



Annual Report April 2019 to March 2020

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Chairman's Welcome

This report outlines the many ways in which our work continues: Balancing the needs of our inshore fishing communities, while also protecting the marine environment. Among the many issues we face, the decline of our native oyster stocks is illustrative of the challenges and complexities of fisheries management. The various contributing causes for this national and century long decline are well documented. Historic overfishing has played a part, but today the problem is a cumulative interaction of many anthropogenic factors which conspire to complicate our efforts at restoration. Native oysters, like most of our stocks, require complementary multi-agency measures and we continue to work with other statutory authorities and environmental NGOs for the benefit of our coastal communities. Thanks to a talented staff team, each year progress is delivered.

Finally, on behalf of Authority members and staff, I must express profound appreciation to our departing Chief Officer Rob Clark who, during his years with us has proved such an innovative and capable leader. Our people and stakeholders know well the many benefits of his tenure, and his departure to lead our national Association of IFCA's marks the end of an era for us. Rob's replacement is Ian Jones, the preeminent candidate in a strong field. We know Ian well from his time as Deputy Chief Officer with us. His extensive and highly relevant experience both in the UK and internationally have equipped him to be a first-rate chief. We welcome Ian and look forward to continuing progress under his leadership.

John Humphreys
September 2020

1.0 Introduction

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

1.1 The IFCA Model

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

1.1.1 National IFCA Vision

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

1.1.2 National IFCA High Level Objectives and Success Criterion

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

Table 1: High Level Objectives & Success Criterion

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

1.1.3 Southern IFCA Annual Plan

The Southern IFCA Annual Plan documents how the Authority intends to support attainment of HLOs and SC (and ultimately the IFCA vision) when mapping out the work priorities for the year ahead. The Annual Plan 2019-2020 was published on the 1st April 2019 following ratification at the meeting of the Authority in March 2019.

1.2 The Annual Report 2019-2020

This report seeks to provide an overview of how Southern IFCA have performed in their delivery of Annual Plan priorities for the period April 2019 to March 2020, in the context the IFCA Vision, via High Level Objectives and Success Criteria. This will be qualified in this Annual Report in Section 2.0, via a

demonstration of how Southern IFCA have achieved the delivery of Success Criteria via Performance Indicators, as agreed in the Southern IFCA Annual Plan 2019-2020 ('Annual Plan 19/20').

In addition, Section 3.0 of this report demonstrates how Southern IFCA have achieved their specific delivery priorities, as set in Annual Plan 19/20.

Due to the reactive nature of the work Southern IFCA deliver, in addition to work delivered in line with annual planning, Section 4.0 of this Report provides an overview of other notable areas of work Southern IFCA have undertaken during the 2019-2020 reporting period.

2.0 Achieving Success Criteria via Performance Indicators

2.1 Achieving Success Criterion 1

IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders		
Definition: IFCAs will be visible, respected and trusted regulators within coastal communities and will maintain and deliver a strategy to communicate their vision and duties effectively. IFCAs will engage with policy makers, industry, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), recreational and commercial users; and other regulators. They will work jointly and collaboratively with partner organisations across boundaries; will participate and contribute to the development and implementation of regional and national marine policy, including the marine planning regime; will take long-term strategic decisions and manage risks effectively. IFCAs may maintain a national body to co-ordinate the activities of authorities that are party to arrangements.		
Outcomes	Performance Indicators	
	Objective	End of Year Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy. The IFCA will maintain its website, ensuring public access to current fisheries and conservation information for the District, including management requirements and byelaws. Non-reserved IFCA Committee papers will be published. The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level The IFCA and its principal partners will have a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. Memoranda of Understanding with MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and Cefas will be maintained. Opportunities for greater efficiencies, effective joint working and collaboration will be explored and implemented when feasible. 	SC1A	The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year Achieved In addition, Southern IFCA continue to develop, through the Recreational Sea Angling Group, a network of contacts with angling clubs.
	SC1B	The IFCA will have completed a review of its Communication Strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year. Achieved Southern IFCA agreed and published a Communication Plan and incorporated objectives established in the Communication Plan into the Southern IFCA Website review.
	SC1C	The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month. Achieved Southern IFCA reviewed the website (www.southern-ifca.gov.uk) and the @SouthernIFCA twitter feed was used in an interactive and engaging way. This work will continue into 2020-2021.
	SC1D	The IFCA will have reviewed its website and ensured it meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March each year.
	SC1E	The IFCA will have reviewed all of its Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed timescale. Achieved All of the local MoUs were reviewed internally (to include MMO, Natural England & Environment Agency). No updates were deemed necessary.
	SC1F	By 31 March each year, the IFCA will have participated appropriately, proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified in the annual plan. Achieved Southern IFCA actively participated with The Association of IFCAs, the Chief Officers Group, the Technical Advisory Group & the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group. The record of meetings of the Association of IFCAs & the Technical Advisory Group were published in Committee Papers. Through the Dorset MPA project we engaged with local communities on the management of fisheries within MPAs.

2.2 Achieving Success Criterion 2

IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime		
Definition: The IFCA enforcement regime is risk-based, makes appropriate use of intelligence, meets legislative standards and complies with the Regulators Code. It should make effective use of the resources available to regulators; complement and align, if possible, with the regimes in adjacent IFC Districts and management by other organisations including the MMO and Environment Agency. Consistency and fairness is important. Regulatory compliance is promoted. Enforcement action is carried out by trained, professional officers working to clear standards of conduct.		
Outcomes	Performance Indicators	
	Objective	End of Year Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will publish its Enforcement Risk Register and Strategy, clearly setting out its approach to achieving regulatory compliance and potential sanctions that may be applied for infringements and/or offences. The IFCA will have developed consistency in regulations (byelaws) with other organisations The IFCA will manage operational activity (e.g. through a Tasking & Co-ordination Group) and capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence that is compatible with partner organisations. It is engaged in joint working with partner organisations. Warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers will be trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. They will maintain professionalism and make appropriate interventions to deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity 	SC2A	The IFCA will ensure its Enforcement Risk Register and Strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year Achieved The Southern IFCA Risk Register and Strategy was published on the Southern IFCA Website and updated every six months.
	SC2B	The IFCA will demonstrate in its Annual Report how it has worked with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures. Achieved Southern IFCA continue to maintain an intelligence led, risk-based approach to enforcement and enhanced our intelligence system.
	SC2C	The IFCA will compile records of enforcement activity in a standard format; provide them to the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) and publish them on its website. Achieved We continue to publish our enforcement and compliance activity in a national standardised format. We worked closely with the MMO and other relevant partners to coordinate sharing of assets and resources through a joint Tactical Coordination Group (TCG). The TCG, informed by our intelligence systems and risk assessments, coordinated the deployment of our assets with partners.
	SC2D	The IFCA will adopt the national Code of Conduct for IFCOs, which will be reviewed annually and published on its website by 1 April. Achieved The Code of Conduct was adhered to and reviewed internally and outcomes fed into the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group
	SC2E	The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for all Warranted Officers. Achieved Southern IFCA incorporated The Code of Conduct into the IFCOs 6 monthly appraisals.
	SC2F	Warranted Officers attain accreditation. All undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Achieved Southern IFCA retained a leading role in the delivery of national training.

2.3 Achieving Success Criterion 3

IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts			
Definition: The IFCAs were created as statutory inshore regulators by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. They are relevant authorities for implementing international environmental commitments including the Birds, Habitats, Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives and make an important contribution to securing a network of well managed marine protected areas, including European Marine Sites and Marine Conservation Zones. Fisheries Management Plans identify local management measures which should be based on evidence; be timely; subject to appropriate consultation and in step with national initiatives and priorities. An IFCA should balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting sea fisheries resources with the need to protect the environment. It should make a contribution to sustainable development.			
Outcomes		Objective	Performance Indicators End of Year Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will identify issues likely to affect sustainable management of the marine environment in the District; undertake risk assessments and gap analysis; review appropriateness of existing measures; evaluate management options and develop and implement proportionate marine management solutions. The IFCA will support implementation of a well-managed network of marine protected areas by: developing a range of criteria-based management options; implementing management measures to ensure that inshore fisheries activities comply with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the revised approach to managing commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites; and that local management contributes to delivery of targets for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans. The IFCA will develop Fisheries Management Plans for priority 	SC3A	The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority	Achieved In addition, during 2019 further MPAs were designated in the Southern IFCA District.
	SC3B	The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website	Achieved New management measures are accompanied by an 'Impact Assessment' which demonstrates the use of best available evidence in accordance with guidance. In addition (where relevant) Habitats Regulation Assessment have also been developed and published in order to accompany the development of new management measures.
	SC3C	Management information (e.g. sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to demonstrate the extent of effectiveness of the intervention	Achieved See Section 5.1
	SC3D	The IFCA will have developed a range of criteria-based management options that are explained to stakeholders through the IFCA website, and reviewed by 31 March each year	Achieved An overarching Southern IFCA Byelaw Process Document was published in order to provide stakeholders with an understanding of Byelaw development process and management considerations. In addition, via the 2019-2020 Research and Evidence Strategy (published), management priorities for the year were identified with supporting rationales underpinning the delivery priorities
	SC3E	New IFCA management measures selected for	Achieved

species where appropriate. Shared objectives will be developed with identified partners; actions identified and best practice reflected so that management makes a contribution to sustainable development.		development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales	In line with the delivery timetables identified in The Research and Evidence Strategy 2019-2020
	SC3F	The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from Fisheries Management Plans in its own Annual Plan, which will be published by 31 March each year.	<p><u>Achieved</u></p> <p>We have continued to work with our partners in the Recreational Sea Angling Group to establish further opportunities towards the establishment of an Angling Strategy. We developed a Management Intentions Document for the Solent Bivalve Fisheries, setting CPUE intentions. We began the process of reviewing our management of aquaculture within Poole Harbour</p>
	SC3G	Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report	

2.4 Achieving Success Criterion 4

IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional		
Definition: IFCAs are statutory authorities and sit within the local government family. Authority members may be either general members or local councillors. They comply with Codes of Conduct and the Standing Orders that apply to meetings of local government committees. General members are appointed on merit, through open competition and for a term. They are subject to an annual performance appraisal. An IFCA is funded by levy, charged to its member councils. Funding originates in local taxation. An IFCA is accountable for its use of public resources and should ensure that a proper auditing regime provides confidence in its commitment and spend of public money. It should make effective use of its resources, including staff and assets. An IFCA has a statutory obligation to prepare and publish Annual Plans and Annual Reports.		
Outcomes	Performance Indicators	
	Objective	End of Year Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will demonstrate its long-term strategic approach to sustainable marine management by having appropriate plan-making, review, update and amendment procedures in place. The IFCA will record its performance against corporate outcomes and indicators as soon as practically possible following the end of the financial year. Staff performance management systems will be in place that link to the IFCA success criteria. There will be an induction procedure for new joiners. Staff training and development needs will be identified. Performance will be managed and, where necessary, improvement procedures will be followed. The IFCA Committee will be supported by an organised, efficient and effective secretariat. New members will receive an induction pack and briefing from the Authority. There will be a rolling twelve-month schedule of quarterly Authority meetings. Notices of meetings and documentation will be made available in line with Standing Orders. 	SC4A The IFCA will publish a Plan on its website by 31 March, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.	Achieved Southern IFCA published an Annual Plan in accordance with agreed priorities. In addition, a Five-Year Legislative Forecast was also published.
	SC4B After the end of each financial year, the IFCA will publish a Report on its website describing its activities, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.	Achieved This report is integrated into this report in Section 2.4.1
	SC4C IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 March each year.	Achieved All IFCOs had an Appraisal Plan set by 1st April 2019, a Mid-Year review and an End of Year review (by 31st March). Appraisal objectives were linked to the organisation's Annual Plan. Training opportunities were identified through this process.
	SC4D An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.	Achieved In addition, Southern IFCA held 8 public meetings of the Authority, and introduced a 'light touch' system of performance monitoring for General Members of the Authority and we will roll out the General Members pack to support Members in their role. See Section 2.4.2:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential, or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972 	SC4E	The IFCA will have demonstrated, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation District have worked responsively and effectively together.	Achieved In addition, we continue to engage with partnerships in integrated catchment management and in the establishment of management systems in transitional and coastal waters.
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2.4.1 Finance and Accounts 2019-2020

2.4.1.1 Accounting Summary 2019-2020

The main source of funding of the Southern IFCA is through a levy of £773,931 on constituent local Authorities in accordance with The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010. Of this, Defra currently reimburses the local authorities £329,425 through 'New Burdens Funding' which is paid through the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Local Services Support Grant.

PROFIT AND LOSS	ACTUAL		BUDGET
	Yr to 31Mar20		Yr to 31Mar20
INCOME	£		£
Bank interest receivable	2,369		400
Levies	773,931		773,931
Court costs awarded	5,439		3,000
Poole clam licences/permits	27,000		22,500
Rents - Poole leases	27,803		28,901
Training	0		15,000
Transfers from Marine Act reserve	14,637		19,000
Other income	295,555		109,100
TOTAL INCOME	1,146,734		971,832
EXPENDITURE			
Administration	771,129		850,503
Patrol Vessels	40,271		35,832
Vehicles & Travel	36,328		46,046
Depreciation	39,242		46,369
Appropriations	0		0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	886,970		978,750
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPEND	259,764		(6,918)

2.4.1.2 Explanation of major difference between budget and actual for the year to 31 March 2020

Asset sales

As usual the budget for the financial year to 31 March 2020 was set late in the previous year - 2018. At that time, it was expected that the existing premises would be sold but the amount to be realised was based on an estimated valuation. However, the market improved and the sale realised a greater return than was forecast. Furthermore, ongoing defects with the largest of the four patrol vessels, coupled with reduced service demand, meant that there was a decision to sell this vessel in year. The budget therefore estimated profit on sale of assets at £98k. In the event PV Tenacity was sold at a book profit of £45k and the premises made £50k more than expected.

Costs savings

In past years SIFCA has spent significantly on legal costs prosecuting alleged illegal fishing. A provision of £25k for the forthcoming year was deemed prudent. As a consequence of court delays and greater compliance these costs were not incurred in year.

There were also savings on salaries and associated costs of £26k due to one officer leaving and another being on long term sickness prior to their departure.

There were further unbudgeted savings on rates (£14k) and anticipated project costs which did not materialise (£36k)

Extra income

Project funding of £56k was obtained for three projects which was not expected when the budget was set.

Together, the above accounts for £251k of the £267k difference between the budgeted loss of £7k and the actual profit of £260k. A very exceptional year.

Notwithstanding this excess of income over expenditure, it is helpful to understand the context; elsewhere in this report it is noted that the Joint Venture Patrol Vessel procurement project is paused pending a review of the needs of the IFCA. Therefore, the IFCA is likely to be required to purchase vessel(s) for its own use. Noting that the Authority cannot borrow money this income increases the cash reserves, such that the cost incurred in 2018 associated with the purchase of the new premises, may be offset against additional income necessary to meet its vessel asset needs.

BALANCE SHEET	31 Mar 2020		
Fixed Assets			
Office and Equipment	501,488		
Patrol Vessels	48,977		
Vehicles	50,151		
	600,616		
Current Assets			
Sundry Debtors	30,455		
Cash at Bank and In Hand	1,097,832		

	1,128,287		
Sundry Creditors	(162,844)		
Net assets	1,566,059		
Represented by			
Capital Finance Account	600,616		
Patrol Vessel Renewal Reserve	443,479		
Marine Act Reserve	10,087		
Research Reserve	42,677		
General Reserve	469,200		
Total Financing	1,566,059		

2.4.1.2 Accounting Statement

The Audit Commission Act 1998 (section 2 and Schedule 2) required joint committees to prepare accounts and undergo an audit separate from their constituent bodies. From 1 April 2015, implementation of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 meant that joint committees are no longer required to have their accounts separately prepared and audited. Southern IFCA has however elected, in the interest of public assurance and accountability, to maintain an external examination of the accounts and for the reporting period Francis Clark LLP have undertaken an Independent limited assurance report on Southern IFCA Accounts.

2.4.1.3 Patrol Vessels

The following resources belonged to Southern IFCA on the 30th March 2020.

FPV Vessel details	HP	MCA Work Boat Code	Length	Crew	Commissioned	Life remaining	Replacement cost
Stella Barbara	240	Cat. 3 (20 nm offshore)	8m	2-3	2015	10	£115,000
Endeavour	115	Cat. 3 (20 nm offshore)	6m	2-3	2012	14	£42,000
Protector	280	Cat. 3 (20 nm offshore)	8m	2-3	2013	9	£80,000

During the reporting period FPV Tenacity was sold (on the open market) out of service. The IFCA entered into joint venture programme with University of Southampton for a replacement and the research function of the IFCA was delivered through external contract with the principles of co-management with the fishing industry at the heart of the evidence strategy

2.4.2 Members Attendance at Authority Meetings 2019-2020

Member	% Attendance at Authority (3)	% Attendance at Technical Advisory Committee (4)
Cllr Mr M White	100	N/A
Cllr Mrs A McEvoy BSc (Hons)	100	N/A
Cllr Mr M Roberts	100	N/A
Cllr Mr R Hughes *	33	N/A
Cllr Mr J Hobart	0	N/A
Cllr Mr R Rocca *	33	N/A
Cllr Mr M Miles *	33	N/A
Cllr J Savage	66	N/A
Cllr M Winnington	66	N/A
Ms R Irish *	66	75
Dr K Sims	100	100
Dr R Morgan	66	100
Mr N Horsman	66	100
Mr G Wordsworth	66	75
Ms L MacCallum	100	75
Prof J Humphreys	100	75
Dr A C Jensen	66	75
Mr S Kershaw	66	75
Mr T Legg	100	75
Dr S Cripps	100	100
Mr R Stride	100	100
N/A = not applicable i.e. the member is not required to attend these meetings		
* = change to appointee partway through year		

2.5 Achieving Success Criterion 5

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives			
Definition: IFCA's are statutory regulators for their Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. Decision-making should be based on evidence. All IFCA's are supported by officers who pool their expertise and share best practice as a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). A programme of research activity and monitoring is planned, developed and updated in consultation with partners. The programme informs management decisions and supports justification for additional research and evidence gathering.			
Outcomes		Performance Indicators	
		Objective	End of Year Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources Standard Operating Procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners A list of research databases held by the IFCA and the frequency of their review Non-confidential meta-data collected through the IFCA research programme should be recorded in a database available to the marine research community 	SC5A	The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has been made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year	Achieved The Research and Evidence Strategy 2019-2020 was published on the Southern IFCA Website
	SC5B	The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making	Achieved The Research and Evidence Strategy Report 2019-2020 is integrated into this Annual Report, as well as being a standalone document published on the Southern FCA Website
	SC5C	The IFCA's contribution to TAG and progress that has made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report	Achieved Southern IFCA actively participate and assist in the IFCA TAG and IFCO Evidence Officers attended a TAG conference in 2019 in order to bring together national researchers.

3.0 Achieving Annual Plan Delivery Priorities 2019-2020

The Authority committed to the delivery of the following major areas of work during the 2019-2020 reporting year, as identified in the Annual Plan 19-20 and the Strategic Research and Evidence Plan 2019-2020. Further details on delivery are presented in this section.

Priorities for Delivery 2019-2020		Year End Status	Further Information
Compliance	Support national partners in the implementation of the EU Exit planning , through communication & engagement with industry & compliance support.	<u>Achieved</u>	Section 3.1
	Utilising the Southern IFCA Compliance & Enforcement Framework & Southern IFCAs Compliance Risk Register deliver intelligence-led, risk-based enforcement & compliance through strategic and tactical coordination group to ensure the protection & enhancement of the fisheries & marine environment.	<u>Achieved</u>	Section 3.2
Byelaw Reviews	Implement Inshore Netting Review .	<u>Achieved</u>	Section 3.3
	Implement Inshore Potting Review .	<u>Achieved</u>	Section 3.4
	Implement the Solent Bivalve Fishery Review .	<u>Achieved</u>	Section 3.5 and 3.6
Awareness & Engagement	Continued support for inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems rollout.	<i>Ongoing</i>	Section 3.7
	Develop and implement an Aquaculture Strategy .	<u>Achieved</u>	Section 3.8
	Promotion of the management of Marine Protected Areas in Southern IFCA District.	<u>Achieved</u>	Section 3.9
	To manage the delivery of a National MPA project in conjunction with the Association of IFCAs	<u>Achieved</u>	Section 3.10
	We will actively participate in a review of the AIFCA and support the implementation of the recommendations of the review.	<u>Achieved</u>	
Capital & Infrastructure	To engage with Defra in the ' new burdens ' review process.	<i>Ongoing</i>	
	To establish a 4-year finance and resourcing plan .	<u>Achieved</u>	
	To review the capital build programme for a new Fisheries Protection Vessel	<i>Ongoing</i>	Section 3.11
	To complete refurbishment and move into purpose designed office .	<u>Achieved</u>	

3.1 EU Exit Planning

We have continued to work closely with our partners in the MMO through our agreed '6-point plan', to deliver closer working. We provided our vessel availability in readiness and undertook joint patrols through national co-ordination trials. We have implemented and agreed with the MMO a memorandum of agreement for the provision of services in respect of marine conservation, wildlife, marine licensing and fisheries at sea. We have engaged with the NMIC (National Maritime Information Centre) regarding the UK Maritime Response to EU Exit, we have contributed and advised cross-government working groups in relation to matters surrounding EU Exit and the UK fishing industry, this included but was not exclusive to the export and import of shellfish.

3.2 Delivering intelligence-led, risk-based enforcement

3.2.1 Intelligence Reporting

The IFCA enforcement regime is risk-based and makes appropriate use of intelligence that maintains our intelligence led, risk-based approach to enforcement for this financial year. We have a fully implemented shared 'intelligence' system with the MMO.

A total of 309 Intelligence Reports (IRs) were submitted by Southern IFCA during the period from April 2019 to March 2020 (both months inclusive) – 230 in 2019 and 82 in 2020. This is an increase of 21% in the number of IRs submitted for the period of 2018 to 2019 (256 IRs).

The following sections provide a breakdown of the IRs submitted by Southern IFCA throughout the 2019/2020 period, broken down by Month, Location and Category.

3.2.1.1 Monthly reports

On average there were 26 IRs submitted by Southern IFCA per month. The greatest amount occurring in March 2020, in which 44 IRs were created, the month with fewest IRs was November 2019, during which there were 13 IRs submitted (Figure 1).

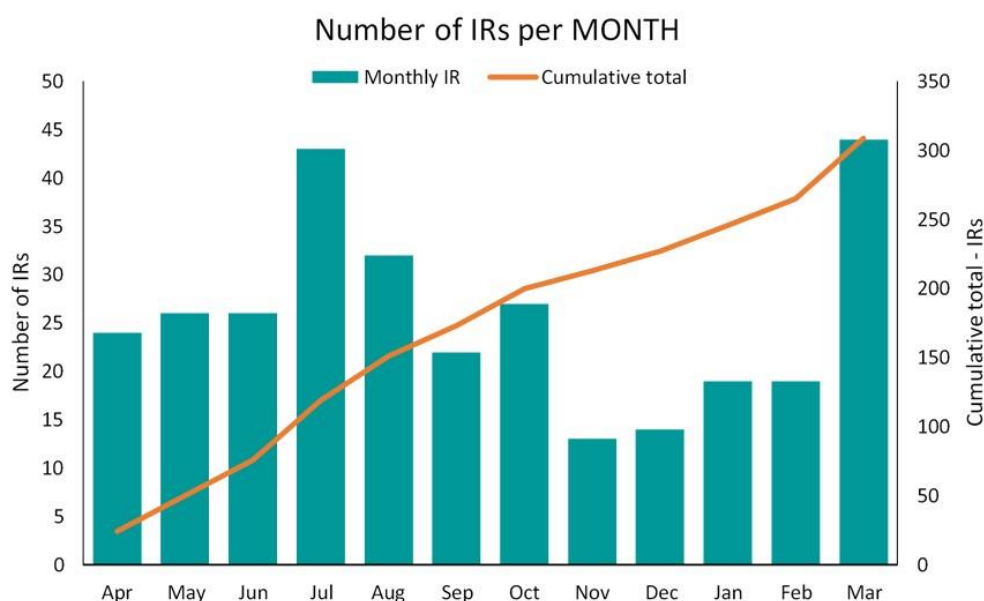


Figure 1: Bar chart showing number of Intelligence Reports submitted per month by Southern IFCA from April 2019 to March 2020 (left axis), with cumulative total shown by line (right axis).

3.2.1.2 Location reports

The Southern IFCA district is split into 5 Zones which roughly run from 1 in the West to 5 in the East (Zone 5 being the Isle of Wight). The Zone with the greatest number of IRs during the reporting period was Zone two, for which there was 153 IRs, the least IRs were submitted for Zone 5, which had 10 IRs (Figure 2). Southern IFCA also received and submitted IRs relating to the District as a whole or related to other locations Nationally, these are captured under 'Zone 0' (Figure 2).

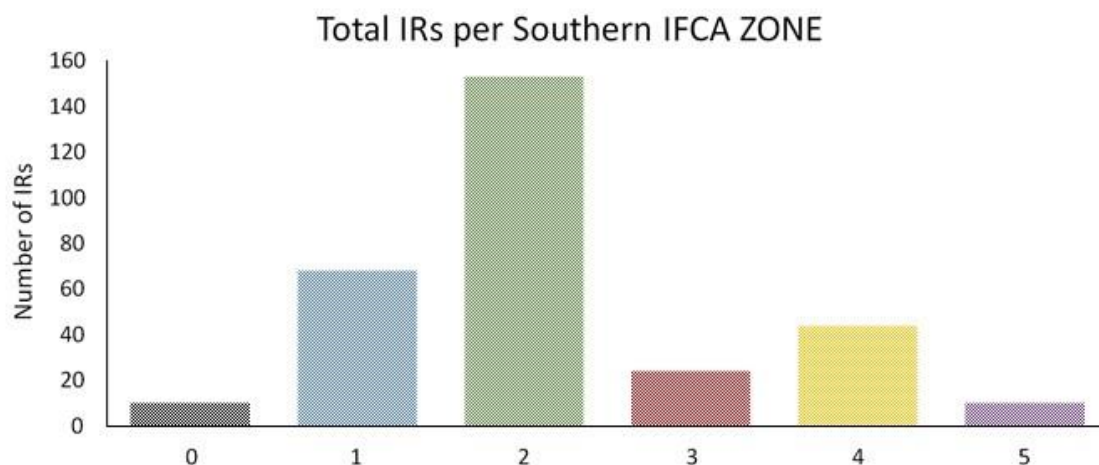


Figure 2: Bar chart showing number of Intelligence Reports submitted per Zone by Southern IFCA from April 2019 to March 2020.

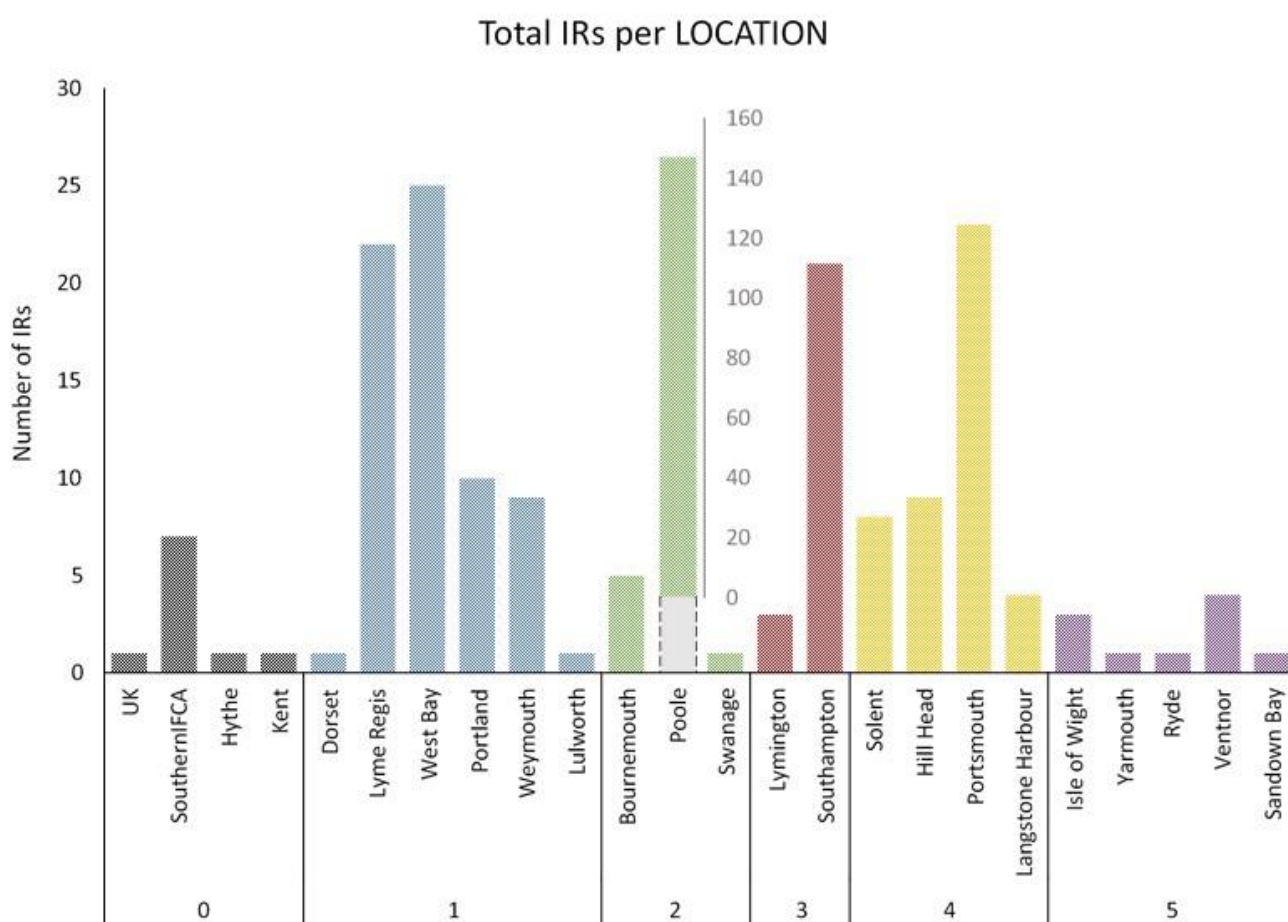


Figure 3: Bar chart showing number of Intelligence Reports submitted for each Location, sectioned into their respective Zone (different coloured bars), by Southern IFCA from April 2019 to March 2020. Data for 'Poole' is plotted on own discreet scale.

Each Zone detailed in Figure 3 contains various locations for which IRs relate to specifically. These locations have been broadly grouped by geographic location, resulting in a total of 20 reporting locations within the Southern IFCA District.

The greatest number of IRs were assigned to Poole, which related to 147 IRs during the period (Figure 3). Where an IR could not be assigned to a specific location these were broadly grouped within a Zone (e.g. Solent).

3.2.1.3 Category reports

There were 21 categories reported against in IRs from April 2019 to March 2020. The category with the most IRs was 'Undersize Fish', for which there was 75 reports, the categories with the fewest IRs are 'Vessel Registration', 'Wildlife' and 'MCZ' which each had one IR attributed to them (Figure 4). During the reporting period a 'COVID19' category was created to specify IRs which concerned information relating to the pandemic, this category facilitated national reporting which assessed the possibly impact the situation was having on the Fishing sector – there were 36 IRs submitted under this category (Figure 4).

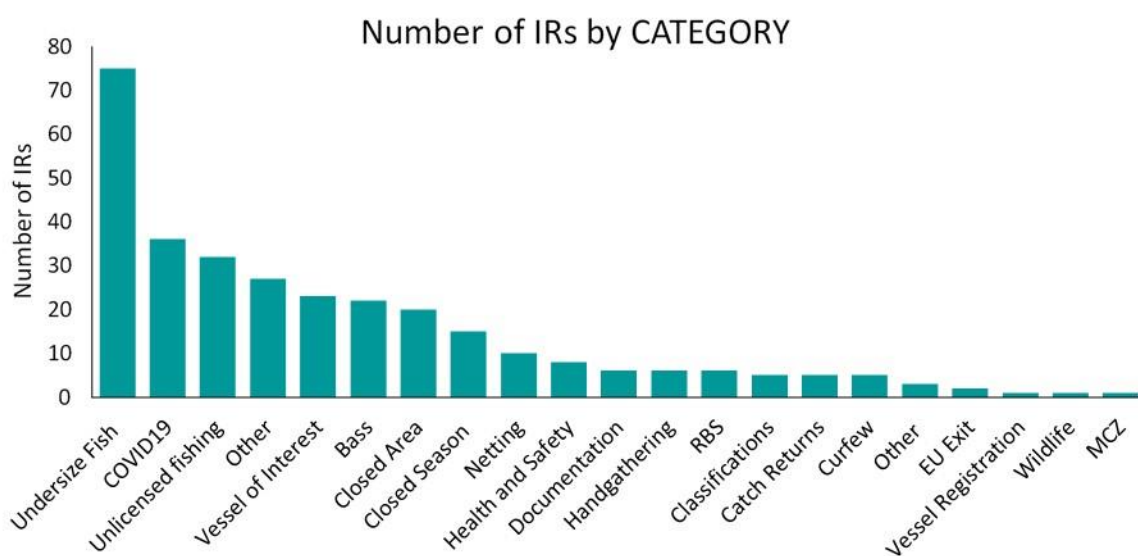


Figure 4: Bar chart showing number of Intelligence Reports submitted per Category by Southern IFCA from April 2019 to March 2020.

3.2.2 Enforcement Actions and Outcomes

The following enforcement performance indicators have been developed and agreed through the IFCA Chief Officers Group: enforcement activity data is compiled in a standard format and provided to the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG). This standardisation allows IFCA annual reports to demonstrate annual enforcement figures in a comparable format.

Category	Metric	Details	Total 2018/19	2019/20
Inspections of sea	Vessel patrols	Any patrol vessel or survey (mother /daughter boat combination as one patrol)	108	88
	Fishing vessel boarding	Any fishing vessel (including unregistered / unlicensed) inspected at sea, where boarding was in pursuit of any relevant duty	283	223
	Fishing gear inspections	Store pots, tiers / strings etc. of fishing gear found deployed in sea, where inspection was in pursuit of any relevant duty. Do not count gear inspected onboard a vessel	35	46
Inspections ashore or in port	Shore patrol	Excursion/visit of any length to any part of the coast for an inspection observation of fishing related activity	191	129
	Port visits	Individual port/cove/beach visits within the shoreline	186	322
	Premises inspections	Markets, merchants refrigerated units, retailers, food producers/outlets etc	73	54
	Fish/shellfish landing inspections	Observations of fish/shellfish as landed ashore from a vessel. Does not include inspections of fish in market or in storage unless landing observed	399	292
	Other inspections	Vessel gear/fish checks in port/ashore, diver and shore angler catches, vehicle contents, shellfish on lay areas etc.	18	38
Investigation outcomes	Verbal Warnings/advisory letters	Warnings, re-briefs or letters to minor breaches of legislation (no further action taken). Where both were issued to one person/company, count as one action	45	46
	Case files generated	For a serious breach of legislation which was thought would or did lead to a formal warning letter or the application of legal sanctions	16	29
	Formal written warnings	For a serious breach of legislation where evidence was gathered was sufficient to take legal proceedings, but where a letter was instead deemed the most appropriate action	11	12
	Formal cautions	All cautions relevant to any one case	0	0
	FAPs offered	All FAPs relevant to any one case	2	3
	Individual/companies prosecuted	All persons and companies relevant to any one case	5	3

3.2.3 Non-Enforcement Compliance Activity

At the Southern IFCA we believe that education and engagement are crucial to achieving good overall compliance with the regulations.

3.2.3.1 Recreational Sea Angling

The dissemination of educational information is particularly important amongst Recreational Sea Anglers; many of whom do not belong to a representative association. During the reporting period we have widely distributed our *Minimum Conservation Reference Size* and *EU Bass Regulations* leaflets. The international decline in the numbers of seabass has necessitated management at a European level. The Southern IFCA have supported the national regulators responsible for implementing the management introduced to rebuild these stocks.

Our records show that over 30 recreational fishers were formally inspected over the reporting period, but general face to face interactions with recreational anglers, when educational information was passed over verbally and/or in leaflet form, were much higher and ran into the hundreds. These interactions occurred during both sea and land patrols. In addition, numerous information packages were distributed both electronically and in person to fishing tackle shops and marinas close to the start of the recreational boating season (April – October). Our permanent information boards remain in situ at key angling locations throughout the IFCA District.



In addition, Southern IFCA has built up a level of trust within the angling community. The Southern IFCA Recreational Sea Angling Group provides:

- a forum to discuss fisheries management topics relevant to the local sea angling sector

- more effective communication between the sea angling sector and the bodies responsible for management
- assistance in the development of local sea angling strategies
- comments and input into proposed local fisheries management
- the promotion of sea angling to the local community
- data sharing between local anglers and the relevant management bodies

Officers also regularly attend the Poole & District Sea Angling Association meetings.

3.2.3.2 The Green Island Saltmarsh Management Area, Poole Harbour

This is an area that has been mapped and developed by the Southern IFCA within the reporting period with the support and input of the land owners, local fishermen, Poole Harbour Commissioners and Natural England. Its purpose is to protect the saltmarsh lying within close proximity of Green Island which is susceptible to the effects of dredging.



Green Island is situated within the Southern IFCA's award winning Poole Harbour Clam and Cockle fishery. The ecosystems created by saltmarsh are valuable to both humans and nature. They provide a number of benefits which include:

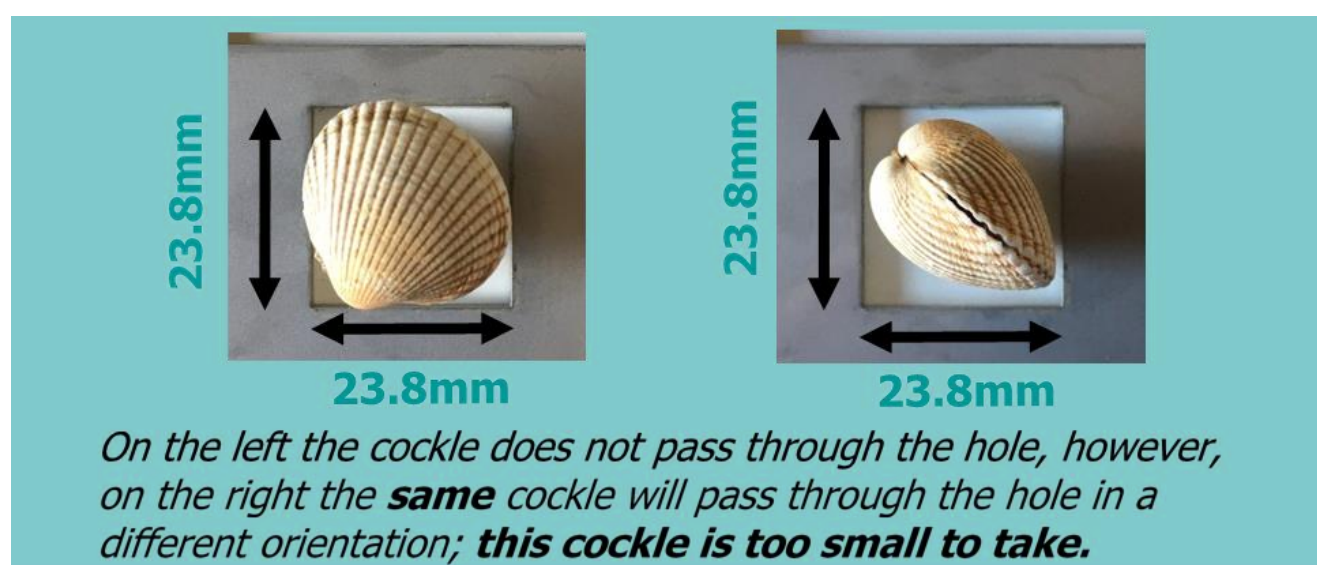
- Nursery areas for fish
- Protection against storms and coastal flooding
- Improvements to water quality through the removal of excessive nutrient loads
- Offsetting climate change effects through the removal of carbon
- Roosting areas for birds

Since its implementation we have regularly monitored the Green Island Saltmarsh Management Area and are pleased to report that the partnership working approach has proved successful and that fishers are respecting the voluntary agreement.

3.2.2.3 Cockle Measurement

During the reporting period we have produced a Cockle Measurement leaflet. This was formulated as a result of some of the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit holders seeking clarification on the correct measuring technique. The measuring regulations, which are an important conservation tool, fall within the Southern IFCA *Fishing for Cockles Byelaw*. A copy of this leaflet was sent to every permit holder prior to the start of the 2020 Poole Harbour Dredge Permit season.

In addition, both commercial & recreational gatherers of shellfish were regularly issued with free measuring gauges during the 2019 season. This practice is ongoing.



3.3 Inshore Netting Review (District wide)

3.3.1 Setting the scene

This is an ongoing work stream that has been undertaken in response to both the outcomes of the Southern IFCA Review of Management Measures (2015), as well as in delivering the Southern IFCA Annual Plan priorities for 2018/2019 and, looking forward, the Five-Year Plan priorities (2019-2023). This workstream will also complement the wider work within DEFRA, with regard to a proposed review of Bass Nurse Areas.

Following Authority consideration, Members identified their objectives to review and, if necessary, develop netting regulations to:

1. Support the use of estuaries and harbours by bass and other fish populations as nursery and refuge areas;
2. Provide protection to migratory fish species as they transit through, and reside within our estuaries and harbours;

3. Balance the social and economic benefits and different needs of users in exploiting the fishery

A Netting Review Working Group has been active since 2017. This Working Group has undertaken a phased approach to the review, focussing on (1) potential areas of Salmonid interactions within estuaries and harbours; (2) nursery species; (3) socio-economic impacts and (4) by-catch. Underpinned by the best available evidence, an 8-week 'call for information' concluded in December 2018. During this 'call for information' a series of public drop and user group focussed meetings were held across the district. Following receipt of 269 written and verbal responses a Summary of Responses document was prepared in January 2018. The Working Group analysed additional evidence received and, during 2019, drafted management proposals. These management proposals were subject to additional pre-consultation in January 2020.

3.3.2 Work achieved April 2019-Mar 2020

The Southern IFCA Technical Advisory Committee resolved to undertake a review of netting regulations within the district through a Working Group of the Authority, which, after considering a wide range of best-available evidence, developed a series of proposed measures. Between 15th October and 7th December 2018, the Authority undertook an eight-week public 1st round of pre-consultation on these proposed measures.

Following the public pre-consultation, the Working Group agreed that, where new evidence had become available, changes to the management recommendations should be considered and, on this basis, the following principles were agreed and applied for the spatial and temporal management of net use:

1. A prohibition of all net use should be considered in estuarine pinch-points and probable salmonid migratory channels to reduce the likelihood of net interactions.
2. Where applicable there should be alignment with existing local netting regulations.
3. Proposals should have due regard for sites where salmon are a designated feature/sub-feature or supporting feature.
4. Seasonal restrictions on fixed/drift net use should be considered for all other harbour areas during periods of peak salmonid migration within those harbours.

Members also considered the spatial management of nets close to piers, how nets should be used by recreational fishers and the marking of nets in the district. The management of the grey mullet fishery was also considered, particularly with reference to the increase in the minimum conservation reference size for the species in the district.

Following a series of revisions to the management proposals, made by the Byelaw Working Group, a Net Fishing Byelaw was drafted and legal advice was sought on the wording of this draft byelaw. Due to the potential impact of the draft byelaw measures in certain areas of the district on certain stakeholders, the Byelaw Working Group chose to carry out a period of targeted secondary consultation with the potentially most affected stakeholders. This process was originally planned for late 2019, however this was delayed until early 2020 due to a period of Purdah associated with the General Election. At the same time, where net fishing is likely to have a significant effect on features or supporting features of Designated Sites within the district, Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) and SSSI Assessments were drafted by officers to consider whether proposed measures were likely to have an adverse effect on these sites.

Regulation 9(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) require Southern IFCA, as a Competent Authority, to make an appropriate assessment of a plan or project likely to have a

significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). As the proposed measures constitute a plan or project, Habitats Regulations Assessments were required for the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Both of these sites have Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) listed as a feature.

In addition, Natural England advised that separate SSSI Assessments should be completed for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which are stand-alone (i.e. do not overlap with a European Marine Site), where salmonids are a feature. These assessments have therefore been completed for the River Frome SSSI, the River Test SSSI and the Lyminster River SSSI.

Upon the direction of the Technical Advisory Committee on 7th November 2019 Natural England was informally and, subsequently, formally consulted on these assessments. Formal statutory responses, as received from Natural England were considered by the Technical Advisory Committee on 6th February 2020.

The conclusion of Natural England's advice letters, for both the River Itchen SAC and River Avon SAC, is that, *"provided that there is active monitoring of salmonid bycatch, especially in the first year of the byelaw, as a key tool for ensuring that the management of fishing within the Net Permit Areas remains compliant with the Habitats Regulations, Natural England's view is that it should be possible for the introduction of the Net Fishing Byelaw, and associated issuing of permits for the Christchurch Harbour and Southampton Water Net Permit Areas, to avoid having an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Avon SAC and River Itchen SAC respectively. In providing this advice, NE have considered the current level of net fishing effort; the perceived low incidence of Atlantic salmon bycatch from net fishing; and the management measures that SIFCA will introduce to mitigate potential impacts upon salmonids."*

Based on these advice letters, the necessary updates were made to the HRAs and the Monitoring and Control Plan. Natural England has stated that they agree with the conclusions of the draft SSSI Assessments.

Between 17th January 2020 and 29th February 2020 representative groups of the potentially most affected and engaged community members were contacted by the Authority with information about the revised management proposals. The Authority's draft Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs), SSSI Assessments and draft byelaw Impact Assessment (IA) were shared with consultees at this stage.

Consulted groups include Fishing Associations falling within or overlapping Harbour and estuarine areas, the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, South Coast Fisherman's Council, the Angling Trust, National Mullet Club, Wild Trout Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation, the region's Recreational Angling Sector Group, the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Marine Conservation Group and Natural England.

Following initial contact, Officers attended a total of 12 meetings to outline the management proposals and the rationale behind their design. Following these meetings, a total of 8 written responses were received by the Authority. These responses have been summarised in a Summary of Responses document. These responses will be considered by the Working Group.

3.4 Inshore Potting Review (District wide)

3.4.1 Setting the scene

This is an ongoing work stream that has been undertaken in response to the outcomes of the Southern IFCA Review of Management Measures (2015), which identified Static Fishing Gear Management as one of five focus areas for the Authority following public consultation. Accordingly, progression in this area of work will also enable the Southern IFCA to deliver its Five-Year Plan priorities (2019-2023).

The review focuses on the sustainability of whelk, crab, lobster as well as cuttlefish in order to support coastal communities and the future sustainability of inshore pot fishing. These fisheries are widely distributed across the district and support valuable inshore fisheries and communities. Currently there are no local management initiatives focused on these fisheries.

During March 2018 a 'Call for Information' was sent out to all Southern IFCA permit holders who indicated that they use pots within the District. The objectives of the Call for Information were to:

1. Engage with the local community to further Southern IFCA's understanding of the District's pot fisheries;
2. Seek views from the community on existing management measures within the District's pot fisheries;
3. Seek views from the community on suggested approaches to support the sustainable harvesting of shellfish stocks which could support and further enhance the District's pot fisheries;

In response to the 'Call for Information' the majority of respondents felt that there was a need to review the existing management measures in the pot fisheries. In particular, those who responded had a particular interest in the management of the recreational pot fisheries, as well as the commercial whelk pot fisheries.

A Summary of Responses to the 'Call for information' was prepared in December 2018.

3.4.2 Work achieved during 2019-2020

In July 2019, Members of the Southern IFCA Authority attended a Working Group in order to consider the responses to the 'Call for Information' alongside other scientific and economic evidence. Following this Working Group, a recommendation was made to the Technical Advisory Group (TAC) in August 2019, where it was agreed that draft management measures (to include both voluntary and statutory) were to be further developed in the following areas:

1. Recreational pot fisheries
2. Commercial whelk fisheries
3. Commercial Cuttlefish fisheries

In line with the recommendations made at the TAC in August 2019, a further three Working Groups were held between October 2019 and February 2020. During these Working Groups Members considered Evidence Packages specific to the pot fisheries in order to build a picture of the fishery under review. This information included quantitative information based on current effort data, literature reviews providing details of species ecology, details of local fishing practice (social and economic) as well as information on gear types and methods. In addition, up to date and historic stock assessments were also analysed in order to map the fishery over time.

3.5 Solent Bivalve Fisheries Review: Phase 1

3.5.1 Setting the scene

The Solent bivalve fishery is an important and valuable fishery. The need for management intervention in the Solent bivalve fisheries follows a decline in the native oyster fishery, as indicated by the Southern IFCA's stock assessments since 2013. As such, since 2013 this fishery has been subject to a series of closures via the application of the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Legacy Byelaw. The provisions for management intervention under this byelaw are limited.

In addition, more recent landing trends for Manila clams suggest that within Solent waters there has been a decline in these species. A need has been identified by stakeholders for the introduction of technical measures to support sustainable harvesting within this fishery.

These trends indicate the need for intervention to protect the spawning stock biomass of bivalve shellfish populations in the district, thus enhancing the future sustainability and economic viability of these fisheries.

3.5.2 Work pre-April 2019

Since 2017 Southern IFCA have been undertaking a review of the Solent bivalve fisheries. The fishing for bivalves (including oysters, clams and scallops) in the Solent is currently managed through a number of standalone measures, including the Southern IFCA's Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw 2016, the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw and the Scallop Fishing Byelaw (applicable across the whole District).

As such, the policy objective pertinent to the Permit Byelaw was to introduce a single coherent management tool to govern the fishing activities within the Solent bivalve fisheries, which will allow for adaptive and flexible management which is underpinned and directed by the best available evidence. The Permit Byelaw will provide a mechanism under which specific measures can be introduced in a permit, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Permit Byelaw.

Upon the creation of the Permit Byelaw, the Southern IFCA's Solent Dredge Byelaw will be revoked, with conditions incorporated into the Permit Byelaw, thus clarifying and simplifying management of harvesting for site users.

Having the ability to flexibly manage fishing activities under the Permit Byelaw will enable the Authority to introduce bespoke management as new and improved evidence becomes available and in consultation with permit holders and interested parties. This evidence may include improved knowledge of the impact of an activity covered by the Permit Byelaw, or a better understanding of the status of a stock or of the suitability of a gear type towards harvesting. The Authority and its partners are committed to improving their knowledge of the impacts of various methods of fishing (such as exploring the use of pump scoop dredging) and over time additional evidence will be developed to better inform management.

During the development of this Permit Byelaw, Southern IFCA consulted with stakeholders on three separate periods, beginning in Jan 2018 with a period of pre consultation. The outcomes of the pre consultation informed a second period of consultation during March and April 2018. Following the decision of the Authority to make the Permit Byelaw on the 15th December 2018, in accordance with the IFCA Byelaw Guidance, a period of formal consultation was undertaken in January 2019.

Following consideration and response to the objections received (of which there were 6 responses providing general objections and two in support of the Byelaw) the Authority made the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw in March 2019. In March 2019 the SDPB and all supporting documentation were sent to the MMO for quality assurance.

3.5.3 Work achieved April 2019-Mar 2020

Following an eight-month period of QA, the Permit Byelaw was passed to the Secretary of State for confirmation on the 19th December 2019.

3.6 Solent Bivalve Fisheries Review: Phase 2

3.6.1 Setting the scene

The Authority are committed to improving their knowledge of the impacts of various methods of fishing and over time additional evidence may be developed to better inform management. The Authority will be working with the fishing industry to develop an evidence base to support the potential reintroduction of a pump scoop fishery in the Solent. In order to do this Southern IFCA will continue to work with Defra to seek revocation of Statutory Instrument No. 2696 The Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004. This area of work will follow the implementation of the SDPB.

3.6.2 Work achieved April 2019-Mar 2020

Status: **DELAYED** in accordance with an 8-month period of Quality Assurance on the SDPB by the MMO, which has led to a delay on the ratification of the SDPB by the Secretary of State.

3.7 Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (I-VMS)

Following the outcomes of a Defra led consultation in 2018, during 2019 Southern IFCA attended a National Control and Enforcement meeting in relation to the introduction proposed of Inshore VMS (I-VMS) and further, contributed to the Project Delivery Group. In June 2019, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) announced that it was changing the approach to the introduction of I-VMS for fishing vessels under 12 metres long, operating in English water. Crucially for fishers, this meant that there was a pause to the planned roll-out of the new system.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, Southern IFCA have continued to work in collaboration with the MMO and Defra in order to explore possible solutions regarding the I-VMS introduction in the under 12 metre fishing fleet, with specific consideration given to the most practical use of appropriate technologies and in providing a more accurate picture of fishing location and activity within the Southern IFCA district. This area of work is ongoing and will continue into the next reporting year.

3.8 Aquaculture Review: Poole Harbour

3.8.1 Setting the scene

Southern IFCA manage aquaculture activity within a defined area of Poole Harbour under the Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 ('the Order'). 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. The original Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 Management Plan was produced following full and extensive consultation with all interested parties, relevant bodies and stakeholders.

Under Section (4) of the Order, the Authority are required to undertake an annual review of the Management Plan. If, during this review, any changes are made to the Management Plan, then the Authority must notify, in writing any interested parties of any proposed changes to the Management Plan. 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.

The management of aquaculture within Poole Harbour must have specific regard to Southern IFCAs responsibilities, as defined in sections (153), (154) and (166) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MaCAA) 2009.

In addition, Southern IFCA is a Relevant Authority in the management of European Marine Sites (EMS) designated under the Habitats Directive and has a statutory responsibility to ensure that fishing activity does not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife or habitats for which an EMS has been designated. This includes the governance of the conservation interests of the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA).

Under sections (28G) and (28I) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, IFCAs are required to have consideration of any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with marine components giving protection to species and habitats of national importance when carrying out its duties. This includes the governance of the conservation interests of the Poole Harbour SSSI. The Management Plan also has regard to the Poole Harbour Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Southern IFCA allocate lease beds for the purposes of aquaculture on a five-year term. The first tranche (T1) of lease beds began on the 1st July 2015 until the 30th June 2020.

3.8.2 Work achieved during 2019-2020

In preparation for the expiration of the T1 leases on the 30th June 2020 and the start of the T2 leases to begin on the 1st July 2020, between October 2019 and March 2020 Southern IFCA began to consider a review of the 2015 Management Plan in order to incorporate the following main drivers, being:

- The expiration of the first tranche (T1) of lease bed allocation on the 30th June 2020;
- A reallocation of lease beds grounds (where relevant) under the second tranche (T2) of lease bed allocation, in order to reflect the changes in conservation designations in Poole Harbour, specifically with regard to the (1) expansion of the Poole Harbour SSSI in 2018 which extended to include any subtidal estuarial waters and lower shore intertidal mudflats, which support important subtidal benthic habitats, (2) the extension of the Poole Harbour SPA in 2017;
- A review and update of the conditions under the terms of lease allocation in line with advice received from Natural England (NE) regarding the farming of Pacific oysters in Poole Harbour.

- A review and update of the conditions under the terms of lease allocation in line with advice received from the Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) with regard to the leasing of grounds within a designated area for personal watercraft.

In addition, the Authority continued its representation at the Poole Harbour Delivery Group Meeting for the Catchment Initiative and liaised with the Environment Agency and Wessex Water in relation to the strategic development for improvement of water quality in Poole Harbour.

3.9 Community Planning in MPAs Project

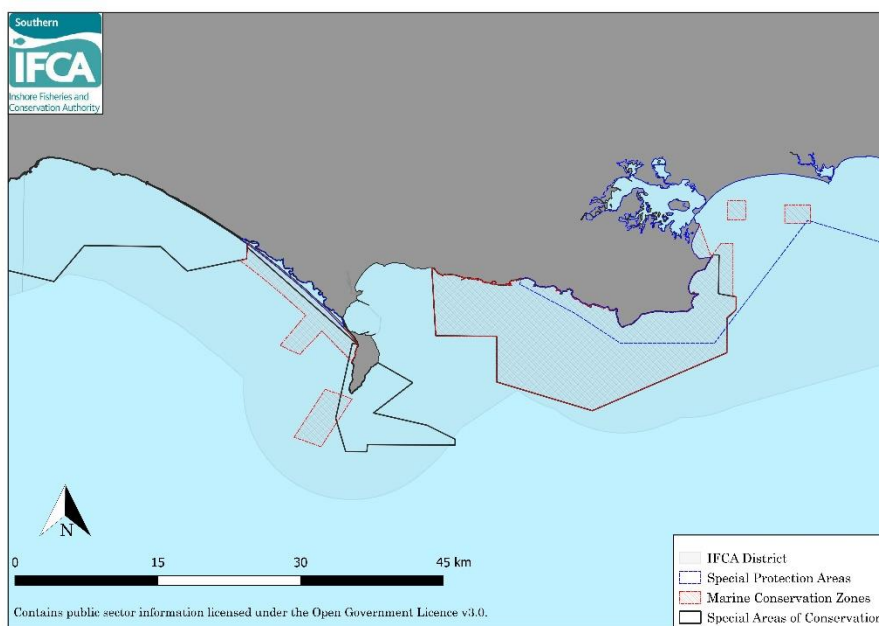
'Community Planning for Marine Protected Areas' is a partnership project between Southern IFCA and Dorset Wildlife Trust. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) funded project, initiated through the Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), brought together a range of partners and community stakeholders with an aim of providing greater community awareness and support for MPAs, thereby increasing the value of both the marine environment and fisheries within these sites.

The Dorset Coast Forum hosted three community workshops at the start of the project to engage the community, including representatives from commercial and recreational fisheries, conservation, harbours and leisure. Southern IFCA then developed a series of four MPA Fisheries Management Plans. These plans describe the value of the MPAs and highlight how they can exist symbiotically with well managed fisheries. They also provide a clear way forward for each of the MPAs and their fisheries, giving assurance to the fishing community.

Throughout 2019 Southern IFCA and Dorset Wildlife Trust attended a range of community events and festivals with a mobile interpretation unit to promote the benefits of well-managed MPAs to the public. Events included Swanage Fish Festival, Dorset Seafood Festival, Kimmeridge Marine Conservation Day, Wild About Chesil and a day on the quay at Lyme Regis. More than 600 people were engaged with the diversity of our local MPAs and the valuable fisheries within them.

The project culminated with the development of the 'Dorset MPAs' website (www.dorsetmpas.uk) and a 'Guide to the special areas of Dorset's coast', led by Dorset Wildlife Trust. This pack includes five individual guides to the MPAs (including newly designated MCZs) located off the Dorset coast. These leaflets provide readers with a view into each of the MPAs, surmising why they are so valuable and how fisheries are managed within them.

This figure illustrates the Dorset MPAs within the Southern IFCA District and include the five individual sites.

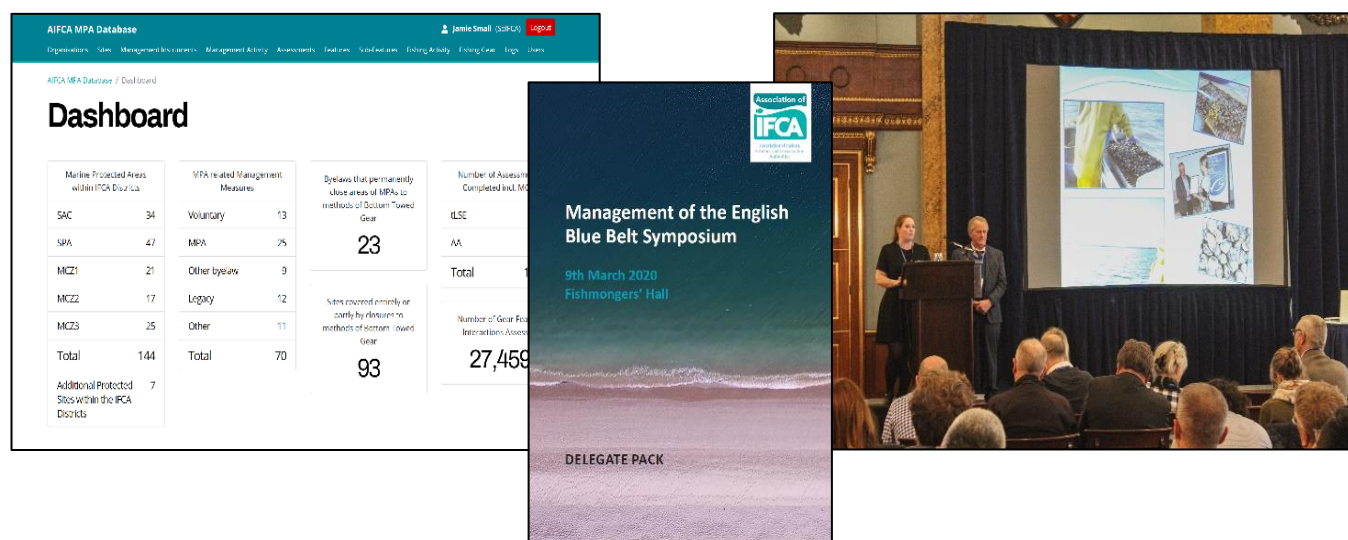


3.10 Delivering the National IFCA MPA Project

On behalf of The Association of IFCAs, in 2019-20 Southern IFCA managed Stage 2 of a national project collating and reporting MPA progress by the individual IFCAs. Southern IFCA received funding for the project from Defra and contributions from Natural England. Jamie Small continued in her role as MPA Project Officer and did a fantastic job of leading the project outputs. The project was successfully implemented and the following outputs were delivered:

- An online database for IFCAs and partners to access up-to-date MPA management and assessment progress. Key national statistics such as number of MPA measures in place and number of assessments completed are displayed on a dashboard within the database for ease of reporting.
- MPA communication packages for each IFCA. For Southern IFCA a package focussing on the MPAs that fall within the Isle of Wight Biosphere Reserve was created to highlight MPA features, fishing activities, management, and research projects that take place within the sites. The package is being used to develop a webpage with partners on the Isle of Wight to raise awareness of the marine component of the Biosphere Reserve and to promote the management of sustainable fishing practices within the sites.
- An MPA symposium 'Management of the English Blue Belt' was held at Fishmongers' Hall in London on Monday 9th March 2020 for MPA stakeholders including policy makers, regulators, eNGO's, advisory bodies, fishing industry representatives and recreational users of MPAs and was excellently chaired by our very own Chairman of Southern IFCA, Professor John Humphreys. The day provided an opportunity for IFCAs to showcase their work in managing fishing activities within inshore MPAs. Speakers included the Deputy Director for Marine at Defra who delivered a speech on behalf of the Under Secretary of State for the Environment, Rebecca Pow, IFCAs staff and Members, the Marine Conservation Society, two active fishers, JNCC, and several academics. Sarah Birchenough of Southern IFCA and Tom Russell, Chairman of Poole and District Fishermen's Association delivered a presentation on how a co-management approach can deliver both ecosystem and economic benefits within an MPA, using the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit fishery as an example. Our CEO, Robert Clark also presented on Southern IFCAs engagement with the community and delivery of effective compliance, drawing upon examples from within the Southern IFCA district.

The symposium received very positive feedback from attendees with many leaving with a greater understanding of the breadth of work IFCAs participate in to help maintain and improve the marine environment and promote sustainable fisheries. Presentations from the symposium can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq1KypliJ6St4A9-9HsSp2Q>



3.11 New Fisheries Protection Vessel

During this reporting year, Southern IFCA continued to work with Southampton University's Procurement Department on the planned delivery of a joint Southern IFCA/Southampton University boat build. For context, in 2018/19 there were delays in establishing the asset ownership arrangement, as a consequence of University capacity, and when in 2019/20 there were further significant delays in the University capacity to establish a procurement process; it was agreed, in December 2019, at a meeting of The Executive Committee of the Authority that a Patrol Vessel Working Group be convened to review the process. The IFCA Executive Committee agreed to put the project on pause, pending a review of the needs of the IFCA.

4.0 Reactive Delivery April 2019- March 2020

4.1 Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw

4.1.1 Setting the Scene

The application of Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) is an effective tool for the sustainable management of fisheries and enables the sustainable development of fisheries within the district.

Regulation (EU) 2019/1241, which came into force on 20th June 2019 specified that MCRS apply only in relation to commercial fishing and removes the existing prohibition on the transshipping, landing, transporting, storing, selling and displaying or offering for sale undersize marine organisms.

As such, for those species not listed in Southern IFCA minimum size byelaws, there is no effective enforcement regime in respect of undersized fish and shellfish for recreational fishers and no enforcement in respect of trans-shipment, landing, transporting, storing, displaying and offering for sale of undersized fish and shellfish.

The proposed MCRS byelaw will amalgamate MCRS measures which currently exist under a range of legislation and apply these to all fishery participants in the Southern IFCA district. In addition, the byelaw will introduce increases to the MCRS for grey mullet species and crawfish to support the sustainable management of these fisheries, and a new statutory MCRS will be applied to wrasse species in line with measures previously applied through wrasse fishery guidance in the district.

4.1.2 Work achieved during 2019-2020

The byelaw was set to be considered by the Authority at their March 2020 meeting of the Full Authority; however, this was cancelled due to Covid-19. As such, consideration of the Byelaw in question was carried to the next meeting of the Authority.

4.2 Implementation of Tranche 3 MCZs

4.2.1 Setting the scene

The Authority has duties to manage fisheries within Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and must seek to ensure that, in relation to fishing activity, the conservation objectives of any MCZ in the District are furthered.

Southern IFCA undertake assessments of fishing activity within the MCZs using the following approach:

Stage 1: the initial screening of fishing activities within the MCZ to determine whether an activity occurs or is anticipated to occur. A risk matrix system is used to support this approach;

Stage 2: fishing activities which are not screened out are subject to a Part A Assessment. This assessment seeks to identify pressures capable of significantly affecting designated features and their related processes;

Stage 3: fishing activities and their associated pressures are then subject to more detailed Part B Assessments. These assessments are undertaken on a gear type basis and seek to determine whether there is a significant risk of the activity hindering the conservation objectives of the MCZ

4.2.2 Work achieved during 2019-2020

Due to the vast scope of the T3 MCZ designations, the Authority remain in Stage: Evidence Stage of the byelaw development process. This area of work is anticipated to continue throughout 2020 and 2021.

A third tranche of MCZs were designated on the 31st May 2019. Six new sites (Yarmouth to Cowes, Bembridge, Southbourne Rough, Studland Bay, Purbeck Coast, South of Portland) were designated within the Southern district with additional features added to the existing MCZs of Poole Rocks and Chesil Beach & Stennis Ledges.

Given the number of designated features within the third tranche of MCZs, the Authority committed to adopt a risk-based, phased approach when considering the management of these sites. The following are listed in order of priority:

1. Bottom towed fishing gears
2. Intertidal hand gathering
3. Static fishing gear
4. Nets/Lines

Bottom towed fishing gear (BTFG): MCZ assessments (Stages 1-3 as above) of BTFG activity against features within the newly designated Tranche 3 MCZs were undertaken between November 2019 and February 2020. Following the TAC in February, the Authority recommended that these assessments were sent to Natural England for formal comment.

Intertidal hand gathering: MCZ assessments (Stages 1-3 as above) of intertidal hand gathering activity against features within the newly designated Tranche 3 MCZs were undertaken between Dec 2020 and Feb 2020.

Static fishing gear: Part A assessments of static fishing gear activity against features within the newly designated Tranche 3 MCZs began in February 2020.

Nets & Lines: Some of the MCZs in Dorset include objectives with regards to the management of Black Bream. Any future management intervention will be informed by data on the location and extent of bream within the MCZs. Southern IFCA began working with national and local partners to consider the need to develop research in order to provide data to inform potential management and to actively engage the community in this process.

4.3 COVID-19 Initial Response: 16th to 31st March 2020

Southern IFCA, like the rest of the country has been affected by the impacts of the COVID pandemic. The Authority's primary function is the management of fisheries and the protection of the marine environment. Commercial fishing during the pandemic, albeit altered due to the effects on markets, continued as a consequence of the essential service nature of that industry. The continuity of the IFCA service was therefore also necessary. The effect of the COVID pandemic on the IFCA can be summarised in 3 main ways:

1. The operational delivery of the IFCA was altered to align to 'essential-only' services during lock-down restrictions; focussing on a) maintenance of access to shellfish beds by ensuring sampling

and compliance continuity, and b) enforcement activities realigned to be associated with the protection of the most vulnerable habitats and species e.g. where short term damage would have long term impacts.

2. Reduced operating costs associated with reduced marine operational activity, delays to surveys and consequently delayed costs, were balanced against delayed income associated with sale of permits and leases, increases in costs associated with PPE and redeployment of people from service delivery to risk management activities. Consequential delays (6-months) in some fisheries and conservation management decisions and some projects (yet to commence) have been created, whereas other activities such as desk-based assessments have been either maintained or in some instances are ahead of projected timescales for delivery.
3. Changes to governance and employee ways of working; remote working arrangements and video-conferencing processes have ensured that employees have continued to deliver their functions and Authority members have been engaged remotely (this has in part been enabled by wider legislative changes to enable the use of such technologies). Overall, the risk management and mitigation systems have been successful in ensuring Authority activities have continued.

5.0 Other notable areas of work: April 2019-March 2020

5.1 Stock Assessments and Surveys

One function of the Evidence Team is to 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 necessary to achieve successful and sustainable management, whilst protecting the marine environment.

The following Stock Assessments were carried out between April 2019 and March 2020:

Solent Oyster Stock Assessment: August 2019 which directly informs management under the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw, as well as the pending SDPB;

Solent Bivalve Stock Assessment: October 2019 and March 2020; which will directly inform management under the pending SDPB;

Mullet Surveys: April to September 2019 in Poole, Christchurch and Southampton Water, which directly informs future management considerations under both the Inshore Netting Review and the MCRS Byelaw;

Small Fish Surveys: June 2019 and October 2019.

5.2 Marine Licensing

Marine Licensing is one of the principal responsibilities of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) as described under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA). The purpose of marine licensing is to facilitate the sustainable use of the UK marine environment so that economically beneficial activities within the marine environment such as construction, deposits (e.g. of sediment), removals (e.g. of marine aggregates), and dredging can be permitted whilst minimising negative environmental effects and avoiding interference with navigation.

Southern IFCA are consultees on Marine Licence applications. When an application is submitted to the Marine Management Organisation and is sent out for consultation, the Authority is notified and provided the opportunity to comment and provide advice on marine licence applications over a 6-week consultation period.

Officers consider applications and the information provided in proposals or environmental statements, focusing on the elements likely to impact local commercial or recreational fisheries and the assessments made in quantifying that impact. Since its introduction, responses have focused on whether assessments are consistent with marine plan policies, particularly S-FISH-2.

<i>S-FISH-2</i>	Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on access to, or within, sustainable fishing or aquaculture sites must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts, d) if it is not possible to mitigate the significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.
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5.2.1 Work achieved during 2019-2020

During the 2019-2020 year the Authority has responded to various applications including: aggregates licencing for area 522, Scalloptech aquaculture pilot, Fawley Dredge Approach and West Bay Coastal Improvements. Responses have typically focused on encouraging consultation with the fishing industry, asking for further details to demonstrate compliance with S-FISH-2 or providing further information on fishing activities in the area and potential impacts to them. The Authority has also commented on other developments falling outside the marine licencing system, such as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP). One NSIP application which SIFCA officers have worked closely with has been the Aquind Marine Cable. The nature of the response to this application was consistent with those to marine licences.

5.3 Risk Management Report

Southern IFCA is responsible for the management of inshore fisheries and marine environment, and provides a service to both residents and visitors. It is essential that the Authority protects and preserves its ability to continue to provide that service by ensuring that its assets, both tangible and intangible, are protected against loss and damage. The service provided is subject to a number of risks, which if not controlled, will greatly affect the Authority's ability to discharge its responsibilities to the environment, the community and its employees.

Risk management is the process of measuring, or assessing, risk and developing strategies to manage it. Strategies include reducing the negative effect of the risk, avoiding the risk, transferring the risk to another party and accepting some, or all, of the consequences of a particular risk if it is low. Traditional risk management focuses on risks stemming from physical or legal causes and the impact they may have on the Service e.g. natural disasters or fires, accidents, death, and legal challenges.

A six-monthly report to the IFCA Executive Committee enables members of the Authority to take an active role in the management of organisation risk.

5.3.1 Business Continuity

Where risks are identified that could have a significant or catastrophic impact on a business or service, it makes sense to consider how the business will continue if an event does occur. It also helps to identify possible actions that could inherently reduce the risk of the event occurring.

In conjunction with all staff, senior officers have set aside time to assess the risks to the Service and where possible to put in place management strategies to eliminate, or reduce the risks. The sort of risks identified were loss of the vessel, loss of records by fire in the office, large scale staff illness, legal challenge and so on. No incidents or loss of business continuity was reported in 2019/20.

5.3.2 Review of measures

In accordance with the Annual Plan, the Risk management process of the IFCA was reviewed externally and the assessment concluded that the procedures were adequate. A series of recommendations were made and these were implemented in 2019/20.

5.4 Health and Safety Policy

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is committed to pursuing excellence in everything it does and this includes the management of their Health and Safety.

The Authority recognises and accepts its statutory responsibilities as an employer and strives to secure the health, safety and wellbeing of all its employees and stakeholders affected by its activities.

The Health and Safety Policy document is a legal requirement and provides very important information for all employees and a safe working environment.

Over the past year, Officers have started drafting and updating the Authority's Health and Safety document and bring it up to date with current legislation of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1974, The Health and safety at work Regulations 1981 and the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992.

The main focus has been on introducing Method Statements which reflect Risk Assessments and procedures that must be carried out to make sure that the work we are doing is being carried out in the safest way.

The introduction of fire safety within the new Office has been incorporated into this document and covers Fire Risk Assessment, Fire Safety Evacuation Plans, Fire Safety Equipment, drills and training and Enforcement. Also included are the use and exposure of dangerous substances falling under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) assessment requirements.

There is a need to review this document on a regular basis and update when necessary on the introduction of new regulation or equipment and ensure that all employees have received appropriate training to enable them to deliver their role safely.

As a requirement in the nature of the work that Officers carry out in the marine environment, there is an obligation to make sure that the equipment that Officers use fall in line with Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) Marine Guidance Notes (MGN) which provide advice on how to comply with Marine Statutory Notices (MSN). These have formed part of the Risk Assessments and Method Statements within the document.

This Health and Safety Policy is read in conjunction with safe working guidelines, other policies and Risk Assessments, that together contribute to the Authority's overall ability to fulfil their duties and responsibilities by reducing injuries and ill health at work, both to employees and to any other persons who may be affected by their employees' acts or omissions. These measures will protect the environment and reduce unnecessary losses and liabilities.

It is anticipated that this new Policy will be introduced and communicated to all employees at the end of the summer 2020, followed by extensive training on all the new additions/updates from the current Policy.



Further Copies

This document is available in electronic form from
www.Southern-ifca.gov.uk

Alternatively, a hard copy can be viewed here:

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