



**30th EIFCA
Statutory Meeting**

To be held at:

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

**Wednesday
25th October 2017**

1030 hours

Vision

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



Meeting 30th Eastern IFCA Meeting
Date: 25th October 2017
Time: 1030hrs
Venue: The Boathouse Business Centre,
 1 Harbour Square, Nene Parade,
 Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 3BH

Note: There will be a break at a convenient point after 1200hrs due to former members (Cllr Tony Turner and Mrs. Hilary Cox) joining members for lunch

Agenda

- 1 Welcome - *Clerk*
- 2 To accept apologies for absence - *Chair*
- 3 Declaration of Members' interests – *Chair*

Action items

- 4 To receive and approve as a true record, minutes of the 29th Eastern IFCA Meetings, held on 7th June 2017 - *Chair*
- 5 Matters arising (including actions from last meetings) – *Clerk*
- 6 To receive a report to consider Health and Safety risks and mitigation – *Hd Finance & HR*
- 7 To receive a report on a meeting of the Finance & Personnel sub-committee meetings held on 21st June and 11th October 2017 – *Hd Finance & HR*
- 8 To receive and approve the Finance Officer's report on payments made and monies received during the period 1st April 2017 to 30th September – *Hd Finance & HR*
- 9 To receive and note the Finance Officer's Quarterly Management Accounts for quarters 1 and 2 of 2017-18 - *Hd Finance & HR*
- 10 Annual Report 2016-17 – *CEO*
- 11 MPA fishery management update – *Senior MSO (Environment)*
- 12 Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 – *Senior IFCO (Regulation)*

- 13 Calendar of meetings to October 2018 – CEO
- 14 Vessel procurement - CEO
- 15 *To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items 16, 17, 18 & 19 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act*
- 16 Wash Fishery Order Applications – Senior IFCO (Regulation)
- 17 Wash Fishery Order Shellfish Lays – Senior IFCO (Regulation)
- 18 CEO update (verbal) – CEO
- 19 Association of IFCA minutes – CEO

Information items

- 20 Community Voice Project update – CEO / MSO (GIS)
- 21 Quarterly progress against Business Plan priorities – CEO
- 22 Marine Protection Quarterly reports – Senior IFCOs
- 23 Marine Science Quarterly reports – Senior MSOs

Any other business

- 24 To consider any other items, which the Chairman is of the opinion are Matters of Urgency due to special circumstances, which must be specified in advance.

Any other business

J. Gregory
Chief Executive Officer
10 October 2017

29th 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 7th 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
Peter Holborn	Recreational Sea Angler

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 15th 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 28th EIFCA Meeting held on 22nd 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 15th 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 1st January 2017 to 31st 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 EIFCAs 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 Katherine LO58 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 held by Mr P Garnett

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh

Seconded: Dr Bolt

All Agreed

Agree to the variation of the vessel named on a WFO Licence held by Mr S Williamson

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 DPs 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.

Vision

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



Action Item 6

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25 October 2017

Health and Safety update

Report by: Andrew Bakewell, Head of Finance & HR

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on health and safety activity, risks and associated mitigation over the last reporting period

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Note** the contents of this report

Background

H&S law requires employers to assess and manage risks and, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure the health, safety and welfare of all of its employees and others affected by workplace activities.

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

Incidents

The table below summarises the incidents that have occurred from April to September 2017:

Date	Nature of incident	Injury / damage occurred	RIDDOR Y/N	Investigation complete Y/N	Name of investigating Officer	Follow-up action required Y/N. If Y then what?
July 17	Near miss when deploying day grab TC	None	N	Y	Ron Jessop	Y Procedure modified. Risk assessment updated.
Aug 17	Guest divers failing to follow protocol	None	N	Ongoing	Tom Bridges	Diving operations to be closely scrutinised. Further issues will result in ceasing the activity.

Risks

The project to develop a full suite of current risk assessments for all routine activity undertaken by employees, as reported last period, is well underway. Officers have completed the majority of the key assessments, which have been quality reviewed by our H&S partner at Norfolk County Council.

A process for adapting risk assessments to suit particular circumstances has been developed. This allows a sensible and proportionate approach.

Members would wish to be aware of the H & S risks at *Appendix 1*.

Eastern IFCA Health and Safety risks

Risk	Intervention	Residual Risk	Risk rating* (Current)	Risk rating* (Previous)
Failure to develop a full suite of risk assessments to cover the range of activity undertaken by Eastern IFCA officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of revised management system (policies and process) • Managers tasked to review and develop the suite of risk assessments • Training session on risk assessments for first line managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or unusual activities may be overlooked and not have a risk assessment in place 	Treat	Treat
Unreported incidents/unilateral decisions with little regard for safe working practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • NCC H&S officer led review of policy and procedure • Training • Equipment • Management systems to capture incidents • Routine agenda items at all meetings at all levels of Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to personnel as a result of failure to acknowledge or adhere to H&S direction and guidance 	Treat	Treat
Inappropriate conduct of vessels at sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Briefings • Formal training and assessment • Periodic review of performance • Record of personal training inc. refreshers maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death/injury of personnel/third parties through un-seamanlike operation of vessels at sea 	Treat	Treat
Whole Body Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk awareness training to manage impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury from boat movement owing 	Treat	Treat

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health monitoring process to be developed. 	to lower resilience as a result of individual physiology		
Lone working operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management scrutiny of any proposal for lone working. Introduction of electronic support means 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of devices to give requisite support. Personnel interventions render devices unreliable or unworkable. 	Tolerate	Tolerate
Staff injury/long term absence through inappropriate posture at office work stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information. Training. Risk assessment. Provision of suitable bespoke equipment where reasonable. Access to NCC H&S team. Occupational health assessment KLWNBC H&S specialist advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual failure to adhere to guidance 	Tolerate	Tolerate
Staff stress through exposure to unacceptable behaviour of stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of Unacceptable Behaviour policy Stakeholder engagement plan and activity delivered in pursuit of corporate communications strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in behaviour of some stakeholders. Long term sickness caused by stakeholder hostility 	Tolerate	Tolerate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue with Stakeholders to ensure appropriate tone of communications Conflict resolution training for “front line” Officers 			
Damage to vehicles, trailers and/or equipment through inappropriate operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal trailer training for unqualified officers Refreshers for those with previous experience Periodic vehicle maintenance checks training In-house assessment for drivers using unfamiliar vehicles (crew transport, 4x4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to adhere to training Mechanical failure of vehicle or trailer 	Tolerate	Tolerate
Physical fitness of personnel to undertake arduous duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff briefing Management overview to ensure rostered duties are appropriate and achievable Reasonable work adjustments Routine periodic medical assessment (ML5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual health fragilities Individual lifestyle choice 	Tolerate	Tolerate

*

Risk Rating
High
Medium
Low

Risk Treatment	
Treat	Take positive action to mitigate risk
Tolerate	Acknowledge and actively monitor risk
Terminate	Risk no longer considered to be material to Eastern IFCA business
Transfer	Risk is outside Eastern IFCA ability to treat and is transferred to higher/external level

Vision

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Action Item 7

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25 October 2017

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance & HR

Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-committee held on 11 October 2017

Purpose of report

To inform members of the key outputs and decisions from the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee meeting held on 11 October 2017.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report.

Finance Matters

Preliminary Estimates of Expenditure for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 were presented including a 2% increase in the levy as agreed by the Finance representatives at last year's meeting. The overall position for 2018/19 shows a break-even outcome. **Members agreed the Preliminary Estimates 2018/19.**

Preliminary Forecast of Expenditure 2019 to 2023 were presented, assumptions included 2% annual increase in Levies, annual capital contribution to fund asset replacement from 2019/20 and that "new burden" would continue in some form after 2020. **Members noted and agreed the 2019 to 2023 Preliminary Estimates.**

HR Matters

A report detailing the future of the HR function was presented by the CEO. The recommendations to:

- Delete the Head of HR post from the establishment.
- Combine HR function with Finance and re-designate Head of Finance as Head of Finance and HR.

- Re-designate the role of Assistant Finance and Administration Officer to Assistant Finance and HR Administration Officer recognising the additional HR support duties.
- Revised Job Descriptions once complete are submitted to NCC for evaluation if appropriate.

Members agreed all recommendations.

The Head of Finance presented a report concerning the Administration Support role. The opportunity to review the role following the retirement of the previous incumbent identified several areas where support to the organisation could be enhanced. The paper sought:

- delegated authority for the CEO and Head of Finance to prepare amended job description(s) and recruit appropriately designated and experienced Officer(s).
- approval for savings arising from the deletion of the Head of HR post are used to finance the improvements to organisational support.
-

Members agreed both recommendations.

The Head of Finance presented a report concerning the satisfactory completion of our 6-month probation by two officers.

Members agreed to the permanent appointment of both Officers.

The following two reports were noted by members:

- Annual HR Update.
- Ongoing disciplinary procedure.

Background Papers

Unconfirmed minutes of the F&P sub-committee meeting held on the 11 October 2017.

Vision

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Action Item 8

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance & HR

Payments made and monies received during the period 1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the paper

Background

It is an audit requirement that the Authority's receipts and payments are presented to Members on a quarterly basis.

The report on Payments made and monies received during the period 1st April to 30th September is attached.

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

Background documents

There are no background documents to this paper

Notes

Finance Officer's Report on Payments Made and Monies Received during the period
1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017

Payments made during the period 1st April 2017 to 30th June 2017

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Transfers to EIFCA Salaries Acct.	75,000.00	145,000.00	-	220,000.00
Rent, Rates & Service Charges	4,684.03	9,488.85	3,751.85	17,924.73
General Establishment	10,794.35	15,883.14	4,443.88	31,121.37
Legal Fees	105.60	315.80		421.40
Staff Travelling & Subsistence	1,941.35	1,886.93	365.06	4,193.34
Members' Allowances		88.20		88.20
Training	3,426.75	2,111.75	51.65	5,590.15
Moorings/Harbour Dues	83.02	19.29		102.31
Pisces III Operating Costs				
Hire of rib				
Three Counties Operating Costs	6,266.21	20,075.10	80.86	26,422.17
FPV JA & ST –Operating Costs	1,787.18	1,097.79	221.80	3,106.77
Vehicle Operating Costs	351.14	1,016.57	950.00	2,317.71
Communication and Development		230.00		230.00
Marine Science	1,084.20	185.42	49.43	1,319.05
Enforcement	6,176.23	2,938.61	138.95	9,253.79
Wash & Nth Norf. EMS Project	241.59	7,350.46	565.00	8,157.05
Wash Fishery Order				
Assets		40,751.48		40,751.48
IT Project				
Petty Cash				
VAT recoverable (Quarter)	6,316.35	10,496.05	1,534.02	18,346.42
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE	118,258.00	258,935.44	12,252.50	389,445.94

Monies received during the period April 2017 to June 2017

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Levies	1,391,070.00			1,391,070.00
WFO – Licences		900.00	7,740.00	8,640.00
WFO – Tolls		750.00	6,450.00	7,200.00
Whelk licences	500.00	380.00	600.00	1,480.00
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS	6,000.00			6,000.00
VAT				
Fixed Penalty Fine	1,500.00	1,500.00		3,000.00
EHO sampling	5,200.00			5,200.00
Lay rents		1,226.00		1,226.00
Fuel duty		3,514.18		3,514.18
Miscellaneous	648.13	8.34	2.94	659.41
TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED	1,404,918.13	8,278.52	8,792.94	1,427,989.59

Finance Officer's Report on Payments Made and Monies Received during the period
1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017

Payments made during the period 1st July 2017 to 30th September 2017

	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Transfers to EIFCA Salaries Acct.	80,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	220,000.00
Rent, Rates & Service Charges	3,056.28	2,826.02	11,005.99	16,888.29
General Establishment	5,138.62	4,624.46	11,550.65	21,313.73
Legal Fees	297.00	89.60	1,417.50	1,804.10
Staff Travelling & Subsistence	1,345.78	1,908.24	408.69	3,662.71
Members' Allowances	404.00		326.35	730.35
Training	3,691.24	3,045.75	7,729.57	14,466.56
Moorings/Harbour Dues		74.70	136.16	210.86
Pisces III Operating Costs				
Three Counties Operating Costs	670.23	3,835.29	1,962.36	6,467.88
FPV JA & ST –Operating Costs	302.33	352.80	1,513.34	2,168.47
Vehicle Operating Costs	1,404.24	3,184.73	1,652.19	6,241.16
Communication and Development		32.12	95.00	127.12
Marine Science	153.97	38.46	32.94	225.37
Enforcement	626.57	635.57	2,095.45	3,357.59
Wash & Nth Norf. EMS Project	5,331.12	32.60	56.14	5,419.86
Wash Fishery Order				
Assets				
Petty Cash				
VAT recoverable (Quarter)	3,483.85	3,233.07	6,643.53	13,360.45
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE	105,905.23	93,913.41	116,625.86	316,444.50

Monies received during the period July 2017 to September 2017

	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
WFO – Licences	1,440.00			1,440.00
WFO – Tolls	1,200.00			1,200.00
Whelk licences		400.00	250.00	650.00
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS			11,318.00	11,318.00
VAT			18,349.68	18,349.68
Fixed Penalty Fine				
EHO sampling				
Lay rents		237.00		237.00
Miscellaneous	19.16	7.44	333.03	356.69
TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED	2,659.16	644.44	30,250.71	33,554.31

Vision

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Action Item 9

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25 October 2017

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance

Report on the Management Accounts for the first half of the 2017/18 financial year

Purpose of report

To set out the Half Yearly Management Accounts for members to note.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the Management Accounts

Management Accounts Financial Year 2017/2018

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	MEMO
	Year to Date	Year to	Budget
	Qtrs 1&2	Date	For Year
	£	Qtrs 1&2	£
	£	£	£
<u>SALARIES & WAGES</u>			
Staff Remuneration	329,416	383,332	766,665
Pension	69,867	77,509	155,017
National Insurance	31,951	36,911	73,821
TOTAL	431,234	497,752	995,403
<u>GENERAL EXPEND</u>			
Accommodation		32,062	64,125
Insurance		7,000	7,000
General Establishment		54,980	97,780
Officers' Expenses		9,125	16,250
Members' Travel		2,125	4,250
Training		6,000	12,000
TOTAL		111,292	201,405
Develop& Comms		3,000	4,000
Enforcement		9,000	17,500
Research & Environ		4,000	8,000
<u>VESSELS</u>			
Moorings/Harbour Dues		4,000	5,500
<u>Vessel Operating Costs</u>			
Three Counties		32,000	94,250
FPVs JA & ST		23,000	45,500
Pisces (inc hire)		5,250	10,500
TOTAL		64,250	155,750
<u>VEHICLES</u>			
Operating Costs		12,250	24,500
TOTAL		12,250	24,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		701,544	1,406,558
<u>INCOME</u>			
Bank Interest	60		10,000
Levies	1,391,070	1,391,070	1,391,070
WFO Licence Tolls	18,480	20,000	20,000
Whelk licences	2,130	3,250	6,500
Sale of assets		3,000	6,000
Fixed Penalties & costs	3,000	750	1,500
Surveys		2,000	4,000
EHO sampling	5,200	4,000	8,000
Lay rents	2,929	3,000	4,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,422,869	1,427,070	1,451,070
Reserve movement	n/a	n/a	44,512

	Actual	Budget	Variance
	YTD Qtr 4	Year	Full year
Salaries and Wages			
Remuneration	663,576	742,992	79,416
Pension	129,041	159,743	30,702
National Insurance	66,237	55,499	-10,738
TOTAL	858,854	958,234	99,380
General Expenditure			
Accommodation	60,519	62,113	1,594
Insurance	7,352	16,000	8,648
General Establishment	124,716	85,700	(39,016)
Staff expenses	14,876	19,840	4,964
Members travel	4,531	4,800	269
Training	9,398	35,790	26,392
TOTAL	221,392	224,243	2,851
Communications	1,830	7,500	5,670
Enforcement	12,047	16,000	3,953
Marine Science	5,928	16,500	10,572
Vessels			
Moorings	1,638	31,300	29,662
RV Three Counties	85,898	96,344	10,446
FPV John Allen	25,000	38,830	13,830
FPV Sebastian Terelinck	14,251	25,000	10,479
Tender rib	22,962	5,770	(17,192)
TOTAL	154,777	197,244	42,467
Vehicles			
Operating costs	22,304	25,200	2,896
TOTAL	22,304	25,200	2,896
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,277,132	1,444,921	167,789
Income			
Levies (inc new burden)	1,391,070	1,391,070	-
Interest	6,768	6,000	768
WFO licences	10,561	16,500	(5,939)
Whelk permits	5,103	6,000	(897)
EHO sampling	8,600	6,000	2,600
Surveys	4,000	5,000	(1,000)
Fines and costs	8,330		8,330
Lay rents	2,939	2,500	439
Sale of equipment	9,138		9,138
TOTAL INCOME	1,446,509	1,433,070	13,439
Surplus/(shortfall)	169,377	(11,851)	181,228
Assets purchased	42,029		(42,029)
Reserves	127,348	(11,851)	139,199

Vision

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Action Item 10

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25th October 2017

Report by: Julian Gregory, CEO

Annual Report 2016/17

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Report 2016/17 for the Authority to consider.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Approve** the Annual Report 2016-17;
- **Direct** the CEO to publish the report and distribute it to Defra.
-

Background

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires Eastern IFCA to produce an Annual Report at the end of each financial year and that a copy of the report be sent to the Secretary of State (via Defra).

Report

Officers have prepared an Annual Report, which is appended to this item. The report details the Authority's work over the last financial year, progress against the priorities set for that year and other organisational metrics (e.g. carbon footprint calculation etc.).

In the context of high workloads and competing demands, the Authority has made good progress on some priorities but less so on others. The reasons for this have, to a large extent, been beyond the control of officers. For example, there have been some changes in approach by Defra in terms of how byelaws can be used, which has resulted in delays. There are also ongoing protracted discussions with Natural England on the nature and extent of management measures required in red and amber risk MPAs which has meant that workstreams have gone well beyond anticipated completion dates. This particular issue is covered in more detail at agenda item 11.

It is acknowledged that the complexities involved in the Authority's work means that it is sometimes difficult to adhere to projected timescales and this is reflected in the move to a 5-year business plan with an annual review and refresh of priorities. This enables priorities to span financial years as opposed to being restricted to arbitrary timescales where it is not appropriate or possible to do so.

Appendices

1. Annual report 2016/17

Vision

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Action Item 11

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25th October 2017

Report by: Judith Stoutt, Senior MSO (Environment)

Marine Protected Area Fishery Management Update

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress to assess the impacts of, and if required to develop management measures for, commercial fisheries under the revised approach for the management of fisheries within marine protected areas. The report provides additional detail to that given at Agenda Item 21, Quarterly Progress against Business Plan.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Note** the content of the report.

Background

A core function of IFCAs is to assess the impacts of commercial fisheries on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within their districts. Where fisheries impacts are found to hinder the conservation objectives for MPAs, IFCAs are required to manage those fisheries to eliminate or reduce impacts to acceptable levels. This reflects the duty set out in the s.154 of Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009: *To ensure that the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas¹ in the district are furthered.* Defra's "Revised Approach" specified that IFCAs should complete this programme of assessment and implementation of management measures by December 2016.

The Eastern IFCA district has a wealth of marine protected area designations, which cover over 95% of our inshore waters (0-6nm) between the Humber and Harwich. A chart showing the marine protected areas is provided as Appendix 1. A list of the marine protected areas within the Eastern IFCA district is provided as Appendix 2. The designations protect habitats and species that are representative of this area, ranging from subtidal chalk reefs to mobile sediment habitats and living reefs created from

¹ Although s.154 of the Marine & Coastal Access Act specifically refers to Marine Conservation Zones, IFCAs have been advised that this duty applies to all types of marine protected area.

aggregated tubes of sand built by the Ross worm *Sabellaria spinulosa*. Certain mammalian species are protected in some sites, for example the Harbour seal and Harbour porpoise. Most of the conservation sites in the Eastern IFCA district are Special Protection Areas designated for wading birds (e.g. oystercatchers and knot), seabirds (e.g. little terns) and/or divers (e.g. red-throated divers), either as local populations or as aggregations of mixed species. By meeting the duty to further the conservation objectives of protected areas, IFCAs are also fulfilling the general duty to conserve biodiversity, as described in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Similarly, where marine protected areas coincide with Sites of Special Scientific Interest, IFCAs' obligations under legislation for the latter (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) can be fulfilled in parallel with marine protected area duties.

Despite the Authority agreeing that marine protected area work is amongst the highest priority work areas for Eastern IFCA, progress in some areas has been slower than anticipated for several reasons. This has resulted in some features in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast site remaining unprotected from likely fishery damage beyond the December 2016 deadline set by Defra. Two offshore sites, not originally under the same deadline because ownership of their management was latterly passed to Eastern IFCA from the Marine Management Organisation, also require the introduction of protective measures. An explanation of the delays and an update on progress to date is set out in this paper.

Report

The Wash brown shrimp fishery

Eastern IFCA progressed its fisheries assessments during 2015-16 and identified a requirement to introduce new management in The Wash brown shrimp fishery, to ensure the conservation objectives for *The Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation* are furthered. During 2016, Eastern IFCA undertook stakeholder workshops to present the findings of the assessment and to outline management options. In December 2016, the Authority agreed to progress two related byelaws:

- The Marine Protected Areas byelaw that would introduce new closed areas for towed demersal fishing in parts of The Wash and North Norfolk Coast – to protect the more sensitive seabed habitats from abrasion by shrimp beam trawls²;
- The Shrimp Permitting byelaw that would enable Eastern IFCA to limit the amount of shrimp fishing in the remaining open areas of the site, to ensure impacts do not exceed acceptable limits.

Since January 2017, however, significant delays have occurred so Eastern IFCA has not yet implemented either of these byelaws. Natural England provided substantive feedback on both the assessment itself and on the proposed management measures, and published updated conservation advice for the site in March 2017. This has resulted in officers thoroughly reviewing and reworking the assessment, following the new conservation advice and incorporating updated evidence on feature extent,

² This byelaw was designed to update the 2014 Protected Areas byelaw but maintain the closures already implemented by that byelaw. Further information on this byelaw is provided at Agenda Item 12.

constituent species and their sensitivities to fishing pressures, and new information on fishing activity. This work has been the highest priority for the Marine Science team and considerable resource has been utilised to identify, obtain and analyse relevant data. Changes in personnel in the Eastern IFCA Marine Science team and at Natural England have affected progress to some extent. This work has presented considerable difficulties, primarily because of the low level of evidence available to inform the assessment. Eastern IFCA officers are continuing to maintain close dialogue with Natural England as the assessment is progressed and in the development of revised management measures.

It is likely that despite the additional evidence being incorporated into brown shrimp fishery assessment, some uncertainty will remain in relation to impacts. The Habitats Regulations, which underpin this work, require regulators to exercise caution in such circumstances: IFCA's need to demonstrate certainty that the fishery will not cause unacceptable damage or disturbance to the site. At this stage it is highly likely that additional management of the brown shrimp fishery will be proposed in the form of spatial closures to towed demersal fishing (although the location of closures is yet to be determined through the assessment). It is also likely that limits (also to be determined) will also need to be applied to the remaining area open to beam trawling, to ensure effort does not occur beyond levels that the site can withstand. The two byelaws that the Authority agreed in December 2016 are therefore likely to be taken forward although some detail is likely to change.

For clarification, the Marine Protected Areas byelaw discussed at Agenda Item 12 of the 30th Authority meeting is currently the re-worded version of the existing Protected Areas byelaw (changed under Defra advice). It will not result in additional spatial closures at this stage. If new shrimp fishing spatial closures are agreed, the intention is to implement them by amending the Marine Protected Areas byelaw.

Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton Site of Community Importance

This site lies off the east coast of Norfolk; a small proportion of the designated area lies within the Eastern IFCA district but most of the site is further offshore. The site contains the feature *Sabellaria* reef, which is vulnerable to damage from towed demersal fishing gear. Interactions between the most damaging fishing gears and the most sensitive features of marine protected areas are referred to as "red risk" interactions under the Revised Approach. IFCA's are required to implement measures to prevent red risk interactions occurring. Assessments of fishery impacts are not required in such cases because sufficient evidence exists to show such interactions would hinder conservation objectives.

Initially during the Revised Approach, even the inshore part of the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton site was to be managed by the Marine Management Organisation. However, it was later agreed that it would be more appropriate for Eastern IFCA to manage the inshore section. Eastern IFCA was advised that, given the delayed start in considering this site, the Revised Approach deadlines would not be strictly applied to this site (and the Inner Dowsing site described below). Officers recognise the need to address the red risk interactions, but prioritised completion of the Wash shrimp assessment and management measures over the red risk sites,

because the much higher level of fishing effort in the Wash site presented a greater risk to site features than the very low levels of fishing in the red risk sites.

During 2016, Eastern IFCA Officers progressed discussions with Natural England in relation to spatial fisheries closures to protect *Sabellaria* reef within the Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton site. A suite of closures was agreed by the Authority in December 2016, for implementation through the same Marine Protected Areas byelaw that was to be used for the proposed shrimp closures discussed above. However, Natural England advised that the agreed closures in the Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton site would be insufficient to protect the *Sabellaria* reef feature. Eastern IFCA officers considered that the survey evidence and scientific rationale supported the agreed closures but did not indicate that additional closures were necessary.

The personnel changes at both Eastern IFCA and Natural England and the focus on delivering the shrimp fishery assessment and management, have meant that Eastern IFCA has not yet reached agreement with Natural England for the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton spatial closures. This work remains a priority, as demonstrated in the current Eastern IFCA Business Plan. With new Marine Science personnel in place it is intended that this casework is resumed over the coming weeks.

Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge Site of Community Importance

This site covers a part of the approaches to The Wash and extends across seabed features known as the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank (a renowned crab breeding ground) and North Ridge. Like the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton site, only a small portion of the site falls within the Eastern IFCA district (the remainder being further offshore), and its designated features include *Sabellaria* reef. The same requirement exists, therefore, for Eastern IFCA to ensure towed demersal fishing does not damage the reef feature.

Again, because of staff changes and the requirement to focus additional resource on the shrimp fishery assessment and management, officers have not progressed work to develop measures for the Inner Dowsing site. The work has been highlighted as a priority in the Eastern IFCA Business Plan and a work programme is being developed as part of the Marine Science Plan. As with all the marine protected area work, this project will involve close liaison with Natural England with regards to evidence for management (in this case, evidence of feature extent), and engagement with stakeholders likely to be affected by the introduction of new measures.

As with the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton site, whilst officers recognise the need to address the red risk interactions they have prioritised completion of the Wash shrimp assessment and management measures over the red risk sites, because the much higher level of fishing effort in the Wash site presented a greater risk to site features than the very low levels of fishing in the red risk sites.

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds

This inshore site extends to approximately 5 miles out to sea between Weybourne and Happisburgh on the Norfolk coast. Defra requires assessment and management of

fisheries in this site within two years of designation (January 2018). This work is therefore another part of the priority marine protected area work package currently being progressed by the Authority.

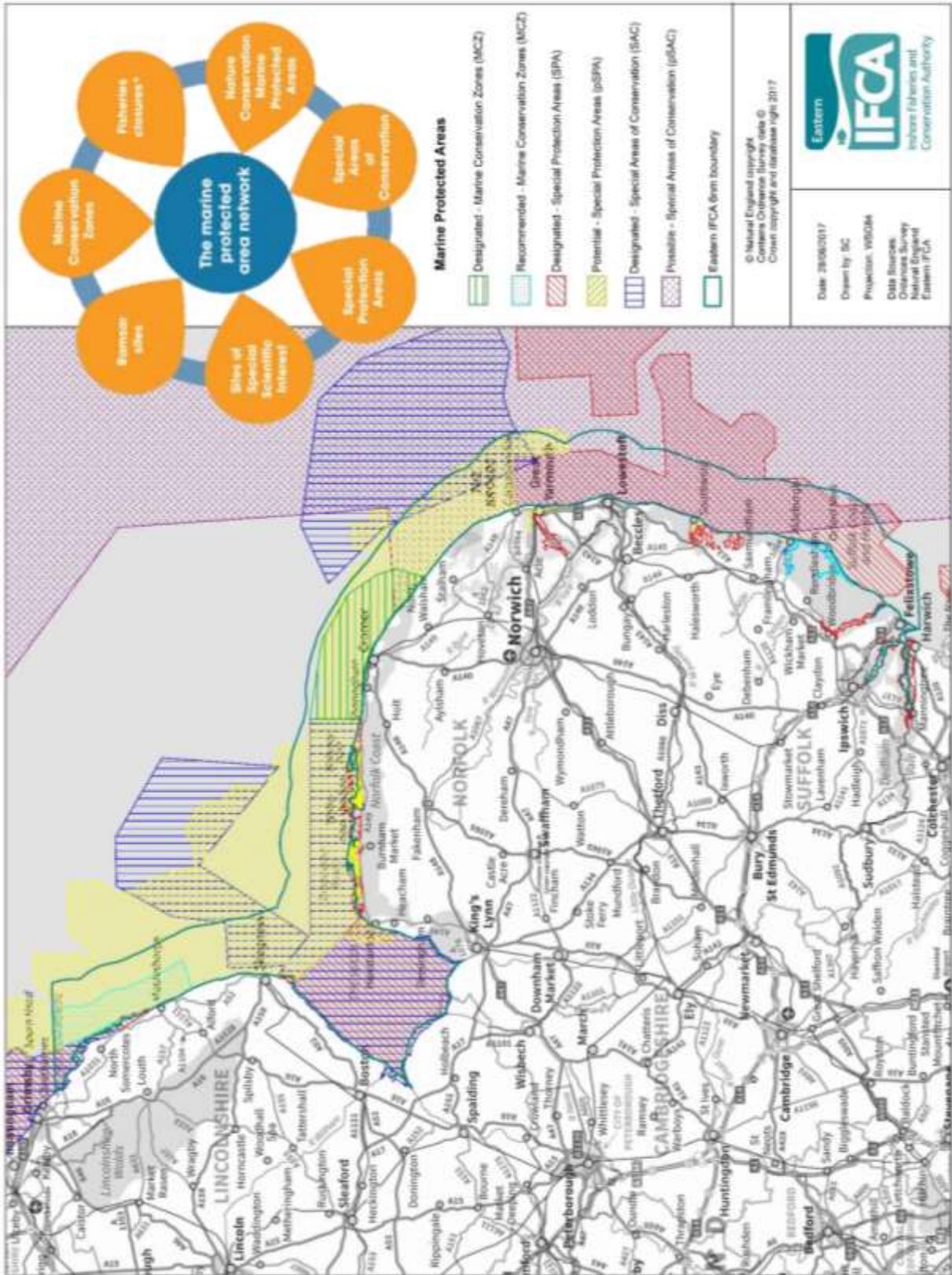
The appointment of replacement Marine Science Officers during summer 2017 has brought the team back to capacity and enabled work that had been paused to be resumed. Crab, lobster and whelk potting are the key commercial fisheries taking place in this site. The potting fisheries assessment for the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds site has been drafted and after internal review will be sent to Natural England for initial comment. Should the assessment conclude that additional management is required for the potting fishery (or other fishing activities within the site) to ensure the conservation objectives for the site are furthered, proposals will be discussed with local fisheries stakeholders and full consultation will be undertaken.

Judith Stoutt
Senior Marine Science Officer
25 October 2017

Background papers

1. Defra's Revised Approach document:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/345970/REVISED_APPROACH_Policy_and_Delivery.pdf
2. Appendix 1: chart showing marine protected areas in Eastern IFCA district.
3. Appendix 2: list of marine protected areas in Eastern IFCA district.
4. Decision of Eastern IFCA Regulation & Compliance Sub-Committee meeting, 13 December 2016, reported at: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/exempt-full-set-15-02-17-1.pdf>
5. Eastern IFCA 30th Full Authority meeting, 25th October 2017, Action Item 12: Marine Protected Areas byelaw – Senior Marine Protection (Regulation) Officer's report.

Agenda Item 11, Appendix 1 – Marine Protected Areas in Eastern IFCA District



Agenda Item 11, Appendix 2

Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern IFCA district:

Name	Designation type	Location	Size (km ²)
Humber Estuary ²	SAC	Lincolnshire (& Yorkshire)	366.6
Humber Estuary ²	SPA	Lincolnshire (& Yorkshire)	376.3
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge ³	SAC	Offshore: Lincolnshire & Norfolk	845.1
Gibraltar Point	SPA	Lincolnshire	4.2
The Wash	SPA	Lincolnshire & Norfolk	620.4
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast	SAC	Lincolnshire & Norfolk	1077.2
North Norfolk Coast	SPA	Norfolk	78.6
North Norfolk Coast	SAC	Norfolk	31.5
Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds	MCZ	Norfolk	321
Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton ³	SAC	Offshore: Norfolk	1467.6
Great Yarmouth & North Denes	SPA	Norfolk	1.60
Outer Thames Estuary ³	SPA	Coastal and offshore: Norfolk & Suffolk (also Essex & Kent)	3798.2
Breydon Water	SPA	Norfolk	12.0
Alde, Ore & Butley Estuaries	SAC	Suffolk	16.3
Alde & Ore Estuaries	SPA	Suffolk	24.0
Orfordness to Shingle Street	SAC	Suffolk	8.9
Deben Estuary	SPA	Suffolk	9.8
Stour & Orwell Estuaries ⁴	SPA	Suffolk (& Essex)	36.7
Sites not yet designated:			
Greater Wash	SPA	Coastal and offshore: Lincolnshire, Norfolk (& Yorkshire)	Not yet available
Harbour Porpoise (Southern North Sea)	SAC	Coastal and offshore: Norfolk & Suffolk	36,958
Outer Thames Estuary ³ extension	SPA	Norfolk, Suffolk (& Essex) (extension into estuaries)	121.7

NB. Many of these coastal MPAs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and Ramsar Sites (wetlands of international importance). Public bodies have additional duties in relation to these designations; Eastern IFCA addresses these duties in parallel with the SAC and SPA requirements, and through liaison with the statutory nature conservation advisor, Natural England.

² Majority of this site is in North-Eastern IFCA district

³ Offshore (non-coastal) site, partially within Eastern IFCA district

⁴ Majority of this site is in Eastern IFCA district, but part of it falls within Kent & Essex IFCA district.

Vision

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



Action Item 12

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25th October 2017

Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016

Report by: L. Godwin, Senior IFCO (Regulation)

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to present amendments made to the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 by the Secretary of State for Members to consider.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Note** the report;
- **Agree** to the amendments made to the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 by the Secretary of State under s.155(4) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009;
- **Direct** Officers to submit the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw for approval by the Secretary of State without further consultation.

Background

The 'Protected Areas Byelaw' came into effect in May of 2014 after considerable dialogue with Defra relating to the 'Regulatory Notice' mechanism within the byelaw. This mechanism allowed for Eastern IFCA to implement closures for the protection of important habitats and species which form part of designated Marine Protected Areas without confirmation from the Secretary of State. The intention of the mechanism was to provide a degree of flexibility. Due process was assured through provisions requiring Eastern IFCA to consult the industry and produce an Impact Assessment whenever a Regulatory Notice was implemented, amended or revoked.

The Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 was made by the Authority at the Regulation and Compliance sub-committee meeting of the 24th February 2016.

At that time, the intention of that Byelaw was to revoke and replace the 'Protected Areas Byelaw' such that additional closures could be implemented in 'new' marine protected areas, which were not listed in the original byelaw, under the 'Regulatory Notice' mechanism. No additional closures were recommended at that stage.

Officers undertook a formal consultation on the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016, the outputs of which were reported to the Authority at the 23rd EIFCA Meeting (April 2016). No objections were received during this consultation.

Subsequently, the Defra legal team revised advice regarding the use of the 'Regulatory Notice' mechanism to the extent that the practice was at risk of successful legal challenge. This came as a result of other IFCA's adopting the mechanism and a more risk-averse approach to considering IFCA byelaws. The 'legal risk' associated with this mechanism is that of 'unlawful sub-delegation of power' inasmuch as, the mechanism was considered to subvert due process in implementing closures without the consent of Secretary of State. To remedy this, Defra recommended writing the restrictions implemented through Regulatory Notices into the byelaw and to remove the flexible approach.

Under s.155(4) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, '*the Secretary of State may confirm a byelaw without modification or with such modifications as are agreed to by the IFCA authority that made the byelaw*'. Defra undertook to draft amendments to reflect the revised advice in collaboration with Officers but these were significantly delayed through waiting for formal legal advice on associated drafts.

Report

Defra submitted a final draft of amendments to the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 in September of 2017. The amendments made by Defra require 'agreement' from the Authority as per s.155(4) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act.

The amendments made by Defra reflect only a change in the mechanism through which the current closures are in effect to the extent that they now form part of the byelaw instead of a Regulatory Notice. The effect is that Eastern IFCA is no longer able to implement restricted areas without a further amendment to the byelaw and must seek consent from the Secretary of State.

The Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016, as amended by Defra is provided in Appendix 1.

In addition to the changes proposed by Defra, one set of coordinates have been amended to reflect an error made during the original drafting. The amendment is set out in Box 1.

Box 1 – amended coordinates in Marine Protected Areas Byelaw

The MPA Byelaw 2016 replicates the restricted areas currently in place through the Protected Areas Byelaw, the coordinates for which were set out in two forms: 'decimal degrees' (D.d) and 'degrees and decimal minutes' (DM.m).

Point A of Restricted Area J has the following D.d coordinates; 53.067546°N, 0.463111°E.

Restricted Areas are initially determined using D.d as this is a requirement of the software used (MapInfo). Coordinates are converted into DM.m for the purpose of the byelaw as this is 'standard' format used in legislation and by most fishers. Conversion from D.d to DM.m for Point A (Area J) resulted in an incorrect position, this position (the original position) and the amended position are set out below.

Original Position (DM.m) – 53° 04.04'N, 00° 27.78'E

Amended position (DM.m) – 53° 04.05' N, 00° 27.79' E

The distance between the two coordinates is an estimated 21.7 meters, the effect of this being an increase in the total size of Restricted Area J of circa 1.2ha when calculated from DM.m. However, the original 'extent' of the area was determined using the D.d coordinates which have not changed and as such, the extent of area covered remains the same (687 hectares).

It is important to note that, in the context of the whole Restricted Area J, the amended closures (as per DM.m) amounts to an increase of less than 0.002%.

Risks

Two risks have been highlighted by Defra regarding the proposed byelaw; the time elapsed since the formal consultation on the byelaw and an amendment to the coordinates.

Time elapsed since formal consultation

A significant amount of time elapsed between the byelaw being formally consulted on and the byelaw being ready for 'sign-off by' the Secretary of State. However, no objections were made at the formal consultation stage and there is no change in the effect of the byelaw subsequent to the consultation (i.e. the restrictions consulted on

remain the same with no additional impacts on stakeholders). It is considered very unlikely that there are any 'new' issues which would have arisen during the interval which would relate to a potential objection now. Further, the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 has the same effect as the Protected Areas Byelaw which is currently in place and as such, all those potentially affected by the 'new' byelaw will be fully aware of the impacts on them.

Amended co-ordinates

The Protected Areas Byelaw originally set out the coordinates of closures in two forms; in 'digital degrees' and 'degrees and decimal minutes'. During the proof reading of the amendments made by Defra, one form of 'degrees and decimal minutes' were found to be incorrect, although they were correct in the other form. The coordinates have been subsequently corrected and Defra legal have provided a view that the amendment to the coordinates does not require any further consultation because the change in area is very small and the coordinates were incorrect in only one form.

To further reduce the risk associated with the corrected coordinates, Officers will engage with stakeholders likely to be affected to ensure that the correct coordinates are used by fishers.

Other risks

The key risk associated with the change in approach is associated with the additional time and process required to implement a restricted area for the protection of habitats and species. Under the original mechanism, the Authority could implement closures without consent from the Secretary of State but still observing due process in the form of consultation and an impact assessment.

As a result of the amendments, further closures will include consideration by the Secretary of State which includes the involvement of the Defra legal team who consistently have differing views to that of the Marine Management Organisation (whom IFCA's are statutorily required to have QA byelaws). This has, in recent years, significantly extended the time taken to implement byelaws.

This risk should be viewed in the context of reduced risk of legal challenge however and noting the ability of IFCA's to implement 'Emergency Byelaws' as required in circumstances where time is critical.

Financial implications

No financial implications are identified.

Legal implications

The amendments made to the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 reflect legal advice and the effect will be a reduced risk of successful challenge on the grounds of 'unlawful sub-delegation' of powers.

Risk associated with the issues raised by Defra (time elapsed since consultation and amended coordinates) are considered to be low.

Conclusion

The amendments made by Defra have the effect of removing Eastern IFCA's flexibility regarding the implementation of restricted areas for the protection of marine protected areas. These amendments reflect revised legal advice that the flexibility inherent in a Regulatory Notice mechanism is at risk of successful legal challenge.

Risks highlighted by Defra are considered to be very low in the context that the effects on stakeholders of the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 have not changed since the formal consultation and are the same as the Protected Areas Byelaw which has been in place since May 2014. It is therefore recommended that the byelaw be sent to the Secretary of State for confirmation without further consultation.



EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 (c. 23)

Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016

The Authority for the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 155, 156 and 158 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 makes the following byelaw for that District.

Interpretation

1. In this byelaw:

- a) 'the Authority' means the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined in Articles 2 and 4 of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (SI 2010/2189);
- b) 'the District' means the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District as defined in Articles 2 and 3 of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010;
- c) co-ordinates are based on WGS 84 datum, where 'WGS 84' means the World Geodetic System, revised in 1984;
- d) 'fishing' includes:
 - (i) digging for bait;
 - (ii) shooting, setting, towing and hauling of fishing gear;
 - (iii) gathering sea fisheries resources by hand or by using a hand operated implement;
 - (iv) catching, taking or removing sea fisheries resources;
- e) 'fishing gear' includes any nets, pots, ropes, anchors, surface markers, lines, dredges, grabs, rakes or other implements used during fishing;
- f) 'Right of Common' means registered rights held by "commoners" in respect of registered "common land".

Management measures

- 2. The management measures set out in the schedules to this byelaw apply and contravention of such constitutes a contravention of this byelaw.

Application

- 3. This byelaw does not apply to any person performing an act which would otherwise constitute an offence against this byelaw, if that act was carried out in exercise of any right of common held by that person.

Revocations

- 4. The byelaw with the title “Protected Areas Byelaw” made by the Authority on 18 September 2013 and in force immediately before the making of this byelaw is revoked.

I hereby certify that the above byelaw was made by Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority at their meeting on 24th February 2016.

Julian Gregory

Chief Executive Officer

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

6 North Lynn Business Village, Bergen Way, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2JG

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in exercise of the powers conferred by section 155(3) and (4) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, confirms the Protected Areas Byelaw made by the Eastern IFCA on 24th February 2016 with such modifications as have been agreed with Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

The said byelaw comes into force on:

SCHEDULE 1

MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE WASH AND NORTH NORFOLK COAST SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

Interpretation

1. In this schedule:
 - a) 'beam trawl' means a trawl net where the mouth or opening of the net is kept open by a beam, which is mounted at each end on guides or skids which travel along the seabed;
 - b) 'bottom towed gear' means any fishing gear designed to be towed, dragged or pushed through the water whilst in contact with the seabed;
 - c) 'Restricted Area' means any of the areas titled A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, SH, EH, SF, BP, or BC specified using co-ordinates in the tables in paragraph 6 of this schedule;
 - d) 'secured and stowed' means that fishing gear is stored in such a way that use cannot readily be made of it for any fishing activity.

Protected characteristics

2. The marine habitats and species to which this schedule applies are:
 - a) biogenic reef of the *Sabellaria spinulosa*;
 - b) subtidal stony reef;
 - c) *Zostera* (eelgrass) beds.

Management measures

3. A person must not fish with bottom towed gear in any of the Restricted Areas.
4. Subject to paragraph 5, when transiting through a Restricted Area bottom towed gear on vessels must be secured and stowed.
5. A vessel fishing using a beam trawl is exempt from paragraph 4 if the following apply:
 - a) it had been fishing up to the boundary of a Restricted Area or it will be fishing immediately upon leaving the Restricted Area; and
 - b) any beam is hoisted so that it is clearly visible above the sea and that no part of the fishing gear is in contact with any part of the seabed whilst the vessel is within the Restricted Area.

Restricted Areas

6. The following tables set out the co-ordinates of the Restricted Areas referred to in sub-paragraph 1(c) of this schedule:

Area A			
Restricted Area A is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.			
Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	52° 57.87' N	00° 08.71' E	3.794
B.	52° 57.85' N	00° 08.81' E	
C.	52° 57.82' N	00° 08.83' E	
D.	52° 57.71' N	00° 08.65' E	
E.	52° 57.73' N	00° 08.58' E	
F.	52° 57.87' N	00° 08.71' E	

Area B			
Restricted Area B is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.			
Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	52° 57.15' N	00° 22.28' E	16.02
B.	52° 57.04' N	00° 22.43' E	
C.	52° 56.86' N	00° 22.02' E	
D.	52° 56.99' N	00° 21.86' E	
E.	52° 57.15' N	00° 22.28' E	

Area C			
Restricted Area C is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.			
Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	52° 57.86' N	00° 22.14' E	7.048
B.	52° 57.86' N	00° 22.31' E	
C.	52° 57.67' N	00° 22.31' E	
D.	52° 57.67' N	00° 22.14' E	
E.	52° 57.86' N	00° 22.14' E	

Area D

Restricted Area D is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	52° 59.11' N	00° 27.46' E	2.397
B.	52° 59.06' N	00° 27.52' E	
C.	52° 59.00' N	00° 27.38' E	
D.	52° 59.06' N	00° 27.32' E	
E.	52° 59.11' N	00° 27.46' E	

Area E

Restricted Area E is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	53° 02.05' N	00° 25.91' E	40.87
B.	53° 01.94' N	00° 26.23' E	
C.	53° 01.56' N	00° 25.36' E	
D.	53° 01.72' N	00° 25.17' E	
E.	53° 02.05' N	00° 25.91' E	

Area F

Restricted Area F is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	53° 01.61' N	00° 25.79' E	62.53
B.	53° 01.61' N	00° 26.14' E	
C.	53° 01.02' N	00° 26.15' E	
D.	53° 00.94' N	00° 26.05' E	
E.	53° 00.94' N	00° 25.59' E	
F.	53° 01.61' N	00° 25.79' E	

Area G

Restricted Area G is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	53° 02.03' N	00° 26.61' E	66.62
B.	53° 02.03' N	00° 27.15' E	
C.	53° 01.57' N	00° 27.15' E	
D.	53° 01.41' N	00° 26.95' E	
E.	53° 01.41' N	00° 26.61' E	
F.	53° 02.03' N	00° 26.61' E	

Area H

Restricted Area H is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	53° 03.86' N	00° 30.22' E	59.33
B.	53° 03.86' N	00° 30.48' E	
C.	53° 03.67' N	00° 30.48' E	
D.	53° 03.22' N	00° 30.15' E	
E.	53° 03.22' N	00° 29.78' E	
F.	53° 03.48' N	00° 29.78' E	
G.	53° 03.86' N	00° 30.22' E	

Area I

Restricted Area I is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 1 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	53° 02.66' N	00° 29.46' E	2.726
B.	53° 02.66' N	00° 29.63' E	
C.	53° 02.59' N	00° 29.63' E	
D.	53° 02.59' N	00° 29.46' E	
E.	53° 02.66' N	00° 29.46' E	

Area J

Restricted Area J is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 2 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	53° 04.05' N	00° 27.79' E	687.0
B.	53° 03.73' N	00° 28.71' E	
C.	53° 02.94' N	00° 28.91' E	
D.	53° 01.76' N	00° 26.78' E	
E.	53° 02.05' N	00° 25.91' E	
F.	53° 04.04' N	00° 27.78' E	

Area SH

Restricted Area SH is defined by a straight line between points A and B in this table and the land boundary is to be taken as the mean high water springs mark, as set out in chart 3 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	52° 59.00' N	00° 40.03' E	51.69
B.	52° 58.63' N	00° 40.85' E	

Area EH

Restricted Area EH is defined by a straight line between points C and D in this table, the western boundary between points C and E follows the charted channel (including changes to the channel over time) and the land boundary is to be taken as the mean high water springs mark between points D and E, as set out in chart 3 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
C.	52° 58.72' N	00° 50.76' E	80.34
D.	52° 58.72' N	00° 52.00' E	
E.	52° 58.17' N	00° 51.40' E	

Area SF

Restricted Area SF is defined by straight lines connecting points F to H in the table below, a line drawn between points H, I and J which follows the charted channel (including changes over time) and the land boundary is to be taken as the mean high water springs mark between points J and F, as set out in chart 3 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
F.	52° 57.78' N	00° 56.40' E	64.55
G.	52° 57.97' N	00° 56.42' E	
H.	52° 58.09' N	00° 57.22' E	
I.	52° 57.82' N	00° 57.86' E	
J.	52° 57.63' N	00° 57.79' E	

Area BP

Restricted Area BP is defined as the area north of a straight line drawn between points K and L in the table below and the land boundary is to be taken as the mean high water springs mark, as set out in chart 3 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
K.	52° 58.27' N	00° 57.91' E	19.06
L.	52° 58.27' N	00° 58.18' E	

Area BC

Restricted Area BC is defined by the boundary by straight lines between points M, N and O, the land boundary between points O and P which is to be taken as the mean high water springs mark and the land boundary between points P and M which is to be taken as the mean high water springs mark, as set out in chart 3 for illustrative purposes.

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
M.	52° 58.24' N	01° 00.75' E	67.89
N.	52° 57.79' N	01° 00.77' E	
O.	52° 57.86' N	01° 01.20' E	
P.	52° 58.03' N	01° 02.22' E	

SCHEDULE 2

MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE HUMBER ESTUARY SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

Interpretation

1. In this schedule:
 - a) 'angling' means fishing using a rod and line or a hook and line;
 - b) 'bottom towed gear' means any fishing gear designed to be towed, dragged or pushed through the water whilst in contact with the seabed;
 - c) 'crab tiling' means laying artificial items or structures in intertidal areas to gather crabs for the purpose of fishing;
 - d) 'handwork' means the collection of sea fisheries resources, including bait, using the hands or handheld 'fishing gear';
 - e) 'Restricted Area' means the area K specified using co-ordinates in the table in paragraph 5 of this schedule;
 - f) 'secured and stowed' means that fishing gear is stored in such a way that use cannot readily be made of it for any fishing activity.

Protected Characteristics

2. The marine habitats and species to which this schedule applies is *Zostera* (eelgrass) beds.

Management measures

3. Subject to paragraph 4, within the Restricted Area a person must not:
 - a) fish with bottom towed gear;
 - b) fish by handwork;
 - c) fish by crab tiling.
4. The prohibitions in paragraph 3 do not apply to angling.
5. When transiting through the Restricted Area bottom towed gear on vessels must be secured and stowed.

Restricted Areas

6. The following table sets out the co-ordinates of the Restricted Area referred to in subparagraph 1(e) of this schedule.

Area K			
Restricted Area K is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting each point listed in this table to the next point in sequence, as set out in chart 4 for illustrative purposes.			
Point	Latitude	Longitude	Area (hectares)
A.	53° 29.67 'N	00° 04.90 'E	170.8
B.	53° 30.44 'N	00° 06.29 'E	
C.	53° 29.10 'N	00° 06.04 'E	
D.	53° 29.67 'N	00° 04.90 'E	

Explanatory Note

(This note does not form part of the byelaw)

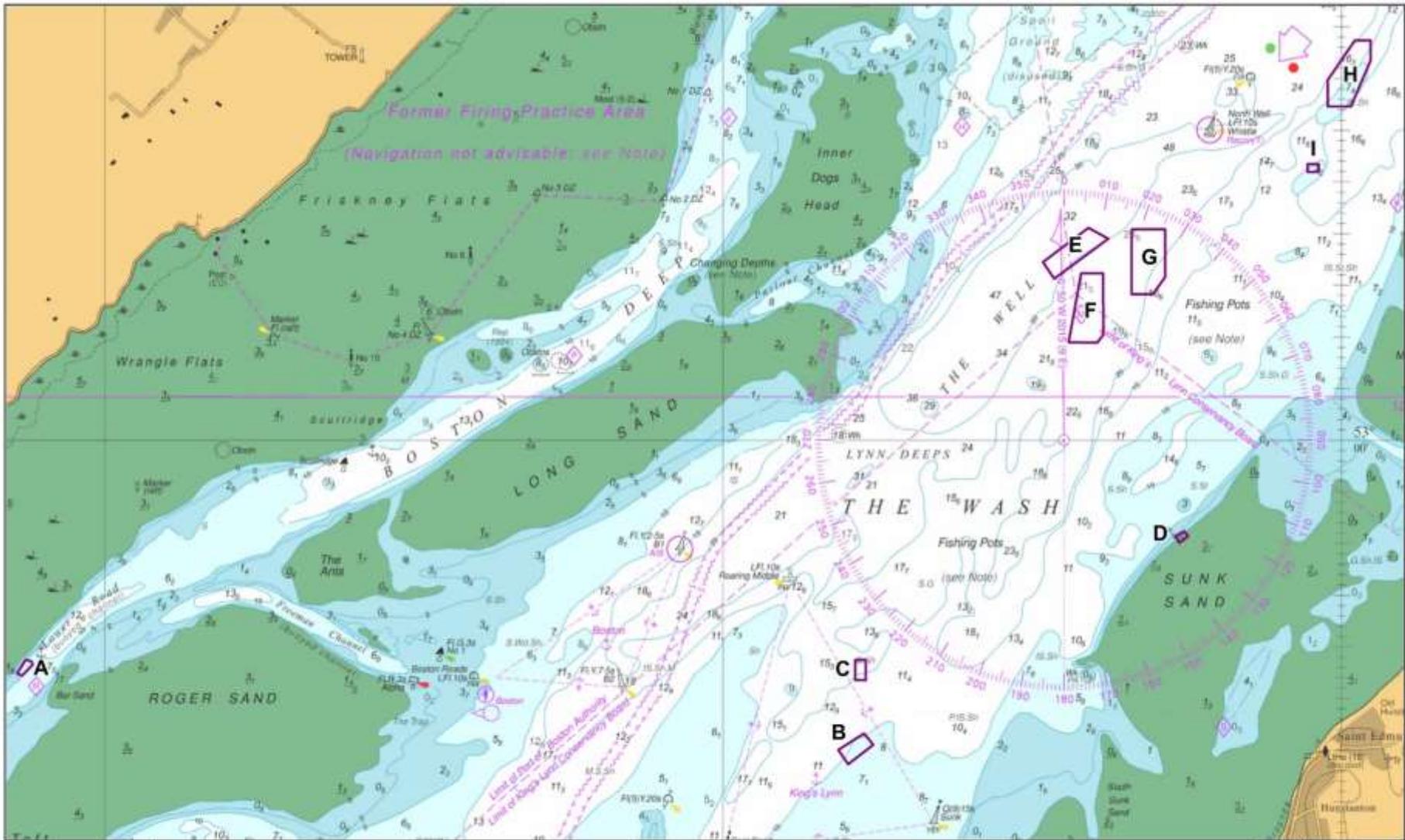
This byelaw sets management measures for fishing activities to protect marine habitats and species within or adjacent to marine protected areas from fishing activities. Management measures include areas restricted to specified fishing gear and types of fishing activity and restrictions related to the use of fishing gear.

Management measures are set out in schedules 1 and 2 of this byelaw in relation to the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC and the Humber Estuary SAC respectively.

Management measures within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC include restrictions in Restricted Areas in relation to fishing with bottom towed gear and a requirement to have bottom towed gear lashed and stowed when a fishing vessel is inside the Restricted Areas. Fishers using beam trawls are exempt from the requirement to lash and stow bottom towed gear if the vessel had been fishing up to the boundary of a Restricted Area or it will be fishing immediately upon leaving the Restricted Area. However, for the exemption to apply the gear must be suspended clear of the water whilst the vessel is within the Restricted Area.

Management measures in the Humber Estuary SAC include a Restricted Area in relation to fishing with bottom towed gear, fishing by hand and crab-tilling. The Restricted Area does not apply to fishing by hand when a rod and line or hook and line is used.

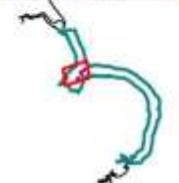
Paragraph 3 of this Byelaw specifically preserves personal "rights of common". These are particular specialised and defined rights held by "commoners" in respect of registered "common land". "Rights of Common" relate only to registered common land and this Byelaw retains full force and effect against all other persons, including those exercising their common law right of fishery and any person exercising a private or several right of fishery. If you have any doubts about the applicability of this Byelaw to you, you should seek guidance from the Authority before fishing for or taking any sea fisheries resources.

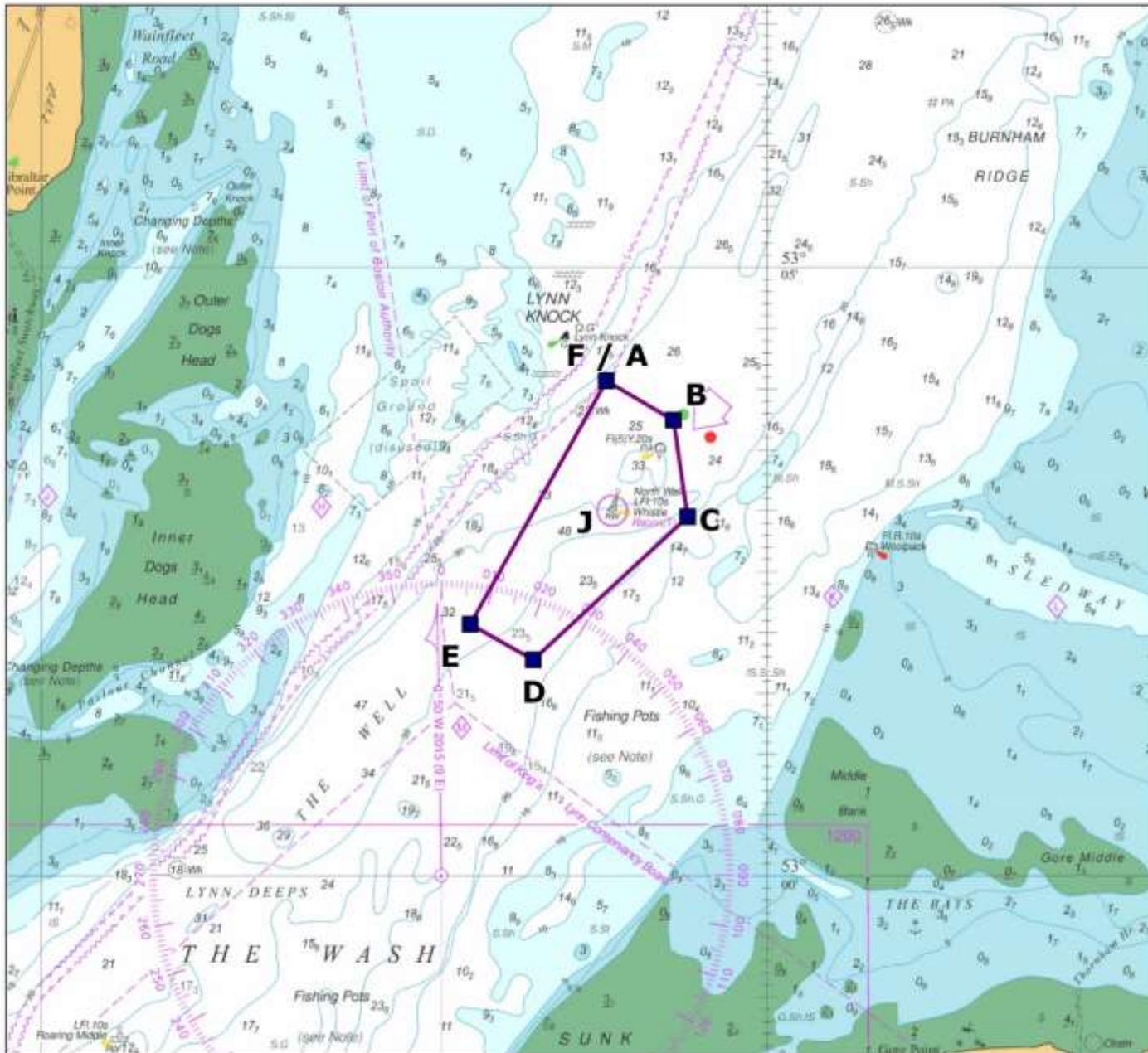


Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016
 Chart 1: Biogenic reef of the Sabellaria spinulosa (Ross worm) - Bottom towed gear restricted area
 See byelaw for coordinates and area details

 Restricted areas
 Not to be used for Navigation
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Date: 28/03/17
 Drawn by: SC
 Projection: Lat Long WSG84
 Data source: EIFCA
 Ref: MPA_Byelaw_2016_Chart_1.wor





Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016

Chart 2: Subtidal Stony Reef -
Bottom towed gear restricted area

- Restricted area
- Location points

Decimal Degrees (D.d)

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	53.067546°	0.463111°
B	53.062153°	0.478510°
C	53.048918°	0.481777°
D	53.029312°	0.446313°
E	53.034174°	0.431825°
F	53.067546°	0.463111°

Degrees and Decimal Minutes (DM.m)

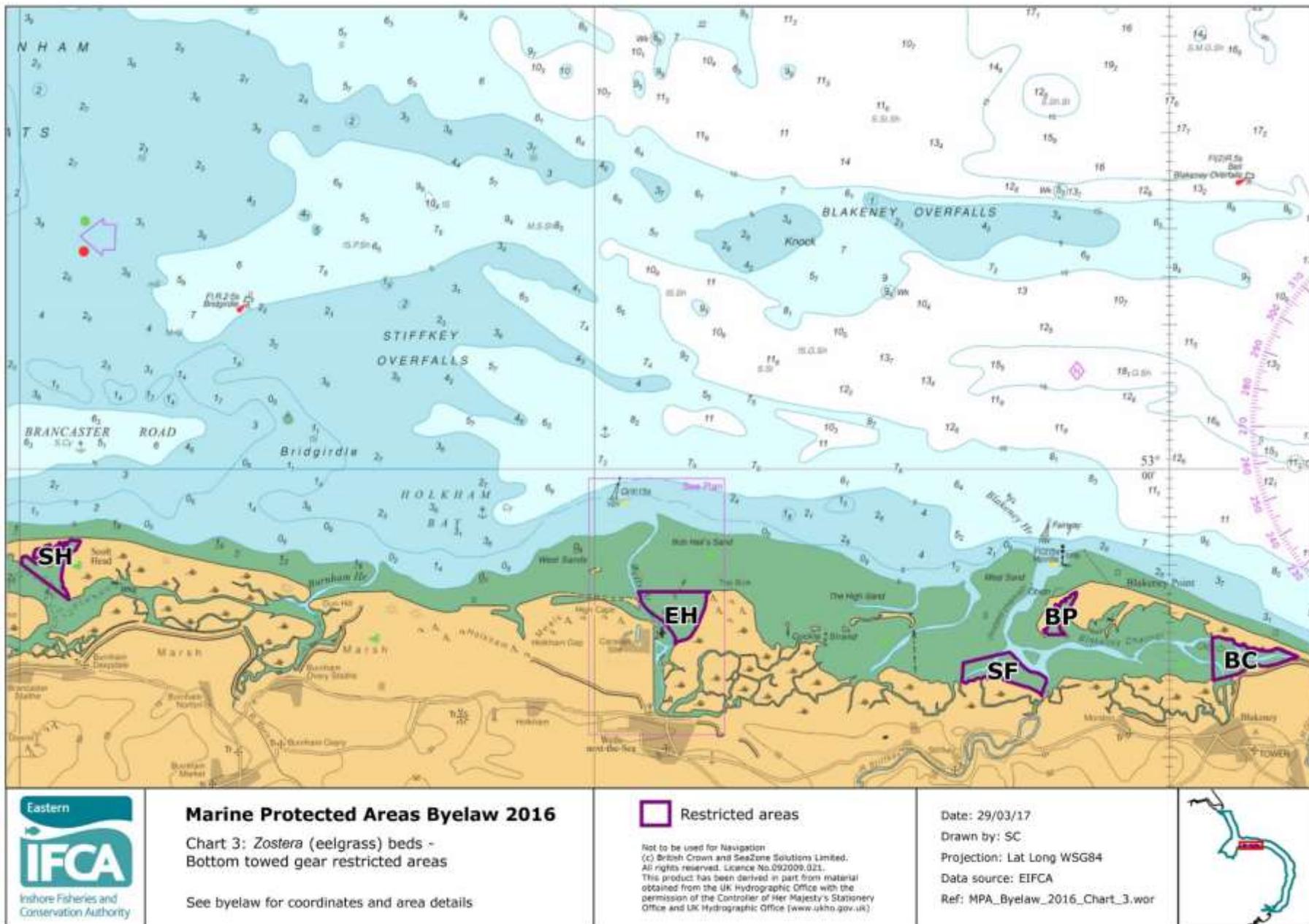
Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	53° 04.05' N	00° 27.79' E
B	53° 03.73' N	00° 28.71' E
C	53° 02.94' N	00° 28.91' E
D	53° 01.76' N	00° 26.78' E
E	53° 02.05' N	00° 25.91' E
F	53° 04.05' N	00° 27.79' E

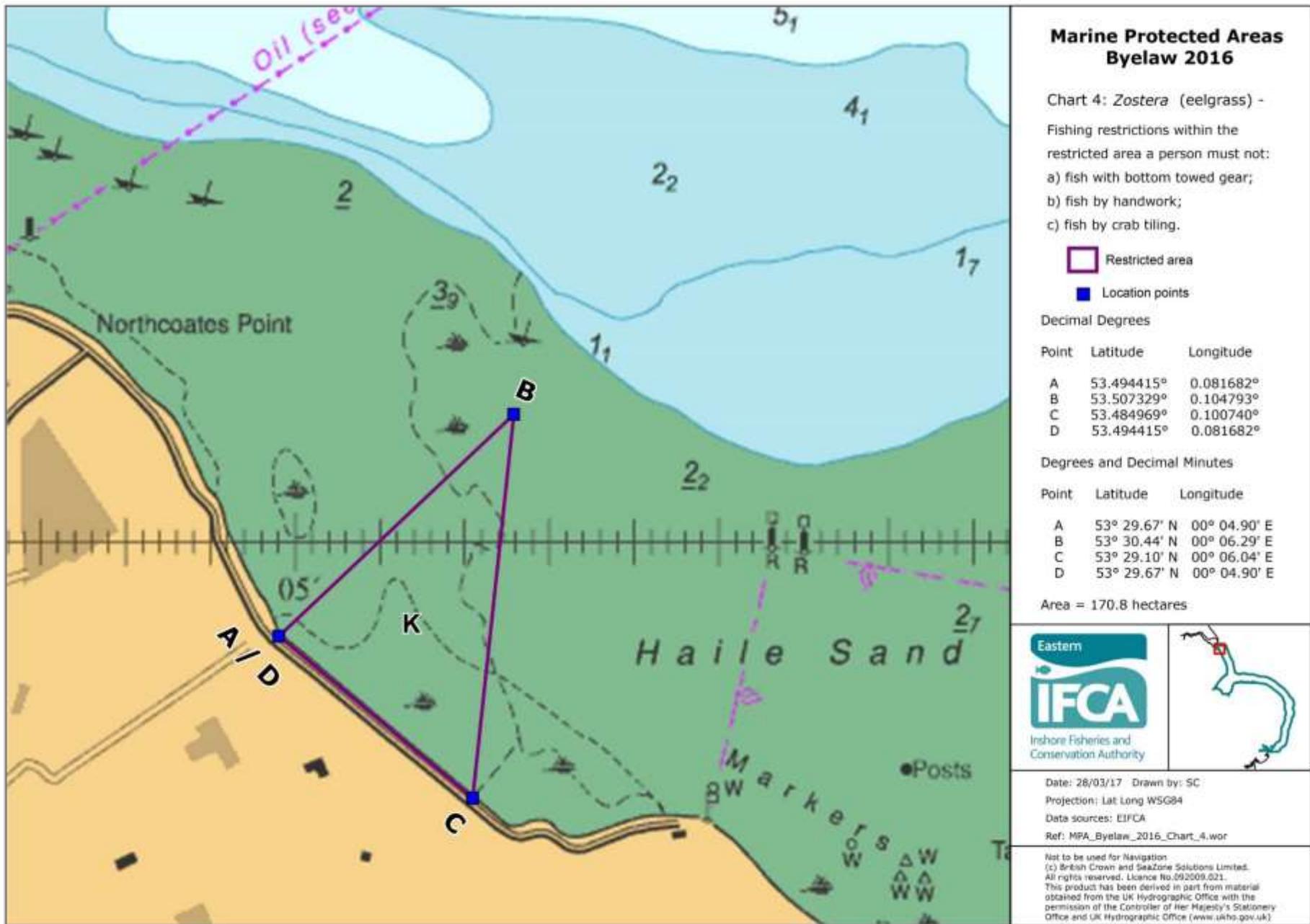
Area = 687.0 hectares (D.d)



Date: 28/03/17
 Drawn by: SC
 Projection: Lat Long WSG84
 Data sources: EIFCA
 Ref: MPA_Byelaw_2016_Chart_2.wor

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Vision

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



Action Item 13

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25th October 2017

Report by: Julian Gregory, CEO

Calendar of meetings 2015

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to propose dates for meetings of the Authority and sub committees thereof in 2018.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

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

Background

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

Proposal

In the past, only the dates of the quarterly meetings of the full Authority were scheduled annually. This year dates for some sub-committee meetings were also included on the basis that experience shows that they have been required annually to consider recurring matters – for example, a January meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee to agree the provisional expenditure estimates to meet budget deadlines; a late February meeting of the Planning & Communications Sub-Committee to approve the Annual Plan and Research and Environment Plan to meet Defra deadlines.

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

The calendar of meetings to October 2018 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Full Authority meetings have been scheduled in line with the convention that they take place on the last Wednesday of the relevant month. The only exception is the October meeting which is revised to avoid it routinely clashing with school holidays.

Consultation

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

Financial implications

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

Regulatory implications

There are no regulatory implications.

Communications

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

Appendix 1 to Action Item 13
30th EIFCA meeting

Meeting	Date	Time	Proposed venue
Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee	Wednesday 17 th January 2018	1030	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
31st Eastern IFCA	Wednesday 31st January 2018	10.30	Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech
Planning & Communication Sub-Committee	Wednesday 14 th March 2018	10.30	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
32nd Eastern IFCA	Wednesday 25th April 2018	10.30	Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech
Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee	Wednesday 27 th June 2018	10.30	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
33rd Eastern IFCA	Wednesday 18th July 2018	10.30	Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech
Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee	Wednesday 17 th October 2018	10.30	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
34th Eastern IFCA	Wednesday 7th November 2018	10.30	Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech

Vision

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Action Item 14

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25th October 2017

Report by: Julian Gregory, CEO

Vessel Procurement

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the commencement of a project to replace *RV Three Counties*.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Agree** that *RV Three Counties* will be replaced with a suitable vessel to meet the Authority's research and enforcement requirements;
- **Agree** to the establishment of a project, under the leadership of the CEO, to deal with the design, procurement, build and delivery of a vessel to replace *RV Three Counties*, drawing upon professional support as required;
- **Agree** that project progress will be reported to the Finance and Personnel sub-committee.

Background

The Authority currently operates three primary vessels, two patrol boats (cabin RIBs) and an 18m catamaran, *RV Three Counties*. The latter is primarily a research vessel, albeit with capability to undertake some compliance activity such as pot hauling and monitoring.

RV Three Counties was designed and built to Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee (ESFJC) specifications and she entered service in 2001. It is understood that the service life for the vessel was originally projected at 12 years and subsequently extended to 15 years. The vessel has now been in service for 16 years. She is subject to annual maintenance periods and given her age costs are likely to increase as equipment requires overhaul or replacement.

At the time of ordering *RV Three Counties* ESFJC operated a 24m patrol cutter, *FPV Protector III*, which was fitted with a stern launched open RIB. This provided a significant enforcement capability and consequently *RV Three Counties* was designed almost exclusively as a research vessel.

At the time of design and build the primary research requirement was in the Wash with key activities being cockle and mussel surveys in the regulated fishery. The nature of these surveys and the fact that they take place on inter-tidal sands means that the vessel must be able 'dry out' on the sands, which required additional strengthening of the hull.

During the design and build phase various changes were made that resulted in the vessel being shorter and narrower than initially intended and she never achieved her design speed. Instead, the vessel has effectively been restricted to displacement speeds with a maximum speed of around 9 knots. This has, over the years, impacted upon operational activity because of extended transit times and the tidally restricted nature of many harbours within the district, particularly in the Wash and North Norfolk.

Following the sale of *FPV Protector III* and the move to smaller, more cost-effective, patrol vessels the role of *RV Three Counties* has developed to encompass some enforcement activity. A key element of this has been the introduction of a pot-hauling capability following the need to regulate the whelk fishery with the consequential requirement to ensure compliance with pot marking and limitation regulations. Whilst one of the patrol vessels is able to haul a small number of pots the larger vessel is required if significant numbers have to be hauled.

In the same way that *RV Three Counties* has been adapted to undertake some enforcement activity, the two smaller patrol vessels, designed primarily for enforcement activity, can also carry out some level of research activity e.g. drop-down camera, side-scan sonar.

This dual-role approach, inasmuch as vessels are designed to meet their primary purpose but have other functionality added that does not compromise the core role, is seen as the best way to achieve cost effective utilisation of assets.

Report

Requirement to Replace

There has been a working assumption that *RV Three Counties* would be replaced and this is reflected in the accumulation of reserves to fund a new vessel. In addition, it has been agreed with the three funding authorities that the levy should increase to enable sufficient reserves to cater for a vessel replacement programme in future years.

This assumption has not excluded the consideration of other options and officers have questioned whether activity could be delivered in a different way such as contracting vessels and/or changing survey methodology.

On the option of chartering vessels to deliver activity this is the route chosen by the Environment Agency, who have a contract with a private company to deliver all their vessel requirements. The nature of the contract is complex and it is notable that the vessels are available for commercial use when not deployed on EA activity. The vessels have a projected service life of 20 years and ownership transfers to the EA after 15 years. There is currently no plan in place to address this transfer of ownership, which presents a logistical and financial challenge that will need to be resolved.

Contracting vessels was discussed with a supplier when undergoing the process to provide enforcement vessels and it was clear that costs would be high and there would not be sufficient flexibility to meet enforcement requirements.

The methodology for conducting cockle surveys in the Wash was reviewed approximately three years ago and concluded that there isn't the scope to make significant changes. This is in the context that the Wash is a heavily protected area with a variety of designations under both EU and UK environmental legislation.

The subject was re-visited again this year from the perspective of exploring whether a faster vessel without accommodation could 'day-run' when undertaking the surveys. This indicated that twice the number of officers would be required and there would be notable increases in TOIL accrual, which given other demands wasn't viable.

Other factors that are relevant when considering a replacement vessel are the changing requirements for research and enforcement activity and the potential for developments in the fisheries and conservation management landscape.

Dealing first with enforcement requirements, the organisation no longer sees vessels as being solely an enforcement or a research vessel. The shift to smaller, more cost effective, patrol vessels combined with the changing face of regulation within the district has meant that there is a requirement for a larger vessel to undertake some enforcement activity such as gear inspections, primarily pot hauling. There is also a benefit in having the ability to sustain at sea for longer periods of time should there be a requirement to do so.

Such requirements are likely to increase as fisheries and environmental management regulations are developed. For example, the introduction of management measures for whelk led to a requirement for a gear inspection capability. The planned development and introduction of crab and lobster management measures is likely to increase this requirement. These activities will also be affected by the tidally restricted nature of harbours, particularly on the North Norfolk coast. The ability to sustain at sea or in harbour overnight (i.e. with living accommodation) is likely to be an increasing need.

The introduction of management measures intended to provide environmental protection within MPAs and the requirement for monitoring and control plans means that research requirements are also likely to increase.

Whilst it is difficult to predict what changes may be introduced in the UK in fisheries and conservation management following EU exit there have been various discussion between Defra, the MMO and IFCA's and some exploratory work on potential models. This led the Association of IFCA's to publish the document 'Opportunities for Inshore Fisheries and Marine Management, Future Management in England' in March 2017. The document advocates the IFCA model and proposes that their remit is extended to 12nm from the coast.

The proposal to go further offshore combined with the potential impact of the cancellation of the London Convention, which currently allows foreign fishing vessels in the 6nm to 12nm sector may have a significant impact upon IFCA's. When viewed in the context of limited ability for the MMO to enforce the 6nm to 12nm sector and the growing requirement for national co-ordination of seagoing assets there is some rationale to support an assumption that there may be a greater role for IFCA's in the future.

Conclusion

Current and planned local requirements support the proposal to replace *RV Three Counties* and whilst the possible future developments in fisheries and marine management are not sufficient in themselves to take decisions on the procurement of capital assets it is suggested that they are a contributory factor that would support such decisions.

The option of entering into a contract with a third party to provide vessel support is not proposed based on likely cost, lack of flexibility in vessel deployment and the likely complexity of any contractual and logistical arrangements.

Taking all the outlined above factors into account it is concluded that *RV Three Counties* should be replaced with a dual-purpose research/enforcement vessel.

Proposal

Recognising the complexity of procuring a significant asset to meet multiple requirements it is proposed to establish a Project Board chaired by the CEO and comprising the following officers/roles:

- Chair – CEO
- Finance – Head of Finance & HR
- Research Senior User – Senior MSO Ron Jessop
- Enforcement Senior User – Senior IFCO Simon Lee
- Vessel Senior User – Senior Skipper Lee Torrice

The Project Board will deal with all elements of the replacement vessel including specification, design, procurement and delivery. Recognising the

workload associated with such a project options will be explored to secure professional support (e.g. Naval Architect or Surveyor) to deal with some or all elements of the process.

It is proposed that the Project Board will report on progress to the Finance & Personnel sub-committee.

Financial Implications

Until a final specification and design has been developed it is not possible to be precise about the financial implications of the project. However, the vessel replacement budget currently stands at circa £1.4m (but this may increase) and there will be some income from the eventual sale of *RV Three Counties*. The intention will be to work within the parameters of available funds with an overriding intention to achieve best value.

Professional fees in support of the project may be apportioned to in-year revenue funding but this will be determined as the project progresses.

Background Documents

Opportunities for Inshore Fisheries and Marine Management, Future Management in England, Association of IFCAS, March 2017

<http://www.association-ifca.org.uk/Upload/IFCA%20future-management-Final%20.pdf>

Vision

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Information Item 20

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25th October 2017

Report by: Sandra Cowper, MSO (GIS)

Community Voice Project update

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to update members on the Community Voice project.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

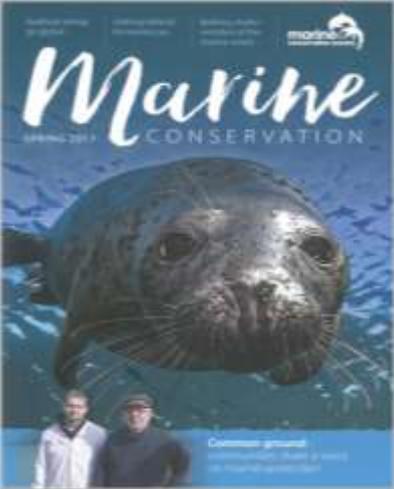
- **Note** the content of the report.

Background

This is a joint project with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), with assistance from The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership. The objective is: *Engaging stakeholders in thinking about the management of the marine environment in our district.* A summary of the project to date is shown below.

Report

Date	Project progress
Feb-April 2016	35 interviews involving 40 stakeholders filmed in Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
July – Sep 2016	Over 30 hours of filmed interview footage, transcribed and coded and analysed to produce a 35-minute long documentary which reflects community views on the coast and sea and management of marine resources - EIFCA CVM film
Nov 2016	Paired workshops held in Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincolnshire, to capture values, issues and actions. 6 workshops in total, 24 – 30 attendees at each workshop – 145 values and 124 issues were recorded, 253 actions identified. The majority of Eastern IFCA staff and several Authority members participated.

Jan 2017	MCS supplied EIFCA with the project raw data output for Eastern IFCA's inclusion in our 2017 Strategic Assessment, which informs Business Plan and priority work areas for 2017/18.
March 2017	<p>Dr Peter Richardson MCS Biodiversity Programme Manager, presented project outcomes to the EIFCA Authority. Spring 2017 edition of MCS <i>Marine Conservation</i> magazine featured article about CVM method of engagement, which strongly features Eastern IFCA. The MCS circulates 7,500 copies of this magazine (6,500 copies directly to their members).</p> 
April 2017	Julian Gregory and Sandra Cowper gave CVM project presentation to Suffolk Coast Forum. Presentation extremely well received; SCF members were keen to promote the project/film and support EIFCA achieve jointly shared actions.
May 2017	Eastern IFCA's Community Voice Project is featured on the SCF webpage - http://www.greensuffolk.org/about/suffolkcoastforum/
May 2017	MCS partners gave a CVM presentation at Marine Protected Areas - Science, Policy & Management Conference in Poole. Audience was primarily marine professionals – Researchers, scientists, attended by EIFCA staff.
Aug 2017	<p>Wash Week – 4 CVM events where held at the following venues: Trues Yard Fisherfolk Museum - King's Lynn; Norfolk Wildlife Trust - Cley Marshes visitor centre; Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust - Gibraltar Point visitor Centre; The Green Britain Centre – Swaffham.</p> <p>The events all followed the same format: - Overview of the project; showing of the film; Q & A Positive feedback from all events. Both Cley Marshes visitor centre and The Green Britain Centre are keen to support us with further stakeholder engagement events.</p>
Oct 2017	Common Ground Report received (Please see attached "Common_Ground_final_report_pdf")

<p>Oct 2017</p>	<p>Suffolk Coast Forum (SCF) Conference - hosted 200 delegates. Workshop presentation - Eastern IFCA's 'CVM experience' to key Suffolk partnership organisations, JNCC and NE staff</p> <p>The workshop explored how we did it, what lessons we learnt and the benefit of replicating the approach. Our CVM project has strongly influenced SCF/ Coastal Partnership East's thinking re. engagement and they are keen to build on the relationship in the future. We also hosted an exhibition</p>   <p>stand at the same event, which was a great opportunity for quality engagement, with committed stakeholders who were keen to understand more about our wider remit.</p>
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A more detailed project overview and a 15min film which explains what the Community Voice Method is all about, can be found on our website <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk>.

What's next - Operationally we have already taken the raw data form the six CVM workshops into consideration in Eastern IFCA's 2017 -18 Strategic Assessment.

We have committed to producing an 'Action Plan' to communicate how we are addressing the issues and actions highlighted through this process, as well as how, as an organisation me have embedded the lessons we have learnt in our everyday roles. Several Authority members have played an active role in this project to date, we welcome Authority members continued support and participation.

Appendices

Appendix A – Final report of the Community Voice project

Vision

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Information Item 21

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Meeting

25 October 2017

Report by: J. Gregory, Chief Executive Officer

Quarterly Progress Against Annual Priorities 2017-18

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress against the objectives established in the Business plan as priorities for 2017/18 during quarters 1 and 2.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note** the contents of this report

Background

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is mandated to produce an annual plan each year to lay out the expected business outputs for the year ahead.

At the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee on 24 February 2016 it was agreed to follow a new model for business planning. The Strategic Assessment and new high level objectives proposed by Defra were incorporated into the planning process and a 5-year rolling Business Plan was agreed. The move to a 5-year business plan reflects the need to engage in longer term planning in the context of high levels of demand and the need to be flexible with priorities to reflect the dynamic nature of inshore fisheries, the marine environment and the policy landscape.

At the Planning and Communications Sub-Committee (15th March 2017) priorities for 2017/18 as set out in the 5-year Business Plan were agreed.

Report

The tables at the Appendix detail the progress against the key priorities for 2017-18, as set in the Business plan for 2017-22.

Risk

Significant complexities regarding the development of Shrimp management measures within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast MPAs has resulted in delays to delivering this workstream. Resource allocated to other projects has, to an extent been subverted to work on the associated Habitats Regulation Assessment with the potential for 'knock-on' effects on other work.

Since a significant loss in staff as reported at the 29th EIFCA Meeting, new staff have been taken on and are contributing to the delivery of priorities. That said, there has been and will be a period of 'bedding in' for the new starters which, in the context of complicated and large workloads may also influence delivery.

Conclusion

Authority officers are committed to delivering success across the breadth of our remit. Whilst some significant changes in staff had the potential to adversely affect progress the reallocation of priorities and careful planning has partially mitigated against the risk of not meeting the objectives set in the 5-year Business Plan.

As per Appendix 1, priority workstreams are all underway but have for the most part been significantly delayed due to unforeseen complexities. In particular, there are ongoing protracted discussions with Natural England on the nature and extent of management measures required in red and amber risk MPAs which has meant that workstreams have gone well beyond anticipated completion dates. This has had a 'knock-on' effect on other work-streams as a back-log of work waits for Natural England consent (for example in relation to the Cromer Shoal MCZ).

Background documents

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Business Plan 2016-21.

Appendices

1. Report on priorities set for 2017-18

APPENDIX 1

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

25 October 2017

Quarterly Progress against Annual Priorities – Quarters 1 and 2

4 key priorities are established for 2017-18.

Financial Year 2017-18		
Priorities 2017-18	Progress	Comment
<p>1. To ensure that the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas in the district are furthered by:</p> <p>a. 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);</p> <p>b. 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</p>		<p>1a. Ongoing for Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton: rationale document being developed to support closure and non-closure proposals; for agreement with Natural England.</p> <p>Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge: Work delayed whilst officers focus effort on review and completion of Wash shrimp assessment and development of appropriate management. New starters in Marine Science team have been given training in marine protected area work to enable progress to be made during remainder of 2017/18.</p> <p>1b. Ongoing update of shrimp assessment but delays resulting from changes in staff (EIFCA & NE), new evidence on feature extent and fishing activity, updated conservation advice and discussions on elements of site condition.</p>

<p>2015-16) and completion of 'Amber and Green' HRA suite;</p> <p>c. 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;</p> <p>d. Developing monitoring and control plans for highest risk MPAs as identified in the Strategic Assessment 2017;</p> <p>e. Delivering mitigation to the risk of 'food availability' in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC in relation to private aquaculture;</p> <p>f. Introduction of measures to mitigate the risk of damage to the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC from 'unmanaged' bivalve fishing activity <u>if required</u>;</p> <p>g. Undertake gap analysis and initial assessment of fishing impacts within newly designated MPAs including the Harbour Porpoise candidate SAC (southern North Sea), the Greater</p>		<p>1c. Ongoing. New Marine Science officer in post to complete this work. Draft assessment has been completed for potting (main fishing activity in site) but not started for other fishing activities. Delays mean project is unlikely to achieve December deadline. <i>(Further update on Priorities 1a-c is provided in Action Item 11).</i></p> <p>1d. Ongoing. As the fisheries assessments are completed, monitoring and control plans will be developed to demonstrate how fishing activities and site condition will be monitored. Officers have reviewed monitoring and control plans created by other IFCAs/MMO and developed a draft template to apply in this district. New Marine Science officer in post to lead on this work.</p> <p>1e. Ongoing. Project involved a combination of sampling techniques including testing meat yields of mussels, Chlorophyll RFU sampling with YSI sondes and analysis of chlorophyll, salinity and nutrients in water samples. The latter were conducted jointly with Cefas under the umbrella of their smart buoy programme. Last year Cefas lost their funding for this project and as a result could no longer analyse our water samples. Other partners are currently being sought to assist with this aspect of the project, and the potential for using different methods such as satellite imagery explored. The sondes are currently being serviced but once returned will continue sampling meat yields and Chlorophyll RFU values.</p> <p>1.f Ongoing - No action required at present – pending agreement between Le Strange Estate and Fishers.</p> <p>1.g Ongoing. Initial discussions have been held with MMO to consider respective responsibilities for the newly designated marine</p>
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<p>Wash potential SPA and the extension to the Outer Thames Estuary SPA.</p>		<p>protected areas. Awaiting MMO fishing activity information and NE/JNCC guidance in relation to visual disturbance (a key issue in Special Protection Areas). When responsibility for site assessments has been confirmed, designated Marine Science Officers will lead on respective evidence gap analysis and fisheries assessments.</p>
<p>2. To ensure that sea fisheries resources are exploited sustainably and in accordance with MSFD requirements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Developing fishery sustainability management measures for the brown shrimp fishery in conjunction with priority 1(b) above (continued from 2016-17); b. Developing fisheries management measures for crab and lobster (continued from 2016-17); c. Monitor fisheries management of bass in the context of European and national fisheries management measures and contribute to the development of Bass Nursery Areas; d. Investigate the cause of mussel mortality within The Wash. 		<p>2a. Ongoing – Management measures to be informed by Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Management Plan and Marine Science project.</p> <p>2b. Ongoing – The start of the informal consultation has been delayed pending a first draft of the Cromer Shoal MCZ assessment (for potting) such that findings can be incorporated. Information gathering consultation planned and products produced and likely to get underway in Q3.</p> <p>2c. Complete – no further action required. Emergency byelaw to strengthen EU measures considered an discounted. Enforcement activity targeted at fishery in accordance with risk. Eastern IFCA is attending a meeting with local fishers to discuss bass management proposals set out by the industry and will seek to influence national / international discussions as appropriate. It should be noted that Eastern IFCA has limited influence on these.</p> <p>2d. Previous sampling in 2010 indicated the parasitic copepod, <i>Mytilicola intestinalis</i>, is potentially the cause of the die-offs. A joint research project with Hull University is due to start this autumn to study this parasite and the pea crab closer, to determine if they are causal factors in the recent high mortalities.</p>

<p>3. To ensure that the marine environment is protected from the effect of exploitation by;</p> <p>a. Reviewing district wide bio-security measures including risk assessment of invasive, non-native species (roll over from 2015-16);</p>		<p>Ongoing – A project plan has been developed and agreed. An updated biosecurity plan is in draft specifically dealing with the risk posed by the aquaculture in The Wash based on advice received from the Fish Health Inspectorate. A district wide approach is in development which will focus on engagement and education and will seek to utilise mechanisms and programmes set up by partner organisations.</p>
<p>4. To develop management of the fisheries regulated under the WFO 1992 by:</p> <p>a. Reviewing the Wash Fishery Order (1992) policy notes (roll over from 2016-17);</p> <p>b. Delivering updated Fisheries Management Plan, updated Regulations and partial cost recovery</p>		<p>4a. Ongoing – Informal dialogue with industry underway. Policies to be developed taking into account consultation and lessons learnt from initial review. The Policy review is to incorporate both the ‘Regulated’ and the ‘Several’ elements of the Order.</p> <p>4.b Ongoing – Formal consultation on Licence fees underway. Consultation regarding the Fisheries Management Plan and Regulations has been delayed pending formal advice from Natural England regarding the ‘long-term’ HRA for the Wash cockle fishery.</p>

Key:

	<p>Complete</p>
	<p>In progress</p>
	<p>No progress</p>

Vision

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



Information Item 22

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25th October 2017

Report by: Simon Lee – Senior IFCO (Compliance)
Luke Godwin – Senior IFCO (Regulation)

Marine Protection Quarter 1 report

Purpose of report

To provide members with an overview of the work carried out by the Marine Protection team during the period April, May and June 2017.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report

Background

'Area Officers' previously prepared monthly and quarterly reports, the latter being presented to the Authority at quarterly meetings. The Quarterly Marine Protection reports serve as an important source of anecdotal information, particularly with regards to fisheries trends and activity on the ground.

A new, 'team-based' approach is now established which reflects the move away from 'Area Officers' to a shared responsibility for all IFCOs to contribute to the reporting of fishing trends and enforcement outcomes. This is considered to be a significant part of the Marine Protection Review.

The new Marine Protection reports will focus on outlining priorities, fishing trends, enforcement outcomes and enforcement activity. IFCO derived 'landings figures' will not feature as part of the reports as they have previously. This reflects the current reliance on more formal catch return systems in place for some fisheries and the availability of MMO derived data which is used to inform management decisions. The method used by the MMO to collect landings data is considered to be more robust and although it has caveats these are consistent through time and allow for analysis of fishing trends where IFCO derived figures do not.

The new format of the report has five sections as follows:

- Enforcement and engagement priorities - Enforcement priorities are species based and are informed by: Intelligence reports, the Annual Risk Register and fishing trends. Each of these elements is presented to the Senior IFCO who decides enforcement priorities on a monthly basis.
- District overview – a narrative describing key commercial and recreational fishing trends over the quarter.
- Monthly fishing trends by Area – Reported fishing trends for each reporting area
- Monthly Enforcement outputs by Area – summary of enforcement activities and actions taken during quarter for each area.
- Key messages on the ground by Area – Summary of the key concerns raised by fishers during engagement

Report

Enforcement and engagement priorities throughout district - overview

April

Whelks – Compliance checks with Eastern IFCA Whelk Permit Byelaw were of high priority this month due to whelk landings peaking in Wells (the main port for whelk landings) and because permit renewals were due as of April 1st. Engagement regarding permit renewal was also a priority as was collecting missing whelk returns.

Bass – Bass fishing intelligence gathering was a high priority thorough the entire district to inform ongoing enforcement activities as was engagement with commercial and recreational fishers regarding the EU bass Regulations. Compliance checks and enforcement presence in Suffolk was also of high priority including joint work with MMO.

Brown (edible) crab – primarily a priority on North Norfolk coast as a reflection of increased risk. Compliance checks and engagement regarding the development of new crab and lobster measures was of priority.

May

Bass – Bass fishing evidence and intelligence gathering was a high priority thorough the entire district as was engagement with commercial and recreational fishers regarding the EU bass Regulations. The focus during the month was compliance checks and enforcement presence in Suffolk including joint work with the MMO.

Crab and Lobster - primarily a priority on North Norfolk coast as a reflection of increased risk. Compliance checks and engagement regarding the development of new crab and lobster measures was of priority.

Sole, Skates and Rays – The main priority was compliance checks in relation to Sole MCRS and Intelligence gathering regarding quota management to be passed the MMO was a secondary priority.

Whelks – The priority for the month was to engage with fishers and get missing returns sent to EIFCA and ensure this happens more routinely in the future.

June

Bass – Bass fishing evidence and intelligence gathering was a high priority throughout the entire district as was engagement with commercial and recreational fishers regarding the EU bass Regulations. The focus during the month was compliance checks and enforcement presence in Suffolk including joint work with the MMO.

Crab and Lobster - primarily a priority on North Norfolk coast as a reflection of increased risk. Compliance checks and engagement regarding the development of new crab and lobster measures was of priority.

Cockles – Compliance checks in regards licence conditions, and interim policies engagement through delivery of skipper's packs.

District overview of commercial fishing trends

Crab landings have been high throughout the entire district, with Lobster landings remaining low during this reporting period. Crab landings were highest at the beginning of the reporting period and dropped off throughout. Lobster catch has done the converse. Whelk activity has remained high; however, activity has primarily been outside the district.

Bass activity has been high through the reporting period particularly in light of low cod catches and Sole quota. There were ongoing issues related to the restrictions and perceived non-compliance.

The cockle fishery was opened towards the end of this reporting period and many of the vessels in Boston, Kings Lynn and Brancaster started fishing for cockles. Yield was reported as low and many of the fishers were getting below the daily quota of 3 tonnes. Undersize Bass and Mackerel catches have been reported throughout the district.

District overview of recreational fishing trends

Recreational angling has been varied, and is highest in the south of the district. Awareness of bass regulations was generally low at the beginning of the reporting period, however through continued education and engagement awareness seemed to increase by the end of the reporting period.

Recreational anglers mirrored the concerns of commercial fishers and reported that there was no cod. and many during April reported poor fishing. A lot of the recreational fishing occurred at weekends, EIFCA patrols reflected this with increased presence during this period.

Throughout May bass catches were mostly undersize but anglers were happy to do catch and release. Anglers were also reporting good catches of whiting and flatfish.

National bass championships look place during May, IFCO's were present for education and engagement.

Many charter boats were struggling due primarily due to bass restrictions. A low level of recreational potting witnessed, primarily in area 4.

EMS monitoring

Monitoring closed areas under the protected areas byelaw was carried out throughout the reporting period. The following monitoring occurred:

5 carried out from vessels monitoring areas: A, B and C.

8 carried out from shore monitoring: SH, EH, K, SF, BP, BC, SF and K.

Area 1 West-North (Hail Sand Fort to Gibraltar Point)

Fishing Trends

April

Crab and Lobster landings in the area increased due to the presence of new vessels. Several vessels continued to fish for Whelk in the area. Recreational angling activity was reported as low, with poor catches overall.

May

Trends remained similar as April, with low reported landings of lobster.

June

Trends remained similar as seen in previous months, with few lobster being reported on the ground and in catches. Crab landings increased as expected for the time of year. Two vessels targeted Whelk in the area during the month. There was a reported increase in recreational angling activity, and the most popular location was Fosdyke.

Metrics

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	4
Port visits	11
Landings observed	0
Catch Inspections	0
Vehicle Inspections	0
Premises inspections	7
Enforcement actions/Offences	0
Intelligence reports submitted	3
Vessel Patrols	0
Boardings	0
Gear Inspections	0

Engagement

20 fishers were spoken to during patrols (not including inspections). Throughout the quarter several new officers were introduced to fishers by the more experienced IFCO's as part of the new team based approach. Several fishers from this area reported that they would like to see a closed season for the Shrimp fishery (this also related to area 2: The Wash). Fishers based out of Saltfleet reported that they wanted to see a byelaw brought in that would require there to be escape hatches in pots. One new vessel has started fishing out of Grimsby.

Area 2 West-South (The Wash and North Norfolk Coast (to Brancaster)

Fishing Trends

April

The levels of shrimp fishing reduced from previous months. There were two vessels from Kings Lynn fishing for Scallops, but outside of the district.

May

The number of vessels that are fishing for shrimp has decreased further. Some vessels were taken out of the water in order to prepare for the upcoming cockle fishery.

June

The number of vessels fishing for shrimp decreased even further as the focus has now switched to cockles. Many of the skippers are now walking the sands looking at cockles. The yield was reported as poor, many of the fishers were taking less than the 3-tonne quota. One boat is fishing for whelk.

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	18
Port visits	24
Landings	97 observed
Catch Inspections	4
Vehicle Inspections	0
Premises inspections	30
Enforcement actions/Offences	1, 1 MMO VW
Intelligence reports submitted	6
Vessel Patrols	16
Boarding's	2
Gear Inspections	0

Engagement

In this area 121 fishers were spoken to on vessel and shore patrols during this reporting period (not including inspections).

Most of engagement was around the cockle fishery as this opened towards the end of the reporting period. Generally low densities of cockles were reported on the ground and many within the industry believed that there was not the level of cockle in the Wash that had been estimated through the EIFCA cockle surveys. There was reported to be a lot of shell on the ground and there were calls for a dredge fishery to be opened. Compounding this, the yield of cockle was low for the time of year. There were also reports of cockles dying on the sands.

Fishers out of Brancaster reported a good start of the season relating to Crab, Lobster had started off slow. There were concerns that this fishery is likely to become more regulated and therefore may become unviable.

Area 3 East-North (Brancaster to Great Yarmouth)

Fishing Trends

April

Three vessels still engaged fishing for shrimp. Large quantities of Crab were reported to start showing on the ground. Whelk fishing activity increased in the area (mostly by fishers working out of Wells-next-the-sea.) There were reports of small quantities of bass showing around the coast.

May

Three vessels working out of Brancaster continued to fish for Shrimp. Crab landings were hampered by poor weather. The offshore area was not extensively fished during the month but the inshore areas were fairly productive. Lobster landings were low this month and were expected to pick up in June. A lot of velvet crab was reported on the ground and fishermen were concerned that this may predate on edible crab. Some anglers targeted bass off the beach. Whelk fishing occurred and focused on the offshore areas.

June

Vessels no longer reported to be fishing for Shrimp. Crab landings increased at the start of the month but dropped again towards the end of the months as they started to become soft. Lobster landings were still low, fishers reported that there are lots of soft and buried lobsters on the ground.

Some vessels attempted netting but the results were generally poor. Lots of undersize mackerel on the shingle beaches was reported. Recreational angling activity increased with catches of bass starting to be reported. Whelk fishing reduced from previous months and the focus was on offshore grounds.

Metrics

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	24
Port visits	93
Landings observed	89
Catch Inspections	27
Vehicle Inspections	4

Premises inspections	1
Enforcement actions/Offences	4 VW
Intelligence reports submitted	11
Vessel Patrols	2
Boarding's	7
Gear Inspections	1

Engagement

201 fishers were spoken to during vessel and shore patrols (not including inspections).

Many fishers reported that there was plenty of crab on the ground throughout April, and despite the bad weather many fishers put to sea to allow them to fill orders. Several fishers reported that this had been the best year for a long time regarding crab numbers, they also reported that many of the processing factories had become stricter on taking soft crab and lobster but the fishers believed this to be a good thing.

There were queries regarding the potential introduction of a S.I prohibiting the landing of Lobster and there was a feeling that this was a good thing and would benefit the fishery. Several fishers were querying if EIFCA would be bringing in a pot limitation and when this would be.

Further mussel was collected from Titchwell and the fishers reported that it was growing on well and they believed it to be good seed.

Many fishers reported issues with the windfarms and that they would rather be fishing than getting paid compensation. Along this part of the coast several fishers voiced concerns regarding the lack of cod on the coast.

Engagement with the recreational angling sector during the period and many reported that they were unaware of the of the regulations, officers concentrated on engagement with the sector. Much of the conversations with the commercial sector concentrated on discussions regarding bass. Primarily, those that did not get entitlements. EIFCA helped dissemination of information but ultimately MMO took the lead on this issue.

Area 4 East-South (Great Yarmouth to Harwich)

Fishing Trends

April

High levels of skate and ray fishing. Trawling for sole increased this month. Whelk fishing activity decreased with vessels exclusively targeting the offshore grounds. Bass and Mullet abundant inshore so activity likely to increase

May

Lobster landings low and crab landings increased compared to last month.

Bass abundant inshore but mostly undersize, these have been fished by recreational anglers. A lot of Spurdog have also been caught. Whelk activity continued the same as last month with vessels only targeting the offshore areas.

June

Lobster landings have remained low. Crab landings have remained high. Bass have moved offshore and into the rivers. Landings of Sole have increased. Recreational anglers have not reported high catches with a lot of undersize. One boat has is now targeting Whelk within the district, most vessels are fishing outside the district.

Metrics

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	25
Port visits	63
Landings observed	14
Catch Inspections	30
Vehicle Inspections	14
Premises inspections	21
Enforcement actions/Offences	6 VW 3 offences. 1 MMO offence.
Intelligence reports submitted	26
Vessel Patrols	7
Boarding's	9
Gear Inspections	7

Engagement

157 fishers were spoken to on vessel and shore patrols (not including inspections).

Many fishermen complained regarding the prohibition of landing spurdog as they were around in such vast quantities, and this was in turn having an impact on the landings of roker. Many of the Orford fishermen reported that they were grateful to EIFCA as they felt they were heard during recent meetings and bass consultation.

As with area 3 much of the discussion centred on bass restrictions and the refusal of associated authorisations. Many fishers were angry about fishers illegally catching bass by drift netting. A lot of fishers wished to discuss the YouTube video of a MMO boarding in the area, a wide range of views were presented by the industry.

Many of the under-10 fleet expressed that they were overly regulated and that they self-regulated through the weather and break downs.

Vision

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30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25th October 2017

Report by: Simon Lee – Senior IFCO (Compliance)
Luke Godwin – Senior IFCO (Regulation)

Marine Protection Quarter 2 report

Purpose of report

To provide members with an overview of the work carried out by the Marine Protection team during the period July, August and September 2017.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the content of the report

Report

Enforcement and engagement priorities throughout district – overview

July

Bass and Mackerel - intelligence gathering was a high priority thorough the entire district to inform ongoing enforcement activities as was engagement with commercial and recreational fishers regarding the EU bass Regulations. Compliance checks and enforcement presence in Suffolk was also of high priority including joint work with MMO. Focus on monitoring any new vessels are likely to enter the district. Shore based landing inspections at highest risk locations as per risk register and Intelligence reports.

Cockle – compliance with Wash Fishery Order management measures through a combination of shore-based and seaborne enforcement. Potential prospecting at horseshoe point.

Crab and Lobster - primarily a priority on North Norfolk port of Brancaster and Aldeburgh and Orford in Suffolk as a reflection of increased risk. Compliance checks and engagement regarding the development of new crab and lobster measures was of priority.

August

Bass and Mackerel - Compliance checks and enforcement presence in Suffolk and North Norfolk was of high priority including joint work with MMO. Shore based landing inspections (RSA and commercial) at highest risk locations as per risk register and Intelligence reports.

Crab and Lobster - Compliance checks and engagement throughout the entire district regarding the development of new crab and lobster measures was of priority.

September

Intelligence gap area 1 – Officers to focus patrols to collect more information and intelligence for area 1 (Lincs coast).

Bass and Mackerel - Compliance checks and enforcement presence in Suffolk and North Norfolk was of high priority including joint work with MMO. Shore based landing inspections (RSA and commercial) at highest risk locations as per risk register and Intelligence reports.

Cockles – Engagement with fishers and sea based patrols focusing on compliance of prop washing.

District overview of commercial fishing trends

Quarter 2 is generally the busiest period for commercial fishing activity with summer weather and high productivity leading to greater fishing opportunities. This was reflected this year with reports of a strong crab and lobster fishery off the North Norfolk Coast. In contrast, crab fishing activity in Suffolk was lower than expected as a reflection of an abundance of soft crab. In addition, poor prices for cockles and low yields within The Wash have led to an earlier start to the shrimp fishery. Catches in Suffolk have not been as high expected with poor catches of cod (a continuation from the winter fishery) being reported. Catches of sole and skate was high at times.

District overview of recreational fishing trends

RSA activity was high throughout the summer with a focus on mackerel fishing from shingle beaches and from charter vessels. RSA was dominated by less experienced anglers (thought to be a reflection of the summer holidays) who were less aware of management measures than more committed anglers. This led to the development of new informative material (leaflets and postcards setting out minimum conservation reference size) with a positive effect. Bass were also targeted but EU regulations curtailed landings (given the 1 bass per person, per day limit). Bass was particularly abundant in the Suffolk rivers during the first two months of the quarter and RSA activity on the Lincolnshire coast increased towards the end of the quarter with the focus being flatfish

EMS monitoring

Monitoring closed areas under the protected areas byelaw was carried out throughout the reporting period. The following monitoring occurred:

Method	Number of instances	Sites monitored	Comments
Seaborne	2	B,C	Risk associated with closed areas low given low shrimp fishing activity
Shore-based	4	EH	Additional site visits were conducted by Marine Science team during Horse Shoe Point survey (Restricted Area k)

Area 1 West-North (Hail Sand Fort to Gibraltar Point)

Fishing Trends

July

There were a number whelk boats working within this area of the district during the month. It was also reported that some of the boats working out of Bridlington were moving down into the district due to windfarm activity in their normal fishing grounds.

August

General fishing activity was lower than expected for the time of year, however the levels of crab and lobsters being landed increased.

September

Catches of crab have increased from last month. With the price being steady on Crab. But the price is higher for lobster. RSA activity increased this month with Huttoft Bank to Anderby Creek with further increases inspected in the autumn and winter. Bass catches have been low in the area.

Metrics

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	10
Port visits	31
Landings observed	1
Catch Inspections	1
Vehicle Inspections	0
Premises inspections	3
Enforcement actions/Offences	0
Intelligence reports submitted	2
Vessel Patrols	0
Boardings	0
Gear Inspections	0

Engagement

Despite a concerted effort to address the intelligence gap on the Lincolnshire coast, only 17 separate interactions occurred during this quarter in Area 1. This primarily reflects the low activity levels in this area.

Concerns were raised regarding vessels entering the district from the North East to fish for crab and lobster.

The RSA sector in the area were spoken to during routine patrols (including tackle shop owners) and the fishing from the shore was good for the time of year. Most people were catching flounder. Some anglers reported concern over how close to the shore shrimp beam trawlers had been fishing. However, others have reported that the activity levels are much lower than they have been previously.

Area 2 West-South (The Wash and North Norfolk Coast (to Brancaster)

Fishing Trends

July

The majority of vessels are focusing on cockles. Throughout the month many of the vessels moved from cockles to start on shrimps. The price for cockles was reported as low. The cockles were reported as having a low yield, with the smaller cockles having a slightly better yield. Lots of Mackerel being caught in The Wash with a lot of it undersize.

August

Decrease in the amount of cockle fishing activity due to unfavourable tides. Some vessels changed gear over to fish for Shrimp and other vessels that do not work in the cockle fishery continued to fish for Shrimp. The low price for cockles continued. There was a low amount of Whelk fishing.

September

The price of cockle has remained constant with most fishers catching between 1.5 tonne to 3 tonne per day. The yield has remained low, and a lot of shell has been coming in with the cockle. The level of activity on the lays increased with several fishers relaying seed. RSA activity was reported to the south of Sutton bridge, Boston and in Kings Lynn.

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	18
Port visits	21
Landings observed	148
Catch Inspections	8
Vehicle Inspections	0
Premises inspections	4
Enforcement actions/Offences	1
Intelligence reports submitted	10
Vessel Patrols	14
Boarding's	0
Gear Inspections	0

Engagement

137 people spoken to

The cockle fishery was reported as generally very poor, with low meat yields and low density's making it had work to collect 3 tonne daily quota.

Some fishers indicated that they would like the daily TAC raised whereas others felt it should be lowered. There was some call from within the industry to have a dredge fishery. Through the earlier months of the reporting period cockles were not growing, however growth increased towards then end. The Inner West Mark Knock was reported as difficult to fish, due to low densities. In all areas lots of shell was reported.

Area 3 East-North (Brancaster to Great Yarmouth)

Fishing Trends

July

As was expected the numbers of crabs being landed has reduced. There was a lot of lobsters reported to be on the ground with many of them being soft and undersize and therefore not landed. A lot of Mackerel was caught by RSA's on the single beaches, a lot of it was undersize. RSA activity was high throughout the month targeting mackerel and flatfish. Whelk fishing remained at previous levels however the focus was outside the district.

August

Lobsters increased this month and the price remained good. Crab reported to be back on the ground, landings were high and the price dropped. The amount of Bass and Mackerel caught reduced however effort remained high with high levels of RSA activity reported.

September

Lobster effort and landings decreased with the focus turning to crab as the landings were better. The Price remained constant. Crab landings haven't dropped off as would be expected in the annual trend. Fishers have reported that the factories only want bigger crabs. Whelking activity was decreased but still occurring, vessels were only active outside the district. Mackerel continued to be caught but the amount of undersize decreased.

Metrics

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	32
Port visits	126
Landings observed	52
Catch Inspections	61
Vehicle Inspections	4

Premises inspections	3
Enforcement actions/Offences	7
Intelligence reports submitted	21
Vessel Patrols	0
Boarding's	0
Gear Inspections	0

Engagement

307 were engaged in Area 3. Key concerns raised related to the introduction of transport form by the MMO – IFCOs engaged and educated using the published MMO guidance. There were also discussions on the potential implications of EU Exit which were generally positive in their outlook.

RSA fishers were particularly concerned about small bass and mackerel being taken on the beaches and at the lack of knowledge of minimum conservation reference size. IFCOs produced and handed out new products relating to minimum sizes during this period and is looking to install new 'posters' at beaches with particularly high levels of SA activity. The new educational material has been very well received and several tackle shops have asked for the products to include with orders. Positive comments regarding seeing IFCOs on patrol within the commercial and RSA sectors.

Area 4 East-South (Great Yarmouth to Harwich)

Fishing Trends

July

High numbers of lobster have been landed at Orford and Aldeburgh, crab landings have been low primarily because it has been reported that there is a lot of soft crab on the ground. It was reported that bass were mostly in the rivers and had moved offshore. Sole and Roker were landed in good numbers. Most of the commercial fishers have been targeting mullet.

August

Lobster landings have reduced with one fisher indicating that he had 10 lobster in 87 pots. Crab landings. Sole landings have dropped off. Cod catches have remained very low. Large amounts of Bass have continued to be reported in the rivers. RSA catches of bass have been high, but mostly catch and release as they have been under MCRS.

September

Very low landings of Crab and Lobster within the area and much lower than expected for the time of year. Bass numbers have started to decrease in the rivers but the price is still good. Mullet are also starting to move out of the rivers. A small amount of cod have been caught which is an increase from last month but still lower than expected for the time of year.

Metrics

Enforcement metric	Number completed
Shore Patrols	54
Port visits	162
Landings observed	51
Catch Inspections	118
Vehicle Inspections	23
Premises inspections	30
Enforcement actions/Offences	2
Intelligence reports submitted	46
Vessel Patrols	3
Boarding's	0
Gear Inspections	0

Engagement

IFCOs had 387 separate interactions with fishers in Area 4. The key concerns raised related to the poor catches within the cod fishery with some indicating that this has been the worst year for cod in recent history.

During this period, the MMO engaged fishers regarding the requirement to complete transport documents which led to some confusion in the industry. IFCOs engaged with fishers to educate on the use of the forms where possible.

There was also positive feedback on IFCO presence, particularly in relation to bass enforcement.

Vision

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



Information Item 23

30th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

25 October 2017

Reports by:

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

Marine Science Quarterly Reports

Purpose of report

The Authority runs a year-round programme of research projects and environmental work. This paper enables Members to be kept informed of key activities undertaken by the Authority's Marine Science team during the previous quarter, June to September 2017, any issues that have arisen either through internal or external drivers, and an indication of up-coming developments that could require future actions.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

Note the report.

Background

In order to provide greater resilience within the team and to allow more adaptivity when specific tasks require additional manpower, the Research and Environment teams merged into a single Marine Science team in April. Following the loss of staff members from both the former Research and Environment teams during the previous year, a recruitment process commenced in February to fill four vacancies within the Marine Science team. Seeking applicants who could undertake the full suite of research and environment roles, this process saw Thomas Bridges and Samantha Hornbrey join the team in March and April. These have been joined more recently this quarter by Elise Quinn and Rebecca Treacy. All have marine biological backgrounds and have enthusiastically fitted into the Eastern IFCA team.

With four new officers in the team, there has been a heavy focus on training over the past quarter, with each new team member completing their mandatory STCW95 safety training and commercial endorsements for operating the Authority's RHIBs. Additional inhouse training has also been conducted familiarising the new staff in crewing the Authority's vessels, deploying scientific equipment, capturing data during surveys, analysing data using specialised software, familiarisation with the Habitats Regulations Assessment process and how to respond to consultations and derogations requests. To date, the training has gone well with each new recruit learning rapidly and hitting the ground running. Each team member has been delegated a number of science projects to lead, with appropriate support from established staff.

Research

The science team have been conducting habitat mapping surveys since the beginning of 2016 to find a suitable site in which to conduct the planned shrimp beam impact assessment project. There are several criteria that the site ideally needs to fulfil including predominantly supporting a sub-tidal mixed sediment seabed, being deeper than 10m, avoiding areas of fastenings and rough ground that could damage fishing gear and avoiding other areas of anthropogenic activities like anchorages, cable routes and heavily potted areas. Eight sites have been surveyed during this period, none of which supported sufficient area of sub-tidal mixed sediment habitat to support the study site. During May and June the data from each site was re-analysed in the hope of identifying a number of smaller areas that the trial could be split between. This process highlighted two such areas that could potentially be suitable, so further samples were collected from them for Particle Size Analysis (PSA). Although the samples appeared to be relatively similar when collected, the results from the PSA found they actually fell into four different feature categories, with only a third of the samples being mixed sediment. When these data were further reviewed, however, their sediment compositions were found to be closely clustered in an area of the Folk sediment triangle where several different sediment features bordered each other. Having failed to identify large enough extents of sub-tidal mixed sediment to conduct the experiment, it was decided to use this area of reasonably homogenous ground to study the impact of the gear on feature communities. We are currently liaising with members of Natural England's local and national teams to determine the preferred options of how to best fit the experimental design into this area. Additional correspondence and meetings have been held with Natural England recently to discuss various elements of the project plan that they had provided advice on.

Since the Wash cockle fishery opened in June, members of the science team have provided support to the Marine Protection team assessing the condition of the beds. This has included assessments on Inner Westmark Knock, the

Roger/Toft and the Gat beds. The latter assessment resulted in one of the closed areas on the Gat sand being opened because the cockles within the area appeared vulnerable to winter storms. A second closed area on this bed was extended in order to protect high densities of small cockles that were situated outside of the original closed area. It was also planned to visit the Thief sand, but although several trips were organised, poor weather prevented these from occurring.

In July the team surveyed the cockle beds at Horseshoe Point and Grainthorpe Haven. Following high mortalities in 2016, there were only low numbers of large cockles present on these beds. Although there had been a good settlement of cockle spat on two of the three beds, they are too small to support a fishery this year. Irrespective of stock levels, there are ongoing issues of accessing the site from shore that need resolving before a fishery could be opened on these beds.

While at Horseshoe Point, the team also took the opportunity to conduct an eelgrass survey within the designated protected area. This survey, like others conducted in the previous two years, only found a single, very small patch of eelgrass in the area.

The crab and lobster project has continued throughout this period to capture landings data provided in MSAR returns forms, and biometric data captured from a bio-sampling regime. This programme, which has seen approximately 1,200kg of crabs and 30kg of lobsters measured in the past four months, assesses the health of the stocks and provides a baseline against which future changes can be measured. Results from the previous two years work indicate the stocks are currently being fished at levels above maximum sustainable levels, so some form of additional management may be required. Going forward, this project will assess the likely biological benefits and associated socio-economic impacts that various management tools would have.

The whelk project has continued to study size of maturity (SOM) of individuals this quarter. The original aim of the project was to study whelk samples from across the district, to determine if they mature at different sizes across district. As many vessels stopped targeting this fishery following the introduction of the whelk permitting byelaw, however, obtaining widespread samples proved difficult. Last year sampling was limited to those supplied by a single vessel working in Suffolk, from which 1,800 whelks were dissected and assessed. Earlier this year a second vessel began providing samples from the Wash, enabling us to begin developing a comparative dataset from this location. It is still hoped going forward to source samples caught from other areas in the District in order to explore whether there are biological differences in SOM that may be occurring in regionalised stocklets.

In 2010 the Authority began a programme monitoring the levels of chlorophyll and nutrients in the Wash in order to ensure the mussels in the WFO Several

Fishery were not having an adverse impact on food levels in the water. Although the sampling relied on in situ data collected using YSI data sondes, these were supported with water samples that were analysed by Cefas for chlorophyll, salinity and nutrients. Unfortunately, Cefas lost their funding for this project last year and were unable to continue providing free analysis of our samples. Both of our sondes currently require servicing and/or repairs and quotes are being sought for these. Maintenance of the data buoy has also been planned twice during the last month, but on both occasions poor weather prevented the vessel from going to sea.

Following requests from some fishermen to reopen the Titchwell mussel beds for a small-scale fishery, team members assessed the bed in August. This bed is considered ephemeral as the majority of the mussels which regularly settle there are generally lost during storms. The assessment found that most of the mussels that had been present earlier in the year had gone, but there were still patches that could be fished without damaging the underlying peat bed on which they had settled.

Since 2010 the mussel stocks on the inter-tidal beds in the Wash have suffered high levels of natural mortality. This has resulted in the decline of most of the beds, all of which are now in poor condition. Following a particularly high die-off that occurred between the 2009 and 2010 surveys, samples were analysed by Cefas. These revealed high incidence rates of the parasitic copepod, *Mytilicola intestinalis*, in the mussels. Although this parasite does not usually kill its host, Cefas felt the numbers of parasites they found in each mussel could be fatal. Over the coming six months, the Authority will be working alongside students from Hull University to look closer at the presence of both *Mytilicola intestinalis* and the parasitic pea crab, *Pinnotheres pisum*, at each of the beds in the Wash. It is hoped this study will determine whether either of these parasites are causal factors in the die-offs.

The Authority collects monthly shellfish and water samples on behalf of the local borough councils to test the water quality is safe for harvesting the shellfish. Recently, a combination of poor weather and persistent problems with *RV Three Counties'* tender have disrupted the sampling efforts, resulting in some samples not being collected. The cockles in the Wash are currently exhibiting poor meat yields, which has also resulted in some of the samples being rejected by the laboratory because the samples have not contained the required biomass of flesh. So far, these missed samples have not impacted on the long-term classification of the water, but because the objective is to collect a minimum of ten samples per year from each sample station, missing them has increased the pressure to successfully gather samples during the remainder of the year.

During the course of our own activities, we have also been able to assist other organisations with elements of their work in the Wash. This has included helping the Environment Agency conduct a macroalgae survey on the Tofts sand and the Sea Mammal Research Unit conduct seal counts on the haul out sites. The latter have also collected seal faeces from these sites, from which they can determine what species the seals have been feeding on and which intestinal parasites they are hosting.

For the past eighteen months the Eastern-IFCA representative has chaired the IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG). In this role, in addition to coordinating TAG business, the Senior Marine Science Officer (Research) has also represented the IFCAs on several national working groups that coordinate survey and research work between IFCAs, Cefas, Natural England, JNCC and the Environment Agency. The chair role is due to be rotated to another group member in November.

Ron Jessop, Senior Marine Science Officer (Research)

Environment

Assessment of commercial fishing in Marine Protected Areas, and new management of commercial fisheries in Marine Protected Areas

This work has remained the key priority for the Environment team. It directly supports the Authority's fulfilment of obligations relating to marine protected areas, and has been subject to strict timelines set out by Defra. Developments and progress with this work are set out at Agenda Item 11, Marine Protected Areas fisheries management update.

Key ongoing work areas relating to marine protected areas in the district are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Commercial fishing interactions in marine protected areas requiring (or potentially requiring) Eastern IFCA intervention

Site name	Interaction and matrix risk level	Assessment conclusion	Next steps
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation	Beam trawling (shrimp)/subtidal sandbanks (subtidal mixed sediment and subtidal mud) Amber risk	Assessment in progress. <u>Anticipated</u> conclusion: adverse effect cannot be confidently ruled out: mitigation likely to be required to reduce impact and research required to improve evidence around light beam trawl impacts	Priority work area for Marine Science team. Work ongoing to update shrimp assessment with additional evidence on site feature distribution and condition and on fishing activity, and to reflect updated conservation advice. Assessment to be signed off with Natural England as soon as possible. Agreement required before management measures developed. Appropriate management measures to be drawn up to provide mitigation for impacts highlighted in assessment – likely to be similar to measures agreed by Authority in December 2016 but put on hold whilst assessment is updated.
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation	Potting/ <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef; Potting/subtidal stony reef Amber risk	No adverse effect at current levels of activity (based on improved activity data and Defra potting impacts report)	Finalise conclusion and sign off with NE – in progress
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge Site of Community Interest	Potting/ <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef Amber risk	Not yet assessed (straddling site latterly transferred to EIFCA)	Review updated NE feature advice; undertake assessment – delayed to enable focus on Wash shrimp management
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge Site	Towed demersal fisheries/ <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef	High-risk interaction (red risk on matrix) so no assessment required	Agree updated core reef approach with NE - ongoing; Intention is to apply closed areas in future iteration of Marine Protected Areas byelaw. Progress has been delayed because of staff changes and to enable focus on

Site name	Interaction and matrix risk level	Assessment conclusion	Next steps
of Community Interest	Red risk		Wash shrimp management but as new Marine Science staff are embedded into roles, this work will be resumed.
Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton Site of Community Interest	Towed demersal fisheries/ <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef Red risk	High-risk interaction (red risk on matrix) so no fishery impact assessment required	Closed areas agreed by Authority Dec 2016 (Marine Protected Areas Byelaw) but on hold pending agreement with Natural England on rationale for closed areas. Progress has been delayed because of staff changes and to enable focus on Wash shrimp management but as new Marine Science staff are embedded into roles, this work will be resumed.
Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone	All commercial fishing within site on all designated features All risk levels	Assessment in progress.	First draft of assessment of potting fisheries has been completed; next step is to seek Natural England's advice on assessment. Should management measures be required, EIFCA to engage with local fishermen and other stakeholders. Assessment of other fisheries within site to be undertaken.

In addition to the Marine Protected Area work outlined above, Eastern IFCA annually assesses the impact of the Wash Fishery Order (WFO) cockle and mussel fisheries before opening them. To assist with longer-term planning for these fisheries, and to reduce the annual resource applied to these assessments, Officers have drafted a long-term (25 year) cockle fishery assessment. Discussions have been started with Natural England in relation to this but it was not possible to apply the long-term assessment in advance of the 2017/18 WFO cockle fishery. Therefore, the usual annual assessment was undertaken in May 2017. Natural England agreed with the conclusion of the assessment that, operating within the agreed management measures, the 2017/18 WFO cockle fishery would not have an adverse effect on site integrity. The restrictions on the fishery included a suite of technical measures – e.g. hand-work only – and spatial and temporal measures – e.g, closed areas to protect juvenile cockles and a closed area to prevent excessive disturbance to hauled-out seals (a protected feature of the *Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation*) during their most vulnerable period (June to August).

Assessment of Eastern IFCA activities in marine protected areas

In August 2017, the Authority received new advice from Natural England requiring the Authority to assess the impacts of our own operations on designated sites. Authority activities, including ecological surveys and enforcement operations should be regarded as “plans or projects” under the Habitats Regulations (see Box 1).

Box 1: The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010: Assessment of Implications for European Sites and European Offshore Marine Sites

Regulation 61. — (1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site’s conservation objectives.

Furthermore, having reviewed the consistency of their advice to regulators operating in protected areas, Natural England provided further advice in relation to *how* activities

are assessed. The change relates to how the determination of “likely significant effect” is made (see box 1). This has led to some concerns in relation to interpretation of the underlying legislation, which is likely to require further consideration.

Despite not having fully resolved these concerns, to avoid further delays to Eastern IFCA’s own operations and fishery authorisations, Officers applied the new advice to an assessment for the annual Wash Fishery Order mussel surveys and to an assessment for the Titchwell seed mussel fishery. The mussel surveys were due to commence on 11th September but protracted discussions with Natural England in relation to likely levels of disturbance to protected bird species meant that the surveys were delayed. Natural England provided assent for the mussel surveys on 10th October, with conditions relating to the timing of surveys to reduce impacts on birds from disturbance during more critical cold-weather periods.

Natural England have advised that the Authority will need to extend the assessment to consider all our intertidal work. This work is to be progressed as soon as resources allow.

Similarly, detailed discussions were held with Natural England over the potential level of disturbance to protected bird species from fishing activity at Titchwell. Officers submitted an assessment concluding no likely significant effect, on 22nd August 2017. Natural England advised that a likely significant effect could not be ruled out, despite the small scale (two authorisations for hand-working for a period of up to one month) and quiet nature of this fishery. However, Natural England were content that the level of information provided by the Authority in the test of “likely significant effect” (the first stage of a Habitats Regulations assessment) was sufficient to inform an “appropriate assessment” (the second stage) and ultimately agreed the conclusion of “no adverse effect on site integrity”. These discussions resulted in frustrating delays for the fishers wishing to utilise this resource but the issues had to be resolved before the authorisations could be granted. Natural England provided assent on 9th October 2017.

Stakeholder engagement over marine protected areas

In addition to the Community Voice project reported at Agenda Item 20), Eastern IFCA officers continue to maintain involvement with the local Marine Protected Area management groups for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast, and for the Stour & Orwell Estuaries. These groups support relationships between relevant authorities, local site managers and stakeholders, which are invaluable in identifying the most relevant feature and activity evidence to inform assessments. Local advisory groups (stakeholder groups) are also attended by environment team members when possible, as they present additional opportunities to engage with local fishermen and wider community members, enabling Authority officers to provide updates on fisheries and conservation matters and to listen to stakeholder views.

Eastern IFCA input to consultations on marine developments

The Eastern IFCA district is subject to multiple marine and coastal activities that are regulated through the issuing of consents by authorities such as the Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency, Defra and the Authority itself. The impact of such activities is considered by Authority officers through the consultation process.

Between April to September 2017, the Eastern IFCA Marine Science team processed 35 consultations. Figure 1 shows the categories of development or policy that these consultations fit within. Once again, consultations relating to offshore renewable energy featured heavily, reflecting the large number of offshore wind farms currently in the planning, construction or operational stages around the Eastern IFCA district. Coastal defence projects, policy and ports consultations were also significant categories. Examples of consultations processed during this period include:

- The Boston Barrier Scheme, a sea defence project that appears unlikely to affect fish and shellfish populations but could impact heavily on navigation of fishing vessels;
- The proposed introduction of a ban on landing egg-bearing (berried) lobsters in all English waters: this sustainability measure would complement the existing prohibition on taking berried lobsters in the Eastern IFCA district; although it could present short-medium term effects on fishers currently landing berried lobsters from outside the district;
- Aggregate dredging area 254 – off east Norfolk coast – EIFCA highlighted that although this area has previously been licensed for aggregate dredging, there are concerns about the cumulative and long-term effects of multiple dredge licences being allocated in this area. We requested that additional consideration be given to impacts on fish spawning grounds.
- Hornsea 3 Offshore wind farm – this planned wind farm would be built over 120km north-east of Cromer, well outside the EIFCA district, but its export cables would run ashore at Weybourne, Norfolk. We highlight the importance of the inshore potting fisheries in this area and the need to ensure they are fully taken into account and engaged with during the planning process. We also highlighted the potential for impacts from this project on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds marine conservation zone.

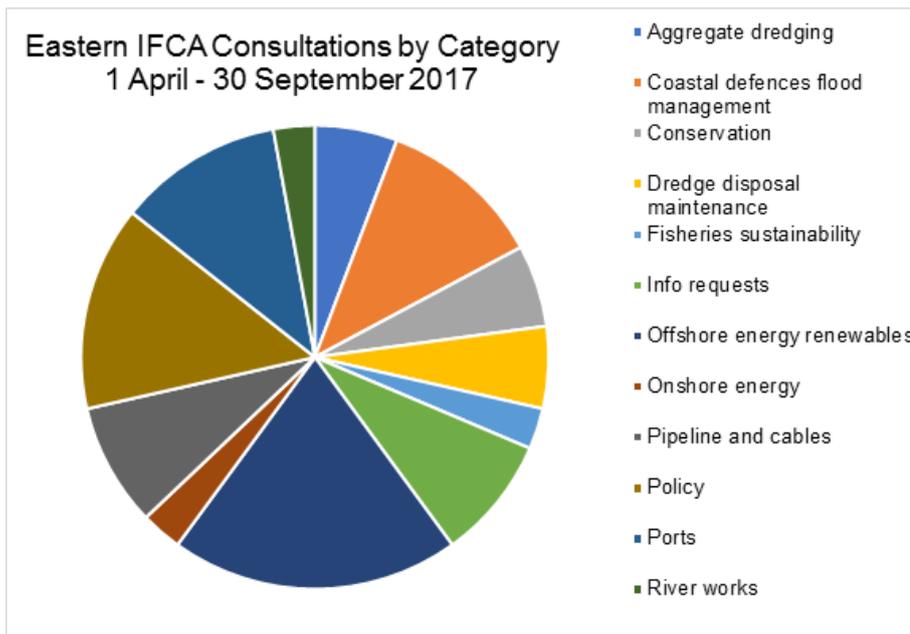


Figure 1 Graphical representation of Number of Consultations processed by category. Numbers at each “slice” are the number of consultations within that category

Community Voice (Common Ground) project

This is a joint project with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), and the Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership. The objective is: *Engaging stakeholders in thinking about the management of the marine environment in our district.* All IFCA staff have been involved in the project but the main liaison during the last quarter has been between the Marine Science team and the Marine Conservation Society. Authority officers have received several comments from partner organisations and individual stakeholders about the benefits of this stakeholder engagement work. Although time consuming, officers are aware that effective communication and genuine, two-way engagement is key to achieving effective inshore marine management. Officers are currently exploring how to formalise actions arising from the findings presented in the Community Voice report. An update on this project is provided at Agenda Item 20.

Financial implications

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

Publicity

No publicity is planned relating to this paper, other than reference to the Authority’s marine science work on the Authority’s website and newsletter.

Judith Stoutt, Senior Marine Science Officer (Environment)

Background papers

1. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>).