

NWIFCA Meeting: 23rd March 2023 11:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
7**

HEAD OF ENFORCEMENT/ ACTING CEO QUARTERLY REPORT – 1ST NOVEMBER – 31ST JANUARY 2023

Purpose: For information.

Recommendations:

1. That the report is received
2. Subject to approval from the F&P committee repairs to NWP gearboxes are approved.

General Update

Joint Fisheries Statement

The Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) was published on 23 November 2022. It sets the direction of UK fisheries management following Brexit, outlining how the fisheries policy authorities of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland will meet the eight objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020 to achieve environmental and economic sustainability. The All Party Parliamentary Group or APPG on fisheries has published a digest on the publication of the JFS. This digest focuses on how the final version of the JFS differs from the consultation draft published earlier in 2022. [The Joint Fisheries Statement: What you need to know.](#)

Members will note the inclusion of a Cockle Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) in the timetable.

Highly Protected Marine Area

On the 28th of February it was announced by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural affairs of the intention to designate three Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMA). One which is Allonby Bay in North Cumbria to the south of the Solway Firth.

The intention of the HPMA is to allow the marine environment to fully recover from any harmful activities. Allonby Bay along with the other two designated sites were chosen due to the ecological significance of nature recovery in these areas. Following the recommendations in the Benyon review the HPMA at Allonby Bay has been established to complement the existing marine protected areas.

Since previously reported, there has been a revision in Allonby Bay HPMA boundaries to allow for recreational angling. This includes access for disabled anglers and for activities which hold importance to the local community. The revised boundaries also consider the needs of Maryport Harbour and the Port of Silloth.

Further updates will be provided to members when we receive more information. Officers expect due to the nature of preventing all extractive activities, that DEFRA will instruct the MMO to implement a byelaw, enforceable by NWIFCA as has previously taken place with marine conservation zones.

National funding has been set aside for the procurement of a small patrol vessel and for two members of staff however the duration of this funding has not been confirmed.

Fisheries Management Plans

Post EU Exit, UK Fisheries Administrations have the responsibility to ensure that management of fisheries is carried out in recognising specific needs of the diverse seafood industry and marine environment. A new fisheries framework has been created consisting of the Fisheries Act 2020, associated SI's, relevant retained EU law, Joint Fisheries Statement, Fisheries management plans and the Fisheries Framework memorandum of understanding.

The UK government's ambition for the new framework is:

- To deliver world class, sustainable management of our sea fisheries and aquaculture across the UK, and to play our part in supporting delivery of this globally.
- As part of being an independent coastal State, the fisheries policy authorities will work together to support a vibrant, profitable, and sustainable fishing and aquaculture sector supported by a healthy marine environment that is resilient to climate change.
- To deliver this by protecting and, where necessary, recovering our fish stocks. Reducing the adverse effects of fishing on the marine and coastal environment and supporting a modern, resilient, and environmentally responsible fishing industry.

Moving forwards outside of the EU, there is a focus on specific fisheries priorities and FMPs are seen as a key instrument in moving away from the Common Fisheries policy framework. The strategy of FMPs will set out policies to deliver a marine environment with healthy and productive fish stocks supporting a profitable seafood sector. FMPs will help to inform future management actions, our negotiations with the EU, and drive the reform of retained EU law and create better regulation.

FMPs are designed to secure the long-term sustainability of stocks for current and future fisheries and will seek obligations on fisheries Authorities to deliver towards this. Individual FMPs will identify specific measures to deliver policies including both existing and new regulations such as statutory instruments, technical measures or non-statutory roads such as research plans, voluntary agreements and codes of conduct. The use of these mechanisms will depend on the direction of the plan and will be enforced by the relevant fisheries authority.

The preparation of FMPs is to be approached by fisheries authorities working with stakeholders to consider different approaches and they must be monitored in their effectiveness and have statutory evaluation.

FMPs are required to specify whether there is sufficient evidence to assess a stock's Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). Where there is insufficient evidence, the FMP must specify the steps (if any) that the relevant authority or authorities propose to take to obtain the scientific evidence necessary to enable an assessment of a stock's MSY. If no steps are proposed, the FMP will explain the reasons for that, and how sustainable limits or alternative policies will be established.

Each FMP needs to set out specific indicators that managers will use to assess the effectiveness of the plan and assist in monitoring how it has contributed to fisheries objectives.

FMPs have been set out as the mechanism for DEFRA and arm's length bodies such as NWIFCA to implement the targets of the Fisheries Act 2020. DEFRA have set out how IFCA's will be key to the development, and this has been demonstrated in the allocation of funding recently and in the future. Six front runner FMPs have been put forward to pilot different ways of working with industry groups and stakeholders.

Seafish have been commissioned to deliver Crab & Lobster FMP and whelk FMP, the King scallop plan is a joint plan between Defra and Welsh government (covers English & Welsh waters). The delivery of these plans was for drafts to be submitted by the end of January, at the point these are

published they will be communicated to members. Public consultation is expected between April and June. Other FMPs for non-quota species are concerned with the Southern North Sea and English Channel.

As well as coordinating IFCA engagement in the development of FMPs, the Association of IFCAs (AIFCA) has led the engagement with DEFRA outlining the workloads and resource needs of all ten IFCAs to help facilitate and engage in this process. As a direct consequence of this engagement, an additional £500,000 has been made available to IFCAs this year from DEFRA and each IFCA has now received further funding in support of this programme. There is a commitment to continue this until the end of the SR21 period (2024/25). However, given the current uncertainties over departmental budgets, future funding will be determined over the course of the year.

The work Defra are asking IFCAs to do to includes:

- Supporting the Defra led English FMP programme;
- Helping to coordinate communications and engagement with inshore fishing communities; and,
- Contributing fisheries management experience through technical advice and evidence to support policy development and implementation planning.

The IFCAs will also have an important role in supporting the future implementation of FMPs by contributing to the evaluation of policy and measures in pre-consultation draft and final FMPs.

Cockle FMP

A cockle FMP is listed in the Joint Fisheries Statement to be published in 2024. DEFRA have invited IFCAs to lead on the development of the FMP and see the benefit of “ring binder” approach bringing together ongoing management so that there is an overview of what are essentially federal managed stocks now. The FMP should be enabling for the local management and could be relatively high-level in terms of national policy/goals.

To explore this opportunity further AIFCA Chief officer has facilitated meetings between Defra colleagues and Kent & Essex IFCA, Eastern IFCA and NWIFCA. An initial project scoping document has been produced which is attached to this report as Annex One. The indicative budget for the programme is £150K which would be allocated to relevant delivery partners.

North Western Protector Update

A meeting of the finance & Personnel committee took place on the 16th of February at which the committee voted in support of remanufacturing the engines of the patrol vessel subject to approval from the full Authority. Shortly after a vote was communicated to the full Authority by email and passed in favour of proceeding with the remanufacturing of the engines.

Funds were withdrawn from the NWIFCA reserves and a 30% deposit has been paid to PME group. Work is commencing on the required repairs. Master and Engineer have visited the yard in Plymouth to inspect the engines.

Unfortunately the contractor had discovered during inspection, that the port and starboard gearboxes were determined to need significant repairs. Officers report that until now the gearboxes had seemed to be functioning well however they are 13 years old and thus have presented issues of wear. Due to location in the engine bay, they cannot be accessed without removing the engines so conducting the repairs now will reduce the costs of having to remove the engines again in the future.

The cost of the repairs to the gearboxes will be £46,000. This is realistically the only option as new gearboxes will encounter the same issues previously presented with not being compatible with the existing setup of the drive system.

Conducting these repairs now will ensure that the vessel is not subjected to further periods of downtime and is able to be operationally active for enforcement and survey programmes.

Recommendation: Proceed with remanufacturing of the port and starboard gearboxes of North Western Protector.

Eden Project Morecambe

Eden Project Morecambe (previously Eden Project North) has been awarded £50 million in the second round of the UK Governments levelling up fund. This allows the project to move into its next phase and begin the process of finalising remaining funds from other funders.

The project will form a major attraction for both Morecambe and the North West focusing on education, ecology and community. Acting Chief officer has had an initial meeting with the project leads surrounding how NWIFCA may feed into assisting with developing immersive experiences as a part of the project as well as communicating with stakeholders.

The project is expected to be delivered by 2026.

MAFCO

Acting CEO presented at MAFCO on the NWIFCA and then at a more recent meeting on MPAs in the NWIFCA District.

Funding

Owing to work completed with regards to National workstreams funding will be received from DEFRA for assisting with the initial phases of FMPs and also HPMA's with £50K allocated for both. It is expected that similar payments will be made over the next two financial years.

Staffing

In January Grace Edwards was successful in recruitment for the position of IFCO & Communications Officer. Grace had been working a temporary contract in the Whitehaven area but will soon be based out of the Carnforth Office supporting IFCO Graham and carrying out duties of Comms officer.

Callum Sirkett has left the Authority to pursue a new career in Health & Safety, Callum has been working with us since 2017 and has been a valued and enthusiastic member of the team. We wish him all the best in the future.

Training

In January the IFCA officer training course was held in Torquay. The training course is seen as a "right of passage" for staff. 3 members of staff attended the course where they progress through training in Fisheries law, inspections, fish ID. A highlight is always the trip to Brixham fish market. The course provides one of only a few opportunities for IFCOs to work and socialise with staff from other IFCA's, learning and sharing experience with peers. I am pleased to report that all staff scored exceptionally well and in addition it was great to hear positive feedback from course trainers how enthusiastic our staff are.

One officer updated their first aid course during the quarter.

Meetings

Acting Chief/Head of Enforcement has continued to attend: Chief Officers Group, NIMEG, MAFCO, AIFCA, Regional Fisheries Group Meetings, FMP groups

Legislative update

Byelaw 1

Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes. Byelaw has been submitted for signatory. No Further update has been received.

It was agreed at the previous TSB meeting that the Vice Chair would write to the Minister to enquire and encourage progress with signatory.

Bass

In December, January & February recreational fishers were restricted to catch and release only whilst fishing for European Seabass. From 1st of March until 30th of November not more than two seabass may be retained per fisher per day.

As with previous years commercial fishing for bass is subject to restrictions. Under The Sea Fisheries (Amendment etc.)(No.2) Regulations 2021 all commercial fishing vessels are now authorised to land bass caught by demersal trawls and seines with no written authorisation required. Though still subject to a 5% by weight per trip. The Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (legislation.gov.uk) sets an unavoidable by-catch limit of 760 kilogrammes in any two consecutive months including December 2022 and January 2023.

Fishing commercially for bass using other gears (fixed net, hook & line) requires an authorisation from the MMO. In the Irish sea this is only permitted inside 12nm. Authorisations to fish are only valid from 1st of April until 31st December.

Issues around the commercial shore fishing for Bass in relation to 26 nets in the NWIFCA district have yet to be resolved due to there still being no legislative framework.

U10 Quota

Defra and the MMO have decided to temporarily remove the quota cap which was placed on 440 under-10m vessels with effect from 1st March 2023 for the remainder of the 2023 fishing year. Defra intend to have made a final policy decision in respect of the cap before the start of the 2024 fishing year. The cap restricted the total amount of quota species that could be landed in a year to 350kg. The cap was put in place to remove latent capacity in the fleet.

Additional quota derived from leaving the EU and an increasing need for the under-10m fleet to diversify, enabled the temporary removal of the cap on a trial basis during 2020, 2021 and 2022 fishing years. Following a review of these trials Defra and the MMO have decided to temporarily remove the cap for the remainder of 2023. All English under-10m vessels that have their catch limits managed by the MMO will now be able to fish up to the monthly limits published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-catch-limits-10-metres-and-under-pool/current-catch-limits-10-metres-and-under-pool-2019>"

Patrol & Enforcement

Patch Summaries for the quarter are given in the table below:

Patch	Summary Points
Haverigg Point – Burghmarsh Point – IFCOs Thinnesen , Thinnesen and Sirkett, Edwards	<p>Shore and quad patrols were undertaken throughout the north of the district covering all known ports and hot spots from Port Carlisle to Haverigg Point.</p> <p>A total of 71 daily patrols carried out in the quarter, with 514 places visited by officers.</p> <p>Trawling - Some activity was observed from local trawlers targeting prawns (nephrops) and bait fish (plaice – dogfish) from grounds southwest of St Bees, 6 to 10 nautical miles. Single vessels were monitored at sea on VMS inside 6 nautical miles, during the quarter. Some reports of prawns being caught between 10 - 15 stones per day on the odd occasion, by vessels from Maryport and Whitehaven who landed to Co-operatives and also direct to the public at both ports.</p> <p>Other vessels from Maryport changed over to the Manx scallop fishery in November.</p> <p>Potting - Activity on VMS over the quarter showed whelking vessels out of Whitehaven, Fleetwood and Maryport frequently seen, with vessels engaged in whelk potting outside of the district.</p> <p>Vessels from Fleetwood were seen fishing north of north Wales, 6 – 10 miles off the coast, west of Formby, south and north of the Isle of Man.</p> <p>It has been good to see some local vessels now starting to pioneer the grounds inside of the NW-IFCA 6-mile limit, but the majority of the fishing has been carried out, outside of the district.</p> <p>Only a small number of vessels targeting lobster and brown crab continued to fish pots, these vessels targeted areas North and South of Whitehaven, mixed reports from fishers of quantity of lobsters and crab being caught.</p> <p>Creel pots for shrimps have been used in the latter part of the month, with mixed results. Although skippers have said that once they gets used to the new grounds, they can target the better areas with respect to putting the pots on any ground.</p> <p>Thirty seven vessels of both whelking and lobster boats were sighted on VMS.</p> <p>Angling - As expected at this time of the year, activity on beaches and piers was evident at all areas, but in smaller numbers. Reports of angling taking place during dark hours, targeting codlings. As winter months came in, night time fishing was the norm for codlings.</p> <p>During this quarter during daylight hours 42 anglers were seen on piers and beaches, and effort seems to be down this year compared to other years.</p> <p>Beach Nets – 3 nets were seen on beaches after 1st December to date in the north Cumbria area.</p> <p>Other Duties - Other duties undertaken was VMS satellite surveillance work, on board North Western Protector working alongside of other crew members in taking engines out and cleaning and upgrading engine room bays.</p>

	<p>ATV Patrols – ATV patrols were carried out in district during the quarter, with one undertaken the northern part of the Cumbria district from Maryport North – Beckfoot area. This patrol was quiet and at low water to try and access Ellison Scar. There was nothing to report in this area.</p> <p>Another patrol was conducted in the Southern part of the Cumbria district covering the area of Drigg to Ravenglass. Up to Sellafield area (river Calder) was also covered within this patrol there was again nothing to report.</p>
Haverigg Point – Arnside – IFCO Dixon	<p>Mussels - Activity was at the usual low level of a few local based gatherers fulfilling small orders for depuration/relaying elsewhere in the country, also the gatherers who usually worked on Foulney were travelling to Southport to work on the cockle bed. Activity increased slightly during late January on the spring tides, when several buyers requested samples of the mussels from Foulney to try and generate orders.</p> <p>I continue to take samples from the mussel beds for local Authority Environmental Health Officers, although the mussel bed in the Duddon Estuary has been declassified due to the bed decreasing to such an extent that it is no longer commercially viable, due to natural causes.</p> <p>Cockles - No activity was observed or reported on any of the cockle beds in North Morecambe Bay area.</p> <p>I assisted NWIFCA Science Officers in a brief survey of the cockle bed at Flookburgh after reports of a heavy spatfall.</p> <p>I continue to take cockle samples for the local Authority Environmental Health Department from Newbiggin and Flookburgh.</p> <p>I assisted my colleagues in the operation of the cockle bed at Southport on several occasions.</p> <p>Shrimping - I have not seen or heard any reports of any shrimping activity during the quarter. This activity has been made even more difficult due to the changing course of the Leven channel, which has made the usual access routes impassable to tractors due to the depth of water.</p> <p>Potting - During the quarter potting activity has been at a low level, with vessels occasionally working inside the District from Barrow. Although catch reports have been low, which is usual for the time of year. Some vessels continue to work outside the District but they also have been fairly inactive during the quarter.</p> <p>Netting - Occasional reports of vessels netting during the early part of the reporting period were received, but no sightings were made. No activity has been heard of or seen during January. No beach nets were observed or reported either.</p> <p>Angling - Angling activity also decreased during the quarter which is usual for the time of year, once the Bass have left the area. Occasional reports of codling being caught, and some low levels of activity from the Irish sea coast of Walney, Walney channel and the coast road.</p>

<p>Arnside – Lytham – IFCO Graham</p>	<p>Lytham - The Seafeld Road seed mussel fishery closed at the end of December. A quantity of mussel still remains within the area.</p> <p>In addition to the regular monthly sampling, a sample of 400 mussels was taken from Ribble Training walls in January as part of the FSA's chemical contaminant monitoring programme.</p> <p>Knott End - No gathering of mussels has occurred over the reporting period. Periodic recreational angling took place over highwater.</p> <p>Pilling - The cockle bed in the area remains shut and no incidents of gathering have been detected. Monthly sampling continues and spat is present at the sample point.</p> <p>Heysham - Sampling has continued at Heysham Flat on a bi-weekly basis around the tide, and laboratory and courier hours. Due to the tides the samples, have often been taken in the early morning. The results have been consistently within Class B and A. However, a lot of mussel has now washed out from the area over the winter.</p> <p>No offences have been detected in the Heysham Bass Nursery Area. Activity in the area appears to have decreased following prosecutions and fines issued over the years.</p> <p>Other - IFCO Graham has spent time working on the Authority's transferal to Microsoft 365. The move from Lake District National Park's mail servers to Microsoft's was carried out successfully in early January. The transfer of files from Lake District National Parks servers is currently underway. A NWIFCA SharePoint site dubbed "IFCA Net" is being created to provide an internal central hub for officers to access internal news and documents.</p> <p>Work has started on a new intelligence database to improve how NWIFCA records intelligence reports received and to allow greater capabilities for the reporting and interrogating of data.</p>
<p>Dee-Southport – IFCO Brownrigg, Taylor</p>	<p>During this quarter officers have continued to concentrate their efforts overseeing the enforcement of the Penfold cockle fishery on Southport. Due to this requirement, enforcement commitments to normal regular tasks have been limited. Byelaw 2 – North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs continues to remain in place along the north Wirral coastline and has been routinely monitored.</p> <p>On behalf of West Lancashire Borough Council officers continue to collect the monthly MSH sample collection required to maintain the classification of the Penfold fishery.</p> <p>Officers have continued to provide advice and support to Mersey Port Health Authority, Gangmasters Labour & Abuse Authority, Natural Resources Wales, RSPB and Sefton Council.</p> <p>Hand Gathering Bi Valve - Some 765 inspections have taken place throughout this quarter. To date, officers have continued to observe compliancy amongst the gatherers. Other than a temporary closure during the third week in December due to a consistent drop in temperature, the fishery remained open over the Christmas break. Low level gathering activity briefly resumed after the festive period. However, due to a low meat yield and a drop in price, all gathering activity ceased during the latter part of January and this remains no change.</p>

	<p>Recreational Rod Angling Shore – Thirty nine inspections of shore and beach anglers have taken place during this quarter, with the promenades of Wallasey front continuing to remain active. In particular, Seacombe and Magazine promenades continue to be most popular. Catches of dab and whiting have been recorded.</p> <p>Catch recordings continue to be minimum due to a positive catch and release approach by anglers.</p> <p>Recreational/Charter Boat Angling - Area officers have continued to observe several small recreational and charter angling vessels operating within the Liverpool Bay and River Mersey areas. Unfortunately, only recordings by sightings have been able to take place.</p> <p>Premises Inspections - Officers have continued to provide a presence at Liverpool Fish Market. Routine inspections of the four independent units have continued to take place offering guidance and direction.</p> <p>During the numerous inspections officers have recorded bass, mackerel, mullet and lobster. No minimum landing size issues were recorded.</p>
<p>North Western Protector</p>	<p>North Western Protector has been out of service throughout the whole of the reporting period due to mechanical problems.</p> <p>The engines were taken out of the vessel on the 21st November 2022, this work was carried out by boat crew with some assistance from S B Engineering.</p> <p>Both engines were transported down to Plymouth in order to carry out a full assessment by MAN (Engine) at their main service and repair facility.</p> <p>With both the engines being out of the vessel, we took the opportunity to give the engine bays a complete industrial clean and overhaul which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replacing corroded pipe work • electrical repairs • re-cladding and insulating both engine compartments • repairs to hydraulic systems <p>All work was carried out by patrol boat crew and took several weeks to complete.</p> <p>At the time of writing this report replacement parts for jet drive units finally arrived from Sweden, this order was placed on the 11th October 2022.</p> <p>Once the engines are back in North Western Protector, we can slip the vessel and fit the replacement parts, along with antifouling the vessels hulls.</p> <p>Whelks - Whelk vessels which fish the Eastern Irish Sea continue to make landings into Whitehaven however prices for Whelks have dropped off, this along with some very poor weather during the quarter has resulted in a number of fishing days lost.</p> <p>Trawling - The Maryport vessels have continued to fish throughout the reporting period with some moderate catches of prawns (Nephrops) and thorn back rays being reported. Depending on the catch, most of the time these vessels continue to sell their catch to the general public from the quay side.</p>

	<p>One Maryport vessel caught 3 common skate during one of his trips this quarter. As these fish are highly protected the crew immediately returned the skate back to sea.</p> <p>Boat Angling - Boat angling as can be expected for this time of year, is quiet throughout the district due to weather conditions being very poor. On the odd day boat anglers got out to sea, they reported good catches of thornback ray.</p> <p>Other Duties - Patrol boat crew have been tasked with mainly repairs and maintenance on North Western Protector, coding work on Protector Gamma, and shore patrols when required.</p> <p>Details of all patrols carried out on shore this quarter can be found in the Shore Based Activity report.</p>
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General

Environmental health sampling

IFCOs conducted a great deal of environmental health sampling for local authorities across the North West for shellfish beds and aquaculture operations. As this is outside of the statutory function of NWIFCA it is an activity which the Authority charge out for. The number of samples has increased in recent years due to more classified shellfish beds and greater requirement for samples due to regular poor samples.

The charge out rate for samples had not been revised since 2016 and previous invoicing, did not account for officer travel time or vehicle usage. Thus a revised charge out rate has been communicated to local authority departments. This has been necessary for time of IFCOs taken away from statutory functions, covering fuel and vehicle maintenance costs.

Joint Working

A formal recognition of thanks was passed on from Lancashire Constabulary for NWIFCAs assistance in the intertidal searches for a missing person in the North West. NWIFCA often rely greatly on our policing partners, and this was an opportunity to help during a difficult operation for the force. The formal thank you was passed on to staff.

Officers have continued to attend Irish Sea tasking and coordination meetings which have informed multi agency work across the region. Intelligence continues to be shared with other agencies as appropriate.

Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award Application

HR officer and Acting CEO have been progressing with the application for the ERS Gold Award, the Authority having received the silver award twice. The award focuses on the continued engagement in supporting reservist staff, veteran employees as well as other work supporting the armed forces such as donating the zodiac RIB to the Whitehaven Sea Cadets, offers of training and assisting with media campaigns. More recently the acting Chief attended a breakfast with the Lions event at the Kimberley barracks in Preston, learning more about the benefits that employers can find through the scheme. The Acting CEO declined (due to work commitments) a visit to Norway from the Royal Marine reserves which was aimed at gaining an oversight of the training marines go through in cold climates and how the training our staff go through as reserves may benefit the Authority.

Fishery Report

Penfold Cockle Fishery- Cold Weather Suspension

A thorough report was prepared for the TSB committee meeting on the 7th of February surrounding a temporary closure due to severe cold weather in December. Members are encouraged to read the report prepared for that meeting.

The Fishery is not currently operating due to market influences but does remain open under the flexible permit conditions.

Due to an issue with data entry on the current database and a change over to a new system it appears in the table below that there have been no IFCOs present or inspections at some fisheries. I would like to assure members that this is not the case.

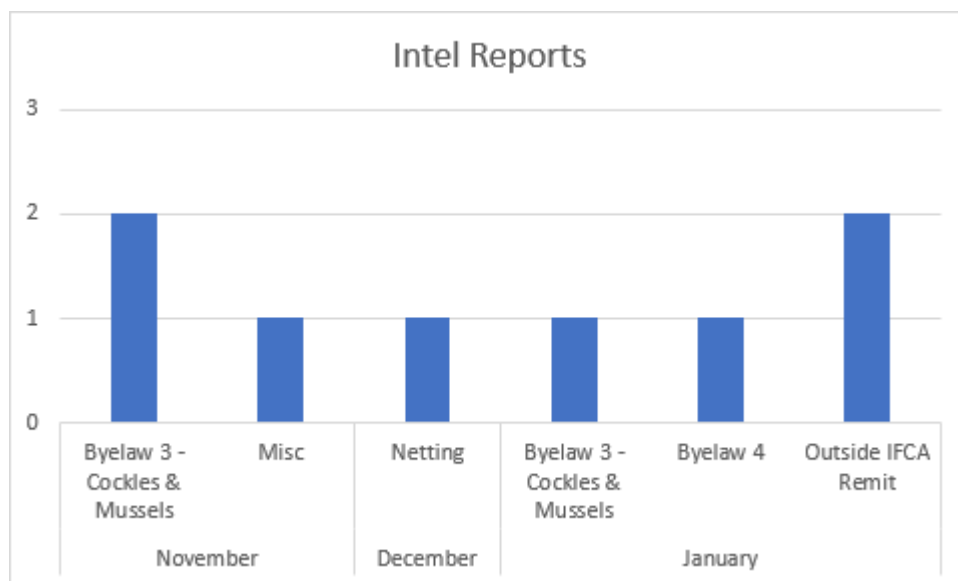
Byelaw 3 Reporting

Byelaw 3 Returns		Cockles	Mussels		
1st November 2022 - 31st January 2023	Activity	Penfold/ Southport	Foulney	Ribble Training Walls	Black Scar
Amount Removed (kg)	Nov-22	151600	15259	20	0
	Dec-22	66274	14209	750	0
	Jan-23	86782	23285	460	400
Attendance	Nov-22	602	30	1	0
	Dec-22	250	25	5	0
	Jan-23	386	34	5	2
Hours	Nov-22	2803	79	1	0
	Dec-22	1125	76	10	0
	Jan-23	1789	96	13	2
No. Inspected Fishing	Nov-22	138	0	0	0
	Dec-22	0	0	0	0
	Jan-23	0	17	0	0
No. MLS Inspections	Nov-22	0	4	0	0
	Dec-22	0	0	0	0
	Jan-23	0	13	0	0
Days Covered by IFCO's	Nov-22	3	1	0	0
	Dec-22	0	0	0	0
	Jan-23	0	3	0	0

Sanctions, Infringements and Court Activity

Nothing to report for this quarter.

Intelligence Reporting



Shore Based Activity Report

Number of:	Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point	Haverigg Point – Arnside	Arnside – Knott End	River Wyre – River Alt	Mersey, Wirral and Dee
Shore patrols by all NWIFCA officers*	68	33	8		78
ATV patrols	3	16	10		14
ATV patrol hrs	3.17	20.17	14		28
ATV kms covered	53	186	153		153
Inspections under taken	43	29	3		765

*undertaken either by vehicle or on foot without using ATV

Cockle Fisheries Management Plan

Initial project scoping document



The cockle FMP outlines the main English cockle fisheries and their management systems, their national strategic challenges and identifies key actions needed to further the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020.

Workstream 1 – Outline of cockle fisheries

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| <p>1. Summary of each cockle fishery (2 pg)</p> <p>2. Detailed overview of each cockle fishery (15-20 pg)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location (MPAs)• Stock history• Fishing method• Socio-economics• Annual surveys• Annual TAC setting process• Stakeholder engagement in fisheries management• Management system• New legislation | <p>3. Overview of cockle fisheries at a national scale
Statistical long-term overview of fisheries</p> <p>4. Report on key national and international policy drivers
Map relevant legislative and policy context</p> |
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The cockle FMP outlines the main English cockle fisheries and their management systems, their national strategic challenges and identifies key actions needed to further the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020.

Workstream 2 – Role of FMP, identify challenges and opportunities

Identify best practice, significant national issues and challenges facing the fisheries as well as opportunities for long-term sustainable growth. Run a series of iterative engagement exercises to describe functional role of national plan in the context of specialised regional fisheries.

1. Form management group with Industry Partner to oversee and coordinate working FMP development.
2. Develop simple tick box stakeholder survey (2 sides of A4 – stakeholders work through straightforward set of options which will help focus and refine the role of the FMP /national level engagement and prioritise actions).
3. Engagement exercise at relevant IFCA quarterly meeting (use stakeholder survey as a framework for Authority paper and feedback from IFCA members).
4. Identify shared cockle Fisheries Management objectives
5. Commission SAGB for project to market and promote UK cockle sales
6. Commission SAGB for water classification/quality overview



The cockle FMP outlines the main English cockle fisheries and their management systems, their national strategic challenges and identifies key actions needed to further the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020.

Workstream 3 – Data collection and research priorities

This workstream will look will help identify best practice and prioritise national research objectives as well as outline the actions needed to meet specific Fisheries Act objectives (e.g. ecosystem objective and climate change objectives).

1. Building on the feedback from Workstream 1 and 2, a series of meetings culminating in a national workshop (focused on subject experts from research institutions and regulators).
2. Establish Cockle fishery in Marine Protected Areas Working Group and identify research priorities
3. Use FAO guidelines or similar approaches to systematically identify strengths, gaps and help prioritise actions.
4. The group will also look to identify indicators to monitor the effectiveness of the FMP.



The cockle FMP outlines the main English cockle fisheries and their management systems, their national strategic challenges and identifies key actions needed to further the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020.

Workstream 4 – Drafting FMP

The final phase of the project pull together the themes of Workstreams 1-3 and working with the DEFRA commission team start writing the text in the deliverable documents

- Produce a cockle Fisheries Management Plan that reach the minimum requirements laid out in the Fisheries Act (2020) by 2024.
- Evidence and research plan
- Evidence statement
- Stakeholder engagement report

Working with partners draft reports will be circulated and comments included before submission to DEFRA.

