

Aifca 11 March

AM: Members Forum CEO and Chairman attended

Main item: Progress with MPA.

Presentation from Defra on their plans for EMS and MCZ focusing on MCZ. International, EU and UK commitments reviewed. Then a summary of what has been achieved so far which we already knew. The future includes plans for 2 tranches of MCZ in 2015 and 2016. The list for the second tranche has been published. For the Irish Sea it includes sites mostly outside of our District such as the mud hole, and large areas of the St George's Channel. The West of Walney is included and is partly in our District and Allonby Bay is a coastal site from the intertidal to 5.5km offshore.

Presentation from Matt Watson on Project Inshore. The draft stage 3 reports attracted a lot of criticism which was relevant to our area and many others. We gave Matt rather a hard time. The consultants have received the comments and are redrafting the report. We hope to have a further version within a month but are not very optimistic that it will offer much useful advice for enhancing the sustainability of fisheries in the District.

Training: Eddie Derriman – CO Cornwall IFCA presented progress on a new qualification for IFCOs (Fishery Officers). This will be an 'Off Qual' approved, Level 3 recognised vocational qualification. There will have to be work place assessor appointed within this Authority and there will be National External Assessors. AIFCA will fund the training of the national assessors and there will be a pilot project in 2014 to test the various modules of the course. The course is likely to become a core qualification for fishery officers and staff of a number of bodies will be able to achieve the qualification.

iVMS. System experiencing serious delays arising from the EU procurement process. MMO have had to re-tender the IT provision which will cause a 9 month delay.

Defra Underspend: Defra have again asked IFCA to spend approximately £370K of their underspend before the end of March. Much of this will be used to purchase further underwater survey equipment which will be available for all IFCA to use. The rest is available for IFCA to purchase additional survey or equipment but anything procured must be used to further the objectives of marine protected areas. Because we have so far few obligations in relation to MCZ it is proving difficult to find eligible items that we need to obtain.

PM Directors CEO attended. All technical matters relating to the running of the Association. Nothing of interest