

# **NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**18 September 2020**

## **Video Conference 'Teams' 09:30 am**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests – Members to declare any interests in items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests

### **Annual Meeting Business**

3. Membership of the Authority
- 4a. Extract from Standing Orders:-

*“Order of Business*

*The Authority shall, at its June meeting in every year, elect two of its number to be respectively Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority for the ensuing year. The previous Chair and Vice-Chair shall always be eligible for re-election up to a maximum of 10 consecutive years.*

*Should the Chair not be a representative of one of the constituent councils, the Vice-Chair shall be elected from the council representatives, unless they so decline.*

- 4b. To elect a Chair for the ensuing year  
Last year: Councillor Chris Matthews
- 4c. To elect a Vice-Chair for the ensuing year  
Last year: Dr Stephen Axford
5. To appoint an Executive Committee for the ensuing year (8 Members with Chair and Vice-Chair as ex officio members and with equal representation between Local Authority and MMO appointees)  
  
Last year: Chair, Vice-Chair  
Councillors, Bell, Randerson, Allcock  
Professor Mike Elliott, Mr Proctor, Mr Redshaw. Mrs Kirsten Carter
6. To confirm membership of Standards Committee  
Last year: Councillors Bell, Randerson and the Clerk
7. To confirm membership of Science Advisory Group (6 MMO appointees including at least 1 fishing industry representative)  
Last year: Chair, Vice Chair of the Authority

Mrs Kirsten Carter, Mr John Whitton, Mr Robert Houghton, Professor Mike Elliott, Mr Michael Montgomerie, Mr Nigel Proctor and representatives from the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency be appointed for the ensuing year.

8. To appoint representatives:

(a) To serve on and report quarterly on:-

(i) Flamborough Harbour Commissioners (2 representatives)

Last year: Cllr Chris Matthews  
Mr R Houghton

(ii) Staithes Harbour Board (4 representatives)

Current Members: Councillor D Chance  
Steven Mallinson SIFCO  
Jon Whitton  
Mr Richard Pennall

(b) To attend meetings of:-

(i) Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Forum

Last year: Chairman (Vice Chairman substitute)  
Clerk or Treasurer  
Chief Officer

(ii) Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Directors  
Chief Officer

**Meeting Business**

9a. To consider the Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 5 December 2019 (*pages 4 to 8*)

9b. To consider the Minutes of the special Authority meeting held on 17 August 2020 (*pages 9 to 11*)

10. To consider the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 16 April 2020 (*pages 12 to 17*)

**Items for decision**

11. NEIFCA Financial Outturn 2019/2020 (*pages 18 to 24*)

12. Management of scallop dredging 2020/2021 (*pages 25 to 70*)

13. Management of permitted intertidal sea bass fishery 2020/2021 (*pages 71 to 72*)

14. NEIFCA Draft Annual Report 2019/2020 (*page 73*)

### **Items for discussion**

15. Science Advisory Group Update (*pages 74 to 75*)
16. Chief Officer's Operational report (*pages 76 to 93*)
17. Fisheries Statutes and Regulations – Prosecutions (*pages 94 to 95*)
18. NEIFCA Revenue Budget 2020/2021 (*pages 96 to 98*)

### **Items for information**

19. Reports from partner Agencies and bodies
  - 19(a) Marine Management Organisation
  - 19(b) Environment Agency
  - 19(c) Natural England
20. Any other items, which the Chairman decides, are urgent by reason of special circumstances which must be specified.

### **Exempt Items**

The public are likely to be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

21. Staffing & Organisation Review – *Verbal update – Clerk*

# **NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **AUTHORITY MEETING 05 DECEMBER 2019**

### **Present:**

Councillor Ron Allcock  
Dr Stephen Axford  
Councillor Edward Bell  
Mrs Kirsten Carter  
Councillor David Chance  
Prof Mike Elliott  
Mr Andrew Faichney  
Councillor Stephen Harness  
Mr Bob Houghton  
Councillor Chris Matthews (Chair)  
Christian Proud  
Mr Nigel Proctor  
Councillor Tony Randerson  
Mr Gary Redshaw  
Councillor Paul Stewart  
Mr Andrew Wheeler  
Mr Jon Whitton

### **Representing:**

North Lincolnshire Council  
MMO appointee  
Durham County Council  
MMO appointee  
North Yorkshire County Council  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee  
North East Lincolnshire Council  
MMO appointee  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
MMO Representative  
MMO appointee  
North Yorkshire County Council  
MMO appointee  
Sunderland City Council  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee

Mrs Caroline Lacey, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer and Mr Stephen Chandler, Treasurer also attended the meeting.

The Committee met at the Double Tree by Hilton Monkbar Hotel, York. The meeting started at 10:00am.

## **20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence were received from MMO member Montgomerie and Wood, EA representative Slater and Natural England Representative Brown. The Chair also welcomed new member Councillor Paul Stewart, Sunderland City Council, onto the Authority.

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

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

## **22. MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2019**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 14 June 2019 be

approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

23.

### **LEVY 2020/21**

The Treasurer presented a report to determine the levy on member local authorities for 2020/21 and to highlight issues relating to the setting of the levy for 2021/22 and 2022/23. At its meeting on 6 December 2016, the Authority endorsed the commencement of a staffing and organisational review, additional budget provision is required to set a funding envelope to allow for the successful completion of the staffing and organisational review, the Treasurer also reported that the staffing and organisational review is likely to require an overall increase of 15% over the next three years and therefore indicative increases in the levy of a minimum of 5% in 2021/22 and 2022/23 are proposed. Other financial pressures include the replacement of the patrol vessel, which remains a key risk for the Authority, included within the levy proposals was a contribution to the renewals reserve of £102,900, which would bring the total of the Renewals reserve to £1,180,989.

Members commented that the 5% increase seemed high in percentage terms, but others noted that when the actual figures were considered, the amounts were quite low in financial terms. Members expressed concern that lessons needed to be learned and upon reflection, the freeze on the levy during past years had contributed to shortfalls in the salaries budget. Members also requested a medium term financial plan be presented to the June meeting for further consideration.

**Resolved** – (i) That the levy for 2020/21 be set at £1,285,536 (an increase of 5% (£61,216) above the 2019/20 rate) and the Clerk be authorised to issue demands on the relevant local authorities as presented at Appendix A.

(ii) That the Authority acknowledges the issues affecting NEIFCA and their effect upon the levy for 2021/22 and 2022/23, which is anticipated to be a minimum of a 5% increase each year.

(iii) That a detailed budget for 2020/21 be brought to the Authority for approval at the Executive meeting in March 2020, and a medium term financial plan for the next four years be brought to the Executive Committee in March 2020 and to the full Authority meeting in June 2020.

(iv) That members' delegate authority to the Executive Committee to determine and implement the outcome of the staffing and organisational review, within the levy envelope.

24.

### **MARINE & COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 (SECTION 155) – MAKING OF BYELAW XXXII FISH, MOLLUSC AND CRUSTACEA MINIMUM SIZE BYELAW**

The Chief Officer presented a report to inform Members of the intention to make the following byelaw regulation in accordance with the duty imposed by section 153 and the provisions contained within sections 155, 156, 158 and 160 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009: XXXII Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea Minimum Size Byelaw 2019. The new byelaw replaces and replicates the provisions contained within the Authority's current emergency byelaw which was made on 13 August 2019.

- Resolved** – (a) That the Authority approves the making of the byelaw.  
(b) That the Authority instructs the Clerk to give requisite notice by advertisement of the intention to apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation of the said byelaw.

25.

#### **SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP**

The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on considerations and recommendations emanating from the most recent meetings of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) held on 6 September 2019. The Chair of the Science Advisory Group, Dr Stephen Axford gave a verbal update at the meeting on the preliminary results of the 2018 lobster and edible crab monitoring programme and the status of fish stocks found within the District which the group considered at its March and September meetings.

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

26.

#### **CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL REPORT**

The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational summary covering the period June to November 2019. Members were informed that widespread breaches of legislation protecting egg bearing lobsters continued to present officers with significant issues. Since April 2019 18 offences have been reported throughout the district and 2 verbal warnings, 16 warning letters, 5 formal cautions and 3 fixed penalty notices had been issued for breaches of the legislation. In addition to these administrative sanctions six cases had been successfully prosecuted in Court although the fines imposed have been relatively low. Outside the lobster fishery, officers continued to focus on the monitoring of nomadic scallop dredging activity. Members were also informed that the 2019/2020 scallop fishery opened on the 1 November 2019 and a comprehensive programme had been implemented for the 3 permitted vessels.

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

27.

#### **BUDGET MONITORING 2019/2020**

The Treasurer presented a report to advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 07 (October) in 2019/20. 2.2 Members were informed that at the end of October 2019, the Authority has net expenditure of £633,373 against an expected £645,665, underspending by £12,293. The projected outturn indicated a balanced budget. The main area of underspend to date was employee expenses. The report also highlighted that the external projects reserve stood at £91,344, which would have enabled the Authority to progress with the regulatory impact of the AIS project, subject to DEFRA approving the byelaw. The Fisheries Minister had since advised in writing that the underpinning NEIFCA AIS byelaw was to be rejected and it was proposed that the funds should be transferred into the Renewals Fund to go towards the replacement of the patrol vessel.

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

b) The balance on the External Projects Reserve is transferred to the Renewals Fund.

**28. FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS – PROSECUTIONS**

The Clerk submitted a report on the fisheries enforcement activities taken by the Authority since June 2019. Members requested that a report detailing the process for the issuing of Home Office Cautions and Financial Administrative penalties is included in the June Authority meeting for member's information.

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

b) A report be presented to members, detailing the process for the issuing of Home Office Cautions and Financial Administrative penalties at the June Authority meeting for information.

**29. NEIFCA ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019**

The Chief officer presented a report to provide members with a copy of the Annual Report covering the period, 2018/2019, summarising the Authority's outputs and activities during the year. The Chair requested that members are provided with an update at the March Executive meeting on the redesign of the Authority's website.

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

b) Members are updated at the March Executive meeting on progress relating to a redesign of the Authority's website.

**30. NEIFCA BYELAWS UPDATE**

The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on all current fisheries byelaw work streams, which included an update on the following 5 byelaw provisions:

- Byelaw XXVIII Crustacea Conservation Byelaw 2018
- Byelaw XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2016
- Byelaw XVIII Method and Area of Fishing (Fixed Netting) Byelaw 2016
- Byelaw XXX Automatic Identification System Byelaw 2016
- Byelaw XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016

Members were informed that Byelaw XXVIII Crustacea Conservation Byelaw 2018 was confirmed by Defra on 8 August 2019, Byelaw XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2016 was confirmed on 15 August 2019 and Byelaw XVIII Method and Area of Fishing (Fixed Netting) Byelaw 2016 was confirmed on 29 October 2019.

Members were also informed that on 29 October 2019 the Minister wrote to advise that, following consideration, he had taken the decision to reject Byelaw XXX Automatic Identification System Byelaw 2016, on the grounds of duplication with the national inshore vessel monitoring system. The Chief Officer was seeking clarification on some apparent inaccuracies detailed within the letter. Byelaw XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016 is still waiting to be confirmed.

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

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

The Marine Management Organisation and Environment Agency briefing papers had been circulated prior to the meeting, papers from Natural England were unavailable at the time of printing. Christian Proud, MMO representative provided a verbal update at the meeting. Members questioned the renewal process for MMO appointed members as their term of service was due to expire in the new year. The Clerk agreed to write a letter to the MMO requesting an update and for the renewal process to be outlined.

**32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Nothing to report.**

**The meeting closed at 11:45am.**



# **NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **AUTHORITY MEETING**

**17 AUGUST 2020**

### **Present:**

Councillor Ron Allcock  
Dr Stephen Axford  
Councillor Edward Bell  
Mr Graham Collins  
Prof Mike Elliott  
Councillor Ernest Gibson  
Miss Rebecca Lynam  
Councillor Stephen Harness  
Councillor Chris Matthews (Chair)  
Mrs Donna Marie Mear  
Mr Tom Pagett  
Councillor Tony Randerson  
Mr Gary Redshaw  
Mr Jon Whitton

### **Representing:**

North Lincolnshire Council  
MMO appointee  
Durham County Council  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee  
South Tyneside Borough Council  
MMO appointee  
North East Lincolnshire Council  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
MMO appointee  
EA Representative  
North Yorkshire County Council  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee

Chief Officer Mr David McCandless and Treasurer Stephen Chandler also attended the meeting.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via video teleconference. The meeting started at 10:00.

**19.**

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Clerk, Caroline Lacey, and MMO members Carter and Houghton.

**20.**

### **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.

**21.**

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 22) 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 22).

**22. NEIFCA VESSEL REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE –  
PROCUREMENT OF A NEW 9.5M CABIN RIGID INFLATABLE BOAT  
(RIB)**

The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on progress with the Authority's vessel replacement programme, to seek authorisation to award a contract for the build and commission of a new 9.5m Cabin Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) based on the associated evaluation of tenders following the completion of a formal procurement process, and to seek authorisation to sell the Authority's 4.7m RIB.

A full background on progress to date was included in the report for members' information, which included an update on the replacement of the Authority's main patrol vessel, North Eastern Guardian III. Members were informed that outside Local Authority financing support, officers had invested significant time in highlighting the project across the private sector and seeking additional financial backing. Alongside that the Clerk and Chief Officer have written jointly to the Fisheries Minister requesting a meeting to discuss financing the project. The Chief Officer has also written to the 23 Members of Parliament representing constituencies across the member Local Authority areas seeking support for the project and requesting that they also lobby the Fisheries Minister on behalf of NEIFCA. Copies of some very positive and supportive responses had since been received back.

The Chief Officer provided a summary of the tender process in relation to the procurement of a 9.5m Cabin RIB, an Invitation to Economic Operators (ITEO) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on 5 June 2020 with a deadline for receipt of tenders of 7 July 2020, out of 20 expressions of interest 3 tenders were received all from UK manufacturers. A technical assessment panel, Chaired by the Chief Officer, was convened on 14 July 2020 to assess and score the three tenders received. The outcome of the assessment panel was summarised in the report, of the 3 tenders received, Northern Power Marine Ltd ranked the highest. Members were informed that this component of vessel replacement programme would be wholly funded from the Authority's reserves with no requirement for additional funding support from the member Local Authorities, it was therefore recommended that members authorise the Clerk to give formal notification of the outcome of the procurement process for the build and commission of a new 9.5m Cabin RIB and subject to receipt and consideration of any appeals, award the contract to Northern Marine Power Ltd. It was indicated within the tender that the 9.5m RIB would be completed by Feb 2021. Members questioned the berthing of the new RIB and were reassured that any additional berthing costs would be covered by the current operational budget.

The Chief Officer also requested authorisation to sell the current 4.7m RIB, which was purchased on the 26 July 2013. It was anticipated that the 4.7m RIB would be marketed at a price of £15K and the proceeds could be utilised to supplement the build costs associated with the new 9.5m Cabin RIB.

**Resolved** – (a) That in accordance with the decisions taken by the Authority on 10 September 2015 (minute item 6 refers) and the Executive Committee on 16 April 2020 (minute item 9 refers) members authorise the Clerk to give formal notification of the outcome of the procurement process for the build and commission of a new 9.5m Cabin RIB and subject to receipt and consideration of any appeals, award the contract to Northern Marine Power Ltd.

(b) That members authorise the Chief Officer to sell the Authority's 4.7m RIB.

**23.**

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 10:40am

# **NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**16 APRIL 2020**

### **Present**

Councillor Ron Allcock  
Dr Stephen Axford  
Councillor Edward Bell  
Kirsten Carter  
Prof Mike Elliott  
Councillor Chris Matthews  
Mr Gary Redshaw

### **Representing**

North Lincolnshire Council  
MMO appointee  
Durham County Council  
MMO appointee  
MMO appointee  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
MMO appointee

Chief Officer Mr David McCandless, Clerk Caroline Lacey, East Riding of Yorkshire and Stephen Chandler East Riding of Yorkshire Council also attended the meeting.

Due to the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting took place via a telephone conference dial in, the meeting commenced at 15:00.

## **5. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Council Member Randerson.

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

**Resolved** – The Clerk 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.

## **7. TO TAKE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 05 FEBRUARY 2020 AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 05 February 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **8. NEIFCA ANNUAL PLAN 2020/2021**

The Clerk and Chief Officer submitted a report detailing the draft Annual Plan for 2020/2021 and to authorise the drafting of an accompanying annual report, summarising Authority's main activities and outputs during the 2019/2020 year. At the point of finalising the plan in March the Covid-19 pandemic had started to seriously impact the UK leading to the implementation of significant restrictions on businesses, infrastructure

and movement. In response NEIFCA had had to modify its operations significantly in line with government guidelines.

**Resolved** – (a) That members endorse the plan for 2020/2021 for submission to Defra.  
(b) That members authorise the drafting of an annual report, summarising the Authority's main activities and outputs during the 2019/2020 year for submission to the June 2020 meeting of the Authority.

**9.**

**NEIFCA REPLACEMENT PATROL VESSEL**

The Chief Officer submitted a report to update members on progress with the project to replace the Authority's main patrol vessel. A full detailed background was included in the report for member's information. In order to move the project forward, officers were seeking endorsement, in line with the decisions taken by the full Authority on 10 September 2015, to progress a formal tender process in relation to the 9.5m Cabin RIB component of the project. Following the receipt and evaluation of tenders and further consultation with Authority members, it would be the intention to agree a contract with the preferred bidder to progress the build and commission of the RIB. The projected costs of building and commissioning the 9.5m cabin RIB were expected to range from £360 to £390K. Funding would be drawn from the vessel renewal fund with the potential to be supplemented from savings and funds drawn from the general reserve. Strategically this would bring an extremely valuable vessel asset into operation in advance of the sale of NEG III and the build and commission of a new main vessel, providing enhanced capability for safe, fast intercept work, particularly at night and in response to a developing threat from nomadic vessel operators.

**Resolved** – (a) That members note the report.  
(b) That in accordance with the decision made by the Authority on 10 September 2015 members endorse the commencement of a formal tendering process to obtain a price for the build and commission of a cabin Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), one of the two 'daughter' crafts associated with the replacement project.  
(c) That subject to receipt and evaluation of tenders and further consultation with Authority members, a contract is let for the purchase of a new cabin RIB.  
(d) That a special meeting of the Executive Committee be convened to agree next steps surrounding the replacement of the main vessel.  
(e) That the Clerk and Chief Officer seek a dispensation from Government to borrow monies to support the financing of the replacement of the main vessel.

**10.**

**REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21**

The Treasurer provided members with a detailed budget for new 2020/21 financial year which had been produced in line with the draft 2019 Annual Plan, Strategic Risk Register and local priorities and in consultation with senior operational staff. Members had previously agreed a total levy of £1,285,536 at the Authority meeting held on 5 December 2019. The Authority's budget had been reviewed in detail by the Chief Officer and his senior management team, together with the Treasurer, to identify the level of expenditure necessary to meet operational priorities through to 31 March 2021. The draft budget incorporates the 5% levy increase approved at the Authority Meeting on 5 December 2019, to enable the successful completion of the staffing and organisational review. Approval was also sought to remove the £35,000 external projects supplementary budget, which was fully funded by external grants, following the completion of the scheme.

- Resolved** – a) That the draft budget for 2020/21 be approved  
b) That the level of general reserves is maintained at £228,449 (18%) of the annual levy  
c) That the £35,000 supplementary budget for external projects, fully funded by grants is removed from the 2020/21 budget following completion of the scheme.

**11.**

**BUDGET REPORT 2019/20**

The Treasurer of the Authority presented a report detailing the budget position at the end of month 11 (February) in 2019/20. At the end of February 2020, the Authority had a net expenditure of £988,553 against an expected £1,063,055, underspending by £74,502. The forecast outturn underspend was £76,945 mainly due to employee underspends due to vacancies (£50,315) which would allow for the planned transfer of £102,900 plus accrued interest into the Renewals Fund and £10,000 into the Vehicle Replacement Reserve. At the end of the financial year it was proposed that the outturn underspend on employees is transferred to the General Reserve to support any pressures from implementing the staffing and organisational review and any remaining underspend transferred to the Renewals Fund to contribute towards the replacement of the patrol vessel. Based on the current projection the proposed transfer to the General Reserve at the year-end would be £44,679 and the proposed transfer to the Renewals fund would be £32,266.

- Resolved** – (a) That the budget monitoring position is noted;  
(b) That a one year supplementary budget of £52,070 is approved for the Project Pincer-Next scheme in 2019/20 fully funded by European Maritime & Fisheries (EMFF) grant;  
(c) That the 2019/20 final outturn underspend on employees be transferred to the General Reserve and that any remaining underspend be transferred to the Renewals Fund

**12.**

**NEIFCA ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

The Clerk and Chief Officer submitted a report to update members on progress with the implementation of the NEIFCA organisational review. Since the last meeting of the Executive Committee held on 5 February 2020 November work had continued on progressing the implementation of the recommendations contained within the 2019 report. A formal meeting was held with NEIFCA staff at Whitby on 27 February 2020 and chaired by the Clerk. Following the meeting NEIFCA staff were sent copies of their job profiles for review and comment alongside further information on the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) job evaluation scheme to be utilised by Cornwall County Council (CCC) as part of the process. Whilst CCC had advised that the job evaluation work had been impacted to some degree by Covid-19 issues they were expecting it to be completed before the 16 April in time for the meeting. Unfortunately, given the intervening Easter break on top of the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, this had not been possible. The Chair requested that following receipt of the outputs from CCC a video conference meeting be arranged for Executive Committee members to discuss the findings.

- Resolved** – (a) That Members note the report.  
(b) That once the outputs from the Job Evaluation process, undertaken by Cornwall County Council, are received and reviewed, a further meeting of the Executive Committee be arranged to progress the implementation.

**13. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER REVIEWS**

In accordance with the Risk Management Strategy an annual review had been undertaken. The Clerk and Chief Officer presented the revised Strategy to Members for their consideration and approval. The Strategic and Operational Risk Registers had been reviewed to consider any potential changes which have occurred over the last six months and affected the key risks identified within the Registers. The next review of the Strategic Risk Register would normally be scheduled for September 2020 but given the uncertainties surrounding the impacts of the associated with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic they would remain under weekly review. The identified risks had also been ranked in order of significance (highest residual risk score). Considerations surrounding the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly relating to operational risk remained at the forefront alongside more strategic risks associated with staffing vacancies, funding for a replacement patrol vessel and implications surrounding the 2019 Organisational Review.

**Resolved** – That the revised Risk Management Strategy be adopted and the revised Strategic and Operational Risk Register be approved and reviewed in six months' time.

**14. NEIFCA HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY & SAFE WORKING PRACTICES 2020/2021**

The Chief Officer provided a report to inform members of the completion of the annual review of the Authority's Health & Safety provisions; a revised policy was included within the report. The Chief Officer reported that policy and provisions were reviewed continuously throughout the year at NEIFCA staffing and Senior Management Team meetings and the guidance documents represented the most current version at the time the report was written. Since the last review in November 2019 the Chief Officer advised that there had been no notable incidents or accidents to report whilst staff had been working. Over and above the standard operational risk assessments and associated safe working practices, NEIFCA officers had responded rapidly to the unprecedented impacts and risks associated with the worsening Covid-19 pandemic. In managing these impacts an overarching set of Covid-19 specific risk assessments had been developed alongside a set of supporting control measures. These were being strictly followed by all staff alongside the standard safe operational practices when working. These additional systems were dynamic, subject to daily review and would be amended to take account of any changes in risk and or governmental advice. Members requested assurance that sufficient plans were in place in terms of PPE and the availability of face masks and gloves for all officers.

**Resolved** – (a) Members noted the report.

**15. NEIFCA PERMITTED INTERTIDAL NETTING FISHERY 2019/20**

The Chief Officer provided a report to update members on the current situation surrounding the issuing of intertidal fixed netting permits to target sea bass and ongoing legislative conflict with European Fisheries provisions. A new Council Regulation, (EU)

2020/123, was published on 27 January 2020 which had maintained the longstanding prohibition governing the commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore and as a result no intertidal sea bass permits had been issued for the 2019/2020 season. The Chief officer advised that the situation would remain under review and a further report would be presented to the full Authority at its meeting in December 2020. The Authority's legal advice remained unchanged, that unless the current prohibition on commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore was removed from the legislative framework no permits should be issued.

**Resolved** – (a) That Members note the report.

(b) That given the continuation of the European ban on commercial sea bass fishing from the shore, no intertidal permits are issued.

(c) That the situation surrounding intertidal permits remains under review.

16.

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 17) 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 17).

17.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF IFCAS**

The Chief Officer presented a report to update Members on recent changes within the national Association of IFCAs and to take a decision on the status of the NEIFCA's continued membership. A background on the AIFCA format and creation was detailed in the report for members information.

Alongside the other IFCAs, with the exception of the Isles of Scilly, NEIFCA currently contributed £12K per annum from its annual budget to support the running of AIFCA. Issues and concerns surrounding the functioning of AIFCA and value for money began to surface in 2017 leading to the formal resignation of Devon and Severn IFCA.

In recognition of the developing internal concerns surrounding the functioning and effectiveness of AIFCA an independent review was instigated during 2018 which carried NEIFCA's full support. The report noted the extent of member dissatisfaction surrounding the Association and outlined a set of priority recommendations designed to improve its functioning and effectiveness. Whilst the implementation of the review was progressing further concerns came to light and having discussed the matter further with the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair, the Chief Officer formally resigned as a Director of AIFCA on 9 January 2020.

The Chief Officer advised members that the Chief Executive of AIFCA had tendered his resignation but concerns still remained.

Members were informed that officers were currently in receipt of invoices covering AIFCA subscriptions for the 2020/2021 year but these had not been processed pending the Executive Committee's decision.



Members discussed the Authority's continued membership of the National Association of IFCAs in detail, debating its effectiveness and questioning its actual value for money, and consensus was that during the current climate, in terms of Brexit and the need for a coherent national voice, it was agreed that the Authority should pay for the 2020/21 membership, with a full report to be taken to the December Authority meeting. Members also requested that the Chair of the AIFCA be made fully aware of the Authority's feelings and the content of the discussions which had taken place, and the uncertainty surrounding continued membership after 2020/21.

**Resolved** – (a) That Members note the report

(b) That NEIFCA pays its 2020/2021 subscription for one year, pending the recruitment of a new Chief Officer, with a formal review undertaken again in March 2021, confirmed in writing with the Chair of AIFCA.

(c) The Chief Officer notifies the Chair of the AIFCA expressing the Authority's concerns and uncertainty over continued membership after 2020/21, and concerns raised over value for money, with a full report to be taken to the December Authority meeting.

18.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair suggested that due to ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the June Authority meeting date should be postponed until September, with all options considered in terms of teleconferencing and video conferencing. A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on the original date of the June Authority meeting.

The meeting closed at 16:40

**NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Report to:** Authority Meeting  
18 September 2020

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**FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2019/20**

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Report of the Treasurer

**A. Purpose of Report**

To report the outturn position for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2020.

**B. Recommendation**

That Members approve the outturn position

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides the final income and expenditure account and balance sheet for the year ended 31 March 2020.
- 1.2 With effect from the financial year 2015/16 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. Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**

- 4.1 The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure 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 16 April 2020, it was reported that the projected outturn was a £76,945 underspend.
- 4.3 The total net expenditure for 2019/20 of £1,041,923 is shown in Appendix A. There is an outturn underspend of £69,497. It was agreed at the Executive meeting on 16 April 2020 that any underspend on employees be transferred to the General Reserve to support any pressures from the staffing and organisational review and the remaining underspend be transferred to the Renewals Fund to contribute towards the replacement of the patrol vessel.

### **5. Balance Sheet**

- 5.1 The Authority's Balance Sheet, attached as Appendix B, is a representation of its net worth. As expected, the Authority's main asset, North Eastern Guardian III, forms the majority of its worth. The vessel is being depreciated over its anticipated useful working life, leaving an estimated residual value of £539,440.
- 5.2 Usable Reserves of £1,356,465 have increased by £182,398 as a result of transfers to the General, Vehicle Replacement and Renewals Fund reserves.

### **6. Reserves**

- 6.1 The final outturn has increased the value of reserves held which are shown at Appendix C. The general reserve enables the Authority to demonstrate its financial standing as a 'going concern', to be in a position to meet unforeseen liabilities and has increased to £258,707, following a contribution of £30,257 (being the underspend on employees). The reserve represents 20% of the annual levy for 2020/21, which is considered to be a reasonable level of balances for the Authority to hold.
- 6.2 The Authority also maintains specific reserves. In 2011/12 the Authority created a 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 balance on the reserve will be maintained at £50,000.

- 6.3 The balance on the external projects reserve has been transferred to the Renewals Fund to contribute towards the replacement of the patrol vessel as agreed at the Authority meeting on 5 December 2019.
- 6.4 A vehicle replacement reserve was established to fund the maintenance and replacement of vehicles. Maintaining a vehicle replacement reserve enables the fleet programme to be effectively managed and an annual set aside of £10,000 was approved by the Executive. The 2019/20 closing balance is £21,482. 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.
- 6.5 The levy included £102,900 to be transferred to the renewals fund, which is funding set aside towards the replacement of the patrol vessel. In addition, the non-employees underspend of £39,240 has also been transferred. The fund now stands at £1,208,673. Estimates of the total cost of replacing the vessel are between £3.5m and £4.5m external funding is now very limited, however options are being explored.

**Contact Officer**

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Principal Accountant, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

**Stephen Chandler**  
**Treasurer**



## Appendix A

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY						
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT						
2018/19		2019/20				
Net Expenditure		Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Original Budget	Variance
£		£	£	£	£	£
435,162	Central / Headquarters	424,559	14,671	409,888	402,420	7,468
120,528	Land Based Operations	105,592	0	105,592	132,200	(26,608)
420,422	Offshore Operations	425,851	13,092	412,758	466,150	(53,392)
109,676	Environment	114,041	0	114,041	110,650	3,391
272	Grant Aided Projects	86,196	86,553	-357	0	(357)
1,086,059		1,156,239	114,317	1,041,923	1,111,420	-69,497
Net Income		Expenditure	Income	Net Income	Original Budget	Variance
£		£	£	£	£	£
SOURCES OF FINANCE						
1,200,310	Annual levy on Local Authorities	0	1,224,320	1,224,320	1,224,320	0
18,518	Contribution from Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
-18,518	Cont (to)/from Capital - Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0
-114,251	Contribution to Earmarked Reserve	112,900	0	(112,900)	(112,900)	0
1,086,059		112,900	1,224,320	1,111,420	1,111,420	0
Contributions to earmarked reserves					£	
Renewals Fund					102,900	
Vehicle Replacement					10,000	
					112,900	
2019/20 underspend of £69,497 to be transferred to general reserve (£30,257 employee underspend) and renewals fund (£39,240 balance of underspend)						

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY				
BALANCE SHEET				
31 March 2019		31 March 2020		
£		£	£	£
<b>LONG TERM ASSETS</b>				
1,914,748	Waterborne Assets - Gross Book Value	1,914,748		
-1,268,908	Waterborne Assets - Depreciation	<u>-1,370,188</u>		544,560
169,984	Vehicles and Equipment - Gross Book Value	169,984		
-89,687	Vehicles and Equipment - Depreciation	<u>-103,692</u>		66,292
0	Work in Progress			0
<u>726,137</u>				<u>610,852</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
<b>Debtors</b>				
11,029	HMRC - VAT	11,208		
45,647	Other	69,971		
2,278	Prosecution Costs	3,028		
-2,328	Provision for Bad Debt	<u>-2,328</u>	700	
479	Payment in Advance	<u>479</u>		82,358
0	<b>Short Term Investments</b>			0
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>				
1,445,886	Temporary Investments	1,495,886		
31,221	Cash at Bank and in Hand	87,940		
350	Petty Cash	<u>350</u>		1,584,176
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
-161,598	Creditors	-111,171		
0	Receipt in Advance	<u>0</u>		-111,171
<u>2,099,102</u>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>2,166,215</u>
<b>FINANCED BY</b>				
1,356,465	Usable Reserves			1,538,863
742,637	Unusable Reserve			627,352
<u>2,099,102</u>	<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>			<u>2,166,215</u>

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY		
RESERVES		
<b>General Reserve</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	£	£
Balance brought forward	228,450	258,707
Usage	0	0
Transfer to Revenue	30,257	0
Balance carried forward	<u>258,707</u>	<u>258,707</u>
<b>Patrol Vessel Maintenance</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	£	£
Balance brought forward	50,000	50,000
Transfer from Revenue	0	0
Balance carried forward	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
<b>External Projects</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	£	£
Balance brought forward	91,344	0
Transfer from Revenue	-91,344	0
Balance carried forward	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Vehicle Replacement Reserve</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	£	£
Balance brought forward	11,482	21,482
Transfer to Revenue	0	0
Transfer from Revenue	10,000	10,000
Balance carried forward	<u>21,482</u>	<u>31,482</u>
<b>Renewals Fund</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	£	£
Balance brought forward	975,189	1,208,673
Transfer from Revenue	0	0
Transfer to Revenue	233,484	102,900
Balance carried forward	<u>1,208,673</u>	<u>1,311,573</u>
<b>TOTAL USEABLE RESERVES</b>	<u>1,538,863</u>	<u>1,651,763</u>



**NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Report to:** Authority Meeting  
18 September 2020

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**Management of Scallop Dredging 2020/2021**

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Report of the Chief Officer

**A. Purpose of Report**

To update members on the management of the 2020/2021 fishery and to take a decision on the number of permits that will be offered to vessel operators wishing to participate within it.

**B. Recommendation**

1. That members note the report.
2. That the fishery moves from a trial to being managed under the provisions of the be-spoke plan endorsed by the Science Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 11 March 2020.
3. That the fishery re-opens on 1 November 2020 with a maximum of 3 permits offered for the 2020/2021 season.

**1. Background**

**1.1 2016/2017 Fishery**

- 1.1.1 The Authority retains a statutory duty to ensure the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources including balancing any social and economic benefits against environmental protection and balancing the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources.

- 1.1.2 Scallop dredging has been actively managed within the Authority's district since 1999 when the first dedicated byelaw regulation was introduced, although documented activity dates back to the mid 80's and beyond. Since 2013 the fishery has continued to develop and expand, particularly along the North Yorkshire coast, causing concern amongst local static gear operators and the recreational angling community regarding damage to gear and associated impacts on marine habitats.

1.1.3 During February 2015 an emergency byelaw regulation was implemented to control the activity and following a ten month period of consideration and consultation with all sectors of the fishing industry a new scallop dredging byelaw regulation was confirmed by Defra on 17 December 2015. The byelaw established a more restrictive management regime for scallop dredging within the Authority's district including the following provisions:

- A restricted, dedicated permit scheme for dredging where a maximum number of permits would be offered by the Authority each year.

- A requirement for dredgers to submit monthly catch and effort returns
  - A reduction in vessel qualifying criteria to 12m and 221 KW
  - A mandatory requirement that all scallop dredgers transmit accurate AIS information at all times when fishing within or transiting the Authority's district.
  - A daily closed period of 7pm to 7am for all dredging activity
  - A six month seasonal closure running inclusively between 1 May and 31 October
  - A permitted maximum of ten dredges per vessel with a maximum permitted beam length of 5 m.
  - Prohibited fishing areas inside 3 NM and South of Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire.
  - Subject to process suspension of dredging permits at anytime or prohibition of dredging within any part or parts of the specified area.
- 1.1.4 Following careful consideration by the Science sub-group, the Executive and full Committees the fishery was opened for the first time, on a trial basis for three permit holders, on 19 December 2016. The fishery closed on 29 April 2017.
- 1.1.5 During the 2016/2017 fishery only two of the three permit holders actively fished within the specified area. The fishery progressed well with few issues reported, although one breach of permitting conditions was detected and subject to formal sanction. Just under 56 tonnes of scallops were landed by the two active permitted vessels for a total estimated first sale value of £95K, representing a strong economic return given the effort invested.

## **1.2 2017/2018 Fishery**

- 1.2.1 Following consideration of the outputs and survey data from the 2016/2017 fishery, which included good evidence of stability within the stock, members supported the continuation of the trial on the same basis for a further season.
- 1.2.2 The application process commenced at the beginning of August 2017 and following consideration of appeals on 7 September 2017 three permits were issued to fish within the same specified area designated in 2016. The fishery actively commenced on 1 November 2017 and closed on 29 April 2018. All three permit holders actively fished although 1 vessel did not commence fishing activity until December 2018. Throughout the duration of the fishery no major issues were reported and no infringements were detected.
- 1.2.3 During the 2017/2018 fishery over 198 tonnes of scallops were landed for an estimated first sale value of £553K across 166 days of active fishing within the specified area.
- 1.2.4 Throughout the 2017/2018 season the sampling and monitoring regime was significantly enhanced with an emphasis on active on board monitoring of catches and discards. This work also included accompanying stock and camera surveys undertaken by North Eastern Guardian III. In total over 19 offshore sampling days, on board the permitted vessels, were completed and 10,000 scallops sampled.

## **1.3 2018/2019 Fishery**

- 1.3.1 The application process commenced at the beginning of August, 2018, and three permits were issued to fish within the same specified area designated in 2016. The fishery actively commenced on 1 November 2018 and closed on 30 April 2019. All three vessels actively

fished from the beginning of the season. Throughout the duration of the fishery no major issues were reported and no infringements were detected.

1.3.2 During the 2018/2019 fishery over 287 tonnes of scallop were landed for an estimated first sale value of £690K across 198 days of active fishing within the specified area.

1.3.3 Throughout the 2018/2019 season the sampling and monitoring regime was significantly enhanced again with an emphasis on active on board monitoring of catches and discards of lobsters and edible crabs. In total 37 offshore sampling days on board the permitted vessels were completed with over 17,000 scallops sampled. Additional stock and camera surveys were also undertaken by North Eastern Guardian III.

## **1.4 2019/2020 Fishery**

1.4.1 The application process commenced on 10 July 2019, and three permits were issued to fish within the same specified area designated in 2016. The fishery actively commenced on 1 November 2019. All three vessels actively fished from the beginning of the season although the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic brought the fishery to a premature closure at the end of March 2020, one month earlier than anticipated. Throughout the duration of the fishery no major issues were reported and no infringements were detected.

1.4.2 During the 2019/2020 fishery over 180 tonnes of scallop were landed for an estimated first sale value of £370K across 165 days of active fishing within the specified area.

1.4.3 With the exception of the final month of the season a comprehensive monitoring regime was maintained with an emphasis on active on board monitoring of catches and discards of lobsters and edible crabs. In total 23 offshore sampling days on board the permitted vessels were completed with over 8,448 scallops sampled.

## **2.0 Future Management**

2.1 At its meeting held on 11 March the Science Advisory Group endorsed the fishery moving out of the trial with future management informed by the provisions of a formal plan. The plan will ensure that fishery is managed appropriately going forward taking account of the status and health of the supporting scallop stock, associated habitats and by-catch species. The plan outlines how local measures compliment national regulations in achieving sustainable management, including commitments surrounding optimum yield and protection of designated habitats and species. A copy of the plan is attached to this report.

2.2 The precautionary, consultative and evidence led approach taken by NEIFCA in development of the scallop dredge fishery has been recognised at national level as an example of best practice that could be replicated in other fisheries.

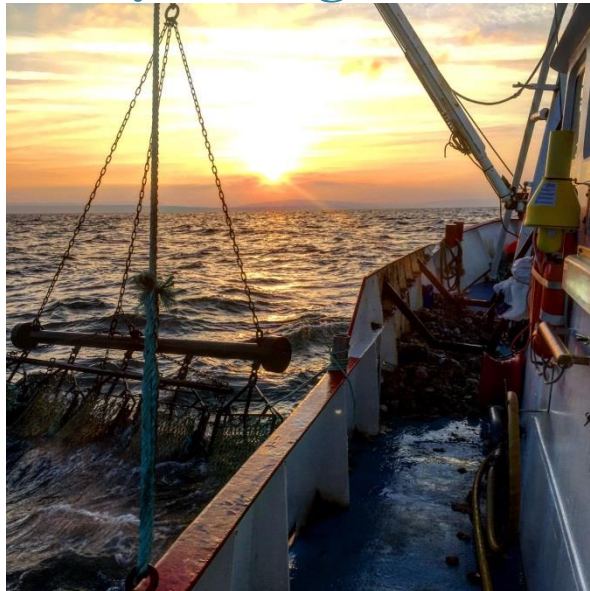
2.3 In terms of the 2020/2021 fishery it is recommended that a maximum of three permits are offered and in line with previous seasons the fishery remains restricted to the two designated areas. In advance of the authority decision on the number of permits to be offered officers have commenced a supporting application process which is scheduled to close on 18 September 2020.

Contact Officer

David McCandless,  
Chief Officer,  
Ext. 3690



## Scallop Dredge Fishery Management Plan



This report has been prepared by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority with all reasonable care and attention to detail. All information provided is the best available at the time of production.

<b>Date submitted:</b>	03/03/2020
<b>Report compiled by:</b>	TS
<b>Quality control by:</b>	
<b>Approved by &amp; date:</b>	
<b>Version:</b>	1

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North Eastern IFCA  
Town Hall  
Bridlington  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
YO16 4LP

## Executive Summary

IFCA success criteria highlight the need for Fishery Management Plans (FMP) to identify evidence based, local management measures whilst balancing the needs of stakeholders, protection of the environment and promoting sustainable development. This FMP has been produced for the scallop dredge fishery within the North Eastern IFCA district and forms the basis for continuation of the fishery given the management measures and evidence base outlined.

The management goal is to maximise the overall long-term benefit of the scallop stocks through responsible stewardship for conservation of the resource and its habitats. This will be achieved through the delivery of a series of management objectives; Biological conservation, Economic and social, Gear conflict, Habitat, Due process, Enforcement, and Research and evidence.

The FMP outlines how local measures compliment national regulations in achieving sustainable management, including commitments surrounding optimum yield and protection of designated habitats and species.

The evidence base surrounding the state of the stocks and the impacts arising from the operation of the fishery on bycatch species and habitats is presented. While scallop dredging is recognised as a highly invasive fishing technique, it is felt that sufficient evidence has been presented to warrant continuation of the fishery on a permanent basis given the management measures outlined in this FMP.

The FMP is not meant to be a static document. The dynamic nature of commercial fisheries means that management needs to be adaptive. Data collection and research will continue and the FMP will be periodically updated to reflect management responses to new evidence.

The precautionary, consultative and evidence led approach taken by NEIFCA in development of the scallop dredge fishery has been recognised as an example of best practice that could be replicated in other fisheries. It is hoped that this FMP can be used as a template for other such fisheries during their development.

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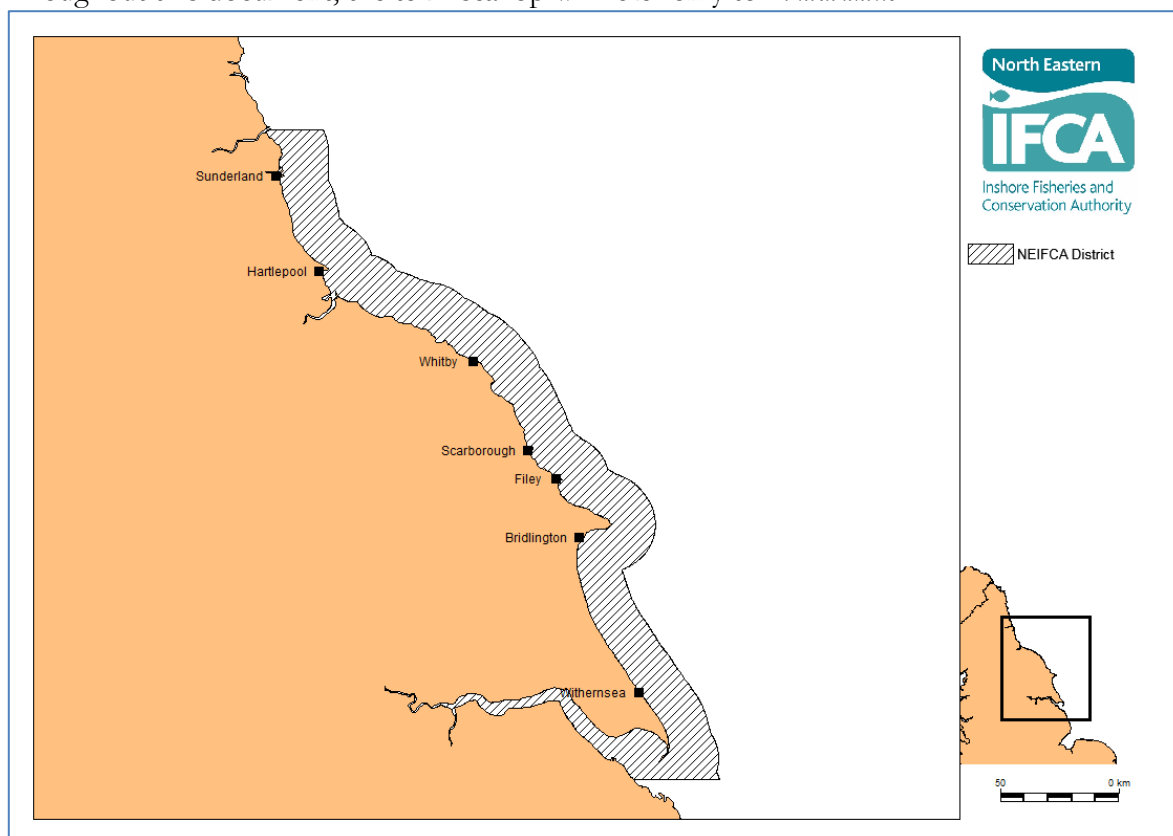


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## 1. Introduction

This Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) will focus upon the scallop fishery within the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) district. The jurisdictional area covers from the River Tyne, in the North, to a point drawn True East from Haile Sand Fort on the North East Lincolnshire Authority boundary, close to Humberston, on the South Bank of the Humber Estuary, and then out to the 6 nautical mile boundary (Figure 1). The District also encompasses all estuarine areas, landward to tidal limits, occurring within the boundaries of member Local Authorities. This FMP covers the dredge fishery for King scallops (*Pecten maximus*). Throughout this document, the term scallop will refer only to *P. maximus*.



**Figure 1. A map of the NEIFCA district including major ports.**

### 1.1 Need for a Fishery Management Plan

Within the IFCA vision and success criteria, success criterion 3 states:

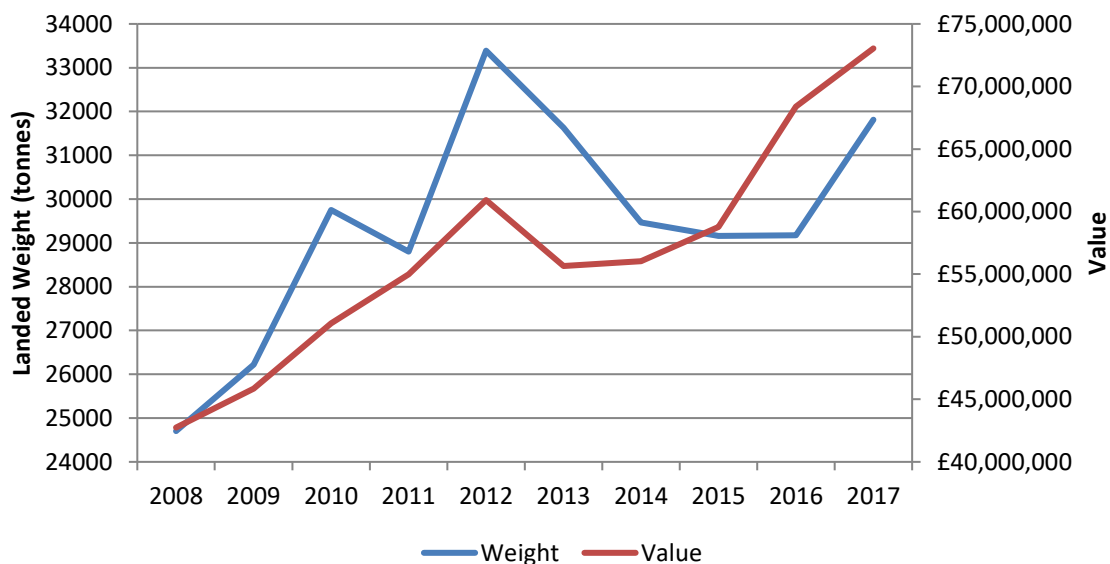
“IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.”

One of the desired outcomes of this success criterion is that IFCAs will develop Fisheries Management Plans for priority species where appropriate, and that shared objectives will be developed with identified partners; actions identified and best practice reflected so that management makes a contribution to sustainable development. This Fishery Management Plan is the culmination of five years of consultation, byelaw development, scientific research and fishery monitoring. The approach taken by NEIFCA in introducing scallop dredging areas has been identified as a good example of management (MMO, 2019) and has been acknowledged as a model of best practice which could potentially be replicated in other fisheries.

## 1.2 UK Scallop Fishery

Scallops are bivalve molluscs that live in the waters around the UK, found on the sea bed to depths exceeding 100m. Typically preferring to inhabit sediments comprised of sand, gravel and mud, occasionally interspersed with stones, rocks or boulders, they filter feed on suspended phytoplankton and other micro-organisms. Typically, scallops are caught by vessels using arrays of specialized dredges attached to bars towed from either side of the vessel. The scallop fleet is roughly divided into two groups: smaller vessels that tend to work locally in inshore waters, and fewer, larger vessels up to about 30 m in length, with the capability to fish offshore grounds and venture more widely around the coast of the UK.

In the UK, scallops are the focus of a highly valuable fishery, growing faster than any other commercially targeted species (Howarth and Beukers-Stewart, 2014). Landings have increased from 24,700 tonnes in 2008, to 31,800 tonnes in 2017, an increase of 129%. During this period, the value of scallops landed rose by 171%, from £42.7 million in 2008, to £73 million in 2017 (Figure 2). This rise has resulted in the scallop being the third most valuable fishery in the UK in 2017 (MMO, 2017a, 2017b).



**Figure 2. The value and quantity of scallops landed by UK vessels between 2008 and 2017 (MMO, 2017a, 2017b).**

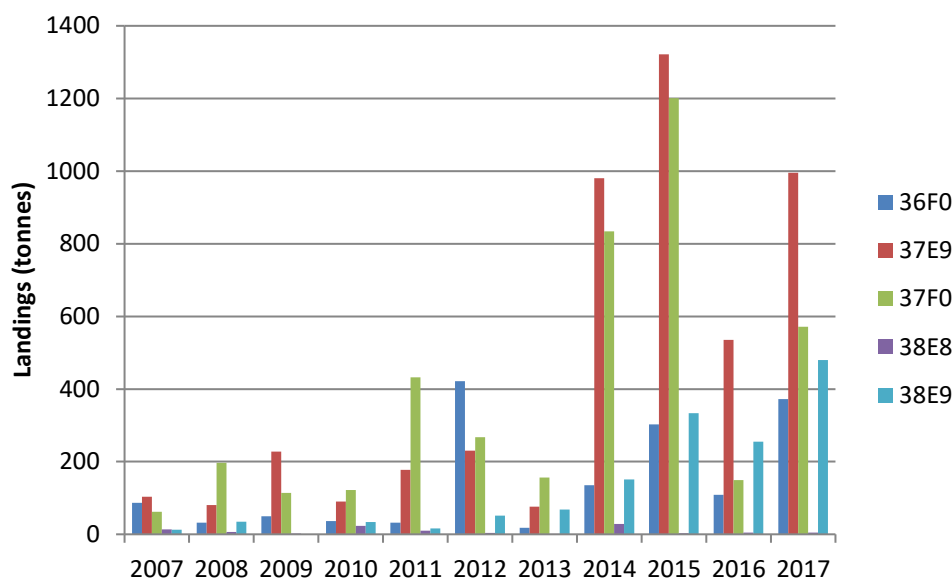
## 1.3 NEIFCA scallop fishery

The scallop fishery within the NEIFCA district is focussed on the king scallop, the larger of the two commercially viable scallop species found within UK waters, which has only been targeted via dredging in this area. Traditionally, fishing for scallops within the NEIFCA district has been concentrated between Scarborough and Whitby within 3-6nm. The fishery outside 6nm is extensively fished, in particular by nomadic dredging vessels from various locations around the UK, and extends from North Yorkshire to the East Yorkshire coast with grounds at Silver Pit, off the Humber Estuary (Figure 4).

Between 1999 and 2012 scallop dredging was managed through a byelaw which prohibited fishing with 3nm, placed a limit on the total number of dredges that may be used by a vessel (10), implemented a closed season (July to September) and stated additional technical regulations specifying Newhaven style dredges with minimum 100mm belly rings. A dredging specific permit scheme was not in place at this time and authority to fish within the NEIFCA (then North Eastern

Sea Fisheries Committee) district was issued by way of a general trawling permit. Specified vessel length and power under this byelaw was 18.3m and 400kw.

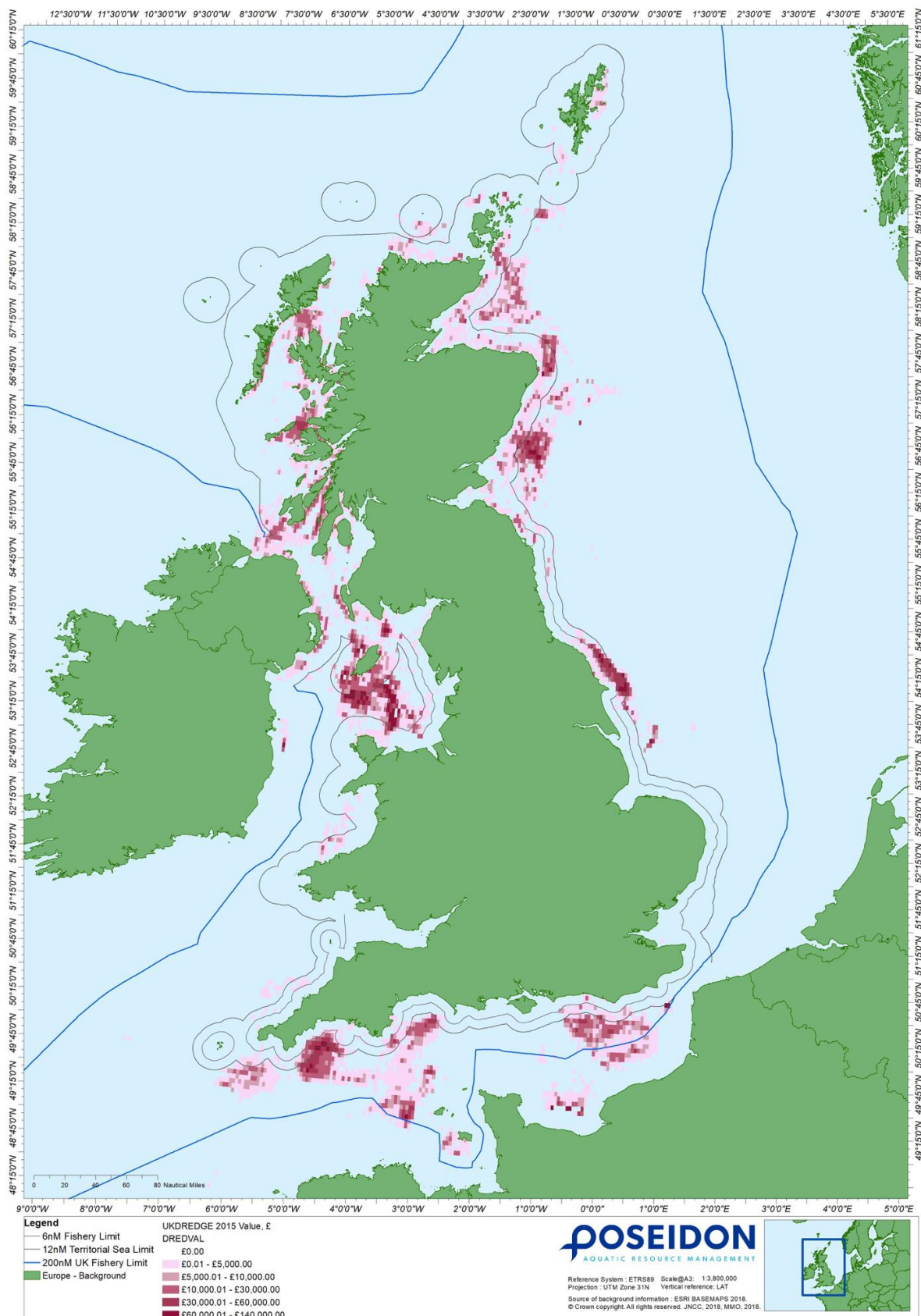
In 2012, an increase in scallop dredging activity was observed in the south of the district in an area known as the inner Silver Pit (ICES rectangle 36F0), a large channel feature running north east from the mouth of the Humber Estuary. It was thought that the increase was driven by closures in the Irish Sea and the identification of new beds in the Silver Pit and Inner Dowsing areas, resulting in intensive fishing effort and interest from much of the UK scallop fleet. There was an increase in trawl permit applications from vessels engaged in the emergent fishery to access and prospect grounds within the NEIFCA district and landings for 36F0 rose sharply to over 400t (Figure 3).



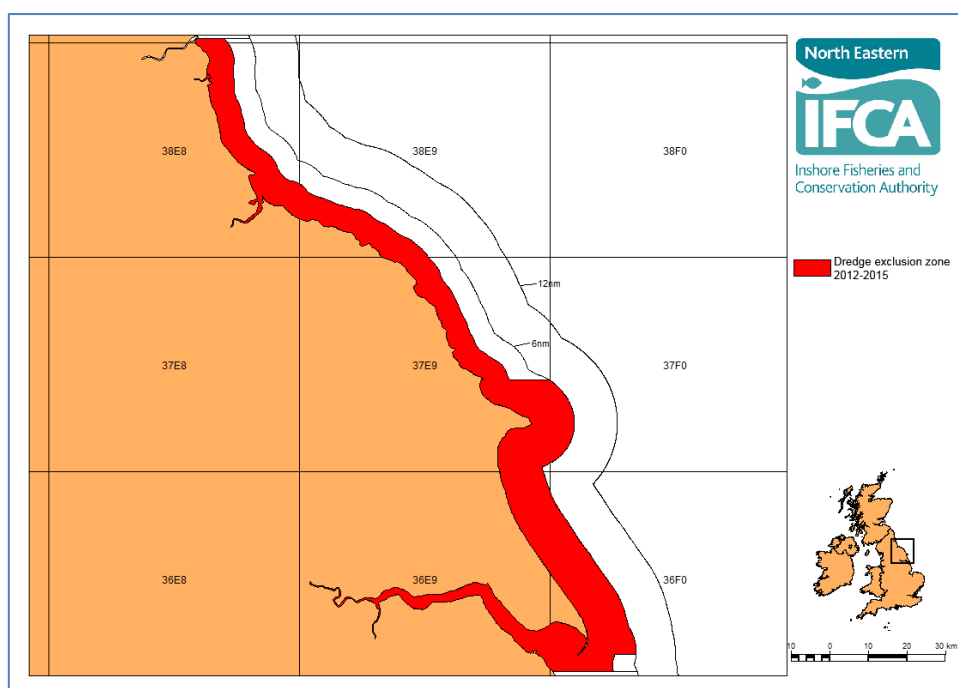
**Figure 3. Scallop landings by ICES rectangles between 2007 and 2017. Source MMO.**

In addition to increasing inshore scalloping effort there was also anecdotal reports of significant breaches of a long term voluntary agreement, established in 2006 between the local potting industry and the main scallop operators, which set aside exclusive potting and dredging zones between Flamborough Head and Spurn Point and out to 12nm. Concerns were also raised regarding potential impacts on sensitive habitats including biogenic *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs.

In response to the emerging situation, and in consideration of the Flamborough Head SAC, the Authority invoked its new emergency byelaw making powers to establish a no dredge zone between Filey Brigg and Spurn Point, extending to the 6nm limit but leaving the area of Silver Pit open to exploitation (Figure 5).



**Figure 4. Vessel Monitoring System data indicating value of catch by dredgers in 2015 (Cappell et al., 2018 based on MMO data)**



**Figure 5. Dredge exclusion zone established utilising emergency byelaw making powers in 2012.**

In late 2014 and early 2015 a similar situation emerged in North Yorkshire, however the increase in the level of inshore effort was unprecedented. Based on officer knowledge and information provided on trawl permit applications it is thought that the number of vessels targeting King scallops with dredges rose from around 22 to 46, with a steady stream of new permit applications being received. Previous landings for the area (attributed to ICES rectangle 37E9) tended to peak at around 200t. In 2014 and 2015 landings rose to 1000t and 1300t respectively (Figure 3). Recognising the limitations of the existing management regime and to address concerns regarding impacts on crab and lobster stocks, the Authority again introduced an emergency byelaw, this time prohibiting all dredging within the 6nm limit while a new management system could be developed.

## **2. Management Policy and Objectives**

### **2.1 National Policy and Objectives**

As a member state of the EU, the UK was required to manage its fisheries in line with the Common Fisheries Policy. Throughout the transition period of exiting the EU, the objectives and regulations laid out in the CFP will still be in effect and as an independent coastal state, the UK will remain a signatory of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). There will therefore remain requirements to manage fish stocks sustainably by ensuring that conservation and management measures are in place so that stocks are maintained or restored to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield. The requirement to implement the ecosystem-approach to fisheries management so as to ensure that negative impacts of fishing activities on marine ecosystems are minimised shall also remain. As shall the precautionary approach in the absence of adequate scientific information. The status of commercially exploited shellfish is a descriptor used in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The UK's shellfish programme of measures includes scallops in its assessment as an indicator of Good Ecological Status (GES), however there is currently insufficient data to undertake scallop stock assessments in English waters. North Sea stock assessment surveys were begun in 2018.

## 2.2 NEIFCA Policy and Objectives

The objective of the FMP is to prevent localised overfishing of scallop stocks and protect the long term productivity of the resource to allow for the achievement of optimum yield on a continuing basis. Conservative management of the fishery is warranted given (1) the unprecedented level of effort focussed on the stocks (2) inadequate data on stock status and biology (3) the vulnerability of the stocks to localised depletion (4) the potential impacts on habitats and other economically and socially valuable species. NEIFCA is committed to developing a long-term management plan for the fishery that balances the needs of all marine stakeholders.

### 2.2.1 Management Goal

The management goal is to maximise the overall long-term benefit of the scallop stocks through responsible stewardship for conservation of the resource and its habitats.

### 2.2.2 Management Objectives

Within the scope of the management goal, six objectives have been identified. These relate to stock condition, economic and social objectives of the fishery, gear conflicts, habitat, access of all interested parties to the process of revising this FMP and implementing any regulations, effective enforcement, and necessary research and management evidence. Each of these objectives requires management measures. Multiple management measures may contribute to more than one objective.

1. Biological Conservation Objective: Ensure the long-term reproductive viability of scallop stocks.

To ensure the continued reproductive viability of the scallop stocks through protection of reproductive potential, management must prevent overfishing. Management measures may also be adopted to address other biological concerns such as restricting harvest of scallops during spawning periods and maintaining low bycatch of finfish and other shellfish species. The maintenance of adequate reproductive potential of scallop stocks will take precedence over economic and social considerations.

2. Economic and Social Objective: Maximise economic and social benefits over time.

Economic benefits are broadly defined to include, but are not limited to: profits, income, employment, and less tangible or less quantifiable social benefits such as the economic stability of coastal communities. To ensure that economic and social benefits derived from fisheries covered by this FMP are maximised over time, the following will be examined, to the extent that available data allows, in the selection of management measures:

- The value of scallops landings given current management measures;
- The potential value of scallop landings after implementation of any changes in management;
- The cost to stakeholders associated with implementing changes in management;
- The management costs associated with implementing changes in management.

3. Gear Conflict Objective: Minimise gear conflict among fisheries.

Management measures developed for the scallop fishery will take into account the interaction of the fishery with other fisheries and the people engaged in them. To minimise gear conflict among fisheries, the compatibility of different types of fishing gear and activities on the same fishing



grounds should be considered. Scallop fisheries are conducted with dredge gear. A significant static pot fishery is also conducted in the district. Fishing seasons and areas may be arranged to eliminate, insofar as possible, conflicts between gear types.

4. Habitat Objectives: Further the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) within the district by ensuring that site integrity is not adversely affected. Ensure that adequate quantities of habitat able to support scallop populations and maintain a healthy ecosystem are protected.

Site level assessments of management measures that are capable of significantly affecting the designated or supporting features of an MPA will be carried out to ensure that site integrity is not adversely affected. Habitat in this context is defined as the physical, chemical and biological conditions that support healthy, self-sustaining populations of living marine resources. The quality and availability of habitat supporting scallop populations are important. Management should strive to ensure that those waters and substrate necessary to scallops for breeding, spawning, feeding and growth to maturity are available. It is also important to consider the potential impact of scallop fisheries on other fish and shellfish populations. Managers will actively review actions of other marine users through the marine licensing and spatial planning processes to ensure that their actions do not cause deterioration of habitat. Managers will also consider the effect on scallop habitat of its own management decisions in other fisheries.

5. Due Process Objective: Ensure that access to regulatory process and opportunity for redress area available to all interested parties.

In order to attain the maximum benefit, the interrelated biological, economic and social, gear conflict and habitat objectives outlined above must be balanced against one another. A continuing dialogue between managers, fishery scientists, fishermen and other interested parties is necessary to keep this balance. Access to FMP development and regulatory process is available through Authority membership, conversations with members and Officers of the Authority, and by commenting on the FMP and any subsequent amendments or regulations proposed for implementation

6. Enforcement Objective: Ensure effective compliance with management measures.

Once management is implemented, compliance with those measures by all those engaged in fishing is essential to achieving the objectives in this FMP. NEIFCAs enforcement policy is underpinned by five key principles:

- Proportionality – relating enforcement action to the risk of harm to the marine eco-system;
- Targeting – ensuring resources are targeted on activities which give rise to the most serious risks of harm and focussing on those who are responsible for causing risk of harm to marine eco-systems;
- Consistency – taking a similar approach in similar circumstances to achieve similar ends;
- Transparency – helping stakeholders to understand what is expected of them and what they should expect from NEIFCA;
- Accountability – NEIFCA is accountable to the public for its actions. It must have policies and standards against which it can be judged and an effective and easily accessible mechanism for dealing with comments and handling complaints.

Measures that aid in enabling cost effective enforcement may be considered. These may include, but are not limited to, Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) methods such as vessel monitoring and video surveillance.

7. Research and Evidence Objective: Provide fisheries research, data collection, and analysis to ensure a sound evidence base for management decisions.

Necessary data must be collected and analysed in order to measure progress relative to other objectives and to ensure that management actions are adjusted to reflect new knowledge. Achieving the objective will require new and ongoing research and analysis relative to stock and habitat conditions and adaptive management strategies. Research collaboration with CEFAS, MMO, fisheries scientists and industry through Fisheries Science Partnerships will be sought and encouraged.

An annual fishery report discussing the current biological and economic state of the fishery and evidence in support of different management decisions will be prepared by Officers. This may include guideline harvest ranges or strategies and will be made available to the public. The FMP will be subject to revision to document any management changes.

### **3. Conservation and Fishery Management Measures**

#### **3.1 National Management Measures**

##### **3.1.1 Optimum Yield and Overfishing**

As a non-quota species, there is no long-term management plan for scallops under the CFP and there is no regional or UK-wide management plan for the species or the sector. Scallop dredges are exempt from many gear regulations under the CFP as they are recognised as a highly targeted fishery (Cappell et al., 2018). Technical regulations for the North Sea laid out in EC 2019/1241 stipulate that landings must constitute not less than 95% bivalve molluscs and sets a minimum conservation reference size for scallops of 100mm. Only Newhaven style dredges are allowed.

Further national technical regulations were established by SI 2012/2283. For the English North Sea these include a maximum number of dredges (16 dredges within 12 NM), maximum tow bar length (5.5m), maximum teeth per dredge (9) and maximum teeth length, maximum dredge width (85cm) and a maximum overall dredge weight of 150kg. Outside 12 NM there are no limits on the number of dredges other than what is practicable given the size and horsepower of the vessel in use. Some vessels therefore use over 20 dredges per side.

There are no nationally set seasonal closures, curfews or closed areas in the English North Sea. All EU vessels 12m or over are required to have a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) fitted and vessels in excess of 15m are required to transmit an Automatic Identification System (AIS) signal. All vessels over 10m must submit daily catch logbooks. A national reporting mechanism for under 10m vessels is currently being implemented. The requirement to declare if landings originate from within 6NM (IFCA jurisdiction) is not included in this new system.

##### **3.1.2 Effort Management**

Effort to limit fishing mortality was made through the introduction of scallop entitlements through the shellfish licensing scheme in 2004. These were issued to over 10m vessels with a track record of scallop landings or proof of financial investment to introduce a scallop dredge vessel to the fleet. There are no arrangements for any further entitlements to be issued. There are no restrictions on the number of under 10m scallop dredge vessels.

In total, 325 UK vessels caught some quantity of scallops in 2016 including 203 which were considered scallop revenue-dependent vessels (i.e., where scallops accounted for  $\geq 61\%$  of total revenue) (Cappell et al., 2018).

### **3.1.3 Marine Protected Areas**

Our seas have a great variety of marine life and habitats, many of which are rare and of national importance. Marine protected areas (MPAs) help make sure that these are guarded from the increasing pressures of human activity. There are over 290 marine protected areas in English waters. These include European marine sites and marine conservation zones.

European marine sites (EMS) are protected under the European Union Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. There are currently over 200 EMSs. They include:

- special areas of conservation (SACs) – designated for habitats
- special protection areas (SPAs) – designated for rare and vulnerable birds

Marine conservation zones (MCZs) protect species and habitats of national importance and are designated under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. There are currently over 90 designated MCZs.

The impact of any licensable activity or development in or near an MPA is looked at as part of the marine licensing process. However fishing activity is not part of this process. Instead fishing activity in an MPA is managed and monitored through a separate process, which includes six main steps:

1. site designation
2. site allocated to a regulator to assess, manage and monitor (Defra, MMO, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority - IFCA)
3. MPA assessment (inshore sites)/ Joint Recommendation (offshore sites)
4. management measures recommended (public consultation)
5. proposed measures introduced (byelaw/ Council regulation)
6. site monitored

An MPA is designated by the secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs. Sites are designated following public consultation and analysis by Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Natural England. Assessment and management of fishing activity in the inshore zone from 0 to 6 NM is the responsibility of the relevant IFCA.

## **3.2 NEIFCA Management Measures**

The most recent iteration of Byelaw XXIII Method and Area of Fishing (Scallop Dredges) to be implemented was in 2015. The Byelaw introduced a dedicated permit system

### **3.2.1 Permit System**

The primary method of achieving the objectives outlined in this FMP is the effort control mechanism achieved through the limited permit system. Each year, the Authority will determine the maximum number of scallop dredging permits (if any) to be issued, taking into account the specified scallop dredging area and the exploitable stock available. The Authority will publish on its website before or as soon after the 1<sup>st</sup> November as reasonably practicable, the maximum number of permits that will be issued. Each year, the permit allocation officer will publish the procedure for application and issuing of permits, considering any subsequent changes to this FMP. There are currently 3 permits issued annually.

### **3.2.2 Catch Restrictions**

There is no total allowable catch, fishing mortality or biomass targets currently associated with the fishery, however these may be developed over time. Stocks under NEIFCA jurisdiction within 6NM are situated on the fringe of a much larger Yorkshire stock unit on which they rely. Stock assessments for scallops in the English North Sea are currently being developed by Cefas. NEIFCA will support this work were possible and will seek to ensure sustainable management of the entire stock unit.

### **3.2.3 Gear Restrictions**

All scallop dredges must comply with the relevant EC and national fisheries legislation as a minimum. The following further gear restrictions apply to the use of scallop dredges under this FMP:

- A person must not use a scallop dredge which has its ring size, spaces between rings or netting mesh size of the retaining bag obstructed or otherwise reduced by any method.
- A person must not use more than 10 scallop dredges from a single vessel at any one time.
- Where multiple scallop dredges are used, a person must not use a towing bar to which scallop dredges are attached which is wider than five metres.
- A person must not use a towing bar to which scallop dredges are attached which is extendable beyond five metres as measured between its extremities including all attachments.

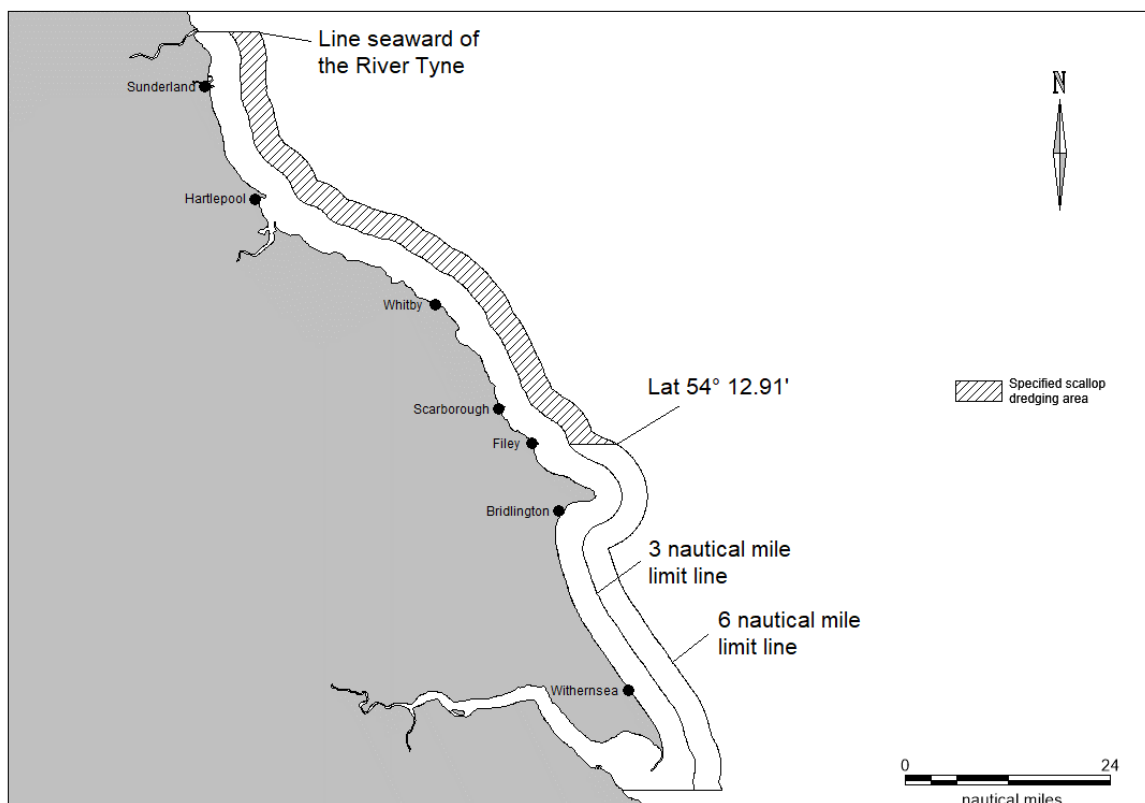
### **3.2.4 Vessel Restrictions**

The following vessel restrictions apply to the use of scallop dredges under this FMP:

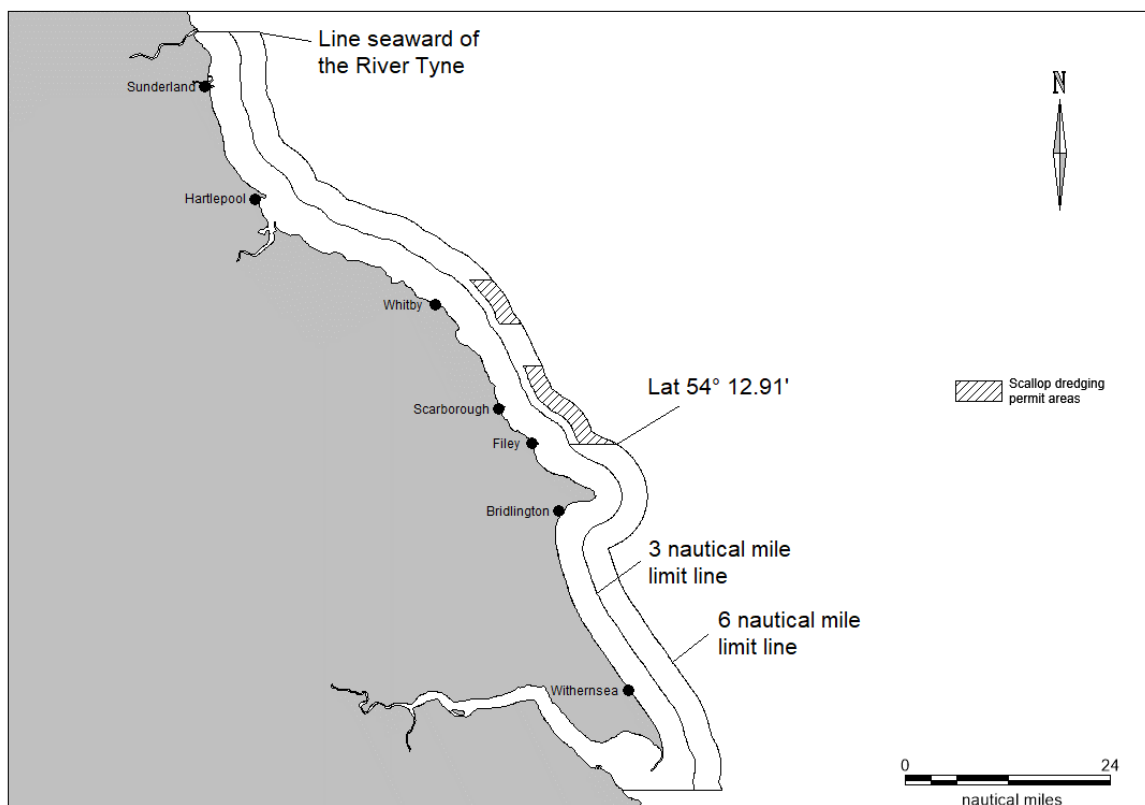
- In order to obtain a permit, a vessel must be a registered fishing vessel.
- Vessel length and power must not exceed 12m and 221kw.
- Vessel length and power limits may be increased to 18.3m and 400kw if the vessel possesses a track record of catching and landing a minimum of 500kg of scallops within the District in any three month period prior to 31 December 2013 and the vessel was placed on a sunset list by 17 March 2016. (There are four vessels on the sunset list.)

### **3.2.5 Spatial Restrictions**

Rather than defining areas closed to scallop dredging, the default position within the NEIFCA district is that dredging is prohibited. The specified scallop dredging area within the byelaw refers to an area from the northern boundary of the District to a line off Filey Brigg at 54° 12.91'N latitude, and between the 3 and 6 NM fishery limits (Figure 6). Through extensive consultation with the industry including local potting vessels, the FMP further restricts the area of operation for dredging activity to less than 5% of the total area of the NEIFCA district. Currently, the scallop dredge permit areas are split between two areas, one off Whitby and one from north of Scarborough to Filey Brigg, extending between 4NM and 6NM from baselines (Figure 7). A full list of co-ordinates for the permit areas are appended to this FMP.



**Figure 6. Specified scallop dredging area defined in XXIII Method and area of fishing (scallop dredges) Byelaw 2015.**



**Figure 7. Scallop dredging permit areas implemented under this FMP.**

### **3.2.6 Temporal Restrictions**

The following temporal restrictions apply to the use of scallop dredges under this FMP:

- Seasonal closure – the use of any scallop dredge is prohibited between 1 May and 31 October in each year.
- Daily closure – the use of scallop dredges is prohibited before 07:00 or after 19:00 on any day.

### **3.2.7 Fishery Information**

The following fishery information requirements apply to the use of scallop dredges under this FMP:

- Permit holders must submit information on catch of scallops in kilograms or tonnes (live weight) and active fishing time in hours for the previous month and any information that the Authority deems necessary no later than the fifth day of each month.
- Vessels operating scallop dredges under a permit must have a fully functioning Automatic Identification System (AIS).
- Vessels transiting the district with dredge gear aboard must also have a fully functioning Automatic Identification System (AIS).

### **3.2.8 Marine Protected Areas**

There are no MPAs (EMS or MCZ) within the specified scallop dredging areas. Should an MPA be designated, then an assessment of impacts will be needed for the FMP. No likely significant effect on designated features of an EMS is anticipated. Similarly, it is not anticipated that scallop dredging managed under this FMP is capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) (i) the protected features of an MCZ or (ii) any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of an MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependent.

### **3.2.9 Suspension of permits**

If the Authority considers it necessary it may suspend any scallop dredging permits issued for a specified period. In taking such a decision the Authority will consider:

- i. all available and current scientific and survey data;
- ii. internal scientific advice from within its membership;
- iii. any advice provided by CEFAS, Natural England or other external authorities, organisations, persons or bodies as the Authority thinks fit;
- iv. information from any other relevant source; and
- v. representations from scallop dredging permit holders.

Prior notice of such action will be provided in writing to all permit holders and through publication on the Authority's website at least ten working days prior to any suspension taking effect.

Any representations must be lodged in writing to the Authority within five working days of the date of the original notice provided to permit holders.

Such representations will be considered by the Authority members in combination with the conditions within the Byelaw and a final decision will be made.

Notification of the final decision, including suspension of permits will be made in writing to all permit holders and on the Authority's website within five working days of the final decision.

Such a suspension may apply to all or part of the specified scallop dredging area.

### 3.2.10 Observer Requirements and At-Sea Catch Sampling

Permitted vessels are required to facilitate on-board observers as required. This could be to collect scallop biometric data for stock assessments, monitor by-catch rates, ensuring compliance with management measures or any other reason that may be deemed necessary.

## 4. Description of Stocks and Fishery

### 4.1 Physical and Habitat Characteristics of the Management Area

The predominant habitat type within the region of the dredge areas are circalittoral sands and gravel or shell. Animal communities in this habitat are closely related to offshore mixed sediments, of which patchy examples are found around the northern dredge area. The southern dredge area exhibits a gradient of habitat types from coarse to mixed sediments, with an area of sandy mud towards its centre (Figure 8).

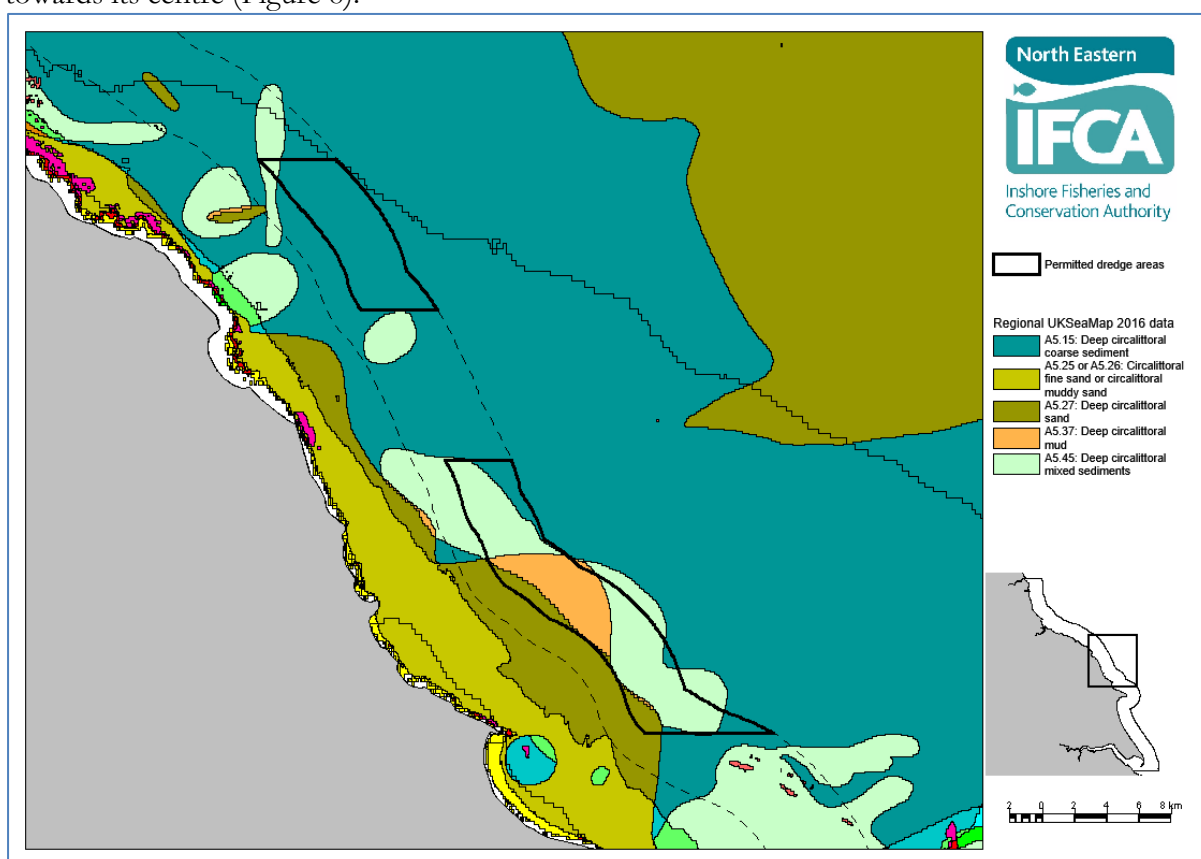


Figure 8. Regional habitat types based on UKSeaMap 2016 data.

### 4.2 General Biology

King Scallops are hermaphrodites and in UK waters become sexually mature at approximately 2-3 years old and 80-90mm shell width (Beukers-Stewart, 2013). In undisturbed populations, they may live for over 20 years and grow to over 200mm shell width, however commercially captured scallops regionally are usually between the minimum size of 100mm and 140mm.

Spawning occurs during spring/summer and a bi-modal spawning pattern has been reported by several authors in different areas. Gametes are released into the water column where fertilisation occurs. This is followed by embryonic and larval stages, where the free-swimming larvae typically spend 3-6 weeks before settling and attaching onto the seabed. A final transition into the free-swimming adult then takes place (Howarth & Stewart, 2014).

Reproductive success and consequently recruitment levels are likely to be influenced by a multitude of factors including spawning stock biomass, environmental conditions and availability of suitable settlement habitat (Beukers-Stewart, 2013).

Growth rate can be affected by several factors including salinity, temperature, competition, water depth and food supply. Growth slows down or stops altogether in the winter, starts again in spring and continues through summer when it is most active. Seasonal changes in growth rate can be observed in the growth rings (increments of shell deposited between successive striae) associated with faster growth rates. This provides a method for estimating the number of growth cycles and therefore scallop age (Owen et al., 2002). Growth does become slower in older individuals and consequently growth rings are closer together and can be difficult to distinguish. Natural mortality is not precisely known but in common with other fish and shellfish stocks of similar longevity (up to 20 years) it is assumed to be  $0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (Dobby et al., 2017).

### **4.3 Stock structure and productivity**

Current gear specifications (particularly belly ring size) are designed to minimise the by-catch of scallops under the minimum conservation reference size (100mm). Without modifications such as blinders or reduced belly ring size, an accurate measure of the abundance or density of under size scallops is not possible. Size frequency for this proportion of the population should be treated cautiously.

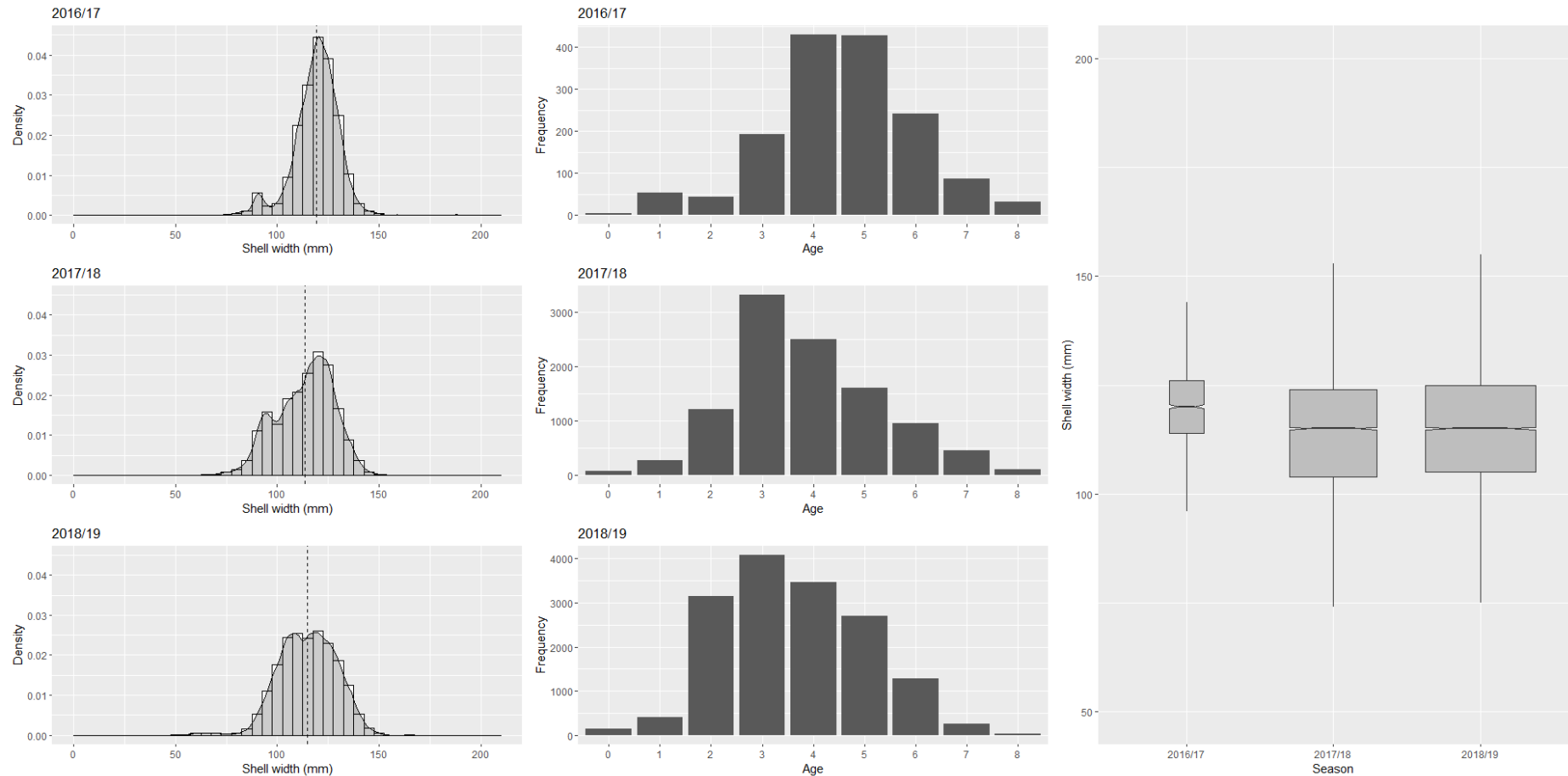
Both industry vessel and research sampling consistently highlight a size range extending up to 150mm (Figure 9 and Figure 10). Observer data from industry vessels has remained relatively stable over the past two seasons (Figure 9). Research sampling undertaken over the same period demonstrates a significantly increasing trend in both mean and median shell width (Figure 10).

Density estimates were derived from research vessel tows carried out between 2016 and 2019. The average density of scallops outside our district (beyond 6NM) has almost halved in the 2018-2019 period, whilst density of scallops within the closed areas have increased by over 35%, providing a ratio of almost 4:1, for closed areas of the NEIFCA district in comparison to open areas outside the NEIFCA district that are continually fished (Table 1 and Figure 11). This highlights the intensity of fishing pressure beyond 6NM.

Average density within both NEIFCA permitted dredging areas has increased. The Northern area experienced a slight uplift to previous years of 0.12 scallops per  $100\text{m}^2$ , with the Southern area achieving slightly more at 0.45 scallops per  $100\text{m}^2$ , however some of the lowest density's found were from tows in the Southern area. Density was highest in the closed areas immediately adjacent to the two permitted areas.

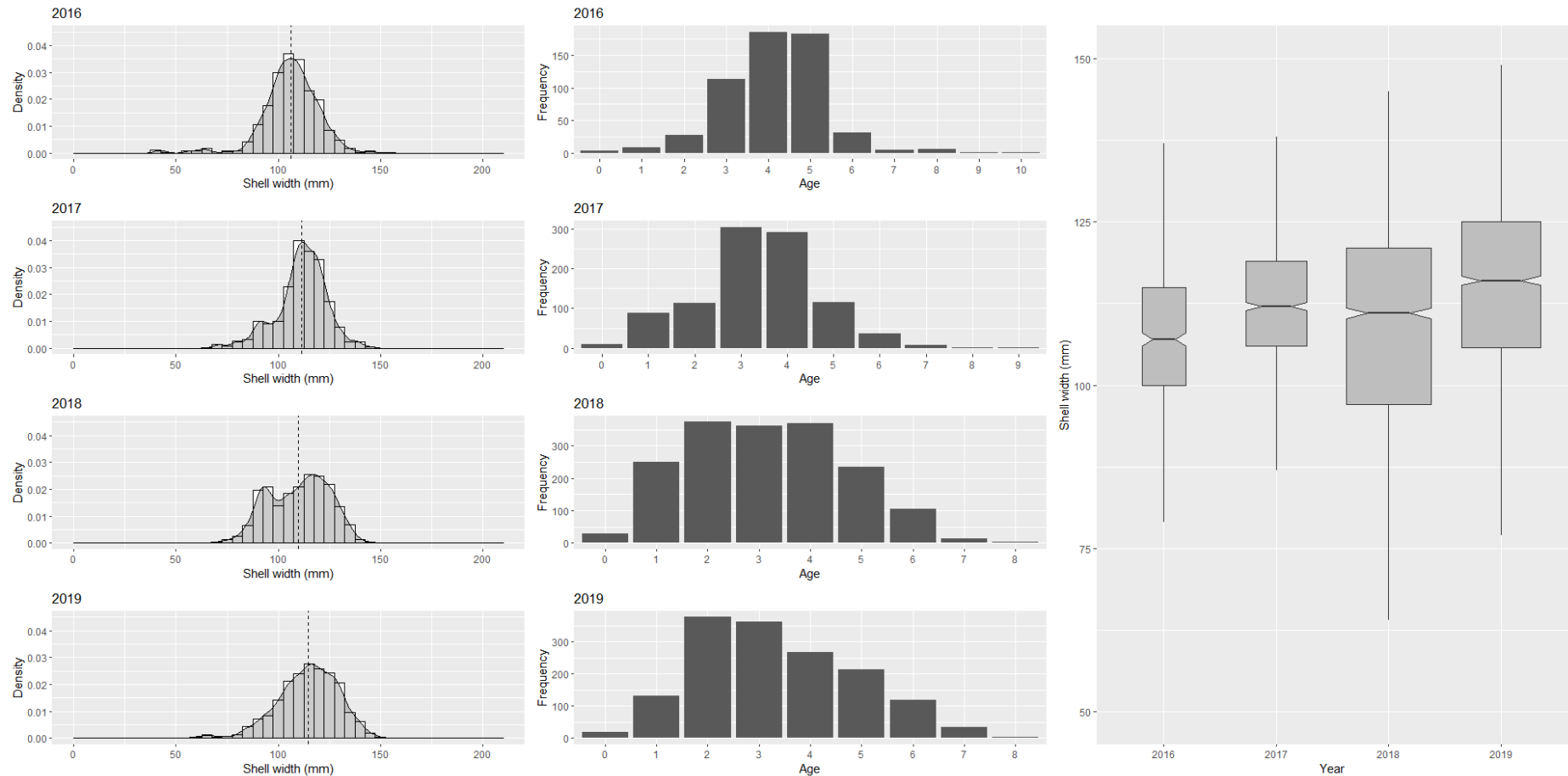
Anecdotal evidence from the permit holders and observations by officers during surveys had suggested that the density of scallops in the southern area was lower than the northern area, but with a smaller proportion of pre-recruits and a larger proportion of large recruits. The proportion of pre-recruits observed during industry vessel sampling during the 2018/19 season was 19% in the northern area compared to only 4% in the southern area, while median size was 110mm and 125mm for the northern and southern areas respectively (Appendix 2).





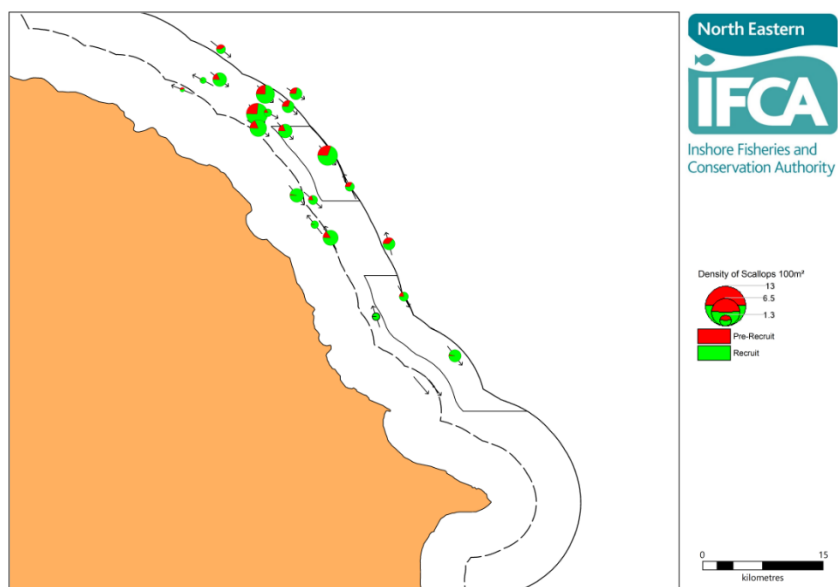
**Figure 9. Industry vessel sampling data.**

**Left:** Density plots overlaid onto shell width size frequency histograms. Dashed line indicates mean values. **Middle:** Scallop age frequency histograms based on growth ring analysis. **Right:** Boxplots of shell width by fishing season. Box width drawn proportional to the square-roots of the number of observations in each season.

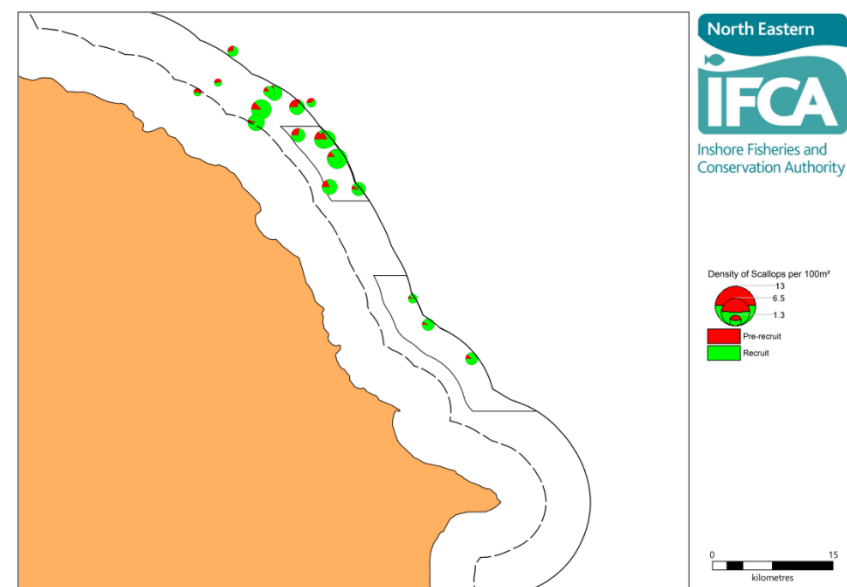


**Figure 10 NEIFCA sampling data from within the permitted dredge areas.**

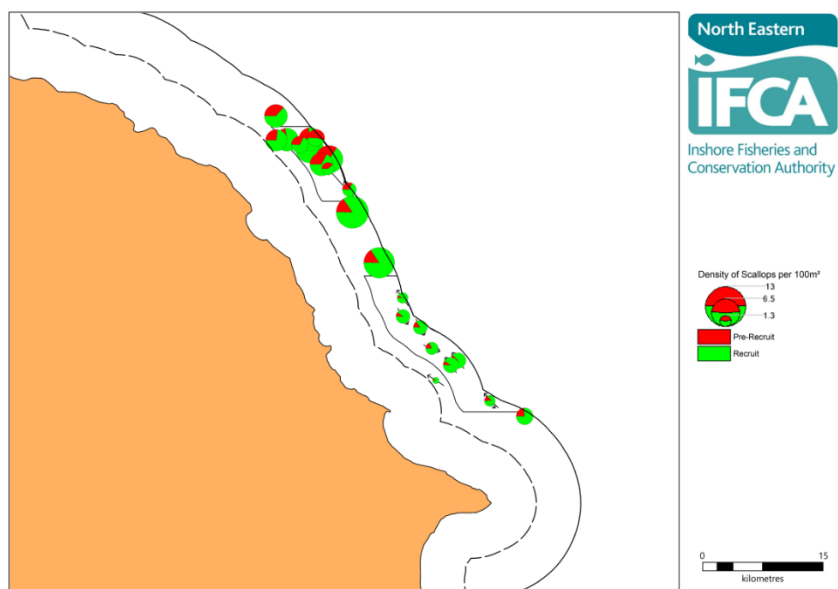
**Left: Density plots overlaid onto shell width size frequency histograms. Dashed line indicates mean values. Middle: Scallop age frequency histograms based on growth ring analysis. Right: Boxplots of shell width by year. Box width drawn proportional to the square-roots of the number of observations in each season.**



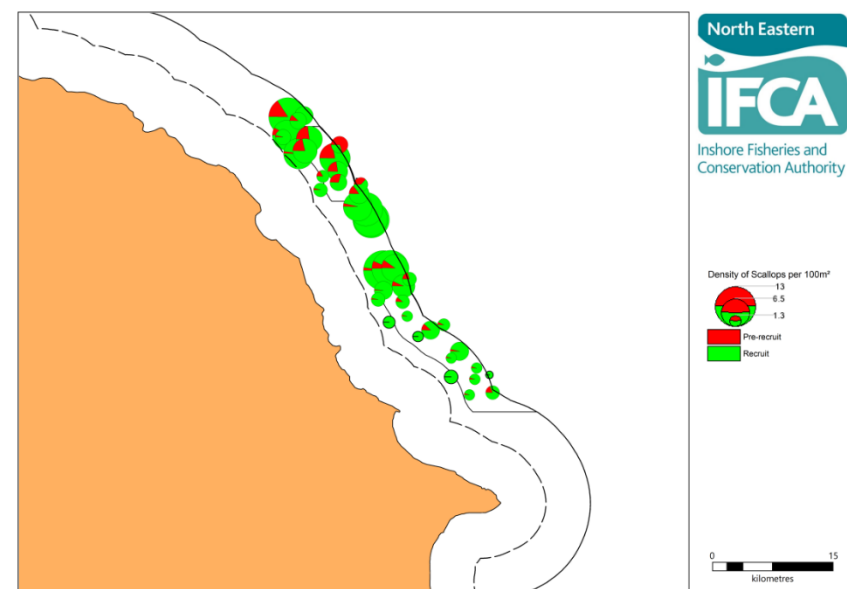
2016



2017



2018



2019

Figure 11. Density of scallops per 100m<sup>2</sup> of swept area from research tows carried out between 2016 and 2019.

**Table 1. Average density of scallops per 100m<sup>2</sup> of swept area from research tows carried out between 2016 and 2019. Closed area values are for tows carried out between the 3nm and 6nm fisheries limits.**

Year	Outside 6NM	Northern area	Southern area	Closed area
2016	2.23	3.92	1.39	2.02
2017	2.29	2.67	1.42	2.31
2018	3.13	4.48	1.78	4.96
2019	1.82	4.60	2.23	6.75

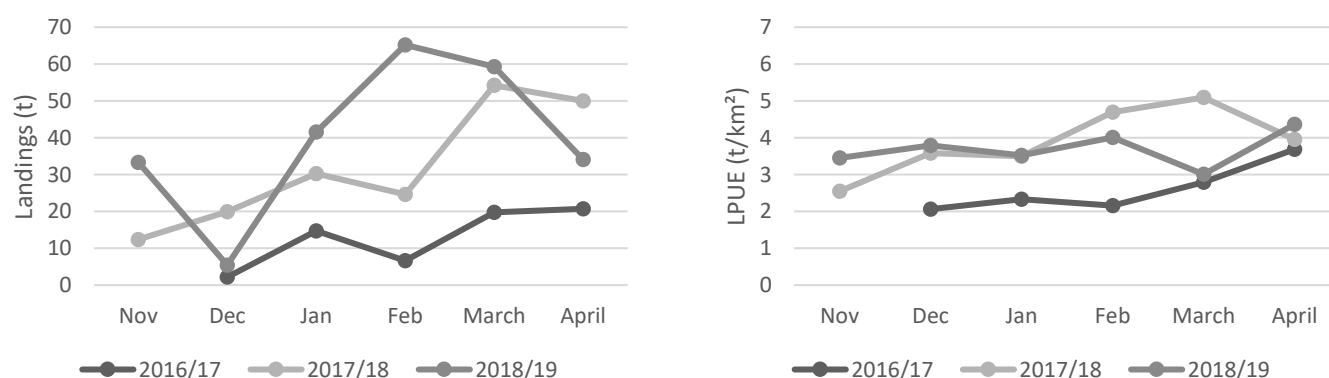
An increase in observed effort and landings was expected due to the inclusion of a third active vessel for the 2017/18 season. It should also be noted that the delayed authorisation of the permit scheme meant that the fishery in 2016/17 did not start until late December 2016.

Total landings for the 2018/19 season were 287.5 tonnes, an increase of 88.7 tonnes compared to the previous season (Table 2). A large proportion of this increase can be attributed to all three vessels actively fishing from November. The majority of landings for the 2018/19 season were captured from within the northern area, which was reflected in the effort data which showed that two of the vessels fished almost exclusively in the northern area, with a third vessel active almost exclusively in the southern area just as in the previous season. In comparison, landings for the 2016/17 season were evenly split between the two areas, with both active vessels fishing more evenly between the two permit areas (Appendix 3).

Landings per unit effort (LPUE) was calculated as tonnes per square kilometre of swept area based on catch return data. LPUE for both seasons was higher in the northern area which correlates with anecdotal evidence from permit holders. No significant seasonal trends in landings or LPUE were observed (Figure 12 and Figure 13). Monthly variation in landings is more likely to be dependent on the number of available fishing days due to weather. Poor weather will also affect gear efficiency and LPUE.

**Table 2. Total landings and landings per unit effort (LPUE).**

Season	Total reported landings (tonnes)	LPUE (tonnes/km <sup>2</sup> )
2016/17	63.9	2.8
2017/18	198.8	4.0
2018/19	287.5	3.6



**Figure 12. Monthly reported landings and landings per unit effort (LPUE: tonnes/km<sup>2</sup>) by season.**

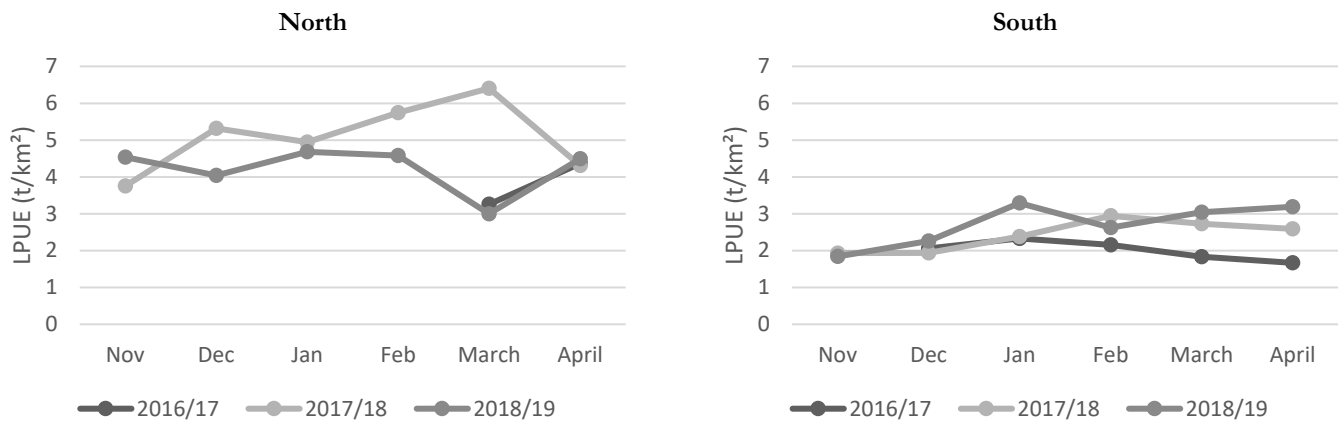


Figure 13. Comparison of monthly landings per unit effort (LPUE: tonnes/km<sup>2</sup>) by permit area for each season.

#### 4.4 Economic and Socio-economic Characteristics

The fishery currently directly supports employment for 10 persons, with further benefits for associated support industries. Based on average scallop first sale value from MMO data, the fishery value for the 2018/19 season was £0.69 million.

Table 3. Average price of scallops and fishery value.

Season	Average price/kg (£)	Fishery value (£)
2016/17	1.7	108,630
2017/18	2.78	552,664
2018/19	2.40	690,003

### 5. Bycatch and Habitat Impacts

#### 5.1 Bycatch

Bycatch has been monitored using observer trips aboard permitted vessels during each season. Typical bycatch is dominated by three species; common sea urchins (*Echinus esculentus*), starfish species (most commonly *Asterias rubens* and *Crossaster papposus*) and edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*). Lobster by-catch is not considered to be an issue.

Monitoring of edible crab by-catch has been a focus of on-board observers. Crab bycatch rates have consistently been below 0.2 crab per dredge per kilometre towed for each season (Table 4). Considering the total reported tow lengths for the season and the number of dredges in operation, the estimated total catch of edible crab over the 2018/19 season was 15,423. Reported landings from the dredge fishery in 2018/19 were 21kg of edible crab and 77kg of lobster.

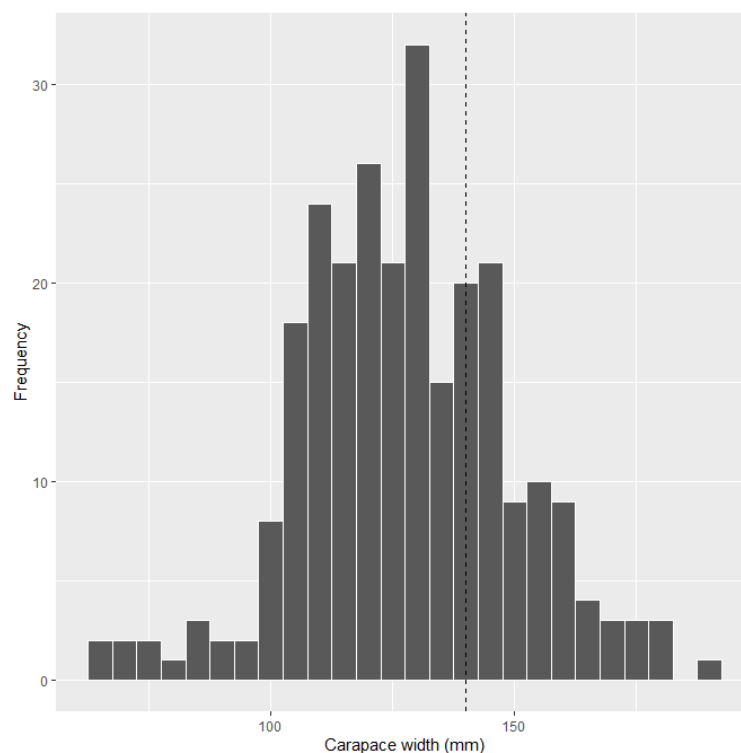
Occurrence of damage to edible crabs in sampled dredges was scored according to the damage index in Table 5. Severely damaged edible crab (puncture to carapace) represented 42% of all observed edible crab bycatch, while no visible damage was observed for 41%. Size frequency distribution was similar to that observed for crab from standard stock assessment surveys and quayside sampling data, with a declining abundance of crab noted above the minimum size of 140mm.

**Table 4. Crab bycatch rate (number per dredge per kilometre towed) and estimated total crab captured during season based on total reported tow lengths.**

Season	Edible crab bycatch rate (# per dredge per km towed)	Estimated number of crab captured
2016/17	0.173	4944
2017/18	0.166	9301
2018/19	0.194	15423

**Table 5. Damage index of edible crab by-catch observed in sampled industry dredges for the period 2017-2019.**

Damage index		% edible crab	
		2017/18	2018/19
1	No visible damage	45	41
2	1-2 legs missing	6	7
3	> 2 legs missing	1	0
4	1-2 claws missing	4	9
5	1-2 claws missing, at least 1 leg missing	1	2
6	Puncture to carapace	42	42



**Figure 14. Size frequency of edible crab captured in dredges sampled by on-board observers during the 2018/19 season.**

Sex ratio was 51% female. Dashed line shows minimum conservation reference size of 140mm. (n=262)

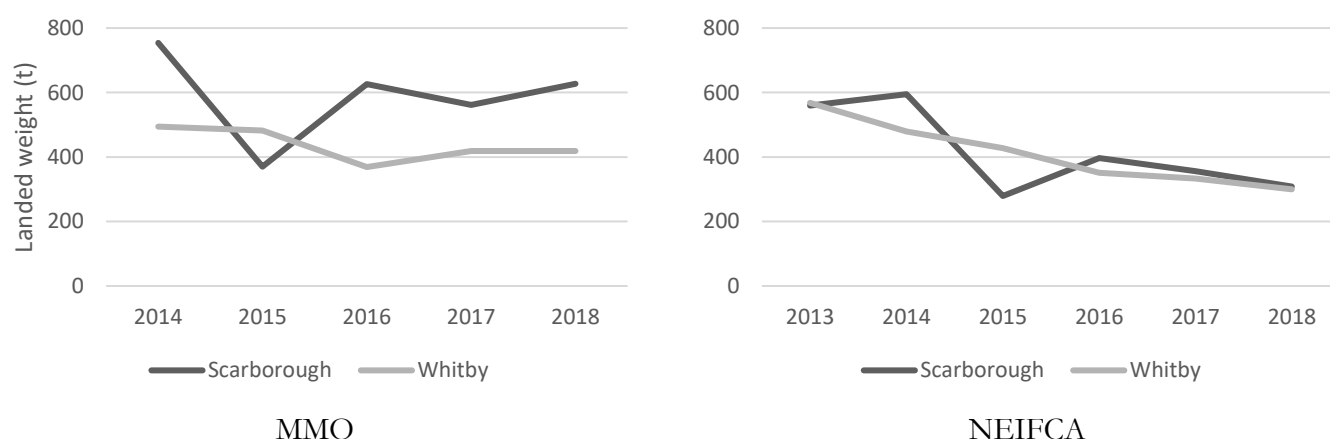
To further monitor impact on crab and lobster stocks, stock assessment survey fleets of pots have been fished within the region of the permitted areas over the summer months when the fishery is closed. CPUE of both lobster and edible crab have increased both within the permitted areas and adjacent grounds (Table 6).

Annual MMO landings statistics include all vessels and landings captured outside 6NM. These show that landings of edible crab into Scarborough fell to just under 400t in 2015 but have been stable at around 600t per year since then. Landings into Whitby fell from 500t to 400t between 2015 and 2016 but have remained stable since (Figure 15). On average, over 99.5% of edible crab landings into these two ports are captured with pots. Drift nets account for 0.30%, demersal trawls for 0.18% and dredges for 0.01%.

Landings declared to NEIFCA are treated as a proxy for what is captured within 6NM. There is no requirement for under 10m vessels to declare directly to NEIFCA, although many vessels voluntarily submit returns. There is also a proportion of catch reported to NEIFCA that originates from outside the district. Landings of edible crab into Scarborough and Whitby declared to NEIFCA have followed a decreasing trend since 2013 (Figure 15). This is likely to be due in part to a shift in crabbing effort outside of the district noted in the 2019 State of the Fisheries report.

**Table 6. CPUE (abundance per pot haul) of lobsters and edible crabs from survey fleets fished within and adjacent to the permitted dredge areas.**

Area	Lobster		Crab	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
<b>Northern</b>	0.32	0.28	2.01	4.19
<b>Southern</b>	0.05	0.44	3.98	4.08
<b>Permitted total</b>	0.24	0.37	2.57	4.13
<b>3NM-4NM</b>	0.37	0.45	5.03	5.67
<b>Within 3NM</b>	2.51	1.67	1.91	2.70

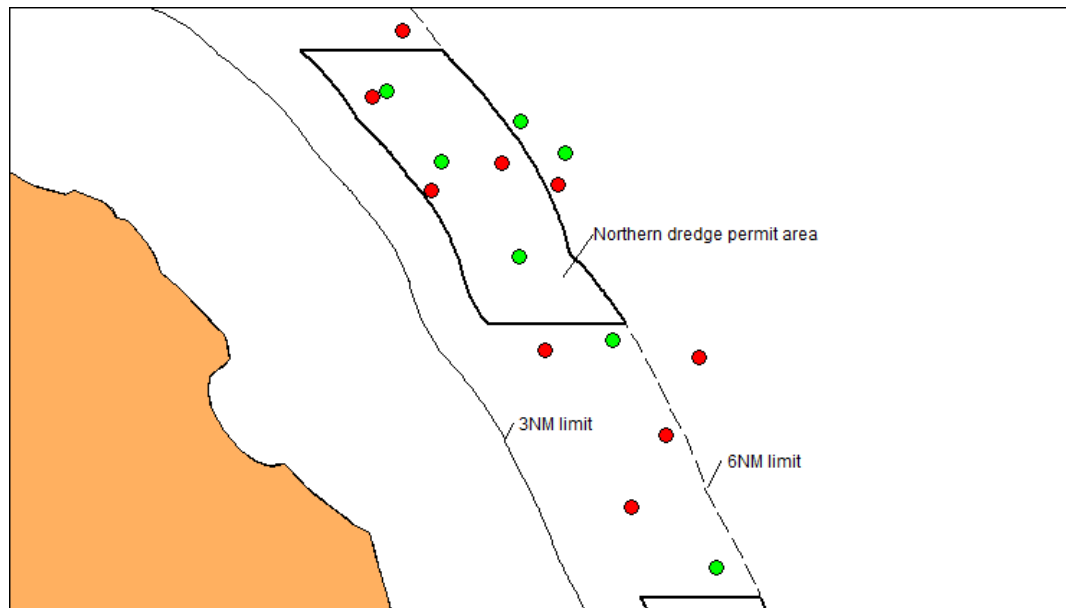


**Figure 15. Reported landings of edible crab into Scarborough and Whitby from MMO annual statistics (left) and landings declared to NEIFCA (right).**

## 5.2 Habitat impacts

Towed camera sled footage was captured using North Eastern Guardian III. A subset of footage captured in 2019 was assessed against similar footage captured in 2016 (Figure 16). Video clips were broken down into 4 minute clips and species counts made. Clips were assigned codes and transect distance was calculated in GIS using GPS coordinates noted from the video overlay system. Species observation counts were standardised to numbers observed per 100m.

Data acquired was broken down into three comparative zones, inside the northern permitted area, outside 6NM and inside 6NM but outside the permitted area. Video from the southern permitted area was not analysed due to the lack of comparable footage available from 2016.



**Figure 16. Video survey tow midpoints for 2016 (red) and 2019 (green).**

Standard diversity indexes are provided in Table 7. Effective numbers of species (also known as Hill numbers) are the number of equally abundant species necessary to produce the observed value of diversity. Converting the entropic indices (such as  $H'$ ) into effective numbers yields values of diversity that are more intuitive; i.e. they obey the doubling property and are in units of numbers of species (Jost, 2006). Effective number of species for all three treatment areas has decreased between 2016 and 2019. This was most pronounced for sites outside 6NM which reduced by 65%. Sites within 6NM that have been closed to dredging since 2015 were 41% lower, while within the permitted area the metric reduced by only 29%. Areas protected from dredging within 6NM were found to be the most diverse, followed by the permitted areas with limited activity and then open areas outside 6NM.



**Table 7. Standard diversity indices obtained from video analysis.**

Species richness ( $S$ ): average number of taxa per video clip by analysis zone. Diversity ( $H'$ ) and evenness calculated using the Shannon-Weiner function where  $H'$  is dependent on species richness, evenness and abundance. Effective number of species is a linearised expression of Shannon diversity to allow direct comparison.

Survey zone	Species richness ( $S$ )		Diversity ( $H'$ )		Evenness		Effective number of species	
	2016	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019
<b>Northern permit area</b>	7.5	5.9	2.21	1.47	0.84	0.54	3.1	2.2
<b>Inside 6NM</b>	7.1	7.9	2.07	2.00	0.79	0.76	4.9	2.9
<b>Outside 6NM</b>	6.5	6.2	1.53	1.25	0.62	0.49	4.6	1.6

Community data was subjected to nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMDS). Plots are given grouped by year and by zone (Figure 17) and by zone alone with ellipses (Figure 18). Dissimilarity by treatment was assessed using ANOSIM. Both were found to be highly significant (by year:  $p < 0.01$ , ANOSIM  $R = 0.3461$ ; by zone  $p < 0.01$ , ANOSIM  $R = 0.1916$ ) however low ANOSIM  $R$  values suggests an even distribution of high and low ranks within and between groups; higher  $R$  values would indicate that community composition was more dissimilar by group.

### 5.3 Indicator species

The soft coral *Alcyonium digitatum* has been identified as a suitable indicator species of physical disturbance and, in particular, of dredge fishery impacts (Hiscock et al., 2005). Its erect form and size make it particularly useful for analysis from remote underwater video. Whilst enumerating species for the community analysis, *A. digitatum* was classified in two ways. Firstly, those colonies that were erect, with either their polyps in or out were classed as 'functional'. A second 'damaged' category was assigned to colonies that were clearly not attached to the substrata and/or had visible damage, and did not have their polyps out which would indicate functionality. A degree of caution should be used in the interpretation of the results as this was a relatively subjective method of classification and there is a risk that small functional colonies may have been miscategorised as damaged. Abundance was standardised to numbers per 100m of video tow length.

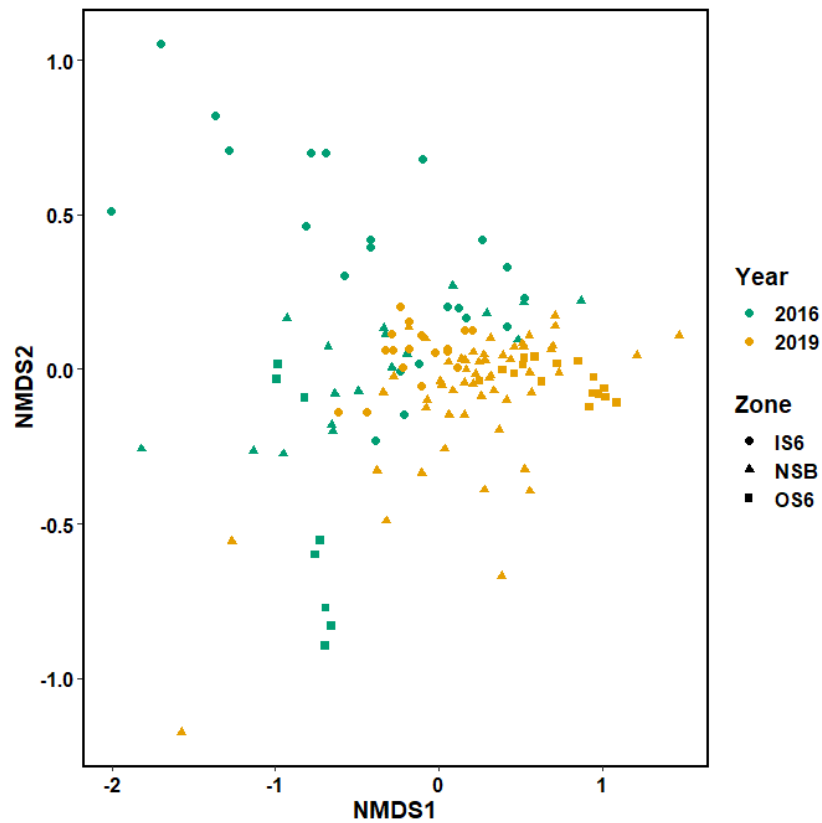


Figure 17. Nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) plot presenting observed community differences between years and by zone in a reduced two-dimensional space (stress = 0.11).

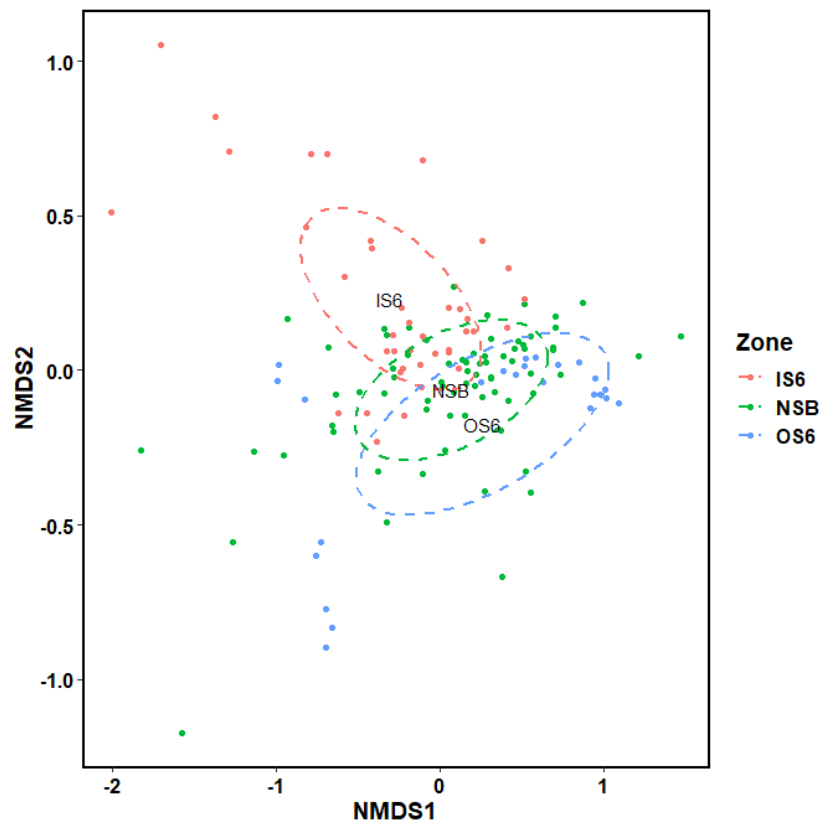
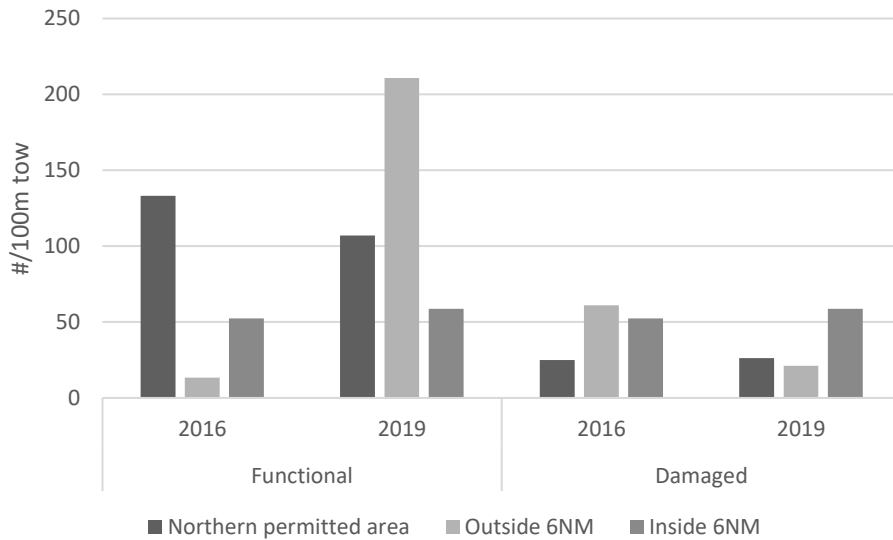


Figure 18. Nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) plot presenting observed community differences with ellipses grouped by treatment

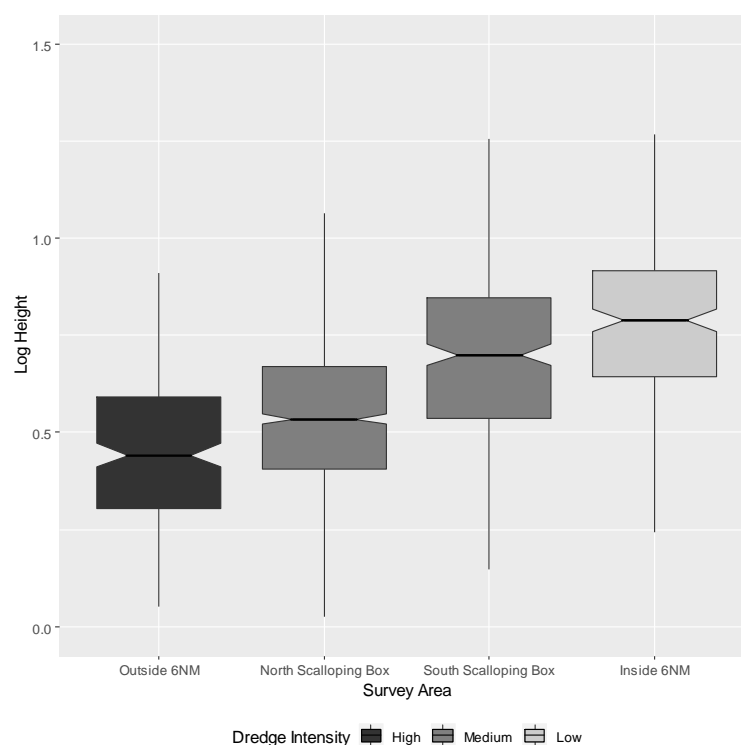
Within the permitted area the abundance of functional colonies fell slightly between 2016 and 2019 (133 to 107/100m), however abundance was still significantly higher than counts of damaged colonies in both years (Figure 19). For the closed areas within 6NM the abundance of functional and damaged colonies was similar between years, within the range of 52-58/100m. The most significant change was noted in the abundance of functional colonies from sites outside the 6NM limit, which increased from 13/100m in 2016 to 210/100m in 2019. The abundance of damaged colonies in this zone was reduced over the same time period.



**Figure 19. Standardised relative abundance of *Alcyonium digitatum* from video tows undertaken in 2016 and 2019.**

Further analysis was undertaken by measuring the height of *A. digitatum* using image processing software ImageJ. Only video clips for 2019 were assessed as no scaling lasers had been used in 2016. For each clip, measurements were taken of the first 20 colonies to pass between the laser points. Data was grouped by area and by dredge intensity with permitted areas assumed to have a medium level intensity compared to closed areas inside 6NM and open areas outside 6NM. Visual and statistical tests of normality were undertaken and data was log transformed. Significance was assessed using a one-way ANOVA and multiple pairwise comparison (Tukey HSD).

It is clear that height of *A. digitatum* was strongly correlated with dredge intensity (Figure 20). Variation between areas and by dredge intensity was highly significant ( $p < 0.01$ ). When considered with the abundance data for 2019, open areas could be characterised as having larger numbers of smaller colonies. With reducing dredge intensity, the number of colonies decreased while the size of those colonies increased.



**Figure 20. Log height of *Alcyonium digitatum* from video tows undertaken in 2019.**

## 5.4 Discussion

Bycatch rates within the fishery have remained stable since management was first introduced. Lobsters are rarely observed while edible crab catch rates have remained just below 1 crab per dredge per 5 km towed. The estimated number of crab captured each season needs to be considered in comparison to the number landed by the potting fishery each year. Landings into Scarborough and Whitby from within the district in 2018, and assuming a weight of 400g, would equate to c.1.5 million crabs. CPUE derived from survey fleets fished within the permitted areas increased between 2018 and 2019. National data suggest landings into Scarborough and Whitby are stable and while data declared to NEIFCA shows a decreasing trend, this is thought to be due to changing fishing patterns and issues with wider crab stocks rather than a localised concern.

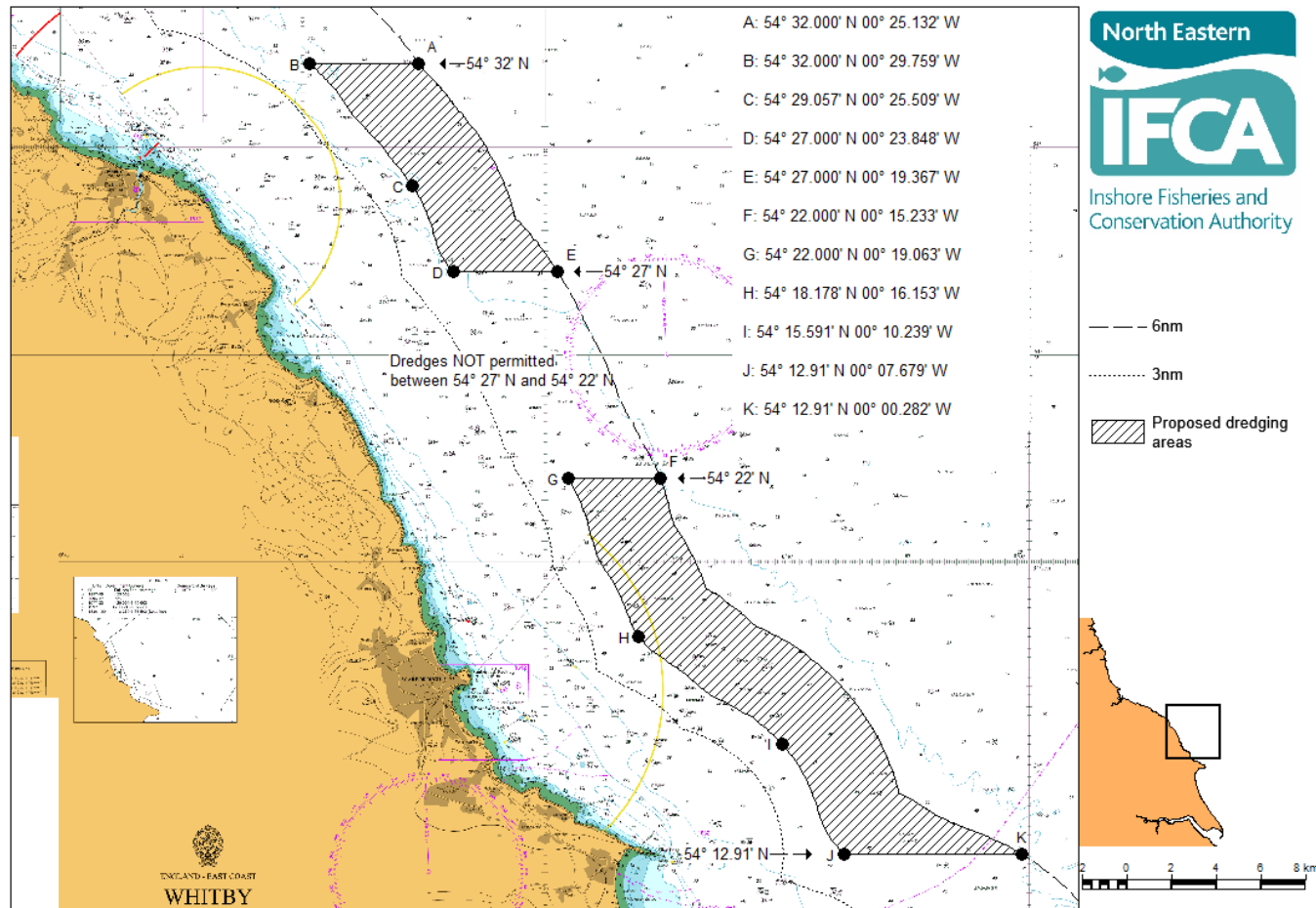
Habitat impacts arising from scallop dredging are well documented. The permitted areas, which represent less than 5% of the total area of the district, have been heavily modified by historic activity. All study areas showed a decrease in biodiversity metrics over the study period. Using *A. digitatum* as an indicator would suggest that the areas are subjected to moderate levels of disturbance, between closed areas inside 6NM and fully open areas outside the District. On balance, the current restrictions placed on effort are considered adequate to mitigate the impacts of the fishery.

## 6. References

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## Appendix 1

Permitted area details.



Northern permit area – Eastern boundary between points A and E is the 6NM limit.

Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point
54° 31.999' N	0° 25.132' W	A	54° 29.934' N	0° 26.667' W	
54° 31.999' N	0° 29.759' W	B	54° 29.865' N	0° 26.576' W	
54° 31.929' N	0° 29.623' W		54° 29.78' N	0° 26.469' W	
54° 31.858' N	0° 29.491' W		54° 29.717' N	0° 26.392' W	
54° 31.786' N	0° 29.361' W		54° 29.717' N	0° 26.391' W	
54° 31.713' N	0° 29.233' W		54° 29.638' N	0° 26.272' W	
54° 31.638' N	0° 29.107' W		54° 29.559' N	0° 26.156' W	
54° 31.601' N	0° 29.046' W		54° 29.478' N	0° 26.042' W	
54° 31.558' N	0° 28.98' W		54° 29.396' N	0° 25.93' W	
54° 31.526' N	0° 28.931' W		54° 29.313' N	0° 25.821' W	
54° 31.446' N	0° 28.814' W		54° 29.229' N	0° 25.715' W	
54° 31.365' N	0° 28.7' W		54° 29.143' N	0° 25.611' W	
54° 31.283' N	0° 28.588' W		54° 29.057' N	0° 25.509' W	C
54° 31.208' N	0° 28.49' W		54° 28.97' N	0° 25.41' W	
54° 31.195' N	0° 28.472' W		54° 28.897' N	0° 25.331' W	
54° 31.11' N	0° 28.365' W		54° 28.879' N	0° 25.314' W	
54° 31.025' N	0° 28.261' W		54° 28.876' N	0° 25.311' W	
54° 30.939' N	0° 28.16' W		54° 28.783' N	0° 25.229' W	
54° 30.852' N	0° 28.061' W		54° 28.69' N	0° 25.15' W	
54° 30.773' N	0° 27.976' W		54° 28.595' N	0° 25.073' W	
54° 30.465' N	0° 27.497' W		54° 28.5' N	0° 24.999' W	
54° 30.442' N	0° 27.459' W		54° 28.404' N	0° 24.927' W	
54° 30.434' N	0° 27.446' W		54° 28.307' N	0° 24.859' W	
54° 30.362' N	0° 27.329' W		54° 28.21' N	0° 24.794' W	
54° 30.328' N	0° 27.275' W		54° 28.129' N	0° 24.742' W	
54° 30.306' N	0° 27.24' W		54° 28.109' N	0° 24.732' W	
54° 30.296' N	0° 27.222' W		54° 28.008' N	0° 24.684' W	
54° 30.278' N	0° 27.191' W		54° 28.001' N	0° 24.681' W	
54° 30.205' N	0° 27.063' W		54° 27.985' N	0° 24.674' W	
54° 30.16' N	0° 26.987' W		54° 27.946' N	0° 24.655' W	
54° 30.136' N	0° 26.948' W		54° 27.887' N	0° 24.629' W	
54° 30.119' N	0° 26.923' W		54° 27.491' N	0° 24.408' W	
54° 30.118' N	0° 26.92' W		54° 27.131' N	0° 24.05' W	
54° 30.115' N	0° 26.917' W		54° 27.123' N	0° 24.039' W	
54° 30.034' N	0° 26.803' W		54° 27' N	0° 23.848' W	D
54° 29.952' N	0° 26.691' W		54° 27' N	0° 19.367' W	E

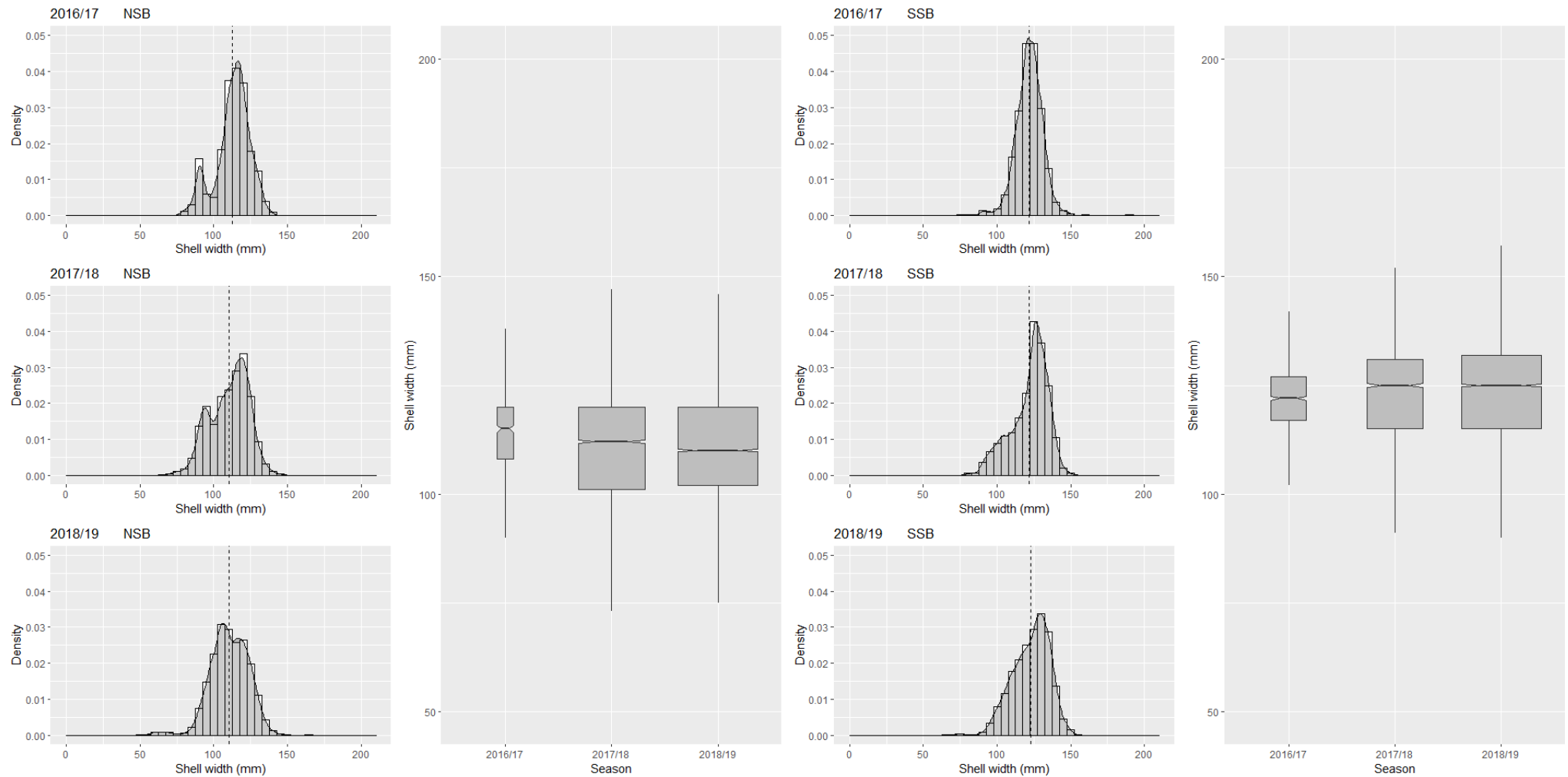
Southern permit area – Eastern boundary between points F and K is the 6NM limit.

Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point
54° 21.999' N	0° 15.233' W	F	54° 18.911' N	0° 16.746' W		54° 16.088' N	0° 11.16' W	
54° 21.999' N	0° 19.063' W	G	54° 18.881' N	0° 16.726' W		54° 16.06' N	0° 11.103' W	
54° 21.94' N	0° 19.004' W		54° 18.783' N	0° 16.66' W		54° 16.019' N	0° 11.019' W	
54° 21.853' N	0° 18.924' W		54° 18.685' N	0° 16.598' W		54° 15.951' N	0° 10.883' W	
54° 21.833' N	0° 18.906' W		54° 18.587' N	0° 16.539' W		54° 15.882' N	0° 10.749' W	
54° 21.752' N	0° 18.834' W		54° 18.539' N	0° 16.511' W		54° 15.811' N	0° 10.618' W	
54° 21.658' N	0° 18.755' W		54° 18.178' N	0° 16.153' W	H	54° 15.739' N	0° 10.488' W	
54° 21.564' N	0° 18.678' W		54° 17.867' N	0° 15.675' W		54° 15.665' N	0° 10.361' W	
54° 21.496' N	0° 18.625' W		54° 17.622' N	0° 15.095' W		54° 15.604' N	0° 10.258' W	
54° 21.459' N	0° 18.596' W		54° 17.603' N	0° 15.04' W		54° 15.59' N	0° 10.238' W	I
54° 21.363' N	0° 18.525' W		54° 17.574' N	0° 14.957' W		54° 15.509' N	0° 10.125' W	
54° 21.266' N	0° 18.457' W		54° 17.519' N	0° 14.805' W		54° 15.427' N	0° 10.014' W	
54° 21.169' N	0° 18.392' W		54° 17.463' N	0° 14.654' W		54° 15.358' N	0° 9.924' W	
54° 21.128' N	0° 18.366' W		54° 17.414' N	0° 14.528' W		54° 15.342' N	0° 9.902' W	
54° 21.07' N	0° 18.329' W		54° 17.403' N	0° 14.504' W		54° 15.257' N	0° 9.796' W	
54° 21.033' N	0° 18.31' W		54° 17.338' N	0° 14.364' W		54° 15.172' N	0° 9.693' W	
54° 21.006' N	0° 18.298' W		54° 17.271' N	0° 14.227' W		54° 15.086' N	0° 9.592' W	
54° 20.92' N	0° 18.257' W		54° 17.23' N	0° 14.144' W		54° 14.998' N	0° 9.494' W	
54° 20.819' N	0° 18.213' W		54° 17.202' N	0° 14.089' W		54° 14.927' N	0° 9.416' W	
54° 20.807' N	0° 18.208' W		54° 17.133' N	0° 13.955' W		54° 14.91' N	0° 9.4' W	
54° 20.706' N	0° 18.167' W		54° 17.062' N	0° 13.824' W		54° 14.817' N	0° 9.318' W	
54° 20.701' N	0° 18.165' W		54° 16.99' N	0° 13.694' W		54° 14.723' N	0° 9.239' W	
54° 20.697' N	0° 18.163' W		54° 16.958' N	0° 13.638' W		54° 14.629' N	0° 9.162' W	
54° 20.595' N	0° 18.125' W		54° 16.712' N	0° 13.058' W		54° 14.533' N	0° 9.089' W	
54° 20.514' N	0° 18.097' W		54° 16.623' N	0° 12.716' W		54° 14.437' N	0° 9.018' W	
54° 20.117' N	0° 17.876' W		54° 16.619' N	0° 12.701' W		54° 14.435' N	0° 9.016' W	
54° 19.756' N	0° 17.518' W		54° 16.574' N	0° 12.54' W		54° 14.435' N	0° 9.016' W	
54° 19.725' N	0° 17.481' W		54° 16.547' N	0° 12.447' W		54° 14.338' N	0° 8.948' W	
54° 19.639' N	0° 17.38' W		54° 16.526' N	0° 12.375' W		54° 14.241' N	0° 8.883' W	
54° 19.552' N	0° 17.281' W		54° 16.477' N	0° 12.217' W		54° 14.16' N	0° 8.832' W	
54° 19.477' N	0° 17.201' W		54° 16.427' N	0° 12.06' W		54° 14.142' N	0° 8.823' W	
54° 19.456' N	0° 17.181' W		54° 16.376' N	0° 11.904' W		54° 14.041' N	0° 8.776' W	
54° 19.363' N	0° 17.099' W		54° 16.323' N	0° 11.75' W		54° 13.987' N	0° 8.751' W	
54° 19.27' N	0° 17.02' W		54° 16.268' N	0° 11.598' W		54° 13.589' N	0° 8.53' W	
54° 19.175' N	0° 16.943' W		54° 16.211' N	0° 11.447' W		54° 13.227' N	0° 8.172' W	
54° 19.08' N	0° 16.869' W		54° 16.163' N	0° 11.322' W		54° 12.916' N	0° 7.693' W	J
54° 18.984' N	0° 16.798' W		54° 16.153' N	0° 11.3' W		54° 12.916' N	0° 0.282' W	K

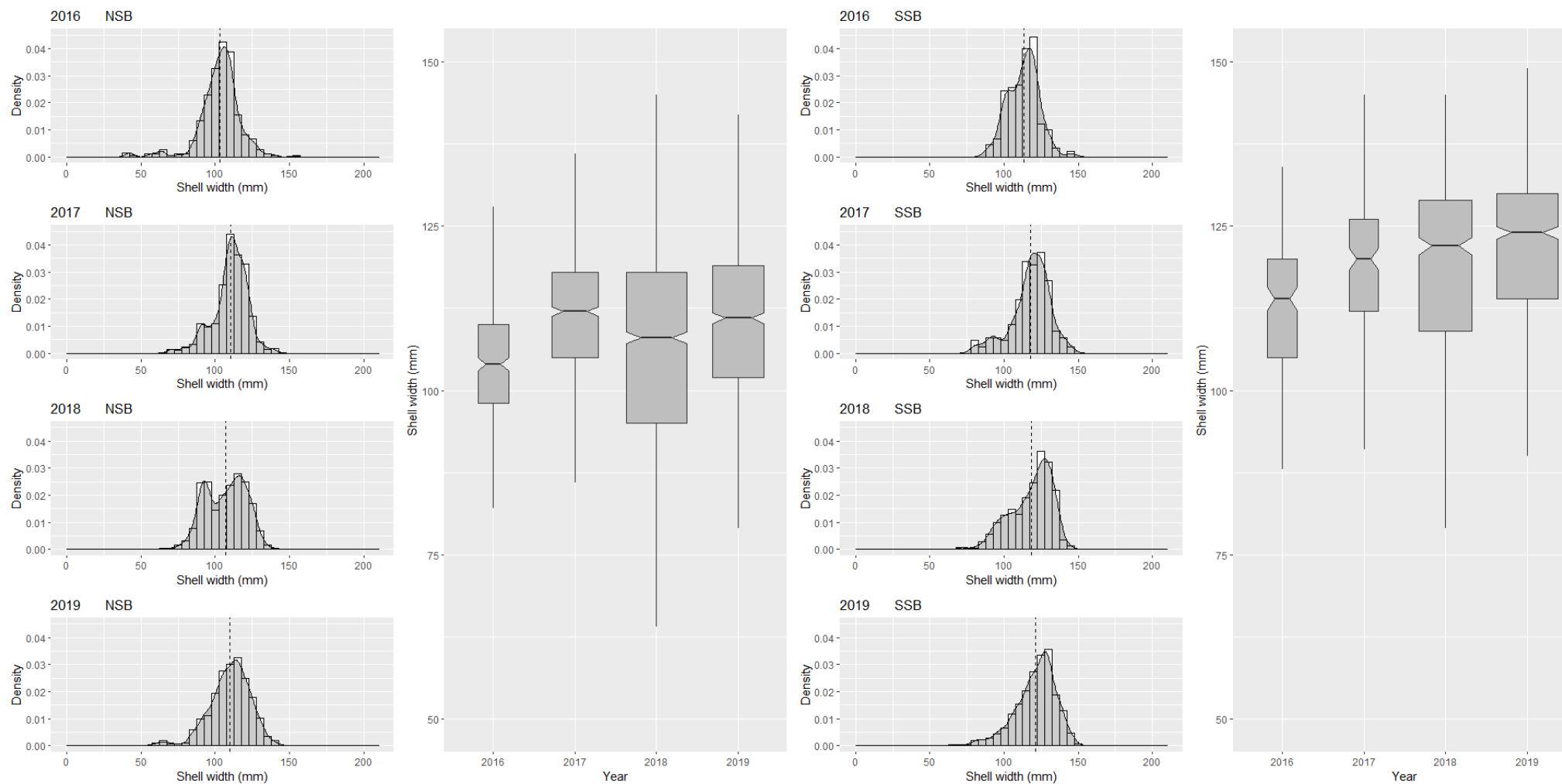


## Appendix 2

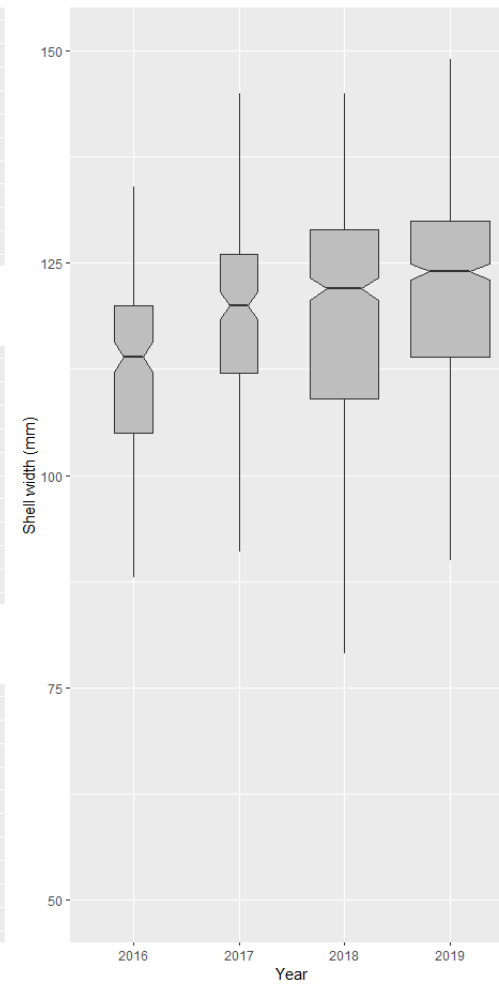
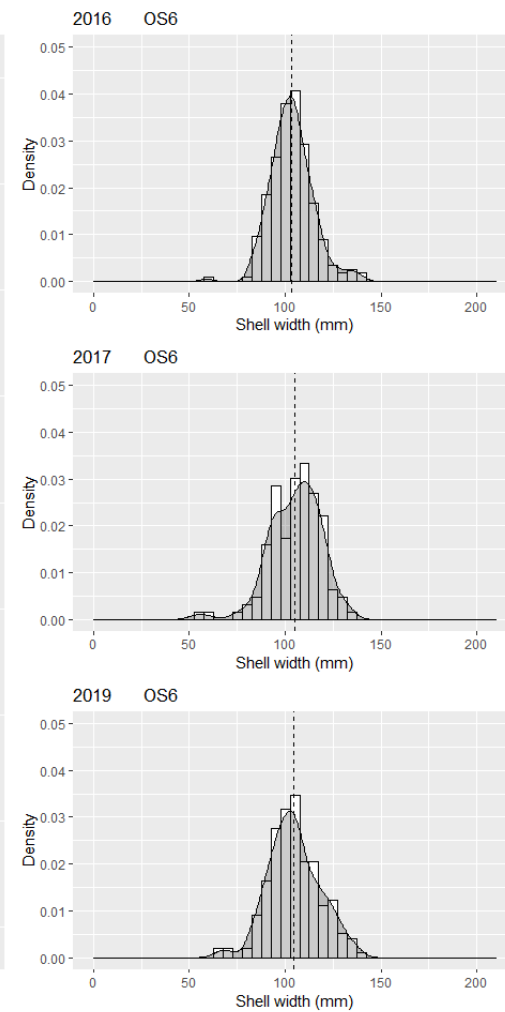
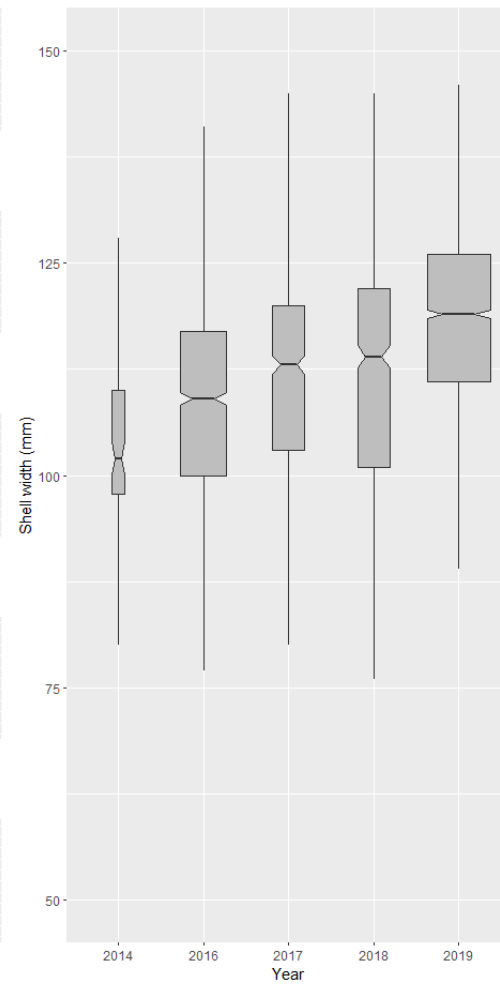
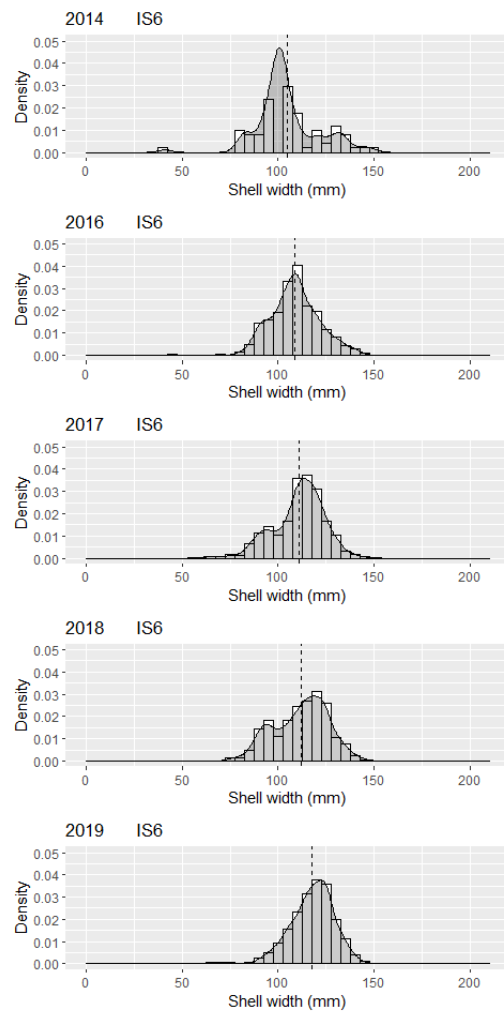
Size frequency data from permitted vessel sampling by permit area for the period 2016-2019.



Size frequency data from patrol vessel sampling by permit area for the period 2016-2019.



Size frequency data from patrol vessel sampling for area inside 6NM closed to dredging since 2015 (IS6) and for outside 6NM (OS6) for the period 2016-2019.



### Appendix 3

Effort and landings.

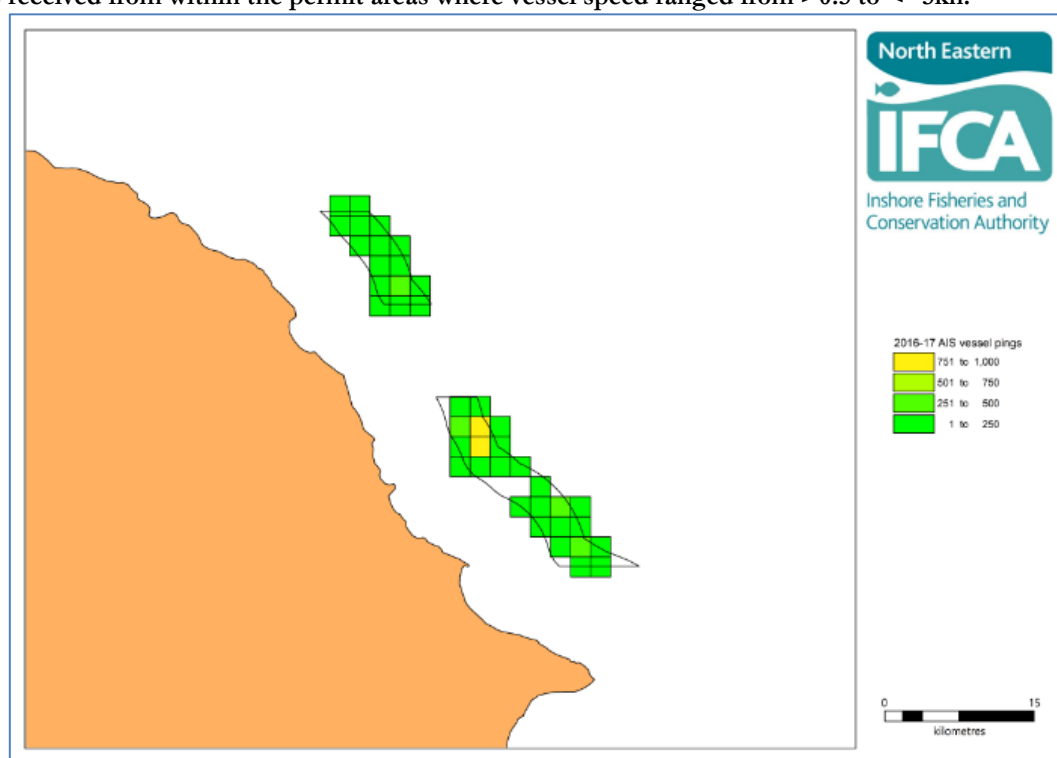
Number of active days and tows by season.

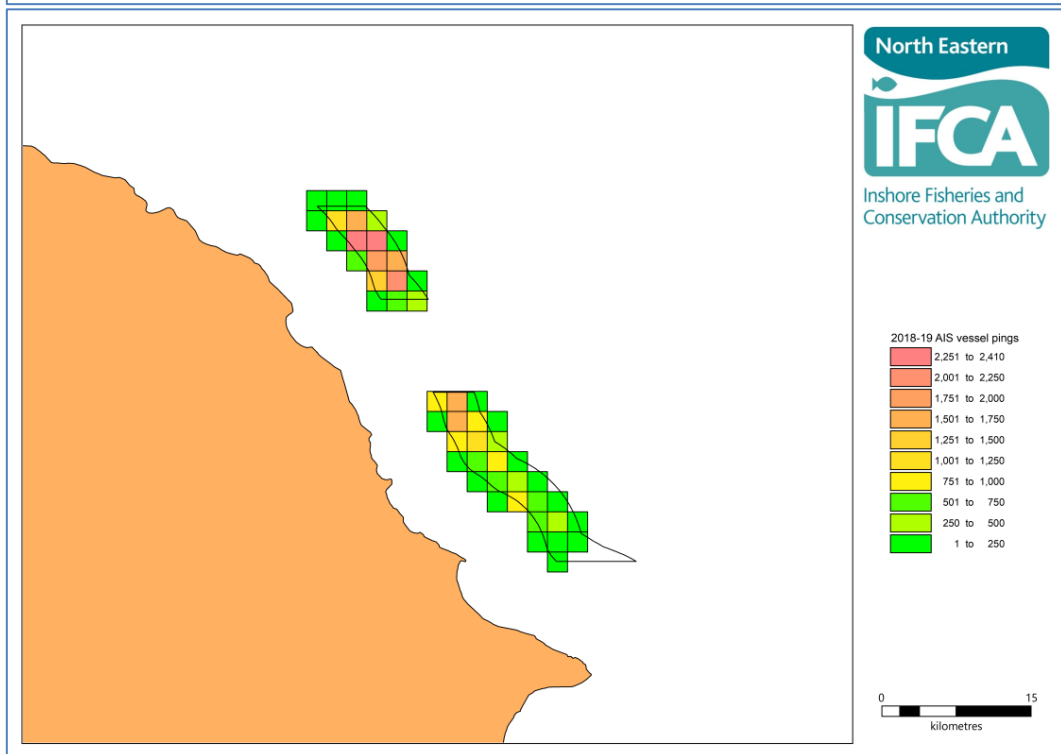
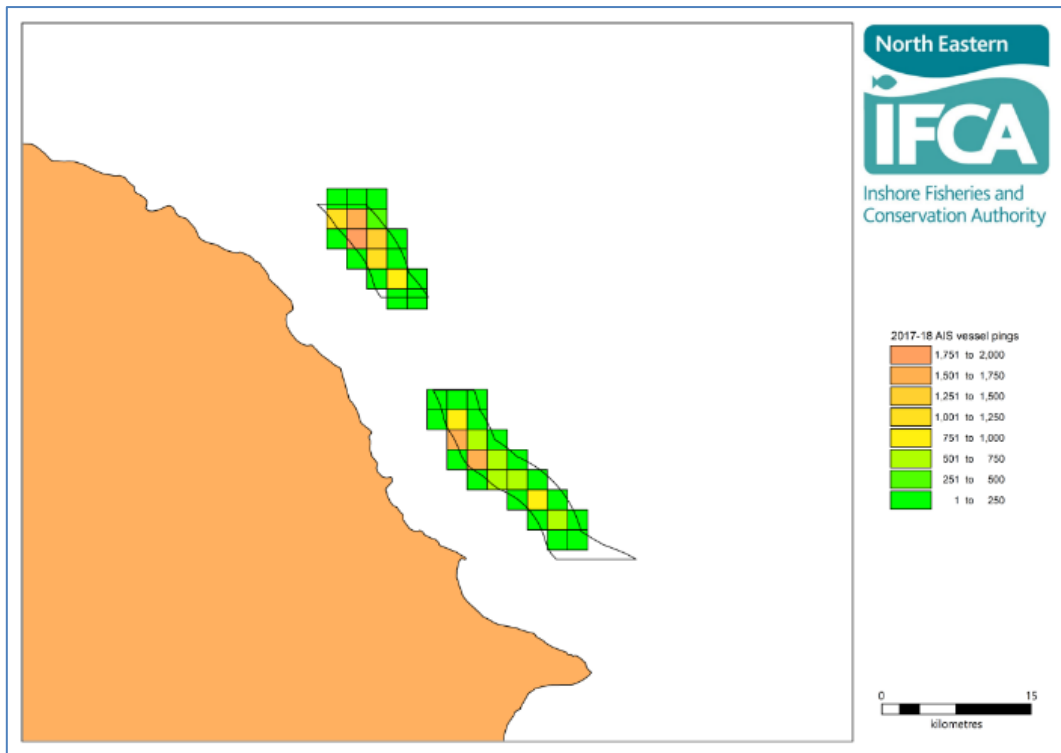
Season	Active days			Number of tows		
	Total	Northern	Southern	Total	Northern	Southern
2016/17	89	33	54	473	201	260
2017/18	166	81	84	758	415	337
2018/19	198	118	80	1060	693	367

Landings and landings per unit effort (LPUE) by permit area.

Season	Total reported landings (tonnes)		LPUE (tonnes/km <sup>2</sup> )	
	Northern	Southern	Northern	Southern
2016/17	32.4	30.1	3.9	2.1
2017/18	151.4	46.4	5.1	2.4
2018/19	215.9	71.5	3.9	2.8

Relative intensity of active effort 2016-2019. Maps are derived from Automatic Identification System (AIS) pings received from within the permit areas where vessel speed ranged from >0.5 to ≤5kn.





#### **Appendix 4**

**Relative proportions (%) of bycatch observed during observer trips aboard permitted vessels for the period 2016-2019.**

Species	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Brill	0.0	0.4	0.0
Cod	0.0	0.3	0.0
Common urchin	30.9	13.1	16.1
Dab	0.0	9.3	6.8
Dragonet	0.0	0.9	2.5
Edible crab	17.6	12.6	10.6
Flat fish spp.	3.7	0.3	0.4
Gurnard	0.0	0.1	0.1
Hermit crab	0.0	0.9	6.1
Herring	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lobster	0.0	0.1	0.0
Lumpsucker	0.7	0.0	0.0
Monkfish	0.0	0.1	0.7
Ocean quahog	1.5	0.2	0.0
Plaice	0.7	4.7	1.8
Pogge	0.7	4.1	1.8
Pollock	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pouting	0.0	0.1	0.0
Sea scorpion spp.	0.0	0.9	0.8
Squat lobster spp.	0.0	0.3	0.6
Starfish spp.	44.1	47.1	46.1
Swimming crab spp.	0.0	0.5	0.0
Thornback ray	0.0	0.3	0.3
Velvet Swimming crab	0.0	1.2	2.9
Whelk	0.0	2.0	2.3
Whiting	0.0	0.7	0.1

**NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION**

**Report to:** Authority Meeting  
18 September 2020

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**Management of Permitted Intertidal Sea bass Fishery 2020/2021**

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Report by the Chief Officer.

**A. Purpose of Report**

To update members on the current situation surrounding the issuing of intertidal fixed netting permits to target sea bass and ongoing legislative conflict with European Fisheries legislation.

**B. Recommendation**

1. That Members note the report.
2. That given the continuation of the European ban on commercial sea bass fishing from the shore, no intertidal permits are offered for the 2020/2021 season
3. That the situation surrounding intertidal permits remains under review pending any formal legislative changes following the end of the UK EU exit transition period on 31 December 2020.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Members will be fully aware of the ongoing conflict between European fisheries legislation, designed to protect sea bass stocks, and the Authority's intertidal netting permit scheme.
- 1.2 This legislative conflict has been ongoing since the end of 2017 and despite extensive lobbying, has remained unresolved leaving the Authority no option but to withhold the issue of its intertidal fishing permits between October 2018 and March 2019 across the main sea bass season. During April 2019 the Authority supported the issue of permits for a limited period between May and June to enable fishermen to target dover sole. This decision was taken on the understanding that the sea bass bycatch would be minimal which proved not to be the case and three associated fisheries offences were detected.
- 1.3 A new Council Regulation, (EU) 2020/123, was published on 27 January 2020 which has maintained the longstanding prohibition governing the commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore until at least 31 December 2020.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That given the continuing conflict with the European legislation, prohibiting the commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore no intertidal sea bass permits are offered for the 2020/2021 season which under the supporting byelaw regulation would have been scheduled to commence on 1 October 2020.
- 2.2 The status of this fishery will remain under review and a further report will be presented to the full Authority at its meeting in December 2020.

Contact Officer

David McCandless, Chief Officer  
Ext. 3690

Background Papers



**NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Report to:** Authority Meeting  
18 September 2020

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**Draft NEIFCA Annual Report 2019/2020**

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Report by the Chief Officer.

**A. Purpose of Report**

To provide members with a draft Annual Report covering the period, 2019/2020, summarising the Authority's outputs and activities during the year.

**B. Recommendation**

4. That members note and endorse the report

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Section 178 of the 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act places a statutory duty on Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA's) to prepare and publish an annual report on their activities.
- 1.2 A draft annual report covering the period 2019/2020 and summarising the Authority's work, main outputs and achievements during its ninth operational year is attached for member's information and review.
- 1.3 The report must be formally submitted to Defra by 30 November 2020. If member's have any additional comments or feedback please submit them via email return to me by **Friday 30 October 2020**.

**Contact Officer**

David McCandless  
Chief Officer  
Ext. 3690

**Background Papers**

Draft NEIFCA Annual Report 2019/2020

**NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Report to:** Authority Meeting  
18 September 2020

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**Science Advisory Group Update**

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Report by the Chair of SAG & the Chief Officer

**1. Purpose of Report**

To update members on considerations and recommendations emanating from the most recent meeting of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) held on 11 March 2020.

**B. Recommendation**

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

**1. Background**

1.1 At the Authority meeting held on 7 December 2017 members supported revisions to the role and function of the Science Advisory sub-group. It was agreed that the group should play a more central function in providing the Authority with scientific and technical advice to fully support its decision making processes. The Authority can also delegate specific work streams or tasks to the SAG for further consideration (minute record 31 refers).

1.2 Authority members agreed that they would receive a written report from the SAG at each meeting summarising its most recent considerations and any specific recommendations for further consideration.

1.3 Since the last Authority meeting held on 5 December 2019, one meeting of the SAG was held on 11 March 2020 and is summarised below:

1.4 11 March 2020

At the meeting members considered the following items:

- Scallop dredging fisheries management plan
- The future development and implementation of 'flexible' byelaw regulations
- Mariculture management
- Revised research plan 2020
- Annual research report 2019/2020
- Licensing consents and project updates

1.5 The group considered the draft management plan for scallop dredging in detail and whilst they fully recognised the highly invasive nature of the associated fishing activity they felt that sufficient evidence had been presented across the supporting three-year trial to continue the fishery under the provisions outlined within the draft plan. Bycatch impacts had remained stable throughout the trial and the permitted area represented less than 5% of the entire district consisting of habitat which had been heavily modified during centuries

of mobile fishing activity. The group advocated the continuation of by-catch monitoring supported by video monitoring every 2 to 3 years to monitor long term trends in habitat change alongside the development of pre-recruit matrices and more active involvement from the fishing industry in gathering catch data.

- 1.6 In terms of considerations surrounding other agenda items members supported proposals to develop more flexible byelaw regulations and welcomed receipt of first drafts for review. Members also welcomed the development of a more proactive approach to the management of mariculture activities within the NEIFCA district. Recently there had been an upsurge in associated licensed activities including the growing and harvesting of seaweed species and the development of scallop and oyster growing initiatives.

Contact Officer

David McCandless,  
Chief Officer,  
Ext. 3690

**NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Report to:** Authority Meeting  
18 September 2020

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**Chief Officer's Operational Report**

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Report of the Chief Officer

**A. Purpose of Report**

To provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational report covering the period December 2019 to August 2020.

**B. Recommendation**

That Members note the report.

**1. Overview**

**1.1 NEIFCA**

*Covid-19 Pandemic*

All members will have a full appreciation and understanding of the current national crisis and the UK position in relation to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout the ongoing pandemic, from an operational perspective our first priority has been to follow UK government advice and take all the necessary steps we could to reduce the spread and impact of the virus and protect our staff whilst still delivering our statutory functions.

At operational level within NEIFCA our contingency planning continues to evolve in response to the ever changing situation:

Between the 28 February and the 23 March 2020 the first priority was to follow the public health guidelines in relation to social distancing, hand sanitisation and self-isolation if symptoms developed amongst staff.

From the 23 March and the commencement of a national 'lockdown', all 'face to face' external meetings and associated engagement were suspended alongside routine offshore fisheries patrol work. New remote lines of communication were established via telephone, video conferencing and secure social media apps. Land based fisheries patrol work was and has been maintained throughout the pandemic utilising single officer vehicular patrols with an emphasis on visually monitoring activity and gathering intelligence. This information was fed in each week to a national UK coordinating group led by Defra. As far as possible staff were moved to home working aside from those involved in the essential maintenance of assets and periodic manning of NEIFCA's main office by support staff overseeing the collection of mail, processing of invoices and fishing permits. Throughout this period the

main patrol vessel remained operationally 'ready' to be deployed in response to any significant 'event'. During 'lockdown' one such deployment took place in response to illegal scallop dredging within the NEIFCA district. This intervention brought a successful outcome.

From the 25 May 2020 whilst 'face to face' external meetings remained suspended routine offshore patrol work was re-established in line with a new set of COVID safe operating practices and supporting risk assessments. Land based fisheries patrol work continues through single officer vehicular patrols although officers are now more actively engaged in compliance inspections in line with national COVID advice and guidelines. Quayside, biological survey and monitoring work was also re-established, again, in line with a revised set of COVID safe operating practices and supporting risk assessments. In general officers are continuing to work primarily from home, utilising remote lines of communication. NEIFCA's main office is manned by at least one staff member throughout the working week, Monday to Friday and video conferencing has now been successfully implemented to support Authority, Executive and sub-group meetings. This type of operational pattern or slight variations of, depending on COVID risk levels, will continue now into 2021.

Outside managing operational risk resulting from COVID one of the other key challenges has been the relative closing down of the judicial system with the exception of all but the most serious offending. This has led to the ultimate postponement of a number of fisheries related cases which had been progressing through local Magistrates courts. Where possible and appropriate to do so, officers have been utilising administrative sanctions such as fixed penalty notices, warning letters and formal cautions to deal with recent infringements detected post 'lockdown'.

In terms of obvious impacts on NEIFCA service delivery caused by the pandemic, disruption to the planned schedule of meetings during 2020/2021 has been a notable one for all members and operationally, the level of risk presented by the virus has prevented routine boarding and inspection of fishing vessels at sea and curtailed all offshore biological survey work.

Thankfully since the onset of the pandemic only two staff have needed to take COVID 19 tests, both negative and all staff remain currently fit and well.

#### *The Fishing Industry & Covid-19*

In terms of the fishing industry, from the beginning of March 2020 the enforced closure of the hospitality sectors across Europe led to the temporary closure of the majority of small scale shellfish merchants and outlets across the NEIFCA area and the associated 'tie up' of the local inshore fishing fleet. The only fishing businesses which continued to operate throughout the pandemic were those owned by larger companies with greater capacity to store, process and sell independently to other market outlets. At Hartlepool one of the large fishing companies 'Ocean fleet' bought shellfish directly from some of the smaller vessel operators.

On 17 April 2020 Defra announced a £10 million COVID financial support package for England's fishing businesses which provided some much needed assistance although not all business such as those involved in commercial charter fishing were able to access the scheme. A further £1 million was also made available to support direct selling initiatives to local communities.

From the beginning of June 2020 as COVID restrictions started to ease across Europe markets began to re-open and associated levels of fishing activity increased again. This slow return to normality has continued through the summer boosted by the re-opening of the hospitality sector on 4 July 2020.

## **1.2 National**

Up until the outbreak of the COVID pandemic national work streams were dominated by preparations for the future exit of the European Union with primary involvement through the IFCA Chief Officers Group and the national Association of IFCAs. The result of the General Election held on 12 December 2019 delivered a majority UK government and the UK formally exited the European Union on 31 January 2020 marking the commencement of a proposed one year transition period. Since then, national work has been dominated by the ongoing UK response to the COVID pandemic. As the national impact of the pandemic eased through the summer months the government focus has gradually returned to EU exit.

## **1.3 Enforcement & Compliance Work**

Between March and May 2020 most of the compliance issues detected related to the nomadic scallop fishery fuelled by strong fishing on grounds well outside the Authority's jurisdiction. Throughout this period officers prioritised enforcement work to counteract these issues through targeted night time offshore patrol work and closer partnership working with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Marine Management Organisation.

Between June and August 2020 there has been a significant upsurge in the frequency and numbers of ethnic Chinese groups gathering a wide range of shellfish species from intertidal areas across the NEIFCA district particularly at Redcar, Hartlepool and North Yorkshire. Most of these groups are linked to Chinese restaurants. Officers have been working extremely hard to counter this activity in a COVID secure manner, working very closely with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), local Trading Standards and Food Safety teams and local Police Constabularies. This pattern of activity has been mirrored across England and is thought linked in some way to the COVID pandemic.

## **1.4 NEIFCA Organisational Review**

A lot of work and time has been invested since December 2019 in supporting the implementation of the NEIFCA organisational review and an update will be provided separately to members by the Clerk and Chair at the meeting.

As the Chief operational officer I cannot emphasise enough how important a positive outcome to this review is. Over the years, for a number of reasons, NEIFCA has fallen behind in the levels of remuneration offered across a wide number of its posts in comparison with equivalent organisations and roles. This in turn has significantly impacted on the Authority's ability to recruit and retain key staff. The review is seeking to address these issues and whilst I fully recognise the challenging nature of the current economic climate, the extensive issues that the organisation has experienced over the last ten years or so will only be resolved with the firm backing and support from members.

## 1.5 Replacement Patrol Vessel Project

The overall project consists of three individual components, replacement of the main patrol vessel alongside the separate build and commission of two daughter craft, a 9.5m Cabin RIB and an 8m aluminium work boat. Since the commencement of the project in 2014 senior officers have undertaken a significant volume of work which has included a number of fact finding visits to key shipyards, smaller vessel manufacturers and vessel operators in the UK and Europe to discuss the project, gain first hand experience of associated facilities, resourcing and quality of craftsmanship.

A supporting business case has also been developed to underpin the decision making process and this has been circulated across NEIFCA's membership and more widely to MPs as well.

The maximum anticipated cost of the funding the project is estimated at £4.2 million leaving a current projected funding shortfall of up to £1.988 million. Actual costs cannot be determined until a formal tender process has been completed for the build and commission of the main patrol vessel and the current vessel has been marketed for sale. These processes cannot commence until there is some certainty that the projected level of funding required can be realistically attained.

Officers have invested significant time in highlighting the project across the private sector and seeking additional financial backing. Alongside that both myself and the Clerk have written a joint letter to the Fisheries Minister requesting a meeting to discuss financing the project. I have also written separately to the 23 Members of Parliament representing constituencies across the member Local Authority areas seeking support for the project and requesting that they also lobby the Fisheries Minister on behalf of NEIFCA. Some very positive and supportive responses have since been received back although a meeting has not yet been offered.

At the Executive Committee meeting held on 16 April 2020 members considered options to further progress the vessel replacement programme and endorsed the commencement of a formal tender process for the build and commission of the 9.5 m Cabin RIB component. The outcome of the tender process to be considered in consultation with the Authority with the intention of awarding the associated contract.

In total three tenders were received in response to the procurement process and at a special meeting of the Authority held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020 members supported the recommendation to provisionally award the contract to Northern Marine Power Ltd.

Letters were sent to the three companies bidding for the contract on 26 August 2020 informing them of the outcome of the procurement process and a statutory ten day 'cooling off' period ended on 9 September 2020.

Provisionally following the 'letting' of the contract officers expect delivery of the new vessel sometime during January or February 2021.

## 1.6 Summary of meetings and events attended

National Association of IFCAs, London	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2019
MMO Northern Marine Area TCG	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
Humber Estuary Regional Advisory Group	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
NEIFCA Annual Training event, York	11 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
MMO Northern Marine Area TCG	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
Flamborough Head NTZ steering group, York	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
NW IFCA recruitment panel, Carnforth	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
Natural England meeting, York	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
IFCA Chief Officer's Group, London	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2020
LGA Coastal SIG, Councillor Gibson	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
National Whelk Working Group	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
Hull Lagoon Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020
Filey Probus Club presentation	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Project Pincer Phase 2 – Lobster Storage Steering Group	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Yorkshire Maritime Nature Partnership	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Bridlington Lobster Festival Meeting	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Yorkshire Maritime Nature Partnership	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Humber Estuary Regional Advisory Group AGM	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
NEIFCA Organisational Review, Staff meeting, Whitby	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
National Association of IFCAs, Southend on Sea	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020
MMO Northern Marine Area TCG	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
National MPA Management Symposium, London	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group, London	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2020



Seascapes Partnership	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Flamborough Relevant Authorities Group dial in	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020
Defra/IFCA Teleconference	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020
National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group dial in	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
IFCA Technical Advisory Group dial in	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
Regional MMO/IFCA Covid 19 dial in	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
Yorkshire Maritime Nature Partnership dial in	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
IFCA Technical Advisory Group dial in	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2020
IFCA Chief Officers Group dial in	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020
Defra/IFCA Covid 19 dial in	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
MMO Northern Marine Area TCG	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Yorkshire Maritime Nature Partnership dial in	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
IFCA Technical Advisory Group dial in	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group dial in	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
MMO Northern Marine Area TCG	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020
Defra/IFCA Covid 19 dial in	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
National Whelk Working Group dial in	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
IFCA/MMO Regional Covid 19 dial in	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
IFCA national funding dial in	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
MMO/IFCA Appointee dial in	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust dial in	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020
Defra/IFCA dial in	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020
MMO Northern Marine Area TCG	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020
Defra/IFCA MAFCO dial in	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
NEIFCA new members, meet and greet,	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
Defra/IFCA dial in	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group dial in	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

Flamborough Relevant Authorities Group dial in	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
IFCA Chief Officers Group dial in	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
Defra/IFCA Funding dial in	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020
Yorkshire Maritime Nature Partnership dial in	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
Defra/IFCA MAFCO dial in	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
MMO Licensing telecom	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Humber Coastal Conservation Project dial in	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Chair/CO MMO dial in	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
NEIFCA/Shell gas project dial in	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Yorkshire Maritime Nature Research Group dial in	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Southern North Sea Crab Management dial in	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
National whelk working group dial in	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
St Helena berried lobster project dial in	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Yorkshire Marine & Coastal Biodiversity Group dial in	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020
MMO Northern Marine Area TCG dial in	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
Defra/IFCA Future Fisheries Funding dial in	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Yorkshire Maritime Nature Partnership dial in	8 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Humber Estuary Regional Advisory Group dial in	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Defra/IFCA MAFCO dial in	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
NEIFCA/Sussex IFCA joint database project dial in	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

## 1.7 **Priority Work streams for the next six months**

- Oversee the build and commission of the new 9.5m Cabin RIB
- Implementation of 2019 NEIFCA staffing and organisational review
- Complete a joint project with Sussex IFCA developing and implementing a new fisheries database.
- Commence work on a new NEIFCA website.

## 2.0 **NEIFCA Operational Reports**

### 2.1 **Land-based Work streams**

#### 2.1.1 *January to May 2020*

As weather conditions began to deteriorate during the winter months most vessels capitalised on any calm weather to work more pots before strong winds and heavy swells made it impossible to proceed to sea during January and February.

The beginning of March saw the start of a worldwide pandemic COVID 19. The pandemic shut down the entire shellfish markets throughout the UK making merchants unable to export shellfish to European markets such as France, Spain. Most fishermen in the NEIFCA district had to stop fishing and bring all their fishing gear ashore due to merchants refusing to take any landings of crab and lobster. NEIFCA Officers adhered to all government social distance guidelines whilst working during COVID 19

The Beginning of April saw a large fleet of nomadic scallop vessel arrive in the NEIFCA ports having found new ground rich in king scallops around 12/14 nautical miles off Whitby in an area known as Dogger bank. NEIFCA Officers monitored the vessel movements 24hrs a day via AIS and patrolled ports and inspected landings at Hartlepool and Whitby. A number of the nomadic vessels were found to have breached NEIFCA's AIS byelaws whilst moving through the district.

The end of May saw the nomadic scallop vessels move to other grounds after fishing drastically slowed down due to the number of vessels fishing in the area. Most vessels moved into the English Channel and the South West approaches.

During the start of the summer months officers saw large groups of people from areas such as Leeds, Sheffield, Wales, Newcastle travel to the North East coast line to harvest shellfish from the intertidal areas mainly around Redcar. NEIFCA officers presented a strong presence in response and educated many people on what they needed to do in terms of holding permits and what they are entitled to remove from the fishery.

During reporting period, 191 inspections have been undertaken by the shore team covering the following fishing activities:

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

Of the 191 inspections completed 27 offences were reported and 16 verbal warnings were issued.

### 2.1.2 *June to August 2020*

As weather conditions began to improve across the summer months, becoming more favourable for vessels to proceed to sea, activity across the NEIFCA district increased. The shore enforcement team maintained an intensive schedule of patrols and COVID secure inspections across the NEIFCA district. In addition to enforcement matters officers have been actively engaging with fishermen ensuring that the industry across the NEIFCA district are fully aware of new and current legislation. Officers have been actively publishing laminated posters in and around the ports and harbours of the NEIFCA district reminding the industry of its legislation

As the impacts of 'lock down' continued to ease potting vessels took advantage of the fine summer conditions fishing all the way through to into the autumn season with good numbers of lobster and edible crab been landed in all the NEIFCA Ports with a sale value of £9 kilo during summer increasing to £12 kilo at the beginning of September.

A small limited number of vessels throughout the authority's district have targeted fish species using long lines and nets due to the increasing problem with seal predation and damaged cause to fishing equipment by seals

Officers also patrolled the Holderness coast where T&J netting is permitted by the Environment Agency. While out on patrol officers have engaged with recreational anglers and handed out useful educational leaflets notifying them of bag limits entitling them to 2 sized sea bass of 42cm through the summer months

During reporting period, 213 inspections were undertaken by the shore team covering the following fishing activities:

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

Of the 213 inspections completed 53 offences were reported and 13 verbal warnings were issued as follows:

- 26 Offences relating to landing of egg bearing lobsters
- 11 Offences relating to landing of undersized shellfish
- 13 Offences relating to landing V-Notched/Mutilated lobster
- 1 Scalloping offence relating to undersize king scallops
- 1 Scalloping offence breaching NEIFCA AIS Byelaw
- 1 Instrument offence relating to escape gap

### 2.1.3 **Outreach & 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.

Between January and September 2020 NEIFCA Officers conducted joint patrols with the Environment Agency, MMO and the Gangmaster & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) carrying out routine enforcement checks, inspecting fishing equipment.

#### **2.1.4 Recreational Sea Angling**

Between March and the end of May all recreational fishing activity was significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic particularly through national 'lockdown'. This included both shore and charter fishing. As restrictions eased activity increased again. During later summer there were reports of some good catches of mackerel and sea bass from the shore at Hartlepool, Whitby and Filey and smooth hound and rays along the Holderness Coast South to Lincolnshire. Offshore there were some good reports of catches of cod and ling from wreck marks but at times throughout the summer the wind speed has been unseasonably strong and many planned charter trips were regularly cancelled in succession.

### **2.2 Offshore Work streams**

#### **2.2.1 General Review of Offshore Fishing Activity**

##### **Trawling**

Trawling inshore has been very limited within the Authority's district. During the reporting period only a couple of vessels from Scarborough have been observed actively been fishing around Scarborough and Filey bay.

The Nephrop fishery off the Hartlepool and Durham Coast line continued well into the spring period curtailed by the impacts of the COVID pandemic during May. Local prawn vessels were landing on average 4-6 boxes and a selection of mixed species of fish per day. During August and September a number of pelagic trawlers have been observed operating close to the 12 mile limit off Flamborough Head and the North Yorkshire coast. These have included Swedish, Belgium, Dutch, Norwegian and French registered vessels.

##### **Potting**

During March, April and May local inshore potting activity was significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic and closure of associated markets across the UK and Europe. Recovery only really gathered momentum during July and August.

##### **Netting**

Netting activity within the district was mainly conducted by E.A. licence holders. Much of this annual salmonid netting season has recently been shortened considerably as part of the wild Salmon recovery effort, although Bridlington and Scarborough districts reported a successful Seatrout season.

##### **Scalloping**

Three permitted scallop dredges, based in Scarborough, commenced scallop dredging activity, under the Authority's permitting scheme during November 2019 but the fishery was brought to a premature closure at the end of March by the COVID pandemic.

Throughout the duration of the season activities were closely monitored by the North Eastern Guardian III and the scientific and environmental team.

Outside the NEIFCA permitted fishery April to June heralded a significant upsurge in the offshore Dogger Bank fishery with associated nomadic effort and compliance issues particularly in relation to AIS transgressions. During this period several offences were detected. During August this fishery was closed by the MMO and the fleet moved to grounds in the Channel and South Western approaches.

#### **2.2.2 Research & Survey Work**

As the COVID pandemic took hold at the end of March 2020 all routine offshore patrol work was suspended pending further government guidance. This included all offshore research and survey work. As restrictions have lifted manning levels have been maintained at minimum permissible capacity to manage the risks of staff contracting or spreading the virus. This has significantly restricted the extent of research and survey work that can be carried out although monthly monitoring of temperatures and salinity have continued.

#### **2.2.3 Joint Operations**

Any active joint operational work has largely been curtailed by the COVID pandemic since the end of March 2020.

#### **2.2.4 Offshore Enforcement Summary**

Between December 2019 and August 2020 NEG III completed 64 sea patrols, 770 vessel inspections and 4 boardings covering over 5,121 nautical miles. 1 offence was reported and 2 verbal warnings issued for fishing within the Flamborough Head No Take Zone.

#### **2.2.5 Maintenance Summary**

During July North Eastern Guardian III underwent her annual dry dock, paint and inspection procedures and all surveys and certifications were passed successfully. On 24 August 2020 there was a major failure with the vessels forward bow thruster which had to be replaced with a new unit. The vessel cannot be operated safely without its bow thruster necessitating a short layup pending delivery and installation of the new unit.

### **2.3 Environmental/Science Work streams**

#### **2.3.1 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 November 2019 and August 2020:

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date responded</b>
Humber Hull frontages, Victoria Pier	29/11/2019
Amble dredge disposal	04/12/2019
Teesside GasPorts dredge disposal	06/01/2020
Triton Knoll sandwave clearance – outwith SAC	12/02/2020
Triton Knoll sandwave clearance – IDRBNR SAC	12/02/2020
EA Johnson St flap valve installation	12/02/2020
Barmston sea end outfall	12/02/2020
Whitby maintenance dredge and disposal	16/03/2020
SOWFL nearshore jack up barge borehole site investigations	16/03/2020
Manor Quay pontoons River Wear	16/03/2020
Tees Estuary IMMERSE project	16/03/2020
Tyne Dock Enterprise Park dredging	17/03/2020
Neptune Quay maintenance dredge, disposal, removal of TBT	30/03/2020
Redevelopment of Regent Cinema, Redcar	31/03/2020
North Sea Fish Quay protection jetty, North Shields	08/04/2020
Northern Gateway container terminal	08/04/2020
East Hull pumping station – Holderness flood alleviation scheme	23/06/2020
Hornsea One interarray cable repairs	23/06/2020
Brine pipe removal and capping	23/06/2020
EPR – Cowden caravan park	24/07/2020
River Hull angling platform relocation	24/07/2020
Hempholme lock eel pass	26/08/2020

Early phase consultation has also begun with Shell and their appointed consultant regarding a proposed offshore gas exploration and development project located off the Whitby/Scarborough coastline.

### **2.3.2 Marine Protected Areas**

In June 2019, the Secretary of State announced a review to examine whether and how the strongest protections for areas of sea, known as Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), could be introduced. The review, led by former Environment and Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon, concluded that HPMAs are an essential component of the MPA network and that government should introduce them into Secretary of State waters. It provided 25 recommendations covering what HPMAs are and how they should be identified and managed. Bempton Cliffs/Flamborough Head was included in a list of sites recommended to the review panel for further investigation by respondents to call for evidence, panel members and Defra's Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies.

### 2.3.3 Survey Programme Update 2020

The survey programme has been significantly impacted by both the ongoing COVID-19 situation and staffing levels related to the structural review. Industry dredge vessel sampling was maintained until the start of the health crisis in March 2020. Since this time all offshore surveys have had to be cancelled. Shore based surveys for cockles and eelgrass were completed with social distancing measures in place.

The cockle beds continue to exhibit very low levels of stock biomass. It is recommended that the beds remain closed and are reassessed in 2022. The annual eelgrass survey undertaken in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at Spurn recorded positive indicators of recovery and continued presence beyond the existing management boundary. Consultation with Natural England regarding potential changes to management is planned.

Limited quayside sampling has been undertaken when possible with further data collection being undertaken by enforcement officers. In light of the continued situation, alternative methods for collection and sources of data are being investigated for a range of fisheries.

## 3.0 National Meetings Update

### 3.1 *National Association of IFCAs*

The national Association of IFCA's was formally established on 17 March 2011 following resolution and adoption of draft Articles by majority vote.

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 and one part-time administrative support position) and conduct its business within a properly structured legal framework. One Director is appointed by each of the member IFCA's and the wider membership of the Association or forum comprises of three representatives from each member IFCA, currently the Vice Chairman and Chief Officer.

Established members will be aware of increasing concerns and dissatisfaction surrounding the performance and apparent effectiveness of the Association, reported by the Chief Officer and associated value for money that continuing membership brings. Most recently at the Executive meeting held on 16 April 2020 members considered whether NEIFCA should formally resign its membership of the national Association but agreed that it should be maintained for a further year pending the appointment of a new Chief Executive.

A new Chief Officer of the national Association was appointed and took up his post on 1 September 2020. Rob Clerk, previously Deputy Chief Officer of Sussex IFCA and Chief Officer of Southern IFCA brings extensive experience to the role and will immediately install a fresh approach to leading the organisation. I will present a separate report for members on the Association at the planned December 2020 meeting.

### 3.2 *National IFCA Chief Officers Group*

The Chief Officer's group normally meets four times a year 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.

Since COVID 'lockdown' was implemented at the end of March 2020 the national IFCA Chief Officers Group has met on a weekly to fortnightly basis to exchange ideas and guidance on managing the operational impacts of the pandemic as well as discussing ongoing national work streams.

A copy of the notes of the most recent meeting held on 2 September 2020 are attached to Appendix A of this report.

**Contact Officer: David McCandless**  
**Chief Officer**  
**Ext 3690**



**IFCA COG Meeting**  
**Wednesday 2 September 2020 @ 11:00 hours**  
**‘Microsoft Teams’ Teleconference**

**Minutes**  
**Start: 11:00**

**Attending:** Sam Davis (SD), Will Wright (WW), Dr Stephen Atkins (SA), Julian Gregory (JG), David McCandless (DM), Tom Hooper (TH), Tim Dapling (TD), Mat Mander (MM), Ian Jones (IJ).

**1. Apologies:** Mike Hardy (MH)

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

SD welcomed those attending, in particular, Ian Jones in his capacity as the newly appointed Chief Officer of Southern IFCA and took the Chair. The group extended a warm welcome and best wishes to IJ in his new role.

SD acknowledged the supporting papers produced by WW (IFCA Training) and TD (hand gathering)

The group reviewed and agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2020.

**3. Matters Arising**

*MMO Data Sharing Agreement*

JG advised the group to return signed copies of the agreement directly to Sean Douglas. Whilst electronic signatures were acceptable at this point in time original signed documents would have to be returned in due course.

**4. IFCA Training programme**

WW presented a paper covering options for the replacement of the national IFCA training coordinator post following IJ's appointment as the new Chief Officer of Southern IFCA.

WW recommended the following actions to the group:

- Advertise the post as widely as possible and evaluate the background, extent of experience of the applicants pending a final decision.
- The expectations are that the role would run on a similar basis requiring the post holder to be a 'self-starter' and work independently at a senior level.

- Kent and Essex IFCA would continue to provide HR and financial support transferring line management to Rob Clark as the new Chief Officer of AIFCA.

WW advised the group that a meeting was planned week commencing 7 September 2020 to finalise the recruitment documentation. In addition to the recruitment process WW advised the group that further consideration would have to be given to the maintenance of the accredited training scheme.

TD queried the role of the training coordinator as providing more oversight to the programme. WW advised that all options going forward had been carefully considered to fill the role from utilising a secondment opportunity through to a facilitator type role with the conclusion that the only viable option was to go out to recruitment and assess the applicants. IJ and JG recommended as wide a circulation as possible in order to attract as broad a range of applicants as possible, ideally with strong transferable skills. TD requested that the group input into the documents prior to external circulation. WW advised that he needed to have further discussions with RC but offered to circulate the documentation in advance of the commencement of the process (**Action WW**).

The group supported the recommendations contained within WW's report.

The group then considered the challenges of supporting the accredited programme in particular resourcing the quality assessment and assurance processes integral to the scheme. Currently additional capacity within the IFCA's remained very limited. IJ advised that there was a current backlog of some 350 assignments waiting to be internally quality assessed. TD felt that perhaps IFCA's were not prioritising their training provision at the right level. JG suggested each IFCA should identify at least one quality assessor to support the programme. WW recommended that a more cohesive plan was required and IFCA's could either work more closely with the MMO to find a solution or discuss options with Defra. JG felt a solution should be worked out and agreed internally. SD acknowledged the complexity of the issue and requested that it be added onto the agenda of the next meeting (**Action DM**).

## 5. Defra Update

MM advised the group that Devon and Severn IFCA had responded in detail to Defra on the evaluation report without response. MM considered that there were inherent inaccuracies throughout the report covering all IFCA's. TD suggested that IFCA's should register a central response to the report highlighting their collective concerns. SD proposed that IFCA concerns are re-iterated at the next MAFCO meeting and RC is asked to develop a draft response pending publication and work continues on the development of a more accurate and meaningful set of matrices (**Action RC**).

SD advised the group that there had been no further communication with Defra surrounding central funding support and assumed the IFCA submission had been incorporated into the Defra bid to Treasury for SR20/21. TD sought clarification on the timing of Defra correspondence with IFCA LAs on funding. SD agreed to follow up (**Action SD**).

## 6. FISH Hand Gathering Implementation Group

TD provided an update to the group. Some edits to the ToR had been made since the last meeting and a revised copy had been circulated. TD advised that the purpose of the implementation group was to find and develop best practice nationally in terms of the effective management of shore gathering. SA highlighted the scale of ongoing issues in the NWIFCA district and the challenges developing a byelaw regulation to manage intertidal gathering to replace a current emergency regulation. For some IFCA representatives hand gathering is a lower

priority issue but supported the establishment of the group. JG recommended that a simpler title for the group should be considered. TD and MM to consider.

## **7. Defra MAFCO Meeting**

SD advised that it was the IFCA turn to Chair the next meeting and asked the group if there was any specific items to be added to the agenda. The following items were identified:

- Territorial limits work
- Funding
- Sea bass management
- Update and 'intent' surrounding UK exit following 31 December 2020 including training for industry and new infrastructure
- Fisheries Bill and Environment Bill updates

TH reflected that many items of mutual interest appeared to be considered in isolation when often they were interlinked.

## **8. MCA Maritime Mobile Service Identity Group**

TD advised that he had been approached by the MCA to join the group as an IFCA representative. TD felt that someone with current, practical offshore experience would be better suited and had put forward Charlie Hubbard, his offshore ops manager. The group supported that approach and requested that an update be brought back for information.

## **9. COVID 19 Update – National & Regional**

No specific update, the national groups had now ceased and there was a general feeling that things had largely returned to normal. WW felt that some sort of advice or guidance surrounding the implications of any 'local coastal lockdown' would be valuable but this was not likely to be forthcoming now.

## **10. MMO/IFCA Data Sharing Agreement**

JG advised that Sean Douglas was keen to get the joint data sharing agreement 'wrapped up' as soon as possible since a number of other joint work streams were reliant upon it. JG advised that in the short term electronic signatures would be acceptable to move things forward but hard signed copies had been requested to follow. DM advised the group that he had signed the document off on behalf of NEIFCA and had no major concerns. DM thanked JG and Eastern IFCA for supporting the underpinning work such as the Impact risk assessments etc. TD queried the extent of information required to satisfy the data exchange log. The consensus was that only specific pieces of data exchanged as part of the agreement would need to be logged and any other data exchanged via supporting systems such as MCSS would not require logging on an item by item basis. IFCA reps to send signed agreements to Sean Douglas, MMO (**Action All**).

## **11. AOB**

### *MCRS Byelaws*

SA thanked all those who provided guidance and advice to NWIFCA who were dealing with an internal challenge to their MCRS byelaw proposal.

### *iVMS*

MM provided an update on progression with the national iVMS project and underpinning SI. Some final outcomes were expected to be presented to the project board this month (September) to be followed by the MMO board in October.

## **12. DONM**

16 September 2020

## **13. ACTIONS**

1. WW to share final draft recruitment documentation for the vacant IFCA training lead role
2. DM ensure IFCA training is included on the agenda of the next COG meeting
3. RC to develop a draft IFCA response to the Defra evaluation report.
4. SD to seek an update on the Defra funding correspondence with IFCA LAs
5. IFCA COs to send signed data sharing agreements to Sean Douglas ASAP.

## NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**Report to:** Authority Meeting  
18 September 2020

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### Fisheries Statutes and Regulations Prosecutions

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Report of the Clerk of the Authority.

**A. Purpose of Report**

To provide information on prosecutions taken by the Authority during the period December 2019 to August 2020

**B. Recommendation**

That Members note the report.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Information on prosecutions taken on behalf of the Authority, or pending cases are submitted to each meeting of the Authority.
- 1.2 Attached is a schedule of prosecutions and sanctions covering the period since December 2019.
- 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  
Ext. 3690

Name(s)	Offence	Court	Date	Fined	Costs Awarded	Costs Requested
Mr I Bloom Skipper	Landing 6 egg bearing lobsters	Grimsby	31 January 2020	£800	£350	£700
Mr R Evans Owner	Landing 6 egg bearing lobsters	Grimsby	31 January 2020	£800	£350	
Mr M Maplebeck	Landing 19 undersize edible crabs	FAP	20 February 2020	£500	N/A	N/A
Mr A Daniels	Using 14 pots without an escape gap	FAP	05 March 2020	£500	N/A	N/A
Mr P Langley	Landing 19 egg bearing lobsters.....	Beverley	19 March 2020	£770	£2,135	£2,135
Mr P Langley	Landing 1 egg bearing lobster	Beverley	19 March 2020	£440		
Mr M Coleman	Landing 3 egg bearing lobsters	HOC	7 May 2020	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mr D Blaunt	Landing 2 egg bearing lobsters	HOC	13 May 2020	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mr C Griffiths	Landing 10 egg bearing lobsters	FAP	18 May 2020	£500	N/A	N/A
Mr A Wild	Landing 4 lobsters below MLS	HOC	23 June 2020	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mr B Little	Retaining 13 undersize lobsters	FAP	13 July 2020	£500	N/A	N/A
Mr M Wilkins	Landing 2 egg bearing lobsters	HOC	13 July 2020	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mr K Trotter	Landing 1 egg bearing lobster	FAP	13 July 2020	£1,000	N/A	N/A
Mr G Leng	Italian Restaurant – 5 undersize lobs	FAP	20 August 2020	£500	N/A	N/A
Mr C English Skipper	Retaining 17 egg bearing lobsters	Peterlee	01 September 2020	£450	£1,420	£1,420
Mr T English owner	Retaining 17 egg bearing lobsters	Peterlee	01 September 2020	£100		

**HOC – Home Office Caution**

**OCD – Conditional Discharge**

**FAP – Financial Administrative Penalty**

**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  
18 September 2020

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**BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21**

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Report by the Treasurer

**A. Purpose of Report**

To advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 04 (July) in 2020/21.

**B. Recommendation**

- i. That the budget monitoring position is noted.
- ii. That any underspend at the year-end be transferred to the General Reserve to support pressures from the staffing and organisational review.

**1. Introduction**

3.2 A detailed budget monitoring exercise is undertaken monthly by the Treasurer in consultation with the Chief Officer. This analyses individual budget lines in terms of the current expenditure and allows for projections to the end of the financial year.

3.3 This report provides the overall position and any areas whereby an explanation is required of any notable variance on the Authority's spending to the end of July 2020.

3.4 At its meeting on 5 December 2019, the Authority set a levy totalling £1,285,536 for the current financial year, including £102,900 plus accrued interest transferred to the Renewals Fund and £10,000 transferred to the Vehicle Replacement Reserve.

**4. Spending to 31 July 2020**

4.1 Appendix A summarises the expenditure and income for the Authority for the four months to July of the financial year and compares it with the budget. The appendix shows both subjective and objective net expenditure for the period.

4.2 At the end of July 2020, the Authority has net expenditure of £263,684 against an expected £359,803, underspending by £96,119. The forecast outturn underspend is £160,828 mainly due to employee underspends due to vacancies (£106,661):

- Employee underspends of £106,661 - underspends on salaries of £105,472 due to 6 permanent vacant posts. Vacancies have not been recruited to due reduced



operations at the start of the financial year due to COVID-19 restrictions and the ongoing organisational review. Within other employee costs expenditure on agency staff is £8,551 higher than budgeted for and is offset by £9,000 savings on training due COVID-19 restrictions;

- Patrol Vessel Running Cost underspends of £40,198 due to savings on fuel due to reduced operations in the first quarter of the year;
- Travel & Subsistence underspends of £21,494 due to reduced expenditure on public transport and expenses following the introduction of the COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020.

- 4.3 It is anticipated that the outturn position will be an underspend of £160,828 which allows for the planned transfer of £102,900 plus accrued interest into the Renewals Fund and £10,000 into the Vehicle Replacement Reserve. It is proposed that any underspend at the year-end be transferred to the General Reserve to support pressures from the staffing and organisational review.

**Contact Officer**

Liz Smith (liz.smith@eastriding.gov.uk)  
Principal Accountant, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

**Stephen Chandler**  
**Treasurer**

Background Papers: NEIFCA Monitoring File

A

## NEIFCA Budget Monitoring Report as at July 2020

	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>Profiled Budget to Month 4</i>	<i>Actual to Month 4</i>	<i>Variance to Profile</i>	<i>Projected Outturn</i>	<i>Variance to Projected</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Employee Expenses						
Pay,NI and Superannuation	704,600	234,867	174,520	-60,347	599,128	-105,472
Other Employee Costs	31,550	10,517	12,509	1,993	30,361	-1,189
Premises	30,430	10,143	13,905	3,761	30,430	0
Transport						
Patrol Vessel Running Costs	166,120	55,373	25,794	-29,580	125,922	-40,198
Vehicle Running Costs	32,340	10,780	13,898	3,118	29,365	-2,975
Travel and Subsistence	35,750	11,917	2,614	-9,302	14,256	-21,494
Supplies and Services	99,400	33,133	40,775	7,641	110,029	10,629
Support Services	93,230	0	262	262	95,072	1,842
	<b>1,193,420</b>	<b>366,730</b>	<b>284,276</b>	<b>-82,454</b>	<b>1,034,562</b>	<b>-158,858</b>
<b>INCOME</b>						
Grants and Contributions	-15,000	-5,000	-17,346	-12,346	-19,750	-4,750
Other Income	-5,780	-1,927	-3,246	-1,319	-3,000	2,780
	<b>-20,780</b>	<b>-6,927</b>	<b>-20,592</b>	<b>-13,665</b>	<b>-22,750</b>	<b>-1,970</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,172,640</b>	<b>359,803</b>	<b>263,684</b>	<b>-96,119</b>	<b>1,011,812</b>	<b>-160,828</b>

	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>Profiled Budget to Month 4</i>	<i>Actual to Month 4</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Projected Outturn</i>	<i>Variance to Projected</i>
	£	£	£		£	
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
Central / Headquarters	463,640	123,470	97,904	-25,566	460,825	-2,815
Land Based Operations	132,200	44,067	36,334	-7,732	116,113	-16,087
Offshore Operations	466,150	155,383	103,588	-51,796	358,691	-107,459
Environment	110,650	36,883	24,230	-12,653	76,182	-34,468
Grant Aided Projects	0	0	1,628	1,628	0	0
	<b>1,172,640</b>	<b>359,803</b>	<b>263,684</b>	<b>-96,119</b>	<b>1,011,812</b>	<b>-160,828</b>

	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>Profiled Budget to Month 4</i>	<i>Actual to Month 4</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Projected Outturn</i>	<i>Variance to Projected</i>
	£	£	£		£	
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>						
Annual levy on Local Authorities	-1,285,540	-1,285,540	-1,285,536	4	-1,285,540	0
Contribution to Vehicle Replacement	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	0
Contribution to Renewals Fund	102,900	0	0	0	102,900	0
	<b>-1,172,640</b>	<b>-1,285,540</b>	<b>-1,285,536</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-1,172,640</b>	<b>0</b>





North Eastern  
Inshore Fisheries  
and Conservation  
Authority

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020



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# FOREWORD

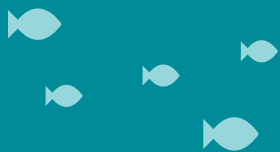
This is the ninth annual report produced by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. It covers the financial year ending 31 March 2020 and provides a summary account and review of the Authority's main outputs and achievements during its ninth operational year.

The report highlights positive progression and development within a number of key areas including organisational, legislative and collaborative working management.

On 31 January 2020 the UK left the European Union. Many challenges and opportunities lay ahead for the Authority but it remains well placed to meet those and play a key role in future decision making.

Towards the end of the reporting period the UK was impacted by a major global viral pandemic which necessitated a national 'lock down' on 23 March 2020. In response, NEIFCA has gone through a period of rapid adaption and re-organisation to both ensure the protection of it's staff and maintain some level of service delivery.

**Clerk of the Authority**







## NATIONAL VISION

“ To lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry. ”



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) was formally established on 1 April 2011 under provision contained within the 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act. The Authority replaced North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee (NESFC), assuming new duties and responsibilities for managing the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its district.

This ninth Annual Report produced by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. It provides a comprehensive review of the Authority's ninth year of operations and charts its main outputs and achievements across key work areas including: Organisational, Legislative Enforcement; Environmental and Scientific Research; Staff training and development; Communications; Partnership working and the delivery of national work streams. The report also provides a summary of the Authority's performance and progress against both its national and local working objectives.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENTS

Main achievements and outputs during 2019/2020 included the following:

- Agreement achieved on an uplifted sound and stable operational budget of £1,224,320.
- During 2019/2020 officers delivered a comprehensive fisheries patrol service throughout the region which included over 447 inspections and 1500 vessel observations resulting in the Authority issuing 37 informal warnings, 24 formal warnings, 33 formal warnings, 7 Financial Administrative Penalties and 12 cases successfully prosecuted in the Magistrates Court.
- Successful continuation of the Authority's public engagement programme with officers attending two events throughout the Authority's jurisdiction and registering interest from over 20,000 people.
- Significant work was undertaken during 2019/2020 in support of key shellfish fisheries. Species and habitat research in support of the developing scallop dredge fishery has led to the production of a draft Fishery Management Plan. Once implemented this will provide one of the best examples of management for a fishery of its kind.

Monthly potting and monitoring programmes continue to inform management of regionally important lobster and crab stocks, further strengthened by research to support the implementation of national management measures.

- Fisheries management was further strengthened by reducing potting vessel size within 3NM, introducing a maximum pot size, prohibiting the landing of soft shelled lobster and ensuring that recreational fishers are subject to the same ban on capturing berried lobsters as commercial fishers are. Further measures included a regional minimum size byelaw and a catch return byelaw aimed at improving the evidence base to inform future management.
- Protection for the designated features of the regions Marine Protected Areas was also furthered. Management of netting within the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA will help to protect seabird species over the sensitive breeding period. A limited trawl permit scheme for the Humber Estuary will also help to protect valuable habitats that act as vital spawning and nursery grounds for a number of species.
- Throughout the year Authority officers supported a number of innovative projects funded through the Holderness Coast Fisheries Local Action Group. These projects included phase 2 of a lobster marketing study which examined the potential for improving storage facilities to improve business resilience. Officers have also played a key role through the Flamborough Head management group in securing National Lottery Heritage Fund monies to help establish a new regional marine nature partnership focussed on supporting, understanding, managing and caring for Yorkshire's marine and coastal environment.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

- ▶ In May 2019 the Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer took part in an exchange visit hosted by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, following a reciprocal visit by DAERA staff in March 2019. During the visit a presentation on the development, work and role of IFCA's was given to senior Heads of Service and managers at Daera's HQ in Belfast.
- ▶ Despite the impacts and challenges presented by the COVID 19 global pandemic NEIFCA maintained a front line service supporting the industry and local coastal communities.





# North Eastern Guardian III

*Whitby Harbour 2019*





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

#### **Partnership Working**

The Authority retains a strong commitment to positive partnership working and throughout the year several joint meetings were held with partners and a number of joint working days were also achieved on the ground. Officers also actively engaged in monthly Tasking and Coordination Group meetings with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) sharing intelligence, operational information and joint habitat survey work was also undertaken in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.



# INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

This ninth Annual Report was developed in consultation with Authority members. It provides a summary of the main outputs and achievements across the Authority including: Central policy, encompassing strategic development and legislative review; Legislative Enforcement; Environmental and Scientific Research, encompassing fisheries stock assessment, marine survey and monitoring, data management, review of marine consents and licensing applications and marine habitat protection; Staff training and development; Communications and partnership working. The report complements the Authority's 2019/2020 Annual Plan and also provides a summary of progress against the national IFCA success criteria and high level objectives.

## Background

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) was established in October 2010 under provisions contained within the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. On 1 April 2011 the Authority assumed full statutory responsibility for managing the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its jurisdiction. The Authority continues to draw professional service provision including legal, financial and human resource support from its lead Local Authority member, East Riding of Yorkshire Council. NEIFCA membership comprises of 13 elected Councillors representing eleven coastal Local Authorities together with 14 members appointed by the Marine Management Organisation and singular members representing Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation. The total membership of the Authority is 30 which is the maximum level permitted under statute.

## Financial Overview

The Authority's total annual budget for the reporting period 2019/2020 was agreed by members during March at £1,224,320. The budget is allocated across four main areas:

### Corporate

Expenditure relating to corporate governance.

### Headquarter

The cost of management and administrative support.

### Operations

Direct expenditure incurred in the performance of the Authority's objectives comprising of offshore, land-based and environmental activities.

### Grant aided projects

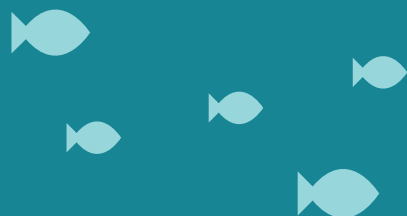
Projects which are specific or time bound and wholly funded by external sources.

See table on Page 11

# COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2018/2019		2019/2020				
Net Expenditure		Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Original Budget	Variance
£435,162	Central / Headquarters	£424,559	£14,671	£409,888	£402,420	£7,468
£120,528	Land Based Operations	£105,592	£0	£105,592	£132,200	(£26,608)
£420,422	Offshore Operations	£425,851	£13,092	£412,758	£466,150	(£53,392)
£109,676	Environment	£114,041	£0	£114,041	£110,650	£3,391
£271	Grand Aided Projects	£86,196	£86,553	-£357	£0	(£357)
<b>£1,086,059</b>		<b>£1,156,239</b>	<b>£114,317</b>	<b>£1,041,923</b>	<b>£1,111,420</b>	<b>-£69,497</b>

Income	Sources of Finance	Expenditure	Income	Net Income	Original Budget	Variance
£1,200,310	Annual levy on Local Authorities	£0	£1,224,320	£1,224,320	£1,224,320	£0
£18,518	Contribution from Reserves	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
-£18,518	Contribution to Capital - Vehicles	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
-£114,251	Contribution to Earmarked Reserves	£112,900	£0	(£112,900)	(£112,900)	£0
<b>£1,086,059</b>		<b>£112,900</b>	<b>£1,224,320</b>	<b>£1,111,420</b>	<b>£1,111,420</b>	<b>£0</b>





## NATIONAL IFCA SUCCESS CRITERIA

IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders;

IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime;

IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts;

IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional;

IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives;

NEIFCA work streams and organisational priorities are geared towards the positive achievement of the national vision: outlined on page 4.

To support the positive delivery of the above national vision, IFCAs have agreed a set of national success criteria matched with corresponding working-level objectives. The vision, success criteria and national working objectives are designed to assist in the creation of a shared understanding of the aims and objectives of IFCAs nationally, and focus positive service delivery towards achievement of the national vision. These national IFCA performance criteria also link directly to the UK Marine Policy Statement.

### **Focus and Priorities for the Year - Annual Plan 2019/2020**

Each year Authority members agree and set their objectives and priorities for the year ahead which are outlined within the summary work programme contained within the Authority's 2019/2020 Annual Plan. The 2019/2020 plan was adopted by members on 14 March 2019.



# NATIONAL IFCA WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVES

The following tables provide a summary of the Authority’s progress towards achieving the Success Criteria and supporting Working Level Objectives (WLO) during the 2019/2020 reporting period.

March 31st 2020



Completed



Ongoing



Not started



## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy.

## OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year.

The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

Through its fishing permitting schemes NEIFCA maintains an annual database of some 4,000 individual contacts covering both commercial and recreational fishing.

The Authority maintains a formal communication strategy which is reviewed annually.

Copies of annual plans are sent to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Secretary of State by 30 April each year.

The IFCA will maintain its website ensuring public access to current fisheries and conservation information for the district, including management requirements and byelaws. non-reserved IFCA Committee papers will be published.

The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month.

The Authority's website is reviewed as a minimum on a monthly basis and is regularly updated weekly when required.

Copies of annual reports are sent to Defra's Secretary of State by 30 November in the year in which they are published.

## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level.

## OUTCOME(S)

By 31 March each year the IFCA will have participated appropriately, proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified within the annual plan.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

Throughout the reporting year Authority Officers have engaged extensively in a wide range of nationally coordinated work streams including joint training and joint intelligence gathering through the National Association of IFCAs, the National IFCA Chief Officers Group, the National IFCA Technical Advisory Group and the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group.

The IFCA and its principle partners will have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Services (CEFAS) will be maintained.

The IFCA will have reviewed all of its MoUs by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed standard.

The National Association of IFCAs supports the regular review of MoUs with partner organisations.



## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA will publish its enforcement risk register and strategy, clearly setting out its approach to achieving regulatory compliance and potential sanctions that may be applied for infringements and/or offences.

## OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year.

The IFCA will compile records of enforcement activity in a standard format; provide them to NIMEG and publish them on its website.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

The Authority publishes a comprehensive annual risk register which covers all aspects of risk including enforcement.

The Authority publishes details of its enforcement activity within its Annual Report and provides statistics to the National Association of IFCAs in a standard format.

The IFCA will manage operational activity and capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence that is compatible with partner organisations. It is engaged in joint working with partner organisations.

Working to the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and participating actively through Tasking and Coordination Groups (TCGs).

Throughout 2019/2020 Officers have been actively engaged in the joint fisheries intelligence gathering project, collating, assessing and exchanging intelligence in accordance with NIM principles. This involved active participation in the TCG process including joint TCGs with MMO officers.

## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

Warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) will be trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. They will maintain professionalism and make appropriate interventions to deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity.

## OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will adopt the national code of conduct for IFCOs which will be reviewed annually and published on its website.

Warranted Officers attain accreditation. ALL undertaking continuing professional development.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

Authority Officers undergo a wide range of training supported by a 9 month probationary process. That training incorporates an induction, an IFCA residential course and 'on the job' training and evaluation.

A national code of conduct for IFCA enforcement officers was agreed in 2010 and was adopted by the Authority. It is reviewed annually.





## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA will identify issues likely to affect sustainable management of the marine environment in the IFC District; undertake risk assessment and gap analysis; review appropriateness of existing measures; evaluate management options and develop and implement proportionate marine management solutions.

## OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority.

The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website Management information (e.g. sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to demonstrate the extent of effectiveness of the intervention.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

Authority officers have completed extensive site feature/activity interaction risk matrices for all Marine Protected Areas (MPA's), including European Marine Sites (EMS's) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ's) occurring within the NEIFCA district. A significant supporting management programme commenced during 2013, prioritised towards high risk activities. This work was advanced during 2019/2020 with the confirmation of two regulations protecting features at Flamborough Head, Filey and the Humber Estuary.

The IFCA actively supports implementation of a well managed network of marine protected areas by: developing a range of criteria based management options; implementing management measures to ensure that inshore fisheries activities comply with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the revised approach to managing commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites; and that local management contributes to delivery of targets for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.

## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA will develop Fisheries Management Plans for priority species where appropriate. Shared objectives will be developed with identified partners; actions identified and best practice reflected so that management makes a contribution to sustainable development.

Proportionate regulation (for example introducing a legal mechanism such as a byelaw) is used as a last resort; The effectiveness of interventions to improve the delivery of beneficial outcomes is continuously monitored; and

There is a clear IFCA Committee process for dealing with agreed interventions quickly, efficiently and effectively, particularly for emergency byelaws.

## OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from Fisheries Management Plans in its own Annual Plan, which will be published by 31 March each year.

Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

The sustainable management of key lobster and edible crab stocks was further enhanced during 2019/2020 through measures introduced in the revised Crustacea Conservation Byelaw. Protection for soft shelled and berried lobsters will help to bolster spawning stock of this species, while the introduction of a maximum pot size and reducing the maximum size of vessel permitted to fish within inshore areas are important effort controls that will help to ensure the continued viability of the regionally significant fishery. A new minimum size byelaw, developed in collaboration with a number of other IFCAs, was also introduced. As was a catch return byelaw aimed at improving data capture to inform future management decisions.

A draft Fishery Management Plan has been produced in support of the permitted scallop dredge fishery that has developed since emergency control measures were introduced in early 2015. The plan describes the state of the stocks and the fishery derived from research undertaken by the Authority, outlines current national and local management policy and objectives, and highlights the conservation and fishery management measures in place to ensure a sustainable fishery. The plan will guide development of the dredge fishery, balancing the needs of different stakeholders.



## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA will demonstrate its long-term strategic approach to sustainable marine management by having appropriate plan-making, review, update and amendment procedures in place. The IFCA will record its performance against corporate outcomes and indicators as soon as practically possible following the end of the financial year.

## OUTCOME(S)

The IFCA will publish a Plan on its website by 31 March, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.

After the end of each financial year, the IFCA will publish a Report on its website describing its activities, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

The Authority has produced an Annual Plan and Annual Report since 2010. The 2019/2020 Plan was considered and endorsed by the Committee on 14 March 2019 and submitted to the Secretary of State. The Annual Report covering the 2018/2019 period was submitted to the Secretary of State by 30 November 2019.

Staff performance management systems will be in place that link to the IFCA success criteria. There will be an induction procedure for new joiners. Staff training and development needs will be identified. Performance will be managed and, where necessary, improvement procedures will be followed.

IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.

An annual appraisal system is in place and all the Authority's staff have a minimum 'one to one' appraisal each year with their line manager including the Chief Officer. This is supported by regular informal meetings throughout the year. Individual training needs are reviewed and set each year at the appraisals.



## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

The IFCA Committee will be supported by an organised, efficient and effective secretariat. New members will receive an induction pack and briefing from the Authority. There will be a rolling twelve month schedule of quarterly Authority meetings. Notices of meetings and documentation will be made available in line with Standing Orders.

IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential, or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972.

## OUTCOME(S)

An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

During 2019/2020 all the meetings of the full Committee and supporting subgroups were quorate and comprehensively supported by the Authority's administrative and operational support team. Agendas, supporting papers and minutes were published in accordance with the Authority's standing orders and posted on the Authority's website.

A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources.

The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year

The Authority incorporates its research planning and delivery into both its overarching Annual Plan and Annual Report. These are produced in consultation with members and in accordance with statutory procedures. These annual planning and reporting processes are underpinned by an annual research work programme and a 5 year strategic plan.

## WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE

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

## OUTCOME(S)

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

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2019/2020

The Authority's environmental and scientific leads are fully engaged with other IFCA colleagues through the national IFCA Technical Advisory Group. Through this group the Authority's officers have developed and implemented standard operating practices across most of its work streams.

Non-confidential meta-data collected through the IFCA research programme should be recorded in a database available to the marine research community.

Non confidential data is shared reducing the need for duplication of survey effort.

Authority officers share non-confidential meta data through MEDIN and 'drop box' and improving internal data sharing within the Authority's membership remains an ongoing work stream.



# NORTH EASTERN GUARDIAN III

*Fisheries Patrol*





## ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW 2019/2020

### Main Achievements

There were a number of notable achievements during 2019/2020 across a wide range of work streams from supporting national policy work through to stock conservation and management and staff development.

- ▶ During March 2019 the Authority endorsed and fixed an operational budget of £1,224,320 providing a stable and uplifted funding base.
- ▶ Successful continuation of the Authority's public engagement programme with officers attending two events throughout the Authority's jurisdiction and registering interest from over 20,000 people.
- ▶ During May 2020 the Chief Officer participated in an exchange visit with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Daera) which included providing a presentation on the role, work and development of IFCA's in England to Heads of Service and senior managers.





## CENTRAL POLICY 2019/2020

### **Central Policy & Strategic Development**

Central policy and strategic development is supported by two key internal sub-groups, the Executive Committee and the Science Advisory Group. Science Advisory Group comprises of MMO appointees and representatives from Natural England, the Environment Agency and the MMO and is responsible for overseeing regulatory review, development and implementation, scientific and survey work, projects and licensing applications and consents.

The Executive Committee comprises of elected and appointed MMO members and provides a smaller more focused decision making group to undertake any work delegated by the full Authority, including ratifying emergency byelaw provisions and considering appeals against process. These groups work in tandem with recommendations passing through the Executive Committee for final endorsement by the full Authority.

### **Risk Management**

The effective management of risk remains a key priority for officers and members of the Authority. A formal strategy supporting the identification and management of risk was first agreed and adopted by members of the shadow Authority on 25 January 2011. The strategy and its provisions are reviewed

on an annual basis to ensure that it remains 'fit for purpose'. Alongside the strategy the identification and management of risk is supported through a number of risk registers covering both strategic and operational risk, including a risk based enforcement matrix. All risk registers are subject to six-monthly review with updates reported to Authority members and posted on the Authority's website. During the reporting year these reviews and updates were completed during September 2019 and March 2020.

### **Emergency IFCA Byelaws**

Section 157 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides a mechanism for IFCA's to introduce emergency byelaw regulations to deal with unforeseen issues requiring urgent action. Emergency byelaws are time limited to a maximum period of eighteen months.

Since its inception in 2011 the Authority has effectively utilised its emergency byelaw making powers on five separate occasions, most recently on 13 August 2019 to ensure continuity of minimum size regulations.



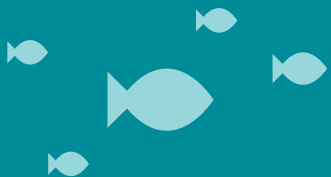
## LEGISLATIVE ENFORCEMENT

Legislative enforcement forms a key element of the Authority's drive to achieve the sustainable management of sea fisheries resources within its district. Enforcement is undertaken by fourteen warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) who are responsible for monitoring and inspecting fisheries activities both offshore and along the coast. Enforcement work is supported by a dedicated 26m patrol vessel, North Eastern Guardian III, which carries a 6.4m rigid inflatable boat (RIB) that is utilised to board and inspect fishing vessels at sea. A smaller 4.7m RIB is also retained onshore and can be launched throughout the Authority's district when required.

Since its inception NEIFCA has been developing a more targeted approach to its enforcement activities led increasingly by intelligence. Enforcement outputs are collated on a monthly basis.

## ENFORCEMENT OUTPUTS 2019/2020

Enforcement Output	Frequency
Vessel Inspections	418
Vessel observations	1100
Inspection Reports completed	447
Verbal Warnings	37
Written Warnings	19
Offences Reported	62
Formal Cautions	5
Financial Administrative Penalties	7
Formal prosecutions	12





## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Marine environmental and scientific research functions continue to develop and expand in line with the developing role and remit of the Authority. The environmental and science team undertake fisheries stock assessment work, collate and analyse seabed habitat and water column data generated by NEG III, review marine licensing applications and consents, support marine habitat conservation and management through engagement with European Marine Site (EMS) management schemes and Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) programmes and oversee the internal management of data. This work is guided by an annual research and evidence plan and a 5 year strategic plan.

Separate to this annual report, findings from the environmental and scientific research work are published within an annual research report.

### **Fisheries Stock Assessment work**

The majority of species exploited within the NEIFCA district are a component of wider stock units which extend beyond the 6 mile limit. During 2011/2012 officers proposed and presented multiple

indicator frameworks, a combination of specific reference points and proxies for measuring progress towards achieving sustainable fisheries. Alongside and at the request of Authority members, officers have incorporated a broader overview, detailing information on gear types, additional species, economic and socio-economic factors.

This analytical work is supported, in the main, by a comprehensive stock assessment programme which includes quayside sampling at four main ports including Hartlepool, Whitby, Scarborough and Bridlington and an offshore monitoring programme covering each of the five main ICES areas located within and surrounding the Authority's district. Stock assessment work to support the developing scallop dredge fishery continued to be a major focus during 2019/20, with 28 monitoring and survey trips undertaken aboard the permitted vessels and a further 58 survey tows carried out aboard NEGIII.

### **Seabed Habitat Assessment & Mapping Work**

The development of the Authority's capabilities to assess and map seabed habitats has been one of the main

areas of focus for both the offshore and environmental teams. Ongoing work in this area has included the full commissioning of an onboard WASSP multi-beam system and the development of underwater camera technologies. The focus of underwater video camera work during 2019 was to collect evidence on which to assess the impact of the scallop dredge fishery on habitats and commercially important shellfish species. Over 16km of video footage was collected and analysed, allowing a comparative study of impacts based on varying levels of fishing intensity. The information will form a base line which may be used to support any future management decisions.

### **Marine Licensing and Consents**

During the reporting period Authority officers reviewed 41 licensing and consent applications covering a wide range of projects from maintenance and capital dredging to discharge and infrastructure applications. Further consultation was undertaken regarding major infrastructure projects and planned changes to partner statutory agency fisheries management measures.



# Education and Outreach

Scarborough 2019





# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

## **European Marine Sites (EMS)**

The NEIFCA district contains five European Marine Sites (EMS's); Northumbria Coast, Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast, Flamborough Head, Humber Estuary and the Greater Wash. Flamborough Head and the Humber Estuary each are supported by a Management Group comprising statutory authorities and other relevant bodies and NEIFCA plays an active role in each. NEIFCA workstreams within the EMS's focus on four main areas; active participation in the EMS Management Schemes and associated projects; the provision of guidance to developers and input into the licensing conditions of development consent orders within and adjacent to EMS's; Stock assessments of commercially important finfish and crustacea; and the appropriate assessment and management of fisheries within EMS boundaries through both voluntary and regulatory measures.

Significant progress was made during 2019/2020 in reducing risk to designated Marine Protected Area (MPA) features associated with fishing activity. A

seasonal netting prohibition in the waters surrounding Flamborough Head and Filey Brigg came into force to protect the largest mainland UK breeding seabird colony; home to 412,000 seabirds. In addition, a trawling permit management system was introduced for the Humber Estuary. Control of trawl effort will help to protect the valuable habitats and species within the estuary, which also acts as vital spawning and nursery grounds for a range of fish species. Regulations to improve fishery data collection have also been approved.

## **Marine Conservation**

The NEIFCA district contains two MCZ sites; Runswick Bay and Holderness Inshore. Full assessments have been completed on both sites and appropriate management measures supporting their protection are already in place. Work to establish a new Management Group to encompass both MCZ's is underway through the Flamborough Management Group.

## **Data Management**

All raw data gathered from the Authority's district is stored electronically in spreadsheet and database format enabling ease of manipulation, import into other programmes and statistical analysis. Spatial data is stored in shape file format for presentation and analysis in the GIS platform MapInfo. This is a developing work stream that aims to generate key data layers that present information related to the Authority's district, such as management regimes, fishing effort, habitat types and commercial species ranges.

## EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

### **Holderness Coast Lobster Marketing Study**

Funded through the Holderness Coast Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), phase 2 of this partnership project with Hull University built on the initial work undertaken to explore the feasibility of improving lobster storage facilities to improve business resilience given the potential impacts of the UK exit from the EU. The project was completed at the end of February 2020.

### **Marine Research Facility**

During December 2017 the Authority agreed to support this project, co-funded through the Holderness FLAG and the Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG). The project involves the building and commissioning of a small research facility at Bridlington Harbour, East Yorkshire. Construction of the facility is now complete and the installation of lobster hatchery equipment will be completed in 2020.



## STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2019/2020 long-standing and established staff training and development systems were maintained across the Authority. These systems included annual appraisals for all staff which link personal objectives and training and development needs to organisational objectives and long-term strategic goals. All staff training is recorded and monitored centrally in a database and is subject to staff feedback and evaluation.

All NEIFCA staff are actively encouraged to contribute to 6 weekly team meetings and participate in internal workshops and focus groups covering topics such as regulatory byelaw development and fishing gear marking.

During December 2019 all the Authority's staff participated in an annual two day internal training and reflection event which aims to encourage greater empowerment of staff, providing an opportunity to influence and take some ownership of service delivery. This represented the eighth year that such an event was held.



# COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIP WORKING

During 2017 the Authority utilised a range of media to communicate with stakeholders and the wider public through its dedicated website, annual newsletters, open meetings, focused 'drop in' sessions, attendance at local events, press releases and more traditional media such as public notices, advertisements and notice boards.

## **NEIFCA Website**

The Authority's website remains at the forefront of its drive to improve overall communications, accessibility to information and associated services. The website includes an 'ask the chief' function where questions, queries and comments can be emailed directly to the Chief Officer. Stakeholders can also apply for a wide range of fishing permits online which are then emailed directly to them. The website also provides direct links to tidal and weather information and other partner organisations. During the last four years the Authority has noted a significant increase in the numbers of fishermen and stakeholders accessing information electronically. A major 'overhaul' of the Authority's website provision is planned for 2020.

## **Tyne to Tees, Shores and Seas - SeaScapes Partnership**

The SeaScapes project is a partnership of local, regional and national organisations working in the coastal, marine and heritage sectors that have come together to better protect and celebrate the unique coastline between the Rivers Tyne and Tees. The first National Lottery Heritage Fund supported Marine Landscape Partnership will deliver around 23 projects over the next four years worth £5 million to the communities of South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham and Hartlepool.

## **Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership**

Delivery of a well managed network of Marine Protected Areas is a key work area for NEIFCA. With the growing number of MPAs, effective site management requires new ways of working and a collaborative approach. As a member of the Flamborough Head European Marine Site Management Group, National Lottery Heritage Funding was obtained to establish the Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership. The emerging partnership is focussed on supporting, understanding, managing and caring for Yorkshire's seas, coastline and hinterland, working with cross-sector partners to achieve shared aims and promote holistic action in the marine and coastal environment.



During 2019 officers attended two public events held throughout the Authority's jurisdiction to provide information on the Authority's work, role and remit. During the course of these events officers actively engaged with over 20,000 people.

### **Feedback System**

Throughout 2019/2020 the Authority continued to utilise a formal electronic feedback system supported by East Riding of Yorkshire Council. All feedback is captured and recorded on a database via a dedicated feedback officer. Any complaints are subject to a fixed response time with systems to deal with any vexatious issues. All recorded feedback is then reported back to Authority members on an annual basis.

### **Partnership Working**

During April 2011 the Authority signed a number of 'High Level' MOUs with key partner organisations. These endorsed the principles of communication and positive partnership engagement and continue to support positive working relationships.

NEIFCA actively engages in the national intelligence gathering project in collaboration with other IFCA's and the MMO, which includes monthly regional tasking and co-ordination meetings. Since the project was first established NEIFCA has captured and shared 299 fisheries intelligence reports. Active operational partnership working took place throughout 2019/2020 including joint enforcement work with both the MMO and EA.

### **National IFCA Association**

A national Association was established on 24 March 2011 to represent and support the work of IFCA's. NEIFCA continues to play an active role in this Association through the Chairman, Clerk and Chief Officer which included supporting important revisions to its internal organisation and governance. During 2018 a comprehensive independent review of the Association was launched and completed at the end of June 2019.







North Eastern



**North Eastern Inshore Fisheries  
and Conservation Authority**

**2019/2020  
Annual Report**