

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting 18th September 2015: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA
ITEM NO.
10

SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW SUB-COMMITTEE – 11TH AUGUST 2015

Members present were Dr E. Baxter, Mr R. Benson, Mr C. Booth, Mr R. Graham, Mr T. Jones, Mr B. Leigh, Mr S. J. Manning, Ms H. Ake and Mr D. Ward. Apologies were received from Councillor A. J. Markley and Messrs C. Lumb, S. Mounsey and K. Thompson. 3 visitors attended.

Mr. R. Graham was re-appointed Chairman for the forthcoming year.
Mr T. Jones was reappointed Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

The minutes of TSB Committee meeting held on 12th May 2015 were approved subject to request for verification of a comment made by the Senior Scientist regarding sustainability of the mussel dredge fishery in Morecambe Bay. The comment was subsequently found to be correct as recorded

There was one matter arising re **Minute No. 8 from TSB Meeting held on 10th February 2015**

Mr Jones again queried a comment by the CEO concerning sustainability of seed mussel dredging in Morecambe Bay.

Science Summary Report (Agenda Item 7)

Items discussed included:

Cockle and Mussel Fisheries in the NWIFCA District,
Survey and Fisheries Work,
Assessment of Fishing Activities in European Marine Sites,
Byelaw Review,
Cumbria Wildlife Trust Marine Trainees Partnership
Project Inshore.
Routing options for cables from Moorside nuclear power station,
West Cumbria Tidal Lagoon,
Halite gas storage in salt caverns at Preesall near Fleetwood.

A supplementary report recommending closure of all Cockle beds in the District was approved. Closures may be reviewed if circumstances change.

Peel Ports intended capital dredging of a shingle bank in the Mersey Estuary was noted and an area of juvenile mussel found in the proposed dredging area. Peel Ports agreed to removal of the mussel by industry prior to commencement of dredging. Members agreed to authorise dredging of the mussel in the Mersey if interest is received.

Bivalve Mollusc Working Group (Agenda Item 8). The group considered:

A further draft of the Morecambe Bay Management Plan.

Management of mussel resources in Morecambe Bay for the coming year.

Surveys of mussel beds reported at South America and Falklands skeears, Heysham, Fleetwood, Wyre End, north Morecambe and Foulney. The group agreed:

1. Authorisation of hand-gathering of seed mussel at Heysham Flat skewar,
2. Levels of hand-gathering effort and authorisation of dredge harvest off the bottom skears at Heysham Flat be reviewed at the next meeting.
3. Assessment of seed stock on Fleetwood beds on the next suitable tides, with the view to a limited dredge fishery, subject to HRA.

4. Taking of seed from mussel beds at Seafield Road slipway, Ribble Estuary by hand-gatherers, subject to HRA.

Byelaws 9 and 10 Uniform measures across the district for shrimp and prawn were planned. Consultation on Byelaw 9 indicated this would be difficult and a different approach may be needed. Correspondence from a Dee fisherman on Byelaw 9 was tabled.

Further comments from MMO on Byelaw 10 were tabled. Clarification on the deeming clause is being sought but has not been received in time for the September meeting.

Byelaw 2 The Chief Executive outlined proposed measures to be included in a new vessel size byelaw including vessel length, vessel power, exceptions, gear restrictions and sunset clause. A new draft will be prepared as soon as possible.

Bass Update Recently introduced regulations include a short term ban on pelagic trawling, a 3 bass per man per day limit and an increase in the MLS from 36cm to 42cm. Bass will not be included in the 2016 discard plan but will be subject to landing obligations by 2019.

The Black Fish A proposal from the Black Fish, an international conservation organisation to provide NWIFCA with additional monitoring capacity through the use of "citizen inspectors" was considered. A centralised approach through the Association of IFCA was recommended.

NWIFCA Standing Orders

Members were asked to submit any comments by the end of August for a further draft for the September meeting.

Presentation by Ms S. Kochalski on the sustainability of fisheries in the North West. Members were asked to complete a questionnaire on fisheries management.

CLERK
9th September 2015