

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**AUTHORITY MEETING
26 JUNE 2025**

Present:

Dr Stephen Axford
Councillor David Chance
Prof Michael Elliott
Mr Michael Montgomerie
Mr Graham Collins
Mr Andrew Faichney
Councillor Tim Norman
Councillor Johnathan Owen
Miss Rachel Hanbury
Mr Christian Proud
Councillor Nigel Cooke
Councillor Tracey Henry
Miss Rebecca Lynam
Prof Clare Fitzsimmons

Representing:

MMO appointee
North Yorkshire County Council
Chairman
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
MMO appointee
MMO Representative
Stockton on Tees Borough Council
Hull City Council
MMO appointee
MMO appointee

Mr Darren Stevens, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer, Mr David Kirven, Treasurer, Dr Ralf Bublitz, Senior Environmental & Scientific Officer, Sarah Murray, Operational Support manager and Lynsey Marsden, MMO also attended the meeting.

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

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| 37. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE |
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| | Apologies of absence were received from MMO members Will Jenkinson and Kevin Woodcock and Councill Members Allison, Swannick, Scanlan, Farren, Creevy, |
| 38. | DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS |
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| | Resolved –The Clerk asked Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests. Councillor Tracey Henry declared that she stands as a member of the Hull and Goole Port Health Authority. |
| 39. | GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS AND APPOINTEES |
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| | The Clerk reported that the following new Members had been appointed to the Authority: Cllr Nigel Cooke – Stockton on Tees Cllr Sophia Farren – North East Lincolnshire |
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| 40. | TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN |
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| | The Authority had received one expression of interest, in writing, from Prof Michael Elliott. The Clerk asked the Authority if there were any other nominations. There were no further nominations. Prof Michael Elliott was duly elected Chairman by a majority vote. |
| | Resolved - That Prof Michael Elliott, MMO appointee be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. |
| 41. | TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN |
| | The Clerk reported that the authority had received one expression of interest in writing from Councillor David Chance, North Yorkshire County Council. There were no further nominations. Councillor David Chance was duly elected as Vice Chairman. |
| | Resolved - That Councillor David Chance be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. |
| 42. | TO APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE |
| | Resolved – That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman Councillors Creevy, Swannick, Henry and Norman Mr Graham Collins, Dr Stephen Axford be appointed for the ensuing year. |
| 43. | TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE |
| | Resolved - That Councillors Owen, Chance and Clerk be appointed for the ensuing year. |
| 44. | TO CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP |
| | Resolved – That Chair, Vice-Chairman Dr Stephen Axford, Miss Rebecca Lynam, Mr Graham Collins, Dr Clare Fitzsimmons, Prof Mike Elliott, Mr Michael Montgomerie, Mr Andrew Faichney, Councillor Tracey Henry and representatives from the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency be appointed for the ensuing year. |
| 45. | TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AND REPORT QUARTERLY |
| | Resolved - (a) That the following be appointed for the ensuing year to serve and report quarterly on :- Flamborough Harbour Commissioners (2 representatives): Councillor Tim Norman Professor Mike Elliott Staites Harbour Board (4 representatives) Councillor Neil Swannick |

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| | <p>Mr Steven Mallinson NEIFCA Shore Operations Manager Miss Rachel Hanbury One position remains vacant</p> <p>(b) That the following be appointed for the ensuing year to attend meetings of:</p> <p>The Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities Forum (3 representatives):</p> <p>Chairman/(the Vice-Chairman to substitute when the Chairman is unable to attend) Clerk or Deputy Clerk Chief IFC Officer</p> <p>(c) That it be noted that the Chief IFC Officer was a Director of The Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities .</p> |
| 46. | MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 05 DECEMBER 2024 |
| | Resolved – That the minutes of the Quarterly meeting held on 05 December 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. |
| 47. | MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 06 MARCH 2025 |
| | The Chairman requested that Mr Bob Latimer be added to the list of attendees at the Executive meeting. The Chairman provided some information on the presentation given by Mr Latimer at the Executive meeting for the benefit of new members. Members reflected on the issues raised by Mr Latimer of sewage discharge in the Authority’s district and accountability in government agencies, and agreed that despite recognising the issues raised, it was not part of the Authority’s statutory remit and responsibilities and is a larger scale national problem. Mr Latimer had received written communication reflecting the Authority’s position from the Chair and the Chief Officer. |
| | Resolved –That the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 06 March 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. |
| 48. | NEIFCA OFFICER WORN BODY CAMERA CODE OF CONDUCT |
| | The Chief Officer presented a report to seek members approval to adopt an officer worn body camera code of practice. Officer worn body cameras were first introduced in 2007 to improve officer safety following an increase in the level of targeted threats and intimidation towards officers particularly in the Sunderland area. The evolution in the general operational use of body cameras pre-dated more recent, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation and although all the information captured on the camera systems is stored safely and securely, a supporting code of conduct has never been implemented. Recently the need for such a code was highlighted following a Subject Access Request (SAR) made under Freedom of Information legislation. Following this, and in full consultation with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Information Governance and Feedback Manager, who provides support and guidance to NEIFCA, a draft code of conduct was developed to support the future |

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| | <p>use and administration of information captured by officer body worn cameras. Amongst other things, including protocols covering the activation of cameras by officers, the code details the maximum retention periods for recorded images. The Chief Officer also advised members that all stored footage had been reviewed, and it was all now complaint with the provisions contained within the draft code as presented at the meeting. Members were assured that the code would be reviewed in line with any changes in legislation and best practice as appropriate. The Chairman recommended that the draft code of conduct be adopted across all IFCAs, the Chief Officer agreed that this would be a recommendation made by the Chief Officer Group to the AIFCAs.</p> |
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| | Resolved – a) That the Officer Worn Body Camera Code of Practice be approved and adopted. |
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| 49. | NEIFCA FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2024/2025 |
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| | <p>The Treasurer of the Authority presented a report of the Annual Accounts for NEIFCA for the year ended 31 March 2025. The treasurer informed members that detailed monitoring of expenditure against the profiled budget had been undertaken on a monthly basis and reported to the Authority and Executive meetings throughout the year. At the Executive meeting on 6 March 2025, it was reported that the forecast outturn would be £1,274,436 underspend, the actual revenue outturn underspend was £378,666 along with a £858,903 overachievement of funding made up of £850,000 capital receipts for the sale of the patrol vessel and £8,898 transfer to the Renewals Fund from the External Projects reserve, previously approved at the Executive meeting on 6 March 2025, totalling £1,237,569. The Treasurer highlighted to members that the accuracy in the predicted underspend presented at the Executive meeting in March compared to the actual outturn position should give members confidence in the accuracy of the budget monitoring carried out throughout the year.</p> <p>The outturn position was made up of several compensating variances including employee vacancies due to planned delays in recruiting in the offshore team, bank interest rates and additional Defra ‘grant in aid’ of which £90,000 relates to grants awarded in the 2023/24 financial year and received in 2024/25. A detailed break down of the outturn position was included in the report.</p> |
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| | Resolved - a) That the Statement of Accounts were approved as presented b) That Members Approved the Outturn position |
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| 50. | SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE 11 MARCH & 4 JUNE 2025 |
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| | <p>The Chair of SAG & the Environmental & Scientific Manager presented a report to update members on the most recent proceedings of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) following meetings held on 11 March and 4 June 25. Members discussed the report and the Environmental & Scientific Manager provided a detailed overview of the lobster and crab stock status report, the completion of the ELSI project and the scallop fishery monitoring report including the results of the scallop dredge fishery work for the 2024/2025 season. A member raised concerns regarding the impact on crab stocks because of the suction dredges and the volume of sand removed. Members discussed the issue and MMO representatives at the meeting agreed to</p> |

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| | investigate the conditions of the license, in particular the monitoring procedures and obligations. |
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| | Resolved –/ That the report be noted |
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| 51. | MANAGEMENT OF SCALLOP DREDGING 2025/2026 |
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| 52. | MANAGEMENT OF PERMITTED INTERTIDAL AND SUB-TIDAL FIXED NET FISHERIES 2025/2026 |
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| | The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on the planned process and timelines for opening the Holderness Coast permitted intertidal and sub-tidal fixed net fisheries on 1 October 2025. It was proposed that applications for both intertidal and sub-tidal permits are opened on 30 June 2024 with a provisional closing date of 25 July 2025. |
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| | Resolved - That the report be noted. |
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| 53. | CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL REPORT |
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| | The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational summary covering the period December 2024 to May 2025. The Chief Officer reflected on the build of the Authority’s new patrol vessel which commenced in February 2024 and was lifted into the water on the 8 May 2025. The vessel was officially named at a ceremony on the 21 June in Whitby, the Chief Officer alongside members thanked Sarah Murray, Operational Support Manager and Emma Jones, Operational Support Assistant for their efforts in arranging the boat naming ceremony and the officers conduct throughout the event. The Chief Officer also thanked member Authority’s for their contribution to the project, specifically East Riding of Yorkshire Council for their innovative approach to facilitate the financing of the vessel and continued support throughout the project. The Chief Officer also discussed with members the recent commercial vessel collision off the East Coast of Yorkshire on the 10 March 2025, the IFCA conduct and Operations report and its outcome and the priority work steams for the following six months which included sea trails of North Eastern Guardian IV and completion and delivery of a new 6.4m boarding RIB. |
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| | Resolved – That the notes be received. |
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| 54. | FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS - PROSECUTIONS |
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| | The Clerk submitted a report on the fisheries enforcement activities taken by the Authority for the period December 2024 to May 2025. Members highlighted the importance of prosecuting cases of obstruction, if not dealt with appropriately, it could impact the enforcement culture for both the Authority’s officers and partner organisations. |
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| | Resolved – That the notes be received. |
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| 20. | NEIFCA BYELAW UPDATE |
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| | <p>The Chief Officer presented a report to inform Members on progress with the following byelaws which were made at a meeting of the Authority held on 1 December 2022:</p> <p>XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022</p> <p>The key aims of the new byelaw are to establish a new flexible management framework which will more effectively cover the exploitation of listed shellfish species throughout the NEIFCA district, both offshore and onshore. The new proposed byelaw will also consolidate existing byelaw regulations and introduce an effort management system for commercial potting within the district. Since the making of the byelaw on 1 December 2022 it has been subject to further internal quality assurance checks, informal consultation with fishing groups and wider formal statutory consultation which completed on 27 October 2023. In line with the statutory process the draft byelaw regulation and supporting documentation was sent to the Marine Management Organisation for a Quality Assurance assessment on 11 January 2024, at the time of the meeting, members were informed the byelaw was in MMO Quality Assurance stage 5, with a projected confirmation in September 2025.</p> <p>XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022</p> <p>Whilst retaining all existing management measures in relation to fishing activities within the boundaries of the Humber Estuary the new byelaw included a revision to the boundaries of an existing protected area to support the expansion of eel grass habitat. The byelaw is currently with DEFRA awaiting formal confirmation by the Minister as of 28 February 2025.</p> <p>XXXIII Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024</p> <p>At the Authority meeting held on 6 June 2024 members supported the making of a new byelaw XXXIII Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024. The key aims of the new byelaw was to replace the current emergency regulation with flexible management framework that would support the effective management of the king scallop stock from targeted beam trawling activity alongside any associated impacts on the wider environment in the medium to longer term. The draft byelaw regulation and supporting RIA was submitted to the MMO for QA stage 1 review on 13 September 2024 and was received back on 30 October 2024. Following a review both the RIA and draft byelaw documents were revised, updated and returned to the MMO for QA stage 2 review on 15 November 2024. The MMO QA review completed on 6 January 2025 and the byelaw was formally confirmed by Defra on 11 March 2025. Since confirmation the Chief Officer confirmed that the provisions of the byelaw had now been implemented and the new beam trawling permit scheme established with five permits issued for 2025.</p> |
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| | Resolved - That the notes be received. |
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| 56. | REPORTS FROM PARTNER AGENCIES AND BODIES |
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| | <p>Reports from the partner agencies were unavailable at the time of printing. MMO representative Christian Proud informed members that any updates from the MMO are posted through their social media channels and online.</p> |
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| | Resolved - That the notes be received. |
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| 57. | ANY OTHER BUSINESS |
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| | <p>Councillor David Chance provided a brief update on the current situation with the Staithes Harbour Board, a new Clerk had been appointed following the resignation of the previous Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk to the Authority, Darren Stevens informed members of his intention to leave as of the 30 November, a replacement Clerk would be appointed by ERYC in due course.</p> <p>MMO appointee Rachel Hanbury informed members that she would be leaving as of October 2025 and reflected on her 15 years as a member on the Authority and the valuable work IFCA's do.</p> |
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| | The meeting closed at 12:30 |
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