



**North Western
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Meeting 1
2 November 2010, Morecambe Town Hall, 10.30 a.m.**

Agenda Item 12

AGREEMENTS WITH THE MAIN PARTNERS OF THE NWIFCA

Recommendations:

1. **Members consider the draft agreements annexed to this paper for approval at the next or a subsequent meeting and return comments or questions to the secretary by 30 November 2010.**
2. **Members consider and report to the secretary the joint work and actions which the IFCA and each partner body should undertake within the District of the NWIFCA**

Background

All IFCA have been set an objective to work closely with partner bodies to achieve the overarching vision of a sustainable marine environment. In order to set up a framework for developing partnership working, Defra has asked that IFCA establish formal agreements, each to be known as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 4 key partner bodies. The objective contains a target to have all the 4 MoU in place by April 2011. These MoU will assist delivery of the IFCA duty to co-operate with partner bodies as provided under section 174 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act.

1. The 4 bodies with which the NWIFCA is asked to sign MoU are:
 - The Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
 - The Environment Agency (EA)
 - Natural England (NE)
 - The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
2. Each of these MoU will consist of two parts. Part one will contain general principles of joint working which will apply between the partner body and all the IFCA. This section will be agreed at national level and common to all the IFCA.
3. Part two of each agreement will contain an action plan which will be developed and agreed at local level by each IFCA with local contacts of each partner body.

Agreement to Part 1 of the MoU

4. For each of the proposed MoU the partner body, in consultation with the IFCA team in Defra and the SFC Chief officers has developed Part 1 of a draft agreement to be submitted

to early meetings of all the IFCA. These draft MOU are annexed to this paper. Members are invited to ask questions and comment on the documents at the meeting or over the next few weeks. The agreements will be brought back to the NWIFCA at the next meeting, following which, if there are no unresolved issues, they can be signed by the Chairman. All the IFCA Chairmen will be asked to sign this agreement following approval by all the IFCA by April 2011.

Development of the Action plans – Part 2 of the MOU

5. The Annexes to the agreements will consist of local action plans for work which the IFCA can commit to undertake with each partner body. Action Plans will be developed over forthcoming months. Officers and interested members will meet with representatives of each partner body to consider priorities for action, timescales and the resources required. The outcomes of these meetings will be set out in an action programme to be presented to the NWIFCA for approval at a subsequent meeting.

Chief Executive
North Western Sea Fisheries Committee
20 October 2010