

North Western IFCA

Technical, Scientific and Byelaws Sub-Committee: 21 June 2011

Strathmore Hotel, Marine Road East, Morecambe: 10.30 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
10**

CONTINUATION OF SHORE SURVEYS IN CUMBRIA

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the Technical, Science and Byelaw Sub-Committee that at the final meeting of the Cumbria SFC held on 25th February 2011, Members received the 18th annual ecological survey of the Cumbrian coast undertaken by Dr Jane Lancaster.**
- 2 Members of the Cumbria SFC were concerned that the 18 year data set might be lost now that the Committee was being disbanded. It was agreed that the North Western IFCA be strongly recommended to continue to undertake the shore survey. The CFO said that he would pass this request on to colleagues in the IFCA.**

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Members decide the course of action that should be taken regarding the Cumbrian Shore Survey in 2011 and beyond.**

BACKGROUND AND DETAIL

- 1 The Cumbria SFC had commissioned Dr Jane Lancaster to conduct an annual survey of 11 rocky shore sites along the Cumbrian coast since 1993. The original aim of the survey was to give an overview of the shore life and physical features of the coastline within the district. The sites chosen were selected as being representative of the different rocky shore ecology present, and these were surveyed annually in order to provide information on the natural changes that take place on the shore, and also to act as an early warning system of any possible damage to the ecosystems that may occur due to pollution, or physical disturbance.**
- 2. Although the survey is not directly related to any fisheries management issues, it has over the past 18 years built into a valuable time series which has proved to be extremely useful for monitoring the ecological health of the marine environment between the extremes of tidal limits.**
- 3. Members should be aware that a quotation amounting to £3,200 has been received from Dr Lancaster to carry out a survey in 2011. (Annex 'A')**

**Enforcement Director
9 June 2011**