

Eighth
annual report

1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

Draft for NWIFCA September meeting 13/9/2019



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority

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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 2018-19 were set out in the 2018-19 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. There are 30 members as defined in SI2200, 2010. Table 1 lists members in 2018-9 and shows changes. At 31 March 2019, 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 2018 by the Auditors in June 2019 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.
10. There are two national IFCA committees which meet quarterly and are established to provide co-ordination and exchange of experience. The Association of IFCA (AIFCA) is a high level policy and strategy committee attended by Chairmen, Chief Officers and Defra. The Fisheries Minister is invited. The Chief Officers Group (COG) is a working group to compare delivery approaches and develop new and innovative solutions. Minutes of these Committees are available from the Clerk.

Resources

11. The budget for 2018-19 was agreed by the Authority in December 2017.

12. As in all 7 previous years, there was no increase in the levy for core costs compared with 2010-11. Therefore the budget was effectively cut again last year by the annual rate of inflation.
13. The Levy was increased by 2% to provide funding for the proposed replacement patrol vessel. This was the fifth 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.
14. The Budget Review for the year ended 31 March 2019 is shown in table 3.
15. Audit
 - a) Accountants Moore and Smalley LLP conducted the internal audit on 21 June 2019. The Audit report was received on 10 July 2019 and approved by the Authority at the quarterly meeting in September.
 - b) The Audit Report, Internal Controls Review and Accounting Statement to 31st March 2019 are available on request. Summary findings are:
 - i. Internal Audit Report: Auditors tested NWIFCA financial systems which were all found to be in order.
 - ii. Internal Control Objectives: Auditors found that NWIFCA had fully complied with all internal control objectives.
 - iii. Accounting Statement to 31 March 2019: Draft figures were confirmed as accurate with no amendments.
 - c) The Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 31st March 2019 (table 4) was checked by Moore and Smalley LLP.
16. **Officers and equipment:** NWIFCA had 21 full time equivalent staff in 2018-9. Premises, vessels and vehicles are listed in table 5.
17. **Fisheries Patrol Vessel ‘North Western Protector’** The replacement main patrol vessel was acquired in June 2018 after a long procurement period of planning, tendering, build modification and fit out to meet our requirements. The authority records thanks to the supplier and builder, Holyhead Marine Services, North Wales. A naming and commissioning Ceremony was held in Whitehaven harbour attended by approximately 150 Members, Officers and Guests. The Authority extends grateful thanks to HRH the Duke of Gloucester for attending and naming the vessel.

District fisheries

18. **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.
19. **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.

20. **Fishing vessels in the District:** Records of registered and licensed fishing vessels are maintained by MMO. The latest data dated January 2019 is shown below. Unlicensed and unregistered vessels includes hobby fishing boats and charter angling vessels.

	Jan 2019	Jan 2018
District commercial vessels >10m	36	38
District commercial vessels <10m	100	102
Visitor vessels >10m	29	29
Visitor vessels <10m	26	1
Unlicensed / unregistered vessels	288	313

21. **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.

Compliance and survey programmes

22. Consistent weekly tasking of all IFCOs and Science Advisors (IFCA's) has established an effective routine programmes of enforcement patrols and science surveys which continued through 2018-9. This system provides a strong presence of visible officers around active fisheries and valuable quantitative data on fishing activity. All this information is reported at quarterly meetings.
23. Development of the inshore fisheries intelligence management system for England commenced in 2016 and continues through 2019. 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 MMO and IFCA partners. HOE attends the multi-agency National Intelligence and Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) which meets 3 times per year. Senior Scientist attends the IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which meets 3 times per year. TAG also holds regular research conferences at which IFCA (and partner bodies) science officers present research and compare fisheries management experience.
24. 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.
25. Table 6 provides inspection and compliance data for the year to 31 March 2019.

Byelaws and regulations

26. **Prohibition on foul hooking byelaw** was confirmed in April 2018.
27. **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.

28. New EU bass regulations now being enforcement by IFCA's officers.

29. Species and gear landing obligations and discard plans were extended in 2018 as below.

Gear	Species	Applicable to	Exemptions
Gill/trammel/hook & line	Hake	All using specified gear	None
Trawl/seine	Hake	Those meeting threshold	None
Trawls & seines \geq 100mm	Saithe	Those meeting threshold	None
Trawls/seines/pots/traps & creels	Nephrops	Those meeting threshold	Unwanted catches can be discarded
Trawls & seines	Cod, haddock, whiting & saithe	Those meeting threshold	None

Science and survey

30. NWIFCA Science team consists of three Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Advisors lead by the Senior Scientist. Science supports the Authority's fisheries management decisions through stock assessment, field surveys and assessments of fisheries impacts on protected features of Marine Protected Areas. 2018 - 19 saw the beginning of research into the District's whelk populations, the continuation of partnership work with Cefas' bass tagging and distribution studies, and work to commission sub-tidal survey equipment on-board the new NWIFCA vessel. Science Team also respond to MMO Marine Licence consultations and work with regulators and developers over major infrastructure projects in relation to their effects on sea fisheries resources. The science team worked with many agencies, NGOs and stakeholders to deliver its wide remit. Officers attended and contributed to national workshops and training events in partnership with the main Defra agencies, including facilitating the national IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) conference. The Senior Scientist also took on the role of TAG Vice-Chair in early 2019.

31. Table 8 A-D report the science programme in 2018-19:

- 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;

32. The main science priorities during 2018-19 were:

- I. on-going work to ensure all fisheries occurring within Marine Protected Areas have been assessed and management implemented if necessary to prevent risk to protect features. All NWIFCA HRAs are published on NWIFCA website and Marine Protected Area Management Huddle page (accessed by IFCA's, MMO, NE, Defra);
- II. continual review of NWIFCA MPA Monitoring and Control Plan;
- III. involvement in Defra, MMO and Natural England management of Tranche 1 and 2 MCZ

- sites and designation of Tranche 3 sites within the District;
- IV. monthly participation in national Inshore Fisheries Working Group;
- V. 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;
- VI. collation of bait collection activity data and online stakeholder surveys to inform HRA on bait collection;
- VII. development of the NWIFCA Potting Permit Byelaw through consultation with all sectors;
- VIII. participation in national Whelk Working Group and whelk research and size / age at maturity work to inform future flexible permitting conditions in new byelaw ;
- IX. development of sub-tidal survey capacity aboard North Western Protector through use of side-scan sonar, ground discrimination equipment and grab sampling;
- X. implementation and monitoring of compliance of voluntary Code of Practice for netting around St Bees Head, Cumbria;
- XI. development of collaborative research project with industry into razor clams;
- XII. participation in Cefas bass populations and tagging study;
- XIII. participation and influence over nephrops creels project within the West of Walney MCZ (T2 site);
- XIV. monitoring of specific Invasive Non-Native Species within Morecambe Bay and review of NWIFCA Biosecurity Plan;
- XV. participation in development of MMO North West Marine Plan;
- XVI. participation and representation of NWIFCA and marine interests in major infrastructure developments within the District including Crown Estate wind leasing;
- XVII. National IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings and conference, and providing secretariat through Vice-Chair position;
- XVIII. analysis of inshore fisheries activities data for shore patrols;
- XIX. attendance at and liaison with North West Shellfish Liaison Group relating to shellfish classifications and hygiene;
- XX. regular participation in meetings of Solway Firth Partnership, Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery Advisory Group, NW Shellfish Liaison Group, Peel Ports Mersey Sediment Management Group;
- XXI. further development of NWIFCA Recreational Sea Angling Strategy and engagement with stakeholders. Email: angling@nw-ifca.gov.uk
- XXII. reinforcing NWIFCA enforcement team during active fisheries;
- XXIII. developing research opportunities with academic institutions where possible.

33. Individual HRAs are carried out for all cockle and mussel fisheries. In 2018-19 the following additional HRAs were conducted:

- I. Heysham Flat seed mussel fishery - July 2018
- II. Leven, Flookburgh and Pilling cockle fisheries - September 2018 & January 2019
- III. North Penfold Cockle Fishery - July 2018
- IV. Perch Scar seed mussel fishery - August 2018 (not fished - mussel washed out).

34. Shellfish (crab and lobster landings in the NWIFCA district in 2018-19 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 a Statutory Instrument. The SI was not implemented in 2018- 19 and is expected in 2019-20. The SI is expected to require all under 12m fishing 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 2018-19 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. Continuous refinements of the website have been made over the year. A timeline has been introduced to chart the history of the organisation and a Recreational Sea Angling section has been added under fisheries.
45. The Sea Angling Strategy has progressed with a bait collection survey being made available both in print and digitally on the website. Science Officer Huw James invested time in going out to popular angling spots to meet anglers while they were fishing.
46. In mid-2018 work began on building a bank of photographs for use in publications and on the website. At present the collection sits at over 300 images, however this only covers a fraction of the IFCA's work and district.
47. Card Payments were introduced to provide an alternative payment method for stakeholders to cheques. The shorter clearing times have allowed for a quicker turn around on permits and the processing of FAPs.
48. One FOI request was received during this period. They requested following information:
 - Information on all enforcement action taken over the last year.

All FOI's were responded to within the statutory time frame.

Training

49. 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.
50. Four IFCOs attended the annual 5 day IFCO training course February 2017 to receive an IFCO warrant. Other mandatory and essential training was undertaken as follows:
 - I. PST (personal survival techniques) - 9 officers
 - II. ML5 certification – 2 officers
 - III. Intensive Investigation course – 8 officers
 - IV. Towing training & test – 2 officers
 - V. PAT testing – 1 officer
 - VI. ECDIS – 1 officer

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

51. Implementation of the FCO accreditation scheme continued with the aim of creating a level 3 qualification in fisheries and marine enforcement. Two IFCOs have now both completed units 1 & 2 and are now working through units 3 & 4. The Head of Enforcement was appointed a local assessor for this training.
52. 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 2019 if required.

Performance

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

Table 1 Authority membership April 2018 - March 2019

Council Members		Date of appointment
Blackpool Borough Council (1)	Councillor J. Elmes	July 2015
Cheshire West & 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 Councillor S. Morris	May 2013 May 2017 April 2018
Liverpool City Council (1)	Councillor J. Noakes	July 2015
Sefton Council (1)	Councillor R. L. Owens Councillor S. McGinnity	June 2016 April 2018
Wirral Metropolitan Council (1)	Councillor P. Brightmore Councillor A. Leech	May 2017 October 2018
MMO Appointees & their Affiliations		
Marine Environment	Dr J. Andrews	October 2015
Marine Environment	Dr E. Baxter	March 2014
Commercial Fishing	Mr R. Benson	December 2018
Marine Science/Environment	Mr C. Booth	March 2015
Recreational Fishing	Mr S. Brown	October 2017
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	Dr B. Pearce	September 2018
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 Ms Sharon Kennedy	December 2014 August 2018
Marine Management Organisation	Patrick Gray	December 2017

NOTES:

Councillor S. Morris (Lancashire CC) appointed May 2018 to replace Councillor A. Gardner
Councillor A. Leech (Wirral Council) appointed Oct 2018 to replace Councillor P. Brightmore
Mr B. Crawford resigned June 2018

Ms S. Kennedy appointed August 2018 to replace Mr S. Mounsey

There is 1 MMO appointee vacancy as at March 2019

Table 2 Authority and other key meetings attended by officers 2018-9

		Dates
NWIFCA	Authority	28/6/18, 13/9/18, 6/12/18, 14/3/19
	Technical Science & Bylaws Committee	15/5/18, 7/8/18, 6/11/18, 5/2/19
	Finance Committee	28/6/18, 6/12/18
	Staff	
Joint IFCA	Association of IFCA (AIFCA)	5/6, 25/9, 4/12, 18/1/19 (AIFCA review) 4/3/19 (Review), 5/3/19,
	Chief officers group COG	18-19/4, 24/7, 13/8, 17/10; 15-16/1/19,
	National Intelligence & Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG)	10/07/18, 13/11/18, 12/03/19
	IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG)	
Fisheries Liaison	Bivalve Working Group	3/5, 4/7, 14/12,
Partner meetings. IFCA; Government, NGO; Conferences, Media	Defra	9/1/19; 15/3/19 (Defra evaluation of IFCA)
	Irish Sea Forum	22/10; 14/1/19,
	NE Liaison	
	EA Liaison	
	MMO; Liaison	3/8, 13/3/19 (Landing Obligation)
	Solway mussels Sillioth	
	Shellfish Liaison	13/9
	NFFO West Coast	17/10
Training	IFCO training Torquay	03/02/19 – 08/02/19

Table 3: Budget review 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

NWIFCA BUDGET REVIEW TO 31 MARCH 2019	FROM 1 APRIL 2018 - 31 MARCH 2019			
	ANNUAL BUDGET £	BUDGET TO DATE £	ACTUAL TO DATE £	BETTER+/WORSE- THAN BUDGET £
EXPENDITURE				
Employees	888,227	888,227	862,866	25,361
Premises	56,800	56,800	52,404	4,396
Transport	205,280	205,280	198,052	7,228
Vessel Purchase*	121,151	121,151	6,123	115,028
Supplies/Services	61,400	61,400	47,473	13,927
Corporate	30,800	30,800	22,188	8,612
Total Expenditure	1,363,658	1,363,658	1,189,107	174,551
INCOME				
Levy	1,285,158	1,285,158	1,285,158	0
Shellfish sampling	7,000	7,000	10,867	3,867
Misc Income	0	0	5,648	5,648
Byelaw 3 Permit Fees	64,000	64,000	59,000	-5,000
Interest	7,500	7,500	8,103	603
Total Income	1,363,658	1,363,658	1,368,776	5,118

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

Surplus	179,669	
Less Vessel Purchase	115,028	To be set aside for future replacement
WORKING SURPLUS	64,641	

Table 4: Bank Reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2019 (£)

	£	£
Bank Account: NatWest Current Account (Unadjusted Fig.see Note 1)	102,889	
Less Unpresented Cheques: None	0	
Add Uncleared Payments: None	0	
Add Petty Cash:	400	
Add STIS: Lancashire County Council Investment	<u>747,000</u>	
TOTAL CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS		850,289

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

Unadjusted Bank Account	102,889	
Less Unpresented Cheques	0	102,889
Profit & Loss 8255 Bank		102,889

(STIS is short term investments)

Table 5 Assets: Premises, vessels, vehicles 2018-9

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 "North Western Protector" (From July 2018)	20m Aluminium Catamaran hull- based in Whitehaven with boarding 5.3m vessel – constructed of aluminium alloy with rigid collared sponsons
	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	3 Carnforth, 1 Liverpool
ATV (Quad bikes)	10 Honda ATV	Whitehaven, Barrow, Carnforth, Liverpool

Table 6 Inspection and compliance fishing effort data 2018-9

6A: summary of quarterly reports showing known active fisheries in the District with a relative indication of fishing effort for each species

Effort scoring: 0=none; 1=low; 2=Medium; 3 High

Area	Activity/Area	Species	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	
Burgh Marsh to Haverigg Point	Trawling	Thornback Ray	2	1	2	1	
		Nephrops	1	3	3	3	
		Plaice	0	2	2	1	
		Dogs	0	0	2	1	
	Potting	Lobster & crab	2	3	2	1	
		Whelks	0	0	2	0	
		Angling	Codling	2	0	1	2
			Thornback Ray	2	0	0	0
	Netting	Bass	0	0	2	0	
		Coley	0	0	1	0	
		Whiting	0	0	1	0	
		Dab	0	0	1	2	
		Plaice	0	0	0	1	
		Dogs	0	0	2	2	
		Codling	1	2	0	1	
		Thornback Ray	1	1	0	0	
		Lobster & crab	0	1	0	0	
		Bait digging	Black lug	0	1	2	2
	Crabbers	Shore crabs	0	0	1	2	
		Shrimping	Brown shrimps	0	0	1	1
Scallopers		Scallops	0	0	0	1	
Haverigg Point to Arnside		Flookburgh Newbiggin	Cockles	3	0	0	1
	South America, Foulney, Roosebeck	Mussels	0	2	2	1	
	Potting	Lobster & crab	1	2	2	2	
	Netting	Plaice	1	2	1	0	
	Angling	Cod	0	2	0	2	
	Bait digging		0	0	1	0	
	Crab tiling		0	1	1	0	
	Shrimping	Tractor	2	1	1	1	
Arnside to Knott End	Pilling	Cockles	2	0	1	2	
	Newbiggin	Cockles	0	0	0	2	
	Flookburgh	Cockles	0	0	0	1	
	Foulney	Mussels	0	0	0	2	
	Angling	Bass	1	0	2	0	
		Cod	0	0	1	0	
		Pollock	0	0	1	0	
		Plaice	0	0	0	1	
	Winkling	Whiting	0	0	0	1	
		Winkles	0	1	0	0	
		Clams	0	1	0	0	
		Shrimping		1	1	0	1
Netting		Bass	1	1	1	0	

	Bait digging		0	0	0	2
River Wyre to River Dee	Angling	Cod	0	1	2	0
	Dee Estuary	Mussels	0	1	0	0
	Heysham	Mussels (seed)	0	0	1	0
	Morecambe	Cockles	0	0	2	0
	North Penfold	Cockles	0	0	2	0
	Southport	Cockles	0	1	0	0
	Pilling	Cockles	0	0	0	1
	Netting		0	0	0	1
	Bait pumping		1	0	0	0
	Shrimping	Tractor	1	0	0	0

6B Authorisations to fish issued under byelaws in 2018-9

	Period of permit	Year	Number issued
NWSFC Byelaw 1 Scientific derogations	Various periods up to max 1 year	2017-8	16
		2018-9	17
Cockle and mussels Byelaw 3	1 Sept – 31 Aug 2018 1 Sept – 31 Aug 2019	2017-8	113
		2018-9	111
Netting Byelaws 26/27 Areas 8, 9,10 &11.	1 May - 30 Nov 2017 1 May - 30 Nov 2018	2017	131
		2018	126
Netting Byelaw 26 Areas 2 & 3	1 July –30 Nov 2017 1 May - 30 Nov 2018	2017	7
		2018	11
Netting Byelaw 26 Area 5	1 - 31 May & 1 Sept -30 Nov	2017	6
		2018	11
Hobby potting Byelaw 30 NWSFC area	1 Jan - 31 Dec 1 Jan - 31 March	2017	39
		2018	48
Hobby potting Byelaw 26 Cumbria SFC area	1Jan - 31 Dec 1 Jan – 31 Mar	2017	51
		2018	53

6 C Patrol and inspection data 2018-19

At Sea	number of vessel patrols	74
	number of boardings	44
	number of closings (not included as boardings)	92
	number of fishing vessel sightings	257
	number of gear inspections	85
On Land	number of shore patrols	935
	number of port visits (within shore & ATV patrols)	448
	number of premises inspections	3
	number of landing inspections - catch	1454
	number of landing inspections - gear	365
	number of other inspections	721
Outcomes	number of verbal warnings	19
	number of written warnings & advisory letters	56
	number of ongoing investigations	7
	number of permit suspensions	10

formal cautions	0
number of FAPs	18
number of individuals prosecuted in court/pending	5

6 D Shellfish (crab & lobster) landings (Fleetwood to Whitehaven) - April 2018 – March 2019. Data from National Shellfish Licensing Scheme

Gear Pots/Nets Set		Edible Crab	Spider Crab	Lobster	Other	Berried hens	Under sized
Approx No set	No hauled	Kgs	Kgs	Kgs	Kgs	No	No
38666	32866	7455	0	9259	715	37	63

Table 7 Performance Monitoring at April 2019		Target and Assessment
7 A: Delivery of NWIFCA priorities in 2018-19.		
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.	Complete 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.	Complete Ongoing
3.	To contribute to delivery of Defra requirements for an orderly Brexit and any structural changes in agencies responsible for marine and fisheries management.	Complete Ongoing.
4.	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.	Complete Ongoing
5	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.	Complete Ongoing In line with gov policy
6	To manage shellfish beds (mainly cockle and mussel), so that stocks are exploited sustainably and in compliance with habitats regulations. Work 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.	Complete, Ongoing in support of industry objectives
7	To continue byelaw development in priority order as follows. Nb: priorities may change according to risk. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete District wide Restrictions on dredging byelaw 2017 2. Complete Prohibition of foul hooking byelaw 2018. 3. Review Cockle and mussel permit scheme byelaw 3. 4. Develop and complete West of Walney MCZ Management byelaw MMO Lead. 5. Complete combined potting permit and lobster protection byelaw 6. Review vessel size limit byelaws 7. Review of netting byelaws 	Confirmed Confirmed In progress Confirmed In progress No progress No progress
8	To deploy and train officers in use of new main patrol vessel.	Ongoing
9	To develop stakeholder engagement with greater use of website and social media	Ongoing
10	To deliver a flexible science programme which supports fisheries and conservation management and byelaw development.	Complete Ongoing

7B: Performance against Defra success criteria and performance indicators

There are 5 success criteria as follows:

Success Criterion 1: IFCA are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

Success Criterion 2: IFCA implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.

Success Criterion 3: IFCA use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA have appropriate governance in place; staff are trained and professional.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

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

Indicators	Tasks 2018-19	Performance assessment
SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts reviewed and updated by 31 March each year.	NWIFCA maintains an up to date stakeholder database (rebuilt 2016), from which the following permit schemes were operated in 2019: Byelaws 3; NWSFC 9, 26, 27, 30; Cumbria SFC 26. The website 'Register here' button supports 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 reviewed its communications strategy by 31 March 2019. The new website facilitates a more ambitious communications programme. The process for issuing permits has been further developed and streamlined	Complete and ongoing
SC1C: The IFCA will review website by the last working day of each month.	Content was developed and the website continuously monitored by the Digital Communications Officer. A checklist has been implemented to evidence the checks.	Complete and ongoing
SC1D: The IFCA will ensure website meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March.	New website has been 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 tasks 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 2018-9: 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 coastal fora (e.g.Solway Firth Forum,	Complete and ongoing

	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 was reviewed by 1 April 2019. Risk registers were reviewed by the Authority in December 2018 and by external auditors in July 2018. 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 2017-18 was published November 2018 and sent to the Minister. Joint working to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures was reported. The annual report for 2018-19 will be published by December 2019.	Complete and ongoing
SC2C: Record enforcement activity in a standard format, provide to NIMEG and publish on its website.	Enforcement activity was 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 all 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.) All undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD).	Accreditation is not yet available. The Authority contributed to training development in 2018-9.. IFCOs mandatory training was kept up to date to nationally agreed standards. All IFCOs were given CPD to meet needs identified at job reviews. Training register was maintained. Training in-house, jointly with partner agencies or purchased from external providers was reviewed with the appointment of the national IFCA training co-ordinator. The training objectives of each officer were identified in staff reviews. Training included: Mandatory training 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 2019. 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-	Government MPA policy was fully implemented and	Complete and

specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and report progress to the Authority	MPA management reviewed in collaboration with other regulators. Management of Tranche 2 West of Walney MCZ was agreed with MMO. A byelaw to prohibit use of bottom towed gear in the site is being developed. Tranche 3 MCZ were designated.	ongoing
SC3B: IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website.	Data and evidence was compiled in Regulatory impact assessments (RIA) for new measures. Stakeholders were consulted before introduction. Evidence was publicly reported to the Authority. Impacts of new measures are being assessed from survey and enforcement data..	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 informs ongoing fisheries management and effectiveness of new measures. Results are reported to Authority and on website. Inspection and enforcement data informs the Authority of the effectiveness of measures. On-going review of the NWIFCA MPA Monitoring & Control Plan.	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 were 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 followed agreed priorities (Table 7). 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 were reported in Annual plan and annual report.	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 were further developed in 2018-9. Science team planned 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 for 2019-20 was published at March 2019 meeting 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, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A	An annual report for 2017-8 was agreed at December 2018 meeting. Activity in the year and audited financial information were included.	Complete

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 2018-19 were issued. Appraisals for 2017 18 were completed 31 May 2018.	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 was produced and meetings were 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. These were not required in 2018-9	Complete and ongoing
SC5A: The IFCA will show progress towards identifying evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year.	The research plan for 2018-19 in Table 5 shows current projects, the survey programme for 2018-19. Outcomes are reported at quarterly and TSB meetings. Collaboration with Universities other agencies NGO and industry continued in 2018-9.	Complete and ongoing
SC5B: The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making.	All research work in 2018-9 was reported to the Authority at quarterly meetings and in this report, 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 continued contributions to national programmes and reported to the Authority.	Complete and ongoing

Table 8 Science

Table 8A. Science Surveys and Inspections in 2018-19

<u>Species</u>	<u>Bed</u>	<u>HRA Y/N</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Active Y/N</u>	<u>Partners / Consultees</u>	<u>No.</u>
Cockle	Penfold North	Y	Ribble Estuary	Y	BMWG, Multi-agency Group	2
Cockle	Flookburgh	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA	4
Cockle	Leven Sands	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA	2
Cockle	Middleton Sands	N	Morecambe Bay	N	Police	2
Cockle	Pilling Sands	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA, Cefas	2
Cockle	Newbiggin	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA	2
Cockle	Warton Sands	N	Morecambe Bay	N	n/a	0
Cockle	Leasowe	Y	Wirral	Y	BMWG, Multi-agency Group	1
Cockle	Lytham beds x 3	N	Ribble Estuary	N	n/a	1
Mussels (seed)	Heysham Flat	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Local Authority, GLAA	6
Mussels	Foulney	N	Morecambe Bay	Y	Local Authority	5
Mussels	Low Bottom	N	Morecambe Bay	N	n/a	3
Mussels (seed & size)	South America / Falklands	Y	Morecambe Bay	Y	BMWG, Natural England, Local Authority	6
Mussels (seed)	Fleetwood Beds x 5	Y	Fylde	N	BMWG,	
Mussels	Seafield Road	N	Ribble Estuary	N	BMWG, Local Authority	2
Mussels	Thurstaston	Y	Dee Estuary	Y	BMWG, Local Authority	1
Mussels	West Kirby	Y	Dee Estuary	Y	BMWG, Local Authority	1
Specific INNS	Foulney	n/a	Morecambe Bay	n/a	Internal	2
Specific INNS	Heysham Flat	n/a	Morecambe Bay	n/a	Internal	2
Specific INNS	West Kirby	n/a	Dee Estuary	n/a	Internal	1

Table 8B Projects active in the year 2018-19

Partner Body	Project Title	Level	Location
Industry	Razor Clam Collaborative Research Project	n/a	District-wide
Whelk Working Group	NWIFCA Whelk size / age at maturity study	n/a	District-wide
Cefas	Bass populations and tagging study	Defra-funded	Southern part of District
Natural England, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Industry	Nephrops creels project	Feasibility study	Barrow offshore
N/A	Chinese Mitten Crab Surveillance	Internal	Morecambe Bay

8C Consultation responses completed in 2018-19

Consultations	Type
Crown Estate Offshore Wind Leasing	Meetings and email
Defra Consultation on proposed changes to Marine Licensing Exemptions	Online
Deployment bird deterrents Burbo Bank Extension OWF	
Foxfield Water Main Reinstatement	
Warrington Centre Park Link	
Liverpool Cruise Terminal HRO	
Walney OWF cable reburial	
Lincolnshire Time and Tide Bell	
Sellafied variation to EPR	
Holker Estate Leven Flood Defence June 2018	
BOW Rock Placement	
Alterations to twelve quays terminal	
Liverpool Docks Maintenance Dredging Disposal	
Heysham 1 cooling water temperature	
Fylde Coastal Protection Scheme- construction method statement	
Crown Estate - new offshore wind leasing	
Warrington centre park link MLA	
West Plain Tidal Lagoon	
Network Rail Brantys to Parton	
Walney Extension Pontoon/Jetty	
Liverpool Channel and River disposal license variation to	

dredge disposal location	
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8D D. Meetings training and workshops attended in 2018-19

National Inshore Fisheries Working Group	Monthly virtual meetings
Parliamentary Launch of AIFCA Management of Fisheries in EMS Report	Launch
Stakeholder engagement re: potting permit byelaw development	Drop in Days x 2
NFFO West Coast Committee	Meeting
Bivalve Mollusc Working Group	Meetings and emails
Solway Firth Partnership	Meetings & Annual Conference
Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery Advisory Group	Meetings
Mersey Estuary Conservation Group	Meeting
Barrow Wildlife & Heritage Advisory Committee	Meeting
Natural England National Training Day	Presentation
Preesall Gas Storage - Marine Monitoring group	Meeting
IFCA TAG – Technical Advisory Group	Meetings
NW Shellfish Liaison Group	Meetings
Peel Ports Mersey Sediment Management Group	Meetings
AIFCA Revised Approach to Fisheries Management in EMS Project	Meetings
North Penfold cockles Multi-Agency Management Group	Meeting
Institute of Fisheries Management Specialist Conference	Presentation
MMO North West Marine Plan	Workshop and Meetings
Cefas Bass Populations & Tagging North West	Workshop
Cefas Stock Assessment Workshop	Workshop
EMFF funded project - developing a participatory approach to the management of fishing activity in UK offshore Marine Protected Areas	Workshops
Collaborative Research with Industry on Razor Clams	Meetings
IFCA TAG – Technical Advisory Group	Conference
BLUEcoast Research from the National Oceanography Centre in Morecambe Bay	Meeting and assistance through provision of samples
Lancaster Environment Centre & Centre for Ecology and Hydrology - Research Opportunities	Meeting
Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery Advisory Group	Meeting
Public Health England - familiarisation with work of NWIFCA	Meeting
Sefton Anglers Club Meeting	Presentation
Morecambe angling matches stakeholders engagement x 2	Engagement
Walney Pacific Oyster hatchery - mussel spawning study	Demonstration
Peel Ports INNS Workshop	Presentation

Liverpool Bay Island Creation	Stakeholder Meeting
Liverpool City Region Visitor Planning Strategy	Workshop
Natural England MPA Monitoring survey planning	Meeting
Bangor University Whelk sexing and aging	Training
IFCO Training Torquay	Training
MapInfo GIS mapping	Training
STCW Sea Survival	Training
VHF	Training
First Aid + Defibrillator use	Training
Powerboat Level II	Training
Advanced Towing training	Training
Chartwork	Training
Holyhead Marine re: refit of new NWIFCA patrol and survey vessel	Visits and Meetings

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