

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES REVIEW

Purpose of Report

To inform members of the progress of the NWIFCA Sustainable Fisheries Review.

Recommendations

That the report be received and that members endorse the actions of Officers.

Progress on the Review

1. Work has progressed in drawing together more detailed information from the Enforcement Director and Fishery Officers on fisheries within the NWIFCA District, particularly in relation to whitefish. This has allowed the preparation of a spreadsheet which allows interrogation of the fisheries by area, species, method of fishing, and provides (anecdotal) information on effort.
2. This has been a useful exercise, and has enabled Officers, along with ideas from TSB Members, to put together some outline project proposals for a potential funding source, the Co-operative Social Goals Fund, which is targeting the north of England (excluding Northumberland) and projects working to 'Conserve Biodiversity'.
3. The over-arching goal of all projects would be to increase sustainability of fish / shellfish stocks by gaining a better understanding of the ecosystems and local influences, and identifying management measures to protect and / or enhance those ecosystems for the benefit of fish / shellfish stocks. This in turn would benefit fishers in providing more security in stocks.
4. A number of organisations, stakeholders and individuals that we would seek to work with as associates or partners in carrying out any of the projects were identified.
5. Project outlines are detailed in Annex A. If successful in our application for funding from the Co-operative Social Goals Fund the NWIFCA would employ an officer to progress work on two or three of these projects.
6. The outline proposals were submitted at the beginning of May and we are awaiting further discussion with the Co-operative Social Goals Fund.
7. We are also still awaiting news on a funding bid for 'Project Inshore', a national project overseen by the Marine Stewardship Council, which will provide resources to assess all England's inshore fisheries against MSC pre-assessment criteria.