

PRESENT – MEMBERS

Councillor A. J. Markley	(Chairman)	Cumbria County Council
Dr J. Andrews		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Dr E. Baxter		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr C. Booth		MMO appointee (Marine Science/Environment)
Councillor K. Brown		Lancashire County Council
Mr D. Clarke		MMO appointee
Mr B. Crawford		MMO appointee (Anglers and Recreation)
Mr R. Graham		MMO appointee (Commercial)
Mr T. Jones		MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)
Councillor J. J. Kelly		Sefton Council
Mr B. Leigh		MMO appointee (Anglers and Recreation)
Mr C. Lumb		Natural England (Officer)
Mr S. J. Manning		MMO appointee (Commercial)
Mr. M. Oddy		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Ms P. Taylor		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr K. Thompson		MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)
Councillor P. Williams		Chester West and Chester Council
Mr D. Ward		MMO (Officer)

COUNCIL OFFICERS ATTENDING

Mr D. McAleavy Sefton Council

NWIFCA OFFICERS ATTENDING

CEO, Head of Enforcement, Finance Officer, Clerk, Master Patrol Vessel

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor L. Beavers	Lancashire County Council
Councillor J. Elmes	Blackpool Borough Council
Mr D. Grunshaw	MMO appointee
Mr D. Harpley	MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Councillor K. Little	Cumbria County Council
Councillor J. Noakes	Liverpool City Council
Councillor B. Woolfall	Halton Council
Mr P. Wright (Officer)	Halton Council
Mr C. Clayton (Officer)	Wirral Council

36 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 1)

1. The Chairman welcomed new member Councillor P. Williams (Cheshire West and Chester Council), new Science Officers Jon Haines and Abi Carroll.
2. The Chairman welcomed MMO officers Mr D. Howarth and Ms H. Johnston.
3. The Chairman announced that Mr R. Benson's membership of NWIFCA has been terminated by MMO following an investigation that he had brought the Authority into disrepute in contravention of the members' Code of Conduct
4. Members should have received a copy of the NWIFCA Annual Report 2014-15 and Supplementary Report which were circulated by email (Agenda Item 9). An update from Lancashire County Council on purchase of NWIFCA replacement patrol vessel was tabled (Agenda Item 9).

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

Agenda Item 7. Byelaw Review. Mr S. J. Manning.

Agenda Item 10. Report on TSB meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Mr T. Jones

Agenda Item 11. Science Report. Mr T. Jones, Mr S. J. Manning

38 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE NWIFCA MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED. To approve and sign the minutes of the NWIFCA meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015 as a correct record.

39 MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Item 4)

1. Minute No. 28. Chief Officer's Report. Procurement of main patrol vessel: Mr Graham said his understanding was that the proposed steering group should include members of this Authority but this was not in the minutes. Mr Jones said his request that members of the former vessel committee be included was also not in the minutes. Members agreed that any vessel committee should have member involvement.

2. Minute No. 29. Standing Orders. Mr Leigh stressed the need to update Standing Orders. It was agreed the Chairman's Committee should be asked to carry out a review of Standing Orders, that a meeting should be arranged as early as possible in the New Year and Mr Leigh be invited to attend.

40 REPORT ON FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015 10.00 (Agenda Item 5)

The budget and levy for 2016/17 was discussed and approved.

Following changes to the audit regulations, the independent accountancy firm Moore & Smalley will continue to provide a comprehensive and independent audit for NWIFCA.

The Lancashire County Council update on vessel procurement was discussed.

RESOLVED. To receive the report.

41 FINANCIAL REPORT (Agenda Item 6)

As the Finance Sub-Committee had met earlier and recommended that the Budget and Levy for 2016-17 be approved, this was now presented for approval by the whole Authority. The Budget Review to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 showed that spending was well within budget. The annual review of Risk Assessment was also presented to the Authority for approval.

Approval of the recommendations were proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Brown.

RESOLVED

1. The Budget Review to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 be approved.

2. The Risk Assessment is reviewed and approved.

3. The Budget and Levy for 2016-17 be approved.

42 BYELAW REVIEW (Agenda Item 7)

The report sought members' approval to improve Byelaw 3 as a priority in order to enable possible future cockle and mussel fisheries to be run more effectively.

The use of Regulatory Notices and flexible permitting was discussed. A proposed permit scheme for cockle and mussel buyers was questioned. Regulatory weaknesses in the current byelaw were considered. The proposed byelaw should be discussed with MMO and the TSB Committee before consultation took place with industry, partner bodies and stakeholders.

Mr Graham noted the update on other byelaws under review and queried the TSB discussion time required.

It was RESOLVED to:

1. Approve further work on a new cockle and mussel permit byelaw with regulatory notices and first sale permit schemes as immediate priority.
2. Note update on other byelaws under review.

43 HEAD OF ENFORCEMENT REPORT (Agenda Item 8)

Fishing activity throughout the District during the quarter was reported. Compliance with Byelaw 3 returns has improved although there are still some individuals who are not submitting regular returns.

There were two court proceedings during the quarter, an appeal of sentence by Brian Faulkner and prosecution of Mr Christopher Parker for lobster and crab offences.

Relevant byelaws have now been amended to include the landing obligations under the IFCA (Miscellaneous Byelaw Amendments (England) Order 2015).

It was RESOLVED to receive the report.

44 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT (Agenda Item 9)

Defra. Future funding of IFCA's is still under consideration.

Association of IFCA. A report on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 meeting and Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 meeting were circulated. Increased Joint agency working involving IFCA, MMO and Defra is being considered in detail. An initial Project Initiation Document has been produced and a steering group set up. Members will be kept informed on progress.

Procurement of main patrol vessel replacement. An update from Lancashire County Council (LCC) had been tabled but they are absent due to illness. At the earlier Finance Committee meeting the possibility of the Authority taking the lead in contracting Seafish as technical specialist advisor on the build and tender specification was suggested. An early meeting of the Vessel Committee was proposed to review progress. CEO was asked to contract Seafish to advise on the specification and monitor implementation.

CEO stated that membership of the vessel Committee is out of date. Councillors Markley and Williams, Messrs. Graham, Jones, Clarke and Dr Andrews volunteered and were appointed. Master of the patrol vessel should attend.

RESOLVED

1. An early meeting of the Vessel Committee be arranged with Seafish and LCC.

2. Membership of the Vessel Sub-Committee to comprise Councillors A. J. Markley and P. Williams, Messrs. R. Graham, T. Jones, D. Clarke, Dr J. Andrews.

45 REPORT ON TSB MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 (Agenda Item 10)

The TSB Vice-Chairman, Mr Jones, reported, the Chairman having been absent.

Bivalve Mollusc Development Group meeting. Work of the group will be extended to include cockle fisheries and will consider if membership needs amending.

Heysham Flat. Mr Jones reported that science officers and industry representatives inspected mussel beds on 30<sup>th</sup> October. He was pleased to report good liaison between the industry and NWIFCA Science Team.

A.O.B. The Chief Executive had reported on a meeting held with David Morris, MP prior to the TSB meeting at which the cockle fishery, National Grid routing and the proposed new nuclear power station at Heysham were discussed.

It was RESOLVED to receive the report.

47 SCIENCE REPORT (Agenda Item 11)

EU Proposal for further bass measures. Mr Leigh was concerned about impacts in the District. The report could mention impacts on the recreational sport fishery and on companies such as tackle shops. The proposed 1 tonne per month per boat for commercial fishermen and the 1 fish per person per day recreational limit is disproportionate and unfair.

Dr Andrews commented on the expertise of Mr Pawson, previously of Cefas, to advise AIFCA. The Chairman said he would convey the suggestion to AIFCA CEO.

Bivalve Mollusc Working Group. Mr Jones updated members on paragraph 8 of the notes of 8<sup>th</sup> September. The PhD project on larval dispersal in the Menai Strait may provide information on mussel movement in Morecambe Bay. The application for a three year PhD project on bird food requirements is delayed until the next round. Work is continuing on the remit of the project. Interested parties will be consulted.

Duddon Estuary. Mr Manning said the mussel fishery had been very successful. IFCO Ian Dixon had been helpful in liaising with the local council and should be commended.

It was RESOLVED to receive the report.

48 A.O.B. (Agenda Item 12)

Salmon Summit. Dr Andrews raised noted measures to reduce netting claimed by some to be a threat to salmon. Evidence is not clear but IFCA may be pressured to act. Any management affecting livelihoods should be based on evidence.

The Chief Executive noted that netting was unfairly targeted because it is the only activity that IFCA can regulate. The potential conflicts between conservation of salmon and bass because of the impact which bass has on small salmon could make management complex. If the bass population recovers the salmon population is likely to be damaged.

There being no further business the Chairman wished members compliments of the season and closed the meeting at 1235 hours.