

Association of IFCAs Marine Protected Area Project

Introduction

The Association of IFCAs has taken on the role of collating and reporting MPA progress by the individual IFCAs, updating groups such as the MPA Project Board and the MPA Implementation Group (now advisory group), and reporting to Defra. The Association of IFCAs has received funding from Defra to undertake a 1-year national project from April 1st 2018 consolidating the work carried out to date by IFCAs in assessing and managing fishing activities within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The delivery of Defra's 'revised approach to the management of fishing activities in European Marine Sites' in English inshore waters has required considerable resourcing by IFCAs and demonstrates the strength and ability of the IFCA model in delivering locally effective and good value for money fisheries management. As this workstream comes to a close and the focus moves towards fisheries management in Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), there is an opportunity to consolidate and celebrate the achievements made to date by the ten IFCAs in managing fishing activities in MPAs and share our learning experiences.

Aim

To collate, analyse and promote IFCA and IFCA partners progress in assessing and managing fishing activities within English inshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Outputs

The information gathered will be used to deliver:

- A database of assessments and management measures introduced to support the delivery of a well-managed network of MPAs in English inshore waters
- Up-to-date GIS data layers of all management measures introduced to manage fishing activities in MPAs
- A report outlining assessments completed by IFCAs and management measures introduced within MPAs under the 'Revised Approach' identifying gaps, opportunities and lessons learnt
- A communications package, highlighting and promoting the progress made by IFCAs in the management of fishing activities within MPAs
- Increased engagement with key stakeholders and delivery partners including fisheries representative bodies, eNGOs, Defra, the MMO, EA and NE
- The participation in relevant fora, including national and international conferences and the MMO National Steering Group for MPAs
- Greater co-ordination and collaboration between the Technical Advisory Group when assessing the impacts of fishing activities and introducing fisheries management within MPAs
- A launch to highlight and celebrate the achievements made by IFCAs when assessing and managing fishing activities within MPAs.