



# Research and Policy Team Plan

## April 2024 to March 2025



## SECTION 1: Introduction

The Research and Policy Team Plan (RPT Plan) sets out the priorities for the team for the period April 2024 to March 2025, feeding directly from the Horizon Goals identified in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for April 2024 to March 2025.

In order to deliver the RPT Plan and fulfil Southern IFCA's function as a competent regulator for the marine environment, we recognise the need to align our work to a strategic direction. With many competing and evolving objectives, it is important that we maintain a considered overview in our delivery. This proactive way of working, with the recognition of the need to maintain a capacity for reactive and emerging work and oncoming challenges, will provide a template for the RPT and our stakeholders moving through 2024 and beyond.

### 1.1 Research & Policy Team Function

The Southern IFCA Research and Policy Team (RPT) are tasked to facilitate the delivery of the IFCA's legislative functions and to support the Government Vision (as outlined in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for April 2024 to March 2025), and in doing so, seek to improve the sustainability of marine fisheries and the marine environment, whilst supporting local communities who are reliant upon these resources. The RPT conduct research and gather evidence and information in order to provide a sound evidence base to underpin the decision-making processes of the Authority.

Working under the Chief Officer, the RPT is led by a Deputy Chief Officer who oversees the work of a Senior Policy Specialist, three Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers and three Project Officers for Marine Protected Areas, Fisheries Management Plans and Aquaculture. Details of the RPT structure are provided in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for April 2024 to March 2025. The RPT are further supported by the Business Services Team and work closely with the Compliance and Enforcement Team.








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

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

## 1.2 RPT Core Functions

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

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



### 1.2.1 Developing Fisheries Management Interventions

Developing fisheries management interventions involves the identification of the requirement for intervention, which may arise as a result of working to meet the IFCA's legislative functions, supporting the Government Vision, identification of an emerging issue, availability of new evidence or another factor. The IFCA has the ability to develop both statutory and non-statutory management interventions, operating in accordance with Statutory Guidance provided by Defra<sup>1</sup> which sets out best practice for IFCAs in making byelaws.

Section 155 of the MaCAA describes how IFCAs have the power to make byelaws:

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

IFCAs are responsible for producing byelaws within their Districts, which includes such part of the English inshore region lying six nautical miles from baselines. Byelaws must be compatible

<sup>1</sup> [Defra. IFCA Byelaw Making Guidance, 2011](#)

with and cannot be less stringent or inconsistent with National or Community legislation.

The Defra Guidance outlines best practice for the delivery and implementation of byelaws which must be based on sound evidence, follow particular decision-making routes and ensure undertaking of appropriate stakeholder consultations. Figure 1 outlines the stages of the process which are followed in working under this Guidance, noting that there may be additional elements dependent on the requirements of the management intervention being developed and the relevant legislative duties under which the IFCA is operating.

Southern IFCA seek to ensure consistency and transparency in the delivery of management interventions and to clarify the stages of complex fisheries management development. The Southern IFCA is increasingly looking to publish Management Intentions documents to support newly developed byelaws, to provide clarity of the intention and process which has underpinned a particular management decision.

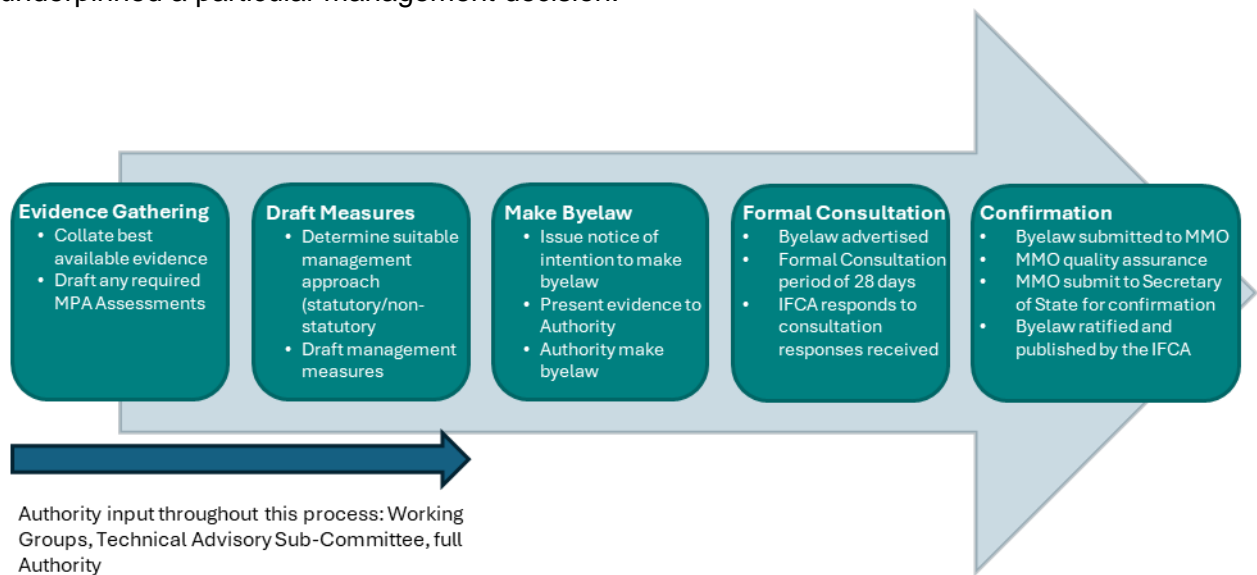


Figure 1: Development of Management process map, based Defra byelaw making guidance



## 1.2.2 Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions

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

The decision to review a particular management intervention may be based on a number of different factors, including but not limited to:

- Review periods stipulated in a byelaw, Management Intentions Document or Monitoring & Control Plan (M&CP)
- Trigger points or thresholds being reached under a M&CP
- Review of permit conditions
- Newly emerging evidence, new MPA designations, changes to legislative duties or Government targets
- Requirements under a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)

Supporting documents for a management intervention (including Monitoring and Control Plans and Management Intentions Documents) are designed to analyse the current situation within

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

**Permit Condition Reviews**

A Permit Byelaw provides a mechanism under which the introduction of specific measures can be introduced via permit conditions in accordance with the procedure set out in the Permit Byelaw and supporting documents. This offers a flexible approach to managing fishing activities, enabling the Authority to adapt more easily to new and improved evidence. Reviews of permit conditions are carried out in consultation with permit holders and any interested parties and considers the current best available evidence base. A guide process for undertaking a Permit Condition Review is outlined in Figure 2. This process map is not intended to be binding, rather it seeks to provide a useful guide upon which Permit Condition Reviews can be delivered, noting that specific byelaws may have detailed processes for reviewing management under Monitoring and Control Plans.

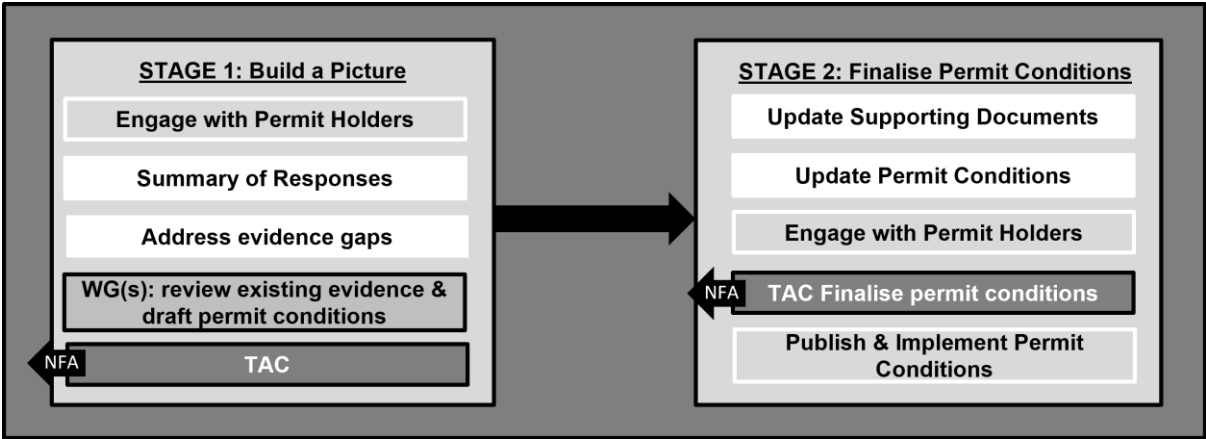


Figure 2: Permit Condition Review Process Map

 **1.2.3 Monitoring Inshore Fisheries**

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

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

### **Data Collection**

Where additional evidence needs are identified to support future management decisions or to work in alignment with nationally agreed directions in fisheries management through the publication of FMPs, the RPT will explore available opportunities for gathering this data, utilizing the ability to work with partners and collaborate with industry. The Authority continues to actively strengthen its relationship with local academic institutions to identify opportunities for integrated research and publication, particularly in assisting with providing additional technical expertise for example in improving understanding of shellfish and fish biology.

### **Marine Assets**

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

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

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



**Section 3.0 of the Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy for April 2024 – March 2025 outlines more detail on the Authority’s operational assets.**



### **1.2.4 Projects and Emerging Work**

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



### **1.2.5 Engagement**

The Authority’s Communication Plan<sup>2</sup> sets out how Southern IFCA will approach communication and aspects of engagement with the community and stakeholders. It aims to ensure that people understand how, as an organisation, the IFCA plans to engage with others to help in making the right decisions for delivering the IFCA Vision.

Engagement through the RPT is crucial to the delivery of all other team functions. Engagement is delivered through attendance at local, regional and national meetings/open days/information events, participation in fisher led forums, consulting on management interventions and facilitating the communication of information from other regulatory bodies and government agencies. Engagement is also achieved through cross-team collaboration with the Compliance

<sup>2</sup> [Communication-Plan-2019-10-23-112412.pdf \(toolkitfiles.co.uk\)](https://www.toolkitfiles.co.uk/Communication-Plan-2019-10-23-112412.pdf)

& Enforcement team to utilise land and sea patrols as opportunities to engage with stakeholders. The Authority also has electronic assets which are utilised for engagement including the Southern IFCA website and social media feeds on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

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

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



### 1.2.6 Technical Expertise

Underpinning the work undertaken by the RPT is a data management and analysis capability and Geographic Information System (GIS) expertise. This enables the visualisation, analysis and interpretation of data in order to better understand trends and relationships. Both the data management and GIS expertise within the RPT provide a valuable resource to underpin fisheries management interventions, monitoring and engagement. Outputs help to facilitate both partnership working and industry collaboration through the sharing of information/data and the use of visual aids to aid understanding of management measures, fishing activity/effort, the location of designated sites, features and wider sensitive habitats. In addition, this expertise aids presenting outcomes of surveys in an accessible manner and allows sharing of outcomes with relevant partners, such as through the FMP process.

Building these skills within the RPT remains an ongoing focus through each of the RPT functions and staff development, to allow continued development of capabilities in undertaking and presenting research and apply these to both ongoing and new monitoring programs.

## 1.3 RPT Horizon Goals and Delivery Priorities

This section provides detail on the Horizon Goals identified for the RPT in Section 3 of the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan April 2024 to March 2025, translating those Goals into clear, outcome-focused Delivery Priorities. Where possible, these Delivery Priorities have been broken down into 3-month phases to provide transparency in timelines. The graphic below is used to demonstrate how each Delivery Priority aligns with the following:

- Delivery of IFCA High Level Objectives via IFCA Success Criteria
- The eight Fisheries Objectives (Fisheries Act 2020)
- Supporting Defra in the delivery of specific objectives under the Fisheries Act 2020 & Environment Act 2021
- The UK Net Zero Strategy, via identification and instigation of changes in operations, in order to minimise and reduce emissions, in addition to work surrounding the harnessing of blue carbon habitats (saltmarsh and seagrass)

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

IFCA Success Criteria	No.	Fisheries Objectives
IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.	1	Sustainability 1
		Precautionary 2
IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.	2	Ecosystem 3
		Scientific Evidence 4
IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.	3	Bycatch 5
		Equal Access 6
IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.	4	National Benefit 7
		Climate Change 8
IFCAs make the use of evidence to deliver their objectives	5	

Supporting Defra in delivery of Fisheries Act 2020 & Environment Act 2021 Objectives, encompassing the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP)							
FMPs		MPAs		Marine Consents		Net Zero/blue carbon	

The Delivery Priorities will also show where there is alignment with the two key themes for Southern IFCA for 2024-2025 as essential components to facilitating the delivery of the Southern IFCA vision to **champion prosperous inshore fisheries founded upon thriving marine environment.**





## Horizon Goal: MPA Management 2024



Defra have set an interim target that ‘all management measures are to be in place across all MPAs by 2024’ to contribute to the wider MPA targets set under the Government’s Environment Improvement Plan 2023.

There are three elements to achieving this:

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

To delivery this Horizon Goal, there are three Delivery Priorities identified:

Delivery Priorities	Current Status
<b>Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review: Phase 1</b>	Byelaw submitted to MMO for QA prior to consideration by SoS
<b>Shore Gathering Review: Phase 1</b>	Development of draft measures
<b>Black Bream Review</b>	Development of draft measures

Both the BTFG Review and Shore Gathering Review require a phased approach in order to deliver management to meet the Defra 2024 interim target. Phase 1 of this approach relates to the delivery of work under this Horizon Goal.

**Phase 1:** *consideration of feature-based management interventions for MPAs: sites designated under the National Site Network (Special Areas of Conservation [SACs], Special Protection Areas [SPAs] and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).*

The legislative framework under which Southern IFCA must operate is determined by the location of the fishery subject to management consideration, specifically whether the fishery occurs within, adjacent to or outside of an MPA<sup>3</sup>. The development of management for the three Delivery Priorities under this Horizon Goal is in accordance with the duties to:

- **further the Conservation Objectives within an MCZ**
- **to ensure that fishing activity does not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife or habitats for which an SAC or SPA is legally protected**

The specific detail of Phase 1 for each relevant Delivery Priority and any principles underpinning management development across all three Delivery Priorities will be identified through the development process and detailed in supporting documentation for resulting management.


Phase 2 of relevant management reviews will be explored by the Authority upon the completion of Phase 1. Phase 2 of the BTFG Review is outlined under a Horizon Goal in this Strategy.

<sup>3</sup> For detail on the IFCA’s Legislative Functions please refer to the Southern IFCA’s Annual Strategic Plan April 2024 to March 2025

## Delivery Priorities - Timelines


### BTFG Review: Phase 1

- District-wide
- Phase 1 of the BTFG Review resulted in the Authority making the BTFG Byelaw 2023 in June 2023, following Formal Consultation, the Byelaw was submitted to the MMO for consideration by the Secretary of State in October 2023.
- Details of the proposed management under the Byelaw and supporting documentation can be found on the Southern IFCA website under 'Ongoing Reviews' - [Ongoing Reviews : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://southern-ifca.gov.uk).

RPT Core Function	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Await outcomes from MMO QA process and consideration by the SoS.</li> <li>• Upon notification that the Byelaw has been signed, proceed with implementation phase across both the RPT and CET.</li> </ul>			


### Shore Gathering Review: Phase 1

- District-wide
- Reviewing management required to support the IFCA's legal duties in MCZs, SACs and SPAs in relation to activities which are hand-worked or using hand-held implements

RPT Core Function	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft measures</li> <li>• Quantify impacts of proposed measures</li> <li>• Draft supporting documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise supporting documents</li> <li>• Make byelaw</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal Consultation</li> <li>• Seek ratification of the byelaw</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of byelaw dependent on MMO QA and SoS timelines</li> <li>• Consideration of Phase 2 to follow completion of Phase 1</li> </ul>

### Black Bream Review

- Three MCZs in Dorset; Purbeck Coast MCZ, Poole Rocks MCZ, Studland to Portland MCZ
- Developing management to support the IFCA's legal duties in MCZs to further Conservation Objectives related to black seabream as a designated species

RPT Core Function	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft measures</li> <li>• Quantify impacts of proposed measures</li> <li>• Draft supporting documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise supporting documents</li> <li>• Make byelaw</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal Consultation</li> <li>• Seek ratification of the byelaw</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of byelaw dependent on MMO QA and SoS timelines</li> </ul>

For all three Delivery Priorities, reaching the stage of submitting resulting management to the MMO for QA and consideration by the SoS by the end of December 2024 allows the Southern IFCA to meet Defra's interim target for MPA management in line with the Government's Environment Improvement Plan 2023.

## Horizon Goal: Frontrunner Fisheries Management Plans



The Fisheries Act 2020 provides the framework for the UK to manage fisheries as an independent coastal state and requires the UK fisheries policy authorities (Defra in England) to publish Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) to help deliver the ambition for sustainable fisheries.

Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) are evidence-based action plans, developed in collaboration with the fishing sector and other stakeholders with the purpose of delivering sustainable fisheries for current and future generations. The Fisheries Act 2020<sup>4</sup> sets out 8 fisheries objectives, the achievement of which is referenced in the FMPs. Each FMP specifies a stock, type of fishing and a geographic area covered, as well as the relevant responsible authorities and indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of the plan.

Once FMPs have been published, they will inform relevant fisheries management actions, with each FMP being designed according to the specific needs of the stock, fisheries and locations that it covers.

In December 2023, the first five of the frontrunner FMPs were published:

FMP	Geographic Coverage	Spatial Relevance to Southern IFCA District
<b>Crab &amp; Lobster</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Waters</li> </ul>	Whole district
<b>Whelk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4 and 7</li> </ul>	Whole district
<b>King Scallop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English and Welsh Waters</li> </ul>	Whole district
<b>Bass</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English and Welsh Waters</li> </ul>	Whole district
<b>Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eastern and Western English Channel</li> <li>ICES areas 7d and 7e</li> </ul>	Whole district

The remaining frontrunner FMP, Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish is expected to be published during 2024.

This Horizon Goal aims to help Southern IFCA contribute to the consideration of immediate and short-term outputs of the frontrunner FMPs<sup>5</sup> and to ensure compatibility of district work with nationally agreed directions in fisheries management. This will also encompass wider directional awareness and alignment with medium to long-term objectives.

Defra has outlined that to support the post-publication phase of FMPs:

- IFCA should continue to work collaboratively with the Arms Length Bodies (ALBs), FMP Working Groups, and Defra, to prioritise and address evidence gaps identified within T1 and T2 FMPs post implementation
- IFCA should support the implementation of regional FMPs where they apply to IFCA districts
- IFCA should support with evidence gathering, where practicable, to contribute to stock assessments for FMPs

<sup>4</sup> [Fisheries Act 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>5</sup> Note that as FMPs are specific to the species, fisheries, locations that are covered in each plan, the plans will vary in content and format, not all published frontrunner FMPs have 'immediate' outputs in addition to 'short-term' outputs.

To support the post-publication phase for the published frontrunner FMPs, Southern IFCA has identified four Delivery Priorities for 2024-2025:

Delivery Priorities	
<b>(1) Whelk CPUE Pilot Project</b>	Undertake a pilot project to collect whelk fishery CPUE data in accordance with outcomes of the Whelk FMP
<b>(2) Solent Scallop Stock Survey</b>	To review survey methods to address evidence gaps within the King Scallop FMP
<b>(3) Pot Fishing Byelaw Implementation</b>	To implement the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Byelaw as a pilot for wider permit approaches in line with proposed outputs of the Crab & Lobster and Whelk FMPs
<b>Support Defra in post-publication Phase of FMPs</b>	
<b>(4)</b>	To work collaboratively with ALBs, Working Groups and Defra in the implementation of regional FMPs where they apply to the Southern IFCA District

## Delivery Priorities - Timelines

### (1) Whelk CPUE Pilot Project


- District-wide
- A pilot project will be developed which will work collaboratively with the fishing industry and, where appropriate, incorporate partnership working, to collect data on catch per unit effort from pot fishing for whelks that will improve understanding of the whelk fishery within the district and support understanding the effectiveness of management measures under the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Byelaw (currently in the MMO QA process prior to consideration by the SoS).
- This work could provide data which would contribute to the following objectives identified in the Whelk FMP:

#### Main Objective from Whelk FMP:

- Assess catch per unit effort in the whelk fishery – *Improved understanding of fishing effort and catches will facilitate improved modelling and assessment of stock status. This will improve the ability to implement evidence-based fisheries management which is responsive to changes in fishing activity and stock status.*

#### Additional Relevant Objectives:

- Develop a data collection program
- Define stock boundaries for assessment and management
- Assess stock or exploitation status
- Develop a whelk harvest strategy with harvest control rules

RPT Core Function	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of project methodology in line with FMP research needs and PFB provisions</li> <li>• Collaborative working with industry</li> <li>• Implementation of data collection program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collation and analysis of data</li> <li>• Collaborative working with industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collation and analysis of data</li> <li>• Collaborative working with industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collation and analysis of data</li> <li>• Reporting on Year 1 data collection</li> </ul>

## (2) Solent Scallop Stock Survey


- Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw Fishery
- The existing methodology for the Southern IFCA’s tri-annual Solent Scallop Stock Survey will be reviewed, looking at where improvements can be made and there can be regional/national alignment, working collaboratively with local industry and national partners.
- Additionally, a feasibility study will be developed to use drop down cameras, supported by Cornwall IFCA, to determine whether the methodology is suitable in the Solent for obtaining additional data on King scallop stocks that can contribute to Southern IFCA’s understanding of the stocks and fishery to inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw and support evidence requirements under the King Scallop FMP.
- This work could provide data which would contribute to the following objectives identified in the King Scallop FMP:

### Main Objective from the King Scallop FMP:

- Develop a science evidence base to inform the development of harvest strategies and harvest control rules for individual scallop stocks – *provision of better data allows for improved fisheries management as scientists, regulators, management community and industry have access to the information they need to make evidence-based decisions. Better data moves away from precautionary management. This supports the sustainability objective in the Fisheries Act 2020.*

### Additional Relevant Objectives:

- Develop harvest strategies and harvest control rules (HCRs) to ensuring fishing effort is responsive to the status of stocks by developing appropriate fisheries management measures


RPT Core Function	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of stock survey methodology</li> <li>• Collaborative working with industry</li> <li>• Work with Cornwall IFCA to undertake feasibility study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of any updated methodology for stock survey in Sept. survey</li> <li>• Inclusion of additional data collection based on outcomes of feasibility study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of data from use of any updated methodology</li> <li>• Review of implementation of any updated methodology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of any updated methodology for Jan. survey</li> </ul>

(\*) See section 1.3.1 for details of the Solent Scallop Stock Survey

## (3) Pot Fishing Byelaw Implementation


- District-wide
- The proposed Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Byelaw (PFB) is currently undergoing QA by the MMO prior to consideration by the SoS. One element of the PFB is the proposed introduction of a permit scheme for commercial and recreational pot fisheries with specific conditions proposed for fisheries targeting different species including whelk and crab & lobster.
- Through the implementation of the PFB, the permit scheme can be used as a pilot for exploring how such measures can be implemented within pot fisheries and provide useful information to inform wider permit approaches for both whelk and crab & lobster fisheries.
- This work could provide information which would contribute to the following management outputs identified through the Whelk and Crab & Lobster FMPs:
  - Whelk FMP
    - Short-term (1-2 years) measure: whelk fishing permit scheme or entitlement with conditions

- Crab & Lobster FMP
  - Long-term: managing recreational fishing effort
  - Long-term: embedding long-term management approaches focusing on the development of a harvest strategy with appropriate harvest control rules

RPT Core Function	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timeline for delivery of the implementation of the PFB is dependent on timescales required for MMO QA and consideration by the SoS.</li> </ul>			

**(4) Support Defra in post-publication phase of FMPs**

- District-wide
- Southern IFCA will continue to work collaboratively with ALBs and Defra, participate where required in FMP working groups and engagement/information sharing mechanisms to support the post-publication phase of FMPs
- The above specific projects will help contribute to the addressing of evidence gaps identified within T1 and T2 FMPs following their implementation
- Southern IFCA will work to ensure a compatibility in our work with nationally agreed directions in fisheries management and will ensure that an understanding of the outputs of published FMPs is factored into our direction setting to ensure alignment with FMP objectives

RPT Core Function	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the 2024-2025 year, Southern IFCA will attend Working Groups and meetings with Defra and ALBs to support the post-publication phase of FMPs</li> <li>• Through the delivery of all Southern IFCA workstreams, relevant published FMPs will be reviewed to ensure consistency and alignment with national direction</li> <li>• Southern IFCA will indicate how workstreams are aligned with FMP outputs in a clear and transparent manner for stakeholders</li> </ul>			

## Horizon Goal: BTFG Phase 2



Following the submission of the BTFG Byelaw 2023, as the output of the BTFG Review Phase 1, to the MMO for consideration by the SoS, the BTFG Review Phase 2 commenced in the 2023-2024 year.


The aim of Phase 2 is to consider district wide management interventions for sensitive habitats in relation to BTFG in line with Southern IFCA’s duties under the MaCAA (2009). Phase 2 aims to contribute to the delivery of the Government’s vision under the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 and the statutory targets under The Environment Act (2021). Operating under the Southern IFCA’s duties under the MaCAA, Phase 2 will involve extensive consultation with all interested parties including partner organisations and industry.

The general aims for Phase 2 are:

- To consider features which exist adjacent to MCZ boundaries (i.e., any part of a feature which extends across the boundary of an MCZ)
- To consider any sensitive habitats and species (as defined under Phase 2) across the district, both inside and outside of National Site Network Sites
- To consider features and sensitive habitats/species within Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which are not also designated under overlapping MPAs
- To consider areas currently closed under the BTFG Byelaw 2016 which will remain closed under the BTFG Byelaw 2023 (in accordance with BTFG Phase 1 Principles) where no designated features occur, in order to determine if any spatial changes are needed based on socio-economic and environmental assessments to ensure all potential impacts of any changes are considered
- To consider social and economic factors/impacts alongside the need for protection of the marine environment
- To consider outcomes of ongoing research programs including those which are specifically focused on habitat restoration potential, ecosystem services, blue carbon habitats and Natural Capital benefits

The Delivery Priority for this Horizon Goal is to move through the Phase 2 review during the 2024-2025 year commencing with an evidence gathering phase.

### Delivery Priorities - Timelines

RPT Core Function	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence gathering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope of Phase 2 defined with consideration of specific objectives &amp; principles</li> <li>• Review of timeframe for delivery of workstream</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing development of workstream looking to identify draft measures</li> <li>• Consultation with stakeholders at relevant stages</li> <li>• Development of supporting management documents as required</li> </ul>	

## Additional Workstreams

In addition to the Horizon Goals identified in the Annual Strategic Plan, there is ongoing work within the RPT relating to reviewing management interventions, supporting Defra’s delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives, monitoring and external projects which will be delivered during the 2024-2025 year. Details of workstreams are provided under relevant headings in this section, for work under Reviewing Management Interventions and Supporting Defra’s Delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives, timelines are given at the end of each section for all relevant workstreams.

### Reviewing Management Interventions

#### The Poole Fishery Order 2015



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

Under Section (3) of the Order, the Authority must manage the aquaculture in Poole Harbour in line with the Management Plan entitled Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 Management Plan ('Management Plan'). Under Section (4) of the Order, the Authority are required to undertake an annual review of the Management Plan. If, during this review any significant changes are made to the Management Plan, then the Authority must notify, in writing, any interested parties of any proposed changes at least four weeks before the date of its annual publication (1<sup>st</sup> July). The Authority must, prior to publication of the updated Management Plan, take account of any representations it receives in writing from any interested party on the proposed changes. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant changes required to the Management Plan for 2024-25.

The Southern IFCA issues leases under the Order which are valid for a period of five years. The current leases are for 2020-2025 with the next lease period being 2025-2030. In order to ensure that the issuing of the 2025-2030 leases can be delivered in line with the expiry of the existing leases on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and thus help ensure business security and continuity, the process of developing the new leases will be running through the 2024-2025 year. This will include a review of the Management Plan, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Biosecurity Plan and documentation required from leaseholders. A Project Officer has been employed by Southern IFCA to undertake the delivery of this workstream.

#### Permit Byelaws



The Southern IFCA currently has three fishery specific permits under the following byelaws:

- The Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw
- The Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw
- The Net Fishing Byelaw

During each year, there may be a requirement for reviews of permit conditions under permit byelaws on the basis of factors which may include the availability of new evidence, changes in the fishery, changes in target species stock levels, submission of evidence from permit holders, triggers being reached under a Monitoring and Control Plan. Reviews which occur outside of scheduled periods cannot be predicted, however within the 2024-2025 year the following reviews will be required:



Review	Requirement
<b>Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic review of permit conditions required every 3 years</li> <li>• Review procedure outlined in the byelaw</li> <li>• Any outcomes of the review to be implemented prior to the commencement of the 2025 fishing season (25<sup>th</sup> May 2025)</li> </ul>
<b>Net Fishing Byelaw</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First annual review on suitability of flexible permit conditions, permit fees and limitations on the number of permits</li> <li>• Review procedure outlined in the byelaw</li> <li>• Any outcomes of the review to be implemented prior to the start of the second permit period</li> </ul>

### Marine Conservation Reference Size Review




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

During the 2023–2024 year, information was collated to update evidence packages for key species in the district and ensure that the best available evidence had been identified as part of the review. In order to align any outcomes of the review with national direction and incorporate outputs from relevant FMPs, there is a need for Southern IFCA to engage in the post-publication phase for published FMPs (as outlined under the Horizon Goals) and determine how outputs from FMPs for relevant species relate to current Southern IFCA management and suggested management approaches from the district-specific MCRS review. As this understanding develops through the 2024-2025 year, Southern IFCA will review the scope and requirements under the MCRS review, progressing the workstream alongside the development of the national direction in fisheries management.

### Timelines

Workstream	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar
<b>Poole Fishery Order 2015</b> 🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review &amp; implementation of 2024-25 Management Plan</li> <li>• Development of timeline and process for 2025-2030 lease program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of requirements for Management Plan, HRA, Biosecurity Plan to accompany issuing of leases</li> <li>• Development of these documents for 2025-2030 lease program</li> <li>• Engagement with lease holders and relevant stakeholders</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authority approval of Management Plan, HRA, Biosecurity Plan &amp; associated lease documents for issuing of 2025-2030 lease program</li> </ul>
<b>Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Review</b> 🔍		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify any permit conditions requiring review</li> <li>• Begin evidence gathering to inform a review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence review in Nov 2024</li> <li>• Undertake permit holder consultation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present review outcomes to the Authority</li> <li>• Any agreed changes communicated to stakeholders</li> </ul>

<p><b>Net Fishing Byelaw</b> </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing collation of available evidence through first permit season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing collation of available evidence</li> <li>• Determination of timelines for consultation with stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determination of any changes to permit conditions, permit fees or limitations on the number of permits</li> <li>• Outcome of review notified by the Authority to permit holders in writing</li> </ul>
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**Supporting Defra's Delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives**



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

There are three programs of work under this Horizon Goal which will support the delivery of the Fisheries Act Objectives by Defra. Southern IFCA has employed a dedicated Project Officer for FMPs who will be primarily delivering these workstreams.

**Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) – Planning/Preparation and Publication Phases**

T3 FMPs are currently in development including the Cockle FMP, Queen Scallop FMP and the Skates and Rays FMP with T4 FMPs coming online during 2024. Southern IFCA have a requirement to support the FMP process in the following ways during the planning/preparation and publication phases:

**Planning/Preparation**

- To provide representation and contributions to FMP Working Group meetings as appropriate
- To contribute expert sectoral and inshore fisheries management advice to FMP projects
- To contribute evidence and data as requested by delivery partners
- To evaluate draft FMP content
- To provide links between delivery partners and local IFCA representatives to help coordinate engagement with the inshore fishing sector
- To support AIFCA in their role as Delivery Partner for the Cockles FMP to contribute as needed and enable the Cockles FMP to be published in 2024
- To support stakeholder engagement during public consultation

**Publication Phase**

- To support the pre and post consultation review and evaluation of draft/final FMPs
- Contribute to relevant assessments

This work will be ongoing throughout the 2024-2025 year and therefore does not have specific quarterly timelines. The Southern IFCA continues to provide representation at Working Group meetings for relevant FMPs, attendance at engagement events and meetings both virtual and in person at a district,

regional and national level and maintains the dedicated webpage on the Southern IFCA website to provide a resource for stakeholders to find information for specific FMPs including engagement events and contact details for Delivery Partners. Southern IFCA has a dedicated Project Officer for FMPs to facilitate and coordinate this workstream. Southern IFCA is committed to providing expert sectoral and inshore fisheries management advice to the FMP process and engages closely with Delivery Partners on relevant FMPs to provide such advice, any evidence/data held by the IFCA and to review draft/final FMP outputs. The DCO RPT has been involved in the development of the Cockle FMP supporting AIFCA in their role as Delivery Partner.

## Marine Consents

This workstream relates to the Southern IFCA's contributions to marine planning and marine licencing.

## Marine Licencing

Marine licencing covers a diverse range of activities from sea wall repairs through to large scale infrastructure developments. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is responsible for issuing marine licences in English waters and applicants must go through a formal application process if the proposed activity requires a marine licence. IFCAs are a statutory consultee in this process. Defra will be working with IFCAs on developing policies including through a review of marine licencing cost recovery, exempted and 'self-service' activities and reforms to environmental assessments.

Detailed timelines for Defra's policy development work are not yet established, however input from Southern IFCA, as required, will be delivered over the course of the 2024-2025 year. Southern IFCA continue to act in their capacity as a statutory consultee for marine licences reviewing relevant licence applications provided through the MMO system and providing comment, data and information on relevant fishing activities as required as well as encouraging applicants to engage directly with the fishing industry. Summaries of our engagement in this process are provided quarterly to the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee.

## Marine Protected Areas/Good Environmental Status

The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 have a high-level objective of achieving good environmental status (GES) in UK waters. GES is consistent with the 25 Year Environment Plan vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas and supports the wider environmental objectives of the Environment Improvement Plan.

The Environmental Improvement Plan published in 2023 sets out how Defra will deliver biodiversity targets and commitments by restoring our Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through strengthened protections by 2024. This resulted in the requirement for IFCAs to ensure all fishing activity in inshore MPAs has been assessed and, where necessary, to aim to put in place fisheries management measures, by the end of 2024. This is primarily achieved by the work under the **Horizon Goal: MPA Management 2024**, however there are additional elements under this workstream which relate to the work carried out by the IFCA generally in relation to management of fisheries within MPAs.

There is no timescale given for this work as it relates to specific workstreams for MPAs which, both singularly and cumulatively contribute to the achievement of these elements. The IFCA are required to report on their progress in this workstream. The Southern IFCA has employed a dedicated Project Officer for Marine Protected Areas since 2023 to help facilitate this work.

### **Marine Protected Areas**

- Ensure all fishing activity in inshore MPAs has been assessed and, where necessary, fisheries management measures put in place, by the end of 2024.
- Collaborating with partners to deliver management where necessary to achieve MPA conservation objectives.

### **Good Environmental Status**

- Work with Defra, MMO and SNCBs on a workplan of measures required to prevent damaging impacts on Marine Protected Areas, to support the achievement of Good Environment Status under the Marine Strategy.
- To support the development and coordination of management within MPAs in accordance with the new statutory MPA target and with the Good Environment Status targets.
- Enable co-ordination and reporting on the MPA network, both locally and nationally so as to demonstrate the contribution of the MPA network to the statutory MPA target, GES and the 25 Year Environment Plan targets.
- Contribute to the 25 Year Environment Plan and targets relevant to the inshore marine environment as laid out in England's Environmental Improvement Plan.



### 1.3.1 Monitoring Inshore Fisheries

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This section details the monitoring program for 2024-25. In addition to helping to meet IFCA Success Criteria, certain surveys which the Southern IFCA undertakes will also provide evidence that could be used to help inform the development of Fisheries Management Plans and help contribute to data collection under any Research and Evidence Plans developed for those FMPs, this is indicated using the relevant symbol. Monitoring work which is carried out within or in relation to MPAs is also noted with the relevant symbol. Opportunities for engagement are explored through all monitoring activities. Monitoring which is proposed within the 2024-2025 year under Horizon Goal: Frontrunner Fisheries Management Plans are not included here, following the initial year of implementation any programs carried through to future years will be detailed in this section in subsequent years.


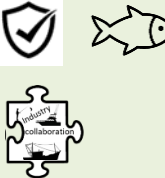
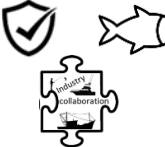



Symbol denotes industry collaboration



Symbol denotes partnership working with academic institutions, partner organisations

Survey	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Time Series Data	Outcomes
<b>Whelk Population Survey</b>  	Spring	Common whelk	Solent, Poole Bay, Weymouth Bay, Lyme Bay	To obtain whelk samples from fishers and collect data on size frequency and Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)	2023 2024	1) To improve evidence base for whelk data specific to SIFCA District 2) To inform management under the anticipated Pot Fishing Byelaw 3) Data to be made available for use by Whelk FMP

<b>Poole Bivalve Survey</b> 	Apr	Manila clam, Common cockle, American Hard- Shelled clam, other bivalves	Poole Harbour	To obtain bivalve samples from 27 shellfish beds in Poole Harbour and collect data on size frequency and CPUE which can be related to fishery catch and effort data	2016 2017 2018 2019 <del>2020</del> <sup>6</sup> 2021 2022 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To contribute to time-series dataset</li> <li>2) To inform management under the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit fishery</li> <li>3) To support the MSC certification</li> <li>4) Data to be made available for Cockle FMP</li> </ol>
<b>Solent Bivalve Survey</b> 	Mar Oct	Manila clam, Common cockle, American Hard- Shelled clam, other bivalves	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas 4-6	To obtain bivalve samples from three management areas (Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour, Langstone Harbour) and collect data on size frequency and CPUE which can be related to fishery catch and effort data	2017 <sup>7</sup> 2018 2019 2020 – spring only <sup>8</sup> 2021 – autumn only <sup>9</sup> 2022 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To build an initial 5-year baseline of CPUE data</li> <li>2) To contribute to time-series dataset</li> <li>3) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions</li> <li>4) Data to be made available for Cockle FMP</li> </ol>
<b>Solent Scallop Survey</b> 	Jan (2024 onwards) Apr Sept	King scallop	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas	To obtain samples of King scallops to improve understanding of the population in the Solent through collecting data on size frequency and CPUE	2021 – July survey <sup>10</sup> 2022 2023 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions</li> <li>2) Data to be made available for use by the King Scallop FMP</li> </ol>
<b>Solent Oyster Survey</b> 	Aug – every other year	Native oyster	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas	To obtain samples of native oysters and collect data on size frequency and CPUE	2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2021 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat B Permit Conditions</li> <li>2) To inform understandings of native oyster stocks in the Solent</li> </ol>

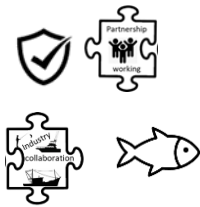
<sup>6</sup> Note that dates with a strikethrough indicate where surveying could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

<sup>7</sup> 2017 survey was for autumn in Southampton water only.

<sup>8</sup> Autumn 2020 survey could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

<sup>9</sup> Spring 2021 survey could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

<sup>10</sup> The first Solent Scallop Survey was carried out in the summer of 2021 as a trial and to test the methodology, twice yearly sampling commenced from 2022








<p><b>Juvenile Fish Surveys</b></p> 	<p>Jun Oct</p>	<p>Estuarine fish species</p>	<p>The Fleet, Christchurch Harbour, Yarmouth, River Hamble</p>	<p>To obtain samples of juvenile fish from estuaries across the District identified as having Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)<sup>11</sup> present and collect data on species presence, abundance and size frequency</p>	<p>2016 2017 2018 2019 2020<sup>12</sup> 2021 2022 2023</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To inform management under the anticipated Net Fishing Byelaw, specific to EFH</li> <li>2) To promote engagement with the wider stakeholder community</li> <li>3) To explore opportunities for partnership working and understand potential contribution of data to support partner projects such as those exploring co-management approaches, marine natural capital &amp; ecosystem services</li> <li>4) To contribute to a time-series dataset to highlight the importance of estuaries to certain species</li> <li>5) Data to be made available for use by relevant FMPs</li> </ol>
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<sup>11</sup> In this case, the use of the term 'Essential Fish Habitat' refers to the term as used in the Net Fishing Byelaw package

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

The following table outlines additional monitoring activities undertaken by the RPT which are separate from the survey program of work.

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

Monitoring Activity	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Time Series Data	Outcomes
<b>Wrasse Fishery Data Collection</b>  	Jul – Dec	Wrasse species	West of District	To obtain catch data from fishers on a voluntary basis on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Count data of wrasse landed</li> <li>Fishing location</li> <li>Fishing effort</li> </ul>	2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	1) To inform management of the live wrasse fishery 2) To inform monitoring under the M&C Plan 3) Report compiled annually for delivery to TAC Meeting following fishery closure
<b>Permit Data Collection</b>   	Throughout relevant permit seasons	Poole Harbour Dredge Permit – bivalves  Solent Dredge Permit – bivalves  Net Fishing Byelaw – salmonid interactions	Dependent on specific permit	To analyse data provided by permit holders in respective permitted fisheries and to build time-series datasets which can be used to relate fisher-dependent data to stock survey data.	<u>Poole</u> 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023  <u>Solent</u> 2021 2022 2023	1) To inform management under respective permit byelaws 2) To help inform evidence gaps on CPUE in relevant FMPs
<b>Net Fishing Observer Program</b>  	Jun – Sept  <i>To commence in 2024</i>	Species caught using net fishing	Southampton Water and Christchurch Harbour	To carry out observer trips for 5% of total estimated net fishing trips with 50% of these trips able to be achieved by Southern IFCA with assistance from the Environment Agency (EA) required to achieve 100% of the target	Program to be implemented in 2024	1) To inform management of net fishing under the NFB



## 1.3.2 Projects and Emerging Work

This section details any additional Projects which the Southern IFCA is involved with working with external partners or to be delivered to support workstreams in addition to evidence gathered through the Monitoring Programme.

Project	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Southern IFCA Role	Anticipated Outcomes
<p><b>Angling for Sustainability</b></p> <p><b>Lead:</b> University of Plymouth</p> <p><b>Funded:</b> Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) scheme</p>	Two-year project, Jan 23 - 25	Black Bream Elasmobranchs	Dorset coast Solent	For researchers to work with fishing communities in Dorset and the Solent to assess the habitats and movement of species including sharks, skates, rays and black bream through establishing a network of acoustic receivers and tagging target species	<p>In-kind contribution of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 days to help with tagging work</li> <li>• To provide advice and input as fisheries managers</li> <li>• To facilitate liaison between the project and stakeholders through established Stakeholder Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide data on seasonal and daily movement for black bream and elasmobranchs</li> <li>• To inform conservation advice for these species</li> <li>• To inform relevant FMPs</li> <li>• To inform future management of EFH<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>University of Plymouth FISP Bid</b></p> <p><b>Partners:</b> IFM, AIFCA, AT, BASS and NMC</p>	Awaiting results of funding bid	Fish species	Juvenile fish survey sites  (and other sites outside the SIFCA District)	To apply novel camera technology to support public participation in approaches to gather critical data on how fishes use coastal and estuarine habitats at their earliest juvenile stage	<p>In-kind contribution providing access to Juvenile Fish Surveys and providing advice and input as fisheries managers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide data to fill important knowledge gaps about the essential habitats required by populations of fished species</li> <li>• To support policy decisions and management action</li> <li>• To be a vehicle for the fishing industry,</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> The term EFH (Essential Fish Habitat) in this case is aligned with the text provided directly by the project lead

						scientists and managers to work together
<b>Drift Net Fishery Research Project</b>	<i>To be implemented in 2024</i>	Observing drift net methodologies and catches	Permit areas under the NFB	In the Process, Tools and Intentions Document which accompanies the anticipated NFB, Southern IFCA are committed to undertaking a Research Project in order to improve understandings of potential interactions between the use of drift nets and salmonids in a non-targeted fishery	Project owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To inform management of net fishing under the NFB</li> </ul>



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 April 2024