

Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

MINUTES of a meeting of the Authority held in the Gold Room, Orsett Hall Hotel, Orsett, Grays, Essex

Present: Mr J Nichols (MMO), Mr J Rowley (MMO), Ms T Ferry (MMO), Mr A Baker (NE), Mr R Turner (MMO), Cllr J Fleming (ECC), Cllr H Tejan (Medway Council), Mr E Hannam (MMO), Mr P Wexham (MMO)

Apologies: Cllr J Lamb (Southend CC), Cllr T Hills (KCC), Cllr M Dendor (KCC), Cllr A Weatherhead (KCC), Cllr A Goggin (ECC), Cllr M Skeels (ECC), Mrs E Gilson (MMO), Cllr M Coxshall (Thurrock DC)

In Attendance: Mr J Cook (Clerk, KCC), Dr W Wright (Chief Fishery Officer), Mr D Bailey (Assistant Chief IFC Officer), Mr H Hurst (Snr Enforcement Officer), Dr P Haupt (Snr Scientific Officer), Mrs D O'Shea (Office Manager), Mrs K Woods (Admin Assistant)

By Invitation: Mr A Oliver (Andrew Jackson Solicitors), Ms M Meadows (Cefas)

The Vice Chairman informed Members that the Chairman, Cllr Lamb was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health. Members sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Laid around the table: letter to Members from TEFA

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (A1)

The Vice Chairman requested Members to declare any interests on the Agenda item prior to it being dealt with and advised that those with a disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests may not vote on that Agenda item. The Vice Chairman reminded Members that they could declare an interest either at this time or prior to the agenda item being discussed.

Mr Turner declared a personal interest in the cockle fishery as a member of Rochester Oyster and Floating Fishery (ROFF).

10:35 Meeting closed to the public

Members met to discuss and decide the following matters that would then be consulted on in Consultation 2:

1. Agree framework and process for how licences would be issued as well as how many licences would be issued
2. Agree starting number of licences
3. Agree how to allocate licences

Members were provided with an overview of the decisions made to date and the remaining consultations that would be required to take place.

Members were provided with a presentation by the Lead Scientific Officer and answered questions from Members in respect of his report on "Review of environmental impacts of hydraulic suction dredging for cockles - Kent and Essex ICFA districts"

Mr Oliver provided legal advice and opinion on the use of Regulating Orders and legitimate expectation

Meeting finished 17:45

Meeting reconvened 7 July 2022 09:35

Present: Mr J Nichols (MMO), Mr J Rowley (MMO), Ms T Ferry (MMO), Mr A Baker (NE), Mr R Turner (MMO), Cllr J Fleming (ECC), Cllr H Tejan (Medway Council), Mr E Hannam (MMO), Mr P Wexham (MMO)

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By Invitation: Mr A Oliver (Andrew Jackson Solicitors), Ms M Meadows (Cefas)

9:35 Meeting closed to the public

Members discussed the options available to them to go through to Consultation 2 and were reminded of the feedback that had been received from Consultation 1 in respect of:

NEW JAMAICA

NEW HAITI

NEW BERMUDA

Members compared the options against a five and seven year licence cycle to look at advantages and disadvantages for NEW JAMAICA and NEW HAITI and were provided with legal advice by Mr Oliver

Members voted on whether to use a five or seven year cycle for licences within the Regulating Order. Members voted as follows

Five year cycle – 1

Seven year cycle – 8

Abstentions - 0

Members considered the length of the Regulating Order – 28 years or 21 years.

Members voted as follows:

Twenty one years – 4

Twenty eight years – 5

Abstentions – 0

Members considered the number of licences that would initially be awarded. They were reminded that NEW BERMUDA was fixed at 14 licences for the length of the Regulating Order, so only NEW HAITI and NEW JAMAICA needed to be considered at this stage.

Members voted as follows for the number of licences to be issued if NEW HAITI was chosen as the option:

14 licences - 2

15 licences - 5

16 licences - 2

Members voted as follows for the number of licences to be issued if NEW JAMAICA was chosen as the option:

14 licences - 3

15 licences - 6

16 licences - 0

Members considered a further option with regard to New BERMUDA

Members voted on whether to consult on:

1. Only NEW BERMUDA 7 – 28 year Regulating Order, 7 year cycle, fixed 14 licences on a tender process
2. Only NEW BERMUDA 28 – 28 year Regulating Order, fixed 14 licences on the basis that those who had held a licence during TECFO would be allocated a licence
3. Both NEW BERMUDA 7 and NEW BERMUDA 28

Members voted as follows:

Consult on both NEW BERMUDA 7 and NEW BERMUDA 28	-	6
Consult on NEW BERMUDA 7 only	-	2
Consult on NEW BERMUDA 28 only	-	0
Abstentions	-	1

6 & 7 July 2022

The Clerk to the IFCA provided Members with advice on governance processes that had been followed during this process

Meeting ended 13:36