

**Seventh
annual report**

1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018

Draft 18-9-18



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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. 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 2017-18 were set out in the 2017-18 Annual Plan. Outcomes and delivery are summarised in Annex C the Authorities objectives and Annex B the Defra monitoring template agreed in 2015.

The Authority: Members, meetings, governance

5. The full membership is 30 members (as defined in SI2200, 2010). Members are listed in table 1. At 31 March 2018, there were 3 MMO vacancies.
6. The Authority and TSB Sub-committee met quarterly. Meeting dates are in table 2. Standing Orders and other corporate governance documents are in the Constitution available on the website.
7. All meetings were open to the public. There were no closures for confidential matters. Committee papers were posted on the website 7 days in advance of all meetings.
8. Risk strategy and risk registers were reviewed by the Authority in December 2017 by the Auditors in August 2018 and are available from the Clerk.
9. An independent retained consultant continued a systematic analysis of all areas of the Authority's Health & Safety policy and risk assessments. The Policy is available from the Clerk. Incidents recorded were reviewed before each full Authority meeting.

Resources

10. The budget for 2017-18 was agreed by the Authority in December 2016.
11. There was again no increase in the levy for core costs compared with 2013-14. Therefore the budget was effectively cut again last year by the annual rate of inflation.
12. The Levy was increased by 2% to provide funding for the proposed replacement patrol vessel. This was the fourth such increase in line with the 2013 resolution for a 2% per year levy increase for 5 years to provide an ongoing sum for replacement of assets.

13. Budget Review for the year ended 31 March 2018 is shown in table 3.
14. Audit
- a) Accountants Moore and Smalley LLP, conducted the internal audit on 27 Jun 2018. The Audit report was received on 10 August and approved by the Authority at the quarterly meeting 13 September.
 - b) The Audit Report, Internal Controls Review and Accounting Statement to 31st March 2018 are available on request. Summary findings are:
 - i. Internal Audit Report Financial systems were found to be in order
 - ii. Internal Controls Review NWIFCA fully complied with relevant procedures and objectives.
 - c) The Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 31st March 2018 (table 4) was checked by Moore and Smalley LLP.
15. **Officers and equipment:** NWIFCA had 21 full time equivalent staff in 2017-8. Premises, vessels and vehicles are listed in table 5. A major staff change was the departure of HOE IFCO Andy Deary in September 2017 and appointment of IFCO Joseph Moulton to the post of HOE in November 2017. Other staff changes were reported to quarterly meetings.

District fisheries

16. **Commercial fishing North of Haverigg Point:** trawling and netting for prawns (*Nephrops*) sole, brill and turbot, plaice, cod, codling, skate (thornback ray). Intertidal fisheries for periwinkles, cockles, mussels, 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 dated January 2018 is shown below. Unlicensed and unregistered vessels includes hobby fishing boats and charter angling vessels.

	Jan 2017	Jan 2018
District commercial vessels >10m	22	38
District commercial vessels <10m	71	102
Visitor vessels >10m	43	29
Visitor vessels <10m	18	1
Unlicensed / unregistered vessels	304	313

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.

Enforcement

20. Consistent weekly tasking of all IFCOs and Science Advisors (IFCA's) has established an effective routine pattern of patrols and surveys. This is providing valuable quantitative data on fishing activity as reported at quarterly meetings.
21. Development of the inshore fisheries intelligence management system for England commenced in 2016. The system is now well established and in constant regular use. Intelligence is gathered and entered into the system by IFCOs in Carnforth and this makes an important contribution to enforcement planning, evidence gathering and prosecutions. Through well co-ordinated sharing of information with other enforcement agencies, joint working is enhanced and national patterns of fishing activity can be detected and better understood. Intelligence is securely recorded on line and shared with partners including MMO and other IFCA's. HOE attends the multi-agency National Intelligence and Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) which meets 3 times per year.
22. Regular weekly tasking of IFCOs to meet intelligence received and risks identified is working well. Tasking is also shared with partner bodies and resultant joint working with MMO, GLA, Councils and other agencies has increased.
23. Table 6 provides inspection and compliance data for the year to 31 March 2018.

Byelaws and regulations

24. **Prohibition on foul hooking byelaw** was confirmed in April 2018.
25. **Permit to fish for cockles and mussels (Byelaw 3):** The review of this byelaw continued in 2017-8 but was not concluded as other work, particularly the dredge byelaw assumed priority.
26. **Permit to dredge byelaw** was confirmed in December 2017
27. New EU bass regulations enacted for 2017-8 were implemented for 2017 by IFCOs with the proviso that IFCA's lacked powers unless working with MMO Officers until August 2018
28. Species and gear landing obligations and discard plans were extended in 2017 as below.

Gear	Species	Applicable to	Exemptions
Trawl/seine	Hake	All using specified gear	No
Gill/trammel/hook & line	Hake	Those meeting threshold	No
Trawls/seines/pots & traps	Nephrops	Those meeting threshold	Catch from trawls pots and creels could be discarded
Trawls & seines	Haddock	Those meeting threshold	None

Science and survey

29. Science continued to support the Authority's fisheries management decisions in 2017-18. The science team worked with many agencies, NGOs and stakeholders to deliver its wide remit. Main areas of work were stock assessments, field surveys, HRA, MMO

Marine Licence consultations and work with regulators and developers over major infrastructure projects. Officers attended and contributed to national workshops and training events in partnership with the main Defra agencies.

30. Table 7 A-D report the science programme in 2017-18:
- 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;
31. The main science priorities during 2017-18 were:
- I. on-going work to achieve the completion of assessments for management of fisheries within European Marine Sites as part of the 'Defra Review'
 - II. engagement with Defra, NE, MMO over MCZ management (T2 site) and proposed T3 site designations
 - III. monthly participation in national MPA Management Working Group
 - IV. 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
 - V. completion and publication of NWIFCA Marine Protected Area Monitoring and Control Plan
 - VI. development of voluntary Code of Practice for netting around St Bees Head, Cumbria, featured on BBC Countryfile
 - VII. publishing report on Management of Razor Clam Fisheries and invitation to industry for collaborative research project
 - VIII. participation in development of MMO North West Marine Plan
 - IX. participation and representation of NWIFCA and marine interests in major infrastructure developments within the District, such as NuGen's new nuclear power station at Moorside, West Cumbria Mining, various windfarms and Halite Gas Storage Project, Preesall, Wyre
 - X. publishing report on NWIFCA District Crab and Lobster Fisheries following digitisation of MSARs data
 - XI. NWIFCA byelaw review – development of the NWIFCA Potting Byelaw
 - XII. National IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings and conference
 - XIII. analysis of inshore fisheries activities data for shore patrols
 - XIV. engagement with Defra, Cefas and stakeholders over EU bass measures, and proposals for future research projects
 - XV. participation in Cefas C-Bass project with fishermen and MMO to tag bass
 - XVI. participation in meetings of Solway Firth Partnership, Dee Estuary Conservation Group, Shellfish Liaison Group, Dee Estuary Sea Fisheries Liaison Group, Wyre Estuary Group, Mersey Sediment Management Group.
 - XVII. development and rolling out of NWIFCA Recreational Sea Angling Strategy and engagement with stakeholders. Email: angling@nw-ifca.gov.uk
 - XVIII. co-working research on 3 university projects relating to shellfish in Morecambe Bay EMS
 - XIX. completion of majority of Conservation and Ecology pages for new NWIFCA

- website
 - XX. trialling of small fish surveys to develop a NWIFCA SFS programme
 - XXI. reinforcing NWIFCA enforcement team during active fisheries
 - XXII. testing and co-ordination of NWIFCA sub-sea survey equipment
 - XXIII. co-ordination of scientific survey capability on-board NWIFCA new patrol vessel
 - XXIV. emergency oil spill response co-ordinated through MCA and EA
 - XXV. collecting samples of landed American Lobster for Cefas analysis
32. Work to deliver the Defra policy on Fisheries Management in EMS continued. All NWIFCA HRAs are published on NWIFCA website and Marine Protected Area Management Huddle page (accessed by IFCA's, MMO, NE, Defra).
 33. Individual HRAs are carried out for all cockle and mussel fisheries. In 2017-18 the following additional HRAs were conducted:
 - I. Heysham Flat seed mussel fishery July 2017
 - II. Leven, Flookburgh and Pilling cockle fishery September 2017
 - III. Leasowe cockle fishery September 2017
 - IV. West Kirby Size Mussel December 2017
 34. Shellfish (crab and lobster landings in the NWIFCA district in 2017-18 as recorded in the National Shellfish Licensing Scheme database are shown in Table 6.
 35. Defra announced in 2016 that an Inshore vessel monitoring system (iVMS) would be implemented nationally via an SI if ministerial approval were secured. The SI would require all under 12m vessels (not captured by the VMS requirements) to have iVMS fitted.

Partnership working

36. Working in partnership with other agencies continued to be a high government priority. In 2017-18 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.
37. MMO: The Authority shares intelligence, tasking training with MMO. 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.
38. 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.
39. 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.

40. 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.
41. GLA 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 and shared Byelaw 3 data with GLA and HMRC.
42. 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 attended the Dee Estuary Fisheries Liaison Group.
43. The NWIFCA consulted NGO in the development of policies. The Science team continued collaboration with RSPB and County WLT in the District on the Authority and the BMWG to develop management plans for shellfisheries. Also North West Coastal Forum, Solway Firth Partnership, EA Standing Environment Group, Dee Estuary Sea Fisheries Liaison Group.

Publicity and Communications

44. The Recreational Sea Angling strategy has been developed with a designated inbox for sea anglers to e-mail. IFCOs have been given materials to distribute to any anglers they see containing contact details for NWIFCA.
45. The website at www.nw-ifca.gov.uk is under continuous development. A large amount of positive comments have been received from other IFCA's, agencies and the public.
46. The NWIFCA Facebook page has been recreated. A post providing a reminder on the year's bass measures gained several thousand views and was shared by angling clubs throughout the UK.
47. The Bivalve working group has continued to meet when necessary and has been a major success.
48. Returns and officer inspections for Byelaw 3 have been added to the database. This has led to significant officer time savings in monitoring returns compliance. The new system allows for Byelaw 3 returns data to be viewed at day level compared to the previous systems monthly totals.
49. Three FOI requests were received during this period. They requested following information:
 - Information on all enforcement action taken since the creation of the IFCA.
 - The yearly number of warranted officers since the creation of the IFCA
 - The number of different nationalities holding a Byelaw 3 permit and on the Byelaw 3 waiting list.All FOI's were responded to within the statutory time frame.

Staff Training

50. 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.
51. Two IFCOs attended the annual 5 day IFCO training course February 2017 to receive an IFCO warrant. Other mandatory and essential training was maintained. 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
52. Implementation of the FCO accreditation pilot scheme continued with the aim of creating a level 3 qualification in fisheries and marine enforcement. The aim is for 3 IFCOs to work through units 1 & 2 by March 2017. The Head of Enforcement was appointed a local assessor for this training.
53. New Authority members received an induction pack of information about the IFCA and the role of members. MMO provide training for new members in delivery of the role. NWIFCA provide awareness days to inform new members about the work of the Authority. An awareness day will be planned for 2016 if required.

Performance

54. Performance in delivery of the remit is measured locally and nationally. Local priorities for this District set by the Authority are in Table 7 A. National criteria and performance indicators set by Defra are in Table 7B
55. 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
56. HOE had daily responsibility for Enforcement action. HOE and CEO signed off decisions on Fixed Administrative penalties and prosecutions.
57. **Equality Act 2010:** As a public sector body and employer the Authority complied with the Equality Act and standards.

Table 1 Authority membership April 2017 - March 2018

Council Members		Date of appointment
Blackpool Borough Council (1)	Councillor J. Elmes	July 2015
Cheshire West and Chester Council (1)	Councillor P. Williams	July 2015
Cumbria County Council (2)	Councillor AJ Markley Councillor K. Little	October 2010 March 2013
Halton Borough Council (1)	Councillor B. Woolfall	May 2015
Lancashire County Council (2)	Councillor L. Beavers Councillor A. Gardner	May 2013 May 2017
Liverpool City Council (1)	Councillor J. Noakes	July 2015
Sefton Council (1)	Councillor R. L. Owens	June 2016
Wirral Metropolitan Council (1)	Councillor B. Mooney Councillor P. Brightmore	June 2014 May 2017

MMO Appointees and their Affiliations:		
Marine Environment	Dr J. Andrews	October 2015
Marine Environment	Dr E. Baxter	March 2014
Marine Science/Environment	Mr C. Booth	March 2015
Commercial Fishing	Mr D. Clarke	2010, 2015
Anglers and Recreational Fishing	Mr B Crawford	2010, 2015
Commercial Fishing	Mr R. Graham	2010, 2015
Shellfish aquaculture	Mr D. Grunshaw	2011, 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	Mr M. Oddy	October 2015
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	Stewart Mounsey Steve Garner	December 2014 January 2018
Marine Management Organisation	Daniel Ward Patrick Gray	August 2015 December 2017

NOTES:

Councillor A. Gardner (Lancashire CC) appointed May 2017 to replace Councillor Beavers
Councillor P. Brightmore (Wirral Council) appointed May 2017 to replace Councillor B. Mooney
Mr Patrick Gray appointed December 2017 to replace Daniel Ward
There are 3 MMO appointee vacancies as at March 2018

Table 2 Authority and other key meetings attended by officers 2017-8

		Dates
NWIFCA	Authority	16 th June 2017 15 th September 2017 8 th December 2017 15 th March 2018
	Technical Science & Bylaws Committee	16 th May 2017 9 th August 2017 31 st October 2017 6 th February 2018
	Finance Committee	8 th December 2017; 28June17 Audit.
	Staff	4-5-17; 6July17 Chairman; 24Aug17; 13Sept17Chairman; 31Oct17; 7Dec17Chairman; 16-1-18Managers; 30Jan18Science; 1Feb18Chairman; 16Feb18Chairman; 20Feb18Managers; 11Feb18Managers; 26Mar18Managers
Joint IFCA	Association of IFCA (AIFCA)	6June17; 20 July; 26Sept17; 7-8Nov17; 5Dec17; 26Feb18; 6Mar18;
	Chief officers group COG	5-6April2017; 19 July; 18-19Sept17; 9-10Jan18;
	National Intelligence & Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG)	13-Mar18HOE;
	IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG)	15June17; 16Nov17;
Fisheries Liaison	Bivalve Working Group	19 April2017; 6July17
Partner meetings. IFCA; Government, NGO; Conferences, Media	Defra	8June17Election; 15Dec17;iVMSproject Board
	Irish Sea Forum	20 April2017; 12-13July17;
	NE Liaison	Science team meetings
	EA Liaison	Science team meetings
	MMO; Liaison	12-May17; 22May17; 5June17; 27June17; 21 Aug17; 10Oct 17; 24Oct17;
	Solway mussels Siloth	18-1-17
Training	IFCO training Torquay	

Table 3: Budget review 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018

FROM 1 APRIL 2017 - 31 MARCH 2018					
	ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO DATE	ACTUAL TO DATE	BETTER+/-WORSE- THAN BUDGET	NOTES
	£	£	£	£	Main areas of saving
EXPENDITURE					
Employees	888,227	888,227	827,537	60,690	Payroll savings - staff turnover
Premises	56,800	56,800	48,972	7,828	Gen Insurance & Rent savings
Transport	205,280	205,280	173,705	31,575	Fuel&Oil & Repairs savings on PV
Vessel Purchase*	95,952	95,952	5,795	90,157	Set aside to fund new PV
Supplies/Services	61,400	61,400	48,854	12,546	Copying/Computers/Subscriptions
Corporate	30,800	30,800	11,091	19,709	Repayment of legal costs/FAPS
Total Expenditure	1,338,459	1,338,459	1,115,955	222,504	<i>(PV is Patrol Vessel)</i>
INCOME					
Levy	1,259,959	1,259,959	1,259,959	0	
Shellfish sampling	7,000	7,000	9,681	2,681	Extra sampling for councils
Byelaw 3 Permit Fees	64,000	64,000	63,000	-1,000	Varies due to date of renewal
Interest	7,500	7,500	6,773	-727	Interest rate slightly lower than est
Total Income	1,338,459	1,338,459	1,339,413	954	

* Vessel Purchase: Levy increase of 2% per year for 5 years set aside for Vessel Replacement Fund

Surplus	223,458
Less Vessel Purchase	90,157
WORKING SURPLUS	133,302

Table 4: Bank Reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2018 (£)

	£	£
Bank Account: NatWest Current Account (Unadjusted Fig. see Note 1)	90,668	
Less Unpresented Cheques: None	0	
Add Uncleared Payments: None	0	
Add Petty Cash:	200	
Add STIS: Lancashire County Council Investment	1,647,000	
TOTAL CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS		1,737,868

Note 1: Reconciliation of bank account figure with Profit & Loss

<i>Unadjusted Bank Account</i>	90,668	
<i>Less Unpresented Cheques</i>	0	90,668
<i>Profit & Loss 8255 Bank</i>		90,668

Table 5 Assets: Premises, vessels, vehicles 2017-8

Offices	Leased main office	Carnforth base for 11 staff
	Cumbria Council Office	Whitehaven base for 7 staff
Garage/stores	All leased. Used for storing ribs, quads, other equipment and as offices for home based IFCOs.	Whitehaven Barrow Carnforth Liverpool
Vessels	FPV "Solway Protector"	1989, 16 metre Arun class GRP vessel - based in Whitehaven
	FPV "Protector Bravo"	1999, 7 metre RIB – based in Whitehaven
	FPV 'Protector Gamma'	2011 6m RIB – Based in Barrow
	FPV "Bay Protector"	7.5m RIB based in Liverpool
	FPV "Zodiac Bravo"	4.5m based in Morecambe
Road vehicles	5 Nissan Navara 4WD	2 Whitehaven, 1 Barrow, 1 Liverpool, 1 Carnforth
	4 Renault Kangoo vans	4 Carnforth
ATV 'quad' bikes	10 Honda ATV	Whitehaven, Barrow, Carnforth, Liverpool

Table 6 Inspection and compliance data

6A: summary of quarterly reports

First quarter April - June:

- I. Decent landings of prawns were made in the latter part of the quarter
- II. A slow start was made by the potting boats, which saw no improvement until late June, with commercial landings being around 55kg per day, at most. Two potting boats landed weekly in to Barrow, with catches being made from outside the district
- III. Angling popular, low beach caught bass, and a good compliance with the MRCS
- IV. Shrimping seemed to be steadier in the northern part of the district, and only small amount of effort within the rest of the area
- V. Low licenced netting vessel activity seen, one only vessel using a rod/line authorisation
- VI. Mussel prospecting took place on Foulney, with no subsequent activity observed. Planning of Heysham seed mussel fishery continued
- VII. Intel led to shore patrols of cockle fisheries took place during the quarter

Second quarter July – September

- I. Lobsters landed regularly in August, dropping off in September
- II. Very little trawling effort took place during the quarter
- III. Shrimp beam trawling catches were very good on occasions in the north of the district, but not so from Haverigg to Arnside
- IV. Bass & macherel were being caught in August & September, and cod showing towards the end of the quarter. No activity detected in the Heysham bass nursery area
- V. Cockling continued at Flookburgh, and on Leasowe from 1st September, with routine patrols throughout the district including Pilling and the north Wirral coast
- VI. Mussel activity (small scale) in the Ribble. 13 gatherers working Heysham Flat seed mussel fishery – 2 offences detected.
- VII. Angling continued throughout the district with good small bass reported

Third quarter October – December

- I. Recreational anglers reported poor catches from piers, but showing average returns at Barrow Docks and the west of Walney
- II. Potting vessels had varied landings from 10 crabs to 1.5 boxes per day
- III. Netters reported small landings of cod, pollock, herring & mullet, and vessels having poor catches of cod, thornback rays and turbot
- IV. Cockling activity at Flookburgh steady; Pilling busy with up to 30 B3 permit holders present, and low level cockling & musselling activity seen across the Wirral
- V. Occasional shrimping was seen throughout the district

Fourth quarter January – March 2017

- I. Trawling activity seen up to 15 boxes of thornback rays being landed, but very little nephrops reported being caught
- II. Only low levels of potting activity took place
- III. Anglers reported good catches of codling close to the shore in February & March, with both shore and boat anglers reporting good catches of thorn back rays
- IV. Limited amounts of netting activity was evident throughout the quarter
- V. Cockling activity resulted in two B3 permit holders being issued with FAPs for undersized cockles. Cockling showed a steady decrease in effort throughout the quarter
- VI. No mussel gathering took place
- VII. Moderate levels of shrimping was observed earlier in the quarter

6B Authorisations to fish issued under byelaws in 2017-8

	Period of permit	Year	Number issued
NWSFC Byelaw 1 Scientific derogations	Various periods up to max 1 year	2016-7	16
		2017-8	17
Cockle and mussels Byelaw 3	1 Sept – 31 Aug 2017	2016-7	108
	1 Sept – 31 Aug 2018	2017-8	113
Netting Byelaws 26/27 Areas 8, 9,10 &11.	1 May - 30 Nov 2016	2016	141
	1 May - 30 Nov 2017	2017	131
Netting Byelaw 26 Areas 2 & 3	1 July –30 Nov 2016	2016	7
	1 May - 30 Nov 2017	2017	7
Netting Byelaw 26 Area 5	1 - 31 May &	2016	6
	1 Sept -30 Nov	2017	6
Hobby potting Byelaw 30 NWSFC area	1 Jan - 31 Dec	2017	39
	1 Jan - 31 March	2018	48
Hobby potting Byelaw 26 Cumbria SFC area	1Jan - 31 Dec	2017	51
	1 Jan – 31 Mar	2018	53

6 C Patrol and inspection data 2017-18

At Sea	number of vessel patrols	18
	number of boardings	4
	number of closings (not included as boardings)	105
	number of fishing vessel sightings	210
	number of gear inspections	9
On Land	number of shore patrols	834
	number of port visits (within shore & ATV patrols)	580
	number of premises inspections	3
	number of landing inspections - catch	3070
	number of landing inspections - gear	658
	number of other inspections	883
Outcomes	number of verbal warnings	1
	number of written warnings & advisory letters	73
	formal cautions	0
	number of FAPs	4
	number of individuals prosecuted in court	1

6 D Shellfish (crab & lobster) landings (Fleetwood to Whitehaven) - April 2017 – March 2018. Date from National Shellfish Licensing Scheme

Gear Pots/Nets Set		Edible Crabs (Kgs)			Spider Crab	Lobster	Other	Berried hens	under sized
No set	No hauled	Cocks	Hens	Mixed	Kgs	Kgs	Kgs	Kgs	Kgs
42965	36476	148.3	188.5	5225.15	0	10128.8	11310	28	268

Table 7 Performance Monitoring

7 A: Delivery of local priorities in 2017-18. Full detail reported in text

		Targets	Assessment
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. Revised standing orders and scheme of delegations to be published.	Ongoing 2017	Complete and 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.	Ongoing	Complete and ongoing
3.	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.	Ongoing	Complete and ongoing
4	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.	Keep in line with gov policy	Complete and ongoing
5	To manage shellfish beds (mainly cockle and mussel), so that stocks are exploited sustainably and in compliance with habitats regulations 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.	Help achieve industry objectives	Complete and ongoing
6	To continue byelaw development in priority order as follows. Nb: priorities may change according to risk. 1. Complete District wide Restrictions on dredging byelaw 2017 2. Complete Prohibition of foul hooking byelaw 2017; 3. Review Cockle and mussel permit scheme byelaw 3; 4. Develop and complete West of Walney MCZ Management byelaw 5. Complete District wide lobster protection byelaw; 6. Review vessel size limit byelaws 7. Complete hobby potting byelaw;	2017 2017 2018 2018 Asap Asap asap	1.Confirmed 2.Confirmed 3.Ongoing 4.Ongoing (MMO lead) 5.Ongoing 6. On hold 7. 5and 7 now combined
7	To progress procurement of a new main patrol vessel.	2017	Ongoing
8	To develop stakeholder engagement with greater use of website and social media	ongoing	Ongoing
9	To further develop and implement the intelligence management system in collaboration with other IFCA and regulatory bodies	National project	Ongoing
10	To deliver a flexible science programme which supports fisheries and conservation management in the District and byelaw development according to short term priorities.	Meet response deadlines	Ongoing

7B: Performance against Defra success criteria and performance indicators

There are 5 success criteria as follows:

<p>Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.</p>
<p>Success Criterion 2: IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Success Criterion 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place; staff are trained and professional.</p>
<p>Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives</p>

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

Indicators	Tasks 2017-18	Performance assessment
SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts reviewed and updated by 31 March each year.	NWIFCA will maintain an up to date stakeholder database (rebuilt 2016). From which permit schemes will be operated in 2017 including Byelaws 3; NWSFC 9, 26, 27, 30; Cumbria SFC 26. The new 'Register here' button will support 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 will review its communications strategy by 31 March each year. The job plan for the Digital Communications Officer in post from Oct 2016, is in development. The new website facilitates a more ambitious communications programme in 2017.	Complete and ongoing
SC1C: The IFCA will review website by the last working day of each month.	Content will be developed and the website continuously monitored by the Digital Communications Officer.	Complete and ongoing
SC1D: The IFCA will ensure website meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March.	New website will be 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. MMO MOU is under review in 2016-7. Review of MOU are national tasked 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 2017-8: 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	Complete and ongoing

	coastal fora (e.g.Solway Firth Forum, North West Coastal Forum, Celtic Seas Forum, Irish Sea Forum, Dee Estuary Committees, North Region IFCA coordination meetings, 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 will be reviewed by 1 April each year. Risk registers are reviewed by the Authority in December each year and by external auditors around May June each year. 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 2016-17 was published November 2017 and sent to the Minister. Joint working to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures was reported. The annual report for 2017-18 will be published by December 2018.	Complete and ongoing
SC2C: Record enforcement activity in a standard format, provide to NIMEG and publish on its website.	Enforcement activity will continue to be 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 available to National inshore and Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG).	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. 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. Development of accreditation will continue in 2017 but is not available yet. Previous progress with development nationally was slowed by resource constraints in MMO. In future all NWIFCOs should be accredited.) <u>All</u> undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD).	Accreditation is not yet available. The Authority will contribute to its development in 2017. The Head of Enforcement will become a local assessor. Mandatory training of all IFCOs will be kept up to date to nationally agreed standards. All IFCOs will be given CPD to meet needs. Training register will be maintained. Training in-house, jointly with partner agencies or purchased from external providers will be reviewed. The training objectives of each officer will be identified in staff reviews. Training will include: Mandatory training to safely and competently deliver each role 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 2017. External training available to bridge identified capacity gaps; Monitoring and evaluation of training to achieve added value and effectiveness. Monitoring, job reviews and job plans.	Complete and ongoing

SC3A: IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and report progress to the Authority	Government MPA policy will be implemented subject to resources. Management of MPA will be reviewed in collaboration with other regulators. Management of Tranche 2 West of Walney MCZ should be agreed by Defra agencies. If needed, a byelaw to prohibit use of bottom towed gear in the site will be developed. Tranche 3 MCZ may be designated. NWIFCA will assist planning of management measures if needed. Decisions will be based on best available data.	Complete and ongoing
SC3B: IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website.	Data and evidence will be compiled in Regulatory impact assessments (RIA) for new measures. Stakeholders will be consulted before introduction. Evidence will be publicly reported to the Authority. Impacts of new measures will be assessed from survey and enforcement data. Results will be reported to quarterly meetings and on website.	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 will inform ongoing fisheries management and effectiveness of new measures. Results will be reported to Authority and on website. Inspection and enforcement data will inform the Authority of the effectiveness of measures.	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 will be 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 follows agreed priorities (Table 3 line 6). Priorities may change according to risk. 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 approved by bivalve working groups will be included in the Annual plan.	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 to be further developed in 2017-8. Science team will plan 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 is scheduled for publication by end March 2018 year 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,	An annual report for 2016-7 is scheduled to be published by 30 November 2017. Activity in the year and audited financial information will be included.	Complete

performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.		
SC4C: IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for <u>all</u> staff will have been completed by 31 May each year	Job plans for 2017-18 have been issued. Appraisals for 2016 -17 will be completed 31 May 2017.	Complete and ongoing
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 will be produced and meetings will continue to be 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.	Complete and ongoing
SC5A: The IFCA will show progress towards identifying evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year.	The research plan for 2017-8 in Table 5 shows current projects to be continued, future proposals subject to resources and an outline survey programme for 2017. Survey plans are indicative only. Collaboration with Universities other agencies NGO and industry will be developed in 2017.	Complete and ongoing
SC5B: The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making.	All research work will be reported to the Authority 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 will continue contributions to national programmes and report to the Authority.	Complete and ongoing

Table 8 Science**Table 8A. Science Surveys and Inspections in 2017-18**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Bed</u>	<u>HRA</u> <u>Y/N</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Active</u> <u>Y/N</u>	<u>Partners /</u> <u>Consultees</u>	<u>No.</u>
Cockle	Penfold North	Y	Ribble Estuary	N	BMWG	2
Cockle	Flookburgh	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, NE	3
Cockle	Leven Sands	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, NE	1
Cockle	Middleton Sands	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, NE	1
Cockle	Pilling Sands	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, NE	2
Cockle	Cockerham	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	NE	1
Cockle	Newbiggin	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG	1
Cockle	Warton Sands	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG	1
Cockle	Hoyle	Y	Wirral	N	BMWG	2
Cockle	Leasowe	Y	Wirral	Y	BMWG, NE	2
Mussel	Thurstaston	Y	Dee Estuary	Y	BMWG, NE	2
Mussel	West Kirby	Y	Dee Estuary	Y	BMWG, NE	1
Mussel	Seafeld Road	Y	Ribble Estuary	N	BMWG,	1
Mussel	Fleetwood skears (5)	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, NE	3
Mussel	Heysham Flat	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, NE	8
Mussel	Priest skear	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, NE	1
Mussel	Low Bottom	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, NE	4
Mussel	South America	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, NE	4
Mussel	Falklands	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, NE	5
Mussel	Foulney	Y	Morecambe Bay	N	BMWG, NE	6
Mussel	Hardacre	Y	Duddon Estuary	N	BMWG	1
Chinese Mitten Crab	Thurstaton / West Kirby	Y	Dee Estuary	N	BMWG, NE	1
Total						53

Table 8B Projects active in the year 2017-18

Partner Body	Project Title	Level	Location
Lancaster University	A desk study cockle movements and influential factors	Masters	Morecambe Bay
Lancaster University	Temporal variations of Morecambe Bay channel movements and the relative influence of this upon cockle bed settlements	Masters	Morecambe Bay
Bangor University	Balancing commercial seed mussel harvest and shorebird conservation	PhD	Morecambe Bay

8C Consultation responses completed in 2017-18

Consultations	Type
Network Rail CP5 42 & 43 Cumbrian Coastal Protection Works	MMO Marine Licence
Cleveleys Emergency stabilisation coastal defence groyne	MMO Marine Licence
Ormonde Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) Licence Variation	MMO Marine Licence
BAE Barrow saltwater intake dredge	MMO Marine Licence
WCM metallurgical Coal Exploration- pre-variation enquiry	MMO Marine Licence
Burbo Bank Extension- Export Cable Repair and Remediation	MMO Marine Licence
Burbo Bank Offshore Windfarm Operational & Maintenance Licence for Export Cable Repair/Remediation activities	MMO Marine Licence
Burbo Bank Extension- Array Cable Repair and Remediation	MMO Marine Licence
Shell Flat Met Mast Decommissioning Project	MMO Marine Licence
Installation of spud leg pontoon for use by crew transfer vessels for Walney OWF construction phase	MMO Marine Licence
Water Quality consultation BAE systems Ltd Barrow	MMO Marine Licence
Heysham Harbour Approaches Maintenance Disposal Licence	MMO Marine Licence
Scoping for potential Marine Aggregate Extraction - Area 518	MMO Marine Licence
Dredge Disposal from Canning Half Tide Dock- River Mersey	MMO Marine Licence
Devonshire Dock Quay Improvement - BAE systems Barrow	MMO Marine Licence
Silloth Dredge Disposal Licence Renewal	MMO Marine Licence
Liverpool Cruise Liner Terminal Ground Investigation	MMO Marine Licence
Ilse of Man Ferry Terminal Ground Investigation – Mersey Docks	MMO Marine Licence
Jubilee Bridge waterproofing - Barrow	MMO Marine Licence
Walney 2 Composite O&M Licence	MMO Marine Licence
Dong Energy - Middleton Outfall	MMO Marine Licence
Rumbling Bridge Remediation	MMO Marine Licence
West Cumbria Mining Further Information	Regulation 22 Planning
CEFAS Annual Fish Survey	Byelaw 1 dispensation
Cefas bass tagging with commercial fishermen	Byelaw 1 dispensation
EA WFD annual fish surveys	Byelaw 1 dispensation
Wyre Rivers Trust – scientific survey	Byelaw 1 dispensation
Maryport Aquarium Hatchery; berried hens education display	Byelaw 1 dispensation
Halite - Preesall Gas Storage baseline surveys	Byelaw 1 dispensation

Tarmac - Marine aggregate surveys	Byelaw 1 dispensation
AECOM Mersey Gateway Surveys - Year 3 post construction	Byelaw 1 dispensation
West of Duddon Sands Offshore Wind Farm fish surveys	Byelaw 1 dispensation
CEFAS Irish Sea Nephrops Catch Sampling Programme	Byelaw 1 dispensation
Table 8D Science Meetings, Training and Workshops 2017-18	
Defra Family MPA Working Group	Monthly virtual meetings
Bivalve Mollusc Working Group	Meetings
Solway Firth Partnership	Meetings
Dee Estuary Sea Fisheries Liaison Group	Meeting
Wyre Estuary Group	Meetings
Halite Energy	Meeting
IFCA TAG – Technical Advisory Group	Meetings
Shellfish Liaison Group	Meetings
Peel Ports Mersey Sediment Management Group	Meetings
Love My Beach – Lune Estuary	Meeting
Northwest Tern Group	Meeting
Estuarine fish sampling and northwest smelt	Conference call
MMO North West Marine Plan	Workshop and Meetings
Liverpool City Region Visitor Management Strategy	Workshop
MMO EMFF Fleetwood	Roadshow
Monitoring and Assessment – EA and Defra partner agencies	Workshop
IFCA TAG – Technical Advisory Group	Conference
SIMCelt Maritime Spatial Planning: Transboundary Cooperation in the Celtic Seas	Conference
MMO Fisheries Non-Enforcement Training	Training
Lifting / slinging and crane training	Training
STCW Sea Survival	Training
VHF user	Training
First Aid + Defibrillator use	Training
Powerboat Level II	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