



Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Annual Report 2017-18



October 2018

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Abbreviations	
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	Cefas
Chief Executive Officer	CEO
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	DEFRA
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	EIFCA
Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee	ESFJC
Environment Agency	EA
European Marine Site	EMS
Fishery Patrol Vessel	FPV
Habitats Regulations Assessment	HRA
High Level Objective	HLO
Information Communication and Technology	ICT
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	IFCA
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	IFCO
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	MaCAA 09
Marine Conservation Zone	MCZ
Marine Management Organisation	MMO
Marine Protected Area	MPA
Marine Strategy Framework Directive	MSFD
Maximum Sustainable Yield	MSY
Memorandum of Understanding	MoU
Natural England	NE
Royal Yachting Association	RYA
Recreational Sea Angling	RSA
Service Level Agreement	SLA
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI
Special Protection Area	SPA
Special Area of Conservation	SAC
Tactical Co-ordination Group	TCG
Wash Fishery Order 1992	WFO 1992

Foreword

This annual report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Authority during the financial year 2017-18 to meet its statutory duties as prescribed in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA 09) and to address the priorities identified in the Business Plan 2017-2022.

2016 saw the introduction of a new process for business planning, with a move to an annually refreshed five-year business plan to enable the Authority to account for workstreams that span multiple years more effectively. This is the second annual report covering this new approach.

The elected membership of the Authority changed significantly during 2017/18 with six of the seven elected representatives leaving the Authority. This included long-standing members and former Chairs of the Authority, Cllr Tony Turner and Cllr Hilary Cox, whose knowledge and expertise was a loss to the organisation. Following the replacement of elected members, one seat (normally held by a Norfolk County Councillor) remained vacant during the financial year.

The balance of the membership in terms of commercial fishing remained the same with six commercial fishermen serving as Authority members with good representation for The Wash and North Norfolk. There is a gap because there is no representation from Suffolk, but this is recognised, and officers take this into account where appropriate. The balance of the membership included representation from the Recreational Sea Angling (RSA) sector, marine conservation sector as well as others appointed for their wider marine management experience. Cllr Goldson held the position of Chairman of the Authority with Cllr Skinner (newly appointed from Lincolnshire County Council) taking the position of Vice-Chairman.

The seventh year of operation of Eastern IFCA has seen a continuation of a prodigious workload across the breadth of the Authority's remit. In particular work has focussed upon delivering protection of the most vulnerable features in Marine Protected Areas, managing and regulating the valuable cockle fishery in the Wash and working towards the development of management measures for crab and lobster to ensure that they are fished to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). Alongside this important business as usual has continued, including responding to 71 marine licensing consultations.

The Authority is majority funded through a levy on the County Councils of Suffolk, Norfolk, and Lincolnshire which is supplemented by New Burdens Funding (NBF) provided by Defra via a grant in aid to the constituent councils. NBF represents approximately 25% of the Authority's core funding and is central to the delivery of its mandated outputs. Noting that continued provision of NBF remains the central strategic risk to the Authority's ability to service its remit, the continuation of this vital funding until 2020 is highly valued.

This is the Authority's seventh annual report. We welcome feedback on this document from individuals and organisations interested in our work so that we can meet your needs in the future.



Julian Gregory
Chief Executive Officer



Councillor Tony Goldson
Chairman

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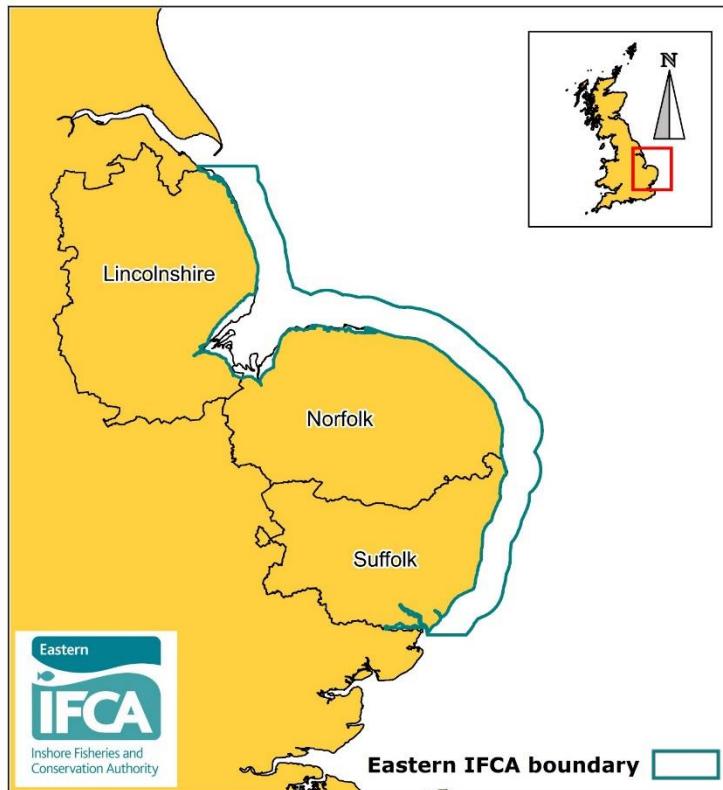
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Annual Report is to inform funding authorities (County Councils and Defra), local communities, local bodies and key delivery partners of the progress made to fulfil the statutory duties of Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA).

Eastern IFCA was created under Section 150 of MaCAA 2009 as a successor to the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee (ESFJC) and was fully vested on 1st April 2011 via Statutory Instrument [2010 No 2189](#). The IFCA District was created under Section 149 of the Act and Section 178 requires every IFCA to publish an annual report. This is the seventh annual report of the Authority.

The Authority district extends seawards six nautical miles from the Haile Sand Fort off the coast of Lincolnshire to Felixstowe in Suffolk and encompasses the counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The area includes The Wash embayment and various river estuaries including the Stour and Orwell in Suffolk. The district encompasses the full breadth of UK and EU forms of Marine Protected Areas including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Special Protected Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, as well as Ramsar sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty designations and Marine Conservation Zones.



Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

Eastern IFCA's primary duties are set out within [MaCAA 2009](#) and are:

- 1) to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in its district, in doing so it must:
 - a) seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way;
 - b) seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the district with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation;
 - c) take any other steps which in the Authority's opinion, are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - d) seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district.
- 2) seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any Marine Conservation Zone in the district are furthered.

As a key delivery body in the marine area, the Authority is also guided by HM Government's Marine Policy Statement, the East Inshore Marine Plan and the IFCA High Level Objectives:

- Achieving a sustainable marine economy;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Living within environmental limits;
- Promoting good governance;
- Using sound science responsibly.



The Authority

The Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is funded by its three constituent County Councils: Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. It also receives 'new Burden' funding from Defra.

The Authority is a statutory committee which meets quarterly to receive reports from the Authority's officers and to direct officers to conduct work on its behalf to discharge its duties. The Authority's 21 members comprise of 7 County Councillors, 3 Government Agency representatives and 11 individuals appointed by the MMO for their expertise and knowledge of different marine related sectors.

The Authority's members and their attendance at Authority Meetings and Sub-Committee meetings on which they have volunteered to sit are detailed on the following page. The Authority has stipulated within its Standing Orders that a minimum attendance of 50% at meetings is expected. During 2017-2018 a total of seven Authority and Sub-Committee meetings were held.

The Authority is committed to operating in a transparent manner and as such all Authority and Sub-Committee Meetings are open to the public. Agendas are published ten working days ahead of any meeting, with all papers distributed five working days ahead of any meeting. Agendas, papers and agreed minutes of all Authority meetings are published on the Authority's website at www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk.

Delivery of Authority business is undertaken by Eastern IFCA's Officers, which comprises of four teams - Marine Science (8 Officers), Marine Protection (11 Officers), Support (2 officers) and the Executive Team (3 Officers).

The Authority is currently located at its primary base in King's Lynn with offices to accommodate staff and a local storage unit for its portable and transportable assets. A satellite office, co-located with MMO officers in the Cefas building in Lowestoft, was opened during 2016. Vessels are based at moorings at Sutton Bridge (*RV Three Counties, FPV John Allen, FPV Sea Spray*) and in Lowestoft (*FPV Sebastian Terelinck*).



Member attendance at Authority Meetings and Sub-Committee Meetings 2017-2018

Name	% of meetings attended	Authority (3 meetings held)	Sub-Committee			
			Planning & Communication (1 meetings held)	Finance & Personnel (3 meetings held)	Regulatory & Compliance (0 meetings held)	Marine Protected Areas (0 meetings held)
Cllr P Coupland	83.5	2		3		0
Cllr P Skinner	71.5	3	1	1	0	0
Cllr D Collis	50	1		*2		
Cllr M Chenery of Horsbrugh	71.5	3	0	2		
Vacant						
Cllr T Goldson	50	*2	0	0	0	0
Cllr M Vigo di Gallidoro	83.5	3		2	0	
Ms C Moffatt~	100	2 of 2	1		0	0
Dr I Hirst	25	1	0		0	0
Ms E Dixon Lack	25	0	1		0	0
Mr S Bagley	50	2	0			
Dr S Bolt	71.5	3	1	1		
Mr R Brewster	66.75	2			0	0
Mr J Davies	33.5	1			0	0
Mr P Garnett	100	3	1		0	0
Mr C Morgan~	0	0			0	
Mr T Pinborough~	100	1 of 1			0	
Mr K Shaul	100	3	1			0
Mr R Spray	100	3	1		0	
Mr S Williamson	100	3			0	
Mr S Worrall	85.75	3	*1	2		

Key:

*	Chair	#	Vice Chair	Norfolk County Council	Suffolk County Council
~	Did not Complete full term		Lincolnshire County Council	MMO/EA/NE Representative	MMO Appointee

DELIVERY OF EASTERN IFCA DUTIES

Eastern IFCA's duties, as set out in MaCAA 09, are enshrined in the IFCA mission which is to:

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

'Annual Priorities' and 'critical workstreams' are the 'what' Eastern IFCA do pursuant of this mission. Eastern IFCA undertakes an annual Strategic Assessment of fisheries within the District to identify environmental and sustainability issues and to prioritise such based on the risk of not meeting the mission statement. These form the focus of work each year.

During 2017/18, priorities were dominated by work relating to the management of fisheries in marine protected areas. Progress against the 2017/18 priorities is set out in the next section.

In undertaking annual priorities, Eastern IFCA is guided by the Success Criteria and their Indicators, which set out the 'how' we will achieve the mission. The Success Criteria and Indicators were refreshed, refined and agreed with the Association of IFCA's in 2015 to reflect the developing programme of work delivered by IFCA's and to demonstrate our contribution to the delivery of the UK Marine Policy Statement.

Five case studies are provided to illustrate how each Success Criteria was delivered through 2017/18 and delivery against the Success Indicators is set out in Appendix 1.



IFCO's at the Lincolnshire Wildlife trust Gibraltar point open day 2017

Focus and priorities for 2017/18

The priorities for Eastern IFCA 2017-18 were identified by the Strategic Assessment 2017-18, which assessed the risk of environmental damage and sustainability issues associated with each fishery within the District. Due to the complexities involved, particularly where regulation is required, it is anticipated that some priorities will roll into the following financial year. The Strategic Assessment and 5-year Business Plan reflect that priorities will span multiple years and therefore enable more effective long-term planning.

Priority work-streams are rarely achievable within a year with some requiring significant research projects or the development of Regulation. The progression of priorities is reported in this context in the next section.

Category	Work	Priority	Progress	Comment
To ensure that the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas in the district are furthered	Delivering fisheries management measures for the 'Red Risk' designated features in the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SCI, and the Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton SCI (continued from 2016-17);	High	Ongoing	Progress delayed because of over-running timescales for shrimp fishery assessment (see below) and requirements for additional unplanned assessments. Staff changes in 2016-17 resulted in an under-staffed Marine Science team and some diversion of resources to train four new Marine Science officers recruited between March and September 2017. Work identified as main priority following agreement of shrimp fishery management.
	Delivering fisheries management measures for 'Amber and Green' designated features within European Marine Sites (EMS) including shrimp management in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC (continued from 2015-16) and completion of 'Amber and Green' HRA suite	High	Ongoing	Assessment of Shrimp fishery in The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC completed February 2018 following extensive re-drafting to incorporate newly-available fishing activity data, feature data and updated conservation advice. Management measures in development at March 2018. Annual assessment of Wash Fishery Order cockle handworking fishery completed May 2017; additional assessment of winter extension to fishery undertaken in November 2017. Liaison undertaken with Royal Society for Protection of Birds regarding disturbance to overwintering

				<p>birds using intertidal flats.</p> <p>Annual assessment of Wash Fishery Order relaying mussel fishery completed in March 2018.</p> <p>Remaining “Amber and Green” assessments to follow “Red Risk” management (see above).</p>
	Assessing the impact of fishing activities on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds tranche 2 Marine Conservation Zone and delivering management measures (if required) by December 2017;	High	Ongoing	Assessment progressed during 2017. Draft completed December 2017; some additional work required including need to reflect newly-developed conservation advice and feature extent data. Fishing activity data and fishery impact evidence reviewed. Management measures to be proposed following completion of final assessment – identified as a priority for Q1 2018/19.
	Developing monitoring and control plans for highest risk MPAs as identified in the Strategic Assessment 2017;	Medium	Ongoing	Monitoring and control plan framework drafted. Plans to be developed and prioritised according to fishing impact risks. To follow completion of “Amber and Green” HRA suite.
	Delivering mitigation to the risk of ‘food availability’ in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC in relation to private aquaculture;	Medium	Ongoing	A review of the existing project was conducted in 2017 to determine the data requirements to satisfy the conditions of the HRA for the WFO 1992 several fishery. A new data sonde was acquired to support the in situ sonde, and a monthly sampling regime implemented.
	Introduction of measures to mitigate the risk of damage to the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC from ‘unmanaged’ bivalve fishing activity if required;	High	Ongoing	This relates to the potential requirement to regulate in the event that the outcome an ongoing High Court case relating to the Le Strange private fishery left an area not covered by management measures. The case had not been finally resolved at the end of year.
	Undertake gap analysis and	Low	Ongoing	Liaison undertaken with Marine Management Organisation in

	initial assessment of fishing impacts within newly designated MPAs including the Harbour Porpoise candidate SAC (southern North Sea), the Greater Wash potential SPA and the extension to the Outer Thames Estuary SPA;			relation to assessments and management in these newly designated MPAs. Assessments not undertaken during 2017/18 as higher-priority work overran (see above). Assessments included in 2018/19 Marine Science plan.
To ensure that sea fisheries resources are exploited sustainably and in accordance with MSFD requirements	Developing fishery sustainability management measures for the brown shrimp fishery in conjunction with priority above (continued from 2016-17);	Medium	Ongoing	The development of sustainability measures is intended to follow the establishment of a permitting mechanism (i.e. the Shrimp Permit Byelaw 2018) and to be informed by the Marine Stewardship Council accreditation of the fishery in addition to an in-house assessment of the needs of the fishery. The completion of this workstream is dependant on the completion of MPA related shrimp management and as such is still on-track.
	Developing fisheries management measures for crab and lobster (continued from 2016-17);	High	Delayed	The Crab and Lobster stock assessment was completed for 2017 and includes recommendation for appropriate measures. The implementation of measures is intended to be synchronised with implementation of measures related to the protection of the Cromer Shoal Marine Conservation Zone which has been delayed. As such, this work-stream's completion is delayed.
	Monitor fisheries management of bass in the context of European and national fisheries management measures and contribute to the development of Bass Nursery Areas	Low	Ongoing	European Regulations were introduced for 2018 which are more restrictive than previous years and considered to be sufficient and as such, Eastern IFCA have not proposed additional restrictions. The development of 'new' Bass Nursery Areas, as lead by Defra has been delayed due to other government commitments and as such, no further progress has been made.

	Investigate the cause of mussel mortality within The Wash	Medium		In 2010 high numbers of a copepod parasite, <i>Mytilicola intestinalis</i> , were found in the mussels, which Cefas felt could be responsible for the observed mortalities. In 2017, a joint research project with the University of Kingston upon Hull was commenced to investigate whether <i>Mytilicola intestinalis</i> and pea crabs, <i>Pinnotheres pisum</i> , were causal factors in these mortalities. Case Study 5 below refers to this in further detail.
To ensure that the marine environment is protected from the effect of exploitation	Reviewing district wide bio-security measures including risk assessment of invasive, non-native species (roll over from 2015-16);	High	Ongoing	Progress has been made regarding the development of additional measures for Wash Fishery Order 1992 Several fisheries including the development of new lease conditions. These have been developed in collaboration with the Fish Health Inspectorate and better reflect requirements of Eastern IFCA's commitments under the Shellfish Production Business Certification. Implementation of the additional measures is delayed due to delayed legal advice and re-prioritisation in the context of higher priority work-streams. The district-wide biosecurity review is in development and contributions to this work-stream are being made as resource allows against other high-priority work-streams.
To develop management of the fisheries regulated under the WFO	Reviewing the Wash Fishery Order (1992) policy notes (roll over from 2016-17)	High	Not started	Interim WFO Several fisheries (shellfish lays) policies were developed and introduced during the financial year in response to unforeseen issues and to re-establish the moratorium on issuing 'new' lays. In addition, several applications for WFO licences and Lays were considered during the financial year encompassing novel issues which required additional resource and legal advice to resolve. Replacement of interim policies developed in 2016 has been delayed due to unexpectedly high work-loads in relation to administering the interim policies and the development of WFO Several Fishery polices. In addition, 2017/18 saw a

				significant burden on the industry from a string of consultations. Initially officers intended to run a consultation on the replacement of interim policies at the same time as WFO Regulations however, this was considered inappropriate. Subsequent consultation on shrimp fisheries management measures has also precluded the policy consultation.
	Delivering updated Fisheries Management Plan, updated Regulations and partial cost recovery	High	Ongoing / not started	It was initially intended that the development of new WFO Regulations would follow the establishment of an updated Fisheries Management Plan for WFO fisheries which was itself dependent on completion of a long-term HRA for the same fisheries. Development of the HRA was re-prioritised due to other commitments which had the effect of delaying the Plan and Regulations. It was subsequently decided to progress with amended Regulations with the aim of incorporating established licence conditions and which would reflect modern legislative standards (clarity and Better Regulation principles). After completion of a formal consultation, submission of the Regulations to Defra for consideration by the Secretary of State was delayed to allow for the establishment of inshore Vessel Monitoring System 'pathfinder project', the funding model for which would have been jeopardised by the implementation of iVMS related regulations.

Business as usual – Critical workstreams

Wash Fishery Order Surveys	Annual surveys have been conducted on the WFO 1992 cockle and mussel beds. These have provided evidence to support the management of both fisheries.
Whelk Management and Research	Ongoing research is being conducted to study the size of maturity of whelks in our district. This will help to determine whether the current whelk Minimum Landing Size that is being applied is appropriate.
Crab and Lobster Research	An ongoing project is being conducted to assess the edible crab and lobster stocks in the district. This involves informing fishery models with data gathered from MSAR fishery returns forms and crustacea biometric data collected from ports and processors to determine whether the fisheries are operating within MSY thresholds.
Database Maintenance and Development	Throughout the year Eastern IFCA has primarily focused on the maintenance of current databases, with little opportunity for the development of further databases.
Risk of Conflicts with Marine Users	<p>EIFCA provides advice on potential effects of marine developments on marine habitats, fish and shellfish populations, and commercial fishing operations. We consider the effects of marine activities on the objectives of the East Marine Plans – in particular, those relating to biological, ecological, conservation and governance principles. Between April 2017 and March 2018, EIFCA provided input to 71 consultations for marine developments at their planning and licensing stages. Most involvement has been with marine licence applications (managed by MMO) for offshore renewable energy, aggregate extraction and coastal defence projects. Offshore energy is continuing to expand off the East Anglian coast, leading to multiple licence requests relating to <i>inter alia</i> ordnance disposal, pre-construction seabed levelling, construction, cable burial, dredging (for burial material) and placement of cable protection materials.</p> <p>In addition to consultations, during the same period EIFCA processed 16 applications for exemptions from EIFCA byelaws, for organisations undertaking fisheries research. Applicants included Cefas, Environment Agency and international marine research institutions. Derogations were also granted to two fishermen to take undersized mussel for relaying.</p> <p>EIFCA has worked in partnership with Harwich Haven Authority to promote a shellfish monitoring scheme to assess the impact of a new disposal site off Felixstowe on crab and lobster catches. EIFCA's CEO chairs a commercial fisheries/wind farm project liaison group, set up to minimise conflict between marine users off the Suffolk coast.</p>
Enforcement	Reported on in Appendix 3.

Secondary Priorities

Category	Work	Progress	Comment
Obtaining better fisheries data	Continue dialogue with MMO in relation to development of under 10m vessel reporting	Ongoing	An MMO led project is underway to develop a catch reporting system for the under 10m fleet.
	Development of relationship with RSA to obtain more fisheries data	Ongoing	A limited monitoring programme is ongoing which includes voluntary reporting some RSA (and some small-scale commercial fishers) but has not been further developed due to progression of other developments. It should be noted that this is a challenging workstream that may be beyond the capacity of EIFCA and could require a national solution.
	Development of mechanisms to capture data relating to fishing for Lesser Spotted Dogfish (including its use as a bait)	Ongoing	Has not been further developed due to progression of other developments
	Further develop the mechanism to obtain voluntary data from commercial fishers	Ongoing	A limited monitoring programme is ongoing which includes voluntary reporting some RSA (and some small-scale commercial fishers) but has not been further developed due to progression of other developments.
	Continue dialogue with MMO and other partner organisations to develop 'joined-up' approach to gathering fisheries data from fishers	Ongoing	MMO led project underway to develop a catch recording system for under 10m vessels. This will be factored in to future byelaws that require catch returns.
	Develop shrimp returns data in consultation with industry	Ongoing	Shrimp returns are completed for those that operate within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC. Catch returns from

			all shrimp fishers will be a requirement of the planned management regime for the shrimp fishery.
	Implementation of iVMS for all fisheries	Ongoing	Significant progress was made towards implementing iVMS on vessels under 12m (vessels over 12m have VMS+ units), with Eastern IFCA leading from the front and aiming to complete on the pathfinder project which will install units on vessels which operate in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast. The project is jointly run by the MMO and the IFCA's and concerns all vessels nationally, and as such is complex and has been the subject of several delays.
Delivering fisheries management in relation to private fisheries in MPAs where necessary (e.g. private fishery in The Wash).	Undertake a gap analysis of available evidence in relation to private fisheries, collate required data, assess fisheries and develop management as required	Not required	Liaison with the Cefas identified that private shellfisheries in MPAs are being assessed by Cefas (as regulators of Shellfish Production Areas).
Delivering fisheries management in relation to fisheries in MPAs where necessary	Complete HRAs in relation to 'unplanned' fisheries (e.g. sub-tidal seed mussel fisheries)	Ongoing	No subtidal seed mussel fisheries identified during 2017-18. Additional Habitats Regulations Assessments undertaken by EIFCA – following new conservation advice from Natural England – for the following activities: (i) EIFCA mussel surveys (September 2017) (ii) EIFCA cockle surveys (March to May 2018) (iii) EIFCA intertidal activities (year-round) (5-year HRA). Mitigation agreed to manage EIFCA activities to minimise

			potential for disturbance to SPA (over wintering birds) and SAC (harbour seal) features.
	Undertake a review of Regulatory Notices implemented under the Protected Areas Byelaw	Ongoing	<p>EIFCA habitat survey data analysed; mapping report drafted at March 2017 – part of evidence base for review of Regulatory Notices (now superseded by Marine Protected Areas byelaw) protecting <i>Sabellaria</i> reef and subtidal stony reef.</p> <p>External data and EIFCA survey data analysed as evidence for review of Regulatory Notice (now Marine Protected Areas byelaw) for eelgrass beds.</p> <p>Review of areas originally closed under Regulatory Notices to be aligned with future iteration of Marine Protected Areas byelaw.</p>
To ensure that sea fisheries resources are exploited sustainably and in accordance with MSFD requirements	Re-assess need to deliver 'unregulated netting' in the context of bass nursery areas	Not progressed	European measures implemented in relation to bass management are considered sufficient at present.
	Review the Humber estuary cockle byelaw (inherited from North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee)	Not progressed	Has not been further developed due to progression of other developments

Delivery against success criteria and success indicators

Five Success Criteria and twenty-seven success indicators have been developed for all ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) within England. Eastern IFCA seeks to deliver its annual priorities in the context of the Success Criteria and this is illustrated in five case studies, which provide a flavour of the work undertaken which meets the success criteria. Annex 1 sets out Eastern IFCAs progress against each Success Criterion and associated Indicator.

Case Study - Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

Engagement with Recreational Anglers

A focus throughout the year was education and engagement of the recreational angling sector in relation to regulations, specifically minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS) and the 2017/18 Bass regulations. There was a focus on weekend and evening patrols on the preferred angling spots to ensure that anglers were aware of the regulations and Eastern IFCA's role in enforcing them.



Educational materials

Eastern IFCA produced information around regulations and MCRS for both fish and shellfish in various formats including: postcards, leaflets, posters (A3 & A4). Through NIMEG the IFCA's also produced a national Bass guidance poster. These documents were distributed direct to anglers, to tackle shops / bait shops, angling clubs and charter boat operators. In addition, officers maintained the 'fish signs' that are present at key beaches and ports along the coast.

Attendance of fishing matches

Throughout the year Eastern IFCA attended several key fishing matches, to promote our work and ensure awareness amongst a key group of stakeholders. Officers attended the national bass festival at Weybourne in 2017, which was attended by hundreds of anglers.



Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes

Email: mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk
Tel: 01553 775321
Web: www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk

Name of fish	Minimum Legal Size
Bass*	42cm
Cod	35cm
Herring	20cm
Horse Mackerel	15cm
Mackerel (North Sea)	30cm
Megrim	20cm
Plaice	27cm
Pollack	30cm
Saithe	35cm
Sardine	11cm
Sole	24cm
Whiting	27cm

***RECREATIONAL BASS MEASURES: CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY FOR 2018**

A marine organism is undersize if its dimensions are smaller than the minimum dimensions specified.

Undersize marine organisms shall not be retained onboard or be transhipped, landed, sold, displayed or offered for sale, but shall be returned immediately to the sea.

Revised: March 2018

Case Study - Success Criterion 2: *IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime*

The Tasking and Coordinating Process

To ensure that enforcement activity is both intelligence led and proportionate it is driven by the TCG process, which utilises various types of information to enable informed decision making and efficient tasking. All information is considered in the round by the Chair of the meeting before allocating tasks to officers to ensure effective tasking in line with enforcement priorities. The following information is considered:

Risk Profile: A 2-page document highlighting issues raised in a data driven assessment based on the same month in the previous year. The following data is considered:

- Vessels operational
- Landed weights of species
- Economic Reliance on a species
- Importance of the species in the Strategic Assessment
- Intelligence Score
- Previous enforcement actions

Additionally, this document contextualises risk by relating it to engagement issues, new byelaws and other new legislation.

Fishing Trends: Fishing trends are reported by IFCOs to the meeting. They also complete the fishing trends template, which quantifies any emerging trends. The trends are collected during the previous month, by engaging with both commercial and recreational fishers. The reports are often anecdotal but reflects information that is not collected elsewhere (such as the price of crab sold in fisher's own restaurants). Furthermore, the associated narrative infers potential trends for the coming months.

Intelligence: Prior to the meeting all intelligence is analysed and is grouped by issue/geographical area and linked to any previous intelligence to provide context and to inform any taskings that are issued in relation to it.

In addition to the monthly TCG in particularly busy and challenging times Eastern IFCA also hold a weekly or fortnightly operations meeting. This meeting is held over skype, with most officers dialling into the call. The purpose of the meeting is to provide direction on the most important issues and ensures that all monthly taskings get completed in addition to any arising issues. The meeting usually only lasts 30 minutes. Where no weekly or fortnightly meeting is held, a weekly plan is developed based on dialogue with officers and progress against monthly priorities.

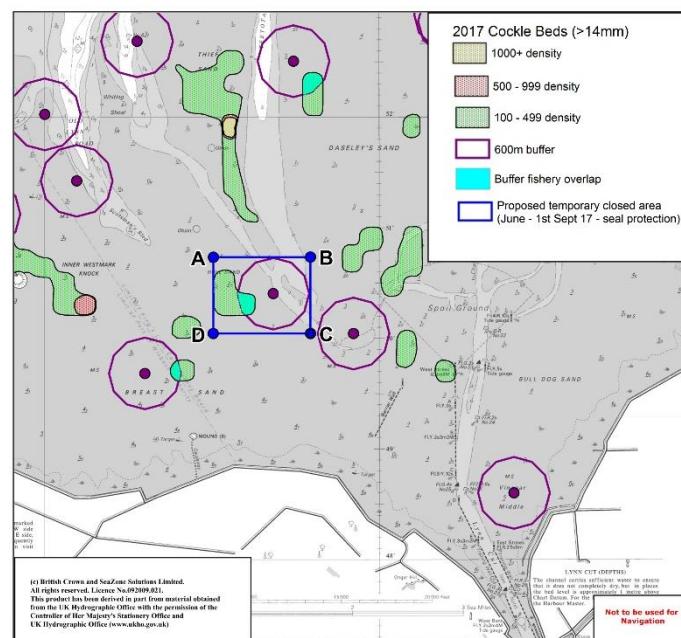
Case study - Success Criterion 3: IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts

Spatial management in the Wash Fishery Order cockle fishery

Eastern IFCA conducts an extensive stock survey and a Habitats Regulations assessment (HRA) each year before licensing the Wash Fishery Order cockle fishery. This work is a core element of the IFCA's annual marine science programme. The stock survey provides evidence on the distribution, density and size composition of cockles, and additional ecological data including sediment type and presence of other conspicuous species. The HRA considers the impact of the fishery on the designated sites (Special Area of Conservation or SAC and Special Protection Area or SPA), by considering what pressures (and the magnitude of those pressures) it causes to the habitats and species protected by those designations. Evidence used in the HRA includes the IFCA's own stock surveys, harbour seal and wading bird population and distribution data (provided by Natural England), published fisheries impact literature and results of local fisheries impacts studies.

The stock surveys and HRA enable Eastern IFCA to set an appropriate quota, identify open and closed periods for the fishery and specify spatial closures, where required. These measures, set within the framework of overarching cockle and mussel fishery policies, are designed to ensure sustainable exploitation of cockle stocks; provide for cockle-predating birds, limit physical impacts on intertidal habitats and minimise disturbance to seals and birds, particularly during their most sensitive periods.

In the 2017-18 WFO cockle fishery, a set of spatial closures was applied to protect high densities of juvenile stocks from damage and to prevent disturbance of breeding and moulting seals in known seal haul-out areas within or close to cockle beds.



Case study - Success Criterion 4: IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.

Governance

Governance of the Authority and its operations is ensured by adherence to the Constitution and Standing Orders and a comprehensive suite of policies and codes of conduct for staff and members. Reassurance is supported by annual audits by Norfolk County Council Audit Services (internal systems, processes and controls) and PKF Littlejohn (external verification of annual financial statements). The Officers present reports to the Authority at its' quarterly statutory meetings and to the Finance and Personnel sub-committee at the same frequency. The measure of success of the Governance of the Authority is evidenced by the reports of the internal and external audits, our relationship with stakeholders and the continued support of our members.

Training

Eastern IFCA has an induction programme for all staff and a comprehensive training programme for Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) and sea going Officers. This ensures that Officers have developed and evidenced the skills required to undertake safe and effective operations. All sea-going staff are expected to hold or undertake RYA qualifications relevant to the individual's role up to Yachtmaster (Offshore), which is then commercially endorsed through carrying out the full suite of STCW 95 qualifications and VHF certificate.

Staff turnover in 2017 resulted in the loss of engineering skill sets which was identified as a risk to continued operation of the Authority's sea going assets. To remedy this, all IFCOs were provided engineering training in the form of the MCA diesel engine course to provide a degree of resilience going forward.

Eastern IFCA places a strong emphasis on the role of mentoring, particularly with regards to the induction of new IFCOs. Experienced officers have a significant term of service with Eastern IFCA and have obtained a wealth of knowledge and developed strong relationships which are highly valuable to the Authority. Through the implementation of personal development plans, such officers impart this to new officers providing resilience within a team-based approach. Further training requirements for all IFCA staff are reviewed through annual appraisals and progress is monitored through by line managers.



Case study - Success Criterion 5: IFCAAs make the best use of evidence

to deliver their objectives

Management of Wash Fishery Order 1992 Mussel Fisheries

The intertidal mussel beds in The Wash have traditionally provided a valuable resource for the local fishing industry; either being harvested directly for market or relayed from poor-growing beds within the regulated fishery to leased lay ground within the several fishery. These stocks also provide an important habitat for invertebrate communities and an essential food resource for the internationally important communities of birds that reside or over-winter in The Wash. As such, they are protected under the SAC, SPA and SSSI designations for the site; the mussel fishery must be managed so that it does not prevent Conservation Objective targets being achieved. To ensure the mussel fishery does not threaten the sustainability of the stocks or their conservation status, the management decisions for this fishery are informed from evidence gathered from annual stock surveys. These involve charting and assessing the stocks on approximately 20 mussel beds. This evidence helps to determine the quota for the coming fishery, which beds can be opened and individual quotas for each bed.

Mussel Mortality Study

Although great care has been taken to ensure the mussel fishery does not have an adverse impact on the beds, since 2010 most of the beds have suffered high natural mortalities that have resulted in their decline. In 2010 high numbers of a copepod parasite, *Mytilicola intestinalis*, were found in the mussels, which Cefas felt could be responsible for the observed mortalities. In 2017, a joint research project with the University of Kingston upon Hull was commenced to investigate whether *Mytilicola intestinalis* and pea crabs, *Pinnotheres pisum*, were causal factors in these mortalities. This project has involved dissecting mussels collected during the 2017 Autumn mussel surveys to determine the incidence rate of these two parasites in individual mussels. Incidence rates will then be compared with where the highest die-offs have recently occurred to determine if there is a correlation.

Mussel Regeneration Project

Because high natural mortalities have resulted in most of the beds declining in stock biomass and condition since 2010, Eastern-IFCA has conducted a study to determine whether it is feasible to regenerate beds without requiring relaying seed mussel from elsewhere. This project involved laying a thick culch of cockle shells onto the seabed, close to existing mussel beds, to determine whether they would encourage mussel seed to settle and grow. This trial was successful in attracting juvenile mussel settlement into all three of the study sites, in densities on par with or exceeding levels found on nearby wild mussel beds. Having demonstrated the success of this method, it could potentially be used to regenerate existing wild beds or to encourage the settlement of seed onto several fishery lays.

Critical ‘business-as-usual’ work-streams

In addition to identifying emerging risks, the Strategic Assessment also sets out which fishery or species-related risks are mitigated by established work streams. The cessation of such work streams has the potential to increase risk associated with that fishery or species. These include, for example, the annual cockle stock surveys without which, the cockle fishery would represent a much greater risk. This work is categorised as critical ‘business-as-usual’. An outline of the work that the Authority undertakes as a necessity conducted during 2017-2018 is given below:

Wash Fishery Order 1992

The Authority discharges its duties and responsibilities through a co-management process of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 (the Authority is the grantee). The Authority consults regularly with stakeholder groups to ensure that local industry representatives are part of the recommendation making process.

Two major fisheries managed under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 are the cockle and mussel fisheries. Not only are these valuable fisheries for the local fishermen, but they are also important resources for the over-wintering bird populations. As such, these are complex fisheries to manage due to the demands of the various Natura 2000 (marine protected area) designations placed on The Wash. Additionally, in recent years both stocks have suffered high natural mortality events that have had large impacts on the beds. In addition to “ridging out”, where younger more vigorous cockle force older stock from the ground, the cockle stocks have suffered high “atypical” mortalities since 2008. This has created management difficulties, but a greater understanding of the dynamics of the die-offs have enabled major mortality events to be predicted allowing a flexible management approach to maximise fisheries and minimise losses. Cockle surveys conducted in spring revealed there had been good settlement of cockle seed in 2016 that had survived the winter. To facilitate the future sustainability of the cockle stocks, this evidence was used to protect the high-density patches of these juvenile cockles with spatial closures. On-going monitoring of the stocks during the course of the fishery enabled a dynamic management approach to be used. This allowed one such area of cockles on the Gat sand to be opened after it was judged they would be vulnerable to over-winter storms. The mussel surveys found that after several years of decline, the mussel stocks had increased significantly this year following a good settlement of seed in 2016. This enabled a seed fishery of 1,500 tonnes to be opened.

The Authority acts as the ‘operator’ under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 in relation to the WFO 1992 Several Fisheries also referred to as the ‘Wash Production Area’ to facilitate ease of data collection and reporting to CEFAS.

Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site

The CEO chairs The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership, which is a collection of regulators and local stakeholder representatives with responsibilities for and interests in this site. Eastern IFCA hosts and supports the Project Officer, enabling this close and productive partnership to thrive. Eastern IFCA representation on the partnership provides a broad platform for highlighting Eastern IFCA's work relating to managing fisheries in marine protected areas, and opportunities to discuss issues with fellow regulators for this extensive and important conservation site. Furthermore, regular involvement of Marine Science officers in the project's three "Advisory Groups" of local stakeholders ensures Eastern IFCA is appropriately engaged in local issues, which typically relate to preserving fisheries and traditional activities within the broader remit of protecting conservation interests.

Titchwell Mussel Fishery

An exposed outcropping of Neolithic peat attracts regular settlements of mussels at Titchwell on the North Norfolk coast. Survey data indicates that this bed is ephemeral, with the majority of the mussels being lost each year during winter storms. If timed correctly, however, it does provide a small-scale resource for local fishermen to stock their lays with seed mussels. A good settlement of mussels on this bed in 2016 allowed for a small but successful fishery to take place that year. Because not all of the mussels were lost during that winter, further mussels were able to be relayed from this bed during 2017.

Horseshoe Point Cockle Fishery

In 2011 the Authority inherited responsibility for the management of the cockle beds that occur at Horseshoe Point in Lincolnshire from North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee. Annual surveys conducted on this bed since then have found the cockles to be suffering similar "atypical" mortality problems to those seen in the Wash. This has greatly reduced the potential to open fisheries on this bed. When the beds were last in a suitable condition to support a fishery in 2015, access issues to the site across the marsh were raised by both Natural England and the land owner. At the time, this issue was unable to be resolved and fishery was unable to proceed. Since then stocks have not been sufficient to open a fishery. Surveys conducted in 2017 found there had been a successful settlement of cockle spat during the summer, but insufficient adult stocks to consider opening a fishery. Due to lack of fishable stocks and fishing opportunities on this bed, East Lindsey Borough Council ceased collecting samples for water classification purposes during 2017. As such, this site no longer has a water classification.

Whelk Fisheries

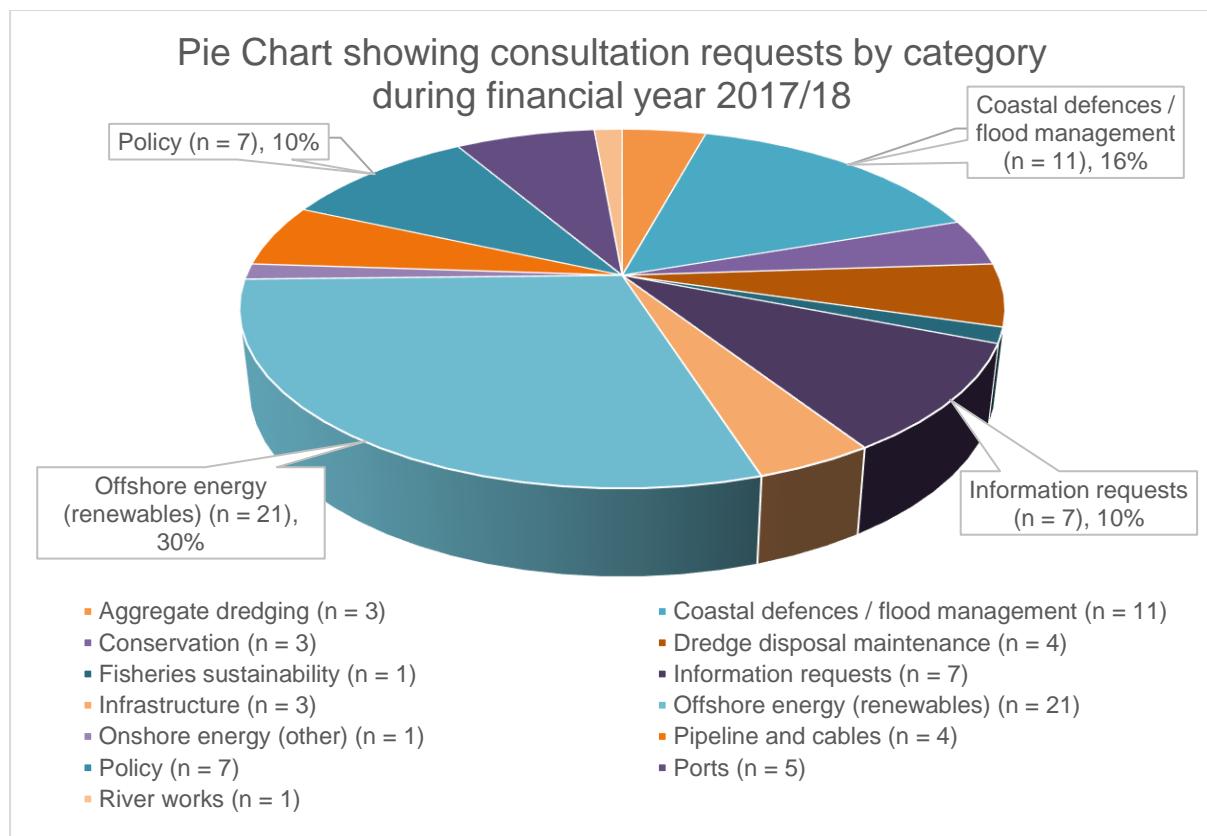
Whelk fisheries were regulated as of 2015 using an emergency byelaw and subsequently through a 'permanent byelaw' which was consented in 2016. This has seen the establishment of a permit system and new data collection regime which required a significant resource to administer.

In addition, an ongoing research project has been investigating the size of maturity of whelks throughout the district to inform a review of the minimum landing size which has involved measuring and dissecting 10's of thousands of whelks. These Whelks were voluntarily provided by fishers throughout the district that have been given exemptions by both the MMO and IFCA to facilitate and support the research activity.

Engagement in Marine Planning

The East Marine Plans were published in 2014 and set out objectives and policies for sustainable development in the southern North Sea. The Marine Management Organisation is the main regulator responsible for licensed activity at sea. Large (infrastructure-scale) developments, such as offshore energy projects, are permitted through the Planning Inspectorate. Eastern IFCA plays a role in influencing development decisions by providing expert advice on inshore fishery and conservation relevant to an application. This includes consideration of potential impacts on fish stocks, fishery habitats (e.g. spawning or nursery grounds), access to fishing grounds, fisheries liaison, impacts on protected habitats and species, wider biodiversity and ensuring awareness of relevant IFCA byelaws. This is usually undertaken via the marine case management system operated by MMO, or the via the Planning Inspectorate's national infrastructure planning process.

During 2017/18, a total of 71 consultations on marine plans or projects were received. Of these, nearly a third (30%) were related to offshore renewable energy works. Input to these consultations is led by the Marine Science team, drawing on expertise of Marine Protection officers, in particular for fishing activity or regulatory considerations.



Habitats Regulations Assessment of Wash Fishery Order fisheries

Eastern IFCA undertakes annual monitoring of cockle and mussel stocks in the regulated fishery of the Wash Fishery Order area. The stock data form a part of the evidence used in each annual assessment undertaken by Eastern IFCA to identify the impacts of proposed WFO cockle and mussel fisheries in relation to the conservation designations afforded to this area. This assessment (the Habitats Regulations Assessment) considers the impact of the fishery on named habitats and species and considers the overall integrity of the designated site. In consultation with Natural England (statutory nature conservation adviser) and with fishery stakeholder input, Eastern IFCA agrees updated management measures prior to these fisheries being opened each year, to ensure that the fishing activities do not prevent the conservation targets from being achieved.

This work is dependent on evidence relating to fishing activity, site condition (e.g. population status of protected species and extent of protected habitats), and fishing impacts. Within designated sites, regulators are required to apply precautionary management where evidence of fishery impact is poor or inconclusive. The continuation of commercial cockle and mussel fisheries in a conservation site as highly-protected as The Wash reflects the availability of data and the shared understanding of activities and impacts in the site achieved through continual monitoring and dialogue.

Shrimp Fishery Accreditation

The East Coast shrimp fishery is seeking Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accreditation in order to maintain markets. A pre-assessment exercise was undertaken in 2011 and identified that significant changes in practice and management would be required before accreditation could be achieved. Authority officers have supported the shrimp industry (processors and fishers) in working towards accreditation, by working with the Shrimp Fishery Advisory Working Group. A Brown Shrimp Fishery Management Plan has been drafted and will be fundamental to the fishery eventually gaining accreditation. The Authority recognises the benefits of an industry-led fishery management plan but is committed to working closely with the industry in order to align accreditation goals and management with marine protected area management aims and measures (see above). During 2017-18, the accreditation application was in preparation ahead of submission to the Marine Stewardship Council and assessment by external fishery auditors.



Administrative Metrics

Administrative metrics 2017-2018	
Byelaw derogations (and extensions) issued to facilitate research purposes	26
Freedom of Information requests	1
Environmental Information Regulation requests	0
Wash Fishery Order 1992 licences issued	55
Whelk Permits issued	30

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Pages 235-41 of the 2017 to 2022 Business plan outline the Risk Management Strategy of Eastern IFCA. The risk matrix sets out the magnitude of the risk to Eastern IFCA from an organisational viewpoint incorporating amongst others reputational and financial risks. The matrix also sets out the likelihood of an identified risk occurring. Mitigation which is in place or to be introduced is identified. Risk is ranked on an arbitrary scale from 0 (low risk - coloured green) to 4 (high risk - coloured red). The average of the combined financial and reputational risk is taken and plotted on to the matrix below, the likelihood of that risk occurring is also plotted. Mitigation action is noted. It should be noted that in most cases there are already many actions being undertaken as part of routine working practices to reduce the risks to the Eastern IFCA.

Risk Description	Risk	Action	Mitigation	Residual risk
Eastern IFCA funding substantially reduced		Tolerate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 25% savings requested by our county funders was delivered 2 years early and sustained via stand still levy for 5 consecutive years up to 2017/18. Modest increases are anticipated for the future. Continued assurance of financial propriety and operations within financial regulations is provided by the continuing voluntary internal and external audit process. Continued drive to seek efficiencies and promote cost effectiveness. Demonstrated value for money Advertised and promoted EIFCA outputs and effectiveness to funding authorities through regular engagement with representatives of the three County Council Financial Directors. Engaged with Defra through AIFCA to assure continued provision of New Burden funding post 2020. Identified mechanisms to recover costs for outputs judged to be over and above the core IFCA role. (EHO sampling, WFO management) 	Policy driven removal of funding directly threatens ability to meet remit and deliver mandated outputs.
Eastern IFCA fails to maintain		Treat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine engagement with partner organisations Measured progress and delivery of outputs Represented community issues to higher authorities 	Disparate stakeholder aspirations introduce complexities which may

relevance amongst partners		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern IFCA demonstrably engaged across the breadth of its remit. • A continued programme of community outreach events, stakeholder meetings and media engagement • Overt and increased use of digital and social media including website, Twitter and Facebook. • Stakeholders kept abreast of changes to marine conservation policy and local implications. • Wash fisheries management acknowledged by local Industry representatives as a success in 2016. • Business Plan used to prioritise and communicate outputs • Representation of community issues to higher authorities. • Provision of a leadership function. • Significant revisions to Protection team ways of working to promote greater frequency of engagement with stakeholders. 	<p>drive perceptions of disengagement or inefficiency.</p> <p>Focus on delivery of MPA protective effect introduces perceptions of bias towards conservation remit from stakeholders.</p> <p>Work load to service MPA protective effect diverts resources from fisheries management tasks.</p> <p>Perceptions of Authority powerlessness in the face of CFP reforms affecting the inshore fishing sector.</p>
Loss of suitably qualified and experienced personnel	Tolerate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in professional and personal development. • Staff appraisal system formalised • Safe and professional working environment provided • Flexible working supported and encouraged. • Regular internal communications through suite of departmental and inter-team meetings. • Managers empower and enable staff by early involvement in workload planning • Engagement prioritised. • Broaden job content to increase satisfaction • Robust and reliable recruitment process • Staff turnover presents opportunity to update and enhance knowledge and skills and maintain enthusiasm. 	<p>Eastern IFCA perceived as a moderate employer.</p> <p>Perception of Eastern IFCA as an intermediate step in a career progression reinforced.</p> <p>Apparent large pool of marine science graduates attracted to EIFCA. Private sector tends to prey on graduates with experience gained in IFCA type roles.</p>

Negative media comment		Treat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular engagement with all stakeholders including media outlets. • Professional standards and practices embedded. • Cultural change delivered efficiently and effectively. • Active promotion of EIFCA activity through social media • Recognition and understanding reinforced through community events. 	<p>Disenfranchised stakeholders seek to use the media to introduce doubt as to EIFCA professionalism, utility and effectiveness.</p> <p>One off event prompts disproportionate media spotlight.</p>
Degradation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) due to fishing activity		Treat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed fishing activities are authorised by Eastern IFCA and are assessed according to Habitats Regulations • Habitats Regulations assessments completed on proposed fishing activity in protected areas. • Full engagement in national fisheries/EMS project, prioritising management of highest risk fisheries in MPAs and implementing new management measures • Enforcement efforts proportionate and effective. • Use of adaptive co-management approach to fisheries management. • Regular liaison with Natural England regarding fisheries in MPAs. • Apply the process agreed by Eastern IFCA for managing fishing activities in MPAs. • Continued development regarding the use of iVMS as a management tool by the Authority • Continued research into the impact of fishing activities on MPA features to ensure the Authority has an up to date evidence base to inform its management decisions. 	<p>Attempts to broker balanced solution to provide protective effect whilst mitigating impact on local fishing activity are ignored by fishing community.</p> <p>Fishing vessels fail to adhere to management measures including closed areas introduced through new byelaws.</p>
Shellfish and fish stocks collapse		Treat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual stock assessment of bivalve stocks in Wash. • Annual Strategic Assessment determines risk associated with all fisheries within the district. 	<p>Failure of biosecurity controls introduces disease in the Wash fishery.</p> <p>Unregulated fishing</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of sufficient resources to monitor landings and provide effective enforcement. • Consultation with industry on possible management measures. • Validation of Wash management measures via MSC pre-assessment review. • Development of whelk stock management measures. • Consideration of stock conservation measures for crab and lobster fisheries through bespoke research activity, engagement with Cefas and fishing industry. • Continued SWEEP research into primary productivity levels within The Wash in line with food availability model which supports activity in private fisheries in The Wash. • Continued regular engagement with the industry to discuss specific matters. • Continued research into the cockle mortality events. • Participation in Project Inshore to inform stock management. • Bass management measures explored and consulted on. 	<p>behaviour threatens stock status.</p> <p>Current management measures fall short of required protective effect.</p>
Failure to secure data	Treat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for information dealt with in accordance with Data Protection Act (2018), General Data Protection Regulations and Freedom of Information Act. • Password protection for computers. • Access to the server restricted to individuals through their own computer. • Provision of secure wireless internet. • Access to electronic files is restricted based on an individual's role. • Up to date anti-virus software installed on all computers. • ICT equipment and policies provided by Kings Lynn and West Borough Council (KL&WNBC) – including encrypted laptops/secure governmental email system. • Electronic backup of all Eastern IFCA documents held by KL&WNBC offsite. 	<p>Malicious release of privileged information.</p> <p>Negligent release of privileged information.</p> <p>Invasive techniques constantly evolving</p>

RESOURCES¹

Vessel details	HP	MCA Work Boat Code	Length	Min Crew	Commissioned	Life remaining (years)	Replacement cost
FPV Sebastian Terelinck	881	Cat. 2 (60 nm offshore)	11.5m	2	2015	9	£420,000
FPV John Allen	570	Cat. 2 (60 nm offshore)	11m	2	2013	8	£420,000
RV Three Counties	1050	Cat. 2 (60 nm offshore)	18m	3	2002	2-4	£1,400,000
FPV Sea Spray	140	Cat. 4 (up to 20 miles to sea)	6m	2	2018	12	£51,000

Vehicle details	Entered service	Replacement date	Replacement cost
Ford Tourneo bus	2016	2022	£18,000
Peugeot 308 sw	2009	2017	£13,500
Skoda Yeti 1.6	2014	2019	£15,000
Skoda Yeti 1.6	2014	2019	£15,000
Skoda Yeti 4x4	2014	2019	£18,000
Skoda Yeti 2.0 TDi	2017	2022	£18,000
Skoda Yeti 2.0 TDi	2017	2022	£16,000
Skoda Fabia	2017	2022	£11,000
Isuzu DMax Eiger	2015	2020	£20,000

Description	Purchased	Replacement cost
Side scan sonar	2013	£60,000
Underwater camera	2013	£30,000
Videoray	2013	£15,000
Sonar software	2013	£15,000

In addition to the assets identified above the Authority leases an office in King's Lynn, the lease for which is currently subject to negotiation, moorings at Sutton Bridge for its vessels and a storage facility (close to the offices) in King's Lynn.

¹ The following resources belonged to Eastern IFCA on the 31st March 2017.

EXPENDITURE

The Authority had a budget of £1,391,070 for 2017-18. This figure includes £394,145 in New Burden funding from Defra to enable the Authority to meet the additional duties proscribed under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Use of New Burden money is not accounted for separately by the Authority due to the accounting and allocation complexities that this would cause.

The Authority honoured its commitment to meeting the three funding councils' requests to reduce the levy by 25% over the four-year period from the 2010-2011 base levy. The levy for 2017-18 remains at the 2015-16 level. For the year ended 31 March 2018 the Authority budgeted a saving of £44,382, which along with the revenue savings of £132,483 combined with income shortfall of £(12,007) and £115,209 of expenditure on asset replacements, left £49,649 to be added to reserves. The key budget variances were:

- 1) Savings in salaries due vacancy management with EIFCA operating below full complement over the whole year amounted to £94,130.
- 2) General expenditure (operational overheads) were overspent as a result of training of new recruits and a programme of upskilling staff in the field of vessel operations (£19,182).
- 3) Communication and Development, Marine Science and Marine Protection savings combined amounted to £6,694.
- 4) Savings on cost of vessel & vehicle operations resulting from John Allen being out of operation awaiting significant engine repairs totalled £50,841.

Reserve name	Amount held within reserve @ 31 March 2018
Research	£78,169
IVMS	£30,000
Operational	£150,000
Legal and enforcement	£75,000
ICT	£10,000
Vessel replacement	£1,506,105
Vehicle renewals	£60,000
Fixed Penalty Fine Fund	£21,750
Office Improvements Fund	£10,000
Defra grant	£18,292
Total "IFCA" reserves	£1,959,316



Remuneration of the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive Officer 2017-2018

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority were not remunerated directly by the Authority for their work conducted on behalf of the Authority during 2017-2018. Remuneration of the Chief Executive for the year 2017/18 was in the band £65 – £70,000. Travel, accommodation and subsistence were reimbursed in accordance with the Authority's policies. (see table)

Travel	Accommodation	Subsistence	Total
£2,298	£1,331	-	£3,629

Staffing

During the year the following changes took place:

- The post of Head of Operations was filled
- Marine Science team welcomed 3 new MSOs
- New Senior Skipper recruited internally
- Replacement Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer (IFCO) recruited

Outstanding vacancies as at 31/3/2018

- Data Officer/Admin
- IFCO



IFCO on a cockle survey 2017

Organisational carbon footprint

As a local government organisation with environmental protection and promotion as a core function, the Authority is committed to providing information on its environmental performance. In 2008-2009 the Authority's predecessor conducted a baseline environmental audit and identified its carbon footprint. The results of that baseline assessment are compared to the Authority's subsequent years of operation below.

Source	Estimated carbon footprint for the Authority in 2015-2016 compared against a baseline of 2008-2009					
	2008-2009	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Owned road vehicles	24.40 tCO ₂ e	20.23 tCO ₂ e	22.04 tCO ₂ e	23.54 tCO ₂ e	19.83 tCO ₂ e	22.58 tCO ₂ e
Owned ships	197.07 tCO ₂ e	106.20 tCO ₂ e*	115.40 tCO ₂ e*	119.78 tCO ₂ e*	88.37 tCO ₂ e	52.26 tCO ₂ e
Electricity	22.59 tCO ₂ e	16.48 tCO ₂ e	18.37 tCO ₂ e	16.83 tCO ₂ e	15.08 tCO ₂ e	16.39 tCO ₂ e
Train travel	-	1.06 tCO ₂ e	1.18 tCO ₂ e	1.14 tCO ₂ e	0.57 tCO ₂ e	0.13 tCO ₂ e
Flights	-	-	-	0.90 tCO ₂ e	0.24 CO ₂ e	tCO ₂ e
Total tonnesCO₂e	244.71 tCO₂e	143.97 tCO₂e	156.99 tCO₂e	162.19 tCO₂e	124.09 tCO₂e	91.36 tCO₂e

Developed using the Carbon Trust online carbon footprint calculator



REFERENCES

This report has been developed considering and with reference to the following documents:

Anon. (2009) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. HMSO. London.

Anon. (2010a) Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010. HMSO. London.

Defra. (2010b) Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities: Vision, Success Criteria and High Level Objectives. Defra. London.

Defra. (2011a) Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on Annual Planning and Reporting Requirements under s.177 and s.178 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act. Defra. London.

Defra. (2011b) Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on the establishment of a common enforcement framework. Defra. London.

Defra. (2011c) Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on evidence-based marine management. Defra. London.

Defra. (2011d) Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on monitoring and evaluation, and measuring performance. Defra. London.

Defra. (2011e) Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development

Eastern IFCA Business plan 2017-22



APPENDIX 1 – SUCCESS INDICATORS

Success Indicator	Progress	
Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders		
SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year	Ongoing	Eastern IFCA holds stakeholder databases which are reviewed on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis throughout the year. Eastern IFCA intends to complete a full review of stakeholder contacts which will include the development of up-to-date systems to more effectively hold data. Implementation of the Data Protection Act 2018 (and General Data Protection Regulations – European Commission) has led to an increased work-load regarding this indicator and which is also being addressed throughout the year as required.
SC1B: The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year	Complete	Communication and Engagement report appended to this report (Appendix 4)
SC1C: The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month.	Complete	'News' Section of the website is regularly updated. Eastern IFCA news and information from partner organisations posted in the news area by request.
SC1D: The IFCA will have reviewed its website and ensured it meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March each year	Complete	New website launched in 2015 in-line with the community engagement strategy.
SC1E: The IFCA will have reviewed all of its Memoranda of Understanding by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed timescale.	Not Complete	Established MoUs have not been reviewed this financial year.
SC1F: By 31 March each year, the IFCA will have participated appropriately, proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified in the annual plan.	Complete	CEO held post of Chair of NIMEG during 2016/17. Senior Marine Science Officer (Research) Chair of TAG. Officers participated in regional and national groups.

Success Criterion 2: IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime			
SC2A: The IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year	Complete	Enforcement Strategy is published on Eastern IFCA website which encompasses the use of the Risk Register through the TCG process.	
SC2B: The IFCA will demonstrate in its Annual Report how it has worked with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures	Complete	Eastern IFCA coordinates activities in collaboration with partner agencies and the MMO in particular through joint TCGs. Eastern IFCA has also sought to strengthen collaboration with Border Force, Environment agency and the Police force through joint meetings.	
SC2C: The IFCA will compile records of enforcement activity in a standard format; provide them to the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) and publish them on its website.	Complete	Shore-based and seaborne patrol reporting is established and reported to NIMEG in agreed format.	
SC2D: The IFCA will adopt the national Code of Conduct for IFCOs, which will be reviewed annually and published on its website by 1 April.	Complete	IFCOs adopted national code of conducts and policies published by NIMEG.	
SC2E: The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for <u>all</u> Warranted Officers.	Complete	Annual IFCO Objectives and personal development plans incorporate national code of conducts and NIMEG derived policies.	
SC2F: Warranted Officers attain accreditation. <u>All</u> undertake Continuing Professional Development	Ongoing	Accreditation scheme not fully established. New employees (IFCOs) attending accredited training courses.	
Success Criterion 3: IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts			
SC3A: The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority	Complete	Site-specific Marine Protected Area fisheries assessments and management considerations are reported at all full Authority meetings.	
SC3B: The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website	Complete	Scientific reports detailing EIFCA research activities are published on the website. These include stock assessment reports from the annual WFO cockle and mussel surveys,	

		crab and lobster stock assessments and results from habitat mapping surveys.
SC3C: Management information (e.g. sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to demonstrate the extent of effectiveness of the intervention	Ongoing	In addition to supporting forthcoming management decisions, the annual cockle and mussel surveys demonstrate the effectiveness of previous management. Additionally, where sensitive seabed features (eg. <i>Sabellaria</i> reef) has been closed, a review of the regulations is conducted periodically after closure. Habitat mapping surveys have been conducted over the past three years to assess the impact of these closures.
SC3D: The IFCA will have developed a range of criteria-based management options that are explained to stakeholders through the IFCA website, and reviewed by 31 March each year	Complete	Eastern IFCA undertakes an annual assessment of fisheries within the district to determine where management measures may be required. The Annual Strategic Assessment is published on the website each year in conjunction with the Business Plan.
SC3E: New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales	Ongoing	Significant setbacks in implementation of management measures have occurred due to unforeseen complexities and revised legal advice provided by MMO and Defra.
SC3F: The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from Fisheries Management Plans in its own Annual Plan, which will be published by 31 March each year.	Complete	Eastern IFCA undertakes an annual assessment of fisheries within the district to determine where management measures may be required. The Annual Strategic Assessment is published on the website each year in conjunction with the Business Plan.
SC3G: Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.	Complete	Progress against development of sustainable fisheries commitments reported in case study 3 (ante).
Success Criterion 4: IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.		
SC4A: The IFCA will publish a Plan on its website by 31 March, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.	Complete	All previous annual plans/business plans have been published on the EIFCA website within the agreed timescales.

SC4B: After the end of each financial year, the IFCA will publish a Report on its website describing its activities, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.	Complete	This information is provided in the annual report. All previous annual reports are available on the EIFCA website.
SC4C: IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for <u>all</u> staff will have been completed by 31 May.	Complete	All IFCA staff set Annual objectives and personal development plans with mid-year reviews.
SC4D: An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.	Complete	EIFCA Meetings and Sub-Committee meetings effectively recorded in minutes. All meetings in 2017/18 have been quorate and minutes are published online once confirmed as per Standing Orders.
SC4E: The IFCA will have demonstrated, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation District have worked responsively and effectively together.	Complete	Success criteria Case study 4 provides an example of EIFCA's collaborative work with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Natural England and aquatic consultants to gather information, share expertise and maximise training opportunities.
Success Criterion 5: IFCAAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives		
SC5A: The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has been made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year	Complete	In addition to publishing a 5-year Strategic Research plan, Eastern-IFCA also produce an annual Marine Science Plan each year that details the projects and timelines for the coming year's research projects. This plan is informed by the Eastern-IFCA 5-Year Business Plan and an annual Strategic Assessment, which prioritises the highest risk elements of all the fisheries in the district, including fisheries sustainability, viability and environmental impacts.
SC5B: The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making	Complete	Scientific reports that support our decision making are published on the website.
SC5C: The IFCA's contribution to TAG and progress that has made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report	Complete	The Eastern-IFCA TAG representative chaired the group between July 2016 and November 2017 and has remained an active member thereafter. The group is

active in promoting IFCAs at the national level by liaising and working with scientists from other DEFRA-family organisations, enabling IFCAs to contribute towards national evidence gathering projects and to use recognised standards and procedures.



EIFCA CEO and Marine Science officers at the Suffolk Coastal Forum conference

APPENDIX 2 – WAYS OF WORKING

During the year work to progress the following Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs), Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Partnership Agreement (PA), Informal Agreements (IA), Agreement in Principle (AIP), Service level Agreements (SLA), Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs), contracts (C) and directorships (D) was undertaken.

These documents set out agreed ways of working for the Authority and attempt to provide clarity for individuals and organisations on their respective roles and responsibilities.

Document	Signatory organisations	Document purpose
MoU	Natural England and IFCAs	Defines roles and responsibilities and ways of working
MoU	Marine Management Organisation and IFCAs	Defines roles and responsibilities and ways of working
MoU	Environment Agency and IFCAs	Defines roles and responsibilities and ways of working
MoU	Kent and Essex IFCA	Defines roles and responsibilities in relation to the Stour and Orwell European Marine Site and the Outer Thames Estuaries Special Protected Area
MoU	North Eastern IFCA	Defines roles and responsibilities in relation to the Humber European Marine Site
MoU	CEFAS and IFCAs	Defines roles and responsibilities and ways of working
MoU	Lincolnshire County Council	Transfer of Defra New Burden money to Eastern IFCA
AIP	Norfolk County Council	Transfer of Defra New Burden money to Eastern IFCA
PA	North Norfolk Fisheries Liaison Action Group (FLAG)	Involvement of Eastern IFCA as a partner in the North Norfolk FLAG
PA	CEFAS, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Environmental Health Office	Defines working relationship between regarding the collection of water, cockle, mussel samples for shellfish waters classification within the Wash
MoA	Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership	Employment of The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership Project Manager by Eastern IFCA
MoA	John Lake Shellfish, Lynn Shellfish, Marine Ecological	Delivery of a Brown and Pink Shrimp MSC Pre-Assessment project

	Services	
MoA	Natural England	Delivery of baseline monitoring survey data relating to <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> within the Wash embayment
D	Chief Officers of all IFCAAs	Directorship responsibilities of Eastern IFCA Chief Officer acting as a Director of the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities
C	Norfolk County Council	Provision of Internal Audit services
C	Norfolk county Council	Provision of Health and Safety support
C	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	Provision of ICT infrastructure and support
C	Andrew Jackson Solicitors	Provision of specialist legal advice (call off contract)
C	Sidekick Digital	Hosting EIFCA Website
IA	IFCA Technical Advisory Group	Provision of technical advice to IFCA COG
IA	National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group	Development of good practice, partnership working and advice to COG
C	CEFAS and Natural England	Charter agreement for the study of Cobble and Boulder Communities



Kent & Essex
Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority



Marine
Management
Organisation



Environme
Agency



Cefas

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL



 **Suffolk**
County Council



Norfolk
County Council

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



The Wash and
North Norfolk
Marine Partnership

Protecting Nature and Culture

APPENDIX 3 – ENFORCEMENT REPORTING

Overview

Significant developments in ways of working were undertaken in 2016/17 including the embedding of tactical coordination of work utilising intelligence and risk profiles, a satellite office in Lowestoft, additional collaborative work with the MMO and a new reporting structure.

On the ground, enforcement resource was focussed on EU bass regulations, cockle fishery management measures and engagement regarding shrimp management measures. Reporting against the targets for 2017/18 is set out in the tables below. It should be noted that the ‘new’, more targeted approach to enforcement is at odds with some of the targets. For example, patrols were not planned with a view to visit each port twice per month if there was a need to visit more ‘at risk’ areas.

Activities at sea were hampered by the breakdown of *FPV John Allen* but the shortfall was compensated to a degree by utilising *RV Three Counties*.

Seaborne Compliance Activity			
Objective	Target Quantity	Quantity achieved	Comment
Sea Patrol Days	90	89	
Monitor EMS closed areas	100	67	Not achieved due to reduction in vessel capability (<i>John Allen</i> being out of the water) meaning that available vessels had to focus on core duties and other enforcement rather than visiting all EMS closed areas. Monitoring was optimised by using a risk based and intelligence lead approach.
Board all vessels which have recently entered the district	100%	100%	

Shore Based Compliance Activity			
Objective	Target Quantity	Quantity achieved	Comment
Port visits	2 x per month (min)	Average of 1.73	Port visits were as directed in TCG and informed by Intelligence, the risk profile and fishing trends. Average was slightly below target, but high-risk ports were visited frequently e.g. Lowestoft had an average 7.75 visits per month. With ports that are low risk such as Surfleet which has no commercial vessels was only visited an average of 0.15 times per month.

Monitoring EMS closed areas	2 x per month (min)	1.9 Average	Monitoring slightly below target which reflects reliance on at sea monitoring for the majority of sites and prioritisation of this activity in accordance with a risk-based approach.
IFCO's to engage with the owner/skipper of all vessels which have recently entered the district	100%	100%	All 'new' vessels inspected, and skippers / owners engaged to ensure an understanding of Eastern IFCA byelaws.

Partnership Working			
Objective	Target Quantity	Quantity achieved	Comment
Attendance at MMO Area TCG meeting	100%	100%	
Joint patrols/inspections/operations with the Marine Management Organisation	12 (min)	28	Joint working is now embedded in IFCA ways of working facilitated by office sharing and attendance of partner TCG's.



IFCO's on a joint vessel patrol with the Border Force and Police.

APPENDIX 4 – REPORTING ON THE COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN.

Overview of activity

Eastern IFCA utilises strong ties with stakeholders in all facets of its work. From the development of management measures to the assessment of fishing activities in Marine Protected Areas, the local knowledge and expertise of the community is sought wherever possible.

Eastern IFCA attends community events and undertakes social media activities to widen the base of stakeholders who are aware of, and therefore capable of contributing to, Eastern IFCA workstreams.

In addition, dialogue with stakeholders is the backbone of Eastern IFCA's Regulation and Compliance Strategy which seeks in the first instance to ensure compliance through engagement whilst developing measures and education during their implementation. This is achieved during both shore-based and seaborne patrols of the district by warranted IFCOs.

Action	How this was achieved.
CE16-1 Attend 3 community events	Eastern IFCA attended 4 community events: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cromer and Sheringham Crab and Lobster festival• Wildlife trust Gibraltar point education day• Ipswich maritime festival• Kings Lynn Heritage Day. In addition to these large events Eastern IFCA also attended a coastal partnership east outreach day in relation to flood management and several screenings of the Community Voice film.
CE16-3 Maintain a professional and up-to-date website	The website has been continually updated through this period as required. Key updates include changes to byelaws and consultation documents. In addition to this, updates about paralytic shellfish poisoning were posted on the page and received a high number of visitors.
CE16-4 Use social media posts in conjunction with website updates, to deliver key updates to the community	EIFCA 'tweeted' on 41 occasions during 2017/18 delivering key updates regarding bass regulations in particular (including promoting information products produced by EIFCA for fishers). 23 Facebook posts were published. Social media posts in relation to paralytic shellfish poisoning were some of the most shared posts with one post being seen by 7695 people.
CE16-5 Maintain the stakeholder database	Stakeholder data has been maintained and updated on an ad hoc basis. A more complete review of EIFCA 'personal data' records will inform this work-stream.
CE16-6 Key engagement messages reflected in officer duties	IFCOs have engaged fishers on the ground regarding key issues throughout 2017/18 and in particular regarding the continued development of shrimp management measures and the implementation of bass regulations and the investigation of a bass

	emergency byelaw. Key engagement duties are reflected in Monthly TCGs and Weekly Operations meetings.
CE16-7 Review outputs of the Community Voice project to inform and develop how the organisation engages and communicates with stakeholders	A review of the Community Voice project was conducted during the inception of the communication and engagement strategy for 2017-18. The project has informed the plan for next year. In addition, the community voice project was used to inform the annual strategic assessment.



Marine Science Officers and IFCO's at the Cromer and Sheringham Crab and Lobster Festival