

Byelaw Strategy Working Group Progress Report

April 2022

Recommendations

1. That this report is accepted.
2. That the TSB Sub-Committee endorse further work by the Byelaw Strategy Working Group to develop and propose new byelaws to attain the goal of having a single suite of NWIFCA Byelaws in place within a period of 5 years.

Background

1. The Byelaw Strategy Working Group (“BSWG”) was established by a resolution of the TSB Sub-Committee meeting in April 2021 with the aim of establishing a single suite NWIFCA byelaws for the District within a period of 5 years. This aim was endorsed at the Quarterly meeting of the Authority in March 2022.
2. The BSWG has met on four occasions to discuss how to progress from the current suite of 47 byelaws made by 5 different organisations towards the aim of a single suite of NWIFCA byelaws.
3. The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update on progress.

Progress Update

The BSWG has identified the key components of a future NWIFCA suite of byelaws, briefly summarised in the

1. Table 1 overleaf.
2. Key points to note about this list are:-
 - a. There are three broad categories: byelaws already in place; byelaws we are certain that the NWIFCA will need; and those that require further consideration.
 - b. There may be omissions from the list. Comments are invited on omissions.
 - c. The list is not prioritised. Comments are invited on priorities. Members have previously agreed that the final decision on priorities should be taken by Officers.

Next Steps

The BSWG is keen to make progress with drafting proposals for new byelaws. The BSWG is due to meet again on 24th May so that it can finalise the list set out in

1. Table 1 and start work on the top priorities in this list.
2. Updates on progress will be reported to future TSB meetings.

Table 1: Summary description of new byelaw suite for NWIFCA following April 2022 BSWG discussions

Item	Title	Description	Status
Byelaws in place			
3	Permit to fish for cockles and mussels	Establishes restrictive permit scheme for cockle & mussel fisheries, sets MLS for each species.	In place/new reviewed byelaw awaiting ministerial sign off
5	Heysham Bass Nursery Area Prohibition of Fishing	Prohibits all fishing for bass within this nursery area.	In place
6	Protection for European Marine Site Features	Controls / prohibits fishing in certain areas to protect wildlife.	In place
-	Restrictions on use of a dredge	Requires that a permit is obtained before dredging for fish / shellfish in District.	In place
-	Prohibition of Foul Hooking	Prohibits foul hooking.	In place
Necessary New Byelaws			
A	Netting Byelaw	Covers capture of fish in nets.	Proposal to be submitted to TSB by HoE.
B	Potting Byelaw	Controls on potting for shellfish.	Made, Ministerial confirmation awaited.
C	Minimum fish / shellfish sizes	Sets minimum sizes for fish & shellfish that are applicable to all fishers (both commercial & recreational; and in boats & on shore).	Made, Ministerial confirmation awaited.
D	Vessel capacity / size byelaw	Set limit on vessel size and / or power in District	Has been proposed before. Further consultation and discussion needed to develop new proposals.
For further consideration			
E	Gear marking	To consolidate and harmonise gear marking restrictions for all métiers (netting & potting)	No progress, still under consideration.
F	Shrimp & prawn mobile gear	To consolidate and harmonise approach throughout District. Likely to cover fishing from both vessels and vehicles likely to set mesh size, aggregate net / beam dimensions; riddling requirements;	

Item	Title	Description	Status
		policy for return of fish to the sea.	
G	Intertidal & non-commercial fisheries	This to fill in gaps left by other legislation – such as mesh sizes and attachments to nets – which don't presently apply to these fishers.	
H	Trawling	To consolidate and harmonise measures and ensure that they apply to all sectors (recreational, commercial, vessel & vehicle towed trawls).	

BYELAW STRATEGY WORKING GROUP
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