

FLEET STUDY GROUP.

Minutes for the 18th meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held on the 25th June 1982 in the Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Weymouth.

PRESENT: Dr M Ladle (Chairman)
Mr J Fair (Strangways)
Mr J White (NCC)
Dr A Carr
Mr G Poole
Mr D Seaward
Mr A Brandwood
Mrs J Fitzpatrick (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Mr E Green
Dr E Burrows
Miss J Nall
Dr J Whittaker

MATTERS ARISING

1. Current research projects: (a) Arthur Brandwood had just completed his sampling of the *Littorina* populations along the Fleet which he would be analysing back at Leeds. He had also examined the fishermen's eel and mullet nets for Shore Crab which he had subjected to experimental tests to discover the strength of their claws. Since the information concerning the distribution of the Shore Crab could be obtained from his data, he was asked if he could prepare a short statement that could be of interest to the Study Group and perhaps be printed in the Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society.

(b) Dr Ladle reported that Caroline Pickering was now carrying out quantitative sampling from Moonfleet for analysis, having already done a preliminary sampling of 16 stations along the Fleet. She was narrowing down the study to possibly 2 polychaetes, 2 oligochaetes and a chironomid. Dr Ladle had sent Dr Burrows and Colin Tubbs samples of *Zostera* for their algal investigation. Mr Tubbs was particularly interested in the plants in their flowering and seeding conditions.

(c) Dr Whittaker had put David Campbell (University of Birmingham) in touch with a Mr R Bray at the British Museum (Natural History) over his lack of success in finding references to previous work on parasites of the bivalve *Abra tenuis*. He has subsequently been provided with information from the Museum's extensive bibliography of parasites and their hosts.

2. Schemes affecting the Fleet: Since Mr Womersley was not at the meeting there was little to report on most of the schemes. On the new bridge at Ferrybridge, Mr Poole reported that there had been a public enquiry which had been called by the local fishermen. The enquiry was now in to the last two days and it was expected that a decision would have to be made soon whether to go ahead with the scheme or not. Various safeguards, such as stipulating that work must be done only at the ebb flow, etc were emphasised at the enquiry. Mr Green, Miss H Brotherton and Mr Poole had been at the enquiry. It was possible that stemming from this, work to get more details on Bass distribution and spawning would be carried out.

3. Field Meeting in the Narrows: Final discussions were made concerning the sampling programme to be undertaken based on the Bridging Camp on the 26th June. Following our last meeting in March (AOB item (d)) Dr Whittaker had been in touch with Dr Farnham from Hayling Island who had agreed to dive in the Narrows for invertebrate and algal samples. Mr D Seaward had contacted both Dr Whittaker and Dr Farnham and all interested parties had been informed. There had been a difficulty over a boat. Mrs Fitzpatrick had approached both the Weymouth Anglers and the Bridging Camp but in the end referred the matter to Dr Ladle. Unfortunately,

owing to the birth of Dr Whittaker's second son, he was unable to come down to the field meeting but had arranged that if Laminarian holdfasts, filamentous algae, bryozoa and hydrozoa were obtained, the relevant specialists in London would identify and report on the samples. Dr Ladle agreed to supply preserving fluid and containers, while Arthur Brandwood kindly offered to deliver the samples as he was returning to London on the Sunday.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Friday, 19th November 1982, at the Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Weymouth.

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The next meeting of the Fleet Study Group will be on
FRIDAY, 19th NOVEMBER 1982, at the Dorset Institute of
Higher Education, Cranford Avenue, Weymouth, at 4.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Matters arising - (a) June Field Meeting in the Narrows.
(b) Nuclear Power Station.
(c) Ferrybridge - the new bridge.
(d) Current research projects.
(e) Future research projects.
3. Future meeting place of Study Group.
4. Any other business.
5. Date of next meeting.