



4th EIFCA Meeting

To be held at:

**Suffolk County Council Chambers
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BX**

**26th January 2012
1300 hours**

Meeting: 4th EIFCA Meeting
Date: 26 January 2012
Time: 13:00hrs
Venue: Suffolk County Council Chambers
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX



"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."

Agenda

- 1 Welcome by the Chair
- 2 To note apologies for absence
- 3 Declaration of members' interests
- 4 Presentation on marine planning by the Marine Management Organisation
- 5 Presentation on the Inshore Vessel Monitoring System trial by Koen Vanstaen
EIFCA MMO Appointee

Action items

- 6 To receive and approve as a true record, minutes of the 3rd EIFCA Meeting, held on 26 October 2011
- 7 Matters arising (including actions from last meeting)
- 8 To receive a report on a meeting of the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee and workshop held on 30 November 2011
- 9 To receive a report on a meeting of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee held on 26 January 2012 (verbal)
- 10 To receive and approve the Finance Officer's report on payments made and monies received during the period 13 October 2011 to 12 January 2012
- 11 To receive and note the Finance Officer's Quarterly Management Accounts
- 12 To receive and approve the provisional budget for 2012/2013 and to note the provisional forecast for 2013/2015
- 13 To consider providing the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee with the delegated authority to approve and submit the Authority's annual, environment and research plans 2012/2013 to Defra
- 14 To receive and approve a report following a consultation on establishing Wash Fishery Order 1992 tolls (verbal)
- 15 To receive and note the dates and locations of planned community engagement meetings
- 16 To receive and approve a report establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between EIFCA and Natural England

Information items

- 17 Vessel working group report
- 18 Area IFCOs quarterly reports
- 19 Vessels quarterly reports

- 20 Senior Research Officer quarterly report
- 21 Senior Marine Environment Officer quarterly report
- 22 Recent Recreational Sea Angling matters by Tom Pinborough EIFCA MMO Appointee

Any other business

- 23 To consider any other items, which the Chairman is of the opinion are Matters of Urgency by reason of special circumstances, which must be specified

Duncan Vaughan
Chief Executive Officer
12 January 2012

3rd Eastern IFCA Meeting Minutes

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



A meeting of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority took place in The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech, on Wednesday 26th October 2011 at 1030 hrs.

Members Present:

Mr P Barham	MMO Appointee
Dr S Bolt	MMO Appointee
Cllr J Dobson	Norfolk County Council
Mr C Donnelly	Natural England Representative
Cllr T Goldson	Suffolk County Council
Mr R Handford	EA Representative
Mr N Lake	MMO Appointee
Mr C Morgan	MMO Appointee
Mr T Pinborough	MMO Appointee
Cllr K Sale	Suffolk County Council – Eastern IFCA Chair
Mr R Spray	MMO Appointee
Mr J Stipetic	MMO Representative
Cllr A Turner	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr S Williams	Lincolnshire County Council
Mr S Worrall	MMO Appointee

Eastern IFCA Officers Present:

D Vaughan	Chief Executive Officer
E Hannam	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
C M Hurley	Finance Officer
J C Stoutt	Marine Environment Officer
J Woo	MEO - Spatial Data
E Maxwell	Research Officer

Present by Invitation:

C Johnson	Natural England
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Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Callaby (NCC) and Thompson (NCC) and Messrs Bagley, Smith and Vanstaen (MMO Appointees).

The Chairman opened the meeting by advising members that following a period away from the office the CEO was now back at the helm and EIFCA would soon be back on track.

EIFCA11/52 Declaration of Members Interests

Mr Lake declared an interest as he was both an Entitlement and Lay Holder.

EIFCA11/53 Minutes of the 2nd Eastern IFCA Meeting, held on 27th July 2011

Members agreed to receive the minutes as a true record of the proceedings.

EIFCA11/54 Matters Arising

Councillor Williams requested that page numbers were added to the meeting papers.

Mr Worrall questioned whether all the actions stated in the minutes had been carried out. He requested that a set of action minutes be circulated to all members shortly after the meeting.

EIFCA11/55 Presentation from Dr Bolt, the CEO of the Association of IFCAs

Dr Bolt advised that as part of his role as CEO of AIFCA his intention was to visit all the IFCAs to provide the same presentation which included advice on his previous employment history and how his intention was to engage with all IFCAs, Statutory Bodies and NGOs, as well as an update of his progress. Dr Bolt also outlined how he saw the way ahead and savings that could be made by centralising HR & legal for all IFCAs. At the end to the presentation Councillor Williams requested that a copy of the presentation be emailed to all members. Members asked a variety of questions and felt it was a beneficial position to be in with the CEO of the AIFCA being a member of Eastern IFCA. It was noted that in order to remain fair and even handed Dr Bolt would no longer sit on any sub-committees.

Mr Barham felt it was right to have started considering the strategy and felt it was important to set out the role and responsibilities of IFCAs and how they would be achieved. Dr Bolt advised this was ongoing with NE penning the first draft for Defra to consider. He advised he did not believe the first draft would be available for consultation but he would ask that IFCAs be given the opportunity to comment on the paper.

Mr Pinborough queried whether it would be possible to have a clear definition of what was meant by 'sustainable'. Dr Bolt advised there was a standard definition which he would provide for members.

EIFCA11/56 Finance Officer's report on payments made and monies received during the period 8th July 2011 - 12th October 2011

It was Resolved to accept the report of payments made amounting to £478,327.74 and receipts amounting to £40,409.79 during the period 8th July 2011 - 12th October 2011.

Proposed: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Mr Barham

All Agreed

EIFCA11/57 Finance Officer's Quarterly Management Accounts

The report contained the payments made and monies received set out in context with the quarters' apportioned budget for the year. The Finance Officer advised that expenditure was on track for that projected for the year with the exception of the hire of Thamesis which had not been included in the budget.

It was questioned why new burden money had not been included in the general pot, at which the CEO advised for the first year it was prudent

to clearly show where New Burden money was being spent, in the future it would be amalgamated with funding from the councils.

Councillor Turner questioned whether it was possible to use New Burden money to cover some of the general expenditure which may allow for some of the funding from the Councils to be saved and put into the vessel replacement fund. The CEO did not envisage there would be any surplus at the end of the financial year.

It was Resolved to accept the quarterly management accounts.

Proposed: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA11/58 External Audit of Accounts for ESFJC for the financial year 2010-2011

Members were advised the external audit report was approved by the F&P sub-committee in June at which time it was forward to Mazars. It had subsequently been returned with no disputes, the final cost had shown a saving of approximately £7,000 as a result of carrying out the audit in this manner.

Councillor Williams thanked the Finance Officer for another good year in control of the accounts.

Members agreed to receive the report.

EIFCA11/59 Report on the extraordinary meeting of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee held on 9th August and a meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee held on 30th September 2011

This was a matter of report, those who had been present at the meetings agreed it was an accurate account of proceedings.

Members agreed to receive the report.

EIFCA11/60 Report on an extraordinary meeting of the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee held on 23rd September 2011

The Deputy CEO advised that following a chain of events a meeting of the MPA sub-committee had been called in an attempt to resolve several issues. As a result of the meeting a workshop was to be held following the MPA sub-committee meeting on 30th November.

Mr Lake disputed the suggested course of events and advised that it was his belief the workshop was to discuss cockles, but prior to the workshop taking place IFCA members would get together to create concrete proposals for a wider audience to consider. The Deputy CEO agreed that a small focus group would be convened to agree points to be discussed at the workshop. This would be an amendment to the proposed resolution.

Mr Lake advised members that there had been sub-littoral seed mussel stock which had not been surveyed in time for the industry to benefit from them, however he congratulated the officers on the speed with which they had dealt with the area of seed mussel at Sea Palling, he did not believe the industry could have asked for a quicker response.

It was Resolved that a workshop be convened on 30th November 2011 consisting of members, officers and community participates, after a meeting of a focus group, as set out within the paper to confirm a Charter of fisheries operations.

Proposed: Mr Donnelly
Seconded: Councillor Dobson
All Agreed

EIFCA11/61 Report detailing the resignation and appointment of MMO members from/to the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee

In order to avoid any conflict of interest Dr Bolt was no longer in a position to be a member of the Authority's sub-committees, it was therefore, necessary to find willing members to replace him.

It was Resolved that Mr Barham would become a member of the Finance & Personnel sub-committee

Proposed: Councillor Goldson
Seconded: Councillor Williams
All Agreed

It was Resolved that Mr Pinborough would become a member of the Planning & Communication sub-committee

Proposed: Councillor Williams
Seconded: Councillor Goldson
All Agreed

EIFCA11/62 Report establishing the approach that the Authority will take during a review of byelaws

The CEO advised that he felt the appropriate way forward would be to deal with the byelaws in three separate tranches. Firstly consideration could be given to those byelaws which were no longer applicable, the second step would be to identify those which could be remade with no substantive changes with the third step being a big consultation and impact assessment on how to remake/make new byelaws for the district. Within in this would be suggestions such as amalgamating byelaws which related to the same species. If members agreed to these steps then the CEO would convene a meeting of the appropriate sub-committee and get the process in motion.

Councillor Turner questioned the process for bringing in emergency byelaws but was advised that under the Authority's standing orders the CEO had to confer with, and get the approval of, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority prior to introducing an emergency byelaw

It was Resolved that the byelaw review be conducted in the manner identified.

Proposed: Mr C Morgan
Seconded: Cllr J Dobson
All Agreed

EIFCA11/63

Report recommending the establishment and composition of a working group to review the sea going assets required by the Authority

The CEO advised members there was a pressing need to replace ESF Protector III. In order to meet the budget requirement of a 25% saving over 4 years, the operation of this vessel did not feature in projected budgets from 2013 onwards. The CEO advised that if the Authority wanted to replace the vessel the process needed to be started as it could take a minimum of 18 months to complete. The CEO recommended that a working group be organised by the patrol boat skipper which would draw on the expertise of members.

Councillor Williams questioned what was happening with electronic surveillance on a national level, as he believed this would effect the type of replacement vessel needed. Dr Bolt then questioned what the future requirements would be, would the vessel be expected to go out to 12nm. Councillor Dobson felt these scenarios could be included in the list of points to be considered by the working group.

Mr Lake questioned whether it would be more cost effective to hire vessels from the industry. This could also be considered by the working group, however Mr Morgan felt that hiring of KEIFCA's vessel for 8 days at a cost of £12,000 was expensive.

It was Resolved that a Working Group would be convened as set out in the paper.

Proposed: Councillor Williams
Seconded: Councillor Turner

Members who expressed an interest in being part of the working group were:

W.C.
Mr Lake *Councillor Sale*
Mr Spray *Councillor Turner*
Councillor Williams *Mr Worrall*

Members who were not in attendance would be contacted to enquire whether they would like to be part of the Working Group.

EIFCA11/64

Report on the completed investigation into food availability within the Wash and the implications of findings within the report and next steps

Members were advised that in 2009 a study had begun to specifically look at food availability and the affect on biomass of stock in the Wash. The initial findings of the study were that food availability was not having a large scale affect of cockle and mussel stocks in the Wash.

In 2009 a moratorium had been placed on lays until the study had been completed. Ideally the next step would be to remove the moratorium and issue lays however, as the lay leases were only issued for a period of 10 years it was necessary to carry out a review of consents before the leases could be renewed. The CEO was reluctant to issue new lays before the review was completed, as the findings of the review may suggest lays could not be re-issued. Councillor Williams disagreed with this and felt that as the study had found no evidence that the cockle seemed to be starving as a direct result of lack of food then he did not believe there was evidence to maintain the moratorium.

Mr Donnelly advised that a previous review of lays in 2008 did not take into account the findings of the study he believed any decision made should take into account research which had been done since 2008 and any elements which may be missing from the research.

The CEO felt this was a complex issue which required further investigation. The Deputy CEO agreed there were several issues to consider and a consultation should take into account all these issues in relation to each other, he also felt it would be prudent to work out the total available space that could be allocated for lays before issuing any more.

Mr Lake noted that no mention had been made of razors which must be taking some of the food supply, he believed the decline in mussel meat count related to the explosion in numbers of razors.

It was acknowledged that the findings of the Sweep study were not conclusion by the MEO advised she was cautiously confident that each issue raised by NE could be addressed in relation to the Review of Consents.

It was Resolved to accept the officers proposed timetable to progress Wash Fishery Order lay applications following the review of consents and comprehensive review of WFO lease management.

Proposed: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Mr Barham

All Agreed

EIFCA11/65 Report on the principles to be used when establishing Wash Fishery Order 1992 tolls and licence fees

Members were advised that the 5 year agreement relating to licence tolls was due to expire in 2012, it would therefore be necessary to begin the process to apply to the Minister for a further variation in tolls for the next 5 years. The Deputy CEO advised that due to changes in legislation it was not possible the authority to split the money received from licence fees between cost of work carried out for the benefit of the fisheries and covering the costs incurred to administer the WFO. It was therefore questioned whether the Authority wanted to consider a calculation which took into account the costs incurred with the WFO, he did advise that even to recoup 1% of the cost would involve a considerable increase from the tolls currently being applied. There was a feeling amongst members that to vastly increase the price of a licence would be unfair on the fishermen. It was noted that no decision on the price of a licence needed to be made immediately just agreement in principle of the steps to be taken.

The CEO suggested stakeholders should be consulted and other IFCAAs should be asked how much they charge for licences. Mr Lake felt it should also be ascertained the length of opening time of other fisheries, as well as the number of vessels involved and the daily TAC.

It was Resolved that work should commence on establishing a new toll structure for the WFO 1992, following the steps as set out in the paper.

Proposed: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor Goldson

All Agreed

EIFCA11/66

Report on the future approach of the Authority to its conservation obligations following a letter from the Marine Conservation Society to the Marine Management Organisation

The MEO gave an update on the situation regarding managing fisheries within the European Marine Sites, and reminded members that the Authority already had in place an agreed approach as to how to manage fisheries in Marine Protected Areas. The MEO suggested that the Authority continue with this approach as well as continuing to liaise closely with NE, MMO and stakeholders for all fisheries within the district. It was also suggested the Authority should engage more widely with environment stakeholders such as Marine Conservation Society and Client Earth, and when carrying out new pieces of work it should look at wider management responsibilities for the whole of the district, such as sustainability assessment for fisheries within the district.

Dr Bolt agreed in principle but requested that the MEO keep AIFCA informed so that they could speak knowledgably at a national level.

The CEO felt there was a perception that there was insufficient management in place which was not the case and he felt that EIFCA should be fairly represented.

It was Resolved to agree to the recommendations put forward with regard to the Authority's approach to conservation obligations and to keep AIFCA informed if any discussion took place with national NGOs.

Proposed: **Councillor Williams**

Seconded: **Mr Barham**

All Agreed

EIFCA11/67

Report on the termination of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Authority and the Wash Estuary Strategy Group

Members were advised that the Authority had agreed to act as employing authority for WESG for a period of one year. It was now time to decide whether to continue or give notice that the agreement would cease in February. The CEO advised that whilst the group would not be able to continue in the future he did not feel that the way the group planned to go in the future would fit in with EIFCA. He also felt the financial contribution was disproportionate to the amount of officer time being spent on behalf of the group. It was his recommendation that the Authority did not continue to act as employing authority to WESG.

It was Resolved to accept the report and approve the recommendation that the MOA between EIFCA and WESG be terminated on 28th February 2012.

Proposed: **Councillor Williams**

Seconded: **Councillor Dobson**

All Agreed.

EIFCA11/68 **Report on the progress towards meeting the Authority's 2011 Annual Plan**

Dr Bolt questioned whether an additional item referring to Communication strategy could be included however, Mr Barham felt it would prudent to wait for AIFCA and then work from that strategy.

Members agreed to accept the report.

EIFCA11/69 **Report recommending the adoption of Navigating the Future approach by the Authority**

Members were given a brief summary of what 'Navigating the Future' meant to EIFCA, during which it was explained that it could be done by working in conjunction with KEIFCA and identifying funding streams which could be used towards joint working.

Councillor Williams questioned why consideration was not given to working in partnership with the IFCA to the north of the district, the explanation being that that IFCA had already carried out a similar study a few years ago.

It was Resolved to accept the report and the recommendation that the application of the Navigating the Future Project to the Eastern-IFCA district be further explored in conjunction with KEIFCA.

Proposed: **Mr Donnelly**
Seconded: **Mr Spray**
All Agreed

EIFCA11/70 **Report setting out future Authority meeting dates and suitable venues**

The CEO advised that the suggestion had been made that the quarterly meetings should be held at different venues throughout the district, consequently suggested dates and venues were put forward for members comment.

There was concern that one of the meetings was on a Thursday which was not convenient for some members, however the venue had not been available on the Wednesday. With this in mind it was suggested that the movement of meetings around the district should be deferred for a year so that bookings could be secured. However there was a feeling that the meetings should be open to all interested parties throughout the district and this would make them more accessible.

It was Resolved to accept the report and agree the meeting dates and venues, although the Chairman did agree to try and change the date of the meeting in Ipswich.

Proposed: **Councillor Barham**
Seconded: **Mr Spray**
There were no abstentions, one vote against and the remainder were in favour.

EIFCA11/71 **Area IFCOs quarterly reports**

Mr Pinborough expressed disappointment that in the Area 3 report reference was made to a meeting of sea anglers held in Cromer and

stated the meeting had been poorly advertised with no agenda when in fact Mr Pinborough had contacted the local associations and provided an agenda, he felt it would have been prudent for the IFCO to have contacted him direct. The CEO agreed to speak to the officer on the correct way to deal with similar situations in the future.

Members agreed to accept the report.

EIFCA11/72

Vessels quarterly reports

Members noted Pisces III was being stored at Wells and was being used by Norfolk Constabulary, it was questioned how the Committee were reimbursed for the use of this vessel. The CEO advised the Committee were refunded in kind as the Norfolk Constabulary had taken on responsibility of servicing the vessel and it was stored free of charge. He also assured members that EIFCAs use of the vessel was in no way compromised.

Following on from this paper there was discussion on the running costs for EIFCA vessels as Dr Bolt advised the MMO were looking into partnership working which would use vessels across IFCAs and would refund full costs. It was noted that other IFCAs seemed to have lower running costs however, it was not certain whether this was full running costs taking into account insurance charges etc. Mr Stipetic advised that the vessel selection would not be based solely on cost but would take into account the appropriate type of vessel for the task and location.

Members agreed to accept the report

EIFCA11/73

Senior Research Officer quarterly report

Members agreed to accept the report

EIFCA11/74

Marine Environment Officer quarterly report

Members agreed to accept the report

EIFCA11/75

Update on the recommended Marine Conservation Zones within the Net Gain and Balanced Seas project areas

Councillor Goldson questioned what impact these zones would have on the fishing industry to which Mr Pinborough advised it would impact on angling however it was still in the consultation process which could take another 12 months and he felt no account would be taken on MCZs until the consultation process was complete.

Members agreed to accept the report.

EIFCA11/76

Establishment of Community feedback surgeries following Authority meetings

The CEO recognised that in the past the composition of the committee had been such that it represented a variety of communities however, IFCA members were selected for experience, he therefore suggested that following statutory meetings IFCA officers should hold meetings

throughout the district for interested parties so that everyone could be kept informed on what is happening at EIFCA.

Members agreed to accept the report.

EIFCA11/77 Wash Estuary Strategy Group Project manager quarterly report

Members agreed to accept the report

EIFCA11/78 Angling 2012 update

Members agreed to accept the report

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1325 hours.

4th EIFCA MEETING

Agenda Item: 8

26th January 2012

To receive a report on the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee and workshop held on 30th November 2011.

A meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee took place at Thoresby College in King's Lynn on Wednesday 30th November 2011 at 1030 hrs. Following the Sub-Committee meeting, the Authority held a workshop with interested parties over the possibility of setting up a cockle 'charter' that would identify the flow of actions needed to open a cockle fishery.

Four keys areas for discussion were presented at the Sub-committee meeting :

1. Management of a Mussel Fishery in the Wash;
2. Report on the progress of a voluntary agreement for protecting *Sabellaria spinulosa* (Ross Worm);
3. Agreeing documents and procedure for reviewing the Wash Fishery Order 1992 Tolls/licence fees; and
4. Agreeing the plan for the comprehensive review of Wash Fishery Order 1992 management

Mussel Fishery

Ron Jessop, Senior Research Officer at the Authority presented to the Sub-committee the results of the recent survey work that have been conducted. The aim of the work was to identify possible stocks and mussel beds that could support a mussel fishery in the Wash. The Mussel beds in the Wash had suffered heavily from a small parasite (*Mytilicola spp*) that had reduced available stock. Comparing the results of the survey work with the conservation objectives set out for the Wash identified that while the prospect for an adult fishery was unlikely, there was some juvenile stock available that would allow a restocking fishery to replenish Lays.

Prior to the Sub-committee meeting, the Authority had discussed the results of the survey with the Wash Fisherman's Associations.

Discussions both with the Sub-committee and the Associations focused on the best way to manage the stock, particularly in response to the presence of the parasite and the need for single year classes (with minimal barnacles) for the market.

In discussing the opening of a fishery on the back of the survey work, five beds and the appropriate quota were confirmed. The five beds to be fished from would be:

Mare Tail North	(381t)
Holbeach	(309t)
Trial Bank	(620t)
Breast East	(145t)
Blackshore	(206t)

Following previous procedure this would be split between dredge and handwork fishing methods, and it was suggested the total allowable catch for each method should be 109t hand-worked and 1,095t dredged.

Sub-committee participants recommended opening a hand-worked fishery as promptly as possible, while agreeing with the suggestions raised at the meeting with the

Associations. The suggestion was to delay a decision on opening the dredge fishery until winter cockle mortality could be considered. The interplay of cockle and mussel biomass when calculating the 'bird food' requirements for the Wash management measures means that mussel biomass could impact the ability or size of a potential cockle harvest in 2012.

A hand-worked fishery on the five named beds was opened at the end of 2011; a hand-worked fishery on the Welland Wall was also opened at this time. A dredge fishery will be re-assessed in early spring.

Ross Worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*)

Protection of *Sabellaria spinulosa* is a controversial topic for the Authority, reflected in the discussions the Authority had both at Sub-Committee and prior to this with Fishermans Associations.

Ross Worm is found in many high turbidity environments, across the North Sea. Occasionally, the small worms will form larger structures, though these sites are often ephemeral. More rarely, these structures will persist over longer time periods, being consistently encountered in the same areas. The Authority and Natural England have worked to identify the sites where these larger structures are more persistent, as part of identifying features of the European Marine Site.

The Authority and Natural England have been discussing voluntary agreements to protect these areas with the Associations. Fishermen's concerns included:

- That Ross worm is a relatively common species;
- That reefs are small and ephemeral and ill defined;
- That they have managed to maintain areas of persistent population despite (or perhaps because of) current uses;
- That it would unfairly impact pink shrimp fishermen;
- That there is more need for understanding on the effects of potting; and
- And that this is just one more, of an increasing number of restrictions that are hampering their ability to carry out their business.

The Sub-Committee received the report on these issues, which identified the next steps as (i) Authority officers to initiate dialogue with the potting sector to allow the shrimp fishery to utilise former pink shrimping grounds that have more recently been used by the potting sector; and (ii) Natural England to investigate the impact of potting fisheries on *S. spinulosa* and develop its advice accordingly.

Tolls

A paper with an attached discussion document was presented to the Sub-Committee. The paper set out the next steps for consultation on the discussion document, including confirmation from Defra on the correct process to follow. Questions posed in document include a need to consider the timescale and whether tolls should be set for a 5 year period or 10 years which would coincide with the expiry of the Order. It was also necessary to decide whether the money should be kept for propagation or whether a percentage should be used to offset the costs of research.

No significant changes were suggested at this point, though the paper was adapted slightly following some internal comment before being sent out for consultation. The outcome of this consultation will be discussed in Agenda Item 14.

Review of Wash Fishery Order 1992 Management

Officers presented to the Sub-Committee a project brief for this review. The brief outlined five key objectives for this review, the officers tasked with leading on each objective, and expected timescales. The five objectives included:

- Review of Consents (a Habitats Regulations assessment of the impact of renewing leases on the designated features of the Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site);
- Constraints study to identify factors limiting the development of the Several Fishery;
- External funding investigation;
- Review of the use of mussel dredges on Wash Fishery Order lays; and
- Confirm the Authority's approach to progressing lay applications.

The Sub-Committee agreed the project brief.

Workshop

The review of the opening of the Cockle fishery in 2011 identified that opening the fishery was achieved by convention rather than via a more formal, agreed process. A workshop following the Sub-Committee meeting explored the idea of a cockle charter. Invitations to participate were extended to all members of the Sub-committee, to Fisherman's Associations and participant stakeholders (including RSPB, Environment Agency and MMO).

In order to develop a charter, a breakout group and comparison process was used to identify the steps needed to open a fishery, and the behaviours expected on both sides of the transaction. Breakout teams were mixed, and re-arranged at various times during the afternoon to allow all participants the chance to meet and discuss their ideas with other participants.

The outcome of the workshop was a set of agreed steps (set out as a flow diagram) necessary for the opening of the fishery. Particularly important were the identification of key 'communication points' in the process. The draft charter has been circulated at the same time as the Tolls consultation.

A copy of the draft charter is attached.

This will be confirmed at the next Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee meeting, though the steps identified will be used in the interim, until this endorsement.

Members are asked to receive the report.

Eden Hannam
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

19th January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers
Attached

Entitlement holders
Fishermen's Associations
County Councils
MMO
Natural England
Environment Agency
RSPB
EMS

Ref: EH/10/1

22 December 2011

To whom it may concern;

**CONSULTATION: Review of Tolls for Wash Fishery Order 1992
Draft Charter for Wash Fishery Order 1992 Cockle Fishery**

The Authority is undergoing consultation on two key aspects of the Regulated Fishery under the Wash Fishery Order 1992. This is the first of several consultations the Authority will be engaging in over the next six months as we accelerate through our work programme as part of the changes brought about by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The first part of this consultation is reviewing the Tolls set under Section 9 (2) of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967. The current structure expires at the end of the financial year (31 March 2012). A discussion paper and consultation response form is attached. I would ask that consultation response forms are returned by 23 January 2012. This would allow an oral update item to be prepared to present at the Statutory meeting of the Authority on 26 January 2012.

The second part of the consultation relates to the development of a Charter for the Wash Cockle fishery. Following the independent review of the 2011 cockle fishery, there was a recommendation that a formal written process be developed that sets out the steps, behaviours and expectations in opening a cockle fishery. A workshop was held at Thoresby College in King's Lynn with representatives from a variety of stakeholders on 30 November 2011. A draft Charter was drawn up setting out eleven steps and the behaviours expected for opening a cockle fishery.

Please check the proposed steps in the draft Charter and provide any comments on the attached consultation response form.

Engaging with stakeholders and taking their comments and preferences into account are a vital mechanism in making sure that any suggestions have relevance to the community.

Both the consultation drafts for the tolls and charter papers will be available on the Authority's website. Public notices will also be placed in the local newspaper seeking comment. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Authority, the office phone number is 01553 775321 and my email address is edenhannam@eastern-ifca.gov.uk.

I would ask that all consultation response forms are returned by 23 January 2012 (postage paid envelopes are included). If you wish to add further comments, please feel free to use extra pages. Please get your responses in promptly, as Authority staff will be using the responses to prepare an oral update item to be prepared to present at the statutory meeting of the Authority on the afternoon of 26 January 2012 at the Suffolk County Council Chambers. You are welcome to attend this meeting and observe the processes of the statutory meeting.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

I wish you a very merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year. The Authority Offices will be closed for the statutory holidays (25 to 28 December and 1 & 2 January) over this period.

Yours sincerely

Eden Hannam
Deputy Chief Executive.

cc: Members of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee
Members of Parliament for: North Norfolk
Boston and Skegness

Review of Tolls for Wash Fishery Order 1992

The tolls set under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 expire at the end of this financial year. At the Statutory meeting on 26 October 2011 the process for setting new tolls for licences granted to Wash Fishery Order Entitlement holders was approved. Ministerial consent is required for any tolls structure that varies that set out in the Order.

To confirm the process for establishing these tolls, a letter was sent on behalf of the Authority on 15 September 2011 to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary and followed up by an email in early November 2011. A reply was received on 11 November 2011 confirming the steps agreed at the October Statutory meeting

The agreed steps are:

1. Summarise the 'how and why' of the current structure.
2. Summarise the proposed new structure including reasons as to the proposed changes to the Wash Fishery Order tolls. It is important to note at this point that since the tolls were set in 2007 there have been amendments to Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 widening the cost structure considered when setting the tolls.
3. Consult with the community over the proposed structure. Consultation should include the Wash Fishery Order Entitlement holders, fisherman's associations, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation, the relative funding County Councils and the wider community.
4. Take into account the outcomes of the consultation process, and amend the proposal as necessary.
5. Present a final tolls and licensing structure to the Secretary of State for their consent.

The letter from Defra also reminded the Authority that:

"On the amendments to the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967, grantees of Regulating Orders can now spend monies collected through tolls on the regulating of the fishery, not just for the improvement of the fishery as was the case prior to amendment. The amendments also allow the grantee (where the Order provides), to retain a proportion of the tolls to cover costs associated with applying for a Shellfish Order."

This is a considerable change from the earlier situation where money could only be spent on propagating and improving the fishery.

The Authority has begun the first steps for setting new tolls.

A background statement on the 'how and why' of the Current Tolls structure is enclosed to give you the background on how the current tolls structure is set.

The second section begins the consultation of a proposed new structure. A consultation form is attached to this document. Please read the proposed structure, and provide commentary on this form.

Engaging with stakeholders over the proposed tolls and taking their comments and preferences into account are a vital mechanism in making sure that any suggestions have relevance to the community. The Minister has requested that consultation should include not only Entitlement Holders and Fisherman's groups but government agencies such as the MMO and Natural England as well as the wider public both as funders but also as community members. Engaging with the public (as funders) will be through the constituent county councils, while opportunities for wider community members to engage will also be explored and could include publically advertised consultations.

I would ask that commentary forms are returned by 23 January 2012. This would allow an oral update item to be prepared to present at the Statutory meeting of the Authority on 26 January 2012.

'How and Why' of Current Tolls Structure.

The Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 sets out the ability of a 'grantee' to charge for propagating a fishery in relation to a regulated order (granted under that Act). In the case of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 the grantee is the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, and the fishery is for the bivalve shellfish named on the order.

The Order sets out that:

Tolls and fees payable for fishing

9.—(1) Any person to whom the Committee proposes to issue a licence under the provisions of article 8 of this Order shall pay to the Committee before or upon receipt of the licence a toll in respect of a combined licence which authorises the dredging, fishing for and taking of cockles and mussels of either £200 per annum or £30 per month.

(2) The Committee may from time to time with the consent of the Minister vary the toll payable under paragraph (1) above and introduce separate tolls in respect of each of the prescribed species for which dredging, fishing for or taking is authorised.

The Toll structure was varied in accordance with section 9(2) of the Order, most recently receiving Ministerial consent in 2007. This toll structure reflects an evolution of experiences, both for the fishing community and the Authority. The variation in use at the moment was based on these experiences and saw changes to;

1. reduce the administrative burden for both the fishermen and the Authority; and
2. differentiate between the volumes of shellfish handled between a dredge and hand-worked cockle fishery.

The outcome of this was an annual licence toll, set for a five year period with a differential between the two methods of fishing. The licence period, and differential tolls are set out in the following table:

Financial Year	Hand-worked Toll	Dredge Toll
2007/8	£100	£250
2008/9	£110	£265
2009/10	£120	£280
2010/11	£130	£295
2011/12	£140	£310

Charges under other Regulating Orders

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Transitional and Savings Provisions) Order 2011, five Regulating Orders for England are recognised. In addition to the Wash Fishery Order 1992; there is the Poole Fishery Order 1985, the River Roach Oyster Fishery Order, Thames Estuary Order and the Waddeton Fishery order 2001. There are also similar Regulating orders in the other Home Nations for example the cross border Dee has an Order relating to cockle fishing on it managed by the Environment Agency.

Order	IFCA	Prescribed Species	Value of Fishery	Number of vessels/ Fishermen	Annual Toll
Wash Fishery Order 1992	Eastern	Oysters, mussels, cockles, clams, scallops or queens	1.5-2 million (2011)	68 Entitlement holders	£140/£310
Waddeton Fishery order 2001	Devon	oysters, mussels, cockles, clams and crabs	Less than £250,000	9 lease holders (some with multiple plots) totally 15	Plot size 50mx50m £250
River Roach Oyster Fishery Order 1992	Kent & Essex	Oyster	Minimal (few thousand at best)	four	2.5h plot £100 years 1 & 2 £250 subsequent years.
Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery order 1994	Kent & Essex	Cockles	Multi Million	14 Entitlement holders	£2800
Poole Fishery Order 1985	Southern	oysters, clams and mussels	500,000 to million	25 (Lease) Entitlement	£300 (clams)

Solent (Oyster) Fishery Expired 2010. Not sought to renewed (Fee was set at £550)

The Cross Border Dee cockle Fishery is managed by the Environment Agency under a Regulating Order, the toll is set at £992.

Proposed New Structure

When considering a new structure for the tolls, and reflecting both the *status quo* and the new requirements flowing from the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, a number of key areas need to be examined. These include:

- Time scale;
- Offsetting the cost of making an Order;
- Use of money for propagation; and
- Use of money for regulation.

Components are discussed below. Each needs to be considered separately, but combined they will give the schedule for total tolls in the 2012/13 financial year and beyond.

Time Scale

The present Tolls structure was agreed for a five year period expiring at the end of the 2011/12 financial year. With the Wash Fishery Order expiring in 2022 there is the option for either repeating the five year period or looking to set the tolls structure for the remaining ten years of the Order. The tolls structure cannot be set for longer than ten years.

Each option has advantages. A shorter time period would allow the structure to be revisited should a change be required to reflect a change in circumstances. A longer time period would not have this inbuilt flexibility but provide a longer term framework in which entitlement holders would be able to plan.

Currently the toll structure has no review mechanism. There is a potential to mitigate some of the concerns about inflexibility by having a review. A review would consider the level and cost structure without changing the underlying charging model. This would hopefully mean the tolls would not need reference to the Minister. Cost structures that make up the regulatory costs could change over the coming 5 years. For example VMS systems could see the cost of compliance decrease.

The present toll structure also sees a slight increase of £10 each year to reflect inflationary changes. Over recent years this has meant that the increase does not reflect inflation, and over the recent period is in excess of what inflation was. To avoid this guess work, especially for a longer term agreement tolls could be linked to the Consumer Price Index with final figures rounded up to the nearest £5.

Currently, on receipt of payment, a licence is issued for a 12 month period; this raises a considerable administrative burden both for the Authority and licence holders with different licences expiring at different times and in different tax years. An option to reduce this burden would be to synchronise any payment with the financial year with all licences expiring at the same time. This alternative would also reduce the conflict around being given 'enough notice' for fishermen to renew their licences as it would fit with other financial and statutory timeframes.

Proposal:

- The fee is set for ten years with a review of costs after five years.
- Inflationary changes are linked to the Consumer Price Index.
- That a licence fee is linked to the financial year

Offsetting the cost of making an Order

The advice from the Minister on the process for setting tolls indicated that the Authority has the ability to recover the costs of setting up a Fishery Order.

This is sunk historical cost for the Authority. It would be difficult to calculate the cost prior to 1991 of setting up the Order. Costing at the time was not explicitly recorded making it difficult to retrospectively agree a figure. In addition, it may breach the principles of Natural Justice to introduce such a charge at this point. The Authority may wish to consider this concept at the time of expiry of the Wash Fishery Order in 2022.

Proposal:

- No cost recovery is proposed at this time. You may comment on the consultation there will be a chance for comment on this approach.

Use of money for propagation

The original purpose for gathering funds under a regulating order was to propagate and improve fisheries for the prescribed species in the order. In the past this has been used by the Authority for this purpose including gathering and relaying seed mussel and reviewing our scientific sampling technique. The Authority continues to gather funds to propagate and improve the fisheries of the species prescribed in the Wash Fishery Order 1992. In August this year, the Authority and Fishermen's Associations met to explore ways in which to invest this in the fisheries of the Wash over different time scales as well as maintaining a contingency fund. In discussing investment and propagation, Fishermen's Associations have expressed that Seed Mussel is still a preferred investment for this money, though there have been very limited options for gathering this within the District this year. The Authority will continue to work with the Fishermen's Associations to identify potential investments.

No new projects for investment have been easily identified at the moment. Because of this combined with the current pool of contingency funding it is not proposed to change the current level of charging for this component. The Authority is not proposing to change the split between fishery methods currently used.

Proposal:

- That there is no change to the current level of charges gathered for propagation.

Use of money for Regulation

As a consequence of the amendments made under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the Authority now has the ability to recover money to offset the cost of managing the Wash Fishery Order 1992. A contribution to the cost of managing a regulating order would recognise the private gain through the use of a public resource currently managed with public money. Such a proposal is a significant change for the Authority and the way it manages the Wash Fishery Order 1992. The Eastern-IFCA expends a considerable portion of its resources in managing the area set out in the Wash Fishery Order.

In beginning the discussions on appropriate regulatory cost, the Authority recognises that there are wide community benefits of a well managed fishery. Any potential charge would only ever reflect a proportion of the total cost to reflect the private gain. Discussion would also need to focus on how the charges are spread amongst entitlement holders, and what would be an appropriate percentage contribution to the cost of running the Wash Fishery Order.

The Authority proposes that any agreed percentage cost for regulating the fishery be equally divided amongst all issued entitlements. The confounding issue is that not every entitlement holder takes out a licence each year. Due to the difficulties in distinguishing between active and non-active entitlement holders the simplest way is to divide costs amongst all Entitlement holders. For the 2011/12 year there were 68 issued entitlements. For 2012/13 the Authority is anticipating to have 65 issued entitlements.

Coming up with an exact figure for the total running costs of the Wash Fishery Order is difficult as the Authority has not ring fenced spending for different areas of its District. In preparing for this, the Authority calculated the costs for the largest of the Fisheries within the Wash Fishery Order – that being the Cockle Fishery was calculates at £222,200. This figure includes 34 days research boat time, 136 days officer time for research, 12 officer days developing measures and analysis and a significant component for enforcement and enforcement vessel operations.

This cost figure focuses only on the most economically productive fishery in the Wash and excludes the cost of the annual survey for mussels as well as executive and Authority Board time. Other costs not included in this figure include Environmental Health management, other species enforcement and appropriate assessments. The Authority is not proposing to include these costs at the moment as they have considerable public benefit and are therefore inappropriate.

The table below sets out what each percentage contribution would be to the cost of managing the cockle fishery depending on the percentage contribution for 68 and 65 entitlement holders for the 2011 Cockle season.

Contribution	2.5%	5%	10%	15%	20%	50%
68 Entitlements	£81.70	£163.40	£326.80	£490.15	£653.55	£1633.85
65 Entitlements	£85.50	£170.95	£341.85	£512.80	£683.70	£1709.25

Should significant income be raised, the Authority will consider a rebate to the contributing County Councils.

An alternative not investigated at the current time due to time constraints would be to move to a royalty based scheme where a percentage of gross catch is levied. The Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 does allow either mechanism but there is insufficient time to bring this in before the new financial year starts.

Proposal:

- That Entitlement holders contribute to the cost of regulating the Wash Fishery Order
- That this contribution is set as a percentage of the costs of regulation to reflect the balance of public and private gain from a well managed fishery
- That this contribution is divided equally among issued entitlement holders
- That the contribution is set at 10% for a hand worked fishery and 20% for a dredge fishery.

Comment Form

The proposal for setting tolls for the Wash Fishery Order 1992 is divided into four parts.
Each part should be considered separately

[Insert identifier]

Time Scale:

I would prefer the Toll schedule to be set for

- 5 years
- 10 Years
- Other period

Please suggest other period_____

I think the Toll schedule should be reviewed

- Every year
- Every two years
- Every five years
- Other period

Please suggest other period_____

The proposal suggests that the toll Structure is linked to inflation through the Consumer Price Index.

Please provide any comment on linking the Tolls to inflation or a preferred indexing method

Finally, the proposal suggests that the tolls be linked to the financial year.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- Agree
- Disagree

If you disagree please state why

Offsetting the cost of making an Order:

The proposal set out that it would be difficult to retrospectively calculate the cost of the order.

The Authority proposes not to recoup costs from the Wash Fishery Order 1992.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- Agree
- Disagree

If you disagree please state why

Use of money for propagation

The current money collected for propagation has provided a suitable reserve for projects linked to propagation.

The Authority proposes no change to the current level of charging to collect money for propagation

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- Agree
- Disagree

If you disagree please state why

Use of Money for Regulation

The Authority proposes that Entitlement holders contribute to the cost of regulating the Wash Fishery Order 1992 as consistent with the advice from Defra and the Minister.

The proposal is that this contribution is calculated on a percentage of cost.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- Agree
- Disagree

If you disagree please suggest a different calculation method why

The current tolls structure differentiates between hand worked and dredge fisheries.

Should the Authority continue to charge different rates for hand-worked and dredge fisheries?

- Yes
- No

The discussion document sets out a range of possible percentage contributions. What is your charging regime for hand-worked and Dredge fisheries

Hand worked Fishery

- 2.5%
- 5%
- 10%
- 15%
- 20%
- 50%
- Other percentage

Please suggest other percentage

Dredge Fishery

- 2.5%
- 5%
- 10%
- 15%
- 20%
- 50%
- Other percentage

Please suggest other percentage

Thank you for your time

If you have any further comments, please comment here

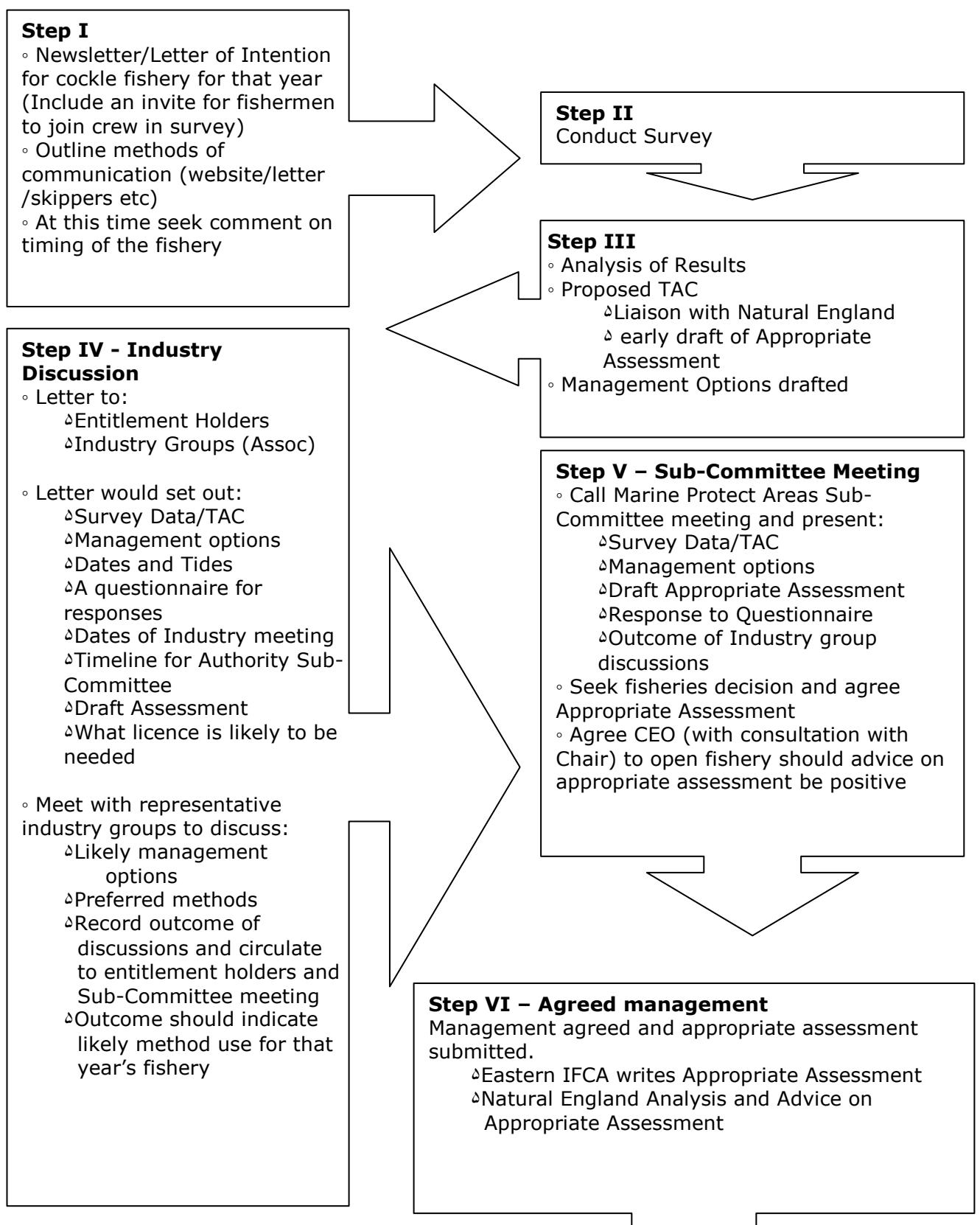
Workshop: Charter for Opening a Cockle Fishery under the Wash Fishery Order 1992.

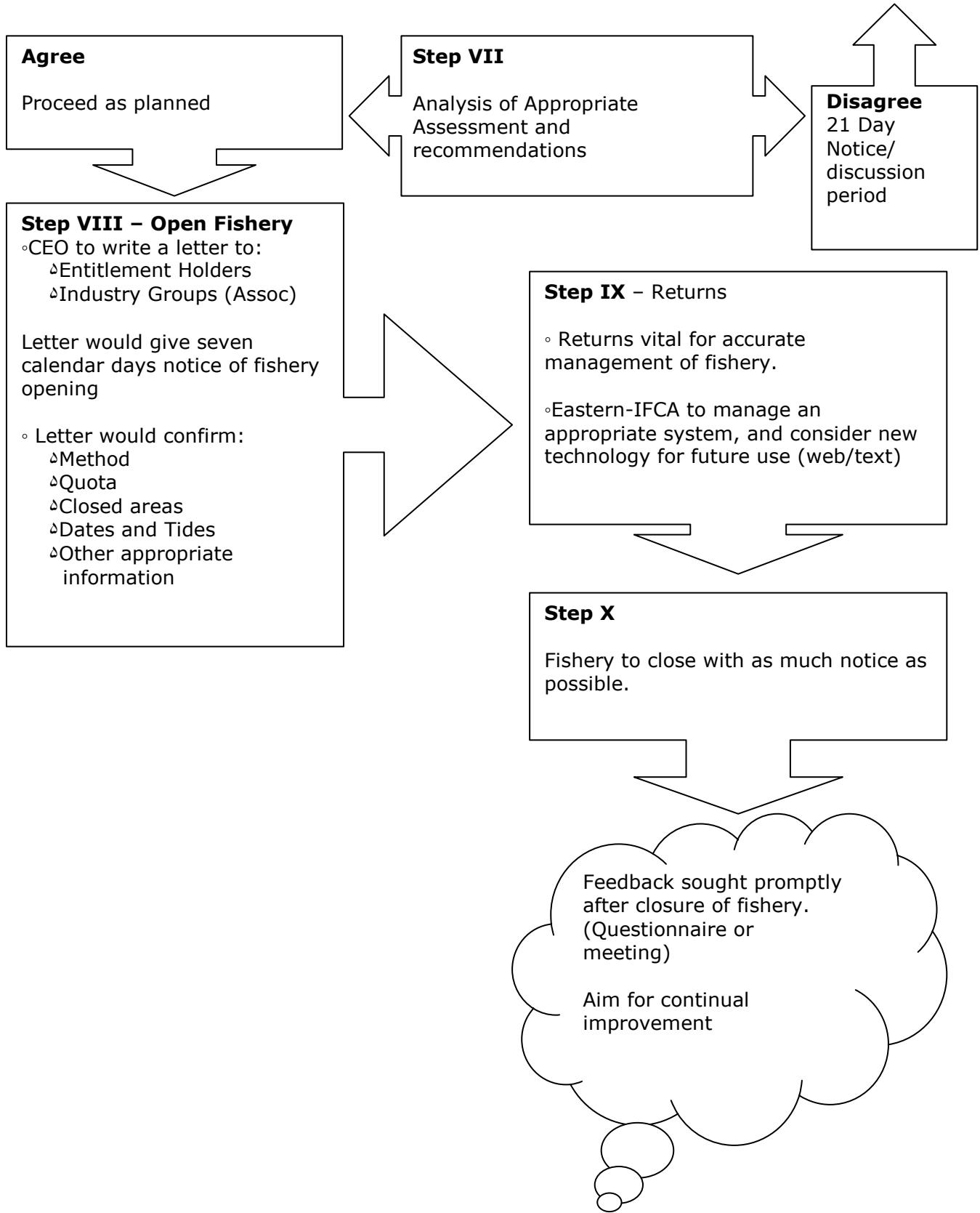
On the Afternoon of Wednesday 30 November 2011 representatives from Fisherman's Associations, Environment Agency, the MMO and Natural England joined the Members of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee to discuss the recommended Charter for opening the Fishery.

A workshop style approach was used and identified 11 steps. The components of each step indicated the interactions between the Authority, the industry, Natural England or other stakeholders.

The 11 steps are set out in the attached flow chart.

The following chart sets out the steps involved in opening a cockle fishery under the Wash Fishery Order





Behaviours

The workshop discussed the behaviours expected from Eastern-IFCA's Officers when opening and managing a fishery.

The words/adjectives used in this discussion were all positive, and reflected the behaviour expected. These focused around a service that is friendly, accessible, professional and visible, that the Authority is open to discussion and responds appropriately and promptly with informed comment.

Great weight in the discussion was placed around officers who were approachable, friendly and had a good sense of humour. Along with being impartial, maintain confidentiality and act with integrity.

When discussing behaviours expected from fishermen these same positive words were used.

Going forward both sides will expect positive behaviours, treating each other how they themselves wish to be treated.

Comment Response:

Steps in Opening a Cockle Fishery

Do you think the workshop identified all the steps required to open a Cockle Fishery under the Wash Fishery Order?

- Yes, the Workshop identified all the steps
- No, the Workshop missed out some steps

If no, what steps do you think the Workshop missed?

Each Step consists of a number of components. Do you think the workshop missed a component to any particular step? Please identify any components you think should be added

Step Number:	Step Number:	Step Number:

Behaviours

The Workshop developed what behaviours were expected of the Authority in operating a cockle fishery under the Wash Fishery Order 1992.

Do you think the workshop identified all the appropriate behaviours required?

- Yes, the Workshop identified all the behaviours
- No, the Workshop missed out some

If no, what do you think the Workshop missed?

Do you think the concept of focusing on positive behaviours is appropriate?

- Yes, we should focus on the positive
- No, there are other behaviours that need attention

If no, what do you think needs attention?

Finally –

The idea of reciprocal behaviour from both sides was discussed at the Workshop.

Do you think this idea of both sides expecting positive behaviours (treating each other how they themselves wish to be treated), should be included in the final Charter?

- Yes, we should set out what is expected from both sides
- No, there are other things that need to be included in the charter

If no, what do you think needs to be included?

4th EIFCA MEETING

26th January 2012

Agenda Item 10

**Finance Officer's Report on Payments Made and Monies Received during the period
13th October 2011 to 12th January 2012**

Payments made during the period 13th October 2011 to 12th January 2012

	MONTH 7 £	MONTH 8 £	MONTH 9 £	TOTAL £
Transfers to ESFJC Salaries & Wages Acct.	65,000.00	110,000.00	0.00	175,000.00
Rent, Rates & Service Charges	1,233.72	8,793.58	1,558.37	11,585.67
General Establishment	19,661.26	6,685.25	2,004.52	28,351.03
Legal Fees	485.76	1,265.37	0.00	1,751.13
Staff Travelling & Subsistence	2,349.42	1,314.66	457.17	4,121.25
Members' Travel	450.25	0.00	546.04	996.29
Training & Fisheries Management	660.00	1,559.11	560.46	2,779.57
Moorings/Harbour Dues	0.00	3,634.25	88.70	3,722.95
Pisces III Operating Costs	991.17	742.42	304.95	2,038.54
Three Counties Operating Costs	5,066.84	2,696.00	12,345.41	20,108.25
ESF Protector III Operating Costs	4,217.77	24,618.67	12,341.44	41,177.88
Vehicle Operating Costs	2,072.06	997.85	996.35	4,066.26
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS Project Manager Fund	823.83	368.61	750.78	1,943.22
Research Fund	461.41	749.98	791.88	2,003.27
Wash Estuary Strategy Group Fund	1,992.76	3,364.13	2,011.88	7,368.77
VAT (Recoverable)	2,950.65	9,877.02	2,000.63	14,828.30
Expenditure from New Burden Money	1,258.95	3,150.00	344.55	4,753.50
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE	109,675.85	179,816.90	37,103.13	326,595.88

Monies received during the period 13th October 2011 to 12th January 2012

	MONTH 7 £	MONTH 8 £	MONTH 9 £	TOTAL £
Treasury Deposit Interest	79.65	48.22	3,814.66	3,942.53
HM Revenue & Customs - VAT	0.00	15,855.43	0.00	15,855.43
Wash Fishery Order - Licences	140.00	0.00	0.00	140.00
Wash Fishery Order - Mussel Samples	2,655.00	0.00	0.00	2,655.00
Legal Fees - Recovery of Costs	15.00	0.00	0.00	15.00
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS Project Manager Fund	0.00	11,200.00	0.00	11,200.00
Wash Estuary Strategy Group Fund	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Research Fund	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Sale of Equipment	120.00	40.00	0.00	160.00
TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED	5,509.65	27,143.65	33,814.66	66,467.96

4th EIFCA MEETING

Agenda Item : 11

26th January 2012

Finance Officers Quarterly Management Accounts

Financial Year 2011/2012

	ACTUAL Year to Date Nine Months	BUDGET (APPORTIONED)	MEMO Budget For Year
	£	£	£
SALARIES & WAGES			
Staff Remuneration	402,788	458,812	611,570
Pension	73,528	84,900	113,200
National Insurance	32,996	34,620	46,160
Loss of Office Payments	40,964	0	0
TOTAL	550,276	578,332	770,930
GENERAL EXPENDITURE			
Accommodation	54,214	48,867	58,300
General Establishment	31,749	42,569	82,625
Fishery Officer Expenses	15,943	23,715	31,620
Members Travel	3,359	3,825	5,100
Training & Fisheries Management	9,917	11,850	15,800
TOTAL	115,182	130,826	193,445
VESSELS			
Moorings & Harbour Dues	14,999	15,662	16,037
Three Counties			
Operating Costs	49,159	51,020	59,325
Vessel Hire (Thamesis)			
	12,000	0	0
ESF Protector III			
Operating Costs	84,903	105,990	119,340
Pisces III			
Operating Costs	3,325	1,375	1,630
TOTAL	164,386	174,047	196,332
VEHICLES			
Operating Costs	15,588	16,897	20,013
TOTAL	15,588	16,897	20,013
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	845,432	900,102	1,180,720
INCOME			
Bank Interest	-5,220	-3,500	-4,000
Legal Fees	-865	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	-6,086	-3,500	-4,000
EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME	839,346	896,602	1,176,720
MEMO			
NEW BURDEN MONEY	22,992		394,145

4TH EIFCA MEETING**Agenda Item: 12****26th January 2012****To Resolve , in accordance with Section 101(6) of the Local Government Act 1972 to approve estimates of expenditure for the period 1st period 2012 to 31st March 2013**

The Finance and Personnel sub-Committee, having considered the draft estimates for expenditure for 2012/2013, resolved to recommend to the Authority to levy upon the constituent County Councils, the sum of £1,431,205.

The Levy which includes 'New Burden' funding would be in the proportions set out in the Statutory Instrument establishing the constitution of the Authority i.e. in the following proportions:-

	Norfolk County Council 38.5%	Suffolk County Council 28.9%	Lincolnshire County Council 32.6%
Contribution from County Council Funds	399,268	299,710	338,082
'New Burden' Funding Allocation	<u>151,999</u>	<u>114,420</u>	<u>127,726</u>
TOTAL LEVY	551,267	414,130	465,808

Proposed expenditure under the main budget heads is shown on the sheet attached to this report.

The Authority is asked to confirm the Sub-Committee's recommendation to Levy a total of £1,431,205 and approve the estimates of expenditure for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013.

The Authority is further asked to note the Forecasts of Estimates of expenditure for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2015.

The Forecast of Estimates is attached to this report.

Christine Hurley
Finance Officer

19th January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

Finance & Personnel sub-committee meeting papers for 26th January 2012

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Table 1

Provisional Estimates of Expenditure 2012/2013

	2011/2012 Budget Inc. Infl	2011/2012 Act/Proj	2012/2013 Provisional Estimate
	£	£	£
Salaries & Wages	770,930	729,895	866,803
General Expenditure	193,445	171,499	205,390
Research and Environment			15,000
Enforcement			30,000
Development and Communication			50,000
Vessels			
Moorings & Harbour Dues	16,037	15,537	16,925
Three Counties	59,325	59,050	63,100
ESF Protector III	119,340	100,242	118,100
Pisces III	1,630	4,070	1,850
Vessel Hire (Thamesis)	0	30,000	30,000
Vehicles	20,013	20,010	21,402
Expenditure allocated to New Burdens	394,145	30,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE £ 1,574,865 £ 1,160,303 £ 1,418,570			
INFLATION CONTINGENCY	0	0	18,635
INCOME	-4,000	-6,500	-6,000
EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME £ 1,570,865 £ 1,153,803 £ 1,431,205			
<i>LESS New Burden Funding</i>	<i>-£394,145</i>		<i>£394,145</i>
LEVY to be funded by County Councils	£ 1,176,720		£ 1,037,060
Percentage reduction from Base Levy(£1,329,236)	-11.5%		-22.0%

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Table 2

Provisional Estimates of Expenditure 2012/2013

Details of Expenditure - Salaries & Wages and General Expenditure

	2011/2012 Budget Inc. Infl	2011/2012 Projection	2012/2013 Provisional Estimate
SALARIES			
Staff Remuneration	611,570	543,615	685,245
Superannuation	113,200	100,568	130,280
National Insurance	46,160	44,748	51,278
Loss of Office Payments	0	40,964	0
TOTAL	770,930	729,895	866,803
GENERAL EXPENDITURE			
<i>Accommodation</i>			
Rent	25,000	26,344	26,500
Business Rates	10,710	11,150	11,500
Water Rates	360	300	350
Service Charges	2,295	1,955	2,200
Insurance - Buildings	402	393	400
Insurance Office & General	13,770	16,387	16,500
Electricity	3,060	3,000	3,500
Cleaning	2,193	2,500	2,200
Maintenance & Redecoration	510	2,250	500
TOTAL	58,300	64,279	63,650
<i>General Establishment</i>			
Advertisements & Subscriptions	9,180	7,680	15,000
Legal & Professional Fees	22,950	17,500	17,500
Telephones (Office & Mobile)	5,100	5,000	6,500
Postage & Stationery	7,650	4,000	5,000
Equipment Hire & Renewals	4,590	9,000	4,500
IT Support	27,350	0	35,000
Uniforms & Protective Clothing	3,060	2,500	4,000
Medical Fees	400	640	640
Sundry Expenditure	2,345	12,000	2,500
TOTAL	82,625	58,320	90,640
<i>Fishery Officers' Expenses</i>			
General Travel - Fares, Taxis etc	2,000	1,500	1,500
Subsistence Payments	25,000	23,000	6,000
Overnight Subsistence	3,000	2,500	2,000
Hotel - Accommodation & Meals	1,620	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	31,620	28,500	11,000
Members' Travel	5,100	5,100	5,100
Training & Fisheries Management	15,800	15,300	35,000
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENDITURE	193,445	171,499	205,390

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Table 3

Provisional Estimates of Expenditure 2012/2013

Details of Expenditure - Vessels & Vehicles

	2011/2012 Budget Inc. Infl	2011/2012 Projection	2012/2013 Provisional Estimate
MOORINGS & HARBOUR DUES			
Rent - Sutton Bridge Moorings	14,537	14,537	15,425
Maintenance	750	500	750
Berthing & Harbour Dues	750	500	750
TOTAL	16,037	15,537	16,925
THREE COUNTIES			
<i>Operating Costs</i>			
Maintenance & Repairs	18,360	23,000	18,000
Refit	15,300	10,500	20,000
Insurance & Certification	10,200	10,100	10,100
Fuel	15,450	15,450	15,000
TOTAL	59,310	59,050	63,100
ESF PROTECTOR III			
Maintenance & Repairs	20,400	22,000	20,000
Refit (ESF Protector III)	42,840	22,550	42,500
Insurance & Certification	22,850	22,442	22,600
Fuel	33,250	33,250	33,000
TOTAL	119,340	100,242	118,100
PISCES III			
Staff Accommodation	255	0	250
Maintenance & Repairs	255	2,500	250
Refit	255	500	250
Insurance & Certification	355	320	350
Fuel	510	750	750
TOTAL	1,630	4,070	1,850
VESSEL HIRE (Thamesis)	0	30,000	30,000
VEHICLES			
Insurance	5,000	5,108	5,250
Fuel & Sundries	11,311	10,750	12,000
Servicing	2,550	3,000	3,000
Vehicle Tracking	1,152	1,152	1,152
TOTAL	20,013	20,010	21,402

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Provisional Forecast of Estimates 2013/2015

	2012/2013 Estimate Incl. Infl	2013/2014 Forecast	2014/2015 Forecast
	£	£	£
SALARIES & WAGES			
Staff Remuneration	692,097	700,720	712,615
Superannuation	131,583	53,567	142,522
National Insurance	51,790	136,643	54,663
TOTAL	875,470	890,930	909,800
GENERAL EXPENDITURE			
Accommodation	64,215	67,450	67,700
General Establishment	92,455	92,650	92,650
Fishery Officers Expenses	11,220	10,000	10,000
Members Travel	5,200	5,200	5,200
Training & Fisheries Management	35,700	35,700	35,700
TOTAL	208,790	211,000	211,250
Research and Environment	15,150	15,150	15,150
Enforcement	30,600	30,600	30,600
Development and Communication	51,000	51,000	51,000
VESSELS			
Moorings & Harbour Dues	16,955	17,490	17,490
Three Counties			
Operating Costs	64,361	58,250	58,250
ESF Protector III			
Operating Costs	120,562	0	0
Seaspray + RIB			
Operating Costs	0	40,000	50,000
Pisces III			
Operating Costs	1,887	1,887	1,887
Vessel Hire (Thamesis)	30,600	30,600	30,600
TOTAL VESSEL COSTS	234,365	148,227	158,227
VEHICLES			
Operating Costs	21,830	22,250	25,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,437,205	1,369,157	1,401,027
Inflation Contingency		8,000	16,000
LESS IINCOME	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000
EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME	1,431,205	1,371,157	1,411,027
LESS New Burden Funding	-394,145	-394,145	-394,145
LEVY to be funded by County Councils	1,037,060	977,012	1,016,882
Percentage Reduction from Base Levy	-22.0%	-26.5%	-23.5%
Memo Base Levy = £1,329,236			

4th EIFCA MEETING

Agenda Item: 13

26th January 2012

To consider providing the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee with the delegated authority to approve and submit the Authority's annual, environment and research plans 2012/2013 to Defra

An Annual Plan must be submitted by each Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority to Defra by 31 March each year. The draft 2nd EIFCA Annual Plan (2012-2013) was developed by officers and was circulated to those Members of the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee for comment on 23 December 2011. It is intended that a Planning and Communication Sub-Committee is held on 15 February 2012 to consider this plan.

The 2011-2012 Annual Plan stated that officers would develop annual research and environment plans. Draft research and environment plans have been developed and will be circulated to Members of the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee for consideration on 15 February 2012.

In 2011 the Authority agreed to provide the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee with the delegated powers to consider and approve the annual plan submitted to Defra. It is the officer's recommendation that a similar approach be taken this year. It is envisaged that the three plans will be circulated to all Members and placed on the Authority's website when the plan is submitted to Defra.

The Authority is asked to receive the report and approve the Officers recommendation that the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee is provided with the delegated Authority to agree and submit to Defra its annual, environment and research plans on behalf of the Authority.

Duncan Vaughan
Chief Executive Officer

12th January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

- 1) Draft 2nd EIFCA 2012-2013 Annual Plan
- 2) Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on Annual Planning and Reporting Requirements under s.177 and s. 178 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009(2). DEFRA. February 2011
- 3) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

4th EIFCA MEETING**Agenda Item: 14****26th January 2012****To receive and approve a report following a consultation on establishing Wash Fishery Order 1992 tolls**

On 30 November 2011 the meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee agreed the process and documents for consulting on the Wash Fishery Order 1992 tolls structure. This is in accordance with Minute **EIFCA11/65** agreed at the October 2011 Statutory meeting. Ministerial Advice was received on 11 November 2011, and this reinforced the approach the officers had taken.

The agreed approach for consulting on the Wash Fishery Order 1992 tolls structure is:

1. Summarise the 'how and why' of the current structure.
2. Summarise the proposed new structure including reasons for the proposed changes of the Wash Fishery Order tolls (It is important to note at this point that since the tolls were set in 2007 there have been amendments to the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 widening the cost structure considered when setting the tolls).
3. Consult with the community over the proposed structure. Consultation should include the Wash Fishery Order Entitlement holders, fisherman's associations, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation, the relative funding County Councils and the wider community.
4. Take into account the outcomes of the consultation process, and amend the proposal as necessary.
5. Present a final tolls and licensing structure to the Secretary of State for their consent

No significant changes to the consultation document were suggested at the Sub-committee meeting. The paper was adapted slightly following some internal comment before being sent out for consultation on 22nd December 2011. The Papers were sent to all Entitlement holders and Fisherman's Associations. The advice from the Minister was that consultation should be as wide as possible, and so the discussion document was sent to participant stakeholders, as well as constituent county councils. A copy of the document was also placed on our website and in the public notices in the local paper. There was a slight delay in publishing this information on our website due to the upgrading of the computer system in the office.

A copy of the consultation package was included with Agenda item 8 for reference.

Consultation closed on Monday 23 January 2012. At this point, all consultation responses were summarised, and a presentation prepared for the Authority meeting in accordance with step 4. Due to the tight turn around between the close of consultation and the statutory meeting there is little time to prepare a paper summarising the analysis of submissions. Consultation responses will be presented to the Authority in the form of a presentation, and will take into account any suggested changes.

Following the outcome of the Authority meeting, officers will prepare the information for approval by the Secretary of State ahead of the beginning of the financial year.

At the time of writing the Authority has only received two submissions.

The Authority is asked to receive the report and presentation on the Wash Fishery Order 1992 tolls structure.

Eden Hannam
Chief Executive Officer

12th January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

- 1) Minutes: Statutory meeting of the 3rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation authority (October 2011)
- 2) Minutes: Marine Protected Area Sub Committee meeting 30 November 2011
- 3) Letter from Defra confirming Process for setting tolls (as amended by the MACCA 2009)
- 4) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

4th EIFCA Meeting**Agenda Item: 15****26th January 2012****Community Engagement Meeting**

At the 3rd meeting of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority on 26 October 2011, it was agreed in minute **EIFCA11/76** to the Establishment of Community feedback surgeries following Authority meetings. As part of progressing this issue, Area Officers have booked venues in the weeks immediately following the meeting and are publicising these events.

Area	Officer	Venue	Date	Time
1	Jason	Boston District Council	6/2/2012	14:00
2	Ian Dye	Masonic Centre North Lynn Business Vill. King's Lynn	8/2/2012	13:30
3	Ady Woods	The Cottage 8 Louden Road Cromer NR27 9EF	8/2/2012	19:00
4	Alan Garnham	The Kingfisher, Hawthorn Drive Ipswich IP2 0QX	26/01/2012	19:30hrs

At the October meeting it was anticipated that Authority members may wish to attend meetings in the local areas.

The Authority will also be extending the invitations to relevant authorities should they wish to use these platforms to discuss their own work in the maritime environment.

Members are asked to note the dates and locations of the community surgeries scheduled directly following Authority meetings.

Eden Hannam
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
26 January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESSION TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

Unconfirmed Minutes of the 3rd EIFCA Meeting held on 26th October 2011

4th EIFCA MEETING

Agenda Item: 16

26th January 2012

To receive and approve a report establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between EIFCA and Natural England

In order to deliver the vision set out in The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and many other pieces of legislation, for example the EU Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Habitats Directive its has been identified that closer working arrangements between partner organisations must be developed.

To formalise this partnership working and to clearly define the roles and expectations between organisations, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been drafted between IFCAs and four key partners, Natural England, Environment Agency, Cefas and the Marine Management Organisation.

The purpose of these overarching MoUs is to set out general operating principles that will be adopted by each IFCA with the respective national organisations. The MoUs provide an opportunity to standardise the general approach and duties of IFCAs throughout England. Discussions to date have shown strong support for this approach.

Importantly the way that an IFCA chooses to deliver against these principles will vary. It recognises that each IFCA will operate in different ways according to the resources available prioritising the requirements for that area. It is envisaged that once the national MoUs are agreed each IFCA will work closely with the local staff from the partner organisations to deliver the detailed action plans that will be annexed to the MoU. Examples of the detailed actions that might be included within the annexes are enclosed.

So far MoUs have been agreed with Cefas, Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation. The initial MoU between IFCAs and Natural England that the Authority considered at its 2nd Transition Meeting held on 1 December 2011 was considered unacceptable to Natural England and has since been modified. Officers are of the opinion that the modifications strengthen the MoU and are supportive of them.

Officers fully support the principles behind the development of the MoU **and recommend that members agree to the MoU document enclosed.**

The Authority is asked to receive the report and agree the proposals as set out.

Duncan Vaughan
Chief Executive Officer

19th January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

1) Modified MoU between IFCAs and Natural England

Date XXXXXXXX

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) and Natural England

1. Aim of the Memorandum

This Memorandum creates a framework for a coordinated approach to the sustainable management and regulation, conservation and enhancement, of our inshore seas, within the framework of our statutory roles and responsibilities and based on active engagement, shared information and effective collaboration between Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and Natural England.

2. Purpose of the Memorandum

- 2.1. This MoU addresses the important relationship between Natural England as the Government's adviser and statutory consultee on the 'natural environment' and as member of the IFCA committees; and the IFCAs as the managers and champions of a sustainable marine environment.
- 2.2. The primary purpose of this MoU is to facilitate effective working relationships between the Parties by promoting co-operation and communication, thereby contributing to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.
- 2.3. The IFCAs and Natural England will, so far as possible co-operate by using the resources and powers at their disposal in all areas where they have a mutual interest.
- 2.4. This Memorandum confirms the responsibilities of both parties and the general principles for their cooperation.
- 2.5. This Memorandum is not intended to create a binding legal obligation between parties
- 2.6. This Memorandum does not fetter the statutory rights, powers and duties of either the IFCAs or Natural England or require either of the parties to act in any way inconsistently with its statutory duties.

3. Roles and functions of the signatories

3.1. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)

- 3.1.1. There are 10 inshore fisheries and conservation districts in England, made up of county and unitary authorities and their corresponding seaward areas out to a limit of 6 nautical miles. Each inshore fisheries and conservation district is served by a corresponding Authority (IFCA), whose vision is to "*lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries within their district, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry*".

3.1.2. IFCAs work through the guidance of Committees, whose membership is set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the IFCA Orders 2010, and is designed to reflect their districts' economic, social and environmental needs and give them local democratic input and accountability. The Committees should have the right level of representation from the communities they serve to be able to make effective decisions on the sustainable management of sea fisheries resources within their districts. They should also have the backing of constituent local authorities to provide the strategic direction to ensure the long-term sustainability of the marine environment in and around their districts.

3.1.3. IFCAs have duties to develop and enforce distinct local policies but also operate within, and contribute to, the national framework for managing the marine environment. They can work across district boundaries, engaging with Local and Central Government and key partner organisations at a national level, to the benefit of IFCAs and their local communities as a whole.

3.2. *Natural England*

- 3.2.1 Natural England is a non-departmental public body established under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act). It is charged with the responsibility to ensure that England's unique natural environment, including its flora and fauna, land and seascapes, geology and soils, are protected and improved. Natural England's general purpose as outlined under section 2 of the NERC Act is to '*ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development*'.
- 3.2.2 Section 311 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the 'Marine Act') amended Section 1 of the NERC Act to clarify that, in relation to the geographical extent of Natural England's functions, those functions are exercisable '*in relation to England including, where the context requires, the territorial sea adjacent to England*'.
- 3.2.3 As the Government's statutory nature conservation adviser in the inshore marine area around England out to 12 nautical miles, Natural England gives advice on the marine environment under its general purpose (sections 2 & 4 of the NERC Act), and on Marine Conservation Zones specifically under Part 5, Chapter 1 of the Marine Act. In respect of inshore European Marine Sites, Natural England is the appropriate nature conservation body in England under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

4. Principles of working together

- 4.1. A close working relationship between IFCAs and Natural England is critical for them to perform their functions effectively. IFCAs and Natural England will work closely together, towards a common set of shared delivery objectives as set out in annex 1,

and a district work plan agreed by each individual IFCAs and Natural England. These will be implemented based on common principles governing their approach and conduct at a national and a local level. Those principles are:

- IFCAs and Natural England each recognise the independence and remit of the other party, but will seek to collaborate and cooperate in the achievement of their shared and respective objectives in the marine environment.
- Each organisation will operate transparently while undertaking their responsibilities and will share successes as well as problems.
- In all joint working, staff from each organisation will be respected and trusted for the expertise they offer.
- Each organisation will involve and work with each other in areas of shared interest or concern, with other relevant delivery partners included where the IFCAs and Natural England both agree that this would be appropriate.
- The parties will use reasonable endeavours to keep each other informed of any data, research, collected information or other work or development that might influence the decisions or activities of either party, to the fullest extent possible, taking account of their respective obligations under the law.

4.2. Through the observation of this Memorandum, all parts of IFCAs and Natural England will ensure, so far as is possible, that their respective responsibilities are performed consistently in keeping with these common principles.

4.3. The individual IFCAs and Natural England commit to developing annual work plans which will set out detailed collaborative working using the guiding principles in this Memorandum. These plans should be agreed by end April each year.

5. Methods of joint working

5.1. IFCAs and Natural England will work together on areas of mutual interest in accordance with the principles set out in section 4, and will explore opportunities to expand joint action in the future. Where possible joint work will be enhanced by regularly exchanging information, collaborating on research, data and evidence gathering at national and local levels, sharing environmental issues and intelligence and pooling expertise and resources.

5.2. Both parties will build on the good working relationships that existed between the Sea Fisheries Committees and Natural England by being open, constructive and working together at all levels, respecting each other's views and, where these differ, ensuring proper understanding of the reasons for any such differences.

5.3. There will be a "no surprises" policy, based on consulting each other on areas where there are significant announcements and developments in policy. IFCAs and Natural England will highlight areas of interaction and set out what each expects of the other, minimising duplication of activity wherever possible and informing stakeholders about their relationship.

5.4. Where they have a common approach, and particularly on nature conservation and enforcement, IFCAs and Natural England will endeavour to agree consistent and coordinated messages when working with Government, delivery partners and the public. Their respective advice and regulatory activities will advocate the sustainable development of the marine environment.

5.5. IFCAs and Natural England will work together at the local and national level to ensure that marine protected areas in the inshore marine environment are effectively managed, including Marine Conservation Zones, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites and SSSIs.

5.6. In accordance with the IFCA Orders 2010, Natural England members will play a full and proactive role on the IFCA Committees. They will provide advice to the Authority in accordance with their statutory duties. The Natural England members of the IFCA Authorities will have delegated authority to provide Natural England's advice. The Authority will ensure that an appropriate summary of Natural England's advice capturing the significant aspects are recorded in the minutes of the relevant meeting. Natural England will confirm verbal advice in writing following IFCA Committee meetings.

6. Data Management

6.1. The exchange of data and confidential information will be the subject of a separate data sharing agreement between the parties. This will form an addendum to this MoU once completed.

7. Access to Information Requests

7.1. The Parties each acknowledge that the other Party is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIR") and the Parties shall each assist and co-operate with each other as necessary to comply with the requirements of that legislation.

7.2. In responding to a request for information in which the other party has an interest, the Party receiving the request will use its reasonable endeavours to consult with the other Party. Notwithstanding this the Parties acknowledge that they may each disclose information without consultation, or following consultation with the other Party having taken its views into account

7.3. The Parties shall provide all necessary assistance as reasonably requested to enable each other to respond to a request for information within the time for compliance.

7.4. The Parties acknowledge that any statutory and other constraints on the exchange of information will be fully respected, including the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

8. Continuous Improvement

8.1. The IFCAs and Natural England will review implementation of the district work plans that underpin this Memorandum in September / October each year, agree forward planning priorities and processes for the following year.

9. Review and appraisal of the Memorandum

9.1. This Memorandum is jointly owned by IFCAs and Natural England and will be reviewed three years after the date of signing. Any changes to this Memorandum will only be effective if set out in writing and signed by all parties.

10. Primary Contacts

10.1. The IFCAs and Natural England will each nominate a lead contact. These primary contacts will be responsible for supporting good working practices between the IFCAs and Natural England, coordinating the regular reviews of this Memorandum, resolving any disagreements and ensuring that this Memorandum is implemented to the fullest extent possible.

11. Signatories

11.1. The following parties agree to the terms set out in this Memorandum.

Natural England	
	Chief Executive

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities		
North Western IFCA	Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	Chairman
Devon and Severn IFCA	Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	Chairman
Cornwall IFCA	Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	Chairman
Isles of Scilly IFCA	Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	Chairman
Southern IFCA	Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	Chairman
Sussex IFCA	Chief Executive	Chairman

Kent and Essex IFCA	Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	Chairman
Eastern IFCA	Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	Chairman
North Eastern IFCA	Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	Chairman
Northumberland IFCA	Chief Executive	Chairman
Association of IFCAs	Chief Executive	

DRAFT

ANNEX 1 - Overall working arrangements for IFCAAs and Natural England

Work Area	Activity	Output	Status/Timescale
1. Habitats Regulations	New Natura 2000 sites Development and implementation of management measures for new Natura 2000 sites, including byelaws. Natural England will provide the conservation objectives and advice for the new sites. IFCA will work with NE and other relevant and competent authorities to identify and put in place appropriate management measures.	New Marine Natura 2000 sites have effective management measures in place	Measures in place by Dec 2016
	Existing Natura 2000 sites Review of conservation & management measures of existing Marine Natura 2000 sites. IFCAAs to review advice from Natural England on EMS Review. IFCA will work with NE and other relevant and competent authorities to identify and put in place agreed management measures.	Existing Marine Natura 2000 sites have effective management measures in place	Ongoing to complete by Dec 2016
	Implementation and enforcement of Natura 2000 sites management measures Natural England to provide advice on a case by case basis to inform IFCA decisions on management measures required to ensure favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites.	Effective enforcement of site management measures for Natura 2000 sites	Ongoing following designation
2. Marine Conservation Zones	Designation of new MCZs. IFCAAs to provide data and advice to guide site selection.	Regional MCZ groups have the data and expertise to support site selection.	April 2011- December 2011
	Establishment of Management measures. Natural England to provide conservation advice to the IFCA, on activities which could damage the	Measures introduced in time to meet Government timescales	2013 and ongoing to complete by 2016

Work Area	Activity	Output	Status/Timescale
	<p>site, assist with impact assessments and advise on the adequacy of management measures developed by the IFCA to meet conservation objectives.</p> <p>IFCAs to work with all relevant and competent authorities to identify and implement management measures required, using the best available evidence and associated impact assessments.</p>		
	<p>Effectiveness of Management Measures</p> <p>IFCAs and Natural England (and if necessary other relevant authorities), to review the effectiveness of the agreed measures and enforcement for IFCAs to improve/amend where needed.</p>	Management is effective in the long term	2013 and ongoing
3. Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves	<p>Establishment of Management measures.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended 2000) Natural England provides conservation advice to the IFCA.</p> <p>Natural England and IFCA agree appropriate lead authority for management of risks to sites conservation objectives.</p>	Effective SSSI and National Nature Reserve management ensuring sites are in favourable condition	Ongoing
4. Data collection, monitoring, analysis and reporting	Establish data-sharing agreement between IFCAs & Natural England to support sea fisheries resources management, marine planning and conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures for data sharing • Agreed formats for data sharing • Exchange of data • Regular reporting on monitoring activities 	To be taken forward through the Technical Advisory Group

Work Area	Activity	Output	Status/Timescale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to necessary databases for input and reporting UK-wide picture of marine management and enforcement activities Sharing equipment, where possible 	
	Work in partnership on collaborative monitoring programmes that deliver both Natural England's and the IFCAs objectives	Effective, value for money monitoring is undertaken	2011 onwards
	Collaborate over future monitoring responsibility through the UK Marine Biodiversity Monitoring and Surveillance Programme	Effective, value for money monitoring is undertaken	To be taken forward through the IFCA Technical Advisory Group
5. Evidence , research and advice	Work collaboratively where possible on common research needs	Collaborative research	To be taken forward through the Technical Advisory Group
6. Training	To agree and organise joint training on areas where IFCAs and Natural England have a common interest, particularly around nature conservation and prosecutions for nature conservation offences	Officers have a full understanding of each organisations duties and roles	2011 onwards
7. Review of MoU	Natural England and the IFCAs will have an annual review discussion of the effectiveness of the MoU at a national level, as well as about how we can improve our joint working practices. Natural England will organise the first review meeting.	We have a MoU which enables effective joint working.	Feb 2015

4th EIFCA Meeting**26th January 2012****Agenda Item: 17****Report on the vessel working group**

The first meeting of the working group was held on Wednesday 21st December 2011. The CEO advised members that the first meeting was to get a focus and steer on what information the members needed to move this project forward.

Members were reminded the current situation was that the Authority had agreed to make 25% savings over a period of 4 years. With FPV *ESF Protector III* reaching the end of its working life it was envisaged that to meet the 25% saving the vessel would be removed from service. Its current operating cost was £120,000 per year, but from 1st April 2013, only £30,000 had been forecast in the budget, inevitably this meant it was no longer possible to maintain the vessel. The CEO advised that the role of the protection vessel had changed and it was time to consider what the main issues to enforce were, and how to target them. Intelligence led enforcement could be done either from the shore or using a hired/rented vessel or even by contracting out to another body. These aspects were considered by members but there was a general feeling that having a physical presence proved to be a deterrent and that not all enforcement tasks could be carried out from the shore.

The CEO advised there was no European Funding available for vessels as all funding streams were going to other countries. He further expanded his view that to extend the life of the current protection vessel would only keep reducing the amount of money in the Vessel Replacement Fund reducing the amount available when a decision was finally made to replace the vessel, he also advised that with only £30,000/£40,000 available for operating costs £25,000 would instantly be taken out to cover refit costs.

The IFCO's present were asked what type of vessel they would like, whilst they would ideally like a replacement of the one they already had they felt any replacement should have the ability to launch in winds up to gale force 6, radar capability to monitor a wide area, Transas tracking which is recordable, and suitable overnight accommodation with the ability to provide a stable platform for elements of research work and monitoring.

The CEO maintained that he felt the way forward would be to use money saved during the current financial year to have every vessel which had fished in the 12 months prior to 21st Dec 2011 fitted with a VMS box, using GMDS technology which would mean no cost to the industry and no additional cost to the Authority, but would enable surveillance of vessels from shore, this could be imposed on fishing vessels as part of the byelaw review and could be installed within 12 months, enabling the Authority to meet the IFCA requirements. Maintenance was questioned to which the CEO advised there was an annual fee of £128/year/unit. The CEO gave a demonstration of how the software for the Succorfish tracking box would work.

However, the downside to this system would be that vessels fishing illegally would not be fitted with the device and would therefore need to be witnessed at sea to be prosecuted. A trial unit has been fitted to FPV *ESF Protector III* to evaluate its performance and coverage. Members were advised that enforcement could be broken down into three areas, patrols, monitoring closed areas and boarding. This did not include future enforcement on MCZs for

which there was no clear view of what type of enforcement would be needed. As well as enforcement *FPV ESF Protector III* also provides a stable platform from which to assist with research work.

With RV *Three Counties* now being 10 years old members raised the question of whether they should be considering a dual role vessel capable of research, conservation and enforcement. There were mixed views on this as a vessel committed to a research program would not be available for fast response.

Members were advised that North Eastern IFCA and Sussex IFCA both had similar vessels to *FPV ESF Protector III* (one slightly larger and one slightly smaller). Both vessels were newer, unfortunately the running costs for these vessels were not known. A request was made that the price and running costs of these vessels be sourced as well as that for a large RIB.

After considerable discussion and consideration it was apparent that before any further decisions could be made members needed to be provided with some fact based evidence on costing and capabilities of different vessel scenarios.

Members felt there was a need for a vessel to have the following capabilities:

- Quick Response
- Ability to do target based enforcement
- Overnight Accommodation
- Radar / Transas

However, budget was a restriction which suggested the most likely option would be a large RIB, this in itself presented problems and Officers felt there should be a maximum length of time spent at sea on a RIB for health & safety reasons. This led to the suggestion that a RIB would need to be moored at a more central point in the district.

The next meeting date was agreed for 15th February 2012 at 1030 hours in the offices of EIFCA, King's Lynn.

Members agreed to accept the operational brief however they requested that at the next meeting the project manager provide them with a table summarising the pros/cons, purchase/operating costs of comparative vessels to replace *FPV ESF Protector III*.

Simon Lee
Skipper/Senior Enforcement Officer
January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESSION TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Vessel Working Group Meeting held on 21st December 2012

4th EIFCA MEETING**Agenda Item: 18****26th Jan 2012****To receive the Area Fisheries and Conservation Officer's Quarterly Reports (October-December 2011).**

The coastal jurisdiction for the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority covers an extensive part of the English coastline. To manage this, the coastline has been roughly divided into four areas, each with a corresponding Officer.

The areas and officers are as follows:

	Area	Officer
Area 1	Donna Nook – Sutton Bridge	Jason Byrne
Area 2	King's Lynn - Blakeney	Ian Dye
Area 3	Cley to Lowestoft	Ady Woods
Area 4	Pakefield – Felixstowe Ferry	Alan Garnham

Attached are the four reports from each of the Area Officers on the notable activities over the last three months.

The Authority is asked to receive these reports.

Eden Hannam
Deputy Chief Executive
19 Jan 2011

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers
There are no background papers

Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

From: Jason Byrne Fishery Officer (Area 1)
To: Duncan Vaughan Clerk & Chief Fishery Officer
Date: 11th January 2012
Ref: Quarterly Report Area 1
Monthly Report: Oct, Nov, Dec 2011

Area 1: Donna Nook – Sutton Bridge

General

Fishing activities throughout this quarter have included potting for Crab & Lobster, long lining for Whiting, Bass & Dogfish, Mussel dredging & twin beaming for Brown Shrimp. During October the fishermen had a knock back as the Seed Mussel off Cromer & Sea Palling had died before they had chance to fish it. Anglers shore based have been fishing along the coast catching Whiting, anglers vessel based have been fishing in the mouth of the Humber catching Cod & Whiting. Two of the Boston registered fishing vessels had a very close shave during December as a car was driven into the fleet during the early hours just missing the two vessels that was moored up along the quayside, the driver managed to get out of the vehicle and the Lincs Police were ready and waiting. The vehicle has since been recovered from the fleet, luckily no one was injured.

Port Summary

Chapel Point – Saltfleet

15 landings were made by one registered vessel mainly longlining but also having a few pots for Crab and Lobster, most of the catch caught was sold in the owner/skipper's shop locally. Shore based anglers have been catching Whiting & Cod, vessel based anglers have followed the Cod to the Humber as this area seems to be the favourite area for the Cod.

Skegness – Gibraltar Point

13 landing were achieved by one registered vessel potting for Crab and Lobster 800 pots were used, normally this vessel would also be potting for Whelks as well but as there has not been much signs of them the vessel owner/skipper has been working on some new premises so he can process his own catch so he gets the first value. Vessel based anglers from this area have also been travelling to the Humber as well for the Cod.

Boston

Mussels

Yet again the Mussel off the lays within the wash have not rocketed the market so fishermen have been collecting various samples from their lays sending them to other buyers, this has been a big struggle for the fishermen as most of the samples are sent to the buyers with the fishermen having to pay the expenses. During this quarter only two vessels have sold their mussels off their own private lays having made 15 landings.

Shrimps

Two vessels have twin beamed for Brown Shrimp throughout this quarter totalling in 11 landings between them. Others did not follow as the prices of the Shrimps are low and diesel prices remain high.

Fosdyke

As most of you will know the marina has now started to fill up with the pleasure boats for the winter, just the one registered vessel MFV "Merlin BN 39" from Boston has been into the marina during this quarter for various work.

Sutton Bridge

Just the one recreational sea angler vessel based has had one trip out fishing for

Whiting at the entrance of Sutton bridge river throughout this quarter, one of the dog walkers came across a strange fish on the mud flat, a photo was then sent into the office by the dog walker, officers identified the fish to be a Rays Bream, also reports were made to Area Two Officer as other Rays Bream were also washed up around his coast.

Species Summary

All landing figures detailed within this monthly report are derived from estimates of catches based on observations made by Fishery Officers and reports made by fishermen to Fishery Officers.

Chapel Point – Saltfleet

Number of vessel inspections:	2	
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	52	62.00
Lobster	15	157.00
Whiting	248	428.00
Bass	7	63.00
Cod	74	219.00
Dogfish	21	

Skegness – Gibraltar Point

Number of vessel inspections:	2	
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	868	1,019.00
Lobster	274	3,068.00

Boston

Number of vessel inspections:	8	
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Brown Shrimp	5,750	5,662.00
Mussels	181,000	75,400.00

Fosdyke

Number of vessel inspections:	0	
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
0	0	0

Sutton Bridge

Number of vessel inspections:	1	
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Whiting	6	0

Potting

Crab and lobster

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	510
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	300

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	0
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	0

Whelk

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:	3	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):

Chapel Point	Whiting	2 - 5
<u>Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):</u>		
Number of vessels inspected:	2	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Chapel Point	Whiting	12
Sutton Bridge	Whiting	6
Humber	Cod	2 - 12
	Whiting	4

<u>Charter Angling Vessels:</u>			
Number of charter vessels inspected:	0	0	0
Number of vessels in area:	Number of trips:	Number of anglers:	Total Landings (kg):
	0	0	0

Locations fished throughout the month: 0

Fishery Officer Duties

Training:

E Learning

BB training in EIFCA office.

Other duties carried out:

- Conducted Mussel survey at Sea Palling.
- Measuring & checking dredges.
- Attended meeting at EIFCA office.
- Wells carrying out EHO sampling.
- Attended meeting in Cromer regarding Mussel fishery.
- Walked off Wrangle Sand collecting DSP & EHO samples.
- Away on Pisces III collecting Core samples off Wrangle Sand.
- Moved RIB from Fosdyke and took it to Sea Palling in compound.
- Repaired day grab.
- Collected RIB trailer from main dealers after having repairs done.
- Away on MFV *Boy Lukie LO89* conducting Seed Mussel survey off Sea Palling with Research Officer Jessop.
- Collected EHO samples from Area 2 with Fishery Officer Dye.
- Attended meeting at EIFCA office with fishermen and MPA Sub-Committee.
- Collected water samples from Area 2.
- Area 2 patrol.
- Attended Industry meeting.
- Attended MPA Sub-Committee meeting & Workshop.
- Attended meeting with CEFAS regarding anglers.
- Dropped off Core samples to Unico Marine.
- Away on TC collecting Core samples.
- Team building day.

1st sale value of different species within this area (£/kg)

Crab	1.10 - 1.20
Lobster	10.50 - 12.00
Whiting	1.70 - 1.75
Bass	8.50 - 10.00
Cod	2.90 - 3.10
Brown Shrimp	75p - 1.20
Marketable Mussels	40p - 45p

Eastern inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

From: Ian Dye Fishery Officer (Area 2)
To: Duncan Vaughan Clerk & Chief Fishery Officer
Date:
Ref:
Monthly Report:

Area 2: King's Lynn - Blakeney

General

The last quarter of 2011 has been extremely poor for area two with some fishermen from the area looking else where for work not only outside our district but outside the fishing industry too. The stats throughout the quarter have been steadily declining due to lots of factors, poor fishing, weather etc. this is to be expected at this time of year as conditions have been bad for those in the industry. Throughout the quarter the shore based anglers have enjoyed fair fishing along the coast with a couple of isolate incidents being reported of anglers putting fixed nets on the beach while fishing. This came as a surprise as normally anglers hate the thought of fixed nets. There have also been reports of dangerous diving practices along the north Norfolk coast and pots being opened. Something to look out for in the coming year .

Port Summary

King's Lynn

Kings Lynn saw 13 vessels make 148 landings into the port totalling 71,781kg of brown shrimp valued at £74,525. One vessel made three landings of pink shrimp totalling 571kg worth £762 and three vessels made 8 landing of seed mussel destined for Germany totalling 130,000kg .

Brancaster

Only one vessel fished for brown crab and lobster this quarter totalling 900kg of crab worth approximately £990 and 850kg of lobster valued at £11,050.

Wells

Eight vessels made 95 landings of brown crab and lobster into the port of wells this quarter totalling 39,699kg worth approximately £43,668 also 3,896kg of lobster value at £50,648 there was also 2,050kg of whelks landed valued at £1,230 and one processor sold 4,300kg of mussel for the home market valued at £4,300.

Blakeney

Only one vessel made landings of crab and lobster this quarter totalling 3,785kg of brown crab valued at £4,163 also 295kg of lobster valued at £3,835 there was also sale of home market mussel from two processors totalling 9,500kg valued at £9,500 and two small landings of cod and whelks totalling 43kg of whelks valued at £25.80 and 16kg of cod valued at £38.40.

Species Summary

All landing figures detailed within this monthly report are derived from estimates of catches based on observations made by Fishery Officers and reports made by fishermen to Fishery Officers.

King's Lynn

Number of vessel inspections:		21
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cockles hand worked	0	0
Cockles dredged	0	0
Mussel hand worked (Regulated)	0	0
Mussels W. Wall (Regulated)	0	0
Mussel dredged (Several)	130,000	0
Mussel dredged (Regulated)	0	0
Mussel dredged seed (Regulated)	0	0

Mussel dredged (not WFO)	0	0
Mussel dredged seed (not WFO)	0	0
Brown shrimp	71,781	74,523
Pink shrimp	571	762

Brancaster

Number of vessel inspections:		5
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Mussels (Regulated)	0	0
Mussels (Several)	12,000	12,000
Mussel dredged (not WFO)	0	0
Mussel dredged seed (not WFO)	0	0
Oysters	0	0
Brown shrimp	0	0
Brown crab	900	990
Lobster	850	11,050
Whelks	0	0

Wells

Number of vessel inspections:		14
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Brown crab	39,699	43,668
Lobster	3,896	50,648
Whelks	2,050	1,230
Velvet crabs	0	0
Brown shrimp	0	0

Blakeney

Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Brown crab	3,785	4,163
Lobster	295	3,835
Mussels (Several)	9,500	9,500
Mussel dredged (not WFO)	0	0
Mussel dredged seed (not WFO)	0	0
Whelks	43	25.80
Cod	16	38.40

Potting

Crab and lobster

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	2,600
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	2,000

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	0
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	0

Whelk

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	1,000
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	600

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:	2	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
River Ouse kings Lynn	Any	0

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:	0	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):

Charter Angling Vessels:

Number of charter vessels inspected:	0	
Number of vessels in area:	Number of trips:	Number of anglers:
		Total Landings (kg):
Species targeted:		
Locations fished throughout the month:		

Fishery Officer Duties

Training:

Other duties carried out:

- 3 x environmental health sampling wells
- Taxi p3 crew to Burnham on crouch
- 2x rib at seapaulling with f/o jcb
- 1x mmo appointee meeting at office
- 1 x industry meeting

1st sale value of different species within this area (£/kg)

Brown shrimp	1.04
Pink shrimp	1.33
Mussels	1.00
Brown Crab	1.10
Lobster	13.00
Whelk	0.60
Cod	2.40

Eastern – Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

From: Ady Woods I.F.C.O (Area 3)
To: Chief Executive Duncan Vaughan
Date: 04 January 2012
Quarterly Report: October – November – December 2011

Area 3: Cley to Lowestoft

General

Potting For the last quarter of the potting year, the weather has remained mainly fine giving an extension to an otherwise short season. Fishermen have left their pots in to soak for a minimum of 48hrs to maximise the benefit from the cost of bait and fuel. At the end of December the threat of bad weather was enough for most to make up and bring their pots ashore.

Netting This has been very profitable for a handful of fishermen along the coast, with some very nice catches of Bass being had ranging from 30kg up to 200kg. However with all the fine weather and shear water, this had extended the growth of red seaweed, which on days when the tides were hotter caused some nets to be swamped.

There has been some good herring about although again with the sea being so shear this has made catching difficult, but for the fishermens effort the price has remained higher than average.

FLAG North Norfolk Fisheries Local Action Group was able to announce on the 29th November that it was able to secure £2.4m for a package of projects within the area covering from Thornham to Caister-on-Sea. The MMO has opened up access to this pot from which £1.3m comes from European Fisheries Fund (EFF) and the remainder is made up from various sources of match funding.

Further details can be sourced from www.northnorfolkflag.org.uk

Seed Mussel Unfortunately with the fine weather which we've experienced this quarter this fishery never got off the ground, due to a massive die off, it would have been near perfect weather for vessels steaming back and forth from Great Yarmouth to Trimingham & Sea Palling. A sample off mussel was eventually gathered by EIFCA staff and this was sent away for testing, the result came back to say that the Mussel died of natural causes.

Environment Agency The EA have been operating a Catamaran from Cromer Beach fitted out with sonar enabling them to do some accurate mapping of the sea bed in an area from Cromer to Sea Palling from the Mean Low Water out to 1km offshore, this has been for the local council to help support and look at coastal erosion.

Cefas has also been operating out of Cromer this year, chartering a vessel to carry out a potting survey, looking at the use of different types of pots along with use of either escape holes in the meshes or larger than average spacing's in-between bars, and also the various ways of baiting a pot. Cefas are uncertain at the moment whether it shall continue for a third year, dependable on what funding is available.

Divers have been causing concern amongst Fishermen and Lifeboat-men who are concerned that sooner or later a serious accident is going to happen, with those diving on the Chalk Reefs. These divers are either free diving from the shore or from a boat, and aren't displaying the appropriate signs to warn other water users of their

positions whilst on the bottom or prior to surfacing. I understand that a couple of near misses have already been had.

Tidal Surge Due to a mixture of weather fronts, during November saw a tidal surge of 1.6mts above the normal 5.2mts tide, fortunately the wind mainly held to the land allowing the surge to pass without any damage to property or defences.

Anglers haven't had too much to shout about this past quarter, with the sea remaining shear and calm this has kept many species out of casting range, however, during the hours of darkness some fish mainly Whiting have ventured inshore giving some sport, many of these fish have been like needles although at times there has been some better quality specimens, big enough for the pan at least.

Anglers around the area have also reported a lot more Dabs and Flounders being caught than what there has been in previous years.

Port Summary

Cley-next-the-Sea

No activity for this quarter.

Weybourne

One vessel continued to fish for October and November bringing home his fleet early in December.

Sheringham

One vessel fished a reduce fleet of pots here for a couple of months, hauling a couple of times a week, before finishing for the year at the end of November.

East & West Runton

Nothing out of the ordinary to report

Cromer & Overstrand

Twelve vessels continued to pot at Cromer until mid December, landing good catches of crab and lobster, ranging from 30 – 300kg crab and 2 – 40kg lobsters, some vessels also diversified and made use of the autumn run of bass with catches ranging from 20 – 180kg/haul.

Mundesley to Caister

This area is becoming increasingly quieter for full time licensed vessels, however, there seem to be more vessels taking on part time roles of both licensed and unlicensed vessels, launching at odd times of the day and any day of the week without any set patterns.

Yarmouth/Gorleston

One vessel here has again been doing a spot of fishing whenever the skipper is at home on leave, it's been mainly retrieving pots, along with some lines and netting.

Species Summary

All landing figures detailed within this monthly report are derived from estimates of catches based on observations made by Fishery Officers and reports made by fishermen to Fishery Officers.

Cromer Number of vessel inspections:	100		Value of catch (£)
	Species	Landings (kg)	
Bass		1,655	14,683
Cod		165	607
Crab		21,225	65,160
Herring		250	350
Lobster		4,106	47,339
Mackerel		18	56
Whelk		168	151

Sheringham

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	7	Landings	Value of catch
			(kg)	(£)
Bass			120	1,050
Crab			450	1,422
Herring			1,654	2,298
Lobster			132	1,422

**Cley, Weybourne, E Runton, W Runton, Overstrand,
Mundesley & Bacton**

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	25	Landings	Value of catch
			(kg)	(£)
Bass			950	8,788
Crab			4,530	13,892
Lobster			1,288	14,091
Herring			200	280

Sea Palling

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	9	Landings	Value of catch
			(kg)	(£)
Crab			1,900	5,829
Herring			404	398
Lobster			350	4,338
Mackerel			158	466

Caister & Gorleston

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	16	Landings	Value of catch
			(kg)	(£)
	Crab		150	460
	Herring		17,591	21,464
	Mackerel		1,906	5,591
	Horse mackerel		635	381

Potting**Crab and lobster**

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	4,300 - 500
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	400 - 350

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	451
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	282

Whelk

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	30
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0

Non Commercial Activities

Octobers Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:	33	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Cley	Bass/Flats	0.1/0.1
Weybourne	Fish	0.1
Cromer Pier	Bass/Whiting	1.0/0.5
Trimingham	Cod/Whiting	0.0/0.5
Bacton	Cod/whiting	0.25/0.5
Caister	Cod/Whiting	0.25

Novembers Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:	46	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Cley	Fish	1.0
Weybourne	Fish	1.0
Cromer Pier	Codling/Whiting	0.25/1.0
Overstrand	Fish	0.0
Bacton	Flats	1.5

Decembers Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:	2	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Bacton	Codling/Whiting	0.0/10.0
North gap	Codling/Whiting	2.1/7.5

Fishery Officer Duties**Training:**

- Blue Book and MACAA refreshment
- Cefas Angling 2012 presentation and input

Other duties carried out:**October**

- Welland Wall mussel sample collected
- Seed mussel meeting at Cromer
- Flag meeting attended at NNDC
- Life jackets picked up from servicing

November

- Collect mussel sample from Sea Palling using FPV Pisces III
- Vehicle in for a service
- Mussel sample collected from Tabs Head, Lincolnshire
- FPV Pisces III had her MCA coding checked
- North Norfolk F.L.A.G launch was attended at the Rocket House Cromer

December

- Staff meeting
 - Public Meeting attend with CEO DV at Briston village Hall
 - Mussel Sample collected from Tabs Head with IGD
 - FPV Pisces taken to Wells-next-the-Sea Police station from Sea Palling
 - Day trip on board FPV Protector III
-

1st sale value of different species within this area (£/kg)

Bass	£8.75 - £9.75
Crab	£3.07
Lobster	£9.50-£15.00
Mackerel	£2.90 - £3.10
Horse Mackerel	£0.60
Herring	£0.80 - £1.80
Spratt	£2.20

From: Alan Garnham Fishery Officer (Area 4)
To: Chief Executive Officer
Date: 11th January 2012
Ref:
Quarterly October – December 2012
Report:

Area 4: Pakefield – Felixstowe Ferry

General

Suffolk started the quarter with record sunshine for the month of October with just four hours short of the previous records for any October. Fish stocks have now seasonally changed with the disappearance of summer species of smoothhound bass and mullet. Plenty of roker stock but no quota for landing. The sole stock is high with good landings probably helped with no sign of the Brixham beamers this year.

Whiting and herring have arrived in huge numbers.

Shellfish returns have been high and according to the shellfish fishermen this has been the best year ever and plenty of juvenile stock is seen in the pots for future years. With huge landings of good size and quality shellfish this has flooded the markets causing prices to drop significantly.

Regarding the mussel beds off Aldeburgh these have been decimated probably by the amount of starfish in the area.

Charter boats have reported a good quarter with plenty of bookings and some good catches but with the species of summer fish declined they are relying on the faithful doggie, whiting and thornback ray. The cod have not shown at all on rod and line during October.

Beach fishing has been favourable with catches of many whiting and doggies.

During October I received a complaint from the regular anglers on Lowestoft pier that the pier will close to anglers using vehicles and wheel chairs. Most of these anglers are either disabled or very old and find it difficult to get around but use the pier because of its accessibility and ability to fish. I am told Waveney district council appear to have told the anglers as from 1st November the pier will close to all anglers as I write this article a barrier has been put in place but is currently in a raised position.

Sad news to report this quarter whilst out shooting on 29th October Nigel Forest passed away with a heart attack. He was a founder of Breakaway Tackle in Ipswich back in the early seventies with the development of the world's leader "The Breakaway Lead weight" used by anglers all over the world. Nigel was the design and instigator of many a new revolutionary idea in the RSA tackle box. He was always drawing, designing on the shop counter and his first words would be "What do you think of that, lets go on the beach and try it"- yet another simple bright idea put into action and manufactured for the match angler

November was a very dry and mild month with environment agency warning of acute water shortage. With the mild weather the water temperature remained above average and the salinity of the rivers was high as fresh water levels were low. All this appears to have an effect on fishing with only a small amount of cod being landed. Roker (No landing quota) were in abundance. Herring arrived in huge shoals and ro'd up nicely but with no favourable price. All fishermen reported a good proportion of large sole being landed. Commercially the under 10 fleet has remained trawling or netting for sole as their were a good sized and fetched good prices on Brixham Market giving the fishermen a good return on little outlay. No-one changed over their gear to long lining as the price of squid is at an all time high of

£33.50 a box! Making it expensive to bait up and test the waters for cod with such a meagre quota.

A positive encouragement the cod began to appear very close in on the beaches around the 1kg mark. I fished several matches on the charter boats this month with a good return of cod and thornbacks around the 6-8 kg mark. Unwashed squid as bait was favoured to the expensive lugworm now increased to £20 a 100.

On 9th Nov whilst on fishery patrol off Lowestoft HMS - Mersey came to the rescue of a sinking yacht and rescued from the sea the lone skipper and he was subsequently airlifted to hospital where he made a recovery. Also on the 9th whilst conducting a beach foot patrol on Felixstowe beach I inspected and verbally warned two adults on landing undersize whiting.

During December two old sayings come to mind -

The first - Respect nature and respect the sea - Mother nature has struck again with the extremes in weather. Last December I was reporting it was the coldest December on record with Suffolk rivers being frozen over, boats stuck at their moorings in ice. RSA matches on the beach and boat cancelled due to the extreme cold and ice.

This December it has been the equal warmest on record how bizarre is that I even had the begonias still in flower and apple blossom on the trees.

The second – Cold will bring in the cod! Well from figures I have seen more landed this year in the warm December than in last years record of cold and ice. The largest reported cod on rod and line was new years eve at 25lb. Most boats were very hesitant at changing over their gear to lining because of the amount of large sole remaining in the warmer waters during December and the cost of boxes of squid, now increased to £35 per box making the overheads with fuel expensive when making the judgement whether to gamble and change over to lining.

It's generally been a very good month for a variety of species whiting roker cod sole bass herring and now the sprats have arrived.

Many days were lost to strong winds during December and many boats were taken out of the water due to routine maintenance but those few that have been fishing reported good catches of varying species.

It was a busy month for promoting and arranging meetings for the RSA sector with prearranged meetings at Corton and Felixstowe. Days were spent putting posters up in every tackle shop within Suffolk and placing an entry in the local papers and putting an article on local BBC radio although all this work was put in the attendance was very poor.

Time was also taken up with researching planning laws and visiting the coastal district council planning office regarding placing of the Ifca fish signs in Suffolk. I have submitted a report to the New Orford Town trust asking for permission to be granted for erection of a fish sign at Orford Quay.

Port Summary

Pakefield

Began the quarter on the beach with the anglers catching "Justins"-Whiting just within the minimum size limits. Commercially when able to launch from the beaches the boats reported good catches of herring all roe'd up lovely, but the catches were down due to the seals stripping the nets. During November beach fishermen kept warm landing high amounts of whiting during the hours of darkness. During December Lowestoft pier fished very well with whiting most casts and the odd dab and flounder keeping people interested but no cod. On

Pakefield beach it was much the same with plenty of whiting especially at night. Commercially one boat went a few times with just a few herring to report in the nets

Southwold

Usual month here for October although the sole begun to dry up to the end of the month. Commercial fishermen were hoping to start the whelking during October but it has been put off due to water temperature being so warm.

Mid quarter the winds again reduced the sailings of both commercial fishermen and charter boat operators. Generally catches of sole was small but what were caught were of a larger better quality fish. Potting has all but stopped and most pots are now in.

Late quarter the beaches and the pier it was reasonably quiet with just a few whiting dabs and flounder being caught. RSA boats reported a few cod around the three pound mark and plenty of herring and spratts in the nets. Commercially it was good with cod and roker targeted and good landing when able to get out to sea as most of the fish are over the six mile line.

Dunwich & Sizewell

Very similar report as Southwold with nothing of note other than a late run of bass. In fact a reported 14lb bass was landed by rod and line on Sizewell beach during October.

Commercially it was a general quarter with winter fish being landed although there has been a very good run of bass close inshore throughout December being caught in trammel nets. All pots are now in for the winter.

On the beach one or two club matches have proved the sole and bass are still around and giving good sport with most fish being returned to the sea.

Thorpeness & Aldeburgh

During October I fished an evening match at Aldeburgh beach and I was stunned at the amount of pup tope I caught I had around eight and have never landed a tope on the beach in at least ten years. At Thorpeness beach the shore protection is well underway with the £400,000 second phase well underway with 2,078 bags of shingle and sand laid eight to ten layers deep, on over one and a half square miles of geo-fabric, making a 6000 foot toe structure that will provide vital support to the existing rock filled wire basket revetment.

Mid quarter a good selection of species and the summer species still hanging in there with the warmer sea and temperatures.

On the beaches daylight fishing was quiet for November with a few whiting but at night whiting being caught three at a time on a three hook trace.

Disappointing for the beach anglers was the timing of the Environment agency work on replenishing the shingle beach for flood defences. It always happen at the busy fishing month on the beach with a total closure on the dirty wall giving no access to the Orford Ness.- Top month for cod !

December as expected with the codling in and mild nights many fair weather anglers turned out and fished lighting up the sea with Tilley's. On some evenings over 100 anglers were on the beach trying to bag the elusive double figure cod on the beach. The boats off the beach showed a mixed bag of fish with codling roker sprats herring sole and dogfish. All pots are ashore for the winter period for maintenance and storage. One commercial fisherman Kirk Stribbling is out of action due to a fracture on his ankle whilst shooting (pigeons not lines). Hope he will make a quick recovery.

Orford

The quarter began with a very mixed bag on the commercial boats with good reports of lobsters and crabs but towards the end of the month the sole began to slow up. A few cod turned up in the nets but not significant enough to change their methods to lining. Most are discarding prime good sized roker due to no quota allowance. One commercial boat caught plenty of red gurnard and put these on Brixham market where they only made 40p a kilo, didn't even cover the carriage. On the Island it started with nothing but whiting and dogfish.

No sign of cod. The ferry boat reported around 60-70 anglers a day were ferried there without a wiff of a cod.

By the end of November commercially fishermen had their pots home for the winter with a good final haul proving the crab and lobster are still moving around in the warmer waters.

In November the ferryman to the island reported good bookings with up to 130 anglers a day fishing there. Plenty of whiting and the cod appear to be turning up towards the end of the November.

During the end of the year several matches were held up on the dirty wall and up to the Ness with good quantity of codling reported although nothing into double figures. On the island several trips were cancelled due to the high winds but with the right conditions and tide some reasonable landings of cod were made. Angling had been restricted from the Martello tower access to the island due to replenishing the sea wall on the dirty wall and Island by the Environment Agency. I am pleased to say this has now been completed and access is now available. Commercially Neil Macro has had his boat out most of the month for repairs whilst his mate Yummy has been in hospital and I can report he has had a successful heart by pass operation and hopefully will get back fishing in time for the spring cod and laying the pots.

Felixstowe

The quarter started on the beaches quite busy bringing out the tilley's and the beaches were lit from the Dip to Landguard. Commercially it started quiet with a couple of boats coming out for maintenance and Valerie Ann coming out for a new engine gearbox and prop. The erosion repairs and sea defence work is taking shape and I am told due to the favourable mild weather it is ahead of schedule in fact the work was intended to be done in two periods over two years but because of favourable weather the second stage has been brought forward to the present and work will continue until the weather dictates. Hopefully the £10 million contract will be ahead of schedule and the 18 rock groynes will be in place before next summer visitors. The commercial fishermen have received compensation from the contractors whilst this disruptive work has continued. The cod haven't showed here during October as on one occasion I fished a national boat championship match off Felixstowe and Walton with around 160 boat anglers and approx 5,000 whiting were caught with around a dozen ray and only around twenty codling were caught. Very poor for October.

In the town we now have an independent wet fish shop opened up trading as "The Fish Monger". This is a new enterprise and going on its first two weeks it should be a success and I wish Hannah every success.

Mid quarter was poor weather due to high winds several days were cancelled for the commercial fishermen although in fairness they are working with minimal quota. Some took the opportunity to use the time for maintenance on the boats or have a day out brushing or shooting whilst a couple of others are working on survey boats. Pots are now all out for the winter.

December commercially it was very quiet as several of the under 10's are out of the water till the spring because of maintenance holidays and predicted easterly winds throughout December till the spring.

Sole and roker were the main catch targeted and landed with many boats still trawling due to the amount of large sole being caught. The other factor of not changing over to long ling is price increases on squid now £35 per box. With the cost of squid to bait up the lines coming to around £200 and up to £300 for fuel its an outlay of £500 before you catch a fish thus many are keeping to trawling for sole as long as possible.

Species Summary

All landing figures detailed within this monthly report are derived from estimates of catches based on observations made by Fishery Officers and reports made by fishermen to Fishery Officers.

Pakefield

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)	1
Herring		172	308	

Southwold

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)	6
Cod		2,320	9,624.50	
Sole		4,645	57,872	
Bass		72	864	
Roker		3,000	9,600	
Whiting		220	440	
Herring		1,100	1,660	
Lobster		210	1,915	
Crab		307	1,076	

Dunwich & Sizewell

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)	2
Cod		379	1,326.50	
Bass		156	1,780	
Sole		105	1,312.50	
Spratt		350	350	
Lobster		35	215	
Crab		100	275	

Thorpeness & Aldeburgh

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)	7
Cod		1,245	4,357.50	
Sole		1,088	13,486	
Herring		1,020	1,568	
Whiting		305	610	
Spratt		90	90	
Lobster		225	2,025	
Crab		150	466	

Orford

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)	6
Cod		1,557	5,449.50	
Roker		100	320	
Sole		2,833	35,112.50	
Whiting		80	160	
Red Gurnard		40	16	
Flounder		143	286	
Lobster		486	7,052	
Crab		600	1,937	

Felixstowe

Number of vessel inspections:	Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)	13
Cod		490	1,715	
Sole		4,060	14,545	

Roker	2,000	6,400
Whiting	100	200
Lobster	195	1,755
Crab	95	322.50

Potting

Crab and lobster	
Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	20

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster	
Number of brown crab measured during the quarter:	124
Number of lobsters measured during the quarter:	305

Whelk	
Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:	273
Locations fished:	
Lowestoft pier	Cod whiting
Pakefield	Cod whiting
Southwold	Cod whiting
Dunwich	Cod whiting
Aldeburgh	Cod whiting
Orford	Cod whiting
Felixstowe	Cod whiting

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:	23
Locations fished:	
Within 6 nautical miles	Cod thornback ray and whiting

Charter Angling Vessels:

Number of charter vessels inspected:	2
Number of vessels in area:	20
Number of trips:	219
Species targeted:	
Cod thornback ray bass whiting dogfish	Total Landings (kg):

Locations fished throughout the month:	
Within 6 nautical miles	3,200

Fishery Officer Duties

Training:

None

Other duties carried out:

3 rd Oct	Live interview Radio Suffolk discussing role of fishery officer.
5 th Oct	RSA meeting with Felixstowe Sea Anglers Society
6 th Oct	Issued verbal warning undersize whiting
6 th Oct	RSA meeting with Suffolk Beach Anglers
7 th Oct	prepare Quarterly report
10 th Oct	Office meeting
13 th Oct	Aldeburgh meeting with DMSL

18 th Oct	Attend National fishing Festival promoting IFCA
21 st Oct	Damage assessment for insurance company
21 st Oct	Bait diggers meeting
31 st Oct	Drive to Kings Lynn replace two car tyres
1 st Nov	Safety Marine centre – Lowestoft
2 nd Nov	Felixstowe Sea Anglers monthly meeting
3 rd Nov	Commercial Fishermen meeting Felixstowe regarding new fisheries reform
3 rd Nov	Suffolk Beach anglers monthly meeting
6 th Nov	Major RSA fishing festival- IFCA stand promoting new Ifca's to RSA competitors, walk the beach during match inspections and education of role of fishery officers regarding conservation and enforcement.
8 th Nov	Wet fish shop examination and education.
9 th Nov	Meeting at Sealife centre Gt Yarmouth
10 th Nov	Felixstowe 2 boat anglers warned landing undersize whiting.
14 th Nov	EPP meeting at Sudbourne village hall.
15 th Nov	Kings Lynn meeting
15 th Nov	Safety Marine Centre Lowestoft
17 th – 27 th Nov – Leave	
28th Nov	RSA funding meeting Ipswich.
1st Dec	RSA meeting – Suffolk beach anglers in Ipswich
2nd Dec	Kings Lynn office meeting
7th Dec	RSA meeting – Felixstowe sea anglers in Felixstowe
7th Dec	RSA meeting - Ipswich sea anglers in Ipswich
8th Dec	Kings Lynn office enforcement meeting
9th Dec	Kings Lynn office Meeting with cefas re "Sea Angling 2012 project"
12th Dec	Suffolk coastal district planning at Melton re planning meeting
12th Dec	RSA meeting - "why the changes" at Corton
14thDec	RSA meeting – "why the changes" at Felixstowe
15thDec	Assess job applications- Community development officer
16thDec	Assess job applications – Community development officer
19thDec	Meeting New Orford town trust application for erection of fish signs
21stDec	Kings Lynn office meeting re job application assessments
22ndDec	Felixstowe meeting with Volker Stein re coastal erosion project
28thDec	Felixstowe fishermen meeting - 2012 Fisheries science partnership
29thDec	Lowestoft safety marine centre re lifejackets

4th EIFCA MEETING**Agenda Item: 19****26th Jan 2012****To receive the Skippers Quarterly Reports For FPV ESF Protector III and RV Three Counties. (July-Sept 2011).****Research Vessel Three Counties**

Simon Howard
Skipper

October 2011

A number of mussel beds were surveyed throughout the month of October covering the following sands. Breast, Old South Middle, Scotsman's Sled, Inner West Mark Knock, Trial Bank and Mare Tail sands. Some of the mussel beds had changed in shape, but all the mussel beds surveyed had an increase in the amount of seed mussel (5-29mm) settling among the adult mussel. Water samples for the Sweep sites were collected from around the Wash to keep the data up to date. CEFAS came aboard to continue with their cobble and chalk survey around the Wash and these consisted of side scans to fill in some of the areas which CEFAS needed more sea bed coverage of for finer detail. After this had been completed the camera was dropped to give a visual conformation of the seabed.

The interviews for the new research staff took place aboard *Research Vessel Three Counties* with six interviewees to give the crew a chance to see how they operated at sea. The interviewees were given the chance to ID fish, flora and fauna from the beam tows in the Gat Channel. After the tide had dropped the interviewees were taken ashore onto the Mare Tail mussel bed to give them the opportunity to see how they got on with the mussel bed and the mud around the bed.

November 2011

CEFAS surveys continued in November with camera drop and then Mini Hammond grabs covering the Wash with the most interesting camera drops in The Well. These camera drops came across high numbers of brown crab and lobsters in the three drops in the deepest part (49m) The Well. The CEFAS surveys are a part of a base line survey to establish an over all mapping of the seabed around the coast. Sweep water samples were collected from around the Wash and CEFAS came aboard to collect brown shrimp samples from around the Wash to survey for any diseases. The surveys are part of a wider survey in the North Sea to see what if any diseases are present in the brown shrimp populations.

Cockle surveys continued covering the following sands Wrangle, Breast and Thief sand. Some of the sands Wrangle and Inner West Mark Knock have a high number of cockles, which have grown on from the spring surveys.

The last few mussel surveys were finished on the Pandora and Toft sands with the Toft mussel bed growing in size from the last set of surveys. The end of the month saw the last mortality survey on the Thief and Whiting shoal sands finished off for this year.

December 2011

EHO/DSP samples were collected and at the same time core samples were collected from Wrangle and sent off for analysis at a lab ashore for the cockle dredge experiment. The aim

of these samplings were to observe any changes in the sediment, flora and fauna of the selected area on the Wrangle sand. The year was finished off with a cockle survey on Wrangle sand.

FPV ESF PROTECTOR III

Simon Lee / Stuart Chapman

Skipper / Mate & Fishery Officer FPV ESF PROTECTOR III

FPV ESF Protector III spent October and the first part of November on refit in Burnham on Crouch. Her annual Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) inspection was conducted by Mr David Cannell who made no comments of significant detriment in his report.

The usual annual jobs were completed by Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority staff including, preventive maintenance of main engines such as cleaning of aft coolers, renewing of racor crank case breathers, servicing of all separ fuel water separators, replacing hydraulic tank filter, replacing steering filters, greasing shafts, main engines alternator and fire/bilge pump belts replaced, fire and bilge pumps serviced with new impellers and seals, renew shaft gland packing, inspection of anodes and earthing plates and replaced where necessary, all Life Saving Apparatus sent off for MCA annual inspection. Trim tabs were removed, inspected and sent off for service. Aft door rams removed and painted. Anti fouling applied to the hull. Waste tank emptied. Annual gas, water, electric, davit arm load inspection carried out. All sea cocks serviced. Batteries drop tested. Anchor windlass was serviced.

In addition, rudders were removed and inspected, repacked and re-greased. The aft door and arms were removed and inspected. The arms and door were strengthened after concerns raised in the MCA annual inspection, and then subsequently gelled and then polished. All engine guards were removed and painted. Hull was polished. Deck plates all removed for inspection and then holes re-drilled. Main engine fan was removed and sent for service as it was spinning in the reciprocal direction, the fan was then replaced and then removed again as it was still defective. Forward toilet waste pipes were replaced. All fire control flaps were tested. One heater was repaired, the other is still outstanding. New 240 Volt supply for single GPS unit in wheelhouse fitted. 24 Volt system was inspected. New bushes fitted to man overboard davit arm. The speed log impellor was repaired. A new anchor cable fitted. The port generator coolant hose was replaced. The refuelling hose for *FPV Sea Spray* was replaced and relocated to prevent kinking. The flying bridge door latches were replaced. The wheelhouse and gas locker door mechanisms serviced. The main engine deck hatches were cleaned and resealed due to water ingress. Guard rail clevis pins were replaced.

All Environmental Health Office (EHO)/Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) samples were collected. In November for the third time in 12 months, the EHO samples were not collected from the King's Lynn Borough Council office on the first day with no blame attached to Authority staff. Although the samples were left in their usual designated position a receptionist took it upon themselves to move them to an upstairs office. Borough Council staff have now undergone training which will hopefully resolve this matter.

In December, *RV Three Counties* collected the samples on the first day, whilst *FPV ESF Protector III* and *FPV Sea Spray* were used to collect the remaining samples. Strong winds meant that the collecting process was spread over three days. *FPV ESF Protector III* proceeded to sea on the Tuesday, but a combination of the strong winds and a GPS signal failure meant that she returned to her Sutton Bridge, however *FPV Sea Spray* was still launched in order to collect the Breast sand samples. *FPV Sea Spray* was then launched

again in the afternoon but the sea conditions were still too rough to proceed. On the following day the wind had dropped sufficiently for *FPV Sea Spray* to collect samples from the training wall and stylemans sites.

The autopilot, after several attempts at repair was replaced by Charity & Taylors. The unit has been tested and appears to be in good working order

FPV Sea Spray

FPV Sea Spray FPV successfully passed her annual MCA survey whilst at Burnham on Crouch. In addition, the jet box was removed and new anodes were fitted in the jet box and new bushes fitted in the bucket.

On the return trip from Burnham on Crouch, a strong smell was detected around *FPV Sea Spray* that was traced back to the batteries. It was found that the batteries were defective and were subsequently changed. An electrician was called in to sign off the installation, however it was noticed that the battery charger was putting out too higher charge and so was switched off. Replacement of the charger is currently being investigated although the engine is still heated via the power supply.

She has subsequently been used for the EHO/DSP sample collections.

In December, *FPV Sea Spray* was utilised for RYA training with Research Officer Evonne Maxwell who successfully passed her Power Boat Class 2. At the same time, Authority passed the annual RYA training school inspection.

FPV Pisces III

FPV Pisces III successfully passed her annual MCA survey whilst at Sea Palling. She was kept at Sea Palling during the Cromer mussel fishery; however no vessels participated in this fishery so *FPV Pisces* was not required. *FPV Pisces* was returned to Wells-next-the-Sea Police station where she was used by Norfolk Police.

The trailer that was damaged in the previous month was repaired by Blue Line Trailers, and returned to service

The Authority is asked to receive this report.

Eden Hannam
Deputy Chief Executive
19 Jan 2011

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers
There are no background papers

4th EIFCA MEETING

Agenda Item: 20

26th January 2012

Senior Research Officer's Quarterly Report

The annual intertidal mussel bed surveys that had commenced on August 30th were completed during this quarter. During the course of these surveys 19 areas of mussel bed, plus the Welland Bank, were surveyed. The previous surveys in 2010 had found that mussel stocks had declined dramatically from 15,188 tonnes to 9,626 tonnes, most likely caused by an infestation of the parasite, *Mytilicola intestinalis*. The 2011 surveys found that there had been a good settlement of juveniles on some of the beds helping the overall stock levels increase to 11,204 tonnes. Adult stocks had continued to decline (from 4,189 tonnes to 3,664 tonnes). On the beds that had received good settlements of seed in either 2010 or 2011 recovery was good and beds appeared rejuvenated. This recovery was not universal, and on beds that had not benefited from recent settlements mortality had greatly exceeded recruitment causing their stocks to decline further. This was particularly noticeable on beds that had been dominated in the past with larger, older mussels. On these beds, such as Shellridge, East Mare Tail, Roger and Main End, where recruitment had been poor, the beds were found to have almost disappeared leaving only scattered mussel clumps amid scars of dead shell.

In October a sub-littoral bed of mussel seed located 1.5 miles off the Norfolk coast between Sea Palling and Happisburgh was surveyed. Because *Three Counties* was occupied at the time conducting habitat mapping surveys with CEFAS, two officers took the opportunity to conduct the mussel survey from a commercial fishing vessel. This bed was found to cover an area of approximately 205 hectares and had an estimated biomass of 3,250 tonnes. Several of the samples collected during the survey were found to contain as many as 40% moribund or decomposing mussels. Grabs and camera tows taken along the south-western edge of the bed found large numbers of empty shells to be present, their size and condition indicating their deaths had been recent. This was of particular concern because reports from the industry indicated that the sub-littoral mussel bed surveyed off Cromer the previous quarter had also suffered high mortality. Sub-littoral mussel beds are prone to high losses from starfish predation or smothering by sediment (often associated with storms and large tides). Neither the grab nor video footage indicated the presence of large numbers of starfish or sediment with the mussels appearing to be present in healthy densities. As the total area examined by the ROV was only small, it is possible that damage may have occurred elsewhere within the bed but not been seen. Samples were taken from this bed in November for CEFAS to test for pathogens. The results from these tests proved negative, indicating disease had not caused the deaths.

In September the Authority commenced a joint project with Natural England and CEFAS, conducting a baseline survey of *Sabellaria spinulosa* and cobble reefs in The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC. This project required a significant commitment of vessel time with thirteen days at sea overall. Although plagued by bad weather, the survey was completed, focusing on side scan sonar and camera drops throughout September and October and then a further trip taking ground truth samples using the mini Hamon Grab in the first week of November. Survey areas covered Boston Roads, Boston Deeps, The Common and the East Well (from the Sunk Buoy to North Well). Few areas of *Sabellaria spinulosa* were found but CEFAS staff were happy with the performance of the vessel and the work that had been conducted.

The research team began a six-month project in June to gain a better understanding of the die-off that has been affecting the cockle stocks in The Wash since 2008. High-resolution stock surveys were conducted on the Thief and Whiting Shoal beds at the start of the project to determine baseline stock levels. Following these surveys, nine stations on each bed were monitored each month to determine the proportion of moribund cockles present. The monitoring continued through this quarter and concluded with a final set of high-resolution stock surveys in December. This study found that moribund cockles were present on both beds throughout the study period, with the proportion of moribunds highest in June and July. Neither bed exhibited the high rates of mortality that had been seen on other beds over the past three years. In 2008, the cockle stocks on Wrangle were estimated to be suffering mortality rates of 1-2%/day between May and August. Loss of stocks from other beds during 2008-2010 suggested similar mortality rates had occurred on those, too. By contrast, mortality rates on the Thief and Whiting Shoal during this study period ranged between 0.05-0.22%/day. Part of this study was to determine what affect fishery impacts would have on mortality rates and to determine if during periods of very high natural mortality, fishery losses would be additive or absorbed within the overall mortality. Because the natural mortality rates on these two sands occurred at much lower levels during the study period than had been witnessed on other sands previously, there was a visible difference between the stocks on the fished Thief bed to those on the unfished Whiting Shoal bed. On the Thief, the impact of the fishery was noticeable, with the biomass of the cockles on the bed declining by 31% between the June and December surveys. During the same period, the biomass of cockles on the Whiting Shoal was found to have increased by 43%. Although stock losses were higher on the Thief than the Whiting Shoal, the proportion of moribund cockles was found to be slightly lower on the Thief throughout the study period apart from during June. Stress from fishery disturbance, therefore, does not appear to increase the rate at which moribund cockles occur in the population. Since 2008 most of the other beds in the Wash have suffered at least one, and on some beds two significant die-offs. Although moribund cockles were present on the Thief and Whiting Shoal beds, the mortality rate has been low compared to other beds in the Wash. These findings are reinforced by survey data and observations made in the field that indicate the Thief and Whiting Shoal are among the only beds in the Wash left supporting relatively high densities of large 2008 year-class cockles. While this has not helped this particular study, it provides optimism that some pockets of large cockles are surviving in the Wash.

In 2010 research was conducted studying the ecological impacts that the hand-worked cockle fishery might have on the environment. In September the Authority began a similar study to assess the impact that hydraulic cockle suction dredging may have, during which a fishing vessel conducted two hours of hydraulic suction dredging within the assigned area under the supervision of a research officer. This dredged area has been monitored since then by collecting core samples at periods of 1 day, 1 week, 1 month and 3 months following dredging. Natural England funded the dredging and sample analysis aspects of this project with the biota and sediment particle size analysis from these samples have been conducted by Unicomarine. The sampling regime for this project was completed in December. The data has yet to be analysed.

In November three officers visited Yerseke in the Netherlands to attend an international workshop discussing shellfish stock assessments in which the senior research officer was giving a presentation. This was attended by 20 scientists from several countries including the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Ireland, Turkey and the USA, and included Marnix van Stralen who had assisted Eastern-IFCA (then ESFJC) in 2004 to improve our mussel survey techniques and management measures. On the first day of the workshop the discussions were focused on traditional survey techniques and sampling strategies that were currently being used, while the second day focused more on new survey techniques and addressing policy questions. The aims of the workshop were to compare the survey methods

being employed, to help improve the quality of surveys and to explore the possibility of employing new techniques. The workshop was very useful, in that it gave us the opportunity to compare our own survey strategies with those being used internationally, and to receive validation that our methodologies are considered suitable for purpose. There are very few apparent areas in which our current surveys could be improved without greatly increasing the survey effort, although thought will be given to the possibilities of adding some stratified sampling to the cockle surveys, using Optimum Allocation Analysis in ground-truthing and the question of predicting growth and mortality between survey and fishery. Likewise, with acoustic technologies, although we are limited to using RoxAnn AGDS, few of the other organisations are using any acoustic technique to a greater extent than ourselves. General consensus appeared to be that while these technologies are good for identifying and mapping larger geological features, the technology is not yet sufficient for satisfactorily mapping and assessing biological features and for use in fisheries management. Prior to attending the workshop, the opportunity was taken to spend a day at sea on board a Dutch mussel dredger to see how mussel aquaculture is conducted in the Netherlands.

Once the mussel surveys had been completed in November, the research team began the winter cockle surveys. These are conducted to provide an insight into how successful the summer spatfall may have been and to determine what impact the previous season's fishery may have had on the stocks. As such these surveys tend to focus on specific sands rather than covering all the sites surveyed in spring. During this period surveys were completed on the Breast, Inner Westmark Knock and Wrangle sands, in addition to the high-resolution surveys that had been conducted on the Thief and Whiting Shoal sands during the mortality study. Partial surveys were also conducted on Daseleys, Butterwick and Friskney, but prolonged poor weather prevented these areas from being completed. The results from these surveys identified there had been good cockle growth since the spring surveys, particularly among the juvenile populations, while only light mortalities had occurred. By including this juvenile recruitment the total cockle biomass on Wrangle to increase from 558 tonnes to 2,677 tonnes and on Inner Westmark Knock from 770 tonnes to 3,480 tonnes. On the Breast sand, where 1,137 tonnes had been harvested during the fishery, growth had enabled the biomass to remain fairly stable with just a slight reduction from 2,660 tonnes in spring to 2,629 tonnes. Only light spatfalls were found to have occurred on these three sands during the summer. Although the weather did not permit the Dills sand to be surveyed, officers observed an exceptional spatfall had occurred on that bed when it was visited in August.

As usual monthly shellfish and water samples have been collected for the EHO and CEFAS, who use these samples to monitor the water quality and shellfish health.

Under the recent staff restructuring review both the research and marine environment departments will gain extra staff. Regrettably for the research team, Sandra Hinni resigned from her role as research officer in October, while Jessica Woo opted to take voluntary redundancy from her research/marine environment assistant post in December. Interviews were conducted in November to fill the two research officer vacancies. These included taking six applicants to sea for the day on Three Counties to assess their sea-going and analytical skills prior to their formal interviews the next day. Following these interviews Lynsey Smith and Olle Åkesson joined the research team at the beginning of January.

Ron Jessop
Senior Research Officer

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers
No background papers to this report

4th EIFCA MEETING

Agenda Item: 21

26th January 2012

To receive the Senior Marine Environment Officer's Quarterly Report

Following the unforeseen difficulties that the Authority experienced during the second quarter, time was set aside to consolidate and revisit the Authority's priorities for the remainder of the financial year. Seven key work areas were agreed by the Authority in October 2011; four related directly to environmental work:

- new burdens recruitment (additional Marine Environment Officers)
- management of the Wash 2011/12 mussel fishery (Habitats Regulations assessment)
- development of an Environment Plan to complement the Authority's Annual Plan 2012/13, and
- progression of a voluntary agreement for the protection of *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef.

In addition to these areas, during the quarter Environment Officers have continued to progress the review of consents for the Wash Fishery Order leases, engaged in the Cockle charter workshop (Agenda Item 8) and addressed external consultations, although the level of engagement has had to be limited in order to focus on the agreed priorities.

New burdens recruitment

At the end of the quarter, the Marine Environment (Spatial Information) Officer, Jess Woo took voluntary redundancy, after 21 months in the environment team and a total of six years with the Authority and its predecessor. Miss Woo had provided a consistently high standard of work and technical expertise; her input will be missed.

The recruitment process is underway for a replacement Spatial Information Officer and an additional Data Specialist to the environment team (as set out in the staff structure review). The positions were advertised in November 2011, candidates shortlisted in December 2011, interviews held 11-13 January 2012 and offers made in the week of 16 January 2012. The increased capacity brought in by the new recruits (after a settling-in period) will enable the Authority to focus on key work areas required of IFCAs, such as the development of management strategies for inshore fisheries throughout the district. The Authority will also benefit from an enhanced level of engagement with external stakeholders by developing a proactive engagement position and responding to consultations at an appropriate level.

2011/12 Wash mussel fishery

Following agreement of management measures for the 2011/12 Wash mussel fishery at the Authority's Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee on 30 November 2011, officers undertook the appropriate assessment (Habitats Regulations Assessment). The assessment concluded that despite adult mussel stocks falling short of the conservation objective target, the strong juvenile stocks could support a managed fishery without adversely affecting the designated habitats and species. Officers liaised closely with Natural England during the development of management measures and whilst drafting the appropriate assessment, to optimise their understanding of the conservation issues and to minimise the delay between agreement of management measures and opening the fishery.

Development of an Environment Plan for the Authority

During the quarter, the Senior Research and Environment officers have worked closely to draft their respective plans for the year 2012/13. The draft plans are to be presented to the

Authority's Planning Sub-Committee on 15th February 2012, for comment and sign-off. These plans will complement the Authority's main Annual Plan.

Progression of a voluntary agreement for the protection of *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef

The Authority agreed to investigate voluntary closed areas to protect *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef in April 2011. Interim progress has been reported in subsequent Authority meeting papers. On 18th November 2011, the Authority hosted a meeting with representatives from the shrimp fishery, the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site. The aim was to identify suitable areas for voluntary closure to towed demersal gear in order to protect core *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef, using collated data from over ten years of surveys in and around the Wash. Authority officers and Natural England used charts to show that proposed areas for protection were small, discrete patches – much smaller than areas initially proposed for closure in previous iterations. It was hoped that a voluntary agreement could be drawn up with the industry to exclude towed demersal fishing activity from these areas. Industry representatives firmly rejected voluntary closures on the basis of (i) low confidence that local shrimp fishing activities actually damage *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef; (ii) perceived discrimination against towed fisheries in favour of potting fisheries; and (iii) incremental loss of fishing grounds from offshore wind farm development, aggregate extraction, expansion of potting fisheries in the area, and possible marine conservation zones.

At the request of the industry representatives, Natural England officers agreed to investigate whether there could be a requirement to restrict potting activity in core reef areas. Authority officers agreed to review an existing potting/trawling agreement, to identify whether the release of potting ground to the shrimping sector could enable the latter group to accept voluntary closed areas to protect core reef. If this route is not successful, it will be necessary to consider protection using regulatory tools. This work remains a priority; it is also a statutory requirement under the EU Habitats Directive – which established the Wash & North Norfolk Coast as a European Marine Site.

The Member of European Parliament for the East Midlands, Derek Clark, attended the meeting, wishing to discuss concerns about the Authority raised by Boston fishermen. Officers explained to Mr Clark that the current meeting was convened to discuss *Sabellaria spinulosa* protection, and that other Wash fishery issues would be considered at a workshop organised by the Authority on 30th November 2011.

Review of Wash Fishery Order 1992 (WFO 1992) lay leases

Officers conducted an initial survey to register the relevant layholders' wishes to renew expired leases. As anticipated, all respondents opted to renew their leases rather than relinquish their lays.

A project brief outlining the different stages involved in the review of the lay leases was approved by the Authority's Marine Protected Areas sub-committee on 30th November 2011. The brief outlined five key objectives for this review, the officers tasked with leading on each objective, and expected timescales. The five objectives included:

- Review of Consents (a Habitats Regulations assessment of the impact of renewing leases on the designated features of the Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site);
- Constraints study to identify factors limiting the development of the Several Fishery;
- External funding investigation;
- Review of the use of mussel dredges on Wash Fishery Order lays; and
- Confirmation of the Authority's approach to progressing lay applications.

A literature review has been started but progress with this work has been delayed since the departure of the Marine Environment (Spatial Information) Officer. Although not included in the seven main priorities agreed for the Authority, it is important that this work is progressed as soon as possible in order to meet layholders' needs, Habitats Regulations and administrative requirements.

Fisheries sustainability assessment

At the statutory meeting on 26th October 2011, the Authority agreed to further explore the application of the Navigating the Future Project (fisheries sustainability assessment) to the Eastern-IFCA district, in conjunction with Kent & Essex IFCA (EIFCA 11/69). Subsequent to that decision, officers learnt that a national fisheries sustainability project had been approved and would be led by the Shellfish Association of Great Britain. Participation in the national project would negate the need for individual or paired IFCA's to undertake their own assessments. Officers will obtain further information on this project from the Shellfish Association of Great Britain as it becomes available.

Brown and Pink shrimp fishery accreditation

On 22nd December 2011, Jackie Hill and Bryony Pearce (Marine Ecological Surveys Ltd) presented their pink and brown shrimp accreditation pre-assessment to Wash shrimp processors and Authority officers. The work had highlighted a range of shortcomings in the fisheries that currently preclude them from qualifying for Marine Stewardship Council accreditation. The consultants identified a series of actions that would need to be taken by fishermen, processors and fishery managers, in order to meet the accreditation criteria. One key recommendation was the creation of a brown and pink shrimp fisheries management plan. In light of the Authority's current absence of capacity to lead on this work, the processors are seeking to commission the creation of an independent management plan for these fisheries. In addition, the processors require independent day-to-day auditing of the shrimp fisheries in order to ensure that any certified fishery retains its accreditation. The group agreed to create a Shrimp Fishery Advisory & Management Group; an initial meeting is planned for February 2012. It is envisaged that Cefas, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation will be involved, as well as local shrimp fishermen and processors and Authority officers.

Marine Conservation Zones

On 15 November 2011, a Ministerial announcement was made stating that the process for considering and ultimately designating Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in English seas would be delayed whilst the evidence is assessed and where necessary, improved. The two MCZ projects affecting the Authority's district, Net Gain and Balanced Seas, produced their first (economic) Impact Assessments for consultation in December 2011. These assessments comprised a suite of documents relating to current activities and possible future management scenarios for fisheries in the recommended MCZs. At the time of writing this report, officers have not completed reviewing the documents. The Authority faces a significant task in considering the likely fisheries management scenarios for recommended MCZs, in order to assess the likely impacts on fishing activities, and to evaluate the requirement for the Authority to create and enforce any new regulations. This piece of work has been recognised in the draft Environment plan for 2012/13; it will require joint input from the Authority's enforcement officers as well as environment officers.

Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site

The Project Manager for this European Marine Site, Peter Rushmer, retired in September 2011. A replacement Project Manager, Charlotte Moffat, was recruited (the Authority is the employing authority) and took up the post in November 2011. Unfortunately, funding restraints have meant that the current Project Officer, Maria Phipps (employed on a part-

time basis) could not be offered an extension to her existing contract after it expires in March 2012. The retirement of Mr Rushmer and pending departure of Mrs Phipps represent a significant loss in experience and local knowledge. Authority officers have recognised that the new Project Manager will need support in moving the project forward. The Senior Marine Environment Officer and the Chief Executive Officer have spent time with Ms Moffat designing a brief for the project review that was commissioned by the project board in November 2011. Ms Moffat has successfully established herself in the post and progressed with a programme of meetings with the relevant authorities involved in the European Marine Site and with local stakeholders via the established Advisory groups.

- External consultations

A key area of environmental work undertaken by the Authority is engaging with external partners in relation to developments that could affect the district's sea fisheries resources, or could affect the Authority's functions. The following table lists the consultations or events that officers have engaged with during the quarter, in addition to those discussed above. Background documents are available on request. As explained in the introduction to this report, this work has been restricted somewhat during the last quarter because of the need to focus currently reduced officer resources on internal priorities.

Theme	Project	Input provided
Marine Protected Areas	Net Gain – Marine Conservation Zone Project Impact Assessment: submitted data on estimated enforcement & surveillance costs	21 October 2011
	Natural England & Joint Nature Conservation Committee – stakeholder workshop on protocols to assess Marine Conservation Zone recommendations	22 November 2011
	Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site – Core and Full Management Group meetings; project review meeting	9 November 2011, 7 December 2011, 14 December 2011
Offshore developments	Draft Appropriate Assessment for Docking Shoal, Race Bank & Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms: submitted comment 25 October 2011	25 October 2011
	Lincs Offshore Wind Farm cable route geotechnical surveys – submitted comment 28 October 2011	28 October 2011
	Marine Planning overview meeting with Marine Management Organisation officer	20 December 2011
Coastal developments	Boston Barrier Scheme – Scoping report	1 December 2011
	Ipswich Flood Management Scheme – Marine Management Organisation Marine Licence consultation	22 December 2011

The Authority is asked to receive this report.

Judith Stoutt
Senior Marine Environment Officer

18 January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

1. Agenda Item 19, 3rd EIFCA meeting, 26 October 2011
2. Agenda Item 17, 2nd EIFCA meeting, 27 July 2011
3. Record of Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010: Dredged and hand-worked, relaying fishery on the Regulated mussel beds in the Wash. EIFCA, December 2011
4. draft Environment Plan. EIFCA, December 2011
5. Meeting notes: Shrimps & *Sabellaria* progress meeting, 18 November 2011: draft outline notes and action points. EIFCA, November 2011
6. Agenda Item 11, EIFCA Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee, 30 November 2011
7. Marine Ecological Surveys Ltd *Fish for our Future Research Group* East Coast Brown & Pink Shrimp Fisheries – Background Information. MESL, December 2011
8. Written Ministerial Statement on Marine Conservation Zones, 15 November 2011: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/11/15/wms-marine-conservation-zones/>
9. Net Gain Marine Conservation Zone Project – Impact Assessment consultation
10. Balanced Seas Marine Conservation Zone Project – Impact Assessment consultation
11. Project Brief – Review of the Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme, EIFCA November 2011.

4th EIFCA MEETING

Agenda Item: 22

26th January 2012

Recent Recreational Sea Angling matters by Tom Pinborough EIFCA MMO Appointee

Brief summary report of the Eastern IFCA/recreational sea angler meetings held Oct and December 2012

Attendees

Tom Pinborough MMO appointee to the Eastern IFCA

Eden Hannam (Deputy CEO Eastern IFCA)

Skegness

Tom Manning (Natural England) for the Skegness meeting

Sea angling representatives from local clubs: Holbeach SAC, Boston Pirates, Skegness PASC.

Cromer

Holt SAC, Anglia Sportscast and individual local sea anglers

Ady Woods (Fishery officer area 3, Cley to Lowestoft)

Hester Clack (Natural England) for the Cromer meeting

Corton

Ken Sale chairman Eastern IFCA

Alan Garnham (Fishery officer area 4, Lowestoft to Harwich)

Eastern Anglers website, Lowestoft SAC, Lowestoft South Pier Anglers, Orfordness SAC

Individual local sea anglers

Felixstowe

Felixstowe SAS, Ipswich SAC,

Alan Garnham (Fishery officer area 4, Lowestoft to Harwich)

Individual local sea anglers

Tom Pinborough acted as chairman and the meetings started promptly at 19:30hrs, Eden Hannam was introduced as the Deputy CEO for the Eastern IFCA and he proceeded with a presentation entitled "Why all the changes "with contributions when in attendance from Natural England and their role in the Nett Gain Marine Conservation Zones(MCZ's).

This presentation explained the changes to inshore fisheries management, which have taken place as a result of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

In brief the old Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint committee of many years, has now been replaced by the Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (EIFCA), the EIFCA has new committee structure with additional objectives and environmental responsibilities. The EIFCA is responsible for inshore fisheries management out to 6 nautical to sea.

EIFCA VISION: *To 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.*

The focus of Balance was reinforced at this point.

EIFCA Duties: Management of inshore fisheries.

The Authority for an IFCA district must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in that district e.g. all animals or plants that habitually live in the sea, including those that are cultivated in the sea and:

- a) seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way,
- b) seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the district with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation,
- c) take any other steps which in the Authority's opinion are necessary for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development,
- d) seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district

Other fisheries managers, agencies

- Environment Agency
- Marine Management Organisation
- Natural England
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Defra
- Local govt
- Crown estate

Marine protected areas

There will be a wide range of national and international statutory designated sites protecting the natural environment within the EIFCA district:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) protect the country's best wildlife and geological sites;
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) give special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats;
- Special Protected Areas (SPAs) give protection under the European Union's Birds Directive to rare and vulnerable birds, and for regularly occurring migratory species; and
- Marine Conservation Areas (MCZs, Nett Gain) will protect nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology.

Protection of MCZs

The Authority for an IFCA district must seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ in the district are furthered, including reference areas (No Take Zones) which will affect sea anglers .

So what are we (EIFCA) doing for recreational sea anglers

- Research ie Flounder pilot project.

- CEFAS (Sea Angling 2012 data collection, Article 55) Juvenile Fish.
- Local data collection, via area fishery officer quarterly reports.
- Information signs at major access points, which shows the EIFCA district, contact details, Minimum Landing sizes and other useful information.
- Bye-Law review, all EIFCA bye-laws, including bye-laws inherited from the NEIFCA have to be reviewed within the next 18-24 months, which will include the gill net enabling bye-laws.
- After the break the meetings reconvened for discussion/workshop where a variety of sea angling issues were discussed

Not in any particular order :- (general points)

Lack of fish , commercial overfishing , commercial fishing methods , development of RSA fisheries including bait collecting, RSA to put forward ideas and proposals to EIFCA, RSA must get organised to lobby locally ie county councillors and EIFCA members , what can EIFCA do for local RSA , allocation of EIFCA budget for RSA , EIFCA funded by rate payers, licensing , bag limits, raising the MLS, codes of conduct , MCZ reference areas (NTZ) , bait digging , inshore netting, wind farms , artificial reefs , access for young anglers , access for less mobile anglers, closing of access points on the coast, effects of dredging , review of EIFCA bye-laws , gill netting bye-laws (enabling byelaw).

Not in any particular order :- (specific points)

- Request for support to investigate restricted access of South pier, Lowestoft
- Request for support from IFCA, for sea angling initiative "Litter pick"
- Request for support from IFCA, for sea angling initiative "Know your Fish sizes campaign"
- Associated problems of Inshore netting , Skegness Associated problems of Inshore netting , North Norfolk coast
- Decline of bait digging beds, North Norfolk coast
- Associated problems of Inshore netting , Stour and Orwell
- Cromer Pier fishery.
- Stour and Orwell baitdigging code of conduct.
- Stour and Orwell MCZ reference areas.

In summary, this was the an opportunity for sea anglers and the newly formed Eastern IFCA to meet , communicate, to gain an understanding, to be informed, gather ideas, concerns and to begin to develop a working partnership.

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Notes from: Discussion group meeting with CEO of the Association of IFCA's

11.45hrs, Fishmongers Hall, London – 16/12/2011

Attendees

Tom Pinborough (Chair for the meeting)

Leon Roskilly

Steve Hanks

Graham Furness

Eamon Riordan

Stephen Bolt (Chief Executive officer of the Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities)

Nigel Proctor

Les Weller

Bob Shotter

David Mitchell (Angling Trust)

Mick Sharp

Purpose

To receive presentation from the Chief Executive officer of the Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities and for him to gain an understanding of RSA

Attendees discussed the purpose of meeting and confirmed that the group would meet possibly six monthly to discuss issues affecting Recreational Sea Angling in their relevant IFCA's.

The expected outcome is to share best practice, improve consistency and to learn from one another.

Records would be taken in the form of general notes, not under "Chatham house rules", but there would not be attributed quotes to individuals and attendees would not be expected to take actions from the meeting.

Discussion took place about the role of Marine Management Organisation (MMO) appointed members and emphasised the understanding that the group did not represent RSA.

Presentation by Dr Stephen Bolt (CEO association of IFCA's)

Dr Stephen Bolt introduced himself giving detail to his background/experience and delivered a short presentation, question where taken during the presentation.

Summary of Presentation

1. Sustainability is built on three pillars
 - Environment
 - Economics
 - Social factors.

Delivered through:

- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

- Management by DEFRA
- Marine Management Organisation Vision
- UK National ecosystem Assessment 2011
- Water framework directive e.g. impact on Salmon Fisheries
- Talked about the Government review of the IFCA's in 4 year's time and the importance of success.
- The need to improve the visibility of IFCA's, currently very few people is aware of IFCA's.
- A budget had been established, with contributions from each IFCA and that he was seconded full time.

Question

Would external funding opportunities for additional funding be looked in to? Yes, these would be explored.

Question

Have all IFCA's signed up to the Association? It was confirmed that while all the IFCAs have signed up to the principle of the Association, the future and direction will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Points raised-

- IFCAs still had a 'fishing industry' slant, perception that some IFCA's are a continuation of SFC's.
- Recognised more work to be done to address the balance and in the interest of all stakeholders.
- The key to success is sustainability.
- Discussion look at differing views from 'Management' to 'Conservation'.
- Having MMO, Natural England, and Environment Agency as full IFCA members, at meetings should help to shape things.
- Build on government initiatives with 'Big Society' and 'Localism'.

Question

Are Association of IFCA meetings being open to public?

Not at this stage but can co-opt experts in to meeting. (It's a Non Statutory body), which is currently chaired by John Lamb (K&E IFCA).

Points raised-

- Progress recognised in some IFCA's where restructuring has enhanced the need for change (e.g. Communications and Community Manager appointments).
- New policies have been developed and implemented.

- Communication events on what the IFCA's are also taking place.
- View that the new IFCA appointees should be proposing new ideas/issues to further influence change. Opportunity to table proposals through quarterly meetings.
- Members should ensure that actions are recorded and given to individuals with dated timescales and properly reviewed for progress.
- Inconstancies were discussed. e.g. the removal of Berried Lobster is allowed in some IFCA's but not in others.
- Each IFCA should have a bylaw review activity in its Annual Plan and the attendees were encouraged to take part.
- The Association of IFCA's were an opportunity to share best practice and encourage consistency with bylaws across IFCAs.
- It was confirmed that the chair would serve for 2 years to ensure rotation.
- Challenges facing the IFCA's must be prioritised and tackled by level of importance although there is also a need for some quick wins in the early days.
- Concerns of pressures on angling e.g. RSPB seem to be pushing to outlaw bait digging in some areas. Concern raised that NE may be thinking along those lines, view they should be more neutral.
- Raised concern that Councillors could 'block' items proposed by IFCA's, clarified that this was not the case although the County Councils do have the right to veto the IFCA budget under the Marine and Coastal Access Act. An example was given where recruitment was apparently being blocked. View that this could only occur if it was a budget issue.

"Angling 2012": An update from the Angling Trust (AT)

- Angling Trust had taken part in steering group.
- Influence project input and outcome (this would not be clear until the project is finished).
- Understand the concerns of anglers, some feel this will bring in legislation on bag limits, licensing, quota, restrictive areas, the Angling Trust emphasised its position that it's up to individuals whether or not that they wish to take part and the AT would respect their decisions.
- The initiative has been poorly communicated and has some catching up to do in the Angling world.
- AT looked for reassurance from the project team that the output would benefit angling.
- Project starts Jan 2012 with a progress review to take place early in New Year

Data Collection

CEFAS role is only to collect the data.

Office of National Statistics (ONS survey)

- Trial run taking a 3.5% (2000) sample now completes. 2000 sample, no one to be contacted for a follow up interview.
- Similar to Drew report
- Agreement to conduct surveys monthly, not quarterly.
- Steering group has proposed changes to cover questions they believe to be missed out.
- Point raised that ONS survey covers whole of UK including central area where fewer people fish and some felt that coastal areas should be 'weighted' to ensure fair reflection of sea angling.
- Confirmed that all ONS surveys are taken from random post codes.

Charter boat survey

- Currently insufficient resources, within the MMO to carry out these surveys.
- MMO are taking the lead in compiling list of Charter Boat skippers
- Discussion about survey being EU driven to bring in log books on capture of species under threat, charter boats are core to the survey.

Points raised-

- All IFCA's have had representatives attend the training
- Some IFCA's have secured changes with CEFAS contract
- Concerns raised on independence of surveys (old Sea Fisheries Committee mind-set)
- AT would prefer all IFCA's to conduct surveys consistently
- IFCA's should be able to use output locally, to shape future policies
- Help fish stock modelling for species targeted by anglers, better understand social economics, future development of angling, meets EU directive.
- Some anglers demanding action to improve fish stocks
- Improved access, better tackle, and better fishing experience, example of improved overseas experience (Striped Bass fisheries in USA).
- Understand some anglers do and some don't want to take part.
- Discussion about pessimism in angling world
- Based on no action from previous initiatives
- No belief that government will do anything to enhance angling following survey
- Believe it's on the back of EU and suspicious
- All could change if survey results could be used to improve fishing experience
- Some Anglers do not believe there is any political will to support angling.

- Study will provide evidence to support change
- Give one example where government have improved RSA, very limited local initiatives – e.g. Local Tope bye-laws.
- Anglers not looked at as part of fishery community, not treated well, not included, seen to be in need of regulating
- Some IFCA attendees reported improved contact with local authorities and a valued group.
- Must take our chance at committee level as a valid stakeholder group engaged
- Trust has to be earned

Social Economic Survey

- Establish as a benefit to angling
- Supported by Cardiff and Newcastle University
- AT emphasised that the Social element was important to the study
- The survey can be conducted on line which does give anglers opportunity to complete on their own terms
- Needs explanation on what the information will be used for and why it is being done
- Marketing the on line survey (OLS) is critical.
- What proportion of the overall picture will the online survey give?
- View that the OLS greatest potential for bias
- IFCAs should have influence on the outcomes
- Stepping away from taking part is not an option

Points raised-

- Will there be publicity? Yes and there may be some incentives to encourage participation.
- Are AT assisting? Yes they have been involved in steering committee and have helped to steer the project.
- How many IFCAs have Angling 2012 on website? Not all IFCAs
- This is the 3rd attempt at launching the survey.
- Low stakeholder engagement.
- Suspect private boat licensing and closed fishing areas will result.
- Accept that this has to be sold but will be difficult
- Some anglers see the use of the survey as a help when others see it as a threat.

- In the early days anglers were excluded from the steering group
- CEFAS not marketing this well
- Who is on steering group? AT, BASS, Local Authorities, Fisheries Officers, Professional Boatman's Association and IFCA members.
- View that it was South of England led and that the North needed to be engaged
- Output will be broken down and shared with local IFCAs

Break

General discussion

- Emphasised, that the group were not to develop policies, nor a self-interested lobbying group, with issues to be channelled through respective IFCAs.
- Still much work to do raising awareness of IFCAs, how this could be done, through press campaigns, local meetings , briefings to Angling Clubs, Updating Web Sites.
- Impact from planning applications
- Bylaws (new, old, standardise, review etc)
- Pressures on bait digging
- Anglers should be driving policy on bait digging. (Currently being driven by RSPB, NE and WLT's.)
- Bait digging must be sustainable, more use of Codes of Practice
- Very little information from surveys or scientific facts on bait collecting
- Closed areas would result in displacement pressures to other bait beds
- Capital dredge projects can affect bait digging

Finish

The Chair thanked Dr Stephen Bolt and the Angling Trust for their presentations, it was agreed that it had been a productive well chaired meeting, that the questions, subsequent discussions/points raised had been very informative, and that it would be beneficial for all to meet again in mid 2012.

Tom Pinborough
EIFCA – MMO Appointee

19th January 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

There are no background papers for this report