

# Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group

## Board meeting Minutes

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018**  
**Venue: Safewise, Weymouth**  
**Time: 18:00 – 20:30**

**In attendance:**

Dorset Coast Forum	West Bay Fishermen's Association	East Devon Fishermen's Association	Native Marine Centre Limited
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	Seafish	Weymouth Harbour	
Southern IFCA	Weymouth Fishermen's Association	Dorset County Council	
Dorset Wildlife Trust	Swanage Fishermen's Association	Quest Marine Limited	

**Apologies:**

Purbeck District Council  
 Natural England  
 Swanage Bay Fish.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The chair welcomed the FLAG board members to the meeting.

**2. Last Meeting's Minutes**

No issues were raised about last meetings' minutes. There were four actions from the last meeting:

- I. **FLAG board members to advise Martin of health needs and ports where the project would be beneficial.** Martin hasn't heard anything from board members and is still in touch with potential project partners, but the project hasn't moved forward recently. Martin still aims to develop the project if the board feels there is a need for it – however there would need to be funds shuffled around or a bid for the potential extra funding the MMO have talked about if a project did come forward.

- II. **Rhiannon to contact Portland Port and get an update of their work towards a several order and report back to board.** The port held a consultation event on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Martin hasn't heard anything further since this event.
- III. **Martin Syvret to write a short report about the current main stakeholders and their activities in the aquaculture sector and circulate it to the board.** Martin has provided the update, which was attached to the board members notes for this meeting.
- IV. **Martin Sutcliffe to circulate core EMFF project spend to board members.** Martin apologised to the board for not doing this, he advised the board that 18 projects have been developed for the core fund with a total value of £1.3M. This breaks down to just over £322k in match supported by £1.04M from the core fund.
  - a. A board member asked if this was comparable to the other English FLAG's. Martin was unsure how this compares but could find out.

**ACTION: Martin to contact other English FLAG's to ask about their contribution to development of Core funded projects.**

### 3. FLAG Work Update

- **UK FLAG Managing Authority event** – The event was really successful and the feedback the team have had has been very complimentary. Martin extended his thanks to all FLAG board members who were involved during the site visits and during the run up to the conference. FLAG representatives from around the UK were really impressed with the work that has been done here. The Man Overboard Ladder project (ENG2507) is now planned to be replicated by 5 FLAGs across the UK, including the whole Northern Irish FLAG, as a result of a presentation at the event. The MMO was particularly impressed with the way the FLAG has been accepted by the communities and different sectors across the FLAG area. This highlights the great work of the FLAG and shines a welcome positive spotlight on Dorset and East Devon. The Chair thanked the officers for the work on the FLAG and also thanked the FLAG board for their input.
- **Aquaculture Development Officer work update** – Please see attached document. There will be a launch event for the High Potential Opportunity on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. Further information about High Potential Opportunities can be found on the Gov.uk website. The C-Scope project mapping data has been provided for the virtual hub.
- **Board meetings after March 2019** – Martin plans to arrange a workshop in the new year to discuss with the FLAG Board what the best form is for the board meetings to take after March 2019, as the board will no longer be assessing projects. However, Martin feels it is important to keep this group together and active in one form or another.

### 4. Finances

- **M&A claim status** - Claim 2 has now been submitted and approved by the MMO and paid back to Dorset County Council. Natalie will be starting work on Claim 3 in the new year. This should prove much more straight forward as we have now switched to adding 10% costs to the overall claim rather than having to provide evidence for every item of spend that staff make.



- **Movement of funding between priorities** – The two projects on the table for discussion at this meeting fall under P2 and P5. If the board passes the P2 project, it will take that priority to 56% committed (leaving circa £92k). With the work that Martin Syvret is carrying out Martin expects that priority 2 will be fully committed before March 2019. The second project for review this evening under P5 would fully commit that priority if the board approves it. However, there is short fall of £11,747.98 if that does happen. Martin recommended to the board to move the needed funds from P2 to P5 to cover the costs, as without the shortfall the project would not likely go ahead. If the board decides to move funds from P2 it would leave circa £65k in P2, assuming projects and pipeline come to fruition. As the closing stages of the fund approaches, there may be a need to move some money between priorities. The MMO have previously confirmed that this would be possible, and we do have a small project that Martin would recommend the board consider doing this for at this meeting.
- An expression of interest has been circulated to the board regarding solar panels on a chiller unit roof. This would need circa £1400 being moved from another priority to priority three to cover the cost of this project. Martin asked the board to consider and reply to Martin's email or let him know their thoughts. Infrastructure projects to the core fund have been closed and so that is not an option for this project. Priority 3 would remain closed for any other projects, but the board can assess this on a case by case basis.
  - **A board member questioned voting to transfer the funding before voting on the project itself. They asked whether this could be done on the basis that the board approves the project first, then take the vote at the approval stage.**
  - **If there are no major objections at the Expression of Interest stage Martin will work with the applicant to develop the project and present it to the board at the next available meeting. The Board can then make the decision about moving funding if required.**

**UPDATE: The deadline for comments from the Board on the Expression of Interest for this proposed project was December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. There have been no major objections and so Martin will be working with the applicant to develop the project for review at the next board meeting.**

- Martin is yet to hear if the extra £400,000 funding the MMO have talked about will be officially released. However, the FLAG's around England have collectively hit the commitment target of £1.1M and so there is likely to be further funding available, but the FLAG would probably have to bid for it and that relies on having projects ready to go forward for that bid.
  - **A board member asked whether this would need to be committed by 31<sup>st</sup> March? The impression is that if there are projects ready to go then that would be beneficial as it's likely to be on a first come first served basis. Two second funding round FLAGs who are fully committed have already written to the MMO regarding the funding.**
  - **As soon as Martin knows more he will communicate it to the board.**
- **Crane at the cobb project update (ENG2493)** - The applicant has contacted Martin to advise that if the crane is installed as originally planned it will not be able to be used as the jib is much longer than thought. They have proposed that a small plinth is installed on the quay side to raise the base of the crane, but this involves an extra cost. The MMO have confirmed

that this can be amended on the application, but Martin wanted to get the approval of the board before confirming it with the applicant.

- The extra cost will be £3,500 which is an extra 10% of the project cost and this would be moved from priority 2. Martin emphasised that without this amendment the project would be withdrawn, and the crane would not be installed.
  - **A board member asked what the match funding was for this project, Martin confirmed that 25% match is provided from local council.**
  - **A board member commented that given there is potential for some extra funding to be released from the MMO it gives the board some flexibility. Therefore, they would recommend that the applicant is allowed to push on to complete the project.**

**A vote was taken to move the required funding from Priority 2 to fund the change in the costs of the project. In Favour 10, Against 0, Abstained 3**

***£3,500 will be Taken from p2 to fund change.***

## **5. Mini Workshop hosted by Dorset Coast Forum**

Natalie, Dorset Coast Forum Co-ordinator, ran a workshop regarding the Marine Plans on behalf of the Marine Management Organisation.

## **6. Project discussion and scoring**

The applicant for ENG3299 which was presented at the previous board meeting and deferred until further information can be supplied asked Martin to update the board on their progress. A discussion was held by the board and is detailed as an Addendum to the project appraisal.

There were two projects presented for review by the Board at this meeting. Each project was independently appraised prior to the meeting and this was circulated to the Board for review. The scoring and Board discussion for each project is documented in the individual FLAG Application Appraisal form. Project details will be made public once they are approved for funding by the MMO.

- I. **ENG 3351 - Quest Marine Ltd and Native Marine Centre Ltd declared interest**
  - **The applicant presented to the Board**
  - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**
- II. **ENG3488**
  - **The applicant presented to the Board**
  - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

## **6. Any other business and date of next meeting**

- **Next meeting planned for January 29<sup>th</sup> 2019.** This would mean projects would need to be submitted by January 15<sup>th</sup> for appraisal and distribution to board. We are now fast approaching the deadline of March 29<sup>th</sup> for full commitment.
- Martin reminded the board that we can convene for conference calls when projects are time sensitive. He has confirmed with the MMO that the offer letter must be issued before March 29<sup>th</sup> but that they will be working towards the same deadline for ALL EMFF projects. In



theory a project can be signed off in a day in the MMO office but that depends upon all information being correct, accurate and complete.

- If conference calls are required to assess projects these will try to be arranged for early evening when possible, but Martin asked the board to be as flexible as possible. FLAG officers will try and give at least 5 working days' notice of a conference call. Martin reminded the board that it would be a straight project discussion and vote which should make it much shorter than these meetings.
- Martin will continue to assess the project pipeline as things move forward but asked the board to be prepared for conference calls as and when needed between January 29<sup>th</sup> and the end of the programme on March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **Update from the UK Government on what will replace EMFF.** The Environment Secretary has recently announced £37.2 million of extra funding to boost the UK fishing industry during the Implementation Period. This is in addition to the existing funding. The Government and Devolved Administrations have already committed to match the EMFF funding with around £60 million, so the extra funding will support more projects and the sector will benefit by a total of £320 million.
- The UK Government will put in place new, domestic, long-term arrangements to support the UK's fishing industry from 2021, through the creation of four new schemes comparable to EMFF to deliver funding for each nation. The Devolved Administrations will lead on their own schemes.
- The new schemes will be introduced after EMFF has closed in 2020. Details of these will be set at the 2019 Spending Review. In England, the scheme will:
  - Support innovation - in technologies to enhance economic growth, reduce environmental impact and improve fishing safety
  - Improve port infrastructure - so more fish can be landed in UK ports, and help the sector take advantage of new export opportunities after exit
  - Boost coastal communities - by providing benefits to areas that depend on a vibrant and profitable industry
  - Help the sector adjust - to new arrangements on access and fishing opportunities by improving capacity and capability to exploit new export opportunities and markets.
- **A board member commented that even without the complexities of Brexit, the MMO weren't good with continuity. However, in their opinion they recognise the urgency to put something in place between now the new fund.**
- Martin asked the board if they were aware of any projects which haven't submitted an application yet and if they are to ask the applicants to contact him as soon as possible to start the application process.
  - **A board member asked if radars, which are not eligible under EMFF, are likely to be eligible under the new scheme.**
  - **Martin was unable to advise as the proposed new scheme has not been outlined yet.**
- Martin reminded the board there is a Seaweed feasibility study workshop tomorrow at the sailing academy. A number of board members have been invited and it would great to see a range of people there.
- Dorset Coast Forum are currently facilitating Marine Protected Area workshops for Dorset Wildlife Trust and Southern IFCA which is part of the FLAG funded project ENG2838. The last workshop takes place on Thursday in Swanage.