

General news – March 2018

Chief Officer Begins Secondment to Defra

Following a request from Defra, Tim Robbins is now on a twelve-month secondment to DEFRA to assist with the immense workload caused by Brexit.

He will be working with the Domestic Fisheries & Reform Team and the Marine Team within Defra to assist with the delivery of the large amount of work being generated by the move to leave the EU following the Referendum.

This opportunity will help Tim to improve his knowledge of the national policy perspective when looking at fisheries and conservation, but, also to enable a voice from the IFCAs to be heard during decisions being made on the future of coastal management post-April 2019.

Tim has been the Chief Officer at D&SIFCA since it was formed in April 2011. Before that, he was employed by the Sea Fisheries Committee which was replaced by the IFCA. He has worked for both organisations since 1982 and has a wide breadth of knowledge about fisheries and environmental management at a local and national level.

Since taking over as Chief Officer, Tim and his team have been responsible for an area twice the size of the old SFC District, which includes sixteen Marine Protected Areas, ten of which are protected under International legislation. Forty percent of the district is now protected under international and domestic conservation legislation. Tim has overseen the restructuring of the organisation to improve its focus on marine conservation and introduced new and innovative byelaws which support legitimate fishing activity without compromising achievement of the IFCA's conservation aims.

Tim has stated that his vision of success is that the District can support internationally important species and habitats, whilst promoting a thriving fishing industry and the communities that depend on it. He has worked hard to have the D&SIFCA recognised as leading innovation in regulation and has developed tools and good practice for other regulators to deliver similar aspirations around the UK and Europe.

We wish Tim the very best in his new role with Defra.

During Tim's secondment period, the Acting Chief Officer will be Mat Mander, previously our Deputy Chief Officer for the last seven years. Mat has worked in fisheries management for over 25 years, with most of his career spent working for Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee and then Eastern IFCA.

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