



**North Western
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Meeting 4: 30 September 2011
Morecambe Town Hall: 10.30 a.m.**

Agenda Item: 15

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH PARTNER BODIES.

Recommendation:

That the draft MOU with EA and CEFAS are agreed

1. The IFCA have a high level objective set by Defra as part of the guidance to IFCA to make formal agreements with partner bodies. The purpose of these agreements is to encourage joint working and sharing of resources so that public sector agencies are more effective and where possible work towards common policies. Agencies should also achieve cost savings and efficiency through staff working together and sharing assets.
2. The agreements provide for regular meetings between all the IFCA and the partner agencies at both national and local level. They agree sharing of data and information as well as exchange of policies and management decisions. They should ensure better communication than has happened in the past with common approaches and procedures in many areas of work.
3. An MOU was agreed with the MMO in March 2011. On 30 September further draft agreements are presented to the NWIFCA for approval. These are the separate agreements with the Environment Agency (EA) and the Centre for Environmental, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).
4. These national agreements have been drafted jointly by the Agencies working with IFCA officers. Both have been agreed and signed at senior level by EA and CEFAS respectively. Once approved by each IFCA, they will be signed by all IFCA Chairmen and Chief Officers. Signing is scheduled to take place at the next AIFCA meeting on 4 October.
5. These MOU are intended to be flexible and updated with changing circumstances and priorities. Members are invited to agree the drafts as presented but also to raise any comments and concerns to be addressed in future editions of the agreements.

**Chief Executive
21 September 2011**