

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE MEETING

County Hall, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA – Room 1

3 September 2026

COMMENCING 10:00 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
3. To take the notes of the meeting held on 5 March 2026 as a correct record (*Pages 1-4*)

Items for Decision

4. Budget Monitoring 2026/2027 (*Pages 5-8*)
5. Strategic and Operational Risk Register – Review (*Pages 9-22*)
6. NEIFCA Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 – Proposed changes to commercial permitting conditions 2027 (*Pages 23-38*)

The public are likely to be excluded from the meeting for consideration of item 7 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

7. NEIFCA Permit application appeals – Intertidal Fixed Netting (*Pages 39-64*)

Items for Discussion

8. NEIFCA Annual Report 2025/2026 (*Pages 65-96*)
9. Chief Officer's Operational Update (*Pages 97-102*)
10. NEIFCA Health & Safety Policy & Safe Working Practices 2026/2027 – Review - (*Pages 103-104*)
11. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent by reason of special circumstances which must be specified

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

05 MARCH 2026

Present

Prof Mike Elliott (Chair)
Cllr David Chance (Vice Chair)
Mr Graham Collins
Cllr Tracey Henry
Mr Stephen Axford
Cllr Neil Swannick
Cllr Rachel Creevy

Representing

MMO Appointee
North Yorkshire Council
MMO Appointee
Hull City Council
MMO Appointee
North Yorkshire Council
Hartlepool Borough Council

Clerk Stephen Hunt, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Treasurer Liz Smith, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and David McCandless, NEIFCA Chief Officer attended the meeting.

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

29.	APOLOGIES
	No apologies received.
30.	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.
31.	TO TAKE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04 SEPTEMBER 2025 AS A CORRECT RECORD
	Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 04 September 2025 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
32.	NEIFCA ANNUAL PLAN 2026/2027
	The Chief Officer, David McCandless presented a report for members to review the Annual Plan for the year 2026/2007. Key areas of work for the year ahead detailed in the plan included the full operational commissioning of the new main fisheries vessel, supporting the implementation of the new shellfish permit byelaw regulation and further development of NEIFCA's fisheries permitting database to support the implementation of the byelaw. Members were informed that the Shellfish Permit Byelaw had been officially signed off by the Fisheries Minister and discussions held on its implementation. Due to the timing and current circumstances with the high cost of fuel, a decision was taken not to charge for permits in the first year but to commence in the second year of issue from 2027. The first year to focus on getting the online permit application processes up and running and encourage the industry to

	focus on gear marking and aligning their pot numbers inside the NEIFCA district. Pot tagging to commence in 2027. The Chief Officer also reported that officers had commenced work on a new mobile fishing gear byelaw and had invited informal comments on such via the NEIFCA website. More discussions on this to go through the SAG committee. Members were informed that NEG IV had been formally accepted on 31 January 2026 and the new boarding RIB successfully delivered during February 2026.
	Resolved – The annual plan for 2026/2027 was reviewed.
33.	BUDGET REPORT 2025/2026
	The Treasurer presented a report to advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 10 (January) 2025/2026. At the end of January 2026, the Authority had net expenditure of £1,066,739 against an expected £1,226,993 underspending by £160,254. The forecast outturn underspend was £454,142. The majority of the underspend derived from slippage in the completion of the build of the new patrol vessel which had now been formally accepted by both ERYC and NEIFCA. The delay had resulted in forecast underspends of £201,000 on the finance lease with East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the full financial year, a projected £23,600 underspend on vessel fuel, a forecast £23,240 underspend on vessel repairs and maintenance and £65,935 surplus on bank interest as the balance in the Renewals Fund is higher than budgeted to allow for the one-off payment towards the new vessel. The forecast underspend also included £130,000 Defra 'grant in aid' made up of £50,000 allocated to support the Marine Protected Area and delivery towards 'good environmental status', £30,000 towards Marine Sustainable Development and £50,000 towards preparation and development of Fisheries Management Plans (FMP). The FMP grant is forecast to be fully utilised in the 2025/26 financial year.
	Resolved – (a) That the budget monitoring forecast outturn underspend at 31 March 2026 of £454,142 is noted. b) That forecast £163,963 remaining underspend at outturn be transferred to the Renewals Fund.
34.	REVENUE BUDGET 2026/2027
	The Treasurer Liz Smith presented a report to provide members with a detailed operational budget for 2026/2027. At its meeting on 6 February 2026, the Authority set the levy for the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority at £1,763,870 for 2026/27. The 3% levy increase had been incorporated into the budget, along with provision for a 3% 2026/27 pay award. Due to the delays in the completion of the patrol vessel, the annual cost of the finance lease with East Riding Council had not yet finalised. The budget remains at £201,000 for 2026/27 but will be reviewed, along with other vessel related budgets in future years. The additional costs had been offset by savings of £28,560 from a reduction in employers pension contribution rates from 17.6% to 13.6% following an actuarial review and a £11,000 saving on ill health pension fund insurance. It was proposed, in the January 2026 budget monitoring report, that any residual underspend from 2025/26 financial year is transferred to the Renewals Fund along with the planned set aside of £102,900 for future vessel replacement. The 2026/27 draft budget proposes that the authority continues to set aside £102,900 each year into the Renewals Fund to plan for the replacement of the soon to be commissioned patrol vessel at the end of its useful life in 2045. Members discussed risks involved due to the ongoing developments in the Middle East, with Liz Smith keeping an eye on the budgetary implications of this.
	Resolved –

	a) That the draft budget for 2026/27 is approved. b) That the level of general reserves is maintained at £228,450 (13%) of the annual levy.
35.	RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER REVIEWS
	The Chief Officer presented a report to inform members that in accordance with the Authority's Risk Management Strategy, a six-monthly review of the Strategic and Operational Risk Registers has been undertaken and is reported for information. Members discussed ongoing issues with low stocks of edible crab. The Chief Officer provided assurance that the situation was being closely monitored. No formal action was considered necessary at present but might be in the future. The Chief Officer informed members that NEIFCA was now fully staffed after recruitment onto the offshore team. Future risks associated with the age demographic of the NEIFCA senior management team were also discussed which carried the potential for 4-5 members of the current team to retire within the next 5 years. It was recommended that the associated risk score should be changed to reflect this. Members discussed the development of existing staff into key roles, with members informed that all current management level staff have been promoted from lower positions. Members also discussed fuel prices and the potential risks of increase on the budget.
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
36.	HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY & SAFE WORKING PRACTICES 2026/2027 - REVIEW
	Chief Officer David McCandless advised members of the completion of the six-monthly review of the Authority's Health & Safety provisions. Since the last review reported to the Executive Committee on 4th September 2025 there had been no notable incidents or accidents to report to members. The Chief Officer also advised that a significant amount of work had been invested to meet the new maritime safety Workboat Code 3 for NEG IV and the other existing NEIFCA vessels with the offshore operations team undertaking additional training to support this. All revised safety documentation would be circulated to NEIFCA operational staff for review and acceptance.
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
37.	CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL UPDATE
	Chief Officer David McCandless provided members with an operational update covering the period December 2024 to February 2025. The main items being the acceptance of the new vessel NEG IV and the work being undertaken to support FMP's and MPA's. The Chief Officer discussed the issues with the delayed acceptance of the main patrol vessel, which had now been fully signed over. Discussions were held on the Whitby swing bridge opening times and effect on NEIFCA operations. Cllr Neil Swannick advised that he currently held a seat on the Whitby Harbour Users group.
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
38.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS

	The Chair, Prof Mike Elliott highlighted some new videos produced by AIFCA which provided an insight on what the IFCA's do. Due to be released in the Spring, it was recommended that these should be added to the NEIFCA website, once available.
	The meeting closed at 11:30am

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NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Executive Meeting
3 September 2026

BUDGET MONITORING 2026/27

Report by the Treasurer

Executive Summary

The Month 4 monitoring position forecasts as £105,155 underspend for 2026/27.

This reflects the expected receipt of Defra grant-in-aid and savings on offshore operations, partly offset by pressures relating to central overheads, vehicle leases and set-up costs for the Commercial and Recreational Shellfish Permit Scheme.

The position remains subject to uncertainty, particularly in relation to future grant funding and the distinction between recurring savings and one-off in-year benefits, which will need to be considered as part of future financial planning and levy setting.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Executive:

- i. Notes the report and the favourable forecast outturn position, whilst recognising that continued financial discipline, monitoring of grant funding assumptions, permit income recovery and operational cost pressures, will remain essential throughout the year.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A detailed budget forecasting exercise is regularly undertaken 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.
- 1.2 This report provides the overall position and explains any notable variances in the Authority's expenditure to the end of July 2026.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 6 February 2026, the Authority set the levy for the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority at £1,763,873 for 2026/27.

2. Revenue Expenditure to 31 July 2026

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 At the end of July 2026, the Authority had net expenditure of £610,140 against a profiled budget of £610,371, resulting in a small underspend of £230. The forecast outturn is £1,565,815 against an approved budget of £1,670,970, giving a forecast underspend of £105,155 at the end of the financial year.
- 2.3 The forecast underspend is primarily attributable to Defra grant-in-aid income expected to be received in 2026/27, although the position from 2027/28 remains uncertain. Offshore operations are also forecast to underspend, mainly due to savings on patrol vessel running costs. These underspends are partially offset by pressures on central overheads, including increased insurance costs and the renewal of two vehicle leases. The forecast also includes additional set-up costs associated with implementing the Commercial and Recreational Shellfish Permit Scheme, which will be recovered from new permit income in future years.
- 2.4 The forecast remains subject to a number of uncertainties at this stage of the year, including the timing and level of Defra grant-in-aid, fuel and operational costs, inflationary pressures on insurance and vehicle leases, and the extent to which set-up costs for the Commercial and Recreational Shellfish Permit Scheme are recovered through future permit income. These risks will continue to be monitored through future budget monitoring reports, with forecasts updated as further information becomes available
- 2.5 The forecast underspend and savings identified in 2026/27 will be considered as part of future financial planning and levy setting. In doing so, it will be important to distinguish between recurring savings, one-off in-year benefits and grant-funded activity, particularly given the uncertainty around Defra grant-in-aid from 2027/28. This approach will help ensure that future levy requirements are set on a prudent and sustainable basis, taking account of ongoing cost pressures, the Authority's operational requirements and pressures on local authority budgets.
- 2.6 The main variances in the forecast outturn are:
- Employee expenses are forecast to underspend by £12,451. This position reflects savings on staffing costs, including the impact of an offshore officer vacancy and reduced standby allowance expenditure. The underspend is partly offset by a forecast £5,000 pressure on training, arising from a range of one-off training courses required to support the safe operation of the new patrol vessel.
 - Patrol vessel running costs are forecast to underspend by £24,572, due to savings from lower than budgeted finance lease costs, vessel rents and berthing fees. The budget includes a £20,000 carry forward to cover increased fuel costs, approved at the Authority meeting on 18 June 2026, which is forecast to be spent in full. Fuel usage will continue to be monitored closely to ensure that expenditure is managed appropriately while supporting operational requirements and maintaining visible patrol activity.
 - Vehicle running costs are forecast to overspend by £12,918, mainly due to new vehicle leases, including initial lease payments, and pressure on fuel costs.
 - Supplies and services are forecast to overspend by £53,244. The majority of this overspend relates to the additional costs associated with introducing the

Commercial and Recreational Shellfish Permit Scheme, with commercial permits required from 1 January 2027 and recreational permits from 1 May 2027. Initial set-up costs for both schemes will be incurred in 2026/27, including an estimated £29,750 on the purchase of permit tags and increased printing costs. In addition, there is a £4,473 pressure on public liability insurance and additional expenditure on equipment associated with the new patrol vessel.

- Grants and contributions are forecast to overachieve by £130,786. This reflects the assumed continuation of Defra grant-in-aid funding of £132,256, comprising £52,256 for Marine Protected Areas, £30,000 for Marine Sustainable Development and £50,000 for Fisheries Management Plans.
- Other income is forecast to overachieve by £6,074, mainly due to additional bank interest income and a small surplus anticipated from Commercial Shellfish Permit income.

2.6 In conclusion, the Month 4 forecast presents a favourable financial position for 2026/27; however, this should be viewed with appropriate caution given the reliance on grant funding, the early stage of the permit income recovery assumptions and the distinction between recurring and one-off savings. The position will continue to be reviewed through future monitoring reports to ensure emerging pressures are identified promptly and that any implications for future financial planning and levy setting are clearly understood.

Contact Officer

Gayatri Joshi (gayatri.joshi@eastriding.gov.uk)
Senior Accountant, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Liz Smith

Treasurer

Appendix A

NEIFCA Budget Monitoring Report as at July 2026

	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>Profiled Budget to Month 4</i>	<i>Actual to Month 4</i>	<i>Variance to Profile</i>	<i>Outturn</i>	<i>Variance to Budget</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE						
Employee Expenses						
Pay,NI and Superannuation	923,820	307,940	291,844	-16,096	905,961	-17,859
Other Employee Costs	20,000	6,667	5,325	-1,342	25,407	5,407
Premises	22,030	14,363	18,139	3,776	25,484	3,454
Transport						
Patrol Vessel Running Costs	490,860	228,367	219,388	-8,979	466,288	-24,572
Vehicle Running Costs	31,350	10,450	20,268	9,818	44,268	12,918
Travel and Subsistence	13,520	5,573	4,182	-1,391	12,634	-886
Supplies and Services	96,010	45,297	50,565	5,269	149,254	53,244
Support Services	124,520	0	3,071	3,071	124,520	0
	1,722,110	618,657	612,783	-5,874	1,753,816	31,706
INCOME						
Grants and Contributions	-20,110	-2,667	2,063	4,729	-150,896	-130,786
Other Income	-31,030	-5,620	-4,705	915	-37,104	-6,074
	-51,140	-8,287	-2,643	5,644	-188,000	-136,860
NET EXPENDITURE	1,670,970	610,371	610,140	-230	1,565,815	-105,155

	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>Profiled Budget to Month 4</i>	<i>Actual to Month 4</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Outturn</i>	<i>Variance to Forecast</i>
	£	£	£		£	
NET EXPENDITURE						
Central / Headquarters	465,360	127,973	147,156	19,183	500,072	34,712
Land Based Operations	150,390	50,130	55,706	5,576	154,653	4,263
Offshore Operations	910,780	379,397	356,630	-22,768	868,643	-42,137
Environment	158,610	52,870	50,649	-2,221	160,278	1,668
Grant Aided Projects	-14,170	0	0	0	-117,831	-103,661
Patrol Vessel Replacement	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,670,970	610,371	610,140	-230	1,565,815	-105,155

	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>Profiled Budget to Month 4</i>	<i>Actual to Month 4</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Outturn</i>	<i>Variance to Forecast</i>
	£	£	£		£	
REPRESENTED BY						
Annual levy on Local Authorities	-1,763,870	-1,763,870	-1,763,573	297	-1,763,870	0
Contribution from Reserves	-20,000	0	0	0	-20,000	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
	-1,670,970	-1,763,870	-1,763,573	297	-1,670,970	0
FORECAST OUTTURN	0	-1,153,499	-1,153,433	66	-105,155	-105,155

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Executive Committee
3 September 2026

Strategic & Operational Risk Register – Six Monthly Reviews

Report of the Clerk.

A. **Purpose of Report**

To inform members of the Executive Committee that in accordance with the Authority's Risk Management Strategy, a sixth monthly review of the Strategic and Operational Risk Registers has been undertaken and is reported for information.

B. **Recommendation**

That the revised Strategic and Operational Risk Register be reviewed in six months' time.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Risk Management Strategy and associated Strategic and Operational Risk Registers were first approved by the shadow Authority at its quarterly meeting held on 25 January 2011 (Minute 17 refers).
- 1.2 The Authority agreed that the Risk Management Strategy be reviewed on an annual basis and that the Strategic and Operational Risk Registers be reviewed every six months and reported to the Authority (Minute 17 refers). In accordance with these recommendations the Risk Management Strategy and Operational Risk Registers were reviewed, updated and reported to members on 5 March 2026. (Minute 35 refers).

2. **Strategic & Operational Risk Register Reviews**

- 2.1 The Strategic and Operational Risk Registers have 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 risks have been reviewed and the changes are highlighted in bold within the attached registers. An updated position for each of the key indicators is also included in the Register. The next review of the Strategic Risk Register is scheduled for March 2027. The identified risks have also been ranked in order of significance and colour coded (highest residual risk score red to lowest green). Most notable risks currently, categorised as moderate, relate to the potential loss of key operational staff to ill-health or retirement and the ongoing volatility of the global fuel market. A new, reputational strategic risk, No 2, has been identified relating to the administration of the new shellfish permitting schemes and an elevated environmental risk, No 4, relating to the recent spillage of plastic nurdles in South Tyneside dock.

2.2 The revised Strategic Risk Register is attached as Appendix 1, the Operational Risk Register as Appendix 2 and the risk based enforcement matrix, a sub register of the Operational Risk Register, as Appendix 3 for members information. All changes are highlighted in bold text.

Contact Officer

Stephen Hunt, Clerk of the Authority
Ext 3000

Background Papers

Strategic Risk Register
Operational Risk Register
Risk based enforcement matrix

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY - STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Risk No	Strategic Objective	Category of Risk	Risk	Gross Risk Score	Control Action	Residual Risk Score	Further Action Required	Update	Risk Owner
1	An Authority which attracts and keeps the best staff.	Customer/ Staff	Specialist staff and skills shortages. Sickness absence. Triggers include:- (i) Inability to recruit and retain staff. (ii) Inadequate succession planning. (iii) The Authority has a small but dedicated workforce. (iv) Private sector competition (v) Impacts of a global pandemic or other external event (vi) Ill-health & Retirements from service.	8 (4x2)	Recruitment, retention policies, training and development, surveys of existing staff, analysis at exits interviews and managing sickness absence.	8 (4x2)	Recruitment processes expedited to fill any vacancies when planned.	Currently managed utilising skills supported by development and training of existing NEIFCA staff.	Chief Officer & Deputy Chief Officer & Operational Support Manager.
2	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship. Strategic objectives	Reputation	Administration issues relating to the new shellfish permit scheme in relation to the charging and issue of permits and pot tags for 2027.	9 (3x3)	Oversight group established to plan arrangements for 2027 including Operational support leads, CO, Environmental & Scientific Manager & finance leads.	6 (2x3)	Continue to progress pro-active approach.	Strategic level planning on-track, tags ordered to meet projected lead times. Processes well advanced to facilitate the receipt of on-line payments.	Operational Support leads & CO

Risk No	Strategic Objective	Category of Risk	Risk	Gross Risk Score	Control Action	Residual Risk Score	Further Action Required	Update	Risk Owner
3	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship.	Disaster Planning	Major incident, i.e. patrol vessel collides with another vessel or runs aground. Total loss of primary asset.	8 (2x4)	The appropriate qualifications/licences/tickets are held by the crew. Train staff with skills in marine environment. Adequate Insurance.	4 (1x4)	Continue to keep up to date with training and appropriate qualifications	NEG IV now fully operational, SOPs in place, daily ‘tool box’ talks, training for core staff complete.	Chief Officer & Deputy Chief Officer
4	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship. Strategic objectives	Reputation	Failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives.	6 (2x3)	Annual Plan produced each year. Performance measured against number of targets. Exceptions reported to Authority. Constitution, Standing Orders Schemes of Delegation. The Authority has put in place structures and processes to govern decision making.	4 (2x2)	Reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Authority.		Chief Officer & NEIFCA Senior Management Team
5	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship	Reputation/legal	Failure to deliver revised fisheries management policies within Marine Protected Area Sites which fall within the Authority’s jurisdiction. Procedural delays in the formal making of regulations.	6 (2x3)	Full engagement with Defra, MMO, national working groups and local management groups.	4 (2x2)	Regular updates and progress reports to Science Advisory Group, Executive and full Committee.		Chief, Deputy Chief Officers. Senior Environmental & Scientific Officer Environmental & Scientific Officers.

Risk No	Strategic Objective	Category of Risk	Risk	Gross Risk Score	Control Action	Residual Risk Score	Further Action Required	Update	Risk Owner
6	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship.	Organisational Reputation	Loss or damage to reputation through poor press and public relations e.g response to shellfish mortalities Poor management and or use of website & social media outlets.	6 (2x3)	Good internal communications, PR, reports to Authority, Press releases approved by the Chief Officer and Clerk/Chairman where necessary. Members and key managers to have received media training. Members receive detailed briefings on sensitive issues and confidentiality requirements supported by Standards Committee and procedures. Back up arrangements through the national Association and partner IFCA's.	4 (2x2)	Reviewed on a quarterly basis. Daily management of Website & social media feeds in terms of content and comment.		Chief Officer & Operational Support Manager
7	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship.	Financial/Economic	Cuts to service, balance budget. Triggers include:- - Reduction in Government funding - Budget over spends, insufficient reserves. - Precept set too low. - Lack of compliance with financial regulations - Increased pressure on resources from other agencies - Unforeseen mechanical failure - Increasing inflation & costs	4 (2x2)	Three year financial plan in place based on prudent projections and sensitivity analysis. Budget process flexible enough to deal with changes in funding e.g. savings plans. Lobbying with other Authority's to get better deals. Government assumptions used in the planning exercise. Formal considerations of reserves. Monthly revenue and capital budget monitoring. Demonstrating the ability to manage in-year budget pressures. Early closure of accounts. Attraction of EU and other grants for project works.	4 (2x2)	Ensure sound business cases are made to Authority funders for continued financial support.		Clerk/ Treasurer/ Chief IFC Officer

Risk No	Strategic Objective	Category of Risk	Risk	Gross Risk Score	Control Action	Residual Risk Score	Further Action Required	Update	Risk Owner
8	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship. Statutory responsibilities.	Reputation Legal	Failure to meet statutory responsibilities set out by legislation. Main causes of risk are:- (i) Poor leadership/judgement by managers. (ii) Inadequate monitoring review. (iii) Lack of professional staff. (iv) Legal challenge. (v) Lack of trained, experienced staff. (vi) Impacts of a global pandemic or other similar external factors. (vii) Mechanical breakdown in key assets.	4 (2x2)	Series of performance targets set and measured to meet the requirements. Reported on quarterly basis to the Authority. Understanding and adherence to all governing legislation. Dynamic risk assessments and supporting safe working practices implemented when required.	4 (2x2)	Reviewed on a quarterly basis by reporting to the Authority.		Chief Officer
9	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship.	Reputation/ Legal	Officers acting beyond their statutory remit through inexperience. Legal challenge. Potential incident. Adverse publicity.	4 (2x2)	Full training in role. Qualifications. Performance monitoring, target setting, recruitment procedures. Annual appraisal system.	4 (2x2)	As roles develop, change, continuous training and development. EDP process to be utilised for this.	Training strengthened through induction, formal courses, work shadowing and national IFCA training courses.	Chief Officer

Risk No	Strategic Objective	Category of Risk	Risk	Gross Risk Score	Control Action	Residual Risk Score	Further Action Required	Update	Risk Owner
9	A reputation for smart and prudent stewardship.	Financial Reputation	Failure to manage the Authority's assets, caused by:- • Lack of funding • Service failures/poor maintenance • Poor risk assessments and controls Age and deterioration of vessels & vehicles	4 (2x2)	Asset Management Plans - including audit and survey result to target investment and maintenance at high priority areas. Patrol Vessel renewal fund and replacement project ongoing. Maintenance programme. Risk assessments. Inspections and surveys. Insurance.	2 (1x2)	Review and define inspection survey programme. Ensure compliance with the programme. Review adequacy of sums insured and compliance with insurance policy conditions. Strengthen asset management and control.	New main vessel North Eastern Guardian IV (NEG IV) now fully operational.	Chief Officer & Deputy Chief Officer & Operational Support Manager

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY - OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER

Risk Number	Process	Risk Identification	Risk Analysis	Risk Control	Residual Risk	Monitoring		
	Risk Category	Risk	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	Control Action	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	By Whom	Review Frequency	Triggers for Action
1	Staffing	Lack of staffing resources to deliver service and that staff have adequate skills training to achieve performance requirements. Increasing pressures from UK government to support national fisheries policy development & implementation without additional resource could have a negative impact on the delivery of IFCA statutory duties and responsibilities. Unable to fill vacancies with suitable applicants. Increased natural turnover of staff within a more mobile work sector. Ill-health & retirements from service.	8 (4x2)	Communication networks. Staff flexibility. Monitoring of workloads. Workforce Development. Vacancy Management. Recruitment processes expedited to fill vacancies. Maintenance of active dialogue with all key partner agencies. AIFCA, NIMEG & TAG. One current vacancy within the offshore team.	8 (4x2)	Clerk and Chief IFC Officer.	Quarterly.	Reports to Authority. Team meetings/ EDRs. Sickness Review Meetings. Vacancy/sickness. Performance monitoring results. Proactive training programmes.
2	Financial reputation, technical.	Volatility of global oil/fuel markets and national tax changes.	9 (3x3)	Regular monitoring of fuel spends included within quarterly reports to Authority. Additional provision made within annual precept for 2026-2027. Considered tasking of main assets.	6 (3x2)	Chairman, Clerk, Treasurer, Chief Officer and Deputy Chief	Monthly.	Budget financial review & reporting

Risk Number	Process	Risk Identification	Risk Analysis	Risk Control	Residual Risk	Monitoring		
	Risk Category	Risk	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	Control Action	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	By Whom	Review Frequency	Triggers for Action
3	Professional, contractual, legal reputation.	Failure to effectively support projects, poor contract documentation, failure to meet contract deadlines, failure to meet legal requirements and procurement legislation Provider fails to deliver the contract.	6 (2x3)	Use of internal/external experts/consultants. Robust specifications. Risk Assessments. Strong contract management. Financial, technical and legal vetting of all providers. Procurement policy followed. Monitoring and reporting processes. Meet statutory requirements.	4 (2x2)	Chairman, Clerk and Chief Officer & associated project leads.	Monthly.	Procurement processes. Legislative changes. Contract variations. Timetable slippage.
4	Customer Service/ reputation	Failure to provide agreed service. Failure to establish and achieve performance targets therefore having a detrimental impact on the delivery of service to the customer and achievement of performance objectives. Serious mechanical failure and breakdown onboard the main vessel asset.	6 (2x3)	Performance Indicators. Inspections audit. Workload monitoring. Policy and procedure compliance. Staff training. Communication with customers. Short period of contingency planning, expected to be covered by other assets including Protector III and Bravo 1 RIBs.	4 (2x2)	Clerk and Chief Officer.	Quarterly	Annual reports. Performance monitoring reports. Feedback from staff and customers.

Risk Number	Process	Risk Identification	Risk Analysis	Risk Control	Residual Risk	Monitoring		
	Risk Category	Risk	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	Control Action	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	By Whom	Review Frequency	Triggers for Action
5	Financial and reputational	Breaches of General Data Protection & Freedom of Information Regulations could lead to fines and reputational impacts.	6 (3x2)	Key staffed trained and familiar with new GDP regulations. Data Protection Officer role agreed, creation of a register of data processing activities, utilisation of impact assessments when required, creation of public and internal privacy statements and active management of all data processing activities. Advice from ICO. SLA agreed with ERYC information governance and feedback team to provide expert support, advice and training.	4 (2x2)	DPO Clerk Chief Officer Support Officer	Monthly	Formal complaint or report to ICO
6	Financial and contractual.	Unexpected budget demands and variances and failure to achieve agreed budget	4 (2x2)	Monitoring systems. Systems to capture spend. Regular budget holder meetings. Internal Audit. Regular reviews of the appropriate level of reserves. Maintenance of insurance provisions.	4 (2x2)	Treasurer, Clerk and Chief Officer.	Monthly.	Budget financial reporting.
7	Legal/ reputation.	Legal challenge resulting from failure to undertake statutory responsibilities in terms of enforcement, poorly drafted Authority bye-laws or national legislation.	6 (3x2)	Performance monitoring in terms of enforcement targets. Drafting of bye-laws in consultation with Legal Services. Proper consultation processes followed in accordance with statutory requirements. Involvement of NEIFCA Legal team, MMO, DEFRA in final approval of bye-laws. Strengthening enforcement practices and techniques.	4 (2x2)	Clerk, Legal Advisor and Chief Officer.	Monthly and quarterly reports to Authority.	Performance monitoring reports. Legal challenges.

Risk Number	Process	Risk Identification	Risk Analysis	Risk Control	Residual Risk	Monitoring		
	Risk Category	Risk	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	Control Action	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	By Whom	Review Frequency	Triggers for Action
8	Financial reputation.	Failure to deliver projects through lack of resources or investment. Loss of funding and grants resulting in inability to proceed with projects. Change in legislation resulting in inability to generate funds. Reputation for inability to utilise grants awarded.	4 (2x2)	Budget setting and monitoring process. Procurement policy followed. Appropriate resources available to undertake the project. Skills and knowledge of staff. With regard to supporting national projects ensure maintenance of dialogue and a proactive approach. Business Cases considered with full whole life costs of projects made. Proactive communications when required.	2 (1x2)	Clerk and Chief Officer.	Monthly	Performance monitoring reports. Budget reports. Legislative changes. Government funding initiatives. Authority decisions. Contract variation slippage.

OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER – ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MATRIX

Risk Number	Process	Risk Identification	Risk Analysis	Risk Control	Residual Risk	Monitoring		
	Risk Category	Risk	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	Control Action	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	By Whom	Review Frequency	Triggers for Action
1	Environmental	Impacts on fish and shellfish stocks through over-exploitation Pressures on stocks, particularly crustacea remain high although work is continuing on revised management measures. Currently catch statistics indicate a general declining trend in crab landings. Impacts in intertidal areas rising due to influxes of shore gatherers. Decreasing landings and landings per unit effort within the edible crab fishery currently	9 (3x3)	Detailed monitoring of stock health. Development of dedicated management plans and strategies. Tailored management provisions. Sound enforcement. Fisheries accreditation schemes. National coordination. Maintaining a high level of communication and active joint working with key partner agencies. New byelaws confirmed by Fisheries Minister covering fisheries management in the Humber Estuary and beam trawling within the district. New shellfish management byelaws currently with the Fisheries Minister for confirmation.	9 (3x3)	Chief & Deputy Chief Officers and Environmental & Scientific Officers	Quarterly & monthly	Non achievement of stock indicators. Declining catches and fleets. Complaints and comments.
2	Environmental	Impacts on fish and shellfish stocks through non-compliance with regulations. Prohibition on landing egg bearing lobsters. Impacts in intertidal areas rising due to influxes of shore gatherers.	9 (3x3)	Targeted approach to enforcement at ports and areas of known high non-compliance at peak season. Focus on ports of high volume landings out of season. Strengthening enforcement procedures and techniques. Maintaining a high level of communication and active joint working with key partner agencies.	6 (2x3)	Chief, Deputy Chief and IFC Officers	Monthly	Intelligence reports. Surveillance. Routine observations and complaints

Risk Number	Process	Risk Identification	Risk Analysis	Risk Control	Residual Risk	Monitoring		
	Risk Category	Risk	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	Control Action	1-8 = Low 8-10 = Medium 10-20 = High	By Whom	Review Frequency	Triggers for Action
3	Environmental	Habitat damage caused by invasive fishing methods. Damage to protected features of European Marine Sites or Marine Conservation Zones Risks from the activities of nomadic scallop dredgers surrounding the NEIFCA area. Habitat damage caused to sensitive intertidal areas due to influxes of shore gatherers.	6 (2x3)	Ongoing monitoring of activities. Active participation in associated schemes of management. Introduction of emergency and long-term Byelaw regulations and codes of conduct governing activities. Enforcement of existing regulations. Timely use of emergency byelaw making procedures when necessary. Working closely with the MMO and Defra to ensure adequate protection remains in place.	6 (2x3)	Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer Environmental & Scientific Officers	Quarterly to Authority and associated working groups	Significant increases in related activity. Evidence of damage and impact. Complaints
4	Environmental	Impacts on fish and shellfish stocks through pollution incidents or environmental factors such as extreme events, novel pathogens or climate change. Recent incident at Port of Tyne which occurred during July 2026 leading to the spillage of 48 tonnes of plastic nurdles.	6 (3x2)	Regular monitoring, reporting and working in partnership with key agencies such as Defra, EA, CEFAS, MMO. Potential use of emergency byelaw making powers.	6 (3x2)	Chief & Deputy Chief Officer and Environmental & Scientific Manager	Monthly	Observed mortality on shore and at sea, evidence of pollution events reports of unusually low catch rates from the industry.
5	Environmental	Impacts on other marine species such as sea birds, cetaceans and other organisms associated with fishing activities	4 (2x2)	Monitoring through fishing permit and catch and effort schemes. One off studies and assessments. Timely use of emergency byelaw making procedures when required.	4 (2x2)	Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer Environmental & Scientific Officers	Quarterly to Authority and associated working groups	Negative feedback from catch reporting schemes and or studies. Complaints

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Executive Committee
3 September 2026

NEIFCA Byelaw XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 – Proposed Changes to Commercial Permitting Conditions 2027

Report by the Chief Officer

A. **Purpose of Report**

1. To provide advanced notice to members of proposed changes to the commercial shellfish permit conditions from 1 January 2027.

B. **Recommendation**

1. That members note and endorse the proposed changes.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 On 4 March 2026 the Defra Minister of State formally confirmed a new fisheries Byelaw XXVIII 'Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022'. The byelaw established new provisions covering the commercial and recreational catching and taking of specified shellfish species designed to support the sustainable management of those species. Since the confirmation of the new regulation, two shellfish permit schemes have been established. Each type of permit carries several mandatory, flexible, management conditions which must be complied with by the individual permit holders. These conditions can be reviewed and varied in accordance with the procedures set out within the byelaw. A copy of the new byelaw regulation is attached for members information.

- 1.2 Schedule 3 of the new byelaw regulation sets out the process for reviewing the flexible permit conditions. On 4 August 2026 officers commenced a written consultative process inviting comments on the following proposed changes to the permitting conditions for 2027:

- (i) Revocation of the mandatory requirement to declare the number of fleets and the number of pots per fleet to be worked and to adhere to such.
- (ii) Revocation of the mandatory requirement to sequentially mark the fleet number on all surface markers. (Please note it will remain a mandatory requirement to mark the vessel Port Letters and Numbers on all surface markers).
- (iii) The establishment of a new commercial pot tagging scheme from 1 January 2027. All commercial pots will be required to carry a tag, issued by NEIFCA, which will be specific to the vessel and permit holder. Each commercial permit applicant will receive an allocation of tags up to the maximum number of pots which will remain at 1000 per vessel for 2027.

- (iv) A Commercial Permit holder must not fish for specified shellfish species using pots with tags attached that have been issued to another Commercial Permit holder except under written permission of the Authority.
 - (v) As a revised condition NEIFCA is also considering exempting whelk pots from mandatory escape gaps and the pot tagging scheme. Any whelk pots set would have to comply with the type specified within the byelaw conditions and marked accordingly on associated surface markers to distinguish them from crab and lobster pots.
 - (vi) In line with proposed national changes, an increase in the minimum conservation reference size for lobster to 89 mm, carapace length.
- 1.3 In relation to the proposed changes to commercial permit conditions, as of 12 August 2026, over thirty responses had been received from permit holders with between 83 and 93% supporting the changes to gear marking, 73% supporting the introduction of mandatory pot tagging and 80% supporting the proposals surrounding whelk pots.

Contact Officer

David McCandless, Chief Officer

Ext. 3690

**NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009
XXVIII SHELLFISH PERMIT BYELAW 2022**

The Authority for the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District in exercise of its powers under section 155(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹, makes the following byelaw for that District.

Commencement

1. This byelaw comes into force on the date on which it is confirmed by the Secretary of State.

Interpretation

2. In this byelaw:

- (a) 'the Act' means the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009;
- (b) 'the Authority' has the meaning given by Article 2 and 4 of the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010²;
- (c) 'Commercial Permit' means a permit issued by the Authority in accordance with the procedure set out within Schedule 1;
- (d) 'commercial permit holder' means a person named on a Commercial Permit;
- (e) 'the District' has the meaning given by Article 2 and 3 of the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010;
- (f) 'dredging' means fishing by using any appliance with a rigid framed mouth which is towed through the water and is manufactured, adapted, used or intended for use for the purpose of fishing for scallops;
- (g) 'family member' in relation to a vessel owner means a person who is part of the owner's family, either through blood or by marriage including a spouse, partner, son, daughter, parent, sibling, uncle, aunt, grandparent, cousin, niece or nephew;
- (h) 'fishing' means searching for or taking specified shellfish species, shooting, setting, towing, or hauling of fishing gear and taking specified shellfish species aboard a vessel;
- (i) 'fleet' means a continuous collection of individual pots connected by rope, rigging or any other method;
- (j) 'fishing licence' means a licence to fish granted under Section 15 of the Fisheries Act 2020³;

¹ 2009 c. 23.

² S.I. 2010, No. 2193.

³ 2020 c. 22.

- (k) 'fixed net' means any net that is secured to the seabed by methods such as weights, anchors, or stakes, ensuring it remains in place and does not drift or shift due to currents;
- (l) 'flexible permit conditions' means the conditions attached to the permit, introduced or varied under paragraphs 34 or 36, in accordance with the procedures set out within Schedule 3;
- (m) 'joint owner' means a person listed as holding a joint share in the ownership of a vessel as recorded on the vessel's Certificate of Registry issued by the UK Ship Register⁴;
- (n) 'monitoring device' means a device capable of transmitting data to the UK VMS hub;
- (o) 'owner' means a person listed as holding a share in the ownership of a vessel as recorded on the vessel's Certificate of Registry issued by the UK Ship Register;
- (p) 'ownership' in relation to a vessel means the ownership details as listed on the vessel's Certificate of Registry issued by the UK Ship Register;
- (q) 'permit' means a Commercial or Recreational Permit;
- (r) 'permit card' means a card issued with the permit which carries the vessel and or the permit holders' details;
- (s) 'permit holder' means a person or persons who are named in a Commercial or Recreational permit;
- (t) 'pot' means a pot, creel or trap, set or used to catch specified shellfish species;
- (u) 'pot type' means a pot specifically designed, rigged and set for the purpose of catching single species or a group of species including, European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*), edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*), velvet crab (*Necora puber*), Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*), scallops and whelk (*Buccinum undatum*);
- (v) 'recreational catch and release fishing' means collection by hand, or the use of a small hand net, baited line or drop net to catch specified shellfish species that are returned to the sea;
- (w) 'recreational permit' means a permit issued in accordance with paragraphs 23 to 33;
- (x) 'recreational permit holder' means a person named on a recreational permit;
- (y) 'registered fishing vessel' means a vessel registered in accordance with Part II of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995⁵ and the Merchant Shipping (Registration

⁴ The UK Ship Register is part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

<https://ukshipregister.co.uk/about-us>

⁵ 1995 c. 21.

of Ships) Regulations 1993⁶, and in respect of which there is a valid fishing licence issued under the Fisheries Act 2020⁷;

- (z) 'scallops' mean the species *Pecten maximus* and *Aequipecten opercularis*;
- (aa) 'sea fisheries resources' has the meaning as in the Act;
- (bb) 'shellfish entitlement' means an entitlement to catch shellfish species attached to a respective fishing licence granted under Section 15 of the Fisheries Act 2020;
- (cc) 'shellfish permit holder' means a person or persons named in a permit issued by the Authority in accordance with Byelaw XXII Permit to fish for lobster, crab, velvet crab and whelk⁸, in force immediately before the confirmation of this byelaw;
- (dd) 'specified shellfish species' means the following species:
 - (i) European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*);
 - (ii) edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*);
 - (iii) European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*);
 - (iv) velvet crab (*Necora puber*);
 - (v) mussel (*Mytilus edulis*);
 - (vi) Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*);
 - (vii) common periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*);
 - (viii) razor clam (*Ensis spp*);
 - (ix) scallops;
 - (x) pullet carpet shell (*Venerupis corrugata*);
 - (xi) whelk (*Buccinum undatum*);
- (ee) 'trawling' means using a net that is towed or dragged on or above the seabed to catch sea fisheries resources; and
- (ff) 'vessel' means a ship, boat, raft or watercraft of any description and includes non-displacement craft, personal watercraft, seaplanes and any other thing constructed or adapted for floating on or being submersed in water (whether permanently or temporarily) and a hovercraft or any other amphibious vehicle, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

Prohibitions

- 3. A person must not fish for, take or retain any specified shellfish species from within the District with a vessel unless in accordance with a Commercial Permit and;
 - (a) the vessel is a registered fishing vessel; and
 - (b) the vessel is named on a current fishing licence with a shellfish entitlement.

⁶ S.I. 1993, No. 3138.

⁷ 2020 c. 22.

⁸ Byelaw XXII Permit to fish for lobster, crab, velvet crab and whelk' made by the Committee for the North Eastern Sea Fisheries District on 31 October 2006 in exercise of its power under section 5 of the Sea Fisheries Regulations Act 1966 (c.38) and confirmed by the Secretary of State on 17 May 2006.

4. Paragraph 3 does not apply to specified shellfish species captured by;
 - (a) registered fishing vessels when trawling or dredging;
 - (b) persons solely engaged in recreational catch and release fishing; or
 - (c) persons solely engaged in fishing in accordance with a Recreational Permit.

Permits

5. The Authority will determine how many permits will be made available each year and publish such number on its website⁹.
6. The Authority may limit the number of pots authorised by a permit.
7. The Authority may specify the number of each pot type authorised by a permit.
8. A permit and permit card:
 - (a) are valid for the dates specified in a permit;
 - (b) must be returned to the Authority if no longer required;
 - (c) are not transferable between the permit holder and another person, otherwise than in accordance with paragraphs 16 to 19; and
 - (d) when used in conjunction with a vessel the permit card must be displayed in a clear and prominent position, otherwise, made available upon request by an officer of the Authority.
9. A fee may be charged for the issue of any replacement tags to a Commercial Permit holder and such fees will be published on the Authority's website.
10. Any fees may be varied or increased in accordance with the review procedure set out within Schedule 3 and will be published on the Authority's website.

Commercial Permits

11. A Commercial Permit and permit card are issued to the owner or joint owners of a registered fishing vessel.
12. Applications for Commercial Permits must be made by completing the printable forms available from the Authority's office¹⁰, website or by using the online application process on the Authority's website.
13. The Authority will issue Commercial Permits in accordance with the procedure set out in Schedule 1.
14. A registered fishing vessel can only be listed on one Commercial Permit at any one time.

⁹ www.ne-ifca.gov.uk

¹⁰ NEIFCA, Town Hall, Quay Road, Bridlington, YO16 4LP.

15. The Authority will allocate Commercial Permit pot allocations in accordance with the procedure set out in Schedule 2.

Commercial Permits - Transfer

16. A Commercial Permit is not transferable between owners unless the owner of the vessel listed on the Commercial Permit gives that vessel to a family member of the owner or existing joint owner.
17. A Commercial Permit is not transferrable between vessels unless the owner or joint owners of a vessel listed on the Commercial Permit replaces that vessel with a new vessel.
18. When a Commercial Permit is transferred, the associated pot allocation on the date of transfer will also be transferred.
19. An application to transfer a Commercial Permit in accordance with paragraph 16 or 17 must be made within one calendar month from the date of any such change. In the case of a vessel replacement, the application must be made within one month from the date of change of ownership.

Commercial Permit Conditions

20. A Commercial Permit must not be used in conjunction with any Recreational Permit.
21. Commercial Permit holders must provide any relevant fisheries information required by the Authority.
22. Where any registered fishing vessel has a statutory obligation to have a monitoring device fitted, any additional requirement(s) will be set out in the flexible permit conditions.

Recreational Permit Conditions

23. A Recreational Permit and permit card are issued to a person to fish for specified shellfish species within the District.
24. Applications for Recreational Permits must be made by completing the printable forms available from the Authority's office, website, or by using the online application process on the Authority's website.
25. Only one Recreational Permit may be issued per person.
26. Recreational Permits are not transferable.
27. The Authority will issue a number of tags equal to the maximum number of pots allocated under a Recreational Permit.
28. A Recreational Permit holder must not fish for specified shellfish species using pots with tags attached that have been issued to another Recreational Permit holder.
29. Only one Recreational Permit may be used to fish from any one vessel at any one time.

30. A Recreational Permit expires on 1 May of the next calendar year following the date of issue unless the Authority notifies the permit holder otherwise.
31. Recreational Permit applications will be processed in order of receipt.
32. When all Recreational Permits have been allocated, any unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list for the next available permit.
33. A fee of £10 will be charged for the issue of a Recreational Permit, payable to the Authority by the applicant on application and renewal.

Flexible Permit Conditions

34. The Authority may introduce flexible permit conditions which fall within one or more of the categories listed in paragraph 35.
35. The categories referred to in paragraph 34 are:
 - (a) catch restrictions;
 - (b) gear restrictions;
 - (c) vessel restrictions;
 - (d) spatial restrictions;
 - (e) temporal restrictions; and
 - (f) fishery information.
36. The Authority may introduce, remove or vary any flexible permit conditions following a review conducted in accordance with the review procedure set out within Schedule 3.
37. Any flexible permit conditions apply until they are reviewed in accordance with Schedule 3.

Permit suspensions

38. A permit may be suspended or permanently withdrawn by the Authority for the purposes of environmental protection, fisheries conservation or non-compliance with the provisions of the byelaw or permit conditions subject to the considerations in paragraph 39.
39. In deciding whether to suspend or withdraw a permit, the Authority may consider:
 - (a) all available scientific and survey data;
 - (b) internal scientific advice from within its membership;
 - (c) advice provided by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science;
 - (d) advice provided by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;
 - (e) advice provided by the Marine Management Organisation;
 - (f) advice provided by Natural England;
 - (g) advice provided by the Environment Agency;
 - (h) advice provided by other external authorities, organisations, persons or bodies as the Authority sees fit;

- (i) representations from fishing permit holders; and
 - (j) information from any other relevant source.
40. Written notification of the decision to consider the suspension or withdrawal of a permit will be given to the permit holder and it will also be published on the Authority's website, at least fourteen days before any decision is made.
41. The permit holder has ten days from the date of the notification to submit any written representations to the Authority.
42. The Authority's decision to suspend or withdraw a permit is final and there is no appeal process.
43. Written notification of the final decision to suspend or withdraw a permit, will be given to the permit holder and it will also be published on the Authority's website within seven days of the Authority's decision.
44. The suspension or withdrawal of a permit may apply to all or part of the District.

Review Procedure

45. The Authority will review the flexible permit conditions in accordance with the procedure set out within Schedule 3.

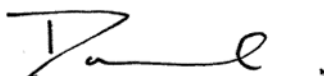
Offences

46. A person who contravenes this byelaw is guilty of an offence under section 163(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Revocations

47. Byelaw 'XXII – Permit to fish for lobster, crab, velvet crab and whelk' made by the Committee for the North Eastern Sea Fisheries District on 31 October 2006 is revoked.
48. Byelaw 'XXVIII Crustacea Conservation Byelaw 2018'¹¹ made by the Authority on 14 June 2018 is revoked.

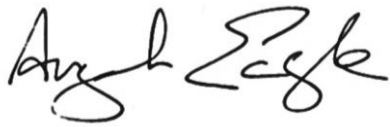
I certify that the above Byelaw was made by the Authority at its meeting on 1 December 2022.



Darren Stevens
Clerk

¹¹ 'XXVIII Crustacea Conservation Byelaw 2018' made by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority on 14 June 2018 in exercise of its powers under Sections 155 and 156 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (c. 23) and confirmed on 08 August 2018.

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Town Hall
Quay Road
Bridlington
East Yorkshire

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Eagle'.

Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP, The Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 155 (4) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, confirms this byelaw made by the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority on 1 December 2022.

Date: 04/03/2026

Schedule 1

Issuing of Commercial Permits

1. The Commercial Permit applicant must pay a fee to the Authority for the issue of the permit which will be payable on application or renewal only. The fee for each Commercial Permit is linked to the respective pot allocation associated with that permit as follows:
 - (a) £50 (1 - 250 pots)
 - (b) £150 (251 – 500 pots)
 - (c) £250 (501 – 750 pots)
 - (d) £350 (751 – 1000 pots)
2. A Commercial Permit expires on 1st January of the next calendar year following the date of issue unless the Authority notifies the permit holder otherwise.
3. In year one, all Commercial Permit applications must be received within one month of the date of confirmation of the byelaw and will be processed in priority order with first priority given to those who held a valid shellfish permit issued by the Authority on the date of the making of this byelaw, on 1st December 2022. Second priority will then be given to those vessels that previously held a valid shellfish permit, issued by the Authority after the date of the making of the byelaw on 1st December 2022. Any remaining, available, Commercial Permits will then be allocated in order of receipt.
4. In subsequent years, all commercial permit holders will be invited to re-apply for their permits prior to the date of expiry of the permit. Such applications must be received by the Authority within one month before the date of expiry of the permit. Any remaining Commercial Permits will be allocated in order of application receipt, including any applications from previous commercial permit holders received after one month of the date of expiry of the said permit, up to the maximum number of available permits.
5. Commercial Permit applications will be processed as follows:
 - (a) if the number of applicants does not exceed the maximum number of available permits, at any one time, then each eligible applicant will be issued with a permit;
 - (b) once the maximum number of available permits has been met then unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list for the next available permit;
 - (c) the Authority retains the right to refuse to issue a permit until such time as the applicant makes available any outstanding information required for the issue of that permit.

Schedule 2

Commercial Permit Pot Allocations

1. Following the date of confirmation of this byelaw, all existing shellfish permit holders will be invited to make an application for the number of pots that they intend to fish, up to the maximum number specified within the flexible conditions attached to the Commercial Permit.
2. Applicants must also declare the number of fleets of pots they intend to fish and the number of pots per fleet.
3. Applications will be reviewed by the Authority and the number of pots, fleets and number of pots per fleet will be confirmed in writing with each applicant.
4. Any new Commercial Permit applicants will make an application for the number of pots that they intend to fish, up to the maximum number specified within the flexible conditions attached to the Commercial Permit.
5. New Commercial Permit applicants must also declare the number of fleets of pots they intend to fish and the number of pots per fleet.
6. All new applications will be reviewed by the Authority and the number of pots, fleets and number of pots per fleet will be confirmed in writing with each applicant.
7. Commercial permit holders can, at any time, apply to change the number of pots and vary the number of fleets or number of pots per fleet up to the maximum number specified within the flexible conditions attached to the permit.
8. All applications to change the number of pots and or vary the number of fleets or pots per fleet must be submitted to the Authority in writing. Such changes may be subject to an administrative fee to cover the cost of any tags issued.
9. Applications will be considered by the Authority who will notify the applicant of the outcome within 10 days of the date of receipt.

Schedule 3

Flexible Permit Conditions Review Procedure

1. The Authority will review the flexible permit conditions at least once every five years beginning with the date on which this byelaw comes into force.
2. A review of the flexible permit conditions shall be undertaken as follows:
 - (a) the Authority shall consult in writing with permit holders and other stakeholders, organisations and persons that are likely to be representative of the interests to be substantially affected by the proposed future management options;
 - (b) the Authority will make a decision whether to introduce, remove or vary any flexible permit conditions based upon the consultation set out in paragraph 2(a) and the information listed in paragraph 3; and
 - (c) following any such decision by the Authority to change the flexible permit conditions, permit holders will be notified in writing and the decision published on the Authority's website and permits will be amended as necessary at no cost to the permit holder.
3. The information referred to in paragraph 2(b) includes any one or more of the following:
 - (a) data collected from permit holders;
 - (b) scientific and survey data gathered by the Authority or provided to the Authority by such other bodies, organisations or persons as the Authority sees fit;
 - (c) scientific advice provided by Centre for the Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science or such other bodies, organisations or persons as the Authority sees fit;
 - (d) advice given by Natural England or such other bodies, organisations or persons as the Authority sees fit;
 - (e) an impact assessment of any proposed changes; and
 - (f) information from any other relevant source.

EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This note is not part of the byelaw)

This byelaw prohibits the fishing for, taking or retention of any of the following specified shellfish species by vessel, from within the District, unless the owner of that vessel holds a Commercial Permit, issued by the Authority:

- (i) European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*);
- (ii) edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*);
- (iii) European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*);
- (iv) velvet crab (*Necora puber*);
- (v) mussel (*Mytilus edulis*);
- (vi) Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*);
- (vii) common periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*);
- (viii) razor clam (*Ensis spp*);
- (ix) scallops;
- (x) pullet carpet shell (*Venerupis corrugata*);
- (xi) whelk (*Buccinum undatum*);

Such prohibitions do not apply to vessels engaged in trawling, dredging, recreational catch and release fishing or persons holding a Recreational Permit.

Commercial Permits are subject to a pot limitation which will be allocated, upon application, up to a maximum limit set by the Authority.

Recreational Permits authorise the recreational fishing for, taking and retention of any specified shellfish species. There is a limit of one permit per person, and one permit used per vessel.

Commercial and Recreational Permits are subject to flexible permit conditions which the Authority may amend subject to specific procedure. Such permit conditions can include those relating to the vessel, the fishing gear, the catch, the area or time of fishing and any additional fisheries information required by the Authority. Flexible permit conditions will be reviewed at least once every five years.

Commercial Permits are not transferable unless the owner of a vessel listed on a Commercial Permit replaces that vessel or gives that vessel to a family member or joint owner. Recreational permits are not transferable

Commercial and Recreational Permits can be suspended or withdrawn subject to considerations relating to available data, external advice and representations from permit holders.

Commercial and Recreational Permits will be issued in order of receipt of application and payment of any fees or charges¹², up to the maximum number of permits made available by the Authority.

The byelaw confirms that any contravention of the prohibitions is an offence under section 163(1) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The byelaw revokes byelaw 'XXII Permit to fish for lobster, crab, velvet crab and whelk' made by the Committee for the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee district on 31

¹² See paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 & paragraph 33 of XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022.

October 2006 and Byelaw XXVIII Crustacea Conservation Byelaw 2018' made by the Authority on 14 June 2018.

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Executive Committee
3 September 2026

NEIFCA Annual Report 2025/2026

Report by the Chief Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with a first draft copy of the NEIFCA Annual Report covering the period, 2025/2026, summarising the Authority's outputs and activities during the year.

B. Recommendation

1. That members note 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 copy of the first draft Annual Report covering the period 2025/2026 and summarising the Authority's main outputs and achievements during the preceding year is attached for member's information.

Contact Officer

David McCandless
Chief Officer
Tel: 07771936501

Background Papers

NEIFCA Annual Report 2024/2025

North Eastern
Inshore Fisheries
and Conservation
Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

Print
and Design

**PROOF
ONLY**

North Eastern

IFCA

Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation 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.”



2025/2026

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FOREWORD

This report provides a summary account and review of North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's (NEIFCA) main outputs and achievements between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

It has been a busy reporting year for NEIFCA. On 21 June 2025 NEIFCA's new main vessel, North Eastern Guardian IV (NEG IV) was officially named and blessed in Whitby, North Yorkshire and following an extended period of testing and commissioning, officially entered service on 31 January 2026. NEIFCA's offshore assets were further enhanced during February 2026 when it took delivery of a new 6.4m rigid inflatable boat (RIB), 'Bravo II'. This vessel will operate in tandem with NEG IV to support offshore enforcement and compliance work.

On 4 March 2026 Defra confirmed a new shellfish permit byelaw regulation following five years of development work. This new regulation will support a more proactive approach to the management of shellfish exploitation, both on shore and at sea. It includes two new permitting schemes covering both commercial and recreational activity. In the first year of implementation commercial vessels will, for the first time, be restricted to working a maximum of 1000 pots, recreational permit holders be restricted to working a maximum 5 pots.

Throughout the reporting year the environmental and science team furthered catch assessment and monitoring work in partnership with the local fishing industry and the shore operations team expanded its programme of active partnership working with key agencies.

Professor Michael Elliott, Chair of NEIFCA.



Clerkship:

County Hall
Beverley
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU17 9BA

Fisheries and Administration:

Town Hall
Bridlington
East Riding of Yorkshire
YO16 4LP

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. It 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 Annual Report covers the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. It provides a comprehensive review of 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 additional work supporting the delivery of national work streams.

The report also provides a summary of NEIFCA's performance and progress against both long-standing national and local working objectives.



Executive summary achievements

Main achievements and outputs during 2025/2026 included the following:

- Agreement achieved with members on an uplifted, operational budget of £1,097,140 which included a phased increase in revenue funding to meet the projected costs of running the new main vessel from 1 April 2026.
- Following the award of contract in October 2023 to Whitby based, Parkol Marine Ltd for the build and commission of a new main fisheries vessel, the project advanced successfully through 2025/2026.
- The new vessel, NEG IV was launched on 8 May 2025 followed by an official naming and blessing ceremony on 21 June 2025. As part of the commissioning and testing process NEG IV sailed from Whitby to participate in the Southampton Workboat Show at the end of June 2025. Following the completion of extensive trials and testing NEG IV was officially handed over to NEIFCA by Parkol Marine Ltd on 31 January 2026.
- Towards the end of the reporting year a new shellfish permitting byelaw regulation was confirmed by Defra on 4 March 2026. This represented the culmination of five years of work and will significantly strengthen NEIFCA's ability to more effectively manage the exploitation of shellfish species both onshore and offshore.
- During 2025/2026 NEIFCA officers engaged extensively in the national Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) programme covering key stocks including king scallops, crabs and lobsters, sea bass and whelk through associated implementation working groups coordinated through the national association of IFCAs and the national Chief Officers Group.
- NEIFCA retains a strong commitment to active partnership working and continues to build on that through active collaboration with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Defra, the Seafish Industry Authority and the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

Continued on the next page...

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive summary achievements continued...

During 2025/2026 much of that work involved supporting the national development and implementation of FMPs a new statutory requirement of the 2020 Fisheries Act. With additional grant aid support, provided by Defra, NEIFCA was able to maintain its level of active involvement in the implementation phase of key FMPs through 2025/2026. This included regular attendance on national working groups such as those focused on crab, lobster and king scallop management. Throughout the year NEIFCA also made significant contributions to other FMP programmes including sea bass. Active engagement in FMP delivery is now a significant component of NEIFCA's national annual work programme.

● From an enforcement and compliance perspective NEIFCA maintained an active and collaborative working relationship with MMO colleagues which included attendance and participation in monthly joint Tasking and Coordination Group (TCG) meetings. These meetings enable the review of shared intelligence and the associated tasking of joint actions to tackle issues as they emerge and develop locally.

Throughout 2025/2026 NEIFCA continued to share national fisheries intelligence and outcomes via the 'CLUE' system and information relating to fisheries inspections. This continues to enhance and strengthen NEIFCA's collaborative approach to enforcement and compliance work.

During 2025/2026, NEIFCA officers issued 22 verbal warnings, 1 written caution, 1 financial administrative penalty and a further 8 cases were formally prosecuted in local Magistrates Courts for non-compliance with local byelaw and national fisheries legislation.

● During 2025/2026 the Authority's shore operations team maintained an active partnership working programme with a number of key agencies including local maritime policing units, the Environment Agency (EA) and the MMO. Much of the associated work focused on targeting illegal intertidal shellfish gathering and fisheries compliance monitoring.

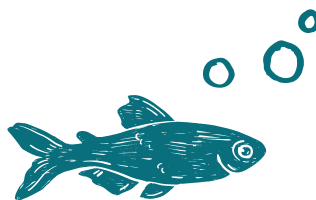


One notable example of this work included a multi-agency response to illegal fishing activity at Sunderland which took place on 10 October 2025 involving the Northumbrian marine police unit and Northumberland IFCA which lead to the seizure of a quantity of illegally set pots and the release of undersized lobsters back to sea.

● During March 2025 a major maritime incident was declared when a large container ship, the 'MV Salong', collided with a stationary tanker, the 'Stena Immaculate', carrying jet fuel, off the East Yorkshire coast of the NEIFCA District. Following the incident NEIFCA supported the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in a coordinated multi agency response which included Eastern IFCA, the Local Authorities and a number of other organisations and bodies. Thankfully the weather conditions at the time of the incident were very favourable and both ships remained afloat and largely intact which minimised the environmental impact.

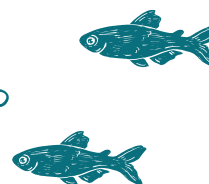
INTRODUCTION

This 2025/2026 Annual Report provides a summary of NEIFCAs main outputs and achievements across 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 NEIFCAs 2024/2025 Annual Plan and also provides a summary of progress against long-standing national IFCA success criteria and high-level objectives.



Background

NEIFCA was established in October 2010 under provisions contained within the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. On 1 April 2011, it assumed full statutory responsibility for managing the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its jurisdiction. Since its inception it has drawn professional service provision including legal, financial and human resource support from its lead local Authority member, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC). NEIFCA membership totals 30 and comprises of 13 elected councillors, representing 11 coastal local authorities together with 14 members appointed by the MMO and singular members representing Natural England, the EA and the MMO.



Financial overview

NEIFCA's total annual levy for the reporting period was agreed by members during March at £1,697,140. The budget was allocated across four main areas:

- **Corporate:**
Expenditure relating to corporate governance.
- **Headquarters:**
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 Pages 7 and 8.

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Income versus expenditure is summarised in the following tables covering the 2025/2026 financial year. The final budget outturn shows an underspend of £462,481 which was primarily due to delays in the final acceptance of the new vessel NEG IV, associated savings in offshore running costs and surplus bank interest. The Authority agreed to transfer a small amount of the savings into the 2026/2027 revenue budget to support fuel costs with the remainder transferred to the vessel replacement fund.



NEIFCA OUTTURN 2025/2026

Expenditure	Approved budget allocation	Actual outturn	Variance
Employee expenses			
Pay, NI and superannuation	£926,460	£906,218	-£20,242
Other employee costs	£21,000	£18,282	-£2,718
Premises	£18,030	£24,495	£6,465
Transport			
Patrol vessel running costs	£432,460	£178,373	-£254,087
Vehicle running costs	£31,350	£32,848	£1,498
Travel and subsistence	£13,520	£16,691	£3,171
Supplies and services	£109,760	£166,301	£56,541
Support services	£120,410	£118,917	-£1,493
Total	£1,672,990	£1,462,124	-£210,866
Income			
Grants and contributions	-£20,110	-£143,412	-£123,302
Other income	-£31,030	-£137,064	-£106,034
Total	-£51,140	-£280,476	-£229,336
Net expenditure	£1,621,850	£1,181,649	-£440,201



NEIFCA OUTTURN 2025/2026

Net expenditure	Approved budget allocation	Actual outturn	Variance
Central/headquarters	£425,210	£363,787	-£88,423
Land based operations	£150,210	£158,910	£8,700
Offshore operations	£857,900	£566,493	-£291,407
Environment	£167,200	£144,235	-£22,965
Grant aided projects	-£14,170	-£82,917	-£68,747
Patrol vessel replacement	£8,500	£31,140	£22,640
Total	£1,621,850	£1,818,649	-£440,201

Represented by	Approved budget allocation	Actual outturn	Variance
Annual levy on Local Authorities	-£1,712,500	-£1,712,499	£1
Contribution from reserves	-£8,500	-£31,140	-£22,640
Contribution to vehicle replacement	£857,900	£10,000	£0
Contribution to renewals fund	£89,150	£89,150	£0
Total	-£1,621,850	£1,644,490	-£22,640
Outturn	£0	-£462,841	-£462,841

ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW



2025/2026

Main achievements

- During December 2024 members endorsed and set an operational budget of £1,697,140 for the 2025/2026 year. This included a phased uplift of 10.5% to support the projected financing and leasing costs associated with the new main vessel asset.



- Following the award of contract in October 2023 to Whitby based, Parkol Marine Ltd for the build and commission of a new main fisheries vessel, work commenced during February 2024 and the vessel was lifted into the water on 8 May 2025.

As part of the planned commissioning and trials programme the new vessel sailed from Whitby to Southampton during June 2025 to participate in the *National Work-boat Exhibition*.

The vessel was officially named and blessed as North Eastern Guardian IV (NEG IV) on 21 June 2025 and following an extended period of trials and system testing, was formally handed over to NEIFCA on 31 January 2026.

The vessel entered operational service during March 2026. As part of the NEIFCA vessel replacement programme the Authority took delivery of a new 6.4m Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), '*Bravo II*' during February 2026. This new vessel will operate in tandem with NEG IV to support the delivery of offshore fisheries enforcement and compliance work.

- During the reporting period two new byelaws were confirmed by Defra which will strengthen the management of fishing activities in the Humber Estuary and the exploitation of shellfish species both on and off shore across the NEIFCA district.

The Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022 was confirmed on 28 July 2025. The new regulation strengthens protection for important sea grass habitat with the estuary.

The Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 was confirmed on 4 March 2026. This new regulation, for the first time, gives the Authority the ability to limit the number of pots worked and permits issued for shell-fishing within its district.

The Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw was implemented during August 2025 and planning for the, first stage, implementation of the new Shellfish Permit Byelaw was complete by the end of March 2026.

ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW



2025/2026

Main achievements continued...

- Throughout 2025/2026 key NEIFCA staff have maintained very active engagement across the national FMP programme. Key plans of specific interest to NEIFCA include the crab and lobster, king scallop and sea bass. Involvement through 2025/2026 has included attending and actively contributing in implementation groups, providing timely data, information and advice when requested by Defra leads.
- In terms of supporting the delivery of other national marine work streams NEIFCA also played an active role in Marine Protected Area (MPA) work through 2025/2026. This involved the timely provision of data, information and advice specific to MPA interactions in the NEIFCA district.
- During March 2025 a major maritime incident was declared when a large container ship, the *'MV Salong'*, collided with a stationary tanker, the *'Stena Immaculate'*, carrying jet fuel, off the East Yorkshire coast of the NEIFCA district. Following the incident, led by the Environmental and Scientific Manager, Dr Ralf Bublitz, NEIFCA supported the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in a coordinated multi agency response which included Eastern IFCA, the Local Authorities and a number of other organisations and bodies. Thankfully the weather conditions at the time of the incident were very favourable and both ships remained afloat and largely intact which minimised the environmental impact.



NEG IV POT SURVEY

CENTRAL POLICY

2025/2026

Central policy and strategic development

Central policy and strategic development is supported by two key internal sub-groups, the Executive Committee and the Science Advisory Group. The Science Advisory Group comprises of MMO appointees and representatives from Natural England, the EA 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.

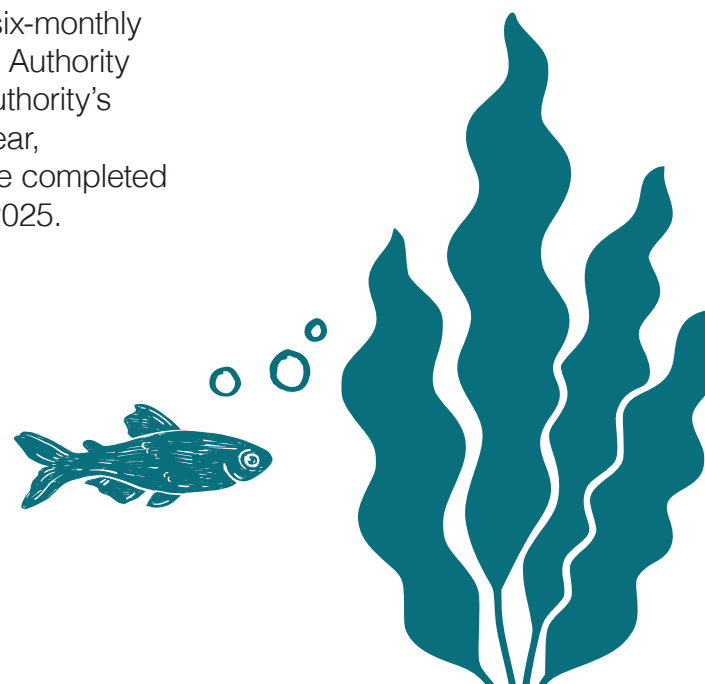
Risk management

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 March and September 2025.

Emergency IFCA byelaws

Section 157 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides a mechanism for IFCAs 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, NEIFCA has effectively utilised its emergency byelaw making powers on seven separate occasions.



FISH & SHIPS FESTIVAL 2026

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 now supported by a dedicated 26 metre catamaran, NEG IV, which carries a 6.4 metre RIB to facilitate the boarding and inspection of fishing vessels at sea alongside a 9.5 metre cabin RIB to support its offshore operations.

ENFORCEMENT OUTPUTS 2025/2026

Enforcement output	Frequency
Vessel inspections	330
Vessel observations	469
Inspection reports completed	330
Verbal warnings	22
Written warnings	0
Offences reported	6
Formal cautions	1
Financial administrative penalties	1
Formal prosecutions	8

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, 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 five-year strategic plan.



Fisheries stock assessment work

The majority of species exploited within the NEIFCA district form part of wider stock units that extend beyond the six-mile limit and into neighbouring IFCA districts. To support sustainable fisheries management, a multiple indicator framework is used to annually monitor lobster, crab and scallop stocks. This framework incorporates both defined reference points and proxy indicators to assess stock status and trends.

The 2025 stock monitoring report indicates generally positive trends for lobster stocks, with abundance remaining stable and an increase in Landings per Unit Effort (LPUE), suggesting that more lobsters are being caught per pot. In contrast, edible crab stocks continue to show a declining trend. However, an increased abundance of undersized crabs has been recorded, which may indicate improved recruitment and provide some optimism for future stock recovery.

The decline in edible crab stocks is not unique to the NEIFCA district and has been reported across several areas of the UK. In response, IFCAs are working collaboratively through Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) working groups to develop management measures for crab fisheries, including consideration of effort controls in offshore waters.

The 2025 Scallop Monitoring Report indicates that scallop stocks within the district remain stable under current levels of exploitation.

NEIFCA's analytical approach continues to develop and evolve, supported by a comprehensive stock assessment programme. This includes regular quayside sampling at the district's four principal ports – Hartlepool, Whitby, Scarborough and Bridlington – as well as an offshore monitoring programme covering the five main ICES assessment areas located within and adjacent to the Authority's district.

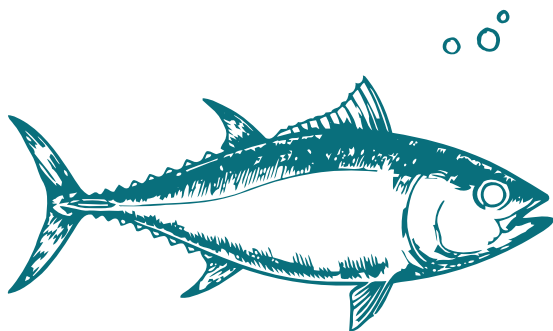
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Continued..

Marine licensing and consents

During the reporting period, Authority officers reviewed 38 licensing and consent applications covering a wide range of projects from maintenance and capital dredging to discharging at sea and large infrastructure applications, including developments within major ports in the Tees and Humber estuaries, offshore renewables, pipelines and cabling.



Emerging fisheries

Since the recreational catch-and-release Bluefin Tuna Fishery opened in 2024, participation within the NEIFCA district increased during 2025. While undertaking offshore patrols off Whitby, NEIFCA officers encountered a number of recreational angling vessels operating without the appropriate licenses and carrying equipment specifically designed for tuna angling.

In response to this unexpected increase in unregulated activity, together with limitations in the existing regulatory framework, the Authority proposed the development of an emergency byelaw. The proposed measure would prohibit the carriage of tuna-targeting angling gear on board unlicensed vessels during the tuna-fishing season.

NEIFCA has worked closely with DEFRA, the MMO and the Angling Trust to address these emerging management challenges. As part of this collaborative approach, NEIFCA officers have drafted an emergency byelaw that can be implemented, if required, for the 2026 tuna season to support effective regulation and compliance within the fishery.



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

European Marine Sites (EMS)

The NEIFCA district contains five EMS; Northumbria Coast, Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast, Flamborough Head, Humber Estuary and the Greater Wash.

Flamborough Head and the Humber Estuary are each supported by a management group comprising statutory authorities and other relevant bodies and NEIFCA plays an active role in each. NEIFCA work-streams within the EMS 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; stock assessments of commercially important fin-fish 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 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 sea bird colony; home to 412,000 sea birds.

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. Such regulations remain under continuous review to ensure that they maintain appropriate levels of feature protection across all the MPA located within the NEIFCA district.

On 28 July 2025 the Minister of State confirmed a new byelaw regulation to improve and enhance the management of fishing activities occurring within the Humber Estuary. This new byelaw extended protections for sea grass within the boundaries of the estuary.

On 4 March 2026 the Minister of State confirmed a second new byelaw regulation which strengthened the Authority's ability to more effectively manage the exploitation of shellfish species both onshore and offshore throughout its district. In relation to MPA a new cap on the numbers of commercial lobster pots permitted per vessel has been set alongside a reduction in the number of permitted recreational pots.

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 is supported through the Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership (YMNP).

Data management

All raw data gathered from the NEIFCA district is stored electronically in a 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 platforms. This is a developing work stream that aims to generate key data layers that present information related to the NEIFCA district, such as management regimes, fishing effort, habitat types and commercial species ranges.

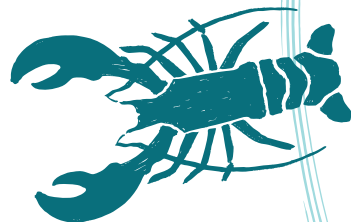
EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

European lobster larval settlement index project

Funded by the DEFRA Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) scheme, this collaborative project with the fishing industry began in 2022 and was successfully completed in 2024. Its primary objective was to improve understanding of the seasonality, distribution, and abundance of lobster larvae and Early Benthic Phase (EBP) lobsters – newly settled post-larval individuals.

The project generated valuable preliminary data on lobster larvae and species diversity, laying the groundwork for future research aimed at developing a more predictive stock assessment model. Due to its success and significance, the project has been included in the annual research plan for continuation.

This project concluded during 2024/2025 and a final report has since been published and submitted to Defra. Officers are planning to continue this investigative work into lobster larval settlement as part of its wider annual research programme.



STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

A new staffing appraisal system first implemented during November 2021 was maintained through 2025/2026. This system links to pay progression and performance and has strengthened the identification of individual training and development needs across all the operational teams. Alongside it, progress against staff training and development needs are monitored centrally.



COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING



NEIFCA website

The Authority's website and social media, such as Facebook, remains at the forefront of its drive to improve overall communications, accessibility to information and associated services. A new Authority website 'went live' during March 2022. It carries a much clearer, simpler format which is more straightforward to navigate. Authority staff edit and update the content directly negating the need for third party intervention. Stakeholders can access a range of services from the website including applications for fishing permits and provision of feedback on a wide range of topical issues.

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.

YMNP

Delivery of a well managed network of MPAs 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 YMNP. 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.

Feedback system

During March 2022 NEIFCA agreed a new service level agreement with ERYC for the provision of enhanced support covering both feedback and information governance. This support was utilised during 2025/2026 to assess and respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and formal complaints. During the reporting year NEIFCA received two formal complaints and two FOI requests which were managed in accordance with the feedback policy.

Partnership working

NEIFCA works extensively, collaboratively and pro actively with a wide range of partner agencies and organisations, most notably, MMO, EA, marine policing units, Defra, Seafish Industry Authority and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

During 2025/2026 much of that associated work involved supporting the national development and implementation of FMPs, a new statutory requirement of the 2020 Fisheries Act. Key plans of specific interest to NEIFCA include crab and lobster, king scallop and sea bass. Active involvement in the programme through 2025/2026 included attending and actively contributing in implementation groups and providing timely data, information and advice when requested by Defra leads.

Further collaborative partnership working was fostered at national level through the IFCA Chief Officers Group (COG), the national IFCA/MMO Strategic Operations Group (SOG) and the Defra Marine and Fisheries Chief Officers Group (MAFCO).

Continue on the next page...

COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING



Partnership working continued...

Outside operational partnership working, during 2025/2026, NEIFCA officers also worked closely with colleagues from the Angling Trust on a range of local public engagement initiatives.

From an enforcement and compliance perspective NEIFCA maintained an active and collaborative working relationship with MMO colleagues which included attendance and participation in monthly joint Tasking and Coordination Group (TCG) meetings, the national joint Strategic Operational Group (SOG) and the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG). The monthly TCG meetings enable the review of shared intelligence and the associated tasking of joint actions to tackle issues as they emerge and develop locally. During 2024/2025 this work was further enhanced through the bespoke joint intelligence database known as 'CLUE'. Since the commissioning of the 'CLUE' system NEIFCA has uploaded over 2,019 individual fisheries intelligence records covering a wide range of issues. As a result of this collaborative approach several joint enforcement operations were undertaken to target illegal fisheries activities during 2025/2026.

**Is this correct?
It wasn't amended**

Throughout the reporting period extensive joint working was undertaken by NEIFCA's shore operations team in conjunction with the gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), the Borders Agency and local policing and public protection teams in response to the illegal gathering of certain intertidal shellfish species throughout the Authority's district. Officers also worked actively with the EA, policing intertidal netting activity along the coast and marine policing units in more general enforcement and compliance work.

On 10 October 2025 the Shore operations manager, Steven Mallinson, led a multi-agency response to illegal fishing at Sunderland involving the Northumbrian Marine Police Unit and Northumberland IFCA which led to the seizure of a quantity of illegally set pots and the release of undersized lobsters back to sea.

During March 2025 a major maritime incident was declared when a large container ship, the 'MV Salong', collided with a stationary tanker, the 'Stena Immaculate', carrying jet fuel, off the East Yorkshire coast of the NEIFCA District. Following the incident NEIFCA supported the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in a coordinated multi agency response which included Eastern IFCA, the Local Authorities

and a number of other organisations and bodies. Thankfully the weather conditions at the time of the incident were very favourable and both ships remained afloat and largely intact which minimised the environmental impact.

National IFCA association

A national association was established on 24 March 2011 to represent and support the work of IFCAs. NEIFCA continues to play an active role in this association through the Chairman and Chief Officer. Throughout 2025/2026 the national Association of IFCAs (AIFCA) played a strong supporting role across the ten IFCAs delivering cohesion and collaboration which included supporting IFCA engagement across a number of national projects including the Coastal Health and Livelihoods project (CHLE), a Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Services (CEFAS) led project which is focused on improving the planning, programming and response to unforeseen events impacting on the health of the marine environment and associated livelihoods such as the Tees and North Yorkshire shellfish mortality event.

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 the front page of this document.

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 2025/2026

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 2025/2026 Annual Plan. The 2025/2026 plan was adopted by members on 6 March 2025.

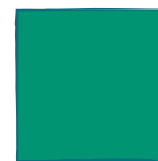


WHITBY HARBOUR

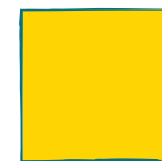


NATIONAL IFCA WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVES

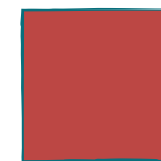
31 March 2026



Completed



Ongoing



Not started

The following tables provide a summary of the Authority's progress towards achieving the success criteria and supporting Working Level Objectives (WLO) during the 2025/2026 reporting period.



WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME(S)	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2025/2026	
The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy.	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.	Through its fishing permitting schemes NEIFCA maintains an annual database of some 2,200 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 Defra's 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.	A new Authority website 'went live' during at the beginning of April 2022 and information is updated on a daily basis which includes information on live projects or events occurring within the NEIFCA district. Copies of annual reports are sent to Defra's Secretary of State by 30 November in the year in which they are published.	

Continued on the next page...

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME(S)	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2025/2026
The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level.	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.	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. In addition, throughout 2025/2026 NEIFCA played a full and active role in newly established regional fisheries groups and maintained active engagement and participation in the national fisheries intelligence gathering programme. During 2024 the MMO, in partnership with IFCAs, commissioned 'CLUE' a new joint fisheries intelligence database system. Since commissioning, NEIFCA has imputed over 219 intelligence reports onto the system.
The IFCA and its principle partners will have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with MMO, Natural England, E A and 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.	National MoUs are maintained through the Association of IFCAs but more recently have largely been superseded by joint operational delivery groups such as IFCA, MMO SOG, NIMEG and TAG.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME(S)	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2025/2026
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.	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 AIFCA for collation and publish them on its website.	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 IFCA's 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 2025/2026 officers have been actively engaged in the joint fisheries intelligence gathering programme, collating, assessing and exchanging intelligence in accordance with NIM principles. This work culminated in the commissioning of the CLUE system during 2023/2024. A new bespoke fisheries intelligence database managed by the MMO to enhance joint intelligence gathering with IFCA's. This involved active participation in the TCG process including joint TCGs with MMO officers.
Warranted IFCOs will be trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. They will maintain professionalism and make appropriate interventions to deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity.	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.	Authority officers undergo a wide range of training supported by a twelve 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.

Continued on the next page...

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME(S)	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2025/2026
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.	The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for MPAs 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.	Authority officers have completed extensive site feature/activity interaction risk matrices for all MPAs, including EMSs and MCZs 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. On the 28 July 2025 the Secretary of State for Defra confirmed a new fisheries management byelaw covering the Humber Estuary which extended protections for sensitive sea grass habitats within the 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 EMS; and that local management contributes to delivery of targets for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME(S)	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2025/2026
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.	The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from FMPs in its own annual plan, which will be published by 31 March each year. Progress made in relevant FMP areas, including maximum sustainable yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's annual report.	The sustainable management of key lobster and edible crab stocks was further enhanced during 2025/2026. On 4 March 2026 the Minister for State for Defra confirmed a new shellfish permit byelaw regulation which significantly enhanced NEIFCAs ability to more effectively manage the exploitation of shellfish stocks both on and offshore. This included the introduction of a cap on the number of commercial pots per vessel and a reduction in the number of recreational pots permitted from 10 to 5. A FMP has been adopted to support the inshore scallop dredging fishery. The plan has been informed by a four year pilot trial which commenced following the introduction of emergency control measures at the beginning of 2015. The plan describes the state of the stocks and the fishery derived from research undertaken by the Authority, it 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. At national level, during 2025/2026, NEIFCA was also fully engaged in the implementation of FMPs across key exploited stocks including king scallop, crab and lobster, sea bass and whelk.

WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME(S)	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2025/2026
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. 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. This is repeted above and below, is this correct?	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. IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.	The Authority has produced an annual plan and annual report since 2010. The 2025/2026 plan was considered and endorsed by the committee on 6 March 2025 and submitted to the Secretary of State. The annual report covering the 2024/2025 period was submitted to the Secretary of State during November 2025. A new staffing appraisal system commenced during November 2022 which incorporated performance related pay progression. This system enables a bespoke annual training plan to be set to meet individual staff needs underpinned by personal set of work objectives for the year ahead. All staffing appraisals were completed by 31 May 2026.
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. This is repeted above and below, is this correct?	During 2025/2026 the Authority maintained a system of 'hybrid' meetings providing for attendance in person combined with virtual engagement to conduct its business. Agendas, supporting papers and minutes were published in accordance with the Authority's standing orders and posted on the Authority's website.

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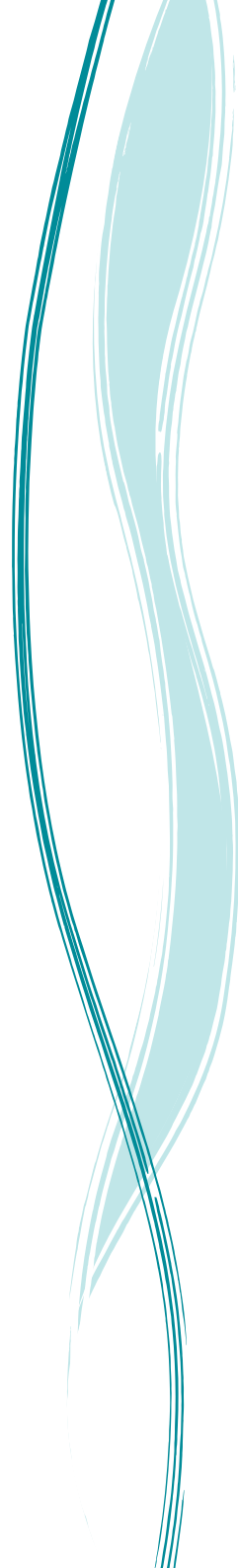
WORKING LEVEL OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME(S)	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S) UPDATE 2025/2026	
Standard operating procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners.	The IFCA's contribution to Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and progress that it has made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's annual report.	The Authority's environmental and scientific leads are fully engaged with other IFCA colleagues through the national IFCA TAG. 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 'one drive' and improving internal data sharing within the Authority's membership remains an ongoing work stream.	



North Eastern
Inshore Fisheries
and Conservation
Authority

Annual Report

2025/2026



NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Executive Committee
3 September 2026

Chief Officer's Operational Update

Report of the Chief Officer

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with an operational report covering the period June to August 2026.

B. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

1. Overview

1.1 NEIFCA

North Eastern Guardian IV (NEG IV) – Operational Update

Since the Authority meeting held on 18 June, there is more encouraging news to report on NEG IV. Survey fishing gear trials commenced at the end of May with the first successful deployment of scallop dredges followed by 40 hours surveying scallop dredge areas during June. Stock survey work then continued through July with 93 hours invested in potting sampling work, focusing on lobster and crab stocks. The 2026 potting survey programme was successfully completed during the first two weeks of August. Through the remainder of August, the offshore team supported a collaborative Blue Fin Tuna (BFT) tagging program in partnership with the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Services (CEFAS) with the 2026 offshore survey programme culminating in underwater camera and scallop dredge survey work through September. Throughout the delivery of the programme NEG IV has performed extremely well with no major issues to report or rectify. The following images provide a flavour of operational activity to date:





Pollution Incident at Tyne Docks

On Monday 20 July 2026 officers received information from the Marine Management Organisation detailing a vessel collision in Tyne docks which had led to the release of an unknown quantity of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pellets, commonly termed ‘nurdles’ into the River Tyne. As the event unfolded the pellets started to appear on foreshore areas and beaches close to the Tyne as far South as Marske, Redcar. Clean up and recovery work commenced during the same week overseen by the affected Local Authorities, the Port of Tyne and a significant number

of volunteers. Officers from NEIFCA's shore operations team conducted patrols in the affected foreshore areas, supporting volunteers and NEIFCA's cabin Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), 'Protector III' was tasked to support colleagues from Northumberland IFCA in the recovery of pellets from the Tyne. Some images below recording that work:



The pellets are highly visible and relatively inert, non-toxic, but risk causing mortality to wildlife and entering the food chain, although any associated risks to human health are considered negligible.

Very small quantities of pellets are now starting to appear on beaches and foreshore areas further South from the River Tyne and further information is available via the following link:

[Plastic pellets on beaches \(nurdles\) | North Tyneside Council](#)

NEIFCA Officers are continuing to work with key agencies and partners in supporting the response to the incident.

Enforcement & Compliance Work

The weather throughout the spring and summer reporting period has been generally settled, extremely warm at times and exceptionally dry throughout, enabling fishing activity, both recreational and commercial to operate largely without restriction. Catch reports were generally good from most ports with lobster fetching between £10 and £16 per Kg and edible crab £1.80 to £2.20 per Kg.

During the second week of August the first recreational capture of a Blue Fin Tuna was reported off Whitby followed by a number of fish during the second week including two commercial landings by a local commercial fishing vessel, Dominator A WY333, operating from Whitby, North Yorkshire.

From a compliance perspective, issues relating to the landing of soft-shelled lobster, undersize lobster, the illegal scrubbing of egg bearing lobsters and breaches of the new shellfish permitting conditions were most prevalent throughout the reporting period.

Environmental & Scientific Work

The Environmental and Scientific team continued to focus on data collection at sea from a range of fisheries and data analysis. Data and information collection and collation covered the active, permitted beam trawling for scallops, the intertidal fixed net permit holders, quayside, observer trips onboard potting vessels and for the first time, directly, from the Authority's new main vessel, North Eastern Guardian IV (NEG IV).

Further work also focused on gathering information on benthic habitat assemblages utilising underwater camera systems deployed from NEG IV.

In addition, NEIFCA officers began collecting lugworm samples from sites across the district's coastline as part of the Coastal and Marine Health Programme, led by the Environment Agency and Cefas. The programme is investigating whether these species can serve as effective biomonitors for detecting and assessing chemical contaminants in the marine environment.

1.2 **National Work streams**

IFCA Conduct and Operations Report

Every four years there is a statutory requirement under Section 183 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for the Secretary of State to 'lay' a report to Parliament on the conduct and operations of IFCAs. The third such report, covering the period 2018 to 2022, was published by Defra on 6 February 2025 and copies were circulated to members in advance of both the March Executive Committee meeting and the June Authority meeting during 2025. The report can be accessed via the following link:

[Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities: conduct and operations 2018 to 2022 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115555/Inshore_Fisheries_and_Conservation_Authorities_conduct_and_operations_2018_to_2022_-_GOV.UK)

In response to the recommendations contained within the report, IFCA Chief Officers maintained engagement through 2026 via a joint implementation group in collaboration with Defra. The Conduct and Operations Report Recommendations Implementation Steering group (CORRIS) met several times during 2025 and 2026, to date, overseeing the implementation of an action plan and the commissioning and delivery of some bespoke pieces of work to address some of the key issues identified within the report. The timing of this 2018 to 2022 report was significantly delayed and work has already commenced on the next statutory report which is expected to be published sometime during March/April 2027.

Fisheries Management plans

On 14 December 2024 Defra published 5 Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) including crab and lobster, sea bass, king scallop, whelk and Channel non-quota species. The development of FMPs is a key component of the 2020 Fisheries Act to inform future fisheries management policy delivery across a range of exploited stocks in the UK. The FMP programme has now expanded across some 40 plans covering a wide range of species with the most recent tranche published, for consultation, on 10 February 2026 covering Celtic and Western Channel demersal fisheries, Celtic and Western Channel pelagic fisheries, sea bream and wrasse fisheries.

NEIFCA staff are directly involved in two of the current, national FMP implementation groups including crab and lobster and king scallop. For the Crab and Lobster FMP, officers contribute to the steering group as well as the science and implementation sub-groups, with current priorities including the development of effort limitations for the potting industry and exploring potential management measures for edible crabs. For the King Scallop FMP, NEIFCA serves as the lead organisation, focusing on developing management measures for offshore areas.

In terms of actual changes in fisheries management provisions, driven by the FMPs, on 1 January 2026 the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) for lobsters increased to 88mm for commercial operators, via a national licensing condition with further increases to 89mm planned from 1 January 2027 and 90mm from 1 January 2028. Eventually these changes will be underpinned by new national fisheries legislation which will apply to everyone.

1.3 **Priority Work streams for the next six months**

- Further operationalisation of NEG IV in support of the Authority's planned offshore programme for 2026/2027.
- Further implementation of the shellfish permit byelaw regulation including planning for the commencement of commercial applications for the next, 2027, year, charging and the establishment of a new proposed commercial pot tagging scheme.
- Further development of a new mobile fishing gear, permit byelaw with the intention of formally making at the December 2026 Authority meeting.

1.4 **Summary of meetings and events attended**

National Association of IFCA's forum meeting	2 nd June 2026
IFCA Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM)/By-catch meeting	4 th June 2026
Marine Protected Area Management meeting	5 th June 2026
Bridlington RNLI Sea Festival event	6 th June 2026
NEIFCA Science Advisory Group meeting	9 th June 2026
Shellfish and Fisheries meeting	10 th June 2026
Blue Fin Tuna fishing gear training meeting	11 th June 2026
Natural England fisheries REM Research & Development meeting	12 th June 2026
Natural England/Environment Agency/IFCA catch up meeting	16 th June 2026
NEIFCA Authority meeting	18 th June 2026
Verena cable project call	25 th June 2025
Benthic sub-group meeting	25 th June 2026
IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG)	25 th June 2026
IFCA 15 th anniversary and inshore fisheries event, Alnwick	1 st July 2026
CEFAS vessel visit & BFT project meeting	6 th July 2026
IFCA Technical Advisory Group meeting	7 th July 2026
IFCA Chief Officers Group meeting	8 th July 2026
Natural England and NEIFCA catch up meeting	10 th July 2026
IFCA/MMO Strategic Operations Group meeting	16 th July 2026
BFT Project meeting	23 rd July 2026
NEIFCA Staffing Meeting	29 th July 2026

BFT tagging project meeting	30 th July 2026
NEIFCA/ Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) meeting	31 st July 2026
DEFRA/Marine & Fisheries Chief Officers meeting	5 th August 2026
NEIFCA ‘nurdle’ spillage catch up call	6 th August 2026
Bridlington Sailing Coble event	8 th & 9 th August 2026
NEIFCA operational revenue budget meeting	10 th August 2026
IFCA Chief Officers Group meeting	12 th August 2026
NEIFCA operational revenue budget meeting	24 th August 2026
NEIFCA Angling Trust engagement meeting	26 th August 2026

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Executive Committee
3 September 2026

Health & Safety Policy & Safe Working Practices 2026/2027 - Review

Report by the Chief Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To inform members of the completion of the sixth monthly review of the Authority's Health & Safety provisions.

B. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and other associated legislation impose duties on all of us, both of a general and specific nature to ensure as far as is reasonable and practicable, health and safety at work. North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority wishes, through the preparation and issue of this policy to convey the importance that it places on all measures that promote the health and safety of its employees
- 1.2 This policy and its provisions are reviewed continuously throughout the year both at senior management level and at regular staffing Health and Safety meetings. If appropriate, changes to safe working practice guidelines are made and risk assessments reviewed, including where necessary, the provision of additional safety equipment for officers. Such changes are reported to the Executive Committee on a six monthly basis.
- 1.3 Since the last review in March 2026, I am pleased to advise that there have been no notable incidents or accidents to report whilst staff have been working. As part of this six-monthly review the Authority's overarching Health and Safety Policy, standing Safe Operational Working Practices and supporting risk assessments have all been reviewed and updated with no notable changes to report to members.
- 1.4 The updated safe working practice documents and revised risk assessments are shared with all operational staff and subject to continuous review by both the senior operational management team and as part of the general staffing health and safety meetings. The entire health & safety regime is underpinned by regular health and safety training and 'refresher' courses undertaken by all operational staff.

Contact Officer

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Chief Officer
Tel: 07771936501

