

**NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting:  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2022: 11.00 a.m.**

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO.  
12**

**ANNUAL PLAN WORKING GROUP REPORT**

**Purpose:** To provide a report on progress of this working group since the last quarterly meeting.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the updated draft of the 2022-2023 plan attached at Annex B is approved for publication.
2. That the Authority endorses further work by this working group to develop a new Annual Plan format for 2023-24.

**Report**

1. The Authority resolved at its annual meeting in July 2021 that an Annual Plan Working Group (APWG) should be established, with the aim of updating the Annual Plan to make it a more relevant document. It was noted at that time that the current plan is focussed on Defra "Success Criteria" that were drafted when the IFCAs were established more than 10 years ago.
2. The APWG has now met on 6 occasions (twice in September 2021, and then in November 2021, December 2021, February 2022 and March 2022). Meetings have been Chaired by the Head of Enforcement, with regular attendance by the Clerk, Digital Communications Officer, Senior Scientist, and Members of the Authority (Dr Andrews & Dr Mihailovici). Mr Leigh, Mr Lomax and the Chief Executive have also participated in some of these meetings.
3. In December 2021 the APWG reported its initial findings and recommendations to the Authority meeting (see Annex A). These recommendations were approved, and included:-
  - a. The existing format of annual plan should be retained for 2022-23;
  - b. NWIFCA should work with the Association of IFCAs, MMO and Defra to develop new objectives for the 2023-24 FY; and
  - c. A new "glossy" annual plan should be published by NWIFCA in March 2022.
4. Following the February 2022 meeting of the APWG the HoE, Senior Scientist and Digital Communications Officer made significant amendments to the original 2022-23 Annual Plan document to produce text for the "Glossy" version of the plan. This text is included at Annex B for comment and approval.
5. Members will appreciate that the staff involved in this project and the Members assisting them have day-to-day commitments that limit the time available for long-term planning. It is the intention of the APWG to produce proposals for the 2023-24 Annual Plan in time for it to be considered at the September and December quarterly meetings. The APWG understand that the Association of IFCAs is working to develop new and more relevant success criteria / objectives for all IFCAs. The APWG will seek to incorporate any new information from AIFCA in its proposals for a revised 2023-24 Annual Plan.

Dr Jim Andrews  
VICE-CHAIR, NWIFCA

### A New Annual Plan for NWIFCA

This document has been prepared by the NWIFCA Annual Plan Working Group ("APWG") which was tasked to review the NWIFCA Annual Plan and to look for opportunities for improvement.

#### Recommendations

1. The Annual Plan for an IFCA should be a document that sets out:-
  - a. **Strategic Objectives** determining the policy of the Authority in the medium to long term; and
  - b. **Operational Objectives** guiding officers in the short term and on a day-to-day basis
2. The Annual Plan should also provide a platform for reporting the successes and challenges facing the Authority. It should be part of an overall planning and communication strategy which ensures that the NWIFCA is focussed, effective, efficient, relevant and understood.
3. The APWG consider that the Annual Plan in its current format is no longer fit for purpose. Its key shortcoming are that:
  - a. It is founded on a set of "Success Criteria" that were set for IFCA's many years ago by Defra; and
  - b. The layout and presentation of the document does not effectively communicate the value and effectiveness of the organisation.
4. Having looked at plans published by several other IFCA's the APWG has identified a suitable overall aim for an IFCA Annual Plan:-

*"The plan links the national IFCA vision, high level objectives and success criteria to local strategic objectives and performance indicators. The plan also highlights how the training and development of the Authority's Officers and Members is incorporated into the delivery of its own local performance indicators and objectives and ultimately the national vision."*
5. As well as agreeing that the existing planning process requires an overhaul both for NWIFCA and for IFCA's nationally, the APWG has also agreed that NWIFCA should invest time and resources into better publicising its work and progress. The Group considers that this is an important priority, and that a document similar to the NEIFCA Annual Plan would help the NWIFCA to communicate more effectively with its funding partners and stakeholders in the District.

#### Proposed Actions & Timescales

1. That the existing format of the Annual Plan, which is due to be approved by the Authority at its December 2021 meeting should be retained for the 2022-23FY whilst the APWG continues to work on an updated plan for 2023-24.
2. NWIFCA Officers should work with the Association of IFCA's, MMO and Defra to develop new objectives for the 2023-24FY which either:-
  - a. Align to the existing Defra Success Criteria and translate these into objectives that are more relevant to the District; or
  - b. Are new objectives that better reflect the challenges and opportunities facing NWIFCA.
3. That a "glossy" Annual Plan should be published by NWIFCA in March 2022 that describes the organisation and sets out its objectives for the year.

**Annex B: Proposed text for updated 2022-2023 Annual Plan**

North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Annual Plan

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## **Vision**

“To lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.”

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## **Foreword [Draft, Paul to confirm]**

When I was appointed to serve as the representative of Cheshire West and Chester Council on the North West Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority back in 20XX, I was only dimly aware of the role of the Authority, despite having been a keen angler all of my life and a local authority Councillor for XX years. I am now keenly aware of the vital role that the Fishery Officers and scientific staff at North West IFCA play in protecting inshore fish stocks and the marine environment between the Wirral and the Solway Firth, and the role of the Authority in shaping national fisheries policy.

This is our eleventh annual plan. We have worked this year to make it more accessible to our funding authorities and the residents of NW England. We are keen to build wider understanding and appreciation of the important work carried out by NWIFCA to nurture the fisheries and protect the marine environment within its XXXXkm<sup>2</sup> District each and every day of the year.

This plan sets out the framework for the patrol work that our XX fishery officers will be carrying out aboard our XX patrol vessels based in Whitehaven and XXXX, as well as using quad bikes to patrol the cockle and mussel fisheries on the shore. Our XX scientific staff will be surveying and monitoring the fisheries throughout the District to ensure that fishing is sustainable. The work of these professional staff is overseen by the Authority Members, comprising Councillors from our 8 funding authorities and well as 16 local experts appointed by the Marine Management Organisation, including scientists and fishermen from the region.

We are living in uncertain times. Covid and Brexit have presented new challenges to the fishing industry and to NWIFCA. As Chair of the Authority I am committed to working closely with its staff and the local fishing industry to deliver this annual plan and ensure that our inshore fisheries and marine environment continue to thrive.

Paul Williams  
CHAIR, NWIFCA

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## **Purpose of the Annual Plan**

This annual plan outlines the intended actions of North West IFCA over the oncoming year. The plan sets out the main objectives for the year ahead, and how the proposed work will contribute towards the Government's Marine Policy Statement. The plan is developed through the committee and internal working groups and helps to facilitate effective performance management. The plan will continue to be reviewed and updated annually to reflect improvements in performance, achievement of targets and changes in national objectives.

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## **The Function of NWIFCA**

The North Western Inshore fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) are responsible for the management of the commercial and recreational fisheries within the 0-6 nautical miles of coastal waters in the North Western district of the UK. They have authority under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) to create and enforce byelaws for the purposes of sustainably managing fisheries resources. MaCAA 2009, provides a framework for managing the demands put on our seas, and aims to ensure clean healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas, by putting in place effective systems for delivering sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment.

NWIFCA has clearly defined duties to manage sustainable fisheries and conserve the wider marine environment within their coastal waters. In delivering this function the Authority is required to ensure that all exploitation and development taking place within its District, is sustainable and the socio economic needs are balanced with marine environmental protection. The Authority is also required to balance the needs of all stakeholders exploiting resources within its District and further the conservation objectives of any Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). The primary methods of achieving these duties is through enforcement of local and national legislation, and carrying out research to inform management decisions.

### ***Enforcement:***

The Authority's principal enforcement functions relate to minimum landing sizes, net and fishing gear regulations, restricted fishing areas, the protection of European Marine Sites (EMSs) and MCZs. The Authority can make Byelaws (subject to final confirmation by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to address a wide range of local fisheries and marine environmental management issues.

### ***Research:***

The Authority also functions to obtain scientific data on the fisheries within the District, which is used to inform management decisions. The principle survey and research works carried out by the Authority relate to cockle and mussel surveys of the extensive number of beds across the District; assessing the impact of fishing activities on protected areas, responding to development consultations and developing new research streams in response to emerging challenges or fisheries.

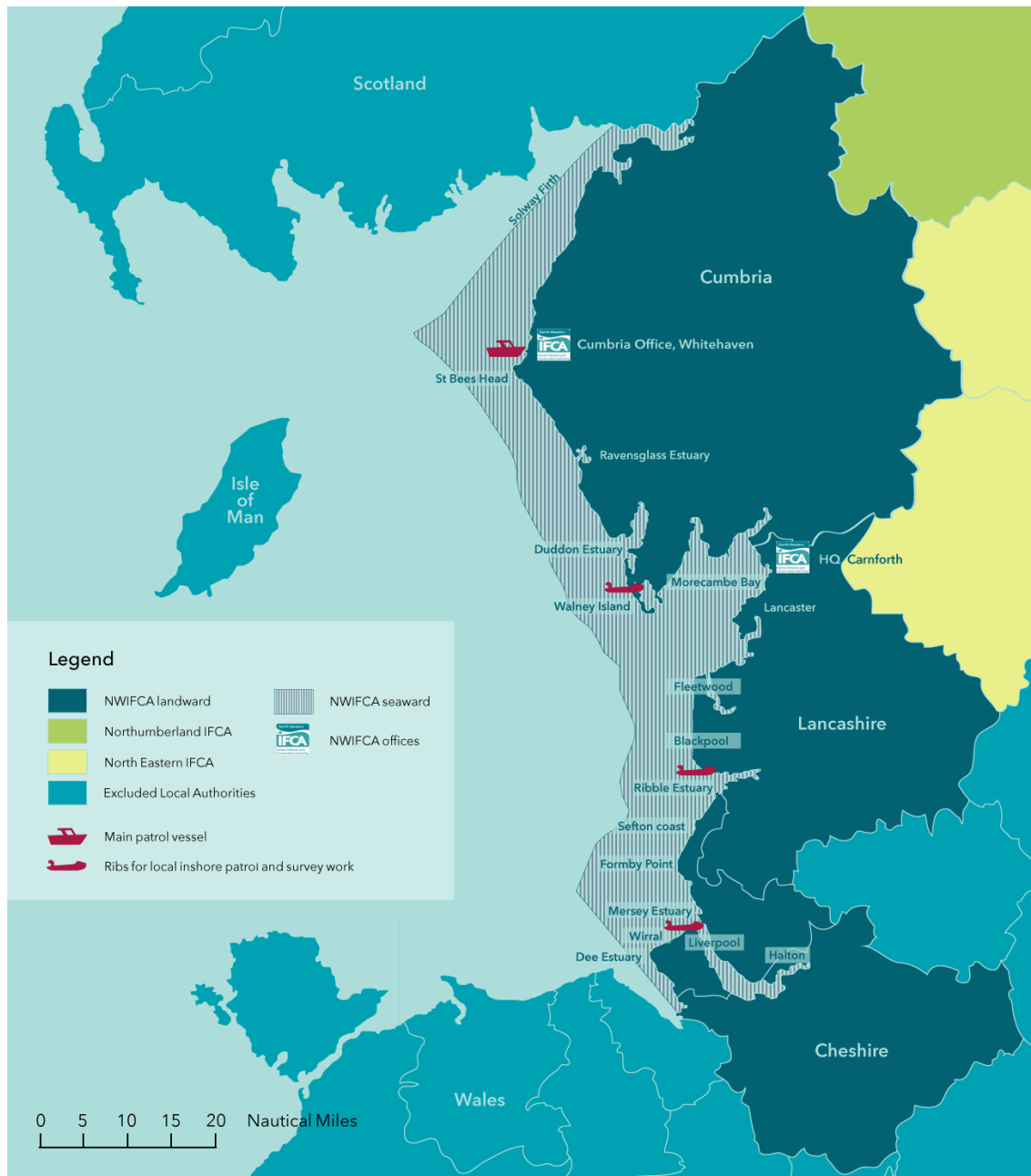
## Key duties under MaCAA 2009

The key duties for NWIFCA set out in section 153 and 154 in MaCAA 2009 are:

- 1) NWIFCA must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in it's district, in doing so it must:
  - a. Seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way.
  - b. Seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the district with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation.
  - c. Take any other steps which in the Authority's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development.
  - d. Seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district.
  - e.
- 2) NWIFCA must also seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ in the district are furthered

## Authority Area

The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority district spans 850km of coastline. It reaches from the Welsh Border in the Dee Estuary to the Scottish Border in the Solway Firth. The area covered includes coastal Council landward areas and sea areas up to 6 nautical miles off shore.



Picture relevant to area

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## **Funding**

### **Levy**

A 3% increase in the levy for the 2022/23 financial year has been approved by the Finance Sub-Committee and the Authority, setting the levy at £1,404,735.

### **Overall 2022-23 Budget**

#### **Income**

Levy £1,404,735

Shellfish Sampling £9,000

Permit Fees £75,000

Interest £9,000

#### **Expenditure**

Employees £1,028,694

Premises £60,800

Transport £205,490

Supplies & Services £53,600

Corporate £28,000

Replacement of Patrol Vessel £121,151

## **Assets**

The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) has an annual budget of approximately £1.3 million. Two thirds of the budget is raised from a levy on local councils and one third is paid by Defra. The Authority has two offices, one in Carnforth and another in Whitehaven and employs 21 staff who work in a variety of roles such as science, administration and enforcement.

### **Patrol Vessels**

The Authority has 5 Patrol vessels distributed across the District. The largest is Fisheries Protection Vessel – North Western Protector which is a 20.47m aluminium catamaran which is used for enforcement patrols and scientific surveys. The vessel has smaller RIB which can be launched Protector Charlie for boarding vessels at sea and conducting inspections.

Other vessel assets are Bay Protector a 7.5m RIB covering the Mersey, Dee and Liverpool Bay areas based out of Liverpool Marina. Protector Gamma is a 6.3m RIB covering the Morecambe Bay area in the centre of the District and is used for drying out on sandbanks and mussel beds for survey inspections of intertidal fisheries. The FPV Protector Bravo is a 7 metre “Osprey Viper” RIB. It was commissioned in 1999 to patrol close inshore, especially in the shallow waters of the upper Solway Firth. Protector Bravo also has a hauler for inspecting netting and potting fishing gear.

### **All-Terrain Vehicles**

Across the District officers use ATV quad bikes for patrolling large stretches of intertidal coastline during which they may conduct inspections of intertidal fishing gear such as stake nets or check permits of those gathering cockles or mussels from the numerous commercial fisheries present.

## **Membership of the Authority**

### **Appointed by Constituent Authorities:**

#### **Cumbria County Council**

Cllr. A. J. Markley & Cllr. M. Wilson

#### **Blackpool Borough Council**

Cllr. N. Brookes

#### **Lancashire County Council**

Cllr. S. Clarke & Cllr. J. Parr

#### **Sefton Council**

Cllr. S. McGinnity

#### **Wirral Council**

Cllr. S. Mountney

#### **Halton Borough Council**

Cllr. B. Woolfall

#### **Liverpool City Council**

Awaiting Appointment

#### **Cheshire West & Chester Council**

Cllr. P. Williams

### **Appointed by Marine Management Organisation:**

Dr. J. Andrews

Mr. N. Baxter

Mr. R. Benson

Mr. S. Brown

Mr. P. Capper

Mr. R. Donnan

Mr. W. Friend

Mr. D. Harpley

Mr. B. Leigh

Mr. R. Lomax

Mr. S. Manning

Dr. C. Mihailovici

Mr. G. Pidduck

Ms. C. Salthouse

Mr. L. Stainton

Mr. K. Thompson

1 Vacancy Awaiting Appointment

### **Statutory Appointees:**

#### **Environment Agency**

Ms. S. Kennedy

#### **Marine Management Organisation**

Mr. M. Taylor

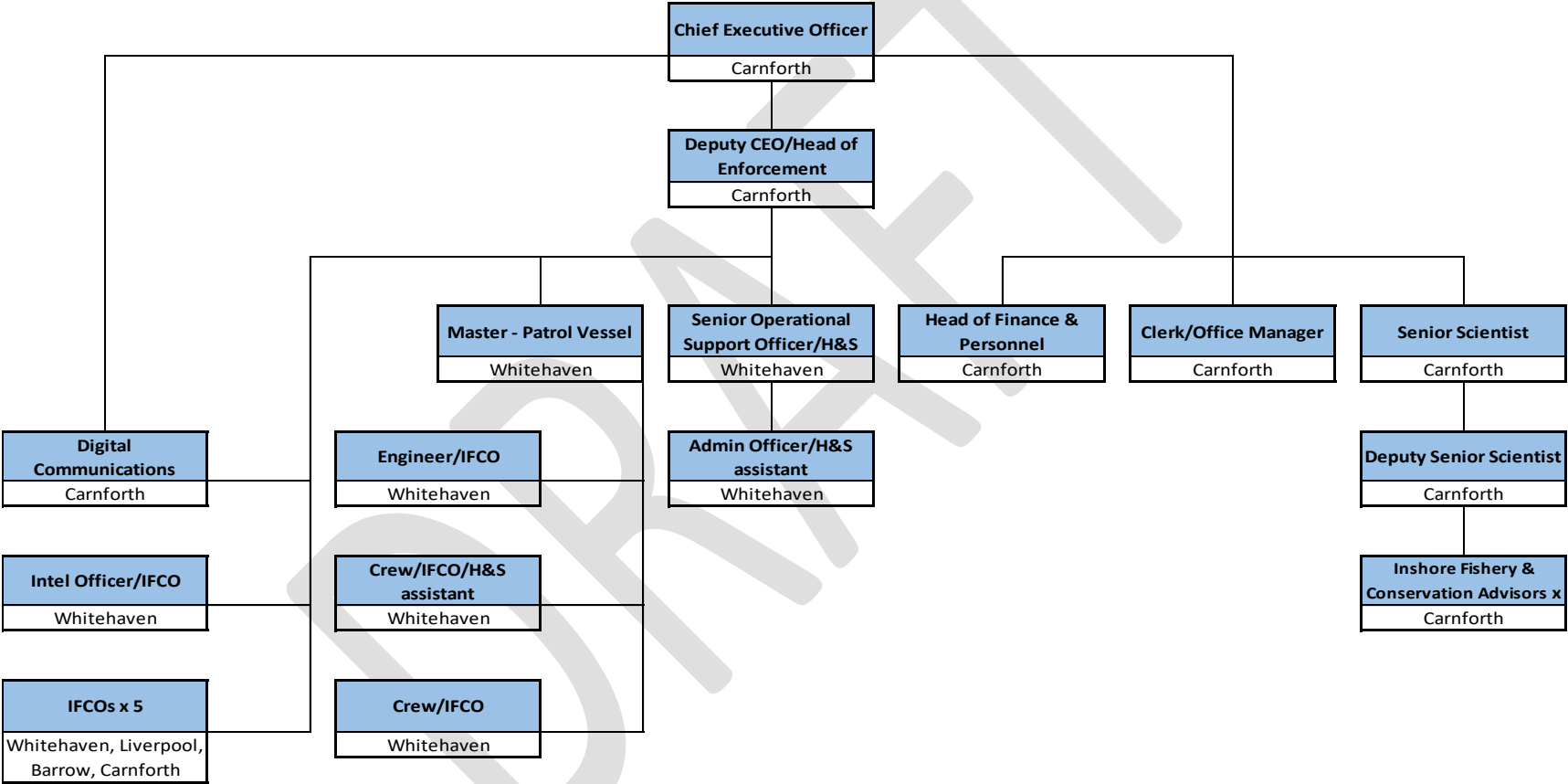
#### **Natural England**

Mr. L. Browning

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Staff and Structure



# Focus and Priorities for NWIFCA 2022-2023

A brief overview of the key work streams for NWIFCA over the financial year 2022-2023 is provided in the following section.

## Byelaw Review

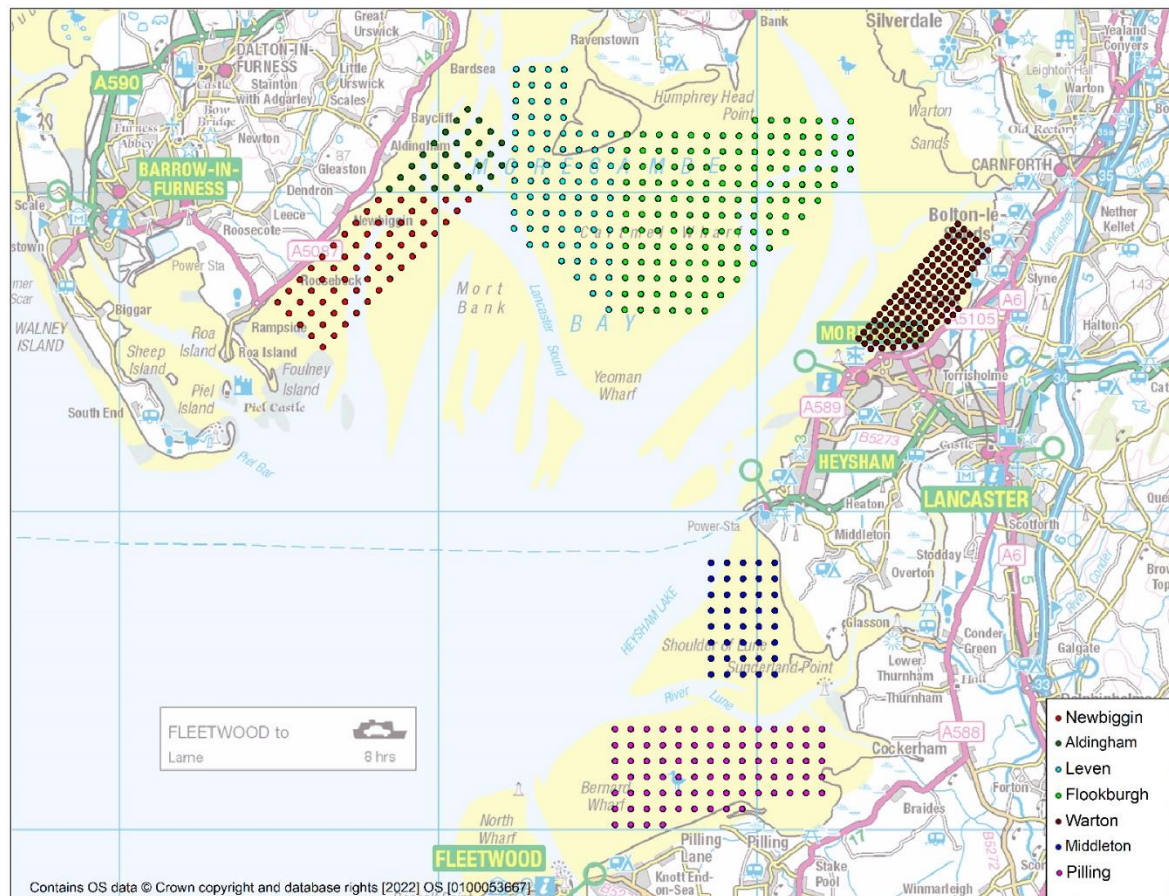
NWIFCA still retains legacy byelaws from the old Sea Fisheries Committees' and reviewing these byelaws in light of new national or regional fisheries management plans will be a productive way to modernise and rationalise NWIFCA legislation as well as meet national objectives. The previous year saw the development and completion of four new byelaws:

- 1) Byelaw 1 – Minimum Conservation References Sizes
- 2) Byelaw 2 – North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs
- 3) Byelaw 3 – Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit
- 4) Byelaw 4 – Potting Permit

The coming year will look to focus on the implementation of these byelaws and the development of further byelaws through the byelaw strategy working group. High priority byelaws include Byelaw 7 – Netting byelaw.

## Surveys

NWIFCA carry out extensive annual surveys for mussel and cockle stocks in the district. This is an ongoing priority work stream to inform management, build up a long term data set on stock variability and maintain a sustainable fishery. Annual side scan surveys of the Solway, and any additional emerging survey needs will be identified and developed where appropriate. A review on how we store and present data to best support any new fisheries management objectives will be conducted. (image)



## **Fisheries management plans**

NWIFCA will look to develop regional species specific management plans, with the aim of providing a clear framework for management. Such plans will be developed alongside stakeholders and Natural England. The Fisheries Act describes a framework where stock based fisheries management plans can be gear type and area specific, this potentially provides a national structure for our regional species specific stock plans/ management process to work within and provides a much clearer way to link into, and show progress against, the national fisheries objectives described in the Act. NWIFCA already have a clear annual management process for cockles and mussels and will look to develop these into an agreed plan. Additional plans for species such as whelk, will also be developed.

### **Consultation responses and participation in national working groups**

The Authority is also a statutory consultee for all marine licensing applications and consents occurring within its area of jurisdiction. These include applications relating to the discharge of effluents, marine water extraction, removal and deposition of dredged materials, harbour and coastal construction projects, scientific investigations and renewable energy projects. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) acts as the primary consultative body for the majority of licensing applications and consents involving construction.

NWIFCA will also continue to maintain longstanding participation in relevant working groups such as the national IFCA Technical Advisory Group, Whelk Working Group and NW Shellfish Liaison Group.

## Marine Protected Areas

The Authority is a “Relevant and Competent Authority” under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. This means that the Authority, along with other partners, has a statutory duty to ensure that the conservation objectives of European marine sites are upheld. Currently eleven European Marine Sites are designated within the Authority’s jurisdiction:

- Solway Firth SPA,
- Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA,
- Liverpool Bay SPA,
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries,
- SPA Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA,
- Dee Estuary SPA,
- Solway Firth SAC,
- Drigg Coast SAC,
- Morecambe Bay SAC,
- Shell Flat & Lune Deep SAC
- Dee Estuary SAC.

In addition to EMS, NWIFCA District also has seven MCZs these being:

- Cumbria Coast MCZ,
- Fylde MCZ,
- Allonby bay MCZ,
- West of Walney MCZ,
- Ribble Estuary MCZ,
- Wyre & Lune estuary MCZ
- Solway MCZ.

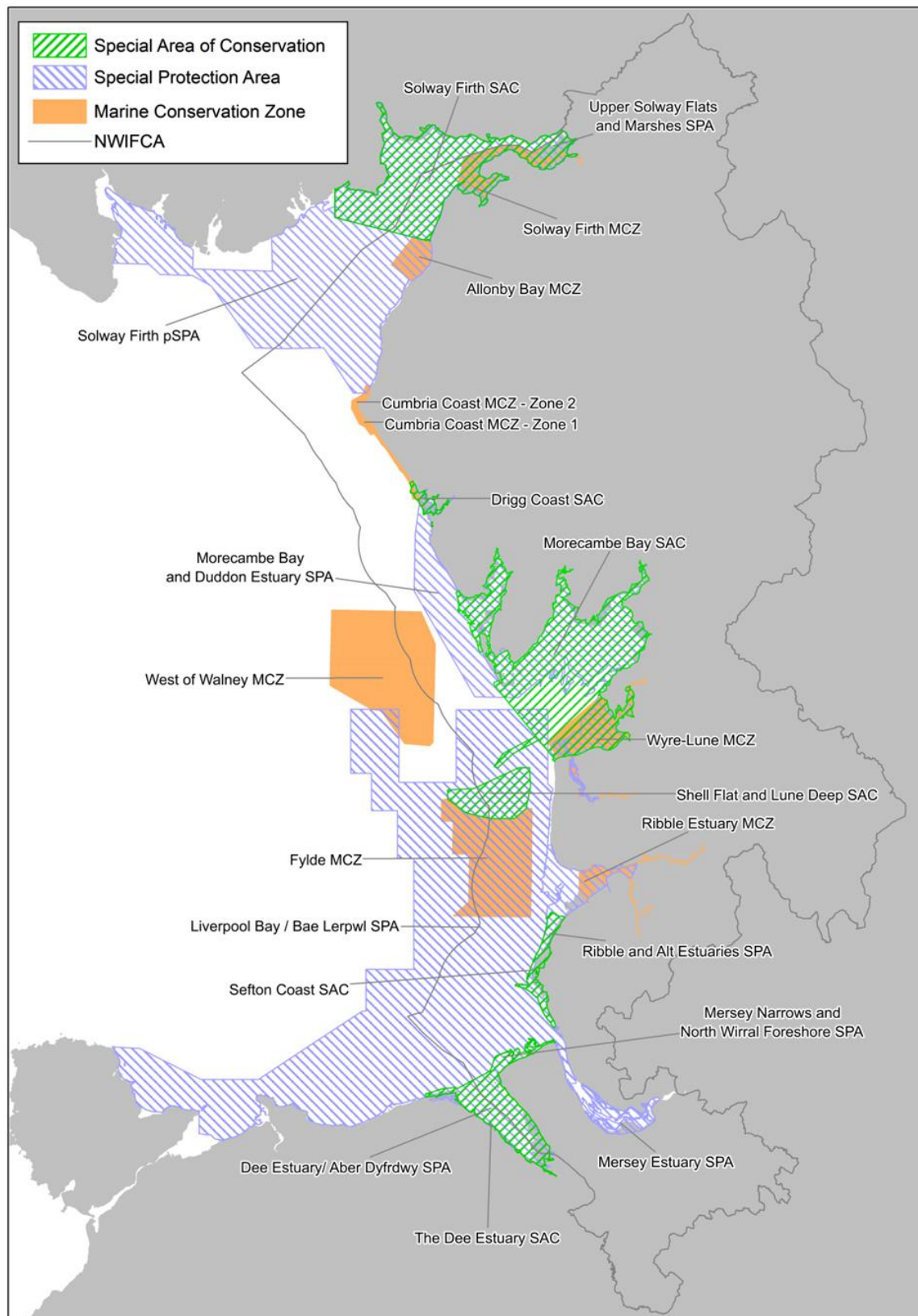
The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 allows for the creation of MCZs, the purpose of which is to protect a range of nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology, and can be designated anywhere in English and Welsh territorial and UK offshore waters.

During 2012 Defra commenced a project aimed at strengthening the assessment and management of fishing activities within European Marine Sites to ensure much greater compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. This revised approach was subsequently extended to include MCZs. All UK sites and associated fishing activities have now been categorised according to their features and the level of risk presented by both current and potential fishing activities. Each site is subject to ongoing monitoring and assessment of the potential impacts arising from fishing activity. This allows tailored management to be introduced to protect and conserve sensitive environmental features such as salt marsh or sabellaria. Over the coming year, NWIFCA will look to begin the outstanding fisheries assessments required for the remaining marine protected sites.

## Enforcement

To ensure compliance with MPA byelaws - intelligence led risk-based enforcement with deterrent and disruption achieved by maintaining a visible presence within the MPAs. Offshore areas of the

District will continue to be monitored by the large patrol vessels FPV North Wester Protector both during routine and targeted patrols. Working with the MMO on the inshore vessel monitoring project (IVMS) will also help develop an additional tool in achieving MPA compliance.



# Success Criteria for NWIFCA

To support the delivery of the national IFCA vision, IFCAs have agreed a revised set of success criteria matched with corresponding high-level objectives. The vision, success criteria and high level objectives are designed to assist in the creation of a shared understanding of the collective aims and objectives of IFCAs, and focus service delivery towards achievement of the national vision. These national IFCA performance criteria also link directly to the UK Marine Policy statement.

The following success criteria have been agreed and adopted nationally:

- 1) IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders**
- 2) IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime**
- 3) IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts**
- 4) IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional**
- 5) IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives**



PICTURE

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## Success Criteria 1

IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

IFCAs will be visible, respected and trusted regulator within coastal communities and will maintain and deliver a strategy to communicate their vision and duties effectively. IFCAs will engage with policy makers, industry, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), recreational and commercial users and other regulators. They will work jointly and collaboratively with partner organisations across boundaries; will participate and contribute to the development and implementation of regional and national marine policy, including the marine planning regime; will take long-term strategic decisions and manage risks effectively. IFCAs may maintain a national body to co-ordinate the activities of authorities that are party to arrangements.

### Indicators

**SC1A:** The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year

**SC1B:** The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year.

**SC1C:** The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month.

**SC1D:** The IFCA will have reviewed its website and ensured it meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March each year.

**SC1E:** The IFCA will have reviewed all of its Memoranda of Understanding by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed timescale.

**SC1F:** By 31 March each year, the IFCA will have participated appropriately, proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified in the annual plan.

# 2022-2023 NWIFCA Success Criteria 1 - Key Work Streams

Work Streams	Outputs
1.1) Database Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a review of the suitability of current database systems in use</li> <li>• Implement changes according to outcome of the review, this may include adaptations to the current database or seeking a new system.</li> <li>• Investigate feasibility of digital application forms and website integration.</li> </ul>
1.2) Increased Social Media Presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional officers trained in the use of the social media pages</li> <li>• Continued sourcing of material originating across all officers for posts to social media pages</li> <li>• Material planned for recognised days in advance such as World Ocean Day</li> <li>• Achieve verified status on Facebook and Twitter</li> </ul>
1.3) Increased External Presence Following lifting of Covid Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restart external in person talks</li> <li>• Engage with local museums</li> <li>• Build engagement with angling shops and local angling clubs</li> </ul>
1.4) Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build the history timeline of the Authority with additional key points in the Authority's history.</li> <li>• Additional staff trained on the use of the website.</li> <li>• Investigate feasibility of digital application forms and website integration.</li> </ul>

## Success Criteria 2

### **IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime**

**SC2A-** The Authority will publish its enforcement strategy on the website by the 1st of April. This strategy ensures that the Authority implements a balanced and fair enforcement regime for all stakeholders.

**SC2B-** The Authority will through annual reports demonstrate joint working with other agencies to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures will be reported.

**SC2C-** Enforcement data will be reported in quarterly meeting reports and on the website. Data is stored on NWIFCA intelligence systems, disseminated to the MMO and other relevant agencies.

**SC2D-** A standard code of practice for Inshore Fisheries officers has been applied since 2012 and is reviewed annually by the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group.

**SC2E-** New IFCOs trained to comply with code. Performance assessed and monitored by the Head of Enforcement and in annual appraisals. Training to be kept up to date. This includes enforcement and work related training.

**SC2F-** The Authority will contribute to development of national IFCA Training programme. Mandatory training of all IFCOs to be maintained to nationally agreed standards. All IFCOs to receive CPD to meet needs. Training register to be maintained. Training in-house following national scheme, jointly with partner agencies or purchased from external providers to be reviewed. Training objectives to be identified in job reviews.

# 2022-2023 NWIFCA Success Criteria 2 - Key Work Streams

Work Streams	Outputs
2.1) Continue Enforcement of Byelaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the compliance and enforcement strategy there will be continued enforcement of fisheries in the district through targeted and intelligence led management.</li> </ul>
2.2) New Byelaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement operational plans for the enforcement of Byelaw 1,2,3 &amp; 4</li> </ul>
2.3) Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop training of IFCOs through in-house and external training including the national Accreditation Scheme</li> </ul>
2.4) Development of new Byelaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing and review of NWIFCA Byelaws from legacy byelaws as recommended from the Byelaw strategy working group</li> </ul>
2.5) NIMEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued membership of National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG). Attend three meetings per year and contribute officer time to the running of NIMEG</li> </ul>

## Success Criteria 3

**IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts**

The IFCAs were created as statutory inshore regulators by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. They are relevant authorities for implementing international environmental commitments including the Birds, Habitats, Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives and make an important contribution to securing a network of well managed marine protected areas, including EMSs and MCZs.

Fisheries Management Plans identify local management measures which should be based on evidence; be timely; subject to appropriate consultation and in step with national initiatives and priorities. An IFCA should balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting sea fisheries resources with the need to protect the environment and should make a contribution to sustainable development.

### **Indicators:**

**SC3A:** The IFCA will record site specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority

**SC3B:** The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures on its website.

**SC3C:** Management information (e.g. sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to demonstrate the extent of the effectiveness of the intervention.

**SC3D:** The IFCA will have developed a range of criteria-based management options that are explained to stakeholders through the IFCA website and reviewed by 31 March each year.

**SC3E:** New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales.

**SC3F:** The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from Fisheries Management Plans in its own Annual Plan, which will be published by 31 March each year.

**SC3G:** Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.

# 2022-2023 NWIFCA Success Criteria 3 - Key Work Streams

Work Streams	Outputs
3.1) Byelaw Strategy Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a byelaw strategy to consolidate legacy byelaws into modernised legislation</li> <li>• Prioritise and delegate key byelaw reviews</li> <li>• Development of byelaws</li> <li>• Carrying out formal byelaw processes including drafting, consultation and quality assurance</li> </ul>
3.2) Byelaw Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Byelaw review documents</li> <li>• Reporting to Authority members</li> <li>• Byelaw advertising</li> <li>• Provisioning of permits and any relevant tags etc.</li> <li>• Communicating with permit holders</li> </ul>
3.3) Byelaw 4 - Potting Permit Byelaw Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction and implementation of the Byelaw 4 potting permit byelaw including setting up admin systems, education and communication with stakeholders</li> <li>• Setting up data collection systems to monitor returns data</li> <li>• Reviewing applications</li> <li>• Collating data for appeals and establishing a panel from the committee</li> </ul>
3.4) Future Fisheries Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in national fisheries policy development as outlined in the Fisheries Act 2020</li> <li>• Development of species management plans</li> <li>• Review how we store and present management data to best support any new fisheries management plan objectives or format</li> <li>• Consult with NE and Authority on the plans</li> </ul>
3.5) MPA Management and Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out assessments required to develop management measures</li> <li>• Work with local stakeholders to develop management options</li> <li>• Where appropriate, carry out the formal byelaw making process</li> <li>• Implement NWIFCA monitoring and control plan</li> <li>• Develop management in line with government policy and best available evidence</li> </ul>

NWIFCA still retains legacy byelaws from the old Sea Fisheries Committees' and reviewing these byelaws in light of new national or regional fisheries management plans will be a productive way to modernise and rationalise NWIFCA legislation as well as meet national objectives. The previous year saw the development and completion of four new byelaws:

## Success Criteria 4

**IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.**

IFCAs are statutory authorities and sit within the local government family. Authority members may be either general members or local councillors. They comply with Codes of Conduct and the Standing Orders that apply to meetings of local government committees. General members are appointed on merit, through open competition and for a term. They are subject to an annual performance appraisal.

An IFCA is funded by levy, charged to its member councils. Funding originates in local taxation. An IFCA is accountable for its use of public resources and should ensure that a proper auditing regime provides confidence in its commitment and spend of public money. It should make effective use of its resources, including staff and assets. An IFCA has a statutory obligation to prepare and publish Annual Plans and Annual Reports.

**SC4A:** The IFCA will publish a Plan on its website by 31 March, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.

**SC4B:** After the end of each financial year, the IFCA will publish a Report on its website describing its activities, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.

**SC4C:** IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.

**SC4D:** An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.

**SC4E:** The IFCA will have demonstrated, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation District have worked responsively and effectively together.



**Picture**

## Success Criteria 5

### **IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives**

IFCAs are statutory regulators for their Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. Decision making should be based on evidence. All IFCAs are supported by officers who pool their expertise and share best practice as a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). A programme of research activity and monitoring is planned, developed, and updated in consultation with partners. The programme informs management decisions and supports justification for additional research and evidence gathering.

#### **Indicators:**

**SC5A:** The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has been made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year.

**SC5B:** The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making.

**SC5C:** The IFCA's contribution to TAG and progress that has been made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report

# 2022-2023 NWIFCA Success Criteria 5 - Key Work Streams

Work Streams	Outputs
5.1) Scientific Surveys (sea-going)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and carry out habitat surveys in the Solway to inform future mussel fisheries</li> <li>• Plan and carry out Solway cockle survey</li> <li>• Process and analyse survey data</li> <li>• Prepare project report</li> </ul>
5.2) Scientific Surveys (shore based)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and carry out shore based surveys (cockles, mussels, bivalve)</li> <li>• Process and analyse survey data</li> <li>• Prepare project report</li> <li>• Report to TSB</li> </ul>
5.3) Participate in TAG Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend and contribute to TAG meetings and report on meeting</li> </ul>
5.4) Consultation and Engagement with Major Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide feedback on relevant marine works to developers, MMO and the planning inspectorate</li> <li>• Provide evidence to help with development decisions and impact assessments where required</li> <li>• Attend relevant meetings with external stakeholders regarding proposed works</li> <li>• Disseminate relevant information to industry</li> </ul>
5.5) Cockle Fishery Stock Assessment and Fishery Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual cockle survey planning</li> <li>• Annual cockle surveys</li> <li>• Analysis of survey data</li> <li>• Preparation of HRA's and delivery of recommendations for management</li> <li>• Production of survey notes / results</li> <li>• Consultation with NE re. HRA advice and conclusions</li> <li>• Update technical science and byelaw committee on progress and management decisions</li> <li>• Develop permit conditions / authorisations</li> </ul>
5.6) Mussel Fishery Stock Assessment and Fishery Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual mussel survey planning</li> <li>• Annual mussel surveys</li> <li>• Analysis of survey data</li> <li>• Preparation of HRA's and delivery of recommendations for management</li> <li>• Production of survey notes / results</li> <li>• Consultation with NE re. HRA advice and conclusions</li> <li>• Update technical science and byelaw committee on progress and management decisions</li> <li>• Develop permit conditions / authorisations</li> </ul>

5.7) Whelk SOM Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse data</li> <li>• Prepare report on the research findings</li> <li>• Present work to TSB</li> </ul>
5.8) Annual Research Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare annual research plan</li> <li>• Assess research priorities and time planning</li> </ul>
5.9) Dispensations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the suitability of dispensation applications and proposed activities</li> <li>• Provide dispensation for activities from byelaws in consultation with enforcement team</li> </ul>
5.10) Data Analysis and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of GIS, data and analysis to inform evidence requirements e.g maps, vessel sightings and fish stocks etc.</li> <li>• Maintain data sources – IFCO shore sightings, and patrol vessel sightings</li> <li>• To work where possible to MEDIN standards</li> </ul>
5.11) Support Development and Maintenance of MPA Management Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop MCZ and EMS fisheries assessments for outstanding sites</li> <li>• Prepare any required evidence needed for management</li> </ul>
5.12) Develop Species Management Plans for District Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Fisheries Act and Statements and scope of requirements, national, regional, and priority species etc.</li> <li>• Assess data held and data requirement to inform species management plans.</li> <li>• Prepare new and update existing species management plans</li> </ul>
5.13) Biosecurity Plan Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise and implement the NWIFCA biosecurity plan alongside NE</li> </ul>
5.14) Scientific Survey Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of vehicles and equipment for shore based scientific surveys</li> </ul>
5.15) Participate in and Contribute to Relevant Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain attendance and involvement with national, regional and area specific groups such as FISHGIG, Whelk working group, Blue carbon working group, NW standing environment group, NW Shellfish liaison group, Solway firth partnership, Mersey tidal power etc.)</li> </ul>
5.16) Electro Clam Fishing Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide dispensation for project</li> <li>• Conduct HRA for project</li> <li>• Maintain liaison with project director</li> </ul>

