

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Committee Meeting

Meeting held at the Dolphin Hotel, Beer, on 28th May 2013

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation.
(Chair)

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation.

Neville Copperthwaite, Project
Coordinator/Committee Secretary.

Andy Woolmer, Fishery Adviser.

Kate West, Blue Marine Foundation.

Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA.

Sam Dell, Southern IFCA.

Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA.

Lowri Evans, Southern IFCA.

Sarah Clark, Devon and Severn IFCA.

Nick Wright, MMO.

Christine Sheppard, Natural England.

Jim Newton, Beer Fisherman.

Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay, static
gear.

Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static
gear.

Alex Jones, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static
gear.

Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth, static
gear.

Nigel Hill, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static
gear.

John Worswick –West Bay, scallop diver.

Nigel Marsh, Lyme Regis, static gear.

Mark Machin - Samways

Adam Rees, Plymouth University.

Rowena Taylor, Graphic Designer.

Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear.

Gus Caslake, Seafish.

Terri Portman, Scott Trawlers.

Jerry Percy, NUTFA

David Mitchel, Angling Trust.

Rohan Smith, Marine Planning.

Bryony Pearce, Marine Planning.

Liam McAleese, Marine Planning.

Laura Partridge, ISU

Lucy Holmer, ISU

1) Apologies:

Ian Carrier, Southern IFCA.

Neil Wellum, Marine Management Organisation.

Joana Smith, Natural England.

Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum.

Mark Cornwell, West Bay towed gear.

Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear.

Jim Portus, SWIFA.

Note: There were 6 fishermen in attendance from Beer and Branscombe as well as the Beer Fishermen's Association Secretary, Norah Jagers.

Minutes

2) Agree minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

3) Committee membership

The terms of reference of the consultative committee state that two representatives from each fisherman's association should be formally appointed as committee members. Tim Glover asked the group to supply the names prior to the next meeting.

Tim also pointed out that despite previous requests, the names and boat details of all the 59 fishermen within the Lyme Bay fishermen associations had not been forthcoming. He explained that these would be needed in order to implement the Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme and for future accreditation and branding initiatives. He requested that these be provided prior to the next meeting.

Action point: Association reps to supply the names and details to Neville

4) Update on Implementation of Management Plan

a) Potting Study first results

Adam Reese gave an update on progress and reported that the West Bay pots had been deployed. The pots in the other three ports would go out next week. He said he would be in a position to supply the final potting study position coordinates soon.

b) Ports infrastructure – equipment and grant applications

Neville reported that the four port applications were being processed by MMO but that they had requested hard copies of all equipment quotes. These were being sourced.

c) iVMS project and grant application

Andy Woolmer reported that the iVMS grant application was being processed by MMO.

Nick Wright said he would chase-up the application to help it on its way through the system.

Terri Portman asked the IFCA's if they were sure that the proposed new bylaw which will carry iVMS conditions will dovetail with the approval of iVMS system implementation. She said she was concerned that there may be a time-lag between the two which could result in a period of time that may preclude fishing. Tim Robbins explained that the bylaw is planned to be introduced in January 2014 but that he had no control over the MMO iVMS time-scale. Nick Wright was asked if he could give an assurance that iVMS approval would be in place in January. He could not. He did however report that a workshop for iVMS suppliers was being set-up in June and he expected that a specification would come out of that.

Charles C had met with a mobile phone consultant who worked in the developing world with micro-finance and loyalty card schemes. He said an Android phone, which can be tracked by

satellite via a free app, could be obtained for \$40 on the world market and an electronic card for a few pence. If the iVMS scheme were to fail, or if the group wanted an additional and innovative approach to recording or paying for the use of ice or boxes as part of a quality and traceability scheme, this knowledge was available.

Tim R expanded on his explanation by reporting that there would be two permitting bylaws, one for static gear and one for towed gear. There would be a £30 charge for permits. Terri asked what the purpose of charging for permits is. Tim R said it is because problems can be properly assessed through the permitting process. Nigel Hill saw this as being penalised for towing the line.

d) Annual review of the Code of Conduct

Tim reminded the group that July 2nd is the anniversary of the MoU and that a review is due. He said that there is also the issue of a Mobile gear code which we should think about. Terri suggested that a sub-meeting with the Mobile guys and the IFCA's would be useful. Simon Pengelly said there is no harm in a voluntary mobile code as long as it is at least as stringent as a bylaw. Sam Dell said we should ensure full representation from the mobile gear guys. Charles pointed out that we were still waiting on them to propose an area and he noted that there were no mobile gear representatives at this meeting.

Outcome: A sub-meeting between the IFCA's and Mobile Gear guys to be organised.

Action point: Neville to liaise with Terri to organise before the Code review date on 2nd July.

e) Presentation from Guardline

Liam McAleese, Bryony Pearce and Rohan Smith gave a detailed presentation on the integrated sustainability assessment study. This study draws together the three strands of fisheries, environmental and socio-economic assessments to identify where best practice already is in place and where improvements can be made. A habitat risk tool would be developed to help with the assessment of fishing and habitat interactions. This will help the IFCA's with their work and the Committee in understanding potential issues in the future. Rohan outlined how important that fishermen's own information is to the study and that he was keen to arrange individual port visits in the coming month. There was a discussion about confidentiality and it was made clear that individual's information was wholly confidential and would only be seen by the researcher involved and by nobody else. Angus Walker said that whilst he takes the Liam McAleese point about confidentiality, he emphasized the information could be dangerous in the wrong hands. Liam explained that any information will be the property of the consultative committee and would not be shared without the express permission of the committee. Andy Woolmer said the work would underpin branding by the provision of proof.

5) Communications

a) Website

Rowena Taylor said the website would go live at the end of the week. For links to the IFCA's, Sarah Clarke will be the contact for Devon and Severn and Sam Dell for Southern.

b) Interpretation boards

Rowena reported that she had received positive feedback from East Devon District Council for the installation of the boards at popular sites around the Bay. West Dorset District Council was proving a harder nut to crack. Posters explaining the potting study are in the design stage and will be ready in two weeks. These will be placed in the four ports.

c) Exhibitions & Displays

Tim reminded the group that the Dorset Seafood Fair would take place on July 13th and 14th and that volunteers were required to man the stand and talk to the public. Neville pointed out that last year only Dave Sales had helped out and he appealed to the group to do more this year.

Charles reported that he would be attending the Hix Mackerel Festival in Lyme Regis on July 10th.

d) Conference – September 18th.

Charles said that although the event was being organised by the Blue Marine Foundation and Dorset Coastal Forum, it was principally an opportunity for the IFCA's to shine and show off their wares (both in terms of active participation and logos) to other IFCA's as they had been instrumental to the creation of the consultative committee and would be responsible for its on-going success. Blue is trying to design the conference to have the poles of opinion from all shades of conservationists to all shades of fishermen represented in order to spark debate. David Mitchell was asked if he could recommend someone to talk about Bass and Sarah said she would find someone to speak about cuttlefish. Simon suggested that someone from Guernsey should be invited to speak about pot limitation.

6) MMO/IFCA update

There was nothing to report.

7) Funding update

Tim had nothing specific to update but he informed the group that funding applications were going in all the time and he would update the group as and when there is any news.

8) Media and PR

David Mitchell of the Angling Trust was introduced and he explained that he was keen to write an article on the Lyme Bay project for the Trust's publication. He said he had written an article on the Lundy Reserve last year and it had gone down well with his members in that it informed anglers of its existence. This would do the same for the Lyme Bay Reserve. Charles asked him to find an angling representative who could participate more regularly in the workings of the committee.

a) **A.O.B.**

There was no other business so Tim thanked the Beer and Branscombe attendees for their support in attending. He also thanked David Mitchell and the Marine Planning representatives for their presentations.

Date of next meeting.

25th June, to be held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis at 7pm.

Duration of meeting:

7pm – 9:30pm.

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