



## **EIFCA Statutory Meeting**

**To be held at:**

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

**28 October 2015**

**1030 hours**

Meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> Eastern IFCA Meeting  
Date: 28 October 2015  
Time: 10:30 hours  
Venue: The Boathouse Business Centre,  
1 Harbour Square, Nene Parade,  
Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 3BH



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

### **Agenda**

- 1 Welcome by the Chairman
- 2 Acceptance of apologies
- 3 Declaration of Members' interests

### **Action items**

- 4 To receive and approve as a true record, minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Eastern IFCA Meeting, held on 3 June 2015 - *Chair*
- 5 Matters arising – *Chair/Acting CEO*
- 6 To receive and approve as a true record, minutes of the Extraordinary Eastern IFCA Meeting held on 21 August 2015 - *Chair*
- 7 Matters arising – *Chair/Acting CEO*
- 8 To receive a report to consider Health and Safety risks and mitigation – *Acting CEO*
- 9 Annual Report 2014-15 – *Acting CEO*
- 10 IFCA and MMO Joint working – *Acting CEO*
- 11 Proposed High Level Objectives – *Acting CEO*
- 12 Payments made and monies received during the period July 2015 to September 2015 - *Hd Fin*
- 13 Quarterly Management Accounts – *Hd Fin*
- 14 Meeting of the Finance and Personnel sub-committee 15 Oct 2015 - *Hd Fin/Hd HR*
- 15 Wash Cockle Fishery 2015 – *Acting CEO*
- 16 Review of Wash Fishery Order management policies – *SRO*
- 17 Review of Wash Fishery Order Regulations and Policy Notes – *Project Officer*
- 18 Wash Fishery Order Cost Recovery – *Hd Fin*
- 19 Community Voice Project - *MEO*
- 20 Calendar of meetings to October 2016 – *Acting CEO*
- 21 *To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for item 22 on the grounds*

*that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act*

- 22 Full authority approval for New Salary Structure – *Hd Fin*

**Information items**

- 23 Quarterly progress against Annual Plan – Acting CEO

- 24 Marine Protection Quarterly reports:

- a) Area Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers:  
a. Area 1 - Donna Nook to Kings Lynn  
b. Area 2 – King’s Lynn to Lowestoft  
c. Area 3 – Lowestoft to Stour/Orwell

- b) Skippers:  
a. *RV Three Counties*  
b. *FPV John Allen*  
c. *FPV Sebastian Terelinck*

- 25 Marine Environment Quarterly Reports:

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

- 26 HR update of activity

**Any other urgent business**

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

J. Gregory  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
13 October 2015

## 19th 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 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 at 1000 hours.

### Members Present:

Cllr Tony Goldson	Chair	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Hilary Cox	Vice Chair	Norfolk County Council
Shane Bagley		MMO Appointee
Roy Brewster		MMO Appointee
John Davies		MMO Appointee
Conor Donnelly		Natural England Representative
Cllr Richard Fairman		Lincolnshire County Council
Paul Garnett		MMO Appointee
Ian Hirst		Environment Agency
Representative		
Ceri Morgan		MMO Appointee
Tom Pinborough		MMO Appointee
Keith Shaul		MMO Appointee
Rob Spray		MMO Appointee
John Stipetic		MMO representative
Cllr Tony Turner MBE JP		Lincolnshire County Council
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)
Julian Gregory (DCEO)	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Jason Byrne	IFCO

### Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

### EIFCA15/53 Item 1: Welcome by Clerk

The Clerk welcomed members to the meeting.

### EIFCA15/54 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllrs Baker (Norfolk County Council) and Patience (Suffolk County Council) and Dr Bolt (MMO Appointee).

### EIFCA15/55 Item 3: Declarations of Members Interest

Messrs Brewster, Bagley, Garnett and Williamson declared an interest in items on the agenda in line with the declarations already held by the Clerk

**EIFCA15/56 Item 4: Election of Chair of the Authority**

As the term of office for the current Chair had come to a conclusion the Clerk advised a new Chair needed to be chosen from amongst the elected members.

**It was Resolved that Cllr Tony Goldson be elected to the position of Chair of EIFCA.**

**Proposed: Cllr Cox**

**Seconded: Cllr Turner**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/57 Item 5: Election of Vice Chair of the Authority**

Cllr Goldson took the Chair and thanked Cllr Cox for the excellent work she had done in the role of Chair during the previous 2 years.

**It was Resolved that Cllr Cox be elected to the position of Vice Chair of EIFCA.**

**Proposed: Chair**

**Seconded: Cllr Turner**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/58 Item 6: Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> EIFCA Meeting, held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Members agreed to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings.**

**Proposed: Mr Worrall**

**Seconded: Mr Shaul**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/59 Item 7: Matters Arising**

15/47 HORSESHOE POINT COCKLE FISHERY: The CEO reminded members that these cockles had survived the winter and there was sufficient stock for a fishery. The position of these cockles meant they were not accessible by boat but would be suitable for a hand gathered fishery operated from landward.

There remained some stumbling blocks to opening the fishery one of which was agreement between the fishing industry and the leaseholder of the land, which would need to be crossed to access the fishery, with regard to payment for that access.

There was also concern that the area which needed to be crossed was protected salt marsh. Any damage to this area would need to be rectified and someone needed to accept liability for such damage. The CEO asked whether, in principle, the Authority be willing to act as financial guarantor for reparation of any damage caused to the saltmarsh by the fishing activity. In addition, there was a bid from the local fishing industry for EIFCA to sponsor for the installation of a roadway at a cost of £6-7,000. All costs/liabilities to the public purse would be recouped via a permitting scheme. There was no need to decide immediately and the issue could be further debated at the forthcoming Finance and Personnel sub-committee. These were matters being discussed with the King's Lynn and Boston

representatives, the CEO wished to stress that every effort was being made to ensure this fishing opportunity was exploitable.

**EIFCA15/60 Item 8: Wash Cockle Survey Methodology**

The CEO advised that due diligence required a review of existing practice to ensure efficiency and fitness for purpose. There had also been some criticism from King's Lynn Vessel Owners and Skippers Association about the methodology used by EIFCA to carry out cockle surveys. The paper had been prepared to provide members with details of the process and to advise that a review of the survey methodology and practice had been conducted.

The main findings from the review were:

- The surveys needed to be carried out as part of EIFCA's duties under the WFO 1992 and statutory Birds and Habitat regulations.
- The surveys could be conducted on any tide but were constrained by neap tides. The most efficient practices were to co-ordinate activity with spring tides.
- Any reduction in the number of survey station samples would have a direct correlation to the accuracy of the data.
- Significant efficiencies had been achieved by digitising the processing of raw survey data on board the Research vessel at the time of collection which effectively saved a week of office based effort.
- The current method used for collecting, processing and interpreting cockle survey data was a distillation of best practice gained from over 20 years experience.

Members were advised the current round of surveys had met with concern that they had been carried out too early, as surveying later would have found more adult stock allowing for a larger TAC. This was however, counterbalanced with the fact that later surveys would mean later opening dates for the fishery.

The frequency of sample sites was also questioned, moving the sites closer together would effectively mean either less sands would be surveyed or the surveys would take twice as long which would be a disproportionate amount of time to spend on the cockles.

The SRO advised members that various surveying options had been looked at but there were risks attached to each one. As the method currently being employed by EIFCA used to be used by CEFAS and as other bodies asked EIFCA for advice on how they carry out surveys the current method was considered to be best practice.

Members discussed the implications of changing surveying methods and dates but felt the current method should continue to be used.

**Members Resolved to**

- **Note that the current survey methodology reflected the best practice and was recognised nationally as an**

**appropriate means to gather stock abundance data, and**

- **Agree that the current survey methodology should be maintained.**

▪

**Proposed: Mr Worrall**

**Seconded: Mr Garnett**

**All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/61 Item 9: 2015 Wash cockle fishery**

Prior to the presentation of the 2015 Wash cockle survey data the Chair thanked the SRO for the hard work and effort which had gone into completing the surveys and producing the data.

*At this point Mr Spray arrived*

The Senior Research Officer worked through the cockle surveys results and proposals for the fishery.

During the course of the surveys 1219 stations had been sampled over 21 beds. From the samples taken assessment was made of the cockle size, weight and frequency as well as a range of environmental data.

The level of adult stock was below average but there was estimated to be in excess of 19,000 tonnes of spat.

*At this point Mr Donnelly arrived*

A variety of proposals were put forward, amongst them was the proposal to protect year 0 spat as well as the proposal to open some areas later in the fishery to allow further growth to take place.

Members were advised that questionnaires had been circulated and a similar presentation had been made to local fishermen who had made suggestions where proposed closed areas could be amended without affecting the areas to be protected which the SRO felt in some cases were acceptable amendments.

*Tom Pinborough left the meeting at 1045 hrs*

Following the completion of the presentation members raised questions regarding the allocation of one third of adult cockle stocks being left untouched for feeding birds and how this calculation was reached. Mr Donnelly advised that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> is a rule of thumb which allowed a sustainable level for all parties. This level had been achieved following scientific investigation by Cefas. The SRO advised there were also safety measures in place to ensure food was available for the birds such as minimum thresholds for opening a fishery.

It was also questioned whether some of the spat could be included in the equation of thirds in exception years like this. Mr Donnelly reminded members that in previous years the risk of ridging out had been factored in and monitored with the option being available to open areas if this occurred. He also agreed to enquire whether in years when there was exception spat levels a large TAC could be applied.

Mr Bagley was concerned that the following year there was the potential for a large stock of adults of which only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> could be taken and the rest would be likely to be lost to 'atypical' mortality. Mr Donnelly again believed in those circumstances it was a possibility to monitor and open areas likely to be a risk of dying off due to disease.

Mr Williamson added that whilst he was amongst those who praise the work which had gone into the surveys he had some concerns with the proposals. He felt the Authority should be ensuring a Maximum Sustainable Yield from the cockle fishery. Each fisherman at sea represented 5-8 jobs ashore, for those to be maintained the fishermen need to be fishing. If the cockles were allowed to grow more each cockle would be worth more making the fishery more lucrative for all concerned, he would like to see a later opening time to allow that growth. However, Mr Williamson also respected the thoughts of other members of the industry.

During the presentation it was noted that some industry members had requested the fishery take place with a minimum 6.0m tide rather than the proposed 6.4m tide. Mr Worrall questioned what effect this would have.

The DCEO advised that in the past few years the fishery had opened with the 6.4m tide at the request of sectors of the industry. If this year the agreement was to open with a minimum 6.0m tide it would make working patterns more reasonable. With a view to balancing the needs of all within the fishery, a question was asked as to whether the smaller tides disadvantaged some vessels. Mr Garnett advised that a 6.0m tide meant there was less time for larger vessels to prop wash before settling on the sand, and on a larger tide there was less time to fish during the working day. Mr Bagley advised that the evening tide would need to be 6.0m as well as the morning tide.

Mr Davies questioned whether small tides would cause damage to the sands when vessels try to leave before sufficient water is available to float. Mr Garnett advised that the Code of Conduct states the vessel must be floating at anchor before moving off, if not, it is bad practice. In the event of evidence of damage the CEO would have the option to close the fishery.

Mr Worrall questioned how much stock was lost during the last winter and whether there was any correlation to the season. The SRO advised that historically survival of the first winter was critical, however since the onset of atypical mortality spat settlement seemed to have a biennial cycle. He believed that the cockle had already put so much effort into spawning that once it caught the disease it was unable to fight it and died.

Mr Garnett felt the NE winds keeping the spat in the Wash and milder winters were playing a part in spat survival.

Mr Donnelly questioned whether the cockles were still encountering as high levels of atypical mortality as they had originally. Mr Garnett advised that the previous year an area on Holbeach Sand had turned to shell between the survey and the

fishery opening, and a further bed had encountered slow die off to the point it was reduced to below the fishable density. The SRO added that in areas of small density it is not so noticeable until the surveys are carried out. He believed 2017 would be critical and felt there would be a lot of mortality on faster growing beds.

Mr Brewster advised that the last time there was good recruitment the fishermen took 6,000t and lost 20,000t. The 19,000t of spat currently in the Wash had the potential to become 30,000t he felt the beds needed to be monitored and if there was quick growth they should be fished.

The CEO was concerned there was not a lot of adult stock compared to the level of juveniles and questioned what effect it would have on the price if juveniles were targeted. Mr Williamson advised the juveniles would be bought but for a much lower price.

Members questioned how difficult it would be for vessels to stay away from the closed areas, the SRO would be able to provide positional data for plotters so these areas could be avoided.

Mr Morgan noted the proposal was for a four day fishery, Mon – Thurs, which would preclude work in the bombing ranges. The CEO advised that previously no effort had been put into fishing these areas however, it was always possible for fishermen to individually contact the range and enquire whether the area was available for fishing.

**Members Agreed to:**

**Note the content of the 2015 Wash cockle survey report.**

**Note the responses to Entitlement Holder consultation**

**Note the risks associated with hand worked harvest methods**

**Note that the results of the 2015 cockle survey indicated that there was only the potential to support a hand worked fishery. A dredge fishery or combination of both methods was not possible owing to stocks not meeting agreed WFO management policy thresholds.**

**Members Resolved to agree to a Total Allowable Catch of 2,079 tonnes.**

**Proposed: Mr Morgan**

**Seconded: Mr Worrall**

**All Agreed**

**Members Resolved to agree to open a hand worked fishery in accordance with the recommendations on a date to fit in with the most appropriate set of tides.**

**Proposed: Mr Morgan**

**Seconded: Cllr Turner**

**All Agreed**

**Members Resolved to delegate to the officers the task of determining opening times for the fishery based on preferences of Entitlement Holders, appropriate tides,**

**regular breaks in the fishery by operating a four day week and an extension to a five day week should atypical mortality be judged to be a significant factor.**

**Proposed: Mr Stipetic**

**Seconded: Cllr Fairman**

**All Agreed**

**Members Resolved to delegate powers to the CEO to immediately (without seven days' notice) close a fishery or parts of a fishery should malpractice and/or unacceptable levels of sediment damage be observed.**

**Proposed: Mr Worrall**

**Seconded: Cllr Turner**

**All Agreed**

**Members Resolved to delegate powers to the CEO to close the fishery when it was estimated the TAC had been exhausted.**

**Proposed: Mr Stipetic**

**Seconded: Mr Worrall**

**All Agreed**

**Members Resolved to delegate powers to the CEO to restrict access to cockle beds if juvenile stocks were judged to be disproportionately targeted.**

**Proposed: Mr Davies**

**Seconded: Mr Worrall**

**All Agreed**

#### **EIFCA15/52 Item 10: Any Other Business**

Mr Williamson questioned whether there would still be a standard bag for landing cockles. His initial thought was that by using the standard bag there would be no risk of prosecution for landing over weight cockles but as this was not the case he was unsure why there was a need for a standard bag. The DCEO advised that the WFO 1992 did not allow assessment by volume, to do so would require a change in the wording of the Order. In the interim landings must be assessed by weight. So whilst cockles must be landed in a standard bag the onus was still on the fisherman to ensure they got the weight right.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1145 hours.

## Extraordinary 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 Yours Business Networks, 18 Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn, PE30 1JW on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015 at 1000 hours.

### Members Present:

Cllr Tony Goldson	Chair	Suffolk County Council
Shane Bagley		MMO Appointee
Roy Brewster		MMO Appointee
Connor Donnelly		Natural England Representative
Cllr Richard Fairman		Lincolnshire County Council
Paul Garnett		MMO Appointee
Keith Shaul		MMO Appointee
Rob Spray		MMO Appointee
Cllr Tony Turner MBE JP		Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Margaret Wilkinson		Norfolk County Council
Stephen Worrall		MMO Appointee

### Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

Philip Haslam	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Julian Gregory (DCEO)	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer

### Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

### EIFCA15/53 Item 1: Welcome by Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for turning up at short notice.

### EIFCA15/54 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Messrs Bolt, Davies, Morgan, Pinborough and Williamson (Defra Appointees), Cllrs Cox (Norfolk CC) and Patience (Suffolk CC) and Mr Stipetic (MMO Representative) and Dr Hirst (EA Representative)

### EIFCA15/55 Item 3: Declarations of Members Interest

Messrs Bagley, Brewster and Garnett advised they had an interest in the item for discussion, relating to the Wash cockle fishery.

### EIFCA15/56 Item 4: Contingency management measures for the 2015 Wash cockle fishery

The Senior Research Officer reminded members that the Wash cockle fishery had previously been discussed in June when proposed management measures were based on the survey results available at that time.

Members were advised that when considering the management measures for a fishery there was always the need to balance the present fishery with future fisheries, attempting to take into account growth, mortality and other factors. Inevitably this was a difficult task as there were a lot of variables involved.

Individual beds have differing growth rates which can be seen in trends over previous years, whilst this does not make it possible to predict growth rates it does allow a rotation of beds being exploited in the Wash.

Two main causes of mortality in cockles are the effect of ridging out when juveniles grow to adults and space becomes sparse and the atypical mortality which had been experienced during recent years. Both these scenarios make it difficult to accurately predict for future fisheries.

At the previous meeting in June it had been predicted that the current season would be a poor fishery, however, this had not taken account of the exceptional growth of year 0 stock on the Roger/Toft sand. The growth witnessed this year of a scale that would normally be expected over a two year period had resulted in risk that the stock on this sand was in danger of being lost due to ridging out.

The SRO advised that the annual TAC had been based on 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the adult stock at the time of the survey which had resulted in a relatively low TAC. At this point the TAC was almost exhausted but there were still a lot of sizeable cockles available which would be lost if they were not fished. He believed it would be possible to allow further exploitation of the fishery during this season without affecting the sustainability of the stock.

The Authority is not resourced to carry out a further full survey of the beds in the Wash which made it impossible to scientifically calculate what additional level of exploitation could be permitted. The SRO therefore suggested ring fencing the Roger/Toft sand away from the agreed TAC so that anything caught from this bed was not considered part of the TAC. The original 159t of adult stock contributed to the initial TAC from this bed would also be removed leaving the remaining 1920 tonnes to be exploited from other sands. He then advised that the Roger/Toft sand could be sustainably fished down to a level where the density of cockles would make it no longer viable for fishing to take place, which he believed would enhance this bed for future fisheries and prevent a large amount of stock dying off.

Mr Worrall questioned whether there was any known reason for this exceptional growth rate, however, the SRO advised the temperature was not exceptional and food availability had not altered so he could not explain this growth spurt.

Mr Shaul expressed his concern as to how the level of fishing on the Roger/Toft sand would be monitored and how EIFCA would ascertain that stocks had reached a sustainable level. The SRO advised once the fishermen had difficulty gathering their daily quota then it would be considered time to close the bed. Mr

Brewster seconded this by advising that once the vessels could not earn enough they would stop fishing.

The CEO reminded members that the statutory duties of the Authority detailed in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 are to maintain a sustainable fishery and support the viability of local industry. The exceptional management measures proposed would deliver both these remits. He also advised that NE had been contacted and had indicated they support the proposed option.

The CEO also emphasised that if the decision was taken it would not be altering the agreed TAC at all it would merely accommodate exceptional circumstances. He wanted it recognised that it would not set a precedent to have additional surveys and inflated TACs as a standard option during a cockle season.

The CEO advised that this process had been achieved through co-operation with both the industry and NE, who had been particularly expedient in considering the option, which he felt should be commended.

With regard to enforcing the fishery the CEO advised the officers would be monitoring the sands vessels were fishing and landings in excess of two tonnes per day would not be tolerated.

The DCEO questioned whether members would like to make the decision at this time that no further variation would be made to this fishery regardless of whether any further exceptional growth was identified.

**Members Resolved to:**

- **Note that there had been exceptional cockle growth on a discrete sand with the Wash.**
- **Note that there was an opportunity to support the viability of the local fishing industry without hazarding the sustainability of the cockle stock.**
- **Agree to Option 2**
- **Agree that previous delegations to the CEO regarding the Wash cockle fishery 2015 remain in force.**
- **Delegate powers to the CEO to close the Roger sand when it was judged that it was no longer offering a viable fishing opportunity.**
- **Direct the CEO to implement Option 2 with immediate effect.**

**Proposed: Mr Shaul  
Seconded: Mr Worrall  
All Agreed**

**EIFCA15/57 Item 5: Any Other Business**

No other items had been raised for discussion

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1027 hours.

### Vision

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



## Action Item 8

### 21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

28 October 2015

#### **Health and Safety risks and mitigation**

**Report by:** J. Gregory, Acting CEO

#### **Purpose of report**

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

#### **Recommendations**

**It is recommended that members:**

- **Note the contents of this report**

#### **Background**

H&S law mandates through the general duty of employers to their employees that it shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees<sup>1</sup>.

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

#### **Incidents**

During the last reporting two periods (April to Sept inclusive) the following incidents have occurred:

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 an officer was assisting with recovering *FPV Pisces* aboard *RV Three Counties* and as a consequence of the activity suffered pain and stiffness in the lower back.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 an officer was helping to erect the gazebo at an outreach event when it was affected by the wind and blew over, causing a laceration and bruising to the shin. Securing stops have been introduced and the gazebo is no longer erected in strong winds.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 an officer was working aboard *FPV John Allen* and as he turned to get out of the navigators seat he hit the top of my left knee in to the underside / corner of the desk. This resulted in bruising and pain to the knee. It is intended to modify the desk at the first opportunity.

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<sup>1</sup> HSAW Act 1974 c. 37 Part I General duties Section 2

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 *FPV Pisces* was involved in a collision with the dock wall at Sutton Bridge. The vessel was estimated to be travelling at circa 20 knots and as a consequence of the collision a crew member suffered minor injuries (cuts to left thumb and a bump to bridge of nose). The vessel was effectively 'written off' as a consequence of the incident. A full investigation was undertaken and the outcome reported to the Finance & Personnel sub-committee.

On 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 an officer was working on the deck of *RV Three Counties* when he caught his knee on a winch. He suffered some pain and discomfort but no serious injury was sustained.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 there was a near miss when officers were deploying a settlement plate from *FPV John Allen*. On lowering the settlement plate to the sea bed using the A-frame the plate was dropped down over the stern and tilt arm on the a-frame was then bent a result of the weight of the plate. There were no injuries as a consequence of this incident.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 there was a near miss when officers got the Isuzu 4x4 vehicle stuck on intertidal mudflats at Freiston shore, Lincolnshire whilst preparing to undertake research activity. The officers were unable to free the vehicle, which was subsequently submerged by the incoming tide. No officers were injured. The vehicle is a total loss and an investigation into the circumstances is underway.

There have been two further incidents involving minor damage to property but neither involved any danger or injury to staff.

### **Risks**

Members would wish to be aware of the H & S risks at Appendix 2.

### **Conclusion**

Members can be re-assured that health and safety matters are given appropriate consideration by the Executive and management teams.

Appendix:

1. Eastern IFCA Health and Safety risks Oct 2015

## Eastern IFCA Health and Safety risks October 2015

Risk	Intervention	Residual Risk	Risk rating* (Current)	Risk rating* (Previous)
Physical fitness of personnel to undertake arduous duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff briefing</li> <li>• Management overview to ensure rostered duties are appropriate and achievable</li> <li>• Routine periodic medical assessment (ML5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual health fragilities</li> <li>• Individual lifestyle choice</li> </ul>	<b>Treat</b>	<b>Treat</b>
Unreported incidents/unilateral decisions with little regard for safe working practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• NCC H&amp;S officer led review of policy and procedure</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Equipment</li> <li>• Management systems to capture incidents</li> <li>• Routine agenda items at all meetings at all levels of Authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injury to personnel as a result of failure to acknowledge or adhere to H&amp;S direction and guidance</li> </ul>	<b>Treat</b>	<b>Treat</b>
Inappropriate conduct of vessels at sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• Briefings</li> <li>• Formal training and assessment</li> <li>• Periodic review of performance</li> <li>• Sharing lessons learned from <i>FPV Pisces</i> incident in July 15</li> <li>• Resume deployment of DCEO in a roving capacity Q4 15/16.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death/injury of personnel through un-seamanlike operation of vessels at sea</li> </ul>	<b>Treat</b>	<b>Treat</b>
Material state of Sutton Bridge moorings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe systems of work introduced to manage immediate risks including</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The material state of the moorings is in decline but firm plans</li> </ul>	<b>Treat</b>	<b>Treat</b>

	<p>improved lighting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers have driven an acceptance by agents that immediate repair is necessary to alleviate existing H&amp;S issues.</li> <li>• Authorisation received from F&amp;P sub committee to commit capital funds to support Fenland DC and Lincs CC initiative to establish new moorings in Sutton Bridge.</li> <li>• Moorings upgrade project expected to begin in Q1 FY 16/17.</li> </ul>	<p>to address safety issues are now in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of injury to personnel.</li> </ul>		
Whole Body Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk awareness training to manage impacts.</li> <li>• Health monitoring process to be developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal injury from boat movement owing to lower resilience as a result of individual physiology</li> </ul>	<b>Treat</b>	<b>Treat</b>
Lone working operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management scrutiny of any proposal for lone working.</li> <li>• Introduction of electronic support means</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure of devices to give requisite support.</li> <li>• Personnel interventions render devices unreliable or unworkable.</li> </ul>	<b>Tolerate</b>	<b>Tolerate</b>
Staff injury/long term absence through inappropriate posture at office work stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information.</li> <li>• Training.</li> <li>• Risk assessment.</li> <li>• Provision of suitable bespoke equipment where reasonable.</li> <li>• Access to NCC H&amp;S team.</li> <li>• Occupational health assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual failure to adhere to guidance</li> </ul>	<b>Tolerate</b>	<b>Tolerate</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KLWNBC H&amp;S specialist advice</li> </ul>			
Staff stress through exposure to unacceptable behaviour stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of Unacceptable Behaviour policy</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement plan and activity delivered in pursuit of corporate communications strategy.</li> <li>• Dialogue with Stakeholders to ensure appropriate tone of communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change in behaviour of some stakeholders.</li> <li>• Long term sickness caused by stakeholder hostility</li> </ul>	<b>Tolerate</b>	<b>Tolerate</b>
Damage to vehicles, trailers and/or equipment through inappropriate operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal trailer training for unqualified officers</li> <li>• Refreshers for those with previous experience</li> <li>• Periodic vehicle maintenance checks training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to adhere to training</li> <li>• Mechanical failure of vehicle or trailer</li> </ul>	<b>Tolerate</b>	<b>Tolerate</b>

\*

<b>Risk Rating</b>
High
Medium
Low

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

### **Vision**

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



### **Action Item 9**

#### **21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

28 October 2015

**Report by:** Julian Gregory, Acting CEO

#### **Annual Report 2014-2015**

#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to inform members that the Eastern IFCA's Annual Report 2014-2015 has been produced and has been approved by the Planning and Communications sub-committee (out of session).

#### **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the content of the Annual Report 2014-2015 and the approval of the Planning and Communication sub-committee.**
- **Direct the CEO to publish the report and distribute it to Defra**

#### **Background**

Defra mandates that Eastern IFCA produces an Annual Report. The Annual Report for 2014-2015 has been sent to the Chair and members of the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee for approval. The Authority is now asked to approve the annual report for 2013-2014. The Annual Report is attached as a separate file.

J. Gregory  
Acting CEO

## Vision

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



## Action Item 10

### **21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

28 October 2015

**Report by:** Julian Gregory, Acting CEO

### **IFCA and Marine Management Organisation Joint Working**

#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to inform members of a programme of work intended to bring IFCAs and the MMO closer together and to seek agreement for Eastern IFCA to participate in the programme.

#### **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Agree to the full engagement of Eastern IFCA in the joint working programme**

#### **Background**

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Prof Sam Evans CBE, Director, Defra Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Planning Division wrote to the Chiefs and Chairs of IFCAS, the Association of IFCAS and the MMO (Appendix 1). The letter followed a tri-partite meeting between Defra, MMO and IFCA and it initiated a piece of work aimed at identifying options for collaboration and joint working between IFCA and the MMO as part of a wider spending/cost saving review. The letter asked the respective organisations to 'define and develop opportunities for joint working, with a view to delivering efficiencies and savings to central government.' It was suggested that work should initially focus on the scoping of costed options, with co-enforcement and asset sharing as the core.

Following various meetings between the IFCA Chief Officer Group, the Association of IFCAs and senior MMO managers an interim response was sent to Defra on 12 June 2015 (Appendix 2). This identified that whilst there were opportunities to realise efficiencies and improve IFCA and MMO delivery capabilities by working more closely together it would be much more difficult to realise immediate cost savings. Several areas that might realise efficiency savings in the short to medium term were identified.

Further work was undertaken and on 7 August 2015 the final response was sent to Defra (Appendix 3). This identified a substantial programme of work comprising six areas that would 'go beyond the operational sharing of assets towards joint structures, systems and approaches which will be achieved through cultural change.' The secondment of the Eastern IFCA CEO to the MMO for six

months was cited as a clear indication of the commitment from all organisations to deliver far better integrated working between the organisations.

The letter also identified that more could be achieved through truly joined up working between a range of agencies within the marine sector within the Defra Marine Directorate. It was indicated that the MMO and IFCA have the appetite to go further than the scope of the current piece of work and would respond positively if there was a wider mandate from Defra to the other marine agencies. At a meeting of the Association of IFCAs on 23 September 2015 Prof Evans indicated that the Minister was receptive to the joint working agenda being pushed as far as it could be.

A Programme Management Board is being established to oversee the various workstream and the Acting CEO of Eastern IFCA is likely to be involved as a Senior Technical representative in his role as Chair of the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group. The CEO, Phil Haslam, will also be involved in his current role as Director of Operations in the MMO.

J. Gregory  
Acting CEO

Appendix 1 – Letter from Prof Sam Evans  
Appendix 2 – Interim response to Prof Sam Evans  
Appendix 3 – Final response to Prof Sam Evans  
Annexe 1 to Appendix 3 – Joint work programme



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**John Tuckett**, CEO of the MMO  
**John Lamb**, Chair of the Association of IFCA's  
**Tim Robbins**, Chair IFCA Chief Officers Group  
**Andy Beattie**, MMO Chief Operating Officer  
**IFCA Chairs**  
**IFCA Chief Officers**

**12 May 2015**

By email only

Dear Colleague

#### **OPTIONS FOR JOINT WORKING BETWEEN IFCA's AND THE MMO**

At the Tripartite meeting in April I indicated that I would write to you to initiate a piece of work aimed at identifying options for collaboration and joint working between IFCA's and the MMO. You will recall this is one of the main recommendations of the MMO Triennial Review and the IFCA four year report, which Ministers have endorsed.

Following the general election, the new administration will be asking government departments to identify how they might deliver future savings. Our returning Secretary of State, Liz Truss, has already indicated her priorities include the Spending Review and reforming the organisational landscape, which aim to transform Defra into a more modern and efficient department which encourages economic growth and efficiently protects the environment. As part of this work Defra and its arms-length bodies will contribute to budget savings exercises commissioned by new Ministers.

Between the IFCA's and the MMO you have a number of enforcement and research staff and own assets used in day-to-day monitoring and fisheries enforcement work.

I would be grateful if the IFCA Association, the IFCA Chief Officers and the MMO Chief Executive and Senior Executive Team can now begin to define and develop opportunities for joint working, with a view to delivering efficiencies and savings to central government. Your work should initially focus on the scoping of costed options, with co-enforcement and asset sharing as the core.

I would be grateful if you can share an agreed scope and approach to this work by 15 June, with firm costed proposals by the end of July which we can then factor into a Spending Review led by new Ministers. Your scope should exclude considerations around organisational matters concerning the Defra network of arms-length bodies.

A copy of this letter has been sent to John Tuckett, CEO of the MMO; John Lamb in his capacity as Chair of the Association of IFCA's; Tim Robbins in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Officers Group; Andy Beattie; and all IFCA Chairs and Chiefs.

Yours sincerely

**Prof Sam Evans CBE**  
Defra Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Planning Division



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

Appendix 2 to Agenda item B6



To: Prof. Sam Evans CBE  
Defra, Sustainable Fisheries & Marine  
Planning Division

12 June 2015

Dear Sam,

#### **Options for joint working between IFCAs and the MMO**

Thank you for your letter of 12 May. Please accept this reply as a combined response from the Association of IFCAs, IFCA Chief Officers and the MMO. After receiving your letter, we held four meetings to explore how we might make efficiencies and develop collaborative working and we are now in a position to share our initial thoughts with you.

In the context of this work, it has to be understood that the IFCAs have a unique funding model in that the majority of funding comes from Local Authorities, with a valuable additional contribution through the New Burdens formula from Defra. The assets of the IFCAs are owned in many cases by the Local Authorities and the priorities set by the IFCAs have to be approved by the full Authority, which is made up of local representatives. The IFCAs are fully committed to closer partnership working with relevant organisations to deliver budget savings where possible.

However, there is undoubtedly a positive will between the IFCAs and the MMO to undertake greater collaboration and joint working, by building upon that which is already taking place and by giving it greater impetus and structure. This could include developing a shared culture and vision based on our joint responsibilities to promote sustainable fisheries and to protect the marine environment.

We see this being a gradual process moving from closer working initially, through to creating what might resemble a seamless organisation. The MMO is already starting to explore the capacity for joint working with a range of organisations with marine responsibilities, starting with the MCA and the IFCAs. We are also actively participating in the National Maritime Assets Co-ordination trial working in conjunction with the RN, UKBF, MCA, NCA and the NMIC. Later partnership working could include CEFAS, Natural England, JNCC, Environment Agency, UK Border Force, etc.

It is very clear that we can realise efficiencies and improve our delivery capabilities by working more closely together, recognising that the marine environment poses special challenges for regulators and managers. It is much harder to realise the capacity for cost savings, at least in the short term. The reason for this is that the regulatory responsibilities of the IFCAs and the MMO are undiminished. Indeed, they continue to grow and provide



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still further challenges for us, such as MPA management (and in particular the Defra revised approach), the CFP landings obligation and the new bass measures. In addition, the opportunities for cash savings when continuing with existing structures are very limited. For example MMO and IFCA staff could possibly travel together or represent each other at meetings. Whilst these immediate operational savings will be identified, they only offer very marginal cash savings in relation to departmental or organisational budgets. Real savings will only come through a different and more radical approach to joint working, accountabilities and responsibilities.

We have identified the following areas where collaboration and joint working can realise real efficiencies over the short to medium term. This can be taken forward as a programme of work and a number of the items have close linkages.

- **Accommodation sharing** – We are starting an exercise to identify office space and the capacity for co-location, hot desking, sharing meeting rooms, etc. Cornwall IFCA is already co-located with the MMO in Penzance and Southern IFCA is considering the possibility of co-locating with the Poole MMO as leases come up for renewal. The enclosed Annex shows some initial work undertaken by the IFCAs.
- **Potential functions for enhanced joint working and co-operation** – The IFCAs and MMO will consider what work can be absorbed within current resources and what can be done with resource transfer.

- We will explore the capacity for IFCAs to support MMO work functions more, including:

- i) control of fishing vessel activity to help address EC concerns (eg barrier patrolling to support the MMO's under 10m sampling plan, CFP pelagic reference fleet inspections, 6-12 miles limit patrolling),
- ii) MPA monitoring work in 0-12miles,
- iii) marine licensing inspections and applications in 0-12 miles and capacity for IFCAs to cost recover.

- We will explore the capacity for MMO officers to support enforcement of IFCA byelaws.

- IFCAs and MMO strongly support the introduction of fully monitored fisheries using technologies such as I-VMS. The I-VMS project is going through type approval testing at present and Devon & Severn IFCA is embarking upon an extensive trial that has the support of their local fishermen.

- **Training** – It is proposed to review the delivery of training for IFCOs and MEOs and the capacity for sharing burdens through cross-warranting, as well as developing common standards. This review will be linked with the ongoing work to roll-out recognised 'Skills for Justice' accreditation standards for IFCOs and MEOs, but this will not be deliverable by the end of July. The respective organisations may be able

to provide training free of charge to the other party, subject to ensuring any additional training burden can be adequately resourced as training schedules are already quite full.

- **Intelligence** – We will aim to provide for enhanced sharing of intelligence between the MMO and the IFCA's and the development of a common intelligence model. A project is about to start to develop and enhance the intelligence model used by the MMO and this will include engagement with the IFCA's. It will produce a revised series of enforcement co-ordination meetings to which IFCA's will be invited to participate. Better use and sharing of intelligence will lead to more effective planning, prioritisation and co-ordination of enforcement activity and this could lead to cost savings over time.
- **Enforcement systems upgrade** – The MMO's Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System (MCSS) is shared with the IFCA's, but it does not provide them with any outputs or adequately cover their byelaw and Regulating/Several Order work. Developing additional capacity to hold this information would lead to the likelihood of significant additional English enforcement activity being captured and reported. It is proposed to assign an IFCA representative to the MMO's Proteus IT systems upgrade project. This will lead to greater efficiencies over time and should raise inspection performance results overall. It will link back to the intelligence project.

In conclusion, both our organisations recognise the need and value in reviewing joint working. However, in the process of scoping this exercise, it has become clear that the output possible by the end of July represents the start of a much wider process. We will need to look more widely at opportunities and challenges facing the marine regulatory process, how this might affect the resources of the MMO and the IFCA's, and how it might link with other Defra initiatives.

We look forward to engaging with you and our other delivery partners in the near future.

We will ensure that you receive proposals by the end of July as requested in your original letter.

Yours sincerely,

John Tuckett (MMO Chief Executive)

Stephen Bolt (Chief Executive Association of IFCA's)

Andy Beattie (MMO Director of Operations)

Tim Robbins (Chair IFCA Chief Officers)

Annex 1: IFCA co-location snapshot

<b>IFCA</b>	<b>Current position</b>	<b>Potential co-location</b>
NIFCA	This does not happen; we work independently from our office in Blyth.	One or two MMO officers could sometimes work from the NIFCA office but that would not always be convenient as all work stations are often already filled. The MMO could potentially have room in the building where they operate from in North Shields to accommodate NIFCA. In theory a new Joint Office could be found but we are currently committed to the lease of 8 Ennerdale Road for the next 3 years or so.
NEIFCA	No co-location with MMO currently.	Limited or zero potential currently. NEIFCA is currently integrated and embedded with its lead local authority (and has been since 1996), East Riding of Yorkshire Council and shares accommodation, IT including databases, staffing and phone systems at preferential rates and levels of efficiency which could be unlikely to be replicated with another partner such as the MMO.
EIFCA	Nil	Eastern IFCA currently rents offices in King's Lynn and will be reviewing office accommodation arrangement in the next 18 months as the current lease approaches expiry. The opportunity to co-locate some staff with the MMO in Lowestoft is under active consideration.
K&EIFCA	KEIFCA has 2 offices at Ramsgate and Brightlingsea. MMO has an office in Hastings, Sussex (1 hour 45 mins from Ramsgate) a satellite office at Harwich (40 mins from Brightlingsea) and a main office at Lowestoft (2 hours).	Kent and Essex IFCA is one of the few organisations that is based around the Thames rather than uses the Thames as an organisational boarder. To this end we are at the south of the Eastern MMO district and the North of the Southern MMO district. Both the MMO main offices are outside our district.
SulIFCA	No significant co-location at present: Both MMO and IFCA have offices in Shoreham. An offer exists for MMO officers to utilise facilities such as meeting rooms if required and the wifi network can enable access via portable devices.	Sussex IFCA would be very willing to explore the opportunities to share office space. Further development of shared facilities would be good for the purpose of joint working. The central IFCA office has the greatest potential for a co-location site. The MMO Hastings office could provide a useful satellite facility for IFCA officers operating in the east of the District.

SoIFCA	none	Southern IFCA are looking to move in the medium term (2-5 years) we both have bases in Poole. We would welcome shared accommodation. We own property and have capital reserve, which could be used for this purpose. Co-location we feel would offer better levels of service.
D&SIFCA	Not at present. We do share meeting rooms with the MMO who have allowed us on numerous occasions to borrow their meeting rooms.	The MMO have two offices in our district. Their ability to move is restricted by Defra Estates There is no spare capacity within the MMO offices for IFCA officers to join them.
CIFCA	Cornwall IFCA, MMO and Cefas share a wing of a Cornwall Council building and we operate a shared reception service for visitors, staffed by CIFCA staff. This works exceptionally well as fishermen can resolve a range of queries for MMO and CIFCA during one visit and this has been commented upon very positively by stakeholders. Unfortunately the building is being demolished so efforts are being made to find alternative provision which will keep all three organisations together.	Every endeavour is being made to find alternative premises to maintain co-location of staff. There is an extremely limited supply of suitable office accommodation in west Cornwall of the type both organisations require, which may prove to be an issue.
IOSIFCA	There are no MMO offices on the Isles of Scilly	
NWIFCA	None	Current offices in Camforth are needed for HQ functions. Relocating staff would be costly. Might be able to accommodate 1-2 MMO officers. Co-location in Whitehaven possible. IFCA has 2 underused offices



Marine  
Management  
Organisation



To: Prof. Sam Evans CBE  
Defra, Sustainable Fisheries & Marine  
Planning Division

07 August 2015

Dear Sam,

### **Joint working between IFCAs and the MMO**

We write further to our letter of 12 June and to the meeting that you attended on 13 July. We are now in a position to expand on the interim response to your commissioning letter.

The initial response to your letter asking for improved working between the MMO and IFCAs made reference to the difference in the funding of the two organisations and the different priority work areas required by national legislation of the organisations. In forming this work programme we have focussed on what the MMO and IFCAs can achieve by enhancing efficiencies and improving our joint working as regulators of the marine environment, whilst maintaining the integrity of the two organisations, IFCAs with their distinctive local remit and accountability and the MMO with their national responsibilities.

This is a substantial piece of work that equates to a change programme because it goes beyond the operational sharing of assets towards joint structures, systems and approaches which will be achieved through cultural change. An indication of the commitment of both organisations to this work is the secondment of an IFCA Chief Officer, Phil Haslam, to the post of MMO Director of Operations for a 6 month period from September 2015. This demonstrates there is a commitment from all organisations to deliver far better integrated working between the organisations.

Whilst recognising the importance of this initial investigation we also believe a great deal more could be achieved through truly joined up working between a range of agencies within the marine sector within the Defra Marine Directorate. The MMO and IFCAs have the appetite to go further than the scope of this piece of work and would respond positively if there was a wider mandate from Defra to the other marine agencies. We would therefore preface this response by asking whether there are plans to review government regulation and management across the marine sector? Such a review could examine any barriers to promoting economic growth caused by agency boundaries, whilst maintaining the protection of the environment. Our aim is to produce plans that stand alone but would also remain valid if other agencies were brought within scope. Where there are relevant existing initiatives to explore joint working with other agencies, for example the Defra and Department for Transport work on Maritime & Coastguard Agency and MMO estates rationalisation, this has been reflected in the programme.



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It is particularly worth stating that there are other developments that might have an impact on the work of IFCA's and the MMO. In particular the Strategic Defence and Security Review will build on the existing National Strategy for Maritime Security to consider how to fund and deliver aerial and surface surveillance of the maritime environment. This will be informed by the National Maritime Asset Co-ordination trial that will run until the end of 2015. This work has a potentially profound effect on how at sea enforcement would be conducted and both the MMO and IFCA's would need to adapt to a new strategic environment in addition to this response to your letter.

Appendix 1 contains a developed work programme to implement the outline proposals contained in the interim response. This programme can be delivered within existing governance arrangements and annual plans with the majority of the programme being delivered within existing resources. We indicate where some investment would realise future savings and ensure that both agencies are working effectively. As we stated in the interim response we will pursue cost savings across the short, medium and long terms but the focus of the work programme is on effectiveness, service to stakeholders and value for money. The continued scale of responsibilities covered by the MMO and IFCA's means that we required to deliver more for the same resource, these changes will enable that to be delivered. In that context we have not quantified cost savings because that is not the main focus of this work and there is insufficient information on which to make meaningful estimates of efficiency savings. In addition to the work programme the MMO and IFCA's will jointly explore the integration of new technology to move towards fully monitored fisheries. This will include technology such as inshore VMS, gear in gear out devices, unmanned aerial vehicles, satellite monitoring, and other monitoring systems to reduce regulatory burdens whilst providing assurance about marine activity.

This ambitious programme is now underway with existing operational joint working groups and senior officials being given a mandate from John Tuckett and the IFCA Chief Officers Group to deliver against the timescales attached. In addition, the work programme will be recommended to the IFCA Committees by the Chief Officers at their next quarterly meetings as well as being presented at the next Association of IFCA meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We would be happy to provide further details of any of the elements of this programme should this be required.

Yours sincerely,

John Tuckett (MMO Chief Executive)

Stephen Bolt (Chief Executive Association of IFCA's)

Craig McGarvey (MMO Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance)

Tim Robbins (Chair IFCA Chief Officers Group)

**Joint Working Between IFCA and the MMO – Joint Work Programme – July 2015 – 31 March 2019**

Business area	Specific actions	Action owners	Timescale
<p><b>1. Identification of any immediate operation cash savings</b> - Whilst these immediate operational savings will be identified, they only offer very marginal cash savings in relation to departmental or organisational budgets.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> – All existing MMO and IFCA operational resources are used effectively with no duplication or unnecessary expenditure.</p>	<p>1.1 Each MMO Marine Area and IFCA Chief Officer will be asked to identify any such operational savings. This would include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• officers travelling together where possible or ending the duplication of officer attendance at some meetings.</li> <li>• hot-desking by officers at other agency offices to save costs and promote joint working and use of meeting room space to save commercial hire</li> <li>• any other use of equipment, facilities or staff time identified by operational managers</li> </ul>	<p>Action owner: All IFCA Chief Officers and MMO Marine Area Managers</p>	<p>Cash savings identified by 1 September 2015</p> <p>Savings delivered between 1 September 2015 – 31 March 2016 and ongoing thereafter</p> <p>List of hot desking and meeting rooms to be drawn up and circulated by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015</p>
<p><b>2 Accommodation sharing</b> – This might potentially offer cash savings or greater value for money. Cash savings derived from the MMO estate would be realisable by Defra as the MMO does not have responsibility for</p>	<p>2.1 An initial exercise to identify existing office space, organisational requirements and potential to share other government estate and cross match with existing lease terms</p>	<p>David Abbott (MMO) and Stephen Bolt (AIFCA)</p>	<p>Initial review completed and delivery plan agreed by 31 October 2015</p>

<p>estates. Sharing will certainly increase the effectiveness of both agencies This action will need to be undertaken in conjunction with wider cross government initiatives to rationalise the government estate and in particular work between Defra and the Dept. for Transport.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> – The MMO and IFCA estate strategies are aligned to offer flexibility, value for money and support integrated approaches to operational delivery.</p>	<p>including termination dates and break clauses.</p> <p>2.2 Cost benefit analysis to identify the whether IFCA staff should move to MMO accommodation, MMO staff to move to IFCA accommodation or both agencies should move staff to other accommodation including other government estate Programme implementation of staff or accommodation moves delivered to maximise value for money.</p>		<p>Accommodation or staff moves delivered between 1 November 2015 and 31 March 2018</p>
<p>3. <b>Enhanced operational joint working and co-operation</b> – The IFCAs and MMO will consider how more efficient and effective use can be made of existing resources through the development of a shared approach to risk analysis and operational tasking. The primary objectives will be the removal of duplication, making best use of publicly funded resources and informing the debate about the future allocation of functions. This is likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enforcement of IFCA byelaws and associated issues (e.g. several fisheries)</li> <li>- MPA monitoring, regulation and enforcement 0-12nm offshore</li> <li>- Enforcement of EU technical conservation</li> </ul>	<p>3.1 The recently established project to address intelligence and tasking agreed between IFCAs and the MMO via the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) will, through a pilot in the North West:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a single approach to risk analysis for use by both organisations</li> <li>- Develop a model for operational tasking to agree priorities and to ensure the effective and efficient allocation of resources based upon capability and availability as</li> </ul>	<p>Neil Wellum (MMO) and Ian Jones (IFCA) delivered through the chair of the NIMEG</p>	<p>A pilot project of a single approach to risk analysis and tasking established by October 2015 with supporting reporting system. Reviews of outcomes 1 July and 1 December to identify and agree the benefits of resource transfer</p>

<p>measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enforcement of EU control measures</li> <li>- 6-12nm limit patrolling</li> <li>- Marine licensing inspections and applications 0-12nm offshore</li> </ul> <p>IFCAs and MMO strongly support the introduction of fully monitored fisheries using technologies such as I-VMS. The I-VMS project is going through type approval testing at present and Devon &amp; Severn IFCa is embarking upon an extensive trial that has the support of their local fishermen. A joint working group will identify how this can be delivered.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> – Arrangements to monitor and control fisheries, manage conservation and regulate marine development are flexible and maximise effectiveness and value for money.</p>	<p>opposed to solely on organisational responsibility</p> <p>3.2 Complete and permanent cross warranting of MMO and IFCa staff will be introduced via the appropriate mechanism to enable complete flexibility.</p> <p>3.3 A new reporting system will be used to track improved coverage of risk and will monitor the contribution of each agency to delivering outcomes, using agreed metrics such as inspections undertaken, intelligence reports generated and enforcement outcomes.</p> <p>3.4 A regional approach to MPA management will be introduced as one element of this integrated approach.</p> <p>3.5 Exploration of a new approach to marine licensing to establish what contribution might be made by IFCa officers to facilitate proportionate monitoring of license conditions alongside other priorities</p> <p>3.6 The MMO and IFCAs will produce a</p>	<p>or reduction between agencies.</p> <p>Phased implementation of cross warranting for all regulations from 1 April 2016.</p> <p>Regional approach to MPA management implemented by 1 April 2016.</p> <p>IFCA role in marine license regime workshop to be held by 31 January 2016.</p> <p>Action plan developed as a result by 14 February 2016.</p> <p>Joint enforcement and compliance policy published by 30 September</p>
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	<p>common enforcement and compliance policy to cement and communicate the integrated approach.</p>		2016.
<p>4. <b>Intelligence</b> – To support development of operational joint working and co-operation we will deliver enhanced sharing of intelligence between the MMO and the IFCA's and the development of a common intelligence model. This work will be delivered through the recently established project to address intelligence and tasking agreed between IFCA's and the MMO via NIMEG.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> – Best use and sharing of intelligence maximises the effectiveness of planning, prioritisation and co-ordination of compliance activity and value for money.</p>	<p>4.1 Existing work to enhance the capability of the MMO and to explore shared intelligence and tasking between and with IFCA's has led to the establishment of a joint project under the auspices of NIMEG. MMO have committed resources to the project and this will be supported by the introduction of resource from the IFCA's</p> <p>4.2 A pilot will commence on 1 October, using existing resources, in the North West to develop systems and processes and ensure proof of concept. A new system and approaches will be rolled out to all MMO Areas and IFCA's by October 2016.</p> <p>4.3 The MMO and IFCA's will explore jointly funded staff and ICT systems to develop the system from the project phase into business as usual.</p>	<p>Neil Wellum (MMO) and Ian Jones (IFCA) delivered through the chair of the NIMEG</p>	<p>Enhanced intelligence management pilot commences on 1 October 2015.</p> <p>Integrated MMO and IFCA intelligence management regime in operation by 31 October 2016</p>

<p>5. <b>Enforcement systems upgrade</b> – To support the development of operational joint working and co-operation and the introduction of enhanced intelligence handling we will explore the integration/replacement of the MMO's Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System (MCSS). The system is shared with the IFCA's, but it does not provide them with useful outputs or adequately cover their byelaw and Regulating/Several Order work. For that reason IFCA's are using different bespoke systems to meet their requirements. This approach is incompatible with the programme of integrated working contained in this document. In addition the MCSS system is at risk as the programming language has been out of support since 2008, which could lead to security risks or compatibility difficulties with later software. Developing additional capacity to hold this information would lead to the likelihood of significant additional English enforcement activity being captured and reported.</p> <p>However on current resourcing and planning assumptions work could not begin on a systems upgrade until the end of 2016 with a delivery date of 2018. This is because Electronic Reporting System and Vessel</p>	<p>5.1 This work requires an investment of additional resources to release efficiencies and it can only commence once resource has been allocated. There may be an option to use EMFF funding to progress it. After an initial scoping exercise the IFCA's and MMO will make a joint bid for EMFF funds.</p> <p>5.2 A project to create an integrated monitoring, control and surveillance system will be commenced with joint governance. Once resources have been allocated it will describe operational requirements in the new context of integrated working which will have led to business redesign, and plan for delivery of a new system.</p> <p>5.3 The new system will be developed, tested and implemented as a partnership. It will support revised ways of working leading to efficiencies and effectiveness.</p>	<p>David Abbott and Julian Gregory as Chair of NIMEG</p>	<p>Joint bid for EMFF funding submitted by 1 November 2015.</p> <p>Project to develop new system commences 4 weeks after confirmation of EMFF or alternative funding.</p> <p>System implemented 15 months after commencement.</p>
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<p>Monitoring System upgrades have a higher priority due to increased risks.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> – Systems to manage monitoring, control and surveillance data meets the needs of the MMO and IFCA, maximising the effectiveness of control activity.</p>			
<p>6. <b>Training</b> – The delivery of training and accreditation for IFCOs and MEOs will become fully integrated in order to support the deliverables in action 3.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> – powers and training of MMO and IFCA staff maximise the effectiveness of compliance activity and offer the best value for money.</p>	<p>6.1 In order that all MEOs and IFCOs can enforce all legislation and bye-laws all enforcement staff will be trained in a common programme with accreditation. A modular approach will be developed to take account of regional variations in regulations and to promote continual development.</p> <p>6.2 The existing joint training group will be tasked to review current training provision and develop a common programme. Delivery of the programme will be resourced by both organisations.</p>	Neil Wellum and Mike Hardy	New joint training regime implemented by 1 April 2016 with phased implementation of modular courses from that date.

## Vision

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



## Action Item 11

### 21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

28 October 2015

**Report by:** Julian Gregory, Acting CEO

#### **Proposed High Level Objectives**

##### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to inform members of the draft High Level Objectives and to seek agreement for Eastern IFCA to adopt the finalised version from 2016-17.

##### **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Agree to the adoption the proposed High Level Objectives with effect from 2016-17**

##### **Background**

When the ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities were established in 2011 a common set of Success Criteria and multiple High Level Objectives were introduced as a consequence of guidance from Defra<sup>2</sup>. The guidance outlined how IFCAs could monitor and evaluate whether they were meeting their objectives, success criteria and, ultimately, the agreed vision of what their organisations should be achieving and was intended to help IFCAs in being more accountable to those that they work for and with, including their local communities, other IFCAs and delivery partners. There were seven Success Criteria and twenty three High Level Objectives, which resulted in a relatively complex reporting mechanism.

##### **Proposed Performance Criteria and Metrics**

Defra have led on the development of the new High Level Objectives and Success Criterion and they have worked in conjunction with the IFCA Chief Officers Group and the Association of IFCAs in order to develop something that is meaningful in the current context. This has resulted in a clear link with the UK Marine Policy Statement, which provides:

*The UK vision for the marine environment is for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'. The UK high level marine objectives published in April 2009 set out the broad outcomes for*

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<sup>2</sup> Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on monitoring and evaluation, and measuring performance. 2011, Defra

*the marine area in achieving this vision, and reflect the principles for sustainable development<sup>3</sup>*

The new performance framework incorporates the five High Level Objectives from the UK Marine Policy Statement, from which flow five Success Criterion, with each being underpinned by intended outcomes and associated indicators.

The new framework has been agreed at the IFCA Chief Officers Group and the Association of IFCAs.

J. Gregory  
Acting CEO

Appendix 1 – Draft High Level Objectives

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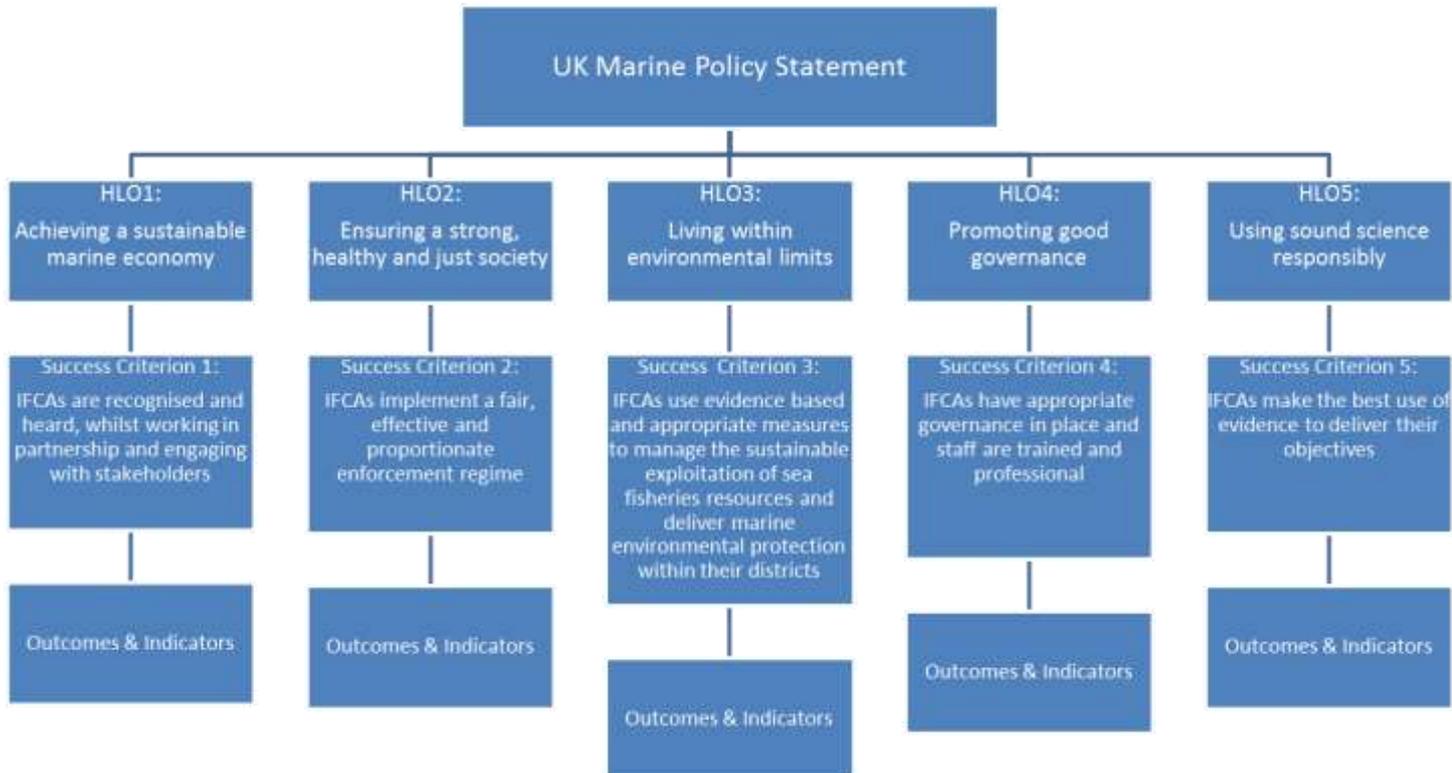
<sup>3</sup> UK Marine Policy Statement, 2011, The Stationary Office, London

# IFCA vision and Success Criteria

## 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.”***

## REVISED IFCA PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK AND METRICS



### Success Criterion 1:

IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

#### Definition:

IFCAs will be visible, respected and trusted regulator within coastal communities and will maintain and deliver a strategy to communicate their vision and duties effectively. IFCAs will engage with policy makers, industry, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), recreational and commercial users; and other regulators. They will work jointly and collaboratively with partner organisations across boundaries; will participate and contribute to the development and implementation of regional and national marine policy, including the marine planning regime; will take long-term strategic decisions and manage risks effectively. IFCAs may maintain a national body to co-ordinate the activities of authorities that are party to arrangements.

#### Outcomes

- The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy.
- The IFCA will maintain its website, ensuring public access to current fisheries and conservation information for the District, including management requirements and byelaws. Non-reserved IFCA Committee papers will be published.
- The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level
- The IFCA and its principal partners will have a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. Memoranda of Understanding with MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and Cefas will be maintained. Opportunities for greater efficiencies, effective joint working and collaboration will be explored and implemented when feasible.

#### Indicators

- **SC1A:** The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year
- **SC1B:** The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year.
- **SC1C:** The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month.
- **SC1D:** The IFCA will have reviewed its website and ensured it meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March each year.
- **SC1E:** The IFCA will have reviewed all of its Memoranda of Understanding by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed timescale.
- **SC1F:** By 31 March each year, the IFCA will have participated appropriately, proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified in the annual plan.

## Success Criterion 2:

IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

### Definition:

The IFCA enforcement regime is risk-based, makes appropriate use of intelligence, meets legislative standards and complies with the Regulators Code. It should make effective use of the resources available to regulators; complement and align, if possible, with the regimes in adjacent IFC Districts and management by other organisations including the MMO and Environment Agency. Consistency and fairness is important. Regulatory compliance is promoted. Enforcement action is carried out by trained, professional officers working to clear standards of conduct.

### Outcomes

- The IFCA will publish its enforcement risk register and strategy, clearly setting out its approach to achieving regulatory compliance and potential sanctions that may be applied for infringements and/or offences.
- The IFCA will have developed consistency in regulations (byelaws) with other organisations
- The IFCA will manage operational activity (e.g. through a Tasking & Co-ordination Group) and capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence that is compatible with partner organisations. It is engaged in joint working with partner organisations.
- Warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) will be trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. They will maintain professionalism and make appropriate interventions to deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity

### Indicators

- **SC2A:** The IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year
- **SC2B:** The IFCA will demonstrate in its Annual Report how it has worked with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures
- **SC2C:** The IFCA will compile records of enforcement activity in a standard format; provide them to the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) and publish them on its website.
- **SC2D:** The IFCA will adopt the national Code of Conduct for IFCOs, which will be reviewed annually and published on its website by 1 April.
- **SC2E:** The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for all Warranted Officers.
- **SC2F:** Warranted Officers attain accreditation. All undertake Continuing Professional Development

### Success Criterion 3:

IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts

#### Definition:

The IFCAs were created as statutory inshore regulators by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. They are relevant authorities for implementing international environmental commitments including the Birds, Habitats, Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives and make an important contribution to securing a network of well managed marine protected areas, including European Marine Sites and Marine Conservation Zones. Fisheries Management Plans identify local management measures which should be based on evidence; be timely; subject to appropriate consultation and in step with national initiatives and priorities. An IFCA should balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting sea fisheries resources with the need to protect the environment. It should make a contribution to sustainable development.

#### Outcomes

- The IFCA will identify issues likely to affect sustainable management of the marine environment in the IFC District; undertake risk assessment and gap analysis; review appropriateness of existing measures; evaluate management options and develop and implement proportionate marine management solutions
- The IFCA will support implementation of a well-managed network of marine protected areas by: developing a range of criteria-based management options; implementing management measures to ensure that inshore fisheries activities comply with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the revised approach to managing commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites; and that local management contributes to delivery of targets for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.
- The IFCA will develop Fisheries Management Plans for priority species where appropriate. Shared objectives will be developed with identified partners; actions identified and best practice reflected so that management makes a contribution to sustainable development.

#### Indicators

- **SC3A:** The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority
- **SC3B:** The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website
- **SC3C:** Management information (e.g. sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to demonstrate the extent of effectiveness of the intervention
- **SC3D:** The IFCA will have developed a range of criteria-based management options that are explained to stakeholders through the IFCA website, and reviewed by 31 March each year
- **SC3E:** New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales
- **SC3F:** The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from Fisheries Management Plans in its own Annual Plan, which will be published by 31 March each year.
- **SC3G:** Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.

### Success Criterion 4:

IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

#### Definition:

IFCAs are statutory authorities and sit within the local government family. Authority members may be either general members or local councillors. They comply with Codes of Conduct and the Standing Orders that apply to meetings of local government committees. General members are appointed on merit, through open competition and for a term. They are subject to an annual performance appraisal.

An IFCA is funded by levy, charged to its member councils. Funding originates in local taxation. An IFCA is accountable for its use of public resources and should ensure that a proper auditing regime provides confidence in its commitment and spend of public money. It should make effective use of its resources, including staff and assets. An IFCA has a statutory obligation to prepare and publish Annual Plans and Annual Reports.

#### Outcomes

- The IFCA will demonstrate its long-term strategic approach to sustainable marine management by having appropriate plan-making, review, update and amendment procedures in place. The IFCA will record its performance against corporate outcomes and indicators as soon as practically possible following the end of the financial year.
- Staff performance management systems will be in place that link to the IFCA success criteria. There will be an induction procedure for new joiners. Staff training and development needs will be identified. Performance will be managed and, where necessary, improvement procedures will be followed.
- The IFCA Committee will be supported by an organised, efficient and effective secretariat. New members will receive an induction pack and briefing from the Authority. There will be a rolling twelve month schedule of quarterly Authority meetings. Notices of meetings and documentation will be made available in line with Standing Orders.
- IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential, or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972

#### Indicators

- **SC4A:** The IFCA will publish a Plan on its website by 31 March, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.
- **SC4B:** After the end of each financial year, the IFCA will publish a Report on its website describing its activities, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.
- **SC4C:** IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.
- **SC4D:** An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.
- **SC4E:** The IFCA will have demonstrated, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation District have worked responsively and effectively together.

**Success Criterion 5:**

IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

**Definition:**

IFCAs are statutory regulators for their Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. Decision-making should be based on evidence. All IFCAs are supported by officers who pool their expertise and share best practice as a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). A programme of research activity and monitoring is planned, developed and updated in consultation with partners. The programme informs management decisions and supports justification for additional research and evidence gathering.

**Outcomes**

- A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources
- Standard Operating Procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners
- A list of research databases held by the IFCA and the frequency of their review
- Non-confidential meta-data collected through the IFCA research programme should be recorded in a database available to the marine research community

**Indicators**

- SC5A:** The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year
- SC5B:** The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making
- SC5C:** The IFCA's contribution to TAG and progress that has made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report

**Vision**

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



**Action Item 12**

**21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Report by:** Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance

**Payments made and monies received during the period 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Purpose of report**

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

The report on Payments made and monies received during the period 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September is attached.

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

**Background documents**

There are no background documents to this paper

**Finance Officer's Report on Payments Made and Monies Received during the period**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Payments made during the period 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

	<b>Month 04</b>	<b>Month 05</b>	<b>Month 06</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Transfers to EIFCA Salaries & Wages Acct.	80,000.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	240,000.00
Rent, Rates & Service Charges	2,669.01	1,546.30	10,957.93	15,173.24
General Establishment	2,797.13	1,256.77	4,001.68	8,055.58
Legal Fees				
Staff Travelling & Subsistence	1,156.09	1,443.22	1,078.55	3,677.86
Members' Allowances	216.00			216.00
Training	1,057.50		487.50	1,545.00
Moorings/Harbour Dues	33.81		7,888.28	7,922.09
Pisces III Operating Costs	414.38	77.41		491.79
Hire of rib			1,016.48	1,016.48
Three Counties Operating Costs	7,139.40	762.55	5,792.01	13,693.96
FPV John Allen –Operating Costs	2,107.55	2,014.15	2,672.76	6,794.46
Vehicle Operating Costs	1,258.35	1,170.22	1,321.11	3,749.68
Communication and Development	28.66	760.79		789.45
Research and Environment	329.01	125.00	938.78	1,392.79
Enforcement	1,384.68	214.15	658.34	2,257.17
Wash & Nth Norf. EMS Project	5.30	149.17	18.00	172.47
Wash Fishery Order				
New vessel			126,446.30	126,446.30
Office upgrade	8,014.50	1,640.00	23,333.15	32,987.65
Petty Cash	100.00		100.00	200.00
VAT recoverable (Quarter)	4,655.02	1,260.90	34,504.14	40,420.06
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>	<b>113,366.39</b>	<b>92,420.63</b>	<b>301,215.01</b>	<b>507,002.03</b>

**Monies received during the period July 2015 to September 2015**

	<b>Month 04</b>	<b>Month 05</b>	<b>Month 06</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Levies				
Treasury Deposit Interest				
VAT	17,964.54			17,964.54
Lay rents	276.20		114.00	390.20
HMRC Mineral Oil Rebate	5,119.92			5,119.92
WFO – Licences	3,960.00	180.00		4,140.00
WFO – Tolls	3,300.00	150.00		3,450.00
Whelk licences	500.00	250.00		750.00
Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS	3,006.00	2,700.00	6,015.00	11,721.00
Sale of equipment	25.00			25.00
EHO sampling				
Miscellaneous	5,000.00	1,960.08	100.00	7,060.08
<b>TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED</b>	<b>39,151.66</b>	<b>5,240.08</b>	<b>6,229.00</b>	<b>50,620.74</b>

**Vision**

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

**Action Item 13****21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Report by:** Andrew Bakewell – Head of Finance

**Report on the Management Accounts for the second quarter of the 2015/16 financial year****Purpose of report**

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

**Recommendations:**

**Members are asked to formally note the Management Accounts.**

Detailed below are the management accounts for the first half of the 2015/16 financial year. Actual spend is compared with the apportioned budget with explanations of the significant variances provided.

The first half saw the following cumulative variances against budget made up as follows:-

	£	
Salaries	16,948	Vacancies and part time working offset by unbudgeted increases
General expenditure	12,647	Savings in all areas offset by office refurb £33k
Communications	( 259)	Affected by timing of outreach events
Enforcement devices	(3,133)	annual payments in advance for locator
Research & Env.	4,151	savings on equipment purchases
Vessels	12,048	savings in most areas except moorings due to development delay
Vehicles	(1,252)	increased mileage
Income	5,083	WFO Tolls £6k, EHO £(2)k invoice timing

The position at the half year shows net expenditure well within budget it is however anticipated that the gap will narrow during the second half.

**Management Accounts**  
**Financial Year 2015/2016**

	<b>ACTUAL</b> <b>Year to</b> <b>Date</b> <b>Qtr 2</b> <b>£</b>	<b>BUDGET</b> <b>Year to</b> <b>Date</b> <b>£</b>	<b>MEMO</b> <b>Budget</b> <b>For Year</b> <b>£</b>
<b><u>SALARIES &amp; WAGES</u></b>			
Staff Remuneration	359,069	370,366	740,730
Pension	73,164	77,775	155,550
National Insurance	26,810	27,850	55,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>459,043</b>	<b>475,991</b>	<b>951,980</b>
<b><u>GENERAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
Accommodation	31,533	36,235	72,470
Insurance	18,474	19,500	19,500
General Establishment	49,521	38,750	77,500
Officers' Expenses	7,084	11,500	23,000
Members' Travel	593	1,875	3,750
Training	3,008	15,000	30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110,213</b>	<b>122,860</b>	<b>226,220</b>
<b>Development &amp; Communication</b>	2,759	2,500	5,000
<b>Enforcement</b>	13,633	10,500	15,000
<b>Research &amp; Environment</b>	8,849	13,000	20,000
<b><u>VESSELS</u></b>			
Moorings & Harbour Dues	12,515	6,000	12,000
<u>Vessel Operating Costs</u>			
Three Counties	24,073	31,000	102,000
Enforcement Vessels incl John Allen	14,275	24,000	48,000
Pisces III	2,239	4,150	8,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54,102</b>	<b>65,150</b>	<b>170,300</b>
<b><u>VEHICLES</u></b>			
Operating Costs	13,902	12,650	25,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,902</b>	<b>12,650</b>	<b>25,300</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>662,501</b>	<b>702,651</b>	<b>1,413,800</b>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Bank Interest	2,400	2,500	5,000
Sale of assets	25		
WFO Licence Tolls	9,010	3,000	6,000
Whelk licences	1,278		
EHO sampling		2,000	4,000
Lay rents	2,370	2,500	5,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>15,083</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>647,418</b>	<b>692,651</b>	<b>1,393,800</b>

### **Vision**

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



## **Action Item 14**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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

### **Meetings of the Finance & Personnel Sub-committee held on 24 June & 15 October 2015**

#### **Purpose of report**

To inform members of the key outputs and decisions from the Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee meetings held on 24 June & 15 October 2015.

#### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- **Note the report.**

#### **HR Matters:**

24 June 2015:

- Following the completion of their probationary period, the permanent appointment of the new MEO officer was approved
- At the January meeting members directed the CEO to investigate opportunities and report back to the committee with options to complete the review of CEO/DCEO job specification and close the review of remuneration packages. Options were put to members who resolved to allocate scale E03 to the post of Deputy CEO, and to increase scale E04 to spinal column point 67 (as set out in item 22 of this meeting). The current CEO would be moved to point 63. Movement within these scales would be based on performance reviews and limited to a maximum of one spinal column point per annum
- Update of HR activity - an update was given with regard to the progress towards the HR plan to 2015. This report is covered in information item 23 of the statutory meeting papers.
- Update of HR activity - an update was given with regard to the progress towards the HR plan to 2015. This report was covered in the quarterly progress report to Authority members on 30 July 2015

15 October 2015:

- Following the completion of their probationary period, the permanent appointment of the new IFOC & Crew Member was approved
- Update of HR activity - an update was given with regard to the progress towards the HR plan to 2015. This report is covered in item 26

## **Finance Matters:**

24 June 2015

- Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 approved.
- Annual Return to the Audit Commission signed.
- Transfers to and from "ear-marked" reserves authorized.
- Internal Audit report accepted.
- Retain current method of expense payment to MMO appointees with amendments to mileage and loss of earnings rates approved.

15 October 2015

- Consider, note and agree the Preliminary Estimates of Expenditure for 2016/2017
- Note the Preliminary Estimates of Expenditure for the three years to the 31st March 2020
- Receive the report from the External Audit for 2014/15 carried out by Mazars LLP.
- Approve revisions to Expenses Policy

### Accommodation Refurbishment Project

- Progress and costs to date were reported and noted by the meeting.

### Vessel Procurement

The new patrol vessel, *FPV Sebastian Terelinck* was completed and delivered in September 2015. The project was delivered largely within projected expenditure (changes in specification agreed during the build process resulted in a net increase of £2,696 which equates to circa 0.6% on the original price.

### Moorings Project

The moorings project is ongoing with the following in progress:

- Leases/contracts in the final stages
- Planning application submitted and due for determination by 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015
- MMO and Environment Agency consent submissions accepted and outcome awaited
- Design works finalized
- Construction due to commence in April 2016

## **Background Papers**

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Personnel sub-committee 24 June 2015  
Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Personnel sub-committee  
15 October 2015

## Vision

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



## Action Item 15

### 21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

28 October 2015

**Report by:** Julian Gregory, Acting CEO

#### **Wash Cockle Fishery 2015**

##### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to inform members of the current status of the fishery, including the conduct of some within the fishing industry following the introduction of contingency management measures and to seek the ability for the CEO to introduce measures to manage the fishery effectively.

##### **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the content of the paper**
- **Agree that previous delegations to the CEO regarding the Wash cockle fishery 2015 remain in force**
- **Delegate power to the CEO to immediately (without seven days' notice) specify opening and closing times for the fishery and to specify upon which tides it is permissible to fish on the sands and on which tide catch can be landed**
- **Delegate the power to the CEO to dispense with the customary seven days' notice when closing the fishery upon exhaustion of the TAC or when the Roger/Toft/Trap sand (or any part thereof) is judged to no longer be viable**

##### **Background**

At its meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 the Authority agreed to open the Wash hand worked cockle fishery with a TAC of 2,079 tonnes.

In July 2015, following request from fishermen, officers assessed the cockle stocks within an area of the Roger/Toft/Trap Sand that had been closed to protect Yr-0 juvenile cockles. The cockles in this area were found to have grown exceptionally well. Following this assessment, the closure was removed from this area for two reasons:

1. Many of the stocks had attained 14mm width, offering a good fishery resource.
2. In many places, where the cockles were present in high densities, ridging out was occurring and their chances of survival were poor.

As a consequence of the exceptional growth observed on this particular sand a review of the fishery was undertaken, which concluded that contingency

management measures should be considered. The key factors in reaching this conclusion were:

1. There was an opportunity to offer more exploitation opportunities in the 2015 fishery, and;
2. Without a review of management measures, the fishery would end by late August and cockles of harvestable size that would provide significant income to local businesses would subsequently die.
3. Cockle mortalities were anticipated to be high during 2016 risking a wholesale loss of stock.
4. Juvenile cockle stocks were currently exceptionally high, providing a large buffer to protect the future sustainability of the stocks.

It should be noted that the review was conducted due to exceptional conditions including:

- The presence of exceptionally good juvenile stocks that allow the imposition of exceptional contingent management measures without endangering the sustainability of the fishery.
- Exceptional growth both enabling stocks to be fished earlier than anticipated but also greatly increasing the imminent risk of natural mortality from ridging out or atypical mortality.

Options were prepared in a paper, which was considered at an extraordinary meeting of the full Authority held on 21 August 2015. Following consideration of the options it was decided to ring fence the Roger/Toft/Trap Sand and to treat the exploitation of its cockle stocks in a bespoke manner. In so doing all cockles harvested from this area were discounted from the TAC and instead only cockles harvested from other sands will be taken from the TAC.

The overall effect of this decision was to allow fishers to exploit this particular sand until it is no longer commercially viable and for the TAC to be applied to the remaining open sands in the fishery. This represents a substantial increase in the quantity of cockles available to be fished this year.

Decisions taken at the Authority meetings of 3 June and 21 August 2015 mean that the CEO is currently empowered to:

- Determine opening times for the fishery based on preferences of Entitlement Holders, appropriate tides, regular breaks in the fishery by operating a four day week and an extension to a five day week should atypical mortality be judged to be a significant factor.
- Immediately (without seven days' notice) close a fishery or parts of a fishery should malpractice and/or unacceptable levels of sediment damage be observed.
- Close the fishery when it is estimated the TAC has been exhausted.
- Restrict access to cockle beds if juvenile stocks are judged to be disproportionately targeted.
- Close the Roger sand when it was judged that it is no longer offering a viable fishing opportunity.

### **Remaining Stock**

Much of the fishing activity has been taking place on the Roger/Toft/Trap sand and as a consequence it is estimated that there is circa 1300 tonnes left on the

TAC, which is applicable to all other open sands. It is estimated that circa 3,000 tonnes have been taken from the Roger/Toft/Trap and it appears that there are still viable stocks on that sand that can be exploited.

### **Fishing Malpractice**

It is unfortunate that this year has seen higher levels of alleged malpractice than has been the case in recent years and during September 2015 there were numerous complaints/allegations from some fishers about others within the industry routinely taking cockles substantially in excess of the daily quota of 2 tonnes. The allegations variously described certain vessels removing cockles in excess of the quota from the sand and taking steps to avoid detection such as employing lookouts in the port, checking to establish whether IFCA officers were on the quay before landing and depositing excess bags at the end of the river for later collection when no-one was in the area to witness the landings.

On 24 September 2015 the acting CEO attended a meeting at the request of one of the Wash fishing associations. It was clear that there was strong feeling amongst those present that others within the industry were, in their view, flagrantly breaching regulations and were, in effect, stealing cockles from the fishery and ultimately from them. There was clear support for the introduction of tighter management measures in order to curb the poor behaviours.

During late September 2015 the Wash cockle fishery was prioritised for enforcement activity and it quickly became apparent that this has an impact and there was strong support from the majority within the industry who fish responsibly.

There are currently four cases relating to breach of WFO 1992 regulations under investigation, including an allegation of some twenty vessels fishing within a closed area and three allegations of vessels fishing for, taking or removing cockles in excess of the daily quota from the fishery.

### **Management Measures 2015**

It would appear that following the introduction of the contingency management measures some within the industry have sought to exploit the relaxation of measures to limit the level of cockles that can be fished. This is clearly disappointing given the co-management approach taken under the Wash Fishery Order and it is a factor that may impact upon future decisions taken by the Authority.

The acting CEO already has the ability to close the fishery or parts of the fishery in the event of malpractice but this option has not been exercised on the basis that the actions of a few would have a disproportionate impact upon the majority who fish responsibly.

Given the level of allegations it is suggested that tighter control of the fishery is necessary and that further delegation of power would be beneficial to enable the CEO to specify opening times immediately (without seven days' notice) and to specify upon which tides it is permissible to fish and which tides it is permissible to land.

Such matters as opening/closing times and ultimate closure of the fishery are ordinarily done in accordance with the Cockle Charter, which provides that seven days' notice will ordinarily be given to fishers. However, in the circumstances it is

suggested that the risks involved in delaying the implementation of decisions justify dispensing with such a lengthy notice period.

**Background Documents**

Wash Fishery Order 1992

Unconfirmed minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Eastern IFCA meeting of 3 June 2015

Unconfirmed minutes of the extraordinary Eastern IFCA meeting of 21 August 2015

### Vision

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## Action Item 16

### **21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

**28 October 2015**

### **Review of Wash Fishery Order 1992 Shellfish Management Policies**

**Report by:** R W Jessop, Senior Research Officer

#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to inform members that the suite of shellfish management measures developed for the Wash Fishery Order (WFO) 1992 shellfisheries are due to be reviewed.

#### **Recommendations**

**It is recommended that members:**

- **Note the contents of this report**
- **Direct officers to undertake a review of the shellfish management policies.**

#### **Background**

The molluscan shellfish stocks in the Wash are an important resource both for the local fishermen and the wildlife that depend upon them. Although the introduction of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 strengthened the management of these stocks considerably, there were still crashes of the cockle and mussel populations in the mid-1990's that prompted a comprehensive review of how those fisheries were being managed. New measures, such as the introduction in 1998 of a Total Allowable Catch quota system, were gradually introduced to support the sustainability of the stocks and over time became recognised practice.

During the mid-2000's, however, it became apparent that further measures would also need to be introduced to ensure the Conservation Objectives for the site (formal targets for the features of the European Marine Site) were supported. Following lengthy consultation with members of the Wash fishing industry, conservation advisors at Natural England and shellfish scientists at Cefas and the Dutch shellfisheries consultant MarinX, a suite of shellfish management policies for the Wash was agreed in 2008. These policies, which include 23 measures for the management of the cockle fishery, 23 for the inter-tidal mussel fishery and 12 for the sub-littoral mussel fishery, seek to ensure:

1. Sustainable resource exploitation
2. Fishery protection
3. Fishery development
4. Environmental protection

The formal agreement of these policies enabled Natural England to change the conservation status of many parts of the Wash Site of Special Scientific Interest

(SSSI) from Unfavourable Declining to Unfavourable Recovering. Natural England have also agreed that by following these policies the fisheries will not inhibit the Conservation Objectives for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site from being reached. This, in turn, has resulted in Natural England being able to provide a more rapid response to the Habitats Regulation Assessments for the cockle and mussel fisheries than was previously the case, allowing for a more streamlined process to open each annual fishery. This co-operation between the fishing industry, conservation advisors and fishery managers (co-management) has been widely recognised as best practice for operating sustainable fisheries within a marine protected area.

### **Review of the Fisheries Management Policies**

Since 2008 the Fisheries Management Policies have formed the backbone of Eastern Sea Fisheries'/Eastern IFCA's management of the cockle and mussel fisheries in the Wash. Shellfish stocks, however, vary greatly in response to environmental conditions that are outside of the control of fisheries managers. Management policies need to be regularly reviewed, therefore, to ensure they take into consideration natural changes and also reflect evolving fishery technology and practices and potential changes to the legislation and scientific advice.

Although the officers have regularly reviewed the policies internally, they are overdue a more thorough examination. "Atypical" cockle mortality, for instance, had not been observed in the Wash prior to 2008, so its impact was not considered in the policies. Its impact is considerable and requires greater flexibility in the management of the cockle stocks than the policies currently allow. As these mortalities now appear to be an on-going occurrence in the Wash rather than one-off isolated events, the policies should be adapted to consider them.

The proposed review of the management policies for the WFO 1992 shellfisheries needs to be considered in the context of relevant legislation. The Wash Fishery Order 1992 itself is due for review and renewal by 2022. It is anticipated that this will be a long process. Authority officers are planning to commence a review of WFO 1992 regulations and guidance notes during 2015-16. In addition, officers are currently undertaking a review of EIFCA byelaws (required to reflect the transition from a Sea Fisheries Committee to an Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority). As these form the legislative framework on which the management policies are based, the policies will need to reflect any changes that are potentially made to the legislation. Additionally the reviewed policies should reflect Natural England's updated conservation advice ("Regulation 35") for the Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site that is due later in 2015. Finally, updated shellfish management measures should also reflect biosecurity considerations in order to help prevent the spread of non-native invasive species.

When the policies were originally developed, the liaison process between the various stakeholder groups took over two years to complete before agreement could be gained from all parties. As established policies will form the foundation of this review, however, the consultation period is not anticipated to take nearly as long.

### **Legal implications**

The Wash molluscan shellfisheries are a valuable resource for both the local fishing industry and the wildlife that depends upon them. The Authority is responsible for the management of these stocks and the protection of the site's

conservation status, within its remit to support healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry. Failure to manage these stocks appropriately could lead to legal challenge from either the fishing industry or environmental groups.

### **Financial implications**

Barring officer time, there are no additional costs associated with the proposed review.

### **Conclusion**

The Fishery Management Policies form the framework within which the Authority manages the molluscan shellfisheries in the Wash. These policies need to be reviewed to ensure they consider natural and legislative changes that have occurred since their introduction in 2008.

### **Background documents**

- Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee Fisheries Management Policies 2008
- The Wash Fishery Order 1992

### Vision

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## Action Item 17

### **21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

**28 October 2015**

### **Review of Wash Fishery Order 1992 Shellfish Management Policies**

**Report by:** L P Godwin, IFCO/Project Officer

#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to inform members that the suite of shellfish management measures developed for the Wash Fishery Order (WFO) 1992 shellfisheries are due to be reviewed.

#### **Recommendations**

**It is recommended that members:**

- **Note the contents of this report;**
- **Direct officers to review the Wash Fishery Order 1992 Regulations and Policy notes;**
- **Agree to delegate responsibility for the review to the Regulation and Compliance sub-committee**

#### **Background**

The Wash Fishery Order (1992), as granted under section 3(1) of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967, empowers Eastern IFCA to impose regulations and restrictions to manage the Wash shellfish fisheries. The current regulations and restrictions reflect Eastern IFCA's remit to ensure sustainable fisheries, healthy seas and a viable industry within one of the most important and heavily designated marine protected areas in the country.

The Order will expire in the year 2022 and will require a thorough review to be renewed to reflect contemporary fishing practices and legislation. Prior to this, Officers have identified a need to review the potential gaps in the current regulations and policy notes which can be amended in the short-term to the benefit of future fisheries before the Order expires.

It should be noted that, the review was in part prompted by poor fishing practices in the current Wash Fishery Order cockle fishery, which has seen fishing within a closed area and allegations of significant breaches of the daily quota by some elements of the industry. The apparent disregard, by a minority of fishers, for regulations and the importance of complying with them whilst fishing within a European Marine Site gives rise to a concern that the Authority will be unable to have confidence in the mitigation measures it puts in place in order to permit a fishery. Such concerns are shared by responsible fishers and there have been complaints that some will actively seek loopholes in the regulations.

## **Regulations and Policy Notes**

Regulations and restrictions made under the Order require the consent of the Minister. The process of adding, removing or amending a regulation will mirror that of the making of a byelaw including holding a formal consultation and the production of an Impact Assessment.

Policy notes (as found at the back of the Order) are a combination of guidance based on provisions of the Order, the regulations and other legislation in addition to stand alone policies and licence conditions.

Annex 1 highlight the some of the key issues regarding management of the Wash Fishery Order and relates these to current regulations and policy notes. A summary of the key issues is provided below. The list is not definitive and it is likely that other issues will arise as work is progressed.

### Daily quota (catch restrictions)

The fisheries managed under the Wash Fishery Order currently operate under daily quotas as set out in Regulation 2 of the Order. The hand-work cockle fishery for example operates under a 2 tonne daily quota.

Fishers have indicated that the wording of this regulation is open to different interpretation and is unclear. In particular, there is no definition for 'fish for' or 'take' with regards to the wording of the regulation. This could be clarified by amending the regulation.

### Catch returns

There is currently no regulation relating to the requirement to return the catch return forms on a weekly basis to the Eastern IFCA office. The policy note (policy note 8) which relates to returns forms indicates that forms should be returned on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Eastern IFCA requires catch returns on a weekly basis to determine the remaining Total Allowable Catch to keep fishers informed. This is particularly important as the remaining TAC reduces as, as per the cockle charter, Eastern IFCA is required to give the fishers 7 days' notice to close the fishery. Missing returns presents a serious risk to the running of the fishery and can result in the fishery closing early as officers have to estimate catch of 2 tonnes, per vessel per day (precautionary approach) in the absence of completed returns.

### Standard bags

The requirement that mussels and cockles must be contained in bags, boxes or bins is set in regulation 2. In 2014, the Authority agreed to introduce the requirement for fishers to use 'standard bags' – bags of known dimensions and labelled with the words 'Wash Fishery Order'.

This requirement should be reflected in a regulation or as a licence condition and regulation 2 should be amended such that there is more clarity on the requirement.

### Clarity of regulations, restrictions and licence conditions

Because the policy notes represent a mixture of guidance and bespoke licence conditions there is a lack of clarity for the end user. Licence conditions include,

for example, the open areas during a cockle fishery and the Total Allowable Catch. It is proposed that the policy notes are reorganised into genuine policies and guidance (explaining how the regulations are implemented etc.) and licence conditions.

### **Next steps**

There is sufficient need for an update to elements of the management of the Order to warrant a review of the Regulations prior to a full review of the Order. Doing so would allow for more clarity in implementing our obligations as responsible fisheries managers.

The Authority is asked to direct officers to undertake a review of the regulations and policy notes. This will involve informal consultation with the entitlement holders with a view to develop amended regulations, licence conditions and guidance for the Regulation and Compliance sub-committee to consider.

### **Background Documents**

Wash Fishery Order 1992 and associated regulations, policy and guidance notes

**Annex 1 – Key issues relating to management of Wash Fishery Order 1992**

Issue	Risk	Relation to Regulations	Gaps	Potential solutions
Removal of cockle in excess of daily quota	High	Regulation 2	<p>The main limitations of the regulations are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The wording allows for loopholes/difficulty in practical application</li> <li>ii) We have no means of determining when someone has fished without enforcement presence</li> </ul>	<p>Rewording of Regulation 2 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Redefine application of regulation to include the vessel, nominated representative and crew (e.g. the licence holder or that vessel or those persons nominated to fish in that behalf...);</li> <li>ii) Define <i>'fish for, take or remove from the fishery...'</i> to reflect contemporary fishing practices (including prop-washing) and spatial limitations of 'the fishery';</li> <li>iii) Requirement for vessels to have operational iVMS;</li> <li>iv) Include prohibition on 'drying out' within a closed area;</li> <li>v) Include a clear link to the re-depositing of shellfish byelaw or include a similar provision in the associated guidance.</li> </ul>
Use of	Medium	Regulation 2	The requirement	Remove the

'standard bags'			within Regulation 2 does not reflect the restrictions set through the Authority meeting (ref).	provision relating to bags from regulation 2 and develop stand-alone regulation which requires the use of standard bags.
Returns forms	High	No Regulation (Policy Note 8)	There is currently no regulation which reflects the requirement to hand in weekly returns forms and the policy note which relates to returns forms states that forms are to be submitted on the 5 <sup>th</sup> day of every month.	Develop a 'returns form' regulation (under article 7 of the WFO) or introduce licence condition (under article 8(3) of the WFO) – noting that the penalty level is lower for licence conditions than for regulations*.
Limited to nil turnover of licences of new fishers – long waiting list	Medium	No regulation (combination of provisions of the Order and Policy notes)	No regulations relating to the issuing of a licence although, regulations are not the correct tool to use and would require an amendment to the Order.	Develop over a longer timeframe a more contemporary system for issuing licences etc. including a clear policy with clear goals. Would benefit from additional stakeholder engagement and would best fit being part of the review of the Order.
Lack of clarity with regards to offences under 6(3) of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967	High	No Regulations	Some restrictions implemented through the Authority meetings are not clearly set out as either licence conditions or restrictions.	Separate out licence conditions from guidance on regulations, restrictions and provisions of the Order from the policy notes and produce updated WFO licence which clearly sets out the licence conditions and restrictions (e.g. weekly returns and TAC).

## Vision

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## Action Item 18

### 21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

28 October 2015

#### **Wash Fishery Order Cost Recovery**

**Report by:** Andrew Bakewell, Head of Finance  
Julian Gregory, Acting CEO

#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to advise members of the need to review the scale of charges applicable to licences under the Wash Fishery Order (WFO) and to consider options for greater cost recovery to the public purse.

#### **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- **Direct officers to identify options for increased cost recovery for the management of the Wash fisheries managed under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 for timely consideration by the Finance and Personnel sub-committee**

#### **Background**

Whilst the outcome of the Government's comprehensive spending review is yet to be announced it appears clear that the austerity approach to fiscal management will continue. Perhaps critically, the three county councils that fund Eastern IFCA are anticipating further significant cuts and have indicated that, as a minimum, they would expect the Authority to maintain a 'standstill' budget, which may amount to a cut in real terms. Additionally, the future of 'new burdens' funding to IFCA is still to be determined.

The financial climate is a prompt to review income streams for the Authority and one of the more obvious is revenue from the Wash shell fisheries, which are managed by the Authority under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 (WFO).

The level of revenue raised by the Authority from the Wash fishery is not significant in budgetary terms and in contrast the costs to the Authority are significant and substantially exceed the income derived from the licensing system.

Tolls charged under the Wash Fishery Order require approval from the Secretary of State. The current toll regime was approved in 2012 to cover the period to March 2017. A similar process including consultation will be required for a future application for toll changes.

#### **Wash Fishery Income and Expenditure**

The current charge for an annual licence under the WFO is £330 and this year circa 57 licences have been issued, which equates to income of £18,810. Not all of the income goes to the Authority however, as £150 of each licence payment goes to a Wash fishery fund that can only be spent in support of the fishery following consultation with the fishing industry. The effect of this is that this year to date £10,260 is cost recovered by the Authority to support its management of the fishery.

Whilst a detailed exercise to assess the full cost of managing the fishery has yet to be undertaken the following estimations of survey cost, based upon the cost estimations for vessel operations and officer time, provide a useful illustration.

*RV Three Counties cost per 8 hour sea day (3 crew and 2 research officers):*

- *£1,354 including only variable costs (fuel, maintenance and supplies)*
- *£2,670 including variable and fixed costs (insurance, depreciation, refit and moorings)*

*Analysis and report writing = 10 days per survey @ £218 per day = £2,181*

*Cockle surveys – 15 days vessel time =*

- *£20,310 (variable costs)*
- *£40,050 (variable and fixed costs)*
- *Plus £2,181 analysis and report writing*

*Mussel surveys – 15 days vessel time =*

- *£20,310 (variable costs)*
- *£40,050 (variable and fixed costs)*
- *Plus £2,181 analysis and report writing*

*Total annual survey costs (estimated):*

- ***£44,982 including only variable vessel costs***
- ***£84,462 including variable and fixed vessel costs***

It should be noted that the costs outlined above are almost certainly an under estimate because sea days almost inevitably exceed 8 hours and surveys can take longer than the fifteen days.

It is more difficult to quantify enforcement costs because they are influenced by the by factors such as fishing behaviours, the type of activity undertaken (land or sea based) and other priorities. The following is intended to provide an indication of the level of expenditure involved:

*Sea patrol in FPV John Allen with four officers (2 crew and 2 boarding):*

- *£967 per day including only variable costs*
- *£1,448 per day including both variable and fixed costs*

*Landings inspection per port (two officers for 4 hours) - £190*

*NB Transport costs not included*

*Illustrative week with 4 port inspections and 1 sea patrol:*

- *£1,727 including only variable vessel costs*
- *£2,208 including variable and fixed vessel costs*

*Illustrative fishery of 15 weeks using example week:*

- **£25,905** including only variable vessel costs
- **£33,120** including variable and fixed vessel costs

The illustrations provided are intended only as estimations because the level of enforcement activity can ebb and flow. If the fishery is judged to be compliant then enforcement activity will be reduced but where poor behaviours become apparent it can be necessary to substantially increase enforcement activity. For example, during one recent week it was necessary to cover two ports for both tides each day, which represented significantly higher costs than those in the illustrations.

### **Conclusion**

The purpose of the report is to inform members of the case to comprehensively identify and quantify the costs involved in managing the Wash Fishery Order and present proposals for a new charging regime for consultation in good time to submit to the Secretary of State. It is intended that arrangements will be in place to introduce a new charging regime as soon as possible and in any case by April 2017.

A. Bakewell  
Head of Finance

### **Vision**

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## **Action Item 19**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

28 October 2015

#### **Community Voice Project**

**Report by:** Julian Gregory, Acting CEO

#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to inform members that the Marine Conservation Society has secured external funding to undertake a Community Voice project within Eastern IFCA's district and to introduce members to the Community Voice method.

#### **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the content of the paper**
- **Note Eastern IFCA progress with the project with MCS**

#### **Background**

A liaison meeting was held between Marine Conservation Society (MCS), Client Earth, Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority and Natural England on the 5th March 2014. Peter Richardson (MCS) presented details of a joint project undertaken by Sussex IFCA and MCS which used the US-developed "community voice" method to capture the views of coastal stakeholders. The Community Voice Method (CVM) was designed to test the premise that a different kind of public participation process could yield better results. Its originators identified a need to step back from narrow, polarised policy debates and foster a conversation around the shared values that connect people to a place. Through grounding in local values and discourses, CVM seeks to foster more inclusive, informed and ongoing dialogue in communities, especially those where stakeholders may not feel comfortable participating in traditional public meetings and consultations.

The Sussex IFCA / MCS project produced 2 video documentaries from over 40 filmed interviews. Workshops were held to air the videos and recommendations were produced to support Sussex IFCA in developing management measures for 2 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in their district.

#### **Viewing of the Community Voice Method (CVM) promo film (15 mins)**

<https://vimeo.com/128142382>

Password: sunfish

## **Evidence of Need**

Eastern IFCA has identified a polarisation of views and opinion between various stakeholders with interests in marine resources. This polarisation could compromise Eastern IFCA's ability to progress the conservation elements of their statutory duties, for example, management of marine protected areas where there is regularly voiced opposition amongst some stakeholder groups to statutory measures.

Despite efforts to engage across the breadth of the stakeholder spectrum it is felt that there is a significant "silent majority" whose opinion and values are not expressed to decision makers. This drives a need for Eastern IFCA to find ways to capture a broader suite of views from a wider range of stakeholders with interests in the marine and coastal environment within Eastern IFCA's district.

Eastern IFCA currently only has the resources to rely on a traditional engagement and consultation approach including online communications, drop-in surgeries, written questionnaires and occasional local meetings or workshops and cannot take on more extensive engagement and public participation. Through the Community Voice Method, MCS will support Eastern IFCA in reaching out to its broader stakeholder constituency, capturing a range of stakeholder views and values associated with the marine environment, and reflecting those views and values back to stakeholders and Eastern IFCA through community screenings and workshops. This will support Eastern IFCA in more fully delivering against its duties as directed by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

## **Project Outputs**

- 30-40 documented interviews;
- 1 research documentary film (approx. 35 minutes);
- Three, phase 1 film screenings and workshops, followed by three, phase 2 workshops with the same participants;
- Online summaries of the outcomes for each paired workshop, and one final workshop report including data and outcomes from all project workshops, with recommendations for ongoing engagement;
- Enhanced stakeholder network in regular conversation with Eastern IFCA;
- Documented novel application of the Community Voice Method for broader reference, and related academic publications on further application and development of CVM.
- Directory of complementary methods and approaches which share the ethos of the Community Voice Method and can be applied to achieve similar outcomes where appropriate.
- Series of workshops with local regulators/relevant authorities to discuss and assess engagement practice and needs;
- Business plan and funding model to affect change.

## Project Delivery Plan

MCS submitted an initial funding proposal to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in March 2015; the final enhanced proposal was submitted on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015 and MCS received confirmation that the funding had been granted on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015. An initial introductory meeting between EIFCA officers and MCS was held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015 which was followed up by a teleconference on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015. It was agreed to provide further information on the project to the Authority, including showing the video, at its next Statutory meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The project has been approved within the Authority's Research & Environment Plan for 2015-16, but some slippage of timelines has occurred.

Month	Activity
2015 October	Initial meetings with project partners and local stakeholder organisations to introduce concept. Develop and finalise CVM project work plan for stage 1 with IFCA.
November to December	Develop CVM methodology to encompass values assessments. Develop CVM materials, including interview questionnaire, workshop structure and discussion guides. Research into alternative engagement methods.
2016 January to February	Filmed interviews, transcription, coding & associated training. Research into alternative engagement methods.
March to May	NVIVO analysis, film production and associated training. Workshop planning. Research into alternative engagement methods.
June	Community screenings and workshops
July to August	Workshop analysis and reporting Compile directory of alternative engagement methodologies
September to December	Meetings with regulators in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Development of business plan and funding model.
2017 January to March	Completion of business plan and funding model.

## Financial implications

A total of forty Marine Environment Officer-days have been allocated to this project for 2015/16. In addition, fifteen days of CEO time and six days of other IFCO time has been dedicated to the project. This has been totalled at £21,350. As a result of the delay in starting this project, a proportion of this time will be used in 2016/17, and will be included in the plan for that year.

## Publicity

The nature of the work is such that a wide spectrum of stakeholders will be invited to participate, and the output will be a freely-accessible video linked to the Authority's website and promoted via social media.

## **Background documents**

1. Eastern IFCA Research & Environment Plan 2015/16

Sandra Cowper  
Marine Environment Officer (GIS)

### **Note**

The 2 CVM films from Sussex IFCA project (approx. 35 mins) may be viewed at any time (outside the meeting) via the links below -

<https://vimeo.com/116849038>

and here:

<https://vimeo.com/116849036>

Password: sunfish101

(NB: As MCS were looking at two MCZ sites in Sussex, they made two films, which are identical up to 24min55sec - and then diverge to discuss each site - with the last section, 'Moving Forward', also identical for both.)

Details of the Sussex IFCA CVM workshops can be found via the link below -

[http://www.sussexifca.gov.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=174&Itemid=215](http://www.sussexifca.gov.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=174&Itemid=215)

### **Vision**

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



## **Action Item 20**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Report by:** Julian Gregory, Acting CEO

#### **Calendar of meetings 2015**

#### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to propose dates for meetings of the Authority and sub committees thereof in 2016.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that members:

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

#### **Background**

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

#### **Proposal**

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

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

The calendar of meetings to October 2016 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Full Authority meetings have been scheduled in line with the convention that they take place on the last Wednesday of the relevant month. The only exception is the October meeting which has been changed because it routinely clashes with school holidays.

**Consultation**

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

**Financial implications**

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

**Regulatory implications**

There are no regulatory implications.

**Communications**

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

Appendix 1 to Action Item 20  
21<sup>st</sup> EIFCA meeting

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Proposed venue</b>
Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	1030	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Eastern IFCA</b>	<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech</b>
Planning & Communication Sub-Committee	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	10.30	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	10.30	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Eastern IFCA</b>	<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Eastern IFCA</b>	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech</b>
Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2016	10.30	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Eastern IFCA</b>	<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech</b>
Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10.30	Eastern IFCA Offices, King's Lynn
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Eastern IFCA</b>	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Boathouse Business Centre Wisbech</b>

#### **Vision**

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



## **Information Item 23**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Meeting**

**28 October 2015**

**Report by:** J. Gregory, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### **Quarterly progress against Annual Plan**

##### **Purpose of report**

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

##### **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- **Note the contents of this report**

##### **Background**

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is mandated to produce an annual plan each year to lay out the expected business outputs for the year ahead. The plan for financial year 2015-16 was agreed by the Planning and Communication Sub-Committee on 25 February 2015 and published thereafter.

##### **Report**

The tables at the Appendix detail the progress against the key priorities set in the Annual plan for 2015-16

##### **Risk**

There is no change to the strategic risk register matrix.

##### **Conclusion**

Authority officers are committed to delivering success across the breadth of our remit. The emphasis on closer coordination and joint working with partner agencies may present opportunities to share or better balance the prodigious work load the Authority is bound to deliver.

##### **Background documents**

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Annual Plan 2015-16.

##### **Appendices**

1. Report on priorities set for 2015-16

##### **Background Documents**

Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2015-16



**APPENDIX 1**

**Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

**29 July 2015**

**Quarterly Progress against Annual Plan**

8 major priorities are established for 2015-16.

FY 2015-16		
Major Priority	Progress	Comment
To continue investments in staff to preserve appropriate subject matter expertise		See HR plan for 2015-16
To ensure that the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas in the region are furthered by delivering fisheries management measures for 'Amber and Green' designated features within European Marine Sites (EMS) within the mandated timeframe and formulating potential management measures for Tranche 2 candidate Marine conservation zones (MCZ). Support community voice method project.		Additional detail on progress with this priority has been provided in the Marine Environment Officer's quarterly report. In summary, progress has continued with 78 full assessments being completed, and an updated "Non-Occurring Interactions Report" being provided to Natural England for interactions for which there is no effect on site integrity. Completion of the assessments and mitigation measures remains a priority for the Authority. There are 44 full assessments and 173 light-touch assessments to be completed by December 2015. The resignation of a Marine Environment Officer has resulted in some delay within the project, but the replacement Officer is already in post and training in this area of work is a priority. Additional funding from Defra to assist in meeting the Defra mandated timescale is to be channelled into external support to complete the suite of assessments and assist in the development of management measures. Following the brown shrimp management workshop in July 2015, work has focused on developing management options that will reduce damage from this fishery but retain viability within the industry. Initial discussions have been held with shrimp industry members around the trialling of innovative shrimp fishing gear. Funding has been secured for the Community Voice project, which is detailed in a paper to the Authority.

<p>To ensure that sea fisheries resources are exploited sustainably and in accordance with MSFD requirements by continuing the comprehensive byelaw review process guided by the strategic assessment of fisheries within the district;</p>		<p>The Strategic Assessment identified two species in urgent need of protection, namely Bass and Whelk. Whilst work commenced to develop the evidence base to support the introduction of management measures for Bass it was quickly overtaken by work at EU and UK levels and management measures have now been introduced. EIFCA continues to support Defra in the introduction of Bass nursery areas. An emergency byelaw has introduced new management measures for whelk within the district and work is underway to replace this with a permanent byelaw. The process to 'tidy up' the legacy Eastern and North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee byelaws is underway, which will remove some duplication and anomalies in the current regulatory regime.</p>
<p>To promote sustainable development through a project to rejuvenate previously productive fishing grounds</p>		<p>Permission for funding the Mussel Regeneration project has been received from the Wash fishermen's associations. A site had been identified for conducting the trial but when visited in March to mark out the area, it was found to support high densities of recently settled cockles. Alternative sites were sought during the cockle surveys, but the widespread settlement of cockle spat made this difficult. Following concerns from some fishermen that the shells were planned to be laid too late, a decision was made to delay the project until March 2016. Alternative sites to conduct this study are currently being sought while conducting the mussel surveys. To date however, most of the sites visited close to the mussel beds have either been found to support large numbers of 2014 year-class cockles or are too muddy. In September the 2014 regeneration study site was visited while surveying a nearby mussel bed. Although it was not possible to survey the site on this occasion, the number and biomass of mussels aggregating in the treatment areas appeared to have increased during the year.</p>
<p>To continue the Seagoing Assets Review and to introduce into service a second enforcement vessel;</p>		<p>Upgrades to <i>FPV John Allen</i> were completed in April 2015, which have resulted in enhanced capability. The contract to build the second enforcement vessel (<i>FPV Sebastian Terelinck</i>) was awarded to Redbay Boats following a competitive tendering process. The vessel was completed and delivered following successful sea trials in early</p>

		September 2015. Following an incident that resulted in extensive damage to <i>FPV Pisces III</i> a replacement vessel will now be required and this will be progressed during the winter months.
To ensure that the marine environment is protected from the effect of exploitation by reviewing district wide bio-security measures including management of invasive, non-native species;		Work on the Biosecurity Project was planned to start in quarter 2 of the current financial year. The new Marine Environment Officer started in post on 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2015 and will assist the Project Officer in this work. There has been an increase in partner activity relating to non-native species (partially in response to new port ballast water regulations); officers will ensure partnership work will be undertaken where appropriate to maximise efficient use of resources.
To balance the needs of all within the fishery by assessing the impact of Common Rights Holders activity;		The scope of the project has been established based on analysis of CRoW Act 2000 S4 Conclusive Registered Common Land GI dataset. A total of 49 Common Land parcels overlap both EIFCA's boundary and EMS boundaries, they total 2,302 hectares. The next step is to review the activities relating to these parcels to assess the risk to protected sites. Work on this project has been delayed during the quarter, partly as a result of personnel changes but also to enable momentum to be maintained within the assessment of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas.
To promote sustainable development by reviewing the process to issue WFO Entitlement and explore cost recovery mechanisms		<p>A review of waiting list for WFO entitlements has been carried out. All 34 individuals who have previously applied (over the last 8 years) for an Entitlement have confirmed that they still wish the application to stand. Given the continued level of demand and the extant pressures within the fishery, it is unlikely that the review of the moratorium on issuing entitlements will be lifted. It may be that if stocks continue to recover the greater stock abundance may enable an increase in effort but this will need to be carefully managed as any issue of further Entitlements will be considered as a permanent allocation would be difficult to subsequently retract.</p> <p>On a wider note, there has been a desire amongst some within the fishing community to hold talks in the autumn with regard to enabling fishing opportunities for both hand workers and those who wish to use</p>

		suction dredges. Whilst this was welcomed there may have been a change in this position as a consequence of some behaviour within the Wash cockle fishery this year. A review of the management policies aligned to the WFO together with the regulatory regime is planned together with exploration of cost recovery.
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<b>Subordinate Priority</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Comment</b>
To influence and shape the national inshore marine management debate and narrative.		Through attendance at national meetings and other fora.
To continue to advance the Authority's understanding of the species, habitats and activities occurring in the district.		In accordance with Research and Environment plan 2015-16. Barring the Mussel Regeneration Project, which has been delayed due to reasons mentioned above, the majority of the projects in this plan are currently on schedule.
To engage with marine planning issues, including consultations on marine licenses and developments and active participation in Commercial Fisheries Working Groups.		38 consultations completed so far this year. Responses to significant consultations now published on the website.  Active participation in CFWG for Greater Gabbard and Galloper wind farms.  Statement of Common Ground for Triton Knoll offshore wind farm has been drafted.
To continue to promote the work of Eastern IFCA through outreach events.		The programme for this year has been completed with 13 events having taken place. These have included 3 very successful educational events at Primary schools as well as high profile public events such as the Cromer carnival, the Norfolk Food and Drink Festival and the Cromer Crab and Lobster Festival. Whilst individual events have been well received they are very resource intensive and effective measurement of their impact is difficult in terms of the overall context of 'being seen and heard'.
As a Directing body contribute to the activities and output of the Association of IFCAs.		Development of response to Defra tasking to seek financial savings through greater joint working between IFCAs and MMO.  Development of revised High Level Objectives.

**Key:**

■	<b>Complete</b>
■	<b>In progress</b>
■	<b>No progress</b>

### Vision

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



## Information Item 24

### 21<sup>st</sup> Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

28<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Report by:** Simon Lee – Senior IFCO (Compliance)  
Simon Howard – Senior IFCO (Marine)

### Marine Protection Quarterly Reports

#### **Purpose of report**

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

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

#### **Recommendations**

##### **Members are asked to:**

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

#### **Background documents**

Area Officers and vessel quarterly reports for July to September 2015.

## **Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority**

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**From:** Jason Byrne Fishery Officer (Area 1)  
**To:** Julian Gregory  
**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
**Ref:** Quarterly Report Area 1  
**Monthly Report:** July, Aug, Sept 2015

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### **Area 1: Hale Sand – Kings Lynn**

#### **General**

Efforts have been targeted throughout this quarter at the handraked cockle fishery, a total of 44 vessels from both Kings Lynn & Boston Ports have been participating. Other activities have included twin beaming for Brown Shrimp, potting for Crab & Lobster, netting for Bass and Mussel seed relaying.

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### **Port Summary**

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#### **Saltfleet - Chapel point**

One vessel achieved 69 days potting for Crab & Lobster throughout this quarter, other activities have been speaking with anglers vessel based & shore based on Bass bag limits and MLS, also carry out bio samples for research team. Two vessel based anglers throughout the quarter have been rod & lining for Mackerel.

#### **Skegness – Gibraltar Point**

Two commercial vessels from this area have achieved 40 days fishing throughout this quarter potting for Crab & Lobster and netting for Bass. After chatting with shore based & vessel based anglers in this area about Bass, most agree with the minimum landing size increasing but not with bag limit as their views is that there will be more effort now to fill their freezers. Towards the end of this quarter anglers have reported large quantities of Whiting showing up in this part of the coast.

#### **Boston**

The majority of the vessels from this Port are working the handraked Cockle fishery; a total of 20 vessels achieved 927 landings between them throughout this quarter.

#### **Fosdyke**

Two commercial fishing vessels have visited the marina throughout this quarter, one came up from Wells to carry out a major overhaul; Kings Lynn Pilots vessel also visited the marina this quarter for a re-fit.

#### **Sutton Bridge - Wisbech**

One shore based angler walked off Sutton Bridge netting for Bass & Mullet only carrying out two days fishing, two further shore based anglers have been seen fishing off the bank at high water targeting flat fish. Fishery Officer Lee and I took delivery of the new RIB Sebastian Terelinck at Wisbech Marina towards the end of this quarter unloading it from the lorry and fitting the mast and radar.

#### **Kings Lynn**

A total of 24 vessels participated in the handraked cockle fishery throughout this quarter achieving 933 landings between them, some of these vessels have taken advantage of the cockle closure dates throughout this quarter and decided to go twin beaming for shrimps instead of laying alongside, a total of 14 vessels twin beamed for shrimp totalling 61 trips, three vessels potted for Whelks managing eight trips between them. One other vessel from this port has been relaying Mussel seed from Morecambe Bay onto their private lays within the Wash.

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### **Species Summary**

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*NB All landing and effort (e.g. potting) figures detailed within this report are estimates based upon observations made by Fishery Officers and reports from fishermen. They are intended to be an indicator only and should not be regarded as definitive figures.*

#### **Saltfleet - Chapel Point**

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		4
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Crab	86,321	97,867.00
Lobster	8,056	93,095.00
Velvet Crab	456	684.00

**Skegness – Gibraltar Point**

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		2
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Crab	15,905	17,495.00
Lobster	1,254	12,906.00
Bass	541	8,483.00

**Boston**

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		177
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Handraked Cockles	1,818,392	735,636.00

**Fosdyke**

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

**Sutton Bridge**

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

**Kings Lynn**

<b>Number of vessel inspections</b>		377
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Handraked Cockles	1,675,151	679,127.00
Brown Shrimp	41,714	90,270.00
Whelk	7,243	5,577.00
Mussel	208,465	0

**Potting**

**Crab and lobster**

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	1200
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	700

**Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster**

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	50
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	226

**Whelk**

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	0
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	500

**Non Commercial Activities**

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

<b>Number of anglers inspected:</b>		1
<b>Locations fished:</b>	<b>Species targeted:</b>	<b>Average catch (kg):</b>
Sutton Bridge	Bass	1

Mullet	4
Flatfish	0

**Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):**

<b>Number of vessels inspected:</b>	2	
<b>Locations fished:</b>	<b>Species targeted:</b>	
	<b>Average catch (kg):</b>	
Saltfleet	Mackerel	6
Skegness	Bass	15
Tab's Head	Bass	3
	Mullet	8

**Charter Angling Vessels:**

<b>Number of charter vessels inspected:</b>			
<b>Number of vessels in area:</b>	0	<b>Number of trips:</b>	0
<b>Species targeted:</b>	0	<b>Number of anglers:</b>	0
		<b>Total Landings (kg):</b>	0

**Locations fished throughout the month: 0**

**Fishery Officer Duties**

**Training:**

None.

**Other duties carried out:**

Attended meeting at office with DS.  
 Attended Shrimp Industry Workshop meeting.  
 Attended TCG/Weekly ops meetings.  
 Monitor Horseshoe Point protected area.  
 Lincs coast Bio Sampling.  
 Collected water from Wells for show.  
 Horseshoe Point cockle survey.  
 Unit A putting up shelving.  
 Away on JA Lincs Coast patrol.  
 Away on TC collecting EHO samples.  
 Attended Cromer Carnival outreach event.  
 Away on JA cockle patrol.  
 Wisbech Marina assisting with Sebastian Terelinck.  
 Taxi crew Great Yarmouth.  
 Attended photos for various papers for Sebastian Terelinck article.  
 Attended naming ceremony for Sebastian Terelinck.

**1<sup>st</sup> sale value of different species within this area (£/kg)**

Crab	1.10 - 1.20
Velvet Crab	1.50
Lobster	10.00 - 14.00
Brown Shrimp	1.84 - 2.50
Whelks	77p
Handraked Cockles	38p - 44p
Bass	15.50 - 16.00

## **Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

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**From:** Ady Woods I.F.C.O (Area: Norfolk Coast)

**To:** J. Gregory Deputy C.E.O

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Ref:**

**Monthly Report:** July-August-September-2015

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### **Area: Norfolk Coast: Heacham to Great Yarmouth**

#### **General**

Within this last quarter my time on the coast has been limited, due to other fisheries taking priorities, periods of annual leave and other work requirements.

Generally though from my time spent around the coast I believe that everybody has had a good summer's fishing with ample crustacean to fill the local sales.

As it can be seen from the port summary below the landing figures may not show that a successful fishery has been had this quarter, however this is down to the lack of landing data received.

#### **The Fisheries**

**Crabs** – this fishery took a slump at the end of June and into early July, and for those fishing the inshore ground, it looked as if this was to be set for the summer. However after a week or two and a little more motion in the water, the crabs returned to the feed and never stopped again all summer, catches have obviously fluctuated with the seasonal shooting of shells and the weather, but generally fishing has been good.

**Lobsters** – after the initial boom of lobsters this fishery slowed up, however it did only slow up, a good range of lobsters continued to be caught throughout the quarter.

Two disturbing reports have been made to me, these coming from two fishermen in separate locations, that they have caught what they believed to be Canadian lobsters, one was brought ashore and the other was returned, if these are to be in our area they could be detrimental to the fishery.

**Whelks** – as expected this fishery has steadily slowed up, this is down to a mixture of variants, although the two main reasons being the seasonal trade for crab and lobster growing, allowing fisherman to target their preferred fishery and the water warming making the whelks docile and taking them off the feed.

**Netting** – has been quite quiet, this being due to the water being too clear, too many pots in areas where nets would be set, and also there not being enough hours during the day.

**Angling** – has been a mixed bag, both the sandy and shingle beaches have continued to provide sport at different times of the day, for a mixture of species. The main target species has been Bass, with catches of dabs, flounders, codling, whiting, and sole also being taken. Also when the weather allowed there were some mackerel about, however this year these were very small in size with only a handful of good sized fish to be had.

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### **Port Summary**

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#### **Brancaster**

This port has remained active, although activity report forms are slow, almost non-existent, to come in, just 7 days have been declared by vessels to be actively fishing from the past 91 days.

Fishing here has included potting for crab and lobster, and trawling mostly for bass, anglers around here have also enjoyed some sport mackerel, bass and some tope were reported to have been caught and released early in the quarter.

#### **Wells-next-the-Sea**

Of the 13 vessels potting at this port, 5 vessels refuse to send in any landing data, for the remainder 157 days have been fished out of a possible 728 days this quarter. The majority of fishing at this port has been potting for Crab, Lobster and Whelk with some netting and lining being done at times.

One skipper of a vessel at this port was fortunate not to lose half of his hand, after having his hand dragged into his hauler, after returning to shore and several stitches later, he counted his lucky stars.

### **Morston**

The one vessel at this port doesn't send in any landing data.

This port may not soon have any commercial activity taking place, as the current commercial vessel owner is waiting for a new vessel to be built, which he is hoping to operate possibly from Cromer beach, providing that he can make it work he's hoping to get rid of his offshore vessel.

### **Cley-next-the-Sea**

No landing data has been received from this port, although it is busier than ever now with 6 registered vessels operating here.

During July and August when the weather settled this beach was targeted heavily by anglers, flogging the water with feathers hoping to catch mackerel, there were several about, however many were joey's and only a few sizeable fish were to be had close inshore.

### **Weybourne**

No landing data is received from this port.

### **Sheringham**

Of the five vessels operating from this port only 2 vessels have sent in any data, these two vessels have managed 88 days fishing from a possible 182 days.

### **East & West Runton**

Of the four active vessels at these ports just one sends in a return.

A skipper of a vessel at East Runton wasn't quite so fortunate as his colleague at Wells, whilst hauling pots of East Runton beach he managed to get his hand ripped into his hauler, however on this occasion his thumb was sliced in two!

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### **Cromer & Overstrand**

Between these two ports there are some 20 vessels actively fishing on most days, however as at all other ports, data is only received from a percentage, 11 boats on occasions.

The majority of activity at these ports has been for Crab and Lobster. Just one vessel has taken up a Whelk permit allowing him to fish for whelks within the district.

Other fishing here has included a small amount of netting for bass.

### **Mundesley to Caister**

This stretch of coast is very much the same, although there is less activity taking place along here, there are still 6 boats who actively fish of which four manage to send in a return sometimes.

These boats fish for Crab and Lobster, whilst some also do small amounts of netting for bass.

### **Yarmouth/Gorleston**

No activity data is received from this port, however the current licensed vessel within this port fishes solely for whelks and does currently have a permit to fish inside the district.

During the quarter this port has received a further licensed vessel, which is also intending to have a permit and fish for whelks within the district, although currently the boat is being fitted out.

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### **Species Summary**

***NB All landing and effort (e.g. potting) figures detailed within this report are estimates based upon observations made by Fishery Officers and reports from fishermen. They are intended to be an indicator only and should not be regarded as definitive figures.***

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<b><u>Brancaster</u></b>			
<b>Number of times port visited</b>		<b>3</b>	
<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>7</b>	
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>	
Crab	2,900	9,400	
Lobster	820	8,610	

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<b><u>Wells-next-the-Sea</u></b>	
<b>Number of times port visited</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Bass	226	2,373
Crab	69,279	122,660
Lobster	7,679	80,630
Mackerel	55	100
Whelk	44,610	33,458

<b><u>Morston</u></b>		
<b>Number of times port visited</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Crab	0	0
Lobster	0	0

<b><u>Sheringham</u></b>		
<b>Number of times port visited</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Crab	4,931	16,030
Lobster	290	3,045

<b><u>Cromer</u></b>		
<b>Number of times port visited</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>34</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Bass	471	5,181
Crab	25,695	83,509
Lobster	4,743	49,800
Whelk	1,270	950

<b><u>Cley, Weybourne, E Runton, W Runton, Overstrand, Mundesley &amp; Bacton</u></b>		
<b>Number of times port visited</b>		<b>32</b>
<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Crab	10,509	34,154
Lobster	2,193	23,027
Whelk	0	

<b><u>Sea Palling</u></b>		
<b>Number of times port visited</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Cod	38	106
Crab	12,461	40,498
Lobster	1,582	16,611
Whelk	0	

<b><u>Caister &amp; Gorleston</u></b>		
<b>Number of times port visited</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Dab	20	24
Herring	500	500
Whelk	27,813	22,250

<b><u>Potting</u></b>		
<b>Crab and lobster</b>		
Number of pots declared to be fished inside 6nm:		11,950
Number of pots declared to be fished outside 6nm:		8,600

**Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster**

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Number of brown crab measured during the month:	1383
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	735

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**Whelk**

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Number of pots declared to be fished inside 6nm:	365
Number of pots declared to be fished outside 6nm:	3,100

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### Non Commercial Activities

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#### Recreational Sea Anglers (shore based):

<b>Number of anglers inspected:</b>	<b>171</b>	
<b>Locations fished:</b>	<b>Species targeted:</b>	<b>Average catch (kg):</b>
Brancaster	Bass	0
Cley	Various / Mackerel	1 / 4-5
Weybourne	Various / Mackerel	1 / 2-3
Sheringham	Bass	3
Cromer	Bass / Mackerel	2-4 / 1-2
Trimingham	Bass	2 - 3
Mundesley	Bass	2 - 3
Bacton	Various	1 - 2
Cart Gap	Various	0
Caister	Various	1 - 2
Gorleston	Anything	1 - 2

#### Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):

<b>Number of vessels inspected:</b>	<b>53</b>	
<b>Locations fished:</b>	<b>Species targeted:</b>	<b>Average catch (kg):</b>
Brancaster	Bass / mackerel	2 - 3 / 2 - 3
Burnham Overy	Bass / Mackerel	0 / 1 - 2
Wells	Bass / Mackerel	0 / 1 - 2
Morston	Bass	0
Sheringham	Bass	2 - 3
West Runton	Bass	2 - 3
Sea Palling	Various	1 - 2

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### Fishery Officer Duties

#### Training:

No training undertaken

#### Other duties carried out:

##### July

- 1<sup>st</sup> Community engagement at Aylsham school
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Day trip on Three Counties
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Day trip on Three Counties
- 6<sup>th</sup> WFH updating paperwork
- 7<sup>th</sup> TOIL
- 8<sup>th</sup> Landings / patrol Cromer to Gorleston
- 9<sup>th</sup> Landings / patrol Cromer to Cley
- 10<sup>th</sup> Landings Sea Palling
- 13<sup>th</sup> Landings Brancaster
- 14<sup>th</sup> To LT landings Caister
- 15<sup>th</sup> WFH – Landings / patrol Cromer to Brancaster
- 16<sup>th</sup> WFH arranging interviews
- 20<sup>th</sup> Landings Cromer – Crab sample to CEFAS – Whelk pot checks in Yarmouth
- 21<sup>st</sup> WFH
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Leave
- 27<sup>th</sup> Landings and patrol Weybourne to Cart Gap
- 28<sup>th</sup> At office
- 29<sup>th</sup> Landings and patrol Cromer to Gorleston
- 30<sup>th</sup> Community engagement at Titchwell Reserve
- 31<sup>st</sup> Community engagement at Titchwell Reserve and carry out landings at Southwold

##### August

- 2<sup>nd</sup> arrange crustacean for show
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> WFH
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5<sup>th</sup> Interviews at Lowestoft  
6<sup>th</sup> at office  
7<sup>th</sup> Landings and patrol West Runton to Caister  
10<sup>th</sup> Day trip John Allen  
11<sup>th</sup> Day trip John Allen  
12<sup>th</sup> Bio-sampling with PW  
13<sup>th</sup> WFH  
14<sup>th</sup> at office  
15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Annual leave

### **September**

1<sup>st</sup> to office – to Devon for interviews  
2<sup>nd</sup> return from Devon  
3<sup>rd</sup> At office  
6<sup>th</sup> Community engagement at Holkham hall  
7<sup>th</sup> WFH  
9<sup>th</sup> Landings Cromer to Morston  
10<sup>th</sup> Patrol Cromer to LT  
13<sup>th</sup> Community Engagement and boat naming at Kings Lynn  
14<sup>th</sup> Landings Sheringham and Cley  
15<sup>th</sup> Patrol and landings Cromer to Gorleston  
16<sup>th</sup> WFH  
17<sup>th</sup> Patrol and landings Cromer to Weybourne  
18<sup>th</sup> Patrol with JT – Brancaster to Cley  
21<sup>st</sup> WFH  
22<sup>nd</sup> Office  
23<sup>rd</sup> Patrol Sea Palling to Morston  
24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> A/L  
28<sup>th</sup> WFH patrol coast Cromer to Blakeney – to Office – Cockle landings  
29<sup>th</sup> Patrol Boston with SP

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

Bass	11.00
Cod	2.80
Crab	1.20 – 3.20
Herring	1.10
Lobster	10.50
Mackerel	1.80
Whelk	0.60 – 0.80

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**Eastern – Inshore fisheries conservation authority**

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**From:** Alan Garnham Fishery Officer (Area 3)  
**To:** Simon Lee  
**Date:**  
**Ref:**  
**Quarterly** Jul-Sep 2015  
**Report:**

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**Area 4: Pakefield – Felixstowe Ferry**

**General**

What a start to the quarter in fact during the first week of July one day recorded the highest temperature ever!! But then school holidays turned the weather and it's been so windy for days at time. Fishermen reported cod have virtually gone, but there's still plenty of thornback rays, sole and dogfish. Bass fishing has been very quiet and not too many reports of catches in the rivers. Whelk activity has been high with good landings coming ashore.

Suffolk rivers, due to the increase in temperature, became very weedy making it difficult for the netters.

Warm weather continued during August causing sea temperatures to rise.

It appears rainfall was very high during August in the east and it may break all-time records. Commercial fishermen again complaining of the amount of seals operating along the entire area from Lowestoft to Felixstowe. Seals are being seen well up the local rivers.

Fishing has been particularly quiet with many fishermen reporting low catches of the summer species of bass, mullet and sole. Out on the Aldeburgh Napes good numbers of cod have been reported.

Lobster and crab returns have been very quiet this quarter due mainly to the fact fishermen having moved their pots for the allocated month of August for a major wind farm survey in this busy potting area. This survey was delayed and continued through September.

Some boats have taken made the most of this by removing their boats during this period for essential maintenance.

The third week of August was written off with heavy winds.

Fish prices continued to be a little unstable during the early part of the month due to delays in fish transportation to Europe using the Tunnel.

Overnight 27th a local boat out of Felixstowe was trawling for sole when he trawled up a complete human skull. Police have recovered it on behalf of the coroner.

Variable winds during September with good weather made fishing good. Although easterly winds killed the fishing for some days. Cod are beginning to show numbers pleasing all local fishermen. Roker are still around in good numbers as are the sole. Bass and mullet numbers have dropped in the river but this may be down to the RSA restriction of three fish per angler per 24hrs and the fact the MLS has shot up from 36cm to 42cm.

Commercial fishermen on the whole agree with the increase to 42cm but when netting they are returning dead bass to the sea between the 36-42cm size which are getting caught up in the nets. They say "It's like throwing a tenner away with every dead fish". Suggestions of increased net size may help.

Along the coast some boats are now changing over to long lining gear and some have been out for refits whilst returning the line hauler to the boat. Good success has been had by Lowestoft boats hitting double figure bass off shore.

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**Port Summary**

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**Pakefield**

No landing inspections during the quarter but local fishermen report a quiet time with occasional summer species showing on the beach. Most beach boats are awaiting the return of the herring

**Southwold**

Whelkers have been again landing whelk in high numbers but all whelkers are reporting fishing outside the six mile and don't require IFCA permits.

On the boats some commercial fishermen have been netting and returning with some good sole and the odd bass in with thornback ray, flounder and dabs.

No reports from any beach anglers this quarter and no reports from the pier.

September became good for fishermen and good catches of cod, roker, sole and bass

### **Dunwich & Sizewell**

On the beach I have been witnessing anglers taking codling on rough windy days with a swell on the water. I didn't see a bass all month which seems quite remarkable for July. Lobsters are now showing in better numbers with the longer lighter days and warmer sea.

Commercial fishing has been slow with a few bass and sole turning up. Potting has been very quiet with low numbers taken from the pots.

### **Thorpeness & Aldeburgh**

During July boats reported a steady fish here but the quotas hamper fishing activity keeping it very low. Sole fattened up and good landings with plenty of Thornback around amongst the huge amount of dogfish in the seas. Lobsters as reported at Sizewell are on the move with good landings taken.

In the rivers Alde /Ore fishing has been steady with good sole and a few bass and mullet being taken.

Slow catches during August but all came together in September with good figures landed here with summer species showing mixed in with the appearing cod. I received several reports from varying fishermen there appears to be an abundance of undersize lobsters close in. Hopefully they will still be around next year. In the nearby river I have received reports of plenty of bass and eels being taken.

### **Orford**

Commercial fishing again has been slow here and with the potters having to move out their gear for the wind farm survey landings have been very poor. Out on the napes fishermen have found some cod and a few good landings have been made.

During September this quiet little port was steady with a mixed bag of fish although fishing effort has been reportedly low this month but good catches.

### **Felixstowe**

Sad News Rod Markham passed away in July - well known here all his life. Setting up a fishing tackle shop with his wife in the sixties and running up to four charter boats at the same time. Gary his son still runs the shop in Ipswich. I've spent many a day on a boat with Rod and many a fishing holiday in Southern Ireland he will be sorely missed by all the fishing community of Felixstowe and Ipswich.

Fishing has been good when able to get out to sea with again good sole and thornbacks. On the beaches fishing has been better at night with several eels turning up within the varied species of bass, codling, dogfish and whiting

Commercially during September a few boats quickly came out onshore for a quick refit and change over to winter fishing methods like loading on pot haulers and taking off winches etc. Fishing at sea improved as the month ticked by with good landings of cod, sole and roker.

Wind farm survey vessels have been working here throughout the month including working in the River Deben where the cabling will be placed under the river. In the river Deben fishing has been particularly quiet this month although the usual fishing effort in the Orwell and Stour has taken place low catches have been recorded. It appears the mullet have left the rivers and the bass are not far behind.

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### **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.*

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<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>	<b><u>Pakefield</u></b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
No figures		

Whelks (landed Lowestoft)	81,087	64,255.96
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**Southwold**

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Cod	6,510	16,610.00
Roker	1,060	2,171.00
Bass	255	3,105.00
Flounder	750	750.00
Dabs	225	225.00
Sole	5,800	37,690.00
Dogfish	495	769.50
Smooth hound	225	576.50
Whelks	47,707	63,032.25
Lobster	445	4,450
Crab	250	750.00

**Dunwich & Sizewell**

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Cod	360	810.00
Dabs	60	60.000
Sole	590	3,835.00
Bass	135	1,665.00
Flounder	100	100.00
Lobster	300	3,000.00
Crab	150	450.00

**Thorpeness & Aldeburgh**

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Cod	4,160	10,750.00
Roker	1,180	2,358.00
Sole	2,025	13,292.50
Dogfish	460	718.50
Bass	175	2,245.00
Flounder	270	270.00
Dabs	125	125.00
Lobster	489	4,890.00
Crab	620	1,860.00

**Orford**

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Cod	2,005	9,290.00
Roker	1,816	3,732.00
Sole	4,930	18,912.00
Dogfish	150	240.00
Flounder	280	280.00
Dabs	115	115.00
Bass	265	3,230.00
Lobster	655	6,550.00
Crab	570	1,710.00

**Felixstowe**

<b>Number of vessel inspections:</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Landings (kg)</b>	<b>Value of catch (£)</b>
Cod	3,545	7,951.00
Roker	2,785	5,885.50
Bass	272	3,442.00
Sole	7,520	35,132.50

Dogfish	265	422.000
Flounder	205	205.00
Dabs	80	80.00
Mullet	450	920.00
Smooth hound	125	325.00
Lobster	630	6,300.00
Crab	275	825.00

### **Potting**

#### **Crab and lobster**

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	1233
Average	
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	90
Average	

#### **Bio-sampling of brown crab and lobster**

Number of brown crab measured during the month:	0
Number of lobsters measured during the month:	59

#### **Whelk**

Number of pots inside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	54
Number of pots outside 6nm fished by vessels from within area:	6,500

### **Non Commercial Activities**

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

<b>Number of anglers inspected:</b>	<b>54</b>		
<b>Locations fished:</b>	<b>Species targeted:</b>	<b>Average catch (kg):</b>	
Aldeburgh	Any	1.0	
Felixstowe	Any	1.0	

#### **Recreational Sea Anglers (vessel based):**

<b>Number of vessels inspected:</b>	<b>2</b>		
<b>Locations fished:</b>	<b>Species targeted:</b>	<b>Average catch (kg):</b>	
Felixstowe	Cod smooth hound ray	10	
Orford	Cod smooth hound ray	10	

#### **Charter Angling Vessels:**

<b>Number of charter vessels inspected:</b>	<b>0</b>				
<b>Number of vessels in area:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Number of trips:</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>Number of anglers:</b>	<b>2,565</b>
<b>Species targeted:</b>		<b>Total Landings (kg):</b>			
Cod		1,080			
Smooth hound		1,200			
Bass		420			
Ray		1,730			
<b>Locations fished throughout the month:</b>					
Within 6 mile					

### **Fishery Officer Duties**

#### **Training:**

None

#### **Other duties carried out:**

##### **July**

1st July – Windfarm meeting Ipswich  
 1st July – RSA meeting Felixstowe SAS  
 3rd -12th July – Annual leave  
 14th July – Stour & Orwell forum

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17th July – ICT Norwich  
20th July – case file preparation  
21st July – Kings Lynn Office TCG and printing purposes.  
22nd July – case file preparation  
23rd – verbal warning u/s ling  
25th July – Bio sampling lobsters Aldeburgh  
29th July – Interview planning  
29th July – Hotel premises inspection Gorleston

**August**

5th Aug – MMO offices for fishery interviews  
6th Aug – prepare case file  
7th Aug – Prepare case file  
11th Aug – Verbal warning for obstruction issued  
12th Aug – Shellfish inspections at shops  
13th Aug – Shellfish inspections at shops  
14th Aug – to kings Lynn for TCG meeting  
17th Aug – to Norwich ICT for computer repair  
18th Aug – Shellfish inspections Gt Yarmouth (shops)  
19th Aug – To kings Lynn with case file and reports  
20th Aug – Shellfish inspections restaurants Southwold

**September**

1st Sep – To Totnes two taped interviews conducted at home address  
2nd Sep – To Brixham – Enqs at Devon Severn IFCA and return journey  
4th Sep- 15th Annual leave  
18th Sep – ICT Norwich  
22nd Sep – Office Kings Lynn  
23rd Sep – 28th Sep Annual Leave  
29th Sep Office Kings Lynn

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

Cod	2.20
Roker	1.76
Bass	13.33
Sole	6.83
Smooth hound	2.56
Dabs	1.00
Dogfish	1.60
Flounder	1.00
Mullet	2.13
Whelks	1.25
Lobster	10.00
Crab	3.00

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## **Quarterly Report Three Counties July - September 2015**

### *July*

At the start of the month pot hauler training was put into place aboard Three Counties including setting up the pot gear as set down in the Whelk legislation. Then the crew went through all the different parts of the task to shoot the pots over the stern, haul the pots aboard using the pot hauler, stacking the pots on the aft deck ready for shooting off the stern and then a working on the wheel in the wheelhouse hauling the pots and shooting them away off the stern with help from the shore based Officer who had this job before joining Eastern IFCA.

Side scan surveys covered the mouth of the Wash and the Boston Deepes to find the extent of the cobble and boulders. We worked in partnership with Natural England as part of the monitoring of the flora and fauna. EHO/DSP samples were collected from around the Wash to check the health of the shellfish stocks in the Wash.

### *August*

Sweep and EHO/DSP samples were collected to help study the health and wellbeing of the shellfish stocks in the Wash. Cobble and Boulder surveys were conducted using the drop camera covering the mouth of the Wash along with day grabs to collect seabed samples to establish the size of the sediment, shell and any Sabellaria in the survey area.

EHO/DSP mussel and cockle samples were collected from around the Wash to check the health of the shellfish stocks in the Wash. Sweep water samples were collected at the same time from around the Wash in partnership with UEA to find the amount of plankton throughout the year.

As part of the on-going study into the health of the shellfish stocks an extra sample site has been placed in the River Ouse as part of a study into cutting down the time it takes to collect the EHO/DSP samples around the Wash, this site was recharged.

### *September*

Mussel surveys started and the first areas surveyed were the Welland Wall, Breast sand close to the big mound and then Herring Hill. On the day of the Breast mussel survey 4 staff from Natural England joined us on the mussel survey and gave a hand to collect the mussel samples. After this we carried out visual surveys of the Sabellaria on Ron's Reef to see what changes had taken place from the last inspection before the tide came back in.

EHO/DSP and Sweep samples were collected from around the Wash to build up a picture of the health of the shellfish stocks.

At the same time the mussel surveys took place visual and radar observation were made of the cockle boats working on the Roger/Toft sands.

## **Quarterly Report FPV John Allen July-September 2015**

The quarter was dominated with the hand work cockle fishery. Fishing vessels were constantly observed and periodic walking of the sands took place to monitor any excessive disturbance of the sand and to gather evidence of fishing in closed areas. Officers monitored the ports and successfully enforced the daily landed quota of 2000kg of cockles.

John Allen spent two days targeting the North Norfolk Coast concentrating on the crab, lobster and whelk fishery. A total of 16 vessels were boarded, all reported reasonable catches of crab and lobster. Officers' boarded one fishing boat, the skipper confirmed that Whelk catches had dropped from the previous month but this

was expected for the time of year. Two other recreational anglers were boarded, there was no catch to inspect.

The Lincolnshire coast was patrolled and five recreational anglers were boarded. Officers inspected catches that mainly comprised of mackerel, with the odd bass. The opportunity was taken to educate all those that were boarded of the new 3 per day bass limit.

The crew of John Allen assisted Seasearch for a day to trial the concept of diving off the stern of John Allen. The day was successful and identified the need for some minor alterations, which are currently being addressed.

A day was spent trialling the 'A frame' with the use of the side scan, which raised a few issues that are currently being addressed.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> John Allen was given a good clean inside and out and sailed to Kings Lynn in readiness for the Kings Lynn Heritage Festival on the 13<sup>th</sup>. This was a great opportunity for the local community, family and friends to gain an insight into the job function of EIFCA. The weather was fine and a large number of people took the opportunity to look around John Allen and Three Counties. All concerned reported back that the public showed a genuine interest in what EIFCA does. In addition to the heritage day itself, Sebastian Terelinck was formally named in a ceremony held at the quayside. Relatives of Sebastian Terelinck, dignitaries and the public witnessed the ceremony

Throughout the quarter whilst John Allen was on patrol EMS sites were monitored and recorded and took full opportunity to educate fishers about the new bass restrictions.

### **Quarterly Report FPV Sebastian Terelinck July – September 2015**

The vessel was delivered from Redbay Boats on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and the formal naming ceremony was held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in conjunction with the Kings Lynn Heritage day.

The vessel did not become operational during September due to administrative issues on the part of the certifying authority. This has now been resolved and familiarisation training for staff has commenced.

## EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES and CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

To: J Gregory

From: J M Taylor

Date: 15/10/2015

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### **RV Three Counties Engineering Report for SEPTEMBER 2015**

	Engine hours at the start of the month 21/08/2015:	Engine hours at the end of the month 30/10/2015:
Port Main:	7599.4	7666.8
Stbd Main:	7478.3	7543.7
Port Gen:	8794	8866
Stbd Gen:	8424	8454

#### **Routine/fault maintenance carried out on RV THREE COUNTIES**

- 3<sup>rd</sup>, Steamed down to Alicat Workboats in Great Yarmouth to be lifted out of the water. When we set off first thing in the morning a constant squeak was heard from the outboard Cutlass on the port side that stopped after 10 minutes or so, it was not heard for the rest of the journey, suspicion was that this was the outboard Cutlass bearing burning up. Three Counties was lifted out that evening ready to come back on Monday and remove the port Propeller Shaft to assess and replace the Cutlass Bearings and assess the Propeller Shaft itself, along with the taper inside the R&D Flange and on the Propeller Shaft. (*JT, LT & SPH*)
- 7<sup>th</sup>, Travelled down to Alicat Workboats, to start dismantling the port Propulsion System. In the morning disconnected the Steering, hoisted up the Rudder Shaft and removed the Rudder (*JT & LT*). While two engineers from Alicat disconnected the Propeller Shaft and R&D Flange from the R&D Coupling and Gearbox. In the Afternoon the R&D Flange and the Propeller Shaft were separated, heat had to be used before the Propeller Shaft could be removed as the shaft and flange were that tight on their tapers. On separation the Tapers of both the Propeller Shaft and the R&D Flange along with the Woodruff Key were inspect and found to be ok. Before the Propeller Shaft was removed the Stuffing Material from the Stuffing Box was pulled out, once the Propeller Shaft was removed it was clear to see that the outboard Cutlass Bearing had burnt out and there was only about a 5mm of material left doing the job of the whole cutlass. After the Propeller Shaft was removed the Stuffing Box and Stuffing Box Plate were removed to reveal the inboard Cutlass Bearing. Next the two Alicat engineers began removing the Cutlass Bearings on the port side. (*JT, LT & two Alicat Engineers*)
- 8<sup>th</sup>, When we arrived the Alicat engineers had finished the removal of the port Cutlass Bearings. On examination of the starboard side and the fact the Propeller Shaft couldn't be turned by hand. The decision was made to dismantle the Propulsion System and remove Propeller Shaft, the old Inline Bearing and the outboard Cutlass Bearing for inspection like the port side. The outboard cutlass was not burnt out, so the inboard Cutlass Bearing was inspected in situ, and it was decided not to remove it as it would take 3-4weeks to get a fourth bearing. Which would delay getting Three Counties back into the water and mean her missing Kings Lynn Heritage day. At the end of the day both Propeller Shafts were sent to the machine shop to be inspected on a lath to make sure they were straight. SPH also had Alicat electricians aboard to look for Earth Faults as again electrolysis had been corroding the hull away particularly round the Outboard Cutlass Bearings.

They tested the insulated started motors on both the main engines and found no fault. So they tested the main engines with the starter motors disconnected and found an earth fault on the port engine. They suggested that we get in touch with Cummins to come and investigate. East Coast Diesel sent an engineer over on request to fit the Skinner Valve supplied by Cummins to enable the emergency Stop Button to work on the port engine. He also checked and tightened the fuel feeds to the refurbished Fuel Pumps on both the port and starboard engines as a weep had been found since they had been fitted by Cummins. *(JT, LT, SPH & two Alicat Engineers)*

- 9<sup>th</sup>, On arrival the two engineers had brought the Propeller Shafts back and confirmed that they were straight and ok to use. This allowed us to get the 3 new Cutlass Bearings that were to be fitted machined to fit. Next the Alicat engineers fitted the Cutlass Bearings, two (inboard and outboard) on the port side and outboard only on the starboard side. They advised that the outboard Cutlass Bearings be glued in, as this was something that they did on all the boats they produced in an effort to shield the cutlass' from the water and prevent them from swelling, so the decision was made to follow their advice and they used an epoxy glue. Next the Propeller shafts were inserted and pushed up and then the Alicat engineers reconnected the Propulsion System on the port side and started reconnecting the starboard side, the Inline Bearing on the Starboard side was replaced with a new like LT and myself did the week before on the port side at our moorings. *(JT, LT & two Alicat Engineers)*
- 10<sup>th</sup>, Once the Alicat engineers arrived in the morning, we assisted in finishing off connecting the starboard Propulsion Systems. Next the Propellers were fitted to the Propeller Shafts before fitting both the Rudders and dropping both the Rudder Shafts into place. Once this had been done everything on the propulsion system was checked for tightness and fitment and it was checked that the Propeller Shafts could be turned by hand which they could be. Finally the Steering Arms were fitted back onto the top of both Rudder Shafts and the Steering connected. The boat was then rigged ready to be lifted in the morning. *(JT, LT & two Alicat Engineers)*
- 11<sup>th</sup>, Three Counties was Lifted back in the water and tested while moored alongside the quay before being sailed round to Kings Lynn for the Heritage Day on the 13<sup>th</sup>. *(SPH, LT & LG)*
- 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fitted the UV light to the fresh water system to help clean the water before reaching the taps. *(JT)*

**Unplanned maintenance Port engine.**

None

**Unplanned maintenance Stbd engine.**

None

**Unplanned maintenance Port generator.**

None

**Unplanned maintenance Stbd generator.**

None

**Other unplanned maintenance.**

None

**Work by outside agencies.**

None

**Health and Safety concerns.**

None

**EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES and CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

To: J Gregory

From: J M Taylor

Date: 15/10/2015

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**John Allen Engineering Report for SEPTEMBER 2015**

	Engine hours at the start of the month 25/08/2015:	Engine Hours at the end of the month 07/09/2015:
<u>Port:</u>	614	628
<u>Stbd:</u>	611	626

**Routine/fault maintenance carried out on JOHN ALLEN.**

- Routine start up and running checks
- Due a hundred hour service in October.
- **Informed by Simon Lee on the 28/09/2015 that John Allen's next hundred hours service has had to be postponed till November**

**Unplanned maintenance Port engine.**

None

**Unplanned maintenance Stbd engine.**

None

**Work by outside agencies.**

None

**Health and Safety concerns.**

None

**EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

To: J Gregory

From: J M Taylor

Date: 15/10/2015

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**Conchita Engineering Report for SEPTEMBER 2015**

Pisces damaged and due to be stripped. Currently using a replacement rib, called **Conchita** that has been hired in.

**Routine/fault maintenance carried out on CONCHITA**

- Routine pre-running checks
- Two stroke, engine oil purchased for Conchita and stowed on the boat. (JT)

**Unplanned maintenance Port engine.**

None

**Unplanned maintenance Stbd engine.**

None

**Other unplanned maintenance.**

None

**Work by outside agencies.**

None

**Health and Safety concerns.**

None

## Vision

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



## Information Item 25

**28<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

### Reports by:

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

### **Marine Environment Quarterly Reports**

- a) **Senior Research Officer's Quarterly Report**
- b) **Senior Marine Environment Officer's Quarterly Report**

### **Purpose of report**

The Authority runs a year-round programme of research projects and environmental work. This paper enables Members to be kept informed of key activities undertaken by the Authority's Research and Environment team during the previous quarter, July to September 2015, any issues that have arisen either through internal or external drivers, and an indication of up-coming developments that could require future actions.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the report.

### **Background**

#### **a) Senior Research Officer's Quarterly Report**

In 2014 the Authority introduced a new byelaw to protect the cobble/boulder and *Sabellaria spinulosa* "core" reef features in the Wash from mobile fishing gears. Because there is a requirement to monitor the impact of this byelaw by 2016, in 2015 the research team commenced a two-year programme to monitor the features within the closed and surrounding areas of seabed. This monitoring has involved acoustically surveying the seabed using a side scan sonar and then ground truthing these data using grabs and under water video cameras. Although several of the surveys planned for this quarter were lost, either due to poor weather or vessel breakdowns, the majority of the fieldwork required for this project has now been successfully completed. This includes the completion of primary sites around all of the closed areas and some additional secondary sites in areas that have previously been found to support *Sabellaria*. One secondary site was not completed, however, due to the risk of damaging the side scan towfish on the numerous buoys and lines marking crab pots within the area. Although the data gathered during these surveys will be processed in detail during the coming quarter, preliminary analysis has shown a good parity between features identified by the side scan and those seen during ground truthing.

During September trials were conducted for operating the side scan off the patrol vessels John Allen and Sebastian Terelinck. Being able to conduct acoustic surveys

from these vessels will not only provide greater flexibility, but the greater speed of these boats will also enable sites outside of the Wash to be more easily accessed than can currently be achieved with Three Counties. These trials showed that while the side scan can be operated from both boats, the team conducting the trials highlighted a number of recommendations that will improve future deployment and safe operation of the equipment.

Since becoming an IFCA in 2011, the Authority has been responsible for the management of a small cockle bed in North Lincolnshire at Horseshoe Point. Although this bed has historically supported successful fisheries, since 2010 the stocks had suffered high annual "a-typical" mortalities. Following a survey in August 2014, however, that found the cockles on the beds had survived the summer, the Authority began addressing a number of problems that would need to be overcome if these stocks were to be fished. Initially, assistance was given to East Lindsey District Council in order to gain a water classification that had been dropped in 2004. Site visits were then organised between fishermen, Natural England and local landowners to try to overcome issues regarding accessing the site from shore. These access issues are yet to be resolved and may ultimately result in the fishery being accessed by boat from the seaward side rather than from shore. In June officers inspected the bed and found that mortalities were occurring. At the end of July the research team returned to the bed and conducted a further survey. Although the cockles were found to have grown well from the previous year, the overall cockle biomass had declined 48% since the previous survey. With access issues to the site still unresolved, it is likely that these stocks will die before a fishery can be opened. If survival of cockles to harvestable size on this bed relies on specific conditions, such as cool springs preventing spawning in their first year, future fishing opportunities will be limited and likely to have short windows. It is important, therefore, to ensure the access issues encountered this year are resolved, irrespective of whether the stocks survive. Failure to do so will result in future opportunities also being lost.

During this quarter the team have also monitored the cockles in the Wash, particularly those on the Roger Sand where the majority of the fishery has been occurring. This monitoring found there had been exceptional growth among the predominant 2014 year-class cockles on this bed. Because these cockles were still present in high densities, this growth meant the stocks were in risk of "ridging-out". To prevent this from occurring, the closed area where the stocks were the densest was opened and the stocks landed from this bed were ring-fenced from the annual TAC. This management has resulted in an improved fishery for the industry, while reducing the risk of ridging out this year and atypical mortality next year.

Efforts to improve the Authority's understanding of crab and lobster fisheries operating in the district has continued this quarter, with biosampling focusing on catch held at processors. This change from shore based sampling at point of landing has allowed for greater sampling efficiency, with more animals from more vessels being measured during each sampling instance. Data collected in this way has been used to model the fishery using length converted catch curve and yield per recruit analysis. Initial results suggest that some growth overfishing is occurring in both edible crab and lobster stocks in the district. These results reflect concerns presented by Cefas in their national crustacean stock assessments which also conclude that stocks in the Southern North Sea are currently being exploited beyond sustainable limits. In addition to stock assessment efforts, EIFCA attended a meeting led by Defra to discuss proposals for a revised approach to crab and lobster fisheries

management. The meeting was largely for the benefit of Northumberland and North Eastern IFCA as these districts will be the focus of the first round of discussions. Initial plans coming out of discussions are to develop management plans for each stock through regional workshops involving relevant bodies, industry and other stakeholders in the process. First discussion groups will focus on stocks relevant to Northumberland and North Eastern IFCA with further discussions for other regional stocks to commence in the summer of 2016. The second round of discussions will include stocks relevant to the EIFCA district.

With little activity in the whelk fisheries within the district at present, little in the way of survey or assessment work has been carried out. At present desk based research into whelk fisheries operating in other areas both nationally and internationally have been the main focus of efforts, with an emphasis on methods of determining size of maturity (SOM). Despite the lack of available data pertinent to inshore whelk stocks, a pilot study was carried out to determine the feasibility of carrying out SOM assessment using a sample of catch obtained from a vessel fishing offshore and landing to Lowestoft. A size structured sample was obtained with animals being dissected to allow determination of stage of maturity by examining the gonads/ovaries. This data was then plotted to produce an ogive indicating the percentage of mature individuals per 5mm size category for each sex. This plot was then used to indicate SOM as the size where 50% of individuals were found to be mature. Results of this pilot suggest that EIFCA has the capacity to carry out SOM assessment for stocks of whelk occurring in the district. Intentions are to use this method to carry out assessment of SOM in the areas identified in the Whelk Fishery Permit emergency byelaw, as and when activity in these areas re-commences and samples of catch become available.

The annual inter-tidal mussel surveys in the Wash commenced at the end of this quarter, with survey being conducted on the Welland Bank, Trial Bank and Herring Hill beds before the end of September. Although all of these beds had increased slightly in biomass during the past year, none had benefitted from significant settlements. It is hoped to complete surveys on the remaining 18 beds during October. During the survey on the Trial Bank bed, the opportunity was also taken to show guests from Natural England the nearby mussel regeneration site and a patch of inter-tidal *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef that is present on the edge of Scotsman's Sled. At the mussel regeneration site, further mussels appeared to have settled within the three areas that had had cockle shells deposited in them during 2014. There was not sufficient time to survey these sites during this brief visit but it is hoped an opportunity can be found during the coming quarter. At the *Sabellaria* site, which only exposes on very large tides, the reef was found to still be present but had shrunk in area and density to when last visited in 2006.

During this quarter a member of the team working on the fin fish project spent time responding to a DEFRA consultation concerning Bass Nursery Areas (BNA's). Although our District does not currently have any of these nursery areas designated, evidence from the Environment Agency Water Framework Directive (WFD) surveys suggest some of our estuaries and rivers are supporting juvenile bass populations. These surveys do not cover all estuaries and rivers in our District, however. In order to improve our knowledge of whether bass are using some of these other areas, the team conducted three small-scale fish surveys at Thornham, Burnham Overy Staithe and Freiston Shore. Steve Colclough, an expert in these types of survey, accompanied the team at each site. The surveys were conducted using small beach

seine nets with mesh capable of retaining juvenile fish. At the time of writing, the data from these surveys are still being analysed.

The Authority has continued to collect Environmental Health samples in the Wash on behalf of the local district councils during this quarter. On one occasion during this sampling the opportunity was also taken to collect three core samples on behalf of Leicester University to support a project they conducting to monitor microplastics in the sediment.

In August John Allen was used by a group of Sea Search divers to deploy a colonisation plate array on behalf of Heriot Watt University and the Natural History Museum. This was the first time John Allen had been used in this role and all activities went according to plan. The divers hope to monitor the plates monthly in conjunction with the SWEEP water sampling programme.

Members of the environment and research teams have represented the Authority at various community outreach events this quarter. These include:

- An RSPB Open Day at Frampton Marsh
- The Cromer Carnival
- The Norfolk Good Food and Drink show at Holkham
- The King's Lynn Heritage Day

## **b) Senior Marine Environment Officer's Quarterly Report**

### Introduction

This report provides an update on progress for projects set out in the Research & Environment Plan 2015/16. Not all of the projects are reported below as some have not been planned to commence until later in the year. This report includes a summary of the main pieces of case work, and any ongoing issues arising from this work. The assessment and management of fisheries in marine protected areas (MPAs) remains a key priority for the Authority, and this is reflected in the level of resource applied to this work within the environment team.

Personnel changes during the quarter included the departure of Dan Steadman<sup>4</sup>, who had made an excellent contribution to the Authority's marine protected area and data management work streams. The replacement Marine Environment Officer, Greg Brown, is due to start in post on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015; internal training will commence immediately in order to enable the team to continue the high level of outputs required, particularly for the Marine Protected Areas and Consultation work streams.

### ***EP2015A: Assessment of fishing activities in European Marine Sites, and EP2015E: Development of management measures for fisheries in Marine Protected Areas***

This work remains the key priority for the Environment team, as it directly supports the Authority's fulfilment of obligations relating to MPAs, and must be completed within strict timelines set out by Defra – assessments and implementation of any

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<sup>4</sup> Dan Steadman is leading a project on plastic pollution in the marine environment at Fauna & Flora International

associated fisheries management measures is to be completed by December 2016. During the quarter, progress has been made in terms of the overall number of assessments (64% of full assessments, and 90% of light-touch assessments have now been completed), and towards the development of management measures for the Wash brown shrimp fishery which has been identified as impacting on site features.

A shrimp stakeholder workshop was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015, to consider current challenges faced by this fishery (including meeting conservation requirements, market pressure for certification of shrimp product, and management requirements to improve data relating to the fishery) and to discuss potential solutions. The workshop was attended by 26 fishermen/processors, National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO), MMO, Natural England and environmental consultants Ichthys Marine and ABPmer. Ideas on potential management measures to reduce impacts on MPA habitats were collated; these have been considered in the development of a shrimp management options paper to support decision-making by the Regulatory and Compliance Sub-Committee meeting. IFCA officers remain in close contact with Natural England in relation to the suitability of management measures to mitigate for the identified impacts. NE have advised that closed areas will be required to protect subtidal mud and subtidal coarse sediment features<sup>5</sup>. Officers are working to identify measures that will support the viability of the fishery whilst providing sufficient protection to MPA features – for example, closed areas and separate gear management zones where improved gear can be trialled and impacts monitored. Monitoring requirements are currently being assessed for various management options.

Authority officers attended a workshop on 16-17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, to discuss a parallel assessment of the Wash brown shrimp fisheries being undertaken by consultants Ichthys Marine and ABPmer, on behalf of the NFFO. This work is due to report in November 2015 and will provide an independent view on the impact of this fishery on the European Marine Site features. Initial indications are that the same issues have been identified (abrasion and penetration of seabed habitats) in both EIFCA and the independent assessment, but critically the conclusion of "adverse effect" or "no adverse effect" has not yet been reached in the independent work. The outcome is likely to influence the fishing industry's views on requirement for management. Authority officers will continue to work with NFFO, local fishery members and Natural England to identify the best management measures.

A request has been made to the Authority to assist with local trials of a new shrimp trawl, designed to reduce pressure on seabed habitats. This work is in keeping with the concept of designing gear management zones (an option under consideration for shrimp fishery management) but would provide a technical challenge to the Authority. Officers have agreed to draft a monitoring plan for such a trial and at time of writing are in discussion with Natural England over the adequacy of the monitoring plan. Such partnership working with the fishing industry is entirely within the Authority's ethos of developing best practice through co-operation, but our involvement needs to be considered in terms of resource availability and existing commitments.

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<sup>5</sup> New closed areas will be required in addition to the existing closed areas in place that protect *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef and boulder & cobble habitat in The Wash

In order to support IFCA's in meeting the 2016 deadline for the assessment and management projects, Defra released a total of £300,000 to IFCA's. Eastern IFCA has been allocated a proportion of this fund. Discussions have been held with potential contractors to assist with the delivery of assessments and support the development of management measures, and agreements will shortly be finalised.

Surveys have been undertaken during the quarter to assess the extent and condition of *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef and eelgrass (Annex I habitats/sub-features) in the Wash and the Humber estuary respectively. In addition, Eastern IFCA officers have undertaken a quality assurance process for European Marine Site feature data, to ensure clarity in relation to which data sets have been utilised for assessments. Officers will continue to liaise closely with Natural England in relation to data confidence and consistency in approach between sites.

Personnel changes within the Environment team have resulted in the loss of an experienced, capable officer (Dan Steadman). However, a replacement Marine Environment Officer – Data Lead, has been recruited (Greg Brown), and in-house training will be provided in relation to undertaking Habitats Regulations Assessments. Every effort will be made to complete the remaining assessments during the next quarter. The outcomes of these assessments will inform whether any additional measures are likely to be required. In order to meet the December 2016 deadline for implementation of new measures, MMO require new byelaws to be submitted (i.e. after Authority agreement and public consultation) by July 2016.

Once again, Eastern IFCA officers have continued to participate in national co-ordination of this work, through the national Working Group and Offshore Sites (i.e. straddling 6nm) meetings; and have maintained liaison with Natural England and Marine Management Organisation at the national and local level.

Eastern IFCA officers continue to maintain involvement with the local Marine Protected Area management groups for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast, and for the Stour & Orwell Estuaries. These groups support valuable relationships between relevant authorities, local site managers and stakeholders, which are invaluable in identifying the most relevant feature and activity evidence to inform assessments. In August 2015, Authority officers updated the "Non-Occurring Interactions Report" (which lists fishing/feature interactions that do not require assessment because they do not occur or are already managed), enabling focus on the remaining assessments.

#### ***EP2015B: Assessment of fishing activities in Marine Conservation Zones***

A single Marine Conservation Zone has been proposed for designation during Tranche 2 of the process – the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds. It is planned to assess fishing activities in this area later in the year. Liaison will continue with both the North Norfolk FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group) and the Wash & North Norfolk Coast North Norfolk Advisory Group, to enable engagement with fishing representatives regarding the development of any fisheries management measures required for this site.

#### ***EP2015H: Eastern IFCA input to consultations on marine developments***

The Eastern IFCA district is subject to a large number of marine and coastal activities that are regulated through the issuing of consents by authorities like the Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency, Defra and the Authority itself. The

Authority continues to emphasise Marine Plan policies relating to fisheries and marine protection when responding to informal and formal consultations. The Environment team has begun to draft proposals for a Consultation Response Strategy to formalise the approach to providing responses, and to enhance engagement between Authority members and Officers when responding to consultations. It is intended that the Strategy will be presented for discussion at the January 2016 Statutory meeting.

During the last quarter (July-September 2015), a total of 15 responses were produced by the environment team. These included responses to information requests such as those from Natural England and Defra to inform the development of new protected areas and Bass Nursery Areas. The Authority was informally consulted by the MMO regarding proposals to communicate MPA management consistently across UK fishery regulators. Formal consultations have included MMO licence applications for the re-development of Felixstowe Pier, a new pier at Woolverstone Marina, and the disposal of unexploded ordinance for Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm (OWF). Consultations have also been received for consents relating to major ongoing developments including the Race Bank and Triton Knoll offshore wind farms (OWF).

The Race Bank OWF project continues to be contentious for fishing interests. This project was consented in 2012; construction is due to commence in 2016. The Authority raised objections primarily because of potential impacts on breeding crab populations in the Race Bank area (approx. 15 miles north of the north Norfolk coastline), and also in relation to impacts relating to cable burial through sensitive habitats, including cockle beds and lobster grounds, in the Wash. Environment team members attended a public meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 where Dong Energy outlined proposals for the installation of export cables for this project. The meeting was informative and demonstrated Dong Energy's commitment to maintaining open dialogue with stakeholders interested in, or affected by, the export cable installation works. The Authority continues to maintain close dialogue with Dong Energy and Natural England about this OWF development.

Members of the environment team attended the annual Stour and Orwell Estuaries Forum on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 hosted by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Unit. The Authority has been a long-standing member of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Management Group. The Forum was a good opportunity for many stakeholders to appreciate the work being achieved by the group and its partners, including local flood defence projects, Port operations, conservation initiatives, neighbourhood planning and efforts by The Authority's own Rob Spray to improve appreciation of the underwater ecology of these estuaries. Environment officers attended a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 to discuss the draft Stour Several Order application with the Applicant's solicitors and agents, and Defra. In a joint response with Kent and Essex IFCA in April 2015, the Authority had identified several concerns about the draft Order application which is for a trial, private mussel fishery in the Stour Estuary. Concerns included quality of the underpinning environmental data and potential interactions with recreational and commercial fisheries and other users of the estuary. The meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September provided an opportunity to openly discuss updated environmental data provided by the Applicant, who is currently updating the draft Stour Several Order application to address concerns from stakeholders following the consultation period in April 2015. Defra advised that there will be a further public consultation on this application later in 2015.

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

### ***EP2015C – Assessment of Common Rights Holders activities in Marine Protected Areas***

This scope of this project has been identified in preparation for the assessment of common rights activities on European Marine Sites, but the assessments have been delayed as work on other projects has been prioritised.

### ***EP2015D – Community Voice (Common Ground) project***

Funding has been confirmed for this project, which is being led by the Marine Conservation Society. The project objectives are to gather opinions on marine protected areas from a diverse range of local people, using innovative interview and video techniques. The outputs will support the Authority in producing Impact Assessments for MPA-related regulations. Additional detail is presented at Agenda Item 19.

### ***EP2015H – Interdepartmental working***

Members of the Marine Environment team have continued to support the Authority's outreach programme, assisting with the organisation and representation at RSPB Titchwell (this coincided with Marine Week), the Good Food & Drink show at Holkham Hall, and the King's Lynn Heritage Day. Once again, feedback from participants and organisers of these events has been extremely positive. After the final planned outreach event at the Norwich Open Academy in October, officers intend to review the effectiveness of the outreach against agreed priorities, to assist with planning for future efforts.

### **Financial implications**

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

### **Publicity**

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

### **Background documents**

2. Eastern IFCA Research & Environment Plan 2015/16

### **Vision**

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



## **Information Item 26**

### **Authority update of HR activity - October 2015**

**Report by:** Nichola Freer, Head of HR

#### **Purpose of report**

To inform members of the progress of the HR plan to 2018 and specifically an update of the HR activity planned to be completed during this financial year.

#### **Recommendations**

**It is recommended that members:**

- **Note the contents of the report**

#### **Report**

##### Background

The Head of HR took up post in 2012 and developed a 3 year strategic plan of the key HR activity required to support the achievement of Defra's high level objectives. This plan has been successfully delivered and as such a further strategic plan has been developed during quarter one of this year to support the delivery of required HR activity to 2018. This report gives an overview of current activity in support of this plan.

##### Update of specific activity

#### **Development of line management capability**

Line Managers and Executive Officers recently attended a time-management course specifically aimed at maximising time and performance for managers. This is an area that had previously been highlighted by line managers as one they required further development of. The workshop has received positive feedback and has provided the necessary tools / models for our managers to operate effectively in this area.

Our two senior marine protection officers also attended a practical workshop that focussed on providing a suite of tools and supporting guidance with regard to managing particularly difficult employees. Both officers have fed back that this course has given them the confidence to effectively deal with future situations concerning their people.

#### **Recruitment activity**

Since the last HR update, one of our marine environment officers, Daniel Steadman, tendered his resignation and left the Authority at the beginning of September 2015. We are however, pleased to confirm that Greg Brown has been successfully appointed to fill this vacancy. Greg joined the Authority on 5 October 2015.

Members were informed in the previous update that Laura Rutland, a former temporary employee within the research department and EIFCA volunteer, had taken

up a temporary position within the research team, following the departure of one of their Officers. This position has now been reviewed and we are pleased to confirm that this role has now been made permanent.

### **Volunteer Internship**

A voluntary placement has been agreed to support a second year Geography student from Sheffield Hallam University. The student will join us in October 2015 for approximately 36 weeks and will be completing a project concerning the economic value and economic potential of the fisheries within our district.

### **Grant application update**

Following Eastern IFCA's bid for £30,000 of Defra's funds towards the 'fisheries in MPAs' project deadline; we are pleased to confirm that we have secured £27,223. Judith Stoutt, Senior Marine Environment Officer is currently in discussions with various contacts to source the most appropriate support to aid the completion of the MPA project.