



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2021-March 2022

enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk

www.southern-ifca.gov.uk

01202 721373

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Chairman's Welcome

I am delighted to present this year's Annual Report. The team has continued with its professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm despite the travails of the pandemic, which also impacted the meetings of the Authority and its Committees. I must thank all my fellow Authority Members for being so supportive, especially over the appointment of Pia Bateman as our new Chief Officer following the retirement of Ian Jones through ill health.

It is always gratifying to see team members furthering their careers as they move to roles in Australia, the Falklands and north of Scotland – even more gratifying has been the quality of new appointees to both the policy and enforcement teams and how the new leaders of both teams are growing into their roles following internal promotion.

Our replacement craft Endeavour, the specialised shallow water vessel for Poole harbour is proving more than fit for purpose, and we continue to expand our drone technology.

The Technical Advisory Committee has completed the five year development of the Netting Byelaw – which may well become an industry standard. This has been a great effort from the team, our Authority experts and the hugely important input from all sectors of the industry as we strive to achieve the fine balance between often opposing views.

We are delighted with new partnership approaches we have established with the Marine Management Organisation recruitment team as we welcome newly appointed Authority Members and new Elected Members to serve alongside our experienced and dedicated ones.

Cllr Mr Mark Roberts
September 2022



Chief Executive Officer's Welcome

This year has seen change across a multitude of landscapes. The realisation of the Fisheries Act 2020 brought with it new and evolving approaches to inshore fisheries management, primarily evidenced through the creation of a Joint Fisheries Statement and several aspects of policy to include Fisheries Management Plans. The Act provides clear strategic direction for fisheries management in UK waters, centred around the introduction of 8 Fisheries Objectives, this provides a welcome framework upon which future management initiatives can be developed.

It is upon this national landscape of change and evolving approaches to inshore fisheries management, coupled with the residual impact that COVID-19 continued to have during the 2021-2022 term, that the Southern IFCA team have continued to strive and deliver the commitments laid out in the Southern IFCA Annual Plan for the period 2021-2022.



Supported by the General Membership (MMO appointees) and Local Authority Members, Southern IFCA have continued to deliver District wide objectives, as demonstrated in this Annual Report. This is an admirable achievement set against the backdrop of changing political landscapes and unstable economies. Of greatest significance to our stakeholders, in March 2022, after five years in development, the Authority approved the submission of the Net Fishing Byelaw to the Marine Management Organisation. Such complex pieces of work require numerous and often conflicting legislative umbrellas and policy drivers to be considered in order to fulfil the delivery of Southern IFCA's core legal duties. In achieving a balance between the socio-economic aspects of fishing with those of conservation, we will always be met with opposition. We will continue to provide context and guide the development of common visions across often opposing sectors to deliver sustainable inshore marine environments. This year, stakeholder engagement has remained central in developing permit conditions in the Solent scallop fishery, as well as in the proposed measures to manage district wide net fisheries. Southern IFCA will continue to champion this approach to ensure that socio-economic factors are balanced with those of conservation to achieve the common goal of healthy inshore marine environments.

The tides of change have also been evident at Southern IFCA, where there have been significant changes in the staffing body. We have seen the departure of the former Chief Officer, as well as a number of other staff in early 2022. In a short space of time we have been fortunate to recruit a number of IFCOs across both policy and enforcement, as well as a Business Service Manager and a Permitting and Administration Officer.

I am proud of what the team has accomplished and applaud the resilience of staff in their achievement of the Annual Plan objectives, as evidenced throughout this Annual Report. With change comes opportunity and improvement, both of which have been apparent as the team have worked together to negotiate both intrinsic and extrinsic challenges during the 2021-2022 reporting year.

Pia Bateman
September 2022

1.0 Background to Annual Reporting

Under Section 178 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009), Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA's) are required to produce an Annual Report, which seeks to provide an account of the work delivered during the previous reporting year. This report must be sent to the Secretary of State annually following the end of the financial year.

1.1 The IFCA Model

A 'golden thread' demonstrates the connection between IFCA aims and objectives on a national stage (Vision, High Level Objective and Success Criterion), with operational delivery at the local level (Southern IFCA Annual Plans and Team Strategies).

1.1.1 National IFCA Vision

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

1.1.2 National IFCA High Level Objectives and Success Criterion

High-Level Objectives and Success Criterion (Table 1) were developed nationally to support attainment of the IFCA Vision and to reflect the developing programme of work delivered by IFCA's nationally and to demonstrate the IFCA's contribution to the delivery of the UK Marine Policy Statement.

Table 1: High Level Objectives & Success Criterion

High Level Objective		Success Criterion	
HLO1	Achieving a sustainable marine economy	SC1	IFCA's are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders
HLO2	Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society	SC2	IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime
HLO3	Living within environmental limits	SC3	IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage sustainable exploration of SFR
HLO4	Promoting good governance	SC4	IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional
HLO5	Using sound science responsibly	SC5	IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

1.1.3 Southern IFCA Annual Plan

The Southern IFCA Annual Plan details how the Authority intends to support the attainment of High Level Objectives and Success Criterion (and ultimately the IFCA vision) when mapping out the work priorities for the year ahead. The Annual Plan 2021-2022¹ was published on the 1st April 2021.

1.2 The Annual Report 2021-2022

Section 2.0 of this report provides an overview of how Southern IFCA have performed in their delivery of its Annual Plan priorities for the period April 2021 to March 2022, via achievement of:

¹ [Annual-Plan-2021-2022-FINAL.pdf \(toolkitfiles.co.uk\)](#)

1. National Success Criteria **Performance Indicators**, as set out in the Annual Plan 2021-2022.
2. Southern IFCA **Key Delivery Priorities**, as set out in the Annual Plan 2021-2022, which have a direct link to each Success Criteria. A number of **Spotlight** Sections provide further details of the Key Delivery Priorities.

1.1.3 Coronavirus Statement




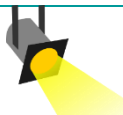
On the 6th January 2021, England entered its third national lockdown. Following the publishing of the Government's 4 Step Plan to ease lockdown restrictions in England, by July 2021 most legal limits on social contact were removed, with the final closed sections of the economy reopening. Following the unveiling of England's Winter Plan for COVID 'Plan B', on the 8th December 2021, further restrictions were activated following the spread of the Omicron variant.

During these uncertain times, Southern IFCA continued to operate under Government guidelines, working from home where possible. Local COVID-19 protocols, risk assessments and procedures were put into place which enabled a number of officers to remain operational and the Southern IFCA office to function with skeleton staff, ensuring the safeguarding of officers and stakeholders throughout.

During the most recent reporting year the Southern IFCA team and Members have continued to adapt to the changing external landscapes in order to best achieve Southern IFCAs duties and responsibilities within the context of the ongoing pandemic. This report will highlight where COVID-19 and the associated restrictions; which were put in place by the UK Government; had an impact on work delivery between April 2021 and March 2022. The COVID-19 symbol will identify where this impact was felt in delivery, accompanied by a rationale and action plan where appropriate.

1.1.4 Legends and Symbols

The following symbols are used throughout this document:






Achieved	
Ongoing area of work	
Impact in delivery felt due to COVID-19, accompanied with a rationale and action plan where appropriate	
Spotlight on Key Delivery Priorities	

2.0 Achieving Success Criteria 1









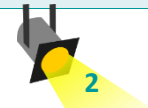

2.1 Performance Indicators



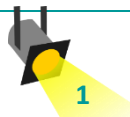



IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders


Definition: IFCAs will be visible, respected and trusted regulators within coastal communities and will maintain and deliver a strategy to communicate their vision and duties effectively. IFCAs will engage with policy makers, industry, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), recreational and commercial users; and other regulators. They will work jointly and collaboratively with partner organisations across boundaries; will participate and contribute to the development and implementation of regional and national marine policy, including the marine planning regime; will take long-term strategic decisions and manage risks effectively. IFCAs may maintain a national body to co-ordinate the activities of authorities that are party to arrangements.

Outcomes	Performance Indicators		End of Year Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy. The IFCA will maintain its website, ensuring public access to current fisheries and conservation information for the District, including management requirements and byelaws. Non-reserved IFCA Committee papers will be published. The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level. The IFCA and its principal partners will have a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and CEFAs will be maintained. Opportunities for greater efficiencies, effective joint working and collaboration will be explored and implemented when feasible. 	SC1A	The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year.		In line with GDPR Legislation.
	SC1B	The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year.		Please refer to Section 2.2: Key Deliverable No. 1
	SC1C	The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month.		Southern IFCA continue to undertake monthly reviews and updates of its website to ensure the 'News Items' remain current and links to Stakeholder Consultations remain relevant.
	SC1D	The IFCA will have reviewed its website and ensured it meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March each year.		
	SC1E	The IFCA will have reviewed all of its MoU by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed timescale.		All the local MoUs were reviewed (to include MMO, Natural England & Environment Agency). No updates were deemed necessary during the 2021-2022 period.
	SC1F	By 31 March each year, the IFCA will have participated appropriately, proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified in the annual plan.		Please refer to Section 2.2: Key Deliverable No. 12


2.2 Key Delivery Priorities

Key Delivery priority			End of Year Status		
1	Communication & Engagement Strategy	To review the current Communication Plan and amalgamate outcomes into the development and implementation of a Southern IFCA Communication and Engagement Strategy by March 2022.		Southern IFCA have committed to develop and implement a new Communication & Engagement Strategy under the 2022-2023 Annual Plan. This delay is a result of in-year reprioritisation of workstream delivery as a result of COVID-19 coupled with resource considerations following a number of staff changes.	 
2	Website	Launching the redesigned website on the 1 April 2021 will seek to improve stakeholder engagement and accessibility to information.	The new website (www.southern-ifca.gov.uk) was launched on the 1 st April 2021.		
3	Social Media	Social media posts will continue to be a key platform upon which updates the work of Southern IFCA. An updated Social Media Policy will be included in the SIFCA Communication and Engagement Strategy.	Southern IFCA social media platforms are updated and provide an essential forum for dissemination of information to stakeholders.		
4	Communication Messages	Southern IFCA will develop 'key communication messages' to disseminate across a variety of engagement platforms (website, social media and when conducting coastal patrols) to ensure consistency in engagement across the District.			
5	Data requests	Southern IFCA will respond to DSA, FOI and EIR requests in line with the GDPR and Government ICO guidelines.	Subject Access Requests (SAR) x1, Requests under the Data Protection Act (DPA) x1, Freedom of Information Requests (FOI) x3.		
6	Community Events	To utilise the shared interpretation trailer (partners NE & DWT) at community events. As part of the Communication and Engagement Strategy Review Southern IFCA will undertake an evaluation of community engagement to ensure that attendance is balanced across all sectors of the community and is of specific relevance to our duties and responsibilities. Delivery of this priority will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions.			
7	Educational Outreach	Southern IFCA will host an annual internship programme through an open and competitive process to enable transfer of skills in the organisation. Delivery of this priority will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions.			
		We will continue to work with Southampton University (Pacific oyster monitoring), Exeter University (wrasse PhD) and Plymouth University (mullet sampling) and will explore further opportunities for collaboration with these and other relevant institutions.			 

8	Community Representation at Meetings	Southern IFCA endeavour to attend a range of stakeholder groups across the District. As part of the Communication and Engagement Strategy Review, Southern IFCA will undertake an evaluation of its current community engagement & publicise this to ensure that representation across the District is balanced across all sectors of the community and is of specific relevance to its duties and responsibilities.		Virtual attendance replaced 'in person' meetings.	
9	District Sector Groups	Southern IFCA will continue to attend the South Coast Fishermen's Council (FMC), the Recreational Sea Angling Group (RSAG) and the South Conservation Marine Environment Group (MEG) to facilitate two-way engagement.	Virtual attendance replaced 'in person' meetings. Officers attended 7/7 FMC, 3/3 RSAG meetings and 3/3 MEG.		
10	Marine Licensing	Southern IFCA, as a consultee on marine licenses will continue to respond to licence applications which are relevant to the functions of the IFCA.			
11	Natural England MoU	To work with NE to develop a local MoU in order to develop a streamlined and consistent approach in the delivery of HRAs.	A new approach to HRA's was developed specific to the Net Fishing Byelaw workstream, due to the complexity in legislative landscape specific to this byelaw. A number of virtual meetings were held with NE to ensure the template was fit for purpose. This area of work to date has taken a less formal route with the aim to reduce resource pressures across both organisations.		
12	National Groups	<u>Association of IFCA's (AIFCA)</u> : Southern IFCA will continue to contribute to the effective running and functioning of the AIFCA. The Association is an important national body that allows IFCA's to speak with one voice at a national level on key topics. <u>Chief Officers Group (COG)</u> : The Southern IFCA Chief Officer will support the development of National IFCA policy and the delivery of IFCA operations through collaboration and cooperation between IFCA's and partner organisations. <u>Technical Advisory Group (TAG)</u> : Southern IFCA will actively participate and support the delivery for the improvement, quality and extent of fisheries management information through better coordination and dissemination of fisheries related scientific research; define and apply best practice relating to the scientific & technical functions and responsibilities of IFCA's. The Senior IFCO FMP will attend the TAG as the designated representative for Southern IFCA and will report all outcomes to the Chief Officer. The involvement with TAG will be reported in the following year's Annual Report. <u>National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG)</u> : Senior IFCO (Operations) will Chair the group 2021/22 which is established to develop and support joint working and consistency; identify and share best practice; and to promote professionalism and competence and report outcomes to the Chief Officer. The involvement of NIMEG will be reported in the following year's Annual Report.			 Virtual attendance replaced 'in person' meetings

14	National Policy	<p>(a) Southern IFCA will proactively engage with national forums to support the development of policy in sustainable inshore management, in particular DEFRA and the DEFRA family in the development and implementation of The Fisheries Act 2020 & the 25 Year Environment Plan.</p> <p>(b) To support the delivery of an EU Exit Plan, to include supporting the Fish Health Inspectorate (CEFAS) in disseminating information regarding import and export of live aquatic animals for aquaculture and depuration following departure from EU.</p> <p>(c) We will work with national partners in the development of JFS and guidance for FMPs</p>	
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2.3 Spotlight on Key Delivery Priorities



Marine Licensing is one of the principal responsibilities of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) as described under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA). This is a delegated power from the Secretary of State under the Marine Licensing (Delegation of Functions Order) 2011 (amended). The purpose of marine licensing is to facilitate the sustainable use of the UK marine environment so that economically beneficial activities within the marine environment such as construction, deposits (e.g. of sediment), removals (e.g. of marine aggregates), and dredging can be permitted whilst minimising negative environmental effects and avoiding interference with navigation. Southern IFCA is a consultee on Marine Licence Applications (MLAs). When an application is submitted to the MMO and is sent out for consultation, Southern IFCA are notified and are provided a period in which to review the application and determine if a response is required and, if so, at what level.

During the period covered by this Annual Report, Southern IFCA were invited to comment on 35 MLA. Of these, 21 were screened out and 14 required a detailed response. The MLA requiring response fell into the following categories: Dredging: 1, Maintenance Dredging: 6, Capital Dredging: 2, Tidal Energy: 2, Electricity Cables: 1, Restoration Projects: 1, Aquaculture Trials: 1

Marine Licensing

2

Southern IFCA have been working with staff and students at Plymouth University to improve the understanding of **grey mullet reproductive biology** in the District's waters, with a particular emphasis on size at maturity. The Authority has worked with the local fishing industry to gather samples of all three grey mullet species (thick-lipped grey mullet, thin-lipped grey mullet and golden grey mullet). These samples have then been analysed by Plymouth University Masters students as part of their research projects. The results have enabled a more accurate determination of size at maturity in the species, together with an understanding of the spawning season and areas. This will directly inform the Authority's review of minimum conservation reference sizes.

A student from Exeter University has been undertaking a PhD to assess the sustainability and potential impacts of the **Live Wrasse Fishery** on the south coast. Using genetics to look at the population structure of wrasse along the south coast the research has been trying to identify the most effective management unit size, using stable isotopes to predict the ecological impacts of the fishery, and working to ensure the views of stakeholders (including recreational anglers) are considered when developing management measures for the fishery. Southern IFCA has contributed fishery data to support this project and outcomes of this PhD will aid in understandings of the Wrasse fishery within the Southern IFCA District.

During 2021 Southern IFCA commenced a project with the University of Southampton to aim to quantify the location and abundance of wild **Pacific oysters** (*Magallana gigas*) in Poole Harbour. Data collection took place over the summer of 2021 at a variety of shore locations around the Harbour covering different habitat types. Data was collected on the presence of oysters, abundance and, where oysters were detected, a length measurement was taken for each individual. The data is being used to provide an update on the extent of wild Pacific oysters in the Harbour building on initial survey work which was carried out in 2013. The data from the survey will be used alongside other relevant data sources, such as indicators of levels of natural change in wild pacific oyster populations and any national policy, to help inform future reviews of management measures. Southern IFCA are working with NE to discuss survey results and develop an on-going survey program that could feed into a future monitoring and control plan for the fishery.



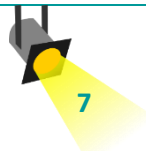

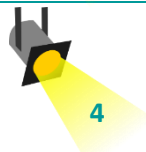



Working with Academic Institutes

3.0 Achieving Success Criteria 2












3.1 Performance Indicators












IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime


Definition: The IFCA enforcement regime is risk-based, makes appropriate use of intelligence, meets legislative standards and complies with the Regulators Code. It should make effective use of the resources available to regulators; complement and align, if possible, with the regimes in adjacent IFC Districts and management by other organisations including the MMO and Environment Agency. Consistency and fairness are important. Regulatory compliance is promoted. Enforcement action is carried out by trained, professional officers working to clear standards of conduct.

Outcomes	Indicators		End of Year Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will publish its Enforcement Risk Register and Strategy, clearly setting out its approach to achieving regulatory compliance and potential sanctions that may be applied for infringements and/or offences. The IFCA will have developed consistency in regulations (byelaws) with other organisations The IFCA will manage operational activity (e.g., through a Tasking & Co-ordination Group) and capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence that is compatible with partner organisations. It is engaged in joint working with partner organisations. Warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers will be trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. They will maintain professionalism and make appropriate interventions to deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity 	SC2A	The IFCA will ensure its Enforcement Risk Register and Strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year.		No updates were required during this reporting period: Compliance-Risk-Register-2020-SIFCA.pdf (toolkitfiles.co.uk)
	SC2B	The IFCA will demonstrate in its Annual Report how it has worked with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures.		
	SC2C	The IFCA will compile records of enforcement activity in a standard format; provide them to the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) and publish them on its website.		
	SC2D	The IFCA will adopt the national Code of Conduct for IFCOs, which will be reviewed annually and published on its website by 1 April.		Published on Southern IFCA website.
	SC2E	The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for all Warranted Officers.		In line with Southern IFCA Performance Appraisal Policy.
	SC2F	Warranted Officers attain accreditation. All undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD)		Fisheries Protection IFCOs are proceeding through units under the National Marine Enforcement Qualification, with the DCO undergoing training to become a qualified assessor. All warranted officers undergo CPD training and are cross warranting with the EA.

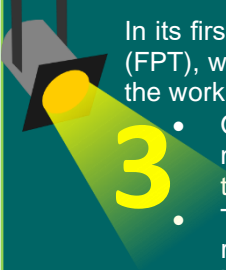
3.2 Key Delivery Priorities

Key Delivery priority			End of Year Status	
1	FP Team Strategy	To set out the Fisheries Protection Team (FPT) priorities for the period April 2021-2022 feeding directly from the Annual Plans' delivery priorities and the Compliance and Enforcement Framework. The Plan will identify resources and timelines to ensure that the Annual Plan delivery priorities are met (to publish 1 April 2021). A review of achievements under the FP Team Strategy will be included in the Southern IFCA Annual Report.	Authority Reports : Southern IFCA (southern-ifca.gov.uk)	
2	Compliance & Enforcement Strategy Review	To annually review and update the Compliance and Enforcement Strategy and publish on the Authority's website (to publish by April 2021).	Compliance-and-Enforcement-Framework.pdf (toolkitfiles.co.uk)	
3	Quarterly Compliance Report	To report to the Authority on a quarterly basis on outcomes of inspections, illegal activity, marine asset patrols, case file progress and outcomes to include verbal, written, Financial Administration Penalties (FAP) and prosecution outcomes.	 4 & 6	
4	Intelligence led risk-based enforcement	To maintain an intelligence led, risk-based approach to enforcement, steered by fortnightly TCGs. To share best practice to develop consistency between partner regulatory bodies in the use of standardised inspection and enforcement procedures both on shore and at sea.	 13	
		To monitor and maintain operations in line with the latest Government Guidance on COVID-19, to include patrol planning and inspections, joint work, FIPs, SOPs and RAs maintaining liaison with NIMEG and DEFRA.		
5	Intelligence reporting & analysis	To continue working in line with National intelligence reporting frameworks and requirements to ensure a strategic approach to intelligence gathering and analysis through the CIU, MMO and NIMEG	 5	
6	Communication packages & Compliance Directions	To support the introduction of all new IFCA management interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent SCE Code of Conduct April – November 2021 Prepare for implementation of SDPB on the 1 November 2021 with focussed re-engagement with industry during spring & summer 2021 MCRS Byelaw <i>Inshore Netting Byelaw (subject to submission and approval by Defra)</i> <i>Potting Byelaw (subject to submission and approval by Defra)</i> 		
		To support the management of seasonal fisheries & compliance with existing byelaws.		

7	Working in partnership	Southern IFCA will continue to work with the Police, MMO, HSE Local Authorities, EA, NE, Border Force, Harbour Authorities, FSA crime unit, EHOs, CEFAS and rural crime teams in order to address areas of shared risk. Bi monthly external TCGs will be held with partners			
		Southern IFCA will continue to work with EHOs from the BCP Council to assist in the monitoring of water quality in Poole Harbour.			
8	Biosecurity	(a) To achieve compliance with Biosecurity requirements, to include the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, (b) To update the Poole Harbour Biosecurity Management Plan, (c) 'Live' document updates (AAH1 Import documents) to be submitted to CEFAS on import.			
9	Investigations	(a) All investigatory work to be conducted in line with PACE & CPIA. (b) Case file management will be in accordance with guidelines and practice. Investigation outcomes to be shared with NIMEG and media channels			
10	Dispensations	To grant dispensations for the purposes specified in Southern IFCA byelaws in line with the IFCA dispensation policy and guidance.	Twenty dispensations were granted during this reporting period.		
11	Marine Assets and asset management	Southern IFCA will evaluate its marine operation delivery via a marine asset review, which will consider the efficiency and effectiveness of current marine assets and make recommendations for future service provision.	In November 2021, under Phase 1 of the Marine Asset Review (MAR), Southern IFCA procured a new Fisheries Protection Vessel (FPV) Endeavour, for patrol work in Poole Harbour and Poole Bay. Endeavour is a 19ft, aluminium vessel made by Robust Boats in Pembrokeshire. The new FPV is fitted with an electric line hauler and a low light camera to enhance operational capabilities at night. Additionally, Endeavour has a shallow draught and is fitted with a hydraulic A-Frame, which allows access to otherwise inaccessible areas of the harbour by navigating low bridges and shallow intertidal areas. The new FPV has already proved to be instrumental when carrying out operational duties. Phase II of the MAR will consider replacement of FPV Stella Barbara, this is ongoing into the next reporting year.		
		Southern IFCA will explore the use of a drone to support the monitoring, surveillance and control of inshore fisheries and MPAs.			
		Maintenance of vessels and vehicles used for the purposes for land based and sea-based compliance and enforcement			
12	Inshore VMS	To support the national roll out of the inshore VMS during 2021-2022. To sit on a working group to support this area of work.	Southern IFCA has supported the national IVMS roll out through signposting industry to key information, publishing national communication through our website, social media platforms and coastal work. Southern IFCA has provided feedback on the draft		

			Statutory Instrument as well as working with the MMO to determine data sharing arrangements	
13	Training	Southern IFCA will support the NLTO role and officers will work towards gaining accreditation for the National Marine Enforcement Qualification and national internal awards.	Southern IFCA has supported the NLTO by providing an Assistant Facilitator (DCO) for the online competent officer course in 2021. The DCO is also enrolled on a quality assessor course to assist with the National Marine Enforcement Qualification. Although the NLTO position sits under the AIFCA NIMEG (National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group) which is chaired by the Southern IFCA DCO has a remit for identifying training and development needs. As Chair of this group the membership was extended to AIFCA and therefore the IFCA NLTO.	

3.3 Spotlight on Key Delivery Priorities



In its first year of operation following procurement, Southern IFCA's drone has been supporting the work of the Fisheries Protection Team (FPT), with its thermal imaging capabilities helping the team to monitor fisheries activity during night patrols. Here is a snapshot of some of the work of the drone:

- On July 19th officers received reports of illegal netting in Poole Harbour from Poole Harbour Control who in turn had received a number of reports from members of the public. The FPT responded by deploying Fisheries Protection Vessel Endeavour and used to drone to locate and monitor a suspect vessel before intercepting it. On this occasion advice and guidance was issued.
- Towards the end of the 2021-2022 Poole Harbour Dredge Permit (PHDP) season, Southern IFCA received several intelligence reports relating to illegal fishing activity outside of the PHDP curfew. The PHDP stipulates that fishing with a dredge must only occur between the hours of 06:00 and 18:00. Officers carried out several patrols to investigate this intelligence, including a night patrol during the early hours of the 15th December. Utilising the Authority's drone capabilities, officers identified a number of well-known local fishing vessels active in the harbour outside of the permitted fishing hours, but did not record any offences or observe any fishing activity taking place. Officers then attended the local fishing pontoons at the end of the curfew and engaged with a number of individuals to remind them of the PHDP regulations and permit conditions that apply.
- Officers were on patrol at Hill Head using the thermal imaging capability on the drone to locate the hand gatherers in the dark. This allowed for monitoring over a large areas. 10 persons were spoken to and shellfish gauges provided to the gatherers to ensure they are sticking to the minimum size requirements. No offences were recorded.
- The drone supported a multi-agency crackdown on illegal hand gathering in Poole Harbour. Some people were gathering for recreation or personal consumption, while some were suspected to be gathering the clams and cockles for commercial reasons. In total, six warnings were issued and one person was reported for fisheries offences during the operation. Large quantities of shellfish were seized and returned to the fishery. Southern IFCA officers led the Operation with partners from BCP Council, Dorset Marine Policing Team and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. More than 30 people were spoken with during the joint-authority effort.

The Drone: Year 1 of Operational Duty



	Metric	Details	20/21	21/22
Inspections at sea	Vessel patrols	Any patrol vessel or survey (mother /daughter boat combination as one patrol)	83	71
	Fishing vessel boarding	Any fishing vessel (including unregistered / unlicensed) inspected at sea, where boarding was in pursuit of any relevant duty	21	70
	Fishing gear inspections	Store pots, tiers / strings etc. of fishing gear found deployed in sea, where inspection was in pursuit of any relevant duty. Do not count gear inspected onboard a vessel	0	0
Inspections ashore or in port	Shore patrol	Excursion/visit of any length to any part of the coast for an inspection observation of fishing related activity	160	116
	Port visits	Individual port/cove/beach visits within the shoreline	362	282
	Premises inspections	Markets, merchants refrigerated units, retailers, food producers/outlets etc	4	20
	Fish/shellfish landing inspections	Observations of fish/shellfish as landed ashore from a vessel. Does not include inspections of fish in market or in storage unless landing observed	153	157
	Other inspections	Vessel gear/fish checks in port/ashore, diver and shore angler catches, vehicle contents, shellfish on lay areas etc.	28	85
Enforcement Actions	Verbal Warnings/advisory letters	Warnings, re-briefs or letters to minor breaches of legislation (no further action taken). Where both were issued to one person/company, count as one action	20	36
	Case files generated	For a serious breach of legislation which was thought would or did lead to a formal warning letter or the application of legal sanctions	10	16
	Official Written Warning (OWW)	For a serious breach of legislation where evidence was gathered was sufficient to take legal proceedings, but where a letter was instead deemed the most appropriate action	6	10
	Formal caution	All cautions relevant to any one case	0	0
	FAPs offered	All FAPs relevant to any one case	0	4
	Individual/companies prosecuted	All persons and companies relevant to any one case	3	1

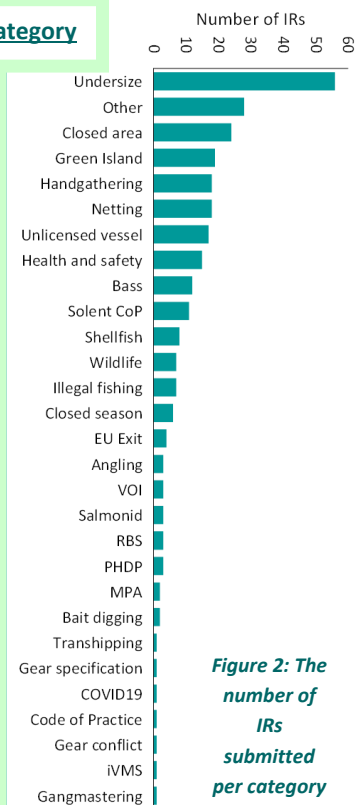
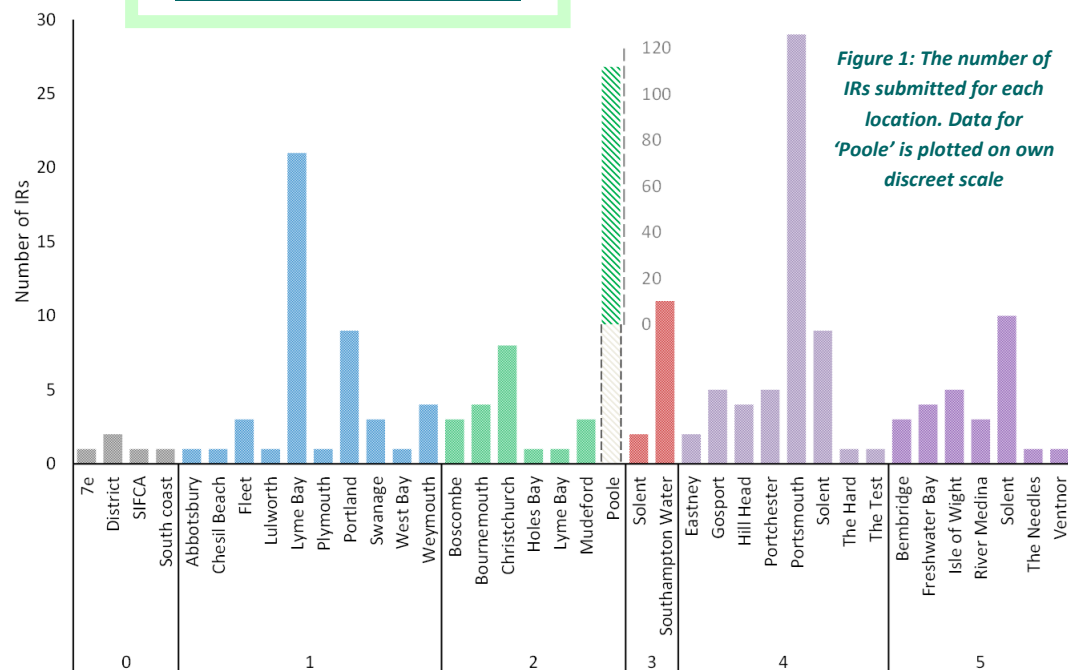


Month	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	Total 2021-2022	Total 2020-2021
IRs	35	29	32	23	45	37	14	18	15	8	17	5	278	395

Number of Intelligence Reports received per month

Intelligence Reports by Category

Intelligence Reports by Location





Date of Offence	Offence	Action
03.08.21	Retention of undersized scallops & undersized bass	Official Warning Letters issued to 1 fisher & 1 fish merchant on 05.08.21
11.08.21	Retention of undersized Manila and razor clams	1 x Official Warning Letter issued on 25.08.21
20.08.21	Storage of undersized Manila clams	FAP of £1000 issued to fish merchant on 25.10.21. FAP paid in full on 22.11.21
19.08.21	Retention of undersized spider crabs	1 x Official Warning Letter issued on 28.09.21
23.08.21	Retention of undersized cockles and Manila clams	1 x Official Warning Letter issued on 02.09.21
08.09.21	Retention of undersized Manila clams	1 x Official Warning Letter issued on 29.09.21
25.09.21	Retention & storage of undersized Manila clams	1 x fisher & fish merchant pleaded guilty and were ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £2,334 each. Transport company issued FAP of £500 on. FAP paid in full on 29.12.21. Retention of undersized manila clams – enquiries ongoing
26.10.21	Breach of Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw Closure Area 40	FAP of £4000 issued, paid on 29/04/2022
05.11.21	Retention of undersized Manila clams	Official Written Warning Letter issued on 12.11.21
22.11.21	Retention of undersized Manila clams	Official Written Warning Letter issued on 09.12.21
02.12.21	Retention of undersized Manila clams	Official Written Warning Letter issued on 09.12.21
16.12.21	Storing of undersized Manila clams	Fish merchant pleaded guilty and ordered to pay fines and costs of £10,946
02/02/22	Storing of undersized Manila Clams contrary to MCRS Byelaw	FAP of £1000 issued 23/02/2022
02/02/22 & 08/02/22	Fishing inside BTFG Closure and retention of undersized Manila clams contrary to 2019/1241	Official Written Warning issued for both offences 15/02/2022
22/02/22	Storing of undersized Manila Clams and American Hardshelled Clams contrary to MCRS Byelaw	Official Written Warning issued 04/04/2022

Date of offence	Offence	Action taken and date
12.01.20	Obstruction & Failure to Comply	Fines totalling £832 (19.04.21)
12.12.19	Obstruction x 2 & retention of undersized Manila clams	The last of 3 defendants pleaded guilty at Poole Magistrates Court on 18.10.21. He was fined £400 & ordered to pay £400 costs and a victim surcharge of £40.
03.09.20	Failure to Comply x2	Defendant found guilty of both charges of Failure to Comply and was fined £6000, ordered to pay costs of £10,000 and victim surcharge of £180. (27.01.22)

Investigation Outcomes 2021-2022



With the gradual relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, Southern IFCA took the opportunity to re-commence joint working with a range of agencies, to include:

- Dorset Police and the Environment Agency, working together to tackle multi-agency issues. Where fisheries offences take place, there may be links to marine crime, therefore, it is beneficial for both the Southern IFCA and other enforcement agencies to work in partnership with each other. On the 24th January, IFCOs worked with the Environment Agency and Dorset Marine Policing Team to patrol Poole Harbour and monitor activity at night time. IFCOs on the shore launched the drone and used the thermal imaging camera to monitor activity around the Lytchett Bay, Rockley and Wareham Channel Area. Meanwhile, officers on board FPV Endeavour and the EA patrol vessel Orion departed the marina and came across two males in a Poole Canoe heading towards the main channel. There was no evidence of illegal fishing or criminal activity but the persons on board were known to officers. This visible presence of officers patrolling the harbour at night is a strong deterrent for illegal activity.
- The Marine Management Organisation, Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority and BCP Council's Environmental Officer in Operation Aidant where a group of foreign nationals were caught illegally fishing for razor clams on the Dorset coast.
- Southern IFCA worked with a number of partner agencies, including the MMO, MCA, RNLI, Dorset Police, Dorset Police Marine Unit, Dorset Police Rural Crime Unit, PHC and BCP council, to engage with various stakeholders, recreational vessels and personal watercraft users regarding wildlife disturbance in Dorset. This followed concerns raised on social media regarding wildlife disturbance from craft users, for example, chasing dolphins and moving through rafting seabirds causing them to disperse in a distressed manner. Quayside discussion with users, providing guidance on how to enjoy the local wildlife respectfully followed by an on water patrol from partner agencies was met with positive approval from the public.
- Officers have continued to support Operation Seabird, Operation Seabird is the brainchild of Geoff Edmond, the National Wildlife Coordinator for the RSPCA. It is in response to a rise in marine life disturbances being reported and the predicted rise in numbers of visitors to our coastlines due to the stay local and staycation messages for Summer 2021, this has led to the creation of the Operation Seabird (#opseabird) campaign which has been designed to educate and inform visitors to our coastlines. Southern IFCA unlike the MMO, Police and other partners, do not have a remit for marine wildlife disturbances however we have continued to support this Operation - It also gives Southern IFCA the opportunity to engage with local water users regarding its own remit and the byelaws in which we enforce. On the 27th August we were alerted to dolphin disturbance in the entrance of Poole Harbour officers liaised with the MMO and shared the poster with members of the public and other local partners utilising the Southern IFCA social media platforms which have significant reach locally.





Joint Working 2021-2022



4.0 Achieving Success Criteria 3

4.1 Performance Indicators


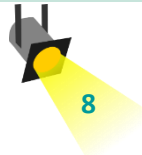





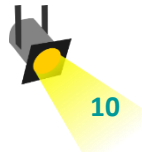


IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts

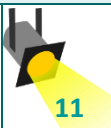








Definition: The IFCAs were created as statutory inshore regulators by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. They are relevant authorities for implementing international environmental commitments including the Birds, Habitats, Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives and make an important contribution to securing a network of well managed marine protected areas, including European Marine Sites and Marine Conservation Zones. Fisheries Management Plans identify local management measures which should be based on evidence; be timely; subject to appropriate consultation and in step with national initiatives and priorities. An IFCA should balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting sea fisheries resources with the need to protect the environment. It should make a contribution to sustainable development.

Outcomes	Performance Indicators		End of Year Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will identify issues likely to affect sustainable management of the marine environment in the District; undertake risk assessments and gap analysis; review appropriateness of existing measures; evaluate management options and develop and implement proportionate marine management solutions. The IFCA will support implementation of a well-managed network of marine protected areas by: developing a range of criteria-based management options; implementing management measures to ensure that inshore fisheries activities comply with the Marine and 	SC3A	The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority		Following on from the designation of Tranche 3 MCZs in 2019, the Authority are continuing to undertake a review of MPA spatial management within the District. See Key Delivery 4.
	SC3B	The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website		Outcomes of Stock Assessments and Surveys can be found here: Fisheries & Research : Southern IFCA (southern-ifca.gov.uk) . New management measures are accompanied by 'Impact Assessments' which demonstrate the use of the best available evidence in accordance with guiding DEFRA policy. In addition (where relevant), Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRAs) are developed and published to accompany the introduction of new management measures.
	SC3C	Management information (e.g., sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to demonstrate the extent of effectiveness of the intervention		Ongoing reviews for voluntary Codes of Conduct and Byelaws are in place across the District. This includes data collection via survey and stock assessment, as well as relevant Monitoring and Control Plans for new management interventions.
	SC3D	The IFCA will have developed a range of criteria-based management options that are explained to stakeholders through the IFCA website, and		Southern IFCA's Developing Fisheries Management Interventions-Process Document Developing-Fisheries-Management-Interventions.pdf (toolkitfiles.co.uk) is published to support stakeholders' understanding of management intervention process. This document was updated in 2021 to

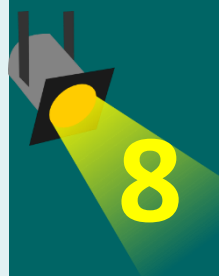
<p>Coastal Access Act 2009 and the revised approach to managing commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites; and that local management contributes to delivery of targets for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will develop Fisheries Management Plans for priority species where appropriate. Shared objectives will be developed with identified partners; actions identified and best practice reflected so that management makes a contribution to sustainable development. 		reviewed by 31 March each year		include permit condition review process. In addition, via the Fisheries Management and Policy Team Strategy 2021-2022 , management priorities for the year were identified with supporting rationales underpinning these.
	SC3E	New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales		Delivery timetables identified in the Fisheries Management and Policy Team Strategy 2021-2022 . Authority Reports : Southern IFCA (southern-ifca.gov.uk)
	SC3F	The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from Fisheries Management Plans in its own Annual Plan, which will be published by 31 March each year.		<p>Southern IFCA continue to collate and examine peer-reviewed literature in order to inform best practice in the application of management interventions across the District and use this knowledge to inform and evolve Southern IFCA's existing FMPs, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrasse Monitoring and Control Plan Poole Harbour Several Order Management Plan Poole Harbour Shellfish Dredging Management Plan Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw Management Intentions Document <p><u>National Fisheries Management Plans</u>: The Chief Officer continues to collaborate with AIFCA and the Chief Officers Group, in order to determine a national approach to the application of FMPs under the Fisheries Act 2020. This is ongoing.</p>

4.2 Key Delivery Priorities

Key Delivery priority			End of Year Status	
1	FMP Team Strategy	The Fisheries Management & Policy Team Strategy will set out the priorities for the FMP Team for the period April 2021-2022 feeding directly from the Annual Plan as well as with consideration of the IFCA's Five Year Legislative Forecast (2019-2023). This document will include the Southern IFCA Monitoring Programme for 2021-2022. A review of achievements under the FMP Team Strategy will be included in the Southern IFCA Annual Report.	Authority Reports : Southern IFCA (southern-ifca.gov.uk)	
2	Inshore Netting Review	This is a significant area of work that began in 2017 in response to the outcomes of the Southern IFCA Review of Management Measures. The workstream has remained a priority for delivery under the Southern IFCA Annual Plan priorities for years 2017-2021. It is the intention of the Authority to seek confirmation of a Net Fishing Byelaw in 2021 following the outcomes of formal consultation.		
3	Inshore Potting Review	This review began in 2018 in response to the Southern IFCA Review of Management Measures. During 2019-2020 a number of WGs were held. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic this workstream was put on hold between March and November 2020. It is the intention of the Authority to seek confirmation of a Potting Byelaw in late 2021/early 2022.		
4	T3 MCZs & MPA Spatial Management Review	A third tranche of MCZs were designated in May 2019. Of these, six new sites fell within the Southern IFCA District as well as additional features being added to two existing sites. The Authority continues to assess the potential impact of fishing activities within the designated sites via a risk-based approach. It is the intention of the Authority to convene WGs in spring 2021 in order to consider the potential options for management intervention where necessary. This work is being carried out in conjunction with a wider review of existing spatial boundaries under the District's BTFG and IHG Byelaws. Southern IFCA will continue to support partners in the provision of data collection to inform the understanding of location and extent of black bream nesting sites within the T3 MCZs.	Following a Working Group in May 2021 draft BTFG management measures were developed in preparation for a community consultation.	 
5	MCRS Review	Since April 2020 SIFCA have been reviewing existing evidence, undertaking primary research & developing evidence packages which identify the biological characteristics of key fish and shellfish species within the District which are subject to fishing pressures. This will feed directly into the formal review of MCRS which will begin in 2021.		
6	Byelaw Review: Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds	IFCA byelaw making guidance states that IFCAs should continually monitor the effectiveness of their byelaws. The Authority will undertake a scheduled review of the IHG Byelaw in line with commitments under the Southern IFCA Five-Year Legislative Forecast and the review periods identified within the Byelaw. It is the intention that this work will be carried out in conjunction with the MPA Spatial Management Review.	This review has been amalgamated into the MPA Spatial Management Review	

7	Permit Condition Reviews: SDPB	a) A decision was made in March 2021 for the Authority to pursue the development of management measures in the Solent scallop fishery during 2021. (b) Following the pending implementation of the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw (SDPB) on the 1 November 2021, the Authority will be working with the fishing industry to develop an evidence base to support and explore the potential reintroduction of a pump scoop fishery in the Solent. In order to achieve this Southern IFCA will continue to work with DEFRA to seek revocation of Statutory Instrument No. 2696 The Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004.	This area of work has been scheduled within the 2022-2023 Annual Plan. The postponement was due to a change in work delivery timetable as a result of the emerging Solent scallop fishery and a need to implement management via a permit condition review as a priority.	 11 
8	Wrasse Fishery	To annually review measures in this fishery under the M&C Plan & continue to build an evidence base to inform any potential future management as determined by the Authority.		
9	Aquaculture	a) Southern IFCA will continue to promote its role in sustainable aquaculture development via attendance at the Dorset Mariculture Strategy Governance Group b) Under the Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015, Southern IFCA will continue to develop, manage & support aquaculture practice within Poole Harbour & undertake an annual review of the Management Plan before 1 July 2021		
10	Poole Clams and Cockle Partnership Project	Southern IFCA will work with partners at the PDFA and the DWT to promote further innovation in the Poole Harbour Clam and Cockle MSC certified fishery with regard to ETP species and develop a blue print of co-management which demonstrates effective fisheries management within an MPA (funded project running Apr 21-March 22).	 12	
11	Fisheries Management Plans	(a) Southern IFCA will continue to manage inshore fisheries in line with the following district Management Plans: (i) Poole Harbour Several Order Management Plan, (ii) Poole Harbour Shellfish Dredging Management Plan, (iii) Wrasse Monitoring and Control Plan, (iv) Angling Strategy, (v) Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw Management Intentions Document (b) Southern IFCA will review all its existing FMPs in order to develop a framework for best practice. (c) Southern IFCA will continue to work in partnership with and contribute to the Solent European Marine Site Single Scheme Management Plan, The Poole Aquatic Management Plan, The Solent Oyster Restoration Plan. (d) Following guidance in relation to the Fisheries Act 2020 Southern IFCA will publish its district MPs in line with a JFS objectives.		
12	Emerging Fisheries Policy	Southern IFCA will develop a policy document which will provide stakeholders with guidance when applying to undertake harvesting of emerging fisheries/innovative fisheries practice within MPAs.	This area of work has been postponed.	 

4.3 Spotlight on Key Delivery Priorities



The Net Fishing Byelaw was made by the Authority in December 2021 and will enable the flexible management of net fisheries in the District's harbour and estuarine waters, so that the Authority can: (1) support the use of estuaries and harbours in the District as essential fish habitats, (2) provide protection to migratory salmonids as they transit through the District's estuaries and harbours, (3) balance the social and economic benefits of net fisheries; and (4) further the conservation objectives of Designated Sites.

The Byelaw applies site specific management measures across forty-nine predominantly harbour and estuarine areas in the District through the application of a range of measures to manage net fishing. These measures include the introduction of Net Prohibition Areas, Net Restricted Areas and Net Permit Areas.

In addition, the byelaw introduces the marking of nets by all fishers in the District, as well as introducing measures for the application of flexible permit conditions within the Net Permits for Southampton Water, Christchurch Harbour and the River Hamble. The byelaw also outlines how these permit conditions, permit fees and the limits on the number of permits issued will be reviewed. Ongoing management will be informed by best-available evidence that will be gathered through a commitment to ongoing monitoring.

The process of developing this byelaw necessitated the development of a novel approach to assessing environmental and socio-economic evidence which considered the legislative basis for management intervention in areas inside, adjacent to and functionally linked to protected areas including SACs and SSSIs. This approach was discussed with Natural England who were supportive and recognised the innovation shown by Southern IFCA in tackling a difficult set of overlapping legislative drivers. Extensive consultation through formal and informal mechanisms was undertaken throughout the process of management development with opportunities for stakeholders to address Members directly through the forum of Authority meetings facilitated to aid Members in the decision making process.

Progressing the Net Fishing Byelaw



The Pot Fishing Byelaw has been developed as part of the Authority's Potting Review and aims to ensure that pot fishing in the District is carried out in a sustainable way, delivering associated social and economic benefits.

Southern IFCA has undertaken informal consultation with stakeholders, both engaged in pot fishing and from other interest areas, and feedback has indicated that there is strong support from the fishing industry for the implementation of pot fishing regulations within the District. An area of particular concern emerging from the consultation was the sustainability of the District's whelk fishery. The proposed introduction of a Pot Fishing Permit for both commercial and recreational fishers under the Pot Fishing Byelaw will enable the Authority to flexibly manage pot fishing activities through an adaptive management approach and introduce bespoke management for individual fishing activities as new and improved evidence becomes available. This approach allows fisheries such as the whelk fishery to be addressed with management specific to the needs identified through a review of available evidence and the areas of concern raised by stakeholders. This evidence may include improved knowledge of the impact of the activities covered by the byelaw, a better understanding of the status of a stock or data on the biology/ecology of a target species.

As part of the management development process, Southern IFCA has also been reviewing socio-economic impacts of proposed management measures through drafting an Impact Assessment. The IFCA aims to use best available evidence in this process by utilising different data sources including MMO landings data and feedback directly from fishers through the consultation processes. The IFCA will continue to engage with stakeholders as the proposed byelaw moves through the next stage and a final period of formal consultation will also be undertaken following any Authority decision to make a regulation.

Progressing the Pot Fishing Byelaw



Southern IFCA agreed to formally review its Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) between 2021 and 2023. The Review aims to: (1) assess existing MCRS limits, which are currently applicable across the District, and (2) consider whether there is a need to introduce MCRSs for additional species, which are not currently subject to a MCRS within the District. In preparation for this Review detailed 'Species Profiles' for 25 species within the District were developed during 2021, to provide a summary of best-available evidence on species reproductive biology, social and economic value and associated management. Additionally, a comprehensive literature review based upon size at sexual maturity for over 50 species was also undertaken with summary documents published on the Southern IFCA website.

The 'Call for Information' for the MCRS Review commenced Monday 24th May 2021 and ran for 8-weeks. The 'Call for Information' aimed to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the local community to contribute evidence to the review of MCRSs which will form an integral part of the evidence base, in combination with any other evidence gathered. The Summary of Responses document alongside the 'species profiles' are published on the Authority's website. These documents alongside other evidence packages form the evidential underpinning for the MCRS review and will be used to inform decisions on the direction of the review and the potential need for management into 2022-2023.

The MCRS Review

11

In March 2021, a Scallop Fishing Code of Conduct (CoC) was introduced in the Solent following the emergence of a scallop fishery. The CoC, supported by fishers, introduced a seasonal closure for scalloping (from 1st April 2021 to 31st October 2021) and a 2-dredge limit per vessel between the 1st November 2021 to 31st March 2022. In response to non-compliance with the CoC, in November 2021 Southern IFCA commenced a 6-week consultation exploring the introduction of Solent Dredge Permit Conditions specific to the scallop fishery.

The feedback received indicated that fishers were generally supportive of the introduction of statutory measures to restrict fishing effort. Where concerns were raised regarding the evidence to support the duration of the proposed closed season, the Technical Advisory Committee welcomed representation from industry and worked with fishers to reach a mutually agreed position which enabled fishing activity to continue whilst allowing for the fishery to move towards sustainable species management. A commitment was also made to gather additional evidence to inform the understanding of scallop reproductive biology in the Solent with the University of Southampton and work commenced to gather samples in February 2022. The new measures were introduced in February 2022 through a variation to the Solent Dredge Permit and officers invested in significant engagement with industry through an education phase following implementation.

Work to further understand the scallop stock in the Solent and any potential impacts from fishing activity has also been commenced through a scallop stock survey which commenced in July 2021 and will be run twice a year, either side of the fishing season, to collect length frequency and CPUE data which will provide an evidence base and time-series dataset to help inform management of the fishery in the future.

Sustainable Management of Solent Scallops

12

The Poole Clam & Cockle Fishery Partnership Project was funded by the Marine Stewardship Council's Ocean Stewardship Fund and centred around the management of the fishery in relation to protecting Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species. The project was a joint venture between the Southern IFCA, the Poole and District Fishermen's Association and Dorset Wildlife Trust and aimed to establish a co-management system to support fishers in minimising interactions with ETP species, widen knowledge of ETP species in Dorset, improve awareness of the positives of fishermen as sentinels and provide a blueprint and supporting information for other fisheries aiming for MSC certification.

The project was completed in April 2022 and produced work under four strands: identification and education, monitoring and reporting, innovation in mitigation methods and the development of a Risk Management Strategy (RMS). Education materials included waterproof guides to ETP species and interpretation boards at key locations as well as a training program for both fishers and Southern IFCA officers. Fisher-dependent data collection was developed alongside a fishery-independent observer program which provided quality control and fishers' innovations in quieter gear technologies were explored. All outcomes of the project fed into the production of the RMS which considered an adaptive approach to ETP species management incorporating significant stakeholder involvement and elements of co-management. The RMS is designed to be used by other fisheries including those looking to achieve MSC certification and aims to help address one of the Fisheries Objectives under The Fisheries Act 2020, namely the 'Ecosystem' objective, by showing how bycatch of sensitive species can be reduced, providing a management system which could be incorporated into a future Fisheries Management Plan.

Poole Clam and Cockle Partnership Project

13

On the 13th October 2021, the Authority made an Emergency Byelaw under Section 157 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This byelaw was implemented to ensure that the saltmarsh within the Green Island Dredge Closure Area is not damaged, disturbed or allowed to deteriorate as a direct result of interactions with the dredge fishery in Poole Harbour. Saltmarsh is designated as a supporting habitat under the Poole Harbour SPA designation and is included in the citation for the Poole Harbour SSSI. The habitat is also identified as being important for juvenile fish and as a blue-carbon habitat. Management of the dredge fishery in relation to saltmarsh at Green Island was initially achieved through The Green Island Saltmarsh Management Area Code of Conduct, a voluntary measure first introduced in 2019. Following monitoring of this CoC, The Authority determined that there was an urgent need for the introduction of an Emergency byelaw due to significant breaches of the Green Island Saltmarsh Management Code of Conduct during the 2021 Poole Harbour Dredge Permit season.

Work has now commenced, through a review of permit conditions under the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw to determine a long term management solution for saltmarsh at Green Island and in the wider Poole Harbour area which will ensure suitable protection of this habitat following the end date of the Emergency Byelaw in line with the end of the fishing season in December 2021.






Emergency Byelaw


5.0 Achieving Success Criteria 4

5.1 Performance Indicators






IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional



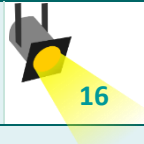



Definition: IFCAs are statutory authorities and sit within the local government family. Authority members may be either general members or local councillors. They comply with Codes of Conduct and the Standing Orders that apply to meetings of local government committees. General members are appointed on merit, through open competition and for a term. They are subject to an annual performance appraisal. An IFCA is funded by levy, charged to its member councils. Funding originates in local taxation. An IFCA is accountable for its use of public resources and should ensure that a proper auditing regime provides confidence in its commitment and spend of public money. It should make effective use of its resources, including staff and assets. An IFCA has a statutory obligation to prepare and publish Annual Plans and Annual Reports.

Outcomes	Performance Indicators		End of Year Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will demonstrate its long-term strategic approach to sustainable marine management by having appropriate plan-making, review, update and amendment procedures in place. The IFCA will record its performance against corporate outcomes and indicators as soon as practically possible following the end of the financial year. Staff performance management systems will be in place that link to the IFCA success criteria. There will be an induction procedure for new joiners. Staff training and development needs will be identified. Performance will be managed and, where necessary, improvement procedures will be followed. The IFCA Committee will be supported by an organised, efficient and effective secretariat. New members will receive an induction 	SC4A	The IFCA will publish a Plan on its website by 31 March, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.		Authority Reports : Southern IFCA (southern-ifca.gov.uk)
	SC4B	After the end of each financial year, the IFCA will publish a report on its website describing its activities, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.		A summary of audited financial information is integrated into this report.  14 & 15
	SC4C	IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 March each year.		See Key Deliverable No's. 4-8
	SC4D	An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.		In line with Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, the Authority were able to conduct virtual meetings (to include virtual decision making) for meetings held before the 7th May 2021. Between May 2021 and March 2022 hybrid facilities have allowed for Authority meetings to take place in person (with quorum achieved at each meeting in

pack and briefing from the Authority. There will be a rolling twelve-month schedule of quarterly Authority meetings. Notices of meetings and documentation will be made available in line with Standing Orders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential, or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972 				line with Standing Orders) and virtually (with only those Members present in the room able to vote on matters).
	SC4E	The IFCA will have demonstrated, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation District have worked responsively and effectively together.		In addition, we continue to engage with partnerships in integrated catchment management and in the establishment of management systems in transitional and coastal waters.

5.2 Key Delivery Priorities

Key Delivery priority			End of Year Status	
1	Review of Southern IFCA Policies and Procedures	To undertake a review of all existing Southern IFCA HR Policies by March 2022 (a) Staff Handbook (to amalgamate Conflict of Interest Policy, Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Whistleblowing Policy) (b) Employee Codes of Conduct (c) Grievance Procedure and Policy (d) Capability Procedure and Policy, (e) Disciplinary Procedure and Policy	Southern IFCA have committed to this area of work under the 2022-2023 Annual Plan. This delay is a result of a change in staffing (resignation of CEO).	 
2	Health and Safety	To ensure the Policy remains robust and reactive. To report Incidents, Near Misses or Accidents to the Executive Committee and include updated risk assessments for COVID-19.		
3	Recruitment	Southern IFCA will be implementing a part time permitting officer from July 2021 to assist with the increasing administration from pending and existing permit byelaws. This officer will keep records, issue permits and record catch returns and report anomalies to the FP team for follow investigations.		
4	Induction Training	That all new officer's complete induction training as part of their probation and progress CPD and the internal competent officer award through the NLTO. Individual officer training plans will be developed by the NLTO.		

5	National Training Position	Southern IFCA will continue to support national training through the NLTO and will play an active role in the delivery of the national training project, including providing support for training.		
6	Personal Work Plans	In line with the Performance Appraisal Policy all staff will have personalised Personal Work Plan (PWP) which is directly linked to the FMP or FP Team Strategies.	All staff are set a Personal Work Plan (1 st April 2021), a Mid-Year review (October 2021) and an End of Year review (by 31st March 2022) in line with the Southern IFCA Performance Appraisal Policy. Appraisal objectives are linked to Southern IFCA's Annual Plan priorities. Personal development opportunities are also identified through this process.	
7	Personal Development Targets	In line with the Performance Appraisal Policy all staff will identify Development Targets to support their PWP delivery.		
8	Performance Appraisals	In line with the Performance Appraisal, all staff will be appraised on their operational delivery in the context of the relevant Team Strategy, PWPs and Development Targets and adherence to contractual requirements and Southern IFCA policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct.		
9	Members Appraisals	We will conduct a 'light touch' system of performance monitoring and appraisal for general members of the Authority and provide training for members on their roles and responsibilities.		
10	Members Satisfaction Survey	We will consult the IFCA membership upon their views on their role and the function of the Authority. We will report on the findings of the survey and implement measures to ensure continuing development.		
11	Customer complaints	The Southern IFCA operates a three stage complaints process to ensure complaints are dealt with impartially, objectively and professionally. We will ensure that any complaints are dealt with in accordance with our Customer Complaint Procedure		

5.3 Spotlight on Key Delivery Priorities



		Budget (£)	Actual (£)
Income	Bank Interest Receivable	1,520	137
	Levies	789,409	789,409
	Court Costs Awarded	2,000	2,719
	Poole Harbour Dredge Permits	27,000	27,100
	Solent Dredge Permits	2,150	5,160
	Poole Harbour Fishery Order Leases	28,928	31,800
	Other	46,994	46,032
		898,001	902,357
Expenditure	Administration	782,650	823,551
	Marine Assets	42,039	33,243
	Vehicles and Travel	32,178	25,944
	Depreciation	46,752	46,752
		903,619	925,977
Excess of Expenditure		(5,618)	(23,620)

The main source of funding of the Southern IFCA is through a levy of £789,409 on constituent local authorities in accordance with The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010. Of this, Defra currently reimburses the local authorities £329,425 through 'New Burdens Funding' which is paid through the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Local Services Support Grant.

Notes: Major differences between budget and actual

Permits: The income received from permitted fisheries is on a cost recovery basis only. Due to an emergent scallop fishery in the Solent, additional and unforeseen Category A Permits were administered during the reporting period.

Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 – Leases: A number of leases are issued under the Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 for the purposes of aquaculture. The income received from the lease beds is on a cost recovery basis only.

Administration: During the year there were a number of staff changes at a senior level. Administration costs include salaries and related costs and the overall variance is largely accounted for by the costs associated with these staff changes.

Marine Assets: Marine Assets comprise of the Authority's Fishery Patrol Vessels. During the year, as a direct result of the COVID pandemic, there was a reduction in the time spent at sea, this corresponds with a reduction in costs.

Vehicles and Travel: The restrictions imposed by the pandemic were the principal reasons behind the reduction in actual costs compared to budget.

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Balance Sheet		31 st March 2022
Fixed Assets	Office & Equipment	504,952
	Marine Assets*	96,262
	Vehicles	37,667
		638,881
Current Assets	Sundry Debtors	8,347
	Cash at Bank & In Hand	1,569,090
		1,577,437
	Sundry Creditors	(668,229)
Net Assets	<i>Represented by:</i>	1,548,089
	Capital Finance Account	638,881
	Patrol Vessel Renewal Reserve	405,213
	General Reserve	503,995
Total Financing		1,548,089

*During the year the oldest of the Authority's patrol vessels was sold and replaced. The sale produced a book profit of £8,496 which helped defray part of the cost of the new boat which was £62,796.

Accounting Assurance Report

Francis Clark LLP have undertaken an Independent limited assurance report on Southern IFCA Accounts for the year to 31 March 2022.

FPV Vessel	HP	MCA Work Boat Code	Length	Crew	Commissioned	Replacement cost
Stella Barbara	280	Cat. 3 (20 nm offshore)	8m	2-3	2015	130,000
Endeavour	115	Cat. 3 (20 nm offshore)	6m	2-3	2021	62,796
Protector	280	Cat. 3 (20 nm offshore)	8m	2-3	2013	90,000

The above named Fisheries Protection Vessels (FPVs) were owned by Southern IFCA on the 31st March 2022. During this reporting period, a Marine Asset Review has been ongoing. FPV Endeavour was replaced with a new FPV which retained the same name.

Balance Sheet & Patrol Vessels 2021-2022

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Elected Members		% Attendance at Meetings	
		Full Authority	Executive Sub Committee
Cllr M Roberts (Chairman)	Dorset Council	100 (4/4)	100 (4/4)
Cllr Mrs A McEvoy (Vice Chairman)	Hampshire County Council	100 (4/4)	100 (4/4)
Cllr Curnow-Ford	Hampshire County Council	50 (2/4)	50 (2/4)
Cllr P Fuller	Isle of Wight Council	100 (4/4)	75 (3/4)
Cllr M Guthrie	Southampton City Council	50 (2/4)	
Cllr R Hughes	Dorset Council	50 (2/4)	
Cllr P Miles	BCP Council	25 (1/4)	
Cllr R Rocco	BCP Council	25 (1/4)	
Vacant/Cllr J Smith	Portsmouth City Council	0 (0/2)/100 (2/2)	0 (0/2)/50 (1/2)

General & Additional Members		% Attendance at Authority Meetings		
		Full Authority	Executive Sub Committee	Technical Advisory Committee
Dr A Jensen (Chairman, TAC)		100 (4/4)	75 (3/4)	100 (4/4)
Mr R Stride (Vice Chairman, TAC)		100 (4/4)	100 (4/4)	75 (3/4)
Dr S Cripps		50 (2/4)		75 (3/4)
Mr N Fisher		50 (2/4)		25 (1/4)
Mr N Hornby		100 (1/1)		100 (1/1)
Mr T Legg		75 (3/4)		100 (4/4)
Mr L Stantiford		50 (2/4)		0 (0/4)
Mr G Wordsworth		100 (4/4)		75 (3/4)
Miss L MacCallum		75 (3/4)		75 (3/4)
Dr R Morgan	Natural England	100 (4/4)		100 (4/4)
Dr P Rudd	Environment Agency	75 (3/4)		100 (4/4)
Miss R Irish	Marine Management Organisation	50 (2/4)		50 (2/4)




Members Attendance 2021-2022

6.0 Achieving Success Criterion 5




6.1 Performance Indicators

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the use of evidence to deliver their objectives

Definition: IFCA's are statutory regulators for their Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. Decision-making should be based on evidence. All IFCA's are supported by officers who pool their expertise and share best practice as a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). A programme of research activity and monitoring is planned, developed and updated in consultation with partners. The programme informs management decisions and supports justification for additional research and evidence gathering.

Outcomes	Performance Indicators		End of Year Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources Standard Operating Procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners A list of research databases held by the IFCA and the frequency of their review Non-confidential meta-data collected through the IFCA research programme should be recorded in a database available to the marine research community 	SC5A	The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has been made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year		The Fisheries Management and Policy Team Strategy 2021-2022 was published on the Southern IFCA Website alongside the Annual Plan.
	SC5B	The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making		The Fisheries Management and Policy Team Strategy 2021-2022 is integrated into this Annual Report.
	SC5C	The IFCA's contribution to TAG and progress that has made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report		Southern IFCA actively participate and assist in the TAG.

6.2 Key Delivery Priorities

Key Delivery priority			End of Year Status
1	IFCA led surveys and stock assessments	Southern IFCA will undertake surveys in order to underpin active management interventions and to ensure that we are continually developing our knowledge of the fisheries throughout the District using the best available evidence. Where possible we will deliver in collaboration with partners as well as the fishing industry. Please note that the 2021-2022 Monitoring Programme will be under constant review and subject to the latest Government guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will remain subject to change due to changing priorities and weather patterns.	 
	a. <i>Poole Bivalve Survey</i>	To inform management of the Poole clam and cockle fisheries under the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw. It is the intention for this survey to proceed in April 2021 with amendments to methodology as a result of the COVID-19 Government guidelines. Monitoring reports produced and published	
	b. <i>Pacific Oyster Survey</i>	To inform management under the Poole Harbour lease beds (aquaculture) under the Poole Several Order 2015 Management Plan (2020 Revision) with monitoring reports produced and published.	
	c. <i>Solent Scallop Stock Assessment</i>	To inform the management of scallops in the Solent under either a Code of Conduct/or permit conditions under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw. To be conducted July 2021 with monitoring reports produced and published	
	d. <i>Solent Oyster Stock Assessment</i>	To inform management of the native oysters under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw. To be conducted July 2021 with monitoring reports produced and published. Delivery of this will remain under constant review in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	
	e. <i>Solent Bivalve Stock Assessment</i>	To inform management of clams and cockles under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw. To be conducted October 2021 and March 2022 with monitoring reports produced and published. Delivery of this will remain under constant review in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	
	f. <i>Thick Lipped Mullet Survey</i>	To inform the MCRS review. To be conducted November 2021- January 2022	
	g. <i>Gilt Head Bream Survey</i>	To inform the MCRS review. To be conducted November 2021-January 2022	
	h. <i>Whelk Survey</i>	To inform the MCRS and Potting reviews.	
	i. <i>Small Fish Survey</i>	To (1) provide understanding of estuaries for juvenile fish, (2) inform Marine Licence application responses, (3) promote stakeholder engagement.	
2	Monitoring Programme Report	To ensure outcomes of surveys and stock assessments are reported appropriately with data published on the Southern IFCA website.	Fisheries & Research : Southern IFCA (southern-ifca.gov.uk) 

6.3 Spotlight on Key Delivery Priorities



Monitoring Inshore Fisheries

Survey/Data Collection	Date	Species	Area	Aim	Time series	Outcomes
Poole Bivalve Survey	Apr 21	Clam & cockle	Poole Harbour	(1) Feed into time series; (2) Collect CPUE data; (3) Collect biometric information on populations	2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021	(1) To inform management of Poole Clam and Cockle Fishery under the PHDP Byelaw, (2) to support MSC certification
Pacific Oyster	Apr 21	Pacific oysters	Poole Harbour	(1) Set a baseline for current levels of Pacific Oyster in Poole. (2) Collect Biometric Information on the species.	New 2021	(1) Informs management under Poole Several Order 2015 Management Plan (aquaculture lease beds)
Solent scallop Stock Ass.	Jul 21	King scallops	Solent	(1) Improve understandings of emerging Fishery	New 2021	(1) support development of Code of Conduct (2) Inform management under SDPB permit conditions (post Nov 2021)
Small Fish Survey	Jun	Estuarine fish species	Poole, Newtown, Yarmouth, Fleet.	(1) Provide understanding of value of estuaries for juvenile fish; (2) Stakeholder engagement; (3) Collect biometric information on fish species.	2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021	(1) Engagement with stakeholders (2) Development of a dataset highlighting the importance of estuaries to certain species. (3) Inform Marine Licence applications
Solent Oyster Stock Ass.	Jul	Native oyster	Solent	(1) Provide CPUE data (2) Collect biometric information on population	2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021	Inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw.
Solent Bivalve Stock Ass.	Oct	Clam & cockle	P'mo L'stone & S'ton Water	(1) Feed into time series; (2) Collect CPUE data; (3) Collect biometric information on populations	2017 2018 2019 2020 2021	(1) provide a 5-year baseline of CPUE data (2) Informs management under Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw (pre-Nov 2021) (3) Informs management under the SDPB (post Nov 2021)
Small Fish Survey	Oct	As per Small Fish Survey (Jun) Oct 2021				
Solent Bivalve Stock Ass.	Mar	As per Solent Bivalve Stock Ass (Oct 2021) Mar 2022				
Mullet	Nov-Jan	Grey & thick lipped mullet	District wide	Collection of samples direct from industry.	New 2021/22	The evidence will feed directly into the scheduled MCRS review.
Gilt Head Bream	Nov-Jan	Gilt head bream	District wide	Collection of samples direct from industry.	New 2021/22	The evidence will feed directly into the scheduled MCRS review.
Whelk	Jun-Jul	Whelk	4 sites across District	Collect samples from industry to be analysed by a University to feed into SoM study	New 2021/22	The evidence will feed directly into the scheduled MCRS review and the Potting Review.

7.0 Feedback

Southern IFCA are committed to providing an exemplary service. If you are not satisfied with an aspect of our service, we encourage you to let us know and we will do our best to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. Full details of the complaint's procedure are published on the IFCA website. <http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/feedback>

8.0 Glossary of abbreviations

AIFCA	Association of IFCAs	IR	Intelligence Reporting
BCP	Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole	JFS	Joint Fisheries Statement
BTFG	Bottom Towed Fishing Gear	M&C	Monitoring and Control
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	MCA	Marine Coastguard Agency
CoC	Code of Conduct	MCRS	Minimum Conservation Reference Size
COG	Chief Officer Group	MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
CoP	Code of Practice	MEG	Marine Environment Group
CPD	Continual Professional Development	MLA	Marine Licence Application
CPIA	The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996	MMO	Marine Management Organisation
CPUE	Catch Per Unit Effort	MOU	Memoranda of Understanding
DCO	Deputy Chief Officer	MPA	Marine Protected Area
DPA	Data Protection Act	MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
DSA	Data Sharing Agreement	NE	Natural England
DEFRA	Depart. for Environment, Food, Rural Affairs	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
DWT	Dorset Wildlife Trust	NIMEG	National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group
EA	Environment Agency	NLTO	National Lead Training Officer
EHO	Environmental Health Officer	OWW	Official Written Warning
EIR	Environmental Information Regulations	PACE	Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984
ETP	Endangered, Threatened & Protected	PDFA	Poole and District Fishermen's Association
FAP	Fixed Administrative Penalty	PHC	Poole Harbour Commissioners
FIP	Fisheries Inspection Point	PHDP	Poole Harbour Dredge Permit
FMC	Fisherman's Council	PWP	Personal Work Plan
FMP	Fisheries Management Plans	RA	Risk Assessment
FMPT	Fisheries Management & Policy Team	RMS	Risk Management Strategy
FOI	Freedom of Information	RBS	Registered Buyers and Sellers
FPT	Fisheries Protection Team	RSAG	Recreational Sea Angling Group
FPV	Fisheries Protection Vessel	SAR	Subject Access Request
FSA	Food Standards Agency	SCE	Scallop
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation	SDPB	Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw
HRA	Habitats Regulation Assessment	SOM	Size of Maturity
HSE	Health & Safety Executive	SOP	Standard Operating procedure
HR	Human Resources	TAG	Technical Advisory Group
ICO	Information Commissioner's Office	TCG	Tactical Coordination Group
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority	VMS	Vessel Monitoring System (iVMS-Inshore)
IFCO	Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Officer	VOI	Vessel of Interest
IHG	Inshore Hand Gathering	WG	Working Group