

Tenth
Annual report

1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority

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Introduction

1. NWIFCA is the lead statutory regulator under MACAA for protection of the marine environment and sustainable use of sea fisheries resources within its District. The Authority's duties are defined in MACAA Sections 153 to 184.
2. MACCA S177 requires each IFCA to publish as soon as practical after the end of each year a report on the work of the Authority for that year. The report may be used by Defra to measure the performance of the Authority, accountability and value for money.
3. **IFCA Vision** (Defra 2009) is: To lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries in its District by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.
4. Priorities for the year were set out in the 2020-21 Annual Plan. Outcomes and delivery are summarised in Annex C (the Authority's objectives) and Annex B the Defra monitoring template agreed in 2015.
5. **Covid 19** started to impact NWIFCA business in March 2020 and led to cancellation of the March 2020 quarterly meeting. Impacts on all Authority business throughout 2020 were severe as internal meetings in person and meetings in person with partners were cancelled for the entire year of this report. Covid restrictions continuing in various forms through all 2021 and beyond will be reported in future annual reports. Partner organizations were generally in the same position. Meetings with stakeholders and partner organizations were much reduced throughout the year. Some normal business such as the annual external financial Audit could not take place in 2020-21. In April 2020, the Government suspended the duty of Councils in England to hold statutory meetings in person and in a defined location. This legislation allowed IFCA to hold quarterly and other statutory meetings on line for one year using video conference. NWIFCA took out a Zoom subscription to hold quarterly and TSB meetings and the software quickly became normal practice for numerous internal and external meetings with partners and stakeholders.

The Authority: Members, meetings, governance

6. The Authority has 30 members as defined in SI2200, 2010. Table 1 lists members in 2020-21 with dates of appointments. There were no MMO vacancies in this reporting year..
7. Standing Orders and other corporate governance documents are in the NWIFCA Constitution available on the website. The latest edition of the constitution in March 2021 was February 2021.
8. The Authority held quarterly meetings on line in July, September and December 2020. The March 2020 meeting was cancelled as Covid 19 restrictions took effect. Technical, Science and Byelaws Committee meetings were held in May, August, November 2020 and February 2021. Meetings were open to the public through live streaming. There were no closures for confidential matters. A confidential meeting of the Finance and HR Committee took place in December 2019. Committee papers were posted on the website 7 full working days in advance of all quarterly and TSB meetings.
9. Risk strategy and risk registers were reviewed by the Authority in December 2020. Reviews by the Auditors did not take place in 2020-21. These documents are available from the Clerk.

10. An independent retained consultant working with Officers continued a systematic analysis of all areas of the Authority's Health & Safety policy and risk assessments by means of meetings and email communications. Meetings took place throughout the year to discuss, review and update working practices. There were no reportable accidents or near miss incidents to report this year. Near misses are recorded and used as learning from experience events. They are discussed where necessary with relevant staff members. All recorded incidents were reviewed before each Authority quarterly meeting.
11. There are two national IFCA committees established to provide co-ordination and exchange of experience across IFCA. The Association of IFCA (AIFCA) is a policy and strategy committee attended by Chairmen, Chief Officers and Defra; the Fisheries Minister is invited. Members receive the ratified Minutes in Chief Officer quarterly reports. The Chief Officers Group (COG) is a working group to compare delivery approaches and develop new and innovative solutions. These groups met quarterly on line in 2020-21.

Resources

12. The budget for 2020-21 was passed by the Authority in December 2019. A below inflation increase in the levy of 2% was agreed. The Budget Review for the year ended 31 March 2021 is shown in table 2.
13. **Financial Audit:** Accountants Moore and Smalley LLP have audited NWIFCA accounts since before 2010. Auditor appointments made by the Audit Commission to joint committees ceased with effect from financial year 2015/16, however, NWIFCA has a policy that an independent auditor will conduct an audit as in the past. Restrictions imposed by covid-19 again prevented the audit for 2020/21.
14. **Officers and equipment:** NWIFCA had 21 full time equivalent staff in 2020/21. Premises, vessels and vehicles are listed in table 3. Staff changes were reported in the Authority's quarterly reports.
15. **Fisheries Patrol Vessel 'North Western Protector'** The main patrol vessel operated reliably without incident. Servicing and repairs was maintained up to date by the crew.

District fisheries

16. **Commercial fishing North of Haverigg Point** mainly consists of trawling and netting for prawns (*Nephrops*) sole, brill and turbot, plaice, cod, codling, skate (thornback ray). Intertidal fisheries for periwinkles, angling. Potting for crab, lobster and whelk.
17. **Commercial Fishing South of Haverigg Point:** Boat and shore based recreational angling, mussel and cockle fisheries were predominant. There were commercial cockle fisheries at Pilling Sands, Flookburgh and Leven Sands in Morecambe Bay, and at Leasowe on the Wirral. Also mussel fisheries in the Dee Estuary and for seed mussel at Heysham Flat, Morecambe Bay. Bass restrictions were introduced by EU to protect stocks. Species such as plaice, dab, fluke, whitebait, mullet and codling were fished as usual.

18. **Fishing vessels in the District:** Records of registered and licensed fishing vessels are maintained by MMO. The latest data for 2021 is shown below. Unlicensed and unregistered vessels includes hobby fishing boats and charter angling vessels.

	Jan 2020	April 20 21
District commercial vessels >10m	38	25
District commercial vessels <10m	101	77
Visitor vessels >10m	33	10
Visitor vessels <10m	7	5
Unlicensed / unregistered vessels	297	277

19. **Recreational fisheries:** Non-commercial fishing included nets and lines set from the shore. Unlicensed fishing from boats appears to be increasingly popular both traditional angling but also using nets, and pots for lobster, crab and whelks. Bait collection for peeler crabs, lug, rag and other worms as well as razor clams is common.

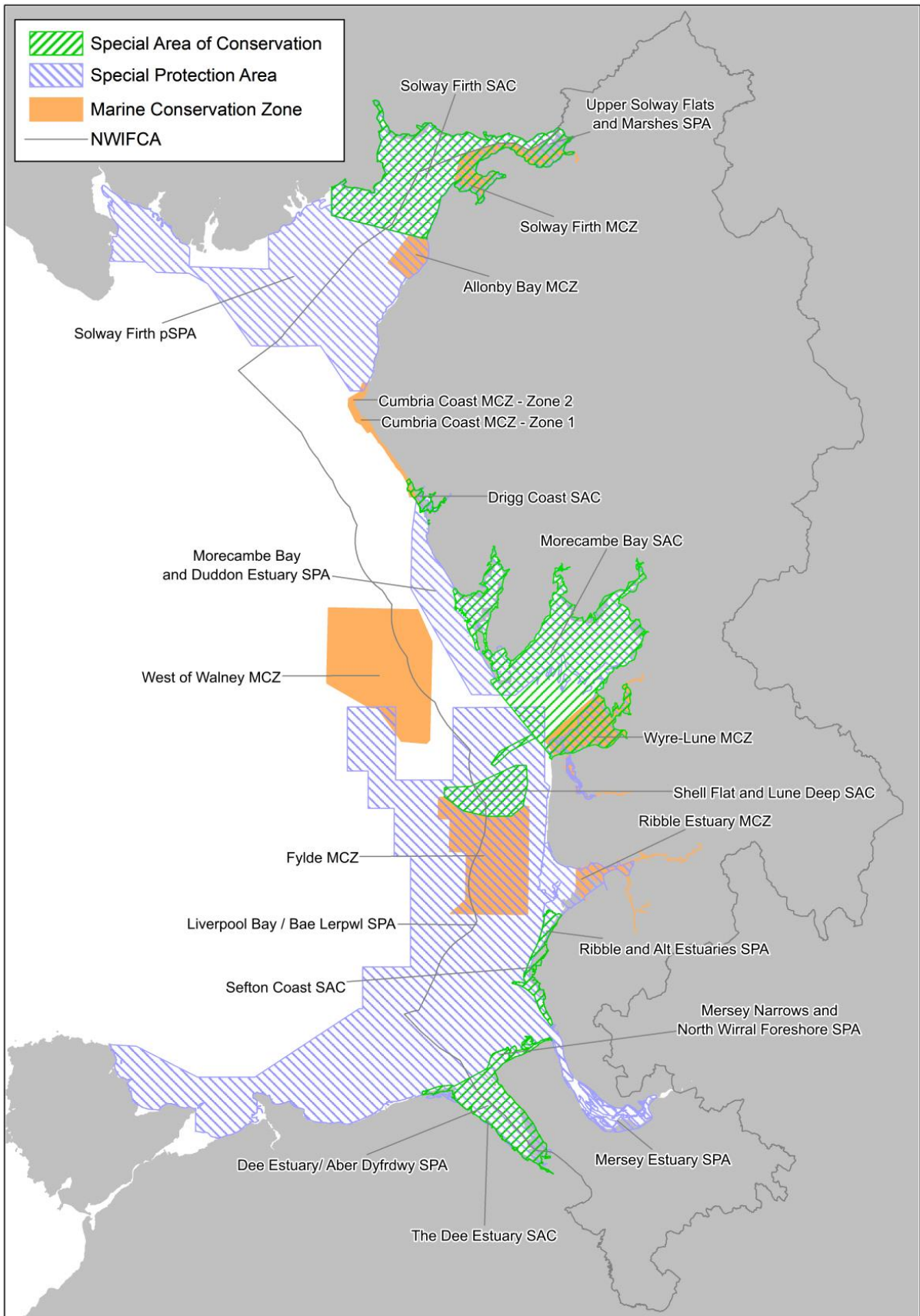
Compliance and survey programs

20. All IFCOs and Science Advisors (IFCA's) were tasked weekly by HOE to establish an effective programme of tactical enforcement patrols and science surveys through 2020-21. The Authority maintains a strong presence of visible officers around active fisheries and valuable quantitative data on fishing activity. Information recorded is reported at quarterly meetings.
21. The national inshore fisheries intelligence management system for England led by MMO is now well established and was in constant regular use throughout the reporting year. Intelligence was gathered and entered into the system by IFCOs in Carnforth making an important contribution to enforcement planning, evidence gathering and prosecutions. There was well-co-ordinated sharing of information with other enforcement agencies but joint working was reduced by covid restrictions and precautions. Intelligence was securely recorded on line and shared with IFCA partners. HOE attended the multi-agency National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) which met 3 times in the year. Senior Scientist attended the IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which also met 3 times in the year. TAG research conferences activity report the range of IFCA research. IFCA and partner bodies science officers present research and compare fisheries management experience.
22. Regular weekly tasking of IFCOs to meet intelligence received and risks identified continued effectively despite covid restrictions. Tasking was shared with partner bodies as usual but field joint working with MMO, GLA, Councils and other agencies was curtailed.
23. Table 4 provides inspection and compliance data for the year to 31 March 2021.

Byelaws and regulations

24. MMO introduced revisions to the non-statutory byelaw making procedure in 2019 to better define the roles of the IFCA and MMO in the process of making byelaws. The new procedure has resulted in more efficient byelaw development with IFCA and MMO officers working closely and effectively to complete byelaws as quickly as possible. In 2020-21, the following byelaws were under development by NWIFCA in 2020/21:

- I. **Byelaw 1 Minimum Conservation Reference sizes (MCRS)**. This byelaw became essential following repeal of the EU technical regulation 850/98 in 2019 and replacement with 1241/2019. IFCA on the English east coast have made similar MCRS byelaws. Target: byelaw to complete development and ministerial sign off by March 22.
 - II. **Byelaw 2 North Wirral Foreshore**. An emergency byelaw was introduced for the North Wirral foreshore in 2019 to control excessive fishing for shellfish. Covid restrictions made this fishing activity popular by increasing free time available for fishing for many people. Surveys indicated the stocks of bivalve species in the sand were at risk of depletion. Target: Byelaw to complete development and ministerial sign off by end March 2022.
 - III. **Byelaw 3 Cockles and mussels hand fishing permit 2019**: Further development of byelaw and RIA text continued in 2020/21. Target: Byelaw to complete development and ministerial sign off by March 22..
 - IV. **Byelaw 4 Potting Permit 2020** Byelaw was developed from a review of potting and trap regulations in the District commencing in 2018. Target is byelaw to complete development and ministerial sign off in 2022.
 - V. **Netting byelaw**. Text commenced in 2020. This byelaw is needed to revise and streamline a large suite of byelaws for various aspects of fishing using nets currently in force in the NWIFCA District into a single comprehensive netting byelaw. Target to complete development and ministerial sign off of a netting byelaw by end 2023.
25. **Marine protected areas** in the NWIFCA District are shown in Fig 1 below including Special Protection Areas (SPA) Special areas of conservation (SAC) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ).



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26. 78% of the NWIFCA District is designated MPA. No new fishing activity can take place in an MPA until an impact assessment has been completed and approved by Natural England showing that the activity will be conducted in such a way that no damage will be caused to protected features of the sites. This high proportion of the coast is a measure of work by successive governments and the NWIFCA to protect the marine environments of the NW coast of England.
27. Species and gear landing obligations and discard plans were extended in 2018 as below and were fully implemented in 2020/21.

Gear	Species	Applicable to	Exemptions
Gill/trammel/hook & line	Hake	All using specified gear	None
Trawl/seine	Hake	Those meeting threshold	None
Trawls & seines ≥ 100mm	Saithe	Those meeting threshold	None
Trawls/seines/pots/traps & creels	Nephrops	Those meeting threshold	Unwanted catches can be discarded
Trawls & seines	Cod, haddock, whiting & saithe	Those meeting threshold	None

Science and survey

28. NWIFCA Science team normally consists of three Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Advisors led by the Senior Scientist. Science supports the Authority's fisheries management decisions through stock assessment, field surveys and assessments of fisheries impacts on protected features of Marine Protected Areas. Work in 2021 was affected by resignation in December 2020 of the Senior Scientist and in January 2021 of a Science officer. Both Officers left to take promoted posts in Natural England. Science work was also impacted by covid restrictions commencing March 2020 which continued throughout 2020-21 and curtailed meetings and travel
29. Ongoing research projects:
- I. Whelk fishing research in 2020-21 saw the continuation of research into the size of maturity and statolith aging of the District's whelk populations;
 - II. development of a collaborative research project with industry and Bangor University in the use of electro-dredge for subtidal razor clams;
 - III. establishment of a study into the ecosystem functionality of intertidal razor clams (*Ensis* spp) at Leasowe beach, North Wirral Foreshore with Liverpool University;
 - IV. participation and collaboration in Bangor University's research of bass and ray populations in English waters,
 - V. Natural England, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Orsted's feasibility study in the use of creels in the Nephrops fishery in the West of Walney MCZ,
 - VI. Core work of stock survey and assessment to inform cockle and mussel fishery management.
30. Science Team also responded to MMO Marine Licence consultations and worked with regulators and developers over major infrastructure projects in relation to their effects on sea fisheries resources. The science team worked with many agencies, NGOs and stakeholders to deliver its

wide remit. Officers attended and contributed to national workshops and training events in partnership with the main Defra agencies, including facilitating the national IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings: the Senior Scientist fulfils the role of TAG Vice-Chair.

31. Table 6 A-D report the science programme in 2020-21:
- A. Surveys and inspections carried out;
 - B. Projects active in the year.
 - C. MMO licence consultation responses mostly consisting of development applications for which the Authority is a consultee;
 - D. Meetings, training and workshops attended.
32. The main science priorities during 2020-21 were as follows:
- I. on-going work to ensure all fisheries occurring within Marine Protected Areas have been assessed and management implemented if necessary to prevent risk to protect features. All NWIFCA HRAs are published on NWIFCA website and Marine Protected Area Management Huddle page (accessed by IFCA, MMO, NE, Defra);
 - II. continual review of NWIFCA MPA Monitoring and Control Plan;
 - III. management of active cockle and mussel fisheries in the District including the facilitation of the multi-sectoral Bivalve Mollusc Working Group (BMWG) and carrying out Habitats Regulations Assessments prior to authorising fishing;
 - IV. development of the NWIFCA Potting Permit Byelaw through consultation with all sectors;
 - V. participation in national Whelk Working Group and whelk research and size / age at maturity work to inform future flexible permitting conditions in new byelaw ;
 - VI. continuation of an investigation into the distribution, condition and extent of sub-tidal mussel, Silloth Channel, Solway Estuary;
 - VII. implementation and monitoring of compliance of voluntary Code of Practice for netting around St Bees Head, Cumbria;
 - VIII. collaborative research project with industry and Shellfish Centre, Bangor University, in the use of electro-dredge for subtidal razor clams;
 - IX. establishment of a study into the ecosystem functionality of intertidal razor clams (Ensis species) at Leasowe beach, North Wirral Foreshore with Liverpool University;
 - X. participation and influence over Nephrops creels project within the West of Walney MCZ (T2 site), and trialling within NWIFCA District using NWIFCA vessel;
 - XI. on-going participation in Cefas Bass populations and tagging study;
 - XII. participation and collaboration in Bangor University's research of bass and ray populations in English waters;
 - XIII. monitoring of specific Invasive Non-Native Species within Morecambe Bay and review of NWIFCA Biosecurity Plan;
 - XIV. participation in development of MMO North West Marine Plan;
 - XV. participation and representation of NWIFCA and marine interests in major infrastructure developments within the District including Crown Estate wind leasing;
 - XVI. National IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings, and providing secretariat through Vice-Chair position;
 - XVII. analysis of inshore fisheries activities data for shore patrols;
 - XVIII. assessments of bait collection activity within the District's MPAs;
 - XIX. attendance at and liaison with North West Shellfish Liaison Group relating to shellfish classifications and hygiene;
 - XX. regular participation in meetings of Solway Firth Partnership, Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery Advisory Group, NW Shellfish Liaison Group, Peel Ports Mersey Sediment Management

- Group;
 - XXI. reinforcing NWIFCA enforcement team during active fisheries;
 - XXII. developing research opportunities with academic institutions where possible;
 - XXIII. participation in and support for the MBA Time and Tide Bell Community Science Initiative;
 - XXIV. literature review of current understanding of size at maturity to inform future Minimum Conservation Reference Size byelaw.
33. Individual HRAs are carried out for all cockle and mussel fisheries which included the following in 2020-21:
- I. Undersize mussel hand gathering and dredge fishery
 - II. Morecambe Bay cockle fishery
 - III. Duddon Estuary mussel fishery
34. Shellfish (crab and lobster landings in the NWIFCA district in 2020-21 as recorded in the National Shellfish Licensing Scheme database are shown in Table 6.

Partnership working

35. Working in partnership with other agencies continued to be a high government priority. In 2020-21 the Authority worked with other IFCA, also AIFCA, COG, TAG, NIMEG, Natural England (NE), the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Environment Agency (EA), Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA); Councils, Environmental Health Services (EHS), Food Standards Agency (FSA), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Marine Scotland.
36. MMO is a key partner which the Authority shares intelligence, tasking and training. MMO is responsible for quality assurance of byelaws and appointment of members. The Authority undertakes regular joint patrols with MMO on land, in ports and using IFCA vessels.
37. Natural England were consulted under the 2010 Habitats Regulations on all HRA assessments of fishing activities in EMS and MCZ. Regular liaison of the Authority Science team continue with the NE Marine team.
38. The Authority worked with Local Authority Environmental Health Services (EHS) to ensure all Intertidal shell fisheries complied with shellfish hygiene standards as laid down in the Shellfish Waters Directive by collecting shellfish samples, attending the council owned NW Shellfish Liaison Group meetings and assisting enforcement of the requirement for registration documents.
39. In 2020 - 21, the Authority and Councils convened multi-agency committees as required to prepare operational plans for cockle fisheries at Leasowe, Pilling and Leven Sands to manage the diverse socio-economic and environmental impacts of cockle and mussel harvesting.
40. GLAA use Gang master licences to bring more effective regulation into the shellfish industry and ensure labour is not exploited. The NWIFCA supports this policy to improve standards of financial and management practice.

41. EA is responsible for delivery of the EU WFD and MSFD. NWIFCA continued to stand ready to undertake duties arising from these directives. NWIFCA assisted NRW and EA with management of the Dee cockle fishery and attends the Dee Estuary Fisheries Liaison Group.
42. The NWIFCA consulted NGO in the development of policies. The Science team continued collaboration with WLT Living Seas Project and the BMWG to develop management plans for shellfisheries. The Authority contributes to North West Coastal Forum, Solway Firth Partnership, EA Standing Environment Group, Dee Estuary Sea Fisheries Liaison Group., Dee Tidal Catchment Partnership.

Training

43. Officers skills were updated under the Authority's training programme. Training objectives were identified in staff reviews. The training programme included:
 - I. Defined training programmes aimed at specified roles and responsibilities provided in house, by the IFCA as a group, by MMO and outside providers;
 - II. Tailored training to meet organisation and personal objectives for each officer delivered by the Head of Enforcement;
 - III. Assessment of the Authority's existing and future skills and needs by senior officers.
 - IV. Consideration of external training available to bridge capacity gaps;
 - V. Monitoring and evaluation of training to achieve added value and effectiveness.
44. Four IFCOs attended the annual 5 day IFCO training course February 2020 to update and receive an IFCO warrant. Other mandatory and essential training was undertaken as follows:
 - I. Powerboat Level II training & certification – 2 officers
 - II. Professional Practice & Responsibilities – 2 officers
 - III. Commercial endorsement – 2 officers
 - IV. First Aid 5 officers
 - V. ML5 certification – 2 officers
 - VI. ATV quad bike course 2 officers
 - VII. Spanset practical lifting and slinging beneath the hook – 3 officers
 - VIII. Slinger/signaller training/test

New IFCOS received mandatory internal and external training in:

 - I. Use of the Health and Safety policy,
 - II. Use of equipment,
 - III. risk management,
 - IV. operation of the enforcement policy including the IFCO code of conduct
45. Implementation of the FCO accreditation scheme continued with the aim of creating a level 3 qualification in fisheries and marine enforcement. The Head of Enforcement is a local assessor for this training.
46. New Authority members received an induction pack of information about the IFCA and the role of members. NWIFCA intends to provide awareness days to inform new members about the work of the Authority although this was not achieved in 2020-21.

Performance

47. Performance in delivery of the remit is measured locally and nationally. Local priorities for this District set by the Authority are in Table 7A. National criteria and performance indicators set by Defra are in Table 7B
48. The Authority aims to be an efficient and fair regulator, which manages the exploitation of sea fisheries resources sustainably in accordance with EU and UK law and NWIFCA byelaws. The Authority has a range of compliance measures and sanctions which are regularly reviewed. Compliance measures are applied to fully meet the UK Government Regulators' Code which is at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300126/14-705-regulators-code.pdf
49. HOE had daily responsibility for Enforcement action. HOE and CEO signed off decisions on Fixed Administrative penalties and prosecutions.
50. **Equality Act 2010:** As a public sector body and employer the Authority complied with the Equality Act and standards.

Table 1 Authority membership March 2020- April 2021

Council Members		Date of appointment
Blackpool Borough Council (1)	Councillor J. Elmes	July 2015
Cheshire West & Chester Council (1)	Councillor P. Williams	July 2015
Cumbria County Council (2)	Councillor AJ Markley Councillor M Wilson	October 2010 January 2020
Halton Borough Council (1)	Councillor B. Woolfall	May 2015
Lancashire County Council (2)	Councillor L. Beavers Councillor A. Gardner Councillor S. Morris	May 2013 May 2017 April 2018
Liverpool City Council (1)	Councillor S. Connor	January 2020
Sefton Council (1)	Councillor S. McGinnity	April 2018
Wirral Metropolitan Council (1)	Councillor E. Grey	2019
MMO Appointees & their Affiliations		
Marine Environment	Dr J. Andrews	October 2015
Marine Environment	Dr E. Baxter	March 2014
Marine Environment	Mr N. Baxter	March 2020
Commercial Fishing	Mr R. Benson	December 2018
Recreational Fishing	Mr S. Brown	October 2017
Commercial Fishing	Mr D. Clarke	2010, 2015
Recreational Fishing	Mr W. Friend	March 2020
Commercial Fishing	Mr R. Graham	2010, 2015
Marine Environment	Mr D. Harpley	March 2014
Commercial fishing and aquaculture	Mr T. Jones	2010, 2015
Anglers and Recreational Fishing	Mr B. Leigh	March 2015
Commercial fishing	Mr S. J. Manning	October 2014
Marine Environment	Dr B. Pearce	September 2018
Commercial Fishing	Mr G. Pidduck	March 2020
Recreational Fishing	Mr. L. Stainton	March 2020
Marine Environment	Miss S. Salthouse	October 2014
Commercial fishing and aquaculture	Mr K. Thompson	October 2014
National Agency appointees		
Natural England	Mark Johnson	Sept 2016
Environment Agency	Ms Sharon Kennedy	August 2018
Marine Management Organisation	Mr T. Smith/Mr M. Taylor	2019

NOTES:

Councillor M. Wilson (Cumbria CC) appointed Jan 2020 to replace Councillor K. Little
 Councillor S. Connor (Liverpool Council) appointed Jan 2020 to replace Councillor J. Noakes
 Councillor E. Grey (Wirral Council) appointed 2019 to replace Councillor A. Leech
 Mr. C. Booth resigned 2019.

Dr B. Pearce resigned March 2020

Mr. N. Baxter, Mr. W. Friend, Mr. G. Pidduck and Mr. L. Stainton appointed by MMO in March 2020.

There is 1 MMO appointee vacancy as at March 2020

Table 2: Budget 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

1Apr20 to 31Mar21	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Income				
Levy	£1,337,078	£1,337,078	£0	Levy invoiced 1 April 2020 for Year 20-21
Sampling	£11,611	£9,000	£2,611	Extra sampling for councils
Miscellaneous	£112	£0	£112	FAPS
Permit Fees	£84,500	£65,000	£19,500	Varies due to date of permit renewal
Interest	£1,408	£7,500	-£6,092	Interest rates crashed Mar20
TOTAL	£1,434,709	£1,418,578	£16,131	
Expenditure				
Employees	£884,149	£948,066	£63,917	Payroll savings (staff turnover)
Premises	£56,507	£58,900	£2,393	
Transport	£176,618	£209,561	£32,943	Less activity (Covid 19)
PV Vessel Fund	£0	£121,151	£121,151	Planned savings for new patrol vessel
Supplies & Services	£47,017	£52,100	£5,083	Paperless savings/uniform
Corporate	£24,501	£28,800	£4,299	Authority room hire/travel savings
TOTAL	£1,188,792	£1,418,578	£229,786	
Surplus (- Deficit)	£245,917	£0	£245,917	Added to Reserves on 1 April 2021

Table 3 Assets: Premises, vessels, vehicles 2021-2021

Offices	Leased main office	Carnforth base for 10 staff
	Cumbria Council office	Whitehaven base for 8 staff
Garages/Stores	All leased - used for storing RIBs, ATVs, other equipment and as offices for 3 home based IFCOs	Whitehaven, Barrow, Carnforth, Liverpool
Vessels	FPV "North Western Protector"	2018 - 20m Aluminium catamaran hull - based in Whitehaven
	FPV "Protector Charlie"	2018 - 5.3m daughter boat/boarding vessel on board NWP, constructed of aluminium alloy with rigid collared sponsons
	FPV "Protector Bravo"	1999 - 7m Osprey Viper RIB - based in Whitehaven
	FPV "Protector Gamma"	2011 - 6m Humber RIB - based in Barrow
	FPV " Bay Protector"	2013 - 7.5m Humber RIB - based in Liverpool
	FPV "Zodiac Bravo"	4.5m - based in Carnforth
Road vehicles	5 x Nissan Navara - 4WD	2 Whitehaven, 1 Carnforth, 1 Liverpool, 1 Barrow
	1 x Peugeot Partner	Whitehaven
	3 x Renault Kangoo	2 Carnforth, 1 Liverpool
	1 x Vauxhall combo	Carnforth
ATV (quad bikes)	10 Honda ATVs	2 x Whitehaven, 1 x Barrow, 5 x Carnforth, 2 Liverpool

Table 4 Inspection and compliance data 2020-21

4A: Summary of quarterly reports – Covid curtailed fishing throughout the year, Activity type and level of activity in each area 0=none, 1=low, 2=medium, 3=high

Area	Activity/Area	Species	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Burgh Marsh to Haverigg Point	Trawling	Thornback Ray	1	1	1	1
		Nephrops	1	1	2	2
		Plaice	1	1	1	1
		Dogfish	1	0	0	0
		Turbot	0	0	1	0
	Potting	Lobster & crab	1	2	1	1
		Whelks	1	2	2	2
	Angling	Codling	1	1	2	2
		Thornback Ray	2	3	3	1
		Bass	1	2	2	0
		Whiting	1	0	0	1
		Dab	1	1	0	1
		Plaice	1	0	0	1
		Dogfish	0	3	3	1
	Netting	Codling	1	0	1	1
		Lobster & crab	0	1	0	0
		Thornback Ray	0	1	0	0
	Bait digging	Black lug	2	1	0	2
Shrimping	Brown shrimps	1	1	0	1	
Haverigg Point to Arnside	FlookburghNewbiggin	Cockles	1	1	3	3
	South America, Foulney Roosebeck	Mussels	2	2	2	2
	Potting	Whelk	1	0	0	2
	Netting	Bass	1	1	1	1
	Angling		0	3	1	2
	Bait digging		0	0	1	0
	Shrimping		1	1	1	1
Arnside to Knott End	Pilling, Newbiggin, Flookburgh	Cockles	1	0	1	2
	Foulney	Mussels	0	0	0	1
	Angling	Bass	2	3	3	3
		Plaice	0	0	1	0
		Flounder	0	1	2	0
		Dogfish	0	1	0	0
	Netting	Bass	1	1	2	0
	Bait collection		2	1	0	0
River Wyre to River Dee	Angling		2	1	2	2
	Dee Estuary	Mussels	0	1	1	1
	Cockling		3	1	2	0
	Otter clam		2	3	0	1
	Razors		1	0	0	0
	Netting		2	2	3	2
	Bait collection	Diggers	1	0	2	2
	Shrimping	Tractor	1	0	0	1

Table 4B Patrol and inspection data 2020-21

At Sea	number of vessel patrols	51
	number of boardings	0
	number of closings (not included as boardings)	69
	number of fishing vessel sightings	286
	number of gear inspections	683
On Land	number of shore patrols	1142
	number of port visits (within shore & ATV patrols)	409
	number of premises inspections	2
	number of landing inspections - catch	2914
	number of landing inspections - gear	693
	number of other inspections	2264
Outcomes	number of verbal warnings	64
	number of written warnings & advisory letters	64
	formal cautions	0
	number of FAPs	0
	number of individuals prosecuted in court	17

4C: Shellfish (crab & lobster) landings (Fleetwood to Whitehaven) – data provided by MMO for 2020-21

	Vessel length 10m & under	Vessel length 10m & over
Crabs (C.P.Mixed sexes)	400 kgs	123,100 kgs
Lobster	10,200 kgs	14,000 kgs

Table 5 Performance Monitoring Assessment at April 2021		Target and Assessment
5 A: Delivery of NWIFCA priorities in 2020/21.		
1.	To operate the Authority to highest standards of probity and in compliance with the Authority's constitution, standing orders, public sector regulations and policies on health and safety, financial auditing, risk assessment, transparency, freedom of information, data protection, operation of meetings.	Complete Ongoing
2.	To properly manage and care for officers and members by providing training, job reviews, information and consultation on all relevant matters and delegating responsibility appropriately.	Complete Ongoing
3.	To contribute to delivery of Defra requirements for an orderly Brexit and any structural changes in agencies responsible for marine and fisheries management.	Complete Ongoing.
4.	To require compliance by fishers with EU, UK and NWIFCA regulations covering exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the District (table 1) by planning, patrolling and inspecting all parts of the District according to risk, making use of available resources. To collect and record data on fishing and fishing vessels in line with agreed protocols and apply sanctions fairly when offences are detected following the Authority's enforcement strategy.	Complete Ongoing
5	To further conservation and sustainable management of the marine environment by developing MCZ designation and management, continuing to apply habitats regulations assessments to fisheries on all MPA and implementing management measures agreed with other regulators.	Complete Ongoing In line with gov policy
6	To manage shellfish beds (mainly cockle and mussel), so that stocks are exploited sustainably and in compliance with habitats regulations. Work in partnership with other regulators and advisors by means of stock surveys, stakeholder consultations, multi-agency management plans, permit conditions, and consultation with IFCA industry committees such as the Bivalve Working Group.	Complete, Ongoing in support of industry objectives
7	To continue byelaw development in priority order as follows. Nb: priorities may change according to risk. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Cockle and mussel permit scheme byelaw 3. 2. Complete combined potting permit and lobster protection byelaw 3. Complete MCRS byelaw 4. iVMS byelaw 5. Review vessel size limit byelaws 6. Review of netting byelaws 	In progress In progress In progress National delay In discussion In discussion.
8	To deploy and train officers in use of new main patrol vessel.	Ongoing
9	To develop stakeholder engagement with greater use of website and social media	Ongoing
10	To deliver a flexible science programme which supports fisheries and conservation management and byelaw development.	Complete Ongoing

5B: Performance against Defra success criteria and performance indicators

There are 5 success criteria as follows:

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

Success Criterion 2: IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.

Success Criterion 3: IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place; staff are trained and professional.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

There are indicators for each success criterion against which performance is assessed as in the following table

Indicators	Tasks 2020/21	Performance assessment
SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts reviewed and updated by 31 March each year.	NWIFCA maintains an up to date stakeholder database (rebuilt 2016), from which the following permit schemes were operated in 2020-21: Byelaws 3; NWSFC 9, 26, 27, 30; Cumbria SFC 26. The website 'Register here' button supports development of stakeholder contacts and their interests including angling and bait collecting.	Complete and ongoing
SC1B: The IFCA will review its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year.	NWIFCA reviewed its communications strategy by 31 March 2021. The new website is working well and being used.. The process for issuing permits has been further developed and streamlined	Complete and ongoing
SC1C: The IFCA will review website by the last working day of each month.	Content was developed and the website continuously monitored by the Digital Communications Officer. A checklist has been implemented to evidence the checks.	Complete and ongoing
SC1D: The IFCA will ensure website meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March.	New website has been assessed against the developing Communications strategy.	Complete and ongoing
SC1E: The IFCA will review all Memoranda of Understanding by 31 March each year. Will be plans in place to update MoUs to agreed timescales	National MOU are in place with NE, EA, Cefas, MMO. Review of MOU are national tasks led by NE, EA, Cefas and MMO beyond control of each IFCA.	Complete and ongoing
SC1F: By 31 March each year IFCA will participate proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified in the annual plan.	NWIFCA will continue to contribute to all relevant activity as required and within available resources. Bodies active in 2020-21: IFCA Chief Officers Group (COG), Association of IFCA, National Intelligence & Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG), IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG), Defra marine protected area committees and ad hoc policy meetings, Regional coastal fora (e.g.Solway Firth Forum, North West Coastal Forum, Celtic Seas Forum,	Complete and ongoing

	Irish Sea Forum, Dee Estuary Committees, Morecambe Bay Partnership.	
SC2A: The IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year.	Enforcement strategy was reviewed by 1 April 2021. Risk registers were reviewed by the Authority in December 2020. No external audit was done in 2020-21.. Risk based enforcement will continue.	Complete and ongoing
SC2B: The IFCA will demonstrate in Annual Reports work with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures.	The Annual report for 2019-20 was published November 2020 and sent to the Minister. Joint working to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures was reported. The annual report for 2020-21 will be published by March 2022.	Complete and ongoing
SC2C: Record enforcement activity in a standard format, provide to NIMEG and publish on its website.	Enforcement activity was reported to the Authority in quarterly reports, made public via the website. Data will continue to be securely stored on the Authority's intelligence management system and the Central Intelligence Team of the MMO	Complete and ongoing
SC2D: The IFCA will adopt the national Code of Conduct for IFCOs, which will be reviewed annually and published on its website by 1 April each year.	The Code was adopted by NWIFCA in 2012; (see Enforcement strategy). Annual review is a national task outside remit of each IFCA. No responsible body is identified	Complete and ongoing
SC2E: The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for <u>all</u> Warranted Officers.	As previously, New IFCOs will be trained to comply with the code through the competent officer training course. Performance will be assessed and continually monitored by the Head of Enforcement and discussed in annual appraisals. Training will be kept up to date.	Complete and ongoing
SC2F: Warranted Officers attain accreditation. (Nb: The aim of accreditation is to provide national common training and skills for enforcement officers in a range of regulatory agencies <u>All</u> undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD).	IFCOs are working towards accreditation. The Authority contributed to training development in 2020-21. IFCOs mandatory training was kept up to date to nationally agreed standards. All IFCOs were given CPD to meet needs identified at job reviews. Training register was maintained. Training in-house, jointly with partner agencies or purchased from external providers was reviewed with the appointment of the national IFCA training co-ordinator. The training objectives of each officer were identified in staff reviews. Training included: Mandatory training including health and safety, use of equipment, first aid, sea survival, Training for qualifications in specified roles such as warranted IFCO. Tailored personal development training to meet organisation and personal objectives for each officer; Assessment of the Authority's existing and future skills and needs. An inventory of training undertaken and a renewal schedule is maintained and will be updated in 2021. External training is available to bridge identified capacity gaps; Monitoring and evaluation of training takes place to achieve added value and effectiveness. Monitoring, Job reviews and job plans are in place..	Complete and ongoing
SC3A: IFCA will record site-specific management	Government MPA policy was fully implemented and MPA management reviewed in collaboration with other	Complete and ongoing

considerations for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and report progress to the Authority	regulators. Management of Tranche 2 West of Walney MCZ was agreed with MMO. A byelaw to prohibit use of bottom towed gear in the site is being developed. Tranche 3 MCZ were designated.	
SC3B: IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website.	Data and evidence was compiled in Regulatory impact assessments (RIA) for new measures. Stakeholders were consulted before introduction. Evidence was publicly reported to the Authority. Impacts of new measures are being assessed from survey and enforcement data..	Complete and ongoing.
SC3C: Management information (e.g. sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to demonstrate their effectiveness.	Post implementation survey jointly with partners informs ongoing fisheries management and effectiveness of new measures. Results are reported to Authority and on website. Inspection and enforcement data informs the Authority of the effectiveness of measures. On-going review of the NWIFCA MPA Monitoring & Control Plan.	Complete and ongoing
SC3D: IFCA will develop criteria-based management options, explained to stakeholders through the website, and reviewed annually by 31 March.	New management measures were developed after assessment of options against criteria defining objectives.	Complete and ongoing
SC3E: New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales	The byelaw review followed agreed priorities. Byelaw development will follow Defra guidance.	
SC3F: The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from Fisheries Management Plans in its own Annual Plan, published by 31 March each year.	Objectives from plans such as cockle and mussel plans were approved by bivalve working groups and reported in Annual plan and annual report.	Complete and ongoing
SC3G: Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report	Cockle and mussel management plans and priority byelaws were further developed in 2018-9. Science team planned development of species management plans within available resources	Complete and ongoing
SC4A: The IFCA will publish a Plan on its website by 31 March each year, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.	Annual plan for 2019-20 was published at March 2019 meeting and sent to SoS. Plans include objectives and priorities under criteria set by Defra and local priorities.	Complete
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.	An annual report for 2019-20 was agreed at December 2020 meeting and sent to Defra. Activity in the year and audited financial information were included.	Complete
SC4C: IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans	Job plans for 2020-21 were agreed with all officers.	Complete and ongoing

in place. Annual appraisals for <u>all</u> staff will have been completed by 31 May each year	Appraisals for 2020-21 were completed by December 2021..	
SC4D: An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.	An efficient secretariat is in place. Documentation was produced and meetings were run in line with Standing Orders.	Complete and ongoing
SC4E: The IFCA will show, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the District have worked responsively and effectively together.	Targets for Marine Strategy and Water Framework Directives will be delivered as directed by EA. These were not required in 2020-21	Complete and ongoing
SC5A: The IFCA will show progress towards identifying evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year.	The research plan for 2020-21 in Table 5 shows current projects, the survey programme for 2020-21. Outcomes are reported at quarterly and TSB meetings. Collaboration with Universities other agencies NGO and industry increased in 2019-20.	Complete and ongoing
SC5B: The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making.	All research work in 2020-21 was reported to the Authority at quarterly meetings and in this report, showing how evidence is used to support decision making.	Complete and ongoing
SC5C: The IFCA's contribution to Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and progress towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report.	NWIFCA continued contributions to national programmes and reported to the Authority.	Complete and ongoing

Table 6 Science

Table 6A. Science Surveys and Inspections in 2020-2021

<u>Species</u>	<u>Bed</u>	<u>HRA Y/N</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Active Y/N</u>	<u>Partners / Consultees</u>	<u>No.</u>
Cockle	Flookburgh	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA	2
Cockle	Aldingham	N	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, Multi-agency Group	1
Cockle	Leven Sands	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA	1
Cockle	Middleton Sands	N	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG	1
Cockle	Pilling Sands	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA, Cefas	2
Cockle	Newbiggin	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA	1
Cockle	Warton Sands	N	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, Local Authority,	13
Cockle	Leasowe	Y	Wirral	Y	BMWG, Multi-agency Group	2
Cockle	Duddon	N	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, Multi-agency Group	1
Cockle	Southport	N	Ribble	N	BMWG, Multi-agency Group	1
Cockle	Lytham beds x 3	N	Ribble Estuary	N	n/a	1
Mussels (seed)	Heysham Flat	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA	3
Mussels	Foulney	N	Morecambe Bay	Y	Local Authority	1
Mussels (seed & size)	South America / Falklands	N	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, Natural England	5
Mussels	Low bottom	N	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, Authority	1
Mussels	Duddon	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, Authority	1
Mussels (seed)	Fleetwood Beds x 5	Y	Fylde	N	BMWG, Authority	2
Mussels	Wyre End	N	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, Authority	1
Mussels	West Kirby	Y	Dee Estuary	Y	BMWG, Local Authority	2
Razor clams	Leasowe	N	Wirral	N	Internal	3
Specific INNS	Foulney	n/a	Morecambe Bay	n/a	Internal	4
Specific INNS	Heysham Flat	n/a	Morecambe Bay	n/a	Internal	4

Table 6B Projects active in the year 2020-221.

Partner Body	Project Title	Level	Location
Industry / Shellfish Centre Bangor University	Razor Clam Collaborative Research Project	n/a	Liverpool Bay SPA
Liverpool University	Study into the ecosystem functionality of intertidal razor clams (<i>Ensis</i> spp) at Leasowe beach	MRes	Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA
Whelk Working Group	NWIFCA Whelk size / age at maturity study	n/a	District-wide
Cefas	Bass populations and tagging study	Defra-funded	Southern part of District
Natural England, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Orsted	Nephrops creels project	Feasibility study	Barrow offshore and west of Whitehaven
N/A	Chinese Mitten Crab Surveillance	Internal	Morecambe Bay
Bangor University	Bass and ray populations in English waters	n/a	District-wide

6C Consultation responses completed in 2020-21

Wyre Beach Management Scoping Opinion EIA	
EA 2021 Review of Shellfish Water Protected Area Designations	
Cumbria B5300 Emergency Works Crosscanonby 2021	
Port of Fleetwood Revetment Project Neptune	
Liverpool Marine Maintenance Dredging Disposal	
Lytham St Annes Sandwinning EIA Scoping Report	
Canal & River Trust Ribble Link Dredging	
Central Rhyl Coastal Defences	
Deganwy Marina, Conwy Shellfish Farm	
Conwy Marina Shellfish Farm	
Wallasey Embankment Toe Protection 2021	
Parton to Harrington Sea Walls No 3	
Eskmeals Firing Range Weapons Testing	
Shellfish Farm - Front of Walney Island	
Gwynt y Mor Offshore Wind Farm Met Decommissioning	
Heysham 1 Repair of CW Intake Wall Structure	
Hesketh Out Marsh Habitat Enhancement RSPB 2021	
Penketh an Whittle Brook Tidal Outfall Works	
Barrow Docks Crane Relocation 2021	
Deployment and operation of Floating LiDAR buoys and metocean buoys SC 69409 57428	
Mersey Channel and River Maintenance Dredge Disposal Renewal 2021	
Conway Scrubbing Harbour Berths 2021	
Burbo Bank Offshore Wind Farm O&M	
Duddon Estuary pipeline remediation works	
Colwyn Bay Waterfront Project	
Central Rhyl Coastal Defences	
Mostyn Energy Park Extension Scoping	
Lancashire County Council Bridle Footbridge Replacement	
Preston and South Ribble Flood Risk Management Scheme - Phases 1 and 2	
Penrhyn Bay Coastal Defence	
West Coast Main Life Extension: Gantry Replacements	
Llanddulas to Kinmel Bay Coastal Defence Improvements Project	
Isle of Man Ferry Terminal Variation request 8	
Aldingham Beck Culvert Outfall	
Duddon Estuary Pipeline remediation works - re-consultation	
bp and EnBW Round 4 Offshore Wind Farm Deep Geotechnical Survey	
Aldingham Beck Culvert Outfall Consultation 2	
Dispensations	
AECOM - Mersey Gatewysy Bridge Environmental Monitoring Surveys	Type Dispensation

Maryport Aquarium Lobster Hatchery	Dispensation
CEFAS Nephrops Catch Sampling 2021	Dispensation
Wyre Rivers Trust Bioblitz 2021	Dispensation
Cefas	Dispensation
Simon Ward on behalf of EDF	Dispensation
Richard Pritchard Environment Agency	Dispensation
Hull Marine Laboratory	Dispensation
Springfields Fuels Ltd - Catherine Retberg	Dispensation
Cefas Nephrops Catch sampling 2022	Dispensation
Cefas Clean Seas 2022	Dispensation
Cefas Offshore catch sampling programme 2022	Dispensation
AECOM Mersey Gateway Surveys 2022	Dispensation

6D. Meetings training and workshops attended in 2020-21

National Inshore Fisheries Working Group	Meetings
Cefas Bass populations and tagging study	Meeting
Collaborative Research with Industry and Bangor University on Razor Clams	Meetings
IFCA TAG – Technical Advisory Group	Meetings
EMFF funded project - developing a participatory approach to the management of fishing activity in UK offshore Marine Protected Areas	Workshops
MMO North West Marine Plan	Workshop and Meetings
Whelk Working Group	Meetings
Crown Estates Aggregate Dredging Tender Round	Webinar
Peel Ports Mersey Sediment Management Group	Meetings
Defra's Review of IFCAs consultation	Meeting
Mersey Tidal Power Project	Tele conference and Launch
Central Dredging Association - Dredging and Sustainability in NW England	Conference
Solway Firth Partnership Advisory Group	Meetings
NW Shellfish Liaison Group	Meetings
Peel Ports INNS Workshop	Workshop
Seafish – Brexit Trade - No Deal Scenario	Workshop
Cumbria University research collaboration potential	Meeting

National Crab Science	Meeting
NAEMO Mussel Research	Conference
AIFCA Management of the English Blue Belt	Symposium
Allonby Bay MCZ with Natural England	Meeting
University of Cumbria	Lecture delivered to students
Stakeholder engagement re: potting permit byelaw development	Meeting, questionnaire, emails
Bivalve Mollusc Working Group	Meetings and emails
Wyre Sea Defences - local authority engineer	Meeting
Eden Project North & Natural England	Site inspection & meeting
Morecambe Bay Partnership	Annual Conference
Sefton Sea Anglers	Presentation
Bangor University Benthic Impacts Tool	Training
First Aid at Sea	Training
ATV Safety Course	Training

Glossary

AIFCA	Association of inshore fisheries and conservation authorities
CEFAS	Centre for environment, fisheries and aquaculture science
CEO	Chief executive officer
COG	IFCA Chief officers group
Defra	Department for environment, food and rural affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EHS	Environmental Health Services (Local Authority)
EMS:	European marine site
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GLA	Gangmaster Licensing Authority
HOE	Head of enforcement
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment. An impact assessment required to allow an activity including any fisheries to take place on an EMS
MACAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MSFD	Marine strategy framework directive
NIMEG	Joint Agency National Intelligence and Marine Enforcement Group
NE	Natural England
TAG	Technical officers group
WFD	Water framework directive