

## **Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Fleet study Group meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016.**

**Present:** E. Harland, D. Moxom, R. Waldock, J. Dadds, A. Holiday, J. Cox, J. Mead, J. Bass, L. Baldock, A. Scott, K. Donnelly, E. Brown, F. Cox.

**Apologies:** R. Carpenter, C. Wheeler, S. Hales, M. Doggett, E. Rance, C. Bolton.

New member – Annabelle King – Ecologist with Dorset county council.  
Steph Ashman (NE) is returning from Maternity leave.

**Minutes of the 115<sup>th</sup> meeting :** Approved.

**Matters arising:** None.

### **Reports from representatives:**

**PHCC:-** Meetings will now be held every 6 months, the next will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. The coaling pier extension is still ongoing – see <http://www.portland-port.co.uk/news/16/Port+moves+forward+with+cruise+berth+extension+plans>  
The Underwater Curiosity Park has it's licence and statues are being manufactured – see <http://www.imgrum.net/user/deadwalkdesigns/372716500> for examples. A seabed survey has been carried out and a copy requested for the archive.  
Portland Oystermen Ltd have submitted an application for an area adjacent to the North arm of the breakwater for farming of oysters mussels and scallops.  
PHA have their own survey vessel – a survey of the lower Fleet was requested.  
Reports of the Fleet Channel silting up have been followed up and resurveying has found no significant difference.

**DCF:** – No meeting yet and the date for the autumn meeting has yet to be set. Previous meeting reports can be found at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/dorset-coast-forum/events>

Dorset and E. Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) – a draft local development plan is underway – aquaculture in Portland Harbour and the Fleet could be developed. <https://marinedevelopments.blog.gov.uk/2016/05/10/the-dorset-coast-forum-dcf-emff-journey/>

**Coast South West 2016:** AH attended the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April – a diverse range of presentations focusing on the storm damage of 2014. A report is attached.

### **Research Reports:**

**NE TAG.** No report

**Seagrass initiative** – J. Mead reported that surveys will continue 3 times a year – the next is due in August. 3 snorkel transects at Gore Cove, Butterstreet Cove and Langton herring showed no growth at all where last August there had been very

dense coverage. *Akera bullata* was very abundant with up to 10% cover in some places. A new hydroid (non-native) record is being followed up by Lin Baldock. It is also hoped to repeat the kayak survey. The 2015 survey report has been completed and Lin Baldock is checking. A copy was requested for the archive. Details of the project can be found at <http://www.csi-seagrass.co.uk>

**SIFCA Small Fish Survey.** J. Bass reported on the survey that forms part of the Fleet SAC monitoring programme to assess the status of fish stocks in 2016. The EA surveyed the W. Fleet in June and SIFCA and volunteers surveyed the E. Fleet. Very little was seen – could be down to the net type – very coarse. No Mullet and no Ballan Wrasse. JB has sent previous reports to the EA and SIFCA – where a finer net was used. The survey is due to be repeated in September. SIFCA will be producing a report. SIFCA reports can be found at <http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/useful-documents>

**Little Terns.** J. Dadds reported that currently there are still 2 pairs sitting on eggs the rest have hatched. There were 20+ pairs nesting within the first week of arrival (last week in May). A total of 38 pairs (5 up on last year) puts the site back into Favourable Conservation Status. Currently 60+ fledglings (could be up to 72) giving a productivity of 1.9/pair. The kestrel has paid no attention to the colony this year – may be because it has been a very good year for voles. 11 adults and 40 chicks have been ringed by S. Hales. 1 of last years ringed chicks has been recorded as returning this year. The colony is moving westward and the fencing will have to be moved as well. There has been less disturbance from fishermen but some from a drone – JD to let CW know details. The CAA has a no fly area in the W. Fleet – need to try to establish one in the E. Fleet if possible.

No funding from NE this year but sufficient from other sources to staff (CE/Court Leet)

#### **Coastal Access.**

Illchester Estates have a date of 1<sup>st</sup> November for the Public Inquiry on the West Fleet – location as yet unknown.

#### **FSG Field Day 2016.**

August 12<sup>th</sup> 11am at Moonfleet Manor. Revisiting the 2015 site at CB14 to document changes. Survey for litter within the same swath and extended into the shallows. JD to write up the methodology for photography.

Field Day Pt 2 – 13<sup>th</sup> September for a preliminary look at the Monks causeway with a view to holding a full Field day next year.

**AOB.**

FC – The Fleet entrance channel survey – Quest Marine Services would like this done with a view to undertaking a capital dredge to get deeper draft boats into the Ferrybridge area.

EH – identification of the sounds at the hydrophone site – not known – id of fish – Sand Smelt.

**Future meetings and venues** – 18<sup>th</sup> November – CB Centre (tbc) 2pm. (changed to 25<sup>th</sup> November because of existing booking)