

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

18th September: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA
ITEM NO.

8

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Purpose of Report: Update and Information

Recommendations

1. **The report be received**
2. **Approve proposals for joint working with MMO in Annex D**

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. National marine policy and priorities remain unchanged since the election. Work on the assessment of the impact of fishing activities on European Marine Sites and the designation and management measures for MCZ is continuing. The current England wide work programme is on schedule for completion by the end of 2016. The provision by Defra of a 1 year Science Officer post should ensure the priority work in the North West is delivered on time and within budget. An appointment to this post should be announced in the near future.
2. The future funding of IFCA from Defra is still unconfirmed pending the outcome of the government spending review which is expected by the end of this year. Since IFCA were established in 2011 Defra have provided approximately one third of funding so loss of this funding would have a major impact. The Association of IFCA (AIFCA) wrote to the newly reappointed Minister George Eustice in June to remind him of the importance of IFCA funding and received a helpful but non-committal response. These letters are attached at Annex A and B.
3. As reported in June, Defra have asked IFCA and MMO to work together to look at possible cost savings and efficiency improvements achievable through joint working and asset sharing. Work has continued over the summer to address this request and some outline joint proposals agreed by IFCA and MMO have been sent to Defra (Annex C and D). Members are asked to approve these proposals for the next AIFCA on 23rd September 2015.

II) NWIFCA Health and Safety policy

4. The policy has been checked for breaches and reportable incidents in the last quarter (June - August 2015). None have been recorded. The register of NWIFCO training is maintained.

III) Officer and Member changes

5. A replacement for Ms Leadbeater has been appointed and will commence work with NWIFCA on 28 September.

6. Interviews have been held for the 1 year Defra funded post and an appointment should be announced soon.
 7. New members of NWIFCA have been appointed: Councillor Jim Elmes (Blackpool), Councillor James Noakes (Liverpool) and Councillor Paul Williams (Cheshire).
 8. NWIFCA is still operating with 4 member vacancies and a further MMO recruitment has taken place in August and September. An announcement of new members is expected.
- IV) **Association of IFCA (AIFCA)**
9. The Members' Forum met on 9th June; and draft minutes are at Annex E. The main discussion concerned the Defra marine protected area priorities, future funding of IFCA and possible joint working with MMO. The next AIFCA meeting will be on 23rd September. CEO and Chairman plan to attend.
- V) **Procurement of main patrol vessel replacement**
10. CEO wrote to Lancaster County Council in August for an update on progress with procurement. Any information received will be reported verbally.
- VI) **Byelaw development**
11. Work this quarter has focused on helping Defra make necessary amendments to IFCA byelaws to avoid legal conflict with CFP landing obligation legislation. This is covered in detail separately and other byelaw work is in the science report.

Chief Executive Office
9th September 2015

CEO meetings June - August 2015	
Date	Event
9 th June	AIFCA members and Directors meets London
12 th June	NWIFCA quarterly
15 th – 29 th June	Annual Leave
30 th June	LDNP re database development
6 th July	MMO & Defra re joint working
13 th July	Defra re landing obligation (phone conf)
15 th – 16 th July	Chief Officers Whitby
24 th July	Staff meeting
29 th July	Natural England – progress and strategy meet Carnforth
4 th August	Defra re 1 year post funding (phone conf)
11 th August	NWIFCA TSB Morecambe
2 nd Sept	BBC interview re Blackfish (Skype)
4 th September	Bivalve Mollusc Working Group Carnforth