

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting

Meeting held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis on 25th June 2013

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation. (Chair)
Neville Copperthwaite, Project Coordinator/Committee Secretary.
Andy Woolmer, Fishery Adviser.
Robert Clark, Southern IFCA
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA.
Nick Wright, MMO.
Rachel Irish, MMO.
Jim Newton, Beer Fisherman.
Mike Green, Beer Representative.
Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay, static gear.
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear.
Alex Jones, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static gear.
Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear.
John Worswick –West Bay, scallop diver.
Mark Machin - Samways
Rowena Taylor, Graphic Designer.
Gus Caslake, Seafish.
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust.

1) Apologies:

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation.
Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA.
Jerry Percy, NUTFA
Neil Wellum, Marine Management Organisation.
Joana Smith, Natural England.
Bridget Betts, Dorset Coast Forum.
Nigel Hill, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, static gear.
Mark Cornwell, West Bay towed gear.
Paul Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear.
Jim Portus, SWIFA.

Minutes

2) Agree minutes of the 15th Working Group meeting:

The minutes were agreed.

3) Committee membership and associations' members and boats list.

Mike Green was welcomed as the second committee member for Beer. The mobile gear committee members could not be ratified due to absence of members from that sector. Port association membership and boat details were submitted by Angus Walker from Axmouth and Aubry Banfield of West Bay. For convenience, the Beer and Lyme Regis Representatives were asked to produce their details when they meet with Gus to discuss the RFS.

Action point: Neville to collect the outstanding details with Gus.

4) Update on Implementation of Management Plan

a) Potting Study

Professor Martin Attrill reported that the potting study was going well and he is encouraged because fishermen are beginning to supply data. Video work will begin next week. Tim Glover asked if the study will be late on delivery. Martin said yes, he expected it would have to go on for an extra season.

b) Ports infrastructure.

Nick Wright reported that the four Port ice equipment EFF bids were being processed. Neville and Tim had recently provided further information as requested by MMO.

c) IVMS project and grant application.

Nick reported that the iVMS EFF bid had been forwarded to the MMO panel and it will be heard on the 5th of July.

d) Annual review of Code of Conduct

Tim opened the debate to the floor. Dave Hancock said that he thought the code was fine the way it was and he saw no need to change it. However, Alex Jones said he thought the current level of net cap should be removed and should be adjusted in order to allow 10,000 meters total length. Simon Pengelly said there should always be a cap even if it was higher. Tim said that 10,000 meters was quite a leap from the current level of 4,000 meters, although Gus Caslake pointed out that tangle nets do not catch high volumes of fish. Angus Walker suggested that they take this back to their respective associations and come back to the next meeting with a firm recommendation. Tim suggested that we should be looking at including within the code other species such as cuttlefish. Robert Clark said that Southern IFCA had sent out advisory notes saying that pots with cuttle eggs on them should be left in the water although he was not aware that this was done in Lyme Bay. He said that in France

this is done as routine and it would be good to follow suit and promote best practice. John Worswick pointed out that this was already practiced in West Bay. Gus said that as the lifespan is only 18 months, you will be restocking for next year. It was recommended that the following of this practice should be added to the Code. Mark Machin added that Samways pushes trapped cuttlefish as a premium product.

Action Point: Association reps to decide on net length proposals and report back.

e) Inclusion of a towed gear code of conduct.

Tim said that this is being worked on and that we hoped to have something to show by the next meeting.

f) Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme.

Gus reported that after initial meetings with the ports the first coaching meeting is planned with the West Bay Association on Wednesday (26th June) evening. He said that an opt-out scheme may be better than an opt-in scheme. The first coaching session would take approximately one and a half hours and then an audit of the boats take place. Mark said that the RFS does have an impact on price and he thought that it will definitely create the price we are looking for when linked to the Lyme Bay brand.

5) Communications

a) Website

Tim reported that the website was now live at www.lymebayreserve.co.uk.

b) Interpretation Boards.

The interpretation boards design will be completed after the Dorset Seafood Festival.

c) Exhibitions, festivals & displays.

The Dorset Seafood Festival will be held on the 13th and 14th of July. Volunteers to help man the Lyme Bay Reserve stand included Alex Jones, Aubrey Banfield, Dave Sales and John Worswick. Rowena Taylor, Tim and Neville will be in attendance over the two days. Seafish has also asked to attend a debating session at the Seafish tent at around lunchtime.

d) Conference – September 18th

Tim announced that although the conference tickets were £75, there would be 25 free tickets available to fishermen. Tim said that it would be good to have a mobile gear fisherman and a static gear fishermen representative to speak at the conference. Alex Jones said he would speak on behalf of the static gear guys.

6) MMO/IFCA update

Nick reported that there is an iVMS supplier's workshop planned for the 4th of July and shortly after a type approval will be made. Tim asked when the type approval will be made and was told that it would be in January. Robert said that the Southern IFCA bylaw implementation would proceed without iVMS requirement which will be added later. Simon reported that there was a small area of reef within the SAC which MMO had missed and will have to be closed to mobile gear. There is also an area to the east which is classed as low-

confidence and therefore the IFCA will have to adopt a precautionary approach and close the area. However, the area will be surveyed so that we can be more precise in our closure.

7) Funding update

Tim said that funding of £16,000 had been applied for from a foundation to help fund the visitor centre and education programme and the first tranche of funding from DEFRA was imminent.

8) A.O.B.

Mike Spiller introduced himself as the Secretary of the Wyvern (Devon Region) of the Angling Trust. He said that he fished often in Lyme Bay and he also compiled a regular report for Plymouth University. He remarked that it had been an eye-opener to him to see the commercial guys managing their area and he commented that as far as he was concerned the closed area is the best thing that could have happened. Mike was formally invited to be a member of the Committee and he accepted.

Date of next meeting.

10th September, to be held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis at 7pm.

Duration of meeting:

7pm – 9:30pm.

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