

**NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting:
11th December 2015: 11.00 a.m.**

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
9**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Purpose of Report: Update and Information

Recommendation: The report be received

Contents

- I) Defra
- II) Health and safety policy
- III) Officer and member changes
- IV) Association of IFCA
- V) Procurement of a replacement main patrol vessel
- VI) Byelaw progress

I) Defra

1. As expected the spending review on 25th November did not give the level of detail required to reveal the future of the mere £3M per annum IFCA funding which is still to be announced. Overall the cut to Defra's funding is 15% over the next 4 years which is not as bad as had been expected. Defra issued a press release on 25th November to be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-department-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs-settlement-at-the-spending-review-2015>. This identifies the following priorities which make no mention of any marine spending.
 - protection of flood defence funding, including the £2.3 billion 6-year capital investment programme to better protect over 300,000 homes
 - over £130 million capital investment in Defra's science estates and equipment, including funding to enhance national outbreak response capabilities
 - £3 billion investment to safeguard England's countryside through the Common Agricultural Policy, and protection of over £350 million funding for public forests, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty over the Spending Review period
 - resource savings of 15% in real terms by 2019-20; delivered through efficiencies within the department and across its network
2. The joint IFCA – Defra - MMO programme looking at possible cost savings and efficiency improvements achievable through joint working and asset sharing is now underway following approval to go ahead by this Authority at the September meeting. The first project Board meeting was on 27th November when a draft Project Initiation Document (PID) was to be considered. Any outcomes which become available will be tabled on 11th December.

II) **NWIFCA Health and Safety policy**

3. The policy has been checked for breaches and reportable incidents in the last quarter (September – December 2015). None have been recorded. The register of NWIFCO training is maintained.
4. A review and update of parts of the policy has been commissioned from H&S consultant Elsa Mason of DMA Safety Management Ltd based at Seafield in Cumbria. She has broad experience of field, industrial and office H&S from the Nuclear Industry and a wide range of other industrial H&S work.

III) **Officer and Member changes**

5. We welcomed two new staff members to the NWIFCA science team in the last quarter. Jonathan Haines commenced work on 28th September replacing Abigail Leadbeater. Jon brings post graduate experience of 18 months on a fixed term contract with North Eastern IFCA following 1 year on the Wildlife Trust Graduate marine training programme in Cumbria. Abigail Carroll started a week later on 5th October on a one year Defra funded post with the main purpose of speeding up delivery of the European Marine Site programme. Abi has a BSc from Southampton and MSc from Bangor where she wrote a thesis on 'Population dynamics of Seabass in Welsh waters.'
6. There has been a significant change in members since September. Following an MMO appointment process, the Authority is pleased to welcome back Messrs. Dave Grunshaw, Derek Clarke and Brian Crawford who have all been reappointed together with new members Messrs. Jim Andrews and Mark Oddy. We look forward to their contributions and engagement with the work of NWIFCA.
7. As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, the Authority should put some brief information about members on its website. This section is incomplete so please could members who have not yet done so provide the Clerk with the information they wish to have included up to a maximum of about 250 words and a photograph. Direct contact information is not required. The public is invited to contact members through the NWIFCA office.
8. NWIFCA still has 2 member vacancies. MMO will undertake a further recruitment in particular aimed at members with science research expertise and representing the south of the District.

IV) **Association of IFCA (AIFCA)**

9. The Members' Forum met on 23rd September. CEO attended. The Agenda is at Annex A. Minutes as yet unconfirmed pending next meeting on 8th December. The meeting noted:
 - financial spending was in budget;
 - action to argue for future IFCA funding with a supportive letter from the Local Government Association (LGA);
 - The 4 year report (para 10) for publication;
 - A final report on Defra capital spending in 2014 on underwater survey equipment for IFCA;
 - Delivery of S31 grants to IFCA to complete EMS work;
 - The strategy for IFCA – MMO joint working approved by NWIFCA in September;
 - A new template for MPA reporting to Defra;
 - Progress by the AIFCA CEO on the Annual report for 2014-5;
 - Progress to amend IFCA byelaws to avoid legal conflict with landing obligations;
 - Progress with MMO appointments to IFCA and ongoing discussion of a member appraisal process.

10. An AIFCA Brochure “The IFCA’s 2011-2015; Achievements and success in delivering fisheries and conservation management” was published in October and has been sent to members by email. It is also on NWIFCA and AIFCA websites www.association-ifca.org.uk. All IFCA’s provided content for this publication which was designed to raise awareness of the work of IFCA and the Association and timed to support the case for ongoing Defra financial support for IFCA.

11. Members are invited to use this brochure to highlight the work of this IFCA and national marine policy. Some paper copies are available from the Clerk if required.

V) **Procurement of main patrol vessel replacement**

12. Following the September meeting, Lancashire County Council was planning to contract Seafish to assist with tender appraisal and supervision of the vessel build. Progress was also underway to finalise an agreement between Councils over vessel funding. Any update received before the meeting will be tabled.

VI) **NWIFCA Annual Report 2014-5**

13. This Annual Report to comply with the Marine Act requirement has been completed and sent to Defra.

CEO meetings September to November 2015		
Date	Event	Location
7-8 September	Science Officer interviews with Chairman	Carnforth
18 Sept	NWIFCA	Morecambe
21 September	MMO re joint working;	Carnforth
23 September	AIFCA Members; AIFCA Directors Agenda at Annex A	London
24 September	NWIFCA Enforcement officers briefing;	Carnforth
25 September	LDNP re Database development;	Carnforth
30 Sept - 2 Oct	Leave	
14 October	Chief Officers Group (COG); London; Agenda at Annex A	London
20 October	MMO re members appointments and administration; with Chairman	Carnforth
23 October	H&S Consultant re H&S review	Carnforth
26 Oct – 30 Oct	Leave	
6 November	MP David Morris; TSB. Town Hall.	Morecambe
9 November	Defra briefing TACs and Quotas 2016. Papers available	London
10 November	Enforcement Officers briefing	Carnforth
12 November	Natural England Director Marine Liaison	Carnforth
17 November	NFFO West Coast Committee H Thinnesen attended	Whitehaven
19 November	EA Salmon Summit, 1 IFCA invite only, Devon & Severn attended. Delegate pack has been sent to members for info. Bivalve Working Group Carnforth	Carnforth
24 November	EMS Project implementation Group – IFCA workshop. 4 IFCA's attended NWIFCA sent update report	London
27 November	IFCA – Defra – MMO Joint working project Board 1 st meeting. AIFCA Chief Officer and Chairman, COG Chairman attended. Outputs not yet available	London

Chief Executive Officer
2nd December 2015