



6th EIFCA Meeting

To be held at:

**Norfolk County Council
The Colman Room, County Hall,
Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH**

**25th July 2012
1030 hours**

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



Meeting: **6th Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

Date: 25 July 2012

Time: 10:30 hours

Venue: Norfolk County Council
The Colman Room
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich, NR1 2DH

Agenda

- 1 Welcome by the Chair
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Declaration of Members' interests

Action items

- 3 Minutes of the 5th Eastern IFCA Meeting on 25 April 2012
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Meetings of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee on 23 May 2012 and 29 June 2012
- 6 Meeting of the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee on 27 June 2012
- 7 Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee on 27 June 2012
- 8 Appointment to the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee
- 9 Payments made and monies received during the period 1 April 2012 to 13 July 2012
- 10 Quarterly Management Accounts
- 11 Review of the Authority's Standing Orders
- 12 Damaging activities in the Wash Fishery Order 1992 hand worked cockle fishery: implications for protected habitats and management options
- 13 Request to revisit the calculation of growth rates for cockles in the Wash Fishery Order 1992
Paper by Authority members from the Fishing Industry
- 14 The role of IFCAs in relation to managing fishing activities in European Marine Sites: a change in approach
- 15 Request from the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd. to further the Authority's role in supporting MSC accreditation of the shrimp fisheries
- 16 A Request from Galloper Wind Farm Ltd to agree a Statement of Common Ground
- 17 Review of the structure of Authority papers

Information items

- 18 Update on the Engagement and Communication Strategy
- 19 Quarterly progress against Annual Plans
- 20 Report of the Vessel Working Group, including sale of ESF Protector III
- 21 Marine Protection Quarterly reports:
 - a) Area Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers:
 - a. Area 1 - Donna Nook to Sutton Bridge
 - b. Area 2 - King's Lynn to Blakeney
 - c. Area 3 - Cley to Lowestoft
 - d. Area 4 - Lowestoft to Stour/Orwell
 - b) Skippers:
 - a. *FPV ESF Protector III*
 - b. *RV Three Counties*
- 22 Marine Environment Quarterly Reports:
 - a) Senior Research Officer
 - b) Senior Marine Environment Officer
- 23 Sea Angling 2012 - update
- 24 Marine Planning
- 25 Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Any other urgent business

- 26 To consider matters that the Chair has agreed are urgent because of special circumstances which must be specified

Eden Hannam
Acting Chief Executive Officer
13 July 2012

5th EIFCA Meeting

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



A meeting of the Eastern Sea Fisheries and Conservation Authority took place at the Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech on 25 April 2012 at 10.30 hours

Members Present:

Cllr Ken Sale	EIFCA Chair	Suffolk County Council
Mr Shane Bagley		Marine Management Organisation
Mr Peter Barham		Marine Management Organisation
Mr Roy Brewster		Marine Management Organisation
Dr Stephen Bolt		Marine Management Organisation
Cllr John Dobson		Norfolk County Council
Mr Conor Donnelly		Natural England
Cllr Tony Goldson		Suffolk County Council
Mr Roger Handford		Environment Agency
Cllr Brian Hannah		Norfolk County Council
Mr Ceri Morgan		Marine Management Organisation
Mr Tom Pinborough		Marine Management Organisation
Mr Rob Spray		Marine Management Organisation
Mr John Stipetic		Marine Management Organisation
Cllr Tony Turner MBE		Lincolnshire County Council
Mr Koen Vanstaen		Marine Management Organisation
Mr Stephen Worrall		Marine Management Organisation

EIFCA Officers Present:

Duncan Vaughan	Chief Executive Officer
Eden Hannam	Head of Marine Research
Christine Hurley	Head of Finance
Nichola Freer	Head of Human Resources
Lucy Ritchie	Community Development Officer
Lynsey Smith	Research Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment Officer (Data)
Simon Lee	Skipper/Senior Enforcement Officer
Jason Byrne	Fishery Officer (Area 1) – Donna Nook to Sutton Bridge
Ian Dye	Fishery Officer (Area 2) – Kings Lynn to Blakeney
Ady Woods	Fishery Officer (Area 3) – Cley to Lowestoft
Alan Garnham	Fishery Officer (Area 4) – Pakefield to Felixstowe Ferry
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer

Clerk:

Mary Clancy

EIFCA12/22 Item 1: Welcome by the Chair and reflections on the past year

Councillor Sale welcomed Nichola Freer, the EIFCA's new Head of HR and Mary Clancy, the contracted Clerk, to their first meeting of the Authority. He also welcomed Cllr Dobson who had returned to the Authority after a short break. He thanked the Chairs of the EIFCA sub-committees for their efforts during what had been a challenging year and also Stephen Worrall and Peter Barham for their particular contributions.

As this was Duncan Vaughan's last meeting, the Chair thanked him for his hard work as CEO to establish the EIFCA and for leaving it in such a good position as the country's leading IFCA.

EIFCA12/23 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Hilary Thompson and Stephen Williams and Mr Neil Lake.

EIFCA12/24 Item 3: Declarations of Interest

Shane Bagley and Roy Brewster declared a personal interest in Item 17 on the ground that they are directly involved in the Wash cockle fishery.

EIFCA12/25 Item 4: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Cllr Ken Sale vacated the chair and the Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chair of the EIFCA for 2012-13.

Cllr Tony Goldson nominated Cllr Ken Sale and this was seconded by Cllr Tony Turner. There were no other nominations. Cllr Sale was then re-elected as Chair of the Eastern IFCA for the year 2012-13 by a unanimous vote.

Cllr Sale resumed the chair and invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the EIFCA for 2012-13. **He nominated Cllr Hilary Thompson and this was seconded by Cllr John Dobson. There were no other nominations. Cllr Thompson was then re-elected as Vice-Chair of the Eastern IFCA for the year 2012-13 by a unanimous vote.**

EIFCA12/26 Item 5: Minutes of the 4th EIFCA meeting held on 26 January 2012

Members agreed unanimously to accept the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

Proposed: Cllr Tony Goldson

Seconded: Stephen Worrall

EIFCA12/27 Item 6: Matters arising

Koen Vanstaen pointed out that his name had been spelt incorrectly on page 5 as had 'succor fish' on page 6 (EIFCA12/04).

EIFCA 12/08: Cllr Tony Turner asked whether New Burdens funding could be combined with county council funding to support the EIFCA's vessels and their operational costs. The CEO explained that New Burdens funding was not ring-fenced and both funding sources had been combined into a single pool for the purposes of the EIFCA accounts. Dr Stephen Bolt added that Defra expected IFCA's to be able to identify the use of New Burdens money in their annual plans so that it could account for the use of this money.

The CEO said the EIFCA had an operational reserve intended for the provision of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) on fishing boats under 10metres in length if the MMO did not include this fleet in its own VMS provision. He explained that VMS can offer an alternative enforcement method which does not always necessitate going to sea.

Rob Spray said that this issue had been considered at the Vessels Working Group (the group's report was a later item on the agenda) and proposed that the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee should consider the funding issues related to the EIFCA's vessels.

It was resolved: To refer the funding of EIFCA vessels and their operating costs to the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee for consideration.

Proposed: Cllr Tony Turner

Seconded: Cllr Tony Goldson

All agreed

EIFCA12/21: With reference to his report, Tom Pinborough said that anglers fishing for sea bass off Cromer pier had contacted him about intimidation by other fishermen and he had reported this to EIFCA, the MMO and North Norfolk District Council. This problem has arisen again and so he intends to invite anglers to attend the community engagement meeting in Cromer on 16 May 2012 to find a way of resolving the matter.

EIFCA12/28 Item 7: To receive a report on meetings of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee held on 26 January 2012 and 15 March 2012

The Head of HR presented the report. Tom Pinborough asked whether the Head of Marine Conservation would be fully recompensed for the period he would be Acting CEO and was assured that this was the case. The Head of HR explained that a member of staff would not normally receive an extra payment for acting up while a senior officer was on leave or off sick but this situation was exceptional as the acting up arrangement was likely to be protracted. Cllr John Dobson said that this was in line with the position taken by the EIFCA in the past.

It was resolved: To receive the report

Proposed: Dr Stephen Bolt

Seconded: Rob Spray

All Agreed

EIFCA12/29 Item 8: To receive and approve the Finance Officer's report on payments made and monies received during the period 13 January 2011 to 31 March 2012

The Head of Finance presented the report and advised members that all payments had been made in line with the EIFCA's financial regulations and good accounting practice.

It was resolved: To receive and approve the report.

Proposed: Stephen Worrall

Seconded: Cllr Tony Turner

All Agreed

EIFCA12/30 Item 9: To receive and note the Finance Officer's Quarterly Management Accounts

The Head of Finance presented the report. She said that the final accounts for 2011-12 would be presented to the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee on 27 June 2012 but, to give an indication of the outturn for the year, she had built into the report estimates and adjustments based on invoices received and orders placed in March. In addition, she had analysed expenditure allocated to the New Burdens funding, including the costs of the HR consultant employed during 2011, the recruitment costs for the new posts and some salary costs, publicity and vesting day costs, and accommodation costs relating to the new posts. The outcome was an expected underspend of £445,000 of which £320,000 was New Burdens money.

Cllr John Dobson asked whether Defra would wish to clawback the New Burdens underspend. The CEO said Defra had allocated the funding for the first four years of the Authority; it recognised that the workload of IFCA's would build up in years three and four and that they would need to make forward provision in their budgets for this. While it would not clawback underspends, it would wish to see that the money was being properly spent on new IFCA functions and that the expenditure represented value for money. To illustrate the efficiency of the EIFCA, the CEO said he had done a very rough calculation of the cost per council tax payer by comparison with the Cornwall IFCA, and this suggested that council taxpayers in Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk paid about 50p each for their IFCA whereas Cornwall council taxpayers paid about £5 each. He also said that the EIFCA was well regarded by Defra.

Cllr John Dobson asked about underspending by other IFCA's. Dr Stephen Bolt said a direct comparison was not possible as New Burdens funding for each IFCA differed depending on the outcome of the complex funding formula applied to them. He agreed that IFCA's had to ensure they had funding available for future pinchpoints arising, for example, from by-law reviews and new management measures.

In response to a question, the Head of Finance confirmed that, taking into account the full year salary costs of new staff, the underspend reduced to £160,000.

Peter Barham pointed out that it was necessary to hold money for new management and monitoring measures not yet clarified by Defra and Natural England. Conor Donnelly said that Natural England was developing advice on regional projects to submit to Defra in July. There would then be consultation by Defra which would give IFCA's a better idea of their further conservation objectives.

It was resolved: To receive and note the report.

Proposed: Peter Barham

Seconded: Cllr Brian Hannah

All Agreed

EIFCA12/31 Item 10: To receive and approve bank mandates for the Authority

The Head of Finance explained that it was necessary to renew all signatures to the EIFCA bank account as a result of the changes arising from the departure of the CEO and the consequent acting up arrangements.

It was resolved: To approve the EIFCA's bank mandate and authorise the Head of Finance to nominate appropriate signatories.

Proposed: Cllr Tony Goldson

Seconded: Koen Van Staen

All Agreed

EIFCA12/32 Item 11: To receive and approve the Authority's 1st Annual Report to Defra

The CEO presented the annual report. He thanked those who had commented on the draft and said that the annual report was a key document that Defra would use when it carried out its quadrennial review and report to Parliament. He had already received feedback from Defra that it would like more narrative and case studies illustrating the use of New Burdens money in future annual reports.

It was confirmed that the report would go to all three county councils and a suggestion to make it available in public libraries would be considered. It would also be available on the EIFCA website.

It was resolved: To receive and approve the report and to instruct officers to submit it to Defra.

Proposed: Peter Barham

Seconded: Cllr Tony Goldson

All Agreed

EIFCA12/33 Item 12: To receive and approve a report recommending the replacement of ESF Protector III

The Skipper/Senior Enforcement Officer presented the report. Cllr Tony Turner was concerned that the replacement fund was not sufficient to buy the kind of vessel that the EIFCA needed but members were advised that the Vessel Working Group was looking at this issue.

Tom Pinborough asked whether the EIFCA's other vessels were being fully used. The CEO said that they were used as appropriate depending on the enforcement action being taken.

It was resolved:

- i) To receive the report and approve the recommendation to offer ESF Protector III for sale
- ii) To delegate to the Chair and Vice Chair the authority to consider any offers received

Proposed: Stephen Worrall

Seconded: Rob Stay

All Agreed

EIFCA12/34 Item 13: To receive and note the dates and locations of planned community engagement meetings

The Community Development Officer presented the report. Ceri Morgan asked whether the next meeting in Boston could be held in the evening rather than the afternoon and the Community Liaison Officer confirmed that the timing of meetings was flexible and that this was an option.

Tom Pinborough asked about attendance at the first round of meetings that had been held. The Community Development Officer said this was between 0 and twelve; the best attendance was at the Cromer meeting; there were about six people at the Kings Lynn meeting and fewer than 12 at the Boston meeting; no-one attended the Suffolk meeting but the Fishery Officer (Area 4) said there was a need to advertise it better. The Community Development Officer said she had produced flyers and posters for the next round of meetings to increase publicity and was building up a database of contacts in each area. The CEO added that this was a very new initiative which would become more effective as it developed.

There was some discussion about the role of other bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency at the meetings. The Head of Marine Conservation said that there was a need for the EIFCA to engage and communicate directly with community groups and stakeholders in the area about EIFCA-wide issues as well as more local issues. The community engagement meetings were part of this approach. While Natural England and the Environment Agency could contribute, the meetings would be

EIFCA led and branded. Conor Donnelly said that the one-stop-shop approach at the meetings helped people understand the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies involved in coastal management. Roger Handford said that the Environment Agency would not necessarily attend the meetings but could provide information about other activities and issues – for example, flood defence – that the EIFCA and the communities and stakeholders needed to be aware of.

Stephen Worrall emphasized the importance of encouraging people to attend and provide feedback by targeting publicity at groups and individuals, and highlighting topics of particular relevance to them to make their attendance worthwhile. They should also be encouraged to use the EIFCA website for information. Rob Spray said that the meetings were a good opportunity to get support from stakeholders at the outset of EIFCA activities and he referred to the problems Marine Conservation Zone initiatives were experiencing because stakeholders were not on board at the outset.

It was resolved: To note the dates of the meetings as set out in the report and that members would attend the meetings where possible.

Proposed: Stephen Worrall

Seconded: Cllr Tony Goldson

All Agreed

EIFCA12/35 Item 14: To receive and approve a report on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The CEO presented the report which invited members to provide comments for the EIFCA's response to the government's consultation on the initial stages of implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The Directive requires all EU states to achieve 'good environmental status' in the European marine environment by 2020. The directive is likely to impact on the EIFCA in its role as a delivery agency for Defra.

Dr Stephen Bolt said there was concern that fishing industry activity displaced from Marine Conservation Zones into other marine areas could impact on the achievement of good environmental status in those areas and there would be a need to manage this. Peter Barham emphasised the need for a watching brief on the impact of the Directive as it developed in the coming years and its effect on the EIFCA's workload.

It was resolved: To receive the report and delegate authority to the Acting CEO to submit the EIFCA's response to the consultation.

Proposed: Dr Stephen Bolt

Seconded: Rob Spray

All Agreed

EIFCA12/36 Item 15: To receive and approve a report on the annual review of the Authority's Standing Orders and the impact of the Localism Act 2011 on the Members' Code of Conduct

The Clerk presented the report. She explained that, as a result of new measures in the Localism Act 2011, each local authorities is required to adopt a new code of conduct for members by 1 July 2012. Currently, all local authorities, including the EIFCA, are subject to provisions in the Local Government Act 2000 which requires them to have the same code of members' conduct. However, the Localism Act repeals these provisions and allows authorities to devise their own local codes of conduct as long as

they include certain statutory provisions for registration and declaration of interests which will be defined in forthcoming regulations.

Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, like other councils, are intending to adopt new codes at their annual meetings in May in order to meet the 1 July deadline. This report proposes that the EIFCA delegates authority to adopt a new code of conduct to the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee at their meeting on 27 June 2012, following consultation with members on a draft new code during May/June. The draft will seek to take into account the key elements of the constituent county councils' codes to ensure that all EIFCA members are subject to the same standards.

Dr S Bolt asked whether other IFCA had been approached about the action they intended to take on this requirement with a view to having a common approach. The Clerk said that she had not approached other IFCA so far as all the councils who are part of IFCA joint committees or committees are likely to have different codes and this will influence the way that each IFCA draws up its own code, given the need for parity with its own constituent councils. Dr Bolt offered to circulate this paper to the other IFCA for information through the Association of IFCA and this was agreed.

The Clerk then explained that, given the need to adopt a new code, a limited review of the EIFCA's Standing Orders should be carried out at this meeting and that a more extensive review should be done at the 6th EIFCA meeting on 25 July. The proposed amendments were set out in Appendix 1 and reflected the creation of the role of Clerk.

Tom Pinborough asked whether the Standing Orders could be reviewed more often than once a year as the EIFCA might wish to review the order that prevents non-elected members from standing for the posts of Chair or Vice-Chair. Stephen Worrall also felt that this restriction should be reviewed.

The CEO confirmed that there is no longer a legal requirement that Chair and Vice-Chair posts must be filled by elected members but this was something that the EIFCA had adopted when agreeing its own Standing Orders.

Peter Barham said that, as elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2012-13 had just taken place, a review was not appropriate at this stage but the position could be reconsidered in the future.

The proposals in the report were then taken together.

It was resolved to:

- (i) ask officers to draft a new code of conduct for EIFCA members, taking into account the codes adopted by Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and the requirements of the Localism Act and its associated regulations, for approval by the Chair of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee and subsequent circulation it to all EIFCA members for comment;
- (ii) delegate authority to adopt the new code to the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee at its meeting on 27 June 2012, following consideration of the results of the consultation;
- (iii) approve the amendments to the EIFCA's Standing Orders, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report;

(iv) carry out a full review of the Standing Orders at the 6th EIFCA meeting on 25 July 2012.

Proposed: Cllr Brian Hannah

Seconded: Stephen Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA12/37 Item 16: Resolution to exclude the public under Section 100(A)(4)

It was resolved that, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for item 17 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 7 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Proposed: Cllr Tony Goldson

Seconded: Cllr Brian Hannah

All Agreed

At this point, members of the public and most EIFCA officers were asked to leave the room. The CEO, Head of Marine Conservation and Clerk remained.

EIFCA12/38 Item 17: To receive and approve a report, legal correspondence and background information relating to the WFO1992 hand worked cockle fishery

The CEO presented the report which asked members to approve the publication of the correspondence in a redacted form under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('redacted' means that confidential information is removed before publication). The redactions will be made by the EIFCA's solicitors.

The correspondence concerned allegations about the management of the Wash cockle fisheries made over the past three years by a firm of solicitors acting for an anonymous client. The CEO considered it appropriate to publish this information now given the public interest in this area and the likelihood that a formal Freedom of Information request for disclosure of the information will be made at some time in the future. Natural England has also received correspondence from these solicitors which it has already published on its website because of the public interest in the matter.

There was discussion about the details of the allegations and the management approach taken by the EIFCA. The correspondence alleges that the hand-worked cockle fishing industry in the Wash is damaging the marine environment and that, by allowing this industry to continue, the EIFCA is in breach of its legal obligation to protect the area. EIFCA officers have carefully examined the evidence provided by the solicitors but do not find it to have any substance. Conor Donnelly confirmed that Natural England had supported the EIFCA's approach to managing the cockle fishery over the past three years and had told the solicitors this. However, the solicitors continue to make the same allegations.

Members considered that there was no longer anything constructive to be gained from devoting more resources to this correspondence, that the redacted documents should now be published and the correspondence should be brought to an end. However, Cllr Tony Turner was concerned that publishing the correspondence would not achieve this aim as it would just prolong the issue.

It was resolved that:

- i) the CEO should seek written confirmation from Natural England that it continues to endorse the EIFCA's approach to the management of the Wash hand-worked cockle fisheries and does not consider that it results in an adverse impact on the marine environment;
- ii) in the public interest, this confirmation should be published on the EIFCA's website together with the redacted correspondence.

Proposed: Cllr Ken Sale

Seconded: Cllr Tony Goldson

One vote against.

There was a short break and members of the public and EIFCA officers were invited to return to the meeting.

EIFCA12/39 Item 18: North Norfolk Coast FLAG

This item was not discussed as Ian Groves did not attend the meeting.

EIFCA12/40 Item 19: 2nd Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2012-2013

This item was for information. Members received and noted the Annual Plan 2012-13.

EIFCA12/41 Item 20: 1st Eastern IFCA Environment and Research Plan

Members received and noted the Annual Plan 2012-13.

EIFCA12/42 Item 21: Eastern IFCA Enforcement and Compliance Strategy

The CEO advised members that the Enforcement and Compliance Strategy was available on the EIFCA website. Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/43 Item 22: Eastern IFCA Code of Conduct for Inspections

The CEO advised members that this was a national code and was available on the EIFCA website. Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/44 Item 23: Eastern IFCA Financial Administrative Penalty (FAP) guidance

The CEO advised members that this guidance was produced by the Marine Management Organisation for all IFCA's and was available on the EIFCA website. Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/45 Item 24: Angling 2012 update

The Head of Marine Conservation advised members that some promotional material for Angling 2012 would be available after the meeting and that the first report on the data collected under the Angling 2012 initiative would be presented to the EIFCA meeting on 25 July 2012. Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/46 Item 25: Wash Fishery Order 1992 management update

There had been discussion of the Wash Fishery under an earlier item. Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/47 Item 26: Recruitment into the Authority's agreed personnel structure

Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/48 Item 27: Vessel Working Group's report

Rob Spray summarised the discussions so far of the Vessel Working Group. He said it was difficult to determine the EIFCA's needs in advance of the bye-law review and decisions on the MPZs. The group agreed that a sea-going enforcement presence was required in addition to evidence obtained from satellite monitoring and tracking. They considered that the EIFCA required a vessel capable of covering the authority's area district day and night and throughout the year, which allowed boarding and could be used close to shore as well as further out to sea. The vessel would also need to accommodate the EIFCA's research needs as they increased in the future. The group's visit to Kent and Essex IFCA's boat, FPV Tamesis, had been very informative. The group were due to meet again to take this further.

Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/49 Item 28: KEIFCA Tamesis Charter 2012-2013

Members noted that Kent & Essex IFCA's vessel, the FPV Tamesis, would again be used in the southern Suffolk estuaries during 2012-13. They also noted the costs, as set out in the report, and that both cost and usage would be reviewed at the end of the year.

EIFCA12/50 Item 29: Area IFCOs' quarterly reports

Members commented that these were very useful and interesting reports. The Head of Marine Conservation confirmed that they were available on the EIFCA website with the other reports for this meeting, but he would look at how they could be given a higher profile.

Members received and noted the reports.

EIFCA12/51 Item 30: Vessels quarterly reports

Members received and noted the reports.

EIFCA12/52 Item 31: Senior Research Officer's quarterly report

Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/53 Item 32: Senior Marine Environment Officer's quarterly report

Members received and noted the report.

EIFCA12/54 Item 33: Any other business

There were no urgent business items.

The meeting closed at 13.07 hours

25 July 2012

**Meetings of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee:
23 May 2012 & 29 June 2012**

Since the last Authority meetings the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee has met twice. The first of these meetings was on 23 May 2012, with an emergency meeting on 29 June 2012 to discuss damage to the European Marine Site.

23 May 2012

The sub-committee met at Thoresby College to discuss two substantive items. The meeting was moved to this venue, from the Authority meeting room on Bergen Way to accommodate a large number of observers. The two substantive items for discussion at this meeting were; the opening of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 cockle fishery, and possible contingency measures should mortality events threaten the cockle fishery of the Wash.

Authority Staff presented the findings from the spring cockle surveys carried out in the Wash between 20 March 2012 and 24 April 2012, and the outcomes of consultation with Wash Fishery Order entitlement holders and of a meeting with representatives of local fishermen's associations held on 22 May 2012. Consultation had included questions about the preferred method, opening day and days fished. Following considerable discussion members made the following decisions:

- Members carefully considered the information and calculations provided by the officers and resolved that the overall Total Catch for the 2012/13 Wash cockle fishery should be 2,369 tonnes.
- Members resolved that the 2012/13 Wash cockle fishery should be a hand-worked fishery.
- Members resolved that the opening date for the 2012/13 Wash cockle fishery would be early June 2012, subject to advice from Natural England and giving at least 7 calendar days notice of the opening date
- Members resolved that the 2012/13 Wash cockle fishery would be open from Monday to Thursday inclusive, with any necessary adjustments to accommodate neap tides
- Members resolved that all beds within the regulated fishery of the Wash, except those with high density areas of juvenile cockles (2011 year-class cohort), should be opened to the 2012/13 hand-worked cockle fishery.

At this time discussion continued to relate to the need for returns to be posted regularly. The IFCA would use carbon copy returns books, fishermen would be able to make and keep copies of their returns which could be used as evidence that they had been submitted on time if there was a delivery delay by the postal service. Failure to promptly return these records could see fishermen excluded from the fishery.

Mr Conor Donnelly emphasised that regulation 1 of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 which prohibits the use of equipment fixing a vessel to the seabed or slowing its movement while the engine is running, should continue to be rigorously enforced.

The second substantive item related to possible contingency measures should mortality events threaten cockle populations in the Wash. From recent events in the Wash, the Senior Research Officer, supported by other staff, suggested there were possible

measures that could be taken should mortality increase in the cockle population in the Wash. His research indicated that this mortality, (possibly linked to a small parasite) had the potential to impact dense sands in warmer weather – and in particular that this is likely to be the Wrangle sands in the Wash. He suggested that alternative contingency measures should be considered should mortality be recorded at more than 1% per day.

Authority members welcomed the proposal and its imaginative and adaptive thinking. It was resolved that all parties would be informed should the 1% mortality threshold be breached, and that the Authority would at this time present possible contingencies. These contingencies would depend on the timing and location of mortality and what practical measures could be employed. Research Staff have been sampling mortality fortnightly. This is discussed in the Research Officers report (Agenda item 22). Mortality had not reached the threshold as at time of print.

29 June 2012

An emergency MPA sub-committee meeting was called for 29 June 2012 following the discovery of damage to features of the European Marine Site. This meeting sparked considerable industry interest and again was transferred to the meeting room at Thoresby College. The Chair of the sub-committee, with permission of the Members opened the floor to discussion. While discussions were heated, there were a number of resolutions out of this meeting. The outcomes of this meeting are fully discussed in Agenda item 12.

Eden Hannam
Acting Chief Executive Officer

17th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

1. Unconfirmed minutes of the MPA sub-committee meeting held 23rd May 2012
2. Unconfirmed minutes of the Emergency MPA sub-committee meeting held 29th June 2012

25 July 2012

Meeting of the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee on 27 June 2012

A meeting of the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee was held on 27 June 2012. Minutes of this meeting are still draft, and will be confirmed at the next sub-committee meeting. A number of items were discussed including :

- the use of Norfolk County Council's Customer Service and Communication Unit;
- the delayed Communication and Engagement Strategy
- the quarterly community engagement meetings; and
- the possibility of conducting a benchmarking survey

Norfolk County Council

Concerning the use of Norfolk County Council's Customer Services and Communication Unit to support the Eastern IFCA's high level objectives, the Acting CEO advised that officers were considering buying elements from Norfolk County Council rather than a whole package.

Members Code of Conduct

The Sub-Committee considered a report on the proposed Members' Code of Conduct which had been circulated to all Authority members for consultation. There had been two responses, both of which were favourable. The Clerk summarised the background to the Code which applied only to non-elected members of the Authority as council members are legally required to comply with their council's code of conduct under the Localism Act when representing their council. The Clerk had consulted the three county council Monitoring Officers on whether the Localism Act applied to non-elected Eastern IFCA members and had been advised that it did not. The Clerk summarised the key points of the Code, particularly in relation to declarations of interest, pointing out that the MMO's terms and conditions of appointment require members to abide by their IFCA's Code of Conduct. She also said that the proposed appeals and complaints board would enable the Authority to deal with complaints about breaches of the Code effectively and comply with the MMO's complaints process.

Members agreed that the Code should be amended to strengthen the requirement to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests at meetings, that the reference to the Deputy CEO should be amended to refer to senior managers, and that the Authority should not publish its registers of members' interests and gifts and hospitality on the website but should make them available for public inspection. Members also asked for the reference to 'general' and 'additional' members should be clarified. The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend that the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee should adopt the Code with these amendments.

Community Engagement Strategy

The Community Development Officer presented a report. It was explained that the Authority had missed its own deadline of April 2012 for starting the development of the communication and engagement strategy. This was a result of the need to recruit staff to new posts and the change of Chief Executives. It was now essential that this work progressed. A workshop activity was conducted to identify topics for inclusion in the

communication and engagement strategy, details of which can be found in Agenda Item 18.

Community Engagement Meetings

An update of the previous round of Community Engagement Meetings was given. Success was mixed with 10 Boston fishermen attending the Boston meeting, nobody attending the King's Lynn meeting, around 17 people (including councillors, fishermen, and RSA) attending the Cromer meeting and 16 people (including bait diggers, yacht charters and RSA) attending the Ipswich meeting. As these meetings are intended to be informal drop-in sessions, no attendance was taken.

The Community Development Officer would like to highlight the dates and times of the next round of Community Engagement Meetings. These will take place as follows;

Area	Date & Time	Location	Address
1	31/07/2012 1930-2130	The Black Sluice Centre	1 South Forty Foot Bank London Road Boston, PE21 7RA
2	2/08/2012 1930-2130	The Masonic Centre	79 Hamburg Way Kings Lynn, PE20 7LD
3	22/08/2012 1930-2130	The Cottage	8 Loudon Road Cromer, NR27 9EF
4	08/08/212 1930-2139	The Kingfisher	301 Hawthorn Way Ipswich, IP2 0QX

Representatives from the Marine Management Organisation and Natural England have confirmed attendance at each of these meetings and the RSPB have expressed an interest in attending.

Benchmarking Survey

The Community Development Officer then proposed a benchmarking survey. It was said that officers considered that the Authority needed to establish a baseline level of stakeholder awareness in order to be able to measure the effectiveness of communication and engagement activity. However, they did not consider that the Authority had the resources or expertise to design and carry out a benchmarking survey in-house and so were recommending that this work should be outsourced.

A quote had been obtained from Norfolk County Council for two benchmarking surveys, the first to coincide with the publication of the Communication and Engagement Strategy and the second to be carried out in 2015. The cost of the surveys would be £12,500 if Norfolk County Council engaged an external company such as MORI, or £9,000 if they were able to do the work in-house. However, the Acting CEO said that, given the cost, it would be necessary to get three quotes.

It was resolved to recommend to the Eastern IFCA that it agrees in principal that a bench-marking survey is required, and that this should be outsourced using the procurement approach that would ensure the best value for the Authority.

Since the meeting, Norfolk County Council have indicated they are unwilling to take this work on.

The Authority is asked to:

- 1. Note that a planning and communication sub-committee meeting was held on 27 June 2012 which focused on setting out the Communication and Engagement Strategy**

- 2. Agree-in-principal that a bench marking survey is required and that it should be outsourced using the procurement approach that would ensure the best value for the Authority**
- 3. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the ability to sign off on the bench marking contract (on a best value basis)**
- 4. Note the next round of Community Engagement Meetings will follow the Authority meeting.**
- 5. Invite Authority members to attend the Community Engagement Meetings.**

Lucy Ritchie
Community Development Officer
17th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

1. Unconfirmed minutes of the Planning & Communication sub-committee held on 27 June 2012
2. Planning & Communication sub-committee 27 June 2012 agenda items 6, 7, and 9

25th July 2012

To receive a report on a meeting of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee held on 27 June 2012

1. Approval of the Statement of Accounts for the year-ended March 31st 2012 and authorisation of transfers to and from the Authority's Reserve Funds

Members were advised that the Audit Commission classed the Eastern IFCA as a small body for the purpose of submission of accounts for audit. In accordance with this the Audit Commission Annual Return for Small Bodies was presented for certification at the meeting.

Prior to this members had received the Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 31st 2012 comprising a comparison of actual results against budget, a Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account, a Consolidated Balance Sheet, a Statement of Movement on Reserves and notes to the accounts.

Members' attention was drawn to the 2011-2012 Out-turn which had resulted in an underspend of £484,787. This had been brought about chiefly as a result of the underspend of New Burdens Money and savings resulting from vacant posts during the year. There was also an increase in Miscellaneous Income (£24,248) as income from shellfish sampling, sea angling surveys for CEFAS and hire of ESF Protector III could be included under the new legislation for IFCA's.

It was proposed to transfer the underspend to a new Operational Reserve so that the funds can be utilised at a later date when additional funding may be required. This is in accordance with previous discussions at the sub-committee meeting on 26th January 2012. It was further proposed to transfer £795 remaining in the IFCA contingency reserve to offset general expenditure.

The FPSC, after a thorough discussion, resolved to:

- Approve the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2012
- Approve and sign the Annual Return to the Audit Commission
- Authorise the creation of an additional 'ear-marked' reserve, the Operational Reserve, and authorise the transfer of funds to and from 'ear-marked' reserves in accordance with the Authority's Financial Regulations.

2. Report on the Internal Audit for 2011/2012

A report on the Internal Audit for 2011/2012 carried out by Norfolk Audit Services of Norfolk County Council was presented and discussed. The overall audit opinion based on the work carried out was that the Internal Controls for the Authority are Acceptable. Some minor recommendations were made, which will be acted upon.

Members resolved to accept the report and to appoint Norfolk Audit Services to carry out the Internal Audit for Eastern IFCA for 2012/2013.

3. Proposed HR Policies

Background was given as to why the policies were being proposed; following the approval of the new structure in July 2011 it was agreed that a full terms and

conditions of employment review take place. Time off in lieu and expenses fell within the scope of this review. The sub-committee approved the policies.

The proposed policy with regard to employee consultation & communication was discussed. It was explained that since the establishment of Eastern IFCA there had been a considerable amount of change which was likely to continue and that a draft consultation policy had been developed by the previous HR consultant which may be considered suitable. The committee felt that the policy was too generic and that it would be better to develop one specifically tailored to the internal audience. It was agreed that decision on this item would be deferred and a modified policy and proposal would be taken to the next sub-committee meeting.

4. **Recruitment of CEO**

The outcome of the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive Officer was reported and members were advised Captain Philip Haslam RN, had been appointed as the CEO of Eastern IFCA. All Authority members had been notified of this appointment in writing by the Chair of the FPSC.

5. **Members Code of Conduct**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Chair of the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee which had been asked to consider the proposed new Members' Code of Conduct, and make recommendations for decision to the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee which had delegated authority to adopt the Code. All Authority members had been consulted on the draft Code and there had been two responses, both of which were favourable.

After discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed to accept the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee's recommendations to adopt the Code with some amendments, and it also agreed that the Authority should not publish the registers of members' interests and gifts and hospitality on the website but should make it known that the registers were available for public inspection.

The agreed amendments were to expand the requirement to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests at meetings, to replace a reference to the Deputy CEO with a reference to appropriate senior managers instead, and to clarify the reference to 'general' and 'additional' members.

The Authority is asked to receive the report.

Christine Hurley
Head of Finance

Nichola Freer
Head of Human Resources and Training

Mary Clancy
Clerk

16 July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

- 1) Unconfirmed minutes of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee Meeting 27th June 2012
- 2) Audit Commission Small Bodies Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2012
- 3) Statement of Accounts for Eastern IFCA for the year ended 31st March 2012
- 4) Internal Audit 2011/2012 letter from Norfolk Audit Services dated 8th June 2012

25th July 2012

**Finance Officer's Report on Payments Made and Monies Received during the period
1st April 2012 to 13th July 2012**

Payments made during the period 1st April 2012 to 13th July 2012

	Month 01	Month 02	Month 03	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Sundry Creditors	7,204.85	-1,886.52	0.00	5,318.33
Transfers to ESFJC Salaries & Wages Acct.	155,000.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	315,000.00
Rent, Rates & Service Charges	17,275.84	9,183.16	1,324.89	27,783.89
General Establishment	15,653.75	4,480.61	5,472.80	25,607.16
Legal Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Staff Travelling & Subsistence	2,054.87	1,560.17	1,364.27	4,979.31
Members' Allowances	134.11	0.00	307.86	441.97
Training & Fisheries Management	1,759.00	2,322.49	3,998.70	8,080.19
Moorings/Harbour Dues	3,634.25	25.00	3,634.25	7,293.50
Pisces III Operating Costs	5.00	175.13	223.49	403.62
Three Counties Operating Costs	3,678.47	3,472.56	4,160.36	11,311.39
ESF Protector III Operating Costs	8,591.80	5,794.56	5,524.81	19,911.17
Vehicle Operating Costs	4,910.22	1,109.69	1,498.90	7,518.81
Enforcement	6,300.00	202.95	0.00	6,502.95
Communication and Development	65.00	60.00	44.76	169.76
Research and Environment	0.00	638.85	1,473.85	2,112.70
Wash Fishery Order Fund	100.01	315.40	624.00	1,039.41
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS Project Fund	73.49	245.44	38.80	357.73
VAT (Recoverable)	8,640.97	3,529.42	2,912.47	15,082.86
Petty Cash	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE	235,081.63	111,278.91	112,604.21	458,964.75

Monies received during the period 1st April 2012 to 13th July 2012

	Month 01	Month 02	Month 03	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Treasury Deposit Interest	152.74	331.79	278.58	763.11
Norfolk County Council Levy 2012/2013	551,267.00	0.00	0.00	551,267.00
Suffolk County Council Levy 2012/2013	414,130.00	0.00	0.00	414,130.00
Lincolnshire County Council Levy 2012/2013	465,808.00	0.00	0.00	465,808.00
HMRC - VAT	0.00	16,942.41	0.00	16,942.41
Wash Fishery Order - Licences	560.00	140.00	4,340.00	5,040.00
Wash Fishery Order - Licence Tolls	340.00	170.00	5,270.00	5,780.00
Shellfish Sampling - EHO	765.00	0.00	0.00	765.00
CEFAS - Sea Angling Surveys	2,618.01	872.67	0.00	3,490.68
MMO -Hire of ESF Protector III	13,000.00	0.00	0.00	13,000.00
Legal Fees - Recovery of Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Equipment	360.00	120.00	0.00	480.00
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS Project Fund	0.00	0.00	17,555.00	17,555.00
TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED	1,449,000.75	18,576.87	27,443.58	1,495,021.20

25th July 2012

Quarterly Management Accounts**Financial Year 2012/2013**

	ACTUAL Year to Date Qtr 1 £	BUDGET (APPORTIONED) £	MEMO Budget For Year £
<u>SALARIES & WAGES</u>			
Staff Remuneration	157,241	173,025	692,098
Pension	28,500	32,896	131,583
National Insurance	12,458	12,948	51,790
TOTAL	198,199	218,869	875,471
<u>GENERAL EXPENDITURE</u>			
Accommodation	28,219	28,528	64,215
General Establishment	22,561	24,135	92,453
Fishery Officer Expenses	4,571	2,825	11,220
Members Travel	442	1,300	5,200
Training & Fisheries Management	8,080	8,925	35,700
TOTAL	63,873	65,713	208,788
Development & Communication	170	12,750	51,000
Enforcement	6,503	7,650	30,600
Research & Environment	2,239	3,788	15,150
<u>VESSELS</u>			
Moorings & Harbour Dues	3,659	4,240	16,955
Three Counties Operating Costs	8,574	11,113	64,362
ESF Protector III Operating Costs	13,712	19,265	120,562
Pisces III Operating Costs	203	467	1,887
Vessel Hire	0	0	30,600
TOTAL	26,148	35,085	234,366
<u>VEHICLES</u>			
Operating Costs	7,520	9,098	21,830
TOTAL	7,520	9,098	21,830
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	304,652	352,953	1,437,205
<u>INCOME</u>			
Bank Interest	-763	-1,000	-6,000
Legal Fees	0	0	0
WFO Licence Tolls	-5,780	0	0
CEFAS Sea Angling Survey	-873	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	-7,416	-1,000	-6,000
EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME	297,236	351,953	1,431,205

6th EIFCA Meeting

Agenda Item: 11

25th July 2012

Review of the Authority's Standing Orders

Due to unforeseen circumstances this paper is not currently available and will be circulated later.

25 July 2012

Damaging activities in the Wash Fishery Order 1992 hand worked cockle fishery: implications for protected habitats and management options

Proposal:

That members note the update on the disturbance considered by an emergency meeting of the MPA sub-committee on 29 June 2012 and agree the continuation of the fishery with the adoption of an incremental and proportionate approach to enhanced management measures should they become necessary.

Problem/Issue Statement:

The hand-worked cockle fishery was opened on 7th June 2012 and since its opening, Eastern IFCA officers have conducted regular site inspections at Wrangle sands, the main area targeted by this fishery. These inspections have identified that although much of the fished area is not heavily impacted, on some parts of the sand there is evidence of:

- Excessive disturbance to intertidal sand flats (prop wash rings, keel marks and holes)
- Wastage of large quantities of fishable cockles left on the surface

In light of the on-going scrutiny and potential legal challenge associated with management of the fishery an emergency meeting of the MPA sub-committee was convened and held on Friday 29th June 2012. There was considerable discussion and the following points were agreed:

- That the enforcement plan would be reviewed in light of the damage
- condition of the sands would be monitored,
- that the matter would be escalated if the disturbance continued

It was also agreed that an update would be provided to the next full meeting of the Authority on the possible steps.

Natural England expressed concern about the disturbance during the meeting. It has provided subsequent advice:

In isolation, we consider that the level of damage that has occurred does not constitute an adverse impact upon the intertidal sand and mudflat feature of The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC. In addition, the quantity of cockle wastage does not reduce the abundance of the cockles below the threshold required for The Wash SPA bird requirement. However, should this level of damage continue and increase in quantity and extent then we consider is a significant risk of an adverse effect on the site.

Background:

At the MPA sub-committee meeting on 23rd May 2012 it was decided that hand-worked fishery would be opened and that in the event that atypical cockle mortality exceed 1% per day then management measures would be introduced.

The use of suction dredging was discussed. It is relevant to note that there is a divergence of views between different elements of the fishing industry over the relative merits of operating a hand-worked or a dredged fishery, with representations in support of both having been made to Eastern IFCA officers and Authority members. This divergence in views has led to allegations that the excessive disturbance has been caused deliberately by fishermen who favour the introduction of a dredged fishery and

whilst there is no direct evidence to support this it remains a factor that may be raised in any debate on the matter.

The issue of damage to the designated site from hand-worked cockle fishing activity is under very close scrutiny and is the subject of an on-going legal challenge (EIFCA Statutory Meeting April 2012 refers). Since the fishery takes place within a designated European Marine Site, the Authority has a duty to ensure it does not damage site features (which include intertidal sand- and mudflats) to the extent that site integrity is threatened.

There is no absolute definition of "acceptable" levels of disturbance and judgements are made on the basis of site observations and nature conservation advice. A degree of seabed disturbance is inevitable in the hand-worked cockle fishery but this impact is mitigated through the management measures applied to the fishery under Eastern IFCA byelaws, the Wash Fishery Order Regulations, the Eastern IFCA fisheries management policies and through the agreed Code of Best Practice. The occurrence of these impacts shows that not all participating vessels have followed the Code of Best Practice for this fishery, although no byelaws or regulations have been breached. If damage continues to occur at the scale seen on Wrangle Flats in the early stages of the fishery then it is possible that site integrity could be threatened.

The Authority's "appropriate assessment" for the fishery concluded "no adverse effect on site integrity" because evidence from previous hand-worked fisheries combined with a scientific study into the effects of the hand-worked fishery on site features, showed that the levels of disturbance to the seabed were within limits that the site could tolerate.

The observations made between 8th and 25th June 2012 led officers to believe that the level of disturbance to the intertidal sand flats, and the quantities of cockles left on the surface as a result of the hand-worked fishing activity, are not acceptable. The level of disturbance showed that at best some fishermen were not abiding by the Code of Good Practice and that at worst there was the potential for significant risk of an adverse effect on the site that could ultimately lead to the closure of the fishery.

Discussion and considerations:

To date the following action has been taken to resolve the situation:

- Written and verbal communications with fishermen and their representatives to highlight the issue and to emphasise the requirement to adhere to the code of best practice;
- Liaison with Natural England and joint site visits;
- Emergency Eastern IFCA Marine Protected Areas sub-committee meeting on 29th June 2012 to consider the issues should also include that status quo.
- Review of the Enforcement Plan to enhance:
 - Fishery patrols to observe the behaviour of vessels participating in this fishery;
 - Low water site observations to assess scale of damage or disturbance to the intertidal flats;

The last point was agreed at the emergency MPA meeting in order to monitor the fishery and to identify any on-going disturbance quickly.

Consideration has been given to enhanced management measures that could be introduced in the event that the environmental disturbance continues or escalates and options include:

- Introduction of a requirement for fishers to record the position they lay on (GPS coordinates) on the weekly catch return. This would be done on a voluntary basis in the first instance

- Introduction of a requirement for fishers to record the details of their vessels on any buoy deployed on the fishery. This would be done on a voluntary basis in the first instance
- Introduction of a complete or partial ban on 'prop washing' through the introduction of an emergency bylaw. To include consideration of spatial and time based bans
- Change to a dredge fishery
- Close designated areas of the fishery for a period of time
- Close the entire fishery for a period of time

Since the level of disturbance has been raised as an issue there has been a noticeable change in behaviour and the level of disturbance caused by fishing activity has reduced significantly. In light of this and the advice from Natural England it is suggested that maintaining the status quo combined with continued monitoring and the ability to introduce enhanced management measures is the appropriate way forward.

Consultation:

Natural England have provided written advice and are content that the hand-worked fishery continues and that Eastern IFCA continue to monitor the levels of environmental disturbance, with any further management measures being proportionate and incremental.

Whilst the fishing industry has not been formally consulted representatives on the Authority were present at the emergency MPA sub-committee meeting on 29th June 2012 and gave their views. The Chair also took the unusual step of inviting contributions from the public gallery in order to hear as wide a range of views as possible. In summary, the industry was of the view that the environmental disturbance was unusual and was caused, in part at last, by the high density of cockles on the Wrangle Bank. The consensus was that the fishery should remain open in its entirety with the pre-existing views on the relative merits of a hand-worked or a dredge fishery remaining largely as they were.

Financial implications:

There are no immediate financial implications if the recommendations are adopted. The level of enforcement/monitoring activity required is in line with that currently being undertaken and any increased requirement is only likely to occur in the event that environmental disturbance continues or increases.

It is relevant to note that an offer to purchase the enforcement vessel, Protector III, has been accepted and as a consequence this asset is no longer available for operational deployment. Any increase in seaborne enforcement activity may require the chartering of appropriate vessels but this has been considered in the proposal to sell Protector III, with a budget identified from savings anticipated as a consequence of the sale.

Regulatory implications:

There are no immediate regulatory changes required. In the event that enhanced management measures are required it is envisaged that voluntary agreement and/or changes to licence conditions would be required in the first instance and it is considered that such steps could be undertaken with little difficulty. The introduction of emergency by-laws would represent a significant escalation and would require the gathering and presentation of sufficient evidence to support their introduction. The process was introduced by the Maritime and Coastal access Act 2009 and effectively enables a relatively swift process that does not require ministerial approval. Powers to close all or part of the fishery or to change the method of fishing are already available to the Authority under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 and bylaw 8.

Publicity:

No immediate publicity is planned if the recommendations are agreed. In the event that enhanced management measures are necessary then publicity will be commensurate with the measures adopted.

Recommendation:**The Authority is asked to:**

1. **Note the issue and the action taken to date**
2. **Agree that the status quo is maintained and that the hand-worked cockle fishery continues**
3. **Agree that enhanced management measures are explored and developed by officers**
4. **Delegate to the Chair the ability to implement enhanced management measures as appropriate**
5. **Request an update at the next statutory meeting**

Julian Gregory
Head of Marine Protection
16th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

1. Letter to EIFCA from Emma Thorpe , Marine Lead Adviser, Natural England dated 6th July 2012

25th July 2012

Request to revisit the calculation of growth rates for cockles in the Wash Fishery Order 1992

Following the industry meeting of 29th June 2012 and further to our discussions over the last 2 weeks from feedback from concerned fishermen regarding their quotas affecting their financial futures I write as follows.

The fishermen consider that any cockle population survey carried out in March this year and from those density numbers times by the average weight of cockle over 14 mm to calculate the TAC is not allowing them to fish their third as the growth rate has increased the tonnage of those cockles and at present they only have a tonnage TAC for one sixth to one seventh of that total tonnage and not a third as should be the case.

In point of fact the fishermen are not asking to take any more in numbers than the one third they were allocated and the fact that they have grown on means that by leaving them from March until June/July they benefit from a larger cockle to fish, if this same number of cockles allocated to the fishermen in March reflects a higher tonnage when calculated out then that tonnage needs to be reflected in the TAC via tonnage available to the fishermen.

In the Thames cockle fishery they take into consideration growth rates, why should we not then do the same?

The fishermen have sacrificed to create a sustainable fishery and now we have an abundance of cockles with excellent growth rates that if not fished will push themselves out of the sands and be left rotting. There will be die-offs, ridging out and to what ends or benefits will this create?

IFCA comes at great expense to the tax payer and the fishermen are running a multi-million pound industry if they are allowed to run effectively and efficiently the money paid in taxes and monies brought back from sales into the British Coffers can justify an efficient management. If the stocks are wasted and left to rot when they can be turned into revenue help support families and the local community then there would be many questions asked.

It was unanimously agreed that owing to information received from 4 surveys carried out around West Mark Knock last year that the growth rate of cockle stocks needed to be rationalised and taken into consideration with regard to TAC.

In the meeting of 29th June 2012 Mr Donnelly commented regarding depressions in the sand where the fishermen wash and riddle their cockles, it was explained that if there were no depressions or water then the amount of shell and sand would create huge amounts of discard. The industry is looking to work effectively with its partners IFCA and Natural England but there needs to be give and take and for that reason the fishing industry will look to take on Mr Donnelly's concerns but would like the re-instatement of a percentage for discard.

The industry previously had a simple system to take into account the loss from weight of sand, mud, shell, loss to drainage and weight of bag this amount was 10%. When a TAC is given it is for 100% of cockle and it is factually impossible to place this in any container without the above mentioned additives. The industry have concluded that the

previous allowance of 10% discard is a factual element and would request it taken into consideration.

Andy Roper
Greater Wash Fishing Industry Group
17th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

No background papers were provided

25th July 2012

The role of IFCA's in relation to managing fishing activities in European Marine Sites: a change in approach

Officers tabled this agenda item in expectation that a Ministerial Statement on this subject would be made in early July. At time of writing (16th July 2012) no Statement has been made. Officers will liaise with the Chairman in relation to updating Members as this issue develops. A verbal update will be provided to Members at the Statutory meeting if the Statement is made by 24th July 2012.

Judith Stoutt
Senior Marine Environment Officer

16th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Back ground papers

1. EIFCA MPA Sub-Committee, 25th May 2011, Agenda Item 8 – Report establishing the Authority's approach to managing fishing activities within Marine Protected Areas
2. 3rd EIFCA Meeting, 26th October 2011, Agenda Item 17 – Report on the future approach of the Authority to its conservation obligations following a letter from the Marine Conservation Society and Client Earth to the Marine Management Organisation

25 July 2012

Request from the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd. to further the Authority's role in supporting MSC accreditation of the shrimp fisheries

Proposal:

Members are asked to consider a request from the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd. (see attached letter) for the Authority to provide planning and compliance support in the bid to achieve and maintain MSC accreditation for the brown and pink shrimp fisheries.

Issue:

The Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd has requested support from the Authority in relation to achieving and maintaining Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accreditation for the brown and pink shrimp fisheries (see enclosed letter). The request includes two proposals:

- (i) to jointly develop practical steps towards assessing compliance with the certification, for example IFCOs completing a MSC accreditation checklist when boarding vessels engaged in the shrimp fishery, and
- (ii) to share data from the Authority's planned Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) trials in support of smaller vessels engaged with the accreditation.

The Shrimp Producer's Organisation Ltd. has requested a meeting with the Authority if it agrees to support these proposals.

Background:

Continental buyers have advised shrimp processors in the Authority's district that in future they will only accept MSC-certified shrimps. The Authority and processors jointly commissioned a MSC pre-assessment study in 2011. This resulted in a list of recommendations being drawn up for the pink and brown shrimp fisheries, which included stock and bycatch monitoring, and measures to improve gear selectivity and reduce environmental impact. The report, including recommendations, can be found on the Authority's website.

To date, the Authority has emphasised that the fishing industry themselves should take responsibility for the process, including the planning and implementation of any measures towards achieving and maintaining accreditation. The Authority has assisted by hosting meetings and supporting the pre-assessment process. The current request from the Shrimp Producers would require additional involvement of Authority officers.

VMS was considered a requirement necessary for accreditation by the Shrimp Fishery Advisory Working Group (9th May) to achieve the MSC standard "*to demonstrate in a transparent way that vessels are fishing within environmental boundaries*". As the Authority has been developing its own plans to install inshore VMS onto all commercial fishing vessels in the district, it was hoped that the Eastern IFCA VMS data could be used for accreditation purposes. The Authority's inshore VMS programme has been hindered. A European Fisheries Fund bid for inshore VMS for small vessels was rejected on the grounds that DEFRA did not want to put 'undue burden' on the smaller vessel fleet. This is probably due to the confusion of size on between inshore and offshore VMS. Despite this setback, officers regard inshore VMS as a vital tool in monitoring compliance with spatial restrictions such as any that may be developed under the shrimp accreditation process.

Options:

1. Support the proposals and set up a meeting with the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd. to establish the compliance monitoring procedure offering the support of the IFCOs;

2. Support the proposal and set up a meeting as for (1.), but without offering the support of the IFCOs;
3. Reject the proposal, and require the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd. to establish an independent compliance monitoring procedure without Eastern IFCA support.

Preferred Option:

Option 2 – Accreditation of the shrimp fisheries is critical for the local fishing industry and would assist the Authority in achieving its own high level objectives, including delivery of appropriate fisheries management in designated sites. Currently the level of support required, while potentially low, is unknown, as are any impacts on legal or statutory obligations of the Authority. For example additional checks carried out as IFCOs conduct routine boardings or the sharing VMS data would require appropriate protocols so as not to prejudice the obligations of the Authority. There is also some uncertainty at present in relation to the roll out of inshore VMS in the Eastern IFCA district.

By pursuing option 2, the Authority would be able to feed this into the annual planning process, which would enable this proposal to be assessed against other requirements of the Authority.

The Authority is asked to:

- 1. note the request from the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd to support their Marine Stewardship Council accreditation of their fishery;**
- 2. agree with the three options identified:**
 - a. Support the proposals and set up a meeting with the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd. to establish the compliance monitoring procedure offering the support of the IFCOs;**
 - b. Support the proposal and set up a meeting as for (1.), but without offering the support of the IFCOs;**
 - c. Reject the proposal, and require the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd. to establish an independent compliance monitoring procedure without Eastern IFCA support.**
- 3. agree that 'b' is the preferred option**
- 4. request that the Head: Marine Conservation report back to the Authority on progressing this issue at the October 2012 Statutory meeting**

Luke Godwin
 Marine Environment Officer (Data)
 12th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
Background Papers

1. Letter from Mr David Guy, on behalf of the Shrimp Producers Organisation Ltd, 15th June 2012;
2. Meeting notes of the Shrimp Fishery Advisory Working Group 9th May 2012;
3. Marine Ecological Surveys Ltd, Fish for our Future Research Group (2011) Pre-Assessment Report for the East Coast Brown & Pink Shrimp Fisheries – The Wash, the Humber and the North Norfolk Coast. Available at: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/documents/Shrimp%20Pre%20Assessment%20FINAL%2030.11.11.pdf>

25 July 2012

Request from Galloper Wind Farm Ltd to agree a Statement of Common Ground

Proposal:

Members are asked to consider the instruction from the Planning Inspectorate to agree a Statement of Common Ground with Galloper Wind Farm Ltd by 6th August 2012

Problem/Issue Statement:

The developers of the Galloper Offshore Wind Farm have been instructed by the Planning Inspectorate to agree a Statement of Common Ground with the Authority, by 6th August 2012. Essentially agreement is sought on the adequacy of fisheries baseline survey and assessments, pre-construction surveys, forecasting methodologies (impact assessment methodologies), identified effects, and appropriate monitoring and mitigation.

Officers' involvement with this proposed offshore wind farm has been limited since it is located well outside the district (27km off the Suffolk/Essex coast), although its export cables are due to run through the district into Sizewell, Suffolk. Before agreeing a formal statement, the Authority needs to understand the implications of the proposed wind farm, including its export cable. Officers need to allocate time to review the environmental assessment reports for this wind farm and identify issues for the district's fisheries and marine environment. Without this understanding, officers consider that the statement of common ground should not be signed.

Back ground:

The Galloper Wind Farm is under consideration by the Planning Inspectorate. The project is planned for construction adjacent to the offshore side of the Greater Gabbard Wind Farm; together these will form the UK's largest offshore wind farm. The export cables for these two wind farms will run alongside each other, in a north westerly direction from the wind farms to landfall at Sizewell. The attached chart shows the location of the Galloper Wind Farm and its cable route, the Greater Gabbard Wind Farm, and the 6nm line.

Several fisheries and environmental issues are associated with the construction and maintenance of subsea electricity cables. These include physical changes to the seabed (particularly when cable protection material is used), possible biological impacts from electromagnetic fields (this subject is poorly understood), and socio-economic impacts where displacement of fishing activity occurs. The sandy sediments of the Southern North Sea contain spawning and nursery grounds for a range of fish species; impact assessments for offshore developments must take these into account. The Suffolk coast between Sizewell and Felixstowe has been chosen for landfall for three large offshore wind energy projects to date, and this number will increase as the East Anglia Round 3 zone is further developed. In addition to wind energy projects, this area contains marine aggregate extraction areas, and current and future marine protected areas, which will all have the potential to restrict fishing opportunities.

Proposed actions:

Officers received the draft Statement of Common Ground on 25th June 2012. The next steps envisaged are:

- a. To review the draft Statement of Common Ground and consider whether there is sufficient understanding of issues to recommend the Authority signs the Statement;
- b. If more information is needed, to review background environmental assessment documents in order to identify likely impacts on the marine environment and fisheries in the Authority's district;
- c. To re-draft the Statement of Common Ground incorporating any changes deemed necessary, through negotiation with the Galloper Wind Farm's consultants; and
- d. To sign the Statement of Common Ground (if necessary, as amended) by 6th August 2012. This could be carried out by the Chairman (or his substitute), or by the Acting Chief Executive Officer, if power to do so is delegated by the Authority.

The Authority is asked to:

- 5. Note that the Planning Inspectorate requested a Statement of Common Ground between the Authority and Galloper Wind Farm Ltd;**
- 6. Agree to the four stages suggested, consisting of :**
 - a. review**
 - b. consider likely impacts**
 - c. redraft and incorporate changes**
 - d. Sign Out**
- 7. Invite the Chair of the Authority to sign out the final statement.**

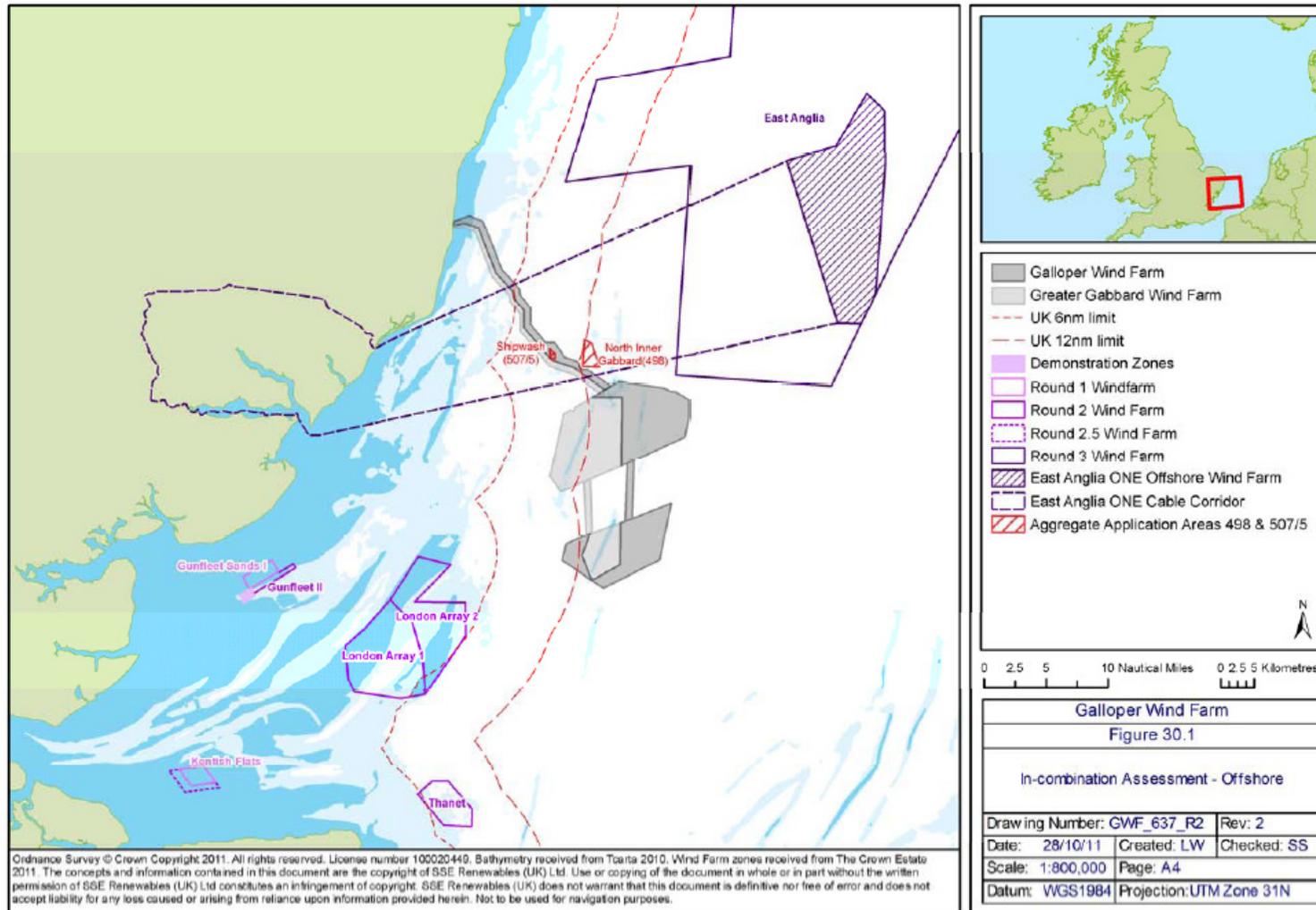
Judith Stoutt
Senior Marine Environment Officer

16th July 2012

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List of Back ground papers

1. Galloper Wind Farm Project, June 2012: *draft* Statement of Common Ground between EIFCA and Galloper Wind Farm Limited.
2. Galloper Wind Farm application documents, available at:
<http://www.galloperwindfarm.com/application-documents.php>



Location of Galloper Wind Farm (dark grey block) in relation to IFCA 6nm district boundary (inner red line), and other offshore wind farms. Taken from: http://www.galloperwindfarm.com/pdfs/ES_Chapter_30_Cumulative_Impact_Assessment.pdf

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25 July 2012

Review of the structure of Authority papers

Proposal: That Authority papers follow a standard template for Authority decision papers that would allow consistent, active and transparent decisions.

Problem Statement: The Authority Papers are often lacking in transparency. Decision Papers are often long and detailed papers with a passive decision point asking 'Authority members are asked to note and agree with the officers recommendations'. It can sometimes be unclear what the problem and proposed solution is along with any discussion of possible alternatives.

Background: The Authority has in the past had strong formatting for its papers that allow the recording of decisions. However, with changes over time this formatting had deviated from what is needed. In addition the types and structure of decision being made by the Authority has changed considerably since the paper structure was formatted during the operations of the Joint Committee.

Comment and Recommendations: The aim is to be short, active, consistent, and to-the-point papers that allow the recording of discussion and decision making in a clear and transparent way. Decision papers prepared for councils and Cabinet follow a similar structure. It is proposed to use a similar structure adapted for use by the Authority. A copy of the draft template is attached for your comment. Authority staff members have started to model some of these points in the decision papers presented at the 6th Authority meeting. The Authority staff, in conjunction with the Clerk will consider updating other aspects of the format of the authority papers, including the structure of information papers, and the addition of a 'report back' section to allow Members to monitor progress.

A template should also speed up the preparation and increase consistency of papers prepared by Authority staff.

Consultation: The proposal has been circulated around staff members who consistently write or collate decision papers. Comments from these staff members have been considered when updating the template attached.

Financial and Regulatory implications: The change to paper structure has no direct implications in this area; however it should increase the transparency in making decisions in these areas.

Resolutions:

The Authority is asked to:

- 1. Note that Authority papers are not consistent and sometimes provide unclear decision points**
- 2. Agree to trial of a decision focused template for Authority papers**
- 3. Provide comment to the Acting Chief Executive on the new format.**

Eden Hannam

Action Chief Executive Officer

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Vision

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

Meeting Type:

Item Number:

Date of Meeting.

Title: Express the title of the paper in as few words as possible (one line preferable)

Proposal: State the proposal at the beginning of the paper in one or two sentences, succinctly state what Authority Members are being asked to consider or decide. (Not a list of recommendations)

Problem/Issue Statement: A brief explanation of the reasons for the paper (eg need to respond to external factors). If reporting back include the paper reference and decision

Back ground: Provide any historical context and background

Comment and recommendations (including status quo): Discuss what has been done to formulate some solutions to the problem statement. Confine comment to the essential information and argument that supports the recommendations and facilitates good decision making. Lengthy, complex and detailed arguments may not be read or understood. Comments should state the need for the proposed changes and, as appropriate set out alternatives and arguments for and against. This should also include that status quo.

Consultation: This lists the consultation and discussions with wider groups as part of the formulation of the paper.

Financial implications: This section should discuss the financial and resource implications of the proposal. If appropriate, outline the costs and how they will be met.

Regulatory implications: Will the proposal require regulatory change. If so is there some understanding of the implications of this change, the burden and where it will lie. Also regulatory change, including bye-laws and regulations made under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 are complex the steps should be explored here.

Publicity: State whether any publicity is planned. If the decision is likely to be controversial this is where attention should be drawn.

Resolutions: Discussion at the Authority meeting will usually focus on the recommendations/resolutions. It is important to set out the recommendation in a logical order and to set out clearly all the decisions needed. Recommendations should be written so they can be converted into a minute recording the committee decision as well as providing a clear guide to staff – this can be thought of that they must be able to be

read on their own. Each Recommendation must be support in the body of the paper. No new material should be introduced in this section. Noting recommendations should be used sparingly (though are useful when reporting progress).

A report back should be considered to enable the Authority to monitor progress. This date should be realistic and achievable.

Recommendations can provide choice using either/or.

Example formats for recommendations are:

1. Note
2. Agree that
3. Agree-in-principle, subject to
4. Direct the CEO to....
5. Invite Authority members to
6. Approve
7. Authorise
8. Delegate to
9. Either
 - a. Agree to
 - OR
 - b. Agree to
10. Defer
11. Decline
12. Not that on 1 jan...
13. Rescind the decision
14. agree

List of Back ground papers

25 July 2012

Update on the Engagement and Communication Strategy

At the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee meeting of 27 June 2012, the Community Development Officer presented a report. It was explained that, in order to meet Success Criterion 4 (IFCAs work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders), Success Criterion 6 (IFCAs support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment) and Success Criterion 7 (IFCAs are recognised and heard); a Communication and Engagement Strategy must be developed. The deadline of April 2012 for starting the development of a communication and engagement strategy has been missed as a result of the need to recruit staff to new posts. A workshop activity was conducted to identify priorities for the communication and engagement strategy.

The CDO first reported the results of a survey carried out with staff, to which there had been a limited response. The survey indicated that staff members were not yet familiar with the approach and she emphasised that staff commitment was essential for the success of the strategy. Commentary noted the limited results highlighted a lack of awareness of the key differences between the Eastern IFCA and the former Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, and a low public awareness of the existence of the Eastern IFCA. Members agreed that staff commitment was essential and accepted that these results indicated training needs for both staff and members, as well as the need for an effective communication and engagement strategy that emphasised both the conservation and fisheries management roles of the Eastern IFCA. Members considered that the strategy should be externally focused and identify the key stakeholders and messages, and include appropriate engagement methods for each stakeholder group, for example, different statutory groups and recreational fishers as well as those in the commercial industry.

The Community Development Officer then asked members to carry out a number of exercises aimed at identifying their views on key stakeholders and engagement methods. They identified a wide range of stakeholders:

- Eastern IFCA staff
- the 'Defra family' identified as Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Commercial fishers including those operating outside the Wash
- Recreational fishers, including sea anglers who come to East Anglia from other areas
- Other recreational users including divers, those using beaches and marinas, and casual fishers, for example, those who would like to fish occasionally with children or grandchildren
- Conservation groups and generalist community groups with an interest in coastal and local communities
- The media
- Local councils including parish councils, MPs and MEPs
- Other IFCAs, particularly neighbouring ones,
- Other statutory authorities such as the police, coast guard and the Border Agency
- Schools

Members identified the need to manage the aspirations of the various groups, taking into account the priorities and resources of the Eastern IFCA, and to ensure that quieter voices were heard as well as the more enthusiastic ones. They also acknowledged that the Authority had a different relationship with the commercial fishing industry. Cllr Hilary Thompson said that, in her experience, the kind of community groups that the Eastern IFCA wished to reach were always looking for speakers and that this could be an effective way of engaging with them and raising the Authority's profile.

The Community Development Officer then asked members to consider stakeholders in terms of their interest or involvement in the work of the Eastern IFCA and their ability to influence it. This identified that stakeholders who had a low level of interest and involvement, such as schools, community groups and other statutory agencies, also had little awareness of the existence of the Eastern IFCA. Certain stakeholders were identified as key customers with a high level of interest in, and influence on the Eastern IFCA, for example, Defra and the MMO, and the commercial fishing industry in the Wash (particularly in relation to paid fees). Members were concerned that the communication and engagement strategy should enable the Authority to target its resources in a balanced way so that the interests of all relevant stakeholders could be engaged in a proportionate manner. This was considered in light of the limited resources the Authority had available to it.

Members then discussed the issues that the Authority should be promoting to stakeholders. These included:

- Managing conservation and fishing activities to achieve the Eastern IFCA vision of a sustainable environment
- The evidence-based nature of the Authority's research which underpins its conservation and fisheries management approaches
- The Eastern IFCA's successes

They also considered the information that stakeholders needed to have in order to understand the work of the Eastern IFCA better. They agreed that, as the current level of awareness was low; all stakeholders needed a wide range of information about the Authority's purpose and work. However, Members considered that the emphasis would be different between stakeholders; for example, key information for the commercial fishing industry and organised recreational angling groups would include the Authority's overall role in managing the marine environment, its evidence-based approach to making decisions, and its responsibility for managing the marine environment in three counties.

Members also considered that the engagement and communication strategy should focus on external audiences but a separate approach should be taken to internal communications with staff, in order to build understanding of, and commitment to the Authority's overall role and maintain morale. This view would be reported to the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee for their consideration.

Finally, Members looked briefly at communication methods. Cllr Thompson said that she had a network of groups and schools who asked her to deliver talks and so it would be useful to have a Powerpoint presentation, containing the Eastern IFCA's key messages that she could use. The Community Development Officers said the Stour and Orwell Management Group had developed a good package of information for teachers in schools, linked to on-line information that school students could access directly. The Chair added that the Environment Agency also had a good information package. It was generally agreed that a standard information pack to be used by Members or staff giving talks would be useful but he thought that general information about the work of IFCA's should be produced by the Association of IFCA's, rather than by individual authorities. The possibility of using venues such as museums and resource centres for Eastern IFCA activities and promoting issues of relevance to the Authority's work to partners such as the Wildlife Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Following this discussion, the Acting CEO said that officers would take the outcome of this and other consultations into account in producing a clear structure for the communication and engagement strategy for consideration at the Authority's meeting in October 2012. The Chair asked officers to circulate the results of this consultation to all Eastern IFCA members before the Authority meeting and he also emphasised the need to identify the resources available to implement the strategy and a structured, prioritised approach to their use.

Lucy Ritchie
Community Development Officer
27 June 2012

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List of Background Papers

3. Unconfirmed Minutes of Planning & Communication sub-committee (27 June 2012)
4. Planning & Communication sub-committee (27 June 2012) agenda items 6, 7, and 9

25 July 2012

Quarterly Progress against Annual Plans

At the Planning and Communications Sub-Committee meeting on 15 Feb 2012 Authority members scrutinised and then agreed to two plans that outline a substantive part of the Authority's Annual output. These plans were the Annual Plan, which set out how the Authority would meet the requirements Defra placed on the Authority, and the Research and Environment Plan, which set out the priority projects for the year.

Members sought to add a number of additional items to the Research and Environment Plan. Suggested additional items included:

- Growth Rates for the Wash Fishery Order 1992 Cockle fishery
- Wastage Rates for the Wash Fishery Order 1992 Cockle fishery
- Recreational anglers projects
- Environmental reporting/footprint
- Strategic planning

Minutes of the meeting note that *'It was evident there was no flexibility for more exciting/beneficial or emergency projects unless it was possible to drop some of the listed priorities if a more vital priority was to turn up'*

The Plans came into effect at the beginning of the financial year and have timeframes set out as quarterly targets. The two tables (attached) set out the Progress against agreed objectives.

A number of projects have been completed for this year. There are currently delays in a number of areas. There is considerable policy and planning work still required with regards to enforcement. With a Head: Marine Protection in post, it is anticipated that more work can be started in this area, particularly in quarter three and four.

Project Inshore, co-ordinated by the Marine Stewardship Council was delayed, though there has now been an appointment. Staff are hopeful that this project could accelerate, but have a contingency fund set aside should additional resource be required.

The transition for the Eastern IFCA from a Fisheries Joint Committee has been difficult, made slower by uncertainty created by change or vacancy in posts. Now with direction in all posts in the Authority it is hoped that progress can rapidly be made across all fronts.

Eden Hannam
Acting Chief Executive Officer
17th July 2012

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List of Background Papers

1. EIFCA Annual Plan 2012-2013
2. Research & Environment Plan 2012-2013

EIFCA Annual Plan 2012/13 (High Level Objectives)		
Project	Progress this Quarter	Comment
(1.1) The development of an annual plan to meet the requirements of the Authority and Defra. To be prepared and published by 31 st March.	✓	Annual Plan Completed
(1.2) Annual reports meeting the requirements of the Authority and Defra are prepared and published	✓	Annual Report Completed
(1.3) The issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the Eastern IFCA District have been identified, prioritised and, where appropriate, suitable management plans for them put in place by April 2015; management plans and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports	On going	Planning for Research/Environment and Enforcement complete. Review of the Wash Shellfish policies and administration of the WFO 1992 scheduled for later in the financial year
(1.4) A staff management system, including training and development plans, is in development and being tested during 2011 for approval by staff and the authority and implementation in 2012	On going	HR specialist appointed. A variety of polices being reviewed leading to training/development plans late in financial year.
(1.5) Staff resources and capability is assessed against IFCA objectives and duties with a gap analysis by April 2012; plans for addressing problems and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports	On going	First quarter saw the majority of the restructure and post alignment completed. Awaiting new CEO.
(1.6a) Systems are developed and implemented that enable all staff and members to contribute to and comment on all IFCA policies and business by Sept 2012; systems follow best practice/principles in Investors In People	On going	HR specialist appointed. A variety of polices being reviewed. Investor in People completed in 2011.
(1.6b) Staff and members are content that they can influence the development of policy for the IFCA demonstrated through annual feedback	On going	Increased attempts at staff engagement, including surveys and consultation. Needs to continue
(2.1a) The issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the IFCA District have been identified, prioritised and, where appropriate, suitable management plans for them put in place by April 2015; management plans and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports	Delayed	All fisheries operating within the district are identified spatially and temporally Awaiting 'Project Inshore'. MSC appointed England project manager, still aspirational
(2.1b) All byelaws made after April 2011 meet the requirements of Defra guidance	N/A	Authority has not made Bye-law
(2.1c) IFCA's have necessary records and database systems in place to inform decision making	On going	Authority has completed installation of new ICT equipment, engaging with MCSS and examining other possible

EIFCA Annual Plan 2012/13 (High Level Objectives)		
Project	Progress this Quarter	Comment
		opportunities
(2.2a) The byelaw review and changes are on schedule to meet the objective of reviewing and evaluating all legacy byelaws by 2015	Delayed	
(3.1a) Annual enforcement risk register published on each IFCA's website and available for viewing at each IFCA's office by 30 April each year	Delayed	Enforcement Strategy Written. Risk Register not yet published
(3.1b) The IFCA's enforcement risk register is peer reviewed. The peer review comments are forwarded to the CFO and Chairman of the IFCA	Not yet started (Planned for Quarter 3 & 4)	Dependant on 3.1a
(3.1c) The enforcement risk register is compiled in a standard format approved by all IFCA's and provided to the national peer review panel by the 28 February each year	Not yet started (Exploring opportunities with other IFCA's)	
(3.2a) A code of conduct for inspections both ashore and at sea is created by 30th October 2011 and reviewed annually. The code of conduct is published on each IFCA's website and available from each IFCA's office by 30 April each year	✓	A code of conduct for inspections available on website
(3.2b) Establish a national IFCA/MMO team by 30th October 2011 to independently assess the overall quality of enforcement inspections conducted by each IFCA on an annual basis with the results reported back to the CFO and Chairman of the inspected IFCA by the 30 April each year	Delayed	Working with National Groups. Dependent on national action for Performance Indicators to be met
(3.2c) Development of an SLA between IFCA's, MMO, NE and EA regarding the provision of standardised enforcement training and the secondment process for officers of each signatory by 30 April 2012	Delayed	Dependant on 3.2b
(3.2d) Each IFCA's enforcement knowledge and performance is assessed (to nationally determined standards - to be developed by 30 April 2012) on a bi-annual basis whilst attending the national enforcement training course	Delayed	Dependant on 3.2b
(4.1a) Initial MOUs are agreed and adopted by end of April 2011	✓	
(4.1b) Discussions have been held with partner organisations with regard to Service Level Agreement (SLAs); SLA (if required) are agreed and adopted by April 2012	On going	
(4.1c) Identify and discuss with lead local authority requirement for SLA by October 2011	Delayed	
(4.1d) Each MOU and SLA is reviewed annually to ensure effective delivery of objectives as defined in the annual plan; progress against MoU action plans is reflected in annual reports	On going	
(4.2a) Set-up database of stakeholders from current list by April 2011. Update list every 6 months. Review contacts list annually	On going	Community Development Officer employed

EIFCA Annual Plan 2012/13 (High Level Objectives)		
Project	Progress this Quarter	Comment
(4.2b) Engagement strategy developed by April 2012	Delayed	Delays in appointing Community Development Officer.
(4.2c) By April 2012 each IFCA to create a website to give access to current information; all regular forms and documents to be provided electronically by April 2013. Website is reviewed and updated monthly	✓	
(4.2d) Develop interpretation boards and presentations to allow greater interaction with stakeholders	✓	
(4.3a) Reviewed stakeholder and communication strategy/plans and stakeholder database completed by April 2014	Not yet started	
(5.1a) By April 2012, committee to sign off strategic research plan, which has undergone consultation, covering the period until April 2015	Delayed	Research and Environment Plan written. Working to develop Strategic plan in second and third quarters
(5.1b) Research plan is published each year	✓	
(5.1c) Previous year's research report published each year	✓	
(5.1d) IFCA annual report to demonstrate how evidence has been used in decision making processes	✓	
(5.2a) By April 2012 develop and agree MoUs with delivery partners and review annually	✓	
(5.2b) IFCA representative to take part in annual IFCA scientific conference	✓	Attended World Fisheries Congress. Planned attendance for IFM and IFCA conference
(5.2c) IFCA representative to proactively be involved in relevant evidence networks to share best practice, e.g. Technical Advisory Group.	✓	
(5.3a) IFCA annual plan and report demonstrate use of evidence, resources and capability as per strategic research plan	Delayed	Awaiting Strategic plan
(5.3b) Seek appropriate peer review of research reports	✓	Reports internally peer reviewed.
(5.3c) IFCA annual plans and reports, including research plans and reports, are published online on the IFCA and Technical Advisory Group websites	✓	
(5.4a) Develop knowledge sharing plans and procedures by April 2014.	Not yet started	
(5.4b) Knowledge sharing plans are reviewed and amended annually	Not yet started	
(6.1a) Identify where there are shared objectives in managing the marine environment with partner organisations by April 2012 and identify how these impact on IFCA's objectives	Delayed	Will be included in Communication plan
(6.1b) Shared objectives are set out in annual plans	Not yet started	
(6.1c) Progress of shared objectives reported on in annual reports	Not yet started	
(6.2a) Plans and processes for raising awareness of IFCA's work in place by April 2013	Not yet started	

EIFCA Annual Plan 2012/13 (High Level Objectives)		
Project	Progress this Quarter	Comment
(6.2b) Examples of engagement set out in annual reports	✓	Will be increased in further reports
(6.2c) Feedback from relevant stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of engagement is routinely sought	Not yet started	Review of Cockle Charter and other management documents expected in autumn
(6.3a) The issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the IFCA District have been identified, prioritised and, where appropriate, suitable management plans for them put in place by April 2015; management plans and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports	Delayed	Awaiting Project Inshore, MCZ and Client Earth Announcements
(6.3b) Examples of proactive involvement in relevant networks to share best practice are reported in annual reports	✓	Will be increased in further reports
(6.3c) The impact of the Marine Policy Statement and the process of marine planning on IFCA's work have been assessed and addressed by April 2015	On going	Authority participating in Eastern Plan region project
(6.4a) Assessment of the condition of Marine Protected Areas by statutory bodies, where available, have been taken into account when developing suitable management plans	✓	Appropriate Assessments produced and published by Eastern IFCA where Eastern IFCA authorises activities occurring within European Marine Sites Liaison with Natural England for up-to-date information on MPA condition
(6.4b) IFCA's can demonstrate effective representation on relevant management boards/steering groups for Marine Protected Areas, where appropriate	✓	Supports Wash EMS, member of other EMS management groups and participated in Net Gain/ Balanced Seas
(6.4c) IFCA's can demonstrate delivery of the principles outlined in Government guidance on sustainable development	On going	Environment Plan highlighted, developed as part of plan
(7.1a) By April 2012, each IFCA is actively involved, through membership, in the direction, good governance and running of the AIFCA	✓	Authority supports AIFCA, including acting as employment agent and active Director
(7.1b) Initial MOUs are agreed and adopted by end of April 2011; SLAs (if required) are agreed and adopted by April 2012. Each MOU and SLA to be reviewed annually to ensure effective delivery of objectives as defined in the annual plan	✓	
(7.1c) By April 2012 partnership working is embedded in each IFCA (and partner organisation), evidenced on an annual basis by regular liaison meetings and joint or collaborative activities as defined in the annual plan	Ongoing	
(7.2a) By April 2013 a strategy for the promotion of IFCA's work is developed, including the development of promotional / communication plans which are to be reviewed annually	Delayed	Awaiting AIFCA
(7.2b) By April 2013 annual reports by IFCA's to include a specific element which has data on 'compliments, comments and complaints' from stakeholders and general public and significant events which have demonstrated the IFCA's PR strategy is	✓	Included in 2012/13 annual plan

EIFCA Annual Plan 2012/13 (High Level Objectives)		
Project	Progress this Quarter	Comment
operational		
(7.2c) By April 2013, as a minimum, each IFCA to hold proactive biennial stakeholder meetings and events to inform and consult with all interested parties in the IFCA District	✓	Authority holds quarterly meetings in the community following Authority meetings
(7.2d) By April 2012 each IFCA to create a website to give access to current information; all regular forms and documents to be provided electronically by April 2013. Website is reviewed and updated monthly	Delayed	
(7.2e) By April 2011 all IFCA staff to be badged so as to be recognised as IFCA officers who following internal training, can speak with authority on the IFCA aims and objectives	✓	
(7.2f) By April 2012 annual staff appraisals will be undertaken to measure the standards of behaviour toward, and interaction with, stakeholders, general public and officers/staff of partner organisations	✓	

EIFCA Research & Environment Plan 2012/13		
Project title	Progress this Quarter	Comment
Strategic Research Plan	Not Yet Started	Identified in Annual plan. Scheduled for quarter two and three
Wash Fishery Order 1992 Spring cockle surveys	✓	Completed
Wash Fishery Order 1992 Autumn cockle surveys	Not yet started	Scheduled for quarter two and three
Wash Fishery Order 1992 Autumn mussel surveys	Not yet started	Scheduled for quarter two and three
Bio-toxin sampling	✓	Monthly sampling continues
Habitat mapping (<i>Sabellaria</i> reefs, Marine Conservation Zones)	✓	Survey work continues
Sub-littoral mussel surveys	Not yet started	Anticipated for quarter two
Water quality monitoring	✓	Regular Sweep and Sonde Work
Cockle dredge environmental impact assessment	Not yet started	
Cockle mortality study	✓	Fortnightly sampling of cockle mortality
Management of Wash Fishery Order 1992 Several Fishery	Not Yet Started	Anticipated for quarter three and four
Juvenile fish monitoring survey	On-going	Sampling regime confirmed with EA and initial surveys conducted
Suffolk river surveys	✓	A number of surveys have been completed, will continue throughout the year
Angling 2012	✓	Weekly sampling continues in all four officers' areas
Annual Research Report	✓	
To explore research opportunities for the RSA sector	Ongoing	Some projects identified through Cefas. Quarter three and four will see discussions with angling clubs
Habitats Regulations Assessment – 2012 cockle fishery	✓	Completed.
Habitats Regulations Assessment – 2012/13 mussel fishery	Not yet started	Scheduled for quarter three.
Wash Fishery Order 1992 review – Constraints study	On going	Project started, progress not as rapid as would have liked
Environment Training package	Ongoing	Some parts completed, others in preparation
External environmental consultations	Ongoing	Responding to a variety of external requests; increasing competency in team
Fisheries sustainability appraisal – <i>Project Inshore</i>	Delayed	Dependent on Marine Stewardship Council

Marine Protected Areas – fisheries management measures	✓	MPA database created, fishing impact database in development
Marine Protected Areas – management groups	✓	Continuing support of EMS Management Groups in district
Biodiversity duty	✓	Participation in biodiversity partnerships and delivery of actions
Impact Assessment	Not yet started	Scheduled for quarter two and three
Communication & Education strategy – environment aspects	Not yet started	Expected for quarter two
Authority website maintenance	Ongoing	Website texts require further updating
Corporate environment policy	Not yet started	Scheduled for quarter three and four
Annual Environment report	Not yet started	Scheduled for quarter four

25th July 2012

Report of the Vessel Working Group, including sale of *ESF Protector III*

Proposal: That members note the agreed sale of FPV *ESF Protector III* and the current position of the Vessel Working Group

Background: The Working Group has met on several occasions and various options have been considered but no conclusions have yet been reached. It is felt that more detailed work will need to be undertaken to assess operational requirements in order to provide clear rationale to support any recommendations. This work will be undertaken by the Authority's officers led by the Head of Marine Protection (HoMP), who is now in post.

The sale of *ESF Protector III* has moved unexpectedly quickly with an offer being made by the Royal Gibraltar Police on Tuesday 10th July 2012. A full paper from the HoMP was subsequently provided to the Chair and Vice-Chair, who agreed to accept the offer in accordance with the authority delegated to them at the full Authority meeting of 25th April 2012.

Recommendations

The Authority is asked to:

- 1. Note the current position of the Vessel Working Group**
- 2. Note agreement of the Chair and the Vice-Chair to the recommendations**
 - a. That the offer of £530k (five hundred and thirty thousand pounds) for *ESF Protector III* and *Seaspray* inclusive of life rafts, all the navigational equipment fitted and all spare parts in stock is accepted.**
 - b. That HoMP is authorised to progress the sale quickly in line with RGP expectations, subject to appropriate financial and contractual safeguards, to include concluding detailed negotiations on the vessel inventory, moving *ESF Protector III* to survey and shipping points and induction training for RGP staff.**

Julian Gregory
Head of Marine Protection
17th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Back ground papers

1. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Statutory Meeting held on 25th April 2012
2. Paper from the Head of Marine Protection to the Chair and Vice-Chair concerning the offer to sell (attached)

From: Julian Gregory, Head of Marine Protection, Eastern IFCA

To: Ken Sale, Chair, Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Hilary Thompson, Vice-Chair, Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Cc: Eden Hannan, Acting CEO, Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Date: 11th July 2012

Sale of FPV *ESF Protector III*

Introduction

This paper sets out the background to the potential sale of the Authority's enforcement vessel, *FPV ESF Protector III* and an offer to purchase the vessel received from the Royal Gibraltar Police (RGP).

A decision whether or not to accept the offer is sought from the Chair and Vice-chair of the Authority in accordance with authority delegated to them at the full Authority meeting of 25th April 2012.

Background

On 18th November 2011 a project was established to undertake an assessment of Eastern IFCA vessel assets. The backdrop of this project was a combination of the need to reduce expenditure by 25% over four years, the consequential removal of funding for the enforcement vessel, *ESF Protector III* from the Authority's budget from 2012 and the fact that P3 was commissioned in 1994 and is considered to be nearing the end of her working life.

The Working Group has met on several occasions and various options have been considered but no conclusions have yet been reached. Indeed, it is felt that more detailed work will need to be undertaken to assess operational requirements in order to provide clear rationale to support any recommendations. It is envisaged that this work will be undertaken by the Authority's officers led by the Head of Marine Protection (HoMP).

The project has also been working towards marketing P3 for sale but had not reached a conclusion on the preferred method of sale (e.g. brokerage, auction, sealed bids etc.). As part of that work an enquiry was made with Brattan Shipping in Norway as to the brokerage costs for listing and selling the vessel. It appears that there was some miscommunication and as a consequence P3 was listed on their website for a very short period and the details passed to a potential purchaser, the RGP. Upon becoming aware of this Eastern IFCA staff contacted the broker and had the advert removed from their website, pointing out that they had been seeking quotes for brokerage and had not instructed the broker to advertise the vessel for sale.

Officers from the RGP made contact directly with Eastern IFCA officers and subsequently viewed P3, together with their Surveyor, as one of a number of vessels that had the potential to meet their needs. They subsequently eliminated other options and on Tuesday 10th July 2012 again viewed P3 and went on a sea trial before concluding that the vessel is well matched to their requirements. Their situation is such that a swift transaction is desirable.

Valuation

It was quickly established that the market for patrol vessels is quite specialised and it is thought that there is nothing directly comparable to P3 currently on the open market. As a consequence it has proved difficult to obtain definitive valuations of P3 as any

transaction will be heavily influenced by the motivation of any purchaser and our willingness to accept a particular offer.

Two valuations were secured, the first from the Naval Architect who designed P3 (David Cannell) and the second from a Surveyor (Martin Evans) recommended by another Surveyor who currently surveys the Authority's RIBS. Both valuations excluded Seaspray, the RIB carried by P3.

Mr Cannell confirmed that there are few vessels comparable to P3 on the market and that the market for such a vessel is extremely limited, making it difficult to determine a market value with any reasonable accuracy. He also stated that if an organisation urgently required such a vessel then the price paid could be much higher than the valuation contained within his report.

Mr Cannell concluded that 'having due regard to the general market conditions and the lack of equivalent vessels for sale I consider that *ESF Protector III* has an open market value, basis 'willing buyer/willing seller,' of £210,000 (two hundred and ten thousand pounds).' He further observed that it may be necessary to place the vessel on the market and to wait for some considerable time before finding a suitable buyer and that if a more immediate sale were required the price may need to be reduced by as much as 40%.

Mr Evans conducted a valuation of P3 but despite being asked on numerous occasions has not provided a formal written valuation. He did, however, send a text message to Simon Lee which read:

Hello Simon, very sorry that you don't have the report yet. My figure for market value is in region of £450,000 but suggest asking just under 500K initially, including everything except life rafts. I'm afraid that the explanation and subdivision of figures will have to come later as I am at an unavoidable all-day conference in London. Martin Evans

The value of Seaspray has been assessed by the builders of that vessel, MST Fleet Services Limited, who concluded that 'with the specification of Seaspray in mind we would value her in the region of £40,000.00 to 45,000.00 if sold on her own. If sold along with Protector III we would value her slightly higher at £45,000.00 to £50,000.00.' On the basis of the valuations provided the combined value of P3 and Seaspray as a package would appear to be somewhere between £260k and £500k.

Offer to Purchase

As a consequence of viewing P3 and accompanying her crew and the HoMP on a sea trial an offer to purchase P3 and Seaspray as a package, subject to a hull survey, has been received from Superintendent Ian McGrail on behalf of the RGP. The value of the offer is £530k inclusive of life rafts, all the navigational equipment fitted and all spare parts in stock.

The context to the offer appears to be the recent escalation of tension with the Spanish authorities and a requirement to add a larger vessel to the Marine Section within very short timescales.

In the event that the sale is agreed Supt McGrail would be seeking support on induction training for his staff and moving P3 to a shipping point, most likely on the south coast of the UK. Such arrangements may involve officers travelling to Gibraltar but it has been agreed that such matters would be the subject of further, more detailed negotiation in due course.

Supt McGrail has indicated that RGP are prepared to pay a substantial deposit upon acceptance of the offer in order to demonstrate that they are serious about purchasing the vessel.

Potential Costs and Assets

In light of the nature of the offer to purchase P3 and Seaspray as currently equipped it is relevant to note the following points:

1. There had been consideration that Seaspray may be retained for use independently as an enforcement vessel and it should be noted that a like for like new replacement would cost in the region of £120k
2. It is understood that there are two spare propellers and one spare used shaft for the vessel with the former having been supplied when the vessel was new. The propellers are bespoke to the vessel and each blade is thought to have cost £8k each (there are thought to be eight blades in total). Such equipment would ordinarily be viewed as part of the vessels inventory and would be unlikely to be saleable as separate items on the open market.
3. The Transas equipment was only fitted 18 months ago and cost approximately £12k and could potentially have been retained for installation on a replacement vessel.
4. The Furuno radar is currently on rental but there is an option to purchase for circa £1300
5. The two 10 person life rafts on P3 and one 4 person life raft on Seaspray are on rental and could be purchased for circa £5k (to be confirmed)
6. Whilst Brattan Shipping was not asked to list P3 for sale the reality is that the sale will have been achieved as a consequence of them providing details of P3 to RGP. Whether or not there is any liability for payment remains to be seen but it is a factor to consider. It is worthy of note that an e-mail from Supt McGrail to Brattan Shipping states that any deal would be brokered by them
- 7.

Disposal of Assets – Legal Position

Legal advice has been sought from the Authority's solicitors, Andrew Jackson, who advise that 'there is no regulatory framework for the sale of public assets there is simply an obligation on the IFCA to show due diligence in obtaining the best price for the vessel and then having any such sale approved by the appropriate committee and minuted.'

Whilst the standard required to show due diligence is perhaps a subjective one it had been intended to secure three separate valuations of P3 in order to provide a robust basis for agreeing any sale price. However, finding a Surveyor who feels qualified to undertake the task within short timescales has proved difficult.

Discussion with Hannah Rafton of Andrew Jackson suggests that the Authority is in a position to demonstrate due diligence on the basis that it has two valuations and the current restricted and generally depressed state of the market for such a vessel combined with the fact that the value of the offer received is higher than the highest valuation. It is also reasonable to consider that delay may result in the loss of the sale which would not be to the advantage of the Authority or to the public purse.

Business Continuity

In the event that the offer is accepted P3 and Seaspray would effectively be removed from operational use with immediate effect. This would leave Three Counties, with her small on-board RIB, together with Pisces, the RIB originally intended for primary use on the Suffolk Rivers.

It is relevant to note that although Pisces is capable of operating at sea she is more restricted by weather conditions than Seaspray. Additionally, whilst Three Counties is capable of operating in rougher conditions she is not able to launch her RIB in such conditions. Overall, remaining assets would not provide a consistent boarding capability during the difficult conditions that can be encountered in the Wash and the North Sea.

It should also be noted that in the event that Three Counties is required for enforcement activity it may be necessary to re-visit research priorities.

It would be possible to charter one or more vessels to meet specific needs and indicative costs have been obtained for a 9 metre open RIB from MST, the manufacturers of Seaspray. Prices start at £550 per day excluding fuel, insurance and transport, reducing to £3,500.00 per week and £12,500.00 per month. Longer term contracts can be negotiated if necessary. Another option would be to purchase a suitable pre-owned vessel as a short-term stop-gap pending the procurement of replacement assets.

Any costs for the charter or purchase of vessels could be offset against savings in operating budgets for P3 (estimated at circa £88k) supplemented by money from other budgets such as the vessel contingency fund.

Observations

The RGP is not a particularly large organisation and it is funded directly from the government of Gibraltar as opposed to holding its own budget. Supt McGrail is clear that they consider their offer to be a very good one and states that they have funding approved to make the purchase. He has a budget within which he must operate and will need to achieve a full re-paint and livery of the vessel to RGP specifications, repairing/replacing some items and shipping the vessel from the UK to Gibraltar.

Having been made aware of the potential offer in advance of the sea-trial it had been the intention of the HoMP to negotiate a slightly higher price in order to put the Authority in a better position when considering replacement assets for P3. However, this proved difficult because the valuations obtained by the Authority had been included in papers published on the Eastern IFCA website and had been read by the officers from Gibraltar. Whether this information should have been treated as commercially confidential remains to be seen and is, perhaps, a consideration for the publication of future papers.

The possibility of brokerage charges from Brattan Shipping is probably not a primary consideration in terms of considering the offer from RGP as they would have been occurred had the vessel been advertised fully advertised for sale. Additionally, in the circumstances the Authority may be in a position to negotiate a reduced rate in the event that payment is requested.

The current hand worked cockle fishery in the Wash reduces the impact of losing P3 as it is judged to be possible to conduct enforcement using a RIB supplemented by occasional use of Three Counties. In the event that a dredge fishery is introduced a larger RIB than Pisces may be required but could operate in conjunction with Three Counties to provide a monitoring and boarding capability. Any other enforcement activity around the coast would need to be considered on its merits but it is judged that any need could be met through the use of Three Counties, Pisces or a chartered vessel. An option would be to exclude the Transas equipment from the sale and to install it on Three Counties to enhance her enforcement capabilities, however this is likely to result in a reduced offer and it may only be a short-term solution if the introduction of VMS is progressed in the near future.

The use of alternative vessels and enforcement tactics could also be seen as an opportunity to better assess what assets may be required in the longer term and chartering may prove to be a flexible and cost-effective means of achieving this.

The purchase of the radar and the life rafts to enable their inclusion in the sale is likely to be in the region of £6-7k, which has the effect of making the net value of the offer approximately £523k (five hundred and twenty three thousand pounds), which is still in excess of the higher of the valuations obtained by the Authority.

Overall, it is felt that the offer from RGP is a good one and that it is unlikely to be matched in the short to medium term, if at all. Additionally, selling P3 at this early stage will enable the Authority to move forward with some added impetus.

Recommendations

1. That the offer of £530k (five hundred and thirty thousand pounds) for P3 and Seaspray inclusive of life rafts, all the navigational equipment fitted and all spare parts in stock is accepted.
2. That HoMP is authorised to progress the sale quickly in line with RGP expectations, subject to appropriate financial and contractual safeguards, to include concluding detailed negotiations on the vessel inventory, moving P3 to survey and shipping points and induction training for RGP staff.

Julian Gregory
Head of Marine Protection

25th July 2012

Marine Protection Quarterly Report

Proposal:

That members note the content of the quarterly reports from the Area Officers and the skippers of FPV Protector III and the research vessel Three Counties

Area/Vessel	Officer
Area 1	Jason Byrne
Area 2	Ian Dye
Area 3	Adrian Woods
Area 4	Alan Garnham
Protector III	Simon Lee
Three Counties	Simon Howard

Julian Gregory
Head of Marine Protection
17th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

Area Officers quarterly reports for April – June 2012

Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

From: Jason Byrne Fishery Officer (Area 1)
To: Julian Gregory, Head of Marine Protection
Ref: Quarterly Report Area1
Monthly Report: Apr, May, June 2012

Area 1: Donna Nook – Sutton Bridge

General

Fishing activities throughout this quarter have included long lining for Cod, Skate, Bass, potting for Crab, Lobster, Whelks, twin beaming for Brown Shrimps, Mussel dredging off private lays within the Wash for Dutch markets & handraking Cockles. During the second week in to the handraked Cockle fishery alarm bells were raised as there was a spillage of pesticide into the river Nene at Peterborough, precautions were taken resulting in the Wash being closed for removing any Shellfish for a couple of days.

Port Summary

Chapel Point – Saltfleet

As many as three vessels fished this part of the coast this quarter totalling in 24 trips between them longlining for Cod, Bass, Skate & potting for Crab & Lobster. Vessel based sea anglers have mainly been targeting Skate & Bass as there have been reports that there are a lot of big female Skate around.

Skegness – Gibraltar Point

34 trips were carried out by one commercial fishing vessel this quarter potting for Crab, Lobster, Whelks and long lining for Bass & Skate. Vessel based sea anglers have been targeting Mackerel, Skate & Bass. Shore based anglers have been mainly targeting the Bass. Reports from the anglers were that some big females had been caught which the majority of them were returned back to the sea.

Boston

As many as six vessels totalled 124 trips between them fishing off their private lays within the Wash for marketable Mussel to be sold to the Dutch. One vessel twin beamed for Brown Shrimp throughout this quarter totalling in seven trips being made. The 7th of this month saw the opening of this season's handraked Cockle fishery with a TAC of 2,369 tonnes. An average of 21 vessels are participating in this fishery out of Boston Port totalling in 142 landings being made. This fishery got off to a slow start as rumours of prices flying backwards and forwards between the fishermen and the processors were lower than the fishermen expected. This was resolved after two days then all vessels sailed. Accusations were made by certain fishermen that certain vessels were blowing holes in the sand using their propellers and leaving heaps of Cockles without spreading them out, officers were called to walk onto the sands and monitor this activity. After taking photos and lat & long positions a meeting was held at Thoresby College to try and resolve this situation. Other matters have been brought to myself & other officers attentions of large bags being used to land Cockles in, the fishermen have asked why Eastern IFCA do not make this into some sort of licence agreement or byelaw that every vessel fishing within the Wash should all have standard size ton bags with vessels names and PLN numbers on them as do Kent & Essex. This matter has been put forward by me & the fishermen.

Fosdyke

One of the potting vessels from Wells Port has visited the Marina this quarter to be lifted out of the water to have propeller shaft re-seated. This work was carried out within three days and the vessel is now back fishing. Pisces III is now being stored at the Marina which will enable staff to use it for the Cockle fishery. One recreational vessel based sea angler has managed three days fishing for Bass in the Skull Ridge area.

Sutton Bridge

Just the one angler vessel has had a few late evening tides fishing for Smoothound in the mouth of Sutton Bridge river.

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.

Chapel Point – Saltfleet

Number of vessel inspections:		4
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	351	420.00
Lobster	40	572.00
Cod	61	157.00
Bass	76	669.00
Skate	489	1,061.00

Skegness – Gibraltar Point

Number of vessel inspections:		3
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	4,700	5,640.00
Lobster	760	10,912.00
Whelks	850	467.00
Bass	211	1,942.00

Boston

Number of vessel inspections:		94
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Brown Shrimp	1,750	3,230.00
Mussels	1,348,000	444,400.00
Handraked Cockles	276,417	146,501.00

Fosdyke

Number of vessel inspections:		0
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
0	0	0

Sutton Bridge

Number of vessel inspections:		1
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Smoothound	0	0

Potting

Crab and lobster

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	700
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	600

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	80
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	20

Whelk

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	400
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:	2	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Skegness	Smoothound	0
	Bass	6

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:	5	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Skegness	Skate	12 - 16
	Mackerel	12
	Bass	12
Sutton Bridge River	Smoothound	0
Chapel Point	Bass	16
	Skate	18
Fosdyke	Bass	12

Charter Angling Vessels:

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

Fishery Officer Duties

Training:

Attended Conflict Resolution Refresher Course.

Other duties carried out:

Collecting shellfish samples from Wells & Tabs Head for the Environmental Health Officer.

Away on Sea Spray collecting EHO samples.

Attended vessel working group meeting at Brightlingsea.

Attended Enforcement meeting at office.

Attended 5th IFCA meeting at Wisbech Boathouse.

Angler 2012.

Picked up Pisces III from Wells and moored at Fosdyke.

Attended Southampton Boat Show.

Attended MPA meeting.

Attended Staff meetings.

Checked Pisces III inventory list.

Hand delivered Cockle return booklets to fishermen.

Horseshoe Point to assist and take out onto sands East Lindsey District Council followed by Health & Safety team.

Made up new bilge pump for Pisces III.

Walked off from shore to Wrangle Sand monitoring vessel damage and Cockle mortality.

Attended meeting at Thoresby College.

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

Crab	1.20
Lobster	14.00 - 15.00
Cod	2.40 - 2.75
Skate	1.90 - 2.30
Bass	8.25 - 9.50
Whelks	55p
Brown Shrimp	1.79 - 1.92
Mussels	33p
Handraked Cockles	53p

Eastern Inshore Fisheries And Conservation Authority

From: Ian Dye Fishery Officer (Area 2)
Date: April – June 2012
Ref: 4/12
Quarterly Report:

Area 2: King's Lynn - Blakeney

General

Area two has slowly improved throughout the quarter Kings Lynn has seen the opening of the hand worked cockle fishery and the brown shrimp fishery has improved in catches and price for the shrimp, there has also been some orders of pink shrimp this quarter allowing two vessels the opportunity to participate. Brancaster has seen an increase in the brown crab and lobster fisheries much to the delight of the fishermen much the same story at Wells however with the closing of the Cromer crab factory getting closer, there is certainly some unrest in the ports. There had also been reports of good catches of mackerel and bass all along the coast. Angling 2012 has been a little frustrating with the sites being chosen never seems to coincide with the beaches being chosen that day.

Port Summary

King's Lynn

Nine vessels made 56 landings of brown shrimp totalling 11,511kg of brown shrimp valued at £33,951 also two vessels made 8 landings of pink shrimp totalling 18,903kg valued at £17,679 and 35 vessels made 126 landings of cockles totalling 135,638kg valued at £72,831.

Brancaster

Two vessels made 39 landings of brown crab and lobster totalling 9,850kg of brown crab valued at £10,839 also 1,250kg of lobster valued at £16,250 and 700kg of whelk valued at £420 and 500kg of oyster valued at £2,100

Wells

Eight vessels made 104 landings of crab and lobster totalling 32,270kg of brown crab valued at £35,497 also 2,414kg of lobster valued at £31,385 and 3,810kg of whelk valued at £2,307

Blakeney

One vessel made 22 landings totalling 4,660kg of brown crab valued at £5,110 also 603kg of lobster valued at £7,839

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.

Number of vessel inspections:	King's Lynn	
	Landings (kg)	31 Value of catch (£)
Species		
Cockles hand worked	135,638	72,831
Cockles dredged	0	0
Mussel hand worked (Regulated)	0	0
Mussels W. Wall (Regulated)	0	0
Mussel dredged (Several)	0	0
Mussel dredged (Regulated)	0	0
Mussel dredged seed (Regulated)	0	0
Mussel dredged (not WFO)	0	0
Mussel dredged seed (not WFO)	0	0
Brown shrimp	11,511	33,951

Pink shrimp	18,903	17,679
Sole	0	0
Brill	0	0
Cod	0	0
Lemon sole	0	0
Skate	0	0

Brancaster

Number of vessel inspections:		1
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Mussels (Regulated)	0	0
Mussels (Several)	0	0
Mussel dredged (not WFO)	0	0
Mussel dredged seed (not WFO)	0	0
Oysters	500	2,100
Brown shrimp	0	0
Brown crab	9,850	10,839
Lobster	1,250	16,250
Whelks	700	420

Wells

Number of vessel inspections:		10
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Brown crab	32,270	35,497
Lobster	2,414	31,385
Whelks	3,810	2,307
Velvet crabs	0	0
Brown shrimp	0	0
Cod	0	0

Blakeney

Number of vessel inspections:		1
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Brown crab	4,660	5,110
Lobster	603	7,839
Mussels (Several)	0	0
Mussel dredged (not WFO)	0	0
Mussel dredged seed (not WFO)	0	0

Potting

Crab and lobster

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	10,000
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	6,000

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:	3,000
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	1,800

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:		0
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Cley		0
Hunstanton		0

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected: 0
Locations fished: North Norfolk
Species targeted:
Average catch (kg):

Charter Angling Vessels:

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

Fishery Officer Duties

Training:

Other duties carried out:

Enforcement meeting
Environmental health sampling wells x3
Ifca meeting
Industry meeting
MPA meeting x2
Angling 2012

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

Brown shrimp	2.94
Pink shrimp	0.93
Brown crab	1.10
Lobster	13
Mussel	0
Whelks	0.70
Pacific oysters	0.70
Cockles	0.52
Sole	0
Brill	0
Skate	0

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

From: Ady. Woods I.F.C.O (Area 3)
To: Eden. Hannam acting CEO
Date: 05 July 2012
Ref:
Quarterly Report: April-May-June 2nd Quarter

Area 3: Cley to Lowestoft

General

This quarter fishing was good all the way through, with few days lost to weather. However although it hadn't been windy, to hold back the vessels, it too hadn't been bright, sunny or warm just mainly cold and wet, and this meant that sales were down.

Sad news fell upon the "Cromer Crab Company" during May with news that it is going to close its doors, the site will be made vacant by early August, now although this doesn't affect the local fishermen directly (as they don't take their catch there) in the long run it may do, as, if fishermen further along the coast can't sell their catches, they may be forced to lower their prices and impede on others sales.

Crab Fishery continued to fish well throughout the quarter, with catches remaining high and of crabs being of good quality. Towards the end of June catches should have begun to drop as the annual moult started to get underway.

Lobster Fishery remained relatively quiet all year, there had been limited numbers caught and this I believe was down to the crabs being thick on the ground, and getting into the pots after the bait first, thus keeping the lobsters out. It is wondered though just what sort of lobster fishery there would be this year, as normally in some areas fished, pots are just full of fliers (lobsters which are well below the MLS), whereas this year there hasn't been reports of anything at all.

Netting got off to a slow start. Early on the fish were few and far between, then the water was thick and to finish I hadn't been around to witness any catches.

Angling within the area had been a very mixed bag, with a range of fish being caught during April, these being, Dogfish, dabs, flounders, codling, whiting, rockling, pout and bass, coming from all the beaches whether it be the shingle banks to the north or the sand to the south, as the quarter progressed bass became more and more the target species, with some big fish coming out falling to squid or peeler crab baits, and shads or jelly worms had been proving successful for the lure anglers.

Moving into June some of the first early mackerel were caught from Cromer Pier, which with fine weather and clearing water these were also soon to be taken from the shingle beaches to the north of Area 3, a lot of these fish taken were well below the MLS of 30cm, from foot patrols along the beach information was passed onto anglers.

Port Summary

Cley-next-the-Sea

Vessels here made a slow start, not having pots in the water until May. A new vessel made its way on to the beach here at Cley, targeting crab and lobster, to be sold from his own shop within the village.

Weybourne

No change here two vessels continued to fish on most days.

There is still a guard boat operating in this area for the Sheringham Shoal Windfarm, guarding the cable which comes to the shore here, the cable should have been jetted in by now, however I believe the contractors are having some problems locating a vessel with a shallow draft to who dare venture close in shore.

Sheringham

The dying fleet at Sheringham was once again growing in strength with the return of some familiar faces that had once finished fishing to try out other ventures. So the fleet here is now back to four vessels, instead of the two it's been for a few years.

Sheringham fisherman Mr Richard Little passed away suddenly during June.

East & West Runton

Three vessels operated from these ports which have licenses, exploiting the local crab and lobster. One of these vessels would have bass nets in, from the end of June.

One other vessel operated on a regular basis from these ports, however he is unlicensed and fished for both crab and lobster and also worked a fleet of nets for bass, it is wondered just how much fish one person can consume?

Cromer & Overstrand

Vessels here as always had been pushing the fishing harder than most, fishing at least two fleets of gear to allow gear to stand and fish for longer to get the maximum value from out of ever increasing expensive bait, catches had reflected in this, for some vessels land 60kg / 150pots hauled while others are landing up to 500kg/250 pots hauled.

A couple of vessels at Cromer are planning to subsidise their potting activities hopefully with netting, having taken steps and had net haulers fitted.

Mundesley to Caister

This stretch of coast line was more active than normal, with vessels fishing from Mundesley, Bacton, Cart Gap, Sea Palling and Caister. These vessels had been indulging in a mixture of activity to include; potting, drift netting, and trammel netting and also a touch of shrimping. This stretch of coast has also become popular with anglers, particularly skiffs and kayakers due to the amount of easy access/egress points, also the reefs at Sea Palling are becoming increasingly popular as they're known to be a good holding place for bass, not too far from the shore.

Yarmouth/Gorleston

This port remained quiet, with one of the few remaining licensed vessels currently to be under negotiation, to be sold. This will leave a couple of other licensed vessels which hardly ever leave their moorings and a fleet of unlicensed boats, which tend to fish with rod and line, partaking in drift netting and lining.

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.

April

<u>Cromer</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		39
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	30,220	92,675
Lobster	672	6,384
<u>Sheringham</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		6
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	30	345
Codling	18	51
Crab	1,500	4,600
Lobster	45	428
<u>Cley, Weybourne, E Runton, W Runton, Overstrand, Mundesley & Bacton</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		9
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	14,380	44,099
Lobster	144	1,368

<u>Sea Palling</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	3,500	10,733
Lobster	48	456

<u>Caister & Gorleston</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Herring	7,620	914
Pilchards	63	101

May

<u>Cromer</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		45
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	52	546
Cod	52	220
Crab	30,450	93,380
Lobster	1,871	17,775

<u>Sheringham</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		8
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	137	1,438
Crab	1,800	5,520
Lobster	190	1,805

<u>Cley, Weybourne, E Runton, W Runton, Overstrand, Mundesley & Bacton</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		9
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	418	4,389
Cod	83	349
Crab	9,960	7,360
Lobster	630	5,985
Mackerel	130	480

<u>Sea Palling</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	3,500	10,733
Lobster	100	950

<u>Caister & Gorleston</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Bass	254	2,667
Herring	3,175	3,333
Roker	127	450

June

<u>Cromer</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		0
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	27,650	86,004
Lobster	2,100	17,850

<u>Sheringham</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		8
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	2500	7,775
Lobster	50	425

Cley, Weybourne, E Runton, W Runton, Overstrand, Mundesley & Bacton

Number of vessel inspections:		3
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	1500	4,665
Lobster	200	1,700
Mackerel	50	190
Bass	12	126

Sea Palling

Number of vessel inspections:		2
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Crab	1800	5,400
Lobster	170	1,445

Caister & Gorleston

Number of vessel inspections:		0
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Herring	2,222	3,066
Bass	390	4,100
Skate	380	988

Potting**Crab and lobster**

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	4,625 – 5,100
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	250 - 300

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	0
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	16

Whelk

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0

Angling 2012

Number of days spent on angling 2012 :	9
Number of beaches visited within area :	31
Number of anglers spoken to within area :	15

April**Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):**

Number of anglers inspected:		23
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Cley	Various	0.25
Weybourne	Various	0
Cromer Beach	Bass	2
Cromer Pier	Bass	6
Overstrand	Bass	1.5
Trimingham	Bass	0.50
Mundesley	Various	0.50
Gt Yarmouth	Various	0

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:		1
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
West Runton	Various	0

May**Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):**

Number of anglers inspected:	53	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Cley	Bass	0.3
Weybourne	Bass	0.6
Cromer Pier	Bass	1.9
Trimingham	Bass	0.5
Bacton	Bass	0.5

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:	3	
West Runton	Bass	40
Vale Road	Bass	12

June**Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):**

Number of anglers inspected:	147	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Cley-next-the-Sea	Mackerel/Bass	4kg (U/S)
Salthouse	Mackerel/Bass	3kg (U/S)
Weybourne	Mackerel/Bass	3kg (U/S)

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:	1	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Sea Palling	Bass	0
	Mackerel	20kg (U/S)

Fishery Officer Duties**Training:**

May 1st Self-defence training
June 11th – 15th Introductory Investigative Law run by the MMO

Other duties carried out:

April

2nd Report writing
3rd Report writing
5th Angling 2012
9th Angling 2012
10th Day trip on P3 collecting EHO/DSP samples
12th Showing Eastern-IFCA Community Development Officer around Area 3
16th Annual Leave
17th Afternoon Tea at office CEO DV leaving
19th Enforcement meeting at office
20th Angling 2012
24th Angling 2012
25th Statutory meeting attended
26th Staff meeting

May

2nd Monthly stats and report
3rd Angling 2012
4th Day at Kings Lynn Office
7th – 11th Annual Leave
15th Angling 2012
16th Quarterly workshop, following Statutory meeting
22nd Meeting at Office
23rd Suffolk patrol and Angling 2012 to cover Annual Leave

24th Angling 2012
25th Meeting at Office

June

4th – 8th Annual Leave
18th Landings within Area 3
19th Angling 2012, Cockle Landings Kings Lynn, Anglers inspected at Cley Beach
20th Off Duty
21st Assisting with Three Counties refit
22nd Assisting with Three Counties refit
25th Statement writing, Monthly stats
26th Assisting with getting Three Counties Back into the water
27th Off duty
28th Monthly report for May
29th Staff meeting at Office, and also get laptop updated by NCC Staff
30th Angling 2012

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

Bass	11.50 – 10.50 -
Cod	2.80 - 4.20
Crab	3.07
Herring	0.12 - 1.05 – 1.50
Lobster	9.50 – 8.00
Mackerel	3.70
Roker	3.50
Skate	2.60
Whelk	1.05

Eastern – Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

From: Alan Garnham Fishery Officer (Area 4)
To: Julian Gregory, Head of Marine Protection
Date: 13th July 2012
Ref:
Quarterly Report: April – June 2012

Area 4: Pakefield – Felixstowe Ferry

General

April was the second wettest month ever recorded for Suffolk. This has continued throughout May and June. It's been good for the farmers but a pain for the fishermen as it's caused the fish to remain at sea and not enter the rivers. With the deluge of rain it has changed the salinity so much that it has caught out the potters. The potters go to sea and gather crab and lobster and store the lobster in corfes sunk over the stern of their boats. Whilst secured on swing moorings the salinity has changed the rivers to fresh water as the rain water escapes but it has killed off all the caged lobsters resulting in significant losses of time fuel effort and the expense of lost orders.

With the fish out of the rivers local inshore fishermen have been targeting bass and catching many double figure bass in their nets. The cod are still around and there is quite a mixture of fish at the moment. One example a small inshore boat in one day caught Cod, whiting, sole, bass, herring, red gurnard, flounder, dab, dogfish, plaice, brill, smoothhound, saithe thornback and blonde ray and even mackerel -16 species in one day isn't a bad days fishing.

One other species not mentioned and is a rare catch is monkfish several seem to have turned up close in shore and one was landed at 11 ½ lb. Spurdog have made the annual two week appearance and have now moved on.

During May Fishermen reported catching squid around three miles out.

A few fishermen persisted with lining for the cod and roker as prices remained high.

Shellfish – Lobsters appear to be shelling and not moving too far. Plenty of crabs are being caught but not very good quality and most are being returned.

Three boats from Brixham continued working on the whelks and reporting good quality whelks. Landings being made at Lowestoft.

I received several complaints of the public netting in the river Stour and the Orwell right up beyond the weir and into the gipping where the EA fishery officer has been busy seizing nets where users have landed large carp and mullet.

In June I looked back at my previous three June reports and it confirms my thoughts it's a poor June this year. Nature has played a big part with gale force easterly winds especially at weekends when most of the RSA including the charter boats go fishing. Reported catches and landings were well down this month. Personally I managed to sneak out when the winds died and had fantastic fishing with many smoothhound (*Mustelus mustelus*) in double figures and a 15lb bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) caught on a mackerel strip.

The water began to clear at the start of the June but has returned to pea soup.

On the beaches it was relatively quiet with not many anglers taking to the Suffolk beaches as no bass whispers were reported. Club matches took a hit with lack of attendances and in some cases matches being abandoned due to lack of numbers.

Commercial fishing was varied and not reflected in the figures due to amount of wind causing lost trips. Quota landings for roker have been reduced to 75kgs a month but there are huge amounts of roker in the seas. Local fishermen were experiencing difficulties in avoiding hitting large packs of roker. An example being front page news on **Fishing news** dated 29th June 2012. A photo show's 500yds of trammel net out for an hour and having to throw away (Discard) 20 boxes of ray.

Cod were still around during June and hadn't moved out in fact some boats were still lining targeting cod. Sole remained but were very slim and prices dropped throughout the country due to the Belgium markets not taking sole due to a glut of sole caused by a reported lack of demand throughout Europe due to the Euro.

Shellfish returns were buoyant especially for whelk and lobster. Two Brixham boats continued to work off the coast harvesting whelks. On one inspection I made of an over 10 metre Brixham beamer it resulted in a warning for landing undersize whelks.

Port Summary

Pakefield

No fishermen inspected or seen on the beaches but there has been the odd dab caught on the beach. The commercial fleet reports have been dire with no fish put on the market but merely enough to take home for a feed. Fish being caught are a few whiting sole herring. During June a few sea trout were caught by the commercial netters.

Southwold

April was a varied month for the fishermen and all were pleased with their landings. Some made complaints of the Cornish potters appearing and whelking off the Suffolk coast causing the local boats hassle when netting. Work is well underway with the piling of a new sea defence wall and improvements.

The water has not cleared up yet to allow pirking. The wrecks have been fishing well for cod on the charter boats giving anglers a good days fishing.

Dunwich & Sizewell

On the beaches it started very quiet but I have had a couple of reports of sizable bass being caught.

On the boats it was a mixed bag of fishing although not enough sole was caught to send to market. All sole are very thin and not worth keeping.

During May and June work continued with the burying of the offshore wind farm. During June lobsters were on the move and now being taken whereas the crabs are still soft and not worth taking. During June a commercial fisherman had around a dozen Thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*) entangled up in his trammel nets in shallow water 400yds from the beach.

Thorpeness & Aldeburgh

In May I received complaints from local fishermen of the amount of change to the sea bed where the cables were laid for the inshore wind farm. Complaints were; the nets getting stuck over the cable connectors and mattressing on the sea bed. Complaints when trawling on grounds they have trawled for years the open flat sea bed suddenly has a large steep ridge formed where these cables were laid causing boats to get stuck and this may cause a sinking with adverse weather on a lone working one man boat.

During May it was very average for this time of the year with winter summer species being caught and landed.

Lobster landings took a dip probably due to shelling. Crabs were in abundance although poor quality. On Aldeburgh beach a new smoke house is up and running between the toilet block and Dean Fryers fish hut.

During June all wet fish huts complained of the lack day trippers and holiday makers walking around. It appears the recession is hitting sales even with the prices lower than last year.

Orford

Good News – On the last day of the month I had a meeting with the New Orford Town trust and was informed permission has been given to erect one of our Eastern-Ifca information signs on the walkway between the public car park and the quayside. In the river fishing has been very quiet in fact I haven't seen one angler this month in the Alde or the Ore. The trips to the island have been very quiet with nothing of note or interest being caught.

Felixstowe

On May Day one of the commercial boats was returning alone from fishing and had to call a May Day on May Day as his boat was engulfed with a rogue wave coming across the Deben bar and sunk on the Knoll. Luckily no one was hurt and the following day the boat was recovered.

Shore angling was been very quiet on the beaches and rivers with no reports of bass or mullet. This may be due to the water salinity still remaining very fresh with the amount of rain water in the rivers. Commercial fishermen reported good catches of bass at sea so maybe they are remaining at sea until the water change.

One commercial fisherman was netting fifty yards from the shoreline at The Fludyers and had a 16lb Thresher shark entangled in his nets. I had reports from a lady who travels from Frinton-on-Sea to Felixstowe that she had seen regularly throughout the month over 30 porpoises on the Deben bar around the Knoll.

During June no known matches on the beaches, but two matches in the rivers resulted in the odd undersize bass and eels being caught, recorded and returned. Usually it's a top month for drifting for bass in the rivers most days of the week but I have only seen the occasional boat. I haven't managed to follow the boats back to port for inspection as they usually land the opposite side of the river.

I have seen a huge rise in the amount of netting and potting off Felixstowe Fludyers to the pier this year from the RSA sector. Most are laying pots from dinghies and inflatables with no safety gear whatsoever or even a compass etc. Occasionally they are laying across commercial shanks so education is in order and verbal warnings issued regarding undersize lobsters.

Commercially it has been a reflection of other Suffolk areas when able to get to sea. A good variety of fish are there for the taking but the two main remarks is the lack of quota for roker when fishermen are doing their hardest to avoid hitting packs of roker. The other being the sole are very slinky thin.

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 (£)
Herring	260	150
Whiting	10	No sale
Mullet	8	No sale
<u>Southwold</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		0
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	7,357	20,599.60
Roker	2,136	11,778
Sole	7,100	70,950
Bass	584	6,424
Smoothhound	460	1,128
Turbot	43	373
Brill	156	1,391
Herring	595	357
Lobster	807	6,913.75
Crab	715	1,881
<u>Dunwich & Sizewell</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		0
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	825	1,288
Sole	470	5,095
Bass	300	3,300
Lobster	225	1,950.20
Crab	147	860.80
<u>Thorpeness & Aldeburgh</u>		
Number of vessel inspections:		7
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)

Cod	7,285	20,230
Roker	1,281	3,330.60
Sole	5,086	52,524
Herring	480	288
Bass	676	7,436
Brill	95	855
Turbot	62	775
Smoothhound	150	570
Lobster	727	6,866
Crab	1,245	3,166

Orford

Number of vessel inspections:		3
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	6,444	18,043.20
Roker	4,792	16,718
Sole	6,000	60,650
Bass	352	3,872
Monkfish	8	120
Lemon sole	10	120
Lobster	1,316	11,537
Crab	2,175	5,690

Felixstowe

Number of vessel inspections:		13
Species	Landings (kg)	Value of catch (£)
Cod	9,830	27,524
Roker	3,389	8,811.40
Sole	12,840	129,385
Bass	554	6,094
Brill	55	481.50
Mullet	418	956.30
Monkfish	6	90.00
Whiting	82	94.30
Herring	1,909	2,195.35
Smoothhound	181	687.80
Lobster	1,370	12,150.80
Crab	890	2,315

Potting

Crab and lobster	
Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	1554
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	120

Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	130
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	225

Whelk

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	770
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	1100

Non Commercial Activities

Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

Number of anglers inspected:		20
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Felixstowe	Any species	0
Aldeburgh	Any species	0

Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

Number of vessels inspected:	14	
Locations fished:	Species targeted:	Average catch (kg):
Within 5 mile of shore	Ray/ smoothhound	13.5

Charter Angling Vessels:

Number of charter vessels inspected:	2				
Number of vessels in area:	17	Number of trips:	298	Number of anglers:	1,642
Species targeted:		Total Landings (kg):			
Cod				4,250	
Skate/Rays				1,290	
Bass				147	
Smoothhound				940	
Locations fished throughout the month:					
Within 6 mile of shore					

Fishery Officer Duties

Training:

1st May – Conflict resolution refresher
28th June – Lifejacket training Kings Lynn

Other duties carried out:

April

5th Angling 2012 survey day
6th bank holiday leave
9th bank holiday leave
10th Angling 2012 survey day
11th Norfolk County Council Norwich – laptop computer update
12th Quarterly and monthly report submission
16th Angling 2012 survey day
17th Kings Lynn office
18th Home updating reports
19th Kings Lynn office
24th Hadleigh Stour and Orwell meeting
25th Wisbech Quarterly IFCA meeting
26th Kings Lynn office
27th Research and purchase of six headlamps for IFCA officers
27th Angling 2012 survey day

May

2nd Felixstowe sea anglers meeting
2nd Ifca community engagement meeting – Ipswich
3rd Suffolk Beach anglers meeting
4th Inspection and verbal warning – landing undersize lobster
5th Angling 2012 survey
7th Bank holiday leave
9th Kings Lynn and Sutton bridge enforcement meeting
13th Angling 2012 survey
14th Gt Yarmouth Town Hall reset laptop computer
15th Kings Lynn for new tyre fitting
18th-29th leave
31st New Orford trust meeting re agreement on erection of Ifca fish sign

June

1st – 7th Leave
9th – Angling 2012 survey
11th – Angling 2012 survey
11th – verbal warning landing undersize whelks

14th - Angling 2012 survey
18th - Angling 2012 survey
20-25th Toil
26th - Vehicle in body shop
29th - Kings Lynn office meeting

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

Cod	2.80
Roker	2.60
Sole	10.00
Bass	11.00
Lemon sole	12.00
Smoothhound	2.96
Mullet	2.20
Monkfish	15.00
Herring	0.60
Whiting	1.15
Brill	8.83
Turbot	12.50
Lobster	8.71
Crab	2.63

Vessels' quarterly report APRIL to JUNE 2011

FPV ESF PROTECTOR III

FPV ESF Protector III spent a total of four days on enforcement duties this quarter. In May, three days enforcement was curtailed due to bad weather, *FPV ESF Protector III* did still proceed to sea but no fishing activity was sighted.

In June, the hand work cockle commenced on various sites around the Wash. *FPV ESF Protector III* was used to verify that vessels engaged in the fishery held licences and ensure they were not within the closed areas. On the first day of the cockle season, *FPV ESF Protector III* was requested by Yarmouth Coast Guard to inform fisherman who had dried out on the Thief and Breast sands that ordnance had been sighted on the Breast sand. This ordnance was subsequently detonated by the bomb disposal unit. The crew of *FPV ESF Protector III* have also engaged in walking out from Wrangle to the cockle sites in order to check the beds after, and during the hand collecting. This has enabled Officers to fully liaise with the participating fisherman in their own environment ensuring a full and frank offering of opinions.

All Environmental Health Office (EHO)/ Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) samples were collected. In June, during the EHO/DSP sample collections, *FPV ESF Protector III* was contacted to inform us of a chemical leak further up the river Nene close to Peterborough. As a result of the chemical leak, *FPV ESF Protector III* was asked to collect further samples as well as more water samples for inspection. The crew of *FPV ESF Protector III* was initially asked to assist the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Environment Agency (EA) during the landings but were subsequently stood down.

In June, representatives from the Gibraltar Police visited *FPV ESF Protector III* on her moorings at Sutton Bridge. They are interested in the purchasing of *FPV ESF Protector III* for their own enforcement requirements. They were very impressed and saw the vessel as perfect for their enforcement needs; they have subsequently arranged a follow up inspection with a view to continue their negotiations.

FPV Sea Spray

FPV Sea Spray received a full engine service in April conducted by the crew of *FPV ESF Protector III* including changing the oil and all filters.

A new microphone was fitted to the main VHF unit after the original was found to be faulty after inspection by Charity & Taylor.

Over the hand work cockle fishery, *FPV Sea Spray* has been utilised several times to enforce the fishery as well as enabling officers to walk out on the Wrangle sand. The echo sounder stopped working after a particularly wet transit out to the Wrangle. The unit was taken to Charity & Taylor where water damage was found, repaired, and refitted by the crew of *FPV ESF Protector III*.

FPV Pisces III

FPV Pisces III was moved from Wells next the Sea to Fosdyke to remain on standby for the hand work cockle fishery. Whilst in Wells next the Sea during a check by EIFCA staff it was found that the batteries were dead and were subsequently changed. Also the trailer was in need of a service including a good greasing. The brake was found to be seized and required servicing.

THREE COUNTIES

April

Cockle mortality survey started April covering the cockles sample sites on Wrangle sand to observe the changes to the cockle bed on Wrangle sand. The main cockle survey covering the Wash was conducted to find the extent of the cockle bed covering the Wash. Seven Sweep samples were collected from around the Wash. Sabellaria day grab survey continued covering the RoxAnn tracking which had took place early on at the start of the year. Cockle surveys continued on the rest of the sands covering the Wash, making best use of the spring tides covering day and night towards the end of April. Sweep samples were collected from around the Wash as part of the on-going water samples, which is helping to build up a bigger picture of the health of the Wash and what shellfish stocks she can support. The end of the month finished with the Sabellaria day grabs covering the boxes tracked early on in the year using the RoxAnn system.

May

Cockle mortality surveys on Wrangle started May followed by day grabbing for Sabellaria in the South Well box, to find the coverage of the area tracked using the RoxAnn survey in the early part of the year. The cockle mortality survey on Wrangle came round again (about every two weeks) and this time you could hear the sound of cockle spat covering the sands. While collecting the cockle mortality from Wrangle we bumped into a few fishermen walking the sands to find the best areas for hand working cockles when the cockle fishery is opened.

The Sweep samples were collected from around the Wash and we had a guest aboard from CEFAS with a laser spectrometer to filter sea water samples seven sites around the Wash and process the amount of plankton in each sample. At the end of the month Three Counties steamed down to Richards Dry Dock ready for the refit.

June

This was used to conduct the 10 year refit at Richards Dry Dock in Great Yarmouth. It commenced with entering the dry dock and setting her up to dry out on the wooden blocks. This was followed by stripping down the steering gear and the disconnecting the main shafts from the gearboxes. We then knocked and cut out the old cutlass bearings replacing them with new ones. At the same time the paint work was checked for bubbling (corrosion) and this was prepped for painting with under coat and top coat. The steering ram was removed for servicing or repaired if needed.

As this was taking place, the MCA surveyor came aboard to conduct the work boat code survey. Both shafts were replaced and connected back to the gearboxes and made ready to go back into the water. The steering ram was fitted after repairs and the new anodes were fitted to the hulls. All systems were checked and she was made ready to go back into service.

25th July 2012

Marine Environment Quarterly Reports

a) Senior Research Officer's Quarterly Report

During April twelve days were utilised completing the annual spring cockle surveys that had commenced on March 20th. These surveys had involved collecting samples from a total of 1,382 stations from 22 sands within the Wash regulated fishery. Analysis of the data showed the stocks had increased significantly from 10,000 tonnes in 2011 to 21,108 tonnes. This increase was attributed to the cockles from the strong 2010 year-class cohort growing rapidly during the year, the resultant increase in biomass greatly exceeding losses resulting from natural mortality and the 2011 fishery. These gains were particularly noticeable at Wrangle, which was found to support high densities of marketable-sized cockles. "Atypical" mortalities were observed to have occurred during the year but the surveys indicated the losses were lower than had occurred during the previous four years. As losses during this period had been greatest among the larger cockles, many of the beds had become dominated with smaller cockles. This had severely restricted which sands could potentially be opened to a dredge fishery.

Based on the stock compositions and atypical mortality trends over the past four years, the stocks currently present on Wrangle sand are believed to be particularly vulnerable to atypical losses during the coming year. In order to avoid losing thousands of tonnes of cockles from this sand, as occurred in 2008, contingency management measures have been proposed which will enable increased fishing effort to occur on this sand if atypical mortality rates reach a trigger level. Officers have been monitoring the health of the stocks on this bed since February. This has involved conducting fortnightly surveys, monitoring mortality rates at ten stations. During this monitoring period the average mortality rate has been seen to gradually rise from 0% in February to peaks of 0.65% on May 24th and 0.55 on June 20th (see figure 1).

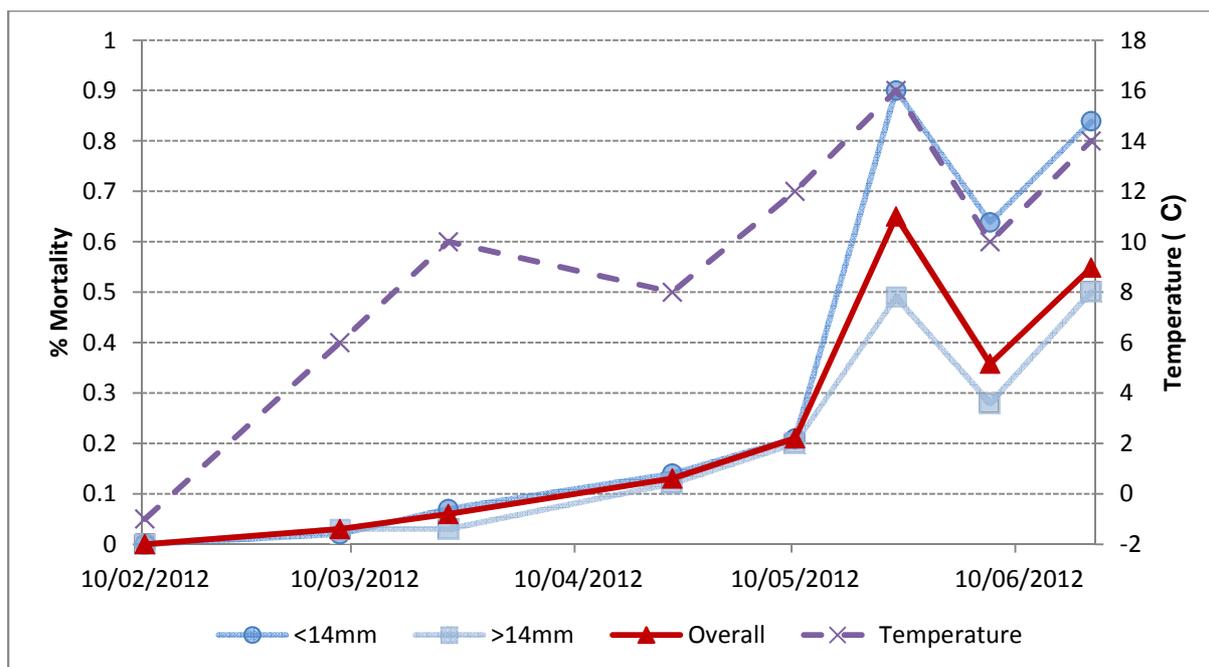


Figure 1 Chart showing the mortality rates of cockles on Wrangle during 2012 study period and the mean daytime temperatures

Although previous observations have found that larger cockles are more prone to suffer atypical mortalities than small cockles, so far during this study period mortality rates have been observed to have been higher in cockles <14mm width than those ≥ 14 mm width. Cockle densities are very high at some of the survey stations and in some of them "ridging" has been observed. As a high proportion of the cockles in these high-density sites are <14mm width, the cause of the current mortality is believed to be a combination of deaths from atypical mortality and ridging. The mean day-time temperature has also been recorded during this study and found to have a strong positive correlation with the rates of mortality.

During June the research team were occupied assisting the enforcement team monitor cockle landings in King's Lynn and Boston and to assess any disturbance the fishery is having on the cockle beds. Following site visits on June 20th and 22nd, there were concerns that excessive quantities of disturbed cockles were being left un-scattered on the sand. Because this was a breach of the Code of Best Practice agreed for this fishery, these observations prompted an emergency Marine Protection Area Sub-Committee to be held on June 29th to discuss the problem. Monitoring is planned to continue throughout the fishery.

Although the availability of the research vessel, *Three Counties*, has been limited due to the cockle surveys in April and her annual refit in June, the 2012 *Sabellaria* survey programme has continued through this quarter. During this period ground-truthing has been conducted in the North and South Well areas that had been tracked during the previous quarter using the Roxann AGDS equipment. Few of the stations in the North Well area were found to support *Sabellaria* but scattered patches were found in the South Well. The data from these surveys are yet to be analysed. This will be conducted once the field work has been completed.

While Sea Fishery Committees only conducted sporadic monitoring of juvenile fish populations in estuaries, the IFCA Technical Advisory Group has identified that IFCA should take a greater lead in this field than SFCs had done in the past. Over the past year members of the research team have been developing a fish monitoring programme that will be suitable for our requirements. During this period we have worked closely

with the Environment Agency, Cefas and other IFCA's to ensure our programme will complement the work conducted by other organisations and not duplicate effort. Several work streams are being developed within this programme:

1. The Environment Agency currently monitor the fish populations in several of the rivers and estuaries in our District through the Water Framework Directive. In order to learn the specific methodologies used by the EA for these surveys, Eastern-IFCA officers assisted the EA conduct their surveys in the River Great Ouse during April. In the coming year we plan to complement the surveys conducted by the EA by extending the survey coverage to some of the rivers that the EA do not currently monitor.
2. Since the early 1970s Cefas have conducted the Young Fish Survey programme at sites in the southern North Sea and the English Channel but funding for this project was lost in 2010. As this project provides a valuable historic data series of juvenile fish stocks within our coastal waters, officers from Eastern-IFCA and Sussex-IFCA met with scientists from Cefas in May to discuss the feasibility of IFCA's either taking over this project or possibly continuing a joint project with Cefas. A feasibility study is planned for September during which the participating IFCA's will test the practicalities of conducting the Young Fish Surveys under the guidance of Cefas staff.
3. The Shark Trust collect shark, skate and ray data from around the UK. It is planned that Eastern-IFCA will assist with this project within our District to increase the amount of data collected locally. Cefas are also planning to conduct a skate and ray tagging programme within our District which we plan to assist with.

In addition to attending several meetings and assisting with surveys, two research officers also attended a three-day Estuarine and Marine Fish Identification course in April organised by the Institute of Fisheries Management. This course, equivalent to the National Marine Biological Association Quality Control (NMBAQC) course attended by two other officers last year, provided specialist training in identifying a wide range of juvenile fish found in UK waters.

As part of our on-going programme to monitor chlorophyll and nutrient levels in the Wash, the research team has continued to collect monthly water samples and data from the buoy YSI Sonde through this quarter. Shellfish and water samples have also been collected each month on behalf of the EHO and Cefas, as part of their ongoing water quality and bio-toxin monitoring programmes.

In May two members of the research team attended the World Fisheries Congress held in Edinburgh. This four-day event featured numerous lectures each day on a wide range of subjects from research being conducted throughout the world. With as many as ten sessions of lectures being given simultaneously, the main difficulty was determining which ones to attend at any particular time. This congress highlighted the amount of fisheries and aquaculture research currently being conducted throughout the world.

b) Senior Marine Environment Officer's Quarterly Report – April to June 2012

Overview

The Authority's fledgling environment team has had a successful quarter, with new officers completing a range of training courses and participating in work shadowing activities at sea and on shore to ease integration into the Authority's staff. The Data Officer and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Officer have been allocated work

topics to lead on, and have demonstrated their ability to apply their own specialist skills and as well as a high level of enthusiasm for all aspects of the Authority's work. In addition to developing in-house training for team members in key work areas, the Senior Marine Environment Officer has continued to respond to external consultations on behalf of the Authority; the level of output in this area of work is increasing and will continue to do so as, with appropriate coaching, the team's competency in this area develops. For consistency, this quarterly report uses headings set out in the Research & Environment Plan 2012. A summary of progress has been provided at Agenda Item 19; this report gives more detail on key work areas undertaken during the last quarter.

Habitats Regulations Assessment – 2012 cockle fishery

This year for the first time, the Authority undertook consultation with fishermen on a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment ("appropriate assessment") for the proposed hand-worked cockle fishery before the final Assessment was submitted to Natural England. Informed by the Authority's spring cockle surveys, and nature conservation advice supplied by Natural England, the Assessment concluded that the fishery, as proposed, would not have an adverse effect on site integrity. Natural England concurred with this conclusion, meaning the Authority could proceed and open the fishery having duly considered the conservation interests of the site.

Particular attention has been given to the hand-worked cockle fishery since opening, following concerns about seabed damage and cockle wastage. Officers have conducted regular inspections of fishing activities and of the state of the intertidal flats after fishing, and have worked closely with Natural England in relation to these concerns. Natural England provided advice in relation to whether the scale and severity of observed fishing impacts would constitute an adverse effect on site integrity. This issue is dealt with more fully under agenda item 12.

Environment Training

The Senior Marine Environment Officer has provided internal training to the Data Officer and GIS Officer in relation to Marine Protected Areas, Habitats Regulations Assessment, and responding to consultations. This work will be continued but the level of coaching will be reduced as new team members continue to develop skills in these areas. A series of lunchtime seminars has also been initiated for Authority officers (and Members if available) to help share skills and expertise.

External environmental consultations

During the quarter, responses have been provided to consultations on:

- Marine Planning draft Vision and Objectives – Marine Management Organisation consultation
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive – Defra Consultation (see Agenda Item 25);
- Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Wash East Strategy Scoping Consultation
- Dredge disposal site relocation – Harwich Haven Authority

Marine Protected Areas

The Data Officer has created a comprehensive, interactive marine protected area database, including location of sites, features and conservation objectives. The database is being developed to include fishing activity information, and links to fishing impact

studies. Charts and maps have been developed by the GIS Officer to provide graphical references. This will form the supporting evidence base for a risk assessment (risk to marine protected area features from fishing activities) for the Authority's district, which is due to be developed in the second half of the year. Ultimately (scheduled for the final quarter) a management options matrix will be developed. This is compatible with the Authority's agreed approach to managing fisheries within marine protected areas (MPA 05/11). Discussions with Defra and the Marine Management Organisation during the quarter have indicated that IFCA's are likely to be required to undertake further work in this area.

Natural England is due to provide its advice on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) to the Minister for the environment and fisheries (Richard Benyon) on 18th July 2012. The public consultation on the first tranche of MCZs is due to take place in December 2012 – indications are that sites with the best supporting evidence and stakeholder consensus will be the first to be designated. Authority officers have collected additional survey data on two recommended reference areas in the district (Cromer Mussel bed and North Mistley) to assist Natural England in the process. At each site, recommended for designation because of the reported presence of mussel beds, mussels have been very sparse or absent. Authority officers will continue to liaise with Natural England as the MCZ designation process continues.

In May 2012, Natural England has announced that new Special Protection Areas (SPAs), or extensions to existing SPAs, will be designated to protect seabirds. In the Authority's district, this is likely to mean that coastal waters off the north west Norfolk and north east Norfolk coast are likely to be selected. Once the site boundaries, features and their conservation objectives are known, officers will be able to start considering fisheries interactions with the features and assess the need for additional management measures – in the process described above.

Offshore wind farms

Officers have been informed that the proposed Race Bank and Dudgeon Wind Farms (both off the Norfolk Coast) have been consented. The proposed Docking Shoal wind farm (also off the Norfolk coast) has been rejected.

The Authority has been asked to sign a Statement of Common Ground in relation to fisheries and marine ecology surveys and impacts relating to the proposed Galloper Wind Farm (off the Suffolk coast). This is considered in more detail at Agenda item 16.

The Authority is asked to note the report.

R W Jessop
Senior Research Officer

Judith Stoutt
Senior Marine Environment Officer

17th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

1. EIFCA Hand-worked cockle fishery appropriate assessment, May 2012.
2. Natural England East of England team – Special Protection Areas for Seabirds. Email to EIFCA, 15th June 2012
3. Notice of the MMO consent decision for Dudgeon, Race Bank and Docking Shoal. Email to Judith Stoutt, 13th July 2012.

6th EIFCA meeting

Agenda Item: 23

25 July 2012

Angling 2012 – update

Fifty Five site visits were conducted during May and June making actual site visits 69% of expected visits. The difference between planned and actual is mostly due to the fact that some forms have yet to be handed in after completion.

Enforcement of the cockle fishery has not disrupted carrying out surveys as other Eastern-IFCA staff members have covered when the warranted area officers are required on enforcement duties.

Boat launch sites have been sampled over May and June however only one survey has resulted in an interview so far. Anecdotal reports suggest that boat fishing activity has been low, probably due to the poor weather.

The Angling 2012 database has been installed and data entry has started with a view to get all the data forms completed so far into the database by the end of July.

Committee members are welcome to join Authority Staff as they conduct their surveys.

Luke Godwin
Marine Environment Officer (Data)

11th July 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

6th EIFCA meeting

Agenda Item: 24

25 July 2012

Update: Marine Planning

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) continues to progress the Marine Plan for the East Plan Region. They continue to engage with the community on a variety of points of discussion.

They value input from all with concerns about the coastal community. Further information on this can be found on their webpage:

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/you.htm>

The Eastern IFCA has been engaged with the MMO on a number of levels. This has been from providing information into the planning process as well as attending and participating in workshops.

On the 3rd July 2012 Authority Staff attended a workshop held to discuss Options development. At this meeting the MMO presented some draft options and plans. Staff expressed a number of concerns, particularly about what seemed to be 'capture' by Off-shore energy and aggregate groups in the planning process. Much of the discussions focused on use of sites by these two groups. These groups were chosen because they had the most information, and were identified as likely 'growing' industry in the Eastern plan area. Authority staff also raised their concerns that this could result in neglecting and supporting existing communities and economic activity.

The MMO has promised to take away these comments and consider further.

In May 2012, the MMO updated its 'Statement of Public Participation'. This has changed the timeline for the plan. The Authority is now expecting the proposed draft plan to be presented in December 2012. The MMO has indicated that the plan would follow after the presentation of the Marine Conservation Zone proposals which are expected mid December 2012.

Eden Hannam
Acting Chief Executive Officer
17th July 2012

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List of Background Papers

Marine planning documentation – available on MMO website

25 July 2012

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

Background summary

Officers presented a report on Defra's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) consultation the 5th EIFCA Meeting on 25th April 2012. Members commented on the report and resolved to delegate authority to the Acting CEO to submit the Eastern IFCA's response to the consultation.

Comment

The consultation report presented a summary of the current status of the marine environment (against the eleven descriptors set out in the MSFD), with reference to key supporting documents including Charting Progress 2¹. It set out proposed characteristics of Good Environmental Status for each descriptor, and provided a view on whether current monitoring is sufficient for the on-going assessment of the marine environment.

Key implications for the Authority included the likely need for increased monitoring of coastal fish and shellfish stocks, and the expectation that local fisheries management measures will be used (in addition to national and Common Fisheries Policy measures) to achieve Good Environmental Status. These issues align well with the IFCA responsibility to understand the main issues affecting the sustainability of sea fisheries resources, and to put in place appropriate management plans. The Authority is already implementing research and management activities to meet this responsibility, but the MSFD is likely to require some additional measures.

A response was sent to Defra's MSFD Implementation Team on the 2nd July 2012. A copy is attached for your information.

Sandra Cowper
Marine Environment Officer (GIS)
11 July 2012

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Background Papers

- 1 Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) report – implications for EIFCA. 5th EIFCA meeting, 25th April 2012
- 2 MSFD consultation: EIFCA comment, June 2012
- 3 Draft minutes 5th EIFCA meeting, 25th April 2012
- 4 EIFCA Response to Defra's MSFD Implementation Team dated 2nd July 2012 (attached)

¹ Charting Progress 2 – An assessment of the state of UK seas. Prepared by the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) community, July 2010. Available at: <http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/>

Q6. Are the proposed GES targets feasible to implement (i.e. can appropriate management measures be put in place to achieve them)?

Q7. Are the proposed GES targets for this Descriptor consistent with other Government policies and commitments on the UK marine environment?

Q8. Are the proposed GES targets and indicators feasible and cost-effective to monitor?

Q9. Where gaps have been identified in the proposed GES targets and indicators for this Descriptor, do you have suggestions for how these could be filled?

- Descriptor 3 – relates to commercial fish and shellfish. Table 2 (page 41) suggests for commercial fish there are “no additional monitoring requirements” but we consider that there is not sufficient evidence on the status and pressures on shellfish stocks – these need additional monitoring. Furthermore, para.197 states that “trends within estuarine, coastal, pelagic, deep water, migratory and diadromous species are much more uncertain”, suggesting additional monitoring is likely to be required. In addition, para.265 acknowledges that “there is a lack of consistent and quality data for shellfish species from throughout the UK, which means that robust stock assessment has not been possible at a regional level”.
- P.41, Table 2 – Initial estimate of possible additional monitoring requirements for state and pressure. Descriptor 3 – commercial fish: “no additional monitoring requirements; no additional costs.” IFCA experience: for commercial shellfish (i.e. Included within Descriptor 3) there is insufficient information on state and pressure so additional monitoring will be required. Also, p.67, para.197 “trends with respect to estuarine, coastal, pelagic, deep water, migratory & diadromous species are much more uncertain”.
- p.41 Table 2 – As above. Descriptor 9 – contaminants in seafood: “Additional monitoring in commercial fishing groups” – could IFCA assist in collection of samples or will this be managed by FSA at landings stage?
- p.41 Table 2 – As above. Descriptor 11 – underwater noise “Additional monitoring to establish a baseline for current ambient sound levels”. EIFCA expected D11 to include consideration of induced electrical energy (electromagnetic fields or EMF) from marine electricity transmission cables (particular in light of the anticipated extensive expansion in offshore wind energy production in the North Sea, and the current lack of knowledge about this type of impact). Only towards the end of the consultation document (p.143, para.507) comes the explanation that D11 “is intended to address the impacts of noise on the marine environment and does not currently cover the impacts of other forms of energy”, according to the Commission Decision¹. Para. 510 states that “There remain significant gaps in our understanding of levels of noise in the marine environment, its impacts on species and populations, and the thresholds at which noise is considered to be having a “significant” impact on organisms. Furthermore, underwater noise is not currently monitored or recorded systematically in the UK.” As the same statements apply to electromagnetic fields, EIFCA is disappointed that the MRPD does not so far require the measurement of the current

¹ Commission Decision of 1st September 2010 on criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters (2010/477/EU).