

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

01 NOVEMBER 2023

Present

Prof Mike Elliott
Mr Graham Collins
Mr Andrew Wheeler
Mr Gary Redshaw
Councillor David Chance
Councillor Stephen Harness

Representing

Chairman
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
North Yorkshire Council
North East Lincolnshire Council

Darren Stevens, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Stephen Chandler East Riding of Yorkshire Council, David McCandless, Chief Officer, also attended the meeting.

The meeting took place in County Hall, Beverley, the meeting commenced at 11am.

65.	APOLOGIES
	No apologies for absence were received
66.	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.
67.	TO TAKE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD
	Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
68.	BUDGET MONITORING 2023/2024
	The Treasurer presented a report to advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 03 (June) 2023/2024. At the end of June 2023, the Authority has net expenditure of £337,736 against an expected £349,524 underspending by £11,788. The forecast outturn underspend is £53,751, mainly due underspends on employees relating to vacancies. Members were informed that recruitment to two full time offshore vacancies had been placed on hold until the position on the patrol vessel replacement and sale of existing vessel is clearer. The Chief Officer also advised members that some issues relating to the re-installed engines onboard NEG III were presently under investigation. The forecast also included provision for payment of the 2023-24 Local Government Employers original pay offer of a flat rate of £1,925.
	Resolved – a) That the budget monitoring position is noted.

69.	STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER REVIEW
	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 had been undertaken and reported for information.
	Resolved – That the revised Strategic and Operational Risk Register be reviewed in six months' time.
70.	NEIFCA ANNUAL AUDIT 2022/2023
	The Chief Officer presented a report to inform members of the findings of the annual audit report. The Audit Plan is designed to provide the Authority with assurance on key financial controls for the operation of NEIFCA. The overall assurance opinion was substantial. A sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively and being consistently applied to support the achievement of objectives in the area audited. One of the findings recommended the completion of an annual review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as a standing item to the March Executive Committee meeting each year.
	Resolved – (a) Members noted the report. (b) An annual review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be added as a standing item to the March Executive Committee.
71.	CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL UPDATE
	The Chief Officer presented a report to provide an operational update covering the period March 2023 to August 2023 which included an update on the Tees & North Yorkshire shellfish mortalities. On 17 July 2023 NEIFCA published its second appraisal of shellfish landing trends at key ports surrounding the Tees and North Yorkshire. This second report covered a much larger dataset, collated over a longer time frame than the first report published during September 2022. The report also included an update on the replacement patrol vessel following approval from the full Authority at a meeting held on the 30 June 2023 to enter a lease agreement to facilitate the purchase of the vessel with East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The report included priority workstreams for the next six months which included finalising the design of the new vessel build, making provisional plans for the sale of North Eastern Guardian III and collation and analysis of the submissions received during the formal byelaw consultation, Byelaw XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022.
	Resolved - Members noted the report
72.	NEIFCA HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY & SAFE WORKING PRACTICES 2023/2024
	The Chief Officer presented a report to inform members of the completion of the Annual review of the Authority's Health & Safety provisions. The Chief Officer was pleased to advise that there had been no incidents or accidents to report. The Chief also reassured members that all staff are correctly trained in all aspects of their role and will continue to monitor this on a regular basis.
	Resolved – Members noted the report.
73.	NEIFCA BYELAWS UPDATE

	<p>The Chief Officer presented a report to inform members on progress with the following byelaws which were made at a meeting of the Authority held on the 1 December 2022 and to inform members on the making of the following emergency byelaw which was supported at a special meeting of the Authority held on 30 June 2023:</p> <p>XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022 Emergency Beam Trawling Byelaw 2023</p> <p>XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 & XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022</p> <p>Officers commenced formal consultation on both the Shellfish permit byelaw and the Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw on the 15 August 2023 via publication on the NEIFCA website, emailed alerts to both commercial and recreational permit holders, engagement with the Angling Trust, circulation of notices at ports and landing points and publication in the Fishing News. Officers also facilitated a number of ‘dop in’ sessions at key ports including Hornsea, Bridlington, Scarborough, Whitby, Redcar and Hartlepool to facilitate further ‘face to face’ engagement with those affected by the byelaw proposal. Formal consultation was extended until Friday 27th October 2023 and officers are now in the process of collating all the feedback received during the consultation process.</p> <p>Emergency Beam Trawling Byelaw</p> <p>At the special Authority meeting held on 30 June 2023 members received a detailed verbal report from the Chief Officer relating to an emergent beam trawl fishery targeting king scallops. At the time, only the act of dredging for King scallop could be effectively managed under existing byelaw provisions via a restricted permitting scheme. Although a permit is required to trawl, providing operators met basic vessel size criteria, no restrictions could be implemented in terms of the number of permits issued. Since January 2023 the number of vessels fishing for king scallop by beam trawl had risen to five, with other vessels indicating interest in joining and over 57 tonnes of king scallop recorded taken by the fishery during what would normally be a closed spawning season. Given the unforeseen emergence of the fishery, alongside the potential for impacting stocks, members supported a recommendation that an emergency byelaw regulation should be immediately implemented, incorporating a dispensatory process to support further investigation into the fishery in collaboration with the affected industry. The proposed byelaw would remain in force for an initial period of twelve months pending the development of a new management framework. The byelaw and supporting documentation were published on the NEIFCA website on 18 July 2023 and the affected fishing industry was informed. Since the emergency byelaw was implemented six scientific dispensations had been issued to eligible vessel operators to support further investigation into the fishery.</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
74.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	No items raised.
75.	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC
	That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 76) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
	Resolved – that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (minutes 76).

	The meeting closed at 13:25

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