

**The Association of IFCAs Members' Forum
9th July – 11:00 to 15:00
Defra: Nobel House room 809**

Action Minutes

Attendance for the meeting:

Vice Chair: Tony Tomlinson
CEO: Stephen Bolt

Michelle Woodley (minutes), David McCandless, Eddy Derriman, Rob Clarke, Stephen Atkins, Mike Hardy, Tim Dapling, Tim Robbins, Ian Davies, Malcolm Sims, George Traves, Robert Arckless, Hilary Cox, Dr Judith Clark, Tony Delahunty.

Defra representatives: Andrew Clayton, Matt Sowrey, Jonathan Mullard, Rob Davies, Kath Cameron (11-12 noon).

Apologies for absence.

Philip Haslam, Joss Wiggins, Steve Watt, Chris Thomas, Elaine Hayes, John Lamb, Will Wright

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Defra updates: Defra presented updates on the following issues.
 - a. 11:05 Andrew Clayton (CFP reform): Angus Cragg presented in place of Andrew Clayton. **Action 1: SB to circulate presentation to Members Done**
 - b. 11:20 Matt Sowrey (EMFF). Highlights below:
 - i. There would be an increased emphasis on aquaculture in EMFF
 - ii. It is likely that EMFF would not be available to roll out Jan 2014 so the EFF funding would be extended – probably until mid-2014 when EMFF should be available – MS stressed that there would be no gap in funding availability.
 - c. 11:35 Jonathan Mullard (Marine Planning)
 - i. Eastern Marine plan was due for a late July launch
 - ii. Scotland are also planning to launch shortly
 - d. 11:50 Kath Cameron (MPA update): Concerns were raised to IFCAs regarding late changes to Natural England Conservation advice.
3. Minutes of the last Association meeting 15th March 2013: The minutes were agreed.
 - a. Matters arising not on the agenda
4. Association matters
 - a. Adoption of articles: **Noted**
 - b. Directors meeting 10/7/13
 - c. Website update (MW to lead).
 - i. **Action 2: All IFCAs to provide Association with examples of good news stories to showcase on new and improved Association website.**

ii. **Action 3: CEO to discuss with COG and Directors regarding the use of the Association website for COG and TAG to share information.**

5. CEO report/update: Members expressed a wish that the CEO provide more information on a regular basis to the members so that they may better understand the day to day functions of the Association and the CEO. **Action 4: CEO to discuss with Directors on 10th July how best to report to members with a view to providing regular meeting updates. Done**

- a. Budget out turn 2012/13: **Noted**
- b. Budget update 2013/14: **Noted**
- c. Annual report: **Action 5: All to provide comment to CEO by August 9th. Action 6: CEO to revise Annual Report to ensure report is suitable for public domain – concerns were expressed regarding reporting the possible cessation of new burdens monies in April 2015.**
- d. Annual plan: The annual plan was discussed and it was agreed to raise the objective of investigating alternative funding such as EMFF and other routes to high priority. **Action 7. CEO to revise annual plan to revise priorities for 2013/14.** It was also noted that future funding of IFCA's beyond 2015 will be the Association's highest priority for 2013/14 and beyond. **Action 8. All to provide comments on annual plan to CEO by August 9th.**
- e. CEO objectives. It was agreed that the CEO objectives should be considered at the Directors meeting 10th July. **Done.**
- f. Association letter to Defra regarding IFCA priorities. **Noted and welcomed by the Members.**
- g. Legal opinion regarding the Defra "revised approach" to EMS. **Noted and welcomed by members**
- h. MPAs
 - i. EMS
 - 1. Capital funding project
 - a. CEO reported that the project was nearly complete. **Action 9. NW IFCA to send invoices to CEO. Done. Action 10. CEO to provide a report to Members and Defra once the EMS funding project has been completed.**
 - 2. Red progress: Good progress towards achieving byelaws by December 2013, however, concerns are being raised by late changes to the Conservation Advice from Natural England. COG and the Association are raising this with Natural England and the EMS project board respectively.
 - ii. MCZ
 - 1. Tranche 1:
 - a. CEO and IFCA's to attend two day meeting to review and input to Defra regarding the 31 proposed first tranche MCZs. IFCA representation also required at next meeting 2nd August. **Action 11. CEO to ensure IFCA representation at future MCZ meetings. Done**
 - 2. Future tranches: Awaiting Defra (Ministerial announcement) regarding any future tranches.
 - 3. Management Measures.
- i. Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

6. Future funding. Continued funding beyond April 2015 when the current new burdens money agreement comes to an end is of high priority to the IFCA's and hence the Association. The CEO has had informal discussions with Defra regarding the issue and how to best formally engage (both at Association and individual IFCA level) in the process. This has resulted in the issue of IFCA sustainable funding being high on their agenda but to date this has been only verbally confirmed. It was pointed out by Members that with April 2015 only 18 months away, key decisions need to be made by the IFCA's in order to

plan for the future. It was agreed that the Association would formally write to Defra to formally engage in the process and offer support in the process. **Action 12. CEO to write to Defra to seek formal engagement regarding future funding.**

7. Date of next meeting – discussion regarding frequency of Members’ Forum and Directors meetings. It was agreed to continue to have quarterly meetings of the Members. It was agreed to continue to have Defra updates at the Members’ Forum. In addition, Alan Law from Natural England is planning to attend part of the 17th September meeting. **Action 13. CEO to invite Defra and NE to the next Members’ meeting.**

- a. 17th September 2013
- b. 17th December 2013

8. AOB (Please advise)

Meeting with Defra on MSFD to follow at 15:30 room 206: SB, Tim Dapling and Will Wright attending.

Action:		
1	SB to circulate presentation to Members	Done
2	All IFCA's to provide Association with examples of good news stories to showcase on new and improved Association website.	
3	CEO to discuss with COG and Directors regarding the use of the Association website for COG and TAG to share information.	Done
4	CEO to discuss with Directors on 10th July how best to report to members with a view to providing regular meeting updates.	Done
5	All to provide comment to CEO by August 9th.	
6	CEO to revise Annual Report to ensure report is suitable for public domain – concerns were expressed regarding reporting the possible cessation of new burdens monies in April 2015.	
7	CEO to revise annual plan to revise priorities for 2013/14.	
8	All to provide comments on annual plan to CEO by August 9th.	
9	NW IFCA to send invoices to CEO.	Done.
10	CEO to provide a report to Members and Defra once the EMS funding project has been completed.	
11	Action 11. CEO to ensure IFCA representation at future MCZ meetings.	Done
12	CEO to write to Defra to seek formal engagement regarding future funding.	
13	CEO to invite Defra and NE to the next Members meeting.	