

**NWIFCA Annual Meeting
28th June 2018: 11.00 a.m.**

**AGENDA
ITEM
11**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Purpose of Report: Information

Recommendation: Receive the report

This report covers:

- I. Personnel, Health & Safety**
- II. Communication & engagement**
- III. Association of IFCA**
- IV. Byelaws**
- V. FPV 'North Western Protector' update**
- VI. Review of Standing Orders**

I. Personnel, Health and Safety, complaints

1. MMO appointee Mr. Brian Crawford resigned from the Authority on 8th June after many years' service to NWIFCA and previously in both Cumbria and North Western Sea Fisheries Committees. The Authority extends sincere thanks to Brian for his extensive contributions to improving the management of the seas of NW England.
2. Following Mr. Crawford's resignation there are now 3 vacancies for MMO appointees. Recruitment is underway. The closing date for applications was 8th June. MMO will interview 2 candidates on 20th June. Further information may be available at the meeting.
3. *Officer changes:* Following interviews in March, we are pleased to welcome 2 new officers to the Authority giving us a full complement of staff as of June 2018.
4. Dr. Melanie Hartley commenced work in the science team on 23rd April. Melanie has experience working for the Wyre Rivers Trust and qualified PhD at Lancaster University.
5. Mt Matt Burdekin is reappointed IFCO after a break of several years travelling and working in other fields. He also started on 23rd April and from his previous experience arrived trained and able to take up duties immediately.
6. There have been no reportable H&S incidents this quarter. Updating the H&S policy continues with advice of our retained H&S consultant.
7. There are no outstanding complaints against the Authority

II. Communications

1. Further preparation for the commencement of new 'General Data Protection regulations has been a major task this quarter. This included sifting all paper records held in archives which placed a large burden on staff time.
2. The following is a summary of other communications work completed and ongoing

- Species pages are now live.
- Returns database has been thoroughly tested and rolled out for use by other members of staff.
- Bass posters have been circulated and put up around the district.
- GDPR related updates to application forms and the website have been made.

Website Change Log (does not include front page posts)		
Date	Change Made	By
06/04/18	All species pages live. Distro maps are images at the minute however a live embed may be possible in future. Need original pictures to make links more engaging (ongoing).	AG
18/04/18	Updated members list.	AG
26/04/18	Added all cockle and mussel fisheries HRAs from March 2016 onwards to the HRA page.	AG
04/05/18	Added link to committee meetings archive on policies and reports page.	AG
08/05/18	Updated byelaw list with foul hooking and dredge byelaws.	AG
14/05/18	Updated members list.	AG
23/05/18	Added numerous privacy notices to the website. Added tick box to stakeholder to actively opt in. In addition, revised stakeholder form to add extra categories following feedback from previous entries.	AG
04/06/18	Corrected version of NWIFCA Constitution.	AG
06/06/18	Updated members list.	AG
11/06/18	Embedded a video on INNS from Animal and Plant Health Agency Youtube into the biosecurity page.	AG

III Association of IFCA

3. A meeting of the Members' forum was held on 5th June 2018 attended by CEO and Chairman. The following are notes of the meeting by CEO.
 - a) **Defra** Officials were unable to report progress on the **fisheries white paper**. Publication date of the Fisheries bill has been delayed to autumn. Fishing News (21st June 2018) reported Minister George Eustice stating at the NFFO AGM that after the end of the Brexit transition period (Dec 2020), UK will leave the relative stability quota shares system of allocating fisheries and move to a fairer 'zonal attachment' system. Relative stability currently allocates the UK shares of EU TACs.
 - b) **IFCO powers SI** has not been released as expected following closure of a short consultation. Similarly no progress could be reported with the **Defra Transformation** project.
 - c) **MCZ** 3rd tranche sites consultation was published by Defra on June 8th (World Oceans Day) for designations in 2019 despite reporting at the meeting 2 days previously that officials did not know when the consultation would be released.
 - d) **iVMS** was discussed as further questions raised doubts about the viability of the project. This is covered in a separate agenda item.
 - e) **An IFCA training unit** is being set up to co-ordinate training across all 10 IFCA. A 3 day per week post will be financed by AIFCA reserves and report to Chief Officers. A report is available.
 - f) **AIFCA Accounts 2017-8** were approved. The report is available.
 - g) **D&S membership of AIFCA**. A meeting with D&S scheduled for 13th July to resolve issues of concern will be attended by an AIFCA sub-committee including Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr Paul Williams (NWIFCA).
 - h) A report on progress with a joint IFCA project to assess impact of fisheries in MPA throughout England was received. A summary of this project is at Annex A.

IV. NWIFCA Byelaws

4. **Prohibition on foul hooking:** Byelaw confirmed.
5. **Review of Cockle and Mussel permit byelaw 3:** Legal advice on the question of a trader permit was received from MMO and this element of the proposed byelaw will be dropped. Following discussion at TSB a further draft of the byelaw is in preparation for approval by TSB.
6. **Potting permit byelaw:** Senior Scientist has commenced work on development of a byelaw with flexible conditions
7. **Netting byelaw:** Head of Enforcement is researching appropriate options and measures.

V. North Western Protector update

8. The Master sends apologies as he is on leave and provides the following notes. The vessel is nearly complete and in the harbour at Holyhead. Delivery to Whitehaven is expected on 4th July. The vessel has been tested at sea. Engines are fully operational. The rib launch and recovery system is working well. Full sea trials were planned for 11th June but an engine failure resulting from a leaking fuel injector pipe required repair. A part had to be sourced from Germany. The repair was completed by 15th June.
9. Master and the Science team were concerned that electrical work is taking more time than expected to complete. Holyhead Marine Services (HMS) had difficulty completing the wheel house and survey electrics and electronics. A new HMS Contractor will complete the work which will be monitored by the science team and engineer.
10. As previously notified, a vessel naming and commissioning ceremony will take place in Whitehaven on 25th July. The programme and guest list is being prepared in collaboration with the Office of the Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria. Members will be sent full details when available.

VI Review of Standing orders

11. The 2017 Constitution including refreshed Standing Orders provides for an annual review of Standing Orders. To date no amendments have been proposed for this meeting. The Chairman or CEO should be notified of any proposals for consideration at a future meeting.

CEO Main meetings attended 1st March – 6th June 2018

6 th March	AIFCA Member's forum and Directors, London
8 th March	Lake District National Park re GDPR, Carnforth
12 th March	IFCO Interviews, Carnforth
13 th March	IFCA (Science Officer) interviews
15 th March	NWIFCA quarterly
19 th April	Chief Officer's group, London
24 th April	Chairman's update
3 rd May	Bivalve Mollusc Working Group
15 th May	TSB
5 th June	AIFCA Member's forum and Directors, London
6 th June	Bivalve Mollusc Working Group

CEO & Communications Officer
18th June 2018

Association of IFCAs Marine Protected Area Project

Project staff: Jamie Small, Simon Pengelly, Patrick Cooper

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, and reporting to Defra. This process has required significant resourcing by the Association and individual IFCAs and information has been slow to gather. The Association of IFCAs has received funding from Defra to undertake a 1-year national project 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 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
- An end-of-project conference to highlight and celebrate the achievements made by IFCAs when assessing and managing fishing activities within MPAs.

Progress update

Jamie Small has been appointed to work 3 days/week on the project and will be hosted by Southern IFCA. The first stage of the project has been to draw together and catalogue all relevant data. Where possible, data has been gathered from IFCA websites, reports and the 'Huddle'. Once all avenues have been exhausted more specific contact has been made with individual IFCAs to establish what gaps remain. To date the assessment database has been completed for Southern, Cornwall, Sussex, North Western, North Eastern, Northumberland and Devon and Severn IFCAs.

Project staff aim to visit all IFCAs during the second quarter of the project to QA the database and learn more about how the process has been completed, understanding local issues and successes. The aim is to complete the database by the end of the second quarter, at which point the GIS data layers will then be constructed. The project has also been introduced to the Marine Conservation Society, Blue Marine Foundation and Seasearch, together with Defra family organisations and positive discussions are underway as to how the updated database and GIS layers may be shared and used.