



Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Business Plan 2021-2026



March 2021

Contact Information:

Chief Executive Officer
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority
Unit 6
North Lynn Business Village
Bergen Way
King's Lynn
PE30 2JG

Phone: 01553 775321
Fax: 01553 772031
www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk
mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk

Version	Date	Changes	Officer
First draft	28/11/2019	Multiple – update for new year	GB
Final Draft	16/02/2020	Final changes	GB
Final Version	26/02/2020		JG

Abbreviations	
Bass Nursery Area	BNA
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	Cefas
Community Voice Method	CVM
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Defra
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	Eastern IFCA
Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee	ESFJC
Environment Agency	EA
European Marine Site	EMS
European Union	EU
Fisheries Improvement Project	FIP
Habitat Regulation Assessment	HRA
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	ICES
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer	IFCO
Inshore Vessel Monitoring System	IVMS
Length Converted Catch Curve	LCCC
Landing Per Unit Effort	LPUE
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	MCA
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	MaCCA 09
Monitoring and Control Plans	MCPs
Marine Conservation Society	MCS
Marine Conservation Zone	MCZ
Marine Management Organisation	MMO
Marine Protected Area	MPA
Marine Strategy Framework Directive	MSFD
Maximum Sustainable Yield	MSY
Marine Stewardship Council	MSC
Minimum Conservation Reference Size	MCRS
Minimum Landing Size	MLS
Monthly Shellfish Activity Report	MSAR

Natural England	NE
Oslo-Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic	OSPAR Convention
Renaissance of East Anglia Fisheries	REAF
Relative Fluorescent Unit	RFU
Recreational Sea Angler	RSA
Royal Yachting Association	RYA
Size of Maturity	SOM
Special Protection Area	SPA
Special Area of Conservation	SAC
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI
Sustainable management of rays and skates	SUMARIS
Study of the Wash Embayment, Environment and Productivity	SWEEP
Tactical Co-ordination Group	TCG
Vessel Monitoring System	VMS
Wash Fishery Order 1992	WFO 1992
Wash & North Norfolk Coast Marine Partnership	WNNCMP

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
EASTERN IFCA	7
OPERATIONS	17
COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT	23
FINANCIAL PLAN	25
PRIORITIES	27
Appendix 1: Risk Management	30
Appendix 2: IFCA Performance Framework and Metrics	38
Appendix 3: Eastern IFCA Priorities 2021-22	46
Appendix 5: Eastern IFCA Communication and Engagement Plan 2021-22	56



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Business Plan is to inform funding authorities (County Councils and Defra), local communities, local bodies and key delivery partners of the statutory duties and priorities of Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (Eastern IFCA) and how it intends to carry them out on time and within budget.

Eastern IFCA is a statutory regulator created by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA 09) as a successor to the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee (ESFJC). It is responsible for the sustainable management of sea fisheries resources and protection of the marine environment in inshore waters i.e. to six nautical miles from coastal baselines. District boundaries and IFCA membership are set out in Statutory Instrument 2189/2010. Eastern IFCA became fully operational on 1 April 2011. The Eastern IFCA mission is to:

‘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’

The Opportunity

The inshore and offshore marine environment of the East Coast of England is a busy space and is forecast to become yet busier.

The Threat

Throughout history the marine environment has been a relatively unregulated and un-exploited space. Traditional activities, particularly fishing, have been able to continue without substantial interference through the ages. Whilst there have been industrial developments in the oil and gas sector, most have occurred over the horizon and have not impacted significantly on other marine users. The growth of marine environment exploitation through the installation of renewable energy infrastructure, aggregate dredging, coastal protection and other coastal developments is now challenging the ability for all marine users to successfully co-exist – especially in the inshore sector.

This has driven a need for precise management of the inshore marine area to balance the plethora of demands being made of it. Eastern IFCA is charged by statute to achieve this balance in partnership with other agencies and organisations, both public and private sector. The penalty of not establishing a mutually beneficial balance of activities between all users is that the smaller business models are liable to fall by the wayside or be marginalised to the extent that they are no longer viable concerns. This, in turn, may irreversibly alter the traditions and tapestry of a region noted for its marine heritage.

Any activity within an MPA must be fully assessed to ensure that it will not introduce a threat to the marine environment. The duty to regulate fishing activity within MPAs in the inshore sector resides with IFCAs. This requires significant people resources to gather and scrutinise the evidence base to deliver rigorous fisheries assessments, and subsequently to support the development of management measures and ensure compliance with any such measures.

The focus on MPAs is in addition to the established requirement to manage long-term, sustainable inshore fisheries. Revision of the Common Fisheries Policy has placed greater emphasis upon this with the introduction of landing obligations and a requirement to fish to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). In the context of a growth agenda and extra scrutiny with regards to the protection of sensitive habitats, fisheries sustainability requires a holistic approach encompassing and engaging all users of the highly valued and productive inshore environment and an ability to adaptively manage the risks associated with a dynamic and an ever-changing marine landscape.

The Strategic Landscape

Although Eastern IFCA is not a Defra body, most of its work services Defra policy objectives. In delivering output at the regional level it is essential that those responsible for the governance and leadership of Eastern IFCA appreciate and understand the strategic landscape. Defra has previously produced a Single Departmental Plan, which sets out Defra's objectives and how they will achieve them.

[Defra intend to produce a new Outcome Delivery Plan but at the time of writing this work has not commenced so this section will be reviewed when the new Defra plan is published.](#)

The plan identifies **four policy objectives**:

- Deliver a safe and ambitious departure from the EU, setting global standards in protecting and harnessing value from the natural environment.
- Pass on to the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future.
- Lead the world in food and farming with a sustainable model of food production
- Become an outstanding organisation focused on making a difference, with world class delivery capability

Our Part in the Defra Plan

Eastern IFCA is able to contribute to three of the four policy objectives.

- 1. Deliver a safe and ambitious departure from the EU, setting global standards in protecting and harnessing value from the natural environment**

The Association of IFCA's (AIFCA) issued a policy statement on EU exit, which was agreed and endorsed by Eastern IFCA. A key element was 'Day 1 readiness', which involved operational planning with the MMO to prepare for the likely scenarios that may transpire dependent upon the type of exit negotiated. The Association policy was that '.... IFCA's agree in principle to assist in developing and implementing an operational plan, potentially utilising IFCA vessels and staff in the UK response to EU exit.' The Association asked the Chief Officers Group to work with and assist the MMO in developing the plan from an operational perspective. This work resulted in a MoU between the MMO and IFCA's, including Eastern IFCA, for the use of vessels to provide additional patrol capacity.

In addition to contributing to 'Day 1 readiness' the IFCA's will continue to make a positive contribution to the development of new delivery systems and approaches for fisheries and conservation management. This is illustrated by the publication, in March 2017, of 'Opportunities for Inshore Fisheries and Marine Environment; Future Management in England' by AIFCA.

Eastern IFCA has agreed to engage with work to support progression of the Renaissance of East Anglian Fisheries strategy, a community led initiative that makes various recommendations intended to improve the outlook for fisheries in the region following EU exit. Eastern IFCA have also been proactive in seeking support from Defra to undertake an effort management trial, one of the recommendations of REAF, as a potential alternative to the quota system for inshore fisheries.

2. Pass on to the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future

The health and well-being of the inshore marine environment is integral to the delivery of this goal. A poorly managed, polluted and decaying marine environment will affect both the health and well-being of people and will stifle economic opportunity and the prosperity of shore and sea-based businesses. Our work to support national marine planning and licensing activity will assist in delivering economic benefit in step with, rather than at the expense of, natural processes. Similarly, Eastern IFCA's remit to further conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in addition to maintaining biologically diverse and healthy fish and shellfish stocks through effective management initiatives to deliver enhanced fishing opportunities within the district, will directly contribute to the delivery of this policy objective.

3. Lead the world in food and farming with a sustainable model of food production

Regional fishing and fish processing businesses contribute to a national food and drink industry which contributes over £100bn to the UK every year – around 7% of the total economy – and food accounts for 17% of all UK manufacturing. Eastern IFCA has a remit to support the viability of fishing enterprises while maintaining a balance between modern and traditional business models. Eastern IFCA's regulatory remit empowers it

to support the fishing industry in efforts to achieve the highest standards of sustainability, for example through supporting the implementation of fisheries management that meets international accreditation standards.

25 Year Environment Plan

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, published in January 2018 and updated in May 2019, calls for '*an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first.*'

Defra created four pioneer projects to inform the development and implementation of the 25 Year Environment Plan. Each pioneer is located in a different area of England and is led by part of the Defra group, working closely with local partner organisations.

Defra asked the pioneers to explore four broad objectives:

- Applying a natural capital approach to decision making;
- Developing innovative funding opportunities;
- Demonstrate integrated approaches to planning and delivery; and
- Building our understanding of 'what works' in practice.

The pioneers worked with partners to adapt or propose future projects to meet the four objectives. Defra asked the pioneers to be ambitious and to take managed risks; to learn from what does not work as well as what does. As a result, and as intended, each pioneer approached their objectives in a different way according to their local circumstances and the priorities of their respective partners.

One of the four pioneers was a Marine Pioneer, which was led by the MMO. It operated in two separate locations covering coast and sea based on the North Devon Biosphere and the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Eastern IFCA were instrumental in the pioneer being located in Suffolk and remained closely involved through membership of the Steering Group and participation in a Saltmarsh Group. The project concluded during 2020 and the work of all Pioneers was evaluated in order to inform future policy.

There are elements of the 25 Year Environment Plan to which Eastern IFCA will contribute through fulfilling its duties. Chapter 5 of the plan relates specifically to the core functions of Eastern IFCA and states that:

We will:

- *Implement a sustainable fisheries policy as we leave the Common Fisheries Policy.*
- *Achieve good environmental status of our seas while allowing marine industries to thrive and complete our ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas (MPAs).*

There is a direct correlation between these objectives and the statutory duties of Eastern IFCA and as such fulfilling the priorities set out in this Business Plan will directly contribute to the objectives of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

EASTERN IFCA

Our Function

The Eastern sea fisheries regulating function was initially established in 1894 to regulate the Wash mussel fishery. Its remit and area of responsibility has expanded significantly over time but the principle of managed human exploitation of a key protein source whilst affording protection to the marine environment remains the same.

The key Eastern IFCA responsibilities are:

- To ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way;
- To balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the district with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation;
- To balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district;
- To take any other steps which in the authority's opinion are necessary or expedient for contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;
- To ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ in the district are furthered;
- Stewardship and management of the Wash shellfish fishery to support the viability of local industry;
- Enforcement of other national and EU fisheries legislation throughout the district;
- Delivery of regulation to manage fishing activity in MPAs;
- Support of national marine planning and licensing activities as a statutory consultee and;
- Research activity to deliver fishery management functions and support a continuous review of fisheries.

Our Duties

The duties of Eastern IFCA are to fully engage with both local and national stakeholders to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district, balancing the social and economic benefits of exploiting resources with the need to protect the marine environment, or help it recover from past exploitation. Eastern IFCA must seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any Marine Protected Area (MPA) are furthered and that fishing activity in such areas is managed to avoid an adverse impact upon designated features. Eastern IFCA has byelaw-making and enforcement powers.

These duties are conducted according to UK legislation and are made explicit in Section 153 of MaCAA 09. The duty to ensure the conservation objectives of any Marine Conservation Zone (this effectively refers to all MPAs) in the district are furthered as set out in Section 154 of MaCAA 09.

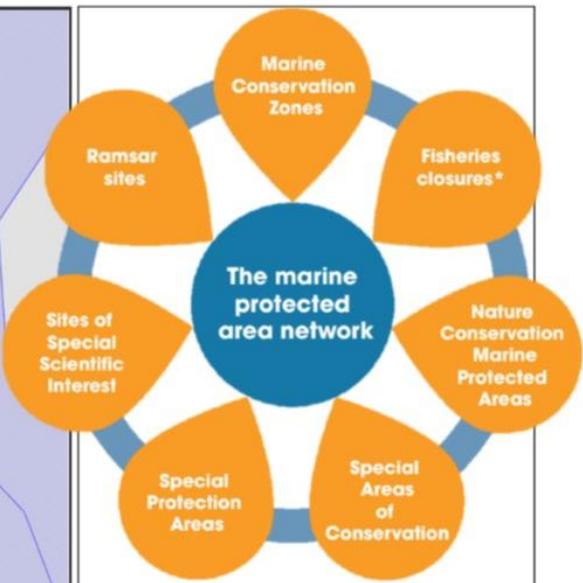
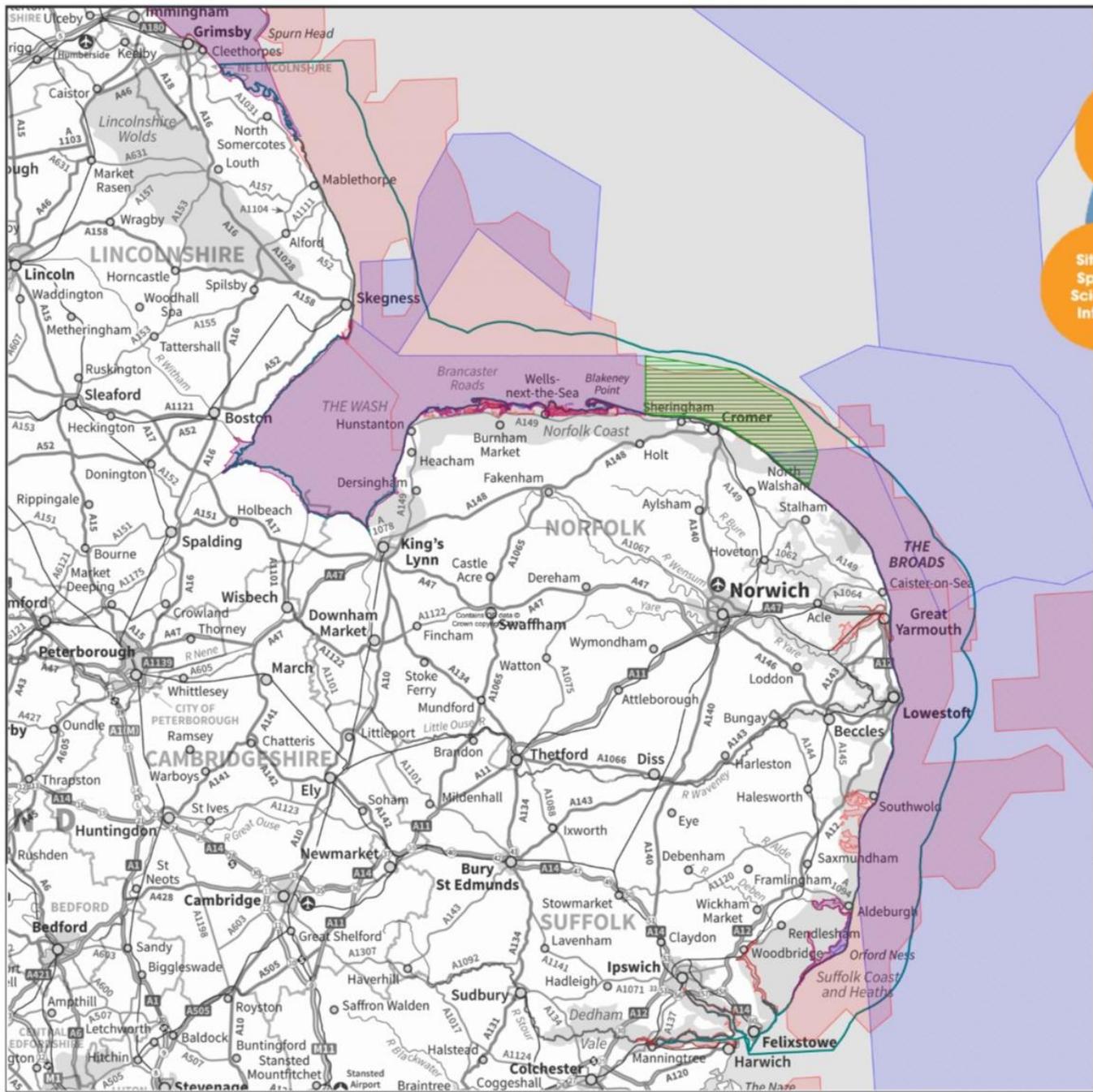
Additionally, Eastern IFCA is deemed a Relevant Authority and a Competent Authority for marine areas and European Marine Sites (EMS), under the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. By comparison to the Sea Fisheries Committee, the duties and obligations set out in MaCAA 09 require Eastern IFCA to collect and analyse greater quantities of data and exercise management for the protection of some marine plants and animals, not just for commercially exploited fish species. This obligation is detailed at Section 175 of MaCAA 09.

Our District

The Eastern IFCA district extends seawards six nautical miles from the Haile Sand Fort off the Lincolnshire coast in the north, to the river Stour in Suffolk, as well as on land in the three counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The district encompasses every existing UK and EU form of Marine Protected Area (MPA) namely, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ). Eastern IFCA is charged with the responsibility to protect these sites from damage through development of appropriate management measures up to and including byelaws.

In addition, the management of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 (WFO 1992) is undertaken by the Authority. The WFO 1992 was established to provide local management of the mussel, cockle and other prescribed species fisheries within the Wash estuary embayment (The Wash). The WFO 1992 enables the Eastern IFCA to sever the public's right to fish for the prescribed species within The Wash to grant exclusive fishing rights to individuals (Several Fishery). Within the Regulated Fishery, the WFO 1992 enables Eastern IFCA to develop and enforce management measures and regulations to ensure that stocks of the prescribed species are fished in a sustainable manner and do not introduce risk to the conservation objectives of designated MPAs.





96% of Eastern IFCA's district is covered by MPAs

Marine Protected Areas

-  Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)
-  Special Protection Areas (SPA)
-  Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
-  Eastern IFCA district

Contains Natural England and Ordnance Survey data © copyright and database right 2020.

Date: 03/01/2020
 Drawn by: SC
 Projection: WSG84
 Data Sources:
 Ordnance Survey
 Natural England
 Eastern IFCA



The commercial fisheries within the Eastern IFCA district are important to the local and national economy. For example, the brown crab and European lobster fisheries are worth circa £2.2M annually¹, the brown shrimp fishery accounts for circa 94% of total UK landings of shrimp and the rapidly growing whelk fishery had a first sale value of £3.72M² in 2019 (landed into the district). Cockle fisheries in The Wash are provisionally estimated to have been worth £1.5M in 2019 and the first sales value of fin-fish (including flatfish, skates and rays etc.) landed into the district in 2019 was £0.27m³.

The Eastern IFCA's district is also a popular destination for recreational purposes. In particular, the Suffolk coast is renowned amongst sea anglers, and both Norfolk and Suffolk coasts are popular destinations for bird watchers. The Angling 2012 report⁴ highlights that recreational sea angling contributes circa £2bn to the national economy annually and is enjoyed by 884,000 participants. Eastern IFCA fully recognises both the value and potential of recreational sea angling.

Our Funding

The overall Authority revenue budget is £1,553,950 (2021-22). Eastern IFCA will also receive £159,136 capital contribution for asset replacement (2021-2022). These amounts are contributed in a pre-agreed proportion by levy charged to the sponsoring local authorities: Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils.

In recognition of the revised and additional duties the Authority assumed in transition from ESFJC to Eastern IFCA, New Burdens funding, equating to c.25% of the overall budget, was allocated from Defra for an initial 4-year period from 2011. This funding has been 'rolled' over annually unchanged pending completion of the delayed Comprehensive Spending Review. It is anticipated that 2021/22 will be the final year of Defra funding in its current form. Future funding from Defra will be considered as part of future Government spending plans and the Association of IFCAs has provided an evidenced bid for increased central funding.

Some additional revenue is generated from fees charged for permits, shellfish sampling and contracted research work on behalf of both public and private bodies. Additionally, a small amount of revenue is generated from bank interest on general reserves (often accrued over several years to fund replacement of Fisheries Patrol Vessels and Research Vessels). Recovered court costs awarded from successful prosecutions also appear as revenue.

¹ MMO landings data for 2019. Filtered for all Crustacea species and for ICES statistical rectangles 33F1, 34F0, 34F1, 35F0, 35F1.

² MMO landings data for 2019 Filtered for Whelks and for ICES statistical rectangles 33F1, 34F0, 34F1, 35F0, 35F1.

³ MMO landings data for 2019 Filtered for all finfish species and for ICES statistical rectangles 33F1, 34F0, 34F1, 35F0, 35F1.

⁴ Sea Angling 2012 – a survey of recreational sea angling activity and economic value in England, Defra, November 2013

At the 35th Authority meeting in January 2019 the first increase to the WFO licence fees was confirmed to take effect from April 2019 and a new fee structure, which apportions costs more fairly between different fisheries, was agreed in principle and has subsequently been implemented. In 2020 fees were decreased on a ‘one-off’ basis to pre-increase levels to assist the industry through the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Governance

The Authority comprises 21 members from a variety of backgrounds, which is intended to bring a range of skills and experience to debate and decision making. The breakdown of membership is as follows:

- 7 councillors appointed by the respective constituent Authorities namely, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk county councils;
- 1 officer each from Natural England, Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation;
- 11 Volunteer members of the public appointed for their experience and/or expertise in marine related subject, such as the following categories:

Commercial fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile gear finfish (e.g. trawling, netting) • Mobile gear shellfish (e.g. dredging) • Static gear finfish (e.g. lines and nets) • Static gear shellfish (e.g. traps and pots) • Seafood development • Other (e.g. aquaculture, bait diggers)
Recreational fishing Marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational sea fish angling; • Interests in designated conservation sites (e.g. MCZs, SACs, SPAs, SSSIs) • Special wildlife interests (e.g. bird or sea mammal groups); • Underwater archaeological and historic environment interests
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal process (e.g. flood and coastal erosion risk); • Independent local marine science (e.g. conservation, fisheries, social science); • Access to the coast; • Estuarine interests; • Maritime-related organisations (e.g. Harbour Masters, RNLI, Maritime and Coastguard Agency); • Leisure and yachting interests; • Sub-aqua or commercial diving interests; • Other marine industries (e.g. offshore)

Our People

The Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Authority is a former senior Police Officer with 26 years' experience in a variety of disciplines. He has significant senior leadership experience including partnership working, stakeholder engagement and strategic change management as well as operational delivery. In addition to this he also has maritime experience gained from service in the Royal Navy and through personal interests. He has been in the role since September 2015.

The Authority employs 24 staff in total, 3 of whom are members of Unison. All staff are given appropriate training for their role receive regular supervision relevant to their roles, which includes performance management, personal development and wellbeing.

Marine Science officers have specialist expertise (e.g. GIS) or at least one-degree level qualification in marine biology or associated marine sciences. The Marine Protection team comprises of a mixture of very experienced IFCOs (more than 10 years' experience) and newer members of the team. Two have previous experience in the Police Service, two have Masters degrees and one has been a commercial fisherman.

Members of the Marine Protection team undertake formal training as enforcement officers through attendance at IFCA Competent Officer and Advanced Officer Training. Additional training is delivered by the Marine Management Organisation and the IFCA National Lead Training Officer via a suite of courses which are tailored to meet the needs of Eastern IFCA. Officers are not warranted until they have attended a formal training course and/or have been assessed as competent operationally. Refresher training is usually undertaken each year during the winter months, focusing on various areas as identified through the management and executive teams as well as the IFCA training lead.

Formal training is provided for officers required to undertake the role of vessel Skipper or crew. This is undertaken at a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) approved training centre and officers are required to achieve the RYA qualification relevant to their role up to and including Yachtmaster (Offshore). In addition, all seagoing officers are required to successfully complete the STCW95 suite of courses (First Aid, Fire Fighting, Personal Survival and Personal Safety & Social Responsibility) to ensure that they can operate safely at sea. They are also required to hold an ML5 medical certificate to ensure that they are fit to work at sea.

Key Personnel

The Executive team comprises the CEO, Head of Operations and Head of Finance & HR. The CEO and Head of Operations work full time, whilst the Head of Finance & HR works 3 days per week. The Head of Operations leads both the Marine Science and Marine Protection teams and has responsibility for all operational outputs and service delivery. The CEO role provides overall command and strategic direction, senior stakeholder engagement throughout the district and operational quality assurance.

Chief Executive Officer

Julian Gregory



As CEO Julian leads the Authority's officers and is responsible for the delivery of all Eastern IFCA outputs. He is the Responsible Financial Officer and Clerk to the Authority. He is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, holds a first-class honours degree in a law related discipline and has extensive senior management and law enforcement experience in both the Police Service and Eastern IFCA. He is a warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer and an RYA Yachtmaster (Offshore).

Head of Operations

Jonathan Butler



Jon joined the Authority in 2018 from Cambridgeshire County Council where he had worked for 20 years in various roles, his last being District Manager in Children's Services. He is a graduate of the University of East Anglia from where he gained an honours degree. He holds a post graduate qualification in management and has extensive management experience. He is a warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer and a volunteer crew member of the RNLI and a commercially endorsed RYA Yachtmaster (Offshore).

Head of Finance & HR

Andrew Bakewell



A qualified management accountant with 40 years' experience in a wide variety of private and public-sector organisations at a senior level. Andrew in the past enjoyed an active role in local politics and was honoured to serve as Mayor of Boston in 2005. He brings financial, people and general management skills to Eastern IFCA.

**Senior Marine Science
Officer (Research)**
Ron Jessop



Having graduated from Newcastle University with a Zoology degree Ron worked in the local fishing industry for 14 years fishing for cockles, mussels, shrimps and sprats from the port of Boston. He joined Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee in 2000 as a fishery officer and has been in his current role of Senior Marine Science Officer since 2003. In this role, he is responsible for a small team of officers, whose task is to provide the scientific evidence used to support the Authority's management decisions.

**Senior Marine Science
Officer (Environment)**
Judith Stoutt



Holding degrees in Environmental Science and Biological Science from the University of East Anglia and the University of Hull respectively, Judith joined Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee in 1996 as a Research Assistant and became the organisation's first Environment Officer in 2000. She has overseen the expansion of Eastern IFCA's environmental work, particularly in the field of fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas and in providing advice to marine regulators for marine planning and consenting.

**Senior IFCO
(Compliance)**
Simon Lee



Having joined Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee in 2000 Simon is an experienced enforcement officer and seafarer. He is responsible for planned and targeted enforcement and vessel operations to meet the objectives set out in the Annual Enforcement Plan. He has played a key role in the development and implementation risk-based enforcement and the TCG process as well as the introduction of smaller, faster and more reactive patrol vessels. He is a warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer and an RYA Yachtmaster (Offshore).

Senior IFCO (Regulation)
Luke Godwin



Holding degrees in Marine Biology (BSc) and Environmental Sciences (MSc) Luke joined Eastern IFCA in 2012 as an Environment Officer, becoming Project Officer in 2014. His work streams have ranged from producing Habitat Regulation Assessments to drafting byelaws. He played a key role in the development of the annual Strategic Assessment and managing the Several Order shellfish lays in The Wash. He is a warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer.

Senior Skipper
Lee Torrice



Having joined Eastern Sea Fisheries in 1998. Lee is an experienced skipper and engineer. Having started as a Fishery Officer, then progressed to engineer, worked as a research assistant for a short period of time before becoming the mate on RV Three Counties and finally the senior skipper. He is a long-standing member of the RNLI, having served at Hunstanton for a number of years. He is responsible for all of the Eastern IFCA sea going assets. He is a warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer and an RYA Yachtmaster (Offshore).

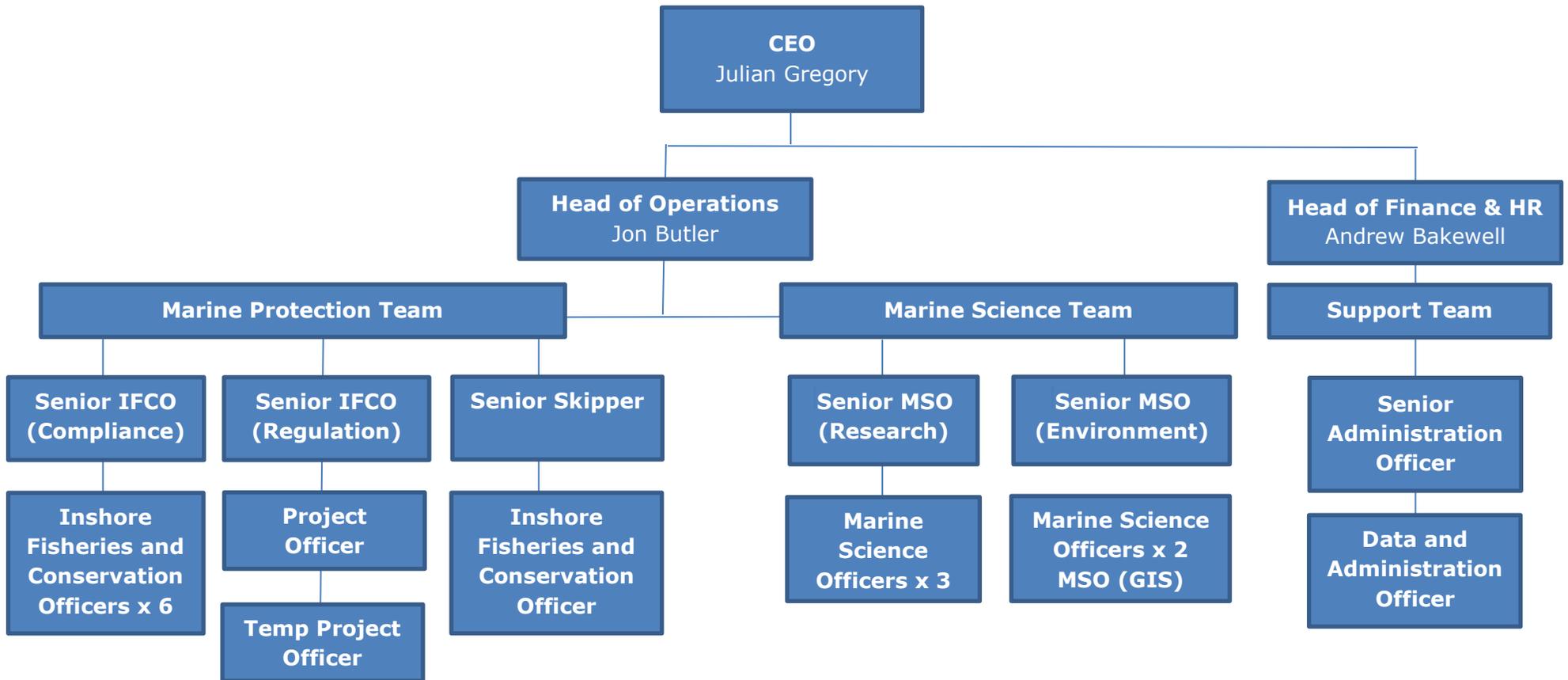
Overall, the leadership team brings together a wide range of skills and experience gained in both the public and private sectors as well as in the more specialised environment of Eastern IFCA. This blend of experience facilitates free thinking and the capacity to question the way in which the organisation operates, balanced with strong levels of skill, experience and knowledge provided by long-standing members of the team.

Our management team are pivotal to the overall success of the organisation; they are required to deliver the Authority's strategic intent through operational plans, ensuring that their teams deliver to the required standard. As such, we have invested in our management capability through formal training, a management development event and ongoing coaching. The key focus was to help first line managers to develop as leaders and to take ownership of delivery within their area of responsibility. This has been a key focus and will continue to be so moving forward, with all Senior Officers working towards formal qualifications with the Institute of Leadership and Management.

All the Eastern IFCA team are remunerated by an established salary structure with a set number of annual increments based upon length of service. The majority of the Marine Protection and some of the Marine Science Team members are additionally rewarded with a 7.5% supplement to account for their seagoing role, which involves unsociable hours, including weekend working. Annual leave is based upon length of service and all qualifying staff are auto-enrolled in the Local Government Pension Scheme.



Eastern IFCA Staff Structure



OPERATIONS

The Authority is currently located at its primary base in King's Lynn with offices to accommodate staff and a local storage unit for its portable and transportable assets. A satellite office, co-located with MMO officers in the Cefas building in Lowestoft, was opened during 2016. Vessels are based at moorings at Sutton Bridge (*RV Three Counties* and *FPV John Allen*) and in Lowestoft (*FPV Sebastian Terelinck*). During 2020 all officers transitioned to home working as necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This working arrangement may be required for some time but experience has shown that this way of working is sustainable.

Costing and control of the authority is maintained by a rigidly sequenced ordering and approval system for all expenditure which is also analysed in detail to establish costs by department as an aid to decision making, budgeting and forecasting future funding requirements.

The Authority procures its supplies from an approved list of suppliers including ESPO and the Local Government Purchasing Scheme. Price and service are subject to periodic monitoring. New suppliers are approved after research and where possible price comparison. To support its operations the Authority currently employs the following owned capital assets valued at original cost:

Vessels	£
<i>RV Three Counties</i> – Research catamaran	914,560
<i>FPV Sebastian Terelinck</i> – Patrol vessel	417,000
<i>FPV John Allen</i> – Patrol vessel	210,000
<i>FPV Sea Spray</i> – Open RHIB	59,138

Vehicles	
Ford Tourneo (2016) – crew transport	13,267
3 Skoda Yetis (2014) – IFCO patrol	42,667
2 Skoda Yetis (2017) –general duties	30,537
1 Skoda Fabia (2017) – general duties	10,215
1 Skoda Karoq (2020) - CEO	22,967
Isuzu 4x4 (2015)– deploying towable assets	18,877
Research Equipment	
Various items of survey equipment	118,789

Collaboration – Marine Management Organisation

During 2015 Defra initiated a workstream to achieve greater collaboration between the MMO and the IFCAs. This was subsequently formalised under the oversight of a joint IFCA and MMO Programme Board with six workstreams including accommodation, training, intelligence and operational collaboration.

Since 2015 Eastern IFCA has been at the forefront of developing collaborative working both at the local and national levels. Locally officers developed effective working relationships with MMO colleagues through a number of initiatives including shared accommodation at Kings Lynn and Lowestoft, shared Tasking and Coordinating arrangements for operational activity and routine joint patrols and operations. At national level the CEO has been an active proponent of the collaborative working agenda and associated workstreams as (previous) Chair of NIMEG and through membership of the IFCA Chief Officers Group. He played a leading role in developing the joint IFCA and MMO response to the COVID-19 pandemic and sits as part of the IFCA and MMO Strategic Operations Group, which was established in February 2021 as the permanent successor to the Joint National Covid Response Group.

Eastern IFCA has, in common with all other IFCA's, developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which formalises joint work opportunities and use of IFCA assets such as vessels and officers with the MMO. Vessel deployments are co-ordinated nationally to ensure that opportunities are exploited for Eastern IFCA to contribute to national fisheries management and border security matters where appropriate.

Marine Protection Operations

Compliance and enforcement activity are undertaken in accordance with principles set out in the Regulation and Compliance Strategy, with the emphasis being upon endorsing compliance. This means that the approach is to encourage compliance with regulation but through education and advice, but sanctions are also available to deter, punish and remove any benefit from non-compliance in line with the Enforcement Policy.

To ensure that compliance and enforcement activity is proportionate and to make best use of limited resources a risk-based approach is taken, which is informed by monthly risk profiles and emerging intelligence.

The Marine Protection Team comprises 10 warranted IFCOs based at Kings Lynn and Lowestoft, who are responsible for ensuring compliance with fisheries regulations. These officers have a range of powers provided under UK legislation, primarily MaCCA 09 and the Sea Fishing (Enforcement) Regulations 2018 (SI 849/2018). Officers also have secondary functions such as vessel crew (skipper, mate/crew), completing data analysis and projects. All officers are trained to operate as crew to the Authority's vessels and are therefore able to operate at sea as well as ashore. The CEO and Head of Operations are also a warranted IFCOs.

Enforcement operations are undertaken both at sea and on land. They include boarding and inspecting fishing vessels, their catch and their fishing gear at sea and

inspecting vessels and their catch as they land in harbours, ports and on beaches. Inspections of premises such as fish processors are also undertaken.



The Authority currently operates two dedicated vessels for compliance activities. *FPV John Allen*, an 11 metre Redbay Stormforce cabin RIB provides a high-profile visible presence and has the capability for electronic observations/ tracking and direct boarding of fishing vessels. A second Redbay Stormforce, *FPV Sebastian Terelinck*, was acquired in 2015 and provides the same capabilities as *FPV John*

Allen with the additional benefits of greater manoeuvrability and shallower draught due to being fitted with waterjet propulsion. An open RHIB, *FPV Seaspray*, was procured during 2018 to supplement the two larger vessels.

The primary function of both *FPV John Allen* and *FPV Sebastian Terelinck* is enforcement but they are also capable of undertaking some research activity. One vessel is primarily based in Sutton Bridge to cover the Wash embayment as well as the north Lincolnshire and Norfolk coasts. The other is based at Lowestoft to cover the Norfolk and Suffolk coast. The vessels are interchangeable, based on the requirements in each area at any given time.

Marine Science Operations

All Marine Science Officers are based in the King's Lynn office and can deploy throughout the District. Their responsibilities include the provision of scientific evidence to inform and support management decisions; the assessment and management of fishing activities in marine protected areas; and the provision of advice to partner marine regulators on marine planning and licensing applications.

Research

Evidence is gathered from a variety of sources including undertaking literary reviews of scientific papers, analysing fishery landings data and conducting surveys and research at sea. For this latter role, the team utilise all the Authority's vessels, including *RV Three Counties*, from which they can deploy a wide range of scientific equipment that the Authority either owns or shares with other IFCAs.

The annual Strategic Assessment is conducted to identify priorities, and this identifies which projects can be included in the annual research programme. In addition to these projects, the team also manages the collection of shellfish samples on behalf of the local Borough Councils, which are used to test the water quality in shellfish harvesting areas.

Eastern IFCA manages the WFO 1992 shell fisheries and conducts annual surveys to assess cockle and mussel stocks. These are substantial projects and are routinely undertaken in addition to annual priorities.

Research Equipment

The table below lists some of the research equipment that is available to the Marine Science Team.

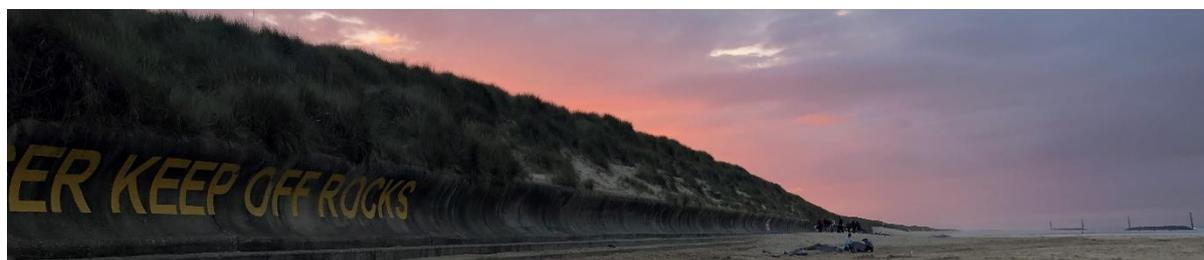
Item	Purpose	Owner
Day grab	Collecting seabed samples during cockle surveys or for sediment analysis during habitat mapping ground-truth surveys	Eastern IFCA
Mini-Hamon grab	Larger than a Day grab, it is used for ground-truthing sites that contain pebbles and cobbles	Eastern IFCA
Van Veen grab	Weighing just 10kg, this small grab can be deployed by hand from a small boat or RHIB, expanding our operational capability	Eastern IFCA
Edgetech side scan sonar	Creates broadscale visual images of the seabed features using acoustic signals	Eastern IFCA jointly with Kent and Essex IFCA Sussex IFCA
VideoRay Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)	Takes video footage in water depths up to 80m and be deployed in currents of up to 2.5 knots. Used to identify what features are on the seabed to ground truth broadscale acoustic data	Eastern IFCA
2 x Sea Spyder camera arrays	Large, high-definition underwater video cameras with lighting arrays. Used to help ground truth acoustic data	Jointly with all IFCAs
2 x GoPro cameras	Small, easy to deploy underwater video cameras. Used for multiple purposes where underwater imagery is required.	Eastern IFCA
ARIS 3000 Sonar Camera	Produces images using sound waves enabling it to produce imagery in the highly turbid waters that are encountered regularly in The Wash	Jointly with all IFCAs
2 x sondes and sonde buoy	Collecting water quality data (temperature, salinity, Chlorophyl and turbidity) to inform primary food availability assessments. One sonde is deployed permanently on a buoy to collect continuous data, the other sonde is deployed manually from a vessel	Eastern IFCA

Various mussel and oyster dredges	Collecting shellfish samples from the seabed	Eastern IFCA
Seine and fyke nets	Two different types of net used during fish surveys	Eastern IFCA
Miscellaneous survey equipment	The team has a wide variety of smaller equipment that is used during the course of surveys for collecting and measuring samples. These include precision electronic weighing scales for accurately weighing samples, quadrats for collecting samples, a variety of sieves for separating sediment into a range of particle sizes, microscopes and hand-held GPS's	
Specialist software	A range of specialist software is used to plan and monitor survey progress, analyse data and map survey results. These include Microplot 7 and Hypack Max plotting software for survey operations, Triton Perspective for analysing side scan data and MapInfo and QGIS for charting the results.	Eastern IFCA

Environment

Key activities are the assessment and management of fishing activities in marine protected areas and the provision of advice to partner marine regulators on marine planning and licensing applications. This involves desk-based research and analysis, and an element of field surveys. These functions are undertaken in close liaison with partner regulators and advisors, private sector companies, non-government organisations as well as local fishery and conservation stakeholders.

Most of the Eastern IFCA district is afforded protection by the designation of marine protected areas, reflecting the importance of habitats and species located in our local seas. Most of the designated sites (15 immediately adjacent to the coast, and three located offshore, partly within the Eastern IFCA district but also extending beyond 6nm) are European Marine Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)), recognised for their internationally important habitats and species. To date, a single Marine Conservation Zone has been designated in the Eastern IFCA district – the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds on the Norfolk coast.



Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern IFCA district:

Name	Designation type	Location	Size (km ²)
Humber Estuary⁵	SAC	Lincolnshire (& Yorkshire)	366.6
Humber Estuary²	SPA	Lincolnshire (& Yorkshire)	376.3
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge⁶	SAC	Offshore: Lincolnshire & Norfolk	845.1
Gibraltar Point	SPA	Lincolnshire	4.2
The Wash	SPA	Lincolnshire & Norfolk	620.4
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast	SAC	Lincolnshire & Norfolk	1077.2
North Norfolk Coast	SPA	Norfolk	78.6
North Norfolk Coast	SAC	Norfolk	31.5
Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds	MCZ	Norfolk	321
Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton³	SAC	Offshore: Norfolk	1467.6
Great Yarmouth & North Denes	SPA	Norfolk	1.60
Outer Thames Estuary³	SPA	Coastal and offshore: Norfolk & Suffolk (also Essex & Kent)	3798.2
Breydon Water	SPA	Norfolk	12.0
Alde, Ore & Butley Estuaries	SAC	Suffolk	16.3
Alde & Ore Estuaries	SPA	Suffolk	24.0
Orfordness to Shingle Street	SAC	Suffolk	8.9
Deben Estuary	SPA	Suffolk	9.8
Stour & Orwell Estuaries⁷	SPA	Suffolk (& Essex)	36.7
Greater Wash	SPA	Coastal and offshore: Lincolnshire, Norfolk (& Yorkshire)	3,536
Harbour Porpoise (Southern North Sea)	SAC	Coastal and offshore: Norfolk & Suffolk	36,958
Outer Thames Estuary³ extension	SPA	Norfolk, Suffolk (& Essex) (extension into estuaries)	121.7

NB. Many of these coastal MPAs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and Ramsar Sites (wetlands of international importance). Public bodies have additional duties in relation to these designations; Eastern IFCA addresses these duties in parallel with the SAC and SPA requirements, and through liaison with the statutory nature conservation advisor, Natural England.

Annual assessments of the Wash Fishery Order cockle and mussel fisheries have been undertaken for over 15 years, to ensure these fisheries are managed in accordance with the site's conservation objectives. Following the announcement of

⁵ Majority of this site is in North-Eastern IFCA district

⁶ Offshore (non-coastal) site, partially within Eastern IFCA district

⁷ Majority of this site is in Eastern IFCA district, but part of it falls within Kent & Essex IFCA district.

Defra's revised approach to fisheries management in marine protected areas in 2012, this fishery assessment work has been rolled out to cover all commercial fisheries in all MPAs in the Eastern IFCA district. A significant resource has been directed to complete this work in the required timescales and has required input from the marine protection team as well as the science team. Implementation of management measures identified through the fisheries in MPAs assessment process was scheduled for completion by December 2016, although the level and complexity of this work meant that work continued beyond this deadline.

Most fisheries assessed for impacts on MPAs were found to not cause adverse effect at current levels of activity. The next step in the process will be to develop fishing activity monitoring plans, to demonstrate how changes in spatial distribution, gear types and effort levels will be recorded. The plans will also need to show how Eastern IFCA will respond to changes in fishing activities in relation to potential impacts on designated MPAs.

The provision of advice to partner marine regulators on potential fisheries and environmental impacts of proposed marine developments is an important function for the team. In addition to fishing operations, the southern North Sea and East coast are key locations for oil and gas, offshore renewable energy, aggregate extraction, ports and shipping, cables and pipelines, coastal flood defences, and marine recreation activities. Eastern IFCA provides formal advice to the licensing authority (MMO) on any such application and to the Planning Inspectorate for major infrastructure developments.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

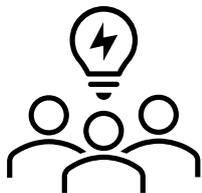
The importance of being 'recognised and heard' is recognised under Success Criterion 1 (Appendix 2) and is crucial to achieving our main duties.

Our approach is to achieve clarity and transparency with stakeholders, particularly in relation to consultation on the development of management measures. Box 1 (below) sets out how dialogue with stakeholders will influence the development of management measures.

Engagement is impacted by the emergence of COVID-19 and the associated social distancing restrictions which has necessitated a revision of our engagement approach. In addition, key workstreams require significant dialogue with industry over the next 12 to 24 months. Both of these factors have influenced the approach for communication and engagement in the coming financial year as set out in Appendix 5.

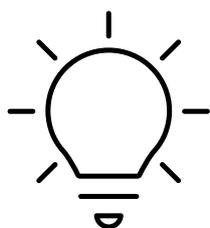
Box 1 – How consultation influences the development of management measures

Informal consultation and evidence gathering



At the earliest stage, before management measures are drafted, stakeholders provide crucial information and insight into what is needed from management measures. This is sometimes in the form of fishing activity information (to inform a habitats regulation assessment for example) or to feedback on the general principles which will guide the drafting of measures.

Development of management measures



The information obtained from stakeholders is reviewed and together with other relevant information is used to help inform a first draft of the management measures and to inform a recommendation to the Authority members. The views of respondents are often summarised and presented to members to help inform their decisions at Authority meetings.

Formal consultation



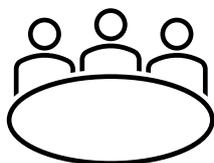
Once drafted, the Authority ‘makes’ the management measures in a Byelaw. Although this sounds final, this legislative term refers to the Authority’s intention to make the measures and is not the point at which they are finalised. After they are ‘made’, measures are put to formal consultation for stakeholders to review in detail. This will always include the full wording of the measures and an assessment of the impacts on stakeholders.

Finalising the management measures



The feedback received from formal consultation is reviewed and informs the finalisation of the management measures. At this point, if there are any significant changes which need to be made to the draft measures, additional consultation may be required.

Confirmation



The Secretary of State ultimately decides whether to confirm a byelaw or not, other management measures may be decided by the Authority (e.g. permit conditions). It is at this point that all the views of industry are considered against the proposed management measures to inform a decision as to whether the measures are reasonable.

FINANCIAL PLAN

Past performance

In recent years, as a result primarily vacancy management, interest, grant funding and increased sampling fees the authority has continued to add to reserves and fund various capital projects including replacing vehicles, vessels and research equipment. Like many other organisations, the authority has continued to benefit from a sustained period of low inflation.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Estimate
Income				
Levies*	1,016,863	1,037,200	1,057,944	1,057,944
“New burden”	394,145	394,145	394,145	394,145
Other	88,156	84,678	80,000	62,000
Grants		67,229		
Total	1,499,164	1,583,252	1,532,089	1,514,089
Expenditure				
Salaries	1,024,065	1,029,747	1,135,875	1,054,250
Administration	213,685	204,984	212,395	196,160
Operations	38,521	39,797	38,000	37,500
Vessels	126,828	112,046	113,000	115,250
Vehicles	26,107	24,927	26,700	26,750
Assets		22,967		
Projects		65,322		
Total	1,429,206	1,499,790	1,525,970	1,429,910
Surplus/(shortfall)	69,958	83,462	6,119	84,179
Asset Replace		150,000	154,500	



5 year forecast 2022 – 2026	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
Income					
Levies	1,079,103	1,100,685	1,122,700	1,145,153	1,168,056
“New burden”	394,145	394,145	394,145	394,145	394,145
Other	70,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Total	1,543,248	1,574,830	1,596,845	1,619,298	1,642,201
Expenditure					
Salaries	1,165,900	1,200,877	1,236,903	1,274,010	1,312,231
Administration	207,450	180,000	183,600	187,600	191,000
Operations	38,500	39,000	39,500	40,000	40,500
Vessels	114,850	105,000	107,000	110,000	112,500
Vehicles	27,250	27,750	28,250	28,750	29,250
Total	1,553,950	1,552,627	1,595,253	1,640,360	1,685,481
Surplus/(shortfall)	(10,702)	22,203	1,592	(21,062)	(43,280)
Asset replacement	159,135	163,910	168,827	173,892	179,109

* *Following a 25% reduction in 2011 in response to budget cuts for funding authorities and stand still until 2018/19 a 2% annual increase has applied.*

Although the future of New Burdens funding is uncertain the Finance Directors of the three County Councils are aware of the possibility that Levies may need to increase to make up any shortfall. The annual budget and forward forecasts are prepared to ascertain the levy needed to perform the core duties of the authority; this requirement is calculated net of the income projected from other sources. “New burden”, alternative funding at the same level has been included from 2022/23 onwards.

The pressure on public sector finances is recognised in the figures with the Authority maintaining a standstill levy up to 2018/19 with an annual 2% increase thereafter. Income projections are forecast as static however in reality they are likely to increase. As the table shows the Authority will need to find increasing levels of savings and/or income in the forecast years to avoid depleting reserves. The Authority is continually exploring the potential for grant support relevant to its core duties.

Capital Account

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Opening	2,240,897	1,829,576	878,010	24,123	154,542	267,372
Revenue	84,179	(10,702)	22,203	1,592	(21,062)	(43,280)
Asset rep	154,500	159,136	163,910	168,827	173,892	179,109
Utilised	(650,000)	(1,100,000)	(1,040,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(740,000)
Balance	1,829,576	878,010	24,123	154,542	267,372	(336,799)

***includes replacement funding equivalent to “new burden” Capital levy £154,500 (2020/21) inflated @ 3% per annum**

The Authority depends on its' capital assets to perform a significant proportion of its duties. The table shows that without "new burden" or an alternative source of finance reserves are exhausted in 2021/22. All assets have finite useful lives and periodically need to be replaced. The cost of replacement assets has in the recent past been funded from reserves accumulated over several years. However, as operational costs increase the Authority would not be able to add to reserves at the rate required to match the cost of replacing its' assets. The table above reflects the additional annual capital levy that the authority will require to meet capital commitments. Following replacement of *RV Three Counties* in 2022/23 the table shows an annual cost of capital assets calculated as follows:

	Est. Cost	Est. life	/annum	Residual life
Research Vessel	c.2million	15 years	92,000	<0 years
Patrol Vessel 1	490,000	10 years	49,000	2 years
Patrol Vessel 2	490,000	10 years	49,000	4 years
Other assets	240,000	8 years	30,000	average 3 years

Factors:

- Residual value of asset being replaced
- Cost of replacement (at the time)
- Success and magnitude of income generation initiatives (Full cost recovery)
- The effect of changes to ways of working
- Inflation
- Invest to save (e.g. IVMS, Moorings project, Accommodation)
- Political/Legislative change
- Joint working initiative
- External funding
- Slippage in replacement programme

PRIORITIES

Planning Cycle

A rolling five-year Business Plan brings together all elements of activity undertaken by the organisation. The plan is intended to project five years in advance with annual reviews to update the strategic and financial context and to prioritise and plan for each financial year. Overall priorities for the Authority are established based upon the annual cycle together with specific priorities and plans for enforcement and communications and engagement. These are set out in appendices to the Business Plan. Whilst using the annual cycle for planning, utilising a five-year rolling plan enables priorities to be identified that will span financial years.

The annual cycle is informed by a Strategic Assessment, which comprises two assessments – a data driven, initial assessment to determine the risk of sustainability issues associated with groups of fisheries and an additional assessment which considers incomplete datasets and contextual and political issues as well as expert knowledge from officers.

Risk Management

In developing the Business Plan potential risks to the delivery of outputs have been identified. The risk register at Appendix 1 illustrates the main risks to the delivery of the priorities of the Authority identified by Officers. The risk matrix is reviewed quarterly at full Authority meetings. The assessment of risk is inevitably a subjective one based on the experience of the individuals assessing the risk. It should also be noted that this risk register only records the main threats to the organisation and is not intended to be definitive.

High Level Objectives

During 2015 Defra led on the development of new High-Level Objectives and Success Criterion, working in conjunction with the IFCA Chief Officers Group and the Association of IFCAs to develop something that is meaningful in the current context. This 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 the marine area in achieving this vision, and reflect the principles for sustainable development⁸

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

The Secretary of State decided not to issue the new performance framework as formal guidance and instead it was agreed at the IFCA Chief Officers Group and the Association of IFCAs. It was adopted by Eastern IFCA at a full Authority meeting in October 2015. The performance framework will guide the work of Eastern IFCA and it can be found at Appendix 2.

Annual Priorities

The nature of the dynamic inshore marine environment and the work undertaken by Eastern IFCA inevitably means that work streams do not always sit easily with an annual planning cycle. However, when considered in the context of a rolling five-year Business Plan it is easier to incorporate plans and priorities that span financial year time-frames.

⁸ UK Marine Policy Statement, 2011, The Stationary Office, London

Eastern IFCA Priorities 2010-22

The overall priorities for 2021-22 can be found at Appendix 3. The plans below have been developed to meet the requirements of the Business Plan and to deliver the priorities for 2020-21.

Enforcement Plan 2021-22

The plan for 2020-21 can be found at Appendix 4.

Communication and Engagement Plan 2021-22

The plan for 2021-22 can be found at Appendix 5.

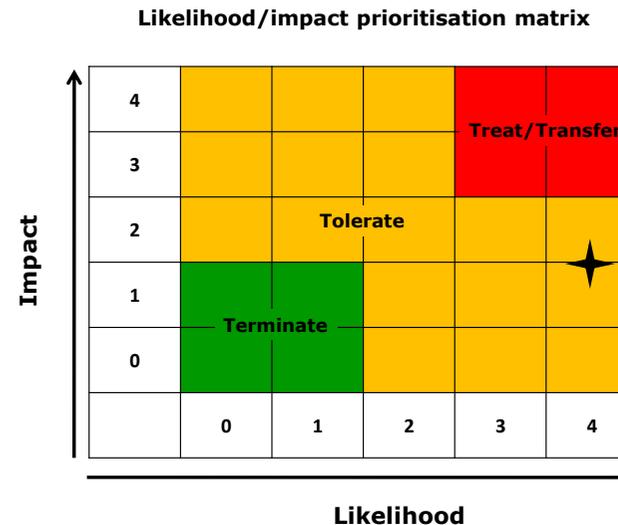


Appendix 1: Risk Management

The risk matrix sets out the magnitude of the risk to Eastern IFCA from an organisational viewpoint incorporating amongst others reputational and financial risks. The matrix also sets out the likelihood of an identified risk occurring. Mitigation which is in place or to be introduced is identified. Risk is ranked on an arbitrary scale from 0 (low risk - coloured green) to 4 (high risk - coloured red). The average of the combined financial and reputational risk is taken and plotted on to the matrix below, the likelihood of that risk occurring is also plotted. Mitigation action is noted. It should be noted that in most cases there are already many actions being undertaken as part of routine working practices to reduce the risks to the Eastern IFCA.

The four actions that can be applied are:

Treat	Take positive action to mitigate risk
Tolerate	Acknowledge and actively monitor risk
Terminate	Risk no longer considered to be material to Eastern IFCA business
Transfer	Risk is out with Eastern IFCA's ability to treat and is transferred to higher level.



50

Risk matrix with worked example

Risk A poses a financial threat (2) to the organisation and a reputation threat (1) generating a combined impact level of 1.5. The likelihood of the threat occurring is determined as 4. The resultant risk to Eastern IFCA is therefore plotted using the matrix and is identified as a risk that should be tolerated.

Description	Owner	Implications	Organisational impact (Reputation + Financial/2)		Likelihood	Risk	Mitigation	Action
Eastern IFCA fails to secure funding to replace assets	CEO	Substantial reduction in Eastern IFCA mobility particularly seaborne activities with consequential inability to fulfil full range of duties	4		2 Finance Directors agreed to annual capital contributions from 2019-20 onwards to cater for the cost of asset replacement as an alternative to requests for a lump sum amounts as assets are replaced. No guarantees were given or implied. Eastern IFCA will explore all avenues for funding.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current level of reserves provides sufficient funding to cover replacement of <i>RV Three Counties</i> • The open RHIB, FPV Seaspray, was procured using EMFF funding • Seek efficiencies and promote cost effectiveness. • Demonstrate value for money. • Advertise/promote Eastern IFCA output and effectiveness to funding authorities through regular engagement with Council leaders and Financial Directors. • Engage with partner agencies to identify alternative funding sources • Explore asset sharing initiatives • Agreement in place with funding authorities for capital funding contributions each year. Confirmed at the annual meeting with representatives of the Finance Directors. 	Tolerate
			Reputation	Financial				
			4	4				
			Drive for savings may impact County Councils' decisions regarding Eastern IFCA funding. Visible presence reduced, enforcement and survey activities compromised.	Inability to generate sufficient reserves to meet asset replacement schedule would threaten Eastern IFCA's ability to function. Closure costs could result.				

Description	Owner	Implications	Organisational impact (Reputation + Financial/2)		Likelihood	Risk	Mitigation	Action
Impact of EU exit on Eastern IFCA duties and the wider economic environment	CEO	Potential changes in several areas, including: - regulatory framework - fisheries management methodology - regulations (enforcement) - environment conservation	3		3 EU exit will have an inevitable but currently unpredictable impact. Eastern IFCA responsibilities unchanged in the short term to medium term		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor developments in the post-EU exit landscape, particularly fish and shellfish exports Engage in national fora to help inform and influence developments (e.g. IFCA Chief Officers Group, Association of IFCAs) Continue "business as usual" Maintain communication with partners Eastern IFCA is fully engaged with the MMO in terms of operational readiness, with a MoU in place for the provision of vessels and joint patrols. Officers engaged in future of inshore fisheries management work with Defra and other stakeholders. The Authority is supportive the REAF initiative. 	Tolerate
			Reputation	Financial				
			3	3				
			Eastern IFCA may be affected by developments beyond their control (fisher's expectations were high and were not fully met). Blame for change and or lack of change.	Grant funding from EU not replaced. Market for fishers catch affected. Fee/licence income reduced. Operating costs increased.				

Description	Owner	Implications	Organisational impact (Reputation + Financial/2)		Likelihood	Risk	Mitigation	Action
Eastern IFCA fails to maintain relevance amongst partners	CEO	If Eastern IFCA fails to maintain relevance amongst partners Eastern IFCA's utility will come under scrutiny potentially resulting in re-allocation of duties	4		2	Possible – Whilst positive relationships have been established the existence of disparate partner aspirations introduces complexities which may drive perceptions of bias or inefficiency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a leadership function. Be proactive and identify issues early. Engage with all partners routinely. Use Business Plan to prioritise and communicate outputs, Measure progress/deliver outputs Represent community issues to higher authorities Effective business planning process in pace. Leading role where appropriate e.g. Op Blake. Proactive approach to raising issues with Defra (e.g. Bass management, proposals for effort management trial). Participation in Parliamentary Review 2019. 	Tolerate
			Reputation	Financial				
			4	4				
			Loss of confidence in the organisation Failure of the organisation to perform in accordance with the standards and practices of a statutory public body	Withdrawal of LA and Defra funding for the organisation				
Negative media comment	CEO	Negative perceptions of Eastern IFCA utility and effectiveness created at MMO/Defra Loss of Partner confidence Media scrutiny of individual Authority members	3		2	Possible – disenfranchised partners seek to introduce doubt as to Eastern IFCA professionalism, utility and effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively and regularly engage with all partners including media outlets. Utilise full potential of social media and web-based information. Embed professional standards and practices. Deliver change efficiently and effectively. Promote activity Assure recognition and understanding through community events Routine updating of news items on website. Active on social media with demonstrable improvements in 'reach'. Parliamentary Review (above). 	Tolerate
			Reputation	Financial				
			4	2				
			Eastern IFCA perceived to be underperforming	Negative perceptions introduce risk to continued funding				
			Eastern IFCA considered poor value for money					
			Eastern IFCA perceived as irrelevant					

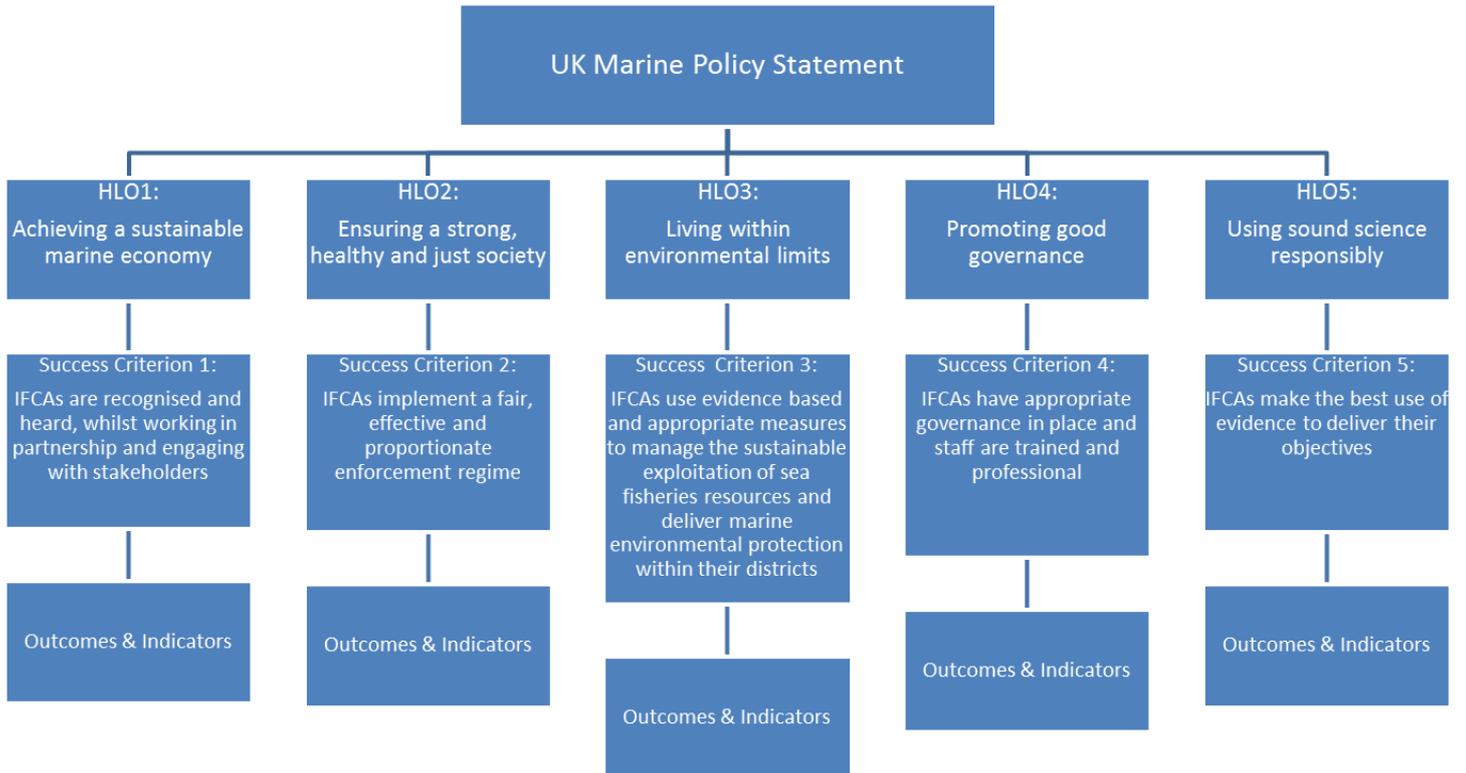
Description	Owner	Implications	Organisational impact (Reputation + Financial/2)		Likelihood	Risk	Mitigation	Action
Degradation of MPAs due to fishing activity	CEO	Loss or damage of important habitats and species within environmentally designated areas Potential for European infraction nationally resulting in significant financial penalties at the local level.	3.5		2	Possible - Eastern IFCA's approach to managing sea fisheries resources considers environmental obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed fishing activities authorised by Eastern IFCA are assessed per Habitats Regulations Eastern IFCA is fully engaged in national fisheries/MPA project, prioritising management of highest risk fisheries in MPAs and implementing new management measures Effective monitoring of fishing activity and enforcement of measures Adaptive co-management approach to fisheries management – i.e. engagement with fishing and conservation interests in the development of management measures, and appropriate review of measures to respond to changing environmental and socio-economic factors Ongoing, close liaison with Natural England regarding all conservation matters Review agreed Wash Cockle & Mussel Policies Develop the use of iVMS as a management tool by the Authority Continue to progress research into the impact of fishing activities on MPA features to ensure the Authority has an up-to-date evidence base to inform its management decisions. MPA management has been a high priority since 2012 with substantial progress made. Current workstreams (e.g. Cromer Shoal MCZ, remaining 'red risk' sites) are a high priority and are being progressed. 	Tolerate
			Reputation	Financial				
			4	3				
			Eastern IFCA is not meeting statutory duties under EU & UK conservation legislation Eastern IFCA not achieving vision as champion of sustainable marine environment	Legal challenge brought against Eastern IFCA for failing to meet obligations under MaCAA and the Habitats Regulations				

Description	Owner	Implications	Organisational impact (Reputation + Financial/2)		Likelihood	Risk	Mitigation	Action
Shellfish and fish stocks collapse	CEO	Risk of significant negative impact upon industry viability with associated social and economic problems	3		3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual stock assessments of bivalve stocks in Wash Annual review of the level of threat via the Strategic Assessment Ability to allocate sufficient resources to monitoring of landings and effective enforcement Consultation with industry on possible management measures Use Project Inshore Phase 4 output to inform MSC pre-assessment review of fisheries and validate management measures Develop stock conservation measures for crab and lobster fisheries through engagement with Cefas and fishing industry. Continue support for industry led Fisheries Improvement Plan SWEEP research into primary productivity levels within the Wash Regular engagement with the industry to discuss specific matters Continued research into the cockle mortality events Maintain whelk management measures Introduce shrimp management measures Consider bass management measures if necessary, in light of EU/UK measures Annual surveys of Wash cockle and mussel stocks alongside innovative approach to management of the cockle fishery. Ongoing workstream to identify cause of mussel mortality. Closure of cockle fishery in Nov 2019 due to emerging findings of mussel surveys in order to mitigate impact on 2020 cockle fishery. 	Treat
			Reputation	Financial	Possible - Bivalve stocks have high natural variation; "atypical mortality" affecting stocks despite application of stringent fishery control measures			
			3	3	Crustacean stocks not currently subject to effort control			
			Loss in confidence of the Eastern IFCA ability to manage the sea fisheries resources within its district	Resources directed at protecting alternative stocks from displaced effort Additional resources applied to research into the cause of collapsed stocks and increased engagement and discussion with partners	Bass stocks nationally and internationally under severe pressure Regional whelk and shrimp fisheries effort becoming unsustainable. Regional crab and lobster stocks being exploited beyond maximum sustainable yield			

Description	Owner	Implications	Organisational impact (Reputation + Financial/2)		Likelihood	Risk	Mitigation	Action
Failure to secure data	CEO	Non-compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Prosecution casefiles compromised Loss of data in the event of fire or theft Breakdown in dissemination of sensitive information between key delivery partners	4		2	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All computers are password protected. Individuals only have access to the server through their own computer. Secure wireless internet Remote back up of electronic files Access to electronic files is restricted Up to date virus software installed on all computers Important documents secured in safes ICT equipment and policies provided by public sector provider – including encrypted laptops/secure governmental email system All Eastern IFCA personnel undergo DPA training Electronic backup of all Eastern IFCA documents held by ICT provider offsite Policies and processes developed to ensure compliance with GDPR. 	Tolerate
			Reputation	Financial	Possible - Limited staff access to both electronic and paper files Office secure with CCTV, keypad entry system and alarm			
			4	4	Partners no longer believe that confidential information they have supplied is secure Personnel issues arise over inability to secure information			
New Burdens Funding discontinued	CEO	Substantial reduction in Eastern IFCA capability with consequential inability to fulfil full range of duties or additional burden on funding authorities.	4		2	Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association of IFCA's has consistently lobbied for the continuation of funding Association of IFCA's have engaged with Defra review of New Burdens funding during 2018-19 and submitted a paper in support of an increase nationally from £3m to £6m as part of the planned SR2019 and SR2020 (both on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic) Finance Directors representatives briefed and understand that in the event that the funding is discontinued there may be a desire to increase levies Financial plan in place to cope with loss of New Burdens 	Treat
			Reputation	Financial	Defra have continued to roll over new Burdens funding in recognition of the value that IFCA's provide in meeting national policy objectives.			
			4	4	Inability to meet all obligations would have a significant impact upon reputation. Circa 25% of the annual budget is provided by Defra under the New Burdens doctrine so its loss would have a significant impact.			

Description	Owner	Implications	Organisational impact (Reputation + Financial/2)		Likelihood	Risk	Mitigation	Action
The Wash Fishery Order 1992 is not replaced in time when it expires in January 2023	CEO	Inability to manage the fishery with consequential impact upon industry viability and associated social and economic issues	4		3 The Authority agreed to replace the WFO 1992 with a byelaw in March 2020 and work is underway to introduce such a byelaw. There is judged to be sufficient time to get a byelaw approved but industry opposition may adversely affect this. If a replacement Regulating Order were applied for then the likelihood rating would increase to 4 and it is thought that it would be very unlikely that a new Order would be in place in time		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early decision taken to replace the WFO 1992 with a byelaw • Byelaw making process commenced • Work underway to develop polices that will sit under the Byelaw • Engagement with industry to address misgivings about the use of a Byelaw • Engagement with industry to develop policies that will sit under the Byelaw 	Treat
			Reputation	Financial				
			4	4				
			The effective management of all fisheries within the Wash is important in terms of industry viability, sustainability of stocks and managing the impact of fishing activity in a heavily designated MPA. Loss of confidence in Eastern IFCA's ability to manage the cockle and mussel fisheries is likely to be significant if the WFO 1992 is not replaced in a timely way	Potential for legal challenge against Eastern IFCA				

Appendix 2: 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

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

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.

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

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 certified financial information in a normal 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,

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**
-

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

Appendix 3: Eastern IFCA Priorities 2021-22

The table below sets out the work-streams which were identified as of high priority by the Strategic Assessment 2021. Each work-stream has been assigned a supplementary priority. Where resource limitations call for work-streams to be re-prioritised, these are used to inform which work should be the focus of available resources.

Priorities for 2021-22	Priority
1. To ensure that the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas in the district are furthered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development of management measures for 'red-risk' gear/feature interactions in the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SCI, b) Assessing the impact of fishing activities on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds (MCZ) and delivering management measures (if required). c) Development of priority Monitoring and Control plans as identified by the strategic assessment. d) Completion of amber/green gear/feature interactions. Development of management measures where required. e) Effort Monitoring within the Wash SAC including implementation of new catch returns system 	High High Medium High Medium
2. To develop management of the fisheries regulated under the WFO (regulated and several fishery) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Replacement of Several Order. b) Social/Economic study of Wash Cockle Fishery viability. c) Continued development of WFO policies. d) Replacement of WFO 1992 with permit byelaw e) Continuation of review in relation to access to the fisheries 	High High High High High
3. Industry Viability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Investigation into mussel die off 	High
4. Obtaining better fisheries data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implementation of I-VMS for all fisheries specifically the Wash Shrimp fishery (dependent on partnership working with MMO led project). 	High

'Business as Usual' – Critical Work-streams 2021-22

The Strategic Assessment indicates where risks in relation to a fishery or species are mitigated because of established work streams. The cessation of such work streams has the potential to increase risk associated with a fishery. Such identified work streams are set out below to provide context for the identified 'new' priorities identified through the Strategic Assessment.

SWEEP Study of the Wash Embayment, Environment and Productivity

Monitoring continues as is required for the Habitat regulation assessment utilising new sondes that have been purchased to facilitate this monitoring regime.

WFO surveys and Management

Annual surveys of cockle and mussel stocks within The Wash are a significant undertaking. These surveys do, however provide a level of fisheries evidence which is not reflected in any other fishery within the district. There is currently a review ongoing regarding the type and extent of sampling regime required. Extensive HRA's are also completed annually in order to open this fishery.

Further development of the cockle and mussel fishery management plans may be required. Work includes formal consultation with WFO licence holders and other concerned and potentially impacted stakeholders in relation to proposed measures and implementation pending consent from the Minister (including production of engagement material for fishers).

Shrimp fishery management

The shrimp fishery is of high economic importance and is a nationally important fishery. Work includes development of management measures in consultation with the industry (including outputs from the MSC accreditation scheme), development of impact assessments and formal consultation with the industry. The priority of the work may be influenced by outputs of the MSC accreditation scheme – if the adopted voluntary measures are successful, the requirement on Eastern IFCA may be reduced. Eastern IFCA to monitor effort in line with effort limitation model. Eastern IFCA will also continue to work with the MSC accreditation regarding issuing gear certification.

Risk of conflicts with other marine users

The present assessment focusses on sustainability issues which are within Eastern IFCA's envelope of influence. Other marine users also compete for space and resource within the marine environment and such activity is increasing over time.

Eastern IFCA is a consultee within the Marine Licencing System. Where new plans or projects are proposed within the district, Eastern IFCA highlights potential conflicts. One conflict which Eastern IFCA regularly reports is the issues of windfarm cables and the impacts of these on electrosensitive species.

Enforcement

Enforcement activity is primarily driven through the Compliance Risk Register and Tactical Coordinating Group meetings (which considers intelligence, emerging issues, fishing trends and the monthly risk profile). Enforcement activity is influenced by the outputs of the Strategic Assessment as this identifies the fisheries most at risk of sustainability issues (and by extension, those potentially most vulnerable to negative impacts through non-compliance).

Complete HRAs in relation to ‘unplanned’ fisheries

Mussel fisheries (sub-tidal seed mussel fisheries in particular) have the potential to occur throughout the year. Where such a fishery is detected by fishers, officers have a limited amount of time to develop management measures and a HRA for the fishery (particularly in sub-tidal fisheries which are ephemeral). In the event one does occur, the economic benefit of the fishery is relatively high (as mussel is usually used in local aquaculture).

Monitoring of district wide biosecurity risk

A monitoring plan for biosecurity has now been implemented and officers are briefed regarding reporting biosecurity concerns. Furthermore, officers undertake engagement with stakeholders to increase awareness and understanding as appropriate. It is recognised that the spread and control of Invasive non-native species is outside of Eastern IFCA’s remit and we may be limited to reactionary actions only, but this is not a primary function. Work in relation to ensuring compliance with WFO lease conditions primarily putting on and removing shellfish and education and engagement work is going in relation to biosecurity and the transfer of Invasive non-native species.

Whelk Fisheries Management and Research

Conditions related to improving compliance in the fishery have been approved by the authority and are now subject to formal consultation. Further permit conditions to be developed in relation to sustainability concerns. Research in relation to size of maturity focusing on areas where there has been a lack of sampling is ongoing. The focus will be for an increased scope of research project and voluntary gathering of whelk samples.

Partnership working

In previous Strategic Assessments various workstreams that are ongoing with other agencies (primarily the MMO) provide mitigation to risk scores and factor into the contextual scoring. Primarily these are:

- Under 10m catch recording
- Landing Obligation
- Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems

Whilst Eastern IFCA do not specifically lead on these projects, they support Eastern IFCA aims, and as such continue to form part of business as usual activities. Further to these primary projects Eastern IFCA also contribute to the following ongoing workstreams:

- Reporting through the national intelligence project

Evidence and information gathering for partner agencies (where appropriate)

Identification of future priorities 2021-22

Given the finite resources of the IFCA, workloads are prioritised. Table 5 (below) sets out work streams relating to risks identified within the assessment which are considered less of a priority. It is important to highlight these potential work streams as they may inform future Strategic Assessments or, opportunities may present during the year which enable additional benefit from existing or partner projects for which, these should be considered.

Future Priorities
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Obtaining better fisheries data<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Development of relationships with RSA to obtain more fisheries data.b) Continue dialogue with MMO and other partner organisations to develop 'joined-up' approach to gathering fisheries data from fishers.c) Gather information regarding recreational hand gathering.d) If required re-assess need to deliver 'unregulated netting' in the context of BNA.e) Implementation of electronic/app based returns system (to be incorporated with MMO under 10's catch returns if possible.f) Investigate requirement/applicability of Netting permit.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">2) Delivering fisheries management in relation to fisheries in MPAs<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Review the Humber estuary cockle byelaw (inherited from North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">3) To ensure that sea fisheries resources are exploited sustainably and in accordance with MSFD requirements.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Development of management measures in relation to crab and lobster fisheries sustainability



Appendix 4: Eastern IFCA Enforcement Plan 2021-22

Introduction

Compliance activity is undertaken in accordance with the Regulation and Compliance Strategy with the emphasis being upon the principle of endorsing compliance. This provides that clarity on regulation together with guidance and advice is essential to ensure compliance. The Eastern IFCA approach is to encourage compliance with regulation but sanctions are also available to deter, punish and remove any benefit from non-compliance in line with the Enforcement Policy.

To ensure that compliance and enforcement activity is proportionate and to make best use of limited resources a risk-based approach is taken, and this is informed by the Compliance Risk Register.

Method

The inshore fisheries sector is dynamic and as such compliance and enforcement activity can change from week to week. To ensure a cohesive approach operational activity is planned and co-ordinated using a clear process. A Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (TCG) considers information from the Annual Compliance Risk Register via a monthly Risk Profile, which combined with analysis of previous activity, intelligence and emerging issues, is used to agree priorities for the month. A weekly Operations Meeting manages activity to address the priorities agreed at the TCG meeting.

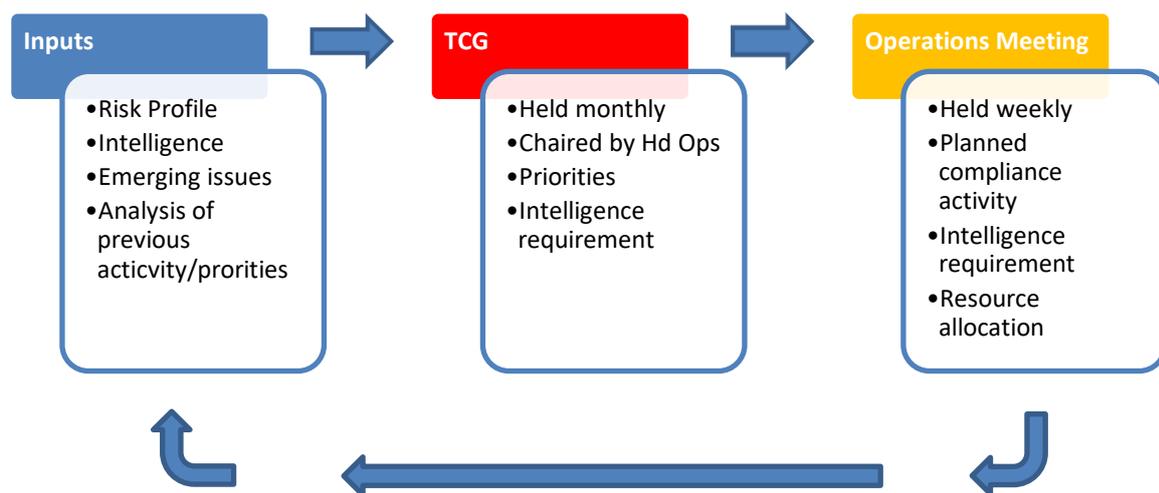


Fig. 1: The TCG process

Tactical Activities

Compliance and enforcement activities are conducted both at sea and ashore and can be categorised under six primary themes (see below). Activity may comprise one or all the following themes at any one time:

1. High Profile Visible Presence

Being present in the environment in which fishers operate is the foundation upon which all compliance activity is built. At a basic level, it provides credibility through operating both at sea and ashore, reassurance to the majority who comply with regulations and a deterrent effect for those that may be tempted to flout regulations. It also provides the opportunity for information and intelligence gathering as well as engagement and education.

2. Monitoring Activity

Monitoring activity enables Eastern IFCA to understand the level, nature and impact of fishing activity and the potential for regulations to be breached. It also helps Eastern IFCA to meet its legal obligation to prevent damage to European Marine Sites from fishing activity e.g. in some cases, fisheries regulations exist for protecting these sites and in these cases, Eastern IFCA monitors compliance.

3. Engagement and Education

As provided by the Regulation and Compliance Strategy the primary approach is to encourage compliance with regulation. This is best achieved through engagement with the fishing industry to provide clarity on regulation and to assist compliance through education and the sharing of best practice. Engagement is also important in developing and maintaining strong and constructive relationships with both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

4. Information, Intelligence and Evidence Gathering

Information, intelligence and evidence are key to Eastern IFCA's approach to fisheries management, regulation and compliance. Fisheries involve people, vessels, fish and markets, all of which are dynamic (e.g. people are compliant or non-compliant; vessels move; the emergence of fish is highly dependent on the environment; and markets go up or down). Understanding these factors is essential to Eastern IFCA's ability to operate effectively. The distinction between information, intelligence and evidence in this context is important:

Information takes many forms, but it includes local knowledge, anecdotal information and information gleaned from any source that may be of relevance to fisheries management. The dynamic nature of the marine environment means that fishing activity will vary from year to year and this form of evidence gathering is crucial to being reactive to changes in a dynamic inshore fisheries sector and it can help to inform compliance activities in the short term. It may also indicate gaps in our current data or evidence base and be used to direct further investigation.

Intelligence relates primarily to enforcement and is information that has been evaluated to assess provenance and reliability to make informed use of it in compliance and enforcement activity.

Evidence in this context relates to quantifiable information that can be used to support fisheries management and regulation. This will include fisheries data, which is quantitative evidence gathered in such a way as to understand its confidence. For example, quantities landed and fishing effort. Generally, evidence is not used to support short-term responses to dynamic changes, but it informs the strategic management of fisheries and their regulations. This form of data is of crucial importance to designing and assessing the suitability of management measures.

5. Inspection

An important element in ensuring compliance with sea fisheries regulations is undertaking inspections (e.g. measuring catch and inspecting fishing gear) both at sea and ashore in ports, harbour, creeks and beaches. Such inspections are risk based and the objective is to operate a proportionate regime that achieves the right balance between achieving compliance and managing the regulatory burden on commercial fishers and the level of intervention into the activities of recreational fishers.

Not only do inspections provide confirmation of compliance or evidence of transgression but they also enable engagement and education and the opportunity to gather intelligence and information.

Eastern IFCA works in partnership with the Marine Management Organisation and the Environment Agency as well as other organisations. As such, evidence is collected and passed onto partner organisations for offences which are not necessarily enforceable by Eastern IFCA (e.g. quota restrictions).

6. Enforcement

Whilst the primary objective is to achieve compliance through engagement and education there will be occasions where it is appropriate to undertake operations to identify offending and to apply sanctions to deter, punish and remove any benefit from non-compliance in line with the Enforcement Policy. Operations and investigations can take many forms, but the key elements are to employ appropriate tactics to identify offending; to secure and gather evidence; and to prepare case files to support the appropriate sanction.

Partnership Working

Whilst Eastern IFCA are responsible for managing the fisheries out to six miles at sea there are some shared and complimentary areas of responsibility with both the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Environment Agency (EA). Not only is co-

ordination of effort between organisations important for stakeholders it also provides opportunities for sharing resources and reducing workloads.

Therefore, partnership working, particularly with the MMO, is a key element of Eastern IFCA’s approach to achieving compliance. Key mechanisms to achieve this are set out below:

- **Attendance at TCG:** MMO officers attend the monthly Eastern IFCA TCG and *vice versa*. This enables shared priorities to be identified and information relevant to determining such to be shared.
- **Attendance at Operational meetings:** As with the above, attendance at operation meetings is undertaken to ensure that opportunities to share resources are identified and actioned.
- **Shared intelligence:** IFCA’s and the MMO pool intelligence so as to ensure relevant information can be actioned by the relevant body. Officers from either organisation will gather intelligence relevant to the MMO, IFCA or other partner organisation.

This collaborative approach has resulted in more efficient deployment of officers to undertake inspections and an increased pool of information from which operational, tactical and strategic decisions can be made. Further collaboration is planned over the next financial year to include standardisation of approaches, training and sharing best practice. Moving forward Eastern IFCA will continue to develop partnerships to further enhance working relationships between the Border Force, local police and Broads Authority.

Objectives

Whilst the method employed to deploy resources via the TCG process (ante) means that it is necessary to retain the ability to be flexible, it is appropriate to set benchmark objectives for some activities to ensure that resources are not unintentionally directed toward one fishery or area. This includes the potential to surge and draw-back on levels of activity on a seasonal and risk-based approach. It is also appropriate to have an established intention in relation to vessel sea time to provide a high-profile presence as a minimum and to enable other compliance activities.

Table 1. Seaborne Compliance Activity

Objective	Quantity	Comments
Sea patrol days (primary enforcement)	50+	50 dedicated enforcement sea patrols to establish high profile visual deterrent to non-compliance. The impact of sea-borne patrols is augmented through the use of social media to emphasise presence across the district. This objective in the context of a balanced and proportionate approach to compliance where the intention is not to over-burden fishers unnecessarily. (as set out in the Regulation and Compliance strategy).

Sea patrol days (secondary enforcement)	40+	In addition to the above dedicated enforcement patrols, IFCOs function as crew aboard research and survey activities at sea. The level of activity is not driven by enforcement priorities however IFCOs still perform enforcement functions (monitoring, engagement etc.) and activity will be reprioritised to focus on compliance where necessary.
Monitor MPA closed areas	100%	All areas closed under the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2016 will be monitored throughout the year on a risk-based approach managed via the TCG.

Table 2. Shore Based Compliance Activity

Objective	Quantity	Comments
Port visits	1 x per month (min)	High profile visible presence augmented through the use of social media. A minimum level of effort ensures intelligence gathering and fishing trends monitoring is undertaken evenly across the district in the absence of risk-based drivers.
Monitoring closed areas	MPA 1 x per month (min)	All areas closed under the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2018 will be monitored throughout the year on a risk-based approach managed via the TCG.
Officers to engage with the owner/skipper of all vessels which have recently entered the district	100%	Engagement and education to ensure that persons unfamiliar with the district are aware of the relevant restrictions and regulations.

Table 3. Partnership Working

Objective	Quantity	Comments
Attendance at MMO Area TCG meeting	100%	Monthly meetings that provide the opportunity to harmonise activity and plan joint work.
Joint patrols/inspections/ operations with the Marine Management Organisation	24 (min)	Joint patrols represent a resource saving enabling greater coverage of the district.

Indicators

To understand resource usage and outcomes it is necessary to capture data that will provide indicators on activity and performance. Reporting metrics are set through the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) which will also be reported through the Annual Report. This information is used to assess the effectiveness of enforcement actions, the spread of our activities and to identify any gaps.

Table 4. NIMEG reporting metrics		
Category	Metric	Detail required
Inspections at sea	Vessel patrols	Count any patrol by a patrol vessel or survey vessel (mother/daughter boat combination counts as one patrol)
	Fishing vessel boarding	Count fishing vessels (including unregistered/unlicensed) inspected at sea, where boarding was in pursuit of any relevant duty
	Fishing gear inspections	Count store-pots, tiers/strings etc of fishing gear found deployed in the sea, where inspection was in pursuit of any relevant duty. Do not count gear inspected on board a vessel
Inspections ashore or in port	Shore patrols	Excursion/visit of any length to any part of the coast for an inspection or observation of fishing related activity
	Port visits	Individual port/cove/beach visits within a shore patrol
	Premises inspections	Markets, merchants, refrigerated units, retailers, food producers/outlets etc
	Fish/shellfish landing inspections	First-hand observations of fish/shellfish as it was landed ashore from a vessel. Do not count inspections of fish laid out on a market or in a storage facility unless the landing of that fish was observed
	Other inspections	Count vessel gear/fish checks in port/ashore, diver and shore angler catches, vehicle contents, shellfish on lay areas etc

Eastern IFCA collects additional information to help inform our progress with the targets set out above. These are set out below.

Partnership Working

- Attendance at MMO TCG meetings
- Joint patrols/inspections/operations with the MMO
- Joint Patrols and collaboration with Border Force, Norfolk, and Lincolnshire Police, Environment Agency and Broads Authority

Enforcement

- Verbal warnings
- Advisory letters
- Official written warnings
- Financial Administrative Penalties
- Prosecutions



Appendix 5: Eastern IFCA Communication and Engagement Plan 2021-22

The importance of communication and Engagement

Effective communication and engagement are essential to fulfilling our duties under MaCAA effectively. The three key objectives of communication and engagement are:

- Transparency and clarity to build trust with stakeholders;
- Educate stakeholders to aid compliance with management measures by improving an understanding of the importance of these measures;
- Draw on the expertise and local knowledge of stakeholders to inform management decisions.

Focus in 2021-22

Two key factors influence the plan for this financial year:

COVID-19

The Authority's officers have over the years built a rapport with fishery stakeholders in particular with in-person visits to quaysides, processing factories, markets and other premises – face to face dialogue has always been the most effective method for engagement. The emergence of the global pandemic and the introduction of social distancing measures and 'lockdowns' necessitated changes to how we engage. In particular, the situation has precluded in-person meetings and workshops which had become a favoured method for seeking views of stakeholders. The key risk being that consultation is less effective as stakeholders find it difficult to engage in unfamiliar ways.

Timescales to deliver key workstreams

The Authority has a significant workload with pressing deadlines. In particular, the replacement of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 and protection of the Cromer Shoal Marine Conservation Zone require significant dialogue with industry. The Authority is also progressing more 'business as usual' engagement for management measures including revised whelk and shrimp permit conditions.

Planned engagement in relation to the above was delayed in the 2020-21 financial year as a result of the COVID-19 situation which has compounded the issue of pending deadlines. This has led to a situation where there is a significant amount of engagement needed within a short space of time. The key risk being that a large volume of consultation with industry can lead to 'consultation fatigue' whereby stakeholders disengage and / or become disoriented, making the feedback less productive and reducing the likelihood of stakeholder involvement.

The focus for the coming period seeks to deliver the required engagement during the period and mitigate as much as possible against the identified risks. This will be achieved in the following ways:

Utilising multiple formats

The Authority recognises that stakeholders have varying preferences for communication and seeks to engage using all available media (letters, emails, telephones, website and social media).

Typically though, there is still a reliance on meetings / workshops with larger groups which is not as feasible in the current circumstances. Internet conferencing facilities (such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams) replicate the meeting environment to but are still a relatively new format to many stakeholders which can lead to lower levels of uptake and less effective meetings. To remedy this, additional support is provided to those who do wish to get involved and alternatives (typically one-to-one phone calls) are offered to those who are unable to use this facility.

Planning

To mitigate over-burdening stakeholders, the consultations will be planned to take place at the most effective times, minimising overlap between consultation and taking into account fishery seasonality where possible.

In addition, stakeholders will be informed of these timings in advance, providing clarity to avoid confusion between consultations.

Clear and transparent communication

The matters for consultation often have complex legislative and scientific detail. However, engagement material should not reflect this and will be the largest representation of the pertinent facts and key consideration to help stakeholders provide feedback. Consultation summaries will be provided on up to two sides of A4 and further information will be available for stakeholders who would like it.

Seeking input into each stage of development

The Authority invests a significant amount of time into dialogue with industry which goes above and beyond that which is 'required'. That is because it is of benefit to the workstreams, particularly when developing management measures, as the intricacies of the local situation can be better reflected. It also increases stakeholders investment in the outcomes, improving understanding of our intentions and improving compliance with any resultant measures.

Informed by Community Voice method

The Authority invested in The Common Ground project in 2016 to identify what our stakeholders' value about our coastal environment. The project used novel engagement techniques (Community Voice Method) to give an equal voice to a wider range of invested stakeholders. Through the application of this technique, the project was able to identify key actions to improve engagement between Eastern IFCA and our stakeholders⁹.

Table 1 shows how the key actions are addressed within communication and engagement work.

Table 1 Engagement plan actions	
Action	Rationale
Maintain and improve a professional and up-to-date website. With regularly updated content (2 new news items per month)	CVM participants highlighted the need for regular effective communication of news and updates which they have a vested interest in, therefore the focus is to have regular updates and news items and this will be reflected in project planning.
Social media sites to be regularly updated; use social media posts in conjunction with website updates, to deliver key updates to the community	<p>Social media will be used to 'add value' to content published on the website. This will include posting links to the website, adding photos and engaging/having dialogue with partner organisations to improve visibility and reach.</p> <p>Officers will include social media updates into their weekly plans to ensure platforms are updated with the required frequency. The required frequency will be one social media update per team per week. In addition to posting updates, officers will use available analytical tools to assess and improve on successful posts and engagement.</p>
Engagement with key stakeholders around consultations	<p>This year a high number of consultations are planned. Both with groups that are regularly consulted with and those that are not. Therefore, additional work (on top of resource that is usually invested on getting meaningful engagement) will be completed to learn the preferences of these new groups.</p> <p>Specific improvements planned are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate feedback/dialogue with disparate stakeholders so that views/opinions can be included in a meaningful way. • Follow up calls/visits to individuals who may have not involved themselves with initial consultation but may have a view/opinion they want to express.

⁹ <https://wnmp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2017/12/Common-Ground-final-report.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During consultation periods deploy properly briefed and equipped staff (through the TCG process) to gather information and views.
Establish working groups on key fisheries issues	To facilitate engagement with key stakeholders, Eastern IFCA will set up working groups, with representative stakeholders, to ensure that they have input during the regulatory process. Working groups will be established for key regulation projects throughout the year, where a need is identified.
Maintain the stakeholder database	Maintaining an up-to-date stakeholder database is crucial to stakeholder engagement. Some of the most important messages are still passed on to fishers through personal engagement or through letter. Whilst Eastern IFCA aims to promote electronic engagement with stakeholders, fair and comprehensive engagement can only be achieved through utilising all available tools.
Key engagement messages reflected in officer duties	The Marine Protection Team utilise monthly risk profiles to set priorities both in enforcement and engagement at the TCG meeting each month. Given the level of exposure IFCOs get with stakeholders (particularly fishers), the utilisation of IFCOs to deliver key messages represents a key mechanism for engagement. Guidance for IFCO's documents to be produced for each consultation so officers are aware of key messages to communicate. All officers to utilise established message system to log stakeholder comments centrally.
Review outputs of CVM to inform and develop how the organisation engages and communicates with stakeholders	The CVM project provides some information and data explaining stakeholder preference regarding engagement and communication. This information will be retained and further reviewed to inform future activities.
Joint work with partner organisations	Officers are often approached to join in with partner organisation events (e.g. Eastern IFCA attendance at Suffolk Coastal Forum conference). These events have been some of the most successful we have attended as they use a lower amount of resource for the organisation and coordination, have a promotional effect and allow closer links and working relationships with key partners. It is also a key action highlighted by CVM. Where possible officers will identify and participate in such events, to add value to the ongoing engagement and communication themes, and as such preference will be given to events that link with ongoing consultations and will work with social media streams.