



Recreational Sea Angling Strategy



Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Angling Strategy

The IFCA Vision

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

Purpose of the Document

This document sets out the Southern IFCA angling strategy. The IFCA is committed to successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry within the Southern IFCA District. This includes recognition of the important sea angling sector. This document establishes a framework through which to engage the angling community, inform the IFCA's policy development to support the needs of this sector

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1. Southern IFCA

- 1.1 The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) is one of ten IFCAs whose jurisdictions cover the entire coastline of England. The marine element of the IFCA District extends 6 miles seaward and the terrestrial element covers the constituent local Authority areas.
- 1.2 The Southern IFCA was created in 2011. Southern IFCA is a joint committee of the Councils which fund the Authority. Southern IFCA is tasked with the sustainable management of inshore sea fisheries resources in its District.
- 1.3 The duties and powers of the Southern IFCA can be principally found in the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 has modernised the way that inshore sea fisheries resources are managed in England.
- 1.4 IFCAs have a diverse membership. IFCA members are representatives from the constituent local authorities (who provide funding for the IFCA) along with people from across the different sectors that use, or are knowledgeable about the inshore marine area, such as commercial and recreational fishermen, environmental groups and marine researchers, who offer their time voluntarily. The Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency and Natural England also each have a statutory seat on the IFCA. Through this structure the Southern IFCA helps to put local authorities, local communities, local businesses and individual citizens in the driving seat, allowing them to play a bigger part in the protection and enhancement of their inshore marine environment.

2. Recreational Sea Angling

- 2.1 Recreational sea angling (RSA) is one of the country's most popular sports, its participants contributing significantly to local economies and businesses. The Sea Angling 2012¹ report summarises RSA activity, and its socio-economic value, across England. Data collected from over 11,000 sea anglers led to estimates of an angling community of 884,000, spending £1.23 billion, supporting 10,400 FTE (full-time equivalent) jobs
- 2.2 Sea angling in the District is extensive and is widespread. The recreational rod and line fisheries include shore angling, private boat angling and charter boat angling. Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight are nationally recognised as an important destination for all forms of the sport; this is a function of a number of factors:
 - The proximity to a large human population.
 - The diversity of features and habitats ranging from muddy estuaries to chalk reefs.
 - The diverse assemblage of fish species.
 - Good boat access provided by sheltered moorings in areas around the Solent and Poole Harbour.
- 2.3 Due to its significance it is key that Southern IFCA supports, encourages and promotes sustainable sea angling within Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

3. Need for sea angling strategy

3.1 Within part 6 of Marine and Coastal Access Act, the duties of IFCA are described as:

(1)The authority for an IFC district must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in that district.

(2)In performing its duty under subsection (1), the authority for an IFC district must—

(a) seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way,

(b) seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the district with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation,

(c) take any other steps which in the authority's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development, and

(d) seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district.

Subsection (d) Describes the need to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district. The management of the fisheries within the district must therefore consider the requirements of all stakeholders including recreational sea anglers to ensure the required balance.

3.2 Southern IFCA have also been set a number of success criteria designed to assist with developing the IFCA vision. These include:

- 1) IFCA have sound governance and staff are motivated and respected
- 2) Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the district.
- 3) A fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime is in place.
- 4) IFCA work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders.
- 5) IFCA make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.
- 6) IFCA support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment.
- 7) IFCA are recognised and heard.

3.3 The recreational rod and line fisheries include shore angling, private boat angling and charter boat angling It is estimated that 20% of the angling community belongs to an angling club. As a result of this the angling sector is particularly diverse, this means that any approach towards engagement or focus on angling should be strategic and considered.

3.4 Southern IFCA is required to consider anglers alongside other stakeholders, however any strategy needs to consider the significance of recreational angling as a sector and the benefits of further developing a relationship with the sector.

3.5 A number of studies have highlighted the importance of recreational sea angling and aimed at quantifying the social and economic benefits of recreational sea angling, the most recent being sea angling 2012, a national survey conducted by CEFAS on behalf of DEFRA. This collected data from over 11,000 sea anglers in England through various methods. The survey estimated:

- There are 884 000 sea anglers in England, with 2% of all adults going sea angling.
- England spent £1.23 billion on the sport
- This supported 10,400 full time equivalent jobs
- This indirectly supports over 23 600 jobs

The study also re-enforced the social and well-being benefits of the sport including providing relaxation, physical exercise and a route for socialising.

3.6 Southern IFCA also undertook a literature review and survey to go further than the above study and collect extra information, with a view to assist in the development of an angling strategy. The findings of this area available on the Southern IFCA website. To summarize some of the key points:

- Most anglers felt that the angling in the Southern IFCA district was better than most.
- Over half felt that the region could sustain an increase in angling activity, those that responded otherwise identified low stocks as the reason.
- Most anglers felt that the IFCA should be providing a service to anglers.

Other information including the targeted species, preferred means of communication, awareness of legislation and favoured regulation was also provided. The report identified that the anglers in the Southern IFCA district considered it an important past time, but felt that the experience could be improved, either by better communication, further regulation (commercial or recreational) or better engagement and that the IFCA had a role in the working with the recreational sector and providing a service.

3.7 Working closer with the sector will allow for more developed data sharing, a more detailed understanding of a diverse sector and how it operates, better promotion of the IFCA and work it does as well as provide the opportunity for management measures to be based on evidence from a wider range of sources. Following completion of the IFCA RSA report officers made a recommendation to the Authority that a stakeholder liaison group should be formed to further the development of an angling strategy and help to achieve these goals. It was identified that this group should be formed of anglers across the district should facilitate the development of more effective communication with the sector from which the IFCA can build a sea angling strategy. This group was formed on the 23rd April 2015 and the terms of reference of the group can be found in annex 1. The group is made up of individuals with an angling background. The group includes different sectors including charter vessel owners and is made up of individuals distributed across the Southern IFCA district in an attempt to represent as many areas as possible.

4. Areas of Focus

4.1 The Southern IFCA survey and literature review highlighted the key areas of focus for a successful strategy. These are:

- Engagement
- Management
- Promotion

4.2 Engagement

The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) must communicate effectively with the local community and engage with stakeholders in the local decision process if we are to deliver our vision, which is to “lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry”.

Engagement objectives should include:

- Raising awareness – ensuring that:
 - o Stakeholder have an understanding of the roles and duties of the IFCA
 - o Stakeholder and communities have a greater understanding of the types of fishing and the value of marine fisheries (both commercial and recreational) in the IFCA District.
- Identifying issues:
 - o Stakeholders and communities add value to the shared understanding of issues and they feel empowered to engage with the IFCA to take action where it is needed.
 - o More local communities are interested in local fisheries and engage with us and the fishing communities to improve their coastal marine fisheries and environment.
- Seeking Shared Solutions
 - o Stakeholders and communities know how and when to input into IFCA planning and delivery and can do so in an open and constructive way.
 - o Wider environmental, social and economic improvements are integrated into delivery when appropriate.

The authority has to date spent time engaging the angling sector but it is clear that there is a requirement for further engagement, and due to the diverse nature of the sector, engagement should be well considered and strategic to be most efficient with limited resources. The development of the Recreational Angling Sector Group will provide an initial point of contact for the IFCA and will be used to ensure that the above aims are adhered to. The group not only provides an immediate forum for discussion with anglers from across the district, it also provides a group for discussion to identify new ways to engage with the industry. Moving forward, this group will be vital in identifying new ways to engage with the angling community including:

- Direct Attendance at meetings of established groups/clubs in the local angling community
- Interesting and engaging use of social Media
- Information provided in forms of fliers, newsletters wheelhouse cards etc.

4.3 Management

When managing the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the Southern IFCA district, the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 states that Southern IFCA must seek to balance the needs of all stakeholders including recreational fishers.

The IFCA's represent a form of co-management and those with angling backgrounds are appointed to IFCA committees due to their expertise within the sector. Southern IFCA currently has a committee member appointed for their knowledge/experience of Recreational Sea Angling. As part of any consultation the IFCA will provide the angling trust and local clubs with information on relevant consultation and encourage engagement.

Recreational anglers however represent a diverse sector and, following Sea angling 2012 and the Southern IFCA survey, it was identified that there was a need to develop an Angling Sector Group that represented anglers from across the district with a variety of interests. In line with its terms of reference comment and provide input into proposed local fisheries management.

This section of focus is linked to the engagement objectives. By developing an effective engagement regime it will make it easier to implement key management objectives which require input from all sectors, such as the review of management measures or the development of new byelaws. The Recreational Angling Sector Group will be used to not only provide consultation on management measures but also identify, through the engagement objectives, the most appropriate methods to further the requirements

5. Summary

This strategy has identified the key areas of focus as part of the IFCA's management plan, these have included:

- Focus on communication and engagement to raise awareness and enable the community to identify issues and work on shared solutions.
- Involvement and consultation on management development and review.
- Work with partner organisations on joint projects to promote sustainable angling in the Southern IFCA district.

As the Recreational Sea angling group plays a key role in achieving Southern IFCA's angling strategy, a key aim when it was formed, the authority will develop an MoA with the group to ensure that both partners are working towards a common goal and sharing information in an efficient manner. The MoA can ensure that both the IFCA and the group recognise the mutual benefit to be gained from working closely together in order to maximise the effect of their respective actions on the recreational angling sector.

Annex 1

Recreational Angling Sector Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

Recreational sea angling is one of the country's most popular sports and its participants contribute significantly to the local economies and businesses. The Recreational Sector Working Group, aims to promote more effective communication with the recreational sea angling sector in Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset, and the body responsible for the management of local inshore fisheries, Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA).

Membership

The group will, where possible, best represent the local angling community but should aim include up to 3 members from each Angling Trust region. New members may join the group on invite from the group's current membership. An officer/officers representing Southern IFCA will also attend meetings.

Desired outcomes

The group will aim to:

- Provide a forum to discuss fisheries management topics relevant to the local sea angling sector.
- Develop more effective communication between the sea angling sector and the bodies responsible for management.
- Assist in the development of local sea angling strategies.
- Comment and provide input into proposed local fisheries management.
- Promote sea angling to the local community
- Promote data sharing between the local anglers and the relevant management bodies.

Meetings

Meetings will be chaired by an elected chairman, whom members must elect annually. A secretariat for the group will be agreed by the members upon election of the chair. Any papers associated with each meeting will be circulated by the secretariat no less than 1 week prior to meetings.

The frequency of the meetings will be quarterly and supplemented by regular communication via email etc. Meetings will take place on Wednesdays at 5pm.

Resources

Southern IFCA will contribute £250 annually to the running of the group. How this is to be spent will be determined by members.