

# NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

## 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA  
ITEM NO.  
9

### SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW SUB-COMMITTEE – 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019

1. **Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Dr Emily Baxter was elected as the Chairman and Trevor Jones was re-elected as the Vice Chairman. The Chairman thanked Mr Graham on behalf of Members for the excellent job he had done as Chairman of TSB Committee since 2012.

2. **Minutes of the Technical, Science and Byelaw Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (Agenda Item 5)**

The minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 TSB were approved.

3. **Matters Arising (Agenda Item 6)**

1. Minute No. 212 (NWIFCA Potting Permit Byelaw 2019). Members discussed cost recovery options. CEO said a spreadsheet detailing the calculation of costs and payments for the potting permit byelaw had previously been circulated.

CEO to circulate spreadsheet for the calculation of potting permit fees to members.

4. **Potting Permit Byelaw 2019 (Agenda Item 7)**

Following the June Annual Meeting of the Authority members had provided comments on the proposed potting permit byelaw.

Visitor Gary Pidduck was invited to comment. Mr Pidduck said he has a track record issued by MMO but under the new potting byelaw he will need a track record for the NWIFCA area. Senior Scientist said this was a specific track record document from the MMO regarding latent capacity for crab and lobster fisheries. IFCA's are entitled to set a track record how they wish for fisheries within their districts.

Members discussed and voted on a series of resolutions relating to the following issues:

Vessel length, pot limit, riddles and bar spacing, permit suspension, separate Category One permits, marking of gear, flexible permit conditions and requirement for escape gaps in nephrops pots.

Members approved the re-drafting of the Potting Permit Byelaw as soon as possible, incorporating the agreed changes with the aim of making the byelaw at the September meeting.

5. **Byelaw Review (Agenda Item 8)**

CEO reported on changes in regulations that could affect IFCA's ability to enforce Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes. A paper will be produced for discussion at the next TSB meeting presenting options for dealing with this issue

Mr Benson suggested there should be some flexibility built into the Cockle and Mussel permit scheme to offer permits to allow mussel seed to be fished by additional permit

holders when other concurrent fisheries mean effort is directed elsewhere. He proposed the Authority calls back the Cockle and Mussel Permit Byelaw made in June. Members were reminded that Standing Orders do not allow discussion of an item within six months of a resolution being made.

Members agreed the Byelaw Review should form the substantive item on the Agenda for the next TSB meeting.

Members further agreed the committee should adopt an approach to separate agenda items into those for information only and those for decision at TSB meetings.

## 6. **Science Summary Report (Agenda Item 9)**

The report covered:

Marine Protected Areas in the NWIFCA District  
NWIFCA Research Projects  
National IFCA TAG Conference and Whelk Working Group  
Halite Gas Storage and Brine Discharge  
Dee Tidal Catchment Partnership – Dee Coastliners Project  
EMFF Workshop  
Mussels

Cockles: The most recent survey report was discussed. There is a substantial stock of size cockles in Morecambe Bay, spread across a very wide area. It was proposed the beds at Newbiggin, Leven Sands, Flookburgh and the east side of Pilling are opened for size cockle fishing to Byelaw 3 permit holders from 1<sup>st</sup> September with Byelaw 16 closures on the beds at Middleton and Aldingham, Warton Sands and the west side of Pilling. This proposal was agreed.

A survey carried out at Leasowe last week shows a lot of size cockle in the muddier areas between the groynes and which has spread out across the whole of the bed. The latest biomass estimate is around 1,200 tonnes of size and 500 tonnes of undersize. There is the possibility of a limited fishery with a restricted TAC. Discussions with Natural England on bird food provision will be required. A decision on the fishery will be made via email once the HRA has been drafted.

## 5. **Any Other Business (Agenda Item10)**

1. **Pilot Nephrops Creel Fishery Project.** The Chairman was seeking a derogation against Cumbria SFC Byelaw 25 to allow a limited number of creels without escape gaps to be set from North Western Protector within the NWIFCA District (catch and release only) to trial the use of nephrops creels. Mr Johnston (NE) said this would be a small-scale trial to identify potential issues and the feasibility of the fishery due to weather and exposure. Consultation with fishing community would be sought on a suitable area for the trial where no trawling would be occurring for the duration of the surveys to avoid any impact on current fishing activity occurring within the District.

Members approved the derogation from Cumbria SFC Byelaw 25 for this project.

**CLERK**  
**27<sup>th</sup> August 2019**