

NWIFCA Annual Meeting:

18 June 2020: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

ITEM NO.

13

TSB 12TH May Summary Report

Note of Meeting Held Online by Zoom

Members Present: Brian Leigh, Rob Benson, Jim Andrews, Emily Baxter (Chair), Kelsey Thompson, Trevor Jones (Vice Chair) Paul Williams, Steve Brown, Steve Manning (joined later), Dan Wardle (MMO), Liz Hopley (Natural England substituting for Mark Johnston)

Officers: Anthony Graham, Joe Moulton, Mandy Knott, Stephen Atkins, Cath Dobson, Jon Haines

Apologies: Ron Graham, Mark Johnston

1. Announcements: Chair thanked members for attending 1st zoom meeting The meeting was live streamed on YouTube, and an audio recording taken. Reports for Agenda items, 7, 8 & 9 were circulated late. Chair considered them urgent and agreed they be included. 3. Congratulations and thanks were expressed to Clerk Mrs Irene Andrews in respect of her impending retirement.
2. Minutes of the TSB meeting were agreed with some amendments.

Actions:

- i. Two officers had commented on a Vessel length, and shrimp and prawn byelaw paper drafted by Mr Brown;
- ii. A meeting with IFCOs re netting byelaw was postponed by Covid restrictions but could now be actioned;
- iii. Chair reiterated the need for good practice in communications between Members and Officers
- iv. CEO reported follow up on EA and NRW byelaws.
3. Matters Arising (including Chair's Summary of Actions)
 - i. Decisions at online meetings and Statutory Instrument. CEO had circulated SI. CEO reported risk that public and stakeholders may challenge decisions made at online meetings. Councils are not yet holding meetings which public can attend.
 - ii. A change to covid restrictions allowing recreational angling to resume makes the MLS / MCRS byelaw more urgent.
 - iii. Mr. Leigh asked about byelaw making process. CEO reported MCRS and potting byelaws were ready to be made at June meeting. Formal consultation for the potting byelaw had taken place. Amendments had been made

Minutes agreed: Proposed, Mr. Thompson, seconded Mr. Jones. 7 agreed 1 abstention

4. Survey and Inspection Report for information gave updates on stocks of cockles & mussels. Senior Scientist agreed to hold BMWG meeting by Zoom to discuss.
5. **Enforcement District Fisheries Feb – April 2020 Head Of Enforcement Report:**
 - i. Extensive work on COVID protocols and practices
 - ii. Cockle and mussel fisheries have continued. Covid caused an initial dip in effort due to transport and social distancing issues. Cockles market changed with a rise in effort towards closed season
 - iii. Commercial fishers deemed as key workers
 - iv. some staffing & enforcement issues

- v. recreational fishing increased in Cumbria stopped by police
- vi. Heysham Power Station CNC police dealt with activity.
- vii. Most of Cumbrian fleet tied up immediately because of crewing sickness and self-isolation issues.
- viii. whelk boats maintained activity levels
- ix. Defra Fishery funds have been released now after concerns for fleet in the NW. SE and SW fleets recovered. NW fleet not fishing. NI prawn boats fishing but landing Ireland.
- x. Bass fishing active Commercial boats getting good landings.
- xi. IFCOs working on nationally accredited training No vessels active
- xii. Shore based officers keeping intel updated.
- xiii. NWIFCA carrying out on-going shellfish sampling for Councils.

6. CEO Report: Virus Restrictions and Home Working

Mr. Leigh asked for this report to go to June NWIFCA. Asked whether Covid Risk Assessments had been shared with an H&S expert, saying that employers must be confident that measures would protect staff. HoE said RAs had been developed jointly with other IFCA using national government guidelines. And would be reviewed by NWIFCA H&S consultant ASAP.

7. Byelaw Review CEO Report:

TSB Chair had scheduled meeting in March cancelled by COVID. She had circulated by email a list of questions that would have been addressed requesting comments received from HoE and Mrs Dobson. SA reported that NRW asked to kept informed about bylaw development. NRW and EA have not expressed a view on Dee byelaws. CEO agreed to call meeting of Byelaw group. Dr Baxter thanked Mr Brown for his paper saying the background to measures was useful.

Shrimp riddling: Senior Scientist asked Mr Brown about purpose in a byelaw if riddling kills most shrimps. It's not a conservation measure more of a sorting practice by fishermen. Science team to do research and consult other IFCA byelaws. Riddling into shallow water is imports those that survive don't get eaten by gulls would be sensible measure.

8. Members Authoring Reports for the Authority:

SA had asked LA standards officers about procedures. There should be separation of duties of officers and members. In NWIFCA separation has become blurred. Dr Andrews agreed officers should write reports. Members should decide policy. Mr Leigh referred to Scheme of Delegations in Constitution which provides for separation of duties. Members may have disclosable interests. It is right that they do not present reports. Members are there for their expertise and experience. Dr Baxter said she was unhappy that information she had provided was not inaccurately included in reports.

TSB proposed it continues previous with format where agreed TSB outputs are presented to full Authority.

Proposed Mr Jones, Seconded Mr. Thompson. One abstention. All others in favour.

- 8. Science report was tabled for information. No questions.
- 9. AOB General comments that online meeting worked well and could be used for future meetings.

Meeting ended: 12:20

Action	Person to Action this	By When?
1. Meeting with IFCOs over netting byelaw	HOE	ASAP
2. All Improve communications by responses to emails	Officers & Members	On-going
3. Card and flowers to Retiring Clerk Irene Andrews	Cllr Williams Dr. Baxter	ASAP
4. Set up Byelaw review Group meeting	CEO	ASAP
5. Seek advice re online statutory meetings from Chester Council	Cllr Williams	ASAP
6. Seek advice on making byelaws at online meetings	CEO	ASAP

CEO 9th June 2020 (Prepared from meeting notes by Senior Scientist)