

6th Eastern IFCA Meeting

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



A meeting of the Eastern Sea Fisheries and Conservation Authority took place in the Cranworth Room, Norfolk County Hall, Norwich on 25 July 2012 at 10.30 hours

Members Present:

Cllr Ken Sale	Eastern IFCA Chair	Suffolk County Council
Shane Bagley		Marine Management Organisation
Roy Brewster		Marine Management Organisation
Cllr John Dobson		Norfolk County Council
Conor Donnelly		Natural England
Cllr Tony Goldson		Suffolk County Council
Paul Garnett		Marine Management Organisation
Roger Handford		Environment Agency
Cllr Brian Hannah		Norfolk County Council
Neil Lake		Marine Management Organisation
Ceri Morgan		Marine Management Organisation
Tom Pinborough		Marine Management Organisation
Rob Spray		Marine Management Organisation
John Stipetic		Marine Management Organisation
Cllr Tony Turner MBE		Lincolnshire County Council
Koen Vanstaen		Marine Management Organisation
Stephen Worrall		Marine Management Organisation

Eastern IFCA Officers Present:

Eden Hannam	Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Julian Gregory	Head of Marine Protection
Christine Hurley	Head of Finance
Nichola Freer	Head of Human Resources
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer
Lucy Ritchie	Community Development Officer

Clerk:

Mary Clancy

EIFCA12/55 Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Norfolk County Councillor Joe Mooney, the Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste. On behalf of Cllr Hilary Thompson (who was unable to attend), Cllr Mooney welcomed the Eastern IFCA to Norfolk County Council and he wished members a good meeting. Cllr Mooney then remained for the rest of the meeting.

The Chair also welcomed Paul Garnett, newly appointed as a member of the Authority by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

EIFCA12/56 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Hilary Thompson, Brian Hannah and Stephen Williams and from Peter Barham.

EIFCA12/57 Item 3: Declarations of Interest

Shane Bagley, Roy Brewster, Neil Lake and Paul Garnett declared pecuniary interests in Items 13 and 14 as they are directly involved in the Wash cockle fishery. They did not take part in the votes on these items.

ACTION ITEMS

EIFCA12/58 Item 4: Minutes of the 6th Eastern IFCA meeting held on 26 January 2012

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

Proposed: Cllr John Dobson

Seconded: Stephen Worrall

All agreed

EIFCA12/59 Item 5: Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

EIFCA12/60 Item 6: Meetings of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee on 23 May 2012 and 29 June 2012

The Acting CEO introduced the report. He said that, at the meeting on 23 May 2012, the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee agreed to open the 2012 Wash cockle fishery. The fishery had opened at the beginning of June and was still in operation. A second, emergency, meeting of the Sub-Committee had been called because damage to the European marine site in the Wash had been identified. A number of fishing industry representatives had attended this meeting and had been invited by the Chair of the Sub-Committee to contribute to the discussion from the floor. The CEO said that these issues would be further considered by the Authority under Item 13.

It was resolved to accept the report on this meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Tony Turner

Seconded: Ceri Morgan

All agreed

EIFCA12/61 Item 7: Meeting of the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee on 27 June 2012

The Community Development Officer presented the report. She said that the Sub-Committee had considered the approach to be taken in drawing up the Authority's Communication and Engagement Strategy which was running a little behind schedule because of the need to recruit staff. There was more information about the Strategy in the information report under item 19. She also presented the timetable for the next round of Community Engagement meetings, all of which would take place in the evening.

Roger Handford asked whether the community engagement meetings had a particular structure or agenda, or whether they took a drop-in approach. The Acting CEO said that the structure was evolving but usually involved a report back from the last Authority meeting, discussion of topics raised by those present, and presentations from other agencies if there were any. The topics discussed varied according to the interests of those attending: for example, in Suffolk, the audience tended to be recreational users but in Boston, it was mainly people involved in the Wash fishing industry. Cllr Tony Goldson asked why the Suffolk meeting was held in Ipswich instead of a coastal town and the Acting CEO responded that officers were looking at other venues; for example, the Aldeburgh Fishermen's Association had asked for a meeting to be held in Aldeburgh.

The Acting CEO advised members that the Sub-Committee had also considered proposals for a benchmarking survey to establish a baseline level of awareness of the Eastern IFCA and its work, against which the

effectiveness of the Communication and Engagement Strategy could be assessed. The Sub-Committee had agreed to recommend to the Authority that the benchmarking survey should be undertaken by an external provider as the Eastern IFCA did not have the resources to do this in-house. Officers had proposed asking Norfolk County Council's Communications Unit to carry out elements of this work but had subsequently established that this would not be possible and so it was necessary to look for another provider. Cllr Tony Turner asked how much the survey was likely to cost and the Acting CEO said that the range was between £4,500 and £22,000, depending on the provider and the service offered. However, officers would ensure that the procurement represented the best value for money for the Authority.

It was resolved to:

- a) accept the report on this meeting;**
- b) note that the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee had considered the Communication and Engagement strategy;**
- c) agree in principle that a benchmarking survey was required and should be outsourced using the procurement approach that would ensure the best value for the Authority;**
- d) delegate to the Acting CEO the authority to progress the procurement and agree a contract with a suitable provider.**

Proposed: Conor Donnelly

Seconded: Stephen Worrall

All Agreed

It was also resolved to note the dates and times of the next round of community engagement meetings and that members were invited to attend the meetings.

Proposed: Conor Donnelly

Seconded: Stephen Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA12/62 Item 8: Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee on 27 June 2012

The Head of Finance presented the finance elements of the report. She said that the Sub-Committee had approved the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2012. There had been a total underspend of £484,787 largely resulting from savings from vacant posts, some underspending of New Burdens money and an increase in income as legislation now allowed the Eastern IFCA to include income from shellfish sampling, sea angling surveys for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), and the hire of *ESF Protector III*.

The Head of Finance said the Sub-Committee had also considered the Internal Audit report for 2011/12 and had agreed to reappoint Norfolk Audit Services to carry out the internal audit for 2012/13. She pointed out that Norfolk Audit Services had reduced their charges in recognition of the 25% reduction in grant to the Eastern IFCA.

The Head of HR presented the HR part of the report. She said that the Sub-Committee had agreed the Authorities new employment policies on time off in lieu (TOIL) and expenses, and had agreed that a revised policy on consultation and communication with staff should be presented to the next Sub-Committee meeting. The Head of HR also reported that the new Chief Executive, Captain Philip Haslam, would be in post on 1 October 2012.

The Clerk presented the final element of the report which concerned the Members' Code of Conduct. She clarified that the Code applied to non-

elected members only, as council members were bound by their county council's code of conduct. She said that the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee had considered the proposed Code in detail and had recommended that the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee (which had delegated authority to adopt the Code) should adopt it with some amendments. In particular, the Planning & Communication Sub-Committee wanted the requirement to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests at meetings to be strengthened, and references to 'general' and 'additional' members, and to the role of Deputy Chief Executive, to be clarified. The Sub-Committee also recommended that the Authority should not publish on the website its registers of members' interests and of gifts and hospitality, but should indicate that these registers would be available for public inspection. The Clerk said that the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee had accepted the recommendations of the Planning & Communications Sub-Committee and had adopted the Code.

It was resolved to accept the report on this meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Tony Goldson

Seconded: Stephen Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA12/63 Item 9: Appointment to the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee

The Chair invited nominations to fill a vacancy on the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee which resulted from the resignation of Cllr Callaby from the Authority. Cllr John Dobson was the only nominee.

It was resolved to appoint Cllr John Dobson as a member of the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee.

Proposed: Cllr Ken Sale

Seconded: Cllr Tony Goldson

All Agreed

EIFCA12/64 Item 10: Payments made and monies received during the period 1 April 2012 to 13 July 2012

The Head of Finance presented the report which showed income and expenditure in the first quarter of the financial year.

It was resolved to approve the payments made and monies received as set out in the report.

Proposed: Cllr John Dobson

Seconded: Stephen Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA12/65 Item 11: Quarterly Management Accounts

The Head of Finance presented the report. She explained that there were underspends because the Authority was still without a full staff complement, the Communication and Engagement strategy had not yet been developed, and there had not been extensive use of vessels during the quarter. John Stipetic asked whether the sum of £13,000 which the MMO had paid for hiring *ESF Protector III* had been included and the Head of Finance explained that this payment had been included in the accounts for 2011/12 and had contributed to the underspend for that year.

Cllr Tony Turner asked whether there had been any expenditure on legal fees and was advised that there had been no legal costs during the first quarter, but there were likely to be costs later in the year.

It was resolved to approve the quarterly management accounts as set out in the report.

Proposed: Cllr John Dobson

Seconded: John Stipetic

All Agreed

EIFCA12/66 Item 12: Review of the Authority's Standing Orders

The Clerk introduced the report. She said it proposed that the Authority should adopt a written Constitution which would include the standing orders and other key governance documents, locating them all in the one place for ease of reference and updating. The report contained the proposed standing orders, which were based on the Authority's current standing orders but updated to include the legal requirements in the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009*, the *Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Order 2010*, and the Authority's current conventions and practices. The report also contained an outline draft of a Schedule of Delegations which would set out the ongoing decision-making powers that the Authority had delegated to officers, sub-committees or individual members. It was proposed that existing governance documents, such as the Members' Code of Conduct, the Financial Regulations and the Fraud and Corruption Policy should also form part of the Constitution, as well as the MMO's Terms and Conditions for Appointment.

Cllr Turner said that he had referred the report to Lincolnshire County Council's Monitoring Officer who had offered to commission legal advice on the proposals on behalf of all three county council's Monitoring Officers without any charge to the Authority. This would overcome the difficulties that the Clerk had had in consulting with all three Monitoring Officers on the Members' Code of Conduct. Cllr Turner also asked what other IFCAs were doing in relation to their standing orders and whether the report should be referred to the Association of IFCAs. The Acting CEO advised that he had spoken to the chief officers for some of the other IFCAs and established that there was variability between the approaches taken, depending on the relationships each IFCA had with its stakeholders and their own conventions, as well as the legal requirements. As each IFCA is entitled to set its own standing orders, a single approach was unlikely to be taken.

Members considered that Cllr Turner's proposal could set a useful precedent for obtaining legal advice from the county councils' Monitoring Officers. They also took the view that both the Regulatory & Compliance Sub-Committee and the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee should have the opportunity to consider the advice and make recommendations to the next meeting of the full Authority on 31 October 2012.

It was resolved to:

- a) accept the offer of Lincolnshire County Council's Monitoring Officer to commission legal advice on the proposed Constitution, coordinated with the Monitoring Officers for Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils, without any charge to the Eastern IFCA;**
- b) ask the Regulatory & Compliance Sub-Committee and the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee to consider the report and the legal advice, and make recommendations to the next full Authority meeting on 31 October 2012.**

Proposed: Cllr Tony Turner

Seconded: Cllr Tony Goldson

All Agreed

EIFCA12/67 Item 13: Damaging activities in the Wash Fishery Order 1992 hand-worked cockle fishery: implications for protected habitats and management options

The Head of Marine Protection presented the report. An emergency meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Committee took place on 29 June 2012 after site inspections found excessive disturbance and wastage of cockles in the Wrangle Sands. The Sub-Committee agreed that officers should review the enforcement plan, continue to monitor the sands, take further action if the problems continued, and provide an update at the July meeting of the full Authority.

The Head of Marine Protection said that, since then, there had been regular patrols on the sands, officers had spoken and written to fishers working in the Wash, and had been in contact with Natural England and had reviewed the enforcement plan. He reported that the situation had improved since then. In addition, Natural England had advised that it did not consider that the disturbance observed in June had caused an adverse impact on the sands or had resulted in a level of cockle wastage that would affect the supply available for birds in the Wash Special Protection Area.

Neil Lake was concerned that a lot of damage had been done, even though this was considered to be within acceptable limits. Conor Donnelly supported the Head of Marine Protection's statement. He agreed that there had been a lot of damage but Eastern IFCA officers had increased the level of monitoring and behaviour by fishers had improved. Cllr Goldson asked whether the damage to the Wrangle Sands had reduced and the Head of Marine Protection advised that it had.

It was resolved to:

- 1) note the report and the action taken by officers to date;**
- 2) agree to maintain the Eastern IFCA's current position that the Wash handworked cockle fishery should continue;**
- 3) ask officers to continue to explore and develop enhanced management measures for the Wash cockle fishery, as set out in the bullet points at the end of page 25 and on page 26 of the report;**
- 4) delegate to the Chair of the Eastern IFCA the authority to implement enhanced management measures if these should be required;**
- 5) ask officers to provide a further update at the Authority's meeting on 31 October 2012.**

Proposed: Cllr Tony Turner

Seconded: John Stipetic

13 votes in favour. None against.

EIFCA12/68 Item 14: Request to revisit the calculation of growth rates for cockles in the Wash Fishery Order 1992

Roy Brewster presented the report on behalf of the Wash fishing industry. He said that the industry considered that the current quotas for cockle catches short-changed them by up to 33% as cockles in the Wash had doubled in size since the surveys which underpinned the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) were carried out in March. This meant that the tonnage of cockles available to fish had considerably increased since the TAC had been set and, therefore, the current quotas represented much less than the third of the cockle biomass that the fishing industry should be entitled to take. As a result, the industry considered that cockle growth rates

during the season should be taken into account by increasing the quotas that they were allowed to take.

Mr Brewster also said that waste as well as cockle biomass should be taken into account in calculating the quotas as the tonnage collected by the industry inevitably included material other than cockle biomass such as shell and sand.

The Senior Marine Environment Officer responded on behalf of the Senior Research Officer who was unable to be present at the meeting. She said that very extensive appropriate assessment surveys had been carried out before the cockle fishery opened. It was not feasible to estimate the likely cockle growth in each area as this was affected by local factors in the different areas, and the Eastern IFCA did not have the resources to carry out more area/temporal-sensitive surveys. In addition, the designation of the Wash as a European Marine Site meant that particular caution was necessary in order to allow the fishery to operate while maintaining the habitat. Officers preferred an issue related approach to management measures such as the one agreed for cockle mortality in the Wrangle Sands. These measures included the option of increasing the quota available to the fishing industry.

The Acting CEO said that any change to the calculation of quotas would have to be supported by robust research in order to prevent or defend any challenges referred to the European Commission. He proposed that the fishing industry's request should be considered as part of the Authority's research plan for 2013-14.

Mr Worrall asked whether there were historic records of cockle growth rates. The Acting CEO replied that Kent & Essex IFCA used average cockle growth rates over the previous six year period to calculate seasonal growth rates but pointed out that this approach would not work in the Wash fishery because of the variability of atypical cockle mortality that the area had experienced. As high numbers of cockles had died off because of this in recent years, Kent & Essex IFCA's method of calculating growth rates would result in a reduced quota in the Wash fishery. However, Mr Lake thought that the Eastern IFCA should be assessing growth rates by sampling cockle at key points on the main sands and taking average weight readings before the fishery opened which could be compared with growth rates later in the season.

Koen Vanstaen said that this was not a new issue for the Authority. It was raised every year and same conclusion was reached, which was that the necessary research would require significant resources – for example, the method proposed by Mr Lake would require large samples and the resources to collect and analyse them. He suggested that the fishing industry should come back with a clear proposal supported by a robust methodology that the Authority could consider. Mr Lake replied that the Senior Research Officer had said at a meeting that growth rate sampling would take two days. However, the Senior Marine Environment Officer said that she understood that the Senior Research Officer was not in favour of this method of growth rate sampling.

Mr Lake then raised the impact on the suction dredge fishing industry of the current method of assessing the quota. He said that assessing the adult (>14mm width) cockle density of a bed early in the season disadvantaged the dredge fishery as the 70% requirement (that there should be an adult cockle population density of 70% for dredge fishing) might not be met early in the season but could be met later on when the cockles had grown to a width of more than 14mm.

Cllr Goldson, Tom Pinborough and Ceri Morgan reiterated Mr Vanstaen's point that this issue was raised every year. Cllr Goldson suggested that the Authority's research team and the Wash cockle fishing industry should get together and work out a way forward. Mr Donnelly said that he had no objection in principle to reviewing the approach to calculating growth rates but a statistically robust way of doing this was essential. He added that no evidence base had been presented by the industry to support their view that there was a need for a different approach, or to justify the cost to the Authority of carrying out the necessary research. Paul Garnett suggested that the Authority could commission an external survey during this year using licence toll money, in order to have the evidence required for next year's decision-making. However, the Acting CEO said that it would still require officer resources to commissioning a survey and assess the methodology proposed by the contracting organisation. Mr Pinborough pointed out that the Authority had set its research priorities for this year and it would not be possible to add another priority without losing an existing one.

Shane Bagley said that the appropriate assessment surveys were done early in the year to fit into the fishing calendar but some flexibility was required in recognition that the cockles were dormant at the time of the surveys but would be growing when the fishery was open. Mr Brewster said the fishing industry had agreed that the surveys could be done in March as it wanted the fishery to begin early, even though early surveying would result in lower quotas compared with surveying later in the year. If the industry had asked for later surveys (and a later start to the fishery), there would have been a greater loss of cockles from the atypical mortality which affects older cockles, and he reminded members of the mortality rates in a previous year when 25,000 tonnes of cockles had died compared with the quota of 5,000 tonnes collected by the industry. He pointed out that the cockle industry is a major export trade that brings money into the UK in a time of recession and if cockles are not collected, valuable exports are lost. He felt that the Authority kept putting off the issue of how cockle growth rates should be calculated and this had a serious impact on the industry. The Chair emphasised that the Eastern IFCA did not want to see any avoidable loss of exports.

The Senior Marine Environment Officer said officers were very aware of the past high mortality rates and were closely monitoring cockle mortality to see whether the contingency management measures would have to be implemented. These measures provided the Authority with flexibility to minimise the number of cockle deaths and, therefore, the impact on the industry.

Mr Lake clarified that he was suggesting that the research on cockle growth rates should be included in next year's research priorities, not this year's. He also said that wastage was currently a problem and that fishers were trying to avoid sands with a lot of shell wastage as this caused yields to be as low as 10% rather than 14%.

In relation to the waste issue, the Acting CEO said that it was necessary to have a scientific basis for defining what constitutes waste. A proposal to adjust for wastage by applying an additional quota at the end of the season had been rejected by the fishing industry. In response to a question from John Stipetic, the Acting CEO explained that officers had proposed taking samples from the top of bags in order to calculate an appropriate adjustment for waste but this had not been acceptable to the fishing industry as it did not agree that sampling from the top of bags would give a good indication of the amount of waste. Mr Bagley said that, as the weight of the bag itself was included in the quota calculation and the penalties for being over quota were high, a standard bag weight would

help. The Acting CEO said that officers were looking to agree an Eastern IFCA standard bag with the industry.

The Chair said he recognised the wider economic impact of the cockle fishing industry and proposed that officers should be asked to investigate an appropriate research model for assessing growth rates, consult with the industry and report back. Cllr Turner confirmed that both the Authority and Natural England appreciated the cockle fishing industry's concerns and would see what could be done to address them. However, Mr Pinborough pointed out that the Eastern IFCA was not there just for the cockle fishing industry and said he would be unwilling to support any action that would be to the detriment of other marine user groups. Mr Worrall said that the Authority had to agree a mechanism for dealing with this matter for the future to prevent the same issue coming up again in future years.

It was resolved to ask officers to investigate an appropriate research model for assessing cockle growth rates in consultation with the cockle fishing industry, and to report the outcome to a future meeting of the Authority.

Proposed: Cllr Tony Turner

Seconded: Cllr Tony Goldson

13 votes in favour. None against.

EIFCA12/69 Item 15: The role of IFCAs in relation to managing fishing activities in European Marine Sites: a change in approach

Members were advised that there was nothing to report as the Ministerial statement had been postponed until the end of July. The Acting CEO said he would circulate the statement to members when it was received.

EIFCA12/70 Item 16: Request from the Shrimp Producers' Organisation Ltd to further the Authority's role in supporting MSC accreditation of the shrimp fisheries

The Acting CEO circulated the letter from the Shrimp Producers Organisation referred to in the report and the Senior Marine Environment Officer introduced the item. She said that the Shrimp Producers' Organisation was requesting the support of the Eastern IFCA in achieving and maintaining Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accreditation for the brown and pink shrimp fisheries. There was some urgency in the request as European buyers had indicated that, from a future date, they would only buy shrimps with MSC accreditation. The Eastern IFCA is part of the shrimp advisory working group along with the Shrimp Producers' Organisation

The Organisation was proposing that it and the Eastern IFCA should jointly develop practical steps towards assessing compliance with the certification requirements and should share data from the Authority's planned vessel monitoring system (VMS) trials to aid smaller vessels seeking accreditation.

Cllr Goldson asked about the financial implications of the course of action recommended by officers which was to support the proposals of the Shrimp Producers' Organisation and set up a meeting with it to establish the compliance monitoring procedure. The Acting CEO said that this would require some officer time only and, before making any other commitment, it would be necessary find out more about the resources required and assess the request in terms of the Authority's priorities. Rob Spray asked whether the Eastern IFCA would be involved in monitoring the accreditation if it was awarded. The Acting CEO advised that the Authority would not be directly involved but could contribute monitoring and

auditing data, taking into account the constraints in the Data Protection Act 1998, the fact that the Authority would not have a patrol boat when *ESF Protector III* was sold, and the delay by the MMO in implementing the vessel monitoring system. On this last point, Mr Stipetic told members that all relevant vessels would receive a letter next week about implementing the vessel monitoring and e.log systems by November 2012. He said he would ensure that the Authority was involved in, and updated on, this implementation.

It was resolved to:

- a) note the request of the Shrimp Producers' Organisation to support their application for Marine Stewardship Accreditation of their fishery;**
- b) ask officers to set up a meeting with the organisation to establish the compliance monitoring procedure required;**
- c) request the Head of Marine Conservation to report back at the Authority's meeting on 31 October 2012.**

Proposed: Cllr Tony Goldson

Seconded: Rob Spray

All Agreed

EIFCA12/71 Item 17: A Request from Galloper Wind Farm Ltd to agree a Statement of Common Ground

The Senior Marine Environment Officer presented the report and explained that the Planning Inspectorate had instructed Galloper Wind Farm Ltd to agree a statement of common ground with the Eastern IFCA by 6 August 2012 concerning its planning application. This was required because the proposed wind farm's electricity cable routes would cross the Eastern IFCA's district in Suffolk, and there were a number of environmental impacts resulting from the construction and maintenance of underwater electricity cables. The Planning Inspectorate had extended the deadline for making the agreement from 16 July 2012 and had also asked Galloper Wind Farm Ltd to agree a statement with Kent & Essex IFCA. The Senior Marine Environment Officer said the report set out the environmental issues and the actions required to enable the Authority to agree a statement.

Mr Vanstaen suggested that the information in previous statements of agreement relating to wind farms, and the effects on the marine environment of wind farms that had been built, should be taken into account. Mr Morgan was concerned about the short notice and tight deadlines, and the impact that this demand would have on the Authority's other priorities. He asked whether the Authority was being used as a consultant by the Planning Inspectorate and whether there would be payment for this work. The Acting CEO explained that the impact of statutory demands like this was factored into the research plan and so were part of the work for which the Authority was funded.

Mr Lake asked whether local fishing groups would be consulted and whether negative views from these groups would be taken into account by the Authority in responding to the request for a statement of common ground. The Senior Marine Environment Officer said that the developers had been in contact with fishing associations in Suffolk and Essex and, while the Authority could attempt to ensure that relevant fishing groups were consulted, it could not respond on their behalf.

Cllr Goldson pointed out that, two years ago, the research team had reported to the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee that electromagnetic fields from electricity cables could affect dogfish and flat fish and that the impact of cables should be monitored. Other members said there

were anecdotal accounts of the adverse effects of electricity cables – for example, in an area where a cable had been laid, skate and cod could only be found on one side of a cable whereas previously they had occupied the whole area; in the Skegness area, it was believed that cables had altered features of the seabed. Cllr Goldson considered that the Authority's response should take into account the need to avoid potential future damage to the fishing industry arising from the wind farm construction.

It was resolved to:

- 1. Note that the Planning Inspectorate had requested a statement of common ground between the Eastern IFCA and Galloper Wind Farm Ltd.**
- 2. Ask officers to:**
 - a) review the draft statement to establish whether it contains sufficient information to enable the Authority to sign it, taking into account the points raised by members during discussion of this item about the possible adverse effects on the fishing industry;**
 - b) if more information is needed, review background environmental assessment documents to identify likely impacts on the marine environment and fisheries in the Eastern IFCA's district;**
 - c) redraft the statement incorporating necessary changes in negotiation with Galloper Wind Farm's consultants.**
- 3. Delegate to the Chair of the Eastern IFCA the authority to agree the statement of common ground with Galloper Wind Farm by 6 August 2012.**

Proposed: Shane Bagley

Seconded: Cllr John Dobson

All agreed

EIFCA12/72 Item 18: Review of the structure of Authority papers

The Acting CEO introduced the report which asked the Authority to agree a standard approach to structuring and writing papers for full Authority and sub-committee meetings. He said that the current approach to report writing was inconsistent and sometimes resulted in a lack of clarity in the information presented to members and in the resolutions recommended by officers. The report proposed a standard template for papers to be used consistently across decision-making meetings.

It was resolved to:

- a) note that, currently, papers presented to Authority meetings are not consistent in their structure and sometimes provide unclear decision points which have to be clarified at the meeting;**
- b) agree to carry out a trial of the decision-focused template attached to the report on this item;**
- c) ask members to give the Acting Chief Executive their comments on the outcome of this trial and on the new format for papers.**

Proposed: Rob Spray

Seconded: Cllr Tony Goldson

All agreed

INFORMATION ITEMS

EIFCA12/73 Item 19: Update on the Engagement and Communication Strategy

This item was for information only. No discussion took place.

EIFCA12/74 Item 20: Quarterly progress against Annual Plans

This item was for information only. Mr Worrall and the Chair congratulated the Eastern IFCA staff on the progress that had been made against the agreed targets during a difficult time of change for the organisation.

EIFCA12/75 Item 21: Report of the Vessel Working Group, including sale of ESF Protector III

This item was for information only. No discussion took place.

EIFCA12/76 Item 22: 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**

These items were for information only. Mr Pinborough raised a point in relation to the Area 3 report as he had understood that officers intended to carry out some research into the use of fixed netting by recreational anglers. The Acting CEO advised him that it had not yet been possible to do this research.

EIFCA12/77 Item 23: Marine Environment Quarterly Reports:

- a) **Senior Research Officer**
- b) **Senior Marine Environment Officer**

These items were for information only. No discussion took place.

EIFCA12/78 Item 24: Sea Angling 2012 - update

This item was for information only. No discussion took place.

EIFCA12/79 Item 25: Marine Planning

This item was for information only. No discussion took place.

EIFCA12/80 Item 26: Marine Strategy Framework Directive

This item was for information only. No discussion took place.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

EIFCA12/81 Item 27: Any other business

There were no urgent business items.

Before closing the meeting, the Chair reminded members that the next full Authority meeting would take place at Lincolnshire County Council's County Hall in Lincoln. Members were asked to let the Clerk know if they would not be attending the meeting.

The Chair also invited Cllr Joe Mooney to comment on his experience of the meeting. Cllr Mooney said he had found the discussions very interesting and felt he had learned a lot about shrimps! He also noted the Eastern IFCA's objectives and would support the Authority in achieving them.

The meeting closed at 13.10 hours