

**DEVON & SEVERN  
INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATIONB AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Authority Meeting  
held on 13October 2011 at Living Coasts, Torquay**

**Present:** Elaine Hayes (Chairman)  
Cllrs. Sir Simon Day (Devon), Stuart Hughes (Devon),  
Ellery (Torbay), Napper (Somerset), Bryant (North Somerset)  
Wragg (Devon),  
Derek Clifton, Dave Cuthbert, Stephen Gledhill, David Murphy,  
Simon Pollentine, Jim Portus, Elizabeth Ross, Mike Williams, David  
Rowe, Gavin Black (NE), Nick Wright (MMO), Jonathan Bailey (EA)

**Also Present:** Tim Robbins, Chief Officer  
Angie Sinclair, Finance Officer  
Aidan Winder (DCC)  
Kathy Derrick (Bristol)  
John Flannigan (North Somerset)  
Paul Labistour (Torbay)  
Chris Edwards (Somerset)  
Simon Excell (Gloucestershire)  
Liz Humphries (MMO)  
Mat Mander (DCO D&SIFCA)  
Sarah Clark (SEO D&SIFCA)

**Apologies:** Cllr Robinson, Cllr Boyle, Cllr Delbridge, Cllr Poultney, Cllr Goddard,  
Cllr Fellows, Natasha Barker-Bradshaw, John Butterwith,  
Paul Gompertz, David Morgan, Lynda Rodwell, Kaja Curry

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to Angie Sinclair, Chief Accountant, DCC who has replaced Andy Rogers and will provide details on financial matters and to Liz Humphries, acting Director of Operations and Compliance for the MMO.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

Dave Cuthbert expressed a declaration of interest in item 9 – Unlicensed and unregulated fishing activity and Item 10 – Byelaw 22 – Pots used for fishing for Crustacea on the Agenda.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were noted.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2011**

Resolved

That the minutes be approved.

4. **Matters Arising**

Item 6 – MoU's have now been finalised with CEFAS and EA. Annexes have been finalised with EA, NE and MMO. The MoU with NE is still under discussion and the Chairman and Chief Officer will be meeting with them in November to discuss further.

Item 6 – A draft Terms of Reference for the F&GP Committee were issued to the F&GP members today and any comments would be discussed at the next meeting. A copy was provided to the Main Authority members for information.

Item 7 – The cross warranting process of issuing warrants to the EA has now been completed.

Item 11 – An updated page 3 sheet of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations was issued to all members to substitute in their current booklet to reflect the change in wording.

Item 15 – The Byelaw Evaluation Sub Committee met for the first time on 26 Sep 11 and focused on developing its structure, how it will operate and report back to the main Authority.

The recruitment of 2 new posts had been undertaken. Katherine Gray started on 5 Oct 11 as the Environment Officer based in Brixham. The candidates interviewed for the SEO position were not suitable and no one was appointed. The F&GP Committee have agreed to restart the process to employ a SEO in Bristol. The job advert to be sent out to members to circulate to any contacts they think may be interested in the post.

Confirmation that the new Winch and Crane for the patrol vessel had been ordered and was in the process of being built.

A suitable date for a briefing session on the IFCA for new Council members now that the Gloucester Councillor had been appointed would be sought by the Chief Officer.

5. **Matters brought forward by Chairman**

The Chair has been approached by Natural England(NE) to ask if the Authority would allow 2 senior NE members to attend the next quarterly meeting to observe and obtain a better understanding on how the Authority are delivering the regulations under the Coastal Marine Management Act 2009. The Authority were happy for the Chairman to issue a formal invitation. A request for them to provide an update and thoughts on the forthcoming Marine Conservation Zones was suggested.

6. **Quarterly Report**

The Chief Officer took comments on how to improve the information provided. To report according to the annual plan and include a copy of the work plan to show how the targets are being met.

Following a discussion on declining fish stocks Cllr. Bryant requested if information on levels of catches since 1960's to present day could be provided.

Chief Officer was asked to provide a presentation on the severity of offenses, where the penalty line falls and what the punishment was awarded against the level of the incident.

Guidance on the issuing of FAP (Fixed Administrative Penalties) still has some technical and legal issues that need resolving but should be completed within the next few weeks.

Jonathan Bailey would like to see the balance of the quarterly report between Conservation and Fisheries be more tilted towards conservation

7. **Presentation and practical demonstration of Crustacea Enforcement Techniques**

DCO Mat Mander and SEO Sarah Clark exhibited crabs and lobsters with a presentation on enforcement techniques for berried lobsters. A copy of the presentation will be sent to all members.

8. **Talk by David Cuthbert**

David presented a talk on "Static Gear Netting in South Devon".

9. **Unlicensed and Unregulated Fishing Activity**

Serious concerns by members of the fishing industry/conservation agencies with regard to the amount of unlicensed and unregulated fishing activity around the coast of the D&SIFCA district was discussed.

The recommendation that the D&SIFCA Byelaw subcommittee work closely with TheCO and DCO to explore as a priority the possibility of introducing restriction Catch limits or a byelaw requiring that all vessels fishing for shellfish within the District be registered with the D&SIFCA and their activity governed by a permit scheme was agreed by all. Issues relating to gillnetting for fish and rod and line fishery will be considered at a later date.

**10. Byelaw 22 – Pots Used for Fishing for Crustacea**

It was agreed by all that illegal pots that have been removed from the fishery under Byelaw 22 are after 6 months advertised only on the D&SIFCA website that they will be auctioned off. Any money made from the selling process will be divided equally between:

- a. The Fishermen's Mission
- b. Used to purchase juvenile lobsters from the Padstow Lobster Hatchery with a programme of re-stocking areas around the coast

**11. Association of IFCA**

The Authority endorsed there was a need for an Association of IFCA and are keen to support it. There was concern on how the IFCA's are to be represented by not necessarily using the skills and expertise of its members having only one person a voice for all. Membership costs for this financial year was agreed as the amount had been put aside in the budget, but future annual membership will be reviewed and need to be approved by the full Authority based on our own budget discussions. The decision will also be based on what success the AIFCA has achieved in delivery of its Business Plan.

**12. Report on the F&GP Meeting**

The minutes from the F&GP meeting of the 16 June 2011 were approved.

Finance report given to the Committee was currently showing as at month 5 a large Underspend mainly due the delay in recruiting new staff.

Draft terms of reference for the F&GP Committee were issued to the members for their consultation and comments for approval at the next meeting.

Clarification that solutions to safeguard the D&SIFCA under the Bribery Act were in place and information sheets were issued to all members to explain the Act.

**13. Any Other Business**

Mr David Rowe offered to do a 5 minute talk on Sea Angling at the next meeting.

14. **Date of next meeting**

**Thursday** 12 January 2012 will be at County Hall, Exeter

**Thursday** 22 March 2012 will be at Bristol, venue to be confirmed.