



North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Annual Report 2022/23



June 2023 (DRAFT)

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Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Governance.....	2
3. Resources.....	3
3.1 Officers and Equipment.....	3
3.1.1 Training.....	3
3.2 Financial	4
3.2.1 Income.....	4
3.2.2 Expenditure	5
3.2.3 Balance.....	5
4 Fisheries	5
5 Compliance and Survey Programs	6
6 Byelaws and Regulations.....	7
7 Science and Survey Work.....	7
7.1 Case Study – Sustainable Fisheries Research.....	8
8 Partnership Working	9
9 Appendices.....	10
Appendix I – Committee Members	10
Appendix II – H&S Occurrences	12
Appendix III – Map of District	13
Appendix IV - Organogram as of Year-End	14
Appendix V – Assets as of Year-End	15
Appendix VI – 2022/23 Budgets.....	16
Appendix VII – Balance Sheet as of Year-End.....	17
Appendix VIII – Fishing Vessels Operating within District.....	19
Appendix IX – Inspection and Compliance Data	20
Appendix X – District MPAs.....	21
Appendix XI – Performance Assessment of SC5	22
Appendix XII – Science Survey Data	24
Appendix XIII – Marine Licence Consultations.....	25
Appendix XIV – Scientific Dispensations	27
Appendix XV – Morecambe Bay Cockle Survey Area and Data Outputs.....	28
Appendix XVI – Performance Assessment of Success Criterion.....	29

1. Introduction

North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) is the lead statutory regulator under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) for protection of the marine environment and sustainable use of sea fisheries resources within its district¹. The Authority's duties are defined in MaCAA Sections 153-184.

There are ten IFCAs across England, covering English coastal waters out to six nautical miles. The IFCAs' collective vision is to lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries within its districts by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.

S178 of MaCAA requires each IFCA to prepare a report on its activities in the previous financial year as soon as is reasonably practical after its end. The report may be used by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to measure the performance of the Authority, its accountability and value for money.

Priorities for the year were set out in the Annual Plan 2022/23, the outcomes and delivery against which are summarised in that document's Annex C, the Authority's objectives and Annex B, the Defra monitoring template agreed in 2015.

2. Governance

The Authority's full Committee has 30 members as defined in SI2200, 2010. Ten members come from the Authority's eight constituent councils, with 17 appointed by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) from a variety of stakeholder groups, each with skills and experience relevant to the management of inshore fisheries and marine conservation. There are three statutory members from the MMO, Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE). Appendix I lists the members in 2022/23 with dates of appointments. There were no MMO appointee vacancies in this reporting year.

Standing Orders and other corporate governance documents are in the NWIFCA Constitution available on our website. The current edition of the Constitution was published in March 2022.

The Committee held quarterly meetings face-to-face in June, September and December 2022 and March 2023. Meetings of the Technical, Science and Byelaw Sub-Committee held meetings in May, August and November 2021 and February 2022. The Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee met six times within the reporting period and the General Purposes and Standards Sub-Committee met three times in the reporting period.

An independent retained consultant working with Authority staff continued a systematic analysis of all areas of the Authority's Health & Safety (H&S) governance, reviewing policies and risk assessments by means of meetings and email communications. Meetings took place throughout the year to discuss, review and update working practices. There were eight H&S-related occurrences in 2022/23; these are set out in Appendix II. All such occurrences (accidents, incidents and near misses) are recorded and used as learning from experience events. They are discussed where necessary with relevant staff members. All recorded incidents were reviewed before each Authority full Committee quarterly meeting.

There are several national IFCA groups established to provide coordination and exchange of experience across the ten IFCAs. The Association of IFCA (AIFCA) is a policy and strategy committee attended by

¹ The district spans 850km of coastline across the entire North West of England, from the Welsh border in the Dee Estuary to the Scottish border in the Solway Firth. The area covered includes constituent Councils' landward boundaries and sea areas up to six nautical miles offshore. A map of the district is included in Appendix III.

Chairs, Chief Officers and Defra. Members receive the ratified minutes in the CEO's quarterly reports. The Marine and Fisheries Chief Officer Group (MAFCO) is an operational-level group consisting of IFCA Chief Officers and Defra Policy colleagues and meets on a quarterly basis. The IFCA's Chief Officers' Group (COG) is a working group to compare delivery approaches and develop new and innovative solutions. This group met quarterly online and in person during the reporting period. In addition, there are enforcement meetings of the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) which are attended by the Head of Enforcement, and scientific meetings of the IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which are attended by the Senior Scientist. Newly formed within this reporting period was the Strategic Operations Group (SOG), made up of members of COG, NIMEG and the MMO with a remit to report to both groups and assist with strategic themes in the inshore marine environment.

3. Resources

3.1 Officers and Equipment

NWIFCA had 20 staff roles in 2022/23, albeit with three vacancies carried for the majority of this period. The Authority's organogram is given in Appendix IV.

Staff changes were reported in the Authority's quarterly reports. One Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer (IFCO) was appointed during the period on a short-term contract and progressed to the position of IFCO and Communications Officer. The CEO and Head of HR and Finance resigned at the end of August 2022. The CEO had served the Authority and previous Sea Fisheries Committee for 17 years. Under the Constitution, the Head of Enforcement was requested to step-up as Acting CEO and the Clerk took on additional workstreams around HR and finance stemming from the resignation of the Head of HR and Finance. A new CEO was appointed in February 2023, and commenced at the beginning of 2023/24.

Premises, vessels and vehicles are listed in Appendix V. Within the reporting period, one vessel, Zodiac Bravo was disposed of by way of a donation to the Sea Cadets.

In August 2022 significant issues were detected with both engines on the Authority's primary patrol vessel, North Western Protector. Repairs were approved by the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee and remanufacturing of the vessel's engines commenced in November 2022, continuing into 2023/24. Once replaced, there will be an assessment of the strategic role of the vessel allowing survey and enforcement work to be carried out as required.

3.1.1 Training

Officers' skills were updated under the Authority's training programme. Training objectives were identified in staff reviews. The training programme included:

- Defined training programmes aimed at specified roles and responsibilities provided in house or by IFCA's as a group, MMO or outside providers
- Tailored training to meet organisational and personal objectives for each officer delivered by the Head of Enforcement / Acting CEO
- Assessment of the Authority's existing and future skills and needs by senior officers
- Consideration of external training available to bridge capacity gaps
- Monitoring and evaluation of training to achieve added value and effectiveness.

Three officers attended the IFCA's national competent officer training course. Two IFCOs completed units of the national accreditation scheme, and the Head of Enforcement / Acting CEO completed Unit 1 of the associated Internal Quality Assessor Qualification. Other mandatory and essential training was undertaken as follows:

- Powerboat Level II training & certification – one officer
- Professional Practice & Responsibilities – one officer
- Commercial endorsement – two officers
- Short Range VHF certificate – one officer
- First Aid – five officers
- ML5 certification – three officers
- ATV quad bike course – one officer
- Trailer towing training – one officer

New IFCOS received mandatory internal and external training in:

- Use of the H&S policy
- Use of equipment
- Risk management
- Operation of the enforcement policy including the IFCO code of conduct

3.2 Financial

The budget for 2022/23 was passed by the Authority's Committee in December 2021. A below inflation increase in the levy of 3% was agreed. The Budget Review for 2022/23 is shown in Appendix VI.

Accountants Moore and Smalley LLP have audited the Authority's accounts since before 2010. Auditor appointments made by the Audit Commission to joint committees ceased with effect 2015/16, however, the Authority has a policy that an independent auditor will conduct an audit as in the past.

Owing to the resignation of the Head of HR and Finance, from October 2022 Rushtons Accountants were requested to carry out payroll and accountancy functions for the Authority. Moving into 23/24, it is expected Rushtons will maintain the payroll whilst some financial services will be brought back in house.

3.2.1 Income²

As a result of the agreed 3% increase in local authorities' levies, 2022/23's levy increased to £1,405,000; this income remained the Authority's primary source of income. In addition, the Authority received £24,000 in shellfish sampling fees from local authorities, on whose behalf the Authority delivers this work. This was a substantial variance on the £9,000 expected due to a revision of the charging process for this work, which moved to a flat fee approach for each sampling site. £88,000 was received in permit fees for our cockle and mussel fisheries, a slight increase on the £75,000 budgeted for, due to the fact that Byelaw 4 and dredging permits had not been budgeted for. £39,000 of interest was earned on monies in reserve, well above the £9,000 expected due to the increase in the Bank of

² All figures quoted here are rounded to the nearest £1,000 for illustrative purposes; for exact figures, see Appendix VI.

England's base rate from 0.75% to 4.25% over the course of 2022/23. Finally, £50,000 was received from Defra as part of the additional funding provided to IFCAs for increased responsibilities around MPA management, marine spatial prioritisation and Fisheries Management Plans. This is revenue funding and is intended to support an increase in resources for IFCAs to take on this additional work. Within 2022/23, this £50,000 was not allocated towards additional staff resources, and this will be resolved within 2023/24 to ensure the finances are allocated appropriately. Overall, the Authority received £1,606,000 in income, £109,000 more than was anticipated, due to the higher-than-expected incomes across sampling, permits and interest, and the unanticipated receipt of revenue funding from Defra.

3.2.2 Expenditure

The Authority's biggest expenditure continued to be around staff expenses (*e.g.* salaries, expenses and National Insurance and pension contributions). For 2022/23, this totalled £880,000, which was £149,000 less than budgeted. This is primarily due to the resignation of the CEO and Head of HR and Finance, who were not formally replaced within the reporting period. The Authority also lost three IFCOs during 2022/23, and the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee resolved to delay replacement of these roles until a permanent CEO was recruited; this did not occur until after the end of the reporting period. It is anticipated that the staff expenditure for 2023/24 will return to anticipated levels as vacant roles are filled. Expenditure on premises topped-out at £63,000 which was broadly in-line with what was expected for the year (just £2,500 more); an increase in energy costs accounted for this slight overspend. Transport costs increased substantially in 2022/23, with £305,000 spent, some £100,000 more than expected. This was due to a significant amount of unanticipated maintenance and repair work across the Authority's fleet of vessels and vehicles, and due to the increase in fuel duty. Additionally, a deposit was paid for the remanufacturing of North Western Protector's engines, the remainder of which will be paid in 2023/24. £121,000 had been budgeted for to be placed into reserve for the replacement of North Western Protector in future years, as the Committee had agreed some years previous. However, in 2022/23, this expenditure was not incurred. Expenditure on supplies and services was in-line with the budget (just £1,000 over-budget at £55,000) and corporate expenditure was £7,500 under-budget at £20,000, primarily due to no legal fees being incurred, despite being budgeted for. In order to introduce the value of the Authority's assets onto the balance sheet, Rushtons included an exceptional adjustment for the year of £674,000 to account for the assets owned, namely the Whitehaven office and the fleet of patrol vessels and vehicles (see Appendix V). Going forward, the Authority's balance sheets will take into account our fixed assets alongside our financial ones.

3.2.3 Balance

The balance sheet for the Authority at year-end is shown in Appendix VII. This shows the Authority held tangible assets to the value of £702,000 along with financial assets of £3,317,000. It had total creditor amounts falling due within one year of £1,524,000 and, after taking into account the year's earnings, the total in capital and reserves was £2,495,000.

4 Fisheries

Commercial fishing north of Haverigg Point in Cumbria in 2022/23 continued to consist mainly of commercial trawling and netting for *Nephrops*, Dover sole, brill, turbot, plaice, cod and thornback ray. Some intertidal fisheries for periwinkles occurred along with sporadic commercial angling. Commercial potting for crab, lobster and whelk was also present.

Commercial fishing south of Haverigg Point was predominated by the mussel and cockle fisheries, which themselves are primarily hand-gathered fisheries. There were commercial cockle fisheries at Penfold in the Ribble Estuary and at Pilling within Morecambe Bay. Commercial mussel fisheries were prosecuted within the Dee Estuary, at Foulney Island in Morecambe Bay and within the Ribble Estuary. National restrictions on fishing for bass continued to limit fishing activity for this species, both commercially and recreationally.

Records of registered and licensed fishing vessels within the district are maintained by the MMO. The latest data dated March 2022 is shown in Appendix VIII. Unlicensed and unregistered vessels include recreational fishing vessels and charter angling vessels.

Recreational fishing included nets and lines set from the shore. Recreational fishing from vessels appears to be becoming increasingly popular deploying traditional rod and line angling as well as static nets and pots, the latter targeting crab, lobster and whelk. Bait collection for peeler crab, along with lugworm, ragworm, other worm species and razor clam is increasingly common. In response to unsustainable levels of recreational gathering of bivalve molluscs on the North Wirral foreshore, an emergency byelaw prohibiting it remained in place.

5 Compliance and Survey Programs

Officers were tasked weekly by the Head of Enforcement / Acting CEO and Senior Scientist to establish an effective program of tactical enforcement patrols and scientific surveys throughout the reporting period. The Authority maintained a strong presence of visible IFCOs around active fisheries and the Science Team delivered an effective survey program which provided valuable quantitative data on fishing activity to help inform fisheries management decisions. Data recorded from patrols and surveys was reported at quarterly meetings of the Authority.

The national inshore fisheries intelligence management systems for England is ran by the MMO and is now well-established, and was in regular use throughout 2022/23. Intelligence was gathered and entered onto the Authority's internal system by IFCOs in Carnforth making an important contribution to enforcement planning, evidence gathering and prosecutions. There was well coordinated sharing of information with other enforcement agencies with joint working increasing again after Covid. Intelligence was securely recorded in-house and submitted to the central intelligence hub at the MMO. The Head of Enforcement / Acting CEO attended the multi-agency NIMEG which met three times in the year, and the Senior Scientist attended the IFCA TAG which also met three times. TAG research conferences report the range of IFCA research, and IFCA and partner bodies' science officers present research and compare fisheries management experience.

Tasking continued to be on an intel-led and risk assessed basis, both informing the strategic requirements of where resources were directed across the district, in line with the National Intelligence Model. Tasking and coordination group meetings continued with the MMO and multi-agency groups formed around strategic priority areas. One successful joint operation was Operation Unite, which targeted non-compliance with NWIFCA Byelaw 5, prohibition of fishing at Heysham Nuclear Power Station. Due to the proximity to the nuclear site, the commercial nature of illegal activities and public order and officer safety, patrols were planned around specific operational requirements. With this operational plan in place during the reporting period, five official warning letters were issued, one financial administrative penalty and two successful prosecutions. Without the assistance and joint working with Lancashire Constabulary, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and MMO this would not have been possible.

Officers have continued to conduct shellfish sampling across the district on behalf of our local authorities' environmental health departments.

Appendix IX provides the Authority's inspection and compliance data for the year to 31st March 2022.

6 Byelaws and Regulations

MMO introduced revisions to the non-statutory byelaw making procedure in 2019 to better define the roles of IFCAs and MMO in the process of making byelaws. The new procedure has resulted in more efficient byelaw development with IFCA and MMO officers working closely and effectively to complete byelaws as quickly as possible. In 2022/23, the following byelaws were under development by the Authority:

- **Byelaw 1 Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS).** This byelaw became essential following repeal of the EU technical regulation 850/98 in 2019 and replacement with 1241/2019. Eastern IFCA have made similar MCRS byelaws. This was drafted during the reporting period and submitted to Defra in October 2022; the draft byelaw was not signed-off by the minister within this reporting period.
- **Byelaw 2 North Wirral Foreshore.** An emergency byelaw was introduced for the North Wirral foreshore in 2019 to control excessive fishing for shellfish. Covid restrictions made this fishing activity popular by increasing free time available for fishing for many people. Surveys indicated the stocks of bivalve species in the sand were at risk of depletion. In June 2022, a permanent byelaw was confirmed.
- **Byelaw 3 Cockles and Mussels Hand Fishing Permit 2019:** Confirmed in June 2022 and is now fully implemented.
- **Byelaw 4 Potting Permit 2020** Byelaw was developed from a review of potting and trap regulations in the district commencing in 2018. This was confirmed in June 2022.
- **Netting byelaw.** Text commenced in 2020. This byelaw is needed to revise and streamline a large suite of byelaws for various aspects of fishing using nets currently in force in the district into a single comprehensive netting byelaw. The target is to complete development and ministerial sign-off by the end of 2023.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the district are shown in Appendix X including Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). 78% of the district is designated MPA. No new fishing activity can take place in an MPA until an impact assessment has been completed and approved by NE showing that the activity will be conducted in such a way that no damage will be caused to protected features of the sites. This high proportion of the coast is a measure of work by successive governments and the Authority to protect the marine environments of the North West coast of England.

7 Science and Survey Work

The Authority's Science Team carries out essential research activities to support on-going byelaw development, sustainable fisheries management and MPA support.

Science supports the Authority's fisheries management decisions through stock assessment, field surveys and assessments of fisheries impacts on protected features. The information is used to

determine whether a fishery can be opened, and the potential flexible permit conditions required for its sustainable management.

As part of this work, the Science Team undertakes habitat regulation assessments (HRAs) to ensure fisheries do not impact the protected features of any protected areas they occur within. The data also contributes to the long-term monitoring of the stock, and identification of stock trends.

Alongside this work, the Science Team contribute to a variety of workstreams consisting of MPA management, evidence provision and data analyses, research into sustainable fisheries, partnership working and knowledge sharing with relevant organisations, stakeholder engagement, and development of new research projects. Further detail on the main work of the team in 2022/23 and progress against Defra's Success Criteria 5 is provided in Appendix XI.

This year the main focus of the team was to:

- Carry out the core stock assessments and inspections (see Appendix XII)
- Undertake the necessary HRAs in consultation with NE and members of the TSB Sub-Committee to approve proposed opening or closing of fisheries
- Complete the introduction of Byelaw 4 – Potting permit byelaw and establish a new Byelaw 4 returns system
- Developing the Authority's Cockle FMP
- Establish a new schedule for whelk sampling to commence Summer 2023
- Submit a proposal for the Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) Scheme for proposed shrimp monitoring work
- Participation and representation of NWIFCA and marine interests in major infrastructure developments within the District including Crown Estate wind leasing (see Appendices XIII and XIV)
- Ongoing work to ensure all fisheries occurring within MPAs have been assessed and management implemented if necessary to prevent risk to protected features
- Introduction of new mapping software and training on QGIS
- Establishing a sampling program for the request into the reduction in mussel MCRS

7.1 Case Study – Sustainable Fisheries Research

Cockle and mussel surveys are carried out annually from Spring until late Summer. The surveys collect information on the spatial distribution, abundance and biomass of cockle across the main cockle beds in the District. The information is critical to informing HRAs and ensuring sustainable management of the District's stocks. This work is high priority and resource intensive. These surveys take place from ATVs and/or by foot. For mussels, surveys are undertaken using the Dutch Wand method, and for cockles, samples are taken by quadrat on a grid system across the bed. The information is gathered and analysed and is then provided to the Committee at both the quarterly meetings of the TSB and the full Committee for approval and recommendations regarding the annual fishery openings. This workstream helps to ensure sustainable fisheries and protection of the District's MPAs' protected features.

This year, the Science Team undertook eleven cockle surveys, and 23 mussel surveys across the District. Appendix XV details the survey areas for cockle beds in Morecambe Bay and data outputs used to inform management. During the survey, each cockle is counted, sized, and then their collective weights are taken for size and undersize in each of the cockle fishing areas.

8 Partnership Working

Working in partnership with other agencies continued to be a high government priority. In 2022/23 the Authority worked with other IFCAs and AIFCA through attendance of, and contribution to, also COG, TAG and NIMEG. It worked locally with MMO, EA and NE, utilising their statutory members on the Committee, as well as the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), councils' environmental health departments, Food Standards Agency (FSA), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Marine Scotland.

MMO continued to be a key partner with whom the Authority shared intelligence, tasking and training. MMO is responsible for quality assurance of byelaws and appointment of members. The Authority undertook regular joint patrols with MMO on land, in ports and using IFCA vessels.

NE were consulted under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 on all Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) of fishing activities within MPAs. Regular liaison of the Authority's Science Team the NE's Marine Team continued.

The Authority worked with environmental health to ensure all intertidal shell fisheries complied with shellfish hygiene standards as laid down in the Water Framework Directive by collecting shellfish samples, attending the council-owned North West Shellfish Liaison Group meetings and assisting enforcement of the requirement for registration documents.

During this reporting period, the Authority and councils convened multi-agency committees as required to prepare operational plans for cockle fisheries at Penfold to manage the diverse socio-economic and environmental impacts of cockle harvesting.

GLAA use gangmaster licences to bring more effective regulation into the shellfish industry and ensure labour is not exploited. The Authority supports this policy to improve standards of financial and management practice.

EA is responsible for delivery of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The Authority continued to stand ready to undertake duties arising from these directives and assisted NRW and EA with the management of the Dee cockle fishery, as well as attending the Dee Estuary Fisheries Liaison Group.

The Authority consulted environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOS) in the development of policies. The Science Team continued its collaboration with the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside with their Living Seas Project and the Bivalve Molluscs Working Group to develop management plans for shellfisheries. The Authority contributes to the North West Coastal Forum, Solway Firth Partnership, EA Standing Environment Group, Dee Estuary Sea Fisheries Liaison Group, Dee Tidal Catchment Partnership and North West Regional Fisheries Group.

9 Appendices

Appendix I – Committee Members

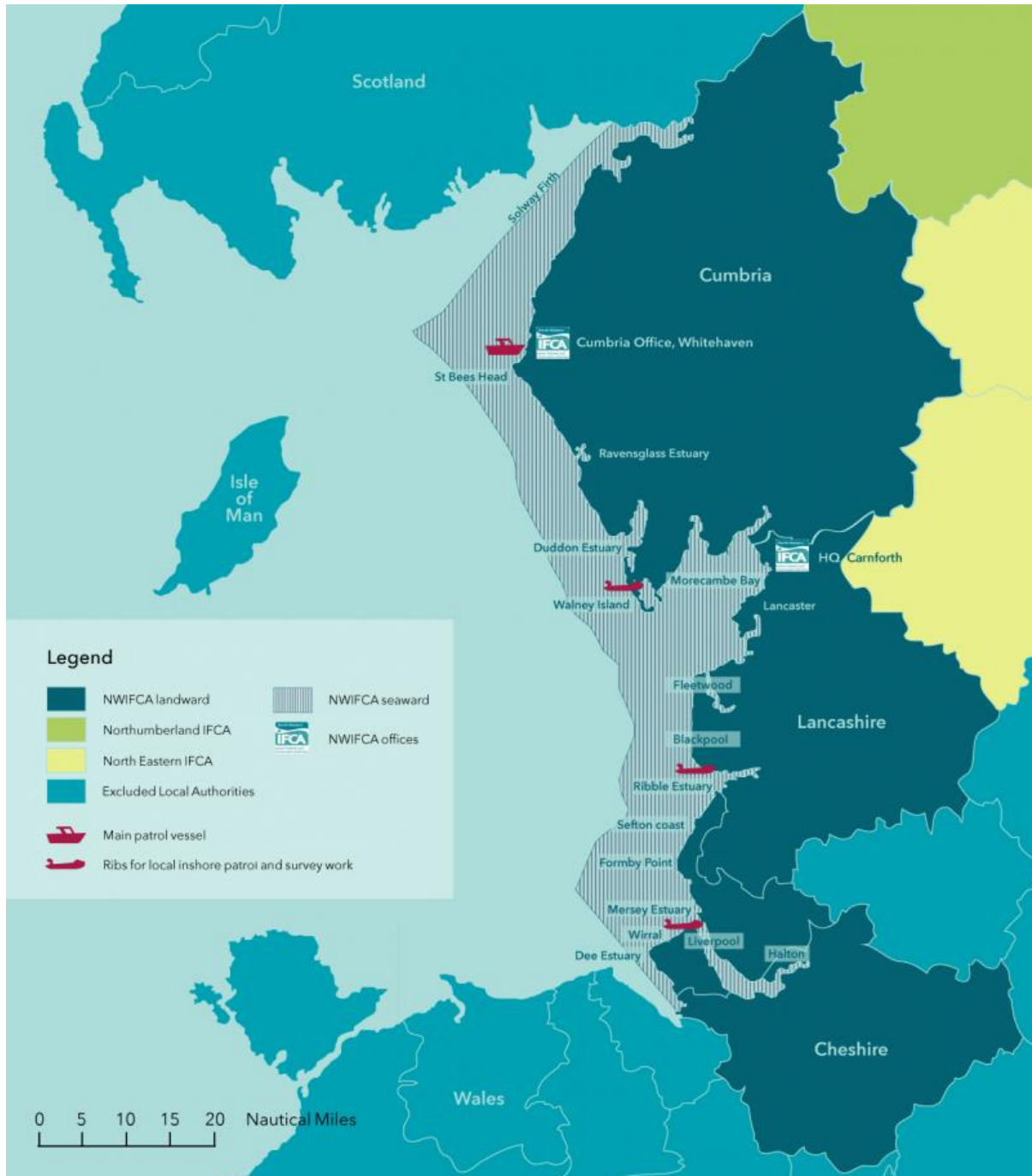
Council Members		Date Appointed
Blackpool Council	Cllr. N. Brookes	April 2021
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Cllr. P. Williams	July 2015
Cumbria County Council	Cllr. A. Markley	October 2010
	Cllr. M. Wilson	January 2020
Halton Council	Cllr. B. Woolfall	May 2015
Lancashire County Council	Cllr. J. Parr	May 2021
	Cllr. S. Clarke	May 2021
Liverpool City Council	Vacant	-
Sefton Council	Cllr. S. McGinnity	April 2018
Wirral Council	Cllr. S. Mountney	September 2021
MMO Appointees		Date Appointed
Marine Environment	Dr. J. Andrews	October 2015
Marine Environment	Mr. N. Baxter	March 2020
Commercial Fishing	Mr. R. Benson	December 2018
Recreational Fishing	Mr. S. Brown	October 2017
Marine Environment	Mr. P. Capper	May 2021
Commercial Fishing	Mr. R. Donnan	May 2021
Recreational Fishing	Mr. W. Friend	March 2020
Marine Environment	Mr. D. Harpley	March 2014
Recreational Fishing	Mr. B. Leigh	March 2015
Recreational Fishing	Mr. R. Lomax	May 2021
Commercial Fishing	Mr. S. Manning	October 2014
Marine Environment	Dr. C. Mihailovici	May 2021

Commercial Fishing	Mr. G. Pidduck	March 2020
Marine Environment	Dr. A. Richardson	June 2022
Marine Environment	Ms. C. Salthouse	October 2014
Recreational Fishing	Mr. L. Stainton	March 2020
Commercial Fishing	Mr. K. Thompson	October 2014
Statutory Appointees		Date Appointed
MMO	Mr. S. Johnston	June 2022
EA	Mr. J. Turner	June 2022
NE	Mr. L. Browning	March 2021

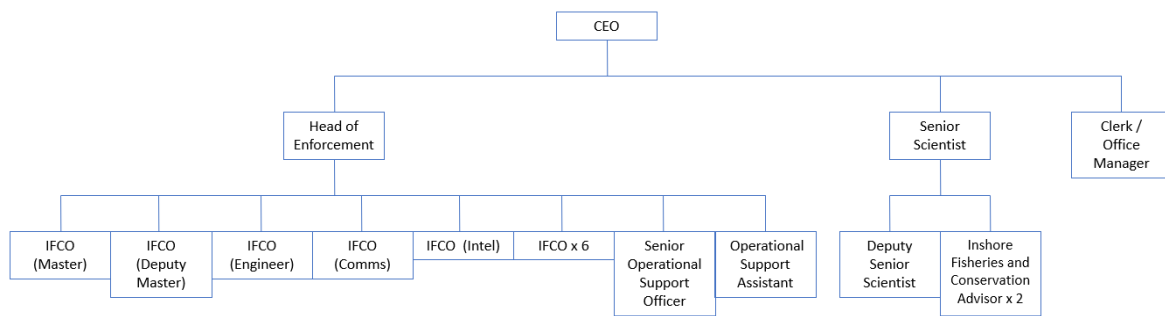
Appendix II – H&S Occurrences

Date	Type	Location	Description	Outcome
27/04/22	Accident	Barrow	Cable tie snapped whilst officer was replacing notices, causing hand to contact knife.	Cut across knuckle on left index finger, needing adhesive strips applied at A&E
04/05/22	Incident	Pilling	ATV fell into hole and fell over on its side.	No injuries
21/06/22	Near Miss	Carnforth	Officer attempted to take all office lifejackets to be serviced, rather than specific ones. Returned before they all went off for servicing.	None
23/06/22	Near Miss	Whitehaven	Hydraulic union leak on sea water pipe and inlet of North Western Protector	Repaired
24/06/22	Near Miss	At sea	Port engine failure on Protector Bravo.	Returned to port on starboard engine alone
06/07/22	Near Miss	Whitehaven	Near brake failure on vehicle, causing it to take longer than usual to stop, nearly colliding with another vehicle.	Vehicle taken to local garage who could not find any issue
08/09/22	Near Miss	Travelling	Brakes and bearings seized on trailer.	Trailer taking for servicing and service plan to be implemented for all trailers
03/01/23	Incident	Whitehaven	Officer suffered an adverse reaction of eyes and skin to cleaning or insulation products.	Safety glasses and suits to be worn where applicable

Appendix III – Map of District



Appendix IV- Organogram as of Year-End



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Appendix V – Assets as of Year-End

Buildings	Carnforth Office	Leased, head office, nine staff
	Whitehaven Office	Owned, eight staff
	Barrow Office and Store	Leased, one staff and vessel, vehicle and ATV
	Liverpool Office and Store	Leased, two staff, vehicles and ATVs
	Carnforth Store	Leased, vehicles and ATVs
	Whitehaven Store	Leased, vessel, vehicles and ATVs.
Vessels	North Western Protector	2018 20m aluminium catamaran hull based in Whitehaven Harbour
	Protector Charlie	2018 5.3m daughter craft / boarding vessel for North Western Protector, constructed of aluminium alloy with rigid collared sponsons
	Protector Bravo	1999 7m Osprey Viper RIB based in Whitehaven Store
	Protector Gamma	2011 6m Humber RIB based in Barrow Store
	Bay Protector	2013 7.5m Humber RIB based in Liverpool Marina
Vehicles	5 x Nissan Navara 4WD	Two in Whitehaven, one Carnforth and two Liverpool
	Peugeot Partner	Whitehaven
	3 x Renault Kangoo	One Barrow and two Carnforth
	Vauxhall Combo	Carnforth
All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)	10 x Honda ATVs	Two Whitehaven, one Barrow, five Carnforth and two Liverpool

Appendix VI – 2022/23 Budgets

Budget Heading	Actual	Budget	Variance
INCOME			
Levy	£1,404,735.00	£1,404,735.00	£0.00
Sampling	£24,286.60	£9,000.00	£15,286.60
Misc. Income	£50,000.00	£0.00	£50,000.00
Permit Fees	£88,490.00	£75,000.00	£13,490.00
Interest	£38,744.16	£9,000.00	£29,744.16
<i>Gross Profit</i>	<i>£1,606,255.76</i>	<i>£1,497,735.00</i>	<i>£108,520.76</i>
EXPENDITURE			
Employees	£879,787.81	£1,028,694.00	(£148,906.19)
Premises	£63,307.14	£60,800.00	£2,507.14
Transport	£305,263.93	£205,490.00	£99,773.93
Patrol Vessel Fund	£0.00	£121,151.00	(£121,151.00)
Supplies and Services	£54,758.36	£53,600.00	£1,158.36
Corporate	£20,442.64	£28,000.00	(£7,557.36)
Exceptional Adjustment	(£674,157.60)	£0.00	(£674,157.60)
<i>Gross Expenditure</i>	<i>£649,402.28</i>	<i>£1,497,735.00</i>	<i>(£848,332.72)</i>
Net Profit	£956,853.48	£0.00	£956,853.48

Appendix VII – Balance Sheet as of Year-End

FIXED ASSETS	
Vehicles	£132,497.77
Vessels	£569,334.00
<i>Total Fixed Assets</i>	<i>£701,831.77</i>
CURRENT ASSETS	
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	
LLC Reserve Account	£1,757,000.00
NatWest Other	£500.00
NWSFDR / NWIFCA	£495,414.38
<i>Total Cash at Bank and In Hand</i>	<i>£2,252,914.38</i>
Debtors' Control	£988,932.84
Payments in Advance	£69,092.45
Accrued Income	£5,833.80
Total Current Assets	£3,316,773
CREDITORS³	
8252 VAT Liability	(£32,373.15)
9154 Creditors' Control	£66,538.57
9156 Inland Revenue Suspense	£13,706.79
9157 Employee Super	£25,744.96
Accruals	£3,442.54
Deferred Income	£1,446,877.00
Rounding	(£20.57)
<i>Total Creditors</i>	<i>£1,523,916.14</i>
<i>Net Current Assets (Liabilities)</i>	<i>£1,792,857.33</i>
Total Assets⁴	£2,494,689.10

³ Amounts falling due within one year

⁴ Less current liabilities

CAPITAL AND RESERVES	
Current Year Earnings	£956,853.48
Retained Earnings	£1,537,835.62
Total Capital and Reserves	£2,494,689.10

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Appendix VIII – Fishing Vessels Operating within District

Type	Number
<10m District Commercial	83
>10m District Commercial	27
<10m Visitor Commercial	7
>10m Visitor Commercial	18
Unregistered / Unlicensed	262

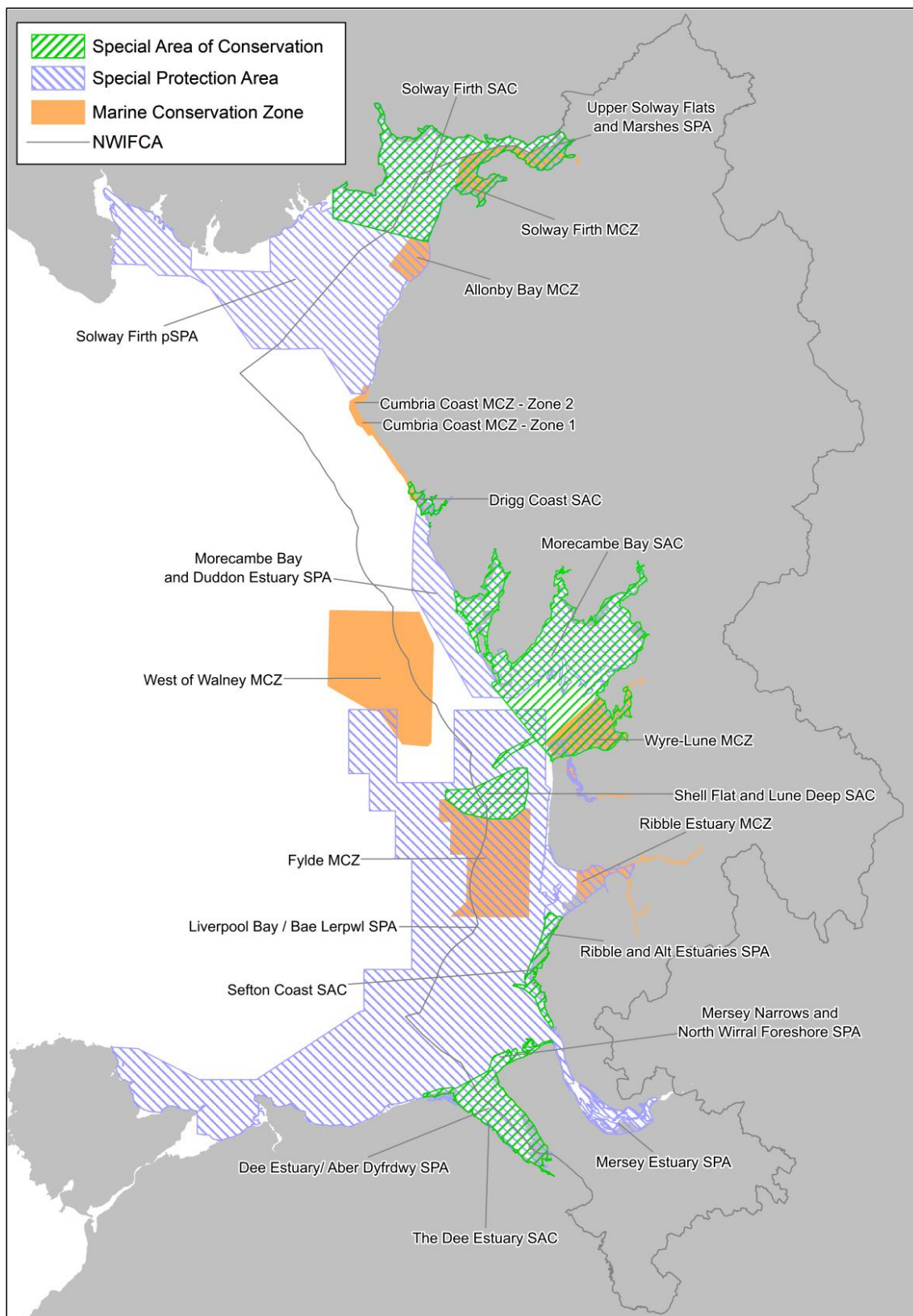
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Appendix IX – Inspection and Compliance Data

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Appendix X – District MPAs



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Appendix XI – Performance Assessment of SC5

Work Stream	Outputs	Completion status	Comment
5.1) Scientific Surveys (sea-going)	Plan and carry out habitat surveys in the Solway to inform future mussel fisheries	Minimal progress	Limited sea-going survey capability for 2022/23.
	Plan and carry out Solway cockle survey		
	Process and analyse survey data		
	Prepare project report		
5.2) Scientific Surveys (shore based)	Plan and carry out shore-based surveys (cockles, mussels, bivalves etc.)	Complete	
	Process and analyse survey data		
	Prepare project report		
	Report to TSB		
5.3) Participation in TAG Meetings	Attend and contribute to TAG meetings and report on meeting	Complete	
5.4) Consultation and Engagement with Major Developments	Provide feedback on relevant marine works to developers, MMO and the Planning Inspectorate	Complete	
	Provide evidence to help with development decisions and impact assessments where required		
	Attend relevant meetings with external stakeholders regarding proposed works		
	Disseminate relevant information to industry		
5.5) Cockle Fishery Stock Assessment and Fishery Recommendations	Annual cockle survey planning	Complete	
	Annual cockle surveys		
	Analysis of survey data		
	Preparation of HRAs and delivery of recommendations for management		
	Production of survey notes / results		
	Consultation with NE re. HRA advice and conclusions		
	Update technical science and byelaw committee on progress and management decisions		
	Develop permit conditions / authorisations		
5.6) Mussel (seed and size) Fishery Stock Assessment and Fishery Recommendations	Annual mussel survey planning	Complete	
	Annual mussel surveys		
	Analysis of survey data		
	Preparation of HRAs and delivery of recommendations for management		
	Production of survey notes / results		
	Consultation with NE re. HRA advice and conclusions		
	Update technical science and byelaw committee on progress and management decisions		
	Develop permit conditions / authorisations		
5.7) Whelk SoM Study	Analyse data	Progress made - ongoing	Further work planned for 2023/24.
	Prepare report on the research findings		
	Present work to TSB		

5.8) Annual Research Plan	Prepare annual research plan	Complete	
	Assess research priorities and time planning		
5.9) Dispensations	Assess the suitability of dispensation applications and proposed activities	Complete	
	Provide dispensation for activities from byelaws in consultation with Enforcement Team		
5.10) Data Analysis and Services	Provision of GIS, data and analysis to inform evidence requirements (e.g. maps, vessel sightings and fish stocks etc.)	Complete	
	Maintain data sources – IFCO shore sightings and patrol vessel sightings		
	To work where possible to MEDIN standards		
5.11) Support Development and Maintenance of MPA management Measures	Develop MCZ and EMS fisheries assessments for outstanding sites	Progress made - ongoing	
	Prepare any required evidence needed for management		
5.12) Develop Species management Plans for District Fisheries	Review Fisheries Act 2020 and Statements and scope of requirements, national, regional, and priority species etc.	Progress made - ongoing	This is ongoing work initiated in 2022.
	Assess data held and data requirement to inform species management plans		
	Prepare new and update existing FMPs		
5.13) Biosecurity Plan Updates	Finalise and implement the Authority's biosecurity plan alongside NE	Complete	
5.14) Scientific Survey Capability	Maintenance of vehicles and equipment for shore based scientific surveys	Complete	
5.15) Participate in and Contribute to Relevant Groups	Maintain attendance and involvement with national, regional and area specific groups such as FISHGIG, Whelk working group, Blue Carbon working group, NW Standing Environment Group, NW Shellfish Liaison Group, Solway Firth Partnership, Mersey tidal power etc.	Complete	
5.16) Electro Clam Fishing Project	Provide dispensation for project	Progress made	Project is currently paused.
	Conduct HRA for project		
	Maintain liaison with project director		
5.17) Annual Research Report	Prepare the Annual Research Report: Report on achievement of objectives set in Annual Research Plan and demonstrating use of evidence for decision making	Progress made - ongoing	
5.18) Monitoring and control plan	Carry out review of HRAs in line with the monitoring and control plans to ensure the HRA's previously completed are still appropriate for current activity	Complete	
	Check conservation advice hasn't changed, and activity levels not changed		

Appendix XII – Science Survey Data

COCKLES				
Area	Bed	Date	HRA undertaken	Open
Morecambe	Flookburgh	12-07-22	No	No
	Aldingham	01-07-22	No	No
	Newbiggin	01-07-22	No	No
	Leven Sands	12-07-22	No	No
	Pilling Sands	04-05-22 20-07-22	No	No
	Warton Sands	15-06-22	No	No
	Middleton Sands	22-07-22	No	No
Liverpool and the Dee	Leasowe	01-09-22	No	No
	Southport	30-05-22 03-08-22	Yes	Yes
Solway	n/a		No	No
MUSSELS				
Area	Bed	Date	HRA undertaken	Open
Morecambe	Heysham Flat	01-03-22	Yes	Yes (for seed)
		16-05-22		
		27-05-22		
		16-07-22		
		12-08-22		
	12-09-22			
	Foulney	30-03-22	No	Yes
	Walney Channel	17-03-22	No	Yes
	Low Bottom	20-04-22	No	Yes
	Falklands	14-08-22	No	No
Duddon	05-03-22	No	Yes	
South America	Fleetwood beds (Rossall, King's, Perch and Black Scar)	19-04-22	Yes	Yes (for seed)
		17-06-22		
		17-07-22		
		13-08-22		
12-09-22				
Wyre End	18-05-22	No	No	
Liverpool and the Dee	Lytham	16-08-22		No
	West Kirby	31-08-22	No	No
	Thurstaston	31-08-22	No	No
Solway	n/a		No	No
BIVALVES				
Area	Bed	Date	HRA undertaken	Opened
Liverpool and Dee	Leasowe		No	n/a

Appendix XIII – Marine Licence Consultations

Date	Marine Licence
07/04/2022	Central Rhyl Ground Investigation Works
28/04/2022	Little Bispham to Bispham & Gynn Square to Cocker Square Coast Protection Scheme
09/05/2022	Cumbria County Council Development Land at JJC Hire Ltd, Sandscale Park, Barrow-in-Furness
01/06/2022	Bare Beck Outfall Extension
13/06/2022	Mostyn Harbour Boreholes
16/06/2022	Land at St. Annes Foreshore - Sand Winning
28/06/2022	Threadlow Point Embankment
04/07/2022	Devonshire Dock BAE Barrow
11/08/2022	West Coast Main Life Extension: Gantry Replacements
11/08/2022	Dolgarrog Pipe Bridge, Conwy
11/08/2022	Burbo Bank Bird Guano Reduction Systems
16/08/2022	Threadlow Point Embankment (additional documents submitted)
17/08/2022	Little Bispham to Bispham & Gynn Square to Cocker Square Coast Protection Scheme Ground Investigations
18/08/2022	West Plain Marsh, Flookburgh, Saline Lagoons
05/10/2022	Walney 0102 Wind Farm Cable Stabilisation
05/10/2022	West of Duddon Sands Array Cable Stabilisation
18/10/2022	Skerton Weir Fish Pass Improvements
31/10/2022	Wyre Beach and Dune Management Schemes 1 and 2
03/01/2023	Jubilee Bridge Painting Works
03/01/2023	Burbo Bank Extension Offshore Windfarm - Maintenance Works
03/01/2023	Cottage Lane SPS Emergency Overflow
11/01/2023	Geotechnical Investigations Mona Offshore Wind Farm Boreholes
25/01/2023	Conwy Bay Native Oyster Restoration

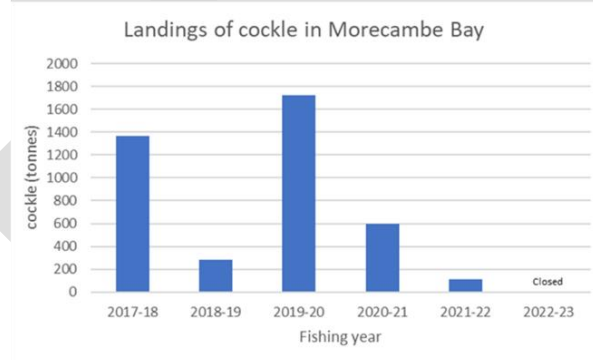
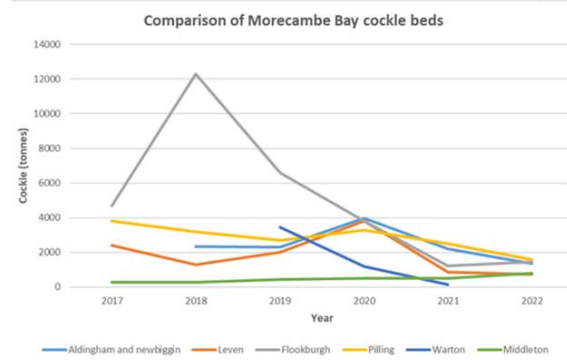
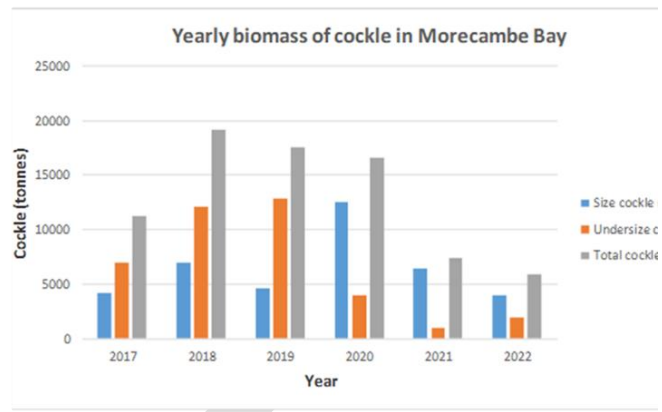
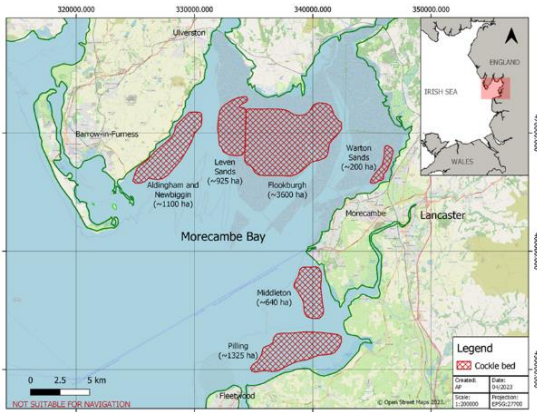
14/02/2023	Mostyn Energy Park Extension
22/02/2023	Area 457 EIA Scoping Opinion
24/03/2023	Rhyl Pont Foryd waterproofing and resurfacing works
27/03/2023	Bretherton Outfall Updates

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Appendix XIV – Scientific Dispensations

Date	Dispensation
09/05/2022	Lake District Coast Aquarium Lobster Hatchery
25/05/2022	Cefas Irish Sea Beam Trawl Surveys 2022
11/07/2022	Richard Pritchard, Environment Agency
12/10/2022	Hull Marine Laboratory
26/10/2022	Wyre Rivers Trust
29/11/2022	Cefas Offshore Catch Sampling Programme 2023
01/02/2023	Simon Ward on behalf of EDF
14/02/2023	Molly Melling - Springfield Fuels Ltd.
22/02/2023	Wyre Rivers Trust
07/03/2023	Environment Agency
24/03/2023	AECOM Mersey Gateway Surveys 2023

Appendix XV – Morecambe Bay Cockle Survey Area and Data Outputs



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Appendix XVI – Performance Assessment of Success Criterion

Indicators	Tasks Completed	Performance Assessment
<p>SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts reviewed and updated by 31st March each year.</p>	<p>The Authority maintained an up-to-date stakeholder database from which the following permit schemes were operated in 2022/23: Byelaws 3 and 4; NWSFC 9, 26, 27, 30; Cumbria SFC 26.</p> <p>The website ‘Register here’ button supports development of stakeholder contacts and their interests including angling and bait collecting.</p>	<p>Completed and Ongoing into 2023/24</p>
<p>SC1B: The IFCA will review its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31st March each year.</p>	<p>The Authority reviewed its communications strategy by 31st March 2023. The website continued to work well and was used. The process for issuing permits was further developed and streamlined.</p>	<p>Completed and Ongoing</p>
<p>SC1C: The IFCA will review its website by the last working day of each month.</p>	<p>Content was developed and the website continuously monitored by the Authority’s Communications Officer. A checklist continues to be used to evidence the checks.</p>	<p>Completed and Ongoing</p>
<p>SC1D: The IFCA will ensure its website meets the objectives of its communication strategy by 31st March each year.</p>	<p>The website was assessed against the communications strategy.</p>	<p>Completed and Ongoing</p>
<p>SC1E: The IFCA will review all Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) by 31st March each year. It will have plans in place to update MoUs to agreed timescales.</p>	<p>National MoUs are in place with NE, EA, Cefas and MMO. Review of these MoUs are national tasks led by NE, EA, Cefas and MMO beyond control of each IFCA.</p>	<p>Completed and Ongoing</p>
<p>SC1F: The IFCA will participate proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified in the annual plan.</p>	<p>The Authority continued to contribute to all relevant activity as required and within available resources. Bodies active in 2022/23 were COG, AIFCA, TAG, SOG, RFG, Defra MPA committees and <i>ad hoc</i> policy meetings, regional coastal fora (e.g. Solway Firth Partnership, North West Coastal Forum, Celtic Seas Forum, Irish Sea Forum, Dee Estuary Committees, Morecambe Bay Partnership).</p>	<p>Complete and Ongoing</p>
<p>SC2A: The IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and</p>	<p>The enforcement strategy was reviewed by 31st March 2023. Risk registers were reviewed by the Authority in December 2022.</p> <p>Risk-based enforcement will continue.</p>	<p>Complete and Ongoing</p>

available on its website from 1 st April each year.		
SC2B: The IFCA will demonstrate in Annual Reports work with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures.	Joint working to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures has been reported within this Annual Report.	Complete and Ongoing
SC2C: The IFCA will record enforcement activity in a standard format, provide to NIMEG and publish on its website.	Enforcement activity was reported to the Committee in quarterly reports and made public via the website. Data continued to be securely stored on the Authority's intelligence management system and with the Central Intelligence Team of the MMO.	Complete and Ongoing
SC2D: The IFCA will adopt the National Code of Conduct for IFCOs, which will be reviewed annually and published on its website by 1 st April each year.	The Code was adopted by the Authority back in 2012. The annual review of code is a role of NIMEG	Complete and Ongoing
SC2E: The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for all IFCOs.	As in previous years, new IFCOs were trained to comply with the code through the competent officer training course. Performance was assessed and continually monitored by the Head of Enforcement and discussed in annual appraisals. Training was kept up-to-date.	Complete and Ongoing

<p>SC2F: IFCOs attain accreditation and undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD).</p>	<p>Certain IFCOs continued to work towards accreditation. The Authority contributed to training development in 2022/23. IFCOs mandatory training was kept up-to-date to nationally agreed standards. All IFCOs were given CPD to meet needs identified at job reviews. An internal training register was maintained. Training in-house, jointly with partner agencies or purchased from external providers was reviewed with the appointment of the national IFCA Training Coordinator. The training objectives of each officer were identified in staff reviews. Training included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory training including health and safety, use of equipment, first aid, sea survival. • Training for qualifications in specified roles such as warranted IFCO through the National Accreditation scheme and external courses such as “open source intelligence”. Head of Enforcement completed Unit 1 of an Assessors training course. • Tailored personal development training to meet organisational and personal objectives for each officer. <p>Assessment of the Authority’s existing and future skills and needs. External training was available to bridge identified capacity gaps. Monitoring and evaluation of training took place to achieve added value and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Complete and Ongoing</p>
<p>SC3A: The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for MPAs and report progress to the Committee.</p>	<p>Government MPA policy continued fully implemented and MPA management reviewed in collaboration with other regulators.</p>	<p>Complete and Ongoing</p>
<p>SC3B: The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures on its website</p>	<p>Data and evidence was compiled in Regulatory impact assessments (RIA) for new measures. Stakeholders were consulted before introduction. Evidence was publicly reported to the Committee. Impacts of new measures are being assessed from survey and enforcement data.</p>	<p>Complete and Ongoing</p>
<p>SC3C: Management information (e.g. sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to</p>	<p>Post-implementation surveys jointly with partners informed ongoing fisheries management and effectiveness of new measures. Results were reported to Committee and on website. Inspection and enforcement data informs the Committee of the effectiveness of measures.</p>	<p>Complete and Ongoing</p>

demonstrate their effectiveness.	Ongoing review of the internal MPA Monitoring and Control Plan.	
SC3D: The IFCA will develop criteria-based management options, explained to stakeholders through the website and review annually by 31 st March.	New management measures were developed after assessment of options against criteria defining objectives.	Complete and Ongoing
SC3E: New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales.	The byelaw review followed agreed priorities. Byelaw development followed Defra guidance.	Complete and Ongoing
SC3F: The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from FMPs in its own Annual Plan, published by 31 st March each year.	Objectives from plans such as cockle and mussel plans were approved by bivalve working groups and reported in the Annual Plan.	Complete and Ongoing
SC3G: Progress made in relevant FMP areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.	Cockle and mussel FMPs and priority byelaws were further developed in 2022/23. The Science Team planned the development of species-specific FMPs within available resources.	Complete and Ongoing
SC4A: The IFCA will publish an Annual Plan on its website by 31 st March each year, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State (SoS).	Annual plan for 2022/23 was published at March 2022 meeting and sent to SoS. Plans include objectives and priorities under criteria set by Defra and local priorities.	Complete and Ongoing
SC4B: After the end of each financial year, the IFCA will publish an Annual Report on its website describing its activities, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 th November. A copy will be sent to the SoS.	An Annual Report for 2021/22 was agreed at December 2022 meeting and sent to Defra. Activity in the year and audited financial information were included.	Completed and Ongoing
SC4C: IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for all staff	Job plans for 2022/23 were agreed with all officers. Appraisals for 2021/22 were completed by December 2022.	Complete and Ongoing

will have been completed by 31 st May each year.		
SC4D: An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.	An efficient secretariat remained in place. Documentation was produced and meetings were run in line with Standing Orders.	Complete and Ongoing
SC4E: The IFCA will show, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the District have worked responsively and effectively together.	Targets for Marine Strategy and Water Framework Directives are delivered as directed by EA. These were not required in 2022/23.	Complete and Ongoing
SC5A: The IFCA will show progress towards identifying evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year.	The research plan for 2022/23 showed current projects and the survey programme. Outcomes were reported at quarterly and TSB meetings. Collaboration with universities, other agencies, NGOs and industry increased in 2022/23.	Complete and Ongoing
SC5B: The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making.	All research work in 2022/23 was reported to the Committee at quarterly and TSB meeting, and in this report, showing how evidence is used to support decision making.	Complete and Ongoing
SC5C: The IFCA's contribution to TAG and progress towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report.	The Authority continued contributions to national programmes and reported to the Committee.	Complete and Ongoing