

Lyme Bay Working Group

10th Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis, on 25th September 2012

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation.
Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation. (Chair)
Neville Copperthwaite, Project Coordinator.
Andy Woolmer, Fishery Adviser.
Nick Wright, Marine Management Organisation.
Rachel Irish. Marine Management Organisation.
Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA.
Ian Carrier, Southern IFCA.
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA.
Sam Dell, Southern IFCA
Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay, static gear
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear.
John Worswick, Fisherman, West Bay, scallop diver.
Jim Newton, Beer Fisherman.
Alex Jones, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static gear.
Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axemouth, static gear.
Nigel Hill, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static gear.
Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum.
Tom Appleby, Blue Marine Foundation Trustee
Charlotte Cawthorne, Princes Trust International Sustainability Unit.
Britt Groosman, Environmental Defence Fund.
Professor Martine Attrill, Plymouth University.
Fiona Wheatley, Marks And Spenser

1) Apologies:

Neil Wellum, Marine Management Organisation.
Joana Smith, Natural England.
Christine Singfield, Natural England
Paul Wason, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static gear.

Minutes

2) Agree minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting:

Joana Smith had requested by email that the topic of NE funding in Item 4 be reworded in a form of words that she supplied and this was done.

The minutes were agreed.

Charles Clover thought that Jim Portus of SWIFA had been invited to the meeting but as this was not the case, he suggested that Jim should be invited to the next meeting. The WG concurred.

3) Update on Implementation of the Management Plan

Tim Glover asked the fishermen in the Group if they thought the Voluntary Code of Conduct was working. All agreed that there were no breaches of the code to date, however Dave Hancock said the test will be February when the whelkers move in. Tim Robbins said that this year the whelkers are all in the Thames Estuary and are not likely to return due to the decline in whelk stocks in Lyme Bay. Tim G asked if the existence of the voluntary code would stop them should they return and Dave said he thought it would not. Ian Carrier said that bringing in a bylaw to back-up the code was a priority. Nick Wright said there is pressure on the MMO to bring about faster action regarding regulation and the Lyme Bay Project is being watched closely is way ahead of anything that is being done in Britain. Ian said he thought this project was a brilliant, brilliant model that was ready to be rolled out around the country. Tim Robbins pointed out that in order to establish a bylaw the IFCA's will need to provide evidence to back them up which is why the Blue funded assessments are so important. Andy agreed and said that the Integrated Assessment project was ready to go and Tim R indicated that we were just sorting out contracts. Andy also asked if anyone knew if the economics of potting effort had ever been looked at as there may be a payoff between number of pots, cost of fuel, gear and bait. Tim R suggested talking to Greg Morale of the States of Jersey who may help based upon their experiences. Tim G updated the group on progress the project team had made with the management plan. He reported that Martin Attrill had been given the go-ahead to start work on the monitoring study, other elements of the Plan were being progressed and the cost of the Strategic Environmental Assessment had been negotiated down from the original £120K to £50K without any loss of core deliverables.

Tim G asked Martin Attrill to run through the requirements for the study and detail what he needed from the group. Martin said that, as far as he knew, nowhere in the world had scientists and fishermen worked together to study the effects of potting and went on to explain how the study would be conducted in practice. He asked fishermen to identify the 16 study areas within the next two weeks when he will contact them to discuss. This is crucial in order to get the trial going. Simon said we should have sign boards and information leaflets to inform the public of the trials and Martin said he could supply these.

It was agreed that for the purposes of early publicity and possible filming by Keo, at least one fishing control area will be buoyed.

Charles asked what we are going to do should someone break the code of conduct. Tim Robbins cited the case of SWIFA who went to merchants and asked them not to buy off rogue scallopers when they instigated the original voluntary scalloping closed areas. Charles thought that we should be thinking along these lines. He further suggested that we action this by meeting local buyers such as Samways and Carters. (Exmouth Marine) Bridget Betts said that this would send the message that we mean business. Simon Pengelly said that not many people outside of this room know of the Code and we should raise awareness. Nick said that some sort of accreditation scheme such as a tagging scheme could help do this.

4) Report on Meetings and Support:

Charles had been to meet with Oliver Letwin who was enormously pleased with the Lyme Bay report and said the project was a beacon of hope. He also said he would see if DEFRA would be cooperative regarding sharing some of science financial burden. There is a meeting planned with Nigel Gooding of DEFRA which Martin Attrill will attend, asking for £300,000 over a three year period.

5) Interest from other UK regions:

Tim Glover said he had had a meeting in Wales with Jim Evans of the Welsh Fishermen's Association. Andy said they are trying to procure a business plan with the help of Seafish. Also, the Welsh Government may look at the Lyme Bay model and apply it to their own European Marine Sites and MCZs. Tim G also met with Charles Miller of SIFT (Sustainable Inshore Fishermen's Trust). And he wants to attend the next WG meeting. Tom Appleby said that Alistair Sinclair of SIFT could also be worth speaking to.

6) Funding progress:

Tim reported that there was potential funding for the project of £200,000 from ICAP, £300,000 from DEFRA, £180,000 from the Fisheries Challenge Fund, £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £40,000 from the European Fisheries Fund and £10,000 from the Gannett Foundation

7) New Consultative Committee Structure/logo/website:

Tim G tabled a draft Consultative Committee Structure which he had adapted from the Portland Harbour Authority consultative committee constitution. He asked the group to email or call him with any comments so that the group can discuss at the next meeting. Tim G reported that Rowena Taylor of Dorchester has been commissioned to produce a logo for the new committee and design a basic website. Design proposals will be presented to the group for approval.

8) Report on US visit:

Since the last meeting, John Worswick, Alex Jones and Neville Copperthwaite had been on a fact finding visit to the US. This had been organised and funded by the Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) in collaboration with the Princes Trust and Blue. Tim G thanked Britt Grossman of EDF for their funding of this trip. The Gulf Wild tagging scheme was examined in Galveston, Texas and West Coast fishery management was observed at Half Moon Bay near San Francisco, California. The visit was filmed for a future broadcast on BBC's Countryfile but a cut of the film showing the Galveston tagging scheme was previewed to the WG at the end of the meeting.

Charles C and Fiona Wheatley emphasised that the WG needed to make a decision how to use tagging to preserve first-mover advantage.

9) Any Other Business

Charles reported that there was a photo-shoot in London where naked celebrities would be photographed with fish. They wanted muscular young fishermen to appear alongside them stripped to the waist. Alex Jones agreed and said he would round up a couple of his colleagues.

Angus Walker said that anglers constituted a large proportion of fishermen and were unregulated to the degree of commercial fishermen, and therefore a representative of the angling fraternity should be invited to sit on the WG. Angus also reported that he is involved in publicity regarding Greenpeace's 'Be a fisherman's friend' campaign and had been asked to go to Brussels to discuss sustainability in the European Parliament. Angus had declined but Steve Rogers is to go in his stead and has offered to pose questions on the WG's behalf. Ian asked if Steve would discuss the retention of the 6 to 12 mile limit.

Angus reported that a Norwegian had contacted him and offered £500,000 to help start a fishermen's cooperative after seeing Angus in the Greenpeace film. Angus and Tim G to follow-up.

9) Date of Next Meeting

27th November, 2012, 6pm at the Royal Lion, Lyme Regis.

Duration of meeting: 5pm – 9:00pm.

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