

NWIFCA Annual Meeting

14 June 2013: 10.30.a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
11**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Purpose

This report provides updates in a number of policy areas not covered in other reports

Recommendations:

1. **The report be received**

Contents

- I) Health and safety policy
- II) Staff changes
- III) Byelaws
- IV) Association of IFCA
- V) Procurement of undersea survey equipment

I) Health and Safety policy

1. The policy has been reviewed in June 2013. Some changes are planned to define working practices that comply with MCA coding of RHIB patrol vessels currently being implemented
2. There have been no Health and safety incidents in the past quarter
3. Staff continue to receive the package of training to enable them to carry out their duties in accordance with the H&S policy. A register of training is maintained and is available for inspection by members on request.

II) Staff Changes

4. There are no staff changes to report.

III) Byelaws

5. The Heysham Bass Nursery area byelaw should have come into force in March but was re-examined by Defra before sign off and delayed. A number of changes were wrongly proposed by Defra which then had to be re-considered by NWIFCA. Defra then committed to bringing in the byelaw before the end of May but at the time of writing it has not yet been received.
6. The proposed byelaw to deliver the 'red' component of the Defra EMS work is in an advanced state of preparation and is reported separately. Data from Natural England received in late May was helpful in more closely defining some sites. A first draft of the byelaw and the impact Assessment has been sent to MMO and comments have been

received. However, the byelaw could not be completed to a level where it could be made at this meeting so it will now be made in September. This should still allow sufficient time for the byelaw to complete its assessment and consultation stages and come into force before the Defra deadline.

7. Work has taken place to prepare a single District wide netting byelaw which will cover all shore based nets. The byelaw will include provision for a permit scheme, limits on the amount of netting which can be set by non-commercial fishermen and a returns scheme so that NWIFCA has a better record of fish caught in the District. A first draft of the netting byelaw was discussed at TSB in May. The Authority will be kept informed of progress and the industry will be consulted on proposals as they are developed.

IV) Association of IFCA (AIFCA)

8. There have been no meetings of the AIFCA to report

V) Underwater survey equipment

9. As part of the European Marine site work, Defra provided each IFCA with approximately £40,000 of funding for underwater survey equipment to enable collection of seabed data to scientific standards. This funding is providing NWIFCA with underwater cameras, a sidescan sonar system, underwater lighting, a water proof tablet style laptop and software. Procurement of the right equipment has been on the advice of CEFAS and other experts. Once acquired, the NWIFCA will train a number of science and enforcement staff with the right knowledge and skills to collect scientific data.

Chief Executive

North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

June 2013