

# Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group

## Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
Venue: Safewise, Weymouth  
Time: 18:00 – 20:00

### In attendance:

Dorset Coast Forum	Axmouth Fishermen's Association	Native Marine Centre	Southern IFCA
Swanage Bay Fish	Quest Marine	Dorset County Council	Lyme Regis Fishing College
Weymouth Fishermen's Association	Weymouth Harbour	West Bay Fishermen's Association	
Cefas	Seafish	Dorset Wildlife Trust	

### Apologies:

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council  
Purbeck District Council

### 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 was one action from the last meeting:

- I. **Martin to contact other English FLAG's to ask about their contribution to development of Core funded projects.** A meeting to do this was cancelled unfortunately, Martin will rearrange this meeting.

### 3. FLAG Work Update

- **Aquaculture Development Officer work update** – please see document attached.
  - Southern IFCA invited Martin Syvret to meet with them
- **Coastal Futures**

Martin attended the Coastal Futures conference last week. It was a good networking opportunity with some useful information. There were a lot of talks regarding Brexit, however no firm information. Martin has some follow ups regarding aquaculture development from the conference.

#### 4. Finances

- **M&A claim status**

DCC have been paid for the two claims that have been submitted. Next week Natalie and Martin will start work on the third claim. This claim should be more straightforward than the last two.

- **Spend commitments**

Over the last few weeks Martin has been working on adjusting the overall spend on each of the LDS priorities. A number of projects have either underspent or overspent when compared to the original request for funding through FLAG. For example, the EPIRBs that were purchased through each of the H&S projects were slightly cheaper and two of the projects funded through Priority 3 also underspent. The upshot of this is that the commitments have been adjusted. P3 now has some funding back in it as the majority of underspend has been for projects under that priority. This means that if the project for review this evening is approved, the board would not need to consider moving any funding across to P3. P3 is now open again for project submission, although funding is limited. Martin asked the board to let him know if they are aware of any projects or have any project for this priority. This is particularly relevant as the core EMFF fund for this type of project is closed.

Overall, the FLAG is just short of 72% committed. There is a very healthy pipeline in P4 and projects are being developed for P2.

- **Update on ENG3299**

The applicant has provided an update which is in the board's information pack. Martin asked the board if they wish to continue to support this project, considering the 29<sup>th</sup> March deadline. £47,936 is assigned to this project

However, there is a potential project which Martin is working on with an applicant, although this is at pre-EOI stage and full costs are unknown. It is a possibility that if this money continues to be assigned to this project and the permissions aren't in place in time, then the FLAG will have that money back into P2 with no time to allocate to other projects. The MMO permissions process is currently taking 16 weeks.

- A board member expressed their disappointment that the licences aren't yet in place.
- A board member is aware of several skippers who want to formally object to the marine planning application, which would delay the process.
- A board member asked whether there are any other projects in process for this priority.
  - Martin explained currently there is one potential project, though this is early in the process. There are advantages to this potential project as it is not



likely to require any marine licences, could potentially create jobs and fits well under P2.

- A board member noted that it would reflect badly on the board if the project did not meet the deadline, particularly as the board are aware of the risks. The board can still support the project and would welcome the application if the timescales can be achieved.
- A board member asked whether there would be a competitive element to applications if money is left over?
  - Martin advised that the board would need to decide this; this approach would potentially maximise the amount spent however the applications are time consuming for applicants.
- A board member suggested that this project has a lot of scope in it and proposed that the project shouldn't be rejected completely. The applicant should be made aware that time is of the essence and secure permissions and licenses as soon as possible.
- A board member noted that it is a worthwhile project, however it appears the applicant didn't have a good understanding of what was required. The board expected to have heard of significant progress on this by now. An MMO case worker has not yet been assigned. Having not seen the progress on this, the member is not confident that licences will be approved in time.
- A board member suggested that the Maritime and Coastguard Agency would have concerns about this project, as 3 entanglements occurred in the previous area in Ringstead Bay.
- A board member mentioned that the applicant should be made aware of the Food Standards Agency requirement to classify water quality and not CEFAS.
- A board member asked what would happen to the funding if Article 50 is withdrawn.
  - Martin advised that as far as he is aware, the MMO is currently working on all possible scenarios for Brexit, however what this would look like is unknown. They are preparing a new E-System to manage to £37 million that was announced in December 2018 for the transition period, but it is unknown whether this money would be under the same terms or whether EMFF applicants would be shifted across to this new system.
- Martin mentioned that he had received an email from the MMO regarding extra funding for FLAGs. The MMO are going to release this to English FLAGs though the exact amount is unknown. It will be on a tender basis and ready to go projects would be preferred. It was suggested that the MMO would like to see these projects up and running by the end of February. Martin also advised that this offers an opportunity for this FLAG to re-distribute funding across the priorities. £140,000 is available in P2, which could potentially be moved across to other priorities.
- Three options were suggested:
  - To continue to support this project
  - To withdraw support for this project
  - Retain an interest in the project as there may be funds available if their licences are received in time.
- A board member commented that they don't see that supporting this project in principle would have a detrimental affect on this FLAG. Even if the allocation is removed, they are still welcome to apply, however the applicant should be made aware that their match contribution may need to increase.



- A final call for projects was suggested for projects with a short time frame across the priorities. This project is welcome to apply if the required licenses are approved within the time frame as it is unlikely that £100,000 worth of projects will apply in the next 8 weeks.
- The ADO was asked whether he was aware of any more aquaculture projects.
  - Martin Syvret has made several companies aware of the opportunity and will follow these up.
- It was suggested that the M&A money should be used for a marketing campaign calling for applications across all priorities and not earmark this money for this project, however they can be considered if they get the licences in place.

**ACTION: Martin to go through EOIs that were not completed or rejected at some stage to see whether there is any interest in applying again.**

- A board member asked whether the applicant could apply for an extension to their trial period and extra equipment.
  - Martin advised he will suggest this to the applicant, but he believes they would not want to do this.

**A vote was taken to continue to support this project in principle but for FLAG officers to put out a project call across all priorities and if projects come forward that will use remaining allocation in Priority 2, the applicant for ENG3299 would need to increase their match funding contribution.**

**In favour 14  
Against 0  
Abstain 0**

**ACTION: Martin to arrange a marketing campaign for an open call across the LDS.**

## **5. Board meetings post March 2019 mini workshop**

Martin ran a workshop regarding the future of these board meetings. The outputs of the workshop will be circulated to the Board.

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

There was one project presented for review by the Board at this meeting. The project was independently appraised prior to the meeting and this was circulated to the Board for review. The scoring and Board discussion for the 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.

Martin ran through the project.

- 1. **ENG 3780 – Axmouth Fishermens’ Association declared interest***
  - **The applicant presented to the Board**
  - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**



**ACTION: Martin to speak to the low carbon team at Dorset County Council regarding energy saving alternative to solar panels.**

## 7. Any other business

- A board member raised the subject of Local Government Reorganisation and who the councillors' representation would be here. The board member will keep the board informed when a decision on this has been agreed.
- A board member mentioned that the FLAG supported 3-day Safety at Sea pilot course has been completed. The next stage is the RNLI are going to run a similar course at the end of February, do inform anyone you know who would like to take part. Already have 6 local people assigned, it is within half term aimed to allow under 18s to take part.
- A board member also advised, one of the projects that this FLAG was not able to fund has now been funded by Trinity House.
  - Martin clarified that the reason the FLAG couldn't fund the project is because it would have put limitations on it that the applicant deemed overly prohibitive.
- A board member raised that they would like to receive updates from the successful projects at future meetings, as discussed during the workshop.
- A board member gave an update on the MPA planning project; a series of workshops held by Dorset Coast Forum have taken place and the report outcomes have been written up. A steering group meeting is taking place next week to look at the report and plan for the next stage.

**ACTION: Martin to send the MPA Community Planning Workshops' report to the board**

## 8. Next meeting discussion

- There are two projects that are time sensitive that are almost ready for submission. It was suggested that a conference call could be scheduled when required with 5 working days' notice. This will also need to be Quorate.
- A full board meeting was suggested for 26<sup>th</sup> February; however, this may be adjusted if required.
- **The next meeting is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019**