

SEA ANGLING 2012 STEERING GROUP MEETING

Defra, London
21 November 2012

Attendees

Attendees: David Mitchell (Angling Trust), Lyle Stantiford (Professional Boatmen's Association), Mike Armstrong & Kieran Hyder (Cefas), Leila Fonseca, Emma Boyd, Tejal Sheth & Delyth Dyne (Defra), Matt Elliott, Sarah Pilgrim & Jodie Hargreaves (MMO), Nigel Horsman (Bass Anglers Sportfishing Society), John Munday (Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers), Adam Brown & James Harrison (Substance), Carrie McMinn (AFBI), David Turnbull (Marine Scotland), Sarah Clark (IFCA TAG), Max Munday & Annette Roberts (University of Cardiff)

Apologies: Chris Caines (Professional Boatmen's Association), Mike Thrussell (Angling Consultant & Journalist), Jeremy Lyle (University of Tasmania), Bryn Jones & Colin Charman (Countryside Council for Wales), Naidre Werner (Angling Trades Association), Kevin Williamson (MMO), Ian Misselbrook (Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society), Stuart Belbin & Chris Mole (North Thames Boatmen's Association), Phil Arnott (Angling Consultant & Journalist), Cllr John Lamb (Association of IFCAs)

Agenda

Session	Time	Topic	Lead
	10:30	Coffee	
1	10:45	Welcome	Mike
2	11:00	Acceptance of minutes & review of actions	Kieran
3	11:45	ONS	Sarah
	12:30	Lunch & Coffee	
4	13:30	Economic & social benefits survey	Adam
5	14:15	Charter boats	Adam & Sarah
	15:00	Coffee	
6	15:15	Shore-based & private boat	Mike
7	16:00	Online catch survey	Mike
8	16:30	Publicising the project	Kieran
9	16:40	Summary	Mike
	16:45	Close	

Minutes

ITEM 1: WELCOME

- Four additional people attended this steering group meeting. Prof Max Munday and Dr Annette Roberts from the University of Cardiff are collaborating with Substance on the survey of social benefits and economic value. Jodie Hargreaves (MMO) is contributing to the analysis of the ONS and charter boat surveys, and Tejal Sheth (Defra) was taking minutes.

ITEM 2: ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES & REVIEW OF ACTIONS

- Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by email and are available on the website.
- Actions were reviewed as described in the table below.

Number	Action	Progress
1.2	<i>Defra to outline the data requirements to support potential policy options and what 'positive steps for angling' government is discussing with stakeholders.</i> 23 November 2011 – Delyth will address this action at the next steering group meeting.	Complete

	<p>14 March 2012 – Delyth outlined that change in legislation especially the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the move to regional management through the IFCAs provide a new mechanism for ensuring that sea angling is taken into account in policy development, but that policy development must be based on strong evidence. Sea Angling 2012 will help to shape the future of sea angling by providing a solid evidence base that supports the needs of sea anglers, helping the IFCAs develop survey methods, and building relationships between the Government and sea angling community. Defra are keen to receive ideas for policy development that have a positive benefit for sea angling, and that scientific and economic evidence supporting these benefits are required to make legislative change. The sea angling community feel that evidence from previous reports like Drew has not been used by Government and that the views of sea anglers are not taken into account in policy. The recent ‘Fishing for Answers’ conference was seen as a good example of where research on angling has been launched effectively ensuring that key findings have been highlighted to both the Government and other stakeholders. Defra will ensure that the outputs from Sea Angling 2012 are assessed and utilised appropriately by the Government, so will take forwards the process of publicising the final output and seek ministerial support with this process.</p> <p><i>Action: Adam to provide a summary of how the ‘Fishing for Answers’ was able to have an impact.</i></p> <p>20 June 2012 – in progress, review at next meeting.</p> <p>21 November 2012 – Adam to provide summary by email.</p> <p><i>Action: Delyth to work with Kieran, Mike, Adam and the association of IFCAs to develop a plan for publicising the final outputs of Sea Angling 2012 and seek ministerial support for this process.</i></p> <p>20 June 2012 – Ministerial support is likely for the launch of the Sea Angling 2012 results, but is dependent on final dates. A full programme will be developed once the final reporting date is agreed.</p> <p>21 November 2012 – Delyth, Emma, Kieran, Mike & Leila to organise ministerial launch toward the end of 2013.</p>	
1.7	<p><i>All to consider the possibility of sharing lists of clubs, tackle shops etc. with the project.</i></p> <p>23 November 2011 – the possibility of sharing the tackle shop directory is being considered by Naidre.</p> <p>14 March 2012 – in progress, review at next meeting.</p> <p>20 June 2012 – Kieran to contact the list owner and request use.</p> <p>21 November – Naidre has provided a list and conditions of use.</p>	Complete
2.18	<p><i>Naidre to provide input on search engine optimisation & ask angling trade to link to the website.</i></p> <p>14 March 2012 – Kieran to discuss with Naidre.</p> <p>20 June 2012 – review at next meeting.</p> <p>21 November – search engine optimisation discussed.</p>	Complete
3.10	<p><i>ACTION: Rob to provide list of angling clubs held by individual IFCAs.</i></p> <p>20 June 2012 – Sarah to provide information at next meeting.</p> <p>21 November 2012 – in progress, review at next meeting</p>	Ongoing
3.11	<p><i>ACTION: David to contact angling clubs affiliated to the Angling Trust and ask them to contact Cefas if they would like to be involved.</i></p> <p>20 June 2012 – review at next meeting.</p> <p>21 November 2012 – Angling Trust emailed all affiliated clubs asking them to contact Cefas directly.</p>	Complete
4.1	<p><i>Mike to update Steering Group in August with private boat sampling</i></p>	Complete

	<i>achievement up to July and develop an alternate sampling plan if activity does not increase sufficiently in June and July.</i> 21 November 2012 – covered under Item 6	
4.2	<i>Mike to develop links with four private boat clubs and ask for advice on sampling.</i> 21 November 2012 – covered under Item 6	Complete
4.3	<i>Sarah to request that all paper reports are entered into the database by end of July.</i> 21 November 2012 – the majority of paper records are now in the database.	Complete
4.4	<i>Matt to set up a meeting with MMO, Cefas and Substance to develop the charter boat work plan as soon as possible and circulate plan to the steering group.</i> 21 November 2012 – charter boat work developed, reviewed by steering group & survey underway (see Item 5)	Complete
4.5	<i>Kieran, Matt, Mike & Adam to update the overall project plan.</i> 21 November 2012 – overall plan updated & presented to steering group. Initial results will be circulated at the same time as they are presented to the WGRFS.	Complete
4.6	<i>Naidre to help Adam to obtain data from local tackle businesses.</i> 21 November 2012 – list provided and available to use.	Complete
4.7	<i>Adam to provide business card to the IFCA's for distribution with flyers.</i> 21 November 2012 – distributed to some IFCA's as required.	Complete
4.8	<i>Adam to look at the click through stats between the substance and main project websites.</i> 21 November 2012 – not possible due to technical constraints.	Complete
4.9	<i>Mike, Adam and Kieran to develop a joint press release.</i> 21 November 2012 – done and released.	Complete
4.10	<i>Kieran to send flyers to David and Adam to distribute.</i> 21 November 2012 – flyers sent.	Complete

ITEM 3: ONS SURVEY

- Preliminary results from ONS surveys between January and August 2012 were presented with almost 8700 households responding. The proportion of households containing a sea angler and estimates of the number of sea anglers were in line with previous surveys. Detailed local level assessments are unlikely to be possible due to the percentage of households containing sea anglers. Comparisons were drawn between the preliminary results of the ONS and other surveys, indicating some differences in terms of age, gender, catch, location, and expenditure. Further analysis will be done before the next meeting including providing confidence intervals.
ACTION: Jodie, Sarah & Matt to provide an updated analysis at the next meeting including confidence limits.

ITEM 4: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL BENEFIT SURVEY

- The economic survey is progressing really well with almost 1600 angler completing the online survey and a further 280 interviewed at the five case-study locations (Lowestoft, Deal, Amble/Sea Houses, Liverpool and Weymouth). Few anglers at Lowestoft were encountered on the days sampling at the study site, so Substance will work with Cefas to increase the encounter rate.
- Annette & Max presented some preliminary results. Anglers were split by the amount that they fished and the expenditure for each group was presented for both their last 12 months fishing and their last trip. The data are skewed including a few very high expenditure values and there is need to consider the form of the statistical distribution in the analysis. Outputs being developed include both the total and direct economic contribution, and local economic impacts. There was discussion about

how to account for tax contributions and local impacts. Other measures were identified as being useful to members of the steering group, so a list will be collated.

- The survey is being publicised widely and there was a significant increase in the numbers during the National Angling Survey. Around 5,500 people who agreed to participate in further surveys will be approached to complete the Sea Angling 2012 online surveys.

ACTION: Adam to discuss angling patterns at Lowestoft with Cefas.

ACTION: Adam to arrange dates for MMO, Cefas, Substance & University of Cardiff to develop raising factors and discuss how to bring together economic data from all the surveys.

ACTION: Adam to email the steering group asking for additional measures that would be useful.

ACTION: Adam, Kieran & Mike to email the respondents of the national angling survey.

ITEM 5: CHARTER BOAT SURVEY

- The charter boat survey is underway. A database of 400 charter boats was compiled and further details obtained for each boat. All boats were contacted by phone and about 165 agreed to participate. Each month, vessels are stratified by region and randomly selected to complete a paper catch diary for one month. This is repeated each month with a target of 17 completed catch diaries. This has been done for August and September and preliminary results were presented. A number of skippers found the catch diaries difficult and time consuming, although the diaries were generally completed.
- Preliminary results were based on returns for August and September from around 150 fishing trips including 884 anglers. There had been a number of nil returns due to bad weather. A broad range of species had been caught on the trips and the release rates varied among species. There was acceptance the dataset is small at present and more data are required before any conclusions are made. Further analyses were discussed and will be done for the next steering group meeting.

ITEM 6: SHORE & PRIVATE BOAT SURVEY

- The shore and private boat survey has been running since January with each IFCA sampling according to an agreed statistical design. More than 80% of anglers approached have willingly provided interviews, and at least 1,300 shore anglers and 320 private boat anglers have provided data up to September (the true number is higher as not all IFCA data for recent months were available by the time of the Steering Group). The survey is due to end in December, but needs to be confirmed with the individual IFCAs.
- Some preliminary analysis of the IFCA survey data up to September was presented. Bass was the individual species most cited as the primary target for both shore and boat anglers, although most anglers are targeting mixed species. As expected, catch rates from boats were higher than from the shore for most species. The catch and economic data still need to be cleaned for entry errors, and analysed using methods that take the survey design into account, before reliable estimates can be provided.
- The steering group agreed that a survey of angling club match reports will not be done as it will not provide consistent data on catches due to differences recording catch (e.g. points systems). Certain data sets may be useful where collected in a consistent manner, so efforts will be made to identify and obtain these data. For example, a long time series of catch rates of mullet is held by the national mullet club, and could provide useful data on relative trends in abundance if analysed using suitable statistical methods.

ACTION: Mike to agree end dates for the shore and private boat survey with the IFCAs.

ACTION: Kieran to contact the national mullet club and request the data that they hold.

ACTION: Steering group to let Kieran know of other relevant datasets.

ITEM 7: ONLINE CATCH SURVEYS

- Catches from the online survey for April to June (Q2) were presented and comparison made with the period from January to March (Q1). About 90 anglers completed the Q2 survey. In general, results were quite similar for the two quarters. Opinions indicated that anglers felt that fish sizes and catches have got worse over the last 30 years, but had not changed much in the last year.

- Catch rates of bass and cod from all surveys (ONS, online survey and IFCA on-site surveys) were generally similar for each type of angling (shore or boat).
- The third wave of the online survey started in October.

ITEM 8: PUBLICISING THE PROJECT

- Progress with communications was outlined including website, press releases, flyers, articles, posters, and presentations to angling groups. Further press releases are being prepared to publicise the online survey. Substance will send an e-mail shot to respondents from their national angling survey to encourage completion of the online economic and catch surveys. Scientific dissemination is also planned including presentations at conferences, and metadata have been uploaded into Cefas and MMO systems.
- The second prize draw is complete, winners have been notified and most of the prizes have been distributed.