

NWIFCA Annual Meeting

13 June 2014: 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA

ITEM NO.

8

BYELAW 2: VESSEL SIZE AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS

Purpose of Report

To present the NWIFCA Byelaw 2: 'Vessel Size and Gear Restrictions' and make the byelaw.

Recommendations

- I. That the Authority makes Byelaw 2 as at Annex A subject to any minor amendments following discussion at the meeting.
- II. Subject to comments from MMO, the Authority proceeds with advertising and consulting on the byelaw after this meeting.

Background

1. Both Cumbria (CSFC) and NW (NWSFC) Sea Fisheries Committees had bylaws limiting the size of vessels and the types of gear which could be used within their Districts. As part of the Byelaw review, this Authority aims to create a single byelaw regime for the whole District.
2. The byelaw attached at Annex A and impact assessment (available from the Clerk if required) has been sent to MMO for comment.
3. In order to consult stakeholders informally the byelaw has been sent to industry contacts, put on our website, mentioned in our newsletter and at public meetings. IFCOs have informed stakeholders in their areas and answered questions.

Content of the Byelaw

4. The byelaw introduces new vessel size regulations throughout the District consisting of a 10m length limit within 3 miles and a 15m length limit within the District. These limits slightly reduce the sizes of vessels allowed to fish in the District. A new limit on vessel engine power as recorded in the vessel registry of 221kw is introduced.
5. The use of multi-rigged fishing gear is prohibited throughout the District as is the use of dredges. Various exceptions are provided for and existing fishing entitlements are preserved through provision for authorisations to fish under a 'sunset' clause.

Chief Executive
28 May 2014