

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw  
Committee**

**6th February 2018: 10:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO.  
10**

**CRAB AND LOBSTER REPORT**

**Purpose:** to provide a report to members on the use of MSARs and log book returns data on commercial crab and lobster fisheries in the District.

**Recommendation:** that Members approve the report.

1. Commercial crab and lobster fishers landing to ports in the NWIFCA district supply returns forms on their activities to MMO, and NWIFCA receive a copy.
2. A box of paper copies containing data from 2006 – 2015 was stored in the Whitehaven office.
3. Science Officer Alex Aitken has collated and digitised this data and set up a database to which current data can readily be added.
4. Ms Aitken has analysed the data and provided a report (Annex A) to members on historical activity as far as can be deduced from the returns reporting.
5. Although the reporting data covers an area within and outwith of the NWIFCA boundary and deducing what activity occurs within the NWIFCA district is problematic, the report provides an overview of effort and landings from 2006 – 2016.
6. The aim of the report is to provide information to the Authority to inform understanding and sustainable management of these important fisheries.

**Mandy Knott  
Senior Scientist**