

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting

Meeting held at the Training Room, Cobb Quay, Lyme Regis on 14th June,
2016

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation (Chair)
Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation
Neville Copperthwaite, Project Coordinator/Committee Secretary
Lauren Nelson, Blue Marine Foundation
Gerry Irwin, Marine Management Organisation
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust
Rowena Taylor, Lyme Bay Reserve
Nicky Mitchard, Lyme Bay Reserve
Robert Clark, Southern IFCA
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA
Joana Smith, Natural England
Andrzej Narozanski, Natural England
Gus Caslake, Seafish
Jim Newton, Fisherman, Beer, static gear
Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Gavin Ziemann, Axmouth Fisherman, static gear
Martin Attrill, Plymouth University
Adam Rees, Plymouth University
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Nigel Hill, Lyme Regis, static gear
John Worswick, Fisherman, West Bay, scallop diver
Jon Shuker, Fisherman, Lyme Regis scallop diver
Robert King, Lyme Regis diver
Harry Owen, MCB Seafoods Ltd
Rebecca Singer, University College London

1) Apologies:

Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum
Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA
Aubrey Banfield, Fisherman, West Bay, static gear
Emma Sheehan, Plymouth University

Mark Machin, Samways Fish Merchants
Jerry Percy, NUTFA
Martin Foley, Fisherman, Weymouth, whelk gear
Paul Wason, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, towed gear
Mark Cornwell, Fisherman, West Bay towed gear
Jim Portus, SWIFA.
Laky Zervudachi
Dave Sales

2) Agree minutes of the 28th Working Group meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

3) Updates on implementation of the Management Plan

a) Potting Study

Adam Rees reported that the main focus is now on summer sampling which started yesterday and will continue for 2 weeks, with the exception of the towed video which will last for 4 to 6 weeks. The results will be circulated and then put out to social media. The 3rd annual report is finished and ready to go out to the steering group and will be discussed in September at a meeting which Defra will attend. The Succorfish iVMS trial is to be extended and incorporated into the potting study. Nigel Hill pointed out that many of the iVMS units are not working. Tim Glover said he would look into this. Gus Caslake said he had been approached by a firm called Aquatech who will supply units free of charge to collect temperature and depth data which can then be accessed on line.

Action point:

Neville to assess numbers of faulty iVMS units

Gus to liaise with Neville regarding supply of Aquatech units

b) Ports Infrastructure.

Tim Glover reported that the chiller store EMFF applications for West Bay and Lyme Regis have been submitted to MMO and decisions are pending. Regarding the Dorset Devon FLAG application submitted by Dorset Coast Forum, Nigel Hill asked if the FLAG could be used to fund ongoing commitments, such as the chiller facilities. Angus Walker said it might be an idea to put forward a bid to the FLAG to finance the running of the Lyme Bay group. Dave Hancock said he favoured an application to include funding for iVMS airtime. Tim said that going forward there will also be important scientific needs such as evidence and data gathering.

Tim asked if as a committee, we should put forward an application to the FLAG. This was agreed.

Gus informed the group that the initial FLAG workshops are designed to establish a strategy, so it should be born in mind that an overview is needed in the first instance

c) Fully Documented Fisheries

Tim said that now Plymouth University is funding the iVMS airtime, discussions are needed about how we can move forward. Simon asked if the Fully Documented Fisheries report will be made public. Tim said it would.

d) Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS)

Gus reported that the RFS application form has been simplified and Mike Bacon has designed a one day support course. SeaFish is also preparing a tailored course for Lyme Bay. This could be done in half a day. The cost will still be £150 per annum for the audit. Tim said he has had discussions with Helen Duggan at SeaFish about group schemes. Gus said there would need to be a robust internal audit within a group scheme. Seafish is conducting a trial group scheme in Scotland. Charles Clover said we should propose a pilot scheme for Lyme Bay. Gus said he would take this suggestion back to SeaFish.

e) Schools outreach programme.

Nicky Mitchard reported that 6 visits to primary schools in the area have been scheduled between now and the summer holidays - Neville will be conducting 5 of these as Dave Sales is away. The Schools Outreach presentation has been re-vamped to better align with our objectives for the programme and incorporates new educational material. Nicky and Rowena Taylor met with the education staff at the Seaton Jurassic Centre to discuss integrating the programme within the education they are planning to offer through the centre, this will be a combination of field and classroom style teaching and could be advertised on the Seaton Jurassic website. Tim Thanked Rowena and Nicky for all they have done on the education package.

Gus said he had talked to Neville in some depth about targeting older students and asked if anything had been considered for university level students as it is at this age that they are forming their opinions and views about conservation and marine management issues. Tim said that he and Charles had been talking to Becky Parker at the Institute for Schools regarding this very thing and he remarked that we are all thinking along the same lines.

f) Ecosystem services study

Tim reported that the Lyme Bay Ecosystem Services Study has now been completed and Sian from Plymouth University will be along to the next meeting to present the findings.

g) Lyme Bay Reserve Seafood

Tim asked for feedback regarding Lyme Bay Reserve Seafood. Gavin Ziemann said he was very happy with the scheme but asked when crab for crabmeat would be required. Tim said he is pressing Laky to start this aspect in earnest and Neville will inform when the crab will need to be landed.

4) MMO and IFCA updates

Charles said he had written a letter to the Minister regarding latent capacity licence capping and names of affected Lyme Bay fishermen have been sent up. Fishing News will run a story soon so quotes from fishermen are needed for the article. Gerry Irwin said that the local MMO have been helping with appeals and a lot have been successful.

Gerry said MMO had received a query about the legality of combining commercial fishing from a registered vessel with charter fishing. He said this is not legal.

Simon Pengelly gave an update on European Marine Sites and said an Assessment had been conducted and it seems potting will not have an effect within Lyme Bay. He added that Southern IFCA has been involved with the Out of the Blue Atlantic Area funding initiative run by the Dorset Coast Forum and which the Blue Marine Foundation is also involved in. This scheme involves four countries, Portugal, Spain, France and the UK. On the enforcement front, Simon reported that there has been a successful prosecution of a Poole fisherman who has been banned from fishing for 3 years for fishing illegally.

5) Seaton Jurassic Centre and education programme/social media/branding

Rowena announced that the Seaton Jurassic Centre is now open and the outside feature of Lyme Bay is open to the paying public. The Centre will be used as the 'learning hub' for the expanded Schools Outreach Programme.

Regarding Reserve Seafood, branded tub labels will be in use this week for scallop and crab meat.

In partnership with Direct Seafoods the Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve will be attending the Dorset Seafood Festival on 9th & 10th July in Weymouth. Focus this year is on Reserve Seafood with four top chefs cooking on the demo stages with produce from Lyme Bay Reserve supplied by Direct Seafoods. Neville, Rowena and Tim will attend the Festival over the weekend. Pending the success of this approach we will also be attending Mark Hix's Food Rocks Festival on 3rd and 4th September.

Social Media figures as follows. Twitter: 1,598 (up 96 from March). Facebook: 798 (up 63 from March)

6) Global Ghost Gear Initiative - Presentation from Harry Owen

Harry Owen of MCB Seafoods Ltd explained that in collaboration with Danish company Plastix Global he is hoping to build up a network of net recycling points around the UK ports. Plastix is one of only two companies worldwide that recycle plastic nets. The nets are recycled into diesel amongst other products and the company has the capacity to take 20,000 tonnes a year. Harry gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining that the scheme was linked to the Global Ghost Gear initiative. He then asked if any of the local ports would be interested in joining the scheme. The scheme is cost free. Tim said he would exchange emails to get this going.

7) Planning for the future

Tim began by explaining that Blue was not going to walk away from the Lyme Bay project but it would take a step back. He said we need to work out for the future the various aspects of the project which need to be continued and developed to ensure the objectives of the Reserve are maintained and this could best be done in the first instance with a smaller group which would report to the main committee. Tim suggested a steering group be set-up to create a vision for the future and asked for volunteers. Those who stepped forward were, Professor Martin Attrill, Angus Walker, Robert Clark, Rob King, Jim Newton, John Worswick, Gavin Ziemann, Nigel Hill and Joana Smith. Neville will canvass the group for a date for the first meeting.

8) Communications

Rowena reported that BBC Spotlight (local news) filmed a piece on Reserve Seafood, which coincided with the shortlisting of the Natura2016 Award.

9) A. O. B.

John Worswick raised a question regarding the environmental impact of large amounts of dead crab being used for whelk bait within the Reserve. Martin said that large concentrations of dead shellfish are bound to have localised effects but without investigation these effects are unknown.

Tim Thanked Lauren Nelson for Looking after Nigel Hill on their recent trip to Brussels to attend the Natura 2016 awards ceremony. He also introduced Rebecca Singer from University College London who will be in the area for 2 weeks collecting information about the Lyme Bay Reserve.

10) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 25th of October, at **6.30pm**

Venue to be decided

Duration of meeting:

6pm – 9pm

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