

# NWIFCA Annual Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO.  
14**

## SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW SUB-COMMITTEE - 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015

1. The Technical, Science and Byelaw Sub-Committee met at Truckhaven, Carnforth on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 1000 hours.

The following members were present:

Mr R. Graham	(Chairman)	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Dr E. Baxter		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr R. Benson		MMO appointee (Fishing Industry (N. West))
Mr T. Jones		MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)
Mr C. Lumb		Natural England
Councillor A. J. Markley		Cumbria County Council
Mr K. Thompson		MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)

An apology for absence was received from Mr A. Newlands, MMO.

2. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed visitors Mr G. Wood and Mr K. Mould.

3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were approved. There was one matter arising.

**Minute 213** Matters arising from Special TSB Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Members discussed points raised by Mr Jones on the distinction between biogenic reefs and ephemeral beds and the sustainability of seed mussel dredging in Morecambe Bay. With regard to sustainability, Mr Jones pointed out that the seed mussel dredge fishery in the Menai Strait has been through MSC accreditation.

4. The following items were discussed.

### **Minute No. 225                      Science Summary Report (Agenda Item 5)**

Items discussed included Cockle and Mussel Fisheries in the NWIFCA District, Survey and Fisheries Work, Bivalve Mollusc Working Group, Assessment of Fishing Activities in European Marine Sites, Mersey Crab Tiles, MCZ Tranche 2, Slipper Limpets and Biosecurity, Project Inshore and Training. Members also discussed Power and Energy including North West Coast Connections – National Grid work on routing options for cables from Moorside nuclear power station, West Cumbria Tidal Lagoon and Wyre Estuary Tidal Barrage.

### RESOLVED

1. The report be received.
2. As far as possible Officers should inform all Byelaw 3 permit holders by text and website notices of any fisheries that are opening.

### **Minute No. 226                      Lobster Emergency Byelaw and Enforcing EU Technical Measures (Agenda Item 6)**

The Head of Enforcement updated members on revocations of Statutory Instruments by Defra in April 2015 which had the unintended effect of removing all IFCO powers to enforce EU

technical conservation measures and the lobster minimum landing size (MLS). To reverse this unfortunate oversight in the run-up to the election, NWIFCA urgently made an emergency byelaw and MMO have temporarily cross warranted IFCOs to provide for enforcement of EU legislation. Defra have stated that MCAA S166 will be amended to give IFCOs warranted powers to enforce EU technical conservation measures.

**Minute No. 227                      Bass Update Agenda Item 7)**

Members were updated on the changes to Bass regulations. Officers have been cross-warranted to enforce the regulations.

**Minute No. 228                      Byelaw Review – Byelaws 9 and 10 (Agenda Item 8)**

Members were updated on progress with Byelaw 7 (Fishing for Lobster, Crawfish, Crab, Prawn and Whelk), Byelaw 9 (Restrictions on Fishing for Shrimps and Prawns) and Byelaw 10 (Measures for the Protection of Lobster (*Homarus gammarus*)). Further work is required on Byelaw 7 and will be presented to the next TSB meeting for approval.

Byelaws 9 and 10 were discussed and it was agreed to proceed with informal consultation.

**RESOLVED**

1. The report be received.
2. Members approve the drafts of Byelaws 9 and 10
3. Members approve the recommendation to proceed with informal consultation on Byelaws 9 and 10, taking them forward for making by the Authority at the earliest opportunity.
4. Members approve further work on the drafting of Byelaw 7 to be brought to the next TSB meeting.

**Minute No. 229                      Bivalve Mollusc Working Group (Agenda Item 9)**

The Senior Scientist presented a verbal report on the meeting of the Bivalve Mollusc Working Group held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The Terms of Reference and current level of representation were agreed. Representatives from the scientific/academic sector are still sought. The next meeting will be held at the end of June/beginning of July.

**Minute No. 230                      Boughton Estate Fishery Rights (Agenda Item 10)**

This matter was referred to the TSB from the March meeting of the Authority. Lawyers advise that the Authority does not need to take further steps in relation to the Boughton Estate claims and that it has full power to enforce the byelaws against all persons fishing for wild fish anywhere in Morecambe Bay. Other sites in the District were identified where fishing rights are in doubt and members considered that such doubts should be addressed.

**RESOLVED**

1. The report be received.
2. Members approve progress and actions taken to date.