

NWIFCA Authority Meeting

18th September 2020; 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
9**

1. AT AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW SUB-COMMITTEE held via video conference on 4th August 2020

PRESENT – MEMBERS

Dr E. Baxter	(Chair)	MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr T. Jones	(Vice-Chair)	MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)
Dr J. W. Andrews		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr S. Brown		MMO appointee (Recreational)
Mr M. Johnston		Natural England
Mr B. Leigh		MMO appointee (Anglers and Recreation)
Mr M. Taylor		MMO (Officer)

NWIFCA OFFICERS ATTENDING

Senior Scientist (SS), Deputy Senior Scientist, Scientific Officer, Head of Enforcement (HoE), Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer, Senior Operational Support Officer and Digital Communications Officer.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr S. Manning	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Mr R. Benson	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Dr Rosie Horner	Natural England

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Kelsey Thompson	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Ron Graham	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Garry Pidduck	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Councillor P. Williams	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Dr Stephen Atkins	CEO (NWIFCA)

2. TO DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE SOUTH AMERICA SEED FISHERY (Agenda Item 4)

- i. The Chair gave opportunity first for representation from the hand-gathering sector (Garry Pidduck email, Steve Manning in meeting), and then the dredge sector (Trevor Jones in meeting). The Senior Scientist presented her report and reasoning for her recommendation. Natural England also commented on the issue.
- ii. The recommendation in the paper to this committee meeting that members approve seed mussel fishery for hand-gathering and dredge harvest was not taken forward.

An amended proposal was drafted and approved as follows;

The seed mussel fishery be allowed subject to HRA authorisation for both dredge and hand-gathering for a period of one month from the date of authorisation. The division of the seed mussel fishery shall be equal, with the hand-gatherers operating on the western side. Further management decisions will be considered after subsequent review.

Proposed: Brian Leigh Seconded: Steve Brown.

4 in favour. None against. One abstention. Proposal carried.

Meeting ended 1555 hours

AT A MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW SUB-COMMITTEE held via video conference on 11th August 2020

PRESENT – MEMBERS

Dr E. Baxter	(Chair)	MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr S. Brown		MMO appointee (Recreational)
Mr B. Leigh		MMO appointee (Anglers and Recreation)
Kelsey Thompson		MMO appointee (Commercial)
Councillor P. Williams		Cheshire West and Chester Council
Mr T. Jones	(Vice-Chair)	MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)
Dr Rosie Horner		Natural England

NWIFCA OFFICERS ATTENDING

CEO, Senior Scientist (SS), Scientific Officer, Head of Enforcement (HoE), Senior Operational Support Officer and Digital Communications Officer.

1 Dr Atkins gave welcome and a summary statement of the Extraordinary meeting of TSB held on 4th August on management of Morecambe Bay Mussel seed.

2 Dr Emily Baxter was unanimously appointed Chair 2020-21.

3 Dr Jim Andrews was unanimously appointed Vice Chair 2020-21

4 Pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests were recorded.

5 MINUTES OF TSB 12TH MAY 2020 (Agenda Item 5) were accepted unanimously as a true record of the meeting.

6 MATTERS ARISING All actions completed except

1. Netting byelaw ongoing
2. Improve communications between Officers and Members - some improvements.
3. Legal advice on making byelaws at virtual meetings. Variations between different local authorities but government using virtual meetings as a means to passing legislation.

Mr Jones asked if post of Clerk had been advertised. CEO, said the advert should be ready to go soon.

7 BYELAW REPORT (Agenda Item 7)

a) Potting Byelaw: submitted to MMO for confirmation. QA started on 20th July. Comments expected back by 22nd September. Applications for whelk track record have been advertised.

b) Byelaw 3: referred back to MMO for confirmation.

c) MCRS Byelaw: it was agreed:

- i. to include paragraph 7 providing for exceptions;
- ii. to retain Paragraph 4 providing an allowance for undersize pelagic fish;
- iii. include incremental increase in the MCRS for whelk to ensure parity with the potting byelaw.

8 LEASOWE CLAMS (Agenda Item 8)

The HoE reported the Emergency Byelaw was considered to have successfully prevented excessive un-regulated gathering of bivalves. A permanent byelaw will be needed in 2021.

9 Dr Baxter reported on the May meeting of the Byelaw Review group. A report of byelaw priorities in the annual plan was requested for a future TSB meeting.

10 SURVEY AND INSPECTION REPORTS (Agenda Item 10)

a) COCKLES

- i. Some cockle beds to be opened on 1 September: Pilling Sands, Leven Sands, Flookburgh, Newbiggin. Carried unanimously;
- ii. Aldingham to open once hygiene classification had been established. Carried unanimously;
- iii. Approve a decision on Leasowe cockle bed by email. Carried unanimously.
- iv. Implement North Western Sea Fisheries byelaw 13(a) and Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee Byelaw 18 closures on all other cockle beds in the District, from 1st September. Carried with one abstention.

b) MUSSELS

A report was tabled on the Extraordinary meeting of TSB held on 4th August and the decision taken on the Morecambe Bay seed mussels. Dr Baxter expressed her concern the same issues may come up again in the future and wondered how we propose to deal with them and if we could take measures such as bringing the Mussel Management Plan back to TSB for approval and implementation because it has been sitting on the shelf now for a while. It might be good to have a discussion about how we manage the fisheries overall.

The future of BMWG was touched on and whether or not a set policy on mussel management was appropriate. It was agreed that for now the best course of action was to resurrect the Management Plan and have a discussion with Natural England.

11 SCIENCE REPORT (Agenda Item 11)

The SS presented the report which was for information only. She highlighted the detailed information she had given on the Highly Protected Marine Areas Review and tried to clarify the situation with Morecambe Bay having appeared in a list of potential sites for HPMA consideration.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 12)

Dr Baxter in her role as Senior Marine Conservation Officer at the Wildlife Trusts reported that MMO had approved their application for Maritime Fisheries funding to basically do a larger scale project on the creel fishery trial that they did in the West of Walney MCZ last year. She will meet with the Science Team about it and might be able to bring more information to the next meeting. The project is to work with small scale inshore fishermen and investigate the feasibility of this fishery.