



**Consultative Committee Meeting
1st March 2022 7-9pm
The Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis**

Minutes

Present:

Mandy Wolfe (Secretary), Sam Fanshawe (Note taker), Blue Marine Foundation
Martin Sutcliffe, Dorset Coast Forum
Sarah Clark, Devon & Severn IFCA
Simon Pengelly, Southern IFCA
Gerry Irwin, MMO
Mike Spiller, Angling Trust
Jerry Percy, NUTFA
Cllr Mark Roberts, Dorset County Council
Alice Hall, University of Plymouth
Gavin Ziemann, Axmouth Fisherman
Charlie Ziemann, Axmouth Fisherman
Angus Walker, Axmouth Fisherman
Dave Hancock, Axmouth Fisherman
Radar, Beer Fisherman
Aubrey Banfield, West Bay Fisherman
Jez, West Bay Fisherman
Matt Toms, West Bay Fisherman
Jamie Smith, West Bay Fisherman
John Worswick, West Bay Fisherman
Jon Shuker, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Rob King, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Nigel Birt, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Sam Birt, Lyme Regis Fisherman
Stuart Wain

Joining via remote video:

Charles Clover, Blue Marine Foundation

Apologies for absence

Jim Newton, Beer Fisherman
Marc Newton, Beer Fisherman
Kim Aplin, Beer Fisherman
Cllr Marianne Rixon, East Devon Council
Peter Tinsley, Dorset Wildlife Trust
Gus Caslake, Seafish

Summary of agreements and actions

- BLUE to review the minutes from early Working Group / Committee meetings to clarify the voting membership of the Committee
- Vote: A vote was taken from representatives from the four ports and BLUE for the appointment of Martin Sutcliffe as Chair and approved unanimously.
- Terms of Reference to be tabled at the next meeting.
- Gerry to feedback concerns about the Catch App and iVMS to MMO colleagues.
- Cllr Mark Roberts to raise issue about lack of space to store gear at Lyme Regis.
- Alice to share map of locations and photos of receivers and invite any comments on locations.
- Martin to circulate notes about projects from previous Fisheries Industry Science Partnership rounds.
- Mandy to circulate revised Minister's letter by Friday with comments to be received by 11th March.
- All to inform Mandy of any agenda items they would like included.

1. Introductions

Mandy Wolfe opened the meeting and introduced Alice from Plymouth University.

2. New Chair Election

Mandy explained that there had been one nomination for the role of Chairman, Martin Sutcliffe. Martin was asked to leave the room while the Committee discussed the appointment. A proposer was invited to nominate Martin as Chairman: Cllr Mark Roberts proposed. Nigel Birt seconded.

Angus Walker asked that before any vote was taken clarification was given on which Terms of Reference were to be applied and whether proxy votes could be accepted.

Sam Fanshawe confirmed that the original Terms of Reference from 2013 were to apply as the proposed draft revision was yet to be discussed and agreed.

Angus noted that his understanding was that the only members that have voting rights are 8 representatives from the four ports and 3 from BLUE and if this was not accepted then the fishermen would leave the meeting.

Sam Fanshawe outlined her understanding that a Memorandum of Understanding had been agreed in 2011 by the original Lyme Bay Reserve Working Group setting out the purpose and aims of the Working Group. Five parties were named in that MoU: BLUE, fishermen from the four ports, D&SIFCA, SIFCA and MMO. The MoU did not include any reference to voting rights. A Terms of Reference was then agreed in 2013 to formalize the Working Group as a Consultative Committee setting out the ways of working, members and voting rights. Members listed in the 2013 Terms of Reference included four from BLUE, two representatives from each of the four ports, and one from Natural England, SIFCA, D&SIFCA, MMO, Dorset Coast Forum, NUTFA, and SWIFA. The Terms of Reference are minuted as having been agreed in April 2013.

Discussion followed over different members recollection of the agreement to the Terms of Reference. Simon Pengelly expressed his understanding that SIFCA and D&SIFCA had a vote. Angus asked that all previous meeting minutes were reviewed as his understanding was that the only members who have voting rights are 8 fishermen representatives and 3 BLUE representatives.

Charles Clover noted that the Terms of Reference had been based on one of the harbour authority's models and that it had been agreed by the Working Group. Charles noted that any recollection of votes only for fishermen and BLUE was not correct and had not been the basis on which the MoU or Terms of Reference had been set up.

Action: BLUE to review the minutes from early Working Group / Committee meetings to clarify the voting membership of the Committee

As agreement could not be reached in the meeting regarding the voting rights of members, Mandy proposed that the vote for the new Chair would on this occasion be based on 8 votes from the fishing representatives and 3 from BLUE. Other meeting attendees did not raise an objection to this.

Vote: A vote was taken from representatives from the four ports and BLUE for the appointment of Martin Sutcliffe as Chair and approved unanimously.

Martin thanked the meeting for their support and confirmed that he was acting independently from Dorset Coast Forum.

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting held on 30th November 2021

Martin tabled the minutes of the last meeting held on 30th November 2021 for comment or approval. No comments were raised. The minutes were approved.

4. Review of actions from the last meeting

- *BLUE to review the letter to the Minister, update it to reflect the meeting with the Minister and send to Gavin Ziemann in the first instance, prior to wider circulation for approval by the Committee.*

A revised letter had been circulated to the Committee with the meeting papers following removal of references to the sole quota. The letter was discussed under Agenda item 6j.

- *Anyone interested in sitting on the Shellfish Industry Advisory Group to contact Sarah Clark.*
- *BLUE to circulate a Call for nominations for a new Chairman to the Committee.*

Action completed

- *BLUE to circulate draft updated Terms of Reference to the Committee for consideration at the next meeting.*

Draft documents had been circulated and were to be covered later in the agenda.

- *Agreed: Amended Code of Conduct removing reference to the requirement for iVMS tracking.*
- *Mandy Wolfe to circulate copies of the Code of Conduct to all fishermen for signature.*

Mandy confirmed that the Code had been circulated to all fishermen.

- *Simon Pengelly to share details of SIFCA consultations with the Committee via Mandy Wolfe.*
- *BLUE to send the link to the recording of the Cuttlefish Symposium to the Committee.*

Action completed

- *Fishermen interested in attending the next cuttlefish workshop to contact Sam Fanshawe.*
- *Members to raise any issues that they would like discussed at the next meeting.*

5. Terms of Reference review

This item was deferred to the next meeting so that the status of the original Terms of Reference and voting rights could be clarified.

Action: Terms of Reference to be tabled at the next meeting.

6. Committee Members updates

a. IFCA's

Devon & Severn IFCA

Sarah Clark reported on a number of recent meetings regarding the scallop closed season. Sub-Committee agreed to a further consultation with commercial scallop divers. Responses from this had been considered and recommendations presented to Sub-Committee last week, including: introduction of spatial closures; permitted removal of scallops by scallop divers during July, August and September; limit of 20 bags per vessel during July August and September; increased minimum landing size of 110cm; introduction of a permit condition. The Committee agreed that these proposed measures would go out to public consultation which will take place in April.

John Worswick noted that this was a step in the right direction and raised the question of timeframe. Sarah said that this would now go through the normal consultation process – and reported later during AOB confirmed that the consultation would start in mid-March and be open for four weeks. Final consultation on a Byelaw to deliver the agreed measures would take place in time for introduction of the byelaw in May.

Sarah reported that a Masters student is looking at scallop spawning season and that some fishermen may be contacted for samples. Simon Pengelly noted that a spawning study was also being undertaken in the Solent.

Sarah reported that the Byelaw on restricting vessel size to below 15m has been through the Sub-Committee and will now undergo an Impact Assessment. A grace period of 6 months from the time the Byelaw is introduced will be given for any vessels exceeding 15 m to cease operation.

Sarah reported that under the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw new permits were to be sent to all vessels to allow the use of any iVMS device that has been type approved by the MMO as long as it can transmit the information required by the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. This would replace the current permit requirements allowing the use of AST and Succorfish devices which had not been type approved for the iVMS roll out.

Southern IFCA

Simon Pengelly reported that 30 responses had been received from the formal consultation on the Net Fishing Byelaw. Recommendations for measures will be submitted to the IFCA Committee on 30th March.

Draft measures under a new Pot Fishing Byelaw will be discussed at the 30th March meeting and if agreed will go out to formal public consultation. The Byelaw proposes a limit to 300 pots, and escape gaps that must meet one of 3 dimensions to fit in with dimensions set by D&SIFCA and Sussex IFCA. The Byelaw will include limits on the number of crustacean species that recreational fishermen can

land on one day. There will be an informal consultation on the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw to consider if any changes are needed in light of recent MCZ designations. The consultation will include a question about active restoration.

A question was raised on whether there will be any restrictions on netting for recreational fishermen. Simon confirmed that there would not be any gear limits but some restrictions are not off the table. It has taken 4-5 years to get to this phase of the byelaw, so any future changes are not likely to happen soon.

A question was raised if any information or evidence had been provided by Defra about where HPMA's might be located. Sarah confirmed that they have not received any information. Simon noted that the latest understanding was that Defra planned to go out to public consultation in April on HPMA's.

b. MMO

Gerry reported on Catch recording and iVMS roll out. The Catch App is now at the enforcement stage after being in place for 2 years. Over the next few weeks any fishermen not using the App will be contacted.

Fishermen raised questions about the margin that would be tolerated – the requirement is within 10% but this is very difficult to abide by when dealing with small quantities of fish and without calibrated scales. For example, if 3Kg are landed, a single fish of 300g represents 10%. Aubrey expressed the view that the whole basis of the system is flawed.

Gerry spoke about the national roll out of iVMS to the Under 12 m vessels. Four iVMS units had initially been type approved by the MMO, but the Maritime Systems device has been suspended from use until 9th March due to concerns over its specifications. If, after 9th March the device still cannot be used then Maritime Systems will have to reimburse fishermen on any costs.

Jerry Percy noted that Defra had failed to do a proper procurement exercise which would have identified the issues.

The question was raised as to why MMO didn't supply a tracker and pay for the airtime if they want to track the boats rather than passing all the responsibility and costs to the fishermen. Concern was raised about how fishermen know that the systems are accurately transmitting locations given none of them have been road tested.

Gavin noted that he had run a Succorfish device under the D&SIFCA system and it had worked fine but this could no longer be used. In terms of Catch App recording the requirements apply to all fishermen equally but the fleet is not equal as some boats have 5-6 crew whereas others have only 1-2 limiting their capacity to weigh fish.

Action: Gerry to feedback concerns about the Catch App and iVMS to MMO colleagues.

c. Councils

Cllr Mark Roberts reported that he had fed back the issue reported at the previous meeting about the cranes. They are advertising for a new Harbour Master for Lyme Regis. Harbour budgets have gone through. Harbour Revision Order is going through. Income from fees will go back into harbour maintenance. Have had to find new contractors on the new build for the Lyme Regis chiller store

building which means revisiting the grant. A question was raised by fishermen about the lack of a place to store gear at Lyme Regis compared to other ports.

Action: Cllr Mark Roberts to raise issue about lack of space to store gear at Lyme Regis.

d. Harbour Master

James was not present to give an update.

e. Plymouth University

Alice Hall outlined work on the Fish Intel project to tag bass and pollock with receivers being installed at various points around Lyme Bay. A workshop was held last week but not many attended so there will be follow up by phone. She is interested in any input from fishermen. Receivers to be placed on various locations inside the Reserve and some outside – any suggestions for better locations welcome. Alice reported that the University will be continuing the annual monitoring using baited surveys this year.

Action: Alice to share map of locations and photos of receivers and invite any comments on locations.

f. NUTFA

Jerry Percy reported that NUTFA have been working on Dutch fly shooters and a letter to Defra had been circulated to the fishermen via Mandy. He noted that regarding the Catch App, MMO are due to consult for views on electronic scales at quayside.

NUTFA had commented on the impacts of HPMA's on small scale boats who cannot relocate easily. A Ten-minute rule bill introduced by Chris Grayling (of ferry infamy) proposing a ban on trawling in all UK MPAs had been passed.

A consultation is currently open on the Joint Fisheries Statement which implements the Fisheries Act 2020. The JFS objectives include a requirement for Government to include social and economic factors when allocating quota. Fisheries Management Plans for non-quota species are frontrunners for completion by 2023. A Fin fish Management group has been set up.

Jerry described the opportunity provided by the [Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships](#) (FISPs) scheme which aims to fund fishermen driven research projects up to £300k and grants of £20k are available to develop research proposals. The scheme aims to fund data collection and research to support sustainable fisheries management.

Gavin asked how much fishermen would be paid for any data provided as part of these projects and questioned the value of information provided by fishermen for surveys. Gerry noted that fishermen could include their time as part of costs of project. Applications open next week and close on 25 April.

Martin offered to circulate notes about projects from previous rounds which could provide some ideas and to provide support to any fisherman wanting to submit an application.

Action: Martin to circulate notes about projects from previous Fisheries Industry Science Partnership rounds.

g. Dorset Coast Forum

Martin Sutcliffe reported that the Aquaculture Innovation Hub Phase 1 project had completed. Reports have been received and recommendations are being prepared for Phase 2 for a 3-4 yr project to develop a business plan.

A UK Seafood Infrastructure Fund of £65m opens on 7th March. Projects can be up to £10million with £5m from Defra and £5m match funded. Examples of eligible projects include improving electric propulsion, connectivity through fibre, infrastructure for fish sales. A £10 m training package will also be launched.

Martin is working on a project for introducing electric propulsion with Maritime UK and Fishery Innovation Scotland.

A point was raised on the recent guideline on red diesel which cannot be used for generation or heating, only for propulsion.

h. Dorset Wildlife Trust

Peter Tinsley had sent apologies.

i. Angling Trust

Mike Spiller reported that the Angling Trust is moving away from a national structure into a more regional approach with seven regions. New CEO Jamie Cook is taking sea angling more seriously.

Sarah noted that D&SIFCA are beginning to look into bait collection and hand gathering as there are concerns in the Exe Estuary. Simon noted that SIFCA have no immediate plans to look into bait collection and hand gathering. Concerns were raised about mackerel.

It was reported that bass are back at 2 fish per day for recreational fishermen.

j. BLUE

Sam updated the group on BLUE's work on non-quota inshore fisheries. Following the Cuttlefish Symposium held in November, cuttlefish had been included in the Channel Non-Quota Demersal Fisheries Management Plan as a Frontrunner to be completed by end of 2023. This is a mixed FMP including cuttlefish, squid, octopus, red gurnards, grey gurnards, tub gurnards, John Dory, surmullet and lesser spotted dogfish. Defra and MMO have invited BLUE to discuss engagement in the FMP and also the potential for involvement in the Crab and Lobster and the Whelk Fisheries Management Plans which will be led by Seafish. Sam noted that BLUE hoped this might provide a route for fishermen in Lyme Bay and other areas where BLUE works to feed into these FMPs if they are not represented in other ways.

BLUE is planning to facilitate further online events similar to the Cuttlefish Symposium for crab, lobster and whelk to share information on these species to feed information into the FMPs.

Noted that Symposia should be held in the evening to allow fishermen to attend.

Aubrey noted that Seafish have reports that are not in the public domain which dispute the information shared at the Cuttlefish Symposium.

Sarah noted that any fisherman can attend the Crab and Lobster, and Whelk Management Groups and that minutes should be in the public domain.

Charles Clover raised the letter to the Minister Victoria Prentis, following her visit in November and said the Committee needed to agree on the letter if there was to be any action taken.

Angus felt that the tone of the letter was written from the wrong angle. Simon noted that the letter was very different from the original. Sarah noted that references to impact assessment on the protected area and social economic assessments had been removed and should be included, rather than focusing Defra's attention on pot limits.

Charles noted that the previous letter had raised the point about raising the quota but someone said they didn't want to include that. Seems difficult to function if Committee can't agree on a letter within 3 months. Committee had had since November to comment on letters between meetings.

Gerry asked that reference to MMO was removed.

Simon asked for greater consideration of the social and economic factors to be brought back into the letter.

Aubrey said that the focus of the letter should be on quota that affects regional stocks on which local fishermen are focused, which was generally supported by those present.

Some fishermen want quota retained, others want the quota reduced.

Charles noted that the Committee needs to agree the letter or BLUE and others can write their own letters.

Sarah asked for the main points made in the previous letter about reviewing the quota allocation process and undertaking an impact assessment to be reinstated.

Aubrey reported that there was a hint that Defra want to shoehorn Lyme Bay into the FMP process and he had made them aware of netting issue.

Action: Mandy to circulate revised Minister's letter by Friday with comments to be received by 11th March.

Martin offered to liaise with fishermen to complete the Fisheries Industry Science Partnership application form to undertake a socio-economic impact assessment.

Charles noted that he was finalising a book called Rewilding the Sea including a chapter on Dave Sales and Lyme Bay. This has been reviewed with Dave Sales and reflects the Committee's heroic work. Apologised for not being present in person and asked if there were any questions. None were raised.

k. The Fishermen

Axmouth – Nothing to update.

Beer – Nothing aware of to update.

West Bay – Issues had been raised earlier about cranes and visiting vessels. Wants to see the letter signed off and sent in.

Lyme Regis – Fishermen are collecting rubbish to bring back to shore, but Lyme Regis doesn't have anywhere to put the rubbish collected. Cllr Mark Roberts noted that there had been issues with the charity that set up collections in other ports as they only take waste that they can recycle into specific products such as kayaks. He was looking into other ways to dispose of the waste. Gavin noted that Waterhaul in Cornwall was worth looking into.

7. Funding

Martin had covered most of the current funding opportunities under the Dorset Coast Forum update. He added that the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme is due to reopen soon.

8. Communications

Nothing to report.

9. AOB

Gavin drew the Committee's attention to the Ten-minute bill introduced by Chris Grayling on banning trawling in MPAs. Organisations including Marine Conservation Society and BLUE were supporting this. Concerns were raised about misinformation and lack of evidence for the depth of the trawling. If trawling is banned in all MPAs there will be displacement of vessels – has this been considered. No mention of fly shooters and supertrawlers. No separation being made between types of gear.

10. Next meeting date and agenda items

Tuesday 17th or 24th May or 7th June were proposed.

Martin noted that the meeting location would be reviewed with the view to holding some meetings further west.

Action: All to inform Mandy of any agenda items they would like included.

Meeting closed at 21:50