

North Eastern
Inshore Fisheries
and Conservation
Authority

ANNUAL PLAN

2022/2023

North Eastern

IFCA

Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority



Bridlington Harbour

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Vision	4
Foreword	5
Introduction	7
NEIFCA Work Programme 2022/2023	23
IFCA Success Criteria	29

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Telephone: 01482 393515 Email: ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk
www.ne-ifca.gov.uk



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This operational plan sets out the Authority's planned programme of work for the forthcoming year. It covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.



VISION

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

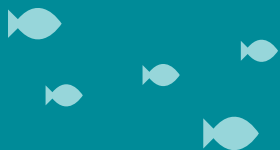
FOREWORD

Since the last Annual Plan was published in March 2021 the UK has continued to face the unprecedented challenges of managing both the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Like all public sector organisations, North Eastern IFCA (NEIFCA) has had to continuously adapt and tailor its operational activities to both maintain service delivery and ensure the safety and wellbeing of its staff in response to the ever changing situation associated with the pandemic. Thankfully the success of the national vaccination and booster campaign has significantly reduced the risks to public health and the Authority is now looking forward to a more 'normal' year ahead.

In anticipation of that our plan sets out an ambitious work programme for 2022/2023 covering a wide range of work streams from organisational, building on the review work implemented through 2021, through fisheries management, policy frameworks and project initiatives including progressing the replacement of the Authority's main offshore vessel.

Finally I would like to pass on my very best wishes for 2022 to all NEIFCA staff, officers and members and in particular those that have recently been recruited or appointed to the Authority.

Caroline Lacey Clerk of North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority



HUMBER BRIDGE

Humber Estuary



INTRODUCTION

PLAN CONTENT

This twelfth Annual Plan for North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority was developed through its main committee and internal working groups. The plan provides a comprehensive summary of the main work streams identified for delivery in the year ahead. The plan will be subject to continuous monitoring and review throughout the year and may be updated to account for any changes in priority.

FUNCTIONS

The Authority is responsible for managing the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its area of jurisdiction. This includes all animals and plants which habitually live or are cultivated in the sea. In delivering this function the Authority is required to ensure that all exploitation and development, taking place within its District, is sustainable and socio-economic needs are balanced with marine environmental protection. The Authority is also required to balance the needs of all stakeholders exploiting resources within its district and further the conservation objectives of any Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

The Authority's principal enforcement functions relate to minimum landing sizes, net and fishing gear regulations, restricted fishing areas, the protection of European Marine Sites (EMSs) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). Apart from the enforcement of these regulations, the Authority's main fisheries vessel, North Eastern Guardian III (NEG III) also plays a central role in monitoring the impact of offshore activities through the digital recording of sightings information, water column sampling, acoustical seabed assessment, underwater and remote camera assessment, grab sampling and wider fisheries stock assessment work using a range of trawls and dredges.

The Authority can make byelaws (subject to final confirmation by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to address a wide range of local fisheries and marine environmental management issues. This also extends to emergency byelaw regulations which are time limited to a maximum period of eighteen months.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Authority's role in marine conservation and protection continues to develop. The 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act provides clear duties to ensure that any exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way and the conservation objectives of Marine Conservation Zones are furthered. There are currently two Marine Conservation Zones designated within the Authority's jurisdiction: Holderness Inshore and Runswick Bay.

The Authority is also a statutory consultee for all marine licensing applications and consents occurring within its area of jurisdiction. These include applications relating to the discharge of effluents, marine water extraction, removal and deposition of dredged materials, harbour and coastal construction projects, scientific investigations and renewable energy projects. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) acts as the primary consultative 'hub' for the majority of licensing applications and consents involving construction. The majority of consultations are now dealt with electronically via a national system operated by the MMO.

Key Authority Officers are registered on this system and receive electronic alerts when relevant licensing consents are opened for consultation, comments are then drafted and submitted electronically on behalf of the Authority. This work is currently led by the Environmental and Scientific Manager and Scientific Officer. Any consents relating to discharge or extraction are managed by the Environment Agency and a similar electronic consultation process is in place to deal with those also.

In addition, the Authority is also a 'Relevant and Competent Authority' under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &co) Regulations 1994. This means that the Authority, along with other partners, have a statutory duty to ensure that the conservation objectives of European marine sites are upheld. Currently five European Marine Sites are designated within the Authority's jurisdiction: Northumbria Coast, Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast, Flamborough Head, Humber Estuary and the Greater Wash site.

During 2012 DEFRA commenced a project aimed at strengthening the assessment and management of fishing activities within European Marine Sites to ensure much greater compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. This revised approach was subsequently extended to include Marine Conservation Zones. All UK sites and associated fishing activities have now been categorised according to their features and the level of risk presented by both current and potential fishing activities.

Each site is subject to ongoing monitoring and assessment of the potential impacts arising from fishing activity. This allows tailored management to be introduced to protect and conserve sensitive environmental features such as salt marsh or sub-tidal reef habitat.

Many sites have established management schemes in place that help to coordinate the work of relevant Authorities, including IFCAs, through a formal management group. NEIFCA officers are actively involved in these groups and are currently playing a crucial role in the development of new, regional management groups.



AUTHORITY AREA

The district of the Authority extends six nautical miles seaward from the baselines, from the River Tyne to a point drawn True East from 'Haile Sand Fort' on the North East Lincolnshire Authority boundary, close to Humberston, on the South Bank of the Humber Estuary. The district also encompasses all estuarine areas, landward to tidal limits, occurring within the boundaries of member Local Authorities.



- | | | | |
|---|--------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | River Tyne | 1 | South Shields |
| 2 | River Wear | 2 | Sunderland |
| 3 | River Tees | 3 | Seaham |
| 4 | River Esk | 4 | Hartlepool |
| 5 | River Humber | 5 | South Gare |
| 6 | River Ouse | 6 | Redcar |
| 7 | River Trent | 7 | Marske |
| | | 8 | Saltburn |
| | | 9 | Skinningrove |
| | | 10 | Staithe |
| | | 11 | Port Mulgrave |
| | | 12 | Runswick Bay |
| | | 13 | Sandsend |
| | | 14 | Whitby |
| | | 15 | Robin Hoods Bay |
| | | 16 | Scarborough |
| | | 17 | Filey |
| | | 18 | Flamborough Head |
| | | 19 | Bridlington |
| | | 20 | Hornsea |
| | | 21 | Tunstall |
| | | 22 | Withernsea |
| | | 23 | Kilnsea |
| | | 24 | Stone Creek |
| | | 25 | Hull |
| | | 26 | Immingham |
| | | 27 | Grimsby |
| | | 28 | Cleethorpes |
| | | 29 | Humberston |

FUNDING

LEVY

The levy for the 2022/2023 financial year has been agreed and set by Authority members at £1,337,340, a 3% uplift on the previous year. The Authority's budget has been reviewed by the Chief Officer and his senior management team, together with the Clerk and Treasurer, to identify the level of expenditure necessary to meet operational priorities through to 31 March 2023.

OVERALL BUDGET

The Authority's budget is spent in the following major areas:

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT BUDGET

Expenditure relating to the cost of corporate management and administrative support, including Human Resource, Legal,

financial, administrative support and training. The draft budget resources the main objectives and work priorities for the year ahead in order to deliver the strategic 'road map' towards the achievement of both the Authority's overarching national vision and local priorities. It has been produced in line with the Annual Plan and Strategic Risk Register.

OPERATIONS

Direct expenditure incurred in the performance of the Authority's objectives, comprising land-based, offshore and environmental activities, including salaries and asset running costs relating to vessel and vehicle fuel, maintenance, berthing fees, storage costs, leasing and hire costs and the purchase of equipment.

OPERATIONAL BUDGET FOR THE AUTHORITY FOR 2022/2023

Net Expenditure

Central Management **£440,470**

Operations

Land Based **£133,970**

Offshore Operations **£577,270**

Environment **£132,510**

Grant Funded **£147,310**

Net Cost of Service £1,254,440

Funding (Contribution)

Contribution to **£102,900**

Renewals Fund

Contribution to Vehicle **£10,000**

Replacement Reserve

Local Authority Levy £1,337,340

FINANCIAL RISKS

The Bank of England's most recent monetary policy report explains that although the UK economy continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is upward pressure on inflation which is expected to peak in the spring, interest rates are likely to rise and there is a high degree of uncertainty around the economic outlook. This economic uncertainty has been compounded by the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine which commenced on 24 February 2022. CPI is currently sitting at 5.5% (February 2022) and is expected to continue to rise through the first quarter of the new financial year. Some predictions indicate that it could peak at close to 10%. NEIFCA will experience this increase in inflation as a pressure on energy, fuel and other supplies. In the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 on 27 October 2021 the Chancellor announced that public sector workers would see pay rises over the next 3 years in a return to the normal pay setting process and that Local Authorities would receive an estimated average real-terms increase of 3% in core spending power. It is not yet known how this will impact on the specific grant Local Authorities receive for Inshore Fisheries and Conservation and in relation to potential future pressure on resources to support the delivery of national policy.

RESERVES

Reserves are held to manage the above risks. In the short-term the general reserve will be available to meet the ongoing known pressures, but it is expected that proposed charges or additional income will eventually balance the budget. The Authority maintains a general reserve to meet unforeseen events and specific reserves to even out cash flow for individual projects or purchases. The Authority currently holds three specific reserves.

GENERAL RESERVE

The general reserve enables the Authority to demonstrate its financial standing as a 'going concern', to be in a position to meet unforeseen liabilities. The requisite level of reserves is subjective, since any such liability is neither known nor anticipated. Setting the level of general reserves is just one of several related decisions in the formulation of the budget for a particular year. Account is taken of the key risks, stated above, that could impact on the financial assumptions underpinning the budget alongside a consideration of the Authority's financial management arrangements. A good track record for managing in-year budget pressures and operation of robust financial reporting arrangements is evident. The expected balance of the general reserve as at 31 March 2022 is £228,450.

RESERVES

SPECIFIC RESERVES

In 2011/12 the Authority created an earmarked reserve to manage the risk associated with patrol vessel maintenance. Due to its nature, certain maintenance is cyclical rather than annual and other maintenance may be of an exceptional and urgent nature. The balance on the reserve will be maintained at £50,000.

The replacement of the patrol vessel remains a key risk for the Authority, included within the levy proposals is a contribution to the renewals reserve of £102,900. The overarching vessel replacement programme consists of three individual components, replacement of the main patrol vessel, alongside the separate build and commission of two daughter craft, a 9.5m cabin rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) and an 8m aluminium inshore work boat. The procurement contract for the build and commission of the 9.5m Cabin RIB was approved at a Special Authority Meeting on 17 August 2020 and the vessel was delivered during May 2021. The vessel was funded from the Renewals Reserve.

The Authority agreed that the balance of the projected outturn underspend for the 2021/2022 financial year be transferred to the Renewals Reserve bringing the estimated balance to £1,356,168 at 31 March 2022.

A vehicle replacement reserve has been set up to fund the maintenance and replacement of vehicles and the balance of this is estimated to stand at £10,000 at 31 March 2021. Currently the Authority owns three small multi-purpose vans, one large transporter van and leases a further 4x4 'pick-up' and a utility vehicle. Owning vehicles has proven much more cost effective in terms of flexibility of managing mileage and additional 'end-of-term costs' which are applied with each lease agreement. Maintaining a reasonable vehicle replacement reserve enables the fleet programme to be effectively managed.

ASSETS

The Authority's largest asset is a 26m-patrol boat, the 'North Eastern Guardian III' (built and delivered November 2007, capable of a top speed of 26 knots and equipped with the latest electronic navigation systems and marine survey and monitoring equipment. The vessel also carries a 6.4 metre RIB capable of speeds up to 30 knots. Following delivery of North Eastern Guardian III in 2007, the Authority established a renewals fund to support its replacement under pinned by a well defined vessel replacement plan. As part of that plan the Authority purchased in 2020 a new 9.5m cabin rigid inflatable boat (RIB). This new vessel came into service in May 2021 and has already made a positive impact on offshore patrol capability. Access to external funding sources remain key to progressing the replacement of the main vessel.

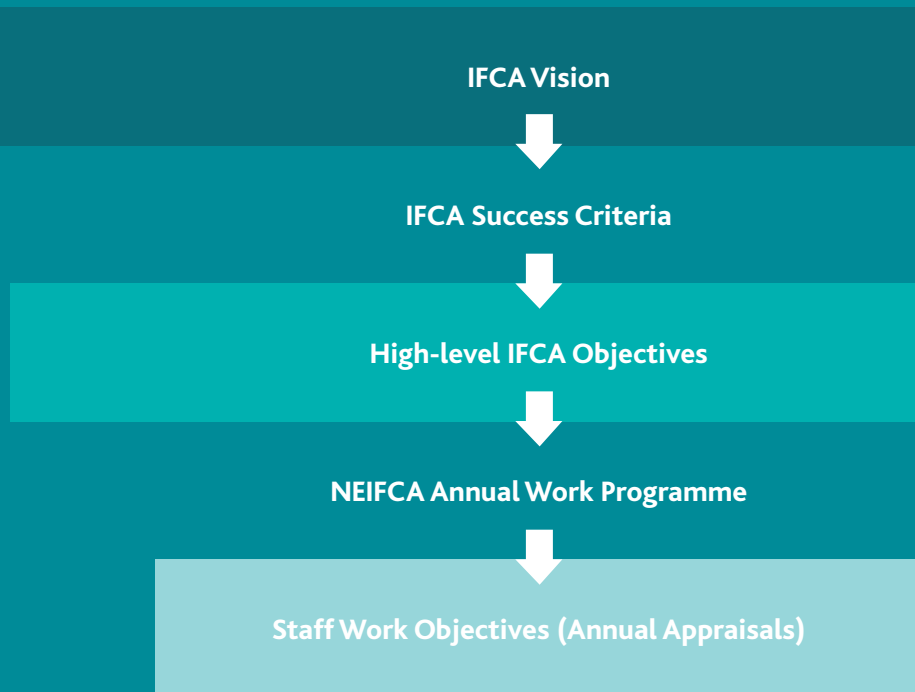
The Authority currently owns a 4x4 truck and an SUV. In addition to a transporter van, it also owns two Isuzu pick-up trucks and a small caddy van. All the vehicles are used to transport and launch vessels and equipment and access coastal and estuarine areas.

The Authority employs sixteen dedicated staff members with a wide variety of expertise and high levels of competency.



CONSTITUTION

The Authority's work programme for the year ahead is reviewed and adopted annually, reflecting local, regional and national priorities for the year ahead. The relationship between the national IFCA vision, national objectives and the annual work programme is diagrammatically represented below:



North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is one of ten such Authorities established in October 2010 under provisions contained within the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

On 1 April 2011 the Authority assumed full statutory responsibility for managing the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its jurisdiction.

The Authority currently consists of representatives from the eleven coastal Local Authorities within its area, comprising 13 local authority members, together with 14 members appointed by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and singular members representing Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation. The total membership of the Authority is 30 members.



HARBOUR

Scarborough, North Yorkshire



MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

APPOINTED BY CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES:

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr. C Matthews

Cllr. J Copsey

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. M Wilkies

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr. S Moore

HULL CITY COUNCIL

Cllr. P Webster (VC, E)

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr. S Harness

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr. R Allcock (E)

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. T Randerson (E)

Cllr. D Chance

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr. M Fletcher

SOUTH TYNESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr. N Dick

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr. M Smith

SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

Cllr. P Stewart

APPOINTED BY MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

Dr S Axford (C, E)

Ms R Hanbury

Mr M Montgomerie

Mr B Houghton

Mr M Cole

Professor Mike Elliott (E)

Mr A Wheeler (E)

Miss R Lynham

Mr K Woodcock

APPOINTED BY MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

Mr M Barnes

Mr G Redshaw (E)

Mr G Collins (E)

Mrs D.M Mear

Dr C Fitzsimmons

NOMINATED BY MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

Mr A Newlands

Mr C Proud

APPOINTED BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Mr M Christmas

Mr P Slater

APPOINTED BY NATURAL ENGLAND

Miss E Brown

(C) Chairman

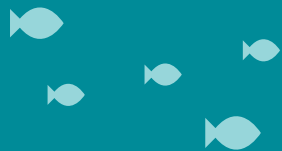
(VC) Vice Chairman

(E) Members of the
Executive Committee

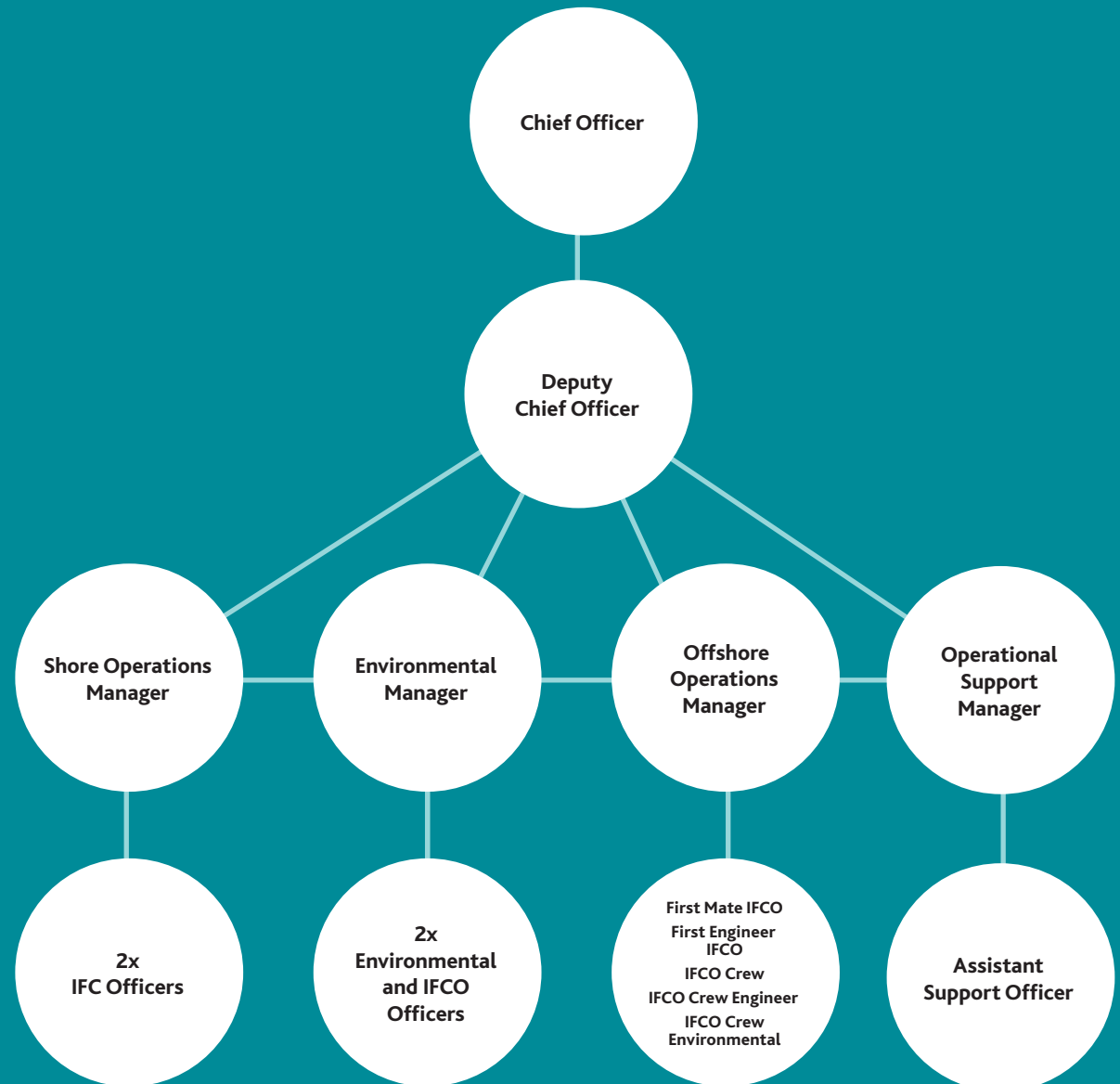
STAFF AND STRUCTURE

A full staffing and organisational review was completed during December 2020. NEIFCA is a direct employer with an establishment currently comprising a Chief Officer; Shore Operations Manager and two Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs); Environmental and Scientific Manager and two Environmental and Scientific Officers; Offshore Operations Manager and First Mate, First Engineer, IFCO Crew Engineer, IFCO Crew and Environmental and Scientific Officer, IFCO Crew; Operational Support Manager and Assistant Support Officer. The Offshore Operations Manager also acts as Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) providing management and leadership across all 'day to day' operational activity and support to the CO.

The CO heads NEIFCA's operational delivery and alongside the DCO, is supported by a Senior Management Team comprising of the First Mate, First Engineer, Shore Operations Manager, Environmental and Scientific Manager and Operational Support Manager.



North Eastern IFCA Organisational Structure



SERVICE STANDARDS

- 🐟 Staff will identify themselves when dealing with you
- 🐟 Respond to general correspondence within ten working days
- 🐟 Respond to email correspondence within five working days (we will respond by email)
- 🐟 Deal with complaints in accordance with the feedback procedure
- 🐟 Be courteous and helpful
- 🐟 Provide information on our services and facilities
- 🐟 Consult on important issues and ask your views about our services
- 🐟 Provide confidential interview facilities
- 🐟 Provide an SF1 inspection record form at the end of any premise, vessel or vehicle inspection
- 🐟 In terms of any formal prosecutions, all proceedings to have commenced within six months of the detection of the original offence

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Following the completion of the staffing and organisational review in December 2020 the Authority's commitment to the training and development of its staff will be further enhanced through 2022. This will include much more active integration with the national IFCA officer training programme. A new annual appraisal process was implemented during November 2021 and is central to supporting the ongoing training, development and support needs of all NEIFCA staff. Annual appraisals will be held during November and December with 'mid-term' reviews completed during June. All training and development needs identified through the appraisal process, will be incorporated into a training plan which is centrally managed within the support team. The appraisal process also links to progression through the Authority's new pay structure. Alongside annual appraisals for established staff, the training, development and support needs of newly appointed staff continue to be actively managed through NEIFCA's probation programme.

CORE STRATEGIES

The work of the Authority is guided by a number of core or 'key' strategies and policies which are integral to this plan and its successful implementation. These strategies are reviewed and updated regularly by the Authority. The Risk Management Policy and associated risk registers are reviewed and considered on a minimum sixth monthly basis. Other strategies, such as enforcement and compliance and research are reviewed on an annual basis. The core or key policies which inform the work of NEIFCA are summarised as follows:

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE POLICY

The enforcement policy statement has been drafted in accordance with the Regulators' Compliance Code and the regulatory principles required under the Legislative Regulatory Reform Act 2006. It sets out the general principles and approach which NEIFCA will follow. The appropriate use of enforcement powers, including

prosecution, is important both to improve compliance with the legislation and to hold those to account who cause significant harm to marine ecosystems.

RESEARCH STRATEGIES

The Authority's research work includes fisheries stock assessment programmes, environmental research and monitoring work and occasional 'ad hoc' project initiatives. This work is supported and informed by an annual research strategy and five year strategic plan. The content of the research strategy is agreed annually by the Authority's Science Advisory Group and reviewed throughout the year. The strategy can also be updated to support the planning and delivery of national work streams as and when they arise.

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The aim of this strategy is to manage risk and to successfully integrate risk management into existing business and

management processes. Risk management is a key part of this Authority's corporate governance arrangements providing assurance to meet the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 and is reviewed and adopted annually.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Is a statutory process which aims to provide high level protection of the environment and to ensure integration of environmental considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. This methodology underpins the Authority's fisheries management processes.

NEIFCA SUMMARY WORK PROGRAMME 2022/2023

Authority Officers and members have developed the following summary work programme for the year ahead. The work programme covers a wide range of local and regional priorities and links to the delivery of the national IFCA Success Criteria.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Following the implementation of the 2020 organisational review a range of work is planned through 2022/2023 to develop and foster a strong organisational culture with a clearly defined vision and supporting values. This work will also focus on strengthening leadership, management and communication skill sets across the operational Senior Management Team to improve and strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and will be facilitated through a range of individually focused training and development initiatives and group based activities.

Net Zero Ambitions

During 2022/2023 NEIFCA will start to build a knowledge and understanding of the impact its operational activities are having on the wider environment alongside a commitment to develop a longer term strategy to reduce those impacts.

PERFORMANCE MATRICES

NEIFCA is currently working with the national Association and Defra to develop a set of performance matrices to better inform and publicise the extent of its work and associated outputs across the year. This work is scheduled to complete later Spring 2022 and will be incorporated into the Authority's next Annual Report.

POLICY AND STRATEGY WORK

Throughout the scope of this plan NEIFCA is committed to developing a number of new strategies as follows:

Incident and Response Strategy and Monitoring Policy

In light of the ongoing response to the shellfish mortalities this new policy would build on lessons learned and provide a guiding framework for dealing with any similar future events. Whilst there are clearly defined strategies and processes in place for managing anthropogenic events such as oil spillages there is very little guidance on managing naturally occurring events. Draft policy completed June 2022.

Recreational Sea Angling Strategy

NEIFCA has always carried an ambition to strengthen its active engagement with the recreational fishing sector and given the recent appointment of Kevin Woodcock to the Authority it would seem timely to further that work during 2022/2023. Kevin is a key member of the Angling Trust's North East regional team. The development of an angling strategy will formally set out Authority's plans for the recreational sea angling sector and guide the development of projects and initiatives to both strengthen working relationships and support the sector. Draft strategy completed September 2022.

Aqua/Mariculture Strategy

The number of aqua/mariculture projects located within the NEIFCA district has increased significantly during the last few years. One company has established a business growing and harvesting seaweed at Scarborough, North Yorkshire and is now expanding into offshore aquaculture. Two further initiatives involving the culture of native oysters have also been established at sites located in Sunderland and Spurn Point on the Humber Estuary. Currently NEIFCA does not have an overarching strategy to guide and support the management of these initiatives within its district despite carrying a statutory obligation to ensure that associated activities are managed sustainably. The development of such a strategy is therefore planned during 2022/2023.

IT SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

Website

A new NEIFCA website was launched during February 2022.

Fisheries Database

Throughout 2021 NEIFCA has been working in partnership with Sussex IFCA and an external IT company to develop a bespoke fisheries database. Work will continue on this project through 2022/2023 although no precise date can be provided in terms of when this system might go live but certainly within the scope of this plan. Eventually this new database will replace the longstanding system that NEIFCA has utilised through East Riding of Yorkshire Council. New system live March 2023

Integration with National Fisheries Systems

Nationally IFCA's link into enforcement and compliance and intelligence systems which are managed by the

Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Engagement is supported by formal data sharing agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). Levels of engagement vary across IFCAs particularly in relation to the input of enforcement and compliance data. Currently NEIFCA maintains its own internal recording processes although it has formally committed to more active engagement with the national enforcement and control system. Active work will continue in this area during 2022/2023.

BYELAW DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW 2022/2023

Potting Flexible Byelaw

One of the key pieces of work planned for the forthcoming year involves the development of a flexible byelaw framework to improve the management of pot fisheries within the IFCA district. This new framework will establish a permitting system with supporting conditions that can be changed in response to associated changes within the exploited stocks. These conditions will include species, catch, gear, vessel and temporal restrictions. This new byelaw framework will allow NEIFCA to manage its pot fisheries much more pro-actively, efficiently and effectively.

Provisional Timescales

- Informal consultation with the fishing industry April/May 2022
- Formal consultation August/September 2022
- MMO QA October/November 2022
- DEFRA Review and Confirmation December 2022 to February 2023

Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw

The need to review and formally update the Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw was considered and supported by the Authority on 2 December 2021 with associated

delegated authority given to the Science Advisory Group and the Executive Committee. Results from the most recent surveys of the Spurn point Seagrass Area have shown that the eelgrass is expanding beyond the borders of the current restricted area necessitating a revision and extension to such.

Provisional Timescales

- Formal consultation August/September 2022
- MMO QA October/November 2022
- DEFRA Review and Confirmation December 2022 to February 2023

FISHERIES STOCK ASSESSMENT WORK 2022/2023

Stock Assessment for Lobster and Crabs

One of the key priorities for 2022/2023 is the completion of a detailed assessment of the health of lobster and crab stocks occurring within the NEIFCA district. This planned work follows an extensive Defra led investigation into the cause of observed 'wash ups' of lobster and crab species along the Tees and North Yorkshire coast during October and November 2021.

Scallop Fishery

The current Scallop fishery in the NEIFCA district is restricted to two defined areas and three permits were issued for the 2021/2022 season (November to April). Although the submission of monthly catch and effort returns has remained a mandatory condition of holding a permit, routine survey and monitoring work has not taken place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This work will re-commence during the 2022/2023 season alongside dredge sampling and habitat surveys to monitor long-term impacts.

Intertidal Fixed Net Fishery

This fishery has been closed for three years due to a Europe wide prohibition on the commercial exploitation of sea bass from the shore. Following a change in UK fisheries legislation it reopened on the 1 October 2021 and the 2022/2023 season (October to June) is expected to commence on 1 October 2022. Catch returns and bycatch are continuously analysed as part of a long-term monitoring strategy for this fishery and that will continue during 2022/2023. Officers are planning to enhance that work by periodically gathering length, weight and age data from key species caught in the fishery during 2022/2023.

KEY ACTIVITIES WORKSTREAMS	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Monthly quayside sampling for Lobster and edible crab (Whitby, Scarborough and Bridlington)												
NEIFCA potting surveys for lobsters and crabs incl shellfish mortality work.												
Cockle surveys Tees and Humber estuaries												
NEIFCA offshore scallop surveys												
Scallop stock and habitat surveys (scallop boxes)												
Intertidal surveys for seaweed (drones)												
Eelgrass survey at Spurn Point												

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Vessel Replacement Programme

The Authority's vessel replacement programme was advanced through 2020/2021 with the procurement, build, commissioning and delivery of a new 9.5m Cabin RIB during May 2021. This new vessel has already shown its operational value (contributing 27 patrols out of a total of 57 since delivery) and is a key

component of the programme. The replacement of the main vessel still remains a key element of the overall delivery of the programme and progression has been frustratingly slow despite significant effort being put into the assessment of options, identification and assessment of potential manufacturers and the pursuit of external funding opportunities.

Meanwhile the risks to the Authority continue to build as the current vessel gets older and its intrinsic value depreciates. Further work will be prioritised during 2022/2023 through the Authority to move the replacement of the main vessel forward.

OTHER PROJECTS

Lobster Larvae Settlement Index

Following a bid to the Defra administered UK Seafood Fund for funding to support a lobster larvae project, NEIFCA received notification on 25 January 2022 that its application had been successful and a total grant of £264,264 had been awarded to support the project. The project has already commenced in partnership with the Bridlington based Holderness Fishing Industry Group and is scheduled to complete at the end of February 2024. The project is unique in the UK and involves the capture and analysis of first stage settlement larvae from a range of shellfish species at sites South and North of Flamborough Head. The appraisal of larval settlement trends can be utilised to inform the management of associated stocks.

Nephrop Potting

Setting pots to capture *Nephrops norvegicus*, more commonly known as 'prawns' or 'scampi', has actively taking place for many years within the NEIFCA district mainly off the Durham coast and catches can attract a high value. There is strong evidence that this fishery could be further developed, a view also supported by the fishing industry but further work is required to identify the location and extent of the stock and understand the catch selectivity of the associated fishing gear deployed. NEIFCA officers are planning to further this work during 2022/2023.

EUROPEAN PLAICE

Pleuronectes platessa

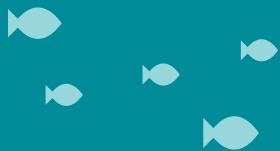


IFCA SUCCESS CRITERIA

To support the delivery of the national IFCA vision, IFCAs work to a set of success criteria matched with corresponding high-level objectives. The vision, success criteria and high level objectives are designed to assist in the creation of a shared understanding of the collective aims and objectives of IFCAs, and focus service delivery towards achievement of the national vision. These national IFCA performance criteria also link directly to the UK Marine Policy statement.

The following success criteria have been agreed and adopted nationally

- 1 IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.
- 2 IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.
- 3 IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.
- 4 IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.
- 5 IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.



DELIVERABLES

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVES

Maintain a database of stakeholder contacts updated annually.

Maintain and review a communication strategy annually.

Review and update website by the end of each month.

Review and update national MoUs annually.

SUCCESS CRITERIA 1

IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

A

Implement an effective communication strategy.



B

Maintain a website.



C

Maintain MoUs with the MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and CEFAS and explore and implement opportunities for effective joint working.



2020

2021

2022

2023

● Achieved / Delivered ● Partially Achieved / In Progress ● Not Achieved / Implemented

T Target * Included 'sign off' of a joint data sharing agreement between NEIFCA and the MMO

SUCCESS CRITERIA 2

IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.

A

Maintain and publish an enforcement risk register.



B

Develop consistency in regulations.



C

Manage operational activity.
Capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence.
Engage in joint working.



D

Ensure IFCOs are warranted, trained and accredited to national standards.
Maintain professionalism and deliver efficient effective enforcement activity.



2020

2021

2022

2023

● Achieved / Delivered ● Partially Achieved / In Progress ● Not Achieved / Implemented T Target

* This is an ongoing national work stream in partnership with both Defra and the MMO.

** Further engagement with national IFCO training programmes planned 2022/2023.

DELIVERABLES

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVES

Enforcement strategy and risk register are published annually from 1 April each year.

Detail application and enforcement of management measures within Annual Report.

Compile and publish records of enforcement activity in standard format.

Adopt, review and publish national code of conduct for IFCOs and integrate with annual appraisal process.

Warranted officers attain national accreditation and continue professional development.

DELIVERABLES

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVES

Record site-specific management considerations for MPAs and report progress.

Publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures.

Collect information to assess the effectiveness of new management measures.

Develop a range of criteria based management options which are reviewed and updated annually.

Deliver new management measures within agreed timescales.

Management plans published annually and progress noted in Annual Report including MSY commitments.

SUCCESS CRITERIA 3

IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

A

Identify issues likely to affect sustainable management, undertake a risk assessment and gap analysis, review appropriateness of existing measures, evaluate management options and develop and implement proportionate marine management solutions.



B

Support the implementation of a well-managed network of marine protected areas and contribute to delivery targets for MSFD, WFD and Marine Plans.



C

Develop fisheries management plans for priority species where appropriate.



2020 2021 2022 2023

● Achieved / Delivered ● Partially Achieved / In Progress ● Not Achieved / Implemented T Target

* Due to the dynamics and complexities of assessing sustainable management this will remain an 'in progress' work stream for the Authority.

** Due to the dynamics and complexities of assessing well managed MPAs this will remain an 'in progress' work stream for the Authority.

*** Review and update of exisiting fisheries management plans 2022/2023.

SUCCESS CRITERIA 4

IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.

A

Demonstrate a long-term strategic approach to sustainable marine management.



B

Staff performance management systems are in place that link to IFCA success criteria. Induction procedure for new joiners. Staff training and development needs identified. Performance managed.



C

Efficient and effective secretariat in place to support the Authority. New members will receive an induction pack. There will be a 'rolling' twelve month schedule of Authority meetings. Notice of meetings and documentation will be made available in line with standing orders.



D

IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential or exempt.



2020

2021

2022

2023

* New staff performance management framework to be implemented 2022/2023 for all staff.

DELIVERABLES

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVES

Annual plan published by 31 March each year and submitted to the Secretary of State.

Annual report produced and published by 30 November each year and submitted to the Secretary of State.

All staff have annual performance management plans in place and annual appraisals are completed by 31 December each year.

An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings.

Annual report demonstrates how marine, land and water management mechanisms have worked responsively and effectively together.

All MMO appointees to the Authority have an annual appraisal review.

DELIVERABLES

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVES

- An annual research plan will be published each year.
- An annual research report will be published each year.
- The Authority’s contribution to Technical Advisory Group and progress towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded within the annual report.

SUCCESS CRITERIA 5

IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.



North Eastern

IFCA

Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority



North Eastern Inshore Fisheries
and Conservation Authority

2022/2023
Annual Plan