



# Research & Policy Team Plan

**April 2025 to March 2026**








## Section 1: Introduction

The Research & Policy Team Plan (RPT Plan) sets out the priorities for the RPT for the period April 2025 to March 2026, working under the Southern IFCA Annual Strategy 2025-2026 to deliver the identified Horizon Priorities alongside business as usual workstream delivery and demonstrate where these are underpinned by Delivery Metrics, thus establishing a golden thread drawing from the Annual Strategy.

In order to deliver the RPT Plan and fulfil Southern IFCA's function as a competent regulator, the need to align work to a strategic direction is recognised. With many competing and evolving objectives, it is important that a considered overview is maintained in this 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 District stakeholders moving through 2025 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 UK Government's Vision (as outlined in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategy 2025-2026), through the delivery of 5 main functions, 3 of which form the RPT's core functions (shaded blue).

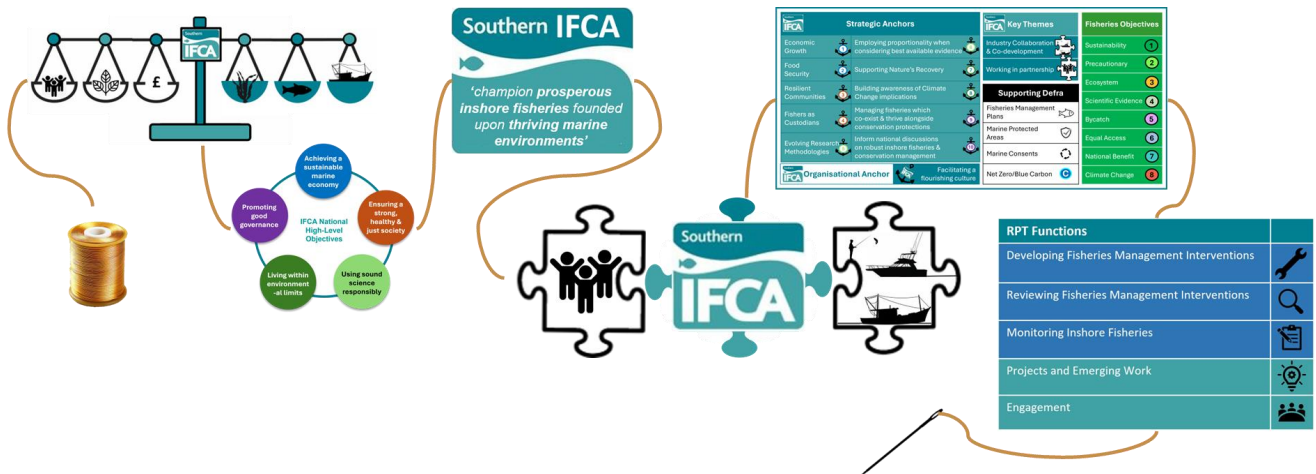
RPT Functions	
Developing Fisheries Management Interventions	
Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions	
Monitoring Inshore Fisheries	
Projects and Emerging Work	
Engagement	

This delivery is aligned with, and takes account of, the **IFCA National Vision**, **IFCA National High-Level Objectives**, the **Southern IFCA Vision**, **Southern IFCA's three key themes for 2025-2026** and **Southern IFCA's Strategic Anchors**.



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

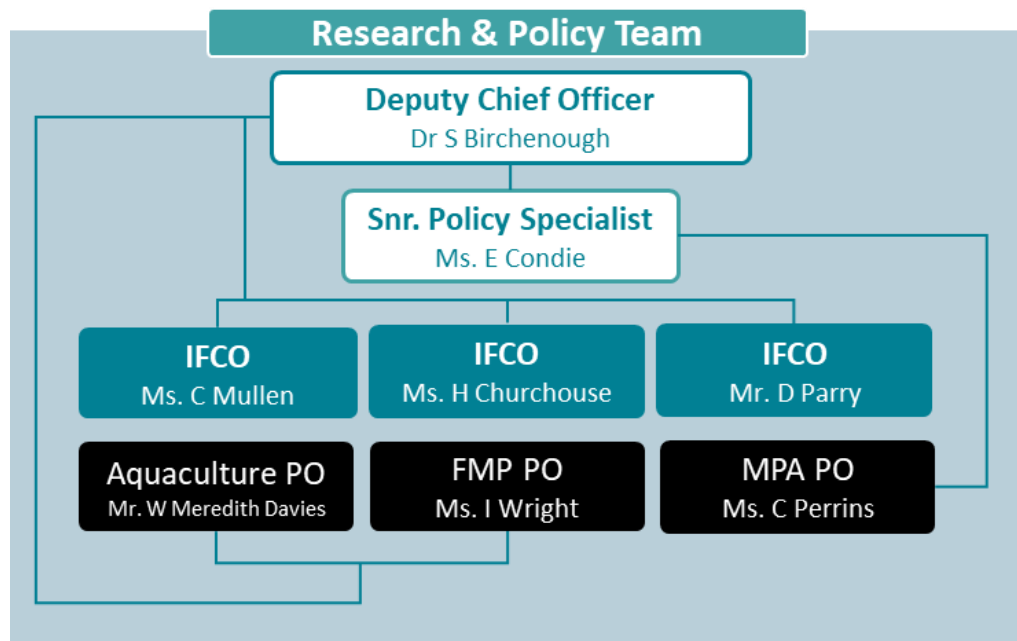
<https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/district-fisheries-research>.



*Delivery of the RPT functions is aligned with national and District visions, objectives, themes and delivery metrics, drawing from the Southern IFCA Annual Strategy 2025-2026*

## 1.2 The Research & Policy Team

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. The RPT are further supported by the Business Services Team (BST) and work closely with the Compliance & Enforcement Team (CET).



## 1.3 RPT Core Functions



### 1.3.1 Developing and Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions

Relevant to both Developing Fisheries Management Interventions and Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions, IFCA's have clearly defined duties under Section (153) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 ("the MaCAA"): to ensure that the marine environment within the district is conserved and maintained in a viable state.

#### Legislative Functions Specific to Developing Management

When developing management interventions in inshore fisheries, the legislative framework which Southern IFCA must operate within is determined by the location of the fishery subject to management considerations, specifically whether the fishery occurs within, adjacent or outside of a Marine Protected Area (MPA).

#### Legal duties relevant to different types of MPA

- **Outside of an MPA:** Under Section (153) of the MaCAA, Southern IFCA must (a) ensure that fishing is carried out sustainably, (b) seek to balance the social and economic benefits of fishing with the protection and recovery of the marine environment, (c) contribute to sustainable development and (d) seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in fishing.
- **Within an MCZ:** Under Section (154) of the MaCAA, Southern IFCA must ensure that we further the Conservation Objectives of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) within the District. Once the Authority are satisfied that this has been achieved, consideration can then be given to our wider duties under 153 of MaCAA.
- **Within or adjacent to an SAC or SPA:** Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, Southern IFCA must ensure that fishing activity does not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife or habitats for which a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA) within the National Site Network is legally protected. Once the Authority are satisfied that this has been achieved, consideration can then be given to our wider duties under 153 of MaCAA.
- **Within a SSSI:** In accordance with The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, when carrying out our duties, Southern IFCA must consider any marine component of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which provides protection to species, and/or habitat of national importance. Consideration of SSSI marine components is often encompassed under overlapping SAC, SPA or MCZ designations, consideration of SSSI marine components without an overlapping SAC, SPA or MCZ is in line with wider duties under 153 of MaCAA.

## Overarching R&P Policy Principles

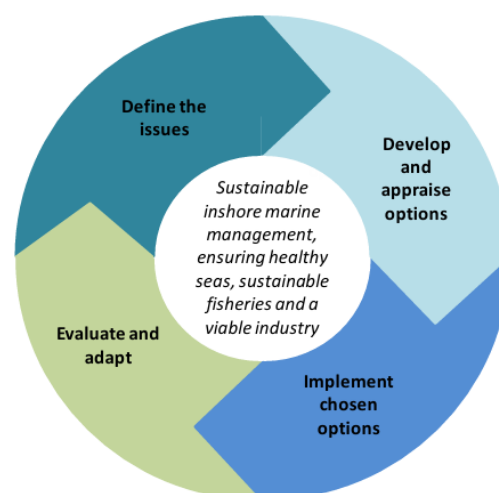
With the overarching context provided by legislative function, Southern IFCA must also adhere to policy principles, which includes Defra's best practice guidance when developing, reviewing and implementing inshore management.

- The use of best available evidence
- Where appropriate and within legislative remit, undertake a risk-based approach to assess the potential risks that fishing activity may present to the marine environment, providing an evidence base for prioritising the development of management measures, which will enable delivery of duties in an evidence based, strategic and proportionate way
- The use of the precautionary principle in the absence of evidence
- Transparent & consistent decision making

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.

Operating under this guidance, the Evidence Based Marine Management Cycle is used to inform the management process with the ability for management to be **evaluated and adaptive** recognised as a key element to ensure that management remains appropriate and proportionate in achieving sustainable fisheries, legislative requirements and the IFCA National and Southern IFCA Visions.

Evidence Based Marine Management Cycle



## Management Development Process

In developing management interventions, IFCAs can explore both statutory and non-statutory interventions. Statutory interventions commonly are in the form of byelaws, non-statutory interventions may be codes of conduct or practice (example: [Net Fishing Around Piers Code of Practice](#)) or fishery guidance measures (example: [Wrasse Fishery Guidance](#)).

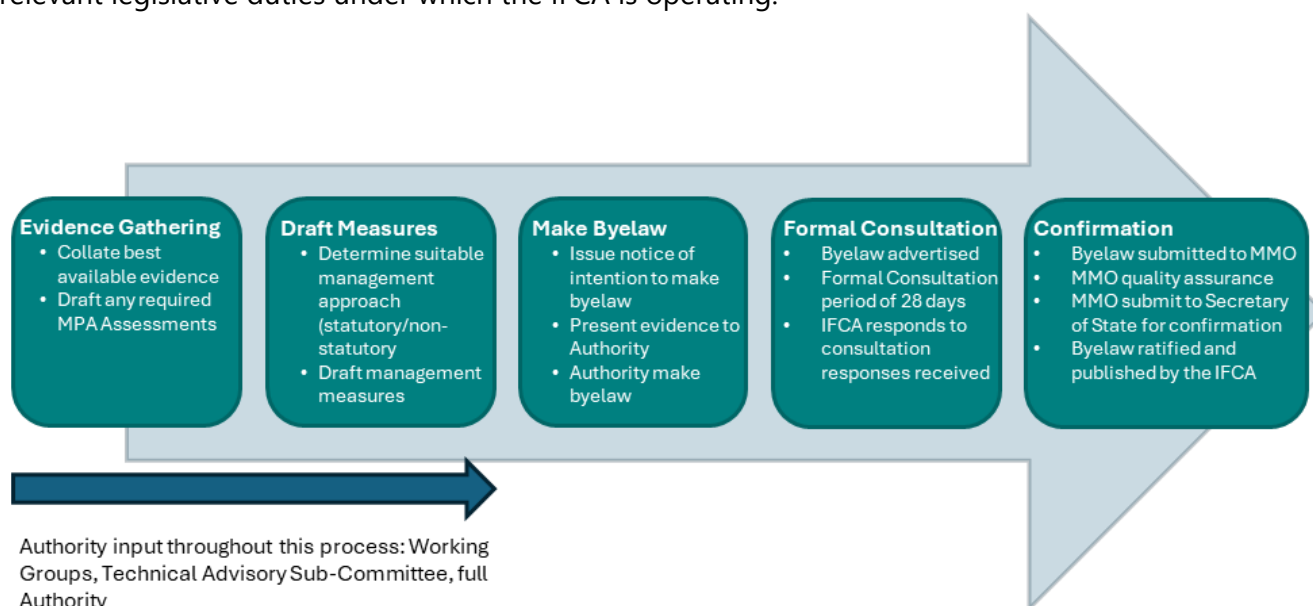
<sup>1</sup> [Defra. IFCA Byelaw Making Guidance, 2011](#)

## 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.*

Byelaws must be compatible 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. The stages of the process which are followed in working under this Guidance are outlined below, 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.



**Development of Management process map, based Defra byelaw making guidance**

## Management Review Process

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.

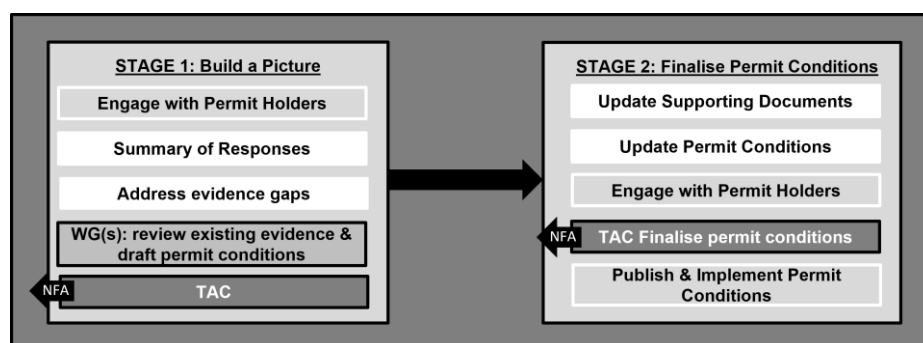
The decision to review a particular management intervention may be based on a number of different factors, including but not limited to:

- 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 below. 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.



**Permit Condition Review Process Map**



### 1.3.2 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 Fisheries Management Plans (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 fishers 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.



**The Compliance & Enforcement Team Plan for 2025-2026 outlines more detail on the Authority's operational assets.**





### **1.3.3 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 National Vision, IFCA National High-Level Objectives, the Southern IFCA Vision, Southern IFCA's three key themes for 2025-2026 and Southern IFCA's Strategic Anchors, as well as Horizon Goals identified through the Annual Plan and resourcing requirements.



### **1.3.4 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.



### **1.3.5 Engagement**

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 & 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 X (formally 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 Study Group
Hamble Estuary Partnership
IFCA National Technical Advisory Group
Langstone Harbour Committee
Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve
MMO/IFCA Marine Licencing Engagement
Poole and District Sea Angling Association
Poole Harbour Steering Group
Poole Harbour Study Group
REACH Network
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 (national)
The following groups are administered by the Southern IFCA:
Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group
Recreational Angling Sector Group

National IFCA Run Groups
Regional/National Groups
Within District Groups (non-IFCA run)
Harbour Authority Groups
MPA Management Groups
Restoration/Natural Capital
Fisher Run Groups
Southern IFCA Administered Groups
Additional Meetings

***Meetings/groups attended by the RPT fall into 9 broad categories***

## Communication, Collaboration and Co-Development





















Southern IFCA seek to ensure consistency and transparency in the delivery of management interventions and to clarify the stages of complex fisheries management development championing the symbiotic relationship which exists when well managed inshore fisheries reap environmental and socioeconomic benefits in line with the Southern IFCA Vision and embedding industry collaboration & co-development and partnership working in this process drawing on the key themes for 2025-2026.

In both development and reviews of management interventions, achieving the right level of engagement with stakeholders is key to successful outcomes which are supported, understood and thus able to reap long-term benefits. It is recognised that engagement and seeking input from the community can occur in many forms and at different stages in the management development process, and that understanding the best way to communicate and collaborate for a particular measure ensures that the relevant stakeholders can have the opportunity to feed into the process and remain informed as the process progresses.

Southern IFCA are continually evolving methods of engagement and communication with stakeholders, seeking new and improved ways of working with the community, noting that this process will be different for different management interventions and will be tailored to the specific needs of the community in each case. Southern IFCA remain committed to maintaining transparency and accessibility in the management development process through continuing to work to provide opportunities for communication and collaboration across all stakeholders.

## Section 2: Delivery Metrics

Delivery metrics as identified in the Annual Strategy will appear throughout this Team Plan in order to demonstrate where they underpin the RPT work for 2025-2026. The graphics will provide a golden thread drawing from the Annual Strategy.

Strategic Anchors		Key Themes		Fisheries Objectives
Economic Growth		Employing proportionality when considering best available evidence		Sustainability 
Food Security		Supporting Nature's Recovery		Precautionary 
Resilient Communities		Building awareness of Climate Change implications		Ecosystem 
Fishers as Custodians		Managing fisheries which co-exist & thrive alongside conservation protections		Scientific Evidence 
Evolving Research Methodologies		Inform national discussions on robust inshore fisheries & conservation management		Bycatch 
 <b>Organisational Anchor</b>		 <b>Facilitating a flourishing culture</b>		Equal Access 
				National Benefit 
				Climate Change 

## Section 3: Horizon Priorities

In addition to the delivery of business as usual, as described in the following section, the following two **Horizon Priorities** have been identified for the RPT.

Southern's 2025-26 Horizon Priorities		
Research & Policy Team	MCZ Management: Black Seabream	To continue to progress the development of a <b>Shared Principles Model</b> to supplement existing spatial protections in place within three Dorset MCZs, where black seabream is a designated species due to its ecological significance.
	BTFG: Phase 2	To explore <b>district wide management interventions for sensitive habitats</b> , in addition to reviewing existing closures where designated features may not be present; and in doing so identifying further opportunities to contribute to the delivery of the Government's vision under the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, in accordance with duties under the MaCAA.

## MCZ Management: Black Seabream

### Delivery Metrics:



Black Seabream [*Spondyliosoma cantharus*] (BSB) are a designated species in three MCZs in Dorset, Purbeck Coast, Poole Rocks and Southbourne Rough.

During the 2024-2025 year, a series of **Drivers** were developed to underpin the exploration of a Shared Principles Model to supplement existing spatial protections already in existence across the three MCZs, recognising a need for consideration of additional management to:

- improve understandings of BSB behaviours, fisheries (socioeconomic) and ecosystem management, recognising that these are currently data poor
- be precautionary, as despite evidence suggesting that current effort is not having an impact, this remains data poor. Additionally, potential future impact also remains unknown
- be proportionate in the application of precaution, complementing existing statutory measures for lower impact fisheries (adaptive management approach)


Subsequently, the following **Headline Objectives** were drafted which provide the rationale for the exploration of additional management solutions:

- To ensure current and future sustainability of BSB populations for the benefit of the marine environment and all sectors
- To improve understandings via data collection
- To monitor and review measures (adaptive management)
- To include users in policy development and ongoing management interventions

Members of the Authority and representatives from the commercial and recreational/charter sectors have discussed and developed a suggested series of management options for further consideration. Consideration of these options in line with all relevant evidence/information was carried out by Authority Members at the end of the 2024-25 year to produce a draft version of 'Shared Principles'.

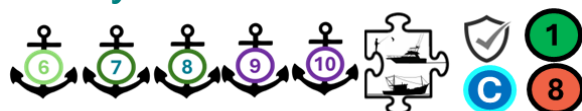
For the 2025-26 year, this workstream will be progressed as follows:

- Consideration by the stakeholder community on the draft version of 'Shared Principles'
- The co-development of a draft Shared Principles Model
- Seeking Formal Advice on the co-developed Shared Principles Model (in combination with any existing management already in place across the three MCZs, which includes the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear [BTFG] Byelaw 2016 and the Minimum Conservation Reference Size [MCRS] Byelaw, in addition to the extended spatial protections afforded to the three MCZs under the pending BTFG 2023 Byelaw) from Natural England as the Government's Statutory Nature Conservation Advisors on any required conservation assessments for the MCZs
- Finalisation of a **co-developed Shared Principles Model**

MCZ Management: Black Seabream				
RPT Core Function	Quarter 1 Apr - Jun	Quarter 2 Jul - Sept	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec	Quarter 4 Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration by the stakeholder community of draft version of 'Shared Principles'</li> <li>Co-development of a draft Shared Principles Model</li> <li>Drafting of relevant MCZ Assessments and seeking Formal Advice from NE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeking recommendation of Shared Principles Model through <b>Aug TAC meeting</b> and confirmation through <b>Sept Authority meeting</b></li> <li><i>Actions following Authority meetings subject to agreement of <b>statutory</b> or <b>non-statutory measures</b></i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Statutory measures process – Formal Consultation, submission to MMO/Defra</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Statutory measures process – QA with MMO/Defra</i></li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Identify and commence implementation pathway for non-statutory measures</i></li> </ul>	

## BTFG: Phase 2

### Delivery Metrics:




Following the submission of the BTFG Byelaw 2023, as the output of BTFG: Phase 1 to the MMO for consideration by the SoS, Southern IFCA is progressing BTFG: Phase 2. The aim of Phase 2 is to consider District wide management interventions for sensitive habitats, aiming 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).

The general aims of BTFG: 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

During the 2025-2026 year the delivery of this Horizon Goal will be progressed commencing with evidence gathering phase.

BTFG: Phase 2				
RPT Core Function	Quarter 1 Apr - Jun	Quarter 2 Jul - Sept	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec	Quarter 4 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>	

## Section 4: Workstream Delivery

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.

### 4.1 Supporting Defra Delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives

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

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

#### Fisheries Management Plans



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>2</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.

<sup>2</sup> [Fisheries Act 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)



The Southern IFCA District is covered by the following FMPs:

<b>FMP</b>	<b>Tranche</b>	<b>Geographic Coverage</b>	<b>Spatial Relevance to Southern IFCA District</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Phase</b>
<b>Crab &amp; Lobster</b>	1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Waters</li> </ul>	Whole district	Published Dec 2023	Implementation
<b>Whelk</b>	1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4 and 7</li> </ul>	Whole district	Published Dec 2023	Implementation
<b>King Scallop</b>	1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English and Welsh Waters</li> </ul>	Whole district	Published Dec 2023	Implementation
<b>Bass</b>	1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English and Welsh Waters</li> </ul>	Whole district	Published Dec 2023	Implementation
<b>Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species</b>	1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eastern and Western English Channel</li> <li>ICES areas 7d and 7e</li> </ul>	Whole district	Published Dec 2023	Implementation
<b>Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish</b>	1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4b, 4c and 7d</li> </ul>	Part of District within ICES area 7d	Published Oct 2024	Implementation
<b>Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4b, 4c, 7d, 7e</li> </ul>	Whole district	2023-2025	Publication Phase
<b>Cockles</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4 and 7</li> </ul>	Whole district	2022-2025	Publication Phase
<b>Queen Scallop</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4 and 7</li> </ul>	Whole district	2023-2025	Publication Phase
<b>North Sea and Channel Sprat</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4, 7d and 7e</li> </ul>	Whole district	2022-2025	Publication Phase
<b>Seabreams</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4 and 7</li> </ul>	Whole district	2023-2026	Planning/Preparation Phase



<b>Wrasses Complex</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English waters</li> <li>ICES areas 4 and 7</li> </ul>	Whole district	2023-2026	Planning/Preparation Phase
<b>Celtic Seas and Western Channel Pelagic</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English and Welsh waters</li> <li>ICEAS areas 7e, f, g, h</li> </ul>	Part of District within ICES area 7e	2023-2026	Planning/Preparation Phase
<b>Celtic Seas and Western Channel Demersal</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English and Welsh waters</li> <li>ICEAS areas 7e, f, g, h</li> </ul>	Part of District within ICES area 7e	2023-2026	Planning/Preparation Phase

Southern IFCA is involved at all phases of FMP development, working to support Defra in the preparation, publication and implementation of FMPs, to drive forward the improvement in the sustainable management of fish stocks and fisheries and shift towards an ecosystem-based approach to management taking account of climate change.

Specifically, IFCA requirements and deliverables for FMPs are:

#### Support planning/preparation phase

- Appropriate IFCA representatives (single points of contact) attend and contribute to FMP working group meetings
- Contribute expert sectoral and inshore fisheries management advice to FMP projects
- Contribute evidence and data as requested by delivery partners
- Evaluate draft FMP content; to include commenting on objectives, management measures, evidence plans
- Provide links between delivery partners and local IFCA representatives to help coordinate engagement with the inshore fishing sector
- Support AIFCA in their role as delivery partner for the Cockles FMP
- Support stakeholder engagement during public consultation

#### Support publication phase

- Support the pre and post consultation review and evaluation of draft/final FMPs
  - Contribute to the review/assurance process as required and in particular through provision of relevant data and attendance at FMP working group meetings
  - Review efficacy of implementation plans
- Contribute to environmental assessments
  - Evaluate effectiveness of plans in relation to the conservation of MPA features, sensitive species and habitats
  - Contribute evidence and data to inform assessments
- Contribute to financial and resource assessments

#### Support post-publication

- To continue to work collaboratively with the ALBs, FMP working groups, and Defra to prioritise and address evidence gaps identified within FMPs post-implementation
- To support the implementation of regional FMPs where they apply to IFCA Districts
- To support with evidence gathering, where practicable, to contribute to stock assessments for FMPs

## General

- Maintain a log and track requests from delivery partners, FMP projects and Defra across the programme regarding the requirements set out in the sections above
  - Log existing and ongoing requests
  - Log when requests have been actioned
  - Feedback concerns to delivery partners/projects
- To contribute expertise and evidence to support FMP project delivery; review efficacy of management proposals; contribute to draft FMPs

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.



**The Southern IFCA FMP webpage can be viewed here**

<https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/fisheries-management-plans>

To support the post-publication phase for the published T1 & T2 FMPs, Southern IFCA has three ongoing projects which will continue into the 2025-2026 year:

(1) <b>Whelk LPUE Pilot Project:</b> Undertake a pilot project to collect whelk fishery LPUE data in accordance with outcomes of the Whelk FMP
(2) <b>Solent Scallop Stock Survey:</b> To review survey methods and implement an updated methodology to address evidence gaps within the King Scallop FMP
(3) <b>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

### (1) Whelk LPUE Pilot Project



- District-wide
- A pilot project is ongoing which works collaboratively with the fishing industry to collect data on landings 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:

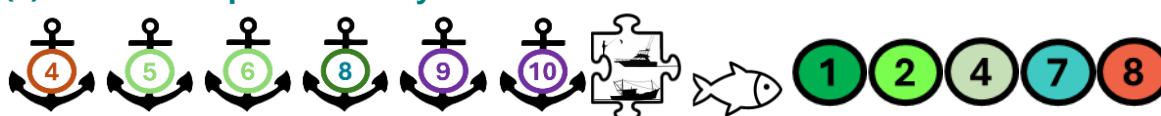
- Assess catch per unit effort in the whelk fishery – *Improved understanding of fishing effort and catches will facilitate improved modelling and assessment of stock status. This will improve the ability to implement evidence-based fisheries management which is responsive to changes in fishing activity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

Whelk LPUE Pilot Project				
RPT Core Function	Quarter 1 Apr - Jun	Quarter 2 Jul - Sept	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec	Quarter 4 Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of data collection program</li> <li>• Collation and analysis of data</li> <li>• Engagement with the whelk fishing sector</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 was reviewed in 2024-2025 in conjunction with industry and partner organisations, and an updated methodology developed to use a queenie scallop dredge alongside a standard scallop dredge to facilitate sample collection of King Scallop under MCRS, to align areas of the survey with fishing activity obtained through annual catch data, to align sampling methods with those used by Cefas for national stock surveys of King scallop.
- Additionally, a feasibility study will be explored in 2025-2026 related to the use of drop down cameras, working with partner organisations, 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

Solent Scallop Stock Survey				
RPT Core Function	Quarter 1 Apr - Jun	Quarter 2 Jul - Sept	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec	Quarter 4 Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of updated methodology for Post-season survey (Apr)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of updated methodology for Pre-season survey (Sept)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data analysis from mid-season survey (2024/25 year), post- and pre-season surveys including analysis of implementation of new methodology</li> <li>Identification of opportunities to feed evidence into national databases on King scallop stocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of updated methodology for Mid-season survey (Jan/Feb)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration of feasibility of camera survey with partner organisations</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dependent on outcomes of exploration, determine integration into survey program in future years</li> </ul>	


(\*) See section 4.2 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

Pot Fishing Byelaw Implementation				
RPT Core Function	Quarter 1 Apr - Jun	Quarter 2 Jul - Sept	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec	Quarter 4 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>			

## Marine Sustainable Development



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. IFCA's are a statutory consultee in this process.

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 Authority.

## Marine Protected Areas and 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 IFCA's 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 has been primarily achieved by the work in 2023-2025 on the development of

the BTFG Byelaw 2023, the Shore Gathering Byelaw and the ongoing work to develop management for black seabream (See Section 3.0, MCZ Management: Black Seabream), 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 during 2024/25.
- 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.

## 4.2 Reviews of Management Interventions

### The Poole Fishery Order 2015

#### Delivery Metrics:




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 (Tranche 2) with the next lease period being 2025-2030 (Tranche 3). 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 has been running through the 2024-2025 year and will conclude in the 2025-2026 year. This includes 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.

There is also ongoing work throughout the year associated with the Order, including engaging with leaseholders, engaging with Cefas and Defra in the provision of annual data, facilitating an annual Cefas inspection and the input of shellfish movement data into FHI Online, administering any requests from leaseholders to update business plans and to administer annual lease fees.

The Poole Fishery Order 2015				
RPT Core Function	Quarter 1 Apr - Jun	Quarter 2 Jul - Sept	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec	Quarter 4 Jan – Mar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalisation of issuing of leases for T3 (2025-2030)</li> <li>Submission of final documents for T3 to <b>May TAC Meeting</b> for consideration by the Authority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start of T3 lease period, ongoing engagement with leaseholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of T3 lease period and undertaken of ongoing annual work</li> </ul>	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation for annual review of Management Plan ahead of consideration at <b>May TAC Meeting (2026)</b></li> </ul>



## Permit Byelaws

### Delivery Metrics:



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 or triggers being reached under a Monitoring and Control Plan (M&CP). Reviews which occur outside of scheduled periods cannot be predicted, however within the 2025-2026 year the following work will be undertaken in relation to permit byelaws:

Permit Byelaw	Requirement
<b>Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of data from M&amp;CP for 2024 fishing season and 2025 Poole Harbour Bivalve Survey (Apr 25), if trigger levels have been reached in accordance with M&amp;CP then Authority will consider the requirement for the implementation of additional management measures at the <b>May TAC Meeting</b>.</li> <li>• Any changes to permit conditions will be communicated to permit holders ahead of the start of the 2025 fishing season on 25<sup>th</sup> May.</li> </ul>
<b>Net Fishing Byelaw</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second 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>• To commence during Q3.</li> <li>• Any outcomes of the review to be implemented prior to the start of the second permit period on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of any requirements for updates to management or supporting document to support a sustainable fishery.</li> <li>• To be based on best available evidence.</li> </ul>

## Minimum Conservation Reference Size Review

### Delivery Metrics:



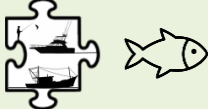

Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) is a management tool used at a national and regional level to help achieve sustainable fisheries. The measure prevents sea fisheries resources below a certain size from being removed from the fishery to promote sustainable stocks.

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 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 2025-2026 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.














## 4.2 Monitoring Inshore Fisheries



This section details the standard monitoring program for the RPT for 2025-26. 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 FMPs and help contribute to data collection under any Research and Evidence Plans developed for those FMPs. Opportunities for engagement are explored through all monitoring activities. The Delivery Metrics achieved by the overall arching monitoring programme are detailed above, for each survey the Delivery Metrics of **Industry Collaboration & Co-development, Working in partnership, Fisheries Management Plans** and **Marine Protected Areas** are detailed as relevant.

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 2025	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-Shell 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>3</sup> 2021 2022 2023 2024	1) To contribute to time-series dataset 2) To inform management under the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit fishery through M&CP 3) To support the MSC certification 4) Data to be made available for Cockle FMP

<sup>3</sup> Note that dates with a strikethrough indicate where surveying could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

<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>4</sup> 2018 2019 2020 – spring only <sup>5</sup> 2021 – autumn only <sup>6</sup> 2022 2023 2024	1) To build a baseline of CPUE data 2) To contribute to a time-series dataset 3) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions 4) Data to be made available for Cockle FMP
<b>Solent Scallop Survey</b>   	Jan 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>7</sup> 2022 2023 2024 2025	1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions 2) Data to be made available for use by the King Scallop FMP
<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 2024	1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat B Permit Conditions 2) To inform understandings of native oyster stocks in the Solent
<b>Juvenile Fish Surveys</b>    	Jun Oct	Estuarine fish species	The Fleet, Christchurch Harbour, Yarmouth, River Hamble	To obtain samples of juvenile fish from estuaries across the District identified as having Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) <sup>8</sup> present and collect data on species presence, abundance and	2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 <sup>9</sup> 2021 2022	1) To inform management under the anticipated Net Fishing Byelaw, specific to EFH 2) To promote engagement with the wider stakeholder community 3) To explore opportunities for

<sup>4</sup> 2017 survey was for autumn in Southampton water only.

<sup>5</sup> Autumn 2020 survey could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

<sup>6</sup> Spring 2021 survey could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

<sup>7</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

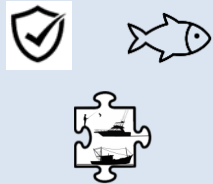
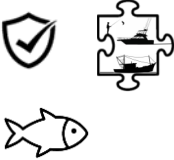
<sup>8</sup> In this case, the use of the term 'Essential Fish Habitat' refers to the term as used in the Net Fishing Byelaw package

<sup>9</sup> Spring survey unable to take place and autumn survey partially achieved due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

				size frequency	2023 2024	<p>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</p> <p>4) To contribute to a time-series dataset to highlight the importance of estuaries to certain species</p> <p>5) Data to be made available for use by relevant FMPs</p>
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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).

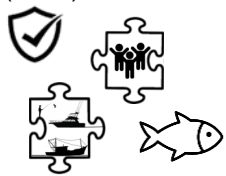

Monitoring Activity	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Time Series Data	Outcomes
<b>Wrasse Fishery Data Collection</b> 	Jul – Dec	Wrasse species	West of District	To obtain catch data from fishers on a voluntary basis on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Count data of wrasse landed</li> <li>Fishing location</li> <li>Fishing effort</li> </ul>	2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024	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 4) Data to be made available for informing Wrasses Complex FMP
<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 2024  <u>Solent</u> 2021 2022 2023 2024  <u>NFB</u> 2024	1) To inform management under respective permit byelaws 2) To help inform evidence gaps on CPUE in relevant FMPs



## 4.3 Projects and Emerging Work



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

Project	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Southern IFCA Role	Anticipated Outcomes
<b>Angling for Sustainability</b>  <b>Lead:</b> University of Plymouth  <b>Funded:</b> Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) scheme  	Two-year project, Jan 23 - 25	Black Bream Elasmobranchs	Dorset coast Solent	For researchers to work with fishing communities in Dorset and the Solent to assess the habitats and movement of species including sharks, skates, rays and black bream through establishing a network of acoustic receivers and tagging target species.	For the 25-26 year following the conclusion of the project, Southern IFCA will continue to engage with partners to understand the data and evidence outputs and how these relate to and can inform management of relevant species within the District.	<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>10</sup></li> </ul>
<b>University of Plymouth FISP Bid</b>  <b>Partners:</b> IFM, AIFCA, AT, BASS and NMC  	Two-year project, to end of Mar 25	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	For the 25-26 year following the conclusion of the project, Southern IFCA will continue to engage with partners to understand the data and evidence outputs and how these relate to and	<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> </ul>

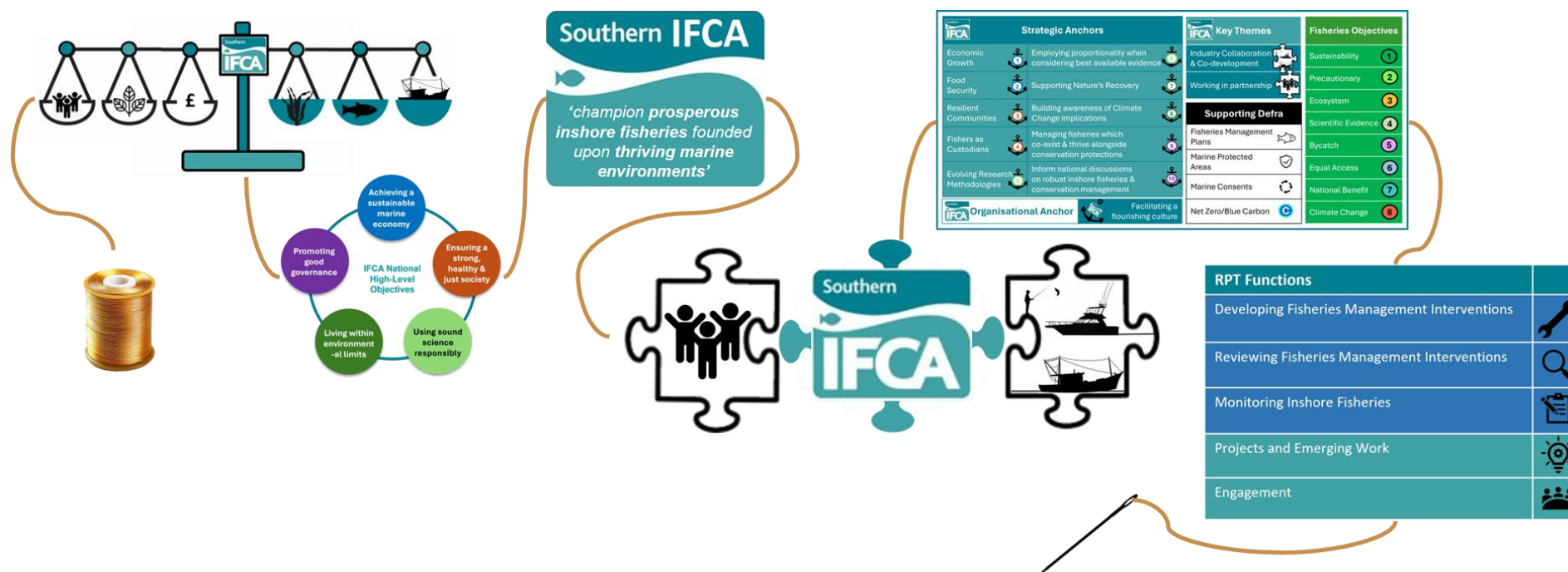
<sup>10</sup> The term EFH (Essential Fish Habitat) in this case is aligned with the text provided directly by the project lead



					can inform management of relevant species within the District.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be a vehicle for the fishing industry, scientists and managers to work together</li> </ul>
<b>Drift Net Fishery Research Project</b>	<i>Feasibility to be explored during 25-26</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>

## Section 5: Reporting

The Southern IFCA Annual Report 2025-26, due for publication in summer 2026, will provide an account of how the RPT have performed in their delivery of this Team Plan, demonstrating achievement of and contribution to, the National IFCA Vision & High-Level Objectives, the Southern IFCA Vision, Delivery Metrics and Horizon Priorities.



Sarah Birchenough  
Deputy Chief Officer – Research and Policy Team  
Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority  
April 2025