

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting
6th December 2018: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA
ITEM NO.
9

SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW
SUB-COMMITTEE 6th November 2018

1. Science Summary Report (Agenda Item 7)

The report covered:

- a) Marine Protected Areas in the NWIFCA District
- b) NWIFCA Research Projects
- c) North Western Protector
- d) Biosecurity Plan
- e) Recreational Anglers Engagement
- f) North West Marine Plan - MMO
- g) Solway Firth Partnership Working Group
- h) Barrow Wildlife and Heritage Advisory Committee
- i) Crown Estate Offshore Wind Leasing

Members requested that a representative from Cefas be asked to make a presentation to a future meeting of the full Authority on the Bass populations and tagging study.

- 2. Potting Permit Byelaw (Agenda Item 6):** A drop in day to consult on the proposed potting permit byelaw held in Whitehaven on 3rd October was well attended. A further drop in day was held on 12th November in Preston. Members commented on the proposed catch restrictions for prawn and Nephrops, suggested administration fees for permits, the need for cost recovery in line with other recent new byelaws, and vessel size limits.

Dr Andrews asked whether a written procedure is in place for reviewing flexible permit conditions. Members agreed that such a procedure be produced for approval by TSB and adoption by the full NWIFCA.

Members were invited to submit comments the proposed byelaw to the science team and agreed that a further report on the byelaw be considered at the next TSB Committee.

3. Cockle and Mussel Report (Agenda Item 7): |

The report covered:

- a) BMWG – Bivalve Mollusc Working Group
- b) Mussels at Heysham Flat, Foulney, Fleetwood, Perch Scar, Seafield Road, Lytham, and Dee.
- c) Cockles at Penfold North, Morecambe Bay, Pilling Sands, Leven Sands/Flookburgh, Newbiggin, Leasowe.
- d) Shellfish Liaison group

Subtidal mussel in the Solway: Two fishermen had requested authorisation to dredge but no information on stock is available so an HRA cannot be carried out. NWIFCA has informed the fishermen that a fishery cannot be authorised until data is available.

Leven Sands/Flookburgh cockle fishery: Some permit holders were detected using rakes rather than the craam and reduced size jumbos specified in the authorisation. Sanctions were applied.

Members agreed that the Leven Sands/Flookburgh cockle fishery should be closed immediately pending a further survey to assess remaining stock. Should sufficient stock remain a revised Habitats Regulation Assessment will be required before a decision can be made on reopening the bed.

- 4. Cockle and Mussel Permit Byelaw (Agenda Item 8):** New proposals for defined commercial areas have been added to the byelaw following MMO comments that the proposal to have such areas as flexible conditions would not be allowed. Four areas were suggested instead of the two in the present byelaw. Members agreed that the permit fee should remain at £500 although with present permit numbers this does not achieve full cost recovery. Comments and concerns from members related to the closed season, sanctions available and the need for powers to suspend permits, and a procedure for changing flexible permit conditions.

Members agreed that a further draft of the proposed Cockle and Mussel Permit Byelaw 2018 should be prepared for discussion by the TSB Committee.

- 5. District Whelk Fisheries (Agenda Item 9):** Interest in whelk fisheries nationally continues to grow. Officers have met individually with 6 whelk fishermen and 2 major processors in the district since August. The Senior Scientist had a lengthy discussion with the Bangor scientist working with the Isle of Man fisheries on the management of whelk fisheries there. Many of the other IFCA's and also Cefas are also carrying out work on whelk fisheries.

Members approved work to produce a full report on the knowledge gained from stakeholder consultations, issues identified and proposals for a precautionary approach to management.

- 6. iVMS Consultation (Agenda Item 10):** The consultation closes on 14th November. Members agreed that a submission from the Authority is not needed. NWIFCA is making arrangements to install iVMS on its patrol vessels as previously agreed.
- 7. AOB (Agenda Item 11):** Dr Andrews had been made aware by SAGB of a Defra consultation being carried out on proposed changes to existing exemptions to the marine licensing process. The deadline for response is 14th December. Members agreed any response should be from the Authority and that comments should be sent to officers in time for a report to be submitted to the December meeting.

Clerk
20th November 2018