

PRESENT – MEMBERS

Dr J. Andrews	MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Dr E. Baxter	MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr D. Bedworth	Environment Agency
Mr D. Clarke	MMO appointee (Fishing Industry – Cumbria)
Mr B. Crawford	MMO appointee (Anglers and Recreation)
Mr S. Douglas	MMO (Officer)
Mr R. Graham	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Mr D. Harpley	MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr T. Jones	MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)
Mr B. Leigh	MMO appointee (Anglers and Recreation)
Mr C. Lumb	Natural England
Mr S. Manning	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Councillor A. J. Markley	Cumbria County Council
Mr M. Oddy	MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Councillor R. Owens	Sefton Council
Ms C. Salthouse	MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr K. Thompson	Commercial/Aquaculture)
Councillor P. Williams	Cheshire West and Chester Council

COUNCIL OFFICERS ATTENDING

Mr D. McAleavy Sefton Council

NWIFCA OFFICERS ATTENDING

CEO, Clerk, Senior Scientist

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor L. Beavers	Lancashire County Council
Mr C. Booth	MMO appointee (Marine Science/Environment)
Councillor K. Brown	Lancashire County Council
Mr D. Grunshaw	MMO appointee (Shellfish Aquaculture)
Mr S. Mounsey	Environment Agency
Councillor J. Noakes	Liverpool City Council
Mr D. Ward	MMO (Officer)
Councillor B. Woolfall	Halton Council
Mr P. Wright (Officer)	Halton Council

66 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN (Agenda Item 1)

The Chief Executive opened the meeting by calling for nominations for Chairman for the year. Councillor A. Markley was nominated by Mr B. Crawford and seconded by Councillor P. Williams.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor A. J. Markley be reappointed Chairman for the forthcoming year.

66 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 2)

1. The Chairman welcomed new member Councillor R. Owens (Sefton Council) replacing Councillor J. Kelly who has tendered his resignation from the Authority as from 31<sup>st</sup> May. Ms P. Taylor (MMO appointee) has also tendered her resignation from the Authority.

2. The Chairman welcomed MMO officer Mr D. Abbott and visitors.
3. Supplementary Report to Agenda Item 8 was tabled.
4. The Chairman announced a presentation and lunch to mark the retirement in July of NE Officer Chris Lumb who has been a member of the Authority since its formation in 2010 and has provided advice to the NWIFCA and to Sea Fisheries Committees over more than 2 decades.

67 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN (Agenda Item 3)

There were two nominations. A nomination from Mr B. Crawford was seconded by Mr B. Leigh. Mr R. Graham was nominated by Mr T. Jones and seconded by Mr D. Clarke.

In accordance with Standing Orders 18(a) and 19, Members voted on each of the nominations.

It was RESOLVED that Mr R. Graham be reappointed Vice-Chairman of the North Western IFCA for the forthcoming year.

68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 9. Byelaw 11: Permit to Dredge 2016. Dr J. Andrews, Mr T. Jones, Mr S. Manning, Mr K. Thompson

Agenda Item 10. Vessel Procurement: Update. Mr T. Jones, Mr M. Oddy.

Agenda Item 13. Science Report. Mr T. Jones, Mr S. Manning, Mr K. Thompson.

69 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE NWIFCA MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016 (Agenda Item 5).

After an extended discussion, it was agreed without a vote that comments on the minutes including those sent to the office by email after the draft minutes were sent to members, would be received under Matters Arising. Comments on the Annual Plan would be taken at Agenda 15.

Ms Salthouse proposed approval of the draft minutes as a correct record. Mr. Jones seconded.

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes as a correct record.

70 MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Item 6)

Minute No. 55

Mr Oddy asked for it to be noted that the Authority had submitted a draft plan to Defra as in previous years and he had suggested that the Authority should have written delegated powers.

There then followed an extended discussion about the process for approving minutes and recording matters arising.

Dr Andrews stated that he had raised concerns in the March Meeting that the Annual Plan may not be compliant with MACAA. He had proposed that the issue should be re-visited at a subsequent meeting.

(NB CEO note: The Clerk found nothing to this effect in the recording of the March meeting but Dr Andrews had made the point about compliance with MACAA in a subsequent email to the CEO and Chairman with an instruction that he did not wish the email to be sent to the wider membership of the Authority. CEO then read out the main 7

points in the email which were criticisms of the Annual Plan and invited further comments on each. None were received and no further proposals made).

Dr Andrews again raised his concern in more detail and repeated his proposal that the plan did not comply with MACAA. The proposal was seconded by Mr Jones. Following a vote (not recorded, 2 abstentions) the proposal was approved. Further discussion of the Annual Plan was referred to the later agenda item.

Mr Oddy proposed that the Authority should have a formal scheme of written delegated powers. The proposal was seconded by Dr Andrews. Following a vote (not recorded, 1 abstention) the proposal was approved. (NB CEO note: Drafting of a Scheme of Delegations was agreed at a previous meeting to form part of the planned review of Standing Orders.)

Minute No. 63: Dr Baxter asked for a minute that she had voted against the Leven cockle fishery (vote was recorded as unanimous in favour).

#### RESOLVED

1. Dr Andrews' previous concerns that the Annual Plan may not be compliant with MACAA be noted and revisited at a subsequent meeting.
2. A scheme of delegations should be drafted to accompany Standing Orders

#### 70 FINANCIAL REPORT (Agenda Item 7)

Approval of the recommendations were proposed by Dr Andrews and seconded by Councillor Williams

#### RESOLVED

1. The Budget Review for 2014-16 is approved.
2. The Internal Audit Report, Internal Controls Review and Accounting Statement to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 are approved.
3. The Financial Report is approved.

#### 71 APPOINTMENT OF TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 8).

The outcome of the postal ballot was tabled. Following a vote, with 1 member against, the membership of the TSB was approved.

#### RESOLVED

1. The following persons be appointed members of the Technical, Science and Byelaw Sub-Committee for the forthcoming year:

Dr J. Andrews,            Dr E. Baxter            Mr C. Booth            Mr D. Clarke  
Mr T. Jones            Mr B. Leigh            Mr K. Thompson  
Ex-officio: EA, NE, MMO Officers; Councillor A. J. Markley (Chairman); Mr R. Graham (Vice Chairman)

#### 72 BYELAW 11: PERMIT TO DREDGE 2016 (Agenda Item 9)

This byelaw is intended to replace the Emergency byelaw Restrictions on Fishing for Bivalve Molluscan Shellfish) introduced in February 2016.

Mr Graham asked for clarification on whether the byelaw would cover only licenced vessels or all vessels. CEO said the byelaw would apply to all vessels.

Dr Andrews queried inclusion of the requirement to have dredges lashed and stowed when not in use and the need for redrafting the link between paragraphs 2 and 3. Mr Jones was concerned about safety implications of this clause on some vessels

Mr Thompson sought clarification that the new byelaw will not affect permissions required for the use of a mechanical device for aquaculture operations at the oyster farm. The CEO confirmed this point would be considered in further drafting of the new byelaw.

Mr Oddy proposed that the draft byelaw is reviewed at the next TSB meeting. The proposal was seconded by Mr Thompson and following a vote (not recorded) the proposal was approved. Comments on the draft byelaw should be submitted to the CEO by the 24<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Abbott (MMO) agreed to arrange for an IFCA byelaw officer to attend the next TSB Committee meeting.

It was RESOLVED

1. Comments on the draft byelaw be sent to CEO by 24<sup>th</sup> June and a further draft of Byelaw 11 be referred to the next TSB meeting;
2. Mr Abbott (MMO) to arrange for an MMO Byelaws officer to attend TSB.

#### 73 VESSEL PROCUREMENT: UPDATE (Agenda Item 10)

The Vessel Committee met at 09.30 today to review tender documentation from Lancashire County Council (LCC). The Committee recommends that the Authority approves instructing LCC to progress the tender process by advertising a Prior Information Notice (PIN) in the EU journal including the specification and budget of £1M. The PIN would be advertised for 30 days.

Mr Oddy proposed that the CEO should write formally to Defra seeking advice on financing the replacement vessel. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Williams and approved (vote not recorded).

RESOLVED

1. LCC to progress tender procedure.
2. CEO to write to Defra seeking advice on financing of replacement vessel.

#### 74 PATROL AND ENFORCEMENT REPORT (Agenda Item 11)

The CEO presented the report in the absence of the HoE on paternity leave. Members sent congratulations to the HoE on the birth of his son.

The landings figures shown in Annex A of the report were queried. It was suggested the HoE should be asked to check the figures and provide confirmation at the next NWIFCA meeting on how these were calculated. Figures should show whether they are complete or whether there are still outstanding returns. Members noted that accurate returns are crucial to good management of the fishery but should not be published with enough detail to identify fishers to ensure compliance with DPA.

RESOLVED

1. Accuracy of landing figures in Annex A to be clarified. Data should not be presented so as to enable identification of fishers.

2. Congratulations be passed to the HoE on the birth of his son, Dougie William.

75 PRESENTATION TO NATURAL ENGLAND APPOINTEE CHRIS LUMB

The Chairman thanked Mr Lumb for his work with the North Western IFCA and with the former North Western and North Wales and Cumbria SFC. Mr Lumb has been a long established, very worthy member of the Authority and he will be missed.

CEO said that Chris Lumb had done important marine conservation work in NW England in his long career with Natural England and predecessor bodies, including helping to launch the Solway Firth Partnership and other coastal groups which have stood the test of time. His work on the Irish Sea Pilot had helped to inform the content of the 2009 Marine Act. The Authority wished to recognise Mr Lumb's work for marine conservation in the North West and the CEO presented him with a commemorative plate which had been produced for the centenary of the North Western and North Wales SFC in 1990.

Members then wished Mr Lumb a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

76 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING until 1330 hours was agreed.

77 MEETING RECONVENED AT 1330 HOURS

78 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT (Agenda Item 12)

Standing Order Review. Member Mr Brian Leigh has relevant experience and has offered to draft new Standing Orders. Eastern IFCA has given approval for the Authority to use their recently updated Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegations as a model. A draft will be discussed at a future meeting as soon as possible.

NWIFCA Health and Safety Policy. The policy of recording near misses was raised. The CEO confirmed the Authority does record these.

Officer and Member Changes. There are currently 3 MMO vacancies on the Authority. MMO will shortly make a decision on whether to carry out a further recruitment campaign. Representation from the scientific community is lacking and Mr Lumb suggested establishing a partnership with a University to support and assist undergraduate or post-graduate research projects as this could lead to member applications. Representation from the fishing sector in various parts of the District is also lacking.

Members requested that MMO appointees be given greater clarity on their IFCA role. Mr Abbott confirmed that they are appointed for their knowledge and skills and their ability to reflect the interests and concerns of the different sectors but must take decisions for the good of the District as a whole. He confirmed MMO appointees are not appointed to represent their particular sector.

MMO require their appointees to undergo annual appraisals. The CEO was asked to propose a procedure for the September meeting.

RESOLVED

1. Review of Standing Orders to be progressed.
2. A procedure for member appraisals be drafted for the September meeting.

79 SCIENCE REPORT (Agenda Item 13)

Staffing and Recruitment. The Senior Scientist introduced the new Science Office, Belinda Vause, who has replaced Sarah Temple.

BMWG. The main outstanding issue in finalising the draft Morecambe Bay Mussel Management Plan is bird food requirements. Member Mr Booth from RSPB had provided advice and Mr Lumb confirmed that Mr Booth's advice mirrors that from NE.

An industry helicopter survey of seed mussel beds in North Morecambe Bay took place earlier in the week. A report on the findings of the survey will be provided. Seed mussel dredging interests and Byelaw 3 permit holders will attempt to agree areas to be allocated to each of the sectors. The Senior Scientist referred to Officers' delegated powers to open fisheries if there are no contentious issues but with objections referred back to the Authority. The Senior Scientist asked for a minute that the Authority has renewed delegated powers to officers to open fisheries this year.

Marine Planning – Launch of the NW Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas. A series of workshops will take place in July. Details are on the NW Coastal Forum website. Ms Salthouse agreed to forward details to members.

Small Fish Surveys. Mr Leigh offered to assist with getting recreational anglers involved in any survey work carried out by NWIFCA.

#### RESOLVED

1. A report on recent seed mussel survey results to be circulated to members.
2. Delegated powers to officers to open non-contentious fisheries be renewed.

#### 80 REPORT ON TSB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 (Agenda Item 14)

The TSB Chairman, Mr Graham, reported.

MCZ Tranche 2 Designations. There are 2 designations in the NWIFCA area, Allonby Bay and West of Walney. Tranche 3 designations are likely to be introduced in 2018 which may include the Mud Hole. A suggestion has been made for this designation to be moved to Queenie Corner to the South West of the Isle of Man.

Byelaw Review. Mr Lumb pointed out he had proposed a review of all the byelaws be carried out and a revised programme agreed. Dr Baxter proposed that a special meeting of the TSB should be convened to consider the byelaw review. The proposal was seconded by Dr Andrews. The CEO cautioned that the Authority does not have resources for extra meetings. It was agreed to allocate a half day at the next TSB to the byelaw review.

Members agreed that MMO input on the byelaw review process would be helpful. Mr Douglas said MMO would provide all the assistance it could.

Flexible Permit Byelaws. The TSB has agreed the principle of introducing flexible permit byelaws.

Leven Cackle Fishery. The fishery was open from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April. Verbal advice was given and official warning letters issued mainly to enforce the requirement to use a craam and not use a rake. A total of 13,937 kg cockles were removed from the bed. Mr Manning stated that enforcement was heavy-handed at times, there being too many enforcement officers present. Officers pointed out that this was the first cockle fishery in the district since 2008, numbers of fishers were unknown and the enforcement was judged against the risk of large numbers attempting to fish.

#### RESOLVED

1. Time be allocated to a byelaw review at the next TSB meeting.

81 ANNUAL PLAN (Agenda Item 15)

Members were reminded of the earlier comments raised on this item. It was felt the Annual Plan submitted to Defra next year should provide more useful information and give a clear indication of the Authority's values and what it is seeking to achieve. Comments and suggestions for amendments to the current plan should be sent to the CEO 15 days prior to the date of the meeting

It was suggested that information on the importance and value of commercial and recreational fisheries should be included in the plan if data is available.

Mr Graham pointed out that in the section on "Fishing in the District", commercial fishing for neophrops is otter trawling and not beam trawling.

RESOLVED

1. Proposed amendments to the current plan be received at the Office 15 days prior to date of meetings.
2. Where data is available, the importance and value of commercial and recreational fishing information to be referenced in Annual Reports.

82 ANY OTHER ITEMS

Members' Attendance.

Mr Crawford asked for a minute that he was originally appointed to the Authority in October 2010 and reappointed to the Authority in November 2015. Mr Clarke pointed out he also had been reappointed in November 2015. It was agreed to amend the Members' Attendance report accordingly.

Dr Andrews said Mr Benson should have been listed in Members' Attendance as having resigned. (NB Clerk's note: Following a check after the meeting it was confirmed that Mr Benson's appointment was terminated by MMO before his letter of resignation was received).

A member said that Councillor Little (Cumbria County Council) has not attended recent meetings of the Authority. The Chairman will address this point at the next Cumbria Council meeting.

Meeting ended 1530.