



11th EIFCA Meeting

To be held at:

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

**30th October 2013
1030 hours**

AMENDED

Meeting: 11th Eastern IFCA Meeting
Date: 30 October 2013
Time: 10:30 hours
Venue: The Boathouse Business Centre,
1 Harbour Square, Nene Parade,
Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 3BH



"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 Chairman
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Declaration of Members' interests

Action items

- 4 Duties and Responsibilities of Authority members – David Johnson, NpLaw NCC
- 5 To receive and approve as a true record, minutes of the 10th Eastern IFCA Meeting, held on 31 July 2013 - *Chair*
- 6 Matters arising – *Chair/CEO*
- 7 To receive a report to consider Health and Safety risks and mitigation - *CEO*
- 8 Meeting of the Regulatory and Compliance Sub-Committee 18 Sep 13 - *HoMP*
- 9 Meeting of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee 17 Oct 2013 - *Hd Fin*
- 10 Wash Fisheries Individual Quotas discussion paper – *CEO*
- 11 Wash Fisheries propagation discussion paper – *CEO*
- 12 Marine Conservation Zones update report – *Hd MER*
- 13 Annual Report 2012-13 approval – *Hd MER*
- 14 Wash Fishery Order – Lay consents – *Hd MER*
- 15 Research and Environment Plan: Progress and planning for 2014/15 – *Hd MER*
- 16 Eastern IFCA Data Strategy – *Hd MER*
- 17 North Norfolk FLAG and Inshore VMS – *Hd MER*
- 18 Payments made and monies received during the period 20th July 2013 to 18th October 2013 - *Hd Fin*
- 19 Quarterly Management Accounts – *Hd Fin*

- 20 Calendar of meetings to October 2014 - *CEO*
- 21 CFP Reform update – *Presentation by MMO*

Information items

- 22 Quarterly progress against Annual Plans - *CEO*
- 23 Marine Protection Quarterly reports:
 - a) Area Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers:
 - a. Area 1 - Donna Nook to Sutton Bridge
 - b. Area 2 – King’s Lynn to Blakeney
 - c. Area 3 – Cley to Lowestoft
 - d. Area 4 - Lowestoft to Stour/Orwell
 - b) Skippers:
 - a. *RV Three Counties*
 - b. *FPV John Allen*
- 24 Marine Environment Quarterly Reports:
 - a) Senior Research Officer
 - b) Senior Marine Environment Officer
- 25 Update of HR activity – *Head HR*

Any other urgent business

- 26 To consider matters that the Chair has agreed are urgent because of special circumstances which must be specified
 - 26a) Bonamia Testing in the Wash – *CEO*
 - 26b) Vessel Procurement Update – *HoMP*
 - 26c) Community Engagement meeting dates - *CEO*

P J Haslam
Chief Executive Officer
21 Oct 2013

10th Eastern IFCA Meeting

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



A Meeting of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority took place at The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech, Cambs, on 31st July 2013 at 1030 hours.

Members Present:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Cllr Hilary Cox | Chair | Norfolk County Council |
| Cllr Tony Turner MBE JP | Vice Chair | Lincolnshire County Council |
| Shane Bagley | | MMO Appointee |
| Peter Barham | | MMO Appointee |
| Roy Brewster | | MMO Appointee |
| Conor Donnelly | | Natural England |
| Cllr Richard Fairman | | Lincolnshire County Council |
| Paul Garnett | | MMO Appointee |
| Roger Handford | | Environment Agency |
| Neil Lake | | MMO Appointee |
| Ceri Morgan | | MMO Appointee |
| Cllr Keith Patience | | Suffolk County Council |
| Tom Pinborough | | MMO Appointee |
| Rob Spray | | MMO Appointee |
| John Stipetic | | MMO |
| Koen Vanstaen | | MMO Appointee |
| Cllr Margaret Wilkinson | | Norfolk County Council |
| Stephen Worrall | | MMO Appointee |

Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Philip Haslam | Chief Executive Officer (CEO) |
| Luke Godwin | Marine Environment Officer - |
| Data | |
| Eden Hannam | Head of Marine Conservation |
| Christine Hurley | Head of Finance |
| Ron Jessop | Senior Research Officer |
| Lucy Ritchie | Community Development |
| Officer | |
| Robin Strigner | Research Officer |
| James Taylor | Engineer / IFCO |

Other Bodies Represented:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Ruth Barber | MMO |
| Jane Birch | Suffolk County Council |
| Russel Gadbury | MMO |
| Dave Linpenny | Cefas |
| Roger Mason | MMO |
| Stacey Meyer | MMO |
| Siri Taylor | Argus Productions |
| Emma Thorpe | Natural England |

Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

EIFCA13/50 Item 1: Welcome by the CEO

The CEO welcomed the new elected members and each member introduced themselves and briefly explained their background. Members were advised that Siri Taylor, a film maker with Argus Productions would be filming the meeting as part of a film being made for educational purposes.

EIFCA13/51 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Bolt (MMO Appointee) and Cllrs Baker (Norfolk County Council) and Goldson (Suffolk County Council).

EIFCA13/52 Item 3: Declarations of Members Interest

In addition to the Declarations of Interest already held by the Clerk, Neil Lake advised he was a Brancaster Common Rights Holder.

EIFCA13/53 Item 4: Election of Authority Chair/Vice Chair

One nomination had been received for the position of Chair of the Authority, no other nominations were made.

It was Resolved that Councillor Hilary Cox be appointed as Chair of the Authority.

Proposed: Tony Turner

Seconded: Peter Barham

All Agreed

One nomination was received for the position of Vice Chair.

It was Resolved that Councillor Tony Turner be appointed as vice-chair of the Authority.

Proposed: Ceri Morgan

Seconded: Rob Spray

All Agreed

Having been elected as Chair, Hilary Cox spoke briefly to say she was proud to be Chair and believed the Authority could strive to move forward from strength to strength to the benefit of all involved.

EIFCA13/54 Item 5: Minutes of the 9th EIFCA Meeting, held on 5th June 2013

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

EIFCA13/55 Item 6: Matters Arising

13/31 PLANNING & COMMUNICATION SUB-COMMITTEE: Comments made regarding the Environment & Research Strategy and Plan have been acknowledged and once the final amendments have been made, both documents will be published on the website. Members were assured that the required outputs reflected in the Plan were being actively pursued.

13/32 COCKLE MORTALITY: A-typical mortality in cockles was debated and the direction from the Planning and Communications Sub Committee was that it was not to be accommodated in the current year's workload. The CEO was also directed to identify alternative methods of funding this work. A cost recovery mechanism was preferred and this proposal was offered to the Industry. The overwhelming response from the Industry was that they would not wish to fund any monitoring activity. The matter was closed for the 2013 cockle season and would be reconsidered in plans or 2014-15.

13/34 BAIT DIGGING IN THE STOUR & ORWELL: EIFCA officers were working in partnership with other relevant organisations with the hope of reinvigorating the voluntary code of conduct already in place. If it was not possible to get this back in place the worst case scenario would be for more formal regulations to be put in place.

EIFCA13/56 Item 7: Health & Safety Risks and Mitigation

In an attempt to ensure the H&S culture within EIFCA is effective Norfolk County Council have been engaged to assess all aspects of H&S. All policies and procedures have been refreshed and revised. Training has been commissioned and will be complete by mid-September.

Members were alerted to two H&S risks namely, the moorings at Sutton Bridge and Whole Body Vibration as a result of operating FPV John Allen. Both issues were in hand and negotiations were underway with the new agents for the landlord of the moorings to drive them to fund repairs to extend the life of the barge.

Members agreed to note the report.

EIFCA13/57 Item 8: Appointment of Members to the Authority's sub-committees

Previously allocation to sub-committees had been through a process of volunteers called for in open session. With the additional duties and responsibilities placed upon the Authority by MaCAA 2009 it was proposed that to make the best use of the available expertise, and to achieve the right balance across the membership, it may be more useful to appoint members to the most appropriate sub-committee. The CEO stressed that the proposed sub-committee membership as reflected in the paper was not the final solution but should be viewed as a starting point for the debate. In addition, as a means to assure performance an annual review of the effectiveness of sub-committees was proposed. In order to ensure a common

baseline of understanding, a training package administered by Norfolk County Council for all members was also submitted for consideration.

The proposed membership of the Marine Protected Area sub-committee was questioned and both Tom Pinborough and Shane Bagley felt they should remain on this sub-committee but had not been included in the list of members. It was noted that in the past this sub-committee had been largely used as the forum to discuss matters relating to Wash Fishery Order business. With four members of the committee from the commercial fishing sector based in the Wash and the recent absence of other members, decision making was being hazarded. Similarly, there was a concern that some members sought to shape the debate to reflect personal interests rather than that which would be of benefit to the Eastern IFCA district. This prompted debate regarding the business of the WFO and whether the delegated decision making for these matters should be rescinded and future consideration of WFO matters would be to the full authority. It was acknowledged that in order to discuss the opening of the cockle fishery it would necessitate an additional full authority meeting being held in June.

Additional discussion focused on attendance and whether the representative from the MMO, EA and NE could be expected to sit on all the sub-committees, as on occasion the decision making process has been complicated by member's non-attendance due to other commitments. The question as to whether they be able to send a non-voting representative if they were not able to attend was raised. It was felt that for these three members this would be permitted to ensure there was someone available at the meeting to give advice. Equally, any member receiving the papers and unable to attend but wishing to have their thoughts considered could forward them in writing to be considered at the meeting.

Members Agreed to:

- **the revised process of appointments.**
- **the proposed composition of the sub-committees with the exception of the MPA sub-Committee to which Shane Bagley and Tom Pinborough would be reinstated.**
- **that the effectiveness of sub-committees would be considered at the meeting in April.**
- **for a trial period of 1 year, decision making powers for matters relating to the Wash Fishery Order to be returned to the full authority and it was noted that an additional full meeting would be held in June, dates for next years' meeting would be considered in October.**
- **the training package should be administered with the first part taking place following the October Statutory meeting.**

EIFCA13/58 Item 9: Signatories for the Authority's payments over £10,000

The basic make up for who should be designated to sign for payments over £10,000 had been agreed at the previous meeting however it was still to be decided which elected member would be the designated member to sign when either the Chair or Vice Chair were not available.

It was Resolved that Cllr Margaret Wilkinson be the designated member to act as signatory.

Proposed: Hilary Cox

Seconded: Tony Turner

All Agreed

EIFCA13/59 Item 10: Meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee held 5th June 2013

At the meeting decisions had been made on how the cockle fishery would operate. It was agreed that the fishery would be handworked only, over a four day week dependant on tides, with a TAC of 3720 tonnes and although the 2012 year class would be protected there would be no temporary closure to allow growth of other year classes before they were exploited. It was also agreed the fishery would open at the earliest opportunity following the meeting on 5th June.

Despite these decisions having been made based on the results of a consultation process with all WFO Entitlement holders the opening of the fishery had brought about a number of letters expressing concern on a number of issues, which included threat to the sustainability of the 2011 year class which was being targeted, the handwork fishery not being viable as the cockles were too widely dispersed and potential damage to the shrimp fishery as vessels which did not find the cockle fishery viable were targeting shrimp at a time when the stock levels would normally be recovering, and whether EIFCA Officers were qualified to make informed decisions.

Mr Lake expressed his concern at the turnaround from 1992 when the WFO came into force, at that time there were two methods of fishing which were handworking with a rake and dredging, prop washing/blowing out were completely banned and small cockles were protected. He felt that the current method of prop washing was taking as many cockles as dredging but with nothing in place to protect the juveniles.

Mr Garnett acknowledged there were a number of cockles being targeted which were smaller than usual but felt this was due to the cockle growing very slowly and the price being offered for small cockles was 25/30% higher than usual meaning it was less economical to travel further to target larger cockles. Mr Brewster supported this and advised that all three of the local processors were actively encouraging the targeting of smaller cockles as, currently, they were in demand. It was further stated their own vessels were actively targeting the smaller ones.

The CEO assured members that the Authority was taking cogent decisions to deliver the requirements of MACAA 09. A review of the fishery would be conducted with Industry stakeholders at the end of the fishery.

Members agreed to note the report.

EIFCA13/60 Item 11: Eastern IFCA Derogation Process

This process was essentially to formalise what had previously been an adhoc process. Mr Vanstaen was pleased to note this was in place and suggested this process be shared with other IFCA's.

Mr Garnett felt some of the wording on page 45 was a little confusing although the content seemed to be appropriate, it was agreed this should be written more clearly.

Members Agreed to the implementation of the derogation form and charter in conjunction with the NE sub-charter, and the publishing of guidance notes on derogation requests.

EIFCA13/61 Item 12: Fisheries Management in European Marine Sites

The initial information gathering stage had been completed and the responses summarised.

There had been some concern expressed at a legal level regarding the 'flexible' byelaw wording which may mean the end result is slightly more formal than was originally hoped for.

Members were also advised that when the initial consultation had taken place there had been very little information available for eelgrass in the Humber and consequently it had not been included in the initial information gathering phase, the Officers therefore needed the Authority to decide whether to progress with instigating a small protective box for eelgrass and risk criticism that there had been no consultation. Mr Donnelly felt the risk would be greater if it was a totally new feature but as it had been mentioned but the area not pinpointed he felt the risk was reduced. It was also noted that the Authority were charged with protecting this Red Risk feature from activities such as bait digging, towed gear and potting. Whilst there may be objections from Common Rights Holders the CEO felt it was important to follow the guidance set on in MACAA but accommodate ongoing activity wherever possible.

Members agreed to all the recommendations set out in the paper, and decided to include the eel-grass patches on Haile Sands in the draft closed areas. A meeting of the Regulatory & Compliance Sub-Committee would take place on 28th August to consider the byelaw and any objections or submissions raised during the formal byelaw consultation would be put to the Authority meeting on 30th October.

EIFCA13/62 Item 13: Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee meeting held 25th June 2013

A brief summary of what was discussed was provided for members. Essentially the CEO's appointment was confirmed following his probationary period, and the outcome of his Job Evaluation was discussed and accepted.

Members also approved the Annual Statement of Accounts and completed Audit Commission Annual Return. A brief explanation was given as to savings and transfers to reserves. The CEO requested that members noted these reserves were all committed funds.

Members Agreed to accept the report.

EIFCA13/63 Item 14: Payments made and monies received during the period 1 April 2013 to 19 July 2013

Members Resolved to accept the report on payments made amounting to £758,742.12 and monies received amount to £1,078,561.85

Proposed: Stephen Worrall

Seconded: John Stipetic

All Agreed

EIFCA13/64 Item 15: Quarterly Management Accounts

The Head of Finance presented members with accounts for the first quarter of the financial year and included actual figures alongside the projection for the quarter for comparison.

Members Agreed to note the Management Accounts

EIFCA13/65 Item 16: Marine Planning

MMO representatives Ruth Barber and Russell Gadbury presented members with an update on the Draft East Inshore and offshore Marine Plans which cover the area from Flamborough Head to Felixstowe. Explanation was given on why the plans had been produced, who had contributed to them, and what the plans do and how they do it.

As the plans were out for consultation ways to get involved and respond to the plans were also explained. The CEO advised that if members wished to make a response through him he would be happy to put them forward, equally they could make individual responses.

Members were reminded that once the plans had been approved all decisions made by EIFCA would need to take account of Marine Plans, however prior to being adopted the plans should still be taken into consideration.

Tony Turner questioned whether Tidal Energy was being taken into account as he felt there was a lot of emphasis on windfarms. It was explained that on the North Norfolk and Suffolk coasts areas had been identified for dedicated tidal research that could be considered for renewable source.

Peter Barham felt the plans should be welcomed as they looked to the future. Rather than curtailing opportunities they created opportunities.

The Chair thanked them for a very informative presentation.

EIFCA13/65 Item 17: Quarterly Progress against Annual Plans

The CEO was pleased to be able to report that progress was being made with the majority of the major pieces of work. The exceptions being the Byelaw review programme and the risk based enforcement matrix which had been started but put on hold to allow time to work on the EMS Byelaw.

Members Agreed to note the report.

EIFCA13/66 Item 18: Marine Protection Quarterly Reports

Mr Vanstaen questioned some of the comments made in the reports but was advised these were not written from an academic point of view.

Mr Pinborough requested that where landing data was provided for RSA activities it should be clarified whether this was caught and landed or caught and returned. The CEO agreed to investigate the data and would advise the Authority if this could be implemented.

EIFCA13/67 Item 19: Marine Environment Quarterly Reports

These items were included for information only, no matters were raised.

EIFCA13/68 Item 20: Update of HR Activity

This item was included for information only, no matters were raised.

EIFCA13/69 Item 21: Any Other Business

CEFAS Presentation: Dave Limpenny from Cefas gave a presentation on 'Co-ordination of Defra's recommended MCZ data and evidence delivery programme 2011-2014'. The presentation referred to the MCZ designation programme. In 2011 Defra asked CEFAS to collect new data to allow the MCZ designation process to move forward. It was felt there was a need to collect data that could be used by all agencies taking on the motto 'collect once, use many times'.

Data has been collected using a variety of acoustic survey techniques and grabbing methods and the process has now reached the stage where partnership with IFCA's need to be developed so that local knowledge can be taken into account.

Mr Spray felt some of the collected data was a bit opaque and that using outside bodies to assist with data collection would be useful.

Community Engagement Meetings: The next meetings were scheduled to take place on 6th August at Cromer, and 19th August at Lowestoft.

FPV John Allen Naming Ceremony: Members were asked to let Lucy know whether they would be attending, if they had not already done so.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1330 hours.

Vision

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Action Item 7

11th EIFCA Meeting

30 October 2013

Health and Safety risks and mitigation

Report by: P J Haslam, CEO

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to apprise members of health and safety risks and associated mitigation introduced to manage liabilities.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Note the contents of this report**
- **Approve the introduction of electronic support for lone working operations**

Background

H&S law mandates through the general duty of employers to their employees that it shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees¹.

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

Policies and procedures

All IFCA policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated by Norfolk County Council and are now fit for purpose. They are accessible to all staff and will be discussed at both departmental and Executive group meetings.

Training

All officers have received formal training to provide a full understanding of individual roles and responsibilities. Staff are now empowered to give due

¹ HSAW Act 1974 c. 37 Part I General duties Section 2

consideration to H&S issues and are aware of the management mechanisms to review risks and raise concerns to the appropriate level.

Executive actions

As a result of the training the following executive actions have been identified and are being addressed:

- Risk Profiling to refresh understanding of H&S risks to drive subsequent review of risk assessments.
- Reinvigorate an incident reporting culture including a mechanism to capture near misses.
- Monitor personal H&S behaviours to ensure adherence to management direction.
- Assure professionalism in the conduct of sea-going operations including appropriate and routine H&S consideration and awareness.
- Introduction of an anonymous reporting system to encourage all incidents to be reported and alleviate concerns of recrimination.
- Introduction of electronic support for lone working operations.

Risks

Members would wish to be aware of the following H & S risks:

| Risk | Intervention | Residual Risk | Risk rating* |
|--|--|---|---------------------|
| Material state of Sutton Bridge moorings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe systems of work introduced to manage immediate risks. • Officers have driven an acceptance by agents that immediate repair is necessary to alleviate existing H&S issues. • Legal wrangling over ownership of the moorings is preventing a long term strategy for overall improvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The material state of the moorings is in decline and whilst the rate will be slowed by the proposed repairs the long term prognosis is not encouraging. • Risk of injury to personnel. | Treat# |
| Whole Body Vibration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk awareness training to manage impacts. • Health monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury from boat movement owing to lower resilience as a | Treat |

| | process to be developed. | result of individual physiology | |
|---|---|---|--------------|
| Lone working operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management scrutiny of any proposal for lone working. • Safe system of work to ensure staff check in and out when there is a clear demand for lone working. • Proposed introduction of electronic support means | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to prompt action owing to telephone reception coverage etc. • Risk of personnel injury | Treat |
| Unreported incidents/unilateral decisions regarding acceptable risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Training • Equipment • Management systems to capture incidents • Routine agenda items at all meetings at all levels of Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to personnel as a result of failure to acknowledge or adhere to H&S direction and guidance | Treat |

*Risk Rating

| |
|--------|
| High |
| Medium |
| Low |

#Risk treatment

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Treat | - | take positive action to mitigate risk. |
| Tolerate | - | acknowledge and actively monitor risk. |
| Terminate | - | risk no longer considered to be material to Eastern IFCA business. |
| Transfer | - | risk is outwith Eastern IFCA ability to treat and is transferred to higher level. |

Lone working

For the four area based IFCOs there is a routine requirement for lone working and on occasion there is a requirement for other officers to conduct work alone. This requirement spans routine community meetings which require staff to be driving at night through to protection operations in remote coastal locations. To mitigate the risks inherent in these activities a process has been designed that delivers:

- management scrutiny of any proposed lone working to assure that it is appropriate.

- clear understanding of the proposed times and locations of work and when check in/out calls will be received.
- A duty officer system whereby lone workers check in and out with a senior member of staff.
- risk awareness training for staff.

Whilst this process is broadly fit for purpose, there have been occasions when either staff have failed to provide notice of lone working or attempts to check in/out have been unsuccessful owing to communications difficulties which are predominantly caused by limited mobile phone reception in remote areas.

Given the level of risk surrounding lone working operations, particularly in relation to the enforcement function, it is proposed that a more robust system of tracking and alerting is required to provide an appropriate and enduring solution to assure that Authority's duty of care to staff.

Engagement with Norfolk County Council has identified commercial providers who supply devices to be carried by individual officers and which enable tracking via GPS together with an emergency telephone link with a manned reception centre as well as other functionality such as identifying when an officer may have been incapacitated. By simply pressing a button an officer will be connected to the reception centre who will initially listen to establish the nature of the incident before instigating an appropriate response. This can include processes bespoke to the Authority as well as direct access to police control rooms.

Whilst the preferred solution has yet to be fully developed it is envisaged that all of the Marine Protection team would be equipped with devices with two additional devices available for officers when they are engaged in lone working.

Indicative costs per unit per month are approximately:

- Device with single provider SIM card £10 -12
- Device with multiple provider roaming SIM card £15 – 30
- Device with satellite communication £41

Costs vary between providers and the length of contract entered into and some offer discount for public sector organisations. Indicative annual cost illustrations are:

- 12 x SOS and 'mandown' tracking devices with roaming SIM circa £2,500 per annum with one off charges of £180 connection fees and £120 for holsters
- 8 x SOS and 'mandown' tracking devices with roaming SIM and 4 x satellite devices for Area based IFCOs circa £3,600 per annum plus similar one off charges

Conclusion

Members can be re-assured that the Health and Safety culture of Eastern IFCA has been re-invigorated and that there are no immediate issues that introduce significant risk to continued operation across the breadth of the Authorities remit.

Those that are a factor have been identified and are actively under scrutiny to identify mitigation plans.

Vision

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Action Item 8

11th EIFCA Meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: Julian Gregory, Head of Marine Protection

Meeting of the Regulatory and Compliance Sub-committees held on 18th September 2013

Purpose of report

To inform members of the key outputs and decisions from the Regulatory and Compliance Sub-Committee meeting held on 18th September 2013

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

Overview of the Meeting

Election of Chair / Vice-Chair

Mr Tom Pinborough was elected as the Chair of the sub-committee and Mr Ceri Morgan was elected as the Vice-Chair.

Policy development for a shore launched fishing zone in North Norfolk:

Members were advised that a Gentleman's Agreement had been brokered and officers remained in constant dialogue to ensure it stands. It remains an ongoing issue.

Byelaw for management of fishing activity in the Humber Estuary and Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Sites

Members considered proposals for a flexible byelaw that would enable the Authority to issue Regulatory Notices to impose, vary and rescind restrictions and prohibitions in European marine sites (SPA and SAC) in order to further conservation objectives in those areas.

Having given the byelaw very careful consideration members resolved;

- a) To note the content of the papers provided**
- b) To recognise the principles of byelaw making**
- c) To agree to the proposed Protected Area Byelaw as presented**
- d) That the CEO, in consultation with the Chair, can negotiate minor changes which do not affect the material state of the byelaw with Defra**

- e) To direct officers to undertake a formal consultation process and to seek ministerial consent to make this byelaw**

Members also considered proposals to introduce four Regulatory Notices to protect biogenic reef of *Sabellaria Spinulosa* in the Wash, Boulder and Cobble communities in the Wash, and *Zostera* (eelgrass) beds in the Humber estuary and on the North Norfolk Coast.

Having considered the Regulatory Notices members resolved:

- a) To close to bottom towed gear Areas A to I to protect the biogenic reef of the *Sabellaria spinulosa* feature in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European marine Site**
- b) To Close to bottom towed gear Area J to protect the Sub-tidal Boulder and Cobble communities sub-feature in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site**
- c) To close to bottom towed gear areas SH, EH, SF, BP and BC to protect the attributes of *Zostera* beds in the Wash and north Norfolk Coast European Marine Site**
- d) Resolved to close to all fishing activity area K to protect *Zostera* as a sub-feature of the intertidal mud-flat and sand flat in the Humber Estuaries European Marine Site**
- e) To direct the Authority staff to review the closed areas in the financial year 2016-2017**

Progress Report on the Byelaw Review Process

Members received an update to the effect that whilst some progress had been made this project had been delayed as a consequence of higher priority projects including vessel replacement and the management of European marine sites.

Background Papers

1. Unconfirmed minutes of the Regulatory and Compliance Sub-Committee meeting 18th September 2013.

Vision

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11th EIFCA Meeting

Action Item 9

30 October 2013

Report by: Nichola Freer – Head of HR
Christine Hurley – Head of Finance

Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-committees held on 17 October 2013

Purpose of report

To inform members of the key outputs and decisions from the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee meetings held on 17/10/13.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

HR Matters:

Following the notice of retirement of the Head of Finance at the end of this year, members were informed of the recruitment schedule to replace this key position on a like for like basis.

Members were informed that the review of the current recruitment process had been completed and a revised process and documentation has been developed and introduced during September for future use. Members were issued with a copy of the revised policy.

An update was given with regard to the progress towards the HR plan to 2015. This report is covered in information item 25 of the statutory meeting papers.

Finance Matters:

Preliminary estimate of expenditure for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Members were advised that Preliminary Estimates had been prepared in order to provide more time for members and their relevant county council officers to consider the future financial requirements of the authority bearing in mind the current and impending reduction in County Council funding. The Estimates will be revised and presented as Provisional Estimates of Expenditure to the FPSC at the January Meeting.

The calculations of projected expenditure less income for 2013/2014 (the current financial year) showed a modest saving. The Preliminary Estimate for 2014/2015 demonstrated a virtual stand-still Levy after salary and cost inflation had been accounted for. This means that for the second year a 25% reduction from base levy in 2011 will be achievable.

After a discussion mainly relating to the level of reserve funds currently held by the Authority members resolved to note and agree the Preliminary Estimate of Expenditure.

Preliminary forecasts of expenditure for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018

Members were advised that the forecasts use 2014/2015 preliminary estimate including inflation as a base. Known and predicted expenditure and income for the forecast years was included and it was assumed that any capital expenditure would be met from 'ear-marked' reserves. It was also assumed that the New Burden Funding from Defra continued at the same level as at present through the forecast years. The Levies are expected to rise in the forecast years mainly due to increases in Salaries as staff progress towards their salary maxima and the provision for inflation.

After a discussion members agreed to note the Preliminary forecasts of expenditure

External Audit

The Head of Finance reported that the External Audit of the Authority's accounts for the financial year 2012/2013 had been completed and that an unqualified opinion had been issued. There were no issues or matters that the External auditor wished to draw to the attention of the Authority.

Review of Accommodation

The CEO advised members that a review of the current accommodation had been carried out and a range of options had been prepared for members consideration.

It was explained that the current office accommodation when it was acquired under lease in 1993 was at that time more than adequate for the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee (ESFJC), however as the needs of ESFJC increased the accommodation had been adapted. The advent of EIFCA has necessitated further adaptation but this has now been exhausted.

The authority now needs more desk space, a meeting room suitable for all authority meetings with space for public attendance, and more storage in order to provide security for the authority's assets.

The four options put forward were discussed and it was acknowledged that there was a need to provide some form of additional accommodation. Members agreed that officers should consider the possibility of either expanding into the adjacent office space, purchasing office accommodation plus storage or commissioning a bespoke purpose built unit. Officers were asked to research these options and report back to a future meeting.

Proposed deployable office infrastructure

The CEO reported that he had previously raised the possibility of purchasing a form of mobile office to enable more consultation with stakeholders around the EIFCA district. Members agreed that the opportunity to hold clinics at certain times throughout the district could enhance the communication between EIFCA and stakeholders, and that the CEO should pursue the possibility of borrowing or hiring a trailer based mobile office for this purpose.

Update on New Burdens Funding (NBF)

The CEO advised members that the initial four year phase of NBF end on 31st March 2015. Defra have been advised that the funding required for all their

departments for the next comprehensive spending review would show a shortfall of £200m. There has to be a concern as to how this may affect NBF for IFCA's. The worst case scenario is that the NBF is withdrawn. If this is the case it will be necessary to consider the expected workload of IFCA's and decide which work elements would have to be excluded or performed to a lesser extent in order to be affordable within a reduced budget

Background Papers

1. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee Meeting held on 17th October 2013.

Vision

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



Action Item 10

11th EIFCA Meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: P J Haslam, Chief Executive Officer

Introduction of Individual Quotas in the Wash cockle fishery

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide Authority members with a risk based analysis of the opportunities and constraints associated with moving to individual quotas within the Wash cockle fishery.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the contents of this paper.**
- **Agree to direct the CEO to conduct a consultation with all Entitlement holders to ascertain whether there is a wider appetite to investigate this proposal further.**
- **Agree to direct the CEO to report back to the January 2014 Authority meeting with results and further recommendations**

Background

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (Eastern IFCA) must, as charged by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA 09), '*manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in that district*'. In doing so the Authority must: '*seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way*' and '*seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district*'²

Furthermore, the Authority must also '*seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ³ in the district are furthered*' and that '*nothing in section 153 (as described above) is to affect the performance of the duty imposed by this section*'.⁴

² Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Part 6 Chpt 1 Arts 153(2)(a)&(d).

³ Marine Conservation Zone - a marine conservation zone designated by an order under MaCAA Section 116.

⁴ Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Part 6 Chpt 1 Art 154(1) & (2).

In pursuit of this and following a request from John Lake Shellfish Limited and Lynn Shellfish Limited, this paper has been constructed to drive a debate regarding the case for, and the impact of, any change in the manner in which quota is allocated amongst the Wash shell-fishing community.

Traditionally there has been collective quota allocation whereby a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is established after each survey period and the fishery is opened to all entitlement holders. Management measures are put in place to regulate where fishing is to take place and the permitted periods of fishing activity, normally 4 day periods taking into account appropriate tidal conditions. Byelaws control the amount of catch able to be landed each day (2000kgs for a hand-worked fishery; 4000kgs for a dredged fishery).

Some within the Wash fishing sector contend that this form of management control is too restrictive to enable the viable operation of their business model and they seek a review as a means to air all sides of the debate.

It must be stressed that this is not a debate concerning the method of gathering cockles. Decisions regarding fishing method will still be subject to consultation with the Industry and the agreement of Natural England via an Appropriate Assessment.

Analysis

A full risk based analysis drawing upon the opinions of Authority officers and commercial fishing members of the Authority is at Appendix 1. The key issues are summarised below:

Opportunities:

- Fishing operators have greater choice of harvest time to enable them to meet market demand.
- Yields (value) potentially increased – commercial operators will be able to balance price and/or yield to each of their individual circumstances.
- Allows investors to seek returns from a number of business plans (not solely fishing activity) in the most efficient manner.
- Fishing operators will not be penalised for a vessel breakdown.
- Fishing operations enabled to become more conducive to modern working practices

Discussion

By introducing individual quota fishing operators will be provided with choice. The fishery will still be surveyed, analysed, quantified and opened with appropriate management measures in the same way but operators be able to choose when they elect to gather their part of the harvest. This will allow them to meet market demand without the “flooding of the market” effect associated with a collective TAC. In addition, operators can judge the moment to harvest to align with growth rates and yield in order to maximise income from the fishery.

Processors will be enabled to be more competitive in the global market place. Their produce will be of a quality of their choosing enabling them to demand a better price. Under current practices, the local processors report that they are driven to take whatever cockle produce is available irrespective of size, yield or prevailing market conditions. Moving to an individual quota system may make local processor more competitive and thereby derive greater income for the local and national economies.

Those with large business portfolios will potentially be enabled to operate their business model in the most efficient manner when receiving landings from their own vessels. Clearly, if they wish to take advantage of the landings from other vessels within the fishery they will have to remain open throughout the period the fishery is active.

Finally, the current practice of operating the fishery drives behaviours akin to a 'gold rush' mentality where fishing operators feel compelled to go to sea despite fatigue and/or vessel serviceability issues. By providing a choice as to when to fish should help to alleviate some of the more extreme practices making the fishery safer and more conducive to modern working practices.

Constraints:

- Given traditional local rivalries, it is likely that this issue will further polarise positions leading to a position where the perception will be of winners and losers.
- There will need to be an intricate and robust mechanism to manage:
 - linkages of quota with individual vessels (e.g. at licence/entitlement. % vs. annual allocation).
 - Prevention of transfer of quota (either between vessels/entitlement holders/operators)
 - Apportionment of the annual individual quota allocation
- Interactions of mussel and cockle fishery would need consideration as they have greater potential for co-occurrence
- Greater demands on enforcement with the potential for a multi-method, multi-day approach and a potentially longer season (perhaps mitigated by iVMS)
- Complexities in completing Appropriate Assessments. This includes reduced certainty about intensity and duration which would increase preparation times.
- Complexities in managing potential mitigation measures (e.g. ridging out or atypical mortality) across multiple fisheries including the potential for no quota left in high mortality years.
- Timing becomes a more important issue, and the need to close grounds for known biological events could be required (e.g. spawning or settlement)
- Complexities around wind farm cable routes
- Potential to be seen as favouring one fishing sector over another
- Potential conflict as to method – both hand worked/dredge and mussels
- Raises the problem of unused entitlements and/or quota
- Less predictability of fishing efforts and methods when considering options
- Potential to slow the turn-over of entitlements
- Incentive for under reporting landings
- Need to consider the sequence of methods (hand worked and dredge)
- Difficulty in communicating increasingly complex management scenarios
- Potential to increase the pressure on the fishery and reduce the return

from the genuine active fishermen if all WFO Entitlements become active. This is not a straightforward proposal and will likely encounter significant resistance from the smaller operator and/or those opposed to change. It will necessarily need to be carefully brokered and it introduces a number of practical complexities which will need to be thoroughly analysed to ensure that any subsequent revision of process is fit for purpose.

From collective agreement on the mechanism to apportion the annual allocation through to the enforcement action necessary to prevent transfer of quota between vessels will, if past behaviours are taken into account, will require significant negotiation. It is for consideration that this initiative may be better suited to be nested within the wider review of the Wash Fishery Order which will be required in the next few years.

In any event, the introduction of any revised quota allocation mechanism will take time and the Authority is invited to resist any pressure for implementation in a timescale that will preclude due rigour and diligence.

Timing

The Wash Fishery Order 1992 and its related management policies and documents are a complicated bundle of interconnected management tools. At times this bundle has been viewed as a Gorgon knot that may risk unravelling if cut. The Authority has talked over the last year about the need for review of part or all of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 and its subsequent management plans and policies. This work is complicated, and it could be better to either review the full package of Wash management either as an interim measure or in preparation for the renewal of the order in 2022 (9 years away). Individual Quota could then be included in the review of the whole package of management, rather than adding to it *ad hoc*.

Legal implications

There are no immediate legal risks with investigating this proposal. If elements of the Wash fishing community are averse to the initiative should it subsequently be introduced, it may prompt a degree of legal challenge. Officers will take legal advice in formulating any further recommendations for Authority consideration.

Financial implications

Other than the additional costs incurred in conducting a thorough consultation phase, the financial implications of this limited proposal are considered affordable and not of material concern.

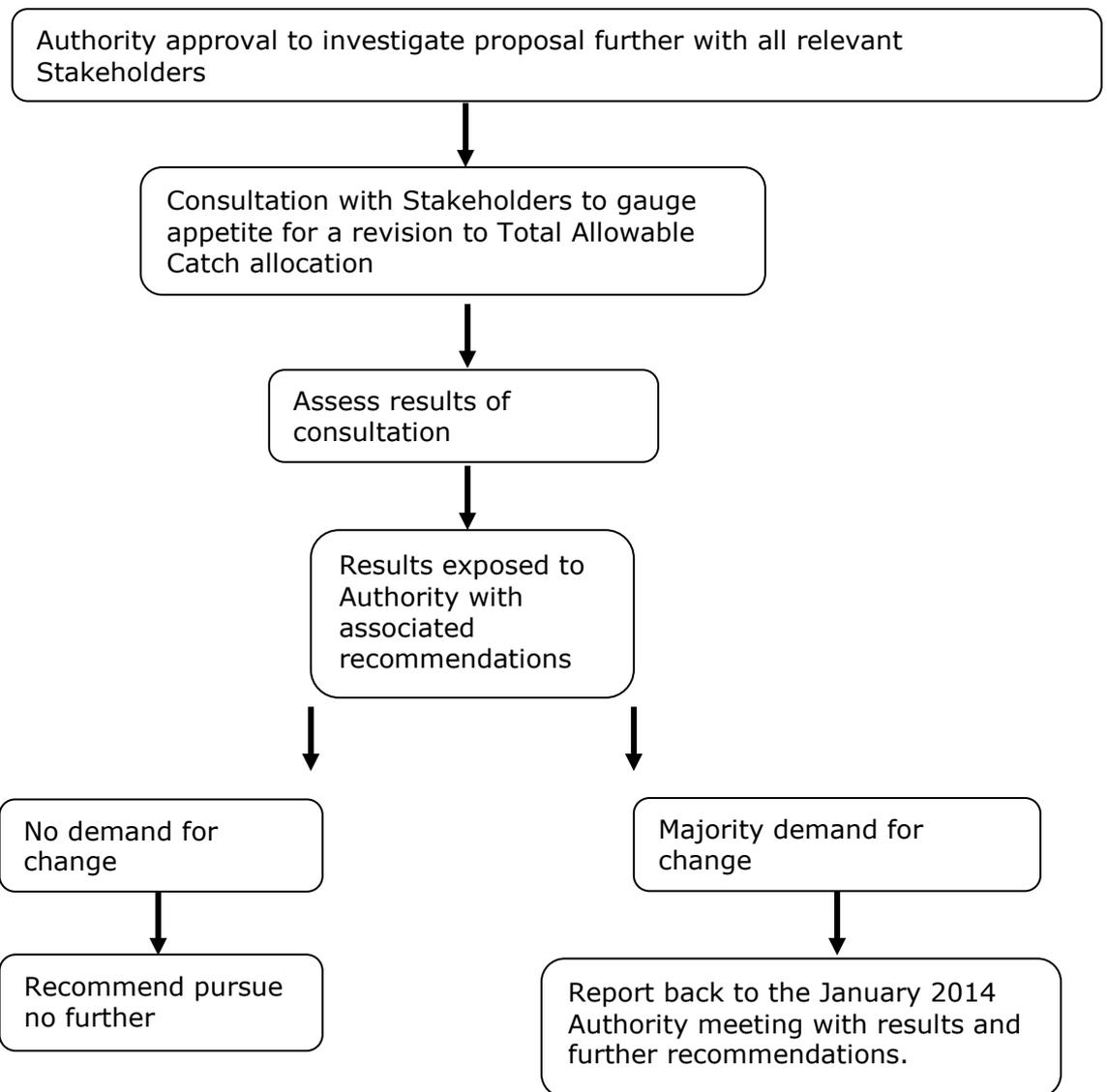
Regulatory implications

The Authority has been granted the right of regulating a fishery for the prescribed species for a period of 30 years under the Wash Fishery Order 1992. The management measures introduced to achieve the requisite controls on fishing activity are within the gift of the Authority and can be introduced as Regulations using the powers conferred by Article 7 of the Order.

Communications/publicity proposals

This initiative will demand the fullest consultation with all Entitlement holders to assure that the opinion of the majority has been garnered. This will require both written communications and face to face engagement.

Proposed Exploratory process



Background documents

- 1 Wash Fishery Order 1992

| Individual Quota – Wash Fishery Order 1992 | |
|---|--|
| Opportunity | Constraint |
| Fishers have greater choice of harvest time to meet market demands | There will need mechanism to link quota with vessel (e.g. at licence/entitlement. % vs. annual allocation). |
| Yields potentially increased – commercial operators will be able to balance price and/or yield to each of their individual circumstances. | There will need to be a mechanism so that quota is not transferable (either between vessels/entitlement holders/operators) |
| Allows investors to seek returns from a number of business plans | A mechanism would need to be developed and agreed to apportion the annual allocation. |
| Fishers will not be penalised for a vessel breakdown. | Interactions of mussel and cockle fishery would need consideration as they have greater potential for co-occurrence |
| Less pressure to fish and the 'race' of hours that happens some years – with less stress to the fishing community in terms of intensity of work and fatigue and more choice of when to work | Greater demands on enforcement with the potential for a multi-method, multi day approach and a potentially longer season (perhaps mitigated by iVMS) |
| Potential for methods to complement each other (high density/hand worked and low density/dredge) | Complexities if considering and applying growth rates to stocks over the year. Would be best considered separately from this issue |
| | Complexities in completing appropriate assessment. This includes reduced certainty about intensity and duration which would increase preparation times. |
| | Complexities in managing potential mitigation measures (e.g. ridging out or atypical mortality) across multiple fisheries including the potential for no quota left in high mortality years. |
| | Timing becomes a more important issue, and the need to close grounds for known biological events could be required (e.g. spawning or settlement) |
| | Complexities around wind farm cable routes |
| | Potential to be seen as favouring one fishing sector over another |
| | Potential conflict as to method – both hand worked/dredge and mussels |
| | Raises the problem of unused entitlements and/or quota |
| | Less predictability of fishing efforts and methods when considering options |
| | Potential to slow the turn-over of entitlements |
| | Incentive for under reporting landings |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Need to consider the sequence of methods (particularly in regard to hand worked and dredge where) |
| | Difficulty in communicating increasingly complex management scenarios |
| | Potential to increase the pressure on the fishery and reduce the return form the genuine active fishermen if all WFO Entitlements become active. |

Vision

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



Action Item 11

11th EIFCA meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: P J Haslam, Chief Executive Officer

Propagation of productive fishing grounds

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to forward proposals for the regeneration of fishing grounds in the Wash.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Approve the proposed project for EIFCA/Natural England and the Industry to work jointly to re-generate the Gat Sand as a first step in re-establishing the viability of the Wash mussel fishery.**
- **Approve the proposal to investigate division of the Sand to promote both its status as a conservation resource and to enable its rejuvenation as a productive mussel bed.**
- **Agree to option 2 to consolidate stock on the Gat bed in order to seek to prompt a recovery of the bed to support sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.**
- **Agree to direct the CEO to take forward planning to deliver Option 2 through the 2014-15 Research and Environment plan.**

Background

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA) is charged by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA 09) to: *'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'* and *'take any other steps which in the Authority's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development'*⁵

In pursuit of these objectives the Authority must also *'seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ⁶ in the district are furthered'* and that *'nothing in section 153(2) (as described above) is to affect the performance of the duty imposed*

⁵ Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Part 6 Chpt 1 Arts 153(2)(b)&(c).

⁶ Marine Conservation Zone - a marine conservation zone designated by an order under MaCAA Section 116.

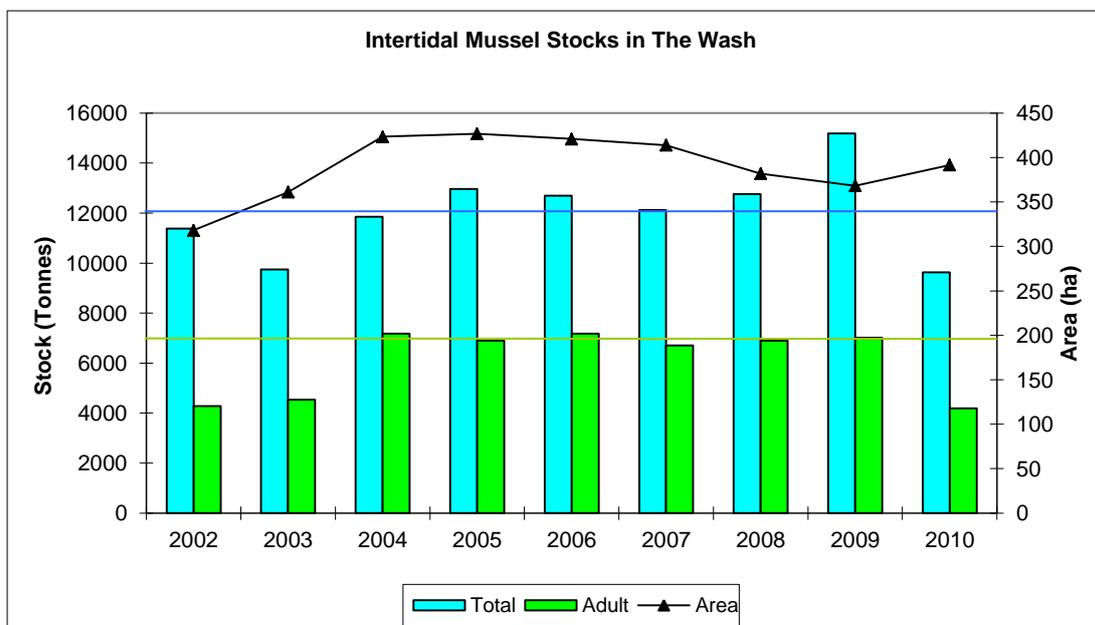
by this section'.⁷ In other words, the Authority must seek to protect first and then enable exploitation activity.

The proposal and options outlined in this paper are constructed noting these legislative requirements to promote the recovery of the fishery from the effects of exploitation and to take steps necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. It has been worked up in consultation with both Natural England and the Wash fishing community and seeks to provide options to propagate productive fishing grounds to promote sustainable fisheries and to best aid a viable industry.

Mussels

The Wash mussel fishery is volatile and despite careful management and encouraging increases in stock recruitment in the years 2002-09, the fishery suffered a substantial reverse in 2010. Table 1 below charts the yearly variations and trends within the fishery. In 2010 the total stock of mussels on the intertidal beds was found to be 9,626 tonnes. This was a significant decrease from the 15,188 tonnes recorded following the 2009 surveys and greatly exceeded the anticipated losses following the 2009/10 fishery, during which mussels had been relayed from the intertidal beds into the several fishery. All beds within the Wash were affected but the Gat beds lost an estimated 3,419 tonnes of mussels (61% of the 2009 stock)

Table 1



The co-management approach employed by the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, the forerunner to EIFCA, routinely sought the views of the local fishing community and as a result of consultation and on the advice of Industry, the Gat Sand was closed to commercial exploitation to facilitate recovery in the mid 1990s. This elongated closure prompted some to begin to consider the sand to be a 'no-take zone'.

That said, it has not remained closed. In addition to substantial unapproved and unregulated fishing in 2000 and 2001 (of up to c1,000 tonnes (T) each year) the bed has been opened on several occasions as follows:

Hand-work fisheries

⁷ Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Part 6 Chpt 1 Art 154(1) & (2).

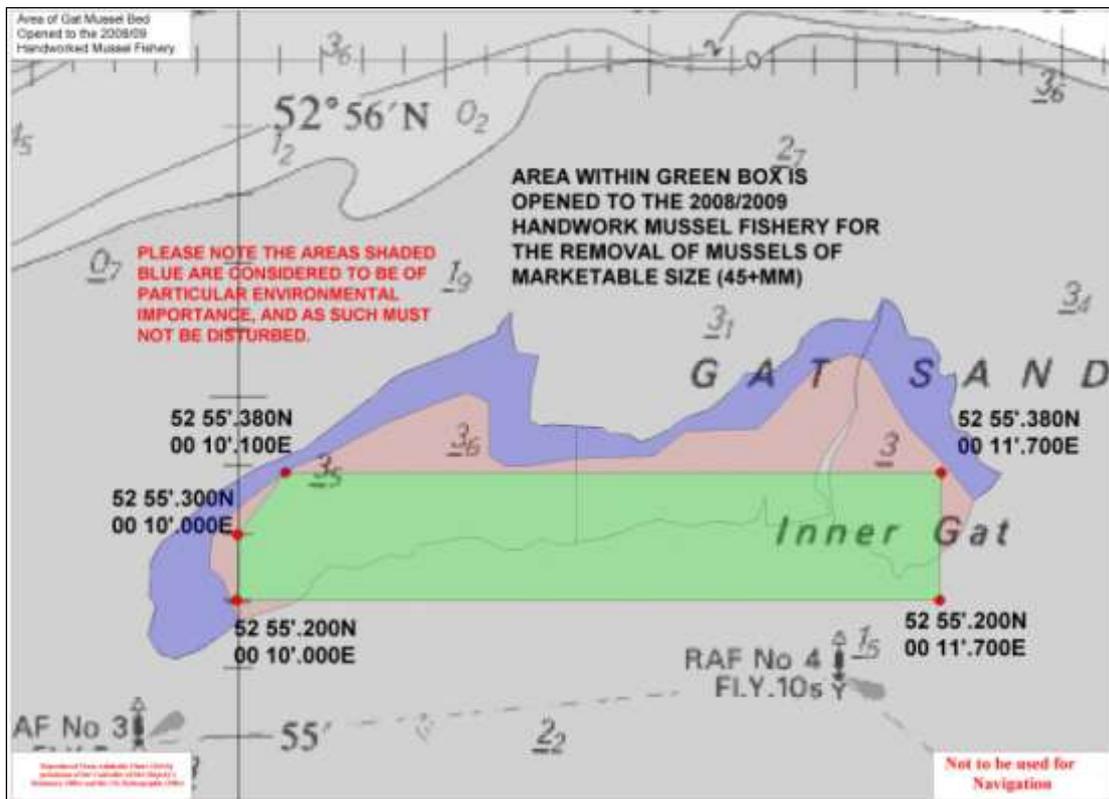
- 2003 – 200T
- 2006 – 140T
- 2007 – 150T*
- 2008 – 85T*

* the latter two fisheries were under-exploited with only c20T being taken.

Dredge fishery

- 2006 – 1,400T*

*This fishery followed a very good settlement in 2004 that had rejuvenated the bed. For this fishery English Nature were keen to see management measures to protect the older, more reef-like features of the bed. As most of these were around the northern edge of the bed the attached chart was created for the dredge and subsequent hand-work fisheries.



Note: this represents an estimate of the position of these features rather than precise GPS based coordinates.

The Gat has changed since that chart was made, with erosion occurring around most of the edges and the bed no longer extends into some of the original blue protected areas. Whereas, previously the northern parts of the bed were relatively distinct from the younger mussels in the southern parts of the bed, there is now little differentiation across the bed. Indeed, most of the bed now supports features that would have value in conservation terms, while there are few areas that support the young mussels that the industry prefer to exploit. It would be challenging to draw a similar, contemporary chart.

There are varying opinions about the wisdom of keeping the bed closed for extended periods. Some would contend that doing so is of clear benefit and will allow not only the mussels to re-establish themselves but also the wider ecology to be restored to balance. Others state that long term closure hazards the bed and that the sand

needs to be worked in order to remove detritus and provide the requisite substrate to promote settlement, which in turn will provide for successful recruitment into the fishery. There is sense in both points of view but this highlights a wider issue in that the bed has distinct utility and is equally valued as a potentially productive commercial fishing ground and as a unique conservation area.

Gat Sand Proposal

Mindful of the complexity outlined above but noting that the Wash mussel fishery although in decline, has the potential to offer a viable and valuable resource, it is proposed that steps are taken to regenerate the Gat Sand in the Wash as a first step in the process to attempt to re-establish a buoyant and viable Wash mussel fishery.

The Gat Sand is judged to be of particular importance to a viable Wash mussel fishery and will serve as a test bed to assess whether steps taken to best aid regeneration are appropriate and will deliver the desired outcome.

As part of the process it is necessary to consider how the Sand is to be managed as part of the wider fishery in the future. It would be of little utility if the bed was to be regenerated only to be subject to confusions over its viability as a fishing ground and its status within a conservation area. To broker an accommodation between these two competing requirements it is proposed that the bed is divided such that distinct areas are identified to enable both a fishery of limited year classes to make it commercially viable and to preserve the conservation diversity of mixed year classes.

Gat Sand Options

With the caveat that the productivity of fishing grounds is variable and can be affected by numerous factors so any initiative to seek to regenerate is not guaranteed to deliver the desired results, the options that present themselves are as follows:

- Option 1 – **Buy seed**. This option would entail quantities of seed mussel being purchased to be laid on the Gat sand to provide the conditions to potentially regenerate a productive bed. It is proposed that the seed is purchased using money from the Wash Fishery Order propagation fund which was conceived to underpin activity to propagate the fishery. Noting the significant amount of seed that would be required, it is likely that this would consume most of the funds accrued to date. It has to be stressed that whilst there is a degree of confidence that such a re-stocking exercise will prompt increased productivity, positive results are not assured. Similarly using all the WFO fund monies on one project will prevent other proposed investment opportunities.

Before any seed is laid the Gat Sand will require husbandry in the form of:

- Removal of mussel mud (pseudo faeces) to provide the best conditions for the seed to develop.
- testing to assess whether there have been any fundamental environmental changes that will prevent rejuvenation such as a wholesale change in pH value
- provision of appropriate substrate conditions that may help to promote spat settlement and subsequent development such as laying a layer of cockle shell.

- Option 2 – **Consolidate Stock.** Officers and Industry members have differing opinions regarding the need to maintain minimum densities of mussels within a bed, and the contribution that mussel has in attracting new settlements of spat. Officers feel it is important to maintain a minimum mussel density in order to prevent erosion and to encourage new settlement. Some members of the industry feel this approach to be flawed and totally clearing a bed is a better approach for encouraging new settlements. This option would consist of gathering stock that already exists on the bed and using it to increase the density elsewhere on the bed. This would enable a comparison to be made between the ability of high and low density areas to attract seed. The Industry will need to provide vessels to gather the mussels and Natural England will need to give their advice for the proposed methodology to gather the mussels.

As above, the sand will need initial husbandry to ensure that any subsequent initiatives are set for success

- Option 3 – **Do nothing.** This option would preserve the status quo. It would rely on natural processes to regenerate the bed. Exploitation would only be permitted once stocks have recovered to previously productive levels. Noting that there are many opinions as to why the productivity of the Gat sand has dwindled recently but no thorough understanding, this represents the simplest option but does not meet the desire to actively regenerate the ground to promote sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.

Weighing the benefits and constraints of the options presented above it is recommended that the Authority agree to Option 2.

Legal implications

EIFCA has a statutory duty to take any other steps which in the Authority's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. There is a risk that failure to consider initiatives that may make a contribution may be construed as a disregard for the provisions of MaCAA 09.

If Authority members agree to the proposal any subsequent activity will have to be developed in close co-operation with Natural England to ensure that the provisions of EU Habitats directive as it applies to the Wash and North Norfolk coast European Marine Site are taken into account. This should mitigate any risk of infraction introduced through failure to protect habitats and features within the site.

Financial implications

It is envisaged that any resource requirement to support the proposal will be sourced jointly from the Authority, Natural England and the Industry. Other than the apportionment of in-house resources, such as officer and vessel time, it is not proposed to allocate any distinct funding to finance the proposal. Clearly, and as this should be of benefit to the Industry, the proposal can only be enabled if there is a commitment from the local fishing community to provide assistance.

Regulatory implications

There may be a requirement for a derogation from existing byelaws to allow the use of dredges to clear mussel mud efficiently. All plans will be subject to appropriate assessment and forwarded to Natural England for their consideration and agreement before any activity takes place.

Communications/publicity proposals

It is proposed that in the initial stages, this project assumes a low media profile. If it is subsequently proved to have been of benefit it would be useful to advertise the methodology to other interested parties. Similarly, it would be beneficial to advertise it as a demonstration of the utility of the IFCA construct and an example of best practice.

Conclusion

The Wash fishery is one of the most lucrative fisheries within the EIFCA district. Taking steps now to promote productivity and underpin the sustainability of the fishery as well as recognising the conservation importance of the Gat Sand is precisely what the IFCA construct was designed to do. To knowingly allow a previously productive ground to degrade further in the hope that natural processes may arrest the decline does not sit comfortably with the requirement for EIFCA to lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries.

Background documents

1. Cefas Technical Report No 136 – *Bivalve cultivation: criteria for selecting a site*, ©2006, I Laing and BE Spencer.

Vision

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Action Item 12

11th EIFCA Meeting

30th October 2013

Report by: Eden Hannam; Head of Marine Environment and Research

Marine Conservation Zones – Update Report

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress of Marine Conservation Zones

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the contents of this report**

Background

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Part 5) enables Defra Ministers to designate and protect Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). These are a type of marine protected area, which will exist alongside European marine sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs), SSSIs and Ramsar sites to form an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas. Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority has been heavily involved in the process that has worked towards designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). This included participation in the Balanced Seas/Net gain process, supplying further supplementary information as well as responding to the Defra consultations which closed on the 31 March 2013.

Defra has indicated their approach to designating will be in three tranches, depending on the amount of available information to support the designation.

Discussion and next steps

Defra is in the final stages prior to designation. The only 'tranche one' site within the Eastern district is the Stour & Orwell estuary system. Later tranches could include other Suffolk river estuaries, Cromer, Dog's Head in the Wash and the Lincolnshire belt. Final notification of chosen sites will go ahead in November. Sites that do go ahead will require management by IFCA and the MMO depending on the activity.

The management proposed by the MMO is similar to the system currently used to manage the 'change of approach' European Marine Site. This is based on a risk based matrix that looks at interactions between gear/features.

An amendment to this process has been suggested by Eastern IFCA to the MMO where we focus on localised management plans. This change was proposed because of the draw backs of a national risk based matrix approach - based on our experiences through the EMS process.

The two high risk threats indicated to us by the National MMO matrix is damage to Native Oyster Beds and sheltered muddy gravels. Both have been identified in lacking 'generic' level information; with specific information needing to be required to manage these two features.

Eastern IFCA will consider how to compliment the process to fill these information gaps in its annual research plan for 2014/15.

Conclusion and Next steps

This year is a particularly busy year for Eastern IFCA and whilst many objectives and outputs are being achieved and delivered, it is placing huge demands on the staff. Members can be assured that the officers will continue to deliver over and above the contractual requirements to achieve the outputs for this year but a formal re-balancing of effort will be needed later this year to ensure that our plans do not establish expectations that cannot be adhered to.

Background documents

1. Defra - Marine Conservation Zones: Consultation on proposals for designation in 2013. Summary of responses.

Vision

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Action Item 13

11th EIFCA meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: Phil Haslam, CEO

Annual Report 2012-2013

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present and seek approval of Eastern IFCA's Annual Report 2012-2013

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Approve the Annual Report 2012-2013 for publication and distribution to Defra**

Background

Defra mandates that Eastern IFCA produces an Annual Report. The Annual Report for 2012-2013 has been sent to the Chair of the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee for approval and his comments have been taken into account. The Authority is now asked to approve the annual report for 2012-2013. The Annual Report is attached as a separate file.

Vision

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Action Item 14

11th EIFCA meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: L P Godwin, Marine Environment Officer

Wash Fishery Order – Lay Consents

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to forward proposals to proceed with renewing WFO mussel lay lease renewals, processing current applications and planning for future applications.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Receive** Natural England's formal response with regards the WFO mussel lay review of consents.
- **Note** the three options for progressing this work.
- **Agree** to option 2 of the WFO mussel lay project options presented below which entails the following:
 - Immediately renew existing expired WFO shellfish lay leases using current lease agreement.
 - Update the WFO shellfish lay lease agreement.
 - Process partially completed applications on the waiting list using updated lease agreement.
 - Preserve the moratorium on new lay applications until a new apportionment and approval model has been approved.
 - Seek approval for new model of WFO mussel cultivation management.
 - Lift moratorium on new lay applications
- **Agree** to Option 3 of the 'WFO lay application process' to approve the process set out in Appendix 1.
- **Direct** the CEO to report on progress of the agreed option as per the timeframe presented with the options below.

Background papers

Appendix 1 – WFO shellfish lay process

Appendix 2 – Natural England correspondence (07th October 2013)

Appendix 3 – Map of current WFO shellfish lays

Background

Through the Wash Fishery Order 1992, Eastern IFCA is enabled to grant leases for the purpose of cultivating molluscan shellfish. This activity provides an important source of income for many local fishermen. Since 2009, applications for new lays have been 'frozen' whilst Eastern IFCA addressed concerns over the sustainability and environmental impacts of mussel cultivation in The Wash. In addition, consent for renewing expired existing lays was held until a full Habitats Regulations Assessment could be conducted.

The process of addressing the above issues has been drawn out due to the paucity of vital information and the increasing workloads of the Authority's Officers. A full Habitat Regulations Assessment ('review of consents') has now been successfully submitted and Eastern IFCA is now in a position to consider how to proceed with the backlog of applications for mussel lays and consider new applications.

The moratorium on WFO mussel lays is causing concerns to the businesses of Wash mussel farmers and Eastern IFCA has received several letters to this effect. Given the length of time some of the applicants have been waiting, it would be appropriate to make the processing of applications a priority however, the Authority must ensure that its approach is thorough and in keeping with its duty to balance a viable industry, sustainable fisheries and healthy seas. To this end, this paper offers a background to the process so far, discusses the issues the Authority must tackle and presents three options on how to proceed.

Review of Consents 2012

In February 2009, Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee (the Joint Committee) resolved not to process any more WFO mussel lay applications (hereafter, lay applications) until there was sufficient evidence to determine the impact of mussel cultivation on naturally occurring shellfish stocks⁸. At the time, there were concerns that cultivated mussel lays were restricting food availability and having a detrimental impact on natural mussels.

The Joint Committee resolved to undertake a study called The Study of the Wash Embayment Environment and Productivity (SWEEP) with the aim to address the above concerns. The findings of SWEEP were incorporated into the 'Review of Consents' which was submitted to Natural England in November 2012. The Review of Consents served as a Habitat Regulation Assessment for all existing mussel cultivation activity within The Wash Fishery Order (WFO).

Natural England responded in January 2013 and indicated that they still had concerns regarding the specifics of phytoplankton removal by cultivated mussel lays.

Review of consents 2013

Eastern IFCA resubmitted its review of lay consents to Natural England on 10th September 2013. The revised review included additional information regarding phytoplankton assemblage data from Cefas. This enabled Eastern IFCA officers to

⁸ Wash Management sub-committee Meeting February 2009

conclude that mussel lays were not removing important phytoplankton species (specifically diatom species) to the extent that they could be limiting food availability for natural mussel and cockle beds in The Wash.

Eastern IFCA received a formal response from Natural England⁹ which indicated that the currently active WFO mussel lays are not having a significant impact on The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation. As such, The Authority is now able to consider the renewal of expired leases.

Natural England's response also indicates that extensions to existing WFO mussel lays or any additional WFO mussel lays must be subject to a further Habitat Regulations Assessment.

WFO mussel lay lease agreement

As a legal document, the lease agreement uses legal terminology and is difficult to understand. Furthermore some of the legislation referenced is now out of date. It is proposed that a new lease is drafted and presented to the Authority for approval. This would enable the Authority to include in the lease agreement; conditions that are more pertinent to a contemporary several-fishery, up-to-date legislation and provide a document more easily interpretable by the lay person.

Examples of such amendments include an agreement within the lease for dealing with the ownership of a lay and its contents should a lessee pass away – this issue is not presently covered in either the lease agreement of the Wash Fishery Order.

Eastern IFCA Officers are currently liaising with Crown Estate Agents with a view to agreeing a new WFO mussel lay lease agreement.

Biosecurity policy

As indicated by Natural England's response to the review of consents, a new biosecurity policy would be required if a new application were to be considered as part of a Habitat Regulation Assessment. A new, strengthened Biosecurity Policy would serve as mitigation against the spread of invasive species and diseases as a result of importing and exporting mussel seed. It would function in a similar way to the management measures for a cockle fishery.

It is important that a robust, practicable biosecurity policy be in place. *Bonamia* (a parasite known to infect oysters) is found in oysters in the Thames Estuary for example. Should this disease (which has similar effects on native oysters as does atypical-mortality on cockles) be found in The Wash there could be serious consequences on the viability of the local fishing industry including the inability to export improved seed to Dutch markets.

Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) and slipper limpets are among the species that have the potential to naturalise in The Wash. Again, both of these species have the potential to impact on the viability of the fishing industry, particularly with regards to the export market.

⁹ Letter dated 07th October 2013 – appended to this paper

WFO mussel lay application waiting list

There are currently around 30 lay applications on the waiting list which consists of lay applications dating from 2008 to 2011. Several lay applications have been processed as far as requiring an Appropriate Assessment and sign off by Natural England. Applications received post January 2009 have not been processed any further than being acknowledged.

There is a clear division in lay applications with some being further along the process than others. As such, these partially processed lay applications will potentially require less time to see through to completion.

Consideration should be given as to whether applications that have already been processed up to a point should re-enter the process from the beginning. Given the amount of time that has passed in some cases (5 years), it may be prudent to consult the Wash fishing industry and resurvey proposed lay grounds. Natural England have informally suggested that should past biotope surveys be consistent with their most recent Wash biotope survey (still in draft form at present) further surveys may not be required.

The application process will take a minimum of 2 months (see appendix 1 for more detail). However, as the research plan for this year has already been approved it is likely that biotope surveys will have to be conducted as part of next year's Research and Environment plan.

Future WFO mussel lay applications

Eastern IFCA has not acknowledged any WFO lay applications since October 2011. It is likely that there will have been WFO mussel lay application attempts since then that have not been acknowledged. As such, there is probably a backlog of fishermen wishing to make an application once the moratorium is lifted.

Before lifting the moratorium to new applications, the Authority should consider whether a new approach to managing several fisheries within the WFO is required.

Constraints study

One option for future management of WFO mussel leases could be to adopt a new model for assigning mussel lays. A constraints study could be conducted to identify potential available space within The Wash which could be used as lays. This would take into account all the factors which need to be considered during the lay application process such as biotope surveys, sediment surveys and consultation with the industry. Consent from Natural England could be sought in advance through Habitat Regulation Assessments for all potential WFO mussel lays.

Currently lay applications are dealt with individually as per an undefined process (Appendix 1). This process is time consuming and lacks efficiency. If a lay application is refused by committee or by Natural England, a significant amount of work will have been undertaken up to this point with no benefit to the fishing industry. A constraints study would identify all potential lays prior to application, as such, the application process will be greatly reduced and all research time used would have a benefit to the fishing industry.

This study will require a significant resource and could take several years to complete and would require the moratorium on new mussel lay applications to continue through to completion.

Options

The options presented below vary only in the order in which the various issues described above are tackled. This will however have markedly different effects on the prospective and current lay holder. Benefits and risks are presented with each option.

Option 1 – Maintaining the status quo

1. Immediately renew the existing expired leases under the current lease agreement.
2. Process applications on the waiting list as per the informal process and direct the CEO to report on progress at next statutory meeting. Applications will resume from the point in the process where they were frozen in 2009. This work includes producing a Biosecurity Policy (to be presented for approval at the **next statutory meeting**).
3. Lift moratorium on new lay applications.

Benefits:

- The formality of renewing expired leases is quickly dealt with
- The waiting list of lay applications will be processed with the fastest turnaround time.
- There will be minimal additional impacts to the immediate livelihood of Wash shellfish farmers.

Risks:

- WFO lease agreements remain out-of-date and out-of-touch with contemporary shellfish farming practices.
- Inefficiency in processing existing and new applications as per an undefined process.
- Impacts on the integrity of The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site remain poorly understood and consent for new mussel lays through the Habitats Regulations Assessment is difficult to obtain.
- Natural England and the fishing industry may feel that the lay applications all need to be reconsidered from the beginning of the process which will potentially delay the granting of leases.

Option 2 – Balance social, economic and environmental needs

1. Immediately renew existing expired leases under the existing lease agreement with a limited expiry date of 9 months. An updated lease will be presented for approval at the **July 2014 statutory meeting** at the latest. As leases expire, they can be renewed under the updated lease. As such, both renewed and newly granted shellfish lays will have an updated lease agreement.
2. Process the waiting list of mussel lay lease applications that have been partially completed as per the WFO shellfish lay application process. This will include the production of a Biosecurity Policy which will be presented at the

next statutory meeting. Lay applications on the waiting list are reconsidered from the beginning of the application process.

3. Conduct the constraints study and assign lays as per the new model prioritising those lay holders that are left on the waiting list. Lift the moratorium and accept new applications for mussel lays. Direct the CEO to report back to the Authority on progress at each statutory meeting.

Benefits:

- The formality of renewing expired leases is quickly dealt with.
- New leases will be granted with an up-to-date lease agreement more relevant to contemporary shellfish farming practices.
- Lay applications made before February 2009 will be processed quickly and via a clearly defined and transparent process.
- Eastern IFCA will have a thorough understanding of the potential impacts of granting new lays having conducted a constraints study and be in a better position to grant leases and obtain consent through the Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- New lay applications can be processed via a new model to the benefit of applicants, the sustainability of the Wash shellfish fisheries and the environment conservation interests of The Wash.

Risks:

- The granting of lay applications made before February 2009 will potentially be delayed if the process of updating the lease agreement takes longer than expected.
- The granting of lay applications made after February 2009 will be delayed until after a constraints study is completed.
- Both of the above may have economic implications for Wash shellfish farmers
- For a time (until the renewed lease agreements expire) there may be two different types of lease agreement active in the WFO.

Option 3 – Focus on a new model for WFO mussel lays

1. No leases to be renewed or granted until a constraints study is completed, a project plan for which will be presented at **the next statutory meeting.**
2. Direct CEO to report back on progress at each statutory meeting.

Benefits:

- Eastern IFCA will have a thorough understanding of the potential impacts of granting new lays having conducted a constraints study and be in a better position to grant leases and obtain consent through the Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- New lay applications can be processed via a new model to the benefit of applicants and the environment.
- Expired leases will be renewed with an up-to-date lease agreement more relevant to contemporary shellfish farming practices.
- Work relating to WFO leases can be aligned with work on renewing the WFO Statutory Instrument.

Risks:

- The granting of all lease applications will be delayed until after a constraints study is completed.

- This option presents the most economic risk to Wash shellfish farmers.

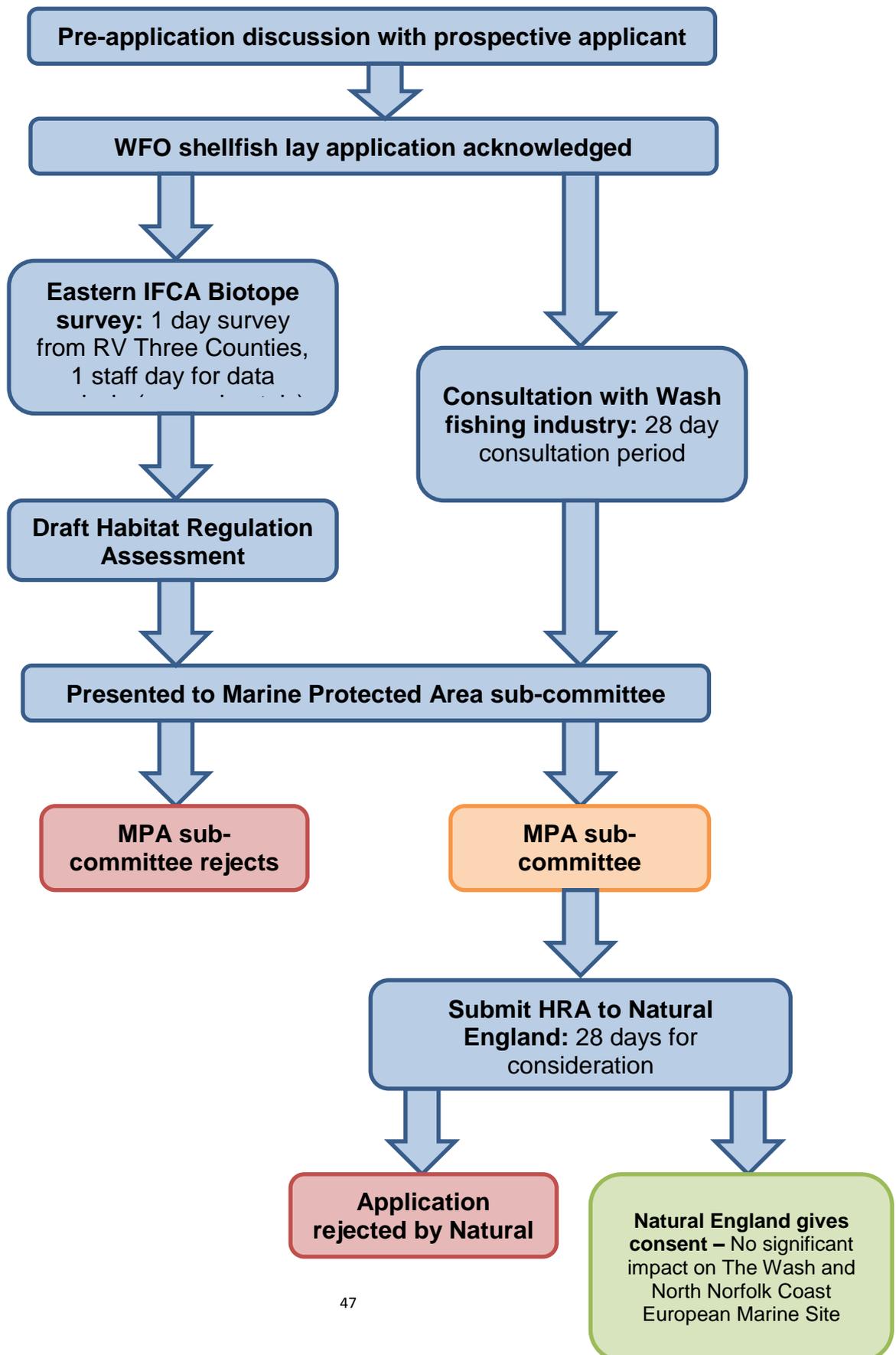
Summary

Eastern IFCA officers recommend that option 2 presents the best balance between processing lay applications and thus providing for a viable industry and ensuring that the several fisheries within the WFO can continue sustainably and amongst a healthy marine environment. This option also delivers a more structured and modern approach to successfully managing shellfish cultivation through a transparent and robust process.

Whilst options 1 and 3 both have benefits at either end of the scale they do not represent Eastern IFCA's fundamental role to balance social, economic and environmental demands of our marine environment.

Appendix 1 - WFO shellfish lay application process

There is no formalised, written process for the application of a new lease however, IFCA officers have prescribed to the steps below when considering an application:



The above process has never been formally agreed by the Authority. It is of crucial importance that the process for processing lay applications is transparent, open to scrutiny and easily understood by applicants.

It can be seen from the process above that processing a lay application takes up a significant amount of time. In addition to the consultation period (28 days) and the time required for consideration of the HRA by Natural England, more time may be required to schedule in biotope surveys (taking into account other surveys and bad weather) and time to write a paper for a MPA sub-committee. The process will take a minimum of two months to complete.

The Authority is asked to consider the following options:

Option 1 – Do nothing

Keep the process for processing lay applications informal.

Option 2 – Defer approval

Recognise the need for a formal process but direct officers to propose a new formal process at the January Statutory meeting.

Option 3 – Approve above process

Approve the process as it is above and direct officers to publicise this on the Eastern IFCA website with information to applicants.

Appendix 2 – Natural England correspondence (07th October 2013)

Date: 07th October 2013
Our ref: 73831
Your ref: EIFCA Review of WFO leases September 2013



BY EMAIL ONLY

To: Luke Godwin EIFCA
Cc:

Emma Thorpe
Natural England
Suite D
Unex House
Bourges Boulevard
Peterborough
PE1 1NG

T: 0300 060 4126
Emma.Thorpe@naturalengland.org.uk

Dear Luke

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – The Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) – The Wash Ramsar Site – The Wash Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Review of mussel lay consents granted under The Wash Fishery Order 1992

Thank you for providing the EIFCA Review of Wash Fishery Order leases, September 2013.

This letter may be taken to be Natural England's formal consultation representations on EIFCAs review of mussel lay consents undertaken under Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

We recognise that the Wash Fishery Order lay leases have recently been reviewed by ESFJC (2008) and that this review was thorough. The current review only considers authorisation of existing lays for the cultivation of prescribed species. Consideration of new Several lays or extensions should be considered separately.

The current review (September 2013) covers:

- Background information on mussel cultivation in The Wash.
- Impacts of mussel lays on nutrients available to wild beds, and the cause of atypical mortality.
- Changes to sediments and biotopes by cultivated mussels.
- Potential introduction of non-native species and origin of mussel seed.
- Cumulative and in combination effects.

We have the following comments to make on the information and judgements provided:

Impacts of mussel lays on nutrients available to natural beds

We note the additional work that has been undertaken to establish the potential effect of cultivated mussels on the food availability of wild mussel and cockle populations in the Wash.

Measurements of mussel productivity on wild beds indicates that there is no difference in the meat yield of mussels on wild beds situated in close proximity to and further away from cultivated mussel lays, and that there is a potential overall increase in meat yield across wild beds in recent years despite the presence of stocked cultivated lays. This indicates that the current mussel lays are not affecting the productivity of natural mussel beds in The Wash.

In addition, further analysis has been carried out by EIFCA through the Study of the Wash Embayment, Environment and Productivity (SWEEP) project. This showed a decrease in chlorophyll a levels directly above mussel lays within the Wash, returning to levels detected before the lays within 100 m after the lays. This provides some information to indicate that depletion of phytoplankton occurs only at a localised level and that the well-mixed nature of The Wash maintains an adequate food supply for natural shellfish beds. Additional information provided by Cefas on the phytoplankton assemblages present in The Wash has indicated that phytoplankton groups were similar across all sites studied (close to the lays and the control site away from mussel lays), with diatoms present within all groups, indicating that there doesn't appear to be an impact on composition of the assemblage.

As such, we consider it is unlikely that the current level of mussel cultivation is negatively affecting the food supply to wild shellfish populations in The Wash.

Changes to sediments and biotopes by cultivated mussels.

The EIFCA sediment surveys and Natural England commissioned intertidal sediment surveys highlight the natural variability of sediment in The Wash, with fluctuations between sandier and muddier sediment type. The lack of a trend towards finer sediment surrounding Roger and Toft sands suggests that there is no trend towards finer sediment in the proximity of the mussel lays. The latest intertidal sediment survey (2012) reported no significant change in broad scale invertebrate community composition within The Wash between all years surveyed (1986; 1998; 1999; 2008; 2012), indicating that the mussel lays are unlikely to be having an effect on biotope composition within The Wash and North Norfolk coast SAC overall. There may be some localised effects, but this is not likely to adversely affect site integrity.

Potential introduction of non-native species and origin of mussel seed

Natural England agrees that the likelihood of a significant adverse effect on The Wash and North Norfolk coast SAC is low in relation to spread of *Crassostrea gigas* within the site. We recognise that there is currently no *C.gigas* cultivation occurring within the site and that should an application be received for the cultivation of *C.gigas* that Natural England would be consulted. We also recognise that EIFCA has a Biosecurity Plan (2010) in place to ensure that microbial pathogens and non-native species will not be introduced into the site via fisheries activities. The Biosecurity Plan should be reviewed and updated in the near future and we can discuss the information that we feel should be incorporated further with you.

Overall conclusion

In conclusion, we agree with the conclusion of the Review that the existing lays will **not have an adverse effect** on the integrity of the above sites in terms of Regulation 61 of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Natural England also confirm that the current mussel lays will not have a significant impact upon the features of special interest of The Wash SSSI and therefore has no

objection to the proposed authorisation of the fishery in terms of Section 28I of *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended).

We would draw your attention to your duty, under Section 28G of the 1981 *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*, as amended, to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of your functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the SSSI.

There are two other matters we would like to raise:

New mussel lays/extension of existing lays

The conclusion of the Review is based upon the current number and area of mussel lays. The potential effect of additional lays on the interest features of the sites listed above would need to be taken into account should there be applications for further lays in the future. In particular, consideration would need to be given to the potential impact of additional lays on food availability for natural shellfish populations in The Wash. Data collection on phytoplankton abundance (through measurements of chlorophyll a) and diversity was undertaken whilst current lays had been established in the Wash for many years. It would be necessary to determine whether the introduction of new lays was likely to affect the availability and diversity of phytoplankton and therefore food availability to natural shellfish populations. In addition, further consideration should be given to the effect of new lays on sediment and associated fauna in the protected sites listed above and cumulative/in combination effects of mussel lays with other activities within the protected sites should be revisited.

The 2008 review also addressed the impacts of lays on biotopes at a local level (with reference the rare HedMacMare biotope on Scotsman's Sled and to fine sediments on Roger and Toft sands) and effects of lays on SPA species, which were scoped out of the current review. We agree that impacts of the current mussel lays are not causing an adverse impact on the integrity of The Wash and North Norfolk coast SAC in relation to impacts of biotopes at this local level. However, it is important to reconsider these impacts in relation to any future lay lease application. In particular, it would need to be ascertained that additional lays would not result in a significant impact on: the fine sediments identified on Roger and Toft sands; the relatively rare HedMacMare biotope in the vicinity of Scotsman's sled; and the intertidal mud and sandflat feature as a whole, that could potentially lead to an adverse impact to site integrity. In addition, consideration would need to be given to the potential impact on SPA bird features due to potentially increased disturbance through greater numbers of mussel lays, or through an extension to existing lays.

Those individuals applying for new lays should be made aware of the need to gain consent for certain additional activities on lays. For example, that birds are likely to feed on mussels within lay areas and that scaring birds is unlikely to gain consent. It is also necessary to ensure that lay holders are aware of the need to obtain permission should they wish to transfer from mussel to *C.gigas* cultivation.

Notice of new leaseholders / change of leaseholdings

We would draw to your attention to the provisions of Section 28Q of *The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) that landowners should give notice to Natural England if they dispose of any interest in their land or become aware that it is occupied by an additional or different occupier. Disposing of interest includes for example, sale of land, exchange or lease.

- The notice should specify the land concerned and the date on which the owner disposed of the interest in the land and the name and address of the person to whom it was disposed. Or,
- The date on which the change of occupation took place (or if exact date is not known an indication of when this occurs based on the best of the owners knowledge to when this took place) and as far as the owner knows the name and address of the additional occupier.
- The notice should be sent to Natural England before the end of 28 days beginning from the date on which the landowner disposed of the land or became aware of change in occupation.

Consequently, notice should be given to Natural England of new leaseholders or if there is a change in leasholding under The Wash Fishery Order.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions over this response and matters raised.

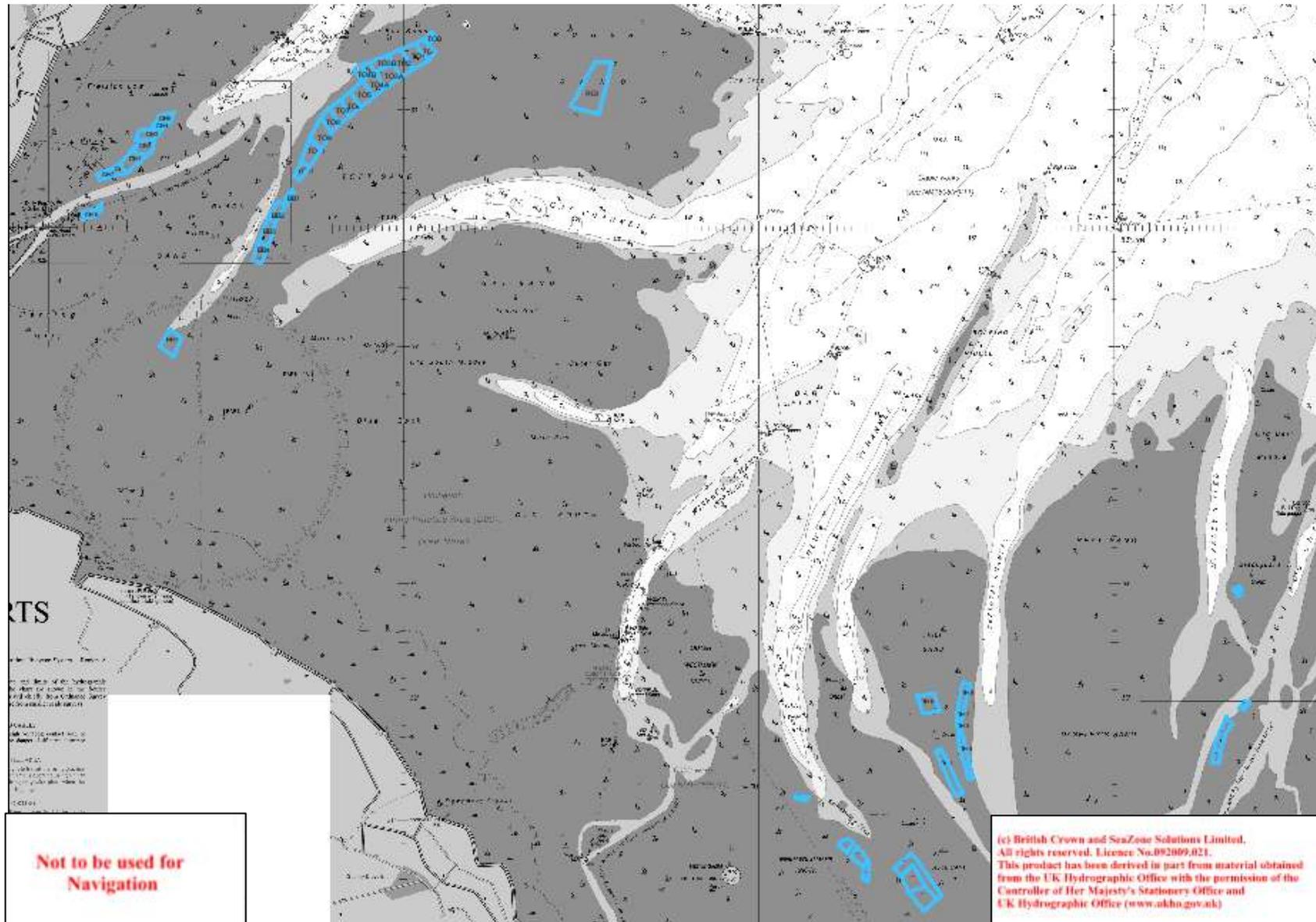
Yours sincerely



Emma Thorpe

Marine Lead Adviser
Southern North Sea Team

Appendix 3 – Map of current WFO shellfish lays



Vision

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



Action Item 15

11th EIFCA Meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: Eden Hannam, Head of Marine Environment and Research

Research & Environment Plan : Progress and Planning for 2014/2015

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress of the 2013/14 Marine Environment and Research plan and set out the proposal for developing the new 2014/15 plan.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the progress and delays in delivering the 2013/14 Marine Environment and Research Plan.**
- **Agree to the circulation of 'Bright ideas' forms**
- **Invite Officers to report back (for information) to the Authority at the end of January with the results of the bright ideas forms and possible synergistic working.**
- **Confirm that final decisions on the plan will be made by the Planning and Communications Sub-Committee in-line with their delegation in February 2014.**

Background

Eastern IFCA wrote its first combined Marine Environment and Research Plan for the 2012/13 financial year. Going through this process, along with completing research reporting, indicated the breadth of work the IFCA is involved in and the extent of the demands upon our time as well as the difficulties in trying to meet the expectations of the wider community that IFCAs now operate in.

Picking up on these themes – for the 2013/14, Eastern IFCA completed a 'Bright Ideas' consultation process to identify possible research projects for the coming year that would reflect this new wider community. Senior officers were also able to tailor time commitments much more closely and link this both to the annual plan, but subsequently to the staff objective setting that occurred following the approval of the plan. Time was also reserved for basic office administration that had been omitted in the earlier plan and lead to over allocation of work.

Progress

The Marine Environment and Research plan reflects the composite work of this team to inform decision making and discharge the responsibilities set out for the IFCA in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 in combination with the vision and high level objectives set by Defra.

The projects in the plan set out the two halves of this composite team

Progress on Research projects:

| Activity | | Progress | |
|----------|--|------------------------------|--|
| | | Progress | Comment |
| 1 | Spring cockle surveys | Complete | Survey to support fishery. |
| 2 | Horseshoe Point cockle surveys | Complete | Survey complete. Limited stock. No EHO |
| 3 | Autumn mussel surveys | Current | Survey is scheduled for Autumn and currently underway |
| 4 | Titchwell Marsh mussel survey | Complete | Survey complete. |
| 5 | EHO/DSP Bio-toxin sampling | On going | Monthly sampling to support Wash water classification |
| 6 | Habitat mapping (Sabellaria reefs, Marine Conservation Zones, etc) | Field work complete | Joint working with Cefas using our new side scan. Currently undergoing post processing |
| 7 | Management of Wash Fishery Order 1992 Several Fishery Lays | Delayed (see agenda item 14) | Progressing of lays was delayed awaiting scientific evidence. Way forward discussed in Agenda Item 14. |
| 8 | Water quality monitoring (SWEEP) | On-going | Provides understanding of phytoplankton levels in the Wash to support shellfish populations |
| 9 | Desk study to determine extent of current habitat/feature maps in our district | On going | Split between research and environment teams, to support EMS process |
| 10 | Gear Impact Study | Field Work Complete | Study amended to examine the impact of 'bags' |
| 11 | Review of survey methodologies | Not yet started | Scheduled for early 2014 |
| 12 | Annual Research Report | Not yet started | Scheduled for early 2014 |
| 13 | Technical Advisory Group (TAG) | On going | TAG meetings attend. Annual TAG conference in mid-November 2013 |
| 14 | MEDIN Meta-Data Compliance | On going | Eastern IFCA leads TAG/IFCAs on MEDIN data compliance |
| 15 | Stakeholder Liaison meetings | On going | Both Research and Environment officers have supported a wide |

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | | variety of community in excess of the scheduled days. |
| 16 | Cockle growth assessment | Field work complete | Field work is now complete, preliminary analysis progressing. Will need peer review. |
| 17 | Crab/lobster bio-sampling | On going | Responsibility of a new Research Officer. Contacts made and progressing |
| 18 | Juvenile fish monitoring programme | On going | Responsibility of a new Research Officer. Contacts made and progressing |
| 19 | Mono-filament netting review | Delayed | Delayed due to further changes in the Research Team. Progressing now |

Progress on Environment Objectives

| Activity | | Progress | Comment |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Fisheries Evidence project | Partly Delayed | This work has been delayed due to demands of the EMS project below. Some components of this project are complete (for example the data strategy – Agenda item 16). Awaiting project inshore |
| 2 | Fisheries in European Marine Sites | On going | The EMS project continues, but has required considerable resource and is not yet complete. Formal consultation finishes early Nov 2013. |
| 3 | Marine Conservation Zones | On going | Eastern IFCA has participated in the MCZ process and is awaiting the outcome of ministerial decisions |
| 4 | Habitats Regulations Assessment (Wash Fishery Order fisheries) | Complete | Large number of assessments completed this year included for cockle fishery, cockle ridging fishery and mussel fishery. |
| 5 | Consultation responses | On going | Eastern IFCA has responded to 22 consultations in the first six months of this financial year. |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|---|
| | | | In particular, responses have included raising concerns about the Eastern Region Marine Plan. |
| 6 | EIFCA byelaw review | Delayed | Delayed due to EMS project and the need to work with enforcement personal also engaged in this work |

There are a number of delayed projects that were originally scheduled for delivery this financial year. In particular the work related to the change of approach for the management of European Marine Site work has consumed vastly more resource than anticipated. This is partly reflected in the complexity of the features in the southern North Sea and the stochastic nature of this environment and our knowledge of this environment. It is likely that this level of commitment to this project will continue for the next two years as the IFCA progress through the options for management for other European marine site features.

Next steps

As Eastern IFCA officers refine their planning of projects for the coming year, the officers will be guided by the recently adopted five year Research and Environment Strategy. In applying the principals of the strategy are illustrated by setting out 'What this means for decision makers?'. To meet these principals Eastern IFCA will strive to:

- reflect local priorities and concerns across a diverse community including a balance between local desires and the requirements of national, regional and international commitments;
- meet the High Level Marine Objective - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- use strong information base to make decisions;
- work in partnership with other organisations to gather and share data;
- adoption of the principles of best practice in sustainable management of the marine environment; and
- identify and seek to remedy the main issues affecting the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district.

To do this, Eastern IFCA officers would like to circulate 'Bright Ideas' forms, like the one attached to seek input from our community and develop a list of possible projects for 2014/15. These projects, in combination with the legislatively required projects will be submitted to the Planning and Communications Sub-Committee for their consideration prior to the start of the financial year. Authority members are no doubt aware that demands for research projects outstrip our ability therefore a prioritised decision reflecting the requirements of the Strategy is required.

On a practical level, the Authority will seek to balance its work load further. This will include:

- greater reflection of the time taken for community engagement events;
- realising that regulatory change, particularly consultation both with the community and government partners can consume significant resource.
- That there should be greater use of contingency in our time management to avoid derailing other projects.
- Look for greater co-ordination and alignment with all partners, including various public bodies.

The process for completing the plan is to begin circulation of the 'Bright Ideas' forms during the autumn and prior to Christmas. Officers will also during this time to identify, co-ordinate and align with other partners potential joint working. The IFCA TAG is now working towards identifying common research themes to be shared amongst IFCA's and their partners.

Officers will report back (for information) to the Authority at the end of January with the results of the bright ideas forms and possible synergistic working before presenting final projects for decision to the Sub-Committee in February 2014. The plan will become 'live' at the beginning of the 2014-15 financial year.

Background documents

1. Bright ideas Forms [attached]
2. Eastern IFCA Environment and Research Strategy

Bright Idea Template

Our aim is to deliver responsive and flexible management of sea fisheries resources, to meet local needs.



To do this we need your help... we want to hear your ideas about work that Eastern IFCA could undertake for the benefit of our local seas.

1. What is the idea? *(please feel free to use additional paper)*

2. Where would the work need to be carried out? *Please specify county and approximate location, e.g. Suffolk, Aldeburgh to Orfordness*

| County | <input type="checkbox"/> | Location |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Norfolk | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Suffolk | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Lincolnshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

3. Which of the following categories does the work relate to? *You may tick more than one box*

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Eastern Region Marine Plan <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wind Farms |
| Wash Fishery Order <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marine Aggregates/dredging |
| Other Commercial Fishery <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marine Conservation Zones |
| European Marine Sites <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 'Non-fish' Wildlife |
| Other Recreational fishery <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cultural/Social value |
| Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fish Sustainability/MSC |
| Other <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

4. What other organisations will we need to work with?

5. Does the work fit in with any existing projects that you are aware of?
(e.g. Cefas juvenile crab and lobster studies, Shark Trust skate and ray project, Angling 2012 study, etc.)

6. What practical work do you envisage being required? Please include approximate timings for the project, if known.

Any other comments?

Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts.

The next step for us will be to compare all the suggestions and present the findings to our Regulatory and Compliance sub-Committee. They will make the final decision as to what is included in the final plan for the 2013/14 financial year.

You are welcome to attend any of the Authority public meetings (details on our website).

If you would like us to confirm receipt of your suggestion and/or to keep you informed of our planning processes and the work of the Eastern IFCA, please provide your contact details:

Name : _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Vision

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



11th EIFCA meeting

Action Item16

30 October 2013

Report by: L P Godwin, Marine Environment Officer

Presenting for approval Eastern IFCA's Data Strategy

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present and seek approval of Eastern IFCA's Data Strategy.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Receive Eastern IFCA's proposed Data Strategy.**
- **Approve Eastern IFCA's data vision.**
- **Approve the Data Strategy for implementation into Eastern IFCA's work.**
- **Direct the CEO to outsource expertise to undertake a system restructure.**

Background

In order to meet our vision, success criteria and high level objectives, Eastern IFCA requires data to inform measure and monitor. With particular reference to success criterion 5, decisions required to meet strategic and operational objectives must make the **best use of evidence**.

Operationally, data is used in some form on a daily basis and is regularly conceived, processed and archived by every department within the organisation. Strategically data is required to measure our success against the success criteria and high level objectives and make decisions regarding the direction of the organisation. In both cases, data is ultimately used to achieve our vision.

Given the large role data has and will play in meeting the Eastern IFCA's vision, a strategic approach is required to ensure that an efficient process is implemented. Without a clearly defined data strategy, the organisation will suffer from the effects of many, undefined, conflicting strategies that may reduce efficiency. Furthermore, in establishing an agreed process datasets will conform to national (Data Protection Act 1998) and international (Inspire Directive 2007/2/EC) information policies. Below are the key aspects of a successful approach:

- Specific, actionable data
- Accessible datasets
- Efficient data entry
- Use of data across a variety of data sources
- Adhere to the '*collect once, use many times*' philosophy.

Eastern IFCA's data vision

Using the above as a basis, Eastern IFCA will commit to the following vision:

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority will meet its strategic and operational objectives using specific, actionable data from accessible datasets, gained through an efficient dataflow integrating local knowledge and scientific evidence.

This vision forms the basis for the process for data capture and use from its conception through to archiving.

Current system

The Data Strategy represents Eastern IFCA's direction going forward and the position we will be in as we progress. Many of the practices can be reviewed and evaluated as part of the Data Officer's role.

Eastern IFCA's electronic filing system also needs to be redesigned and new standards implemented to reflect the new approach. Given the large amount of electronic information stored at present, this task would take a considerable amount of resources. Furthermore, expertise is required to ensure minimal disturbance and no loss of information.

It is recommended that the Authority directs the CEO to invest funds to outsource expertise to this end.

Background papers

1. Draft Eastern IFCA Data Strategy



Data Strategy

Draft Version – October 2013

© Eastern IFCA 2013

Eastern IFCA (2013) Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Data Strategy. 8 pp.

This document is available in electronic form from the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

This document can be downloaded from:

www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk

Alternatively a hard copy can be viewed at:
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
6 North Lynn Business Village
Bergen Way
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 2JG

Other contact details:

Email: mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk

Twitter: http://twitter.com/eastern_ifca

Facebook: Eastern IFCA

Published online tbc

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – Vision

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities 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.

The need for a Data Strategy

In order to meet our vision, success criterion and high level objectives¹⁰, Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (hereafter Eastern IFCA) requires data to inform, measure and monitor. With particular reference to success criterion 5, decisions required to meet strategic and operational objectives must **make the best use of evidence**.

Operationally, data is used in some form on a daily basis and is regularly conceived, processed and archived by every department within the organisation. Strategically data is required to measure our success against the success criterion and high level objectives and make decisions regarding the direction of the organisation. In both cases, data, information and evidence is ultimately used to achieve our vision.

Given the large role data has and will play in meeting the Eastern IFCA's vision, a strategic approach is required to ensure that an efficient process is implemented. Without a clearly defined data strategy, the organisation will suffer from the effects of many, undefined, conflicting strategies that may reduce efficiency. Furthermore, in establishing an agreed process datasets will conform to national (Data Protection Act 1998) and international (Inspire Directive 2007/2/EC) information policies. Below are the key aspects of a successful approach:

- Specific, actionable data
- Accessible datasets
- Efficient data entry-process
- Use of data across the spectrum of local knowledge through to scientific evidence
- Adhere to the 'collect once, use many times' philosophy.
-

Eastern IFCA's data vision

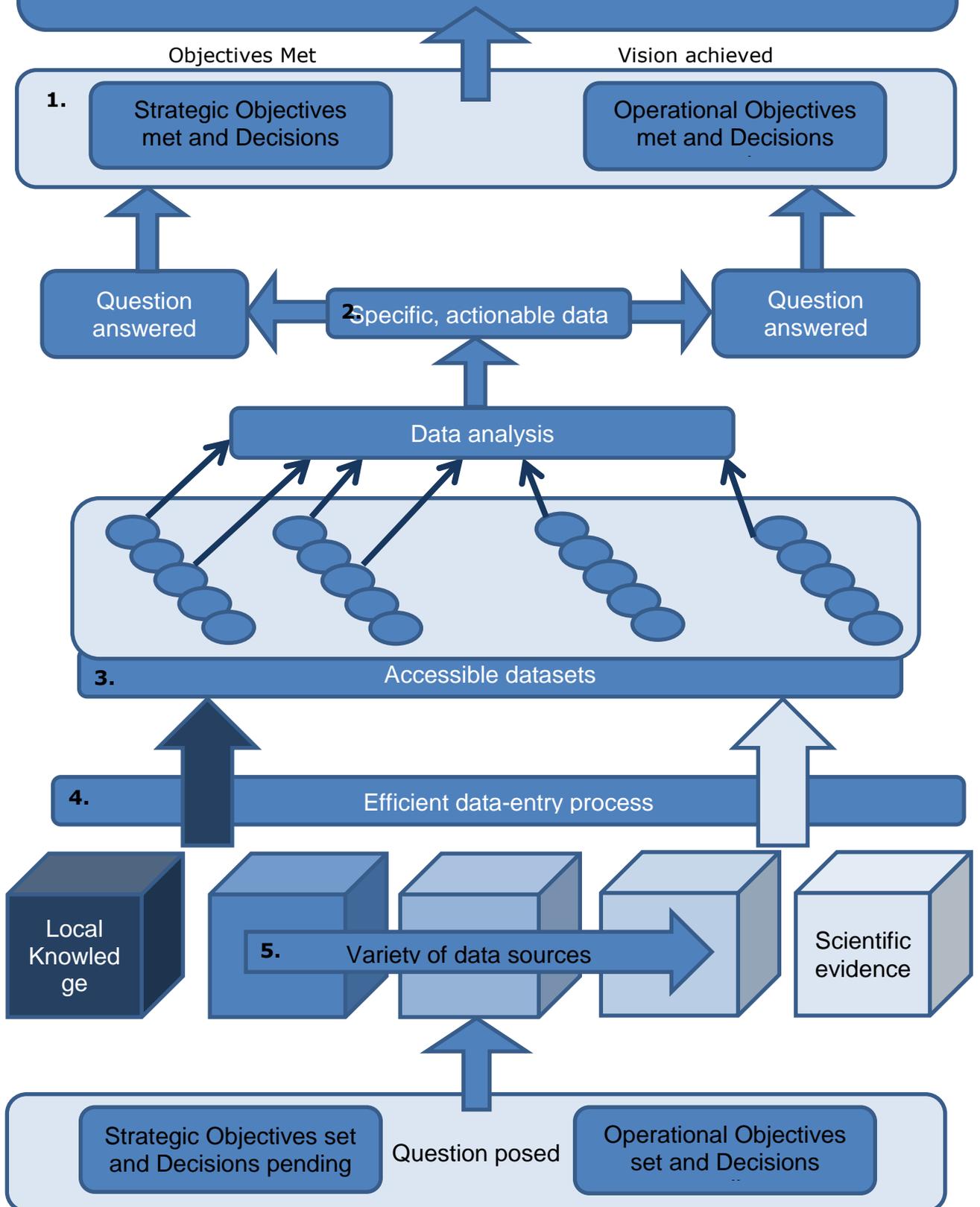
Using the above as a basis, Eastern IFCA will commit to the following vision:

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority will meet its strategic and operational objectives using specific, actionable data from accessible datasets, gained through an efficient dataflow integrating local knowledge and scientific evidence.

This vision forms the basis for the process for data capture and use from its conception through to archiving.

¹⁰ http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10&Itemid=25

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities 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.



It is intended that future projects are set up taking into account this strategy. The diagram above represents the flow of information from a source to its use in answering a question linked to fulfilling a strategic or operational objective or making a decision.

In practice the diagram flows from the bottom up. However, when considering the data strategy for a new or existing project, thought should be given from the end point downwards. This ensures that only the correct evidence is gathered, from an appropriate source and analysed in the appropriate manner.

Each step is defined below.

1. Strategic and Operational Objectives and Decisions

The requirements of data to inform decisions and record progress underpin the entire process. It is crucial that a question or hypothesis is posed at the beginning of a project. The question which needs answering is inherently linked to choosing an appropriate information source and the appropriate data analysis.

Strategic Objectives and

Strategic objectives refer mainly to Success Criteria and High Level Objectives (see Eastern IFCA Annual Plan). Strategic decisions also refer to those decisions that will influence operational objectives.

Operational Objectives and

Operational objectives refer to those 'day-to-day' tasks which in-part fulfil the success criterion and High Level objectives but also ensure effective management of Eastern IFCA's responsibilities. Operational uses of data will dominate Eastern IFCA's data

2. Specific Actionable Data

In order to measure and meet objectives and inform decisions at both the strategic and operational levels, specific actionable data is required. Often raw data will be used, for example the number of staff days taken writing consultation responses. In other cases it will be processed, for example the average number of days taken to respond to a consultation. In either case, it is important to understand the confidence in the data. This refers to both statistical confidence (95% confidence rule) and the perception of confidence. Decisions made using this data will need to take into account the risks of using low confidence evidence which include public inquiry.

Understanding the use of the information a project will produce is crucial to every other step on the above process. This is true of any data requirement.

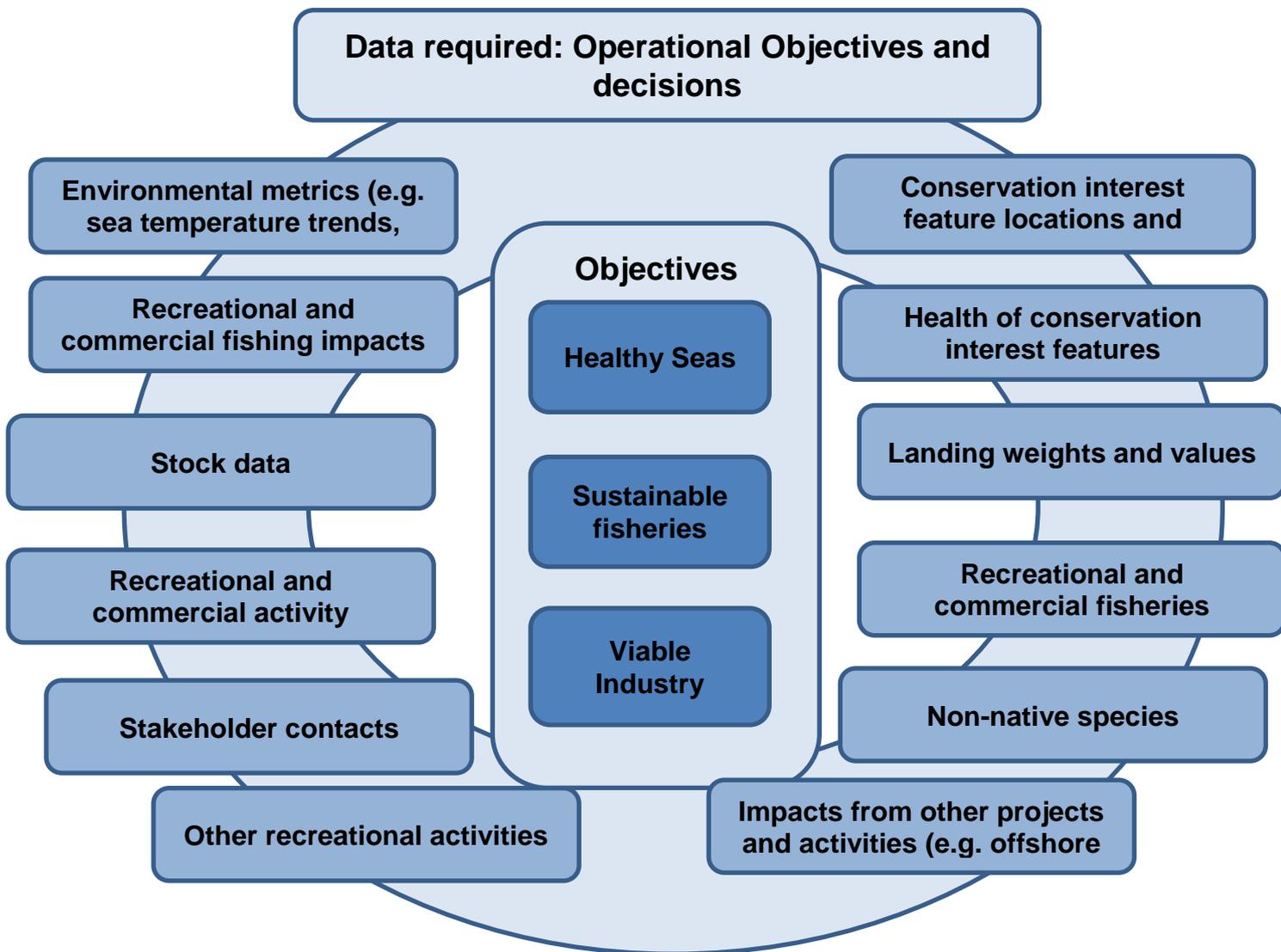
Data required to meet strategic and operational objectives are outlined below. Future and existing projects can be scoped in or out depending on their contribution to the outlined data requirements below.

Data required: Strategic Objectives and Decisions

The data required to meet strategic objectives relates mainly to project completion timings. Success against the seven success criterion and high level objectives are measured against Eastern IFCA's ability to meet such objectives within a given time frame. This is presently completed via Eastern IFCA's Annual Reports and is tracked continually.

Data required: Operational Objectives and Decisions

Operational objectives are summarised below in three groups; Healthy Seas, Sustainable Fisheries and Viable Industry. In doing so, data requirements can easily be assessed for suitability to meet Eastern IFCA's vision.



Each generic dataset identified above may represent more than one information source and may be inherently linked to each other, for example; landing weights and stock data. Furthermore some datasets will feed into more than one objective, for example landings weights and values are required for all three objectives.

Many of these identified datasets are already in existence and have established processes set up for their collection and use. Other datasets are required through the establishment of new projects.

3. Accessible datasets

In order for the data to be utilised, information must be accessible and conform to the relevant security and data-standard legislations. Physical data and information should be at least electronically indexed so as to allow queries to determine data availability but will, when possible and appropriate, be stored electronically.

A database must be:

- Query-able
- Stored in a relevant format (primarily Microsoft Access but also in 'pivot table friendly' spread sheets)
- Indexed with metadata (when appropriate)
- Protected from system crashes and loss of data
- Protected from data theft
- Conforming to relevant legislation (Data protection Act and Inspire Directive)
- Accessible and easily located (saved on a shared system)

In addition, datasets containing spatial data must have coordinates stored in the latitude/longitude WGS84 projection formatted decimal degrees. This will allow data to be formatted as .TAB files for use in MapInfo (GIS software). Conversion equations can be found on the internet and coordinates in decimal degrees can be stored in addition to a format appropriate to the project.

How data is used is defined by how it is stored; useful outputs require a purpose built database. Poorly understood requirements often lead to databases which are only suitable for a single purpose. This then requires the reformatting of databases which reduces efficiency. Furthermore data requirements for 'old data' often change. By adhering to a '*collect once, use many times*' philosophy, Eastern IFCA will increase productivity in cross-project data sharing.

Box 1. MEDIN

The INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community) Directive (2007/2/EC) set out member states requirement to share environmental information across Europe. MEDIN (the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network) undertook the task of ensuring the UK is adhering to the Directive.

Eastern IFCA has been working with the Marine Biological Association to align our approach with this directive. Eastern IFCA's key requirements are as follows:

- To produce metadata for all projects by 31st December 2013
- To submit all databases to an established data archive centre (Cefas's Fish DAC) by 2017.
- To ensure data submitted to Fish DAC is MEDIN compliant and adheres to MEDIN data standards.

More information on MEDIN can be found at:
<http://www.oceannet.org/>

4. Efficient data-entry process

Without an efficient data-entry process, data can be stored in an inappropriate place or format and may not be utilised. This will also save the time taken to input data. All projects should have a clear, written process for how this is done so that an efficient process can be passed on. This is particularly important for long standing databases that are likely to continue.

Formalising standard operating procedures (SOPs) are an important tool to establish a defined process, including in the case of current projects. The exercise of formulating SOPs can also highlight areas for improvement in current processes.

Useful guidance from MEDIN data standards (see box 1) can be implemented within these dataflow procedures as an example of best practise. Furthermore in following these data standards, data collected and stored by Eastern IFCA will be compatible with data sets across participating European countries making analysis across data sets more viable.

5. The variety of data sources

Different objectives and decisions will require different data sources. Eastern IFCA has a wealth of established data sources across the data spectrum from local knowledge through to scientific evidence. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) collect landing weights and values but also anecdotally report on issues around our district. Research Officers conduct scientific surveys collecting data use in statistical analyses; for example the annual cockle stock surveys. Two further examples are given below:

Table 1. Two types of data source and their use within Eastern IFCA.

| Data Source | Stakeholder engagement | External evidence/reports |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Description | Informal and anecdotal reports and evidence | Scientific literature and 'grey-literature' |
| Operational use | Often used as a starting point for further investigation or to strengthen observations made from scientific surveys. For example; reports of cockles 'ridging out' (cockle death caused by high densities of cockles) from fishermen. | Used to inform Habitat Regulations Assessments, for example; the British Trust of Ornithologists low water bird surveys are used to identify whether cockle fisheries overlap with important bird feeding areas. |
| Strategic use | Often used to direct projects, for example; Eastern IFCA publishes a 'bright ideas' questionnaire every year. Stakeholders can suggest projects for the IFCA to take forward in the Annual Plan. | Eastern IFCA works closely with partner organisations such as Natural England and the Environment Agency to ensure that research projects do not duplicate effort. This information is often used when considering what projects include in Eastern IFCA's Annual Plan. |

Identifying the relevant data source can only take place once the requirements for an objective to be met or a decision to be made are established. Understanding a data source is inherently linked to understanding the confidence of data.

The use of this strategy

It is intended that this strategy is used; i) to review current practices and ii) when writing a project plan for a new project. The use of data and the practices for collecting them are varied across Eastern IFCA. As such the Data Strategy should function as a general approach that can be adhered to for any project which involves data.

Vision

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



Action Item 17

11th EIFCA Meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: Eden Hannam, Head of Marine Environment and Research

North Norfolk FLAG and Inshore VMS

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform members about Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG), the activities of North Norfolk Flag and possible areas for joint working

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the work of the local North Norfolk FLAG**
- **Agree to support of the North Norfolk FLAG inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (iVMS)**
- **Agree that the Chief Executive Officer can provide financial support to this project from the ear-marked reserve set aside for this purpose.**

Background

Fisheries Local Action Groups were set up and funded under Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund. The six FLAGs and the amount of funding available to them is:

- Hastings – £963,000
- North and West Cumbria – £1.35 million
- East Riding of Yorkshire (the 'Holderness Coast') – £1.15 million
- North Norfolk – £1.22 million
- Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly – £1.13 million
- Northern Devon – £1.05 million.

Membership of the FLAGs includes a diverse range of stakeholders who represent the interests of those within the area. These include those working in the community, processing companies, local authorities, the Marine Management Organisation, private sector businesses as well as Eastern IFCA. Projects are funded on a match funding basis, and this has enabled communities to ensure greater and wider benefits. The projects eligible for funding are diverse, but all link to the local marine environment. This has included exploring brand and brand protection, developing capacity and increasing awareness or infrastructure support.

Discussion

The local North Norfolk FLAG have identified a number of key projects that are important for their local community. Funding is divided into a number of project groups to reflect this diversity. There are six major project groups for the North Norfolk Flag, and this includes:

1. Competiveness
2. Markets and Investment
3. Infrastructure
4. Environment
5. Sustainability
6. Communications

Skills development was also identified as a possible project group

Each group comprises a number of projects relating to that group theme. Eastern IFCA has been very supportive of the process and has provided advice at both the project group and specific project level.

Most recently, Eastern IFCA has been discussing with the FLAG the possibility of inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (iVMS) for the local fleet, and the possible advantages of being an early adopter in this area. FLAG has also had support for this project from other funding partners. The Chief Executive of Eastern IFCA has written to FLAG offering support-in-principle to this work, and included the possibility of contributing to the project, as well as potentially administering the iVMS work if required.

Next steps

Currently an iVMS England Wide standard is being co-ordinated by the Marine Management Organisation. Any progress on supporting iVMS is dependent on an agreed standard. As FLAG fund managers, the MMO is keen that all projects have financial commitments by the end of the year, however, they have also recognised that an agreed standard is also expected around this time, and have provisionally indicated they may offer some flexibility around this project.

Eastern IFCA has discussed the benefits of iVMS systems amongst the Authority a number of times, and there is a level of recognition that this could provide significant benefits to both the Authority and the fishing community. Eastern IFCA managers would be keen to trial iVMS on a larger scale before implementing this across the district. The work of FLAG could provide this larger scale. Initial discussions indicated that 5-20 boats could be interested in participating, (though some have some interest in AIS). At roughly £2000 per unit (including installation) the cost of the trial could be up to £40,000 pounds. North Norfolk FLAG have indicated there are potential funders for the majority of the costs. Eastern IFCA could contribute 20% of this total trial cost (roughly £8,000). North Norfolk FLAG would also consider subsidising the data costs for the first two years.

The iVMS trial would commence once type approval has been agreed and North Norfolk Flag have confirmed their commitment to this project.

Background documents

1. <http://northnorfolkflag.org.uk/contacts/>
2. letter to North Norfolk Flag supporting iVMS

Vision

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



11th EIFCA Meeting

Action Item 18

30th October 2013

Payments made and monies received during the period 20th July 2013 to 18th October 2013

Report by: Christine Hurley – Head of Finance

Purpose of report

It is an audit requirement that the Authority's receipts and payments are presented to and formally approved by Members at their quarterly Statutory meetings.

The report on Payments made and monies received during the period 20th July 2013 to 18th October 2013 is attached.

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

Recommendations

Members are asked to formally approve the report

Background documents

There are no background documents to this paper

**Finance Officer's Report on Payments Made and Monies Received during the period
20th July 2013 to 18th October 2013**

Payments made during the period 20th July 2013 to 18th October 2013

| | Month 04 | Month 05 | Month 06 | TOTAL |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Transfers to EIFCA Salaries & Wages Acct. | 80,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 80,000.00 | 245,000.00 |
| Rent, Rates & Service Charges | 1,308.36 | 10,168.44 | 1,293.36 | 12,770.16 |
| General Establishment | 3,624.38 | 7,072.31 | 2,751.97 | 13,448.66 |
| Legal Fees | 0.00 | 750.00 | 0.00 | 750.00 |
| Staff Travelling & Subsistence | 1,437.38 | 1,247.91 | 669.38 | 3,354.67 |
| Members' Allowances | 190.71 | 15.00 | 79.26 | 284.97 |
| Training | 3,629.16 | 1,580.77 | 208.00 | 5,417.93 |
| Moorings/Harbour Dues | 7,268.50 | 77.60 | 3,647.57 | 10,993.67 |
| Pisces III Operating Costs | 70.00 | 382.56 | 717.11 | 1,169.67 |
| Three Counties Operating Costs | 877.14 | 8,531.24 | 2,984.35 | 12,392.73 |
| FPV John Allen Operating Costs | 983.53 | 4,595.73 | 2,622.06 | 8,201.32 |
| Vehicle Operating Costs | 1,773.12 | 2,546.50 | 1,191.95 | 5,511.57 |
| Communication and Development | 3,664.97 | 1,297.02 | 77.03 | 5,039.02 |
| Research and Environment | 10,853.32 | 84.33 | 4,032.52 | 14,970.17 |
| Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS Project Fund | 117.50 | 74.49 | 94.12 | 286.11 |
| VAT (Recoverable) | 5,090.82 | 6,980.25 | 1,855.28 | 13,926.35 |
| Petty Cash | 0.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE | 120,888.89 | 130,454.15 | 102,223.96 | 353,567.00 |

Monies received during the period 20th July 2013 to 18th October 2013

| | Month 04 | Month 05 | Month 06 | TOTAL |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Treasury Deposit Interest | 11,219.18 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 11,219.18 |
| Wash Fishery Order - Licences | 1,595.00 | 290.00 | 290.00 | 2,175.00 |
| Wash Fishery Order - Licence Tolls | 1,925.00 | 350.00 | 350.00 | 2,625.00 |
| HMRC Mineral Oil Rebate | 4,318.52 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,318.52 |
| HMRC VAT | 13,359.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 13,359.99 |
| CEFAS Cobble & Boulder Surveys | 0.00 | 6,750.00 | 0.00 | 6,750.00 |
| Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS Project Fund | 5,500.00 | 11,200.00 | 0.00 | 16,700.00 |
| Miscellaneous Recharges and Credits | 400.00 | 1,942.55 | 639.12 | 2,981.67 |
| Insurance Claim (Sonde) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7,926.00 | 7,926.00 |
| TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED | 38,317.69 | 20,532.55 | 9,205.12 | 68,055.36 |

Vision

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



11th EIFCA Meeting

Action Item 19

30th October 2013

Report by: Christine Hurley – Head of Finance

Report on the Management Accounts for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013

Purpose of report

To set out the Quarterly Management Accounts for members to note.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to formally note the Management Accounts.

Background

The Management Accounts for the six months to 30th September 2013 are attached

The Management Accounts show the year to date actual income and expenditure in budget format monitored against the Budget apportioned for the period and a note of the Budget for the Year.

Members will note that the actual figures for the three months show that there is a saving against budget of £48,905. This is made up of an underspend of £35,180 and an increase in Miscellaneous Income of £13,725

There are savings under all budget heads the most significant being in Salaries and General Expenditure. Savings in Salary costs are due to the recruitment of officers at the lower end of the Authority's salary scales and part-time working arrangements. The savings in General Expenditure are due to an underspend in Legal and Professional Fees, Officers' and Members' Expenses, and Training.

The increase in Miscellaneous Income is derived from unbudgeted income from Licence Tolls and CEFAS Surveys.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Management Accounts

Financial Year 2013/2014

| | ACTUAL Year to Date Qtr 2 | BUDGET (APPORTIONED) Qtr2 | MEMO Budget For Year |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>SALARIES & WAGES</u> | | | |
| Staff Remuneration | 357,518 | 367,065 | 734,131 |
| Pension | 68,629 | 69,889 | 139,778 |
| National Insurance | 26,871 | 28,502 | 57,003 |
| TOTAL | 453,018 | 465,456 | 930,912 |
| <u>GENERAL EXPENDITURE</u> | | | |
| Accommodation | 42,951 | 43,993 | 68,305 |
| General Establishment | 38,386 | 43,562 | 80,588 |
| Officers' Expenses | 6,505 | 8,160 | 16,320 |
| Members' Travel | 1,204 | 3,060 | 6,120 |
| Training | 13,788 | 18,870 | 37,740 |
| TOTAL | 102,834 | 117,645 | 209,073 |
| Development & Communication | 9,671 | 10,200 | 20,400 |
| Enforcement | 0 | 0 | 25,500 |
| Research & Environment | 4,153 | 7,650 | 15,300 |
| <u>VESSELS</u> | | | |
| Moorings & Harbour Dues | 7,950 | 8,770 | 17,540 |
| <u>Vessel Operating Costs</u> | | | |
| Three Counties | 24,828 | 27,550 | 70,380 |
| Enforcement Vessels incl John Allen | 17,385 | 19,825 | 76,500 |
| Pisces III | 7,506 | 4,652 | 7,854 |
| Vessel Hire | 0 | 0 | 10,200 |
| TOTAL | 57,669 | 60,797 | 182,474 |
| <u>VEHICLES</u> | | | |
| Operating Costs | 12,898 | 13,675 | 23,411 |
| TOTAL | 12,898 | 13,675 | 23,411 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 640,243 | 675,423 | 1,407,070 |
| <u>INCOME</u> | | | |
| Bank Interest | -11,219 | -11,219 | -16,000 |
| Legal Fees | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WFO Licence Tolls | -6,975 | 0 | 0 |
| CEFAS Surveys | -6,750 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL INCOME | -24,944 | -11,219 | -16,000 |
| EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME | 615,299 | 664,204 | 1,391,070 |

Vision

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



Action Item 20

11th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: P J Haslam, CEO

Calendar of meetings 2014

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to propose dates for meetings of the Authority and sub committees thereof in 2014.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Approve the calendar of meetings at Appendix 1.**

Background

The purpose of scheduling both full Authority and sub-committee meeting dates in advance is to give members, stakeholders and the public as much notice of meetings as possible and to aid forward planning of Authority decisions.

Proposal

In the past, only the dates of the quarterly meetings of the full Authority were scheduled annually. However, it is proposed to include dates for sub-committee meetings which, on past experience, have been required annually to consider recurring matters – for example, a January meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee to agree the provisional expenditure estimates to meet budget deadlines; a late February meeting of the Planning & Communications Sub-Committee to approve the Annual Plan and Research and Environment Plan to meet Defra deadlines; a late May meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee to consider opening the Wash cockle fishery.

Officers accept that circumstances may arise which might make it necessary to change or cancel scheduled sub-committee dates. Officers will consult on any necessary changes with the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the relevant sub-committee and will notify members promptly. The information on the Authority's website will also be updated when changes are made.

The calendar of meetings to October 2014 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Full Authority meetings have been scheduled in line with the convention that they take place on the last Wednesday of the relevant month.

Consultation

No consultation has taken place. Members are asked to express their views as part of the discussion on this item.

Financial implications

The cost of holding meetings away from the Eastern IFCA offices will be contained within the provision in the Authority's budget.

Regulatory implications

There are no regulatory implications.

Communications

The Authority posts the dates of meetings on its website once they are agreed.

Appendix 1 to Action Item 20
11th EIFCA meeting

| Meeting | Date | Time | Proposed venue |
|--|---|--------------|--|
| Regulation & Compliance Sub-Committee | Thursday 28 th November 2013 | 1030 | Thoresby College |
| Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee | Wednesday 15 th January 2014 | 1030 | Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn |
| 12th Eastern IFCA | Wednesday 29th January 2014 | 10.30 | Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech |
| Planning & Communication Sub-Committee | Wednesday 26 th February 2014 | 10.30 | Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn |
| Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee | Wednesday 16 th April 2014 | 10.30 | Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn |
| 13th Eastern IFCA | Wednesday 23rd April 2014 | 10.30 | Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech |
| 14th Eastern IFCA | Wednesday 4th June 2014 | 10.30 | Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech |
| Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee | Wednesday 25 th June 2014 | 10.30 | Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn |
| 15th Eastern IFCA | Wednesday 30th July 2014 | 10.30 | Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech |
| Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee | Wednesday 15 th October 2014 | 10.30 | Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn |
| 16th Eastern IFCA | Wednesday 29th October 2014 | 10.30 | Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech |

Vision

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Information Item 22

11th EIFCA Meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: P J Haslam, Chief Executive Officer

Quarterly progress against Annual Plans

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress towards the objectives established in the Annual plan.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- Note the contents of this report

Background

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is mandated to produce an annual plan each year to lay out the expected business outputs for the year ahead. The plan for financial year 2013-14 was agreed by the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee on 11 March 2013 and published thereafter.

The tables at the Appendix detail the priorities and objectives and the progress to date. An agreement between Defra and the Association of IFCAs (on behalf of all IFCAs) has been brokered in order to enable IFCAs to subordinate the delivery of less pressing higher level objectives in recognition of the extraordinary demands being made of IFCAs this year¹¹.

Conclusion

This year is a particularly busy year for Eastern IFCA and whilst many objectives and outputs are being achieved and delivered, it is placing huge demands of the staff. Members can be assured that the officers will continue to deliver over and above the contractual requirements to achieve the outputs for this year but a formal re-balancing of effort will be needed later this year to ensure that our plans do not establish expectations that cannot be adhered to.

Background documents

1. Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Annual Plan 2013-14.

¹¹ Unreferenced letter Matthews (Defra)/Bolt (AIFCA) dated 12 Jun 13 - 'Statutory duties and requirements must be delivered. We also recognise that implementing important policies, such as providing management measures for EMS might reasonably require you to re-prioritise resources, staff and the delivery schedules for other outputs set-out in the Defra guidance¹ to IFCAs. Those other High Level Objectives remain important but in light of the current delivery environment outputs identified three years ago may need to take a lower priority.'

APPENDIX 1

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

30 October 2013

Quarterly Progress against Annual Plan

8 major priorities were established in 2013-14.

| Major Priority | Progress |
|---|---|
| To secure appropriate funding to deliver mandated outputs | <p>Ongoing – the spending settlement for Defra has been agreed with the Treasury. Defra are required to find c£200m savings per year over the next 4 year settlement. Ministers were provided with broad intra-departmental options to achieve the savings for their consideration over the summer recess but have yet to formally approve any proposals. The recent changes of ministers will inevitably elongate the process. Once they have indicated how much of the budget is to be allocated to the marine function, IFCAs will be advised of proposals and will have a chance to influence the debate at that point.</p> <p>The Association of IFCAs is poised to engage on behalf of all IFCAs in order to preserve provision of new burdens funding post 2015.</p> |
| To continue investments in staff to preserve appropriate subject matter expertise | <p>A formal staff appraisal system has been developed and rolled out with all staff having clear objectives set for the year 2013-14. The next step is to conduct formal mid period appraisals to check progress against objectives and to advise upon overall performance.</p> <p>Following the training needs analysis process, packages of training including software use, trailer driving and media engagement training are being provided to staff alongside core professional training to support day to day duties.</p> <p>Line management functions are more routine with the associated improvement in work allocation and delegation. Reputation, professionalism and agility are increasingly at the core of all that is done.</p> <p>Since Jul 13 one member of staff has given notice of retirement</p> |

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| | and will formally stand down on 31 Dec 13. The recruitment process is underway to deliver a relief. The staff structure is now fully populated. |
| To deliver fisheries management measures for designated 'Red' features (those at highest risk) with European Marine Sites within the mandated timeframe | <p>The key output for the year with clear reputational implications. The draft byelaw has been written, approved by the Authority and the MMO and forwarded to Defra for their consideration. It represents an innovative approach and Defra acknowledge that it has challenged both their quality assurance processes and their risk appetite. Whilst they have agreed in principle with the approach work is in hand to tie down the finer detail.</p> <p>The public consultation process is in progress following advertisement of the byelaw for the requisite 14 day period.</p> <p>The project remains on track to deliver by December 2013 but there is very little, if any latitude to accommodate further delays.</p> |
| <p>To commence a comprehensive byelaw review process comprising of three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. exclusion of byelaws not applicable or relevant to the Eastern IFCA District 2. like for like substitution of uncontested byelaws directly applicable to the Eastern IFCA District 3. development of complex or contested or new byelaws. | Initial actions have been completed but this project has necessarily been shelved to make room for the more pressing EMS byelaw activity. The plan is still to engage with this process in 2013-14. |
| To procure sea going enforcement assets | <i>FPV John Allen</i> , an 11m cabin RHIB was procured in May 13 and fully operational thereafter. The process to write the statement of requirement and specification for the next vessel is scheduled to be considered in Q4 and will draw upon the experience of ownership of <i>John Allen</i> throughout this fishing season. |
| To implement a district-wide risk based enforcement approach | Initial actions complete but this project is on hold to allow national MMO/IFCA agreements to be developed. |
| To discharge responsibilities under the Wash Fishery Order (1992) | Responsibilities have been discharged via the MPA sub committee. |

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| and consider a review of its provisions | The process to review the WFO will be subject to initial scoping in the latter part of this year. It is expected to indicate a sensitive, complex and time consuming task that will demand a good deal of resource and will have to feature as a key activity in subsequent years once emergent MPA regulation projects have subsided. |
| To introduce fisheries management measures in designated Marine Conservation Zones | The first tranche of MCZs is expected to be formally designated in autumn 2013 and early indications are that regulatory activity will be required to be enacted as soon as possible. It is likely that this will become a key priority activity for 2014-15. |

| Subordinate Priority | Progress |
|---|---|
| To advance the Authority's understanding of the species, habitats and activities occurring in the district | <p>Research projects as selected and directed by the Planning and Communication sub-committee have been scoped, planned and are now entering execution phase. These district wide activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash cockle growth study • Crab and lobster stock survey • Juvenile Fish survey • Mono filament net survey |
| To advance the Authority's understanding of the needs of the recreational angling sector including bespoke research and interpretation of the results of CEFAS Angling 2012 project | Formal results of Angling 2012 will be subject to a Ministerial launch on 27 Nov 13. It is hoped that a candidate Recreational Sea Angling (RSA) strategy will be forwarded to the Authority by the RSA community to prompt activity to take forward initiatives that will deliver outcomes to the benefit of the RSA community. |
| To contribute to 'Project Inshore'. This national project will assist the Authority by providing an independent assessment of the state of each major fish/shellfish stock within the Authority's district which will help inform the byelaw review process and future work of the Authority to ensure sustainable exploitation of these resources. | <p>Phase 3 of Project Inshore is underway and is due to report in Dec 13. This will provide bespoke reports to individual IFCA's to assess the current status of the fisheries within the district along with indications of the actions required to achieve Marine Stewardship Council accreditation of the fishery which implicitly demonstrates the sustainability of the stock.</p> <p>This food and food service industry sponsored project is laudable as it will provide IFCA's with a roadmap to achieve sustainable fisheries.</p> |

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| | <p>There is however, a good deal of risk involved in this as the likely tone of the report will create expectations that IFCA's will need to take immediate steps to deliver the requirements of the report. This requirement has yet to achieve formal 'buy in' from Defra and will need to do so if the task is to be handed down to IFCA's as formal direction.</p> |
| <p>To contribute to data requirements to meet Marine Strategy Framework Directive commitments (particularly crab and lobster)</p> | <p>In hand as part of the Crab and lobster survey outlined above. Similarly, dialogue is in progress with Cefas to contribute to a proposed lobster survey.</p> |
| <p>To engage with marine planning issues, including consultations on developments.</p> | <p>Responses have been provided for a number of projects throughout the district including Triton Knoll Windfarm, East Anglian offshore One Windfarm, the Greater Gabbard Windfarm, Sizewell C generation plant and the draft East Coast Marine plan amongst others.</p> <p>In addition, EIFCA staff members are routinely contributing to public meetings and bespoke working groups to ensure that relations between stakeholders and developers are conducted appropriately and IFCA outputs safeguarded. The CEO is chairing the Commercial Fisheries Working Groups for both East Anglian Offshore One and Greater Gabbard offshore renewables development.</p> |
| <p>To promote the work of Eastern IFCA through outreach events.</p> | <p>EIFCA has completed a very comprehensive suite of events throughout the district in order to promote engagement with stakeholders and to ensure that the Authority is recognised and heard. Feedback has been extremely positive. Members should note that this is a trial year for these activities and whilst very rewarding, the commitment of manpower resource during an already busy year is placing significant demands on the goodwill of the staff. A formal cost/benefit review will be conducted later this year to refine attendance to those events where the greatest benefit can be secured for the best value for money.</p> |

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's have sound governance and staff members are motivated and respected

| High Level Objective Performance Indicator | Action: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (1.1) The development of an annual plan to meet the requirements of the Authority and Defra. To be prepared and published by 31 st March. | <p>Delivery of Annual Plan for signature by Planning and Communication sub-committee with document published by 31st March 2013. Delivered 11 Mar 13</p> <p>Development of annual plan 2014-15</p> | • | | | • |
| (1.2) Annual reports meeting the requirements of the Authority and Defra are prepared and published | Publication of the Eastern IFCA Annual Report 2012-2013 Drafted for approval at EIFCA meeting 30 Oct 13 | | • | | |
| (1.3) The issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the Eastern IFCA District have been identified, prioritised and, where appropriate, suitable management plans for them put in place by April 2015; management plans and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports | <p>Deliver fisheries management measures for to protect designated 'Red' features within EMS – Ongoing, progress in accordance with timescale, expect to meet deadline of 31 Dec 13.</p> <p>Develop and publish the Authority's Environment and Research Strategy – Delivered 5 Jun 13</p> <p>Scope the review of the Wash Shellfish policies</p> <p>Scope the review of the administration of the WFO 1992</p> <p>Support district fishermen in bid to achieve MSC accreditation for the brown/pink shrimp fisheries within the district. Ongoing – meeting held with Project Manager and stakeholders 15 May 13. Project re-invigorated and further education process conducted in Boston. Independent project assessment document forwarded for stakeholder review 16 Jul 13. Further meeting held 8 Aug 13 to drive progress.</p> <p>Understand our commitments to meet MSFD requirements, particularly Crab and lobster stocks</p> <p>Strengthen internal process for identifying and prioritising issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the district.</p> | • • • • • | • • • • • | • • • • • | • • • • • |
| (1.4) A staff management system, including training and development plans, is in development and being tested during 2013 for approval by staff and the authority and implementation in 2014 | Staff performance management system linking to individual training and development plans - developed and implemented – Ongoing – formal appraisal system developed and objectives set for Executives, Supervisors and team members. Training needs analysis carried out and training requirements identified and actioned. Mid period appraisals process scheduled for Nov 13, supporting training for Execs and Supervisors has been provided. | • | • | • | • |

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| <p>(1.5) Staff resources and capability is assessed against IFCA objectives and duties with a gap analysis by April 2013; plans for addressing problems and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports</p> | <p>Staff resources and capability monitored against objectives and duties Not yet started but a significant piece of work. Staff at all levels are routinely accruing hours in excess of the contractual requirement in order to deliver core business. A formal review of outputs against inputs will be needed to assure that EIFCA is resourced for success and is likely to form a key output of next year to coincide with the Parliamentary report on the IFCA construct.</p> | • | • | • | • |
| <p>(1.6a) Systems are developed and implemented that enable all staff and members to contribute to and comment on all IFCA policies and business by Sept 2012; systems follow best practice/principles in Investors In People</p> | <p>Human resources specialist has been recruited by the Authority. In 2012/13 the Authority completed a review of job descriptions and remuneration. The focus for 2013/14 will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining Investors In People status • maintain staff feedback questionnaire • introduce processes to support appropriate ways of working | • | • | • | • |
| <p>(1.6b) Staff and members are content that they can influence the development of policy for the IFCA demonstrated through annual feedback</p> | <p>Identify and encourage the development of an appropriate culture for the Authority and its employees</p> <p>Regular line management and monthly staff meetings capture staff suggestions</p> <p>'Bright Ideas' proforma developed</p> | • | • | • | • |

Success Criterion 2: Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the district

| High Level Objective Performance Indicator | Action: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <p>(2.1a) The issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the IFCA District have been identified, prioritised and, where appropriate, suitable management plans for them put in place by April 2015; management plans and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports</p> | <p>All fisheries operating within the district are identified spatially and temporally – Research project planned and underway.</p> <p>Contribute to 'Project Inshore' to assess each major fish and shellfish stock in the District – Formal response to Project Inshore Phase 2 report completed 24 May 13. Phase 3 meeting scheduled for 5 Nov 13.</p> <p>Consider including MSFD (Crab and Lobster stocks) projects in the 2013/14 research plan – Research project planned and underway.</p> <p>Link to HLO PI 1.3</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> |
| <p>(2.1b) All byelaws made after April 2011 meet the requirements of Defra guidance</p> | <p>Regulatory and Compliance Sub-Committee operational</p> <p>Training provided to the Regulatory and Compliance Sub-Committee prior to the committee considering any new byelaws</p> <p>Impact assessments undertaken to provide robust audit of social, economic and environmental effects of any new byelaws – Byelaw to manage fisheries activity in WNNC EMS initial consultation phase and Impact Assessment(IA) compete. IA forwarded to MMO for review 8 Jul13 in accordance with mandated time scale. Draft byelaw approved by MMO and EIFCA on 18 Sep 13. Formal advertisement complete and consultation period underway to be complete by 11 Nov 13.</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> |
| <p>(2.1c) IFCA's have necessary records and database systems in place to inform decision making</p> | <p>Developed working partnership with Norfolk County council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review data holdings – Paper data holdings reviewed and new storage brokered. Electronic data holdings have yet to be tackled. • Develop appropriate file structure – not yet started. • Establish linkages with other agencies' databases – A major task that has not yet started. • Develop management information products – not yet started. | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> | <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> |

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| (2.2a) The byelaw review and changes are on schedule to meet the objective of reviewing and evaluating all legacy byelaws by 2015 | Byelaw review project scope established - Complete | • | | | |
| | Byelaw review commenced with existing byelaws assessed and prioritised for revocation, like for like replacement or further research and development - Initial actions complete but on hold to enable delivery of EMS Byelaw | • | | | |
| | Byelaws that are no longer relevant revoked- Initial actions complete but on hold to enable delivery of EMS Byelaw | | | • | • |

Success Criterion 3: A fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime is in place

| High Level Objective Performance Indicator | Action: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--|--|----|----|----|----|
| (3.1a) Annual enforcement risk register published on each IFCA website and available for viewing at each IFCA office by 30 April each year | Interim enforcement risk register developed and published - Initial actions complete | • | | | |
| | Detailed enforcement Risk Register developed | | | • | • |
| | Detailed risk based enforcement framework developed and implemented | | | • | • |
| (3.1b) The IFCA's enforcement risk register is peer reviewed. The peer review comments are forwarded to the CFO and Chairman of the IFCA | Enforcement risk register peer reviewed by CEO of Kent and Essex IFCA and Sussex IFCA | | | • | • |
| | Peer review comments forwarded to the CEO, Chair of the Authority and Chair of Regulatory and Compliance Sub-Committee | | | • | • |
| (3.1c) The enforcement risk register is compiled in a standard format approved by all IFCA's and provided to the national peer review panel by the 28 February each year | Explore the opportunity for the development of a national IFCA standardised risk register | • | • | • | • |
| | Explore the opportunity for the development of a national IFCA standardised risk based enforcement framework | • | • | • | • |
| (3.2a) A code of conduct for inspections both ashore and at sea is created by 30 th October 2011 and reviewed annually. The code of conduct is published on each IFCA's website and available from each IFCA's office by 30 April each year | A code of conduct for inspections has been published and is available on website (complete) | | | | |
| | Annual review of code of conduct | | | | • |
| (3.2b) Establish a national IFCA/MMO team by 30 th October 2011 to independently assess the overall quality of enforcement inspections conducted by each IFCA on an annual basis with the results reported back to the CEO and Chairman of the inspected IFCA by the 30 April each year | Support the development of an IFCA/MMO assessment team. <i>N.B.</i> Dependent on national action for Performance Indicators to be met | • | • | • | • |
| | Participate in national meetings and programmes | • | • | • | • |

(Continued) Success Criterion 3: A fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime is in place

| High Level Objective Performance Indicator | Action: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--|--|----|----|----|----|
| (3.2c) Development of an SLA between IFCA, MMO, NE and EA regarding the provision of standardised enforcement training and the secondment process for officers of each signatory by 30 April 2012 | Ongoing. Routine provision of MMO training has yet to be fully secured although Eastern IFCA officers have undertaken some MMO delivered training Secondment of personnel is agreed and captured in individual MoUs (complete) | • | • | • | • |
| (3.2d) Each IFCOs enforcement knowledge and performance is assessed (to nationally determined standards - to be developed by 30 April 2012) on a bi-annual basis whilst attending the national enforcement training course | <i>N.B.</i> Dependent on national action for Performance Indicators to be met Eastern IFCA IFCOs to be assessed and identified as competent prior to being issued with a Warrant Training courses identified in personal development plans | • | • | • | • |

Success Criterion 4: IFCA work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders

| High Level Objective Performance Indicator | Action: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---|--|----|----|----|----|
| (4.1a) Initial MOUs are agreed and adopted by end of April 2011 | Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding have been agreed with NE/EA/MMO/Cefas. have been developed with NE & MMO | • | • | • | • |
| (4.1b) Discussions have been held with partner organisations with regard to Service Level Agreement (SLAs); SLA (if required) are agreed and adopted by April 2012 | MoUs/MOAs/SLAs with NCC, LCC, ACPO, WNNCEMS, KEIFCA, NEIFCA, AIFCA developed | • | • | • | • |
| (4.1c) Identify and discuss with lead local authority requirement for SLA by October 2011 | Achieved | • | • | • | • |
| (4.1d) Each MOU and SLA is reviewed annually to ensure effective delivery of objectives as defined in the annual plan; progress against MoU action plans is reflected in annual reports | MOUs reviewed | • | • | • | • |
| (4.2a) Set-up database of stakeholders from current list by April 2011. Update list every 6 months. Review contacts list annually | Community Development Officer (CDO) recruited. Contacts management in hand – Database of stakeholders set up. Review of data underway. | • | • | | |
| (4.2b) Engagement strategy developed by April 2012 | Communication and Engagement Strategy agreed by Planning and Communications Sub-Committee (PCSC). Annual output plans flow from this strategy. | • | • | | |

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| (4.2c) By April 2012 each IFCA to create a website to give access to current information; all regular forms and documents to be provided electronically by April 2013. Website is reviewed and updated monthly | CDO Data Officer to organise monthly e-newsletter updates and regular tweets | • | • | • | • |
| (4.2d) Develop interpretation boards and presentations to allow greater interaction with stakeholders | Interpretation boards designed and manufactured, to be installed at appropriate coastal locations within district Eastern IFCA scheduled to attend community shows in 2013 - Display infrastructure procured and regional events attended in accordance with the Communications and Engagement plan. | • | • | • | • |
| (4.3a) Reviewed stakeholder and communication strategy/plans and stakeholder database completed by April 2014 | Completed | • | • | • | • |

Success Criterion 5: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

| High Level Objective Performance Indicator | Action: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| (5.1a) By April 2012, committee to sign off strategic research plan, which has undergone consultation, covering the period until April 2015 | Five year Environment and Research Strategy to be presented to the PC Sub-Committee by 31 March 2013 Complete | • | | | |
| (5.1b) Research plan is published each year | Annual (2013/2014) Environment and Research Plans developed by officers and presented to PC Sub-Committee Complete –Annual Environment and Research Plans published on Authority’s website | • | • | | |
| (5.1c) Previous year’s research report published each year | The 2012/13 will be published at the end of April 2013. Complete | | • | | |
| (5.1d) IFCA annual report to demonstrate how evidence has been used in decision making processes | Annual Report illustrates how the Authority has incorporated evidence in its decision making - Annual report 2012-13 drafted for approval 30 Oct 13. | • | • | | |
| (5.2a) By April 2012 develop and agree MoUs with delivery partners and review annually | Included in MoUs in HLO 4.1 | • | • | • | • |
| (5.2b) IFCA representative to take part in annual IFCA scientific conference | In 2012/13 Authority Research and Environment staff participated in a variety of scientific fora. This included World Fisheries Congress, Rare Fish (IFM) Conference, and Coast MS discussions. All Authority Research and Environment Staff participated in the IFCA Technical Advisory Group conference. Similar participation will continue (links to HLO 1.4). Ongoing – E&R team represented at TAG, Leadershio in Science seminar, KEIFCA Biosecurity conference, IFM confence amongst others. | • | • | • | • |
| (5.2c) IFCA representative to proactively | Eastern IFCA Senior Research Officer leading role in Technical Advisory Group. Eastern IFCA | • | • | • | • |

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| be involved in relevant evidence networks to share best practice, e.g. Technical Advisory Group. | Research & Environment Officers provide information and training in specialist fields to others to forward the development of best practice | | | | |
| (5.3a) IFCA annual plan and report demonstrate use of evidence, resources and capability as per strategic research plan | 2013-2014 Annual Plan developed incorporating 5.3a Complete | • | | | |
| (5.3b) Seek appropriate peer review of research reports | Peer review process established through regular cross pollination of information and best practice between South Eastern IFCA ¹² . | • | • | • | • |
| (5.3c) IFCA annual plans and reports, including research plans and reports, are published online on the IFCA and Technical Advisory Group websites | 2013-2014 Annual Plan published on Eastern IFCA website Complete 2011/2012 and 2012/13 Annual Report published on Eastern IFCA website – Annual report 2012-13 drafted for approval 30 Oct 13. 2013/2014 Environment and Research Plans published on Eastern IFCA website and circulated with TAG | • | • | | • |
| (5.4a) Develop knowledge sharing plans and procedures by April 2014. | Development of knowledge sharing plans explored with Kent and Essex IFCA and Sussex IFCA /TAG | • | • | • | • |
| (5.4b) Knowledge sharing plans are reviewed and amended annually | Link to 2.1c | | • | | |

¹² Eastern, Kent and Essex and Sussex IFCA

Success Criterion 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment

| High Level Objective Performance Indicator | Action: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--|--|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| (6.1a) Identify where there are shared objectives in managing the marine environment with partner organisations by April 2012 and identify how these impact on IFCA's objectives | MoU developed with Kent and Essex IFCA regarding management of the River Stour MoU developed with North Eastern IFCA regarding respective roles in the Humber EMS Local Annex to MMO MoU established with Eastern district | • • • | • • | | |
| (6.1b) Shared objectives are set out in annual plans | EIFCA/MMO Shared objectives reflected in MoU and reviewed at monthly tactical control group meetings | • | • | • | • |
| (6.1c) Progress of shared objectives reported on in annual reports | Included in Annual Report | • | | | |
| (6.2a) Plans and processes for raising awareness of IFCA's work in place by April 2013 | Communications and Engagement Strategy completed by CDO. Outreach and education events scheduled | • | • | • | • |
| (6.2b) Examples of engagement set out in annual reports | Included for the 2012/13 Annual Report | | | • | |
| (6.2c) Feedback from relevant stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of engagement is routinely sought | Feedback included as part of the Development of a Communications and Engagement Strategy (links to HLO 6.2a) Quarterly community meetings scheduled | • • | • • | • • | • • |
| (6.3a) The issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the IFCA District have been identified, prioritised and, where appropriate, suitable management plans for them put in place by April 2015; management plans and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports | 1.Environment and Research Strategy delivered to PC Sub Committee by April 2013 (links to HLO 5.1 a&b) 2. Gather information to deliver fisheries management measures for designated 'Red' features in European Marine Sites within the mandated timeframe; 3. Project Inshore – as for HLO 2.1a 4. Wash cockle and mussel management policies reviewed (links to HLO 1.3) 5 Start to assess amber and green fishery/feature interactions in EMS | • • • • | • • | • • | • • |
| (6.3b) Examples of proactive involvement in relevant networks to share best practice are reported in annual reports | Included in Annual Report (links to 6.2b) | • | | | |
| (6.3c) The impact of the Marine Policy Statement and the process of marine planning on IFCA's work have been assessed and addressed by April 2015 | Eastern IFCA officers liaison with, and comment to the MMO marine planning team during consultation on the East coast marine plans to be launched mid 2013 – Draft East Coast Inshore Marine Plan received for comment 16 Jul 13 – response developed in concert with constituent councils forwarded 3 Oct 13. | • | • | • | • |

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| (6.4a) Assessment of the condition of Marine Protected Areas by statutory bodies, where available, have been taken into account when developing suitable management plans | Liaison with Natural England for up-to-date information on condition of MPA features | | • | • | • |
| | MPA feature condition considered against conservation objectives as Eastern IFCA develops fisheries management within MPAs | • | • | • | • |
| | Habitats Regulations assessment undertaken by Eastern IFCA for Wash Fishery Order fisheries | • | • | • | • |
| | Information gaps identified and joint planning undertaken with statutory bodies to obtain EMS condition data for amber and green fishery/feature interactions | | • | • | • |
| (6.4b) IFCA's can demonstrate effective representation on relevant management boards/steering groups for Marine Protected Areas, where appropriate | Maintain active role as lead authority for the WNNCEMS and employs the WNNCEMS Project Manager | • | • | • | • |
| | Maintain active role as member of the Stour & Orwell Estuaries Management Group | • | • | • | • |
| | Maintain active role as member of the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group | • | • | • | • |
| | | • | • | • | • |
| (6.4c) IFCA's can demonstrate delivery of the principles outlined in Government guidance on sustainable development | IFCA developing ISO 14001 compliant Environment Management System, including training staff for auditor roles. | • | • | • | • |
| | Utilise and apply Defra guidance for IFCA's on sustainable development (Q1 Q2) | • | • | | |

Success Criterion 7: IFCAs are recognised and heard

| High Level Objective Performance Indicator | Action: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| (7.1a) By April 2012, each IFCA is actively involved, through membership, in the direction, good governance and running of the AIFCA | AIFCA enabled EIFCA CEO regular involvement in AIFCA meetings and work programmes | • • | • • | • • | • • |
| (7.1b) Initial MOUs are agreed and adopted by end of April 2011; SLAs (if required) are agreed and adopted by April 2012. Each MOU and SLA to be reviewed annually to ensure effective delivery of objectives as defined in the annual plan | Agree MOAs with EA/NE/Cefas (links to HLO 4.1) Develop SLAs Review MOUs/SLAs | • • | • • | • • | • • |
| (7.1c) By April 2012 partnership working is embedded in each IFCA (and partner organisation), evidenced on an annual basis by regular liaison meetings and joint or collaborative activities as defined in the annual plan | Host and attend regular Eastern Regional Liaison Group meetings (Police/EA/MMO/KEIFCA) Continued participation of a South East IFCA (KEIFCA/SIFCA) working group to carry forward items of mutual benefit Employment of the WNNCEMS Project Manager Close working with partner organisations is encouraged when dealing with case studies | • • • • | • • • • | • • • • | • • • • |
| (7.2a) By April 2013 a strategy for the promotion of IFCAs work is developed, including the development of promotional / communication plans which are to be reviewed annually | Communication and Engagement Strategy re-aligned to deliver against outcomes of Mackman Group benchmarking study Engagement opportunities identified Community meetings held Jun/Jul/Aug 13. Next round scheduled for Nov 13 Development of Area IFCO roles to adopt a higher profile in relevant communities Appropriate display infrastructure identified and resourced - Ongoing. | • • • • | • • • • | • • • • | • • • • |
| (7.2b) By April 2013 annual reports by IFCAs to include a specific element which has data on 'compliments, comments and complaints' from stakeholders and general public and significant events which have demonstrated the IFCAs PR strategy is operational | Include a public engagement section within the 2013-2014 Annual Report - in hand | | • | | |
| (7.2c) By April 2013, as a minimum, each IFCA to hold proactive biennial stakeholder meetings and events to inform and consult with all interested parties in the IFCA District | Area Community engagement meeting conducted after quarterly IFCA meetings Other engagement opportunities identified, resourced and attended | • • | • • | • • | • • |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (7.2d) By April 2012 each IFCA to create a website to give access to current information; all regular forms and documents to be provided electronically by April 2013. Website is reviewed and updated monthly | Eastern IFCA website data managed as required | • | • | • | • |
| (7.2e) By April 2011 all IFCA staff to be badged so as to be recognised as IFCA officers who following internal training, can speak with authority on the IFCA aims and objectives | Uniform reviewed and improved where necessary - complete . Staff meeting scheduled monthly - complete Key messages/Lines to take provided as required Development of Area IFCO role | • | • | • | • |
| (7.2f) By December 2013 annual staff appraisals will be undertaken to measure the standards of behaviour toward, and interaction with, stakeholders, general public and officers/staff of partner organisations | Links to 1.6a Training in staff appraisals to be conducted December 2012 Finance and Personal Sub-Committee agreed approach for a staff performance appraisal system incorporating 360 degree external feedback mechanism – See 1.4 above . | • | • | • | • |

Vision

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



11th EIFCA Meeting

Information Item 23

30th October 2013

Report by: Julian Gregory, Head of Marine Protection

Marine Protection Quarterly Reports

Purpose of report

To provide members with an overview of the work carried out by the Area IFCOs and the vessels, *RV Three Counties* and *FPV John Allen*.

| Area/Vessel | Officer |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Area 1 | Jason Byrne |
| Area 2 | Ian Dye |
| Area 3 | Adrian Woods* |
| Area 4 | Alan Garnham |
| <i>RV Three Counties</i> | Simon Howard |
| <i>FPV John Allen</i> | Simon Lee |

* Due to the unanticipated but authorised absence from work of IFCO Ady Woods the quarterly report for Area 3 is not included in this update.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of the quarterly reports from the Area Officers and the skipper of the research vessel Three Counties

Background documents

Area Officers and Skippers quarterly reports for July to September 2013

Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

From: Jason Byrne Fishery Officer (Area 1)
To:
Date: 16th October 2013
Ref: Quarterly Report Area 1
Monthly Report: July, Aug, Sept 2013

Area 1: Donna Nook – Sutton Bridge

General

Throughout the quarter there has been potting for Crab, Lobster & Whelks at the top of the district, longlining & netting for Bass & Skate in the middle of the district. The main activity throughout this quarter has been focused on the handraked Cockle fishery within the Wash with a maximum of 25 vessels participating. Anglers along the coast have been taking advantage of the Bass & Mackerel fishing. Bait diggers & samphire pickers have also been along the Lincs Coast. Various ports & landing sites have been visited to place MLS signs around the Lincs coast just as a gentle reminder to anglers & the general public.

Port Summary

Saltfleet - Chapel point

Two commercial vessels from this area have potted for Crab & Lobster, shore based anglers have fished the Haven for flatfish, vessel based anglers have fished outside the haven for Mackerel & Bass. Throughout the quarter one or two complaints came in about nets being placed in Saltfleet Haven, after further investigation the nets were believed to be holidaymakers who were not aware of the sizes to be used, after the presence of EIFCA the nets have since been removed from the Haven & no further sightings have been seen of them, thus far. Other reports were made throughout the quarter of a net being placed across the haven, on further investigation it seemed that one of the boats caught the net with the props on the boat, nobody has come forward to claim this net so it's no longer a problem, the net is believed to be a 90 - 100mm net so perhaps used for Bass. Other reports have been made by EA & NE of further nets being placed in North Somercotes area; this is to be followed up.

Skegness – Gibraltar Point

Two commercial vessels have been potting for Crab, Lobster & Whelks, and netting & longlining for Bass & Skate. Vessel based anglers have been fishing for Bass off the Skegness Windfarm area & Skull Ridge area. As many as 16 shore based anglers were sighted fishing along Skegness sea front mainly targeting Bass. A few comments have been made regarding the increase of Seals in the area; this has resulted in the seals having a bite out of several fish within the net or on the lines! Nothing can be done about this as its nature. Throughout this month several vessel based anglers have had some good returns on the Bass.

Boston

The majority of Boston Port has been handraking Cockles, a total of 25 vessels participated in this fishery again this month which gave employment to at least 55 happy fishermen! Prices have varied going as low as £200.00 per tonne & as high as £500.00 per tonne depending on size & yield. One vessel has been fishing for Brown Shrimp.

Fosdyke

Angler vessels from Surfleet have been fishing the Skull ridge area for Bass & Mullet, some of these anglers had to be reminded of minimum landing sizes. Three commercial fishing vessels have visited the Marina this quarter to have general maintenance carried out on them. One of these vessels was from Wells & the other two from Boston. New MLS signs were placed around the Marina as a few of the guests are interested in a spot of fishing, also signs were placed at Surfleet Haven, this is the next port inland from Fosdyke.

Sutton Bridge

Throughout this quarter myself, Phil Haslam, FO Dye & Paling spent the day away on Pisces walking on Cockle sands chatting with the handrakers on Daseleys sand & Roger Toft. The weather was pleasant & the fishermen were happy to see the Boss out on the sands. Two angler vessels have been fishing at the end of Sutton Bridge river for Mullet, Bass & Mackerel another vessel based angler fished four days at the Wisbech No.1 area targeting Mackerel & Bass.

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.

Saltfleet - Chapel Point

| Number of vessel inspections: | | 4 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Crab | 20,930 | 21,125.00 |
| Lobster | 4,710 | 69,150.00 |

Skegness – Gibraltar Point

| Number of vessel inspections: | | 1 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Crab | 9,110 | 9,672.00 |
| Lobster | 995 | 14,670.00 |
| Whelks | 3,790 | 2,401.00 |
| Skate | 220 | 594.00 |
| Bass | 767 | 7,744.00 |

Boston

| Number of vessel inspections: | | 99 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Handraked Cockles | 1,817,034 | 767,115.00 |
| Brown Shrimp | 8,280 | 16,063.00 |

Fosdyke

| Number of vessel inspections: | | 2 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

Sutton Bridge

| Number of vessel inspections: | | 2 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

Potting

Crab and lobster

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area: | 4200 |
| Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area: | 4200 |

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of brown crab measured during the month: | 30 |
| Number of lobsters measured during the month: | 40 |

Whelk

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area: | 400 |
| Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area: | 400 |

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of anglers inspected: | 6 | |
| Locations fished: | Species targeted: | Average catch (kg): |
| Saltfleet | Flatfish | 7 |
| Skegness | Bass | 6 |
| Sutton Bridge | Various | 0 |

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of vessels inspected: | 1 | |
| Locations fished: | Species targeted: | Average catch (kg): |
| Saltfleet Haven | Mackerel | 8 - 12 |
| Skegness | Bass | 6 - 10 |
| | Mackerel | 7 |
| Sutton Bridge | Mullet | 4 |
| | Bass | 8 |
| | Mackerel | 10 |
| Skull Ridge | Bass | 6 |
| Wisbech No.1 | Mackerel | 8 |
| | Bass | 6 |

Charter Angling Vessels:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Number of charter vessels inspected: | | | | | |
| Number of vessels in area: | 0 | Number of trips: | 0 | Number of anglers: | 0 |
| Species targeted: | 0 | Total Landings (kg): | 0 | | |

Locations fished throughout the month: 0

Fishery Officer Duties**Training:**

H&S Risk Assessment.

Other duties carried out:

Made box for EIFCA stickers.

Collecting shellfish samples from Tabs Head for EHO.

Attended objective planning meeting in office.

Attended enforcement meeting in office.
 Away on Pisces EHO run.
 Away on Pisces walking on cockle sands.
 Attended staff meetings.
 Looking around Anglia House- potential new offices.
 Putting EIFCA signs up- Lincs coast.
 Fixed Navara tailgate & drivers door.
 Assisting JA service.
 Made wooden horse for outboard.
 Attended TGC meetings.
 Onboard JA patrol.
 Away on RIB- walked Cockle sands, checked wreck for Mussels.
 Bio sampling at Saltfleet.
 Assisted trailer- wheel off.
 Attended fun day at Thetford Forest.
 Attended JA naming ceremony at Ipswich.
 On board MFV Ruth Imelda monitoring handraked cocklers, also walking sands monitoring *Ridging* of Cockles.
 Wisbech marina lifting RIB out of water.

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

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Crab | 1.00 - 1.10 |
| Lobster | 14.00 - 15.00 |
| Skate | 2.70 |
| Whelks | 60p - 65p |
| Bass | 9.25 - 11.50 |
| Handraked Cockles | 35p - 50p |
| Brown Shrimp | 1.94 |

Eastern Inshore Fisheries And Conservation Authority

From: Ian Dye Fishery Officer (Area 2)
To:
Date:
Ref: 4/12
Report: July – September Quarterly report

Area 2: King's Lynn - Blakeney**General**

It has been the poorest quarter for receiving figures I have ever seen since I have been on area two. However we have now put in place measures to ensure we receive them on time in the future, the port of Kings Lynn has had a very good brown shrimp fishery this quarter and also a very good hand worked cockle fishery lasting up to the start of October which has been gladly received by the fishermen.

Port Summary**King's Lynn**

14 vessels made 182 landings of brown shrimp into Kings Lynn totalling 68,025kg valued at £300,476. Also 12 vessels made 720 landings of hand worked cockles totalling 1,362,294kg valued at £609,385.

Brancaster

No figures received

Wells

No figures received

Blakeney

No figures received

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:****113**

| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Cockles hand worked | 1,362,294 | 609,385 |
| Cockles dredged | 0 | 0 |
| Mussel hand worked (Regulated) | 0 | 0 |
| Mussels W. Wall (Regulated) | 0 | 0 |
| Mussel dredged (Several) | 0 | 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 | 68,025 | 300,476 |
| Pink shrimp | 0 | 0 |
| Sole | 0 | 0 |
| Brill | 0 | 0 |
| Cod | 0 | 0 |
| Lemon sole | 0 | 0 |
| Skate | 0 | 0 |

Brancaster**Number of vessel inspections:****0**

| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Mussels (Regulated) | 0 | 0 |
| Mussels (Several) | 0 | 0 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Mussel dredged (not WFO) | 0 | 0 |
| Mussel dredged seed (not WFO) | 0 | 0 |
| Oysters | 0 | 0 |
| Brown shrimp | 0 | 0 |
| Brown crab | 0 | 0 |
| Lobster | 0 | 0 |
| Whelks | 0 | 0 |

Wells

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of vessel inspections: | | 0 |
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Brown crab | 0 | 0 |
| Lobster | 0 | 0 |
| Whelks | 0 | 0 |
| Velvet crabs | 0 | 0 |
| Brown shrimp | 0 | 0 |
| Cod | 0 | 0 |

Blakeney

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of vessel inspections: | | 0 |
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Brown crab | 0 | 0 |
| Lobster | 0 | 0 |
| Mussels (Several) | 0 | 0 |
| Mussel dredged (not WFO) | 0 | 0 |
| Mussel dredged seed (not WFO) | 0 | 0 |

Potting

Crab and lobster

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

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

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of anglers inspected: | 0 | |
| Locations fished: | Species targeted: | Average catch (kg): |
| Cley | | 0 |
| Hunstanton | | 0 |

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of vessels inspected: | 0 | |
| Locations fished: | Species targeted: | Average catch (kg): |
| North Norfolk | | |

Charter Angling Vessels:

Number of charter vessels 0

Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority

From: Alan Garnham Fishery Officer (Area 4)
To: Phil Haslam - CEO
Date: 16th October 2013
Ref:
Quarterly Report: Jul –Sept 2013

Area 4: Pakefield – Felixstowe Ferry

General

With plenty of sunshine and a Met office heat wave starting this quarter temperatures have continued to rise although fishing all seems a little late. Water temperature has continued to rise. Fishing throughout July has been reasonable with good landings of summer species of bass mullet sole and smooth hound.

With continued low prices for sole some fishermen have diversified and changed fishing habits by targeting the rivers netting for bass and mullet. This keeps the overheads of diesel down making a better return on good bass and mullet prices. This has led to complaints from RSA anglers that commercial boats are stripping the rivers of our fish. Further reports during the quarter report many unregistered boats netting the rivers for bass and mullet on the Rivers Stour, Orwell, Deben and the Alde and Ore.

Various wind farm meetings have taken place this quarter covering the Gabbard and the proposed EAOW1 windfarm.

Two days were spent out at sea on the Aldeburgh Napes witnessing the drift net surveys across the proposed concrete mattress bedding area. Good healthy stocks of fish were found and the ground was found to be clean with no snags. The Angling Trust held a bait diggers meeting in London where we were able to give good input on the present Suffolk voluntary code. During the end of the quarter complaints were still being received of heavy netting in the rivers by all fishermen.

The naming ceremony of *FPV-John Allen* took place within Suffolk at Levington Marina after which she was used for netting patrols and boarding's in the River Stour.

The MCS organised the 20th annual Suffolk beach watch litter pick with the Suffolk Coastal and Heaths partnership and over 600 volunteers took part over the weekend of 15th/16th September 2013 picking up litter on all Suffolk beaches. It was another huge success the rubbish is still being sorted and counted - results hopefully next quarter.

Late September reports were received and public announcements were placed on the local radio regarding Palm oil washed up on all Suffolk beaches believed to have come from a ship tanker flushing its tanks outside 12miles but strong easterly winds brought the oil ashore causing dogs to be taken to vets with sickness.

Port Summary

Pakefield

No reports

Southwold

Good quarter reported by commercial fishermen with good landings of sole and bass attributed to warm and calm weather helping the fishing effort.

Shellfish has been good offshore on the wrecks with both lobster and crab taken. In the River Blyth an eel catcher was inspected and reported a good year with eel making a return.

Commercial fishermen appear to be making use of the new fishermen quay with both Paul Klyne and Darren Marriott tying up and landing fish there.

Dunwich & Sizewell

It started this quarter with being quiet with not too many sole being landed on

the beaches in this area. Usually it is a prolific area for sole during summer months being caught at dusk. On the boats it started poor and fishermen are convinced all the windfarm activity with bring the cables ashore has had an effect on the future of fishing with the grounds being barren.

Anglers finished the quarter with good match catches at night catching mainly sole close in. Commercial boats began to recover at the end of the quarter.

Thorpeness & Aldeburgh

Quarter began similar as Southwold with the beach boats working close in catching mainly sole, skate and bass. Mark Foreman has nearly completed his shed on the beach during this quarter and is now selling fresh caught fish from his boat direct to the public.

I spent two days aboard a fishing boat as an observer commissioned to do drift net surveys on the Aldeburgh Napes on behalf of the Gabbard wind farm to check ground for obstructions before the placing of concrete mattresses across the wind farm supply cable. No obstructions were found and the wind farm company have accepted the ground is clear of snags.

Fishing has been productive off Aldeburgh on the commercial boats.

One day was spent aboard an Aldeburgh commercial boat bio sampling crab and lobster. Early indications seem to concur a healthy stock.

Commercial boats have reported good catches again during this period with calm warm weather boats have been able to launch. Fish huts report good sales to the public with many walking along the front in the warm weather and taking home a piece of fish or buying whelks and cockles.

Beach fishing on the beach whether at the town beach or up on the dirty wall has been surprisingly slow with poor catches. The whiting haven't turned up in numbers as yet.

Orford

July started with expected reports with many commercial boats catching sole and skate at sea using drift nets or trawling and occasionally in the river picking up bass and mullet.

Orford island has been very quiet for fishermen as is the norm for the summer months. The summer saw a price crash with sole and many commercial fishermen took to netting the rivers targeting bass and mullet for a better return without huge diesel bills which come with trawling.

Towards the end of the quarter it appears the bass are moving down river to the sea. The island has been very quiet for the angler with no notable catches.

Felixstowe

Chris Hockley is back in the water after a full winter refit and trawling hard for sole making up for lost time. Other commercial fishermen are reporting good catches of sole, roker, bass and mullet. Varying methods using drift nets and trawling. The water is almost clear at sea and better catches at night are being reported.

On the boats RSA fishing has been slow but I caught a nice 23lb smoothhound making this my biggest fish in Suffolk this year so far and winning the competition with a good bag of Thornbacks and dogfish.

I received complaints from commercial and RSA fishermen again of the amount of close to shore pots and nets at Cobbold's Point. Further complaints are coming in of unknown persons heavily netting and flashing for bass between Pipers Vale and Nacton foreshore.

Commercial boats have been very varied this quarter with some sticking with traditional trawling at sea for sole. Others have found that with low sole prices and high diesel burn costs it has not been cost effective and have diversified to netting in the local rivers for bass and mullet. Prices for bass have continued to be high and there appears to be a good market for bass.

What has been noticed is the high amount of shore crab peeling in the local rivers this year in the warmer water.

During September our FPV- John Allen was formally named with a ceremony at Levington Marina. Luckily the weather held out for a fine day. In the River Stour and Orwell many complaints were received from the public and commercial fishermen of the amount of net fishing and bad practice of fishing in the dark with no lights taking place.

Later during September codling began to show on beach and boats most are full of shrimp.

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.

| <u>Pakefield</u> | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of vessel inspections: | | 0 |
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| No reports | | |

| <u>Southwold</u> | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of vessel inspections: | | 3 |
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Sole | 7,205.00 | 29,931.50 |
| Roker | 3,720 | 8,834.00 |
| Bass | 700 | 6,860.00 |
| Brill | 120 | 1,020.00 |
| Flounder | 1203 | 1,203.00 |
| Smoothhound | 180 | 360.00 |
| Dabs | 110 | 88.00 |
| Lobster | 568 | 6,358.00 |
| Crab | 538 | 1,883.00 |

| <u>Dunwich & Sizewell</u> | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of vessel inspections: | | 0 |
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Sole | 387 | 1,627.50 |
| Bass | 210 | 2,223.00 |
| Flounder | 253 | 253.00 |
| Roker | 42 | 102.90 |
| Dab | 20 | 16.00 |
| Lobster | 251 | 2,761 |
| Crab | 173 | 605.50 |

| <u>Thorpeness & Aldeburgh</u> | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of vessel inspections: | | 6 |
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Bass | 673 | 7,212.80 |
| Roker | 1,012 | 2,443.90 |
| Sole | 3,933 | 16,191.00 |
| Herring | 25 | 25.00 |
| Dogfish | 90 | 144.00 |
| Flounder | 463 | 463.00 |
| Dabs | 82 | 65.60 |
| Smoothhound | 175 | 350.00 |
| Lobster | 740 | 8,140.00 |
| Crab | 497 | 1,739.50 |

| <u>Orford</u> | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of vessel inspections: | | 0 |
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |

| | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------|
| Bass | 2,155 | 22,186.00 |
| Roker | 4,245 | 10,090.00 |
| Sole | 4,765 | 19,489.00 |
| Herring | 50 | 50 |
| Dogfish | 112 | 179.20 |
| Flounder | 975 | 975.00 |
| Dabs | 163 | 130.40 |
| Whiting | 25 | 30.00 |
| Brill | 119 | 1,011.00 |
| Smoothhound | 210 | 420.00 |
| Mullet | 225 | 472.50 |
| Lobster | 1,135 | 12,485.00 |
| Crab | 640 | 2,240.00 |

Felixstowe

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of vessel inspections: | | 11 |
| Species | Landings (kg) | Value of catch (£) |
| Cod | 15 | 37.50 |
| Roker | 3,970 | 9,415.50 |
| Sole | 9,890 | 41,361.00 |
| Brill | 78 | 663.00 |
| Bass | 2,142 | 21,744.80 |
| Flounder | 590 | 590.00 |
| Mullet | 310 | 651.00 |
| Dabs | 124 | 99.20 |
| Herring | 60 | 90.00 |
| Dogfish | 40 | 64.00 |
| Lobster | 1,269 | 13,959 |
| Crab | 215 | 742.50 |

Potting

Crab and lobster

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area: | 950 |
| Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area: | 135 |

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of brown crab measured during the month: | 680 |
| Number of lobsters measured during the month: | 750 |

Whelk

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area: | 00 |
| Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area: | 00 |

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of anglers inspected: | 4 | |
| Locations fished: | Species targeted: | Average catch (kg): |
| Felixstowe Cobbold's point | Sole/bass | 3 |
| Felixstowe Promenade | Sole/bass | 3 |

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of vessels inspected: | 7 | |
| Locations fished: | Species targeted: | Average catch (kg): |
| Within six miles of shore | Smoothhound/bass/ray | 3 |

Charter Angling Vessels:

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Number of charter vessels inspected: | | | | 3 | |
| Number of vessels in area: | 19 | Number of trips: | 407 | Number of anglers: | 2,040 |
| Species targeted: | | | | Total Landings (kg): | |
| Smoothhound | | | | 595 | |
| Bass | | | | 445 | |
| Thornback ray | | | | 960 | |
| Locations fished throughout the month: | | | | | |
| Within 6 nautical miles of coast | | | | | |

Fishery Officer Duties**Training:**

29th July – Health & Safety training

Other duties carried out:

1st July – Kings Lynn meeting
2nd July – vehicle in workshop for repair
2nd July – Gave presentation at Colchester Sea Anglers
3rd July – Gave presentation at Felixstowe Sea Anglers
4th July – Kings Lynn meeting
5th - 13th – Annual leave
14th-16th July “Fishing into the Future” workshops at Brixham
17th-22nd – Leave
23rd July – Stour & Orwell Forum Suffolk Food Hall with PH and JS
24th – July – Levington Marina with SYA, PH and Lucy
25th – July – Observations Lowestoft Dock
25th – July – Orbis house Lowestoft – MMO marine plans meeting AW
29th – July – H&S meeting Kings Lynn
30th – Meeting with Brown & May EAOW 3&4 developments
1st – Monthly meeting Kings Lynn office
2nd – MMO meeting CEFAS Pakefield
6th – At sea Bio sampling
7th – Felixstowe Sea Anglers Meeting
9th – Inspections restaurants at Aldeburgh
14th – MMO meeting Felixstowe ferry
15th – Windfarm meeting at Orford
16th – At sea Bio sampling
19th – Kings Lynn office meeting
19th – Community Engagement meeting at Lowestoft.
20th – Windfarm meeting at Orford
21st – At sea drift net survey
22nd – At sea drift net survey
23rd – Felixstowe meeting with commercial fishermen
26th – Bank holiday leave
28th – At sea Bio sampling
29th – Observations on coast
30th – Toil
2nd – Inspections with AW at Kessingland
2nd – MMO meeting at Pakefield
3rd – Thetford forest fun day
4th – Joint working with MMO
4th – RSA meeting with Felixstowe Sea Anglers
5th – Office meeting at Kings Lynn
10th – Windfarm meeting (Gabbard) at Orford
11th – Toil

12th – At sea Bio sampling
12th – Evening meeting EAOW1
13th – At sea Bio sampling
16th/17th Annual leave
18th – Windfarm planning Inspectorate meeting at Ipswich
19th – Naming ceremony FPV- John Allen
20th – Annual leave
23rd – Office meeting at kings Lynn
24th – London Angling Trust bait digging meeting
25th – Aboard FPV John Allen – Inspection

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

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Cod | 2.50 |
| Roker | 2.41 |
| Bass | 10.33 |
| Sole | 4.20 |
| Dab | 0.80 |
| Smoothhound | 1.93 |
| Flounder | 1.00 |
| Herring | 1.00 |
| Dogfish | 1.60 |
| Brill | 8.50 |
| Mullet | 2.10 |
| Lobster | 11.00 |
| Crab | 3.50 |

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TO: J Gregory
FROM: S P Howard
DATE: July - Sept 2013

THREE COUNTIES QUARTERLY REPORT JULY – SEPTEMBER 2013

July 2013

EHO/DSP samples were collected at the start of the month from the King's Lynn and Boston sides of the Wash. With low slack water and very still condition the Data Buoy was hauled from the sea and then cleaned down for inspection of the chain and shackle, at the same time the bottom of the Data buoy was cleared of mussels. When the bottom of the Data buoy was cleaned a brown crab was found living among the mussel which has settled on it. The Sonde housing tube was cleared of obstruction ready for the installation of the Sonde sensor.

A study was carried out into the effects of the use of a large bag to slow the vessels by agitating cockles from the sea bed on the Dills on the Boston side of the Wash. The first part of the experiment was to have the vessel steam round in circles without a large bag and then walk on the area to check the radius of the circles followed by measuring the depth of the rings which have been disturbed by the vessel.

The study continued but the difference was the use of the large bag to make the vessels turn in tight circles. The research staff was deployed to repeat the same investigation into the radius of the depth of agitation of the cockle from the sea bed on the Dills.

Cobble and Boulder survey for the mouth of the Wash covering the areas fished by the crab and lobster fishermen. This survey has three parts to it starting with side scan to find coverage of any outstanding features of the seabed. This consisted of towing the tow fish between 6 to 8 knots at a depth to maximize the side waves from the tow fish to obtain the coverage and this in turn gave any upstanding items on the seabed the best side shadow to distinguish the features.

EHO/DSP samples were collected from both side of the Wash. Sweep water samples were collected from the following sites around the Wash starting with the Wisbech Channel next to the wreck. Then the Lower Roads water sample was collected from the Boston side and the next site was collected from the Data buoy in the middle of the Wash. The last site collections from Cork Hole on the Lynn side of the Wash just before low water. The last part of the day was used to collect 1500 mussels from the Gat mussel bed for CEFAS.

CEFAS came back aboard to conduct the camera drops around the Wash to capture the details of the sea floor. Covering all the areas which had been surveyed using the side scan system.

Sabellaria survey took place covering the Lynn Knock side of the mouth of the Wash using the side scan system. This consisted of towing the side scan along the track with a 150m gap between track lines.

Sweep water samples were collected for ourselves and CEFAS as part of a study into the sea water for the plankton in the Wash.

Cobble and Boulder survey took place with CEFAS aboard in conjunction with Natural England towards the end of the month covering the areas which had been side scanned by the new survey equipment in joint work with CEFAS.

August 2013

EHO/DSP samples were collected from both sides of the Wash.

Sweep water samples were collected from the following sites around the Wash starting with the Wisbech Channel next to the wreck. Then the Lower Roads water sample was collected from the Boston side and then the Data buoy in the middle of the Wash. The last site saw collected from Cork Hole on the Lynn side of the Wash just before low water. The last part of the day was used to collect 1500 mussel from the Gat mussel bed for CEFAS.

CEFAS came back aboard to conduct the camera drops around the Wash covering the areas surveyed using the side scan to find outstanding features. These consisted of a 50m ring around the points of interest and the camera was deployed down to seabed and skip across the 50m ring.

Sabellaria survey took place covering the Lynn Knock side of the mouth of the Wash using the side scan system. This consisted of towing the side scan along the track with a 150m gap between track lines. To look for any signs of Sabellaria on the seabed and any other features.

September 2013

EHO/DSP mussel and cockle samples were collected from the Both side of the Wash.

Sweep water samples were collected from around the Wash starting at Clay Hole site on the Boston side of the Wash, Clay Hole, Data Buoy, Stylemans and the Wisbech Channel. The opportunity was taken to collect the Stylemans EHO/DSP sample which had been missed and then transported back to King's Lynn to be dropped off at the Council Office.

Mussel surveys were conducted on the wall in the river Welland (stone bank), Mare Tail beds, East Gat mussel beds, Middle and West Gat mussel beds and Inner West mark Knock sand mussel beds as part of the on-going study into the stocks in the Wash.

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TO: J Gregory

FROM: S T Lee

DATE: October 2013

QUARTERLY REPORT FPV *John Allen* (July, August, September) 2013

The Northern end of the district was patrolled in July with *John Allen* and *Pisces* engaged in the monitoring of the hand work cockle fishery. Fishing processes were monitored and crews walked ashore to assess any excessive disturbance. The Lincolnshire coast was also patrolled twice with very little activity observed. On one patrol a film crew joined the crew of *John Allen* to shoot a promotional video promoting EIFCA and providing a better understanding of our activities.

Independent reports of bass netting initiated two patrols of the Skull Ridge area of the Wash but no activity was evident. A successful boarding of a large whelk boat working out of Wells took place off the North Norfolk coast. The skipper reported a large numbers of good quality whelk were being landed.

Mid quarter was a relatively quiet month for *John Allen*, with cockle enforcement, research and holidays. On the 7th *John Allen* was lifted out at Wisbech marina for it first 100hr engine and out drive service. This was completed by the Authorities own engineers with the assistance of IFCO Jason Byrne.

On intelligence led target based enforcement *John Allen* was moved to Wells to focus on Cromer crab and lobster fishery. Numerous vessels were boarded and all indicated good catches of both crabs and lobsters. Concerns were raised by the beach launched boat about the amount of gear being fished on the inshore grounds by the larger off shore boats. It was indicated that the large vessels operating out of Lowestoft targeting the whelks were overwhelming the ground with gear and if continued unchecked this could not be sustainable. According to the fisherman the ground is covered in juvenile whelks, which if left indicates a healthy fishery for future years. *John Allen* patrolled the area but no vessels were observed.

September experienced unseasonal strong winds from the North restricting *John Allen* to Wells until the 13th when moved to Suffolk Yacht Harbour for the following weeks naming ceremony. *John Allen*'s naming ceremony took place on the 19th, the weather remained dry long enough for the ceremony to be completed. All those present had the opportunity to go on board and ask questions.

The remainder of the month *John Allen* patrolled the southern end of the district spending the majority of the time covering the Stour and Orwell. This was following various reports of large quantities of undersize bass being targeted by vessels netting. Numerous vessels were boarded with no infringements reported. The netting vessels reported good catches of bass and mullet but the fish in the

nets were being stripped by seals. However, recreational anglers reported a different picture, reporting that very little was being caught and it was their belief that the large number of vessels netting in the river was having a direct impact. At sea very little was being caught both commercially and recreational. The end of the month John Allen sailed down the Stour to conduct a mussel survey near Mistley Marina. John Allen's small inflatable was used and proved to be a successful way of accessing the beds in shallow water.

Continued assessment of John Allen's capabilities took place, which will inform the final assessment of the vessel review. No problems were encountered on boarding, albeit the sea conditions were flat calm. With this in mind a request for extra hand rails to be fitted on both sides to assist getting on and off has been put forward. A large amount of surface rust was found on the stainless hand rails, the manufactures have supplied a stainless polish the leaves a protective barrier. Further tests and adjustment by the service agent from Garmin to correct a 25 degree error on the heading censored appears to have rectified the error.

Positive feedback from fishermen at sea and ashore was received indicating it was good to see The Authority back with a visible presence at sea.

Vision

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



11th EIFCA Meeting

Information Item 24

30th October 2013

Reports by:

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

Marine Environment Quarterly Reports

- a) **Senior Research Officer's Quarterly Report**
- b) **Senior Marine Environment Officer's Quarterly Report**

Purpose of report

The Authority runs a year-round programme of research projects and environmental work. This paper enables Members to be kept informed of key activities undertaken by the Authority's Research and Environment team during the previous quarter, July to September 2013, any issues that have arisen either through internal or external drivers, and an indication of up-coming developments that could require future actions.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

Background

a) Senior Research Officer's Quarterly Report

For several years the Authority has encountered difficulties retaining research staff. Having just replaced two research officers last quarter, Olle Akesson left us in May to pursue a career with the Sussex Wildlife Trust. His replacement, Robin Strigner, joined the team in July. For much of the first part of this quarter Robin's time has been occupied conducting training. In order to assist the team during this period of transition, Laura Rutland, a student from Imperial University who had conducted voluntary work with us in the past, agreed to join us on a temporary contract. The Senior Research Officer would like to thank Laura for her enthusiastic and invaluable contributions during the period that the new research officers were being trained.

In June the research team held a meeting to develop objectives for the Crustacean Project 2013-14. This culminated in the identification of four key objectives for the project:

- to define the fishery,
- to assess the state of the stocks,
- to identify key issues and threats,
- to investigate potential management initiatives.

Subsequent work throughout July to September has focused on the first two of these objectives, primarily using data from the authority's MMO shellfish returns database, which carries records going back to 2006. Interrogation of this database has allowed annual landings and effort in the crustacean fishery to be quantified for the whole district and by port and ICES area. This has identified trends in landings and fishing effort as well as identifying key fisheries and areas of productivity. To supplement the MMO returns data area officers have been engaged in biosampling of brown crab and lobster landings at ports and processors throughout the district. Members of the research team have been carrying out similar sampling at sea aboard vessels engaged in potting to record data on the non-landed component of the catch. A new database has been created in-house to capture this information and build up a time series of morphological data. Statistics held in this database will allow fished crustacean populations in the area to be defined in terms of their structure (size frequency, sex ratios) and provide a valuable resource for the identification of trends in this structure in any future study. Desk based research of relevant literature has further supported this study; identifying methodologies, related studies and potential management techniques. Key areas that this desk based research has focused on include investigating appropriate techniques to model the fishery and management measures that can help ensure the sustainability of the fishery.

Another project that commenced in June was a Fish Monitoring Study. The aim of this project is to produce an overview of commercial and recreational fishing activity within the District. This will examine the scale of both commercial and recreational sea fishing, and how this varies temporally and geographically across the District. Species with particular relevance to our District will be examined in more detail, in order to identify aspects of biology and exploitation important to the management of these species. Species and aspects selected for more detailed investigation are – Bass, Mullet, Smelt, Dover Sole, Flounder and Dab. During the past quarter the following aspects of the project have been completed:

- Arrange Eastern-IFCA landings data (area officers reports) in such a way as to allow interrogation of, for example, catches by species by area over time, and relate these to other sources of landing data. This has highlighted the relatively greater significance of finfish within the Southern area of our district, and also the disparity between the MMO and our own landings data.
- Desk study of available information on distribution, biology and management of the species selected for deeper study at various stages of their life cycle.
- Identification of standardised methods for assessing fish populations.

It is planned to use some of these methods in the coming year to fill gaps in understanding of fish distribution in Suffolk rivers resulting from gaps in the coverage of other organisations' monitoring programmes.

In July Natural England funded a joint project in which the Authority and CEFAS mapped areas of cobble and boulder reef communities in the Wash and North

Norfolk European Marine Site. This survey provided the research team the opportunity to test our new Edgetech side scan sonar and receive guidance from the CEFAS staff in how best to configure and use it. The side scan was subsequently used in August to survey an area that was known from previous surveys to have supported *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs. This enabled members of the research team to familiarise ourselves with the equipment and to identify the type of image that these features show up as on the side scan. Although *Sabellaria* reefs only appear faintly on side scan images, ground truthing found *Sabellaria* at 8 of the 10 sites initially identified as potentially supporting reef features. This was a far greater success rate than we had previously been able to predict using RoxAnn AGDS. During these two surveys the laptop provided with the side scan crashed several times each day due to an unknown fault. This has since been returned to the manufacturer and replaced.

Most of the vessels participating in the hand-worked cockle fisheries in the Wash use a technique referred to as "prop-washing" to facilitate harvesting the cockles. In 2006 it was noticed that some of the vessels were using 1-tonne bulk bags as sea anchors while conducting "prop-washing" activities. Fearing the use of these bags could lead to unacceptable disturbance of the seabed, their use was prohibited during "prop-washing". Following this ban there were complaints from several fishermen who argued their use of bags was not to allow them to use more power when "prop-washing" but to enable them to turn in a tighter circle. They contested that this was safer when several vessels were working in close proximity and actually created less disturbance on the seabed because their rings were smaller. In July members of the research team conducted a short study to assess the impact that using bulk bags during prop-washing had on the seabed. During this study the activities of two hand-worked cockle vessels were monitored over two days. On the first day they "prop-washed" without using bags, while on the second day they were allowed to use a single bag to facilitate turning. On both days the vessels "prop-washed" for the same length of time, using the same engine revs, and their impact on the seabed measured. In both cases the use of the bags enabled the vessels to manoeuvre in circles that were 27.5% smaller in radius than had been possible without using bags. Additionally, the width of both vessels' rings were found to be smaller when bags had been employed. In terms of the overall area of disturbance, employing bags reduced the area from 400.6m² to 212.9m² for vessel A and from 423.4m² to 199.7m² for vessel B. This equated to a 46.9% reduction for vessel A and a 52.8% reduction for vessel B. In terms of the depth of disturbance within the rings, vessel A's disturbance increased slightly from between 2-3cm without a bag to 2-4cm with a bag. By contrast, vessel B's depth of disturbance reduced from 4-6cm without a bag to 3-5cm with a bag. No deep holes were created by either vessel, with or without bags. The study concluded that when used responsibly to facilitate turning, their use reduces the disturbance both in terms of the surface area of disturbance and the volume of sediment disturbed.

In August the team surveyed a small cockle bed at Horseshoe Point. This survey identified that although there were few adult cockles present in the area, the bed had benefited from a recent settlement of juveniles. The loss of adult cockles from this bed over the past few years suggests the bed is suffering from similar

problems to those in the Wash. Members from both the environment and research teams also conducted an eelgrass survey at Horseshoe Point during which some very small patches of eelgrass were identified.

Several mussel beds have been surveyed this quarter. These started with a small bed at Titchwell Marsh in August. The mussels on this bed tend to be ephemeral, frequently being washed away during winter storms. Although they could provide a seed resource for local fishermen wishing to stock their lays, care must be taken as the site is sensitive. Not only is the bed situated within a RSPB reserve, the mussels are also attached to an exposed bed of fragile Neolithic peat. In order to prevent irreparable damage to peat, only small-scale, hand-worked fisheries could be consented on this bed. Even then, these could only occur when the peat was protected by a layer of pseudo-faeces beneath the mussels. The survey found the mussels on this bed had increased in biomass from 110 tonnes in February to 129 tonnes. At the time of the survey these mussels were found to be clinging tightly to the underlying patches of peat with very little pseudo-faeces beneath them.

During the latter half of September the research team began the annual inter-tidal mussel surveys in the Wash. By the end of the month five of these beds had been surveyed; all of them showing a moderate increase in biomass compared to the previous year. Usually these surveys would be completed during October, but as it is planned to open five of the beds during the latter half of October to a dredge fishery, the surveys on these beds will be delayed until November.

The opportunity was also taken in September to survey some small mussel beds in the River Stour near North Mistley. These beds are a named feature within a proposed MCZ. Situated in areas of very soft mud, these beds have been difficult to approach safely during previous surveys. To overcome these difficulties, this year the team utilised the new patrol vessel, John Allen, and her small tender to access the beds. By approaching them on an ebbing tide just as the beds emerged, it was possible to get the tender alongside the beds, negating having to wade through the mud.

The Authority has continued to assist other organisations throughout this quarter with on-going projects. These include collecting shellfish and water samples on behalf of the EHO and Cefas as part of their on-going water quality and bio-toxin monitoring programmes. While collecting these samples the opportunity has also been taken to assist two PhD students working for Cefas with their sample collections in the Wash. We have also continued collecting water samples for the SWEEP project studying chlorophyll and nutrient levels in the Wash. In July the data buoy deployed for this project was lifted out of the water for annual maintenance checks to be conducted and mussels fouling its bottom to be removed. Research staff have also continued to help Cefas conduct their Practical Indicators of Exploitation for Crustaceans or PIECRUST project. This has involved sampling for juvenile edible crabs and lobsters at Sheringham.

Members of the research team have represented the Authority at several meetings during the quarter. These include:

- East Anglian Water Quality Forum
- ICES Science Stakeholder Briefing for forth-coming quotas
- Blue Marine Conference – Managing Marine Protected Areas

In addition to these meetings, members of the environment and research teams have also represented the Authority at several shows and events. These include:
 The Wells Carnival
 The Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival
 The King's Lynn Heritage Festival

b) Senior Marine Environment Officer's Quarterly Report

Background

Overview

This paper reports progress in July, August and September 2013 against the Environment Projects set out in the Research & Environment Plan 2013/14, and additional tasks that have been undertaken by the environment team during this time.

The main priority over the summer has been to develop the Protected Areas Byelaw that will protect the high risk features within European Marine Sites in the Eastern IFCA district. In parallel, officers have continued to participate in consultations on a variety of topics, not least the Marine Management Organisation's *East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan* and a range of marine licence applications. Some fieldwork has been undertaken in the form of juvenile crab and lobster surveys in Norfolk, and an eelgrass survey in the Humber estuary. During the quarter, Environment officers have benefited from training in the form of two health and safety workshops, a Habitats Regulations training course and an Access database course. Officers have also participated in promoting the work of Eastern IFCA at various shows and events across the three counties, in the Eastern IFCA documentary, and at the FPV John Allen naming ceremony.

Fisheries Evidence Project

The Marine Environment (Data) Officer Luke Godwin formulated a Data Strategy for the Authority – this is presented at Agenda Item 16. This will provide the backdrop against which to review existing data management systems used by the Authority, with the objective of improving efficiency in data storage and retrieval. Less resource has been given to this review than originally planned for the quarter, as the Protected Areas Byelaw work took priority, but on-going improvements are being made to data management e.g. database for stakeholder consultation. In September the Research, Environment and office Support team undertook a two-day Access (database) training course.

Work has continued during the quarter to build up a Marine Protected Area database (feature evidence, fishing impact evidence), with the current emphasis

on EMS high risk feature/fishing activity interactions. Eastern IFCA has fed into the gap analysis undertaken at a national level (Natural England and Cefas) and through the IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is continuing to identify steps required to fill the evidence gaps. Additional information is anticipated in the form of Natural England's national review of conservation advice (including information on feature presence and extent, conservation objectives, current condition of features, and advice on operations) – although the revised advice is not expected during the timescale of current European Marine Sites project.

Eastern IFCA represented IFCAs at a recent meeting to discuss the future of the Marine Life Information Network (MarLIN), a web-based resource used by marine scientists particularly in relation to impact assessment work. MarLIN is particularly useful for information on species' sensitivity to potentially damaging processes, which can be used to inform Habitats Regulations Assessments such as those undertaken by the Authority to inform management of the Wash cockle and mussel fisheries. [Habitats Regulations Assessments will also be required for the assessment of "amber" and "green" species/fishery interactions in the European Marine Sites project.] Funding is being sought from a range of organisations, including IFCAs, to maintain the MarLIN resource.

Environment Officers have participated in PIECRUST surveys in July, August and September, to monitor the abundance and size of juvenile edible crabs and lobsters in the Sheringham beach area.

Fisheries in European Marine Sites project

The Environment team undertook a two-day Habitats Regulations training course, hosted by Sussex IFCA in Shoreham-by-Sea, on 9-10 July 2013. The training was supplied by Defra in recognition of the requirement for IFCAs and the Marine Management Organisation to assess the impacts of fisheries under the Habitats Regulations as part of the revised approach to fisheries management in European Marine Sites. Eastern IFCA officers have undertaken this type of work for many years as part of its own management of the Wash cockle and mussel fisheries, but the new requirement will be to apply this approach to all commercial fisheries undertaken in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas across the district.

Following the information-gathering process undertaken in June and July, officers developed the summary of responses. This informed the Impact Assessment document submitted to the Marine Management Organisation with the draft Protected Areas Byelaw on the 8th July 2013. The Impact Assessment is designed to highlight predicted costs to businesses should a regulation be created; in this case little financial information was obtained through the information-gathering process which made it difficult to predict costs with any accuracy. However, the meetings with fishermen were productive and in some cases enabled the shapes of the proposed closed areas to be adjusted to minimise loss of fishing grounds. Detailed charts were created by the Marine Environment (GIS) Officer to accompany the Byelaw proposals; these were submitted with the Impact Assessment and have been published on the Authority's website.

A training session on the ecology and identification of eelgrass was provided by Natural England on 8th August 2013. Following this, officers obtained additional evidence for the high-risk feature eelgrass beds in the form of a partnership survey in the Humber estuary, and a Natural England-commissioned survey on the North Norfolk Coast. The focus of the Humber survey was Horseshoe Point, where recent records of eelgrass had been reported. Eastern IFCA environment and research officers, Natural England staff and two local guides (conservation volunteers with the Lincolnshire Naturalists Union) undertook a foot-survey of the intertidal sandflats and mudflats, and made a positive identification of a small eelgrass bed. The North Norfolk survey provided up-to-date information on the five eelgrass beds to be protected under Regulatory Notice 3 of the Protected Areas byelaw.

Additional surveys were undertaken by Cefas in conjunction with Eastern IFCA for the boulder and cobble communities feature in The Wash. These surveys suggested that much of this feature had been covered by mobile sediments (sands) – which highlighted the dynamics of conservation feature management in a high-energy environment such as The Wash.

The Protected Areas Byelaw was agreed by the Regulatory and Compliance Sub-Committee on 18th September 2013 (Agenda Item 8). This triggered the advertisement of the Byelaw and a six-week formal consultation process (due to end on 11th November 2013).

In addition to the Byelaw work for the European Marine Sites project, Eastern IFCA officers have continued to undertake partnership work for the Humber estuary, Wash and North Norfolk Coast, and Stour & Orwell European Marine Sites. A community meeting (co-hosted with Marine Management Organisation and North-Eastern IFCA) was held at Grisby on 7th August 2013. Officers organised a regulators' meeting to discuss management of bait digging in the Stour & Orwell in July 2013 – with a particular focus on restoring confidence in the Code of Conduct for these estuaries for the protection of over-wintering bird species. This work is continuing as the winter season approaches; a community meeting will be undertaken in November for this purpose.

Marine Conservation Zones project

During the summer months no additional work was undertaken by the Environment team in relation to marine conservation zones. The Defra announcement (detailing which sites will be designated in 2013) is anticipated in the coming weeks; this will confirm whether the Stour & Orwell estuaries will be taken forward in the first round of Marine Conservation Zones. The Authority's agreed approach to management of fishing activities in marine protected areas applies to both European Marine Sites and Marine Conservation Zones, to provide a framework for the development of management measures to protect site features.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Following receipt of information from Cefas in relation to phytoplankton community composition, Eastern IFCA officers submitted the additional evidence requested by Natural England for the Review of Wash Fishery Order lay consents. This review constitutes an overarching Habitats Regulations Assessment for existing lay activities in the Wash. Natural England provided formal advice in September 2013 that the existing lays are not having an adverse effect on site integrity – which in effect means that Eastern IFCA can renew the existing leases. Further information is provided under Agenda Item 14.

Two additional Habitats Regulations Assessments were prepared by the Environment team during the quarter. The first was for the dredged, relaying mussel fishery on selected mussel beds in The Wash (to be opened in October 2013 – after the initial fishery proposed in December 2012 was not utilised); the second was to open cockle beds on Inner Westmark Knock, Breast, Daseley's and part of Pandora Sand, following the end of the main cockle fishery, to harvest cockles that were ridging-out (larger cockles being pushed to the surface of the sand by smaller cockles). Both fisheries required strict management measures to ensure that they would be compatible with the conservation objectives for the Wash. In particular, maintaining the integrity of the mussel beds to be fished is of key importance since these features are very difficult to re-establish if lost. Management conditions were drawn up and Natural England agreed that each fishery would not damage the integrity of the European Marine Site, so long as the strict conditions were applied and enforced.

Consultation responses

Environment Officers and Executive Officers have continued to provide an input to consultations during the quarter. The main policy document under consideration during this period was the Marine Management Organisation's East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan. In addition to preparing a written response to the consultation, officers attended a Regulators' workshop in Peterborough in September 2013, to discuss mechanisms for implementation of the Marine Plan. Public authorities, including local authorities and IFCA's, have a duty to consider the Marine Plan when making decisions.

The Senior Environment Officer and Suffolk Fishery Officer attended the Planning Inspectorate hearing for the East Anglia Offshore Wind application in September 2013. This provided an opportunity to highlight the Authority's concerns relating to the laying of cables through the district to landfall at Bawdsey (Suffolk). Local fishermen were also present and outlined their concerns, which related in particular to loss of fishing grounds and impacts on spawning cod.

It is likely that as further offshore wind farm applications are considered in the planning process, Eastern IFCA officers will be involved in additional hearings of this nature. The Hornsea One offshore wind farm, although to be located well offshore from the Authority's district, will make landfall in the Horseshoe Point area. Officers are continuing to liaise with the developer in relation to impacts on the cockle fishery and eelgrass bed in this area.

A range of Marine Management Organisation marine licence applications have required Eastern IFCA consideration during the quarter. These have included 15-

year aggregate dredging licence renewals for areas in the East Anglia block. Officers have emphasised the need to consider the cumulative effects of offshore developments including aggregate dredging, offshore wind farm development, and conservation policies on fishery resources and on fishing opportunities, particularly for small-scale operators that make up the industry within the Eastern IFCA district.

Financial implications

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

Publicity

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

Background documents

1. Eastern IFCA Protected Areas Byelaw ([Protected Area Byelaw](#))
2. Marine Management Organisation draft East Inshore And East Offshore Marine Plan (http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/areas/east_plans.htm)
3. Eastern IFCA Data Strategy (see Agenda Item 16)
4. Natural England review of Conservation Advice (http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/MPA-advice-summary_tcm6-36390.pdf)
5. Eastern IFCA Protected Areas Byelaw Impact Assessment (http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=136%3Aimpact-assessment&catid=3&Itemid=202) and formal consultation (http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=133&Itemid=202)
6. Eastern IFCA Review of Wash Fishery Order lay consents – see Agenda Item 14.

Vision

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



Information Item 25

11th EIFCA meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: Nichola Freer, Head of HR

Update of HR Activity

Purpose of report

To inform members of the progress of the HR plan to 2015 and specifically an update of the HR activity planned to be completed during this financial year.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Note the contents of the report**

Report

Background

As outlined in agenda Items 11 and 18 of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee meetings of 25/06/13 and 17/10/13, the HR plan to 2015 was produced in January this year to support the achievement of the high level objectives set by DEFRA. From that the annual HR activity plan for 2013 was produced and agreed by the CEO. This year has been very much focussed on equipping all officers to fulfil their roles and delivering a workforce that;

- Is confident with what is expected of them
- Knows how they are expected to deliver
- Has the capability to deliver

The key activities within the 2013 HR plan are:

- Training & development
- Recruitment & new starters
- Performance review process
- Creation of an employee handbook
- Investors in People (IIP) review & re-accreditation

Progress

Training & Development:

From the last update, the following activity has been completed:

- Detailed training plans have been developed for each function
- Job / individual specific training is currently being undertaken running throughout the remainder of this year
- H&S training has taken place both at management and officer level
- Formal job inductions for boat crew and Research Officers have been developed and our new staff are currently being taken through as appropriate

Recruitment:

A review of the current recruitment process has been completed and revised process and documentation has been rolled out during September for future use.

Performance review process:

From the last update, the following activity has been completed:

- All Officers have contributed to and received performance objectives to achieve throughout the remainder of this financial year
- An interim review of progress towards achievement of objectives is planned for November
- All Line Managers have attended a further workshop regarding personal development planning
- All Officers will participate in personal development planning discussions as part of their interim reviews in November

The basic process will be monitored for the remainder of this year and outputs will be used to progress the quality and robustness of the process into 2014.

Employee handbook:

It was identified that the current employee handbook is out of date and does not represent a purposeful document as would be expected in current employment best practice and legislation.

Work towards creating a new fit for purpose handbook is currently underway and the new handbook will be introduced to all officers at the end of November.

IIP review and re-accreditation:

In November 2010 the organisation was assessed and awarded the IIP core standard recognition. This level of recognition is due to be reviewed in November 2013. The 28 November 2013 is the date that has been set for this review.

Vision

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



Action Item 26a

11th EIFCA Meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: P J Haslam, Chief Executive Officer

Proposal to test for *Bonamia* infection in the Wash

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to prompt an Authority debate regarding the opportunities and threats incumbent in a request to test for *Bonamia* infection in shellfish in the Wash.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the contents of this paper.**
- **Agree that the Authority must consider the long term stewardship of the Wash fishery.**
- **Agree to allow Cefas to be the arbiter of testing regimes for *Bonamia*.**

Background

The profitability of mussel aquaculture in the Wash is being severely tested owing to a lack of seed mussel within the public fishery that can be exploited and re-laid on private lays. There are a number of reasons for this decline in seed mussel ranging from a limitation of ground as a consequence impact of recent offshore renewable energy developments, failure of previous stocks to regenerate and weather events. The upshot is that local mussel producers are forced to seek out affordable seed mussel that can be imported into the Wash. In order to keep the mortality of seed during transit to a minimum, a key feature of any seed mussel source is adjacency to the Wash. Similarly, in order to preserve a margin of profit, local producers would look to import local seed to keep transportation costs to a minimum.

The Thames Estuary provides a local source of mussel seed but the Thames is infected with *Bonamia*. *Bonamia ostreae* is a parasitic protist¹³ in the phylum

¹³ Protists are a diverse group of microorganisms.

*Haplosporidia*¹⁴ that can cause lethal infections in shellfish, particularly, oysters. *Bonamia* is not present in mussels but both cockles and mussel are known to provide a vector for onward transmission of the disease. The key risk of infection is the accidental transfer of disease via fomites or “hitch-hiker” species being present in dredged material. If the “hitchhikers” are not thoroughly and entirely removed from the seed stock they will carry the infection into the Wash. So, despite the fact that mussels are not susceptible to the disease, and do not pose a disease risk, the method of collection does pose a disease risk.

The Authority, as regulator for the Wash fishery, has a specific duty and legal requirement to notify the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) if it suspects that a notifiable¹⁵ non exotic disease is present within the Wash. Clearly, knowingly allowing infected shellfish to be imported and effectively setting the conditions to introduce *Bonamia* to the Wash would be illegal. It is however, permissible for shellfish to be transferred from one infected area to another.

Proposal

Local mussel producers have requested that the Authority give consideration to gathering samples of shellfish from the Wash to forward to Cefas laboratories to test for *Bonamia* in the Wash. Should the infection be discovered, the expectation would be that previous restrictions on the import of Thames mussel seed will be removed allowing seed mussel, potentially including infected ‘hitch-hikers’, to be imported from the Thames.

Opportunities

As outlined above, local mussel producers are being driven to seek innovative means to introduce affordable seed which will survive the transportation process. If *Bonamia* is found to be present, there will no longer be a need to protect the Wash from it and local, cost efficient seed mussel can be sourced and re-laid as required by local producers.

To provide context, there are other areas of the coast of England that have significant seed mussel resources that are free of *Bonamia* (the whole of the NW coast from Liverpool to Scotland), and it would be perfectly possible to collect seed mussel from this area for relay in the Wash with no risk of accidental disease transfer. The challenge to Industry is to devise transportation methods that will restrict the scale of mortality of stocks in transit to make it a cost effective solution.

Threats

The Wash is one of only three sites nationally that are considered free from infection and the key risk is that this status could be lost. This would affect not

¹⁴ The *Haplosporids* are parasites of animals, especially marine invertebrates.

¹⁵ EU Council Directive 2006/88/EC sets out legislation to prevent and control certain diseases in aquatic animals. These diseases are ‘notifiable’ - ie the owner or anyone else attending to the animals must immediately report suspicion of notifiable diseases to the FHI.

only any future cultivation of oysters but also the ability for cockles and mussels to be exported from the Wash for relaying elsewhere.

Discussion

It is accepted that there is no testing regime for *Bonamia* in the Wash but equally there has been no driver to put such a regime in place. Cefas do not have a requirement for routine testing and would only do so if a disease event had occurred in the Wash prompting investigation to promote Cefas' disease controls which are designed to try and stop the spread of disease, to protect both wild and farmed shellfish.

A testing regime would target oysters which are relatively scarce in the Wash and not actively farmed. Other Wash shellfish is routinely tested and Cefas has declared that if *Bonamia* was present it would have been detectable in the cockles and mussels being tested even though they are not susceptible to the infection.

The Wash is currently recognised as being free from infection. There are no restrictions on movements of shellfish out of the Wash for relaying. The risk that the Authority is being asked to accept is to unilaterally test oysters in the Wash for the presence of *Bonamia*, accepting that if it is discovered, it will introduce movement restrictions on all shellfish dredged from the Wash (particularly cockles which are considered a vector species for this disease). In addition, any future aspiration to cultivate oysters in the Wash will be foreclosed in the event that *Bonamia* is found.

It has been suggested that even in the event that testing shows that *Bonamia* is not present it may still be possible to import mussels from infected areas by employing a robust process to ensure that mussels are separated from other dredged substances to avoid the possibility of 'hitch hiker' species being imported.

To allow the import of potentially infected stock, however rigorous the sifting process may be, will foreclose on the ability to commercially cultivate oysters in the Wash at any time in the future and may impact upon the export of shellfish for relaying elsewhere.

Conclusion

The Wash is currently considered free from *Bonamia* infection and as Cefas has not detected any trace of the infection in the routine testing of other Wash shellfish it is reasonable to assume that there is not an undetected presence.

The proposal seeks to create the conditions whereby cost effective seed mussel can be imported from a local source. The counter argument is that the short term commercial advantage of cheap, local, potentially infected seed mussel is not worth the longer term penalty of hazarding the infection free status of the Wash. It would prevent any opportunity for oyster aquaculture in the future and would impose restrictions on the ability to move shellfish from the Wash, both of which would introduce risk to the viability of Industry.

The Authority has a duty to provide a level playing field to support the viability of local industry. In unilaterally seeking to prove the presence of infection to simply allow the import of local, potentially infected seed mussel risks tilting the playing field too far in one direction. Perhaps the focus should shift to means to import uninfected stock and thereby preserve the relatively unique infection-free status of the Wash.

Background documents

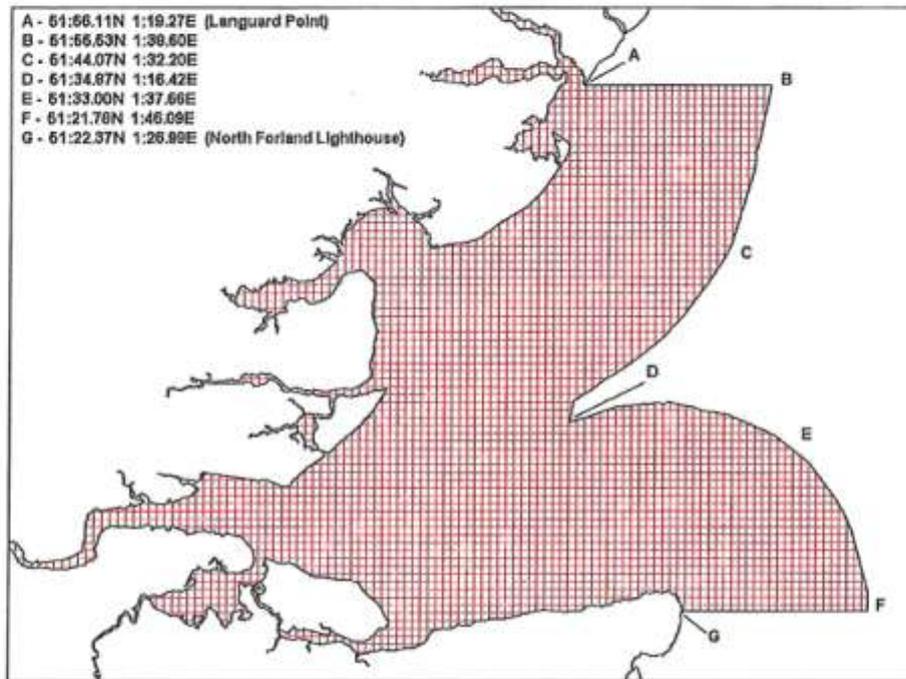
EU Council directive 2006/88/EC

Cefas E mail time/date 1057 14 Oct 13

Wash Mussel Ltd letter dated 28 Apr 13

Wash Mussel Ltd letter dated 3 Oct 13

CD AREA 3 SCHEDULE



The designated area is indicated in red

Designated Area Description

A line drawn due east from the landward end of the jetty at Languard Point, Felixstowe at TM 28303117 and a line drawn due east from the North Foreland Lighthouse at TR 398 692. This designation encompasses areas of tidal water within the seaward limits of the territorial waters adjacent to England and Wales extending 12 nautical miles seaward from the low watermark.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMED DESIGNATION

The Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

This statutory notice is issued by the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), acting as the competent authority for the purposes of the above Regulations. This notice is served on you as a person who the FHI considers is likely to be materially affected by the confirmed designation.

1. Confirmed designation

The FHI makes a confirmed designation in respect of the area described in the attached schedule (the confirmed designation area) as the presence of a listed disease or an emerging disease has been confirmed in aquatic animals in the designated area. The designation of the area is appropriate to prevent or limit the spread of disease.

2. Effect of the designation

No person may:

- a) Move any aquatic animal including, eggs and gametes, into, out of or within a confirmed designation area. Except that the FHI consents to the following:

This condition applies to molluscan shellfish only:

- 1) Native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) may be taken from the area for relaying into other confirmed designation areas for *Bonamia ostreae*.
- 2) Farmed/cultivated Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) may be moved from the area for relaying elsewhere provided that they are thoroughly cleaned and that there are no other species present.
- 3) Subject to hygiene regulations molluscan shellfish of any species may be taken from the area for direct human consumption.
- 4) Molluscan shellfish of any species may be put into a depuration plant within this or another confirmed designation area.
- 5) Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) only, may be put into any depuration plant outside the areas with a confirmed designation for *Bonamia ostreae* provided that they are thoroughly cleaned and that there are no other species present.

- b) Dispose of any dead aquatic animal, including eggs and gametes, which come from that area. Except that the FHI consents to the following:

This condition applies to molluscan shellfish only:

Consent is given to disposal of molluscan shellfish in compliance with local Environmental Health department requirements for the disposal of animal by-product waste.

Regulation 28(2) of the above Regulations makes it an offence for any person to act in breach of these conditions. The penalty on conviction is a fine which may be unlimited.

3. Additional directions in relation to the designation

This direction requires you to take the following steps:

- 1) You must apply to the FHI for permission if you wish to move any molluscan shellfish out of the area, including into a depuration plant, other than as consented in section 2 above, and follow any conditions that may be attached to the movement.
- 2) You must notify the FHI of any increased or unexpected mortality observed in shellfish stocks.

Regulation 30(6) of the above Regulations makes it an offence not to comply with the requirements imposed on you by this direction.

4. Duration of this confirmed designation

This confirmed designation remains in force until it is withdrawn by the FHI. The FHI shall withdraw the confirmed designation when it is satisfied that the listed disease or emerging disease is not present in the confirmed designation area.

The Fish Health Regulations 1997, Regulation 9 - Schedule 6 and The Fish Health Regulations 1997 Regulation 14 Notice 2008 are withdrawn and replaced by this notice.

Signed on behalf of the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers

pp A. Trent

Print

Mr Ian Laing

Date made

26 March 2009

Date coming into force

27 March 2009

Stamp



Designation Number

CD Area 03



GUARANTEED TRUE COPY A. Trent J. J. J. J.

Extracts taken from the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

28. Confirmed designation

- 1) Where the competent authority has confirmed that a listed disease or an emerging disease is present in aquatic animals in England or Wales, it must designate such area as it considers appropriate to prevent or limit the spread of that disease.
- 2) A person commits an offence if, without the prior written consent of the competent authority, that person—
 - a) moves any aquatic animal into, out of or within a confirmed designation area; or
 - b) disposes of any dead aquatic animal which comes from that area.

29. Contents and publication of a confirmed designation

- 1) A confirmed designation must—
 - a) be in the form of a written notice;
 - b) describe the confirmed designation area;
 - c) describe the circumstances in which a person commits an offence under regulation 28(2);
 - d) specify any consent given by the competent authority under regulation 28(2).
- 2) A confirmed designation may specify that—
 - a) any equipment, material or substance liable to transmit disease must not be moved into, out of or within the confirmed designation area or any part of that area;
 - b) any means of transport liable to transmit disease must not be moved into, out of or within that area or any part of that area.
- 3) The competent authority must—
 - a) publish a confirmed designation in such manner as it considers appropriate;
 - b) serve a copy of a confirmed designation on any person it considers likely to be materially affected by the making of the designation.
- 4) It is an offence not to comply with any restriction imposed under paragraph (2).

30. Actions by an inspector in respect of a confirmed designation

- 1) This regulation applies where the competent authority has made a confirmed designation.
- 2) An inspector may—
 - a) take samples of any aquatic animal or water in the confirmed designation area;
 - b) slaughter, destroy or dispose of any such animal.
- 3) An inspector may by written notice direct any person to—
 - a) take steps to secure the slaughter, destruction or disposal of any aquatic animal in the confirmed designation area;
 - b) operate a disinfection facility at the entrance to, and exit from, any farm or mollusc farming area in that area;
 - c) disinfect any means of transport in that area;
 - d) take any other steps which the inspector considers necessary to eradicate the disease or to prevent or limit the spread of the disease to other aquatic animals.
- 4) An inspector may by written notice prohibit any person from entering any farm or mollusc farming area within the confirmed designation area.
- 5) Where an inspector considers that a requirement under paragraph (3) has not been complied with, the inspector may—
 - a) enter any place within the confirmed designation area;
 - b) take or cause to be taken such steps as the inspector considers necessary to—
 - i. ensure compliance with the requirement; or
 - ii. remedy the consequences of the failure to carry it out;
 - c) recover any expenses reasonably incurred in so doing from any person who has failed to comply with the requirement.
- 6) It is an offence not to comply with a requirement imposed under paragraph (3) or (4).

31. Withdrawal of confirmed designation

- 1) The competent authority must withdraw a confirmed designation when it is satisfied that the listed disease or the emerging disease is not present in the confirmed designation area.

40. Penalties

- 1) A person who is guilty of an offence under these Regulations is liable—
 - a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;
 - b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.

Contact Details
The Fish Health Inspectorate
Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science
Barrack Road
The Nothe
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 8UB

Tel: +44 (0) 1305 206670
Fax: +44 (0) 1305 205502
Email: fh@cefas.co.uk
Web: www.efishbusiness.co.uk

Vision

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



11th EIFCA Meeting

Information Item 26b

30th October 2013

Report by: Julian Gregory, Head of Marine Protection

Vessel Procurement Update

Purpose of report

To provide members with an update on the procurement of vessels to fulfil the enforcement function.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of this report.

Background

At the 8th Eastern IFCA meeting held on 30th January 2013 a paper was presented which recommended that two cabin RIBs were procured to fulfil the enforcement function previously undertaken by *FPV ESF Protector III*. Given that no other IFCA had operated such vessels it was acknowledged that despite extensive research it was still necessary to undertake trials to confirm the suitability of such vessels for the role. Given the element of experimentation involved it was recognised that such an approach may result in a requirement to modify or replace the first vessel to be purchased.

Following the presentation Members resolved to:

- Agree that a cabin RIB, or hybrid thereof, is adopted as the preferred option.
- Agree that a Vessel Procurement Panel is established comprising Chair of the Authority, Chair of the Finance & Personnel sub-committee, CEO and Head of Marine Protection.
- Agree that the Vessel Procurement Panel is authorised to oversee and approve the procurement of an enforcement vessel utilising the most appropriate methodology in accordance with relevant procurement legislation and the Authority's Financial Regulations.
- Agree that a second vessel will be operated but that any decision on the long term future of any interim vessel is taken at a later date by the Vessel Procurement Panel, when more information is available (e.g. detail of vessel purchased, suitability for the role etc.).

As a consequence of these decisions a Redbay Stormforce 11m cabin RIB was procured during the spring of 2013 and was delivered at the beginning of May. Significantly, the purchase was achieved at an advantageous price due to the vessel being a cancelled order and having been on the market for some time.

Having operated throughout the district during the summer the vessel was formally named *FPV John Allen* at a formal ceremony at Suffolk Yacht Harbour in Levington, Suffolk on 19th September 2013.

Assessment of Capability

Whilst a formal assessment of the capabilities of *FPV John Allen* has yet to be undertaken (scheduled for November 2013) it is judged that the vessel meets many operational requirements and in particular is an excellent sea boat, which provides a comfortable platform from which to provide a visible presence and to monitor activity. In particular the ability to sustain a high cruising speed relatively economically in varying conditions means that transit times are reduced and operational opportunities are increased as a consequence.

Lessons have been learnt throughout the summer and some minor modifications have been made to the vessel with the addition of extra handrails to facilitate boarding.

Some shortcomings have been identified, primarily in the ability to board smaller vessels or vessels with particular fishing gear deployed. Factors which contribute to this are the size of *FPV John Allen*, visibility from the helm (particularly on the port quarter due to the toilet compartment), the raised deck and protrusion of the cabin towards the outboard extremities of the vessel and the reduced manoeuvrability provided by stern drives when compared with water jets.

Pending the formal assessment of *FPV John Allen* early conclusions indicate that the lessons learnt may lead the specification for a second vessel to include an external helm position, water jet propulsion, an inflatable tube around the vessel (including the bow) and a cabin set further inboard to create a walk round deck below the level of the tubes.

It should be noted that whilst valuable lessons have been learned from trialling *FPV John Allen* the possible changes in specification for the second vessel do not necessarily mean that the former is not fit for purpose. The formal assessment of *FPV John Allen* will provide an objective view of her capabilities as well as taking account of such factors as value for money and will lead to a recommendation for consideration by the Vessel Procurement Panel.

Background documents

Minutes of the 8th EIFCA meeting of 30th January 2013

Vision

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



Action Item 26c

11th EIFCA Meeting

30 October 2013

Report by: Lucy Ritchie, Community Development Officer

Community Engagement Meeting Dates

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to inform Authority members of the upcoming dates of community engagement meetings and to ask the Authority members to attend wherever possible.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Receive the dates of the upcoming community engagement meetings**
- **Agree to attend the meetings where possible**

Background

Since 2012 Eastern IFCA has been holding community engagement meetings in the month following the Statutory Authority Meeting. Although varying in success and attendance, the meetings continue to be seen as an important way for Eastern IFCA to engage with stakeholders and work towards fulfilling Success Criterion 7.

Dates and Times

| Date and Time | Venue |
|--------------------------|---|
| 07 November 1900-2100 | The Cottage – Cromer 8 Loudon Road, NR27 9EF |
| 11 November 1600-1800 | Thoresby College – Kings Lynn Queen Street, PE30 1HX |
| 13 November 1600-1800 | The Black Sluice - Boston 1 South Forty Foot Bank, London Road, PE21 7RA |
| 20 November 1600-1800 | Wells Maltings – Wells-Next-the-Sea Staithe Street, NR23 1AH |
| 25 November 1500-1700 | Barts Hall – Orford Broad Street, IP12 2NQ |