



North Western IFCA
Technical, Science and Byelaw Sub-Committee
18th October 2011
Strathmore Hotel, Marine Road East, Morecambe: 10.30 a.m.

Agenda Item: 13

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES REVIEW

Purpose of Report

To inform members of progress made on the NWIFCA Sustainable Fisheries Review since the full NWIFCA meeting.

Recommendations

That the report be received.

Background

1. A set of Working Principles for the Sustainable Management of Fisheries within the NWIFCA District was adopted at the full NWIFCA meeting on 30th September 2011.
2. A proposal to implement a Sustainable Fisheries Project (hereinafter called 'the Project') with partner agencies was agreed at the 30th September meeting.
3. At the last TSB sub-committee meeting held on 21st June 2011 and the full NWIFCA meeting on 30th September, the Authority agreed to establish a workshop that will involve all key stakeholders to progress the Project.

Next Steps

4. A small working group is required to plan the workshop. It is suggested that the Chair of the TSB Sub-Committee, Prof. Chris Frid, the Chief Executive, Science Team, EA, NE and MMO representatives form this working group. They will be tasked to ensure good communication with all TSB members during the planning process.
5. The working group will identify the key areas of expertise required. It will review available resources and experience within the NWIFCA and consider calling upon external sources of relevant expertise in areas such as:
 - workshop facilitation
 - expertise in north west fisheries – both local and on a larger scale
 - inshore / shellfish stock assessment (Cefas)

- the 'Navigating the Future' project, which used the criteria for the pre-assessment stage of MSC accreditation to assess sustainable fisheries (as used by Sussex SFC and Kent & Essex IFCA)
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) work in relation to fisheries
 - Shellfish Association of Great Britain (SAGB)
 - representation from the Sustainable Access to Fisheries (SAIF) project
 - stakeholder engagement
6. The working group will identify key local stakeholders to engage in the workshop.
 7. The workshop will seek to identify sources of funding for the Project and to draw up a Project Outline.
 8. Issues already identified for discussion and possible inclusion in the Project plan (not exhaustive):
 - a) Identify the benefits of sustainable fisheries for the NWIFCA and the industry
 - b) Define a methodology for reviewing the priorities
 - c) Consider which fisheries or areas within the district might form distinct management units and the implications of that for the NWIFCA
 - d) Recognising that the ecologies of the District's fisheries do not necessarily conform to the District's geographical boundaries, assess which fisheries require management regimes that incorporate inshore and offshore waters, and/or neighbouring IFCAs / WAG Fisheries Unit, and the implications for such management
 - e) Prioritise the fisheries to be reviewed according to the level of risk they pose (in relation to adverse impacts to the marine environment, the sustainability of the fishery or to the Authority)
 - f) Identify which fishery to use as a pilot for the Project
 - g) Define a methodology for identifying gaps in operational measures
 - h) Develop a methodology for the formal assessment of each fishery against appropriate criteria for environmental, economic and social sustainability
 - i) Identify gaps in scientific knowledge
 - j) Identify the resource implications for the NWIFCA
 - k) Production of sustainable management plans, which require impact assessments and consultation
 - l) Implementation of sustainable management plans

9. It is recognised that in order for the NWIFCA to be successful in achieving sustainable fisheries in the District, two key elements need to be fully incorporated:
 - assessing sustainability is a technical and evidence led process;
 - full stakeholder engagement is critical throughout the process.
10. The aim of the review is to enable the shift away from the mostly reactive management regime of the SFCs to a more strategic, long(er) term approach towards managing the District's fisheries. This will involve adaptive management that incorporates ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of management measures.

Scientific & Morecambe Bay Fishery Order Officer
10th October 2011