

**NWIFCA Authority Meeting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> September 2020; 11.00 a.m.**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM NO.**  
**8**

**Chief Officer Report: June August 2020**

**Purpose of Report: Information**

**Recommendation: Receive the report**

**Contents:**

- i. Covid 19 working**
- ii. Personnel, Health & Safety**
- iii. Communications**
- iv. Association of IFCA**
- v. Defra**

**i. Covid 19 working restrictions**

1. Throughout this quarter all Officers have worked mainly from home with occasional office visits when all government guidelines on Covid 19 were followed. Health and safety risk assessments have been continuously updated as Government guidance and regulations have changed.
2. The current position is:
  - a. Carnforth and Whitehaven Offices are open with a full time officer present at each to answer public queries maintain administrative services supply permits and collect data as normal.
  - b. 2 Science officers are working in the Carnforth Office.
  - c. 5 Office based staff can adequately work at home and are continuing to do so to reduce risk of virus spread.
  - d. Shore and at Sea Patrol and enforcement work is effective and adequate to meet threats,
  - e. All planned survey and sampling is taking place,
3. Defra are continuing monthly online meetings with IFCA Chief Officers although these are not now covid related meetings. The current focus is the ongoing 2020 spending review.
4. IFCA Chief Officers Group are also continuing regular online meetings also now directed at providing Defra with data required for the spending review,
5. Authority meetings are continuing to be organized on line following satisfactory TSB meetings in May and August and the June Quarterly. Members are invited to consider if meetings should now revert to taking place in person.

**ii. Personnel, Health & Safety**

6. **Members:** There is one MMO appointee vacancy on the Authority. MMO has not announced plans for recruitment. All appointees with service terms ending in 2020 have been given a 6 month extension.
7. As reported previously, three MMO appointees along with many others in other IFCA reach the statutory limit of 10 years' service in 2020. As above, all have been given 6 month extensions. An announcement of a longer term solution is awaited.

8. CEO has not been notified of any extensions to MMO members' terms of office. In order to track member's appointments please inform the office if you have had such an extension. Any member who is uncertain about their term of office should email [office@nw-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:office@nw-ifca.gov.uk)
9. **Officer Recruitment** for Science and IFCO vacancies is underway. Short lists for both posts are in place. Online interviews for the IFCO post were held on 7 September to be followed up by interviews in person of the best candidates. The Clerk post job description and advert are prepared and ready for advert as soon as possible.
10. **Health and Safety:** There have been no notifiable incidents up to end of August 2020.
11. **Complaints:** there is 1 outstanding complaint against officers working at Leasowe which is being addressed.

### iii. **Communications**

12. Meetings hosted by Zoom are now streamed to a YouTube event. This allows the link to be available in advance of the meeting and should allow easier access for the public.

### iv. **Association of IFCA**

13. The last meeting of AIFCA took place in Southend in March 2020 courtesy of Southend Mayor and Kent and Essex IFCA Chairman Cllr John Lamb who was a previous AIFCA Chairman. Minutes of that meeting are attached at Annex B. The June 2020 meeting of AIFCA was cancelled.
14. Interviews for the post of AIFCA Chief Officer were held in June. Mr Rob Clerk, Chief officer of Southern IFCA was appointed and takes up the post on 1 September 2020 bringing great expertise of working in the IFCA environment.
15. The Southern IFCA post was advertised in July. Mr Ian Jones the National IFCA lead Training Co-ordinator was appointed and will take up the post on 1 September. The consequences for the training co-ordinator position have not yet been addressed.

### v. **Defra**

16. Negotiations with EU are continuing over Brexit and the withdrawal agreement and are reported on Defra website.
17. The UK fisheries bill is continuing to work through parliamentary stages. The latest information can be obtained from the Defra website.
18. The Benyon report on Highly Protected Marine Areas was published on World Oceans Day (8 June) and is available from the Defra website. The report recommends that HMPA should be established within existing designated sites however no sites were identified in the report. Defra indicate that implementation of the report is not expected to commence for several years. The proponents of HPMA had expected that the report would propose some trial sites and are disappointed this is not the case. The gathering of evidence to propose HPMA sites, followed by designation, extensive consultation and management planning means that Defra now consider there will be no HPMA sites in UK waters within 3 years. IFCA Chief Officers submitted an agreed response to the report. This is not yet released for general circulation.
19. IFCA Chief Officers have had monthly meetings with Defra from April to August. An updated submission from IFCA for the SR 2020 was requested by Defra and was provided in mid-August with considerable work by IFCA Chief Officers on a very short timescale. Defra have since indicated that IFCA funding is likely to remain level for 3 years from 2021. If confirmed this can be considered good news in the current national financial context and an endorsement of the IFCA contribution to national marine and fisheries policy.

**Main meetings attended April – July 2020**

Chief Officers Group	1 April, 7 April, 15 April, 22 April, 29 April, 13 May, 27 May, 3 June, 10 June, 17 June, 24 June, 8 July, 15 July, 29 July 5 Aug, 19 Aug.
Defra	2 April Liaison and setting up of MFCG, 7 May, 4 June, 1 July, 5 Aug,
TSB	12 May 11 August
BMWG	22 May
Byelaw review	29 May
NWIFCA	18 June

CEO NWIFCA 9 September 2020

**Annex A: Management of the English Blue Belt Symposium**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10:00 – 16:00** Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, EC4R 9EL  
**Agenda**

**10:00 – 10:30 Registration and refreshments**

10:30	Welcome	<b>Jamie Small</b> AIFCA
10:35	<b>Chair:</b> Opening remarks	<b>John Humphreys</b> Southern IFCA Chair
10:45	Minister's speech delivered by Defra	<b>Simon Brockington</b> Defra
11:00	The MPA journey from expectation to delivery	<b>Sam Davis</b> Cornwall IFCA

**Session 1 How is effective MPA management developed?**

11:10	'Where has marine management come from, where does it have to go and how can it get there?'	<b>Mike Elliott</b> University of Hull
11:30	Partnerships to support evidence-based management in the NIFCA District	<b>Clare Fitzsimmons</b> Newcastle University
11:50	Community Voice Method: incorporating participatory democracy in marine management	<b>Peter Richardson</b> Marine Conservation Society
12:10	Developing appropriate fisheries management for Kingmere MCZ	<b>Audrey Jones</b> Sussex IFCA

**12:30 – 13:15 First break: Lunch and refreshments**

**Session 2 What benefits can effective MPA management bring?**

13:15	The Lyme Bay MPA case study: benthic recovery, storm impacts and lessons learnt	<b>Emma Sheehan</b> University of Plymouth
13:35	Benefits beyond boundaries: Cooperative monitoring highlights MPA value for enhanced seabed integrity	<b>Jean-Luc Solandt</b> Marine Conservation Society
13:55	Co-management delivering ecosystem and economic benefits in an MPA	<b>Sarah Birchenough</b> Southern IFCA <b>Tom Russell</b> Poole and District Fishermen's Association
14:15	Restoring native oysters in the Blackwater, Roach, Crouch and Colne Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone for biodiversity, ecosystem services and for a sustainable fishery	<b>Alison Debney</b> Zoological Society London <b>Allan Bird</b> Tollesbury and Mersea Native Oyster Company

**14:35 – 15:00 Second break: Sweet and refreshments**

**Session 3 MPAs, what does the future hold?**

15:00	Engaging with the community and delivering effective compliance within MPAs	<b>Robert Clark</b> Southern IFCA
15:20	Developing a participatory approach to the management of fishing activity in UK offshore MPAs	<b>Declan Tobin</b> JNCC
15:40	Panel Q&A and closing remarks	
16:00	End	

The Association of IFCAs would like to thank Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust, the Chair and all of our speakers for kindly supporting the symposium.

**Annex B The Association of IFCA's Members' Forum Meeting 3rd March 2020 – 10:30**

**Followed by Directors Meeting Mayor's office, Southend-on-Sea**

**Draft minutes**

Attendance Chair: Tony Tomlinson CEO: Stephen Bolt. tbc Mike Hardy, Sam Davis, David McCandless, Julian Gregory, Les Weller, Andy Guy, Stephen Atkins, John Lamb, Rob Clark, Tim Dapling, Steven Axford.

Minutes: Stephen Bolt

Apologies: Will Wright, Paul Williams, Tom Hooper, Stuart Harper, Paul Skinner, John Humphries

A minute's silence for Sally was held.

1. Minutes of the last meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019) – minutes agreed.

Matters arising from minutes:

Action	Action	By Whom
1	All to send general members assessment spreadsheet back to SB	All –at the time of the meeting three IFCA's have written to MMO regarding 10-year issues. SB and TT met with Tom McCormack regarding long term resolution regarding MMO appointees and roles and responsibilities between MMO.
2	SB to speak to PW regarding audit process and to amend budget lines for non-recurring items.	SB/PW – PW to visit SB 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> March to review accounts.
3	SB to investigate feasibility and costs for using teleconferencing for some AIFCA Members' Forum meetings.	SB/LW – Fishmongers for 2 <sup>nd</sup> June. – LW investigated webex – up to 100 - £14 per month: the quality of webex dial ins was challenged and it was agreed on the value of face to face meetings. Interim meetings could continue to use the free Why pay account currently used
4	SB to speak with Fishmongers' Hall regarding its availability to us without cost.	SB – Fishmongers booked 2 <sup>nd</sup> June. No further venues booked for September or December meetings currently scheduled at the time of the meeting.
5	Paper on 2020/21 to be submitted to March 2020 Members' Forum meeting.	SB – not practicable at this time.

6	6: All to update TD of any relevant sea angling work to feed into national angling strategy.	All – TD attended national angling strategy meeting. IFCA's not members of board, but observer. LW sits on Defra marine Recreational Sea Fishing group. Distributed "Mullet club" presentation (critical of IFCA's). Policy will be produced by Defra policy.
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2. Defra update:

- a. MOSC conference – attendees – **Action 1:** all to send to SB/RC by 6<sup>th</sup> March
  - b. Various reviews – still not fixed date for publishing ABPmer report on external review of IFCA's.
  - c. MMO meeting – partnership working – change of approach by MMO working with IFCA's. iVMS = Greg update re options.
  - d. 13:45: Rachel Muckle:
    - i. IFCA review: Defra will visit all IFCA's – timetable to follow. Nothing contentious – base from which to build. Report to be published "soon".
    - ii. Funding – SR20 and replacement of EMFF etc: Victoria Prentis new fisheries minister. Steer with funding methods for IFCA's etc. New Burdens as is for 20/21. Re-assess new burdens etc. Plus how to give the monies to the IFCA's. Probably need to consult. SR20 – MHCLG – Macca duties. Not ring fenced. Need to demonstrate "Value for money".
    - iii. Fisheries plan: amendment in fisheries Bill for fisheries management plans. Considering interface between MMO and IFCA's, EA etc. Drive towards co-management -
    - iv. EU exit negotiations. – IFCA role – started this morning – (Nigel Gooding) – Setting out what the UK would like the relationship to look like. Week 1 in Brussels – then London etc. Will feedback to Association – SD asked for operational issues surrounding IFCA's (use of vessels, export of bivalves etc) – RC asked about funding – no funds from previous "no deal" scenario planning. **Action 2:** RM to discuss with MMO.
    - v. Fisheries Bill – some amendments refer to IFCA's
    - vi. No deal: RM explained that we have a deal, so language has changed – it is now about negotiations – contingency at end of December – engage with business etc second half of year.
    - vii. MMO appointees: Current 10-year limit methodology in progress. Long term issues with MMO appointee process and roles and responsibilities will be subject to further MMO/IFCA/Defra discussions.
    - viii. "Daughter" of EMFF: Business case to treasury – linked but different to EMFF. Seafood innovation fund – Dates not known.
    - ix. HPMA – Defra relayed thanks for IFCA input – recommendations to Ministers in "spring".
    - x. Offshore wind – emphasis on use of seas – IFCA role in consultations and scrutiny of licence applications – cost recovery discussed. Possibility of something similar Section 106 discussed.
    - xi. Timetable for fisheries bill – 489 amendments(!) – September probably feasible. Working groups will include IFCA input.
3. Finance and Resources: page 6 – Report noted.
4. Budget considerations 2020/21 page 7 – agreed that Paul Williams would report back once 2019/20 financial report finalised. CEO reported that a detailed proposal for a 2020/21

budget not possible at this stage of the review of the Association. **Action 3:** PW to report back to Directors.

5. Matters for decision

- a. Update on the review of the Association. – TT
  - i. CEO leaves 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
  - ii. Review position and role of CEO: discussed and further discussions will be held in the Directors meeting.
  - iii. JG document circulated to Directors NE IFCA still considering position within Association. **Action 4:** SB to Circulate to members.
    1. Construct of Association. TT reported that the current arrangements (private limited company) will continue for 2020/21 while options are explored.
    2. Recruitment of CEO replacement: interviews 15<sup>th</sup> April (fishmongers Hall) – TT, LW plus two directors, advert by 10<sup>th</sup> March.
- b. National training plan 2020/21 – IJ – paper circulated on 28/2/20: plan adopted

6. Matters for noting:

- a. MPA project update (report) – Update noted
- b. CEO Meeting Log – noted
- c. Directors minutes - noted

7. AOB

- a. Chair thanked CEO for work at the Association
- b. Les Weller stated Al Brown retiring – Association thanked AB for his service
- c. JG inshore wind issue – national working group – no IFCA involvement JG circulate paper to EIFCA Committee.

Date of next Members Forum Meeting: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 Fishmongers Hall