

North Eastern
Inshore Fisheries
and Conservation
Authority

ANNUAL REPORT



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FOREWORD

This is the sixth annual report produced by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. It covers the financial year ending March 31 2017 and provides a summary account and review of the Authority's main outputs and achievements during its sixth 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 sixth Annual Report produced by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) covers the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. It provides a comprehensive review of the Authority's sixth 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

- 2016/2017 was a very positive year for the Authority. Main achievements and outputs included the following:
 - Agreement achieved on a sound and stable operational budget of £1,139,521.
 - On 27 April 2016 five new byelaw regulations were formally made by the Authority's Executive Committee paving the way for more effective management and monitoring of fishing activities across the district. 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 and the establishment of a new permitting scheme for trawling in the Humber Estuary.
 - During 2016-2017 officers continued to deliver a comprehensive fisheries patrol service throughout the region which included over 1009 inspections and 1178 vessel observations resulting in the Authority issuing 46 informal warnings, 3 formal warnings. 3 further cases were successfully prosecuted in the Magistrates Court. During the reporting year officers increased inspection levels by 75% compared to previous years supported in part by more stable staffing levels.
 - During 2016 two significant new management measures were implemented across the district relating to the mandatory installation of escape gaps in all shellfish pots and a new restricted permitting scheme for scallop dredging.
- Successful continuation of the Authority's public engagement programme with officers attending two events throughout the Authority's jurisdiction and registering interest from over 12,000 people.
- Expansion and development in the areas of marine environmental monitoring and biological surveying continued throughout 2016-2017. Revised stock monitoring and assessment programmes were implemented including scallops for the first time and monthly potting surveys supported by local fishermen. A new programme of sub-tidal seine net surveys was also established during 2016 at key sites across the Authority's district. Further work also continued on the deployment of underwater cameras and acoustical equipment including the completion of a dedicated survey of the Runswick Bay and Holderness Inshore pMCZ sites and the annual assessment of sea grass habitat in the Humber Estuary. These work areas were further supported by Defra funding which was used to employ a temporary Scientific Support Officer.
- Through 2016 Authority officers played an active role in the development of a regional fisheries intelligence gathering pilot and supported several collaborative work streams in partnership with other IFCAs and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

EDIBLE CRAB

Cancer pagurus



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACHIEVEMENTS

Partnership Working

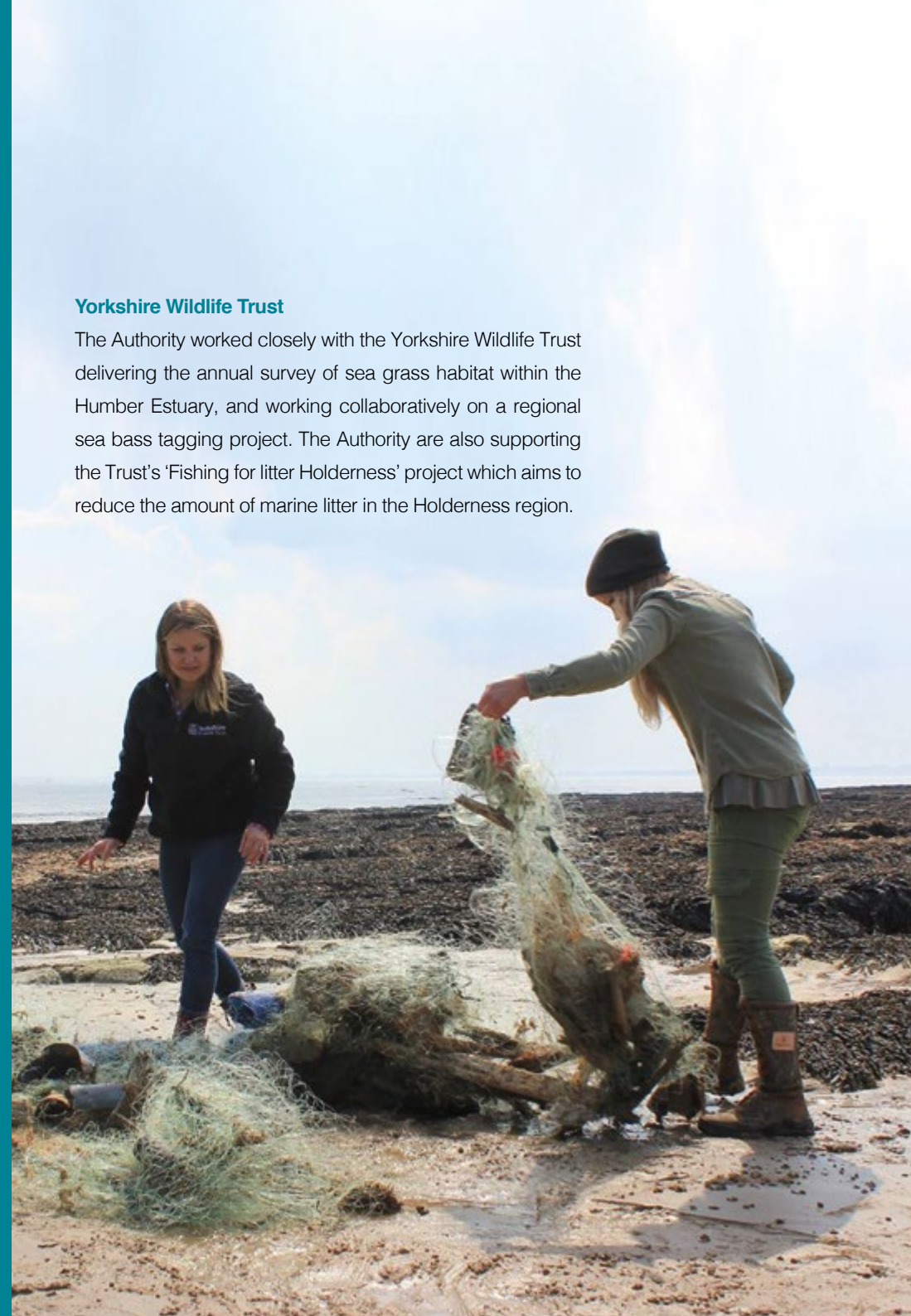
The Authority retains a strong commitment to positive partnership working and throughout the year several joint meetings were held with partners and a number of joint working days were also achieved on the ground. Two meetings of the region's Joint Coastal Enforcement Group, involving a wide range of enforcement partners such as the police, the Marine Management Organisation, the Environment Agency, neighbouring IFCA's and Natural England were also held. Outside enforcement, officers also worked in close partnership with Natural England and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in delivering the annual survey of sea grass habitat within the Humber Estuary.

National IFCA Association

Since its inception NEIFCA has actively supported the establishment of a formal national IFCA Association. This work continued throughout the reporting period with a particular focus on the UK referendum result in June 2016 and supporting preparations for leaving the European Union.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

The Authority worked closely with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust delivering the annual survey of sea grass habitat within the Humber Estuary, and working collaboratively on a regional sea bass tagging project. The Authority are also supporting the Trust's 'Fishing for litter Holderness' project which aims to reduce the amount of marine litter in the Holderness region.



INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This sixth 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 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 was agreed by members during March at £1,139,521. The budget is allocated across four main areas:

Corporate.

Expenditure relating to corporate governance

Headquarters.

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 tables 1 & 2: Pages 10 - 11

TABLE 1

Comprehensive income and expenditure statement

2015/ 16 NET EXPENDITURE		2016 / 17 EXPENDITURE	2016 / 17 INCOME	2016 / 17 NET EXPENDITURE	APPROVED BUDGET	VARIANCE
£363,552	Central / Headquarters	£432,621	£8,534	£424,087	£362,590	£61,497
£132,638	Land based operations	£155,095	£0	£155,095	£154,840	£255
£428,440	Offshore operations	£480,807	£32,992	£447,815	£447,640	£255
£103,020	Environment	£112,071	£0	£112,071	£111,985	£86
£0	Grant Aided Projects	£44,277	£44,277	£0	£0	£0
£1,031,275		£1,224,871	£85,803	£1,139,068	£1,077,055	£62,013 (-)

TABLE 2

Comprehensive income and expenditure statement

2015 / 16 NET INCOME	SOURCES OF FINANCE	2016 / 17 EXPENDITURE	2016 / 17 INCOME	2016 / 17 NET INCOME	APPROVED BUDGET	VARIANCE
£1,139,521	Annual levy on Local Authorities	£1,139,068	£1,139,521	£1,135,380	£1,077,055	£3,688(-)
£0	Contribution to / from Reserves	£0	£78,759	£0	£0	£0
£0	Contribution to Capital	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
£145,724(-)	Contribution to Earmarked Reserves	£0	£82,900(-)	£0	£0	£0
£993,797		£1,139,068	£1,135,380	£1,135,380	£1,077,055	£3,688 (-)

The 2016/2017 revenue budget was supported by a contribution of £20,434 from the general reserve and transfers of £47,064 from the Carnaby Storage Reserve to support the construction and fitting out of a new storage facility and £11,261 from the vehicle replacement reserve to support the purchase of new vehicles. In terms of the total budget for the 2016/2017 financial year the Authority over-spent by £3,688.

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 2016 / 2017

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 2016/2017 Annual Plan. The 2016/2017 plan was adopted by members on 10th March 2016.

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 2016/2017 reporting period.

Status March 31st 2017



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 2016/2017

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 Defra's 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 2016/2017

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 with MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and 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. Most recently during 2016 a long standing MoU was reviewed and agreed with the MMO.

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 2016/2017

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 IFCA's 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 and participating actively through Tasking and Coordination Groups (TCGs)

During 2016/2017 Officers have been actively engaged in the joint fisheries intelligence gathering project, collating, assessing and exchanging intelligence in accordance with NIM principles. This work progressed to 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 2016/2017

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. The Authority is also engaged in the national accredited training programme.

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 2016/2017

Authority officers have completed extensive site feature/fishing gear interaction risk matrices for all MPA and MCZs 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 by the Authority on 27 April 2016.

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 2016/2017

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 has been 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 new future byelaw regulations made on 27 April 2016 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 2016/2017

The Authority has produced an Annual Plan and Annual Report since 2010. The 2016/2017 Plan was considered and endorsed by the Committee on 10 March 2016 and submitted to the Secretary of State. The Annual Report covering the 2015/2016 period was submitted to the Secretary of State by 30 November 2016.

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 2016/2017

During 2016/2017 all the meetings of the full Committee and supporting sub-groups 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 a five year research plan.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

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

OUTCOME(S)

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

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2016/2017

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'. Internal data sharing with members will be enhanced through 2017/2018.

NORTH EASTERN GUARDIAN III

Fisheries Patrol



ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW 2016 / 17

Main Achievements

2016/2017 was a very positive year for the Authority progressing the management and conservation of key fisheries including lobster, edible crab and scallop within its District and furthering the delivery of the revised national approach to fisheries management within European Marine Sites (EMSS).

- During March 2016 the Authority endorsed and fixed an operational budget of £1,139, 521 providing a stable funding base.
- During 2016 two significant new management measures were implemented across the district relating to the mandatory installation of escape gaps in all shellfish pots, the establishment of a new minimum landing size for edible crab of 140 mm and the implementation of a new restricted permitting scheme for scallop dredging which commenced during December 2016. These measures will make a significant contribution to the long term sustainability of lobster, edible crab and scallop stocks located within the Authority's District.
- Successful continuation of the Authority's public engagement programme with officers attending two events throughout the Authority's jurisdiction and registering interest from over 12,000 people.

- On 27 April 2016 five new byelaw regulations were formally made by the Authority's Executive Committee paving the way for more effective management and monitoring of fishing activities across the district. 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 new regulations will also support the Authority's delivery of the revised national approach to fisheries management within European Marine Sites (EMSS).

Central Policy & Strategic Development

Central policy and strategic development is supported by two key internal sub-groups, the Executive Committee and the Science and Governance Working Group. The Science and Governance Working Group comprises of Marine Management Organisation (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.

CENTRAL POLICY 2016 / 17

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 October 2016 and March 2017.

Information Technology Strategy

The importance of positively utilising developments in information technology to develop and strengthen service delivery is also recognised by the Authority's members as a key priority and is supported by an ICT strategy. The strategy is reviewed annually. During 2015/2016 the strategy supported the 'roll out' of 'smart' phones to all operational staff.

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 three separate occasions most recently on 2 February 2015 to control a rapidly emerging scallop fishery off the North Yorkshire coast.

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.



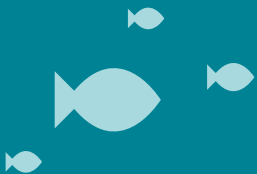
LEGISLATIVE ENFORCEMENT

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 26 m patrol vessel, North Eastern Guardian III, which carries a 6.4 m rigid inflatable boat (RIB) that is utilised to board and inspect fishing vessels at sea. A smaller 4.7 m 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 2016/17

Enforcement Output	Frequency
Vessel Inspections	584
Vessel observations	1178
Inspection Reports completed	1009
Verbal Warnings	46
Offences Reported	13
Formal Cautions	3
Financial Administrative Penalties	0
Formal prosecutions	3



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.

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 seven 'major infrastructure' projects. A further thirty one 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 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (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 through to the end of 2016. 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

Marine Conservation Zones

During the reporting period formal consultation commenced on proposed tranche 2 Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) sites including Runswick Bay and Holderness Inshore located within the Authority's district. The Authority provided a supportive response to the proposed designation of both sites.

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

Escape Gaps

Officers secured funding through the Holderness FLAG for 42,000 units which were distributed free to the industry, promoting use and anecdotal feedback. Some operators have indicated significant fuel and labour savings which have made their businesses more economical. A final project report to the Holderness FLAG board was produced.

Bridlington ISC pot bases

Through the Scientific Officer role in an advisory capacity to the Holderness FLAG, support was provided to the ISC in business case development, securing several thousand rubber pot bases at a discounted price. These units reduce limb loss and in-direct fishing mortality, whilst improving catch and therefore end value.

Finfish Strategic Environmental Assessment

During 2012 officers secured funding to implement a Finfish Strategic Environmental Assessment through the Holderness FLAG. A tender was commissioned and contractor secured to support the project. During March 2014 the first key stage 'Environmental Report' was delivered and opened for formal consultation and review by stakeholders.

The 'Deep' Information Display Project

Officers secured funding through the FLAG for the development and installation of a permanent display within the internationally recognised 'The Deep' aquarium in Hull. The display was installed during March 2014 and showcases the work and role that the Authority plays in both fisheries management and marine conservation. During 2013 over 350,000 people visited 'The Deep'.

'Banana Pingers' (Acoustic Deterrent Devices)

Officers secured funding through the FLAG for the purchase and supply to the fishing industry of a number of 'Banana pingers'. These small acoustic devices alert and deter cetaceans to the dangers posed by fixed fishing nets.

STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2016 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.

During December 2016 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 fifth year that such an event was held.



COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIP WORKING

During 2016 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.



During 2016/2017 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 12,000 people.

Feedback System

Throughout 2016 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' Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with key partner organisations. These endorsed the principles of communication and positive partnership engagement and continued to support positive working relationships throughout 2016. In addition to the MOUs the Authority played an active role in the local 'Joint Coastal Enforcement Group', which includes partner IFCAs, MMO, EA, Local police and Natural England representatives. This group met twice during 2016 providing a medium for the exchange of information and the planning of joint operational work.

During 2016 the Authority has been actively engaged with the MMO and colleagues from both North Western and Northumberland IFCAs in a joint fisheries intelligence gathering pilot. The pilot has delivered a unified approach to the gathering, collation and dissemination of fisheries intelligence, and was expanded nationally during 2016/2017. The intelligence gathering programme now supports joint tasking and coordination meetings with partner IFCAs and the MMO.

Active operational partnership working took place throughout 2016 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 IFCAs. 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. Achievements during 2016 included the further development of its interactive website and secure members area, the publication of an annual plan outlining key goals and objectives and the provision of positive support to IFCAs through the ongoing delivery of the revised approach to EMS management. Significant new national work streams emerged following the national referendum result in June 2016 supporting the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The national Association is playing a key role in this work.





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