

North Eastern
Inshore Fisheries
and Conservation
Authority

ANNUAL PLAN

2025/2026

North Eastern

IFCA

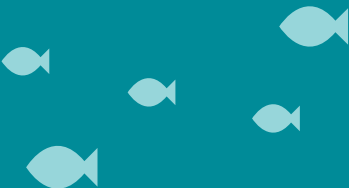
Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority



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VISION

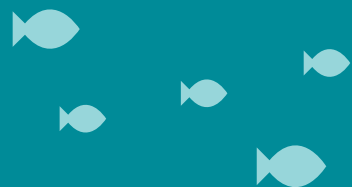
“ To lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry. ”

FOREWORD

Looking ahead, 2025/2026 will be a very exciting year for North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA). The Authority is anticipating the delivery of a new main vessel at the end of April 2025. This vessel is currently being built locally by Parkol Marine Ltd, in Whitby, North Yorkshire. A bespoke, twin hull design that will significantly enhance the Authority's capabilities both in terms of offshore marine survey and research capacity and enforcement and compliance provision. It will also provide a very safe, comfortable and effective offshore platform for NEIFCA staff to work from. In combination with the vessel, NEIFCA is expecting to enhance its current staffing resource during 2025/2026 and strengthen its approach to collaborative working and the long term delivery of sustainable fisheries management.

Finally, I would like to pass on my very best wishes for 2025/2026 to all NEIFCA staff, officers and members and in particular to those that have recently been appointed into the Authority.

Professor Mike Elliott Chair of North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority





INTRODUCTION

PLAN CONTENT

This Plan covers the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and has been developed through North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's (NEIFCA) main committee and internal working groups. The plan sets out the main performance targets and objectives for the year ahead and will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect improvements in performance brought about by achieved targets and any changes in national objectives and success criteria.

FUNCTIONS

NEIFCA 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 it 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. NEIFCA 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). NEIFCA's principal enforcement functions relate to minimum landing sizes, net and fishing gear regulations, restricted fishing areas and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) including the protection of European Marine Sites (EMSs) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

NEIFCA maintains a range of resources and assets to support the effective delivery of its statutory duties, most notably, its main fisheries vessel, North Eastern Guardian III (NEG III) which plays a central role in supporting offshore enforcement and compliance work and monitoring the impact of offshore fishing activities on key stocks such as lobster, crab and scallop and seabed habitats.

NEG III entered service in 2007, primarily to support the continued delivery of offshore enforcement and compliance work at sea. The vessel is dated and no longer meets NEIFCA's developing needs. During June 2024 and ten years of review and assessment work, NEIFCA supported the build and commission of a new, bespoke replacement vessel. On 6 October 2024, following a global competitive procurement process, a contract was signed with Parkol Marine Ltd, based in Whitby, North Yorkshire, to build a new replacement vessel. Delivery of the new vessel is expected by the end of April 2025.

NEIFCA can also make fisheries byelaw regulations (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 statutory function also extends to emergency byelaw regulations which are time limited to a maximum period of eighteen months.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Since its inception in 2010, NEIFCA's role in marine conservation and protection has continued 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. NEIFCA 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 Environment Agency (EA) is the primary statutory lead in relation to consents relating to the discharge of effluents and marine water extraction in England and Wales. The majority of consultations are now dealt with electronically via a national system operated by the MMO.

Key NEIFCA 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, Dr Ralf Bublitz. A similar electronic consultation process is in place through the EA to deal with any applications and consents relating to marine discharging. In addition, NEIFCA is also a "*Relevant and Competent Authority*" under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. This means that it, along with other partners, has a statutory duty to ensure that the conservation objectives of European Marine Sites are upheld. Currently five European Marine Sites are designated within NEIFCA's jurisdiction: Northumbria Coast, Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast, Flamborough Head, Humber Estuary and the Greater Wash site through a formal management group.



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 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.



AUTHORITY AREA

NEIFCA's statutory district 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. It 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 2025/2026 financial year has been agreed and set by the Local Authority members at **£1,712,500**, an 11.5 per cent uplift on the previous year. This level of increase formed a two-year plan provisionally agreed in December 2023 and includes additional revenue funding to cover the projected increase in costs associated with the financing and leasing of the new fisheries vessel which will take effect from April 2025.

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 2025 / 2026

Net Expenditure

Central Management **£452,210**

Operations

Land Based Offshore **£150,210**

Operations Environment **£857,900**

Funded projects **£153,450**

-£5,670

Net Cost of Service £1,608,100

Funding

Contribution to Vehicle **£10,000**

Replacement Reserve

Contribution to Renewals **£102.900**

Fund

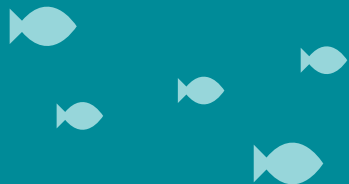
Transfer to revenue from renewals fund **-£8,500**

Local Authority Levy £1,712,500

FINANCIAL RISKS

The following key financial risks have been identified:

- Impact of increased inflation resulting in a continuing pressure on wages, energy, fuel and other supplies is expected to increase from 2.5 per cent to 3.7 per cent in 2025 before falling back to around 2 per cent in 2027.
- Financial markets remain uncertain due in part to global changes in government and interest rates are expected to remain high.
- Changes to government funding for local authorities. Departmental resource and capital budgets beyond 2025/2026 will be set by Phase 2 of the Spending Review due to conclude in late Spring 2025. It is not yet known how this will impact on the specific grant local authorities receive for Inshore Fisheries & Conservation work. Budgets will continue to be closely monitored and opportunities to generate external income will also be explored.



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 1 April 2025 is **£228,450**.

SPECIFIC RESERVES

This reserve is used to manage the risk associated with patrol vessel maintenance.

The expected opening balance as at 1 April 2025 is **£50,000**.



RESERVES

The vehicle replacement reserve is used to fund the maintenance and replacement of vehicles.

The balance on the reserve is forecast to be **£22,782** at 1 April 2025.

Funding previously set aside to fund the build and commission of a new 24.5m will be fully utilised during the 2025/2026 financial year and a new fund established from 1 April 2025.

The balance on the reserve is forecast to be **£472,900** at 1 April 2025.

The external projects reserve is used to manage and utilise external funding sources to support a range of work including national policy delivery and other project work.

The balance on the reserve is forecast to be **£8,898** at 1 April 2025.



ASSETS

NEIFCA's largest asset is a 26m-patrol boat, the '*North Eastern Guardian III*' (NEGIII) (built and delivered November 2007), capable of a top speed of 26 knots. The vessel was designed, primarily as a fast patrol craft although it is also routinely utilised to conduct limited offshore marine survey work and carries a 6.4 metre RIB capable of speeds up to 30 knots. The vessel is ageing and during July 2022 suffered a major engine failure which necessitated significant investment to repair. Following delivery of NEG III in 2007, the Authority established a renewals fund to support its replacement underpinned by a well defined vessel replacement plan. As part of that plan the Authority purchased a new 9.5m cabin rigid inflatable boat (RIB) in 2020. This new vessel came into service in July 2021.

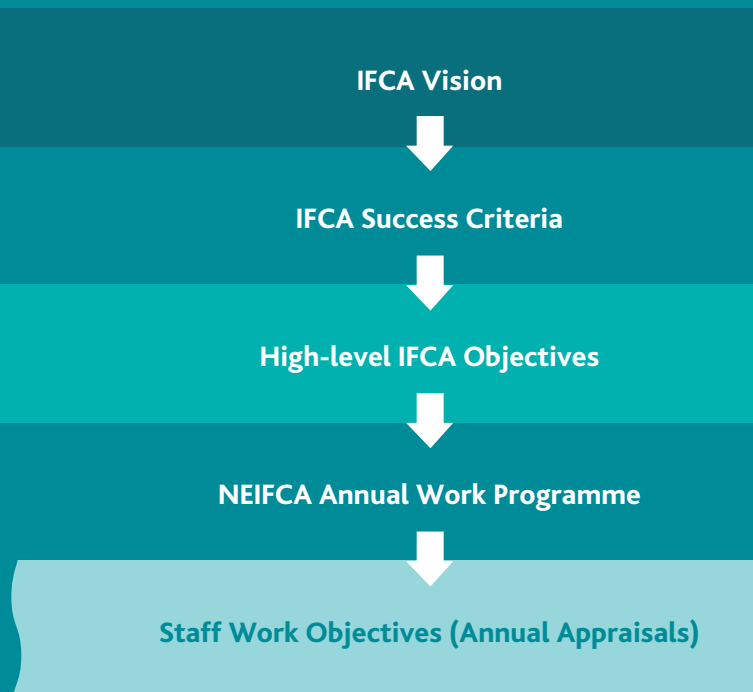
At a NEIFCA meeting held in June 2023 members agreed to support further plans to replace NEG III and during October 2023 a contract was signed with Parkol Marine Ltd, Whitby, to build a new bespoke fisheries vessel. The build commenced during February 2024 and the vessel is expected to be launched and commissioned sometime during May 2025.

The Authority currently owns a 4x4 truck and an SUV. In addition to a transporter van, it also owns two 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 has a full time staffing compliment of fourteen personnel who carry a wide variety of expertise and competencies.



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.



MAPPLETON

Sea anglers



MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

APPOINTED BY CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES:

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor. J Owen
Councillor. T Norman (E)

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor. M Wilkes

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor. R Creevy (E)

HULL CITY COUNCIL

Councillor. T Henry

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor. R Augusta

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor. N Poole

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor. D Chance (VC,E)
Councillor. N Swannick (E)

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor. C Cawley

SOUTH TYNESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor. E Gibson

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor. C Gamble

SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

Councillor. L Scanlan

APPOINTED BY MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

Professor Mike Elliott (C,E)
Ms R Hanbury (E)
Mr M Montgomerie
Mr W Jenkinson
Mr T Pearson
Mr A Wheeler (E)
Miss R Lynham
Mr K Woodcock

APPOINTED BY MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

Mr A Faichney
Mr G Collins (E)
Mrs D.M Mear
Dr C Fitzsimmons
Dr S Axford

NOMINATED BY MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

Mr C Proud Mr A Earle

APPOINTED BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Mr M Christmas
Mr P Slater

APPOINTED BY NATURAL ENGLAND

Mrs C Argent

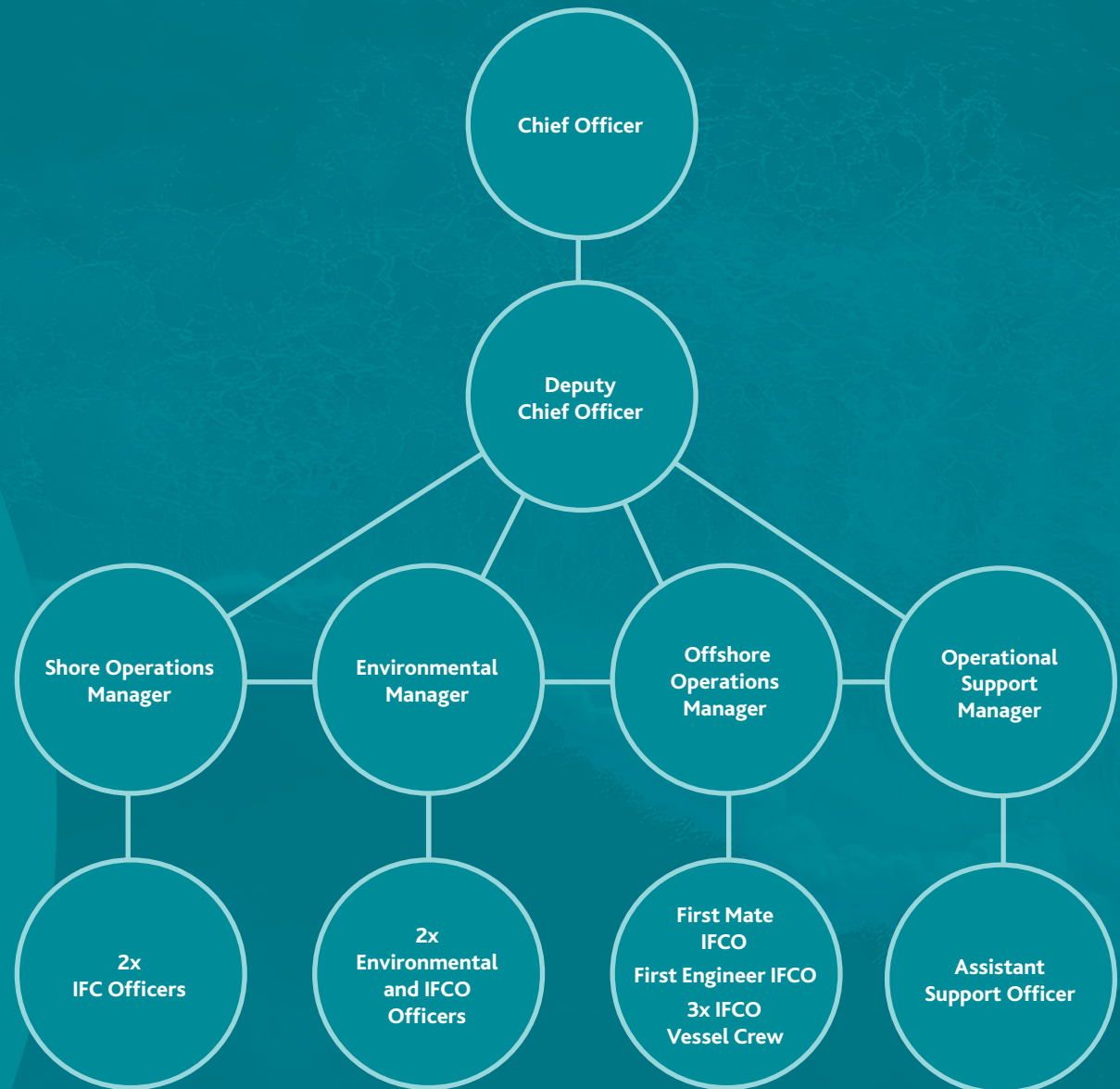
(C) Chairman
(VC) Vice Chairman
(E) Members of the
Executive Committee

STAFF AND STRUCTURE

NEIFCA is a direct employer with an establishment currently comprising a Chief Officer (CO); 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, and three IFCO Vessel Crewmen; 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 & Scientific Manager and Operational Support Manager.

North Eastern IFCA Organisational Structure



SERVICE STANDARDS

- 🐟 Staff will always identify themselves when dealing with you.
- 🐟 Respond to written 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 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 a comprehensive staffing and organisational review in December 2020, a new annual appraisal process was implemented during November 2021 and is now well established. This process remains central to supporting the ongoing training, development and support needs of all NEIFCA staff. Annual appraisals are typically held between January and March supported by continuous supervision throughout the year. All training and development needs identified through the appraisal process, are incorporated into a training plan which is centrally managed within the operational support team. The Appraisal process also links to progression through NEIFCA's 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.

It is important that training and development activities are focused on those areas which are relevant to the workplace and that there is mutual commitment from both the employee and manager. NEIFCA views training and development in a much wider and holistic sense, including not only specific formal '*classroom*' based training courses but also conferences, seminars, workshops, presentations to external groups and representing NEIFCA at relevant public events.

SCALLOP DREDGER



CORE STRATEGIES

NEIFCA's operational delivery 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. 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. These 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 2025 / 2026

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

A range of ongoing work will continue through 2025/2026, This work will 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. This will be facilitated through a range of individually focused training and development initiatives and group based activities.

PERFORMANCE MATRICES

NEIFCA is currently working with the national Association of IFCAs (AIFCA) 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 ongoing and will cover a wide range of delivery areas from enforcement, through to fisheries and Marine Protected Area (MPA), marine licensing and consenting and national policy engagement and delivery such as the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) programme.

POLICY AND STRATEGY WORK

Throughout the scope of this plan of programmed work through 2025/2026, NEIFCA is committed to furthering the development of a number of new strategies as follows:

Incident and Response Strategy and Monitoring Policy

In light of the ongoing response to the shellfish mortalities and associated challenges, NEIFCA introduced a new incident response strategy building 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. NEIFCA is committed to periodically reviewing and developing this strategy in close collaboration with the relevant agencies. As part of this work, during 2025/2026, NEIFCA will participate in the delivery of a joint national project designed to improve our understanding of the health of the coastal ecosystem and establish a comprehensive coastal monitoring framework. The project titled 'CHLE', 'Coastal Health Livelihoods and Environment' will be led by CEFAS and funded by DEFRA.

Recreational Sea Angling Strategy

NEIFCA has always carried an ambition to strengthen its active engagement with the recreational fishing sector. During 2022 the Authority's first recreational sea angling strategy was drafted and officers will continue to actively build on that strategy through 2025/2026 through the further development of projects and initiatives to both strengthen working relationships and support the sector going forward.

Aqua/Mariculture Strategy

The number of aqua/mariculture projects in the UK has increased during the last few years. Within the NEIFCA district, one company has established a business growing and harvesting seaweed at Scarborough, North Yorkshire, and is now expanding further offshore. Initiatives involving the culture of native oysters have also been established at sites located in Sunderland and Spurn Point on the Humber Estuary. Over the past 2 years, NEIFCA has also received a few enquiries into the wild harvesting of seaweed in intertidal areas. In response, during 2024/2025, officers developed an Aqua/Mariculture Strategy to inform its future work within this developing area. That work will be furthered during 2025/2026.

IT SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

Website

A new NEIFCA website was launched during February 2022 and officers are committed to both maintaining and developing its functionality through 2025/2026.

Fisheries Database

Since 2021 NEIFCA has been working in partnership with Sussex IFCA and an external IT company to develop a bespoke IFCA fisheries database. It is now well established and its use is expanding across the other IFCA areas. Within NEIFCA, the database currently supports the administration and management of its shellfish permit schemes and officers will continue to widen its scope and enhance its functionality across other managed fisheries throughout 2025/2026.

Integration with National Fisheries Systems

Nationally IFCA's link into a number of 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). Active work will continue in this area during 2025/2026 both in terms of maintaining input into the national fisheries enforcement and compliance database MCSS and a new joint intelligence gathering system, 'Clue' with the MMO. Pilot work is also planned with the MMO during 2025/2026 to explore the use of a new mobile working application.

BYELAW DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW 2025 / 2026

Shellfish Permit Byelaw

A new shellfish byelaw was approved by the Science Advisory Group on 23 September 2022 and made by the Authority on the 1 December 2022. The formal consultation of this byelaw closed on the 27 October 2023 and the draft regulation is now subject of formal MMO quality assurance (QA), the final stage prior to DEFRA confirmation. This new framework will establish a permitting system with supporting flexible 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. An implementation plan for this new regulation will be developed and enacted through 2025/2026.

Provisional Timescales

- MMO Quality Assurance – provisionally complete by August 2025
- DEFRA Review & Confirmation - November 2025
- Implementation – January 2026

Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw

The Humber Estuary Fishing byelaw was approved by the Science Advisory Group on 23 September 2022 and made by the Authority on the 1 December 2022. The formal consultation of this byelaw closed on the 27 October 2023 and the byelaw is now subject of formal MMO QA. Results from the most recent surveys of the Spurn point Seagrass Area have shown that the eelgrass continues to expand beyond the borders of the current restricted area necessitating revised protection.

Provisional Timescales

- MMO Quality Assurance – provisionally complete by March 2025
- DEFRA Review & Confirmation – June 2025
- Implementation – July 2025

Beam Trawling Byelaw

In 2023 the NEIFCA noticed an increase in Beam Trawling activity targeting King Scallop stocks outside the permitted dredging area. To minimise the risks of overexploitation, NEIFCA implemented an Emergency Byelaw on 17 July 2023 prohibiting beam trawling across the NEIFCA district. Since the prohibition of the beam trawling activity, NEIFCA has issued 5 scientific dispensations to allow a few vessels to continue their fishing activity under tightly regulated conditions and to collect further scientific evidence. The Emergency Byelaw provision was extended until the 17 January 2025. A new flexible Beam Trawling Byelaw is now awaiting confirmation by DEFRA.

Provisional Timescales

- DEFRA Review and Confirmation - March 2025
- Implementation April 2025

NATIONAL WORK STREAM ENGAGEMENT

Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)

In December 2023, DEFRA published the first 5 Fisheries Management Plans for Bass, Channel demersal non-quota species, Crab & Lobster, King Scallop and Whelk with the purpose of meeting the requirements set out in the Fisheries Act 2020. These plans set out specific objectives that address specific requirements for each of the fisheries in English Waters. For the lobster & crab and King Scallop FMP, the key goals are to improve the evidence base and to introduce short-term and medium to long-term measure to increase protection for stocks. NEIFCA, together with Northumberland and Cornwall IFCA's will also support a pilot for regional fine scale management of lobsters and crabs. Throughout 2025/2026 NEIFCA will continue to work in collaboration with the AIFCA, MMO, DEFRA and other IFCA's on the implementation of all the key FMP programmes. NEIFCA recognises and welcomes the additional funding support provided by DEFRA to assist this work.

NEIFCA FISHERIES ASSESSMENT PLANS & PROGRAMMES 2025 / 2026



FISHERIES STOCK ASSESSMENT WORK 2025 / 2026

Stock assessment for lobster & crabs

Collection of biometric data for lobsters and edible crabs at the quayside remains ongoing and additional offshore observer trips and surveys are planned for the 2025/2026 season.

Scallop dredging fishery

The current scallop dredging fishery in the NEIFCA district is restricted to two defined areas and three permits were issued for the 2024/2025 season (November to April). The submission of monthly catch and effort returns has remained a mandatory condition of holding a permit. Offshore observer trips on permitted vessels started in November 2024 and will continue until the end of April 2025. Additional surveys are planned for summer 2025 season to assess stock status including the exploration of new areas.

Beam trawling for Scallops

The recent emerging beam trawling fishery targeting king scallops will be managed through a new flexible permitting byelaw regulation. Better understanding of the stocks outside the permitted Scallop dredge areas is needed and the collection of further data on the king scallop stocks and fisheries is planned for the 2025/2026 season.

Intertidal fixed net fishery

This fishery was 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 1st of October 2021 and the 2024/2025 season (October to June) commenced on 1st October 2024. Catch returns and bycatch are continuously analysed as part of a long-term monitoring strategy for this fishery and that will continue during 2025/2026. Officers are also planning to enhance that work where possible by periodically gathering length, weight and age data from sea bass caught in the fishery through the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 seasons.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) monitoring

IFCAs duties are to assess, monitor and manage fishing impacts on protected features in MPAs. A regular survey program for MPAs within the NEIFC District will be developed and video tows for habitat surveys are planned for 2025/2026.

Recreational Sea Angling

NEIFCA officers are planning to work in collaboration with the Angling Trust to gather additional biometric data on sea bass from recreational sea anglers in 2025/2026. This work will enhance the new sea bass monitoring program and support a stock assessment for the local sea bass populations.



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)												
Sea bass monitoring Intertidal nets and Recreational Sea Angling												
Scallop Meat Yield												
Observer trips on potting vessels for lobsters and crabs												
NEIFCA potting surveys for lobsters & crabs												
Observer trips on Scallop vessels, beam trawling and dredging												
NEIFCA offshore Scallop surveys												
MPA monitoring – video surveys												
Eelgrass survey at Spurn Point												

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Vessel Replacement Programme

Work on the establishment and development of the vessel replacement programme commenced in 2015 with the intention of replacing NEGIII at ten year's operational service. The vessel has now reached its eighteenth year and during July 2022 suffered a major engine failure due in the main to its age and service.

During the last three years the replacement vessel programme has been re-vitalised in part through the delivery of a new 9.5m Cabin RIB during 2021 and during June 2023, NEIFCA and its lead Local Authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) agreed to support the build and commission of a new bespoke vessel to replace NEG III.

This capital project is funded through a number of sources including monies set aside annually by NEIFCA since 2007, DEFRA's IFCA capital delivery funding programme, monies realised from the sale of NEG III and additional funding provided through East Riding of Yorkshire Council via a joint leasing agreement.

On 6 October 2023 a contract was confirmed with Parkol Marine Ltd, based in Whitby, North Yorkshire to build and deliver the new vessel. The project is being led and managed by the Deputy Chief Officer and offshore Operational Manager who carries extensive technical and personal experience in the build and commission of vessels. The successful delivery of the project is also being supported by relevant leads from East Riding of Yorkshire Council covering procurement, legal and financial requirements.

Provisional Timescales

- Build contract agreed and signed – 6 October 2024
- Commencement of Build – February 2024
- Completion and Delivery – May 2025

ASSET MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

New Main Fisheries Vessel

In advance of the anticipated completion and delivery of NEIFCAs new main fisheries vessel, the Deputy Chief Officer and project manager will lead the operational commissioning of the asset during 2025/2026. This will include overseeing offshore trials, the practical testing of all the onboard equipment and rectifying any 'snagging' in consultation with Parkol Marine Ltd. The operational commissioning process will also include the recruitment and integration of two new offshore staff, the updating of all supporting, onboard, safe working practices and the development and implementation of a supporting management plan in consultation with the Chief Officer.



NEIFCA

New Vessel



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.	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div>T</div>
B Maintain a website.	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div>T</div>
C Maintain MoUs with the MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and CEFAS and explore and implement opportunities for effective joint working.	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div>T*</div>
	2023	2024	2025	2026

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

















T

 Target

* MoUs have now largely been superseded by a range of active joint working groups both at regional and national level.

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.				
	2023	2024	2025	2026

● 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.

** NEIFCA continues to work in partnership through the National IFCA Training Group and Chief Officers Group to maintain and enhance training standards..

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.

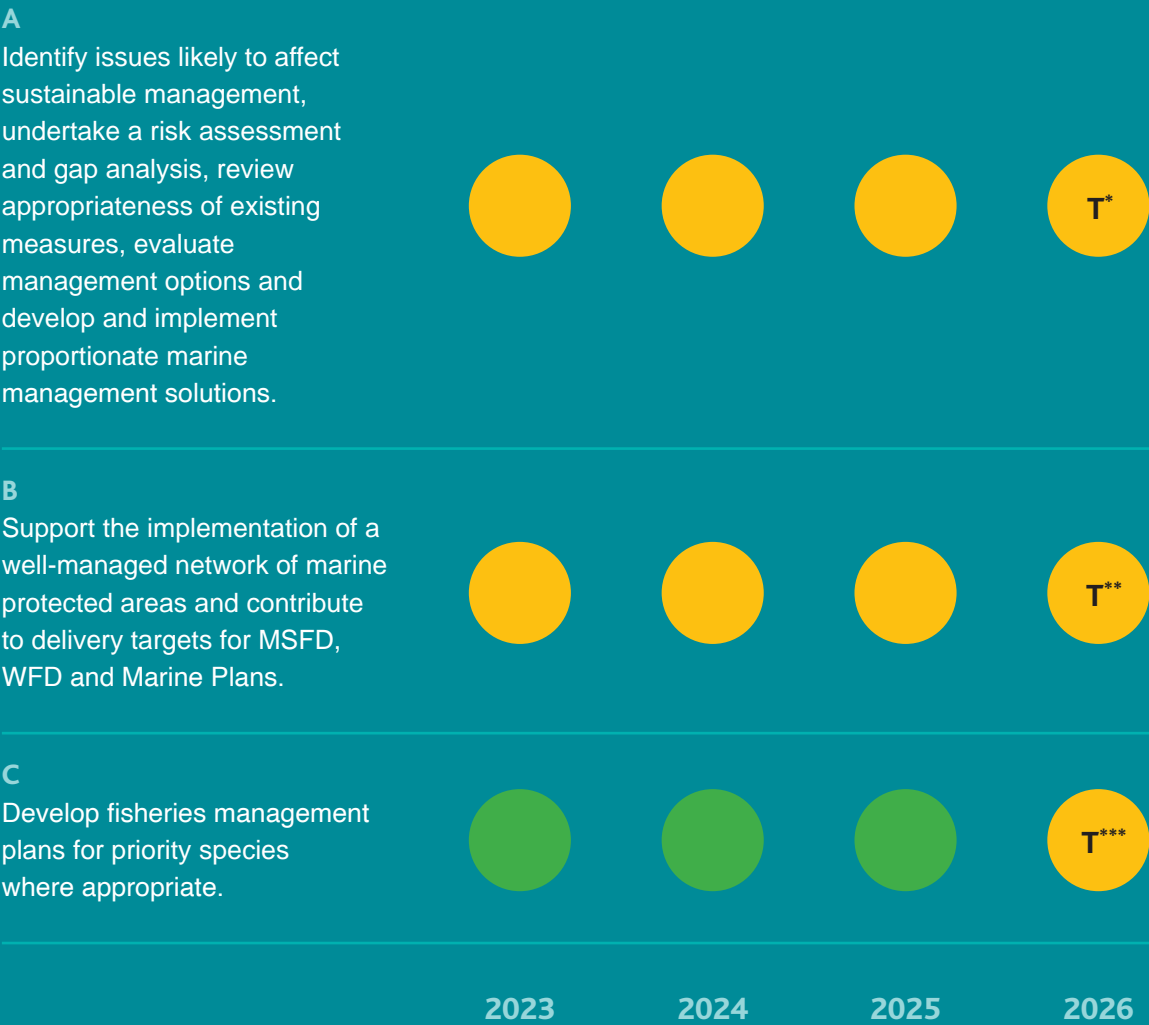
Develop a range of criteria based management options which are reviewed and updated annually.

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.



● 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.

*** Engaged in the national fisheries management plan work stream through 2025/ 2026.

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.



2023

2024

2025

2026

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 March 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

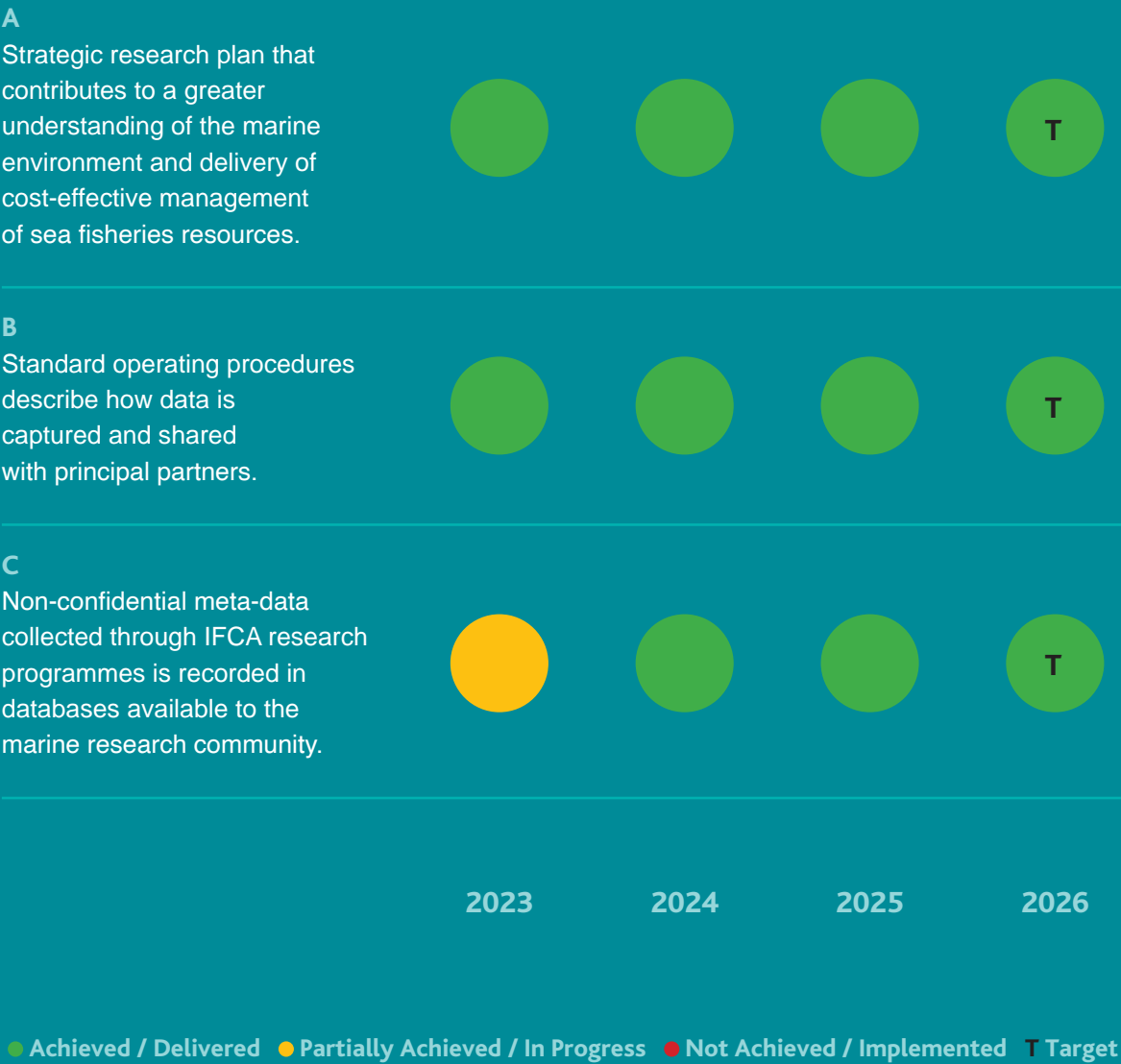
An annual research plan will be published each year.

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

2025 / 2026
Annual Plan