

Lyme Bay Working Group

13th Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis, on 12th March 2013

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation.

(Chair)

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation.

Neville Copperthwaite, Project
Coordinator.

Andy Woolmer, Fishery Adviser.

Kate West – Blue Marine Foundation.

Professor Martin Attrill, Plymouth
University.

Nick Wright, MMO.

Sam Dell, Southern IFCA.

Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA.

Nicky Mitchard, Environment Agency.

Christine Singfield, Natural England.

Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay, static
gear.

Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static
gear.

Alex Jones, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static
gear.

Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axemouth,
static gear.

Nigel Hill, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static
gear.

Jim Newton, Beer Fisherman.

John Worswick –West Bay, scallop diver.

Andy Alcock- Weymouth fisherman.

Bob Summerhayes- Weymouth fisherman.

Graham Stanford, West Bay, static gear.

Matt Styles, Lyme Regis, static gear.

Lewis Hodder, Lyme Regis, static gear.

Nigel Marsh, Lyme Regis, static gear.

Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed Gear.

Colin Jones, Lyme Regis.

Mark Cornwall, West Bay, towed gear.

Harry May, Lyme Regis, Boatman's
Association.

Steve Sweet, Lyme Regis, Boatman's
Association.

Jim Portus, SWIFA.

Clive Samways - Samways

Mark Machin - Samways

Adam Rees, Plymouth University.

Rowena Taylor, Graphic Designer.

Terri Portman, Scott Trawlers.

1) Apologies:

Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA.

Rachel Irish, Marine Management Organisation.

Joana Smith, Natural England.

Ian Carrier, Southern IFCA.

Neil Wellum, Marine Management Organisation.

Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum.

Minutes

2) Agree minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

3) Update on Implementation of the Management Plan

Plymouth University

Adam Rees confirmed that all the pots have now been delivered. No- potting zones have been marked out in Beer and West Bay. They had tried to mark one in Lyme today but were unable to as weather was too rough. Next month a drop-down video will be deployed so as to assess the seabed - this information will be used to inform management of the area.

Outcome: Lyme no-potting zone to be marked as soon as possible, once all the no-potting zones are in the string of pots for the various potting zones will be made up ready for deployment.

Guardline study

The assessments are underway and the initial desktop-study will be completed mid-April.

End April-early May they will come down to speak to fishermen.

Action Point: Andy Woolmer to gather clear explanation of what the study is for the working group.

Lobster Hatchery

Update on lobster hatchery.

CEFAS cannot start the lobster study until end of April. Need to await feedback from their assessment as to whether a lobster seeding is a viable option before making a decision as to what happens to the hatchery proposal.

Action Point: Andy Woolmer to update on CEFAS study status and their findings – urgent.

iVMS

IFCAs are working with the MMO to try and develop iVMS for the inshore fleet. They are looking to try and standardise the scale or resolution at which iVMS works that is provided across the board. Launch intended for January 2014.

Outcome: Terri Portman advised to wait until a clear specification is given, before purchasing iVMS systems for the boats.

4) New initiatives, additions to the plan and Workshop

Main outputs of the workshop were summarised as follows: the need for improved quality in the first instance and then traceability, in order to create a Lyme Bay branded product. A query was raised over the need to define parameters around sustainability. Charles Clover confirmed that this is what the scientific study intending to help contribute to. Meanwhile, the presence of the study can be used as an indicator of sustainability, suggested Martin Attrill.

Jim Portus raised that a code was needed under which traceability, sustainability and responsibility defined and urged fishermen to get audited by SeaFish's responsible fishing scheme.

European Fisheries Fund

An EFF proposal has been written after gathering a shopping list of items from all of the ports. The funding proposals have been written as four individual projects so as to gain a higher percentage of match-funding than if written as one project.

TP informed that the specification of the ice machines has been based on a higher output than would ever be needed so as to ensure that they aren't running at full capacity.

Action Point: Neville to submit EFF funding proposal by March 20th.

Ice Storage

Andy Alcock from Weymouth described their association's experience of applying for EFF funding and their management of their ice machine. Their initial members paid to have a stake in the 2 tonne (per day) producing ice machine.

Regulation:

- Fishermen use a log-book to record how much ice is taken
- The amount taken should equate to how much water is left when the meter is read
- Charge 85p per box - this is slightly higher than actual cost. The extra is used so as to keep a float running that can be used in case of machine breakdown.
- The fishermen have shares in the use of the machine, which can be sold on if people leave the group.
- The bill and membership is charged once a year.

Output: Need to reactivate some fishing associations to be in charge of the machine. Involvement of the council may be helpful, following from the Weymouth example.

Action Point: Andy Alcock to share information about the responsible fishing scheme that has been used in Weymouth.

September Conference

To be held on the 18th of September at the National Sailing Academy., entitled, Managing MPAs in the UK- sharing best practice.

Lyme Bay working group will be invited by Dorset Coastal Forum and Blue to share their insights into how their project is making progress and to hear from Essex estuaries, Sussex, Cornwall, Wales and Scotland how other areas are faring in various marine zoning projects of one kind or another.

5) Communications and PR

Update from Rowena Taylor:

The working group is now on Facebook and Twitter. The project will have a stall at the Dorset Seafood Festival.

Rowena and Neville has met with the Bridport Areas Development Trust to discuss a permanent exhibition liaison in a disused chapel in West Bay.

Outputs: Website live end March, initial layout and design for interpretation boards is underway.

Labelling and traceability were raised: Clive Samways highlighted fact that consumers were asking about catch method and where the fishing took place. Therefore, capturing this information would also be needed as well as name of vessel, photograph of skipper, etc.

Action Point 1: Terry and Clive to review exactly what information would be needed and to feed this back to the four fishing associations in next week.

Action Point2: Following the list of information (as above) each of the four fishing associations need to submit this information by the next meeting

Action Point 3: Neville to begin to compile a central database of the information provided by the four fishing associations.

6) MMO and IFCA Update

MMO

Nick Wright told the group that there has been increased shore and aerial surveillance. The result of this increased presence has resulted in the identification of a number of infringements.

Output: Emphasising that real time, on the ground information is always best, Southern IFCA urged fishermen to inform if infringing behaviour is witnessed.

IFCAs

IFCAs are currently looking at how the pot limitation could be enforced.

Output: Would the group consider an extended trial of RFID tags? Please let IFCA know.

Action Point: Andy to check with Tom as to whether he has any more RFID tags

7) Funding Update

TG told meeting that M&S had informed us that some of their funding would have to come via the Marine Conservation Society (MCS). MCS have requested a seat on the working group, Tim Glover has told them they can attend but not with necessarily with any hope of being elected into the group. Several fishermen and the IFCAs expressed serious concern at presence of MCS and any financial link to the group.

Action Point: Tim and Charles Clover to make a final concerted attempt to unpick this unsatisfactory funding arrangement which nobody likes.

8) Media and PR

Hugh's Fish Fight

Hugh's Fish Fight was raised as an issue. Some of the fishermen who had featured in his interview in the 3rd episode were angry at portrayal of the fishing industry in the previous episodes.

Local News

Charles has been interviewed for a piece about the project and more specifically the potting study. This is to feature in the Lyme Regis News and Bridgeport News on Thursday 14th March.

Fishermen raised that information about the potting study needed to be more locally available- i.e. posters in the harbour masters office or details of the potting study co-ordinates on a map.

Action Point: Details of the potting study (including co-ordinates) need to be made more easily accessible by fishermen.

Countryfile:

Filming by Countryfile is on hold and being renegotiated by Freuds following concerns raised by CC that the working group and the project were not going to be properly represented in the programme.

9) A.O.B.

None.

Date of next meetings.

Tuesday 23rd April 2013, 6pm at the Royal Lion, Lyme Regis.

Tuesday 28th May 2013, 6pm at the Royal Lion, Lyme Regis.

Duration of meeting: 6pm – 9:30pm.

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