

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes of the 92nd meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held at the CEFAS laboratory, Weymouth on 4th April 2008.

Present: G. Poole, S. Feist, D. Moxom, K. Donnelly, J. Cox, ~~S. Eden~~ J. Bass, E. Harland, R. Waldock, L. Baldock, G. LePard, R. Acornley, Jo Leverick, K. Coombe.

1. Apologies for Absence: D. Seaward, J. Fitzpatrick, R. Edmonds, M. Bray, S. Eden B. Edwards, K. Donnelly and P. O'Sullivan.

2. Notes of Last Meeting: Accepted as a true record

3. Matters Arising: GLP has been unable to make any progress with mapping due to other commitments. Place names could be added as an overlay.

There is a typing error in the Flyer. Only about 50 will be produced.

4. Reports from Representatives:

Dorset Coast Forum. Next meeting will be in May.

Finding Sanctuary workshops – EH will e-mail details to all for individuals to decide if they wish to attend.

Sea Angling Strategy consultation – licensing aspect has already been dropped.

C_Scope project/Coastal Explorer – INTERREG bid being put together for funding this project – will be used as a marine spatial planning pilot.

Joint Dorset Marine Committee. DWT seabed mapping work to begin in July. Peter Tinsley to be asked to give a presentation on the work at a future meeting.

GLP advised that the Hydrographic Office will be undertaking a training mapping exercise in Portland Harbour in July/August. Link to be provided.

Channel Coast Observatory SW. Apart from a newsletter nothing else to report.

SMP2. Presentations to stakeholders have been given by Teignbridge Borough Council (lead local authority) including one at the Sailing Academy on Portland.

5. Research reports – present and future:

Seafan survey – undertaken on a 600m length of Chesil Bank at Wyke Regis – 200+ fans found. 3rd year of monitoring. Steve Trewella to be asked to provide a report for the website.

It was agreed it would be useful to have some research projects outlined ready to get students to do.

EH presented recent data from the Upper Fleet including storm event data. The January event had large numbers of cuttlefish washed up and the March event produced dog whelks, as well as flooding the Swannery.

6. Fleet Study Group documentation

All happy with the flyer – copies will be distributed at the next meeting.

7. **Website** Publications page has expanded and the Chesil Bank pages rewritten. Explanation of the evolution of the bank – Malcolm Bray's has been put up and others are welcomed. Pebble page – help is needed with identifying the pebbles. Plant and fish lists are up additions and comments welcomed. Fleet Lagoon pages – species list needed. Bird lists are needed (not migratory sp) for both the beach and the lagoon.

8. AOB.

GLP – Spirit of the Sea (5 – 13th July) will include an exhibition of a lerret and a trow (traditional Fleet boats). Recent photos and memories are being collated – option to put together a book on the boats.

A camera from the Sailing Academy pontoon with video and audio links is to be set up with images displayed locally. It is hoped that the Portland bus will contain audio info and there will be a display at the visitor centre.

It is hoped that the 'Spirit of the Sea' festival will become an annual event.

JC: proposed an identification guide to typical flotsam found on Chesil would be of interest.

The Ringed Plover survey will be redone. Colour ringing of wagtails is being undertaken at Abbotsbury and Slapton.

DM: AI – all restrictions now lifted. Nests at the Swannery were destroyed by the storm flood but have been rebuilt and laying started on 14th March – 2 weeks earlier than previously recorded.

Napoli beach cleaning continues.

Visitor centre – planning permission has been granted.

Little Terns – last year was a bad one – preparations for this year are underway.

Litter – storms have blown litter onto the land side of the beach. The Great Dorset Beach Clean will take place on 20th April.

EH – a dead common dolphin has been found stranded at Chesil Cove – looks like a fisheries by-catch victim.

9. Future meetings and venues – agreed to keep to a Friday afternoon and that nomadic venues preferred.

25th July - Slepe Farm, Wareham

November – army camp and different day (Thursday?).

A presentation was given by Jo Leverick of the EA on monitoring water quality in the Fleet – a 2007 update.