

**NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting:
23 June 2022: 11.00 a.m.**

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
11**

Chief Officer Report: March – May 2022

Purpose of Report: Information

Recommendation: Receive the report

Offices

1. The Authority March and TSB May meetings were held at Truckhaven, Carnforth. The Morecambe Town Hall continues to be unavailable.

Personnel, Health & Safety

2. Dr. Andy Richardson (FRSB) was appointed to the Authority in May. Dr Richardson is a marine ecologist and fisheries analyst based on the Fylde coast. He has worked in partnership with industry and in academia in numerous fields, including bivalve and crustacean ecology and fisheries, marine conservation and management, marine spatial planning and pelagic fisheries. Andy currently works for 'OceanMind' Ltd, using satellites, remote-sensing data and artificial intelligence to improve worldwide fishing industry practices through supply chain traceability and to help authorities enforce more effectively through monitoring, control and surveillance. Andy also serves as a Trustee for the West Cumbria Rivers Trust and as a Committee member for the Royal Society of Biology northwest branch.
3. The Authority extends thanks to MMO representative to NWIFCA, Mr. Mark Taylor who resigned from MMO in April 2022. Notification of his replacement is awaited.
4. There are now no MMO appointee vacancies on NWIFCA. Interviews for the science officer vacancy took place in May. We hope to be able to announce an appointment in the near future.
5. **IFCO Matthew Thompson** resigned in March after 1 years' service to take up a promoted post with the Environment Agency leaving a vacancy which will be filled as soon as possible. In his short period of service Matt made important developments to the Authority's intelligence management system.

Communications

6. The database, website and social media are updated by the Administration team. Social media is updated and moderated by the Clerk. Industry, members and officers are all encouraged to send material of interest to assist development of our external communications. Please let us know what information would be useful to users of these facilities.

7. Issuing of permits and dispensations is kept up to date by the Administration team. Contact the Clerk for specific information. Preparation is underway for introduction of new potting and wheel permits now the new byelaw 4 has been confirmed by Defra
8. The Annual Plan 2022-23 is now at a final design stage. Printed copies may be available for distribution to members at the meeting.

Association of IFCA

9. The members Forum of AIFCA was held online on 9 June 2022. NWIFCA Chairman and CEO attended. Meeting papers are in the document below.



AIFCA MEMBERS
FORUM MEETING PA

10. Defra announced at AIFCA on 9 June that IFCA have been successful in their bid for funding under the 2021 Spending Review SR21 process. This means that the so called New burdens Funding (NBF) of £3M / year since 2011 is continued for 2022-23 and indicative approval is given for the following 2 years. In addition the bid for £1.65M for IFCA in 2022-3 is approved to be distributed equally amongst the 10 IFCA. We expect much of the funding will be directed at Government priorities of Fisheries Management plans (FMP) and Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMA).
11. A presentation was received from Ms Charlotte Burnham Head of **Corporate Governance at Marine Management Organisation** regarding development of the annual job review system for MMO appointees. Further details of the new system will be published soon.
12. Further information on the work of the AIFCA and meeting papers can be obtained from the Chief Officer. The website is <http://www.association-ifca.org.uk/> IFCA. Members can sign into a password protected members area.

Defra

13. A new development in 2022 is the introduction of a 'Defra – IFCA handshake letter'. This letter will set out in more detail than previously, the main tasks and outputs which Defra expect IFCA to deliver in return for the funding provided which amounts to about 1/3 of IFCA budgets. A first draft of this letter has been circulated to give IFCA Chief Officers opportunity to comment. We expect a final version to be published soon.
14. **MAFCO**. Last met 25 May 2022. Papers are marked sensitive by Defra. The following are the main outcomes of interest to IFCA:
 - I. New terms of reference were presented
 - II. An AIFCA update and a report on new KPI and metrics for IFCA was given by Mr Clark (AIFCA).
 - III. Continuing the series on focusing on an IFCA at each MAFCO meeting, Ms Sam Davies reported on the main issues facing Cornwall IFCA. Her presentation is attached here:



MAFCO May
2022.pdf

- IV. **Regional Fisheries Groups:** Defra present a positive view of RFG. All 5 groups met 3 times in 2021. Attendance has increased. RFG are said to have enhanced communication between sector and collaboration between fishers and scientists. A wide range of issues have been discussed but Industry tends to steer discussion round to quota issues.
- V. The 2022 Conduct and operations report required under MACA will be compiled in autumn 2022. Defra are seeking broad informed engagement in the report from IFCA partners and stakeholders and will issue further instructions to IFCA regarding the report.
- VI. Defra indicated that there will be a consultation on HPMA (Highly protected marine areas) in 2022. Consultation sites have been agreed and the consultation is expected in the near future.
- VII, Fisheries management plans. Defra proposes the following FMP for early development starting in 2022.
- Crustacea (crab and Lobster)
Seabass,
Scallops,
Whelks,
Channel (non-quota),
Southern North Sea,
Cockles,
Mussels.
- VII. The IFCA Chief Officer's group have agreed an IFCA to lead on one plan and assist with a second plan. The plans of most direct interest to NWIFCA are Crustacea, seabass, whelks, cockles and mussels. COG has proposed that NWIFCA will lead for IFCA on the cockle plan and assist with development of the plan for mussels.

New Byelaws

15. Three proposed NWIFCA byelaws were signed into law by a representative of the Defra Secretary of State on 6 June. These byelaws are included in this report below for information. The byelaws are the culmination of a great deal of work by officers and members in recent years and are designed to enhance the Authority's management of fisheries in the District.
16. As soon as possible the existing cockle and mussel permit scheme will be adapted and replaced by a new scheme according to the new byelaw 3. Permit schemes for shellfish will be introduced as specified in the new NWIFCA byelaw 4. Under byelaw 2, shellfish along the north Wirral coast in the designated area will be protected from over exploitation.



NWIFCA Byelaw 2
SIGNED.pdf



Byelaw 4
SIGNED.pdf



NWIFCA Byelaw 3
SIGNED.pdf