

31st Eastern IFCA Meeting

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



A meeting of the Eastern IFCA took place at The Green Britain Centre, Turbine Way, Swaffham, on 31st January 2018 at 1030 hours.

Members Present:

Cllr T Goldson	(Chair)	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Paul Skinner	(Vice Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Shane Bagley		MMO Appointee
Stephen Bolt		MMO Appointee
Roy Brewster		MMO Appointee
Cllr M Chenery of Horsbrugh		Norfolk County Council
Cllr M Vigo di Gallidoro		Suffolk County Council
Paul Garnett		MMO Appointee
Charlie Moffat		Natural England Representative
Keith Shaul		MMO Appointee
Rob Spray		MMO Appointee
Steven Williamson		MMO Appointee
Stephen Worrall		MMO Appointee

Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

Andrew Bakewell	Head of Finance and HR
Luke Godwin	Staff Officer
Julian Gregory	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Clerk
Samantha Hormbrey	Marine Science Officer
Ron Jessop	Senior Marine Science Officer
Elise Quinn	Marine Science Officer

Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

EIFCA18/01 Item 1: Welcome by the Clerk

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

EIFCA8/02 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from: Cllr Coupland (LCC), and Messrs Davies (MMO Appointee), Morgan (MMO Appointee) and Ms Dixon-Lack (MMO Representative).

EIFCA18/03 Item 3: Declarations of Members Interest

In addition to the Declarations already Mr Williamson advised there was an interest in Items 12, 13, 16, 18 & 19 on the agenda. The Chair also advised he knew a lay holder but not in a fishing capacity.

IFCO Godwin advised there had been an issue regarding declaration of a business which Mr Brewster had been affiliated with however this business had now been dissolved therefore the issue no longer existed.

At this point the CEO advised there was an urgent item to be discussed as AOB but it would be considered under the Resolution to exclude the public.

EIFCA18/04 Item 4: Minutes of the 30th EIFCA Meeting, held on 25th October 2017

Members Resolved these were a correct record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Cllr Skinner

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA18/05 Item 5: Matters Arising

EIFCA17/65: The CEO advised members that the Annual Report had now been published and shared with Defra.

EIFCA17/66: Progress on work regarding MPAs had been updated in the Business Plan.

EIFCA17/67: MPA Byelaw was still with Defra

EIFCA17/69: the Vessel Procurement project had been started although other workstreams had taken priority. A third party was being sourced to manage the project.

REVISED MANAGEMENT PLAN/POLICIES: only the cost recovery element had moved forward which would be discussed later in the agenda. Other issues would go out to consultation during the year.

EIFCA17/77: it was agreed in principle to go down the route of IVMS, consultation was ongoing with Defra regarding a Statutory Instrument which would apply to all vessels. The CEO advised the industry would be contacted prior to regulation being in place.

It was anticipated the units and installation would be covered by EMFF funding. There would be a choice of three manufacturers for the industry to choose from.

Mr Williamson advised there would still be a monthly operating cost for the industry to meet as well as an annual licence fee. The CEO did not believe IVMS required an annual licence, and it was his understanding the cost would be about £10 per month.

EIFCA18/06 Item 6: Health & Safety Risks

Two incidents had occurred during the previous quarter.

Following a blockage in the cooling system onboard Three Counties the engine room filled with smoke which activated the smoke alarm. The problem was rapidly identified and rectified. During the incident all crew members followed the correct fire procedures.

The second incident involved an officer banging, and bruising, his knee whilst onboard Seastian Terrelinck. Due to the narrow opening there was no action that could be taken other than to advise caution.

NCC Health and Safety Team review the H&S Management system which EIFCA follow. Minor amendments had been made.

Members Agreed to Note the report.

EIFCA18/07 Item 7: Finance & Personnel sub-committees held on 17th January 2018

Members were advised the main items for discussion were the provisional budget for 2018/2019 and the preliminary forecast and expenditure for the following 5 years.

HR matters included discussion on the successful recruitment to the post of Head of Operations, and the progress of the disciplinary action which was being dealt with by Nplaw.

Two officers had also passed their probationary periods and the posts were confirmed on a permanent basis. One of them had subsequently had her dissertation paper for her Masters published, for which she was formally congratulated.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA18/08 Item 8: Provisional budget for 2018/2019 and provisional forecast for 2018/2023

Members were advised the paper set out the anticipated budget requirements for the coming year. Of note was the 2% salary increase, which was largely affected by changes to the national living wage, as well as working with a full complement of staff following successful recruitment campaigns. Levies were to be increased by 2%. The affect this 2% increase would have on local authorities was between £8,000 and £10,000.

**Having considered the paper Members Resolved to:
Approve the Budget for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019, and to**

Note the Provisional Forecast of Estimates for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2023.

Proposed: Dr Bolt

Seconded: Mr Spray

All Agreed

EIFCA18/09 Item 9: Payments made and monies received ur the period October 2017 to January 2018

As expected the most significant outgoing was the payment for salaries & wages additionally there had been an asset replacement following the Sonde becoming ineffective and the discovery that the particular model was obsolete.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA18/10 Item 10: Quarterly Management Accounts

This report represented Actual Expenditure figures compared to expected figures at this point.

There was an underspend in salaries and wages due to vacancies, and a saving was showing on vessel costs however this could soon be taken up by an engine fault.

There was also an outstanding asset purchase as the new RIB, which was partly being funded through a grant, leaving £40,000 to be paid by the Authority was expected to be delivered in the coming month. Allowance for this and the outstanding IT support payment had been made in the forecast.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA18/11 Item 11: Electric Pulse Fishing

Members were advised that Cefas were unable to provide the expected presentation regarding the effects of electric pulse fishing in the District, due to unforeseen circumstances.

The CEO gave a brief background into the method of fishing, which essentially applies to fishing for demersal species. It was noted this method of trawling is very different to that employed by shrimp fishermen. The method of fishing is traditionally associated with high levels of bycatch and has raised concerns, with regard to the damage it may be causing to the seabed.

This method of fishing currently remains banned by EU Regulations, however the Netherlands took advantage of a loophole which allows 10% of the fleet to use the method for experimental purposes, consequently the method is being used with the 6-12nm zone in the EIFCA District, which is causing concern. Following a debate by the

EU parliament there was a vote in favour of upholding the ban on electric pulse trawling.

The paper was included to make sure members were aware of the situation. In order to be fully informed Mr Spray requested the CEFAS presentation be taken to the next Authority Meeting.

Members discussed the situation and it was evident there was concern about the use of electric pulse trawling within the district particularly as there were reports of grounds being left bare and fish being left with broken backs, burns or other adverse effects. There was also concern about the effect it was having on other marine species including microscopic organisms in the water, which are effectively the start of the food chain. Members felt action needed to be taken.

Members Resolved to :

Request that Dr Bolt raise the subject at the next Association of IFCA's meeting, &

The CEO would draft a letter from EIFCA to Defra, expressing concerns about local Electric Pulse Trawling.

Proposed: Mr Williamson

Seconded: Mr Shaul

All Agreed

EIFCA18/12 Item 12: Mussel Fishery 2018

The Senior Marine Science Officer presented a summary of the survey results which formed the background to the paper.

It was noted that with the exception of the Gat Sand there were signs of the stock increasing. Signs of mortality were not high but this could be due to previous poor spatfalls, The Senior MSO felt that once the 2016 stock reached three years in age there may be signs of significant mortality.

The stock levels were insufficient to support a harvestable fishery, however, there were sufficient juvenile stocks to support a seed mussel fishery to restock the lays. The suggested TAC for this being 1500 tonnes.

Members were also advised that the small fishery on Welland Bank, which by virtue of its position is very hard to strip bare, remained open by default, the CEO suggested this remained open.

Members discussed certain elements of the survey work, and whether or not it would be beneficial to open the Gat Sand to allow some of the older barnacle encrusted mussels to be removed in the hope of promoting new growth. However, the Senior MSO felt the historic data on this bed suggested there was some other reason

why there had been no mussel settlement in recent years. It was noted there had been a settlement of cockles on the sand so it may be prudent to leave the sand to support the cockle fishery. Further discussion followed into historical die off of fisheries and the potential that a mussel bed has a lifespan after which it no longer attracts mussel.

Having considered the papers Ms Moffatt advised that subject to the HRA and Natural England advice, she could not see any major issues, obviously advice would be provided once the HRA had been received.

Members Resolved to:

Note the results of the 2017 Autumn surveys as set out in the paper,

Agree to open a re-laying fishery for the 2018 season with a maximum TAC of 1,350 tonnes for the dredge fishery and 150 tonnes for the hand-worked fishery,

Agree to open the beds identified in the table at Figure 4 to the 2018 relaying fishery with the maximum exploitation rates for eachbeds as set out in that table and the Blackshore beds being hand-worked only.

Proposed: Mr Worrall

Seconded: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

All Agreed

Having agreed to open a seed relaying fishery the management measures were then considered. Members were advised that any agreed licence conditions would be subject to change as a result of the HRA. The CEO also advised that consultation had yet to take place with the industry regarding Management Measures.

Members discussed the proposed management measures including dredges and what had to be certified about them, whether the seed had to be contained in bags, boxes or bins, and whether there was a derogation on maximum dredge size to clear the mud off the lays. The CEO agreed to investigate further whether previously the dredge size had been varied to clear mud.

Proposed policies were also discussed involving size of mussels and catch restrictions.

Members Resolved to:

Agree that the operating times for a dredge fishery are determined according to the following principles:

- Tide per day
- On tides of 6.8 metres or above
- On no more than 4 consecutive days per week

Agree to delegate to the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the authority to open the dredge and hand-worked fisheries at appropriate dates and times following consultation with the industry.

Agree that the dredge and hand-worked relaying fisheries will close on 31st August 2018 or when the respective quotas are exhausted, whichever is the sooner.

Agree to delegate to the CEO, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the authority to close the dredge and/or hand-worked relaying fisheries if it is judged necessary for the protection of the Marine Protected Area or for fisheries management purpose including the protection of the sustainability of the fishery.

Agree in principle to implement the Licence conditions as set out in Appendix 2 and 3 pending consultation with Licence Holders and Natural England.

Agree to delegate to the CEO, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the authority to introduce, vary or revoke management measures and licence conditions in the following circumstances.

- Following the aforementioned consultation with Licence Holders and Natural England; or
- Where if it is judged necessary for the protection of the Marine Protected Area or for fisheries management purposes including the protection of the sustainability of the fishery.

Agree to implement the enforcement policy in relation to WFO Regulation 2 as set out in Appendix 4 to allow fishers to store mussel in vessel holds for the purpose of relaying mussels onto WFO Lays within The Wash.

Agree to implement the enforcement policy as set out in Appendix 5 to allow Licence Holders to remove mussel below the minimum size set out in WFO Regulation 8 for the purpose of the relaying fishery.

Proposed: Cllr Skinner

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA18/13 Item 13 – WFO 1992 Licence Fees

Members were reminded that previously, in February 2016, a decision had been made to enhance cost recovery via an increase in the price of the WFO licence fee. Consultation had taken place, with limited feedback.

It had since been realised that not all ancillary costs had been taken into account, or the fact that hand worked and dredge fisheries attracted different licence fees, there was therefore a need to reconsider proposals.

In addition, there was a query with regard to the propagation fund which had been established whilst the Authority was previously a Sea Fisheries Committee. Legal advice had been sought and it was established this fund now fell under the IFCA guidelines and could therefore be used to mitigate the cost recovery issues, although advice would still need to be sought from Defra before the full fund could be transferred to a general fund rather than propagation.

The CEO advised there was slight mitigation with the potential opening of a dredge relaying fishery as these licence fees would offset some of the costs.

It was questioned whether in the long-term vessels being fitted with IVMS would be cost saving in terms of enforcement, however, the CEO advised that whilst it would indicate a vessels' location it would not provide information regarding tonnage being landed, or damage to sands so it would still be necessary to have an enforcement presence. IVMS would allow enforcement to be more effective and more efficient.

Mr Williamson felt cost recovery should not come just from the industry, he felt it should come from the bodies who were constantly asking EIFCA to do more and more work. He felt bodies asking for information should be asked to pay for it.

The CEO advised that the requirement for cost recovery was becoming ever more evident and advised that there was a shift towards the MMO having this as their entire income source.

Mr Shaul questioned why the fishermen appeared to be the only ones being asked to pay up, to which the CEO advised this was partially why currently only 50% of the cost was looking to be recovered.

Ms Moffatt advised NE were not able to charge for Statutory Advice but they could charge for discretionary advice services.

Members discussed the position and expectations of various bodies and it was felt that Dr Bolt should take this matter up at the Association of IFCA's.

Mr Shaul remained unhappy about merging the propagation and administration elements of the fund and suggested it could be put to better use for educational purposes.

The CEO accepted the idea of education was important but advised that currently this fund could not be used for such a purpose, and the idea of merging would mitigate against an increase in licence fees.

Members Resolved to:

Note the amended costs associated with WFO fisheries management.

Agree to merge the propagation and administration elements of the fee with effect from April 2018.

Agree to postpone the incremental increase of WFO Licence Fees until April 2019.

Direct officers to undertake further review of potential mechanisms for achieving 50% cost recovery.

Proposed: Mr Worrall

Seconded: Dr Bolt

All Agreed with the exception of Mr Shaul who abstained in respect of amalgamating the propagation and administration funds.

EIFCA18/14 Item 14 – Association of IFCA Update

The paper provided members with an update on the progress being made towards collaborative working with the MMO. Dr Bolt advised that it was very much 'blue sky thinking' post Brexit, the original driver for joint working had been costs, however there was now thought going into how things should look in the future.

Dr Bolt advised that currently IFCA's support local decision making and local advisory panels, the Association were pushing for that model to continue but he felt there was likely to be change post Brexit.

Members were also advised that Devon & Severn IFCA had resigned from the Association and intended to deal directly with Defra, Dr Bolt advised the Association would try to encourage them back.

Members Agreed to note the report.

EIFCA18/15 Item 15 – EU Exit Update

Members were provided with background information setting out the possible scenarios for the fishing industry post Brexit.

Whilst it was not possible to predict the future it seemed highly likely there could be a requirement for EIFCA regulations to be extended out to 12nms. Whilst there may be no agreement for EU vessels to

fish within the 6–12 nm belt it was possible there would be agreement for grandfather rights to enable continued fishing in this area.

Members Resolved to;
Note the content of the report
Agree to support the request from Defra and the Association of IFCAs policy statement on EU Exit.
Proposed: Mr Worrall
Seconded: Councillor Chenery of Horbrugh
All Agreed.

EIFCA18/16 Item 16: Cockle fishery 2017 update

Members were reminded that survey results indicated the 2017 fishery would potentially be a good year for those involved, consequently the daily quota had been varied from 2 tonnes per day to 3. In reality the fishery had not progressed as expected with most vessels getting a lot of small cockle and high quantities of shell.

Further investigation during the summer revealed there were some areas of extensive small cockles on the Gat Sand. It was felt some of these were in danger of being lost due to storms and the decision was taken to open some areas of the sand but close others. This decision had proved to be contentious.

There were concerns that by taking small cockle the population dynamic would be affected, although the SMSO felt that the 2017 cockle stocks could sustain this, but that it should not be ongoing.

Further investigations in November indicated areas of small cockle which could be affected by ridging out, the decision was taken to relax the code of practice to allow small cockle to be removed. This decision did not set a precedent but was considered to be an appropriate step for the particular year.

The fishery was closed on 21st December 2017. At this point the TAC had not been taken but whilst not entirely agreeing with NE regarding the HRA it was agreed that for the benefit of overwintering birds the fishery would remain closed from 21st December to 31st March. The issues with regard to overwintering birds remained an ongoing piece of work.

The CEO advised that with TAC remaining it was possible to open the fishery again at the beginning of April for a period of two weeks, prior to the annual surveys taking place, however he felt the presence of so many small cockles suggested it would not be prudent to open it again.

It was also felt that looking forward it may be prudent to open a future fishery earlier than current meeting dates would permit, it was therefore suggested that decision making regarding Wash Fisheries could be transferred to the Marine Protected Areas sub-committee.

Mr Garnett acknowledged the fishery had had some challenges but he felt it had been a pretty good fishery. He did not believe overwintering birds were affected by fishing activity as many of them get very close to fishermen working on the sands. Nor did he think it necessary to close the fishery whilst surveys were taking place. However, on this occasion he did not think the fishery should be reopened in view of the small cockles.

The SMSO advised that by continuing to fish whilst surveys were taking place it would alter the stock basis the TAC was formed around. He also advised that whilst some birds will continue to feed on grounds that are being worked there are also the shyer species who do not, he advised that the HRA used scientific literature to help form the advice.

**Members Resolved to:
Note the content of the report**

Note the situation regarding landing small cockles.

Note the intention to address the issue of bird disturbance during prolonged periods of cold weather

Agree that the 2017 cockle fishery would not re-open prior to the 2018 cockle surveys

Agree that decision making for the 2018 cockle fishery reverts to the Marine Protected Areas sub-committee.

Proposed: Mr Worrall

Seconded: Mr Spray

All Agreed

EIFCA18/17 Item 17: Resolution

It was Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items 18 &19 on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Proposed: Mr Worrall

Seconded: Mr Spray

All Agreed

At this point Senior IFCO Godwin left the room

EIFCA18/1/ Item 18: Fishing Industry Correspondence

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

The CEO advised that during the previous 6 months, correspondence had been received that was critical of both the Authority and its Officers.

There were three streams of correspondence, two from the same source (Correspondent 1) and one from a separate source (Correspondent 2). The two from Correspondent 1 were written in the name of a fisherman's association and related to management of the fisheries under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 (WFO 1992) and a vote of no confidence in one of the Authority's officers. It was noted that a third source (Correspondent 3) had also written, in the name of another fisherman's association, in relation to a vote of no confidence in the same officer. The third stream, from Correspondent 2, was a quasi-legal challenge from a commercial fishing group regarding the management of the 2017 cockle fishery.

The correspondence criticising the management of the Wash fisheries appeared to have come about following a face to face meeting between Correspondent 1 and officers in relation to the 2017 cockle fishery and the Authority's decision in principle for the cockle fishery to be a default hand work only fishery.

The vote of no confidence was directed at an Officer who works diligently on behalf of the Authority under the direction of the CEO. The Officer is not the instigator of work-streams or the decision maker on substantial issues. It appeared that it was a concerted attempt to undermine the officer, there being no substance to the matters complained of.

Regarding the challenge made around the 2017 cockle fishery none of the industry members spoken to by officers had known anything about it and it appeared that Correspondent 2 had done it of their own accord without consulting the membership of their organisation. Commercial fishing Members present agreed that this was the case.

The CEO had brought these matters to the attention of the Authority to ensure transparency because, in part, they effectively criticised his leadership. He felt it important that members saw what had been written, had the opportunity to form their own views and to take any action that they felt was appropriate.

Councillor Skinner said that he thought that the CEO should be congratulated for his transparency in bringing the correspondence to the Authority. He felt it was abhorrent for a mid-ranking officer to

be subjected to what could be construed as bullying. Members agreed with these points.

Members observed that historically, similar correspondence had been received from Correspondent 1 regarding management of the Wash fisheries. It was noted that the previous CEO had stopped providing detailed responses when it became apparent that it simply created continuing correspondence.

Members were advised that Correspondent 1 had requested a meeting between themselves, their MP and the Eastern IFCA Chair and CEO. This was scheduled in February 2018. A similar meeting with the MP only had taken place some 12 months previously.

The Chairman advised that he hoped that during the meeting he would be able to convey to the MP that it is the Authority who make the decisions not the CEO or Officers. He felt the Authority should support their officers and not allow this harassment.

Members discussed the nature of the correspondence from Correspondent 1, the length of time it and similar correspondence had been going on for and the apparent motives behind it. It was felt that it was not constructive and that it should be construed as being vexatious.

Regarding Correspondent 3, it was noted that a response rebutting their organisations 'vote of no confidence' had been sent and that it had not been pursued any further by Correspondent 3. Some Members observed that there had not been a vote involving all the membership of that fisherman's association.

Members were very concerned by the tone of the correspondence from Correspondent 1 and felt that there should be no further response to any similar correspondence in relation to officers or fisheries management under the WFO 1992. It was suggested that Correspondent 1 and the fisherman's organisation under whose name they wrote should be regarded as vexatious correspondents.

Members Resolved to:

Note the content of correspondence from Correspondent 1 and the fisherman's association they represent regarding management of the Wash cockle fishery under the Wash Fishery Order 1992, and responses from the CEO.

Note the content of correspondence from Correspondent 1 and Correspondent 3 and their respective fishermen's associations regarding a serving Eastern IFCA officer, and the response from the CEO and Chair.

Note the challenge to the Authority's management of the 2017 cockle fishery under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 from Correspondent 2 and the commercial fishing group that they represent, and the response from the CEO.

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

Members Resolved to Agree that:

- 1. Correspondent 1 and the association they are attributed to, should be considered vexatious correspondents;**
- 2. No further correspondence will be entered regarding the Authority's officers or fisheries management under the WFO 1992;**
- 3. The meeting with the local MP should take place with only the MP present and not Correspondent 1 or any other representatives from the fishing industry.**

**Proposed: Chairman
Seconded: Mr Worrall
All Agreed**

Following these discussions Members recorded a vote of confidence in all Eastern IFCA officers and the work that they do.

Commercial fishing Members present expressed a sense of embarrassment about the 'vote of no confidence' and offered an apology, on behalf of the fishing industry, to the officer concerned.

At this point Senior IFCA Godwin returned and Mr Brewster left the room

EIFCA18/19 Item 19 – Consideration of WFO Applications

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

Members were advised there were concerns about the amount of information regarding individual businesses that was being shared with all members, particularly as some members of the Authority were also potential competitors. It was therefore proposed that such matters now be considered by the CEO along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority with a report of any decisions being made to the full Authority at the appropriate time. This mechanism would also enable decisions to be expedited.

Members considered requests from two individuals to have licence entitlement transferred from father to son and one application for a

lay to be transferred from father to son. In all instances it was felt the transfer would ensure continuity of business models. Actual ownership of one of the vessels was questioned but the Authority could only base their decision on the paperwork which was provided to them.

Members Resolved to:

Note the investigations into each application

Agree to consider further applications under the model set in Option 1, to delegate authority to the CEO in conjunction with the Chair and vice-Chair to make decisions relating to the issue of WFO 1992 Licences.

Agree to transfer the WFO (1992) Licence (Entitlement 9, licence 110) to the current owners' son, pending receipt of evidence of the transfer of ownership of the associated vessel. (Application 1a)

Agree to transfer the WFO (1992) Shellfish Lay (TO9) to the current owners' son (Application 1b)

Agree to transfer the WFO (1992) Licence (Entitlement 37, Licence 111) to the current owners' son, pending receipt of evidence of the transfer of ownership of the associated vessel, and on the condition that the current Entitlement holder formally surrender any 'entitlement' to a further WFO Licence. (Application 2)

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Seconded: Mr Spray

All Agreed

Mr Brewster returned to the meeting.

EIFCA18/20 Any Other Business

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

PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING: The CEO advised there had been two incidents of dogs dying as a result of PSP on local beaches.

Members were advised PSP traditionally occurs in filter feeders and there was official monitoring in place to routinely check for PSP, there had been no indication of the toxin being present so the source was unknown.

Having kept a watching brief and enquired of CEFAS what the impact was on the human food chain, as there had been concern expressed with regard to crab and lobster, EIFCA had taken the lead with regard to running/co-ordinating strategic aims, which formed the basis for a press release.

The intention being to reassure and prevent panic as well as getting a mechanism in place to keep monitoring the local area. A sampling regime was developed to include key species which could be affected as well as the species which had already died.

Members queried whether sea birds had been affected, there had been dead birds included in lists of mortality but it was not known if PSP was the cause.

Defra were being kept informed.

EICA18/21 Item 20 – General Data Protection Regulation

Members were advised that GDPR effectively introduced new requirement for Data Protection which would come into force in 2018. Officers were actively investigating both current and historic practices to confirm compliance.

Members Agreed to note the report

EIFCA18/22 Item 21 – Quarterly progress against Annual Plans

The CEO updated members on progress which had been made, he advised members the biggest issue was management of the shrimp fishery in the Wash. Constructive, healthy dialogue was ongoing with NE, and whilst EIFCA and NE may not end up in the same place he wanted it noted that officers were working through difficult, complicated and tricky stuff. It was a professional debate working constructively forward.

Mr Bagley queried whether after Brexit sites would still be designated as SAC and SSSIs etc. The CEO advised that yes this would be the case as all legislation was carried across. It was possible that in future differently designated sites may be consolidated.

Members Agreed to note the report.

EIFCA18/23 Item 22 – Marine Protection quarterly reports

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA18/24 Item 23 – Marine Science Quarterly Reports

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1335 hours.