



Consultative Committee Meeting
30th November 2021 6-8pm
The Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis

MINUTES

1. Introductions

Present:

David Tudor (Interim Chair), Mandy Wolfe (Secretary), Sam Fanshawe (Note taker), BLUE
Marc Newton, Beer Fisherman
Dave Hancock, Axmouth Fisherman
Angus Walker, Axmouth Fisherman
Gavin Ziemann, Axmouth Fisherman
Rob King, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Nigel Birt, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Sam Birt, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Aubrey Banfield, West Bay Fisherman
Matt Toms, West Bay Fisherman
Jamie Smith, West Bay Fisherman
John Worswick, West Bay Fisherman
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA
Sarah Clark, Devon & Severn IFCA
Gerry Irwin, MMO
Adam Rees, Plymouth University
Alice Hall, Plymouth University
Cllr Mark Roberts, Dorset County Council
Martin Sutcliffe, Dorset Coast Forum
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust

Joining via remote video:

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation
Jonny Hughes, Blue Marine Foundation
Peter Tinsley, Dorset Wildlife Trust

Summary of actions:

- BLUE to review the letter to the Minister, update it to reflect the meeting with the Minister and send to Gavin Ziemann in the first instance, prior to wider circulation for approval by the Committee.
- Anyone interested in sitting on the Shellfish Industry Advisory Group to contact Sarah Clark.
- BLUE to circulate a Call for nominations for a new Chairman to the Committee
- BLUE to circulate draft updated Terms of Reference to the Committee for consideration at the next meeting.
- Agreed: Amended Code of Conduct removing reference to the requirement for iVMS tracking.
- Mandy Wolfe to circulate copies of the Code of Conduct to all fishermen for signature.

- Simon Pengelly to share details of SIFCA consultations with the Committee via Mandy Wolfe.
- BLUE to send the link to the recording of the Cuttlefish Symposium to the Committee.
- Fishermen interested in attending the next cuttlefish workshop to contact Sam Fanshawe.
- Members to raise any issues that they would like discussed at the next meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Jim Newton, Beer

Peter Blyth, East Devon District Council

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting

David Tudor tabled the minutes of the last meeting held on 16th February 2021 for comment or approval. There were no comments, so the minutes were approved. It was noted that in future, to reduce the use of paper at meetings, approval of minutes would be requested electronically.

4. Review of actions from the last meeting held on 16th February 2021

- *Peter Tinsley to send Lat Long locations of where vessels have anchored to Emma Sheehan.*

The report on the impact of cruise ships anchoring in Lyme Bay produced by Dorset Wildlife Trust had been circulated to the Committee in May.

- *Ian Jones to forward information about the Interreg biodegradable fishing gear survey to Mandy to circulate to the group.*

A link to details of the survey had been included in the minutes of the meeting.

- *Fishermen to share the challenges they are having with Brexit rules or applying for compensation funds with their local MPs.*
- *Matt Toms to email Chris with a question for Chris to put as a PQ.*

A meeting had been held with Chris Loder MP and Lyme Bay fishermen on 24 April and Chris had raised a Parliamentary Question with Victoria Prentis in June:

<https://twitter.com/chrisloder/status/1405803334150373377?s=21>

- *Committee members to feed in any thoughts on policy to Sam, Mandy, or Jonny*
- *Fishermen to send any photos, videos, or stories to either Mandy or Row.*

These actions were not as standing actions.

5. Management Sub-Committee update from meeting held on 14th October 2021

David noted that the first Management Sub-Committee since February 2019 had been held on 14th October and two key issues had come out of the meeting to be raised at this meeting – future management plan and sole quota allocation.

5.a. Future management plan development

At the start of the Management Sub-Committee meeting a representative from the fishermen had requested that they discuss this amongst themselves prior to wider discussion by the Committee. To facilitate this a workshop is being organised for 19th January, run by Dorset Coast Forum, at which the fishermen can discuss their future priorities and management. The outcome of this can then be brought to a future Committee meeting and inform the development of the future management plan.

Following the Management Sub-Committee meeting Victoria Prentis had visited Lyme Regis on 25 November and met with fishermen from the four ports, Charles, Jonny, and Mandy from BLUE.

David opened to the floor for any feedback on the meeting. Angus Walker reported that the fishermen wanted a 12-mile limit which was not just a fisheries issue but a sovereignty issue and that most IFCA's were not worthwhile. Discussion followed on the issues around sole quota and the influx of boats into Lyme Bay from further afield. Angus summed up by saying that it had been a productive meeting, the Minister took a lot on board, and it was very worthwhile. Gavin Ziemann noted that the Minister had listened to everyone's points, and it was good to see someone representing towed gear. Very positive and a very useful contact to have been made.

Matt Toms noted that there had been reference to regional management plans in the discussion. Aubrey Banfield noted that pilot trials for the regional management plans are due to be in place in early 2022 and Lyme Bay was considered to be a good opportunity to trial an inshore fisheries management plan which is very positive, and Defra will be looking for engagement from the fishermen. Matt Toms asked who Defra would put their proposals to.

Aubrey confirmed that he would be following up with Minister on behalf of fishermen and that the workshop on 19th January would be an opportunity to discuss further.

Simon Pengelly asked what the driver for the meeting was. Mandy noted that it was a follow up to Ann Freeman's visit in August 2019.

Jonny Hughes confirmed he felt it had been a good meeting but it was not yet clear what a Fisheries Management Plan would look like at this stage but that should become clear in the new year. The next step is publication of the Joint Fisheries Statement in January which provides the legal underpinning for the Fisheries Management Plans which will deliver the detail. Not clear what they will start with and need to think about what a Lyme Bay Fisheries Management Plan would look like and the area it would cover.

Charles Clover noted that the Minister's interest is very useful in terms of addressing the sole quota whilst we have Defra's attention. We need to find ways to continue the conversation and this meeting needs to agree what it would like the Committee to do.

Simon Pengelly asked if sole had been discussed with the Minister and whether there had been a resolution to the letter.

5.b. Sole quota allocation letter

David Tudor noted that a letter to the Minister had been drafted as an outcome of the Management Sub-Committee raising concerns about the allocation of sole quota resulting in an influx of boats from the southwest. The letter had been circulated with the agenda for this meeting for review/approval by the Consultative Committee.

David asked the Committee if the letter needed further review or was still needed following the Minister's visit.

Rob King said he thought that the letter was supposed to be approved at this meeting.

Dave Hancock noted that his representatives wanted any references to a cap on sole quota to be removed. It was noted that there was no reference to a cap on sole quota and the letter referred to a review of how quota was allocated.

Discussion followed on where sole is currently being caught by the inshore fleet.

Aubrey Banfield noted that a general overview is that they will segment the quota and within 6nm there will be a maximum amount of quota, because sole is caught in the whole 7e area and you can't shut down quotas and that is not what this is about, the area is too big, so as part of a pilot study

within the 6nm there will be x amount allocated and outside the 6nm you can still carry on catching right up to the 7e quota, but you can only catch the x amount of it within those parameters.

Dave Hancock said that since the Management Committee meeting, he had been asked by some fishermen that he represented to not send the letter as they didn't need a cap on quota. Several members of the Committee said they wanted the letter to be sent (Rob King, Gavin Ziemann, Aubrey Banfield).

Simon Pengelly pointed out that despite efforts to address the issue through meetings with the MMO and Regional Fisheries meetings the crucial point on the amount of net and marking had not been agreed. The view was expressed that the Committee has a role to play in showing solutions and demonstrating how gear could be marked.

Gavin Ziemann noted that at a couple of previous meetings the issue had been ignored. Sarah Clark noted that nets are being shot across the pots. DSIFCA are trialling technology and need to trial the use of tags on nets.

It was noted that the Regional Fisheries meetings are not working because smaller fishermen are in fear of larger boat owners. Aubrey said that fishermen need to have responsibility for managing their own fishing grounds.

Rob King noted that pingers on nets penalise small boats more than the large boats who can afford to cover the costs. Sarah Clark said that they are not saying that pingers will be placed on small boats, but we need to look at technology to help solve the issue.

Adam Rees noted that there is funding available for trials to test technology which this group could apply for to test potential solutions. Simon noted that voluntary compliance is one way forward.

Sarah Clark reported that the Shellfish Industry Advisory Group are developing crab, lobster, and whelk fisheries management plans. Anyone can sit on those groups, but currently only large players are at the table, so if anyone is interested in sitting on these groups to represent the small inshore fleet, please let her know.

Action: Anyone interested in sitting on the Shellfish Industry Advisory Group to contact Sarah Clark.

David Tudor asked the Committee to confirm whether changes to the letter would resolve the concerns expressed by Dave.

Gavin Ziemann suggested that references to sole quota be removed from the letter and Gavin would then liaise with Dave Hancock to run it past his members.

Action: BLUE to review the letter to the Minister, update it to reflect the meeting with the Minister and send to Gavin Ziemann in the first instance, prior to wider circulation for approval by the Committee.

6. Chairman and Terms of Reference

David Tudor summarised the need to recruit a new Chair following Tim Glover's retirement and that this should ideally be someone local and independent and opened to the floor for any suggestions and views on the process.

Rob King suggested that Gerry Erwin at MMO could be a good neutral representative. Gerry noted that there would be a conflict of interest so he would not be able to stand.

Simon Pengelly suggested someone who is in a role like Gus Caslake, where they were representing the fishing industry. Aubrey Banfield suggested Martin Sutcliffe.

Proposed that nominations would be sought from the Committee members.

Action: BLUE to circulate a call for nominations for a new Chairman

David Tudor noted that the Terms of Reference for the Committee had not been reviewed or updated for many years and should be reviewed at the next meeting.

Action: BLUE to circulate a draft updated Terms of Reference for consideration at the next meeting.

7. Code of Conduct review and update

David Tudor noted that the Code of Conducts are reviewed annually and that a change had been necessary to reflect that iVMS tracking is no longer in place following suspension of use of the AST App earlier in the year. The Committee were asked to approve the change. No objections were made.

Agreed: Amended Code of Conduct removing reference to the requirement for iVMS tracking.

Mandy Wolfe noted that now that the Code had been updated, all fishermen would be asked to sign the updated copy to maintain a clear record of all those participating in the Lyme Bay Reserve project.

Action: Mandy to circulate copies of the Code of Conduct to all fishermen for signature.

Aubrey Banfield noted that aspects of code would be covered by a new Fisheries Management Plans.

8. Inshore Vessel Monitoring System

Gerry Erwin reported that MMO had issued an update on Friday 26th November.

[List of I-VMS type approved devices for under 12 metre English vessels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/list-of-i-vms-type-approved-devices-for-under-12-metre-english-vessels)

Four devices had been approved for use following the approval process: Succorfish, Fulcrum, Maritime Systems and Satlink. AST device has not been approved. Devices are designed to be used on vessels with or without power - some are hard wired, some solar powered and some both. All must be permanently secured. All devices will transmit every 3 minutes.

There is no requirement to buy anything now, but fishermen are advised to review the device options and select one that best suits their vessel. There will be some grants to support costs which will be announced in the new year. Requirement to fit an iVMS device applies to all licenced vessels under 12 m including any boats from EU ports. MMO and regulators will have access to the information generated, it will not be open source and individuals can request access to their own information.

Post meeting note: A [‘One Stop Shop’ Guide to iVMS for under 12 m vessels](#) has been published and is attached with these minutes.

9. Reserve Seafood

Mandy Wolfe noted that since removing iVMS as a requirement BLUE will be reviewing criteria for use of the Reserve Seafood brand. However, the core criteria will remain the same, i.e., must be a member of the project, use static gear.

The Man & Van is now into the second quarter of year 4. Total cost for running the scheme in year 1 was £19,400, year 2 it was £19,900, year 3 it was £23,700. So far this year, we are tracking the costs daily and working with Simon on stream-lining deliveries to minimise driving time. The added costs in year 3 reflect addition of Brixham market to transport route and the increase in payroll as Simon was moved from self-employed to directly employed, so there will be additional expense for holiday entitlement.

Mandy reported that between July 2020 to July 2020 the Man & Van scheme has transported 1,786 boxes over 126 trips. 35 members are now using the scheme. At end of March 2021, the old van broke down beyond repair and had to be replaced with funding from BLUE. The meeting in January will discuss the CIC taking over the Man and Van service.

Rob King asked if Man & Van is carrying trawled fish. Mandy noted that fish is currently being transported for two fishermen who have been part of the project for years but have recently had to change vessels to maintain a living but that compliance with the code is the key factor. Mandy said that the van has transported rays in the past, but the rule was that it couldn't be sold under the Reserve Seafood label as it was red rated. Mandy confirmed that the trawled fish are not being sold as Reserve Seafood.

10. Committee Member updates

Devon & Severn IFCA

Sarah Clark reported that at the last meeting of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-committee they had agreed that consultation would go ahead with commercial scallop diving permit holders to gather information about the potential management of the fishery. A consultation was e-mailed out to them on 19th November and consultation period ends on 17th December. No responses had yet been received and responses are really needed for the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-committee to take any action and potentially develop any changes in management.

There is a review underway of the size of vessel allowed in the district to be reduced to 15 m. Now it is 15.24 m. There are two vessels in the district that are over that, one is a trawler that is 23 m that still operates between the 3m and the 6m with grandfather rights. The byelaw is likely to go through next year.

The mobile fishing permit byelaw will also be reviewed with consultations next year. Seagrass doing well in Torbay where there is already a closure to protect the seagrass and looking to extend this and potentially include mariculture sites, to protect them from trawling.

D&SIFCA are also going to review net permit conditions.

Highly Protected Marine Areas -Defra is looking to have a list of 30 in the new year which will be reduced to 20 and then down to 5 pilot sites. HPMA's will not allow any recreational or commercial fishing. They are likely to be introduced under a statutory instrument.

Southern IFCA

Simon Pengelly reported that the Southern IFCA Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw had been confirmed by the Secretary of State in the summer. This applied across all types of fishing – commercial and recreational. The Byelaw includes increased MCRS for grey mullet, a new size for wrasse species and an increase in the crawfish size, to harmonise with the D&SIFCA crawfish MCRS.

The Netting Review is due to complete next week when the Committee will hopefully make a Net Fishing Byelaw. This will apply restrictions for net use in harbours and estuaries. A surface net ban will also apply in Lyme Bay, within 1nm of the shore, throughout the year not just seasonally. The byelaw includes a requirement for the marking of nets within the district. Once made, there will be a period

of formal consultation for the byelaw. Any objections arising will be answered and addressed before the byelaw will be submitted for approval by the Secretary of State.

A Pot Fishing Byelaw is being drafted to include requirement of a permit for fishing with pots and introducing a maximum number of pots that can be used by commercial and recreational fishermen. This byelaw will hopefully be considered by the Authority in March 2022.

There will be an informal consultation on the Bottom Towed Gear Byelaw to reflect new MCZ designations. This will also include the consideration of measures to protect seagrass outside existing MPAs and any steps that could be taken to support restoration of valuable habitats like seagrass.

Action: Simon Pengelly to share details of SIFCA consultations with the Committee via Mandy Wolfe.

MMO

Gerry Erwin reported on the significant numbers of dead crabs and lobsters washing up on the Northeast coast. This is being investigated by Cefas, Environment Agency, MMO and NEIFCA. So far, no cause such as pollution or disease has been identified.

Councils

Mark Roberts reported in his role as Chair of the Harbours Committee that zoning in Lyme Regis Harbour was being planned to improve the situation with paddle boarders. Sewage discharge concerns are being followed up with Chris Loder MP. The Harbour Strategy aims to ensure that harbours become self-sufficient. About to replace the piles in West Bay harbour and plans are being developed to make good The Cobb in 2024.

Fishermen noted that Lyme Regis harbour is becoming unworkable due to the number of moorings being given to visiting boats. Gavin Ziemann raised the issue that visiting fishermen are not able to come in overnight when weather is inclement without being charged. Aubrey Banfield noted a similar problem in West Bay where the onloading crane at West Bay has also not worked for several weeks.

Mark Roberts said he would take these issues back to raise with the relevant harbour masters.

Plymouth University

Adam Rees reported that they had undertaken the 13th year of towed video monitoring. Funding has been confirmed for the next two years with Defra, Natural England, and BLUE. Four papers had been published this year on the Potting study, Storm impact, results from 10 years of baited video surveys and the changes in diversity of species over 10 years. A paper on the full impact of the Reserve over the past 12 years is being prepared for publication with BLUE in 2022.

Alice Hall gave an update on the Fish Intel project which looks at essential fish habitat and Lyme Bay is one of the sites. Pollack and bass are the focus species to see how inshore waters relate to offshore waters. Alice will arrange meetings and a workshop with fishermen with an interest in these species.

Dorset Coast Forum

Martin Sutcliffe reported that he can still offer help with FASS grants. DCF will be facilitating the fishermen's workshop in January. He is currently developing a desk-based study on a potential English Aquaculture Innovation Hub based in Dorset.

Dorset Wildlife Trust

Peter Tinsley reported that Dorset Wildlife Trust is running a pilot project with Natural England and Plymouth University using drifting baited cameras and hydrophones to pick up apex predators and

cetaceans in Lyme Bay and Purbeck. Also trialling photogrammetry to create a high-resolution scalable image of the seabed (10m x 10m) in Lulworth banks and off Worbarrow Bay.

Angling Trust

Mike Spiller reported that fishing withing the reserve during the summer had been poor. Gurnard fishing has picked up and bream fishing has been Ok. The review of hand gathering of ragworm and spider crab for bait is currently on hold due to capacity.

Simon Pengelly asked if Mike could suggest suitable representation from Lyme Bay for the Recreational Angling Sector Group, to ensure the region is sufficiently represented.

BLUE

Sam Fanshawe reported on the Cuttlefish Symposium organised by BLUE on 25th November which unfortunately coincided with the Minister's visit but had been recorded so that anyone interested can catch up. There were over 100 attendees. and Defra and MMO had both presented and were interested in a follow up meeting. The event had clearly identified offshore management as being key. A follow up in-person workshop was planned in Spring 2022 to be held at the RNLI College Poole and travel bursaries would be available for at least two fishermen from Lyme Bay to help cover costs of attendance.

Action: BLUE to send the link to the recording of the Cuttlefish Symposium to the Committee.

Action: Fishermen interested in attending the next cuttlefish workshop to contact Sam Fanshawe.

11. Funding

No new funding opportunities were identified.

12. Communications

Mandy Wolfe gave an update on communications in 2021.

Twitter – 2,498 Followers

Facebook – 2,123 Followers / 1,888 Likes

There's a big push over the next month to reach 2K Facebook 'Likes' by the end of the year. The target of 3K Twitter followers was set, however this might not be reached within the next month.

Dorset Seafood Festival had good footfall over the weekend of the 11th & 12th September 2021. BLUE had their own marquee where promotional literature about Lyme Bay was on show along with a wet fish display and talks by visiting guests and experts.

Schools Outreach Programme school visits have been paused; however, education models are now available on the Lyme Bay website for download. A marketing campaign was developed towards the end of last academic year to promote the online modules and to gain feedback from visited schools.

Martin Sutcliffe mentioned is we were aware of a programme called Fish Hero's which may work well with Reserve Seafood.

13. Next meeting date and agenda items

Next meeting was proposed to be held on Tuesday 1st March 2022

14. AOB

Peter Tinsley mentioned that Lyn Baldock from Seasearch had reported not seeing any juvenile crawfish this year. It may be something worth bearing in mind.

The following is noted verbatim on request:

Gavin Ziemann asked Sarah Clark about something she had mentioned earlier briefly about joining the shellfish group. *"I can't see if it's all these big people involved in it, we've already been swindled over shellfish sizes in our part of the Bay"*. Sarah said it was just to extend the invitation. Gavin asked what are we going to get out of it? Sarah expressed that she thinks the inshore fleet needs some representation and that is why she is always bringing up the inshore fleet. Gavin responded that she is also representing the organisation that brought up the shellfish sizes for us here. *"Where is the science behind that action? What was the science, what did it say? How can the two shellfish sizes, between Southern and D&S be that different over a matter of a couple yards? Have you compared the science to see how it is possible for it to be that different over 2 yards? I understand that there must be a line drawn somewhere, but we are actually inside a defined area, within those 2 yards, within that defined area, I don't see any reason why the sizes can't be the same?"* Sarah replied that she has mentioned before that the members of this group can voluntarily decide to all land the same size.

The Chair interrupted the meeting, stating that we may not have the time to discuss this right now. Gavin responded by stating that he was sorry, but he thought it could be discussed here during AOB. The Chair agreed and said that some people may want to go home, but Gavin could carry on the discussion. Gavin responded that he would stand down and excused himself from the meeting. Dave Hancock spoke up to say that this is a Lyme Bay fisheries meeting, so why wasn't Gavin being listened to? He didn't blame Gavin for leaving. Dave insisted that this is exactly the place to discuss these matters and that the Fishermen would have liked to have left at 7 pm as they were the only ones present not being paid for being there, but they were all happy to stay later as where else are they supposed to talk about these things. The Chair explained he didn't mean that at all and that he thought some people may want to go home at 8pm and as Chair his job was to finish on time.

Action: Members to raise any issues that they would like discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting closed.