

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw  
Committee  
12 May 2020: 10:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO.  
8**

**BYELAW REVIEW**

**A Purpose of Report**

- To report byelaw review progress

**B. Recommendations**

- Note current position
- Note that progress has been delayed by virus restrictions.

**Background**

1. The outcomes of the byelaw review group on 19 December 2019 were reported to the February TSB. The group is TSB Chair Ms. Baxter and MMO appointee Mr Jones.
2. A further meeting of the group planned for 26 March 2020 was cancelled at the commencement of virus restrictions.

**Progress**

3. Byelaws 3 Cockle and Mussel cockle and mussel permit was sent to MMO for sign off and returned with comments. Further discussions with MMO are taking place to agree what can be included. As expected the proposed permit suspension proposals have raised questions. Minor editing is also required following which the byelaw will be returned to MMO for sign off.
4. Byelaw 7 Potting permit scheme and the NWIFCA Fish MLS Byelaw were ready to be made at the March meeting and will be returned to the Authority as soon as a meeting is held at which they can be made.
5. Head of Enforcement is collating comments for a new Byelaw 9 Net Fishing Regulations. Proposals will be presented to TSB as soon as possible. This byelaw is complex as there are 10 inherited byelaws from NWSFC, CSFS and EA which have application to parts of the NWIFCA District all of which may be subsumed within a new NWIFCA netting byelaw.

**Future Priorities for consideration**

6. The need for a replacement byelaw limiting size of vessel ( e.g. by length, tonnage, or power) allowed to fish in the District. Byelaws NWSFC 9 and CSFC 3,15,13 do this in part. Why this byelaw may be needed in NWIFCA District remains undefined.
7. A new byelaw for Shrimp & Prawn. Byelaws NWSFC 6 and CSFC 14 apply but net size and MLS measures are inconsistent and there is a gap in regulations for the Dee Estuary. The shrimp fisheries are important and valuable in the District but highly variable in timing and scale from year to year. A single bylaw may be controversial as measures selected will have different impacts in areas of the District. Data is needed to confirm a requirement for a shrimp byelaw.
8. A new byelaw for inkles. Byelaw CSFC 7 applies. There is no regulation in the south of the District. Data is needed to confirm a requirement for a wrinkle byelaw.

## **Inherited EA and Dee byelaws**

9. These byelaw pages 42-48 of the NWIFCA byelaw book were transferred to NWIFCA in 2011. The Authority has written to EA and NRW to inform them of a NWIFCA intension to repeal them for this District when they are superseded by new measures or found to be redundant. No concerns from EA or NRW have been received.

## **Members' comments**

10. Comments from Mr Brown are at Annex A.
11. TSB Chairman Ms Baxter circulated a virtual flipchart to members in February to which comments are invited and may be added before the 12 May TSB. This is available at **removed from public document**.

CEO NWIFCA  
7 May 2020