

# Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014

## 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  
Clare Brook, Blue Marine Foundation  
Harriet Yates-Smith, Blue Marine Foundation  
Robert Clark, Southern IFCA  
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA  
Rachel Irish, Marine Management Organisation  
Professor Martin Attrill, Plymouth University  
Adam Rees, Plymouth University  
Jerry Percy, NUTFA  
Erin Priddle, EDF  
Jo Pollett, EDF  
Mark Machin, – Samways  
Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay, static gear  
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear  
Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear  
Aubrey Banfield, West Bay, static gear  
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust.  
Jon Shuker, Lyme Regis scallop diver  
Tom Rossiter, Succorfish  
Harvey Jones, Pig Shed Trust  
Greg Clifford, Scallop Ranch Ltd  
Laky Zervidachi, Direct Seafoods  
Lewis Hodder, Lyme Regis static gear  
Robert King, Blue Turtle Dive Charters  
Nigel March, Lyme Regis static gear  
Kieran Perree, Lyme Bay, scallop diver  
James Smith, West Bay, static gear

## **1) Apologies:**

Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA  
Gus Caslake, Seafish  
Lizy Gardner, Natural England  
Nick Wright, MMO  
John Worswick –West Bay, scallop diver  
Mike Green, Beer representative.  
Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum  
Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear  
Michael Coyle, Marine Management Organisation  
Mark Cornwell, West Bay towed gear  
Jim Portus, SWIFA.  
Sarah Clark, Devon and Severn IFCA

## **2) Agree minutes of the 22nd Working Group meeting:**

The minutes were agreed.

## **3) Updates on implementation of the Management Plan**

### **a) Potting Study**

Professor Martin Attrill informed the Committee that Defra has agreed an extra year of funding for the potting study. This is to compensate for the year lost due bad weather last winter. Martin said that this will enable us to get benefits over and above those lost to us. Adam Reese reported that the video data shot in the summer is being analysed at the moment. He thanked the fishermen involved for helping get the study back on track and said that a report would be produced at the end of next year to compare the initial two years.

### **b) Ports Infrastructure.**

Neville reported that site meetings had taken place with the West Dorset District Council Planning Officer and subsequently, planning applications had now been submitted for ice facilities in both West Bay and Lyme Regis. Angus Walker reminded the group that the concrete foundations for the ice facilities had been laid in Axmouth. Tim Glover reported that a revised financial estimate had to be submitted to MMO regarding the Axmouth chilled store because it had to be re-specified, which was the reason for the delay in procuring it. Because of revised planning requirements, both West Bay and Lyme Bay EFF grant submissions have also had to be revised and represented to MMO.

### **c) Fully Documented Fisheries**

Tom Rossiter reported that Succorfish have now completed all the installs for the iVMS systems. 38 systems have been installed, 30 with RFID readers. The Catch App has also been finished and the fishermen representing each of the 4 ports have been trained on its use and will receive their iPad mini in its waterproof case shortly. The devices will be linked to their iVMS tracks and the catch and environmental data will go a long way to meeting the

requirements of a fully documented fishery. Blue and Succorfish are actively engaging with various stakeholders to get further engagement with the projects innovative approach and technology. Following initial trials and feedback the App will be made available to other fishermen free of charge. Tom and Andy Woolmer had visited Cefas to talk about their shellfish return system which is currently paper based and consequently causes delays in data being available to inform management. Cefas are currently trialling a website to collect the same data but see the future in App based solutions. A fruitful discussion led to Cefas working with Succorfish to ensure that the App can be used for this purpose. The App could also be useful to buyers and the IFCA's. Robert Clark asked who would own the data. Tom said it would be the fishermen. Tim Glover said that all Intellectual Property is owned by the Lyme Bay Project through the Committee.

d) Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS)

Gus Caslake was unable to attend but said he would update at the next meeting. Neville reported that a new member fisherman, John Hughes from Branscombe had joined the group and had expressed a wish to be involved with the RFS scheme. Mike Bacon of Seafish is arranging his inclusion into the scheme.

e) Schools outreach programme.

Tim Glover said that Harriet from the Blue office is in the process of organising more schools for Dave Sales to attend and deliver presentations.

f) Voluntary codes

Tim reported that all angling codes of conduct leaflets have been delivered to the various targeted angling outlets. Mike Spiller was thanked for his help in the creation and distribution of the codes and was asked to inform us when more packs are needed. Neville reported that he had spoken with members of the diving fraternity and their diving code of conduct was progressing and a draft should be available in the early New Year.

#### **4. MMO and IFCA updates**

Rachel Irish said that MMO had now started the iVMS approval process and the test window will close in January. It is planned that 6 weeks later, iVMS will be brought in. Rachel understood that Devon and Severn IFCA had secured 50% funding from EFF to supply 115 iVMS units.

Simon Pengelly said that Southern IFCA has been working on new a permitting bylaw for dredging in Poole Harbour. A revision of existing bylaws is also in progress and a consultation document will be produced in the near future.

The IFCA has also set up a working group to discuss how the Authority could through their management support anticipated EU and National measures to manage bass stocks.

Robert Clark explained that the IFCA Technical Advisory Committee has met recently and discussed the next phase of the revised approach to the management of commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites. The regulatory process of management of 'Amber Risks' under this process means that the focus of the regulatory work of the Southern IFCA will be

in the Solent Area, following a period of management developed for Poole Harbour. Robert encouraged the group to continue to engage with the IFCA on the provision of evidence to support sustainable management of static gear within the Lyme Bay MPA. Tim asked if there was any potential for regularisation within the Lyme Bay Reserve between the Southern and Devon and Severn IFCA's. Robert said that there are challenges but advised the group that Devon and Severn IFCA and Southern IFCA have had preliminary discussions as to the development of a single scheme of management for the local European Marine Site. Angus Walker said that this is the first time he recalls this being discussed within the group and it makes sense that a single Authority should exist.

Aubrey Banfield said that whelks were being over fished by non-members of the Lyme Bay Reserve and something should be done about it. Tim asked if these fishermen were using more pots within the Reserve than stated in the voluntary code of conduct. Aubrey said that there were many more pots being worked but he was unsure if they were all being laid within the Reserve. However, in his opinion we should be considering what happens adjacent to the Reserve and not just within it. Mark Machin suggested that it might be worth talking to the whelk buyers with a view to putting pressure on the whelk fishermen if they are not adhering to the voluntary code. Charles Clover said that we could write to the buyers to explain that a code of conduct exists. Tim suggested that the whelk fishermen in question should be approached to begin a dialogue in the first instance. Robert agreed to support such a dialogue highlighting that the group needs to ensure that it maintains a dialogue with those currently working outside the voluntary agreement. This was agreed as an action point.

## **5. Report on Gap 2 visit to California**

Andy Woolmer gave a presentation on the GAP2 Exchange trip to California. He described to the group how The Nature Conservancy (US conservation NGO) was helping fishermen to use real time data collection to manage their fisheries. This was of particular interest as they were using an App similar to ours to share the location of 'choke' species in order that the fishermen could avoid them. By avoiding these aggregations they were able to continue to fish for target species more efficiently. Andy showed how the fishermen had shared 'choke' species quota to form a 'risk pool' which combined with the sharing of data helped them continue to fish for longer and have more profitable businesses.

Andy was joined by Simon Pengelly and Jon Shuker in thanking their hosts TNC the individual fishermen and all of the organisations they visited for giving up their time and for making the visit a resounding success.

Andy's GAP2 blog:

<http://gap2.eu/gap2general/real-time-data/>

## **6. Approaches to inshore quota management**

Erin Priddle, UK Fisheries Manager at EDF presented to the Committee on potential ideas for more sustainable quota management for Lyme Bay fishermen. Erin focussed on innovative quota management tools used successfully in other fisheries – e.g. risk pools used by Morro Bay fishermen. She also introduced other tools such as government set aside schemes where quota could be pooled and accessed to reward sustainable fishing techniques. There was recognition that fishermen are faced with huge challenges through requirements to implement the discard ban, however, Erin noted that the challenges are not insurmountable and suggested the need to better understand how Article 17 of the CFP could be used to achieve a better system for Lyme fishermen. Charles asked how we access Article 17 funding. Erin said that since Article 17 requires Member States to allocate quota according to environmental, social and economic criteria, there is an important opportunity to test its merit through ‘on the water’ pilots and proposals for EMFF funding to support innovative fishing techniques in exchange for ring-fenced quota for Lyme Fishermen. Jerry Percy supported greater investigation of Article 17 and explained how – in principle – the Article should work for the benefit of low-impact fishermen in England. However, while he recognised that pilots are one way to test the strength of Article 17, he said there needs to be analysis on how Article 17 can be implemented on a national level. He encouraged Lyme Bay members to lobby their MP’s to advocate the use and implementation of this important CFP provision. It was agreed that Jerry would draft a letter to circulate to the group and either get fishermen to submit the letter to their MP’s or circulate a single letter with signatures for support. Erin said she would draft a short piece on quota pools / risk pools with links to how a sustainable quota allocation plan might be funded by applying the criteria in Article 17.

## **7. Scallop ranch – nursery trials**

Greg Clifford gave a PowerPoint presentation which explained the hatchery techniques involved in scallop culture through to ranching scallops in the wild. Greg explained that local scallops had been sent to a hatchery in Holland as broodstock and subsequently, the offspring – scallop spat – had been returned for growing trials within Lyme Bay. Five trial sites are being used, scattered throughout the Bay, to assess growth rates and optimum site location for on-growing.

## **8. Lyme Bay provenance assured seafood**

Laky Zervidachi of Direct Seafoods said that his company is trying to move as much of its buying as possible closer to fishermen. At the moment, Lacy could not see how fishermen involved in the reserve were capitalising on their achievements but said that this was a great story and he would like to be involved with it. The new App will provide a strand for maximising your products and we can help with marketing and cutting out the middle man. Tim suggested getting involved with Direct Seafoods and it was agreed that a group would

be set-up to get something started. Aubrey, Angus and John Shuker volunteered to sit on the group and Jim Newton was volunteered by the committee to represent Beer.

## **9. Communications**

In her absence, Rowena Taylor sent an email with the latest Social Media statistics and information which Tim delivered to the Committee.

- Twitter: 1,141 (up 70) and Facebook: 550 (up 59).
- Regarding Interpretation Boards, planning applications are underway for 6 locations in West Dorset.
- ITV West Country News has given permission to upload all past news items about the Reserve onto the Lyme Bay website. These have been uploaded and shared.
- Seaton Jurassic Centre. Funding applications are due to commence in the New Year to enable the Lyme Bay Reserve to be part of the Seaton Jurassic Centre, which opens its doors in late 2015.
- Great Dorset Seafood eNewsletter  
The Lyme Bay Reserve features in each edition with link to the Lyme Bay website, which is updated on a monthly basis.
- Seaton Sea Anglers eNewsletter  
An article about the Reserve will feature in the next eNewsletter publication and the following eNewsletter to their readership. They are big supporters of the Reserve and actively publicise for us.
- GAP2 Project  
There was good coverage in the local press about the GAP2 Project trip. This was well received on social media as well.
- More4 TV  
Good footage appeared of Dave and Aubrey out fishing for More4's 'Hidden Villages' series.

## **10. Funding update**

There were no funding updates to report.

## **11. Media and PR**

There was no media or PR to report.

## **12. AOB**

There was no other business.

**13. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, to be held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis at **6pm**

**Duration of meeting:**

7pm – 10pm

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