

# NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2023

### Present

Dr Stephen Axford  
Cllr Ron Allcock  
Mr Graham Collins  
Prof Mike Elliott  
Cllr Tony Randerson  
Mr Andy Wheeler

### Representing

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

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

The meeting took place virtually via Zoom, the meeting commenced at 11:00am.

#### 43. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from MMO appointee Redshaw.

#### 44. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

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

#### 45. NEIFCA VESSEL REPLACEMENT UPDATE – REPLACEMENT OF MAIN VESSEL

The Chief and Deputy Chief Officer presented a report to update members on progress with the replacement of the Authority's main offshore vessel. At a meeting of the Authority held on 8 June 2022 members received a detailed report from the Clerk, Treasurer and Chief Officer setting out a proposed process to support the replacement of the Authority's main patrol vessel *North Eastern Guardian III* (NEG III). Following the meeting held on 8 June 2022 a technical support group was established comprising of the Chief, Deputy Chief, NEIFCA Operational Support Manager, legal, finance and procurement leads and chaired by the Treasurer to support the delivery of the preparatory work including agreeing project leads, setting a provisional timetable, and finalising the procurement and contractual documentation. Through the technical group, an updated business case, procurement framework and outline vessel specification had been developed to support the first phase of the preparatory work to establish a cost. Copies of the updated business case, outline specification and technical specification were attached to the reports for members information.

The updated business case provided a detailed summary of the key drivers and considerations that had informed decision making on the recommended type and class of replacement vessel required. It was now considered that a 24 m aluminium multi hulled vessel with a forward wheelhouse and superstructure would provide the optimum solution to meet both the Authority's current and future operational needs. The Deputy Chief officer provided an comprehensive overview of the technical specification including the reasoning behind the

design, dimensions and Hull form. The Deputy Chief officer explained that there was an element of flexibility in the design specification as it was hoped the Authority could utilise a proven vessel design to avoid unnecessary cost implications. The Deputy Chief officer informed members that throughout the premarket engagement, he had observed a vast difference in the level of quality and finish produced by various yards, the technical specification had been developed to allow yards the opportunity to put forward their own recommendations in terms of electronics, powering, and machinery. These products evolve rapidly and would also provide an indication on the overall standard of the yard depending on the type of products they suggest. Going out to tender represented the first phase of the preparatory work to ascertain an accurate build cost. Current estimates of cost are wide and varied ranging from £4.5 million upwards depending on shipyard location, design, component specification and quality.

Following receipt of the tenders a technical panel will be convened to assess and identify a preferred bidder and a further meeting of the Executive Committee will be set to provisionally review the outcome, agree the next steps, and provide a formal recommendation to the Authority for final decision sometime during May 2023.

Members commended the technical specification and the level of detail included. Members sought reassurance that the environmental impacts and carbon footprint had been considered as part of the design, alongside noise protection. The Deputy Chief officer reassured members that all these elements had been included as part of the specification.

**Resolved** – members endorsed the progression of the preparatory work through the next stage tender process.

46.

#### **NEIFCA BYELAW UPDATE**

The Chief Officer presented a report to inform Members on progress with the following byelaws which were made at a meeting of the Authority held on 1 December 2022:

##### **XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022**

At the Authority meeting held on 1 December 2022 members supported the making of a new byelaw XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022. The key aims of the new byelaw are to consolidate existing byelaw regulations and to introduce an effort management system for commercial potting within the district. The provisions contained within the byelaw will be applied via conditions attached to the permit which can be varied following an appropriate review process, without the need to formally remake the whole byelaw. Following the making of the byelaw on 1 December 2022 it had been subject to further internal quality assurance check prior to submission to the MMO IFCA byelaw team and commencement of the formal statutory consultation process. The Chief Officer advised members that a point of clarification had been added to the draft byelaw surrounding the first application process which would be prioritised to existing permit holders as of the date of making, 1 December 2022. This was considered a minor addition. A copy of the updated draft byelaw was included in the report for members information.

##### **XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022**

At the Authority meeting held on 1 December 2022 members supported the making of a new byelaw XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022. Whilst retaining all existing management measures in relation to fishing activities within the boundaries of the Humber Estuary the new byelaw included a revision to the boundaries of an existing protected area to support the expansion of eel grass habitat. Although the draft byelaw was also currently subject to internal quality assurance no changes or alterations have been made.

Final confirmation of both byelaws is expected towards the end of May 2023. Members raised some concerns regarding the Shellfish Permit Byelaw and the mechanisms in place to allow permits to be transferred, the Chief Officer informed members that this provision would be considered further as part of the internal quality assurance.

The Chief Officer indicated that both byelaws were running approximately 1 month behind the planned schedule.

**Resolved** – Members noted the report.

42.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

MMO Appointee Professor Mike Elliott queried whether the Authority had been requested to submit a formal response to the Independent Expert Assessment report on the Shellfish Mortality incident. It was agreed at the meeting that the report would be discussed at the next meeting of the Science Advisory Group, and they would consider a response on behalf of the Authority.

The meeting closed at 12:20