



**North Western
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Meeting 2
8 February 2011, Bootle Town Hall, 10.30 a.m.**

Agenda Item: 5

TRANSITION TO NWIFCA: UPDATE

Recommendations

1. **That progress is noted and approved**
2. **That a Technical and Byelaws Sub-Committee is appointed**

Introduction

1. Work on IFCA has been the largest ongoing task and has taken up much Officer time over the last 3 months.

Finance

2. The Finance Committee of all Local Authority members met on 25 January. Councillor Tony Markley (Cumbria CC) was appointed Chairman. A budget for 2011-12 of approximately £1.17M was agreed. A summary budget is shown in table 1 below. The funding for the NWIFCA is received from 3 main sources as follows:

Levy from Local Authorities	£745,696
Defra new burdens funding	£406,789
Shellfish sampling and miscellaneous income	£ 17,000

3. The finances of the NWIFCA will be held on deposit in Lancashire County Council under the same arrangements as were in force for the NWSFC.
4. The Finance Committee will routinely hold 2 formal, closed meetings per year in January to agree levies for the forthcoming year and in October for budget monitoring and planning. Special meetings may be called if required. A short financial report will be received at quarterly meetings of the NWIFCA.
5. Spending of the Defra new burdens funding grants is on schedule. Claims are being submitted to Defra for 2 Administrative staff in post to 31 March 2011, 1 Fishery Officer in post to 31 March, 2 road vehicles, 2 quad bikes, a 6.3m RIB (rigid inflatable boat), signage of offices and vehicles, the new IFCA website (draft home page attached), IFCA uniforms and IFCA meetings.

6. The new burdens funding formulae are agreed following the consultation in December-January. Thanks to members who supported the draft response which was submitted to Defra by the deadline. Defra announced their decision on how the £3M would be allocated to the 10 IFCA on 14 January. Option 2 in the consultation was selected. The Government response to the consultation is available from the Clerk as a background paper.
7. The Defra announcement informed the completion of the draft IFCA budget for 2011-12.

NWIFCA Summary budget 2011-12		
EXPENDITURE		
Employees	£779,572.77	
Premises	£50,900.00	
Transport	£215,856.00	
Supplies & Services	£79,363.00	
Support Services	£13,500.00	
NWIFCA operation	£19,500.00	
Capital Charges	£14,841.96	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£1,173,533.73
INCOME		
Levy	£1,152,483.00	
Shellfish Sampling	£14,000.00	
Interest	£3,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME		£1,169,483.00
Surplus/-Deficit		-£4,050.73
To be met from Reserves		

Table 1. NWIFCA summary budget

Staff and training.

8. Terms and conditions have been agreed with staff and arrangements are in place to transfer all staff to the employment of the NWIFCA on 1 April. The future pension arrangements for Cumbria SFC staff have yet to be clarified. We expect that NWSFC staff will continue in the Lancashire CC pension scheme
9. The budget allows for confirmation of the contracts for the additional fishery officer and IFCA Implementation Officer currently on temporary contracts. These officers will receive full contracts from 1 April 2011.
10. Defra are holding a 2 day training course for staff and up to 3 members of each IFCA to provide an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the IFCA. The dates for the north of England IFCA are 29-30 March 2011. The venue is in Newcastle upon Tyne. Please could members interested in attending, register with the Clerk.

Communications

11. A new NWIFCA website is being developed. A paper copy of the draft front page is attached for information. Ideas and proposals from members for the content and structure of the website are invited.

12. Members' names, affiliations and the biographical information provided will be on the website. Officers recommend that personal contact details are not made public but that enquirers may contact members through the IFCA offices.
13. All reports, agendas, minutes and details of meetings will be on the website.
14. A short newsletter for stakeholders and the general public is planned for publication as soon as possible after the IFCA is established. As yet, no timescale has been set. Contributions from members will be invited.
15. Defra are holding an 'IFCA networking event' in London on 16 March. Up to 10 places are available to NWIFCA members and staff. Details of the event are not yet available so it is not clear if this will represent good value for money for delegates travelling from distant IFCA Districts. Any member wishing to attend should register interest with the Clerk.

Standing orders

16. Comments were received on the draft standing Orders presented at the last meeting. Officers recommend that provision is included for the establishment of a Technical and Byelaws Sub-Committee as explained below.
17. The amended Standing Orders will be considered on the Agenda at Item No. 6. In respect of their future development, Officers recommend that Standing Orders should be subject to amendment by resolution at quarterly meetings.

Agreements with partner bodies

18. Draft national agreements or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between IFCA and 3 partner bodies (NE, MMO and EA) were considered at the last meeting. These agreements will each comprise 3 sections:
 - A. A main agreement. This will be formulated at the national IFCA Implementation Committee which is chaired by Defra. IFCA Chief Officers and representatives of partner bodies are members of this Committee. Drafts of these agreements were received by the NWIFCA in November. Final agreements are expected to be signed at the first IFCA meetings after 1 April 2011.
 - B. A national action plan. These sections will also be drafted by a Committee of IFCA Chief Officers and representatives of partner bodies.
 - C. A local action plan for each IFCA District. These plans will be drafted by IFCA officers and local representatives of partner bodies.
19. NWIFCA officers have agreed with MMO, NE and EA members that the local action plan will be formed from the NWIFCA annual work plan.

IFCA Annual Plan for 2011-12

20. A consultation draft of the first annual work plan for the NWIFCA will be considered at this meeting. The Marine Act requires publication of an Annual plan by 1 April each year.

NWIFCA: Technical and Byelaws subgroup

21. Delivery of some of the actions in the Annual Plan will require more technical contributions and discussions from members than can be achieved at quarterly meetings of the Authority. Therefore, provision has been added to the Standing Orders for the establishment of a Technical and Byelaws Sub-Committee of the NWIFCA.
22. This Committee may contribute to any of the projects in which the IFCA is involved. In the first year, Officers propose that it will have responsibility for oversight of:
 - A. The proposed review of sustainable management of the marine environment of the District.
 - B. The review of byelaws
 - C. The Annual Plan and Annual Report.
23. The NWIFCA is invited to propose the membership and size of the Technical and Byelaws Sub-Committee. Officers recommend a maximum membership of 10 comprising the NWIFCA Chair and Vice Chair (ex-officio) 3 Agency members (MMO, NE, EA) and 5 MMO appointees to be elected.
24. This Sub-Committee would generally hold open meetings unless closed by resolution for specific items. Other members and the general public would therefore be free to attend meetings as observers. The Sub-Committee would be permitted to co-opt additional specialist expertise from within the Authority to address technical issues.

**Chief Executive,
North Western Sea Fisheries Committee
26 January 2011**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT, 1985

List of Background Papers

1. Summary and Government response to the consultation on allocating new burdens funding to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and their funding local authorities.