

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Pia Bateman – Chief Executive Officer



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Poole Dorset
BH15 2AA
Tel/Fax 01202 721373

8th March 2023

Dear Member,

MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

A meeting of the Authority will be held at the Portsmouth Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 2AB on 16th March 2023 at 14:00, to discuss the business on the under mentioned Agenda. For information on how to get to the venue and the parking facilities available whilst you are there, please follow this link [How to get to us | Portsmouth Guildhall](#).

Members of the public can request a guest telephone dial-in code from enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Walker
Finance and Administration Manager.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interest

All Members who believe they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare their interest and consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

3. Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2022 (Marked A).

4. Chairman's Announcements

To receive any updates from the Chairman

5. Sub-Committees

To receive the Minutes of the following Sub-Committees and to consider the adoption of the recommendations contained therein: -

- a) **Executive Committee** held on 6th December 2022 (Marked B)
- b) **Technical Advisory Committee** held on the 3rd November 2022 (Marked C)

6. Progress Reports

To receive a progress report on any matters outstanding.

- a. **Chief Executive Officer updates.** To receive a verbal report from the CEO.
- b. **Budget Control Statement.** To consider a report from the Finance and Administration Manager (Marked D)
- c. **Marine Asset Procurement.** To consider a report from DCO Dell (Marked E)

GUEST SPEAKER

7. “The role of the Association of IFCAs: recent progress and future work” - to receive a presentation from Mr Rob Clark, Association of IFCAs.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

8. Annual Strategy 2023-2024

To consider the report from the CEO (Marked F)

9. Research and Policy Team Plan

To receive a report from DCO Birchenough (Marked G)

10. Compliance and Enforcement Team Plan

To consider the report from DCO Dell (Marked H)

11. Compliance and Enforcement Framework (Marked I)

To consider 2023 updates following review of the above-named policy document, from DCO Dell.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

12. Compliance and Enforcement Report: November 2022-Jan 2023

To receive the report from DCO Dell (Marked J)

13. Research and Policy Team: Behind the Scenes: November 2022-Jan 2023

To receive a report from DCO Birchenough (Marked K)

14. Sector Group Meetings

To receive the minutes from recent meetings of The Recreational Angling Sector Working Group and the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group (Marked L, Annex 1 and 2)

15. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next Authority meeting on 8th June 2023 at Winchester University.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Agenda Item 16 will involve the consideration of information which is exempt by virtue of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and therefore the public will be excluded during consideration of this item.

16. Poole Harbour Several Order – Request to Amend Business Plan

To consider a confidential report from IFCO Griffiths (Confidential, Marked M)

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Full Authority Meeting – 8th December 2022

A meeting of the Full Authority was held at 2pm on 8th December 2022 at the Colliton Club, Dorchester.

Present

Marked A

Cllr Mark Roberts	Dorset Council (Chairman)
Cllr. Alexis McEvoy	Hampshire County Council (Vice Chairman)
Dr Antony Jensen	MMO Appointee (TAC Chairman)
Mr Neil Hornby	MMO Appointee
Ms Rachel Irish	MMO Appointee
Dr Simon Cripps	MMO Appointee
Dr Richard Morgan	Natural England
Mr Phil Rudd	Environment Agency
Cllr Rob Hughes	Dorset County Council
Cllr Paul Fuller	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr. David Furnell	Southampton City Council
Ms Louise MacCallum	MMO Appointee
Mr Gary Wordsworth	MMO Appointee
Ms Pia Bateman	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Mr Sam Dell	Deputy Chief Officer (DCO)

Co-opted Members Mr Steve Matthews and Ms Elisabeth Bussey-Jones also attended the meeting.

Apologies

235. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford (Hampshire County Council), Cllr Matthew Winnington (Portsmouth City Council), Mr Ted Legg (MMO Appointee), Mr Richard Stride (MMO Appointee and TAC Vice Chairman), Mr Colin Francis (MMO Appointee), Sarah Birchenough (DCO) and the Business Services Manager Sarah Harley.

Declarations of Interest

236. The following non-pecuniary interests were declared: Dr R Morgan (9) and Mr G Wordsworth (9).

Minutes

237. That Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th September 2022. The CEO provided an update on Recommendations 217(a-c), which have now been resolved.

Resolved

238. The Members confirmed the Minutes as being correct and signed as an accurate record.

Chairman's Announcements

239. The Chairman provided an update on his involvement with the Fisheries Protection Vessel (FPV) procurement to date, thanking both DCO Dell and IFCO Parry for their hard work, details of which would be covered in a subsequent agenda item. In addition, the Chairman congratulated DCO Dell on Officer boarding and pacing training which was undertaken in the Solent in recent weeks. Both the Chairman of the Authority and the Chairman of the TAC, Dr A Jensen attended. The Chairman passed his thanks onto all involved, to include the crew of Research Vessel (R.V) Callista at the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton.

Ms L MacCallum enquired as to the cost of the Dorset Council procurement services to the Authority. The Chairman responded that final costs at this stage were uncertain, given that the service was based on an hourly rate, rather than a pre-agreed fixed amount. The Chairman anticipated, that in comparison to other procurement pathways which had been followed by other IFCA's, the final costs (c. £8,000)

were not expected to be as high. The Chairman discussed the importance of seeking external procurement services to supplement the work that DCO Dell and IFCO Parry were undertaking, to ensure that procurement is conducted in line with all relevant legislations. The Chairman and DCO Dell committed to provide an update to the Membership at a subsequent meeting, once costings were finalised.

Sub Committees

240. Members received the minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee held on 27th September 2022 and the Technical Advisory Sub-Committees held on the 25th August 2022 and the 3rd November 2022 (draft).

Resolved

241. That Members received and agreed the minutes of the Sub-Committees.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer Updates

242. The CEO updated Members on the recent resignation of Sarah Harley, the Business Services Manager who will be leaving the Authority on the 21st December 2022. The CEO also reported that Mike Ratsey, Southern IFCA's Accountant will also be leaving us in December 2022. The CEO and Members expressed their thanks to all of Mr Ratsey's hard work over the last decade or so, recognising that planned speeches and a presentation to Mr Ratsey will take place on the evening of the 8th December 2022.

The CEO discussed the ongoing recruitment campaigns which were underway to find an Administration and Finance Manager and an Accountant, with the first round of interviews timetabled for the week commencing 12th December 2022.

The CEO confirmed receipt of £50k of funding from Defra, which is a third of the amount anticipated for each IFCA to deliver new functions on behalf of Defra under the Fisheries Act 2020. In direct relation to this funding, Southern IFCA are currently advertising for a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) Project Officer.

The CEO provided an update on the progress of Defra's 4-year report on the Conduct and Operations of IFCA's. As part of this process in November, Defra contracted the University of Portsmouth to engage with stakeholders within the Southern District in order to seek input. This phase of engagement is now complete. Defra anticipate that 'Expert Questionnaires' will be sent to Members in the New Year, in order to facilitate Member's input into this process.

The CEO confirmed that, following a recent MMO General Member recruitment campaign, Colin Francis will be joining the Southern Membership as a representative for the Recreational Sea Angling sector. As part of his role on the Authority, Mr Francis will be attending Recreational Sector Angling Groups.

The CEO informed Members that the MMO will be embarking on another round of General Membership recruitment in the New Year, and that under this national approach Southern hope to fill the remaining RSA vacancy.

The CEO provided a general update on the status of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs), framed up on a recent presentation provided by Jon Davies of Defra. The CEO informed Members that Defra anticipate that the frontrunner FMPs (Crab & Lobster, Whelk, Scallop, Non Quota Species and Bass) will be published in 2023, followed by a further 6 in 2024 and 5 in 2025. The CEO discussed the status of the frontrunners, lessons learnt by Defra and the next steps. Defra are currently commissioning delivery partners for the next 'tranche' of FMPs to be published in 2024.

The CEO discussed the recent release of the Joint Fisheries Statement, following consultation earlier in the year. The CEO discussed the relevance to IFCA's and how Southern's strategic delivery is aligned with the 8 Fisheries Objectives and shared ambitions of the Act.

The CEO provided Members with an update on the Net Fishing Byelaw and Pot Fishing Byelaw, both of which remain subject to the MMO Quality Assurance process.

The CEO reflected on the recent passing of former Southern IFCA General Member Nick Fisher, who resigned as a General Member during the summer, following his appointment in December 2020. Nick had requested ongoing involvement with Southern IFCA in a co-opted capacity to contribute his extensive RSA and fisheries knowledge and expertise at working groups and Authority meetings. Nick will be missed by all at Southern IFCA and the wider fishing community. On behalf of the Authority, condolences have been sent to Nick's family.

Resolved

243. That Members noted the verbal update.

Budget Control Statement

244. The CEO provided an overview of the draft Statement of Accounts to 31st October 2022 which show an excess in income of £378k, which is £48k better than expected at this stage of the financial year. The CEO discussed that the main reason for this positive variance was due to a reduction in staff salary and pension contributions. The CEO described the negative variance seen under Capital Equipment, which reflects FPV Endeavour entering service sooner than anticipated, with the figure related to depreciation of the asset.

Resolved

245. That Members noted the report.

Marine Asset Review

246. DCO Dell provided the Members with an update on the Southern IFCA MAR and its continued progression. Currently the procurement process has moved into a '10 day standstill period' with the tender due to be awarded on the 13th December 2022. DCO Dell committed to providing Members with a refreshed timetable in the New Year regarding the anticipated build times and entry into service.

Ms L MacCallum asked why Southern IFCA were contracting procurement services externally, rather than maintaining this function in-house. DCO Dell discussed the specialised role that procurement services offer, which ensure that the Authority are achieving the objectives of the Marine Asset Review in line with legal requirements and for the purposes of transparency. DCO Dell discussed the complexity of procurement, in that it is an area of specialism which requires external expertise to ensure that any potential risk is mitigated. Dr A Jenson and Dr S Cripps discussed the importance of supporting Officers and the wider Authority when undertaking work which requires external expertise, and the duty of care associated with this.

Resolved

247. That Members note the update

Marine Licence Report

248. DCO Dell provided an overview of recent Marine Licence applications.

Resolved

249. That Members note the update.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Draft Budget and Levy Contributions 2023-2024

250. The CEO explained that the budget forecast was designed to enable the delivery of the Authority's priorities in accordance with the IFCA's (1) statutory functions, and (2) the additional functions which will support DEFRA in its delivery of objectives under the Fisheries Act 2020.

The CEO explained that based on previous conversations with Elected Members, the forecast had been developed with the anticipation that there would be standstill (0%) levy contributions from the Local Authorities. In this scenario, the budget forecast anticipates a loss of £31.6k for the financial year 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024. With the added consideration of inflation at 7.4%, to align with the Autumn statement predictions, the budget forecast anticipates a loss of £49.6k for the next financial year.

The CEO highlighted the cost efficiencies made in business operations to limit the overall deficit.

Ms L MacCallum congratulated the CEO on the layout of the report, making it easy to navigate. Cllr. A McEvoy and Mr G Wordsworth in particular welcomed the section on cost efficiencies and savings. Dr A Jensen supported the proposed reduction in frequency of the Solent Oyster Survey, highlighting that settlement could be identified by other means, which could include the undertaking of the Solent Scallop survey. In addition, Dr A Jensen discussed the time lapse between settlement and achieving MCRS.

Mr N Hornby and Mr S Cripps considered the Southern IFCA reserves, which place Southern in an preferred position when considering the projected deficit for 2023-2024.

Members discussed that in the current climate, a 0% standstill was an appropriate position to take, however recognised that this approach could not be maintained in future years, but in this instance was aligned to the exceptional economic landscape that is impacting Local Authorities nationally.

Cllr. A McEvoy proposed Recommendation 1 and Cllr. P Fuller seconded the proposal. All Members unanimously supported the proposal. Cllr. A McEvoy proposed Recommendation 2 and Cllr. P Fuller seconded the proposal. All Elected Members unanimously supported the proposal.

Resolved

251 (a) That all Members of the Authority approve the principles informing the budget forecast for the financial year 1st Apr 2023 to 31st March 2024.

(b) That the six constituent Local Authorities are levied at a rate consistent with that received in 2021-2022. This represents a standstill of levy contributions for the financial year 1st Apr 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Proposed Amendments to Financial Regulations

252. The CEO explained that in accordance with the Southern IFCA Financial Regulations 2022, any proposed changes to the regulations must be approved by the Full Authority. The CEO discussed that in order to align the Financial Regulations with the updated system of financial reporting; which parallels with operational delivery for the forthcoming financial year, an amendment to a definition was required.

The recommendation was agreed by mutual consent.

Resolved

253. That the report be received in anticipation that the following recommendations will be considered at the meeting of the Full Authority on the 8th December:

(a) That, the following amendment is made under paragraph (1,g) of the Financial Regulations 2022:

From:

'*Major Budget Heads*' shall be mean the following nominal ledgers: Administration, Marine Assets, Vehicles and Travel, Capital Equipment and Income.

To:

'*Major Budget Heads*' shall be mean the following nominal ledgers: Business Services, Fisheries Protection, Fisheries Management & Policy, Capital Equipment and Income.

Shore Gathering Review

254. The CEO provided a brief background to the Shore Gathering Review which was being led by DCO Birchenough. Over recent months Members of a Working Group had considered both the review drivers and the legal duties of the IFCA in the context of shore gathering across the District. These discussions were subsequently framed by the TAC in November 2022, where three Policy Objectives were developed and finalised.

The CEO explained that in accordance with Southern IFCA's Standing Orders, and upon the recommendation of the TAC, the Authority are invited to approve the progression of the Shore Gathering Review to Stage 2 of the Byelaw Making process.

Ms L MacCallum requested the inclusion of background information in the report, to facilitate Members ability to make informed decisions, as well as greater consideration of the wording of the 'recommendations' for clarity. The CEO noted these comments, suggesting that such information (as contained in TAC paperwork) is in future annexed in the Cover Sheets for greater transparency.

The recommendation was agreed by mutual consent.

Resolved

255. That Members progress the Shore Gathering Review to Stage 2 of the Byelaw Making Process to enable officers to progress with Recommendations a-f in Section 4.2 of the cover paper, as agreed at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on the 6th October 2022.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Compliance and Enforcement Report

256. DCO Dell reported to Members on the compliance and enforcement activities for the quarter, describing the statistical nature of the first part of the report referring to numbers of inspections, patrols, intelligence reports and offences detected before drawing members attention to section 4 of the report where he described the summary of key enforcement operations and activities for the last quarter.

Southern IFCA's Delivery of Strategic Control and Enforcement Priorities

256. DCO Dell provided Members with a presentation on how Southern IFCA delivers strategic compliance enforcement priorities in an effective and efficient manner, DCO Dell described how delivery priorities are set, the Compliance and Enforcement Framework and Risk Register in which we operate under, the strategy, operational delivery, resourcing, innovation and efficiencies and how we report and evaluate effective compliance. Ms. Bussey-Jones and Dr S Cripps asked questions regarding the use of technology including the use of remote sensing and satellite imagery, DCO Dell made reference to a project with OceanMind in which the IFCA was engaged in exploring the use of this technology within the Southern IFCA district. Mr. N Hornby asked whether there were any issues with the exchange of information across government departments, DCO Dell explained that there are data sharing agreements in place with partner organisations. Mr. N Hornby asked if there are any protocols in place for reporting incidents of high mortality making reference to the on-going Shellfish die off incident on the East Coast, DCO Dell responded by saying that the Intelligence System is a tool we would use in that scenario to escalate information, this system was utilised as part of the response to Covid-19 and escalating the effects on industry to Defra.

Behind the Scenes with the Fisheries Management and Policy Team

230. DCO Dell provided Members with an update on some of the work that the Fisheries Management and Policy Team have been delivering behind the scenes through a series of reports.

Sector Group Meetings

232. DCO Dell provided Members with the minutes of sector meetings to include the South Coast Fishermen's Council (FMC) and the Recreational Angling Sector Group (RSAG).

Date of Next Meeting

234. The next Authority Meeting will be held on the 16th March 2023 at 2pm at The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Meeting concluded at 16:40.

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 6th December 2022

Marked B

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

A meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee (ESC) was held at **14:00 on 6th December 2022** via video conferencing.

Present

Cllr Mark Roberts	Dorset Council (Chairman)
Cllr Alexis McEvoy	Hampshire County Council (Vice Chairman)
Mr Richard Stride	MMO Appointee
Cllr Rob Hughes	Dorset Council
Cllr Paul Fuller	Isle of Wight Council
Dr Antony Jensen	MMO Appointee
Ms Pia Bateman	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) Mr Sam Dell was also present.

Apologies

268. Apologies were received from Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford, DCO Ms Sarah Birchenough and Mrs Sarah Harley (Business Services Manager).

Declarations of Interest

269. There were no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests declared.

Minutes

270. The minutes from the previous meeting held on 27th September 2022 were considered by Members. An amendment to the first sentence on page 3 was made, removing 'no' before 'assisting'.

Resolved

271. Subject to the above-mentioned change, the minutes from the previous meeting held on the 27th September 2022 were agreed.

Chairman's Announcements

272. The Chairman provided an update on his involvement with the Fisheries Protection Vessel (FPV) procurement to date, thanking both DCO Dell and IFCO Parry for their hard work. In addition, the Chairman congratulated DCO Dell on recent officer boarding and pacing training which was undertaken in the Solent. Both the Chairman and Dr A Jensen attended, and Dr A Jensen was invited by the Chairman to pass his thanks on to the crew of Research Vessel (R.V) Callista at the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton.

Progress Reports

273. Chief Executive Officer

The CEO provided an update on the AIFCA National Training programme, as well as the outcomes of the recent Public Sector Pay award.

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 6th December 2022

The CEO confirmed receipt of £50k of funding from Defra, which is a third of the amount anticipated for each IFCA to deliver new functions on behalf of Defra under the Fisheries Act 2020. In direct relation to this funding, Southern IFCA are currently advertising for a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) Project Officer.

The CEO confirmed that following an MMO General Member recruitment campaign, Colin Francis would be joining us as a representative for the Recreational Sea Angling sector. As part of his role on the Authority, Mr Francis will be attending forthcoming Southern IFCA RSAGs.

The CEO informed Members that the MMO will be embarking on another round of General Membership recruitment in the New Year, and that under this national approach Southern hope to fill the remaining RSA vacancy. The CEO asked whether Members would, in the meantime welcome an additional co-opted member to the Authority, utilising the MMO merit list. Following discussions and with direction from the Members, the CEO committed to sending all Members further details on the applicant, as well as arranging a meeting with the MMO Governance team to facilitate the possibility of an additional person being co-opted to the Membership.

Following the pending retirement of Mr Mike Ratsey, the CEO and Members expressed their thanks to all of Mr Ratsey's hard work over the last decade or so, recognising planned speeches and a presentation to Mr Ratsey will take place on the evening of the 8th December 2022.

The CEO discussed the ongoing recruitment campaigns to find both an Accountant and Finance and Administration Manager, with interviews commencing the week beginning 12th December 2022.

Resolved

274. That Member's noted the update.

Budget Control Statement

275. The CEO provided an overview of the draft Statement of Accounts to 31st October 2022 which show an excess in income of £378k, which is £48k better than expected at this stage of the financial year. The CEO discussed that the main reason for this positive variance was due to a reduction in staff salary and pension contributions. The CEO described the negative variance seen under Capital Equipment, which reflects FPV Endeavour entering service sooner than anticipated, with the figure related to depreciation of the asset.

Resolved

276. The Members noted the report.

The Marine Asset Review

277. DCO Dell provided the Members with an update on the Southern IFCA MAR and its continued progression. Currently the procurement process has moved into a '10 day standstill period' with the tender due to be awarded on the 13th December 2022. DCO Dell committed to providing Members with a refreshed timetable in the New Year regarding the anticipated build times and entry into service.

The CEO thanks DCO Dell for his hard work over recent months, recognising the achievements made to date.

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 6th December 2022

Resolved

278. The Members noted the report.

Accident, Incident and Near Miss Report.

279. DCO Dell provided the Members with details of three incidents that had occurred in recent months. The first being a camera detachment from the drone, which had resulted in significant damage. A replacement drone was procured, and insurance monies have since been received. An internal investigation was undertaken, and appropriate actions taken.

The second incident involving a third-party vehicle fire, resulting in significant damage to the Mobile Interpretation Unit and the final being damage to an Authority vehicle and the third incident relating to criminal damage to the rear of a Southern IFCA vehicle.

Resolved

280. The Members noted the report.

Draft Budget and Levy Contributions 2023-2024

281. The CEO explained that the budget forecast is designed to enable the delivery of the Authority's priorities in accordance with the IFCA's (1) statutory functions, and (2) the additional functions which will support DEFRA in its delivery of objectives under the Fisheries Act 2020.

The CEO explained that based on previous conversations with Elected Members, the forecast had been developed with the anticipation that there would be standstill (0%) levy contributions from the Local Authorities. In this scenario the budget forecast anticipates a loss of £31.6k for the financial year 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024. With the added consideration of inflation at 7.4%, to align with the Autumn statement predictions, the budget forecast anticipates a loss of £49.6k for the next financial year.

The CEO highlighted the cost efficiencies made in business operations to limit the overall deficit.

Cllr A McEvoy welcomed the report and thanked the CEO for acknowledging the impact that the current economic climate was having on Local Authorities and translating this into the drafting of the budget proposals. Cllr A McEvoy congratulated the CEO on the cost efficiencies which had been identified in the report and recognised the efforts that had been made in an attempt to reduce the anticipated deficits. Both Cllr A McEvoy and Cllr M Roberts discussed the challenging positions that each of their Councils were facing and for this reason they both supported a 0% levy contribution.

As part of the cost efficiencies identified, Dr A Jensen discussed the proposal to reduce the delivery of the Solent oyster survey from its current annual frequency to every two years. Dr A Jensen discussed this pragmatic approach, and the fact that any settlement of native oysters in the Solent would likely be identified using other means, and that following any settlement it could take up to 3 years for MCRS to be reached.

Members approved the layout of the budget, recognising its benefits when managing a budget framed around operational delivery, as well as its advantages when reporting the financial health of Southern IFCA to the Members.

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 6th December 2022

Dr A Jensen asked that the Chairman highlight at the meeting of the Authority on the 8th December 2022 the impact that future 0% levy contributions would have on Southern IFCAs delivery of its statutory duties, recognising that the proposal of a 0% levy contribution for the 2023-2024 period reflects the wider economic challenges being faced and that it should not set a precedent for forthcoming years. Cllr A McEvoy agreed with this position, recognising that the proposals this year were aligned and appropriate to the current climate.

Resolved

282. That the report be received in anticipation that the following recommendations will be considered at the meeting of the Full Authority meeting on the 8th December:

- 1) That all Members of the Authority approve the principles informing the budget forecast for the financial year 1st Apr 2023 to 31st March 2024.
- 2) That the six constituent Local Authorities are levied at a rate consistent with that received in 2021-2022. This represents a standstill of levy contributions for the financial year 1st Apr 2023 to 31st March 2024. *In accordance with Standing Order (77), the vote on the budgetary motion is to be undertaken by Council Members only.*

Proposed Amendments to Financial Regulations

283. The CEO explained that in accordance with the Financial Regulations 2022, any proposed changes to the above-named regulations must be approved by the Members, prior to consideration by the Full Authority. The CEO discussed that in order to align the Financial Regulations with the updated system of financial reporting, which parallels with operational delivery for the forthcoming financial year, an amendment to a definition was required.

Resolved

284. That the report be received in anticipation that the following recommendations will be considered at the meeting of the Full Authority on the 8th December:

1. That, the following amendment is made under paragraph (1,g) of the Financial Regulations 2022:

From:

'*Major Budget Heads*' shall be mean the following nominal ledgers: Administration, Marine Assets, Vehicles and Travel, Capital Equipment and Income.

To:

'*Major Budget Heads*' shall be mean the following nominal ledgers: Business Services, Fisheries Protection, Fisheries Management & Policy, Capital Equipment and Income.

Date of Next Meeting

285. Members considered the date of the next Executive Sub-Committee, timetabled for the 14th March 2023.

Resolved

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 6th December 2022

286. The date of the next virtual meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee is confirmed as the 14th March 2023 at 14:00.

The meeting closed at 16:04.

DRAFT

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 3rd November 2022

Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee held in the meeting room at the Southern IFCA office in Poole at **14:00 on 3rd November 2022**

Present

Dr Antony Jensen	(Chairman, MMO Appointee)
Mr Richard Stride	(Vice Chairman, MMO Appointee)
Mr Gary Wordsworth	(MMO Appointee)
Ms Louise MacCallum	(MMO Appointee)
Dr Simon Cripps	(MMO Appointee)
Mr James McClelland	(Natural England)
Mr Phil Rudd	(Environment Agency)
Ms Pia Bateman	Chief Executive Officer

Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) Mr Sam Dell and DCO Ms Sarah Birchenough, Business Service Manager (BSM) Mrs Sarah Harley, IFCA's Ms Emily Condie, Mr Dominic Parry and Ms Liberty Cast were also present.

Mr Neil Hornby (MMO Appointee), Mr Ted Legg (MMO Appointee) and Co-opted Members Mr Steve Matthews and Ms Elisabeth Bussey-Jones attended the meeting virtually.

Apologies

143. Apologies for absence were received from Ms Rachel Irish (MMO Appointee).

Declarations of interest

144. The following pecuniary interests were declared: Mr R Stride (5b), Mr G Wordsworth (6, 8 prejudicial and 11 prejudicial) and Mr S Matthews (9). The following non-pecuniary interests were declared: Mr P Rudd (6 and 7), Mr N Hornby (7 and 11), Dr A Jensen (9 and 11), Mr T Leg (4 and 5c), Mr J McClelland (6,7,8 and 11).

Minutes

145. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th August 2022 and these were confirmed and signed.

Channel Demersal Non-Quota Channel Fisheries Management Plan

146. Mr Nicholas French, a Principal Fisheries Manager working in the Fisheries Management Team with the MMO provided Members with a virtual presentation on the Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). Mr N French discussed the development and delivery stages for the FMP, as well as detailing the species that will be included under the FMP. The presentation provided information regarding a working group which will continue to meet on a monthly basis until June 2023.

Mr N French invited Members to contact the MMO if they wish to find out more information via fm@marinemangement.org.uk and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/channel-demersal-non-quota-species-fisheries-management-plan>.

PROGRESS REPORTS

147. Chief Executive Officer Updates

The CEO provided a general update on the stages of each frontrunner FMP, discussing the importance of this area of work for the IFCA's during the planning stages of FMPs all the way

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 3rd November 2022

through to delivery. The CEO reminded Members that FMP updates are provided on the Southern IFCA website and social media channels, inviting Members to consider their participation in the current Bass FMP 'co-design' survey (link on website) closing on the 6th November 2022.

The CEO discussed the various stages that each FMP had reached, with the Crab & Lobster and Whelk FMPs (Seafish) currently drafting overarching and species-specific objectives, prior to embarking on stakeholder engagement events along the coast. The King Scallop FMP, led by an industry lead co-management group have developed high level aims and objectives which they are also about to present to stakeholders.

The CEO announced that Mr Colin Francis had been recently appointed by the MMO to Southern IFCA as a General Member, representing the Recreational Sea Angling (RSA) Sector. Subject to appropriate recruitment checks and following a planned induction, Mr C Francis would be joining the Membership in due course. The CEO discussed the intention for the MMO to undertake a nationwide Member recruitment campaign in January 2023, recognising the current General member vacancy at Southern IFCA.

The CEO updated Members on the progress of the Defra Conduct and Operations Report. As part of this process Defra have contracted the University of Portsmouth to engage with stakeholders across the District, in order to seek input on how the community feel that Southern IFCA have performed in the delivery of their legislative duties over the last four years. The CEO advised the General members that they would soon be receiving an 'expert questionnaire' from Defra in order to capture their views.

Resolved

148. That Member's noted the update.

149. Pot Fishing Byelaw

DCO Birchenough provided a status update on the Pot Fishing Byelaw, informing Members that the Executive Sub-Committee had now had the opportunity to consider the objections raised during the formal consultation in addition to the corresponding responses which had been drafted by Officers. These responses were informed by the outcomes of a TAC working group, subsequent to recommendations made by the TAC in August 2022. DCO Birchenough confirmed that the responses to the objections were disseminated following the meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee in September 2022.

DCO Birchenough confirmed that the Pot Fishing Byelaw had been submitted to the MMO for Quality Assurance (QA), with an anticipated date for the first iteration in the QA process to be received by the 14th December 2022.

Resolved

150. That Member's noted the update.

151. MCRS Review

DCO Birchenough provided an update following the first Working Group (WG) held as part of the MCRS Review, which was focussed on flat fish. Following this positive meeting, officers are now in the process of undertaking additional socio-economic evidence gathering in order to inform future working groups.

Resolved

152. That Member's noted the update.

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 3rd November 2022

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Shore Gathering Review

153. DCO Birchenough provided Members with an overview of a recent WG which was focussed on Shore Gathering. WG discussions culminated in the development of a series of Shore Gathering Policy Objectives, framed in the context of legislative drivers.

Mr Matthews discussed concerns regarding the transportation of pests such as tingle larvae, informing Members that they are difficult to detect and shore gatherers might not be able to recognise them. DCO Birchenough confirmed that within the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process, which is required to be undertaken for all activities which occur within National Site Networks, there is advice on operations, provided by Natural England, which indicate potential pressures, including those posed by a biosecurity risk. As such, this matter is considered when developing the HRA, in order to indicate what mitigation may be required. All Members gave mutual consent.

Resolved

154. That Members recommend to the Authority that:

- a) The Policy Objectives for the review, developed based on a position taken by the Authority Working Group, are used to frame the review through the subsequent stages.
- b) The Shore Gathering Review proceeds to Stage 2: Draft Measures, of the Byelaw Making Process.
- c) The Authority completes the required assessments for Shore Gathering activities within Designated Sites and Natural England are consulted on the outcomes of these assessments.
- d) Best-available evidence is collated and reviewed to assess the purpose and impact of existing shore gathering byelaws and other measures.
- e) As part of the evidence gathering process Officers develop a timeline for consultation and engagement with stakeholders
- f) A TAC working group is convened to review the outcomes from (3), (4) and (5) and use this as a basis to consider potential management options.

Wrasse Fishery Review

154. IFCO Condie provided Members with a report which considered the 2022 wrasse fishery data in the context of the corresponding Monitoring and Control Plan. Specifically, that one of the monitoring variable, which relates to the volume of wrasse caught, had exceeded its trigger value (25% of 2018 baseline) by 3%, equating to an additional c.1,200 fish being landed. IFCO Condie provided information on how the data is collected and the ongoing correspondence with operators in the fishery during the current season.

IFCO Condie informed Members that, in accordance with the Monitoring and Control Plan, when a trigger is reached, the Authority must undertake a review of the HRA, prior to consideration of further actions. All Members gave mutual consent.

Resolved

155. a) That Members review the evidence base for the wrasse fishery, including the 2022 data
- b) That, in accordance with the Assessment Feedback Process outlined in Section 8 of the 'Studland to Portland Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Monitoring and Control Plan, Wrasse Fishing', Members agree to reassess the HRA for the fishery.

Mussel Fishery Authorisation

156. DCO Birchenough invited Members to consider an application for a continuation of authorisation to remove 1000 tonnes of seed mussels from an area east of Portland Bill for 2023.

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 3rd November 2022

DCO Birchenough explained to Members that the area covered by the authorisation lies outside the boundary of Studland to Portland SAC. This authorisation had last been approved by The Authority in February 2022 to cover the period until the 31st December 2022. Recently an application request had been received to continue this activity in 2023, with the Total Allowable Catch remaining at 1000 tonnes.

DCO Birchenough discussed that the Test of Likely Significant Effect (TLSE) had been reviewed in accordance with the Authority's legal duties, and that this had concluded that there would be no adverse effect from the fishing activity, subject to the conditions which have been placed on the authorisation previously being upheld. All Members gave mutual consent.

Resolved

- 157.** a) That Members recommend, subject to formal consultation with Natural England, that the Authority shall provide written consent for the Fishing Vessel (F/V) WY37 Nicola L, to remove seed mussel until 31st December 2023, provided that:
- i. A total of no more than 1,000 tonnes of mussels are removed during this period;
 - ii. Mussel fishing is restricted to the area contained by the co-ordinates:
002° 24.402' W 50° 30.124' N,
002° 24.402' W 50° 29.770' N,
002° 21.908' W 50° 29.770' N,
002° 21.912' W 50° 29.228' N, and
002° 25.278' W 50° 29.705' N;
 - iii. All mussels landed are relayed for a minimum of 6 months on a Several Fishery lay within Poole Harbour;
 - iv. Whilst fishing for mussels the vessel is fitted with an operational VMS unit;
 - v. The Southern IFCA Office is notified by telephone no less than 12 hours and during office hours (0900 – 1700) prior to daily mussel fishing operations; and
 - vi. Based on provision of new evidence, the Authority retains the right to alter or suspend this permission.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Outcomes of the Solent Scallop Survey 2022

158. Mr R Stride chaired the following item due to Dr A Jensen declaring an interest in the agenda item.

IFCO Cast provided Members with an overview of the outcomes following the recent Solent scallop survey (Autumn 2022). In addition, IFCO Cast provided an analysis of the timeseries of data gathered in Summer 2021, Spring 2022 and Autumn 2022.

Mr Matthews discussed his concerns with drawing conclusions from the data too quickly, given that the survey has only been repeated three times to date. He also raised a query on the sampling methodology, related to the length of time of the tow and suggested that the data might be improved by using an 8-minute tow rather than a 4-minute tow, as this would better capture the additional material obtained in dredges while fishing and may allow for the retention of smaller scallops. He raised a concern that the current methodology would not be able to provide an indication of the number of scallops in smaller size classes, i.e., those which are attaching to cultch which would give an indication of levels of spat fall.

DCO Birchenough thanked Mr Matthews for his observations and discussed the concerns raised regarding the survey methodology in the context of resourcing and data timeseries. Specifically, when considering an elongation of length of tow, there would likely be a reduction in the number of tows that could be achieved in a given timeframe. A change in methodology would mean that future results would not be comparable to those already obtained from the last three surveys.

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Dr Jensen responded that maintaining a 4-minute tow would be useful for coverage and to allow comparability between data but that it would be interesting to get a feel for the spat settlement in the Solent. It was queried whether there would be any potential in the future for further survey work on this fishery to complement the stock data recognising the potential resource implications of this. Dr Jensen added that the classic way of looking at recruitment would be to do a slow tow using video systems across the seabed to measure the population in situ which would also potentially aid in removing the issue of catch bias caused by the dredge. Mr Stride discussed the length frequency distribution, in that the dredges used for sampling are size selective in order to maximise retention of individuals above the minimum size, therefore Mr Stride highlighted that the dataset obtained through the survey shouldn't be used to provide an indication of the length frequency of the whole population.

Members raised a number of concerns regarding the accuracy of the data within the report and some of the conclusions presented. Dr S Cripps suggested that the report needed to provide both a summary of the technical data, as well as conclusions that are clear and supported by the data, to enable those reading the report from a non-technical perspective, to understand the findings.

DCO Birchenough noted these points and committed to making the appropriate changes, prior to the updated report being submitted to the TAC Members by proxy for consideration. DCO Birchenough invited Members to send any further comments through via email for consideration when reviewing the report.

Recommendation

159. That DCO Birchenough review and amend the 2022 Solent Scallop Survey report prior to submitting to the TAC Members via proxy, before the Report is made publicly available.

Date and time of Next Meeting

160. That the meeting of the TAC will be on the 2nd February 2023 at Southern IFCA Offices, Unit 3, Holes Bay Park.

Exclusion of the Public

161. In accordance with the Local Government Act (1972), Members of the public accessing the meeting virtually left the meeting on the grounds that the following item of business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Para 7 part 1 of the Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act (1972). There were no members of the public present in person at the meeting. In addition Mr Wordsworth left the meeting at 15:59, due to a pecuniary prejudicial interest in the agenda item.

Poole Harbour Several Order – Request to Amend Business Plan

162. DCO Birchenough asked Members to consider a confidential report giving details of a proposed change of methodology in the Business Plan for Lease Beds 6, 7, 8 & 10, which Southern IFCA manage under The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015. The proposed changes have been reviewed and the proposed changes to the Business Plan in the report are in line with the current Appropriate Assessment for the issuing of leases under The Order. All Members gave mutual consent.

**SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 3rd November 2022**

Resolved

163.

- a) That Members approve the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2020-25 for Lease Beds 6, 7, 8 & 10.
- b) That Members approve the proposed minor amendment to the Lease associated with Lease Bed 6.
- c) That Members approve the proposed minor amendment to the Lease associated with Lease Bed 7.
- d) That Members approve the proposed minor amendment to the Lease associated with Lease Beds 8 & 10.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:10

Chairman:

Date:

DRAFT

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS TO 31ST JANUARY 2023

Report by the Finance and Administration Manager.

A. Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with a summary of the Authority's accounts for the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31st January 2023.

This report will also be considered by the Audit & Governance Sub-Committee at 10am on 14th March 2023 and the Executive Sub-Committee at 2pm on 14th March 2023.

B. Recommendation

That the report be received.

C. Annex

Annex 1: Budget Control Statement to 31st January 2023

1. Budget Control Statement (BCS) - Summary of Main Headers

- 1.1 The Budget Control Statement to 31st January 2023 is shown at Annex 1. This confirms a £209k excess of income over expenditure for the period, which is £67k better than expected at this stage of the financial year.
- 1.2 The positive variance captured under the Administration Header (c.£45k) is due to a reduction in staff salary and pension contributions following in year staff movements, departures and recruitment.
- 1.3 The negative variance under the 'Capital Equipment' Header (c.£4k) is due to FPV Endeavour entering service earlier than anticipated and thus the depreciation not being accounted for when budget setting in November 2021.
- 1.4 The notes accompanying the BSC in Annex 1 provide an overview of all negative variance equal to or greater than £1k.
- 1.5 All variances in excess of £1k, (with the exception of **6015-100 PV Endeavour maintenance**) were reported on at the previous meeting of the Authority in December 2022.
- 1.6 A negative variance of £1,523 for PV Endeavour Maintenance is due to inaccurate posting across vessel maintenance codes.

2. Payment of Amounts Exceeding £5,000

- 2.1 Paragraph (11) of Southern IFCA Financial Regulations 2022 require that all ex.VAT payments over £5,000 (with the exception of salaries, PAYE, pension

contributions and regular payments outside of the BSM control) are to be reported to the Executive Sub-Committee on a Budgetary Control Statement.

- 2.2 One sum in excess of £5k was paid between 1st November 2022 and 31st January 2023.
- 2.3 The payment of £8,500 ex.VAT was made to Colena Ltd t/a Heliguy on 23rd November 2022. This was for a replacement thermal camera damaged beyond repair in September 2022. The purchase was covered by a settlement from our insurers.

	Apr22- Mar23 12 mths Budget	YTD			FAM YTD Notes for negative variances ≥£1k	
		1st Apr22 - 31st Jan23 (10mths)				
		Actual	Budget	Variances		
ADMINISTRATION:						
5010-100 Salaries and other labour costs	541,157	406,541	450,960	44,419	↑	Reflects savings associated with current vacancy for Senior FMP Officer (YTD on a P/T salary) and staff changes YTD.
5020-100 L govmt pension scheme	70,229	56,462	58,520	2,058	↑	
5040-100 Protective and other clothing	6,249	4,073	5,210	1,137	↑	
5052-100 Office general	4,800	8,361	4,000	(4,361)	↓	Cost codes were separated spring 2022 to track energy rises. Costs to date not attributed accurately in breakdowns. Taken in combination the excess is due to [1]Southern Electric rising costs, with recognition that the budget was set at c.50% lower than actuals in Dec 2021 [c.£6,400 more accurate] as well as unprecedented costs of living crisis (as discussed by CEO in Budget Status Update in June 2022), [2] Office 365 migration not accounted for in budget
5053-100 Office IT	7,800	11,572	6,500	(5,072)	↓	
5054-100 Office energy	2,400	5,319	2,000	(3,319)	↓	
5060-100 Communications	8,383	6,050	6,990	940	↑	Budget didn't take into account annual rise in premiums.
5070-100 General Insurance	16,924	19,068	16,924	(2,144)	↓	
5075-100 Holes Bay - Rates	16,224	14,163	13,520	(643)	↓	
5076-100 Covid 19 Expenses	2,040	0	1,700	1,700	↑	
5080-100 Subscriptions	1,900	2,720	1,580	(1,140)	↓	Budget set too low (more accurate c.£4800 - as discussed by CEO in Budget Status Update in June 2022).
5090-100 Prosecution costs	20,000	20,242	16,670	(3,572)	↓	Reflects number of prosecutions the FPT has taken YTD
5095-100 Legal and professional costs	5,000	1,159	4,170	3,011	↑	
5100-100 Training	17,500	13,731	15,224	1,493	↑	
5105-100 Authority meetings	1,983	1,546	1,650	104	↑	
5110-100 Misc. expenditure	3,989	2,906	3,320	414	↑	
5130-100 Audit & accountancy costs	3,672	2,199	3,060	861	↑	
5140-100 Adverts - audit/byelaws	3,000		2,500	2,500	↑	
5150-100 Adverts - recruitment	1,000	1,490	830	(660)	↑	
5160-100 AIFCA	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	-	
5200-100 Evidence and Research Budget	11,953	8,002	9,960	1,958	↑	
5214-100 ETP project		1,750		(1,750)	↓	Outstanding cost to partner organisation from previous budget yr. following project closure in March 2022.
5230-100 Poole Harbour MSC Annual Audit	20,000	9,790	16,670	6,880	↑	£20k set aside as a capital item rather than coming out of P&L (ESC, March 22) re:upfront MSC re-certification costs. Annual MSC Audit costs are £6,582. The additional £3,208 to be re-paid to capital item
5233-100 Operational equipment	3,000	2,030	2,500	471	↑	
5680-100 Bank charges	956	761	800	40	↑	
EXPENDITURE	783,159	612,934	658,258	45,324	↑	
MARINE ASSETS:						
6000-100 PV fuel	11,000	8,133	9,170	1,037	↑	Negative variance reflects inaccurate posting across vessel maintenance codes. Intention in 2023-2024 to record running costs separately to maintenance for more accurate oversight.
6015-100 PV Endeavour maintenance	8,829	8,883	7,360	(1,523)	↓	
6045-100 Stella Barbara maintenance	6,130	1,905	5,110	3,205	↑	
6055-100 PV Protector maintenance	7,430	3,219	6,190	2,971	↑	
6066-100 Drone running costs	2,000	633	1,670	1,037	↑	
6068-100 Drone Insurance	2,000	1,996	2,000	4	↑	
6070-100 Marine insurance	3,650	4,681	3,650	(1,031)	↓	Budget didn't take into account annual rise in premiums.
EXPENDITURE	41,039	29,449	35,150	5,701	↑	
VEHICLES & TRAVEL						
7010-100 CEO Expenses	2,075	292	1,730	1,438	↑	Inaccuracy when setting budget - should be set at c.£1,200. Officer milage currently recorded under cost code - intention to separate into operational costs in future for more accurate oversight
7015-100 DCO Expenses	1,013	16	840	824	↑	
7016-100 DCO Expenses	102	0	90	90	↑	
7017-100 Vehicle Fuel	6,494	5,204	5,410	206	↑	
7120-100 Officers Expenses	84	2,133	70	(2,063)	↓	
7130-100 Chairman's fund	1,000	142	830	688	↑	
7140-100 MMO appointee expenses	3,933	3,037	3,280	243	↑	

	Apr22- Mar23 12 mths Budget	YTD			FAM YTD Notes for negative variances ≥£1k	
		1st Apr22 - 31st Jan23 (10mths)				
		Actual	Budget	Variances		
7150-100 Other Vehicle Costs	306	167	260	93	↑	
7160-100 Vehicle maintenance	4,000	3,378	3,330	(48)	↓	
7170-100 Vehicle road tax	1,528	1,170	1,270	100	↑	
7180-100 Insurance - vehicles	6,243	3,544	6,243	2,699	↑	
EXPENDITURE	26,778	19,080	23,353	4,273	↑	

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT:						
8010-100 Small items of equip (<£500)	3,060	(111)	2,550	2,661	↑	Amount (£111) posted in error. This will be adjusted for End of Year Accounting.
9120-100 Depn - premises	4,988	4,157	4,160	4	↑	
9140-100 Depn - equipment	6,808	4,567	5,670	1,103	↑	
9160-100 Depn - PV's	13,878	21,644	11,560	(10,084)	↓	FPV Endeavour procured earlier than anticipated (not captured in 2022-23 budget setting)
9180-100 Depn - vehicles	12,567	7,832	10,470	2,638	↑	
EXPENDITURE	41,301	38,089	34,410	(3,679)	↓	

INCOME						
4190-100 Bank interest receivable	158	3,891	130	(3,761)	↑	Interest payments received
4210-100 Levy - Hants	328,489	328,489	328,489	0	-	
4220-100 Levy - IOW	116,678	116,678	116,678	0	-	
4230-100 Levy - Dorset	201,537	201,537	201,537	0	-	
4250-100 Levy - BCP	90,607	90,607	90,607	0	-	
4260-100 Levy - Southampton	34,963	34,963	34,963	0	-	
4270-100 Levy - Portsmouth	40,817	40,817	40,817	0	-	
4600-100 Court costs awarded	2,045	6,452	1,700	(4,752)	↑	
4810-100 Insurance refund		1,810	0	(1,810)	↑	Drone camera insurance claim
4845-100 Poole dredge permits	27,000	27,100	27,000	(100)	↑	
4846-100 Solent shellfish permits	4,300	6,930	4,300	(2,630)	↑	Greater uptake following SCE fishery falling under SDPB permitting scheme.
4847-100 Net fishing permits	2,890	0	2,410	2,410	↓	Byelaw subject to MMO Quality Assurance prior to consideration of DEFRA signoff
4848-100 Pot fishing permits	4,650	0	3,880	3,880	↓	Byelaw subject to MMO Quality Assurance prior to consideration of DEFRA signoff
4850-100 Rents - Poole leases	30,914	31,923	30,914	(1,009)	↑	Inflation increase not taken into account during 2022-2023 budget setting
4862-100 Meetings	0	1,575	0	(1,575)	↑	NIMEG conference hosting
4887-100 Fuel rebate	2,000	0	1,670	1,670	↓	No longer applicable - removed from 2023-24 budget
4890-100 Misc. income (including DEFRA refunds)	2,500	71	2,080	2,009	↓	MMO project income recorded in 4898-100
4895-100 Poole Council Shellfish Sample	2,835	0	2,360	2,360	↓	Awaiting payment - services provided
4898-100 MMO partnership	0	12,135	0	(12,135)	↑	
5170-100 Surplus/(deficit) on equip sale	0	3,162	0	(3,162)	↑	
TOTAL INCOME	892,383	908,141	889,535	(15,444)	↑	

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY						
Administration	783,159	612,934	658,258	45,324	↑	
Marine Assets	41,039	29,449	35,150	5,701	↑	
Vehicles & Travel	26,778	19,080	23,353	4,273	↑	
Capital Equipment	41,301	38,089	34,410	(3,679)	↓	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	892,277	699,553	751,171	51,618	↑	

TOTAL INCOME	892,383	908,141	889,535	(15,444)	↑	YTD there is an excess income of £209k, £67k better than budget
INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	106	208,587	138,364	(67,061)	↑	

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

OFFICER'S REPORT

MARINE ASSET PROCUREMENT APPROVAL OF BOAT BUILD

Marked E

Report by DCO Sam Dell

A. Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to Members on the Southern IFCA Marine Asset Review ('MAR') and its continued progression.

B. Recommendations

- a. That the report is noted by members of the Authority.

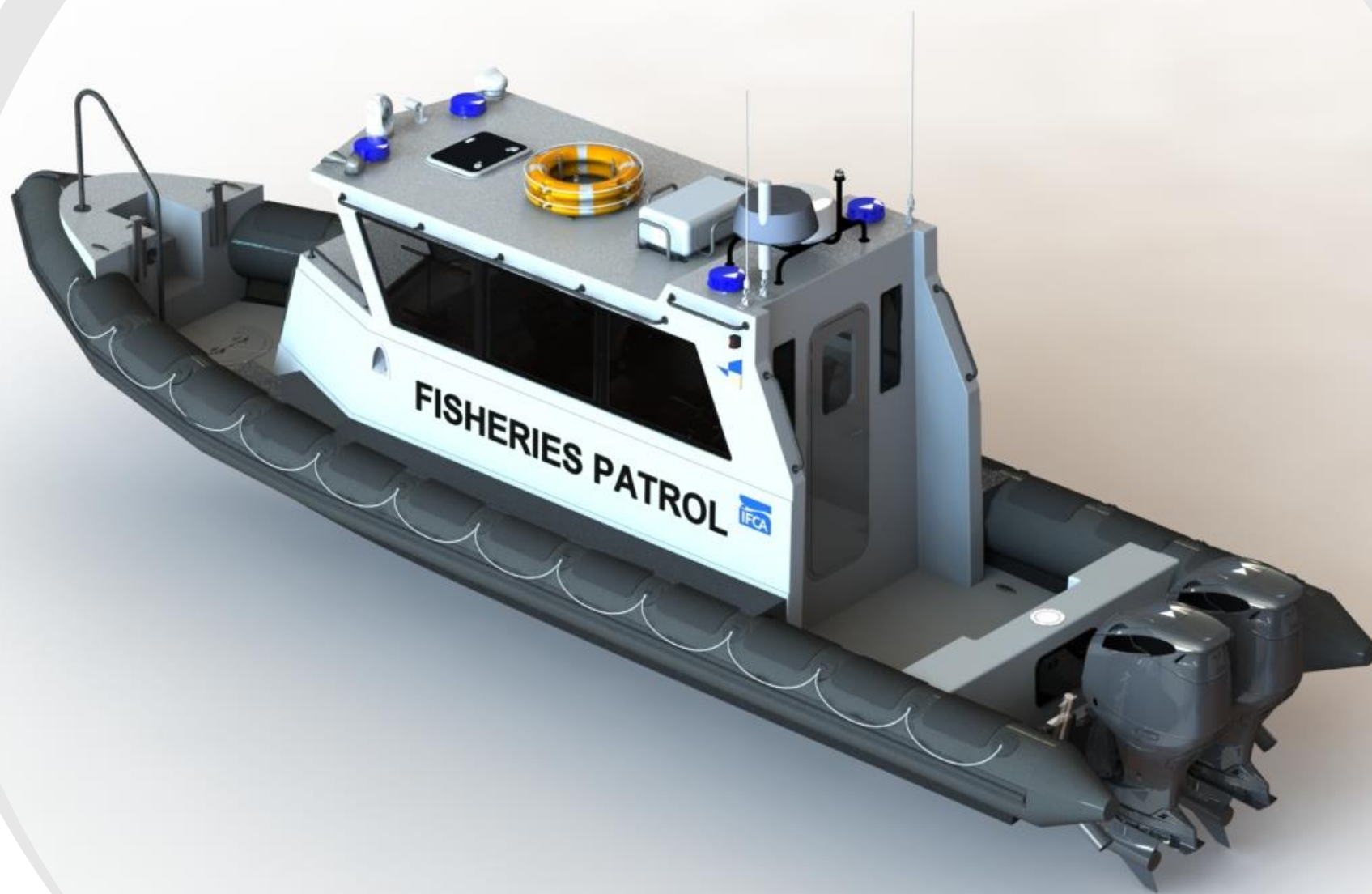
C. Annexes

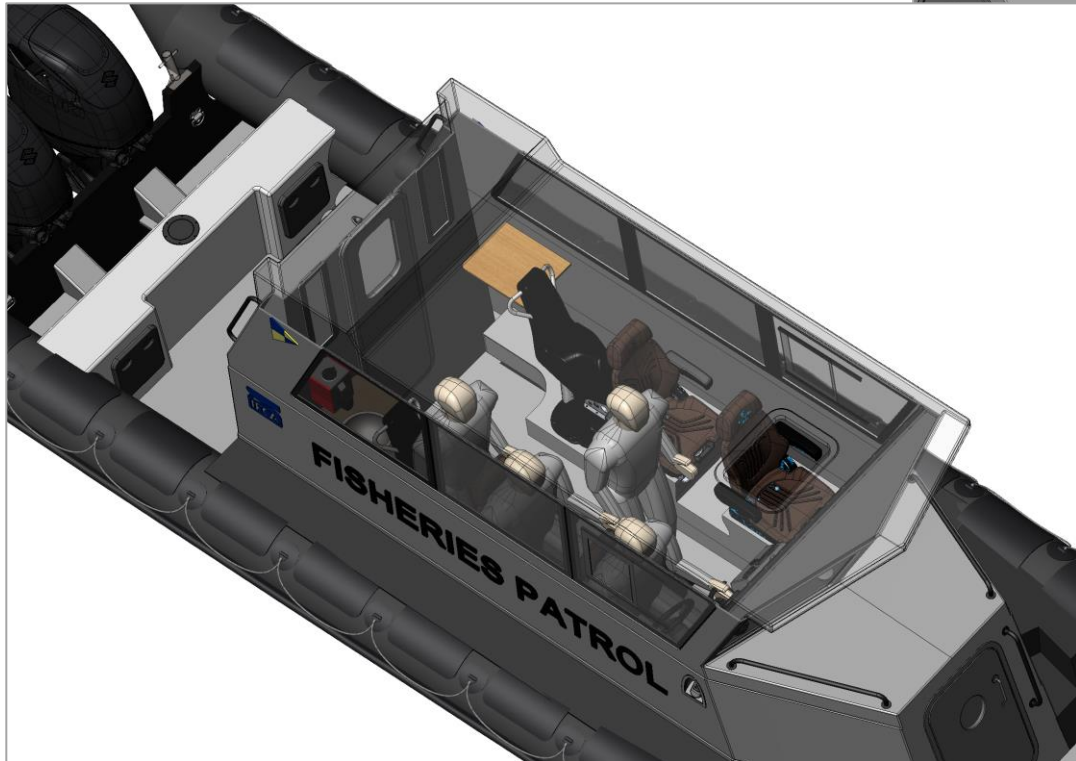
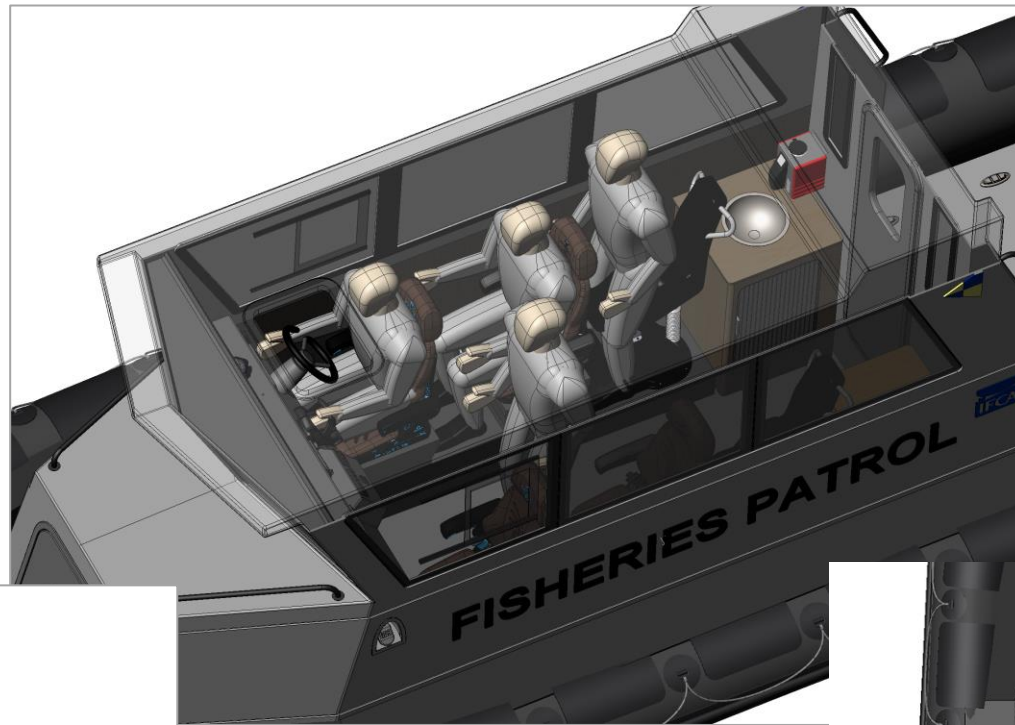
Annex 1: Ribcraft Limited initial CAD (Computer Aided Design) drawing.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the Executive Sub-Committee in June 2022 Members agreed to progress phase two of the Southern IFCA Marine Asset Review which included the procurement of a cabin RHIB (Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat).
- 1.2 A PVWG (Patrol Vessel Working Group) met on the 22nd August 2022 and agreed a specification for the cabin RHIB.
- 1.3 In September 2022, Members of the Executive Sub-Committee noted the progress report submitted by DCO Dell which contained the specification for the cabin RHIB.
- 1.4 DCO Dell and Cllr Mark Roberts secured the use of Dorset Council Procurement Services to progress procurement of the cabin RHIB, due to the anticipated expenditure Southern IFCA had to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, on the 12th October 2022 the procurement documentation was finalised and the tender was released on the 17th October 2022.
- 1.5 In December 2022, DCO Dell reported progress to Authority, providing a procurement timetable, the report was noted.
- 1.6 On the 15th December 2022 the Tender was awarded to Ribcraft Limited.
- 1.7 The final cost (£330) for Dorset Council Procurement Services has been invoiced and paid.
- 1.8 On the 19th December 2022, DCO Dell and IFCO Parry attended Ribcraft Limited for an initial build meeting to review the specification. During the meeting and at subsequent meetings with the boat builders, equipment has been removed and added based on Ribcraft recommendations, advice from existing users and the Authority's needs. During this process a initial CAD (Computer Aided Design) drawing has been produced, see Annex 1.
- 1.9 On the 3rd March a Special Meeting of the Executive Sub- Committee was held to ensure ongoing compliance with the Southern IFCA Financial Regulations when progressing the Marine Asset Review (MAR) to build stage. Members approved the final cost of the boat build (£290,145.77 excl. VAT), Authorised payment of the build deposit and following staged payments, Members also approved ratification of the Terms and Conditions with full consideration of the due diligence checks undertaken by Southern IFCA and delegated authority to the CEO sign on behalf of the Authority.
- 1.10 The Build is due to commence on the 15th May 2023 as agreed in the Terms and Conditions with anticipated delivery of the vessel in October 2023.







Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 TO 2024

Report by Chief Executive Officer

A. Purpose of the Report

To consider Southern IFCA's Annual Strategic Plan for April 2023 to March 2024.

B. Recommendations

1. That Members consider the draft Annual Strategic Plan for the forthcoming year April 2023-March 2024.

2. That Members approve the Annual Strategic Plan for dissemination to the Secretary of State and publication on Southern IFCA's website prior to 31st March 2023.

C. Annex

- **Annex 1:** Annual Strategic Plan, April 2023 to March 2024 (draft)

1. Background

1.1 Section (177) of The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires IFCAs to (1) make and publish a plan setting out the Authority's main objectives and priorities for the year, prior to the beginning of each financial year, (2) that IFCAs must send a copy of this plan to the Secretary of State.

1.2 In order to deliver a strategic plan and fulfil Southern IFCA's function as a competent inshore regulator for the marine environment, we recognise the need to align our work to a strategic direction. With many competing and evolving objectives, it is important that we maintain a considered overview in our delivery. This proactive way of working, with the recognition of the need to maintain a capacity for reactive and emerging work and oncoming challenges, will provide a template for Southern IFCA and our stakeholders moving forward through 2023 and beyond.

1.3 Strategic direction will enable Southern IFCA to be more transparent with our community, stakeholders and delivery partners, through anticipation of shared goals and objectives and seek to encourage joint working initiative and projects.

1.4 The Annual Strategic Plan fits within and continues to deliver the work areas as identified under the Southern IFCA Five Year Legislative Forecast (2019-2024) (Figure 1).

2. Strategic Plan Components 2023-2024

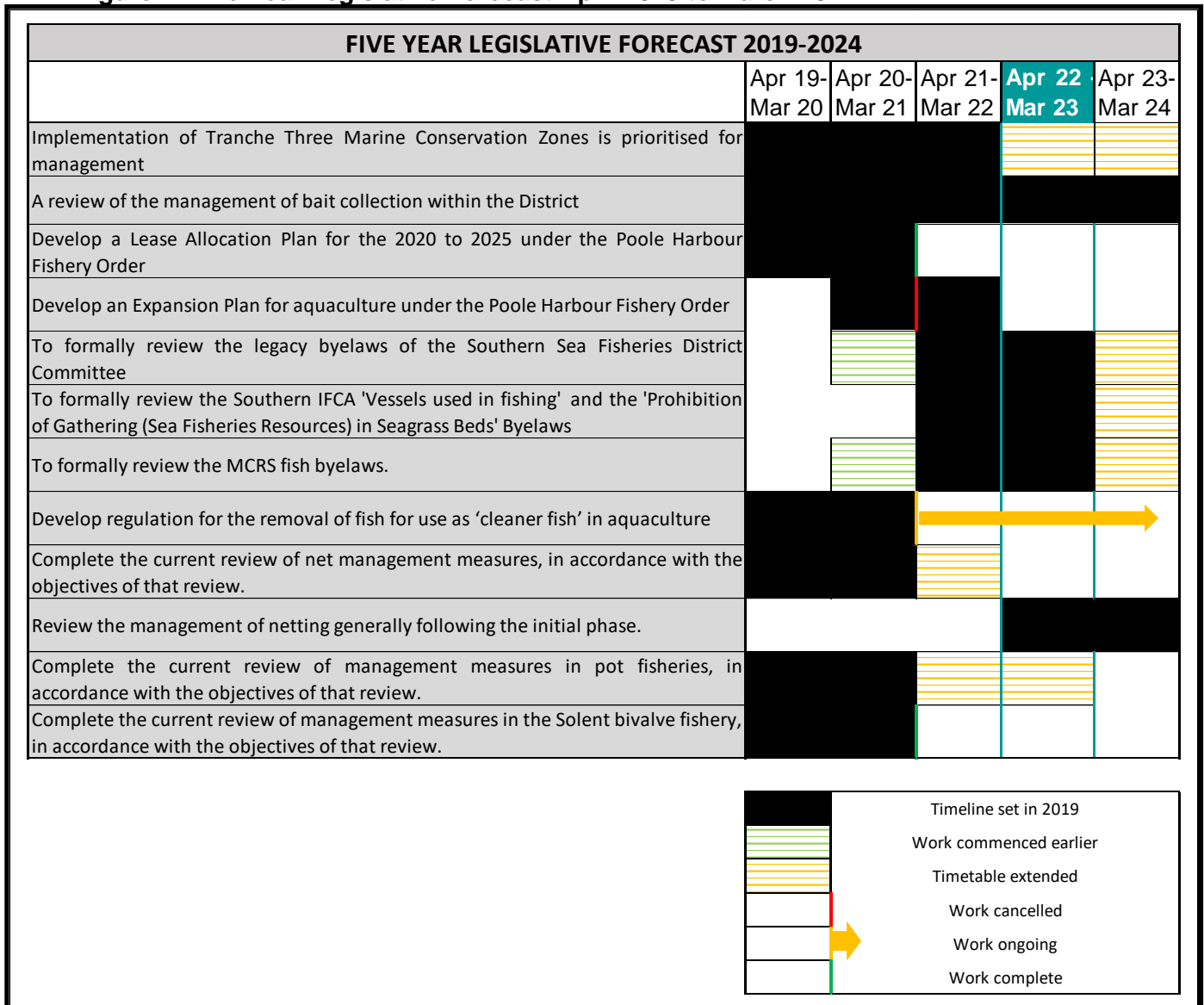
2.1 The Strategic Plan demonstrates how Southern IFCA will continue to shape inshore fisheries and conservation management in **accordance with statutory functions**.

2.2 With the overarching context provided by legislative function, policy principles and Defra's best practice guidance, Southern IFCA will embed **Core Principles** in the delivery of our work at all stages, drawing all components together to drive the collective **delivery of the UK Government's vision**.

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

- 2.3 Three **Horizon Goals** have been identified for delivery by each team. These have been translated into clear, outcome-focused Delivery Priorities under the Research and Policy Plan 2023-2024 and the Compliance and Enforcement Plan 2023-2024 alongside other key areas of work.
- 2.4 The Horizon Goals demonstrate where Southern IFCA consider their work for the forthcoming year aligns with:
- a. Delivery of IFCA High Level Objectives via **IFCA Success Criteria**
 - b. The eight **Fisheries Objectives** (Fisheries Act 2020)
 - c. The delivery of the **Environment Improvement Plan 2023** (Environment Act 2021)
 - d. Supporting **Defra’s delivery** of the Fisheries Act
 - e. The **UK Net Zero Strategy**, via identification and instigation of changes in operations, in order to minimise and reduce emissions.
- 2.5 It is Southern IFCA’s intention to report on the annual delivery of the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan in the context of defined **Reporting Metrics**.

Figure 1: Five Year Legislative Forecast April 2019 to March 2024





Annual Strategic Plan

April 2023 to March 2024



SECTION 1: Introduction

Strategic Plan

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's (IFCAs) were created under Section 150 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009¹ (MaCAA), as designated statutory inshore regulators for the marine environment. Southern IFCA have clearly defined duties to manage sustainable fisheries and conserve the wider marine environment within the coastal waters of Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

Under Section (177) of the MaCAA, Southern IFCA are required to make and publish a plan setting out the Authority's main objectives and priorities for the year ahead.

In order to deliver a strategic plan and fulfill Southern IFCA's function as a competent inshore regulator for the marine environment, we recognise the need to align our work to a strategic direction. With many competing and evolving objectives, it is important that we maintain a considered overview in our delivery. This proactive way of working, with the recognition of the need to maintain a capacity for reactive and emerging work and oncoming challenges, will provide a template for Southern IFCA and our stakeholders moving forward through 2023 and beyond.

The strategic direction, as presented in this paper, will enable the Southern IFCA to be more transparent with our community, stakeholders and delivery partners, through anticipation of shared goals and objectives and seek to encourage joint working initiative and projects.

This plan sets out Southern IFCA's strategic direction for the period 1st April 2023 to the 31st March 2024.

Wider Context

The Strategic Plan demonstrates how Southern IFCA will continue to shape inshore fisheries and conservation management in accordance with our statutory functions, and in doing so support the UK's Governments vision for '*clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas*' in accordance with the **UK Marine Policy Statement**².

Further, it will demonstrate how Southern IFCA's work aligns with the Government's shared ambition under the **Joint Fisheries Statement**³ (**JFS**) '*...to continue delivering world class, sustainable management...*' for sea fisheries, recreational sea fishing and aquaculture, in accordance with achieving, or contributing to the achievement of the **eight fisheries objectives**, set out in the **Fisheries Act 2020**⁴.

The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010⁵ require fishery bodies in the UK to take action to

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-marine-policy-statement>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-fisheries-statement-ifs>

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/22/contents/enacted>

⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1627/contents/made>

achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in all UK waters. **The UK Marine Strategy**⁶ is a key pillar of marine policy in the UK and the JFS is a cross cutting measure which will help to deliver GES for fisheries⁷.

In accordance with the Government's **Environmental Improvement Plan 2023⁸ (EIP)**, which builds upon the **25 Year Environment Plan⁹ (25YEP)** and key legislative frameworks, to include the **Environment Act 2021¹⁰** and the Fisheries Act 2020, Southern IFCA will endeavour to evidence our role in the collective delivery of the Government's vision, to '*...help the natural world regain and retain good health...*', following the commitment to '*...leave the environment in a better state for future generations...*' and '*...halt the decline of nature by 2030...*'

External Landscapes

The impact of coronavirus and the subsequent restrictions introduced by the UK Government had a direct impact on the delivery of both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Annual Plans¹¹. However, as demonstrated in the subsequent Annual Reports¹² (2020-2021 and 2021-2022), Southern IFCA continued to adapt to the changing external landscapes in order to best achieve its duties and responsibilities. It is unlikely that the pandemic will continue to have a direct impact on Southern IFCA's functionality moving forward, however, the legacy may continue to be felt as we continue to rebuild the areas of work which were impacted most.

As with previous years where our delivery timetables have been impacted by unforeseen external events, we anticipate that our work over the forthcoming year will continue to be shaped by external political landscapes and economies. During these uncertain times, Southern IFCA commit to maintain full transparency with its community and stakeholders in order to account for any variations in delivery and operation. Southern IFCA appreciates the support that the community has provided over recent years and we will continue to strive to fulfill our legislative duties in the forthcoming year and beyond.

National IFCA: Core Values

The IFCA Vision, High Level Objectives and Success Criteria

Together, the National IFCA Vision, High Level Objectives and Success Criteria set out the intentions of IFCA's to sustainably manage inshore fisheries and conservation.

“ Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry ”

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-updated-assessment-and-good-environmental-status>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-fisheries-statement-ifs> (page 11)

⁸ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101442/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf)

⁹ [25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan)

¹⁰ [Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/12/section/1)

¹¹ <https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/authority-reports>

¹² <https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/authority-reports>

IFCA High Level Objectives	IFCA Success Criteria
Achieving a sustainable marine economy	IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.
Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society	IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.
Using sound science responsibly	IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.
Living within environmental limits	IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.
Promoting good governance	IFCAs make the use of evidence to deliver their objectives

National IFCA: Core Functions

Southern IFCA have clearly defined duties under Section (153) and (154) of the **Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)** to ensure that the marine environment within the district is conserved and maintained in a viable state.

National IFCA: Other Duties

Under the **Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019**, Southern IFCA must ensure that fishing activity does not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife or habitats for which a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA) within the national site network is legally protected.

In accordance with **The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, when carrying out our duties, Southern IFCA must consider any marine component of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which provides protection to species, and/or habitat of national importance.

National IFCA: Supporting Government Vision

The Fisheries Act (2020) was introduced to make provisions in relation to fisheries, fishing, aquaculture and marine conservation following the departure of the UK from Europe. The Act enshrines in law the UK’s commitment to sustainable fishing, supporting future generations of fishers, while allowing the marine environment to thrive. It provides a legally binding structure to protect and recover stocks, support a sustainable fishing industry and safeguard the environment. In accordance with the JFS, IFCAs are required to have regard to the Fisheries Act (2020), the JFS and Fisheries Management Plans (FMP), where required by guidance issued by the Secretary of State, or when undertaking a relevant function as delegated by the Marine Management Organisation.

The Environment Act (2021) sets clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, waste and water, and includes a target to reverse the decline in species abundance by 2030. The Act designated the 25YEP as the first statutory Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP), and IFCAs, as Arm’s Length Bodies (ALB) to Defra, play a crucial role in the delivery of the EIP.

Southern IFCA: Core Principles

With the overarching context provided by legislative function, policy principles and Defra's best practice guidance, Southern IFCA will embed the following Core Principles in the delivery of our work at all stages, drawing all the components together to drive the collective delivery of the UK Government's vision.

Undertake compliance and enforcement functions in accordance with legislative requirements, overarching policy principles and Codes of Conduct, namely:

- Work in Partnership
- Collaborate with other fisheries enforcement bodies
- Take a risk based approach to compliance as informed by an intelligence led model
- Undertake inspections in accordance with a national standard
- Seek to achieve compliance through engagement, understanding and advice
- Undertake regulation in accordance with the Regulators Code, the functions of which are specified in The Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007.
- Work in accordance with the Southern IFCA Compliance and Enforcement Framework, FAP Guidelines and the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

Ensure that fishing activity does not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife or habitats for which a SAC or SPA is legally protected.

Have regard to the Fisheries Act 2020 (to include the 8 Fisheries Objectives), The Joint Fisheries Statement and Fisheries Management Plans when carrying out our functions.

In areas of the district which are outside any Marine Protected Area (collectively MCZ, SPA, SAC), we will ensure that:

- Fishing is carried out sustainably
- We balance the social and economic benefits of fishing with the need to protect the marine environment. and promote its recovery from the effects of fishing.
- We contribute to sustainable development.
- We balance the different needs of persons engaged in fishing.

Southern



will...

Further the Conservation Objectives of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) within the District.

When undertaking our duties, consider any Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) with marine components, which provide protection to species and/or habitats of national importance.

Manage the inshore marine environment in accordance with Defra Policy Guidance and overarching policy principles, namely:

- The use of best available evidence
- Where appropriate and within legislative remit, undertake a risk-based approach to assess the potential risks that fishing activity may present to the marine environment, providing an evidence base for prioritising the development of management measures, which will enable delivery of duties in an evidence based, strategic and proportionate way.
- The use of the Precautionary Principle in the absence of evidence
- Transparent decision making
- Partnership working
- Collaboration between fisheries enforcement bodies

Align our delivery to the Environment Improvement Plan (2023), with specific consideration of targets relating to MPAs, Marine Spatial Prioritisation, Net Zero/blue carbon habitats, VMS and Catch App and marine heritage.



SECTION 2: Resources

The Membership

Elected Members	
Cllr Mr. M Roberts	Dorset Council (Chairman of Authority)
Cllr Mrs. A E McEvoy BSc (Hons.)	Hampshire County Council (Vice Chairman of Authority)
Cllr Mr. R Hughes	Dorset Council
Cllr Mr. P Miles	BCP Council
Cllr Mr. R Rocca	BCP Council
Cllr Mr. D Furnell	Southampton City Council
Cllr Mrs. D Curnow-Ford	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Mr. M Winnington	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Mr. P Fuller	Isle of Wight Council

Representative of Partner Organisations	
Mr P Rudd	Environment Agency
Dr R Morgan	Natural England
Ms R Irish	Marine Management Organisation

General Members (appointed by the Marine Management Organisation)	
Dr. A Jensen (Chairman of the TAC)	Marine Environment/Academic Sector
Mr. R Stride (Vice Chairman of the TAC)	Commercial Fishing Sector
Dr. S Cripps	Marine Environment/Conservation Sector
Mr. C Frances	Recreational Sea Angling Sector
Mr. T Legg	Commercial Fishing Sector
Ms. L MacCallum	Marine Environment/Conservation Sector
Mr. G Wordsworth	Aquaculture Sector
Mr. N Hornby	Fisheries Science and Policy Sector
<i>Vacancy</i>	Recreational Sea Angling Sector

Co-opted Members

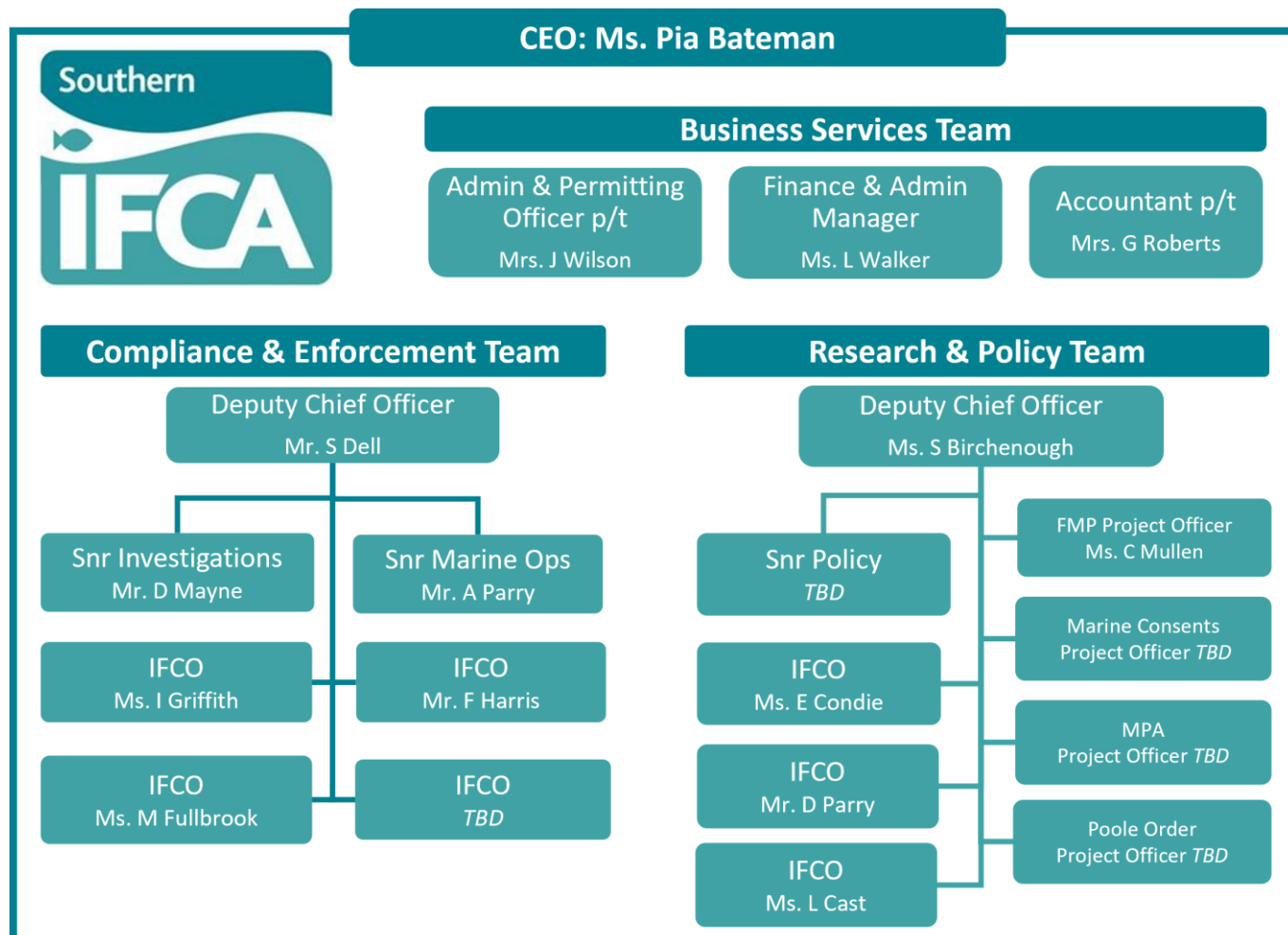
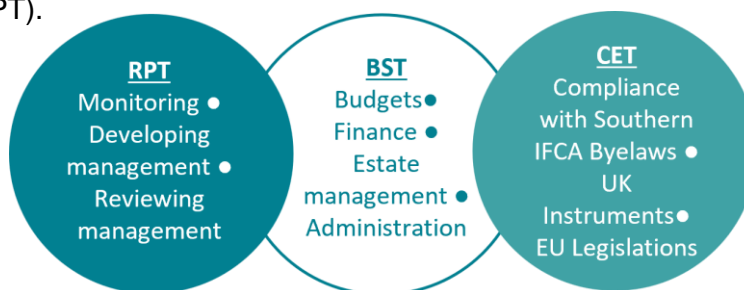
A Co-opted Member is a person who has passed the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) General Member Recruitment process and resides on the MMO merit list and has been invited to Committee Meetings to contribute specific experience and knowledge pertinent to discussions, at

the discretion of the Chairman. In accordance with this function a Co-opted Member is required to declare any interests, as required under the Southern IFCA Code of Conduct for Non-Elected Members. In accordance with Southern IFCA's Standing Orders, a Co-opted Member is not able to vote on any matter.

Co-opted Membership	
Ms E Bussey-Jones	Marine Environment/Other
Mr S Matthews	Commercial Fishing Sector

The Team

The Southern IFCA Team is led by Chief Executive Officer Ms. Pia Bateman who oversees the Business Service Team (BST), the Compliance and Enforcement Team (CET) and the Research and Policy Team (RPT).



The Budget: Financial Year 2023-2024

The Southern IFCA (Amendment) Order 2010 states that the relevant Councils must defray the expenses incurred by Southern IFCA. Dorset Council, Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council and the BCP Council receive a grant from central government (via the New Burdens Doctrine¹³) of £329,425.

For the financial year April 2023 to March 2024 the constituent authorities were levied a sum of £813,091, divided in accordance with a prescribed formula. Due to the current economic climate and pressures facing the constituent councils, it was agreed at the December 2022 Authority Meeting that levy contributions for the financial year 2023-2024 would match those received in the previous financial year (2022-2023).

Constituent Council	Formula (%)	April 2023- March 2024		
		Levy (£)	Government Grant (£)	Total Contribution (£)
Hampshire County Council	40.40	124,845	203,644	328,489
Dorset Council	24.79	101,752	99,785	201,537
Isle of Wight Council	14.35	103,015	13,663	116,678
BCP Council	11.14	78,274	12,333	90,607
Portsmouth City Council	5.02	40,817	0	40,817
Southampton City Council	4.30	34,963	0	34,963
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		483,666	329,425	813,091

Expenditure Summary	April 2023- March 2024
Business Services	£892,405
Compliance and Enforcement	£162,607
Research and Policy	£31,384
Capital Equipment	£120,685
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,207,081

TOTAL INCOME	£1,175,441
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INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£-31,640
<i>Post- inflationary projections at 7.4%</i>	<i>£-49,600</i>








¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-burdens-doctrine-guidance-for-government-departments>

SECTION 3: 2023-2024 Horizon Planning

The Horizon Goals identified in this section will be translated into clear, outcome-focused Delivery Priorities under the Research and Policy Plan 2023-2024 and the Compliance and Enforcement Plan 2023-2024. These Delivery Priorities will be broken down into 3-month phases, where possible, in order to provide transparency in timelines. The Horizon Goals demonstrate where Southern IFCA consider their work for the forthcoming year aligns with:

- Delivery of IFCA High Level Objectives via **IFCA Success Criteria**
- the eight **Fisheries Objectives** (Fisheries Act 2020)
- the delivery of the **Environment Improvement Plan 2023** (Environment Act 2021)
- supporting **Defra’s delivery** of the Fisheries Act
- the **UK Net Zero Strategy**, via identification and instigation of changes in operations, in order to minimise and reduce emissions.

The following graphics will be used to demonstrate this alignment both in this strategy and in the respective team plans:

IFCA Success Criteria	No.	Fisheries Objectives	
IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.	1	Sustainability 1	
IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.	2	Precautionary 2	
IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.	3	Ecosystem 3	
IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.	4	Scientific Evidence 4	
IFCAs make the use of evidence to deliver their objectives	5	Bycatch 5	
		Equal Access 6	
		National Benefit 7	
		Climate Change 8	
UK Net Zero Strategy 			
Supporting Defra in delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives	FMPs 	MPAs 	Marine Consents 
Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023			
Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 70% of designated features in MPAs to be in favourable condition by 2042 with the remainder in recovering condition, with a new interim target of 48% of designated features to be in favourable condition by 31 January 2028. To achieve interim target: management measures to be in place across all MPAs by 2024. • Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme delivery (via FMPs, Marine Plans and Marine Consents). • Achieving Net Zero via harnessing of blue carbon habitats (saltmarsh and seagrass). • Implementation of VMS and Catch App across the inshore fleet 			
Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop FMPs as ways of managing fisheries more sustainably. 			
Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage & engagement with the natural environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider marine heritage in marine plans 			

Business Services Horizon Goals

Permit Database	What	Current Status	Benefits
	An online platform which will administer a permitting function for Southern IFCA permit fisheries.	Manual issuing of c.85 permits annually under the SDPB and PHDP Byelaws, in addition to c.369 'Fishing for Sale' permits every two years (on a rolling cycle).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in administration function associated with manual processing • Associated cost savings (tasking and finance) • Provide user friendly platform for fishers working in permitted fisheries, reducing paperwork burden. • Provide data downloads for fishers.
	Why		
	Adjusting to additional administration of c.230 permits and issuing of gear tags direct with end user.		
	Key Assumption	Who	Overarching Objectives
	Ratification of the PFB and NFB by the Secretary of State	DCO Compliance & Enforcement and Administration & Permitting Officer	
Success Criteria			
Permit fisheries to be automated in a staged approach starting September 2023.			
Finance System	What	Benefits	Success Criteria
	Transition to a new accounting software system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in administration function to allow for reallocation of tasking in BST. • To facilitate remote accountancy provision. • Continuation of online support • Cost savings 	Transition to new software to be active and operational by March 2024
	Why		Who
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To align budget with operational function • Current system discontinuing support services from August 2024 		Finance and Administration Manager & Accountant
		Overarching Objectives	
Governance Review	What & Why	Benefits	Success Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal review of process and policy • To analyse and interpret current performance against best practice to identify possible improvements • Ensure compliance with relevant regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas for improvement • To maximise performance and efficiency • Retention of staff • Ability to deliver statutory functions • Business resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of change following report on findings by March 2024
	Overarching Objectives	Who	
		CEO, Finance and Administration Manager & Accountant	

Compliance and Enforcement Horizon Goals

Introduction of Cabin RHIB	What	Status	Success Criteria
	Transition in operational delivery with introduction of new marine asset.	Procurement process complete December 2022. Boat building tender awarded December 2022 to a UK company.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational deployment of vessel by end of March 2024 Operational Policy updates, health & safety and training in place pre-deployment.
	Why		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To deliver functions in accordance with MaCAA, whilst ensuring capability to deliver work in accordance with the Fisheries Act To provide a joint regulatory platform for partner organisations To deliver any future contracts beyond current jurisdictional boundaries Increase compliance and enforcement capabilities Provide a platform for IFCOs that adheres to health and safety requirements as well as wellbeing of officers. 	Who	Further Details
	DCO Compliance & Enforcement and Senior IFCO Marine Operations.	Compliance and Enforcement Team Plan 2023-2024	
Overarching Objectives			Key Assumption
			Completion of boat build in accordance with T&Cs.
Implementation of Net Fishing Byelaw (NFB)	What	Current Status	Success Criteria
	A Byelaw which introduces Net Prohibition areas, Net Restriction Areas (seasonal/gear restrictions), Net Permit Areas (flexible permit conditions) and gear marking across the district.	NFB submitted to MMO Byelaw Team 11 March 2022 for quality assurance prior to ratification by the Secretary of State.	Delivery of Implementation plans to include Communication Strategy following ratification in order to support stakeholders.
	Why		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate compliance with measures relevant to commercial and recreational net fishers. To support a change in management of net fisheries across the district. 	Who	Further Details
	Key Assumption	DCO Compliance & Enforcement	Compliance and Enforcement Team Plan 2023-2024
Ratification of the NFB by the Secretary of State.			
Overarching Objectives			

Implementation of Pot Fishing Byelaw (PFB)	What	Status	Success Criteria
	A Byelaw which introduces Commercial Potting Permits and Recreational Potting Permits, pot markings and prohibition of removal of berried crab.	PFB submitted to MMO Byelaw Team 13 Oct. 2022 for quality assurance prior to ratification by the Secretary of State.	Delivery of Implementation plans to include Communication Strategy following ratification in order to support stakeholders.
	Why		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate compliance with measures relevant to commercial and recreational pot fishers. To support a change in management of pot fisheries across the district. 	Who	Further Details
	Key Assumption	DCO Compliance & Enforcement	Compliance and Enforcement Team Plan 2023-2024
	Ratification of the PFB by the Secretary of State.	Overarching Objectives	

Research and Policy Horizon Goals

Minimum Conservation Reference Size Review	What and Why	Status	Success Criteria
	To consider existing MCRS limits which are currently applicable across the District, and whether there is a need to introduce MCRSs for additional species in the district.	Stage 1: Evidence Gathering	Progression of Byelaw through Management Intervention Process.
	Key Assumption	Who	Further Details
	Authority approval at each stage of Byelaw development.	DCO Research & Policy	Research and Policy Team Plan 2023-2024
	Overarching Objectives		

Supporting Defra's Delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives	What	How	Status
	Fisheries Management Plans: Relevant to the Crab and Lobster, Whelk, Bass, Scallop, Non Quota Species and Southern North Sea an Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish Front runner FMPs, Southern IFCA will; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support planning/preparation phase (on going) • Support publication phase – review and evaluate (to begin c. April 2023) • Log requests and feedback concerns (on going) 	Recruit Project Officer + existing resource	Funding received, role offer to candidate Jan 2023
	MPA Programme: To conclude the implementation of all appropriate management measures for MPAs by 2024 (BTFG, Shore gathering and Black Bream), identifying strategic blocks to delivery and establishing a narrative around the delivery of these plans.		Awaiting funding
	Marine Consents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To engage with the Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme via scenario testing, stakeholder engagement and data and evidence (impacts of co-location work relating to fishing, aquaculture, marine licenses and MPAs). • To contribute to the development of 2nd generation Marine Plans, via data and evidence, stakeholder engagement and policy development. (2nd South Report due July 2024). • Contribution of delivery of Aquaculture and Mariculture Strategy. • Contribution of delivery of Angling Strategy. 		Awaiting funding
	Overarching Objectives	Success Criteria	Who
	Delivery of project in line with Defra requirements	DCO Research & Policy	

MPA Management Review	What and Why	Status	Success Criteria
	<p>(1) To introduce management measures for T3 MCZs and additional features for T1&T2 MCZs ensuring that the Conservation Objectives of any feature within an MCZ are furthered.</p> <p>(2) Incorporate an update to existing management within district-wide MPAs (SPAs, SACs) based on the best available spatial evidence of feature presence/extent, as provided by NE, to ensure that there is no damage, disturbance or adverse impact caused by fishing activity on the features subject to protection.</p> <p>(3) Incorporate a scheduled review of the existing Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw and the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016, as well as consideration of relevant legacy byelaws, where the existing management footprint falls within MPAs.</p>	Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review: Phase 1, Stage 3: Draft Byelaw	Stage 5: Submission of BTFG Byelaw to MMO Byelaw Team by March 2024.
		Shore Gathering Review: Stage 1: Evidence Gathering	Progression of Review to Stage 4: Draft Byelaw by March 2024.
		Pending receipt of data from Natural England following outcomes of Black Bream survey work undertaken in April 2021.	Progression of Review to Stage 4: Draft Byelaw by March 2024.
			ALL - To achieve by 2024, in line with Government targets.
Key Assumption	Who	Further Details	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority approval at each stage of Byelaw development. Provision of Conservation Advice from Natural England. Provision of data on location and extent of black bream within relevant MCZs from Natural England for BB Review 	DCO Research & Policy	Research and Policy Team Plan	
	Overarching Objectives 		

SECTION 4: Reporting Metrics

Southern IFCA will report on the annual delivery of the 2023-2024 Annual Plan in the context of:



Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

OFFICER'S REPORT

Marked G

RESEARCH AND POLICY TEAM PLAN 2023-2024

Report by Deputy Chief Officer Sarah Birchenough

A. Purpose of the Report

To consider the Research and Policy Team (RPT) Plan for the period April 2023 to March 2024 aligning with the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for April 2023 to March 2024 (covered under agenda Item F).

B. Recommendation

That Members approve Research and Policy Team Plan for April 2023 to March 2024

C. Annexes

1. The Research & Policy Team Plan for April 2023 to March 2024

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 177 of The Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009 under the title Annual Plan requires (1) Before the beginning of each financial year every IFC authority must make and publish a plan setting out the authority's main objectives and priorities for the year, (2) The IFC authority must send a copy of its plan to the Secretary of State.
- 1.2 The RPT Plan builds on the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan, setting out the workstreams and priorities for the period April 2023 to March 2024. The RPT Plan translates the Horizon Goals from the Annual Strategic Plan into clear, outcome-focused Delivery Priorities with transparency in delivery timelines. The Horizon Goals and associated Delivery Priorities developed through the RPT Plan demonstrate where the Southern IFCA consider their work for the forthcoming year aligns with IFCA Success Criteria, Fisheries Objectives, the Environment Improvement Plan 2023, Defra's delivery of the Fisheries Act 2020 and the UK Net Zero Strategy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

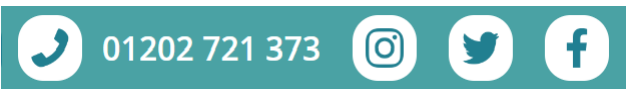
1. Annual Plan 2023 -24 (Agenda Item F)



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority

Research and Policy Team Plan

April 2023 to March 2024



SECTION 1: Introduction

The Research and Policy Team Plan (RPT Plan) sets out the priorities for the team for the period April 2023 to March 2024, feeding directly from the Horizon Goals identified in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2024.

In order to deliver the RPT Plan and fulfil Southern IFCA's function as a competent regulator for the marine environment, we recognise the need to align our work to a strategic direction. With many competing and evolving objectives, it is important that we maintain a considered overview in our delivery. This proactive way of working, with the recognition of the need to maintain a capacity for reactive and emerging work and oncoming challenges, will provide a template for the RPT and our stakeholders moving through 2023 and beyond.

1.1 Research & Policy Team Function

The Southern IFCA Research and Policy Team (RPT) are tasked to facilitate the delivery of the Authority's legislative duties, and in doing so, seek to improve the sustainability of marine fisheries and the marine environment, whilst supporting local communities who are reliant upon these resources.

The RPT conduct research and gather evidence and information in order to provide a sound evidence base to underpin the decision-making processes of the Authority. This ensures that the Authority fulfils its functions as described under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹ (MaCAA), ensuring successful and sustainable governance of the inshore marine environment, through the delivery of IFCA High Level Objectives via IFCA Success Criteria, and through meeting its duties as a competent authority under relevant legislation for protected areas (Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019² and The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981³). In addition, the approach of the RPT aligns with the eight fisheries objectives under the Fisheries Act 2020⁴, Defra's delivery of the Fisheries Act and the delivery of the Environment Improvement Plan 2023⁵.

Working under the Chief Officer, the RPT is led by a Deputy Chief Officer who oversees the work of three Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers and a Project Officer. There is the potential for additional roles within this team to be filled during the 2023-24 year, details of the RPT structure are provided in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2024. The RPT are further supported by the Business Services Team and work closely with the Compliance and Enforcement Team.



Further details regarding the RPT and their work can be found at

<https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/district-fisheries-research>.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573>






³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/22/contents/enacted>

⁵ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104444/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf)

1.2 RPT Core Functions

There are 5 functions delivered by the RPT, three of which form the team’s core functions (shaded blue):

RPT Functions	
Developing Fisheries Management Interventions	
Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions	
Monitoring Inshore Fisheries	
Projects and Emerging Work	
Engagement	

Underpinning all of the work undertaken by the RPT is a data management and analysis capability and Geographic Information System (GIS) expertise. GIS enables Southern IFCA to visualize, analyse and interpret data spatially in order to better understand trends and relationships. Both the data management and GIS expertise within the RPT provide a valuable resource which is used by Southern IFCA to underpin fisheries management interventions, monitoring and engagement. For engagement we can facilitate greater stakeholder participation and understanding through the use of visual aids to represent fishing activity data, location of sensitive habitats and designated sites and to demonstrate outcomes of surveys which relate directly to fisher’s daily activities.

Building these skills within the RPT remains an ongoing focus through each of the RPT functions and specific staff development. This will allow the RPT to continue to build its capability in the research field through the undertaking of complex surveys and data collection as well as increasing the level at which that data can be analysed providing stronger evidence to support management decisions.



1.2.1 Developing Fisheries Management Interventions

Developing fisheries management interventions involves the identification of an issue, emerging evidence, or another factor which indicates that management intervention may be required to meet the duties of the Authority set down by overarching legislative drivers.

The IFCA has the ability to develop both statutory and non-statutory management interventions and has developed a Fisheries Management Interventions Process Document (developed 2019, updated 2021) to clarify the stages of complex fisheries and MPA management development and to promote consistency and transparency in the approach taken.

This document seeks to complement Statutory Guidance provided by Defra which sets out best practice for making byelaws. Section 155 of the MaCAA describes how IFCAs have the power to make byelaws:

- (1) *For the purposes of performing the duty imposed by section 153 or the duty imposed by section 154, the authority for an IFC District may make byelaws for that District.*
- (2) *Byelaws made under this section must be observed within the District for which they are made.*
- (3) *A byelaw made under this section does not have effect until it is confirmed by the Secretary of State.*
- (4) *The Secretary of State may confirm a byelaw without modification or with such modifications as are agreed to by the IFC authority that made the byelaw.*
- (5) *Before confirming a byelaw, the Secretary of State may cause a local inquiry to be held.*

IFCAs are responsible for producing byelaws within their Districts, which includes such part of the English inshore region lying six nautical miles from baselines. Byelaws must be compatible with and cannot be less stringent or inconsistent with National or Community legislation.

When delivering this function, IFCA's must have regard to the best practice guidance provided by Defra. This guidance outlines best practice for the delivery and implementation of byelaws which must be based on sound evidence, follow particular decision-making routes and ensure undertaking of appropriate stakeholder consultations. The Fisheries Management Interventions and Process Document breaks this process down into five clear and distinct stages as illustrated in the Process Map in Figure 1. This map also demonstrates the roles and responsibilities of the Authority and its sub-committees in the decision-making process. This Process Map is not intended to be a binding document, rather it seeks to provide a useful tool to give context for the delivery of complex management relevant to the Southern IFCA Authority.

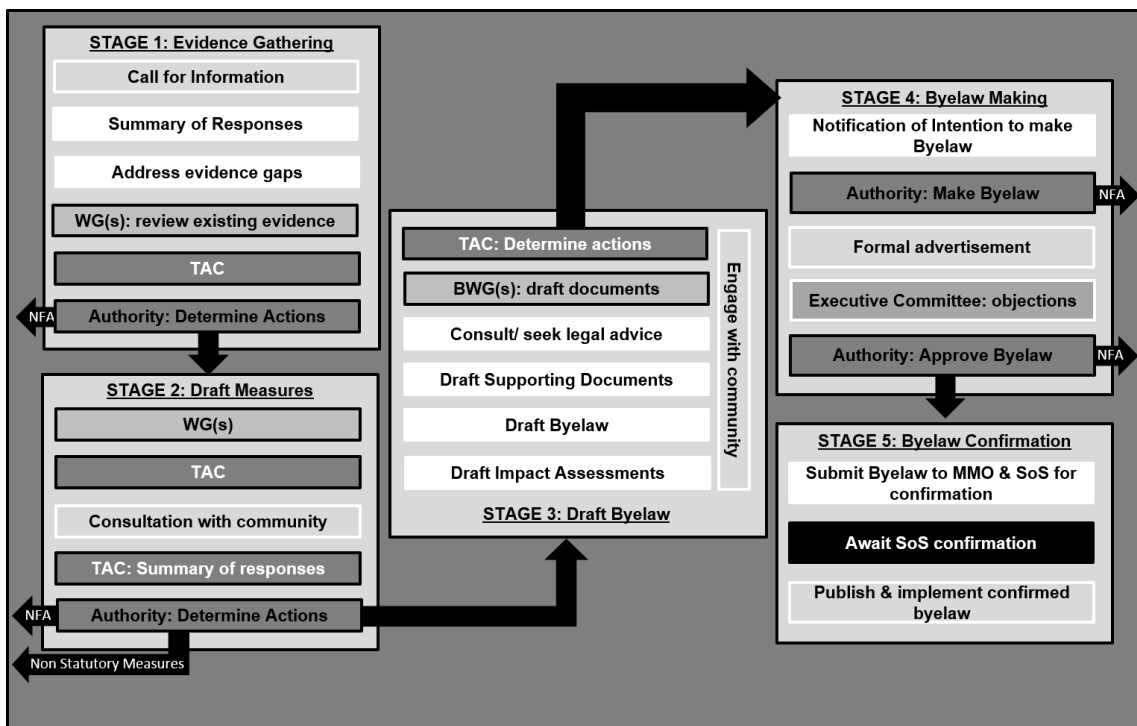


Figure 1: The Process Map from the Fisheries Management Interventions and Process Document



1.2.2 Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions

Following the implementation of a management intervention within the District, Southern IFCA are committed to reviewing the performance of statutory and non-statutory measures to ensure that inshore fisheries management is underpinned by the latest and best available evidence in order to achieve sustainable fisheries management.

The trigger for a review and the associated process by which a management intervention is reviewed may fall under one of three categories:

- Review of a byelaw as stipulated in the specific byelaw or under Defra byelaw making guidance
- Review of permit conditions under a permit byelaw
- Review via a Management Plan (including Monitoring and Control Plans and Management Intentions Documents)

In considering the best available evidence to inform a review this may be sourced from a number of different areas including, but not limited to, the following:

- Any available scientific and survey data
- Any statutory advice given by Natural England
- Any updates to habitat and/or designated feature location and condition
- Any updates to fishing activity data (e.g., spatial, temporal, gear type) including the emergence of a new fishery
- Any environmental assessment, e.g., Habitats Regulations Assessment, Marine Conservation Zone Assessment or SSSI Assessment
- Any Impact Assessment
- Any feedback sought through a consultation with stakeholders

1.2.2.1 Reviews under Management Plans

Management Plans (including Monitoring and Control Plans and Management Intentions Documents) are designed to analyse the current situation within a particular fishery and identify objectives to help that fishery develop sustainably. Timelines and milestones for monitoring the effectiveness of current management can be set within these documents, along with an outline of evidence sources that may feed into this monitoring and a system for the collation of best available evidence for the fishery to inform any reviews, including identifying where further evidence gathering may need to be undertaken. For more established fisheries, the plan may set out a framework for feedback and a process for the Authority to follow to ensure that the objectives of the fishery continue to be met.

Fisheries Management Plans

With the development of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) under the Fisheries Act 2020 there are likely to be other pathways for review developed going forward. Each individual FMP will be valid for 6 years before review and it is anticipated that, within the FMP there will be a program of work set out to achieve management objectives and gather evidence. At the time of publishing the RPT Plan for 2023-24 the frontrunner FMPs have not yet been ratified and therefore the link between the FMP outputs and the work of the Southern IFCA cannot yet be fully explored. The publication of the frontrunner FMPs is anticipated in late 2023 to early 2024 at which point, the Southern IFCA will be able to understand where separate management pathways may emerge to meet the objectives of each FMP and therefore allow for consideration of any required reviews of fisheries management interventions in line with those FMP outputs.

1.2.2.2 Byelaw Reviews

IFCA byelaw making guidance states that IFCAs should continually monitor the effectiveness of their byelaws. When they are no longer effective, they should be repealed or modified. Section 158 of MaCAA makes provision for byelaws to cease to have an effect after a specified period (i.e., a “sunset clause”). Where possible, and in line with best practice, IFCA byelaws seek to include either a sunset clause or a specified review point within the provisions of the byelaw.

Reviews of byelaws will follow the Byelaw Making Process outlined in Figure 1 as set out in the Southern IFCA Fisheries Management Interventions Process Document. Currently some Southern IFCA byelaws will also have associated Management Plans (see S1.2.2.1) which provide additional detail on review timelines and evidential considerations. It is the intention of the Southern IFCA to identify where Management Plans may be required for any new management interventions and through the review of existing management interventions, to align this process across workstreams and provide further clarity to stakeholders of any review process.

1.2.2.3 Permit Condition Reviews

A Permit Byelaw provides a mechanism under which the introduction of specific measures can be introduced via permit conditions in accordance with the procedure set out in the Permit Byelaw and supporting documents.

This offers a flexible approach to managing fishing activities, enabling the Authority to adapt more easily to new and improved evidence. Reviews of permit conditions are carried out in consultation with permit holders and any interested parties and considers the current best available evidence base, examples of evidence sources are given in S1.2.2.

A guide process for undertaking a Permit Condition Review is outlined in Figure 2. This process map is not intended to be binding, rather it seeks to provide a useful guide upon which Permit Condition Reviews can be delivered.

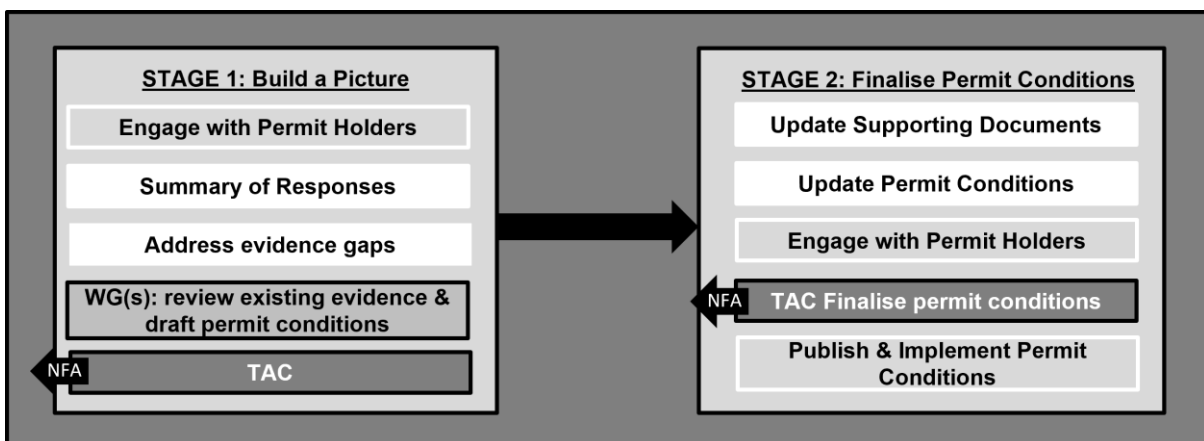


Figure 2: Permit Condition Review Process Map



1.2.3 Monitoring Inshore Fisheries

The RPT conduct stock assessments and surveys in order to contribute to the IFCA's understanding of the marine environment and fisheries resources therein. This data is used to complement and provide a sound evidence base to aid the Authority in its decision-making process to achieve successful and sustainable management, whilst protecting the marine environment.

Surveys and stock assessments are either completed on an annual basis to support existing management within the District, or may be undertaken on a more ad hoc basis in order to support a particular evidence need. As much as possible Southern IFCA seek to work with partners to help facilitate the undertaking of these surveys, for example the small fish sampling program in defined harbours and estuaries across the District works with local fishers, conservation groups, harbour bodies, landowners and academic institutions.

1.2.3.1 Data Collection

Where additional evidence needs are identified to support future management decisions, the RPT will explore available opportunities for gathering this data, utilizing the ability to work with partners. The Authority continues to actively strengthen its relationship with local academic institutions to identify opportunities for integrated research and publication, particularly in assisting with providing additional technical expertise for example in improving understanding of shellfish and fish biology. This type of developed understanding will directly inform management decisions such as suitable Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) and aligning fishing opportunities to avoid key periods such as spawning seasons that are defined for local stocks.

1.2.3.2 Marine Assets

To facilitate the delivery of our monitoring program, Southern IFCA seek to work with local fishermen through the chartering of fishing vessels. This not only enables the Authority to utilise local industry knowledge but also provides an important opportunity for stakeholders to play a key part in the collection of evidence for their fisheries, aiming to improve understanding of related management.

The Authority also has access to a range of specialist survey equipment including fishing dredges, towed and remotely operated underwater video cameras, a side-scan sonar and sediment grabs. The Authority also has the ability to work with local and national research institutions to facilitate the use of additional survey equipment where necessary.

Southern IFCA has three Fisheries Protection Vessels located across the District. These vessels have a secondary role to assist in the delivery of the RPT monitoring programme with their main focus aligned with the role of the Compliance and Enforcement Team.



Section 3.0 of the Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy for 2023-24 outlines more detail on the Authority's operational assets.



1.2.4 Projects and Emerging Work

Periodically the Authority may be asked to be involved in external projects for example projects developed through national funding streams. A consideration of the Authority's involvement in these types of projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis with proposals reviewed in line with the IFCA's Vision, High Level Objectives and Success Criteria as well as Horizon Goals identified through the Annual Plan and resourcing requirements.



1.2.5 Engagement

The Authority's Communication Plan⁶ sets out how Southern IFCA will approach communication and aspects of engagement with the community and stakeholders. It aims to ensure that people understand how, as an organisation, the IFCA plans to engage with others to help in making the right decisions for delivering the IFCA Vision.

Engagement through the RPT is crucial to the delivery of all other team Functions. Engagement is delivered through attendance at local, regional and national meetings/open days/information events, participation in fisher led forums, carrying out consultations on management interventions and facilitating the communication of information from other regulatory bodies and government agencies. Engagement is also achieved through cross-team collaboration with the Compliance & Enforcement team to utilise land and sea patrols as opportunities to engage with stakeholders. The Authority also has electronic assets which are utilised for engagement including the Southern IFCA website and social media feeds on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Appropriate, timely and informed engagement is vital to the delivery of all Southern IFCA workstreams and across the whole team opportunities for engagement are continually identified and explored.

The RPT has a presence at the following meetings:

- Crab & Lobster and King Scallop Fisheries Improvement Projects
- Dorset Catchment Partnership – Fisheries Sub-Group
- Fleet Management Group
- Fleet Study Group
- Hamble Estuary Partnership
- IFCA National Technical Advisory Group
- Langstone Harbour Committee
- Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve
- Poole and District Sea Angling Association
- Poole Harbour Steering Group
- Poole Harbour Study Group
- REACH Network
- Southern IFCA Conservation Group
- Southern IFCA Recreational Angling Sector Group
- Regional Fisheries Groups VII d and VII e, f, g
- SAGB Mollusc and Crustacean Committees
- Solent Seascapes Project
- Solent Forum
- Solent Seagrass Network
- SWAN Aquaculture Network
- Whelk Working Group



Section 5.0 of the Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy for 2023-24 outlines specific engagement through the C&E Team

⁶ [Communication-Plan-2019-10-23-112412.pdf \(toolkitfiles.co.uk\)](https://www.toolkitfiles.co.uk/Communication-Plan-2019-10-23-112412.pdf)

1.3 RPT Horizon Goals and Delivery Priorities

This section provides detail on the Horizon Goals identified for the RPT in Section 3 of the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan April 2023 to March 2024, translating those Goals into clear, outcome-focused Delivery Priorities. Where possible, these Delivery Priorities have been broken down into 3-month phases to provide transparency in timelines. The graphic below is used to demonstrate how each Delivery Priority aligns with the following:

- Delivery of IFCA High Level Objectives via IFCA Success Criteria
- The eight Fisheries Objectives (Fisheries Act 2020)
- The delivery of the Environment Improvement Plan 2023 (Environment Act 2021)
- Supporting Defra’s delivery of the Fisheries Act
- The UK Net Zero Strategy, via identification and instigation of changes in operations, in order to minimise and reduce emissions

This graphic has been used across the Annual Strategic Plan, the RPT Plan and the Compliance & Enforcement Plan to demonstrate this alignment across all Authority workstreams.

IFCA Success Criteria	No.	Fisheries Objectives	
IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.	1	Sustainability 1	
IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.	2	Precautionary 2	
IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.	3	Ecosystem 3	
IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.	4	Scientific Evidence 4	
IFCAs make the use of evidence to deliver their objectives	5	Bycatch 5	
		Equal Access 6	
		National Benefit 7	
		Climate Change 8	
UK Net Zero Strategy			
Supporting Defra in delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives	FMPs	MPAs	Marine Consents
Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023			
Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 70% of designated features in MPAs to be in favourable condition by 2042 with the remainder in recovering condition, with a new interim target of 48% of designated features to be in favourable condition by 31 January 2028. To achieve interim target: management measures to be in place across all MPAs by 2024. • Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme delivery (via FMPs, Marine Plans and Marine Consents). • Achieving Net Zero via harnessing of blue carbon habitats (saltmarsh and seagrass). • Implementation of VMS and Catch App across the inshore fleet 			
Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop FMPs as ways of managing fisheries more sustainably. 			
Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage & engagement with the natural environment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider marine heritage in marine plans 			

The following sections outline the Delivery Priorities for the RPT for 2023-24 under each Horizon Goal including timelines. For each workstream the relevant icons are used to indicate alignment with Core Principles as outlined on the previous page and the RPT Core Functions of Developing Fisheries Management Interventions and Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions. The Monitoring Inshore Fisheries Core Function is explored in S1.3.2 and the Projects and Emerging Work Function in S1.3.3. It is recognised that the Engagement function of the RPT runs across all workstreams (S1.2.5).



For context, the term ‘MPA’ is used to refer to sites within the National Site Network (SACs and SPAs) and Marine Conservation Zones.

The MPA Management Review Delivery Priority:

- 1) To introduce management measures for T3 MCZs and additional features for T1&T2 MCZs ensuring that the Conservation Objectives of any feature within an MCZ are furthered.
- 2) Incorporate an update to existing management within district-wide National Site Network Sites based on the best available spatial evidence of feature presence/extent, as provided by NE, to ensure that there is no damage, disturbance or adverse impact caused by fishing activity on the features subject to protection.
- 3) Incorporate a scheduled review of the existing Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw and the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016, as well as consideration of relevant legacy byelaws, where the existing management footprint falls within MPAs.

Scope:

In order to meet the Government target of having management measures in place across all MPAs by 2024 there is a need to identify priority workstreams and adopt a phased approach to the delivery of two of these. The three priority workstreams identified are:

- Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review
- Shore Gathering Review
- Black Bream Management

Both the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review (BTFG) and the Shore Gathering (SG) Review require a phased approach due to the resources required to meet the 2024 Government target. A phased approach will also allow for the consideration of wider sensitive habitat management which fall outside of MPAs. In staging the approach, Phase 2 will benefit from the inclusion of outcomes from ongoing research programmes and projects, currently underway in the District, to include those which are specifically focused on areas which may provide habitat restoration potential, ecosystem services, blue carbon habitats and Natural Capital benefits. Research in these areas will contribute vital information to help the IFCA to contribute to wider conservation targets and understand how the wider management of sensitive habitats can help contribute to meeting the objectives of the

Fisheries Act 2020, particularly objectives 1, 3 and 8. In addition, during Phase 2, and in order to deliver IFCA's core duties under MaCAA, extensive consultation across the district's communities will be required to capture site specific information regarding the social and economic benefits of fishing, coupled with the need to protect the marine environment. It is likely that this will require risk-based modelling to ensure that any subsequent management fulfils those core duties.

The phased approach is split into two, Phase 1 and Phase 2, outlined below:

Phase 1:

To consider requirement for management interventions within MPAs: sites designated under the National Site Network (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

The IFCA Core Functions under both the MaCAA (2009) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 set out the IFCA's duties to seek to ensure that the Conservation Objectives of any feature within an MCZ in the District are furthered and ensure that fishing activity does not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife and habitats for which an SAC or SPA is protected respectively. For MCZs, S154 of the MaCAA states that an IFCA's performance in meeting the duty to further Conservation Objectives should not be affected by anything listed in the general IFCA duties under S153 of the MaCAA, which include social or economic considerations. Likewise, for SACs and SPAs, the overarching legislation does not provide for the consideration of social or economic factors/impacts when making management decisions which are required to ensure that the duty of no adverse effect is met.

Under this Phase, to meet the IFCA's duties and to ensure that Government targets are met, management intervention will be considered within MPAs, defined as SACs, SPAs and MCZs. The Authority will aim to develop a set of principles for Phase 1, both for the BTFG and SG workstreams, in order to guide and maintain consistency in decision making which will ensure that any subsequent management is applied equally and with full transparency across the Southern IFCA District, where applicable.




Phase 2:



To consider requirement for management interventions outside of MPAs

Following the completion of Phase 1 for BTFG and SG it is the intention of the Authority to commence Phase 2 of these reviews. Phase 2 would consider the location of sensitive habitats and species (yet to be defined, pending the scope of Phase 2) outside of National Site Network Sites and MCZs. This would include consideration of features within Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are not also designated under overlapping MPAs, where IFCA duties under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) required the Authority to take 'reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions' to further conservation objectives for features within these sites. Under this Phase, social and economic factors/impacts can be considered alongside the need for protection of the marine environment, operating under the IFCA duties outlined under S153 of the MaCAA, namely balancing the protection of the marine environment with a sustainable fishing industry, balancing the needs of different persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources and ensuring sustainable fishing and continued sustainable development. In addition,

Phase 2 will allow for the consideration of outcomes of currently ongoing restoration projects for specified habitats and consideration of how the IFCA can align with the Government’s Vision of protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030 (“30x30”).

On the commencement of Phase 2 workstreams, principles guiding the scope of the review will be determined, as well as anticipated timelines for the progression of each workstream, which will be fully developed by the Authority including identifying opportunities for evidence gathering and stakeholder participation.

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
Priority Workstreams												
Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review – Phase 1 	Stage 3: Draft Byelaw	Stage 3: Recommendation to move to Stage 4	Stage 4: Make Byelaw	Formal Consultation			Stage 4: Approve Byelaw	Stage 5				
Shore Gathering Review – Phase 1 	Stage 1: Evidence Gathering			Stage 1: Review Evidence	Stage 1: Determine Actions	WG	Stage 2: Draft Measures	Stage 2: Determine Actions		Stage 3: Recommendation to move to Stage 4	Stage 4: Make Byelaw	
Black Bream Management 	Stage 1: Evidence Gathering			Stage 1: Review Evidence	Stage 1: Determine Actions	WG	Stage 2: Draft Measures	Stage 2: Determine Actions		Stage 3: Recommendation to move to Stage 4	Stage 4: Make Byelaw	

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
Phase 2 Sensitive Habitats Review												
Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review – Phase 2 								Stage 1: Evidence Gathering following completion of Stage 5 in Phase 1			Progress Stage 1 WG	
Shore Gathering Review – Phase 2 												To commence in 2024-25

There are additional workstreams which are related to management interventions within MPAs. Whilst the progression of these workstreams is not linked to the achievement of the Government Targets underpinning the Horizon Goal of the MPA Management Review it is important to maintain ongoing reviews of current legislation to ensure that management interventions remain sustainable and appropriate and, in the case of the issuing of leases under the Poole Fishery Order 2015 to allow for business security and continuity. In addition, ensuring that fishing activity continues to be managed sustainably in MPAs contributes the achievement of the Fisheries Objectives and wider environmental targets.

Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw

Coverage: The Solent

The Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw (SDPB) is a single coherent management tool developed in order to govern fishing activities within the Solent bivalve fisheries allowing for adaptive and flexible management that is underpinned and directed by the best available evidence. The SDPB was implemented in November 2021 and regulates the harvesting of bivalves in the Solent through the issue of annual permits. Category A permits are issued for activities relating to all bivalves excluding native oysters with the option for Category B permits to regulate the fishing for native oysters. To date no Category B permits have been issued due to insufficient stock levels. The Management Intentions document for the fishery sets out how evidence collected through Southern IFCA monitoring informs management decisions. Details on the monitoring in relation to this fishery can be found in S1.3.2.

In 2022 additional permit conditions were introduced under Cat A permits relevant to the Solent scallop fishery.

In 2023-24 there is a need to review all relevant supporting documentation for this fishery to ensure that the Management Intentions document and the Access Policy remain fit for purpose. Any changes to these documents will be considered via permit holder consultation prior to any changes being introduced.

In addition, the Authority are committed to improving their knowledge of the impacts of various methods of fishing and, over time, additional evidence may be developed to better inform management. During 2023-24 the Authority will be resuming a workstream identified in the 2022-23 Strategy to explore the potential re-introduction of a pump-scoop fishery in the Solent. The first stage in this process will be to identify where this activity has the potential to overlap with any MPAs in the Solent and to undertake the required assessments to help inform discussions on this potential re-introduction. The Southern IFCA will also continue to work with Defra on this matter as the re-introduction of a pump-scoop fishery would require the revocation of Statutory Instrument No. 2696 The Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004.

Wrasse Fishery

Coverage: West of IFCA District including Studland to Portland SAC

The development of a live wrasse fishery in the District, focused around a handline and pot/trap fishery in the west of the District, led to the requirement for an HRA to assess the activity where it overlaps with the Studland to Portland SAC. As part of the mitigation to ensure that the fishery does not have an adverse effect on the features of the SAC, both Wrasse Fishery Guidance and a Monitoring and Control Plan were implemented.

The Wrasse Fishery Guidance introduced precautionary management measures, by way of a code of conduct. The code includes spatial management and seasonal restrictions (to minimise fishing impacts during the spawning season). Maximum sizes are also applied

The Monitoring and Control Plan describes a set of 'Triggers for Assessment'. If trigger points are reached, then an Assessment Feedback Process is given in the M&CP which outlines steps for the Authority to take to review the management of the fishery. During the 2022 fishing season, it was identified that trigger point 1 relating to the number of wrasse landed had been reached. As per the Assessment Feedback Process, the HRA was re-assessed and concluded that, at this time based on the best available evidence, further management intervention was not required and the fishery would be monitored for a further year in 2023. It was recognised through this process that additional evidence on wrasse populations is likely to be forthcoming in 2023 with the completion of a PhD project which has been looking at wrasse populations across the south and southwest. Recognising that the best available evidence database is therefore likely to be updated during 2023, Southern IFCA will continue to monitor the wrasse fishery as per the M&CP during the 2023 fishing season and review the available evidence at the end of the season to determine if any changes to management are required for 2024.

An annual report is produced on the fishery, reporting on analysis of data provided by fishers during the season on the number of fish caught and fishing effort. This report is provided to the Authority annually at the February TAC meeting.

Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 – Issuing of leases for the period 2025-2030

Coverage: Poole Harbour

Southern IFCA manage aquaculture activity within a defined area of Poole Harbour under The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 ('the Order'). This is the largest Several Order in the UK. In accordance with Section (1) of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967, the Order confers on Southern IFCA the right of a several fishery for the cultivation of shellfish of any kind for a period of twenty years from the 1st July 2015.

Under Section (3) of the Order, the Authority must manage the aquaculture in Poole Harbour in line with the Management Plan entitled Poole Harbour

Several Order 2015 Management Plan ('Management Plan'). Under Section (4) of the Order, the Authority are required to undertake an annual review of the Management Plan. If, during this review any significant changes are made to the Management Plan, then the Authority must notify, in writing, any interested parties of any proposed changes at least four weeks before the date of its annual publication (1st July). The Authority must, prior to publication of the updated Management Plan, take account of any representations it receives in writing from any interested party on the proposed changes. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant changes required to the Management Plan for 2023-24.

The Southern IFCA issues leases under the Order which are valid for a period of five years. The current leases are for 2020-2025 with the next lease period being 2025-2030. In order to ensure that the issuing of the 2025-2030 leases can be delivered in line with the expiry of the existing leases on 1st July 2025 and thus help ensure business security and continuity, there is a need to commence the process of developing the new leases during Q3 of 2023-24. This process will involve a review of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the issuing of leases considering potential impacts to the designated features of the Poole Harbour SPA, engagement with lease holders to understand their intentions for the next lease period and to provide them with notice of the required documentation including a Business Plan and Biosecurity Plan. This work will then continue through the 2024-25 year.







Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Fishery

Coverage: Poole Harbour

The Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw (PHDPB), which was introduced in 2015, regulates dredging for shellfish in Poole Harbour. Under the PHDPB, the Authority issues a restricted number of permits annually, with accompanying conditions, which include catch restrictions and reporting, restrictions on gear construction and use, the species that can be harvested and spatial and temporal restrictions.

The fishery operates within the boundary of the Poole Harbour SPA, SSSI and Ramsar Site. For the SPA designation, Southern IFCA currently undertake an annual HRA prior to the issuing of permits. The purpose of the HRA is to determine whether fishing activity is likely to have an adverse impact on the features of the protected site and demonstrate how this is mitigated by the provisions in the PHDPB. During the 2023-24 year, it is the intention that the RPT will consider the introduction of a Monitoring and Control Plan for this fishery to complement management and introduce efficiencies in this area of work. This will be subject to the achievement of priority workstreams for MPA management and therefore, at this time, the timetable for this area of work is based on the existing annual HRA model.

In addition, the fishery is certified under the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Standard as a sustainable fishery. In Q3 of 2022 the fishery underwent a reduced re-assessment as the current certification period (granted in 2018) ends in September 2023. The process of re-certification will continue through Q1-Q2 of 2023, however the majority of the work required to assess the fishery has been completed. The fishery qualified for a reduced re-assessment as the two conditions placed on the fishery at the time of the original certification have been addressed in full before the end of the current certification period. Following on from the re-assessment, the fishery will continue to undergo an annual audit to ensure that the standard of the MSC certification continues to be met.

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
Additional Workstreams relating to MPAs												
Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw 	Review supporting documents	Consultation with permit holders	Confirm updated documents		Permits for 2023-24 issued							
Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw Permit Condition Review – Pump Scoop 		Stage 1: Build a Picture To include undertaking relevant MPA assessments			Report on Stage 1 Consider next steps based on Stage 1 report	Communication with industry						
Wrasse Fishery 				Collation of fishery data, communication with fishers and buyers, monitoring in relation to M&C Plan for fishery and review of any newly emerging evidence for the fishery or the species <i>(Link to Compliance & Enforcement Plan, 'Compliance with Wrasse Fishery Guidance', S6.0)</i>							2023 Wrasse Fishery Report Consider requirement for review	
Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 Annual Review of Management Plan 	Review management plan	2023-24 Management Plan										Begin review of management plan for 2024-25
Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 Issuing of leases for 2025-2030 							Workstream to commence in autumn 2023 with a review of evidence base underpinning management decisions and start drafting updated HRA for 2025-2030 leases					
Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Fishery 						Anticipated re-certification of MSC			Drafting HRA for 2024-25 issuing of permits	HRA for 2024-25 issuing of permits		

MCRS Review

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Coverage: District Wide

Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) is a management tool used at a national and regional level to help achieve sustainable fisheries. The measure prevents sea fisheries resources below a certain size from being removed from the fishery, the aim is for the MCRS to align with a size related to the size at sexual maturity to promote sustainable stocks.

Under the Southern IFCA Five-Year Legislative Forecast the Authority committed to begin to review MCRS for key species in the District between 2021 and 2023. During 2020-2021 an extensive literature review was undertaken based upon size at sexual maturity for species subject to commercial and/or recreational fisheries in the District. Available data was gathered on the size at which 50% of a population reach sexual maturity, a parameter known as L_{50} . This measure is often used as a baseline for MCRS as it aims to achieve sustainable exploitation by allowing individuals to reproduce at least once before being removed from the fishery. In addition, evidence was gathered on reproductive biology, life history and the social/economic value of each species. In addition to the literature review, Species Profiles were created for 25 species, these are available on the Southern IFCA website ([Key Species : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://southern-ifca.gov.uk)).

This initial literature review identified gaps in understanding resulting in the initiation of two primary research projects:

Grey mullet species – working with Plymouth University to investigate the size at sexual maturity in the Southern IFCA District for the three species of grey mullet; thin-lipped grey mullet (*Liza ramada*), thick-lipped grey mullet (*Chelon labrosus*) and golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata*). **The research was completed in 2022 and the results of the final reports are anticipated in 2023.**

Common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) – working with the University of Southampton to analyse samples collected by fishers from across the Southern IFCA District investigating size at sexual maturity. **This project is ongoing with details provided in S1.3.2.**

The workstream progressed to Stage 2 in August 2021, however due to a short hiatus introduced as a result of resource pressures this workstream was paused until 2022. In the third quarter of the 2022-23 year the workstream was resumed with the Authority invited to consider if changes to MCRS were required to species under five categories:

- Flat Fish
- Round Fish
- Skates and Rays
- Bivalves and Gastropods
- Crustaceans
- Additional Species

It was determined that due to the pause in the workstream there was a need to ensure that best available evidence was still being used to inform management decisions. Therefore, through Q3 and Q4 of the 2022-23 year additional evidence sources were explored and additional evidence added to the species evidence bases where required.

MCRS Byelaw


In 2021, separate to the review of MCRS, external factors at a national and EU level necessitated that Southern IFCA develop an MCRS byelaw. This byelaw came into force at the end of 2021 and incorporates the majority of minimum sizes from other IFCA byelaws (where MCRS was the only provision contained within the byelaw) and applies both these and national minimum sizes to all fishery participants (recreational and commercial) and at all points in the supply chain. The review of MCRS will therefore consider updates to this byelaw as well as considering any MCRS which sit within other Southern IFCA byelaws.

Program of work for 2023-24:

Taking account of priority workstreams under the MPA Management Review Horizon Goal there is a need to re-frame the MCRS review to ensure that the workstream can continue to progress and Members have the opportunity to consider the updated evidence base as the current best available evidence in decision making.

An initial list of 10 priority species will be identified based on considerations of the economic value of different species to both the commercial and recreational sector. Species which are currently or are to be subject to Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) will be identified along with associated timelines for the delivery of relevant FMPs. It is likely that MCRS as a management measure will be explored through the FMP process, Southern IFCA will align with the FMP process and adapt as required over the course of the MCRS review.

Once the initial list of 10 species has been identified Members will be invited to consider the evidence on the ecology, biology, social and economic value from the best available evidence gathered and recommend whether a change in MCRS is required through a Working Group process. The aim will be to consult on the recommended management measures with the stakeholder community and then repeat the process with a second list of 10 species, continuing with a staggered review and consultation approach with an updated draft of the MCRS byelaw developed following the completion of this staggered review. The final timeline for the completion of this review will be dependent on external factors including the FMP process.

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
MCRS Review 		Priority species ID 1	WG 1 Consultation 1	Priority species ID 2	WG 2 Consultation 2	Consideration of timeline for progression in line with external factors						

Supporting Defra's Delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives



The Fisheries Act 2020 was introduced to make provisions relating to fisheries, fishing, aquaculture and marine conservation following the departure of the UK from Europe. The Act creates a legal commitment to sustainable fishing and supporting future generations of fishers whilst allowing the marine environment to thrive. The Act sets out the eight Fisheries Objectives, developed to underpin this commitment, and sets down the requirement for a Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) and Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). Under the JFS, IFCAs are required to have regard to the Fisheries Act 2020, the JFS and FMPs when undertaking relevant functions.

There are three programs of work under this Horizon Goal which will support the delivery of the Fisheries Act Objectives by Defra:

Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)

FMPs are designed to help deliver the ambition for sustainable fisheries. The JFS proposes 43 FMPs which will either be developed by a single fisheries policy authority for its own waters (i.e., Defra for English waters) or will be developed jointly by 2 or more fisheries policy authorities (i.e., devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). Not all of the 43 proposed FMPs will have relevance to all IFCA Districts as each plan is spatially defined.

FMPs are designed as evidence-based actions plans that are developed in collaboration with the fishing sector and other stakeholders. The purpose of the FMP is to deliver sustainable fisheries for current and future generations. Each FMP specifies the stock, type of fishing and geographic area covered. Goals for the fishery will be defined along with any actions required to achieve those goals, with those actions having the potential to draw on existing tools, require new regulations or technical measures or use non-statutory routes such as research plans, voluntary agreements, and codes of conduct. Indicators to be used for monitoring the effectiveness of the delivery of the plan will also be set out.



For more information on FMPs including the process for their delivery and links to the JFS and full list of 43 proposed plans please visit [Fisheries management plans - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

For the Southern IFCA, there are 6 frontrunner FMPs currently under development which relate to the District:

- Bass
- Channel Non-Quota Demersal Stocks
- King Scallop
- Crab and Lobster
- Whelk
- Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish

Each of these FMPs is overseen by a delivery partner, for example Seafish for the shellfish FMPs, Policy Lab for the Bass FMP, the MMO for the Channel Non-Quota Demersal Stocks FMP and Defra for the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish. The aim of the frontrunner FMPs is to pilot different ways of preparing the plans in partnership with industry groups and other stakeholders. Lessons learnt from these projects will shape Defra's future FMP work.

In Q4 of 2022-23 Southern IFCA received funding to support a Project Officer role to deliver work related to FMPs. Working with the DCO and, where required, the wider team, the PO will:

- Support the planning/preparation phase of the FMPs
- Support the publication phase of the FMPs including reviewing and evaluating the draft plans
- Log requests and feedback concerns

The Authority will be provided with information relevant to this process through the quarterly Authority meetings, this cannot be timetabled as the development and delivery of FMPs is still being explored at a national level however updates will be provided in a timely manner.

Fisheries Management Plans	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
Support planning/preparation phase	Likely to be ongoing throughout the year, as frontrunner FMPs move into publication phases other FMPs will start to be developed											
Support publication phase			Anticipated that Formal Consultation on FMPs that have completed the planning/prep phase will occur in early Summer		Proposed timeline for initial publication of plans subject to summer Formal Consultation		As above, following the publication of frontrunner FMPs this will become an ongoing process in line with timelines for future FMPs					
Log requests and feedback concerns	Ongoing – Southern IFCA maintain an internal database of information relating to FMPs including logging all requests for information, feedback of concerns, attendance at engagement events and the sharing of information with stakeholders											

(*Note timelines for the FMP process have been taken from the JFS, as this process develops this may be subject to change)

The MPA Programme

The MPA Programme is explored fully in the **MPA Management Review Horizon Goal**. The aim to conclude the implementation of all appropriate management measures for MPAs by 2024 will contribute to the delivery of the Fisheries Objectives.

Southern IFCA are currently awaiting funding which will allow for the recruitment of a Project Officer to support existing resources in the delivery of this work programme.

Marine Consents

There are four strands to this work programme:

- To engage with the Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme via scenario testing, stakeholder engagement and data & evidence (work to look at the impacts of co-location relating to fishing, aquaculture, marine licences and MPAs)
- To contribute to the development of 2nd generation Marine Plans, via data and evidence, stakeholder engagement and policy development – the 2nd generation of the South Marine Plan is timetabled for delivery in July 2024
- To contribute to the delivery of an Aquaculture and Mariculture Strategy
- To contribute to the delivery of an Angling Strategy

Southern IFCA are currently awaiting funding which will allow for the recruitment of a Project Officer to support existing resources in the delivery of this work programme. Timelines for the delivery of this work programme will be developed in line with funding availability and the development of national timelines for the delivery of the associated programmes and strategies.



1.3.2 Monitoring Inshore Fisheries

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This section details the monitoring program for 2023-24. In addition to helping to meet IFCA Success Criteria, certain surveys which the Southern IFCA undertakes will also provide evidence that could be used to help inform the development of Fisheries Management Plans and help contribute to data collection under any Research and Evidence Plans developed for those FMPs. Where Southern IFCA surveys are carried out for species which are subject to one of the 6 frontrunner FMPs that apply to the Southern IFCA District this is indicated using the appropriate symbol from the graphic in S1.3. Opportunities for engagement are explored through all monitoring activities.

The Whelk Population & Data Collection surveys and Solent Scallop Spawning Survey are the only surveys where sea fisheries resources were removed from the marine environment. In all other cases data is collected at the time at which samples are obtained, following which samples are returned to the sea from the area in which they were removed.










Symbol denotes chartering of local fishing vessel or survey work carried out with fisher collaboration



Symbol denotes partnership working with academic institutions, partner organisations

Survey	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Time Series Data	Outcomes
Whelk Population Survey 	Spring	Common whelk	Solent, Poole Bay, Weymouth Bay, Lyme Bay	To obtain whelk samples from fishers and collect data on size frequency and Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)	First survey spring 2023	1) To improve evidence base for whelk data specific to SIFCA District 2) To inform management under the anticipated Pot Fishing Byelaw 3) Data to be made available for use by Whelk FMP
Whelk Data Collection 	Samples collected 2021 and 2022	Common whelk	Poole Bay, Weymouth Bay, Lyme Regis	Samples of common whelk were obtained from fishers to obtain information on size at sexual maturity with analysis work carried out by University of Southampton.	Samples collected across 2021 and 2022	1) To inform the MCRS review 2) To inform management under the anticipated Pot Fishing Byelaw 3) Report anticipated by summer 2023 4) Data to be made available for use by Whelk FMP

Poole Bivalve Survey 	Apr	Manila clam, Common cockle, American Hard- Shelled clam, other bivalves	Poole Harbour	To obtain bivalve samples from 27 shellfish beds in Poole Harbour and collect data on size frequency and CPUE which can be related to fishery catch and effort data	2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 ⁷ 2021 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To contribute to time-series dataset 2) To inform management under the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit fishery 3) To support the MSC certification
Solent Bivalve Survey  	Mar Oct	Manila clam, Common cockle, American Hard- Shelled clam, other bivalves	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas 4-6	To obtain bivalve samples from three management areas (Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour, Langstone Harbour) and collect data on size frequency and CPUE which can be related to fishery catch and effort data	2017 ⁸ 2018 2019 2020 – spring only ⁹ 2021 – autumn only ¹⁰ 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To build an initial 5-year baseline of CPUE data 2) To contribute to time-series dataset 3) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions
Solent Scallop Survey  	Apr Sept	King scallop	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas	To obtain samples of King scallops to improve understanding of the population in the Solent through collecting data on size frequency and CPUE	2021 – July survey ¹¹ 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions 2) Data to be made available for use by the King Scallop FMP
Solent Scallop Spawning Survey   	Samples collected 2022	King scallop	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas	Samples of King scallop were obtained from permitted fishers to obtain information on spawning season with analysis work carried out by University of Southampton	2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions 2) Data to be made available for use by the King Scallop FMP 3) Data to be made available for relevant consultations on scallop management 4) Report anticipated by summer 2023



⁷ Note that dates with a strikethrough indicate where surveying could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

⁸ 2017 survey was for autumn in Southampton water only.

⁹ Autumn 2020 survey could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

¹⁰ Spring 2021 survey could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic




¹¹ The first Solent Scallop Survey was carried out in the summer of 2021 as a trial and to test the methodology, twice yearly sampling commenced from 2022

Solent Oyster Survey 	Aug	Native oyster	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas	<p>To obtain samples of native oysters and collect data on size frequency and CPUE</p> <p>Aim post-2022 is to move to sampling every other year – currently exploring opportunities for collaboration with Solent Seascapes project to continue annual sampling</p>	2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat B Permit Conditions 2) To inform understandings of native oyster stocks in the Solent
Juvenile Fish Surveys 	Jun Oct	Estuarine fish species	The Fleet, Christchurch Harbour, Yarmouth, River Hamble	<p>To obtain samples of juvenile fish from estuaries across the District identified as having Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) present and collect data on species presence, abundance and size frequency</p>	2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 ¹² 2021 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To inform management under the anticipated Net Fishing Byelaw, specific to EFH 2) To promote engagement with the wider stakeholder community 3) To contribute to a time-series dataset to highlight the importance of estuaries to certain species 4) Data to be made available for use by relevant FMPs

¹² Spring survey unable to take place and autumn survey partially achieved due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The following table outlines additional monitoring activities undertaken by the RPT which are separate from the survey program of work. These activities are either ongoing or anticipated upon the delivery of management interventions which are currently with the Marine Management Organisation/Defra, in this case (highlighted in grey) a specific timeline cannot be provided for these monitoring activities and at the time of publishing this Plan it is not known if these monitoring activities will be required during the 2023-24 year covered by the Plan.

Analysis of data under these activities is carried out by the RPT, however these monitoring activities sit across all teams within the Southern IFCA for the obtaining and collation of the data (Business Services Team) and ensuring compliance with data submission as required by related management measures (Compliance & Enforcement Team).

Monitoring Activity	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Time Series Data	Outcomes
 Wrasse Fishery Data Collection	Jul – Dec	Wrasse species	West of District	To obtain catch data from fishers on a voluntary basis on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Count data of wrasse landed Fishing location Fishing effort 	2018 2019 2020 2021 2022	1) To inform management of the live wrasse fishery 2) To inform monitoring under the M&C Plan 3) Report compiled annually for delivery to TAC Meeting following fishery closure
 Permit Data Collection	Throughout relevant permit seasons	Bivalves – Poole and the Solent Crustaceans and Gastropods – District wide recreational pot fishery Salmonids – Net Fishing Byelaw permit areas	Dependent on specific permit	To analyse data provided by permit holders in respective permitted fisheries and to build time-series datasets which can be used to relate fisher-dependent data to stock survey data.	<u>Poole</u> 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 <u>Solent</u> 2021 2022	1) To inform management under respective permit byelaws
 Net Fishing Observer Program	Jun – Sept Following implementation of anticipated Net Fishing Byelaw (NFB)	Species caught using net fishing	Southampton Water and Christchurch Harbour	To carry out observer trips for 5% of total estimated net fishing trips with 50% of these trips able to be achieved by Southern IFCA with assistance from the Environment Agency (EA) required to achieve 100% of the target	Program to be implemented following implementation of NFB	1) To inform management of net fishing under the anticipated NFB





1.3.3 Projects and Emerging Work



This section details any additional Projects which the Southern IFCA is involved with working with external partners or to be delivered to support workstreams in addition to evidence gathered through the Monitoring Programme (S1.3.2). Where projects are not yet active they are highlighted in grey. For these projects a specific timeline cannot be provided as the commencement date will be subject to external factors such as the implementation of a management measure which is currently with the MMO/Defra or external funding. Therefore, at the time of publishing this Plan it is not known if these projects will commence during the 2023-24 year.

Project	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Southern IFCA Role	Anticipated Outcomes
Angling for Sustainability Lead: University of Plymouth Funded: Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) scheme 	Two-year project, Jan 23 - 25	Black Bream Elasmobranchs	Dorset coast Solent	For researchers to work with fishing communities in Dorset and the Solent to assess the habitats and movement of species including sharks, skates, rays and black bream through establishing a network of acoustic receivers and tagging target species	In-kind contribution of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 days to help with maintenance of acoustic receivers • To provide advice and input as fisheries managers • To facilitate liaison between the project and stakeholders through established Stakeholder Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide data on seasonal and daily movement for black bream and elasmobranchs • To inform conservation advice for these species • To inform relevant FMPs • To inform future management of EFH
University of Portsmouth FISP Bid 	Awaiting results of funding bid	Fish species	Solent	Working with the angling community and utilising competitions for data collection on targeted species	In-kind contribution providing advice and input as fisheries managers	TBC following results of funding bid

<p>University of Plymouth FISP Bid</p> <p>Partners: IFM, AIFCA, AT, BASS and NMC</p> 	<p>Awaiting results of funding bid</p>	<p>Fish species</p>	<p>Juvenile fish survey sites (and other sites outside the SIFCA District)</p>	<p>To apply novel camera technology to support public participation in approaches to gather critical data on how fishes use coastal and estuarine habitats at their earliest juvenile stage</p>	<p>In-kind contribution providing access to Juvenile Fish Surveys and providing advice and input as fisheries managers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide data to fill important knowledge gaps about the essential habitats required by populations of fished species • To support policy decisions and management action • To be a vehicle for the fishing industry, scientists and managers to work together
<p>Drift Net Fishery Research Project</p> 	<p>To be determined following implementation of anticipated Net Fishing Byelaw (NFB)</p>	<p>Species caught using a drift net</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>In the Process, Tools and Intentions Document which accompanies the anticipated NFB, Southern IFCA are committed to undertaking a Research Project in order to improve understandings of potential interactions between the use of drift nets and salmonids in a non-targeted fishery</p>	<p>Project owners</p>	<p>To inform management of net fishing under the anticipated NFB</p>



Sarah Birchenough
Deputy Chief Officer – Research and Policy Team
 Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
 April 2023

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

OFFICER'S REPORT

Marked H

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT TEAM STRATEGY 2023-24

Report by the Deputy Chief Officer Sam Dell

A. Purpose of the Report

To consider the Compliance & Enforcement Team (CET) Strategy for the period April 2023 to March 2024 aligning with the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for April 2023 to March 2024 (covered under agenda Item F).

B. Recommendation

That Members approve the Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy for April 2023 to March 2024

C. Annexes

1. The Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy for April 2023 to March 2024

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 177 of The Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009 under the title Annual Plan requires (1) Before the beginning of each financial year every IFC authority must make and publish a plan setting out the authority's main objectives and priorities for the year, (2) The IFC authority must send a copy of its plan to the Secretary of State.
- 1.2 The CET Strategy builds on the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan, setting out the workstreams and priorities for the period April 2023 to March 2024. The CET Strategy translates the Horizon Goals from the Annual Strategic Plan into clear, outcome-focused Delivery Priorities with transparency in delivery timelines. The Horizon Goals and associated Delivery Priorities developed through this strategy demonstrates where the Southern IFCA consider their work for the forthcoming year aligns with IFCA Success Criteria, Fisheries Objectives, the Environment Improvement Plan 2023, Defra's delivery of the Fisheries Act 2020 and the UK Net Zero Strategy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

1. Annual Plan 2023 -24 (Agenda Item F)



Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy

April 2023 – March 2024



Document Control

Title	Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy 2023-2024		
Author	Deputy Chief Officer Sam Dell	January 2023	
Approver	The Southern IFCA Authority	<i>pending</i>	
Owner	Southern IFCA		

In Year Amendments:

Version	Author	Amendment Detail	Date	Approver
v.1	SD	Draft version	February 2023	SD

Section 1.0 Purpose

The Authority is committed to a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime. A Compliance and Enforcement Framework (CEF) sets out the Authority's approach to achieving compliance and provides information about the general principles the Authority will follow and our enforcement actions available. The CEF establishes a framework from which risk-based enforcement plans may be developed in the form of a Compliance Risk Register (CRR). For access to these documents please follow the link to the Southern IFCA Website: [Compliance & Enforcement : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)

The Compliance & Enforcement Team (CET) Strategy sets out the priorities for the team for the period April 2023 to March 2024, feeding directly from the delivery priorities identified in Southern IFCA's Annual Strategic Plan for 2023/2024.

Section 2.0 Introduction

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) undertake compliance and enforcement activities throughout its District. Information and evidence are gathered to provide a sound base to underpin the decision-making processes of the Authority. This ensures that the Authority fulfils its functions as described under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MaCAA) 2009, ensuring successful and sustainable governance of the inshore marine environment.

To deliver the Southern IFCA objectives and fulfil the Authorities functions as a competent management body, the Southern IFCA recognises the need to align its work to a strategic vision. With many competing objectives, it is important the Authority maintains a strategic overview in their delivery. This proactive way of working, with the recognition of the need to maintain a capacity for reactive and emerging work and incoming challenges, will provide a template for the Authority moving forward.

The Marine element of the Authorities District covers all tidal waters extending to six nautical miles from the 1983 baselines. The east and west seaward boundaries are established from a line drawn south from the point at which the limits of county boundaries of East Hampshire and West Dorset extend seaward; in Lyme Bay and Chichester Harbour respectively. The terrestrial and intertidal element of the District includes the entire counties of the constituent local authorities of Hampshire, Dorset, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council. In undertaking its regulatory responsibilities, the Authority starts from the position that the vast majority of the community, organisations and industries using the marine area are compliant with the regulations and controls that affects them. The Authority works to try to ensure that all parties understand what rules apply to their particular industry (or part thereof), and also the rationale for the regulation being necessary. Where stakeholders are not aware of the rules that apply to them, or require further information to ensure they are compliant, guidance is provided and/or assistance to raise awareness, where possible, this is a first step to achieving compliance.

Full compliance with fisheries and environmental legislation is the overall aim of the Authority. This aim is best achieved through the adoption of an adaptive co-management approach to fisheries management. The key to achieving high compliance is to ensure that those who are potentially affected have a real opportunity to engage with the Authority over the local management approach to be taken.

The strategic delivery for the years 2023/2024, as presented in this report, will enable the Authority to be more transparent with delivery partners, through anticipation of shared goals, objectives, and encouragement to seek future funding and joint working opportunities.

2.1 Legislative Drivers

IFCAs were created under Section 150 of MaCAA as designated statutory inshore regulators for the marine environment. The National IFCA Vision, High Level Objectives and Success Criteria set out the intentions of the IFCAs to sustainably manage inshore fisheries and conservation in line with these mechanisms and wider UK Legislation.

Southern IFCA has clearly defined duties and responsibilities to ensure that the marine environment within the District is conserved and maintained in a viable state. The main duties for Southern IFCA are identified within MaCAA, Part 6 (Sections 153 and 154).

2.2 IFCA Powers

Under 166 of MaCAA Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) common enforcement powers are conferred by sections 245 to 261 and fisheries enforcement powers conferred by sections 264,268,269 and 289 of MaCAA.

IFCOs have these powers for the purposes of enforcing:

- Any byelaws made under section 155 or 157 of MaCAA for the district (or having effect as if so made); Sections 1 to 3, 5 and 6 of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 (c.84) and any Orders made under any of those sections;
- Any provision made by or under an Order under section 1 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 (c.83);
- Any provisions of, or any rights conferred by, section 7 of that Act;
- Any byelaws made under section 129 or 132 of MaCAA;
- Section 140 of MaCAA;
- The Sea Fishing (Enforcement) Regulations 2018 (SI 849/18) (The Sea Fishing (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

2.3 The Compliance & Enforcement Team

The Southern IFCA's CET have the responsibility for the compliance and enforcement throughout the District to ensure a viable industry whilst supporting local communities who are reliant upon sea fisheries resources is an important component for the protection of our fisheries. The IFCA has a duty to maintain a balance between socio-economics and environmental benefits seeking to ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries when developing regulations.

Working under the Chief Officer, the CET is led by a Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) supported by two Senior Fisheries Officers (SOs). To complete the CET complement, there are four IFCOs.

An effective Compliance Programme will include the development, implementation, and adherence to standardised operational policies and procedures. Through internal monitoring and auditing, Officer Code of Conduct for Inspections and safeguards outline the Authorities expectation of employees. The Code also explains the obligations of people being inspected. Officers are professionally trained in enforcement standards through an accredited training program and receive specific training **IFCA Success Criteria 4 "IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional"**. In addition, Officers are

required to have a comprehensive knowledge of complex legislation that is set out in Southern IFCA Byelaws, National and EU regulations.

Officers from the CET engage with industry on a daily basis and carry out compliance inspections where necessary on all commercial and recreational fishing activities on shore and at sea which include commercial premises. These inspections are conducted through land and sea-based patrols throughout the District. The Authority has a fleet of three patrol vessels which are uniquely designed to suit the areas they are located in and are strategically based across the District. These can be taken to sea at any time of day or night, all three vessels have boarding capabilities. The CET also have access to a fleet of pool vehicles to carry out operations on the coast.

For the purpose of engagement, the District has been split into three areas and five when allocating resources for deployment and operational delivery, this is based on the type of fishing activity taking place and location of the officers. The west is from Kimmeridge to Lyme Regis (Dorset Devon border), the centre Kimmeridge to Mudeford and covers Poole Harbour and the East is from Mudeford to Chichester Harbour Emsworth Channel (Hampshire Sussex border) and includes the Isle of Wight. Each area has a lead and supporting officers.

Area Leads:

- West Lead Officer (*Areas 1-2*): IFCO, Support Officers: IFCOs
- Central Lead Officer (*Areas 2-3*): SO, Support Officers IFCOS
- East Lead Officer (*Areas 3,4 & 5*): SO, Support Officers IFCOs

Officers wear Body Worn Cameras (BWC), which can provide several benefits. These include enhanced contemporaneous evidence capture, that may be used to support the Authority and/or other enforcement agency prosecutions, resulting in early guilty pleas. The cameras may deter acts of aggression or verbal and physical abuse towards officers and can also inform more appropriate sentencing. An audio & visual recording of an incident can show exactly what happened and what was said, help to avoid disputes, reduce the time taken to establish important facts and clearly show the facts on many matters. The use of BWCs supports transparency, trust, and confidence in the Southern IFCA and community. All evidence is stored in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

Section 3.0 Operational Assets

3.1 Current Marine Assets

The Authority has three Fisheries Patrol Vessels (FPV) which facilitate the compliance and enforcement of regulations throughout the District. When at sea these vessels conduct intelligence led operational patrols, support stakeholder engagement and conduct and support limited survey work.

The Southern IFCA FPV fleet consists of two purpose built RHIBs (Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats) and one special build aluminium vessel.

The current marine assets are:

- **FPV Protector** (RHIB) - currently stored on a trailer at Portland and deployable anywhere within the District
- **FPV Stella Barbara** (RHIB) - currently berthed at Southampton
- **FPV Endeavour** (aluminium vessel) - currently berthed in Poole Harbour

The two RHIBs are both 7.8m Ribcraft built vessels with thermal imaging camera capability that can record for evidential purposes. One is based in the west on a trailer and can be deployed anywhere in the District, the other in the Solent. Both vessels have rapid response capabilities. The aluminium vessel is a 5.7m Robust Boat special build with very shallow water capability and has a collapsing wind shield and 'A' frame to enable the vessel to manoeuvre under low bridges in Poole Harbour. Regular monthly maintenance ensures vessels are fully operational. Dates for Life Saving Appliances (LSA) can be found in the Southern IFCA Asset Register folder.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
IFCO	Monthly Maintenance checks on both RHIBs	Monthly
SO	Monthly Maintenance checks on Endeavour	Monthly
SO	Yearly LSA replacements and servicing on all Vessels	Annually
SO	Yearly coding inspections	Annually

3.2 Introduction of Cabin RHIB

A two phased approach was approved by the Authority in December 2020 regarding a review of its current Marine Assets, Phase one was completed in November 2022. Phase two is underway and the procurement of a Cabin RHIB has been agreed. Build is due to go ahead early 2023. The procurement of the Cabin RHIB future proofs the Authority should there be a change in current jurisdiction which is 0-6nm. With EU Exit there may be changes to the roles and responsibilities for the IFCAs post transitional period, both in terms of changes to District baselines and jurisdiction of territorial waters (0-12nm), with the proposed introduction of potting and netting permit byelaws, equipment such as net and pot haulers may be required to effectively enforce such regulations. The vessels do not currently have this capability and the procurement of a specifically designed vessel will be considered in the future, the Cabin RHIB will have the ability to haul recreational pots.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
DCO & SO	To Progress the Cabin RHIB build and implement new ways of working.	2023/24
DCO & SO	To dispose of FPV Stella Barbara	2023/24

3.3 Pool Vehicles

In addition to the marine assets Southern IFCA also owns a fleet of patrol vehicles which consist of two trucks (4x4) that have towing capability and four vans, all vehicles are operated in line with the Southern IFCA vehicle policy. In relation to the Authority vehicles the CET work closely with the Business Services Team (BST) to ensure effective management of these assets.



As part of the UK Governments commitment to be Net Zero by 2050 and paying particular attention to the reduction of vehicle emissions Southern IFCA will be looking to contribute to achieving the policy goals by undertaking a review of the existing fleet of vehicles in conjunction with new ways of working through implementation of the Cabin RHIB, the Authority will consider Southern IFCAs commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. It is anticipated that the outcomes of this review will be presented to the Executive Committee in early 2023.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023	Date(s)
DCO	To undertake a vehicle asset review in order to contribute to Net Zero.	April 2023
DCO	To review vehicle policy arrangements in relation to replacement and procurement.	April 2023
BST	Maintain Vehicle Spreadsheet & ensure vehicles are taxed, have an in date MOT and are serviced.	Monthly

3.4 Drones

To complement our operational activity, a drone was procured in early 2022. A drone is defined by the Civil Aviation Authority as an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) or Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA). They are typically miniature aircraft controlled from the ground by a pilot and can have various camera attachments with recording capabilities.

The use of drones has been widely used across law enforcement agencies throughout the country for the detection of crimes and collating evidence for offences. They can be used in dynamic environments and can be deployed as a fast response to monitor, record and evidence illegal activity as well as being used for routine observations and checks. It has the ability to record positions using an onboard GPS and further features such as thermal imaging and zoom functions. This can aid in the proof of offences detected and used to support legal proceedings as evidence in courts.

The drone is operated by a trained remote pilot with additional officers to act as observers to avoid the risk of collisions, especially during the hours of darkness.

There is opportunities for the drone to carry out survey work with the Authorities Fisheries Research and Policy Team (RPT) who also gather evidence for fisheries management development. Further opportunities are being explored in working with other enforcement agencies and creating revenue which will help towards the running cost and officer time.

The drone aids compliance in gathering crucial evidence for the following activities throughout the District:

- Spatial closures
- MPAs
- Areas associated with previous non-compliance
- Illegal gear being deployed or discarded
- Locating discarded shellfish, fish and gear
- Provide additional evidence to support VMS data
- Monitoring of IFCA Codes of Practice

Officers will need to continue to familiarise themselves with drone operations, further training will take place through practical assessments and accruing flying time.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
DCO	Implementation of Operational deployment	All year round
DCO	Contribute to national IFCA Drone Taskforce	All year round
IFCOs	Maintenance of drone equipment as per Operations Manual	All year round
DCO & IFCO	Renewal of CAA Operational Authorisation	May 2023

Section 4.0 The Compliance & Enforcement Team’s Approach to IFCA Success Criteria 2.

The Compliance and Enforcement Team have the following functions which primarily support **IFCA Success Criteria 2 “IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime”** this is set out as a delivery priority in the Annual Strategic Plan 2023-2024, the Deputy Chief Officer of the CET will submit a quarterly Compliance Report to the Authority meeting. This report updates Members on the outcomes on inspections, case file progress and court outcomes including any financial administered penalties issued.

4.1 Intelligence Led-Risk Based Enforcement

4.1.1 Intelligence

Intelligence reports (IRs) are the Authority’s method of recording, storing, collating and the dissemination of intelligence that complement our risk-based approach. Additional intelligence together with access to the UK Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System¹ (MCSS) and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is maximising the efficient use of resources and reflects the current issues on the ground and is being utilised in preparing operational plans. Collating and storing of IRs is centralised through the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Central Intelligence Unit (CIU). IFCAs follow the National Intelligence Model and have incorporated a tasking and coordination process to inform tactical responses to priorities and emerging trends.

When collecting relevant information, Officers should record the following information before submitting to the Intelligence Officer:

- **Who** – the person(s) carrying out possible illegal activity or boat and any other connections i.e. person/name and address, date of birth, vessel PLN and name, who is master/owners name, vehicle being used etc.
- **What** – has happened/happening i.e. record what has been observed (Illegal activity or damage) or said, description of vessel or vehicle, what cloths are being worn etc.
- **Where** – place. Inside a Marine Protected Area (MPA) or prohibited area i.e. Lat/long, landing port other references if not known, record GPS etc.
- **Why** – purpose behind the illegal activity i.e. type of activity taking place, are they selling commercially and to who etc.
- **When** – did the activity happen? i.e. time, date, length of time spent fishing etc.
- **How** – did they carry out the illegal activity? How do you know? i.e. what is being used to carry out the illegal activity, net pot, hand gathering etc.
- The reporting Officer will evaluate information received and complete an IR in line with the SOP and submit to the Intel Officer. The information is then risk assessed, and then sanitised (details are removed that explicitly or indirectly identifies the source of the information) to protect the origin of the information. The IR is then disseminated to the officers, CIU and relevant agencies and recorded on an internal log.

Officer(s)	Responsibilities
DCO	Lead Officer – In accordance with Government Security Classification Guidelines and SOP Intelligence received should be appropriately handled
IFCO	Intel Officer to support the Lead Officer where necessary
IFCOs	The Intelligence Officer(s) will evaluate, analyse and disseminate the Intelligence Report to any relevant partner agencies, and will feed into the subsequent Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG) meeting(s).
IFCOs	To complete appropriate Intelligence Reports IRs

¹ The UK reporting database of sightings, boarding, positions of vessels, prosecutions and other actions against infringements of UK and EU Fisheries. This system is managed by CEFAS on behalf of the MMO (also see RNSS). This also contains access to VMS data.

Tactical Coordination Group (TCG)

The TCG process provides managers with a decision-making mechanism with which to manage their business both strategically and tactically. Decisions based on a full understanding of the problems faced will enable managers to prioritise the deployment of resources at their disposal.

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- Southern IFCA’s TCG meets every two weeks and is informed by the Tactical Assessment (the document which supports the meeting). The Lead intelligence Officer or Intelligence Officer shall be responsible for the preparation of the tactical assessment document. Southern IFCA is also represented at two regional TCGs with external agencies that is coordinated by the MMO.
-
- The TCG reflects on the previous two weeks priorities and considers identified emerging issues or specific problems and proposes tactical activity for the next period. It ensures that the resources are aligned to the priorities. Additional priorities can be set from the CCR, or specific intelligence requirements may be needed. The group decides when appropriate tactical action will be taken and by whom.
-
- The tactical group can also commission intelligence products such as Problem and Subject Profiles that can add value to priorities and operational plans as and when required.

Several supporting documents are available to the TCG to assist with decision making.

- Problem profiles
- Compliance Directions
- Seasonal priorities
- Operational Orders
- Byelaw Dispensations

The table below shows the timelines and who is the responsible Officer for this work stream:

Officer(s)	Frequency of meetings
DCO & IFCOs	To deliver fortnightly TCG meetings in order to inform operational response on the coast and determine Southern IFCA enforcement priorities. To hold internal and External TCGs utilising external TCGs to engage with partners to identify joint working opportunities.
DCO & IFCOs	To attend other neighbouring IFCAs and regional MMO TCGs

4.1.2 Risk Based Approach

Defra provided guidance to Southern IFCA on the establishment of a common enforcement framework and in particular, on applying risk-based enforcement principles and methods. Southern IFCA is committed to the adoption of a risk-based approach to enforcement and Members have agreed the process and principles to apply that method. Outcomes of risk assessments for specified areas within the District have been used to develop a Compliance Risk Register containing compliance and enforcement strategic priorities to inform operational plans developed through a Tactical Coordination Group.

The Register has been developed using an evidence-based approach. An analysis of risk from the perspective of the marine resource allows the process to be informed by the available scientific evidence. Where further information is required, this may be addressed through Southern IFCA’s RPT Strategy.

Where high risks are identified through the Register, these will be considered and feed into the Tactical Co-ordination Group process which will support the objectives to manage those risks. These objectives will include enforcement and education and will be reported on at regular intervals. Where the risks are lower, there will be an increased focus upon awareness and engagement as described in the Southern IFCA CEF.

The development of the CRR allows the Officers to be clear about the Authority’s compliance priorities, they are required to set objectives to reduce high and monitor medium risks in their daily work. The Register is a “live document” which will be reviewed regularly by Managers and Members and informed by information recorded in the Southern IFCA’s intelligence systems. Updates will be applied to the Register when necessary throughout the year and will be fully reviewed annually.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
DCO	When changes are necessary due to the implementation of new management or where there is no legislation protecting a fishery, the risk register will be updated indicating current risks and uploaded on to the Southern IFCA website.	October 2023

4.2 Investigations

Lead Officer: SO

Case File Review Officer: DCO

Supporting Officers: IFCOs

Signed off by the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Authority.

Southern IFCA is committed to achieving fair, effective and proportionate enforcement. The Compliance and Enforcement Framework (CEF) sets out the Authorities approach to compliance and enforcement and details the general principles the Authority will follow and the enforcement actions available.

Southern IFCA has a procedure that is consistent around all ten IFCAs regarding actions to be taken with breaches of legislation. This is covered in the CEF.

The Authority will attempt to use an adaptive co-management approach, where compliance is achieved through engagement, understanding and advice. Where compliance is not achieved by this approach, the Authority has a range of enforcement actions available to it that are listed below, these can be found in the CEF document:

- **Verbal Warning**
- **Advisory Letter**
- **Official Written Warning**
- **Simple Caution**
- **Financial Administrative Penalty**
- **Prosecutions**

Investigation Process

Statutory requirements are set out in the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984, the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (CPIA) Codes of Practice regarding how investigations should be conducted, including how to record, retain and disclose evidence or material obtained during an offence or subsequent investigation. There are also requirements for specific roles and responsibilities including the Officer in Charge (OIC), exhibits and disclosure officers.

When offences are detected, Officers will gather the necessary evidence and contemporaneously record this in their official pocket notebooks. There is a requirement to securely download photographs or body worn camera footage to be processed and formatted ready for exhibiting. The responsibility of preparing a case file rests with the OIC of the case. Statements will be included along with all the other relevant MG forms (MG forms are a set of standardised forms issued by the CPS so that all enforcement agencies work to the same standards). This also contains the case summary that is a concise summary of facts which should cover the evidentiary points to prove. When complete, the Lead Officer will prepare a decision log and action plan with a recommendation for any enforcement sanction. The recommendation will be reviewed by the DCO CET and subsequently be signed off by the CEO and Chairman. If a prosecution is not required it could be dealt with by way of a Financial Administrative Penalty (FAP), Official Written Warning (OWW) or Advisory Letter (AL) as per the CEF. Officers are permitted to use discretion and may issue verbal warnings or advisory letters when dealing with minor infringements. Officers will consult with and seek the advice of their line managers accordingly.

Case file lists, actions and outcomes will be maintained by the Lead Officer and statistics will be included in quarterly compliance reports. Press releases will be considered on a case-by-case basis and approved by the DCO.

Officer(s)	Planned work for 2023- 2024
SO & DCO	Process case files as and when infringements are detected
IFCOs	Complete case files in a timely manner to be processed by lead Officer
SO & DCO	To attend court on behalf of the Authority
SO	To deliver training on lessons learnt based on court outcomes
SO & DCO	The prepare press releases based on court outcomes when required

5.0 Byelaw Development & Implementing New Byelaws

It is important that Compliance officers have a good understanding of the work that is carried out by the RPT who seek to improve the sustainability of marine fisheries and environment. The CET & RPT work collaboratively with community engagement to provide accurate communication for stakeholders. The focus is on sustainability of Southern IFCA's fisheries activity in the commercial and recreational sectors and to support local communities through education and distributing literature on management and compliance. It is important that the DCO from the CET is in attendance at Working Groups where management interventions are being developed in order to contribute to the practicalities of compliance and enforcement of that legislation. During 2023/ 2024 The DCO from the CET will attend all Internal Working Groups as the management measures are progressed and are outlined in the Annual Strategic Plan 2023-2024 and referred to in the RPT Strategy.

Inshore Pot Fishing Byelaw (PFB) Implementation

The Pot Fishing Byelaw has been submitted to the Marine Management Organisation for Quality Assurance. Only once the Byelaw has completed this stage and been signed off by the Secretary of State will it come into effect. A transition period is important to educate and advise stakeholders, recreational fishers and the industry prior to the Inshore Potting Byelaw being enforced. Communication will be through social media, educational materials such as information leaflets. The industry will also be provided with free metal gauges for measuring shellfish and crustacean species.

Officer	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
DCO & IFCO	Continued development of a Compliance response	2023/24
DCO	Control and Enforcement Training for officers	2023/24

DCO & RPT	Develop communication package for implementation	April 2023
IFCOs & RPT	Education phase to industry when Byelaw has been approved by the SoS including increased coastal engagement.	2023/24
IFCOs	To ensure compliance with the Byelaw	2023/24

Inshore Net Fishing Byelaw (NFB) Implementation

The Net Fishing Byelaw has been submitted to the Marine Management Organisation for Quality Assurance. Only once the Byelaw has completed this stage and been signed off by the Secretary of State will it come into effect. It is important that a transition period takes place to advise stakeholders, post the Inshore Netting Byelaw coming into force. The Byelaw will have an impact on the industry; therefore, communication is vital to advise stakeholders of new legislation and the reasons behind any changes. Communication will be through several methods including social media and the CET informing stakeholders in the commercial sector. Advisory literature and maps will be produced and circulated to the industry when the Inshore Netting Byelaw comes into force.

Officer	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
DCO/ SO	Control and Enforcement Training for officers	2023/24
DCO & IFCO	To develop a Compliance response	2023/24
DCO & RPT	Start working on a communication package & identifying opportunities for stakeholder engagement.	April 2023
IFCOs	Education phase with industry if Byelaw is agreed by Defra	2023/24
IFCOs	To ensure compliance with the Byelaw	2022/23

Permit Database

Development of an online platform which will administer a permitting function for Southern IFCA for the permit fisheries, the aim is to reduce the administration functions with manual processing, provide a use friendly platform for fishermen working in permitted fisheries reducing the paperwork burden and provide data downloads for the fishermen.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 - 2024.	Date(s)
DCO	Manage project including development of a project plan	March 2023
BST	Continued development and feedback, system roll out.	March 2024

6.0 Monitoring, Control and Enforcement of Existing Measures

Byelaws

Under the MaCAA 2009 it is an offence to contravene Southern IFCA byelaws by all those who target sea fish within the Authority's District. These byelaws govern what sea fish may be taken, where and using which equipment. Failure to comply with these byelaws may lead to prosecution.

The byelaws have been written solely for the management, sustainability and protection of the marine environment for the District. The Authority has a suite of byelaws including legacy byelaws that were transferred under Section 6 of MaCAA 2009 (Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2011 made by Southern Sea Fisheries Committee (SFC) to the Southern IFCA for those parts of the District that were previously regulated by Southern SFC. Officers require a good knowledge and understanding of these byelaws and must be aware of points to prove when carrying out compliance inspections and detecting infringements. The Authority's byelaws can be found on the Authority website [All Regulations : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)

Permit Fisheries

Compliance Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw

The Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw (SDPB) is a single coherent management tool developed to govern fishing activities within the Solent bivalve fisheries, to allow for adaptive and flexible management, underpinned and directed by the best available evidence.

There has been an established scallop fishery in the Osborne Bay area, running east as far as No-Man's Fort of the Solent for number of years. However, since 2019 the fishing effort has increased. A Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw (BTFGB) protects a Marine Protected Area (MPA) to the South East of the Isle of Wight and running parallel to the shore in Osborne Bay and part of Ryde Spit, prohibiting BTFG which includes scallop dredging.

The native oyster fishery which is currently closed means that no Category B permits have been issued under the scheme due to low levels of sustainable stock density. There is also a clam fishery in the Harbour areas during winter months. Most vessel's participating in the Solent fishery are on a smaller scale, predominantly under 10m.

Officers	Planned activity during 2023- 2024	Date(s)
DCO & RPT	SDPB Access Policy Review	2023
DCO & IFCO	To attend the Solent Bivalve Community Forum	2023
IFCOs	To monitor compliance with the SDPB & engage with permit holders.	All year round
DCO	To support the SDPB Pump Scoop Review	2023/24

Compliance with Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw

The clam and cockle dredge permit fishery in Poole Harbour is managed through PHDP Byelaw. Within the Byelaw the permit allows a flexible approach to management which can be reviewed in line with sustainability and nature conservation of the marine environment.

The season runs from 25th May 2023 to 23rd of December 2024 both days inclusive. There are additional sensitive areas that have temporal and spatial closures at key times of the year. These are listed in the PHDP conditions.

There is a permit requirement for the PHDP holders to supply a catch return form on quantities of shellfish caught for each day of the month. The form requires the permit holders to record information including weight of catch, details of the area where the shellfish were caught and which Merchants purchased the catch and, when it was sold. In addition, any interactions with endangered, threatened and protected species have to be recorded. It is a compliance requirement as a permit condition to return this catch return form by the 14th of every month. Officers will liaise with the Permitting Officer to ensure that catch returns have been received and fully completed by this date and action any formal proceeding if the deadline are missed in line with the CEF.

Each year the PHD permit is issued to applicants providing they have met the criteria set out in the Access Policy. Officers will need to inspect dredge configuration at the beginning of the season for compliance with the permit conditions and to monitor and record any dredge modifications for the RPT.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
SO	Industry Engagement: April/May pre-season literature and meetings (Pre-season meeting)	May 2023

IFCOs	To monitor and record dredge modifications and report back to FMPT	24 th May – 23 rd December 2023
IFCOs	To monitor compliance of PHD Byelaw and permit conditions and report any infringements	24 th May – 23 rd December 2023

Other Regulations

National and EU Legislation

In addition to Southern IFCA Byelaws, fishing activity is also regulated through National Legislation. The MMO provides information in the form of the “Blue Book” which contains all relevant fisheries legislation and can be found on the following website

[Fishing regulations: The Blue Book - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) in particular Council Regulation EC 2019/1241 which can be found in the following link [Technical Conservation 2019 - Rules and regulations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) The enforcement of National legislation is conducted by Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCO’s), Marine Enforcement Officers (MEOs), Royal Navy personnel, Police Officers and other officials that have been warranted to conduct enforcement operations and have powers appropriate to the relevant

Poole Harbour Several Order Lease Conditions

There has been a Fishery Order in Poole Harbour since 1915, this gives the Authority the ability to manage aquaculture fishing activity in a defined area set out in the Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 (PHFO) and Management Plan (MP). The PHFO is severed from the public right to fish. This means nobody other than the leaseholders are allowed to remove shellfish of any kind from the defined leased beds. The MP is a requirement of the PHFO and stipulates that the Authority must manage the fishery area in accordance with the MP which outlines the extent of the Order and the management of activity within this defined area. Poole Harbour has one of the largest farmed Pacific oyster beds in the UK.

Lease conditions should be complied with by lease holders daily during their farming operations. Officers can check that lease holders are being compliant in line with their signed Business Plan and Summary Statements and with the conditions set out on the Southern IFCA Poole Fishery Order 2015 MP. A copy of the MP and PHFO can be found on the Authorities website and can be accessed by the links below: [Aquaculture : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](http://southern-ifca.gov.uk)

CET will ensure that the lease holders are compliant with their Summary Statements, Business Plans and MP when laying, harvesting and cleaning leased ground. Inspections will be carried out on the leased ground, to check that the shellfish stipulated in their Business Plans and Summary Statements, is the same as on their leased ground. To check the vessels being used are compliant with the lease agreement and Business Plans. To process dispensation applications that are issued on a yearly basis and that the rent for the beds are paid within the stipulated time set out in their leases.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
DCO& IFCO	To carry out inspections of live shellfish being delivered to leased beds as per the biosecurity management plan.	All year round
DCO& IFCO	To ensure lease bed holders are complying with their lease arrangements.	All year round
IFCO	Check reports on mortality of shellfish and report to CEFAS	All year round
BST	Send out half yearly rent reminder letters with correct rent required and that it is paid in the stipulated time set out in their lease	June & December 2023
DCO & SO	Send out dispensation applications annually	December 2023

Compliance with Poole Harbour Several Order Biosecurity Measures Plan

Under the Poole Fishery Order 2015 Southern IFCA is registered and authorised to operate an Aquaculture Production Business or (APB) under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

The Biosecurity Measures Plan (BMP) is a live document which records the annual movement of shellfish seed coming onto the leased ground and monitors the shellfish leaving the aquaculture beds. When seed shellfish is imported from outside of the UK, CET Officers have a responsibility to ensure that the correct information to inform CEFAS (Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI), has been entered through the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS). An Aquatic Animal Health notification form (AAH1) has to be submitted ahead of any import from Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man and Northern Ireland (i.e. within UK but outside of GB) and AAH2 form notification on new sources of imported shellfish. These forms notify CEFAS, five days in advance of any planned import of molluscs that are susceptible to, or vectors of, the diseases that are covered in Council Directives and a schedule of the Aquatic Animal and Health (England & Wales) Regulations 2009. This also covers any unexplained or unusual mortalities. The notifiable diseases are divided into three categories (Exotic, Non-Exotic & Emerging) in the table below and are listed in the BMP. The BMP can be inspected at any time by CEFAS to ensure compliance with the APB by checking any imports, movement, and mortality of shellfish within the UK.

Notifiable Diseases Table		
Exotic		
	Disease	Susceptible Species
Molluscs	<i>Bonamia exitosa</i>	Australian mud oyster, Chilean flat oyster
	<i>Perkinsus marinus</i>	Pacific oyster and eastern oyster
	<i>Mikrocytos mackini</i>	Pacific oyster, eastern oyster, Olympia flat oyster, European flat oyster
Non – Exotic		
	Disease	Susceptible Species
Molluscs	<i>Mattellia refringens</i>	Australian mud oyster, Chilean flat oyster, European flat oyster, Argentinian oyster, blue mussel. Mediterranean mussel
	<i>Binamia ostreae</i>	Australian mud oyster, Chilean flat oyster, Olympia flat oyster, Asian oyster, European flat oyster
Emerging		
	Disease	Susceptible Species
Molluscs	ostreid herpesvirus (OsHV-1 μ Var)	Southern IFCA currently also has Article 43 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC measures in place.
Molluscs	Norovirus (NoV) Caliciviridae	NoV can enter the coastal zone via wastewater discharges resulting in contamination and can persist for several days

The Authority is notified once a year by CEFAS, who carry out a regulatory compliance inspection of the APB and BMP. CEFAS FHI cross check all the Shellfish movements in and out of the Poole APB and verify these have been recorded correctly.

Officer(s)	Compliance of the movement of live shellfish to leased ground	Date(s)
DCO & IFCO	Live upload of imports onto IPAFF System	All year round
DCO & IFCO	Annual Compliance inspection by CEFAS on Biosecurity Document	All year round
IFCO	Annual catch return Defra	March 2023
DCO & IFCO	Engagement with Lease Holders & CEFAS	All year round

Dispensations

The Authority's byelaws must be complied with by all those targeting sea fisheries resources. There may be occasions when someone or an organisation requires access to areas or carryout fishing activity for restocking or scientific research. In these circumstances and where the byelaw permits, applicants are required to submit a request to the Southern IFCA for a dispensation from a condition to comply with a particular byelaw.

Applicants are required to submit a dispensation request form, informing the Authority which byelaw they would wish to have an exemption from. The request for a derogation sets out the criteria and obligations (from which byelaw, location, supporting maps, time, vessel details, gear description, details of the activity and any mitigation to minimise impact) the applicant must complete as part of the process and must include sufficient information to enable Officers to make an informed decision before issuing any dispensation.

Each request is assessed individually on its merits in terms of the likely effect on the fishery and environment. In its assessment the Authority, having regard for its principal objective and its statutory duties, will consider, amongst other things, the impacts as set out in the application. If the Southern IFCA is satisfied that the information provided by the applicant meets the minimum requirements and considers the dispensation request is justified, then the Authority will issue a relief from the relevant byelaws applied for in the dispensation.

The applicant is required to justify the dispensation request in terms of both specific circumstances and exceptional duration. Applicants are advised to give as much notice as possible when making dispensation requests, as there may be a requirement for more information if there is not enough to satisfy the granting of a dispensation and any special conditions.

When applications are received the Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) will consider and process applications providing the applicant has demonstrated the following:

That there is NO:

- Significant risks associated with the non-compliance
- Avoidable adverse impacts (immediately or in the longer term)
- Additional measures that could be taken to further mitigate the impact
- Outstanding objections from other parties who are materially affected by the non-compliance
- Competitive advantages to the applicant arising from the dispensation
- Other reasonable options to address the non-compliance that have not been considered

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
DCO	To consider applications and reply within stipulated timescale	All year round

DCO & RPT	To review applications in order to ensure compliance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (legislation.gov.uk)	All year round
SO	To act as back up to DCO when required to do so	All year round

Monitoring Codes of Practice

The CET will monitor compliance with codes of practice that the Authority introduces in line with its risk-based intelligence led approach, where a breach of the code is detected this will be logged utilising the intelligence reporting system and will be shared with the RPT for consideration of management interventions. The CET will also continue to collect key monitoring data for example fishing vessel sightings and inspection reports which will support the successful monitoring of Codes of Practice. The CET will also utilise the seasonality table to inform engagement surrounding codes of practice.

Compliance with Wrasse Fishery Guidance

Wrasse Fishery Guidance was introduced for any person commercially targeting this species, it is a voluntary management measure to monitor the fishery and protect the long-term sustainability of wrasse populations within the Southern IFCA District.

No take zones form part of the guidance, indicating to the commercial industry where fishing for live wrasse should not take place. This includes maximum fish depth for pots, rod and line fishing and restricting pots to eighty per vessel. There is also a closed season on the wrasse fishery is between 1 April – 30 June and catch data must be submitted through sales notes to the MMO and catch returns to Southern IFCA. The MCRS Byelaw introduces a legal size to the Wrasse species replacing the voluntary management measures.

There is a requirement for CET Officers to gather information to feed into the Monitoring and Control Plan put in place by the RPT that inform future potential management.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
IFCO	Carry out compliance inspections inline with the monitoring and control plan	During open season
IFCOs	To work with the industry and gain further knowledge of Wrasse fishery	Throughout the year
IFCOs	To ensure compliance with the MCRS Byelaw	All year round

Compliance Poole Harbour Saltmarsh Code of Practice

Salt marsh is a coastal ecosystem in the upper coastal intertidal zone between land and open saltwater or brackish water that is regularly flooded by the tides. These are highly sensitive, dynamic environments that are important to nature. Saltmarsh is a supporting habitat for the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA), Southern IFCA as a Competent Authority under the Conservation Regulations need to demonstrate ‘no adverse effect’ through the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

A Code of Practice is in place as a voluntary measure to protect Saltmarsh that is not protected under the PHDP Byelaw.

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
DCO/ SO	To ensure monitoring data is collated to inform compliance assessment with the CoP	24th May – 23rd December 2023
IFCO	To provide Drone support to monitor spatial restrictions	24th May – 23rd December 2023
IFCOs	To collate vessel sightings data from FPV E to feed into monitoring of CoP.	2024
IFCOs	To engage with permit holders to encourage compliance with the CoP.	2024

5.0 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The delivery of the IFCA Vision is fundamental to successful compliance and co-operation of stakeholders from the recreational sea angling and commercial fishing sectors. CET Officers attend meetings with the local community including Angling and Commercial Associations and other community forums. In addition, Officers work with partner enforcement agencies such as the Police, Environment Agency, Environmental Health and MMO. The objectives for communicating with stakeholders from all sectors is to raise awareness, identify issues and to gather information that informs the development of inshore fisheries management measures. Collaboration and community participation are principles that are entrenched across the entire characteristics of the Southern IFCA model.

The Authorities Communication Plan sets out how Southern IFCA will approach communication and aspects of engagement with the community and stakeholders. It aims to ensure that people understand how as an organisation we plan to engage with others to help us make the right decisions for delivering the vision. The CET have a responsibility to communicate up to date information on current legislation and investigation outcomes through press releases based on successful prosecutions. There is a key message that runs through all the work areas regarding communication and engagement with all stakeholder sectors, which is evident through this strategy.

The Compliance and Enforcement Framework and Compliance Risk Register that supports this strategy, ensures a consistent and transparent approach across the CET work stream. This includes all stages of operational delivery and accountability, during any of the FPT's decision-making. Part of the process of introducing new Byelaws is ensure adequate training is provided to the Officers. This will allow Officers to be fully aware of the legislation when communicating with stakeholders from the recreational and commercial sectors. Additional supporting documentation such as FAQs and posters will be utilised to inform industry (commercial and recreational) and stakeholders during implementation periods.

Southern IFCA Officers continually engage with stakeholders, local organisations and the general public through land and sea patrols, attending meetings, giving presentations, lectures and displaying educational information. It is vital for Officers to keep the fishing industry updated and advised of any changes. This also includes other stakeholders and members of the public on matters such as updates to management measures, current and relevant regulations relating to the District that includes Officers from the CET attending key stakeholder groups and events.

Stakeholder engagement is important for gaining trust from the commercial and recreational sectors in the work Southern IFCA carries out, communicating to all stakeholders and maximising better compliance whether it be voluntary or a legal requirement. Information is communicated through the following methods listed below:

- Land patrols
- Sea Patrols
- Attending Sea Angling and Commercial fishermen's Associations and public meetings
- Communication Packages
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Open days
- Information stands
- Website updates

Officer(s)	Planned Stakeholder Meetings for 2023 - 2024	Date(s)
SO	Poole and District Sea Angling Association	Quarterly
IFCO	South West Aquaculture Network	When required
DCO	Poole and District Fishermen's Association	When required
DCO	South Coast Fishermen's Council	When required
DCO/ SO	Local and Regional Rural Crime Meetings	Quarterly
DCO	National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group	Quarterly
IFCO	Other local engagement & advisory groups	When required

Fishing Gear Restrictions & Seasonal Changes

Southern IFCA will increase engagement with industry during seasonal changes through several methods, including stakeholder engagement, social media, and engagement with commercial and recreational fishers. Educational materials and information leaflets will be produced and circulated through industry prior to the date of the change where appropriate. Please refer (ANNEX 1).

Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
IFCO	To utilise social media platforms & the Southern IFCA Website to publicise key seasonal changes prior to change	When required
IFCO	To note seasonal changes on TCG tactical assessment prior to change.	When required
IFCO	To update IFCO Crib & District Wide Seasonality Chart when new regulations are introduced.	When required
DCO / SO	Control and Enforcement Training when introducing new Byelaws to ensure adequate training is provided to support community engagement.	Quarterly

6.0 Working in Partnership

Joint Fisheries Statement

[Joint Fisheries Statement \(JFS\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Southern IFCA will need to have regard to the Fisheries Act 2020 and therefore the JFS in relation to Fisheries Monitoring and Enforcement, The JFS states that;

- Fisheries enforcement provides an assurance of compliance leading to a higher confidence level of the data for fisheries products removed from UK waters. Accurate data allows for robust analysis that supports the scientific evidence objective.
- The national fisheries authorities will work together to continue to deliver on the UK's commitment to sustainable fishing by ensuring effective enforcement of fishing by all vessels in UK waters and UK vessels, wherever they may be fishing in the world. Where appropriate, the fisheries enforcement authorities will cooperate and collaborate to assure compliance with their respective regulations.
- Each national fisheries authority will regulate and enforce fisheries using methods that are appropriate and proportionate to their respective waters and fisheries. The introduction of any new monitoring or surveillance regime will be proportionate and based on the best available evidence.
- Fisheries enforcement authorities will work together where appropriate to ensure enforcement meets the requirements of the legislation in place and the legal framework under which they operate, ensuring where feasible, a consistency in approach and simplification of existing procedures.
- Fisheries enforcement authorities will carry out enforcement that is intelligence led, risk-based or is required by the UK's international obligations. Enforcement of the respective regulations will be in line with applicable guidelines for regulators.

- Effective fisheries monitoring and enforcement is the key requirement to ensure we are aware of which vessels fish in UK waters, when they are in UK waters and how much catch is removed from UK waters. This supports all of the fisheries objectives, with particular emphasis on the sustainability and precautionary objectives.

Working with other Fisheries Regulators

- Having knowledge of partnership regulations when carrying out compliance work is invaluable, as other infringements may be detected during inspections and observations. Other regulators that Southern IFCA Officers work with can be seen in the table below, planned joint working for 2023/24 and priority areas are described in the right hand column;

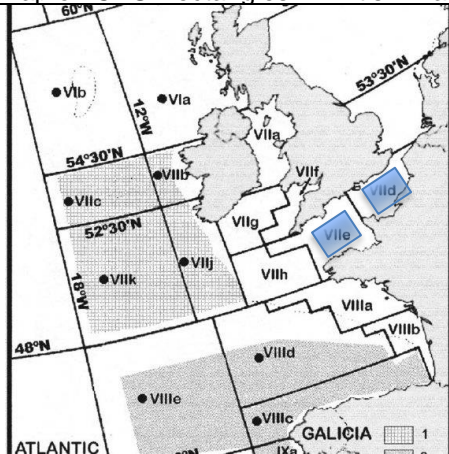
Regulator	Background	Planned work for 2023-2024
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	MMO is a non-departmental public body established under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to ensure marine activities are carried out sustainably	Joint compliance patrols with a focus on engagement & compliance checks. National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) task and finish groups including delivery of JFS.
Environment Agency (EA)	A non-departmental public body responsible to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). For rivers and out to 6 miles on migratory species	Cross warranting arrangements in place. Particular focus on Netting activity within estuarine & Harbour areas within the IFCA District.
Dorset and Hampshire Police	Marine Sections and Rural Crime Teams	Support Operation Seabird & Operation Seagoing.
Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Marine Surveyors	Recording and reporting the wearing of PFDs.
Port Health Officers (PHO)	Environmental Health Officers from all constitute Authorities	Joint patrols and inspections of premises, information shared regarding non-compliance with shellfish classifications.
UK Border Force (UKBF)	Enforcement Officers	Joint patrols and reporting possible infringements detected. Engagement through NMIC/ JMOCC.
Gang Labour and Abuse Authority (GLAA)	Enforcement Officers	Joint patrols and reporting possible infringements detected particular focus on shore gathering.
National Food Crime Unit (NFCU)	Enforcement Team	Information sharing.
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)	Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI)	Joint inspections of shellfish being stored and exported. Joint work on biosecurity in Poole Harbour.
UK Immigration	Enforcement Officers	Joint work on shore patrols with particular focus on shore gathering.

Marine Control and Surveillance System (MCSS)

Southern IFCA have joint access to upload records of physical inspections onto a national data base called MCSS. The system is facilitated by the MMO and CEFAS and uses International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) rectangular areas as a way of recording fishing

effort. ICES is a leading multi-disciplinary scientific forum for the exchange of information and ideas on all aspects of marine data pertaining to the North Atlantic. Southern IFCA's District covers ICES rectangular areas VIIId and VIIe highlighted in blue on the map below. The information uploaded onto the system are sightings from FPVs, sightings from the Drone, physical inspections of vessels, vehicles, premises or person(s). All the data is stored on a secure system and protected under the DPA 1998 and GDPR. Infringement and prosecution outcomes are also uploaded on to the database. There is a guidance book provided by CEFAS on how to upload and search for data. This guidance stipulates what information can be accessed and used for in line with DPA and GDPR legislation.

Map of ICES Rectangles in British Waters



Officer(s)	Planned activity 2023 – 2024	Date(s)
IFCOs	Input inspection and sighting information onto the MCSS data base	Daily
IFCOs	To attend any training when required and disseminate any updates to the whole team	When required

ANNEX 1 - Southern IFCA Compliance and Enforcement Seasonal Changes													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
DISTRICT-WIDE Seasonal Changes													
Bass Nursery Areas - Bass (Specified Areas) Order 1990						Closed Season (specified areas) 30 th Apr – 1 st Nov							
Bass Emergency Measures Order 2020/123	Catch and Release Only		The Fleet - Closed season - All year									C&R only	
			For Recreational Fishers										
			1 st March – 30 th Nov - no more than 2 bass > 42cm per person, per day										
Oyster Closed Season Byelaw	Commercial Closed Feb & Mar		Closed Season – 1 st March – 31 st October										
Cockles Byelaw	Closed 1 st Feb - 30 th Apr												
Periwinkles Byelaw						Closed season 15 th May - 15 th Sep							
Wrasse Guidance					Closed 1 st Apr – 31 st Jun								
Poole Harbour Seasonal changes													
Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw	Closed season 24 th Dec - 24 th May				PHDP season open 25 th May – 23 rd December								
					BSAs Closed		PHDP Bird Sensitive Areas (BSA) open 1 st July - 31 st Oct			BSAs Closed			
Poole Harbour Shellfish Handgathering Byelaw	Closed season (Specified Areas) 1 st Nov - 31 st Mar									Closed season (Specified Areas) 1 st Nov - 31 st Mar			
Poole Harbour Prawns Closed Season Byelaw	Closed season 1 st Jan – 31 st July												
Poole Harbour Bait Digging Agreement	Holes Bay North & Seagrass Beds Whitley Lake – Bait digging prohibited <u>all year</u>												
	Holes Bay South 1 st Jan - 28 th Feb												
	Bird sensitive areas 1 st Nov - 30 th Mar								BSAs 1 st Nov - 31 st Mar				
The Solent Seasonal Changes													
Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw						The Solent - No dredging for Scallops 1 st Apr - 30 th Sep							
	No dredging in S'oton Water, Portsmouth Hbr, Langstone Hbr 1 st Mar – 31 st Oct												
Other Seasonal Changes													
Fixed Engines Byelaw						Closed (Specified Areas) 1 st Apr – 30 th Sep							
						Closed (Lyme Bay) 1 st May – 31 st Jul							
Fishing Under Mechanical Power Byelaw						Closed (Chesil) 1 st May – 31 st Aug							
EA Seasonal Changes													
EA Christchurch Harbour Fixed Engine Byelaw			Fixed Engine (Christchurch Harbour area) and Bottom Nets (Christchurch Box) Closed - 15 th Feb - 30 th Sep										
KEY:	Orders	Byelaws	Code of Practice	Other Agency									

OFFICER'S REPORT

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATED

Report by Deputy Chief Officer Dell

A. Purpose of the Report

To report to Members on the updated Compliance and Enforcement Framework

B. Recommendation

That Members agree the updated Compliance and Enforcement Framework (**Annex 1**)

1. Background

1.1 First published in July 2013

1.2 This document establishes how Southern IFCA will approach compliance and enforcement. This document is part of a process of demonstrating the use of a transparent, risk-based enforcement framework that meets the standard set out in Defra Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on the Establishment of a common enforcement framework (**Annex 2**).

1.3 IFCA Success Criteria 2 states: IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime. This document sets out an enforcement framework that is intelligence led and compliant with government best practice.

2. Summary of Updates and Changes

	Details of Updates and Changes made to C&E Framework
Page 2	Inclusion of reference to Success Criteria 2.
Page 4	Map of district updated
Page 4	"Fines applicable to byelaw offences have risen from a maximum of £50,000 to unlimited" opposed to maximum of £5,000 to £50,000
Page 5/6	Update to IFCA Enforcement Powers to reflect changes in legislation, and inclusion of Delegated Marine Enforcement Powers under section 235(1)(a) MaCAA 2009.
Page 6	Rewording under the Byelaw review section to recognize Byelaws which have been reviewed and introduced since 2011.
Page 7	Removal of Authorities commitment to review and update Risk Register annually, this is not an obligation the Authority has met to date and is only necessary on changes to legislation, Compliance and Enforcement Team DCO has committed in the Team Strategy that a review is scheduled for 2023/24.
Page 10	Removal of diagram of Intelligence Led Model removed as out of date.
Page 10	IFCA Assets section updated to reflect current situation.
Page 15	Customer Complaints Procedure Added to meet Defra guidance
Page 16-19	Removed information as fisheries data is out of date, aim to is to future proof the Framework.

Sam Dell
Deputy Chief Officer

List of Background Papers

1. Annex 1 Compliance and Enforcement Framework_2023
2. Annex 2 Defra Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on the Establishment of a common enforcement framework



Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Compliance and Enforcement Framework.

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Compliance and Enforcement Framework

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry

Purpose of the Document

This document sets out how Southern IFCA will approach compliance and enforcement. The IFCA is committed to the attainment of a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime. This document is part of a process of demonstrating the use of a transparent, risk-based enforcement framework that meets the standard set out in government guidance and is continuously reviewed and improved. This document sets out an enforcement framework that is compliant with government best practice. The document establishes a framework from which annual risk based enforcement plans may be developed. The document describes the IFCA's intelligence led approach and the enforcement actions available and aims to underpin delivery of **IFCA Success Criteria 2: IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.**

First draft published July 2013
Second draft published March 2023
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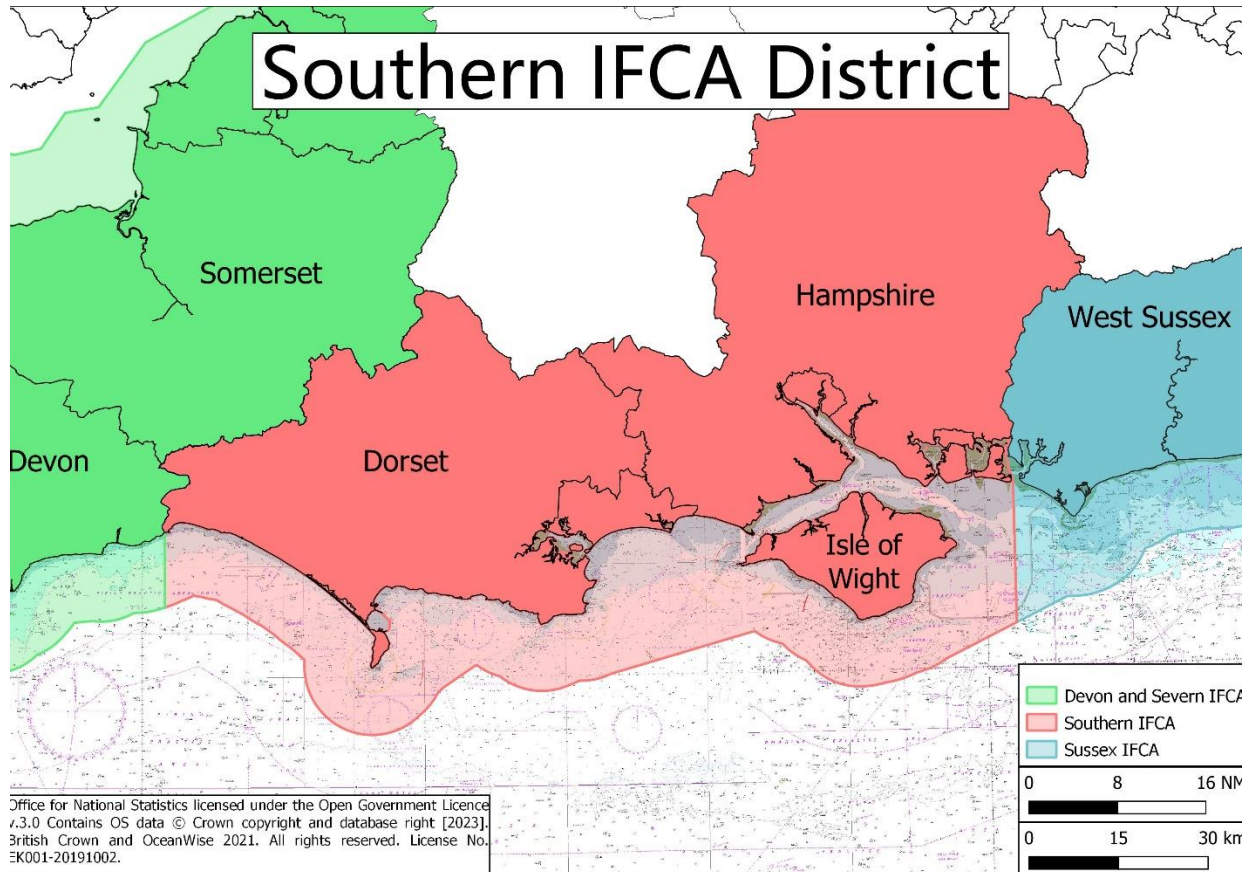
This report is available to download from
www.southern-ifca.gov.uk
Alternatively a hard copy can be viewed at:
Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Unit 3 Holes Bay Park, Sterte Avenue West, Poole, Dorset. BH15 2AA
Tel: 01202 721373
Email enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk

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Introduction

On the 1st April 2011, the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (the Authority) was fully vested under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA). The Authority took over the fisheries and conservation management responsibilities from the Southern Sea Fisheries District Committee (SFC) and the Environment Agency (EA) within the new district. The Authority's district covers all tidal waters (out to six nautical miles from the 1983 baselines) within Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.



Fisheries management only succeeds with an integrated approach encompassing communication, research and enforcement. Full compliance with EU, UK and local fisheries and environmental legislation is the overall aim of the Authority. This aim is best achieved through the adoption of an adaptive co-management approach to fisheries management. The key to achieving high compliance is ensuring that those users who are potentially affected have a real opportunity to engage with the Authority over the local management approach to be taken. By engaging in the management process, the Authority and all users get a far better understanding of the requirements of the other interested parties. Conflicts of interest will not always be resolved but, having gained an understanding of why actions are taken; affected users are far more likely to accept the approach taken.

Where consensus with the management approach is not achieved or where the potential gain is significant, the risk of illegal activity increases. The risk is even greater where an effective enforcement deterrent is not in place. The deterrent is only effective where the risk of enforcement action is high and the consequences are serious. In recognition of the need to have an effective deterrent, fines applicable to byelaw offences have risen from a maximum of £50,000 to unlimited.

The Authority uses various compliance measures to ensure, where possible, that no person(s) illegally engaged in fishing related activity removes fishing opportunities for others or gains an unfair market advantage by breaking the rules and that law abiding person(s) are not disadvantaged by being compliant. It will also seek to use appropriate compliance and enforcement measures, where it considers it to be necessary, to ensure that the marine environment is not adversely affected by fishing activities.

This document describes Southern IFCA's Risk Based Approach to Compliance which is informed by the IFCA's Intelligence Led Model.

BACKGROUND

Better regulation

Where the Authority undertakes compliance activity, it will work in accordance with the Hampton Principles of Better Regulation as set out in the Regulators' Compliance Code and the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 (as amended). In carrying out its functions, the Authority will ensure that:

- We abide by the Code for Crown Prosecutors
- any action taken, including compliance related or investigative, is proportionate to specific, identified, risk or need for intervention;
- it is accountable for its regulatory activity – to its stakeholders, its partner organisations, Ministers, local taxpayers, the general public and the Courts;
- its actions are consistent, in that it should make similar (but not necessarily the same) decisions about activity in similar circumstances, in accordance with its delegated responsibilities, statutory objective and guidance;
- its regulatory actions are transparent, by publishing information to its regulated stakeholders indicating what enforcement action it can take and may take in appropriate circumstances;
- all its activities and, in particular those that would place a "burden" on a regulated person (such as monitoring, inspection, investigation and compliance actions), are targeted using a risk based approach, ensuring such action is for a specific identifiable need, for example, limiting random inspections to specific identified compliance requirements;
- Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) appointed by the Authority are highly trained, competent and adhere to the inspection code of practice; and
- it works closely with partner organisations to make best use of available resources and share information.

Regulations that the IFCA's manage

Southern IFCA manage sea fisheries resources through a suite of measures including byelaws. A full copy of these byelaws may be found here: [All Regulations : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk) Southern IFCA also has powers to enforce certain national regulations for the protection and management of sea fisheries resources.

IFCA enforcement powers

It was recognised through the drafting of the MaCAA that the enforcement powers available to the Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) needed updating to provide IFCA's with a greater ability to effectively enforce the legislation available to them. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers' (IFCOs) common enforcement powers are conferred by sections 245 to 261 and fisheries enforcement powers conferred by sections 264, 268, 269 and 284 of

MaCAA. IFCOs also have powers under the Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Conservation Measures) Order 2000 as amended.

IFCOs have these powers for the purpose of enforcing:

- Any byelaws made under section 155 or 157 of MaCAA for the district (or having effect as if so made); Sections 1 to 3, 5 and 6 of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 (c.84) and any Orders made under any of those sections;
- Any provision made by or under an Order under section 1 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 (c.83);
- Any provisions of, or any rights conferred by, section 7 of that Act;
- Any byelaws made under section 129 or 132 of MaCAA;
- Section 140 of MaCAA;
- The Sea Fishing (Enforcement) Regulations 2018 (SI 849/18) (The Sea Fishing (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 2020
- Delegated Marine Enforcement Powers under section 235(1)(a).

Byelaw review

IFCAs are in the process of undertaking a review of all of the inherited byelaws as well as introducing and reviewing existing byelaws introduced since 2011. This provides the Authority with an opportunity to develop legislation that supports better management of sea fisheries resources and increases its ability to deliver the duties under section 153 and 154 of MACAA. In line with the proposals set out in the Authority's Annual Plans, the outcomes of the byelaw reviews create a legislative structure to support the delivery of the IFCA vision. The review of the byelaws will also allow the drafting of legislation that is easier to enforce.

The legislation may well be drafted to incorporate the greater use of technology in the enforcement approach adopted by the Authority. The new byelaws will also assist the IFCAs management of the illegal, unlicensed fishing activity that is a key pressure on both the commercial catching and recreational fishing sectors and further can threaten marine protected areas.

Compliance Risk Management

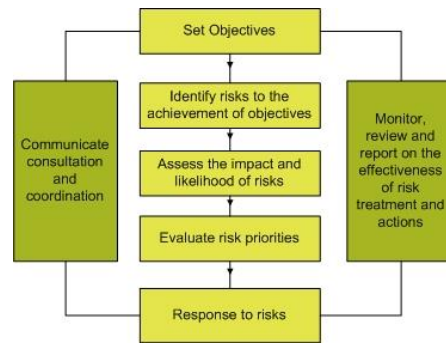
The IIA's¹ International Standards defines a risk as "the possibility of an event occurring that will have an impact on the achievement of objectives. Risk is measured in terms of impact and likelihood."

Risk management, is central to good governance and effective strategic management. It is a structured, consistent and continuous process for identifying, assessing, deciding on responses to and reporting on opportunities and threats that affect the achievement of its objectives.

Risk management in inshore fisheries management is concerned with positive and negative aspects of risk. In other words risk management is used to evaluate opportunities that may benefit the inshore fishery and marine environment (upside risk) as well as managing things that could have an adverse impact (downside risk). This means risk management can not only be applied in a holistic way it can also be used on a range of activities from strategic initiatives, projects and investments to processes and operations.

Diagram 1 The following diagram demonstrates a typical risk management process;

¹ International Institute of Auditors



Compliance Risk Register

The Authority operates a risk based approach to enforcement. The approach meets recommendations set out in the Hampton Review² and makes best use of the limited resources available. The approach is delivered through identifying the fisheries that occur in the district that the Authority currently manages or enforces legislation against.

Purpose

The Compliance Risk Register provides focus for enforcement activities and is a keystone document forming part of the Compliance Plan. The Register will identify priorities for enforcement based responses and operational plans that will be delivered making the best use of resources and providing the best possible protection regarding sea fisheries sustainability and the marine environment. A compliance Risk Register is a form of risk assessment and is used to identify and evaluate risks and their potential effect. This approach is taken so that together with key stakeholders and the wider community we can accurately gauge whether enough precautions are being taken or more should be done to prevent or reduce the harm to the sustainability of a fishery and/or the marine environment.

Risk Based Framework

To help analyse risks and develop proportionate enforcement action, Southern IFCA uses a matrix scoring system to identify the extent of the risk, its impact and the probability of such an occurrence. By using a risk based approach to our fisheries (which include the stock and method of fishing) this enables us to assess current enforcement activities and/or develop alternative initiatives where resources can be tasked efficiently against an accurate understanding of sustainability and emerging trends for both its regulatory infringement risk and conservation impact upon those fisheries and the marine environment. The overall risk level for each fishery is calculated as the mathematical product of the impact and likelihood levels (risk = impact x likelihood). From this product, which is called the Risk Value, each issue can be assigned a Risk Ranking, depending upon where a risk value falls within one of a number of predetermined categories. Colour coding denotes the overall risk level for each fishery and fishing method and gives guidance on whether the risk is low, medium or high. This makes it a simple procedure to highlight within the risk matrix how regulatory enforcement will be prioritised.

² <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/improving-regulatory-delivery/implementing-principles-of-better-regulation/the-regulators-compliance-code>

Risk Matrix

The following tables 1 & 2 explain the factors to be taken into consideration when scoring each risk value and table 3 is the risk matrix indicating the risk rankings and suggested outcomes. For example, for a risk where there is a major threat to the marine environment or stock and the likelihood is a common occurrence, a risk ranking of 20 is scored (impact 5 x likelihood 4) categorised as high risk and action would be necessary. Or, for a risk where there is no immediate threat to the marine environment or stock but it could occur, a risk ranking of 3 is scored (impact 1 x likelihood 3) categorised as medium risk and therefore light touch approaches such as education, self-regulation or even taking no action and just monitor the situation could be considered.

Table 1 Impact Definitions
Impact Table

Level	Descriptor
1	No immediate threat to the stock No immediate threat to the marine environment * No immediate threat to fisheries/conservation management system and reputation †
2	Minor threat to the stock Minor threat to the marine environment Minor threat to fisheries/conservation management system and reputation
3	Moderate threat to the stock Moderate threat to the marine environment Moderate threat to fisheries/conservation management system and reputation
4	Major threat to the stock Major threat to the marine environment Major threat to fisheries/conservation management system and reputation
5	Extreme threat to the stock Extreme threat to the marine environment Extreme threat to fisheries/conservation management system and reputation

* habitat / ecosystem / other species and/or endangered, threatened or protected species

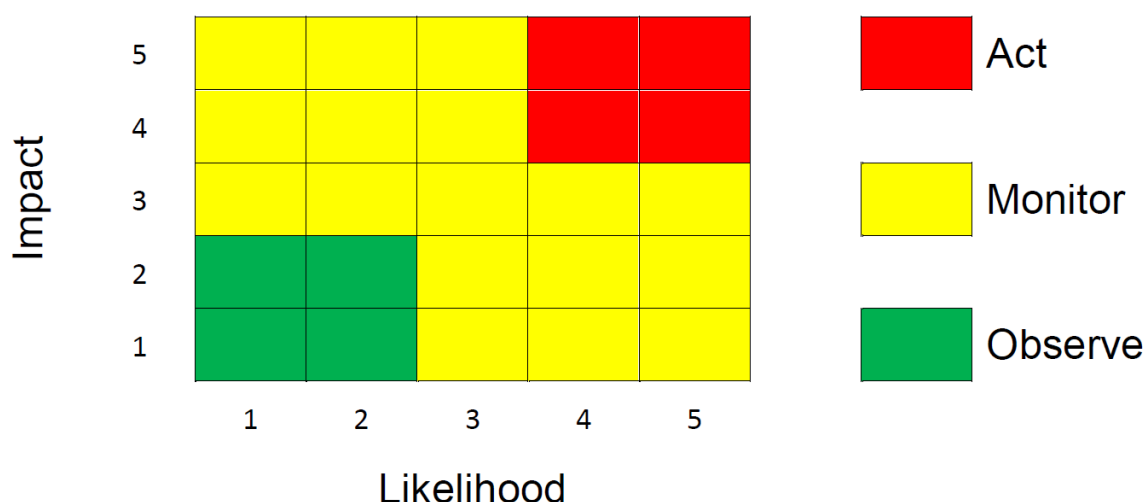
† Fisheries management system is the community led approach supported by industry and government institutions

Table 2 Likelihood Definitions
Likelihood Table

The Likelihood Table that was developed also has qualitative criteria that range from 'remote' to 'common or repeating occurrence'.

Level	Descriptor
1	Occurrence practically impossible (remote risk)
2	Not likely to occur or 'haven't heard of it happening'
3	Could occur, or 'I've heard of it happening'
4	Known to occur, 'it has happened in the past'
5	Common or repeating occurrence

Risk Matrix



Multiplication of numbers indicate risk value, the colours/shades indicate risk rankings, High - Act, Medium – Monitor and Low - Observe

Table 3 Classification of Risks

Removal of Undersized	Removal of undersized fish can have a deleterious effect on the fish stocks by removing animals before they have had a chance to reproduce. A consequence of the removal of undersized fish may be growth overfishing. One type of growth overfishing occurs when animals are harvested at an average size that is smaller than the size that would produce the maximum yield per recruit. This can reduce the yield in fisheries and is associated with economic impacts.
Fishing within a Prohibited Area	Protected Areas may be used to manage ecosystem overfishing. Marine Protected Areas are "Any area of the intertidal or sub tidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment." (IUCN) examples of marine protected areas include Marine Conservation Zones, Special Protection Areas, and Special Areas of Protection (amongst others). Protected areas may also be used or be associated with fisheries stock management benefits e.g. where they protect resources from exploitation at particularly vulnerable periods in their life history, or where they protect essential fish habitats from degradation.
Fishing within a Prohibited Period	Restricting the time that fishing can occur is used to reduce fishing effort and therefore mortality. Management by this mean can also be applied as an aid to compliance. Limiting the amount of time when a fishery is exploited influences the economic potential of a fishery and in so doing alters the types of fisheries which may be undertaken.
Fishing within a Prohibited Season	Management measures which create prohibited season (temporal restrictions) are used to protect resources from overexploitation at times when a species is particularly vulnerable to overexploitation or degradation. Examples of such times include when fish congregate to spawn.
Fishing with a Prohibited Method/Technique	By restricting certain fishing methods and techniques it is possible to reduce fishing effort to avoid growth, recruitment or ecosystem overfishing. This may be achieved by restricting larger, more efficient and/or damaging methods or by restricting certain gear configurations i.e. net mesh sizes so as to control the type of size of fish caught.
Fishing with Prohibited Gear Configuration/Quantity	By restricting certain fishing methods and techniques it is possible to reduce fishing effort to avoid growth, recruitment or ecosystem overfishing. For example, this may be achieved by restricting the length of fishing net which may be used.
Removal from the fishery	Restrictions on the removal of fish from the fishery may be as a consequence of a harvest control rule i.e. so as to avoid recruitment overfishing. Examples include the establishment of Total Allowable Catches (and their associated quotas), or to close fisheries in the advent of disadvantageous economic or resource conditions. They may also be used to ensure complete prohibition where species are unable to support economic harvest; this may be due to the animals' life history or prior overfishing.

Intelligence Led Approach

The risk management process is underpinned and supported by an intelligence led model (ILM). Southern IFCA as an intelligence-led organisation and by relies on information. Capabilities are built which enable information to be gathered, recorded, evaluated, disseminated, retained and disclosed as necessary from a range of available information sources. An ILM allows Southern IFCA to direct resources to collect information to fill identified knowledge gaps.

Information refers to all forms of information obtained, recorded or processed by Southern IFCA, including personal data and intelligence. Intelligence is defined as information that has been subject to a defined evaluation and risk assessment process in order to assist with decision making. In addition to being evaluated, information is analysed. Analysis involves identifying critical links and associations that assist in understanding risk, offending behaviour and demographic problems. From that analysis intelligence products are developed and considered at either strategic or tactical levels where priorities are identified and decisions are made on the deployment of resources. A review and evaluation of all the tactics employed is also undertaken to identify the lessons learnt to benefit future strategic and tactical directions. This analysis is then fed into the organisational memory and becomes a part of the organisation's information sources thereby enabling Southern IFCA to obtain an accurate overall picture of risks, emerging trends, priorities and the initiatives being delivered.

Intelligence is also used to inform the risk management process on the likelihood and impact of risk and develop responses to those risks based on best possible evidence against an accurate understanding of sustainability and emerging trends.

In Southern IFCA the ILM business process is imbedded into its risk management process.

IFCA Assets

The Authority currently employs 15 members of staff. Enforcement is the primary role for 6 of these officers. These officers also form the core crew for the Authority's vessels. Officers do not hold warrants until the Deputy Chief Officer is satisfied that they are competent in this role and they are properly trained. Initial training is given to all enforcement officers. IFCA Success Criteria 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.

Code of Conduct for Inspections

Southern IFCA in accordance with the principles of better regulation has published a code of conduct for inspections. This sets out how inspections will be carried out by Officers of the Authority. It can be viewed online here [CoC-Inspections-SIFCA.pdf \(toolkitfiles.co.uk\)](https://www.toolkitfiles.co.uk/CoC-Inspections-SIFCA.pdf)

The Authority has 3 main assets at its disposal for undertaking enforcement at sea. A vessel review is in the process of being undertaken. This has the potential to significantly change the way in which the Authority undertakes its seaborne duties.

Partnership working with other enforcement agencies is a requirement under the Authority's Success Criterion. This approach is already well established within the Authority with joint enforcement meetings and inspections (at sea and ashore) being regularly undertaken by IFCOs, Marine Enforcement Officers from the MMO and the Environment Agency. Southern IFCA has established a series of Memoranda of Understanding with partner organisations which establish how we work together.

The Authority liaises with other enforcement agencies including the Local Authorities, Food Standards Agency, Police (Civil and Military), Gangmasters Licencing Authority, UK Border Force and other IFCAs.

IFCAs have access to the Monitoring Control and Surveillance System (MCSS). This system collects fisheries effort data nationally to inform management and enforcement actions. Using such a system allows for greater intelligence sharing and better co-ordinated enforcement actions.

First and foremost our greatest asset for sources of information is the community we serve. We regard regular contact and engagement with the community as our most important source of information and through our Communication and Engagement plan we shall work to develop our links and methods of feedback to ensure that we are a listening organisation as well as being recognised and heard.

We take a systematic approach to the management of information. Southern IFCA employs a reporting system and shares information for the purpose of the prevention and detection of crime with partners through agreed frameworks. All information received regarding the prevention and detection of crime is analysed and evaluated and where appropriate acted upon through a tactical response i.e. proactive or reactive patrols or operations or through other appropriate means.

Summary of enforcement actions

The Authority will endeavour to use an adaptive co-management approach, where compliance is achieved through engagement, understanding and advice. Where compliance is not achieved by this approach, the Authority has a range of enforcement actions available to it:

Verbal warning

A verbal warning is issued when a minor infringement in legislation is detected. This approach is used to remind person(s) of relevant legislation and is recorded. If the person(s) commits a similar offence, the individual involved may face a higher level of enforcement action.

Advisory letter

Where it is believed that breaches of the law may have been committed and it is appropriate to do so, an advisory letter may be sent reminding the person(s) of the need to obey the law. This may be sent without prejudice to other purely civil remedies.

Official written warning

Where there is evidence that an offence has been committed but it is not appropriate to implement formal prosecution proceedings, an official written warning letter may be sent to the regulated person(s), outlining the alleged offending, when it occurred and what regulation(s) were breached. It will also set out that it is a matter which could be subject to prosecution should the same behaviour occur in the future. This may be sent without prejudice to other purely civil remedies.

Simple cautions

A simple caution (known previously as a Home Office Caution) may be offered by the Authority. Issuance of a simple caution may be deemed to be the most appropriate means to deal with the offence(s), particularly where there is no identified financial gain. A simple caution is only offered when the Authority is prepared to instigate legal proceedings and prosecute if the person(s) decides to decline the simple caution.

Financial administrative penalties

The Authority may issue a Financial Administrative Penalty (FAP), the level of which may be up to £10,000, as an alternative to criminal prosecution in certain circumstances. There are four basic levels of administrative penalty depending on the nature of the offence committed and where it is deemed appropriate for a financial administrative penalty (FAP) to be offered. These range from £250 to £2,000 as set out in the first column of the table below.

Penalty levels	First offence	Second offence	Further offences
Level 1	£250	£500	Referred for prosecution
Level 2	£500	£1,000	Referred for prosecution
Level 3	£1,000	£2,000	Referred for prosecution
Level 4	£2,000	£4,000	Referred for prosecution

All penalty offences have been categorised. Each category of offence has been rated according to the seriousness of the breach in question to determine the basic penalty level. These levels also take into account historical analysis of court penalties while offering an incentive for you to opt against referral for prosecution.

Category	Penalty level	First offence	Second offence	Further offences
Marketing offences	1	£250	£500	Referred for prosecution
Miscellaneous	2	£500	£1,000	Referred for prosecution
Technical conservation (Gear)	3	£1,000	£2,000	Referred for prosecution
Technical conservation (Catch)	3	£1,000	£2,000	Referred for prosecution
Recovery offences	3	£1,000	£2,000	Referred for prosecution
Control offences (including Registered Buyers and Sellers and UK licence offences)	3	£1,000	£2,000	Referred for prosecution
Access	4	£2,000	£4,000	Referred for prosecution
Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing offences	4	£2,000	£4,000	Referred for prosecution
Undersize fish offences (UK, EU, byelaw)	2	£500	£1,000	Referred for prosecution
IFCA access offences	3	£1,000	£2,000	Referred for prosecution
IFCA technical conservation (catch)	2	£500	£1,000	Referred for prosecution
IFCA technical conservation (gear)	2	£500	£1,000	Referred for prosecution
IFCA permit	1	£250	£500	Referred for prosecution

Further information on FAPs is available in the Authority's FAP guidance posted on its website.

Prosecutions

The ability to take criminal prosecutions is essential in discouraging serious non-compliance; the purpose is to secure conviction and ensure that the offender can be punished by a Court at an appropriate level, thus acting as a deterrent to any future wrong doing to both the offender and others who may engage in similar criminal behaviour.

A prosecution may be commenced where it is felt that the matter is too serious or not suitable for another form of disposal such as a fixed administrative penalty, warning or caution.

In order to prosecute, the Authority has to be satisfied both that there is sufficient evidence of the alleged offending and that there is a clear public interest in taking criminal proceedings.

The Authority will only commence a prosecution if it is satisfied that there is a realistic prospect of conviction against each suspect on each charge on the available evidence. If a case does not pass this test, it will not go ahead regardless of how important or serious it may be.

If a case passes the sufficiency of evidence test, the Authority will consider whether it is appropriate to prosecute, or whether it is appropriate to exercise one of the enforcement options available to it as set out above. In determining the correct response in any individual case, the Authority will always take into account the public interest in prosecuting.

The following lists of public interest factors in favour and against prosecution are not exhaustive and each case must be considered on its own facts and on its own merits.

- whether the implications of the offending for the enforcement of the regulatory regime undermines the management approach taken.
- the impact of the offending on the environment, including wildlife, and also, where applicable, having regard to the objectives of Marine Protected Areas.
- with regard to offences affecting fish and fish stocks, whether recovery species are involved and any issues as to quota status.
- the financial benefit of the offending or other financial aspects of the offence, including the impact on other legitimate operators.
- whether the offence was committed deliberately or officials were obstructed during the course of the offending / investigation.
- the previous enforcement record of the offender.
- the attitude of the offender including any action that has been taken to rectify or prevent recurrence of the matter(s).
- where offences are prevalent or difficult to detect and the deterrent effect on others by making an example of the offender.

A prosecution is less likely to be required if:

- the court is likely to impose a nominal penalty;
- the seriousness and the consequences of the offending can be appropriately dealt with by an out-of-court disposal which the person(s) accepts ;
- the offence was committed as a result of a genuine mistake or misunderstanding;
- the financial gain or disturbance to sensitive marine habitat can be described as minor and was the result of a single incident, particularly if it was caused by a misjudgement;
- there has been a long delay between the offence taking place and the date of the trial, unless there are key mitigating circumstances that caused the delay;
- the person(s) played a minor role in the commission of the offence; the suspect is, or was at the time of the offence, suffering from significant mental or physical ill health.

Customer Complaints Procedure

Southern IFCA are committed to providing an exemplary service. If you are not satisfied with an aspect of our service, we encourage you to let us know and we will do our best to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. For full details [Feedback : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)

Summary

Southern IFCA is a small organisation with a broad range of powers and responsibilities. With over 2700 km² of coastal waters to manage Our coastal waters are home to some of the most important fisheries in England and include nationally and internally protected areas. With over 2700 km² of coastal water to manage it is essential that we make effective use of our resources.

This document establishes the framework for our Compliance Plan and describes our intelligence led approach. The framework of the risk register is intended to communicate how and why we allocate resources to risks and also to develop a dialogue with the community we serve. By establishing this process in an open and transparent manner we are inviting engagement in our risk planning. We consider that this will allow our compliance to be better directed and informed.

The intelligence led model which we employ demonstrates how the information we receive is considered and where necessary and appropriate acted upon. This approach is used both in a reactive and proactive fashion and at strategic and tactical levels. Our intelligence led approach informs our compliance risk register.

By summarising our enforcement actions we describe what actions may be taken so that this might act as a deterrent, but also to reassure those who abide by the law that the sanctions that are available to us may be a remedy to criminal activity

Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on the establishment of a common enforcement framework

This guidance is given in accordance with section
153 (3) of the Marine and Coastal
Access Act 2009

February 2011

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<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/ww/ifca/>

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1 Introduction

This best practice guidance is addressed to the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) and provides the structure of a common enforcement framework that can be adopted by IFCAs. The guidance has been developed after taking into consideration IFCAs' functions and resources and issued after consultation with IFCAs and other interested organisations and individuals. IFCAs must have regard to this guidance in carrying out their functions.

The enforcement framework is one of several documents that offer best practice guidance to help the work of IFCAs. These documents will be reviewed regularly and, if necessary, reissued in the light of any changes in marine management or other Government policy.

The framework is designed in line with the Regulators' Compliance Code¹, which is aimed at promoting efficient and effective approaches to regulatory inspection and enforcement. IFCAs will be expected to meet the standards of set out in the framework.

2 Structure of the framework

The framework consists of:

- An advice and guidance policy statement incorporating the key principles that will help those regulated understand regulations and how to comply with them.
- A sanctions policy statement to inform those regulated of the possible sanctions that may be applied for breaches of byelaws and how sanctioning decisions will be made.
- Principles for embedding risk based enforcement approaches.
- A common structure and approach to handling complaints.

For each of the above points the framework guidance provides examples and key principles for adoption and or adaptation to suite local IFCA district circumstances.

The framework is aimed at embedding a common approach to enforcement activity across IFCAs by:

- Applying common principles and approaches to risk based enforcement, helping to target resources and achieve best value from enforcement effort.
- Adopting a common approach to applying sanctions helping to establish a level playing field for those regulated.

¹ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/improving-regulatory-delivery/implementing-principles-of-better-regulation/the-regulators-compliance-code>

- Standardising (where appropriate) advice and guidance.
- Standardising (where appropriate) provisions for dealing with complaints
- Applying an evidence-based marine management cycle², aspects of which deal with risk management and enforcement.
- Deploying common enforcement approaches to help achieve the high level enforcement objectives agreed across IFCAs³
- Embedding the Five Principles of Good Regulation⁴:
 1. **Proportionate**: Enforcement action appropriate to the threats/risks posed.
 2. **Accountable**: IFCAs to justify enforcement activities and decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny.
 3. **Consistent**: IFCAs' enforcement rules and standards to be joined-up helping to establish a common playing field for those regulated.
 4. **Transparent**: Enforcement action should be open, and transparent.
 5. **Targeted**: Enforcement activity focused on the threats by applying risk-based approaches.

3 Guidance on setting out an IFCA enforcement advice and guidance policy statement

Each IFCA's enforcement policy statement is likely to differ to cater for local requirements and circumstance. However, for all IFCAs, the information must clearly define for the reader how the provisions for providing advice and guidance will be addressed, informing readers about the aims of such advice and guidance.

The statement should at least incorporate the following underpinning principles:

- Articulating the degree of commitment to providing advice and guidance. This is more than an outline of what IFCAs are legally obliged to do. To be effective, the statement should outline the involvement of IFCA members and Chief Fisheries Officers or Chief Executives in its preparation and be consistent with high-level IFCA objectives.
- Developing guidance that is based on a good understanding of those who will require it, so that all users are able to understand how it fits with their regulated activity.
- Guidance that is easy to understand so that those who are affected by the guidance should be able to read, understand and act on it after a single read.
- Guidance should be free of jargon and acronyms.

² Guidance to IFCAs on evidence-based marine management is at:

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/wwo/ifca/>

³ Guidance to IFCAs on evaluation and monitoring and measuring performance is at:

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/wwo/ifca/>

⁴ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation>

- Guidance that is issued in good time and accessible. Those who will have to comply with an IFCA's byelaws must have sufficient notice (unless it is an emergency) of any new byelaws coming into force or of any new processes or procedures.
- Guidance that is reviewed and improved. IFCAs should have monitoring and evaluation plans in place to enable them to determine the effectiveness of their advice and guidance.
- Detailed advice and guidance; the advice policy statement should link to the more tailored guidance that an IFCA aims to produce.

Below is a sample policy statement incorporating the key points that IFCAs must consider addressing when setting out their approach to the provisions of advice and guidance. However, it will be for IFCAs to create their own text suitable for the circumstances of each IFCA district.

Sample guidance policy statement

Introduction

IFCAs provide advice and guidance to help those regulated to comply with inshore fisheries regulation and protect the marine environment. IFCA members and staff strive to work together to regulate a wide range of fishing activities covering both commercial and recreational fishing out to six nautical miles and inland to IFCA district boundaries.

We provide a wide range of advice and guidance on our website, for example: (link to what is in place). We ensure that our guidance is produced using plain language and builds on existing good practice to improve services. Our primary aim is to help those regulated understand what they need to do and how to do it.

Developing guidance based on understanding those who use it

We understand that good guidance requires a detailed understanding of the target audience and that different sectors may have different guidance needs. Consultation is essential to producing good practical guidance. To be effective guidance requires input from stakeholders who can offer insightful and first hand expertise. Therefore, IFCAs aim to provide guidance that is structured around the user's ways of working, helping them see how the regulation fits into their regulated activities.

Simple, clear and easy to understand

Our goal is to provide guidance that is written in simple, clear, language without unnecessary jargon or acronyms. We strive to produce guidance that is easy to understand and assist compliance; however, we do not gloss over technical issues and if necessary include a comprehensive glossary of explanation.

We work to ensure that guidance contains statements of what users can expect from it and the limitations of such guidance, for example, where circumstances may not be covered by guidance and where it may be necessary to seek further advice.

Timely and accessible

We aim to give those regulated time to prepare for regulation, therefore we provide guidance on request and on our web site before regulation comes into force and ensure that such guidance is easily accessible.

Up to date and fit for purpose

Our aim is to review guidance to ensure that it is up-to-date and works for the user, therefore, guidance will cite the date when it was prepared and when it is due for review. IFC district committees work together (whenever practical) to provide a coordinated approach to advice and guidance and the sharing of best practise.

Face to face sharing of knowledge and experience

As professional bodies IFCAs aim to broaden the skills of their officers so that they can better provide advice and guidance that is based on the experiences and needs of differing sectors. This proactive approach helps to reduce burdens on those regulated of seeking information about, and comply with, the regulatory requirements across their activities.

Finding further guidance

We provide up to date information on the regulatory changes and events affecting our stakeholders in the updates section of each guidance page. You can access our written guidance and forms through the following [links](#). If you are looking for background information on the law that underpins our regulatory role please [click here](#).

4 Guidance on setting out a sanctions policy statement for IFCAs

The statement should reflect key principles and aims of IFCA sanctions. For example, that they are aimed at changing the behaviour of the offender, eliminate any financial gain or benefit from non-compliance, deterring future non-compliance and reassuring those who are complying. It should reflect the fact that IFCAs are responsive and consider what is appropriate and proportionate for the particular offender, this can include punishment and the public stigma that should be associated with a criminal conviction. Other underpinning principles that must be considered are:

- **The objective of enforcement**. The statement should inform those regulated that preventative or remedial action would be taken to secure compliance with the IFCAs byelaws. The statement should be informative regarding the types of actions that may lead to breaches of such byelaws and provide clear messages that in such circumstances IFCAs will not hesitate to use enforcement powers.
- **Acting in accordance with best practice**. The statement should set out how IFCAs are acting in accordance with best practice approaches when dealing with enforcement issues, for example, that IFCAs work in

accordance with the Five Principles of Better Regulation⁵ and the Hampton principles of effective and efficient enforcement⁶

- **The decision to prosecute.** The statement should set out the determining factors as to whether to prosecute or not, for example, determining the severity of the offence, ensuring that evidential, and public interest tests are applied when deciding whether to prosecute.

Below is a sample sanctions policy statement incorporating key points that IFCAs must consider when setting out their approach to the subject of sanctions. However, it will be for IFCAs to create their own text suitable for the circumstances of each IFCA district.

Sample sanction policy statement

Introduction

This policy will serve as a policy statement in which IFCAs set out the general principles they intend to follow in relation to prosecuting inshore fisheries offences. However, it is not intended to explain legislation or the legal process.

The objective of IFCA enforcement

As managers of inshore fisheries resources, our aim is to make sure those regulated take appropriate action to comply with relevant IFCA byelaws and the legislation which IFCAs will have a share in enforcing. The purpose of prosecution is to punish and deter, as well as to ensure that any benefits from non-compliance are removed and to reassure those who are complying.

Therefore, IFCA sanctions are (where possible) aimed at:

- changing the behaviour of the offender;
- deterring those who are not caught or who are minded to offend;
- eliminating any financial gain or benefit from non-compliance;
- reassuring those that comply with rules;
- being proportionate to the nature of the offence and the harm caused; and
- deterring future non-compliance.

IFCAs believe that prevention is better than cure and offer a wide range of advice and guidance to those regulated to help with compliance and to cut down on the amount of unnecessary paperwork and cost. We work with other government regulators such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, voluntary groups and non-governmental organisations in order to achieve our goals of managing inshore fisheries.

⁵ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation>

⁶ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/improving-regulatory-delivery/assessing-our-regulatory-system>

Acting in accordance with best practice

IFCAs bear in mind the Principles of Good Regulation when devising, enforcing and reviewing regulations. These are:

- **Proportionate:** Enforcement action appropriate to the risk posed.
- **Accountable:** Justifying decisions and subject to public scrutiny.
- **Consistent:** IFCAs' rules and standards (where appropriate) are joined-up and implemented in a consistent way.
- **Transparent:** Enforcement action that is open and transparent.
- **Targeted:** Enforcement activity focused on the threats, by applying risk-based approaches.

The decision to prosecute - The decision to prosecute is fundamentally determined by the severity of the offence, which is measured by a number of factors. When considering the suitability of a case for prosecution, the following tests are applied:

Evidential Test - This test considers whether there is enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction and that the evidence can be used and is reliable.

Public Interest Test - Where the evidential test is satisfied, IFCAs may go on to consider public interest factors to determine whether to prosecute an offender or consider whether an alternative course of action may be suitable.

Other considerations when considering whether or not to prosecute

- whether or not the offence was committed whilst the offender was under an order of the court, and whether, or not previous convictions or cautions are relevant to the present offence;
- evidence that the offence was premeditated;
- whether the offence was foreseeable;
- the level of intent to commit the offence;
- whether or not a voluntary disclosure of a sea fisheries offence had been made before an IFC authority had any suspicions of it, and;
- assess and account for the level of damage.

5 Guidance on applying risk-based enforcement principles and methods

Blanket routine inspections of all activities regardless of track record and potential risks involved with a given activity are unacceptable in a modern enforcement system. Such an approach to inspection will run the real risk of not making the best use of resources and not delivering the best possible protection regarding sea fisheries resources and the marine environment.

Consideration of risk at IFCA membership level

It is recommended that IFCA members should:

- Identify risks (threats) inherent in annual business plans and the approaches that are already in place to manage such threats as well as having an explicit understanding of the weaknesses (if any) in existing approaches.

- Think about the future goals of IFCA districts and manage the risks to attaining such goals as part of their role as strategic managers of the inshore environment.
- Ensure the capture of the existing experience and lessons learned as many of the risks faced by IFCAs may have already happened and been resolved sometime in the past or in another district.
- Ask other IFCAs, key government departments and stakeholders to review major enforcement strategies as external views can bring a valuable and fresh insight to the management of risks;
- Examine and assess the IFCA membership's own approach to risktaking. Each IFCA should seek to recognise and use the valuable diversity of experience within the IFCA membership structures.
- Consider attending relevant risk management training with a view of embedding such approaches into their culture.

IFCAs and the communication of identified risks

Risk communication deals with the exchange of complex information and opinion among individuals, groups, and institutions that often involves multiple messages about the nature of a given risk. IFCAs should consider how to communicate shared risks in a joined-up way by:

- Understanding the key messages to be delivered prior to, during and after any inshore fisheries incident.
- Agreeing the obstacles to effective communication and how these obstacles can be minimised or overcome;
- Consider/understand how those affected perceive the risks, for example, there may be those who may amplify or play down the risks for their own particular reasons.

Consideration of risks at IFCA officer level

IFCA officers should consider employing the following approaches:

- From the outset, officers need to be clear about their particular Authority's objectives and any cross-cutting IFCA district objectives as they will be required to identify risks to attaining such objectives in their daily work.
- Maintain "active" risk registers. If officers do not have an up to date view on the status of the risks to achieving IFCA goals, IFCA districts will be at risk of not delivering business plans and not carrying out statutory duties. Risk registers are an essential communication tool for officers to provide committees with a picture of potential threats and propose solutions. An example can be seen at annex A.
- For each risk, IFCA officers will need to be clear about the nature of the possible harm that may arise. This will help identify the best ways of managing the risks and the required resources. Officers will need to carry out a risk analysis to determine the likelihood of the risk materialising and the severity upon the district's objectives. Risk ranking tables can be

devised with various degrees of complexity. An example can be found at Annex B. IFCA's should develop such a tool using common methodology.

- When considering risk management methods, officers should be conscious of the impacts of adopting new regulation to address the threat. The 'regulate first' approach may mean that more effective and efficient methods are overlooked; therefore, all alternative methods to regulation should be considered.
- The approach to managing risks must (unless circumstances dictate otherwise) include wide communication and consultation as without such an approach IFCA's may be operating in a high-risk vacuum, leading to the development of risk management approaches that are not fully informed or tested.

6 Guidance on the key elements that should be considered when developing a common methodology for handling complaints

A core complaints handling process is one of the best ways of gaining valuable feedback on the services IFCA's provide. Such feedback is essential for the continuous improvement of district operations.

IFCA's should develop a coordinated process for handling complaints, one that reflects and enhances the culture of the industry and is driven by the search for improvement. The process should carry the authority of Chief Fisheries Officers or Chief Executives and IFCA members.

IFCA's should consider developing a common system that would incorporate the following key principles:

- A system that sets out the benefits for the customer and the organisation;
- A system that clearly articulates the IFCA approach to complaint handling;
- An IFCA definition of a "complaint", for example, "An expression of dissatisfaction, from a member of the public claiming to have suffered injustice as a result of action taken, or not taken, by or on behalf of the IFCA's in delivering its services and for which a remedy may or may not be sought".
- A system that is clear about who is responsible for taking, recording, resolving, analysing and reporting on complaints at differing stages of the process;
- A system that is transparent about how complaints will be logged as the recording of complaints accurately is an essential part of the procedure. Such recorded information should be analysed to identify themes or trends and presented to the IFCA members to ensure that, where a complaint is justified, action is taken to prevent the same situation recurring.
- A system that detects and reacts to common themes occurring across IFCA districts can be shared and resolved (when appropriate) using common approaches to provide a level playing field for those regulated across districts.

- It will be up to IFCAs to develop a fit for purpose complaints system incorporating the above points and to ensure that the systems are joined-up (where applicable) across IFCA districts and share lessons learned.

7 Annex A - Example of risk register template

The following is an example of some of the data that could be recorded in a risk register:

- IFC authority name IFCA X
- Risk number: 123
- Title: Impact from jet-ski
- MCZ area: XXX
- Key contacts: XXX

IFCA Objective/s affected	Outline of the risk/s	Implication and severity of risk/s	Probability of risk/s arising	Existing methods of dealing with the risk/s	Risk strategy/ actions Dates and milestones	Owner/s	Key resources	Key Stakeholders	Risk status/ Red, green amber. Risk ranking 1,2, or 3	Key valuation criteria

8 Annex B – Example Risk Ranking Table

In this example, the appropriate probability of the risk arising (a letter from A to E) and consequence of a risk (a number from 1 to 8) is selected from the list below and placed in a simple table.

Probabilities of risks arising:

- A - common or repeating occurrence
- B - known to occur, or "it has happened in the past"
- C - could occur, or "I've heard of it happening"
- D - not likely to occur if no action is taken
- E - practically impossible (remote risks)

Consequences of a risk:

- 1 - Fatality could be caused by fishing activity
- 2 - Serious impact on the sustainability of fish stocks
- 3 - Major damage to marine environment
- 4 - Moderate impact on the sustainability of fish stocks
- 5 - Moderate damage to marine environment
- 6 - Minor impact on sustainability of fish stocks
- 7 - Minor damage to marine environment
- 8 - No loss or damage to fish stock or marine environment

Risk ranking table for objective x

Probability	A	B	C	D	E
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>					
Consequence	3 and 8				

Risk ranking table for objective y

Probability	A	B	C	D	E
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>					
Consequence	7 and 8				

The example above indicates that for objective X there is a major risk to the marine environment, but low risk to fish stocks and the probability is that it will keep occurring. This would be recorded as a high risk and action would be necessary. For objective Y there is a remote risk (practically impossible) that there may be damage to the marine environment and no loss of fish stocks, therefore the IFCA Officer may use a wide range of light touch approaches such as education, self regulation or even taking no action and just monitor the situation.

OFFICER'S REPORT

**COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT
QUARTERLY REPORT**

Report by Deputy Chief Officer Dell

A. Purpose of the Report

To report to Members on the compliance and enforcement activities for the quarter November 2022 to January 2023.

B. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

C. Annexes

1. Compliance & Enforcement Quarterly Report November 2022 – January 2023

1. Compliance and Enforcement Summary

- 1.1 This report contains information relating to our enforcement activity for this reporting period in statistical format for inspections, patrols and offences detected and a quarterly summary of key enforcement operations and activities.

Sam Dell
Deputy Chief Officer

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

Compliance and Enforcement Report



Compliance & Enforcement Quarterly Report

November 2022 – January 2023



01202 721 373



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 - 2.3 Tactical Coordination Group
 - 2.4 Fisheries Patrol
- 3. Enforcement Activity**
 - 3.1 Intelligence reports
 - 3.2 Enforcement Activity Table
 - 3.3 Offence reports
 - 3.4 Offence Outcomes
- 4. Summary of key Enforcement Operations and Activities**
- 5. Compliance and Enforcement Team**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of the Southern IFCA risk-based approach to compliance and enforcement, the report also highlights key operational activities and statistical information for the previous quarter November 2022 to January 2023. The statistical data included in this report is aligned to national IFCA metrics that are reported to Association IFCAs (AIFCA) and Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) on an annual basis.

2. Background

2.1 Risk Based Enforcement

Southern IFCA is committed to achieving fair, effective and proportionate enforcement. The Compliance and Enforcement Framework sets out the Authority's approach and details the general principles the Authority will follow and the enforcement actions available. The Risk Register forms part of that Framework, providing focus and priorities for Southern IFCA's compliance and enforcement activities. The Risk Register identifies priorities in specific areas at different times of the year.

2.2 Intelligence Led Approach

Intelligence Reports (IRs) are the Authority's method of recording, storing, collating and the dissemination of intelligence that complement our risk-based approach. Additional intelligence together with access to the UK Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System¹ (MCSS) and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) maximizes the efficient use and deployment of resources on the ground. Southern IFCA uses the National Intelligence Model which incorporates a tasking and coordination process.

2.3 Tactical Coordination Group (TCG)

The TCG meeting is chaired by the DCO who makes decisions in relation to resourcing and enforcement priorities for the upcoming period (2 weeks). The aim of this meeting is to make decisions around resource allocation in order to make best use of resources and provide the best possible protection for fisheries and the marine environment within the Southern IFCA District, the TCG also decides what operational tactics will be deployed.

2.4 Fisheries Patrols

Southern IFCA officers conduct both land and sea-based patrols across the district. Southern IFCA operates three patrol vessels, patrols on board these vessels may take place at any time of day or night, and are used to observe fishing activity, engage with industry, carry out boarding inspections and to target reported illegal activity. On shore, Officers conduct land patrols to engage with industry, carry out inspections, observe activity at sea and in ports, visiting a number of locations across the district including commercial premises, recreational angling hotspots, piers, ports, beaches and quaysides. The Authority has also developed a drone capability and has procured two drones to support operational activity. This has enhanced our operational delivery and is used to record evidence of possible offences using the onboard camera from perspectives not previously possible, it has improved the prevention (deterrent) and detection of offending.

[Compliance & Enforcement : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)

¹ The UK reporting database of sightings, boarding, positions of vessels, prosecutions and other actions against infringements of UK and EU Fisheries. This system is managed by CEFAS on behalf of the MMO (also see RNSS). This also contains access to VMS data.

3. Enforcement Activity

3.1 Intelligence Reports

The following table demonstrates the information reports submitted for this reporting quarter.

Intelligence Reports	November	December	January	Total
IFCOs	25	8	12	45

3.2 Enforcement Activity Table

The following table demonstrates the enforcement activity and offences detected for this reporting quarter, these reporting metrics are aligned nationally to those requested by Defra. Fluctuations that occur in statistical figures can be as a result of a number contributing factors i.e. number of land based as opposed to sea-based patrols in any given month, staff resources, weather, other duties and the objectives of the patrols recognising the Authorities commitment to risk based intelligence led enforcement.

Category	Metric	November	December	January	Total
Inspections at sea	Vessel patrols	12	6	4	22
	Boardings/inspections	31	13	7	51
Inspections ashore or in a port	Metric	November	December	January	Total
	Shore patrols	11	4	6	21
	Port visits	10	6	8	24
	Premises inspections	5	1	2	8
	Landing inspections	5	3	1	9
	Vehicle inspections	3	0	0	3
	Gear Inspections	0	0	0	0
	Person Inspection	0	0	3	3
Offences Detected	Per report	November	December	January	Total
Verbal warnings		4	2	3	9
Written warnings		7	0	0	7
Advisory letter		0	0	0	0
FAP		0	0	0	0
Offence Reports		3	3	0	5

3.3 Offence reports

The following table demonstrates the offence reports & actions submitted by officers for this reporting quarter.

Date of Offence	Offence	Action
14.11.2022	Use of a dredge within the Wych Lake Closed area contrary to the PHDP Byelaw Permit conditions.	Official Written Warning letter issued to Owner of vessel, dated 28.11.2022
22.11.2022	Use of a dredge within the Green Island closed area contrary to the PHDP Byelaw Permit conditions.	Official Written Warning letter issued to 2x Owners of vessel, dated 28.11.2022
28.11.2022	Use of a dredge within the Wych Lake & Middlebere Lake Closed area contrary to the PHDP Byelaw Permit conditions. (Second instance of closed area breach – 1 st instance issued with OWL)	Financial Administrative Penalty of £1000 issued to 2 owners on 07/02/23, payment due by 07/03/23 (1 owner only required to pay)

01.12.2022	Retention of a sea trout, contrary to Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act	Case file passed to Environment Agency
07.12.2022	Retention on board and landing of manila clams below MCRS contrary to Tech Con 2019/1241	Financial Administrative Penalty of £500 issued to 2 owners on 07/02/23, payment due by 07/03/23 (1 owner only required to pay)
16.01.2023	Storing of manila clams below MCRS contrary to MCRS Byelaw	<i>Investigation ongoing</i>
30.01.2023	Retaining of European Seabass below MCRS contrary to Bass Regulations	<i>Investigation ongoing</i>

3.4 Offence Outcomes

The following table demonstrates offence outcomes for this reporting quarter.

Date of offence	Offence	Action taken and date
25.10.2022	Retention on board of manila clams below MCRS contrary to Tech Con 2019/1241	Official Written Warning letters issued to 4 Owners, dated 01.11.22
14.11.2022	Use of a dredge within the Wych Lake Closed area contrary to the PHDP Byelaw Permit conditions.	Official Written Warning letter issued to Owner of vessel, dated 28.11.2022
22.11.2022	Use of a dredge within the Green Island closed area contrary to the PHDP Byelaw Permit conditions.	Official Written Warning letter issued to 2x Owners of vessel, dated 28.11.2022

4. Summary of key enforcement operations and activities

4.1 Net Recovered from Poole Harbour

On the 18th November officers on-board Fisheries Patrol Vessel (FPV) Endeavour received a report of a unattended net drifting in Poole Harbour whilst on patrol, Officers worked with Poole Harbour Commissioners to remove the net from the water, Officers engaged with local fishing community but no one has claimed the net, the harbour Authority has since disposed of the net.

4.2 Solent Scallop Fishery

Under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw (SDPB), the Scallop Fishery in The Solent is open between the 1st October and 31st March in the following year. Officers on board FPV Stella Barbara have continued to patrol the Solent throughout November, December and January ensuring compliance with the SDPB and UK Scallop Order. Since the fishery opened, officers have carried out several FPR Stella Barbara patrols, with numerous boarding and gear inspections completed. Officers have been inspecting catch for minimum size requirements, checking gear for compliance with the SDPB and UK Scallop Order, and ensuring vessels are complying with their permit conditions. Overall, officers have seen good levels of compliance and will continue to monitor this fishery throughout the season.

4.3 Spatial Closure Monitoring with Drone in Poole Harbour Continues

The 2022-2023 Poole Harbour Dredge Permit (PHDP) season saw the inclusion of the Seagull Island and Green Island spatial closures under permit conditions, which previously were managed under voluntary measures. These areas are now permanently closed to dredging under the PHDP Byelaw permit conditions. IFCOs have been monitoring the areas during vessel patrols and shore patrols to ensure compliance. The Drone, which is fitted with a laser rangefinder and smart-tracking technology, has allowed officers to have an 'Eye in the Sky' and obtain accurate positional data of vessels fishing. Drone deployments carried out in November 2022 recorded positional data of a PHDP Holders using a dredge within the closure areas. The imagery and positional data of the vessels were extracted from the drone and mapped, showing the vessels fishing inside the closure.

4.4 Southern IFCA supports Project Kraken

Project Kraken is a joint law enforcement operation tackling maritime border crime. Border Force covers over 11,000 miles of mainland coastline, operating in and around small ports and marinas. Border Force raises vigilance and awareness of suspicious behaviour which may be linked to terrorism or other serious crime. Southern IFCA have promoted the re-launch of Project Kraken as a delivery partner through social media channels, website and internal awareness “Report it, Lets Sort it”.

4.5 FPV Protector MMO Netting Patrols Continue

Officers from the Compliance and Enforcement Team were joined by officers from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to carry out patrols on board FPV Protector in Lyme Bay to inspect and engage with netting vessels. There has been an increase in the number of netting vessels targeting Sole in the Lyme Bay area due to the increase in Sole quota. Officers boarded a number of vessels and recorded effort data, such as the time fished, the length and number of nets used, the species and quantities hauled. This information will help regulators further their understanding of current effort levels in the area and the potential impacts on the fishery. Outcomes are being shared back through the South West Regional Fisheries Group who have worked with partners to develop a code of conduct for the use of Gill Nets with the intention to protect Sole in the area, for more information please visit the web page: [Regional Fisheries Groups - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

4.6 Night Operations Devon Dorset Border

Due to an increase in night time trawling activity Officers were deployed on FPV Protector to conduct night operations in the West of Lyme Bay to ensure compliance with the Bottom Towed Fishing Byelaw closures, a number of visiting vessels were boarded and Masters given information on the closure areas. The activity has since reduced but Officers continue to monitor the area as a enforcement priority and are prepared to deploy at short notice should it be necessary to do so.

4.7 Drone deployed to Increased Shore Gathering Poole Harbour

Officers received information regarding suspected breaches of the Poole Harbour Shellfish Hand Gathering Byelaw in that groups of individuals were commercially gathering clams using tools within the sensitive areas of Poole Harbour. The byelaws purpose is to manage the gathering of shellfish of any kind, including cockles and clams, through the use of a hand rake or other similar instrument or by hand gathering, in those sensitive areas. The byelaw prohibits fishing for or taking shellfish by hand and the use or transportation of a handbrake or other similar instrument, for fishing purposes within those areas at certain times of the year. Using the drone allows officers to monitor large areas and record any breaches of the Byelaw, it also contributes to maintaining officer safety in that it reduces the need for officers to patrol relatively dangerous intertidal areas on foot. On this occasion a number of individuals were monitored and no offences were detected. The drone deployment was promoted through our social media channels and feedback from stakeholders is that it is a significant deterrent to those persons involved in the suspected illegal activity.

5. Compliance & Enforcement Team

Compliance & Enforcement Team



SAM DELL
Deputy Chief Officer
Joined: 2011
Key Responsibilities:
--Strategic Planning
--Operational Delivery
--Marine Operations (FPV Skipper)
--Accountable Manager (Drone)
--Assets
--Policy Adherence & Development
--Line Management
Warranted IFCO



DAVID MAYNE
Senior IFCO
Joined: 2004
Key Responsibilities:
--Investigations
--FPV Skipper
--Marine Operations
--Central Area Lead
--Compliance Patrols
--Community Engagement
Warranted IFCO



ADAM PARRY
IFCO
Joined: 2018
Key Responsibilities:
--FPV Skipper
--Marine Operations
--MCSS
--Hampshire & IoW Area Lead
--Compliance Patrols
--Community Engagement
Warranted IFCO



ISABEL GRIFFITHS
IFCO
Joined: 2020
Key Responsibilities:
--Intelligence Reports
--Biosecurity
--Drone Pilot
--West Dorset Lead
--Compliance Patrols
--Community Engagement
Warranted IFCO



FRED HARRIS
IFCO
Joined: 2022
Key Responsibilities:
--MCSS
--Drone Pilot
--Compliance Patrols
--Community Engagement



MEGAN FULBROOK
IFCO
Joined: 2022
Key Responsibilities:
--Sightings
--Intelligence Reports
--Compliance Patrols
--Community Engagement

OFFICER'S REPORT

**BEHIND THE SCENES
WITH THE RESEARCH AND POLICY TEAM**

Report by DCO Birchenough

A. Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with an update on some of the work that the Research and Policy Team is delivering behind the scenes.

B. Recommendation

That Members receive the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 This report from the Research and Policy Team (RPT) Officers captures some of the work that they are delivering behind the scenes. This may include standalone projects or supplementary work which complements and supports the workstreams presented at meetings of the Authority, or sub-committees.
- 1.2 This report includes updates from DCO Birchenough and from IFCOs Dominic Parry, Emily Condie and Liberty Cast on their experience at the IFCO Competent Officer Course.



with DCO Birchenough

Updates from the RPT Deputy Chief Officer:

Welcoming a new Project Officer

In February, Southern IFCA was pleased to welcome Celie Mullen to the Research & Policy Team as a Project Officer for Fisheries Management Plans.

Hello, my name is Celie. My previous experiences have involved various research projects, including acoustic and visual surveys of marine mammals and seabirds along the Cornish coast, and also studies into the resilience of juvenile corals to artificial light pollution in coastal cities. After receiving my Bachelors degree in 2022, I looked into the PO role with Southern IFCA. I wanted to work in a continually evolving environment and help pioneer marine conservation strategies through engaging with various groups of people, and this role provides exactly that. I am happy to have joined the team and am excited to learn a wide range of skills within this role.



Fisheries Management Plans Engagement

Over the past quarter the RPT has been busy facilitating the sharing of information with stakeholders on engagement for various Fisheries Management Plans and attending many of the engagement events to understand the feedback that stakeholders are providing to FMP delivery partners. We've attended meetings both virtually and in-person covering the three shellfish FMPs; Whelk, King Scallop, Crab & Lobster and the Channel Non-Quota Demersal Stocks FMP. These meetings have been attended by a variety of stakeholders including both the commercial and recreational sectors. In her new role Celie has been attending many of these events and is developing a good network of communication with delivery partners.



At the start of February, IFCOs travelled to Torquay to attend the Fisheries Competent Officer Course along with other IFCOs from many different IFCA's. We learnt so many different things such as;

- Notebook management
- Exhibit Handling
- Interviews under caution
- Fish ID

As well as many more topics!



Sunrise in Torquay



Please feel free to have a go at identifying these species we saw at the market

BRIXHAM MARKET TRIP!

My favourite part of the trip was the 4am market visit (not because I am a morning person – I can assure you I'm not!) but because we got to look at so many different types of fish! As an IFCO I have mainly seen shellfish so far, but I enjoyed looking at all the flatfish and roundfish and rays mainly because it's a chance to practice my Fish ID skills.

Matt Mander from D&SIFCA was showing us many types of fish within the market as well as how to distinguish them from other species.

The market trip also meant I was up early enough to catch the sunrise! Which the picture doesn't do justice!





with IFCO Condie

From the 6th – 10th February, IFCOs Cast, Fullbrook, Harris, Parry and I journeyed to Torquay to stay at the one of a kind Carlton Hotel for a week of training.

Whilst the English Riviera is famous for its award winning sandy beaches, exotic palm trees and classic seaside holidays; it is also the historic home of the 'IFCA Competent Officer Course'. A rite of passage for any Inshore Fisheries Officer.



The English Riviera, home to the Competent Officer Course.



The trip to Brixham fish market provided the opportunity to see many species I've not yet seen in the SIFCA District.

The course comprised of 20 wide eyed and excitable IFCOs all ready to learn from our own Deputy Sam Dell and his colleagues. The topics covered intel and information gathering, environmental management and regulations as well as practical exercises on inspections, interviews and building case files.

Personal highlights included a very early start to visit Brixham fish market and guest speaker Andrew Oliver who talked through all things legal.

The week was a great opportunity for networking, team building and learning about the problems and successes experienced by other officers and IFCA's around the country.





with IFCO D. Parry

This past quarter has been quite an exciting one with plenty going on. The new year has welcomed chilly winter patrols on the odd occasion for myself and plenty of preparation for this year's whelk survey that I have been organising for this February/ March.

However, a massive part of this past quarter has been the IFCO training course in Torquay, led by our own Deputy Chief Officer S. Dell. This course focused on many of the key principles and skills that a warranted officer requires in order to carry out safe, responsible and accurate inspections as a IFCO officer.

The 6 day course started on the Sunday with introductions for all of the attending officers from around England's ten IFCA's. A great attendance of 20 officers with varying degrees of experience from both enforcement and science teams were present, making for great discussions throughout the week.

The week was crammed full with content, starting from 09:00 in the morning, with breaks and dinner, finishing at 21:00. The content focused on enforcement powers, drilling home the need to understand our jurisdiction and when and where we can use such powers; crucial in doing our job legally and professionally to ensure sustainable fisheries



Left: Lobster for sale at Brixham Market. Right: D&SIFCA Chief Officer Mander holding an octopus.

management and also providing courts with usable evidence to prove liability for any committed offences.

In addition to the course, we were also able to visit the Brixham Fish Market on one of the days of business (early 04:00 mornings), which allowed us to work on our fish identification skills while also giving us a better idea of the size of fishing vessels we could be exposed too.

Overall, the training week was a fantastic opportunity to develop our skills as competent officers, introduce ourselves to neighbouring IFCA's and get comfortable in doing our job right.



OFFICER'S REPORT

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Report by DCO Birchenough

A. Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the activity undertaken by two stakeholder groups:

- The Recreational Angling Sector Group
- The Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group

B. Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Recreational Angling Sector Group and the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group be received.

C. Annex

1. Recreational Angling Sector Group draft minutes – 13th September 2022
2. Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group draft minutes – 30th January 2023

1. Background

- 1.1 The Minutes of two stakeholder groups for the District; the Recreational Angling Sector Group and the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group are presented to the Authority for Members' consideration and to appraise them of the groups' business.
- 1.2 The Authority currently provides a secretariat role for the Recreational Angling Sector Group and the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group. The Authority has also given a grant of £300 to the Fishermen's Council in this financial year, there are no new minutes for this group at this current time. All three groups are offered free use of a room, at the Committee's office, for meetings. Meetings are held both virtually and in person as required.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 List of Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Recreational Angling Sector Working Group Meeting – 13/12/2022 – 19:00

Virtual Meeting – MS Teams

Attending: CH, MS, AG, CF, TG

Apologies: AD

Agenda

1. Introductions

Introductions were made for Members in attendance. The Chair introduced Colin Francis who has recently become a Member of the Southern IFCA Authority and was invited to attend the meeting due to his interest and knowledge of the RSA sector.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (13th September 2022)

Agreed. Items covered in the minutes were discussed under other agenda items.

3. Southern IFCA Updates/Ongoing items

Net Fishing Byelaw: Southern IFCA have received a further round of feedback on this byelaw as part of the MMO QA process which has been addressed. The byelaw remains within the MMO QA process.

Pot Fishing Byelaw: The Authority agreed at their December meeting to send the Pot Fishing Byelaw to the MMO to enter the QA process. The byelaw has been received by the MMO and a first round of QA response is anticipated in December/January.

Shore Gathering Review: The Authority has agreed to progress the shore gathering review to stage 2 of the Byelaw Making Process and has agreed three Policy Objectives to frame the review. These Policy Objectives consider drivers for the review and the legislative umbrellas under which the review sits. The next steps in this review are to gather information on the different activities covered under the review which include seaweed harvesting, bait & crab collection, shellfish gathering and shrimp netting (not all activities occur in all areas) and to complete assessments for activities in MPAs as required. A timeline for the review will be developed indicating opportunities for consultation and engagement with stakeholders.

It was raised that when a review of shore gathering was undertaken by another authority, consultation was had with the RSA and shore gathering communities for input but then this was not reflected in the setting of initial management measures. This was particularly seen in inappropriate limits on the amount of crab and worm species that could be harvested. It was commented that there needs to be a good understanding of the differences between different species which are harvested to avoid similar issues such as the different ragworm species and that significant background research should be conducted to help inform this. DCO Birchenough informed Members that reviews of existing research and literature searches would be

carried out as part of this process and the evidence base will be developed fully to be used to help inform management.

Black bream: There was no further update on black bream from the last meeting. Southern IFCA is currently awaiting receipt of a report on nesting sites in Dorset from NE.

Minimum Conservation Reference Size Review: The MCRS review is ongoing with a series of Authority Working Groups being held to review specific groups of species. A further data gathering exercise has also been carried out to ensure that the most up to date data is being captured for consideration as part of the review process.

The issue of anglers using certain species for fishing bait and the need for those individuals used in this way to be smaller than current MCRS was raised. Members were keen that this remains on the agenda for the review. There is concern that there are anglers who will be unaware that they are breaking the rules by taking individuals below MCRS for use as bait. DCO Birchenough informed Members that this point will be raised through the review process and that officers on the ground have been providing information to the RSA sector on the need for fish taken for bait to comply with MCRS regulations.

Angling for Sustainability FISP Project: The Angling for Sustainability Elasmobranch and Black Bream FISP proposal has been successful in securing funding. The project will run between 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2024. The project aims to establish a network of acoustic receivers across the Dorset and Solent region, to tag and track 200 black bream and 100 elasmobranchs (undulate ray, tope and smooth-hound), to train skippers and fisheries managers on data collection and equipment maintenance, to collect an 18 month data set of black bream and elasmobranch movements and to host stakeholder workshops to disseminate the project results.

It was raised that there was concern over the mapping of movements of these species and how that data would be available after the project as it was felt that knowledge of exactly where these species are and where they move between would allow for more targeted fishing which could negatively impact the populations. DCO Birchenough stated that she would ask if a member of the project team could attend a future meeting of the RASG so that these concerns could be discussed directly and explored through discussion with the project team. It was agreed that this would be a sensible approach.

Action: DCO Birchenough to invite the Angling for Sustainability Project Team to attend a future RASG meeting.

UK Seafood Fund Infrastructure Scheme: The Government has opened a grant scheme with at least £65 million available through the Infrastructure Scheme which aims to fund projects that improve the UK seafood sector supply chain through investment in a number of defined areas including recreational sea fishing. Round 2 of this funding is open for applications until 3rd February 2023. Further rounds are indicated to open in 2023 with a further focus on recreational sea angling.

4. Additional Requested Items

The topic of flounder was raised with concerns that populations are still at very low levels with no improvement seen over the past few years and that anglers and tackle shops along the coast feel that the situation is getting worse. It was queried whether any research could be done to understand what is causing the low population levels

and whether there is any impact from the use of this species as pot bait. DCO Birchenough commented that at present there was no research planned in this area directly by Southern IFCA and that this was a problem which was being seen around the coast of England and would therefore most likely require a national approach both in terms of any research carried out or any management of this species in the future.

Action: DCO Birchenough to query whether there is any research being conducted into flounder populations by other authorities/research bodies.

5. Any Other Business

It was queried whether, now that recreational angling for bass is catch and release, whether the species should be photographed/weighed/measured if caught for the purposes of competitions. It was outlined that BASS and the Angling Trust have indicated that as long as the fish are released alive and best practice handling measures are adopted then their position is that bass can be photographed/weighed/measured.

Action: DCO Birchenough to raise the question with the Fisheries Protection Team.

Update: An email was sent to the Members of the RASG on 16th December with the following information in relation to this query:

The intention of the legislation is for the protection of bass therefore ensuring that the bass are returned to the sea alive is key. We do agree with the position taken by the Angling Trust and BASS, that if a bass is caught as part of a competition, provided that it is returned alive and all measures are taken to ensure minimal handling and disturbance to that fish, we would not consider the weighing/measuring of a fish before return an offence.

We would advise that fish should not be kept for any longer than necessary in the process of weighing/measuring and that this process and the subsequent release should be carried out in quick succession with good handling practice adopted. The fish should also be released where it was caught with no retention or transportation for the purposes of weighing/measuring as this would be deemed to be retention under the legislation. We believe that many of these points are already included in good fish handling guides issued by Angling Trust and others.

Further information was provided on 20th December specific to Bass Nursery Area legislation as follows:

We would expect any catch of bass in a Bass Nursery Area to go back immediately during the time when the bass nursery area regulations are in place. The legislation is different for the two types of regulation (bass nursery area and wider recreational limit).

During the period when the bass nursery area regulations are in place (all year round in some areas) the targeting of bass and the use of sand eels as bait when fishing from a boat is an offence under the bass nursery area regulations, therefore we would not be expecting any competitions involving bass to go ahead within a bass nursery area during those times.

Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group – 30/01/23 – 14:00

Virtual Meeting – MS Teams

Attending: Louise MacCallum (LM) (Chair), Alison Freeman (AF), Gavin Black (GB), Megan Roberts (MR), Sue Hawley (SH), Wez Smith (WS), Lin Baldock (LB), Vicki Gravestock (VG), Sarah Birchenough (SB), Liberty Cast (LC)

Peter Davies (invited speaker from Angling for Sustainability Project)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the Members of the group to the meeting and welcomed new Members. The Chair also welcomed Peter Davies from the University of Plymouth who had been invited to give a presentation on the recently funded FISP Project 'Angling for Sustainability'.

Apologies were received from Charlotte Bolton, Alice Hall and Peter Tinsley.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

- A correction is required to the spelling of a name (LM).
- The action from the previous meeting to update on survey work in Langstone Harbour is ongoing, an update will be provided to the next meeting.
- The action on an update on the Farlington marshes scheme from Coastal Partnerships is ongoing.

3. Discussion on Group Membership and Meeting Logistics

LM stated that she was happy to continue in the role of Chair but wanted to offer the opportunity to other Members. The group agreed that LM would continue in the Chair role.

The Chair asked Members to raise, either in the meeting or afterwards, whether they felt there were any other persons who could be invited to sit on the group. AF asked for clarification on the main remit of the group, which was provided.

Meeting logistics were discussed, it was agreed that the Group would aim for a meeting per quarter with 1-2 meetings a year held in person.

ACTION: SB to poll Group Members for all meeting dates for 2023.

4. Current Focus and Activities

The item on Seabed Photogrammetry was postponed until the next meeting.

The Solent Seascapes Project

The Chair provided an update on The Solent Seascapes Project. There are 10 partners in the project; the Blue Marine Foundation, the RSPB, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, University of Portsmouth, Isle of Wight Estuaries Project, Project Seagrass, Coastal Partners and Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature. The project has received £5million of initial grant funding to improve the condition, extent and connectivity of key marine and coastal habitats using protection and restoration initiatives. The project focuses on 4 main habitats; saltmarsh, seagrass, native oysters and breeding seabird nesting sites.

There are five main project activities which include working with local stakeholders and communities to develop and co-create a long-term seascape recovery plan, actively restore the four key habitats to catalyse recovery across the wider seascape and improve ecological connectivity, to assess ecosystem service benefits, to work with government and regulators to develop key interventions and financial mechanisms to upscale restoration potential and to empower local communities and build capacity to improve understanding of seascape processes, catalyse behaviour changes and increase involvement. Under this project mapping work will be undertaken with stakeholders to help understand and shape a vision for a shared Solent.

It was queried what the longer-term ambitions were for the project after the initial five-years. The Chair responded that the project would be asking stakeholders what they would like to see in the next 20-25 years, it is hoped that demonstrating restoration potential under the current funding will help attract future funding. The Chair also informed Members that a website is being built for the project with the aim to create a form for potential volunteers.

It was also queried whether there was going to be an assessment of what extent of these sensitive habitats would be deemed 'enough' in terms of successful restoration and where historical extent data could inform this. It was raised that there are concerns by some stakeholders over sensitive habitat expansion and how that impacts activities. The Chair replied that the project work will be underpinned by a consultant who will

look at mapping the Solent including historic data. The aim is to achieve 30% restoration in line with government aspirations.

It was queried whether the saltmarsh in the River Hamble will be monitored as a fish nursery habitat. The Chair responded that fish surveys will be carried out working with the EA and the IFCA whilst also looking to expand the extent of these surveys. SB raised that a recently funded FISP Project will be looking at remote monitoring techniques in sites where the IFCA carries out fish surveys and suggested that this project be approached in light of data needs of the Seascapes project.

2022 Test and Itchen Salmon Run

VG from the EA provided an update to the Group on the 2022 salmon run in the Rivers Test and Itchen. The data is currently being subject to QA but indicators are that the run is not performing well. There are currently two fish counters on the River Test and one on the River Itchen.

VG informed the Group that the run data for 2022 was setting new records for minimum levels with flow levels also lower than the previous 2015-2021 average. A Conservation Limit and a Management Target are used to assess populations looking at the min. number of eggs required to maintain the population at biologically sustainable levels. After 2020 there have been two bad years of run data, with the River Test only reaching the Conservation Limit once since 2015 and an overall downward trend in the River Itchen with 2022 being the second lowest run on record since the 1990s. It has been identified that other chalk streams are increasing (to different degrees) suggesting a site-specific impact. It is thought there might be links to water quality as well as long spells of hot, dry weather causing an issue for survivability with migratory behaviour reduced above 19°C. The EA are looking to raise awareness with external stakeholders and put together a delivery plan with SMART objectives in the short-medium term.

It was queried what factors may have contributed to an increased run in 2020 and whether the Covid-19 pandemic influenced the run. VG commented that it was believed there had generally been less disturbance during this time and less boat traffic. It was questioned whether the EA had considered prohibiting rod and line fishing, licenced by the EA, as part of their SMART objectives. VG commented that the EA have been meeting with rod and line stakeholder groups and are working with fisheries to reduce impacts and pressures. There are already measures in place to

stop fishing above certain temperatures and catch and release from the rod and line fishery is 100%. Offshore contributing factors were also queried, VG commented that there are a range of factors believed to be contributing to the decline including climate change but there appears to be a specific factor related to Southampton Water which is recognised as being more heavily modified and disturbed.

Research on other rivers where salmon are not at the southerly end of their range was discussed, with research on smolt egress highlighted as showing high mortalities above barriers such as weirs and that research will also be forthcoming from the SAMARCH Project which is coming to an end. Underwater noise was also discussed, this is not currently researched in the Solent area but is agreed to be a key area to look at. GB from NE raised that NE has sound traps that they are hoping to deploy and there could be a potential link up with the Solent Seascapes Project.

ACTION: 2022 Test and Itchen Salmon Run report to be circulated to the Group once finalised.

ACTION: GB and VG to discuss collaboration regarding sound traps.

5. Presentation – Angling for Sustainability, University of Plymouth

Peter Davies from the University of Plymouth gave a presentation on the recently funded FISP Project 'Angling for Sustainability'. The project has received funding for two years and is a partnership between the University of Plymouth, The Professional Boatman's Association, Natural England, the Angling Trust and Southern IFCA. The FISP scheme is designed to help improve and share knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture by funding data collection and research to support sustainable fisheries management. All projects must be a partnership between a member of the UK seafood industry and a research organisation.

The aim of the project is to fill data-gaps needed for effective, informed management of elasmobranchs and black bream. Specific aims include establishing a network of acoustic receivers across the Dorset and Solent region, tagging and tracking 200 black bream and 100 elasmobranchs (undulate ray, tope and smooth-hound), training skippers and fisheries managers on data collection and equipment maintenance, building an 18-month dataset of species movements and to host stakeholder workshops. The next steps in the project are to consult on receiver deployment areas, deploy receivers from March onwards, commence tagging from April onwards and hold an initial workshop in April/May.

It was queried how the tagging work in Kingmere in Sussex had gone and how the data was looking. PD commented that there will be an overarching report for the FISH INTEL Project rather than a specific report on the bream data and associated management implications. For the Angling for Sustainability project, reporting will focus on the identified knowledge gaps and there is the potential to include results from Kingmere in this. There is going to be a FISH INTEL conference to share outputs from that project at the beginning of March.

ACTION: SB to circulate the details of the FISH INTEL Project Conference

It was queried what the sex of the tagged black bream in Kingmere was. Three fish were tagged, all female. It was commented that females do not demonstrate as much site fidelity as males but that it was complicated to sex black bream as it is based on external characteristics and there can be intermediate characteristics between the two sexes. It was also queried what the potential impact on the fish could be from the tagging process. PD commented that there may be some short-term increased predation risk in the immediate aftermath of tagging and in the longer-term there may be some increased risk of infection. It is hard to measure tagging specific impacts due to natural mortality within any cohort. Previous work on bass tagging has indicated the immediate survivability is very high, over 99%.

6. Southern IFCA Update

SB provided an overview of the current workstreams for the Southern IFCA. The proposed Net Fishing Byelaw and Pot Fishing Byelaw are both with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for QA. This is an iterative process and communication is maintained with the MMO throughout. Following completion of the MMO QA process a byelaw is sent to Defra for consideration by the Secretary of State.

Workstreams which will be a priority for the 2023-24 year are the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear (BTFG) review which is ongoing and is looking at the need for management intervention for BTFG based on new Tranche 3 MCZs and updates to feature information (location/extent) provided by NE. A Shore Gathering review will also be commenced this year looking at where management interventions may be required through building an evidence base and undertaking relevant MPA assessments.

The Southern IFCA is also progressing a review of Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS). Members of the Authority are reviewing best available evidence on the biology, ecology and socio-economic value of sea fisheries resources in the District and determining if any species should be recommended for a change in MCRS. This process is ongoing split into species groups, i.e., bivalves, crustaceans, flat fish etc. Southern IFCA will be developing an Annual Plan for the 2023-24 year and associated plans for the Research and Policy, and Compliance and Enforcement Teams. These plans will be coming to the Authority in due course.

7. Restoration Projects

Updates on restoration projects included that the Solent Seascapes Project will be producing a public facing map of the Solent which will show where restoration projects are taking place, who is undertaking them and where volunteer opportunities exist.

8. Any Other Business

It was raised that Jackie Mellon and the Solent Forum are leading a project on mudflats and associated bird disturbance but that they are struggling with resources. It was discussed that there had been a group looking at this which was a sub-group of the Solent Forum with Southern IFCA attending a couple of meetings but that there had been no communication on it for some time.

ACTION: VG to share information on the project with SB and WS.

9. Date (and Location) of the Next Meeting

A doodle poll will be provided for a March/April meeting with the meeting conducted virtually.

ACTION: Members to send SB ideas for future in person meeting locations.