

North Eastern  
Inshore Fisheries  
and Conservation  
Authority

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018



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# FOREWORD

This is the seventh annual report produced by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. It covers the financial year ending March 31 2018 and provides a summary account and review of the Authority's main outputs and achievements during its seventh 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 seventh Annual Report produced by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) covers the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. It provides a comprehensive review of the Authority's seventh 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 2017/2018 included the following:
  - Agreement achieved on a sound and stable operational budget of £1,139,521.
  - On the 16 October 2017 the Authority implemented a new Emergency Byelaw regulation to strengthen the protection of egg bearing lobsters within its district. This was the fourth time that the Authority had utilised its emergency powers and followed the introduction of new legislation covering English waters.
  - During 2017-2018 officers delivered a comprehensive fisheries to patrol service throughout the region which included over 800 inspections and 1148 vessel observations resulting in the Authority issuing 31 informal warnings, 9 formal warnings. 4 further cases were successfully prosecuted in the Magistrates Court.
  - During September 2017, in partnership with the Whitby and District Fishing Industry Training School, the Authority appointed the first female work boat apprentice in the UK. Georgina Innes-Myers is currently working on board North Eastern Guardian III and is expected to successfully complete her apprenticeship in September 2018.
- 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 2017/2018. Revised stock monitoring and assessment programmes were implemented including scallops for the first time and monthly potting surveys supported by local fishermen. Further work also continued on the deployment of underwater cameras and acoustical equipment and the annual assessment of sea grass habitat in the Humber Estuary. During 2017 Defra funding was utilised to undertake an MSc study in partnership with Hull University to examine the implications of recreational bait collection across several sites within the Authority's district.
- Throughout 2017 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. This particular project commenced in October 2017 in partnership with the University of Hull and is expected to complete in February 2019. The Authority also agreed 'in principle' support for the development of an innovative marine research station at Bridlington harbour, in partnership with the local fishing industry group.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

- Throughout 2017 Authority officers continued to play an active role in the national regional fisheries intelligence gathering pilot and supported several collaborative work streams in partnership with other IFCAs and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).
- During February 2017 the Authority's senior officers hosted and facilitated a two day IFCA 'futures' workshop in York. The workshop involved the national Association and representatives from all ten IFCA's and was organised to consider future inshore marine management needs post exit from the European Union. Outputs from the workshop highlighted positive potential surrounding a future expansion and development of the current IFCA model. This was summarised in an accompanying report 'Opportunities for Inshore Fisheries and the Marine Environment, Future Management in England' which was endorsed by the national Association and the ten IFCA Committees.





# 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. This partnership working programme included one meeting of the region's Joint Coastal Enforcement Group involving a wide range of enforcement partners such as the police, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the Environment Agency, neighbouring IFCA's and Natural England. Officers also actively engaged in monthly Tasking and Coordination Group meetings with the MMO sharing intelligence and 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 2017 much of the work of the Association has focused on the UK Exit from the EU.

#### Holderness Coast 'Wash Up' Event

During March 2018 the region experienced one of the worst periods of winter weather in over a decade. Named by media as 'The beast from the East' severe Easterly gales combined with Spring tides and plummeting temperatures to wash quantities of lobsters, crabs and other marine species onto local beaches. The Holderness coast of East Yorkshire was one of the worst affected areas in the UK attracting national media interest. The Authority's officers immediately mobilised to support a combined effort, led by the local fishing industry, to recover any living lobsters from the beaches and return them back to sea. As a result of the operation an estimated 3 to 4 tonnes of live lobster was successfully recovered. In total Officers estimate that over 814,000 lobsters and 108,000 edible crabs were washed up onto the beach during the weather event.

Following the recovery operation officers supported a 'clean up' initiative led by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust leading to the removal of over 10 tonnes of debris from local beaches including significant quantities of marine plastics.

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 seventh 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 2017/2018 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 2017/2018 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 on Page 10



# COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

| 2016/2017         |                        | 2017/2018         |                |                 |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Net Expenditure   |                        | Expenditure       | Income         | Net Expenditure | Revised Budget    | Variance         |
| £362,590          | Central / Headquarters | £348,358          | £348,358       | £348,358        | £348,358          | (£348,358)       |
| £154,840          | Land Based Operations  | £113,418          | £113,418       | £113,418        | £113,418          | (£113,418)       |
| £447,640          | Offshore Operations    | £450,378          | £450,378       | £450,378        | £450,378          | (£450,378)       |
| £111,985          | Environment            | £101,443          | £101,443       | £101,443        | £101,443          | (£101,443)       |
| £0                | Grand Aided Projects   | £42,064           | £42,064        | £42,064         | £42,064           | (£42,064)        |
| <b>£1,077,055</b> |                        | <b>£1,055,661</b> | <b>£61,717</b> | <b>£993,944</b> | <b>£1,028,460</b> | <b>(£34,516)</b> |

| Net Expenditure | Sources of Finance                 | Expenditure     | Income            | Net Expenditure | Revised Budget    | Variance         |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| £0              | Annual levy on Local Authorities   | £0              | £1,162,310        | £1,162,310      | £1,162,310        | £0               |
| £20,435         | Contribution from Reserves         | £0              | £0                | £0              | £0                | £0               |
| £0              | Contribution to Capital - Vehicles | £10,950         | £0                | (£10,950)       | (£10,950)         | £0               |
| (£82,900)       | Contribution to Earmarked Reserves | £157,416        | £0                | (£157,416)      | (£122,900)        | (£34,516)        |
| <b>-£62,465</b> |                                    | <b>£168,366</b> | <b>£1,162,310</b> | <b>£993,944</b> | <b>£1,028,460</b> | <b>(£34,516)</b> |

| Revised Revenue Budget                    |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Approved Budget                           | £1,100,030        |
| Removal of contribution from reserve      | (£20,620)         |
| Contribution to External Projects Reserve | (£40,000)         |
| Vehicle Purchase from Revenue             | (£10,950)         |
|   | <b>£1,028,460</b> |

## 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 2017/2018**

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 2017/2018 Annual Plan. The 2017/2018 plan was adopted by members on 9 March 2017.



# 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.

**Status March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**



**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 2017/2018

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 2017/2018

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 principal 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.

## 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 2017/2018

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 2017/2018 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 2017/2018

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 2017/2018

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 2017/2018

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 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 2017/2018

The Authority has produced an Annual Plan and Annual Report since 2010. The 2017/2018 Plan was considered and endorsed by the Committee on 9 March 2017 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 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 2017/2018

During 2017/2018 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 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 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 2017/2018

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 2017/18

### Main Achievements

There were a number of notable achievements during 2017/2018 across a wide range of work streams from supporting national policy work through to stock conservation and management and staff development.

- During March 2017 the Authority endorsed and fixed an operational budget of £1,139, 521 providing a stable funding base.
- On the 16 October 2017 the Authority implemented a new Emergency Byelaw regulation to strengthen the protection of egg bearing lobsters within its district. This was the fourth time that the Authority had utilised its emergency powers and followed the introduction of new legislation covering English waters.
- Following the formal introduction of a new management regime in December 2015 supporting scallop dredging within the Authority's district officers recorded an increase in landings from 56 tonnes in 2016/2017 to 198 tonnes during the 2017/2018 season.
- 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 February 2017 the Authority's senior officers hosted and facilitated a two day IFCA 'futures' workshop in York. The workshop involved the national Association and representatives from all ten IFCA's and was organised to consider future inshore marine management needs post exit from the European Union. Outputs from the workshop highlighted positive potential surrounding a future expansion and development of the current IFCA model. This was summarised in an accompanying report 'Opportunities for Inshore Fisheries and the Marine Environment, Future Management in England' which was endorsed by the national Association and the ten IFCA Committees.
- During September 2017, in partnership with the Whitby and District Fishing Industry Training School, the Authority appointed the first female work boat apprentice in the UK. Georgina Innes-Myers is currently working on board North Eastern Guardian III and is expected to successfully complete her apprenticeship in September 2018.

## ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW 2017/2018 CONTINUED

- ▶ Throughout 2017 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. This particular project commenced in October 2017 in partnership with the University of Hull and is expected to complete in October 2018. The Authority also agreed 'in principle' support for the development of an innovative marine research station at Bridlington harbour, in partnership with the local fishing industry group.
- ▶ During October 2017 all the Authority's operational staff participated in a two day residential team building event in Cumbria. This was the first time that such an event had been organised for staff and involved a range of team activities. Staff feedback, following the event, was extremely positive and a further event is planned for 2018.

This team building work followed the completion of the Authority's first workforce survey in September 2017.

### **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 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 2017/18

### **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 2016 and March 2018.

### **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 IFCA's 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 2017/18

| Enforcement Output                 | Frequency |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Vessel Inspections                 | 385       |
| Vessel observations                | 1148      |
| Inspection Reports completed       | 800       |
| Verbal Warnings                    | 31        |
| Offences Reported                  | 15        |
| Formal Cautions                    | 9         |
| Financial Administrative Penalties | 0         |
| Formal prosecutions                | 4         |

# 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 six 'major infrastructure' projects. A further thirty-two 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

### **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 involves a detailed survey and appraisal of the impacts of bait collection at three key sites within the Authority's district. The project involves on site surveys and the assessment of questionnaire returns. The project officer, James Buck, is expected to complete the final report by the end of July 2018.

### **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 October 2018.

### **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 2017 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 September 2017 the Authority undertook a comprehensive work force survey. 69% of staff responding to the survey agreed that their work gave them a personal sense of accomplishment and 84% felt that they were well resourced and had the tools to do their jobs well. In terms of overall satisfaction 75% of staff responding were either happy to work for the Authority or expressed no feelings either way.

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. Positive staff involvement was also reflected in the staffing survey with over 69% of staff agreeing that they were actively encouraged to contribute ideas to improve service delivery.

During September 2017 all NEIFCA staff participated in a residential team building course which was very positively received.

During December 2017 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 sixth 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.



During 2017/2018 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 2017 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 2017. 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 once during 2017 providing a medium for the exchange of information and the planning of joint operational work.

During 2017 NEIFCA actively engaged in the national intelligence gathering project in joint collaboration with other IFCA's and the MMO. This also involved, for the first time, active engagement in a monthly joint tasking and coordination meetings with North Western IFCA, Northumberland IFCA and the MMO's Northern marine area teams. Since this project was first established NEIFCA has captured and shared over 160 fisheries intelligence reports.

Active operational partnership working took place throughout 2017 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.









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