

**North Western Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority**

Annual Meeting: 12 June 2012

Morecambe Town Hall: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
14**

ANNUAL PLAN 2012-13 AND NWIFCA DEVELOPMENT

Purpose of Report

1. **To conclude the annual plan and work programme and plan for 2012-13 and report progress with national and NWIFCA policies.**

Recommendations

1. **That the report be received.**
2. **That the annual plan be approved**

Annual Plan 2012-13

1. First drafts of the NWIFCA work programme and science work programme components of the annual plan were discussed at the March meeting. Members were consulted and comments have been incorporated.
2. Natural England, Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation with other members representing science interests contributed to the science plan at a meeting on 30 April 2012.
3. The complete plan has now been drafted in accordance with the guidance issued by Defra in 2011. This plan is attached and on the website where it can be modified and updated to meet changing priorities during the year. Members are invited to discuss the plan at the meeting. Agreed changes will be incorporated.
4. As took place last year, the plan will be fully reviewed to assess progress and outcomes in September 2012.

National marine policy developments

5. **Marine conservation zones:** The impact assessments for all the proposed Marine conservation zones are still being prepared by Natural England. All the IFCA await publication of the advice to Government on which sites should be designated. This is expected in June 2012. The NWIFCA awaits specific management advice on the management requirements for each site in the Irish Sea District and stands ready to help develop any measures such as byelaws or other regulations which may be required. However, the resource implications of this work are not yet clear because we do not know which sites will be designated, what management measures the sites may require or the timescale for implementation. This information will be reported to the Authority as it becomes available.

6. **Management of European Marine sites (EMS):** There are a significant number of new sites in the NW as there are in other IFCA Districts. These include the Liverpool Bay SPA and the Shell Flats and Lune Deep SAC. We expect further EMS in the future and an increase in management requirements to ensure the sites are protected from damaging activities. We await Natural England advice on how these sites should be managed. A substantial burden of extra work is likely to arise for the Authority from the management of these sites.

Association of IFCA

7. The AIFCA was set up in 2011 with the Chief Officer appointed and in post from 1 September. The Chairman in the first year, reappointed for 2012-13 is Councillor John Lamb (Southend Council, Chairman Kent and Essex IFCA) and the Vice Chairman is Tony Tomlinson (Chairman Cornwall IFCA)
8. All the IFCA are members of the AIFCA. Some other government such as Channel Islands, Isle of Man and devolved administrations have joined or are invited to join as associate members. The AIFCA now meets quarterly for full meetings with separate Board meetings as required. All 10 IFCA Chief Officers are Directors. Generally the Chief Officers and Chairmen or Vice Chairmen attend full AIFCA meetings.
9. The AIFCA last met on 19 April 2012 in Defra Offices, Nobel House, Smith Square London. The Chairman and Chief officer attended. The meeting reviewed and approved all aspects of the working of the AIFCA. The annual plan 2012-13 for the AIFCA was discussed. It has since been further developed and is close to publication. Papers are available on request from the Clerk.
10. The IFCA – NE MOU was signed at the meeting on 19 April
11. The AIFCA Chief Officer, Dr. Stephen Bolt, has spent much of his first 6 months in post visiting all the IFCA and many of the main national partner organisations with which the IFCA must have good working relations. These include Defra, MMO, NE, EA, Cefas and various non-government organisations (NGO) such as the Wildlife trusts, RSPB, Marine Conservation Society. In summary, he is now well known as a central point of contact for all the IFCA with these partner bodies and has established the AIFCA as a representative organisation for IFCA which will in future increase efficiency and communications in our dealings with partners at the national level.
12. An AIFCA website has been set up at: <http://www.association-ifca.org.uk/>. An area of the NWIFCA website will be set up hold papers from the AIFCA meetings.
13. Minister Richard Benyon attended the 19 April meeting for discussion and an informal lunch with members. The Minister took questions on:
 - I. the possible work and resource implications for IFCA of changes to the management of European Marine sites and marine conservation zones,
 - II. the new bylaw process, what can be done under byelaws and difficulty of making byelaws,
 - III. inshore fisheries and shellfish policy,
 - IV. sustainable fisheries reviews and 'project inshore'
14. Mr Benyon expressed strong support for IFCA and approval of the progress they have made in their first year of operation. He particularly stated that over the Ribble cockle fishery in 2011

he was most grateful for the way in which the NWIFCA had managed the fishery and considered that the multi-partner approach had been a very good example of how he wanted the IFCA to operate.

NWIFCA Policy reviews

15. **Health and Safety Policy:** Amalgamation of the H&S policies inherited from the NWSFC and Cumbria SFC has now been completed and a comprehensive policy is now in place. This document will be put on the NWIFCA website and comments from members to develop and improve the policy are welcome.
16. The NWIFCA H&S Officer with responsibility for the policy is Cath Dobson.
17. The policy will be subject to a review for each quarterly meeting. Any significant H&S incidents will be reported to the Authority and necessary changes to the policy or new H&S issues will be added and reported.
18. For the quarter to June 2012, there have been no H&S incidents to report and no changes have been made to the policy.
19. **Risk Assessment and management:** A policy for the documentation and management of risks to the NWIFCA has been drafted. This policy will be placed on the NWIFCA website. Comments from members are welcome to develop and improve the document. This policy will be reviewed annually in March.
20. **Enforcement:** An enforcement policy for the NWIFCA has been drafted which meets the guidance published by Defra when IFCA were set up in 2011 and the Hampton principles of good regulation. This policy will be placed on the NWIFCA website. This policy will be reviewed annually in March.
21. **Customer service standards and complaints procedure.** This policy has been drafted and will be available on the website. This policy will be reviewed annually in March.

Staff changes

22. Interviews were held on 29 May to recruit a replacement for the vacant scientist post. Abigail Leadbeater was appointed and will commence employment with the NWIFCA on 9 July.

CEO
31 June 2012