

Clerk of the Authority
Caroline Lacey
County Hall, Beverley
East Riding of Yorkshire, HU17 9BA

Chief IFC Officer
David McCandless, BSc. MSc.
Town Hall, Quay Road, Bridlington
East Riding of Yorkshire, YO16 4LP



All enquiries should be directed to:
Sarah Murray
PA & Operational Support Manager

Tel: 01482 393515
Fax: 01482 393699
E.Mail: sarah.x.murray@eastriding.gov.uk
Our ref: NEIFCA
Date: 27 February 2018

Dear Member

Science Advisory Group Meeting of North Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority –
Thursday 8 March 2018

I hereby give you notice that the next Science Advisory Group Meeting of North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority will be held on **Thursday 8th March 2018, at the Green Lane Centre, Green Lane, Whitby, YO22 4EH starting at 10:30am.** The agenda and reports for the meeting are enclosed.

On arrival please ask for David McCandless. Can members please send apologies by Monday 5 March 2018, please telephone 01482 393515 or email ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk. Thank you to members who have already given their apologies.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours Faithfully

David McCandless
Chief IFC Officer

SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
Thursday 8 March 2018
Commencing 10:30 am
Green Lane Centre, Whitby, YO22 4EH
AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To take the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 September 2017 as a correct record
(*pages 1-4*)

Items for Decision

3. NEIFCA 5 Year Research & Strategic Plan (*pages 5-26*)
4. NEIFCA Annual Research programme 2018/2019 (*pages 27-60*)

Items for Discussion

5. Scallop Dredging 2017/2018 – Update Presentation (*pages 61-62*)
6. MPA Management Review & Update (*pages 63-86*)
7. NEIFCA Byelaw Update (*pages 87-88*)
8. Licensing and consents update (*pages 89-92*)
9. NEIFCA project updates (*pages 93-94*)

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

SCIENCE AND GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

07 September 2017

Present

Dr Stephen Axford (Chair)
Emma Brown
Mrs Kirsten Carter
Councillor Chris Matthews
Lyndsey Newlyn
Mr Paul Slater
Mr John Whitton

Representing

MMO Appointee
Natural England
MMO Appointee
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
MMO Representative
Environment Agency Representative
MMO Appointee

Chief Officer David McCandless, Dr Bryce Beukers Stewart, York University, Claire Argent from Natural England and Bex Lynam from YWT also attended the meeting.

The group met at Best Western Monk Bar Hotel, York. The meeting started at 10:00.

77.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Marine Management Organisation appointee Proctor.

78.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 22 FEBRUARY 2017

Resolved - That the minutes of the Science and Governance Working Group Meeting held on the 22 February 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chair. The Chief Officer also updated members on the current situation surrounding the national management of sea bass stocks following a number of management measures implemented in early 2017.

79.

TERMS OF REFERENCE - REVIEW

The Chief Officer submitted a report incorporating a review of the current Terms of Reference of the Science & Governance Working Group. The predecessor to the Science & Governance Working Group, the Scientific and Byelaws Working Group, was first established by North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee in September 2002 to review and appraise the Committee's biological and scientific work and assess existing and future Byelaw proposals. During 2010 the newly formed North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority supported the re-constitution of this internal sub group and it was re-named the Science and Governance Working Group (S&GWG) under a set of revised Terms of Reference which were adopted on 28 June 2011. At the time the full extent of the S&GWG's role in supporting the newly formed IFCA was unclear but since 2011 that role had become much more defined. The report recommended that the title of the group be amended to the 'Science Advisory Group' to more accurately reflect its current role. Members discussed the role of the Science & Governance Working Group and recommended that it could be utilised much more effectively if it had a more direct and formal link with the full Authority. The Chairman, at the meeting, presented a revised draft Terms of Reference for consideration. It was agreed that members would be consulted electronically to gain a consensus on the revised Terms of Reference and further options surrounding the functioning of the group would be considered by the Clerk and Chief Officer.

Resolved – Members agreed that the title of the group should be amended to the Science Advisory Group, and members be consulted on the content of the revised Terms of Reference.

80. PRESENTATION – MANAGEMENT OF INSHORE SCALLOP FISHERIES – DR BRYCE BEUKERS STEWART

Dr Bryce Beukers Stewart provided a presentation to members, which included a broad background to the UK scallop fishery with a focused analysis on the developing scallop fishery in the NEIFCA district in 2016. Dr Bryce Beukers Stewart discussed the overall principles for improving the management of scallop fisheries and highlighted that the management measures implemented by the North Eastern IFCA, which restricted access to permitted vessels, represented a very innovative approach. Based on the data collected during December 2016 to April 2017 by the Authority's officers, there were encouraging signs that the measures were working and based on the evidence sampled, there appeared to be very little difference in stock density between the open and closed areas. Dr Bryce Beukers Stewart highlighted the potential to increase effort in the fishery, a staged approach with annual reviews was suggested. Further recommendations included strategic surveys, bycatch and environmental data analysis and the potential to build further on the innovative management measures such as a rotational fishing scheme.

Resolved – Members noted the presentation.

81. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF SCALLOP DREDGING FISHERY

The Chief Officer provided a report to support considerations on the future strategy for managing the scallop dredging fishery within the Authority's district. A full background was included in the report for members information. At the meeting of the full Committee held on 20 July 2017 members considered the officers recommendations for the 2017/2018 season but unanimously agreed that the fishery should remain restricted to a maximum of three permit holders for the 2017/2018. Members were informed that following the Authority meeting in July, additional analytical work had been completed by the Authority's officers. The Chief Officer provided a presentation to members, which focused on the status of the scallop stock, 2014 – 2017, and emphasised to members that going forward into year three the management of the fishery be driven primarily by stock considerations. The fishery had been successfully 'piloted' in the first year and that pilot would continue into the second year. The collection of data and information on the health and state of the standing scallop stock through both active observational trips onboard the permitted vessels and the appraisal of monthly catch and effort data would remain the primary objective for year two as would the level of discarding of non-target species. Whilst 'drop down' camera work would continue across the affected sea bed habitat any meaningful detailed assessment of the recoverability of the seabed was not considered a realistic objective given available resources and the extensively modified nature of the survey area. Any concerns regarding environmental and other collateral effects associated with the fishery were strongly mitigated against both by the extent of the technical measures contained within the management byelaw and the restricted nature of the permitting scheme.

Resolved – Members noted the report.

82. LICENSING AND CONSENTS UPDATE

Chief Officer David McCandless updated members on some of the Authority's recent marine licensing and consents work, members requested an update be provided on the McCain Outfall pipe, Cayton Bay at the next meeting.

83. NEIFCA PROJECTS UPDATES

Chief Officer David McCandless updated members on some of the Authority's projects, including a Bait Collection project in partnership with Hull University. The project is funded through the Defra Revenue fund, the project will focus on baseline data and bait collection in key areas, and will consist primarily of surveys, questionnaires and engagement with the bait digging community.

84.

WORK PROGRAMME 2017 – 2019

The Chief Officer submitted a report which provided members with an overview of the key priorities within the provisional work programme covering 2017 to 2019.

Resolved – Members noted the report.

85.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were informed that the Environment Agency Salmon Netting Consultation is live until 9 October 2017, Environment Agency member Mr Paul Slater would circulate the link to members via the Chief Officer.

The meeting closed at 12:15.

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Science Advisory Group
8th March 2018

Draft Strategic Research and Evidence Plan

Report by the Senior Environmental and Scientific Officer

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with a draft NEIFCA Strategic Research and Evidence Plan for review and comment.

B. Recommendation

1. That members consider the draft plan and provide further comment.

1. Background

- 1.1 The previous Strategic Research Plan was implemented soon after investment as an IFCA in 2011. It was developed during a period when the monitoring, research and evidence requirements of the Authority were still being developed and since then the implementation of the revised approach to fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas has significantly changed the way in which fisheries impacts are monitored, reported and managed. The Strategic Research and Evidence Plan therefore requires review and updating for the next 5 year period to 2022.

- 1.2 The aim of the Strategic Research and Evidence Plan is to identify longer term approaches, research themes and core, on-going priorities for the organisation as well as setting out organisational research resources and capabilities. The strategy will communicate organisational priorities to stakeholders and partner agencies and form the basis for the Annual Research and Evidence Plans developed over the lifespan of the plan.

- 1.3 A copy of the current draft plan is attached for members' information.

Contact Officer

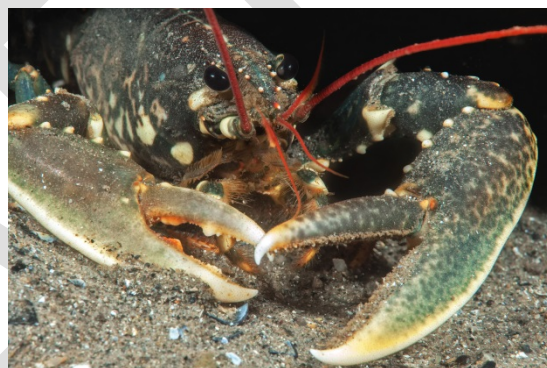
Tim Smith, Senior Environmental and Scientific Officer
Ext. 3515

Background Papers

Draft Strategic Research and Evidence Plan 2018-2022



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority



Strategic Research and Evidence Plan

2018-2022

Date submitted:	
Report compiled by:	
Quality control by:	
Approved by & date:	
Version:	Draft

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

This publication may be re-used free of charge in any format or medium for research for non-commercial purposes, private study or for internal circulation within an organisation. This is subject to it being re-used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as a North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority production and the title of the publication specified.

For any other use of this material please contact the Chief fishery officer through www.ne-ifca.gov.uk or by writing to;

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

Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	IFCA Principles.....	2
1.2	IFCA National Vision.....	2
1.3	IFCA Success Criteria	2
2.	Purpose of the Strategic Research and Evidence Plan.....	5
3.	Legislative Drivers	5
3.1	The Marine and Coastal Access Act	5
3.2	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.....	5
3.3	The Common Fisheries Policy	6
3.4	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive.....	6
3.5	Water Framework Directive.....	7
3.6	Marine Policy Statement.....	7
4.	Marine Protected Area Management.....	8
5.	Strategic Environmental Assessments.....	10
6.	Brexit.....	10
7.	Partnership Working.....	10
8.	Working Groups	11
9.	Research Themes	11
9.1	Sustainable Fisheries.....	11
9.1.1	Stock Status.....	11
9.1.2	Species Biology and ecology	12
9.2	Healthy Seas.....	12
9.2.1	Marine Protected Areas.....	12
9.2.2	Habitat Knowledge.....	12
9.2.3	Invasive Non-Native Species	12
9.3	Viable Industry	12
9.3.1	Fisheries Enhancement	12
9.3.2	Socio-Economic Analysis.....	12
9.4	Data, Communication and Developing Capabilities.....	12
9.4.1	Access to Information	12
9.4.2	Development of New Technologies.....	13
10.	Core Research projects	13
10.1	Pot fishery stock assessment	13

10.2	Dredge fishery stock assessment.....	13
10.3	Cockle stock assessment.....	13
10.4	No Take Zone monitoring – Flamborough Head EMS.....	14
10.5	Eelgrass monitoring – Humber Estuary EMS	14
10.6	Small fish monitoring.....	14
11.	Staff	14
12.	Assets	15

DRAFT

Acronyms

CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EMS	European Marine Site
EU	European Union
GES	Good Environmental Status
HFIG	Holderness Fishing Industry Group
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
IFCO	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer
HLO	Higher Level Objective
MACAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NE	Natural England
NEIFCA	North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SC	Success Criteria
SI	Statutory Instrument
SPA	Special Protection Area
TAG	IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
WLO	Working Level Objective
YWT	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

1. Introduction

The North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) is one of ten such Authorities established in October 2010 under provisions contained within the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MACAA) 2009. On the 1st April 2011, the Authority assumed full statutory responsibility for managing the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its jurisdiction.

NEIFCA's district covers the area from the River Tyne, in the North, to a point drawn True East from Haile Sand Fort on the North East Lincolnshire Authority boundary, close to Humberston, on the South Bank of the Humber Estuary, then seaward to the 6 nautical miles (Figure 1). The District also encompasses all estuarine areas, landward to tidal limits, occurring within the boundaries of member Local Authorities.

NEIFCA wishes to further build upon its existing success by adhering to and working towards the successful delivery of the overarching success criteria (SC) by ensuring management decisions are supported by the best available evidence.

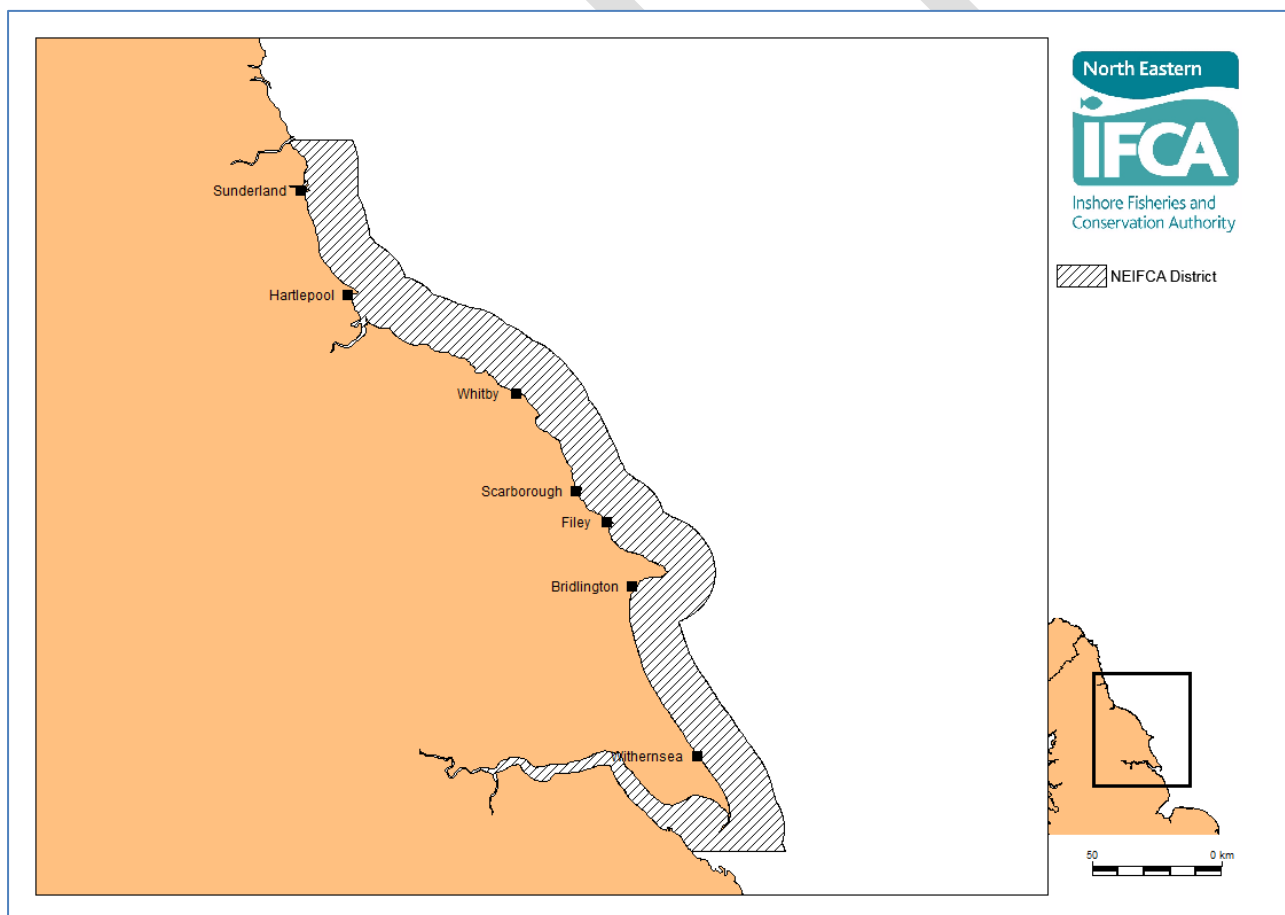


Figure 1. A map of the NEIFCA district, including major ports.

1.1 IFCA Principles

Under provisions contained within the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, IFCA's are responsible for the sustainable management of inshore sea fisheries resources within their jurisdictional area. Their statutory duties include the following:

- Seeking to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way;
- Seeking to balance the social and economic benefits of exploitation with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation;
- Taking any other steps which, in the IFCA's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Seeking to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district; and
- Seeking to further the conservation objectives of Marine Conservation Zones.

1.2 IFCA National Vision

To assist focus on the positive delivery of their statutory duties, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) have agreed the following national vision, which has been adopted by NEIFCA:

"Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will 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."

1.3 IFCA Success Criteria

In 2015 Defra developed a revised set of SC for all IFCAs which the NEIFCA has incorporated into its 2017/18 Annual Plan. The vision, success criteria, higher level objectives (HLOs) and working level objectives (WLOs) 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.

To successfully achieve the adopted IFCA vision, any strategy document must focus around successfully delivering the SC. To ensure the successful delivery of these, the HLOs and WLOs are important reference points and should guide the work of the IFCA in the day-to-day running of the organisation, as well as planning for the future. The adopted SC and associated HLOs and WLOs are shown in Table 1, with those most relevant to this Strategic Research and Evidence Plan highlighted in green.

Table 1. The success criteria, higher level objectives and working level objectives adopted and implemented by the NEIFCA

Success Criteria		Higher Level Objectives (HLOs)	Working Level Objectives (WLOs)
1	IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Implement an effective communication strategy B. Maintain a website. C. Maintain MoUs with the MMO, NE, EA & CEFAS and explore and implement opportunities for effective joint working. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a database of stakeholder contacts updated annually. • Maintain and review a communication strategy annually. • Review and update website by end of each month. • Review and update national MoUs annually.
2	IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Maintain and publish an enforcement risk register. B. Develop consistency in regulations. C. Manage operational activity. Capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence. Engage in joint working. D. Ensure IFCOs are warranted, trained and accredited to national standards. Maintain professionalism and deliver efficient effective enforcement activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement strategy and risk register are published annually from 1 April each year. • Detail application and enforcement of management measures within Annual Report. • Compile and publish records of enforcement activity in standard format. • Adopt, review and publish national code of conduct for IFCOs & integrate with annual appraisal process. • Warranted officers attain national accreditation and continue professional development.
3	IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Identify issues likely to affect sustainable management, undertake a risk assessment and gap analysis, review appropriateness of existing measures, evaluate management options and develop and implement proportionate marine management solutions. B. Support the implementation of a well-managed network of marine protected areas and contribute to delivery targets for MSFD, WFD and Marine Plans. C. Develop fisheries management plans for priority species where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record site-specific management considerations for MPAs and report progress. • Publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures. • Collect information to assess the effectiveness of new management measures. • Develop of a range of criteria based management options which are reviewed and updated annually. • Deliver new management measures within agreed timescales. • Management plans published annually and progress noted in Annual Report including MSY commitments.

4	IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.	<p>A. Demonstrate a long-term strategic approach to sustainable marine management.</p> <p>B. Staff performance management systems are in place that link to IFCA success criteria. Induction procedure for new joiners. Staff training and development needs identified. Performance managed.</p> <p>C. Efficient and effective secretariat in place to support the Authority. New members will receive an induction pack. There will be a 'rolling' twelve month schedule of quarterly Authority meetings. Notice of meetings and documentation will be made available in line with standing orders.</p> <p>D. IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential or exempt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual plan published by 31 March each year and submitted to the Secretary of State. • Annual report produced and published by 30 November each year and submitted to the Secretary of State. • All staff have annual performance management plans in place and annual appraisals are completed by 31 May each year. • An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings. • Annual report demonstrates how marine, land and water management mechanisms have worked responsively and effectively together. • All MMO appointees to the Authority complete an annual appraisal review.
5	IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.	<p>A. Strategic research plan that contributes to a greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources.</p> <p>B. Standard operating procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principle partners.</p> <p>C. Non-confidential meta-data collected through IFCA research programmes should be recorded in databases available to the marine research community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual research plan will be published each year. • An annual research report will be published each year. • The Authority's contribution to TAG and progress towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded within the Annual Report.

2. Purpose of the Strategic Research and Evidence Plan

NEIFCA has a statutory duty under MACAA to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources and to seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) in the district are furthered. The Authority also has duties as a relevant authority in relation to marine areas and European Marine Sites (EMS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI:1012/2017).

IFCAs are small, multi-functional organisations that carry out a range of work to fulfil these responsibilities including evidence collection and research as well as the implementation and enforcement of legislation. The aim of the Strategic Research and Evidence Plan is to identify longer term approaches and core, on-going priorities for the organisation, outlining our role and capabilities and to maximise the coordination of resources.

3. Legislative Drivers

The work of the NEIFCA is guided and underpinned through a number of legislative drivers, both at a national and European level. Further to this, as a Public Authority, the NEIFCA must have regard to additional policy documents such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Marine Policy Statement.

3.1 The Marine and Coastal Access Act

The overarching legislative driver behind the work of the NEIFCA is the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹ (MACAA). Within this document, the main duties for the IFCAs were outlined to aid with the management of the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in their jurisdictional areas, as well as to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZs in the district are furthered. To meet these objectives, MACAA states that in doing so IFCAs must:

- Seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way.
- Seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the district with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation.
- Take any other steps which in the Authority's opinion, are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development.
- Seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district.

3.2 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017² consolidate the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments. The regulations transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive), into national law. They also transpose elements of the EU Wild Birds Directive in

¹ The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009), HMSO, London, pp.346

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

England and Wales. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European sites. Under the Regulations competent authorities (which NEIFCA is considered to be) have a general duty in the exercise of any of their functions to have regard to the EC Habitats and Wild Birds Directives.

Of primary concern to NEIFCA is the management of fisheries activities and how these can potentially impact on European Marine Sites (EMS). EMS are marine areas which have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive and/or Special Protection Areas (SPA) under the Wild Birds Directive to protect and support wildlife and/or habitats that are of European importance. As a fisheries regulator, NEIFCA has a duty to ensure that fisheries do not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife or habitats for which EMS are designated.

This driver relates directly to the 'Revised Approach' in section 4 of this document.

3.3 The Common Fisheries Policy

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)³ is the principal legal mechanism for managing fish stocks in EU waters, ensuring consistency across Member States. The policy allows for all European fishing fleets to access EU fishing grounds to enable fishermen to compete fairly. The main aim of the CFP is to ensure that the fishing industry is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, fostering dynamic fishing industries whilst enabling a fair standard of living for fishing communities.

It recognises that the impacts of fishing on the marine environment are not fully understood and adopts a cautious approach regarding those impacts on all components of the ecosystem. It also seeks to make fishing fleets more selective in what they catch and to phase out the practice of discarding unwanted fish.

In order to achieve sustainability, the current policy has set targets for all fisheries to achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) between 2015 and 2020. The achievement of MSY is largely dependent on the success of the fisheries management measures under the reformed CFP. Since its revision in 2014, the CFP has placed greater control to EU countries at a national and regional level, helping guide the work of the IFCA's.

Only commercial stocks that are covered by the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) under the TAC and Quota Regulations and for which the UK has an obligation to provide biological sampling data under the Data Collection Framework (DCF) will be used to assess progress against the targets. These are stocks for which ICES provides assessments to which the UK contributes through the DCF.

3.4 The Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)⁴ was first introduced by the EU in 2008, with the most recent revision being published in 2017. The MSFD aims to achieve "good environmental status" (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. The Directive enshrines in a legislative

³ https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp_en

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm

framework the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities having an impact on the marine environment, integrating the concepts of environmental protection and sustainable use. The objective of the MSFD is to enable the sustainable use of marine goods and services and to ensure the marine environment is safeguarded for the use of future generations. The Directive establishes a comprehensive structure within which Member States are required to achieve or maintain GES in the marine environment. This Directive underpins all work conducted by the NEIFCA Environmental and Scientific team, with research, monitoring and survey work being undertaken to help guide the decision making of the Authority and achieve the GES outlined in the MSFD.

In order to achieve GES by 2020, each EU Member State is required to produce a Marine strategy, which as a consequence of the MSFD's adaptive approach to management, must be kept up-to-date and reviewed every 6 years. Part three of this strategy outlines the UK programme of measures for achieving GES. Stocks of the main commercial species of interest to the UK (including *Nephrops* as a quota species) are to be managed through the CFP. The shellfish programme of measures for Descriptor 3 covers three UK commercially exploited non-quota species; i.e. edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*), lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*) and king scallops (*Pecten maximus*). National stock unit assessments as well as NEIFCA's own internal stock assessments show that edible crab and lobster stocks are being fished above MSY levels. There is currently insufficient data to undertake scallop stock assessments in English waters. Given the economic and social importance of these stocks within the NEIFCA district, research and evidence for these species is the primary focus for the Authority.

3.5 Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (2000) sets out a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), groundwater, transitional waters (estuaries) and coastal waters (out to 1nm). The aim of the Directive is to ensure that aquatic ecosystems achieve "good ecological status", or in the case of heavily modified waterbodies, "good ecological potential". The extension of IFCA jurisdiction to tidal limits in estuaries has reinforced the relevance of the Directive with regard to management decisions made by NEIFCA.

3.6 Marine Policy Statement

The Marine Policy Statement (MPS)⁵, introduced in 2011, was prepared and adopted for the purposes of section 44 of MACAA. This document provides the framework for marine planning and taking decisions affecting the UK marine area. This framework outlines the UK Administrations' vision for the UK marine environment and the underlying principles behind management decisions, as well as the approaches taken to deliver this vision. This ultimately outlines the environment, social and economic considerations to be made during the planning and decision making process.

The MPS also outlines the policy objectives for the key activities occurring within the marine environment. These objectives are the policy specific outcomes which the UK Administrations are seeking to achieve through the sustainable development of the UK marine area. Marine Plans will need to align with and contribute to delivery of these objectives, and marine plan authorities and

⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69322/pb3654-marine-policy-statement-110316.pdf

decision makers will need to consider pressures and impacts associated with these activities. The UK Administrations will ensure that the MPS is reviewed where circumstances indicate this is necessary.

The overall framework provided by the MPS guides the preparation of Marine Plans and decision making with regards to the marine environment to ensure marine resources are used sustainably. As a result of this, the MPS facilitates the following:

- Promote sustainable economic development;
- Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy to mitigate the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change and ocean acidification;
- Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems, and protects marine habitats, species and our most important heritage assets;
- Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.

While the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is responsible for producing Marine Plans, as a statutory consultee NEIFCA has taken an active role in their development.

4. Marine Protected Area Management

In 2013 the UK government adopted a 'revised approach'⁶, outlining the overarching policy approach and key implementation steps to ensure that all existing and potential commercial fishing operations are managed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The revised approach applies to all EMS and potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA) and possible Special Areas of Conservation (pSAC). Since its announcement this has developed to be a core working area for the Authority. The implementation phase of the revised approach required management measures for high risk features to be identified by December 2013, and for any additional fishery management measures for the conservation of sites to be identified by December 2016.

Initially, designated site features and supporting habitats were assigned to one or more generic matrix feature categories allowing a site specific activity/feature matrix to be developed and high risk interactions to be identified. Primary screening identified non-occurring interactions and those for which regulations prohibiting an activity were already in force. Individual activity/feature interactions were then grouped for assessment where appropriate and subjected to a test of Likely Significant Effect (tLSE). If the tLSE concluded the potential for significant effect on the condition of the feature then a more detailed Appropriate Assessment (AA) was carried out. This approach has since been extended to include the MCZ in the District.

Adaptive Risk Management (ARM) as a component of the ecosystem-based approach to management, integrating conservation and fisheries management objectives, is central to sustainable development of the marine environment. As such, the revised approach is intended to be an iterative process. Fishing is a dynamic industry with changing patterns of effort and new commercial fisheries developing. It is the role of the regulators to assess these changes over time and to implement management should adverse effects be expected or determined.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revised-approach-to-the-management-of-commercial-fisheries-in-european-marine-sites-overarching-policy-and-delivery>

In order to assess the impact of changes in management and developing fisheries in the light of feature condition, NEIFCA has developed a monitoring and reporting framework for all Marine Protected Areas (MPA) within its jurisdiction, including both EMS and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ). This feedback process will ensure that fisheries remain sustainable and the conservation objectives for all MPA are furthered.

Following initial site level assessments, Monitoring and Control Plans (M&CP) are used to outline how those gear/feature interactions will be monitored. NEIFCA has taken the approach of creating site level M&CP for all of its MPAs. An Annual Effort Report (AER) is currently in development which will include a synthesis of current reports and available and developing data streams. Within the report will be an assessment of whether the initial assessments need to be reviewed or updated outside of the proposed standard review period.

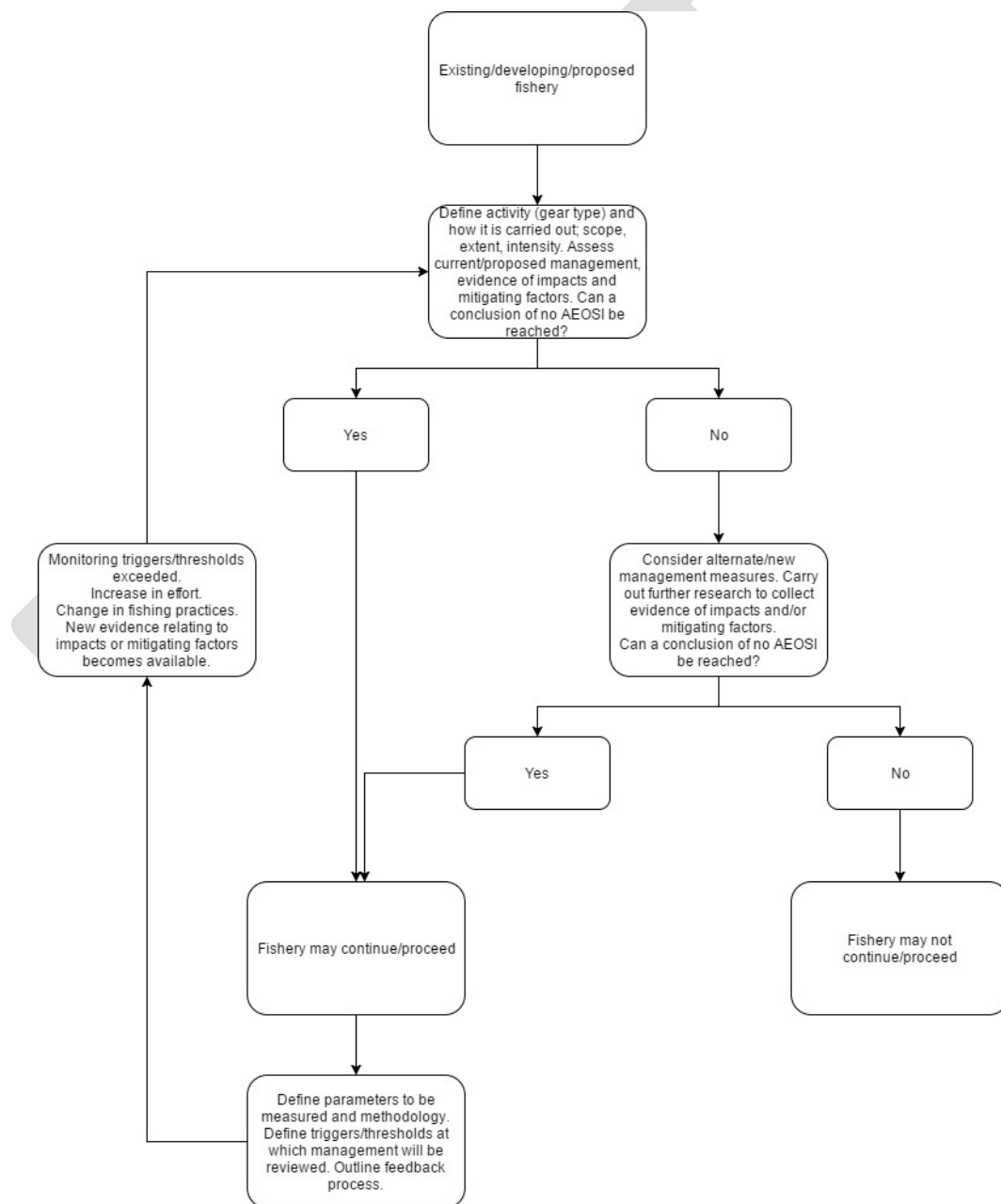


Figure 2. MPA monitoring and assessment feedback process.

5. Strategic Environmental Assessments

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a statutory process which aims to provide high level protection of the environment. It seeks to ensure the integration of environmental considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development. In 2008, North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee commissioned an SEA for its shellfish management programme, the first time in Europe that the SEA process had been developed for a fisheries management regime. This was followed by another SEA for the whitefish management regime in 2014.

Where feasible, management and monitoring recommendations arising from the two SEAs have or are being implemented. These include improved monitoring of stock status and fisheries impacts, a new catch return system to capture all fisheries/gear types and a vessel monitoring system

6. Brexit

In an uncertain and shifting political environment through the process of leaving the European Union, it is of paramount importance that the IFCA's work effectively and continue to strive to achieve the SC and national vision. We must ensure that NEIFCA is in the strongest possible position to allow the Authority to be able to take on more work in the wake of Brexit and allow for a more streamlined departure, whilst ensuring the health and sustainability of local fisheries. Until a final decision on how the IFCA's will be affected, a 'business usual approach' should be taken.

7. Partnership Working

The NEIFCA, and its predecessor NESFC, developed an excellent track record of working collaboratively with partner organisations, including academic institutions. These links allow for the expertise that exists within such institutions to be accessible and to provide opportunities for undergraduates and postgraduates to work on projects beneficial to the Authority. Officers will strengthen or create links with external institutions and meet to exchange project ideas on a regular basis.

Nationally, relationships will be strengthened between the Environment Agency, the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and Cefas, in order to identify opportunities for collaboration, the collation and dissemination of data and adoption of best practices.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG), comprised of IFCA Environmental/Technical Officers and members of the MMO, NE, EA and Cefas, provides a mechanism for developing these links and strengthening relationships. Furthermore, the group allows for standardisation of best practice between IFCA's and national bodies with regards to research, encouraging the sharing of information and non-duplication of effort. NEIFCA officers have been a part of this since its inception and will continue its involvement. National workshops and conferences are also recognised as valuable opportunities to strengthen the knowledge base and experience of NEIFCA Officers.

8. Working Groups

Whilst NEIFCA attends a number of working groups throughout the year, those highlighted in Table 2 are considered core, on-going groups that will continue throughout the lifespan of the strategic plan and help to deliver our statutory responsibilities as well as foster effective working partnerships. Through regularly attending these working groups, it is hoped that the NEIFCA can develop excellent working relationships and collaborative research projects with local industry groups as well as national organisations. Partnership projects and collaborative working is incredibly useful for the work that NEIFCA carries out, with local industry knowledge, skills and resources proving invaluable.

Table 2. The working groups attended by NEIFCA representatives, their scope, frequency and other attending organisations.

Group	Area	Other Members	Frequency
Science Advisory Group	District	Authority representatives	Bi-annually
IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG)	National	IFCAs, NE, Cefas, Defra, EA	Quarterly
Management of fisheries within MPAs	National	IFCAs, MMO	Monthly
Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group	Humber Estuary	NE, EA, MMO, Local Councils, Yorkshire Water, YWT	Quarterly
Flamborough Head Relevant Authorities Group	Flamborough and Filey	NE, EA, MMO, Local Councils, Yorkshire Water, YWT	Quarterly
Yorkshire Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Group	Yorkshire	YWT, NE, EA, Hull University, York University, National Trust, the Deep, RSPB, Humber and Flamborough Management Schemes	Bi-annual

9. Research Themes

In order to deliver proportionate, evidence-led management, NEIFCA undertakes a range of research and survey activities under the themes outlined in this section

9.1 Sustainable Fisheries

9.1.1 Stock Status

This theme is central to the work of NEIFCA. Research and evidence can include fishery dependent sampling on commercial vessels or at the point of landing on the quayside, or fishery independent sampling carried out aboard the Authorities patrol vessel. Core stock assessment work for lobsters, edible crabs and scallops fall under this theme.

9.1.2 Species Biology and ecology

Research under this theme is aimed at developing a broader understanding of species biology and ecology. Previous work under this theme has included size at maturity and tagging work to develop knowledge of European lobster life history characteristics.

9.2 Healthy Seas

9.2.1 Marine Protected Areas

Work under this theme relates to understanding the impact of fisheries on designated species and habitats. Previous work under this theme has included understanding the impacts of potting on reef habitat at Flamborough. The MPA assessment and monitoring process outlined in section 4 would also fall under this theme.

9.2.2 Habitat Knowledge

The Authority is always looking to strengthen its knowledge of sea bed habitats within the District, both within and outside the network of MPAs. External data sources are continuously assessed while broad scale habitat classification can be carried out from the Authorities patrol vessel. The development of habitat knowledge in the designated scallop dredging area for instance was instrumental in the development of this fishery.

9.2.3 Invasive Non-Native Species

The Authority contributes to national databases when invasive non-native species are encountered. Work in this theme is constantly developing and Officers are working with partner agencies to develop monitoring regimes to address the risk posed by these species. The Authorities Biosecurity Plan will form the basis of work under this theme.

9.3 Viable Industry

9.3.1 Fisheries Enhancement

Work under this theme can include developing knowledge and evidence in support of new fisheries, carrying out pilot studies to offer diversification options to the industry or work with developing alternative industries such as aquaculture.

9.3.2 Socio-Economic Analysis

A range of socio-economic research is carried out in support of management measures and to understand the state of the industry. Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIA) in support of new byelaws is carried out to ensure that no undue financial burdens are placed on stakeholders while the annual effort survey of the number of active vessels helps to give a dynamic assessment of the state of the fleet. The latter will also contribute to the MPA assessment and monitoring process outlined in section 4.

9.4 Data, Communication and Developing Capabilities

9.4.1 Access to Information

Data collected by NEIFCA as a public body is freely available subject to data protection regulations. Officers are developing systems to manage the increased volumes of data being collected since the transition from an SFC to an IFCA. Metadata of biological sampling is uploaded to national systems such as the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN). Work to increase

stakeholder participation and communication is constantly evolving and the development of social media avenues for the dissemination of information is a particular focus. The development of the Communications Strategy would fall under this theme.

9.4.2 Development of New Technologies

In order to utilise the best available evidence in support of management, tools and assets that enhance our capabilities are constantly assessed and improved upon. Previous work has included the development of the Authorities drop down and towed video systems. Another developing area is the utilisation of drone technologies in the assessment of shore based activities and habitats. Current work also involves the development of new catch reporting and vessel monitoring systems

10. Core Research projects

All research work undertaken by the Authority will fall under one or more of the broad themes outlined above. The dynamic nature of the work undertaken by NEIFCA means that a range of partnership projects and internal projects linked to specific data deficiencies or capabilities are undertaken. These tend to be short to medium term projects and are included in the relevant Annual Research and Evidence Plans.

A number of core projects are carried out in support of statutory responsibilities, management requirements and to maintain key, long term data sets. These projects will span the lifecycle of the Strategic Research and Evidence Plan and hence warrant inclusion in this document. An outline of these projects is given below however full details including sampling period can be found in the Annual Research and Evidence Plan.

10.1 Pot fishery stock assessment

The pot fishery for lobster and edible crab is the most intensively targeted fishery within the district. Data is required to inform the Multiple Indicator Framework and assessment models to measure stock status against historic reference points and MSY target. Fishery independent sampling from NEGI is required to capture key metrics such as the proportion of egg bearing lobsters and to monitor the effectiveness of management measures such as escape gaps by gathering data on the size frequency of pre-recruit individuals. Quayside sampling is another key long term dataset that allows stock status to be assessed against MSY targets.

10.2 Dredge fishery stock assessment

Following the introduction of a scallop dredge permitting system in 2015, annual assessment of the stocks within the District are required to inform management decisions including the number of permits to be issued. Quayside sampling of commercial landings and offshore surveys carried out from NEGI form the basis of the monitoring programme.

10.3 Cockle stock assessment

Under the cockle management byelaw, the Authority must make a decision on the number of permits, if any, to be issued each year. Monitoring and reporting of sites in both the Humber and Tees Estuaries is carried out annually in support of this decision.

10.4 No Take Zone monitoring – Flamborough Head EMS

Monitoring of the intertidal mussel bed in the No Take Zone at Sewerby is carried out as an indicator of byelaw effectiveness. This monitoring has the added benefit of contributing to knowledge of site condition for the EMS.

10.5 Eelgrass monitoring – Humber Estuary EMS

NEIFCA was instrumental in the identification of the eelgrass bed at Spurn Point in the Humber Estuary EMS. A byelaw to protect this feature was implemented under the revised approach and monitoring is carried out annually to assess byelaw effectiveness and suitability.

10.6 Small fish monitoring

In order to increase knowledge of commercial fish species distribution and the identification of nursery areas a programme of coastal intertidal fish sampling has been implemented. Coinciding with the publication of this Strategic Plan and the 2018-19 Annual Plan, Officers are proposing to relocate some of the sampling sites to better align with the MPA network. This will have the added benefit of generating a long term data set that could be used to assess MPA effectiveness and condition.

11. Staff

The Authority is a direct employer and employs fifteen dedicated staff members with a wide variety of expertise and high level of competency. The current staffing structure is outlined below. Clerkship, financial, human resources and legal functions are undertaken by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council – one of the member Authorities.

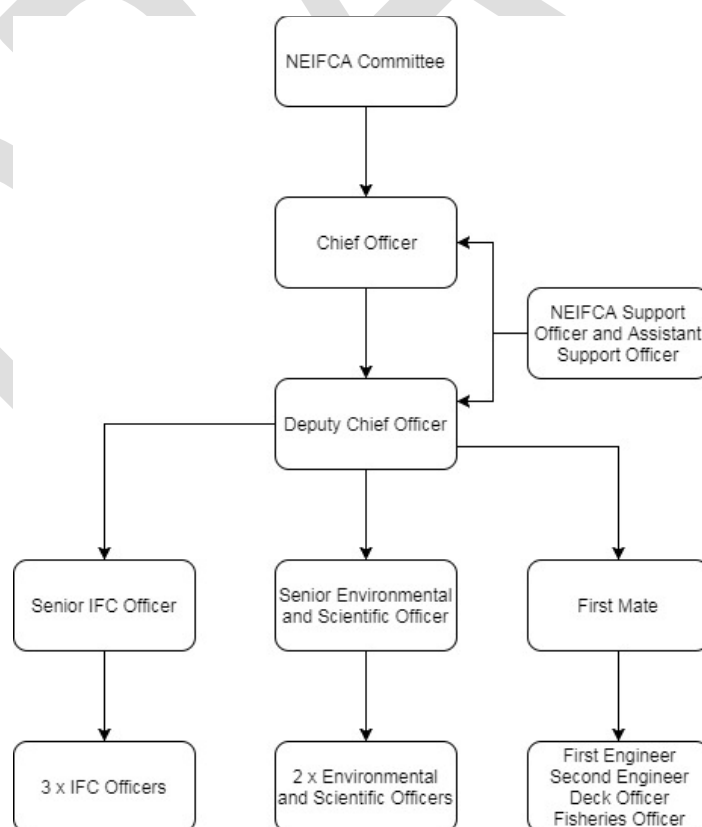


Figure 3. NEIFCA Organogram

12.Assets

The Authority's largest asset is a 26m-patrol boat, the 'North Eastern Guardian III' (built and delivered November 2007), capable of a top speed of 26 knots and equipped with the latest electronic navigation systems and a wide range of marine survey and monitoring equipment. The vessel also carries a 6.4 metre RIB capable of speeds up to 30 knots. During the 2013/2014 year the Authority purchased a new 4.7 m RIB specifically designed for launching and recovery from the shore. This new RIB provides a small, flexible asset, easily deployed from a wide range of locations and capable of a top speed of 20 knots.

The Authority leases a 4 x4 truck and owns four multi-purpose vans , a 4x4 'pick up' and a multi-terrain 'gator'. All The vehicles are used to transport and launch vessels, equipment and access coastal and estuarine areas.

DRAFT

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Science Advisory Group
8th March 2018

NEIFCA Research and Evidence Annual Plan 2018/19

Report by the Senior Environmental and Scientific Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with a draft copy of the scientific and environmental work programme for the year ahead.

B. Recommendation

That members consider the draft plan and provide further comment.

1. Background

1.1 The Authority's environmental and scientific work is supported by a detailed offshore and land-based programme of survey work which links to the delivery of the overarching annual plan. The Research and Evidence Annual Plan is the key planning and operational document where actions and priorities can be agreed in context. The aim of this document is to identify continuing and new priorities for the organisation during the 2018-2019 period.

1.2 The draft 2018/19 Annual Plan is attached for members information and review.

Contact Officer

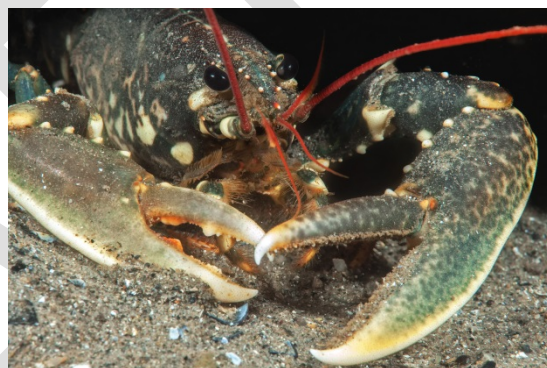
Tim Smith, Senior Environmental and Scientific Officer
Ext 3515

Background Papers

Draft Research and Evidence Plan 2018/19



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority



Research and Evidence Annual Plan

2018-2019

Date submitted:	
Report compiled by:	
Quality control by:	
Approved by & date:	
Version:	

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

This publication may be re-used free of charge in any format or medium for research for non-commercial purposes, private study or for internal circulation within an organisation. This is subject to it being re-used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as a North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority production and the title of the publication specified.

For any other use of this material please contact the Chief fishery officer through www.ne-ifca.gov.uk or by writing to;

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

1 Contents

1. Purpose of the Annual Plan	5
2. Working groups	6
3. Research and evidence projects for 2018/19	6
4. Project details.....	9
4.1 Core Research.....	9
4.2 Partnership Research	19
4.3 Internal Research	22

DRAFT

Acronyms

DHC	Durham Heritage Coast partnership
EA	Environment Agency
EMS	European Marine Site
HFIG	Holderness Fishing Industry Group
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MIF	Multiple Indicator Framework
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NE	Natural England
NEG III	North Eastern Guardian III
NEIFCA	North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
NTZ	No Take Zone
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SI	Statutory Instrument
SPA	Special Protection Area
YWT	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

1. Purpose of the Annual Plan

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) is one of ten such Authority's established in October 2010 under provisions contained within the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. NEIFCA have a statutory duty under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources.

To assist focus on the positive delivery of their statutory duties, IFCA's have agreed the following national vision which has been adopted by NEIFCA:

"Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's will 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."

The Authority also has duties as a relevant authority in relation to marine protected areas and European Marine Sites (EMS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI:1012/2017), as such are responsible for monitoring and managing fishing activity within a network of marine protected areas in the district, these consist of the following sites:

- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA
- Flamborough Head EMS (SAC & SPA)
- Humber EMS (SAC & SPA)
- Northumbria Coast SPA

In addition to two Marine Conservation Zones:

- Holderness Inshore MCZ
- Runswick Bay MCZ

IFCAs are small, multi-functional organisations that carry out a range of work to fulfil these responsibilities including evidence collection and research as well as the implementation and enforcement of legislation. The Research and Evidence Annual Plan is the key planning

and operational document where actions and priorities can be agreed in context. The aim of this document is to identify continuing and new priorities for the organisation during the 2018-2019 period.

2. Working groups

The NEIFCA sits on a variety of working groups as a statutory relevant authority or participating stakeholder. Core, on-going working groups are outlined in the Strategic Research and Evidence Plan. The table below outlines additional shorter term working and project groups that Officers will be involved with during 2018/19.

Table 1 NEIFCA working groups

Group	Area	Other Members	Frequency
Holderness Fisheries Local Action Group	Holderness	HFIG, MMO, YWT	Quarterly
Seascope Partnership	Tyne to Tees		Quarterly

3. Research and evidence projects for 2018/19

NEIFCA conducts a varied programme of research to aid in the decision making process of fisheries management. Research is focused around four broad themes, central to NEIFCA's core values:

- Sustainable fisheries
- Healthy seas
- Viable industry
- Data, communication and developing capabilities

Projects are segregated into three categories:

- Core: key projects linked to strategic NEIFCA themes or required for statutory work streams. In the main contribute to development of major long term data sets
- Partner: short term, collaborative projects, to aid other organisations with similar interests that align with NEIFCA
- Internal: projects of supporting value linked to reducing data deficiencies in NEIFCA knowledge. Projects vary from short to long term.

A summary of proposed projects for the forthcoming season can be found in Table 2 with survey/project timings outlined in Table 3.

Table 2 Summary of Research Projects 2018/19

Code	Project
CRP2018/1	Pot fishery stock assessment – Offshore sampling
CRP2018/2	Pot fishery stock assessment – Quayside sampling
CRP2018/3	Dredge fishery stock assessment – Offshore sampling
CRP2018/4	Dredge fishery stock assessment – Quayside sampling
CRP2018/5	Cockle stock assessment
CRP2018/6	Flamborough Head EMS NTZ mussel monitoring
CRP2018/7	Small fish monitoring
CRP2018/8	Humber Estuary EMS Eelgrass monitoring
CRP2018/9	Habitat knowledge development – BSHC
CRP2018/10	Water quality sampling
PRP2018/1	Bass partnership project - YWT
PRP2018/2	Seascape partnership project - DHC
PRP2018/3	MSFD partnership project - Newcastle University ,NIFCA
IRP2018/1	Dredge fishery impact assessment – Offshore sampling (commercial)
IRP2018/2	Dredge fishery impact assessment – Video assessment
IRP2018/3	Flamborough Head monitoring – Video assessment
IRP2018/4	Shore collection – Tyre monitoring
IRP2018/5	Shore collection – Masters project
IRP2018/6	Nephrops data development (quayside)
IRP2018/7	Nephrops knowledge development (laser trials April)
IRP2018/8	Vessel monitoring system development
IRP2018/9	Catch reporting system development
IRP2018/10	MPA reporting development

Table 3 Project Gantt Chart 2018/19

[illegible]

4. Project details

4.1 Core Research

Project title	Pot fishery stock assessment – Offshore sampling	Project code	CRP2018/1
Description			
The pot fishery for lobster and edible crab is the most intensively targeted fishery within the district. Data is required to inform MIF and assessment models to measure stock status against historic reference points and MSY target. Offshore sampling is carried out from NEG III.			
Outputs			
Size frequency Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) Sex ratio Proportion v-notched lobsters Proportion of egg bearing individuals Proportion crippled (one or no claws) Disease prevalence (black spot on edible crab) Bycatch species		Data Acquisition	
		Apr-Oct	
		Reporting	
		Annual stock assessment	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MACAA, MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	HFIG, CEFAS		
External data users	CEFAS		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Recreational permit system Recreational effort control Vessel length restrictions National Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) District MCRS for edible crab of 140mm Mandatory escape gaps Prohibition on the removal of parts of lobsters or edible crabs Prohibition on the removal clawless lobsters Prohibition on the use of edible and velvet crabs for bait Prohibitions on the landing of egg bearing edible crabs and lobsters		
Planned management measures	Commercial effort control		
Project development	Pre-recruit index Escape Gaps – velvet crabs Crab movement		

Project title	Pot fishery stock assessment – Quayside sampling	Project code	CRP2018/2
Description			
The pot fishery for lobster and edible crab is the most intensively targeted fishery within the district. Data is required to inform MIF and assessment models to measure stock status against MSY target. Quayside sampling is carried out at the three major ports of Bridlington, Scarborough and Whitby. Ad-hoc sampling is carried out at Hartlepool and other ports when possible.			
Targets and outputs			
150 lobsters, 150 male edible crabs, 150 female edible crabs per calendar month from each port. Size frequency data Seasonal trends in catch composition and population structures Sex ratio data Proportion crippled (one claw) Disease prevalence (black spot on edible crab)			Data Acquisition
			Apr-Mar
			Reporting
			Annual stock assessment
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MACAA, MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	CEFAS		
External data users	CEFAS		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Recreational permit system Recreational effort control Vessel length restrictions National Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) District MCRS for edible crab of 140mm Mandatory escape gaps Prohibition on the removal of parts of lobsters or edible crabs Prohibition on the removal clawless lobsters Prohibition on the use of edible and velvet crabs for bait Prohibitions on the landing of egg bearing edible crabs and lobsters		
Planned management measures	Commercial effort control		
Project development	Pre-recruit index Escape Gaps – velvet crabs Crab movement		

Project title	Dredge fishery stock assessment – Offshore sampling	Project code	CRP2018/3
Description			
Following the introduction of a scallop dredge permitting system in 2015, annual assessment of stocks within the district are required to inform management decisions including the number of permits to be issued. The number of permits to be issued each year is to be published by the 1 st of November. Offshore sampling is carried out on NEG III.			
Targets and outputs			
Size frequency data Pre recruit data Age (ring) frequency data Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) Bycatch species		Data Acquisition	
		Nov, Apr	
		Reporting	
		Annual stock assessment	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MACAA, MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	CEFAS		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Commercial effort control Technical gear restrictions Vessel length and power restrictions Spatial and temporal restrictions National Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)		
Planned management measures	Ambition to increase the number of permitted vessels.		
Project development	Gonadosomatic index		

Project title	Dredge fishery stock assessment – Quayside sampling	Project code	CRP2018/4
Description			
Following the introduction of a scallop dredge permitting system in 2015, annual assessment of stocks within the district are required to inform management decisions including the number of permits to be issued. The number of permits to be issued each year is to be published by the 1 st of November.			
Targets and outputs			
Two days quayside sampling per month Size frequency data Age (ring) frequency data		Data Acquisition	
		Nov-Apr	
		Reporting	
		Annual stock assessment	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MACAA, MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	CEFAS		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Commercial effort control Technical gear restrictions Vessel length and power restrictions Spatial and temporal restrictions National Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)		
Planned management measures	Ambition to increase the number of permitted vessels.		
Project development	Gonadosomatic index		

Project title	Cockle stock assessment	Project code	CRP2018/5
Description			
Assess cockle distribution, density and biomass within the three intertidal beds within the district at Wonderland in the Humber Estuary and Bran Sands and Middleton Basin in the Tees Estuary. Output directly linked to cockle management byelaw and allocation of permits to fish.			
Targets and outputs			
Identification of bed spatial extent Population length and age structure Estimated density and biomass within bed Potential economic value as a fishery Recommendation to maintain/dispense with fishery closure			Data Acquisition
			Apr-May
			Reporting
			1st July
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	NEIFCA XXIV
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	CEFAS		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Temporal closure Technical equipment measures Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) Maximum catch limits		
Planned management measures	None		
Project development	None		

Project title	NTZ mussel monitoring	Project code	CRP2018/6
Description			
Assess mussel distribution; density and biomass to monitor effectiveness of NEIFCA No Take Zone. This monitoring has the added benefit of contributing to knowledge of site condition for the EMS.			
Targets and outputs			
Identification of bed spatial extent Population length and age structure Estimated density and biomass within bed		Data Acquisition	
		Apr-May	
		Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	NEIFCA XXVII
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	N/A		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Spatial management, no sea fisheries resources can be removed		
Planned management measures	None		
Project development	Nne		

Project title	Small fish monitoring	Project code	CRP2018/7
Description			
A recommendation from the finfish SEA was for NEIFCA to improve its knowledge base of fish species within the District. In the last few years Officers have trialled intertidal seine nets and beam trawls to develop this knowledge and establish a long term data set. Sampling sites are to be realigned in 2018 to cover Whitburn, Runswick Bay (MCZ), Filey, Hornsea (MCZ), Withernsea (MCZ).			
Targets and outputs			
Species abundance and assemblage Size frequency Identification of nursery areas Spatial distributions of juvenile fish species Recruit & Pre-recruit composition		Data Acquisition	
		May/Jun, Sep/Oct	
		Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MAACA, MSFD, (WFD)
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	EA		
External data users	None		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Fixed engine byelaw Spatial and temporal netting restrictions Trawling byelaw Spatial and temporal trawling restrictions		
Planned management measures	None		
Project development	Utility of data by the EA		

Project title	Eelgrass monitoring	Project code	CRP2018/8
Description			
Assess the extent and distribution of eelgrass within Spurn Bight boundaries to assess the effectiveness of NEIFCA's bylaw. Survey to be extended in 2018 to include staff from the EA and NE.			
Targets and outputs			
Annual extent and distribution Ensures management boundaries are appropriate		Data Acquisition	
		Jul	
		Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	NEIFCA XXIX, Habitats regulations
External partners	NE, EA, YWT	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	NE, EA		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Spatial management Rod and line only.		
Planned management measures	Potential future extension of boundaries		
Project development	Possible drone mapping Assessment of eelgrass density to meet EA and NE organisational objectives.		

Project title	Habitat knowledge development – BSHC	Project code	CRP2018/9
Description			
Stratified sampling of 1km ² stations throughout the NEIFCA district, using multi-beam sonar to ascertain broad scale habitat types.			
Targets and outputs			
Complete coverage the 48, 1 km ² survey areas Bathymetry profile from 0.1-0.25m ² Hardness profile		Data Acquisition	
		Apr-Mar	
		Reporting	
		Ongoing	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	NE, EA, CEFAS		
External data users	NE, EA, CEFAS MMO		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices.		
Existing management measures	N/A		
Planned management measures	N/A		
Project development	Ground truth multibeam stations using grab equipment and video trawls		

Project title	Water quality sampling	Project code	CRP2018/10
Description			
NEIFCA maintain a long term data set of water quality metrics from stations throughout the district.			
Targets and outputs			
Complete coverage the 48, 1 km ² survey areas Bathymetry profile from 0.1-0.25m ² Hardness profile		Data Acquisition	
		Apr-Mar	
		Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	None		
External data users	NE		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices.		
Existing management measures	N/A		
Planned management measures	N/A		
Project development	None		

4.2 Partnership Research

Project title	Bass partnership project - YWT	Project code	PRP2018/1
Description			
Assist YWT in determining the distribution of European sea bass via large scale stakeholder tagging project.			
Targets and outputs			
Collection of data which demonstrates the specific use of the Humber Estuary by European sea bass which will further our understanding of bass movements and abundance. Positive influence on management measures to aid protection of the stock. Demonstration of the benefits that can be achieved through citizen science and partnership working Increased awareness of the North Sea marine environment		Data Acquisition	
		Apr-May	
		Reporting	
		N/A	
Success criteria	1	Legislative drivers	MACAA, CFP, MSFD
External partners	YWT	External funding	YWT
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	YWT		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Fixed engine byelaw Spatial and temporal netting restrictions Trawling byelaw Spatial and temporal trawling restrictions		
Planned management measures	N/A		
Project development	N/A		

Project title	Seascope partnership project	Project code	PRP2018/2
Description			
Collaboration between several partners to promote undervalued coastal areas between the rivers Tyne and Tees in North East England and its designation as a Heritage Coast. Aims to improve access and education by delivering approx. 30 individual projects. NEIFCA has committed to providing 4 boat days during the 2018/19 development phase and a further 6 days during the 2019-2023 delivery phase.			
Targets and outputs			
Improve access to beaches Promote the value local shipwrecks and habitats Use citizen science to improve biological recording Create a coastal conservation centre to aid education in the local area Help Reduce marine litter			Data Acquisition
			Aug-Sep
			Reporting
			N/A
Success criteria	1	Legislative drivers	N/A
External partners	4 local councils, National Trust, Northumbrian Water, DWT, NE, Groundwork, MMO, EA, East Durham Heritage Group, Donnison School, U of D and NU	External funding	HLF
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	Seascope		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	N/A		
Planned management measures	N/A		
Project development	N/A		

Project title	MSFD partnership project	Project code	PRP2018/3
Description			
Officers are in discussions with Newcastle University, Natural England and NIFCA regarding a project to develop mud and rocky reef indicator metrics to inform MSFD descriptor assessments. Funding is being sought through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.			
Targets and outputs			
Data capture from several sites in NI/NE IFCA district using towed video and grab sampling Creation of a suite of indicators for poorly understood habitats Indicators to be used at a national level to assess: European marine sites Marine conservation zones			Data Acquisition
			Apr-Mar
			Reporting
			ongoing
Success criteria	1	Legislative drivers	MSFD
External partners	NU, NE, NIFCA	External funding	EMFF
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	NU, NE, NIFCA		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	N/A		
Planned management measures	N/A		
Project development	N/A		

4.3 Internal Research

Project title	Dredge fishery impact assessment – Offshore sampling (commercial)	Project code	IRP2018/1
Description			
Concerns have been raised regarding the impacts of the dredge fishery on habitats and in particular on lobster and crab stocks. In order to assess shellfish bycatch sampling aboard commercial vessels is being carried out.			
Targets and outputs			
Bycatch species Size frequency data Age (ring) frequency data Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)		Data Acquisition	
		Nov-Apr	
		Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MSFD
External partners	Industry vessels	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	N/A		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Commercial effort control Technical gear restrictions Vessel length and power restrictions Spatial and temporal restrictions National Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)		
Planned management measures	Ambition to increase the number of permitted vessels.		
Project development	Gonadosomatic index		

Project title	Dredge fishery impact assessment – video assessment	Project code	IRP2018/2
Description			
Concerns have been raised regarding the impacts of the dredge fishery on habitats and lobster and crab stocks. To increase confidence surrounding the knowledge base of impacts arising from the fishery the video assessment carried out in 2017 will be repeated.			
Targets and outputs			
Comparison of areas exposed to varying levels of scallop dredge effort. Repeat of 54 video stations completed in 2017.		Data Acquisition	
		Apr	
		Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	N/A		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Commercial effort control Technical gear restrictions Vessel length and power restrictions Spatial and temporal restrictions National Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)		
Planned management measures	Ambition to increase the number of permitted vessels.		
Project development	N/a		

Project title	Shore collection – Tyre monitoring	Project code	IRP2018/3
Description			
Map tyre locations at ‘hotspots’ throughout district to estimate changes in abundance and distribution			
Targets and outputs			
Estimate of tyre bed areas Estimated density tyres		Data Acquisition	
		Apr-May	
		Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	Habs regs, MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	NE, Local NNR		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	N/A		
Planned management measures	None known		
Project development	Possible drone mapping		

Project title	Shore collection – Masters project	Project code	IRP2018/4
Description			
Quantification of bait collection activity at several hotspots throughout NEIFCA's district and its potential impacts on designated features. Baseline data will be used to inform initial MPA assessments.			
Targets and outputs			
Site surveys once a month to determine: Extent of bait collection activity at Bran Sands, Humberstone Fitties and Kilnsea Extent of bird disturbance above sites Online and face to face surveys to quantify recreational angling sectors use of bait throughout district		Data Acquisition	
		Oct-Apr	
		Reporting	
		Jun	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	Habs/bird regs, MSFD NEIFCA VIII
External partners	UofH	External funding	DEFRA
External data sources	Local councils		
External data users	UofH, NE		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Minimum conservation reference sizes for crabs and mussels		
Planned management measures	Potential management response, dependant on outputs		
Project development	Potential repeat of survey on update of HRA		

Project title	Nephrops data development (quayside)		Project code	IRP2018/5
Description				
Assessment of size composition and sex ratio within commercial catches, with a view to the development of a stock assessment of a minor fishery in NEIFCA’s district. Monthly sampling takes place at Hartlepool				
Targets and outputs				
1500 individual biometrics; carapace length, sex, berried, condition references to ascertain Length frequency data and establish seasonal trends in catch composition and population structures			Data Acquisition	
			Nov-Mar	
			Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MSFD	
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A	
External data sources	CEFAS			
External data users	CEFAS			
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices			
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Vessel length restrictions Vessel power restrictions National Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) Mandatory temporal net clearance Nationally quoted species			
Planned management measures	None known			
Project development	Carapace Length / Width – Weight Keys			

Project title	Nephrops knowledge development (laser trials)		Project code	IRP2018/6
Description				
Identify the main distributions of burrows and extent of fishing grounds within 6nm and develop a density index for Nephrops burrows for that area utilising new, laser scanning technology.				
Targets and outputs				
Burrow density estimate by area Population distribution Spatial distribution			Data Acquisition	
			Aug	
			Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MSFD	
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A	
External data sources	None			
External data users	CEFAS (potentially)			
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices			
Existing management measures	Commercial permit system Vessel length restrictions Vessel power restrictions National Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) Mandatory temporal net clearance Nationally quoted species			
Planned management measures	None known			
Project development	Possible potting study			

Project title	Vessel monitoring system development	Project code	IRP2018/7
Description			
Aid the development of a vessel monitoring system that records all commercial vessel tracks to support NEIFCA's environmental and enforcement activities.			
Targets and outputs			
Design and implement a bespoke vessel monitoring system: Creation of coastal base stations Networked real time digital display Spatial and temporal vessel tracks stored on internal server System outputs vessel tracks that can be utilised in GIS software Primarily a AIS based system			Data Acquisition
			N/A
			Reporting
			Ongoing
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	EMFF
External data sources	MMO		
External data users	NE, EA, CEFAS MMO		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	None		
Planned management measures	Forthcoming bylaw AIS		
Project development	N/A		

Project title	Catch reporting system development	Project code	IRP2018/8
Description			
Aid the development of a catch reporting system that records all commercial vessels landings to support NEIFCA's environmental and enforcement activities.			
Targets and outputs			
Design and implement a bespoke catch reporting system: New landing recording sheets for industry in both paper and digital formats. Multi use database to combine catch data from several different gear types Simplified data manipulation		Data Acquisition	
		N/A	
		Reporting	
		Ongoing	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	MSFD
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	MMO		
External data users	NE, EA, CEFAS MMO		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	Excel based return system for MSAR's		
Planned management measures	Forthcoming bylaw		
Project development	N/A		

Project title	MPA reporting development	Project code	IRP2018/9
Description			
Develop a reporting procedure to support NEIFCA's requirements to assess fishing activities in MPA			
Targets and outputs			
Method to integrate IRP2018/7&8 to determine use/effort of areas Streamline reporting requirements		Data Acquisition	
		N/A	
		Reporting	
		Ongoing	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	Habs/bird regs
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	NE MMO		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	NEIFCA has a requirement to assess if fishing activities near/in MPA's have an effect on the site features integrity.		
Planned management measures	N/A		
Project development	Supported by IRP2018/8&9		

Project title	Drone data development	Project code	IRP2018/10
Description			
Officers are continuing to assess the utility of drone technology in the monitoring and assessment of habitats and fisheries impacts. This year it is planned to trial the drone at Spurn Point in relation to the eelgrass bed and at Bran Sands in relation to the tyres and bait collection.			
Targets and outputs			
Develop data sets to monitor fisheries impacts on intertidal features.		Data Acquisition	
		N/A	
		Reporting	
Success criteria	3,5	Legislative drivers	Habs/bird regs
External partners	N/A	External funding	N/A
External data sources	N/A		
External data users	NE MMO		
Internal policy documents	Strategic plan, SOPs (survey data collection), COSSH (if applicable), Risk Assessments, Safe working practices		
Existing management measures	NEIFCA has a requirement to assess if fishing activities near/in MPA's have an effect on the site features integrity.		
Planned management measures	N/A		
Project development			

DRAFT

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Science Advisory Group
8th March 2018

Scallop dredging update presentation

Report by the Senior Environmental and Scientific Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with an update on the monitoring and assessment work being carried out by Officers in relation to the scallop dredge fishery.

B. Recommendation

That members note the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the previous SAG meeting in September 2017 (Minute 81 refers) it was agreed that the collection of data and information on the health and state of the standing scallop stock through both active observational trips onboard the permitted vessels and the appraisal of monthly catch and effort data would remain the primary objective for year two as would the level of discarding of non-target species.
- 1.2 It was noted at the meeting that whilst 'drop down' camera work would continue across the affected sea bed habitat any meaningful detailed assessment of the recoverability of the seabed was not considered a realistic objective given available resources and the extensively modified nature of the survey area. Any concerns regarding environmental and other collateral effects associated with the fishery were strongly mitigated against both by the extent of the technical measures contained within the management byelaw and the restricted nature of the permitting scheme.
- 1.3 Despite these considerations, at the December meeting of the full Authority (Minute 31 refers) some members felt that the survey regime should have a greater focus on impacts of the fishery on the crab and lobster stocks. Officers are seeking formal guidance from SAG members on whether the current sampling and assessment regime addresses these concerns.

Contact Officer

Tim Smith, Senior Environmental and Scientific Officer
Ext 3515

Background Papers

None

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Science Advisory Group
8th March 2018

MPA Management Review and Update

Report by the Senior Environmental and Scientific Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with an update on the outcome of the revised approach initial assessments and monitoring and reporting arrangements for Marine Protected Areas.

B. Recommendation

That members approve the monitoring and reporting framework for Marine Protected Areas within the District.

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2013 the UK government adopted a 'revised approach'¹, outlining the overarching policy approach and key implementation steps to ensure that all existing and potential commercial fishing operations are managed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The revised approach applies to all EMS and potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA) and possible Special Areas of Conservation (pSAC). Since its announcement this has developed to be a core working area for the Authority. The implementation phase of the revised approach required management measures for high risk features to be identified by December 2013, and for any additional fishery management measures for the conservation of sites to be identified by December 2016.
- 1.2 Following the successful completion of the initial stage of the revised approach, assessments have been completed for the two Marine Conservation Zones within the District and no changes to existing management provisions are deemed necessary.
- 1.3 In order to assess the impact of changes in management, fishing effort levels and developing fisheries in the light of Marine Protected Area feature condition, Officers have developed a monitoring and reporting framework to include both European Marine Site and Marine Conservation Zones
- 1.4 Officers are seeking formal approval of the monitoring and reporting framework.

Contact Officer

Tim Smith, Senior Environmental and Scientific Officer

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revised-approach-to-the-management-of-commercial-fisheries-in-european-marine-sites-overarching-policy-and-delivery>

Ext 3515

Background Papers

Initial assessments (tLSEs and AAs for both EMS and MCZ) are available on the SAG dropbox account.

Monitoring and Control Plans for the EMS are attached for reference.

Draft Strategic Research and Evidence Plan 2018-2022

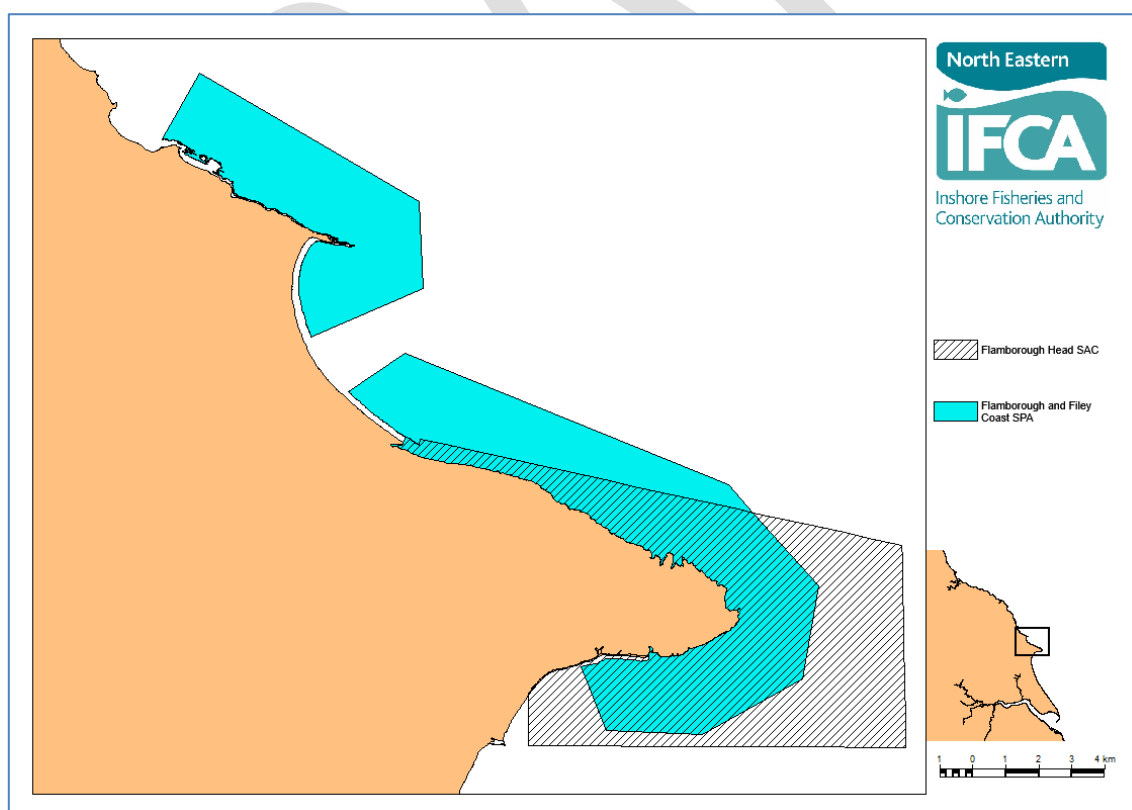
Flamborough Head Monitoring and Control Plan

Version control		
Date	Version	Editor
26/02/2018	1.1	TS

Adaptive Risk Management as a component of the ecosystem-based approach to management, integrating conservation and fisheries management objectives, is central to sustainable development of the marine environment. Fishing is a dynamic industry with changing patterns of effort and new commercial fisheries developing. It is the role of the regulators to assess these changes over time and to implement management should adverse effects be expected or determined. In order for this process to be effective, a clear and defined feedback process must be put in place as part of the assessment process in order to ensure that the site remains or moves towards achieving its conservation objectives. A Monitoring and Control Plan (M&C Plan) is therefore required as a condition of the HRA to define and describe the elements that make up this feedback process.

This document should be viewed and considered in-combination with the relevant HRA documents referenced below.

1. Site map



2. Table of assessments for 'red risk' management, AAs/detailed tLSEs:

Designation	Feature	Gear type	Assessment Conclusion (no LSE / no AEOSI)	Management measures	Reference to HRA catalogue
SAC	Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef, Subtidal bedrock reef, Subtidal boulder and cobble reef, Kelp forest communities	Towed	n/a	Byelaw III Byelaw XXVI - Spatial restriction Byelaw XXVII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	n/a
SAC	Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef, Subtidal bedrock reef, Subtidal boulder and cobble reef, Kelp forest communities	Pots/creels (crustacea/gastropods)	No AEOSI	Byelaw XXII Byelaw XXVII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	FHEMS-tLSE-04/FHEMS-AA-01
SPA	Pursuit and plunge diving birds, Surface feeding birds	Pots/creels (crustacea/gastropods)	No AEOSI	Byelaw XXII Byelaw XXVII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	FHEMS-tLSE-17/FHEMS-AA-01
SAC	Intertidal bedrock reef, Intertidal boulder and cobble reef, Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef, Subtidal bedrock reef, Subtidal boulder and cobble reef, Kelp forest communities	Static - fixed nets	No AEOSI	Byelaw XVIII - Temporal and spatial restrictions Byelaw XXVII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	FHEMS-tLSE-07/FHEMS-AA-01
SPA	Pursuit and plunge diving birds, Surface feeding birds	Static - fixed nets	No AEOSI	Byelaw XVIII - Temporal and spatial restrictions Byelaw XXVII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	FHEMS-tLSE-07/FHEMS-AA-01
SAC	Intertidal bedrock reef, Intertidal boulder and cobble reef, Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef, Subtidal bedrock reef, Subtidal boulder and cobble reef, Kelp forest communities	Longlines	No LSE	Byelaw XXVII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	FHEMS-tLSE-10
SPA	Pursuit and plunge diving birds, Surface feeding birds	Longlines	No LSE	Byelaw XXVII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	FHEMS-tLSE-10

Designation	Feature	Gear type	Assessment Conclusion (no LSE / no AEOSI)	Management measures	Reference to HRA catalogue
SPA	Pursuit and plunge diving birds	Towed	No LSE	Byelaw III Byelaw XXVI - Spatial restriction Byelaw XXVII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	FHEMS-tLSE-16

Up to date feature information, locations and condition are available on the Natural England Designated Sites System (DSS)

at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

For characterisation of gear types currently used and associated distribution of effort see the appropriate HRA document from the table above.

3. Byelaws relevant to the monitoring and control plan.

- III. Trawling: Prohibitions: Exceptions
- XVIII. Fixed Engine Byelaw (revised 2017)
- XXII Permit to fish for lobster, crab, velvet crab and whelk
- XXVI Flamborough Head Fishing Byelaw
- XXVII Flamborough Head No Take Zone

Data deficiencies highlighted by the revised approach assessment process included the spatial distribution of effort and the resolution of current catch reporting systems. In response to these deficiencies NEIFCA are introducing two byelaws: **Byelaw XXX Automatic Identification System Byelaw 2016** and **Byelaw XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016**. While not intended as management/mitigation for any particular individual gear/feature interaction, it is felt that these measures are necessary to adequately monitor changing patterns of fishing activity and effort over time within the MPA network and the wider NEIFCA District..

Plan

Step 1: The table below lists the measures/triggers which will be monitored. These can include marine environmental triggers (bycatch - bird and cetaceans; new information gained from other organisations ie RSPB/YWT surveys etc.), a change in environmental parameters (condition etc) or a change in fishing methods/intensity/scale would be considered as a trigger.

Trigger / Measure	Period	Action
Potting effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Netting effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Longline effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Trawling effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Bird bycatch monitoring, detection of any increase in bycatch	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report. If an increase of 10% in bycatch is noted (from a baseline to be established), proceed to step 2.
Detection of any netting activities within Flamborough & Filey Coast pSPA	March to September inclusive	Enforcement Action
Detection of any trawling within Prohibited Trawl Areas (PTAs)	Continuous	Enforcement Action
Condition Assessment	Every 6 years	NE to provide up to date condition assessment on relevant features.

In order to assess changes over time an annual effort report will be produced to include:

- Summary data of trawl catch returns from within the site
- Summary data of potting catch returns from within the site
- Summary data of longline and netting catch returns from within the site and within foraging ranges of bird features
- Any recorded marine mammal or seabird bycatch information
- Thematic map of vessel sightings/AIS (track intensity/time spent)
- Permit information and numbers
- Assessment of whether effort has increased/requirement to update HRA

Should an increase in effort or change in fishing practices occur, proceed to Step 2. If no increase or change, remain at Step 1 until following year. A periodic review/update of the HRAs should be carried out every 6 years.

Step 2: Any increase from baseline (effort set out in HRA) is considered:

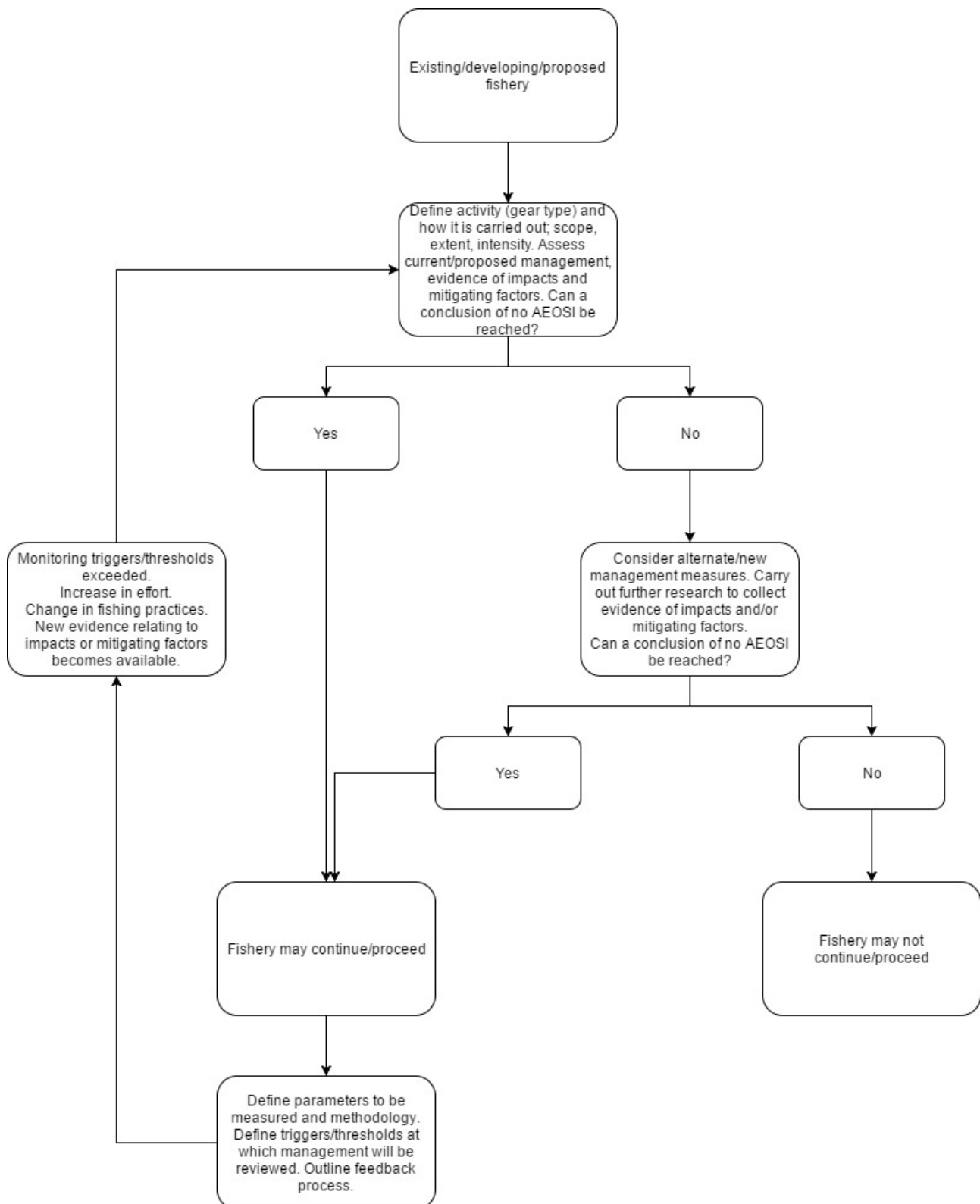
- Reassess available data; collect more data if necessary (sightings, surveys etc)
- Reassessment of HRA
- Is the increase likely to have an AEOSI?
 - o If no, go back to Step 1
 - o If yes, look at further management in Step 3

Step 3: Potential adaptive risk management steps:

- Can mitigation options/adaptive risk management be considered to prevent AEOSI? Options may include: seasonal closure, closed areas, gear restrictions, adapted byelaw
 - o If yes, follow procedure to implement appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring/evidence gathering processes. Once suitable measures are in place update monitoring and control plan and HRA then return to Step 1
 - o If no, closure of fishery

DRAFT

Assessment outline process



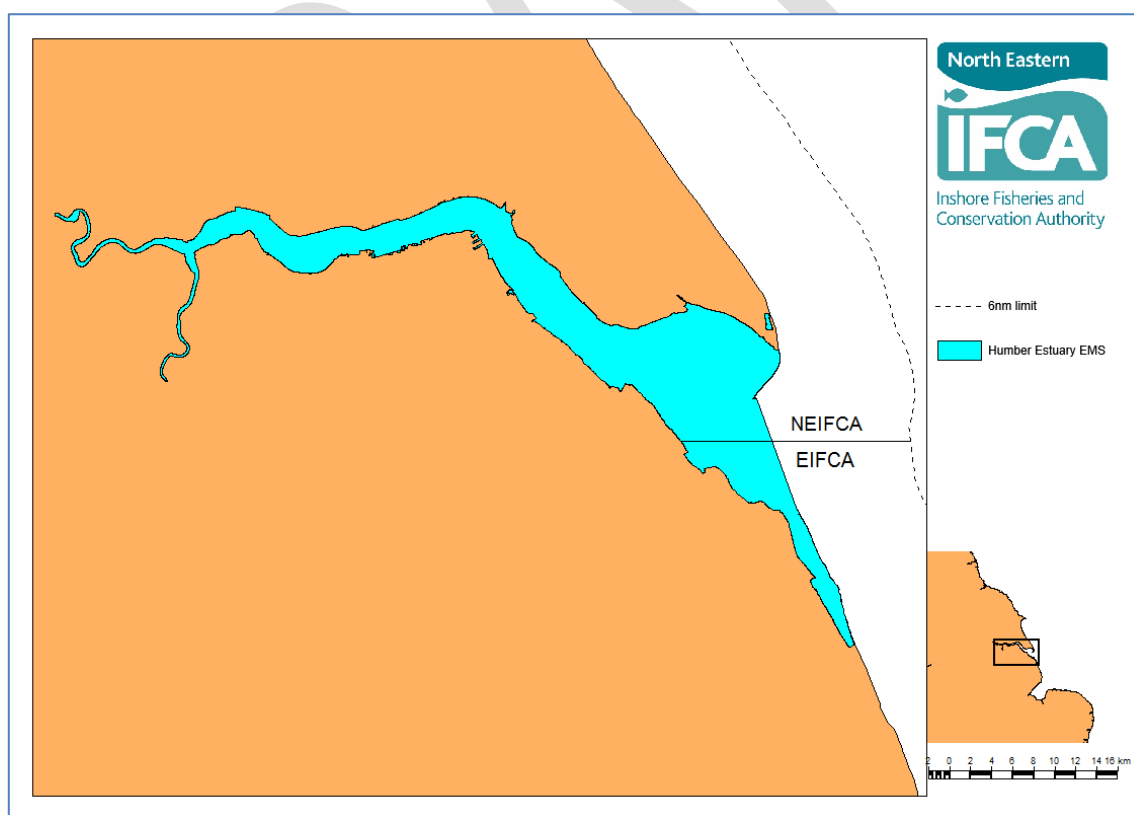
Humber Estuary Monitoring and Control Plan

Version control		
Date	Version	Editor
26/02/2018	1.1	TS

Adaptive Risk Management as a component of the ecosystem-based approach to management, integrating conservation and fisheries management objectives, is central to sustainable development of the marine environment. Fishing is a dynamic industry with changing patterns of effort and new commercial fisheries developing. It is the role of the regulators to assess these changes over time and to implement management should adverse effects be expected or determined. In order for this process to be effective, a clear and defined feedback process must be put in place as part of the assessment process in order to ensure that the site remains or moves towards achieving its conservation objectives. A Monitoring and Control Plan (M&C Plan) is therefore required as a condition of the HRA to define and describe the elements that make up this feedback process.

This document should be viewed and considered in-combination with the relevant HRA documents referenced below.

1. Site map



2. Table of assessments for 'red risk' management, AAs/detailed tLSEs:

Designation	Feature	Gear type	Assessment Conclusion (no LSE / no AEOSI)	Management measure	Reference to HRA catalogue
SAC	Seagrass	All	n/a	Byelaw XXIX	n/a
SAC	Subtidal sandbanks	Towed	No AEOSI	Byelaw III Byelaw XXIX - 2017 revision to include limited permit scheme Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	HEEMS-tLSE-01/HEEMS-AA-01
SAC/SPA	Intertidal mud and sand	Towed	No AEOSI	Byelaw III Byelaw XXIX - 2017 revision to include limited permit scheme Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	HEEMS-tLSE-02/HEEMS-AA-01
SAC	Grey seals	Towed	No AEOSI	Byelaw III Byelaw XXIX - 2017 revision to include limited permit scheme Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	HEEMS-tLSE-06/HEEMS-AA-01
SPA	Surface feeding birds	Towed	No AEOSI	Byelaw III Byelaw XXIX - 2017 revision to include limited permit scheme Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	HEEMS-tLSE-07/HEEMS-AA-01
SAC/SPA	River and sea lamprey	Towed	No LSE	Byelaw III Byelaw XXIX - 2017 revision to include limited permit scheme Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	HEEMS-tLSE-05
SAC/SPA	Subtidal Sandbanks, Intertidal mud and sand, Coastal lagoons, River and sea lamprey, Surface feeding birds, Surface feeding birds, Intertidal mixed sediments	Longlines	No LSE	Byelaw XVIII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	HEEMS-tLSE-15
SPA	Surface feeding birds	Static – fixed nets	No LSE	Byelaw XVIII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	HEEMS-tLSE-24

Up to date feature information, locations and condition are available on the Natural England Designated Sites System (DSS)

at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

For characterisation of gear types currently used and associated distribution of effort see the appropriate HRA document from the table above.

3. Byelaws relevant to the monitoring and control plan.

- III. Trawling: Prohibitions: Exceptions
- XVIII. Fixed Engine Byelaw (revised 2017)
- XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw (revised 2017)

Data deficiencies highlighted by the revised approach assessment process included the spatial distribution of effort and the resolution of current catch reporting systems. In response to these deficiencies NEIFCA are introducing two byelaws: **Byelaw XXX Automatic Identification System Byelaw 2016** and **Byelaw XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016**. While not intended as management/mitigation for any particular individual gear/feature interaction, it is felt that these measures are necessary to adequately monitor changing patterns of fishing activity and effort over time within the MPA network and the wider NEIFCA District.

Plan

Step 1: The table below lists the measures/triggers which will be monitored. These can include marine environmental triggers (bycatch - bird and cetaceans; new information gained from other organisations ie RSPB/YWT surveys etc.), a change in environmental parameters (condition etc) or a change in fishing methods/intensity/scale would be considered as a trigger.

Trigger / Measure	Period	Action
Trawling effort, detection of any increase in effort from baseline set out in HRA	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Longlining effort, detection of any increase in effort from baseline set out in HRA. Consider foraging range of bird species outside of EMS boundary.	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Netting effort, detection of any increase in effort from baseline set out in HRA. Consider foraging range of bird species outside of EMS boundary.	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report. If any increase in effort is noted, proceed to step 2.
Bird bycatch monitoring, detection of any increase in bycatch	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report. If any increase in bycatch is noted, proceed to step 2.
Detection of any activity within seagrass byelaw area	Continuous	Enforcement action
Condition Assessment	Every 6 years	NE to provide up to date condition assessment on relevant features

In order to assess changes over time an annual effort report will be produced to include:

- Summary data of trawl catch returns from within the site
- Summary data of longline and netting catch returns from within the site and within foraging ranges of bird features
- Any recorded marine mammal or seabird bycatch information
- Thematic map of vessel sightings/AIS (track intensity/time spent)
- Permit information and numbers
- Assessment of whether effort has increased/requirement to update HRA

Should an increase in effort or change in fishing practices occur, proceed to Step 2. If no increase or change, remain at Step 1 until following year. A periodic review/update of the HRAs should be carried out every 6 years.

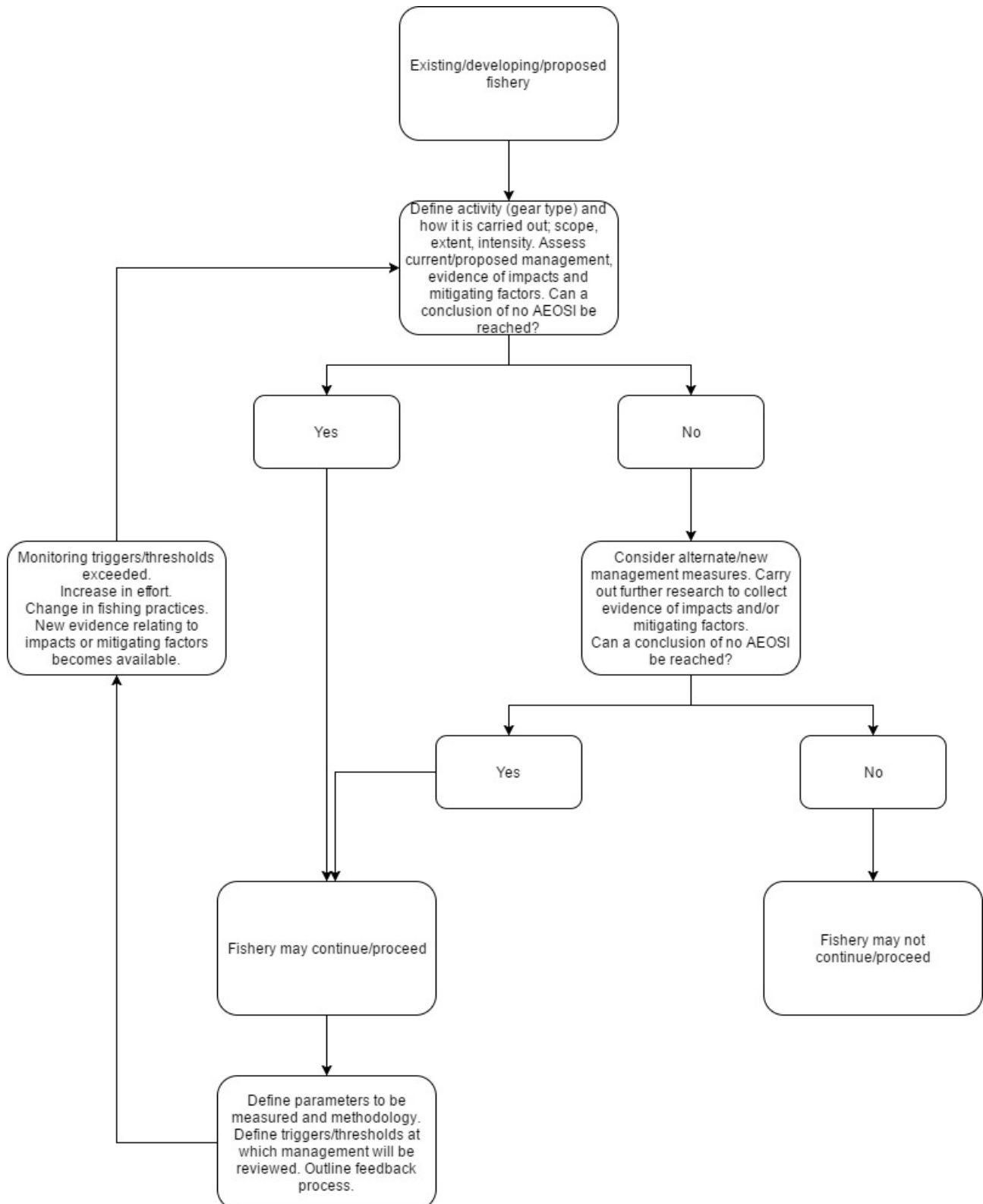
Step 2: Any increase from baseline (effort set out in HRA) is considered:

- Reassess available data; collect more data if necessary (sightings, surveys etc)
- Reassessment of HRA
- Is the increase likely to have an AEOSI?
 - o If no, go back to Step 1
 - o If yes, look at further management in Step 3

Step 3: Potential adaptive risk management steps:

- Can mitigation options/adaptive risk management be considered to prevent AEOSI? Options may include: seasonal closure, closed areas, gear restrictions, adapted byelaw
 - o If yes, follow procedure to implement appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring/evidence gathering processes. Once suitable measures are in place update monitoring and control plan and HRA then return to Step 1
 - o If no, closure of fishery

Assessment outline process



DRAFT

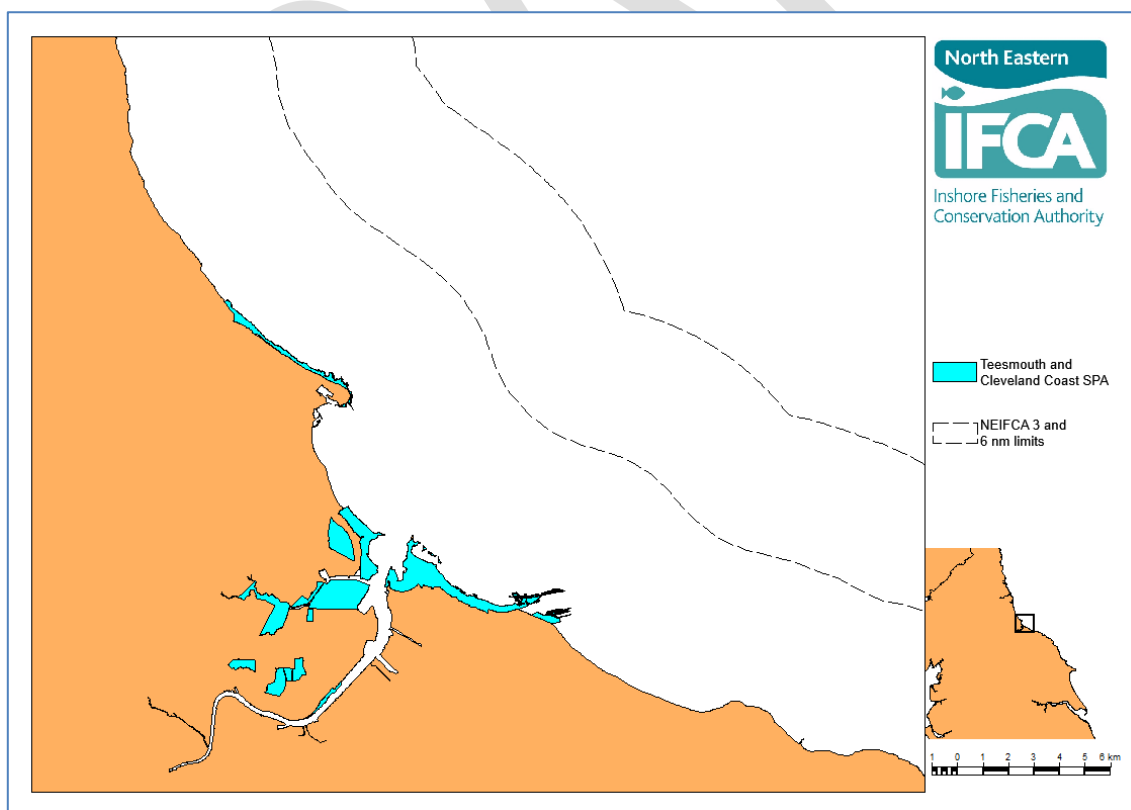
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Monitoring and Control Plan

Version control		
Date	Version	Editor
26/02/2018	1.1	TS

Adaptive Risk Management as a component of the ecosystem-based approach to management, integrating conservation and fisheries management objectives, is central to sustainable development of the marine environment. Fishing is a dynamic industry with changing patterns of effort and new commercial fisheries developing. It is the role of the regulators to assess these changes over time and to implement management should adverse effects be expected or determined. In order for this process to be effective, a clear and defined feedback process must be put in place as part of the assessment process in order to ensure that the site remains or moves towards achieving its conservation objectives. A Monitoring and Control Plan (M&C Plan) is therefore required as a condition of the HRA to define and describe the elements that make up this feedback process.

This document should be viewed and considered in-combination with the relevant HRA documents referenced below.

1. Site map



2. Table of assessments for AAs/detailed tLSEs:

Designation	Feature	Gear type	Assessment Conclusion (no LSE / no AEOSI)	Management measures	Reference to HRA catalogue
SPA	Estuarine fish community, Surface feeding birds, Pursuit and plunge diving birds	Static – fixed nets	No AEOSI	Byelaw XVIII Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	TCCEMS-tLSE-16/TCCEMS-AA-01
SPA	Surface feeding birds, Pursuit and plunge diving birds	Fish traps	No AEOSI	Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	TCCEMS-tLSE-05/TCCEMS-AA-01
SPA	Surface feeding birds, Pursuit and plunge diving birds	Lines	No LSE	Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	TCCEMS-tLSE-07
SPA	Estuarine rock (boulder, cobble and bedrock)	Towed	No LSE	Byelaw III Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	TCCEMS-tLSE-13
SPA	Estuarine fish community	Towed	No LSE	Byelaw III Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	TCCEMS-tLSE-14
SPA	Pursuit and plunge diving birds	Towed	No LSE	Byelaw III Byelaw XXX Byelaw XXXI	TCCEMS-tLSE-18

Up to date feature information, locations and condition are available on the Natural England Designated Sites System (DSS)

at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

For characterisation of gear types currently used and associated distribution of effort see the appropriate HRA document from the table above.

3. Byelaws relevant to the monitoring and control plan.

- III. Trawling: Prohibitions: Exceptions
- XVIII. Fixed Engine Byelaw

Data deficiencies highlighted by the revised approach assessment process included the spatial distribution of effort and the resolution of current catch reporting systems. In response to these deficiencies NEIFCA are introducing two byelaws: **Byelaw XXX Automatic Identification System Byelaw 2016** and **Byelaw XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016**. While not intended as management/mitigation for any particular individual gear/feature interaction, it is felt that these measures are necessary to adequately monitor changing patterns of fishing activity and effort over time within the MPA network and the wider NEIFCA District..

Plan

Step 1: The table below lists the measures/triggers which will be monitored. These can include marine environmental triggers (bycatch - bird and cetaceans; new information gained from other organisations ie RSPB/YWT surveys etc.), a change in environmental parameters (condition etc) or a change in fishing methods/intensity/scale would be considered as a trigger.

Trigger / Measure	Period	Action
Netting effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Fish trap effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Longline effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Trawling effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Bird bycatch monitoring, detection of any increase in bycatch	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report. If any increase in bycatch is noted, proceed to step 2.
Condition Assessment	Every 6 years	NE to provide up to date condition assessment on relevant features

In order to assess changes over time an annual effort report will be produced to include:

- Summary data of netting, fish trap and longline catch returns from within the site and within foraging ranges of bird features
- Any recorded marine mammal or seabird bycatch information
- Thematic map of vessel sightings/AIS (track intensity/time spent)
- Permit information and numbers
- Assessment of whether effort has increased/requirement to update HRA

Should an increase in effort or change in fishing practices occur, proceed to Step 2. If no increase or change, remain at Step 1 until following year. A periodic review/update of the HRAs should be carried out every 6 years.

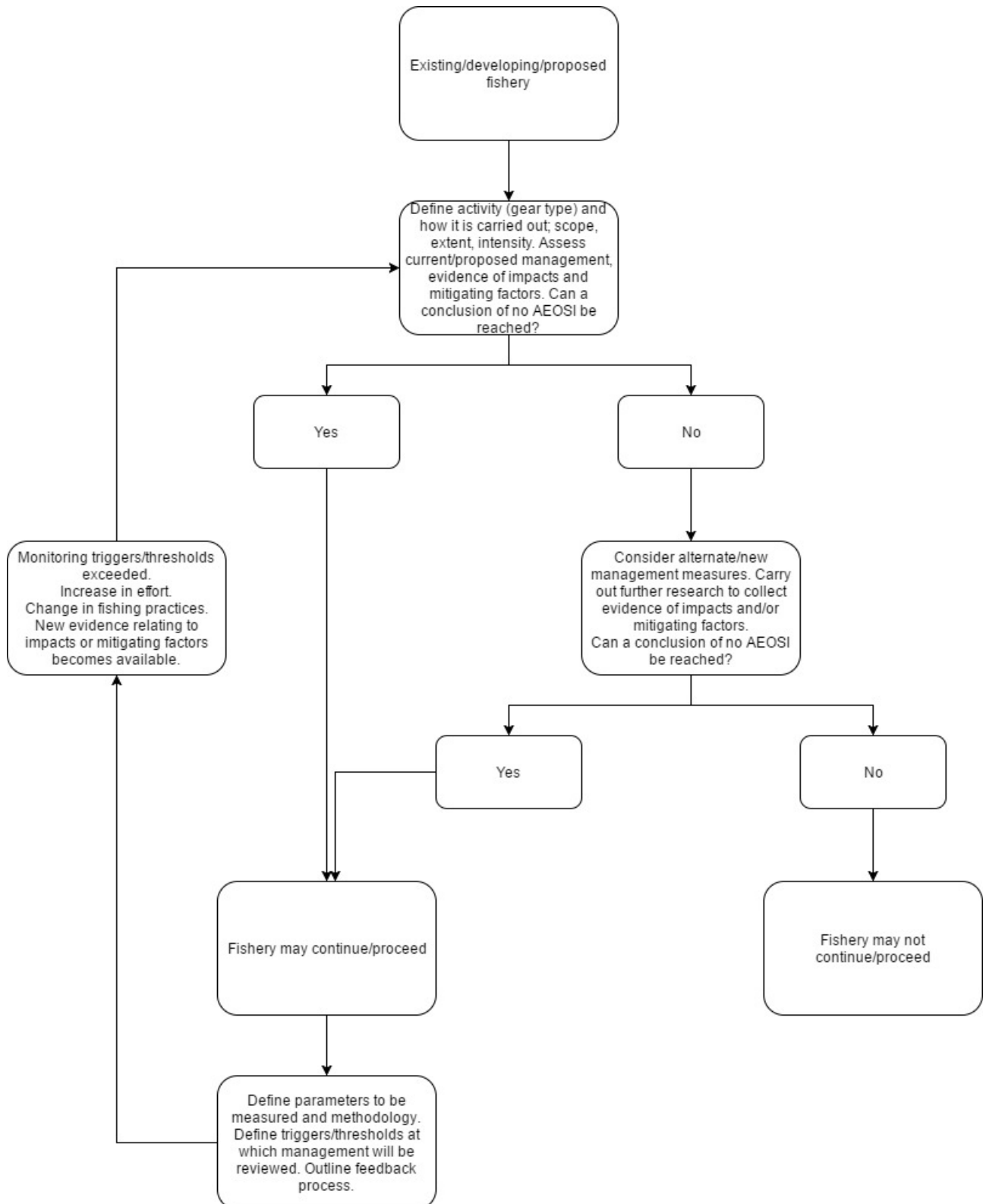
Step 2: Any increase from baseline (effort set out in HRA) is considered:

- Reassess available data; collect more data if necessary (sightings, surveys etc)
- Reassessment of HRA
- Is the increase likely to have an AEOSI?
 - o If no, go back to Step 1
 - o If yes, look at further management in Step 3

Step 3: Potential adaptive risk management steps:

- Can mitigation options/adaptive risk management be considered to prevent AEOSI? Options may include: seasonal closure, closed areas, gear restrictions, adapted byelaw
 - o If yes, follow procedure to implement appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring/evidence gathering processes. Once suitable measures are in place update monitoring and control plan and HRA then return to Step 1
 - o If no, closure of fishery

Assessment outline process



DRAFT

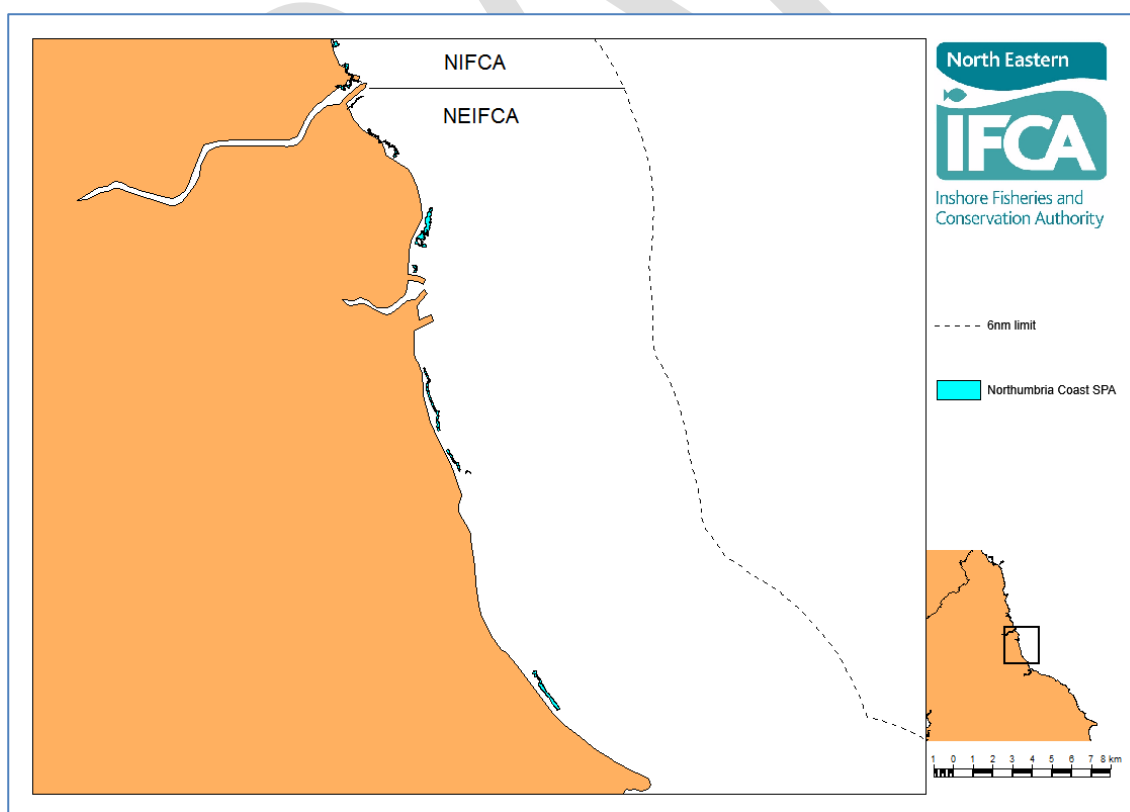
Northumbria Coast Monitoring and Control Plan

Version control		
Date	Version	Editor
26/02/2018	1.1	TS

Adaptive Risk Management as a component of the ecosystem-based approach to management, integrating conservation and fisheries management objectives, is central to sustainable development of the marine environment. Fishing is a dynamic industry with changing patterns of effort and new commercial fisheries developing. It is the role of the regulators to assess these changes over time and to implement management should adverse effects be expected or determined. In order for this process to be effective, a clear and defined feedback process must be put in place as part of the assessment process in order to ensure that the site remains or moves towards achieving its conservation objectives. A Monitoring and Control Plan (M&C Plan) is therefore required as a condition of the HRA to define and describe the elements that make up this feedback process.

This document should be viewed and considered in-combination with the relevant HRA documents referenced below.

1. Site map



2. Table of assessments for 'red risk' management, AAs/detailed tLSEs:

Designation	Feature	Gear type	Assessment Conclusion (no LSE / no AEOSI)	Management measures	Reference to HRA catalogue
SPA	Estuarine fish community	Towed	No LSE	Byelaw III	NCEMS-tLSE-02

Up to date feature information, locations and condition are available on the Natural England Designated Sites System (DSS)

at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

For characterisation of gear types currently used and associated distribution of effort see the appropriate HRA document from the table above.

3. Byelaws relevant to the monitoring and control plan.

- III. Trawling: Prohibitions: Exceptions

Data deficiencies highlighted by the revised approach assessment process included the spatial distribution of effort and the resolution of current catch reporting systems. In response to these deficiencies NEIFCA are introducing two byelaws: **Byelaw XXX Automatic Identification System Byelaw 2016** and **Byelaw XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016**. While not intended as management/mitigation for any particular individual gear/feature interaction, it is felt that these measures are necessary to adequately monitor changing patterns of fishing activity and effort over time within the MPA network and the wider NEIFCA District..

Plan

Step 1: The table below lists the measures/triggers which will be monitored. These can include marine environmental triggers (bycatch - bird and cetaceans; new information gained from other organisations ie RSPB/YWT surveys etc.), a change in environmental parameters (condition etc) or a change in fishing methods/intensity/scale would be considered as a trigger.

Trigger / Measure	Period	Action
Trawling effort	Annually	Analyse available data into an annual effort report.
Condition Assessment	Every 6 years	NE to provide up to date condition assessment on relevant features

In order to assess changes over time an annual effort report will be produced to include:

- Summary data of trawling catch returns from within foraging ranges of bird features
- Any recorded marine mammal or seabird bycatch information
- Thematic map of vessel sightings/AIS (track intensity/time spent)
- Permit information and numbers
- Assessment of whether effort has increased/requirement to update HRA

Should an increase in effort or change in fishing practices occur, proceed to Step 2. If no increase or change, remain at Step 1 until following year. A periodic review/update of the HRAs should be carried out every 6 years.

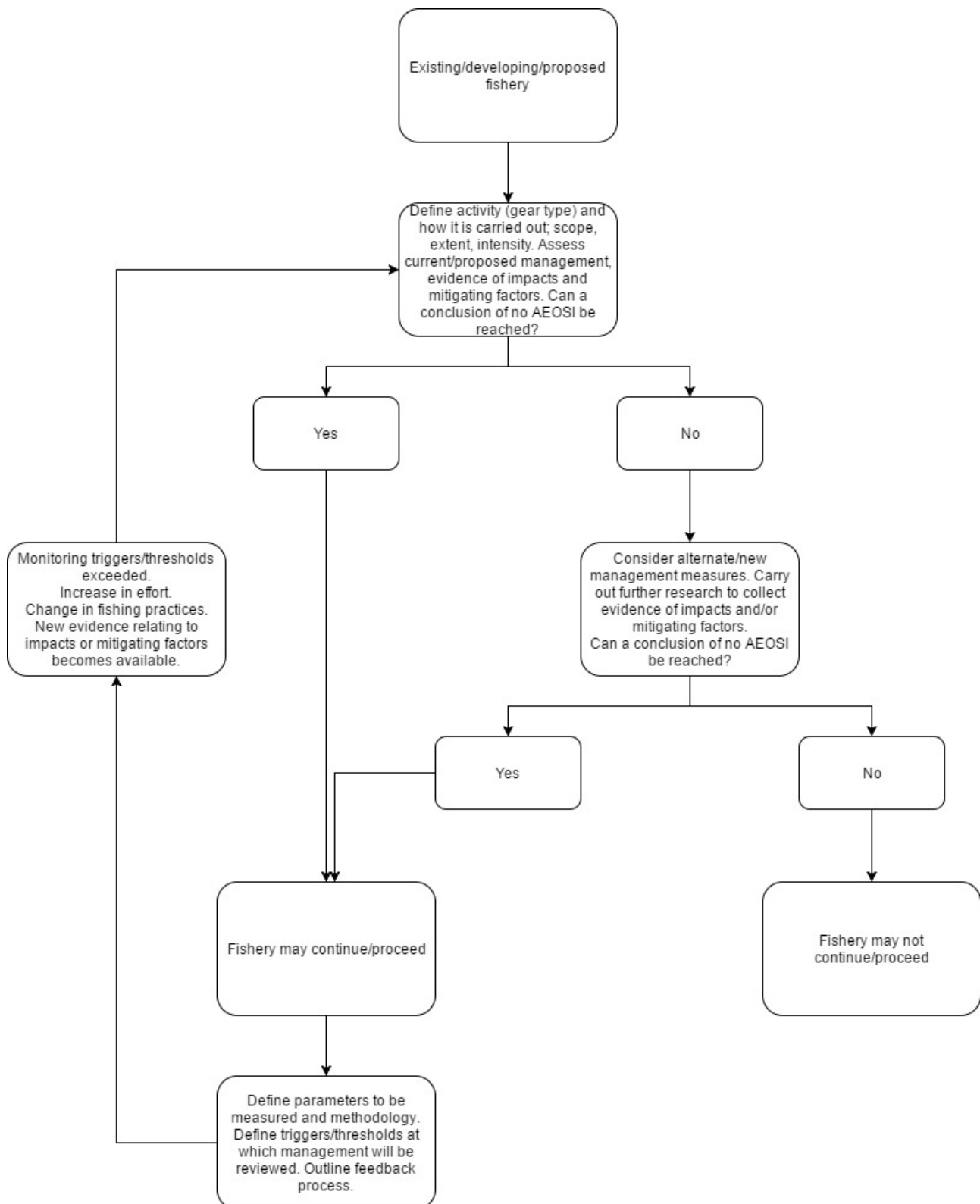
Step 2: Any increase from baseline (effort set out in HRA) is considered:

- Reassess available data; collect more data if necessary (sightings, surveys etc)
- Reassessment of HRA
- Is the increase likely to have an AEOSI?
 - o If no, go back to Step 1
 - o If yes, look at further management in Step 3

Step 3: Potential adaptive risk management steps:

- Can mitigation options/adaptive risk management be considered to prevent AEOSI? Options may include: seasonal closure, closed areas, gear restrictions, adapted byelaw
 - o If yes, follow procedure to implement appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring/evidence gathering processes. Once suitable measures are in place update monitoring and control plan and HRA then return to Step 1
 - o If no, closure of fishery

Assessment outline process



NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Science Advisory Group
8 March 2018

NEIFCA Byelaws Update

Report by the Chief Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To update Members on progression with all byelaws currently subject to formal review and amendment and provide some final recommendations for consideration.

B. Recommendation

1. That members note the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 The following four byelaw regulations have now been received by Defra for formal confirmation:
 - XVIII Method and Area of Fishing (Netting) Byelaw 2016
 - XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2016
 - XXX Automatic Identification System (AIS) Byelaw 2016
 - XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016

- 1.2 The following byelaw regulation is currently being drafted and it is anticipated that informal consultation on its main provisions will commence sometime during the next four months of 2018:

1.2.1 Byelaw XXII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2018

Expected revisions to include a new restricted shellfish permit scheme incorporating the following provisions:

- Shellfish permits capped at a maximum of 330 (includes a 10% uplift on current number)
- Vessels capped at current potting track record (2017) up to a maximum of 1000 pots
- Vessels without any track record or 'new entrant' provided with a nominal allocation of pots
- Appeals process for pot allocation scheme.
- Annual 'waiting' lists for permits maintained if required.
- Inclusion of a permit and pot allocation transfer system onto new or replacement vessels.

- Establishment of a 'basic' gear tagging scheme to enable enforcement of pot allocations.
- Proposed reduction in the number of permitted hobby pots to five implemented at the same time.
- Current provisions surrounding the marking of fishing gear retained.
- Establishment of a 'review' provision which would enable the amendment of permit conditions subject to process.

These provisions are designed to cap effort at current levels only and provide a mechanism to support a reduction in overall effort in the medium to longer term.

- 1.3 The following byelaw regulation has been drafted and will be presented to the full Committee on 14 June 2018 for formal making:

1.3.1 **Crustacea Conservation Byelaw 2018**

This new byelaw will incorporate provisions for the protection of egg bearing lobsters and 'V' notched lobsters which are currently subject to separate regulations. The protection of egg bearing lobsters through emergency byelaw provisions which will expire at the beginning of October 2018 although officers have an option to apply to the Minister for an additional six month extension. This new regulation will also carry a maximum pot frame size of 50 cm high x 60 cm wide x 110 cm long and a standardisation of maximum vessel length relating to potting, inside three nautical miles across the district, with the inclusion of a supporting 'sunset' clause.

Contact Officer

David McCandless, Chief Officer
Ext. 3690

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Science Advisory Group
8 March 2018

Licensing & Consents Update

Report by the Chief Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To update Members on marine licensing and consent applications reviewed by officers since the last meeting on 7 September 2017.

B. Recommendation

1. That members note the report.

1. Background

The Authority's Environmental & Scientific team review a wide range of marine licensing and consent applications throughout the year covering offshore renewables (wind and tidal), gas cavern development, harbour works, maintenance and capital dredge activities, pipeline and cable corridors/landfall and discharges to the marine environment. As a relevant authority, NEIFCA is consulted on all such developments within and abounding the district. Applications relating to marine developments can be numerous and each one is considered both independently and cumulatively with any other neighbouring activities. Authority Officers also play an active role in any working groups established for the monitoring and surveillance of such developments.

- 1.1 A summary of all marine licensing and consent applications dealt with since the last meeting of the group on 7 September 2017 is provided in Table 1. The majority of applications covered relatively routine activities aside from the application to commence a 'small scale' pilot enterprise growing seaweed and mussels off Scarborough on the North Yorkshire coast. In response to this application NEIFCA officers made the following points:

- It was not clear from the consultation if the proposal was for a small scale pilot study or for a full scale aquaculture endeavour.
- The size of the equipment being deployed and the overall 'foot print' taken up needed to be categorically defined within the application.
- Had mooring capability been adequately taken into account? Permanently anchored structures must have proper buoyage and lighting. NEIFCA recommended contacting MCA for advice.
- The exact location of the gear needed to be specified.
- Trawling activity could pose a risk to aquaculture equipment.

- Had emergency plans been considered for adverse weather conditions with regard to braking of moorings and the associated risks to other vessels. The proposed area is exposed.
- Water quality in the area is known to be poor at times. Local environmental health must be contacted to ascertain if shellfish could be sold for human consumption.
- Harvesting quantities needed to be defined i.e. species of seaweed (kg) per year proposed to be taken.
- Where would the 'seed' mussel come from? A minimum conservation reference size for Blue Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) of 51mm is enforced. Therefore collection of any mussel smaller than this may constitute a breach of local and national legislation.
- The proposed site is known as a porpoise calving area and for relatively high numbers of grey seals. Has the licensee considered such interactions?

Whilst NEIFCA officers were supportive in principle of the application there remained insufficient information on which to base a final decision. The following key areas of concern include:

- Target species
- Harvest location and relationship to protected areas and features
- Harvest quantities
- Impacts of removal and recovery (including baseline conditions and monitoring provision)

Contact Officer

Tim Smith, Environmental & Conservation Officer
Ext. 3515

Table 1: Summary of Marine Licensing & Consent Applications

<i>Proposal Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>
Hull River defence	28/09/2017
Dolphin walkway remediation	28/09/2017
St Marys Island	28/09/2017
Runswick Bay coastal improvement scheme	28/09/2017
Keadby intake outfall dredging	19/10/2017
Whitby Piers refurbishment	26/10/2017
Sunderland tall ships event	26/10/2017
Northern Gateway Container Terminal Teesport	20/11/2017
Seaweed and mussel aquaculture Yorkshire Coast	22/11/2017
Maintenance Dredging Humber Dock	01/12/2017
Teesside OWF & O&M licence	03/01/2018
Teesside Quay 1 Extension	03/01/2018
HMS Calliope Pontoons	03/01/2018
Hornsea Anemometry Mast	08/01/2018
Scarborough Harbour Disposal Maintenance dredgings	08/01/2018
Return of HM Bark Endeavour to Whitby	05/02/2018
Flat Cliffs Urgent Works	05/02/2018
Lindisfarne Causeway ditching	13/02/2018
Installation of boat lift	13/02/2018
Water sculpture -GEOTN	13/02/2018

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Science Advisory Group
8 March 2018

NEIFCA Projects Update

Report by the Chief Officer.

A. **Purpose of Report**

To update Members on the progress of all active externally funded project initiatives.

B. **Recommendation**

That members note the report.

1. **Background**

Currently officers are supporting the following externally funded projects:

- Defra funded bait collection project – commenced in September 2017
- EMFF funded lobster marketing project – commenced in December 2017

1.1 **Project Updates**

1.1.1 **Bait Collection Project**

This Defra funded project commenced during September 2017 in partnership with Hull University who assigned an MSc student, James Buck, to support the work. The work involves completing monthly activity surveys at three main bait collection sites located at Kilnsea, Bran Sands on the Tees Estuary and Humberston in the Humber Estuary, supported by two online surveys to capture the views of anglers and those actively involved in gathering bait throughout the Authority's district. These surveys can be accessed through the following links:

<https://hull.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/neifca-bait-collection-survey-2018>

<https://hull.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/neifca-bait-collection-survey-2018-anglers>

To date 17 activity surveys have now been completed with the Tees Estuary showing as the most active area for bait collection within the Authority's district.

1.1.2 Lobster Marketing Project

This partnership project with Hull University, funded through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, commenced on 6 December 2017. The first phase of gathering and collating information, data and baseline information is now close to completion.

Contact Officer

Tim Smith, Environmental & Conservation Officer
Ext. 3515