

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis on 28th January 2014

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation (Chair)
Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation
Neville Copperthwaite, Project Coordinator/Committee Secretary
Kate West, Blue Marine Foundation
Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA.
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA
Sam Dell, Southern IFCA
Lizy Gardner, Natural England
Christine Singfield, Natural England
Katie Hill, MMO
Professor Martin Attrill, Plymouth University
Gus Caslake, Seafish
Liam McAleese, Marine Planning Consultants
Caroline Chambers, Marine Planning Consultants
Tom Rossiter, Succorfish
Britt Groosman, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
Erin Priddle, EDF
Andrea Gieseke, EDF
Fiona Wheatley, Marks and Spencer
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
Aubrey Banfield, West Bay, static gear
Nigel Hill, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static gear
Rowena Taylor, Graphic Designer
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust.
Mark Machin – Samways
Jamie Smith, West Bay, static gear

Apologies:

Nick Wright, MMO

Andy Woolmer, Fishery Adviser

Jerry Percy, NUTFA

Jim Newton, Beer Fisherman

John Worswick –West Bay, scallop diver

Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum

Adam Rees, Plymouth University

Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear

Michael Coyle, Marine Management Organisation.

Mike Green, Beer Representative.

Mark Cornwell, West Bay towed gear.

Jim Portus, SWIFA.

1) Agree minutes of the 20th Working Group meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

2) Update on Implementation of Management Plan

a) Potting Study

Professor Martin Attrill informed the group that Adam Reese was attending the 10th annual Temperate Reefs Symposium, which took place in Perth, Western Australia, from 12 to 17 January. He promoted the Lyme Bay project, permanent details of which were displayed in poster format at the conference. This symposium is the premier conference for marine scientists with a focus on temperate hard-bottom habitats. The developments in Lyme Bay apply directly to the subject matter being discussed during this conference.

Martin said the winter sampling had been done in the nick of time before the gales came in and the first full data set would be in place in the spring. He wanted to thank the fishermen for their invaluable help with the study so far. Angus Walker reported that some of the marker flags were missing or damaged.

b) Insulated fish tubs

Neville reported that the final deliveries of this round of insulated fish tubs had been delivered today to Lyme Regis and Axminster. The fishermen of Beer and West Bay had received theirs before Christmas. In total this amounts to 78 boxes.

c) Ports Infrastructure.

The ice equipment infrastructure EFF grant application for Beer had been agreed the previous week and Katie Hill said that she was authorised by MMO to tell the group that the three remaining applications for West Bay, Axmouth and Lyme Regis would be signed-off on Friday. These three applications will be granted subject to planning consent from the Local Authorities.

d) Fully Documented Fisheries

Tom Rossiter showed the group the iVMS and tag-reader electronic equipment that will be deployed on the fishermen's boats and explained how it will work in practice. 56 boats will carry the equipment. 50% of the initial purchase and installation cost of £650 will be met from EFF grant funding.

Simon Pengelly suggested that care should be taken over the wording of the contract with fishermen in order to achieve the maximum data from them.

The project will begin with equipment installation as soon as fishermen contact details can be obtained. Neville will collect contact details and forward to Succorfish.

e) Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme

Gus Caslake reported that he had now coached 22 fishermen and 5 had already been fully audited. He hoped to have everyone done by the spring.

f) Marine Planning Consultants (MPC) (Guardline) study.

Liam McAleese and Caroline Chambers produced a methodology review to show the group the method intended for use in the Lyme bay habitat risk mapping. Liam explained that the aim of the habitat risk model is to show those areas of the sea in Lyme Bay that are / are not at risk from different fishing activities, in terms of the habitats and selected species that live in or use those areas. Caroline distributed fishing activity maps which had been produced after consultation with the Devon and Severn IFCA, Southern IFCA and the Marine Management Organisation, using the best available fishing activity data for the last few years that has been sourced for the Lyme Bay area.

Having sourced a series of habitat and species spatial datasets for Lyme Bay, each of the features (i.e., habitat or species) has been assessed for its conservation importance, with those of national / international importance considered for the risk modelling and mapping. This study will provide a spreadsheet matrix of gear types against habitat / species, resulting in red (high), amber, green and blue (low) risk. Where this does not inform on the habitats and species selected for Lyme Bay, alternate sources of sensitivity and risk will be sourced.

g) Catch Rights Based Management

Charles Clover commentated on Professor Trond's presentation at the previous meeting and said that whilst his talk had been theoretical, it had been useful to explore ways in which to reinforce the Code of Conduct. Britt Groosman had been invited to talk later about ways of bolstering the Code in Law

h) Schools outreach program (Dave Sales)

Dave explained that part of the Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve project is to communicate to both local communities and the wider visiting public about the ground breaking management measures being planned for Lyme Bay. Dave has agreed to give talks at schools in the area as part of the Schools Outreach Project, teaching local children about the conservation in their area and what their local fishermen are doing to help protect their wonderful, diverse ecosystem! The first of the schools Dave visited was St Michael's School in Lyme Regis. Dave said the kids loved it!

i) Angling Code of Conduct

Mike Spiller reported that Neville had given a talk about the aims and achievements of the Lyme Bay Reserve to The Angling Trust Wyvern Region when they held their awards presentation on Saturday evening in Exeter, with around 100 people turning out from 20 clubs to collect their awards for the 2013 fishing season. Mike informed the group that he is the Fish Recorder of the Wyvern area and he sees what fish are being caught from the clubs. He had also spoken to the Angling Trust main fish recorder and all have noticed an increase in good fish in Lyme Bay recently. There are also different fish being caught like John Dory, the odd Red Band Fish, Sole, Plaice and more and better Ray and Gurnards. Mike pointed out that a lot of anglers don't know about the Lyme bay project and suggested that we should get leaflets into tackle shops and charter boats etc. Tim G asked Rowena to work with Mike to produce some material. Charles asked if he had made any headway regarding the angling code of conduct and Mike said he had consulted and would have a draft to present to the group for ratification at the next meeting after gaining approval from the Trust.

3) **Presentation By Emma Rance – Dorset Wildlife Trust**

Emma was invited to join the meeting to give a presentation on DWT's Great Dorset Seafood campaign which is aimed at maintaining a healthy and productive marine environment through low impact and selective fishing methods. Throughout the campaign the Dorset Wildlife Trust would be reviewing the Dorset fishery which would allow us all to understand in more depth exactly what conservation measures were in place to allow us to make informed choices over the seafood we buy. Emma said the campaign can be followed through the Twitter feed @GtDorsetSeafood and recommend your favourite outlet to add to the Great Dorset Seafood directory? Suggestions can be uploaded under our "support us" page.

4) **Communications**

Social Media

Rowena reported that Facebook visitor numbers were 397 (up 43) and Twitter 746 (up 57). As of the 1st February both social media accounts have been active for a year. Targets for both accounts have been exceeded and raised for year 2.

Interpretation Boards

East Devon District Council is awaiting the decision from the Portfolio Holder with regards to granting the licence for the boards. Main feedback from the consultation period was for the Lyme Bay interpretation boards to harmonise with the new Jurassic Coast interpretation boards. Rowena is planning to meet with Sally King from the Jurassic Coast team to discuss designs.

The Website continues to grow - as a result the News section of the site will be re-organised with an archiving system. The 'Reserve Round-up' page on the website is to be updated and will be shared with the Great Dorset Seafood Campaign e-newsletter (part of the Dorset Wildlife Trust). Rowena continues in rolling out the URL to increase visitor numbers to the website. Video footage from the potting study will be added to the site.

Recreational Sea Angling

Rowena will work with Mike Spiller on communication material to promote the Lyme Bay Reserve to the recreational sea angling community.

5) Presentation By Britt Groosman – EDF

Regulatory Orders

Britt opened the discussion by asking the fishermen present in the group how they thought the project is going and whether there is any compliance issues. Dave Sales said there had not been any compliance problems from the members but that there is potential for problems from those from outside the area and not signed-up to the voluntary code of conduct. Angus said it would be good to discuss ways of giving the 'code some teeth. Britt said that one way would be to expand the 'code to include other fishermen outside of the Reserve area; a different route is to establish a Regulatory Order. The Order could mirror the voluntary code of conduct and could be managed by the group for instance. Or it could be managed by the IFCA's. It is a flexible tool to set-up. Simon Pengelly said that as the Reserve is divided by two IFCA's there does need to be some unity. Tim Robbins said that it is unlikely that the MMO would grant a Regulatory Order to a fishermen's group. Devon and Severn IFCA have opted to go for a permitting bylaw which can achieve much the same and although it is for the whole IFCA area, permits can be issued for certain areas. The permits can also be revised annually to fine tune them to changing circumstances. Britt pointed out that in Scotland both fishermen and IFCAs work together in managing Regulatory Orders and they apply to specific geographical areas. Alex Jones said that at the moment there is nothing to stop other fishermen from coming in and capitalising on our improved fishery. Angus was concerned about the timescale of establishing a Regulatory Order but Britt said that the group would not be starting the process from scratch as much groundwork had already been achieved. Charles asked if the two IFCA's could coordinate their thoughts on this issue and report back to the group in the spring.

6) **MMO and IFCA updates**

Katie Hill gave a presentation outlining the history of the development of iVMS, much of which was trialled in Lyme Bay. Looking forward, the timeline is that there is an iVMS specification in place and there is a standstill period which should end on 14th March. The MMO will then release the final specification so that suppliers can submit their devices. These will then be tested for six weeks. Katie added that grants will be available under EMFF but they will have to be applied for prior to the introduction of legislation. Simon Pengelly reported that the Southern IFCA towed gear ban Bylaw covered 670² kilometres of seabed, some 25% of the total IFCA area, much of it in the Solent. Charles asked if the IFCA's had any suggestions as to how we could discuss giving teeth to the voluntary code of conduct. Tim Robbins said that both IFCA's will be having consultations in the spring and Charles asked if both IFCA's could coordinate with dates and harmonise. It was agreed they would.

7) **Funding update**

Tim Glover reported that we still need additional funding in the region of £350K over the lifetime of the project.

8) **Media and PR**

A very successful news piece on ITV was discussed. Geoff Lean from the Daily Telegraph to be invited when there is more to announce.

9) **AOB**

There was no other business.

10) **Date of next meeting**

25th March, to be held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis at 6pm

Duration of meeting:

6pm – 9:45pm

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