



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

Conduct and Operation 2014-2018

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authorities**

**Conduct and Operation
2014 - 2018**

**Presented to Parliament pursuant to
Section 183 (1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**



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Summary

1. This report has been laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It meets the requirements of section 183 (1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹ and describes the conduct and operation of the ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) in England over the four year period to 31 August 2018. This report is the second quadrennial report to have been prepared for Parliament under this section of the Act. It has been structured to demonstrate:

- Part One - The legislative framework within which IFCAs were established and they operate
- Part Two - A summary of IFCA operations and achievements and
- Part Three - Themes emerging from the Call for Evidence to the IFCAs and public consultation.

2. IFCAs are statutory regulators responsible for the sustainable management of sea fisheries resources in Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Districts (IFCDs) to six nautical miles from coastal baselines. District boundaries and IFCA membership were set out in separate Statutory Instruments, made at the beginning of September 2010. IFCAs became fully operational on 1 April 2011.

3. This report was compiled following research that included self-assessment reports provided by the IFCAs and a public Call for Evidence. Through the public Call for Evidence, we received 95 responses from interested stakeholders. Themes emerging from the report-making process which may merit further consideration by government and the IFCAs are identified in *Part Three: Challenges faced by IFCAs*.

Findings of the report

4. Since 2014, the IFCAs have delivered the recommendations of the previous report² and they have demonstrated the local leadership that is expected of them as statutory regulators.

5. The self-assessments provided by the IFCAs for the purposes of this report, have highlighted the substantial legislative work of these local regulators. The IFCAs have undertaken extensive research because they have recognised the importance of scientific research underpinning the management of their local fisheries. They are also working to expand their methods of stakeholder engagement and to improve the quality of service they provide. Current and

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

² The first Report to Parliament on the IFCAs' conduct and operation can be viewed here: <http://www.association-ifca.org.uk/about-us/ifcas-conduct-and-operations-2010-2014>

future funding, compounded by increasing responsibilities, also emerges as a significant factor in the effective delivery of the IFCA's statutory duties. In addressing some of their funding constraints and achieve efficiencies and savings, the IFCA's are beginning to form collaborative initiatives and adopt proactive, joint working methods with other regulators, universities, scientific and enforcement bodies.

6. The comments we received from stakeholders through the Call for Evidence have highlighted that the legislative work of the IFCA's has provoked strong opinions in their local communities. For the most part, comments are divided between, on the one hand, celebration of and local pride in IFCA work and achievements; on the other hand, the IFCA's are seen as contributing to the uncertain future of local fishing sectors and certain fish stocks.
7. Comments on byelaws and other fisheries management plans imposing restrictions on fishing activities, are regarded by most fishing sectors as equally environmentally beneficial and commercially challenging. Divergent byelaws between neighbouring IFCA's have also been noted to add to the complex regulatory landscape within which fishermen work.
8. Most comments have expressed the need for close and honest engagement between the IFCA's and the fishing communities so that the expert voice of the fishing industry can be utilised to inform scientific initiatives and guide legislative measures. Other comments have noted the need for the IFCA's and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to work together to review the IFCA Committee representation and to address possible duplication of statutory duties between these two regulators.

Part One: The Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

9. There are ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) around the coast of England.

- Cornwall IFCA³
- Devon and Severn IFCA⁵
- Eastern IFCA⁷
- Kent and Essex IFCA⁹
- North Eastern IFCA¹¹
- Northumberland IFCA⁴
- North Western IFCA⁶
- Isles of Scilly IFCA⁸
- Southern IFCA¹⁰
- Sussex IFCA¹²

10. The IFCAs were created by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹³ (“the Act”) as successors to Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs); they were first created under Victorian legislation¹⁴ that brought an element of local management to fisheries resources.

11. There is an *Authority* for each Inshore Fisheries and Conservation *District*. Legally, each IFCA is either a committee or joint committee of relevant local authorities for a district, where that district is an area consisting of the combined areas of the relevant Councils and the adjacent area of sea. IFC Districts extend to the territorial limits of the entire member local authority district and can include estuaries that were previously managed by the Environment Agency (EA).

12. The IFCAs are statutory regulators and have been fully operational since 1 April 2011. They are responsible for the sustainable management of sea fisheries resources to six nautical miles from coastal baselines¹⁵. Baselines were established by the Territorial Waters Order in Council 1964 and the Territorial Waters (Amendment) Order in Council 1979; baselines are defined as being from the low-water line along the coast including the coast of all islands in that territory.

13. In 2011 Defra and the IFCAs, in consultation with local and central government and non-governmental organisations, developed a vision statement for IFCAs set out in the IFCA Vision and Success Criteria:

³ <http://www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk>

⁴ <http://www.nifca.gov.uk>

⁵ <http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk>

⁶ <http://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk>

⁷ <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk>

⁸ <http://www.scillyifca.gov.uk>

⁹ <http://www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk>

¹⁰ <http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk>

¹¹ <http://www.ne-ifca.gov.uk>

¹² <http://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk>

¹³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

¹⁴ The Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1888 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/cy/ukpga/1966/38/enacted/data.xht?wrap=true>

¹⁵ See Annex A for IFCAs' geographical coverage and number of ports

“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.”

14. The 2011 performance criteria were only meant to cover the first 4 years of the IFCAs’ operation. Defra reviewed these performance criteria in 2015 and developed new High Level Objectives in the IFCA Vision and Success Criteria. These are set out in Annex B. The new objectives aim to steer work streams and provide a governance and legislative framework for the IFCAs that highlight their core role and duties in light of their powers under the Act.

15. The number and membership of each IFCA Committee is described in the Statutory Instrument that established each IFCA Authority and are drawn from local councillors, people who know the fishing community of the district and people with expertise of marine environmental matters.

Table 1: Number and membership of IFCA Committees

IFCA Committee	Local Authority members	General members	Natural England nominee	Environment Agency nominee	Marine Management Organisation nominees	TOTAL
Cornwall	7	11	1	1	1	21
Devon & Severn	12	15	1	1	1	30
Eastern	7	11	1	1	1	21
Kent & Essex	9	9	1	1	1	21
North Eastern	13	14	1	1	1	30
North Western	10	17	1	1	1	30
Northumberland	7	11	1	1	1	21
Isles of Scilly	4	1	1	0	1	7
Southern	9	9	1	1	1	21
Sussex	7	10	1	1	1	20
TOTAL	85	108	10	9	10	222

16. Across all ten IFCAs, there are 222 IFCA Committee members, including 108 ‘general members’ who are appointed to the Committee by the MMO and selected, for example, from the recreational angling sector, commercial, conservation, science and research fields.

Duties

17. The IFCA must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in their district, balancing the social and economic benefits of exploiting resources with the need to protect the marine environment, or help it recover from past exploitation. They must seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) are furthered and manage marine areas and European Marine Sites (EMS). IFCA has byelaw-making and enforcement powers.

IFCA funding

18. IFCA is funded by levy charged to their sponsoring local authorities who have a legal duty to pay it, once the amount of levy has been agreed. Some additional revenue is generated from fees charged for permits, shellfish sampling etc. Additionally, a small amount of revenue is generated from bank interest on general reserves (often accrued over several years to fund replacement of Fisheries Patrol Vessels). Recovered court costs awarded from successful prosecutions also appear as revenue. IFCA is encouraged to explore ways of supplementing their income by creating commercial revenue through, for example, survey work, data management or support for leisure activities.

19. The Act requires that each IFCA must prepare and publish an Annual Plan before the beginning of the financial year. The Annual Plan should include a budget and description of how resources will be used. Although an IFCA is a levying authority, the principal council members of an IFCA, being the democratically accountable members for local public taxation, have a right of veto over the budget. In practice, the IFCA and its levy-paying authorities begin each financial year after having arrived at an agreement for resources to deliver a statutory regulatory service, balanced against the wider demands of tighter budget control and austerity in public finances.

20. When Parliament created IFCA, Government recognised that the increased role might impose further costs on some local authorities. Government sought to defray these costs in compliance with the New Burdens doctrine¹⁶. A total of £3m is paid each year, from the Defra budget to the affected local authorities using the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. It is not paid to the IFCA directly. In December 2015, the Fisheries Minister announced that the New Burdens annual support of £3m would be extended until 2020.

21. Of the forty-nine local authorities that are members of IFCA, thirty-nine receive New Burdens Funding. There is no obligation on local authorities to allocate all or any of the New Burdens Funding to the IFCA. A table listing the levy payments made to IFCA and the New Burdens allocation by local authority is included at Annex C of this report.

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-burdens-doctrine-guidance-for-government-departments>

Audit arrangements

22. Audit requirements are now undertaken by The National Audit Office in line with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Although the IFCA's are now not required to be externally audited, they are required to confirm compliance with the audit requirements of the Act and demonstrate adequate auditing systems and controls. Most IFCA's will carry out a voluntary Audit or Audits, often by their funding authority, but some IFCA's will also use external auditors.

IFCA functions and legal obligations

23. IFCA's conduct business according to European, national and local government legislation. The IFCA's' main legal duties are described in section 153 of the Act. They must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in their district, balancing the social and economic benefits of exploiting the resources of sea fisheries in their districts with the need to protect the marine environment, or help it recover from past exploitation. Under section 154 of the Act, they must seek to ensure the conservation objectives of any MCZs in the district are furthered. Additionally, IFCA's are deemed relevant authorities for marine areas and EMS, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.¹⁷ IFCA's' duties and obligations set out in the Act require them to collect and analyse greater quantities of data and exercise management for some marine plants and animals, not just commercially exploited fish species. This obligation is made explicit at section 175 of the Act.

24. In addition to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, IFCA's are deemed to be relevant authorities under the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC). Both Directives establish frameworks for community action in marine environment and water quality policy.

Byelaws

25. The IFCA's have byelaw-making and enforcement powers, drawing on local knowledge and expertise of members. An IFCA must base its decisions on evidence and take appropriate expert advice. It is for this reason that Natural England (NE) nominates a representative to each IFCA, as do the EA and the MMO.

26. Byelaws made by an IFCA must be advertised for two weeks followed by a consultation period of 28 days. Byelaws must be accompanied by a regulatory impact assessment that documents the purpose of the byelaw and the costs and benefits to interested parties.

¹⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2010/490/contents/made>

27. Byelaws, unless classified as 'Emergency byelaws', are sent to the MMO which carries out quality assurance checks. Once checked and confirmed by the Secretary of State, they come into force. Emergency byelaws are time limited. They must be notified to the Secretary of State within 24 hours.
28. IFCA's inherited byelaws made by predecessor SFCs. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Transitional and Savings Provisions) Order 2011¹⁸ stated that if any local fishery committee byelaws (i.e. SFC byelaws) were in force immediately before the transfer date; had effect in an area covering all or part of the IFCA district; and were within the remit of a byelaw that could be made by an IFCA, then it had effect, as if it were an IFCA byelaw.
29. Each IFCA has an objective to review its suite of byelaws in the first years of operation, aiming to remove duplicate or redundant byelaws making sure, where necessary, that gaps are covered. To date, all IFCA's have reviewed their legacy byelaws. Some IFCA's continue to use some of their legacy byelaws if they still provide a relevant and effective legislative framework. However, as new byelaws are gradually being developed to meet various MCZs requirements, the IFCA's take this opportunity to replace redundant and duplicate legacy byelaws, as the need arises.

Enforcement and sanctions

30. IFCA's appoint Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs). IFCOs have powers to enforce byelaws, the remaining sections of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 and the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967.
31. The Act grants Common Enforcement and Fisheries Enforcement powers to IFCOs across England and Wales, if they believe an offence (which may be an infringement of national or European legislation, in addition to byelaws) has been committed within their district. Additionally, IFCOs enforce byelaws in MCZs.
32. IFCA's have power to enter into agreements and delegate some functions to other appropriate parties. Section 167 of the Act permits an IFCA to enter agreement with another eligible body (i.e. an adjoining IFCA or the EA) to perform the functions of the first IFCA. In practice, this means the IFCA's can cross-warrant with other regulators and enforcement agencies or delegate functions to adjacent IFCA's or the EA. IFCA's can have Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the MMO, CEFAS, NE and the EA through its national Association of IFCA's. The MoUs enshrine the principles of joint working with these organisations for joint enforcement work as well as joint scientific initiatives such as collaborative survey projects within MPAs.
33. Although a Financial Administrative Penalty (FAP) scheme had operated since 1998 for breaches of EU fisheries offences, the Sea Fishing (Penalty Notices)

¹⁸ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2011/603/contents/made>

(England) Order 2011¹⁹ introduced a system of FAPs for national fisheries offences, including inshore fisheries byelaw offences, using powers from the Act. The Order authorised IFCA's to use administrative sanctions as an enforcement tool in the inshore regulatory regime. Its intent is to develop an effective deterrent for breaches of domestic and inshore fisheries offences. The rationale for FAPs sought to increase transparency and reduce costs and uncertainty for fishermen by offering non-court disposal for minor offending and provide a consistent approach for dealing with all fisheries offences.

34. Implementing a FAP scheme bears a cost for IFCA's. Under the FAP scheme, the standard of evidence must be at least as good as any prosecution taken through the courts, yet the scheme leaves an IFCA without an opportunity to recover those costs following conviction.
35. The IFCA's have published a nationally developed FAP scheme. Penalties range from up to £1000 for a first offence and double on a second offence. Subsequent offences are referred for prosecution.

IFCA performance: annual plans and annual reports

36. Sections 177 and 178 of the Act require each IFCA to prepare and publish an annual plan and an annual report. All annual plans (and annual reports) share a format, based on the performance framework for IFCA's described in *Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on Annual Planning and Reporting* and *Guidance to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities on monitoring, evaluation and measuring performance*²⁰.
37. The guidance takes the IFCA vision statement and sets out the success criteria to underpin it – see Annex C. Progress on the success criteria is measured against performance indicators. Each IFCA Committee receives a quarterly report from its Chief Officer describing corporate performance against the standard measures. The annual report is prepared as soon as reasonably practicable following the end of the reporting year and sets out the IFCA's performance over the preceding twelve months. It is endorsed by the IFCA Committee before publication. A copy of the annual report must be provided to the Secretary of State.

Report to Parliament about the IFCA's' conduct and operation

38. Section 183 (1) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to lay a report before Parliament about the conduct and operation of the Authorities for any IFCA

¹⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2011/758/introduction/made>

²⁰ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182345/2011-ifca-guide-planreport.pdf

Districts in existence during the whole or part of a four year period. Each four year period runs from the date the Statutory Instruments were made that established the IFCA's. The Statutory Instruments were made at the end of August and beginning of September 2010.

39. The IFCA's became fully operational on 1 April 2011. The first quadrennial report covered the period to the end of August 2014.²¹ This is the second quadrennial report which covers the period to the end of August 2018. The report was compiled following a public Call for Evidence, which opened on 24 July 2018 and closed on 4 September 2018. The Call for Evidence created an opportunity for members of the public and interested parties to help Defra understand how each individual IFCA worked to meet its duties and/or demonstrated the local leadership that might be expected of a statutory regulator. Respondents were invited to submit evidence about individual IFCA's structured around the following revised success criteria built into the IFCA common reporting framework:

- IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders
- IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime
- IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts
- IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional
- IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

40. Respondents were also invited to submit comments and evidence that did not fall within any of the five success criteria.

41. The Call for Evidence was publicised on the government 'Citizen Space' website and in letters emailed to all of Defra's marine and fisheries stakeholders. The Call for Evidence was also publicised in July 2018 in the industry newspaper *Fishing News*.

42. Eighty two organisations and individuals responded to the Call for Evidence through the Citizen Space website. A further thirteen responses were received in written formats (either by email or letter). In total, 95 responses were received.

43. A list of the organisations that responded is included at Annex D. Individual respondents have not been named (a confidentiality commitment made in the Call for Evidence supporting documentation).

²¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413425/ifca-review-2010-2014.pdf

Part Two: Summaries for each Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Cornwall IFCA

44. Cornwall IFCA extends from Marsland Mouth on the north Cornish coast to the western end of the Plymouth Breakwater on the south coast and includes the rivers and estuaries of the county up to their tidal limits. Cornwall IFCA is subject to an annual internal audit by Cornwall Council, which is the IFCA's constituent local authority. In 2017/18, Cornwall IFCA budget was £1,108,623, levied against Cornwall Council with an additional grant of £324,838 from Defra.
45. Cornwall IFCA operates a 27m fisheries patrol vessel, Saint Piran, which is based in Newlyn with its daughter vessel, a 6.5 m Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), Lyonesse. An additional 6.8M RIB, Avalon, is kept in Hayle and it is used as both a substitute for Lyonesse, or as a standalone vessel for targeted patrols including monitoring of the Fal oyster and mussel fisheries. The IFCA's 11.0m research catamaran, Tiger Lily VI is based in Mylor. All vessels are skippered and crewed by IFCA personnel; occasionally contract skippers may be used at busy times.
46. Cornwall has licensed fishing vessels ranging from open cove boats to large netters and beam trawlers; they operate towed and static gear within the 6nm limit and target a range of species, including scallops, crabs, lobsters, sole, hake, haddock, monkfish, sardines and oysters. There is a fleet of 45 sail or oar powered vessels working in the Fal oyster and mussel fisheries. 'Nomadic' vessels operate inside and outside the 6nm district targeting the scallop fishery. There is a mariculture sector farming Pacific oysters and mussels, a fleet of recreational fishing vessels and a small amount of hand-gathering of shellfish and seaweed species. The IFCA maintains a database of groups and individuals involved in recreational sea angling and a database of 350 commercial vessels targeting crustacean shellfish under an IFCA permit scheme.
47. In 2018, the national Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society presented their John Leballeur restoration award to Cornwall IFCA in recognition of the IFCA's work on the River and Estuarine Fishing Nets Byelaw 2017.

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

48. Cornwall IFCA has a strong stakeholder engagement including a well-maintained and informative website and Facebook page. During the development of new byelaws, Cornwall IFCA holds informal consultation meetings and drop-in sessions. IFCA Officers attend a wide range of industry stakeholder meetings and environmental groups, fish festivals, competitions and other public events. Other collaborative work includes Cornwall IFCA's secretariat work for the Fal

Fisheries Management Committee (Fal oyster and mussel fishery). IFCA officers participate in national coordinating groups including the national Association of IFCAs, the IFCA Chief Officers Group, the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group and the IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

49. Cornwall IFCA has MoUs with the MMO, CEFAS, NE and the EA through its national Association of IFCA and an additional MoU with NE for cost-effective delivery of collaborative survey projects within MPAs between 2011 and 2018. Cornwall IFCA undertakes joint enforcement and research work with Devon and Severn IFCA and the Isles of Scilly IFCA.

Success Criterion 2: IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

50. Cornwall IFCA publishes its Enforcement Plan annually on its website. The Plan includes the previous year's enforcement activity, list of sanctions and enforcement concerns, a risk register and a summary of the different fisheries and MPAs within the district. The IFCA's Intelligence reports also inform various national intelligence databases and surveillance systems. Between April 2014 and March 2018, Cornwall IFCA officers conducted 958 vessel inspections at sea and 1344 port visits including the inspection of vessels, fishing gear and premises and 341 fish and shellfish landings.
51. Cornwall enforcement officers adhere to the national Code of Conduct for IFCOs. Cornwall IFCA officers are cross warranted with the EA and have conducted joint enforcement patrols in the estuarine areas and with Devon and Cornwall Police and occasionally with the Border Force.

Success Criterion 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

52. The Cornwall IFCA district currently contains 10 EMSs and 9 MCZs. Byelaws prohibit the use of bottom towed gear in all EMSs and in the Manacles MCZ, Whitsand MCZ and Looe Bay MCZ (the byelaw for the latter is to be confirmed). Cornwall IFCA monitors the impact of the prohibition of bottom towed gear around the Eddystone Reef complex within Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone SAC; within the Fal and Helford Special Protection Area, Cornwall IFCA undertook a 3 year seabird bycatch netting project (2014-2016).
53. Cornwall IFCA operates a permit system for vessels targeting crustacean and shellfish, which enables the collection of fishing effort and landings data in the district. The data will inform a future crustacean management plan and Cefas's South West stock assessments for edible crab and lobster. The Fal Fishery Order 2016 has been introduced for the native oyster and mussel fisheries within the Fal estuary and it is subject to an annually reviewed management plan with the support and input from fishermen, merchants and regulators.

Case study 1: Management of new live wrasse potting fishery

In 2015, a pot fishery for wrasse species started to develop in Cornwall, targeted initially by two commercial vessels. The fish are caught, stored and transported live to Scotland where they are used in the management of sea lice in salmon farms. In order to gather data from the fishery, Cornwall IFCA worked with the relevant fishermen and the operators of the salmon farms to develop a monitoring programme from 2016-2017 using our officers to sample at sea on-board the active vessels. Officers also liaised with operators to develop a voluntary code of conduct as an initial management measure. Additional fisheries independent surveys were carried out using our research vessel and all the fisheries data was then analysed and collated with a literature review into a report to our Authority in December 2017. This data enabled the development of criteria-based management options which formed the basis of a new permit byelaw to manage the fishery. This byelaw was made in March 2018 and put out for public consultation in summer 2018. The responses to the consultation will be submitted to our Authority in September for a final decision, which may lead to its confirmation by Defra later in 2018. This process represented an investment of up to 50% of our research capacity to collect and analyse the data needed to inform the development of the byelaw and we have integrated monitoring of this fishery into our ongoing research programme.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

54. Cornwall IFCA Committee has 21 members, 7 of whom are members of Cornwall Council, 11 general members and 1 member from each of the EA, MMO and Natural England (NE), respectively. The secretariat for the Authority meetings is provided by Cornwall Council. Meetings are quorate and discussion papers and decisions are published on the IFCA's website.

55. The IFCA office is in Hayle where it shares a building with private and public sector bodies, including the MMO and Cefas. Cornwall IFCA has fee-based service level agreements with Cornwall Council for finance, payroll, occupational health, personnel, audit and committee services.

56. Cornwall IFCA employs sixteen full-time and two part-time officers. IFCA staff are subject to an annual appraisal system and undertake national and bespoke training courses. Cornwall IFCA attained Investors in People status in 2014 and retained this status in 2017.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

57. Cornwall IFCA has invested in the last four years in its research capacity through recruitment of additional officers and the purchase of a research catamaran, Tiger Lily VI. Surveys are conducted to national and international standard

operating protocols. The IFCA has undertaken collaborative surveys with Cefas and NE.

58. Cornwall IFCA's scientific team is actively involved in sharing knowledge and best practice on survey techniques, including running a workshop on the use of the remote sensing equipment which is shared by all ten IFCAs. The Principal Scientific Officer has also facilitated bespoke training on other IFCA vessels. Research outputs are published on Cornwall IFCA's website; the survey metadata is collated and submitted through the Marine and Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN).

Case study 2: Evidence gathering in Whitsand to Looe Bay MCZ

When drafting a byelaw for the management of bottom towed fishing gear within this MCZ, it became apparent that the existing data showing the distribution of sensitive conservation features was not at a fine enough resolution to inform the location of boundary lines within the byelaw. A side scan survey was carried from Tiger Lily VI using the shared IFCA equipment and the results plotted to locate the transitions between different benthic features. This information was used by the members of our Byelaw Working Group and the full Authority to make the subsequent MCZ byelaw in March 2018, which is subject to members' approval in September 2018, following public consultation.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

59. Three respondents submitted comments about Cornwall IFCA to the Call for Evidence.

60. Respondents recognised the professionalism and dedication of IFCA staff and the effective and positive impact of their work in the district's management of both fisheries and conservation. The IFCA's communication strategy and presence within the county has been noted as strong and influential with a wide range of stakeholders. The organisation is seen as respected, well-connected and accessible.

61. The IFCA is seen as heavily involved in collecting evidence for a variety of projects, which is used to address emerging issues such as the live wrasse fishery and the impact of fisheries on MPAs. Respondents commented on the IFCA's netting ban in estuaries and on its voluntary measures to reduce bird bycatch in the Fal Bay to St Austell Bay SPA as positive management measures. The IFCA's effective byelaws were noted.

62. Stakeholders commented that there is an imbalance of represented interests amongst Committee members; comments also highlighted the need for the MMO to address inconsistent attendance from MMO nominated Committee members. It was also noted that the application and recruitment process for new Committee members is perceived as laborious and lengthy and that it may be deterring representation from the fishing industry.

Devon and Severn IFCA

63. The Devon and Severn (D&S IFCA) is the largest IFCA district, with two coasts. It covers an area of 4,522 km² of sea, 1,314 km² of coastline and 9,141 km² of land. D&S IFCA has cross-boundary co-operation and joint management responsibilities with 2 adjacent IFCAs (Cornwall and Southern), Welsh Government and the MMO.
64. D&S IFCA's budget of indicative levy is £733,600 for 2018/2019. D&S IFCA has been under severe budgetary pressure since it was vested in 2011. The withholding of some of the IFCA's 'New Burdens' funding by several of its constituent local authorities has further exacerbated this severe budgetary pressure. The future funding of the D&SIFCA is a key concern, potentially calling into question the Authority's ability to carry out its statutory duties in coming years and particularly, if the available funding to the Authority were to be further reduced.
65. In D&S IFCA, 42% of its District is designated as MPAs. Within the D&S IFCA District, lie 1,881 km² of MPAs (excluding co-location of EMS & MCZ). These are ten EMSs including the Bristol Channel Approaches Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) for Harbour Porpoises are located in the D&S IFCA District. There are four Tranche 1 MCZs, two Tranche 2 MCZs. Lundy Island is 12 miles off the coast and was the first MCZ in the country. It has a No Take Zone.
66. D&S IFCA has 24 ports and harbours ranging in size from the River Parrott to Brixham and Plymouth Harbours, two of the largest fishing ports in England in terms of quantity and value of landings. The District has over 450 commercial vessels and 538 recreational vessels either trawling, potting, netting or diving. Recreational sea angling is a significant sector in the District as is shellfish mariculture, which takes place within many of the District's Estuaries, along near shore coastal areas and offshore within Lyme Bay. On 1st June 2018 the number of D&S IFCA permits issued were 991 under its permitting byelaw scheme.
67. The Authority operates a 6.4 metre RIB for patrol work on both coasts. D&SIFCA have commissioned local boat builder RIBCRAFT to build and supply a bespoke 7.8m wheelhoused RIB, which will be in service by the end of 2018. The Authority also charters other vessels that range in size to carry out surveillance operations.

Success Criterion 1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

68. The Key strategic engagement priorities of the D&S IFCA are published in its Annual Plan. D&S IFCA engages with a wide range of stakeholders in commercial and recreational sectors, policy makers, Non-Governmental

Organisations (NGOs), local stakeholder groups, MPA management groups, other regulators and partner organisations.

69. Communications vary depending on the subject matter and audience and include engagement and input at local, regional and national events, face to face interaction and engagement with fishers at fora, meetings, etc. The D&S IFCA maintains a permit byelaw database through which permit holders and recreational fishers are notified about consultations and reviews of Mobile Fishing, Potting and Diving Permit Conditions.

Case study 3: Netting Permit Byelaw – Engaging with ‘Hard-to-Reach’ Sectors

The creation of the Netting Permit Byelaw was complex and took over two years to be confirmed. Communication relating to the pre-consultation and formal consultation phases went considerably beyond the IFCA Byelaw Making advice published by Defra. Extensive pre-consultation was conducted in two separate phases each lasting for several weeks. Standard communications were supplemented by website displays and use of on-line survey forms. The mandatory requirements for the formal consultation were clearly and substantially surpassed. The consultation period was extended to 56 days and was supported by ten regional public events. Visual displays in the mobile events trailer and “hand-out” information was utilised. Officers engaged personally with those likely to be affected by proposed changes. Effectiveness of the communications delivered during formal consultation is hard to assess. Over three hundred formal response letters were submitted by stakeholders of which more than two hundred of these responses were supportive of a new Netting Permit Byelaw. A response and recommendation report was prepared and made available to those that had responded. Other reports were created to supplement the final Impact Assessment with particular focus on process and specific elements of rationale. Several of the stakeholders who responded to the consultation and either supported or objected to the management proposals were provided with an opportunity to attend a full Authority meeting and address the members. The opportunity allowed for new evidence to be provided before members recommended that the Byelaw be submitted for confirmation.

Success Criterion 2: IFCA implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

70. D&S IFCA publishes an Enforcement and Compliance Strategy which details its enforcement approach. D&S IFCA operates an intelligence led and risk-based approach to enforcement in line with the National Intelligence Model followed by other enforcement agencies. Intelligence is monitored and feeds into Tasking and Control Group meetings and enforcement plans. Intelligence is shared with IFCA, MMO and EA and other Government Agencies. EA staff work as warranted IFCOs. Other security businesses aid D&S IFCA with enforcement patrols, especially within the many estuaries of Devon.

71. In the District of D&S IFCA byelaws utilising flexible, activity-based permit conditions have been developed for the management of different fishing activities in the commercial and recreational sectors. A byelaw review group was created to explore the potential to have harmonisation in regulation across the South and Southwest. Harmonisation of byelaw measures amongst Cornwall IFCA, D&S IFCA, Southern IFCA and Sussex IFCA was not possible because of the various regional differences that require tailored management. However, consistency has been applied to specific control measures, such as an increase in the minimum conservation size of brown hen crab to 150mm and spiny lobster to 110mm (D&S IFCA potting permit conditions) to mirror a CIFCA restrictions and provided a better fit with the management required for the Authority's district. D&S IFCA has introduced the Diving Permit Byelaw, Potting Permit Byelaw and the Netting Permit Byelaw to sit alongside the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. This leaves only the Hand Working Permit Byelaw and the Hook and Line Permit Byelaw to be developed.

Case study 4: Using New Technology – Making Effective Use of Limited Resources

D&S IFCA has recognised the significant benefits to both regulators and fishers associated with the introduction of a reliable I-VMS system. Effective monitoring of all mobile fishing vessels will help safeguard MPAs that are closed to all types of demersal mobile fishing to protect designated habitats and features. Conversely, I-VMS may provide greater potential for mobile fishing vessels to gain greater access to less sensitive areas adjacent to closed areas. The Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw came into force in 2014. The Byelaw provides the framework for permits (conditions of use) to be created, some of which can be flexible. Flexibility exists in specific categories which include catch, gear, time and spatial restrictions. To avoid sub-delegation, the Byelaw must clearly set out how much scope there is for flexibility and how changes (if required) will be made. A review procedure is clearly documented in the Byelaw. The Byelaw was future proofed to a degree as it clearly demonstrated that remotely accessed electronic reporting devices, which may be required in the future, can be accommodated by the Byelaw. In 2017, a process began to refine the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions and introduce Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems to all permitted mobile fishing vessels over 6.99 metres. Working in conjunction with Common Seas, funding was secured for the purchase of over 80 units. Consultation was undertaken with all stakeholders and the rationale behind this initiative was fully documented in the consultation reports which were made available and posted on the D&S IFCA website. After a lengthy and robust process, in April 2018 the D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee agreed that Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions should be subjected to amendment to incorporate this new technology. In August 2018, (after a period of units being fitted to vessels) revised permit conditions were circulated to all existing Mobile Fishing Permit Holders. This demonstrates the inherent flexibility of the permit byelaw model utilised by D&S IFCA.

Success Criterion 3: IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts

72. D&S IFCA produces an Annual Research Plan which sets out short-term projects for specific evidence gathering and long-term projects to support the D&S IFCA's long-term evidence strategy gathering. Such examples include the Blue Marine Foundation project investigating stock structure, distribution and habitat use of the Atlantic Herring. Other examples can be found in the work the IFCA undertakes in the Severn Estuary, such as research on the use of Sabellaria²² by fin fish and the mapping of the extent of Sabellaria in the Severn Estuary.

²² Sabellaria spinulosa is a species of marine polychaete worm in the family Sabellariidae, commonly known as the Ross worm. It lives in a tube built of sand, gravel and pieces of shell. Some species are called honeycomb worms; when they occur in great numbers they can form reefs on rocks and other hard substrates.

73.D&S IFCA has 10 EMSs, six Tranche 1 and 2 MCZs. Most of these sites are co-located and some have shared boundaries with other IFCA's, the MMO and Welsh Government. A total of 2,329 gear-feature interactions have been identified for D&S IFCA's EMSs and of these 100 that relate to bait collection, remain to be assessed. For Tranche 1 MCZ 549 interactions have needed some form of assessment. For Tranche 2 a further 663 gear feature interactions are being assessed. D&S IFCA has ongoing research on the distribution of protected species and habitat as well as collecting data on fishing effort and location. D&S IFCA uses innovative modern technologies to undertake intertidal survey work such as drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to survey the Exe Estuary and Taw Torridge Estuary to identify, locate and count the number of crab tiles deployed by fishers to collect soft shell 'peeler crabs'.

74.D&S IFCA undertakes joint research with stakeholders, industry members, NGOs and agencies such as Cefas, NE, EA and academic institutes to collect finfish data in the Bristol Channel and ray, sole and juvenile fish surveys. D&S IFCA gathers data on spiny lobster, brown crab, European lobster, cuttlefish, mussels, scallops, bass, sole and rays. Data collected through the intertidal bivalve surveys are used to manage these fisheries. D&S IFCA currently funds a Bass PhD study together with the University of Plymouth.

Case study 5: Evidence Gathering for Adaptive Management of the Live Wrasse Fishery

A new fishery for live wrasse emerged in 2015/2016 in the D&S IFCA district. The wrasse are caught in pots and transported live overland to Scottish salmon farms where they are used in the control of sea lice, as an alternative to chemical treatments. Wrasse play an important ecosystem role. Wrasse consume molluscs and crustaceans, such as isopods and amphipods and play a key function in the ecological health of reef and kelp forests ecosystems. They act as cleaner fish in these ecosystems and to other fish species in the wild. Wrasse are inshore species, with no EU or UK management measures. They are an important species to recreational users of the marine environment including divers and anglers and have been used as pot bait for the commercial potting sector. The emerging fishery occurs in Plymouth Sound and Estuaries EMS. Five species of wrasse are caught and four of those are retained by fishermen. Each species has a complex life-history and behavioural strategies, making them particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation and there are many gaps in the existing evidence base. The potting permit byelaw was brought in in 2014, so a suitable management mechanism already existed. A literature review was conducted and findings from Irish and Norwegian research together with Cefas input were considered. From this research a series of recommendations were made to D&S IFCA Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee to bring in reactive and immediate management via the Potting Permit Byelaw. Evidence gaps were also identified, which led to the design of a fully documented fishery to provide additional fisheries data to inform more locally tailored management needs. The Sub-Committee agreed to introduce the recommendations including implementing the fully documented fishery; a 120 pot limit per permit holder (with a maximum of 480 pots for the fishery); a requirement to mark wrasse gear; a closed season for spawning from 1st April to 30th June; Minimum (MinCRS) and Maximum Conservation Reference Sizes (MaxCRS) for five species of wrasse (120-230mm for three species, 150-230mm for two other species). An important part of the management process was the requirement of the fishers to allow D&S IFCA officers to undertake on-board surveys to gather catch data to supplement the landing data recorded by the fishers. The literature review also highlighted the benefit of small closed areas within the fishing area and with this in mind, D&S IFCA introduced voluntary closed areas across the Plymouth Sound that lies within its District. All this work was in full collaboration with the fishing industry and Salmon Farm Agent, who were supportive of the management measures. Following the implementation of these measures in 2017, the results of the first year of data collection were collated in a report presented to the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee in November 2017. The report recommended changes to some of the management measures. These included a more restrictive slot size for one species - corkwing wrasse – changing the MinCRS to 140mm and MaxCRS to 180mm; a shift in spawning season closure; the continuation of fully documented fishery; changes to the voluntary closed areas and the introduction of voluntary geographic limit to fishery. The changes in size and spawning restrictions were introduced by reviewing the Potting Permit Conditions in 2018, as described in Case Study 6. The in-depth work undertaken and the introduction of management measures, through the permitting system, means that this fully documented fishery will be assessed as to

whether the stocks are being fished sustainably and may provide a model for the future.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

75. The Authority of the D&S IFCA publishes on its website its Annual Plan and financial documentation. Human Resources (HR) and Financial advice and assistance is provided by Devon County Council through a service level agreement. The Authority issues an explanatory handbook to new members of Byelaw and Permitting Sub-committee and members of the public. Finance officers from Devon County Council conduct an annual internal audit and provide regular budget updates to the Authority. The Authority's annual budget is below the threshold for requiring an external audit.
76. The Authority's officers have an annual performance appraisal and a personal development review with a mid-term update meeting. Officers are security cleared and undertake a mandatory six months' probation period. They must complete and maintain mandatory certification for commercial seafarers to be allowed to go to sea and enforcement officers do not get issued a warrant until satisfying the Chief Officer of their competence in that role.

Case study 6: The Process of Reviewing Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions

Permit Byelaw Permit conditions must be reviewed at least every three years. D&S IFCA has formulated the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee to conduct the work that is defined in the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference. Each member has a different background and this offers various skill sets. Delegated powers have been granted to the Sub-Committee for byelaw permit condition related decision making. The Sub-Committee has four scheduled meetings each year and the opportunity exists for additional meetings to be held as and when required. Meetings are open to the public. Minutes, which due to the technical nature of discussions are often very in-depth, are taken and published when approved at the following meeting. The recent three-year review of the Potting Permit Conditions included two separate phases of consultation. An open phase (28 days) was conducted providing all stakeholders the opportunity to examine the present conditions and highlight potential changes and the rationale for those changes. The consultation response is documented by officers in the form of supplements which are presented to Sub-Committee members before meetings. The supplements include relevant evidence bases and officers' comments to provide additional clarity on specific items. The Sub-Committee uses the best available evidence to inform its decision-making, or can apply a pre-cautionary approach to select key items of management that should be subjected to additional "focussed" consultation. All decision making is fully documented. The agendas for the meetings are directly linked to the supplementary reports that members receive and digest prior to the meeting. The supplements build on the consultation reports that are used during different phases of the consultation and are available for all stakeholders. A final report is completed at the end of the process which incorporates all previous information presented at different times. All of the interim reports and the final reports are available to the public.

Success Criterion 5: IFCAs make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

77.D&S IFCA produces an Annual Research Plan, which details the Authority's research projects and rationale, costs, partnership working and timeframes. D&S IFCA undertakes reactive research for emerging issues such as the decline in European sea bass, the development of a live wrasse fishery and the 'ray ban' in the Bristol Channel. Long-term research includes mussel stock assessments and whelk biology studies for future management plans. D&S IFCA relies on partnerships to meet its evidence needs and benefits from projects, such as FISHTRAIL (tourist benefits of angling and increasing anglers' awareness of fisheries legislation); I-BASS (acoustic tagging of bass in estuaries to investigate movement in and out of estuaries); and EUROHAB (development of web-based alert tool for harmful algal blooms that could impact the South West Mariculture and bivalve fisheries).

78.D&S IFCA works with the fishing industry in data collection and has invested in scientific equipment such as high definition underwater cameras, sidescan sonar,

go-pro cameras, static bait cameras, potting equipment (for spiny lobster data). Sea Search was funded to gather additional data to reinforce data gathered from Potting Permit holders. D&S IFCA makes use of the IFCA's shared equipment, particularly in the Severn Estuary where the Aris Sonar camera was deployed to gather data where high turbidity makes it difficult to deploy traditional underwater cameras.

79. D&S IFCA works with academic institutes to ensure that sound data is gathered that can stand up to robust statistical analysis. D&S IFCA officers also provide research proposals and supervise undergraduate and Masters' placements to help fulfil the IFCA's research programme. Survey metadata is submitted through MEDIN and published on the IFCA's website.

Case study 7: The European Seabass Workplan - Identifying Evidence Gaps and Developing Research Partnerships to Fill Them

D&S IFCA members raised concerns about lack of effectiveness of the new EU measures that were introduced in 2015 for bass and whether these measures would improve the bass stocks in D&S IFCA District. Officers were directed by the Authority to consider what potential bass conservation measures could be introduced in the District to help the stock recovery. In the first instance officers undertook a review of existing EU, national and local measures for protecting bass and, where possible looked at the likely impact of the new EU measures. Research was undertaken on the life-cycle analysis of bass to look at existing protection and knowledge gaps at different life-history stages. Through this evidence gathering several large knowledge gaps were identified that required work at all levels, from local to regional and national considerations. Work towards fulfilling the approach approved by the Authority included consideration of bass stocks in the Impact Assessment for the netting permit byelaw and developing and co-funding a four-year PhD with Plymouth University. Officers supervise the PhD and support its survey work. Through the PhD the I-BASS project was developed, which specifically assesses the fine-scale usage of Bass Nursery Areas by bass. Acoustic tagging of different age classes of bass has been undertaken and acoustic receivers pick up the movement of bass in and out of three estuaries in Devon. The research undertaken on bass so far has also identified the need for a larger partnership project to look at bass migrations and aggregations within the District. D&S IFCA has worked with Cefas for two years on the development of the Bass Fisheries Conservation UK project, which will help to fill these evidence gaps.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

80. Twelve respondents submitted comments about the D&S IFCA to our Call for Evidence.

81. Respondents have praised the IFCA's professional and helpful staff at the Ivybridge & Plymouth roadshows and the Wyvern Region of the Angling Trusts

and various industry meetings. The recruitment of a communications officer is seen as beginning to facilitate stakeholder engagement but comments suggest that fishers who may not have access to a computer would benefit from a face to face interaction with IFCA officers.

82. The Senior Environment Officer of the D&S IFCA has been praised for her inclusive approach to disseminating information to capture those out of reach audiences.
83. A perceived need for additional training of IFCA officers has been highlighted, in some comments, in relation to calliper measurements and species identification.
84. Concerns have been expressed about the scarcity of resources of the IFCA and its ability to have an effective presence on the ground and to be able to respond to issues such as reported illegal recreational bass fishing, unmarked potting gear and scrubbing of lobsters.
85. Some respondents have commented on the challenging relationship between the IFCA and the local fishermen. Better dialogue with all sectors of the fishing fleet is seen as necessary in securing the IFCA's future cooperation with the sector.
86. Recent netting byelaws are seen as effective and the Start Bay voluntary code as well-documented and mostly adhered to. The IFCA's comprehensive research programme, Monitoring and Control plans for the management of activities in MPAs are seen to be used to good effect. Voluntary Codes of Conduct addressing and resolving conflicts between recreational anglers and commercial fishermen are seen as a positive approach. However, comments have highlighted the need for closed MPAs to be reassessed regularly to allow for a possibility of reopening them to controlled fishing activities. A divergence of byelaws between neighbouring IFCAs has been described as a complex regulatory landscape for businesses.
87. Comments made on the membership of the Authority's Committee include the absence of a balanced representation from the commercial, angling and recreational sectors; other comments indicate the need for a commitment to real participation from Councillors who are viewed as not embracing marine policy but focusing instead on the financial implications that the IFCA work presents to their funding authorities. A responder noted that the percentage contribution/levy paid to the D&S IFCA by Gloucestershire County Council is perceived to be disproportionate to the benefits received by Gloucestershire's small fishery resources.
88. Comments were made on a recent prosecution case pursued by the D&S IFCA.

Eastern IFCA

89. The Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) district extends seawards six nautical miles from the Haile Sand Fort off the Lincolnshire coast in the north to the river Stour in Suffolk and inland in the three counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The Eastern IFCA has a budget of £1,443,096 in 2018-2019.
90. The Eastern IFCA District has MPAs, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), SACs, Ramsar sites and MCZs. Commercial fisheries include the brown crab and European lobster fisheries worth an estimated £1.24M annually. The brown shrimp fishery accounts for 94% of total UK landings of shrimp and the whelk fishery had an estimated first sale value of £1.6M in 2017. Cockle fisheries in The Wash had an estimated value of £4.18M in 2016. The first sales value of fin-fish (including flatfish, skates and rays etc.) landed into the district in 2016 was an estimated £1.5m.
91. The authority is located in King's Lynn. A satellite office, co-located with MMO officers in the Cefas building in Lowestoft, was opened in 2016. Eastern IFCA operates four vessels, FPV John Allen, FPV Sebastian Terelinck and FPV Seaspray (open RIB) for enforcement activities and the RV Three Counties research vessel.

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

92. Eastern IFCA has a Communication and Engagement plan that is revised annually and published on the IFCA's website. The website includes information on the IFCA's core duties, links to partner organisations' websites, byelaws and wider regulatory matters, Authority and sub-committee meeting papers.
93. Eastern IFCA engages with other IFCA's and has MoUs with the MMO, NE, EA and Cefas. IFCA officers contribute to the research of various working groups including the iVMS project, the Marine Biodiversity Impact Evidence Group (MBIEG), the Elasmobranch Steering Group and the Healthy & Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group (HBDSEG). Officers undertake collaborative enforcement work with the MMO and attend the 'Broads Beat' multi-agency meetings with the Police, EA and the Broads authority.

Case study 8: Community Voice Method (Common Ground)

Eastern IFCA worked in partnership with the Marine Conservation Society since 2015 on this project, with the support of The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership project manager. The purpose of the project was to identify what is important to people and through dialogue to consider how these values are shared by stakeholders despite their different relationships with the sea and ingrained suspicions of “other” marine interests. The 2016/17 phase included the production of our “Common Ground” film, which captured the views of 40 Eastern IFCA stakeholders relating to the marine environment. Six workshops were held in November 2016, where 78 stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds met in Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincolnshire to participate in a series of information-gathering activities. Showing the film at the beginning of the workshops provided an enabling environment for constructive dialogue between traditionally disparate marine and coastal stakeholder groups. The workshop then proceeded to gain further views of the participants, particularly focusing on what they valued about the marine environment. Eastern IFCA will build on what was learned through Common Ground and continue and broaden the conversation, applying new ways of working with a more diverse and connected network of stakeholders. The Common Ground film was released for public viewing and promoted on the Eastern IFCA website, through local community groups (Advisory Groups of the Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site) and by the Marine Conservation Society. This has helped Eastern IFCA increase recognition among coastal stakeholders across the district as well as on the national and even international marine conservation network. The outputs of the Common Ground project have been fed into the annual Strategic Assessment and the communication and engagement plan.

Success Criterion 2: IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

94. Eastern IFCA sets out its enforcement policy in its Regulation and Compliance Strategy. A guide on financial administrative penalties is available on the IFCA's website. The IFCA's Enforcement Plan is published annually, it gives an overview of the Authority's resources and sets annual indicators for enforcement. Enforcement activity is managed through the Tasking and Coordination Group (TCG) and attended by neighbouring IFCA's and MMO. Eastern IFCA shares intelligence with partner organisations.
95. IFCA officers are subject to a Code of Conduct, they receive appropriate training and are subject to annual appraisals and personal development plans. Enforcement operations are undertaken both at sea and on land. They include boarding and inspecting fishing vessels, their catch and their fishing gear at sea and inspecting vessels and their catch as they land in harbours, ports and on beaches. Inspections of premises of fish processors are also undertaken.

Case study 9: The Tasking and Coordinating Process

Tasking and Coordinating Group (TCG) considers information and allocates tasks to ensure effective tasking in line with enforcement priorities. The information includes a risk profile with data based the same month in the previous year and covers operational vessels, landed weights of species, economic reliance on a species, importance of the species, intelligence score and previous enforcement actions. Emerging fishing trends are reported to the TCG. The trends are collected during the previous month, by engaging with both commercial and recreational fishers. The reports are often anecdotal but reflects information that is not collected elsewhere (such as the price of crab sold in fisher's own restaurants). Furthermore, the associated narrative infers potential trends for the coming months. Intelligence is reported to the TCG by issue/geographical area and linked to any previous intelligence report. Additional operation meetings are held to provide direction to important issues and measure progress. Information on fishing trends is also used to inform Authority members in the Marine Protection Quarterly report and Intelligence gathered is disseminated to partner organisations for their use. Additionally, it is fed back into the risk register to improve decision making and tasking in the future. Next Steps: Whist the TCG process has undergone significant improvements in the past few years, we recognise that there are still further improvements that can be made. Therefore, Eastern IFCA are currently in the process of implementing regional TCGs, with partner organisations such as the EA, MMO, Police and Border Force and other IFCAs to discuss priorities at a higher level and for the whole of the East Marine area. Additionally, a national piece of work has been conducted with the MMO to review and improve the TCG template document to make it clearer and easier to use for officers.

Success Criterion 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

96. Eastern IFCA undertakes and publishes on its website an annual strategic assessment, which assesses the impact of fisheries on the district's marine environment. Risks are identified through scientific research, current legislation, ecosystem impacts assessments and local fisheries' performance through data on landings, value, trends in landed catch and CES advice.
97. Since 2012, Eastern IFCA has assessed more than 2000 fishing / feature interactions to develop management measures for the district's MPAs such as the shrimp fishery within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC. The SAC's associated assessment concluded that total prohibition of fishing activity within the site was not required; this led to proposals agreed with regulators and the industry to manage the fleet's fishing effort within the site.
98. Eastern IFCA has undertaken a review of current management measures for the protection of 'Red-Risk' features such as *Sabellaria* reef, stony reef and eelgrass

beds. Eastern IFCA is currently reviewing the management plan for the cockle and mussel fisheries within the Wash Fishery Order (1992), which has Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accreditation. Eastern IFCA is also considering an industry led fisheries management plan for the shrimp fishery. Eastern IFCA has worked with the industry towards the achievement of MSC accreditation for the fishery in the Wash.

Case study 10: Crab and lobster management

Important potting fisheries targeting edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*) and European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) operate throughout the Eastern IFCA district with key production areas situated off the North Norfolk and Lincolnshire coast. EIFCA have conducted an on-going bio-sampling and monitoring programme of the District's crab and lobster stocks to determine whether these species are being fished within levels of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). We started undertaking crab and lobster stock assessments in response to a wider study undertaken by Cefas, which indicated that the Southern North Sea crab and lobster stocks were in decline. To ensure a proportionate and locally relevant response to these findings, Eastern IFCA undertook annual assessments of the crab and lobster fisheries within the district. The assessment relied on two sources of data: Monthly Shellfish Activity Returns (MSARs) supplied by the fishermen, detailing their catches and regular bio-sampling, in which crabs and lobsters have been measured at ports and processing factories. These data have been used to model mortality using length converted catch curve methods, allowing estimation of natural and fishing mortality. From this model, it is possible to assess how a stock responds to exploitation and estimating the level of change necessary to achieve reference point objectives. The last three years have seen an increasing trend in total landings, with total catches of crabs and lobsters exceeding 1000 tonnes in 2015 and 2016. The overall findings of the assessments have indicated that management is required as stocks are being exploited to a level beyond maximum sustainable yield. At the 27th EIFCA meeting, members received a report outlining the need for management and agreed in principle the need to introduce measures. Members directed Officers to undertake consultation with the industry to inform the development of management measures. Whilst management measures are needed, no imminent threat to the sustainability of the stocks has been identified. Furthermore, Eastern IFCA has concluded that there is considerable discretion with regards to the measures that will have the required effect. Therefore, Eastern IFCA has committed to substantial engagement with the industry to inform the measures to ensure a proportionate approach which is relevant to contemporary business models and fishing activity.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

99. Eastern IFCA produces a rolling 5-year Business Plan. The plan is informed by an annual Strategic Assessment, which analyses issues of fishing in relation to environmental sustainability and identifies the IFCA's priorities. The IFCA's Annual Reports are published on its website and show performance against

success indicators, enforcement, engagement, sustainability requirements and environmental legislation requirements.

100. The Authority consists of 21 members from a variety of backgrounds: 7 councillors appointed by the respective constituent Authorities of Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk county councils; 1 officer each from NE, EA and MMO and 11 Volunteer members of the public appointed for their experience. The EIFCA's new committee members receive an induction pack, which includes the Constitution and Standing Orders, Business Plan and the latest Annual Report. Work of the authority and its committee and relevant papers are published on the IFCA's website. EIFCA committee meetings are open to the public. The authority employs 26 staff in total. All staff are given appropriate developmental training for their role. The Authority has used the Internal Audit Services of Norfolk County Council.

Case study 11: Full authority meeting: Introducing new members

On the 22nd March 2017 Eastern IFCA held an extraordinary full authority meeting. Due to the high number of new Authority members, officers also took the opportunity to showcase some of the daily activities that are carried out. This enabled Authority members to be better informed about the work of officers. The day provided an opportunity to demonstrate the high-level of competency officers have. Skippers taking the Authority's three vessels to sea are trained to RYA Yachtmaster (Offshore) as well as being subject to internal competency checks. Officers demonstrated their vessel handling skills and a pot hauling exercise was carried out using FPV Sebastian Terelinck with officers setting and recovering a 'shank' of pots. This is a technical exercise, routinely carried out by officers to check compliance with the whelk permit byelaw 2016 and various byelaws that relate to crab and lobster sustainability measures. To recover pots effectively both skipper and crew must be well trained, have good communication and coordinate the task well. The exercise allowed Authority members to see the challenges involved. Officers also demonstrated activities that would be carried out whilst boarding a vessel. Demonstrations were given on how to use an omega gauge to test the mesh size of nets; the thickness of the twine was tested using twine thickness gauges. Officers demonstrated the use of push gauges to check the escape gaps on pots, required as part of the whelk permit byelaw 2016. Officers also showed other equipment routinely carried such as: callipers, hit and miss gauges, fish rules and evidence collection equipment such as evidence tags, bags, receipt books and unattended gear inspection forms. Marine Science Officers demonstrated the range of equipment held by the authority such as Day and Hammon Grabs used for cockle stock assessments and to ground truth habitat mapping surveys; the Side Scan sonar used to map the shape and hardness of the seabed; and Aris Camera which is similar to an ultrasound and gives a detailed impression of a small area of seabed. Most of this equipment is routinely deployed from RV Three Counties. Eastern IFCA has ensured that the fisheries patrol vessels have a dual role and can deploy this equipment by installing A frames and winches to these. This increases the flexibility and the quantity of surveys that can be completed. Overall the day gave Authority members a better understanding of the work undertaken by officers and how it contributed to decision making process of the Authority at Eastern IFCA meetings.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

101. Eastern IFCA's 5-year Strategic Research and annual Marine Science Plans detail the projects and timelines of future research projects. The current Marine Science Plan for the period 2018-2019 details 32 projects. These include annual stock assessments for fisheries management (e.g. the Wash Fishery Order cockle and mussel surveys); ongoing sampling regimes (e.g. environmental health shellfish and water sampling), long-term monitoring programmes to inform future management plans (e.g. crustaceans and whelk stock assessments), Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA), etc. Eastern-IFCA maintains databases to record survey data and metadata, stocks assessment data and MapInfo GIS data, fishing vessel activity, habitat mapping surveys, crustacea and

whelk bio-sampling, finfish surveys and water quality parametrises. Additional databases maintained by the IFCA collect data on permits, landings, enforcement activity, closed-area-monitoring and stakeholder engagement. Eastern IFCA shares data with wider marine research community through MEDIN.

Case study 12: Eastern IFCA Chairmanship of TAG

The Eastern IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was set up to facilitate an exchange of information relating to fisheries, marine science and technology between IFCAs and other government agencies and help improve cooperation and consistency between organisations, and help IFCAs be valued as national and international fisheries managers. The Chair and secretariat roles of TAG are rotated among the ten IFCAs every eighteen months. Between June 2016 and November 2017, the role of Chair was undertaken by the Eastern IFCA Senior Marine Science Officer. During this period our representative was responsible for organising and facilitating TAG meetings and workshops and providing training opportunities for IFCA research staff. In addition to the group members providing each other with technical support through regular liaison, the group held a two-day training workshop in February 2017. This workshop focused heavily on habitat mapping training and included a mixture of presentations teaching the principles of survey design, mapping techniques and habitat identification using the EUNIS classification system, plus practical sessions training staff how to set up and use the scientific equipment that is jointly owned by the IFCAs. This included sessions with an Edgetech side scan sonar, a SeaSpyder underwater camera array and an ARIS 3000 sonar camera. The workshop, which was attended by 30 science officers from all ten IFCAs, was positively received and helped to standardise methodologies and best practice across the IFCAs. Our TAG representative also represents the IFCAs on other Defra working groups, including the Marine Protected Areas Group (MPAG), the Marine Biodiversity Impact Evidence Group (MBIEG), and provides a link to the Elasmobranch Steering Group and the Healthy & Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group (HBDSEG). Through these groups, the IFCAs are able to have a voice at a national level and an opportunity to be involved in contributing towards the national programme of marine research.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

102.Six respondents submitted comments about Eastern IFCA to our Call for Evidence.

103.Eastern IFCA staff are seen as helpful and committed to their work. They are actively involved in community initiatives such as the Common Ground Initiative, Heritage Open Days and various local events and roadshows that offer opportunities for wider engagement, including activities for children.

104.The IFCA is reported to have a visible communications strategy, informative and well-maintained website and make good use of social media. Respondents commented on the IFCA's collaborative approach to sharing knowledge with other IFCAs and regulators.

105. Eastern IFCA officers have been praised for being honest and diplomatic during a meeting with the local fishing community to discuss the strongly debated Offshore Windfarm of Dong/Orsted.
106. A skipper has commented on the challenges faced by the local cockle fishery and the need for meaningful consultation with the industry for the introduction of appropriate management measures for local cockle and shrimp stocks. It was highlighted that cockle businesses and other local shellfish processing factories need to be supported with prompt and relevant engagement and advice to facilitate their future business planning.
107. Comments highlighted what is perceived as absence of management measures to protect spawning bass in the Eastern IFCA district, while reports to the IFCA of illegal bass fishing in the Stour estuary are described as unresolved.
108. There is a perception that decisions taken by the Eastern IFCA's Committee may not have taken into full account the economic benefits of the recreational sea angling and charter industries.
109. Comments have been made about commercial fishermen in relation to the Authority's Committee and local byelaws. Respondents consider that the Eastern IFCA Committee may not always engage with the industry on the basis of timely co-management and partnership when management policies are being planned and introduced.

Kent & Essex IFCA

110. The Kent & Essex IFCA (KEIFCA) district covers an area of over 3,412 km² and extends from the east end of Rye Bay in Kent to the northern boundary of Essex on the River Stour. The seaward boundary follows the 6 mile nautical limit measured from the 1983 baseline, which, due to drying sand banks, extends up to 15 miles offshore at its furthest point. The up-river KEIFCA boundary in the Thames includes the waters adjacent to Kent County Council and Thurrock Council, with the district boundary running from Dartford creek (River Darent) on the south shore to Mar Dyke on the north shore. District limits for other rivers and estuaries located within the boundaries of Kent and Essex are to their tidal limit (including the Medway, Blackwater, Crouch and Colne). The coastline of the District is varied, including the reported 'longest coastline of any county' in Essex with its creeks and rivers, to the open Channel coast and chalk cliffs of South Kent, stretching approximately 800km.
111. KEIFCA has a main office in Ramsgate, Kent and a satellite office in Brightlingsea, Essex. KEIFCA has four fishery patrol vessels and four vehicles for the transportation of officers on enforcement duties and key equipment and for cockle surveys and other intertidal work.
112. Within the KEIFCA district there are 14 EMSs, 4 MCZs and 3 new MCZs, designated in January 2016, along with several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Ramsar sites.

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

113. Kent and Essex IFCA publishes on its website its annual communication plan. KEIFCA uses a range of communication tools from stickers, posters and information leaflets distributed by officers whilst on patrol or at public events like angling completions or at harbour festivals (Whitstable, Leigh, Harwich). Through its website and twitter, the IFCA issues an e-bulletin to publicise upcoming IFCA meetings and promotes key communication themes and highlight enforcement activities and projects. The IFCA is in partnership with local schools and colleges; an education pack and 'Learning Zone' section on its website introduces children to the coastal waters off Kent and Essex and their habitats and species.
114. KEIFCA participates in four MoUs with the MMO, CEFAS, NE and the EA. The MMO and KEIFCA have worked together on joint projects (MMO/ IFCA intel project, shared 2-week TCG meetings, a joint officer training programme, review of co-location of offices and carried out specific MMO/IFCA senior management meetings reviewing progress on joint work etc). Border Force staff operate alongside IFCA officers in the English Channel, for instance, monitoring fishing activity within specific MPAs in the KEIFCA district.

Case study 13: Working with the community - Medway No-take zone

On 22nd June 2016 KEIFCA made a byelaw that created the UK's largest no-take zone (12.1 km²). The project began during a meeting with the Rochester Oyster and Floating Fishery (ROFF), the guild holding rights to commercial fishing in the River Medway. Officers gave a presentation explaining the importance of estuaries for juvenile fishes and the benefits of protecting vital habitats. Following the meeting, KEIFCA and ROFF negotiated an area for designation that ROFF closed to commercial fishing under their own legislation. KEIFCA then began a byelaw process in order to strengthen this across all sectors and gear types. During the byelaw pre-consultation, officers visited sea angling shops in the Medway Towns to gather information on how and where recreational anglers use the river and to notify them of the designation to address any initial concerns. Posters and information were left with shops to advertise the proposed byelaw and invite members of the public to a pre-consultation meeting. Officers also worked with local fishermen to make a short film promoting the site. Following formal consultation, KEIFCA continued to promote the project and visited local schools, libraries and community groups and taught them about the fish that are present in the Medway Estuary and why it is important to protect the habitats they use. KEIFCA also visited Defra head office with partners from the EA, Institute of Fisheries Management and ROFF to host an afternoon of activities and demonstrations to teach about the IFCAs' role and the River Medway Nursery Area. Officers then worked with Medway Council to promote the site at the Medway River Festival (July 2016). Kent & Essex IFCA hosted stalls with games and information to encourage the public to find out more about how important the River Medway is to juvenile fish. Over 3,000 wooden fish were decorated by the public and partner organisations to promote the specific fish that live in the river. These were displayed along the riverfront to create a high-impact art piece that symbolised the fish returned to the river with its protection.

Success Criterion 2: IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

115.KEIFCA maintains a risk enforcement register. The IFCA has a joint MMO/IFCA intelligence system and running bi-weekly TCG meetings. The KEIFCA's Compliance and Enforcement Strategy lays out the KEIFCA approach to achieving regulatory compliance and potential sanctions.

116.Enforcement officers adhere to the national Code of Conduct for IFCOs and warranted officers have undertaken nationally and bespoke delivered training. There is an annual appraisal system in place for all IFCA officers. KEIFCA contributes to the joint MMO/IFCA accredited training and national training programmes. The Authority now employs a designated RIB coxswain who leads on MPA compliance especially in the area covered by the Essex Estuaries Bottom Trawling (Prohibited Area) Byelaw.

117.KEIFCA's annual enforcement reports are published on its website and submitted to the national Association of IFCA's and to the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG). KEIFCA's active role in NIMEG has led to best practice initiatives, standardisation of enforcement activity and reporting between the IFCA and the MMO.

Case study 14: Technology to help enforcement-VMS+ monitoring of cockle fishery

Licensed vessels in the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Order (TEFCO) were required to have VMS+ during the 2015 cockle season under EU law and transmit locational and vessel speed data every 2 hours. This temporal resolution was not sufficient to examine fishing activity within the cockle fishery, so the frequency of data transmission was increased at the request of KEIFCA to one report every 10 minutes. Data was sent from vessels using satellite instead of GPRS signal to ensure that data transmission was more reliable. Live access to the system for enforcement officers enabled monitoring to take place in the office, on board enforcement vessels and along the shore by officers in ports waiting to land vessels. Officers found this a useful enforcement tool allowing for more efficient use of officer time and enforcement resources. Following the end of the fishery, analysis of this data showed good correlation between the VMS track data, information on landing time and areas fished submitted by the fishermen on the Thames Estuary Cockles Fishery Order (TEFCO) cockle line, sightings of fishing vessels by the KEIFCA patrol vessels at sea and inspections made by KEIFCA officers at ports. Vessel tracks and subsequently an estimated footprint of the fishery was created using Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS) from the data, providing the most accurate view of the fishery on the fishing grounds to date. Although there were some limitations to the VMS+ data from 2015, these have been reviewed and alterations made for the continued use of VMS+ in the future by KEIFCA.

Success Criterion 3: IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts

118.KEIFCA has an evidence plan and annual reports to identify the main actions that need to be taken during each financial year. Quarterly meeting papers show detailed quarterly progress on MPA assessments and the development and application of management measures. The statutory byelaw making process and the associated impact assessments also provide topic specific assessments reviewing the appropriateness of existing measures, evaluating different management options and develop and implementing proportionate marine management solutions.

119.KEIFCA has developed a byelaw to ban the use of bottom-towed gear on key sensitive features/ areas of SAC and MCZ sites. The chalk reef in Thanet SAC, seagrass in Essex Estuaries SAC, Ross worm and honeycomb reefs among

others in Folkestone Pomerania MCZ and other key areas of sandbank in Margate and Longsands SAC, are now protected. Other MPA byelaws have been developed including the River Medway Nursery Area byelaw and the Essex Estuaries Bottom Trawling (Prohibited Areas) byelaw protected key areas of mud habitat in Essex Estuaries SAC. KEIFCA is working with NE to undertake 36 required tests of likely significance and 26 appropriate assessments and with partners and stakeholders in the development of management plans for fin-fish and shellfish species. KEIFCA continues to manage the Thames cockle fishery and conducts cockle stocks surveys twice a year on land and at sea to assess their density and size distribution.

Case study 15: Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery management

An important strand of KEIFCA work has been the continued management of the Thames cockle fishery, one of the largest cockle fisheries in Europe, the major part of which is managed under a Regulating Order. It is assumed that environmental conditions are the largest factor governing recruitment. This makes long-term management difficult with high dependence on continued new recruitment into the fishery. For this reason, it is vital, for the sustainable management of the fishery, to assess the spawning stock twice, annually. The management of the cockle stocks aims to regulate exploitation of the stock and maintain a core spawning biomass of adult cockles. To achieve this, KEIFCA officers survey cockle stocks twice a year on land and at sea to assess their density and size distribution. Quad bikes are used to carry out the shore surveys and samples are collected using a 0.1m² quadrat;²³ each sample is sieved and the cockles separated into different year classes, identified by the number of growth rings visible on the outside of the shell. Boat surveys are carried out using grab samples on 'Tamesis' during periods of high tide. Over 1,500 samples are taken annually covering an area of 218km². The results of the surveys are used to examine the distribution and density of cockles and produce estimated values of population size. Based on the survey results an annual meeting is held with the licence holders and management measures discussed - Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the fishery, the number and distribution of the trips, opened and closed areas and the duration of the fishery. The survey results, proposed management measures, HRA assessment and letters from the industry are discussed at the May Authority meeting, where the annual management is agreed. Cockles outside the regulating order are managed in a similar way using a permit byelaw.

²³ Quadrat sampling is a sampling tool used in marine biology studies. In general, a series of squares (quadrats) of a set size are placed in a habitat of interest and the species within those quadrats are identified and recorded.

Case study 16: Native oyster management in Essex

The harvesting of native oysters is an iconic local industry in Essex, however the Essex Estuaries have a number of international MPA designations, protecting the underlying seabed habitats as well as the birds that use the site. Since being designated in 2013, the management of the Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries MCZ site (designated to protect native oyster species and habitat) site has posed unique challenges due to its complexity. Over the course of five years (2013-2018) KEIFCA has worked with stakeholders to develop a flexible and community lead management system, which respects the conservation objectives of the designated MCZ and provides a structure where native oysters can continue to be harvested by oystermen, as they have been for generations on the Essex coast. This ambitious aim resulted in the largest and longest, byelaw consultation process in the history of KEIFCA; including a series of seven meetings between February 2017 and March 2018, four Authority meetings and two written consultations. Significant engagement has developed a management plan and a new byelaw that includes the knowledge of stakeholders and sets out a framework of sustainable exploitation once the native oysters have recovered.

Case study 17: Using a flexible byelaw to respond to a changing stock

Since the introduction of the KEIFCA Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw in 2011, the whelk fishery in Kent and Essex has burgeoned and is now one of the most important fisheries in the district with about 30 permit holders a year and a first sale value of £1-1.5m. Using evidence gathered by working with the local industry, CEFAS and universities, the flexible nature of the byelaw has allowed the Authority, following a review, to respond to new whelk stock information and respond by increasing the riddle gap for sorting retainable whelks, from 22mm spacing between riddle bars to 25mm as well as increase the size and number of escape holes. This amendment helps safeguard future stocks by reducing the number of immature whelks being retained, thereby increasing the rate of successful reproduction within a stock. Although this is part of KEIFCA's everyday work it is a valuable example of flexible local legislation responding to changing stocks and working to ensure a sustainable long-term fishery.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

120. KEIFCA has adopted various working documents to aid the smooth and transparent working of the Authority (i.e. Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, register of members' interests and a policy on Members' Allowances/Expenses). KEIFCA is subject to an annual internal audit by Kent County Council. KEIFCA uses Kent County Council for legal, constitutional, financial and HR support and one-off support on procurement and other key activities. IFCA members attend the quarterly IFCA meetings, with some

members attending specialist Technical Panel meetings. New members are provided with an IFCA Members' Handbook and develop their knowledge of the organisation by liaising with officers and going out to sea on the patrol vessels.

121.KEIFCA publishes an Annual Report (with previous year's achievements) and an annual plan (with following year's priorities) on the KEIFCA website. KEIFCA uses a Kent County Council system for staff performance monitoring. The system is based on the annual review of an employee's performance, which may allow for a small percentage increase related to their salary dependant on budgetary constraints and pay scale.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

122.The KEIFCA Strategic Evidence Plan for 2017-2022 defines the direction, resources and capabilities of evidence gathering activities for the organisation. These activities broadly fall under 3 themes: Marine Protected Areas, Sustainable Fisheries and Access to Information and Development of Evidence. The month by month annual research plan highlights the resources needed and the time required for annual surveys and specific projects.

123.The KEIFCA undertakes annual stock assessments for cockles and oysters and ongoing biannual small fish surveys in the Medway Estuary in collaboration with the EA. Other standalone projects include the funding of a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) PhD studentship with the University of Essex on native oyster restoration in the Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries (BCRC) MCZ and work with Essex oystermen to test the effectiveness of harrowing oyster ground to encourage spat settlement. The KEIFCA is also leading a review and developing new management options for (ICES areas) IVc and VIIId stocks through the SUMARiS project bringing together regional fishermen, scientists and fisheries managers from England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands to develop future cooperative sustainable management of the shared rays and skates' stocks. KEIFCA worked with Bangor University and whelk permit holders on a project that looked at differences in size at maturity and growth rates of whelk populations from the 4 whelk areas in the Kent & Essex district. The findings of the project informed the whelk permit management process.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

124.Six respondents submitted comments about Kent and Essex IFCA to our Call for Evidence.

125.Comments indicate that the KEIFCA website is seen as informative and that out of reach audiences are captured with a quarterly newsletter.

126.Some respondents considered KEIFCA staff as professional and helpful but thought that the quality of service was being affected by the high turnover of staff. Other comments indicated that some IFCA officers and committee members are

perceived as lacking practical knowledge of the industry. The Authority's Committee representation was also highlighted as imbalanced in favour of environmental groups and NGOs.

127. Comments were made on the IFCA's enforcement methods and administrative processes that may be influencing stakeholder engagement with the fishing industry and other bodies.

128. Respondents have commented on the excessive allocation of time spent by the IFCA on managing the local cockle fishery. Concerns have been expressed about the continuous illegal taking of native oysters in MCZs and the IFCA's lack of action against it.

129. A fisherman has commented on the need for the IFCA to take steps to address a perceived decline of the commercial sector in the Southend area.

130. A respondent has commented on the challenges for fishers as a result of divergent byelaws between neighbouring IFCAs.

North Eastern IFCA

131. The North Eastern IFCA's (NEIFCA) 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. The District also encompasses all estuarine areas, landward to tidal limits, occurring within the boundaries of the member Local Authorities²⁴.
132. The Authority comprises representatives from the 11 coastal Local Authorities within its area together with 14 members appointed by the MMO, one member appointed by each of the MMO, the EA and NE. The total membership of the Authority is 30.
133. In delivering its functions the Authority issues permits for various types of fishing activities including taking shellfish such as lobsters, crabs, whelks and cockles, using intertidal fixed nets and trawling from a vessel.
134. Within the North Eastern IFCA District, there are three EMSs; the Tees and Cleveland Coast marine SPA, the Flamborough Head SAC and the Humber Estuary marine SPA/SAC.
135. NEIFCA owns and operates three vessels. These include a main vessel the North Eastern Guardian III and two rigid inflatable boats (RIBS), 'Bravo 1' a 6.4 m vessel carried by the main vessel during routine fisheries patrol work and a 6.3 m vessel 'Humber Protector', which is stored in Bridlington and deployed to support land-based operations throughout the Authority's area.

Success Criterion 1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

136. NEIFCA's approach to communication is informed by a consultation strategy, which is published on its website. The website carries a wide range of information on the work of the Authority. Fishermen can apply for fishing permits directly through the website and put questions to the Chief Officer. Over 500 such questions have been answered during the last 4 years.
137. NEIFCA maintains a database of over 2300 stakeholders including commercial and recreational fishermen operating within its District. NEIFCA uses the database to circulate newsletters and provide updates to stakeholders of byelaw and regulatory work. During the last 5 years NEIFCA has held a wide range of stakeholders meetings and 'one to one surgeries' throughout its district, including many to facilitate engagement with the recreational charter angling sector.

²⁴ North Easter IFCA member Local Authorities are: East Riding of Yorkshire Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Durham County Council, South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Stockton on Tees Borough Council, Kingston Upon Hull City Council, Sunderland City Council, North Lincolnshire District Council, North East Lincolnshire District Council

NEIFCA communicates regularly with neighbouring IFCA's, Northumberland and Eastern IFCA and the MMO. In addition, two formal 'Northern IFCA Cluster' operational meetings were held in 2014 and 2016 between NEIFCA, NIFCA, NWIFCA and EIFCA.

138. NEIFCA officers attend a variety of annual public shows and events across the District. Since 2014, NEIFCA has had an active presence at 24 such events engaging with over 23,000 stakeholders. Since 2014, 5 newsletters have been released. NEIFCA supports the secretariat of an inter-agency coastal group 'Joint Coastal Enforcement Group'. The membership of the group covers an area stretching from the Humber to the Scottish borders and its membership includes NEIFCA, NIFCA, NWIFCA and representatives from the MMO, Marine Scotland, Police, Border Force, the Tweed Commissioners, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the EA and NE. The group facilitates communication and the sharing of intelligence between agencies. Since 2014 there have been eight meetings of this group.

139. NEIFCA is actively engaged and involved across all the national coordinating groups including the national Association of IFCA's, the IFCA Chief Officer Group, the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group and the IFCA TAG. NEIFCA maintains MoUs with the MMO, CEFAS, NE and EA.

Success Criterion 2: IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

140. NEIFCA has an Enforcement and Compliance policy and an overarching Code of Conduct which set out the standards expected of its enforcement officers. These standards are embedded into all stages of staff training and development from induction and probationary training through to training and refresher courses for established staff. Associated strategic and operational risks are reviewed and assessed at least every six months and reported to the Authority's Executive Committee in a series of registers. All these documents, including the IFCA's enforcement strategy and enforcement reports are published on NEIFCA's website.

141. Since 1996 NEIFCA has maintained a cross-warranting relationship with the EA for joint enforcement operations. In September 2016 NEIFCA became an active partner with the MMO and neighbouring IFCA's, Northumberland and North Western in establishing an intelligence gathering system enabling the capture, recording, evaluation and dissemination of fisheries intelligence, informed by the national intelligence model. In August 2017 NEIFCA played an active role in the TCG process, in partnership with regional representatives of the MMO and the partner IFCA's. Since September 2016 NEIFCA officers have captured, collated and reported over 160 individual intelligence reports.

Success Criterion 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

142. Within its jurisdiction NEIFCA has four EMSs and two MCZs; across those sites, since 2016, Officers have appraised 1,391 individual interactions between fishing gear and associated site features, completed 73 'tests of likely significant effect' and 4 Appropriate Assessments. This work has informed the making of six new byelaws to strengthen the management of associated fishing activities and the protection of site features.
143. The Authority's 5 Year Research and Strategic Plan sets out the longer term priorities for monitoring key fish and shellfish stocks exploited within its District. These stocks include lobster, crab, whelk, king scallop and cockle with an ambition to extend that work to nephrops and whelks. The Authority's ongoing crustacean monitoring programme gathers data on lobster, edible crab and velvet crab species and it now supports annual assessments of stock health against MSY and these species' management plans. In 2017 IFCA officers established a comprehensive monitoring programme for king scallop within the NEIFCA District, which in 2019 will provide an assessment of the state of that stock against MSY. The assessment of whitefish stocks remains under-developed outside seasonal permitted fixed net fisheries; however, a new byelaw regulation will soon facilitate a much more comprehensive analysis of catch and effort across a wider range of species.

Case study 18: Emergency Powers – Section 157 Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009

Since 2014, NEIFCA has used its emergency byelaw making powers to deal with unmanageable levels of nomadic scallop dredging and to provide additional protection to egg bearing lobsters from unlicensed operators. During February 2015 NEIFCA experienced a significant influx of nomadic scallop dredgers wishing to access its district with expansions in effort in the magnitude of 400 to 500% when compared with historical levels. Authority members supported the confirmation of an emergency byelaw regulation to close the emergent fishery pending a review of management options. A new byelaw was confirmed during December 2015, which established a restricted permitting scheme enabling the Authority to control the numbers of vessels accessing the fishery and setting a number of other management measures including a vessel size limit of 12 m and 221 KW, a night time closure, a six month seasonal closure, a dredge limit of ten per vessel, a prohibition inside 3 nautical miles, mandatory vessel monitoring and a mandatory monthly catch and effort scheme. Following careful consideration and balancing the economics of the fishery, the needs and wishes of both the scallop operators and pot fishermen and the associated impacts on the environment and other stocks, the Authority agreed to open the fishery in December 2016 on a trial basis to a maximum of three permit holders. This policy decision was carried forward through the 2017 season and now the 2018 season, which commenced on 1 November 2018 and during the last two seasons landings associated with this fishery have increased from 56 to 198 tonnes. Through this approach, our Authority officers have been able to increase the evidence base in a very measured and balanced way, which will inform a longer term sustainable management strategy for the fishery.

Success Criterion 4: IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

144. The conduct and operation of NEIFCA is underpinned by Standing Orders and policies, which guide members and officers alike and which are provided in 'handbooks' for reference. NEIFCA publishes an Annual Plan and Annual Report and is subject to an annual internal audit undertaken by auditors from its lead Local Authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The last internal audit report covering the 2017/2018 financial year found that NEIFCA had satisfactory controls in place with a moderate organisational exposure risk.

145. NEIFCA carried out a staff survey in 2017, which revealed positive feedback with over 69% of staff agreeing that their work gave them a personal sense of accomplishment and 84% that they were resourced and had the tools to do their jobs well. NEIFCA staff are subject to induction, probationary plans and national training. NEIFCA encourage active staff participation in meetings, workshops and focus groups covering topics such as regulatory byelaw development and fishing gear marking. NEIFCA staff support the administration of the Authority

and two sub-groups, the Executive Committee and Science Advisory Group (SAG). Meetings are quorate.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

146. NEIFCA maintains a Five Year Research and Strategic Plan underpinned by an Annual Research Programme, which set out planned fisheries and environmental monitoring work for the year ahead. The IFCA ensures its work is consistent with national practices and procedures through engagement with the national IFCA TAG.

147. NEIFCA's research outputs are published in stand-alone reports, summarised in the Authority's Annual Report and collected meta-data is published in MEDIN.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

148. Six respondents submitted comments about North Eastern IFCA to our Call for Evidence.

149. NEIFCA is seen by some respondents as a visible and trusted regulator within the North East Area. Most stakeholders appear to have a good understanding of the IFCA's role. The IFCA's website has been highlighted as requiring further updating while communications could be further enhanced through the use of social media. A variety of stakeholders would have welcomed more frequent newsletters in paper form and/or electronically.

150. NEIFCA staff are seen as good and committed to their work. The IFCA's science team has been praised for its visible, informed and engaging presence at meetings and events. Comments have also indicated that NEIFCA's science and environmental teams may benefit from more consistent engagement and long-term partnerships with local universities and consultancies.

151. The Authority's public consultation process on the scallop dredging byelaw with public meetings and one-to-one sessions has been noted as a well-received collaborative approach that resulted in a fair and proportionate system for allocating permits. NEIFCA is seen as working hard on MPAs.

152. Comments have been made about the IFCA's decision to maintain trawling within the Flamborough Head EMS (red risk feature) due to a perceived influence of mobile sector interests. Other comments have indicated that scientific evidence may not always be available or considered fully when byelaws are progressed, however, NEIFCA's emergency byelaw provisions are reported as being used to good effect.

153. Comments on the Authority's performance indicate that the IFCA's leadership may need to address with the MMO a current imbalance of representation and expertise in its committee members. Other comments have also highlighted that the Authority may need to address the decreasing number of committee meetings

which are creating delays of important decisions. Comments highlighted the IFCA's high turnover of staff and also a need for improved internal processes in order to guarantee budgetary transparency.

Northumberland IFCA

154. Northumberland IFCA's district is defined in the south by a line drawn down the centre of the River Tyne from the National Tidal Limit (NTL) between the councils in NIFCA district and councils in NEIFCA district; then out to 6 nautical miles from the baseline. In the north the English/Scottish border out to 6 nautical miles from the baseline, also including all rivers and estuaries with the NIFCA district up to their NTL. NIFCA is funded by Northumberland County Council and North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council.

155. Northumberland IFCA has in its district several SSSIs, Ramsar Sites and the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve and the following MPAs:

- Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC
- Coquet Island SPA
- Farne Islands SPA
- Lindisfarne SPA
- Northumbria Coast SPA
- Northumbria Marine pSPA²⁵
- Aln Estuary MCZ (Tranche 1 site)
- Coquet to St Mary's MCZ (Tranche 2 site)

156. The Authority is located in Blyth. Its patrol vessel is a 16m GRP catamaran named St Aidan. St Aidan is equipped with an on-board 5.4m RIB named TT St Aidan. The Authority also owns a Humber Ocean Pro 7.0 m RIB. These vessels are used principally for shore patrols and survey work.

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

157. Northumberland IFCA (NIFCA) has a continuous programme of communication and engagement with stakeholders, partners and the wider community together with its website and Twitter. The Northumberland Gazette and Fishing News are also used. The Authority publishes a newsletter "NIFCA News" on its website, which is also distributed to local libraries, civic centres and handed out at events.

158. Other examples of public engagement include assistance to make permit returns electronically, as well as in hand-written form; supplying measuring gauges to fishers to maximise size compliance and v-notching pliers to all commercial shellfish permit holders; free distribution of escape gaps, byelaw booklets and minimum conservation reference size cards; making tags available to fishers to mark their gear and issuing Gear Marking Codes of Conduct to commercial and recreational fishers.

²⁵ Priority Special Protection Area (pSPA)

159. IFCA staff attend events in the district and nationally such as harbour days, community events, festive occasions, festivals, Heritage Days, sea angling club events, university career fairs and dedicate time to educational activities for children and school visits. Senior staff deliver talks to organisations including the “Probus” club, the Farne Islands Committee, the Port of Tyne Authority, branches of the Women’s Institute, the Natural History Society of Northumberland at the Great North Museum in Newcastle and others. The Authority works in partnership with the MMO and NE, with Trinity House in Newcastle to provide events, including sea cadets and sea scouts going to sea on the Authority patrol vessel and participate in-office workshops. The IFCA offers work experience to young people.

160. The IFCA maintains MoUs with the MMO, NE and the EA (including Cross-Warranting). IFCA officers work closely with other IFCAs, the Marine Police, Newcastle University and the Tweed Commission and attend the “Joint Coastal Enforcement Group” in the Northern region (Humber to Scottish border); environmental IFCOs and have contributed to the setting up of a fisheries local action group (FLAG) in the NIFCA district, which led to joint working with Northumberland County Council leading to the achievement of the North of the Tyne FLAG.

Success Criterion 2: IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

161. NIFCA works on a risk based and intelligence led basis and is involved in the National IFCAs’/MMO Intelligence Programme. The Authority makes full and reciprocal use of TCGs with the MMO. NIFCA’s enforcement work is underpinned by education as a key means of minimising and preventing criminal activity by daily engagement with commercial and recreational fishers and other stakeholders. Records of enforcement activity are compiled and published on the IFCA’s website.

162. NIFCA has completed a full legacy byelaw review.

Success Criterion 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

163. To facilitate the work of the Authority in connection with the Birds, Habitats, Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives, EMSs and MCZs, the Authority coordinates and approves its research through its Technical and Scientific sub-committee. The Authority works with partner agencies to advance joint objectives such as with the Environmental Consultancy Mott McDonald, with support from NE to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the fisheries under NIFCA’s management jurisdiction.

164. The Authority has an MoU with Newcastle University School of Marine Science and benefits from collaborative projects such as research into a lobster hatchery that led to the opening of the current lobster hatchery at Amble and the work into *Social and Environmental Drivers of Fishers Spatial Behaviour in the Northumberland Lobster Fishery*, which has informed lobster management measures. Other reports include recent trends in the Northumberland brown crab fishery, an assessment of the impact of v-notching European lobsters in Northumberland, common dab fisheries biology on the Northumberland Coast, changes in the Northumberland fishing industry in the past 25 years and a sustainable fishing plan for the Farne Deeps nephrops fishery. Newcastle University research has assisted NIFCA on the effects of fishing gear on features of MPAs, which has allowed IFCA officers to assess gear/feature interactions and complete MPA assessments.

165. NIFCA has introduced its Seagrass Protection Byelaw and Prohibition of the Use of Mobile Fishing Gear Byelaw within the English section of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC. This SAC includes “soft grounds” which do not require the level of protection from mobile fishing gear activity, required for rocky reef areas. The Authority undertook ground truthing²⁶, gathering habitat data and intelligence from the local fishing industry to establish the soft ground features, which could be opened to mobile gear by way of amendment to the byelaw, thus allowing a balanced approach between environmental protection and socio economic benefits of the NIFCA trawler fleet.

166. The Authority’s evidence is gathered from surveys in the district both from the shore and through the partnership with the local fishermen, survey work for site specific management of MPAs and joint research with other regulators.

167. The Authority has developed management plans for lobster and is currently working on measures for brown crab. The fishing effort of both species is monitored spatially and temporally.

Case study 19: Filling evidence Gaps

NIFCA identified evidence gaps in 1) the impact of potting on reef and 2) the intensity and impact of bait digging and hand gathering. Two Newcastle University PhD projects were commissioned to address these questions and the results and conclusions have been used to inform NIFCA’s Habitats Regulations Assessments for the relevant gear/fishery interactions.

²⁶ Ground-truthing checks the accuracy of (remotely sensed data) by means of in-situ observations.

Case study 20: Developing Fisheries Management Plans

NIFCA's Fisheries Management Plans are species focused and our Monitoring and Control Plans (M&C) are Fishing Gear focused and refer to the whole NIFCA district. We developed a 2016-17 Lobster Fisheries Management Plan and are working on Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for Brown Crab and Velvet Crab. The M&C plan for static netting is complete and we have drafts of plans for Trawling and Potting. We will also be developing M&C Plans for Dredging and Trawling.

Case study 21: Assessing the Health of Reef and Mud Habitats

In August 2018, NIFCA started working with Newcastle University, NE, North Eastern IFCAs and "Benthic Solutions" on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Project funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The project aims to determine if existing indicators used for assessing the health of reef and mud habitats are effective in the North East coastal marine area and potentially identify new regional indicators. NIFCA's Patrol vessel St Aidan and RIB Bravo 1 have been chartered for this project on a total of nine days in 2018 and officers will be assisting with the surveys which include grab sampling, Sediment Profile Imagery (SPI), towed video and baited camera. There will be a further nine days chartering and support to the project by NIFCA in 2019.

Case study 22: Emergency Byelaws

The Authority made use of IFCAs emergency byelaw making powers in September 2017 to complete the protection for berried lobsters in the NIFCA district following the national prohibition on landing berried lobsters brought in by an SI in October 2017, which did not regulate Scottish lobster fishers in English waters and recreational lobster activity in the Authority district.

Success Criterion 4: IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

168. NIFCA staff consist of management, administrative, financial and officer corps. NIFCA membership comprises appointees from our constituent local authorities, MMO appointees with a background in fisheries and/or marine environmental areas and a statutory appointee from the MMO, EA and NE. Training and induction is facilitated for all new MMO and local authority appointees, including ongoing training and updates during their membership.

169. The Authority operates to a suite of policies for Officers and Authority members and are contained in Officer and Member Handbooks. All staff are subject to training and development plans. In addition to training and development of new skills, mentoring for all staff is also available. Authority members and officers are

required to comply with Codes of Conduct, declare any interests and fulfil the standards for working in the public sector and holding public office. The financial and wider work of NIFCA is subject to an independent and paid for Annual Audit by Northumberland County Council and which has consistently demonstrated the high standard of the work of the Authority as well as compliance with public sector requirements including holding and dealing with public money.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

170.NIFCA maintains a Strategic Research Plan and Strategic Research Report which is prepared by the IFCA's environmental team and published annually on the Authority website.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

171.Two respondents submitted comments about Northumberland IFCA to our Call for Evidence.

172.The IFCA is seen as an effective regulator with visible stakeholder engagement. The IFCA's website is seen as effective and communication methods are perceived as good and varied.

173.Comments have been made about the IFCA's strong enforcement presence on water and good engagement with fishermen. The IFCA's excellent codes of conduct issued to license holders on the effective marking of static fishing gear, have been noted.

174.One respondent commented on the IFCA's perceived reluctance to tackle reported illegal overfishing in the Berwick area.

North Western IFCA

175. The district of the North Western IFCA (NWIFCA) spans 1,280km of coastline. It reaches from the Welsh Border in the Dee Estuary to the Scottish Border in the Solway Firth. The area includes coastal Council landward areas and sea areas up to 6 nautical miles off shore.
176. NWIFCA is a joint Committee of 8 Councils, which together are responsible for the coast of NW England within the NWIFCA District. The Authority has 30 members including 10 Councillors from coastal Councils, 18 MMO appointees and 3 statutory body appointments.
177. NWIFCA is funded by levy, charged to its member councils so that funding originates in local taxation. An annual audit return is published each year. NWIFCA has two offices, one in Carnforth and another in Whitehaven. The Authority employs 22 staff and assets include a 20m main patrol vessel, 4 RIB patrol vessels, various vans, off road vehicles and quad bikes.

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

178. The Authority members represent a balance of fishing and environmental needs. The Authority works in partnership with stakeholders, policy makers in central and local government, industry, NGOs, recreational and commercial users, other regulators including NE, Councils, Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), the MMO and with partners in Wales and Scotland and further afield in the UK.
179. NWIFCA maintains a stakeholder database from which permit schemes are operated and fishing sectors are kept informed of IFCA news. The IFCA uses its website to run permit schemes and keep members, permit holders and all stakeholders informed about IFCA byelaw developments and other work.
180. National MoUs are in place with NE, EA, Cefas and the MMO. NWIFCA has an MoU and data sharing agreement with GLAA. NWIFCA has agreements to collect shellfish hygiene samples for its member Councils²⁷.
181. NWIFCA sets up targeted multi-agency committees before fisheries in the District are opened for fishing. Membership includes local Councils, GLAA, NE, EA, MMO and other agencies. NWIFCA operates a cross sectoral bivalve mollusc working group (BMWG) to develop management plans for cockles, mussels and other shellfish in the District.

²⁷ Cheshire West and Chester, Liverpool City, Wirral, Halton Borough, Sefton, Blackpool, Lancashire County, Cumbria County

Success Criterion 2: IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

182.NWIFCA has a risk based enforcement strategy, makes use of intelligence, meets legislative standards and complies with the Regulators Code. The NWIFCA risk registers and enforcement strategy are published and reviewed annually. The sanctions for infringements and/or offences meet national standards and protocols. Enforcement action is carried out by trained officers working to defined standards of conduct. The enforcement team uses resources from the MMO, GLAA, Councils and NE.

183.NWIFCA is undertaking a byelaw review, seeking to align its priorities with those from Wales, Scotland and other organisations including the MMO, Councils, GLAA EA; Marine and Coastguard Agency and other agencies. NWIFCA has achieved consistency in many of its byelaw regulations in force in Scotland and Wales. The Authority has inherited 3 sets of byelaws (2 IFCA and EA byelaws from the Dee estuary) and good progress is being made in integrating them.

184.NWIFCA's operational activity is managed through weekly tasking of all warranted officers and an inter-agency TCG operated with the MMO. The IFCA's intelligence is shared with external partners. Warranted IFCOs are trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. Enforcement activity is published on the website and data and intelligence are shared with other regulatory bodies and NIMEG.

Success Criterion 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

185.NWIFCA's fisheries management plans such as cockle and mussel plans are developed and approved by regional multi-agency committees such as the bivalve mollusc working group and agreed with stakeholders and environmental advisors. Each year, NWIFCA develops management plans for priority species such as cockles and mussels. For this work, BMWG is convened each year to agree levels and areas of fishing and set TAC levels for sectors.

186.NWIFCA has a Monitoring and Control Plan for the management of its network of MPAs. Fishing activities in MPAs are subject to a Habitats Directive assessment to protect designated features. The restrictions on fishing in Lune Deep are enforced. A Byelaw for management of the Tranche 2 West of Walney MCZ is being progressed by MMO in full consultation with NWIFCA.

Success Criterion 4: IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

187. NWIFCA staff are required to act professionally at all times and all complaints are investigated. IFCA staff are subject to an induction procedure, annual job review and have mandatory and bespoke training according to their roles. IFCOS are warranted following successful completion of the annual IFCA training course.

188. New NWIFCA Authority members are sent an induction pack, provided with appropriate briefing and are invited to attend training days on IFCA work. There is a rolling twelve month schedule of quarterly Authority meetings and quarterly technical meetings. Notices of meetings and documentation are made available in line with Standing Orders. All IFCA Committee meetings are held in public unless material is either confidential or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972. The Authority's Internal Audit concluded that the control objectives were achieved throughout the current financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Authority.

Success Criterion 5: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

189. NWIFCA undertakes survey work throughout its District to determine stocks of a range of shellfish species. NWIFCA decisions are supported by a team of four scientists who pool their expertise with colleagues from other IFCAs nationally to share best practice.

190. The IFCA maintains an annual strategic research plan. A survey programme of research activity and monitoring is planned annually and updated in consultation with partners EA, NE, MMO, Cefas. NWIFCA science officers work to Standard Operating Procedures, which describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners.

191. Research and Survey data is stored by area and species on databases held on the NWIFCA IT system and reviewed annually. More frequent surveys are often needed to inform management decisions, which may be modified and changed during the course of a fishing season. Non-confidential research data is available in authority reports, stored on national databases and shared with the marine research community.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

192. Six respondents submitted comments about North Western IFCA to our Call for Evidence.

193. It was noted that engagement between stakeholders and NGOs is improving through service level agreements. Collaborative initiatives with fishery stakeholders, other IFCAs, Marine Scotland, EA and MMO are seen as positive and productive.

194. The IFCA's communications strategy is seen as varied and constantly improving, including the use and scope of social media. However, some

respondents indicated uncertainty about the IFCA's aims and priorities and whether the IFCA had consulted on and published a Strategic Research Plan.

195. Respondents indicated that collaboration with the North West Angling Trust Consultative Council and the North West Wildlife Trusts may need to be strengthened and noted that fisheries stakeholders in the north of the district may feel disengaged from the work of the Authority.
196. Respondents considered that IFCA staff are professional and responsive and that the Chair is effective in handling the Authority's Committee meetings.
197. The high calibre of the IFCA's scientific staff was highlighted and their collaborative and inclusive work ethic was praised.
198. A respondent has noted that concern among the Committee about conflicts of interest in the line-management structure is perceived to be affecting the IFCA's operation and reputation. The issue of accountability of the Authority to Central Government and of IFCA officers to Members of the Authority, respectively, was noted. The scarcity of dedicated Area Officers was also highlighted by respondents.
199. A respondent noted the positive effect of a voluntary seasonal ban on netting around the cliffs at St Bees to protect and promote the recovery of seabirds. Positive comments were made on the extensive honeycomb worm reef assessments undertaken by the IFCA as well as on the research work to develop management plans for cockle and muscle fisheries in Morecambe Bay EMS.
200. Some concerns were reported about the IFCA's perceived reluctance to address issues around the declined salmon population in the river estuaries.
201. Comments were made on the IFCA's need to manage more proactively other fisheries such as Nephrops and thornback ray and to consider management measures for fisheries in MCZ sites with a "maintain" objective.
202. Comments were made about the IFCA's slow review process of its byelaws and how that may be creating a perception that the IFCA has not come together fully as one organisation.

Isles of Scilly IFCA

203.The district of the Isles of Scilly is an archipelago located 28 miles off the Cornish Coast, made up of 140 islands 5 of which are inhabited.

204.Boats fishing within the district of the Isles of Scilly IFCA have to be less than ten tonnes or 11 metres long. Many fishing boats are small open boats that work a small number of pots. Fishing is seasonal and primarily takes place between March and November.

205.The most important resources for fishermen in the Isles of Scilly are European lobsters and brown (edible) crabs, which are caught in pots. Some fishermen use tangle nets to target crawfish (spiny lobster) and species such as monkfish; gill nets to catch pollack and grey mullet; and trammel nets to catch bait to use in lobster and crab pots. Pollack are also caught using hand lines and rods. There is one boat that uses a light otter trawl to catch fish such as haddock, dover sole, megrim, plaice and john dory.

Success Criterion 1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

206.The Isles of Scilly IFCA has an active engagement with stakeholders through presentations to Councillors and Council staff, individual meetings with fishermen, NE, MMO, Cornwall IFCA, Isles of Scilly Fishermens' Association and the National Lobster Hatchery. New academic partnerships and projects are under development.

207.The IFCA maintains a database of fishermen. The IFCA's website is used as the Authority's primary tool of communications together with face to face interaction, text messages and phone calls to fishermen.

208.The Isles of Scilly IFCA do not have any MoUs, but engage with Cornwall IFCA, NE and the MMO. As a small authority, the IFCA spends proportionately less time on the development of regional and national plans. It focusses on meeting local priorities through stakeholder engagement, byelaw development and MPA assessments, management and monitoring. The IFCA is currently a partner of the SW Crab and Lobster management sub group (part of UK Fisheries Improvement Plan), without active participants.

Success Criterion 2: IFCAS implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

209.The Isles of Scilly IFCA does not currently have an enforcement capability. The Authority has one warranted officer. Enforcement activities are not taking place at sea in 2018-2019. Activity at sea is monitored electronically and through regular at sea patrols. An enforcement risk register will be produced for the Isles

of Scilly IFCA and will be published on the IFCA's website from April 2019. The Authority is currently updating legacy byelaws and preparing for i-VMS.

210. The Isles of Scilly have few other regulators operating locally. The IFCA has engaged with the MMO in the development of new byelaws and for one of its MCZ sub-sites that crosses the 6nm boundary. The Isles of Scilly is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation and it is underpinned by an AONB Partnership consisting of representatives from key organisations including Islands' Partnership, Isles of Scilly IFCA, the Council of the Isles of Scilly, the Duchy of Cornwall, Tresco Island, NE, English Heritage & the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The AONB partnership has produced an AONB Management Plan.

211. The Authority keeps records of enforcement activity. The IFCA has employed recently two members of staff, who are subject to the national code of conduct for IFCOs and training.

Success Criterion 3: IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their fisheries

212. The Isles of Scilly IFCA does not currently have data on fisheries effort or fishing activity mapping. The IFCA will be looking to work with fishermen and local participating 'citizen scientists' to collect catch, effort and activity data. Funding proposals are being developed to support research for proportionate long-term data sets that can provide an insight into the status of key features within MPAs, as well as key components within the district more generally.

213. A pilot project to use remote monitoring for crawfish started in September 2018.

214. Amber risk Habitat Regulation Assessments will be completed by October 2019; this includes a new requirement to assess a proposed new scalloping activity within part of the district that also includes the SAC boundary. Work is taking place to address evidence gaps that would enable good decision making for fisheries and MPA management.

215. A new geodatabase for Isles of Scilly marine data is under development to support the IFCA's byelaw review process. A risk-based approach has been adopted for the development of new byelaws. Surveys to collect feature information within MPAs started in September 2018. Work to collect catch effort data will start in the 2019 season.

Success Criterion 4: IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

216.The Authority for the Isles of Scilly IFCA meets quarterly. Membership has remained stable for the last four years. No performance appraisal has taken place for MMO appointees. Annual plans and Annual reports are published on the IFCA's website.

217.Annual appraisals for the two new members of staff will be carried out in March 2019. The IFCA publishes on the Isles of Scilly Council website documents on the Authority's meetings.

218.As co-ordinators of the Isles of Scilly Marine Liaison Group, the IFCA co-ordinates work with the Duchy of Cornwall (Port Authority), Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, Isles of Scilly Boatmen's Association and other recreational and commercial sectors.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

219.The Isles of Scilly IFCA has led on projects that have focussed on building a greater understanding of the ecology of lobsters and crawfish. From 2018 new research activities and long-term monitoring are being planned.

220.The IFCA has developed a draft research plan for 2020-2025 and this will be presented to the Authority in December 2018. A research report will be published at the end of 2018-2019. The IFCA is currently setting up processes to share evidence techniques and data with other stakeholders and regulators.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

221.One respondent submitted comments about the Isles of Scilly IFCA to our Call for Evidence.

222.Positive comments have been made about the IFCA's district-wide MPA restrictions for the most damaging fishing activities.

Southern IFCA

223. The IFCA District extends from the county boundary between Devon and Dorset in the west to the boundary between Hampshire and Sussex in the east. It includes the Isle of Wight.
224. Southern IFCA has 21 Committee members. It is a Joint Committee of Hampshire and Dorset Counties, Isle of Wight, Poole Borough, Bournemouth Borough, Southampton City and Portsmouth City Councils.
225. There are approximately 389 vessels with various permits to fish commercially in Southern IFCA District for a range of species. The District has strong interests in aquaculture, charter boat operations and recreational fishing.
226. Within the Southern IFCA District there are 14 MPAs, which cover approximately 31% of the District (872 sq. km of MPAs in 2746 sq. km of District).
227. Southern IFCA's administrative base is in Poole. Southern IFCA operates four patrol vessels and employs 14 members of staff.

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

228. Southern IFCA maintains a communication plan and a database of all commercial fishermen to circulate newsletters and updates of byelaw and regulatory work. The IFCA's website has been recently redesigned. On social media, Southern IFCA has 2,650 twitter followers and 1,000 Facebook followers who are kept informed on the IFCA's day-to-day operations.
229. Southern IFCA holds stakeholder events and one to one meetings. During byelaw development the IFCA engages proactively with stakeholders. IFCA officers attend public shows and events across the District including Portsmouth Fish Festival, Weymouth Fish Festival, Poole Harbour Festival and Ryde Pier Festival. Southern IFCA hosts a series of public 'small fish surveys' to coincide with marine festivals and other events to engage with the local community. Southern IFCA, in collaboration with NE and the Wildlife Trusts, has set up a shared dedicated marine-themed mobile interpretation unit to aid in the engagement with the local community.
230. Southern IFCA is a member of the Solent Forum and Dorset Coast Forum, it has established and hosts the independently chaired Southern IFCA Sea Angling Strategic Liaison Group with which it developed a Sea Angling Strategy; Southern IFCA hosts the South Coast Fisherman's Council. IFCA officers attend and contribute to local, regional, national and international fora and conferences. Southern IFCA gained international recognition of its management of Poole Harbour. In July 2018 the IFCA was awarded "Innovator of the Year" by the

Marine Stewardship Council for its efforts in "leading and championing a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries".

231. Southern IFCA maintains MoUs with the MMO, Cefas, NE and the EA. The IFCA delivers a joined-up approach to enforcement and intelligence with the MMO, Police, Border Force, HMRC, the EA and NE and has strong links with neighbouring IFCAs. Southern IFCA has maintained a cross-warranting relationship with the EA and the MMO.

232. Southern IFCA is investing in infrastructure to support its management. In 2016 Southern IFCA developed a joint agreement with Southampton University to procure, manage, maintain and operate a new vessel for reciprocal management, compliance and enforcement, research and educational activities.

Success Criterion 2: IFCAS implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

233. In accordance with the findings of the first four-year report on 'The Conduct and Operations of IFCAs', Southern IFCA has worked more closely with partners in the MMO to deliver an agreed '6-point plan' and developed better shared 'training', 'intelligence' and 'joint working and operations'. Since 2014 Southern IFCA has operated a joint TCG, which in 2017-2018 produced 324 intelligence reports, which were shared with partners within the national intelligence system. All IFCA inspections are recorded on the MMO managed Monitoring Control and Surveillance System enabling the sharing of inspection data.

234. Southern IFCA has an Enforcement and Compliance Framework and an overarching Code of Conduct; both are published on the Authority's website. Staff are subject to induction and probationary training. Southern IFCA maintains risk registers for its operational and organisational activity and reports its enforcement outputs annually to the national Association of IFCAs.

Case study 23: The Manilla Clam Fishery

The Manilla clam fishery in the Southern IFCA District is the most important fishery for this species in England. The fishery for this non-native species, was developed in the district as a consequence of licensed introductions in the 1980s. Manilla clams are associated with shallow inlets and bays, harbours and lagoons; such areas are often associated with high conservation value, in particular for their bird life. The combination of the development of this fishery and the importance of the areas fished, such as Poole and in the Solent, for conservation, presented a particular fisheries management challenge; Southern IFCA developed opportunities for the fishery to exist alongside the conservation designation by improving management alongside effective enforcement. Spatial temporal and technical measures have been introduced in the Solent and Poole Harbour to ensure the clams are only harvested when greater than the minimum conservation reference size of 35mm. Illegal fisheries for the clams were significant and these fisheries were often associated with unregistered and unlicensed vessels and there was very little in the way of traceability in the fishery; this was problematic because of the need to ensure that the fishery only occurs in areas designated and classified for shellfish production, in particular to ensure that the clams met health classification standards. The extent of the unregulated fishery was affecting legitimate operators in the fishery, reducing their profitability and undermining the fisheries reputation. Through developing capabilities in enforcement Southern IFCA has ensured an effective and proportionate system of enforcing the minimum size for clams exists; in doing so Southern IFCA has protected stocks and supported legitimate operators in the fishery. The benefits of the approach to management by Southern IFCA have been seen in the greater protection of the marine environment and also already in Poole, since management was introduced in 2015, where there is increased profitability in the fishery. It is anticipated that similar results will occur in the Solent, in time, once the benefits of the management introduced in 2017 have accrued.

Success Criterion 3: IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their fisheries

235.Southern IFCA maintains a Strategic Research Plan underpinned by an Annual Research Programme, which sets out planned fisheries and environmental monitoring work for the year ahead. In consultation with stakeholders and the public, the IFCA has established priorities for the review of existing management measures.

236.Within the marine part of the Southern IFCA District there are 14 MPAs, which cover approximately 31% of the District (872 sq. km of MPAs in 2746 sq. km of District). There are 3 MCZs and 11 EMS (which are comprised of 5 SPAs and 5 SACs).

237. In the 3 MCZs, in accordance with a shared approach with the MMO, Southern IFCA has screened a total of 157 fishing gear feature interactions for their compatibility with the conservation objectives of the sites. 71 detailed assessments of the interactions between fishing activity and features were required. In EMSs 487 gear feature interactions of which 176 tests were of likely significant effect, were conducted. This resulted in 23 full assessments being required. Where fishing was not deemed compatible with the conservation objectives of the MPAs, byelaws were developed to protect the sites and the features they contain. Of the 872 km² of MPAs, 692 km² or 25% of district is now permanently closed to bottom towed fishing gear.

238. Southern IFCA has not used emergency powers to manage fisheries since 2014.

239. Southern IFCA has been granted The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015. This Several Order allows the Southern IFCA to lease seabed, severed from the public fishery, for aquaculture in an area of 837.8 hectares within Poole Harbour. There are currently 31 beds leased within the extent of the Order, from which Southern IFCA derives a rent of c £30,000 per annum. The fishery produces between 300 and 400 tonnes of pacific oysters per year. A total of approximately 700 tonnes of other shellfish are also produced. It is estimated that the Economic Value - Gross Value Added (GVA) - of this activity is £2.6 million per annum.

Case study 24: Poole Harbour Clam and Cockle Fishery Dual Certification a Global First.

Southern IFCA has transformed the management of the Poole clam and cockle fishery, delivering improved protection of the marine environment and protecting fishers' incomes. The valuable clam and cockle fishery in Poole Harbour has been subject to a number of challenges in particular illegal harvest threatening food security, sustainability and legitimate livelihoods. Today the fishery is managed in accordance with global best practice. Southern IFCA, in partnership with the Poole Harbour Fishermen's Association, has obtained certification for the fishery to the Marine Stewardship Council standard as well as Seafish's responsible fishing scheme. The economic value as GVA is now calculated to be > £1.5 million per annum; over a third of the total value of the value of landings into Poole.

Case study 25: Solent Oyster Fisheries, Evidence and Partnership working

Southern IFCA has acted to protect the oyster fishery in the Solent following its collapse. In 2013 the Southern IFCA placed a temporary closure on the native oyster fishery in the Solent due to declines in stock. Evidence is required, in the form of a stock assessment, to aid decision making in future management of this fishery. In the past, an annual survey monitoring the oyster stock was undertaken by Cefas. Since these surveys were discontinued, Southern IFCA has conducted an annual stock assessment of the Solent oyster populations. The evidence gained has been used to inform decisions regarding the use of the temporary closure of shellfish beds byelaw, so as to aid the recovery of shellfish beds. Furthermore, Southern IFCA instigated the creation of The Solent Oyster Restoration Project, which is led by the Blue Marine Foundation, and in which Southern IFCA is a key partner.

240.Southern IFCA carries out stock assessments (clam and cockles in Pool Harbour and Solent), data collection projects (bait dragging in Pool Harbour) and population surveys (small fish in Dorset and the Isle of White estuaries and harbours). The surveys involve extensive public engagement and participation for EA, Dorset Wildlife Trust, NE, Isle of Wight Estuaries Project, Yarmouth Harbour Master, National Trust and local anglers.

Case study 26: Industry Guidance – Wrasse Fishery

In 2017, in response to the development of a live wrasse fishery, so as to maintain a sustainable population of wrasse and to enable the enjoyment of the species by other users, guidance was developed with industry to be followed by any person commercially fishing for wrasse within the IFCA District. In developing the guidance, the IFCA worked closely with neighbouring IFCAs and with NE. The guidance establishes minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes, no take zones, where all forms of commercial fishing for wrasse should not take place, a maximum fishing depth, an effort limitation, a closed season and a requirement to provide catch data; it also highlights biosecurity and husbandry requirements.

Case study 27: The Value of Shellfisheries in the Solent

A valuation of the Provisioning Ecosystem Services provided by shellfish for priority shellfish waters in the Solent was commissioned by Southern IFCA in 2017 as part of a joint project with the EA. The report describes and values the socio-economic and environmental benefits of improving water quality for shellfish waters in the Solent. Results demonstrate that better water quality leads to a higher Direct and Indirect GVA, as a result of the increases in shellfish harvest. For example, if all shellfish beds are classified as Class B water level the GVA would increase by £1,476,934. This evidence shows that there is both an environmental and a socio-economic case for investing in better quality and this point is also borne out by the modelling work conducted.

Case study 28: Codes of Practice: Cuttlefish and bait collection

Having reviewed the evidence of the lifecycle of cuttlefish, in 2014, with support from industry, Southern IFCA introduced a Code of Practice to protect cuttlefish eggs which have been laid on and attached to, cuttlefish traps. By following the advice provided in this code of practice fishermen minimise the damage to cuttlefish eggs caused through fishing, enabling the eggs to develop and hatch, thus potentially re-populating the cuttlefish fishery. Providing adult cuttlefish have the opportunity to spawn before capture, the trap fishery should not dramatically influence subsequent recruitment (Royer et. al., 2006). In 2014 Southern IFCA implemented a code of conduct for bait collection in Poole Harbour.

Case study 29: Oyster translocation scheme

Recognising the depleted status of oysters in the Solent and elsewhere and the need to protect existing spawning stock biomass, Southern IFCA developed an Oyster translocation protocol. The protocol may be used by developers to minimise the impact of development on native oysters. The protocol was successfully used by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) in delivering the conditions of a Marine Licence for Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth Approach Channel Dredging project. The protocol, managed by Southern IFCA saw the harvest, by local fishing vessels, of oysters prior to seabed construction. These oysters were then moved to create brood stock areas. Furthermore, a Merchant buy-back scheme was introduced enabling a Pilot Oyster Cage Project to be developed by the Blue Marine Foundation as part of a large-scale restoration project for the Solent.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

241. Southern IFCA publishes Annual Plans and Annual Reports on its website. In FY2014/15 Southern IFCA implemented a review of Human Resources and an organisational structure was developed to meet the needs of the Authority. Southern IFCA staff are subject to induction, probation plans, annual appraisal, training and development. Southern IFCA staff support the administration of the Authority and three sub-groups; the Executive Committee, TAC and Appeals and Scrutiny Committee are supported by topic specific working groups.

242. In 2015 Southern IFCA introduced a Members Handbook. The handbook provides an induction to members on the role of the Authority and the responsibility of members. The Audit Commission Act 1998 (section 2 and Schedule 2) required joint committees to prepare accounts and undergo an audit separate from their constituent bodies. Although, not required, Southern IFCA, in the interest of public assurance and accountability, has chosen to maintain an external examination of the accounts. The Authority, for the reporting period of 2017/2018, has produced an Independent limited assurance report on its IFCA Accounts.

Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

243. Southern IFCA's research outputs are published and summarised in the Authority's Annual Plans. Southern IFCA has commissioned PhDs on management of clam fisheries in MPAs and the collection of live wrasse. Officers have published papers in peer reviewed journals including research on policy and fisheries monitoring.

244. In 2014 Southern IFCA introduced an internship programme and developed Policy and Guidance for Engaging Volunteers. Since then Southern IFCA has hosted 18 interns who completed projects on the Poole Aquaculture Potential, guidance on the use of lobster escape hatches, whelk fishery biology and management, a review of sea angling strategy best practice and an assessment of Small Fish Communities in the Southern IFCA District

245. In 2015 Southern IFCA worked with NE on the proposed review and extension of Poole Harbour SSSI by collecting data on the presence and habitats associated with *Sabella pavonina*²⁸. The survey's resultant maps improved the understanding and distribution of this species. The data has been used to inform NE with regards to a SSSI extension and Southern IFCA's management decisions for the potential for aquaculture extension.

²⁸ *Sabella pavonina*, commonly known as the peacock worm, is a marine polychaete worm belonging to the family Sabellidae. It is found in shallow, tidal waters with a bed of mud, sand or gravel and sometimes on rocks or shipwrecks.

Case study 30: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

IFCAs have transformed the way inshore fisheries in England are managed in MPAs. There is an audit trail in each MPA as to how fisheries are managed to ensure the conservation objectives of the MPA are met. With funding support from Defra Southern IFCA is hosting and managing an AIFCA project to collate MPA progress (assessments and management) in English inshore waters. A project officer has been appointed and the information gathered will be used to deliver:

- A report assessing management measures introduced within MPAs under the 'Revised Approach', identifying gaps and opportunities and lessons learnt;
- A communications package, highlighting and promoting the progress made by IFCAs in the management of fishing activities within MPAs;
- Increased engagement with key stakeholders and delivery partners including fisheries representative bodies, eNGOs, Defra, the MMO, EA and NE;
- The aggregation and management of data in an open access and user-friendly manner relating to the implementation of a well-managed network of MPAs in English inshore waters;
- The participation in relevant fora, including the MMO National Steering Group for MPAs, to ensure that MPA management plans incorporate the full suite of IFCA management measures; and
- Work with the Technical Advisory Group to identify opportunities for greater co-ordination and collaboration between IFCAs when assessing the impacts of fishing activities and introducing fisheries management within MPAs.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

246. Sixteen respondents submitted comments about Southern IFCA to our Call for Evidence.

247. Southern IFCA has been praised for its efforts in the management of Pool Harbour clam and cockle fishery. Positive comments have been made about the IFCA's effective byelaws in the protection of certain stocks and EMSs features as well as its scientific work.

248. For the most part, Southern IFCA's communications and engagement with stakeholders, neighbouring IFCAs and other regulators are seen as good; the IFCA's good online presence and strong social media platform have also been noted.

249. The Authority's work in forging collaborative relationships has been highlighted as positive and productive. Overall running of the Committee is perceived to be efficient and competent, although, Committee representation is noted as requiring the expert voice of more active fishermen from across the district.

250. Comments note that IFCA staff have a visible presence in the community and are considered to be helpful and professional, demonstrating a high standard of conduct when enforcing byelaws and other management measures.

251. Comments have been made about the IFCA's need to engage more proactively with the Charter Angling Fleets to address a perceived growing discrepancy in regulation between the commercial and recreational bass sector. Comments have also been made about a perceived growing tension between commercial fishermen and both angling and conservation groups.

Sussex IFCA

252. The Sussex IFCA's district consists of the combined areas of West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council and up to the 6nm inshore.

253. The Sussex IFCA's key fin fisheries species include sole, plaice and bass which are caught in fixed nets, drift nets and trawls. There are over 300 fishing boats landing into Sussex port. Whelk, lobster, crab and cuttlefish are important commercial fishing species in Sussex inshore waters, with over 3,700t landed in 2015.

254. Sussex IFCA operate three fisheries patrol vessels: Watchful and her daughter vessel Delta One, which is carried and deployed from Watchful's stern ramp and an independent 8 metre jet rib Merlin.

Success Criterion 1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders

255. Sussex IFCA maintains a range of stakeholder databases. Sussex IFCA publishes on its website a Communications and Engagement Plan. Sussex IFCA's new website also includes an interactive map facility, which provides mapped habitat data and YouTube video material from marine surveys. The website has approximately 2,500 hits per quarter. Officers post regularly on Sussex IFCA's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The Sussex IFCA Twitter account currently has over 1,300 followers.

256. Sussex IFCA engages extensively with commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, NGOs and other stakeholders through consultations, drop in sessions and one-to-one meetings to support the review of existing and creation of new Byelaw measures.

257. Sussex IFCA has working relationships with a wide range of partner organisations and IFCA groups for mutual research activities. The Authority has agreed MoUs with the MMO, NE, EA and Cefas and locally with the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Brighton University. The Authority engages with Sussex Police, Local Authority Environmental Health, Board Force, GLAA and Harbour controls, national groups and partnerships such as the Sussex Catchment Partnerships, A South Downs National park Heritage Coast group, the UNESCO Living Coast Biosphere, Chichester Harbour Conservancy Advisory Board, Hasting Fisheries Local Action Group - Board member (FLAG) and the Sussex Southern Water Stakeholder Panel.

Case study 31: Partnership Projects

The IFCA worked with the Sussex Marine and Coastal Forum and the Catchment Partnerships to help consolidate understanding of the transitional and coastal waterbodies in the district. This partnership project, funded by the EA and the IFCA, collated and quantified marine environmental targets and conditions in order to identify priority areas of work and knowledge gaps. The project was called SeaView and its initial outputs are available on the IFCA website.

Sussex IFCA has worked with the EA and the New Economics Foundation to create a valuation of the Chichester Harbour Oyster Fishery under varying water quality scenarios. The concept behind the project was to create credible economic information that can be used by other organisations in planning water/environmental quality infrastructure that could lead to fishery and environmental enhancement. Project outputs include a report and a model that can be utilised for other shellfisheries, both available on our website.

Sussex IFCA has worked with English Heritage on two marine archaeology projects that have improved heritage finds reporting processes and have trialled methods for identifying seabed heritage features using video equipment deployed from both the IFCA and fishers vessels.

To help stakeholders become more aware of the Sussex marine environment and its fisheries, Sussex IFCA worked with the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre to create an interactive map, which is available from the IFCA's website. The interactive map shows a range of mapped information including habitats, seabed video footage, Marine Protected Areas, fishing activity and wrecks.

Success Criterion 2: IFCAS implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

258. Sussex IFCA publishes on its website a Compliance and Enforcement Plan. Compliance reports include a risk based assessment of fishery enforcement for the current and coming quarters. Stakeholders have access to a factsheet that describes sanctions. A compliance risk register sits within the 2016-2020 Management Plan, also published on the website.

259. Sussex IFCA follows the National Intelligence Model. This includes the use of standardised secure intelligence reporting systems across all IFCAs and the MMO and delivery of TCGs on a Sussex and regional scale. Sussex IFCA maintains an intelligence sharing network with enforcement organisations. Work with the National Crime Agency included a coordinating role for all IFCA during 2017 operations targeting modern day slavery in the fishing industry. Limited joint marine patrols have been successfully carried out with the MMO and the police.

260. Officers are required to attend the IFCA nationally delivered training course before warrants are issued. Sussex IFCA supports the national Skills For Justice Accreditation scheme.

Success Criterion 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

261. Sussex IFCA has collected evidence for Chichester Harbour European Marine Site (EMS), Kingmere MCZ, Beachy Head West MCZ, Pagham MCZ and Utopia MCZ, which lead to the formulation of management options for these sites. Stakeholders were involved and kept informed of progress and had access to relevant documents throughout the consultation period for Byelaw development.

262. Research reports are published on the IFCA's website and include small fish surveys, valuing Chichester Harbour Shellfishery, Oyster Stock survey and Shellfish Permit Catch Return Analysis reports. These reports are shared directly with Permit holders to raise awareness of the need for management intervention. There is regular and continuous monitoring of fishing activities within the IFCA's MPAs. Compliance is ensured through on-site patrols.

Case study 32: Native Oyster Fishery

Within Chichester Harbour EMS, there is a unique small scale dredge fishery for a wild population of native oysters. In 2016, Sussex IFCA introduced a permit byelaw with conditions, which restrict effort to a level, which does not impact the protected features. This byelaw protects the native oyster fishery and the EMS associated with Chichester Harbour. The regulation controls the type of gear being used in the MPA and puts a threshold on the oyster population density that remains at the end of the oyster fishing season. The threshold is set so that an adequate breeding population of native oyster remains on the ground. This fishery is continually monitored during the brief period it is open, including the collection of catch data each day. Once the catch per unit effort falls below a harvest control threshold, the fishery is closed, balancing the economic benefits of the fishery, supporting this local tradition and protecting the stock from overexploitation. This real-time management approach has resulted in a stabilisation of the Biodiversity Action Plan species and identified an approach being replicated in other over exploited/depleted fisheries.

Case study 33: Shellfish Permit Byelaw

The Authority's new Shellfish Permit Byelaw and the associated suite of management measures came into force in April 2016. The full roll out of the permit scheme in the Sussex fleet was completed to plan by October 2017. Introduction of this comprehensive shellfish permit scheme included the issuing of over 40,000 pot tags to identify the ownership and legitimacy of every shellfish pot or trap set within the District's circa 500 square nautical miles. The future security of the District's shellfish stocks of lobster, whelk, crab and cuttlefish is strengthened following a range of new control measures intended to support long term sustainability in the fisheries and greater economic security for those communities. Controls include a cap on the number of pots or traps that can be used by any vessel, together with gear configuration regulation that require escape hatches to be fitted. Escape hatches on pots and traps increases the survivability of undersized individuals. Gear marking is a requirement of the regulation, which ensures effective compliance monitoring. As part of the Shellfish Permit Byelaw the prohibition on the removal of berried lobsters from the District's fishery was both well received and supported by the industry at large. Subsequent to our byelaw, Defra's decision to put a complete ban on removing berried lobsters in English waters was welcomed.

263. During the 4 year reporting period all four Trance 1 and Trance 2 MCZs within the Sussex IFCA District, Kingmere, Beachy Head West, Pagham Harbour and Utopia came under full IFCA byelaw protection in respect to fishing activities considered potentially damaging to the sites' conservation features. Current evidence suggests there is strong community support and high compliance achieved at the zones.

264. The IFCA has contributed towards national marine monitoring programmes and condition assessments through Small Fish Surveys (SFS) and bass nursery area monitoring with Cefas. The bi-annual SFS surveys were conducted in Rye, Chichester and Medmerry and involved a range of partner organisations and volunteers. Surveyors received training on fish identification through the IFCA both in the classroom and field.

Case study 34: Byelaw Review

In 2013 the Authority established its approach to reviewing its existing management measures (suite of Byelaws). Subsequent to a public consultation, the Authority adopted a Review of Management Measures Strategy, which identifies five core priorities and objectives:

- Implement measures to manage the MPA network in Sussex
- Apply appropriate minimum sizes to fish and shellfish
- Manage effort on key stocks (including gear identification) and establish objectives to manage shellfish
- Effectively manage fishing close inshore
- Reduce unwanted bycatch

To translate the priorities and objectives into suitable work packages and prioritise activities against available resources and embed those in annual planning the Authority identified common themes to progress a strategy for the Review of management measures. It was agreed that the process for reviewing management measures under common themes should be conducted in parallel with and inform the byelaw review process. It would broadly consist of identifying themes and potential management options, review with legacy byelaws, identifying gaps and develop management options. During the progress and prioritisation of individual themes, additional influences were considered i.e. community expectations, scientific evidence, economic value and the need for a developmental assessment. The common themes agreed were:

- EMS Management and MCZ development
- Shellfish
- Netting (static and mobile)
- Trawling
- Bit digging/hand gathering

The agreed strategy then identified and described a sequence of stages that could flow from the identification of each theme. The prioritisation process applied a matrix approach to score each common theme management measures against a range of eight agreed 'considerations' based on evidence and member knowledge and input. For the purpose of the combining the byelaw review needs and defining appropriate packages of work, the themes were split out into fishery/metier and byelaw related component elements within the matrix. This information is presented in the IFCA annual management plan published on the website. Progress against these fisheries management plans is detailed in the Annual Reports published on the website and sent to Defra.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

265. Sussex IFCA publishes on its website its current four-year management plan and an annual report with the Authority's governance documentation. Performance of staff is managed through an individual performance plan. Staff surveys were carried out in 2015 and 2016 and any identified issues acted upon.

266. The IFCA holds Authority committees which are quorate. Relevant documentation is published on the website. Sussex IFCA undergoes independent internal and external accounts and financial procedures audits each year.

267. Sussex IFCA has carried out Catchment Partnership Plans, the South East River Basin Management Plan and the South Marine Plan draft. IFCA officers ensured close working with plan owners by maintaining active positions on Catchment Partnerships, the Sussex Local Nature Partnership and the MMO Marine Plan process. Close contact is maintained with other IFCAs, the MMO, NE, EA and Cefas.

Success Criterion 5: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

268. Sussex IFCA aligns its research plan with the demands of national and local statutory work, such as the UK MPA programme and the IFCA's shellfish permit byelaw, together with a need to assess the overall state of the marine environment. Sussex IFCA research plan is available on its website:

269. The projects described in the annual research reports are drawn from the strategic four year (2016-2020) research plan which sets out 55 projects in collaboration with partner organisations. The projects include side scan sonar and underwater video camera habitat surveys, small fish surveys, lobster sampling, oyster stock monitoring and dredging impacts study, fishing vessel activity mapping, black seabream ID tagging and intertidal resource gathering monitoring.

Case study 35: Research Projects to Support Management Measures

Kingmere MCZ is a tranche 1 site designated for chalk reef, rock with a sediment veneer and breeding black seabream. Side scan sonar and underwater towed video was used to ascertain the location of the nests which the black seabream create. We worked with charter angling skippers to attach 2400 ID tags to black seabream. 31 recaptures have been recorded, helping to increase knowledge about site fidelity and migration patterns. Data from fisheries officers' sightings of fishing vessels was used to further understand the fishing activity on the site. The results of all this research, along with a literature review and conservation advice, was combined with an extensive consultation process to result in complex but well supported management measures.

270. Sussex IFCA's TAG membership consists of all IFCA research leads, the MMO, EA, NE, Defra, Jersey fisheries and the Welsh Government. Through this network, Sussex IFCA shared knowledge and developed a coordinated process in EMSs and MCZ work. Standard operating procedures have been developed

for surveys, research priorities have been identified and partnerships established on a national level.

271. Sussex IFCA uploads the metadata for its research projects on MEDIN and shares data and reports with interested parties. The IFCA has supported numerous student projects in partnership with local colleges and universities.

Comments received from the Call for Evidence

272. Twelve respondents submitted comments about Sussex IFCA to the Call for Evidence.

273. Sussex IFCA has been praised for its collaborative work ethic with other partners and regulators in establishing innovative conservation management measures.

274. Comments have highlighted the positive impact of the IFCA's various byelaws such as the Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw 2016, Protection of Berried lobsters and Prohibition of Gathering in Seagrass Beds, amongst others.

275. The IFCA's work on marine archaeological discoveries, intertidal species and small fish surveys has been noted as significant achievements in partnership with other organisations.

276. Communications, on the one hand, are noted as good and varied and on the other hand, are perceived to require further improvement, through stronger consultation with the industry and extensive face to face interaction, to allow the IFCA to reach the older generation of fishermen who may have limited or no IT skills.

277. Some respondents have commented that IFCA officers may need to be supported with more robust and specialised training to address perceived gaps in their knowledge of local fisheries and evolving legislation.

278. Comments have been made about the conflicts that may exist in the IFCA's bass, spear fishing legislation and the Shellfish Permit scheme byelaw.

279. Respondents have also suggested there is operational conflict between Sussex IFCA and the MMO in some management aspects of Kingmere MCZ. Comments have also been made about spoil dumping in Brighton Marina in relation to a local lobster fishery and the IFCA's perceived lack of action in this respect.

280. Respondents have commented on the IFCA's need to address with the MMO a perceived imbalance of commercial representation on the Authority's Committee. Additional concerns have been noted about some Committee members who may not have declared a conflict of interest while participating in the Committee's decisions. Possible duplication of activities and regulatory duties between the IFCA and the MMO was also noted.

Part Three: Themes emerging from the call for evidence

281. All ten IFCAs have submitted self-assessment reports to Defra to show progress against their five success criteria for the period 2014-2018. In these reports the ten IFCAs have demonstrated extensive workload marked with significant achievements as well as challenges. This section of the report highlights a few of them:

Achievements

- **Cornwall IFCA - The Fal Fishery Order 2016:** Cornwall IFCA established the Fal Fishery Management Committee where fishermen, merchants and regulators oversee the ongoing management of native oyster and mussel fisheries in the Fal SAC.
- **Devon and Severn IFCA – Partnership projects using external funding mechanisms:** The IFCA's collaborative work includes the FISHTRAI project looking at the tourist benefits of angling and increasing anglers' awareness of fisheries legislation; the I-BASS project involving acoustic tagging of bass in estuaries to investigate movement in and out of estuaries; and the EUROHAB project looking to develop a web-based alert tool for harmful algal blooms that could impact the South West mariculture and bivalve fisheries.
- **Eastern IFCA - Joint working with agencies:** The IFCA undertook a scientific initiative aboard the RV Cefas Endeavour attended by the IFCA's marine science officers and personnel from CEFAS, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, NE and P & O Maritime Services. Over the course of two weeks, over 200 grab samples were collected together with 100 drop down video surveys, 34 beam trawls and 900 km of acoustic surveys from 3 candidate SACs.
- **The Isles of Scilly IFCA – Information and data gathering:** The IFCA, through the Isles of Scilly Marine Liaison Group, co-ordinates work with the Duchy of Cornwall, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, Isles of Scilly Boatmen/s Association and recreational and commercial sectors to ensure that maritime work in this district is well-communicated and co-ordinated.
- **Kent and Essex IFCA – Involving the wider community:** The IFCA, in partnership with local schools and colleges, has developed an education pack together with a 'Learning Zone' section on its website that helps to introduce children to habitats and species in the coastal waters off Kent and Essex.

- **North Eastern IFCA - Emergency Powers:** Since 2014, the IFCA has made effective use of its emergency byelaw making powers to deal with high levels of nomadic scallop dredging and to provide additional protection to egg bearing lobsters from unlicensed operators. The use of such emergency powers has enabled the Authority to develop more sustainable long-term strategies.
- **North Western IFCA – Byelaws review:** The IFCA is working to integrate its inherited byelaws and to date, good progress has been made.
- **Northumberland IFCA – Educating the young:** The IFCA’s environmental IFCOs attend Newcastle University summer schools in the district in a teaching capacity. The IFCA has also developed a close bond with the Dales School in Blyth for young children with special educational needs and with Trinity House in Newcastle to provide events, including taking sea cadets and sea scouts on the Authority’s patrol vessel.
- **Southern IFCA – Sea Angling engagement:** The IFCA established an independently chaired Southern IFCA Sea Angling Strategic Liaison Group to enable Sea Angling representatives to engage and communicate effectively with IFCA officers to keep them abreast of decisions made by the authority and to enhance the sea angling experience in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.
- **Sussex IFCA – Community Voice Method project:** Sussex IFCA in collaboration with the Marine Conservation Society engaged with coastal stakeholders in the development of management measures for the Kingmere and Beachy Head West MCZs.

Challenges

- Be able to adapt communications to reach a variety of audiences. Engage constructively with different industry sectors and listen to individual concerns.
- Harvest the industry’s expertise and knowledge in a methodical and structured way.
- Educate the industry to understand the IFCAs’ complex range of statutory duties and support vulnerable sectors to adapt to changing economic conditions.
- Gather and evaluate scientific evidence that allows regular review of closed areas and fisheries management plans. Work on possible harmonisation of conflicting byelaws between neighbouring IFCAs.
- Seek out long-term partnerships with academic and scientific bodies to benefit from their research capability, assets and expertise.

- Work with the MMO to ensure Committee representation is balanced across all fisheries sectors, members are trained in local government procedures and they are clear on their roles, responsibilities and Code of Conduct, especially declaring conflicts of interest. Address possible duplication of statutory duties between IFCA's and the MMO.

Annex A - IFCAs geographical coverage and number of ports

	Cornwall	Devon & Severn	Eastern	Kent & Essex	North Eastern	North Western	Northumberland	Isles of Scilly	Southern	Sussex
Land Area (square miles)	1,369	5,680	6,226	3,012	5,875.52	4,362	1,967	6	2,661	1,464
Length of seashore (miles)	683.8	816.6	1,045.6	893.8	295.6	852.4	167.3	140.4	594.6	290
Number of ports	35	22	15	25	25	12	11	1	18	12

Annex B: IFCA vision and success criteria

Vision:

“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.”

<p>Success Criterion 1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders</p>	
<p>Definition: IFCAs will be visible, respected and trusted regulator within coastal communities and will maintain and deliver a strategy to communicate their vision and duties effectively. IFCAs will engage with policy makers, industry, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), recreational and commercial users and other regulators. They will work jointly and collaboratively with partner organisations across boundaries; will participate and contribute to the development and implementation of regional and national marine policy, including the marine planning regime; will take long-term strategic decisions and manage risks effectively. IFCAs may maintain a national body to co-ordinate the activities of authorities that are party to arrangements.</p>	
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy. • The IFCA will maintain its website, ensuring public access to current fisheries and conservation information for the District, including management requirements and byelaws. Non-reserved IFCA Committee papers will be published. 	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year • SC1B: The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year. • SC1C: The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month. • SC1D: The IFCA will have reviewed its website and ensured it meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March each year.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level • The IFCA and its principal partners will have a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. Memoranda of Understanding with MMO, Natural England, Environment Agency and Cefas will be maintained. Opportunities for greater efficiencies, effective joint working and collaboration will be explored and implemented when feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC1E: The IFCA will have reviewed all of its Memoranda of Understanding by 31 March each year. There will be a clear plan in place to update MoUs where necessary, to an agreed timescale. • SC1F: By 31 March each year, the IFCA will have participated appropriately, proportionately and at the right level of delegation, in regional and national fisheries and conservation activity identified in the annual plan.
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<p>Success Criterion 2: IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime</p>
<p>Definition: The IFCA enforcement regime is risk-based, makes appropriate use of intelligence, meets legislative standards and complies with the Regulators Code. It should make effective use of the resources available to regulators; complement and align, if possible, with the regimes in adjacent IFC Districts and management by other organisations including the MMO and Environment Agency. Consistency and fairness is important. Regulatory compliance is promoted. Enforcement action is carried out by trained, professional officers working to clear standards of conduct.</p>

Outcomes	Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFCA will publish its enforcement risk register and strategy, clearly setting out its approach to achieving regulatory compliance and potential sanctions that may be applied for infringements and/or offences. • The IFCA will have developed consistency in regulations (byelaws) with other organisations • The IFCA will manage operational activity (e.g. through a Tasking & Co-ordination Group) and capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence that is compatible with partner organisations. It is engaged in joint working with partner organisations. • Warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) will be trained and accredited to nationally agreed standards. They will maintain professionalism and make appropriate interventions to deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC2A: The IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year • SC2B: The IFCA will demonstrate in its Annual Report how it has worked with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application and enforcement of management measures • SC2C: The IFCA will compile records of enforcement activity in a standard format; provide them to the National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) and publish them on its website. • SC2D: The IFCA will adopt the national Code of Conduct for IFCOs, which will be reviewed annually and published on its website by 1 April. • SC2E: The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for <u>all</u> Warranted Officers. • SC2F: Warranted Officers attain accreditation. <u>All</u> undertake Continuing Professional Development

Success Criterion 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

Definition:

The IFCAs were created as statutory inshore regulators by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. They are relevant authorities for implementing international environmental commitments including the Birds, Habitats, Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives and make an important contribution to securing a network of well managed marine protected areas, including European Marine Sites and Marine Conservation Zones. Fisheries Management Plans identify local management measures, which should be based on evidence; be timely; subject to appropriate consultation and in step with national initiatives and priorities. An IFCA should balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting sea fisheries resources with the need to protect the environment. It should make a contribution to sustainable development.

Outcomes

- The IFCA will identify issues likely to affect sustainable management of the marine environment in the IFC District; undertake risk assessment and gap analysis; review appropriateness of existing measures; evaluate management options and develop and implement proportionate marine management solutions.
- The IFCA will support implementation of a well-managed network of marine protected areas by: developing a range of criteria-based management options; implementing management measures to ensure that inshore fisheries activities comply with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the revised approach to managing commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites; and

Indicators

- **SC3A:** The IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority
- **SC3B:** The IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website
- **SC3C:** Management information (e.g. sampling and/or survey results) will be collected periodically after new management measures have been implemented, to demonstrate the extent of effectiveness of the intervention
- **SC3D:** The IFCA will have developed a range of criteria-based management options that are explained to stakeholders through the IFCA website, and reviewed by 31 March each year
- **SC3E:** New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales
- **SC3F:** The IFCA will include shared agreed objectives and actions from Fisheries Management Plans in its own Annual Plan, which will be published by 31 March each year.

<p>that local management contributes to delivery of targets for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will develop Fisheries Management Plans for priority species where appropriate. Shared objectives will be developed with identified partners; actions identified and best practice reflected so that management makes a contribution to sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC3G: Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.
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<p>Success Criterion 4: IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional</p>	
<p>Definition: IFCAs are statutory authorities and sit within the local government family. Authority members may be either general members or local councillors. They comply with Codes of Conduct and the Standing Orders that apply to meetings of local government committees. General members are appointed on merit, through open competition and for a term. They are subject to an annual performance appraisal.</p> <p>An IFCA is funded by levy, charged to its member councils. Funding originates in local taxation. An IFCA is accountable for its use of public resources and should ensure that a proper auditing regime provides confidence in its commitment and spend of public money. It should make effective use of its resources, including staff and assets. An IFCA has a statutory obligation to prepare and publish Annual Plans and Annual Reports.</p>	
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFCA will demonstrate its long-term strategic approach to sustainable marine management by having appropriate plan-making, review, update and amendment procedures in place. 	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC4A: The IFCA will publish a Plan on its website by 31 March, setting out the main objectives and priorities for the next financial year. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State. SC4B: After the end of each financial year, the IFCA will publish a Report

<p>The IFCA will record its performance against corporate outcomes and indicators as soon as practically possible following the end of the financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff performance management systems will be in place that link to the IFCA success criteria. There will be an induction procedure for new joiners. Staff training and development needs will be identified. Performance will be managed and, where necessary, improvement procedures will be followed. • The IFCA Committee will be supported by an organised, efficient and effective secretariat. New members will receive an induction pack and briefing from the Authority. There will be a rolling twelve month schedule of quarterly Authority meetings. Notices of meetings and documentation will be made available in line with Standing Orders. • IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential, or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972 	<p>on its website describing its activities, performance and a summary of audited financial information in that year, by 30 November. A copy will be sent to the Secretary of State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC4C: IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals for <u>all</u> staff will have been completed by 31 May each year. • SC4D: An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders. • SC4E: The IFCA will have demonstrated, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation District have worked responsively and effectively together.
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Success Criterion 5:

IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

Definition:

IFCAs are statutory regulators for their Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. Decision-making should be based on evidence. All IFCAs are supported by officers who pool their expertise and share best practice as a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). A programme of research activity and monitoring is planned, developed and updated in consultation with partners. The programme informs management decisions and supports justification for additional research and evidence gathering.

Outcomes

- A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources
- Standard Operating Procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners
- A list of research databases held by the IFCA and the frequency of their review
- Non-confidential meta-data collected through the IFCA research programme should be recorded in a database available to the marine research community

Indicators

SC5A: The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year

SC5B: The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making

SC5C: The IFCA's contribution to TAG and progress that has made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report

Annex C: Defra Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Support Grant payments to local authorities and levy payments made to IFCAs

IFCA	Levy-paying member local authorities	Defra annual Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Support Grant to LA that are members of IFCAs ²⁹	Total levy paid by local authority to IFCA budget 14/15	Total levy paid by local authority to IFCA budget 15/16	Total levy paid by local authority to IFCA budget 16/17	Total levy paid by local authority to IFCA budget 17/18	Total levy paid by local authority to IFCA budget 18/19	Total levy available to IFCAs* 18/19
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cornwall	Cornwall Council	324,838	1,008,838	1,020,000	1,026,000	1,068,700	1,129,831	1,129,831
Devon & Severn	Bristol City Council	50,851	41,612	43,013	41,584	40,505	41,449	733,600
	Devon County Council	21,382	346,817	358,497	346,581	337,589	345,453	
	Gloucestershire County Council	122,428	106,572	110,160	106,499	103,735	106,151	
	North Somerset Council	42,574	34,100	35,248	34,077	33,192	33,965	
	Plymouth City Council	0	34,616	35,781	34,593	33,694	34,479	

²⁹ Local Authorities may withhold part of the new burdens money forwarded to IFCAs by central government as in the case of Devon & Severn IFCA.

	Somerset County Council	133,952	117,030	120,971	116,950	113,915	116,569	
	South Gloucestershire Council	38,110	30,049	31,061	30,029	29,250	29,931	
	Torbay Council	0	25,704	26,569	25,687	25,020	25,603	
Eastern	Lincolnshire County Council	127,726	512,102	465,808	452,724	452,724	459,224	1,411,008
	Norfolk County Council	151,999	604,783	551,267	535,815	535,815	543,491	
	Suffolk County Council	114,420	453,980	414,130	402,531	402,531	408,293	
Kent & Essex	Essex County Council	178,395	386,441	380,400	374,300	383,600	383,600	889,600
	Kent County Council	137,941	386,441	380,400	374,300	383,600	383,600	
	Medway Council	32,495	67,663	66,700	65,500	67,200	67,200	
	Southend on Sea Council	0	21,688	21,400	21,000	21,500	21,500	
	Thurrock Council	14,943	33,965	33,400	32,900	33,700	33,700	
North Eastern	Durham County Council	13,781	63,357	63,357	63,357	64,624	66,737	
	East Riding of Yorkshire	54,898	253,202	253,202	253,202	258,266	266,709	
	Hartlepool Borough Council	6,777	31,565	31,565	31,565	32,196	33,249	

	Kingston upon Hull City Council	27,449	126,601	126,601	126,601	129,133	133,354	1,200,309
	North East Lincolnshire Council	27,449	126,601	126,601	126,601	129,133	133,354	
	North Lincolnshire Council	13,781	63,357	63,357	63,357	64,624	66,737	
	North Yorkshire County Council	54,898	253,202	253,202	253,202	258,266	266,709	
	Redcar and Cleveland Council	6,777	31,565	31,565	31,565	32,196	33,249	
	South Tyneside Council	13,781	63,357	63,357	63,357	64,624	66,737	
	Stockton on Tees Council	68,357	63,357	63,357	63,357	64,624	66,737	
	Sunderland City Council	13,781	63,357	63,357	63,357	64,624	66,737	
Northumberland	North Tyneside Borough Council	66,733	128,597	131,170	131,170	133,793	136,468	820,616
	Northumberland County Council	87,907	644,687	657,580	657,580	670,732	684,148	
North Western	Blackpool Borough Council	0	19,590	19,982	20,382	20,789	21,205	1,285,158
	Cheshire West & Chester Council	89,131	86,672	88,405	90,173	91,977	93,817	
	Cumbria County Council	0	486,075	495,797	505,713	515,827	526,144	
	Halton Borough Council	30,585	26,358	26,885	27,423	27,971	28,530	

	Lancashire County Council	201,857	393,467	401,336	409,363	417,551	425,901	
	Liverpool City Council	54,096	50,578	51,590	52,622	53,674	54,748	
	Sefton Council	13,859	60,433	61,642	62,874	64,132	65,415	
	Wirral Borough Council	17,259	64,114	65,396	66,704	68,038	69,398	
Isles of Scilly	Isles of Scilly Council	109,723	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Southern	Bournemouth Council	0	26,546	26,546	26,546	26,546	27,618	758,755
	Dorset County Council	112,118	203,108	203,108	203,108	203,108	211,314	
	Hampshire County Council	203,644	294,634	294,634	294,634	294,634	306,537	
	Isle of Wight Council	13,663	104,693	104,693	104,653	104,653	108,881	
	Poole Borough Council	0	32,381	32,381	32,381	32,381	33,689	
	Portsmouth City Council	0	36,610	36,610	36,610	36,610	38,089	
	Southampton City Council	0	31,360	31,360	31,360	31,360	32,627	
Sussex	Brighton & Hove Council	0	78,991	78,991	78,991	78,991	106,766	962,586
	East Sussex Council	57,510	300,566	300,566	300,566	300,566	405,250	
	West Sussex Council	148,127	333,360	333,360	333,360	333,360	450,570	

*levy only, excludes additional income received, e.g. shellfish sampling, permit fees, rents, interest, recovered court costs etc.

Annex D: Organisations that responded to the call for evidence

- Bembridge Supplies
- Bembridge Angling Club
- Brighton and Newhaven Fish Sales Ltd
- Brighton & Lewes Downs Unesco
- Brighton & Newhaven Fish Sales Ltd
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Institute of Fisheries Management
- John Lake Shellfish Ltd
- Kings Lynn Joint Advisory Group
- Leach Fishing Enterprises
- Marine Conservation Society
- Marine Management Organisation
- National Trust
- Natural England
- New Economics Foundation
- North Lincolnshire Council
- Poole & District Fishermen's Association
- Port of London Authority
- RSPB
- South East Fisherman's Protection Association
- South Coast Fishermen's Council
- South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen Ltd
- South Western Fish Producer Organisation Ltd
- Sussex Wildlife Trust
- The Heritage Alliance
- University of Portsmouth
- Waterdance Ltd
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

*Individual respondents have not been listed