

Extract of Minute from Byelaw Sub-Committee Meeting held on 15th August 2007

BSC07/04 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AIS TRACKING SYSTEM: The Clerk advised that he had made enquiries regarding the possibility of making a byelaw to make it a requirement for all vessels fishing in the Wash to have a tracking device fitted to them. Consultation had take place with the Committee's solicitors as to whether it would be legal to make such a request of fishing vessel owners. Their response had been that as the Committee were managing a public fishery it was not convening any legislation to make such a request. However, they did advise that if the Committee were to seek Counsels advice and they were of the same opinion if the request was to be challenged in a court of law it would be proof that the Committee had been diligent enough to consider counsels advice. The Clerk asked the Committee to consider this and advise whether or not he should proceed.

Members considered the potential benefits towards enforcement, safety and the possibility that it could be used to support the industry against claims that fishing activity is detrimental to areas of SSSI. However, there were also concerns expressed about the potential for fishermen to feel their freedom of movement was restricted and that their fishing areas would be known to all others.

Whilst the members took the industry members concerns very seriously they could also see the potential benefits.

It was Resolved that the Clerk should seek Counsels advice on the legality of producing a byelaw to instruct all fishing vessels in the Wash to carrying a tracking device whilst fishing.

**Proposed: Councillor Turner
All Agreed**

Seconded; Councillor Ward