

Vision

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



AoB

63rd Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority meeting

11 March 2026

Sub-committee Membership

Report by: J. Gregory, CEO

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for an amendment to membership of the Wash Fisheries sub-committee

Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

Note the automatic appointment of Cllr Whittaker to the Finance & HR sub-committee

Agree to appoint Cllr Whittaker to the Wash Fisheries Sub-Committee

Background

The Authority currently has three sub-committees, Finance & HR, Wash Fisheries and Wash Appeals. Membership of the sub-committees is set out in Chapter 1, Section 11 of the Constitution and Standing Orders.

Finance & HR sub-committee

This sub-committee meets quarterly and comprise all elected members and two general members of the Authority, with the Chair and Vice-Chair being the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority.

Wash Fisheries sub-committee

This sub-committee meets when required and comprises seven members (elected or general members), none of whom have a Declared Pecuniary Interest or other connection with the Wash cockle and mussel fisheries.

Wash Appeals sub-committee

This sub-committee meets when required and comprises the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority plus one other elected member.

Membership of the Authority's sub-committees was addressed at the 60th meeting of the full Authority held in June 2025.

Report

At the 60th meeting of the full Authority in June 2025 Cllr Findley of Lincolnshire County Council was appointed as a member of the Wash Fisheries sub-committee. In September 2025 Lincolnshire County Council advised that Cllr Findley would no longer be a member of the Authority and that Cllr Whitaker would be appointed instead.

Because Cllr Whitaker replaced Cllr Findley it is appropriate that he is appointed to the Wash Fisheries sub-committee.

An updated version of the Authority sub-committee membership document can be found at Appendix A.

Financial Implications

None identified.

Legal Implications

The Authority's Constitution and Standing Orders provides that an item of business may not be added to the agenda less than five clear working days before the date of a meeting unless the Chair decides that there are special circumstances which make the late item a matter of urgency and require it to be considered at the meeting. Such special circumstances should ordinarily have not reasonably been known or anticipated before the agenda for the meeting was agreed and published.

In this case, whilst the requirement to update the appointments to sub-committees could have been foreseen it was not identified until 9 March 2026 when finalising the agenda for a meeting of the Wash Fisheries sub-committee scheduled for 24 March 2026. Given that the sub-committee is responsible for taking decisions that directly impact upon industry business models it is considered important that the matter is addressed immediately. It would have been an option to use the delegated power provided in the Constitution and Standing Orders to the CEO, Chair and Vice-Chair in cases of urgency but given that the full Authority meeting is taking place within two days it is considered more appropriate to add the matter the agenda under Any other Business. The Chair of the Authority has agreed to this.

Conclusion

It is proposed that Cllr Whitaker, who does not have a DPI relating to the Wash fisheries, is appointed to the Wash Fisheries sub-committee.

Appendices

Authority Sub-committee Membership as of 11 March 2026

Background Documents

Papers and minutes of the 60th meeting of the full Authority held on 11 June 2025.

Appendix A

Authority Sub-committee Membership as of 11 March 2026

Finance & HR	
Membership: All elected members and two general members Chair: Chair of the Authority Vice-chair: Vice-Chair of the Authority	
Members	Date appointed
Cllr Tom FitzPatrick	
Cllr Timothy Adams	
Cllr Michael Chenery	
Cllr Edward Back	
Cllr Robinson	11/06/2025
Cllr Ray Whitaker	22/09/2025
Cllr Gary Taylor	11/06/2025
Mr Stephen Williamson	
Ms. Inge Smith	

Wash Fisheries	
Membership: Seven members, none with a DPI or connection with the Wash cockle and mussel fisheries Chair: Vacant Vice-chair: Vacant	
Members	Date appointed
Cllr Timothy Adams	09/03/2022
Cllr Michael Chenery	09/03/2022
Mr Kieran Copeland	09/03/2022
Cllr Gary Taylor	11/06/2025
Cllr Ray Whitaker	11/03/2026
Mr Nick Schiller	11/06/2025
Ms Inge Smith	11/06/2025

Wash Appeals	
Membership: Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority plus one other elected member Chair: Cllr Tom FitzPatrick Vice-chair: Cllr Edward Back	
Members	Date appointed
Cllr Tom FitzPatrick (Chair)	14/09/2022
Cllr Edward Back (Vice-Chair)	11/06/2025
Cllr Keith Robinson	11/06/2025