

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting
13th September 2018: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA
ITEM NO.
8

SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW
SUB-COMMITTEE 7th August 2018

1. **Appointment of Chairman (Agenda Item 1):** Mr. R. Graham was reappointed as Chairman of TSB for 2018-19.
2. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman (Agenda Item 5):** Mr. T. Jones was reappointed as Vice-Chairman of TSB for 2018-19.
3. **Matters Arising (Agenda Item 6):** The CEO informed members that an offer for the **Solway Protector** had been received. TSB agreed to request a slightly increased offer and refer decision to Finance Committee.

iVMS: The project was discussed at length by AIFCA which commissioned its own independent legal advice. Questions still exist around the eligibility of people with fishing related convictions, the ownership of the unit and the financial risk to IFCA's (further development is reported in the CEO report)

4. **Science Summary Report (Agenda Item 7)**

The report covered:

- a) Marine Protected Areas in the NWIFCA District
- b) St. Bees Voluntary Code of Conduct
- c) NWIFCA Research Projects
- d) MMO evidence project: Non-lethal deterrents suitable for control of seals from fishing vessels
- e) Cefas Smooth Hound Tagging
- f) BLUECOAST
- g) Southern RIB Patrol
- h) TAG - IFCA Technical Advisory Group
- i) Institute of Fisheries Management Conference and Lancaster University
- j) Invasive Non-Native Species and Chinese Mitten Crab
- k) Recreational Anglers Engagement
- l) Crown Estate Offshore Wind Leasing
- m) Staff Training

The report was approved.

5. **Potting Permit Byelaw (Agenda Item 8):** Summer Field survey has limited progress with development to this byelaw. However, following continuing discussions with officers and the fishing industry a draft for the next TSB is expected.

The Chairman relayed industry concerns that CSFC byelaw 25 requiring all pots to have escape gaps for crabs unintentionally prevents the use of whelk pots within the District. This together with gear conflict outside the district is putting fishermen under financial pressure. Members agreed that derogation from the byelaw to allow whelk pots without escape gaps could be a solution. A draft derogation to allow use of whelk pots is presented for approval at this meeting.

6. **Chinese Mitten Crab (Agenda Item 9):** In May 2018 crab tilers found three Chinese Mitten Crabs in the Walney Channel. The findings were immediately reported to NNSS (Non Native Species Secretariat GB and DAERA). The latest finding poses a great risk to the mussel industry. DAERA are currently refusing to allow any seed mussel from

Heysham Flat to be relayed in Northern Ireland, a matter which industry has been working to resolve. EIFCA has taken a pragmatic approach that it will accept mussel from Heysham Flat subject to the operators involved providing letters of assurance that due diligence has been carried out in inspecting and screening the mussel on the beach and prior to relaying.

Work with industry to find a solution to the block on imports was approved.

A request to dredge for seed mussel at Heysham was supported in principle but members recognised that stock is limited so the number of vessels would have to be strictly controlled. The point was made that dredging would require a permit under the dredge byelaw and any dredge fishery opportunities should be made available to all who are interested.

7. Cockle and Mussel Report (Agenda Item 10):

The report covered:

- a) Cockles at Penfold North, Lytham, Pilling, Middleton Sands, Leven Sands, Flookburgh and Newbiggin.
- b) Mussels at South America / Falklands, Heysham Flat, Low Bottom to Foulney Ditch, Foulney, Black Scar, Perch Scar, King Scar, Neckings and Rossall Scar, Wyre End Skear, Seafield Road and West Kirby.
- c) Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery Advisory Group

Members approved the actions of Officers to authorise mussel fisheries at Heysham Flat and Falklands.

8. Byelaw Review: Byelaw 3 (Agenda Item 11): A draft of the byelaw was presented to members. The following significant alterations had been made:

- a) Removed all trader permits.
- b) Added requirements for containers containing cockles to be labelled with the owner.
- c) The window to renew a permit has been reduced from a year to a couple of months.

Members were invited to submit comments and alterations to the CEO via email for consideration for a new draft to be presented as soon as possible.

9. AOB (Agenda Item 12): The Head of Enforcement requested that the authority write to the Police and GLAA regarding assistance on enforcement matters.

Digital Communications Officer
31st August 2018