



## **Planning & Communication Sub-Committee Meeting**

**To be held at:**

**EIFCA Offices  
6 North Lynn Business Village  
Bergen Way, King's Lynn  
PE30 2JG**

**Wednesday  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
1030 hours**

### Vision

The Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry



Meeting: **Planning and Communication Sub-Committee**

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Time: 10.30 hours

Venue: EIFCA Office  
6 North Lynn Business Village  
Bergen Way  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk  
PE30 2JG

### Agenda

- 1 Welcome by the Chair - *Chair*
- 2 Apologies for absence - *Chair*
- 3 Declaration of members' interests - *Chair*

### Action Items

- 4 Minutes of the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 - *Chair*
- 5 Matters Arising - *Clerk*
- 6 Strategic Assessment 2019 – *Senior IFCO (Regulation) / Project Officer*
- 7 Business Plan 2019-24 – *CEO*
- 8 Any other business

To consider any other items which the Chair is of the opinion are matters of urgency by reason of special circumstances which must be specified

J. Gregory  
Chief Executive Officer

26<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Planning & Communication Sub-Committee

*"EIFCA will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economical benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry".*



A meeting of the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee took place at 10.30 hours on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, at the Eastern IFCA office, King's Lynn

### Members Present:

|                    |          |                    |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Mr Stephen Worrall | Chairman | MMO Appointee      |
| M S Bolt           |          | MMO Appointee      |
| Ms E Dixon-Lack    |          | MMO Representative |
| Mr Paul Garnett    |          | MMO Appointee      |
| Ms Charlie Moffat  |          | NE Representative  |
| Mr Keith Shaul     |          | MMO Appointee      |
| Cllr P Skinner     |          | LCC                |
| Mr Rob Spray       |          | MMO Appointee      |

### Eastern IFCA Officers Present:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Andrew Bakewell | Head of Finance      |
| Jon Butler      | Head of Operations   |
| Greg Brown      | Project Officer/IFCO |
| Luke Godwin     | Senior IFCO          |
| Julian Gregory  | CEO                  |

### P&C18/01 Welcome by the Clerk

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jon Butler, the new Head of Operations, employed by EIFCA.

### P&C18/02 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr Shane Bagley (MMO Appointee).

### P&C18/03 Declaration of members' interests

Mr Garnett declared an interest in matters relating to shrimp.

### P&C18/04 Minutes of the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Mr Garnett advised that in minute PC17/06 the reference to a reduction in shrimp landings should have stated 'pink' shrimp. It was Agreed to amend the minutes.

**With the exception mentioned about Members Agreed that the minutes were a true record of the proceedings.**

### P&C18/05 Matters arising

There were no matters arising

**P&C18/06 Strategic Assessment 2018**

Members were advised this was the third year of producing the Strategic Assessment, it gave a review of everything going on in relation to the EIFCA District. The Strategic Assessment provided a clear rationale to underpin EIFCA Business Planning as well as providing a basis for Enforcement and Risk Assessments.

IFCO Brown provided members with a presentation of the Strategic Assessment explaining the key elements and high priority workstreams. Members were also advised that risks generally remained the same as the previous year as most of them span over a period of more than one year, no new high priority risks were identified.

A new workstream had been identified, relating to the implementation of WFO shellfish lay lease conditions and the need for compliance, education and engagement around the use of lays.

A new element was added to 'business as usual', which related to the monitoring of chlorophyll and mussel & cockle meat yields, which would relate to lay work. A Future Priority was identified as the need to educate and engage with regard to landing obligations, whilst MMO take the lead on landing obligations it was noted EIFCA have a role to play as well.

The Chairman acknowledged the amount of work which had been involved and noted how it covered every aspect of the Authority's business, he felt it was an interesting way to start the Business Plan and an impressive piece of work.

The CEO advised the key elements were contained in Section 2, the results.

The Chairman noted that the results of Angling 2012 were clearly relied on, which he felt indicated a need for better understanding. The CEO accepted there was a national gap in knowledge but added that whilst the results of Angling 2012 were becoming dated they were consistent with international findings at the time, there was concern that RSA effort was almost equal to that of commercial fishing for some species. Mr Shaul felt there had been a downturn in effort since the restriction of Bass landings had been enforced.

For clarity the Chairman also requested a Glossary list of abbreviations be added at the end of the document.

**Members Resolved to Note and Approve the content of the Strategic Assessment, including the priorities identified for 2018-19.**

**Proposed: Cllr Skinner**

**Seconded: Mr Bolt**

**All Agreed**

**P&C18/07 Business Plan 2018-2023**

The CEO reminded members that the Authority had moved to a 5 years Business Plan, but it was a rolling plan which meant it would be refreshed on an annual basis allowing planning to be carried out on a more strategic basis.

Members were advised the objective of the Business Plan was to demonstrate what EIFCA do and that it has the capability and ability to undertake what the Authority says it will do.

The CEO worked through the Business Plan whilst responding to members questions as he went through it.

New Burdens Funding beyond 2020 still remained uncertain, however the Minister had been advised that without New Burden Funding statutory duties would be affected unless local councils could be levied for the additional funding. Mr Bolt advised that consultation for the Fairer Funding Review had just been completed, however there were 47 funding authorities for IFCA's and Defra were not able to fund each of these locally so the money would go into the central pot. Unfortunately, IFCA's fall between the gap. He also advised that New Burden funding was not guaranteed up to 2020, each year it has been added as a cost saving option but so far Defra have managed to retain it in the budget. The Head of HR & Finance advised that he had highlighted to the County Council Finance Directors what the potential effect could be if New Burden Funding was removed. The Chair suggested the Business Plan should be revised to highlight the big gap in funding if this funding stream was removed.

Referring to Communication & Engagement the CEO advised that this had proved to be significantly resource intensive over the last four years and the Authority would not be able to sustain that level. The CEO advised the intention was to build on the work of CVM and develop a plan using the outcome of that project as well as using social media more effectively.

It was suggested the CVM project should be repeated to ensure the knowledge did not become dated. The CEO felt it was not viable to carry out the project on an annual basis but agreed it may be possible to carry out a series of workshops in the future.

Members worked through the appendices. It was noted that the approach to enforcement was to achieve full compliance through educating fishers and that success would be zero prosecutions in the context of being confident that enforcement activity was effective.

Referring to the shrimp beam impact study it was noted that whilst the Authority had been successful in securing funding the project had not gone ahead for a variety of reasons which included a lack of suitable ground to carry out the trials and advice from NE that even if the study

was completed there was no guarantee that the outcomes would be accepted by NE.

Mr Garnett felt it important to explain to the industry why something so important to the Wash fisheries was no longer going ahead, it was agreed to write and inform the local associations of the reason for cancelling the study.

Ms Moffat advised that the paper did have some factual stages missing and that NE had advised on the survey design in 2015, they had also made EIFCA aware of concerns that the results may not demonstrate what NE required, she felt it would be useful for communication if the paper highlighted that NE had tried to be helpful. The CEO acknowledged that NE had been entirely constructive but the Authority had explored whether there was a scientific challenge and had concluded there wasn't, he would be happy to amend the paper to include any facts which had been omitted.

Members discussed possible alternatives for the shrimp project but it was accepted that nothing would in place to affect the management plans in the short term.

**Members Resolved to Note and Agree to the content of the Business Plan 2018-23 including the priorities and plans for 2018-19.**

**Members also Resolved to Note the decision not to proceed with the Shrimp Beam Impact Study, before providing local associations with the information it would be amended to include additional information to make it factually more complete.**

**Proposed: Mr Spray**

**Seconded: Cllr Skinner**

**All Agreed**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1137 hours.

### Vision

The Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry



### Action Item 6

## Planning and Communications Sub-committee meeting

13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### Strategic Assessment 2019

**Report by:** Luke Godwin, Senior IFCO (Regulation) & Greg Brown, IFCO/Project Officer

### Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to present the Strategic Assessment for 2019 for approval and subsequent publication on behalf of the full Authority.

### Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note** the content of the Strategic Assessment, including the priorities identified for 2019-20
- **Approve** the Strategic Assessment 2019, including the priorities identified for 2019-20

### Background

An annual assessment of Eastern IFCA fisheries is undertaken each year. The Strategic Assessment is used to identify the highest risk elements of all the fisheries in the district, including fisheries sustainability, industry viability and environmental impacts.

This assessment was introduced in 2014 and each iteration of the assessment has been subject to update and development to ensure outputs are relevant and consider all the available evidence.

The Strategic Assessment draws on a data driven analysis (the initial assessment) and contextual knowledge of officers (the contextual assessment) to identify potential work-streams and assign a priority based on the risk. This is used to inform the annual priorities set out in the rolling five-year Business Plan.

## Report

### Development of the Strategic Assessment

In previous years additional criteria have been added to incorporate new and improved information/evidence. No further criteria were identified this year. The criteria used reflect the main duties of the Authority and are as follows:

- *Evidence base* – an assessment of the available evidence for each species in relation to fishing effort, landings, stock health and presence of spawning and nursery areas.
- *Current Regulation* – assesses species based on measures currently in place in relation to protection of pre-spawning individuals, gear management or specification and effort restrictions.
- *Ecosystem impacts* – assessment considers the potential ecosystem level impacts of the main gears associated with each species (e.g. by-catch, habitat damage).
- *Fisheries performance* – considers the landed weight and value of catch from within the Eastern IFCA district, any detectable trends in landed catch, landings from within the district as a proportion of the UK total and available ICES advice.
- *Presence or absence of spawning and nursery grounds* – scores were assigned to each fishery to reflect a higher risk where spawning and nursery grounds are present.
- *EIFCA landings in a UK context* – landed weights from within the Eastern IFCA district were reflected as a proportion of UK total landings for each species. Scores were assigned which reflect a higher risk where fisheries had greater national importance.
- *Fisheries trends* – landed weights were analysed to detect positive or negative trends in landed weights over time. Scores were assigned which reflect a higher risk where a strong positive or negative trend was detected.

Risk scores have continued to be related to fisheries performance and the scoring system has remained simpler following changes from previous years. Use of the Community Voice method data has been incorporated into the assessment as part of the contextual issues section. This is of importance as it provides a level of objectivity to an otherwise subjective part to the strategic assessment. The industry viability section that was introduced last year has been kept for this year.

The 2019 assessment (Appendix 1) sets out the high priority work, key 'business as usual' work-streams and identifies future work and priorities.



'Business as usual' priorities relate to established work-streams responsible for maintaining a lower risk score for certain fisheries. These include, for example, the annual cockle stock survey, without which, the risk associated with the cockle fishery would increase. These are set out to reflect the full suite of demands on the IFCA. Identification of future priorities and work streams relate to risks identified within the assessment which are considered less of a priority. It is important to highlight these potential work streams as they may inform future Strategic Assessments or, opportunities may present during the year which enable these workstreams to be completed.

Additional consideration was given to key messages received from stakeholders throughout the year. These messages are routinely recorded through message forms, patrol reports and correspondence libraries. Last year this information was included under each fisheries section, however this year it has been moved to dedicated section. This allowed for a more careful consideration of the issues and concerns raised by our stakeholder's whilst setting the annual priorities.

### Outputs of the Strategic Assessment 2019

Annual priorities reflect the work which is the focus during the financial year rather than distinct, annual projects. Whilst the priorities identified during the 2018 Strategic Assessment have been progressed, most of these work-streams require continued development and completion.

This is reflected in the outputs of the 2019 assessment which has indicated that the key priorities are those carried over from 2018-19. Other 2018-19 priorities have been re-prioritised to account for wider developments which have reduced risk. New priorities are set out below.

#### **New High Priority work 2019-20**

Implementation of I-VMS for all fisheries. This work involves implementing I-VMS as part of a pathfinder in the Wash and supporting the MMO with the national implementation of I-VMS.

Replacement of WFO 1992. The WFO expires in 2023, the WFO is a complex piece of regulation, that will require significant amounts of review, legal advice and stakeholder consultation. This workstream will extend across multiple years but will need to begin in 2019-20.

Review of the Whelk Permit Byelaw 2016 has been added to the development of Crab and Lobster sustainability measures. The reason for this is because consultation will need to take place with the same fishers, there will be added benefit without a high amount of additional work.

### **New Business as Usual Critical work streams 2019-20**

There will need to be additional education and engagement around the Landings Obligation in a supporting role, as the full implementation of the landing obligation is resulting in changes to how fisheries in the district operate.

### **Identification of future priorities 2019-20**

No new future priorities were identified during the strategic assessment, several were updated and modified reflecting changes in the current landscape.

### **Risk**

The risk associated with the assessment is that it does not detect a priority work-stream. This is mitigated by the further development of the assessment as set out above. In addition, the Strategic Assessment is a live document, which is intended to be updated to reflect new evidence and changing contextual needs.

### **Appendices**

1. Strategic Assessment 2019

### Vision

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### Action Item 7

## Planning and Communications Sub-committee meeting

13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### 2019-24 Business Plan

**Report by:** J. Gregory, CEO

#### Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to submit the draft Business Plan for 2019-24 for approval and subsequent publication on behalf of the full Authority.

#### Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note** the content of the Business Plan, including the priorities and plans for 2019-20
- **Approve** the Business Plan 2019-24, including the priorities and plans for 2019-20

#### Background

A rolling five-year Business Plan was developed and introduced in April 2016, bringing together all elements of activity undertaken by the organisation.

The plan is intended to project five years in advance with annual reviews to update the strategic and financial context and to prioritise and plan for each financial year.

The planning model is intended to provide a longer term and more cohesive approach to business planning by drawing together all elements of activity in a single plan.

#### Business Plan 2019-24

The plan (Appendix 1) provides the strategic framework within which Eastern IFCA operates and describes our ability to deliver against our vision and priorities. This is demonstrated by setting out factors such as effective leadership arrangements; the strength of the team in terms of experience, qualifications and skills; being appropriately equipped; operating effectively and effective financial management.

An important element of this approach is to demonstrate that the work of Eastern IFCA as an investment in the local marine environment and to develop a narrative that would lead contributing authorities to view funding in that context rather than simply being another demand on hard pressed finances.

The plan shows a clear linkage to Defra's vision and strategy, including the 25-Year Environment Plan. Although IFCAs are not Defra bodies, they do deliver into the Defra remit and understanding the link demonstrates synergy between the work of Eastern IFCA and the national framework. The Business Plan also incorporates the Success Criterion and High-Level Objectives, which will guide the work of Eastern IFCA during the next four to five years.

### **Priorities 2019-20**

The overall priorities for 2019-20 have been identified by the annual Strategic Assessment and are set out in Appendix 3 of the Business Plan. Most priorities are carried over as work in progress from 2018-19.

The Enforcement plan is set out in Appendix 4 and follows a similar format to previous years.

The Communications and Engagement Plan is set out in Appendix 5. It continues with the shift in approach from last year and focuses on more effective use of resources building upon the Community Voice Method.

### **Risk**

The risk matrix in the plan is set out in Appendix 1 reflects the most significant strategic risks to the Authority which demand management action. The key risk to Eastern IFCA is remains uncertainty of future funding due to New Burdens funding only being guaranteed to 2020.

### **Appendices**

Draft Business Plan 2019-24