



## **Consultative Committee meeting**

**Thursday 9 May 2019 at 7pm at The Royal Lion Hotel**

**Lyme Regis**

## **Minutes**

### **Present:**

Tim Glover, BLUE Marine Foundation (Chair)

Charles Clover, BLUE Marine Foundation

Ian Hendy, BLUE Marine Foundation

Mandy Wolfe, BLUE Marine Foundation (Secretary)

Gerry Irwin, MMO

Martin Sutcliffe, FLAG

Rob Clark, SIFCA

Emma Sheehan, Plymouth University

Simon Pitman, Plymouth University

Angus Walker, Fisherman, Axmouth

Dave Sales, Fisherman, West Bay

Jim Newton, Fisherman, Beer

Aubrey Banfield, Fisherman, West Bay

Rob King, Fisherman. Lyme Regis

Paul Maas, Fisherman, Axmouth

Dave Hancock, Fisherman, Axmouth

Jamie Smith, Fisherman, West Bay

Matt Toms, Fisherman, West Bay

John Worswick, Fisherman, West Bay

Nigel Birt, Fisherman, Axmouth

Sam Birt, Fisherman, Axmouth

Nick Williams, Fisherman, Lyme Regis

Matt Stiles, Fisherman, Lyme Regis

### **Apologies**

Adam Rees, Rowena Taylor, Peter Blyth, Matt Maunder, Sarah Clark, Peter Tinsley, Nathan Cox, Karl Hibbert, Paul Godfrey, Mark Dack, Martin Attrill, Oscar Fearnley-Derome, John Wallington, Virgil Turner, Nigel March, Barry Trevett, Alan Dowse, Andy Spiller, Brett Newton, Kim Aplin, Phil Abraham, Nigel March, Simon Hill.

### **Welcome**

Welcome newcomers Paul Maas & Simon Hill. Also, Luke Hasler from Portsmouth University.

### **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes approved from the last meeting. Actions from the last meeting were to send out the agenda before the next Future Management Plan Sub-Committee meetings.

Tim Glover noted that Mandy Wolfe is back on board, delighted to say, all moving in the right direction.

### **SIFCA Update**

Rob Clark spoke referring to the Southern IFCA Future Management Plan. The IFCA is funded through FLAG to develop a management plan. It essentially consolidates works ongoing, regarding statutory management intervention, it tries to pull together all the various statutory rules and responsibilities in a document. It will not duplicate the work going on with this group, but the group would be welcome to participate. It will be presented to the steering group. If the group would review the draft and provide comments that would be helpful.

The netting review conducted by SIFCA. In the informal stage still, had informal public participation earlier in the year. Diversity of views, particularly with regards to opinions of those representing angling groups and those with Interest in highly migrated salmon & sea trout.

Current regulation in Lyme bay from 1st of May to **TBC** 3-metre headline prescription to protect migrating fish. It appears those migratory fish (Salmon and Sea Trout) have a longer duration in the bay than current regulation provides for. It is hoped that the development of that regulation wouldn't impede any sustainable fishing. Anyone with any views, conversations with your experience would be very welcome.

Other management measure to review is the minimum landing size of mullet. Current reg is grey mullet should not be landed less than 30cm, review evidence with regards to whether that provides protection for sexual maturity. Science is limited and outdated. There is a view expressed by Mullet Club that size should be 48cm. Evidence doesn't seem to support that, but if anyone has any experience or thoughts would be useful. Comments that 48cm for mullet seems very high.

Evidence provided by Mullet Club was from a single study, part of a PhD in Wales. Welsh studied sample size, however, the maximum size of mullet found in Wales is much bigger. The only scientific literature dates to the 1970's, so we need to do some evidence work. Any views on the possibility of differentiating? If members thought it would be easy to differentiate then please share. Presenting diversity of views so that members can decide based on evidence.

### **Gerry Irwin (MMO)**

Gerry Irwin spoke about the app for new catch recording being almost finalized, the issue of iVMS system has been delayed, looking at near to back end of next year.

The recruiting process in MMO will see a few more of them knocking about. In addition, every time they go to London or out to Sea, at a landing, these new forms need to be filled out, name, address, details you will have provided previously, but these forms must get filled out.

The subject of estimating weights at the time of landing was raised, Gavin Ziemann asked what discrepancy is going to be allowed? It was highlighted that smaller boats will be required to do more work, guess when it is landed, then fill in actual figure's days later. Dave Hancock commented that Shellfish is a big worry. Store in holding pots, in bad weather, bring them in and store in refrigeration unit. From the minute they have landed, I make my guess, if that guess is more than 10% out, then they go in the fridge and lose natural weight loss, then go to market and they say I am more than 20% out, what is going to happen, am I in trouble? Going to be prosecuted? Hopes are that there will be some leniency because this is a new program and common sense will prevail.

Nigel Birt commented that the best way is going to be to weigh your fish. Aubrey Banfield stated if you only have 2 boxes of sole very easy to weigh, but if you have 12 boxes, 3 of Sole, 4 of Dover, you've done a 14 hour day, it's unreasonable to expect it to be done on the spot and issue penalty or be subjected to fines or prosecution if not. The processors and the market are not going to be reporting anymore. They will expect you to report, they are making you responsible for telling them what you've caught, not the market, not the processors. If everyone continues as they are you are doubling up the work. Dave Hancock admits he has no room on his boat for scales. Aubrey said he does not understand why the people at top of the tree are making unachievable demands. Tim asked if the AST app can help in that regard? Charles asked if this app can help with the recording? We need to focus on what we around the table can do about it. As this working group, if there is an actual solution, what is that thing? Many agreed that it needs to be workable.

Action: Gerry to carry this back to the MMO. This steering group will come up with a few bullet points in a submission and challenging the use of the words consultation and the fact that they do not consider the results of the consultation and do what they want to do anyway. Write a letter to someone at the MMO (letter from the committee, Gerry to advise whom to contact). Charles offered to summarise the responses and turn into a working group response.

### **Lyme Update**

Tim Glover gave a general update on how things are progressing. Making great progress with chillers and ice machines with getting things with those all straightened out, making huge progress with Reserve Seafood, getting it on a self-sustaining keel. The whole structure of the scheme and project are going well.

Tim Glover introduced Dr Ian Hendy as Head of Science at BLUE and taking on the role of replacing Morven as Project Manager for Lyme in London. Having said that Mandy has self-organising remit down here to run things. We see this as being a good relationship between Ian and Mandy going forward to make sure the project goes in the right direction.

Charles Clover spoke about BLUE having had a good look at Lyme; it is marvellous that Mandy is able to be an autonomous Project Manager down here but needs someone that knows what's going on up at head office. I hope Mandy is happy, now she oversees the showdown here completely. We will now look around the coast to make things work better, things that are national things that are coming up and that we could contribute and work with you and seek an advantage in the future. At the last meeting, Charles was not able to attend, as he was having discussions in St Helena about Marine Parks. We could discuss what we, this group could get out of it if Lyme was a Marine Park and could increase the area under your management. Charles would be very interested in feedback on that at some point. It is a coming thing, what can do or, not do in them, do they give some structure to the Fishermen, that they can continue to have a role in this mix. Dave Sales asked Charles where is BLUE going to get the money from?

Aubrey Banfield asked how much time everyone spends inside the MPA fishing? How much time apart from Rod & lining do you spend in the MPA fishing. Gavin stated 80%, Jamie said around 50%. Matt Toms wants to know what a clear definition of what an MPA is? MPA off Chesil Beach you can still tow. They are still allowed in there towing and it is tearing it all up. More people would fish in the MPA if it was bigger. What is the point of having towed gear in MPA off Chesil Beach, if it's ripping up the flora and fauna? You need BLUE and Seasearch to establish what flora and fauna are there to get it shut down. Aubrey stated that there isn't any and that we have done extensive towing and video evidence and they can't shut it down to towed gear, because there is nothing there it's all been ripped out. Aubrey stated that the few that do come in, respect the area, Chris, Mark, etc. Matt stated that this shouldn't stop us from trying to do something.

Charles said they stupidly set this very high bar of evidence of what the benthic features were, the Marine parks synergy is quite different it is about areas that are geologically and geographically and ecologically coherent and about how people in the area would like them

managed for the benefit of all, the tourism industry, the fishing industry. What has happened in the past, is not necessarily what will happen in the future. It's an opportunity to expand the management that you have already got. and has implications for the IFCA's too, they will have to realise that if this is called a Marine Park, the National parks got managed as a unit, you can't have a county line down the middle and 15m boats on one side and 12m down the other, it's not how National Parks are run.

Rob Clark wanted to address the question from David Sales about where the money is coming from. Just for reference, an area the size of the New Forrest, we receive enough funding for one officer for the size of the National Park. If you want regulation, it is going to cost. There will always be boundaries, an inside, and an outside and it's how you make them work.

Dave Sales spoke of the meeting the Chief Fishery Officer of the Great Barrier Reef and said it was well managed by the Australian people and that was since the first thing they did was talk to and consult with the Fishermen that work there. It is his only experience of National Parks, but it seems to him that they mean a lot more bureaucracy.

### **Plymouth University Update**

2018 video survey has now finished the video analysis phase, inside and outside the protected area, still in process of compiling actual numbers on a spreadsheet into something meaningful. At the last meeting, we mentioned this year's fieldwork and next was not funded at that stage, this committee advised we should apply to the FLAG. Submitted expression of interest with FLAG, although they were oversubscribed, Martin was extremely helpful and supportive of the bid. There is some more research and development that we are working on now, which will be presented by Emma and Simon shortly.

### **The Potting Study**

It is going to be published to the public at the end of this month and we will see the fruits of Adam's labours in the public arena.

Emma Sheehan asked about the discussion that you can't evidence reefs if they've been trawled, so it makes perfect sense that we've never had evidence anywhere to support this, where Lyme because of the way it was closed, it's the only place we've ever been able to observe this, so because of the reefs and the area between the reefs more protected from trawling, our long term data that we have done since 2008, we have been able to show it so clearly, it's now published paper in very good academic journal, we now have legal evidence to promote this kind of management in the future, and if the only evidence is here, it's really rare that you ever get to observe this.

### **Recreational Angling**

Mike Spiller thanked Adam for attending the presentation at the end of January. Good feedback. Fishing has been quite poor due to weather. Many have noticed that Beer & Lyme Regis has started to bring the Lyme Bay brand into trying to make the trips more interesting.

### **Skates & Ray Research**

Ian Hendy updated that the data that we have so far is being analysed, and we are going to float it down to MCS for feedback and how it can be developed. Mike Spiller asked if the data collection was ongoing. Ian stated that data collection not ongoing on moment until we get feedback.

### **FLAG Update**

Martin Sutcliffe updated that FLAG was currently closed for further applications. It was fully committed on 29th March, they ended up being a little bit overspent and submitted bid for a further £154k which was approved by MMO took the total FLAG budget across the 2 years to £954,000. They are waiting to see what is going to replace the EMFF. For the future, the Dorset coast forum is looking at how we can carry on FLAG, maybe FLAG 2 or whatever might come out of the National scheme, Aquaculture is very much at the forefront of Dorset thinking. High potential for aquaculture in Dorset. There is a shiny brochure that embassy's around the globe have and anybody that comes into the embassy and gets talking about aquaculture gets given the information on Dorset.

The core EMFF fund is open still for applications, not sure how long it will still be open. Certain elements are closed, such as Processing and Infrastructure. If there are any applications that need help to core funds, Martin offered to help. If its core fund project that runs through Dec 2020, when the main EMFF funding closes across the whole of Europe.

### **AST App**

Mandy Wolfe updated that we are having technical problems with the handsets. They don't seem to hold a charge, or they are unable to charge on mains. Two phones have been returned, there might be others. Any other technical issues have been diagnosed and resolved. Currently, all apps are running except for those fishing that does not have an operable handset.

Rob Clark thought it might be helpful if we (government recently consulted on use of iVMS, and despite feedback, have (fitting to boats with unstable power supply

We should highlight the utility of the app instead of iVMS. Charles responded that we had already done that. We responded to the consultation and suggested that AIS might be more sensible and apps. DEFRA has not yet concluded on our proposals.

Tim Glover asked if the AST app performed the same functions as the iVMS? Many felt it was not as acceptable because it can be turned off. Gerry stated that many of the iVMS could be turned off as well.

### **Schools Outreach**

Gavin Ziemann spoke about revamping the Marine Litter and Sustainable fishing modules. Martin asked that we use the Dorset Coast Forum films, the four films that were funded through FLAG, free to use and abuse. Tim Glover said that we are working now to get the programme properly funded and set up so that it is a separate entity since the Marks & Spencer funding had run out.

Aubrey Banfield asked Martin if the films have been viewed by the FLAG board and if not, they shouldn't be open to be viewed by anyone because it was one of the conditions of getting the funding. Martin stated he would double-check.

### **ROPE/SPILLOVER Project**

Project ROPE is a University of Plymouth research project funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and focusing on how mobile species of commercial importance (brown crab, lobster and European bass) interact with the offshore longline mussel farm in Lyme Bay. We know that crabs, lobsters and predatory fish utilise the site for food and shelter, due to the habitat enhancement that the rope droppers, screw anchors and fallen mussel clumps provide. Using innovative acoustic tags carried by animals and listening devices (hydrophones) on the seabed to detect their presence, our project will work out the movement patterns of these predators around the farm and how long they remain resident compared to the surrounding area and the nearby MPA. For more information contact Simon Pittman or Emma Sheehan and visit our webpage <https://sheehanresearchgroup.com/rope/>

Project Spillover is a University of Plymouth research project funded by the Dorset & East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) and European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The research extends Project ROPE into the FLAG area to improve understanding of the broader movements of fish and crustaceans with high commercial and recreational importance in the Lyme Bay region. Spillover uses both acoustic and streamer tags to determine if economically valuable fisheries species (brown crab, lobster, European bass) that have been accumulating at the offshore mussel farm spill over into adjacent fishing grounds used by the Dorset & East Devon FLAG inshore fishing communities. This project has the potential to measure a benefit to capture fisheries from offshore aquaculture which is important information for fishers and marine planning.

Reactions from the group were that some are afraid it would be open to abuse. It was suggested that coordinates need to be given out and the possibility of v-notching was discussed. Simon ended by sharing that fieldwork will start in June & July of this year.

ACTION: Simon will come back and update at the next meeting.

### **Reserve Seafood**

Mandy Wolfe updated that things with Reserve Seafood are going well. A recent trip to Billingsgate market has resulted in three suppliers in London willing to provide RS to local restaurants and buyers. We have started sending scallops to S&J Seafoods and are hoping to develop a relationship so that we can start moving scallops through Reserve Seafoods into Plymouth and bypass Brixham.

Man & Van scheme is going well. Meeting on 10th April 2019. Out of 33 active boats, 27 boats have made use of the Man & Van service. Since the beginning and up to the date of the meeting, we have transported 1050 boxes over 67 trips. At the meeting, the members voted to start charging for the service to build up a fund that can be used as cash flow when the scheme is taken over by the Fishermen. These charges will be in effect for three months,

covering May, June and July 2019. There will be another meeting scheduled for the middle of August so that we can analyse the annual figures and any charges moving forward will be discussed and agreed at that meeting. The choices for membership are (1) a bond payment of £100 which will cover unlimited boxes transported during that period, or (2) a payment of £5 per box for members who do not wish to pay a bond.

The Man & Van service has also been able to generate income through backloads with Samways. To date, we have earned £540 through backloads. As the van lives in Plymouth, we can collect and deliver fish to Samways, during our weekly runs to the ports. This significantly reduces the running costs on those days we bring a backload.

Dave Sales asked how you get along with fish caught inside the Reserve and fish caught outside the Reserve when it gets up to London? Mandy Wolfe reminded the group that at the last Reserve Seafood meeting, Tim Glover had agreed that Fishermen were able to fish outside the Reserve if the percentage of the time was not too high, that it wasn't all the time. It is the method of fishing that is important here, the fact that Fishermen are natural conservationists and the fish that you are catching, have been sustainably caught. Tim Glover raised the fact that the main aim of Reserve Seafood is to get more money for your catch.

On the matter of obtaining more money for the fish, Mandy reminded everyone that quality is paramount and raised the subject of holding a price optimisation meeting to clarify the criteria around Reserve Seafood. Possibly bring Alison from PTA and buyers of our fish off PTA, to discuss what conditions and quality bring the highest prices on the market. The criteria for the brand must be established and agreed upon. The consensus was that the Fishermen would attend if the meeting was held during months of bad weather, November or early December would be best.

Back in the summer of 2018, we discussed having a block at PTA for Reserve Seafood boats. This was met with some discontent due to how other Fishermen take care of their fish. The price optimisation meeting will help with this; however, the matter of the settling sheets being received from PTA has also been raised. Some feel that Mandy should not have access to financial records. Mandy wanted to make clear, that if she is looking at the settling sheets, it is only to record species in and out of the Reserve, and the prices that you are getting. This will enable us to be able to evidence an uplift in prices when that is delivered.

**ACTION:** Mandy will be sending out an email to notify you if she is receiving your settling sheets and to confirm that this is with your continued consent.

### **Future Management Sub-Committee**

This committee has been set up with Plymouth Uni, the FLAG, Dorset Trust, the IFCA's, BLUE, the MMO and a Fishermen rep from each of the ports. The idea was to try and scope out how the Reserve moves forward and how we would maintain the management of the Reserve in the years to come. The first meeting was held on 8th January 2019.

What came out of it was that most of the view was that what had been achieved was positive and encouraging and persevering into the future to maintain. Tim feels it should



have more of an outward-facing agenda. It could be a voice for the reserve and the fishing community and was well supported. At the meeting, Sarah Clark had suggested looking at other sites such as Lundy, Plymouth Sound, and Devon Estuaries.

It was the general opinion from the Fishermen that they should have two reps at the meetings, in case of illness or other reasons for non-attendance, there will always be another port rep able to attend.

Angus Walker asked if we had invited any of the council members to our committee meetings. Mandy Wolfe confirmed that she had invited Peter Blythe, but he was unable to attend due to conflict and that she did not have a contact at Dorset. Martin Sutcliffe offered to provide Mandy with contact at Dorset Council.

**ACTION :** (1) BLUE and the Fishermen to draft out a vision of what our plan looks like, with terms of reference. (Bearing in mind that Rob Clark and his group at Dorset Wildlife Trust are also working on looking at MPA management). (2) At the next Future Management Sub-Committee meeting, two reps from each port will be invited. (3) Council members need to be invited to the next meeting.

### **Lyme Bay Film**

Rupert Murray has done a film on Lyme. It was shown this evening to the Fishermen who were involved. It includes every possible opinion. It could be used to make a bigger statement about Lyme Bay. It is mainly about the potting study, it is approximately thirty minutes long. Anybody who wants to stay after and watch, they would be very welcome. We will have a form that can be used on the website. We wanted this group to have a voice about why we have done this.

### **Communications**

Social Media & Website, Facebook: 1,623 followers (up 38), Twitter: 2,262 followers (up 43). Weekly posts covering topics such as marine life, Harbour stories, fisherman profiles, Reserve Seafood, project developments, events, education outreach, and recreational sea anglers catches. Website updates continue a monthly basis.

Updates on the following are underway ready for the Dorset Seafood Festival, Reserve Seafood Leaflet, Generic Reserve Leaflet, Reserve Seafood Pop-up Banner and Reserve Seafood Stickers. These are available to fishermen should they wish to display them.

We will be joining Seafish on their stand again this year at the Dorset Seafood Festival. This will be the 6th year Lyme Bay Reserve has attended the popular Festival. We will once again be supplying Reserve Seafood to the Seafish demo stage and wet fish stand which draws huge crowds over the two-day festival. Focus is on shellfish this year with a hands-on approach to involve the audience.

Planning for interpretation boards to go on the chiller units of West Bay, Axmouth and potentially Beer (pending accessibility) has started. The boards will give an overview of the chiller units, how they are used by the fishermen and the benefits the units bring to each port. Gavin Ziemann has helped with the content.

Support continues with the Education Outreach Programme. Developments of the popular Marine Litter presentation are complete, and Gavin is practising the presentation considering the next school visit on Monday 13th May. 4 school visits are booked in May and June. 4 visits about Marine Litter are TBC for June and July and 23 schools have been visited in this academic year so far. Thanks to Gavin for his continued support with the Programme.

**A.O.B.**

Mandy Wolfe raised the matter of the new logo. Barry Trevett was unable to attend tonight but asked Mandy to vote No on his behalf to changing or using the new logo. Some asked why change something if it isn't broke, wanted to know why there was a problem with the old one. Angus Walker felt that the current brand is only starting to be recognized. Tim Glover stated that it was only a refresh. The group decided to discuss outside the meeting with Mandy.

Tim Glover closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their time.