



MEMBER PROFILES

2021-2022

North Eastern Inshore
Fisheries and Conservation
Authority



From NE-IFCA

OUR MEMBERS...

From rugged chalk cliffs full of nesting seabirds to rocky reefs teeming with crabs and lobsters, the marine environments of the North East coast of England are amongst the best examples in the UK. Our seas support the livelihoods of local commercial fishermen and their communities and provide a destination for hobby fishers targeting fish and shellfish.

NEIFCA is responsible for the management of fisheries and fisheries activities in Marine Protected Areas out to a distance of **six nautical miles**. Our job is to ensure that the marine environment continues to support healthy fisheries and vice-versa.

As a member you have an incredibly important role to play in supporting and guiding the successful delivery of the Authority's statutory duties and responsibilities and ultimately, a sustainable well managed inshore marine environment.

We think it's important to get to know our members, you bring a host of knowledge and unique experience to our team. Please see below biographies for each of the members who belong to our authority.



NEIFCA comprises representatives from the 11 coastal Local Authorities within its area together with 14 members appointed by the Marine Management Organisation and one member appointed by each of the Marine Management Organisation, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The total membership of the Authority is 30.

Appointed by the Constituent Local Authorities

Durham County Council

Cllr Mark Wilkes

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Cllr Chris Matthews

Cllr John Copsey

Hartlepool Borough Council

Cllr Shane Moore

Kingston Upon Hull Council

Cllr Phil Webster **Vice Chair**

North East Lincolnshire Council

Cllr Stephen Harness

North Lincolnshire Council

Cllr Ron Allcock

North Yorkshire County Council

Cllr David Chance

Cllr Tony Randerson

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Cllr Martin Fletcher

South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council

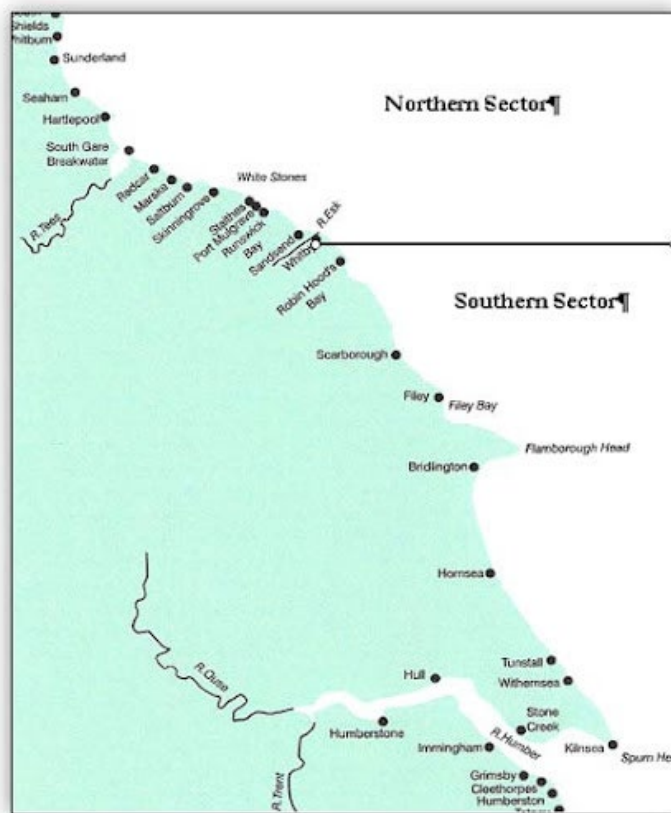
Cllr Norman Dick

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Cllr Michael Smith

Sunderland City Council

Cllr Paul Stewart



General Members Appointed by the Marine Management Organisation

Dr Stephen Axford **Chairman and Chair Science Advisory Group** – *Freshwater Fisheries Consultancy*

Dr Clare Fitzsimmons – *Programme Director & Assistant Director of Research Newcastle University*

Prof Mike Elliott – *Chair Estuarine & Coastal Sciences & Research Professor Department of Biological & Marine Sciences University of Hull*

Mr Mark Cole – *Commercial fisherman Whitby*

Mr Rob Houghton – *Consultant*

Mr Mike Montgomerie – *Marine Fisheries Consultant*

Mr Kevin Woodcock – *Regional Enforcement Support Manager Angling Trust NE*

Mr Gary Redshaw – *Commercial fishing*

Mr Andrew Wheeler – *Marine Fisheries Consultant*

Ms Rebecca Lynam – *North Sea Wildlife Trusts, Marine Advocacy Officer*

Mrs Donna-Maria Mear – *Marine science*

Mr Graham Collins – *Recreational and commercial fishing*

Dr Stephen Axford

I spent my career as a fisheries scientist with the Environment Agency and its predecessor bodies. The work was largely related to freshwater but included the northeast coastal salmon and sea trout fishery and tidal eel and lamprey fisheries. I took a particular interest in the monitoring of fish stocks and the management requirements of the data collected, and I still do. I managed several national research projects on fish populations and habitats.

I am a Fellow of the Institute of Fisheries Management and heavily involved in the Institute.

On retirement from the Environment Agency, I became a Marine Management Organisation appointee to NEIFCA and have been with them ever since. I was Chair of the Scientific Advisory Group and I am the current Chair of the Authority.

My experience with the Authority has given me appreciation for the careful balance that needs to be struck by NEIFCA between conservation and management of fish stocks and economic, social and legislative activities.

Professor Michael Elliott

Mike is the Director of International Estuarine & Coastal Specialists (IECS) Ltd and also the Professor of Estuarine and Coastal Sciences at the University of Hull, UK. He was Director of the former Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) at the university from 1996-2017. He is a marine biologist with a wide experience and interests and his teaching, research, advisory and consultancy includes estuarine and marine ecology, policy, governance and management. Mike has published widely, co-authoring/co-editing 20 books/proceedings and >300 scientific publications. This includes co-authoring '*The Estuarine Ecosystem: ecology, threats and management*' (with DS McLusky, OUP, 2004); '*Ecology of Marine Sediments: science to management*' (with JS Gray, OUP, 2009); '*Estuarine Ecohydrology: an introduction*' (with E Wolanski, Elsevier, 2015). He was an editor and contributor to the '*Coasts and Estuaries: the Future*' (Wolanski, Day, Elliott and Ramachandran; Elsevier, 2019), the *Treatise on Estuarine & Coastal Science* (Eds.-In-Chief - E Wolanski & DS McLusky, Elsevier) and *Fish and Fisheries in Estuaries: a global perspective* (Eds. Whitfield, Able, Blaber & Elliott, Wiley, 2 vols.). He has advised on many environmental matters for academia, industry, government and statutory bodies worldwide. Mike is a past-President of the international Estuarine & Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA) and is a Co-Editor-in-Chief of the international journal *Estuarine, Coastal & Shelf Science*; he currently is or has had Adjunct Professor and Research positions at Murdoch University (Perth), Klaipeda University (Lithuania), the University of Palermo (Italy), Xiamen University (China) and the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity. He was awarded Laureate of the Honorary Winberg Medal 2014 of the Russian Hydrobiological Academic Society. He is also a member of many national and international committees linking marine science to policy. He was calculated as the top-ranking author in Environmental Policy for 2011-2020: see <https://expertscape.com/ex/environmental+policy>

Miss Rebecca Lynam

Bex has a Masters degree from the University of York in Marine Environmental Management. Prior to this she spent a number of years working abroad in Australia, Egypt and Honduras contributing to marine citizen science, education and outreach programmes and data collection. In 2012 Bex began working for Cumbria Wildlife Trust leading the Trusts marine graduate training programme, a project designed to provide training opportunities and experiences for those wishing to enter the UK marine conservation sector. In 2015, Bex took up the role of Marine Advocacy Officer for the North Sea Wildlife Trusts (based with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in York) focusing on policy development and implementation, particularly in regard to Marine Protected Area designations. Through this role she works with a range of stakeholders, including researchers, statutory agencies, other NGOs and industry to secure positive change for marine wildlife. In 2019, Bex secured a Winston Churchill Memorial Fund Fellowship exploring approaches to marine mammal monitoring using citizen science across North America. Bex has attended NEIFCA meetings as an observer since 2015 and formally joined the NEIFCA Authority in 2020.

Cllr Paul Stewart

I have been a member of Sunderland Council since 1990 and during this time I have had a number of posts within the council including in my early career being the chair of the Port of Sunderland and last chair of the old Education Committee, before moving to a cabinet system. More recent experience includes over 10 years as chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, and since 2018 a member of Cabinet with finance and corporate services portfolio (official title is Cabinet Secretary). Outside of work as an elected member, I am the board chair of a local Co-operative (Bishopwearmouth Co-operative) that provides employment opportunities for adults with learning difficulties (we have a garden centre and café). In relation to paid employment, I currently work for Engie in partnership with North Tyneside Council as part of their services to schools within the Borough as a HR Business Partner. My previous employment history includes a finance/governance background when working with school for Northumberland County Council. Finally, I am a school governor at Willow Wood Primary School in the local area I represent – been a governor since 1988 and chair since 2015.

Mr Graham Collins

Ex commercial fisherman/inshore vessel owner (25 years), experienced in trawling, potting, lining and wreck netting, since 2000 I have owned and run angling tackle shops both in Scarborough and Bridlington

Cllr Chris Matthews

Member of NEIFCA since 2015

41 years Local Government Officer in General Municipal Engineering including the procurement of contracts and consultancy services.

Over 20 years experience in Flood protection and Coastal Management including the delivery of shoreline management plans and coastal strategies for both the North East Coastal Authorities Group and Humber Estuary Coastal Authorities Group.

East Riding of Yorkshire Councillor for over 18 years and member of the Cabinet for over 6 years

Current Director of the Humber Bridge Board

Cllr Stephen Harness

I am a ward councillor for Humberston and New Waltham. These two villages are located in the North East Lincolnshire Council and border the towns of Cleethorpes and Grimsby.

Grimsby has had a proud fishing tradition for many years. Despite the demise of the Grimsby fishing industry to a low number of fishing vessels operating from the port, Grimsby does retain a busy fish market.

Fish processing is an important local industry. The multi-million pound award winning Seafood Village estate is home to 21 Seafood processing units. Seafood processing is a very important industry for Grimsby.

On a personal level my working career was in local industry and not fishing. However my father was a trawler skipper and many of my male relatives were fishermen.

Cllr Tony Randerson

Age 70 years young

Served my time as a Marine Engineer (Sea Going) with BP Tanker Company and circumnavigated the world on a number of occasions.

Came ashore and worked as an Engineer for some 30 years in a number of local to Scarborough Factories.

Was extremely active during this period as a Trade Union Shop Steward and Convenor.

During the 1990's I was elected to both the North Yorkshire County Council and Scarborough Borough Council as a Labour Councillor, I served as a councillor until 2005 when I took up a position as a Regional Officer representing some 7,000 Unite the Union Members in Yorkshire and Humberside. I held this position until taking early retirement in 2013, when I was again asked to stand for Public Office by the Labour Party in the NYCC Division of Eastfield and Osgodby, later that year I was also asked to stand in a By-Election in the SBC Eastfield Ward. I am delighted to say that I was elected on both occasions and still hold these Public Office positions.

I have been an active member of NEIFCA for 8 years from NYCC.

Cllr Ron Allcock

I began work as a Trainee Pharmacist with Boots the Chemists. I then worked as a Research Chemist with a chemical company testing chemicals as bactericides. I then joined the Trent River Purification Board as a Divisional Pollution Control Inspector. The aim of the Board was to prevent pollution of the river Trent and its tributaries and to monitor and improve water quality. My role involved monitoring river quality and effluent discharges to ensure they met consent conditions and meeting dischargers to discuss effluent results and treatment plant requirements.

I spent the next 30 years working at a senior level in water pollution prevention roles with Yorkshire River Authority, the National Rivers Authority and Yorkshire Water in Doncaster, Leeds and Beverley. I then went to Scotland and worked for the Clyde River Purification Board before becoming the Director of the Tay River Purification Board in Perth. I ran the organisation that consisted of a team of Inspectors, Chemists and Hydrologists involved in pollution control, river flow monitoring and flood prevention. Before retiring I was responsible for supplying flow information for a comprehensive flood scheme for Perth.

In 2011 I was elected as a Councillor for North Lincolnshire Council. One of my duties is Lead Member for flooding. In this role, I am a member of a number of committees where I regularly meet members of the Environment Agency, Drainage Boards and Water Authorities developing flood alleviation schemes for the Lower Trent and South Bank of the Humber.

My qualifications are:

Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. CchemFRSC

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management. FCIWEM

Dr Clare Fitzsimmons

Clare's background in environmental research, coupled with commercial experience gained in defence and marine consultancy sectors has given her a wide array of interests. She now primarily conducts research investigating human interactions with ecological systems, in the UK and overseas, building on understanding developed to teach marine management and governance, marine consultancy and mapping at Newcastle University.

Interested in the ways in which human activities and their organisation impact upon the marine environment; she focuses on understanding decision making for natural resource management, and associated values and trade-offs made at multiple scales. Her local ecological programme centres on high value local crustacean stocks, associated habitats and fishing behaviour. Working with NERC, Cefas, Natural England, NIFCA and the MMO, she has provided management relevant research to support the designation of marine conservation zones, introduce byelaws to improve local fisheries management and explore interactions with the offshore wind sector (NERC, Cefas, Natural England, NIFCA, the MMO)

Mrs Donna-Marie Mear

I am a dedicated and resourceful professional, with a passion for ecology, specifically coastal, estuarine and marine environments, and have a keen interest in fisheries.

I have a good degree in Coastal Marine Biology and a Master's in environmental management, both of which gave me valuable knowledge and experience. As I have a strong interest in marine, I have undertaken additional research into marine and coastal habitat assessments focussing on fisheries. I have acquired extensive skills and experience through my education, alongside paid and voluntary work. I am an educator and a scientist with years of laboratory experience and a keen interest in research. Most recently I spent 6 months assisting a PhD student with research looking at long-term changes in Northumberland's coastal fish communities and worked alongside a Northumbria university lecturer looking at behaviours of captive freshwater turtles. The paper, 'Interest in Coloured Objects and Behavioural Budgets of Individual Captive Freshwater Turtle: Colour Interest and Behaviour in Turtles' has been accepted and published by the Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research and the poster was displayed at the ASAB Easter 2021 Conference.

I have previously worked as an education warden on a coastal nature reserve and have extensive knowledge of sea birds, and during my role was involved in delivering education sessions both formal and informal, guided bird watching sessions, and rockpool rambles and involved in monitoring populations. I have many years' experience working in environmental education, including work with Keep Britain Tidy and Catch 22, specifically using the environment to engage with 'at risk' youth. All of which I believe demonstrates my extensive experience of engaging and influencing the general public along with the ability to enthuse others about nature. Community engagement has been a key thread throughout my career.

Being a member of NE-IFCA is giving me valuable hands-on experience and a working knowledge of the fishing industry and coastal management. I hope in return I am able to help make a difference within the authority.

Mr Gary Redshaw

I am a retired commercial fisherman with 45 years' experience in the industry. Primarily with both inshore and offshore potting, but also experienced in trawling, lining, salmoning and netting. I am also a director of the Holderness Coast Fishing Industry Group.

Cllr Mark Wilkes

Mark is Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change at Durham County Council and has been a County Councillor for over 13 years. He has previously been a governor on both Primary and Secondary Schools, as well as a Director of social housing bodies.

Mark, who lives near Durham City has a law degree and post graduate legal qualifications and has also managed a retail firm, run his own translation company, as well as being a political organiser.

Mr Kevin Woodcock

I am Kevin Woodcock a retired Police Officer with of over 30 years' service, the first 6 years were with the Metropolitan Police before transferring to Durham Constabulary late 1993. Over the 30 years I have undertaken many roles. Core Policing, Neighbourhood Policing, Firearms, Communications, major crime team, and finally retiring as one of a small department investigating organised crime.

In June 2005 I was seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's International Policing Unit and posted to Basra, Iraq for 12 months. This was as part of a multi-national policing team responsible for the training of the Iraqi National Police, before returning to Durham Constabulary in June 2006.

Taking up sea angling over 15 years ago I regularly represent Durham Police Sea Angling Club in both shore and boat fishing events, with limited scope for sea angling I tried my hand at fly fishing and regularly fish local ponds, fisheries and reservoirs, assist in the running a charter boat out of Hartlepool whilst gaining several qualifications via the Royal Yacht Association.

In 2013 I founded Somet Fishy, a fishing scheme aimed at engaging the young and focusing their energies to the sport of angling, working with around 600-700 youths over the years.

Not being able to adjust to my retirement status, in November 2020 I was appointed as the new Regional Enforcement Support Manager for the Angling Trust's Volunteer Bailiff Service. Covering from the River Humber to the Scottish borders, east coast to the Lancashire Cumbria borders and responsible for the 95 volunteer bailiffs, liaising with the EA, Police and other government agencies whilst offering help and advice to the regions angling clubs.

Cllr David Chance

Brought up at Ugthorpe, near Whitby, David and started his carrier in Tourism and Entertainment in Whitby, Scarborough and Teesside County Borough Council Prior to serving time at sea with the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company. After Leaving the sea he went back to Local Government in Ayr, prior to going on to be the Head of Arts, Entertainment and Tourist Services in Cambridge, followed by Director of Tourism for the Ayrshire and Burns Country Tourist Board, prior to setting up his own business.

David was elected to Scarborough Borough Council in May 2011 and, in May 2012 he was asked to take over the Tourism and Culture Portfolio, which he held until 2015, when he resigned the Portfolio upon becoming a Cabinet Member for North Yorkshire County Council. He is a great advocate of closer partnership working with the North York Moors National Park Authority and East Riding.

David was elected a Member of North Yorkshire County Council, for the Whitby, Mayfield-cum-Mulgrave Division; in 2013 and joined the Cabinet in May 2015, as Executive Member for Stronger Communities, Legal and Democratic Services, Scrutiny, Corporate Development, Performance, and the work of the Area Committees. He also held the Public Health Portfolio for two years between 2015-2017.

David served as a Member of the North York Moors National Park Authority between 2011-13, a Board member of the Stephen Joseph Theatre and also a Board Member of the Creative Industries Centre between 2012-2015.

Mr Mike Montgomery

Having been working with the UK fishing Industry for more than 45 years, Mike originally trained as a secondary School teacher in Scotland before moving on to become a full time self-employed share fisherman on a 25 metre trawler in NE Scotland.

Mike spent 22 years in commercial fishing, the last 10 years as skipper /mate/ part owner on a 17 metre trawler working the waters to west of Scotland.

With this experience coupled with his past teaching experience Mike has an excellent knowledge of the skills, and complexity of these skills that are required by fishermen in the modern UK industry.

After 22 years at sea, Mike got the opportunity to move into a fisheries research and training role with Seafish. Mike developed what is now the only training courses available to fishermen in fishing gear technology, using a fisheries flume tank to deliver the course. Over his time at Seafish he has delivered courses on fishing gear technology to over 3000 fishermen. During Mikes 23 years with Seafish he was also involved with numerous gear technology projects throughout the UK developing more efficient or more selective fishing gear, many of these as project manager. Two more recent achievements are the development of the Seafish Gear Database. An online database providing information on fishing gear, its selectivity and technical information suitable for use by all sectors of the fishing industry (<https://seafish.org/gear-database/>) and being the sole author of the Seafish booklet on Basic Fishing Methods. <https://seafish.org/publications>

Mike has become accepted as one of the leading experts in the Europe on Fishing gears, presenting at many conferences and meetings. On retiring from Seafish in 2019 he has set up his own Fishing Gear consultancy to try to feed some of this knowledge and experience back into the industry that he is passionate about. This has proved to be an interesting and successful move for Mike undertaking several projects as a consultant on lost fishing gear and the recycling of fishing gear. Mike is also still doing some work in gear technology and training as well as writing articles for Fishing News.

Mr Andrew Wheeler

I am an MMO appointee on the NEIFCA board and have served several years. I currently have a Fisheries Consultancy business, Andy Wheeler Fisheries Consultancy Limited which I started when I was made redundant from my previous post as Fisheries and Coastal Business Adviser for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Following a spell working in the United States of America I returned to the UK and joined the Royal Bank of Scotland as a business manager with a wide-ranging portfolio of businesses. In this portfolio I had many fisheries businesses, many of the people of whom I knew from my time and connections within the fishing industry in the 1980s.

When the position with ERYC came up, I was fortunate enough to be appointed and set about helping the industry develop. I was able to secure over £2,000,000 in funding for the industry in seven years, as well as assisting with the purchase of new vessels and following the 2013 tidal surge developing the ERYC resilience fund strategy to enable the fishing industry to access funding to help with the aftermath. With Andy Wheeler Fisheries Consultancy Limited I represent sixty businesses all around the United Kingdom from all sectors of the fishing industry. Currently I sit on the National Crustacean Committee, The National Crab Management Group, and the Shellfish Industry Advisory Group where I am also on the working group developing the business continuity section for the National Shellfish Fisheries Policy. Away from the fishing industry I am a keen darts player at a high level and currently represent Humberside in the National Inter-Counties Championship Division and am one of the 128 tour card holders on the World Senior Darts Tour.