

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Pia Bateman – Chief Executive Officer



Unit 3 Holes Bay Park
Sterte Avenue West
Poole
Dorset
BH15 2AA

4th June 2024

Dear Member,

MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

A meeting of the Authority will be held at The University of Winchester, St Alphege Building **Room 002**, Sparkford Road, Winchester, SO22 4NR on 13th June 2024 at **14:00**, to discuss the business on the under mentioned Agenda.

Winchester University offer a Park and Ride service There are four P&R car parks located on the outskirts of the city South Winchester, located just off J11 of the M3; Pitt, on Romsey Road; and St Catherine's and Barfield, which are both located to the east off J9 or J10 of the M3.

Members of the public can request to attend the meeting through emailing enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Chaplin, Office Manager
maria.chaplin@southern-ifca.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman for 2024-2025

To appoint a Chairman of the Authority.

2. Election of Vice Chairman for 2024-2025

To appoint a Vice Chairman of the Authority.

3. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

4. Declaration of Interest

All Members are to declare any interests in line with paragraphs (16) and (17) of the Southern IFCA Code of Conduct for Non-Council Members.

5. Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2024 (Marked A)

6. Chairman's Announcements

To receive any updates from the Chairman.

7. 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 12th March 2024 (Marked B).
- b) **Technical Advisory Committee** held on the 1st February 2024 (Marked C).

8. Progress Reports

To consider the following:

- a. **Chief Executive Officer updates.** To receive a verbal report from the CEO.

- b. Budget Control Statement.** To consider a report from the Accountant/CEO (Marked D).
- c. Marine Asset Review.** To consider a verbal update from DCO Dell.
- d. MPA Management Update.** To consider a verbal update from DCO Birchenough.
- e. 167 Agreement with Sussex IFCA.** To consider a verbal update from DCO Dell.
- f. REM Project.** To consider a verbal update from DCO Dell.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

9. Draft Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31st March 2024.

To consider a report from the Accountant and CEO (Marked E).

GUEST SPEAKER

10. Angling for Sustainability, a Fisheries Industry Science Partnership Project

To receive a presentation from Dr Peter Davies, Post Doctoral Researcher in Marine Ecology at the University of Plymouth, followed by a Q&A.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

11. Compliance and Enforcement Report

To receive the report from DCO Dell (Marked F).

12. Research and Policy Team: Behind the Scenes

To receive a report from DCO Birchenough (Marked G).

13. Sector Group Meetings

To receive the minutes from recent meetings of The Fisherman's Council (Marked H) and RASG (Marked I).

14. Proposed Meeting Dates 2025

To consider a report from the Office Manager (Marked J).

15. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next Authority meeting on Thursday 19th September at Northwood House & Park Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8AZ

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Full Authority Meeting – 14th March 2024

A meeting of the Full Authority was held at 2pm on 14th March Best Western Hotel, 32 High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UP.

Marked A

Present

Cllr. Mark Roberts	Dorset Council (Chairman)
Cllr. John Savage	Southampton City Council
Dr Richard Morgan	Natural England
Dr Antony Jensen	MMO Appointee
Mr Richard Stride	MMO Appointee
Mr Neil Hornby	MMO Appointee
Ms Louise MacCallum	MMO Appointee
Mr Colin Francis	MMO Appointee
Dr Simon Cripps	MMO Appointee
Mr Stuart Kingston-Turner	Environment Agency.
Ms Pia Bateman	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Ms Maria Chaplin	Office Manager (OM)
Mr Sam Dell	Deputy Chief Officer (DCO)
Dr Sarah Birchenough	Deputy Chief Officer (DCO)
Mrs Jen Carr	Chartered Accountant

Cllr. Paul Fuller, Isle of Wight Council (Vice Chairman) attended in a virtual capacity.

Welcome

386. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Mrs J Carr to her first in-person meeting in the capacity of Southern IFCA's new Accountant, as well as Ms Mandy Wolfe from the Lyme Bay Fisherman's Community Interest Company (CIC) who was attending the meeting in person from the public gallery. The Chairman welcomed the soon to be appointed new General Member Mr Charlie Brock who attended virtually. In addition, the Chairman welcomed Mr Ted Legg and Mr Tim Ferrero in the virtual public gallery.

Apologies

387. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Rob Hughes (Dorset Council), Cllr. Matthew Winnington (Portsmouth City Council), Mr Gary Wordsworth (MMO Appointee), Ms Elisabeth Bussey-Jones (MMO Appointee) and Mr James Morgan (MMO).

Declarations of Interest

388. The following non-pecuniary interests were declared: Dr S Cripps (6a).

Minutes

389. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2023. Dr R Morgan requested an amendment specific to the Portland Seed Mussel Fishery on page 7 to recognise that 'different views' relate to the difference between Natural England's statutory and non-statutory position, rather than opposing views existing within Natural England.

Chairman's Announcements

391. The Chairman informed Members that alongside the DCOs, he attended the premiere of the Lyme Bay Community Interest Company Film following an invitation from Ms Mandy Wolfe,

with the film highlighting the work and the lives of the Lyme Bay fishermen. The Chairman discussed his involvement in work relating to FPV Vigilant.

Sub-Committees

392. Members received the Minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee held on the 5th December 2023 and the Technical Advisory Committee on the 2nd November 2023. With regard to the latter, Ms L MacCallum's name was misspelt. This was noted and corrected.

Resolved

393. The Chairman proposed that the Minutes of both meetings be confirmed and signed. All Members were in favour.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Budget Control Statement to December 2023

394. The CEO introduced the Budget Control Statement (BCS) for the months April 2023 to December 2023. In her summary she discussed a deficit of income against budget of 55k. The main reason, being a deficit in projected income due to outstanding Defra grant monies (150k) for the current financial year, as well as anticipated disposal of FPV Stella Barbara following FPV Vigilant coming into service later in 2024. The CEO explained that all of the expenditure under the Major Budget Headers was positive.

The CEO thanks Mrs J Carr for her work to date, who joined Southern IFCA as a Chartered Accountant on the 1st February 2024.

Resolved

395. That the report be received.

Chief Executive Officer Updates

396. The CEO provided an update on staffing matters, including an update on recruitment of two Project Officers William Meredith-Davies and Imogen Wright and a Compliance and Enforcement IFCO Kyle Payton. In addition, the CEO introduced Mrs Jen Carr, Southern IFCA's new Chartered Accountant.

The CEO announced that, subject to MMO due process, Mr Charlie Brock had been successful in securing a General Membership position at Southern IFCA following a recent interview with the MMO Governance Team. Mr Brock will be representing the Commercial Fishing Sector, with the hope that Mr Brock will be formally inducted to the Authority prior to the May TAC.

The CEO provided an overview of a recent Defra FMP Evidence Workshop that she had attended in London with colleagues from the AIFCA and Devon & Severn IFCA. She explained that meeting considered the evidence gaps which exist within the published FMPs and that the meeting was extremely well attended and diverse, with representatives from Defra at Deputy Director level and below, MMO, NE, JNCC, Welsh Government, BLUE, academics, and CEFAS, in addition to industry representation from NFFO, NUTFA, CIC, Charlie Brock and others. From an IFCA point of view during breakout sessions IFCAs were able to highlight examples of where existing work is already being delivered in the inshore environment, emphasising the need for the data gaps to consider existing frameworks, rather than recreating the wheel. Some of the wider re-occurring matters for discussion throughout the day involved collaborative work and the need to quantify and qualify fisher evidence in a robust way to inform decision making, and the importance and often afterthought of how socio-economic data should be informing management in combination with scientific evidence. An interesting take away from the meeting was Defra making it clear that there is limited funding to plug any of the evidence gaps, calling on delegates to consider innovative funding solutions.

The CEO provided an update on the progress of 2023/2024 Defra funding, which remains ongoing. The CEO discussed a reduction in the current years (2023/2024) anticipated funding of 10k, due to Defra reconsidering the IFCA role in contributing to the National Aquaculture Strategy. In addition, on the 11th March further notification was received of an additional reduction in funding of a further 10k due to reconsideration by Defra that IFCAs would not be involved in spatial management programmes, such as Marine Plans. The CEO explained the challenges when funding commitments are changed in year and with little warning, despite a three-year commitment being made by Defra in 2022.

Ms L MacCallum discussed her huge dissatisfaction and outrage regarding the in-year changes in funding provisions. Dr A Jenson asked whether it would be appropriate to provide feedback to Defra on the challenges that changes to pre-agreed funding provisions creates to operational delivery. As a consensus, Members agreed that the AIFCA were best placed to raise this matter on behalf of all IFCAs.

The CEO provided an update on the 2024 Defra MPA deadline, following a meeting with Defra in December and again in March. During the most recent meeting Defra recognised the complexities involved when developing management for black seabream and appreciated that it was more important to deliver appropriate management outcomes in consultation with those most impacted, and in doing so any unforeseen matters that arise during the development of this area of work may mean that the strict Defra timelines are unachievable. Southern IFCA continue to commit resource and prioritise this area of work with the target of a 2024 delivery.

The CEO discussed the Conduct and Operations Report, which Defra were currently consulting on and asked that Members respond to this four yearly consultation, which focusses on the work that the IFCAs achieve in the inshore environment. The CEO referred Members to a recent email they will have received from the OM, which provided the relevant information for Members to complete the survey. The CEO reminded Members that the deadline for completion is the 22nd April 2024.

The CEO finished on an item which features in this week's edition of the Fishing News, which is an article written by Dr Sarah Coulthard, who has been working with the AIFCA on a communications project. The article discusses the challenges that are faced by IFCAs and IFCA Committees and what is described as a difficult balancing act that IFCAs must achieve. The CEO welcomed this article and invited Members to view copies provided in the meeting room.

Resolved

397. That the update be noted.

Marine Asset Review

398. DCO Dell provided an update on the new vessel Vigilant, in that he and Senior IFCO Parry attended the Ribcraft factory on 13th March. With regard to build progress, the FPV has just entered the electrical fit out stage, and since the last meeting in December the cabin is now lined, and the seating configuration is now in place with the tubes constructed. Other components are being added to the vessel for example handrails and other superstructure. Full procurement hasn't been completed yet, with the main delay according to Ribcraft being attributed to an 8-week delay on windows and doors.

The DCO confirmed that there has been further correspondence between Ribcraft and the appointed MECAL Surveyor, regarding satisfying outstanding compliance issues surrounding the build; in particular a strengthening of the transom area to support the complex steering system being fitted to the boat.

Coding category has also been an on-going discussion between Ribcraft and MECAL, which has resulted in an uplift in coding from Category 3 to Category 2 which means the vessel's operating envelope has increased from 20 miles to 60 miles from a safe haven. Sea trials are now likely to commence in May.

DCO Dell explained to Members that Southern had been negotiating a change in MCA codes of practice regarding the introduction of new workboat code edition. DCO Dell reminded members that SIFCA were going to fit a small hauler onto Vigilant for the purposes of hauling recreational pots. Should the pot fishing byelaw come into force, the new code prohibits lifting devices on RHIBs, accordingly changes have been made to the FPV design to remove this capability.

Mr R Stride asked DCO Dell if a mechanical hauler cannot be added to the new vessel could an A frame be added for hauling pots.

The Chairman asked DCO Dell if it would affect the other vessels.

DCO Dell explained to the Members that there are a number of other implications for Southern IFCA in terms of the operating parameters under workboat code edition 3, and that the aim is for all FPVs to adhere to the codes consistently. The DCO reminded Members that the Codes were in place for the health and safety of staff and the equipment that vessels carry and that all changes had been implemented through the Southern IFCA Health and Safety policy.

The DCO provided Members with an update on the disposal of FPV Stella Barbara, in that in December 2023 the Executive Committee Members approved the disposal of FPV Stella Barbara to Poole Harbour Commissioner's (PHC) in accordance with the Southern IFCA Financial Regulations. PHC submitted a formal proposal to Southern IFCA setting out the terms for a contractual transfer of the vessel in exchange for a 5-year berthing agreement for FPV Vigilant at its intended base at the Port of Poole Marina. This is due to complete on the 25th March 2024.

Resolved

399. That the update be noted.

MPA Management Update

400. DCO Birchenough reminded Members that the BTFG byelaw was submitted in October 2023 to the MMO for QA. The first round of QA was received from the MMO in February, this has been reviewed and the response has been sent back to the MMO. There were no major issues identified and so the response has been sent back to enter the next stage in the MMO QA process. It may be that there will be further rounds of QA or the MMO may make a determination to submit the byelaw to Defra. DCO Birchenough informed members that BTFG phase two is underway with Officers actively developing this work stream.

DCO Birchenough discussed that in addition to BTFG, Black Bream and Shore Gathering were the priority workstreams. With regard to Black Bream, the DCO informed the Members that the TAC had considered and agreed some general, evidence and spatial principles, as they related to underpinning the development of management, and that under the spatial principles, Members considered the identification of indicative habitat areas for Black Bream based on best available evidence of nest locations. The DCO discussed a Member Working Group which had been held to develop this work stream further, and that officers were currently working on the next stages in the process of building on the output of the TAC and discussions at that Working Group.

DCO Birchenough also provided an update on the progress of Shore Gathering, in that a Member Working group was held in February for consideration of initial principles to underpin management development and that Officers were currently working on the next phase of this process, building on the discussions that were had at that Working Group, for presentation at a subsequent TAC.

Resolved

401. That the update be noted.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

402. Annual Strategy 2024-2025

The CEO provided the background to The Annual Strategy, in that under the MaCAA Southern IFCA are required to submit to Defra and the SoS an Annual Plan which sets out Southern IFCA's main objectives and priorities for the year ahead. The CEO discussed how the plan demonstrates how Southern will continue to shape inshore fisheries and conservation management in accordance with statutory functions.

The CEO discussed the importance of the plan, when considering delivery of Southern IFCA's function as a competent inshore regulator for the marine environment alongside many competing and evolving objectives. The CEO explained that 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 2024 and beyond.

The CEO discussed how the strategic direction allows Southern to be more transparent with the community, stakeholders, and delivery partners, through anticipation of shared goals and objectives and seek to encourage joint working initiatives and projects.

The CEO described the format of the Strategy, with overarching context provided by legislative function and overarching policy principles, and how Southern IFCA will continue to draw these components together to drive the collective delivery of the UK Government's vision, in addition to adherence with regulatory best practice when delivering a compliance and enforcement function.

Building on the National IFCA Vision, the CEO introduced the Southern IFCA's vision for the forthcoming year is to '*champion prosperous inshore fisheries founded upon thriving marine environments*', explaining that the vision recognises the symbiotic relationship which exists when well-managed inshore fisheries reap environmental and socioeconomic benefit. In championing these reciprocal relationships, Southern IFCA will continue to draw upon two key themes for 2024-2025 which will be embedded and threaded through all of our work which, as captured within and central to the wider IFCA model, are essential components to facilitate the delivery of the IFCA vision: industry collaboration and partnership working.

The CEO discussed that each team has three horizon goals set under the Annual Strategy. The BST: (1) ongoing governance improvements revolving around improved and time efficient HR solutions, (2) online permit platform delivery and (3) a review of staff personal work plans and process. The CEO explained that both DCO Dell and DCO Birchenough will draw out their team specific goals in the subsequent agenda items and thanked them both for their work here.

The CEO explained that it was the intention to send both the Annual Strategy and 2xTeam Plans to Defra in order to more accurately capture the work that Southern IFCA are committed to undertake and deliver.

Mr N Hornby suggested that a summary of the Annual Strategy be prepared to make the Strategy more accessible. Dr S Cripps suggested that impact of Horizon Goals should be measured in the Strategy.

Dr A Jensen proposed the recommendations, which were seconded by Mr S Kingston-Turner. All Members were in favour apart from Dr S Cripps who abstained from the vote.

Resolved

403. (a) That Members consider the draft Annual Strategic Plan for the forthcoming year April 2024-March 2025.

404. (b) 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 2024.

405. Compliance & Enforcement Team Plan

DCO Dell informed Members that the Compliance and Enforcement Team Plan captures how the C&E Team will deliver against the Annual Strategy. DCO Dell highlighted a couple of key sections which are integral to improving operational delivery, new ways of working and supporting the implementation of new district wide byelaws.

DCO Dell focussed on how the team will deliver against IFCA Success Criteria 2 via implementation of a fair, effective, and proportionate enforcement regime via an Intelligence Led Risk Based Approach.

DCO Dell stressed the importance of community and stakeholder engagement as an integral part in successful delivery through maximising voluntary compliance. DCO Dell also discussed how the teamwork with other government departments, aligning delivery to that described in the Joint Fisheries Statement in relation to Control and Enforcement.

DCO Dell discussed the start of a pilot project using Remote Electronic Monitoring and Artificial Intelligence in the inshore under 12m fleet, to enhance local monitoring control and evidence gathering but with the intention to inform national discussions and further the outcomes and development of the Fisheries Management Plans.

DCO Dell explained to Members that the intention is to use the AI to analyse video footage captured onboard vessels in order to identify species, for example in the net fishery, this would allow greater understandings of salmonid interactions, and in the pot fishery, the technology could be used to explore pot limitations.

DCO Dell explained that Southern IFCA are looking at the towed gear fleets currently rigged on two of the line-based Lyme Bay CIC Member vessels which is being used to determine when the gear is deployed and returned to the vessel.

Dr A Jensen proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Dr S Cripps. All Members were in favour.

Resolved

406. That Members approve the Compliance & Enforcement Team Plan, which feeds directly from the Delivery Priorities identified in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategy for April 2024 to March 2025.

407. Research & Policy Team Plan

DCO Birchenough talked Members through the Research and Policy Team Plan for 2024 to 2025 which builds on the Annual Strategic Plan and RPT Horizon goals, splitting these down into delivery priorities. The RPT Plan outlines the functions of the team which cover the development of fisheries management interventions, reviewing fisheries management interventions, monitoring, projects and emerging work and engagement. The plan covers each of those functions with the development and review of fisheries management interventions and monitoring being our core functions, all underpinned by the team's engagement work and supported by working with partners on external projects.

DCO Birchenough explained that the first Horizon Goal relates to the MPA 2024 management deadline and covers three main workstreams, BTFG, Shore Gathering and Black Bream. The outcome of the BTFG review, the BTFG Byelaw 2023, is already with the MMO for consideration. The Shore Gathering and Black Seabream reviews are being progressed through the 2024/2025 year and where possible, the delivery priorities have been broken down into quarterly timelines.

DCO Birchenough outlined that the second Horizon Goal relates to Frontrunner Fisheries Management Plans, a new avenue of fisheries management across the country. The first five front-runner FMPs have been published, covering Crab and Lobster, Whelk, King Scallop, Bass and Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species. The final of the six front runner FMP's, Southern North Sea, and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish, is expected within the scope of this summer. With the publication of these FMP's, IFCA's have a role to play in helping Defra in the post publication phase, working collaboratively with other arm's length bodies, FMP working groups and industry to support work around the evidence gaps identified and support the implementation of management.

DCO Birchenough informed Members that there are specific projects outlined for the RPT with the aim of helping to address identified evidence gaps which also have direct relation to important fisheries within our district. These projects will enable collaborative work with the industry to involve them in the evidence gathering process and help them integrate into the FMP post-publication phase. Two of these projects are a Whelk Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) pilot project, to sit alongside the Southern IFCA Whelk Stock Assessment Survey and a project to determine where updates and improvements can be made to the Solent Scallop Stock Survey. Both projects relate directly to some of the objectives identified in the relevant FMPs, and specific evidence gaps. the whelk and Solent scallop fisheries are major fishery in the Southern IFCA district, being able to collect data specific to the district and input this into the national picture is important to ensure that district specific data can be considered when making management decisions.

DCO Birchenough outlined that a further workstream under this Horizon Goal relates to the potential implementation of the Pot Fishing Byelaw, where the RPT will be working with the C&E Team to use the implementation of the permit scheme under that byelaw as a pilot for exploring how such measures can be implemented within pot fisheries and provide useful information to inform wider permit approaches for both whelk and crab & lobster fisheries.

DCO Birchenough explained that the third Horizon Goal is for the BTFG Review Phase 2, the general aims being to consider potential wider sensitive habitat management for non-designated features both within and outside of marine protected areas. DCO Birchenough reminded Members that this work is underway, and the program of work will be developed through the coming year.

DCO Birchenough informed Members that there are several additional work streams alongside the Horizon Goals which will be ongoing throughout the year. This includes the lease program for our aquaculture fishery and the need to issue leases for the next 5-year period of 2025 to 2030. There will also be reviews under two of Southern IFCA Permit byelaws as per the requirements of those review periods, which is the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw and the Net Fishing Byelaw. There is also reference to Marine Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) review, which is ongoing, but recognises the need to reprioritize workstreams in line with the 2024 MPA management deadline and to ensure that outputs from the FMP process, as they relate to MCRS can be understood and aligned with where required. DCO Birchenough outlined that the RPT will also continue to support Defra's delivery of Fisheries Act 2020 objectives through ongoing participation in the FMP process and engagement with marine licencing. DCO Birchenough explained that the RPT Plan outlines the surveys that are undertaken along with the data sets that Southern IFCA currently hold on and involvement in other projects, which includes working on

several Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) projects and, how these will be delivered throughout the year.

Proposed by Dr A Jensen and seconded by Mr R Stride. All Members were in favour.

Resolved

408. That Members approve the Research and Policy Team Plan for April 2024 to March 2025.

409. Renewal of s167 Agreement with Sussex IFCA 2024

DCO Dell invited Members to consider a renewal of the s.167 Agreement, made under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) to allow for the continued delegation from Southern IFCA to Sussex IFCA for IFCA byelaw making powers relevant to the area of Chichester Harbour.

The DCO provided background to the 167 Agreement, which has been in place since 30th July 2014 and is due to expire on the 30th July 2024.

The DCO discussed that if the Agreement be discontinued then both respective IFCAs would need to revisit spatial provisions under a number of existing byelaws.

Should the Authority agree the recommendation to renew the 167 Agreement, Southern IFCA and Sussex IFCA will seek Secretary of State approval for a 10-year period commencing the 30th July 2024.

Proposed by Dr A Jensen and seconded by Ms L MacCallum. All Members were in favour.

Resolved

410. That Members enter into a renewed agreement with Sussex IFCA (under s.167 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009) to delegate byelaw making powers to Sussex IFCA for that area of Chichester Harbour that is within the County of Hampshire.

411. Guest Speaker: Lyme Bay Fisherman's Community Interest Company (CIC)

Ms Mandy Wolfe, the CEO of the Lyme Bay Fisherman's Community Interest Company gave a presentation to the Members on the newly found Lyme Bay Fisherman's CIC. A new community interest company, Lyme Bay Fisherman's CIC, has recently been formed, supported by funding through the UK Fisheries and Seafood Scheme from Marine Management Organisation. Details can be found on their website [Home – Lyme Bay Fisherman's CIC \(lbfcic.com\)](https://lbfcic.com)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Compliance and Enforcement Report

412. DCO Dell provided an overview of work undertaken by the Compliance and Enforcement Team, the report contains statistical data relating to the enforcement activity for the reporting period November 2023 to January 2024. These figures are reported on an annual basis to Defra via the AIFCA as well as being published on our website. The report included details relating to offences and offence outcomes which had been sanitised but provides the Members with an overview of the offending and what action is being taken.

Research and Policy Team: Behind the Scenes

413. DCO Birchenough provided a quarterly overview from the officers in the Research and Policy Team, covering recent training in coding and mapping software, a workshop run by the MMO on cuttlefish management as an output from the relevant FMP, the newly implemented mid-season Solent Scallop Survey and work by the PO MPAs across MPA workstreams.

Date of Next Meeting

414. To confirm the date of the next Authority meeting on the Thursday 13th June at Winchester University, St Alphege Building, Room 002, Sparkford Road, Winchester, SO22 4NR

The public meeting concluded at 16:24

As the following agenda item involved the consideration of information which is exempt by virtue of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public were excluded during consideration of this item (both virtual and in-person).

Confidential Item: Poole Harbour Several Order – Request to Amend Business Plan

415. DCO Birchenough provided the Members with information on a request from aquaculture leaseholders under the Poole Harbour Several Order to make amendments to their current business plans for the period dated 2020 to 2025. Leaseholders are required to operate in accordance with that business plan and any changes must be considered through the Authority or Technical Advisory Committee.

The first three recommendations relate to the addition of a new vessel, with the same vessel to be used across several lease beds. This particular new vessel is relevant to three different business plans. The other request was in relation to lease beds 6, 7, 8 and 10 which was a request to implement a new methodology for the use of mussel ropes underneath an existing structure. There is an existing structure that is part of ongoing aquaculture operations, the request was for the ability to hang ropes underneath this in order to encourage mussel settlements. Once the mussels have reached a certain size, they would then be harvested from the ropes and laid on to the ground within the relevant lease beds. The laying of mussels onto the ground and the subsequent harvesting of mussels is already covered within the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the current lease period, however the use of mussel ropes is not.

DCO Birchenough informed Members that on this basis, it was felt prudent to conduct a Test of Likely Significant Effect to ensure that there wouldn't be any impact from this activity on the features of the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area. The conclusion of the TLSE was that a full Appropriate Assessment was not required, primarily on the basis that the activity is related to an existing structure and occurring at a small scale. There is no introduction of a new species, and the existing structure removes any kind of novel creation of barriers or obstructions. A summary of the TLSE outputs was provided to Members with the report.

The TLSE was submitted to Natural England, Natural England are in agreement with the conclusion of the TLSE. Therefore, the recommendation to allow the addition of mussel ropes as a method to the relevant business plan is supported by an assessment against the features of Poole Harbour MPA.

Mr N Hornby expressed his interest in the mussel ropes and queried how the success of the methodology will be evaluated and whether this will lead to a higher number of mussels being harvested.

DCO Birchenough explained that at the end of each lease period, the lease holders are required to report on all their activities under the lease. The end of the current lease period is the end of June 2025. DCO Birchenough outlined that the new PO Aquaculture, PO Meredith-Davies is

actively building the relationships with leaseholders and will be engaging with them over the coming year.

DCO Dell informed members that the productivity data that is collected for Cefas on an annual basis would include any extraction from that experimental fishery. There will therefore be data on harvesting available to Southern IFCA at the end of the lease period and at the annual point where SIFCA submit the returns to Cefas and Defra.

Proposed by Mr R Stride and seconded by Dr S Cripps. All Members were in favour.

Resolved

- 416.** (a) That Members approve the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2020-25 for Lease Bed 3.
- (b) That Members approve the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2020-25 for Lease Bed 4.
- (c) That Members approve the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2020-25 for Lease Beds 6, 7, 8 & 10 relating to the addition of a new vessel.
- (d) That Members approve the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2020-25 for Lease Beds 6, 7, 8 & 10 relating to the addition of using ropes for mussel production, to include any inconsequential updates required following receipt of Formal Advice from NE.

The Confidential section of the meeting concluded at 17:25

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee (ESC) was held at **14:00 on 12th March 2024** via video conferencing.

Present

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

Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) Mr Sam Dell, Accountant Mrs Jen Carr and Office Manager Ms Maria Chaplin were also present.

369. Apologies

There were no apologies.

370. Declarations of Interest

There were no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests declared.

371. Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting of the ESC held on the 5th December 2023 were considered by Members.

Resolved

372. The minutes from the previous meeting of the ESC were agreed by Members. The minutes were proposed by Cllr. P Fuller and seconded by Mr R Stride.

373. Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

Progress Reports

374. Budget Control Statement.

The CEO introduced the Budget Control Statement for the months April 2023 to December 2023. In her summary she discussed a deficit of income against budget of 55k. The main reason, being a deficit in projected income due to outstanding Defra grant monies (150k) for the current financial year, as well as anticipated disposal of FPV Stella Barbara following FPV Vigilant coming into service later in 2024. The CEO explained that all of the expenditure under the Major Budget Headers was positive.

The CEO thanks Mrs J Carr for her work to date, since joining Southern IFCA as a Chartered Accountant on the 1st February 2024, replacing Mrs G Roberts.

Resolved

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

375. That the report be received.

376. Chief Executive Officer Updates.

The CEO provided an update on staffing matters, which included an update on recruitment of two Project Officers Imogen Wright and William Meredith-Davies and a Compliance and Enforcement IFCO Kyle Payton. In addition, the CEO introduced Mrs Jen Carr, the new Chartered Accountant.

The CEO announced that, subject to MMO due process, Mr Charlie Brock had been successful in securing a General Membership position following a recent interview with the MMO. Mr C Brock will be representing the Commercial Fishing Sector. The CEO discussed that, subject to due process it was hoped that Mr C Brock will be formally inducted to the Authority prior to the May Technical Advisory Committee.

The CEO provided an update on the progress of 2023/2024 Defra funding, which remains ongoing. The CEO discussed a reduction in the current years anticipated funding by a sum of 10k, due to Defra reconsidering the IFCA role in contributing to the National Aquaculture Strategy. Additionally, the CEO explained that on the 11th March a further notification was received from Defra that an additional reduction of a further 10k be actioned due to reconsideration by Defra that IFCA's would not be involved in spatial management programmes, such as Marine Plans. The CEO explained the challenges to business continuity and recruitment commitments when funding assurances are changed at this stage of the financial year.

The CEO provided an update to Members on the Conduct and Operations Report, which Defra were currently consulting on and asked that Members of the ESC respond to this where they were able. The CEO reminded Members that this four yearly consultation process focusses on the work that the IFCAs achieve in the inshore environment.

The Chairman asked the Office Manager to send out a reminder to Members regarding the Defra consultation, a week before the closing date of 22nd April 2024.

Resolved

377. That the update be noted.

378. Marine Asset Review.

DCO Dell updated the Members on the progress with the build of FPV Vigilant which is expected to enter the 'electrical fit out stage' in the coming weeks. The DCO discussed that both he and Senior Officer Parry would be visiting the Ribcraft factory on Wednesday 13th March. The DCO discussed that the cabin is now lined, the seating configuration is in place, the tubes are constructed and in the process of being fitted. Other components are due to be added to the vessel in due course, for example handrails and other superstructures.

DCO Dell discussed the further correspondence between Ribcraft and our appointed MECAL Surveyor in order to satisfy outstanding compliance issues surrounding the build, in particular a strengthening of the transom area to support the complex steering system being fitted to the boat. In addition discussions around coding categories were ongoing which had resulted in an uplift from Category 3 to Category 2, which means the vessels operating envelope has increased from 20 miles to 60 miles from a safe haven.

The DCO informed Members that sea trials are now likely to commence in April 2024. The Chairman advised Members that the final payment will only be made after satisfactorily sea trials.

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The DCO moved on to discuss the disposal of FPV Stella Barbara, providing a brief overview of the discussions at the previous meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee in December 2023, where Members had approved the FPV disposal to Poole Harbour Commissioner's (PHC) in accordance with the Southern IFCA Financial Regulations.

DCO Dell discussed that in recent days PHC had amended their formal proposal to reflect the fact that Southern IFCA are not VAT registered and cannot therefore charge VAT. DCO Dell reassured Members that the terms for a contractual transfer of the FPV in exchange for a 5-year berthing agreement for FPV Vigilant at its intended base at the Port of Poole Marina still remained in place and subject the consideration of the Executive Committee, due for completion on the 25th March 2024.

DCO Dell discussed that the Chairman has been helpfully involved in the VAT discussions. The Chairman offered further explanation regarding berthing fees and the fact that they are subject to VAT and as an Authority we can claim back VAT but cannot apply it to the sale or transfer for Stella Barbara.

Cllr. P Fuller proposed the Recommendations, which were subsequently seconded by Mr R Stride. All members were in favour.

Resolved

379. That the progression of the boat build for FPV Vigilant is noted by Members of the Executive Committee.

380. That the Executive Committee Members consider and approve the updated proposal regarding the disposal of FPV Stella Barbara to Poole Harbour Commissioner's (PHC) in accordance with paragraph (49) and (41) of the Southern IFCA Financial Regulations.

381. Draft Reserves Policy 2024 (Review)

The CEO provided Members with a three yearly update of the Southern IFCA Reserves Policy. The CEO reminded Members that the Policy had been developed in 2021 to ensure that Southern IFCA maintain a required level of transparency with regard to financial reserves.

The CEO discussed the main purpose of the Policy was to (1) establish and maintain an adequate balance of working capital to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flow, (2) to create a contingency to protect against the impact of unexpected events or emergencies, (3) to hold funds in order to meet known or predicted requirements often referred to as ringfenced reserves.

The CEO discussed that the main additions to the Policy which had been added as part of the review process were (1) the addition of two Defra Revenue Reserves, (2) the removal of the expired Marine Act Reserve, (3) the introduction of a prudential indicator set at 15% and (4) clarity of reporting at Committee and Sub Committee levels.

The CEO discussed the intention that an overview of the Reserves will be provided alongside the BCS at subsequent AGSC and ESC meetings to ensure tracking of the reserves and transparency on in-year reserve movements.

With regard to savings and investments, The Chairman asked Members to consider whether the Accountant and CEO look at opportunities for moving funds into savings accounts with NatWest with the best possible rates. Cllr. Rob Hughes suggested that any funds could be mixed across different savings accounts, recognising that only 25k is protected and therefore consideration

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should be given to a splitting of the funds to ensure best protections. All Members agreed to this approach.

Cllr. P Fuller proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Mr R Stride. All Members were in favour.

Resolved

382. For Members to approve the draft Reserves Policy 2024, prior to it being presented to the Authority as an Item for Information at a subsequent Authority Meeting.

Recommendation

383. That, in conjunction with the CEO, the Accountant progresses suitable savings and investment opportunities for the Authority, recognising cash flow needs and provide Members with an update at a subsequent ESC meeting.

384. Risk Management Register: March 2024 (confidential item)

The CEO provided an update on strategic risks to the Authority via the Risk Management Register. The main areas of discussion were around the Defra 2024 MPA deadline. In addition, the CEO discussed wider matters relating to reputational risk, as well as matters regarding governance.

Resolved

385. That Members note the updates to the base Risk Management Register, as provided in Table 1.

386. That Members consider where risk has been identified and agree actions where appropriate.

387. MCA Workboat Code Edition 3

DCO Dell provided an update on the implications of the introduction of MCA Workboat Code Edition 3 ('the Code') on Southern IFCA Operations. DCO Dell provided context in that small commercial vessels operating in UK Waters must adhere to the codes of practice, which includes IFCA patrol vessels, with the code providing details of technical requirements for equipment, practices and procedures.

DCO Dell informed Members that the Code had come into force on the 13th December 2023, which, although initially appearing to apply to new builds, also extends to other vessels with its key purpose to improve safety. DCO Dell notified Members that in accordance with due Health & Safety protocol the Code has been implemented across all three FPVs, with the updated requirement reflected in the Southern IFCA Health and Safety Policy. DCO Dell discussed that the most significant change in terms of resources relate to single handed operations and transfer of personnel at sea.

Another relevant change relates to the FPV Vigilant build, whereby a lifting device is no longer permitted under the Code, reminding Members that the intention was to fit FPV Vigilant with a basic hauler in order to offer the capability of hauling recreational pots, which would be subject to regulation under the proposed Pot Fishing Byelaw. DCO Dell confirmed that Southern will continue to assess the impact that these changes may have on operational delivery and where able consider solutions e.g. furthering our joint working with MMO colleagues at sea. In relation to the increased training need, the Deputy informed Members that this training will commence at the end of April and we have secured external funding under the FASS scheme to do this.

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Mr R Stride asked why Southern hadn't made use of a three year grace period before introducing the code. DCO Dell explained that consideration for the Codes introduction was based on a need to primarily ensure officer safety at sea, drawing on possible scenarios where if something did happen in the absence of implementation of the Code.

The Chairman and other Members supported DCO Dell in his decision to not use the grace period.

Resolved

388. That Members noted the report.

389. Accident, Incident and Near Miss Report

DCO Dell informed the Members that there had been no incidents during the previous reporting period.

Resolved

390. That Members note the report.

391. Date of Next Meeting

Members considered the date of the next ESC, timetabled for the 11th June 2024.

Resolved

392. The date of the next virtual meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee is confirmed.

The Meeting closed at 16:07.

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 1st February 2024

Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), held in the meeting room at the Southern IFCA office in Poole at **14:00 on 1st February 2024**.

Present

Dr Antony Jensen	Chairman, MMO Appointee
Mr Richard Stride	Vice Chairman, MMO Appointee
Ms Elisabeth Bussey-Jones	MMO Appointee
Mr Colin Francis	MMO Appointee
Mr Neil Hornby	MMO Appointee
Ms Louise MacCallum	MMO Appointee
Mr Gary Wordsworth	MMO Appointee
Dr Richard Morgan	Natural England
Ms Pia Bateman	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) Dr Sarah Birchenough, Senior IFCO Ms Emily Condie, IFCO Ms Megan Fullbrook and Office Manager Ms Maria Chaplin were also in attendance.

Mr Stuart Kingston-Turner (Environment Agency), Dr Simon Cripps (MMO Appointee) and Project Officers Mr William Meredith-Davies, Ms Imogen Wright and Ms Chelsea Perrins (PO) attended the meeting virtually.

Apologies

32. Apologies for absence were received from DCO Mr Sam Dell.

Declarations of interest

33. The following pecuniary interested were declared: Mr G Wordsworth (Agenda Item 7 & 11). The following non-pecuniary interest were declared: Dr R Morgan (Agenda Item 6 & 7), Mr R Stride (Agenda Item 6) and Ms L MacCallum (Agenda Item 8).

Minutes

34. Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd November 2023, these were confirmed and signed.

PROGRESS REPORTS

35a. Chief Executive Officer Updates

The CEO discussed that following the release of the frontrunner FMPs in December 2023, nationally discussions were now due to take place regarding the implementation of the FMP outcomes. The CEO confirmed that nationally IFCA's are ensuring that they are involved in these conversations, with Tim Smith of the AIFCA representing the collective and from a district perspective, Southern are ensuring that we are in the relevant rooms when it comes to matters of district importance.

The CEO discussed that she would be involved in an FMP Evidence Workshop in February alongside industry representatives and other regulators to begin discussions on evidence gaps. The CEO informed Members, as captured in the pending draft Annual Strategy (for consideration by the Members in March 2024) how Southern are ensuring that our work aligns with the frontrunner outputs and new directions at a district wide level, with application and movement from theory to practice demonstrable at Southern.

The CEO provided an overview of her virtual attendance at the annual Coastal Futures

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Conference, describing the underlying theme for this year being 'inclusivity', a model which Southern IFCA champion in the delivery of everyday work and more widely throughout all IFCAs, when considering the IFCA model which seeks to achieve just that. Dr Sarah Coulthard from Nottingham University, who has been working with the AIFCA, delivered a presentation on the challenging participatory decision-making work that IFCAs do. Dr Coulthard did a great job at flying the IFCA flag where she could, but the CEO was disappointed to say that the talk did lead to some less positive conversations regarding IFCAs. The CEO has subsequently spoken with Rob Clark at the AIFCA and the extensive work which Dr Coulthard has achieved will be shared in due course. The AIFCA aims to build on this work, providing a detailed examination of IFCAs and the role IFCAs perform and challenges faced.

The CEO discussed a number of relevant live consultations, to include the recent launch of new measures by the Government to halt and reverse a decline in nature. The CEO described that this comes a year after the publication of the Environment Improvement Plan in January 2023. The main headlines accompanying this announcement were the permanent closure of the North Sea sandeel fishery from April 2024 and further targeted restrictions on bottom trawling. The CEO reminded Members that the MMO last year consulted on proposals to restrict BTFG over reef and rock habitats in offshore MPAs across a further 13 MPA sites. Yesterday it was confirmed that a byelaw will be introduced to bring these proposals into effect.

The CEO described how she was working with national IFCA partners and the AIFCA to consider a joint response to the MMO regarding the preliminary draft management proposals across these 13 MPAs, which is particularly important where the MMO and IFCAs share straddling or adjacent MPAs. Of relevance for Southern is a small section of the Offshore Overfalls MCZ that sits south of Chichester and east of the IOW, a larger (but still relatively small area) sits within the Sussex IFCA jurisdiction.

The CEO described how Southern have been working with colleagues in D&S, Cornwall and the IoS to help frame and support a response from the SW IFCAs to Defra on the introduction of a by-catch only fishery for Pollock by Defra following receipt of ICES advice in mid-2023. The main fisheries for Pollock are west, with less reliance on this fishery in the Southern District when compared with others. This has been quite a complex matter regarding Defra process and procedure and timelines surrounding engagement pre-implementation, as well as management solutions. Industry in general accept that management is required in this fishery and welcome effort control, however, do feel that the bycatch only fishery solution will not be effective and likely have a huge impact on displacement, pressure on other stocks and of course huge socio-economic impacts. The Fisheries Minister Mark Spencer this week confirmed that these fishers will not receive compensation, however, will be encouraged to seek support via the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme to help diversify.

The CEO discussed the closure for crawfish for ICES Area 7 by the MMO. The closure will be in place from 5th Feb to 30 April and has been introduced via a licence variation. From a District perspective, the largest impact is likely further west looking towards our Devon and Cornish colleagues, however, we are aware that crawfish are moving east along the channel, so it maybe in future that this species is more prevalent in the district.

The CEO discussed that the MMO are currently seeking views on proposals to close VIId and the area of Lyme Bay falling in VIle to king scallop over 10m dredge fishing in summer 2024. The proposed closures are to protect stock during spawning season and limit impact on juvenile settlement. Consultation closes on the 14th Feb.

The CEO provided an update on inshore VMS, in that the rollout programme closed in December 2023. There was an 80% uptake in the under 12 sector. The MMO are asking that all vessels will need to have a type of approved device installed and operating when the new

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legislation comes into effect, which is anticipated April 2024. The legislation will require all vessels under 12m to have iVMS installed and transmitting data to the MMO when in English waters. The MMO are urging those who have purchased a device to arrange for installation so that they will be compliant when the legislation comes in. The CEO invited those requiring assistance to contact the MMO on a dedicated helpline, details of which can be found on the MMO website.

The CEO finished on an AIFCA initiative, which had been launched in recent months, which are online learning sessions aimed at Members and officers. The CEO provided a summary of the two sessions to date, the first session looked at decision making processes and the role of 'statutory advice' and how IFCA's consider this alongside our legal duties when considering management interventions and the second was chaired by Dr S Cripps and covered Marine Natural Capital. The CEO summarised that both sessions were extremely valuable and that she was pleased to see so many of our Members and staff in attendance.

With regard to the Coastal Futures Conference, Ms L MacCallum agreed with the CEO that fishing was underrepresented at the conference and informed members it was "like the elephant in the room". Despite IFCA and other fisheries representatives being present, none presented. Mr N Hornby advised members that he attended one day this year and agreed that fisheries wasn't well represented.

With regard to Inshore VMS, Mr R Stride informed Members that most fishers he knows have had letters from the MMO, however, it is not in their power to begin installation as the manufacturer has to arrange installation.

35b. BTFG Byelaw 2023

DCO Birchenough advised members that SIFCA made the BTFG Byelaw 2023 at the September Authority meeting with the Byelaw subsequently submitted to the MMO and Defra for consideration in October 2023. The first round of QA from the MMO was received at the end of December and DCO Birchenough outlined that the comments provided by the MMO are currently being reviewed. To date there are no comments which relate to proposed changes to the management itself under the Byelaw.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

36. Black Sea Bream Principles

DCO Birchenough outlined that, at the November TAC meeting, Members were informed that advice was going to be sought from Defra as to the application of the 2024 Government deadline for MPA management to the development of management for Black Sea Bream, which is designated in three of our Dorset Marine Conservation Zones, Purbeck Coast, Poole Rocks and Southbourne Rough. DCO Birchenough outlined that a meeting had been held with herself, the CEO and Defra on this subject. There was a clear indication from Defra that the development of management of Black Sea Bream should be delivered in line with that 2024 deadline.

DCO Birchenough advised members that the discussion with the TAC in November included the potential for pausing this work stream dependent on the outcome of the conversation with Defra, based on the steer received from Defra two Member Working Groups have been held in January 2024 to progress this workstream. DCO Birchenough thanked the Members for their input into the working groups.

DCO Birchenough outlined that the paper presented to the TAC at this meeting outlined General, Evidence and Spatial principles to underpin the development of management for black seabream in the three Dorset MCZs.

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DCO Birchenough advised Members that the IFCA duties for management within MCZs are set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act, where Southern IFCA are required to ensure that the conservation objectives of MCZs are furthered.

DCO Birchenough outlined the General Principle which covers a definition of 'further' in line with the Oxford English Dictionary definition, and the Evidence Principles which outline the four evidence sources used to inform nest locations for black seabream and how any additional evidence sources, post a certain date, would be considered either through the Formal Consultation Phase or in subsequent byelaw reviews as determined under the provisions of any byelaw which is developed.

DCO Birchenough outlined that the four evidence sources had fed into the development of the Spatial Principles and passed to Senior IFCO Condie who provided a more detailed overview of the process which was followed in the development of each of the 6 Spatial Principles, resulting in the development of 'Indicative Habitat Areas'.

Senior IFCO Condie outlined that 'nest data' had been used, in combination with a 'GPS Buffer' of 10m to create 'nest units' and that where three or more nest units existed within 320m of each other these would be grouped to form 'hotspots'. The culmination of this process is the identification of the 'Indicative Habitat Areas'.

Mr R Stride asked, given those characteristics how significant is the existence of a nest, a position of a nest and then a buffer around that. He commented that on the basis of the principles, the denser the nests are then that becomes an area which is of greater interest, however the hotspot areas seem like a very low density.

DCO Birchenough explained that the identification of nests is based on the current best available evidence of where nests have been mapped. The presence of a nest indicates that the area is suitable nesting habitat and thus grouping nests to form indicative habitat can only be done based on the current best available evidence. It is recognised that the nests won't necessarily be found in exactly the same locations each year but the evidence used is the only evidence currently available to indicate where this suitable habitat may be found.

Mr R Stride queried whether the Conservation Objectives require the nesting areas to be maintained in favourable condition and questioned how a nest would end up in unfavourable condition unless it was fully covered with sediment or had fishing gear towed over it.

Dr A Jensen suggested that during the winter storms, bad weather events can redistribute sediments and would potentially affect the area used, and then the following year, the bream would determine the best nest locations based on conditions. Dr A Jensen advised that he is not aware of any data that suggests bream return to the same nest in subsequent years.

DCO Birchenough advised that there is a need to consider the impact of fishing gear on the eggs which are present on nests in addition to the nest itself, as well as the impact that removing the guarding male fish would have on spawning success.

Dr A Jensen explained that whilst reading the Marine Licensing agenda item, there was a suggestion that there is disposal of dredged material occurring at a site near Swanage. Dr Jensen said he was under the impression that the Swanage dumping site off Old Harry Rocks had been closed down and, if not, whether the MMO were aware of the proximity to the designated areas for black seabream and the potential impact from dredge disposal on nests. DCO Birchenough responded that the IFCA is able to comment on the relationship between licence applications and fishing activity, it is the remit of other bodies such as Natural England, to respond to licence applications in relation to features of designated sites.

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Mr N Hornby asked whether there was a proposal to consider temporal management under the principles DCO Birchenough explained that a consideration of any seasonal element to management will come through discussions on what type of management may be required once the General, Evidence and Spatial principles have been considered. Members will need to consider what they feel “furthering” the conservation objectives looks like. This will consider application of spatial areas, consideration of whether any management should be seasonal and what measures may be required for different gear types.

Mr N Hornby suggested that there could be temporal measures without a spatial element. DCO Birchenough explained that this would be moving towards whole site management as opposed to feature-based management. The Southern IFCA’s legal duties are for feature based management within MCZs. The feature is Black Seabream with the conservation objectives relating to the spawning habitat, and the use of this habitat.

Ms L MacCallum asked what percentage of the habitat is suitable and is included in the Indicative Habitat Areas that had been outlined. She stated that, if the black seabream are not fixated on a specific spot, and that each year they can nest in these areas, then temporal measures would make sense because it can’t be predicted year to year where the nests are going to be. DCO Birchenough explained that we can quantify the percentage of ‘nest data’ or ‘nest units’ that are included in Indicative Habitat Areas but not the percentage of overall suitable habitat as the only evidence available to indicate where this is, is the nest data from the identified evidence sources.

Dr S Cripps stated that if the area for management was of sufficient size to allow black seabream to move around from year to year then there wouldn’t be a need for temporal measures. As there is limited data available, would there be a requirement for a large enough area to allow for variation in nest location. He queried how often surveys are carried out to determine where nests are located and whether the areas identified for management would be in place, for example, for the next 10 years or whether they would be re-evaluated year on year because nests move around.

DCO Birchenough advised that Southern IFCA would look to Natural England to provide any updated evidence on nest location resulting from any additional survey work. There is an ongoing tagging project for black seabream, actively tagging bream in the Dorset MCZs, therefore there will be data available from this project over the next couple of years which may help inform future management.

The CEO discussed why the spatial principles have been built from nest data to create Indicative Habitat Areas. The nest data represents where spawning habitat is located and is currently the best available evidence, the development of Indicative Habitat Areas from this data has increased the size of the areas of spawning habitat from 21 to 222 football pitches in size. At subsequent Working Groups Members will be able to consider how to apply these areas in the development of management measures.

Dr Jensen reflected that Members generally appear to be supportive of the principles presented in the paper. He acknowledged the useful discussion on more detailed management measures but reminded Members that, at this meeting, the consideration needs to be on the General, Evidence and Spatial principles.

Mr N Hornby asked whether the available evidence was of sufficient quality to be able to take a spatial decision. He queried whether the Authority can know that it is protecting the right areas.

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Dr Richard Morgan advised some degree of caution is often the case with providing data. Ultimately it will still come back to the suitable habitat, so the nest data that is available is indicative of where this suitable habitat occurs. He referred to the reference in the Conservation Objectives that black seabream should be free of disturbance when they aggregate. He outlined that if there is only a focus on nests, then the aggregation element may not be fully considered. He outlined that the collection of data on suitable habitat requires a large amount of work and that there are sometimes issues with data collection, such as the Cefas survey which was affected by weather conditions. He commented that Matt Doggett has done a lot of work on identifying the location of bream nests and behaviours.

Ms E Bussey-Jones queried whether single, or double nests which do not form part of the Indicative Habitat Areas under the prescribed methodology would then therefore be just as important as they are indicating that suitable habitat is present.

Mr C Francis commented that the concern amongst the angling community is that there's going to be large scale closures to their activities. He commented that black seabream are thriving as a population and spreading, yet management may affect all the angling activity which takes place in these areas.

Mr R Stride reiterated that the criteria for calling a particular set of nests a hotspot was actually quite a low density of nest units based on it being three or more within in 320 meters of each other.

The CEO informed Members that there will be a need for Members to consider what percentage of these Indicative Habitat Areas identified may require management in order to satisfy a furthering of the Conservation Objectives. It will be key to define what 'further' means in this context and how the Authority can demonstrate that it is meeting its legal duties. For the Indicative Habitat Areas that have been discussed, there may or may not be a need to manage all of these areas, rather, depending on the Members consideration 50%, 80% or another percentage for example, may require management in order to achieve 'further'. At this point, a good working model has been developed.

Mr C Francis queried the compliance and enforcement element, stating that if the areas for management are too large the IFCA will be unable to enforce them.

Mr N Hornby asked if the principles are agreed whether management can then only be considered for these areas or whether management could be considered more widely at the next stage. The CEO described the iterative process, in that the principles will remain in draft format but at this stage allow us to maintain momentum in evolving this area of work.

Ms E Bussey-Jones proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Dr A Jensen. Four Members voted in favour of the vote (Dr A Jensen, Ms E Bussey-Jones, Mr N Hornby and Mr G Wordsworth). The following members abstained, Dr R Morgan, Mr C Francis, Mr R Stride and Ms L MacCallum.

Resolved

37. That Members agree the General, Evidence and Spatial Principles.

38. Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw HRA 2024-2025

DCO Birchenough outlined that the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw HRA relates to the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw which regulates the use of dredges within Poole

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Harbour. The byelaw has been in place since 2015, and every year there is a requirement to review the HRA, related to the issuing of permits under the byelaw, to make sure that the Southern IFCA continues to meet its legal duties for Poole Harbour as a designated site, and the management provided by the byelaw continues to provide suitable mitigation for that purpose.

DCO Birchenough outlined that 45 permits are issued each year, with the proposal that the same number is issued for the coming season, which starts on the 25th May 2024. DCO Birchenough stated that the HRA has been reviewed, and that there has not been a permit condition review since the previous season, therefore there are no changes in management to consider. Data has been updated to include landings from the previous season and outputs from the 2023 stock assessment. Both of those indicate that the stocks continue to be sustainable. It was noted that landings have been up on the previous couple of years and although not as high as for 2020. There is no indication from the stock survey that any impact is being felt on the stock and there have been no changes related to the designation of the Harbour that require consideration. Therefore, the conclusion of the HRA was that the management continues to meet the requirements of the site and the issuing of 45 permits for the coming year will not have an adverse effect on Poole Harbour as a designated site.

DCO Birchenough outlined that two inconsequential amendments had been made to the HRA, based on Formal Advice received from Natural England, which could be accepted if Members agree this is appropriate. The updates were to one of the tables which references draft supplementary advice for conservation objectives, which is now formal advice, and an update to reflect that the water bird assemblage covers all of the relevant species as well as those specifically named. DCO Birchenough outlined that there were no other amendments required following the receipt of Formal Advice from NE and that NE supported the conclusion of the HRA.

Mr R Morgan advised that NE has identified a potential evidence gap which relates to the impacts of the dredges upon intertidal habitats. NE put a bid in in 2023 to carry out some research, NE were awarded the bid but at the time didn't have the resources to carry out the work. NE are hoping to reapply in 2024.

Mr R Stride proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Ms E Bussey-Jones. All members were in favour with the exception of Mr G Wordsworth who abstained.

Resolved

39. That, based on the evidence provided in the HRA, Members agree the issuing of 45 permits for the 2024-25 season under the PHDP Byelaw.

40. That Members authorise inconsequential amendments to be made to the HRA as required following any advice received from Natural England.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

41. Wrasse Fishery Report 2023

Senior IFCO Condie provided a summary of the data outputs and fishing activity from the 2023 wrasse season. The fishery took place over a 12 week season starting from 1st July. Communication was maintained with the fishers and buyers throughout the season which allowed for a proactive approach to monitoring landings. The fishery concluded with no trigger points, as outlined in the M&CP for the fishery, being reached. Senior IFCO Condie outlined the compliance and enforcement work that had been carried out in relation to the fishery and that the Southern IFCA will continue to monitor the fishery in line with the Wrasse Fishery

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Guidance, M&CP and the MCRS Byelaw for the 2024 season.

Dr A Jensen queried whether there was any information on how the wrasse are processed once they reach the salmon farms in Scotland and whether there are any reports on the welfare of the fish. It was asked whether more detail could be provided to Members on what happens once the fish have fulfilled their role in relation to salmon farming and whether there are any concerns in this regard.

Recommendation

42. That Senior IFCO Condie explore matters concerning wrasse welfare following capture and report back to the TAC.

Resolved

43. That Members note the update.

44. Fisheries Management Plans

DCO Birchenough presented the report and provided an update on the Authority's work under the FMP Program to support Defra's delivery of the Fisheries Act Objectives. DCO Birchenough outlined work undertaken by Southern IFCA under the FMP program since autumn 2022 outlining that the IFCAs, through the AIFCA, had been invited to provide this information to Defra to support reporting on the provision of Defra funding for this workstream. DCO Birchenough also provided updates on five published frontrunner FMPs under T1 and T2 and progress updates on the development of relevant T3 FMPs, Skates and Rays, Queen Scallop and Cockle. The deadline for submission of T3 FMPs to Defra by Delivery Partners for QA is 9th February 2024.

Resolved

45. That Members note the update.

46. Marine Licensing Update

Senior IFCO Condie provided an update on Marine Licence Applications that the Southern IFCA have received as a consultee, from the MMO. Between November 2023 and January 2024 two MLAs required a response, two MLAs were deemed to not require a response. Detail on the two MLAs requiring a response was provided as part of the report.

Dr A Jensen queried the use of the Swanage Bay disposal site under one of the MLAs listed in the provided table and how the suitability of this site is assessed and how it relates to the presence of fisheries and features of relevant MPAs.

Recommendation

47. That DCO Birchenough seeks further information on the use of the Swanage Bay disposal site from the MMO and report back to the TAC verbally.

Resolved

48. That Members note the update.

49. CONFIDENTIAL Poole Harbour Several Order – Request to Amend Business Plan

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 1st February 2024

In accordance with the consideration of information which is exempt by virtue of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public were excluded from the meeting (virtually and in person) during consideration of this item.

Following an overview provided by IFCO Fullbrook, regarding a change in methodology for a number of lease beds in Poole Harbour, Members considered the recommendations.

Ms E Bussey-Jones proposed and Mr R Stride seconded, all Members eligible to vote were in favour.

Resolved

47. That Members approve the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2020-25 for Lease Beds 1, 5, 9, 11 and 12.

Date of Next Meeting

50. That the meeting of the TAC will be on the 9th May 2024 at Southern IFCA, Unit 3 Holes Bay Park, Sterte Avenue West, Poole Dorset BH15 2AA.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:25

Chairman:

Date:

Budget Control Statement

Report by The CEO and Chartered Accountant

A. Purpose

To provide Members with a summary of the Authority's accounts for the financial year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

B. Recommendation

1. That the report be received.

C. Annexes

Annex 1: Summary Budget Control Statement & Detailed Budget Control Statement

1.0 Budget Control Statement

1.1 The Summary Budget Control Statement to 31st March 2024 is shown at Annex 1, showing a **surplus of c.161k, of which 140k relates to Defra funding** granted in order for Southern IFCA to support Defra in its delivery of key objectives as listed in the Fisheries Act 2020.

1.2 The notes accompanying the Summary and Detailed Budget Control Statement (Annex 1) provide an overview of all positive and negative variance equal to or greater than 1k.

2.0 Summary of Major Budget Headers

2.1 The positive variance captured under the Compliance & Enforcement Header (c.107k) is due in part (c.67k) to a new approach to accounting (in accordance with best recognised practice), where monies to replenish the Patrol Vessel Reserve fund are to be transferred at the end of the financial year, rather than in year as a reserves movement. Marine Insurance was c.7k lower than anticipated (relating to FPV Vigilant and the point in which she will enter service) and costs associated with prosecutions (c.19k) remain lower than budget. Fuel costs (c.5k) were lower than anticipated due to periods of time when FPVs were land based for maintenance purposes. Berthing fees for FPV Vigilant entering service were budgeted from June 2023, as such a saving against budget of c.5k is realised.

2.2 The positive variance captured under the Research and Policy Header (c.20k) reflects the monies ringfenced for byelaw advertisement process (c.9k) (in accordance with Defra guidance) and that which has been ringfenced for legal scrutiny of byelaws (c.6k) which has not been utilised to date. The fee (c.5k) associated with the annual MSC audit of the Poole Harbour Dredge fishery was paid in advance in the previous financial year (2022/2023).

2.3 The positive variance captured under the Business Service Header (c.31k) is due to a reduction in staff salary and pension contributions as a result of in year staff movements, specifically the of carrying vacancies for Office Manager, Finance Administration and Senior IFCO Research & Policy during the earlier part of the budget year, and savings related to one IFCO taking a 12 month sabbatical. Associated to staff changes being the unforeseen costs of 10k to Office Angels following staff resignation. There has also been an underspend on AIFCA National Training, as the AIFCA no longer provide this service.

2.4 The positive variance under the Capital Equipment Header (c.80k) is due to budgeting for FPV Vigilant to enter service earlier than anticipated.

3.0 Total Income

A deficit in projected income of c.28k reflects in part the decrease in Defra grant for project work 2023-2024 of 25k (90k still to be received from a total of 140k committed, with original budget anticipating receipt of 165k). This has been offset by unexpected income relating to the Poole Harbour Oil Spill (c.22k) and c.25k bank interest received, c.4k relating to income pending and 34k relating to a transfer from the Poole Order reserve which has been completed as a reserves movement in line with recognised accounting policy.

4.0 Payment of Amounts Exceeding £5,000

- 4.1 Paragraph (11) of Southern IFCA's 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 Financial Manager's control) are to be reported to the Authority via a BCS.
- 4.2 Between the 1st April 2023 and the 31st March 2024, the following payments equal to or greater than the above-mentioned figure were made, as follows (as this is a year summary, please note that items in italics have previously been reported):

Amount	Date	What (why)	Who
£139,269.96	06/03/2023	<i>Deposit for Cabin RHIB</i>	<i>Ribcraft Ltd</i>
£8,760.48	15/03/2023	<i>MSC Reassessment of the Poole Harbour Clam & Cockle Fishery</i>	<i>Control Union (UK) Limited</i>
£30,882.67	25/04/2023	<i>Insurance – all policies</i>	<i>Fowler Penfold Insurance Broker</i>
£7,280	26/04/2023	<i>Development fees (shared across three IFCAs) associated with online permit system platform.</i>	<i>Sussex IFCA</i>
£13,041	05/07/2023	<i>Membership subscription 23/24.</i>	<i>AIFCA</i>
£5,248	18/08/2023	<i>Upfront payment for IFCO training, of which 75% will be reclaimed under the Fisheries & Seafood Scheme (FASS) following completion of training for eight IFCO's in recognised Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW)</i>	<i>Fire Aid Academy</i>
£66,850	25/08/2023	<i>Staged Payment (1) Cabin RHIB</i>	<i>Ribcraft Ltd</i>
£7,500	25/08/2023	<i>Placement fee (Recruitment Agency)</i>	<i>Office Angels</i>
£66,850	29/09/2023	<i>Staged Payment (2) Cabin RHIB</i>	<i>Ribcraft Ltd</i>
£43,602.60	01/11/2023	<i>New Van – Silver Ford. purchase followed sale of 3/4 vehicles (c.28.5k) (the forth pending operational needs assessment following introduction of FPV Vigilant). new van to service FPV Vigilant – operationally suited to transport more IFCOs (6&gear) compared with existing vans (2 seats).</i>	<i>Foray Motor Group</i>
£6,912.00	31/01/2024	<i>New Kit Lockers</i>	<i>The Office Works</i>
£11,722.01	02/02/2024	<i>New office – Alteration works to create new ground floor office space</i>	<i>MEH Construction Ltd</i>
£5,080.80	22/03/2024	<i>Annual Berthing Contract - Endeavour</i>	<i>Poole Quay Boat Haven</i>

SUMMARY RESULTS Major Budget Headers		YTD 1 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24 (12 mths)			YTD Notes for positive & negative variance ≥£1k
Apr23-Mar24 12 mths Budget		Actual	Budget	Variances	
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
Compliance and Enforcement	169,529	62,173	169,529	⬆️ (107,356)	£67K budgeted to be transferred out of the General Reserve to Marine Renewal Reserve - this has been transferred in reserves and there is no revenue account impact. Insurance £6.5K lower than budgeted. £5.4K lower FPV Fuel and £5K lower on FPV Berthing. Prosecution costs £19K lower than budgeted.
Research and Policy	33,631	13,107	33,631	⬆️ (20,524)	WHK survey carried into April) c.£1.5K, £9K for MPA byelaws adverts pending 2024, Legal scrutiny £6.4K not utilised.
Business Services	895,839	865,088	895,839	⬆️ (30,751)	Majority related to salary & pension savings of £37K - increased on last quarter due to sabbatical taken by member of staff. £12K overspend on office expenditure is covered by ringfenced Dilapidations reserve. £10K unforeseen Office Angels placement fee. These are offset by a £10K underspend on National training.
Capital Equipment	126,055	45,263	126,055	⬆️ (80,792)	£75K relates to depreciation on Stella Barbara replacement budgeted to be in service in June 2023.
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,225,054	985,631	1,225,054	⬆️ (239,423)	
TOTAL INCOME		1,147,336	1,175,441	⬇️ (28,105)	DEFRA grant (£140K) - £25K under budget - £90k still not received. £34K budgeted to be transferred out of Poole Order Reserve to General Reserves at year end - this has been transferred in reserves and there is no revenue account impact. Offset by £25k of bank interest.
INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(49,613)	161,705	(49,613)	⬆️ 211,318	YTD there is a surplus in income of £161K, of which 140K relates to DEFRA FA funds - therefore the surplus is c.22k

DETAILED RESULTS Minor Budget Headers		Apr23-Mar24 12 mths Budget	YTD 1 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24 (12 mths) ActualBudgetVariances			YTD Notes for positive & negative variance ≥£1k
Compliance & Enforcement	Total Vehicle Fuel	4,835	5,174	4,835	↓ 339	
	7150-100 Vehicle roadside assistance	210	0	210	↓ (210)	Windscreen repairs x2, tyre replacement, tracker (new vehicle), tow bar (general wear & tear)
	7160-100 Vehicle maintenance	3,222	5,214	3,222	↓ 1,992	
	7170-100 Vehicle road tax	1,396	1,007	1,396	↓ (389)	
	7180-100 Vehicle Insurance	3,805	3,906	3,805	↓ 101	
	6068-100 Drone Insurance	2,400	0	2,400	↓ (2,400)	This cost has been captured under 6070 Marine Insurance.
	6066-100 Drone running costs	644	635	644	↓ (9)	
	6000-100 3x FPV Fuel	12,709	7,266	12,709	↓ (5,443)	Underspend in part reflects periods when 2 x FPV's were land based for maintenance purposes. Cost of fuel reduced since budget setting
	6005-100 FPV Berthing	10,352	5,178	10,352	↓ (5,174)	Budget includes cost to berth FPV Vigilant anticipated to be operational at this point.
	6006-100 FPV Maintenance	19,173	18,673	19,173	↓ (500)	
	6070-100 Marine Insurance	9,260	5,138	9,260	↓ (4,122)	Premium lower than expected based on previous years. Budget also included cost for FPV Vigilant insurance - yet to come into service
	4910-100 Patrol Vessel Reserve Fund	66,667	0	66,667	↓ (66,667)	Recognised accounting treatment requires the £66,667 to be transferred out of General Reserves and into the Marine Vessel Renewal Reserve at year end.
	5040-100 Protective clothing (PPE)	6,306	6,124	6,306	↓ (182)	
	5233-100 Enforcement Equipment	3,222	1,167	3,222	↓ (2,055)	Costs incurred in January following 3 x new starters
	5234-100 Industry compliance aids	3,847	566	3,847	↓ (3,281)	Reflects seasonal requests for RSA cricketers & shellfish gauges (handgathering)
	5090-100 Prosecution costs	21,480	2,125	21,480	↓ (19,355)	Budget is evenly phased by month. We are not accruing each month but will account for these costs as they hit.
	TOTAL	169,529	62,173	169,529	↓ (107,356)	
Research & Policy	5140-100 Adverts - Byelaws	10,842	1,653	10,842	↓ (9,189)	Budgeted for 3 MPA byelaws-BTFG Autumn 2023 realised. SG & BB pending 2024.
	5096-100 Legal scrutiny (including byelaws)	6,444	0	6,444	↓ (6,444)	Budget is evenly phased by month. We are not accruing each month but will account for these costs as they hit.
	5099-100 Consultation costs	1,074	0	1,074	↓ (1,074)	Stage of numerous byelaw developments yet to reach consultation stage. Anticipated cost for BS8 to move into 2024
	5201-100 Poole Bivalve Survey	1,100	168	1,100	↓ (932)	Undertaken April, forecast to be within budget year
	5202-100 Solent Scallop Stock Survey	3,029	5,190	3,029	↓ 2,161	Additional survey conducted following in year approval by Committee (now undertake 3 pa)
	5206-100 Solent Bivalve Stock Assessment	3,029	2,360	3,029	↓ (669)	
	5207-100 Wheel Survey	1,718	136	1,718	↓ (1,582)	Work undertaken April 2024
	5217-100 Survey Equipment & Maintenance	537	225	537	↓ (312)	
	5231-100 Poole Harbour MSC Re-certification	1,025	0	1,025	↓ (1,025)	Transfer to Poole Order Reserve from General Reserve at year end (PHDP payments increased over 5 years to payback upfront costs for re-certification).
	5230-100 Poole Harbour MSC Annual Audit	4,833	3,375	4,833	↓ (1,458)	Paid prematurely in 2022/23 budget to align with payments for MSC Re-certification - 1/4 of prepayment released this year
	TOTAL	33,631	13,107	33,631	↓ (20,524)	
Business Services	Office expenditure	32,089	43,974	32,089	↓ 11,885	Overspend specific to Dilapidations Reserve Ringfenced Funds for infrastructure improvements falling outside budget. This amount to be deducted at year end.
	5060-100 Communications	8,055	9,036	8,055	↓ 981	
	5070-100 General Insurance	20,479	21,221	20,479	↓ 742	
	5075-100 Rates	21,086	18,849	21,086	↓ (2,237)	Rates lower than budgeted.
	5110-100 Misc	4,296	2,421	4,296	↓ (1,875)	Budget spread evenly across the year, spend is more ad-hoc. Legacy account to be removed at year end.
	5130-100 Financial Audit costs	3,866	3,300	3,866	↓ (566)	
	5065-100 New accounting software - Xero	541	0	541	↓ (541)	
	5680-100 Bank charges	930	949	930	↓ 19	
	5160-100 AIFCA	15,000	15,447	15,000	↓ 447	
	5080-100 General Subscriptions	4,854	2,950	4,854	↓ (1,904)	Includes Fishing News, Amazon Prime, prepayments for Ocean Wise Marine and Shellfish council
	5056-100 Permit Database	1,257	1,820	1,257	↓ (577)	Refund from Sussex IFCA - more IFCA's utilising Permit System so original development costs reduced.
	5105-100 Authority meetings	2,685	1,891	2,685	↓ (694)	
	4862-100 Meetings - NIMFES	0	574	0	↓ 574	
	5150-100 Adverts - Recruitment	2,148	12,892	2,148	↓ 10,744	£10K Office Angels placement fees following resignation in April. This was unforeseen.
	5097-100 Legal support (HR)	1,611	490	1,611	↓ (1,121)	Relating to staff dismissal
	5010-100 Salaries and other labour costs	658,369	621,479	658,369	↓ (36,890)	Represents in year staff vacancies that have since been filled. 1 member of staff on sabbatical from Jan 2024 onwards.
	5020-100 LGA Pension Scheme	87,892	92,759	87,892	↓ 4,867	£8,000 charged by Hampshire pensions for past service - one off cost in Jan 2024.
Capital Expenditure	Training	22,307	12,416	22,307	↓ (9,891)	National Training costs (Competent Officer Course). Costs in line with prior year. NB no longer a NLTO in post at AIFCA.
	Staff Expenses	4,400	4,389	4,400	↓ (11)	
	7130-100 Chairman's fund	1,074	62	1,074	↓ (1,012)	Awaiting outstanding expenses.
	7145-100 Members networking	752	382	752	↓ (370)	
	7140-100/7144-100 MMO appointee expenses	2,148	1,327	2,148	↓ (821)	
	TOTAL	895,839	865,088	895,839	↓ (30,751)	
	9120-100 Premises	4,988	5,006	4,988	↓ 18	
	9140-100 Equipment	4,039	4,982	4,039	↓ 943	
	9180-100 Vehicles	12,376	9,793	12,376	↓ (2,583)	New van purchased in Oct 2023 (less than budgeted) plus sale of 2 x vehicles also in Oct 2023. A further vehicle sale in Nov 2023.
	9160-100 FPV's	99,282	23,536	99,282	↓ (75,746)	Budget estimated Stella Barbara replacement (i.e. Vigilant) anticipated to be in use from Jun 2023.
	8010-100 Small items of equip (<£500)	5,370	1,946	5,370	↓ (3,424)	Phased evenly by month for the Budget. This is an estimate.
	TOTAL	126,055	45,263	126,055	↓ (80,792)	
Income	4210-100 Levy - Hants	328,489	328,489	328,489	⇒ 0	
	4220-100 Levy - IDW	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	
	4845-100 Poole Harbour Dredge Permits	27,000	29,850	27,000	↓ 2,850	1 less permit than anticipated (£675), remaining surplus to transfer to Poole Reserve at year end (MSC upfront payments)
	4846-100 Solent Dredge Permits Category A	7,740	6,263	7,740	↓ (1,477)	35 permits anticipated based on previous year. 29 taken out.
	4850-100 Poole Order Aquaculture Leases	31,530	30,494	31,530	↓ (1,036)	Remaining income received in Jan/Feb 2024
	4847-100 Net fishing permits	2,890	1,870	2,890	↓ (1,020)	Less permits than anticipated taken out
	4851-100 Pot Fishing Permit - commercial	3,600	(18)	3,600	↓ (3,618)	PFB with Defra for QA prior to SoS consideration for ratification.
	4852-100 Pot Fishing Permit - recreational	1,050	0	1,050	↓ (1,050)	
	4895-100 Poole Council Shellfish Sample	2,835	0	2,835	↓ (2,835)	Sum pending
	4190-100 Bank interest receivable	1,000	25,277	1,000	↓ 24,277	Budget set before interest rate increases.
	4890-100 Misc income (including DEFRA refunds)	2,500	2,877	2,500	↓ 377	Unforeseen chartering costs
	4200-100 DEFRA Fisheries Act Fund (£821)	165,000	140,000	165,000	↓ (25,000)	Funding for 2023/24 confirmed at £140k - £50k received in March 2024, £90k accrued at year end
	4875-100 Oil Spill Response (contra S216)	0	21,969	0	↓ 21,969	Relates to Perenco income for Poole Harbour Oil spill.
	4897-100 Poole Harbour Fishery Reserve tfr	33,930	0	33,930	↓ (33,930)	Recognised accounting treatment requires transfer from the Poole Order Reserve to the General Reserve at year end to cover costs.
	5170-100 (Surplus)/deficit on equip sale	79,851	73,489	79,851	↓ (6,362)	3 x vehicles (£21k profit) disposed in Nov 2023 and Stella Barbara in March 2024 (£52.3k)
	4600-100 Court costs recovered	3,424	2,174	3,424	↓ (1,250)	
	TOTAL	1,175,441	1,147,336	1,175,441	↓ (28,105)	

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Report by the CEO and Chartered Accountant Jennifer Carr

A. Purpose

To consider and approve the draft Statement of Accounts for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

B. Recommendation

That Members authorise the submission of the draft Statement of Accounts to the external auditors for the financial year ended 31st March 2024.

C. Annexes

Annex 1: Statement of Accounts for year ended 31st March 2024

1.0 Background

- 1.1 With effect from 1st April 2015 Southern IFCA were no longer required to have their accounts audited. However, in order to ensure that the Authority's financial business is conducted in accordance with proper recognised standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, the Authority has appointed Francis Clark LLP, registered auditors, to carry out a "limited scope assurance report", which is a formal procedure recognised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. This will be undertaken in the summer, the outcomes of which will be presented to The Authority in September 2024.

2.0 Summary of Statement of Accounts

- 2.1 The draft Statement of Accounts (SoA) sets out the overall financial position of The Authority for the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.
- 2.2 During the year to 31st March 2024, the Consolidated Revenue Account recorded a net surplus on General Reserve of c.161k. Please note that the previous Agenda Item entitled 'Budget Control Statement' provides a breakdown of the above mentioned net surplus.

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Unit 3, Holes Bay Park, Sterte Avenue West, Poole, BH15 2AA

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

1 FOREWORD TO THE ACCOUNTS

Provided by Chief Executive Officer Pia Bateman and Chartered Accountant Jennifer Carr

This Statement of Accounts sets out the overall financial position of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority for the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

The core financial statements are:

- **The Statement of Accounting Policies** which details the principles on which the Statement of Accounts has been prepared.
- **The Consolidated Revenue Account** which covers the income and expenditure for the year to 31st March 2024.
- **The Consolidated Balance Sheet** which sets out the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2024.
- **The Statement of Total Movements in Reserves** which brings together all the recognised gains and losses of the Authority during the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.
- **The Consolidated Cash Flow Statement** which summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

During the year to 31st March 2024 the Consolidated Revenue Account shows that the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority recorded a net surplus of £161,705 (2022-2023 surplus of £517,821), this was taken to the General Reserve. Of this £161,705 surplus, £140,000 related to a DEFRA revenue grant which will be fully utilised over the next few years. £98,449 of the DEFRA Revenue grant was utilised during the year. £8,903 of the surplus was transferred to the Research Reserve (2022-2023: £16,000).

Levies upon the six constituent councils of Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, BCP, Portsmouth and Southampton were consistent with last year and raised £813,091 (2022-2023: £813,091) (see Section 5 & Note 5.1.8). At the year-end net assets were valued at £2,227,615 (2022-2023: £2,065,910) (see Section 6).

2 STATEMENTS ON INTERNAL CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES PLUS CERTIFICATE BY THE TREASURER

2.1 Statement on Internal Control

2.1.1 Scope of Responsibility

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority ('The Authority') takes responsibility for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, used economically, efficiently, and effectively. The Authority also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, The Authority takes responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of The Authority's functions, and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

2.1.2 The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of The Authority's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically.

The system of internal control has been in place at the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority for the year to 31st March 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

2.1.3 The Internal Control Environment

The key elements of the internal control environment, includes:

- the facilitation of policy and decision-making.
- ensuring compliance with established policies, procedures, laws, and regulations including how risk management is embedded in the activity of The Authority, how leadership is given to the risk management process, and how staff are trained or equipped to manage risk in a way appropriate to their authority and duties.
- ensuring the economical, effective, and efficient use of resources, and for securing continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- the financial management of The Authority.
- the overview of the Executive Sub Committee, in accordance with their functions, as specified under The Authority's Standing Orders.

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

2.1.4 Review of Effectiveness

The Authority takes responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control. The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers within The Authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control environment, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

2.1.5 Significant Internal Control Issues

The most significant Internal Control Issue is the small number of staff to whom tasks can be allocated. There is little or no flexibility in the case of leave or sickness which means that mundane and routine tasks have to be constantly planned in advance.

2.1.6 Financial Internal Audit

Financial internal audit was carried out by Gemma Roberts ACA for April 2023 to December 2023 and Jennifer Carr ACA for January 2024 to March 2024. Areas examined include:

- Variance of budget against actual
- Prompt banking of receipts
- Authorisation of expenditure
- Salaries, pensions, and PAYE
- Control over fixed assets
- VAT
- MMO appointees' expenses
- Bank reconciliations

The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- the work of officers of the Authority,
- the work of the internal auditor as described above, and
- the external auditors in their limited scope assurance report

Pia Bateman
Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Carr
Chartered Accountant

Date:

Date:

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

2.2 Statement on Responsibilities

2.2.1 The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority:

- Makes arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority that officer is the Treasurer.
- Manages its affairs to secure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

2.2.2 The Treasurer's Responsibilities

The Treasurer takes responsibility for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts which, in terms of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain ("the Code of Practice"), is required to present fairly the financial position of the Authority at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year to 31st March 2024.

In preparing these accounts, the Treasurer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- complied with the Code of Practice; kept proper accounting records which were up to date.
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

2.3 Treasurer's Certificate

I hereby certify that the Statement of Accounts for the year to 31st March 2024 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996.

I further certify that the Statement of Accounts presents fairly the financial position of Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority at 31st March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year to 31st March 2024.

Signed:

Date:
Pia Bateman
Treasurer to the Authority

3 AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

With effect from 1st April 2015 Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities are no longer required to have their accounts audited. In order to give a degree of comfort regarding this Statement of Accounts, The Authority has appointed Francis Clark LLP, registered auditors, to carry out a "limited scope assurance report" ('the Report'), a formal procedure recognised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. This Report will be available from 30th September 2024 and copies may be requested.

4 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

4.1 Accounting Principles

The general principles applied in compiling these accounts are those recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The accounts have been prepared in accordance with their Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and with the guidance notes issued by CIPFA on the application of accounting standards (SSAPs).

4.2 Accruals and Historic Cost Convention

The accounts have been prepared under the accruals concept where income and expenditure are brought into account as they are earned and incurred and not as money received or paid and under the historic cost convention adjusted to include the revaluation of assets.

4.3 Basis of Debtors and Creditors

Revenue creditors are recorded on an Income and Expenditure basis, with estimated creditors being introduced into the accounts to cover goods and services received but not paid for by the year to 31st March 2024.

Revenue debtors are accrued to reflect the latest estimates of amounts due. There are no losses or anticipated losses, from non-collectible debts.

4.4 Stocks and Work in Progress

There are no stocks or work in progress included in the accounts.

4.5 Depreciation Policy

Depreciation is charged on all fixed assets. Premises are written down on a straight-line basis at 1% per annum. All other assets are depreciated on the reducing balance method at a rate of 25% per annum.

4.6 European Commission Grant Aid

There are no outstanding payments in respect of support for fisheries training of employees of the Authority.

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4.7 Pension Fund

The Authority is a scheduled body within the Pension Fund administered by Hampshire County Council. The Authority's staff are eligible to participate in this scheme and all have elected to do so. Costs shown represent contributions paid by the Authority into this scheme. Contributions to the fund are determined on a triennial basis by the Actuary. During the year to 31st March 2024 employee contribution of their salary was as follows:

Earnings	Contribution
Up to £16,500	5.5%
£16,501-£25,000	5.8%
£25,901-£42,100	6.5%
£42,101-£53,300	6.8%
£53,301-£74,700	8.5%
£74,701-£105,900	9.9%

The Authority contributed 14.5% of employee's earnings (Previous year: 14.5% of employee's earnings). Employer's contribution during the year to 31st March 2024 was £92,759 (2022-2023: £72,579).

4.8 Interest and Investments

All interest is from bank accounts. The Authority holds no investments.

4.9 Cost of Services

Recharges for work required under the Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 are made to The Authority's General Reserve from the Poole Harbour Reserve. In the year to 31st March 2024 there was a recharge of £34,566 (2022-2023: credit of £17,021).

4.10 Finance Leases and other Financing Arrangements

The Authority had no finance leases, operating leases or hire purchase agreements in operation during the year to 31st March 2024.

4.11 Reserves and Provisions

The Capital Finance Reserve equates to the net book value of the Authority's fixed asset register to provide a fund for the ongoing replacement of all Authority capital assets (buildings, marine assets, vehicles and equipment)

The **Marine Asset Renewal Reserve** provides a fund for the replacement of marine assets (principally patrol vessels) where costs are anticipated to be in excess of net book value, in addition to provisions for a holding pot for unscheduled significant maintenance works.

The **Research Reserve (formally the Marine Act Reserve)** is funded from surpluses on third party contracts to fund ongoing research.

The **Poole Order Reserve** is held within the General Reserve Balance – please refer to Section 9 for further details,

In 2023-2024, a formal policy on the reserves held by the Authority was reviewed and updated. This stated that reserves would be held for three main purposes:

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- To establish and maintain an adequate balance of working capital to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows.
- To create a contingency to protect against the impact of unexpected events or emergencies and to ensure the Authority’s long term sustainability.
- To build up funds to meet known or predicted requirements often referred to as Earmarked Reserves. Though accounted for separately they are legally part of the General Reserve.

The Executive Sub Committee will review the Reserves Policy every three years. The next review will be undertaken in the financial year 2026-2027.

Following the approval of the annual accounts by The Authority’s external auditors an annual presentation will be made to The Authority’s Executive Sub Committee to justify the existing reserves and their adequacy or otherwise for the following 10 years.

4.12 Contingent Liabilities

The Authority has no contingent liabilities.

4.13 Related Party Transactions

In accordance with The Accounting Code of Practice the following Related Party Transactions are disclosed for the year to 31 March 2024.

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>
Levy (receipts), Pension (payments)	£813,091	£92,759
Levies received in advance (This amount has been included in creditors)	(£340,191)	

4.14 Disclosure of Fees

The fees expected to be charged by Francis Clark for The Report are approximately £3,300 for the year to 31 March 2024.

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CONSOLIDATED REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED **31 MARCH 2024**

		2023-2024	2022-2023
	Notes	£	£
<i>Expenditure</i>			
Employees	5.1.1	714,238	566,081
Premises - General Office	5.1.2	43,974	31,738
Transport Related Costs	5.1.3	21,461	15,203
Supplies and Services	5.1.4	44,949	61,740
Marine Asset Costs:			
<i>PV Endeavour</i>		9,955	9,457
<i>PV Stella Barbara</i>		8,659	2,860
<i>PV Protector</i>		5,237	3,419
<i>Drone costs</i>		2,708	2,629
<i>PV Fuel</i>		7,266	9,129
<i>Insurance</i>		5,138	4,607
Depreciation	5.1.5	43,317	46,550
Establishment expenses	5.1.6	78,155	60,566
Total Gross Expenditure		<u>985,057</u>	<u>813,979</u>
 <i>Income</i>			
Interest		25,277	5,879
Other Income		94,905	109,668
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	5.1.7	73,489	3,162
		<u>193,671</u>	<u>118,709</u>
 Total Net Operating Expenditure, to be met from Levies upon Constituent Authorities		<u><u>791,386</u></u>	<u><u>695,270</u></u>
 Hampshire County Council		328,489	328,489
Isle of Wight Council		116,678	116,678
Dorset Council		201,537	201,537
BCP Council		90,607	90,607
Southampton City Council		34,963	34,963
Portsmouth City Council		40,817	40,817
Total Financing	5.1.8	<u><u>813,091</u></u>	<u><u>813,091</u></u>
 DEFRA Grant Income	5.1.9	140,000	400,000
 Net General Fund Surplus		161,705	517,821

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

5.1 Notes to the Consolidated Revenue Account

5.1.1 Employees

At year end (31 March 2024) the Authority employed 16 full time and 2 part time staff (2022-2023: 13 full time, 3 part time), at agreed pay bands linked to Local Government Pay Scales. The Authority is required to report specifically on two issues:

1. Employees with remuneration in excess of £50,000. One employee received emoluments at this level in the year to 31 March 2024 (2022- 2023: One).
2. The cost of providing pension contributions for employees: In the year to 31 March 2024 this was £92,759 (2022-2023: £72,579)

5.1.2 Premises – General Office

Premises - general office expenses are principally rates, utility bills and other costs incurred in providing the offices at 3 Holes Bay, Poole.

5.1.3 Transport Related Costs

Transport related costs cover mainly the travel and subsistence allowances of the Authority's operational staff.

5.1.4 Supplies and Services

Supplies and services relate principally to protective clothing, legal costs, training, rent, audit, project and miscellaneous costs together with bank interest.

5.1.5 Depreciation

The total is derived as follows:

Premises	Marine Assets	Vehicles	Equipment	Total
£5,006	£23,536	£9,793	£4,982	£43,317

5.1.6 Establishment Expenses

Establishment expenses relate to subscriptions to National associations, printing, advertising, stationery, telephones and communications licences, postages, interest payments and insurance other than those relating to the marine assets.

Under this heading the Authority is required to report specifically under Section 4(5) of the Local Government Act 1986 regarding the amount it spent on publicity. In the year to 31st March 2024 £1,653 was charged to public notices to advertise the audit and byelaws (2022-2023: £nil). A total of £12,892 (2022-2023: £1,109) was spent on recruitment advertising.

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

5.1.7 Other Income

Other income relates principally to income from DEFRA, in order to support DEFRA's work in achieving its objectives under the Fisheries Act 2020, the Poole Harbour Shellfish Dredge Permit Byelaw (administrative cost recovery only), The Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw (administrative cost recovery only), rent from leases under the Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 (administrative cost recovery only), grants received, third party project fees, chartering of marine assets, training provided to other authorities and costs awarded from court cases (cost recovery only).

5.1.8 Local Authority Contributions

	2023-24	2022-23
Dorset Council	24.79%	24.79%
Hampshire County Council	40.40%	40.40%
Isle of Wight Council	14.35%	14.35%
BCP Council	11.14%	11.14%
Southampton City Council	4.30%	4.30%
Portsmouth City Council	5.02%	5.02%
TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%

5.1.9 DEFRA Grant Income

This comprised one grant made relating to 2023–2024 of £140,000 relating to Revenue to enable Southern IFCA to support Defra in its delivery of specific requirements listed under The Fisheries Act 2020.

5.1.10 MMO appointee expenses

MMO appointee general expenses provided in the year to 31 March 2024 were £627. (2022-2023: -£4,833). Details as follows:

	Outstanding at 1 Apr 23	Paid in year	Outstanding at 31 Mar 24	Total per a/cs
T Legg	-	-	-	-
L MacCallum	-	82	-	82
R Stride	-	-	-	-
G Wordsworth	-	-	-	-
N Hornby	-	47	-	47
Provision for o/s claims	(1,000)	-	(1,498)	498
	(1,000)	129	(1,498)	627

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2023-2024 £	2022-2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Office and Equipment	6.1.1	506,792	496,692
Marine Assets	6.1.1	63,679	94,984
Vehicles	6.1.1	47,234	27,981
Assets under construction	6.1.1	241,405	149,150
		<u>859,110</u>	<u>768,807</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	6.1.2	168,577	375,444
Cash at Bank and In Hand	6.1.3	1,599,153	1,608,167
		<u>1,767,730</u>	<u>1,983,611</u>
Total Assets		<u>2,626,840</u>	<u>2,752,418</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	6.1.4	399,225	686,508
Current Assets Less Liabilities		1,368,505	1,297,103
Total Assets Less Liabilities		<u><u>2,227,615</u></u>	<u><u>2,065,910</u></u>
Represented by			
Capital Finance Account	7	859,110	768,807
Marine Assets Renewal Reserve	7	434,984	275,287
Research Reserve	7	24,903	16,000
DEFRA Revenue Reserve	7	187,503	-
General Reserve	7	721,115	1,005,816
Total Financing		<u><u>2,227,615</u></u>	<u><u>2,065,910</u></u>

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

6.1 Notes to the Balance Sheet

6.1.1 Movement of Fixed Assets

	Premises	Marine Assets	Vehicles	Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total
Book value 1 Apr 2023	478,425	94,984	27,981	18,267	149,150	768,807
Additions	15,529	-	36,397	4,733	115,467	172,126
Disposals	-	(97,960)	(39,761)	(6,196)	-	(143,917)
Revaluation					(23,212)	(23,212)
Depreciation	(5,006)	(23,536)	(9,793)	(4,982)	-	(43,317)
Adjustment on disposal	-	90,191	32,410	6,022	-	128,623
Book value 31 March 2024	488,948	63,679	47,234	17,844	241,405	859,110

6.1.2 Debtors

	2023 – 2024 £	2022 - 2023 £
Prepayments	16,470	16,689
VAT Control Account	12,107	8,755
Accrued income	140,000	350,000
	168,577	375,444

Accrued income represent amounts due from Dorset County Council in respect of one DEFRA grant for the year to 31 March 2024.

6.1.3 Cash at Bank and In Hand

The amount held at the bank, in petty cash and in stamps.

6.1.4 Creditors

	2023 – 2024 £	2022 - 2023 £
Deferred income	344,916	620,633
Other creditors	18,500	18,000
Accruals	35,809	47,875
	399,225	686,508

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

7. STATEMENT OF TOTAL MOVEMENTS IN RESERVES

	Capital Finance Reserve	Marine Assets Renewal Reserve	DEFRA Revenue Reserve	Research Reserve	General reserve	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
B/F 1 April 2023	768,807	275,287	-	16,000	1,005,816	2,065,910
Surplus for the year	-	-		-	161,705	161,705
Transfer to/(from) General Reserve	-	-		8,903	(8,903)	-
Transfer to/(from) DEFRA Revenue Reserve			285,952		(285,952)	-
Transfer to Marine Act Reserve		250,000			(250,000)	-
Utilised			(98,449)		98,449	-
Fixed asset movement:						
Additions	172,126	(172,126)		-	-	-
Disposals	(143,917)	143,917		-	-	-
Revaluations	(23,212)	23,212		-	-	-
Depreciation	(43,317)	43,317		-	-	-
Adjustment on disposal	128,623	(128,623)		-	-	-
C/F 31 March 2024	859,110	434,984	187,503	24,903	721,115	2,227,615

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

8. CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2023-2024 £	2022-2023 £
Expenditure			
Cash paid to and on behalf of employees		(714,245)	(546,358)
Other operating costs		(209,636)	(215,372)
		(923,881)	(761,730)
Income			
Local Authority Precept/Levy (includes early payment for following year)		882,879	813,091
Grant income		50,000	50,000
Insurance Claim		1,255	1,810
Cash received for goods and services		107,675	94,461
Net Cash In/(Out)flow from Revenue Activities	8.1	117,928	197,632
Servicing of Finance			
Interest Received		25,277	5,879
Capital Activities			
Expenditure			
Purchase of fixed assets (including AUC)		(181,004)	(167,895)
Income			
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets (Patrol vessel/van)		28,785	3,461
Net in/(de)crease in cash	8.1	(9,014)	39,077
		2023-2024	2022-2023
		£	£
8.1 Reconciliation			
General Fund Surplus/(Deficit)		(284,701)	121,869
Interest Received		(25,277)	(5,879)
Revaluations of fixed assets		23,212	-
Disposal of fixed assets		143,917	2,200
Adjustment on disposal		(128,623)	(1,901)
Net proceeds from sales of fixed assets		(28,785)	(3,461)
Depreciation		43,317	46,550
Sundry Debtors		206,865	(367,097)
Sundry Creditors		(278,403)	405,351
Movement on other Reserves		446,406	-
Cash movement		117,928	197,632
Reconciliation			
Balance brought forward 1 April		1,608,167	1,569,090
Balance carried forward 31 March		1,599,153	1,608,167
		(9,014)	39,077

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

9. POOLE HARBOUR FISHERY ORDER 2015

The Authority manage aquaculture activity within a defined area of Poole Harbour under [The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015](#) (1346/2015). In accordance with Section 6(1) of this Order, The Authority is required to account for the relevant income and expenditure associated with its duties under this Order. The rents received include the costs associated with the reallocation of lease beds in 2020 (Tranche 2) for the period 2020-2025, as well as annual costs associated with the management under this Order. The initial costs associated with the reallocation of lease beds were incurred in 2020 when the previous Tranche 1 (2015-2020) expired, and are being written off over a 5 year period.

The balance for the Poole Order is held within the Authority's General Reserve. In the year to 31st March 2024, £16,710 (2022-2023: £17,021) of this balance was used to account for work delivered in accordance with required duties under this Order. £22,000 was transferred to the general reserve, leaving £40,000 ringfenced for legal costs and £40,000 for a year's employment costs for a Project Officer.

	2023-2024	2022-2023
<i>Expenditure</i>	£	£
Employee Costs	59,060	14,152
Legal costs	6,000	750
Transfer to General Reserve	4,144	20,000
TOTAL	69,204	34,902
<i>Income</i>		
Rents	30,494	31,923
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(38,710)	(2,979)
<i>Balances</i>		
B/F 1 April	118,791	121,770
Net Income for the year	(38,710)	(2,979)
C/F 31 March	80,081	118,791

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT Paper For Information

Report by DCO Sam Dell.

A. Purpose

To report to Members on the compliance and enforcement activities for the quarter February to April 2024.

B. Annex

- I. Compliance and Enforcement Quarterly Report
-

1.0 Introduction

- This report contains an executive summary 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.

2.0 Summary of Key Points

- **Background**
 - 2.1 Risk Based Enforcement
 - 2.2 Intelligence Led Approach
 - 2.3 Tactical Coordination Group
 - 2.4 Fisheries Patrol
- **Enforcement Activity**
 - 3.1 Intelligence reports
 - 3.2 Enforcement Activity Table
 - 3.3 Offence reports
 - 3.4 Offence Outcomes
- **Summary of key Enforcement Operations and Activities**



Compliance & Enforcement Quarterly Report

February – April 2024



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Contents

- 1. Purpose**
- 2. Background**
 - 2.1 Risk Based Enforcement
 - 2.2 Intelligence Led Approach
 - 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 February to April 2024. 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 PDCO 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 two 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://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	February	March	April	Total
IFCOs	3	6	12	21

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	February	March	April	Total
Inspections at sea	Vessel patrols	3	2	3	8
	Boardings/inspections	7	6	5	18
Inspections ashore or in a port	Metric	February	March	April	Total
	Shore patrols	6	4	11	21
	Port visits	18	12	28	58
	Premises inspections	1	3	6	10
	Landing inspections	10	8	12	30
	Vehicle inspections	0	1	4	5
	Gear Inspections	0	0	0	0
	Person Inspection	0	1	0	1
Offences Detected	Per report	February	March	April	Total
Verbal warnings		0	1	1	2
Written warnings		0	0	0	0
Advisory letter		0	0	0	0
FAP		0	0	0	0
Offence Reports		0	0	0	0

3.3 **Offence reports**

Nil reports & actions submitted by officers for this reporting quarter.

3.4 **Offence Outcomes**

Nil offence outcomes for this reporting quarter.

4. **Summary of key enforcement operations and activities**

February

4.1 Solent Scallop Fishery Compliance

The Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw (SDPB) is a single coherent management tool developed to govern fishing activities within the Solent bivalve fisheries, 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 which resulted in the Authority implementing management measures through a Category "A" permit variation. A Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw (BTFG) 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. During April Officers have been out onboard Fisheries Patrol RHIB (FPR) Stella Barbara, carrying out patrols and boarding inspections of these vessels to monitor compliance with the SDPB & Permit Conditions, in addition to the Scallop Order gear restrictions and minimum size regulations. Compliance within this fishery has been high, and the industry reporting a successful fishing season.

March

4.2 Drone Interoperability Trial MMO OPV Viking Sentinel & MCA Counter Pollution Exercise

A major exercise took place off the south coast to prepare for possible oil spills. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) was testing its response to a mock scenario where 300 tonnes of fuel is spilled, east of Portland Harbour, Dorset. It involved four vessels, oil collection booms and skimmers to remove pollution from the surface. The focus of the latest exercise was to test MCA operations at sea, but also how it works with partner agencies, as part of the exercise the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) deployed the Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Viking Sentinel, as a sideline to the exercise the MMO requested the Southern IFCA drone team be embarked on the vessel with a view to assess interoperability whether this be to assist with multi-agency responses to Major Serious Incidents or furthering fisheries monitoring and control capabilities in UK Waters.

Southern IFCA provided a team on a cost recovery basis and number of drone flights were successfully completed onboard the ship. The Compliance and Enforcement Team look forward to working with our Government partners in the future.

April

4.3 BCP Sampling Contract Renewed for 5 Year Period

Southern IFCA have for many years assisted BCP Council and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) with Shellfish classification and water sampling in Poole Harbour. Southern IFCA have recently secured a 5 year contract with BCP Council to provide a vessel and staff to carry out this work. The sampling is coordinated by BCP Environmental Protection Officer and Senior Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Officer, who match suitable dates, tides and weather with resource requirements. The Southern IFCA vessel Endeavour, a skipper and 2 crew are required for this task, The sampling is carried out monthly. There are currently 10 sample sites in Poole Harbour. Sampling is mainly of mussels, which are previously harvested from an area of leased aquaculture seabed in Poole Harbour. Officers bag the mussels up into roughly equal amounts. The mussel samples are deposited at each of the sample sites after the previous month's classification samples have been removed. The classification samples go to the UKHSA laboratory for analysis. In addition, a biotoxin water and shellfish sample are collected and sent to CEFAS for testing,

The classification samples are tested for *Escherichia coli* (E. coli). Test results of the samples determine the classification for the various species of shellfish that are harvested within the designated shellfish classification zones. Poole Harbour contains the following shellfish classification zones: Brands Bay, Poole Harbour North, Rockley, Southwest Brownsea Island, Wareham Channel, Whiteley Lake, Wych Lake, the West Brownsea Relay Area and the South Deep Relay Area.

'A' classification means that the shellfish within that zone can be harvested direct for human consumption. 'B' Classified shellfish can be supplied for human consumption after either purification in an approved establishment, relaying for at least one month in a classified Class A relaying area, or after an approved heat treatment process.

Behind the Scenes with the Research and Policy Team Paper For Information

Report by DCO Birchenough and the RPT

A. Purpose

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

1.0 Introduction

- This report from the Research and Policy Team (RPT) Officers captures aspects of 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.

2.0 Summary of Key Points

- A report from DCO Birchenough covers the spring quarter and the busy start to the survey season for the year for the RPT with post-season Solent Bivalve Stock, post-season Solent Scallop Stock, Poole Harbour Bivalve and Whelk Stock surveys all being carried out between March and June. In addition, MPA workstreams have been progressing with a Quantification of Impact Exercise carried out under the Black Seabream workstream in relation to an initial iteration of draft measures. DCO Birchenough also covers the FMP process with attendance by both the DCO and PO FMPs at a post-publication evidence workshop run by Defra.
- Senior Policy Lead Emily Condie details a new tool she has been developing for use by IFCOs for mapping Southern IFCA byelaw spatial restrictions into Google maps to aid in identifying the officer's position relative to byelaw boundaries to help aid enforcement of spatial restrictions when conducting land-based patrols.
- A report from IFCO Hester Churchouse covers the Solent spring surveys in more detail, referencing the data that can be gained from the Solent Bivalve Survey and the benefit she has seen in developing her local knowledge by working with the Solent skippers and crew. IFCO Churchouse also outlines that following a successful spring survey period she is working on developments to the Solent Scallop survey to align with fishing practice and national data collection methods.
- IFCO Celie Mullen covers the 2024 Poole Bivalve Survey, with participation across the team providing training opportunities and a chance for great teamwork. Covering both the fisher collected samples and the sediment sampling for juvenile bivalves, IFCO Mullen outlines the techniques used for both types of sampling which led to the successful collection of another year's data.
- PO MPAs, Chelsea Perrins outlines her experience representing Southern IFCA at the Solent Seagrass Network meetings, gaining insight into restoration projects which are ongoing in the Solent. PO Perrins also outlines the work she has been doing to provide guidance documents for the RPT on the use of QGIS software to aid other members of the team in producing mapping outputs.
- PO Aquaculture, William Meredith-Davies reports on his first few months in the role and how he has been familiarising himself with Poole Harbour and the operations of the leaseholders under The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015. PO Meredith-Davies also outlines work that he has been carrying out to date in relation to the Order and his participation in the Poole Harbour Bivalve Stock Survey.

3.0 Next Steps

- That Members receive the report.



with DCO Birchenough

Updates from the RPT Deputy Chief Officer:

Spring Quarter

Moving from winter into spring has meant the commencement of a busy survey season for the RPT, delivering the spring Solent Bivalve and Scallop surveys, the Poole Harbour Bivalve Survey and the Whelk Stock survey. The prolonged period of inclement weather we have experienced this year has made this challenging at times but the RPT officers, supported by officers from the CET as well, have been adaptive and flexible to deliver these important aspects of our Monitoring Program within the early spring period. My thanks go to all the staff across both teams for their help in achieving this.

We have also been progressing the MPA workstreams of black seabream and shore gathering, developing these through Working Groups and Technical Advisory Committee meetings. Working with DCO Dell and Senior Policy Specialist Condie to undertake the Quantification of Impact Exercise in relation to an initial iteration of draft measures for the management of black seabream was an informative piece of work and increased my knowledge in relation to a range of fisheries. I extend my thanks to the stakeholders who participated in this exercise.

The FMP process continues with myself and PO Imogen Wright attending meetings to explore the post-publication phase of the Tranche 1 and 2 FMPs, including a workshop which aimed to understand and discuss a collaborative evidence approach for FMPs, understand the evidence gaps identified for the first five published FMPs and how organisations/authorities/stakeholders can work with Defra to support a collaborative process going forward to help address these evidence gaps.



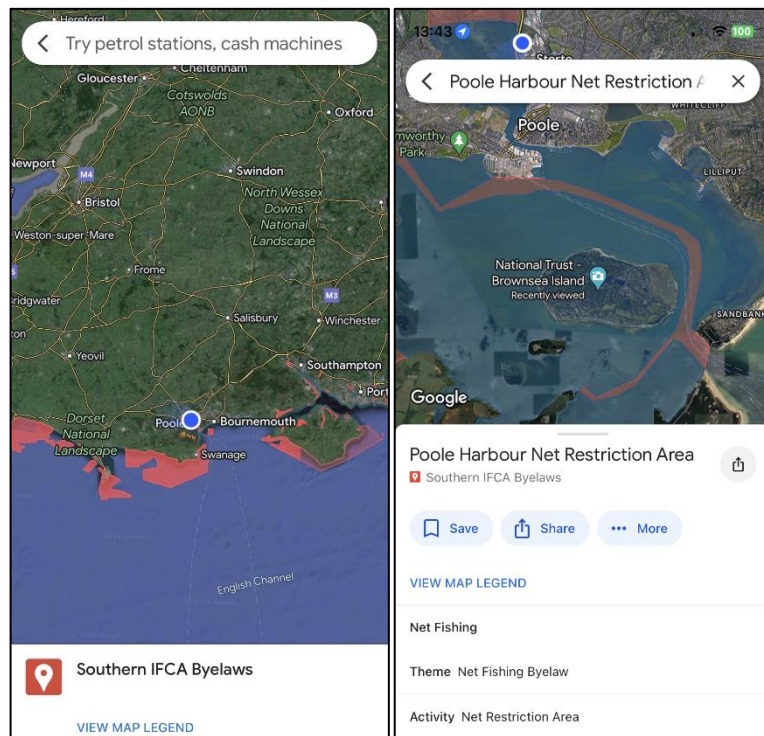
BEHIND THE SCENES

with Senior Policy Specialist Condie

This quarter I have been busy with both the black seabream and shore gathering work streams; but that doesn't mean I haven't had time for my favourite thing. MAPPING!

Southern IFCA have various byelaws with spatial restrictions requiring officers to be able to identify boundaries on both boat and shore patrols and to work out exactly where you are in relation to these prohibition areas. This can be more difficult from the shore without having a boat plotter available and is reliant on use of other types of GPS equipment.

But no more! I have spent some time this month uploading our byelaw shapefiles into a format viewable on google maps and rolling this out to enforcement officers. Something that should have been relatively easy but with all things technological took some patience and kind words of support from others.



Officers are now able to access the spatial footprint of all Southern IFCA byelaws via Google maps from their phones and see their position relevant to the boundaries. This new tool easily provides information on relevant seasons and activity restrictions and will help aid enforcement of spatial restrictions when on shore.

This has the potential to have uses beyond just the Southern IFCA officers, and I am looking into the possibilities of how similar facilities for stakeholders and fishery participants could be used in the future.



with IFCO Churchouse

Following the closure of the Solent dredge fisheries in February and March, March and April saw the end of season surveys for the Solent Bivalve and Solent Scallop fisheries. With the February Scallop Mid-season Survey fresh in our minds, the survey team and I completed a successful and straightforward scallop survey in April. The March trips were, however, my first Solent Bivalve survey and my introduction to the clam, cockle, and oyster populations within Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours and Southampton Water.

As we are beginning to expect as the year progresses, the weather conditions remained variable in March, providing us with ideal conditions to test both the waterproofing and heat-capture capabilities of our equipment. Despite this, the team and I were, as always, excited to be out on the water, and I greatly enjoyed formally meeting many of the other bivalve species that can be found within the Solent.

I am always interested in the distribution patterns these species display and how they are driven, and I am grateful to each of the three skippers and their crew who were happy to answer my questions and provide their knowledge of the areas we were surveying. I believe the survey was a success, with analysed results determining a statistically stable fishery from the 21 sites sampled (2 sites within Portsmouth Harbour were not surveyed due to weather), and, personally, a greater understanding of this fishery gained.

The completion of the scallop survey in April marks a temporary pause to the RPT's adventures around the Solent, with my focus instead on the analysis and reporting of the Solent fisheries survey data, as well as initial exploration work into how the Solent scallop survey can be adapted to best align with current fishing activity and national survey work.





with IFCO Mullen

It is spring (although it might not feel like it) and that means the return of the Poole Bivalve Survey! The annual survey is usually run flawlessly by DCO Birchenough, however she entrusted me to take the lead on this year's bivalve extravaganza. I am pleased to announce it ran smoothly and all officers and shellfish were happy throughout the process.



Left: An example of the samples collected during the Poole Bivalve Survey 2024.

Right: Southern IFCA demonstrating immaculate team working skills on Othniel Oysters' barge.

The survey took place between the 8th and 11th of April and was an excellent opportunity to bring together all departments within Southern IFCA and bond as a team. I worked alongside fishermen onboard PE1225 to collect samples from each site, while a team of officers transported samples to and from sites using FPV Endeavour. The final team were kindly granted permission to set up camp on the Othniel Oysters' barge to measure the samples collected. Gary's team provided excellent music

and company throughout the survey. Despite high wind speeds and the fluctuating tide, all sites were successfully surveyed. Length data and CPUE data are currently being analysed for the 2024 dataset.

The sediment drag survey was conducted on the final day. This involved the use of FPV Endeavour and a staff member to enter the water and collect sediment samples from 10 sites within the Harbour. The weather was much calmer on this day and William looked like he had a very relaxing experience while sampling the muddy substrate. Officers on the barge were able to power through the pungent samples and sieve out juvenile shellfish. Samples collected were labelled and stored in Southern IFCA's scientific freezer for future analysis.



IFCO Churchouse and PO Perrins washing sediment samples and identifying juvenile shellfish species.

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This year the various groups have been preparing for activities under their respective restoration projects and the group provides an opportunity to keep updated with this. One of the groups had concerns about some fungal growth on seed stock kept in cold storage back in January. A potential solution was recommended by the Seagrass Cultivation Officer at Ocean Conservation Trust, a bleach & ethanol sterilisation method that they have used successfully in the past. The different groups have undertaken seeding and transplanting within the Solent and at external sites in 2024. There is also proposed seed collection to take place in July. The groups are also organising information, including posters and potential talks, for the Isle of Wight's Biosphere Festival (June 29th -30th) where stakeholders can find out about the projects.

Example GIS map displaying contour lines with 10 metre depth intervals. Based on data from General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans.

BEHIND THE SCENES

with PO Meredith-Davies

Since starting my role as Aquaculture PO I've strived to familiarise myself with the Poole Harbour marine community to better understand my role. To that aim, I've been organising lease bed visits with each leaseholder. In addition to familiarisation with Poole Harbour itself, these visits have given me a greater understanding and appreciation of aquaculture in Poole Harbour and the wider fishing community. So far, I have visited 11 out of 12 lease beds. I am organising a visit to the final lease bed now that vessel upgrades have finished and will be revisiting some lease beds in different vessels to gain a broader understanding of different aquaculture operations across the order.

I have been contacting stakeholders to address Business Plan changes for the May TAC meeting. In addition, I represented Southern IFCA at April's Poole Harbour Study Group meeting on Brownsea Island, where I made notes of any changes/business/projects in the Harbour that could affect Poole aquaculture.



View of Poole Harbour from Brownsea Castle.

I have carried out various tasks as part of my new workstream. Recently, I have reorganised archived PHSO documents and created overview summaries for Biosecurity data, ensuring that current and historic data is more readily available and easier to analyse.

I also helped carry out and record data from the April Poole Harbour Stock Survey, where I put on a drysuit and collected sediment samples throughout The Harbour.

I have continued to monitor for any NE updates that would need to be taken into account for the next iteration of the Poole Order HRA, in addition to working on a literature review for Shellfish Aquaculture Ecosystem Services in Poole.

Stakeholder Groups Paper For Information

Report by DCO Birchenough

A. Purpose

To inform Members of the activity undertaken by stakeholder groups; The South Coast Fishermen's Council, The Recreational Angling Sector Group and The Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group where minutes from these meetings are available.

B. Papers

- Marked H – The South Coast Fishermen's Council Minutes – 31st January 2024
 - Marked I – The Recreational Angling Sector Group Minutes – 18th April 2024
-

1.0 Introduction

- The Authority currently provides a secretariat role for the Recreational Angling Sector Group and also the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group.
- The Authority has given a grant of £300 to the Fishermen's Council in this financial year.
- 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.
- The South Coast Fishermen's Council meets quarterly, from 2024 both the Recreational Angling Sector Group and the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group meet twice per year in Spring and Autumn.

2.0 Summary of Key Points

- The minutes of The South Coast Fishermen's Council dated 31st January 2024 are presented to the Authority, Marked H, for Members' consideration to appraise them of the groups' business.
- The minutes of The Recreational Angling Sector Group dated 18th April 2024 are presented to the Authority, Marked I, for Members' consideration to appraise them of the groups' business.
- There has not been a meeting of the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group since the last Authority meeting. The next meeting for this group is scheduled for September 2024.

3.0 Next Steps

- That Members note the report.

SOUTH COAST FISHERMEN'S COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 374th MEETING HELD VIA Teams AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 31st January 2024

PRESENT: P. Dadds - Mudeford & District FMA (Chairman)
 R. Stride - Mudeford & District FMA (Secretary)
 S. Postles - Lyme Regis FMA
 A Bamfield - West Bay FMA

IN ATTENDANCE:

S. Dell - Deputy Chief Officer, SIFCA

I APOLOGIES: T. Russell, B Pool, J Miller, Hayley Hamlett (Fish Mish).

The minutes of the 373rd meeting held via Teams on 20th March 2024 were taken as read and it was agreed they should be signed as a true record.

II REGIONAL FISHERIES GROUPS

SW RFG (Area 7e)

The next meeting of the SW RFG is scheduled for 12th April.

Discussion took place of progress with the Lyme Bay issues. A Bamfield reported on the stakeholder meeting held in Lyme Regis on 31st January. He was disappointed that there was little consensus on net length limitation. The proposal for a gear separation scheme was not approved by the meeting, in contrast with previous meetings and surveys which had shown 70% in favour. He felt that this was due to a low attendance of the under 12m netters and the presence of the larger scallopers. The latter had been drawn into the discussion since the gear separation proposals had been extended out to the 12 mile limit. He felt that the process had lost its way now that the issue was being discussed at a regional rather than local level. S Postles said that the meeting had been well attended and that there was good open discussion of the issues. Although it was not clear what the outcome would be, the MMO had listened.

S Dell indicated that SIFCA would continue to be a partner in the project, maintaining a presence by promoting gear marking under the netting byelaw, conducting boardings and checking catches of sole. SIFCA will continue to gather what data it can to inform the process but pointed out that the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the MMO.

South RFG (Area 7d).

No date has been announced for the next meeting of the South RFG. R Stride drew attention to the email updates issued by the MMO from time to time, which he would forward to members.

III FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS

Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species

A stakeholder meeting had been held to discuss the options for the management of cuttlefish under the FMP. A Bamfield and R Stride had attended online but were

disappointed by the quality of the access arrangements and did not feel they could participate fully. The report, when issued, would show the degree to which the input of online attendees had been captured. The dominant view expressed by trawling interests was that the consideration of management measures should be delayed until the data and science could be improved. S Dell pointed out that a research plan for cuttlefish is due to be published in June. A Bamfield lamented that no thought had been given to what measures could be used and what would trigger those measures. He would like to have considered a closed period for trawling when the pre spawning cuttlefish are moving inshore to ensure that the females could come in to spawn. It appeared that the fishery would stagger on without management for some time. For the West Bay trap fishery, 2023 was the worst season in the last 8 years. S Postles stated that in recent years the trap fishery in Lyme Regis had been inconsistent with only a small number of boats taking part.

Skates and Rays FMPs

The draft FMP was expected to be published soon and go to consultation. S Dell indicated that the proposed short term MCRS was 45cm span when whole or 20cm wing. A slot size is already in place for undulate ray. R Stride reiterated his concern that it would be inappropriate to introduce a short term maximum size for all species.

IV MMO/ DEFRA MATTERS

iVMS Rollout

Members had questions regarding the implementation of iVMS. In particular there are outstanding concerns about whether there will be provision in the SI for vessels to be authorised to go to sea if their iVMS malfunctions. Although the MMO had given some reassurance that management would be proportionate and pragmatic members felt that there should be specific provision in the SI rather than relying on the discretion of officers.

V SOUTHERN IFCA MATTERS

Sam Dell briefed the meeting on SIFCA matters.

Every four years, the Secretary of State must prepare a statutory **Report to Parliament about IFCA's Conduct and Operations**. The third report will cover the period from September 2018 to September 2022. The report will assess the IFCA's against the five high level objectives in the IFCA Vision and Success Criteria set out in the 2014-2018 Conduct and Operations Report. A consultation is currently underway and closes on 22 April. For more information on the consultation and how to take part see [Report to Parliament about Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities' \(IFCAs\) conduct and operations 2018-2022 - Defra - Citizen Space](#)

The Net Fishing Byelaw

Information on the Net Fishing Byelaw can be found on the SIFCA website [Net Fishing page](#) (<https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/net-fishing-regulations>)

The Pot Fishing Byelaw is still with the MMO for Quality Assurance. S Dell reminded members that the Byelaw will only come into effect once it has completed this stage and been confirmed by the Secretary of State.

The Authority agreed, at their meeting in September 2023, to send the **Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023** to the MMO for quality assurance. Only once the Byelaw has been ratified by the Secretary of State will it come into force.

The Authority has been prioritizing the development of **Black Bream Management in Dorset MCZs**, in order to meet the 2024 deadline set by DEFRA for the management of MPAs. Officers have been capturing the views of stakeholders to inform the Impact Assessment so that it accurately reflects the impact of measures on businesses and livelihoods. Members have contributed with their views. P Dadds indicated that he would lose 2/3 of the ground he habitually fishes on Southbourne rough, as the proposals stand. The Authority will also be embarking on a **Shore Gathering** review in line with the same Defra 2024 MPA deadline.

Southern IFCA is also supporting and contributing to the **Fisheries Management Plans** (FMPs) Programme. SIFCA has set up a dedicated page on the website to keep industry informed [Fisheries Management Plans : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/fisheries-management-plans)

VI TRAINING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Training grant applications in support of 3 new entrants in Eastbourne, Brighton and Portland, with a total value of **£885**, were considered and approved with one abstention.

VII OTHER BUSINESS

Training

S Postles told the meeting that attendance had been low on some courses, particularly in Poole. This had led to the number of venues being reduced to improve course numbers to viable levels. In a new development, new entrants wishing to enrol on the Introduction to Fishing Course are now required to obtain a medical certificate in order to qualify for SFIA funding. Seafish does not accept the ML5 but requires the ENG1. The course in April has been cancelled due to the number of candidates who have had to withdraw because they have not been able to get a timely appointment for the medical. No explanation has been given for this but there is some hope that the decision may be reviewed.

VIII ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS IN 2024.

Dates agreed: 24th April (AGM), 12th June, 24th July, 11th September, 30th October, 11th December.

On closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Sam Dell for his attendance and for hosting the Teams meeting.

Chairman

Recreational Angling Sector Group Meeting Minutes – 18/04/2024 – 19:00

Virtual Meeting – MS Teams

Attendees – Chris Holloway, Mike Bennet, Sam Cummings, Trevor Gibbs, Mike Spiller, Mal Thomas, IFCO Fred Harris, SIFCO Emily Condie

Apologies – Alan Green, Alan Deeming

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (18th November 2023)

Amendment to minutes – Change from Recreational Angling Sector Working Group to Recreational Angling Sector Group

2. Introductions

3. Southern IFCA Updates/Ongoing items

Pot Fishing and Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 – SIFCO Condie

There has been no update since the last meeting, both are with the MMO for QA.

Bream and Shore Gathering Workstreams – SIFCO Condie

SIFCA have begun work on both our Bream and Shore Gathering workstreams which both have a government set deadline for 2024. SIFCA have been gathering information on the impact of an initial draft of proposed measures in both fisheries and thank those members of the RASG group that have helped with this exercise. There will be more information on both in the public domain in the next couple of weeks through the May Technical Advisory Committee meeting (9th May).

FMPs – Update from PO Wright, delivered by SIFCO Condie

The Tranche 4 FMPs and associated delivery partners have been announced which are Black Seabream (MMO), Wrasses complex (MMO), Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal (MMO) and Celtic Sea and Western Channel pelagic (Defra).

These FMPs have an expected delivery date of 2025.

The Wrasses complex FMP will include: Ballan, Corkwing, Rockcook and Goldsinny.

The Celtic Sea and Western Channel demersal will include: Monkfish, Cod, Haddock, Plaice, Thornback Ray, Sole, Blue Ling, Deep Water Sharks*, Saithe, Round Nose Grenadier, Red Seabream, Skates and Rays*, Megrim, Four Spotted Megrim, Pollack, Nephrops and Whiting. *species in scope to still be confirmed.

The Celtic Sea and Western Channel pelagic will include Pilchards, Anchovy, Herring, Horse Mackerel and Greater Silver Smelt.

The Black Seabream, Wrasses Complex and Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal are in the initial scoping stage, while the Celtic Sea and Western Channel pelagic has entered initial engagement stage. Southern IFCA can pass along contact information to those interested.

Chris Holloway asked how the SIFCA Bream Review, the Bream FMP and the Angling for Sustainability project were all going to tie together.

SIFCO Condie responded: all three are separate and running on their own timescales. SIFCA have a deadline of 2024 to complete the Bream Management Review and must move forward with the information that is available now. That does not mean that in the future there will not be scope to include new or updated information as is the same with byelaw reviews of any management in the district. The FMP being run by the MMO, will have its own approach to incorporating information and ongoing projects, but is also due to be completed after the SIFCA deadline. The FMP may not align with SIFCA management however this is the same across all fisheries in the district and whether or not this is the case will not be known until the FMP is published.

Bass Nursery Areas – IFCO Harris

The bass nursery areas come into effect from the 30th of April until 1st November. If members see any fishing of concern, please direct information to Southern IFCA.

4. Additional Requested Items

Recreational Tuna Fishery – IFCO Harris

The government intend to open a recreational catch and release permit for charter vessels to target Tuna, which is expected to be in place for summer 2024. This is following the success of the CHART tagging programme and support received for a permitting scheme during a formal consultation held from July to September 2023. The relevant legislation will be laid in parliament in May 2024 and is expected to come in to effect in June this year.

Each UK fisheries administration will then decide if and when to introduce the fishery into their waters. DEFRA intends to open the fishery in English Waters in 2024.

The criteria to be eligible for a permit are displayed on the MMO website and all applications will be evaluated once the permit application has closed. If more applications are received then permits, the MMO will have a prioritising process linked to participation with the CHART scheme.

Pollack Management

Chris Holloway enquired on changes to Pollack management.

Mike Spiller responded: there is currently no limit on recreational at the moment, but it is expected this will change at some point. There has also just been compensation agreed for commercials who can prove they fished in the last year. This is thought to be up to 30%.

IFCO Harris also responded: He does not think there will be anything in the immediate future that will affect the recreational sector.

Flounder FMP

Chris Holloway enquired as to whether a Flounder FMP is being written due to the decreasing population.

SIFCO Condie responded: It isn't yet listed in any FMP however some are still scoping their species lists.

IFCO Harris responded: Concerns on flounder populations are fed back to management.

5. Any Other Business

IFCA and Recreational Sector Relationships

Chris Holloway initiated conversation on relationships between other recreational fishers and their relevant IFCA's. He had seen social media content insinuating difficult relationships and enquired if this was something others had found. He spoke positively of the relationship between SIFCA and recreational fishers. He believes SIFCA is the only IFCA to have a group solely for recreational fishers that allows for direct conversation with fisheries officers.

Mike Spiller confirmed he had a positive relationship with D&SIFCA and the recreational community surrounding Salcombe had high levels of engagement with the recent net fishing proposals in the area. He believes D&SIFCA have a recreational fisher sitting on their byelaw making committee.

SIFCO Condie informed RASG members that SIFCA also have a recreational general member on the Authority. Any stakeholder is able to apply to become a general member through the MMO who have a rolling recruitment campaign. It is understood that successful applicants will be held on a merit list until a position on the relevant committee becomes available. However further information on the application process is available on the government website.

Net Fishing in Christchurch Harbour

A member raised concerns on a vessel fishing in proximity to the entrance of Christchurch Harbour. IFCO Harris informed the group of the SIFCA Net Fishing Byelaw and that he would contact the member offline to discuss.

Meeting time

Chris Holloway asked the group if a 7pm timing was still appropriate.
The group confirmed.

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

OFFICER'S REPORT

Meeting Dates 2025

Report by the Office Manager.

A. Purpose of the Report

To receive the Authority's instructions with respect to the draft dates for the future meetings for 2025.

B. Recommendation

a) That Members note the draft meeting dates and times for 2025.

b) That Members contact the Office Manager via enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk before the **28th June 2024** if they have any concerns with regard to the draft dates set.

1. Background

- 1.1 In the past Members have found it useful to know, well in advance, the dates of the Committee's meetings.
- 1.2 In accordance with Standing Orders (paragraph 2), the quarterly meeting of The Authority shall be held in the months of March, June, September (AGM) and December.
- 1.3 In accordance with Standing Orders (paragraph 22), the quarterly meeting of The Executive Sub-Committee shall be held in the months of March, June September and December.
- 1.4 In accordance with Standing Orders (paragraph 28), the quarterly meeting of The Technical Advisory Sub-Committee shall be held in the months of February, May, August and November (AGM).
- 1.5 In accordance with Standing Orders (paragraph 37), the quarterly meeting of The Audit and Governance Sub-Committee shall be held in the months of March, June, September and December.
- 1.3 Members are invited to consider the proposed dates and times. Once the dates have been finalised, venues can be booked at venues across the District.

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

OFFICER'S REPORT

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

PROPOSED DATES FOR FUTURE AUTHORITY MEETINGS 2025

Technical Advisory Sub Committee	6th February 2025
Audit and Governance Sub-Committee (virtual)	11 th March 2025
Executive Sub-Committee (virtual)	11 th March 2025
The Authority	13 th March 2025

Technical Advisory Sub-Committee	8 th May 2025
Audit and Governance Sub-Committee (virtual)	10 th June 2025
Executive Sub Committee (virtual)	10 th June 2025
The Authority	12 th June 2025

Technical Advisory Sub-Committee	21 st August 2025
Audit and Governance Sub-Committee (virtual)	16 th September 2025
Executive Sub-Committee (virtual)	16 th September 2025
The Authority (AGM)	18 th September 2025

Technical Advisory Sub-Committee (AGM)	6 th November 2025
Scrutiny and Governance Sub-Committee (virtual)	9 th December 2025
Executive Sub-Committee (virtual)	9 th December 2025
The Authority	11 th December 2025

The meeting of **The Authority** starts at 14:00 and will be held at various venues across the Southern IFCA District.

The **Executive Sub-Committee** starts at 14:00 and is held virtually

The **Technical Advisory Sub Committee starts** at 14:00 and is held at the Southern IFCA Office

The **Audit & Governance Sub-Committee** starts at 10:00 and is held virtually