



Byelaw & Permitting Sub- Committee Meeting

Final Minutes from 25th
February 2021

Version Control and Drafting

Date	Comments
7 th March 2021	1 st Draft of minutes completed for circulation to officer's present at the meeting for potential internal amendment and or additions.
9 th March 2021	MM, JS and SC reviewed and made amendments to the minutes.
15 th March 2021	Minor edits and circulated to all B&PSC members for initial feedback
28 th April 2021	Amendment (spelling error) highlighted by James Marsden (Page 7) applied.
26 th July 2021	Final single minor amendment (Page 5) as highlighted by B&PSC Members at the meeting held on 22 nd July 2021.

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Minutes of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub Committee Meeting
Held on virtually on 25th February 2021 on Zoom meeting facility

Present:

Professor Mike Williams (Chair)		
Rachel Irish	James Marsden*	David Morgan
Andy Wray	Felicity Sylvester	Jim Masters**
Cllr Hellyer***	Sangeeta McNair	Stephen Gledhill
Jon Dornom	Simon Toms	Dave Saunders

Present (officers):

Chief Officer (CO) Mat Mander, Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) Sarah Clark, Principal Policy Officer (PPO) Neil Townsend and Finance & Administration Manager (F&AM) Olga Pepper, Senior Environment Officer (SEO) Dr James Stewart and Environment Officer (EO) Lauren Henly.

Apologies:

Cllr Hawkins, Jim Portus (MBE)

Observing:

Daniel Moore (Natural England)

Notes:

*James Marsden joined the meeting at approximately 16.20 hours.

** Jim Masters joined the meeting at approximately 16.25 hours

***Cllr Hellyer left the meeting during discussions on the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery before the formal voting

Agenda Item 1

Chair's announcements, apologies, and the introduction to the virtual meeting

The Chair welcomed members to the virtual meeting and thanked them for their attendance. The protocols for speaking in turn and voting at the meeting were discussed and agreed. It was concluded that during voting, each member would be asked to clarify how they would wish to vote and as per normal practice the total numbers of votes would be recorded in the minutes. The Chair explained that as per the Standing Orders, "Actions from the last meeting" did not feature on the agenda. Any tasks set for officers have either been incorporated into officers' papers or members can ask questions relating to those actions in the appropriate agenda items.

The Chair asked F&AM Pepper to read out apologies for the meeting that had been provided. These were noted as Cllr Hawkins, Jim Portus and Jim Masters.

Subsequent to this, Jim Masters joined the meeting at 16.24 hours.

Sangeeta McNair informed members that one of her colleagues from Natural England would be observing the meeting. Daniel Moore was welcomed by the members and officers.

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Agenda Item 2

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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Agenda Item 3

To consider and approve minutes of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee meeting held on 17th August 2020. (Circulated by email)

The Chair invited those who were present at the last meeting to raise any issues associated with the accuracy of the draft minutes from the August meeting and the minutes were then examined page by page. Rachel Irish highlighted an error on page nine (to insert CO Mander and remove Rachel Irish) and this was agreed by CO Mander. Dave Saunders highlighted that his name was missing from the list of members attending the last meeting. PPO Townsend noted amendments. It was noted that those that were not present at the previous meeting would abstain from the vote that followed.

That the minutes provide a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Hellyer **Seconded:** David Morgan

In favour: 7

Abstain: 4

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Note for readers: Time approximately 16.15.

Agenda Item 4

The Scallop Closed Season

The Chair asked CO Mander to provide an overview of the officers' paper. CO Mander explained that the report had been used to detail the response received from the informal consultation that had been actioned by the B&PSC in August 2020. CO Mander explained that the report included available research to meet the request of the B&PSC from August 2020 and therefore included the following:

- Information on scallop spawning seasons
- Information on scallop reproduction and density

CO Mander added that DCO Clark had also prepared a section within the report to set out landings data over a four-year period to show landings and value of dive caught scallops into South Devon Ports and other relevant comparison data.

CO Mander explained that officers had considered all of the assembled information and this, coupled with some other key factors had resulted in the recommendation as set out in part four of the report. CO Mander explained that some of the other factors had been set out within the paper and the recommendation lends itself to a national driver of increased, participative, co-management with fishers. CO Mander further explained that the recommendation would not directly impact on fishers from the Mobile Fishing sector as the potential new access for divers to take scallops in a three-month summer period would only extend to areas where scallop dredgers cannot operate at any time of the year due to their own spatial restrictions as set out in their permit conditions. CO Mander added that the potential change, if implemented, would be enforceable and on balance it was the officers' view that it would be a way of promoting diving as a low impact fishing method with minimal risks to the fishery due to the level of fishing activity undertaken by those engaged in this fishing method.

CO Mander concluded his overview presentation by stating that although the officers' recommendation provided one option for consideration, the members could discuss alternatives that could be turned into a motion (*or motions*) for voting. Any option chosen would form the basis of a final round of formal consultation, the findings of which would be presented back to the B&PSC for decision making with a view to changes to commercial diving permits.

The Chair asked members to raise any questions or comment on the findings of the report. Jon Dornom raised his concern regarding the absence of a closed season for the commercial diving sector and highlighted that the mobile fishing sector would potentially see this as an unfair advantage. CO Mander highlighted that the responses highlight many natural restrictions that commercial divers experience as compared to the mobile fishing sector and the potential increased access would only be for areas where mobile fishing vessels cannot ever operate within, legally. The areas being recommended for diver access with a three-month period, are based on mobile fishing permits (Annexes) that are closed all year as they are Marine Protected Areas. These sites are closed to demersal mobile fishing vessels due to the impact that the gear could have on features, rather than to protect stocks of scallops. Jon Dornom still felt that D&S IFCA would be criticised by the mobile fishing sector if the changes were made in due course. CO Mander responded by saying responses submitted by the mobile fishing sector in the first round of "open" consultation were low and a formal consultation would possibly generate a larger response from the mobile fishing sector. CO Mander explained that the formal consultation that could be actioned by the B&PSC would ideally have a clear idea of what changes are being considered and this clarity would possibly spark more enthusiasm for some stakeholders to respond.

**Note for readers: At approximately 16.20, James Marsden joined the meeting.*

David Morgan thanked officers for the report which was in his view very comprehensive. Whilst he had sympathy for the commercial diving sector, he also highlighted some concern with potential relaxation of the measures and asked questions concerning the potential impact on scallop stocks. DCO Clark highlighted the information set out in part three of the report including the significant differences in landings made by the diving sector and the mobile fishing sector.

DCO Clark gave a brief summary of her findings related to the spawning season of scallops, as detailed in the report to B&PSC. She highlighted that from the literature review, scallops have been found to spawn between April and September and whilst there may be peak times of spawning over the spawning period, scallops are also known to be trickle spawners, where part of the stock continues to spawn throughout the year.

DCO Clark explained the differences in landings from scallop dredge vessels compared to dive vessels. On page 28 of the report landings made by two dive vessels were compared to those made by two scallop dredge vessels between 2017-2020. DCO Clark explained that the two scallop dredge vessels used in the comparison were small vessels and many of the scallop dredge vessels land much greater quantities, and therefore the difference between divers' landings and dredger landings would be more significant. An example was given, as shown in the report, where one larger scallop dredge vessel operating in the D&S IFCA's District landed 571 tonnes worth £1.29 million over the four year period.

***Note for readers: At approximately 16.25, Jim Masters joined the meeting.*

Felicity Sylvester highlighted the importance of sustainable fishing and was concerned that there may be a lack of landings data that members could consider. Felicity Sylvester commented that the recommendation offered by officers regarding potential changes to diving permits may preclude stakeholders coming forward with other options or raising their concerns. CO Mander explained the first round of consultation was B&PSC Final Minutes from 25th February 2021

intentionally created to be “open” in nature with questions included that would not hamper the ability of all stakeholders to provide any of their own thoughts or suggestions coupled with their rationale. DCO Clark added that as part of the work to date, Data Protection Requests were submitted to the Marine Management Organisation. The content of the report reflects the landings data and data from sales notes that are available, and there are no more data that could have been added to the report. CO Mander responded to Felicity Sylvester by stating that multiple suggestions for change had been expressed in the pre-consultation phase and some stakeholders had suggested no change. However, on balance it was the officers’ view that the officers’ recommendation was appropriate and potential changes as set out would be enforceable. CO Mander added that it was important that a final phase of consultation, if agreed, clearly set out what potential changes would be on the table and how they could be achieved in practice via the permit mechanism. There would be minimal value in having another “open” phase of consultation.

Stephen Gledhill commented that the data within the report may suggest that the closed season is effective as it is and there would be risks attached to any relaxation.

CO Mander explained that the report highlights the difference in landings into West Bay, Dorset, compared to South Devon ports. In Devon, most dived scallop landings are in the nine months when divers can land in the District and this means there is increased pressure to land as much as possible during those months because of the closed season. West Bay divers, in comparison, spread the landings across the year with approximately half landed in the summer months. If the summer season was opened to Devon divers to dive for scallops, then it would take the pressure off the rest of the year and divers would not have to put all their effort into catching scallops in months where conditions for diving are less favourable. Also by having an open summer season, the divers can access premium markets in the summer, such as restaurants, for their products rather than during the existing open months where they compete with scallops landing from dredge vessels, which drives the price of the dived scallops down. With a higher return due to higher prices this may also reduce the need to fish in the remaining nine months.

Sangeeta McNair asked that if the formal consultation was actioned and the changes as set out were applied in due course, what other restrictions other than a Minimum Conservation Size for Scallops would apply within a commercial diving permit. CO Mander explained that at present there are less restrictions within a commercial diving permit as compared to a mobile fishing permit and a catch limit (quota) has not been introduced in any commercial permit. PPO Townsend added that commercial diving permits do contain annexes for spatial restrictions but this in the main apply to a prohibition on the removal of spiny lobster and an additional “no take zone” for specified shellfish species including crab, lobster, spiny lobster and scallops.

CO Mander explained that the officers’ recommendation reflects a drive locally and nationally to a co-management approach. It would require commercial divers to act responsibly regarding the quantities of scallops taken, but it is apparent that divers can be more selective regarding the removal of scallops from specified areas. Sangeeta McNair enquired if there could be further restrictions added such as a limitation on the number of permits that could be issued if there was increased demand for commercial diving permits. CO Mander added that although the total number of permits would not be restricted, it was the view of officers that the risks of a significant increase in demand for commercial diving permits was low. In time further restrictions could be added to diving permit conditions and as part of a co-management approach it may be divers themselves that propose additional measures in the future. CO Mander added that technology was improving all the time and the permit mechanism also allows for any potential and relevant advancements in this area of fisheries management to filter into future permit conditions.

James Marsden said that there was no clear link in the officers’ paper to a strategy and the value of the commercial diving landings is trivial as compared to D&S IFCA’s costs to manage the activity. It was the view

of James Marsden that D&S IFCA should know the cost of managing all fishing activities in its District and be seeking full cost recovery in managing them. James Marsden also commented that in his view the potential relaxation was high risk as there could be the potential for a “Klondike” (*rush in effort*) situation to arise. It would also, in his view, be foolish to consider relaxation when Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) are on the horizon and this may result in D&S IFCA having to change restrictions once again.

CO Mander commented that he was very concerned with the suggestion that the Authority would potentially determine whether or not manage a fishery on what resources the Authority had at its disposal as D&S IFCA's duties are to manage all fisheries. Legal advice suggests that costs (fees) for permits should be based on administration fees only and not to recover all the Authority's costs directed to managing any one fishery. However, the ability to enforce restrictions is a factor and it was the officers' view that the potential relaxation for commercial diving would assist, rather than hamper, the work of D&S IFCA's enforcement team. CO Mander urged members to consider the longer-term vision for the Authority and highlighted that diving, in terms of impact to the seabed, would qualify as a low impact fishing method. It was the view of CO Mander that a potential relaxation would result in commercial divers not fishing so hard at times of the year either side of the three-month summer closure as it currently stands. The permit mechanism had been developed so that changes can be implemented and potentially changed once again if there is a need to do so.

Replying to James Marsden point about HPMAs, DCO Clark commented that whilst some areas in the D&S IFCA's District have been suggested as HPMAs, there is no certainty at this time regarding how many will be designated, if any, and the exact location of these sites is unknown. DCO Clark reminded the members that diving in the MPAs already took place for nine months of the year to which James Marsden responded that there were not open for 12 months.

Jon Dornom asked if any of the 25 commercial divers with a permit to operate in D&S IFCA's District had any IVMS units fitted. CO Mander confirmed that all the commercial dive vessels operating in the District are below 12 metres in length. None of these vessels are required to have IVMS fitted based on National legislation and there is no current requirement for diving vessels to have this form of technology fitted via existing Category One (commercial) Diving Conditions.

James Marsden returned to his previous point regarding cost analysis. It was his view that D&S IFCA should know the exact costs associated with managing all fishing activity. CO Mander again explained that at this time, costs cannot be determined in the detail that was being requested at the meeting. CO Mander informed members that in 2021-22 officers will be recording time spent on all aspects of D&S IFCA's core work more thoroughly in a new system of internal time recording.

The Chair concluded discussion on the scallop closed season by commenting that he had significant concerns regarding any potential relaxation to the scallop closed season; however, his key points of concern had already been raised by other members during the debate. The Chair read out the officers' recommendation from the report as follows:

Officers' Recommendation – Scallop Closed Season

That Formal Consultation is undertaken with a view to amendments to Category One Diving Permit Conditions authorising commercial divers to remove scallops from defined areas within the District during July, August, and September.

The Chair asked if any member wished to propose this as a motion for voting. Rachel Irish said that she would propose this course of action and was seconded by Cllr Hellyer.

Proposed: Rachel Irish **Seconded:** Cllr Hellyer

Members were then asked to vote in turn.

In favour: 0
Against 11
Abstain: 2

CO Mander said that he was confused why a motion had been proposed and seconded but then not receive any support at all. CO Mander asked members that in the light of the decision reached, would members want to formulate an alternative that could form the basis of a formal consultation. CO Mander highlighted that a formal consultation, including subsequent decision making of the B&PSC and any potential changes to commercial diving permit conditions could therefore not be completed by the start of the existing scallop closed season.

The Chair responded by saying that that members had discussed the subject matter and decided to be pre-cautionary in their decision making. This was clear as an overwhelming majority of B&PSC members had voted that they were not in favour of the officers' recommendation and the case put forward by officers for their recommendation was not convincing. The Chair said that it was clear that the members did not favour any alternative potential changes to management as none had been put forward by members and therefore a formal consultation would not be undertaken as set out in the officers' recommendation. The Chair advised officers that they could come forward in the future with other recommendations if they wish; however, the discussion on the scallop closed season was now closed.

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Agenda Item 5

The Review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery

The Chair introduced this agenda item and highlighted two separate reports that had been produced by officers:

- An overarching, 55-page report – Review of the Live Wrasse Fishery in Devon and Severn IFCA's District 2017-2020 by Lauren Henly (D&S IFCA Environment Officer and Dr James Stewart (D&S IFCA's Senior Environment Officer
- Summary for Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee: Annual Review of the Live Wrasse Fishery in Devon and Severn IFCA's District, 2017 – 2020

CO Mander informed members that the summary report included four officers' recommendations for decision making. It was further explained that since the circulation of these reports to members, one of the recommendations relating to a size range for ballan wrasse had been amended in line with information and evidence received by officers after circulation of the papers. CO Mander explained that EO Henly had prepared a Power Point presentation to explain more about the findings of the research and to highlight why the recommendation 3 (Conservation Reference Size for ballan wrasse) had been amended. The exact change in the recommendation was noted by officers; the new recommended CRS range was 18 – 26 cm.

The presentation was undertaken with EO Henly sharing her screen on zoom. The presentation summarised the context and background of the fishery, then highlighted that the results were based primarily on the observer surveys carried out by D&S IFCA Officers, using a new and more robust statistical approach than

has been possible in previous analyses. Officers were able to statistically control for variation in Catch and Landings Per Unit Effort (CPUE and LPUE) that results from variation in environmental variables or fishing location. Consequently, Officers identified the main drivers of variation in CPUE and LPUE of the four target species of wrasse, which varied between species. There was no evidence of a negative fishery effect for rock cook. Instead, rock cook CPUE and LPUE vary between fishing locations in the Sound; differences in survey effort between years make it look like CPUE and LPUE have declined, but this was no longer supported by the data. By accounting for fishing location in the new approach the risk of identifying a false year effect is reduced. However, there was a significant decline in ballan wrasse CPUE and LPUE. This occurred between 2017 and 2018 (following the first year of fishing, in which fishing effort was the highest), but CPUE and LPUE do not appear to have fully recovered in the years since then. The decline is driven by a decrease in 'in-size' (landable) ballan wrasse in areas landward of Plymouth breakwater. EO Henly outlined that high retention rates of sexually mature female ballan wrasse are likely to be driving this decline, as this may affect the breeding population. EO Henly then pointed out that a new recommendation was being proposed regarding the change to ballan CRS. Officers suggested a change to 18 – 26 cm, as this would shift fishing pressure from mature females while maintaining the social and economic benefits of the fishery. Other patterns of change in CPUE and LPUE in other species agreed with previous evidence from elsewhere but were not a concern for sustainability of the target populations. The presentation concluded with a series of recommendations based on the evidence provided:

- (1) Continue to manage the fishery as outlined in the D&S IFCA's Policy Statement and Potting Permit Conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery (24th June 2020), except in the case of rock cook (2, below) and ballan wrasse (3, below), and except with regards to fishers returns forms (4, below)
- (2) . Lift the prohibition on removal of rock cook from the fishery and reintroduce previous conservation reference size (CRS) limits of 12-23cm.
- (3) Change the ballan wrasse CRS range from 15–23 cm to 18–26 cm.
- (4) Remove the requirement for wrasse fishers to submit returns forms. This final recommendation was made because Officers concluded that robust assessments of this fishery require species-level estimates of CPUE and LPUE from known locations, as provided by observer surveys, but are not improved by fishers' returns forms.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Chair thanked EO Henly and invited members to ask questions in a general debate before proceeding to the four officers' recommendations.

James Marsden commended the work undertaken by officers but raised concern regarding the amount of time and resource that D&S IFCA puts into the on-going management of a very small fishery. Considering the current state of D&S IFCA finances, it was the view of James Marsden that members could consider terminating the management of the fishery on the basis that it not a proportionate use of the IFCA's resources. Andy Wray asked some questions relating to the size range of rock cook wrasse and ballan wrasse. In addition, Andy Wray highlighted that in his experience as a recreational angler, very few rock cook wrasse have been caught. On the basis of scarcity, Andy Wray questioned why it would be prudent to lift a prohibition on this species to allow these fish to be taken for use as cleaner fish in salmon farms. EO Henly returned to the Power Point slides and explained how previous analysis had not been able to account for variables associated with the locations of fishing activity. SEO Stewart agreed with Andy Wray that rock cook could be seen as being scarce, but this is likely to be due to where anglers may be undertaking their fishing activity, rather than a reduction in their numbers. SEO Stewart added that in the case of rock cook it would be highly likely that more would be caught outside of the Plymouth breakwater, rather than in the Sound. The analysis now accounts for this, and therefore the previous restriction of introducing a prohibition was, when compared to the evidence presented, overly pre-cautionary. David Saunders informed members that in all his years of

angling he had never caught a rock cook wrasse. It was his view that D&S IFCA should be protecting its own stocks of rock cook wrasse and not be allowing for their removal to ultimately benefit Scottish salmon farms.

Jim Masters said he was unsure regarding what would be the best form of action to take. On one hand there is scientific information suggesting one course of action; however, there are also factors such as potentially confusing fishers with a change of permit conditions and the level of resources that D&S IFCA must place into managing the whole live wrasse pot fishery.

Sangeeta McNair highlighted to members that based on previous evidence showing decline in rock cook wrasse CPUE and LPUE, the B&PSC introduced a prohibition on the removal of rock cook from the fishery. Considering that there is now a decline in ballan wrasse as shown in the report, why is the recommendation not to prohibit the removal of this species from a fishery. Sangeeta McNair also enquired as to the potential need for a local assessment of ballan size of maturity/ sexual inversion, and whether removing the requirement for fishers to submit returns forms was the correct course of action.

SEO Stewart responded to Sangeeta McNair and highlighted that the decline in rock cook previously appeared sharper and more sustained than the decline observed for ballan wrasse. SEO Stewart went on to say that the previous rock cook CRS allowed retention of only the largest available rock cook, so any change to the CRS would essentially prohibit retention of this species anyway. Whereas for ballan there was more flexibility in management options (and for rock cook it was now clear that they did not decline between years). EO Henly provided additional information on the size at maturity and size at sexual inversion of ballan wrasse based on the evidence in the scientific literature (which is a protogynous hermaphrodite species – changes sex from female to male). EO Henly highlighted that this is not local information but is the best available evidence for this species, and justifies the change in CRS to 18 – 26 cm (rather than a change to 18 – 22 cm, as previously recommended). SEO Stewart then reiterated that the removal of the requirement of fishers to submit returns forms would not negatively impact the data analyses or conclusions, which are based on the much more robust data available from observer surveys.

CO Mander summarised some of the key points for members. The evidence now suggests that the apparent decline in rock cook was due to the way the previous analysis was undertaken. Regarding the submission of data from fishers, CO Mander explained that the Byelaw includes the provision to request 'relevant information'. Considering the types of information that the Environment Team need to collate, the recommendation reflects that it is the view of officers that the information that fishers are capable of providing is not consistent with the on-going commitment to detailed monitoring of the fishery through observer's surveys. As highlighted in the reports, D&S IFCA's officers would commit to on-going surveys, however the D&S IFCA patrol vessel would be used as the platform for the survey work. The commitment in terms of vessel use would also be balanced with enforcement patrols in the Plymouth area. CO Mander urged members to consider past decision making and principles in their decision making. CO Mander reminded members that it was the B&PSC that had decided to manage the fishery rather than close the fishery and the management measures introduced to date and now the further recommendations reflect the need to manage the small fishery, so it is sustainable.

DCO Clark explained to members that D&S IFCA Officers have reviewed their Habitat Regulation Assessments on the Wrasse Pot Fishery in the Plymouth Sound EMS and again concluded that there was no significant impact from the fishery. The HRAs were sent to Natural England, and its Formal Advice agreed with D&S IFCA Officers' conclusion of the HRAs. James Marsden responded that HRAs are only necessary when there is fishing activity but if, as the salmon farm agent has indicated, the fishery will be short lived than assessments and research will no longer be required.

“DCO Clark gave an update on her investigations on the future of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery in the Plymouth Sound, as per an action from the last B&PSC meeting. The salmon farm agent would like to have three vessels operating in the fishery for 2021. Currently there are two vessels in the fishery, but the agent is looking to recruit a third vessel after the outcome of the B&PSC meeting, as three vessel improves the viability of the fishery. DCO reported that the rearing of wrasse by the salmon farm is proceeding well and the salmon farm agent provided information that there were 120,000 ballan wrasse farmed in 2020, of which 80,000 were produced solely by the farm. Production challenges, coupled with low survival, have caused a slower ballan production than anticipated in the first few years. However, there have been big advances in production techniques giving optimism that the facility will be running at full capacity of 1.5 million wrasse in the coming years. The salmon farm is predicting that half a million wrasse will be produced at the end of the next production cycle in 2022. Once capacity of production is high, the salmon farm is apparently looking to reduce wild capture by up to 50% in 2022. The agent informed D&S IFCA Officers that the Anglesey production and rearing facility is going well, and the salmon farm has offered a visit to the site for D&S IFCA. Lumpsucker rearing is very good with 95% survival rate and, the lumpsucker farming reached approx. 5 million last year. It seems that once the salmon farm has met their own needs and have larger scale production, they will be looking to supply the other salmon farm companies with reared cleaner fish. “

Stephen Gledhill commented that the management of the fishery was based on a short term need of the Salmon Farms and the subsequent fishing activity to cater in part for those needs. Stephen Gledhill said he has had on-going concerns that the Salmon Farms had not been consistent with their business plans and therefore the fishery had continued past his expected time frame. SEO Stewart responded, explaining how the sales notes described in the report to the B&PSC show that there has been a decline not only in landings over the course of 2017 – 2020, but also a dramatic decline in fishing effort. Conversations with the salmon farm agent suggested that these declines are expected to continue.

Rachel Irish highlighted new catch reporting systems introduced by the MMO and asked if this would be of benefit in managing the live wrasse pot fishery. CO Mander said that he was not aware if live wrasse landings were required in the catch reporting and questioned whether the requirements to report under 10m landings were currently being enforced.

****Note for readers: At this time Cllr Hellyer had to leave the meeting.*

The Chair asked members to examine the officers’ recommendations in turn. DCO Clark reminded members that the third recommendation should now read 18 to 26cm.

Officers’ Recommendation 1:

The Chair read out recommendation number one as set out in the paper. David Morgan proposed this as a motion, and it was seconded by Jon Dornom. The Chair asked if any members wished to amend the motion. Sangeeta McNair explained that it was her view that the words “12 months” should be added to the motion. David Morgan agreed with Sangeeta McNair and withdrew his proposed motion, and the following was put to the vote.

That D&S IFCA will continue to manage the fishery for 12 months as outlined in the D&S IFCA’s Policy Statement and Potting Permit Conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery (24th June 2020), except in the case of rock cook and ballan wrasse and except with regards to fishers returns forms.

Proposed:	Sangeeta McNair	Seconded:	Jon Dornom
In favour:	11		
Against	1		
Abstain:	0		

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Officers' Recommendation 2:

The Chair read out the second officers' recommendation as follows:

To lift the prohibition on removal of rock cook from the fishery and reintroduce previous conservation reference size (CRS) limits of 12-23cm.

David Morgan proposed this as a motion for a vote; however, no member seconded this motion. There was therefore no vote and the prohibition on the retention of live rock cook remained in place

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Officers' Recommendation 3:

The Chair read out the third officers' recommendation (as amended) as follows:

To change the ballan wrasse CRS range from 15 – 23cm to 18 – 26cm.

Proposed: Rachel Irish Seconded: David Morgan

In favour: 12 (all)

Officers' Recommendation 4:

The Chair read out the fourth officers' recommendation as follows:

To remove the requirement for wrasse fishers to submit returns forms.

Proposed: Rachel Irish Seconded: Andy Wray

In favour: 8
Against 4
Abstain: 0

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Agenda Item 6

Date of Next Meeting

The Chair enquired if a date for the next B&PSC meeting had been selected. PPO Townsend explained that preferably the date of the next B&PSC meeting remains un-planned at this time. Whilst B&PSC meetings are conducted virtually, it is easier if officers firstly assess what information can be prepared that is suitable for discussion and potential decision making in a shorter meeting, rather than a whole day meeting. The date for the next meeting will be determined in due course and members will be informed via email correspondence.

End.