

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting

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

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Tim Glover, Blue Marine Foundation (Chair)
Neville Copperthwaite, Project Coordinator/Committee Secretary
Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation
Clare Brook, Blue Marine Foundation
Morven Robertson, Blue Marine Foundation
Gerry Irwin, Marine Management Organisation
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust
Neil Robbins, Fisherman's Mission
Jim Newton, Fisherman, Beer, static gear
Martin Sutcliff, Dorset and Devon FLAG
Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Bob Carless, Axmouth static gear
Adam Rees, Plymouth University
Luke Holmes, Plymouth University
Paul Maas. Lyme Regis scallop diver
Paul Wason, Fisherman, Lyme Regis, towed gear
Chris Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear
Luke Wason, Lyme Regis, towed gear
V. Turner, Lyme Regis
Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth, static gear
Nigel Hill, Lyme Regis, static gear
Kieran Perree, Lyme Regis diver and static gear
Gavin Ziemann, Axmouth Fisherman, static gear
John Worswick, Fisherman, West Bay, scallop diver
Robert King, Lyme Regis, static gear
Nick Williams, Lyme Regis static gear
Matt Styles, Lyme Regis static gear
Nick Masson, National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth
Roger Maslin, National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth
Nigel Birt, Axmouth, static gear
Marc Newton, Reserve Seafood driver

Dave Sales, West Bay static gear

1) Apologies:

Peter Tinsley, Dorset Wildlife Trust

Martin Attrill, Plymouth University

Narozanski, Andrzej, Natural England

Gus Caslake, Seafish

Tim Robbins, Devon and Severn IFCA

Jon Shuker, Fisherman, Lyme Regis scallop diver

Jerry Percy, LIFE

Martin Foley, Fisherman, Weymouth, whelk gear

Mark Cornwell, Fisherman, West Bay towed gear

Jim Portus, SWIFA.

2) Agree minutes of the 33rd Committee meeting:

An Education outreach comment by Angus Walker on page 3 was not reported: Agreed to rectify.

Surname of Luke Holmes was not written correctly on page 4: Agreed to rectify.

Dave Sales asserted that the name of the new funder should have been revealed in the interests of transparency The chairman clarified that, at the time of the last meeting, BLUE did not have permission of the funder to disclose his name but that he had now approved disclosure and his name is Julian Dunkerton, founder of SuperGroup Plc

3) Updates on implementation of the Management Plan

a) Chiller stores

Tim Glover reported that the Lyme Regis chiller store and ice machine is nearing completion and should be commissioned at the end of the month. A chiller management group comprising of those fishermen who wish to use the facility will be organised shortly. The West Bay chiller concrete foundation has now been laid ready for the installation of the chiller room and it is hoped this facility will be commissioned within a month. This will then complete the integrated plan for fishermen in all four ports in Lyme Bay to enjoy the increased benefits of chiller facilities.

b) IVMS – Maintenance and solar power

Morven Robertson reported that a FLAG application would be submitted for some new iVMS units. The older units are not compatible with solar power so where this combination is needed on the smaller boats, solar panels will be included within the application. This application will also include a request for ice boxes.

Neville will obtain a final figure for the ice boxes for each port.

c) Schools Outreach Programme

Neville read an update report from Outreach organiser Nicky Mitchard.

- 38 school visits made during the 16/17 academic year
- 13 of these were repeat bookings
- 2565 students participated
- We joined in with British Science Week in March!
- There will be an end of year review on July 26th – we will be celebrating our successes and looking at what we need to improve with a view to informing how we move forward with marketing and material development for 2017/18

Clare Brook said that the BLUE office had received some wonderful feedback from schools and this was a credit to the Education Outreach team.

d) Lyme Bay Reserve Seafood

Tim advised the group that he would be meeting with Direct Seafood this week and he needed feedback from the fishermen regarding pricing. He is also concerned by the lack of crab being landed which has led to a cessation of branded crab meat. Chris Wason said there are too many pots on the ground which has led to lower landings. Conversely, Simon Pengelly said that there is plenty of crab coming out of the Reserve. He also commented that sending the crab to a large processor may be stifling potential local processor start-ups. Dave Hancock said the price of £1.80 per kilo for crab is too low to encourage people to sell through the scheme. Rob King said that by-catch is not taken by Direct Seafood so this does not optimise the catch. Tim said he would meet with Laky of Direct Seafood to discuss these issues.

e) Lyme Bay Project Report

Tim said the Project Report will be published in line once the Potting Study is complete and the final report has been given to the Committee. Results from the Potting Study will be included in the Project Report. Dave Sales said that historic data should be included within the report and that he had a lot of it, having been present at the time. Charles Clover urged Dave to send in any relevant information for inclusion prior to its publication.

f) Marine Authorities and Agencies.

MMO: Gerry Irwin reported that regarding iVMS, there are 3 systems type approved. The first phase of this deployment will commence with engagement of fishermen and suppliers from Monday 10th July as a pilot rollout in Devon and Severn IFCA district and Eastern IFCA district. Upon the completion of this pilot phase, a national rollout exercise will follow immediately. A Statutory Instrument alongside policy & process framework will be developed to enable regulation and enforcement of the use of this device. According to Defra, consultation approval is expected by end of August and full consultation to be completed end of 2017.

Regarding the London Convention withdrawal, as part of the wider process of becoming an independent coastal state, the UK will be withdrawing from the London Fisheries Convention. This is the first step towards taking back control of our fishing waters and creating a policy that should lead to a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fisheries industry for the whole of the UK. Gerry said we are committed to acting as a responsible coastal state. We look forward to working closely with the EU and other Coastal States to ensure the sustainable management of fish stocks in accordance with our rights and obligations under international law including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA). Any queries should be directed to the MMO Communications team at communications@marinemanagement.org.uk
These will be passed on to Defra who will supply a response.

Rob King asked if he needed to fill out a transportation form to move fish from Lyme Regis to Bridport. Gerry explained that when fish is landed and is transported to another place (Port, Market or Processor) before first sale it MUST be accompanied by a transport document. Guidance can be found on www.Gov.uk website (search for traceability of fish).

Concerning Wrasse fishing, anglers fishing from the shore would be able to sell Wrasse if caught.

SIFCA: Simon Pengelly showed the committee a comprehensive fish minimum landing size sticker for anglers. He spoke of the wrasse guidance which included minimum and maximum landing sizes, a closed season, pot number restrictions and no-take zones. At the moment the measures are voluntary but legislation will be considered if necessary. As it is a contract fishery, the limited number of buyers might limit the fishery.

Matt Styles said that unregistered fishermen were fishing outside of the Cobb area with large numbers of pots and asked Simon if more could be done to ensure their catch was not being sold. Simon said that Southern IFCA policing resources is low but action will be taken if complaints are received.

Southern IFCA is in the process of advertising for a new deputy chief officer, information about the post was available on the IFCA's website.

g) Recreational angling

Mike Spiller said he continues to promote the Reserve at every opportunity. He reported that at a recent angling competition, 40 – 50 plaice were caught. He said his stock of the Angling Code of Conduct is getting low and he requested more copies.

Neville to organise more copies.

f) RETURN project

Luke Holmes explained the project for the benefit of those people who were not in attendance at the previous meeting by saying 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 towing. He added that this is the 10th year of continuous annual surveying in Lyme Bay and we now want to see how it has recovered from the storms of two years ago. Skippers Rob King and Kieran Perree are currently helping with the underwater towed video array. Luke asked for volunteer fishermen to take part in being filmed whilst working. Anyone interested can contact Luke on luke.holmes@plymouth.ac.uk

4) Fishermen's Mission presentation

Neil Robbins, Fishermen's Mission Port Officer for Weymouth gave an enlightening presentation which explained the good work carried out by the Mission. He explained that The Fishermen's Mission is the only fishermen's charity that provides emergency support alongside practical, financial, spiritual and emotional care. Neil said we help all fishermen, active or retired, and their families. Dave Sales encouraged support for the Mission.

Neil can be contacted on weymouth@fishermensmission.org.uk

5) Potting Study update presentation

Adam Reese gave an extremely interesting PowerPoint presentation in which he demonstrated that early results from the towed underwater video part of the Lyme Bay Experimental Potting study looking at the benthic (seabed) impacts of potting, have shown that after 4 years (3 years post storm) the 'No Potting' controls and the 'Low Potting' treatment have a higher abundance of reef species within their boundaries than Medium and High treatments. Adam explained that this is largely driven by two 'indicator' species, the Ross Coral *Pentapora foliacea* and the white sea squirt *Phallusia mammillata*. These are both sensitive species, susceptible to disturbance and damage - especially the Ross coral. Both are important species that contribute to the reef habitats of Lyme Bay.

Results suggest that under a high potting regime (over 30 pots per 500m²) potting can impact these species. When exposed to lower levels of potting, more representative of the effort of Lyme Bay fishermen - there is no impact on these (or other) species. This part of the study has helped provide some evidence that at low levels of potting, there is no impact on benthic reef species but that at Medium and High levels there is an impact, when exposed to 3 years of cumulative potting activity.

Next steps are now needed to further analysis and also to see how a reduction in the abundance of these species might impact the function of a reef and consequently impact on the commercially targeted species of commercial potting. It should also be possible to validate intensity in Lyme Bay using Succorfish evidence.

6) Codes of Conduct review

Tim reminded the committee that the commercial and recreational codes of conduct are reviewed annually. Neville asked the group to consider introducing a maximum landing size for lobster. He explained the rationale behind the idea which is that larger lobsters produce 4 to 5 times more eggs than small lobsters and are far less valuable per £/kilo; he showed proof of a highly successful lobster fishery in Canada that includes a maximum landing size within its suite of management measures. A lively debate ensued and it was agreed that this would be considered by all, prior to the next meeting. To that end, Tim said a 3 month consultation seemed in order and BLUE will assemble a consultation document for a maximum landing size and any other measures suggested and send out to the Committee for the code of conduct review.

7) Whelks and cuttlefish

Chris Wason said he had heard that there were plans afoot to ban the trawling of cuttlefish inside the six mile limit. Charles Clover explained that there were no plans for this but both fishing and scientific experts had advised BLUE that it would be sensible to review cuttlefish management nationally. The committee was a forum for discussion and decisions of that nature would not and indeed could not be reached without the consultation of committee members. He went further and reminded the group that this is the only forum in the country where fishermen can influence fisheries management directly. Paul Wason said that fishing for cuttlefish with static gear should be limited because this is when they are caught when breeding. Charles suggested cuttlefish practice in the area should be reviewed to inform the next meeting.

Tim asked if there was anything that could be done to enhance the whelk fishery. Paul said a closed season from 1st September to the end of January would help by giving time to breed. Chris said the ground could be trawled in the meantime. Gerry said the French have a maximum landing size and they put back whelks over 35mm.

8) Flag update

Martin Sutcliffe reported that the Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) is a match-funding programme that has been established to help coastal communities between Swanage and Beer. The FLAG board, which is made up of local people with an interest in the commercial fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors, held their first meeting in late June. Five projects were reviewed at this meeting; three of these were moved forward for review by the MMO. The next FLAG board meeting is on August 1st when a further five projects will be reviewed by the board. There is a number of projects currently in development and once approved for funding by the MMO, details of all projects

will be available publicly. For further details please contact Martin Sutcliffe (FLAG Animateur) on 01305 224766.

Neville will be collecting details of fish boxes and iVMS requirements from fishermen prior to a Lyme Bay Reserve FLAG application.

9) A. O. B.

No other business

10) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th October, commencing at 6pm (To be confirmed)

Duration of meeting:

7pm – 10pm

Contact: Neville Copperthwaite

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