

**NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2016: 11.00 a.m.**

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO.  
14**

**SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW  
COMMITTEE – 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016**

**Appointment of Chairman (Agenda Item 1).**

- 1, Mr R. Graham reappointed.

**Appointment of Vice-Chairman (Agenda Item 3)**

2. Mr T. Jones reappointed.
3. The minutes of TSB Committee meeting held on 9<sup>TH</sup> August 2016 were approved

**Matters Arising (Agenda Item 6)**

4. Minute No. 43. Science Summary Report. North West Coast Connections – National Grid work on routing options for 400KV cables from Moorside Power Station. In the absence of the MMO representative Mr Dan Ward, Mr Parr agreed to follow up the point concerning poor liaison with fishermen.

**Byelaw 11 – Dredge Byelaw 2016 (Agenda Item 7)**

5. Byelaw 11: Prohibition on Dredging. MMO comments on the draft byelaw had been tabled. Proposed amendments were discussed. It was agreed to carry out consultation with industry and stakeholders. Officers to produce a further draft for circulation to members with a deadline for comments of 1<sup>st</sup> September. A new version to be presented to the September meeting.

**Cockle and Mussel Fisheries including verbal report from BMWG held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016 (Agenda Item 8)**

- a) Authorisations to be issued for Perch Scar and Black Scar when mussels are ready subject to HRA.
- b) A request to authorise an extended area for the seed mussel dredge fishery in north Morecambe Bay was agreed for those boats with acoustic ground discrimination equipment. A further request from industry to re-open Box 1 in north Morecambe Bay was not approved, although a request to survey and provide information back to BMWG and TSB was agreed.
- c) A proposal to approve a permanent exclusion zone on the main area of honeycomb worm at Heysham Flat was discussed. It was agreed to change the recommendation to continued exclusion with regular monitoring of the reef and subject to periodic review of which area to exclude rather than a permanently excluded area
- d) The request from industry to dredge seed mussel at Heysham Flat had been withdrawn.
- e) Members agreed to close all cockle beds within the District under NWSFC Byelaw 13A and CSFC Byelaw 18 from 1<sup>st</sup> September. Further surveys will be carried out during September and the situation reviewed by the BMWG in October.
- f) It was agreed to approve further surveys on Flookburgh and Penfold North before consideration is given to opening the beds.

## **Science Report (Agenda Item 9)**

The report included:

- a) Marine Conservation Zones. A presentation on the West of Walney will be given by Mr Johnson, NE, later in the Agenda.
- b) Review of Fishing Activities in European Marine Sites.
- c) Small Fish Surveys – working with Environment Agency
- d) Lobster Populations and Genetics Research.
- e) TAG.
- f) North West Coast Connections – National Grid work on routing options for 400KV cables from Moorside nuclear power station.
- g) Moorside Power Station.
- h) Marine Planning – MMO launch of the North West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas.
- i) Defra 25 year Environment Plan
- j) Bivalve Mollusc Working Group
- k) Cumbria Wildlife Trust – Marine Trainees. WWT trainees had attended a training day on the work of NWIFCA, cockle and mussel fisheries and *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs. The formal partnership arrangement has now been terminated but the parties continue to work alongside one another when appropriate.
- l) Cumbria Coast MCZ *Sabellaria alveolata* survey
- m) Meeting with Lancaster University – Sediment Dynamics in Relation to Cockle Movement in Morecambe Bay.

## **West of Walney MCZ and fisheries management (Agenda Item 10)**

8. Mark Johnston, Natural England, gave a presentation on conservation features and reason for designation of the West of Walney MCZ. This MCZ which was designated in January 2016 has a 'recover' conservation objective. IFCA approved to ask MMO to make an MCZ byelaw covering the 0-12nm.

## **Vessel Update (Agenda Item 11)**

9. Tender documents are now very close to completion. There is a VAT question to resolve. The final package of tender documents will be sent to the Vessel Committee for approval before the tender is issued via the ECJ.

## **Byelaw Review (Agenda Item 12)**

10. Members were updated on progress with byelaws and priorities with these outlined. NWIFCA has introduced 5 new byelaws since its inception in 2011 and work is currently underway on a further 7.

## **Byelaw Review Audit Process (Agenda Item 13)**

11. A draft byelaw review process has been developed by officers. Members approved the continuation of this development and implementation of the process, and that where significant development on a new byelaw is already underway, not to start again with this process.

Clerk  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2016