

**North Western Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority**

Quarterly Meeting: 16 March 2012

Morecambe Town Hall: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
13**

CONSULTATION ON THE EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND (EMFF)

Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of funding opportunities for fisheries and management projects in the future.

Recommendations

1. The report be received.
2. Members' comments on the consultation be sought in order for Officers to formulate a response to Defra by the due date.

Background

1. Defra are inviting views on the European Commission's proposals for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund which is scheduled to start in 2014. The consultation letter, which provides links to relevant documentation on the Defra website, is attached at Annex A. Copies are also available from the Clerk.
2. No funding for enforcement is provided for in the consultation and in recent years the Commission has removed all funding for provision of vessels or enforcement resources. This has had the effect of limiting opportunities for managers to obtain the vessels needed for effective marine environment and fisheries enforcement.
3. Replacement of the "Solway Protector" is a case in point. At a time when IFCA duties are expanding to patrol and protect costly European and also UK Marine Protected Areas, both inside and also outside our District to 12 miles and beyond, the European funding for patrol and enforcement vessels has been removed. It is now very difficult to raise the funding for a vessels of the size and capacity required to deliver these duties.
4. Sustainable use of fisheries cannot be achieved without effective enforcement and fisheries regulations cannot be enforced without modern fit for purpose vessels. The Commission should be made aware and must recognize the essential nature of this funding and ensure that regulatory agencies are able to procure the equipment they need to enforce what are mostly regulations derived from EU policy.
5. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 18th April 2012 and Members' views and comments on the EMFF proposals are welcomed in order to formulate a response to Defra

**Chief Executive
29 February 2012**