

**NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting:
11 March 2016: 11.00 a.m.**

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
7**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT AND ANNUAL PLAN

Purpose of Report: Update and Information

Recommendation: The report be received

Contents

- I) Defra
- II) Health and safety policy
- III) Officer and member changes
- IV) Association of IFCA
- V) Annual Plan 2016-7

I) Defra

1. IFCA funding was announced late December. Defra funding will continue at current level for the next spending review period. This is very good and unexpected news in the current climate. It demonstrates that protection of the marine environment continues to be a high government priority and it is a strong endorsement of IFCA work. EMS and MCZ work is seen in Government as very successful.
2. There is no progress to report in the joint IFCA – Defra - MMO programme looking at possible cost savings and efficiency improvements achievable through joint working and asset sharing. Meetings and planning continues but no outputs are available at the time of writing
3. The cross government review of the delivery of marine functions announced in late 2015 is also still at the planning stage. IFCA are included in the scope of this review although only part funded by Government. The AIFCA Chairman represents IFCA on the planning committee.

II) NWIFCA Health and Safety policy

4. The policy has been checked for breaches and reportable incidents in the last quarter (December 2015- March 2016). None have been recorded. The register of NWIFCO training is maintained.
5. The review and update of parts of the policy commissioned from H&S consultant Elsa Mason of DMA Safety Management Ltd based at Seafield in Cumbria is underway.

III) Officer and Member changes

6. NWIFCO Steve Brown retires at the end of February after almost 30 years' service with the Authority and previously the Sea Fisheries Committee. Steve had a fishing career. He left school in 1974 aged 15 to go fishing on his father's vessel the "Ideal". He took command as the youngest skipper in Fleetwood aged 19 and in 1981 purchased his own vessel which also became part of the family firm. Steve was very keen to become a Fishery Officer and was successful on his third attempt in 1987. He has mainly looked after the Fleetwood area of the District. His technical knowledge of fishing and the Eastern Irish

Sea is unparalleled. He has made an invaluable contribution to the IFCA by passing his experience to successive generations of IFCOs. In his last few weeks Steve has searched through the archives and compiled a report with pictures on all the patrol vessels operated by the Sea Fisheries Committee in North West England over the last 120 years or so. This report will be put on the website and included in the archives. Paper copies will be available from the Clerk. We wish Steve a long and happy retirement.

7. We are also sad to announce the departure of Science Officer Sarah Temple in February. Sarah has contributed to field surveys, byelaws, EMS work, an important Biosecurity plan for the District and science reports to the Authority in her 2.5 years of service. She goes to Marine Management Organization as a trained IFCO to work on Marine Planning. We wish Sarah success in her future career. Her replacement is urgent and will be appointed as soon as possible.
8. There have been no changes in membership of the Authority since December. MMO advertised for the 2 vacancies on the Authority in January but no applicants were received.
9. My thanks to those members who provided a short biographical introduction to themselves for the website. If there is anyone who has not yet done this please could they do so. The Clerk will also send reminders. Providing this information is part of the Authority's commitment to transparency.

IV) **Association of IFCA (AIFCA)**

10. The Members' Forum plans to meet on 8th March. Chairman and CEO will attend. The Agenda is at Annex A and the minutes of the 8th December meeting as yet unconfirmed at Annex B.

V) **IT development work**

11. A review and rebuild of the Authority's main permit and byelaw database is underway. The work will be undertaken by IT team at LDNP who currently host the Authority's IT system. The new database should streamline and enhance the various permit schemes in operation with new plastic permit cards for Byelaw 3 holders and enhanced recording and checking of information.
12. The NWIFCA website is also about to be rebuilt. A number of potential contractors were approached for design ideas, quotes and to present their expertise. IBEXcreative of Kendal has been selected and initial development work is underway.

VI) **NWIFCA Annual Plan 2016-17**

13. An Annual plan is required by end of March to comply with the Marine Act. To meet this target, the draft plan has been sent to Defra. This is considered to be an interim plan for amendment and development as circumstances change during the year. Members are invited to comment and contribute to its development.

Chief Executive Officer
2nd March 2016

CEO meetings December 2015 to March 2016		
Date	Event	Location
08-12-15	Association of IFCA Members Forum and Directors	London
11-12-15	NWIFCA Quarterly	Morecambe
22-12-15	Leave to 5-1-16	
13-01-16	Chief Officers Group	London
21-01-16	Vessel Committee	Carnforth
28-01-16	Interviews Communications post	Carnforth
02-02-16	TSB	Morecambe
08-02-16	LDNP re database development	Carnforth
16-02-16	Website contract development	Carnforth
18-02-16	Defra: Bass nursery areas. Phone in	Carnforth
22-02-16	Website contract development	Carnforth
25-02-16	NWCF Management Board, apologies Vessel Committee cancelled	Preston Carnforth