

## Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) Report

### Officers' Recommendation

That Members note the content of the B&PSC Report

The B&PSC had their last meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The draft minutes from the B&PSC meeting are published on D&S IFCA's website and can be viewed on the public pages and within the secure Members' area.

### Byelaw Making

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 the B&PSC were presented with the following, along with covering Officers' papers that included recommendations to "make" the Byelaws and begin formal consultation.

#### The Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022:

- The proposed Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022
- The proposed Category One (at sea) Permit Conditions & associated Annexes
- The proposed Category Two (estuary) Permit Conditions & associated Annexes
- The Impact Assessment

#### The Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw 2022:

- The proposed Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw 2022
- The Impact Assessment

During discussions, the B&PSC highlighted minor changes to be applied to both Impact Assessments and agreed that formal consultation should begin on both the proposed new Byelaws. In both cases the proposed Byelaws are replacements for Byelaws that are already in place; however, both contain changes as compared to the existing Byelaws, and in the case of mobile fishing, the Permit Conditions and Annexes.

### Formal Consultation & Communication

Although a relatively expensive and limited form of communication, Defra's Byelaw Making Guidance requires that D&S IFCA formally advertise the proposed Byelaws in a selection of newspapers. The formal adverts include a message of how to comment, support or object to the introduction of the Byelaws. Although formal advertising is planned (or already undertaken), the communication work of D&S IFCA goes beyond the mandatory requirement.

Formal consultation began on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and will end on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. In addition to newspaper advertising, communication work to advertise the proposed Byelaws, and explain how stakeholders can have their say (submit a response), includes the following:

#### Website, Facebook & Press:

- Information is posted on D&S IFCA's [Engagement & Have Your Say](#) website page
- Two separate news items are currently running – ([Mobile Fishing](#)) & ([Size of Fishing Vessels](#))
- D&S IFCA's Facebook repeats the news items
- Press contacts have received the news items
- Both news items have appeared in the Fishing Daily (as written)
- Reassembled versions have appeared in the Fishing News

The news items provide some background information about each proposed Byelaw and a brief explanation of some significant changes as compared to the current situation. Both news items contain links to all relevant documents. Both news items explain how stakeholders can formally respond to the consultation.

#### ***Direct Circulation of Information:***

D&S IFCA has a large data base of contacts that includes Permit Holders (fishers), and a range of stakeholders with differing interests. The contact list was utilised for the circulation of the news items in a Mail Chimp (email) format. All Authority Members are listed on the contact list and should have received the information. Hard copy of the information was sent to 31 Permit Holders that have not provided a functioning email address.

#### ***Officer Engagement:***

All Officers are aware of the formal consultation and can be approached when they are out in the field. Stakeholders can visit the Office in Brixham Officers to ask questions; however, it is often easier if stakeholders telephone individual Officers or email questions to individual Officers.

#### ***Member Engagement:***

If stakeholders approach Authority Members to ask questions; Officers encourage that Members either highlight the information available on the website and/or highlight that Officers are contactable to answer questions.

#### **Later Stages for the Proposed Byelaws**

The formal process dictates that all responses must be in writing and sent to the Marine Management Organisation; however, D&S IFCA must also receive a copy of each response. D&S IFCA Officers will collate all responses (per Byelaw) after 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and provide the B&PSC with reports summarising the responses. Based on the response, the B&PSC will determine if there are to be any changes to the Byelaws (and where applicable the Permit Conditions) as proposed. Based on the decision making of the B&PSC, reports (response to stakeholders) will be available and circulated to those who responded. Quality assurance by the MMO forms part of the process and ultimately it will be the Secretary of State that determines if the proposed Byelaws are signed and introduced.

#### **Other B&PSC Work**

On 20<sup>th</sup> October the B&PSC also discussed a report on the pressures and risks to the static gear fisheries in D&S IFCA's District. The report highlighted that focus on this work may result in delay to other workstreams already set out in the Annual Plan 2022-23. A separate agenda item and Officers' paper relating to this subject matter has been included for discussion by the Authority.

#### **Additional Information for all Authority Members**

The website includes a [Contact Us](#) page where details for each Officer are set out.

A Guide to the Work of the B&PSC can be read [here](#).

All B&PSC papers and minutes from meetings can be viewed in [Section B](#) of D&S IFCA's Website Resource Library. Papers (and reports) for recent and upcoming B&PSC meetings can be viewed via the links provided in the secure Members' area of the website or on the [Meetings Tab](#) on the website's home page.