



**33rd EIFCA
Statutory Meeting**

To be held at:

**The Boathouse Business Centre
1 Harbour Square, Nene Parade, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 3BH**

**Wednesday
18th July 2018**

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: 33rd Eastern IFCA Meeting
Date: 18th July 2018
Time: 10:30hrs
Venue: The Boathouse Business Centre,
1 Harbour Square, Nene Parade,
Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 3BH

Agenda

- 1 Welcome - *Chair*
- 2 To accept apologies for absence - *Chair*
- 3 Declaration of Members' interests – *Chair*

Action items

- 4 To receive and approve as a true record, minutes of the 32nd Eastern IFCA Meetings, held on 25th April 2018 – *Chair*
- 5 Matters arising (including actions from last meeting) – *Clerk*
 - a. Correspondence with Defra regarding electric pulse trawling
- 6 To receive a report to consider Health and Safety risks and mitigation – *Head Operations*
- 7 To receive a report on a meeting of the Finance & Personnel sub-committee held on 27th June 2018 – *CEO / Head Finance & HR*
- 8 2018-19 Budget update - *Head Finance & HR*
- 9 To confirm the approval of the annual accounts for year ended 31st March 2018. – *Head Finance & HR*
- 10 To receive and approve the Finance Officer's report on payments made and monies received during the period 1st April 2018 – 30th June 2018 – *Head Finance & HR*
- 11 To receive and note the Finance Officer's Quarterly Management Accounts - *Head Finance & HR*
- 12 To receive a report on a meeting of the Marine Protected Areas sub-committee held on 6th June 2018 – *CEO*
- 13 Inshore Vessel Monitoring System Project – *CEO*
- 14 Marine Protected Areas fishery management measures (new byelaws) – *Senior MSO (Environment) / Senior IFCO (Regulation)* (provided as a separate paper)
- 15 *To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items 16, 17, & 18 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in sections 100(A) (2) and (3) or Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act*
- 16 Trawling byelaw dispensation – *Senior IFCO (Regulation)*

17 Fishing industry correspondence – *CEO*

18 Complaint against the Authority – *CEO*

Information items

19 MMO appointee dispensations – *CEO*

20 Quarterly progress against Annual Plan priorities – *CEO*

21 Marine Protection Quarterly reports – *Senior IFCOs*

22 Marine Science Quarterly reports – *Senior MSOs*

23 Association of IFCA minutes – *CEO*

24 Felixstowe fishery monitoring scheme – *Senior MSO*

Any other business

25 To consider any other items, which the Chairman is of the opinion are Matters of Urgency due to special circumstances, which must be specified in advance.

J. Gregory

Chief Executive Officer

3rd July 2018

32nd Eastern IFCA Meeting

"Eastern IFCA 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".



A meeting of the Eastern IFCA took place at The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech on Wednesday 25th April at 1030 hours.

Members Present:

Cllr T Goldson	(Chair)	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Paul Skinner	(Vice Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Shane Bagley		MMO Appointee
Stephen Bolt		MMO Appointee
Roy Brewster		MMO Appointee
Cllr M Chenery of Horsbrugh		Norfolk County Council
Cllr D Collis		Norfolk County Council
John Davies		MMO Appointee
Cllr M Vigo di Gallidoro		Suffolk County Council
Paul Garnett		MMO Appointee
Ian Hirst		EA Representative
Keith Shaul		MMO Appointee
Steven Williamson		MMO Appointee
Stephen Worrall		MMO Appointee

Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

Andrew Bakewell	Head of Finance and HR
Jon Butler	Head of Operations
Luke Godwin	Staff Officer
Julian Gregory	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) &
Clerk	
Ron Jessop	Senior Marine Science Officer
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Science Officer

Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

The Clerk welcomed members to the meeting.

EIFCA18/25 Item 1: Election of Chair of the Authority

The Clerk asked for nominations for the role of Chair of the Authority from amongst the elected members.

Members Resolved to re-elect Cllr T Goldson in the position of Chair of the Authority.

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Seconded: Cllr Collis

All Agreed

EIFCA8/26 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from: Cllrs Coupland (LCC) and Price (NCC), Ms Dixon-Lack (MMO Representative), Ms C Moffatt (NE Representative) and Mr R Spray (MMO Appointee).

EIFCA18/27 Item 3: Declarations of Members Interest

In addition to the Declarations already held Mr Williamson advised he had an interest in Items 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 23 & 24 on the agenda.

Messrs Bagley, Brewster and Garnett expressed interests in items 14, 15, 16, 17, 23 & 24 on the agenda.

EIFCA18/28 Item 4: Election of Vice-Chair of the Authority

The Chair requested nominations for the post of Vice Chair of the Authority.

Members Resolved that Cllr Skinner would continue in the role of Vice-Chair of the Authority.

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Seconded: Mr Bolt

All Agreed

EIFCA 18/29 Item 5: Minutes of the 31st EIFCA Meeting, held on 31st January 2018

Members Resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Mr Garnett

Seconded: Cllr Collis

All agreed

EIFCA18/30 Item 6: Matters Arising

EIFCA18/11 PULSE FISHING: The CEO advised he had delayed writing to Defra until the Authority had heard the presentation being made by CEFAS at the meeting on the 25th April 2018.

EIFCA18/12 MUSSEL FISHERY: The CEO advised the fishery was due to open the following weekend. A variation had been made to the conditions for opening and closing due to heights of the tides and fishing was also to be allowed over two tides rather than one. These were administrative changes but still required the agreement of both the Chair and Vice Chair.

The Chair and Vice Chair agreed with these changes to traditional procedures.

EIFCA18/31 Item 7: Health & Safety Risks

The Head of Operations reminded members that NCC provide H&S support relating to Health and Safety, in line with this, work was being undertaken to review the policies.

During the last quarter three incidents had been reported, two of which took place on board Three Counties, relating to the age of the vessel and general wear and tear, neither of which had resulted in any injury.

The third incident related to use of a trailer, fortunately the safety cable activated which prevented a serious incident, the matter did highlight the need for appropriate maintenance schedules to be adhered to for all trailers. Training courses were being investigated to ensure staff could correctly maintain and operate trailers.

The risk matrix relating to vehicles was adjusted from tolerate to treat.

The Head of Operations advised that he was trying to encourage staff to report incidents however small they may seem. Inevitably this would result in more incidents being reported at future meetings.

Members Agreed to Note the report.

EIFCA18/32 Item 8: Review of Eastern IFCA Constitution and Standing Orders

The CEO advised members that the Constitution and Standing Orders were reviewed on an annual basis to ensure sound governance. NPLaw had been consulted who advised there had been no changes to the law that would affect EIFCA.

The only change required was an amendment to the wording regarding the CEO delegations table, this was to ensure clarity.

Members Resolved to Agree to the proposed changes to the Constitution and Standing Orders.

Proposed: Cllr M Vigo di Gallidoro

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All agreed

EIFCA18/33 Item 9: Meeting of the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee held on 14th March 2018

The purpose of this item was to report back to the full Authority the business and outcomes from the sub-committee meeting.

An annual Strategic Assessment informed the annual refresh of the 5-year Business Plan, the intention being to provide clear

rationale for business planning and a demonstrable basis for decision making.

The CEO gave a brief summary of the documents and advised that the decision had been taken to amend the approach to Communication & Engagement as the level at which it had previously been pursued was not sustainable with so many workstreams to achieve. The decision had therefore been taken to use the outputs from Community Voice to steer the programme.

Members were advised of the priorities for the year, as well as being advised that some would not be completed in a 12-month period, hence the need for a rolling 5-year Business Plan.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report and accept both the 2018 Strategic Assessment and the Business Plan 2018-2013.

EIFCA18/34 Item 11: Payments made and monies received for the period January 2018 - March 2018

The report identified the expenditure and receipts during the previous quarter. There was a notable item of expenditure relating to the purchase of a replacement RIB, this gross cost would be offset by grant funding once it was received. Receipts included levies for the forthcoming financial year from Lincolnshire and Norfolk County Council. Anticipated expenditure not recorded included approximately £25,000 for Three Counties refit.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA18/35 Item 12: Quarterly Management Accounts

This report compared actual expenditure against budget. The figures showed a saving in salaries and wages which was attributable to vacancies during the year. General expenditure was generally in line with that expected in the budget with the exception of training which had taken more of the budget than anticipated due to training new seagoing staff to the level required in order to be able to work onboard the Authority's vessels.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA18/36 Item 13: Payment of Expenses to MMO Appointees

Members were required to review these payments on an annual basis to ensure they remained affordable.

The Head of Finance & HR advised that expenditure remained within the budget and he could confirm the expenses remained affordable.

Members Resolved to approve the payment of expenses to MMO appointees for a further year.

Proposed: Cllr Collis
Seconded: Cllr Skinner
All Agreed

EIFCA18/37 Item 10: Electric Pulse Fishing

Julie Bremner from Cefas advised members that Cefas were an evidence gathering organisation and were not responsible for policy making.

She gave a presentation on Electric Pulse Fishing, explaining how the fishing method involved using electric pulses to produce a contraction of the body muscles (cramping) in fish.

Members were advised that Cefas initially went to Dutch researchers for advice, gaps in research were then identified and how to gather the required evidence.

It was noted that this method of trawling was less impactive on the seabed than traditional methods but that the consequences of using electrical pulses in fishing were not properly understood. The conclusion of the review project was that it was a very complex subject with an insufficient number of comparative studies and a need for ongoing work to understand the effects of pulse trawling. As a consequence, Cefas had been asked by Defra to undertake a UK pulse trawling review and would conduct an 18-month study to provide the UK with an evidence base for decision making.

Members discussed the pros and cons of this method of fishing and also questioned how such a high percentage of the Dutch fleet had been granted a licence to prosecute this method of fishing when the understanding was that only 5% of the fleet could legally fish with this method under EU legislation. It was also questioned why the Dutch were not applying the precautionary approach until more information on the effect of electric pulse fishing was known.

There was further concern as to whether this method of fishing had been subject to a Habitats Assessment, which Ms Bremner was not aware of.

It had previously been agreed that the CEO should write to Defra expressing the Authority's concerns about Electric Pulse Trawling taking place locally, members were asked whether having heard

the presentation they still wished the CEO to send this letter, bearing in mind that Defra were developing a research programme into the effects of this method of fishing.

There was some concern expressed about the potential for 5% of the UK fleet to have a licence to fish using this method, it was suggested that MMO be asked to advise EIFCA of any vessel taking up this opportunity. There was also concern whether fishing by this method could be used in the Wash considering it was an SSSI etc. The CEO advised it could be a permit condition that pulse fishing was not permitted.

Members Agreed to:

- **Engage with the MMO with regard to the potential licencing of 5% of the fleet**
- **Engage with the project and help to facilitate where possible**
- **Send a letter to Defra expressing concern but advising EIFCA welcome and acknowledge that steps are being taken to address the gaps in data and agree to facilitate this process.**

All Agreed

EIFCA18/38 Item 14: Wash Fishery Order Regulations

Following consultation with vessel owners and skippers the outcome was presented to Members.

There were two issues with iVMS raised during the consultation, these being the cost and there being no type approved system which worked without an electrical system, which some smaller vessels do not have, although none had been identified within the current fleet.

The CEO advised that with regard to the financial implications EMFF grant funding was available providing the system was not already a requirement, therefore it was suggested the legislative requirement should not be put in place until units had been fitted.

With regard to the legal implication for the regulations the CEO anticipated that Defra would review the wording and may require minor amendments, it was felt delegating the power to approve minor amendments to the CEO would be beneficial, in the event of any amendment being more major it would be referred back to the full authority.

There was some concern with suggested length and engine power for tenders, however this was a direct rewording of old regulations, using modern measurement. No concern had been voiced during the formal consultation period. There was debate as to whether tenders require separate licences to fish, and was

using a tender technically transshipping, the CEO did not believe that transshipping rules applied to hand working vessels however, he agreed to check with the MMO regarding transshipping and whether or not a tender required a fishing licence.

Members Resolved to Note the responses to the consultation and Agree to delegate the CEO the authority to make minor amendments to the wording of the regulations in line with legal advice including from Defra, which do not change the intended effects of the Regulations.

Members also Resolved to Direct Officers to submit the Regulations to the Minister for confirmation subsequent to implementation of iVMS on the fleet and subject to MMO advice regarding tenders.

Proposed: Cllr Vigo di Gallidoro

Seconded: Mr Shaul

All Agreed

EIFCA18/39 Item 15 – Wash Shellfish Survey Methodology

SMSO Jessop advised members that periodically Officers review the methods used to take into account the latest developments in techniques, equipment and best practice.

As there had been moves towards implementing cost recovery for sampling work officers suggested that there was a need to review survey methods with a view to identifying whether any cost savings were possible. He therefore suggested current methods be reviewed but at the same time any risk associated with making savings would also be considered.

As there would still be a need for a certain level of information to inform HRAs the suggestion was that past surveys could be reviewed to determine the impact on the accuracy of a survey if the methodology was amended.

Members discussed the matter and alternative methods, whilst drones were suggested as a means of identifying beds Mr Jessop advised that cockle beds would not be visible and mussel beds would be too far out for the range of a drone, and there would most likely be concern with regard to bird disturbance.

Mr Worrall felt there needed to be science to base management decisions on.

Members Resolved to

- **Note the contents of the paper**
- **Direct officers to undertake a review of the WFO cockle and mussel survey and to report back their findings.**

Proposed: Mr Worrall

Seconded: Cllr Collis

All Agreed

EIFCA18/40 Item 16 – Wash cockle fishing method

SMSO Jessop advised that there had been no dredge fishery since 2008 and there was continual mixed feeling as to whether or not a dredge fishery should be permitted if sufficient stocks were available. If a dredge fishery were permitted this would require a HRA which would be too time consuming for a forthcoming fishery, it was therefore suggested that a desk study be carried out to establish whether any level of suction dredging was permissible taking into account environmental, stock sustainability and socio-economic factors.

The CEO explained that whilst the Authority had agreed that the fishery would be hand-worked by default it was prudent to look into whether or not a dredge fishery was a legitimate contingency fishery for the Wash cockles. If it was considered viable contingency measures could be put in place and if not, then it could be discounted.

Mr Williamson felt there was a time and a place for dredge fishing, and he did not believe it was necessarily a fishery for every year. He did feel in the past there had been opportunities for dredging, but stocks were lost, he felt it should be possible to dredge stocks that could not be hand worked, but there should be tight controls on the equipment used and if damage occurred to the beds then that should be the end of dredge fisheries.

The CEO advised the review would look at specific gears types and the affect they may have.

Mr Bagley recalled that 30 years ago when dredging began it was not the damage to beds or breakage rates which caused the issue but the length of time it took the stock to recover. He did not believe the industry could afford to suffer a repeat of the 5-year recovery which was experienced then.

Members Resolved to:

- **Note the contents of the paper**
- **Direct officers to undertake a literature review of the environmental and sustainability impacts of hydraulic suction dredges and to report back the findings to the Authority within a period of one year.**

Proposed: Mr Bolt

Seconded: Mr Davies

All Agreed

At this point the meeting stopped for members to have lunch (1255 - 1315 hours)

EIFCA18/41 Item 17 – Shrimp fishery Habitats Regulations Assessment

SMSO Stoutt reminded members this had been a priority piece of work for the past two years. Mrs Stoutt provided members with a presentation on the progress of the Assessment.

Following conclusion of the HRA it had been determined that mitigation was required.

Whilst NE were in agreement with the overall conclusion they had highlighted issues they had with the process, and their lack of confidence in the condition data to show the impact of the shrimp fishery, they had however, agreed to move on with mitigation.

The likely proposal was for closed areas in deeper parts of the Wash which would be incorporated with closed areas of Sabellaria spinulosa etc, and areas of mussel fisheries and saltmarshes.

Officers were looking to introduce a permitting byelaw which would enable them to cap effort, including the requirement for iVMS and specify gear used. It was also intended to set out a clear monitoring programme. It was hoped mitigation could take place during May/June, allowing proposed measures to be considered at the meeting in July, after which consultation could take place.

Mr Worrall questioned who had provided the condition data. It was advised that in theory this was NE, but in practice they gather available data, including that provided by EIFCA. NE were planning to carry out a complete condition study for the Wash. However, lack of data would not prevent action as EIFCA are required to apply the precautionary principle when considering whether the fishery had an adverse effect on features of the MPA.

Mr Williamson thanked EIFCA and the Officers for the work they had been doing for the shrimp fishery.

Mr Bagley questioned the comment to 'cap effort', SMSO Stoutt advised there was no agreed level, it would be necessary to assess what would be appropriate based on previous years' fishing activity.

Members Resolved to;

- **Note the content of the report**
- **Agree to progress work to introduce regulation to manage shrimp fishing in the Eastern IFCA district.**

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Seconded: Cllr Vigo di Gallidoro

All Agreed

EIFCA18/42 Item 18: Office Accommodation

In view of the accommodation lease being due to expire in December 2018, the Head of Finance & HR was in negotiation with the landlords for an extension to the lease. In the meantime, steps were being taken to find more suitable accommodation, ideally with the office and storage space in the same footprint, with sufficient car parking.

Questions were raised whether post Brexit outcomes were being considered and the CEO advised that they were as far as was possible give the current level of uncertainty.

Members Resolved to:

- **Note the content of the paper**
- **Direct officers to secure an extension to the current lease at best possible terms to include regular 'break out' points**
- **Direct officers to explore options to increase available office space**
- **Delegate authority to the CEO in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Chair of the Finance & Personnel sub-committee, to make decisions on appropriate accommodation options to facilitate immediate action if required.**

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Seconded: Cllr Vigo di Gallidoro

All Agreed

EIFCA18/43 Item 19: Three Counties Replacement Project

Members were advised that 5 suppliers for the design and to oversee of the build had been identified. The cost for this was generally expected to be about 7% of the overall build cost.

The CEO was seeking approval from the Members to identify a suitable professional naval architect or company to support the build of the replacement vessel.

Members queried the type of vessel being designed and were advised it would be dual capability as well as carrying a daughter vessel.

Cllr Collis questioned whether the CEO would like the support of the F&P sub-committee in making the final decision. The CEO advised he was happy for the sub-committee to be involved if that was the Authority's wish and noted that they already had oversight of the project.

Members Resolved to:

- **Agree to the appointment of appropriate professional support to the vessel replacement project**
- **Approve expenditure to the levels estimated in the report**
- **Delegate the selection of a preferred supplier for managing the total design and build process to the CEO.**

Proposed: Cllr Collis
Seconded: Mr Bolt
All agreed

EIFCA18/44 Item 20: Resolution

- 26 **It was Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items 21, 22, 23 & 24 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in sections 100(A) (2) and (3) or Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act**

Proposed: Mr Worrall
Seconded: Cllr Skinner
All Agreed

EIFCA18/45 Item 21: Inshore Vessel Monitoring System – EMFF Control Fund Project

Summary in accordance with Section 100(C)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

The CEO updated members on the process to identify type approved units and the EMFF funded project to install devices on all licensed fishing vessels.

EMFF funding had been approved in 2016 and the 10& required to be paid by a public authority had been provided by Defra and was lodged with EIFCA for distribution to IFCA's as the project progressed.

Members were advised the project had some risks attached among which was the need for vessel owners to take ownership of the system which would require a legal agreement.

There were a variety of questions asked including who was responsible if the unit was waterproof, how would fishers know if the unit was not working and if the unit broke down would fishers be prevented from going to sea?

The CEO advised IFCA would be facilitating provision of the kit and that Defra were dealing with the potential introduction of national legislation to require units to be fitted and operated. Whilst the rules were likely to stipulate that where a device is not functioning then a vessel cannot fish the CEO advised that ultimately EIFCA were not in the business of stopping vessels going to sea unnecessarily.

Members Resolved to:

- **Note the content of the report and the associated project and financial risks.**
- **Note the role that Eastern IFCA would undertake in the project.**

- **Agree in principle to progress work to introduce a byelaw to harmonise reporting rates for all fishing vessels when in the Eastern IFCA district.**
- **Agree that reserve funds were utilised to support the roll-out of iVMS within the District.**

Proposed: Cllr Skinner

Seconded: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

All Agreed

EIFCA18/46 Item 22 – Operation Blake Update

Summary in accordance with Section 100(C)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

The CEO updated members on an issue which had occurred after the discovery of PSP around the coast, following the death of two dogs. There were concerns that the toxins could be present in edible species. Various agencies became involved establishing a group to develop a strategy and objectives to monitor the situation.

Interim sampling had identified PSP in some edible species, although it was very low, and most samples were clear. The sampling regime had been undertaken as a gesture of goodwill however, this had been exhausted so support was being sought from the Food Standard Agency for longer term support. If national funding was not available, then funding would be sought from all members of the group. An option to fund via EMFF was also being explored.

Both Messrs Shaul and Davies expressed the appreciation of fishermen on the North Norfolk coast for the work which had been done on this issue, all parties were very grateful and wished to pass on their thanks to EIFCA staff.

Members Resolved to:

- **Note the work being undertaken to address the discovery of PSP**
- **Agree to Eastern IFCA making a financial contribution to the proposed sampling regime to a maximum of £10k.**

Proposed: Mr Worrall

Seconded: Cllr Collis

All Agreed

EIFCA18/47 Item 23: Fishing Industry Correspondence

Summary in accordance with Section 100(C)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

Having received correspondence which related closely to that discussed at the previous meeting the CEO provided copies for members to consider.

Following discussion Members Resolved to:

- **Note the close association between the current correspondent and those discussed at the previous meeting.**
- **Note the content of the correspondence**
- **Agree to postpone the judgement of whether this correspondent could be considered vexatious until negotiations have been attempted**
- **Agree that the draft response be sent**
- **Agree that the CEO should seek to establish a more constructive relationship with the correspondent and VOSA**

Proposed: Chair

Seconded: Cllr Skinner

All Agreed

EIFCA18/48 Item 24: Consideration of WFO applications

Summary in accordance with Section 100(C)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

Mr Williamson left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

Members were asked to consider the transfer of a WFO Entitlement, and dispensations relating to Byelaw 12 and WFO Regulation 7.

Effectively the vessel belonged to a company but to comply with the WFO Entitlement the vessel needed to be in the name of an individual. The company was in the process of transferring the vessel from the name of father to son. This was acceptable in relation to the WFO Entitlement but to comply with Regulation 7 the vessel would have to have changed hands but not been 'sold'. For byelaw 12 the matter was more complicated. However, representatives of the industry felt this vessel had been in the fishery for a considerable number of years, the current owner had had the vessel extensively refitted in order to keep it working, in comparison to a modern vessel the one in question would likely be less efficient and therefore be less detrimental to the fishery. They believed that providing the vessel complied with all the rules regarding beam size etc there would be no harm done to the fishery.

Having debated the issue extensively Members agreed to postpone the decision with regard to Byelaw 12 until the CEO had investigated further, at which time he would report back to members with a clear rationale.

Members Resolved to:

- **Note the investigation into the application**
- **Agree to:**

- Postpone any decision relating to Byelaw 12 until the CEO could report back with more information
- Dispensation from Regulation 7 of the WFO 1992 in relation to MFV Wash Princess was maintained on the condition that the vessel was not 'sold' when it passed from father to son
- The WFO 1992 Entitlement 59 being transferred from father to son on the condition that the father formally surrenders any 'entitlement' to a further WFO Licence in association with the Entitlement and that the current licence associated with Entitlement 59 was cancelled on the date that such surrender was received.

Proposed: Cllr Vigo di Gallidoro

Seconded: Cllr Skinner

All agreed

Mr Williamson returned to the meeting

EIFCA18/49 Item 25 – Quarterly progress against Annual Priorities

Members Agreed to note the report.

EIFCA18/50 Item 26 – Marine Protection quarterly reports

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA18/51 Item 27 – Marine Science Quarterly Reports

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA18/52 Item 28 – Association of IFCA update

Members Agreed to note the content of the report

EIFCA18/53 Item 29 - Any Other Business

SHRIMP ACCREDITATION: the Authority had previously agreed in principle to support the accreditation, the CEO now needed agreement that the Authority were content for him to sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). He envisaged that it would mean that officers would, in line with their normal duties, inspect cod ends, veil net sizes etc and maintain records to pass on to the shrimp accreditation body.

Members Resolved to agree in principle to the CEO signing off an MoA when he was happy with the wording.

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Seconded: Cllr Skinner

All Agreed.

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2016/2017: the Head of Finance & HR advised members that whilst the F&P Sub-Committee had approved the accounts they had not been approved by the full Authority.

Members Resolved to approve the End of Year Statement of Accounts for 2016-2017.

Proposed: Mr Shaul

Seconded: Mr Davies

All Agreed

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1534 hours.

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Matters Arising - Correspondence with Defra regarding electric pulse trawling

Eastern
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority



Ms. Anne Freeman
Deputy Director
Domestic Fisheries and Reform
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
1st floor Seacole building,
2 Marsham Street,
London, SW1P 4DF

24th May 2018

Dear Anne,

Electric Pulse Trawling

I am writing on behalf of the Authority to express our concern about the level of electric pulse trawling currently taking place in the southern North Sea and to express our support for the work commissioned by Defra for Cefas to undertake a study into this fishing practice.

As you will be aware pulse trawling is banned by the European Union. Article 31 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 850/98 covers unconventional fishing methods and provides:

*"The catching of marine organisms using methods incorporating the use of explosives, poisonous or stupefying substances or **electric current** shall be prohibited."*

There is an exception to this regulation where pulse trawling is allowed to be carried out for research purposes. The Netherlands have used the exception to the regulation to develop this method of fishing, particularly in the southern North Sea.

It is understood that in 2010 the Netherlands had the restrictions on pulse trawling eased and a maximum of 5% of the Dutch commercial fishing fleet was allowed to use electrical fishing gear. In 2012, the number of Dutch trawlers allowed to operate pulse trawls was increased to 10% of the fleet by the EU and it is estimated that around one hundred fishing vessels have been converted into pulse trawlers. This includes a small number of British registered fishing vessels.

It is understood that the Netherlands have advanced the use of pulse trawling on the thesis that pulse gear has less contact with the seabed meaning that there is more of the target species caught, lower levels of bycatch, less damage to the seabed and fish that are caught are in better condition due to less skin abrasion from nets and therefore reach a higher price at market. It is also said that pulse trawls are significantly lighter than traditional beam trawl gear meaning that fishing with pulse gear uses much less fuel than traditional beam trawling.

Whilst acknowledging that this might indeed be the case pulse trawling is not without its downsides and it can fatally injure species of fish that are not the target catch.

Additionally, though fewer seabed organisms are caught in the trawl net when using electricity compared to traditional beam trawling, it is not understood whether the creatures remaining on the seabed are affected negatively by contact with the electric stimuli.

The issues with pulse trawling are not solely environmental as pulse trawl fishers have encroached on grounds that have historically been fished by fishermen using low impact netting methods. This has led to resentment and conflict with others in the fishing community.

As you may be aware fishers within the Eastern IFCA district, particularly those in Gt Yarmouth and Suffolk, have long held concerns about the impact of pulse trawling off our coast and in particular those pulse trawlers that fish within the 6nm to 12nm zone. Some claim that the reported absence of some species in the District, particularly cod, are a consequence of electric pulse trawling.

Representative from the fishing industry in Gt Yarmouth and Lowestoft have been engaged in a high-profile campaign, both nationally and at EU level, to have electric pulse fishing banned. This has included participation in national radio shows and speaking to the European Parliament.

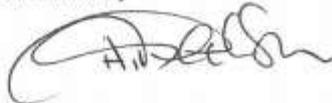
During a recent presentation to the Authority by Cefas we learned that this is complex subject with insufficient comparative studies and a need for ongoing work to understand the effects of pulse trawling. We also learned that Defra have commissioned a study by Cefas to help provide a better understanding.

It is this lack of full understanding combined with the questionable expansion of the Dutch pulse trawling fleet in the name of research that is of concern to the Authority.

With this in mind we were very pleased to hear of the work that Defra has commissioned Cefas to undertake and we have offered our support in whatever guise might be helpful to them. At the very least our officers will remain in close contact with Cefas colleagues as the study progresses.

To conclude, I would ask that our concerns are noted and would again express our support for the work that Defra have commissioned.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Tony Goldson
Chair, Eastern IFCA



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

1st Floor (NW), Seacole
Block, 2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Cllr Tony Goldson
Chair, Eastern IFCA
6 North Lynn Business Village
Bergen Way
Kings Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 2JG

Date: 3 July 2018

By Email

Dear Tony

Electric Pulse Trawling

Thank you for your letter of 24 May to Anne Freeman on electric pulse beam trawl fishing.

You may have seen shortly after your letter, on 30 May, new advice on pulse trawl use¹ was issued by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). This responded to a Netherlands special request for ICES to compare 'the ecological and environmental effects of pulse trawls and traditional beam trawls when exploiting the North Sea sole TAC.'

Their advice was drawn primarily from ongoing assessment by their Working Group on Electrical Trawling (WGELECTRA). While the ICES summary is interesting as a gear comparability study, with further examination it is clear that the advice is highly condensed and does not cover all the aspects of the full WGELECTRA report² meaning that the level of uncertainty and gaps in the evidence identified there did not transfer into the ICES summary advice.

It is important to note that gaps in the evidence base remain, particularly on the potential effects of the technology on marine ecosystems. Our view continues to be that a

¹http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/Special_requests/nl.2018.08.pdf

²<http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/EOSG/2018/WGELECTRA/WGELECTRA%20Report%202018.pdf>



precautionary approach would support filling these gaps in order to inform a conclusion at EU level – hence our own Cefas study you are aware of.

Addressing the effects of pulse trawls in terms of the effort shift towards our coastal areas with the resulting impact on our inshore fleet on our east coast is a key priority. We are aware of the strength of local feeling on this, and I note your shared concern.

Looking at your description of the development and expansion of pulse trawls and the relevant derogation from the ban on electric fishing methods, I would note that the restriction on 5% of each Member State's beam trawl fleet was not increased to 10% in 2012 and the originally agreed 5% limit still stands in the EU legislation. As you are aware, however, scientific study exemptions have been utilised to effect an increase over that percentage limit – under provisions in the current technical conservation regulation and under the Common Fisheries Policy regulation. There is a detailed account of how the levels of pulse use increased set out in the above-mentioned WG ELECTRA report at section 5.2.1.

You commented on the activity of pulse trawlers within the EU derogation area in the UK's 6 – 12nm zone in the coastal area of the Eastern IFCA district. Note, however, the EU Regulations do not allow for this on two counts: the Dutch have no access under Common Fisheries Policy arrangements to use beam trawls (of any kind) within the UK 12 mile zone; and there is a general ban in the EU technical conservation rules on beam trawling within the UK 12 mile zone for vessels exceeding 221Kw of engine power. There are of course those three UK flagged vessels (mainly Dutch owned) with pulse gear installed. While they aren't subject to access restrictions, they have over 221Kw power engines, so cannot operate within the 12 mile zone. Making that distinction on access and operation, however, does not underestimate the impact of pulse trawls operating closer within the range of our inshore fleet on their traditional fishing grounds than traditional beam trawls used to operate.

Meanwhile as you know we need to find a suitable compromise on pulse trawl technology between the European Parliament and Council in the context of the current overhaul of the EU technical conservation regulation. The UK abstained from a vote to agree the Council negotiating mandate with the European Parliament on the technical conservation overhaul as the Council position reflected a continuation of the current pulse trawl derogation which we could not agree to.

Our UK interest in this issue was emphasised by Mr Eustice at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on Monday 18 June, under an AOB item introduced by the Netherlands highlighting the latest ICES advice. Mr Eustice signposted the original research being carried out by Cefas on this technology. He also signalled our willingness to help find a Council compromise on this with the European Parliament for the technical measures overhaul. His suggestion on the way forward was to fill those evidence gaps, combined (if those gaps were addressed and pulse use continued) with consideration of buffer zones (coastal areas where pulse would not operate, to protect the inshore fleets) as a possible solution.

Our aim in conducting our own study is to be in a position to inform the EU debate and approach, of course, but at the same time to be fully satisfied on the use of this technology in terms of making decisions on what should happen in UK waters when we have left the EU.

Meanwhile I note your support for the Cefas work on this issue, and I know your ongoing contact with the Cefas team will be welcomed.

Yours sincerely

(Signed)

Roy Smith

Policy Advisor
Common Fisheries Policy team
EU & International Fisheries
Marine and Fisheries
Tel: +44 (0)20 8026 4559
Email: roy.smith@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Health and Safety update

Report by: Jon Butler, Head of Operations

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on health and safety activity, risks and associated mitigation over the last reporting period

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Note** the contents of this report

Background

H&S law requires employers to assess and manage risks and, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure the health, safety and welfare of all its employees and others affected by workplace activities.

The Authority has declared its intent to promote and nurture an appropriate health and safety culture throughout the organisation.

Incidents

The table in *Appendix 1* summarises the incidents that have occurred since the last authority meeting:

Risks

The project to develop a full suite of current risk assessments for all routine activity undertaken by employees, as reported last period, is completed. Officers have completed a significant amount of the specialised key assessments, which have been quality reviewed by our H&S partner at Norfolk County Council. Our H&S partner is still looking to review two further operations including pot hauling and boarding vessels. A new Pot Hauler is being fitted and load tested on Sebastian Terelinck. In addition, a joint initial review has been carried out on Unit A with recommendations, along with a review of transporting fuel for RIBs.

A full review of all officers training requirements has been carried out and a number of priority areas for training have been highlighted including Health and Safety, Manual Handling, First Aid and Machinery operations. These will now need to be scheduled in over the next quarter.

Members would wish to be aware of the H & S risks at *Appendix 2*.

Date	Nature of incident	Injury / damage occurred	Action Taken	RIDDOR Y/N	Investigation complete Y/N	Name of investigating Officer	Follow-up action required Y/N. If Y then what?
08/03/2018	Information received that an Air Rifle is carried aboard vessel	None	Discussed in TCG	Y	Y	Simon Lee	Reported via intel system to MMO for distribution to interested parties
21/03/2018	Rough Sleepers, Lynn Dockers	None	None	N	Y	Luke Godwin	Officers made aware in TCG, District Council and Port Authority made aware.
22/03/2018	Fall/trip in starboard engine room	None	None			Lee Torrice	Skipper to be made aware of anyone entering and exiting the engine rooms whilst doing the 30 minute checks.
13/04/2018	Suspicious behaviour Unit A	None	Reported to manager	N	Yes	Judith Stoutt	Blind to be put up on window, staff to lock door when inside. Consider other security measures. All staff to carry alarm
16/04/2018	Smoke in Port Engine Room	None	Reported to Senior Skipper	N	Yes	Lee Torrice	Sea Water cooling inlet believed to have been blocked by external debris. On inspection water correctly cooling no further action required.

16/04/2018	Twisted knee	Yes	Reported to Senior Skipper	N	Yes	Lee Torrice	While trying to retrieve an engine part that was dropped under the port engine the officer had to position herself through a narrow gap around the exhaust system causing the officer to twist her knee.
01/06/2018	Verbal Abuse	No	Recorded in PNB's, complaint received from fisher ongoing investigation	N	Yes	Simon Lee	Luke Godwin to investigate complaint, dependant on outcome different response maybe required. Highlighted where body camera would have been of use to officers

Eastern IFCA Health and Safety risks

Risk	Intervention	Residual Risk	Risk rating* (Current)	Risk rating* (Previous)
Failure to develop a full suite of risk assessments to cover the range of activity undertaken by Eastern IFCA officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of revised management system (policies and process) • Managers tasked to review and develop the suite of risk assessments • Training session on risk assessments for first line managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or unusual activities may be overlooked and not have a risk assessment in place 	Treat	Treat
Unreported incidents/unilateral decisions with little regard for safe working practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • NCC H&S officer led review of policy and procedure • Training • Equipment • Management systems to capture incidents • Routine agenda items at all meetings at all levels of Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to personnel as a result of failure to acknowledge or adhere to H&S direction and guidance 	Treat	Treat
Inappropriate conduct of vessels at sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Briefings • Formal training and assessment • Periodic review of performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death/injury of personnel/third parties through un-seamanlike operation of vessels at sea 	Tolerate	Treat

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record of personal training inc. refreshers maintained 			
Whole Body Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk awareness training to manage impacts. Health monitoring process to be developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury from boat movement owing to lower resilience as a result of individual physiology 	Treat	Treat
Lone working operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management scrutiny of any proposal for lone working. Introduction of electronic support means 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of devices to give requisite support. Personnel interventions render devices unreliable or unworkable. 	Tolerate	Tolerate
Staff injury/long term absence through inappropriate posture at office work stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information. Training. Risk assessment. Provision of suitable bespoke equipment where reasonable. Access to NCC H&S team. Occupational health assessment KLWNBC H&S specialist advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual failure to adhere to guidance 	Tolerate	Tolerate
Staff stress through exposure to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of Unacceptable Behaviour policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in behaviour of some stakeholders. 	Tolerate	Tolerate

<p>unacceptable behaviour of stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement plan and activity delivered in pursuit of corporate communications strategy. • Dialogue with Stakeholders to ensure appropriate tone of communications • Conflict resolution training for “front line” Officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term sickness caused by stakeholder hostility 		
<p>Damage to vehicles, trailers and/or equipment through inappropriate operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal trailer training for unqualified officers • Refreshers for those with previous experience • Periodic vehicle maintenance checks training • In-house assessment for drivers using unfamiliar vehicles (crew transport, 4x4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to adhere to training • Mechanical failure of vehicle or trailer 	<p>Tolerate</p>	<p>Treat</p>
<p>Physical fitness of personnel to undertake arduous duty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff briefing • Management overview to ensure rostered duties are appropriate and achievable • Reasonable work adjustments • Routine periodic medical assessment (ML5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual health fragilities • Individual lifestyle choice 	<p>Tolerate</p>	<p>Tolerate</p>

*

Risk Rating
High
Medium
Low

Risk Treatment	
Treat	Take positive action to mitigate risk
Tolerate	Acknowledge and actively monitor risk
Terminate	Risk no longer considered to be material to Eastern IFCA business
Transfer	Risk is outside Eastern IFCA ability to treat and is transferred to higher/external level

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 7

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance & HR

Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-committee held on 27th June 2018

Purpose of report

To inform members of the key outputs and decisions from the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee meeting held on 27th June 2018.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report.

Finance Matters

Members considered and:

- Noted the report of the internal audit for 2017/18.
- Approved the statement of accounts for 2017-18 prior to submission to the full Authority.
- Noted slight revisions to the 2018-19 budget prior to submission to the full Authority.
- Approved changes to expenditure limits.
- Agreed a revised estimation of £310k being required from reserves for the I-VMS project. They also agreed to utilise reserve funds to initially fund and subsequently underwrite the IVMS pathfinders in the Wash and North Norfolk (agenda item 13 refers).

HR Matters

Members considered and:

- Agreed a proposal to harmonise terms and conditions of employment that introduced a standard 37 hour working week with a 7.5% salary enhancement for those officers on the roster and required to work unsociable hours.
- Approved proposals for some changes in roles and responsibilities with the re-designation of the role of the Administration and Finance Officer to Senior Administration Officer (with minor changes to salary grade

parameters to reflect additional responsibility) and the re-designation of the post of Administration and Finance officer to Data and Administration Officer. The inclusion of the WNNC Marine Partnership Project Co-ordinator within the EIFCA structure was noted.

- Agreed that the temporary combination of Finance and HR in one post become permanent, that the post of Head of Finance & HR be established permanently at grade EO1 and to the revised grade parameters for grade EO1 incorporate scale points 46 to 50.

Exclusion of the Public.

Resolved that under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for item 10.

Disciplinary

Members received an update on the progression of an Employment Tribunal claim.

HR Update

In addition to providing the paper updating members on the HR activity in the previous quarter, the Head of finance & HR advised members there had been 125 applications for the role of Data & Admin Officer, unfortunately none of those interviewed had met the full criteria for the role. The job description would be amended slightly to highlight the required skill set, prior to re-advertisement. The CEO advised there may be a need to take on a temp in the interim.

Members recorded their congratulations to the two Marine Science Team members who had successfully completed their probation.

Background Papers

Unconfirmed minutes of the F&P sub-committee meeting held on the 27th June 2018.

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 8

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

2018/2019 Budget update

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance and HR

Purpose of report

To set out changes to the 2018/19 budget to reflect latest information.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Agree** to the revised 2018/19 budget as presented to the Finance and Personnel sub-committee held on 27th June 2018.

Background

In completing the 2017/18 accounts it was apparent that, despite underspends in previous years, the allocation in the 2018-2019 budget for training would be inadequate due to increased training requirements and national developments. In addition, proposed changes in roles/grades (Finance and Personnel sub-committee agenda items 10, 11 & 14 refer) require adjustments to the 2018-19 budget.

A joint MMO/IFCA accredited training programme has been established over recent years together with an associated plan to fund training and accreditation utilising EMFF. At a late stage in implementing the project it transpired that EMFF funds could not be used, leaving a shortfall in delivery capability.

Report

To address the shortfall in training delivery at national level IFCAs have agreed to jointly fund a central post. At the Association of IFCAs meeting on 5th June 2018 the following recommendation was agreed:

Recommendation: Appoint IFCA Lead Training Officer on a 3-year contract (minimum 3 days per week). Favoured option 2: Up-front annual payment of c. £1800 per IFCA and an increase to the cost per delegate to the Torquay course to £1,345.

In order to further enhance and develop the management team the organisation has selected Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) training for our 5 first line managers. The initial level 3 training will be provided by Impellus at a cost of £800 per person.

The estimated combined effect of the above is an increase of £15,000 to the 18/19 training budget (included in General Overheads). EMFF funding will be sought for the central post but if this cannot be achieved it will be funded as described.

The opportunity has also been taken to update salary estimates based on the final pay settlement and the proposed changes to be considered at the sub-committee meeting.

The Marine Protection budget has been reduced slightly in line with 17/18 actuals with moorings increased for the same reason.

Table 1

Amended Budget 2018/2019	2017/2018 Budget	2017/2018 Actual	2018/2019 Amended Budget
	£	£	£
Salaries & Wages	995,403	901,273	1,031,672
General Expenditure	201,405	227,961	226,900
<u>Departmental Operational Costs</u>			
Marine Science	8,000	4,165	6,250
Marine Protection	17,500	18,270	20,000
Communication and Development	4,000	371	1,600
<u>Vessels</u>			
Moorings & Harbour Dues	5,500	10,448	5,000
Research Vessel - Three Counties	94,250	73,375	85,000
Enforcement Vessels - John Allen/ANO RIB(S)	45,500	18,892	42,500
Seaspray	10,500	283	7,500
Vehicles	24,500	22,862	25,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 1,406,558	£ 1,277,900	£ 1,451,422
INCOME	60,000	46,087	70,000
EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME	£ 1,346,558	£ 1,231,813	£ 1,381,422
<i>LESS New Burden Funding</i>	394,145	394,145	394,145
Net Expenditure	952,413	837,668	987,277
Levies	996,925	996,925	1,016,863
Surplus/(Shortfall)	£ 44,512	£ 159,257	£ 29,586
Percentage reduction from Base Level £1,329,236)	- 25.0%	- 30.5%	-23.5%
Assets purchased		115,209	30,000

Table 1**Amended Budget 2018/2019**

	2018/2019 Original Budget	2018/2019 Amended Budget	Changes From Original
	£	£	£
Salaries & Wages	1,037,946	1,031,672	6,274
General Expenditure	211,900	226,900	(15,000)
<u>Departmental Operational Costs</u>			
Marine Science	6,250	6,250	-
Marine Protection	22,000	20,000	2,000
Communication and Development	1,600	1,600	-
<u>Vessels</u>			
Moorings & Harbour Dues	3,400	5,000	(1,600)
Research Vessel - Three Counties	85,000	85,000	-
Enforcement Vessels - John Allen/ANO RIB(S)	42,500	42,500	-
Seaspray	7,500	7,500	-
Vehicles	25,000	25,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 1,443,096	£ 1,451,422	£ (8,326)
INCOME	70,000	70,000	-
EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME	£ 1,373,096	£ 1,381,422	£ (8,326)
<i>LESS New Burden Funding</i>	394,145	394,145	-
Net Expenditure	978,951	987,277	(8,326)
Levies	1,016,863	1,016,863	-
Surplus/(Shortfall)	£ 37,912	£ 29,586	£ (8,326)

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 9

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

Statement of Accounts for Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority for the year ended 31st March 2018

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance & HR

Purpose of report

The approval of the annual statement of accounts is delegated to the Finance and Personnel sub-committee, which enables accounts to be submitted within the committed deadline of 30th June. The accounts as presented to the sub-committee are then submitted to the full authority at its' next meeting.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. **Note** – the annual statement of accounts as submitted to the F&P sub-committee and the Joint Committee return sent to PKF Littlejohn for audit scrutiny.

Appendices

Appendix A - Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 (attached)

Appendix B - Uncertified Joint Committees Annual Return and requested supporting documents (copy attached).

Appendix A

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018

Foreword

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 have classified Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as a “smaller relevant body”.

The Account statements are centred on the Audit Commission Small Bodies Annual Return, which is completed and certified on the day the accounts are approved, in this case 27th June 2018. A copy of the return is attached for your information.

The accounting statements forming the basis of the return are:

1. The Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2018
2. The Balance sheet as at 31st March 2018.
3. A statement detailing movement on reserves.

This is the list of the funds held in “ear-marked” reserves and monies managed by the Authority belonging to the Wash Fishery Order and Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Project Funds.

4. A schedule of Fixed Assets held at 31st March 2018. Fixed Assets are valued at cost with no allowance for depreciation. By this method the “book value” of fixed assets remains constant until disposed of.
5. Notes relevant to the above statements.

2017/2018 Out-turn

The table below shows a comparison of Actual results with the 2017/18 Budget analysed under the main budget headings.

	2017/18 Budget	2017/18 Actual
	£	£
Salaries	995,403	901,273
General Expenditure	201,535	220,717
<u>Departmental Operational Costs</u>		
Communication and Development	4,000	371
Enforcement	17,500	18,270
Marine Science	8,000	4,165
Moorings and Harbour Dues	5,500	10,448
Three Counties	94,250	76,924
John Allen/Sebastian Terelinck	45,500	18,892
Seaspray	10,500	283
Vehicles	24,500	22,862
Assets		115,209
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,406,688	1,389,414
<u>INCOME</u>		
Miscellaneous Income	60,000	46,047
TOTAL INCOME	60,000	46,047
EXPENDITURE less INCOME	1,346,688	1,343,367

Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31st March 2018

31/3/2017		31/3/2018
£	CURRENT ASSETS	£
44,532	Debtors	25,929
	Treasury Deposit	
574,995	Suffolk County Council Deposit	576,941
1,489,101	Cash at bank	2,919,454
168	Cash in hand	49
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
-43,397	Creditors	-1,391,812
2,065,399	NET ASSETS	2,130,561
	EAR-MARKED RESERVES	
10,000	ICT Fund	10,000
	IVMS Fund	30,000
18,750	Fixed Penalty Fund	21,750
75,000	Legal and Enforcement Fund	75,000
10,000	Office Improvement Fund	10,000
150,000	Operational Fund	150,000
89,921	Research Fund	78,169
60,000	Vehicles Renewal Fund	60,000
18,292	Environment Grants	18,292
	Vessel Contingency Fund	
1,447,664	Vessel Replacement Fund	1,506,105
114,275	Wash Fishery Order Fund	119,860
71,497	Wash and North Norfolk Project Fund	51,385
2,065,399		2,130,561

Reconciliation between Box 7 and Box 8 in Section 1 (31/03/2018)

Name of small relevant body: Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

	£	£
Box 7: Balances carried forward (31/03/2018)		2,130,561
Deduct:		
Debtors	4,758	
- HMRC	21,171	
Payments in advance		
- Defra Grant (IVMS)		
Total deductions		(25,929)
Add:		
Creditors	1,391,812	
Total additions		1,391,812
Total cash and short term investments		3,496,444

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2018

2016-2017			2017 - 2018		
£	£	<u>INCOME</u>	£	£	£
996,925		Levies	996,925		
394,145		New Burden Funding	394,145		
1,250		Fines	3,000		
		Interest	4,093		
<u>57,637</u>		Miscellaneous income	<u>38,994</u>		
	1,449,957	sub-total		1,437,157	
		Grants (IVMS)	30,000	30,000	
3,096		Vessel Replacement Fund	1,946		
8,700		Wash Fishery Order	8,550		
<u>32,955</u>		Wash & North Norfolk Project Fund	<u>30,449</u>		
	44,751	sub-total		<u>40,945</u>	
	1,494,708	TOTAL INCOME			1,508,102
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>					
850,402		Salaries	901,273		
224,179		General expenditure	220,717		
1,564		Communication and Development	371		
6,998		Research and Environment	4,165		
12,519		Enforcement	18,270		
3,885		Moorings and Harbour dues	10,448		
23,194		Seaspray	283		
82,556		Three Counties operating costs	76,924		
38,832		John Allen & Sebastian Terelinck	18,892		
30,977		Vehicles operating costs	22,862		
<u>6,960</u>		Asset purchases	<u>115,209</u>		
	1,281,976	sub-total		1,389,414	
12,998		Wash Fishery Order Fund	2,965		
<u>29,961</u>		Wash & North Norfolk Project Fund	<u>50,561</u>		
	39,959	sub-total		<u>53,526</u>	
	1,321,925	TOTAL EXPENDITURE			1,442,940
	172,783	INCOME less EXPENDITURE			65,162

Notes – Surplus for the year of £ 335,162 arose as follows:

- Salary savings £94,130
 - Vacancy management savings coupled with a structure change partially offset by a £26,000 invoice for “salary strain” from Norfolk Pension Fund
- General Expenditure overspend £(19,182)
 - Training spend was £17,282 over budget as a result of new starters and general upskilling other modest overspends made up the balance.
- Operations savings £ 6,694
 - Reduced spend on Communication and Development £3,629 and Marine Science underspends £3,835 offset by a small overspend in Marine Protection of £(770).
- Vessels & vehicles savings £50,841
 - Three Counties maintenance £20,875 under budget, other vessels £36,825 under budget (John Allen out of service for part of the year) and vehicles savings of £1,638 offset in small part by Moorings overspend of £(4,948) which includes purchase and siting of a storage container.
- Assets purchased £115,209
 - Seaspray (Pisces replacement) £59,138, fleet replacements £40,752, Sonde for Marine Science £11,752 and £3,567 on IT equipment (below £5,000 not added to Fixed Assets).
 - (Note Seaspray cost is before receipt of EMFF grant of £35,000)
- Miscellaneous income was £12,000 less than anticipated mainly due to deferring fee increases.
- Income includes £30,000 being 10% of Defra grant (£300,000) for National IVMS project held on behalf of all IFCAs.

Statement of movement in reserves

	opening	used	added	reallocated	closing
ICT Fund	10,000	-3,335	3,335		10,000
F.A.P.	18,750		3,000		21,750
Legal Fund	75,000				75,000
Office refurbishment	10,000				10,000
Operational Fund	150,000				150,000
Research Fund	89,921	-11,752			78,169
Vehicle replacement	60,000	-40,752	40,752		60,000
Vessel replacement	1,447,664	-59,370	106,059	11,752	1,506,105
Wash Fishery Order	114,275		5,585		119,860
WNNC-EMS	71,497	-20,112			51,385
IVMS (10%)			30,000		30,000
Grants	18,292				18,292
Total	2,065,399	-135,321	188,731	11,752	2,130,561

Notes

Movement in reserves are treated as follows with the cost of asset/use of reserve shown as a reduction then replenished from surpluses to re-instate. The exceptions being movements in non-discretionary reserves (FAP, WFO and WNNC) and on this occasion reallocating the sonde cost to vessel replacement. All other surplus is directed to Vessel replacement.

**EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY**

FIXED ASSET REGISTER as at 31/03/2018

Acquired	Description	Supplier	Cost £
31/07/2002	RV Three Counties		914,560.00
01/01/2017	Conchita		5,000.00
01/09/2015	Sebastian Terelinck	Redbay	415,188.00
25/04/2013	John Allen	Redbay	144,349.00
12/02/2018	Seaspray 2	Humber	50,546.00
12/02/2018	Seaspray 2 "extras"	Humber	8,592.00
			<hr/> 1,538,235.00
01/04/2013	Sidescan sonar		53,815.00
01/06/2013	Imaging software		13,343.00
13/06/2013	Underwater camera		28,770.00
30/04/2013	Videoray		11,108.00
12/02/2018	Sonde	Xylem	11,753.00
			118,789.00
20/10/2015	Isuzu D-Max	FX65UXP	17,978.00
21/07/2014	Skoda Yeti 4x4	AJ14NHL	20,350.00
01/08/2014	Skoda Yeti Greenline	AJ14NHM	18,095.00
01/08/2014	Skoda Yeti Greenline	AJ14NHN	18,095.00
18/08/2016	Ford Tourneo	EP16DRO	16,851.00
31/12/2008	Peugeot 308SW	AM58SRO	13,500.00
17/12/2009	Peugeot 207SW	AD59NNO	11,990.00
17/12/2009	Peugeot 207SW	AD59NNP	11,990.00
26/05/2017	Skoda Yeti	AK17EVU	13,909.00
26/05/2017	Skoda Yeti	AK17EWA	16,628.00
26/05/2017	Skoda Fabia	AK17EVW	10,215.00
			<hr/> 169,601.00
	Total Fixed Assets		1,826,625.00

Appendix B

Joint Committees

Annual return for the financial year ended 31 March 2018

The annual return on pages 2 to 5 is made up of four sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the person nominated by the Joint Committee.
- Section 3 is completed by the PKF Littlejohn LLP as the reviewer appointed by the Joint Committee.
- Section 4 is completed by the Joint Committee's internal audit provider.

Completing your annual return

Guidance notes, including a completion checklist, are provided on page 6 and at relevant points in the annual return.

Complete all sections highlighted in red. Do not leave any red box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional work and so may incur additional costs.

Send the annual return, together with your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements and any additional information requested, to us, PKF Littlejohn LLP, by the due date.

We will identify and ask for any additional documents needed for our work. Therefore, unless requested, do not send any original financial records.

Once we have completed our work, certified annual returns will be returned to the Joint Committee.

It should not be necessary for you to contact us for guidance.

Additional information can be found on our website using the following link (<https://www.pkf-littlejohn.com/joint-committees-independent-review>).

Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2017/18

We acknowledge as the members of

Enter name of reporting joint committee

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2018, that:

	Agreed –		Yes <small>(means that the joint committee)</small>
	Yes	No	
1 We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the guidance notes within this Annual Return.	Yes		prepared its accounting statements and approved them.
2 We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	Yes		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3 We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with generally accepted good practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the joint committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	Yes		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with generally accepted good practice.
4 We provided opportunity during the year for interested persons to inspect and ask questions about the accounts.	Yes		has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about these joint committee accounts.
5 We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the joint committee and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Yes		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6 We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the joint committee's accounting records and control systems.	Yes		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of the joint committee.
7 We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal audit and external reviews.	Yes		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external reviewers.
8 We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the joint committee and where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	Yes		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.

This annual governance statement is approved by the Joint Committee and recorded as minute reference

APPROVED BY:

dated: 10/04/2018

Signed by:

Chair: [Signature]

dated: 10/04/2018

Signed by:

Clerk: [Signature]

dated: 10/04/2018

*Note: Please provide explanations on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the joint committee will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 2 – Accounting statements 2017/18 for:

Enter name of reporting joint committee here:

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

	Year ending		Notes and guidance Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.
	31 March 2017 £	31 March 2018 £	
1 Balances brought forward	1,892,616	2,065,399	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the joint committee's financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2 (+) Income from local taxation and/or levy	1,391,070	1,391,070	Total amount of local tax and/or levy received or receivable in the year including funding from a sponsoring joint committee. Excluding any grants received.
3 (+) Total other receipts	103,638	117,032	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the taxation and/or levy (line 2). Include any grants received here.
4 (-) Staff costs	850,402	901,273	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	-	-	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the joint committee's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) All other payments	471,523	541,667	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7 (=) Balances carried forward	2,065,399	2,130,561	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8 Total cash and short term investments	2,054,264	3,496,444	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – to agree with bank reconciliation.
9 Total fixed assets plus other long term investments and assets	1,724,215	1,826,625	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the joint committee as at 31 March
10 Total borrowings	-	-	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2018 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the Joint Committee and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:

Date

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the Joint Committee on:

and recorded as minute reference:

Signed by Chair of meeting approving these accounting statements:

Date

Section 3 – Review report 2017/18 Certificate

We present the findings from our review of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2018 in respect of:

Enter name of reporting joint committee here:

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Respective responsibilities of the Joint Committee and the reviewer

The Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The Joint Committee prepares an annual return which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2018; and
- confirms and provides assurance on various governance matters in accordance with generally accepted good practice.

We have reviewed the annual return and set out our findings below. Our work does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and therefore does not provide the level of assurance of a statutory audit.

Report

Matters arising from our review

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Reviewer signature

Reviewer

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

Section 4 – Annual internal audit report 2017/18 to

Enter name of reporting joint committee here:

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

The Joint Committee's internal audit service provider, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Joint Committee's needs and planned coverage.

On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Joint Committee.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered
A. Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.			
B. The Joint Committee's financial regulations have been met, payments were approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.			
C. The Joint Committee assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.			
D. The annual taxation or levy or funding requirements resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.			
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.			
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with the joint committee approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.			
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.			
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.			
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and, where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.			

For any other risk areas identified by the Joint Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:

MARK WATKINS

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:

MARK WATKINS

Date:

15/03/2018

*Note: If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Guidance notes on completing the 2017/18 annual return

1. Make sure that your annual return is complete (i.e. no empty red boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making any amendments to the completed return. But, if this is unavoidable, make sure the amendments are drawn to the attention of and approved by the joint committee, properly initialled and an explanation provided to us. Annual returns containing unapproved or unexplained amendments will be returned and may incur additional costs.
2. Use the checklist provided below. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps a member or the Chair, to review your annual return for completeness before sending it to us.
3. Do not send us any information not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful. However, you must notify us of any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair.
4. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation which you send with the annual return covers all your bank accounts. If the joint committee holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. We must be able to agree your bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the Accounting statements. You must provide an explanation for any difference between Box 7 and Box 8.
5. Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on page 3. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. We want to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include a complete analysis to support your explanation.
6. If we have to review unsolicited information, or receive an incomplete bank reconciliation, or you do not fully explain variances, this may incur additional costs for which we will make a charge.
7. Make sure that your accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2016) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2017).
8. Do not complete section 3. We will complete it at the conclusion of our work.

Completion checklist – No answers mean you may not have met requirements		Done?
All sections	All red boxes have been completed?	
	All information requested has been sent with this annual return?	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation is provided?	
Section 2	Approval by the joint committee confirmed by signature of Chair of meeting approving the accounting statements?	
	An explanation of significant variations from last year to this year is provided?	
	Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2017 agrees to Box 8?	
	An explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 is provided?	
Section 4	All red boxes completed by internal audit and explanations provided?	

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 10

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance

Payments made and monies received during the period 1st April 2018 to 30th June 2018

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the paper

Background

It is an audit requirement that the Authority's receipts and payments are presented to Members on a quarterly basis.

The report on Payments made and monies received during the period 1st April to 30th June is attached.

The payments have been made in accordance with EIFCA's Financial Regulations and the necessary processes and approvals have been carried out.

Background documents

There are no background documents to this paper

Finance Officer's Report on Payments Made and Monies Received during the period

1st April 2018 to 30th June 2018

Payments made during the period

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Transfers to EIFCA Salaries Acct.	106,000.00	90,000.00	80,000.00	276,000.00
Rent, Rates & Service Charges	2,563.24	3,003.39	9,965.90	15,532.53
General Establishment	16,548.40	11,628.43	6,158.58	34,335.41
Legal Fees	2,914.00	1,089.00		4,003.00
Staff Travelling & Subsistence	2,081.52	1,799.81	1,237.37	5,118.70
Members' Allowances		392.84		392.84
Training	1,707.98	3,321.27	805.50	5,834.75
Moorings/Harbour Dues	50.00	50.00	556.02	656.02
Seaspray Operating Costs	72.50		116.00	188.50
Three Counties Operating Costs	27,962.52	19,658.55	389.90	48,010.97
FPV JA & ST –Operating Costs	855.29	635.94	8,757.42	10,248.65
Vehicle Operating Costs	958.61	1,174.74	1,463.83	3,597.18
Communication and Development				
Research and Environment	210.99	5,496.73	14.16	5,721.88
Enforcement	5,904.89	3,075.77	246.46	9,227.12
Wash & Nth Norf. EMS Project	452.40	2,054.70	150.00	2,657.10
Wash Fishery Order		106.25		106.25
Assets				
IT Project				
Petty Cash				
VAT recoverable (Quarter)	6,394.56	2,989.59	5,544.76	14,928.91
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE	174,676.90	146,477.01	115,404.90	436,558.81

Monies received during the period

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Levies	408,293.00			408,293.00
WFO – Licences			7,380.00	7,380.00
WFO – Tolls			6,210.00	6,210.00
Whelk licences	895.00	360.00	300.00	1,555.00
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS	4,700.00	4,763.00		9,463.00
Sale of equipment	751.94			751.94
Fixed Penalty Fine				
EHO sampling	600.00	3,800.00		4,400.00
IVMS Grant	51,000.00			51,000.00
VAT			21,156.42	21,156.42
Miscellaneous	3,065.33	10.14	39.20	3,114.67
TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED	469,305.27	8,933.14	35,085.62	513,324.03

Details on larger payments

The first quarter payments are inflated by annual bills paid e.g. Insurance £20k. refit Three Counties £25k, JA repairs £8k, Enforcement software £6k, AIFCA subs £12k and Pension shortfall (“Salary squeeze”) £26k.

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 11

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance

Report on the Management Accounts for the first quarter of the 2018/19 financial year

Purpose of report

To set out the Half Yearly Management Accounts for members to note.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the Management Accounts

Management Accounts Financial Year 2018/19

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	MEMO
	Year to Date	Year to	Budget
	Qtr 1	Date	For Year
	£	Qtr 1	£
		£	
<u>SALARIES & WAGES</u>			
Staff Remuneration	189,960	196,881	787,525
Pension	40,184	40,761	163,043
National Insurance	19,314	20,276	81,104
TOTAL	249,458	257,918	1,031,672
<u>GENERAL EXPEND</u>			
Accommodation	16,721	18,575	70,800
Insurance	7,390	8,250	8,250
General Establishment	30,949	23,650	94,600
Officers' Expenses	5,119	3,700	14,750
Members' Travel	393	875	3,500
Training	5,835	8,750	35,000
TOTAL	66,407	63,800	226,900
Develop & Comms		400	1,600
Enforcement	9,227	7,500	20,000
Research & Environ	5,722	4,500	6,250
<u>VESSELS</u>			
Moorings/Harbour Dues	656	1,250	5,000
<u>Vessel Operating Costs</u>			
Three Counties	48,011	30,000	85,000
FPVs JA & ST	10,249	18,000	42,500
Seaspray	189	2,500	7,500
TOTAL	59,105	51,750	140,000
<u>VEHICLES</u>			
Operating Costs	3,597	11,500	25,000
TOTAL	3,597	11,500	25,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	393,516	397,368	1,451,422
<u>INCOME</u>			
Bank Interest	19	50	6,500
Levies	1,411,088	1,411,008	1,411,008
WFO Licence Tolls	7,380	10,000	10,000
Grants	51,000	13,500	27,000
Whelk licences	1,555	1,500	4,000
Sale of assets	752	750	1,500
Fixed Penalties & costs		750	3,000
Surveys			
EHO sampling	4,400	5,000	20,000
Lay rents		500	2,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,476,194	1,443,058	1,481,008
Reserve movement	n/a	n/a	29,586

Notes

First quarter figures largely in line with expectations with some variations due to annual charges appearing in the period.

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 12

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Report by: Julian Gregory, CEO

Meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee

Purpose of report

The purpose of this paper is to report the proceedings of the Marine Protected Areas sub-committee meeting held on 6th June 2018.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report

Report

The MPA sub-committee met on 6th June 2018 to consider management measures for the 2018 Wash cockle fishery.

Following presentation of a paper setting out the results of the 2018 wash cockle survey and proposals for the fishery and subsequent discussion members agreed to:

Note the content of the report including the 2018 Wash cockle survey report.

Note the responses to Entitlement holder consultation reported at the meeting.

Agree to a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 4,462 tonnes.

Agree to open a hand work fishery on a date to be determined by the CEO.

Agree to the proposed licence conditions set out in Appendix 2.

Agree that the CEO would amend the licence conditions to incorporate closed areas for the protection of seals once confirmed with Natural England.

Agree to endorse the enforcement policy and associated supporting rationale at Appendix 3 relating to Regulation 1 (fishing equipment) to allow the use of sea-anchors for the purpose of 'prop-washing'.

Approve the delegation of powers to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to introduce, vary or revoke management measures/licence conditions for the cockle fishery or to open and close the fishery or parts of the fishery as required for the purposes of fisheries management, including meeting the conservation objectives of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (EMS) and supporting a sustainable and viable fishery.

Approve the delegation of powers to the CEO to introduce, vary or revoke management measures or to open or close the fishery or parts of the fishery, without 7 days' notice (as per the cockle charter) where it is judged necessary to do so to meet the conservation objectives of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site or for the sustainability or the viability of the fishery.

Background papers

Unconfirmed minutes of the Marine Protected Areas sub-committee held on 6th June 2018.

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 13

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Report by: Julian Gregory – CEO

Inshore Vessel Monitoring System Project Update

Purpose of report

The purpose of this paper is to update members on a funding issue associated with the national I-VMS project.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report.
- **Agree** to delegate authority to the CEO, Chair of the Authority and Chair of the Finance and Personnel sub-committee to take the decision on the utilisation of Eastern IFCA funds to support the project when advice on the transfer of ownership of I-VMS units and transfer of terms and conditions of grant has been received.

Background

The national I-VMS project intends to provide all licensed fishing vessels <12m in overall length with the opportunity to have an I-VMS device provided and installed at no cost utilising EMFF funding. The project is a joint endeavour between Defra, the MMO and the ten IFCAs.

The EMFF funding stream requires payment in advance for the devices and installation with the cost then being re-claimed from the MMO EMFF team. The intention is for each IFCA to fund the initial installation and then to re-claim the monies. At the 32nd full Authority meeting members agreed that reserve funds be utilised to support the roll-out of I-VMS within the District.

Once an I-VMS device has been installed on a vessel the intention was to enter into a contract with the vessel owner which would see ownership of the device and responsibility for operating and maintaining the device being transferred to that person.

Report

It has been established that whilst it is possible to transfer ownership of a device it is not possible to transfer responsibility for the terms and conditions of grant for EMFF funding. MMO Legal have been engaged by the project and have provided the following advice:

As a result of this funding model, the IFCA will be the direct beneficiary and will, therefore, be directly accountable to the EMFF scheme in accordance with the terms of grant. Concern has been raised as to whether the IFCAs can “contract out” these terms and conditions to the vessel owners who will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the I-VMS terminals.

Legally, there is no basis for “contracting out” the terms of grant. They apply to the applicant directly and cannot be “passed on” to a third party. This is however, not as much of a legal risk as it might at first seem. I have reviewed the terms of grant provided by the EMFF team and I think it is possible for IFCAs to ensure they remain in compliance with them (and not, therefore, financially liable to repay monies to the fund) by incorporating the protections the terms seek to establish in a robust suite of their own conditions of transfer that will apply, and will be enforceable under the law of contract, between the IFCA and the vessel owner to whom the I-VMS terminal is provided.

In simple terms this means that the IFCA would be responsible for the terms and conditions of grant so, in theory, in the event of them not being met there could be a requirement to repay the funding. In such circumstances the vessel owner would have a contractual liability to subsequently reimburse the IFCA.

The MMO EMFF team have advised that re-claiming funds would be a last resort, that it rarely happens and that they would look at other options before considering such a step. As such it can be said that it has a low likelihood of occurring. The risk could be further mitigated by the introduction of regulation mandating the use of I-VMS devices.

This matter was discussed at the Association of IFCAs meeting held on 5th June 2018 (see AIFCA update at agenda item 23) and it was agreed that legal advice would be sought to establish a clear understanding of the legal position relating ownership of devices and liability for IFCAs under the terms and conditions of grant. This together with advice from the EMFF team will then enable each IFCA to assess the risk and to take a decision on continuing with the planed funding model. Legal advice is being commissioned at the time of writing.

Recognising the theoretical risk to the Authority and a desire to proceed with the I-VMS pathfinder in the Wash and N. Norfolk SAC this issue was discussed at the meeting of the Finance and Personnel sub-committee held on 27th June 2018. Members agreed to utilise reserve funds to initially fund and subsequently underwrite the I-VMS pathfinders in the Wash and North Norfolk.

It is proposed that once all information, including legal advice, is available the risk to the Authority will be assessed and a recommendation made on continuance of the funding model.

Background Documents

Action item 21 paper for the 32nd full Authority meeting held on 25th April 2018.

Minutes of the 32nd full Authority meeting held on 25th April 2018.

Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Association of IFCA held on 5th June 2018.

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 19

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Report by: Julian Gregory – CEO

MMO Appointee Dispensations

Purpose of report

The purpose of this paper is to advise members of dispensations granted to two MMO appointees and to seek confirmation of the same.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report.
- **Agree** to the continuation of the dispensations for Mr Brewster and Mr Davies for the period of their current appointment to the Authority.

Background

Section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 requires that any members who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in a matter at a meeting cannot participate in the associated discussion or vote on the matter.

Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 allows the Authority to grant dispensations to relieve members from the requirements of s.31(4) for a maximum of four years.

Dispensations are valid for the term of each Member (which varies) but no more than four years. Two MMO Appointees, Mr Roy Brewster and John Davies, have recently been reappointed to the Authority after their terms ceased. As such, the Authority must consider whether to re-issue the associated dispensations.

Report

Both Mr Brewster and Mr Davies were re-appointed to the Authority between two statutory meeting dates, where dispensations would ordinarily be considered

and granted. Because both are members of the Marine Protected Areas sub-committee and a meeting was scheduled on 6th June 2018, which was before the next full Authority meeting, there was an urgent requirement to grant dispensations to enable them to participate fully in the meeting.

The Constitution and Standing orders provides, within the scheme of delegations to the CEO, as follows:

Where, in the opinion of the CEO (or their nominated deputy in their absence) a decision which is within the powers of the Authority, but is not within the CEO's delegated powers, is urgently required by the Eastern IFCA, and cannot be delayed until an Authority or relevant Sub-Committee meeting is convened, the CEO may take the decision, having first consulted the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Authority and, where relevant, the Sub-Committee Chair and Vice-Chair. All such decisions must be reported to the next meeting of the Authority and the relevant Sub-Committee.

In consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the CEO took the decision to grant dispensations to Mr Brewster and Mr Davies on 4th June 2018. A copy of the Decision Memo setting out the relevant considerations can be found at Appendix A.

Appendices

Appendix A - Decision Memo – Dispensations from s.31(4) Localism Act 2011

Appendix A

Decision Memo – Dispensations from s.31(4) Localism Act 2011

Date: 02/05/2018

Decision maker: Julian Gregory (CEO), Cllr Tony Goldson (Chair), Cllr Paul Skinner (Vice-Chair)

Drafted by: Luke Godwin (Senior IFCO)

Decision summary:

To grant dispensations from s.31(4) Localism Act 2011 to Mr Roy Brewster and Mr John Davies (MMO Appointees) to enable them to discuss certain matters at Authority meetings. This follows the expiry of the previous period of dispensation.

Rationale:

Section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 requires that any members who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in a matter at a meeting cannot participate in the associated discussion or vote on the matter.

Dispensations are valid for the term of each Member (which varies) but no more than four years. Two MMO Appointees, Mr Roy Brewster and John Davies, have been reappointed to the Authority after their terms ceased. As such, the Authority must consider whether to re-issue the associated dispensations.

Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 allows the Authority to grant dispensations to relieve members from the requirements of s.31(4) for a maximum of four years. Such dispensations can only be granted if, after having regard to all relevant circumstances, the Authority –

(a) considers that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business,

(b) considers that without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business,

(c) considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area,

(d) if it is an authority to which Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 applies and is operating executive arrangements, considers that without the dispensation each member of the authority's executive would be prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business to be transacted by the authority's executive, or

(e) considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation

As such, the consideration of granting DPIs is split into two parts; i) having regard to all relevant circumstances and ii) consideration of the benefits of granting such dispensations.

Previous verbal advice from NPLaw has indicated that dispensations should be as specific as possible with regards to referencing those matters for which dispensation is granted. As such, an account of Authority business is also set out below for which there may be conflict with DPIs which can be referenced in the dispensations.

Regard to all relevant circumstances

MMO Appointee	DPIs which relate to Authority Business	Matters for which a DPI is relevant
Mr John Davies	<p><u>Employment</u> – fisher (specifically Crabs and Lobsters)</p> <p><u>Securities</u> – Ownership of shares in fishing vessel(s) and Limited company(ies).</p>	Agreeing annual priorities, agreeing to fisheries management measures, agreeing to contracts to undertake work on behalf of the Authority
Mr Roy Brewster	<p><u>Employment</u> – Fisher (specifically cockles, mussels and brown shrimps)</p> <p><u>Corporate tenancies</u> – leasing of private fishery from Eastern IFCA</p> <p><u>Securities</u> – Ownership of shares in fishing vessel(s) and Limited company(ies).</p>	Agreeing annual priorities, agreeing to fisheries management measures, leasing private Rights to fisheries in The Wash, agreeing to contracts to undertake work on behalf of the Authority

Consideration of the benefits of granting dispensations

The MMO appoints Members to IFCAs in accordance with Defra guidance¹ and in particular to ensure that '*members appointed by the MMO are representative of and/or hold knowledge and experience relevant to the economic, social and environmental needs of that IFCA's district and will be selected for the relevant expertise that they will bring to the Committee*'.

In doing so an Authority is able to meet the aim of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 in modernising the management of the entire marine environment by achieving an appropriate balance between commercial exploitation and stock and habitat protection.

MMO appointees are required to impart their local knowledge and expertise to provide insight into the potential outcomes of Authority decisions. Such decisions (and in particular those relating to the implementation of fisheries management) are likely to have much wider ranging effects than only directly on fishers (for example fisheries related jobs such as factory workers, tourism and cultural impacts). Benefits in relation to each identified 'type' of matter are summarised below:

- Agreeing annual priorities – Members involved in the fishing industry impart knowledge relating to fisheries trends and dynamics relating to each fishery. Fishers have an on-the-ground and unique understanding of the risk associated with each fishery and the wider implications of sustainability issues;
- Agreeing to fisheries management measures – Fishers will have an insight into the potential impacts of recommended management measures and can use their experience and knowledge of the industry to 'sense-check' measures and associated Impact Assessments;
- Leasing private Rights to fisheries in the Wash – The Wash is a dynamic marine environment and fishers with on-the-ground experience provide an insight into the potential impacts of granting private fisheries;
- Agreeing to contracts to undertake work on behalf of the Authority - Fishers will be able to provide insight into the practicality and logistical issues associated with new research projects where the industry may be asked to participate.

¹ Guidance to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on the appointment of committee members to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), April 2010 - https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347493/ifca_appointments_guidance.pdf

Recommendation

Having considered the requirements of the Localism Act with regards to granting dispensations, it is considered appropriate that Roy Brewster and John Davies are granted dispensations to participate in discussions on matters for which they have DPIs.

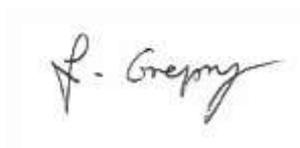
Such a decision would ordinarily fall to the full Authority the decision but can be taken by the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority in accordance with provision 26 of the delegated authority provided to the CEO by the Constitution and Standing Orders. This provides for circumstances where an urgent decision is required. In this case the re-appointment of the two members has fallen between two Authority meetings and both members are due to attend a meeting of the marine Protected Areas sub-committee on Wednesday 6th June 2018, where their input is likely to be relevant as the meeting has been convened solely to take management decisions for the wash cockle fishery. The next meeting of the full Authority is on 18th July 2018, when this decision should be reported.

Relevant documents

Decision maker confirmation

Both Cllr Tony Goldson (Chair) and Cllr Paul Skinner (Vice-Chair) have been consulted by the CEO via e-mail and both agree with the decision to grant the dispensations.

Signature:



Date: 04/06/2018

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



Information Item 20

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Meeting

18th July 2018

Report by: J. Gregory, Chief Executive Officer

Quarterly Progress Against Annual Priorities 2018-19

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress against the objectives established in the Business plan as priorities for 2018-19.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note** the contents of this report

Background

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is mandated to produce an annual plan each year to lay out the expected business outputs for the year ahead.

With effect from 2016-17 the Authority adopted a model for business planning which uses a rolling five-year Business Plan incorporating annual priorities informed by the annual Strategic Assessment. The plan incorporates the high-level objectives agreed with Defra.

The move to a five-year business plan reflects the need to engage in longer term planning in the context of high levels of demand and the requirement to be flexible with priorities to reflect the dynamic nature of inshore fisheries, the marine environment and the policy landscape.

At the Planning and Communications Sub-Committee held on 14th March 2018 priorities for 2018/19 as set out in the 5-year Business Plan were agreed.

Report

The tables at the Appendix detail the progress against the key priorities for 2018-19, as set in the Business plan for 2018-23.

Risk

Significant complexities regarding the development of Shrimp management measures within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast MPAs have resulted in ongoing delays to delivering this workstream. Resource allocated to other projects has, to an extent been subverted to work on the associated Habitats Regulation Assessment with 'knock-on' effects on other work. This issue is now at the point of resolution as management measures are proposed at agenda item 14.

During this quarter, Eastern IFCA has continued to lead the coordination of Operation Blake. Operation Blake was established in response to two widely reported dog deaths because of PSP poisoning and Eastern IFCA's involvement reflects the potential impacts on the industry.

Conclusion

As per Appendix 1, priority workstreams are all underway but many have been delayed and rolled over to new financial years part due to unforeseen complexities. The complexity and detail involved in dealing with the red and amber risk MPAs has impacted upon other MPA work (including completing the Cromer Shoal MCZ assessment) during the quarter. However, this work is nearing completion and management measures for the Wash shrimp fishery are now being proposed.

Background documents

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Business Plan 2018-23.

Appendices

1. Report on priorities set for 2018-19

APPENDIX 1

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

18th July 2018Quarterly Progress against Annual Priorities – Quarter 1

4 key priorities are established for 2018-19.

Financial Year 2017-18		
Priorities 2017-18	Progress	Comment
<p>1. To ensure that the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas in the district are furthered by:</p> <p>a. Delivering fisheries management measures for the 'Red Risk' designated features in the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SCI, and the Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton SCI;</p> <p>b. Delivering fisheries management measures for 'Amber and Green' designated features within European Marine Sites (EMS) including shrimp management in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC and completion of 'Amber and Green' HRA suite;</p> <p>c. Assessing the impact of fishing activities on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds tranche 2 Marine Conservation</p>		<p>1a. Ongoing for Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton: development of management measures on hold to enable focus on shrimp assessment/management in Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC. June 2018: re-commenced discussions with Natural England over potential closed areas.</p> <p>Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge: Work delayed enabling focus on shrimp assessment/management. Work to recommence following Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton. Management measures to apply updated conservation advice from Natural England.</p> <p>1b. Ongoing. Updated shrimp assessment, including mitigation proposals completed. Initial advice from Natural England in agreement with EIFCA approach. Informal consultation undertaken with fishery stakeholders. Mitigation measures presented to Authority for agreement July 2018.</p> <p>1c. Ongoing. Draft assessment has been completed for all fishing activities in site. If required, management measures to be developed</p>

<p>Zone and delivering management measures (if required);</p> <p>d. Developing monitoring and control plans for highest risk MPAs as identified in the Strategic Assessment 2018;</p> <p>e. Delivering mitigation to the risk of 'food availability' in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC in relation to private aquaculture;</p> <p>f. Introduction of measures to mitigate the risk of damage to the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC from 'unmanaged' bivalve fishing activity <u>if required</u>;</p> <p>g. Undertake gap analysis and initial assessment of fishing impacts within newly designated MPAs including the Harbour Porpoise candidate SAC (southern North Sea), the Greater Wash potential SPA and the extension to the Outer Thames estuary SPA.</p>		<p>in line with crab and lobster stock sustainability measures (2b, below).</p> <p>1d. Ongoing. Monitoring and control plan generic template created. Draft plan for Wash & North Norfolk Coast shrimp fishery created.</p> <p>1e. Ongoing. The Authority has an ongoing monitoring programme to ensure the mussels grown in private aquaculture sites in The Wash do not have an adverse impact on the food available for wild stocks. This is achieved by monitoring the chlorophyll RFU levels (as a proxy for algae levels) in the water at a number of sites across The Wash and testing meat yields of mussels taken from locations close to the several fishery lays. Sampling is conducted by testing the water with YSI sondes at the various locations once a month and conducting continuous sampling at a further location using a sonde mounted on a scientific buoy. In the last six months the hand-held spot sonde has been replaced with a newer model after the old one malfunctioned and the buoy sonde has been serviced. At the start of the year the buoy was scheduled to be serviced, but three attempts had to be cancelled due to poor weather. The buoy was eventually serviced with the assistance of the King's Lynn Conservancy Board in April and the sonde redeployed in May. To date, the results from the project have not fallen below trigger thresholds.</p> <p>1.f Ongoing - No action required at present – pending agreement between Le Strange Estate and Fishers.</p> <p>1.g Ongoing. Initial discussions have been held with MMO to consider respective responsibilities for the newly designated marine protected areas. Awaiting MMO fishing activity information and NE/JNCC guidance in relation to visual disturbance (a key issue in</p>
---	--	---

		<p>Special Protection Areas). When responsibility for site assessments has been confirmed, designated Marine Science Officers will lead on respective evidence gap analysis and fisheries assessments. Classification of Greater Wash Special Protection Area was confirmed in April 2018.</p>
<p>2. To ensure that sea fisheries resources are exploited sustainably and in accordance with MSFD requirements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Developing fishery sustainability management measures for the brown shrimp fishery in conjunction with priority 1(b) above; b. Developing fisheries management measures for crab and lobster; c. Monitor fisheries management of bass in the context of European and national fisheries management measures and contribute to the development of Bass Nursery Areas; d. Investigate the cause of mussel mortality within The Wash. 		<p>2a. Ongoing – Management measures to be informed by Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Management Plan and Marine Science project. New Marine Science Officer working alongside the industry-led steering group. Officers in dialogue with industry to put together a proposal regarding Eastern IFCA’s involvement in monitoring compliance with voluntary measures. In addition, Officers participated in an MSC inspection in May.</p> <p>2b. Ongoing – The ongoing crab and lobster stock assessments indicate both stocks a currently being fished at levels exceeding MSY, so some level of management will be required. Various management options are being explored to determine their potential effectiveness and associated costs to the industry. The start of the informal consultation has been delayed pending completion of the Cromer Shoal MCZ assessment (for potting) including formal advice from Natural England. Officers have undertaken an informal consultation throughout the district with crab / lobster fishers to inform an engagement plan for this workstream.</p> <p>2c. Complete – no further action required. Enforcement activity targeted at fishery in accordance with risk. Eastern IFCA attended a meeting with local fishers to discuss bass management proposals set out by the industry and has sought to influence national / international discussions as appropriate. It should be noted that Eastern IFCA has limited influence on these. The 2018 bass</p>

		<p>measures are considered sufficiently robust to have the intended protective effect on the fishery however, the national workstream relating to Bass Nursery Areas has not progressed. Whilst there is still a risk associated with fishing activity within nursery areas, the EU bass regulations mitigate this to an extent.</p> <p>2d. Ongoing - Previous sampling in 2010 indicated the parasitic copepod, <i>Mytilicola intestinalis</i>, is potentially the cause of the die-offs. A joint research project with Hull University commenced in September 2017 to study this parasite and the pea crab closer, to determine if they are causal factors in the recent high mortalities. Mussel samples were collected off each mussel bed during the course of the recent mussel surveys for dissection and analysis by two MSc students at Hull. Dissections are currently in progress. Some samples were also retained which members of the science team have been dissecting to increase the dataset. Results are currently being awaited from Hull, while our own dissections are ongoing.</p>
<p>3. To ensure that the marine environment is protected from the effect of exploitation by;</p> <p>a. Reviewing district wide bio-security measures including risk assessment of invasive, non-native species;</p>		<p>Ongoing – A project plan has been developed and agreed. An updated biosecurity plan is in draft specifically dealing with the risk posed by the aquaculture in The Wash based on advice received from the Fish Health Inspectorate. A district wide approach is in development which will identify areas of highest risk, focus on engagement and education and will seek to utilise mechanisms and programmes set up by partner organisations. Measures specifically aimed at addressing risk in The Wash are underway including awareness raising and the implementation of new lease conditions (pending legal advice).</p> <p>Support has been offered towards a new Cefas project that aims to map the occurrence of Invasive Non-Native Species in English waters using eDNA biomolecular techniques. Our involvement in this</p>

		<p>project will be to collect “scrape” samples from ports and marinas that we regularly visit during the course of our other duties. In April, high levels of the invasive slipper limpet, <i>Crepidula fornicata</i>, were found close to one of the several fishery lays in The Wash. These were surveyed in May to determine whether action needs to be taken to remove them. However, as non-native species cannot be returned/disposed of at sea, the legalities of disposing of them ashore are being explored.</p>
<p>4. To develop management of the fisheries regulated under the WFO 1992 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reviewing the Wash Fishery Order (1992) policy notes; b. Delivering updated Fisheries Management Plan, updated Regulations and partial cost recovery 		<p>4a. Delayed – The Policy review is to incorporate both the ‘Regulated’ and the ‘Several’ elements of the Order. A formal consultation on new policies has been postponed pending completion of the WFO Regulations consultation. These two elements were to be consulted on at the same time but were subsequently separated for clarity. This consultation has subsequently been reprioritised primarily to allow for the recent WFO Cockle fishery, Mussel fisher and Shrimp management measures consultations.</p> <p>4.b Ongoing –Formal consultation on the WFO Regulations has been completed and the measures are pending consideration by the SoS before being implemented.</p> <p>Consultation regarding the Fisheries Management Plan and Regulations was delayed pending formal advice from Natural England regarding the ‘long-term’ HRA for the Wash cockle fishery.</p> <p>Formal consultation on Licence fees has been completed and given cause to review the implementation before additional fee increases. Partial cost recovery is being sought from the industry for regulating the WFO 1992. As a significant part of that cost is associated with conducting the cockle and mussel surveys, their methodologies are currently being assessed to determine whether savings could be</p>

		made and what risks these would involve. If the costs associated with the survey work change significantly, it may be the case that the further consultation is required.
--	--	---

Key:

	Complete
	In progress
	No progress

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



Information Item 21

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Report by: Simon Lee – Senior IFCO (Compliance)
Luke Godwin – Senior IFCO (Regulation)

Marine Protection Quarter 1 report

Purpose of report

To provide members with an overview of the work carried out by the Marine Protection team during the period April, May and June 2018.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report

Report

Enforcement and engagement priorities throughout district – overview

April

There was an intelligence gap for much of the district during the month. Therefore, enforcement activity was undertaken on a risk-based approach. The main priority was whelk landing inspections. In addition, this month saw the mussel fishery open in the Wash which was an enforcement priority both at sea and at ports. The marine protection team also increased visual presence in ports and ensure good engagement with fishers.

May

Priorities during May were to address unmarked gear along the Lincolnshire coast by conducting vessel patrols. As per last month boarding's and landing inspections of vessels engaged in the mussel fishery were a priority, although lower due to the small uptake of the fishery. Landing inspections of shrimp vessels were prioritised for joint work with the MMO. Crab and Lobster landing inspections along the North Norfolk coast were prioritised due to increased risk associated with the fishery. Landing inspections and at seaborne inspections of vessels fishing for Bass in Suffolk were prioritised due to increased risk with the fishery and increased intelligence from this area. In addition, officers were

instructed to complete RSA inspections and engagement as a secondary piece of work tied in with priority actions.

June

During June the whelk fishery was still a high risk with gear inspection and engagement with new vessels being the focus of related enforcement activities. In the final week of June, the Wash Fishery Order cockle fishery was opened, due to the risk associated with this fishery it was the enforcement priority for the end of the month. The priority in relation to RSA education/engagement and inspections was increased and the risk increased in line with a seasonal trend. Crab and Lobster inspections remained a priority, with the focus being on the North Norfolk coast and Suffolk. There were several new vessels that entered the district during the month and they were visited in line with the enforcement policy.

District overview of commercial fishing trends

Early in the reporting period, whelks were an important target species throughout the district, however there was a shift away from this fishery on to cockles, and crab and lobster in May and June as per the usual seasonal trend. Bass catches have been reported as very high, although generally other finfish species have been poor. Herring has been in abundance along the North Norfolk coast and into Suffolk however the price has remained poor.

District overview of recreational fishing trends

Throughout the period the level of activity and amount of fish landed has increased. Early in the reporting period the main catches were of flat fish and the number of people engaged in fishing was low. As the weather has improved (including higher water temperatures which are thought to have been relatively late this year) the variety of species landed has increased along with fishing effort. Much of the discussion by RSA's with officers has been concerning bass measures.

EMS monitoring

Monitoring of 'restricted areas' under the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 was carried out throughout the reporting period. The following monitoring occurred:

Protected feature	Restricted areas	Number of separate patrols where one or more restricted areas was visited	Comments
<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> (Ross Worm) Reef	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I	6 (sea borne patrols)	Restricted areas B, C and D were monitored on the most occasions. Area A was not visited during the reporting period. No activity seen.

Sub-tidal stony Reef	J	0	n/a
Eelgrass beds (North Norfolk Coast)	SH, EH, SF, BP, BC	11	Area EH only for all 11 visits
Eelgrass beds (Humber)	K	2	No activity seen

Area 1 West-North (Hail Sand Fort to Gibraltar Point)

Fishing Trends

April

Crab and lobster landings were low for the time of year, fishers reported that this was due to large quantities of damaged gear (resultant of the storms in January and February) and the water being too cold. Whelk landings stayed stable from previous months but started to decrease towards the end of the month. Fishers reported that there have been good catches of Cod and Skate, which has been different from previous trends.

May

Crab and Lobster landings increased, and the trend is expected to continue as fishers move away from whelks. Whelks show a decreasing trend which is expected to continue although there were still 4 vessels fishing during this month. Bass fishing activity increased throughout the area. Very few reports of cod being caught, some RSA catches reported.

June

The catchability of both crab and lobster were down due to there being more berried and soft shelled around. Whelk has continued to decrease. RSA fishers have reported that there are a lot of Bass to be caught all along the coast and in the mouth of the Humber.

Metrics

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	9
Port visits	21
Catch inspections (landings observed)	2
Catch Inspections (landing not observed)	1
Vehicle Inspections	0
Premises inspections	2
Enforcement actions/Offences	0
Intelligence reports submitted	2
Fishers engaged	28
Vessel Patrols	0

Boardings	0
Gear Inspections	0

Engagement

Throughout the period fishers have reported that fishing for crab has been slow and had gradually picked up throughout the period. But that the whelk fishery has been good. Queries were raised about what the protocol is for if a lobster becomes berried whilst in a holding tank. There were queries about both cockles and shrimps regarding the rules and restrictions for recreational fishers. RSA engagement was generally concerning Bass restrictions.

Area 2 West-South (The Wash and North Norfolk Coast (to Brancaster))

Fishing Trends

April

Brown Shrimp catches decreased but the price increased. It is thought that the poor weather has been responsible for the low catches. Fishers reported a lot of weed in the nets to compound issues. Whelk landings dropped, however the price remained stable. Vessels from Boston have been working mussels on their lays.

May

There has been an increase in the number of vessels shrimp fishing. Whelk activity has decreased, and the yield has been reported to have decreased. Mussel activity has increased due to the open Mussel fishery. Two vessels from Kings Lynn have supplied mussels for lays on the North Norfolk coast.

June

Shrimp landings decreased in the month as expected as fishers prepare for the upcoming cockle fishery. Whelk activity decreased even further due to low yields. RSA fishers reported that both tope and mackerel was starting to show.

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	25
Port visits	36
Catch Inspected (landings observed)	110
Catch Inspections (landing not observed)	3
Vehicle Inspections	0
Premises inspections	1
Enforcement actions/Offences	2
Intelligence reports submitted	10
Fishers engaged	158
Vessel Patrols	33
Boardings	11
Gear Inspections	9

Engagement

Much of the engagement in this area has focused on Mussels, Shrimps and cockles.

Several fishers reported that they would like to see the mussel fishery closed until the mussels reach an adult size to allow for a potential 'harvestable' mussel fishery in the future. Generally, there was a very low uptake in the mussel relaying fishery. Regarding cockles, discussions often centred on the daily quota with a polarisation of views; many fishers were content with the established 2 tonnes daily catch restriction, fishers associated with larger vessels and business models generally considered that the daily catch restriction should increase to 3 tonnes to make the fishery more viable and to shorten the open period.

Many fishers are unhappy about the proposed closed areas for brown shrimp. There has been some element of confusion in relation to the consultation, with some wanting to comment on more concrete proposals with regards to shrimp fishing effort limitation. Officers communicated that the work is in early stages and that the work is ongoing as a reflection of the complexity of the issue under consideration. Throughout the period fishers reported initially good catches of whelk and these reduced as the period went on, the yield also decreased towards the end of the reporting period. Effort reduced in line with the decreasing productivity.

Area 3 East-North (Brancaster to Great Yarmouth)

Fishing Trends

April

Potting activity increased throughout the area, but catches remained low. The price had been above average. A small amount of cod was caught. Herring catches continued to be high but the price was low and, as a result, fishers were generally catching to order only.

May

Landings of crab and lobster increased although fishing effort is still considered below the average as a result of gear lost and damaged through winter storms. There was a high demand for both species. Herring catches and price remained stable. RSA fishers reported a lot of bass being caught off the shingle beaches. Whelk activity has remained stable.

June

Whelk landings and effort has decreased although some fishers were still fishing opportunistically. RSA fishers have reported that mackerel are starting to show, fishers have also caught smoothounds, tope and juvenile bass. Cod catches have been reported as poor.

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	51
Port visits	193
Catch inspected (landings observed)	44
Catch Inspections (landing not observed)	36
Vehicle Inspections	3
Premises inspections	7
Enforcement actions/Offences	1
Intelligence reports submitted	32
Fishers engaged	296
Vessel Patrols	1
Boardings	0
Gear Inspections	0

Engagement

The focus of engagement has been with crab and lobster fishers who reported a very slow start to the season due to winter storms and subsequent lower than 'normal' water temperatures.

Dialogue has been had regarding possible management measures for the fishery, suggestions have included:

- Escape gaps are essential in parlour pots
- Increase crab minimum landing size to 125mm would give long term benefits
- Crab minimum landing size should increase 1mm to 2mm per year and EIFCA monitor the impacts
- Escape hatches are a good idea, assist clearing pots and can leave for a longer soak time
- Minimum landing size should have gone up years ago
- Unless a pot limitation is brought in by IFCA in the next 2 years the crab fishery will be gone.
- Pot limitation is the best way to control fishing effort for crab

Fishers have wished to comment about EIFCA's enforcement capability in the area and have voiced the following views:

- There are not enough EIFCA officers outside of the Wash, due to there no longer being area officers. There should be a separate body for managing the Wash funded by organisations from the Wash due to the amount of resource spent on it.
- The enforcement RIBs that we have now are nowhere near as capable as the old models and this is evident from how few boardings are conducted. EIFCA no longer have a presence at sea.
- East and West Runton – nice to see officers, very little presence recently
- RSA fishers reported it is good to see IFCO's on evening patrols

As with other areas, the discussions with recreational anglers centred on Bass regulations, with many feeling that it is unfair to prevent landing for recreational

when commercial fishers can. Engagement continued to ensure that fishers are aware of the measures and other legislation such as MCRS. Fishing matches have been attended by IFCO's which has led to a positive Facebook post and future news article to be published.

Area 4 East-South (Great Yarmouth to Harwich)

Fishing Trends

April

Catches of cod were poor with no improvement, Skate and Ray catches remained steady. Herring productivity improved after the bad weather but the price remained poor. Crab and Lobster catches were very poor. Sole catches were poor. Whelk landings remained stable with the price also remaining good. The RSA sector reported good landings of thornback rays, and reported that some bass had started to be caught.

May

Landing of bass increased and the price is high. Cod and sole catches remain poor. Fishers have reported high catches of Skate and Ray but did not have enough quota to retain them. Whelk landings remained static.

June

Very high bass landings throughout the reporting area. Skate and ray landings increased. Sole landings did not improve as would usually be expected. Cod landings were reported as very poor. RSA reported good catches of; dogfish, smooth hounds, tope, skate and ray. Both crab and lobster catches increased with good numbers being caught.

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	27
Port visits	117
Catch inspected (landings observed)	36
Catch Inspections (landing not observed)	62
Vehicle Inspections	10
Premises inspections	18
Enforcement actions/Offences	7
Intelligence reports submitted	80
Fishers engaged	355
Vessel Patrols	7
Boardings	15
Gear Inspections	3

Engagement

Much of the engagement in the area has surrounded EU exit and the Common Fisheries Policy and the implications this will have on fisheries management.

Bass management measures have created friction between different sectors of the industry (nets and longlines).

Crab and Lobster management measures

- Fishers see the utility of escape gaps as they return small crabs anyway

Engagement with recreational anglers focused on Bass management measures and many fishers were still found to be unaware or misinformed about management measures. Many RSA fishers have reported that they believe that the regulations are disproportionate towards recreational fishers. Officers increased the output of information materials to address knowledge gap.

Fishers were displeased with a Cefas meeting regarding Spurdog and felt that applications to undertake research work were not all considered as it was the usual fishers that were chosen.

Several commercial fishers have reported that they believe that the bass ban should be in effect for March and April. It was also been reported that the windfarms altered the location of bass off the Suffolk coast.

Other workstreams

Two joint patrols were conducted with the Broads Authority. The patrols covered the river Waveney from Goodchild Marine, Breydon Water through to the Haven bridge, and the river Yare up to the '7-mile house'.



Court Case brought by EIFCA: Fishing Vessel Owner and Skipper Fined

On 30th May 2018 M R Durrans Fishing Ltd and Mr Benjamin Vass appeared at King's Lynn Magistrates Court in a case brought by EIFCA.

MR Durrans Fishing Ltd was represented by Mr Mark Durrans, the owner of the fishing vessel HANNAH BETH II (DH23). Both Mr Durrans and Mr Vass, the Skipper of the vessel, pleaded guilty to two offences and were ordered to pay financial penalties totalling £15,284.60 including full legal and enforcement costs for prosecution.

Mr Durrans was fined £8,500 and was ordered to pay legal/enforcement costs of £4,000 and a victim surcharge of £170. Mr Vass was fined £1,200 and was ordered to pay the remaining legal/enforcement costs £1,294.60 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £120.

The court heard how the vessel had been used to undertake whelk fishing outside Eastern IFCA's district and landed at the port of Lowestoft. The vessel had landed, on two occasions, whelks that were below the minimum conservation reference size. In addition, the court heard that the owner and skipper had previously received a fixed administrative penalty for a similar offence.

In passing sentence, the court said that the owner and skipper had been 'reckless' in the way they had gone about their business and in coming to this decision the court had taken account of the fact that they had previously been issued a fixed administrative penalty. The court awarded legal and enforcement costs to be paid in full.

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



Information Item 22

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18 July 2018

Reports by:

- a) Ron Jessop, Senior Marine Science Officer (Research)
- b) Judith Stoutt, Senior Marine Science Officer (Environment)

Marine Science Quarterly Reports

Purpose of report

The Authority runs a year-round programme of research projects and environmental work. This paper informs Members of key activities undertaken by the Authority's Marine Science team during the previous quarter, April to June 2018, any issues that have arisen (through internal or external drivers), and an indication of up-coming developments that could require future actions.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

Note the report.

Background

Using the Authority's Strategic Assessment and five-year Business Plan for guidance, a Marine Science Plan was developed in April to identify and guide the main projects the team will be conducting in the coming year. This plan details 32 projects and workstreams, along with associated outputs and target deadlines. Most of these are either long-term on-going workstreams, surveys that are conducted annually, or longer one-off projects that started in 2017 or earlier. There are some new projects, however, such as a review of the cost effectiveness of the WFO 1992 cockle and mussel fisheries, a literature review of the environmental impact of hydraulic suction dredge fisheries and the development of Habitats Regulations Assessments for a number of sites and activities (including a bait digging assessment). Monitoring and Control Plans also need to be developed for the various fisheries that occur within Marine Protected Areas.

Research

The annual Wash cockle surveys that had commenced in March were completed this quarter. The surveys found that the stocks were dominated by the 2016 year-class of cockles, but there were still survivors present from the exceptional 2014 year-class cohort. The reduction in the numbers of this latter cohort, however, had resulted in the overall stock declining by 5,782 tonnes from the previous survey. The 29,876 tonnes of cockles estimated to be present in The Wash is still above average, though, and although lower than the past two seasons, the 4,462 tonnes Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the fishery is also above average. The surveys found that recruitment in 2017 had been poor. This had been expected, however, as in recent years settlements have alternated regularly between good and poor years. Survey results and recommendations for the coming fishery were presented to the Marine Protected Areas sub-committee in June.

During 2016 and 2017 the Marine Science Team conducted a total of 17 habitat mapping surveys in eight areas of The Wash. These included acoustic side scan surveys to characterise the seabed features, followed by grab and drop-down video camera surveys to ground truth the acoustic data. Survey results and outputs have been used to spatially map seabed habitats within The Wash and have been compiled into our latest Habitat Mapping survey report, which can be accessed on our website at: http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2018_05_10_Final_2016_2017_Habitat_Mapping_Report.pdf. These surveys have built on previous habitat mapping surveys, providing further knowledge of subtidal habitats to support our management and monitoring of sensitive habitats and protected features. This information has recently been used by the Marine Science Team to conduct a review of restricted areas under the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 (originally introduced as regulatory notices under the Protected Areas Byelaw). The review includes charts showing the current known extent of protected features, reviews the effectiveness and need for the restrictions and puts forward management recommendations to the authority.

After a break for winter, while most fishermen brought their pots in, the bio-sampling for the crab and lobster assessment commenced again in April. Following a cold spring, however, it was a slow start for fishermen and processors alike. As the quarter progressed, though, the numbers of individuals able to be measured increased. A report from the 2017 stock assessment is available on the Authority website at: http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2018_30_03_Crustacean_Stock_Assessment_report_2017.pdf. This report summarises that landings and effort for crab had both decreased across the district in 2017. This was also matched with a decreasing trend in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) except for ICES Rectangle 34F1, the predominant crab fishing grounds on the North Norfolk coast. The figures

indicate harvest rates are currently above those required to achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), a Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) target that is required to be met by 2020. Recommendations for management measures for the fishery are currently being drafted and will be submitted for consultation once finalised. It is hoped, however, that technical measures, such as an increase in Minimum Landing Size (MLS) and the requirement to use escape gaps in pots will achieve most of the required reductions. The data for the lobster fishery was less conclusive and of poorer confidence than that for crab, mainly due to the lower numbers of lobsters that were able to be sampled. A new strategy for sampling lobsters has been agreed with the processors this year to overcome this deficiency. This has so far enabled as many lobsters to be measured in the first three months of sampling than during the entirety of the 2017 sampling programme.

Environmental Health samples have continued to be collected on behalf of the local borough councils this quarter. Poor weather prevented some of the samples being collected, but we are still above the target threshold of 10 samples per year being collected from each site. The Welland Wall classification has been degraded from a B to a C, but this is a regular seasonal occurrence for that site. Of more concern was a high E.coli count from the Nene Mouth sample in May. Because of the regularity of samples, this site has maintained its long-term B classification, but another result exceeding thresholds would result in this site also being degraded to a C. In June a biotoxin water sample from the Tofts showed levels of the Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) producing algae, *Alexandrium*, were above target thresholds. Numbers in the associated flesh sample taken from mussels on that bed were acceptable, so an additional water sample was collected as a precautionary measure.

While collecting the Environmental Health samples, the Authority also conducts a sampling programme looking at food availability levels in The Wash. This project utilises a hand-held sonde to collect chlorophyll levels (a proxy for algae levels) from five sites in The Wash, an in situ sonde mounted on a buoy to collect continuous chlorophyll data from a further site, and also monitors the meat yields of mussels from three locations. Together the information from this project helps us to ensure that the mussels on the several fishery lays are not having a deleterious impact on the food available for wild stocks. We have recently invested in a new EXO1 spot sonde for this project, to replace the original out-dated YSI sonde, the hand-held screen of which had malfunctioned. This new sonde has been used for two months now and detected a chlorophyll bloom in June. The in situ sonde has been out of the water since last year, awaiting the buoy to be serviced. Several attempts were made to service the buoy using Three Counties, but poor weather prevented us from lifting it out of the water on each occasion. Servicing was finally conducted by the King's Lynn Conservancy Board in April, enabling us to redeploy the sonde in May. Barring

removing a significant growth of mussels that were fouling the buoy, the buoy itself and the mooring chain were found to be fine. Next year, however, it is anticipated maintenance will be required on the buoy's mounting plate, which the mooring chain is attached to. A contract is currently being sought with the Conservancy Board for them to conduct our buoy maintenance regularly.

A joint research project was commenced in 2017 between the Authority and Hull University to investigate a possible cause of the high levels of mussel mortality witnessed in The Wash since 2009. This project focused on the presence of the intestinal copepod parasite, *Mytilicola intestinalis* and the pea crab, *Pinnotheres pisum*, found living within the mussels. Although most of the work was planned to be conducted by students from the university, who were supplied with mussels collected during the 2017 autumn surveys, additional samples are also being dissected by our own officers to augment the data. To date, we have dissected 167 mussels from the Mid Gat and North Mare Tail beds, identifying as many as eight *Mytilicola* and up to three pea crabs in some of the mussels. Once sufficient samples have been analysed, comparisons between parasite infections and mortalities seen on each bed will be made to determine if these two species are causal in the die-offs.

With the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) becoming more widespread due to anthropogenic vectors, maintaining biosecurity is important to prevent the introduction of possible harmful species into our district. Unfortunately, the Authority is powerless to influence some of the most common natural vectors, such as tidal currents or the spread of invasive species and diseases via fish and bird carriers, or anthropogenic vectors such as ballast water from ships or fouling on vessels. Having a better knowledge of the sources of some common invasive species, however, could help us to reduce the risk of introducing invasive species and diseases when shellfish are brought into the district for aquaculture. To increase our knowledge of where invasive species are present, the Authority is supporting a Cefas project that uses environmental DNA to identify when certain species are present in an area. Locally, the team have been monitoring when non-native species have been found during other surveys. These include bespoke pacific oyster and slipper limpet surveys on the Gat sand, that are conducted alongside the mussel surveys and checking cockle survey samples for non-native species. During the recent cockle surveys, six stations were found to contain American jack knife clams, *Ensis leei* (formally known as *E.directus*) and one contained slipper limpets (*Crepidula fornicata*). These species have become more widespread in The Wash than these surveys alone would suggest, so all sightings are now being recorded in order to build up a more comprehensive database of their occurrence. After finding high densities of slipper limpets close to the Toft lays, a survey was conducted in May to ascertain the size of the problem. This survey found scattered patches of slipper limpets covering an area of several hectares.

In places these were present in densities as high as 880 individuals/m². Although these densities could be sufficient to facilitate a rapid spread of the species, it is difficult to know what to do about the problem. Any attempt to remove them could help them spread further unless precautions are taken. Further, should they be removed, disposing of them could be problematic. It would be illegal to dispose of them at sea, but in the quantities concerned, only certain landfill sites would take them. This problem is being investigated further at present.

Two new projects were started this quarter. One is a review of the annual WFO 1992 cockle and mussel surveys. With the Authority seeking to recover 50% of the cost of regulating these two fisheries, it is important that the surveys can demonstrate good value. A study is being conducted, therefore, to determine whether alternative methods could be used, to identify whether savings could be made, and to determine what risks such changes would incur. The second project is a desk-based literature review looking at the environmental impact that hydraulic suction dredges have. The Authority conducted several field studies between 2000-2008, looking at mortality rates of discarded cockles, and in 2010, looking at the impact of the gear on mobile sandy substrates. Although there has not been a cockle dredge fishery on the regulated beds since 2008, there have been regular requests from some sectors of the industry to allow dredging again. Cockle dredging is an emotive subject, with most fishermen having polarised views. This study is to identify whether any new evidence has emerged in the last ten years since the previous dredge fishery, to help determine what their environmental impact is.

Because localised surveys can only provide a small snapshot for mobile, migratory species such as most fin fish species, the Authority does not conduct an ongoing programme of fish surveys. Instead, we have found it is much more cost-effective and beneficial to support projects that are being conducted by other organisations. In this way we have assisted other groups such as Cefas, the EA and various River Trusts with their work, and in exchange gained access to their data and expertise. This approach enables us to keep abreast of current issues, be recognised and to an extent, influence potential policy. In the past quarter, involvement in such groups has involved:

- Attending a meeting convened by Cefas and involving many stakeholders from conservation, management, fishers (commercial and recreational), and NGOs, to launch the next phase of the “C-Bass” programme. The objective of this meeting was to examine desired objectives of the programme and discuss ways to achieve these. Our input into helping to provide a better understanding of the distribution of bass, and especially areas used as nurseries by juvenile bass (which hasn’t been examined since the 1980s), was acknowledged.

- Attending a Marine Ecosystems Research Programme Stakeholder Symposium, that was the culmination of a five-year programme with the aim of “*Integrated science to support decisions*”. This included information from three previous ICES workshops, in connection with impacts of fishing on benthic communities. Unfortunately, until this particular symposium, the IFCAs had not had links with these particular projects.
- Attendance at a Stour & Orwell Estuaries Management Group meeting, where among various topics, saltmarsh management was discussed. At this meeting Eastern IFCA staff made the point that activities within saltmarshes must take account of the importance of these areas as fish nurseries. This is a message we have provided in the past to such groups, as it is an aspect that is frequently overlooked when flood defence schemes are planned. There was also some discussion at the same meeting of the planned mussel aquaculture operation (under Several Order) in the Stour estuary. The operators are now proposing a management regime which seems benign to commercial and recreational fishing interests. Eastern IFCA input in the near future will be to try to ensure that these proposals are incorporated into the formal conditions for operation of the project.
- Attendance at the Institute of Fisheries Management specialist conference “Fisheries Management in Estuarine and Coastal Waters”. This included several detailed presentations on subjects relevant to the Eastern IFCA remit. Discussions during the event led to the intention to explore whether there is interest in a “network” approach to conducting fish surveys in estuarine and inshore coastal waters involving bodies such as IFCAs & EA, NGOs such as Wildlife Trusts, National Trust and recreational and commercial fishers. Eastern IFCA will conduct the initial polling of potentially interested partners.

Over the past few years the local fishing industry have been taking steps to try to gain MSC certification for the brown shrimp (Crangon) fishery. Eastern IFCA are supportive of this, and attend meetings of the shrimp management group, which has developed a shrimp fishery management plan. The accreditation process has now reached its assessment stage and evidence is being examined by Acoura Marine, the accredited certification board dealing with this certification. Eastern IFCA staff underwent a detailed interview with the Acoura in May as part of the certification process.

So far this year over 1,500 whelks have been sampled from Sea Palling and The Wash to determine their Size of Maturity (SOM). The data collected from the Wash samples, and those from Lowestoft that were collected earlier in the study have been analysed using R to determine their SOM. These data show

that 50% of both male and female whelks from The Wash are mature at 53mm. For the Lowestoft sample, 50% of females are mature at 66mm and 50% of the males at 55mm. One further batch of samples is required from Sea Palling to provide sufficient numbers to conduct similar analysis from there.

Environment

Assessment and management of commercial fishing in Marine Protected Areas (“Revised Approach” work)

This work remains the key priority for the Marine Science team. It directly supports the Authority’s fulfilment of obligations relating to marine protected areas, and has been subject to strict timelines set out by Defra. The Authority’s Business Plan sets out six priority marine protected area projects (see Table 1); during this quarter officers have focused resource primarily on developing mitigation for the shrimp beam trawling fishery in the Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation. Developments and progress with this work are set out below, and at Item 14, Shrimp fishery management measures.

During the quarter, officers have drafted assessments of non-potting fisheries in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone (the potting fisheries assessment having previously been drafted). Officers are endeavouring to complete this work promptly, and to ensure that any mitigation that might be required for conservation purposes will be complementary to stock management measures currently under consideration for the local crab and lobster fishery. The importance of meaningful engagement with local people was clearly demonstrated in the 2016-17 Community Voice project; officers have welcomed the “Agents of Change” project which aims to promote the benefits of the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone to local stakeholders, especially fishermen.

Table 1. Commercial fishing interactions in marine protected areas requiring (or potentially requiring) Eastern IFCA intervention

Site name	Interaction and matrix risk level	Assessment conclusion	Next steps
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation	Beam trawling (shrimp)/subtidal sandbanks (subtidal mixed sediment and subtidal mud) Amber risk	Adverse effect cannot be confidently ruled out: mitigation required to reduce impact; Research required to improve evidence around light beam trawl impacts	Priority work area. Assessment submitted to Natural England for review (Feb 2018). Developing mitigation measures May-June 2018. Liaison with Natural England is ongoing; at time of writing, awaiting feedback from Natural England on assessment conclusions and proposed mitigation. Mitigation (fishery management measures) proposed for Authority approval July 2018 (Agenda Item 14).
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation	Potting/ <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef; Potting/subtidal stony reef Amber risk	No adverse effect at current levels of activity (based on improved activity data and Defra potting impacts report)	Finalise conclusion and sign off with NE – in progress. Has been on hold to enable team to focus on and finish shrimp assessment.
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge Special Area of Conservation	Potting/ <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef Amber risk	Not yet assessed (straddling site latterly transferred to EIFCA)	Review updated NE feature advice; undertake assessment – delayed to enable focus on Wash shrimp assessment
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge Special Area of Conservation	Towed demersal fisheries/ <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef Red risk	High-risk interaction (red risk on matrix) so no assessment required	Agree updated core reef approach with NE - ongoing; Intention is to apply closed areas in future iteration of Marine Protected Areas byelaw. Work on this site to resume after HHW management progressed (see row below).

Site name	Interaction and matrix risk level	Assessment conclusion	Next steps
Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton Special Area of Conservation	Towed demersal fisheries/ <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef Red risk	High-risk interaction (red risk on matrix) so no fishery impact assessment required	Closed areas agreed by Authority Dec 2016 (Marine Protected Areas Byelaw) but on hold pending agreement with Natural England on rationale for closed areas. Recent conservation advice (March 2018) to be reviewed to inform re-design of closed areas.
Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone	All commercial fishing within site on all designated features All risk levels	Assessments for all fisheries in site drafted but not yet finalised. Tentative results suggest current potting levels are compatible with conservation targets. Some restriction on towed demersal gear likely to be required.	Assessments of potting and other fisheries to be finalised. Liaison to be undertaken with Natural England. Should management measures be required, EIFCA to engage with local fishermen and other stakeholders. EIFCA officers to continue to work with Agents of Change project to promote local benefits of Marine Conservation Zone designation.

“Business as usual” Habitats Regulations Assessments

Aside from the “Revised approach” work, during the quarter officers have continued liaison with Natural England over three additional assessments relating to the Wash Fishery Order cockle fishery, the Authority’s own intertidal activities in the Wash & North Norfolk Coast, and the Titchwell mussel fishery.

Firstly, the cockle fishery assessment considered pressures including physical impacts on mudflats, impacts on cockle stocks and dependent bird species, and disturbance to birds and seals. There were no high-density patches of juvenile cockles requiring protection through cockle bed closures for this year’s fishery, but two closures were made to prevent disturbance to hauled-out seals during the vulnerable moulting and pupping season (June to August). These, in addition to the suite of measures applied to protect stock levels and minimise physical and visual impacts of the fishing activity, were judged to provide sufficient mitigation to enable the fishery to operate in line with conservation objectives. Once again, Natural England provided prompt advice, to support the proposed opening of the fishery on the favoured date.

Secondly, officers applied for a five-year assent for Eastern IFCA’s own activities, following advice that this is required under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, because of the site’s designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The range of activities considered includes surveys, sampling, site inspections and enforcement activities in intertidal areas. The main pressure under consideration was visual disturbance to birds and/or seals, particularly during sensitive periods (severe weather during the overwintering season for birds, and moulting/pupping season for Harbour seals). After extensive liaison with Natural England, mitigation was agreed to minimise risk of impacts from disturbance. This includes a requirement for IFCA officers to be aware of the response of birds and/or seals to their presence, and to alter or even abandon activities should they result in unacceptable levels of disturbance. It was agreed that enforcement activities and EHO sample collection could continue even within extended severe-weather periods, but all other Eastern IFCA activities would not continue in these extreme circumstances (over seven days consecutive sub-zero temperatures) when disturbance to overwintering birds could create a significant threat to their survival. Natural England provided the assent in June 2018.

Eastern IFCA officers have liaised with the local RSPB to better understand potential risk to birds from disturbance. It is intended to extend this collaboration and shared understanding by engaging with RSPB and Natural England officers on one or more site visits to intertidal areas of The Wash during routine Eastern IFCA work over the coming year.

Thirdly, officers have drafted a five-year assessment of the Titchwell hand-worked mussel relaying fishery. The intention is to achieve pro-active, rather than reactive management and provide a swifter response to fishers intending to participate in this fishery (i.e. with prior agreement of management and Natural England assent).

Partnership work and stakeholder engagement

Eastern IFCA officers continue to participate in the local Marine Protected Area management groups for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast, and for the Stour and Orwell

Estuaries. These groups support relationships between relevant authorities, local site managers and stakeholders, which are invaluable in identifying relevant feature and activity evidence to inform assessments. Local advisory groups (stakeholder groups) are also attended by marine science officers when possible, as they present additional opportunities to engage with local fishermen and wider community members, enabling Authority officers to learn more about local sites and issues, listen to stakeholder views and to provide updates on fisheries and conservation matters.

In June 2018, officers presented the findings of the shrimp fishery assessment and proposed mitigation to fishery stakeholders at three workshops at Sutton Bridge (1) and King's Lynn (2). Stakeholder feedback was sought on proposed closed areas and shrimp permit conditions; this has been used to inform the Impact Assessments for the two proposed byelaws presented at Item 12.

During the quarter, officers have participated in meetings of the Boston Advisory Group for the Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership; the Suffolk Saltmarsh Group, and the Southern North Sea Environment Group. These groups enable Authority officers to collaborate and develop partnership working amongst authorities and NGOs on regional and local conservation matters. Participation in these groups also increases recognition for Eastern IFCA's work and helps improve wider understanding of inshore fisheries and conservation issues. Officers also participated in the Institute of Fisheries Management's national conference in May 2018, which focused on estuarine fish, and organised a meeting with Cefas scientists involved with monitoring bycatch in shrimp fisheries. Officers provided input to the fisheries certification auditors, Acoura, on their site visit to King's Lynn as part of their assessment of the shrimp fishery's bid for Marine Stewardship Council certification. Natural England presented recent work on fisheries displacement in Marine Protected Areas in to Eastern IFCA officers in May 2018.

Eastern IFCA input to consultations on marine developments

The Eastern IFCA district is subject to multiple marine and coastal activities that are regulated through the issuing of consents by authorities such as the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Environment Agency, Defra and the Authority itself. The impact of such activities is considered by Authority officers through the consultation process. IFCAs are regarded as primary advisors to the MMO on marine licensing issues.

The majority of consultations relate to MMO marine licensing decisions; but some large infrastructure projects are managed by the Planning Inspectorate. Consultation documents are often extremely large and detailed; officers review the documents to find information related to potential impacts on fisheries and marine conservation. Officers respond to consultations using the East Marine Plan policies to structure our advice, and incorporate local knowledge of inshore fisheries to ensure these are duly considered in marine planning. We also seek feedback on whether and how our comments are reflected in planning or licencing decisions. MMO notifications on licensing decisions show that EIFCA's input regularly forms part of MMO licence

conditions. Moving forward, given limited resources and competing pressures we are keen to work with the MMO to streamline the process as much as possible – without losing any of the beneficial outcomes, essential to ensuring a healthy marine environment.

In the period April to June 2018, the Eastern IFCA Marine Science team processed 12 consultations. Figure 1 shows the categories of development or policy that these consultations fit within. Once again, consultations relating to offshore renewable energy featured heavily, reflecting the large number of offshore wind farms currently in the planning, construction or operational stages around the Eastern IFCA district.

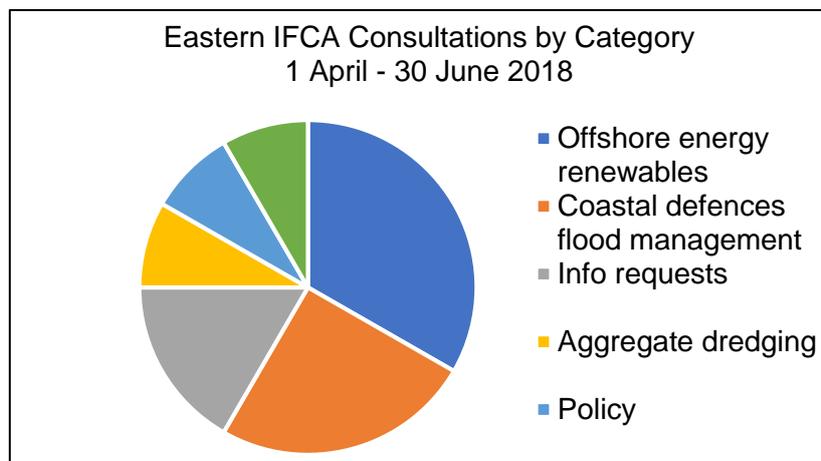


Figure 1 Consultations by category, April to June 2018.

Examples of consultations processed during April to June 2018 include:

- Race Bank wind farm array - Lifetime Operational and Maintenance activities. This consultation highlighted significant increases in the quantity of remedial works that may be undertaken on the array cables in Race Bank. Although the array is outside the Eastern IFCA district, a response was sent because of concerns over potential impacts on designated MPA features, and on fish and shellfish breeding grounds. Previous marine licences for this activity were based on reburial/repair figures that were considerably lower. In addition to responding to the MMO, officers have liaised with local port authorities regarding navigational safety and Natural England over conservation impacts.
- Viking Link – This project is for an undersea power transmission cable linking the national grids of Denmark and the UK, with UK landfall proposed to be on the Lincolnshire coast. The cable will operate at very high DC voltages, resulting in the generation of magnetic and induced electrical fields in the sea around the cable. Many marine species – especially elasmobranchs (sharks, skates and rays) – can

detect such fields at very low levels – certainly at the levels “Viking Link” will generate. Eastern IFCA first became involved in 2016 and have commented particularly on the lack of evidence of there being no adverse effect from the proposed project, and on aspects of the project such as separation distance between the two cables proposed, and the burial depth, where it appeared that “best practice” was not being proposed. Through lengthy, ongoing, liaison with both the MMO and the developers, Eastern IFCA’s concerns have been taken seriously (particularly in relation to burial depth and a CEFAS study looking into impact evidence); further liaison is planned for late July.

Derogations from Eastern IFCA byelaws

The marine science team processes requests for derogations from Eastern IFCA byelaws. These typically relate to retention of undersized fish or shellfish, and/or operation of vessels within restricted areas for shellfish relaying or for scientific survey purposes. We are experiencing a significant increase in the number of derogation requests, for scientific research. Between April and June 2018 we processed five requests (please see Table below) and have two currently pending. Due to the majority of EIFCA’s district (over 96%) having various Marine Protected Area designations the process generally involves liaison with Natural England, with the requirement to consider the likelihood of impacts occurring on protected habitats and species within these areas.

Table 2. Derogations processed April to June 2018

Applicant	Activity	Derogation granted
Thunen-Institute of Sea Fisheries	Marine scientific research - to estimate stock size parameters of small pelagics (herring and sprat).	Yes
Cefas	Marine scientific research - ongoing biological investigations on elasmobranch fish.	Yes
Thünen-Institute of Sea Fisheries	Marine scientific research - Investigation and monitoring of the bottom fish fauna in the southern North Sea	Not required (outside EIFCA district)
Ocean Ecology	Post-construction benthic ecology monitoring at the Race Bank and Lincs Offshore Windfarms and an Annex I habitat assessment along the Race Bank export cable route	Not required (survey activity did not involve fishing gear)
NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research	Marine scientific research - Sea-level rise and shore shoreline change for the Northern part of the Dutch North Sea and adjacent areas.	Not required (outside EIFCA district)

Financial implications

No new proposal is contained in this report – it is an information paper.

Publicity

No publicity is planned relating to this paper, other than reference to the Authority's marine science work on the Authority's website and newsletter.

Ron Jessop, Senior Marine Science Officer (Research)

Judith Stoutt, Senior Marine Science Officer (Environment)

Background papers

1. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>).

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 23

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

18th July 2018

Report by: Julian Gregory, CEO

Association of IFCA Minutes

Purpose of report

The purpose of this paper update members on the Association of IFCA quarterly meeting held on 5th June 2018 and on potential developments with IFCA and MMO collaboration.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report and the minutes of the AIFCA meeting held on 5th June 2018.
- **Agree** that the CEO engage with senior officers from the MMO to hold preliminary discussions on opportunities for greater collaborative working.
- **Agree** that the CEO, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority, engage in any preliminary work required to develop proposals for greater collaboration.

Background

The aim of the Association of IFCA is to assist and promote the regional IFCAs to ensure that the Authorities develop a leading and effective national role in fisheries and conservation management in line with the IFCA vision.

The Association is not a statutory body but was borne out of the previous Association of Sea Fisheries Committees and currently has nine Members (nine of the ten IFCAs) plus two associate members, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. The Association has been set up as a private limited company and is governed by Articles of Association, which are periodically reviewed. The Association is governed by twelve Directors, nine Chief Officers from the IFCAs, plus the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, which meet quarterly. The Association holds quarterly member's forum meetings at which the 9 IFCA Chairs and Chief Officers as well as representatives from associate members attend and are predominantly held in London. The Association is funded primarily by its membership with each IFCA making a £13,000 annual contribution and the associate members making a £750 contribution per year.

Devon and Seven IFCA chose to leave the Association during 2017 and engagement is planned to encourage them to re-join.

Report

A quarterly meeting of the member's forum was held on 5th June 2017 and a copy of the draft minutes can be found at Appendix A.

During 2017 two workshops took place involving Chiefs and Chairs from the Association of IFCA and Board members and senior officers from the MMO. The purpose of the workshops was to explore opportunities for greater collaborative working in addition to the operational collaborative workstreams that have been established over recent years. At the second workshop it was agreed to establish a joint IFCA / MMO working group to see how this work could be taken forward.

In late June 2018 the working group met, and one outcome was a proposal that the MMO work with an individual IFCA to explore opportunities for collaborative working in the context of a potential regionalised structure for the MMO. Eastern IFCA were considered a candidate due to the success of collaborative working with the MMO in the District.

Subsequent to the meeting the Director of Operations from the MMO and one of their Board members have contacted the CEO to express their preference to work with Eastern IFCA and seeking a meeting with the MMO CEO. It is recommended that preliminary discussions are held to establish what opportunities may exist.

Appendices

Appendix A – Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Association of IFCA held on 5th June 2018.

Appendix A

**The Association of IFCAs
Members Forum Meeting
5th June 2018
To be followed by the
Association Directors Meeting
10:00 – 15:00**

154 Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5JX

Draft Minutes

Attendance for the Meeting

Chair: Tony Tomlinson
CEO: Stephen Bolt

Attendance: Andy Guy, Paul Skinner, Tom Hooper, John Humphreys, Julian Gregory, Les Weller, Mike Hardy, Paul Williams, Robert Clark, Samantha Davis, Stephen Atkins, Tim Dapling, Will Wright, David McCandless, John Lamb, Stephen Axford, Jamie Small, Simon Pengelly

Minutes: Sally Standring

Apologies for absence: Greg Morel, Tony Goldson, Stewart Harper, Chris Matthews

Due to Tony Tomlinson arriving at the meeting later, John Humphreys took the Chair in his absence. John made introductions to Jamie Small who was attending the meeting with Simon Pengelly to present the MPA project.

1. Minutes from last meeting – 6th March 2018
All agreed to adopt by general consent.

Actions from previous minutes

1. D&S IFCA meeting is to be held on Friday 13th July 2018
2. First day readiness paper to be sent out – Done
From previous meeting – Chris Williams will be attending the meeting to present his views on first day readiness. (Chris presented a research paper).
From previous meeting – MMO policy paper has been sent.
3. Fairer funding – SB confirmed that a very brief response has been sent. He has asked for all IFCAs to try to engage with their authorities.
4. Review White paper – on agenda
5. iVMS – on agenda

2. Updates from external organisations:
 - a. Views on First day readiness – Chris Williams
 - b. Defra updates – Marina Di Fonzo; Graham Lott

3. Finance and Resources:
 - a. 2017/18 fourth quarterly report

SB explained that the graph shown on the report shows spend against budget, but the income is down by £3k due to D&S resigning from the Association at the end of December 2017. SB went onto explain that the cost of hiring venues is still a concern, but we have made encouraging progress with Fishmongers Hall and LGA, although the LGA will charge us for the use of their venue. We also have the offer of using the Jersey meeting room in Westminster which we have secured for the next COG meeting in July and the IFCA/MMO working group 27th June. The £10k insurance claim which has been repaid to SIFCA is cost neutral to the Association and the draft final accounts shows a £300 deficit. JL has offered a venue in Southend to hold some meetings there.

4. Matters for Decision
 - a. Funding Paper

SB confirmed that the allocation of funding is 2/3 funding from the funding authorities. It has been noted that when the new burdens monies were set out Treasury would not allow the funds to be ring fenced. SB has a meeting with Andy Smith (Chairman of the LGA Coastal Special Interest group 29th June. He confirmed that a change has taken place since the last meeting with the Minister in that ongoing central funding from Defra is now part of the Comprehensive spending review post 2020 when the current new burdens funding is due to finish. Defra have stated that they find this very useful and have suggested all IFCA's put a business case together to support their bid for the future. SB will go through COG on this.

Action 1: SB to go through COG and will draft a briefing paper for the next meeting in July.

JL did stated that as part of the fairer funding review of local government revenue, local authorities will now not get all business rates as previously signaled. It is anticipated that the authorities can expect about 75% of the business rates with the remainder still going to Treasury. It was suggested that IFCA's have a strong discussion with their funding authorities to have clear direction for 2021 onwards. In response to the Association revised funding paper, DM did voice his concerns about the potential of unravelling the present formula, but TT suggested we put our views in first. SB confirmed that it was confirmed to him that it was option 2 in the Defra consultation paper prior to setting new burdens, which was adopted of Defra's allocation of new burdens funding. SB will send this to all members. **Action 2: SB**

to circulate the new burdens funding to all members. TT recommended asking our authorities that the money should be paid directly to the IFCAs from Defra and this would be raised at future discussions. Everyone agreed with this recommendation. All agreed that the funds should be renamed “additional burdens” instead of “new Burdens” which is misleading. **Action 3: SB will set up a working group to take forward the funding position and to seek IFCAs agreement. . He will ask COG how best to collate the evidence for continued new burdens funding. SB, JL, TD, WW & DM have volunteered to be part of the working group and will report back. SB will send out a Doodle poll to this working group to seek an appropriate date.**

b. Revised Terms of Reference for the review of the Association of IFCAs.

SB presented the revised terms of reference to the members. All agreed that we should be looking at being more proactive and making the IFCAs stronger nationally. WW agreed that it was a good idea to do the review now. He confirmed that the MMO discussion are progressing and sees this as an opportunity to pitch ourselves. However, he stated that D&S has been mentioned and we should agree on that fact that they are included, as we are all agreeing to it. However, he believes there are specific holes and wants them ironed out. He has suggested extending the remit to include MMO, NE. In terms of D&S however, how do we want this person to speak to D&S; would they be formally written to? JH has suggested that we should be asking D&S the same question but treat them differently. We might say ‘Members and D&S’. TT agreed that we have the principal to go ahead.

Update from external organisations:

Chris Williams - NEF

Chris presented to the members his update on first day readiness and delivering future fisheries management that is fair and sustainable. He specifically presented the work he has been involved with on Shellfish, low impact fisheries, Brexit and the fisheries bill, cost recovery, and the leaked white paper. He continued with how he is into a four-year project called Blue New Deal focusing on the South West. His presentation has been made available to all the members.

Defra Update – Graham Lott & Martina Di Fonzo representing Ruth Thirkettle

Martina confirmed that she had news about MPAs, the spending review and Financial Adminstrating Penalties (FAPs). She confirmed that there is no update on MPAs as the consultation period has not started on tranche 3 site. Spending review is to be launched next year to include potential extension of central IFCA funding (currently new burdens due to run out in 2020 (as previously indicated

by the Minister at previous Association meeting). Defra is looking at what information we need to review and will be in touch to answer the success criteria for the statutory review of the IFCA's - 'A guidance to IFCA's monitory performance'. Once clarity has been confirmed consultation documents will be shared with IFCA's and will inform committee members that this will be taking part soon. In terms of FAPs, Defra has been advised that receiving the financial penalties is not possible as you will need very clear reasons to present to the treasury. SB reiterated the need for a pre-warning of the MPA consultation period. The IFCA's will need as much warning as possible. He also wanted to reaffirm the principal of the four yearly SoS report to parliament as he stated that this is not actually a review and wants clarification that this is not. As far as the monitory guidance is concerned he said that the guidance was originally written in 2010 and new guidance was accepted in 2016. He agreed this with Defra and suggested Martina checked that she is working to the correct guidance. The revised new success criteria was never adopted by the Secretary of State as it is now government policy not to adopt new guidance. Instead the new 5 success criteria (replacing the time limited 7) were unilaterally adopted by the IFCA's with Defra's agreement. SB re-iterated that the 2019 conduct and operations report should be based on the new criteria. Graham Lott confirmed that the package for IFCO powers is hopefully being cleared today (5th June) and he is hoping to be clearing the SI in the next 3 weeks. **Action 4: Graham will send an update so that we can be certain of what the timings will be for this.**

4. Matters for Decision cont....

d. iVMS update and communications document for potential adoption – JG

JG gave a brief overview of where the project is since 2012 when Defra asked IFCA and MMO to introduce Inshore Vessel Monitoring System devices to all commercial fishing vessels under 12m in length. The project follows work to develop a low-cost solution for iVMS which resulted in devices being type approved by the MMO. £3m had been put aside to fund this project. This led to forming a joint MMO/IFCA project, with JG as the SRO acting on behalf of all IFCA's and the MMO. JG mentioned an email to colleagues advising that the project is currently underfunded by circa £600k (not £100k as advised in the e-mail). The reason for this is that full funding has not been allocated by the Programme Board pending public consultation on the SI by Defra. In the event that all <12m licensed vessels are covered by the SI it is anticipated that funding will be forthcoming from the Board. Overall, the level of risk is judged to be very small. He confirmed that he had a very useful update from the EMFF funding team who have advised that the funding can be applied to things that are a statutory requirement so there are no obstacles for Defra pressing ahead with regulation. In addition, the reclaim process is currently anticipated to take eight weeks but the EMFF team are looking to reduce this to four weeks. JG will share this information with all IFCA's. IFCA's had previously asked for clarification on the

status of the ownership of the iVMS equipment and in particular the transfer of terms and conditions of grant. The project board, had, as of 4th of June, confirmed that the standard EMFF terms would apply. Previously the project board had reported that ownership would be directly transferred to the vessel owners. It appears that it is not possible to transfer the T&Cs and JG has asked the legal team in MMO to look at transfer of ownership/T&Cs to see if this is possible. The MMO will advise and have prepared draft a legal agreement between IFCA's to transfer ownership and responsibility. JG will then review and advise IFCA's. However, RC has stated that he felt it necessary for the IFCA to be cognizant of this issue, because of the large amounts of local authority monies and the ability of the IFCA's to meet their liabilities under the terms of the grant. As a consequence, he felt due diligence required that independent advice was necessary. The matter being particularly relevant as the terms of EMFF grants are usually that the equipment is used for the purpose of the grant for 5 years and it appears, therefore, that individual IFCA's will be responsible for ensuring the equipment is used by fishing vessels for the purpose the grant was made, for this period of time. He said that this could be problematic because vessel ownership change, boats are sold to elsewhere in the country etc. in the event that the equipment was audited, and we might expect it to be, then demonstrating the location and use of the equipment was a significant challenge, certainly one that might not be insured against, yet one for which the IFCA's remain liable. It was asked if independent advice be sought and that this can go through the Association. SB confirmed that we could do this as a 'club contract' with 10% of costs coming from each IFCA or from AIFCA reserves. In summary JG confirmed that his has been an extremely challenging and complex project. JG recognises the concerns surrounding Transfer of Ownership which he will bring up with the project board. He confirmed that the EMFF will need to see that IFCA's are spending money for this by the Autumn. **Action 5: Transfer of Ownership legal advice should come from the Association as soon as possible. The advisors should be experienced in this field. SB will source this advice once we see what legal obligations there are.**

5. Matters for Noting

a. MPA project – verbal update and introduction to the team (Simon Pengelly, Jamie Small)

The Association IFCA's successfully applied for one FTE to be taken on three days a week in order to be working on the MPA project which resulted in Jamie being successfully employed to be working alongside Simon Pengelly (funded for one day a week) and Patrick Cooper (funded for one day a week) both from SIFCA. She has been working on, firstly developing up to date database, evaluating and digesting contents, capturing everything the IFCA's are doing. Over the course of the next couple of months they will be visiting all IFCA's to capture greater data. Once this

has been completed they will construct GIS data layers. SB is very keen to make greater use of the Association website and have an MPA section which includes NGO's and the interaction we've made with them. Communication forms large part of the project and Simon wants to see something similar to that of the glossy report produced in 2015. Simon has met with several stakeholders and NGOs already but looking to participate in conferences and meetings in the future. There is an opportunity to hold an end of year project conference for stakeholders to launch this document.

Jamie is also working on the HRA's database; and in particular, all management to ensure the correct data has been captured. Once this task has been completed they will visit all IFCA's to capture the proper data using the management to complete the assessments.

4. Matters for Decision

c. National Training Proposals – Will Wright

WW is presenting this paper on behalf of Dominic Bailey which has also been discussed with MMO. He confirmed that at present he has been trying to secure EMFF funding for a protracted period for the next two years and what the paper goes through makes recommendations. WW confirmed that we could put in a bid using the same wording as the MMO but also confirmed that they having some difficulty obtaining the paperwork from the MMO, TT will speak to EMFF to see if this can be resolved. It has been agreed that we go down this route and if EMFF decline the application, the IOS IFCA will pay just circa £300 per year and the remaining IFCA's will pay £1500 for training. In addition, the cost to recover the remainder will be covered by increasing the cost of the Torquay course. However, if not enough attendees sign up for the course the shortfall will be covered by the Association reserves. This will be subject to annual review.

5. Matters for Noting

b. Environmental consultations – Verbal report Stephen Bolt

- i. Environmental Principles and Governance after the UK leaves the EU – link attached – <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/eu/environmental-principles-and-governance/> Open – closing date 2nd August 2018. He stated that the consultation document starts with ambitious aims but the detail of delivery appears very weak. He is unsure as to how he is to respond to it at this stage. It was agreed that the Association should not respond at this stage but keep a watching brief on progress.
- ii. Fisheries White paper – “Soon” (early version leaked and in public domain) – See paper.

iii. Fisheries Bill – to follow white paper

c. Appraisal Update – Tony Tomlinson

TT confirmed that a satisfactory appraisal of SB has taken place.

d. FAPs.

SD asked Defra representatives if we can deduct our costs before it goes back to Treasury. **Action 6: SB liaise with Defra regarding this.**

e. CEO Meeting log

f. Directors Minutes

LW voiced his concerns that Directors are discussing issues that should be discussed at the Members forum. SB confirmed that the only things discussed at the Directors meetings are those unfinished items from the Members forum. He also confirmed that at the next members forum there will be an item for the MMO appointee process. **Action 7: SB to ensure there is an agenda item for the MMO appointee process on the members forum**

AOB

Graham Lott confirmed that the byelaw review process carried out by external consultancy have a final meeting on 14th June.

MMO IFCA high level working group (an action from the last AIFCA/MMO board level meeting. TT is to have a telephone conversation with John Tuckett to see whether to proceed 27th June given that so many original attendees can't now attend. It was noted that the Defra the Marine Transformation Group is pushing MMO on this matter.

15:00 Close of meeting

Date of next members forum meeting – 25th September – LGA venue

Actions from this meeting

Items for Decision

Action Number	Action	By Whom
1	Funding Paper - Defra have suggested all IFCAs put a business case together to	SB

	<p>support their bid for the future. SB will go through COG on this.</p> <p>Action 1: SB to go through COG and will draft a briefing paper for the next meeting in July.</p>	
2.	<p>SB to circulate the new burdens funding formula as adopted in 2010 to all members.</p>	SB
3.	<p>SB will set up a working group for this. He will ask COG how best to collate the evidence for continued new burdens funding. SB, JL, TD, WW & DM have volunteered to be part of the working group and will report back. SB will circulate a draft to all members.</p>	SB
4.	<p>Graham Lott confirmed that the package for IFCO powers is hopefully being cleared today (5th June) and he is hoping to be clearing the SI in the next 3 weeks. Graham will send an update so that we can be certain of what the timings will be for this.</p>	Graham Lott
5.	<p>Transfer of Ownership legal advice should come from the Association dependent on the iVMS project board immediate response. The legal advice should be experienced in this field. SB will source this advice as appropriate</p>	SB

Matters for Noting

Action Number	Action	By Whom
6.	FAPs - can we deduct our costs before it goes back to Treasury. Defra to confirm this with all IFCAs	Graham Lott
7.	SB to ensure there is an agenda item for the MMO appointee process on the members forum	SB

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



Information Item 24

33rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

Report by: Judith Stoutt, Senior Marine Science Officer (Environment)

Felixstowe Fishery Monitoring Scheme

Purpose of the report

The report is presented to inform Authority members about a fishery monitoring programme, designed to ascertain whether the use of a new dredge disposal site off Felixstowe has an impact on catches of crab and lobster.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

Note the content of the paper.

Background

Harbour Authorities are required to maintain navigable channels to accommodate commercial shipping. The port of Felixstowe, Suffolk caters for some of the largest cargo ships in the world. Regular dredging is required to maintain the deep navigation channels required to accommodate these ships. Where it is deemed appropriate, dredged material is disposed of within the Stour and Orwell river system. However, not all material can be disposed of in this way and is taken to licensed disposal sites at sea.

Report

Harwich Haven Authority (the Harbour Authority) has obtained a Marine Licence to use a new disposal site off Felixstowe. Before the licence was granted, as part of the routine consultation work undertaken by officers, the application was reviewed and potential fishery implications were considered. Officers identified that use of the new site could potentially impact on the local commercial potting (crab and lobster) fishery, through the smothering of an important potting ground.

Although the disposal site lies further than 6nm off the Suffolk coast, and is therefore outside Eastern IFCA's district, because the disposal activity could impact on fishers based in Suffolk we judged it was appropriate to make a representation to the licensing authority (Marine Management Organisation) (MMO) to highlight the concern. Authority officers met with MMO licensing officers, Harwich Haven Authority, Cefas fishery scientists and colleagues from Kent & Essex IFCA to discuss the issue. It was agreed that the disposal licence would be granted on a trial basis, with a fishery monitoring scheme included as a licence condition. Should the monitoring identify a reduction in catch rates around the disposal area that is not identified in the wider area, MMO would consider revising or revoking the licence.

Harwich Haven Authority requested that Eastern IFCA helps promote the fishery monitoring scheme. It was judged appropriate to engage with fishers and encourage their participation. Officers published a short article on the Eastern IFCA website to promote participation in the scheme.

Eastern IFCA officers will continue to liaise with Harwich Haven Authority, MMO and Kent & Essex IFCA as the monitoring scheme progresses.

Background documents

1. Proposed monitoring schedule:
<https://marinelicensing.marinemangement.org.uk/mmofox5/download/parcel/roe75hjl7fkv9cnuh6on2vutue6i98docf5cdqe96652ulc2f81bfg7er6a0uq8u62rjovl6d8mj3q8g6jvm68lj6up0fm9q0k3c/59121e100d5086be64421105134b9898/Proposed+monitoring+schedule+060218.docx?>
2. Eastern IFCA website: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/port-disposal-impact-fishing-grounds/>