



Sussex
Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority

Annual Report

2024-2025





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This document 'The Sussex IFCA Annual Report 2024-2025' is available in electronic form from Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

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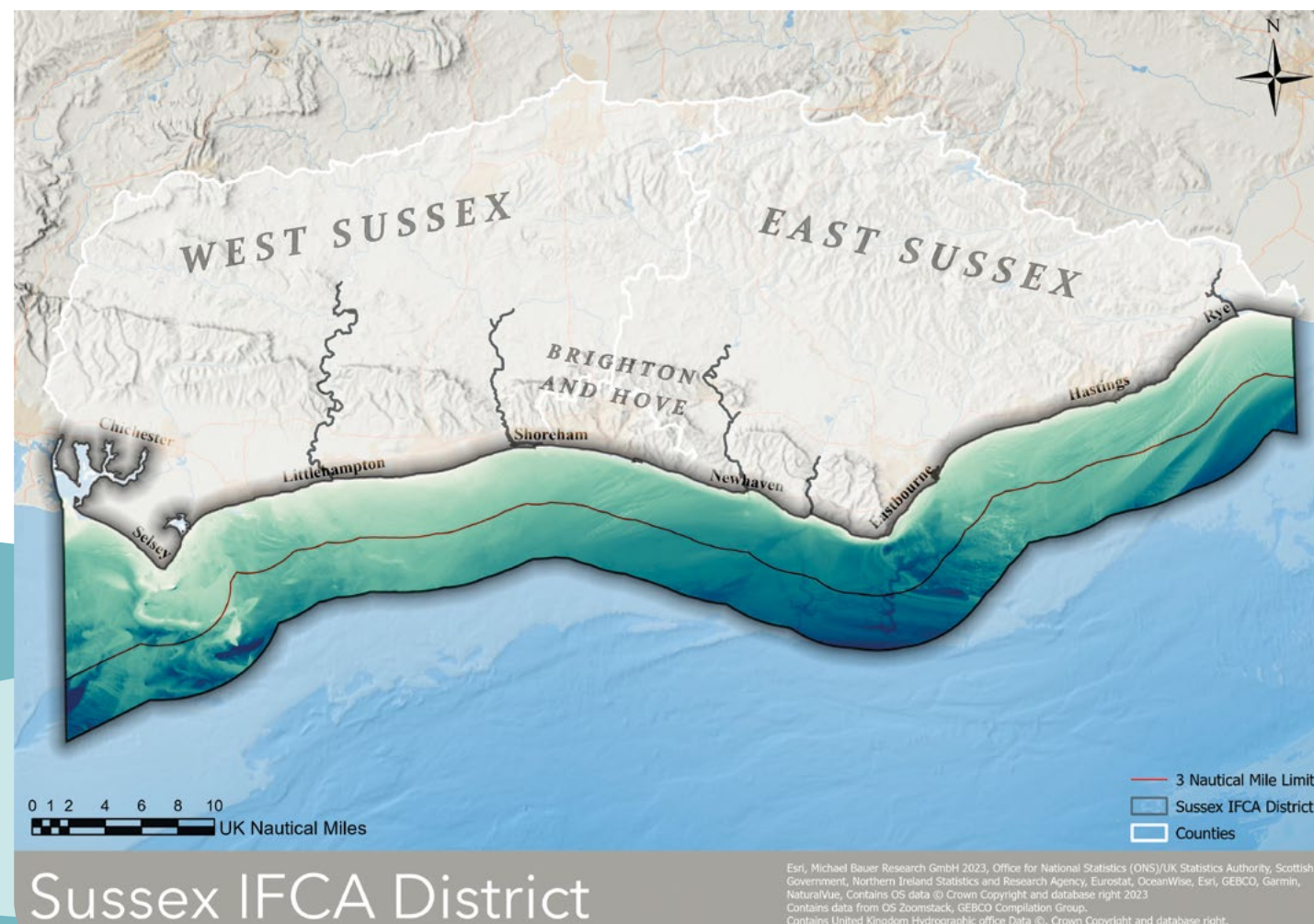
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Sussex IFCA District

The Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 defines the extent of the District:

- The combined areas of the relevant councils (the “basic area” of the district); and
- The sea adjacent to the basic area of the district within the boundaries specified to a distance of 6 nautical miles from the 1983 baselines.

Sussex IFCA district covers an area of over 1738 km², and extends from Chichester Harbour in West Sussex, to the eastern extent of Rye Bay in East Sussex. The seaward boundary follows the 6 nautical mile limit measured from the 1983 baselines.



Vision

The Vision is a shared statement between all ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities in England.

“Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority 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.”

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Purpose

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) was a landmark step by government to establish a holistic marine legislation framework capable of delivering modern management of United Kingdom seas. As well as establishing new marine management bodies, including the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and the Marine Management Organisation, it provided legislation to create a network of Marine Conservation Zones, the first sites being designated in 2013. The legislation is central to the commitment to the Government's vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas, as defined the UK Marine Policy Statement.

Under sections 153 and 154 of MaCAA, the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (Sussex IFCA) has clearly defined duties to manage sustainable fisheries and protect the marine environment within the coastal waters off Sussex.

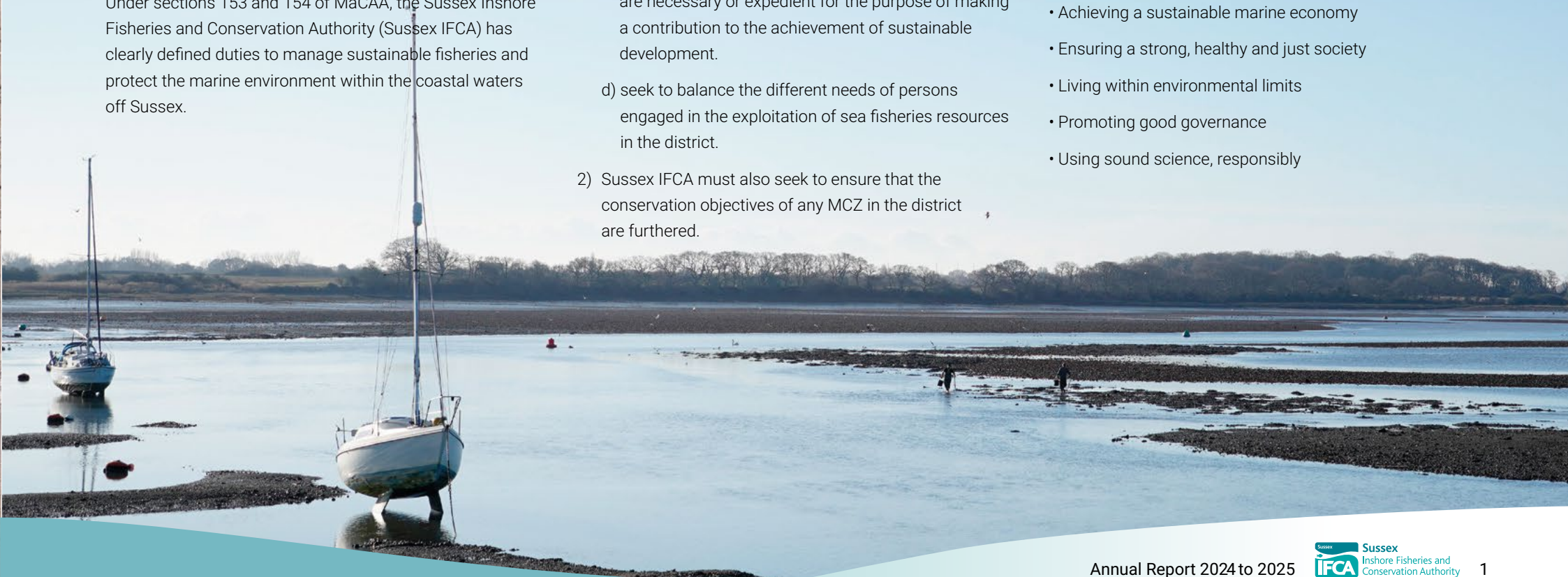
Duties:

- 1) Sussex IFCA must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in its district, in doing so it 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.
 - d) seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district.
- 2) Sussex IFCA must also seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ in the district are furthered.

Section 178 of MaCAA requires each IFCA to report on its activities in the previous financial year as soon as is reasonably practicable after its end. The report may be used by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to measure the performance of the Authority, its accountability and value for money. This annual report for the Authority provides a detailed account of the year's work, against the previously published annual plan, for April 2024 to March 2025. The Authority continues to work towards the Government's Marine Policy Statement and defined High Level Marine Objectives:

High Level Marine Objectives:

- Achieving a sustainable marine economy
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Living within environmental limits
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science, responsibly



Foreword

The following Annual Report details how the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority have delivered against our published Annual Plan, and Defra's high-level objectives, for the 2024-2025 financial year.

2024-2025 saw an unprecedented focus on recruitment, including temporary cover for maternity posts, the creation of new roles made possible through grant funding, as well as some staff leaving the Authority for a variety of reasons, including colleagues pursuing new career opportunities, travel plans, and retirement; most notably our highly experienced skipper of 32 years' service, Charlie Hubbard who we wished a very well deserved retirement.

Thanks to several successful recruitment campaigns, we were able to appoint highly capable candidates to key positions. I have been continually impressed with the contributions of our new team members, as well as the welcoming environment that our existing team has offered them. Understanding that staff turnover can be disruptive, I am grateful that the welcoming and supportive attitude of our IFCA team has encouraged our new starters to flourish quickly, hit the ground running, and enabled us to maintain a strong performance in delivering against our annual plan, as demonstrated within the following annual report.

Indeed, delivery continued apace during the year across multiple workstreams, including focus on the development and ongoing implementation of fisheries management plans supported by Defra resource delivery funding, as well as supporting delivery of our Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zone management measures and marine licencing

applications. Regulation is a cornerstone of effective fisheries management, and this year saw the confirmation of two significant Sussex IFCA byelaws in December 2024. The Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw 2021 and the Hand Gathering (Restrictions and Permitting) Byelaw 2021 represent years of development though evidence gathering, consultation, and refinement. Their implementation was a central focus of our compliance and engagement work in the latter part of the year. These measures will help protect vulnerable stocks, safeguard intertidal habitats, and ensure sustainable harvesting practices for the future.


This year represented the final year of Defra's 2021-2024 spending review bid, originally coordinated by the Association of IFCA's. Sussex IFCA have been very grateful for additional central government support though this bid; access to Defra's capital fund has supported the Authority in the procurement of a new 5.5m rigid inflatable boat that integrates, as a daughter vessel, with the Authority's primary Fisheries Patrol Vessel (FPV) Watchful; FPV Osprey replaces the 20 year old outgoing FPV Delta 1, which was effectively beyond economic repair. This will allow us to maintain essential enforcement operational capacity at sea.

As always, the Authority's achievements rest on strong partnerships. We are grateful to our local funding authorities for their continued commitment and financial support, which remain vital to our ability to deliver our statutory duties. We also recognise the contributions of our many partner organisations, whose collaboration and shared

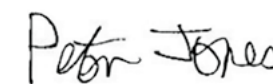
expertise make a valuable contribution towards sustainable inshore fisheries management within the District.

Looking ahead, Sussex IFCA remains committed to building on the progress made during 2024-2025. The pressures on our marine environment are complex and growing, from climate change to increasing demand for marine space. Many of these pressures have a disproportionate effect on our more vulnerable, smaller-scale inshore fleet. Meeting these challenges will require continued innovation, effective enforcement, and above all a constructive relationship with the fishers, coastal communities, and stakeholders who depend on healthy seas. The resilience, adaptability, and professionalism demonstrated by our team this year gives me confidence that Sussex IFCA is well placed to meet the opportunities and challenges of the future.




Robert Pearson M.Sc. MIFM
Chief Fisheries and
Conservation Officer




Professor Peter Jones
Chair

YEAR AT A GLANCE

2024 - 2025

The 'Year at a glance' Infographic summarises outcomes from key planned activities conducted during the 2024-2025 reporting period, including reporting parameters of interest for enforcement, governance and engagement activities. Sussex IFCA's work is diverse and complex and not fully represented by the following statistics, but the intention is to provide an end-of-year snapshot or overview of some of our primary activities.



185

Port visits



102

15,799 Website visitors

10
Combined
Authority Meetings

3,601 Social media followers

10 Small Fish Surveys



3,249



Nautical Miles covered
on sea patrols

11,324 miles
covered by road
patrol vehicles

615



Vessels
monitored

24 Active
partnerships



36 Offences
Reported

Sussex IFCA: Delivery against IFCA Success Criteria

The Authority has a statutory responsibility to report against five, Defra set high-level objectives and associated, nationally agreed success criteria. These were derived to ensure the management of inshore fisheries supports the objectives of the UK Marine Policy Statement and 25-year Environment Plan.

High Level Objective

- ▶ Achieving a sustainable marine economy
- ▶ Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- ▶ Living within environmental limits
- ▶ Promoting good governance
- ▶ Using sound science, responsibly

Success Criteria

- ▶ IFCA's are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders
- ▶ IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime
- ▶ IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their Districts
- ▶ IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional
- ▶ IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

The following pages introduce each of the five success criteria and describes the outcomes, indicators and actions taken, indicating how Sussex IFCA have worked towards achieving these within the 2024-2025 reporting period. For each success criteria a **RAG** (Red, Amber, Green) colour coding is applied to indicate status as follows:

Insignificant
or no
progress

Significant
progress
but not
complete

Objective
completed

A summary of key work streams is then provided, highlighting examples in further detail to illustrate the work delivered by the Authority that contributes to each objective and associated success criteria.

Success Criterion 1 Communications & Engagement

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 regulator 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	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG 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. 	<p>SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a database of stakeholders in the commercial fisheries, recreational sea angling, NGO and public sectors. Maintain a database of permit holders. Maintain list up to date and review data quality annually before 31 March. Data to be held with consideration to GDPR and used only as appropriate. 	
	<p>SC1B: The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously develop mechanisms and opportunities for engaging stakeholders and educating communities about sustainable management of the marine environment. Adopt and adapt to new digital communication channels, including maintaining an online digital presence. Development and displaying communication material. Publish a policy for information requests under the Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations and Subject Access Requests. Log enquires and responses. Ensure enquiry responses meet the published Service Plan & Performance Standards, including handling of formal complaints. Maintain use of brand in uniform and communication materials. Engage with community stakeholders in media and meetings to inform and consult with interested parties. Ensure accessibility of communications materials. Review plan by 31 March. 	

Success Criterion 1 continued:

OUTCOMES	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG 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 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. 	<p>SC1C: The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review website by the end of each month and update as required. Ensure published information is accurate and up to date, with particular reference to regulations, changes in regulations and associated guidance. 	
	<p>SC1D: The IFCA will have reviewed its website and ensured it meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review website in the context of the communication strategy by the end of the year. 	
	<p>SC1E: The IFCA will have reviewed all of its Memoranda of Understanding by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed timescale.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review MoU and partnership agreements by 31 March. Implement agreements with actions and meetings. 	
	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participate in external meetings, group and partnerships. This participation will influence decision makers with regard to prioritising sustainable fisheries and protection of the marine environment. Provide evidence-based advice to decision makers on blue growth agenda, inshore fisheries, marine recreation, sustainable tourism and aquaculture. Actively support the Chief Officers Group and the Association of IFCAs. Provided timely responses to consultations on significant plans and licences. Implement the Authority Service Plan in respect to defined objectives and targets. 	

Delivery of Success Criterion 1: Communications & Engagement

Stakeholder Communications Across the Year

During 2024–2025, Sussex IFCA continued to work towards Success Criteria 1 (SC1) by focusing on engagement and communication with stakeholders, partners, and the wider community. Our challenge is to engage individuals, forums and organisations to break down any barriers that may exist; to involve and raise awareness of our work, and ultimately to inform and engage people about the inshore marine environment and its fisheries.

Through consistent outreach, Sussex IFCA strengthened its presence across the district, keeping stakeholders informed both through our online presence; website, social media, permit database, and face-to-face; patrols, workshops, partnership meetings. This approach allows Sussex IFCA to be a visible, respected, and trusted regulator within coastal communities and ensures delivery of a clear strategy to communicate its vision and duties effectively. It also aligns with IFCA objectives, including collaboration with policymakers, industry, NGOs, recreational and commercial users, and other regulators, contributing to regional and national marine policy,

making long-term strategic decisions, and managing risks effectively within the Sussex District.

Key Initiatives

Recruitment – Authority Members, Finance Manager, two Conservation and Research Officers, Enforcement Officer, Senior Conservation and Research Officer, and Vessel Operations Manager (Senior Skipper) promoted across all social media platforms including LinkedIn.

Netting Permit Byelaw 2019 – A second formal consultation was launched on 23rd May 2024, supported by email, poster distribution, and social media.

Data Sharing Website Page – A new page was created and launched on the website and promoted via social media to increase visibility and engagement.

Sussex IFCA Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw 2021 – Confirmation was widely communicated to stakeholders throughout 2024–2025. Sussex IFCA used a range of methods to ensure awareness and compliance. Methods included posts across multiple social media platforms to inform and educate recreational and commercial fishers, distribution of a practical minimum

size sticker to help fishers measure their catch correctly, and posters and fact sheets providing clear guidance on the byelaw and legal minimum sizes for fish, crustacea, and molluscs.

These communications complemented additional continuing outreach, helping Sussex IFCA reinforce its role as a visible and trusted regulator while promoting sustainable fisheries practices.

Online Presence

Sussex IFCA Website – Received 15,799 visits in 2024–2025.

The website is actively monitored, with monthly meetings held by a dedicated team to maintain, review, and revise content as required, ensuring information remains accurate, relevant, and accessible to all stakeholders.

Social Media – Sussex IFCA had over 3,600 followers across all platforms (x (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) in 2024–2025.

Social media is a vital communications tool, allowing Sussex IFCA to promote its work, inform on byelaws, educate on the marine environment, advertise opportunities, and showcase partnership projects. The variety

of platforms allows Sussex IFCA to reach different stakeholder groups, each serving a unique role in supporting messaging and informing the public. Sussex IFCA has been diligent in keeping stakeholders informed about their work and national policy areas, particularly the development and publication of national Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for English waters, through regular posts. Collaborative projects, such as the University of Plymouth's Angling for Sustainability initiative in May 2024, were promoted via social media, including a tope tagging reel which alone reached nearly 10,000 plays, highlighting the effectiveness of visual content in raising awareness.

LinkedIn Social Account Creation

– Launched in 2024–2025, complementing other digital platforms for sharing updates, professional news, and job vacancies.

Permit Database – Provides permit holders with a secure portal to access their personal permit information. Users can update their details, submit catch returns, and apply for or renew permits, including making any required payments.

Delivery of Success Criterion 1 continued:

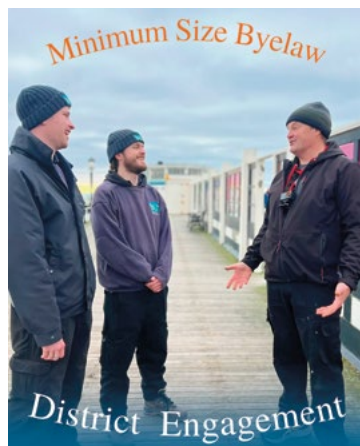
Continued Development and Direct Engagement

Recognising that online material may not reach everyone, Sussex IFCA maintained strong face-to-face engagement through road patrols, sea patrols, events, partnership meetings, and conservation and research work, ensuring direct contact with the fishing community.

Examples of Public Engagement (more detail in 'Delivery of SC4'):

- Face-to-face interactions during sea and road patrols
- Attendance at local / national events and partnership meetings: RSPB Pagham, May 2024; Annual Science ICES Conference, September 2024; Small Scale Fisheries Workshop, Poole, September 2024; United Nations Ocean Symposium, Bexhill, November 2024; Securing Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Parliamentary Event, House of Commons, March 2025
- Contributions to conservation and research projects: ICES Whelk Workshop in Bangor, North Wales July 2024
- Ongoing dialogue with the fishing community / district engagement

Sussex IFCA maximised opportunities for partnership working, achieving all outcomes of the first success criterion.



Partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

Sussex IFCA promotes a culture of collaboration across the organisation to ensure effective outcomes, value for money, and high-quality service.

The Authority maintains national and local Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key organisations such as the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE), Cefas, and the Sussex Wildlife Trust, and the University of Brighton. National MoUs, coordinated by the Association of IFCAs (AIFCA), are supported by regular partnership meetings at both national and local levels.

Sussex IFCA contributes to AIFCA's national communications efforts and supports its Chief Executive in representing IFCA interests in marine policy development.

Through national forums such as the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), Chief Officers Group (COG), and National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG), Sussex IFCA shares best practice, data, and expertise to advance sustainable marine management locally and nationally.

Regionally, Sussex IFCA is active in several marine-focused networks, including Local Nature Partnerships, Chichester Harbour Conservancy Advisory Board, Catchment Partnerships, Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum, Sussex Kelp Recovery Project, The Living Coast Biosphere, Heritage Coast, Solent Forum, Solent EMS Management Group, Crustacean Habitat initiatives, and the Hastings Fisheries Local Action Group.



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION



ANGLING
TRUST



University of Brighton



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH



SUSSEX MARINE AND COASTAL FORUM
Championing healthy and thriving marine and coastal environments in Sussex

FISH INTEL



Scottish Association
for Marine Science

East Sussex
County Council



NCEA
Natural Capital and
Ecosystem Assessment



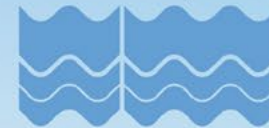
CHICHESTER
HARBOUR
CONSERVANCY



Crustaceans Habitat and Sediment Movement



Brighton & Hove
City Council



SOLENT
FORUM
Est. 1992



RSPB



Three
Harbours



Cefas



SHARK
TRUST



marine environmental
data & information network



SOLENT
OYSTER
RESTORATION PROJECT



Solent Marine Sites



Sussex
Wildlife Trust



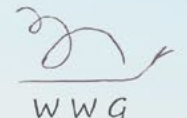
Marine
Management
Organisation



Environment
Agency



Hastings FLAG
Fisheries Local Action Group



WWG



MARINE
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY



Sussex Kelp
Recovery
Project



Brighton & Lewes Downs
UNESCO World Biosphere Region



sussexnaturepartnership
conserve. enhance. expand

Success Criterion 2 Compliance & Enforcement

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 IFCA 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	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG 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 (IFCOs) will be trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. They will maintain professionalism and make appropriate interventions to deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity. 	<p>SC2A: The IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse enforcement information, producing and disseminating reports through committees and the annual report. Review and update the risk register as required. Include enforcement risk-based approach information in the annual plan. 	
	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with and report on involvement with Regional Fisheries Enforcement Group, Tactical Agency meetings (with MMO, EA and Police), National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG), links to National Enforcement Agencies (Gangmasters Licensing Authority and Food Crime Unit). Participate in Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN). Build agreed regulations (i.e., byelaws) that enable fair and effective management of fisheries activities. Use voluntary codes where appropriate. Promote education and awareness of regulations and voluntary agreements. Collaborate with partners and report on intelligence sharing agreements. 	
	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a standard format. Report record of enforcement to NIMEG. Utilisation of CLUE to share compliance information with MMO and IFCA partners. Collate and publish a record of enforcement on website. 	
	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NIMEG to produce a code of conduct and review. Publish the code on the website. 	



OUTCOMES	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG 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 (IFCOs) will be trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. They will maintain professionalism and make appropriate interventions to deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity.	SC2E: The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for all Warranted Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Officer performance plans incorporate code of conduct objectives.▶ Appraisals carried out accordingly.	
	SC2F: Warranted Officers attain accreditation. All undertake Continuing Professional Development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Officer performance plans incorporate accreditation objectives.▶ Officer performance plans incorporate development targets.	

Delivery of Success Criterion 2: Compliance & Enforcement

Sussex IFCA is responsible for managing the sustainable use of sea fisheries resources within the Sussex IFCA District. Warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers maintain an ongoing presence, conducting drone, land, and sea-based patrols, and inspecting fishing activities to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

Enforcement priorities have reflected the seasonal cycle of key fisheries in the district, including bass, whelk potting, scalloping, and potting for shellfish. Marine Protected Area enforcement, particularly monitoring of areas closed to bottom towed fishing gear, remain a year-round priority. Particular attention was also given to bass regulations and the Sussex IFCA Minimum Size Byelaw in relation to recreational anglers, as well as enforcement of Sussex IFCA's Fishing Instruments Byelaw, with particular focus on the dredging for scallops inside of the 3 nautical mile limit in the eastern extent of the district.

A range of statistics demonstrating the hard work carried out by our enforcement officers can be seen on the infographic.

Using powers under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA), Officers conduct inspections of both commercial and recreational fishing vessels at sea, and unattended fishing gear to look for infringements. Officers have powers to seize items and objects including fishing gear and fish, for evidential purposes should this be required. Officers also undertake road patrols to conduct landing inspections of both commercial and recreational fishing vessels, and inspections of shore-based fishing activities.

As directed by Defra, Sussex IFCA's enforcement strategy follows a risk-based approach, using best available intelligence to focus and prioritise our efforts whilst maximising the efficiency of our operations.

Intelligence Reports are the Authority's method of recording, storing, collating and disseminating intelligence that complement our risk-based approach. Sussex IFCA has joined the other 9 IFCA's and the MMO in developing and adopting a new digital intelligence and case management platform "CLUE". CLUE is proving to be a powerful tool for collaborating, improving efficiency and developing and sharing intelligence, maximising the efficient use and deployment of resources and assets.



Officers on a road patrol in Eastbourne

By using this risk-based approach to fisheries compliance management, which considers the stock, method of fishing and impacts on conservation sites, we are able to assess current enforcement activities and, where required, develop alternative initiatives. In general terms, if there is a major threat to the marine environment or stock and the likelihood is that it is a common occurrence, it is categorised as high risk and action would be necessary. For a risk where there is no immediate threat to the marine environment or stock,

but it could occur as low or even low to medium risk, light touch approaches are considered, such as education, self-regulation or simply monitoring the situation.

Sussex IFCA collaborates closely with partner agencies such as the Environment Agency (EA), local authorities, Border Force, the police, and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO); sharing intelligence and working together to support each other's enforcement objectives.

Compliance & Enforcement

2024 – 2025

 **94** Gear Sightings

2,928 
Nautical miles covered
solely on FPV Watchful

56
Shore
Inspections

19 Verbal Warnings
Official Written
Warnings 17

615 Vessels
sighted
at sea

3 Fixed
Administrative
Penalties

Court Prosecutions **1**



Drone Patrols **33**
Drone Hours **24**

236 Intelligence
reports processed

61
Boarding
Inspections
undertaken at sea



Delivery of Success Criterion 2 continued:

Sussex IFCA is committed to achieving fair, effective and proportionate enforcement, and the [Compliance and Enforcement Plan](#) sets out the Authority's approach and principles the Authority follow and the enforcement actions available.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, twenty-two TCGs were held by Sussex, with representation from Kent and Essex IFCA, Environment Agency, Senior Management Team (MMO), Operations Team (MMO), Southeast Marine Team (MMO), and UK Border Force.

IFCA operates three patrol vessels which are used to observe fishing activity, engage with industry, carry out boarding and gear inspections, and target reported illegal fishing activity. On shore, IFCOs conduct patrols engaging with industry, conducting inspections, and observing fishing activity at sea and in ports and harbours. Officers visit a number of locations across the district which includes commercial premises, recreational angling and hand gathering hotspots, piers, ports, beaches and quaysides. The Authority has a drone capability which has enhanced operational delivery. The drone is used to record evidence of possible offences and has improved prevention (deterrent) and detection of offending activity.



© Felix Reitze de la Haye

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer James, conducting fisheries inspections on Worthing beach

Category	Metric	Detail	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Information Reports	Information Reports Processed	Reports that compile and analyse information related to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities.	51	76	44	65	236
Inspections at Sea	Vessel Patrols	Count any patrol by an of the SxIFCA vessels (mother/daughter boat combination counts as one patrol)	15	10	10	14	49
	Vessels Inspections	Fishing vessels (including unregistered/unlicensed) inspected at sea, where boarding was in pursuit of any relevant duty	30	4	13	14	61
	Gear Inspections	Store-pots, strings of fishing gear found deployed in the sea or in harbours, where inspection was in pursuit of any relevant duty. Gear inspection on board vessels alongside do not count.	4	0	0	2	6
	Vessels Monitored	Fishing vessels (including unregistered/unlicensed) sighted at sea either underway or fishing.	213	64	153	185	615
Inspections on Shore	Shore Patrols	Excursion/visit of any length to any part of the coast for an inspection or observation of fishing related activity	23	20	17	19	79
	Port Visits	Individual port/harbour/beach visits within a shore patrol	46	41	39	59	185
	Premises Inspections	Markets, merchants, refrigerated units, retailers, food producers/outlets	6	1	2	5	14
	Shore Inspections	Includes vessels and other first-hand observations of fish/shellfish as it was landed ashore from a vessel. Not including fish laid out on a market or in a storage facility unless the landing of said fish was observed. Includes vessel gear/fish checks in port/ashore, diver and shore angler catchers, vehicle contents and catch from shore hand gatherers	13	12	21	10	56
Drone Patrols	Drone Hours	Total hours that the Sussex IFCA DJI Matrice 300 Drone has been flown during compliance or research operations	7.5	2.5	7.2	6.9	24.1
	Drone Patrols	Use of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to monitor and survey specific areas for compliance or conservation work.	14	5	7	7	33
Investigation Outcomes	Verbal Warnings	Spoken advice and education for minor breaches of legislation (no further action taken)	6	6	4	3	19
	Official Written Warnings	Serious breach of legislation, where evidence gathered was sufficient to take legal proceedings, but where a letter of warning was instead deemed the most appropriate action	0	7	4	6	17
	FAPs	Financial Administrative Penalties relevant to any one case	1	0	0	2	3
	Court Prosecutions	All persons and companies relevant to any one case	0	0	1	0	1

Financial Administrative Penalties	
Date of Offence	FAP
24/05/2024	Commercial fisher, Bognor. Retention of 3 lobsters below the Minimum Size contrary to Sussex IFCA Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw 2021. Penalty Level 2. First Offence £500 paid.
04/03/2025	Commercial fisher, Rye. Scallop dredging inside the 3 nautical mile limit prohibited area, contrary to the Sussex IFCA Fishing Instruments Byelaw. Penalty Level 2. First Offence £1000
12/03/2025	Commercial fisher, Eastbourne. Fishing with pots within Sussex IFCA district without a valid Sussex IFCA shellfish permit, contrary to the Sussex IFCA Shellfish Permit Byelaw. Penalty Level 1. First Offence £250.

Prosecutions	
Date of Offence	Prosecution
06/12/2024	Commercial fisher, Rye. Scallop dredging inside the 3 nautical mile limit prohibited area, contrary to the Sussex IFCA Fishing Instruments Byelaw.



Senior Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer Nick, on a joint patrol with the Chichester Harbour Conservancy aboard one of their patrol vessels. IFCOs work in conjunction with partner agencies to conduct fisheries inspections and boardings at sea off the coast of Sussex

Success Criterion 3 Management Measures

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	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will identify issues likely to affect sustainable management of the marine environment in the IFC District; undertake risk assessment 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 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. 	<p>SC3A: The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Work with partners to promote sustainable management and further the objectives of MPAs and MCZs. ▶ Utilise community engagement strategies to involve stakeholders. ▶ Work with Natural England to understand and meet Conservation Objectives and site conditions. ▶ Gather evidence to support engagement and management decisions. To include fishing activity and impacts, habitat information, species information and climate change information. ▶ Develop fair and effective management measures. Implement regulation. ▶ Adhere to reporting mechanisms for MPAs and MCZs, and report back to the Authority meetings. ▶ Support partnership initiatives to work towards a good marine environment and ecology for i.e., Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and MaCAA. 	
	<p>SC3B: The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Maintain a records system that demonstrates the best available, quality assured evidence is used in engagement and decision making. ▶ Publish consultation materials and Impact Assessments on the website. 	
	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Maintain in house capability to collect, analyse and interpret evidence to inform management decisions and meet minimum standards set out in government guidance. ▶ Target evidence collection at extant management measures, and report on their effectiveness. 	

Success Criterion 3 continued:

OUTCOMES	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will identify issues likely to affect sustainable management of the marine environment in the IFC District; undertake risk assessment 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 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. 	SC2D: 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing 'Review of Management' process translated into 4 year and annual planning and Byelaw development needs. 	
	SC2E: New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set appropriate timescales for management measures. Meet management measure timelines and targets. Development of byelaws and non-regulatory management measures in accordance with the Authority's 'Review of Management Measures' public consultation to inform management priorities. 	
	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate management objectives and actions in annual plans. 	March 2025
	SC3G: Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report will contain information on district fisheries management plans including reference to MSY for key species, and ecosystem metrics. IFCA will inform significant developments and marine licences with regard to sustainable fisheries management and the protection of the marine environment. 	

Delivery of Success Criterion 3: Management Measures

During 2024-2025 Sussex IFCA continued developing and reviewing management measures for the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and the delivery of marine environmental protection. This includes the collection, collation, analysis, and presentation of data and engaging stakeholders to inform decision-making.

Our Conservation & Research Work

In 2024-2025, the Conservation and Research (C&R) team provided essential evidence to inform and monitor the Authority's management decisions, and further our understanding of the inshore marine environment and fisheries. Work spanned multiple Annual C&R workstreams within the strategic Four-Year C&R Plan (2024-2028), supporting the Authority's move towards an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, in line with Government policy as stated in the Fisheries Act 2020. The teams evidence collecting activities provide information that underpins the development of sustainable fisheries management while protecting natural capital assets and ecosystem services.

Sussex IFCA demonstrates its commitment to partnership working and community engagement by collaborating with partners and volunteers, sharing and employing skills and data to provide mutual benefits for stakeholders and deliver an effective service with limited resources.

Research and analysis informed new and existing byelaws, which aim to protect the marine environment while balancing social and economic benefits of fishing. Highlights of priority 2024-2025 workstreams are summarised below:

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Management Development

Beachy Head East MCZ

Beachy Head East MCZ remained a priority in 2024-2025. Analyses of consultations with stakeholders and statutory bodies ensured proposed management is fit for purpose. Specific progress includes:

- ▶ Analysis of second statutory consultation responses, with a report to the Principal Committee
- ▶ Presentation of the updated Marine Protected Areas Byelaw, including Schedule 5 BHE MCZ and Impact Assessment; approved and submitted to Defra for QA

- ▶ Minor amendments to Byelaw and Impact Assessment following MMO feedback in the QA process

MCZ Management Monitoring & Review

Kingmere MCZ

The management review was completed in 2024-2025. Specific progress includes:

- ▶ Compiling the monitoring evidence, including:
 - Effort data collected during inspections of anglers within Kingmere MCZ
 - Fishing effort data collected from Officer observations aboard Sussex IFCA FPVs
 - Data derived from observations of nest appearance and density within Kingmere MCZ collected by Matt Dogget of Marine Ecological Solutions Ltd
 - Acoustic telemetry data and scientific publications based on black bream tagged within Kingmere MCZ, led by the University of Plymouth with assistance from Sussex IFCA (funded by Interreg, Sussex IFCA, Natural England (NE), and Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT))
 - Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) data collected by PhD student Alice Clark at the University of Sussex

- ▶ Sussex IFCA engaged with NE on the suitability of current management measures to protect nesting bream and their reproductive behaviours. NE recommended extending Kingmere MCZ seasonal measures from April-June to March-July and removing the bag limit, effectively creating a no-take zone during that period
- ▶ In March 2025, Sussex IFCA reviewed NE evidence at a Technical Subcommittee, discussing it with Committee Members and experts to recommend the management's effectiveness to the Principal Committee
- ▶ The Technical Subcommittee agreed the current management is performing exceptionally, with anecdotal evidence of spillover, and expert opinion suggesting Kingmere MCZ may be near carrying capacity for nesting black bream
- ▶ The review found insufficient evidence that extending the bream season is necessary to meet black bream Conservation Objectives, and the Principal Committee voted to retain current management
- ▶ Several reports, committee papers and presentations outlining and summarising the evidence and recommendations for conservation

Byelaw Monitoring

Fishing Vessel Effort

Fishing sightings data is collected on routine sea patrols; date, time, vessel name and PLN, latitude and longitude location of the fishing vessel, and fishing method are recorded. These data were used to produce fishing effort maps and the 2020-2024 Fishing Vessel Effort Report.

Shellfish Permit Byelaw

Sussex IFCA continues to collect and analyse Shellfish Permit Byelaw (SPB) catch return data to monitor and support the fishery. Information from catch returns was collated into the SPB Annual Report, including permit details, total landings, and catch per unit effort. The report summarises trends over time for key shellfish fisheries found within the Sussex IFCA district including lobster, edible crab, cuttlefish, and whelk.

In May 2024, a C&R Officer visited Northumberland IFCA to learn their Crab and Lobster Potting Survey methods. Biometric data will be collected by SxIFCA via offshore fishing vessel sampling, fleet-specific at sea sampling, and shore-based landed catch sampling. The first Sussex survey was in Selsey in June 2024. This data will contribute to the Crab and Lobster FMP and may support a Sussex-specific stock assessment. Sussex IFCA continues

to send biometric data for Crab and Lobster to Cefas to feed into their national annual stock assessments.

Nearshore Trawling Byelaw

Unfortunately, due to extenuating circumstances, it was not possible to conduct the towed video surveys in 2024. However, the first 5-year phase of the project is now complete, and the C&R Team are collaborating with the Zoological Society London (ZSL) to produce a report detailing the habitat changes that have been observed since the introduction of the byelaw.

A new flying array, purchased in February 2024, will replace the current sled used in towed video surveys. This will improve image quality and reduce seabed impacts. The array has undergone some upgrades and preliminary testing. Further sea trials are planned for summer 2025.

Hand Gathering Permit Byelaw

Following confirmation of the byelaw, materials to summarise and communicate the new requirements and permits for Hand Gatherers were distributed throughout the district in early 2025.

Fisheries Management Plans

Sussex IFCA have inputted wherever possible to discussions, evidence gathering, and consultations for all Fisheries Management Plans (FMP) relevant to the Sussex IFCA District. The C&R team have

endeavoured to provide productive and effective contributions to the process for the success and sustainability of inshore and offshore fisheries.

Skate & Ray FMP

In April 2024, Defra led a meeting to present changes to the draft FMP following Working Group (WG) feedback and quality assurance, and to mark the handover from MMO to Defra for consultation and publication. Some WG recommendations were softened — such as changing a cross-species MCRS from a commitment to consideration — and the plan to explore spatial management was dropped. However, after strong objections to removing measures without WG input, the intention to investigate spatial management for undulate rays was reinstated.

Whelk FMP

During development of the first Whelk FMP, Sussex IFCA submitted a detailed consultation response with analysis of Shellfish Permit Byelaw catch returns. In October 2024, Sussex IFCA interviewed local whelk fishers on the proposed entitlement scheme and MCRS changes, producing a report for colleagues. To date, proposed measures have not addressed the impact on access to inshore fisheries, existing IFCA management, or wider social and environmental impacts. In December, IFCA Research managers met to prepare

a joint response, raising concerns over transparency of the decision-making process, the groups informing the FMP, and fishery access. Sussex IFCA was invited to the Whelk FMP Science Sub-group in August 2024 but has not yet received a meeting invite. There were two meetings in June and July 2024 designed to allow IFCA's to give high-level input on the proposed entitlement scheme implementation.

Crab & Lobster FMP

During development of the first Crab and Lobster FMP, Sussex IFCA submitted a detailed consultation response, analysed Shellfish Permit Byelaw catch return data, and took part in follow-up interviews. However, Sussex IFCA have not yet been invited to contribute to the implementation stage.

Seabream FMP

Sussex IFCA continued to attend Seabream FMP Working Group meetings and joined MMO engagement on the Wrasse Complex and Seabream FMPs, including a Shoreham event with 52 attendees (18 recreational anglers). The MMO team also presented at an Angling Trust webinar in November 2024. A summary of engagement for both FMPs will be published when draft plans go to consultation in summer 2025.

Bass FMP

The Chief Officer participates in the Bass Management Group (BMG), formed to implement the Bass FMP published in December 2023. Since its inaugural meeting at Defra on 8th November, the group has met quarterly. In early 2025, the MMO launched an Authorisations Task & Finish Group, holding Sussex coast workshops to gather fishers' views on track record requirements (limited to 1 July 2015-30 September 2016) and transferring authorisations (vessel-based rather than licence-based). The group will continue reviewing the authorisation process before reporting to the BMG.

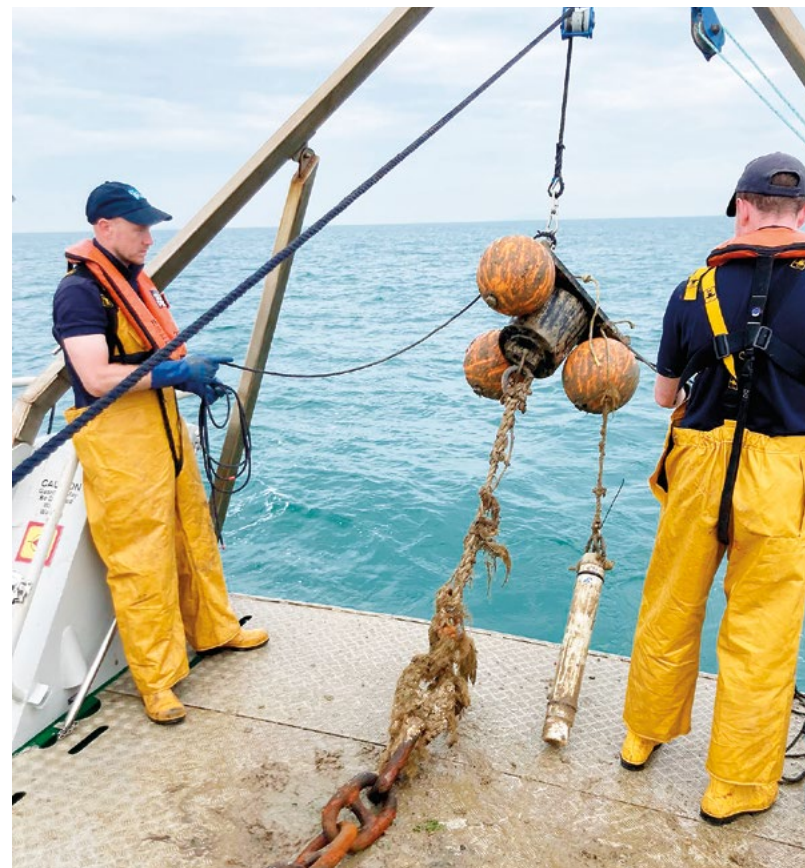
Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species FMP

In May 2024, Sussex IFCA supported Cuttlefish 'Roadshow' events in Shoreham-by-sea and Hastings, enabling local stakeholder input. In October 2024, Sussex IFCA collaborated with the MMO and neighbouring IFCAs on the draft Cuttlefish Action Plan, followed by a November 2024 stakeholder roundtable where the MMO shared engagement findings and gathered feedback on the plan, evidence gaps, and next steps.

Marine Case Management System

Sussex IFCA responded to several marine license cases, notably the aggregate extraction in Brighton Marina (MLA/2014/00511/3 L/2015/00024/4). Sussex IFCA have corresponded four times with the MMO on the consultation process regarding existing license, and application to renew the license (2025) for dredge disposal operations. Sussex IFCA have consistently raised concerns (responding to two similar consultations) about ecological impacts on BHW MCZ and the insufficient monitoring, leading to poor understanding of the impact of those activities on the MCZ and conservation features. The MMO did not respond to any correspondence. The issues were discussed at the Technical Sub-Committee on 13 March 2025, after which Sussex IFCA drafted an objection to the licence renewal.

Specifically, the Authority's response noted that in the opinion of Officers, results from the monitoring of blue mussel beds (2017-2024) does not prove licenced dredge disposal from Brighton Marina is harmless and highlighted gaps in the monitoring programme to identify dredge sediment disposal impacts for subtidal and littoral chalk, native oysters, and short-snouted seahorses.



Receiver maintenance for Fish Telemetry partnership work

Partnerships & Collaborative Projects

Sussex IFCA continues to engage with a range of local charities, universities and other organisations to deliver on its key responsibilities. A selection of key updates from partnerships and collaborative projects.

Fish Telemetry

Work on the acoustic telemetry array in Sussex has continued successfully, with the first scientific paper published. Officers engage with the Acoustic Telemetry Working Group on operations, data, results, and future opportunities. In February 2025, Pete Davies (University of Plymouth)

presented results at the Angling for Sustainability and Pollack FISP Conference, noting plans to continue south coast tagging pending funding.

Sussex Kelp Restoration Project (SKRP)

Sussex IFCA continues to sit on the SKRP Steering and Working Groups and now also attends the new Communications Group, formed, in-part, to address ongoing issues around Nearshore Trawling Byelaw communications. The group's Terms of Reference are under review.

The Barrier and Optimum Conditions report commissioned by BMF and authored by University of Newcastle researchers with review from Sussex IFCA and ZSL, has been published. It details UK kelp species

life history, ecology, historical distribution, and barriers and conditions for recovery, habitat restoration methods and monitoring recovery, and recommendations for future efforts.

Sussex IFCA also supported BMF potting surveys in Selsey and Brighton, assessing abundance, size, weight, sex and condition of edible crab, European lobster and spider crab caught in the pots inside and outside the Sussex Nearshore Trawling Byelaw area. Following the summer surveys, Sussex IFCA advised on data analysis and reporting.

Officers Van and James on board a local fishing vessel conducting potting surveys



Small Fish Surveys

From June to September 2024, officers supported Small Fish Surveys (SFS) in Chichester Harbour led by researchers associated with the Solent Seascape Project (SSP), with sites including Cobnor Point, Copperas Point, Winner Bank, and Pilsey Island. Repeat sampling took place in October with Sparsholt College (Winner Bank and Copperas Point). Officers also helped restart and conduct SFS in Rye, in collaboration with SWT at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Sussex IFCA continues to engage with TAG to discuss current and future considerations for research efforts that drive inshore fisheries management. In 2024-2025 this included discussion of drone-based monitoring and how this can be employed by

IFCAs, as well as contributing to the formulation of a nationwide group led by Cefas and which is designed to be able to respond to mass mortality events and collect the data needed to investigate their causes.

Remote Operated Video (ROV) Kelp Survey

In March 2025, Sussex IFCA conducted a kelp survey off Pagham Harbour using a BlueROV2 from FPV Watchful for the EA. Two sites were surveyed, however poor visibility (~30 cm) prevented confirmation of the presence of kelp, making the survey inconclusive. Sussex IFCA plans to revisit under more favourable conditions, using FPV Merlin and handheld cameras during neap tides and clearer conditions to improve flexibility and coverage.



© Felix Reitze de la Haye



Drone-Based Monitoring of Intertidal Hand Gathering Pilot Project

Since November 2024, Sussex IFCA has run a drone monitoring project in collaboration with Dr Niall Burnside (SAMS) to assess the scale and distribution of hand gathering in intertidal areas. The project has involved regular surveys at two intertidal sites, using our multispectral drone. The scoping study phase included training a deep learning model to detect and classify hand gathering footprints from aerial imagery. Initial trials identified that flying at 60-90m provided an optimal balance between image resolution and operational efficiency, and the model successfully detected over 2,600 footprints.

While no further model development is planned, ongoing data collection will support future evaluation of the recently confirmed Hand Gathering Byelaw.

Environment Agency (EA) Pevensey to Eastbourne Scheme

Sussex IFCA has informally consulted with the EA on this large infrastructure project, specifically on the use of artificial reefs. This involved highlighting the ReMeMaRe project, which conducted national habitat suitability modelling for several relevant species, and suggesting that any artificial reef design should consider the designated features of Beachy Head East MCZ.

Rampion 2 Consultation

The project "Decision" stage had an expected completion date originally on 6th February 2025, however, this was moved to 3rd April 2025. Following the examination period during which the public, statutory consultees (including Sussex IFCA) and interested parties were given the opportunity to give evidence to the Examining Authority, recommendations were made to the Secretary of State on 6th November 2024. Sussex IFCA made full submissions through the examination period as reported in previous meetings.

The Living Coast Biosphere

Sussex IFCA continues its position on the Board for The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere, advising on marine conservation and sustainable fisheries, considering the United Nations sustainable development goal 'Life below water'. In March 2025, the Chief Officer presented on the Nearshore Trawling Byelaw and Sussex Kelp Recovery Project at the 'Celebrating our UNESCO UK Biospheres' event, whilst an Officer attended the follow-up 'Nature Starts on Our Plate' meeting, focused on local food production and partnerships.

Blue Marine Foundation Potting Surveys

In August 2024, potting surveys off Selsey and Brighton were conducted to monitor the potential impacts of the Nearshore Trawling Byelaw on local crab and lobster populations. This fourth year of surveys,

supported by local fishers, collected data on crab and lobster abundance, size, weight, sex, and condition inside and outside the Byelaw area.

Data Management

GIS Data Audit

New officer ED-S manages the GIS filing system, reviewing and reorganising files to improve accuracy and efficiency in accessing and utilising mapping assets.

Education & Engagement Work

Shoresearch

Sussex IFCA continues to support SWT's Shoresearch monitoring, surveying intertidal habitats and species while educating volunteers on the IFCA's role within the district.

Interactive Map

Sussex IFCA has launched an independent mapping platform on its website, featuring updated data, a refreshed colour scheme, and allows the flexibility to add layers as needed. The platform also supports enhanced interactivity and additional components to increase future public engagement.

Universities & Colleges

C&R Officers gave presentations on the role of IFCA's in fisheries management at Sussex University and Sparsholt College and continue to support annual undergraduate fieldwork at the University of Brighton.

Success Criterion 4 Governance & Training

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	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG 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. IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential, or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972. 	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities and objectives are discussed and agreed by staff and the Authority. Priorities for the plan will use evidence and be risk based. Priorities will include provision for the operational assets that underpin IFCA activities. Actions will be value for money. Create and publish an annual plan for each financial year. This will be a four-year plan with an annual review cycle. A copy of the plan will be sent to the Secretary of State. 	March 2025
	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and publish an annual report on the website by November. Report to include performance metrics. Report to include annual finance summary. Appropriate financial management controls and audits to be maintained. Administrative processes are in place to ensure control over expenses, procurement and time recording. 	November 2025
	<p>SC4C: IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals have performance plans that link to the IFCA annual plans. Objectives are discussed and set for individuals. Manager's objectives will include good internal communication to all staff. Personal development requirements for individuals are planned and completed. One-to-one meetings are held regularly and appraisals are carried out in the fourth quarter of the year. 	

Success Criterion 4 continued:

OUTCOMES	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG 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. IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential, or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972. 	<p>SC4D: An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority meetings are supported with timely and appropriate agendas and paperwork. Minutes are recorded and issued. Standing orders and terms and conditions for members will be adhered to. 	
	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority decision making will be informed and reflect marine management mechanisms including the MaCCA obligations, the South Marine Plan, Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategic Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, enforcement risks and the blue growth agenda. Authority decision making will be informed and reflect other IFCAs, MMO, EA, NE, Cefas and local council priorities. Transparency will be ensured by publication of Committee meeting minutes and agendas. 	



Delivery of Success Criterion 4: Governance & Training

Authority

Sussex IFCA has operated within clear, established, and maintained policies. Policies have continued to prove effective in 2024-2025 to support and strengthen governance and management of the business of the Authority. The Authority continued to develop an experienced, highly trained, professional workforce, together with a well-informed, responsive and

supportive membership. Authority meetings have taken place this financial year as planned, and a full summary can be seen in the 'Governance Report'.

Annual Plan and Annual Report

The Annual Plan for the 2024-2025 year was approved by the Authority at the April 2024 Authority meeting, published on the Sussex IFCA website and submitted to the Secretary of State by the 31st March 2024.

The Annual Report for 2024-2025 was published on the Sussex IFCA website and submitted to the Secretary of State by 30th November 2025.

Staff

During 2024-2025, Sussex IFCA undertook several recruitment campaigns driven by a variety of factors, including staff pursuing new career opportunities, maternity leave, retirement, travel plans, and the creation of new roles made possible through grant funding.

Over the course of the year, we successfully recruited for several key positions, including a Finance Manager, one Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer, two Conservation and Research Officers, a Senior Conservation and Research Officer, and a Vessel Operations Manager (Senior Skipper).



Staff Performance Planning and Training

All officers have undertaken individual performance plans in 2024-2025. The plans have highlighted where training and development is required, and all externally led training can be found in the table below.

Sussex IFCA maintains a strong foundation of knowledge, experience, and understanding across its areas of work. Ensuring IFCA Officers and staff are trained to the highest standards in their respective roles is a core priority for Sussex IFCA, directly contributing to the quality of work delivered and the overall effectiveness of the Authority's outputs. Key training priorities include mandatory health and safety instruction, the development of enforcement and seamanship skills for IFCOs, enhancement of survey techniques, and improving officers' capacity to carry out a variety of surveys. Additionally, staff are supported in developing their IT skills, including the use of GIS and website management.

Training Summary

Training Type	Date	Training	Attendees
Professional Development	May 2024	1-Day EA – Small Fish ID Training	10 Staff Members
Professional Development	May 2024	1-Day Social Media Strategy Training Course	1 Staff Member
Professional Development	June 2024	1-Day ESCC – Communication Skills	1 Officer
Mandatory Operational	July 2024	1-Day MMO - CLUE Intelligence Training	7 Warranted Officers
Professional Development	July 2024	1-Day ESCC – Personal Impact & Assertiveness	1 Officer
Mandatory Operational	October 2024	1-Day ENG1 Seafarers Medical	2 Officers
Professional Development	October 2024	1-Day Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	2 Officers
Mandatory Operational	November 2024	5-Days MCA Approved – STCW Basic Training Course	2 Officers
Professional Development	November 2024	5-Day Qualitative Methods for Conservation	1 Officer
Professional Development	December 2024	1-Day Cefas - Coastal Health and Livelihoods project: sampling crab and lobster tissues for infectious diseases	2 Officers
Mandatory Operational	January 2025	5-Days MCA Approved – STCW Basic Training Course	1 Officer
Mandatory Operational	January 2025	1-Day ENG1 Seafarers Medical	1 Officer
Mandatory Operational	January 2025	1-Day MCA - Safety Management Systems Training	1 Warranted Officer
Mandatory Operational	February 2025	6-Days Competent Officers Course	2 Warranted Officers
Professional Development	February 2025	6-Days Environment, Science and Conservation Course	2 Officers
Mandatory Operational	March 2025	1-Day EA – Cross Warrant Training	4 Warranted Officers

Workshops and Conferences

ICES Conference

Both Conservation and Research Managers attended the ICES conference in September 2024. Sussex IFCA had an oral presentation and a poster which highlighting the development of the Nearshore Trawling Byelaw collaborative work with Plymouth University on the Acoustic Array project.

Ocean Symposium

In November 2024, four Sussex IFCA Officers attended the Ocean Symposium, which brings together regulators, NGO's, local initiatives, and community members, to discuss regional and wider marine work. Sussex IFCA presented a stall showcasing the work and management of the Authority, and the Chief Officer opened the symposium to welcome delegates.



Conservation and Research
Manager George presenting at
ICES Conference

Solent Forum

A Solent Forum Members Meeting was held on 13th February 2025 at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton. Presentations from researchers, Natural England, and local partners included a case study on metals in sediment and ragworms at Dell Quay, and feature condition assessments for birds in Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA.

Coastal Health and Livelihoods Project

In December 2024, two Officers attended a Cefas-led programme in Weymouth to train IFCA staff on sampling crab and lobster tissues for infectious diseases. The lab-based training included dissecting fresh samples and identifying tissues needed for testing, enabling faster local responses to mass mortality events. Sampling kits will be provided to IFCAs for secure collection and transport.

Pagham RSPB Engagement

Officers continued engagement with RSPB Pagham Harbour through pop-up events in May, June, and August 2024, speaking with the public and recreational anglers about Sussex IFCA's role and projects completed over the past five years.

Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)

IFCA Online Briefing Series

In April 2024, the fourth IFCA staff and

member session, organised by IFM and AIFCA, covered the IFCA Stories Project, delivered by Sarah Coulthard (Newcastle University). In October 2024, the fifth session focused on effective marketing and communications, led by Jane Harrad-Roberts (AIFCA).




Success Criterion 5 Evidence & Science

IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

Definition: IFCAs are statutory regulators for their Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. Decision-making should be based on evidence. All IFCAs 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	INDICATOR	ACTIONS	RAG 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. 	<p>SC5A: The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and publish a strategic 4 year and Annual Research Plan. IFCA evidence collection capability will be maintained. Ecosystem services evidence will be part of the evidence portfolio. Climate change trends and impacts will be part of the evidence portfolio. Fisheries activity, landing, economic values and impact will be part of the evidence portfolio. Species distribution, seasonality, life-cycle patterns and habitat information will be part of the evidence portfolio. 	
	<p>SC5B: The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and publish an annual Research Report. Communicate research findings through accessible education and awareness strategies. Use evidence to inform IFCA decision making and influence others decision making. 	
	<p>SC5C: The IFCA's contribution to TAG and progress that has been made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and its work streams. Describe in the annual report the contribution towards building a national evidence needs programme. 	

Delivery of Success Criteria 5: Evidence & Science

During 2024-2025, Sussex IFCA consistently met the specified indicators and criteria, as demonstrated by the publication of a forward-looking strategic **Conservation and Research Plan** and a retrospective strategic **Conservation and Research Report**. The Authority also actively contributed to the national IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG), with consistent attendance by the Conservation and Research manager at all TAG meetings.

Research Planning

A range of research planning and survey work has been undertaken, including: Small Fish Surveys, with Sussex Wildlife Trust; drone surveys, in collaboration with the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS); remote operated vehicle (ROV) kelp survey, in collaboration with the EA. Additional survey planning was carried out for Sussex IFCA crab and lobster potting surveys, in collaboration with CEFAS. Officers have contributed to the planning of: Small Fish Surveys, led by University of Portsmouth and Chichester Harbour Conservancy; crab and lobster potting surveys, led by

BMF; Acoustic Telemetry tagging and receiver maintenance, led by University of Plymouth; Shoresearch, led by SWT.

Activities that were planned but not undertaken in 2024-2025 reporting period were towed video surveys.

Research Reporting

The Sussex IFCA publish conservation and research reports annually, demonstrating how evidence has supported decision making.

All evidence collected and utilised was formally reported to, and approved by, the Authority's Principal Committee and Technical Subcommittee.

Regular bimonthly meetings were held with the Authority's Natural England representative to review and discuss ongoing work related to Marine Protected Areas. These meetings supported the development of Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs). In addition, the Authority supported local organisations across 24 partnerships, helping to strengthen the overall operational capacity of all partners involved.

TAG & National Evidence Need

Sussex IFCA Officers attend TAG meetings and contribute to the progress of national evidence programme requirements. Officers gave presentations on relevant workstreams to TAG members and work undertaken will be reported in Sussex IFCA's Conservation and Research Report.

In 2024-2025 this included discussion of drone-based monitoring and how this can be employed by IFCA's, as well as contributing the formulation of nationwide group led by Cefas and which is designed to be able to respond to mass mortality events and collect the data needed to investigate their causes.

Evidence Example – Sussex IFCA Crab and Lobster Surveys

To contribute to the Crab and Lobster FMP, Sussex IFCA planned and implemented a new Crab and Lobster survey programme in 2024. After visiting colleagues in Northumberland IFCA to understand how they implement comprehensive crab and lobster surveys, Sussex IFCA staff brought back the lessons learnt and have engaged local pot fishers to assist with regular surveys in key locations across the District. Due to officer availability, only one survey took place in 2024-2025 (June 2024). Further surveys are planned for 2025-2026.



Financial Summary

Levy Income

The Authority is predominantly publicly funded, by means of annual statutory levies on its constituent Authorities (West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council), to undertake its Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA 2009) duties. The Authority's levy funding is essential for the implementation of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) defined High Level Objectives and the associated work programme described in the Authority's Annual Plan. The Authority sets the levies ahead of the financial year to ensure that budgeted expenditure is fully funded. The total amount of Levy income for the financial year 2024-2025 was £1,150,200.

The constituent Authorities fund the levies from the financial resources which are available to them, predominantly council tax receivable from local taxpayers; non-domestic rates payable by businesses in the area; and Government grants. MaCAA 2009 introduced new fisheries and conservation management duties, including the management of fishing activities within Marine Conservation Zones that lie within the Sussex IFCA's District. In recognition of the additional costs that would be incurred by Sussex IFCA in responding to these new duties, the Government has provided additional annual grants to its constituent Authorities each year through to 2024-2025, to mitigate the impact on levies.

Charter, Grant, Permit and Other Income

20% of income, £296,250, was derived from grant receipts for projects, a grant towards replacing a vessel, income from permits issued in accordance with the local Shellfish Byelaw and other income, including investment income. Additional grants were received from Defra to support the delivery of the Fisheries and Management Plan (FMP) programme. The income derived from each commercial shellfish permit is accounted for evenly over its two-year validity period. The total income from all permits in 2024-2025 was £11,622.

£2,150 (0.14% of income) was generated from charter of the Authority's vessels.

Expenditure

Expenditure on employees in 2024-2025, including employer statutory and contractual contributions, training and development, represented 57% (£875,135) of total expenditure. The increase year on year, results from the national pay award, additional headcount to support the FMP requirements, and increased training needs. Other notable categories of expenditure were the operation and maintenance of vessels, £139,813, and compliance, research and project costs, £31,370. In addition to support and administrative costs, an annual depreciation charge is made to account for the reduction in value of vessels and other equipment as they age.

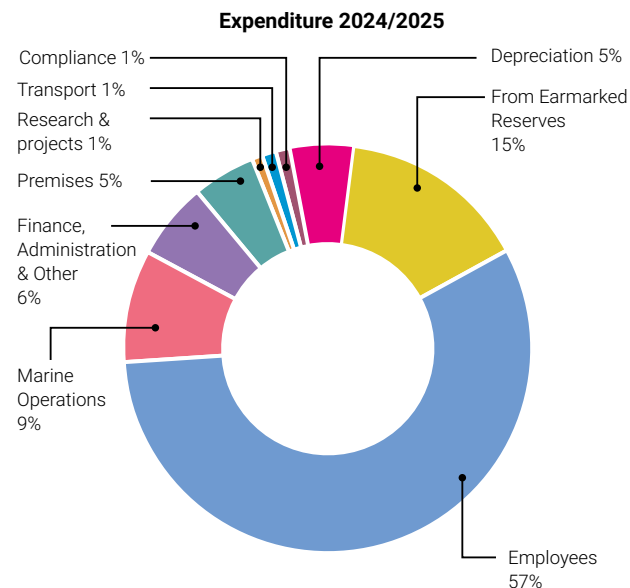
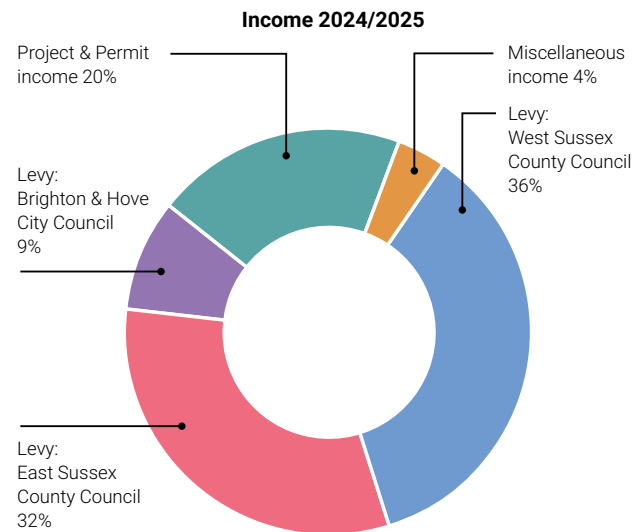
Premises costs are similar to the previous year. Administration costs are higher than previous, partly due to an increase in professional fees. At the end of the year there was a deficit of £46,909, being the amount used from reserves towards the replacement vessel.

Examination of Accounts: In the interest of public assurance and accountability, the Authority has chosen to put in place an independent assurance review of its annual accounts. In 2024-2025, this review was undertaken by James Todd & Co, who concluded that they had no cause to believe that in any material respect: 1) accounting records were not kept as required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; 2) the financial statements do not accord with those records.

FPV Osprey pre sea trials at MST early 2025



Statement of Income & Expenditure



Income

West Sussex County Council
East Sussex County Council
Brighton and Hove City Council
Total Levies
Project Income & Permit income
Miscellaneous income
Total Income

Expenditure

Employees
Marine Operations
Finance, Administration & Other
Premises
Transport
Research, Projects & Donations
Compliance
Depreciation
Contribution (from)/to Earmarked Reserves
Total Expenditure
Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred to /(from) Reserves
Total

In accordance with Statutory Instrument 2010 No. 2199, Article 16

- (1) The expenses incurred by the Authority must be defrayed by the relevant councils in accordance with paragraph (2)
- (2) The percentage of those expenses to be defrayed by each relevant council is as follows:

	2024/25 Levy
West Sussex County Council	46.7% £537,800
East Sussex County Council	42.2% £484,900
Brighton and Hove City Council	11.1% £127,500
	100.0% £1,150,200

2024/2025

£
537,800
484,900
127,500
1,150,200
296,872
48,538
1,495,610

875,135
139,813
92,248
68,683
16,288
12,434
18,936
81,732
237,250
1,542,519
-46,909
1,495,610

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025

	£	£
Long Term Assets		
Historic cost or value		
: Vessels	1,388,647	
: Equipment	121,848	
: Vehicles	7,395	
		1,517,890
Accumulated Depreciation		
: Vessels	(480,000)	
: Equipment	(86,461)	
: Vehicles	(7,395)	
		(573,856)
		944,034
Short Term Assets		
Debtors	1,050	
Prepayments	58,420	
VAT reimbursement due	26,446	
Cash	1,706,724	
		1,792,640
Short Term Liabilities		
Creditors	(159,593)	
Income in advance	(514,842)	
Deferred income	(12,503)	
Fixed Asset Penalties	(12,750)	
HMRC and Pension Fund	(29,284)	
		(728,972)
		2,007,702
Net Assets		
Revenue Reserve at start of year	866,253	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(46,909)	
Revenue Reserve at end of year		819,344
Earmarked Reserves		297,790
Revaluation Reserve		890,568
Total Reserves		2,007,702

Resources

Premises

The Authority moved to its current premises at 12a Riverside Business Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6RE in 2012. Following a review and negotiations with the landlord, Euro Property Holdings Limited, a new 5-year lease began in December 2022. The rent will remain at £36,000 per annum for the new lease period. The premises continue to provide good work base facilities at a reasonable cost. The Authority also leases two container units, one at Shoreham Yacht Club and one at Littlehampton Marina. These provide valuable storage and work areas to support our maintenance and operational activities.



Vessels and Vehicles

Authority's Vessels

The 2024-2025 reporting period saw the retirement of our Marine Operations Manager and Master of Vessels; Charlie Hubbard who had been an employee of Sussex IFCA, Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee prior to that, for 32 years. In this time, Charlie served as Engineer and Master on three main Fisheries Patrol Vessels, and project managed the build of four boats including Sussex IFCA's current vessel 'FPV Watchful'.

As well as the continuous compliance work in this period by the authority vessels; both boarding operations and fishing gear hauling inspections, Sussex IFCA vessels were involved in the now regular Acoustic Array maintenance operations, as well as towed video surveys and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) work, principally gathering research data used to monitor the impacts of management measures in Sussex Bay.

FPV Watchful

The Authority's primary sea going asset is Fisheries Patrol Vessel Watchful, berthed at Aldrington Marina. FPV Watchful is an 18-metre vessel capable of operating both in and offshore. The integrated ramp allows for 'Watchful' to carry a 5.5 metre daughter vessel which is primarily used for conducting boarding operations as part of our compliance work. The daughter vessel can also be removed, and decking put in its place to provide a large open deck area. The deck area is a huge advantage to the Sussex IFCA in delivering both research and compliance objectives – the additional space allows for longer strings of fishing gear to

*Marine Operations Manager
and Master of Vessels Charlie Hubbard*



'FPV Watchful' during a patrol of the Rampion Windfarm

be hauled and inspected, as well as allowing for the safe deployment of research equipment such as our ROV and towed video sleds.

FPV Merlin

The Authority also operates an 8 metre Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), 'FPV Merlin', launched in 2013, built by MST with funding support from the Environment Agency. The vessel is owned and operated by Sussex IFCA and boasts a waterjet propulsion unit which allows the vessel to be operated in extremely shallow waters. This is extremely valuable for both research, compliance and charter operations both near shore and within the Sussex district's many rivers. The vessel is capable of safely operating at high speeds with a relatively long operational range which allows it to be used at short notice to rapidly respond to any potential compliance issues.



'FPV Merlin' alongside a fishing vessel South of Shoreham Harbour whilst a Sussex IFCA boarding team carry out a routine catch inspection

FPV Osprey

This year also saw the completion of our replacement daughter craft for 'FPV Watchful'. 'FPV Osprey' will be taking over from the 22 year old 'Delta One' this coming year and will be an integral asset to the Sussex IFCA fleet. Boasting speeds of over 30 knots 'FPV Osprey' is a state-of-the-art 5.5 metre RIB, with full Navigation and Radar equipment. Operating under the new Workboat Code 3, 'FPV Osprey's' primary role will be a boarding vessel, providing a safe platform for Sussex IFCA Officers to carry out routine inspections on the Sussex inshore fishing fleet.



'FPV Osprey' Launch and recovery trials

Authority's Vehicles

Sussex IFCA has utilised 2 vehicles for land-based compliance, enforcement, and research over the last reporting year.

The Authority maintains service level agreement with for the hire and maintenance of a 1.6T Kia Sportage Estate for the use on shore patrols, surveys and general Authority business. The current lease agreement for the vehicle began in 2023 and is due to run until November 2027 at a total cost of £24,000 + VAT.

A second fleet vehicle includes a Citroen Berlingo van, purchased by the Authority in 2013. This vehicle is due to be replaced in the next financial year.

Kia Sportage:

Total mileage in 2024-2025: 9260

Total fuel cost: £1053

Citroen Berlingo:

Total mileage in 2024-2025: 2064

Total fuel cost: £334

Drone

Sussex IFCA has Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) capability, effective November 2021 when the Authority purchased a DJI M300 RTK, fitted with a Zenmuse H20-T camera. Use of drones has been adopted widely across multiple law enforcement agencies for the detection of crimes and the evidencing of offences. The drone is used by authorised Sussex IFCA Officers for fisheries enforcement and fisheries management. It can be used in dynamic environments, as a fast response to monitor, record and evidence illegal activity that may not otherwise be seen, as well as being used for routine observations and checks.

The Sussex IFCA drone has a quad-sensor camera featuring 20MP zoom, 12MP wide angle capabilities, a laser rangefinder, thermal imaging, zoom and wide-angle functions. The drone is used for management and policy functions, to observe and monitor Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other areas of environmental concern. The enhanced capability of the Sussex IFCA drone, in addition to GPS technology offers to record evidence of possible offences, from perspectives not previously possible, is used to aid in the collection of intelligence, act as a deterrent, and improve the prevention and detection of fisheries offences.

More information on our drone asset can be found on the Sussex IFCA website: www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/assets

Employees & Organisational Structure

The Authority employs a specialist team of multi-disciplined professionals to undertake its work. Individually, they have extensive skills, knowledge and experience in their respective roles. The organisation comprises: compliance and enforcement, marine operations, conservation and research, finance and administration functions. Staff are overseen by a senior management team (SMT); the Chief and Deputy Chief Officers, which in turn reports to Authority members.

The current organisational structure is shown in the adjoining figure. All staff are based at 'Riverside', a centrally located coastal office base in Shoreham-by-Sea.

All Officers carry the status of 'Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer'. Enforcement officers are issued with an Inshore Fisheries & Conservation warrant card. Officers may also be joint warranted with relevant authorities that manage the marine environment.

Chief Fisheries and Conservation Officer

Mr. Robert Pearson MIFM M.Sc. B.Sc.

- Head of Service for Authority and lead within the Senior Management Team
- Management of the IFCA and Reporting Officer to Committee
- National policy liaison role and media contact
- Chief Officer in respect of financial management
- Strategic development of policies and plans

Deputy Chief Fisheries and Conservation Officer

Ms. Angharad Purcell B.Sc.

- Member of the Senior Management Team
- Development of policies, plans and research and implementation of review of management measures
- Oversees sector and operational managers
- Strategic lead on fisheries compliance and training

Committee & Communications Manager

Mrs. Rebecca Belleni B.A.

- Provide full secretarial and administrative service to SMT and administration support to Sector Managers
- Prepare, collate, and distribute agenda papers and minutes for Principal Committee and other meetings
- Support Members through the distribution of Authority guidance and direct liaison
- Responsible for establishing and maintaining office systems, records and processes
- Management of office space and its maintenance including office H&S
- Maintain social media communications, acting as central support

Strategic Advisor & Clerk

Mr. Tim Dapling MIFM M.Sc. B.Sc.

- Advisory role on governance, constitutional and procedural matters to the Authority
- Maintain appropriate governance policies, standing orders and codes of conduct for members
- Strategic support on fisheries and environmental management

Finance Manager

Ms. Ruth Harrison

- Manage, monitor and maintain budgetary and financial information
- Plan and monitor the financial position of the Authority as directed by the Senior Management Team
- Responsible for implementation of Annual Audit and implementation of financial regulations
- Payroll and pension payments

Marine Operations Manager & Master of Vessels and Vessel Operations Manager (Senior Skipper)

Mr. Charlie Hubbard and **Mr. Chris Hubbard**

- Manage all aspects of the Authority's vessels' operations
- Marine operations budget management
- Master on the Authority's vessels
- Manage crew during marine operations

Conservation & Research Managers (Job Share)

Dr Jen Lewis PhD. MRes. BSc.

and **Dr George Balchin** PhD. MRes. BSc.

- Team lead into SMT on conservation and research activities
- Support and assist the SMT and Authority in the development of MPA policy and management
- Participate and facilitate community meetings in respect to Marine Protected Area management
- Participate in the research & environmental activities in support of MPAs and other marine management functions

Senior Research Officer

Dr George Balchin PhD. MRes. BSc.
and **Dr Sol Lucas** PhD. MEng. BEng

- Support development of the Authority's Annual Research Plan
- Design and inform the methodology of research projects undertaken by the Authority
- Implement the practical aspects of the Authority's research projects as identified in the annual Research Plan
- Support the development of research partnerships with other organisations
- Operational support for vessel and research activities

Senior Fisheries and Conservation Officer (Operations, Intelligence and Investigation)

Dr Alberto Kavaddas PhD. B.Sc.

- Lead on operational compliance activities & risk-based enforcement
- Operational support for vessel and research activities
- Lead on compliance activities in the field

Senior Fisheries and Conservation Officer (Research, Intelligence and Investigation)

Mr. Nick Rogers B.Sc.

- Support on evidence (research) collection, reporting and assessment
- Support and lead on small fish survey work throughout the district
- Support on operational compliance activities & risk-based enforcement
- Operational support for vessel and research activities
- Lead on compliance activities in the field

First Mate of Patrol Vessels

Mr. Matt Wiseman B.Sc.

- Act as Deputy to the Marine Operations Manager & Master of Vessels
- Supervise crew members of the vessel in the delivery of marine operations and research support
- Act as designated helm on the Authority's RIBs and Lead Navigator and Radar Operator
- Conduct fisheries and conservation compliance and enforcement activities in accordance with risk-based enforcement process

Marine Technician

Mr. Andrew McCallum

- Manage the Authority's workshop facilities
- Maintain the Authority's patrol vessels and ancillary equipment

Fisheries and Conservation Officers (Research) (x3)

Ms. Vanessa Simons M.Sc. MRes. B.Sc.,

Mx. Em Denton-Smith MRes. B.Sc.

and **Mr Dan Karparis** M.Sc. B.Sc.

- Conduct fisheries and conservation research activities in accordance with the conservation and research plan
- Carry out fisheries compliance activities in support of the compliance and enforcement team
- Facilitate consultation and dialogue with relevant stakeholders
- Operational support for vessel and research activities

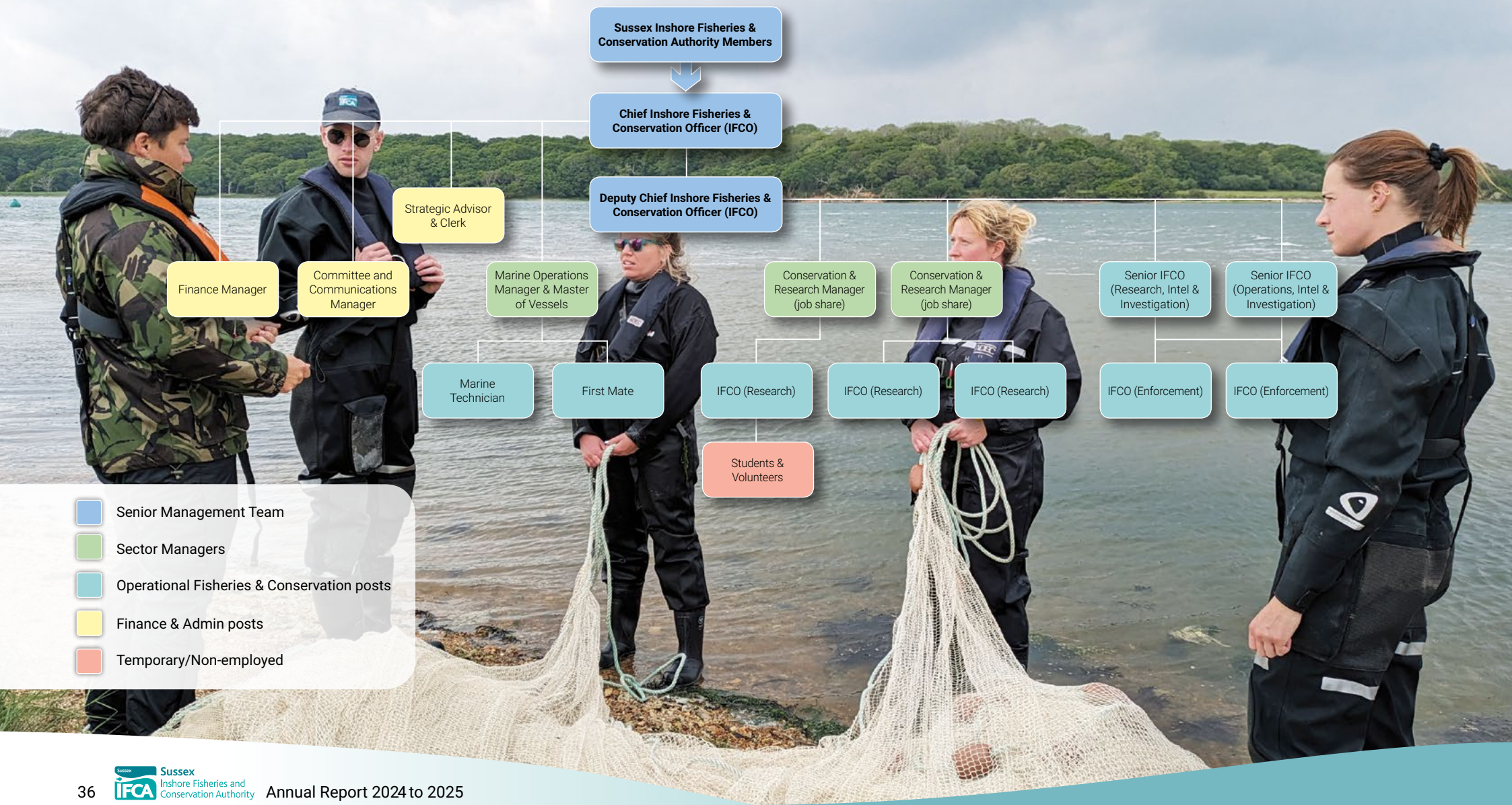
Fisheries and Conservation Officers (x2)

Mr. James Tapley B.Sc. and **Mr. Max Blighton** B.Sc.

- Conduct fisheries and conservation compliance and enforcement activities in accordance with risk-based enforcement process
- Carry out fisheries research activities in support of the conservation and research team
- Facilitate consultation and dialogue with relevant stakeholders
- Operational support for vessel and research activities

Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

Organisational Structure



Governance

Sussex IFCA is a public body governed by a committee of 21 Members who provide oversight and strategic guidance for the Authority. The committee meets quarterly as per Standing Orders and is kept updated on any major developments throughout the year.

Seven Members are nominated by the Authority's three constituent councils: East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton and Hove City Council. Eleven Members are appointed by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) from a range of stakeholder groups, each bringing skills and experience relevant to inshore fisheries management and marine conservation. In addition, there are three statutory Members representing the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Environment Agency (EA), and Natural England (NE).

During the year, the Authority held four in-person General Meetings of the Principal Committee (quarterly meetings) in April, July, October, and January. These were held at the Sussex Yacht Club, Shoreham-by-Sea, which provides excellent facilities and enables the hosting of larger meetings. Specialised subcommittee meetings were occasionally held at the Sussex IFCA office.

All Authority meeting papers are prepared by the Senior Management Team with the assistance of Sussex IFCA Officers. General Meetings are open to the public and the press, with advance notice provided on the Authority website. Authority Standing Orders govern procedures for meetings, and these are regularly reviewed. Reference is

also made, where necessary, to the Members Code of Conduct. Minutes of all Authority meetings are drafted promptly, approved at the following quarterly meeting, and then published on the Authority website.

The Finance Committee meet, where possible, prior to each quarterly meeting, and are reported upon by the Chief Officer and Finance Manager in subsequent General meetings.

In addition, the Authority operates several subcommittees, including a Technical Subcommittee. These convene, as required to provide guidance and make recommendations on specific issues or work streams, which are then reported on and presented to the Principal Committee at the General meetings.

In line with the Terms and Conditions of IFCA General Membership, as set out by the Marine Management Organisation, annual Member Appraisals are conducted to assess the contributions of appointees to IFCA's work. These appraisals also consider adherence to the NOLAN principles and the quality of community representation. Additionally, they serve as a valuable opportunity for providing feedback to both the Chief Officer and the Chair. All Member Appraisals were completed by March 2025. In December 2024, one MMO appointee from the commercial fishing sector resigned from their position

following an extended period of in-person non-attendance. In July 2024 the Authority welcomed a new Natural England representative to the Principal Committee.

Sussex IFCA acknowledges and values the significant time, expertise, and effort contributed by its Members. General Members appointed by the MMO, volunteer their time and provide their skills and dedication free of charge for the benefit of the public. This represents their commitment to the work of Sussex IFCA, the recognition of the benefits the co-management approach brings to inshore fisheries management and the desire to see the Authority work towards its published vision.

Sussex IFCA Committee Members Attendance

Appointment Type	Member	Quarterly Committee Meetings 2024/25			
		Apr-24	Jul-24	Oct-24	Jan-25
East Sussex County Council	Clr Sam Adeniji (East Sussex County Council)	X	✓	X	X
	Clr Julia Hilton (East Sussex County Council)	A	✓	A	✓
	Clr Tom Liddiard (East Sussex County Council)	X	X	X	X
West Sussex County Council	** Clr Noel Atkins (West Sussex County Council)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Clr Deborah Urquhart (West Sussex County Council)	NA	✓	✓	A
	Clr Emma Evans (West Sussex County Council)	✓	✓	✓	A
Brighton & Hove City Council	Clr Theresa Fowler (Brighton & Hove City Council)	✓	✓	A	✓

Key	
✓	Attended
A	Apologies for absence
X	Did not attend – no apologies
NA	Not yet appointed
—	Appointment ceased
*	Chair
**	Deputy Chair

NE / EA / MMO Representatives	Becca Turley (Natural England Representative)	✓	—	—	—
	Danni Barratt (Natural England Representative)	NA	✓	✓	✓
	Paul Johnson (Marine Management Organisation Representative)	✓	A	✓	✓
	Mark Bennett (Environment Agency Representative)	✓	✓	✓	✓

MMO Appointees	* Prof Peter Jones (Professor of Environmental Governance)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Graham Furness (Recreational Sea Angling)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Prof Paul Leonard (Environmental Consultant)	A	A	✓	✓
	Garry Walker (Commercial Fishing)	X	A	X	—
	Sally Ashby (Expert in Marine Ecosystems & Documentary Film Production)	A	A	A	A
	Dr Corina Ciocan (Principal Lecturer, University of Brighton)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Dr Paul Driver (Fisheries Research & International Environmental Conservation)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Gary Edwards (Commercial Fishing/Recreational Charter Skipper)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Julian Seaman (Harbour Master – Shoreham Port)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Kim Matthews (Commercial Fishing/Author/Lecturer)	✓	✓	✓	✓



Risk Management Strategy

In accordance with good management practice and government guidance, the Authority produces an annual risk strategy. The strategy is published within the Authority's Annual Plan, and its contents are under constant review by the Senior Management Team who report on risks to the Authority through the governance structure. The strategy takes the form of a risk matrix which is a 'live' document that develops as the Authority increasingly understands future work, this may in turn lead to deployment of organisational resources, the reallocation of resources and the development of capabilities.

Government reporting guidance requires that new risks identified for intervention should be highlighted in the Authority's Annual Report. A fully reviewed risk matrix is incorporated into the Annual Plan.

A tabulated summary of new and priority risks and interventions is provided for information.

New or Priority Risk Description	Intended Intervention 2024 to 2025	Residual Risk
Failure to retain/recruit staff due to pressures associated with inflationary/living costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue with flexible and hybrid working arrangements adopted in 2020. ▶ Managers support and motivate staff, management through regular 1-2-1's and Individual Performance Plans. ▶ Salaries reviewed through benchmarking process to best ensure competitiveness. ▶ Support staff professional and personal development though providing opportunities including, internal/external training, professional membership, chartership. ▶ Maintain modern employment terms and conditions that promote effective service delivery. 	<p>Small organisation so internal progression limited.</p> <p>Salaries perceived as uncompetitive with larger organisations or private sector.</p> <p>Cost of living factors, e.g. locally high housing costs in SE England.</p>
Unable to meet new Sussex IFCA duties & high-level objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue to provide best available evidence to Defra and local government to secure future funding. Support the AIFCA in efforts to communicate needs to Defra and other relevant departments. ▶ Maintain and develop IFCA/Defra standard MPA reporting processes that highlight level of risk and actions required for delivery of MPA network e.g., provision of evidence and conservation advice to enable development of effective management. ▶ Seek to develop MPA related research initiatives in partnership with relevant statutory bodies, marine industry sector and wider community. Support Sussex Natural Capital Strategy. ▶ Ensure continual development of all staff and engage with national training initiatives. ▶ Seek to develop joint working with the Marine Management Organisation and other relevant organisations. ▶ Support IFCA Chief Officer Group and National Enforcement Group to develop strategic shared approaches to training, intelligence, MCSS development and fisheries data acquisition to support local management needs. ▶ Continually evaluate and accommodate administrative implications of managing paid permit schemes for shellfish management. 	<p>Possibility that although progress will have been made Sussex IFCA could fail to fully meet all its new objectives.</p> <p>That defined objectives are impacted upon by external factors beyond management control.</p>

Risk Management Strategy continued:

New or Priority Risk Description	Intended Intervention 2024 to 2025	Residual Risk
Failure to maintain effective financial management and control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue to develop financial management systems and opportunities for administration efficiencies. ▶ Increase role of financial support in the development and support of project work. ▶ Robust processes and separate bank account for the management of paid permit schemes for shellfish and oyster management. ▶ Following changes to Audit Commission oversight maintain external independent auditing processes that report to Chief Financial Officer & Authority. ▶ Annual independent financial examination and internal audit and reporting process conducted by independent accountants. ▶ Maintain detailed reporting and required approval with Finance subcommittee on budgetary and key financial matters. ▶ Adoption of management accounts that include depreciation, prepayments, accruals to ensure effective annual and quarterly budget management of income and expenditure. ▶ Maintain financial planning on a four year cycle to inform constituent authorities of planned annual levies. ▶ In event of future Finance Manager change utilise agency recruitment process to minimise period and ensure adequate handover. 	<p>Negligible scope for large scale fraud or corruption.</p> <p>Small scale misuse of resources is still possible.</p>
Failure of vessel assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Implementation of ten year operating and service plan for Watchful. ▶ Develop opportunities for Watchful and Merlin to undertake income related activities that support a sustainable Sussex marine environment. Look at strengthening further relationships with MMO, Environment Agency and Brighton University. ▶ Seek appropriate funding and procurement strategy for scheduled Delta 1 vessel replacement as asset reaches 'end of life'. ▶ Vessel capital expenditure and depreciation to be fully accounted through balance sheet deductions. ▶ Appropriate valuation of marine assets to ensure adequate depreciation figure. ▶ Keep insurance under review and maintain mechanical insurance for significant unanticipated maintenance. 	<p>Unforeseen events may still cause disruption to activities.</p> <p>Multiple simultaneous failures of available vessels.</p>
Failure to effectively monitor and enforce legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Maintain risk-based compliance register and associated policies and procedures. ▶ As far as possible seek MCSS access and shared intelligence tools and processes with national partner MMO and fully engage with National Intelligence model. ▶ Continue to maintain and develop collaborative MMO/EA/NE/IFCA approaches toward compliance. ▶ Engage in national training initiative 'Skills for Justice' accredited compliance training scheme and appoint relevant training leads as required. ▶ Assign specific officer to RSA related liaison/communications to minimise compliance risks in sector. ▶ Production of detailed guidance on all new Byelaw regulations. 	<p>Full time District coverage is not possible to achieve.</p> <p>Small minority of fishermen will continue to breach legislation due to short term gain.</p> <p>Lack of financial deterrent.</p> <p>Some legislation difficult to enforce effectively.</p>
Failure to maintain survey / sampling programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Seek opportunities to run surveys/programmes through further partnership projects and the use of volunteers and student placements. ▶ If available secure capital grants for research equipment. ▶ Optimise use of IFCA shared research equipment assets. ▶ Seek to develop opportunities for studentships and placements with Brighton & Sussex University. ▶ Prioritise key research and ensure new projects are achievable in the context of existing research plans. ▶ Maintain an adequate research budget. 	<p>Planned surveys lost due to poor weather or vessel breakdown.</p> <p>Research program continues to expand year on year.</p> <p>Additional unanticipated requirements for surveys.</p>
Failure to fully engage with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ As appropriate continue public engagement with MCZ and fisheries regulation introduction. Where necessary, support with additional stakeholder meetings to refine management measures. ▶ Develop communications for both informal and formal consultations in respect to the making of reviewed management byelaws. ▶ Maintain a communication plan that is regularly reviewed. Increase digital footprint and adopt social media communication channels, on top of existing, effective engagement. 	<p>Engagement affected by factors outside of IFCA control such as 'consultation fatigue'.</p> <p>Some stakeholders unable or unwilling to engage with some forms of media or communications.</p>

Service Plan & Performance Standards

To ensure Sussex IFCA works to a high standard and level of customer service, the Authority has developed and published our 'Service Plan and Performance Standards'. The Service Plan enables stakeholders, customers and the wider public to clearly understand the level of service they should expect, including how we will handle complaints.

Our Service Plan and Performance Standards, alongside other planning commitments, contribute towards the Authority delivering those high-level objectives defined in central government guidance provided to IFCAs, concerning their service delivery.

The Service Plan is subject to review and reflects the specific needs of those the Authority serves. These include individuals involved in the marine fishing and food sector, among other stakeholders.

We are committed to being a transparent and accountable organisation, we want you to know what you can expect from us and the level of service we will provide.

Our Promise

The six-point promise shows what you can expect from us.

1. We will be polite and respectful in all our dealings with you.
2. We will respond to you via the communication channel that you specify whenever we can (in person, the telephone, by email or letter).
3. We will serve you in a timely manner.
4. We will own your enquiry by taking responsibility for resolving it.
5. We will listen to your point of view.
6. We will provide you with accurate information that you can rely on.

Sussex IFCA's new Service Plan includes the following topics:

- Practical ways of working to maintain our commitments
- The staff
- Where we operate
- Complaints and compliments: Sussex IFCA's commitment
- How do I make a complaint?
- What if I'm not satisfied?
- How do I give feedback or provide comments on Sussex IFCA's work?

Our new Service Plan and Performance Standards document can be found on our website, please follow this link:

<https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/about-us>

Complaint recording: no complaints received



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Access to Information

We are committed to developing and promoting a culture of openness, transparency and accountability as embodied in the various access to information legislation. As such, Sussex IFCA has a published policy on how we will respond to data requests under the Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations and the Data Protection Act, with guidance on how to make data or information requests, and our published schedule of charges.

This information can be viewed on the **Data Sharing** page of the Sussex IFCA website.

Abbreviations & Acronyms

AIFCA	Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities
BHCC	Brighton and Hove City Council
BRUVs	Baited Remote Underwater Videos
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquatic Science
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CHASM	Crustacean Habitats and Sediment Movement
COG	Chief Officer's Group
CPUE	Catch per unit of effort
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EEA	European Elasmobranch Association
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EMS	European Marine Site
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
FAP	Financial Administrative Penalty
FMPs	Fisheries Management Plans
FO	Fishery Officer
FPV	Fishery Patrol Vessel
FV	Fishing Vessel
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAT	Highest Astronomical Tide

HLO	High Level Objective
HR	Human Resources
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
IA	Impact Assessment
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
IFC	Onshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer
IFM	Institute of Fisheries Management
IRs	Intelligence Reports
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
MaCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MCRS	Marine Conservation Reference Size
MCS	Marine Conservation Society
MCSS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MEDIN	Marine Environmental Data and Information
MEO	Marine Enforcement Officer
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council

MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NE	Natural England
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NIMEG	National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group
OWW	Official Written Warning
PI	Performance Indicator
PR	Public Relations
RSA	Recreational Sea Angling
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SC	Success Criteria
SKRP	Sussex Kelp Restoration Project
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SMA CF	Sussex Marine and Coastal Forum
SPA	Special Protected Area
SSS	ISite of Special Scientific Interest
SUA	Small Unmanned Aircraft
SWT	Sussex Wildlife Trust
SxIFCA	Sussex IFCA
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TCG	Tasking and Coordination Group
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VW	Verbal Warning
WSSC	West Sussex County Council



Glossary

Policy & Legislation

Birds Directive

Aims to protect all European wild birds and the habitats of the species listed in the directive. The Birds Directive is the abbreviated term for Council Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Byelaw

A regulation made by a local authority.

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is the fisheries policy of the European Union (EU). It sets quotas which indicate how much of each fish species each member state is allowed to catch, as well as encouraging the fishing industry by various market interventions.

Fisheries Act 2020

An Act to make provision in relation to fisheries, fishing, aquaculture and marine conservation; to make provision about the functions of the Marine Management Organisation; and for connected purposes. The Act gives the UK full control of its fishing waters for the first time since 1973.

Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)

FMPs are evidence-based action plans, developed in collaboration with the fishing sector and other stakeholders. Their purpose is to deliver sustainable fisheries for current and future generations.

Habitats Directive

Aims to protect the habitats and species listed in the Directive's Annexes. The Habitats Directive is the abbreviated term for Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Habitats Regulations

Transposes the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive into UK law.

Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS)

The JFS sets out the policies for achieving the 8 fisheries objectives in the Fisheries Act 2020. It will ensure we deliver a thriving, sustainable fishing industry and healthy marine environment. The JFS enables the UK fisheries policy authorities to develop Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) to help deliver our ambition for sustainable fisheries.

Marine and Coastal Access Act

Seeks to improve management and increase protection for the marine environment within English inshore areas.

The Act includes provisions for the establishment of the MMO, IFCAs and the creation of a network of MCZs.

SxIFCA Byelaws

A set of regulations enforced by SxIFCA within the SxIFCA district.

Statutory Instruments

This legislation is made in accordance with provisions contained within one or more of the UK primary fisheries Acts.

Marine Protected Areas

Appropriate Assessment

The process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EC Habitats Directive to assess the impact of a plan or project on a European site.

Assemblage

A collection of plants and/or animals characteristically associated with a particular environment.

Conservation Objective

The goal of maintaining or restoring natural habitats and populations of species of wild fauna and flora at a favourable conservation status.

European Marine Site

A European site (SAC or SPA) which consists of marine areas.

European Site

A Special Protection Area (SPA) designated under the EC Birds Directive, or a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive.

Favourable Condition

A range of conditions for a natural habitat or species at which the sum of the influences acting upon that habitat or species are not adversely affecting its distribution, abundance, structure or function within an individual Natura 2000 site in the long term. The condition in which the habitat or species is capable of sustaining itself on a long-term basis.

Feature

A natural or semi-natural feature for which a European site has been selected.

Habitat

The place in which an animal or plant lives.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

An assessment required under the EC Habitats Directive of the impacts of plans or projects on European sites.

Implementation

Putting policies and proposals into effect.

Implementation Officer

The officer employed by the Management Group to develop the management scheme and support implementation of the scheme.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

Co-ordinated management of the coastal and inshore marine area across multiple sectors, taking a long-term approach to planning.

Likely Significant Effect (LSE)

The first step of a Habitat Regulations Assessment to determine whether a plan or project might impact a European site.

Littoral

The margins of a body of water, an area which is occasionally washed by the tide.

Maintain

The action required for an interest feature when it is considered to be in favourable condition. Management may still be required to keep this status.

Management Group

A group of statutory and non-governmental organisations working in partnership to manage a European Marine Site.

Management Scheme

The framework established by the relevant authorities at a European marine site under which their functions are exercised to secure, in relation to that site, compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

Marine areas in English waters designated under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to protect marine habitats and species typical of UK waters.

Marine Protected Area

A marine area that is protected by statutory or voluntary measures to control human activity. The term is also used to describe Scotland's national network of marine nature conservation sites.

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Important areas for wildlife which are protected, managed and accessible.

Natura 2000 Network

The European network of protected sites established under the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive, made up of SPAs and SACs.

Plan or Project

Any proposed development that is within a relevant authority's function to control, or over which a competent authority has a statutory function to decide on applications for consents, authorisations, licences or permissions.

Ramsar Site

A site held on the list of wetlands of international importance, especially as habitats for wildfowl, under the Ramsar convention.

Relevant Authority

The specific competent authority which has powers or functions which have, or could have, an impact on the marine environment within or adjacent to a European marine site.

Restore

The action required for bringing a qualifying feature back to favourable condition.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Areas designated in the UK for their internationally important flora, fauna and geological features.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

An area designated under the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

An area designated under the European Birds Directive 79/409/EEC.

Statutory Nature Conservation Body

Government's main advisors for the natural environment – Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage in England and Scotland respectively.

Steering Group

A group of statutory and non-governmental organisations with delegated powers from the Management Group. The Steering Group oversees the work of the Implementation Officer.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The assessment of environmental effects of major strategic plans. SEA is a European requirement.

Sub-Feature

An important component part of a qualifying feature – e.g. kelp forests are a sub-feature of the rocky reef.

Other/Fisheries & Environmental

Berried Crab/Lobster

A crab or lobster with eggs or spawn attached to the tail or other exterior part.

By-catch

A fish or other marine species that is caught unintentionally while catching target species.

Carapace Length

The carapace length of a lobster is measured from the rear of the eye socket to the rear of the carapace on a line parallel to the centre line of the body.

Carapace Width

The carapace width of a crab is measured from the widest part of a crab's carapace.

Crustacea

A group of arthropods, which includes crabs, lobsters, crayfish and shrimp.

Glossary continued:

Discards

Those components of a fish stock thrown back after capture e.g. because they are below the minimum landing size or because quota has been exhausted for that species.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The assessment of environmental effects of major projects and development proposals to inform decision making. EIA is a European requirement.

Escape Gaps

An opening in the pot of a size that allows undersized target and non-target species to escape, whilst retaining legal sized target species.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

A system which captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data that is linked to a location. The software ArcGIS is used by SxIFCA to produce maps.

Ground-Truthing

The collection of ground-truth data enables the accuracy of remote- sensing data (such as underwater video footage) to be determined, aiding the interpretation and analysis of the remotely-sensed data.

Landing Obligation

Under the landing obligation all catches have to be kept on board, landed and counted against quotas. Undersized

fish cannot be marketed for human consumption.

Management Regime

The current SxIFCA management regime consists of byelaws and regulations.

Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

MSY is the largest average yield (catch) that can theoretically be taken from a species' stock over an indefinite period under constant environmental conditions.

Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)

The size for a given species below which the sale of catches shall be restricted to reduction to fish-meal, pet food or other non-human consumption products only.

Minimum Landing Size (MLS)

The EU Common Fisheries Policy implemented EU minimum landing sizes (MLS) now known as Conservation Reference Sizes (CRS) for quota species which define the smallest fish measurement at which it is legal to keep or sell a fish.

Mitigation

The action of reducing the severity or seriousness of something.

Stakeholder

Any organisation or individual that has a direct interest in actions or decisions.

Their interest may be because they will have a role in implementing the decisions, or because they will be affected by the decision.

Stock Assessment

Provide fisheries managers with the information that is used in the regulation of a fish stock. Biological and fisheries data are collected in a stock assessment.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Assesses the impact on the environment from public plans, programmes and strategies.

Sustainability

The collection of policies and strategies employed by companies to minimize their environmental impact on future generations.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Catch limits (expressed in tonnes or numbers) that are set for most commercial fish stocks.

Enforcement

Automatic Identification System (AIS)

An automatic tracking system used on ships and by vessel traffic services (VTS) for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging data with other nearby ships, AIS base stations, and satellites.

Code of Conduct

A set of rules outlining the social norms and rules and responsibilities of, or proper practices for, an individual, party or organisation.

Global Positioning System (GPS)

A satellite-based navigation system.

Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (I-VMS)

I-VMS devices are similar to the VMS tracking devices used by fishing vessels of 12 metres and greater. I-VMS devices, using GPRS monitor inshore fishing activity to help improve the management and sustainability of our marine environment, ensure proper fishing practices and prevent illegal fishing to help protect and enhance the livelihoods of fishers.

Landings

The catches of marine fish landed at a port.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A formal agreement between two or more parties. MOUs are not legally binding.

Nautical Mile (nm)

A nautical mile is a unit of distance, set by international agreement as being 1.852 km; 1,852 m; 1.151 mi or 6,076 ft.

Patrols

Monitoring of a specific geographic area.

Permit

An official document giving someone authorisation to fish.

Pot Limitation

Limits the number of pots a permit holder can fish within the district.

TCG

Tactical Co-ordination Group.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Systems that are used in commercial fishing to allow environmental and fisheries regulatory organisations.

Fishing Methods & Gear**Bait Collection**

The collection of intertidal animals to use as bait.

Bait Digging

Method of collecting angling bait which uses a fork, pump or spade to target lugworm and ragworm living in intertidal sediment.

Cod-end

The end of a towed net where the catch collects.

Crab Tiling

Collecting soft shelled shore crabs referred to as peeler crabs for use as angling bait. Shelters made from tyres or pipes are set on intertidal sediment.

Dahn

A pole with a float, weight and flag attached.

Dredge

A rigid structure towed on the seabed in order to collect target species.

Drift Net

Nets which hang vertically in the water column without being anchored to the bottom. The nets are kept vertical in the water by floats attached to a rope along the top of the net and weights attached to another rope along the bottom of the net.

Fixed Engine

A fixed (stationary) net used for the taking of fish.

Gill Net

A single wall of netting that can either be fixed or allowed to drift.

Hand Gathering

The process of gathering sea fisheries resources by hand for food or bait.

Marker Buoy/Buff

Any surface marker float which can be used to identify the location of fishing gear.

Mobile Gear

Any dredge, trawl or similar device that is designed to be towed or pushed to take sea fisheries resources on the seabed.

Net

Any trammel, gill, tangle or other enmeshing net used for the capturing of sea fish.

Passive Gear

Longlines or nets which are rigged with top, bottom and connecting ropes and may be equipped with anchoring, floating and navigational gear.

Pot

Any pot, creel, trap or cage used for the catching of sea fish.

Static Gear

Static gear is set to allow fish to swim into it, or to attract fish by bait, and consequently become caught in the gear (e.g. pots).

Tangle Net

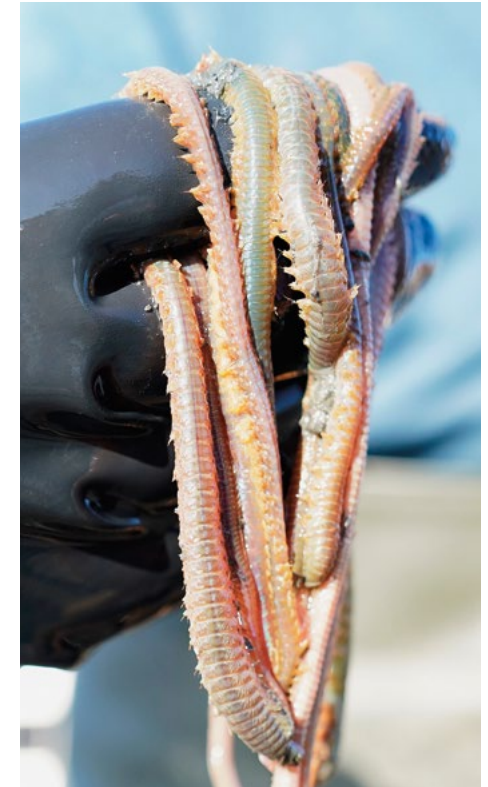
A net with large meshes set on the seabed.

Trammel Net

A net which consists of 3 parallel panels with different mesh sizes.

Trawling

The operation of towing a net to catch fish.



Ragworms photographed in Dell Quay, Sussex



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