

# NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

REPORT NO.  
6

## DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2025/26

**Purpose:** For members to consider the contents of the draft Annual Plan for 2025/26 and feedback accordingly.

**Recommendations:** The draft Annual Plan is agreed so that it can be published on our website.

### 1. Background

The Authority is required to produce an Annual Plan every year. Last year saw a significant change to the way our Annual Plan is presented, with more focus on specific objectives and priorities for the year ahead, rather than a loose offering of how we will meet Defra's IFCA Success Criteria, which are widely acknowledged to be out-of-date and in need of review.

This year's 2024/25 Annual Plan has proven a very useful strategic tool against which the senior management team and I have been able to mark progress during the year, noting of course that certain operational priorities can transpire during the year that were not anticipated at the time the Annual Plan was drafted.

The complementary Annual *Report* sets out the Authority's progress against what was planned, and the Annual Report for 2024/25, which I will be drafting in the coming months, once the year has finished of course, will further iterate this side of the process, with more accountability and assessment of performance against the newly established strategic objectives, alongside the pre-existing Success Criteria.

For 2025/26, an accompanying draft Annual Plan is included for members' consideration and feedback. It is similar in format to 2024/25's, and sets out our key objectives and priorities for the year ahead across:

- Operations
- Science
- Enforcement
- Administration
- Fisheries
- Marine Environment
- Communications
- Governance
- Staff

Please note, in recent years we have used a local design company to produce a 'glossy' version of our Annual Plan. For 2022/23, we did a print run on these, but most ended up not being circulated out and left in storage. For the current 2024/25 Annual Plan, we had a design done for a digital version only, with it being 'distributed' via our website only; the cost of this was around £1,300. I propose that we do not use a design company this year, and keep the internal version as presented to members for this meeting.

*Mark Taylor, North Western IFCA CEO, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.*