

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis on 18th April, 2017

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation (Chair)
Neville Copperthwaite, Project Coordinator/Committee Secretary
Morven Robertson, Blue Marine Foundation
Rowena Taylor, Blue Marine Foundation
Gerry Irwin, Marine Management Organisation
Robert Clark, Southern IFCA
Andrzej Narozanski, Natural England
Peter Tinsley, Dorset Wildlife Trust
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust
Aubrey Banfield, Fisherman, West Bay, static gear
Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Bob Carless, Axmouth static gear
Emma Sheehan, Plymouth University
Adam Rees, Plymouth University
Luke Holmes, Plymouth University
Paul Maas. Lyme Regis scallop diver
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Nigel Hill, Lyme Regis, static gear
Gavin Ziemann, Axmouth Fisherman, static gear
John Worswick, Fisherman, West Bay, scallop diver
Robert King, Lyme Regis, static gear
Dave Sales, West Bay static gear

1) Apologies:

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation
Martin Attrill, Plymouth University
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust
Gus Caslake, Seafish
Jim Newton, Fisherman, Beer, static gear
Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum
Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA
Jon Shuker, Fisherman, Lyme Regis scallop diver

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.

2) Agree minutes of the 31st Committee meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

3) Updates on implementation of the Management Plan

a) Potting Study

Adam Rees reported that he was in the process of analysing the data in order to wrap-up the study. The report is due to be presented to the committee in September. A film crew is being organised to add finishing touches to video sections of the report and get it ready for social media. Adam added that the deal with Defra is that the Lyme Bay group has it for consultation for 3 months prior to publication.

b) Ports Infrastructure

Tim reported that the paperwork for both the Lyme Regis chiller facility and the West Bay chiller facility had finally been completed this week with the signing of the leases. Neville is working with contractors and harbourmasters in order to commence works as soon as possible.

c) iVMS Data

Morven said that Tom Rossiter has visited ports and either repaired or taken iVMS units off boats for repair. Tim Glover said that Blue will replace units where necessary. A protocol for reporting faulty units has been circulated and which highlights the importance of keeping the units live. Adam reported that the iVMS data is good and has been extremely useful and Plymouth University has undertaken to pay the airtime for next year. Aubrey Banfield said the website is unnecessarily difficult to access but he was aware that Tom is sorting the problem. Gavin Ziemann said the catch-app is not user friendly and needs to be simpler. Gavin suggested colour coding of days for instance. Aubrey concurred by saying he thought the app useless in its present form. It was agreed to hold an iVMS steering group meeting soon and invite Tom to discuss solution. Tim suggested the setting-up of an internal iVMS online forum which was agreed by the committee and Tim asked Rowena Taylor to investigate costs for this. It was further suggested that this forum should also include discussion on news, events and issues as they arise.

Action: Neville to organise an iVMS steering group meeting.

d) Schools Outreach programme

Neville reported that this year, 37 schools have now been presented to and the feedback has been fantastic. Three fishermen ambassadors are now in the process of being trained-up to take over the role and Neville gave the committee a short demonstration to show what is involved in an hour-long junior school presentation. Gavin Ziemann and Bob Carless had attended school sessions and said the presentations were a good balance between conservation and fisheries and effectively portrayed the essence of the Lyme Bay Reserve. Neville explained that in addition to the presentation, an extension learning pack is left with the school. The presentations are pitched to the differing age ranges of children from primary to higher education/ 6th formers. The first university talk will be to Masters Students at Plymouth University on the 26th April. The presentation is currently being worked-up and will concentrate on the social interaction needed to achieve meaningful MPA management using the Lyme Bay Reserve as the example. Neville reminded the group that in addition to him, there is a small education team working hard behind the scenes to make this all happen which includes Rowena Taylor, Nicky Mitchard and Mari Walker. Dave Sales reminded those present that he had pioneered the schools outreach visits and Tim gratefully acknowledged his valuable contribution in those early days and thanked him on behalf of the committee.

e) Lyme Bay Reserve Seafood

Rob King asked how the MCS accreditation for locally caught ray is going and Tim reported that he is in discussion with MCS but negotiations are notoriously slow which is par for the course. Tim will inform the committee of any developments. Neville reported that current Direct Seafood prices had been received well by those selling through the scheme although ray pricing has had to be reduced due to problems experienced by the sales team shifting large amounts.

f) Lyme Bay project report

Morven said that the Lyme Bay Reserve project report is now in draft form and will be circulated electronically for members to comment on before publication.

Action: Morven to circulate electronic copies of the report to all Committee members for comment.

4) RETURN project – presentation by Emma Sheehan

Emma Sheehan reported that a successful funding application has resulted in Plymouth University being able to continue surveys for a further 2 years that could provide evidence of recovery from storms and previous bottom toting. Emma asked the group for ideas for a website and outreach as well as volunteers to appear in videos for social media and a representative to comment and give consent for video content. Funding will also be used

for project update meetings and the completion of an 11 year dataset. Dr Luke Holmes is the point of contact and anyone interested in becoming involved with the project should contact Luke on 07510 127205 or email luke.homes@plymouth.ac.uk

5) MMO and IFCA updates

MMO: Gerry Irwin said that regarding Brexit, although Article 50 had been started it was business as usual for the MMO. Regarding iVMS, 3 companies have received Type Approval for their iVMS products. Gerry spelled out the new Bass Regulations and the Representation process to appeal authorisation decisions.

- All Representations had to be received before close of business on 21st March 2017
- The Authorisation to fish for Bass had been removed from the vessel licence and would stay with the vessel if vessel was sold.
- Although the new regulations were brought in to stop the Bass fishing effort increasing this did not mean fishermen would be forced to go to sea in unsafe vessels. If a vessel was to be replaced with a new vessel the bass entitlement would be transferred to the new vessel. The new vessel must be of a similar/same power & size as the old vessel so as not to increase the Bass fishing effort.
- Once all the Authorisation letters from the Representation period had been delivered there would be no more appeals process and all decisions are final.
- If the vessel is authorised with more than one gear type, only one gear can be used on each trip. I.e. if using Fixed Nets then Hand Lines/Rod and Line cannot be used on the same fishing trip and must not be carried.

SIFCA: Robert Clark said that the Southern IFCA Technical Committee had discussed Wrasse fishing and live transportation to salmon farms. In order to manage this emerging fishery in a sustainable way, 7 measures will be put in place:

- Licensing of transport to ensure bio-security
- Consultations with industry to establish minimum and maximum sizes
- Fully documented landings
- Territorial closed areas
- Restricted fishing areas
- Restricted pot numbers
- Closed breeding season

These measures have been developed with salmon farms such as Marine Harvest.

Robert informed the group that the Devon and Severn IFCA would be bringing in similar measures.

Aubrey Banfield asked when the consultation on whelk fishery limitations would commence.

Robert said that the consultation process is expensive but would commence this year.

Aubrey added that regarding the cuttlefish fishery, juveniles were being taken and this should be stopped.

6) FLAG update

Morven reminded the group that an alternative accreditation scheme FLAG funding application is being developed which would replace the existing SeaFish RFS. In addition, there will be FLAG funding applications for interpretation boards and match funding for the Education Outreach programme. There will also be an application for funding replacement and additional thermal insulated fish boxes. Neville asked for fishermen to supply a list of their requirements as soon as possible.

Action: Neville to gather information on gear needed by fishermen.

7) Defra Consultation on proposed ban on landing berried lobsters

Morven informed the group of a consultation about a proposed national ban on landing berried lobsters. BLUE as an entity will support the ban and Morven asked if the Committee would vote to support the ban as the Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve. The Committee members agreed to support the ban.

Action: Morven to write and submit response to consultation.

8) Communications

Rowena Taylor gave the following update:

Schools Outreach

Since the start of the programme in 2014 to present day (18th April) 50 school visits have taken place reaching 3,346 school children. Visits for the current academic year for 2016/17 is now at full capacity and targets have been reached. Any new bookings will now be booked for the next academic year 2017/18. By the end of the 2017 academic year the Schools Outreach Programme will have visited 72 schools and engaged with 4,900 school children.

Events

We will again be attending the Dorset Seafood Festival on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July in Weymouth, Dorset. Due to the success of the last year's approach, which saw the demo stages cooking with Reserve Seafood; sustainable, premium quality, provenance-assured seafood of Lyme Bay, we are replicating this approach with three demo stages cooking with Reserve Seafood and a wet fish display promoting seasonal produce from Lyme Bay caught that morning over both of the days. In addition we will again be attending the HIX Food Rocks Festival in Lyme Regis on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th August with Reserve Seafood produce being cooked on the demo stages.

Social Media

Twitter: 1799 (up 114 from November)

Facebook: 839 (up 29 since November)

9) A. O. B.

Tim informed the committee that a private donor had been secured which will enable the national roll-out of the Lyme Bay Reserve management model to other areas of the UK. As funding will be available to support essential elements of the Lyme Bay Reserve management, BLUE will continue its involvement for the foreseeable future.

Mike Spiller reported that he had heard nothing but praise from anglers for the Reserve. He also informed the group that there will be plaice competitions on 9th June and 12th of August. Tim apologised to Mike for not asking him to regularly report on recreational fishing and said in future he would give Mike an agenda slot to report on angling matters.

10) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 18th July, commencing at 7pm

Duration of meeting:

6pm – 9pm

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