

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

11th March 2016: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA
ITEM NO.
10

SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW COMMITTEE – 2ND FEBRUARY 2016

1. The minutes of TSB Committee meeting held on 6th November 2015 were approved

Bivalve Mollusc Working Group (BMWG) (Agenda Item 5)

2. The draft Morecambe Bay Mussel Management Plan was noted and continuing work approved. Issues raised included: data on bird food requirements, the decision making process, setting restrictions on seed mussel dredge fishery and research proposals.
3. Continuation of BMWG was approved to complete a cockle management plans for Morecambe Bay and the Duddon Estuary.

Cockle and Mussel Byelaw Review (Agenda Item 6)

4. Proposed revisions to Byelaw 3 (Cockle and Mussel Permit Scheme) were discussed. The main changes include extending the provision for commercial areas, introduction of a regulation and permit scheme for shellfish buyers in the District and removal of vessel safety requirements from the byelaw. Changes to the waiting list to include young people from the age of 13 are also proposed.
5. MMO and officers have been consulted on the draft byelaw. The Marine and Coastguard Agency has been consulted on removal of the vessel safety regulations. Further detailed stakeholder consultation will continue before the byelaw is made. The CEO pointed out that the last opportunity to make the byelaw in time for it to be implemented from 1st September would be the June meeting. Members approved further development of the byelaw taking account of comments from stakeholders, partners and MMO.

Bass Update (Agenda Item 7)

6. The Head of Enforcement updated TSB members on new bass regulations. Commercial fishermen will not be able to retain, catch or land bass until April, from April to July fixed nets are permitted with a quota of 1,300 kg and after 31st July drift netting is permitted with a 1,000 kg quota. Recreational fishermen can operate catch release until 31st July with a limit of one bass per man per day after that date.

Science Report (Agenda Item 8) included:

- a) Assessment of Fishing Activities in European Marine Sites
- b) MCZ - Tranche Two Designations
- c) CEFAS Report – Inshore Fisheries Activity Data Layer
- d) European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and iVMS (Inshore Vessel Monitoring system)
- e) North West Coast Connections – National Grid
- f) Moorside Power Station
- g) Cumbria Wildlife Trust Marine Trainees Partnership
- h) Technical Advisory Group – TAG
- i) Wader Bird Training
- j) North West Angling Trust fisheries Consultative Council (NWATFCC)
- k) Cockle and Mussel Fisheries in the NWIFCA District
- l) Survey and Fisheries Work

A.O.B. (Agenda Item 9)

7. Emergency Byelaw (Restrictions on Fishing for Bivalve Molluscan shellfish. The TSB considered an Emergency Byelaw which officers propose to introduce in response to reports of imminent dredging for razor clams in the Cumbria area. The proposed byelaw will prohibit dredging without written authorisation from the NWIFCA. At present there is no protection in place for such activity north of Haverigg Point in the old Cumbria SFC District. Comments received from MMO will be incorporated in the byelaw. Members approved implementation of the Emergency Byelaw which will remain in force for 12 months during which time a new byelaw will be created to cover the whole of the NWIFCA District.

**Clerk
24th February 2016**