

## 18th Eastern IFCA Meeting

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



A Meeting of the Eastern IFCA took place at The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech, Cambs, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 1005 hours.

### Members Present:

Cllr Hilary Cox	Chair	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Tony Turner MBE JP	Vice-Chair	Lincolnshire County Council
Shane Bagley		MMO Appointee
Stephen Bolt		MMO Appointee
Roy Brewster		MMO Appointee
John Davies		MMO Appointee
Paul Garnett		MMO Appointee
Cllr Tony Goldson		Suffolk County Council
Ceri Morgan		MMO Appointee
Tom Pinborough		MMO Appointee
Keith Shaul		MMO Appointee
Rob Spray		MMO Appointee
John Stipetic		MMO representative
Cllr Margaret Wilkinson		Norfolk County Council
Stephen Williamson		MMO Appointee
Stephen Worrall		MMO Appointee

### Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

Philip Haslam	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Andrew Bakewell	Head of Finance
Nichola Freer	Head of HR
Luke Godwin	IFCO / Project Officer
Julian Gregory	Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO)
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Judith Stoutt	Senior MEO
Pete Welby	Research Officer
Ady Woods	IFCO

### Other Bodies Represented:

David Abbott	MMO
Robin Masefield	Cefas
Emma Thorpe	Natural England

### Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

### EIFCA15/25 Item 1: Welcome by Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and apologised for the slightly later than expected start.

New members, Messrs Davies, Shaul and Williamson were welcomed to the meeting. The opportunity was taken to explain housekeeping issues such as fire exit etc, and advise that if there were any unknown acronyms to please ask for their meaning.

The opportunity was also taken to thank those members who had left the Authority and express EIFCA's gratitude for their contributions since IFCA inception in 2011.

**EIFCA15/26 Item 2: Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllrs Baker (Norfolk County Council), Fairman (Lincolnshire County Council) & Patience (Suffolk County Council), Mr Donnelly (NE Rep) and Dr Hirst (EA Rep).

**EIFCA15/27 Item 3: Declarations of Members Interest**

New members were advised it was their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest which they, their business or any next of kin may have. In addition to already declared interests Messrs Davies, Shaul and Williamson all declared an interest in the whelk fishery and Mr Williamson declared an interest in matters relating to mussel lays and the cockle fishery.

**EIFCA15/28 Item 4: Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> EIFCA Meeting, held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Mr Garnett advised that a comment attributed to him in the minutes relating to whelks was not correctly worded.

**Members agreed to sign the minutes as a true record of proceeding with the caveat that the wording on page 15 be amended subsequently in consultation with Mr Garnett.**

**Proposed: Councillor Goldson**

**Seconded: Mr Worrall**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/29 Item 5: Matters Arising**

15/3 MUSSEL REGENERATION PROJECT: The CEO advised that direction had been given at the last meeting to continue to expand this project. Support for this project had been received from all but one local fishermen's association. The SRO had already identified suitable sites but the laying of culch would be delayed until early next year to ensure that any spat settlement would be captured and that the investment would be given the best chance to succeed.

15/4 WASH LAY APPLICATIONS: The CEO had been instructed to investigate the possibility of a razor fish fishery. The outcome was that the nature of the fishery would involve electronic harvesting measures and the use of a dredge which was not conducive to the habitat in the Wash. The CEO briefed that he would investigate the control of invasive species as part of the bio security review and would discuss control with those agencies charged with the responsibility.

15/15 BASS MANAGEMENT: At the previous meeting the CEO had been instructed to investigate the possibility of an emergency byelaw for bass management measures. It had been found there was some legal risk in pursuing this approach. Defra have indicated they would be putting measures in place at national and international levels, and IFCA's had been asked to introduce nursery areas and bag limits under the normal byelaw procedure, the CEO anticipated this would be ready for adoption in January

2016. This would stop unregulated netting activities taking fish at the wrong time.

Mr Pinborough advised that he was disappointed the Emergency Byelaw had not been pursued further.

15/18 STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY MEETING REPORT: The CEO advised that a letter had been sent to all parties on the WFO entitlement waiting list to enquire whether they still wished to remain on the list. All responses received had been that yes they would still like to be on the list which indicated there was still the need for a waiting list. The Moratorium on Entitlements remained in place whilst further work was on-going.

**EIFCA15/30 Item 6: Health & Safety**

Two H&S issues had been encountered since the previous meeting. One involved a member of staff who had been taken ill with a cardiac issue. Test results had been inconclusive but the Officer's work load was being monitored to ensure there was no exposure to any unnecessary risk by over exertion.

The other issue involved a member of staff with neck and shoulder problems, new equipment had been provided to alleviate the symptoms and the situation was being monitored.

Members were then made aware of the amended list of risks which identified the new risk of the physical fitness of officers to conduct more arduous duties.

The H&S support service provided by NCC had been reviewed and updated, a copy of the revised proposal was considered by members.

**Members Resolved to note the content of the report and to accept the Health and Safety service provision proposal from Norfolk County Council.**

**Proposed: Mr Stipetic**

**Seconded: Mr Worrall**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/31 Item 7: MMO Appointee length of service ballot**

EIFCA had 11 MMO appointees amongst its membership. In order to avoid all of their memberships expiring at the same time those who had taken on the mantle of Chair or Vice Chair of a sub-committee had been given a term of 4 years. One member was mid cycle and therefore his term would not be complete at the same time as other members which left 6 members with terms of membership which needed to be staggered.

In the interest of fairness the names and duration of service were pulled from a hat by Dr E Thorpe (NE) and Dr S Bolt (AIFCA) the result being:

Mr Brewster	3 yrs
Mr Bagley	4 yrs
Mr Davies	3 yrs
Mr Shaul	5 yrs
Mr Williamson	5 yrs
Mr Worrall	4 yrs

After this time the members would either be eligible to apply for an additional period of membership or step down.

**EIFCA15/31 Item 8: Review of the Eastern IFCA Constitution**

The CEO advised members that in accordance with the constitution the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair should be considered but due to the County Councillors being in purdah and the Chair not having been elected until June, the current Chairs length of service would not expire until June at which point a new Chair would be elected.

Since the previous review of the constitution there had been no legislative or statutory changes, the only minor change was to change reference from 'nominated deputy' to 'deputy CEO'.

**Members Resolved to accept the suggested changes with reference to the Deputy.**

**Proposed: Mr Pinborough**

**Seconded: Mr Spray**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/32 Item 9: Revision of Sub-Committee structure**

As a result of new members being appointed to the Authority it was necessary to update the membership of the Sub-Committees. The CEO had prepared a suggested list of membership based on the skill sets required for each sub-committee.

**Members considered the proposed membership for EIFCA sub-committees and Resolved to accept them as set out.**

**Proposed: Cllr Goldson**

**Seconded: Mr Worrall**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/33 Item 10: IFCA Parliamentary Report**

The CEO went through the report with members and advised that one outcome of this review was that there would be an appraisal system for MMO appointees.

Cllr Goldson questioned why none of the new appointees were affiliated with Suffolk, which the CEO advised was due to the fact that no one from that area had volunteered to be a member of the Authority. Mr Williamson felt this may have been due to the daunting form which had to be completed, as well as the distance and time which would have to be expended to attend meetings.

It was noted that the Report referred to joint use of resources with other similar organisations. Particular reference was made to leasehold owners looking into co-locating with other bodies when their lease runs out. EIFCA had 2½ years to run on their lease at which point in time it would be necessary to consider possible cohabiting options.

Cllr Goldson questioned whether lobbying had taken place with appropriate MPs with regard to future funding. Dr Bolt advised that there was little opportunity to lobby individual MPs.

**Members Agreed to the proposed management actions put forward in the report.**

**Proposed: Dr Bolt**

**Seconded: Mr Morgan**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/34 Item 11: Association of IFCA's Update**

Dr Bolt briefly introduced himself for the benefit of new members, advising that as well as being an MMO Appointee for EIFCA he was also the CEO of AIFCA and therefore represented all 10 IFCA's at a national level, supported by the Chief Officers Group.

He advised members of the main topics being considered by AIFCA at the current time which included sustainable funding beyond 2016. Unfortunately no progress could be made on this until after the election when a comprehensive spending review would be carried out.

Members were also advised that £300,000 had been made available for IFCA's to bid for, this had attracted bids amounting to £330,000 but Dr Bolt was hoping to negotiate for the additional £30,000 so that all bids could be met.

A further £70,000 funding had been spent on a Sonar Camera for use by all IFCA's which would be housed by EIFCA.

AIFCA were also facilitating the Bass Management Measures. Mr Pinborough questioned whether the bass position statement was open to comment, to which Dr Bolt advised all comments were welcome asap before the joint meeting of Defra, MMO and IFCA's. Dr Bolt advised among the issues being considered in relation to bass management was whether the best route to go down would be to introduce a byelaw or amend the Statutory Instrument.

These issues along with trying to find funding for VMS were some of the workstreams being undertaken by AIFCA.

The Chair thanked Dr Bolt for the work he was doing on behalf of IFCA's.

**EIFCA15/34 Item 12: Review of MMO Appointee selection process**

Mr David Abbott, Head of Compliance, for the MMO gave members a verbal summary of the process undertaken to allocate new members to IFCA's.

At the end of the initial 4 year period since the inception of IFCA's there had been 83 vacant places to fill for which there were 108 applications. 63 previous members had applied of which 59 were reappointed. The main difficulty in reappointing was to maintain continuity whilst keeping a good balance of experience and fresh ideas.

Following the recruitment phase 6 vacancies remained which would hopefully be filled by the summer.

Mr Abbott advised that whilst this process had been achieved with no disruption to the service of IFCA's it was acknowledged it needed to be more streamlined in the future which was why staggering the length of service had been introduced.

Cllr Goldson advised that EIFCA had requested a second RSA representative which had not been achieved nor had a representative from Suffolk he questioned what steps could be taken to address this in future.

Mr Abbott advised they could only recruit from those who had applied, perhaps encouragement could be given to those who may be thinking of applying in future.

The CEO appreciated in future encouragement could be given but he also felt it was the responsibility of MMO representatives to get in touch with members from Suffolk in order to ensure the points of view of that sector are considered at future meetings.

Mr Pinborough added that he was disappointed that all the consultation which had taken place had not resulted in a proper balance particularly as he had written and expressed his concerns and EIFCA had clearly set out which skill sets were needed on the Authority. He was particularly concerned as he knew another RSA representative had applied but was not given an interview, why were posts filled with inappropriate people.

Mr Worrall referred to the appraisal process and advised that he felt it important to get the appraisal system in place before the next round of MMO Appointee memberships expired.

Mr Abbott advised that there was a need to balance the skills with the work of the committee and also to ensure appointees were able to function well on a committee. He further advised that the appraisal system was not there to ask members to step down but to ensure that reappointment could be agreed to if it was appropriate at the end of a term, without going through the recruitment process.

Mr Shaul advised that Mr Pinborough should not see commercial fishermen as just that, he had previously been a RSA and was supportive of that sector. The Chair advised all members should be there to represent the Authority as a whole for the good of the IFCA by working together.

Mr Spray was also surprised there were no additional members from the conservation sector he felt it put a heavy load on those who were single representatives of a specific sector. Mr Abbott advised some were interviewed but each IFCA had different requirements.

The question was raised whether additional members could be recruited which the CEO advised would involve a review of legislation.

Mr Abbott was thanked for attending the meeting.

**EIFCA15/35 Item 13: Cefas Observer programme – Norfolk Coast potting vessels**

Mr Robin Masefield from Cefas shellfish team gave members a brief summary of the Piecrust project which had been running for 3 years and involved the study brown crab and lobster.

The project was divided into three parts which included modelling – to bring workstreams together, growth element – monitoring the growth of crab and lobster kept in cages to get a better idea of growth rates, recruitment – putting together methodology to track year class strengths.

The project was using the North Norfolk fishery as a case study, if the methodology worked out the project would be rolled out to other IFCA's.

Part of the project would also be observer surveys, in order to achieve these fishermen were being asked to allow observers onto vessels during the summer so that the bycatch could be assessed.

The project had one further year to run, it was anticipated the data collection would be finished in September with the project written up by April 2016. Hopefully the outcome would inform on recruitment for the future.

Mr Davies advised that he did not believe it would be possible for the bycatch to be retained on-board as the vessel would not hold it, he suggested measuring samples would be more applicable. He felt that before drawing up the plan a trip should be made to sea to ascertain what would be practical.

*1140 hrs – the meeting stopped for a 10 minute break*

**EIFCA15/36 Item 14: Whelk Emergency Byelaw**

The DCEO began by reminding members of the history of this issue and reminded them that at the meeting in January a decision had been reached to put in place an Emergency Byelaw which would address the matter for a 12 month period whilst a permanent byelaw was being drawn up.

Following a quick informal consultation a draft emergency byelaw had been developed and was now put to members for consideration. The aim of the byelaw was to prevent any further increases in effort, either vessel or pot numbers.

The main heading of the informal consultation included Permit charges, returns forms, increase in MLS, increase in riddle size, escape hatches and pot limitation. Some of these matters seemed immediately acceptable however some were more contentious. Escape hatches were not readily accepted but members were advised that KEIFCA had scientific evidence to support this request. Pot limitation also raised concerns as it was felt this would have a disproportionate effect on larger vessels. However the DCEO felt a 500 pot limit was the best option as there had been more comments to say 500 was too many than had been received to say 500 was not enough.

Legal advice had been sought on the wording of the proposed byelaw and it was believed the byelaw would stand up to legal challenge.

Members took time to consider the byelaw questioning levels of bycatch, and whether or not crab and lobster fishermen would be able to land whelk.

There was also concern as to how whelk caught outside 6nm would be treated as this could cause a carriage issue if they were below the MLS, Mr Stipetic offered his assistance with considering this issue if required.

Mr Davies was quite concerned about several of the proposals particularly the cost implications as for generations there had been no charge for whelk fishing, and the introduction of escape hatches which he felt would only allow whelks to enter through the hole and on soft ground would fill with silt. He also expressed concern at the proposals for making gear as he felt it would become costly when pots were lost and additional tags would have to be purchased, in addition to the cost he felt the reflective tape on gear would make lifeboat searches difficult as it would appear very similar to a lifejacket, therefore making it a safety issue. Mr Davies did acknowledge there was a need for a cap on effort but felt that some of the proposals were unacceptable; he was also disappointed that despite attending a meeting with the CEO and DCEO none of the concerns raised had been addressed.

The CEO reminded Mr Davies that as he was part of EIFCA he was equally responsible for any decisions made, and reminded members that they have a statutory duties under MACAA to deliver. He also advised that under

MACAA EIFCA were empowered to recover funds to recoup to the public purse which was what permitting charges would be in place to reflect. Members were advised by the CEO that the byelaw was a suite of measures which would be sustainable.

The DCEO advised that escape holes were in place in KEIFCA and were seen to be working. He advised that the average catch in a whelk pot was 2kg which did not represent a completely full pot with no movement, he also advised that if the escape hole was relatively high up the side of the pot it would not allow whelks to feed from outside.

Mr Garnett accepted there was a need to reduce the MLS and introduce a minimum bar space to riddles however he wondered whether use of reflective tape when marking the gear should be reconsidered.

The CEO advised that by requesting properly marked gear it would assist enforcement efforts distinguishing the bona-fide fishermen from those fishing illegally.

The DCEO advised that the requirement was only replicating the MCA/RYA guidelines, and if a distinct method of marking gear was not established EIFCA officers would be hauling a lot of gear.

Mr Williamson advised that his factory relied heavily on whelks so accepted sustainability of the fishery was a priority. In his opinion this could be done by controlling the landing of undersize whelk which would protect the stock, introducing a closed season, and applying measures to all whelks landed in the district not just those caught inside 6nm, which would help to deter the nomadic vessels.

The DCEO advised that a closed season had been considered but it was felt it would have no effect and there was no evidence to support it, but accepted it could be considered in the longer term.

Mr Shaul felt more pressure was being put on the fishery as a result of vessels putting pots to sea in an attempt to claim compensation from Dong Energy which was affecting the landing figures. The CEO acknowledged this may be the case but added that now they had started fishing if they were getting a return they would be unlikely to stop therefore EIFCA needed to preserve the viability of the local industry.

Mr Stipetic added that the MMO were looking at the remaining eligibility of u10 metre vessels which hadn't caught crab or lobster in recent years with a new to removing their eligibility to pursue that fishery, which may have the effect of them moving over to whelk fishing

Following comprehensive discussion of the proposed byelaw Councillor Goldson sought an amendment to the proposal, to have the need for escape holes removed from the management measures. Whilst this was seconded by Mr Shaul the vote was not carried. Therefore the original proposal was put forward for consideration.

**Members Resolved to introduce the emergency byelaw for the protection of whelk.**

**Proposed: Mr Pinborough**

**Seconded: Cllr Turner**

**With only 3 votes against the proposal and 0 abstentions the vote was carried**

**EFICA15/37 Item 15: Meeting of the Planning and Communications Sub-Committee held on 25 February 2015**



Members were advised that during the meeting the Annual Plan for 2015-16, the Communications report 2014-15 and the Corporate Communication plan 2015-16 were all approved.

The CEO advised that the Annual Plan would inform the work flow for the coming financial year and the Corporate Communication Plan would ensure the officers continued to be seen and heard, the emphasis for this year would be to target schools.

**EIFCA15/38 Item 16: Payments made and monies received during the period 1st January 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

Members were advised that the fluctuation for month 12 was largely due to the refit on Three Counties which was approximately £40,000, as well as periodic bills which were paid quarterly such as insurances

Mr Worrall questioned whether the £40,000 had been anticipated for the refit. The Head of Finance advised that in line with the refit for the previous year £35,000 had been budgeted but this had been slightly higher due to the issue with the cooling system being addressed.

**Members Resolved to approve payments of £401,733.10 and receipts of £36,368.02 during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.**

**Proposed: Cllr Goldson**

**Seconded: Mr Stipetic**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/39 Item 17: Quarterly Management Accounts**

This paper compared the actual expenditure to that budgeted. It was noted that this financial year the expenditure had been much closer to budget than in previous years. The main variances were due to savings on salaries when the Authority had been operating without a full complement of staff, additional spending on mobile phones and the cost of conference calls, as well as some costs being put against alternative allocations would have slightly skewed some of the figures under budget headings.

Whilst not the final figures for the year these figures represented a close resemblance to those which would actually form the end of year figures.

**Members Agreed to note the Quarterly Management Accounts.**

**EIFCA15/40 Item 18: Payment of Expenses to MMO Appointees**

Members were asked to consider whether or not expenditure payments should continue to be made to MMO Appointees when attending Authority meetings.

Mr Morgan felt this item should be referred to the F&P Sub-Committee for a small increase to be given consideration. He felt this might offer encouragement for fishermen from further south to consider applying to be part of EIFCA.

**Members Resolved to continue payment of expenses until the next review at the equivalent meeting in 2016. A review of the level of expenses would be carried out by the F&P sub-committee.**

**Proposed: Mr Morgan**

**Seconded: Mr Garnett**

**All Agreed**

1320 hrs – At this point the meeting stopped for lunch to reconvene at 1400 hrs

## **EIFCA15/41 Item 19: Wash Lay Applications Update**

*Mr Garnett declared an interest and was advised he could speak on the matter but not vote.*

The project officer advised that Ministerial consent had been received for lays in excess of 10 hectares.

With regard to other outstanding lay applications it was felt the two on Wrangle Sand and one labelled TH6 had met all the EIFCA criteria for lay ground.

However, two others had not. The area proposed for TH10 had been set with cockle spat in one corner and it was suggested that lay could be given consent providing the boundary was moved away from the cockle spat, which the applicant was in agreement with.

TH9 was set with wild cockle and it was suggested that this lay should not be given consent to go ahead.

Mr Garnett advised that the area covered by TH9 and TH10 had in the past been turned down for lays because it had historically been set with cockles. With regard to TH10 he advised that the spat would spread off slightly so there needed to be a boundary in place to allow for this.

Members also considered the amalgamation of lay holders to form a partnership and two companies.

### **Members Resolved to:**

- **Agree to approve lays W1, W2 and TH6ext pending Natural England advice and ministerial consent.**  
**Proposed: Mr Worrall**  
**Seconded: Cllr Turner**  
**All Agreed**
  
- **Agree to approve the lay TH10 as modified pending Natural England advice and ministerial consent.**  
**Proposed: Mr Morgan**  
**Seconded: Dr Bolt**  
**All Agreed**
  
- **Agree NOT to approve lay TH9 on the grounds that it fails to meet the provisions of the WFO (1992).**  
**Proposed: Mr Spray**  
**Seconded: Mr Stipetic**  
**All Agreed**
  
- **Agree to consent the partnership between Ms C Oaks, Mr John Lake and Mr John Witt and John Lake Shellfish Ltd under Article 6(6) of the WFO (1992)**  
**Proposed: Mr Morgan**  
**Seconded: Mr Worrall**  
**All Agreed**
  
- **Agree to consent the partnership between Mr Richard Bagley and Mr Mick Jackson under Article 6(6) of the WFO (1992)**

**Proposed: Mr Morgan  
Seconded: Mr Stipetic  
All Agreed**

- **Agreed to consent the partnership between Mr Neil Lake and Merlinward Limited under Article 6(6) of the WFO (1992)  
Proposed: Cllr Goldson  
Seconded: Mr Shaul  
All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/42 Item 20: Project Inshore stage 3**

The CEO advised that Project Inshore provided a road map for inshore fisheries and the project was now putting forward those suitable for MSC accreditation, having met the objectives.

Members were advised that the handwork cockle fishery would get MSC accreditation if the industry were to request it.

Both the pink and brown shrimp fisheries were already undergoing the process.

In terms of other fisheries in the district the CEO felt these were already being managed sustainably or steps were being put in place for them to be.

Stage 4 of the project would be looking for other fisheries to be taken forward for accreditation, the crab and lobster fisheries had been put forward for consideration.

**Members Agreed to note the report and that Eastern IFCA should adopt a supporting role if the local industry wished to proceed to MSC full accreditation for Wash cockle.**

**Proposed: Cllr Goldson  
Seconded: Mr Spray  
All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/43 Item 21: Compliance Risk Register and Enforcement Plan 2015-16**

Members were advised a Risk Register for enforcement had been developed based on a combination of statistical knowledge and local information.

Mr Pinborough was pleased to see this reflected 10% RSA catch but expressed concern about the difference between MMO and IFCA landing stats, he hoped some work would be done to standardise the information gathering process. The DCEO advised there would be some investigation into introducing formal measures for data collection and acknowledged there were some data flaws but still felt the outcome was right.

Mr Davies advised it was possible to sell up to 25kg of shellfish without having to report it.

With reference to the Enforcement Plan members were advised enforcement could be applied if necessary but the aim was for compliance. Communication with officers took place in the form of a weekly TCG meeting during the summer and fortnightly meetings during the winter, these allowed for any emerging issues to be picked up and priorities addressed.

The DCEO advised this was the first attempt at an enforcement plan which would be refined with experience.

**Members Agreed to adopt both the Compliance Risk Register and Annual Enforcement Plan for the 2015-16 financial year.**

**Proposed: Dr Bolt**

**Seconded: Mr Garnett**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/44 Item 22: Annual Research Report 2014-15**

Previously the Research Report had been one large report detailing the research throughout the year, which had become quite bulky.

The report had been made into discreet subject reports for each project, all of which were available on the website and would be published closer to the actual date of the survey.

**Members Agreed to note the report.**

**EIFCA15/45 Item 23: Research and Environment Plan 2015-16**

The draft was put forward for consideration by members. The Plan set out the core project for both the Research and Environment teams with a section provided to show how much time would be spent on each project.

The amount of work achievable had been limited to available time with 80% of the research time available being spent on core projects leaving only 20% for discretionary projects such as the Mussel Regeneration Project. These projects were also guided by other structures in place such as the Annual Plan.

**Members Agreed to approve the Research and Environment Plan 2015-16.**

**Proposed: Mr Worrall**

**Seconded: Cllr Goldson**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/46 Item 24: FPV Sebastian Terelinck Naming Ceremony**

Members were aware that a further protection vessel was being purchased by the Authority, which would be named after a serving officer who died in 1913. The CEO proposed the vessel should be named in conjunction with the King's Lynn Heritage Day on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Mr Garnett advised there were two Sebastian Terelincks at the time and it was his belief it was the younger one not the older one which had died at sea. The CEO advised he would investigate this.

Cllr Goldson agreed in principle to this date but advised he would not be available to attend.

**Members Resolved to approve the plan to conduct the naming ceremony in King's Lynn coincident with the planned Heritage Day with a budget of up to £3500 to fund the event.**

**Proposed: Cllr Goldson**

**Seconded: Mr Morgan**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/47 Item 25: Horsehoe Point cockle fishery**

Members were advised that historically any cockle spat which settled in this area was carried away during the winter. The previous winter had been an exception and the spat had stayed in place. Class A Water classification for this fishery given, meaning there was now the potential for this stock to be fished.

The area to be fished was only approachable by land which was a concern for NE as the area was salt marsh.

Emma Thorpe advised that the main concern was access over the salt marsh as NE were conscious this would have a long term effect. There was also concern about the bird disturbance as the fishery would take place at peak bird time and could have an effect on the food availability. Investigation had highlighted an area where track could be laid for a period of 4-6 weeks if permission was given by the landowners. Further investigation into the effect opening the fishery may have on the bird population was being carried out by local bird experts.

Mr Brewster enquired whether NE had looked at fisheries in Wales which are only accessible by land to see how they manage to open the fishery. Emma advised the issues at Horseshoe Point were the access over Salt Marsh which was different to other areas where cockles are accessed by land.

Mr Garnett questioned whether cockles would be opened for fishing on both sides of the run as he felt there was no easy way of crossing the run so access would be needed from both the south and north. The SRO advised most of the cockle was on one side of the run, and he believed the water classification only applied to the southern side.

**Members Agreed to note the report and directed the CEO to open the fishery by appropriate means if it is viable to do so.**

**Proposed: Mr Morgan**

**Seconded: Mr Shaul**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/48 Item 26: Quarterly progress against Annual Plans**

This was a matter for information. Members Agreed to note the report.

**EIFCA15/49 Item 27: Update of HR Activity**

This was a matter for information. Members Agreed to note the report

**EIFCA15/50 Item 28: Marine Protection Quarterly Reports**

The DCEO advised that the role of Marine Protection was to be reviewed over the next 6 month period.

Vessels:

*FPV John Allen* was back from Northern Ireland having been modified. The utility of this vessel had been significantly expended as a result there would be diminishing sea time for *RV Three Counties* and a review would begin into what to do with the vessel.

Mr Shaul questioned whether *FPV John Allen* would be used to haul pots, the DCEO advised that *FPV Sebastian Terelinck* would be capable of hauling pots but the intention was only to lift the first one, two or three, not whole shanks. However, before any pots were hauled how KEIFCA operate would be looked into and hopefully the crew would go out with some industry members for guidance.

The build of *FPV Sebastian Terelinck* was progressing with the hull have been moulded, it was expected to be complete in July.

This was a matter for information. Members Agreed to note the report.

**EIFCA15/51 Item 29: Senior Research Officer and Senior Marine Environment Officer quarterly reports**

This was a matter for information. Members Agreed to note the report.

**EIFCA15/52 Item 30: Any Other Business**

No other items had been raised for discussion

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1500 hours.