

# NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## AUTHORITY MEETING

08 JUNE 2023

### **Present:**

Dr Stephen Axford  
Councillor David Chance  
Councillor Rhys Furley  
Prof Mike Elliott  
Miss Rebecca Lynam  
Councillor Marie Ibbotson  
Mr Michael Montgomerie  
Mr Andrew Wheeler  
Councillor Tony Randerson  
Councillor Rachael Creevy  
Mr Graham Collins  
Mr Andrew Wheeler  
Mr Andrew Faichney  
Mr Kevin Woodcock

### **Representing:**

MMO appointee  
North Yorkshire County Council  
Hull City Council  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee  
North Yorkshire County Council  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee

Mrs Caroline Lacey, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer, Mr Ian Davies, Deputy Chief Officer, Mr Stephen Chandler, Treasurer, Dr Ralf Bublitz, Senior Environmental & Scientific Officer, Emma Jones, NEIFCA Support Services Officer and Patrick Gray and Mr Andrew Earle, MMO representatives also attended the meeting.

The Committee met at The County Hall, Beverley, members were also able to attend the meeting via Zoom. The meeting started at 09:30am

39.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENSE**

Apologies of absence were received from MMO members Hanbury and Redshaw, Councillor Members Gamble, Stewart and Harness, Natural England Appointee Argent and Environment Agency Appointee Slater.

40.

### **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

**Resolved** –The Clerk asked Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests. No interests were declared.

41.

### **GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS AND APPOINTEES**

The Clerk reported that the following new Members had been appointed to the Authority:

Cllr Rachel Creevy – Hartlepool Borough Council  
Cllr Ernest Gibson – South Tyneside Borough Council  
Cllr Ceri Cawley – Redcar & Cleveland Council  
Cllr Maria Ibbotson – East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
Cllr Sean McMaster – East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
Mr Andrew Faichney – MMO appointee

42.

**TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN**

The Authority had received one nomination in writing Prof Mike Elliott. The Clerk asked the Authority if there were any other nominations. There were no further nominations. Prof Mike Elliott was duly elected Chairman by a majority vote.

**Resolved** - That Prof Mike Elliott, MMO appointee be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

43.

**TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Clerk reported that the authority had received one nominations in writing from Councillor David Chance, North Yorkshire County Council. There were no further nominations. Councillor David Chance was duly elected as Vice Chairman.

**Resolved** - That Councillor David Chance be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

44.

**TO APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Resolved** –

That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman

Councillors Randerson, Creevy and Harness

Mr Graham Collins, Mr Andrew Wheeler, Mr Gary Redshaw be appointed for the ensuing year.

45.

**TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Resolved** - That Councillors Ibbotson, Randerson and Clerk be appointed for the ensuing year.

46.

**TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP**

Resolved – That Chair, Vice-Chairman

Miss Rebecca Lynam, Mr Graham Collins, Dr Clare Fitzsimmons, Prof Mike Elliott,

Mr Michael Montgomerie, Mr Andrew Faichney, Mr Andrew Wheeler and

representatives from the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency be appointed for the ensuing year.

47.

**TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AND REPORT QUARTERLY**

**Resolved** - (a) That the following be appointed for the ensuing year to serve and report quarterly on :-

**Flamborough Harbour Commissioners (2 representatives):**

Councillor Maria Ibbotson

One Position remained vacant

**Staithe Harbour Board (4 representatives)**

Councillor David Chance

Mr Steven Mallinson

Mr Richard Pennall

Councillor Rachel Creevy nominated Councillor Ceri Cawley (Redcar & Cleveland Council), Cllr Creevy was not present at the meeting, it was agreed the Chief Officer would speak with Cllr Creevy at a later date to confirm the nomination.

(b) That the following be appointed for the ensuing year to attend meetings of:

**The Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities Forum (3 representatives):**

Chairman/(the Vice-Chairman to substitute when the Chairman is unable to attend)  
Clerk or Deputy Clerk  
Chief IFC Officer

(c) That it be noted that the Chief IFC Officer was a Director of The Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities .

**48. MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 01 DECEMBER 2022**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Quarterly meeting held on 01 December 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**49. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2023**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 30 March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**50. NEIFCA FINANCIAL OUTURN 2022/2023**

The Treasurer of the Authority presented a report of the Annual Accounts for NEIFCA for the year ended 2022/23. For the benefit of new members, the Treasurer provided an overview of which reports are taken to each meeting throughout the year. The report provided the income and expenditure account, detailed balance sheet and position on reserve accounts. The outturn included a £165,801 overspend due to the cost of the patrol vessel engine repairs and overhaul of the second engine following mechanical failure in August 2022. The repairs were complete by December 2022 at a total cost of £327,903. The insurance claim was successful and a settlement of £162,102 had been agreed. There were also underspends on staffing of £38,191 due to vacancies and savings on overtime and £26,400 additional income for work recharged to the Lobster Settlement Index project. It was proposed that the remaining overspend due to the patrol vessel repairs of £78,864 is funded from the Patrol Vessel Maintenance Reserve. Members discussed the funds allocated to the Patrol Vessel Maintenance and Renewals and suggested that these be reviewed following the special meetings of the Executive and full Authority in June.

**Resolved** - a) That the Statement of Accounts were approved as presented  
b) That Members Approved the Outturn position  
c) Fund allocations to the Patrol Vessel Maintenance Fund and Renewals Funds be reviewed.

**51. NEIFCA DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023**

The Chief Officer provided members with a draft Annual Report covering the period, 2022/2023, summarising the Authority's outputs and activities during the year. Members were asked to provide any comments or feedback to the Chief Officer by the 28 July 2023. The Chief Officer informed members that Defra are currently reviewing the National Objectives included as part of the report, Defra are conscious of maintaining consistency of approach whilst taking into account the regional variations amongst the 10 IFCA's.

**Resolved** – a) That members note and endorse the report

**52. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES FOR GENERAL MEMBERS**

The Clerk presented a report to consider options supporting the reimbursement of expenses and allowances for general members attending Authority meetings. Members discussed the report and suggested that representation be made to the MMO, Defra, and the AIFCA expressing their concerns that the reimbursement of subsistence alone was unsatisfactory and should be reviewed.

**Resolved** – a) Members approve the continuing reimbursement of subsistence and travel expenses, paid in accordance with the current Defra approved rates.

b) Representation be made to the MMO, Defra and the AIFCA that there should be consideration given to reimburse members for attendance at Authority meetings.

**53. SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE – 9 MARCH & 31 APRIL 2023**

The Chair of SAG & the Environmental & Scientific Manager presented a report to update members on the most recent proceedings of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) following meetings held on 9 March and 31 April 2023.

**Resolved** – That the report be noted.

**54. TEES & NORTH YORKSHIRE SHELLFISH MORTALITY UPDATE**

The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on the ongoing issues surrounding shellfish mortality in waters surrounding the Tees and North Yorkshire. Within the last update on the Tees and North Yorkshire shellfish mortality event, provided to the Authority on the 1 December 2023, members were advised that Defra had commissioned the establishment of an independent panel of experts to review and assess all research and investigatory work conducted to date. The findings of that panel were published on 17 January 2023 and circulated to members on 23 January 2023. The report concluded that a novel pathogen was the most likely cause of the event with other factors such as sediment dredging/pyridine contamination and an algal bloom, deemed very unlikely to have caused the observed mortalities in crabs and lobsters. Since March 2023 some minor wash ups and reports of such, had continued, particularly surrounding Redcar and Saltburn comprising of mussel, razor clam, starfish, lobster and crab. In general, these had been relatively limited and attributed primarily to the persistent run of onshore winds with the exception of a more substantive event which occurred around 28 April 2023 necessitating a multi-agency response which included CEFAS, the EA and MMO, coordinated by the NEIFCA environmental team. NEIFCA officers are continuing to closely record and monitor all such events and reported that a well defined and rehearsed response plan was now

in place. It was proposed that further updates relating to this matter would be provided to Authority members via the Chief Officer's operational report and the Science Advisory Group update report.

**Resolved** - That the report be noted.

**55. MANAGEMENT OF SCALLOP DREDGING 2023/2024**

The Chief Officer presented a report to support consideration of recommendations for the 2023/2024 fishery. The 2021/2022 fishery commenced on 1 November 2022 and closed on 30 April 2023, in line with previous seasons three vessels were permitted and no major compliance issues were recorded. Analysis of the monthly catch and effort returns submitted by the operators and data collected by IFCOs during observer trips show no major concerns in terms of the ongoing health and composition of the available stock. However, due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on operational activity and shortages in resources, no additional habitat and stock data had been collected since 2019 for a more in-depth stock assessment. The intention was therefore to re-open the fishery on the 1 November 2023 and a maximum of three permits be offered in accordance with the draft procedure included in the report as a sensible precautionary measure.

**Resolved** – That the report be noted.

**56. MANAGAMENT OF PERMITTED INTERTIDAL AND SUB-TIDAL NET FISHERIES 2023/2024**

The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on the planned process and timelines for opening the Holderness Coast permitted intertidal and sub-tidal fixed net fisheries on 1 October 2023. It was proposed that applications for both intertidal and sub-tidal permits are opened on 12 June 2023 with a provisional closing date of 28 July 2023.

**Resolved** – That the report be noted.

**57. CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL REPORT**

The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational summary covering the period December 2022 to April 2023, which included an update on the main vessel replacement project, priority workstreams for the next six months and operational reports from the NEIFCA offshore, land based and environmental teams. The Chief Officer also reported to members that following the major engine failure which occurred at the end of July 2022 onboard the Authority's patrol vessel NEG III, the main engine re-installation had been completed. On the 25 April 2023 formal notification had been received from the Authority's insurers that a settlement figure of £162K had been offered against a final claim of £171K which represented an extremely positive outcome for NEIFCA. The Chief Officer wanted to personally thank the Deputy Chief Officer, Ian Davies for his time, effort and commitment in resolving the matter along with all of the other officers involved.

**Resolved** – That the notes be received.

**58. FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS - PROSECUTIONS**

The Clerk submitted a report on the fisheries enforcement activities taken by the Authority for the period December 2022 to April 2023. Members raised concerns that the level of fines are not relative to the prosecutions, the Chief Officer reiterated to members that internally Officers have provided training to the magistrates to demonstrate the environmental impact and severity of the crimes committed. Members suggested the AIFCA make representation through Defra to the Ministry of Justice.

**Resolved** - That the notes be received.

**59. NEIFCA BYELAW UPDATE**

The Chief Officer presented a report to inform Members on progress with the following byelaws which were made at a meeting of the Authority held on 1 December 2022 - XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 and XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022. It was anticipated that final draft documents for both byelaws would be submitted to the MMO for quality assurance by July 2023 and the statutory consultation process would conclude in August/September 2023, with final confirmation expected in November 2023 for implementation at the start of 2024.

**Resolved** - That the notes be received.

**60. REPORTS FROM PARTNER AGENCIES AND BODIES**

The Marine Management Organisation and Natural England's partner briefing papers had been circulated prior to the meeting, papers from the Environment Agency were unavailable at the time of printing.

**23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.