

## **Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

**MINUTES** of an extraordinary meeting of the Authority held in the Council Chamber, Gravesham Borough Council, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent at 2.00pm on Friday 6 March 2015

**Present:** Cllr J L Lamb (Southend BC) (Chairman), Cllr M Harrison (Kent CC), Mr W Baker (MMO), Mr L Roskilly (MMO), Mr A Rattley (MMO), Mr B Smart (MMO), Mr P Wexham (MMO), Mr S Abbotson (MMO), Dr L Fonseca (MMO)

**Apologies** Cllr P Channer (Essex CC), Cllr K Tolhurst (Medway Council), Mr J Nichols (MMO), Cllr A Wood (Essex CC), Cllr S Liddiard (Thurrock Council), Mr C Hazelton (EA), Mr J Labbett (MMO), Ms I Chudleigh (NE), Cllr D Baker (Kent CC), Mr M Sharp (MMO)

**In Attendance:** Mr P Wickenden (Clerk, KCC), Dr W Wright (Chief IFC Officer), Mr D Bailey (Assistant Chief IFC Officer), Mrs D O'Shea (Office Manager), Mrs K Woods (Admin Assistant)

The Chairman advised Members that this would be the last meeting attended by Mr Roskilly and also Mr Smart. Mr Roskilly had decided not to reapply for membership of the IFCA and Mr Smart was retiring from the MMO.

The Chairman thanked both Members on behalf of the Authority for all their hard work and contribution to the meetings. Mr Roskilly had been a member of the IFCA and formerly the SFC from 2005 and Mr Smart had sat as a member of the IFCA since its inception.

Mr Baker advised the Authority that he had also made the decision not to reapply for membership from 1 April 2015. The Chairman extended the same thanks and gratitude to Mr Baker.

### **61. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (A1)**

The 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 interest may not vote on that Agenda item.

No interests were declared.

### **62. BOTTOM TOWED FISHING GEAR (PROHIBITED AREAS) BYELAW (B1)**

Members were reminded that at the previous Authority meeting they had instructed Officers to prepare a byelaw to ban bottom towed fishing gear in Folkestone Pomerania MCZ. This byelaw had been drafted and with the associated Impact Assessment had been discussed with the Marine Management Organisation. Notice of the intention to make the byelaw had been provided to Members and other statutory bodies 14 days prior to the meeting.

The existing Bottom Towed Fishing Gear byelaw would be replaced by this byelaw, which would include the two sites included in the original byelaw and the Folkestone site as an addition.

In respect of Members queries as to why Hythe Bay was now no longer being considered for a byelaw the Chief Officer advised that although every effort had been made to carry out consultation with affected fishermen in the area, fishermen from Dungeness had contacted officers following the January meeting with concerns. Although these fishermen were currently netters and would not be directly affected by the byelaw there was a possibility that at some stage in the future they may want to start trawling. For this reason and following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman a decision was made to continue with discussions with the Industry and aim to bring a byelaw to the May meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the making of the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear (Prohibited Areas) Byelaw be made taking into account the associated Impact Assessments.

### **63. HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY (B2)**

Members were advised that the IFCA had historically followed the terms and conditions of Kent County Council with regard to its policies. Following a review of all policies and on the advice of the auditors the Health & Safety Policy had been revised and updated taking into account the requirements of the IFCA.

Due to the complexity of the subject consultants were engaged and provided advice and support. Staff had been consulted and where appropriate adjustments had been made or explanations provided.

Issues that had arisen from the review had been addressed with additional training and/or equipment provided.

Members were also informed that both the Chairman and Mr Abbotson having experience in this field had offered suggestions with regard to certain parts of the policy which would be included

Members raised the question of liability if the policy was not adhered to. The Clerk advised that he would check the position of the County Council and report back.

**RESOLVED** that:

- subject to the inclusion of suggested changes the Health & Safety policy be approved; and
- Members would review the Health & Safety policy annually.

The meeting closed at 2:20pm