

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

19th March 2020; 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA

ITEM

12

TSB SUMMARY REPORT 4TH FEBRUARY 2020

Purpose: For Information

The following is a summary of the main discussion points at the meeting pending ratification of the Clerk's Minute at the next TSB.

1. Item 3 - Minutes of TSB Committee held on 4th February 2020

Minutes of 4th February 2020 were approved

2. Item 4- Matters Arising.

Minute No. 22 (Byelaw Making Process). Mr Leigh referred to comments and concerns previously raised by Mr Manning regarding measures to protect local fishing communities. He said Government has talked recently about the need to protect coastal communities in the context of post Brexit negotiations. It is hoped this will make for a positive change going forward but IFCAs are limited by the legislation as it is currently framed.

3. Item 5 – Whelk Track Record

Track record eligibility criteria had been amended following comments at the November meeting. Members agreed a minor change to the wording of paragraph (f).

Officers had drafted a track record appeals process. Members agreed the composition of the appeals panel with the membership drawn from members of the full Authority. Written submissions to be received unless the applicant has a problem with literacy. Members agreed the appeals procedure should be conducted by skype where possible.

4. Item 6 – Potting Permit Byelaw

Members approved amendments to the NWIFCA Potting Permit Byelaw and Flexible Permit Conditions.

It was agreed the Potting Permit Byelaw be re-drafted taking account of comments and agreed changes for presentation to the March Authority meeting to be re-made.

5. Item 7 – Cockle and Mussel Permit Byelaw (progress update):

The byelaw has been submitted to MMO and an acknowledgement has been received. Members will be kept updated on progress.

6. Item 8 – Byelaw Review

Vessel size, minimum fish sizes and static netting byelaws were the focus of discussions at the meeting with TSB Chair, TSB Vice-Chair and senior officers in December.

Timescale for completion of the remainder of the byelaw was discussed. It was agreed this should be 2025.

With respect to the vessel size byelaw, Mr Brown agreed to draft a paper on this for further discussion at the May TSB.

HoE agreed to consult with IFCOs on list of measures for the proposed netting byelaw for further discussion by TSB. There had been some questions around the EA byelaws and how they should be dealt with in the review process. CE agreed to follow this up and report back to the next TSB meeting.

Members agreed that a second meeting of TSB Chair and Vice-Chair with senior officers to continue productive discussions on byelaw review would be useful. A list of priority for byelaw development could then be agreed. Members were asked to put comments to the Chair in writing on the slide presentations to the Chair for further discussion

7. Item 9 - Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes Byelaw

Members agreed the paragraph on live baiting removed from an earlier draft be reinstated in the byelaw.

Amendments to the byelaw were suggested. Members agreed that taking account of comments received and proposed amendments, the byelaw be presented to the March Authority meeting to be made.

8. Item 10 - Science Report

The report, which was for information only, covered:

NWIFCA Research Projects
TAG Meeting – London
Marine Protected Areas in the NWIFCA District
Marine Plans affecting NWIFCA District
Defra Crab Science meeting - London
NAEMO Mussel Research Conference – Oban
Eden Project North – Morecambe
Mersey Sediment Group meeting
National Angling Strategy
Solway Firth Partnership Advisory Group meeting
Solway Coast AONB Management Plan 2020-25 Draft – Consultation
University of Cumbria
Survey and Fisheries reports

9. Item 11 – Dredge Byelaw Permit Fees

Members discussed a request from the Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association to consider a review of the permit fees charged for mussel dredging in the NWIFCA District. At present the permit fee to access the resource is £9,000 per vessel per year. Mr Jones pointed out that seed mussel has been in short supply in recent years. Perch Scar and Black Scar historically built up stock very quickly which then gets washed out very quickly.

Members agreed a review of the dredge byelaw be added into the byelaw review process. Dr Andrews agreed to feed information on the discussions back to the Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association.

10. Item 12 – Any Other Business

Members suggested an alternative venue for TSB meetings be investigated. The CE agreed to look into this.

CLERK
4th March 2020