

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Full Authority Meeting – 16th March 2023

A meeting of the Full Authority was held at 2pm on 16th March 2023 at the Portsmouth Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Marked A

Present

Cllr Mark Roberts	Dorset Council (Chairman)
Dr Antony Jensen	MMO Appointee (TAC Chairman)
Mr Richard Stride	MMO Appointee (TAC Vice Chairman)
Mr Neil Hornby	MMO Appointee
Dr Simon Cripps	MMO Appointee
Mr James McClelland	Natural England
Cllr Rob Hughes	Dorset County Council
Cllr Paul Fuller	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Matthew Winnington	Portsmouth City Council
Ms Louise MacCallum	MMO Appointee
Ms Pia Bateman	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Mr Sam Dell	Deputy Chief Officer (DCO)
Dr Sarah Birchenough	Deputy Chief Officer (DCO)
Ms Liz Walker	Administration and Finance Manager

Co-opted Member Ms Elisabeth Bussey-Jones also attended the meeting.

The following Members attended virtually: Mr Gary Wordsworth (MMO Appointee), Mr Ted Legg (MMO Appointee), Mr Gordon Chittenden (MMO) and Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford (Hampshire County Council).

Apologies

261. Apologies for absence were received from Ms Rachel Irish (MMO), Mr Colin Francis (MMO Appointee), Mr Steve Matthews (Co-opted Member)

Declarations of Interest

262. The following pecuniary interests were declared: Mr G Wordsworth (16).

Minutes

263. That Members considered the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th December 2022.

Resolved

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

Chairman's Announcements

265. The Chairman stated that Members had enjoyed a Christmas meal after the last Authority Meeting and that the highlight had been a presentation for the retiring accountant Mr Mike Ratsey, who had expressed his appreciation at being asked to attend the meal and his thanks to everyone at Southern IFCA for the gifts he received.

The Chairman provided an updated that he and the CEO had attended an AIFCA Meeting, as they did each quarter, and also a meeting of the Lyme Bay Conservancy Consultation Committee with the two DCOs also in attendance. This group was originally supported by the Blue Marine Foundation who funded a project officer position. Whilst this funding has now ceased, the Committee will continue and provides an excellent forum for the exchange of views between the fishing industry, regulators, SNCBs and NGOs. In addition to the Committee, a Community Interest Company (CIC) has also recently been

formed, with 48 members, and the project officer from the Committee has now been appointed as the new CEO for the CIC.

Sub Committees

266. Members received the minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee held on 6th December 2022 and the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee held on the 3rd November 2022.

Resolved

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

PROGRESS REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer Updates

268. The CEO updated Members on staffing matters. Liz Walker joined in the role of Finance and Administration Manager in January 2023 bringing a wealth of experience, particularly in financial management. The CEO commented that improvements in efficiencies were already being seen in the Business Services team. The CEO also welcomed Gemma Roberts, joining the Southern IFCA in the role of Accountant. Gemma started in February 2023 and is preparing the annual statement of accounts which will be presented to the Executive Sub-Committee and the Authority at forthcoming meetings. A new Project Office, Celie Mullen, has joined the Research and Policy Team with the role focused on Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). This role has been funded by Defra funding with £50,000 of the £150,000 promised to IFCA supporting this particular role to support the delivery of Defra workstreams. The CEO updated Members that IFCO Adam Parry had been successful in securing an internal promotion to the role of Senior IFCO, with his working focusing around marine operations he will be central in delivering and championing new ways of working and new operational procedures and practices to support the arrival of the new cabin RHIB. The CEO informed Members that IFCO Chloe Smith, who has been working remotely with Southern IFCA from Australia for the past 6 months has now left Southern IFCA to take up a position as an Australian Fisheries Officer. The CEO expressed her thanks to Chloe for all her hard work at the IFCA and that it had been brilliant to have her as part of the team for the last few years and wished her all the best in her new role, this sentiment was echoed by the Membership.

The CEO updated Members on Defra funding streams, informing them that work had been ongoing on a business plan for Defra to try and secure £250,000 to fund, in part, the purchase of the cabin RHIB. The bid related to one aspect of the wider capital investment bid for IFCA, where the AIFCA had collectively requested funding for IFCA to support ongoing delivery of statutory functions. The original profile for this funding bid was developed by AIFCA in early 2022, at which point Southern IFCA did not satisfy the funding requirements. However, in autumn 2022, following a lead from DCO Dell with Defra, a delay in the funding meant that the cabin RHIB would be eligible and, as a result, Southern IFCA were one of two IFCA able to utilise the opportunity for that funding during the current financial year. The restructured funding profile was submitted in January 2023. The CEO explained that the aim had been to raise this with Members when the funding was in place and had been released by Defra and also in line with an update to the Southern IFCA reserve policy which would have an integrated capital replacement program. These two documents will be timetabled for future Executive Sub-Committee and Authority meetings. Southern IFCA were informed yesterday evening that the bid has been accepted and the funds will be received by the end of March. The CEO commented that this has been a brilliant team effort with thanks to the AIFCA for their support and reiterated that credit is due to DCO Dell for recognising and pursuing the funding opportunity.

The CEO also covered other aspects of Defra funding, namely the £150,000 promised to the IFCA for project support. Following the receipt of the initial £50,000 for the Project Officer FMP role, confirmation has been received that the remaining £100,000 would be received by 31st March 2023. The remaining funding is to support delivery of work on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and marine consents.

The CEO provided information relating to the General Membership. She stated that Dr Simon Cripps had extended his tenure to 2026 and reflected that the Authority is grateful to retain his expertise and experience. A national MMO recruitment campaign, which took place in January-February 2023, is now in the interview stages. The original advert was extended due to initial limited uptake. Feedback on this process from the MMO is expected in due course with the IFCA currently having a vacancy for another recreational sea angling sector member. Dr Cripps asked whether the MMO define the sector for a

General Member vacancy or whether suggestions for a sector to be represented i.e., related to maritime security and compliance/enforcement, could be put forward. The CEO explained that the Southern IFCA is responsible for balancing its General Membership and that this can be reviewed, in conjunction with the MMO Governance Team.

The CEO covered the Conduct and Operations Report for IFCAs, stating that this report on the conduct and operations of the IFCAs is laid before parliament every four years. The current report, covering the last four years, is currently with Defra who are working to obtain ministerial clearance for the consultation to open. The consultation and targeted surveys will be launched simultaneously and are anticipated to be open for 6 weeks. The resulting report will be laid before parliament and then published.

The CEO informed Members of the Environmental Improvement Plan. Published by the Government in January 2023, the Plan builds on the 25-year Environment Plan and is a key framework which links to the Environment Act and the Fisheries Act 2020. The plan sets out targets the aim to halt and reverse declines in nature in the UK and follows the Government commitment in 2022 to leave the environment in a better state. The Plan relates to work on MPAs, setting out interim and overall targets for MPA feature favourable condition of 48% by 2028 and 70% by 2042. This is directly related to Southern IFCA's MPA work and links to the Defra funding in this area. The Plan also looks at coastal and marine spatial prioritisation, with the program of work looking at marine plans, also linked to the Defra funding. The Plan discusses FMPs and restoration initiatives, linking to the Objectives in the Fisheries Act. Bycatch, vessel monitoring and the MMO Catch App are also covered with the Compliance and Enforcement Team working closely with the MMO, as the lead authority, in these areas. The Plan also covers marine heritage and the cultural value of UK fisheries, looking at the importance of relationships between fishers and communities. As an arm's length body to Defra Southern IFCA have a clearly defined role in the delivery of this plan.

The CEO also provided an update on FMPs, outlining that with the PO now in place routine updates on the FMP process will be provided to the TAC as a recurring agenda item. The PO has been attending engagement events in person and online in relation to the Channel Non-Quota Demersal Stocks and shellfish FMPs. Attendance by stakeholders at these events has varied. The majority of Tranche 1 (T1) FMPs submitted drafts to Defra in January 2023 and following a request from Defra via the AIFCA, IFCAs were given the opportunity to comment on these early drafts. Public consultation on T1 FMPs is expected to begin soon with the Crab & Lobster and King Scallop FMPs expected to be the first consultations with planned publication in autumn 2023. The Bass FMP is running to a slightly later timeframe with consultation anticipated in the summer and publication by the end of 2023. The Channel Non-Quota Demersal Stocks FMP is anticipated to be consulted on in May and to date there is limited information on the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP. The CEO asked Members that, subject to their agreement and the agreement of the TAC Chairman, whether Members could consider holding a special meeting of the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee for Members to consider and discuss the Formal Consultations on T1 FMPs and thus inform a Southern IFCA response to each Formal Consultation, should the consultations fall outside of the regular meeting cycle. Members agreed that the CEO could action this.

Mr Neil Hornby asked if there were any updated on Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs). The CEO commented that there are currently no HPMAs in the Southern IFCA district, and while there is potential for future sites to be considered there was no information on this at present. The CEO informed Members that any relevant updates on HPMAs would be brought to the Authority. Ms Louise MacCallum questioned the number of HPMAs currently being considered. Information was provided that there were five HPMAs initially considered but that Defra had removed two of these.

Recommendation

269. That the CEO be authorised to convene a TAC Working Group for Members to consider and discuss the Formal Consultations on T1 FMPs and thus inform a Southern IFCA response to each Formal Consultation, should the consultations fall outside of the regular TAC meeting cycle.

Resolved

270. That Members noted the verbal update.

Budget Control Statement

271. The CEO provided an overview of the draft Budget Control Statement to 31st January 2023 which show an excess in income of £209k, which is £67k better than expected at this stage of the financial year. The Chairman discussed that the main reason for this positive variance was due to a reduction in staff salary and pension contributions. The Chairman described the negative variance under Capital Equipment, which reflects FPV Endeavour entering service sooner than anticipated, with the figure related to depreciation of the asset. The Chairman described an anticipated deficit for the year due to not increasing the levy but indicated that the anticipated deficit is likely to be less than predicted. The Chairman also described that given the anticipated delivery date of the new cabin RHIB is later than originally anticipated, the attributed depreciation value may be less than is stated in the budget. The Chairman expressed that he found the new layout of the Budget Control Statement easy to understand and thanked the CEO for development in this area which was echoed by Members.

Resolved

272. That Members noted the report.

Marine Asset Procurement

273. DCO Dell provided Members with an update on the Southern IFCA MAR and its continued progression. The update related specifically to the build approval for the Cabin RHIB. The tender has been awarded to Ribcraft Ltd., who have supplied two of the current SIFCA patrol RHIBs. Dorset Council procurement services were used to ensure compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, payment for this service was £330. DCO Dell informed Members that he and IFCO Parry had attended a number of build meetings with Ribcraft to finalise the specification for the vessel. DCO Dell described the CAD drawing provided to Members and the features of the new vessel.

On 3rd March a special meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee was held to ensure ongoing compliance with financial regulations when progressing to the boat build stage. Members approved the final cost of the boat build, authorised payment of the build deposit and approved the terms and conditions of the contract of sale. Due diligence was carried out in relation to Ribcraft Ltd. prior to entering into the contract. The Chairman described that this process had included splitting the payment into more stages than initially proposed with payments dependent on the delivery of carefully described build stages with associated inspection and approval. Build is due to commence on 15th May 2023 and anticipated delivery is October 2023.

Ms L MacCallum asked DCO Dell about the environmental considerations of the boat build. DCO Dell informed Members that the vessel will be using the only commercial outboard engines currently available in the UK that filter for microplastics.

Resolved

274. That Members noted the update.

Guest Speaker – The role of the Association of IFCAs: recent progress and future work

275. Mr Robert Clark, Chief Officer of the AIFCA gave a presentation to Members on the role of the Association of IFCAs (AIFCA) focusing on recent progress and future work. The Chairman outlined that each of the IFCAs provides a subscription to support the AIFCA, in the current financial year the Southern IFCA contributed 13k to support the AIFCA's operational delivery in addition to 4.6k to support a national training model. For the forthcoming financial year, the subscription has been increased by 4.5% to £13,585.

Mr Clark outlined the role of the AIFCA to support IFCAs through promoting and facilitating local decision making. Mr Clark informed Members about the priorities of the AIFCA, operating arrangements and governance, how the AIFCA represents the IFCAs, outcome of the Spending Review (SR21 Program), products and processes associated with the AIFCA and a forward look at upcoming workstreams.

The Chairman asked Mr Clark what guarantee he could provide that the remaining Defra funding for the Southern IFCA, of which £50,000 has been received and £100,000 is outstanding, would be received. Mr Clark responded that the funding had been budgeted for in the coming financial year and profiled for the IFCAs but that the budget for the subsequent year, which may fall under a new Government, is not

yet committed and agreed therefore there is an indicative budget only for subsequent years. Mr Clark stated that the IFCA's needed to demonstrate that the additional funding had conferred additional value so that a case can be made to Defra for funding in future years.

Dr S Cripps asked for clarity on the governance of the AIFCA. Mr Clark outlined that as Committees of local Government, IFCA's cannot be directed by Defra, Defra set policy and IFCA's, as independent bodies, identify priorities and comply with legal obligations. The AIFCA advocated that it should not be funded by Defra so as to remain responsible to the IFCA's in its work.

Cllr Hughes asked about the National Training Model and how the Southern IFCA payment has been used in the 2022/23 financial year. Mr Clark informed Members that the post had previously been managed by Kent and Essex IFCA but has now moved to the AIFCA and previous grant money has finished. He outlined that training had been delivered in different forms, virtual and in person, during the year with funds paying for trainers and accommodation for in person courses. Mr Clark indicated that currently there is not a National Lead Training Officer post.

Mr R Stride raised that IFCA's are being asked more to deliver national objectives which he felt effects the ability of the IFCA to react to local management needs. Mr Clark discussed changes in the marine system since the introduction of IFCA's and that IFCA's now need to be more integrated into the national picture whilst maintaining our own local priorities.

Mr Clark also discussed top down and bottom-up approaches to management in response to comments from Members. The level of engagement across all the IFCA's was also raised and opportunities for increased engagement between elected Members of different IFCA's. Mr Clark agreed that cross-IFCA engagement for Members should be encouraged recognising different approaches but the opportunity to learn from best practice.

Cllr Hughes queried how a potential change of Government following the next General Election may affect IFCA's. Mr Clark informed Members that the IFCA model was developed with cross-party support and that the work of the IFCA's had been able to be communicated quickly and easily with changes in Ministers.

Resolved

276. That Members received the presentation.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Annual Strategy 2023-2024

277. The CEO outlined that under the Marine and Coastal Access Act the Southern IFCA are required to submit to Defra, on an annual basis, an Annual Plan to set out the main objectives and priorities for the year ahead. The CEO presented the Annual Plan for 2023-2024 providing Members with an overview of the contents of the Plan and explained that the Southern IFCA Core Principles had been introduced for the coming year to demonstrate Southern IFCA's commitment to ensuring that contextual components of the Plan can be embedded into the delivery of Southern IFCA's work at all stages and that there can be a collective delivery of the Government vision.

The CEO outlined Horizon Goals for each team which have been translated into clear outcomes and focused delivery priorities in each of the team plans. The Annual Plan and team plans for the Compliance & Enforcement team and the Research & Policy team will be sent to Defra. Evidencing the delivery of the eight Fisheries Objectives has also been incorporated into the Plan, illustrating links to the Fisheries Act 2020. The CEO also outlined that the Plan shows how work will also be aligned with the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan, linked to the Environment Act 2021 and the Environmental Targets MPA Regulations 2023. The Plan also identifies where Southern IFCA's commitment to the Government's Net Zero strategy features in forthcoming work. The CEO outlined that a golden thread runs through the Annual Plan and team plans using infographics to provide a link that runs through all workstreams.

The CEO outlined that the Plan enabled Southern IFCA to have a strategic direction which will enable greater transparency with the local community, stakeholders and delivery partners through anticipation of shared goals and objectives and will also encourage joint working with partners. The Plan will also

provide a strategic overview for the Southern IFCA team so they can understand where their day to day roles fit in with the wider picture. The CEO informed Members that there is a need to be proactive through a considered overview of plans for the future but it is recognised that there will also be a need to be reactive to any emerging work.

The CEO provided an update on the Southern IFCA 5-year legislative forecast (2019-2024). There is an intention at this time next year, along with the Annual Plan for the coming year (2024-2025) to consider a longer-term plan which will consider all three areas of the business.

The Chairman thanked the CEO for a clear and easily accessible Annual Plan which was echoed by Members.

Dr S Cripps queried the origin of the IFCA High Level Objectives which were discussed by Members. An explanation was provided that the IFCA High Level Objectives and associated Success Criteria were developed by Defra at the time the IFCAs were set up.

The recommendation was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour.

Recommendation

278. That the CEO explore the potential for an update to the High Level Objectives, with the suggestion that an environmental and fisheries restoration objective could be added to the HLOs in line with provisions in the MaCAA.

Resolved

279. (a) That Members consider the draft Annual Strategic Plan for the forthcoming year April 2023-March 2024.

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

Research and Policy Team Plan 2023-2024

280. DCO Birchenough presented the Research and Policy Team Plan for 2023-2024 to Members. The aim of the RPT Plan is to build on the Southern IFCA's Annual Plan, translating the Horizon Goals from that Annual Plan into clear, outcome focused Delivery Priorities with transparency in delivery timelines. The Horizon Goals and associated Delivery Priorities developed through the RPT Plan demonstrate where Southern IFCA consider their work for the forthcoming year aligns with IFCA Success Criteria, Fisheries Objectives, the Environment Improvement Plan 2023, Defra's delivery of the Fisheries Act 2020 and the UK Net Zero Strategy.

DCO Birchenough outlined that the aim of the RPT was to facilitate the delivery of the Authority's legislative duties and in doing so, seek to improve the sustainability of marine fisheries and the environment whilst supporting local communities that are reliant on these resources. DCO Birchenough outlined the five functions of the RPT and that the schematic from the Annual Plan had been used to show the relationship between the Annual Plan and the RPT Plan.

DCO Birchenough provided detail on each of the Horizon Goals; MPA Management Review, MCRS Review, Supporting Defra's Delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives as well as the RPT programs for monitoring inshore fisheries and for projects and emerging work. DCO Birchenough explained that under the MPA Management Review Horizon Goal, there was a need to identify priority workstreams; the bottom towed fishing gear review, the shore gathering review and the black bream review, and to adopt a phased approach to the delivery of these first two reviews in order to meet the Government target under the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 of having management measures in place for all MPAs by 2024. DCO Birchenough provided detail on this phased approach as outlined in the RPT Plan and indicated that the intention is to commence Phase 2 after the completion of Phase 1 for each relevant workstream.

Ms L MacCallum asked a question around timelines for Phase 2 of the bottom towed fishing gear review and expressed concern that timelines for the consideration of a byelaw following development by the IFCA may result in sensitive habitats outside MPAs being unprotected. DCO Birchenough confirmed that Phase 1 of the bottom towed fishing gear byelaw was in line with proposed timelines and on that

basis was confident that Phase 2 could commence as intended in the RPT Plan. DCO Birchenough outlined that at the commencement of Phase 2, discussions would be held with Members to help frame the review under this Phase which would enable timelines for Phase 2 to be developed. The CEO stated that if the reviews were not phased then the likelihood is that management would not be in place for MPAs or the wider environment until after 2024. Taking a district wide approach under previous reviews with multiple consultations in site specific areas has shown that this process can take an extended period of time, a process which will be streamlined by taking the phased approach.

Mr R Stride asked for clarity on the use of the term Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and whether its use in the RPT Plan could be linked to the relevant work streams i.e., Net Fishing Byelaw for context. Dr A Jensen raised a point on behalf of co-opted Member Steve Matthews in relation to EFH, Mr Matthews raised that the term EFH should be discussed by the Members in terms of how it is used and potential impacts on the inshore fishing industry. DCO Birchenough confirmed that the use of the term EFH in the context of juvenile fish surveys in the RPT Plan was linked to the Southern IFCA Net Fishing Byelaw and took an action to make this link in the RPT Plan. DCO Birchenough outlined that the term EFH used in relation to the Angling for Sustainability Project, it is taken from text provide directly provided by the project lead and took an action to provide a contextual footnote to this effect. DCO Birchenough also explained that the term EFH is used more widely, outside of Southern IFCA, for example in marine planning. It was outlined that any future use of the term EFH by Southern IFCA would be considered by the Membership in relation to specific workstreams.

Dr A Jensen raised a point on behalf of co-opted Member Steve Matthews regarding expansion of the Southern IFCA Solent Oyster Survey and whether pests/predators could be monitored in future surveys. DCO Birchenough explained that the Southern IFCA Solent Oyster Survey would be carried out every other year going forward with the next survey in 2024. The survey in 2024 will have clear drivers which relate to the management of the Solent Dredge Permit Fishery and at the time of planning the 2024 survey, the extent of that survey work will be explored in line with those drivers and in consideration of other data sources that may be available. Ms L MacCallum outlined that Blue Marine, as part of their current and ongoing oyster restoration work, undertake monitoring at their restoration sites for all biodiversity twice a year which included making a record of species which are potential oyster predators and that this data could be shared with the Authority.

The recommendation was agreed through a vote, 9 Members voted for, with Ms L MacCallum abstaining.

Recommendation

281. That DCO Birchenough include a footnote for the use of EFH under juvenile fish surveys in the RPT Plan to align with the use of the term in the Net Fishing Byelaw.

282. That DCO Birchenough include a footnote for the use of EFH in relation to the Angling for Sustainability Project to indicate the text has been provided by the project lead.

283. DCO Birchenough will respond directly to Mr Steve Matthews on the points raised.

Resolved

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

Compliance and Enforcement Team Strategy 2023-24

285. DCO Dell presented the Members with the Compliance and Enforcement Team Strategy 2023-24. DCO Dell outlined key sections relating to implementation of the new Cabin RHIB patrol vessel, which will be integral in improving Southern IFCA's operational delivery and will facilitate new ways of working to aid in the implementation of new district byelaws. DCO Dell also outlined that there is an intention to reduce the number of Authority vehicles to reduce vehicle emissions in line with Southern IFCA's commitment to the Government's UK Net Zero policy.

DCO Dell informed Members how the C&E Team would be working to deliver against IFCA Success Criteria by implementing a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime. DCO Dell stated that there is an emphasis on the importance of community and stakeholder engagement and the link there

to maximising voluntary compliance. DCO Dell also outlined partnership working aims, with delivery aligned to what is described in the Joint Fisheries Statement in relation to compliance and enforcement.

Dr S Cripps queried whether harbour authorities could be listed as a partner organisation in the Plan. DCO Dell commented that the partnership working with harbour authorities tends to centre around matters relating to harbour security but that they could be included in the list of partner organisations.

Dr S Cripps also raised a point around the value of remote surveillance and that this type of technology is not used in the UK to as great a degree as in other countries. DCO Dell commented that Southern IFCA had been involved in a previous project run by Ocean Mind using remote surveillance but that the wider use of this technology needed to be led by the UK Government but that Southern IFCA would be open to using this type of technology in the future should developments be made in this area at a national level.

Mr R Stride asked about the benefit from partnership working with the MCA. DCO Dell responded that the MaCAA created a statutory obligation for the IFCA to work with other government departments. DCO Dell commented that he understood the different relationships other government departments had with the fishing industry and that any sensitivities in this area were considered in operational planning. DCO Dell outlined that officer safety benefits had been realised through working with the MCA in relation to potentially unsafe fishing vessels and that partnership working in relation to shore gathering had helped to uncover offences for those partner agencies.

Mr R Stride asked whether monitoring and reporting could be implemented for codes of practice for which there is currently no reporting on success for example the code of practice for cuttlefish fishing. DCO Dell outlined that any non-compliance with codes of practice is reported through the intelligence system.

The recommendation was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour.

Resolved

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

Compliance and Enforcement Framework

287. DCO Dell outlined updates to the Compliance and Enforcement Framework. The Framework established how the Southern IFCA will achieve a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime. DCO Dell informed Members that the fines related to a byelaw offence had increased from a maximum of £50,000 to unlimited with the MaCAA amended by the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of offenders Act 2012.

DCO Dell explained that the intention in updating the Framework had been to provide future proofing and has been developed with full consideration of the Defra guidance to IFCA's on the establishment of a common enforcement framework.

The recommendation was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour.

Resolved

288. That Members agree the updated Compliance and Enforcement Framework.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Compliance and Enforcement Report

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

Behind the Scenes with the Fisheries Management and Policy Team

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

Sector Group Meetings

291. DCO Birchenough provided Members with the minutes of sector meetings to include the Recreational Angling Sector Group (RSAG) and the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group.

Date of Next Meeting

292. The next Authority Meeting will be held on the 8th June 2023 at 2pm at Winchester University.

Exclusion of the Public

293. In accordance with the Local Government Act (1972), Members of the public accessing the meeting left the meeting on the grounds that the following item of business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Para 7 part 1 of the Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act (1972). There was one member of the public present in person at the meeting. In addition, Mr Wordsworth left the meeting due to a pecuniary prejudicial interest in the agenda item.

Poole Harbour Several Order – Request to Amend Business Plan

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

Resolved

295. That Members approve the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2020-25 for lease beds 6, 7, 8 & 10.

Meeting concluded at 17:15.