

Email Wed 7th November from Defra.

Information for the IFCA: Defra-commissioned evaluation of the IFCA

With the exception of the Statutory Reviews, no independent evaluation of the activities of IFCA, and their outcomes, has been undertaken. The 10 year anniversary of the passing of the Marine and Coastal Access Act presents an ideal opportunity to assess progress in England on the governing and managing of inshore fisheries and marine environments. With the UK leaving the European Union and taking back control over its waters, there is also a chance to investigate whether inshore management arrangements can be extended or replicated for offshore management.

Defra, through competitive tender, is therefore commissioning an external, independent team of social researchers to perform a process and impact evaluation with the following scope:-

- Looking at the structures and capacities IFCA have to deliver on the vision for them.
- Considering the opportunities IFCA provide for participation in marine and fisheries management.
- Understanding how IFCA bylaws support environmental, economic, and social sustainability.
- Looking at how IFCA deliver fisheries research, management, and enforcement.
- Understanding the collaborative and knowledge sharing partnerships IFCA have entered into.

The evaluation will provide IFCA formal recognition for the contributions they are making to achieving clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse UK seas. Understanding how IFCA activities support ecological, social and economic benefits that support local economies and environments is crucially important as we begin to deliver the 25 Year Environment Plan. Defra welcomes advances from the IFCA in helping to deliver this important evaluation and encourages engagement with the soon-to-be-appointed contractors