



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

Agenda Item: 10

COCKLE TRANSPLANTATION EXPERIMENT

Purpose of Report

To inform members of latest developments in developing a method for an experiment to look at the effects of transplanting cockles within an intertidal area.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the draft method statement is approved and work to inform a final version is commenced under derogation from Byelaw 1.

Background

1. At the Authority meeting in September it was agreed that Officers be allowed to progress a long standing proposal from an operator in Southport to transplant "seed" cockles within an intertidal area off Lytham, north of the River Ribble known as North Run.
2. The Authority also agreed that the work be supervised and directed by the TSB Sub-Committee. They also expressed a wish that this project be conducted as a scientific investigation and not just as a trial to allow the operator to profit from a windfall stock.
3. Representatives of the operator were present at the meeting and Officers have since confirmed with them that they are happy to proceed under with that proviso.
4. A draft method statement for the experiment has been drawn up between officers and the operator and is shown at Annex 1.
5. Members will note that a certain amount of preliminary work, such as obtaining a more reliable estimate of the available biomass for transplantation, needs to be carried out before a final methodology can be defined. As soon as this work is completed, the findings will be incorporated into the method statement and a final version circulated for approval.

Senior Scientific and Environmental Officer
10th October 2011