

**SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW
COMMITTEE – 10TH MAY 2016**

1. The minutes of TSB Committee meeting held on 2nd February 2016 were approved

Matters Arising (Agenda Item 4)

2. Minute No. 35. MCZ Tranche 2 Designations. NE to work with Bangor University on a research project looking at the protection that may be provided to mud communities by the presence of wind farms. NE has given draft conservation and management advice on mud habitats to MMO.

Byelaw Review: Byelaws 11 and 3 (Agenda Item 5)

3. Flexible Permit Byelaws. The principle of introducing flexible permit byelaws was agreed and the approach will be considered by the full Authority.
4. Byelaw 11: Prohibition on Dredging. This byelaw is intended to replace the old NW&NWSFC Byelaw 12. Proposed amendments were discussed and agreed. A further draft to be prepared taking account of members' comments.
5. Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 3. Consideration to be given to changing this to a flexible permit byelaw for further discussion by the TSB Committee.

Science Summary Report (Agenda Item 6)

The report included:

- a) Update on the Review of Fishing Activities in European Marine sites.
- b) Update on North West Coast Connections – National Grid work on routing options for 400kv cables from Moorside nuclear power station. Liaison with fishermen by NWCC/NG has been poor. Science Officer will make sure NWCC/NG are aware. MMO representative will raise the issue with MMO Licensing Department and report back to the TSB.
- c) Moorside Power Station update
- d) West Cumbria Coal Mine update
- e) United Utilities Outfall – Anchorsholme, Fleetwood update
- f) A report on Seabass Project Steering Group Meeting London. Bass Tagging and Small Fish Surveys are possibilities to be investigated.
- g) Marine Planning: MMO has launched North West Inshore and Offshore Plan Areas
- h) Wader bird survey training update
- i) Bivalve Mollusc Working group: A meeting was postponed to 13th May because of the Leven cockle fishery.

- j) IFCA Sonar Camera Demonstration. Officers attended a demonstration by Eastern IFCA. The camera bought using Defra funding is shared by all IFCAs. It is hoped to trial the camera on "Solway Protector" to survey subtidal mussel beds in the Solway Firth.
- k) Cockles and Mussel Fisheries in the NWIFCA District – Surveys.
- l) New island off Fleetwood. Officers to further investigate and seek information from Wyre Borough Council

Leven Cockle Fishery (Agenda Item 7)

- 6. The fishery was open from 1st to 30th April. Returns to date indicate 13,947 kg removed from the bed. Sanctions included 3 verbal warnings, 4 advisory letters and 4 official warning letters. Reminder letters had been issued for non-compliance with the weekly returns requirement.

Updates

- 7. More detail on these items is provided in the Science report for this meeting.

Clerk
31st May 2016