

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING

14 JULY 2021

Present:

Dr Stephen Axford
 Mr Mark Cole
 Mr Graham Collins
 Prof Mike Elliott
 Dr Clare Fitzsimmons
 Miss Rebecca Lynam
 Councillor Chris Matthews
 Mrs Donna-Marie Mear
 Mr Michael Montgomerie
 Mr Gary Redshaw
 Councillor Phil Webster
 Mr Andrew Wheeler

Representing:

MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 Hull City Council
 MMO appointee

Mrs Caroline Lacey, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer, Mr Stephen Chandler, Treasurer, Mr Tim Smith, Senior Environmental & Scientific Officer, and Patrick Gray, MMO representative also attended the meeting.

The Committee met at The Spa, South Marine Drive, Bridlington. The meeting started at 10:30am.

67.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENSE
	Apologies of absence were received from MMO members Houghton, Woodcock, Councillor Members Allcock, Chance, Copsey, Dick, Harness, Randerson and Stewart, and EA representative Slater.
68.	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.
69.	GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS AND APPOINTEES
	The Clerk reported that the following new Members had been appointed to the Authority: Councillor Mark Wilkes – Durham County Council Councillor Phil Webster – Hull City Council Councillor Norman Dick – South Tyneside Borough Council Mr Kevin Woodcock – MMO appointee Mr Mark Cole – MMO appointee Dr Clare Fitzsimmons – MMO appointee

70.	TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN
	The Clerk reported that the current Chairman, Councillor Chris Matthews was unable to stand for the position of Chairman due to other commitments, the Authority had received one nomination in writing from the current Vice Chair, Dr Stephen Axford, MMO appointee. The Clerk asked the Authority if there were any other nominations. There were no further nominations. Dr Stephen Axford was proposed and seconded and was elected Chairman by a unanimous vote by the Authority. Dr Stephen Axford thanked Councillor Matthews for his time as Chairman on behalf of the Authority.
	Resolved - That Dr Stephen Axford, MMO appointee be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.
	TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN
	The Clerk reported that the authority had not received any nominations in writing, and asked the Authority if there were any nominations at the meeting. Councillor Phil Webster, Hull City Council, expressed an interest at the meeting, there were no further nominations. Councillor Phil Webster was elected Vice Chairman by a unanimous vote by the Authority.
	Resolved - That Councillor Phil Webster be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.
71.	TO APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
	Resolved – That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman Councillors Randerson and Allcock Mr Graham Collins, Mr Andrew Wheeler, Mr Gary Redshaw and Professor Mike Elliott be appointed for the ensuing year. One Local Authority position remained vacant, the Clerk agreed to contact all the Local Authority Representatives to fill the vacant post.
72.	TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE
	Resolved - That Councillors Matthews, Randerson and Clerk be appointed for the ensuing year.
73.	TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP
	Resolved – That Chair, Vice-Chairman Miss Rebecca Lynam, Mr Mark Cole, Mr Graham Collins, Dr Clare Fitzsimmons, Mr Robert Houghton, Professor Mike Elliott, Mr Michael Montgomerie, and representatives from the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency be appointed for the ensuing year.
74.	TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AND REPORT QUARTERLY
	Resolved - (a) That the following be appointed for the ensuing year to serve

	<p>and report quarterly on :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Flamborough Harbour Commissioners (2 representatives): Councillor Chris Matthews Mr R Houghton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Staithe Harbour Board (4 representatives) Councillor David Chance Mr Steven Mallinson Mr Mark Cole Mr Richard Pennall</p> <p>The Chief Officer informed members that there had been some communications with the Staithe Harbour Board, and they had recognised the difficulty in appointing 4 representatives from the Authority, so they had suggested appointing an external representative, Mr Richard Pennall, members supported the recommendation.</p> <p>(b) That the following be appointed for the ensuing year to attend meetings of:</p> <p>The Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities Forum (3 representatives):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chairman/(the Vice-Chairman to substitute when the Chairman is unable to attend) Clerk or Deputy Clerk Chief IFC Officer</p> <p>(c) That it be noted that the Chief IFC Officer was a Director of The Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities .</p>
75.	MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Quarterly meeting held on 18 December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
76.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2021
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 05 March 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
77.	NEIFCA FINANCIAL OUTURN 2020/2021
	The Treasurer of the Authority presented a report of the Annual Accounts for NEIFCA for the year ended 2020/21. The report provided the income and expenditure account, detailed balance sheet and position on reserve accounts. Members requested reassurance that once all of the staff vacancies were filled, there would be adequate funds in the staffing budget to meet the required demands, the Treasurer reassured members that there was sufficient budget to cover the additional salaries. Members also questioned if the £50,000 held in the Patrol Vessel Maintenance Reserve was sufficient, the Chief Officer reassured members that this was an additional reserve to cover any insurance excess costs for a substantial issue with the

	offshore assets, in addition to the offshore Repairs and Maintenance budget.
	Resolved - a) That the Statement of Accounts were approved as presented b) That Members Approved the Outturn position
78.	MANAGEMENT OF SCALLOP DREDGING 2021/2022
	The Chief Officer presented a report to support consideration of recommendations for the 2021/2022 fishery. A detailed background was included in the report for member's information. The Chief Officer informed members that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, on-board monitoring of the permitted vessels had not been possible during the 2020/21 season.
	Resolved – (a) That members note the report. (b) Members endorse the reopening of the permitted fishery on the same basis as the previous five seasons and that a maximum of three permits are offered in line with the draft application process for the 2021/2022 season.
79.	MANAGEMENT OF PERMITTED INTERTIDAL SEA BASS FISHERY 2021/2022
	The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on the current situation surrounding the EU prohibition on commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore and to present a scheme for re-opening the fishery on 1 October 2021. The Chief Officer provided a verbal update on the background of the ongoing conflict between European fisheries legislation, designed to protect sea bass stocks, and the Authority's intertidal netting permit scheme for the benefit of new members. The legislative conflict had been ongoing since the end of 2017 but the Chief Officer was pleased to report that following communications with Defra on Friday 4 June 2021, changes implemented via secondary legislation by the UK government would enable the Authority to re-open the fishery again.
	Resolved – (a) That Members note the report. (b) That given the introduction of new secondary legislation which will permit five operators to work intertidal fixed nets within the NEIFCA district from 30 July 2021 members support the re-opening of the permitted fishery, in accordance with the Authority's fixed netting byelaw regulations, from 1 October 2021. (c) That members endorse the draft procedure for allocating the permits.
80.	NEIFCA DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021
	The Chief Officer provided members with a draft Annual Report covering the period, 2020/2021, 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 30 July 2021.
	Resolved – That the report be noted.
81.	UPDATED STAFFING HANDBOOK
	The Clerk and Chief Officer presented a report which provided members with an

	updated version of the NEIFCA 'Staffing Handbook', containing comprehensive information on staffing policies and procedures for review and consideration. Members were informed that the changes and updates brought the Authority's policies and procedures in line with current employment legislation. The revised staffing handbook was currently out for consultation amongst the Authority's staff and trade unions.
	<p>Resolved – (a) That the updated version of the NEIFCA Staffing Handbook be provisionally approved subject to any further consideration of comments received from staff and or Trade Union representatives.</p> <p>(b) That members delegate authority to the Executive Committee to review and consider any such comments and finalise the Handbook.</p> <p>(c) That a final version of the Handbook is provided for member's information at the next Authority meeting.</p>
82.	NEIFCA INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2020/2021
	The Clerk presented a report to inform members of the findings of the annual audit report. The purpose of the audit is to provide management with assurance about the effectiveness of the controls identified and the exposure to risk that any control weaknesses may cause. The overall assurance opinion is substantial. A sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively and being consistently applied to support the achievement of objectives in the area audited. A copy of the report was included for members' information.
	Resolved – That the report be noted.
	CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL REPORT
	The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational summary covering the period December 2020 to June 2021. Since the last update provided to members at the meeting held on 18 December 2020 NEIFCA operational contingency planning remains dynamic, evolving in response to the ever changing situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. Up to the end of December 2020, national work streams were largely focused finalising arrangements for exiting the European Union. IFCA involvement was channelled through the national Association and Chief Officer's group. The report also provided members with a detailed overview of Enforcement and Compliance Work, continued efforts on securing finance for the replacement of the Authority's patrol vessel, delivery of the new 9.5mtr Cabin Rib and priority work streams for the next 6 months.
	Resolved – That the notes be received.
17.	FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS – PROSECUTIONS
	The Clerk submitted a report on the fisheries enforcement activities taken by the Authority for the period December 2020 to June 2021.

	Resolved – That the notes be received.
18.	REPORTS FROM PARTNER AGENCIES AND BODIES
	The Marine Management Organisation partner briefing papers had been circulated prior to the meeting, papers from the Environment Agency and Natural England were unavailable at the time of printing. Patrick Gray, MMO representative also provided a verbal update at the meeting. The Chairman requested that the Chief Officer request written reports from partner agencies at an operational level.
19.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	Members requested that the Authority’s social media posts should not contain images of fishing vessels. The Chief Officer did reassure members that the posts are very closely monitored and quality checked prior to posting to the public.
	The meeting closed at 12:15