



15th EIFCA Meeting

To be held at:

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

**30th July 2014
1030 hours**

Meeting: 15th Eastern IFCA Meeting
Date: 30 July 2014
Time: 10:30hrs
Venue: The Boathouse Business Centre,
1 Harbour Square, Nene Parade,
Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 3BH



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

Agenda

- 1 Welcome - *Chair*
- 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 14th Eastern IFCA Meeting, held on 4 June 2014 - *Chair*
- 5 Matters arising (including actions from last meeting) - *Chair/CEO*
- 6 Health and Safety - *CEO*
- 7 Elected member appointment to sub committees - *CEO*
- 8 Parliamentary report into IFCA operations and conduct - *CEO*
- 9 Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee on 25 June 2014 - *Hd Fin/Hd HR/DCEO*
- 10 Payments made and monies received during the period 1 April – 9th July 2014 - *Hd Fin*
- 11 Quarterly Management Accounts - *Hd Fin*
- 12 Annual Report - *CEO*
- 13 RSA Strategy - *CEO*
- 14 Lay review and application process update - *Marine Protection Project Officer*
- 15 Fisheries Management in European Marine Sites progress report - *Senior Marine Environment Officer*
- 16 Anglian Sea Trout Fishery Net Limitation Order Renewal - *Mr Roger Handford, EA*
- 17 Marine Planning - *presentation by Stacey Clarke MMO*
- 18 Race Bank Offshore Wind Farm development - *presentation by Hywel Roberts, DONG Energy*
- 19 Boston Barrier Scheme - *presentation by Mark Robinson, EA*

Information items

- 20 Quarterly progress against Annual Plans - *CEO*
- 21 HR update - *Hd HR*
- 22 Marine Protection Quarterly reports

- 23 Senior Research Officer quarterly report
- 24 Senior Marine Environment Officer quarterly report

Any other business

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

P J Haslam
Chief Executive Officer
15 July 2014

14th Eastern IFCA Meeting



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

A Meeting of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority took place at The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech, Cambs, on 23rd April 2014 at 1030 hours.

Members Present:

Cllr Hilary Cox	Chair	Norfolk County Council
Cllr M Baker		Norfolk County Council
Cllr Richard Fairman		Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Tony Turner MBE JP	Vice-Chair	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Byatt		Suffolk County Council
Cllr Tony Goldson		Suffolk County Council
Shane Bagley		MMO Appointee
Stephen Bolt		MMO Appointee
Roy Brewster		MMO Appointee
Connor Donnelly		Natural England representative
Paul Garnett		MMO Appointee
Roger Handford representative		Environment Agency
Neil Lake		MMO Appointee
Tom Pinborough		MMO Appointee
Rob Spray		MMO Appointee
Stephen Worrall		MMO Appointee

Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

Philip Haslam	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Julian Gregory	Head of Marine Protection
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment Officer -
Data	

Other Bodies Represented:

Emma Thorpe	Natural England
Seamus Whyte	Fugro Emu Ltd
Paul Learoyd	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

EIFCA14/52 Item 1: Welcome by Chair

The began the meeting by welcoming Cllr Peter Byatt, newly appointed to the Authority on behalf of Suffolk County Council.

EIFCA14/53 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Wilkinson (Norfolk County Council), Mr Stipetic (MMO Representative), and Messrs Barham, Morgan and Vanstaen (MMO Appointees). Members considered the reasons given for not being able to attend and formally agreed to accept the apologies.

It was agreed to accept the Apologies for Absence

EIFCA14/54 Item 3: Declarations of Members Interest

Messrs Bagley, Brewster, Garnett and Lake all re-acknowledged the declarations of interest they have made at previous meetings relating to lay holdings and licence entitlement holders.

EIFCA14/55 Item 4: Minutes of the 13th EIFCA Meeting, held on 23rd April 2014

Mr Lake advised he had offered his apologies for absence direct to the Chairperson, unfortunately she had not been present at the meeting consequently Mr Lakes apologies were not recorded. With this amendment in place members agreed to accept the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

Proposed: Councillor Turner

Seconded: Tom Pinborough

All Agreed

EIFCA14/56 Item 5: Matters Arising

14/33: REVIEW OF EIFCA CONSTITUTION: All actions requested had been implemented.

14/38: ALTERNATIVE BANKING & INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENTS: This action was on-going, the Head of Finance would be making a report to the next Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee (25 Jun) to advise what steps he had taken to finalise the reinvestment strategy for the Authority's funds.

14/39: WASH LAY APPLICATIONS UPDATE: The Application process remained an on-going issue, a further report would be provided at the July meeting.

14/49: COMPLAINT AGAINST EIFCA: The CEO advised H Bellingham MP had been written to and the Chair had received a response.

EIFCA14/57 Item 6: Report concerning the impact of cockle fishing methods on muddy sediments

The Chair introduced this item with the following statements:

- The research report does not include a covering paper as it was delivered too late to receive appropriate scrutiny from Officers.
- It is included as an action item (as opposed to an Information item) to demonstrate transparency and to reduce the risk of perceptions of bias
- It has not been peer reviewed and cannot be used as a factor in decision making at this meeting and as a result the authority will not be taking a position on the paper.

Mr Seamus Whyte presented the findings of a research project which Fugro Emu Ltd had been commissioned to carry out on

behalf of three fishing companies in the Wash. It was noted there had been similar desktop studies previously carried out.

Mr Whyte gave an overview of how the study had been carried out and the results.

The study had taken place on three separate areas using three different 'treatments'. These being 1 – control, 2 – dredging and 3 – prop washing.

The prop washing entailed one ring of prop wash and the dredging consisted of a single 50m line of suction dredging. The areas used had been selected as they visually appeared to be muddy sand – following particle sampling it was found one of the sites could be classified as sandy.

Members were shown photographic evidence of the study, each activity in each area was photographed 5 times over a period of 6 months to compare the level of recovery of the sand after the activity had taken place.

A corer was also used to take samples of the site down to a level of 15cm which were then analysed for the number of species found in it.

Following the presentation members asked a variety of questions as follows:

- the type of engine size used for each treatment – were they consistent?;
- were the results consistent with the reality of a commercial fishery where a number of vessel would be executing dredge lines across a given area for an extensive period of time as opposed to the very limited 50m dredge track used in this trial?

Neither of these questions could be answered as Mr Whyte had been restricted by time constraints and he did not know the engine size of the vessels used only that they were consistent with vessels exploiting the fishery.

It was also noted that one area had been prop washed for a period of 20 minutes which would equate to approximately 20 passes over the sand which was not a true reflection of the actual practice of prop washing and would obviously show more damage than one single 50m dredge track. Consequently members felt the degree of variability between the two impacts was too great for the study to be considered as a factor in future decision making.

Having listened to the comments and Mr Whyte's own admission that the two methods of fishing were inherently different Mr Spray felt the study had been carried out on too small a scale to produce a useful outcome although it may have provided the desired outcome to those who have commissioned the work. Consequently, he stated that there was no useful scope to the study, with almost no worthwhile content. He acknowledged this was not a reflection on Mr Whyte's work but on the fact that he had been commissioned to do a report from which a given result was expected.

Mr Whyte defended these comments by advising that the prop washing treatment had been consistent with the way the vessel used had fished during a cockle fishery as he had mirrored the

previous track readings. Mr Donnelly advised the physical impacts shown by the prop washing were similar to those seen during the 2009 cockle fishery from a vessel which had not been prop washing correctly.

It was also questioned why the study had been carried out during the winter rather than during the months when cockle fishing takes place. Mr Whyte advised this was due to time constraints but as it had been a mild winter he felt the recovery would have given a similar result.

Members felt the study did not give combination effect or relevance to fishing on the ground, therefore it was not directly transferrable in a wider sense.

During discussion comments were read out by the CEO from Messrs Morgan and Vanstaen who could not attend the meeting but had submitted comments a précis of which is below:

Mr Morgan

- The statements about the sediments in the Wash and the methods of fishing are comprehensive but are not balanced by how the survey treatments were carried out.
- Photos of "dredged" area were in close up, whereas photos of "prop wash" were distant.
- No indication of depth of water when treatments were carried out.
- No indication of impacts when multiple dredge runs are made over the same ground.
- Concern that such a detailed survey has not described fully the methods used to impact the sediments and as such can hardly be credible as a serious report on which to base sound scientific decisions.

Mr Vanstaen

- Overall felt it was quite a poor report.
- Some of the figures are also meaningless.
- The sediment results don't show much, apart from the fact that there is some natural variation. It had been hoped that they would maybe have used this data a bit more to explore how this may have influenced the community data.
- Main concern is about the comparison between a single dredge track vs an area of prop washing that was impacted for 10-20 minutes. One would expect a larger area to recover slower than a single track. Especially in the dynamic context of the wash, a single track can be covered in few weeks by mobile sediment, and hence the community that comes with this mobile sand will show quicker recovery. You will not get this as quickly over a larger area. I assume really life cockle dredging would result in a larger area being impacted and recovery could be slower. Hence comparison is a bit skewed.
- It is regrettable that the design of the study wasn't discussed in advance as now, questions remain about "what if" we

could have identified issues early to help redesign the approach.

- Why just 3 sites? It isn't justified in the report. Would also have been good to see more suggestion as to what species explain the differences observed in the results.
- At best, it is a useful indication, but the study leaves too many questions to treat it as a robust body of evidence. More work would be needed to address the outstanding questions.

The Chair thanked Mr Whyte for attending and presenting the study to members. Members were reminded that as the report had not been received in time to be reviewed it could not be taken into account in subsequent decision making on the 2014 cockle fishery.

Members agreed to receive the report.

Proposed: Dr Bolt

Seconded: Cllr Goldson

All Agreed

EIFCA14/58 Item 7: 2014 Wash Cockle Fishery

The Chair began by making the following statements:

- Recognition that this is a contentious and emotive issue.
- Recognition of the amount of rigour that has been included in the paper.
- Recognition that the commercial fishing members of the Authority have been afforded a chance to comment and add to the paper as part of the drafting process.
- Recognition of ongoing perceptions of bias and/or unfairness by a sector of the local fishing industry.
- Reminder to members of their duties as detailed in the Eastern IFCA constitution.

The CEO began by explaining this was a comprehensive paper but the length of it was necessary to present all the facts to the Authority on which to base their decisions.

The CEO also was explicit in outlining that the recommendations made to the authority had been developed through a process to assure the delivery of the Authority's MaCAA 09 duties alone. The repeated accusations of institutional bias towards one particular sector of the local fishing industry which had been related widely including to the Fisheries Minister himself were without substance, were dismissive of the significant efforts of Authority officers and could be construed as vexatious.

The Senior Research Officer presented members with the findings of the spring cockle surveys which had taken place during April. 1,282 stations across 21 beds had been sampled. Samples were analysed for size, weight and frequency data as

well as additional environmental data. The area sampled covered most of the intertidal beds where cockles may be found. Following analysis it was estimated there was a total stock of 19,319t, of which 11,009t were adult and 8,310t were juveniles (less than 14mm).

Authority members were provided with detailed findings from the surveys, including the tonnage on each sand and the percentage of adult / juveniles.

2013 spatfall appeared to have settled well across the Wash with the exception of the Boston Main. In view of the management measure not to open areas where juveniles are greater than 1000/m², this may have an impact on opening areas on some of the beds, although it was not envisaged it would have much impact on the areas with the largest numbers of adult stock.

It was noted that if members opted to open a dredge only fishery then only areas with at least 70% adult stock and on predominantly mobile sediment could be open which would equate to 5 beds and Holbeach, which is a mixed sediment. However, there would be insufficient tonnage on 4 of these beds to support a fishery which left only Butterwick and Holbeach.

Members considered the merits of handworking / dredging and the fluctuations in stock levels over a period of years. It was questioned whether stocks were currently increasing as a direct result of not having had a dredge fishery in recent years, although there is anecdotal evidence to support this suggestion, the SRO did not have scientific data to provide explicit evidence. It was also questioned whether there were any areas which had not recovered at all as a direct result of historical dredging, which again the SRO could not scientifically prove as the Wash is very variable and settlement can be erratic, however, he did advise caution when considered fishing on muddy areas as this takes longer to recover.

Mr Lake questioned why Mare Tail was a site recommended for handworking when it is 60% juvenile stock, this was due to the fact that once a handworking vessel has settled on the sand it did not move whereas dredging vessels keep moving around.

Following presentation of the surveys members were then presented with the findings of the consultation sent to all Entitlement Holders with regard to their preferences for a cockle fishery. Additional comment included the opening of the Holbeach Bombing Range over weekends when it is in operation. Mr Lake requested that in future the responses be displayed by the number of entitlements as well as the number of entitlement holders.

Having moved onto consideration of standard bags Mr Bagley questioned how they worked if the bag was not full. Head of Marine Protection advised the introduction of standard bags was designed to smooth the operation and enforcement of the fishery and would not affect the manner in which the daily quota could be landed. The intent was to promote commonality between fishermen to reduce the tensions caused by accusations of over

quota landings being disguised by bags of varying shapes and sizes.

Mr Lake expressed concern that he had just received a significant order of bags and would now have to re-order which would add to his operating costs.

Mr Lake expressed concern that any extension of the fishery to 5 days to accommodate "early die off" would need greater enforcement effort as in previous years, he perceived that beds other than those with signs of "early die off" were being targeted.

Having considered and questioned the information presented members Resolved to:

- **Note the report and its contents**
- **Agree to a TAC of 3,670 tonnes**
Proposed: Cllr Fairman
Seconded: Cllr Goldson
All Agreed
- **Agree to Option 2 to open a hand work fishery on all sands at a time determined by the preference of the majority of Wash fishery Entitlement Holders.**
Proposed: Dr Bolt
Seconded: Cllr Fairman
All Agreed
- **Approve the introduction of Standard Bags for landing catch.**
Proposed: Cllr Goldson
Seconded: Mr Donnelly
All Agreed
- **Approve the delegation to officers to determine opening times for the fishery based upon**
 - **the preferences of Entitlement holders,**
 - **Appropriate tides,**
 - **Regular break in the fishery by operating 4 days/week,**
 - **a mechanism to enable Holbeach to be exploited when the range is closed,**
 - **Extension to 5 days per week should atypical mortality be judged to be a significant factor. This will also include ensuring the affected stock is targeted.****Proposed: Cllr Goldson**
Seconded: Mr Worrall
All Agreed
- **Approve the delegation of powers to the Chief Executive Officer to immediately (without 7 days notice) close a fishery or parts of a fishery should malpractice and/or unacceptable levels of damage be observed. (It was acknowledged that there may be**

occasions when accusations of foul play forwarded to Officers for action are proved to be unfounded. If this is a recurring event the Monitoring Officer of Norfolk county Council has advised that there is a mechanism where vexatious claims can be formally discounted).

- **Approve the delegation of powers to the CEO to restrict access to cockle beds if juvenile stocks are judged to be disproportionately targeted. In addition the areas containing 2013 year class juveniles recommended by the Senior Research Officer would be held closed for the duration of the fishery.**

Proposed: Cllr Byatt

Seconded: Cllr Goldson

All Agreed

EIFCA14/59 Item 8: Any Other Business

Mr Lake referred to the comment in the previous paper which suggested there was insufficient enforcement capability to enforce a dredge fishery. He felt that if this is the case and with the extra enforcement burden required for EMS / MCZs the Authority needed to relook at the enforcement capability in more detail, including revisiting the decisions made by the vessel sub-committee to purchase a further vessel. His main concern was that if an inshore fishery could not be enforced how could enforcement out to 6 miles take place.

The Chair advised that as this matter had not previously been notified it was not eligible for discussion. The CEO was directed to provide an answer at the next Authority meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking the officers for attending the crab & lobster festival and recommended that all members try to attend one of these community events which are being held at various venues during the year. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1330 hours.

Vision

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Action Item 6

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30 July 2014

Health and Safety risks and mitigation

Report by: P J Haslam, CEO

Purpose of report

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

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Note the contents of this report**

Background

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

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

Incidents

During the last reporting period the following incidents have occurred:

- Employee neck and shoulder pain – an employee was diagnosed with significant neck and shoulder and prescribed strong pain killers to manage the condition. The GP suggested that work conditions and in particular, posture at the desk are often a causal factor. The employee requested a review of the work station and display screen equipment protocols. This was provided from a trained Authority officer who made a number of recommendations including the supply of a different computer mouse. The employee's condition has improved and is being monitored. Should further action be necessary Norfolk County Council occupational health specialist will be engaged to provide further advice.

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

- Incident with rivet gun – an employee working alone to make repairs to the aquarium trailer inadvertently riveted his trouser leg to the trailer. Whilst the incident was not in itself serious, it highlighted a number of working practices that have subsequently been amended to ensure that mitigation is in place in the future
- An ex-employee has engaged legal services to file a claim for damages owing to an alleged injury received whilst in Eastern IFCA employment. The claim relates to incidents in both 2011 and 2013 which are being investigated.

Risks

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

Conclusion

Members can be re-assured that the Health and Safety culture of Eastern IFCA is firmly embedded with support from Norfolk County Council H&S professionals. Those issues that require immediate action have been identified and are being actively managed.

Appendix:

1. Eastern IFCA Health and Safety risks July 2014

Eastern IFCA Health and Safety risks July 2014

Risk	Intervention	Residual Risk	Risk rating*
Material state of Sutton Bridge moorings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe systems of work introduced to manage immediate risks including improved lighting. • Officers have driven an acceptance by agents that immediate repair is necessary to alleviate existing H&S issues. • Authorisation received from F&P sub committee to commit capital funds to support Fenland DC and Lincs CC initiative to establish new moorings in Sutton Bridge. If the project proceeds as planned, the Authority could take possession of fit for purpose moorings in early 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The material state of the moorings is in decline but firmer plans to address safety issues are being developed. • Risk of injury to personnel. 	Treat#
Unreported incidents/unilateral decisions with little regard for safe working practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Training • Equipment • Management systems to capture incidents • Routine agenda items at all meetings at all levels of Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to personnel as a result of failure to acknowledge or adhere to H&S direction and guidance 	Treat
Whole Body Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk awareness training to manage impacts. • Health monitoring process to be developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury from boat movement owing to lower resilience as a result of individual physiology 	Treat
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

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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual failure to adhere to guidance 	Tolerate
Staff stress through exposure to unacceptable behaviour stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Unacceptable Behaviour policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in behaviour of some stakeholders. • Long term sickness caused by stakeholder hostility 	Tolerate
Damage to vehicles, trailers and/or equipment through inappropriate operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal trailer training for unqualified officer • Refreshers for those with previous experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to adhere to training • Mechanical failure of vehicle or trailer 	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 outwith Eastern IFCA ability to treat and is transferred to higher level.

Vision

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Action Item 7

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30 July 2014

Election of Elected member to fill vacancies in the sub-committee structure

Report by: P J Haslam, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose of report

To propose that Councillor Byatt, Suffolk County Council, fills the vacancies in the sub-committee structure caused by the re-deployment of Councillor Patience to other duties.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Agree that Cllr Byatt should fill the vacancies on the Finance and Personnel and Regulatory and Compliance sub committees.**
- **Direct the CEO to amend and re-publish the revised sub-committee structure.**

Background

In May 2014, the Clerk was advised that Cllr Patience was to be re-deployed to other County Councillor duties and that Cllr Byatt had been nominated to be appointed to the Authority.

Report

This minor adjustment to the elected membership has created requirement for the sub-committee structure to be updated to reflect this change.

The process of appointments to sub committees is via a vote from the full Authority. To acknowledge and respect this procedure, the approval of members is sought to appoint Councillor Byatt to both the Finance and Personnel and Regulatory and compliance sub committees.

Conclusion

Members are requested to approve a minor adjustment to the sub-committee structure.

Vision

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Action Item 9

15th EIFCA Meeting

30th July 2014

Report by: Nichola Freer – Head of HR
Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance
Julian Gregory – Deputy CEO

Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-committees held on 25 June 2014

Purpose of report

To inform members of the key outputs and decisions from the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee meetings held on 25th June 2014.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note the report.**

HR Matters:

Confirmation of posts

The Head of Finance was confirmed as a permanent appointment after the successful completion of their probationary period.

Recruitment update

We have successfully recruited internally for the following positions:

- Project Officer - Luke Godwin, current Marine Environment Officer-Data Lead
- Marine Environment Officer-Consultation Lead – Dan Steadman, currently fulfilling a fixed term contract to support the remainder of EIFCA's transition

At the time of the meeting, members were informed that we had advertised externally for the positions of IFCO & Crew Member and Marine Environment Officer – Data Lead and that we had received a healthy response to the vacancies. We have since conducted interviews for these positions, details of which are included in the HR update (information item 21)

Update of HR activity

An update was given with regard to the progress towards the HR plan to 2015. This report is covered in information item 21 of the statutory meeting papers.

Finance Matters:

Sutton Bridge Moorings

The sub-committee agreed to enter into negotiations with Fenland District Council and Lincolnshire County Council with a view to securing 50 metres of new pontoon moorings

in the planned marina at Sutton Bridge. A capital outlay of circa £150k in return for a yet to be negotiated number of years mooring was also agreed in principle, subject to full contractual proposals being presented to the sub-committee.

Background

Eastern IFCA currently operates vessels from the port at Sutton Bridge at the mouth of the river Nene. This has been the case for a number of years and whilst the location is not perfect it provides the best option for access to sea in The Wash in terms of tidal access and available mooring facilities.

The current mooring facility is of sufficient size to cater for a 24m patrol vessel (previously *FPV ESF Protector III*) and the current 16m research vessel, *RV Three Counties*. In addition the Authority installed a fuel bunkering facility on the site some years ago and a road haulage container is used as a storage facility.

The moorings, which are leased from the Henry Smith charity for an annual cost of circa £20k, are in a poor state of repair and require significant upgrading in order to address health and safety concerns and to meet longer term suitability. Whilst this is acknowledged, at least in part, by the charity they have been reluctant to commit to any substantial development due to the existence of a long-standing project to build a combined leisure and commercial marina facility in the river at Sutton Bridge.

The project involves Lincolnshire County Council and Fenland District Council and it has been beset with difficulties, including issues over ownership of land and the river bed. The charity have been involved in negotiations via their management agent, Smiths Gore and it is understood that it has now been established that the charity do not own the river bed, which has now been registered in the name of the Environment Agency. It is also understood that there are issues associated with the ownership of land on the river bank, which combined with the riverbed ownership affects the ongoing viability of Eastern IFCA's current moorings.

Eastern IFCA officers have previously been involved on the periphery of the project as Fenland DC have been interested in including our existing moorings and in particular sharing our existing fuel bunker due to difficulties in securing planning permission for new facilities.

Current Position

Lincolnshire CC has previously secured external funding for part of the project and as a consequence of the delays is now required to make commitments within relatively short timescales. This combined with the conclusion of negotiations on the land ownership issues has resulted in proposals for a smaller marina facility to be progressed quickly.

The overall cost of the project is estimated to be circa £1m and as an opening for negotiation it was suggested that Eastern IFCA contribute circa £150k in exchange for a long term (10 years+) peppercorn rent (subject to negotiation).

Fenland DC cabinet have approved the project and the potential involvement of Eastern IFCA and draft Heads of Terms are awaited and will provide a framework for negotiation. It is anticipated that construction will take place early in 2015 with a view to the facility being operational by the summer.

Disposal of FPV Runner

The sub-committee agreed to dispose of FPV runner by donating the vessel to a good cause within the maritime environment (Boston Sea Cadet Unit).

Background

FPV Runner is a Ribcraft 4.8m Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) fitted with a Honda BF-50hp engine. It was purchased in 2004 and it is understood that the purchase price was circa £14k including a trailer.

Runner has been used almost exclusively as a tender to *RV Three Counties* and has had a fairly hard life supporting the extensive seaborne research undertaken by that vessel. As a consequence *Runner* is in poor condition and has been taken out of service.

The condition of *Runner* can be summarised as follows:

- Hull - no longer watertight with water ingress taking place between the inner and outer skins. Several years ago the integral fuel tanks were found to be leaking. Estimates for repair were prohibitive and as a consequence the tanks were sealed and replaced with a portable fuel tank.
- Inflatable tubes – showing signs of wear and they leak air. Judged to be in need of replacement (estimate from Ribcraft is £3,330 ex-vat)
- Engine – currently not working with damage to piston rings/liners. Estimate for repair is circa £2k and new replacement circa £6k
- Trailer – serviceable

It was suggested that the overall condition of *Runner* means that she is beyond economical repair and as such should be disposed of.

Options

Options for the sale of the vessel, either as a package or by its constituent parts, were considered but it was judged that the price achieved would be relatively low given the condition of the vessel.

Mr Ceri Morgan (MMO appointed member of Eastern IFCA) had originally suggested donating the vessel to Boston Sea Cadets as renovating it would be a useful project for them.

The sub-committee decided to donate the vessel to the Sea Cadets.

Background Papers

1. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee Meeting held on 25th June 2015.

Vision

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Action Item 10

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30 July 2014

Payments made and monies received during the period 1st April 2014 to 9th July 2014

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance

Purpose of report

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

The report on Payments made and monies received during the period 1st April 2014 to 9th July 2014 is attached.

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

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Approve the report.**

Background documents

There are no background documents to this paper

Finance Officer's Report on Payments Made and Monies Received during the period
1st April 2014 to 9th July 2014

Payments made during the period 1st April 2014 to 9th July 2014

	Month 01	Month 02	Month 03	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Transfers to EIFCA Salaries & Wages Acct.	70,000	75,000		145,000
Rent, Rates & Service Charges	18,207	9,034	5,923	33,164
General Establishment	16,994	3,673	3,022	23,689
Legal Fees	132	2,136	1,075	3,343
Staff Travelling & Subsistence	4,033	515	936	5,484
Members' Allowances	580	267		847
Training	736	9,770	27	10,533
Moorings/Harbour Dues	538	4,589	4,123	9,250
Pisces III Operating Costs	440	565		1,005
Three Counties Operating Costs	23,128	3,452	42	26,622
FPV John Allen -Operating Costs	4,243	8,528	33	12,804
Vehicle Operating Costs	6,565	548	1,917	9,030
Communication and Development	115	246	230	591
Research and Environment	5,944	45	77	6,066
Enforcement	5,950		91	6,041
Wash Fishery Order	416	2,025		2,441
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS Project Fund	240	20		260
VAT (Recoverable)	10,255	7,587	2,547	20,389
Petty Cash	50	100		150
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE	168,566	128,100	20,043	316,709

Monies received during the period 1st April 2014 to 9th July 2014

	Month 01	Month 02	Month 03	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Levies	402,531			402,531
Treasury Deposit Interest		3,740		3,740
Lay rents	1,261	351	844	2,456
HMRC Mineral Oil Rebate		4,887		4,887
WFO – Licences	660		7,050	7,710
WFO - Tolls	720		8,460	9,180
Defra funding			14,000	14,000
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS	17,424			17,424
Sale of equipment		3,350		3,350
EHO sampling	765			765
Miscellaneous			4,401	4,401
TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED	423,361	12,328	34,756	470,445

Vision

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



Action Item 11

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30 July 2014

Report on the Management Accounts for the period 1st April 2014 to 30th June 2014

Report by: Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance

Purpose of report

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

Recommendations:

Members are asked to formally note the Management Accounts.

Background

The Management Accounts for the three months to 30th June 2014 are attached.

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

Members will note that the actual figures for the three months show that there is a saving against budget of £64,061. This is made up of an under spend of £34,820 and an increase in Miscellaneous Income of £29,241.

The main variances to budget are as follows:-

<u>Expenditure</u>	£	<u>Reason</u>
Salaries	36,294	Under complement pending recruitment
General Expenditure	(5,624)	CEO training £5,000 Legal (re tribunal)£3,000
Development & Comms	1,909	Timing of events
Enforcement	3,159	Annual licence £5,250
Research	(2,164)	Equipment purchase £5,640 offset funding
Vessels	1,436	Fuel purchase £10,700 spares JA £8,000
Vehicles	(190)	Not significant
 <u>Income</u>		
AIFCA	14,000	One off allocation of surplus funding
WFO Tolls	9,180	Majority received in Qtr. 1
Sale of 4x4	3,350	Nissan sold privately
Lay rents	2,456	To be budgeted for future years
Other	255	

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Management Accounts

Financial Year 2013/2014.....

	ACTUAL Year to Date Qtr 1	BUDGET (APPORTIONED) Qtr 1	MEMO Budget For Year
	£	£	£
<u>SALARIES & WAGES</u>			
Staff Remuneration	155,977	185,900	743,600
Pension	32,673	37,180	148,720
National Insurance	12,366	14,230	56,920
TOTAL	201,016	237,310	949,240
<u>GENERAL EXPENDITURE</u>			
Accommodation	33,164	32,884	78,188
General Establishment	27,032	23,762	95,048
Officers' Expenses	5,484	4,080	16,320
Members' Travel	847	1,275	5,100
Training	10,533	9,435	37,740
TOTAL	77,060	71,436	222,414
Development & Communication	591	2,500	10,000
Enforcement	6,041	9,200	20,400
Research & Environment	6,066	3,902	15,606
<u>VESSELS</u>			
Moorings & Harbour Dues	5,127	5,525	22,102
Vessel Operating Costs			
Three Counties	26,622	26,981	71,924
Enforcement Vessels incl John Allen	12,804	13,125	58,650
Pisces III	1,005	1,363	5,452
TOTAL	45,558	46,994	158,128
<u>VEHICLES</u>			
Operating Costs	9,030	8,840	22,340
TOTAL	9,030	8,840	22,340
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	345,362	380,182	1,408,110
<u>INCOME</u>			
Bank Interest	-3,740	-4,250	-17,000
Sale of assets	-3,350	0	
WFO Licence Tolls	-9,180	0	
Additional funding	-14,000	0	
EHO sampling	-765	0	
Lay rents	-2,456	0	
TOTAL INCOME	-33,491	-4,250	-17,000
EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME	311,871	375,932	1,391,110

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

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30 July 2014

Report by: Phil Haslam, CEO

Annual Report 2013-2014

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present and seek approval of Eastern IFCA's Annual Report 2013-2014

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Approve the Annual Report 2013-2014**
- **Direct the CEO to publish the report and distribute it to Defra**

Background

Defra mandates that Eastern IFCA produces an Annual Report. The Annual Report for 2013-2014 has been sent to the Chair of the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee for approval and his comments have been taken into account. The Authority is now asked to approve the annual report for 2013-2014. The Annual Report is attached as a separate file.

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

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30 July 2014

Report by: Phil Haslam, CEO

Recreational Sea Angling Strategy

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present and seek approval of Eastern IFCA's Recreational Sea Angling (RSA) strategy which has been developed following the Authority meeting in January 2014 where members agreed to:

- Acknowledge the social and economic benefits of recreational sea angling.
- Direct the CEO to develop a regional sea angling strategy in concert with local sea anglers.
- Direct the CEO to consider measures to support regional RSA as part of the byelaw review.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Approve the Recreational Sea Angling strategy.**

Background

The Authority has a mandate through MaCAA 09 to:

- seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way;
- seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the district with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation;
- take any other steps which in the authority's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development, and;
- seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district.

These duties coupled with the findings of the Angling 2012 study as presented to Authority members in January 2014 drove a requirement to develop a RSA strategy. The strategy has been produced in collaboration with regional RSA practitioners and has been opened for consultation with the RSA community for 6 weeks from mid May to end June 2014.

Although responses to the formal consultation have been relatively low, there were many comments made in the drafting process which were incorporated from the outset. Members can be confident that those who would wish to comment and influence the document have had the opportunity to do so.

Similarly other IFCA's have commented on the strategy and are looking to develop their own product in line with the Eastern version. Kent and Essex and Eastern IFCA's are working together to ensure that our approaches mirror each other so that there are not wholesale differences in adjacent districts.

RSA Strategy

The Strategy is at Appendix 1. It has been written to reflect where the Authority can take the lead in delivering elements of the strategy. Equally it highlights where others must play their part if progress is to be made.

Early engagement with the RSA community reflected a customer-supplier relationship where the expectation was that Authority officers would take responsibility across the board to address the concerns of the community. From the outset, it was advised that the Authority is only empowered to take steps in accordance with the direction of MaCAA which would comprise the protection of the marine environment; the sustainable management of fish stocks; steps to ensure that the needs of all within the fishery are balanced and, where possible, to alert other partners to the potential economic dividend to be realised from a vibrant RSA sector. This is expanded upon in the document.

Risk

There is no legal or financial risk associated with the development of the strategy. There is reputational risk in developing a strategy but failing to take it forward or failing to deliver the success that is expected. Members are recommended to acknowledge that without the active participation of other partners it will not be possible for Authority officers to unilaterally deliver all that is required to improve the RSA experience on the region.

There is a degree of latent tension between commercial and recreational fishers especially where their activities interact. There is likely to be some resistance to management measures that potentially prefer one form of fishing over the other and this will require sensitive handling.

Benefit

Members are recommended to acknowledge that some within the RSA community have a perception that IFCA's are disproportionately focussed on delivering the demands of the commercial sector. By developing and driving through a cogent strategy, the Authority is taking the initiative not only to seek to improve the regional RSA experience but also to deliver potentially significant financial dividends to the district. If done well, the RSA strategy has the potential to become an exemplar and to be a catalyst for a more receptive and accommodating approach to RSA activities.

Conclusion

The RSA strategy is tabled for approval. The development of a strategy is the first step in ensuring that Eastern IFCA understands the requirements of its RSA stakeholders and can take appropriate management action to balance opportunities and manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and balance the needs of all within the

fishery. It provides a roadmap to enable partners to consider their part in collectively improving the regional RSA experience. Members are recommended to give it their approval.

Background documents

1. Minutes 12th EIFCA meeting – 29 Jan 14
 2. Sea Angling 2012 – a survey of recreational sea angling activity and economic value in England, Defra, November 2013.
 3. Sea Angling 2012 paper – 12th EIFCA meeting 29 Jan 14 (Item 12)
Appendix
1. Eastern IFCA Recreational Sea Angling strategy



Sea Angling Strategy

Version
2.0

Introduction

This document articulates a strategy to manage and improve Recreational Sea Angling (RSA) in the Eastern district. It has been drafted by Eastern Inshore Fishery and Conservation Authority staff in recognition of the significant part that fisheries stock management plays in enabling RSA activity with assistance from members of the regional RSA community. The strategy applies equally to shore, boat based and match fishermen and for it to be a success, delivery of the strategy will need to be a region wide collective endeavour signed up to and delivered by public authorities, regulatory bodies and the RSA community.

The intent of the document is to state where we are, where we would wish to go, what needs to be done to get us there and, broadly, how we intend to take those steps.

Context

Sea angling has always been a feature of the Eastern region and the north Norfolk coast and Suffolk in particular are renowned for the RSA experience they provide. A full spectrum of recreational activity is conducted in our region from the solitary beach based angler to businesses providing charter boats to parties of offshore anglers to the hosting of successful fishing matches.

The economic dividend from RSA activity is a key income stream for the region which deserves to be nurtured and developed. Similarly the promotion of the health and well-being effects of a day's fishing should be recognised and promoted for the greater good of the both regional and the national economies. Quantifying the dividend and benefits has always been subject to conjecture but a recent study, Sea Angling 2012 has delivered results that demand attention.

Opportunities for recreational fishing across the region are declining and the overall experience of anglers is not as positive as it could be. The natural coastal assets of the region coupled with the significant potential to secure greater economic dividend from RSA activity drives a need for a coherent strategy to improve the overall regional RSA experience by identifying and improving all the constituent elements from car parks to conflicting commercial fishing activity, from bait to litter bins and from tackle to thornback ray.

Background

The Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority was created under Section 150 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) and was fully vested on 1st April 2011 in accordance with the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order².

The Eastern IFCA district extends seawards six nautical miles from the Haile Sand Fort off the Lincolnshire coast in the north to the river Stour in Suffolk as well as on land in the three counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The district encompasses every existing UK and EU form of Marine Protected Area (MPA) namely, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, European Marine Sites and Marine Conservation Zones.

The national vision for Eastern IFCA is

² Statutory Instrument 2010 No 2189

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

Through MaCAA 09 Eastern IFCA is charged with the following duties:

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

From the duties above it is clear that Eastern IFCA has a remit to protect the marine environment whilst enabling the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources. In delivering this remit there is a requirement to balance the needs of all within the fishery and to seek sustainable development opportunities. This strategy is designed to focus the delivery of those duties on the Recreational Sea Angling community.

Sea Angling 2012

The Sea Angling 2012³ study was established to find out how many people go sea angling in England, how much they catch, how much is released, and the economic and social value of sea angling.

The intent of the study was to help local and national policy makers make balanced, well-informed decisions on sustainable development of all forms of sea fishing, and help other organisations – such as sea angling bodies – to develop their own policies. The surveys also met UK obligations under European law to estimate recreational catches of several species including bass and cod. Data were collected from over 11,000 sea

³ Sea Angling 2012 – a survey of recreational sea angling activity and economic value in England, Defra, November 2013.

anglers in England through an Office of National Statistics (ONS) household survey, face-to-face interviews with anglers by Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA), catch diaries and online surveys.

The surveys estimated there are 884,000 sea anglers in England, with 2% of all adults going sea angling. These anglers make a significant contribution to the economy – in 2012, sea anglers resident in England spent £1.23 billion on the sport, equivalent to £831 million direct spend once imports and taxes had been excluded. This supported 10,400 full-time equivalent jobs and almost £360 million of gross value added (GVA). Taking indirect and induced effects into account, sea angling supported £2.1 billion of total spending, a total of over 23,600 jobs, and almost £980 million of GVA.

Sea angling also has important social and well-being benefits including providing relaxation, physical exercise, and a route for socialising. Anglers felt that improving fish stocks was the most important factor that would increase participation in sea angling.

Almost 4 million days of sea angling were recorded over the year. Shore fishing was the most common type of sea angling – almost 3 million angler-days compared with 1 million for private or rented boats and 0.1 million on charter boats. Anglers had most success on charter boats, catching 10 fish per day on average compared with around 5 from private boats and only 2 from the shore.

The most common species caught, by number, were mackerel and whiting. Shore anglers released around 75% of the fish caught, many of which were undersized, and boat anglers released around 50% of their fish.

The Sea Angling 2012 surveys of shore and boat catches give the most comprehensive estimates ever for England, and have been carried out using rigorous statistical protocols.

The full report can be viewed at:

www.marinemanagement.org.uk/seaangling/documents/finalreport.pdf

The Need

As the regional inshore fisheries and conservation manager, there is a need for Eastern IFCA to understand the patterns and trends of recreational sea angling in its district and then to take action to engage, monitor and manage sea fisheries resource exploitation activity. Furthermore, Eastern IFCA has a part to play in setting the conditions whereby the Eastern region can realise the full potential of opportunities to preserve, promote and publicise regional RSA activity

The approach

In order to make this strategy more than simply an aspirational statement, the approach detailed below establishes a Desired End State; the condition that need to exist to achieve the End State, the effects that need to be in place to create the conditions and an indication of the actual tasks that will need to be carried out. To create a delivery plan from the strategy will require ownership to be established and independent actions coordinated through regular progress checks. As a final step a mechanism to measure effect will be needed to assess progress.

Drivers for change

There are a plethora of reasons for change. RSA is an economically potent activity that provides both health and well being benefits and sources of employment. If the results of Angling 2012 are divided amongst the 10 inshore districts in England in a linear fashion it is not unreasonable to suggest that c90,000 people are actively participating in RSA in the district and the associated economic dividend is of the order of £200 million per annum. In a region where over 60% of the boundary is coastline much of which is renowned for RSA, it makes sense to take steps to seek to realise the full potential of the activity.

Sea Angling 2012 has studied the reasons why anglers go fishing and have encapsulated the responses as follows:



In addition, better fish stocks were cited most often as the factor that would increase participation, although cost, time and family commitments were also important.

End State

Any undertaking needs to have a clear understanding of what it seeks to achieve and must establish a desired End State. Taking the above statements as the key requirements that recreational sea angling participants seek, a desired End State can be formulated. The End State for Sea Angling in the Eastern district is:

A positive regional recreational sea angling experience

Setting the Conditions

Analysis of the desired End State will help to highlight those decisive conditions that must be set to ensure that every angler who pursues their sport or hobby in the Eastern district, on balance, receives a positive experience. The table below outlines those conditions and demonstrates that this needs to be a collective endeavour between all parties as no one stakeholder can implement all the required actions.

Condition	Explanation	Owners/Action
Sufficient Opportunity	In the first instance sea anglers need to have opportunities to pursue their sport/hobby. This comprises the physical ability to stand on a beach and/or boat to conduct fishing activity. Similarly, bait is an essential requirement and sufficient opportunity to source bait will be required. Closely associated to Opportunity is Accessibility as it is a requirement that sufficient opportunities are available to all who would wish to participate	Public and private landowners
Sustainable stocks	'More and bigger fish' is often cited as the central desire of most sea anglers. The management of fish stocks to ensure that spawning grounds and migration routes are protected, recruitment to the fishery is promoted and assisted and exploitation is managed in balance with stocks levels are key determinants in delivering sustainable stocks. Bait is an essential requirement and sustainably sourcing bait will need to be considered.	IFCA/MMO/Natural England/Public and private landowners
De-conflicted activities	To deliver both 'more and bigger fish' and to achieve the desired relaxation and freedom to operate, there is a requirement to manage the inevitable tension which can exist between recreational and commercial fishing activities.	IFCA/MMO & Commercial/RSA sector

	<p>This will entail sensible regulation to de-conflict the two activities in a balanced manner. This will also require discipline from both sectors to ensure that agreements and codes of conduct are adhered to.</p>	
<p>Sense of Value</p>	<p>Value has to be considered from two perspectives: that of the angler and that of the regional economic benefit.</p> <p>For the angler the experience has to be judged as worth the commitment in time and money with a reasonable expectation that there will be sufficient local infrastructure to support the activity.</p> <p>For local authorities there needs to be acknowledgement of the potential economic advantage to be gained through RSA activity (i.e. the local value of the activity) as well as a mature understanding of the worth of promoting local RSA when balanced with any resources needing to be applied.</p> <p>In the first instance this will require a dialogue to be established between the RSA sector and local authorities to identify those local area that are particularly conducive to RSA activity and worthy of further investment. It is expected that public recognition will, through market forces, drive private sector activity to provide support infrastructure such as accommodation and tackle shops.</p> <p>It is for consideration that the declaration of an intention to create of a regional centre of RSA excellence may provide the opportunity and certainty necessary to attract investment.</p>	<p>RSA sector/ Public authorities</p>

Delivering the conditions

To achieve the conditions detailed above will require tasks to be fulfilled which, when complete, should deliver the intended conditions.

Condition	Objective	Output	Tasks	Measures of effect
Sufficient Opportunity	Maintain	Maintain current opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all stakeholders and influential bodies. Create regional dialogue with Relevant Authorities (RAs) to understand plans and projects which may support or threaten current opportunities to recreationally fish Develop understanding of lost RSA opportunities and/or decisions that have lead to lost opportunities. Develop understanding of regional bait digging activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compendium of baseline statistics to understand level of participation; numbers of clubs; regional competitions; number of opportunities, target species; annual catches; 5% returned; infrastructure, bait digging activity etc.etc. Database of RSA stakeholders and influential bodies created. Dialogue created with RAs and RSA activity and economic benefit acknowledged. RAs consider likely impact on RSA activity routinely within decision making.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSA routinely considered in RA tourism, sport and recreation policy. • Trend towards a loss of opportunity arrested. • Bait digging activity and access to sites identified, understood and managed.
	Develop	Develop more opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate plans in concert with RAs to develop opportunities to recreationally fish and to formally market the activity to capture new participants (particularly youngsters) and rekindle interest from lapsed anglers. • Create an understanding of the relative value of RSA and commercial activity amongst all stakeholders via dialogue, presentations and advertising/marketing activity. • Engage with commercial concerns both nationally and regionally to develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAs develop plans to promote RSA opportunities. • Greater regional interest in RSA • More participants generated • Angling Trust initiatives rolled out and owned by local RSA clubs. • Annual regional RSA fair developed and hosted.

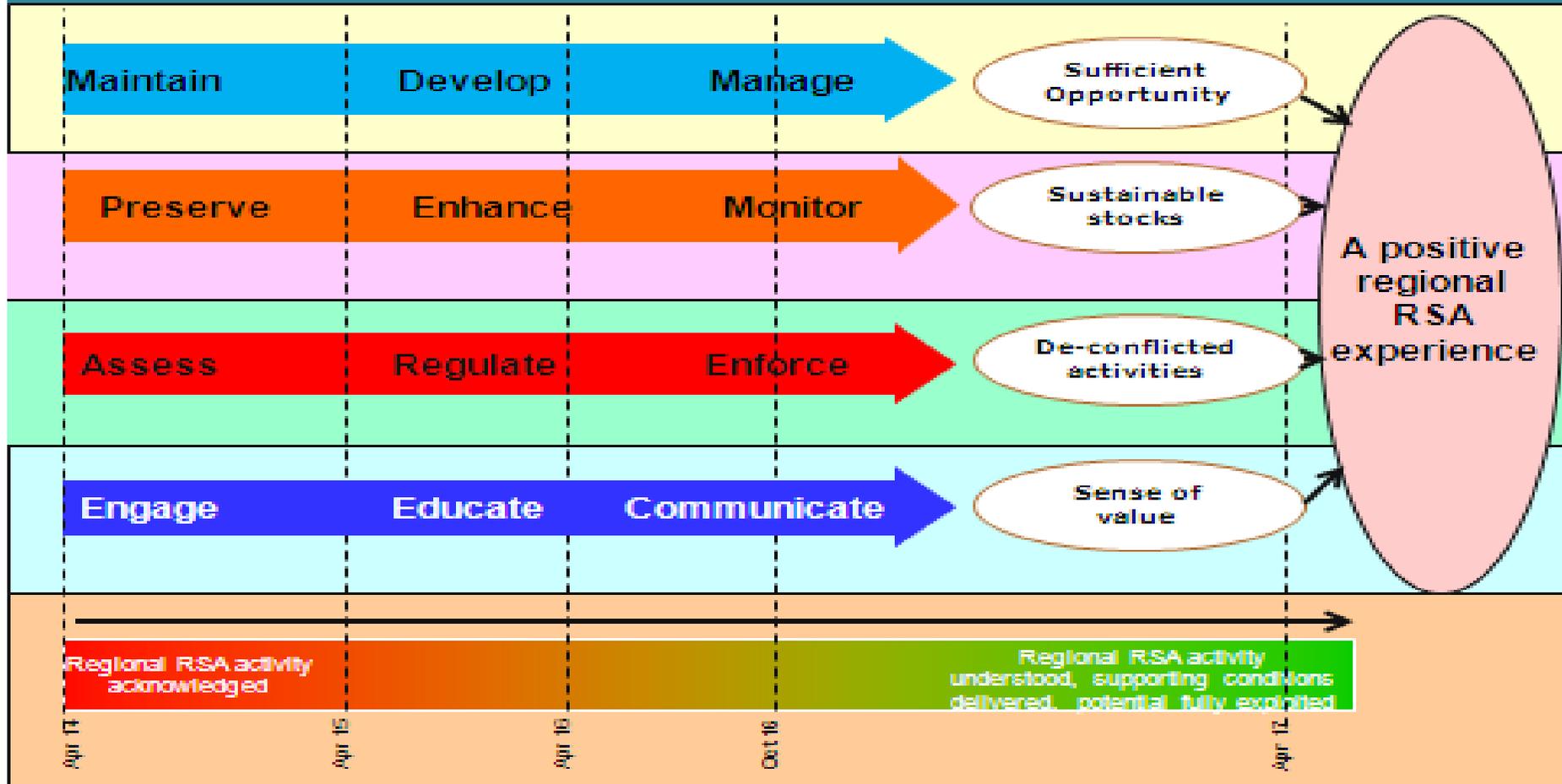
			branding and marketing initiatives.	
	Manage	Actively manage opportunities to ensure that full economic potential is being realised Take steps to promote regional RSA opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once opportunities have been developed, take steps with all stakeholders to ensure that the regional RSA experience is maintained at a high level and is recognised as a national centre of excellence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastern region acknowledged nationally and internationally as centre of excellence for RSA.
Sustainable stocks	Preserve	Take management action with target stocks to prevent reduction below current levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand importance of key target species Identify key spawning and migration grounds through stakeholder dialogue and/or research activity Identify recruitment mechanism and key areas through stakeholder dialogue and/or research activity. Understand level of both recreational and commercial exploitation activity through research activity to ensure decline in stocks is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key target species identified, localised and life cycle patterns fully understood. Current levels of commercial and recreational exploitation understood and used to inform management measures. Management measures introduced to protect key grounds/species to promote greater sustainability. Bait digging linkage to RSA is fully recognised and bait digging activity is

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> arrested. Identify bait stocks. 	<p>managed to support RSA activity while not threatening the sustainability of bait stocks.</p>
	Enhance	<p>Take steps to promote the sustainable development of stocks including management of exploitation, protection of spawning grounds and assisting stock recruitment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and monitor spawning grounds Take steps to promote recruitment to the fishery using appropriate regulatory measures including closed areas to ensure sustainability of stocks. Introduce management measures to regulate exploitation activity. Engage neighbouring marine managers to ensure commonality of approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key spawning, migration and recruiting grounds protected using management measures up to and including byelaws. Consistency of approach with neighbouring regulators achieved.
	Monitor	<p>Conduct regular surveys to monitor stock status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routinely monitor stock status through appropriate cross stakeholder mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanism to deliver stock monitoring developed and results reported annually.
De-conflicted activity	Assess	<p>Assess level and location of conflicting fishing activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand who is fishing where and the target species. Understand when the highest intensity of conflicting activity is likely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competing activities identified.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the competing methods of exploitation. 	
	Regulate	Take steps to regulate activity to ensure stocks are not over exploited and the most economically viable fishing activity is promoted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use management measures to assure the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources by both RSA participants and commercial operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions brokered to balance the needs of all within the fishery. Management measures introduced.
	Enforce	Apply resources to ensure regulations are adhered to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a culture and the behaviours whereby management measures are understood, appreciated and adhered to by RSA participants. Monitor adherence to management measures via land based and sea based patrols. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine enforcement activity is programmed and reported upon monthly. Annual report includes summary of enforcement activity.
Sense of Value	Engage	<p>Create a dialogue with all stakeholders to identify requirements and aspirations.</p> <p>Take steps to actively market regional RSA opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a regional understanding of the value of RSA activity in terms of economic dividend and health and well-being. Formulate plans with RAs to achieve regional buy in and appropriate support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value of regional RSA activity quantified and advertised. Mechanisms to promote existing activity/develop new opportunities identified and taken forward.
	Educate	Educate stakeholders and wider public of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use RSA as a mechanism to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness of RSA activity is

		<p>benefits of RSA activity.</p> <p>Inform stakeholders at a national and international level of regional RSA opportunities.</p>	<p>introduce the wider public to the marine environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-brand and market the region as a centre of excellence engaging national bodies as required 	<p>increased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new participants increased. • Bespoke opportunities to advertise the benefits of RSA developed and delivered.
	Communicate	<p>Continue the dialogue to bring a focus upon regional RSA activity and opportunities including supporting plans for regional RSA centres of excellence and initiatives to host an annual RSA festival.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the conversation going via all media types to preserve interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern region acknowledged as centre of RSA excellence. • Regional economic dividend from RSA activity increased.

RSA Strategy Schematic



So What?

The cynics will say that this strategy is yet another brightly coloured document that will not achieve its stated aim. There is a degree of truth in that if we fail to secure the buy in of all stakeholders and other influential bodies and individuals. To bring this strategy and plan to life will take energy, determination and a collective approach if anything meaningful is to be achieved. Furthermore, openness, understanding and the willingness to compromise will be necessary. That said, the prize is worth the investment and it should be recognised that there is an opportunity to transform the regional RSA experience.

Eastern IFCA has its part to play in managing both the marine environment and the fisheries within it to deliver the aspiration of more and bigger fish. We seek to assure the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources including bait, and will conduct research and take management measures to achieve that statutory duty. The parallel development of the other conditions will help ensure that the regional recreational sea angling experience is positive and can be sustained.

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 14

15th EIFCA meeting

30 July 2014

Report by: Luke Godwin, Project Officer

Lay review and application process update

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present the progress made towards processing applications for WFO shellfish lays and present a report detailing the emerging '10ha issue' and recommendation for its resolution.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Receive an update on the progress made in processing lay applications**
- **Receive a report on the '10 ha issue'**
- **Direct the CEO to undertake a retrospective application to the minister for extant leases thought to be in contravention of the Order.**

Background

In 2009 concerns emerged to the effect that the WFO shellfish lays were potentially having an impact on wild mussel and cockle stocks through removing significant amounts of phytoplankton – a food source for mussel and cockle. The processing of WFO lay applications was paused until such a time that these concerns were investigated.

In October 2013, Eastern IFCA received advice from Natural England to the extent that the current WFO shellfish lays were not having an impact on wild mussel and cockle stocks. As a result, Eastern IFCA officers were directed by the Authority to start processing lay applications which had been paused due to the food availability concerns.

Lay applications – Progress update

As a result of concerns regarding food availability, around thirty applications for WFO shellfish lays were either declined or not processed pending the outcome of the food availability study in The Wash. The Authority directed officers to process those applications which were at least partially processed⁴ – there are nine such applications.

Given the amount of time which has passed since the applications were originally made (more than five years in some cases) up-to-date evidence is required to inform a

⁴ 11th Eastern IFCA meeting 30th October 13.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which Eastern IFCA is statutorily obliged to complete when consenting a WFO shellfish lay. To this effect, the most significant evidence demands are a biotope survey of each lay application and an assessment of the potential impact further shellfish lays could have on wild shellfish stocks through reducing available food from within The Wash.

Biotope surveys were successfully carried out in June for eight of the nine application lays – one site did not 'dry out' sufficiently to carry out the survey. This site was resurveyed in mid-July. Reports from these surveys have also been completed and evidence has been used to inform the draft HRAs.

Draft HRAs will be submitted to Natural England for their consideration at the earliest opportunity.

In addition to environmental evidence gathering, a formal consultation with local fishing associations and neighbouring WFO shellfish lay holders is also required as part of the application process. The results of the biotope survey have been used to inform a consultation which is still ongoing.

Lay applications – Next steps

The results of the consultation as well as advice from Natural England subsequent to the submission of the HRAs will be used to inform a final report to the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee for their consideration. An MPA sub-committee meeting is provisionally arranged for the 15th October with the intention that lay applications will be formally considered at this meeting.

In the case where the Authority resolves to grant the application for a WFO lay, and where the total lay holdings of a 'person'⁵ exceeds 10 ha, ministerial consent is required.

10 ha issue – Background

Eastern IFCA has powers to grant leases for the purpose of shellfish cultivation within The Wash as per article 6 of the Wash Fishery Order (1992)⁶. Article 6 of the WFO also places certain restrictions on such leases; one such restriction is to restrict the total area of shellfish lays a person is entitled to 10ha without written consent from the minister⁷.

Eastern IFCA has previously sought such permission in respect to total lay areas being in excess of 10 ha and the Minister has given consent on these occasions.

Emerging issue

In accordance with Article 6(5)(b) any of the following shall be treated as one person –

- (i) Any two or more persons carrying on a business of shellfish cultivation in partnership,
- (ii) The person having control of a company and all the companies controlled by that person,
- (iii) Spouses,
- (iv) Parents and children.

⁵ As defined in WFO – article 6(5)(b)

⁶ WFO 1992 – 6(1) *The Committee may lease to any person the right of several fishery...*

⁷ WFO 1992 – 6(2)(a) [without written consent of the minister the Committee shall not grant to any person a lease... if] *the total area in respect of which that person would be entitled to that right would exceed 10 hectares.*

When this interpretation of a 'person' is applied to extant leases, several instances occur where the Authority has granted leases to 'persons' which are in excess of 10 ha and where no ministerial consent has been sought. This is thought to have arisen as a result of a misinterpretation of article 6(5).

On discovery of the above issue, officers sought professional legal opinion who confirmed that several granted leases are greater than 10 ha and not in keeping with the WFO.

Risk to the Authority

The Authority has not received a query regarding its management of its several fishery, and the Authority has never knowingly granted leases to a person in contravention of article 6(5) of the Order. It is important to consider the following allowances that have been made by the Minister and Defra with regards to granting leases in the past;

- (i) On at least two occasions, the Minister has provided written consent for lays totalling 30 ha;
- (ii) In previous discussions with MAFF (Defra) lay holders have been treated as separate 'persons' even if falling into the parent and child (Article 6(5)(b)(iv)) description of a person when an accounts notification of independence has been provided – i.e. the parent and child are not 'in business' together.

As such, officers cautiously consider that the Authority is at no immediate risk. That said, the Authority has a responsibility to ensure that its several fishery is being managed in a fair and responsible manner and in accordance with the Wash Fishery Order 1992.

Next steps

Leases are written in such a manner that they are automatically renewed on the 1st April of every year for a period of ten years or until either party (the Authority or the lessee) decides to end the agreement. As such, as of April 2015 – when most extant leases will automatically be renewed – this would be considered as granting new leases. Officers recommend that the Authority applies to the minister for retrospective consent of extant leases which are in excess of 10 ha before this time. The risk in doing so will be that Defra may require adjustments to current lease agreements.

Completing this process will align current management of the several fishery with the provisions of the WFO; however, officers suggest that this is only a short term solution. The management practices in the several fishery will likely need to be reviewed in tandem with a review of the Wash Fishery Order to ensure sustainability of aquaculture in The Wash in the long term.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Authority directs officers to undertake a retrospective application to the minister for extant leases thought to be in contravention of the Order.

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



15th Eastern IFCA meeting

30th July 2014

Item 15

Report by: Judith Stoutt, Senior Marine Environment Officer

Fisheries Management in European Marine Sites progress report

Purpose of report

This report provides an outline of progress with this project against projected timelines, and includes additional detail on particular aspects of the project of prominence during the quarter April to June 2014, as well as an indication of up-coming developments that could require future actions. Two appendices are presented to support this report:

- Appendix 1: Gantt chart showing completed and pending tasks for the Fisheries Management in European Marine Sites project
- Appendix 2: European Marine Sites "Amber and Green" feature management decision process

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the report and its appendices;
- **Agree** to the work on an operational process and impact assessment being undertaken for the 16th Eastern IFCA meeting in October 2014.

Protected Areas Byelaw (Stage Two in Appendix 1)

At meetings of the Regulatory and Compliance sub-committee held on 18th September and 28th November 2013 the recommended means of regulating for 'red risk' interactions in European Marine Sites (EMSs) was discussed. The outcome was that a Protected Areas Byelaw was made pending ministerial sign off.

It was acknowledged that the innovative nature of the byelaw meant that there was more intensive dialogue with Defra than might otherwise be expected and that this was still ongoing at the time of the meeting on 28th November 2013. As a consequence, it was agreed that any changes to the byelaw that were judged to be minor and technical in nature could be made in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Regulation and Compliance sub-committee. If any changes of a more substantive nature were required then they were to be referred to the next full Authority meeting.

Extensive dialogue with the MMO and Defra resulted in some minor changes and these were agreed by the respective Chairs. The Protected Areas byelaw received Ministerial assent and came into force on 16th May 2014. The four Regulatory Notices to protect the following 'red risk' features came into effect at the same time:

- Biogenic reef of *Sabellaria spinulosa* (Ross Worm) within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site
- Sub-tidal Boulder and Cobble Communities as a constituent sub-feature of the Large Shallow Inlet and Bay feature of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site
- *Zostera spp* (Eel-grass) as an attribute of intertidal mud-flat and sand flats sub-feature of the Large Shallow Inlet and Bay feature that is in the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site, and a sub-feature of the intertidal mud-flat and sand flats in the Humber Estuaries European Marine Site

The different views between Defra legal and the Authority's legal advisors on the subject of holders of common rights persisted i.e. the Authority's advice was that holders of common rights should be given an exemption from the provisions of the byelaw to avoid the risk of the byelaw being declared *ultra vires*, whereas the view of Defra legal was that the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 overrides such rights. It was agreed that the exemption should remain but that an impact assessment of such an exemption should be part of the operational procedure, to be agreed by the Authority, to introduce, vary or revoke a Regulatory Notice. It was also agreed that such an impact assessment for the four Regulatory Notices that have come into effect is to be undertaken retrospectively.

It is judged that the risk from the activities of holders of rights in common is low. As a consequence of this and the requirement to develop options for managing the amber and green feature/gear interactions, the work to establish an operational procedure and to undertake an impact assessment will be undertaken and reported at the October Authority meeting.

"Ambers and Greens" prioritisation (Stage Three)

Although prioritisation for amber and green interactions (i.e. those features deemed to be at lower risk from fishing activities or only at risk in combination with other activities) had been completed for EMSs in the Eastern IFCA district, there remained a need to consider fishing activities in sites that straddle the six mile limit. Environment team officers attended a meeting with Kent & Essex IFCA, Natural England, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (statutory nature conservation body for areas of sea beyond the 12nm limit) and the MMO in May 2014, to discuss these straddling sites. There are three such sites in the Eastern IFCA district: Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge SAC; Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton SAC; and Outer Thames Estuary SPA. The prioritisation process undertaken by the environment team only identified high risk amber interactions within the Outer Thames Estuary site (associated with pursuit and plunge diving birds – i.e. red-throated divers). Kent & Essex IFCA identified no high risk interactions in this site (which mostly occurs offshore, stretches in part along the Suffolk coast and also along the Essex and north Kent coasts); dedicated research had been carried out in the Kent & Essex district to ascertain levels of disturbance to, and or entanglement of, red-throated divers by fishing activities. This research will be considered as part of the Eastern IFCA Habitats Regulations Assessments for this site.

“Ambers and Greens” evidence review (Stage Four)

During the quarter the Research and Environment team reviewed the status of evidence in three categories: fishing activity, feature presence and extent, and fishing impact; for the priority interactions that had been identified during the prioritisation process reported at the 14th Eastern IFCA meeting (April 2014). The results of this review will be collated into a gap analysis report, which will highlight priorities for Eastern IFCA’s research and enforcement activities, and enable the Authority to push for evidence projects with Defra family bodies. In order to create a robust evidence basis, a Fishing Activity report and a Feature Evidence report will be created for each European Marine Site; these documents will show the availability of data with levels of confidence.

The Feature Evidence reports will be bolstered by newly-reviewed feature evidence data, released by Natural England on 30th June. This dataset is currently being reviewed by the Marine Environment (GIS) Officer; it is the first of several evidence sets to be released by Natural England in response to a recognised lack of feature evidence for many sites.

Assessment of fishery impacts (Stage Five)

The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) will be undertaken using available evidence. Given the volume of work this represents and the priority status of this project, it has been decided to utilise the environment *and* research team members, and to allow team members to focus on particular fishing gear impacts according to their own areas of expertise, developed in part through the fishing impact evidence review. Initially a trail assessment will be undertaken (to examine the impacts of bait digging on the Stour & Orwell Special Protection Area estuarine birds feature) and submitted to Natural England. Following initial feedback, the teams will undertake the remaining priority interaction assessments. A period of 18 months has been allocated to this stage of the process, which includes periods of consultation with Natural England. However, it is not intended to wait until the end of this period before starting to develop any required management measures; given the variable levels of supporting evidence, some interactions will move forward to the management options stage much faster than others. Where evidence is lacking, a decision will have to be made whether to apply the precautionary principle (i.e. when unable to prove no adverse effect on site integrity, apply precautionary measures) or to undertake additional research or practical work to fill the evidence gaps before applying management measures.

Development of management measures (Stage Six in Appendix 1, and Appendix 2)

It is proposed that the conclusions of the HRAs, alongside Natural England’s feedback, be discussed at dedicated “Site Management Board” meetings. The product of these meetings will be decisions on management options. Two outcomes are possible: management required, or management not required. If not required, Authority officers would create a statement of intent to be agreed at a meeting of the Regulatory & Compliance Sub-Committee – importantly, with agreement from Natural England. Should management measures be required, the full process of information gathering, drafting of measures, approval at Authority level, and public consultation would be followed. The timelines set out in Appendix One account for these stages of developing measures, with the aim of implementing measures in Q1 2016/17 (in case of delays, this should enable the Defra deadline of Q3 2016 to be met).

Where management through the existing Protected Areas byelaw is agreed, there will be a need to develop new Regulatory Notices, by following the Operational Procedure (described above). Non-regulatory measures could be applied, and in all cases should be considered before regulatory measures are brought in.

Review of measures (Stage Seven in Appendix 1)

The Authority has committed to reviewing the initial four Regulatory Notices under the Protected Areas byelaw within two years of their implementation. In preparation for this review, Authority officers are in discussion with Natural England in relation to the monitoring of the "red risk" features, and have committed to continue the annual *Sabellaria spinulosa* surveys (using the sidescan sonar equipment purchased by Defra under its Marine Protected Areas budget) in The Wash in July 2014. The Authority has designed enforcement patrols to monitor fishing activity in and around the restricted fishing areas under Regulatory Notices 1 and 2; IFCO shore patrols and liaison with site managers are being undertaken to assess levels of activity in areas closed under Regulatory Notices 3 (north Norfolk coast) and 4 (Horseshoe Point, Humber estuary). Additional surveillance will be undertaken as necessary. In addition to monitoring feature condition and compliance, the reviews will have to take into account Natural England's revised conservation advice; currently management of ephemeral features such as *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef is under review at a national level.

Reporting

The spotlight of the national marine conservation non-governmental organisations (NGO) remains firmly focused on this European Marine Site work, which is being undertaken by all the IFCA's around the English coasts and by the Marine Management Organisation for offshore sites. During the quarter, a comprehensive progress tracker was developed by the IFCA's, for submission to Defra on a quarterly basis. As well as providing an overview of the number of sites in each IFCA district, the tracker highlights the four top priority interactions being investigated by each IFCA, and importantly outlines the status of supporting evidence for these interactions.

Financial implications

The proposed assessment of common rights activity and development of an operational procedure to introduce, vary or revoke Regulatory Notices will require officer time. This is necessary work and has been incorporated into the planning of this project, but will distract to some extent from the next main stage of the work, i.e. the assessment of fishery impacts. Members of the environment team have undertaken some investigation into common rights activities, but because of the low level and unlicensed nature of these activities, the assessment will not be a straightforward task.

Publicity

The national progress tracker is shared by IFCA's, Defra, conservation NGOs and commercial fisheries bodies at the national level. No additional publicity is planned at this stage of the process for the Eastern IFCA district. Public engagement will be undertaken during future information gathering and consultation phases of the project.

Background documents

In addition to the appendices presented with this paper, the following documents are of relevance to this report:

1. Eastern IFCA Research & Environment Plan 2013/14
2. Eastern IFCA European Marine Site project progress tracker
3. Eastern IFCA Habitats Regulations Assessment planner

Appendix 1: Gantt chart showing completed and pending tasks for Fisheries in European Marine Sites project – EP2014A

Stage	Task	2012/13			2013/14				2014/15				2015/16				2016/17			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Introductory	Risk matrix agreed (national level)		•																	
	Site specific risk matrices drawn up		•																	
	Liaison with Natural England on "red risk" features		•	•																
	"Red risk" feature evidence review			•	•															
"Red risk" byelaw development	Development of byelaw ideas				•															
	Initial consultation (information gathering)				•															
	draft Impact Assessment					•														
	Regulation & Compliance Sub-Committee approval					•														
	Formal consultation					•	•													
	Byelaw confirmation by Authority						•													
	Byelaw submission to Defra						•													
	Byelaw signed off and implemented								•											
	Operational procedure to introduce, vary or revoke Regulatory Notice																			
	Review of Common Rights Activities																			
"Ambers and Greens" prioritisation	Initial screening (by fishing activity)							•												
	Feature sensitivity review with Natural England							•												
	Prioritisation of interactions for assessment							•	•											
Evidence review	Fishing activity evidence review							•	•											
	Feature evidence review							•	•											
	Fishing impact evidence review							•	•											
	Gap analysis report																			
Assessment of fishery impacts	Low activity report (the "Ones report")																			
	Development of assessment documentation																			
	Trial Habitats Regulations Assessment																			
	Natural England feedback																			
	Site fishing activity reports																			
	Site prioritisation reports																			
	Site summary document																			
	Habitats Regulations Assessments																			
Development of management measures	Liaison with Natural England on HRAs																			
	Draft management options																			
	Site Management Board meetings																			
	Statement of intent (no management required)																			
	Information gathering																			
	Regulation & Compliance Sub-Committee approval																			
Review of measures	Formal consultation																			
	Confirmation by Authority & Implementation																			
	Fishing activity monitoring	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•											
	Feature condition monitoring	•	•			•	•													
	Stakeholder consultation																			
	Review of management options																			
	Regulatory & Compliance Sub-Committee decision																			
	Formal consultation on Regulatory Notices																			
Reporting	Regulatory Notice confirmation by Authority																			
	Implementation																			
Communication	Quarterly report to Defra					•	•	•	•											
	Quarterly report to Authority	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•											
Communication	Liaison with Natural England	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•											

Fisheries in European Marine Sites - EP2014A

Gantt chart showing completed and pending tasks

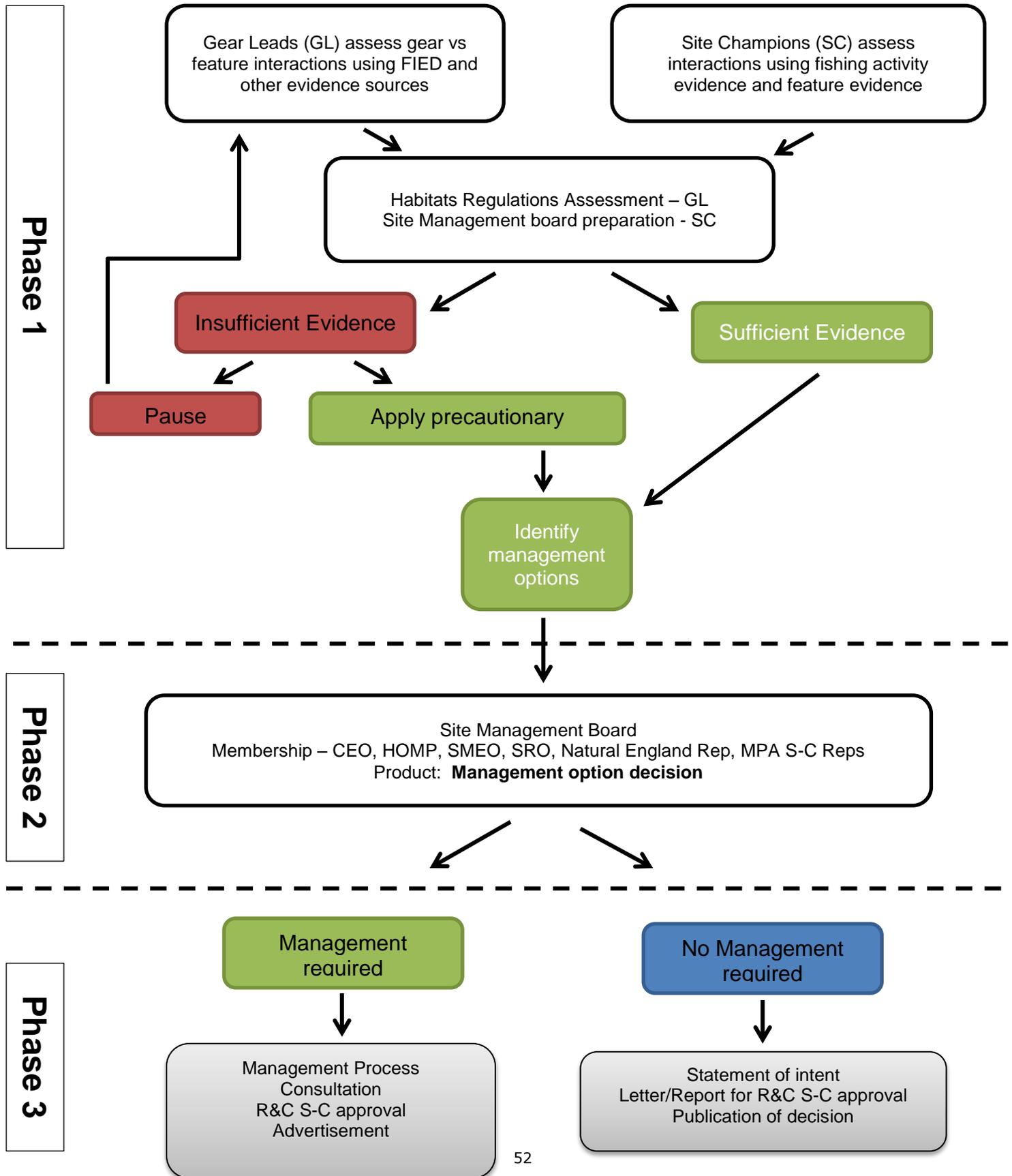
Defra targets:
 December 2013 - Implement "Red risks" byelaw
 December 2016 - Implement "Amber & Green" management measures

Version 1
Last updated 21-Jul-14

Key	Target date	
	Completed	•
	New management measure implemented	
	Defra deadline for implementation	Q3

Appendix 2: European Marine Site 'Amber and Green' feature management decision process

In order to drive progress in the delivery of management of fisheries activities in EMS the process below has been designed to organise the right inputs to support cogent management outputs.



Vision

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Information Item 20

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Meeting

30 July 2014

Report by: P J Haslam, Chief Executive Officer

Quarterly progress against Annual Plans

Purpose of report

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

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the contents of this report**

Background

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is mandated to produce an annual plan each year to lay out the expected business outputs for the year ahead. The plan for financial year 2014-15 was agreed by the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee on 26 February 2014 and published thereafter.

Report

The tables at the Appendix detail the progress against the key priorities set in the Annual plan for 2014-15

Conclusion

Following a very busy 2013 the pace has not eased and Authority officers are working hard to deliver across the breadth of business. There is a greater sense of driving the pace rather than reacting to a time scale imposed from elsewhere which means that demands on staff and work tempo can be better managed to preserve morale and effective performance.

Background documents

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Annual Plan 2014-15.

APPENDIX 1

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

30 July 2014

Quarterly Progress against Annual Plan

9 major priorities were established in 2014-15.

Major Priority	Progress	Comment
<p>To continue investments in staff to preserve appropriate subject matter expertise</p>		<p>Management Development: In April, our line managers attended a 'Managing People' workshop that was facilitated internally by the Head of HR. This workshop also included line managers from another independent public organisation; Freebridge Housing. This has given our managers an opportunity to build local networks of people within a similar managerial role. Initial feedback has been very positive to this approach. An opportunity has arisen for the CEO to enrol onto the Institute of Leadership Management (ILM) level 7 course, which focuses on strategic thinking.</p> <p>Employee engagement: Following the development of EIFCA's core values, we have been working with suggestions and input from the team to develop an employee engagement plan. We have also undertaken to complete the 'Best Employers' survey for 2014. This is a biannual survey that we took part in during 2012. It is currently a free independent survey set up and supported by ERAS Ltd and Pure Resourcing Ltd</p> <p>Management Competency Framework: A competency framework for managers was created last year as part of the performance review process that was also developed during this time. The framework created has recently been sense checked against our new core values and has now been formally introduced to the management team. Over the coming months the behaviours within it will be embedded through the PDP, performance review discussions,</p>

		<p>feedback and coaching. The plan is to introduce a set of competencies for the rest of our team that dovetail into the management framework.</p>
<p>To complete the process of transition from Sea fisheries Committee to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority</p>		<p>The intent of this objective is to ensure that Eastern IFCA is fully established and forward looking in its delivery of its MaCAA duties. The work with staff as outlined above is central to ensuring that the right people, competencies and behaviours are developed and nurtured. Other initiatives this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholesale re-organisation of digital data holdings to ensure that data is accessible by all, that we meet the Defra requirement for data to be <i>'collected once, used many times'</i> and that the Authority adheres to the provisions of the Data Protection and Freedom of Information acts. • Relocation to more conducive office accommodation to ensure that staff members have the requisite working conditions to meet minimum statutory requirements and to promote optimum work outputs. <p>These will build on the significant investments made last year in training, equipment and manpower.</p>
<p>To ensure that the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas in the region are furthered by delivering fisheries management measures for 'Amber and Green' designated features within European Marine Sites (EMS) within the mandated timeframe and formulating potential management measures for Tranche 2 candidate Marine conservation zones (MCZ)</p>		<p>Work towards the delivery of fisheries management measures to protect vulnerable features and species in European Marine Sites is firmly in the delivery phase following significant preparatory work to screen, filter, prioritise and agree the proposed way ahead with partners. The outputs for this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 43 Habitats Regulation Assessments to: quantify the location and extent of the most threatened features in each site; to detail the impact of any fishing gear interactions and to propose appropriate management measures. • Delivery of a report to quantify those features that are either a low risk or no risk of damage through interaction with fishing gear and to broker agreement that management action is not

		required at this stage.
<p>To commence a comprehensive byelaw review process comprising of three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. exclusion of byelaws not applicable or relevant to the Eastern IFCA District 2. like for like substitution of uncontested byelaws directly applicable to the Eastern IFCA District 3. development of complex or contested or new byelaws. 		<p>The project plan has been scoped and action is in hand to rationalise existing byelaws to encompass or discount those inherited from North Eastern IFCA. Other legacy Sea Fishery Committee byelaws will be reviewed for utility and action taken accordingly.</p>
<p>To promote sustainable development through a project to rejuvenate previously productive fishing grounds</p>		<p>The project has been delivered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of funding form the fisheries propagation funds was agreed with Wash based fishing associations. • The methodology and location was discussed and agreed with local industry representatives • An Invitation to Tender to provide boat services was issued and received 2 responses. • Permission to lay cockle shell as culch was brokered with the MMO • Field work to lay 92 tonnes was completed in late May • The sites are now being monitored to assess whether they are attracting mussel spatfall.
<p>To balance the needs of all within the fishery by developing RSA strategy in light of A2012</p>		<p>The strategy has been drafted, consulted upon and published. Parallel work to engage regional partners from council level to individual RSA participants is ongoing.</p>

To support the viability of industry by driving individual applications through the Wash Fishery Order shellfish lay allocation process		Update report provided as an action item.
To discharge responsibilities under the Wash Fishery Order (1992) and consider a review of its provisions		The scope of this objective is being considered and developed. It may be more productive to consider a medium to long term strategy for the Wash fishery and then to develop the tools to deliver that strategy, which would include a refreshed WFO, as opposed to a one dimensional re-write of an existing document. Options will be delivered to Authority members in due course.
To continue the Seagoing Assets Review and to procure the second enforcement vessel		The tendering documentation has been developed in concert with Suffolk County Council and has been issued. Bids for work are awaited. Authority officers have attended the Southampton work boat show and visited individual suppliers as part of the procurement process.

Subordinate Priority	Progress	Comment
To influence and shape the national inshore marine management debate and narrative.		Through attendance at national meetings and other fora.
To continue to advance the Authority's understanding of the species, habitats and activities occurring in the district.		In accordance with Research and Environment plan 2014-15
To contribute to 'Project Inshore'. This national project will assist the Authority by providing an independent assessment of the state of each major fish/shellfish stock within the Authority's district which will help inform the byelaw review process and future work of the Authority to ensure sustainable exploitation of these resources.		Awaiting publication of Phase 3 report to prompt subsequent Phase 4 activity.
To contribute to data requirements to meet Marine Strategy Framework Directive commitments (particularly crab and lobster).		Ongoing crab and lobster bio sampling work.
To engage with marine planning issues, including		Active participation in CFGWG for East Anglia offshore, Greater

consultations on marine licenses and developments and active participation in Commercial Fisheries Working Groups.		Gabbard and Race Bank wind farms
To continue to promote the work of Eastern IFCA through outreach events.		Cromer and Sheringham Festival attended. Trailer based office rebranded and deployed.
As a Directing body contribute to the activities and output of the Association of IFCAs.		Ongoing.

Key:

	Complete
	In progress
	No progress

Vision

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Information Item 21

15th EIFCA Statutory Meeting

30 July 2014

Report by: Nichola Freer, Head of HR

Purpose of report

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

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- **Note the contents of the report**

Report

Background

The HR plan to 2015 was developed in 2012 and provides a strategic overview of the key HR activity required to support the achievement of Defra's high level objectives. The key activity planned for 2013-14 has been completed and the focus now turns to the activity required for 2014-15.

Plan

The key activities within the 2014 plan are:

- The development of a competency framework for managers
- Employee engagement
- The development of a framework for succession planning
- Review and update of current people policies
- The development of Line Management capability

Update of specific activity

Recruitment Update:

We have successfully recruited internally for the following positions:

- Project Officer - Luke Godwin, current Marine Environment Officer -Data Lead

- Marine Environment Officer – Consultation Lead – Dan Steadman, currently fulfilling a fixed term contract to support the remainder of EIFCA’s transition

We advertised externally for the positions of IFCO & Crew Member and Marine Environment Officer – Data Lead. We received a healthy response to both of the positions, with many applicants possessing the majority of the skills and experience that we were looking for.

Interviews have now been completed and both positions have been successfully filled. Our 2 new members of staff are due to join us in the near future.

Management Development:

This year we intend to focus attention to the development of our management within the organisation. In April, our line managers attended a ‘Managing People’ workshop that was facilitated internally by the Head of HR. This workshop also included line managers from another independent public organisation; Freebridge Housing. This has given our managers an opportunity to build local networks of people within a similar managerial role. Initial feedback has been very positive to this approach.

An opportunity has arisen for the CEO to enrol onto the Institute of Leadership Management (ILM) level 7 course, which focuses on strategic thinking. This course was suggested by the Head of HR to support the CEO in terms of business planning and has been endorsed by the Chair of the Authority. This is a nationally recognised business qualification. Whilst this course has consumed a sizeable amount of the training budget (£4,995), it is recognised that the return on this investment for the organisation will be invaluable in terms of shaping EIFCA’s future. It should also be noted that the CEO will be subject to the provisions within the Training Policy for developmental training support.

Employee engagement:

Following the development of EIFCA’s core values, we have been working with suggestions and input from the team to develop an employee engagement plan. We are still working through some of the details of the plan with staff, however this should be completed by the end of July 2014. A copy of the plan will accompany the update of HR activity at the next Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee meeting.

We have also undertaken to complete the ‘Best Employers’ survey for 2014. This is a biannual survey that we took part in during 2012. It is currently a free independent survey set up and supported by ERAS Ltd and Pure Resourcing Ltd (2 local businesses supporting recruitment and management training).

It will be interesting to measure this year’s results against those achieved during 2012. Results will be shared later in the year.

Management Competency Framework:

A competency framework for managers was created last year as part of the performance review process that was also developed during this time. A decision was taken not to formally introduce it at the time, as the introduction of the basic performance review process was a lot for our managers to take on board.

The framework created has recently been sense checked against our new core values and has now been formally introduced to the management team (Appendix 1). Over the coming months the behaviours within it will be embedded through the PDP, performance review discussions, feedback and coaching.

The plan is to introduce a set of competencies for the rest of our team that dovetail into the management framework.

Appendices:

1. Eastern IFCA Management Competency Framework

Eastern IFCA Behavioural Competency Framework For Managers

Behaviour	Examples of what 'good' looks like
Leading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes clear responsibility for leadership and sets standards of behaviour. • Projects personality and character to motivate staff to do what is required of them. • Promotes a positive sense of purpose and direction • Pro-actively encourages others buy into the agreed agenda and recognises the interests of team members. • Engages at a personal level and gives carefully judged feedback in relation to specific challenges/issues. • Creates a climate that encourages individuals to pursue development opportunities and builds the strength of the team as a whole. • Trusts team members, gives them space to decide how they approach their work and demonstrates responsibility for them • Inspires, influences, directs and supports others in both routine activities and under stress. • Instils self-esteem, team spirit and unity of effort • Creates early momentum and success • Leads with fairness • Sets an example consistent with public service values and standards • Motivates other to embrace change when change is required • Committed to preventing and dealing effectively with discrimination, harassment and bullying. • Displays appropriate behaviour towards others.
Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibits drive to get things done in an appropriate manner. • Shows clear understanding of professional environment. • Carries out the full range of tasks effectively • Demonstrable desire to achieve and/or surpass standards of excellence and deliver business goals, initiating action and making timely decisions. • Drives the pace, completion and delivery. • Seeks to enhance professional knowledge and understanding of new developments. • Demonstrates knowledge of fisheries and conservation matters. • Displays an interest in fisheries and environment policy and wider current affairs (where appropriate). • Creates and grasps opportunities for improvements. • Displays enterprise and is willing to take appropriate action. • Anticipates and resolves problems.
Communication & Influencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works effectively with others. • Able to communicate effectively using different methods and understanding the impact of our communications. • Uses a variety of influencing approaches tailored to the audience or situation. • Plans influencing interactions e.g. considers desired nature of interaction, timing, context, outcome and anticipates and prepares for the views and agendas of others. • Understands others' verbal and non-verbal cues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapts approach in changing situations to achieve positive outcomes. • Produces logical, fluent, convincing and accurate written work. • Issues direction to staff in a confident, succinct and competent manner. Ensures understanding.
Managing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans, organises and designates priorities effectively. • Focuses on looking ahead, having a clear plan for achieving objectives and checking progress of the plan. • Allocates resources efficiently and optimises capability within constraints. • Delegates appropriately. • Sets sensible and realistic targets and supports through to successful completion. • Manages change effectively. • Generates enthusiasm and high morale, recognising and rewarding achievement. • Builds and supports successful teams
Analysis & judgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to make sense of data/situations and understand what needs to be done. • Able to make sound, timely decisions to promote business success. • Takes acceptable risks to achieve objectives.
Managing Self & Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willing to constructively and confidently give or receive challenge (relating to ideas, actions and behaviours) in the interests of the right outcome, even if it is uncomfortable for themselves and/or others. • Confident in own capability and not threatened by others' challenge. • Remains determined and optimistic even in the face of significant difficulty / • Understands the impact of own emotions on performance and has short-term strategies for overcoming these. • Has strategies for addressing personal development gaps. • Demonstrates a sense of duty and commitment. • Displays loyalty, trustworthiness, conscientiousness and commitment. • Demonstrates physical and moral courage appropriate to the task. • Displays courage to make unpopular and difficult decisions and admit mistakes. • Shows commitment to upholding the values and ethos of public service and Eastern IFCA. • Upholds equality and diversity values. • Displays honesty and integrity. • Exercises self-discipline. • Displays stamina and resilience to cope with occasional extreme circumstances and discomfort (which may be of a physical nature if appropriate to role). • Willing to act as a mentor to others.
Teamwork & collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to work collaboratively and supportively with colleagues over whom one has no hierarchical authority – underpinned by the belief that this will help the organisation achieve results

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

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30th July 2014

Report by: Julian Gregory, Deputy CEO

Marine Protection Quarterly Reports

Purpose of report

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

Area/Vessel	Officer
Area 1 (Lincs & Kings Lynn)	Jason Byrne
Area 2 (Norfolk)	Adrian Woods
Area 3 (Suffolk)	Alan Garnham
<i>RV Three Counties</i>	Simon Howard
<i>FPV John Allen</i>	Simon Lee

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note the content of the quarterly reports from the Area Officers and the skipper of the research vessel Three Counties**

Background documents

Area Officers and Skippers quarterly reports for April to June 2014

Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

From: Jason Byrne Fishery Officer (Area 1)
To: Julian Gregory
Date: 11th July 2014
Ref: Area 1
Quarterly Report: April, May, June 2014

Area 1: Donna Nook – Sutton Bridge

General

General fishing activities throughout this quarter have included potting for Whelks, Crab & Lobster, twin beaming for Brown & Pink Shrimps, Mussel dredging for seed Mussel, netting for Skate, Bass & Mullet, longlining for Bass & handraking Cockles. The 28th of April saw the opening of the Regulated Seed Mussel fishery within the wash, 400 tonnes for dredging & 40 tonnes for handworking. The 17th of June saw the opening of this year's handraked Cockle fishery within the Wash with a TAC of 3,670 tonnes.

Port Summary

Saltfleet - Chapel point

One commercial vessel has potted for Brown Crab & Lobsters throughout this quarter having managed 59 trips. Vessel based anglers have been rod & lining for Skate.

Skegness – Gibraltar Point

Two commercial vessels achieved 35 trips between them throughout this quarter potting for Brown Crab, Lobsters, Whelks & longlining for Skate. Vessel based anglers from this part of the coast have been out drift netting for Mullet & Bass and some good trips fishing for Skate & Bass, some of these vessels have managed to catch between 60 - 80 fish, most of the Boston Pirates & Skegness vessel based anglers are not retaining all the fish caught just enough for a family feed.

Boston

Four vessels have twin beamed for Brown Shrimp throughout this quarter totalling 25 landings between them. Two other vessels took part in the Regulated Mussel fishery totalling 10 trips between them; these Mussels were re-laid onto private lays within the Wash. One further vessel carried out several days surveying for the E/A. 20 vessels from this port have participated in this year's cockle fishery throughout June totalling in 175 landings being made.

Fosdyke

One of the Boston Pilot vessels visited the Marina throughout this quarter to have two brand new Volvo Penta engines fitted. Four commercial vessels from Boston Port, one commercial vessel from Brancaster & one commercial vessel from Kings Lynn Port visited the Marina throughout this quarter for general re-fits.

Sutton Bridge - Wisbech

Throughout this quarter eight Kings Lynn vessels visited Wisbech Marina to be lifted out of the water for general maintenance in preparation for the forthcoming Cockle fishery. At the mouth of the river Nene several reports had been made and some sighting by ourselves of jet ski's using this area, I passed Sharron Bosley's contact details over to those concerned. Two angler vessels are now active having made seven trips fishing off Skull Ridge down to Wisbech No.1 catching a variety of Mackerel, Smoothound, Bass, Mullet & Eels.

Kings Lynn

A total of 25 vessels from this port participated in the Brown Shrimp fishery throughout this quarter totalling in 283 landings being achieved, four of these vessels also targeted the Pink Shrimp totalling in 15 landings being made. A further five vessels potted for Whelks totalling in 69 landings being made. One vessel managed only one trip dredging for Scallops, three other vessels took part in the Regulated Mussel fishery throughout this quarter totalling in nine trips between them being achieved, most of these Mussels were re-laid onto private lays within the Wash with the exception of some being sold to coast siders. As many as 32 vessels from this port have been taking part in this year's cockle fishery throughout June having achieved 244 landings between them. Just a quick reminder to any officers on Cockle landings in Kings Lynn there are now four points of landing quays, both sides of the fishing fleet, Kings Lynn dock front & Boal Quay.

Species Summary

All landing figures detailed within this monthly report are derived from estimates of catches based on observations made by Fishery Officers and reports made by fishermen to Fishery Officers.

<u>Saltfleet - Chapel Point</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	40,705	44,775.00
Lobster	4,000	51,775.00

<u>Skegness – Gibraltar Point</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	4,459	4,904.00
Lobster	1,793	23,986.00
Whelks	5,842	4,380.00
Skate	1,731	3,608.00

<u>Boston</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		26
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Brown Shrimp	4,007	12,199.00
Regulated Mussels	75,000	0
Handraked Cockles	288,133	158,824.00

<u>Fosdyke</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		1
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
0	0	0

<u>Sutton Bridge</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
0	0	0

<u>Kings Lynn</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		137
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Brown Shrimp	62,687	192,391.00
Pink Shrimp	9,216	12,255.00
Whelks	122,681	92,009.00
Scallops	520	795.00
Regulated Mussels	59,000	0
Handraked Cockles	398,133	218,973.00

Potting

Crab and lobster	
Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	2200
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	2200

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	72
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	46

Whelk

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	2300
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	200

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected: 0
Locations fished: Kings Lynn
Species targeted: Eels
Average catch (kg): 0

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected: 7
Locations fished: Boston Deepes
Saltfleet Haven
Tabs Head
Skegness Windfarm & Skull Ridge
Gibraltar Point & Freemans Channel
Skull Ridge
Species targeted: Skate
Skate
Mullet
Bass
Skate
Bass
Bass
Mackerel
Smoothound
Bass
Mullet
Eels
Average catch (kg): 10
12
3
8
9
20
10
7
0
20
5
0

Charter Angling Vessels:

Number of charter vessels inspected:
Number of vessels in area: 0
Number of trips: 0
Number of anglers: 0
Species targeted: 0
Total Landings (kg): 0
Locations fished throughout the month: 0

Fishery Officer Duties

Training:

Skyguard training.

Outlook training.

Conflict Resolution Course.

Other duties carried out:

Attended Wash Fishermen Association meeting.

Attended staff meetings.

Introducing Neville Copperthwaite (Blue Marine Foundation) to Wash fishermen.

Away on TC Cockle survey.

Steamed JA back to Sutton Bridge.

On board JA Mussel patrol.

Attended TCG meetings.

Attended Enforcement meetings.

Collected shellfish samples from Tabs Head for EHO.

Meeting with Dr. Andy Revill (DONG).

Attended DONG energy meetings.

Attended 14th EIFCA meeting.

Away on TC stand in engineer.

Steamed JA back from Suffolk.

Away on Pisces walking/monitoring various sands.

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

Crab	1.10
Lobster	12.50 - 13.50
Skate	2.00 - 2.20
Whelks	75p
Brown Shrimp	3.02 - 3.44
Pink Shrimp	1.33
Scallops	1.53
Handraked Cockles	40p - 70p

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

From: Ady Woods I.F.C.O (Area: Norfolk Coast)
To: J. Gregory Head of Enforcement
Date: 11/07/2014
Ref: Area 2
Quarterly Report: April-May-June 2014

Area: Norfolk Coast: Heacham to Great Yarmouth

General

Crab Fishery

Throughout this quarter the crab fishery has been prolific, I don't think in my 14 years as Fishery Officer for this Area I have ever witnessed such a year.

The only thing holding fishermen back from landing unbelievable amounts of crab has been the relatively quiet market, sales have been slow picking up.

Lobster Fishery

As one would expect with vast amounts of crab on the ground, the lobsters have tended to stay out of the pots.

However towards the end of the quarter as the crabs did begin to slow the lobster trade picked up. And for the amount of lobsters which were landed early on in the year it's surprising how this ground continues to supply good amounts of lobster, year in year out.

Whelk Fishery

Early in the quarter, saw this fishery continuing to grow, with fishers expanding their businesses and buying more whelk pots than this area has seen for several years.

Throughout the quarter fishing has remained steady, and for some vessels who haven't been able to sell large quantities of crab has been a lifeline for them.

Heading towards the end of the quarter, it's been reported that catches are slowing, now whether this is down to the amount of effort which is being targeted towards this fishery or some fishermen believe that when the water warms the whelks become less active, I guess we shall have to wait and see.

However it does seem odd to me, that having this growing fishery on our doorstep which we know little about, no work is being done to try and understand it.

Netting

Netting has been difficult within this last quarter,

1. for the large amounts of crab on the ground has made it nigh on impossible,
2. the water has either been too thick; to clear or full of may weed.

Those that have chanced their luck have had mixed success, finding bass one day, however then re shooting for nurses the next. And it seems that on days when only a few bass have been caught the seals take a fancy to the fish in the nets and find it great fun to go along the nets and rip what few fish have been caught to pieces.

Anglers

The anglers around the area have had a very good quarter, with lots of beaches turning out many different species. With more fish being landed by anglers and the easy advertising on social networking, this seems to have helped put sea angling back out there again. During this last quarter I've been seeing a steady rise in the amount of anglers visiting our shorelines again.

Some of the species which have been caught from our shores include; Cod, Bass, Skate, Spotty's, Smoothies, Starry's, Flounder, Dab, Mackerel, and even the odd Wrasse. Some of these species have been up into double figure fish, which is very pleasing to be landing from the beach.

Fleet Summary

Off shore Fleet

Brancaster, Wells-next-the-Sea and Morston

During this quarter the most effort has probably been targeted towards the whelk fishery, with on average 100,000kg being landed monthly, the reason being is that this fishery has been relatively steady, unlike the crab and lobster.

The crab and lobster fisheries offshore area have been a bit of a mixed bag, lobsters come on first, early on, and the crabs don't generally get going until at least a month after the inshore grounds. This season has been no different but with the inshore ground producing so well for so long this has hampered the offshore fisheries sales.

Inshore Fleet

Cley-next-the-Sea to Sea Palling (inc Weybourne, Sheringham, East and West Runton, Cromer, Overstrand, Mundesley, Cart Gap, and Sea Palling)

As said before the inshore fleet haven't had a crab season like the current one for a long time.

Not only have vessels been able to pick their days when they go, to enable them to fulfil orders as necessary, with the crab being right on their doorstep this has helped in keeping the wear and tear down on the boats, and also running costs have been kept low, also it's been good for the fishery as fishermen have been able to be choosy and more selective about what they bring ashore and what they return.

With ample crab and lobster to be had, and markets full to the brim this has seen some of the inshore fleet target the whelk fishery as well, to bring in a day's pay which they may have lost.

Caister, Yarmouth and Gorleston

This stretch of coast has had particular concerns this quarter with news off the proposed Drift Netting ban, for vessels at Caister this is their primary technique of fishing and a ban would see this port close overnight, along with the livelihoods of a dozen or so fishermen!

Species Summary

All landing figures detailed within this quarterly report are derived from estimates of catches based on observations made by Fishery Officers and reports made by fishermen to Fishery Officers.

<u>Brancaster</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	15	105
Crab	4,350	13,913
Lobster	450	4,541
Whelk	165	120
Seed Mussel	3,500	N/A

<u>Wells-next-the-Sea</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		25
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	40	280
Crab	46,699	65,536
Lobster	4,487	44,021
Whelk	294,989	206,493

<u>Morston</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	7,374	23,740
Lobster	152	1,575

<u>Sheringham</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		5
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	8,085	23,310
Lobster	99	905

<u>Cromer</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		16
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	20	150
Crab	73,833	234,748
Lobster	2,035	19,219
Whelk	8,518	6,028

Cley, Weybourne, E Runton, W Runton, Overstrand, Mundesley & Bacton		
Number of vessel inspections:		19
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	22,868	73,480
Lobster	654	6,625
Bass	857	5695
Sea Palling		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	105	780
Cod	72	197
Crab	3,135	10,113
Lobster	401	4,012
Skate	186	520
Sole	50	460
Whelk	12,828	8,980
Caister & Gorleston		
Number of vessel inspections:		
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Whelk	10,187	7,131
Potting		
Crab and lobster		
Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:		12,000
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:		4,000
Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster		
Number of brown crab measured during the quarter:		260
Number of lobsters measured during the quarter:		390
Whelk		
Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:		5500
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:		2500
Non Commercial Activities		
Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):		
Number of anglers inspected:		27
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Cley	Various/Bass	2.00/2.00/
Weybourne	Various/Bass	2.00/2.00/
Sheringham	None / Bass	0/0/
Cromer	None / Bass	0/4/
Overstrand	None / Bass	0/1/
Trimingham	Various/Bass	2.25/3/
Bacton	Various/Bass	1.00/1.00/
Sea Palling	Various/Bass	0/0.50/
Gorleston	Various/Bass	0/0.25/
Weybourne	Various/Bass	0/2.00/
Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):		
Number of vessels inspected:		1
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Trimingham	Bass	10

Fishery Officer Duties

Training:

April

None

May

8th Sky guard training

16th Outlook training

27th Self defence

June

None

Other duties carried out:

April

01st Yearly sample of crab collected for CEFAS at LT

02nd – 4th report writing

10th Staff meeting and meet DEFRA representative MCZ Cromer Chalk Reef

14th – 21st Annual leave

22nd Landings Morston and Wells

23rd Taxi for boat crew Kings Lynn to Levington

24th Local landings

28th Landings Sea Palling and pm evening trip on JA patrol mussel fishery

29th Meet with A. Revill from DONG Energy

30th Landings Wells

May

5th Bank holiday

8th Staff meeting / Enforcement meeting

9th Annual leave

14th Toil

15th Day trip John Allen

19th NN FLAG meeting

20th Joint patrol with MMO

21st Toil

23rd DONG Energy meeting

26th Bank holiday

28th Toil

June

02 June Show J Taylor around Area 2

04 June Patrol on John Allen

05 June deliver charts for DONG Energy to different Fisherman's Society chairman for data to be collected

06 & 08 June Annual Leave

13 June Staff meeting

16 June DONG meeting AM, FLAG meeting PM

17 June Cockle Fishery Open landings Boston

18 June New windscreen fitted to car

20 June TOIL

23 June Taxi John Allen crew from Kings Lynn to Levington

24th Update email and collate stats

27 June update MCSS

26 Monthly report and Stats

30 June to office for extended TCG

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

Bass	6.50 – 7.50
Cod	3.80 – 2.75
Crab	1.20 – 3.25
Lobster	8.50 - 10.50
Skate	2.25 - 3.00–
Sole	8.00 - 10.00
Whelk	0.70

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

From: Alan Garnham Fishery Officer (Area 3)
To: Phil Haslam - CEO
Date: 17th July 2014
Ref: Area 3
Quarterly Report: April – June 2014

Area 3: Pakefield – Felixstowe Ferry

General

During April the weather was reasonably good apart from two weeks of easterly winds which cut the amount of commercial trips but fish caught in some areas was phenomenal.

In the north of my area fishing was poor from Lowestoft and Southwold within our six mile limit forcing many of the under ten fleet out to beyond the twelve mile in search of cod.

Mainly commercial and RSA fishermen reported below Aldeburgh fishing was outstanding with large catches of bass, cod, ray and sole. Herring and Spurdog were still around mixed in with mackerel, brill, spotted dogfish and whiting. In the rivers there was an abundance of bass and mullet with good reported landings.

It was a pleasure to go round and inspect fish sheds and speak with happy fishermen proud to show their early morning trade of catching a mixed bag of fish and displaying it on their daily slab for display and selling.

Lobster during April was quiet with not many moving but crab reports were very good but with no buoyant market many were not landed but merely cleaned from pots.

Huge numbers of bass were targeted and caught within a mile of the shore. Mid water trammels were deadly with fish being caught consistently around the 8lb. - 12lb mark some of which easily exceeded this size.

Some fishermen tried lining for cod and returned with large catches of bass and roker off the lines so perhaps the herring were dispersing and the bass moved to the sea bed.

Many commercial fishermen continued to report catching huge numbers of Spurdog. On the beaches some pleasant surprises with good catches of a mixed bag of fish including whiting, codling, ray, smoothhound, bass, sole, flounder's, dabs, doggies and even sea trout.

In the rivers the commercial fishermen were very active especially whilst not getting to sea with the easterly winds they targeted bass and mullet in both rivers Orwell and Stour.

Dredging activities have occurred at the Port of Ipswich and Port of Felixstowe with complaints from anglers and commercial fishermen in the River Orwell of the way the dredge is being disposed of at Levington Creek.

The voluntary bait digging code seemed to have slipped away with many diggers appearing during April probably due to the code finishing at the end of that month and the fact the fishing has been so productive encouraging more anglers on the beaches and boats. What has been noticed and complained about is the increase in the price of ragworm and lugworm (Lugworm now £21 per hundred).

Charter boats reported a good April (south) with many species on the banks. North side (above Aldeburgh) was very poor with some boats struggling to catch a sizable fish to take home.

Memory of April - The amount of bass being landed and the variable year class.

First call received in May was from a group of commercial bait diggers complaining of the state of the worm beds at Stutton where they returned on the first day following the winter voluntary ban to find the beds had been exploited by other diggers.

Weather continued to be good throughout May with the odd day lost to easterly winds. Fishing continued to be very good with plenty of specie variety. Summer species turned up whilst spring cod were still being landed.

Probably the most interesting fact continuing into May was the amount of bass turning up with double figure bass close in. Many boats fished using mid water drift nets which seem deadly in the pursuit of bass. This reflected in the fact with many boats targeting bass all down the coast to Sussex pushing the price of sole up to a more acceptable price.

A few commercial fishermen also targeted the rivers during May in pursuit of bass. Others continued to net and line for cod, bass and roker I have never seen so many bass come on long line methods.

On the beach at Aldeburgh it was good to see the abundance of daily freshly caught fish and the mixed variety of fish which makes happy fishermen.

On the beach fishing was good with a mixed variety of fish with reports on the return of eels and flounders. On Orford island the British record for shore caught whiting of 4lb 7 dram was smashed with a fish caught and landed at 5lb 7oz.

Dredging occurred at the Port of Ipswich and I have been monitoring its disposal at Levington creek. Other dredging took place at the Port of Felixstowe and the Port of Harwich.

Many hours have been taken up this quarter with collating and observations and recording data for the monofilament netting survey.

On another note many fishermen have been questioning me with regards to the drift net ban proposed for January next year worried that if this comes into force it will put many fishermen out of work as they operate small boats which cannot be used for other methods of fishing and the fact the fishermen only know that method of fishing and cannot afford the expense of purchasing new gear for fishing. (In Suffolk there are around 48 boats drift fish).

Generally June was a warm month with plenty of sunshine and no wind. This allowed fishermen to fish at sea, in the rivers and on the beaches. Commercial netting was quite reasonable at the beginning of the month with good catches of bass roker sole and in the rivers for mullet and bass. Good reports of smoothhound whether lining netting or even rod and line. Most fish were very close in to the beaches. One or two commercial fishermen reported good cod catches during the first two weeks of the month but returning to the same area the following day the fish had moved on. During June I worked several days on our monofilament net survey by targeting the commercial fishermen for historical records and backing this up with live observation records from the beaches and rivers.

As June progressed weed in all rivers became too thick to work the nets and made netting impossible. Some boats have moved over to changing their gear to trawling for sole although the prices have crashed 50 per cent during the month.

Whelking is still in full swing with the addition of a new boat working out of the port of Southwold.

Port Summary

Pakefield

During April a couple of reports from local fishermen indicated herring were still around with the occasional sea trout. No beach reports received. During the second quarter no visits made although local reports indicated the fishing was very quiet on the beaches with many summer day anglers not catching a fish.

Southwold

Commercial fishing was steady during April for sole cod and bass. No reports from the beaches. During May Southwold boats reported good catches of a mixed species of fish. On the pier and beaches it has been quiet with fish really coming on the feed at night.

During June commercial fishing was extremely patchy with poor reports but occasionally the odd commercial boat hit the cod and good landings were achieved. I received complaints of the whelking activity increasing on pot numbers and shooting across fixed nets and long lines close into shore.

Dunwich & Sizewell

Commercially it's been steady with a mixed bag of fish with good numbers of bass and cod.

On the beach I had good reports of many species and again a good run of bass.

Fishing around the nuclear power station towers has landed a few bass sole and small smoothhound to both boat and shore anglers. Beach fishing has been better at night with some good match fishing results especially for bass and sole.

Thorpeness & Aldeburgh

April commercial fishermen reported a steady month close in for cod and sole. Bass and roker were exceptional with some good landings every day with most bass around the 5lb mark with a few occasionally being around the 12lb mark. It's been a pleasure doing inspections with such happy fishermen.

On the beach it was strangely quiet with no significant catches.

Commercial fishing continued to be very productive during May with good landings of sole, cod, bass, roker and smooth hound. Lobsters and crabs began to move but fishermen complained the sales were well down on last year.

On the beach it was a little better during May with a mixed bag over the month with best fishing at night.

Commercial fishermen continued through June reporting good catches of cod, roker, sole, smoothhound and bass close in and a few turbot brill and red gurnards further off. Lobsters have now increased but fishermen are still reporting poor numbers of customers at their sheds buying the fresh daily catch.

Orford

Probably April and into May has certainly been the commercial hotspot in my area anywhere south and south east of the light house. Good reported catches of cod roker bass and sole. It seems whether trawling netting or lining this area had good fish stocks with high reported landings. Crab and lobster was very good probably the best on my coast.

On the island fishing began quiet with many anglers cancelling bookings to the island but by the end of the period things picked up and cod and bass were now being taken.

Shore fishing on the island has been highlighted with the British record (Shore) record being smashed and recognised and recorded as a Whiting of 5lb 7oz. Orford now holds the British cod and whiting records I always say this spot is in the top four venues in the country for shore angling and vastly under rated and unrecognised. June finished off with less catch rate with fishermen diversifying as the month passes for different species including their potting activities. On the island fishing was poor but this is generally the case through June and July.

Felixstowe

April was an excellent month for the local fleet with bass, sole, roker and herring right on their doorstep within a couple of miles of the safe buoy. Some kept on their trawling gear and steamed across to the wallet for good catches of cod and roker. Pots were slow for lobster close in but the wrecks were very productive. Crabs were in abundance but there was no market and most were being returned.

On the beaches fishing started the month poor but as the month progressed things picked up with good landings of bass, codling and even flounders and eels.

Productive fishing continued through May for commercial fishermen with good landings of roker sole cod bass and mullet. Fishing in the rivers became very productive in the pursuit of bass. Many fishermen were drift netting for bass using mid water nets or trammels along the bottom. On the beach most fish were coming in after dark.

During June commercial fishing around Felixstowe slowed down but was reasonable with no complaints from the fishermen some have now moved out of the rivers and changed their gear to trawl for sole. Others have tried a little lining with poor results bearing in mind the bait costs so have returned to netting and it appears they have made a good return. Potting picked up off Felixstowe with lobsters now moving. There has been several complaints of the amount of potting and netting activity off Felixstowe from the Pier through The Spa, Fludyers and Cobbold's Point and up to Jacobs Ladder with commercial fishermen complaining of the amount of RSA activity in placing out high numbers of lobster and whelking pots and setting overnight nets making the grounds unsustainable for future stocks.

Finally the East Anglian Offshore One project wish to commence survey work through the main potting areas and are requesting fishermen to move all fixed gear whilst this survey work takes place from the shoreline to the main wind farm offshore.

Species Summary

All landing figures detailed within this monthly report are derived from estimates of catches based on observations made by Fishery Officers and reports made by fishermen to Fishery Officers.

<u>Pakefield</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		0
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
No reports	Unknown	Unknown
<u>Southwold</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		3
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	5,805	13,163.50
Roker	5,754	12,658.00
Sole	4,195	27,342.75
Bass	3,370	48,120.00
Flounder	828	828.00
Dabs	165	165.00
Brill	141	1,1198.50
Dogfish	642	1,027.20
Whiting	75	75.00
Smoothhound	322	837.20
Turbot	110	990.00
Whelks	15,395	20,164.00
Lobster	840	9,320.00
Crab	662	1,986.00
<u>Dunwich & Sizewell</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		1
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	635	1,216.00
Roker	686	1,509.20
Bass	405	5,605.00
Sole	258	2,083.50
Flounder	164	164.00
Dab	102	102.00
Lobster	305	3,037.00
Crab	365	1,130.80
<u>Thorpeness & Aldeburgh</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		10
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	3,400	14,938.50
Roker	11,770.00	25,894.00
Sole	9,840	70,999.75
Herring	627	627.00
Dogfish	445	712.00
Flounder	483	483.00
Bass	5,434	77,744.00
Dabs	210	210.00
Smoothhound	848	2,204.80
Brill	242	2,057.00
Turbot	101	909.00
Red Gurnard	18	57.60
Lobster	840	9,660.00
Crab	1,078	3,234.00
<u>Orford</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		3
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	8,645	19,883.50
Roker	6,517	14,337.40
Sole	8,622	64,554.00
Bass	5,940	87,370.00
Herring	650	650.00

Dogfish	433	692.80
Flounder	319	319.00
Dabs	162	162.00
Turbot	107	963.00
Whiting	100	100.00
Smoothhound	755	3,013.00
Brill	190	1,615.00
Lobsters	1,300	14,990.00
Crab	1,778	5,334.00

Felixstowe

Number of vessel inspections:		22
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	8,026	18,459.80
Roker	11,865	26,081.00
Sole	9,835	73,067.00
Herring	570	570.00
Dogfish	398	636.80
Bass	8,308	109,592.00
Smoothhound	846	2,199.60
Whiting	105	105.00
Mullet	8,075	17,978.50
Flounder	202	202.00
Dabs	89	89.00
Red Gurnard	139	446.80
Brill	187	1,589.50
Turbot	122	1,098.00
Hake	4	20.00
Mackerel	6	12.00
Lobster	1,815	20,124.00
Crab	933	2,799.00

Potting

Crab and lobster

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	2145
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	245

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	0
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	0

Whelk

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	1770
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	350

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:	8
Locations fished:	Species targeted: Average catch (kg):
Aldeburgh	Bass 1
Orford	Cod / Bass 1
Sizewell	Sole /Any 1
Dunwich	Any 0.5
Felixstowe	Bass 1
Rivers	Any 0.5

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:	8
Locations fished:	Species targeted: Average catch (kg):
Within 6nm	Cod/Ray/Bass 12

Charter Angling Vessels:

Number of charter vessels inspected:			7		
Number of vessels in area:	19	Number of trips:	281	Number of anglers:	1,506
	Species targeted:		Total Landings (kg):		
	Cod		3,900		
	Thornback ray		2,820		
	Bass		1,730		
	Dogfish		180		
	Whiting		25		
	Smoothhound		385		
Locations fished throughout the month:					
Within 3 miles on banks					

Fishery Officer Duties**Training:**

9th May – Microsoft

27th May – conflict resolution training

Other duties carried out:

1st April – Colchester Sea Anglers club meeting

2nd 4th April – reports

7th/8th – Bait digging observations

9th April – IFCA RSA meeting Thetford

10th April – To Kings Lynn change tyre and meeting

11th April – Joint patrol with MMO and inspections

14th April – Monofilament net survey observations

15th April – Bait diggers observations

15th April – To Kings Lynn replace replaced tyre

16th April – Bait diggers observations

18th-21st – To the Wash Cockle survey aboard Three Counties

23rd April – To Harwich -Stour and Orwell meeting

24th April – Monofilament net surveys observations

29th April – Joint patrol with MMO and inspections beach and hotel

30th April – Bait diggers observations

6th May – Colchester RSA meeting

8th May – To kings Lynn replace clutch on car

9th May – pick up car with clutch replaced

12th May – return car clutch not correct

19th May – Cockle dredge survey in River Orwell

21st May – Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust meeting

22nd May – GGOW meeting acting as chairperson

27th May – Conflict resolution training

28th May – Minsmere meet BBC Springwatch team

3rd June – Colchester Sea Anglers meeting

4th June - Pick up John Allen crew and take to B&B

5th June - On John Allen

6th June – Leave

11th June - John Allen with LT fix engine problems at Levington

13th June – travel to Kings Lynn for monthly meeting

14th – 22nd June – Annual leave

23rd June – Joint patrol with Ady in Suffolk

24th June – East coast Dredging meeting at Leigh on Sea

25th June – EAOW1 meeting at Ipswich

27th June – Annual leave

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

Cod	2.30
Roker	2.20
Bass	14.66
Sole	7.16
Smoothhound	2.60
Whiting	1.00
Dab	1.00
Brill	8.50
Turbot	9.00
Dogfish	1.60
Mullet	2.20
Red Gurnard	3.20
Mackerel	2.00
Hake	2.50
Flounder	1.00
Herring	1.00
Whelks	1.33
Lobster	11.33
Crab	3.00

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TO: J Gregory
FROM: S P Howard
DATE: 10th July 2014

QUARTLY MONTHLY REPORT THREE COUNTIES Apr-Jun2014

April

The month started with the cockle surveys covering most of the Wash and many of the samples had buck (9mm to 12mm across the back of the cockle) cockles in the samples collected. EHO/DSP samples were collected from around the Wash. On the days when collecting the samples from around the Wash we had the company of Fred Cooke and Sharon Bosley who conducted bird observations for the offshore bird migration. Sweep water samples were collected from the monitoring sites around the Wash. The Sonde was removed from the Data buoy for servicing and the data was down loaded to vessels computer before returning to the Data buoy. Cockle survey continued for the rest of the month.

May

EHO/DSP samples were collected from around the Wash. The new sites for the EHO/DSP samples sites were investigated to check if the sites not only had shellfish on them but could be reached in the time frame of collection and delivery. Sweep samples were collected as part of the ongoing study into the plankton levels in and around the Wash. The end of the month was taken up with trying to steam down to Woolverstone to start the Suffolk river survey for Cockles, Oysters and Sabellaria. But the weather had other ideas North to Northwest 7 to 8. The last day of May and Three Counties made the trip down to Suffolk.

June

Suffolk river surveys started in Holbrook Bay on the river Stour for cockles on the intertidal beds.

The next part of the survey was conducted in the river Stour for oysters (Natives *Ostrea edulis* and Pacific *Crassostrea gigas*). Cockle surveys continued in the river Orwell from the bridge along to Potter Point. Sabellaria survey took place using the day grab in the river Orwell close to the Suffolk Yacht Harbour. This was followed by a side scan survey from Woolverstone Marina down the river along Trinity Container Terminal round to the river Stour. On the way we passed close to a small fishing boat towing otter gear and the Side Scan system picked up the trawl net on the river bed. Starting with the codend then along the net, cover, wings, ground gear, otter boards and marks left by the trawl doors. On the steam back from Woolverstone to Lowestoft a team was despatched in Pisces to survey the rivers Deben and then the rivers Ore and Alde to gain first-hand knowledge of the rivers. Mussel lay were inspected and biotype survey conducted to make sure the lays are fit for purpose and the lays did not contain mussels or cockle before use.

EHO/DSP shellfish samples were collected from around the Wash. The new Mini Hammond grab was picked up from the Sutton Bridge dock ready to conduct the coble and bolder survey around the coast.

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TO: J Gregory
FROM: S T Lee
DATE: 12th July 2014

QUARTERLY REPORT FPV John Allen Apr-Jun2014

John Allen started the quarter in Suffolk for a week long patrol; unfortunately this was cut short due to an oil leak on the steering pump. As John Allen was still under warranty this was referred back to the manufacture, Redbay. They in turn authorised the pump to be sent to Garmin for repair. On inspection an 'o' ring had failed internally and it was more cost effective for them to replace than repair. This was returned and refitted by the Authority's officers. Unfortunately, in rectifying the oil leak another fault occurred! The steering pump was not working with the autopilot.

John Allen was lifted out of the water for the annual MCA survey on the 3rd April. It was noticed that the starboard prop had hit something and needed repairing. The repair was completed locally and replaced. Two spare props have been purchased to ensure a quick turn round time should/when the same situation occurs again; waiting time for replacement props can be up to ten days. The MCA survey took place without any major issues and passed seaworthy for another year.

On the 23rd April, John Allen patrolled back from Suffolk to the Wash ready for the opening of the Relaying Mussel Fishery; very little activity was witnessed on the return journey. The Mussel Fishery opened on the 28th April with 5 boats partaking. The main bed being targeted was Mare Tail and on average it was taking 2 to 3 hours to get the 8 tonne daily quota for relaying onto their private lays. A couple of boats attempted the Holbeach bed but reports back indicated they were struggling to get their daily tonnage, thus they too moved onto the Mare Tail beds.

The majority of May was spent enforcing the mussel relaying dredge fishery. This was achieved with a visible presence at sea on all tides that were fished, with the exception of two, when strong NE winds prevented a seaborne presence, albeit all vessels that fished were observed from the shore. All vessels were boarded as they transited from the mussel bed to their private lays. Two vessels had orders for the mussels to be transported by road to North Norfolk to be relayed. In total 48 vessels were boarded, the majority of vessels reached their daily quota of 8,000kg. No infringements were detected and the mussel relaying fishery closed without any issues.

Three other vessels were boarded in May; one targeting the hand work mussel fishery resulting in 1,500kg being relayed onto the owners private lay in Brancaster. The second vessel was targeting the brown shrimp fishery, who reported low catch returns but achieved a good price. The third vessel targeting the whelk fishery within the 6 miles limit reported good catch returns. On inspection edible crab was evident, however on further question the skipper confirmed that the edible crab was to be used outside of the 6 mile limit. The skipper was issued with a verbal re-brief on using edible brown crab for bait and given an up-to-date byelaw book.

In May, John Allen also collected the monthly sweep water samples from around the Wash, and then moored on the visitor moorings at Kings Lynn.

Jonathan Burney from Natural England attended a meeting at the office to gain a better understanding of EIFCA. The opportunity was taken to enhance the meeting with a trip to sea on John Allen to show him the local area.

At the end of the month FPV John Allen was lifted out of the water at Wisbech for the 100 hour engine and outdrives service. This was completed by the Authorities own staff, and on completion returned to Sutton Bridge moorings.

John Allen patrolled the whole district during June. A day was spent patrolling the Wash and Lincolnshire coast; there were three vessels boarded in Lincolnshire that were either targeting brown shrimp, whelks and a pleasure angler gill netting for bass in the Toft Lays area. All reported reasonable catches and no infringements reported.

The North Norfolk coast patrol targeted Cromer to Sea Paling area. Two vessels were boarded targeting the inshore whelk fishery. There was a mixed response to catch returns from good to dropping off. No infringements reported.

When patrolling the River Orwell in Suffolk, John Allen appeared to hit an object in the water near Shortly Point. John Allen lost power and there was a vibration in the port engine. There was no visible sign of damage to either outdrives, thus we continued onto Suffolk Yacht Harbour. When alongside both outdrives and props were checked and no sign of damage was reported. John Allen was sea trialled in the river the next day and both engines developed a loss of power. John Allen was lifted out of the water for a closer internal and external inspection. It appeared that the gear box oil in both outdrives had over-heated. There was no other sign of additional damage. The oil was changed and from the advice of the French Marine engineer all fuel filters were cleaned and also replaced. John Allen was lifted back into the water. French Marine's engineer came on board to check the output of both engines and it was agreed that the loss of power and vibration problem had been resolved. For further information please consult the engineers report.

During John Allen's downtime, Charity and Taylor's engineer come on board to check a temperamental problem with the auto pilot and the echo sounder. The faults were identified and both processor units were replaced and a new transducer installed. All works and parts were covered under the Garmin warranty.

On the 23rd of June, John Allen patrolled back to the Wash for duties around the hand work cockle fishery. Thirty seven boats were observed partaking in this fishery on sands on the west side of the wash; the Inner West Mark Knock, Mare Tail and the area known as The Dills. Officers also monitored the sand for excessive damage and landings.

EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES and CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

To: J Gregory

From: J M Taylor

Date: 11/07/2014

Quarterly Engineering Report Apr-Jun 2014

RV Three Counties

April	Engine hours at the start of the month 01/04/2014:	Engine hours at the end of the month 28/04/2014:
Port Main:	6646.5	6736.1
Stbd Main:	6527.0	6617.3
Port Gen:	7700	7833
Stbd Gen:	7790	7883
May	Engine hours at the start of the month 28/04/2014:	Engine hours at the end of the month 30/05/2014:
Port Main:	6736.1	6783.2
Stbd Main:	6617.3	6661.8
Port Gen:	7833	7885
Stbd Gen:	7883	7893
June	Engine hours at the start of the month 30/05/2014:	Engine hours at the end of the month: 24/06/2014
Port Main:	6783.2	6867.9
Stbd Main:	6661.8	6745.1
Port Gen:	7885	8043
Stbd Gen:	7893	7938

April

- 2nd-4th Starboard generator was causing issues. And wouldn't restart after prolonged use, it was found that battery was totally draining. The battery was repeatedly swapped for the spare and original charging the one not in use. I rang and spoke to Jason Hatch from SOS247 and explained the problem trying to arrange for him to come and check the previous fix from September 2013. He was unable to confirm a date. as they had a large amount of work on. *(JT & LT)*
- 16th Six hydraulic hoses replaced on the reconditioned steering ram and connections on the ram tightened after the ram was fitted in March. *(LT)*
- 17th Starboard generator wouldn't start again after use. Lee swapped out the battery for the charged spare. *(LT)*
- 23rd-24th Scheduled servicing of the generators also trying to locate the fault on the starboard generator preventing the battery from charging. Contacted Jason Hatch at SOS247 again, to see if he could make it down to check the fix from September 2013, unfortunately he was unable to make it down either of these two days however he did say that they have some free time next month and if we get a date to him ASAP then they can come and assess the problem. Also general maintenance, cleaning bilges, adjusting the cutlass bearings, wrapping hydraulic connections etc. *(JT & LT)*

May

- 7th, Tim Richards (Electrician sent through Jason Hatch) came to look at the starboard generator, particularly the problem with the battery not charging. After some fault finding around the electrical system and conducting a simple test where he bypassed the battery solenoid and instantly received 14:00 volts from the alternator to the battery, he determined that this was the fault. Unfortunately he was unable to fix on the day but he said that he will speak to Jason Hatch at SOS247 who I have been speaking to about the issue and determine if a replacement part could be sourced or whether they decided to fix the problem with a modification. *(JT on hand to help)*. Anchor cables also removed and

checked then swapped end for end attached and spooled back on. (SP & JT)

- 19th & 20th, 250 hour service of the main engines and a 6 monthly service of the gearboxes. Included an oil change for both the main engines and both the gearboxes, new oil, coolant and fuel filters for both main engines and new external Racor Fuel Separator Filters. (JT). Charity & Taylor also came down to work on the wind sensor.

June

- 15th, A replacement solenoid was fitted and battery changed for the charged spare on the Starboard generator. This was after Tim Richards had been down to fault find. Running checks needed to be made to assess if the problem was cured. (LT)
- 17th, After issues the day before, both Port and Starboard engine ignition barrels tightened up, both Port and Starboard engine emergency stop buttons were checked and reconnected and the steering was checked and topped up with oil. (LT)
- 23rd, Emergency stop button on the control box on the Port engine was not working again had to shut down using the lever on the engine to restrict the fuel. Needs to be looked at. Also shortly after setting off just before exiting the channel to the river it was noticed by LT that there was a lack of power coming from the Port engine, it was almost like the turbo was not providing power. I shut the engine down and restarted after a few minutes. After this the power came back and then the engine ran fine for the rest of the day and the next. (LT & JT)
- 24th, At the end of the day when I started the Port engine up to steam back, the Sea Water impeller in the Pump was not spinning therefore not drawing in sea water for cooling. After quickly dismantling the sea water pump and replacing the impeller, it began working and drawing in water, and we managed to steam back but it was noticed that the wear plates and cam needed replacing. (LT & JT)
- 26th, After the issue with the turbo on the 23rd I rang the Cummins Engineer (Darren) who came down to refit the new turbos and to discuss the issue. He suggested that the first place to look would be our fuel on board/external fuel supply. This corresponds with the recent issues we have had with John Allen. Fuel needs to be tested. (JT)
- 27th, After the unplanned maintenance on the 24th the Port Sea Water Pump was stripped and the wear plates and cam were replaced. (LT)

FPV John Allen

April	Engine hours at the start of the month 23/04/2014:	Engine hours at the end of the month 30/04/2014:
Port:	274	292.2
Stbd:	272	289.5
May	Engine hours at the start of the month 30/04/2014:	Engine hours at the end of the month 03/06/2014:
Port:	292.2	352.2
Stbd:	289.5	349.5
June	Engine hours at the start of the month 03/06/2014:	Engine Hours at the end of the month: 24/06/2014
Port:	352.2	377
Stbd:	349.5	374

April

- 2nd, Hydraulic steering pump was removed and sent to Garmin for repair. (STL)
- 3rd, MCA survey undertaken by Paul Johnson. (STL present)
- 2nd-11th, Hydraulic steering pump away at Garmin being repaired.
- 11th, The repaired steering pump was fitted it caused the Autopilot system to malfunction. Currently in communication with Redbay to try and resolve the problem. Along with Starboard propellers replaced after the inboard propeller was sent away to be fixed, spare set also received. The repaired steering pump was also fitted. (STL & LT)
- 27th March-11th April, Damaged propeller being repaired by French Marine.

May

- 21st, Engine had struggled on the day before and actually shut itself down. However after pumping some fuel through she started and ran again. After taking her back to the moorings to investigate further, it was found that the O-ring on the engine fuel filter had flattened and was drawing in air, the filter was replaced and she ran fine all day. (LT)
- 28th, 29th & 30th, 100 hour engine service including service of the legs. Involved engine oil change, engine anode change, oil filter change, fuel filter change and cleaning of the permanent air filters for both engines. This service also involved gear oil change and cleaning the permanent oil filter and magnet, situated in the legs themselves. The main leg anodes were also cleaned, checked and re-fitted with new retaining bolts, as they were deemed ok. (LT)

June

- 3rd, Echo sounder started intermittently playing up.
- 4th, Echo sounder continued to intermittently play up and steaming up the Stour & Orwell past Felixstowe port at 6 knots.
- 4th-19th, On steaming up the Stour & Orwell SL and SP felt something under the boat then the starboard engine seemed to misfire. The starboard engine then indicated a slight loss in oil pressure but no gain in temperature and in steaming up to Levington Marina the engine seemed lumpy. The starboard engine seemed unable to rev when going stern.
- The issue was investigated throughout the month checking the engines for leaks and propellers for damage both in and out of the water. None was found however there was a lingering burnt oil smell. The legs were examined out of the water and it was found that the gear oil in both legs had overheated. It was suspected that internal damage had occurred so French Marine were contacted and an engineer was requested to come out and assess the issue.
- On the 19th, SL went down to Levington to meet with a French Marine engineer to assess issues that had arisen with the legs. After testing the engines with multiple sensors at sea, the engineer determined that one of the engines was tuned slightly differently and working slightly harder and one of the legs was trimmed slightly differently. However overall she ran perfectly. The engineer advised that the issue was most likely down to fuel and told us that the slightest contamination could cause issues. He said that the Racor Fuel Separator Filters should be replaced every 50 hours, he also advised that the legs should be refurbished at 700-800 hours as they are manufactured to such precision. and that if during a service if we find any shavings stuck to the magnet on the drainage plug for the gear oil that we need to remove that leg to be overhauled. Finally, he suggested an alternative gear oil to what we are using (*not that the one we have been advised to use from Redbay is incorrect*).

FPV Pisces

April

- 8th, Fitted new both new propellers and the new plotter.
- 10th, Charity and Taylor came and sorted the wiring for the plotter.

May

- 19th, Charity & Taylor came down to work on the plotter again, and the radio to verify the DSC system was working.
- 23rd, An assessment of Pisces trailer was carried out focusing on the breaking system (drums, cables, etc), the axels, the wheels, the hitch and state of connections for the axels/rollers, photos were taken. (JT)

June

- Throughout the month I have been sourcing parts and prices for Pisces Trailer from Indespension Trailers and Blue Line Trailers. (JT)

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

15th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

30th July 2014

Report by: Ron Jessop, Senior Research Officer

Senior Research Officer's Quarterly Report

Purpose of report

The Authority runs a year-round programme of research projects and environmental work. This paper enables Members to be kept informed of key activities undertaken by the Authority's Research team during the previous quarter, April to June 2014, any issues that have arisen either through internal or external drivers, and an indication of upcoming developments that could require future actions.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- **Note the report.**

Background

The main focus of the research department during April was conducting the spring cockle surveys in the Wash. The fieldwork for these surveys was conducted between March 29th and April 29th and involved collecting samples from 1,282 stations from a total of 21 sands. Unlike previous cockle surveys, the data collected were entered directly into a new Access database rather than being scribed onto paper and digitised later. Doing this saved approximately one week of data-entry following the surveys, which not only reduced officer-time spent on the project, but also allowed the results to be analysed sooner. Analysis of this data-set is still time consuming, however, so the SRO still spent much of May analysing the data, producing cockle density charts and reporting the findings to the entitlement holders and Authority members. The results from these surveys were reported in detail in the paperwork for the June Statutory meeting, but basically found the total cockle stock to be 19,319 tonnes, of which 11,009 tonnes had attained a size of 14mm width. This was more than had been anticipated prior to the surveys and provided a TAC for the fishery that was only slightly smaller than the previous year.

Because several of the inter-tidal mussel beds are in a state of decline, the Authority approved a research project that would look at whether laying a culch of cockle shells could be used to attract mussel seed into the beds. At the beginning of April six 20m x 20m areas of bare ground were marked out within the Trial Bank mussel bed on Inner Westmark Knock. Three of these areas were to have shells deposited in them, while the other three were to be control sites. Although depositing the shells was for the purpose of shellfish propagation, in terms of DEFRA marine licensing the activity initially looked as though it might be classified as "disposal" and require a license. Due to the scale and purpose of the study, however, we were eventually able to negotiate an exemption from the requirement to have a licence. Between May 30th and June 1st two local fishing

vessels helped to deposit 24 tonnes of shells into each of the three experimental areas. These sites will be monitored regularly over the coming year to determine whether they have been successful at attracting seed.

In June surveys were conducted in the Stour and Orwell rivers in Suffolk. These surveys included:

- Monitoring the cockle and Manila clam stocks along the inter-tidal edges of the rivers using a Day grab deployed over high water periods,
- Monitoring native oyster stocks in Holbrook Bay using a dredge,
- Monitoring a colony of peacock worms near Levington marina using a combination of side scan sonar and Day grabs

It was also planned during this period to conduct some fish surveys in the River Deben using a seine net. Unfortunately, poor weather delayed when *Three Counties* was able steam to Suffolk, limiting the amount of time we had available. It is planned to conduct the missed River Deben fish survey in July using Pisces. These surveys generated a lot of data, most of which are still being analysed. An initial review of the cockle data has found the stocks in the River Orwell are doing well, having increased from 423 tonnes in 2012 to 769 tonnes; their highest recorded level since 2003.

Since 2009 there has been a moratorium on issuing new Wash Fishery Order lay leases until we have greater understanding of the impacts they may have on the food availability in the Wash. Based on samples collected during our SWEEP project, Cefas have recently been able to provide answers to some of these questions. Although food limitation is still far from being understood in a complex system like the Wash, the studies conducted so far have not revealed any current damaging impacts. This has enabled us to consider cautiously processing lay applications once again, by reviewing those applications that were already partially processed when the moratorium came into place. This has involved conducting biotope surveys around nine proposed lays on 4 sands. Surveys around three of these areas were conducted in June but because the fourth site did not dry adequately during the planned low water period, a further survey will need to be conducted during the set of large spring tides in July. Although this set of lays are being reviewed, a cautious approach must be followed until we have greater understanding of potential impact that lays may have on food availability. It will be some time, therefore, before the moratorium can be lifted.

Each month the Authority collects shellfish and water samples for EHO/DSP biotoxin and water classification monitoring purposes. Recently the Food Standards Agency and Cefas have reviewed the sampling regime in the Wash and have made significant changes to the locations of several of the sample stations. Following these changes, members of the research team have visited the new sites to ensure they can be accessed safely and that they support sufficient shellfish stocks for sampling. Following these visits, some of the sites have required minor changes to their positions, necessitating further consultation with Cefas.

After a winter break, the crustacean project which was instigated last year restarted in April. During this quarter, one member of the team has conducted surveys at sea aboard a commercial potting vessel, worked alongside the shore-based IFCOs bio-sampling in the ports and further developed the crustacean database.

Throughout the past quarter members of the research team have been assisting the environment team looking at the impact of fisheries on European Marine Site features. This has involved undertaking a detailed review to identify sources of information on

fishing activity, feature extent and condition and fishery impacts on each feature. The information gathered during this process will be used to inform the Habitat Regulation Assessments that will be required for each site.

Financial implications

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

Publicity

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

Background documents

Eastern IFCA Research & Environment Plan 2013/14

Vision

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



Information Item 24

15th Eastern IFCA meeting

30th July 2014

Report by: Judith Stoutt, Senior Marine Environment Officer

Senior Marine Environment Officer's Quarterly Report

Purpose of report

The Authority runs a year-round programme of research projects and environmental work. This paper enables Members to be kept informed of key activities undertaken by the Authority's Environment team during the previous quarter, April to June 2014, 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.**

Introduction

The first quarter of 2014/15 has been another busy period dominated by the European Marine Site project. During this period, staff have remained focused whilst personnel changes have been enacted: in May 2014, the Marine Environment (Data) Officer, Luke Godwin, has transferred to the post of Project Officer within the Protection team; the temporary Data Systems project officer Daniel Steadman has taken up the new permanent position of Marine Environment Officer – Consultation Lead. The Senior Marine Environment Officer has worked closely with the CEO to develop a job specification, and review the large number of applications received for the replacement Marine Environment Officer – Data Lead. The outgoing Data Officer has made a huge contribution to the work of the Environment team during the past two years, driving outputs such as the Authority's first regulatory Impact Assessment, high quality consultation responses and Habitats Regulations Assessments, as well as designing and creating a suite of databases for the various teams within the Authority. His experience in the Environment team will support the progression of interdisciplinary projects in his new position as Project Officer in the Protection team.

European Marine Sites project

The assessment of fisheries in European Marine Sites has remained the priority work stream during the quarter. The Research and Environment teams have continued to work through the evidence gap analysis, with the main focus on fishing impacts evidence. This work will support the Habitats Regulations Assessments required for high risk fishing/feature interactions. A site visit was undertaken on 9th June in the Rivers Orwell, Deben and Ore and Butley Creek, to observe features and any fishing activity. A progress tracker has been completed and submitted to Defra to outline the sites and interactions in the Eastern IFCA district, and to highlight priority assessments as well as set out the key evidence gaps. A more detailed update on this project is presented at Agenda Item 15.

Marine Conservation Zones project

During the quarter, Eastern IFCA officers have been liaising with Defra with regards to stakeholder engagement for the Tranche 2 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). There are no Tranche 1 sites, and just one recommended Tranche 2 MCZ, in the Eastern IFCA

District: Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds. Defra will lead a full public consultation on this site in early 2015. The Marine Environment (Data) Officer attended an early stakeholder engagement meeting in Wells on 17th June, during which strong concerns were raised by a minority of attendees. The concerns included the current lack of information about management of fishing activities within the site (if it is designated), and the conservation need to recommend this site in the first instance. As the lead inshore regulators, with a clear remit to further the conservation objectives of MCZs⁸, IFCA's are instrumental in delivering management of fishing activities in MCZs. Over the coming months, the environment team will undertake an assessment of fishing activity in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds area, to inform the formulation of management options for this site.

Habitats Regulations Assessments project

[*This project covers the ongoing, annual assessment of the cockle and mussel fishing activities managed by the Authority via the Wash Fishery Order.*] A Habitats Regulations Assessment was undertaken by the Research and Environment team for the 2014 Regulated cockle fishery in the Wash. The assessment was informed by the Authority's comprehensive cockle stock, sediment and conspicuous infauna surveys. With similar cockle stock levels to those found in 2013, there were no issues with bird food supply so long as the usual quota limitations were applied. The assessment identified that some areas likely to be fished in 2014 overlapped with buffer zones around harbour seal haul-out sites, but that the area of overlap was small so the potential for disturbance to seals was very low. Mitigation measures for the fishery included a quota (to provide for stock sustainability as well as ecological considerations), the closure of areas harbouring a high proportion of juvenile cockles, and close monitoring of the fishery to assess impacts to the substratum from prop wash activity. Should such observations identify significant damage to the sediment or piles of cockles left to die on the surface, the Authority has the ability to close the fishery.

Close liaison with Natural England on the timing and content of the assessment allowed for its speedy consideration, which resulted in Natural England providing formal advice on the proposed fishery within a week of submission. This close working relationship enables the Authority to provide timely fishery management decisions, and provides a strong foundation for the European Marine Site project going forward.

Wash Fishery Order – mussel lays project

The Marine Environment Data Officer, although transferred to his new role as Project Officer in the Authority's Protection team, has continued to make progress with evaluating existing applications for lays under the Wash Fishery Order. The environmental aspects of the evaluation include a biotope survey (to identify the habitats in and around the application area) and a subsequent Habitats Regulations Assessment. Biotope surveys were undertaken with the Research team in May 2014; work on the assessments is underway. In addition to the environmental aspects, the management of lays under the Wash Fishery Order includes socio-economic and legal considerations. A full update on progress is presented at Agenda Item 14.

Consultations and derogations project

The Eastern IFCA district is subject to a large number of marine and coastal activities, the majority of which require a marine licence from the Marine Management Organisation. Most consultations received by the Authority relate to marine licence applications, for activities as diverse as navigational dredging and disposal, to offshore wind farm construction and submarine cable laying. The new Marine Environment Officer – Consultations Lead, Daniel Steadman, took up this position in May 2014. He has quickly settled into the role and ably taken ownership of the organisation and formulation of responses to consultations received by the Authority. During the quarter, a total of 25 responses were produced by the environment team. Major projects included East Anglia Three offshore wind farm (Preliminary Environmental Information Report), Boston Barrier Scheme (flood defence and water level management project), and four European Marine Site Site Improvement Plans. A smaller scale application with potentially significant

⁸ Marine & Coastal Access Act (2009) section 154

impacts for the Wash cockle fishery was the proposed Race Bank offshore wind farm intertidal geotechnical investigations (boreholes in the mudflats and saltmarsh).

Members of the environment team met with the Environment Agency in May 2014 to discuss the Boston Barrier Scheme. Although significant impacts are envisaged for the Boston fishing fleet, the EA is in direct discussions with the local Fishermen's Association about this. Mark Robinson of the EA has been invited to present details of the Scheme to the Authority (Agenda Item 19).

The environment team also considered two applications for dispensation from Eastern IFCA byelaws for scientific purposes, one from a fishery consultant and one from Cefas. As these were to take place within designated or recommended marine protected areas, the Authority sought Natural England's advice before granting the dispensations. No fisheries or conservation objections were raised so the derogations were granted.

Interdepartmental projects

The MEO Consultation Lead has continued to progress his review of the Authority's electronic filing system, which aims to improve consistency and accessibility of the Authority's data holdings. The filing system is to be updated through a structured programme, working in conjunction with the Norfolk County Council IT department, and through discussions with each of the Authority's teams, for completion within the working year.

Environment team members attended the Cromer and Sheringham Crab and Lobster Festival in May 2014, to support the Authority's outreach remit, and to provide support to Defra in public engagement about the recommended Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ.

Financial implications

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

Publicity

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

Background documents

Eastern IFCA Research & Environment Plan 2013/14