

Lyme Bay Working Group

14th Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis, on 23rd April 2013

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation.
(Chair)

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation.

Neville Copperthwaite, Project
Coordinator.

Andy Woolmer, Fishery Adviser.

Kate West, Blue Marine Foundation.

Rachel Irish, Marine Management
Organisation.

Joana Smith, Natural England.

Sam Dell, Southern IFCA.

Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA.

Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum

Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static
gear.

Alex Jones, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static
gear.

Aubrey Banfield, West bay, static gear.

Gus Caslake, Seafish.

Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axemouth,
static gear.

Nigel Hill, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static
gear.

John Worswick –West Bay, scallop diver.

Matt Styles, Lyme Regis, static gear.

Lewis Hodder, Lyme Regis, static gear.

Nigel Marsh, Lyme Regis, static gear.

Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed Gear.

Harry May, Lyme Regis, Boatman's
Association.

Mark Machin - Samways

Adam Rees, Plymouth University.

Rowena Taylor, Graphic Designer.

Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear.

Luke Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear.

Mike Bacon, Seafish.

1) Apologies:

Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA.

Nick Wright, MMO.

Ian Carrier, Southern IFCA.

Neil Wellum, Marine Management Organisation.

Jim Newton, Beer Fisherman.

Jim Portus, SWIFA.

Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay, static gear.

Minutes

2) Agree minutes of the 13th Working Group meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

3) Update on Implementation of the Management Plan

a) Potting study

Adam Rees reported that it hasn't been possible to get out to sea to start the first of the quarterly assessments as part of the potting study due to bad weather. This sampling will now begin next week (week beginning April 30th).

b) Port infrastructure

Neville Copperthwaite informed the group that EFF grant applications for ice equipment have now been submitted for all four ports. The outcome of this will be discussed once a decision is received from the funders. In the cases of West Bay, Lyme Regis and Axmouth, planning consent is also required; an architect has been commissioned and he has submitted the relevant planning applications. This may lengthen the process. In the case of Beer, planning consent is not required due to the ice equipment being housed in existing buildings; therefore it is possible that the chosen installation date of 30th June may be achieved.

c) iVMS.

Sam Dell, talking on behalf of both Devon and Southern IFCA's reported that there was little to update from the last meeting. However, he said that it is hoped there will be a "type approved" specification by January 2014.

Gus Caslake mentioned that Seafish are running a project in conjunction with the Met office, whereby you fix a data logger for depth and temperature to your gear. This can go on both mobile and static gear as it is very durable. Once the device surfaces with the gear it will transmit the data back to the Met office. This could be a possible tool for the fishermen as it can enable you to cross reference position and temperature information. Gus said he would be receiving 10 prototype units to test – one of which he would like to get down to Lyme and trial on one of the inshore boats. Once the units become available he will be in contact looking for a volunteer for trials.

d) Guardline S.E.A.

Andy reported that Guardline had begun work in the integrated assessments that will include fishery, habitat and socio-economic analysis and were currently collating a large amount of information from a variety of sources. The consultants will be coming to the next working group meeting in order to explain the objectives of the study and to discuss with members how best to work with them on the project. They are working to finish the study by September.

e) Quality and sustainability

Tim provided a summary on the activity that has been underway so far regarding sustainability, traceability and access to markets.

- The workshop with the Environmental Defence Fund (EDF)
- Meetings with Marriott Hotels
- Talks with Samways, New England Seafoods and Sainsbury's

f) The meeting received a presentation from Seafish on the Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS)

Mick Bacon provided an overview of the RFS and how it could be applied in Lyme:

He explained that the RFS assess criteria are based on catch, land, quality, vessel maintenance, crew competency and environmental impact. In order to go through the RFS there is an initial pre-assessment conducted by Seafish during which any issues would look to be addressed. Following this a formal assessment is conducted by an independent assessor.

Mike used fish handling as an example of what is taught under the scheme, explaining that it is vital to treat the fish correctly within the first four hours after catch. This entails quick temperature reduction using slush ice followed by correct storage procedures.

There is no timeline between the pre-assessment and the full independent assessment, meaning that the sooner fishermen start the process the more time efficient this will be. The RFS certification is reviewed every 3 years. RFS also has a website where fishermen can create their own profile and provide information about their activity.

The RFS has the option for bespoke addition under RFS+ which could be used to add further value and branding to a Lyme Bay product. Mike said that it was useful to know that the credibility of the Responsible Fishing Scheme was such that Morrisons will only use RFS certified catch.

Gus showed the group printed tallies for fish and plastic ties for crab and lobster that could be used for a traceability and quality scheme. Tim Glover asked whether Seafish would be amenable to adapting them to the Lyme Bay Reserve by including our logo and QR codes. Gus said this would be possible.

The costs of the scheme were outlined and the standard charge is £75 +VAT if the guys have got their under 16.5m ticket. This is reduced to £12+VAT for under 10's and £27+Vat for over 10's. The certification period is 3 years. Also as a member of the RFS they get 2000 fish tallies with the vessel name, number and RFS logo on and a 7.5% discount on Hull and machinery insurance on like for like policies if taken out with the associated insurance suppliers.

Output: A workshop was proposed for Lyme Bay fishermen in order to help bring them into the scheme. BLUE will provide funding for those who want to go through the RFS scheme.

Action points: Set aside dates for going through the documentation for the RFS.

Neville to supply the working group fishermen's representative's details for initial contact from Seafish.

4) Communications

a) Conference

'Managing MPAs in the UK- sharing best practice'.

The conference will be held on the 18th September at the National Sailing academy and will focus on managing MPAs. It was voiced that a conference in the afternoon-evening would suit the fishermen better. Bridget Betts asked for suggestions for themes that might include such topics as information regarding breeding seasons of certain species. Neville informed the group that the South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen Association would like to attend and present about the existing management of their inshore fishery.

Action Point: Please feedback any suggestions to Bridget via representatives or Neville.

b) Lyme bay working group website

Rowena Taylor reported that all the website content is up and ready to go live. Gus said that it would be possible for Seafish to link up all boats in the RFS to the Lyme bay website.

Action Point: Fishermen to send any information for their profiles to Rowena.

c) Interpretation boards

Rowena said that planning permission for the boards is currently with the councils. She asked the group for suggestion for the text on the boards and ideas included using QR codes to link to website or fishermen profiles and using the boards to carry different messages or themes.

Action Point: Rowena and Tim to contemplate.

d) Exhibitions and displays

In order fulfil the socio-economic commitments of the project; the creation of public attractions to both educate the public about the Lyme Bay marine ecology and provide tourism benefits is well under way. To this end, discussions are going well with the Bridport Area Development Trust for a joint display with other environmental groups in the West Bay Chapel. An exhibition is also planned for the Lyme Bay aquarium. At the moment, a suitable venue has not been identified at the western end of Lyme Bay. However, there is a heritage centre on the beach at Beer which is run by the Fine Family Foundation which may be suitable.

Action Point: Neville to investigate the possibility of a display in the Beer heritage centre.

e) Hix Mackerel Festival

The Hix Mackerel Festival will be taking place in Lyme Regis on the 8th-15th July. Charles Clover reported that he will be debating on a panel and that it will be a good opportunity to spread the word about the Lyme Bay Reserve.

f) Weymouth Seafood Festival 13th-14th July

For the second year running the Lyme Bay working group have a stall at the Weymouth Seafood Festival for two days. Tim reminded the group that this is for the benefit of the Lyme bay fishermen and that last year the only fisherman to turn up and help was Dave Sales. This year, more fishermen will be needed to help man the stall and chat to the general public about the working group. Last year there was tremendous interest from the public about the lives of fishermen in the Bay and about what they are trying to achieve. **Action Point:** Please contact Neville to arrange shifts over the festival weekend.

5) Update from the MMO and IFCA's

Rachel Irish said there were no updates from the MMO.

Simon Pengelly reassured the group by saying that the IFCA's wanted to emphasise that they are continuing enforcement efforts in Lyme and will be carrying out a survey in July and August.

6) Funding Update

Tim reported that the DEFRA funding was agreed but there was a fair amount of administration to be completed before receiving the funds. Nevertheless he was making headway. There have been a number of other smaller grants applied for through lottery funding and foundations which he would report on at the next meeting.

7) Adoption of terms of reference for the Consultative Committee

Tim confirmed that all Working Group members had been sent a final draft of the terms of reference for the Consultative Committee. He asked that these ToR could now be formally adopted by the group. Tim stressed that all would still be welcome at meetings even though there would be nominated members but that it was now necessary to formalise the structure and accountability to satisfy funders and backers.

Sam said that due to IFCA procedures, they will have to show the Terms of Reference to their Technical Advisory Committees. Dave Hancock said he had reservations about such a formal document which leaves Blue with a casting vote in any situation. Tim explained that although the document seems very formal, it is needed because Blue have the final

responsibility for financial matters and delivery of the management plan against funding received.

Output: The terms of reference for the Consultative Committee were agreed and formally adopted by the Group.

Action Point: Each fisherman's association needs to nominate two members who will be the official formal representatives from the individual associations.

8) Media and PR

Charles reported that a recent article in the Fishing News stated "Lyme Bay a World First". He said it was very encouraging for him to be in favour with the Fishing News for a change and he praised the author, Tim Oliver for writing a well-balanced article.

9) A.O.B.

Kate West passed around hand-outs encouraging fishermen registration for a conference hosted by the Prince's Charities International Sustainability Unit.

Date of next meetings.

28th May agreed

25th June suggested.

Duration of meeting: 7pm – 10:00pm.

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