

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis on 6th May, 2014

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation (Chair)
Neville Copperthwaite, Project Coordinator/Committee Secretary
Kate West, Blue Marine Foundation
Andy Woolmer, Fishery Adviser
Rachel Irish, MMO
Sam Dell, Southern IFCA
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA
Matt Mander, Devon and Severn IFCA
Sarah Clark, Devon and Severn IFCA
Liam McAleese, Marine Planning Consultants
Caroline Chambers, Marine Planning Consultants
Jess Woo, Marine Planning Consultants
Jerry Percy, NUTFA
Adam Rees, Plymouth University
Gus Caslake, Seafish
Tom Rossiter, Succorfish
Rowena Taylor, Graphic Designer
Jim Newton, Beer Fisherman
John Worswick –West Bay, scallop diver
Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay, static gear
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Alex Jones, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static gear
Aubrey Banfield, West Bay, static gear
Nigel Hill, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static gear
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust.
Jamie Smith, West Bay, static gear
Robert King, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Adam Vickery, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Kieran Perrie, Lyme Regis scallop diver
J Shuiter, Lyme Regis scallop diver

1) Apologies:

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation

Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA.

Nick Wright, MMO

Fiona Wheatley, Marks & Spencer

Mark Machin – Samways

Lizy Gardner, Natural England

Professor Martin Attrill, Plymouth University

Mike Green, Beer representative.

Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum

Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear

Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear

Michael Coyle, Marine Management Organisation.

Mark Cornwell, West Bay towed gear.

Jim Portus, SWIFA.

2) Agree minutes of the 21st Working Group meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

3) Updates on implementation of the Management Plan

a) Potting Study, storms impact, lost gear etc

Adam Reese reported that due to the winter storms an extra year would be needed for the potting study. In order to facilitate this, funding was being sought from Defra. There is also an opportunity to incorporate the potting study in the iVMS study which would add another layer of evidence. The effects of the winter storms, initial surveys have revealed substantial differences in the Bay in terms of species depletion such as Ross Corals and sponges. We now have to analyse and quantify what we have seen. The loss of half the pots will delay the study for a further 3 weeks when we expect to receive delivery of the replacements.

b) Ports Infrastructure.

Neville reported that the Axmouth planning application is having a rough ride through the planning mechanism but that the application had finally been accepted by the East Devon District Council. However, both the Lyme Regis and West Bay planning applications are still at the pre-planning stage.

c) Fully Documented Fisheries

Tom Rossiter said that the second Fully Documented Fisheries steering group meeting had taken place prior to the meeting. He reported that 25 out of 45 iVMS systems had now been fitted to vessels in West Bay and Axmouth by Tech-Marine Ltd. He thanked Aubrey and Angus for doing a sterling job in organising the fishermen. Regarding the smart phone app, the main information points had now been finalised and simplified. This is new and challenging and it had been agreed by the steering group that issues around data access by IFCA's and the need to communicate the benefits to fishermen of sharing the data would be debated by the full committee as an agenda item at the next meeting.

d) Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS)

Gus Caslake reported that 34 out of the 42 vessels and fishermen had now been either coached or audited and he was looking forward to completing the final 8.

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

Liam McAleese reported that the Methodology section was now being reviewed. Jess Woo has been brought in to analyse the data and reported that 20 vessel skippers had consented to access to their MMO landing records. This information had been aggregated and it was found that 8 species accounted for 95% of the catch. These were crab, lobster, whelk, cuttlefish and thornback ray. It was agreed around the table that cuttlefish and thornback ray should be replaced by bass and sole. Jerry Percy agreed with the inclusion of bass as he informed the group that bass is fast moving towards becoming a quota species or some other technical measures.

Caroline Chambers gave an update on the risk assessment and a revised MMO risk assessment and it is planned to send out reports on both strands in two weeks' time. Sarah Clark asked if the Devon and Severn IFCA permitting bylaws will be taken into account. Liam said they would as part of the study will be to identify where good management is already in place.

f) Schools outreach program (Dave Sales)

Dave Sales reported that Samways had been very good in supplying live lobsters for him to take around the schools to show the children. He had received 29 thank you letters from the children. He has recently visited Kilmington School and one school in Bridport. Tim said he was really impressed that the children were so engaged with the visits.

g) 1. Angling Code of Conduct

Mike Spiller reported that we now had leaflets from Rowena Taylor that we will put out as feelers to charter boatmen and tackle shops prior to distribution. He said that there was a very good article in the Angling Trust Mag concerning the Lyme Bay Reserve and David Mitchel will also be putting out a press release in due course concerning the angling code of conduct. Aubrey Banfield asked if there is any enforcement going on concerning bass, for

example notching the fins or tail of bass by anglers as the French do. Simon Pengelly said that the Southern IFCA is exploring ways to see how angling can be managed.

2. Diving Code of Conduct

Neville reported that he had received an email from the diving representatives which said that the proposed diving code of conduct had been put out to the dive fraternity for consultation and ratification. However, due to the diving season now being upon us, it was not anticipated that much will be done before the end of the season.

4. Communications

Rowena Taylor had a meeting with the Seaton Jurassic Centre - a new visitor centre currently being developed. There are plans for aspects of the Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve project and outcomes to be featured strongly in the centre.

Interpretation Boards - East Devon boards are at planning application and submission stage. The Seaton location has been withdrawn due to the Seaton Jurassic Centre being developed nearby.

Social Media - Twitter 979 (up 53). Facebook 452 (up 20).

RSA leaflet –As has been mentioned earlier in the meeting, Rowena has been working with Mike Spiller, an initial proof of the Recreational Sea Anglers leaflet is out for comment. A comprehensive list of outlets to send the leaflets to has been compiled and will be disseminated once the leaflet has the green light. Neville will obtain the feedback.

Weymouth Seafood Festival - The stand has been booked for this year's seafood festival to be held on the 12th and 13th July.

Printed Literature - A generic leaflet about the Reserve along with an updated version of the initial report is being developed.

5. MMO and IFCA updates

Matt Mander informed the group that the Devon and Severn IFCA were working on a proposed potting bylaw which included leisure divers who would have restriction on what they could take which is proposed to be 2 lobsters, 4 crabs and 15 scallops. Matt pointed out that the bylaw will have an impact in the western half of the reserve. An angling strategy is also being developed which includes designating the Emstrom wreck for rod and line fishing only. Two other pilot sites are being considered. Sarah Clark said that data is relied on as evidence and a netting and potting survey is currently being carried out and she asked the fishermen present if they would be kind enough to participate.

Simon Pengelly said there is a vacancy on the Southern IFCA committee and invited anyone interested to put their name forward. Sam Dell is being posted out of the area to work in the east of the region and will no longer be a regular attendee at the Lyme Bay meetings. Dave Sales asked if the Southern IFCA would be falling in line with the Devon IFCA by bringing in a permitting bylaw. Simon replied no.

6. Funding update

Tim Glover was happy to report that the Esmé Fairburn funding application for £150,000 from Blue had been successful. However match funding is still needed for the Fully Documented Fisheries project and for three of the four Port Improvement schemes. (We already have match funding in place for Beer)

Kate West was delighted to report that the Gap 2 funding application had been successful. This is to facilitate exchanges between scientists and fishermen around the world. There is a project in Morrow Bay, California, that is using App technology which could be beneficial to the Lyme Bay Fully Documented Fisheries project. Three people are needed to go, of which one has to be a fisherman and one a scientist. Kate asked the group for those interested to contact her. Kate@bluemarinefoundation.com

Kate was even more delighted to report that she had submitted an application to the Natura 2000 awards for the Lyme Bay Reserve to be considered and we have been shortlisted and invited to go to Brussels for the grand finale! The award would be for the reconciliation of different interest groups. She asked the group for a fisherman to volunteer to accompany her to the award ceremony in Brussels.

Adam said that further to the previous request for help with funding from Plymouth University, Natural England had agreed to fund the University for the on-going Lyme Bay survey work for a further year.

7. Media and PR

Earlier in the day, regional ITV had filmed a piece about the Fully Documented Fisheries, in particular, the role that iVMS was playing in data collection. Tom Rossiter gave an interview and Aubrey Banfield was filmed on his boat out in the Bay.

8. AOB

Neville reported that he had met with Mr Holmyard and invited him to attend this meeting. He was unable to come but said he would attend a future meeting.

Jerry Percy said that NUTFA are organising a bass seminar and he informed the group that under EU article 17 a fairer share of quota can be obtained if socio economic benefits can be demonstrated.

9. Date of next meeting

1st July, to be held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis at **7pm**

Duration of meeting:

7pm – 9:45pm

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