

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 05 DECEMBER 2024

Present:

Prof Mike Elliott
Councillor Ceri Cawley
Councillor David Chance
Councillor Neil Swannick
Councillor Tracy Henry (teams)
Councillor Johnathan Owen (teams)
Mr Michael Montgomerie
Miss Rebecca Lynam
Mr Graham Collins
Prof Clare Fitzsimmons
Dr Stephen Axford (teams)
Kevin Woodcock (teams)
Mr Will Jenkinson (teams)
Mr Andrew Faichney (teams)
Miss Rachel Hanbury (teams)
Mr Andrew Earle
Miss Lynsey Marsden

Representing:

Chair
Redcar & Cleveland Council
North Yorkshire County Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Hull City Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO representative
MMO representative

Mr Darren Stevens, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer, Mr Stephen Chandler, Treasurer, Dr Ralf Bubltz, Senior Environmental Officer and Mr Dean Grason, IFC officer also attended the meeting.

The Committee met at North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Racecourse Lane. The hybrid meeting started at 10:30am.

23.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Apologies of absence were received from MMO member Terry Pearson, Council Members Tim Norman and Rachel Creevy, MMO representative Christian Proud and Natural England Representative Claire Argent.
24.	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. Council Members Ceri Cawley and David Chance declared their interest as members of the Crustacean Death Working Group.
25.	PRESENTATION ON WORK OF THE SHORE OPERATIONS TEAM – DEAN GRASON
	Dean Grason, IFC Officer, gave an informative presentation on the work of the NEIFCA shore operations team. Members requested the presentation be sent around via email to all members. Discussions held between members on the points raised in the presentation.

26.	TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 06 JUNE 2024
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 06 June 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
27.	TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2024
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 05 November 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
28.	BUDGET MONITORING 2024/2025
	<p>The Treasurer presented a report to advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 07 (October) in 2024/25.</p> <p>At the end of October 2024, the Authority has net expenditure of £686,088 against an expected £826,560 underspending by £140,472. The forecast outturn underspend is £263,224. The majority of the underspend is as a consequence of the patrol vessel replacement project, planned delays in recruitment to vacant posts in the offshore team and temporarily increased bank interest receipts.</p> <p>The underspend includes £90,000 additional Defra 'grant in aid', relating to 2023/24 financial year and received in 2024/25, made up of £50,000 allocated to support the Marine Protected Area and delivery towards 'good environmental status' and £40,000 towards Marine Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Discussions held between members on the logistics of the DEFRA grant funds, with the monies available for delivering key DEFRA objectives. However, this money is paid in arrears, for work completed in 2023/2024 with the money already paid out from the NEIFCA budget.</p>
	<p>Resolved – a) The budget monitoring position is noted.</p> <p>b) The £90,000 underspend relating to Defra 'grant in aid' is transferred to the Renewals Fund</p> <p>c) The forecast underspend at outturn is transferred to Renewals Fund.</p>
29.	LEVY 2025/2026
	<p>The Treasurer presented a report to determine the levy on member local authorities for 2025/26 and to highlight the issues relating to the setting of the levy for 2026/27 and 2027/28. At its meeting on 8 December 2023, the Authority agreed to increase the levy for the 2024/25 financial year by 11.5% to a total of £1,535,873. The increase was required to phase in the additional cost of the annual finance lease repayment for the build and commission of a new 24.5m Fisheries Patrol/Research vessel due to be operational in 2025. The forecast annual finance lease repayment has been revised and reduced to £201,100 from £240,590 based on the latest build costs, the forecast balance in the Renewals Fund and estimated funds from sale of the North-East Guardian III. The reduction in the annual finance lease repayment means that the</p>

	<p>requested levy increase for 2025/26 could be reduced from the 11.5% proposed at the Authority Meeting on 8 December 2023 to 10.5%.</p> <p>Members discussed upcoming financial risks which include the unknown final costing of the new vessel project with 5 months still to go in the build. Members were informed that an offer of £850,000 has been accepted for the sale of NEG III. This is £50,000 less than originally anticipated. Interest rates have increased on borrowing and National Insurance changes also mean an increase to outgoings. The treasurer stated that the 1% difference in the levy would equate to roughly £15,000 in total, which would then be split between the local authorities. Members discussed, in detail, the pros and cons of the difference in the levy and unanimously agreed to leave the levy at 11.5% as previously approved in order to future proof the risks.</p>
	<p>Resolved – a) The proposed 11.5% levy increase for 2025/26 is approved by the Authority and the Clerk is authorised to issue demands on the relevant local authorities</p> <p>b) The Authority acknowledges the issues affecting NEIFCA and their effect upon the levy for 2026/27 and 2027/28.</p> <p>c) A detailed budget for 2025/26 be brought to the Authority for approval at the Executive meeting in March 2025.</p>
30.	NEIFCA BYELAWS UPDATE
	<p>The Chief Officer presented a report to inform members on progress with the following byelaws:</p> <p>XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 Made on 1 December 2022. Currently in MMO Quality Assurance stage 3 as of 27 September 2024. Projected to be confirmed April 2025.</p> <p>XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022 Made on 1 December 2022. Currently in MMO Quality Assurance stage 4 as of 15 November 2024. Projected to be confirmed January 2025.</p> <p>XXXIII Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024 Made on 6 June 2024. Currently in MMO Quality Assurance stage 2 as of 15 November 2024. Projected to be confirmed January 2025.</p> <p>Members discussed the beam trawling byelaw, with Chief Officer David McCandless explaining that objections have been raised from hobby fishermen, which has led to a change in the byelaw. A future gear byelaw will better manage the recreational fishery and the increasing number of gathering groups.</p>
	Resolved – The report is noted.
31.	CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL REPORT
	<p>The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational summary covering the period May 2024 to November 2024. Members discussed the build of the new vessel, and the Chief Officer updated members on the sale of NEG III. Having accepted the offer, exchange of contracts is imminent.</p>

	<p>Cllr Ceri Cawley gave members an update from meetings of the Crustacean Death Working Group, with issues to do with Brown Crab being discussed.</p> <p>Senior Environmental Officer Ralf Bublitz discussed on going issues surrounding shore gathering, with Natural England being aware and gathering data on the impact of this activity on the bird population. Unfortunately, the activity doesn't meet the criteria for an emergency byelaw as it would not be classed as an unforeseen activity.</p> <p>The Chief Officer also updated members on the recruitment of 2 new officers to the Environmental team which has proved a success so far.</p>
	Resolved - The report is noted.
32.	SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE
	<p>The Senior Environmental Officer presented a report to update members on the most recent proceedings of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) following the meeting held on the 08 September 2023.</p> <p>Projects include the conclusion of the ELSI project, the compilation of the annual stock monitoring report, working on FMP's and looking into the data to make decisions for the scallop fishery.</p>
	Resolved - The report is noted.
33.	FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS
	<p>The Clerk submitted a report on the fisheries enforcement activities taken by the Authority for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 November 2024.</p> <p>Members discussed the appeals process and the frustration of the courts having no experience of the fishing industry and ways this could be addressed.</p>
	Resolved - The report is noted.
34.	NEIFCA ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024
	<p>The Chief Officer provided members with a copy of the Annual Report covering the period, 2023/2024, summarising the Authority's outputs and activities during the year.</p>
	Resolved - The report is noted.
35.	REPORTS FROM PARTNER AGENCIES AND BODIES
	<p>The MMO presented an operation report to members.</p> <p>Briefing papers from the Environment Agency and Natural England were unavailable at the time of printing.</p>

36.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	The Chair extended his thanks and best wishes to outgoing treasurer Stephen Chandler for his work and support of NEIFCA and its operations during his tenure.
	The meeting closed at 13:20

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NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

06 MARCH 2025

Present

Prof Mike Elliott (Chair)
Cllr David Chance (Vice Chair)
Mr Graham Collins
Cllr Neil Swannick
Rachel Hanbury

Representing

MMO Appointee
North Yorkshire Council
MMO Appointee
North Yorkshire Council
MMO Appointee

Lisa Nicholson (acting Clerk), East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Treasurer David Kirvan, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, David McCandless, NEIFCA Chief Officer and Mr Robert Latimer also attended the meeting.

The meeting took place in County Hall, Beverley, the meeting commenced at 9.30am.

01.	APOLOGIES
	Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Norman and Creevy.
02.	PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION MR R LATIMER – WHITBURN – SEWAGE DISCHARGING COASTAL WATERS
	Detailed presentation to members given by Mr Latimer on the subject of sewage discharge in the NEIFCA district. Detailed discussions held with members on the logistical issues of reporting and accountability within the government agencies and how NEIFCA can help going forward.
	Resolved – Members note the presentation.
03.	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS
	Resolved – The Chair asked Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests with respect to items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests. No such interests were declared.
04.	TO TAKE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 05 SEPTEMBER 2024 AS A CORRECT RECORD
	Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 05 September 2024 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
05.	NEIFCA ANNUAL PLAN 2025/2026
	The Chief Officer, David McCandless presented a report for members to review the Annual Plan for the year 2025/2026. Key areas of work for the year ahead included in the plan included managing the final stages of the build and commission of the new main fisheries vessel and

	supporting the confirmation and implementation of the new Shellfish Permit, Humber Estuary Fishing and Beam Trawling byelaw regulations.
	Resolved – The annual plan for 2025/2026 was reviewed.
06.	BUDGET REPORT 2024/2025
	The Treasurer presented a report to advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 10 (December) 2024/2025. At the end of December 2024, the Authority has net expenditure of £725,505 against an expected £1,042,254 underspending by £316,749. The forecast outturn underspend is £1,274,436. The majority of the underspend is as a consequence of the patrol vessel replacement project and one-off receipts from sale of the patrol vessel, planned delays in recruitment to vacant posts in the offshore team and temporarily increased bank interest receipts.
	Resolved – (a) That the budget monitoring position is noted. (b) That the £850,000 underspend relating to the sale of the North East Guardian III patrol vessel is transferred to the Renewals Fund as outlined in paragraph 2.3. (c) That the £220,000 underspend relating to Defra ‘grant in aid’ is transferred to the Renewals Fund. (d) That the balance of any remaining underspend at outturn be transferred to the Renewals Fund.
07.	REVENUE BUDGET 2025/2026
	The Treasurer presented a report to provide members with a detailed operational budget for 2025/2026. At its meeting on 5 December 2024, the Authority set the levy for the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority at £1,712,499 for 2025/26. The 11.5% levy increase approved at the Authority Meeting on 5 December 2024 has been incorporated into the budget, along with increases to reflect the new annual finance lease with East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the build and commission of a new Fisheries Patrol/Research vessel. The proposed budget also includes provision for a 2025/26 pay award and the increase in Employers National Insurance contributions on employee budgets. The proposal includes a budget for £30,500 Standby Duty payments as approved as the Executive Meeting on 5 September 2024, funded through a combination of supplies & services savings, reallocation of existing overtime budgets and £14,150 income from the new Commercial and Recreational Shellfish permitting scheme. In addition, a review of individual budget lines has been undertaken and a number of minor changes made to ensure they are set at an appropriate level within the existing budget.
	Resolved – a) That the draft budget for 2025/26 is approved. b) That the level of general reserves is maintained at £228,450 (13%) of the annual levy.
08.	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC
	That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 09) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
	Resolved – That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (minutes 09)

10.	RISK MANANGEMENT STRATEGY & STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER REVIEWS
	<p>The Chief Officer presented a report to inform members that in accordance with the Authority's Risk Management Strategy, a six monthly review of the Strategic and Operational Risk Registers has been undertaken and is reported for information.</p> <p>A number of the risks identified during the last review in September 2024 have now reduced, particularly those relating to the sale of North Eastern Guardian III, which was formally completed on 17 February 2025, the expected delivery of the new vessel, recruitment and funding.</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
11.	HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY & SAFE WORKING PRACTICES 2025/2026 - REVIEW
	<p>Chief Officer David McCandless advised members of the completion of the six monthly review of the Authority's Health & Safety provisions. Since the last review reported to the Executive Committee on 5th September 2024 there had been no notable incidents or accidents to report to members</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
12.	NEIFCA BYELAWS UPDATE
	<p>Chief Officer David McCandless presented a report on the current status of the 3 new byelaws in process at the moment with the summary for each being:</p> <p>Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 Currently in MMO Quality Assurance stage 4 as of 19 December 2024. Projected to be confirmed May 2025.</p> <p>Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022 Currently awaiting submission to final stage MMO Quality Assurance as of 27 January 2025. Projected to be confirmed April 2025.</p> <p>Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024 Currently with Defra awaiting formal confirmation by the Minister as of 6 January 2025. Projected to be confirmed March 2025.</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
13.	CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL UPDATE
	<p>Chief Officer David McCandless provided members with an operational update covering the period December 2024 to February 2025. The main items being the sale of NEG III and the status of the build of the new patrol vessel along with the recruitment process for the current vacancies which have been held due to the new vessel build.</p> <p>Members also discussed the DEFRA IFCA report in detail.</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
14.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	Nothing to report.
	The meeting closed at 12:20pm

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
26 June 2025

NEIFCA Officer Worn Body Camera Code of Practice

Report by the Chief Officer

A. Purpose of Report

To seek members approval to adopt the Officer Worn Body Camera Code of Practice

B Recommendation

That the Officer Worn Body Camera Code of Practice be approved and adopted.

1. Background

- 1.1 Officer worn body cameras were first introduced in 2007 to improve officer safety following an increase in the level of targeted threats and intimidation towards officers particularly in the Sunderland area. Since then, the type of camera system used by officers has evolved in line with general policing use to support, in the main, the gathering of visual evidence in support of the prevention and detection of crime. Currently three units are used daily by shore enforcement team and a further unit is held within the offshore team. These units were purchased and commissioned in 2016.
- 1.2 The evolution in the general operational use of body cameras pre-dated more recent, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation and although all the information captured on the camera systems is stored safely and securely, a supporting code of conduct has never been implemented. Recently the need for such a code was highlighted following a Subject Access Request (SAR) made under Freedom of Information legislation. In response to that specific request some relevant enforcement footage was found which had been captured by an officer's body camera during August 2024. Although securely stored, there was no specific reason why the footage had been retained for eight months and following a formal request, received from the subject, for Erasure, the footage was reviewed and deleted.
- 1.3 Following the deletion of the footage and in full consultation with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Information Governance and Feedback Manager, who provides support and guidance to NEIFCA, a draft code of conduct was developed to support the future use and administration of information captured by officer body worn cameras. Amongst other things, including protocols covering the activation of cameras by officers, the code details the maximum retention periods for recorded images. I can also advise members that I have reviewed all current stored footage and can confirm that such footage is now compliant with the provisions contained within the draft code as presented.

1.4 A copy of the draft code of conduct is attached to this report for information.

2. Policy Review

The code will be reviewed on a regular basis to reflect any changes in legislation and best practice as appropriate.

Contact Officer

David McCandless

Chief Officer

07771936501

Background Papers

Draft NEIFCA Officer Body Worn Camera Code of Conduct



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority

Body-Worn Video Camera - Code of Practice

Effective Date:	26/06/2025
Date Reviewed:	01/06/2026
Contact Officer:	NEIFCA Chief Officer

1. Identified Key Risk Factors

Use of Violence / Instances of Crime

2. Purpose of the System

- Prevent, investigate, and detect crime
- Assist with the apprehension and prosecution of offenders
- Enhance the safety of employees and the public
- Provide evidential material for court
- Evidence in investigations of gross misconduct (including protecting employees from allegations)
- Process Subject Access Requests

Body worn cameras will be used to document evidence of fisheries related offences and conversations with fishermen and other members of the public. This will improve fairness, transparency and accountability in any investigatory proceeding or enforcement actions. It will also be used in the management of any complaints.

When an Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer (IFCO) undertakes a fisheries related inspection they will continue to gather evidence in the usual manner, for example by taking photographic evidence using a mobile phone and recording information in inspection reports and notebooks. They can use the body worn cameras to provide additional evidence.

Body worn cameras will only be activated for recording when an IFCO:

- Has an engagement with a member of the public which, in the opinion of the Officer, is confrontational and where they believe that they may be subject to physical or verbal abuse
- Encounters a situation in which they are approached by a member of the public in a manner perceived as aggressive or threatening

- Observing or undertaking a fisheries related inspection.

The purpose of using body worn cameras is to:

- Serve as a deterrent to acts of aggression or verbal and physical abuse
- Keep people safe
- Help to protect staff at work (for Health and Safety purposes)
- Capture images close up, including audio recording
- Allow the officer to maintain the use of his / her hands and enforcement equipment whilst recording an incident
- Provide evidence to support internal investigations (complaints) or prosecution cases
- Assist in the investigation of allegations of inappropriate conduct by Officers
- Gain an understanding of Officers perception of health and safety

Body worn camera technology can address a number of needs:

- Improved health and safety of Officers by reducing the risks of assaults
- Training tool
- Enhance the integrity, efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries related inspections
- Strengthen the quality of communication with fishermen and general public
- Strengthen the quality of evidence to support any 'follow up' actions to ensure fairness, transparency and accountability in the enforcement and compliance process and in dealing with complaints
- Improving the quality of evidence to support police action in the event of physical/verbal abuse.

3. Camera Locations and Associated Coverage Linked to Perceived Risk Factors.

There are five cameras that are used by the Officers. These cameras are body worn Video and Audio Cameras. Each camera stores data securely on its internal hard drive which is only accessible by a named administrator.

Each camera may be used throughout the extent of the NEIFCA district and only records what the officer sees and hears.

4. Control of Access to System and Images

The viewing of live time imagery captured on overt cameras that duplicate what is in general public view is acceptable. However, caution and discretion is advised at all times. Where possible, display screens should be placed away from public view.

Screens should be switched off at all times unless the camera is to be used for the purpose it was designed for, this will avoid 'unintentional' viewing of unrelated imagery.

The Chief Officer shall be the system manager and will hold the administrator's password and the right to allocate passwords to users of the system.

The named persons with associated levels of access rights to surveillance system are:

Ref	Officer Name	Access Level
1	Steven Mallinson – Shore Operations Manager	View only
2	Dean Grason - IFCO	View only
3	Daniel Bennett - IFCO	View only
4	Dr Ralf Bubitz – Environmental and Scientific Manager	View only
5	Dylan Silverwood	View only
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

All authorised users of the system must be trained in the use of the system and have read the Code of Practice and procedures in relation to its use.

5. Camera System Checks and Maintenance

A monthly assessment of the system will be carried out by the Chief Officer to ensure that all cameras are receiving an image (basic functionality) and that the time and date shown on the images is correct. All instances of camera malfunction must be reported as soon as possible to the Chief Officer for repair.

Image capture quality must also be tested on a daily basis by the users.

6. Retention of Recorded Images

Images recorded onto the hard drive of each device will be retained for a maximum period of 14 days then uploaded onto the NEIFCA secure drive.

All uploaded footage will be retained for a maximum period of 35 days from the date of capture unless it forms part of an investigation in which case it will be retained for 6 months after the date of conclusion of any investigation, including appeals.

This action must be recorded electronically, detailing date period, by whom and why the images are being retained.

7. Reference Tables in Use

Not in use.

8. Disclosure of Images

Any request by an outside organisation or individual (SAR) to access recorded video footage must be passed to the NEIFCA Data Protection Officer for logging and authorisation.

Should the request be a 'simple', unobtrusive request, this may be dealt with on site by an officer with the appropriate access.

Prior to any disclosure imagery must be reviewed by the Chief Officer, taking into account any possible third-party inclusion in images. Every effort should be made to protect third party privacy.

Should the Chief Officer feel that any third party would not have their basic right to privacy infringed, they may offer the individual/ organisation requesting sight of the imagery the opportunity to 'view' the recorded data.

Should the individual then go on to request a copy of the image, this must be referred to the NEIFCA Data Protection Officer for authorisation. The appropriate request form must be completed, and a record made.

Should the organisation then go on to request a copy of the image, this must be referred to the NEIFCA Data Protection Officer for authorisation. The following Police requests do not require prior authorisation, however the officer dealing with the request must be confident that there is a need to share the information, and a record made:

- Police requests relating to an immediate danger to the public/staff.
- Requests which relate to crimes that NEIFCA has reported to the Police.

Once completed, details must be passed to the NEIFCA Data Protection Officer.

If the request cannot be dealt with immediately, copied images must be held securely on the NEIFCA secure drive as outlined in section 6.

9. Signage

Appropriate signage shall be displayed on the officers uniform.

10. References and Contact Details

Surveillance Camera Policy
Contact information.

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
26 June 2025

FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2024/25

Report of the Treasurer

A. Purpose of Report

To report the outturn position for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2025.

B. Recommendation

- i. That Members note the 2024/25 net outturn underspend of £1,237,569.
- ii. That £38,690 is transferred from the Patrol Vessel Maintenance Reserve and £17,000 from the Renewals Fund to fund 2024/25 expenditure in line with the approved supplementary budgets.
- iii. That the remaining balance of £8,898 on External Projects Fund is transferred to the Renewals Fund via the 2024/25 revenue account.
- iv. That the £850,000 of the underspend relating to the sale of the North East Guardian III patrol vessel is transferred to the Renewals Fund as outlined in paragraph 8.5.
- v. That the £132,099 balance of Defra 'grant in aid' is transferred to the Renewals Fund as outlined in paragraphs 4.4 and 8.5.
- vi. That £13,750 of the outturn underspend is transferred to the External Projects reserve, and a supplementary budget approved in 2025/26 financial year, to fund the purchase of an automated Conductivity Temperature Depth System as outlined in paragraph 4.7.
- vii. That the remaining £232,822 of the 2024/25 outturn underspend is transferred to the Renewals Fund as outlined in paragraph 8.5.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the final income and expenditure account and balance sheet for the year ended 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 NEIFCA, which is classified as a joint committee, has no statutory obligation to prepare accounts which are externally audited. From 1 April 2015 any expenditure overseen by a joint committee was subject to audit as part of the main accounts of the constituent audited body, in this case the contributing local authorities. However, a set of accounts is prepared to inform the Authority of the position at the financial year end.

2. Responsibility of the Authority

2.1 The North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is required –

- to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one officer has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. That officer is the Treasurer.
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

3. Responsibility of the Treasurer

3.1 The Treasurer is responsible for arrangements for the proper administration of Authority's financial affairs. The Treasurer is also responsible for the maintenance and preparation of its accounts in accordance with proper practices.

4. Outturn Statement

4.1 The Outturn Statement is attached as Appendix A.

4.2 Detailed monitoring of expenditure against the profiled budget has been undertaken on a monthly basis and reported to the Authority and Executive meetings throughout the year. At the Executive meeting on 6 March 2025, it was reported that the forecast outturn was a £1,274,436 underspend as a consequence of the patrol vessel replacement project., including one-off receipts from the sale of the patrol vessel, planned delays in recruitment to vacant posts in the offshore team and temporarily increased bank interest receipts. The forecast underspend also included £220,000 of Defra 'grant in aid'.

4.3 The revenue outturn underspend is £378,666 along with a £858,903 overachievement of funding made up of £850,000 capital receipts for the sale of the patrol vessel and £8,898 transfer to the Renewals Fund from the External Projects reserve, previously approved at the Executive meeting on 6 March 2025. The outturn position is made up of a number of compensating variances which are summarised in the table below.

NEIFCA Outturn 2024/25	Over/Underspend	£
Employee vacancies	Underspend	-119,672
Defra 'grant in aid'	Underspend	-220,000
Bank Interest	Underspend	-79,334
Vessel Fuel	Underspend	-45,704
Project Income	Underspend	-45,778
Boarding Rigid Inflatable Boat (Staged Payment 1)	Overspend	87,000
Patrol Vessel Maintenance	Overspend	17,861
Vessel Insurance	Overspend	14,622
Fuel Duty Reclaim	Overspend	12,952
Other Minor variances	Underspend	-614
Total	Underspend	-378,666
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipt - North East Guardian III Sale	Underspend	-850,000
Transfer from External Projects Reserve - Reserve no longer	Underspend	-8,898
Levy 2024/2025	Underspend	-5
	Underspend	-858,903
Net Outturn 2024/25	Underspend	-1,237,569

- 4.4 The outturn includes £220,000 additional Defra 'grant in aid' of which £90,000 relates to grants awarded in the 2023/24 financial year and received in 2024/25. The forecast £90,000 underspend was approved to be transferred to the Renewals Fund at the Authority Meeting on 5 December 2024. A further £130,000 was received in 2024/25 financial year made up of £50,000 allocated to support the Marine Protected Area and delivery towards 'good environmental status', £50,000 Fisheries Management Plan grant and £30,000 towards Marine Sustainable Development and approved to be transferred to the Renewals Fund at the Authority Meeting on 6 March 2025 to fund the build and commission of a new 6.5m boarding Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB), a component of the new vessel build project.
- 4.5 At the Authority Meeting on 6 March 2025 Members authorised the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, Clerk and Treasurer to award the £291,000 contract for the build and commission of the new RHIB and the first staged payment of £87,301 was made in March 2025. The 2024/25 Capital Outturn and 2025/26 Capital Forecast is shown in Appendix B.
- 4.6 The majority of the remaining underspends are as a consequence of the patrol vessel replacement project and include a £119,672 underspend on employees due to planned delays in recruiting to vacancies in the offshore team and £45,704 underspend on vessel fuel due to reduced consumption offset by reduced fuel duty reclaim income. Interest receipts were £79,334 higher than budgeted due to the increase in interest rates and the high level of reserves being set aside for the patrol vessel replacement. It should be noted that this will not be a reoccurring underspend as the majority of the reserves will be utilised to fund the new patrol vessel in 2025/26 financial year. The underspend also includes £45,704 of additional project income for work undertaken by NEIFCA staff supporting the Defra's Coastal Health and Livelihoods and Aquaculture projects.
- 4.7 It is proposed that £13,750 of the outturn underspend is approved to be transferred to the External Projects reserve, and a supplementary budget approved in 2025/26 financial year, to fund the purchase of an automated Conductivity Temperature Depth (CTD) System which will capture and record data from the seawater column as it is deployed and

recovered from the main vessel. This will enable data to be collected relating to short, medium and long term trends in environmental conditions such as temperature, turbidity and salinity. This will be particularly relevant as it will allow the monitoring of the impact of climate change on the region's marine environment and will support investigations into unforeseen events such as the recent shellfish die offs.

- 4.8 It is proposed that the remaining £1,223,818 underspend is transferred to the Renewals Fund to support the build and commission of the new patrol vessel and RHIB as outlined in paragraph 8.5 below.

5. Balance Sheet

- 5.1 The Authority's Balance Sheet, attached as Appendix C, is a representation of its net worth. Due to the sale of the North Eastern Guardian III patrol vessel in January 2025, the Protector III 9.5m Cabin Rigid Inflatable Boat, forms the majority of its worth. The North East Guardian III had an estimated residual value of £539,440 and was sold for £850,000 resulting in a profit on disposal of £310,560. The 9.5m Cabin Rigid Inflatable Boat is being depreciated over its anticipated useful working life, resulting in an estimated residual value of £321,444 as at 31 March 2025.

- 5.2 Usable Reserves of £3,460,222 have increased by £1,375,420 mainly as a result of the sale of the main patrol vessel for £850,000, along with planned transfers to the Vehicle Replacement and Renewals Fund reserves of £10,000 and £192,440 respectively. The remaining increase in the reserve balance is due to the proposed set aside of the 2024/25 outturn underspend mainly due to receipt of additional Defra 'grant in aid' funding and employee underspends. The detailed reserve movements are outlined in section 8.

6. Reserves and Proposed Usage

- 6.1 The Authority maintains a general reserve to meet unforeseen events and specific reserves to even out cash flow for individual projects or purchases. The Authority currently holds five specific reserves. The 2024/25 outturn has increased the value of reserves held which are shown at Appendix D.

7. General Reserve

- 7.1 The General Reserve enables the Authority to demonstrate its financial standing as a 'going concern' and to be in a position to meet unforeseen liabilities. The closing balance at 31 March 2025 is £228,450. The reserve represents 13% of the annual levy for 2025/26, which is considered to be a reasonable level of balances for the Authority to hold and it is anticipated that this can be maintained until 31 March 2026.

8. Specific Reserves

- 8.1 In 2011/12 the Authority created an earmarked reserve to manage the risk associated with patrol vessel maintenance. Due to its nature, certain maintenance is cyclical rather than annual and other maintenance may be of an exceptional and urgent nature. The need for the reserve was demonstrated when it was utilised in 2022/23 to part fund the cost of the mechanical engine failure of the patrol vessel. The 2024/25 budget approved the transfer of £38,689 of the forecast 2023/24 outturn underspend into the reserve to fund the remaining critical operational compliance works on the Protector III Cabin RIB. The work is now complete and the funding has been utilised in 2024/25 financial year. The Patrol Vessel Maintenance reserve balance at 31 March 2025 is £50,000 and is anticipated to remain at this level until 31 March 2026.

- 8.2 The £8,898 balance on the External Projects reserve has been applied to the 2024/25 revenue account and it is proposed to be transferred to the Renewals Fund, as previously approved at the Authority Meeting on 6 March 2025. In addition it is proposed to transfer £13,750 of the 2024/25 outturn underspend, resulting from additional external income, into the reserve to purchase an automated Conductivity Temperature Depth system in 2025/26 financial year (see paragraph 4.7 for more details).
- 8.3 The Vehicle Replacement Reserve enables the fleet programme to be effectively managed and an annual set aside of £10,000 for 2024/25 has previously been approved. No new vehicles have been purchased during 2024/25 financial year but it is anticipated that £30,000 will be utilised in 2025/26. Currently the Authority owns one small multi-purpose van, one large transporter van, two 4x4 'pick up' vehicles, one all-terrain two seater 'gator' and leases a further 4x4 'pick up' and a pool car. Owning vehicles has proven much more cost effective in terms of flexibility of managing mileage and additional 'end of term costs' which are applied with each lease agreement.
- 8.4 The Special Authority Meeting on 30 June 2023 approved the decision for East Riding of Yorkshire Council Cabinet to award the contract for the build and commission of a new 24.5m Fisheries Patrol/Research vessel along with a proposed finance lease agreement with ERYC. Under the terms of the finance lease agreement NEIFCA will make a substantive payment towards the costs in year one utilising funds set aside in the Renewals Fund, capital receipts from the sale of the North-East Guardian III and £562,000 Defra capital grant funding. It was agreed that the remaining cost will be funded by ERYC borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board and the costs will be met by the finance leasing arrangement between ERYC and NEIFCA, funded by an increase to the levy which has been phased in over 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years. The £562,000 Defra capital grant was received by ERYC in 2024/25 financial year and has been utilised to part fund vessel the build costs to date. The vessel build is almost complete and it is anticipated that the new vessel will be commissioned in May 2025.
- 8.5 There are two planned transfers to the Renewals Fund in 2024/25, £89,540 set aside from the phasing in of the levy increase over 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years, and £102,900 set aside annually for vessel replacement. A supplementary budget of £17,000 was also agreed for 2024/25 to cover continuing revenue costs of the project. At the Executive meeting on 6 March 2025 it was agreed that underspends from the sale of the patrol vessel of £850,000 and Defra grant in aid of £220,000 would be transferred to the Renewals Fund at the financial year end along with any remaining underspends. The first staged payment for the build and commission of the 6.5m boarding RHIB of £87,000 was incurred during March 2025, reducing the balance of the grant funding to be transferred to the reserve to £132,099. The table below shows the detailed Renewals Fund reserve movements for 2024/25 and forecast for 2025/26.

Renewals Fund	2024/25	2025/26
	£	£
Balance brought forward	<u>1,725,982</u>	<u>3,125,241</u>
Annual Contribution Vessel Replacement	102,900	102,900
Additional Levy 2024/25	89,540	0
Sale of Patrol Vessel	850,000	0
Defra grants (less Boarding RIB payment)	132,099	0
Transfer from External Projects Fund	8,898	0
Revenue Underspend 2024/25	<u>232,822</u>	<u>0</u>
Transfer from Revenue	<u>1,416,259</u>	<u>102,900</u>
Patrol Vessel Replacement revenue costs	-17,000	-8,500
Patrol Vessel One-off payment to ERYC	0	-2,834,042
Boarding RHIB capital expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>-203,702</u>
Transfer to Revenue	<u>-17,000</u>	<u>-3,046,244</u>
Balance carried forward	<u><u>3,125,241</u></u>	<u><u>181,897</u></u>
Analysis of Closing Balance		
Patrol Vessel Replacement revenue costs	8,500	0
Patrol Vessel One-off payment to ERYC	2,834,042	0
Boarding RHIB funding remaining	282,699	78,997
Annual Contribution Vessel Replacement		102,900
	<u><u>3,125,241</u></u>	<u><u>181,897</u></u>

- 8.6 The balance on the Renewals Fund reserve at 31 March 2025 is forecast to be £3,125,241 reducing to £181,897 at 31 March 2026 due to the one-off initial finance lease payment to East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the new vessel and expenditure on the Boarding RHIB.
- 8.7 The 2025/26 budget approved the authority continuing to set aside £102,900 each year into the Renewals Fund to plan for the replacement of the soon to be commissioned patrol vessel at the end of its useful life in 2045. The amount set aside will be reviewed when the current vessel replacement is complete.

Contact Officer

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Principal Accountant, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

David Kirven

Treasurer

Appendix A

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY						
OUTTURN STATEMENT						
2023/24		2024/25				
Net Expenditure		Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Original Budget	Variance
£		£	£	£	£	£
		-774				
393,969	Central / Headquarters	471,972	94,719	377,254	455,820	-78,566
136,965	Land Based Operations	151,178	5,964	145,213	145,140	73
478,638	Offshore Operations	540,678	3,848	536,830	625,140	-88,310
111,072	Environment	104,790	4,500	100,290	146,020	-45,730
-81,528	Projects	233,689	382,821	-149,133	17,000	-166,133
1,039,117		1,502,307	491,853	1,010,454	1,389,120	-378,666
Net Income		Expenditure	Income	Net Income	Original Budget	Variance
£		£	£	£	£	£
SOURCES OF FINANCE						
1,377,465	Annual levy on Local Authorities	0	1,535,875	1,535,875	1,535,870	-5
58,497	Contribution from Reserves	0	64,588	64,588	55,690	-8,898
0	Cont (to)/from Capital	0	850,000	850,000	0	-850,000
-112,900	Contribution to Earmarked Reserves	202,440	0	-202,440	-202,440	0
1,323,062		202,440	2,450,463	2,248,023	1,389,120	-858,903
					Net Underspend	-1,237,569
Contributions to/from earmarked reserves					£	
External Projects Reserve					(8,898)	
Renewals Fund					192,440	
Vehicle Replacement					10,000	
Cabin RIB Additional Works					(38,690)	
Patrol Vessel Replacement					(17,000)	
					137,852	

Appendix B

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY					
CAPITAL					
	2024/25		2025/26		Scheme Variance
	Budget	Outturn	Forecast	Total	
	£	£	£	£	£
Boarding Rigid Inflatable Boat					
6.5m Boarding Rigid Inflatable Boat	291,000	87,301	203,699	291,000	0
Total	291,000	87,301	203,699	291,000	0
Financed by					
2024-25 Underspend	87,301	87,301		87,301	0
Patrol Vessel Replacement Reserve	203,699		203,699	203,699	0
Total	291,000	87,301	203,699	291,000	0
Vehicle Replacement					
Vehicle Replacement	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	0
Total	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	0
Financed by					
Sale of Assets (Part Exchange)	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	0
Vehicle Replacement Reserve	30,000	0	30,000	30,000	0
Total	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	0

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY				
BALANCE SHEET				
1 April 2024		31 March 2025		
£		£	£	£
	LONG TERM ASSETS			
2,338,957	Waterborne Assets - Gross Book Value	446,248		
-1,450,893	Waterborne Assets - Depreciation	<u>-120,707</u>		325,541
234,484	Vehicles and Equipment - Gross Book Value	234,484		
-159,720	Vehicles and Equipment - Depreciation	<u>-170,669</u>		63,815
	Work in Progress			
962,828				<u>389,355</u>
	CURRENT ASSETS			
	Debtors			
17,696	HMRC - VAT	20,422		
187,675	Other	182,910		
0	Prosecution Costs	3,758		
1,430	Provision for Bad Debt	<u>-2,328</u>	1,430	
479	Payment in Advance	<u>479</u>		205,242
	Short Term Investments			
	Cash and cash equivalents			
1,845,672	Temporary Investments	3,225,787		
236,267	Cash at Bank and in Hand	150,258		
350	Petty Cash	<u>350</u>		3,376,395
	CURRENT LIABILITIES			
-188,268	Creditors	-104,914		
	Receipt in Advance			<u>-104,914</u>
3,064,130	NET ASSETS			<u>3,866,077</u>
	FINANCED BY			
2,084,802	Usable Reserves			3,460,222
979,328	Unusable Reserve			405,855
3,064,130	TOTAL RESERVES			<u>3,866,077</u>

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY		
RESERVES		
General Reserve	2024/25	2025/26
	£	£
Balance brought forward	228,450	228,450
Transfer from Revenue	0	0
Transfer to Revenue	0	0
Balance carried forward	<u>228,450</u>	<u>228,450</u>
Patrol Vessel Maintenance	2024/25	2025/26
	£	£
Balance brought forward	88,690	50,000
Transfer from Revenue	0	0
Transfer to Revenue	-38,690	0
Balance carried forward	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
External Projects	2024/25	2025/26
	£	£
Balance brought forward	8,898	13,750
Transfer from Revenue	13,750	0
Transfer to Revenue	-8,898	-13,750
Balance carried forward	<u>13,750</u>	<u>0</u>
Vehicle Replacement Reserve	2024/25	2025/26
	£	£
Balance brought forward	32,782	42,782
Transfer from Revenue	10,000	10,000
Transfer to Revenue	0	-30,000
Balance carried forward	<u>42,782</u>	<u>22,782</u>
Renewals Fund	2024/25	2025/26
	£	£
Balance brought forward	1,725,982	3,125,241
Transfer from Revenue	1,416,259	102,900
Transfer to Revenue	-17,000	-3,046,244
Balance carried forward	<u>3,125,241</u>	<u>181,897</u>
TOTAL USEABLE RESERVES	<u><u>3,460,223</u></u>	<u><u>483,129</u></u>

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
26 June 2025

Science Advisory Group Update

Report by the Chair of SAG & the Environmental & Scientific Manager

A. Purpose of Report

To update members on the most recent proceedings of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) following meetings held on 11 March and 4 June 2025

B. Recommendation

That members note the report and consider the Group's recommendations.

1. Background

1.1 Since the last Authority meeting held on 5 December 2024, two meetings of the SAG were held on 11 March and 4 June 2025 and are summarised below.

1.2 11 March 2025

At the meeting members considered the following items:

- Annual Research and Evidence Plan
- Scallop Stock Status Report
- Lobster and Crab Stock Status Report
- European Lobster Settlement Index project (ELSI)
- MMO Marine Consents 2024/25

Annual Research and Evidence Plan

Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz presented a revised research and evidence annual plan for the coming year. The new vessel will hopefully be operational for some of the research from May/June 25. The ELSI project is now completed but research will continue. Observer trips for scallop surveys are going very well this year, the new vessel will make this more efficient in the future.

A new camera has been purchased for MPA monitoring. Members suggested more planning needed on this in terms of who will complete the data analysis. Members discussed ongoing seabass survey work and building a baseline data set for bass population. Members suggested approaching CEFAS with regards to tagging.

Scallop Stock Status Report

Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz presented an update to members on the results of the scallop dredge and beam trawling fishery monitoring work for the 2024/2025 season. The previous report highlighted a decrease in overall landings and LPUE for the 2023/24 season. A continuous decrease in the LPUE has been observed since the 2020/21 season. However, average scallop size remains stable and well above the minimum size. The report also highlights that density and biomass has increased in both permitted dredging areas and overall landings are less than 5% of the estimated harvestable biomass suggesting that stocks are stable and fishing pressure at sustainable levels.

Work will be done going forward on NEIFCAs own scallop surveys using the new vessel, this ensures accurate data from the same area gathered year on year. Members discussed the findings. Members suggested more work being done on habitat surveys.

Lobster and Crab Stock Status Report

Environmental & Scientific Officers Julita Ruskyte and Rachel Waite-Hudson presented a report into the findings of the Crab and Lobster monitoring report for 2024, the second year using the NEIFCA catch return data, with the roll out of the catch returns being submitted online by fishers proving to be a success.

Effort has noticeably decreased from 2023. Crab landings continue to be of concern with a sizable decrease year on year, however this is a national problem, not just related to the NEIFCA area. Lobster landings and Landings per Unit Effort (LPUE) remain stable. Minimum landing size for lobster is likely to increase in the near future.

Members suggested that monitoring of the LPUE is crucial going forward.

ELSI project

Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz presented the final report on the ELSI project as submitted to DEFRA. The project has been a success in that the first juvenile lobster was found, but the project will continue using the experience gathered. Plankton tows will continue to be performed, and cages will be deployed on hotspots. A diversity index will also be created using the data gathered from the pots. The project will be a medium priority going forward.

MMO Marine Consents 24/25

Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz gave an update on NEIFCA's response to marine consents in 2024/2025, with the notable objection to the Tees dredge material.

1.3 4 June 2025

At the meeting members considered the following items:

- Scallop fishery monitoring report
- Shore gathering update

Scallop fishery report

Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz presented an update to members on the results of the scallop dredge fishery monitoring work for the 2024/2025 season. Landings have decreased to 36 tonnes compared to 48 tonnes in 2023/24 and number of active fishing days and total length remained at similar levels. A shift of fishing activity has been

observed, with more fishing days in the Southern permitted fishing area and less in the Northern permitted area. The decrease in total landings is mainly due to lower densities of scallops in the Southern permitted area and an increase in fishing activity in this area. Through the 2024/25 season, only 2 out of the 3 permit holders were active. Landings per Unit Effort (LPUE) remained stable in the Northern permitted area and a decrease has been recorded for the Southern permitted area. Average size of scallops in the Northern and Southern permitted area remains stable and bycatch is low with a slight increase in edible crabs. Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz concludes that currently, exploitation levels are low with less than 3% of the harvestable biomass landed and there are no major concerns for the stocks. Following this conclusion, Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz suggested to offer one scientific dispensation for the 2024/5 season to a local vessel using a different type and lower impact scallop dredge with the intention to collect additional data for an alternative to the standard New Haven dredge and to monitor any changes with an additional vessel fishing. Members recommended that before deciding to offer a scientific dispensation, a detailed plan for this scientific survey should be produced and discussed at the next SAG meeting or by email. With the routine monitoring program for the scallop fishery being on track members, recommended that habitat surveys and assessing impacts from this fishery should be included in the research & evidence plan.

Shore gathering update

Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz explained that during 2020, NEIFCA officers noticed the appearance of organised groups gathering shellfish at Coatham Rocks in Redcar, Filey Brigg and Flamborough Head. Since then, this activity seems to have continued to increase over the past 5 years, with some of the groups traveling from further afield and addresses of individuals linked to Chinese take-away shops. NEIFCA enforcement officers have been observing, engaging and inspecting shore gathering groups and individuals on a regular base in the past few years. Shore gatherers appear to collect various species off and next to the rocks at Coatham rocks with carpet clams being the dominant species, followed by mussels, cockles, crabs and the occasional lobsters. NEIFCA does not have any current byelaws to manage shore gathering activity and enforcement is only possible on minimum landing sizes for lobster, edible crabs and mussels. All three sites are located within SSSI sites and Special Protected Areas. Natural England's ongoing condition assessment at the Coatham Rock site raised concerns about potential impacts of the shore gathering activity. The removal of clams and mussels in high quantities and the regular visual disturbance could have an impact on various bird species feeding in these areas. Thomas Charman and Amelia Welch from Natural England joined this meeting to update members on the outcome of the current condition assessment for Coatham Rocks in Redcar highlighting that certain bird species such as purple sandpiper and red shank have declined to unfavourable levels. A variety of potential pressure has been suggested impacting these species, such as recreational disturbance, bait collection and climate change. Members raised the question if an Emergency Byelaw could be introduced to reduce or prohibit the shore gathering activity at Coatham Rocks, Redcar. Environmental & Scientific Manager Ralf Bublitz explained that justifying an Emergency Byelaw would be difficult as this is not an unforeseen development and once the new shellfish permit byelaw is in force, it will allow to introduce management measures, such as spatial closures, prohibited species or daily bag limits. Members discussed and recommended to gather more data on the shore gathering and the impacts and information from other IFCA's experiencing similar challenges.

Contact Officer

David McCandless,
Chief Officer,
Ext. 3690

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
26 June 2025

Management of Permitted Intertidal & Sub-tidal Fixed Net Fisheries 2025/2026

Report by the Chief Officer.

A. **Purpose of 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 2025.

B. **Recommendation**

1. That Members note the report.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Following the introduction of new national fisheries legislation during 2021, namely, 'The Sea Fisheries (Amendment etc) Regulations 2021', which currently permits unavoidable by-catches of seabass to be retained by 5 shore operators within the NEIFCA district, the intertidal and sub-tidal fisheries were re-opened on 1 October 2024 although fishermen were requested to comply with a voluntary code of conduct to only work 1 section of net rather than the 3 permitted under the current NEIFCA byelaw regulation. This arrangement was established to reduce legislative conflict with the national SI. To compensate intertidal fishermen a discretionary discounted rate was applied to the associated permit fee. The national legislative framework is not expected to change through 2025/2026, although it is currently the subject of review as part of the ongoing sea bass Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) implementation process. Despite this review, officers are planning now for the re-opening of both the permitted intertidal and sub-tidal fixed net fisheries from 1 October 2025 in line with previous years, same arrangements. If any legislative changes are implemented following the FMP review, officers will consult with members prior to taking any further action.
- 1.2 It is proposed that applications for both intertidal and sub-tidal permits are opened on 30 June 2025 with a provisional closing date of 25 July 2025. All applicants will be notified in writing on the outcome of their applications by 1 August 2025 and unsuccessful applicants will be offered the right of appeal which will close on 15 August 2025. Any appeals will be considered by the Executive Committee on 4 September 2025. Following consideration of appeals the final allocation of permits will be confirmed in writing under the terms of the byelaw regulation and the permits will then be issued following receipt of the requested permit fee in advance of the commencement of the fisheries on 1 October 2025. A draft procedure outlining the application and allocation process is attached for members information.

Contact Officer

David McCandless, Chief Officer
Tel: 07771936501

Procedure for NEIFCA Area C Fixed Netting Permit Allocation

Issue Date – 26 June 2025

Review Date – June 2026

Contact Officer – David McCandless (Permit Allocation Officer)

PURPOSE	To Ensure Allocation of NEIFCA Fixed Netting Permits to Fish Within Area C of the Holderness Coast
AIM	Allocation of permits are undertaken in a fair, efficient and transparent manner and that there is a clear and consistent appeals procedure
SUCCESS CRITERIA	All permits will be issued in a consistent and timely manner.



1. Permit Applications

- 1.1 Applicants can only apply for one type of permit, intertidal or sub-tidal, not both.
- 1.2 **Applications must be received by the Authority by Friday 25 July 2025.** Applications will only be accepted after the closing date if vacancies remain following initial allocation.
- 1.3 Vacancies for permits will be advertised on the NEIFCA website (www.neifca.gov.uk) subject to NEIFCA discretion.

2. Permit Allocation Process

- 2.1 The Permit Allocation Officer shall consider all applications against the following selection criteria:

Phase 1 Criteria (Listed in order of Priority)

- 1) The applicant has previously held a permit to fish in Area C.
- 2) Can demonstrate a historical track record of fishing in Area C.
- 3) Can demonstrate a historical track record of catching fish using fixed nets.
- 4) With respect to sub-tidal permits the operating vessel is registered 10 m and under and carries a national MMO licensing entitlement to catch and take sea bass.

Phase 2 Criteria

Beyond the application of Phase 1 criteria, judgement will be required on the part of the permit allocation officer and will include the following:

- A) Should there be more applicants than the 10 available permits (5 intertidal and 5 sub-tidal) who can demonstrate Phase 1 criteria, then the permit allocation officer will need to make a formal assessment of the available evidence supplied for Phase 1 criteria, this assessment will be based on the following information, using a sliding scale and in the following priorities:
 - 1) If a track record has been proven, over how long can the applicant demonstrate that track record and what were the total quantities of species caught?
 - 2) What track record can be proven for the use of fixed nets within Area C and for how long?
- B) Should there be fewer applicants than the available 5 (intertidal permits) who meet the Phase 1 criteria, then the permit allocation officer will need to make a formal

assessment of the available evidence supplied for Phase 1 Criteria from the remaining applicants, based on the following information:

- 1) Track record – What evidence, if any, has been supplied to support the historical track record. Over what time period is this available and how much can be demonstrated to have been caught?
- 2) Is the principle source of income fishing? Can the applicant demonstrate a dependence on the use of fixed nets?
 - a. The permit allocation officer shall allocate a permit to those applicants who meet Phase 1 criteria (subject to Phase 2 assessment if required)
 - b. The permit allocation officer shall make a list of all unsuccessful applicants; these applicants will be held on the relevant waiting list for the permit applied for. The position of each applicant on this waiting list will be subject to annual review and submission of completed applications forms and evidence. Should any permit become available during the course of the permit year the permit will be allocated to the applicant at the top of this waiting list. The position of each applicant on the waiting list will be determined by their application form and Phase 1 and 2 Criteria.
 - c. Each applicant will be required to submit an annual application form with supporting evidence as per section 1 'Permit Applications'.
 - d. **All applicants successful or otherwise will be notified by Friday 1 August 2025.**

3 Right of Appeal

- 3.1 **Any decision by the permit allocation officer that an applicant is not entitled to a permit should be sent together with notification of the right of appeal by Friday 1 August 2025.**
- 3.2 Included within the right of appeal should be information used to assess the application by the permit allocation officer summarising the reason why the applicant was not successful as well as a copy of the Appeal Procedure.

4 Appeal Procedure

- 4.1 The Appeal panel will consist of the members of the NEIFCA Executive Committee.
- 4.2 Appeals must be addressed to NEIFCA Executive 'Fixed Net Permit Appeal', Town Hall, Quay Road, Bridlington, YO16 4LP.

- 4.3 **All Appeals must be submitted in writing by Friday 15 August 2025** and will be considered by the Executive Committee meeting provisionally scheduled for 5 September 2024.
- 4.4 The permit allocation officer must satisfy the NEIFCA Executive Committee that the correct application procedure has been followed and that the unsuccessful applicant (appellant) has been provided with all relevant information used to assess their application.
- 4.5 Based on the information supplied by the permit allocation officer and the applicant in writing the NEIFCA Executive Committee will make a decision.
- 4.6 Immediately after the hearing the NEIFCA Executive Committee will provide the permit allocation officer with their decision. The officer will notify the appellant within 7 working days of this decision together with details of how this decision was reached.
- 4.7 The decision of the NEIFCA Executive Committee is final.

5 Further Conditions of Permit Allocation

- 5.1 The issue of NEIFCA intertidal permits will be subject to the following additional conditions:
- 1) Following the conclusion of any appeals process written confirmation will be sent to all the successful applicants and permits will be issued upon full receipt of the £500 permit charge specified in paragraph 6(l) of Byelaw XVIII 'Method and Area of Fishing (Fixed Netting) Byelaw 2016.
 - 2) The right is reserved to refuse the issue of a permit until such time as a successful applicant provides any outstanding monies or information required for the issue of a permit or from a previous year in accordance with Byelaw XVIII 'Method and Area of Fishing (Fixed Netting) Byelaw 2016 and or Byelaw XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw.
 - 3) Permits may be subject to suspension, at any time, for a number of reasons in accordance with the processes outlined within paragraphs 7 and 8 of Byelaw XVIII 'Method and Area of Fishing (Fixed Netting) Byelaw 2016.
 - 4) All permits issued are subject to the prohibitions and conditions contained in Byelaw XVIII 'Method and Area of Fishing (Fixed Netting) Byelaw 2016.
 - 5) All permit holders MUST have in place before commencing any netting/fishing activity from the beach Third Party Business Liability Insurance. This is non negotiable and must be in place. A certificate of Insurance can be submitted with the application or after the permit has been allocated.
 - 5) All permit holders must sign a Health and Safety Code of Practice which stipulates how fishing gear must be used in accordance with Health and Safety procedures. Any additional criteria or stipulation from ERYC must also be strictly adhered to.

Any breaches, either of the Code of Practice and or such additional criteria or stipulation set, could render the permit holder liable to prosecution by the ERYC and their permission to fish in the inter-tidal zone revoked.

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
26 June 2025

Chief Officer's Operational Report

Report of the Chief Officer

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with an operational report covering the period 1 December 2024 to 31 May 2025.

B. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

1. Overview

1.1 NEIFCA

New Vessel Build

Following the award of contract to Whitby based shipbuilders, Parkol Marine Ltd, on 6 October 2023, to build and commission a new vessel to replace North Eastern Guardian III, fabrication work commenced during February 2024. The first stage of the construction phase involved laying the keel through to the completion of the framing of the twin hulls in May 2024 and associated plating, including the main deck sections in July 2024 followed by the accommodation sections during September 2024.

Housing for the shafts and main engines was completed at the end of September 2024 and construction of the wheelhouse, the last section of the main superstructure, during October 2024. Internal 'fit out' commenced during November 2024 with the installation of pipework, cable runs and internal insulating layers.

Main engine installation was completed on 19 December 2024 alongside supporting ancillary equipment including tanks, pipework and deck machinery. External paintwork and fendering installation commenced during March 2025 and the vessel was lifted into the water on 8 May 2025.

Throughout May 2025 finishing work has continued on the vessel including the completion of painting, wiring and the installation of electronic equipment and deck machinery including the hydraulic after 'A' frame and the deck crane.

At the time of writing this report plans were well advanced to host a formal naming and dedication ceremony at the Parkol shipyard in Whitby, North Yorkshire on Saturday 21 June 2025.

Regular updates on the build can be accessed via the Authority's website and via Parkol Marine Ltd at New Build, Yard No 64.

The following images document some of the key milestone changes:



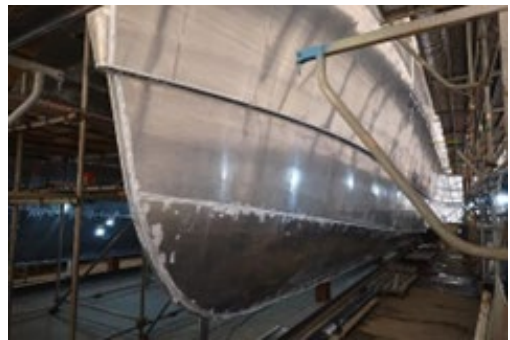
February 2024 laying the keel



March 2024 hull framing



April to August 2024 hull plating



April to August 2024 hull plating



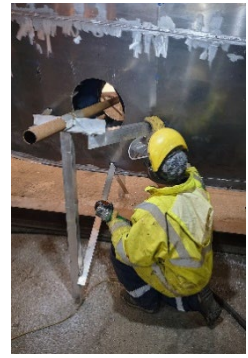
September 2024 Foredeck from wheelhouse



September 2024 deck house & accommodation structure



October 2024 wheelhouse structure



November 2024 - internal 'fit out' and bow thruster penetrations



March 2025 Installation of wheelhouse windows



March 2025 installation of masthead



Launch Day 8 May 2025

Sale of North Eastern Guardian III (NEG III)

Documentation supporting the marketing and sale of (NEG III) was finalised during February 2024 in consultation with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council procurement team. The vessel was formally marketed for sale during May 2024 as part of a formal, closed

electronic tender process. A deadline of 31 July 2024 was set for receipt of bids which was subsequently extended to 7 August 2024. Despite a very good level of interest in the vessel it remained unsold and following consultation with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) procurement team, Clerk and Treasurer a second, informal sale process was commenced on 12 August 2024.

In response to the second informal process Officers entered into further negotiations with a Polish based Company, UXO Marine Ltd, in consultation with the Clerk, Chair and Treasurer. A sale contract was agreed and signed with UXO Marine Ltd on 12 December 2024 and full payment for the vessel was completed on 3 February 2025. The ownership was formally transferred to UXO by the NEIFCA Chair on 17 February 2025 and the vessel was delivered to Poland by the NEIFCA offshore team on 7 March 2025.

Commercial Vessel Collinson off the East Coast of Yorkshire

On 10 March 2025 a major marine incident was declared following the collision of a container ship, the MV 'Solong' and a stationary tanker 'Stena Immaculate' off the East Yorkshire coast. Throughout the incident regular electronic update bulletins were provided to officers and members. Dr Ralf Bublitz oversaw the NEIFCA response to the event. Mercifully both vessels remained stable and intact and the resulting fuel discharge from the tanker burned off. Weather conditions at the time of the event were also favourable and resulting pollution was restricted to quantities of plastic residue which came ashore along the Lincolnshire coastline. This pollution was manually removed from beaches with limited environmental impact reported. The two vessels involved were later removed to port for further assessment. Thankfully such events are extremely rare, but it did highlight the vulnerability of our coastline to such. The multi-agency response was as close as it could have been to 'textbook' and impacts were maintained at a minimum level although sadly one person lost their life as a result.

Enforcement & Compliance Work

Since December, inshore fishing activity has followed normal seasonal patterns and throughout much of the spring period the East coast enjoyed reasonably settled, warm weather which broke at the beginning of June. Commercial catches of lobster improved through the reporting period. Prices remained steady through the spring period with lobster fetching between £14 and £16 per Kg and edible crab £1.80 to £2.20 per Kg.

Throughout the later spring period, May into June, there were some excellent reports from the recreational angling sector both onshore and at sea. Onshore there were some very good catches of smooth hound, ray and sea bass particularly along the East Yorkshire coast and offshore, cod and ling from known wreck marks, particularly off the North Yorkshire coast.

From a compliance perspective, issues relating to the landing of soft shelled lobsters and the illegal scrubbing of egg bearing lobsters were most prevalent throughout the reporting period.

Environmental & Scientific Work

Much of the recent work of the environmental and science team has involved the assessment and response to MMO quality assurance feedback relating to the Humber Estuary and Shellfish Permit byelaws and finalising the beam trawling byelaw for quality assurance submission. Alongside that the team also completed and submitted the final

report for the ELSI project and all associated data has been submitted to MEDIN (Marine Environmental Data and Information Network) for approval. Further work has been done on the appropriate assessments for the Holderness Inshore MCZ (Marine Conservation Zone) and Greater Wash SPA (Special Protected Area). Weather permitting, staff have also been undertaking offshore lobster, crab and King Scallop stock survey work onboard local fishing vessels and at quaysides.

Staffing & Recruitment

I am pleased to advise that since the last Authority meeting in December, two new staff members have now joined the Offshore team and all of the operational teams are now fully resourced.

1.2 National Work streams

IFCA Conduct and Operations Report

Every four years there is a statutory requirement under Section 183 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for the Secretary of State to 'lay' a report to Parliament on the conduct and operations of IFCAs. The third such report, covering the period 2018 to 2022, was published by Defra on 6 February 2025 and a copy is attached as item 16a, for members review and information.

In response to the recommendations contained within the report IFCA Chief Officers have established a joint implementation group in collaboration with Defra. The Conduct and Operations Report Recommendations Implementation Steering group (CORRIS) has met twice now and developed an action plan to address some of the key issues identified within the report. The timing of this 2018 to 2022 report has been significantly delayed and the next statutory report will be due in 2026 but the CORRIS work will feed into the associated process.

Fisheries Management plans

On 14 December 2024 Defra published 5 Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) including crab and lobster, sea bass, king scallop, whelk and Channel non-quota species. The development of FMPs is a key component of the 2020 Fisheries Act to inform future fisheries management policy delivery across a range of exploited stocks in the UK.

NEIFCA staff are currently directly involved in two of the current, national FMP implementation groups including crab and lobster and king scallop. One of the objectives in the crab and lobster FMP is to introduce and manage a pilot scheme for the North East, exploring and trialling fine scale management measures for the regions for lobsters. The first focus of this pilot scheme will be to examine potential changes with the increase of the minimum landing size of lobsters. NEIFCA is a member of the supporting working group that has been setup for the lobster management trial and 3 meetings were held since the Authority meeting in December.

1.3 Priority Work streams for the next six months

- Sea trials of North Eastern Guardian IV (NEG IV) and formal hand over from the shipyard.

- Completion and delivery of the new 6.4m boarding rigid hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) to complement NEG IV operations.
- Finalising the MMO quality assurance process of the shellfish byelaw and submission to DEFRA for confirmation 2025.
- In terms of biological survey work, prioritising potting and scallop dredging surveys and gear trials with the new vessel and testing new tagging equipment for the intertidal beach net fisheries.
- Development of a MPA monitoring program.

1.4 **Summary of meetings and events attended**

MMO Marine Planning	2 nd December 2025
National Association of IFCAs meetings	3 rd December 2024
Humber Estuary Stakeholders Liaison meeting	6 th December 2024
IFCA Chief Officers Group meeting	10 th December 2024
Seafish/NEIFCA/MMO/DEFRA FMP meeting	10 th December 2024
Seafish/MMO/DEFRA/NEIFCA Industry meeting	10 th December 2024
NEIFCA Staffing meeting	11 th December 2024
Mussel restoration network meeting	12 th December 2025
Marine Stewardship Council meeting	16 th December 2025
NEIFCA/MMO Byelaw meeting	17 th December 2024
FMP Programme – King Scallop Implementation Group	18 th December 2024
Whelk permit paper meeting	18 th December 2024
NEIFCA/MMO byelaw meeting	20 th December 2025
New Vessel Build Project Update meeting	10 th January 2025
IFCA Chief Officers Group meeting	15 th January 2025
DEFRA Byelaw meeting	15 th January 2025
UKSF (Seafood funding) feedback meeting	15 th December 2025
IFCA/MMO Strategic Operations Group meeting	22 nd January 2025
NEIFCA budget monitoring meeting	27 th January 2025

NEIFCA Annual Staffing Appraisals
2025

27th January – 3rd February

Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership Executive	28 th January 2025
Crab & Lobster FMP implementation meeting	30 th January 2025
UXO Marine Ltd	4 th February 2025
MMO/IFCA Greater Wash SPA meeting	4 th February 2025
DEFRA FISP project 'ELSI' close out meeting	6 th February 2025
ABP survey on static gear footprint meeting	10 th February 2025
CEFAS scallop stock assessment meeting	11 th February 2025
GYKF steering group meeting	11 th February 2025
New Vessel Build Project Update meeting	11 th February 2025
IFCA Chief Officers Group meeting	12 th February 2025
King Scallop FMP meeting	12 th February 2025
MEDIN meeting with Eastern IFCA	13 th February 2025
Guest lecture on inshore fisheries at University of Salford	14 th February 2025
IFCA Vessels Management & Operations Group	15 th February 2025
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust catch up meeting	19 th February 2025
DEFRA/CEFAS/AIFCA Coastal Health Symposium	24 th February 2025
DEFRA lobster MCRS increase meeting	27 th February 2025
Crab and Lobster Management Group meeting	4 th March 2025
New Vessel Build Project Update meeting	5 th March 2025
IFCA Chief Officers Group meeting	11 th March 2025
Scientific Advisory Group meeting	11 th March 2025
North East Environment & PMCC Incident (Vessel Collision)	12 th March 2025
North East Environment Group (Vessel Collision)	13 th March 2025
North East Environment & PMCC Incident (Vessel Collision)	14 th March 2025
AIFCA Parliamentary Reception	17 th March 2025

SAGB open welfare meeting	17 th March 2025
North East Environment Group (Vessel Collision)	17 th March 2025
North East Environment Group & PMCC (Vessel Collision)	18 th March 2025
Science and FMPs	18 th March 2025
MSC FIP	19 th March 2025
IFCA Technical Advisory Group	20 th March 2025
CEFAS Training	25 th March 2025
PMCC (Vessel Collision)	26 th March 2025
FMP Crab and Lobster Management meeting	31 st March 2025
Marine and Fisheries Chief Officers meeting	1 st April 2025
IFCA Chief Officers Group	9 th April 2025
Industry Group meeting – Bridlington	22 nd April 2025
IFCA CFRONT meeting	23 rd April 2025
Yorkshire Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Group	24 th April 2025
Industry Group meeting – Whitby	24 th April 2025
Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership	25 th April 2025
MMO Byelaw meeting	25 th April 2025
IFCA MMO Strategic Operations Group	28 th April 2025
Policy Playbook for Marine Incidents of Unknown Cause	29 th April 2025
MMO lobster “scrubbing” test meeting	30 th April 2025
Natural England “Coatham Rocks, Redcar” meeting	30 th April 2025
Natural England evidence & monitoring plan	1 st May 2025
IFCA Chief Officers Group Meeting	7 th May 2025
FishTek Scallop pot meeting	12 th May 2025
Marine and Fisheries Chief Officers meeting	13 th May 2025
IFCA and MMO Licensing Engagement meeting	14 th May 2025
Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership Executive Board	21 st May 2025

Naos GPS tag meeting	21 st May 2025
MMO shellfish permit byelaw meeting	23 rd May 2025
FMP Crab and Lobster Management Group	29 th May 2025

2.0 **NEIFCA Operational Reports**

2.1 **Land-based Work streams**

As weather conditions began to improve through spring, fishing vessels worked longer, capitalising on the calm weather days.

The shore enforcement team maintained an intensive schedule of patrols and inspections on land & Sea in the NEIFCA district. Throughout the reporting period officers work hard to counteract the unregulated removal of shellfish and molluscs from inter tidal zones, particularly at Redcar. Strategies ranged from active engagement, monitoring and enforcement action when appropriate. These strategies were supported by active joint working with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority to identify and individuals or groups that have potentially been forced to collect shellfish.

A small contingent of vessels in the ports of Hartlepool and Redcar targeted fish species, mainly using nets throughout summer months to catch monk fish, turbot and soles,

Nomadic scallop dredging activity remained at low levels throughout the period, outside the NEIFCA district and mainly off the coast of Scarborough to Flamborough Head. Most of these vessels landed into the ports of Scarborough, Whitby, Hartlepool. Throughout the period Officers maintained active engagement with these vessels making operators aware of the associated legislation while transiting through the NEIFCA District

Towards the end of the reporting period Officers maintained active patrolling along the Holderness coast from Fraisthorpe down to Tunstall where 5 intertidal fixed nets are permitted by NEIFCA. Sea bass have been prominent in catches during the early part of the netting season and officers have been working closely with the permitted nets men to gather biological data from the fishery.

Whilst out on patrol officers engaged frequently with recreational anglers throughout the district and also attended the Redcar & Cleveland Sea anglers angling match at the start of the reporting period. As part of that engagement officers distributed useful educational leaflets notifying anglers of any species or bag limits that maybe subject to legislation within NEIFCA District. This engagement was received very positively.

Shore Officers continue to maintain full and active engagement with the joint Intelligence gathering programme coordinated by the MMO, reporting in any information and prioritising work around key targets. Intelligence gathering and reporting has led to a number of successful operations targeting illegal fishing within NEIFCA's district. Since the beginning of the year over 80 intelligence reports have been submitted through this programme.

Outreach and Joint Working

Enforcement Officers work alongside a number of organisations and agencies on a regular basis and it is important that links with these groups are maintained. During the reporting period NEIFCA Officers conducted joint patrols with the following organisations:

- The Marine Management Organisation,
- Humberside Marine Police
- The Environment Agency
- Tees Harbour Police
- Northumbria Marine Police
- Gang Master & Labour Abuse Authority
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science CEFAS
- MCA
- Border Force / Immigration
- Food Crime
- Cleveland Police

Enforcement and Compliance Outputs

During the reporting period, 7 verbal warnings were issued and 10 offences reported to the Chief Officer for further review and consideration. The following inspections have been undertaken by the shore team covering the following fishing activities:

- Potting
- Recreational Angling
- Scallop Dredging
- Netting
- Limited Shellfish Permits
- Unattended inspections
- Trawlers
- Premises Inspections

2.2 Environmental/Science Work streams

2.2.1 Consents and Licensing

The NEIFCA district is of great interest to many commercial parties and operators. The list of activities includes, but is not limited to, offshore renewables (wind and tidal), gas cavern development, harbour works, maintenance and capital dredge activities, pipeline and cable corridors/landfall and mine discharge. As a relevant authority, NEIFCA is consulted on all developments within and abounding the district, including the issuing of marine consents or licenses relating to any form of discharge or abstraction.

Applications relating to marine developments can be numerous and each one is considered both independently and cumulatively with any other neighbouring activities. Authority Officers also often play an active role in working groups established for the monitoring and surveillance of developments. The following applications were reviewed between December 2024 and June 2025.

Title	Date reviewed
Disposal of dredge material, Tyne, maintenance dredging	27/01/2025
MDM TGN cable decommissioning	27/01/2025
Newburn Riverside Ecological Enhancement	05/02/2025
Stallingborough New Cut Drain	20/03/2025
Atwick Beach	02/04/2025
Wild Oyster Project - Whitburn	02/04/2025
Drypool Bridge repair River Hull	09/04/2025
Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station Maintenance	09/04/2025
Sofia offshore Windfarm	09/04/2025
Tees Conservancy Facility Relocation	09/05/2025
Billingham Beck Bag Work Repair	09/05/2025
Drypool Bridge Proposed De silting and lower level scaffold	12/05/2025
A63 Castle Street Hull, Humber dock West Wall	15/05/2025
North Bay 2025 Improvement Works, Scarborough	21/05/2025

2.2.2 Stock Monitoring Reports

Comprehensive stock monitoring reports for lobster, crabs and Scallops was completed and presented to members of the Scientific Advisory Group on the 11th of March 2025. All three reports have been summarised and will be publicly available on the NEIFCA website.

2.2.3 Survey Programme Update

Between December 2024 and June 2025, biometric data for 2073 lobsters, 636 edible crabs and 3264 King Scallops were collected across 20 observer trips.

Between December 2024 and June 2025, 30 quayside visits were completed in three major ports of the district (Bridlington, Scarborough and Whitby). Biometric data for 3155 lobster and 716 edible crabs were collected across these three ports.

2.2.4 Outreach

Environmental and Scientific Officers delivered presentation on the local marine ecology and fisheries and NEIFCA's role at the following events:

- Guest lecture at Salford University
- Whitby Fish & Ships Festival

3.0 **National Meetings Update**

3.1 *National IFCA Chief Officers Group*

At present the Chief Officer's group meets monthly and is made up of the most senior IFC Officers in the U.K. Group membership also includes Officers from Fisheries Departments located in the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey.

The group provides an extremely valuable mechanism for the discussion and exchange of information relating to operational and legislative matters affecting 'day to day' activities within IFCA's and NEIFCA currently provides the Secretariat to the group.

Since the last meeting of the Authority NEIFCA was represented at seven meetings held on 10 December, 15 January, 12 February, 11 March, 9 April and the 7 May 2025.

3.2 *National Association of IFCA's Forum & Directors Meetings*

The national Association of IFCA's was formally established on 17 March 2011 following resolution and adoption of draft Articles by majority vote. NEIFCA's interests within the group are represented by the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Officer.

The national Association is structured as a Company by Limited Guarantee with listed Directors and members and its Articles reflect that structure and governance. This enables the Association to employ its own staff (currently Chief Executive, a full-time support Officer and a fixed term project officer) and conduct its business within a properly structured legal framework. One Director is appointed by each of the member IFCA's currently the Chief Officer and the wider membership of the Association or forum comprises of three representatives from each member IFCA, currently the Chairman and Chief Officer. The board of Directors meet after the forum to consider business and actions resulting from it. The Chief Executive is a Director of the Association as are the elected Chairman and Vice Chairman of the wider members Forum.

Since the last meeting of the Authority NEIFCA was represented at one forum meeting and one Directors meeting held on 3 December 2024 and 3 June 2025 respectively.

Contact Officer: David McCandless
Chief Officer
Tel: 07771936501

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
26 June 2025

Fisheries Statutes and Regulations Prosecutions

Report of the Clerk of the Authority.

A. Purpose of Report

To provide information on prosecutions taken by the Authority during the period 1 December 2024 to 31 May 2025.

B. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 Information on prosecutions and sanctions taken on behalf of the Authority are submitted to each meeting of member's information.
- 1.2 Attached is a schedule of prosecutions and sanctions covering the period since 1 December 2024.
- 1.3 As an alternative to a prosecution, the Authority can also offer a Financial Administrative Penalty or FAP. The 2011 'Sea Fishing (Penalty Notices) England Order provides the mechanism for the Authority to issue fixed penalties for a range of infringements including breaches of byelaw regulations and national legislation relating to minimum landing sizes. Each offence is categorised to a fixed penalty which can be issued to the skipper and or owner of the respective vessel. The level of penalty issued must exceed the value of the respective catch.

Contact Officer

David McCandless
Chief Officer
Tel: 07771936501

Name(s)	Offence	Sanction	Court	Date	Fined	Costs Awarded	Costs Requested
Mr P Ford	Skipper Scarborough – 21 blocked escape gaps in lobster & crab pots	PROS	Scarborough	28 February 2025	£1394	£1650	£1650
Mr A Earl	Person South Gare – Obstruction of a NEIFCA officer	PROS	Teesside	11 March 2025	£660	£965	£965
Mr M Huang	Person Redcar – taking undersize shellfish	PROS	Teesside	11 March 2025	£215	£350	£465
Mr M Lin	Person Redcar – taking undersize shellfish	PROS	Teesside	11 March 2025	£660	£410	£465
Mr J Harrison	Skipper Bridlington – taking 1 mutilated & 1 v notched lobster	HOC	N/A	20 March 2025	N/A	N/A	N/A

HOC – Home Office Caution

FAP – Financial Administrative Penalty

PROS – Formal Prosecution in Court

OCD – Conditional Discharge

Costs Requested – This is the amount that the solicitor requests the defendant to pay. This is equal to reasonable costs and does not usually include administrative time etc - so does not represent the full cost to NEIFCA. The solicitor asks for a reasonable amount to stand any chance of getting costs back.

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
26 June 2025

NEIFCA Byelaws Update

Report by the Chief Officer

A. Purpose of Report

1. To update 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

XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022

2. To update Members on progress with the following byelaw which was made at the meeting of the Authority held on 6 June 2024:

XXXIII Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024

B. Recommendation

1. That members receive the update and note the report.

1. Background

1.1 *XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022*

- 1.1.1 At the Authority meeting held on 1 December 2022 members supported the making of a new byelaw XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 (Minute Item 32 refers).

The key aims of the new byelaw are to establish a new flexible management framework which will more effectively cover the exploitation of listed shellfish species throughout the NEIFCA district, both offshore and onshore. The new proposed byelaw will also consolidate existing byelaw regulations and introduce an effort management system for commercial potting within the district. The provisions contained within the byelaw will be applied via conditions attached to the permit which can be varied following an appropriate review process, without the need to formally remake the whole byelaw. Two permitting schemes will be established, Category 1 for licensed commercial vessels and Category 2 for recreational operators. It is proposed that during year one a maximum of 234 Category 1 permits will be offered and permit holders restricted to working a maximum of 1000 pots. A permit charge would also be levied for Category 1 permits linked to the number of pots worked. The number of Category 2 permits offered will remain unrestricted but a new £10 charge would be levied, and the number of pots permitted reduced from 10 to 5 per permit holder with daily bag limits remaining unchanged.

- 1.1.2 Since the making of the byelaw on 1 December 2022 it has been subject to further internal quality assurance checks, informal consultation with fishing groups and wider formal statutory consultation which completed on 27 October 2023.
- 1.1.3 During this process the following adjustments were made to the draft byelaw regulation:
- Prior to the commencement of formal consultation the scope of the byelaw was widened to include, European green crab, mussel, common periwinkle, pullet carpet shell, Norway Lobster, razor clam and scallop. This was felt prudent and necessary to improve the active management of intertidal shore gathering by large ethnic groups which has become an increasing issue in some areas of the NEIFCA district.
 - Prior to formal consultation additional provisions were also added to allow for the varying of fees and charges and the implementation of management by 'pot type' alongside a further provision clarifying that, in terms of Category 1 applications, first priority would be given to those vessels who held a permit on 1 December 2022.
 - The supporting Regulatory Impact Assessments were also updated to include some additional information from the 2023 shellfish landings report and intertidal shore gathering.
- 1.1.4 Following the completion of the formal statutory consultation process on 27 October 2023 the outcome was presented to members, alongside the proposed next steps, at the Authority meeting held on 8 December 2023 (Minute 75 refers). The outcome was published on the NEIFCA website on 11 January 2024 and stakeholders notified via email.
- 1.1.5 In line with the statutory process the draft byelaw regulation and supporting documentation was sent to the Marine Management Organisation for a Quality Assurance assessment on 11 January 2024 with a recommendation that it be further considered for formal confirmation by Defra. The first phase of the MMO QA process was received back from the MMO for comment on 11 April 2024.
- 1.1.6 Following a detailed review of the recommendations from the first phase of the MMO QA assessment the draft byelaw and supporting Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) were revised, updated and returned to the MMO for phase 2 assessment on 12 July 2024. Whilst all of the primary intentions of the draft byelaw have been retained, key changes relate to the structuring of the byelaw, further additions to the definition and permitting sections to improve clarity for stakeholders and the removal of the longstanding deeming clause.
- 1.1.7 The MMO returned the QA phase 2 response on 12 September 2024 and following a review the RIA and draft byelaw documents were revised updated and returned to the MMO for phase 3 assessment on 24 September 2024.
- 1.1.8 The MMO returned the QA phase 3 response on 6 December 2024 and following a review the RIA and draft byelaw documents were revised, updated and returned to the MMO for phase 4 assessment on 19 December 2024.
- 1.1.9 The MMO returned the QA phase 4 response on 24 February 2025 and following a review the RIA and draft byelaw documents were revised, updated and returned to the MMO for phase 5 assessment on 14 March 2025.
- 1.1.10 The MMO returned the QA phase 5 response on 19 May 2025 which is currently under review. We understand that QA phase 6 will mark the conclusion of the quality assurance process and once complete, the draft byelaw and supporting RIA will then pass to Defra for final assessment and confirmation.

1.2 ***XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022***

- 1.2.1 At the Authority meeting held on 1 December 2022 members supported the making of a new byelaw XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022 (Minute Item 31 refers).
- 1.2.2 Whilst retaining all existing management measures in relation to fishing activities within the boundaries of the Humber Estuary the new byelaw included a revision to the boundaries of an existing protected area to support the expansion of eel grass habitat.
- 1.2.3 Following completion of the statutory consultation process on 27 October 2023 the outcome was presented to members, alongside the proposed next steps, at the Authority meeting held on 8 December 2023 (Minute 75 refers). The outcome was published on the NEIFCA website on 11 January 2024 and stakeholders notified via email.
- 1.2.4 In line with the statutory process the draft byelaw regulation and supporting documentation was also sent to the Marine Management Organisation for a Quality Assurance assessment on 11 January 2024 with a recommendation that it be further considered for formal confirmation by Defra. The first phase of the MMO QA process was received back from the MMO for comment on 3 April 2024.
- 1.2.5 Following a detailed review of the recommendations from the first phase of the MMO QA assessment the draft byelaw and supporting Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) were revised, updated and returned to the MMO for phase 2 assessment on 12 July 2024. In line with the Shellfish Permit byelaw all the primary intentions of the draft Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw have been retained and key changes relate to grammar, detail and clarity for stakeholders.
- 1.2.5 The QA phase 2 assessment was received back from the MMO on 12 September 2024 and following a review both the RIA and draft byelaw documents were revised, updated and returned to the MMO on 24 September 2024 for QA phase 3 assessment. The QA phase 3 assessment was received back from the MMO on 30 October 2024 and following a further review both the RIA and draft byelaw documents were revised, updated and returned to the MMO on 15 November 2024 for QA phase 4 assessment.
- 1.2.6 The QA phase 3 assessment was received back from the MMO on 27 January 2025 with some minor, final recommendations prior to submission to Defra for formal confirmation.
- 1.2.7 The QA phase 4 assessment process was completed and final versions of both the Byelaw and supporting RIA were agreed with the MMO on 25 February 2025 which were then submitted to Defra for final review and confirmation.

1.3 **XXXIII Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024**

- 1.3.1 At the Authority meeting held on 6 June 2024 members supported the making of a new byelaw XXXIII Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024 (Minute 12 refers).
- 1.3.2 The key aims of the new byelaw are to replace the current emergency regulation with flexible management framework that will support the effective management of the king scallop stock from targeted beam trawling activity alongside any associated impacts on the wider environment in the medium to longer term.
- 1.3.3 Following the making of the byelaw on 6 June 2024 formal consultation commenced on 11 July 2024 and terminated on 23 August 2024. Alongside the formal consultative process officers submitted a written request to Defra for a six-month extension to the current emergency byelaw regulation until 17 January 2025 to enable the process of making and confirming the new replacement byelaw regulation to be completed before expiry. This was consented on 17 July 2024.

- 1.3.4 During the formal consultation process officers received two written responses from hobby vessel operators objecting to the proposed requirement to hold and pay a fee for an additional permit to use a small beam trawl. Following consideration of the two objections and a review by the Executive Committee on 3 September 2024, an exemption was added to the byelaw to enable hobby operators to use a single beam trawl, not exceeding 2.5m in length, without the need to hold an additional permit.
- 1.3.5 The draft byelaw regulation and supporting RIA was submitted to the MMO for QA stage 1 review on 13 September 2024 and was received back on 30 October 2024. Following a review both the RIA and draft byelaw documents were revised, updated and returned to the MMO for QA stage 2 review on 15 November 2024.
- 1.3.6 The MMO QA review completed on 6 January 2025 and the byelaw was formally confirmed by Defra on 11 March 2025. Since confirmation I can confirm that the provisions of the byelaw have now been implemented and the new beam trawling permit scheme established with five permits issued for 2025.

1.4 **Summary Update**

1.4.1 **XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022**

Made on 1 December 2022. Currently in MMO Quality Assurance stage 5 as of 19 May 2025. Projected to be confirmed September 2025.

1.4.2 ***XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022***

Made on 1 December 2022. Currently with Defra awaiting formal confirmation by the Minister as of 28 February 2025.

1.4.3 **XXXIII Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024**

Made on 6 June 2024 and formally confirmed by Defra on 11 March 2025.

Contact Officer

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