

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw
Committee**

11th August 2020: 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.**

9

FOR ACTION: BYELAW REVIEW

Purpose: To update Members on the second Byelaw Review meeting held virtually in May with Officers, and to present the outputs and actions arising from this meeting.

Recommendations: Members discuss the content of the second Byelaw Review meeting and agree next steps.

Background

1. At the February TSB meeting Members approved a second meeting of the Chair and Vice-Chair of TSB to be held with Senior Officers on 25 March 2020. The aim of this meeting was to continue to look through all of the potential new byelaws needed, giving Officers the opportunity to input their thoughts, knowledge and experience on the byelaw review process before bringing it back to the TSB for further discussion.
2. Unfortunately, due to the emerging situation regarding the COVID-19 outbreak the meeting was cancelled. In light of this, the Chair then circulated questions in a virtual flipchart (powerpoint presentation on Google Documents) to allow officers to add comments on a single document for the remaining byelaws to be discussed.
3. Papers composed by member Steve Brown on the matters of the shrimp & prawn and vessel size byelaws were also circulated to Officers for comment.
4. At the May TSB, it was agreed that the second byelaw review meeting should be rescheduled and held virtually. This meeting was rescheduled for 29 May 2020.

May Byelaw Review Meeting

5. A virtual meeting was held via Zoom with the following Officers and Members in attendance: Stephen Atkins (CEO), Mandy Knott (Senior Scientist), Jon Haines (Deputy Senior Scientist), Joe Moulton (Head of Enforcement), Cath Dobson (Senior Operational Support Officer), Trevor Jones (Vice-Chair TSB) and Emily Baxter (Chair TSB).
6. Comments on Steve Brown's papers and the content of the meeting were received in advance from Cath Dobson and Mandy Knott – these comments formed the basis of the discussion.
7. The discussion covered the following:
 - i. The need for an emergency byelaw due to the emerging situation in Leasowe regarding hand gathering for bivalves
 - ii. Items to review from last meeting – Comments on SB's vessel size and shrimp & prawn byelaws
 - iii. Analysis of the remaining potential byelaws including: trawling/mobile netting, shrimp & prawn, recreational gathering, iVMS, EA/NRA byelaws
 - iv. Actions to be taken forward

8. For each possible new byelaw discussed, a number of questions were discussed (where relevant) and comments were noted on flip charts:
 - i. What is the justification for the new byelaw?
 - ii. What do we want to achieve with a new byelaw?
 - iii. Is it specific to a particular sector/species/gear?
 - iv. Analysis of the possible new byelaws table – missing, erroneous or surplus byelaws?
 - v. Which strategy might be relevant: status quo, consolidate or redevelop?
 - vi. What do we know at the moment?
 - vii. What additional evidence is required to achieve our aim?
 - viii. What are the implications (positive/negative) of implementing new measures?
Which other byelaws/SIs/Tech Cons/legislation will it interact with?
 - ix. Are there any suitable, relevant and well-written byelaws implemented by other IFCAs?

9. A summary of the discussion and comments made at this meeting, as well as the outputs (actions) are presented in Annex A of this report and will be presented at the meeting to allow discussion and decision on next steps.

Mandy Knott
Senior Scientist
27th July 2020