

**NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting
15th March 2018: 11.00 a.m.**

**AGENDA
ITEM
7**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Purpose of Report: Information

Recommendation: Receive the report

This report covers:

- I. Personnel, Health & Safety**
- II. Communication & engagement**
- III. Association of IFCA**
- IV. Byelaws**

I. Personnel, Health and Safety, complaints

1. MMO are planning to undertake another round of member interviews in March-April 2018. Details are not yet available.
2. *Officer changes:* Science Officer Ms Alex Aitken resigned in December to take a post with Sustrans in Newcastle and to move back to the North East for family reasons. We thank Alex for the valuable contribution she made to the science work and wish her well in her new post. Recruitment of a replacement science officer is underway.
3. Mr Callum Sirkett has been promoted to a permanent post following successfully completing the Torquay IFCO course in February. He has also proved a competent assistant to the Engineer in Whitehaven and will undertake a basic 1 week training course in engineering at Whitby in April. The intention is that Mr. Sirkett will provide a backup engineer as part of the crew for the new vessel if required.
4. Recruitment of 1 IFCO is underway to fill a vacancy left by staff changes in 2017.
5. One of the two officers based in Cumbria on long term sick leave is now on a phased return to work and the other is expected to return soon on a similar programme.
6. There have been no reportable H&S incidents this quarter. Updating the H&S policy continues with advice of retained H&S consultant.
7. There are no outstanding complaints against the Authority

II. Communications

1. The Communications Officer has provided website and social media updates, the secretariat for TSB, responses to permit queries and information requests. At the end of January the Communications Officer attended the Torquay course.
2. There have been two requests under information legislation. The first requested a list of all enforcement action taken from 2014 to date (17/11/17). The second requested the number

of staff actively engaged in enforcement activity as of December in the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Both FOI's were valid and answered within the required time frame.

3. The following is a summary of other communications work completed and ongoing

- Changed the minimum size section to reflect the variations in the legacy districts.
- Elliott Waltho has been trained on how to post items onto the website should the Comms Officer be absent.
- Issued press release to fishing news in memory of Keith Willacy. The editor edited a finished page to fit the item in to the next week's issue.
- Distributed press release on the Voluntary Netting Ban at St Bees. The press release was taken up by Cumbriacrack (a local news website), the Whitehaven News (in print and on the website) and BBC Radio Cumbria (on air and on the local news feed). The Senior Scientist did an interview with BBC Radio Cumbria which was aired at approximately 17:40 on 26/1/18. The Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB have also helped to circulate the message.
- Work on species pages is nearing completion with an aim to go live mid-March.
- Continued working with Lake District National Park fine tuning the new returns database.

Website Change Log		
Date	Change Made	By
18/01/18	Finalised meeting dates and venues for the entirety of 2018.	AG
9/01/18	Seizure removed from seizure page.	AG
22/01/18	Updated EMS page - Changed map and table - Liverpool Bay status updated to SPA. Further update needed when link to JNCC page can be added.	AG
26/01/18	Updated Members section.	AG

Work on upcoming General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR):

- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes in to force on 25th May 2018. The regulation tightens current protections introduced in the Data Protection Act 1998 placing more emphasis on being accountable and transparent about the lawful basis for processing. The ICO is continually updating the guidance on the upcoming GDPR which can be found here <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>.
- It is essential that we are compliant as of day one; therefore a process of reviewing all data handling procedures and data held is currently underway. It is likely that this will take a lot of officers' time in the run up to 25th May.
- The Lake District National Park has provided a search facility that will assist in efficiently targeting electronic data held. In addition, their in-house solicitor is available to provide legal advice where necessary.

III Association of IFCA

4. Notes of the meeting on 5th December are at Annex A.

5. Notes of 6th March Members forum.

- a) **Defra Director Anne Freeman. Fisheries white paper** publication will be 'soon'. It will be short setting out measures for medium term plans for control of waters and powers to manage fisheries. The consultation period will be dependent on timing and urgency of the publication date. There may be a longer consultation on the fisheries vision later. Further measures will be subject to future consultation. **IFCO**

powers SI Very close to consultation on. **Defra Transformation** is not progressing at this stage as the focus is on EU exit

- b) **Fisheries Minister George Eustice. White paper** text nearly complete and in the write round process. Publication planned for April with bill in Parliament before summer recess. Bill must be ready in case UK leaves EU more quickly than expected with no transition. After exit, UK will be an independent coastal state under UNCLOS. Minister wants to move away from relative stability and quota management, and towards sustainability, discard ban and effort control. Some principles of CFP expected to be retained but no detail yet. 3rd tranche MCZ consultation in summer 2018 and designations in 2019.
- c) **Enforcement capacity study** underway by MMO will examine resources, vessels, potential for use of new digital technology and drones and need for RN expansion. Finance cuts have led to less Fisheries protection fleet hours purchased by Defra but fleet will be maintained. A lot can be done by unmanned technology but boarding still needed. White paper consultation will invite proposals.
- d) Establishment of a new Joint Marine Operations Control Centre (JMOC) is approved. JMOC will be important for future co-ordination of agencies operating in the marine environment. Based Portsmouth.
- e) IFCA Funding post 2020. No promises. DCLG is carrying out Fairer funding review. There will be major change to the way local services are funded and impacts on IFCA are not yet clear.
- f) SoS Gove may want to do more re conservation as he has displayed strong green tendency. White paper on fisheries will invite proposals on funding models; charging, quota allocations. Minister noted that effort based measures (e.g. days at sea) are best in mixed fisheries. Quota may be best for large single species stocks. Might need hybrid approaches.
- g) UK is leaving London convention so 6-12 miles will be mostly reserved for UK fleets but may be exceptions. Not decided if management role 6-12 will be given to IFCA. There are advantages and problems to local and more centralized systems.
- h) iVMS Plans for IFCA to provide free units to u12m vessels using EMFF finance are encountering problems. The proposal for IFCA to buy units and claim back costs from EMFF may not be possible under IFCA financial regulations and costs are unclear. More detailed proposals are in preparation.
- i) D&S membership of AIFCA. Members were critical of D&S decision to leave AIFCA but wish to see D&S return to membership. New AIFCA Chairman, vice Chairman and NW Chairman Paul Williams will seek meeting with D&S to try and resolve concerns.

IV. NWIFCA Byelaws

- 6. **Permit to dredge 2017:** This byelaw was confirmed by Defra in December 2017.
- 7. **Prohibition on foul hooking:** Submitted to Defra for confirmation
- 8. **Review of Cockle and Mussel permit byelaw 3:** A further draft of the byelaw was considered by TSB in February. Legal advice has been requested from MMO on elements of the byelaw. On receipt of advice, a further draft will be considered by TSB.

9. **Potting permit byelaw:** Senior Scientist has commenced work on development of a byelaw with flexible conditions
10. **Netting byelaw:** Head of enforcement is researching appropriate options and measures.

CEO Main meetings attended 1st December 2017 – 1st March 2018.

5 th December	AIFCA
8 th December	NWIFCA Quarterly meeting
9 th -10 th January	IFCA Chief Officers
2 nd February	Funeral ex Chief Officer Keith Willacy
6 th February	TSB
26 th February	AIFCA Directors phone conference
6 th March	AIFCA Members Forum; Directors meeting

CEO & Communications Officer
2nd March 2018

ANNEX A

The Association of IFCA's Members Forum 5th December 2017 SMA notes

Attendance: Tony Tomlinson Acting Chair Vice Chair; Stephen Bolt CEO; David McCandless NEIFCA; Tim Dapling Sussex IFCA, John Humphreys, Julian Gregory EIFCA; Les Weller, Mike Hardy NIFCA; Samantha Davis Cornwall IFCA; Stephen Atkins NWIFCA; Stewart Harper, Will Wright K&EIFCA; Tim Alsop IOS; Stephen Axford Minutes: Sally Standing.

Apologies: John Lamb Chair K&EIFCA; Tony Goldson; Andy Guy; Robert Clark SIFCA; Tim Robbins D&SIFCA; Elaine Hayes D&SIFCA; Paul Williams NWIFCA; NWIFCA; Councillor Matthews

Tim Alsop reported that Tom Hooper has been appointed Chief Officer for IOS IFCA

Minutes 26th September 2017 approved

IFCA funding and Fairer funding review. SB said IFCA should maintain contact with local authorities. Queries raised about future of new burdens which is not committed beyond 2020. Proposal for AIFCA to draft and IFCA future funding paper for Defra and members outlining IFCA's funding concerns. SB will draft options and send to members. Action 1 – SB to draft a funding paper

Seafish Development and aquaculture advisory Committee (SDAAC). SB attended. Will send minutes when received.

EU Exit advisory board. No suggestions for the EU exit advisory group meeting sent to SB. First day readiness will be discussed later. Suggested Association invites Chris Williams from NEF (New Economics Foundation) to AIFCA meeting to hear his views on first day readiness. Association to invite Chris Williams to March 2018 meeting.

D&S Letter – Sent to D&S on behalf of JL. SB will circulate letter and reply

MMO/IFCA joint meeting (8th November 2017). External facilitator Pam Gilder. More constructive than the previous meeting but content of MMO presentation was confidential. An MMO/IFCA joint working group was set up, Pam Gilder as an independent chair. Group will arrange a Spring / Summer 2018 meeting between the MMO Board and the Association. Meeting will consider long term not short term where the MMO want continued engagement as at present. IFCA asked for Terms of Reference to come from an Association/MMO Working group including John Lamb, Stephen Bolt, Mike Hardy and Julian Gregory.

Defra Updates – Nicola Robinson, Rachel Mason & Paul McCloud

EU Exit negotiations Fisheries on the 'slower track planning'. Expect update in March. Fisheries white paper expected end December (NB: not yet published). Bill to follow in spring. Consultation will depend on timing.

Catch Certification – As an independent coastal state, the UK may be required to obtain catch certificates in order to trade fish and fisheries products with the EU. This could result in a significant increase in the number of catch certificates managed by the MMO.

IFCAs can assist Defra estimate surveillance needed of EU vessels in UK waters and how they should be handled. Options to be put to the ministers. Vessels should remain licensed by their flag state and be checked.

EMFF and funding questions. 1. How does UK use funding? 2. Will data collection be replaced or matched? 4. Is membership of RFMO's (Regional Fisheries Management Orgs) needed.

Discussion: IFCA can support first day readiness. Impact on 0-6 might be small. IFCA and MMO have a national intelligence management system. 6-12 management is dependent on negotiation. Ministers must decide access arrangements. SAC and SPA become UK law in the withdrawal bill. Protected areas expected to be unchanged.

MCZ Tranche 3 Defra to consult in May/June 2018 then designation within 12 months. Thanks to IFCA for data. Ministers keen but timing must avoid exit.

Byelaw process is under review including the legal process. A contract will be let. (NB NWIFCA responded to consultation in February)

Finance and Resources: Isle of Mann and Guernsey paid membership fees. Jersey has offered use of Westminster board room in lieu of £750 fee. All agreed. A stand still budget is proposed for 2018-19. Some use of reserves may be needed to cover increasing venue costs. £45k from Defra has been received for the MPA secondment role which will now be put in place.

Policy Statement for EU Exit Operational Readiness: Produced by COG and SB for Defra/MMO. Minor Amendments agreed. SB will finalise and send to MMO and Defra.

Devon and Severn AIFCA Membership: A letter was sent from John Lamb. D&S declined invitation to present concerns at AIFCA and did not attend this meeting. D&S expected to decide their position at committee meeting on 15th December.

Whelk Policy Paper: Kent and Essex request agreement to develop national policy paper as much interest in stocks. All agreed.

Servicing IFCA Groups, TAG, COG, NIMEG: AIFCA has prepared an Activity Log to capture the actions from meetings. Sally Standing AIFCA Clerk will run this. All agreed.

AIFCA evidence to EFRA Committee is on EFRA website.

iVMS Julian Gregory EIFCA (project manager) confirmed an SI will require all vessel under 12m to have iVMS