

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

19th September 2014: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA
ITEM NO.
7

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Purpose of Report

This report for information provides updates for the quarter and comment on various areas of work.

Recommendation:

1. The report be received

Contents

- I) Defra policy
- II) Health and safety policy
- III) Officer changes
- IV) Association of IFCA
- V) Procurement of a replacement main patrol vessel
- VI) Byelaw review
- VII) Chairman's Sub-Committee meetings

I) Defra policy

1. **EMS work:** As reported in June, IFCA Chief Officers met senior Defra officials on 16th April to review European Marine sites and Marine Conservation Zones. IFCA's gave a detailed presentation to Defra to show the scale of the work which is proposed to meet the Government's objective of a coherent network of MPA in place by 2016. We concluded that the full programme is not achievable with current resources although Defra are reluctant to accept this advice. Defra wrote to IFCA again in August to further consider how the programme could be achieved (letter at Annex A) and there was a further meeting with AIFCA and Chief Officers (I was on leave) which seems to have been inconclusive but the minutes have not yet been published. I subsequently wrote to Defra setting out progress and options for NWIFCA (Annex B) which advised that the programme in the NW could be achieved by 2016 with relatively small additional resources such as 1 additional science officer for 3 years.
2. **MCZ:** The tranche 2 designation programme appears to be on schedule. The implications for the NW are expected to be small. The only proposed site wholly within the District is Allonby Bay in Cumbria.
3. **4 year report on conduct and operation:** As reported last quarter, the first government report on IFCA conduct and operation (Marine Act section 183) must be laid before parliament in 2014. Evidence gathering is now complete. Chairman and CEO had an extended discussion with Defra (Messrs. Richard Inman and Rob Matthews). We now await publication of the report.

II) NWIFCA Health and Safety policy

4. The policy has been checked for breaches and recordable incidents in the last quarter (June-September 2014). There have been no Health and Safety incidents in the past quarter. NWIFCA Officer training to enable them to carry out their duties in accordance with the H&S policy continues and a register of training is maintained.

III) Officer and Member changes

5. There have been no staff changes this quarter.
6. Mr. Chris Woods, Mr. Dave Dobson and Mrs. Janet Butler have resigned from the Authority. Thanks are extended on behalf of all the members for their periods of service to the Authority. MMO have started the process of appointing new members.

IV) Association of IFCA (AIFCA)

7. The AIFCA Members' Forum met on 17th June at Port of London. The Chairman and CEO attended. Items considered included:
- I) Award of MBE to retired Chief Officer Kent and Essex IFCA Joss Wiggins.
 - II) Future IFCA funding although this is unlikely to be clarified before an election.
 - III) The Government's marine protected areas programme. A presentation from Defra was received setting out the priorities and timescales previously reported.
 - IV) Budget outturn 2013-14 AIFCA draft annual report 2013-4 and plan for 2014-15.
 - V) Commissioning of legal advice on IFCA duties under the Habitats Directive.
 - VI) A presentation by the new Natural England Director of Marine.
8. A meeting of the AIFCA Directors was held at 15.00 on the same day which the CEO attended.
9. The next AIFCA meetings will be on 23 September. Chairman and CEO will attend.

V) Procurement of main patrol vessel replacement

10. A combined meeting of the Finance and Vessel Committees on 25th July considered an options report prepared by the CEO. The paper attempted to take a wide view of the modern fishing environment, enforcement approaches and the requirement to collect science and survey data to support regulation and management of fisheries in the District. The paper suggested a number of ways in which comprehensive and efficient vessel provision for the NWIFCA could be achieved noting that a single vessel would always be a compromise between enforcement, survey and cost efficiency.
11. The Committees resolved to continue procurement of a single catamaran type vessel to meet both survey and enforcement requirements. Noting that the original specification of a 24-26m length vessel was over-ambitious in the prevailing financial climate, the Committees resolved to aim for a 20m (registered loadline) length vessel. The specification was discussed although the build material (aluminium or GRP) was deferred for further consideration as was the propulsion system (jet or propeller drive).
12. The Committees requested a new detailed specification and consideration of funding for the next meeting. A paper has now been prepared and the meeting scheduled for 15th September. Subject to agreement of the Committees, outcomes from this meeting will be tabled on 19th September.

13. Pending final decisions, the procurement process in Lancashire County Council remains paused.

VI) Byelaw review update

14. The table below provides an update on byelaws which are in development as part of the byelaw review process. The aim is to review and combine legacy byelaws to create a single regulatory fisheries management regime across the NWIFCA District. These byelaws were considered by the TSB in August. Work on the byelaws will continue around more urgent priorities.

NWIFCA byelaw number and title	Legacy byelaw numbers	Outcome of TSB	Next stages
Byelaw 1: Specified fish sizes		Byelaw to be halted pending EU decisions on fish sizes arising from the new 'no discard' policy	Byelaw not to be progressed at this stage
Byelaw 2: Vessel length and gear restrictions	NWSFC 9, 12 Cumbria SFC 3, 13, 15	Has been provisionally approved by MMO. TSB requested further discussion on some measures	Impact Assessment done. Officers to review byelaw content and revert to TSB
Byelaw 7 Lobster, crawfish, crab, prawn whelk	NWSFC 30, 31 Cumbria SFC 8, 25, 26	Edits needed and further consideration by TSB	Impact Assessment done. TSB to approve changes discussed
Byelaw 8: prohibition of foul hooking	NWSFC 18 Cumbria SFC 17	Byelaw complete but could be incorporated into Byelaw 2 to achieve reductions in regulations	Impact Assessment done. Officers to consider including in Byelaw 2. Revert to TSB
Byelaw 9 Restrictions on fishing for shrimp and prawn	NWSFC 6 Cumbria SFC 14	Minor edits needed	Impact Assessment done. Submit to MMO.

VII) Chairman's Sub-Committee

15. Meetings were held on 13th June and 25th July to consider matters relating to the Authority's Code of Conduct.

Chief Executive Officer
8th September 2014