishermen to sell locally to restaurants and fishmongers. Stickers and leaflets are also available to buyers to showcase where they source their seafood. Mandy also spoke about the possibility of a fish box scheme and home deliveries and using the portal to display which restaurants are selling reserve seafood to build the brand and convey the story. Tim informed the fishers they would be able to sell their catch independently under Reserve Seafood if they adhere to the code. Tim thanked Mandy for all the hard work she had put into the brand.

#### **g) Schools outreach programme**

Tim welcomed Paula Palfrey as the new Education Officer for the Lyme Bay School's Outreach programme. Paula introduced herself and explained she had been through all the modules with the support of the team and wished to spread the programme further. She asked if any of the fishers would like to be ambassadors. Virgil Turner raised his hand, along with Aubrey and Angus wasn't a no!

#### **h) FLAG**

Martin Sutcliffe updated the group on a few staff changes, Rhiannon has moved on and hereafter Martin will be taking on more of a management role to develop the strategy and legacy of the FLAG. Keen to keep it going post Brexit. Martin touched upon the number of projects progressing into full application with 11 projects completed and in the process of making claims. The FLAG has hired a new Aquaculture Development Officer called Martin Skyvret, funded by Dorset City Council, to develop a new sustainable aquaculture feed. Morven asked if purchasing a new ice making machine for the West Bay chiller would be eligible for funding? Martin replied there was £74,000 left in that pot and advised BLUE should apply sooner rather than later, although if the fishermen association were to apply, they would be eligible for 60% funding rather than 50%.



Martin reported the FLAG had been working closely with Seafarers UK and a local credit union to set up a bridging loan holding £20,000 to help applicants fund projects prior to grant funding being paid out at a low interest rate. This would cover the whole Dorset area and funds would be reimbursed to Seafarers UK once the accountable body had received grant funding.

**Action:** BLUE to collaborate with the West Bay Chiller Association to submit a FLAG application

#### **i) Codes of Conduct review**

Tim raised concern over one of the codes: "Fleets of nets will not exceed 600 yards". The committee debated the feasibility of this as this would require more bins onboards which creates more work, a safety hazard and is unnecessary as fishers mainly use 400 or 800 yards of net with a maximum of 1000m.

Simon Pengelly suggested implementing pingers on static gear. However, the fishers disagreed with this immediately as they stated only one fisher has ever had a dolphin in their net over a period of 45 years.

**Action:** BLUE to remove "fleets of nets will not exceed 600 yards" from the code of conduct.

#### **4. Skates and rays research**

Catherine Whitley updated the group on her progress investigating the local ray population and evaluating the sustainability of the fishery in Lyme Bay. This research will support BLUE's request for a reassessment of the MCS rating of thornback ray. So far, Catherine has conducted multiple face to face and telephone interviews with all the fishermen targeting rays under Reserve Seafood and designed an appropriate methodology to conduct onboard surveys. Earlier this week, Catherine started her onboard research with Oscar Fearnley-Derome collecting data on the biology, capture method and spatial distribution of the ray fishery. Catherine has also begun to conduct interviews with the recreational anglers and introduced the new recording app, Epicollect5, which was designed by Adam for fishermen to upload catch data. Catherine asked all the fishermen, if they didn't mind, to let her know when they were fishing for rays and asked if she would be able to join them to continue her data collection.

**Action:** Catherine to call the fishermen prior to the next Lyme Bay visit.

#### **5. Communications**

Morven Robertson updated the group, on behalf of Rowena Taylor, on the increase in photos shared from the fishermen which has massively boosted social media followers. BLUE has created an Instagram and twitter page for Reserve Seafood which would be great to share fish catches on. Morven urged the fishermen to keep sending pictures in!

#### **6. Media & PR**

Charles Clover provided a BLUE update on recent media and PR coverage. BLUE has been involved in campaigning against the Dutch pulse trawlers which have been recently caught fishing in marine protected areas due to visible tracks in the seabed. BLUE has complained to the EU Commission and hopefully this will stall the process to legitimise pulse trawling. Charles discussed BLUE's response to the White Paper which was mainly focused on quota allocation which BLUE advised should be assigned according to the least damaging activities.



Charles reported that MRAG had finalised their report on whelks and cuttlefish. However, Charles was concerned Defra is too preoccupied with Brexit proceedings and therefore, instead of making a lot of noise, which is unlikely to be heard by government, BLUE will begin gathering data on the age profile of landed cuttlefish and investigate the origin and number of vessels landing to market to assess the fishery. Simon supported the project idea but urged BLUE should think about the whole scope of the stock and pressures from outside the UK to gain a complete picture. Aubrey mentioned there were four boats coming down from Ireland and more from Scotland due to the increase in price at Chinese markets. Tim asked the committee how many of them targeted cuttlefish, only three members raised their hands.

## **7. A. O. B.**

- a) Aubrey Banfield asked the committee if anyone had heard of Seafish Project 2040- a report by Seafish setting out their vision of the seafood value chain in 2040.

Morven responded to say she had seen it, but it was nothing to do with BLUE. Aubrey stated Laky from Direct Seafood was involved. Aubrey believed it was a three-pronged approach to slowly remove the under 10ms from the whole industry to sort out the FQA problem of quota. Aubrey felt the MMO have not consulted the under 10ms as there is no PO representative and questioned the new RFS scheme. The group finished the discussion by suggesting all members read the article.

- b) Tim Glover raised the proposal to form a sub-committee to devise a management plan going forward for the Reserve. This would strengthen the committee's clout to fight any untoward fishing action and focus on protecting and supporting the sustainability of fishing communities. Tim suggested the sub-committee will be composed of BLUE staff, Plymouth University and a representative from Devon and Severn IFCA, Rob Clark from Southern IFCA, Gerry Irwin to make enquiries for the MMO, Jim Newton from Beer and the remaining three ports will decide at their next respective port meeting and liaise with Mandy.

**Action:** Mandy to speak to confirm the port representatives.

- c) Angus Walker raised the issue of travel arrangements to previous meetings and wondered if Axmouth could coordinate votes with fishers from Beer to pass on to future meetings. Tim said it would be a shame if members were absent but approved this notion.
- d) Dave Hancock raised the proposal of gaining grant funds or planning permission to build a lobster storage facility to store lobsters on the harbour, rather than out at sea. Tim said this would be within our capacity and requested a written proposal. Jim Newton said Beer would be interested in this proposal as well.

**Action:** Axmouth to send proposal and costings to BLUE

## **8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place in the New Year. Blue will issue a date nearer the time.