



**Consultative Committee Meeting No. 40  
Tuesday 1st October 2019 at 6:30pm  
The Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Tim Glover, BLUE Marine Foundation, Chair  
Mandy Wolfe, BLUE Marine Foundation, Secretary  
Kate Wheeler, Dorset County Council  
Pete Blythe, East Devon County Council  
Garry Irwin, MMO  
Martin Sutcliffe, FLAG  
Maxine Chauvner, Natural England  
Matt Maunder, Devon & Severn IFCA  
Emma Sheehan, Plymouth University  
Simon Pittman, Plymouth University  
Mike Spiller, Sea Angling Trust  
Angus Walker, Fisherman  
Dave Hancock, Fisherman  
Gavin Ziemann, Fisherman  
Nigel Birt, Fisherman  
Sam Birt, Fisherman  
John Shuker, Fisherman  
Sam Shuker, Fisherman  
Simon Hill, Fisherman  
Barry Trevett, Fisherman  
Jamie Smith, Fisherman  
Matt Toms, Fisherman  
John Worswick, Fisherman

**Apologies:**

Charles Clover, BLUE Marine Foundation  
Ian Hendy, BLUE Marine Foundation  
Mark Dack, Fisherman  
Alan Dowse, Fisherman  
Nathan Cox, Fisherman

Dave Sales, Fisherman  
Martin Attrill, Plymouth University  
Gus Caslake, Seafish  
Simon Pengelley, Southern IFCA  
Rob Clark, Southern IFCA

1. Minutes from last meeting were read and approved.
2. Actions from last meeting were:
  - Reserve Seafood: If BLUE is currently receiving settling sheets on any vessels, Mandy was required to send the Fisherman an email to acknowledge this and give option for them to opt out.
  - Future Management Sub-Committee:
    - a. BLUE & FM to draft vision of what plan looks like with terms of reference. Held port meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September for BLUE & Port Reps.  
(A.P.) This needs to be drafted prior to the next Future Management Sub-Committee meeting.
    - b. At future meetings there needs to be two port reps instead of just one, in case of illness or availability, one of the two would always be in attendance.
    - c. Dorset & East Devon councils need to be invited to the next Consultative Committee meeting. That has been done and they have accepted.
3. The chairman welcomed Kate Wheeler from Dorset Council, Peter Blythe from East Devon Council and Maxine Chauvner from Natural England.
  - Kate Wheeler has been involved in Weymouth Harbour for last 20 years. Now Chairman for Harbours Committee for Dorset Council, encompassing Weymouth, Bridport and Lyme Regis. Invites anyone to please email and phone, as she is always available.
  - Pete Blythe, beach officer for East Devon District Council as well as Harbour Master for Axmouth, though predominantly leaves to Angus.
4. MMO update from Gerry Irwin:
  - Under 10 catch recording off to soft start, minor issues, will start to wrap up in next few weeks. Still waiting for answers on doubling up catch rates. Brexit preparations are ongoing.
  - John Shuker tried the catch app, had difficulty logging on.
5. Devon & Severn IFCA update from Matt Maunder:
  - Completed consultations on the new exemptions by-law, all in favour of broadening scope to allow activities related to fishing as in testing gear. Only three responses, but all in favour. Bear in mind, it is possible to ask for extensions on by-laws. All information is going to be available on their website.
  - Towed gear by-laws renew every five years. Looking now at by-law and how to change, including access. Benefits to having a permit

system, all permit holders will get information direct. No longer automatically authorising, application online and payment online.

- As a result of changes in European legislation, legal advice is that the minimum conservation reference sizes no longer apply to recreational fishers. Concerns raised by both anglers and commercial operators, that that leaves a gap in the management regime. Authorities view is that the main species is already covered by permits. Only one that potentially sits outside is Bass. But regulation restricting catches to one fish, in some ways can be argued that if only one fish is taken out it might be better for the population to take smaller fish out than a larger one. We, the Authorities view at the moment, is that the risk is low, because it applies to recreational fishers and it would require an emergency by-law summit to cover it, but again with the extent of by-laws running out to 6 miles, a lot of recreational fishing can and does take place outside the 6 miles, so it may very well be if the issue is significant enough that a National solution is required. For the very nature that by-laws are restricted to activities within 6 miles. At the moment, the authority is not minded to introduce any legislation to cover that gap, as they think the risk is low.
- Driven by Fishermen's input, up in North Devon with the Pioneer Project, trying to introduce pot limitation programme. Tim noted that a lot of the pot work is coming off the back of Adam's PHD study and ongoing research in Lyme Bay. It just proves that the work being done in Lyme Bay over the years is starting to prove valuable across the country.
- Officers have completed a "recreational sea angling development report". There were three angling zones created down the south coast of Devon, one of those areas was around Scares. From authorities' point of view, it's a base line to continue to try and develop alongside others.
- Angus Walker stated that a lot of other IFCA's that have applied for emergency application. It seems insane to start with a situation where you are saying that species are in trouble, so you need to put regulations in place, but then use the same evidence to allow this. People who have abided by it, have lost money. It was done on same scientific information, I think people who lost Bass licence, should be financially compensated because they were pushed out by this regulation. Matt Maunder responded that EU have determined regulation, says they have deemed it not significant risk to stock. It needs to be a national response for any consideration. Matt Toms stated they needed to make things clearer, easier to understand.

6. Plymouth University update from Emma Sheehan:

- Plymouth University have been monitoring the box here in Lyme Bay since 2008. We have been here every year. It hasn't been easily funded each year, this year Martin and FLAG helped to get survey done.

7. Recreational angling update from Mike Spiller:

- Most recreational anglers are disappointed that minimum size has been removed. He asked the committee if it would be possible to add a minimum landing size for Bass to the Recreational Code of Conduct. Tim Glover responded that he didn't see why it couldn't be put to a vote. Nigel Birt stated that both commercial and recreational should have same minimum size.
- The year has been good, only decline is on the numbers of Plaice.

8. Skates and rays research update from Tim Glover:

- BLUE had a conference with MCS on work Catherine did in the Reserve. It's an interim discussion, they think what we have done so far is good and are looking at what further work needs to be done to reclassify in the Reserve. It is looking quite positive and we are carrying on our conversation.

9. FLAG

Martin Sutcliffe updated the committee as follows:

- Please visit Dorset Coast Forum website & Dorset Coast Forum YouTube channel, three films freely available, Ray Research, Bass Fisherman from Weymouth, and aquaculture.
- FLAG remains fully committed to funds, have paid out £300k in project money and just shy of £150k of management and administration. May focus to work with applicants to make sure they get their money back.
- MMO team in Newcastle came down 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> September. Very impressed with FLAG work down here. Really impressed with Lobster Storage in Axmouth.
- Happy to update that with changes to various projects the FLAG has broken 1-million-pound barrier.
- Fisheries block exemption scheme split across whole of UK, England getting £14 million. Caveat, chances are as processing elements of the EMFF have been closed for so long, a large portion taken straight away for processing type projects and another caveat EMFF over budget so will take some from exemption scheme. This Fisheries Exemption Scheme will happen regardless of Brexit and it will be launched sometime in October.
- Bursaries available for Inshore Fisheries conference on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> of October.
- At the last meeting a member queried whether films that were being produced around the fishing industry through the Dorset Coast Forum were freely available on website and a committee member raised the question on if it had to be passed through the FLAG committee/board before they were freely available and I have cleared that up with the board and the committee member and they are freely available and it would be good to include in Schools Outreach.

#### 10. AST App

- Currently we have 29 vessels using the Man & Van service and use of the AST app is going well. All Fishermen who have phones loaded with the AST app are using and tracking every time they land to the Man & Van.
- We have several phones that are not charging, so need to look into warranty with Supplier and/or replacing with new units (A.P. Mandy to investigate replacement batteries and phones)

#### 11. Schools outreach programme

- Stats from last academic year, schools 20 visited, students 2,100.
- Gavin Ziemann has been fantastic in attending numerous schools.
- The Marine Litter & Sustainable fishing presentations continue to be popular choices.

#### 12. Future Management Sub-Committee

- The next Future Management Sub-Committee meeting will be held in the new year.
- In October 2019, BLUE and the Fishermen port reps held a meeting to start to draft what our plan looks like for Future Management of the Reserve.

#### 13. Update on project ROPE from Simon Pittman

- Gave introduction at the last meeting. Have now developed several things that have been helped with funding from FLAG. Thank you for the support.
- Using Technology based on sound. Hydro foam listens to tag, gets glued on the back of crab or lobster, when animals get within 200-300 metres it gets time stamped and stored. That way we can get data, and pinpoint to a few centimetres and get fix on it, so can see pathways.
- Lobsters, Crabs and Bass focus of project. Going to release them at the Mussel Farm. £100 will be paid to anyone who finds with tag, information in the form of postcards has been given around all towns and communities.
- The equipment needed for this project will be kept in a chained mooring and shackled to just over a metre. Sits in the water and big orange floats will hold steady about a metre off the seabed. To get the data, we send signal from boat, sound signal to receiver, trigger a motor that unwinds, top plate with orange floats will shoot to surface.
- Dave Hancock asked if it was going in the towed area? Simon showed a map with red dots, said the area would be about a kilometre by a kilometre. Barry Trevett said it is in an area where there is a lot of static gear. Fishermen started asking questions on where all the gear is going and why they haven't been consulted and are just now

hearing about this? Emma Sheehan stated that they choose the area based on Adam's previous reference area in the potting study. Nigel Birt asked how big the area would be and Simon stated it would be a kilometre by a kilometre (200 metres apart). Tim Glover stated that it would be twice the size as the previous reference area. Simon said there would be no identification on the surface. Many Fishermen stated that you would need to make it visual and provide coordinates. Simon stated that the gear would be there for 8 months and they would start in a few weeks. Many Fishermen stated that the current area they have chosen is regularly fished and would interfere with the gear. It was suggested they split into two areas and use previous areas as reference.

- It was put to Simon that the best way forward, was to give the port reps of the four ports all the information and coordinates to pass amongst their port and members, to enable all individuals a chance to respond, contact him and hopefully agree.

#### 14. Lyme Bay visits – DEFRA, Chefs

- In July 2019, Wendy and 8 chefs from The Lucky Onion Group came down to Lyme for day of fishing and more information on Reserve Seafood and the Man & Van.
- In August 2019, Anne Freeman and her team from DEFRA came to Lyme and met with most of the Fishermen in the scheme. This was followed up by a meeting in London between Anne and BLUE (Clare Brook, Tim Glover and Mandy Wolfe).

#### 15. Reserve Seafood

- Mandy Wolfe and Rowena Taylor continue to develop the Reserve Seafood website and have draft website ready to load content in the next quarter. The aim of this website is to showcase the fishing fleet, what criteria is involved with Reserve Seafood, where you can buy and eat, plus illustrate the seasonal species available.

#### 16. Communications, events, media and PR

- Over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> July, Rowena Taylor, Mandy Wolfe and Ian Hendy attended the Dorset Seafood Festival. Joining Seafish on their stand, they showcased Reserve Seafood via a wet fish stand. Reserve Seafood supplied the Chefs demo stage with catch-of-the-day which drew huge crowds over the two-day festival. Focus was on shellfish this year, with a hands-on approach to involve the audience.
- Social Media is increasing, with Facebook we have 1,702 followers, up 79 from 1,623 followers and with Twitter we have 2,307 followers, up 45 from 2,262 followers.

#### 17. A.O.B.

- Length of the meetings was discussed. Meetings need to be held more regularly, so information is retained. Stakeholders prepare for

the meeting with a document, it would be a good idea to send to Mandy to be included in the agenda, so when we arrive at the meeting, we have information and can go straight to questions and actions. Suggested that reports and updates from Stakeholders in between the meetings could be sent to Mandy and then to the committee.

(A.P. Try to send report before the next meeting, and to include everyone on the committee, Stakeholders and Fishermen.)

(A.P. To make the meetings shorter.)

18. Date for next meeting

- The date agreed for the next Consultative Committee meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.