

Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group

Board meeting Minutes

Date: 4th September 2018
Venue: Safewise, Weymouth
Time: 18:00 – 20:30

In attendance:

Swanage Fishermen's Association	Quest Marine Ltd.	Weymouth Harbour Authority	Swanage Bay Fish
Dorset Coast Forum	Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	West Bay Fishermen's Association	
Dorset County Council	Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	Weymouth and Portland Fishermen's and Licensed Boatmen's Association	
CEFAS	East Devon Fishermen's Association (Seaton and Axmouth Branch)	Dorset Wildlife Trust	

Apologies:

Purbeck District Council
Sea Fish
Marine Management Organisation
Native Marine Centre Ltd.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The chair welcomed the FLAG board members to the meeting and welcomed Swanage Bay Fish as a new board member.

2. Last Meeting's Minutes

There were four actions from the last meeting:

- I. **Martin to chase remaining FLAG Board members' Responses to GDPR** – Martin has contacted the board members who had not replied and has now received responses from everyone concerned.



- II. **FLAG Officers to design a flyer about health needs to be circulated in ports in the FLAG area** – Martin has been working with key partners to develop this project further, but no flyers have been designed yet. Martin will keep the board updated with the progress.
- III. **Rhiannon to contact suitable organisations and invite them to join the FLAG board** – Three organisations have been contacted. Two are yet to reply but Swanage Bay Fish has joined the board.
- IV. **FLAG officers to forward DEFRA consultation to board members** – This was completed in June.

3. FLAG Work Update

- **Staff Changes** – Rhiannon has changed roles to the Dorset Coast Forum Coordinator. As the FLAG sits within DCF, she will oversee the FLAG one day per week. Martin will be taking on more of the management, strategy and legacy planning of the FLAG moving forward until the end of the programme.
- **Projects** – Since the FLAG launch in March 2017, 47 expressions of interest have been received. 29 Expressions of interest have been developed into full projects and 17 of these have had offer letters issued.
- The claims status of a number of projects has progressed significantly since the last FLAG board meeting – nine projects have now completed and made claims and a further two are in the process of either a final or partial claim.
- Two more projects are being considered at this meeting and a further five are in the pipeline.
- The FLAG remains on target to fully commit the funding by March 2019, but Board members are urged to help identify more potential projects.
 - **A board member asked how the Dorset and East Devon FLAG spends compare to the other English FLAG's.** Rhiannon advised that some FLAG's are now fully committed but this is the second round of funding that that area has had from FLAG and so the programme was planned ahead of time. Most English FLAG's are in a similar position. The UK Managing Authority event in October will give the English FLAG's the opportunity to update on their spends.
 - **A board member asked for an updated on the FLAG's Management and Administration Claim.** Rhiannon advised the board that one claim has now been paid and this covers the period from March 2017 to November 2017. On going work is being carried out with the MMO to simplify the claims process moving forward. The second claim is being submitted.
- **Community Planning for MPA management project** – There appears to be some confusion regarding the MPA project that was funded through the FLAG earlier this year. There have been some meetings so far, but these initial meetings are regarding the steering group for the project. There are members of the FLAG board on that committee, however, FLAG board members are there as representatives of the fishing industry in general and not the FLAG board. The meetings that have taken place so far were aimed at the high-level planning and logistics of the overall project. Part of the project is to undertake stakeholder engagement workshops, which DCF will manage, but these have not been planned yet. Once they are planned invitations will be circulated to all interested



stakeholders including all FLAG board members. There will also be further reporting back to the FLAG board as the project progresses.

- **A board member asked for a summary of the project.** The project aims to tease out the benefits of MPAs to fishermen through a number of workshops. These will then inform an engagement project for the public about what fishing happens in MPAs and inform fisheries management within MPAs.
- **Fishermen's Health Needs** – Martin is still working on developing the project with key partners. Holderness FLAG have shared the details of a very similar project and this has proved a good starting point. The idea for this project extends from a trial carried out by a dental charity in Poole last month. The project would hope to extend to families of fishermen as well. Martin asked the board to advise him of any particular ports or needs that they are aware of in the FLAG area.
 - **A board member advised that melanoma can be a particular health issue for fishermen along with musculoskeletal issues and skin rashes from ropes, salt etc.**

ACTION: FLAG Board members to advise Martin of health needs and ports where this project would be particularly beneficial.

- **UK Managing Authority Conference (UKMA)** – The UKMA on October 10th and 11th will see all the UK's FLAG's come to Dorset. This gives the FLAG a fantastic opportunity to showcase what has been achieved here in both the aquaculture and fishing industries and highlight our work to the MMO. The two-day event will involve a conference day based at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy with a second day of site visits; starting at Portland Port to look at some of the Aquaculture projects FLAG has funded. Delegates will also get to visit Axmouth and the Cobb at Lyme Regis.
- **Aquaculture Development Officer Work Update**
 - **Aquaculture Park concept**
 - In July, the Aquaculture Development Officer (ADO), met with local stakeholders to discuss the potential for a project that could provide an aquaculture zone with all the necessary permissions, licenses and services in-place to culture shellfish or seaweeds within a controlled water body.
 - SEAFISH have been approached about possible funding to help develop this idea, building on previous work.
 - Discussions at the Board meeting highlighted the possibilities offered by a Several Order application by Portland Port. Further investigations are required to assess what is planned under that application and to more clearly define the opportunities, or barriers, that may come from it. The ADO confirmed that this a priority.

ACTION: Rhiannon to contact Portland Port and get an update on their work towards a several order report back to the FLAG board.

UPDATE: Portland Port are holding an informal consultation session on Tuesday September 18th from 3pm to 7pm at the Chesil Beach Visitor Centre on Portland Beach Road, DT4 9XE.



- **Aquaculture Film**
 - There is an Aquaculture Film planned to show Industry activity in the region, highlight career paths into the sector as well as the availability of training. The ADO is working with the film maker to develop a potential story-line.
- **Cefas Aquaculture Mapping Project**
 - The ADO has offered support to Cefas on this project and will be working with them to help map the area.
- **Seaweed Cultivation – Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS)**
 - There is interest locally regarding seaweed cultivation. The ADO is currently discussing with the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) the support that they may be able to give to local Industry. The ADO is arranging a meeting with SAMS to discuss knowledge exchange and technical support for proposed seaweed cultivation in Dorset.
 - **SSIA 2018:** SAMS are based in Oban and there is an ideal opportunity to build in a visit and meetings at SAMS with attendance at the 2018 Scottish Seaweed Industry Association (SSIA) conference being held in Oban in November. The ADO and Martin Sutcliffe are investigating the potential for Industry attendance at this conference. The ADO will report back on the conference which may help the Board when considering future applications for seaweed cultivation.
- **Crown Estate Workshop:** The Crown Estate are holding a one-day workshop in London in September to highlight the findings of their recent ‘SeaGas’ Project. Items for discussion include current seaweed markets, revenues and potential; seaweed farming and harvesting techniques as well as the key challenges, priorities and next steps for the sector. The ADO will attend this workshop and report back.
- **Other work**
 - **Further FLAG Projects**
 - The ADO has further meetings planned with Industry in September to develop some potential FLAG projects one of which could help to expand a current shellfish farming operation.
 - **High Potential Opportunity**
 - The region, through Dorset County Council, has been awarded an HPO which is a mechanism whereby the Aquaculture sector within the region will be highlighted and promoted. The ADO will be working with the DCC team who are leading on this.
 - **MMO Aquaculture**
 - The MMO have asked to meet to discuss what help the ADO can give them with regard to aquaculture data for the region.
 - **Seafish Aquaculture Common Issues Group Meeting**
 - The ADO is due to attend this meeting on the 18th September and to report back to Industry on anything relevant to Dorset and East Devon.
 - **Business Advice on Depuration**
 - The ADO is helping local Industry to build a business case for depuration support to Industry.

ACTION: Martin Syvret to write a short report about the current main stakeholders and their current activities in the aquaculture sector and circulate it to the Board.



- **Board meetings after March 2019** – FLAG funding must be committed to projects by March 2019 and there will be at least three more Board meetings between now and then. If any time sensitive projects are submitted in between meetings these will be voted on via conference call. The FLAG officers feel it is important that the Board continues to meet after March 2019 and will forward a questionnaire to board members to get their thoughts on which format would be beneficial moving forward.
 - **A board member advised if the FLAG board was still operational beyond March 2019 it would put the area in a better position if DEFRA do to continue to fund FLAG's (or a similar programme) post Brexit.**
 - **Rhiannon advised the board that Cornwall benefitted from this during this round of funding having already been set up for a previous round.**

4. Finances

- We remain on track to be fully committed by March 2019. The fund has now committed 57% of spend and there is approximately a further 10% to be considered at this meeting.
- There is a further 12% at Expression of Interest stage.
- FLAG officers will reassess the re-opening of closed priorities but will consider projects on a case by case basis.
- Payment has now been received for the first M&A claim of £58,515.
- A board member asked what value of projects have been developed by FLAG officers and been submitted to the core EMFF programme as this will contribute to the success and evaluation of the FLAG for future funding.

ACTION: Martin to circulate core EMFF project spend to board members.

- Rhiannon advised the board that the Swanage slip way improvement project has now been approved.
- Martin advised the board that the Lyme Regis piling project has hit some stumbling blocks with Historic England, but he has offered assistance to the harbour master to help overcome them.

5. Project discussion and scoring

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 3299** Quest Marine Ltd. declared interest
 - **The applicant presented to the Board**
 - **A vote was taken to defer this project until the applicant can provide further information**
- II. **ENG3354** Quest Marine Ltd and Dorset Coast Forum declared interest
 - **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

- A conference call will be held on October 2nd, 2018 to discuss a time sensitive project. Details of the call will be circulated closer to the time.
- Due to the UK Managing Authority Event and FLAG officer annual leave the next meeting will be on November 20th, 2018 at 1800 in SafeWise, Weymouth.