

Eastern IFCA Meeting



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

A meeting of the Eastern IFCA took place on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 1030 hours in the Assembly Rooms, King's Lynn Town Hall.

Members Present:

Cllr T FitzPatrick	(Chair)	Norfolk County Council
Cllr M Vigo di Gallidoro	(Vice Chair)	Suffolk County Council
Cllr E Back		Suffolk County Council
Mr S Bagley		MMO Appointee
Mr I Bowell		MMO Appointee
Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh		Norfolk County Council
Mr K Copeland		MMO Appointee
Cllr P Coupland		Lincolnshire County Council
Mr L Doughty		MMO Appointee
Mr P Garnett		MMO Appointee
Mr P Gilliland		MMO Appointee
Mr T Goldson		MMO Appointee
Ms J Love		Natural England Representative
Mr J Rowley		MMO Representative
Cllr P Skinner		Lincolnshire County Council
Mr S Williamson		MMO Appointee

Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

Jon Butler	Head of Operations
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Science Officer
Luke Godwin	Senior IFCO (Regulation)
Julian Gregory	CEO (& Clerk)
Ron Jessop	Senior Marine Science Officer
James Teasdale	Project Officer

Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

EIFCA23/20 Item1: Election of the Chair of the Authority

As this was the annual meeting where a new Chair and Vice Chair would be elected members were welcomed by the Clerk. A brief resume of the historic nature of elections for Chair and Vice-Chair was given, explaining that as Elected members Councillors do not have an affiliation to the fishing sectors the role is usually filled by one such members with the task being passed between County Councils.

It was Resolved that the Cllr FitzPatrick would continue in the role of chair.

Proposed: Cllr Skinner

Seconded: Cllr Vigo-Di-Gallidoro

EIFCA23/21 Item 2: Welcome

The Chair thanked members for attending the meeting and welcomed Mr Gilliland a new MMO Appointee. Mr Gilliland briefly outlined his interest in EIFCA, advising he had spent much of his working life involved in Marine Management, with his current role being head of Marine Planning for the MMO, however he did add he was very much attending in the role of a general member with a lot to learn.

EIFCA23/22 Item 3: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Adams (NCC) and Mr Hirst (EA Representative), Mr Davies and Ms Smith (MMO Appointees).

EIFCA23/23 Item 4: Election of Vice-Chair of the Authority

It was Resolved that Cllr Vigo Di Gallidoro would continue in the role of Vice-chair.

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Seconded: Mr Williamson

EIFCA23/24 Item 5: Declaration of Members Interests

Members were reminded that any member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter during a meeting could not take part in associated discussion or vote. In order to enable participation in the discussion the Authority were able to grant dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011. To this end members were asked to declare any matters which required a dispensation. As a new interest had been raised at the previous meeting a revised list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests had been drawn up and provided for members.

It was Resolved to:

- **Note the revised list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPIs) for MMO appointees and the assessment of DPI conflicts with Authority Business.**
- **Agree to grant dispensation from s31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 (c.20) to MMO Appointees to allow participation in discussions of matters for which they have a DPI for the period of four years or until their term of service is expired, whichever is first.**

Proposed:

Seconded:

All Agreed

EIFCA23/25 Item 6: Minutes of the 51st Eastern IFCA Meeting held on 8th March 2023

Members Resolved the minutes were a true record of proceedings.

Proposed: Mr Goldson

Seconded: Cllr Skinner

All Agreed

EIFCA23/26 Item 7: Matters Arising

The CEO updated members on a matter from the 50th Authority meeting:

EIFCA22/66 WASH FISHERY ORDER 1992 TRANSITION: The Wash Fisheries sub-committee met for the first time on 11 April 2023, when it considered applications under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the transition section of the Eligibility Policy under the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw. A report on the outputs would be provided at the next Authority meeting but in summary:

Phase 1 applications

- 51 applications received.
- 47 of the applications approved.
- 3 applications rejected due to extenuating circumstances,
- 1 application had its decision deferred to a later meeting, to allow for further time to provide evidence.
- 13 permits would be available for non-entitlement holders under Phase 2.

Phase 2 Applications

- 17 Applications
- 13 highest-scoring applicants were granted eligibility.

Because of an issue identified during the process the following decision was taken on 20 April 2023 by the Chair, Vice-Chair and CEO in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Standing Orders:

Where an application under phase 1 was not made, or was declined on the grounds that the Entitlement Holder was not the beneficial owner of the vessel dedicated to that Entitlement, and the Nominated Representative or Deputy associated with that Entitlement successfully secured eligibility for a permit through phase 2 on the grounds of beneficial ownership of the same vessel, the following policy applies:

1. exemptions to fish for cockles and mussels within the Wash Temporary closure will be issued jointly to the Entitlement Holder, Nominated Representative and Deputy (if applicable) to fish using the vessel which was dedicated to that Entitlement only within any open fisheries; and

2. the persons and vessel associated with the exemption will be 'frozen' in accordance with that which was named on the last licence issued immediately preceding the expiry of the Wash Fishery order and Nominated Representative or Deputy of such will not be changed except in exceptional circumstances where the Nominated Representative and Deputy is not able to put to sea due to circumstances outside of their control; and

3. the exemption shall be conditional on any person wishing to fish under its authority completing and returning a declaration form provided by the Authority prior to undertaking any fishing activity in addition to any other conditions including fisheries management measures.

In simple terms this would enable business continuity as either Entitlement Holder, Nominated Representative and Deputy (if applicable) will be able to fish using the vessel.

The decisions of the Wash Fisheries sub-committee would effectively result in the transfer of licences from WFO Entitlement holders to beneficial owners, and such would be notified of these outcomes shortly. For the time being, the Interim Measures remain in force, so only WFO entitlement holders can apply for an exemption allowing them to fish.

This poses a problem, because as a result, beneficial owners approved by the Wash Fisheries sub-committee under Phase 2 will need the WFO Entitlement holder to apply for an exemption on their behalf. A clear possibility exists for the WFO Entitlement holder to not apply, either in protest at the Wash Fisheries sub-committee's decision, or simply because they feel they should no longer be involved with the vessel. This would threaten the relevant vessels' ability to continue fishing (and business continuity as a result).

Attention was then turned to the 51st Authority Meeting Minutes:

EIFCA23/08 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND BUSINESS PLAN:
Members were advised the Plan had been published online and a copy sent to Defra.

EIFCA23/09 ITEM 9: WASH COCKLE AND MUSSEL MORTALITY STUDY: It was noted that the study was ongoing – Cefas and officers undertook further sampling during the previous week. Access to

'fresher' cockles has resulted in Cefas seeing reaction to the parasite when dissecting cockles.

At this point Mr Garnett advised he needed to clarify some information he had given at the previous meeting regarding A-typical mortality in cockles. Whilst he had stated he had samples tested from Heacham and had seen evidence of it in Wells-next-the-Sea, it was in fact he had the two sites confused. The tested samples were from Wells-next-the-Sea and there was only visible evidence at the private fishery at Heacham. Mr Garnett apologised for this confusion.

EIFCA23/10 ITEM 10: WASH MUSSEL FISHERY 2023: The fishery had opened on Monday 12 June 2023. Samples taken from the Ouse Mouth have resulted in the water categorisation of some beds being downgraded to C. As a result, the affected beds: Blackshore, Skate Run and Back of the Wall were not opened. Subsequent sampling meant the downgraded status was removed so the beds could be opened.

EIFCA23/13 ITEM 13: CROMER SHOAL CHALK BEDS BYELAW 2023: Formal consultation was undertaken with an extended closing date of 31 May 2023 instead of 8 May to enable input from the Cromer MCZ Stakeholder Group.

A formal position statement between Eastern IFCA and Natural England on NE's latest advice was in development at the time of the last meeting and was finalised at the end of March. Due to pressing stakeholder engagement issues it was not practical to delay agreement of the statement until this meeting and so it was agreed with the Chair and Vice-Chair in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Standing Orders and was circulated to members on 30 March 2023 and re-circulated the previous day.

EIFCA23/14 ITEM 14: CRAB AND LOBSTER BYELAW 2023: Extended formal consultation had taken place which was being analysed at the time of the meeting.

EIFCA23/27 Item 8: Health & Safety Risks and Mitigation

The Head of Operations advised members there appeared to be an increase in the number of reported incidents since the last meeting, however, the Officers had undergone H&S training during which they had been encouraged to report 'near-misses' which explained the increase in reported incidents.

Monitoring of engagement with stakeholders was ongoing.

Members Agreed to Note the contents of the report.

EIFCA23/28 Item 9: Finance & HR Sub-Committee held on 5th May 2023

The CEO gave an overview of discussion which had taken place. Members were reminded that Mr Bakewell was retiring and advised an external accountant had been engaged, this would be a significant change as up to now the service had always been provided 'in-house'.

Mr Goldson requested that a vote of thanks to Mr Bakewell be recorded for the first class job he had done over the years

Proposed: Cllr Goldson

Seconded: Cllr Vigo Di Gallidoro

All Agreed

Members Agreed to Note the contents of the report.

EIFCA23/29 Item 10: Wash Several Order Application: Due Diligence Assessment

Members were advised this paper was to ensure due diligence had been followed prior to applying for a Several Order for Lays in the Wash. It was apparent that if the industry pursued a Several Order on their own the smaller business models could be priced out of owning lays.

Project Officer Teasdale gave a presentation which highlighted the Social, Historical and Environmental benefits as well as the Economic potential for the industry.

The presentation showed a breakdown of the potential cost to EIFCA which overtime would likely increase. It was also noted there was a risk liability to the Authority if lease holders were to act inappropriately.

Risks of taking out the Several Order were explained in detail to members which included a reputational risk if the Authority did not take out the Several Order as it could be seen as EIFCA not supporting the industry. The positives were also explained which included the development of aquaculture.

Mr Gilliland accepted the paper was comprehensive but questioned why there was no recommendation to select. The CEO advised that on this occasion it was up to members to decide whether or not to support the industry or whether the expense and associated risks were too great to take on. Some of the industry were in support of the Several Order others were quite adversarial so members needed to be aware of the potential issues and make a decision.

Mr Doughty advised that he did not think the industry had any issue with the Several Order but they did have issues with fishery management, they wanted a Several Order and a balanced fishery management plan not a threat that leases could be taken away. Senior

IFCO Godwin advised that EIFCA could recall a lease if NE advice changed, even if the industry had their own order there was no guarantee of a lease for 20 years. Cllr Goldson felt there should be a way to give fishers some sort of security to base their business plans on and this needed to be in place before a decision could be made. The CEO fully understood the points being made and hoped that the next item on the agenda might allay some of the concerns.

It was questioned what NEs current view on a Several Fishery was, to which Ms Love responded that they were relatively happy at the moment but it was possible in future there would need to be a HRA done for the site. However, Ms Love felt NE would not change their current stance without evidence to support a change.

Mr Doughty questioned whether the NE policy was to restore or maintain the Wash, Ms Love advised some habitats fell under restore whilst other fell under maintain, there was a link which could be circulated to members.

Mr Gililand questioned whether the raised concerns were necessary as if the rights to a lay were conferred to the holder surely they would be responsible for the lay, the CEO advised the responsibility remained with the Authority. There was a particular risk associated with non-compliance around reporting movement of stock, he felt the only option to prevent offending would be to have the ability to take the lease away which could be enabled under a byelaw.

Mr Garnett felt there was a lot of responsibility for leases which was not passed on to layholders, particularly around bio-security, he also felt there had been no real enforcement by either the ESFJC or EIFCA regarding stock brought into the Wash which could have been considered non-native. Mr Garnett felt EIFCA would be left with legal responsibilities relating to a Several Order.

Debate resulted in the Members Resolving to:

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Reconfirm the decision to apply for a Several Order made at the 39th Eastern IFCA Meeting.**

Proposed: Cllr Skinner

Seconded: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

9 votes in favour, 1 abstention, the motion was carried.

At this point the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Ms Love left the meeting 1300 hrs.

EIFCA23/30 Item 11: Wash Several Order Update

Members had been provided with a draft copy of the Wash Several order 2022 and were given a presentation which included a brief background and a draft Fisheries Management Plan. It had only been

possible to apply for a 20 year order, not the 30 years originally requested. It was noted leases could be both renewed and removed. Initial consultation had produced some slight amendments to the FMP, all of which were run through for the Members' benefit.

It was felt the most effective way to manage a lay was via a Business Plan, review of lays needed to be realistic and EIFCA would need to bear in mind there was a duty to those with lays and also those who would like lays, with this in mind the requirement for maintaining a lay would be reviewed. It was anticipated extra security in the form of a 5 year lease would be added – it was noted some industry felt this was not sufficient time to allow seed to grow on, but it was added there would be a timeframe to remove stock for anyone who failed to maintain their lease correctly, so there was less risk to investment.

Species specific leases were being considered, the key concern being lay holders benefitting from settlement of wild shellfish.

It was noted a new Several Order would not have a CEC lease so the total cost would be down to EIFCA to recoup, although the arrival of a new patrol vessel may result in a cost reduction.

The next steps would be for Defra to agree to the wording, formal consultation on the Revised FMP and delegated authority to be granted to the CEO, Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr Doughty questioned who would hold the lease for the lays, it was advised that the lease for a lay would be between the Authority and a lay holder.

Members Resolved to:

- **Agree to the draft wording of the Wash Several Order 2022**
- **Note the outputs from the additional informal consultation**
- **Agree to the revised draft Fisheries Management Plan for managing aquaculture under a Several Order in The Wash**
- **Agree to delegate authority to the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to agree a final draft of the Wash Several Order 2022 pending such being provided by Defra**
- **Direct Officers to undertake a formal consultation on the application for a Several Order on receipt of the final draft of the Wash Several order 2022**
- **Agree to delegate authority to the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to make changes to the draft Wash Several Order 2022 and associated Fisheries Management plan as informed by the formal consultation**
- **Direct officers to update members on progress towards agreeing a final version for confirmation at subsequent Authority Meetings**

- **Direct officers to seek a decision from the Authority on whether to proceed with the application in the event the Minister calls a local enquiry to resolve objections.**

Proposed: Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Seconded: Mr Howell

All Agreed

EIFCA23/31 Item 12: Wash Cockle & Mussel Byelaw 2021 amendments

Senior IFCO Godwin advised members that the latest comments from the MMO and been received, indication was that iVMS needed to be reviewed and there was a potential issue with fees.

Fees were set out in the byelaw but it needed to be considered whether they should be at EIFCA's discretion, in line with inflation or capped. Legal advice on this issue was being sought.

Mr Doughty had noted the byelaw included fees due to inflation and a lengthy list of other costs with an implication they could rise by 50% annually.

The CEO added, to keep it in context, EIFCA could cost recover up to 50% of costs, however to ensure the Authority did not increase the cost too steeply any increase was restricted to 50%, this did not mean it would definitely go up by 50% each year.

Mr Doughty questioned whether surveys could go out to tender, in an attempt to keep the cost down, the CEO advised this had previously been considered but was not felt appropriate.

Mr Doughty then questioned why EIFCA were still asking for iVMS when MMO were not until the technology was working properly. Senior IFCO Godwin advised iVMS was necessary to enforce the byelaw, and EIFCA needed the mechanism to request reporting rates, however iVMS would not be a condition for the 2023 fishery.

Mr Goldson questioned whether EIFCA could ask MMO for a reimbursement for any units which had already been purchased which had subsequently been found to be ineffective. Mr Rowley responded that he hoped no fisher would be out of pocket due to iVMS.

Members Resolved to:

- **Note the report and rationale for potential amendments to the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw**
- **Agree to delegate authority to the CEO, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair, to amend the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021 taking into account consultation responses, MMO advice and legal advice on the matter**
- **Direct officers to submit a final version of the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021 to the MMO once these amendments had been made.**

Proposed: Cllr Vigo Di Gallidoro

Seconded: Mr Goldson

1 abstention the motion was carried

Councillor Coupland left the meeting (1400 hours)

EIFCA23/32 Item 13: Fishery Management Plans

Members were advised Defra were developing Fisheries Management Plans, the consultation for which had been brought forward. In order to enable Authority Members to express their views, it was suggested the FCMWG meeting could be the most appropriate method of discussion. AIFCA were working with KEIFCA, using a method similar to Community Voice, to capture the perspective of Authority Members.

Members Resolved to:

- **Agree to hold a FCMWG to consider and provide feedback on upcoming FMP consultations, the dates of which would be determined by the timing of the consultation.**
- **Agree to delegate responsibility to the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to formally respond on behalf of the Authority having taken into account the views provided by members.**
- **Agree to delegate responsibility to the CEO to decide if a FCMWG meeting was to take place in accordance with the schedule agreed at Action Item 14 of the 50th EIFCA meeting or should be re-arranged to fit with the FMP Consultation schedule.**

Proposed: Mr Goldson

Seconded: Cllr Skinner

All Agreed

EIFCA23/33 Item 14: Wash Cockle Fishery 2023

Senior MSO Jessop reminded members they had been made aware of additional information available on the website. He then proceeded to give summary of the process and finding of the 2023 cockle surveys. The result of which was an indication there was a high population of juveniles and very low stock of adults. Historically the adult stock would determine the TAC. Members were reminded that since 2008 mortality had affected older cockles and there was a higher reliance on successful recruitment to replace these losses. A variety of options to protect small cockle stocks had been sent to the industry for consultation.

Senior MSO Jessop reminded members that since 2008 one third of the adult biomass had been allocated as the TAC for fishers. Subsequently the bird food model had introduced a minimum threshold of cockle stock that must be maintained to provide feed for overwintering birds. Mortality had meant there was a shift from 65% adult stock to 47% adult stock which meant that smaller cockles were being targeted before they died.

Despite the Atypical mortality each year there was a good spatfall, which was widespread and not easy to fish. The following year this

provided a stock of year 2 cockles, that despite being fishable, did not make the TAC. With this in mind Senior MSO Jessop put forward the option of using 1/6 of all stock to determine a TAC rather than 1/3 of only adult stock.

Having listened to Senior MSO Jessops' presentation members discussed the findings. Mr Garnett noted from the charts that there seemed to be a strong stock biomass in a concentrated area which was most fished, which he felt suggested that fishing the ground was encouraging for future fisheries.

Ms Love acknowledged that whilst there were only 3000 tonnes of adult stock which would grow but she expressed concern about the predicted growth taking the stock to 8,000 tonnes and the certainty that they had already spawned.

Senior MSO Jessop accepted it was difficult to be certain but the good settlement of 2021 and 2022 spat left him confident the adult biomass would increase.

Ms Love enquired whether the change to 1/6 of all stock was a study for the current year only, and what measure would be used to consider whether or not it was a success? The CEO acknowledged that if it wasn't deemed successful then a return to 1/3 adult stock would be made. Senior MSO Jessop advised that a lot would depend on the behaviours on the sands and feedback from fishers.

Ms Love pointed out that with a lot of year 1 stock this year small cockle may be more important next year and a 1/6 TAC may mean a lower TAC. Mr Doughty felt it important to note that if we were looking to change the way the fishery is managed then there is a need to look at the way we work as currently tonnes of stock are being lost to die off so it would be prudent to take advantage of spatfalls.

Mr Williamson noted that the industry want to fish larger cockles but Atypical mortality has changed the fishery, consequently he felt there needed to be a change in the way the fishery was managed in order for the cockle fishery to survive. Mr Williamson felt it would not be possible to answer Ms Loves questions around using 1/6 of the total stock until results from next year's surveys were known.

Mr Bagley wanted to be sure lessons were learned from mistakes, he put forward the suggestion that there should be a season with no management measures other than protecting year 0 stock, on the understanding that once all adult stock was taken the fishery would be closed. Senior MSO Jessop felt that by taking all the adult stock it could affect future fisheries.

Once the results of the surveys had been well aired by those present Senior IFCO Godwin gave a presentation on the proposed management measures. It was noted there was consultation for additional management measures including a proposal for a larger closed area, protection of smaller cockles through the use of rakes and nets, and slightly different operating hours.

Ms Love enquired how effective rakes would be in protecting year 0 cockles, it was believed if used properly it was a very effective method of sorting cockles.

Mr Bagley felt the surveys had been done at the coldest time of the year which did not account for growth, he felt 12mm cockle should be considered adult as by the time the fishery opened they would have reached 14mm in size. Senior MSO Jessop advised there was no data to support this assumption, he had looked at growth and found over a 2 month period some grow and some die, with no set growth rate it was difficult to work out mortality.

Mr Garnett noted there were closures to protect seals which were not included in the management measures, this added another level of work for officers and legislation, which Mr Garnett felt was not needed as seals get left alone. The CEO advised EIFCA have a duty to consider seals and work closely with NE and SMRU and must go with best available scientific evidence to protect seals during the moult.

Following extensive debate Members Resolved to:

- **Note the contents of the report including the stock survey, the assessment on TAC calculations and the outcomes of the Wash Forum.**
- **Agree in principle to adopt the revised TAC calculation presented in Appendix 2 on a trial basis for the 2023 Wash Cockle Fishery, subject to favourable conservation advice and consideration of a consultation on the matter.**
- **Agree to delegate authority to the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to make a final decision on adopting the revised TAC calculation.**
- **Agree to delegate authority to the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to introduce, vary or revoke flexible management measures referred to in Schedule 4 of the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021 to manage a cockle fishery in the event that the byelaw comes into effect.**
- **Agree to delegate authority to the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to introduce, vary or revoke flexible management measures with less than 12 hours notice as may be required, in accordance with the provisions of the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021 should the byelaw come into effect.**

Proposed: Cllr Vigo Di Gallidoro

Seconded: Cllr Chenery

2 abstentions, 0 votes against – the motion was carried

EIFCA23/34 Item 15: Quarterly Review of Annual Priorities and Risk Register

The paper was provided to show progress against priorities and to review the Risk Register.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA23/35 Item 16: CEO Update - verbal

Letter from North Sea Wildlife Trusts: A letter had been received expressing concern at the effectiveness of management measures put in place to protect the MCZ's listed features. The main concern being the speed at which any management measure were being implemented. The letter contained three priorities they would like to see in place in the near future. These were:

- Reduction/removal of pot fishing effort across the chalk reef feature and other sensitive features within the MCZ
- Trialling and adoption of potting gear adaptation/modification to reduce evidenced impacts on the features
- Understanding the nature and extent of the potting fishery across the EIFCA district

The CEO advised the Officers would liaise with NE to compose a response.

Wash Forum: The CEO advised members the Wash Forum had produced some useful outcomes, however, it was disappointing to report the conduct of some attendees had not been acceptable, he felt it was time to re-cast the line and move on to develop new links and a mutual working relationship

AIFCA Members Forum: Draft minutes would be circulated once available. The Forum had included a presentation entitled 'Developing a theory of change which explores existing contributions and further potential of the IFCA model to deliver industry engagement and effective co-management of marine resources' which was a project being carried out by Newcastle University. The CEO felt the project might be useful given relations with some elements of the industry.

Protector IV: Build was progressing with completion anticipated around August. Bridge repairs in Great Yarmouth remained an issue as egress to the sea would not be possible until they completed the bridge work, it was hoped Breydon Bridge work would be completed in September 2023.

National Cockle FMP: This project would be led by AIFCA with IFCA's providing the information. The plan is intended to be an overarching plan so it will require general member input.

Members Agreed to note the verbal report.

There was some concern re sound quality when not using the table microphones. Cllr Vigo Di Gallidoro asked if meetings could return to being held at the Boathouse.

EIFCA23/36 Item 17: Head of Operations Update

Marine Protection Updates had been circulated to members on a monthly basis.

Main enforcement activity had continued to be whelk and bass fishing both recreationally and commercially.

Marine Science Team paper provided information on workstreams being carried out across the Science Team. Ongoing work included the assessment of Amber and Green MPAs, Cromer Shoal MCZ, Monthly collection of EHO samples, annual cockle surveys and the mussel relaying fishery.

Mr Doughty questioned whether there was anything EIFCA could do about Ecoli levels. The Head of Operations advised that once a negative result had been found enquiries had been made into any events that may have caused it but so far nothing had been reported.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA23/37 Item 19: Any Other Business

There were no other matters to discuss.

There being no other business the Chair thanked members for attending, the meeting closed at 1419 hours.