

# MINUTES AFICA Members Forum Annual General Meeting



6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Fishmongers Hall.

## **Present**

Tony Tomlinson MBE  
Les Weller  
Mark Southerton  
Sam Davis  
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick  
Julian Gregory  
John Nichols  
Dr Will Wright  
Cllr Mark Robert (part)  
Rob Pearson  
Phil Capper  
Mark Taylor  
David McCandless  
Dr Steve Axford  
Prof Peter Jones  
Prof Mike Williams  
Mat Mander  
Tom Hooper

## **Also in attendance**

Dr Sarah Coulthard (Newcastle University)  
Patrick Schneider  
Julia Templeton  
Leanne Tan  
Alison Freeman (part)

*The meeting started at 10.01*

## **Welcome**

Alison Freeman, who manages The Fishmongers Company's Marine Fisheries Programmes, welcomed members and guests to the Hall and explained about The Company's fishery programme. Members expressed their thanks for the use of the Hall and its excellent facilities.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

The Chief Officer was asked to chair the meeting for the election of chairman. There was one nomination for chairman. Tony Tomlinson MBE was unanimously voted in as chairman. There was one nomination for vice chairman; Les Weller was unanimously voted in as vice chairman.

## **Introductions for new members**

The Chairman welcomed members and attendees, including new members from Sussex and North Western and thanked MMO and Dr Coulthard for attending the meeting.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

John Lamb  
Pia Bateman

Cllr Andy Guy

**3. Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman invited members to declare any interests. There were no interests declared.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

4a Draft Minutes of the March Members Forum Meeting

By way of ordinary vote the minutes were approved

4b Draft Minutes of the March Directors Meeting

By way of ordinary vote the minutes were noted.

**4. Progress Reports**

The Chief Officer advised that a first draft of the long awaited 'Chairs Letters' or Letters of engagement with Defra had been received and the AIFCA had returned comments on the draft.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

- i. Members received a presentation from Dr Sarah Coulthard of Newcastle University which introduced an AIFCA project entitled: Developing a theory of change which explores existing contributions and further potential of the IFCA model to deliver improved industry engagement and effective co-management of marine resources.

Dr Coulthard presented the current context for co-management in UK fisheries and the project aims. Members considered the proposed research plan and welcomed the project the proposals for a workshop to coincide with an IFCA Members Forum. members thanked Dr Coulthard for her detailed proposal. Les Weller commended the project to the Members reflected on the effective engagement achieved in Northumberland. Julian Gregory welcomed the project and requested advance notice of the engagement due to the capacity limitations on his and other IFCAs.

- ii. Julia Templeton, Patrick Schneider, and Leanne Tan presented to the Members on the Marine Management Organisation's (MMOs) recent IFCA membership campaign and future opportunities for improvements. There was a discussion on how to make the application process easier, and the concept of an open recruitment process was debated. Ms Tan gave a detailed presentation on the results and makeup of the membership of the IFCAs. Cllr Roberts requested further details and it was agreed that the presentation be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.

Ms Tan reminded Members of the performance assessment policy and requested that the assessment be completed in a timely manner. The chairman thanked MMO for their support and congratulated the MMO on the approach taken and their achievements in improving the process, reflecting on the progress made by the new team.

**6. Budget Control Statement**

The Chief Officer introduced the budget control statement to the end of April. The Chief Officer was asked whether the AIFCA had received a recharge from Defra for the work undertaken in 2022, in accordance with the SR21 proposal. Members heard that whilst

a submission had been made, no recharge had yet been received. By way of ordinary vote Members APPROVED the Budget Control Statement.

**7. The Draft AIFCA Annual Delivery Report 2022/23**

The Chief Officer gave a brief introduction to the annual report noting several of the successes achieved against the workplan for the year. The Members noted the substantial achievements, thanks the officers for their work and members APPROVED the Annual Delivery Report.

**8. The Cockle Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) Update – verbal**

Members received an update from Tim Smith the AIFCA Senior Policy Officer on the submission of a Cockle FMP to be led by the AIFCA. An overview of the plan was discussed, and the structure and purpose of a steering group outlined. Members heard that since the submission of the original project proposal several addition requirements have been added and furthermore that the timeline of the project compressed. Officers described how they are presently recasting the project timelines and associated resources and how it is the intention of the project team to report on implications for other areas of work because, as yet, the full impacts are not clear. Dr Wright was thanked for the support he has provided in the development of the plan and Members thanked the officers for realising the opportunity to lead this FMP.

**9. AIFCA FMP Review Project**

Dr Will Wright presented to members on a project, outlined as part of the agreed annual plan, designed to support the IFCA's members engagement in the FMP process. Dr Wright introduced the principles and processes used by Kent and Essex IFCA in the development of engagement in the management of the cockle fishery. Members heard how the programme will centre around a conference in September in Poole to develop a vision for the future of IFCA's in FMPs. Dr Wright was thanked for his work and the members supported the project.

**10. Chief Officers Report**

The Quarterly report of the Chief Officer was received, and Sam Davis welcomed the report as an effective way of clearly setting out the scope of the day-to-day work undertaken.

**11. Senior Policy Officers Report**

The Quarterly Report of the Senior Policy Officer was presented, and Tim Smith thanked for his work.

**12. Senior Technical Officers Report**

Simon Pengelly gave an overview of the marine Natural Capital Review programme including the planned activities for 2023/4. Mr Pengelly introduced certain field work elements as well as describing the mNCEA 'pilot areas' and the work in those areas. The Quarterly Report of the Senior Technical Officer was received and noted.

**13. Date of Next Meetings**

The dates of the next meetings were noted, and Members agreed, by way of ordinary vote, to move the December meeting of the AIFCA to 6<sup>th</sup> December.

*The meeting concluded at 12:54*