



Southern IFCA's Annual Strategic Plan

April 2024 to March 2025

SECTION 1: Introduction

1.1 Strategic Planning

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) were created under Section 150 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009¹ (MaCAA), as designated statutory inshore regulators for the marine environment. Southern IFCA have clearly defined duties to **manage sustainable fisheries and conserve the wider marine environment** within the coastal waters of Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

Under Section (177) of the MaCAA, Southern IFCA are required to make and publish a plan setting out the Authority's main objectives and priorities for the year ahead.

In order to deliver a strategic plan and fulfill Southern IFCA's function as a competent inshore 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 Southern IFCA and our stakeholders moving forward through 2024 and beyond.

The strategic direction, as presented in this paper, will enable Southern IFCA to be more transparent with our community, stakeholders and delivery partners, through anticipation of shared goals and objectives and seek to encourage joint working initiative and projects.

This plan sets out Southern IFCA's strategic direction for the period 1st April 2024 to the 31st March 2025.

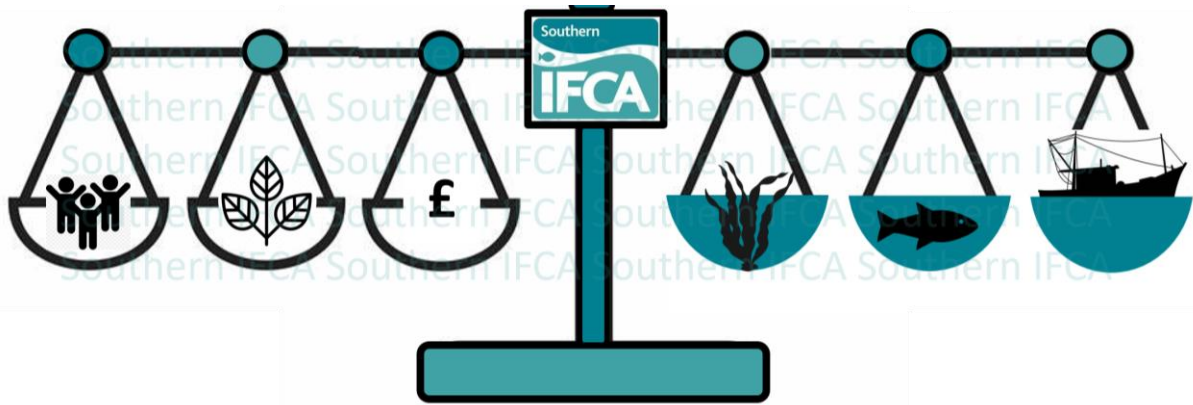
1.2 IFCA Core Values

1.2.1 The National IFCA Vision, High Level Objectives and Success Criteria

Together, the National IFCA Vision, High Level Objectives and Success Criteria set out the intentions of IFCA's to sustainably manage inshore fisheries and conservation.

“ IFCAs will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment & inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental & economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries & a viable industry ”

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>



IFCA High Level Objectives	IFCA Success Criteria
Achieving a sustainable marine economy	IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.
Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society	IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.
Using sound science responsibly	IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.
Living within environmental limits	IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.
Promoting good governance	IFCAs make the use of evidence to deliver their objectives

1.3 Supporting Government Vision

The Strategic Plan demonstrates how **Southern IFCA will continue to shape inshore fisheries and conservation management** in accordance with our statutory functions, and in doing so support the UK's Governments vision for '*clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas*' in accordance with the **UK Marine Policy Statement**².

Further, it will demonstrate how Southern IFCA's work aligns with the Government's shared ambition under the **Joint Fisheries Statement**³ (JFS) '*...to continue delivering world class, sustainable management...*' for **sea fisheries, recreational sea fishing and aquaculture**, in accordance with achieving, or contributing to the achievement of the **eight fisheries objectives**, set out in the **Fisheries Act 2020**⁴.

The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010⁵ require fishery bodies in the UK to take action to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in all UK waters. **The UK Marine Strategy**⁶ is a key pillar of marine policy in the UK and the JFS is a cross cutting measure which will help to deliver GES for fisheries⁷.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-marine-policy-statement>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-fisheries-statement-jfs>

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/22/contents/enacted>

⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1627/contents/made>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-updated-assessment-and-good-environmental-status>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-fisheries-statement-jfs> (page 11)

In accordance with the Government's **Environmental Improvement Plan 2023⁸ (EIP)**, which builds upon the **25 Year Environment Plan⁹ (25YEP)** and key legislative frameworks, to include the **Environment Act 2021¹⁰** and the Fisheries Act 2020, Southern IFCA will endeavour to evidence our role in the collective delivery of the Government's vision, to '*...help the natural world regain and retain good health...*', following the commitment to '*...leave the environment in a better state for future generations...*' and '*...halt the decline of nature by 2030...*'

The Fisheries Act (2020) was introduced to make provisions in relation to fisheries, fishing, aquaculture and marine conservation following the departure of the UK from Europe. The Act enshrines in law the UK's commitment to sustainable fishing, supporting future generations of fishers, while allowing the marine environment to thrive. It provides a legally binding structure to protect and recover stocks, support a sustainable fishing industry and safeguard the environment. In accordance with the JFS, **IFCAs are required to have regard to the Fisheries Act (2020)**, the **Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS)** and **Fisheries Management Plans (FMP)**, where required by guidance issued by the Secretary of State, or when undertaking a relevant function as delegated by the Marine Management Organisation.

The Environment Act (2021) sets clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, waste and water, and includes a target to reverse the decline in species abundance by 2030. The Act designated the 25YEP as the first statutory Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP), and IFCAs, as detached Arm's Length Bodies (ALB) to Defra, **play a crucial role in the delivery of the EIP.**

1.4 IFCA's Legislative Functions

1.4.1 Overview

IFCA's have clearly defined duties under Section (153) of the **Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009): to ensure that the marine environment within the district is conserved and maintained in a viable state.**

1.4.2 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 consideration, specifically whether the fishery occurs within, adjacent or outside of a Marine Protected Area (MPA).

1.4.2.1 Legal duties relevant to different types of MPAs

- **Outside of an MCZ:** 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 a 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**

⁸ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁹ [25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

¹⁰ [Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

(Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019¹¹, 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 1981¹²**, 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. Once the Authority are satisfied that this has been achieved, consideration can then be given to our wider duties under 153 of MaCAA.

1.4.3 Legislative Functions Specific to Compliance & Enforcement functions

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) are granted powers under Section 166 of the MaCAA to enforce:

- Any **Southern IFCA Byelaw**:
 - Southern IFCA have 24 byelaws in place, of which three manage permitted fisheries. Collectively the byelaws ensure relevant management is in place within Southern IFCA's MPAs. In addition, the byelaws introduce conservation measures such as MCRS, seasonal restrictions, species & gear specific measures in addition to spatial and temporal measures.
- **UK Orders/Statutory Instruments**, to include:
 - Technical conservation regulations to include MCRS, method and gear restrictions and retention, as specified in Articles 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13 of Council Regulation 2019/1241 and Article 15 of 1380/2013 (landing obligations).
 - Bass Measures (Article 10, Council Regulation 2020/123).
 - The Bass (Specified Areas) (Prohibition of Fishing) Order 1990 and 1999 Variation.
 - The Scallop Fishing (England) Order 2012 (2283/2012)
 - The Lobsters and Crawfish (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) Order 2000 (874/2000).
 - The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015.
 - The Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004.
- Any **Byelaw or Interim Byelaw** made by the Marine Management Organisation to protect MCZs.
- In addition, IFCOs are cross warranted with the Environment Agency to enforce limited powers under the **Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975**.
- Any **Southern IFCA Code of Practice**, of which there are currently six to include Netting, Fishing Around Piers, Cuttlefish, Bait Digging, Wrasse and Saltmarsh protections.

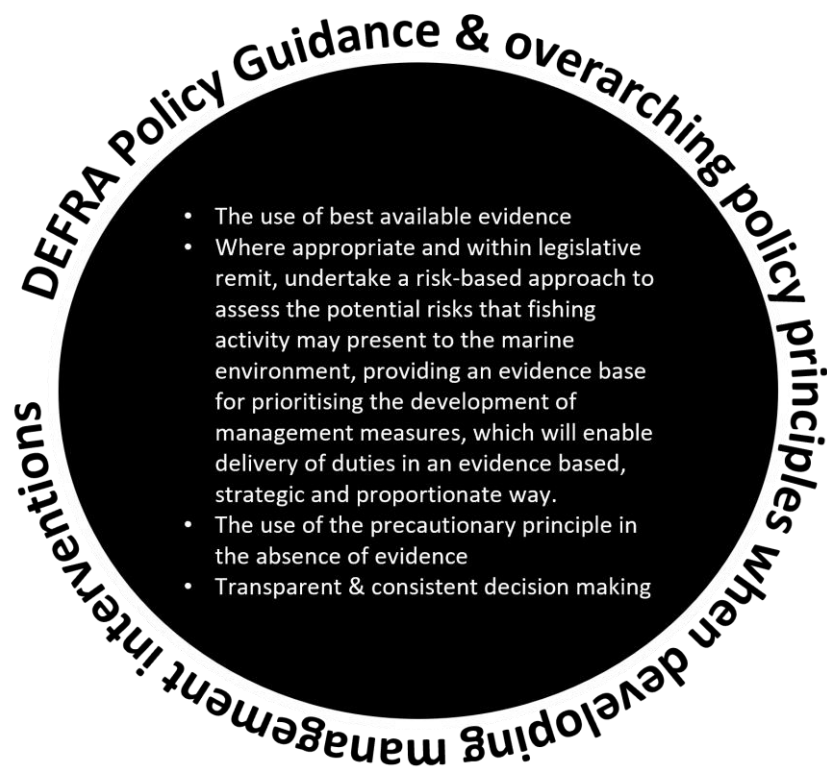
1.5 IFCA's Overarching Policy Principles

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, drawing all the components together to drive the collective delivery of the UK Government's vision, in addition to adherence with regulatory best practice when delivering a compliance and enforcement function.

¹¹ [The Conservation of Habitats and Species \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/2019/1241)

¹² [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/1981/1)

Southern IFCA ensure a fair, effective and proportionate approach to Compliance & Enforcement work via adherence to the **Compliance and Enforcement Framework**, which ensures agreement to the **Police & Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984**, the **Criminal Investigations Act (CIPA) 1966**.



1.6 External Landscapes

As with previous years where our delivery timetables have been impacted by unforeseen external events, such as the COVID pandemic (2020-2022), the Poole Harbour Oil Spill (2023), and the delivery timescales associated with the UK Government's Environmental Improvement Plan (2023), we recognise and anticipate that our work over the forthcoming year will continue to be shaped by external policy landscapes and economies, in addition to unforeseen events. **During these times, Southern IFCA commit to maintain full transparency with its community and stakeholders in order to account for any variations in delivery and operation.** Southern IFCA appreciates the support that the community has provided over recent years and we will continue to strive to fulfill our legislative duties in the forthcoming year and beyond.

SECTION 2: Southern IFCA

2.1 Our Vision & Key Themes

Building upon and with reference to the National IFCA Vision, Southern IFCA will:



This vision recognises the **sybiotic relationship which exists when well managed inshore fisheries reap environmental and socioeconomic benefit.**

In championing these reciprocal relationships, Southern will continue to draw upon **two key themes for 2024-2025** which will be embedded and threaded through all of our work which, as captured within and central to the wider IFCA model, are essential components to facilitate the delivery of the Southern IFA vision: **industry collaboration** and **partnership working.**

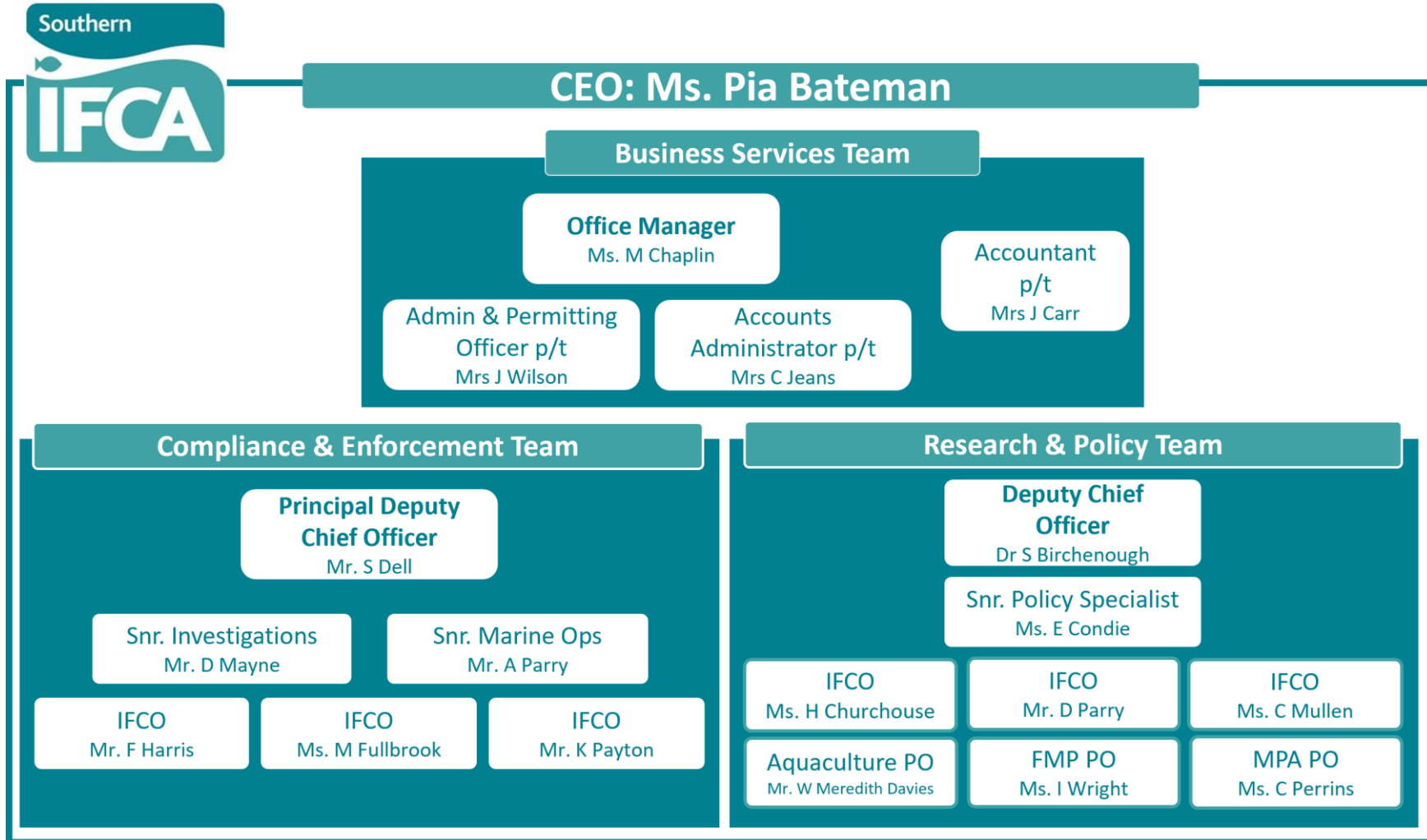


2.2 The Authority

Elected Members from constituent Local Authorities	
Cllr Mr. M Roberts (Chairman of Authority)	Dorset Council
Cllr Mr. P Fuller (Vice Chairman of Authority)	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Mr. B Dunning	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Mr. C Goodall	BCP Council
Cllr Mr. R Hughes	Dorset Council
Cllr Mr. P Miles	BCP Council
Cllr Mr. J Savage	Southampton City Council
Cllr Mr. M Thierry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Mr. M Winnington	Portsmouth City Council
Representatives of Partner Organisations	
Mr. S Kingston-Turner	Environment Agency
Dr. R Morgan	Natural England
Ms. R Irish	Marine Management Organisation
General Members (appointed by the Marine Management Organisation)	
Dr. A Jensen (Chairman of the TAC)	Marine Environment/Academic
Mr. R Stride (Vice Chairman of the TAC)	Commercial Fishing
Ms E Bussey-Jones	Law/Marine Heritage
Dr. S Cripps	Marine Environment/Conservation
Mr. C Frances	Recreational Sea Angling
Mr. N Hornby	Fisheries Science/Policy
Ms. L MacCallum	Marine Environment/Conservation
Mr. G Wordsworth	Aquaculture
Mr. Charlie Brock	Commercial Fishing

If you would like to find out more about the Southern IFCA Members please see: [The Authority : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)

2.3 The IFCA Team



2.4 The Budget Forecast

The Southern IFCA (Amendment) Order 2010 states that the relevant Councils must defray the expenses incurred by Southern IFCA. Dorset Council, Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council and the BCP Council receive a grant from central government (via the New Burdens Doctrine¹³) of £329,425.

For the financial year April 2024 to March 2025 the constituent Local Authorities were levied a sum of **£845,614** divided in accordance with a prescribed formula. Prior to inflationary projections, the budget forecast for financial year April 2024 to March 2025 anticipates a loss of c.129k. A 4% increase in levy contributions compared to the previous year, recognises the extreme financial pressures that Southern IFCA's Constituent Local Authorities are under, with Southern IFCA able to achieve a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year, drawing from the reserves to match the anticipated deficit of c.129k.

Constituent Council	Formula (%)	April 2024- March 2025		
		Levy (£)	Government Grant (£)	Total Contribution (£)
Hampshire County Council	40.40	124,845	203,644	341,628
Dorset Council	24.79	101,752	99,785	209,598
Isle of Wight Council	14.35	103,015	13,663	121,345
BCP Council	11.14	78,274	12,333	94,231
Portsmouth City Council	5.02	40,817	0	42,449
Southampton City Council	4.30	34,963	0	36,361
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		483,666	329,425	845,614

Expenditure Summary	April 2024- March 2025
Business Services	£991,906
Compliance and Enforcement	£129,122
Research and Policy	£39,092
Capital Equipment	£101,804
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,261,202

TOTAL INCOME	£1,132,170
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INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£-129,032
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¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-burdens-doctrine-guidance-for-government-departments>

SECTION 3: 2024-2025 Horizon Planning







The Horizon Goals identified in this section will be translated into clear, outcome-focused **Delivery Priorities** under the [Research and Policy Plan 2023-2024](#) and the [Compliance and Enforcement Plan 2023-2024](#). These Delivery Priorities will be broken down into 3-month phases, where possible, in order to provide transparency in timelines.

In addition to business as usual (as captured in the team plans), Horizon Goals demonstrate where Southern IFCA consider their work for the forthcoming year aligns with:

- Delivery of IFCA High Level Objectives via **IFCA Success Criteria**
- the eight **Fisheries Objectives** (Fisheries Act 2020)
- supporting Defra’s in the delivery of specific objectives under the Fisheries Act 2020 & Environment Act 2021, to include:
 - a. Working to a Defra 2024 MPA deadline, in accordance with the Environment Improvement Plan 2023, to ensure suitable **management measures** are developed and implemented¹⁴ across all **relevant MPAs within the district**.
 - b. consideration of the **short-term outputs of the frontrunner FMPs** to ensure compatibility of district work with nationally agreed directions, with wider directional awareness and alignment with medium to long-term objectives.
- 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 & seagrass).


The following graphics will be used to demonstrate this alignment both in this strategy and in the respective team plans:

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
IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.	2	Precautionary	2
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	Ecosystem	3
IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.	4	Scientific Evidence	4
IFCAs make the use of evidence to deliver their objectives	5	Bycatch	5
		Equal Access	6
		National Benefit	7
		Climate Change	8

Supporting Defra in delivery of Fisheries Act 2020 & Environment Act 2021 Objectives, encompassing the Environmental Improvement Plan EIP				Southern IFCA Key Themes	
FMPs 	MPAs 	Marine Consents 	Net Zero/blue carbon 	Partnership Working 	Industry Collaboration 


¹⁴ Implementation timelines will be subject to quality assurance timeframes at the MMO and Defra, prior to Secretary of State consideration.


3.1 Business Services Horizon Goals 2024-2025

Ongoing Governance Improvement Programme	What & Why	Benefits	Success Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the work completed in 2023-2024, a continuous review of process and policy to inform areas which require upgrade and attention. To analyse and interpret current performance against best practice to identify improvements To ensure compliance with relevant legislations and guiding policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas for improvement Maximise performance and efficiency Retention of staff Ability to deliver statutory functions Business resilience Reduction in administrative functions associated with manual handling of information 	Continued BAU implementation of change which supports the work of The Authority via provision of cost-effective solutions and the championing of efficiency in ways of working.
			Responsibility
			Office Manager
	Horizon Goals 2024-2025		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HR Solutions – rollout of pilot to all staff to streamline HR functions into one online programme. Continued rollout of online permit platform to support administration of Permitting function for Southern IFCA permitted fisheries. Consideration for improved system for Personal Work Plans, incorporating more regular and ongoing appraisal and direction setting during the year. 			
Overarching Objectives			
			



3.2 Compliance and Enforcement Horizon Goals 2024-2025

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Remote Electronic Monitoring & Artificial Intelligence Pilot Projects</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">What</p> <p>Building on the work undertaken by Devon & Severn IFCA, Southern will pilot two small-scale Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) high resolution spatial management with the provisions to quantify salmonid interactions in MPA's. This project will be piloted in the net fisheries of Southampton Water and Christchurch Harbour. (2) a project which explores the capability of REM and AI solutions in managing pot restrictions. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Success Criteria</p> <p>Review of pilot project at 12 months to see if wider application of this technology could be used in inshore fisheries management.</p> <p>Relevant outputs to be considered as part of the annual review of the Southern IFCA Net Fishing Byelaw.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Why</p> <p>(1) The outcomes will jointly inform national discussions on MPA spatial management solutions in the inshore <6m fleet, as well informing the annual reviews of the Southern IFCA Permit Conditions under the Net Fishing Byelaw.</p> <p>(2) The outcomes will inform national discussions on the implementation plans for frontrunner FMP's, specifically seeking novel and cost-effective solutions to managing pot limitations in crab, whelk and lobster fisheries.</p> <p>The outcomes will also inform management delivery under the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Byelaw (currently with the MMO for QA).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Further Details</p> <p>Compliance & Enforcement Team Plan 2024-2025</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Key Assumption</p> <p>Industry uptake and receipt of Defra funding</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Responsibility</p> <p>DCO Compliance & Enforcement</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p> <p>Southern IFCA through working in partnership and collaborating with Devon and Severn IFCA and Industry have initiated the fitting of REM devices on two vessels within the district operating in Lyme Bay. To date cameras, GPS (Global Positioning System) and gear sensors have been installed with the view to enhance our confidence with the technology.</p>	
	Overarching Objectives	
		

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">New ways of working: FPV Vigilant</p> 	What	Status	Success Criteria		
	Transition to new ways of operational delivery with introduction of new marine asset.	Procurement process completed in December 2022, with subsequent boat building tender awarded to a UK company.	Successful delivery of duties during reporting period to include new package of operational guidance.		
	Why				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To deliver functions in accordance with MaCAA, whilst ensuring capability to deliver work in accordance with the Fisheries Act to include implementation of management relating to FMPs. Increase compliance and enforcement capabilities within and outside MPAs. Provision of a platform for IFCOs that adheres to health and safety and wellbeing requirements. To introduce changes in operational delivery which minimise and reduce emissions. To provide a joint regulatory platform for partner organisations. To deliver any future contracts beyond current jurisdictional boundaries. 	Anticipated to be operational April 2024	<th>Further Details</th> <td>Compliance & Enforcement Team Plan 2024-2025</td>	Further Details	Compliance & Enforcement Team Plan 2024-2025
		Responsibility	Key Assumption		
	DCO Compliance & Enforcement and Senior IFCO Marine Ops.	Completion of boat build in accordance with T&Cs by April 2024.			

Overarching Objectives



<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Implementation of Pot Fishing Byelaw</p>	What	Status	Success Criteria		
	A byelaw which introduces commercial and recreational potting permits, pot markings and prohibition of removal of berried crab.	Submitted to MMO Byelaw Team October 2022 for quality assurance prior to consideration of ratification by the Secretary of State	Delivery of implementation plans to include Communication Strategy, following ratification to support stakeholders		
	Why				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate compliance with measures relevant to commercial and recreational pot fishers To support a change in pot fishing management in the District. To support outputs of Frontrunner Crab, Lobster and Whelk FMPs Working with industry and partners to identify tagging solutions. 		<th>Further Details</th> <td>Compliance & Enforcement Team Plan 2024-2025</td>	Further Details	Compliance & Enforcement Team Plan 2024-2025
		Responsibility	Key Assumption		
	DCO C&E	Ratification of Byelaw by Defra			

Overarching Objectives



3.3 Research and Policy Horizon Goals

MPA Management 2024 	What and Why	Status	Success Criteria	
	<p>To achieve Defra’s interim target that ‘all management measures are to be in place across all MPAs by 2024’. This target contributes to the wider MPA targets set under the Government’s Environment Improvement Plan 2023.</p> <p>(1) To introduce management measures for T3 MCZs and additional features for T1&T2 MCZs ensuring that the Conservation Objectives of any feature within an MCZ are furthered.</p> <p>(2) Incorporate an update to existing management within district-wide MPAs (SPAs, SACs) based on the best available spatial evidence of feature presence/extent, as provided by NE, to ensure that there is no damage, disturbance or adverse impact caused by fishing activity on the features subject to protection.</p> <p>(3) 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.</p>	<p>Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review: Phase 1: Byelaw with MMO since October 2023 for QA prior to SoS consideration.</p>	To achieve by end of 2024, in line with Government targets	
		<p>Shore Gathering Review: Phase 1: Development of draft measures, aim for delivery to MMO and Defra for consideration by Secretary of State during 2024.</p>	Further Details	Research and Policy Team Plan 2024-2025.
		<p>Black Breem Review: Development of draft measures, aim for delivery to MMO and Defra for consideration by SoS during 2024</p>	Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority approval at each stage of Byelaw development. • Timely provision of Conservation Advice from Natural England. • Timely QA of draft byelaws by MMO and Defra, prior to Secretary of State ratification.
		Who	DCO Research & Policy, Senior Policy Specialist	
Overarching Objectives				
				

Frontrunner Fisheries Management Plans

What			
To contribute to the consideration of the short-term outputs of the frontrunner FMPs to ensure compatibility of district work with nationally agreed directions in fisheries management, with wider directional awareness and alignment with medium to long-term objectives.			
Relevance to Southern IFCA		Success Criteria	
Whelk FMP		Contribute to the national delivery of the Short Term (1-2) year frontrunner outcomes.	
Short-term outputs: address evidence gaps	Undertake a pilot project looking at CPUE data in accordance with the outcomes of the Whelk FMP. Outcomes will inform Southern IFCA's understanding of the whelk fishery and management following the anticipated introduction of the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Byelaw.		
		Further Details	
		Research and Policy Team Plan 2024-25	
Medium-long term: permit schemes	To implement the Southern IFCA PFB, using it as a pilot for wider permit approaches to whelk fisheries.	Who	
		DCO Research & Policy	
Scallop FMP		Overarching Objectives	
Address evidence gaps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review existing tri-annual SCE Stock Assessment methodology seeking improvements and regional/national alignment with local industry and national partners. 2) To undertake a feasibility study using drop down cameras, supported by Cornwall IFCA, as well as an extension of days on Southern IFCA's Solent scallop surveys to deploy cameras. Outcomes will help to inform evidence base requirements as set under the scallop FMP, as well as the annual management of the Solent scallop fishery under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw. 		
Crab & Lobster FMP			
Regional (fine scale) management	To implement the Southern IFCA PFB, using it as a pilot for wider permit approaches to managing crab and lobster fisheries.		

BTFG Review: Phase 2



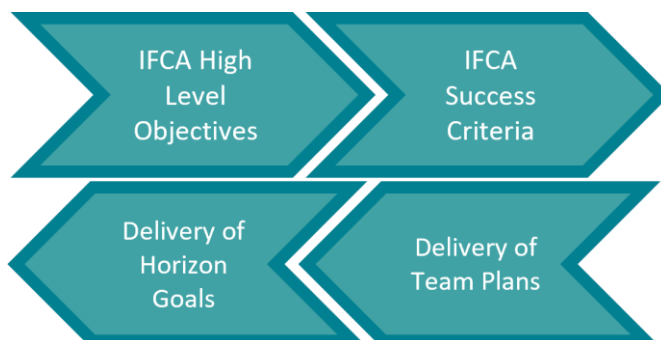
What and Why	Status
<p>To consider district wide management interventions for sensitive habitats in relation to BTFG in line with the Southern IFCA duties under S153 of the MaCAA. This target contributes to the delivery of the Government’s vision under the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 and the statutory targets under The Environment Act (2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 II) 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 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 I 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. 	<p>Stage 1: Evidence gathering.</p> <p>Success Criteria</p> <p>Progress workstream through 2024 to contribute to Government vision under EIP and The Environment Act (2021).</p> <p>Further Details</p> <p>Research and Policy Team Plan 2024-2025.</p> <p>Key Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority approval of progression of workstream through each relevant stage. • Provision of evidence through consultation and other evidence gathering exercises. <p>Who</p> <p>DCO Research & Policy, Senior Policy Specialist</p>

Overarching Objectives



SECTION 4: Reporting Metrics

Southern IFCA will report on the annual delivery of the 2024-2025 Annual Plan in the context of:



SECTION 5: Further Information

If you would like to find out more about Southern IFCA, then please visit our website at www.southern-ifca.gov.uk

