

North Eastern
Inshore Fisheries
and Conservation
Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019



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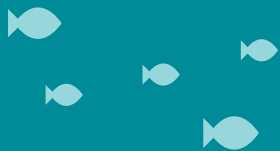
FOREWORD

This is the eighth annual report produced by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. It covers the financial year ending 31 March 2019 and provides a summary account and review of the Authority's main outputs and achievements during its eighth operational year.

The report highlights positive progression and development within a number of key areas including organisational, legislative and collaborative working management.

On 23 June 2016 the UK voted to leave the European Union. As the government works towards that future exit in 2019, many challenges and opportunities lay ahead for the Authority but it remains well placed to meet those and play a key role in future decision making.

Clerk of the Authority





NATIONAL 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. ”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) was formally established on 1 April 2011 under provision contained within the 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act. The Authority replaced North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee (NESFC), assuming new duties and responsibilities for managing the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its district.

This eighth Annual Report produced by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. It provides a comprehensive review of the Authority's eighth year of operations and charts its main outputs and achievements across key work areas including: Organisational, Legislative Enforcement; Environmental and Scientific Research; Staff training and development; Communications; Partnership working and the delivery of national work streams. The report also provides a summary of the Authority's performance and progress against both its national and local working objectives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENTS

Main achievements and outputs during 2018/2019 included the following:

- Agreement achieved on an uplifted sound and stable operational budget of £1,200,310.
- During 2018/2019 officers delivered a comprehensive fisheries to patrol service throughout the region which included over 656 inspections and 1200 vessel observations resulting in the Authority issuing 46 informal warnings, 9 formal warnings, 33 formal warnings, 14 Financial Administrative Penalties and 9 cases successfully prosecuted in the Magistrates Court.
- On the 31 August 2018 the Authority's first female apprentice successfully completed her one year attachment. Georgina Innes Myers achieved a NVQ Workboat Apprenticeship in partnership with the Whitby and District Fishing Industry Training School. Georgina was the first female workboat apprentice in the UK to achieve this qualification having successfully completed her work based training on board North Eastern Guardian III.
- Successful continuation of the Authority's public engagement programme with officers attending two events throughout the Authority's jurisdiction and registering interest from over 10,000 people.
- Expansion and development in the areas of marine environmental monitoring and biological surveying continued throughout 2018/2019. Revised stock monitoring and assessment programmes were implemented including scallops, monthly potting surveys supported by local fishermen and the annual assessment of sea grass habitat in the Humber Estuary. Further work also continued on the deployment of underwater cameras and acoustical equipment and the operational use of drone technology.
- Throughout 2018 Authority officers supported a number of innovative projects funded through the Holderness Coast Fisheries Local Action. These projects included a lobster marketing study examining the implications of the UK exit from the EU and exploring potential new marketing opportunities. Between the 12 and 14 September 2018 all NEIFCA staff engaged in a two day residential team building event in the Lake District. The event involved a wide range of facilitated outdoor activities designed to develop and strengthen communication skills, leadership and active team working. Positive feedback was received from all participating staff.
- During October 2018 NEIFCA engaged stakeholders in its second customer satisfaction survey. The survey ran between 22 October and 3 December 2018. In total 515 respondents completed the survey. 94% found NEIFCA staff friendly and approachable, 98% of queries were answered quickly and 94% of respondents rated the quality of service either good or very good.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

- During March 2019 NEIFCA hosted an exchange visit with officers from the Department Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland. The officers took part in an offshore patrol, gaining practical experience in the day to day work of IFCAs. A return visit to Northern Ireland is planned for May 2019.



EDIBLE CRAB

Cancer pagurus



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

Partnership Working

The Authority retains a strong commitment to positive partnership working and throughout the year several joint meetings were held with partners and a number of joint working days were also achieved on the ground. Officers also actively engaged in monthly Tasking and Coordination Group meetings with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) sharing intelligence, operational information and joint habitat survey work was also undertaken in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England at a number of sites.

National IFCA Association

Since its inception NEIFCA has played an active role in supporting the national Association which continued throughout 2017 represented through the Chief Officer and Chair. During 2018/2019 the Vice Chairman and the Chief Officer played an active role in supporting an independent review of the national Association of IFCA's. It is anticipated that the outcome of this review will be implemented during June 2019.



INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This eighth Annual Report was developed in consultation with Authority members. It provides a summary of the main outputs and achievements across the Authority including: Central policy, encompassing strategic development and legislative review; Legislative Enforcement; Environmental and Scientific Research, encompassing fisheries stock assessment, marine survey and monitoring, data management, review of marine consents and licensing applications and marine habitat protection; Staff training and development; Communications and partnership working. The report complements the Authority's 2018/2019 Annual Plan and also provides a summary of progress against the national IFCA success criteria and high level objectives.

Background

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) was 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 continues to draw professional service provision including legal, financial and human resource support from its lead Local Authority member, East Riding of Yorkshire Council. NEIFCA membership comprises of 13 elected Councillors representing eleven coastal Local Authorities together with 14 members appointed by the Marine Management Organisation and singular members representing Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation. The total membership of the Authority is 30 which is the maximum level permitted under statute.

Financial Overview

The Authority's total annual budget for the reporting period 2018/2019 was agreed by members during March at £1,200,310. The budget is allocated across four main areas:

Corporate

Expenditure relating to corporate governance.

Headquarter

The cost of management and administrative support.

Operations

Direct expenditure incurred in the performance of the Authority's objectives comprising of offshore, land-based and environmental activities.

Grant aided projects

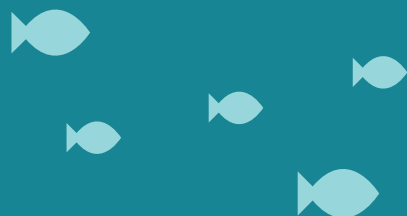
Projects which are specific or time bound and wholly funded by external sources.

See table on Page 11

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2017/2018		2018/2019				
Net Expenditure		Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Original Budget	Variance
£343,136	Central / Headquarters	£441,372	£6,210	£435,162	£385,080	£50,082
£113,418	Land Based Operations	£120,528	£0	£120,528	£137,010	-£16,482
£435,947	Offshore Operations	£430,709	£10,287	£420,422	£453,740	-£33,318
£101,443	Environment	£109,676	£0	£109,676	£111,580	-£1,904
£0	Grand Aided Projects	£146,739	£146,468	£271	£0	£271
£993,944		£1,249,024	£162,965	£1,086,059	£1,087,410	£1,351

Income	Sources of Finance	Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Original Budget	Variance
£1,162,310	Annual levy on Local Authorities	£0	£1,200,310	£1,200,310	£1,200,310	£0
£0	Contribution from Reserves	£0	£18,518	£18,518	£0	£18,518
-£10,950	Contribution to Capital - Vehicles	£46,518	£28,000	-£18,518	£0	-£18,518
-£157,416	Contribution to Earmarked Reserves	£114,251	£0	-£114,251	-£112,900	£1,351
£993,944		£160,769	£1,246,828	£1,086,059	£1,087,410	£1,351



NATIONAL IFCA SUCCESS CRITERIA

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

IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime;

IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts;

IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional;

IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives;

NEIFCA work streams and organisational priorities are geared towards the positive achievement of the national vision: outlined on page 4.

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

Focus and Priorities for the Year - Annual Plan 2018/2019

Each year Authority members agree and set their objectives and priorities for the year ahead which are outlined within the summary work programme contained within the Authority's 2018/2019 Annual Plan. The 2018/2019 plan was adopted by members on 8 March 2018.

NATIONAL IFCA WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVES

The following tables provide a summary of the Authority’s progress towards achieving the Success Criteria and supporting Working Level Objectives (WLO) during the 2017/2018 reporting period.

March 31st 2019



Completed



Ongoing



Not started

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy.

OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year.

The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

Through its fishing permitting schemes NEIFCA maintains an annual database of some 4,000 individual contacts covering both commercial and recreational fishing.

The Authority maintains a formal communication strategy which is reviewed annually.

Copies of annual plans are sent to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Secretary of State by 30 April each year.

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 have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month.

The Authority's website is reviewed as a minimum on a monthly basis and is regularly updated weekly when required.

Copies of annual reports are sent to Defra's Secretary of State by 30 November in the year in which they are published.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level.

OUTCOME(S)

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 within the annual plan.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

Throughout the reporting year Authority Officers have engaged extensively in a wide range of nationally coordinated work streams including joint training and joint intelligence gathering through the National Association of IFCAs, the National IFCA Chief Officers Group, the National IFCA Technical Advisory Group and the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group.

The IFCA and its principle partners will have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Services (CEFAS) will be maintained.

The IFCA will have reviewed all of its MoUs by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed standard.

The National Association of IFCAs supports the regular review of MoUs with partner organisations.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

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.

OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year.

The IFCA will compile records of enforcement activity in a standard format; provide them to NIMEG and publish them on its website.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

The Authority publishes a comprehensive annual risk register which covers all aspects of risk including enforcement.

The Authority publishes details of its enforcement activity within its Annual Report and provides statistics to the National Association of IFCAs in a standard format.

The IFCA will manage operational activity and capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence that is compatible with partner organisations. It is engaged in joint working with partner organisations.

Working to the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and participating actively through Tasking and Coordination Groups (TCGs).

Throughout 2018/2019 Officers have been actively engaged in the joint fisheries intelligence gathering project, collating, assessing and exchanging intelligence in accordance with NIM principles. This involved active participation in the TCG process including joint TCGs with MMO officers.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

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.

OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will adopt the national code of conduct for IFCOs which will be reviewed annually and published on its website.

Warranted Officers attain accreditation. ALL undertaking continuing professional development.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

Authority Officers undergo a wide range of training supported by a 9 month probationary process. That training incorporates an induction, an IFCA residential course and 'on the job' training and evaluation.

A national code of conduct for IFCA enforcement officers was agreed in 2010 and was adopted by the Authority. It is reviewed annually.



WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

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.

OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority.

The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website 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.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

Authority officers have completed extensive site feature/fishing gear interaction risk matrices for all Marine protected Areas (MPA's) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ's) occurring within the NEIFCA district. A significant supporting management programme commenced during 2013 prioritised to 'high' risk activities. Two formal regulations were confirmed protecting sites at Flamborough Head and the Humber Estuary. During 2016/2017 this work was advanced to cover lower risk interactions and 5 new byelaw regulations were made are currently awaiting ministerial confirmation.

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.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

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.

Proportionate regulation (for example introducing a legal mechanism such as a byelaw) is used as a last resort; The effectiveness of interventions to improve the delivery of beneficial outcomes is continuously monitored; and

There is a clear IFCA Committee process for dealing with agreed interventions quickly, efficiently and effectively, particularly for emergency byelaws.

OUTCOME(S)

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.

Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

Since 2010 Authority officers have made significant progress in the development of management plans for key shellfish species such as lobster and edible crab with integrated management plans. The plans are supported by a developing management framework which was strengthened during 2016/2017 through the implementation of a new minimum landing size for edible crab of 140 mm, mandatory escape gaps in lobster pots and a new restricted permitting scheme covering scallop dredging. Plans for other species are being developed and this work will be supported by 5 new byelaw regulations which are currently awaiting ministerial confirmation and which will enable more comprehensive monitoring of fishing activities and exploitation rates throughout the Authority's district.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

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.

OUTCOME(S)

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.

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.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

The Authority has produced an Annual Plan and Annual Report since 2010. The 2018/2019 Plan was considered and endorsed by the Committee on 8 March 2018 and submitted to the Secretary of State. The Annual Report covering the 2017/2018 period was submitted to the Secretary of State by 30 November 2018.

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.

IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.

An annual appraisal system is in place and all the Authority's staff have a minimum 'one to one' appraisal each year with their line manager including the Chief Officer. This is supported by regular informal meetings throughout the year. Individual training needs are reviewed and set each year at the appraisals.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

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.

OUTCOME(S)

An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

During 2018/2019 all the meetings of the full Committee and supporting subgroups were quorate and comprehensively supported by the Authority's administrative and operational support team. Agendas, supporting papers and minutes were published in accordance with the Authority's standing orders and posted on the Authority's website.

A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources.

The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year

The Authority incorporates its research planning and delivery into both its overarching Annual Plan and Annual Report. These are produced in consultation with members and in accordance with statutory procedures. These annual planning and reporting processes are underpinned by an annual research work programme and a 5 year strategic plan.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

Standard Operating Procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners.

OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA's contribution to Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and progress that has made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2018/2019

The Authority's environmental and scientific leads are fully engaged with other IFCA colleagues through the national IFCA Technical Advisory Group. Through this group the Authority's officers have developed and implemented standard operating practices across most of its work streams.

Non-confidential meta-data collected through the IFCA research programme should be recorded in a database available to the marine research community.

Non confidential data is shared reducing the need for duplication of survey effort.

Authority officers share non-confidential meta data through MEDIN and 'drop box' and improving internal data sharing within the Authority's membership remains an ongoing work stream.

NORTH EASTERN GUARDIAN III

Fisheries Patrol



ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW 2018/2019

Main Achievements

There were a number of notable achievements during 2018/2019 across a wide range of work streams from supporting national policy work through to stock conservation and management and staff development.

- During March 2018 the Authority endorsed and fixed an operational budget of £1,200,310 providing a stable and uplifted funding base.
- On the 31 August 2018 the Authority's first female apprentice successfully completed her one year attachment. Georgina Innes Myers achieved a NVQ Workboat Apprenticeship in partnership with the Whitby and District Fishing Industry Training School. Georgina was the first female workboat apprentice in the UK to achieve this qualification having successfully completed her work based training on board North Eastern Guardian III. Georgina has since taken up a place at Leeds University.
- Between the 12 and 14 September 2018 all NEIFCA staff engaged in a two day residential team building event in the Lake District. The event involved a wide range of facilitated outdoor activities designed to develop and strengthen communication skills, leadership and active team working. Positive feedback was received from all participating staff. This planned event built on the successes of previous team building work undertaken during 2017.
- Successful continuation of the Authority's public engagement programme with officers attending two events throughout the Authority's jurisdiction and registering interest from over 10,000 people.
- During October 2018 NEIFCA engaged stakeholders in its second customer satisfaction survey. The survey ran between 22 October and 3 December 2018. In total 515 respondents completed the survey. 94% found NEIFCA staff friendly and approachable, 98% of queries were answered quickly and 94% of respondents rated the quality of service either good or very good.

ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW 2018/2019 CONTINUED

- ▶ During March 2019 NEIFCA hosted an exchange visit with officers from the Department Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland. The officers took part in an offshore patrol, gaining practical experience in the day to day work of IFCAs which included a practical session utilising drone technology. A return visit to Northern Ireland is planned for May 2019.

CENTRAL POLICY 2018/2019

Central Policy & Strategic Development

Central policy and strategic development is supported by two key internal sub-groups, the Executive Committee and the Science Advisory Group. Science Advisory Group comprises of MMO appointees and representatives from Natural England, the Environment Agency and the MMO and is responsible for overseeing regulatory review, development and implementation, scientific and survey work, projects and licensing applications and consents.

The Executive Committee comprises of elected and appointed MMO members and provides a smaller more focused decision making group to undertake any work delegated by the full Authority, including ratifying emergency byelaw provisions and considering appeals against process. These groups work in tandem with recommendations passing through the Executive Committee for final endorsement by the full Authority.

Risk Management

The effective management of risk remains a key priority for officers and members of the Authority. A formal strategy supporting the identification and management of risk was first agreed and adopted by members of the shadow Authority on 25 January 2011. The strategy and its provisions are reviewed

on an annual basis to ensure that it remains 'fit for purpose'. Alongside the strategy the identification and management of risk is supported through a number of risk registers covering both strategic and operational risk, including a risk based enforcement matrix. All risk registers are subject to six-monthly review with updates reported to Authority members and posted on the Authority's website. During the reporting year these reviews and updates were completed during September 2018 and March 2019.

Emergency IFCA Byelaws

Section 157 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides a mechanism for IFCA's to introduce emergency byelaw regulations to deal with unforeseen issues requiring urgent action. Emergency byelaws are time limited to a maximum period of eighteen months.

Since its inception in 2011 the Authority has effectively utilised its emergency byelaw making powers on four separate occasions most recently on 17 October 2017 to provide additional protection for egg bearing lobsters.

EUROPEAN MARINE SITE REVIEW

European Marine Site Review

During 2012 Defra commenced a process of revising the national approach to managing fishing activities within European Marine Sites. The process categorised fishing activities as red (high risk), through amber, green and blue (no risk), depending on the level of risk they presented to certain types of habitat or species. For fishing activities designated as red, occurring within sensitive sites, Defra set an expectation that IFCAs' would develop and implement formal management by December 2013, which has now been completed.

In terms of supporting the delivery of the revised national approach the Authority has now implemented two priority byelaw regulations to strengthen the management of fishing activities within both the Flamborough Head and Humber Estuary European Marine Sites and work is continuing on the assessment of other gear feature interactions.

On 27 April 2016 five new byelaw regulations were formally made by the Authority's Executive Committee. The new proposed measures included mandatory catch and effort reporting across all sectors, remote vessel activity monitoring through the use of vessel Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), standardised marking of fishing gear, improved management of fixed netting and the establishment of a new permitting scheme for trawling in the Humber Estuary. These measures will address amber and lower risk activities occurring within all the MPAs located within the Authority's District and are currently awaiting ministerial confirmation.



LEGISLATIVE ENFORCEMENT

Legislative enforcement forms a key element of the Authority's drive to achieve the sustainable management of sea fisheries resources within its district. Enforcement is undertaken by fourteen warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) who are responsible for monitoring and inspecting fisheries activities both offshore and along the coast. Enforcement work is supported by a dedicated 26m patrol vessel, North Eastern Guardian III, which carries a 6.4m rigid inflatable boat (RIB) that is utilised to board and inspect fishing vessels at sea. A smaller 4.7m RIB is also retained onshore and can be launched throughout the Authority's district when required.

Since its inception NEIFCA has been developing a more targeted approach to its enforcement activities led increasingly by intelligence. Enforcement outputs are collated on a monthly basis.

ENFORCEMENT OUTPUTS 2018/2019

Enforcement Output	Frequency
Vessel Inspections	528
Vessel observations	1200
Inspection Reports completed	656
Verbal Warnings	46
Written Warnings	21
Offences Reported	68
Formal Cautions	18
Financial Administrative Penalties	14
Formal prosecutions	9



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Marine environmental and scientific research functions continue to develop and expand in line with the developing role and remit of the Authority. The environmental and science team undertake fisheries stock assessment work, collate and analyse seabed habitat and water column data generated by NEG III, review marine licensing applications and consents, support marine habitat conservation and management through engagement with European Marine Site (EMS) management schemes and Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) programmes and oversee the internal management of data. This work is guided by an annual research and evidence plan and a 5 year strategic plan. Separate to this annual report, findings from the environmental and scientific research work are published within an annual research report.

Fisheries Stock Assessment work

The majority of species exploited within the NEIFCA district are a component of wider stock units which extend beyond the 6 mile limit.

During 2011/2012 officers proposed and presented multiple indicator frameworks, a combination of specific reference points and proxies for measuring progress towards achieving sustainable fisheries. Alongside and at the request of Authority members, officers have incorporated a broader overview, detailing information on gear types, additional species, economic and socio-economic factors. This analytical work is supported, in the main, by a comprehensive stock assessment programme which includes quayside sampling at four main ports including Hartlepool, Whitby, Scarborough and Bridlington and an offshore monitoring programme covering each of the five main ICES areas located within and surrounding the Authority's district. Long-standing monitoring programmes including the annual assessment of cockle stocks within the Tees and Humber Estuaries, the Authority's 'No Take Zone' at Flamborough Head and the seasonal permitted sea bass fisheries were maintained throughout the reporting period.

Seabed Habitat Assessment & Mapping Work

The development of the Authority's capabilities to assess and map seabed habitats has been one of the main areas of focus for both the offshore and environmental teams. Ongoing work in this area has included the full commissioning of an onboard WASSP multi-beam system and the development of underwater camera technologies. These systems were used extensively during the reporting period at priority sites and locations throughout the Authority's district.

Marine Licensing and Consents

During the reporting period Authority officers were involved in licensing and consents work relating to six 'major infrastructure' projects. A further thirty-four licensing and consent applications were reviewed and considered by officers covering a wide range of small scale projects from maintenance dredging, through to discharge consents and minor harbour infrastructure projects.

EUROPEAN LOBSTER

Homarus gammarus



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

European Marine Sites (EMS)

The NEIFCA district contains three European Marine Sites (EMSs); Humber, Teesmouth and Cleveland, and Flamborough Head. Each EMS is supported by a Management Group comprising statutory authorities and other relevant bodies. NEIFCA plays an active role within all of the management groups. NEIFCA workstreams within the EMSs focus on four main areas; active participation in the EMS Management Schemes and associated projects; the provision of guidance to developers and input into the licensing conditions of development consent orders within and adjacent to EMSs; stock assessments of commercially important finfish and crustacea; and the appropriate assessment and management of fisheries within EMS boundaries through both voluntary and regulatory measures. The last work stream in particular has developed and expanded through the reporting period and remains a significant organisational priority.

During 2012 Defra announced a revised national approach to the management

of commercial fishing activities within European Marine Sites (EMSs) in England. In order to implement this new approach, current fishing activities within EMSs require appropriate assessment, for potential impacts on the conservation features of the EMS, in order that management can be implemented to ensure site integrity is maintained.

The assessments will consider whether the fishing activity in question may adversely affect the integrity of the site or inhibit the achievement of the conservation objectives. Every fishing activity that takes place, or could take place, within EMSs must be assessed against each designated conservation feature and sub-feature. This will continue to form an extremely large area of work for the Authority. As part of this work stream two new byelaws were confirmed by Defra in December 2015 and a further five byelaws were made by the Authority in April 2016, strengthening the management of fishing activities and improving protection for the sensitive features occurring within both the Flamborough Head and Humber Estuary

European Marine Sites and are currently awaiting ministerial confirmation.

Marine Conservation

The NEIFCA district contains two MCZ sites; Runswick Bay and Holderness Inshore. Full assessments have been completed on both sites and appropriate management measures supporting their protection are already in place.

Data Management

All raw data gathered from the Authority's district is stored electronically in spreadsheet and database format enabling ease of manipulation, import into other programmes and statistical analysis. Spatial data is stored in shape file format for presentation and analysis in the GIS platform MapInfo. This is a developing work stream that aims to generate key data layers that present information related to the Authority's district, such as management regimes, fishing effort, habitat types and commercial species ranges.

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Defra Funded Bait Collection Project

During September 2017 Officers commenced a 1 year MRes project, in partnership with Hull University, funded by Defra. The project involved a detailed survey and appraisal of the impacts of bait collection at three key sites within the Authority's district. The project was completed at the end of March 2019.

Holderness Coast Lobster Marketing Study

This is a partnership project with the University of Hull funded through the Holderness Coast Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG). The project commenced during October 2017 and will assess the impact of the UK exit from the EU on the local lobster fishery. The project will also examine the potential of opening up new markets outside the EU and options for adding value to the fishery. The project is scheduled to complete at the end of May 2019.

Marine Research Facility

During December 2017 the Authority agreed 'in principle' to support this project, co-funded through the Holderness FLAG and the Holderness Coast Fishing Industry Group. The project involves the building and commissioning of a small marine research facility at Bridlington harbour, East Yorkshire.

STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2018 long-standing and established staff training and development systems were maintained across the Authority. These systems included annual appraisals for all staff which link personal objectives and training and development needs to organisational objectives and long-term strategic goals. All staff training is recorded and monitored centrally in a database and is subject to staff feedback and evaluation.

All NEIFCA staff are actively encouraged to contribute to 6 weekly team meetings and participate in internal workshops and focus groups covering topics such as regulatory byelaw development and fishing gear marking.

Between the 12 and 14 September 2018 all NEIFCA staff engaged in a two day residential team building event in the Lake District. The event involved a wide range of facilitated outdoor activities designed to develop and strengthen communication skills, leadership and active team working. Positive feedback was received from all participating staff. This planned event built on the successes of previous team building work undertaken during 2017.

During December 2018 all the Authority's staff participated in an annual two day internal training and reflection event which aims to encourage greater empowerment of staff, providing an opportunity to influence and take some ownership of service delivery. This represented the seventh year that such an event was held.



COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIP WORKING

During 2017 the Authority utilised a range of media to communicate with stakeholders and the wider public through its dedicated website, annual newsletters, open meetings, focused 'drop in' sessions, attendance at local events, press releases and more traditional media such as public notices, advertisements and notice boards.

NEIFCA Website

The Authority's website remains at the forefront of its drive to improve overall communications, accessibility to information and associated services. The website includes an 'ask the chief' function where questions, queries and comments can be emailed directly to the Chief Officer. Stakeholders can also apply for a wide range of fishing permits online which are then emailed directly to them. The website also provides direct links to tidal and weather information and other partner organisations. During the last four years the Authority has noted a significant increase in the numbers of fishermen and stakeholders accessing information electronically. A major 'over haul' of the Authority's website provision is planned for 2019.



During 2018/2019 officers attended two public events held throughout the Authority's jurisdiction to provide information on the Authority's work, role and remit. During the course of these events officers actively engaged with over 10,000 people.

Feedback System

Throughout 2018 the Authority continued to utilise a formal electronic feedback system supported by East Riding of Yorkshire Council. All feedback is captured and recorded on a database via a dedicated feedback officer. Any complaints are subject to a fixed response time with systems to deal with any vexatious issues. All recorded feedback is then reported back to Authority members on an annual basis.

Partnership Working

During April 2011 the Authority signed a number of 'High Level' MOUs with key partner organisations. These endorsed the principles of communication and positive partnership engagement and continued to support positive working relationships throughout 2017.

During 2018 NEIFCA actively engaged in the national intelligence gathering project in joint collaboration with other IFCA's and the MMO. This also involved active engagement in a monthly joint tasking and coordination meetings with North Western IFCA, Northumberland IFCA and the MMO's Northern and Central marine area teams. Since this project was first established NEIFCA has captured and shared over 214 fisheries intelligence reports. Active operational partnership working took place throughout 2018/2019 including joint enforcement work with both the MMO and EA.

National IFCA Association

A national Association was established on 24 March 2011 to represent and support the work of IFCA's. NEIFCA continues to play an active role in this Association through the Chairman, Clerk and Chief Officer which included supporting important revisions to its internal organisation and governance. During 2018 a comprehensive independent review of the Association was launched and is due to complete at the end of June 2019.





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and Conservation Authority**

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Annual Report**