

## 29<sup>th</sup> Eastern IFCA Meeting

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



A meeting of the Eastern IFCA took place at The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech, Cambs, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 1100 hours.

### Members Present:

Cllr Tony Goldson	Chair	Suffolk County Council
Shane Bagley		MMO Appointee
Stephen Bolt		MMO Appointee
Roy Brewster		MMO Appointee
Cllr M Chenery of Horsbrugh		Norfolk County Council
Cllr David Collis		Norfolk County Council
Cllr Peter Coupland		Lincolnshire County Council
John Davies		MMO Appointee
Cllr M Di Gallidoro		Suffolk County Council
Paul Garnett		MMO Appointee
Tom Pinborough		MMO Appointee
Keith Shaul		MMO Appointee
Cllr Paul Skinner		Lincolnshire County Council
Rob Spray		MMO Appointee
Steven Williamson		MMO Appointee
Stephen Worrall		MMO Appointee

### Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

Andrew Bakewell	Head of Finance
Tom Bridges	Marine Science Officer
Greg Brown	IFCO – Data Officer
Luke Godwin	Staff Officer
Julian Gregory	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Clerk
Ron Jessop	Senior Marine Science Officer
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Science Officer
Stephen Thompson	Marine Science Officer

### Other Bodies Represented

Tania Davy	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Caley McIntosh	MMO
Charlie Moffat	Natural England

### Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

### EIFCA17/30 Item 1: Welcome by the Clerk

The Clerk opened the meeting at 1100 hours, welcoming new Members to the meeting.

### EIFCA17/31 Item 2: Amendment to Constitution and Standing Orders

The Clerk advised members that following the recent County Council elections the Authority had been left with only one experienced Councillor, as he was the outgoing Chair the Clerk suggested the wording of the Standing Orders be amended to allow a variation of the rules surrounding election of Chairman in the event of such unusual circumstances, in this instance it would allow the current Chair to be re-elected for a third year, which would allow the new Councillors to become familiar with the working of EIFCA.

Mr Pinborough queried the length of the proposed extension or whether it was open-ended. The Clerk advised the intention would be for an annual re-election which ordinarily has a maximum term of two years, the decision would be made through the Members voting at the appropriate time.

Mr Pinborough recalled that previously the possibility of MMO Appointees standing for Vice Chair or Chair had been discussed, and whilst he understood the rationale given at the time behind the decision to only permit Councillors to hold these posts, he was aware that many other IFCA's permitted MMO Appointees to hold these posts and questioned whether this was an appropriate time to reconsider this as the Authority have a pool of skilled people who could take on the role of either Chair or Vice-Chair.

Mr Spray also felt this option could provide the Authority with an opportunity for succession planning as all MMO Appointees know in advance how long they are elected to the Authority for and it would allow the Authority to draw on people from different sectors.

Councillor Chenery of Horsbrugh advised that he was quite used to having different bodies sitting as Chair and Vice-Chair on the Committee's he was involved with.

The Clerk acknowledged the current preference had been a direct cloning of the arrangements in place when the Authority was ESFJC, and one of the factors for maintaining this principle was the demonstrable impartiality of the Chair. However, he felt the matter should be considered at a later date, rather than at the new members first meeting.

Members discussed the matter and whilst it was felt the option was viable it was agreed the Clerk should prepare a paper for consideration at a future Statutory Meeting, prior to the next annual elections.

**Members Resolved to accept the proposed changes to the Constitution and Standing Orders as set out in the paper.**

**Proposed: Mr Worrall**

**Seconded: Cllr Skinner**

**All Agreed**

### **EIFCA17/32 Item 3: Election of Chair of the Authority**

As the only returning Councillor, on the Authority Councillor Goldson was nominated for the role of Chairman.

**Members Resolved to elect Councillor Goldson to the role of Chairman for the forthcoming year.**

**There were no votes against and the motion was carried.**

Cllr Goldson advised that in view of their being so many new members he would like to convene a day for all members to get together to discuss responsibilities and get to know each other.

The Clerk was asked to write to all outgoing Members and thank them for the work they had done on behalf of the Authority.

*All Members were then asked to introduce themselves and give a brief summary of their background.*

### **EIFCA17/33 Item 4: Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from: Messrs Donnelly (NE representative), Hirst (EA Representative), and Morgan (MMO Appointee) and Ms Dixon-Lack (MMO Representative).

### **EIFCA17/34 Item 5: Declarations of Members Interest**

In addition to the Declarations already recorded Mr Williamson advised he had a direct interest in Item 20 on the agenda. It was acknowledged that for this item Mr Williamson would be asked to leave the meeting.

### **EIFCA17/35 Item 6: Election of Vice-Chair of the Authority**

Nominations for the role of Vice-Chair were requested. Cllr Skinner advised that he would like to volunteer for the role.

**Members Resolved to elect Cllr Skinner to the role of Vice-Chair.**

**Proposed: Cllr Goldson**

**Seconded: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh**

**All Agreed**

### **EIFCA17/35 Item 7: Minutes of the 27th EIFCA Meeting, held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

EIFCA17/18: BASS MANAGEMENT MEASURES: Mr Pinborough requested two minor amendments to the minutes, he requested that they reflect the fact he had spoken not as an RSA representative but looking from the Bass stock perspective, he also asked that the

minutes reflect that he had stated that he had researched commercial fishing netting practices.

It was Agreed these amendments would be made to the minutes.

**Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> EIFCA Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> march 2017**

Members Agreed these were a correct record of the proceedings.

**EIFCA17/36 Item 8: Matters Arising**

The CEO advised members that there had been an update on the issue of cross-warranting and re-introduction of powers.

Members were reminded that due to an administrative oversight by the Ministry when IFCA's were established Officers were not able to enforce EU legislation, the short-term solution to this had been issuing cross-warrants. Unfortunately, legal scrutiny of this situation also exposed some issues which resulted in many of the IFCA's having them revoked, EIFCA maintained their legal powers having sought further legal advice. The CEO updated members that the revised SI was still not in place but officers were taking every available step to fill the gap left by the oversight in legislation.

EIFCA17/18 BASS MANAGEMENT: The recommendation of the meeting had been to agree in principle to extra management measures on the moratorium of bass fishing. Further work had been undertaken which indicated that the spawning within the district was not as unique to the North Sea as was first thought which meant the impact on the local industry would be disproportionate and therefore additional, an Emergency Byelaw as a management measure was not viable. A full paper explaining this in detail was included under information items for the members to read.

Cllr Collis questioned why this was being discussed he felt the issue of sustainability of the fishery was what the Authority should be taking into account not the financial element. The Chair advised that EIFCA had to consider the financial impact on the industry, to sustain them as well as the fish stocks.

**EIFCA17/37 Item 9: Health & Safety Risks**

Only one minor incident had been recorded during the previous quarter which had been addressed and no further action was required.

The old moorings had been replaced with new ones which were fully operational which meant these were no longer a red risk for the Authority.

**Members Agreed to Note the report.**

**EIFCA17/38 Item 10: Planning & Communication Sub-Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

Members were advised that the 5 year Business Plan had been approved. This Plan would be refreshed annually to take into account priorities. The CEO explained the basic principle of priorities and secondary priorities which would be addressed if the Officers were to find themselves with downtime or gaps in their workload.

**Members Agreed to note the report.**

**EIFCA17/39 Item 11: Review of Eastern IFCA Constitution**

As part of the process to ensure sound governance the Constitution was reviewed annually. Advice was sort from NPLaw to ensure there had been no amendments to legislation which needed to be taken into account. The latest report showed there were no legal matters to address, however, the CEO advised there were some administrative changes required.

These included amendments to the wording to allow variation to the dates of meetings if required, change from a Business Plan to an Annual Plan. There was also a note that the Authority continue to act as consultee for planning proposals and the CEO be given delegated powers to act on these consultations. The Chair agreed in principle to this but felt some consultations may have a major impact, in these instances he requested that the matter be brought to the Authority's attention.

**Having considered all the proposed amendment Members Resolved to Agree to the changes to the Constitution and Standing Orders.**

**Proposed: Dr Bolt**

**Seconded: Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA17/40 Item 12: Appointment to Sub-Committees**

A revised list of sub-committees had been provided which took into account the new Council members. In view of Cllr Skinners' election to the role of Vice-Chair, and therefore automatic ex-officio membership on all sub-committees he was replaced on the Regulation & Compliance sub-committee by Cllr Di Gallidoro.

**Members Resolved to accept the sub-committee composition with the exception of the amendment stated above.**

**Proposed: Mr Pinborough**

**Seconded: Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh**

It was questioned whether it was possible for additional members to be added to sub-committees, the CEO acknowledged it may be time to review sub-committees particularly as the MPA sub-committee had not sat for a considerable length of time.

Mr Spray expressed his disappointment at this as it was his belief the need to take content appropriate for the MPA sub-committee to the full Authority was intended to be a temporary measure. He was particularly concerned there was a need to discuss matters relating to MCZs.

Mr Pinborough questioned whether there was the possibility of sub-committees not being quorate due to declarations of interest and members not being able to vote. He also believed that any member could attend a sub-committee meeting if it was of particular interest to them.

Mr Shaul felt there were items being discussed at full authority which could be addressed by sub-committees, in the event of a unanimous decision not being reached it could be referred to the full authority. The CEO advised there was a conscious effort not to call a sub-committee for a single item, particularly if there was an appropriately timed full Authority meeting it could be discussed at.

Members discussed the merits of sub-committees in detail, and considered the possibility of holding working groups as an alternative.

**Following discussion Members Resolved that all members should be advised when a sub-committee was taking place and provided with an Agenda.**

**Proposed: Mr Worrall**

**Seconded: Mr Garnett**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA17/41 Item 13: Payments made and monies received during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

As in previous years there appeared to be some anomalies in the accounts for this quarter, these related to payment of the AIFCA subs which applied to the whole year, the Annual Refit for RV Three Counties, and payment of the insurance premium for vehicles.

The unusual level of receipts was due to the recouping of the CEO salary and expenses whilst on secondment to the MMO. This had been delayed to avoid the need to be VAT registered. Had the invoice for this amount been submitted sooner the annual receipts would have exceeded the VAT threshold, as this level of invoicing was unlikely to occur again there was no concern of a similar situation arising in the current financial year.

**Members Agreed to note the content of the report.**

#### **EIFCA17/42 Item 14: Quarterly Management Accounts**

This quarter the figures gave a comparison of what was actually spent against the budget. There was an underspend which was largely attributed to the secondment of the CEO and subsequent vacancies.

Savings had been made in the training budget and following the new moorings becoming available there as a reduction in the rent.

**Members Agreed to note the content of the report.**

#### **EIFCA17/43 Item 15: Payment of Expenses to MMO Appointees.**

Payment of these expenses was discretionary and members reviewed it on an annual basis. The Head of Finance advised there was scope within the budget to continue making this payment.

Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh questioned what the expense rate consisted of, it was explained the 45p/mile rate was applied to mileage plus a loss of earnings payment where it was applicable.

Cllr Collis questioned whether there was a time limit to making claims. The Head of Finance advised that there hadn't been previously but it was anticipated this would be raised at the next full Authority meeting in September.

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

**Proposed: Cllr Goldson**

**Seconded: Cllr Di Gallidoro**

**All Agreed**

#### **EIFCA17/44 Item 17: MPA Management Update**

The SSO Stoutt gave members an update on the MPA work taking place within the EIFCA district.

Members were advised that the majority of EIFCA's district had some form of protection attached to it. The WNNCEMS SSSI was well established in the district and there were many more MPAs and SPAs in the pipeline, making this one of EIFCA's key priorities in terms of workload.

Currently under investigation was the effect of shrimp fishing on sensitive features of the WNNCSAC. Along with this Officers were working on an MPA Byelaw for spatial closures. This byelaw had been agreed by the Authority in 2016 but delays in consultation had resulted in new evidence becoming available to the advice provided by Officers, resulting in the need to relook at the spatial activity data. Members were advised the available information for this particular method of fishing was improving all the time, revisiting of the available data had indicated there were greater concerns for

areas being fished in deep water rather than shallower areas which encounter greater wave action.

It was hoped a proposal for a revised MPA Byelaw would be available for consideration by the Authority later in the year.

Members were also updated on spatial management for the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton site, and the Inner Dowsing Nature Reserve, both of which were likely to result in spatial restrictions for fishing activity.

The Shrimp Permitting byelaw which the Authority had agreed to had also, unfortunately, been put on hold following advice from Defra that they were not in agreement with the introduction of flexible permit conditions, consequently Officers were liaising with Defra legal team to establish a permit byelaw which was acceptable to both parties.

Mr Pinborough questioned whether the EIFCA shrimp return form was mandatory or whether it was part of a Defra shellfish return. He was advised that the shrimp byelaw was designed to assist with the development of the fishery therefore there was a requirement for all shrimp permit holders to submit returns which would be used to inform management measures,

Having been advised of the issues being faced, with regard to implementing new legislation, Mr Bagley requested that members be provided with a map depicting all the activity within the district, he felt it would provide members with a clear view of the areas closed to fishing. The Chair advised this was something which could be provided for the Authority's away day.

Mr Bagley also questioned the need to manage a fishery which had been in existence for over 100 years, particularly as the activities taking place were doing far more damage to the seabed than fishing and there were no management measures against SSSI and NE.

Mr Brewster agreed with this sentiment adding that in the past there was no sand and gravel extraction all of which takes place on a flooding tide causing the silt to be deposited into the Wash. He also advised that windfarms were placed on the biggest mussel beds which caused more damage. Mr Spray did not feel there was scientific evidence to support these comments but felt the whole process needed managing holistically, he felt movement of sand was a prime example of 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'.

Members discussed the matter and many were in agreement with the sentiment expressed, the CEO advised that there was an obligation to provide advice and the Marine Planning process considers all available evidence prior to the MMO making the ultimate decision.

On behalf of NE Ms Moffat advised that the role of NE was in the capacity of advisor, providing information on designated habitats



and features and likely impacts of activity, they do not make decisions on what can and cannot take place.

Dr Bolt felt that it would be beneficial to ask the MMO for a presentation on licensing application protocol. In the absence of the MMO representative he agreed to enquire about such a presentation.

**Members Agreed to note the content of the report, and Resolved to continue to develop management measures as described, employing appropriate liaison with the statutory nature conservation advisor, Natural England, and engagement with stakeholders.**

**Proposed: Cllr Goldson**

**Seconded: Mr Garnett**

**All Agreed**

#### **EIFCA17/45 Item 18: MMO and IFCA Memorandum of Understanding**

The CEO advised that in essence EIFCA were already working collaboratively with the MMO, this arrangement had now been agreed in principle at a national level and members were asked to approve the Memorandum of Understanding.

**Members Resolved to note the content of the paper and Resolved to Approve the MMO/IFCA Memorandum of Understanding**

**Proposed: Dr Bolt**

**Seconded: Cllr Collis**

**All Agreed**

*At this point Members were given a 20 minute break for lunch (1307 hours)  
The meeting reconvened at 1337 hours.*

#### **EIFCA17/46 Item 16 – Wash Cockle Fishery 2017**

*This item was moved down the agenda for discussion after lunch.*

The CEO advised that each year the Officers follow the same procedure, preparing a comprehensive paper for the Authority to consider.

As previous agreement had been reached with regard to the method of fishing and the circumstances were not exceptional the fishery would operate on a Handworking basis.

SSO Jessop gave a presentation on the findings of the annual spring cockle survey. 1,296 stations had been surveyed over 21 beds, as well as stock densities environment data was also collected which included sediment, Lanice, Arenicola and Macoma.

Stock densities calculated indicated a fishery TAC of 7,016t.

Following on from previous years it was anticipated there would be a die off during the summer due to atypical Mortality, in order to minimise losses it was proposed that the daily quota should be increased from 2 to 3 tonnes which would allow cockles to be taken before they died off.

There had been some slight amendments to the proposed closed areas, following further investigation of spat levels and seal haul out sites.

Following the presentation Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh queried how the cockles were harvested, SSO Jessop advised this would be done by hand using a rake and little round nets, assisted by prop washing. There was no MLS for cockles as this would be regulated by the demands of the processors.

Cllr Di Gallidoro questioned whether cockles grew from seed in the same way as mussels and oysters, it was explained this was not the case they grow from lava left in the water column.

The cause of the spread of the cockle disease remained unknown it could be caused by transfer from bilge & ballast water or mobile carriers such as birds and fish.

It was questioned whether NE had responded to the HRA regarding the fishery, unfortunately the arrival of the document had coincided with the relevant NE employee being on Annual Leave. Cllr Di Gallidoro felt they should have a duty of care, and if the process occurs at the same time each year then Annual Leave should not be permitted to hold up the process. The CEO advised there was a 28 day turn around agreement in place, and usually the process was far more expedient.

The industry had been consulted on the proposed management measures, SIFCO Godwin gave a brief outline of the responses received.

**Having considered all the information Members Agreed to:**

- **Note the content of the 2017 Wash cockle survey report**
- **Note the responses to Entitlement holder consultation**
- **Note the rationale for allowing the use of sea-anchors for 'prop-washing' by way of an enforcement policy relating to Regulation 1 but appropriately restricted through the use of a licence condition.**
- **Note the rationale for increasing the daily catch restriction and the legal advice from Defra regarding a policy which introduces an increased threshold with regards to enforcement of daily catch restriction.**

**Members also Resolved to:**

**Agree to a Total Allowable Catch of 7,016 tonnes**

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

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

**Proposed: Mr Pinborough**  
**Seconded: Cllr Di Gallidoro**  
**All Agreed**

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

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

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

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

**Agree to endorse the enforcement policy at Appendix 4 relating to Regulations 2 (daily catch restriction) to effectively increase the daily quota to 3 tonnes.**

**Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh**  
**Seconded: Cllr Di Gallidoro**  
**All Agreed**

**Agree to endorse the delegation of powers to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to introduce, vary or revoke management measures/licence conditions for the cockle fishery as required for the purposes of fisheries management, including meeting the conservation objectives of the WNNCEMS and supporting a sustainable and viable fishery.**

**Proposed: Dr Bolt**  
**Seconded: Mr Spray**  
**All Agreed**

**Agree to Approve the delegation of powers to the Chief Executive Officer to open and close the fishery or parts of the fishery as required for the purposes of fisheries management, including meeting the conservation objectives of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS and supporting a sustainable and viable fishery.**

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

**Agree to Approve the delegation of powers to the CEO to introduce, vary or revoke management measures or to open or close the fishery or parts of the fishery, without 7 days' notice (as per the cockle charter) where it is judged necessary to do so to meet the conservation objectives of the WNNCEMS or for the sustainability or the viability of the fishery.**

**Proposed: Mr Spray**

**Seconded: Mr Worrall**

**All Agreed**

#### **EIFCA17/47 Item 19: Resolution**

**It was Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for item 20 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**Proposed: Dr Bolt**

**Seconded: Cllr Di Gallidoro**

**All Agreed**

*At this point Mr Williamson left the room*

#### **EIFCA17/48 Item 20: WFO Licence Applications**

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

SIFCO Godwin gave members a brief summary of the background to the situation, explaining the moratorium, growing waiting lists and some of the aspects which had been addressed. It was noted further work would be carried out during the review of the Wash Fishery Order.

Members were provided with 5 scenarios involving either the transfer of a WFO entitlement to another body or the variation of the the vessel being used.

Each application was explained in detail to members.

**Application 1** involved the transfer from 1 fisher to another. One party held 2 entitlements and needed to sell one vessel which would put 2 others out of work, causing financial hardship. The application was for the second WFO Entitlement to be passed to one of the current skippers which would enable them to continue fishing, it would not involve any additional vessels being licenced as the old licence would be revoked.

It was questioned whether passing an entitlement from father to son was a standard procedure, SIFCO Godwin advised at this time it was not an automatic process.

It was questioned whether there was sufficient time for the ownership documents to be generated before the opening of the cockle fishery, this encouraged a short debate, ultimately the CEO advised the Authority were not applying time restraints it was up to the parties involved when the transfer was put into motion.

**Application 2** this was a request involving 3 generations, and the transfer of WFO Entitlements from father to son to future proof their business model. These would meet the requirements of policy note 3 and followed precedents previously set.

**Application 3** in order to ensure WFO Entitlements were not being 'rented out' there was a requirement to show ownership of the vessel, usually by way of being the majority shareholder on the Certificate of British Registry. In this instance the vessel was jointly owned and therefore the Entitlement holder was not shown as the majority owner. It was requested that a licence to fish for cockles be granted for a period of 3 months during which time changes could be made to the ownership certificate to depict a majority shareholder.

**Application 4** a request had been made to transfer the Entitlement from one vessel to another. This new vessel was already known to Officers as it had been named on a Whelk fishing permit. It was considered to be a genuine new purchase.

**Application 5** again this was a request to alter the vessel named on an Entitlement. The business model employed by the Entitlement holder was to enable local fishers to access the fishery by sharing the ownership of a vessel, but appearing as majority shareholder on the Certificate of British Registry.

SIFCO Godwin advised members that there was a blurry line between renting out and adhering to this business model. Mr Brewster questioned whether the paperwork for the vessel had been seen, the CEO advised that without correct paperwork a licence would not be granted.

Mr Bagley questioned what the Authority were going to do about renting out licences, SIFCO Godwin advised the new interim policies would prevent this happening in the future, but ultimately new policies needed to be put in place. Referring to the question of fishers from other areas being named on Entitlements, SIFCO Godwin advised the Authority cannot legislate based on the birth place of a fisher.

**Members Resolved to:**

**Note the investigations into each application**

**Agree to grant the application for WFO transfer from Entitlement holder to Business partner.**

**Proposed: Cllr Collis**

**Seconded: Mr Davies**

**All Agreed**

**Agree to grant the application for WFO Licence transfer from father to son, and from father to son, across three generations.**

**Proposed: Cllr Di Gallidoro**

**Seconded: Cllr Skinner**

**All Agreed**

**Agree to grant the application for a WFO Licence for the vessel on the condition that issues relating to ownership were resolved within three months of the meeting.**

**Proposed: Dr Bolt**

**Seconded: Cllr Collis**

**All Agreed**

**Agree to the variation of the vessel named on a WFO Licence**

**Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh**

**Seconded: Dr Bolt**

**All Agreed**

**Agree to the variation of the vessel named on a WFO Licence**

**Proposed: Mr Davies**

**Seconded: Dr Bolt**

**All Agreed**

**Agree to delegate powers to the CEO to consider future variations in licences in accordance with the WFO Interim Policies.**

**Proposed: Mr Worrall**

**Seconded: Cllr Collis**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA17/49 Item 21: Disclosable pecuniary interest dispensations**

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

Members were advised that historically all members had been able to take part in discussion on an item even when they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, providing they did not vote on the matter. It had been highlighted that some of the declared interests were not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Localism Act,

consequently all MMO Appointees had been consulted and a full list of DPIs collated, which could be published on the website.

With regard to the matter of taking part in discussion but not voting there was nothing in the Localism Act which allowed for this. It was therefore requested that in order for members to input local knowledge and allow all parties to take part in, dispensations be granted from the Localism Act 2011.

**Members Agreed to Note the list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests for MMO Appointees**

**Proposed: Mr Worrall**

**Seconded: Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh**

**All Agreed**

**Members Resolved to Agree to grant dispensations from s.31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 (c.20) to MMO Appointees to allow participation in discussions of matters for which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest for the period of four years or until their term or service is expired (whichever is first).**

**Proposed: Mr Spray**

**Seconded: Cllr Di Gallidoro**

**With one abstention and no votes against, the motion was carried.**

#### **EIFCA17/50 Item 22: Quarterly progress against Annual Plan Priorities**

**Members Agreed to note the report**

#### **EIFCA17/51 Item 23: HR Update**

**Members Agreed to note the report**

#### **EIFCA17/52 Item 24: Marine Protection Quarterly Reports**

Mr Pinborough expressed concern that landing figures were no longer going to be recorded in the quarterly report, whilst he realised they were not totally accurate they did provide trends and could highlight issues when compared to previous years. In the past there had been comparisons of EIFCA / MMO data and both had been flawed. He questioned whether in future there would be mandatory collection of data through permit schemes.

The CEO acknowledged the concerns but explained the core reason for discrepancies was the methodology of capturing data being inconsistent, making the figures potentially very misleading. Officers would now monitor fishing trends by capturing information during weekly TCG meetings, although this would not provide landing figures it would give an indication of fishing effort/return.

This prompted the question of what would replace the current method of data collection. Mr Davies questioned the accuracy of

recording as he had sent figures to the office and those provided did not even cover his own figures let alone those of other fishers. The anomaly was put down to available resources which also concerned Mr Davies as he felt the resource available to enforcement was being diluted with officers being dragged away and basic enforcement not being carried out. The CEO advised the enforcement officers were still there but deployed in other places.

**Members Agreed to note the report**

**EIFCA17/53 Item 25: Marine Science Quarterly Reports**

**Members Agreed to note the report.**

**EIFCA17/54 Item 26: Association of IFCA Minutes**

The CEO advised members the minutes were included for information purposes.

Members were also advised that the CEO had attended a workshop considering the role of IFCAs post Brexit, he felt members should be made aware that the debate varied from extending to 12nm, maintaining the status quo, or moving to a single organisation and wholesale change, members would be kept up to date as the debate continued.

**Members Agreed to note the report.**

**EIFCA17/55 Item 27: Emergency Bass Byelaw**

**Members Agreed to note the report.**

**EIFCA17/56 Any Other Business**

YOUTUBE VIDEO: Mr Spray had raised an information item with the Chair. He requested that Authority members see an extract from a YouTube video which had recently aired, filmed from a fishing vessel which was being boarded by MMO officials. He advised the behaviour encountered by the MMO officials was not sector specific and felt members should be aware of the response enforcement officers are subjected to on occasion.

The CEO advised that on this occasion the skipper's behaviour had reached a level which could be considered personal abuse, however, he did state that the majority of fishers do not behave in this manner.

SIMON HOWARD: Mr Williamson questioned whether the rumours he had heard regarding the resignation of Simon Howard from the role of Skipper were true. The CEO advised that having given 27 years' service Mr Howard had resigned and moved to the Port Authority at Sutton Bridge. Mr Howard's contribution to the Authority



had been quite substantial and the CEO had authorised the purchase of a formal gift on behalf of the Authority.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1603 hours.