



"RIB Training off the Coast of Tynemouth"

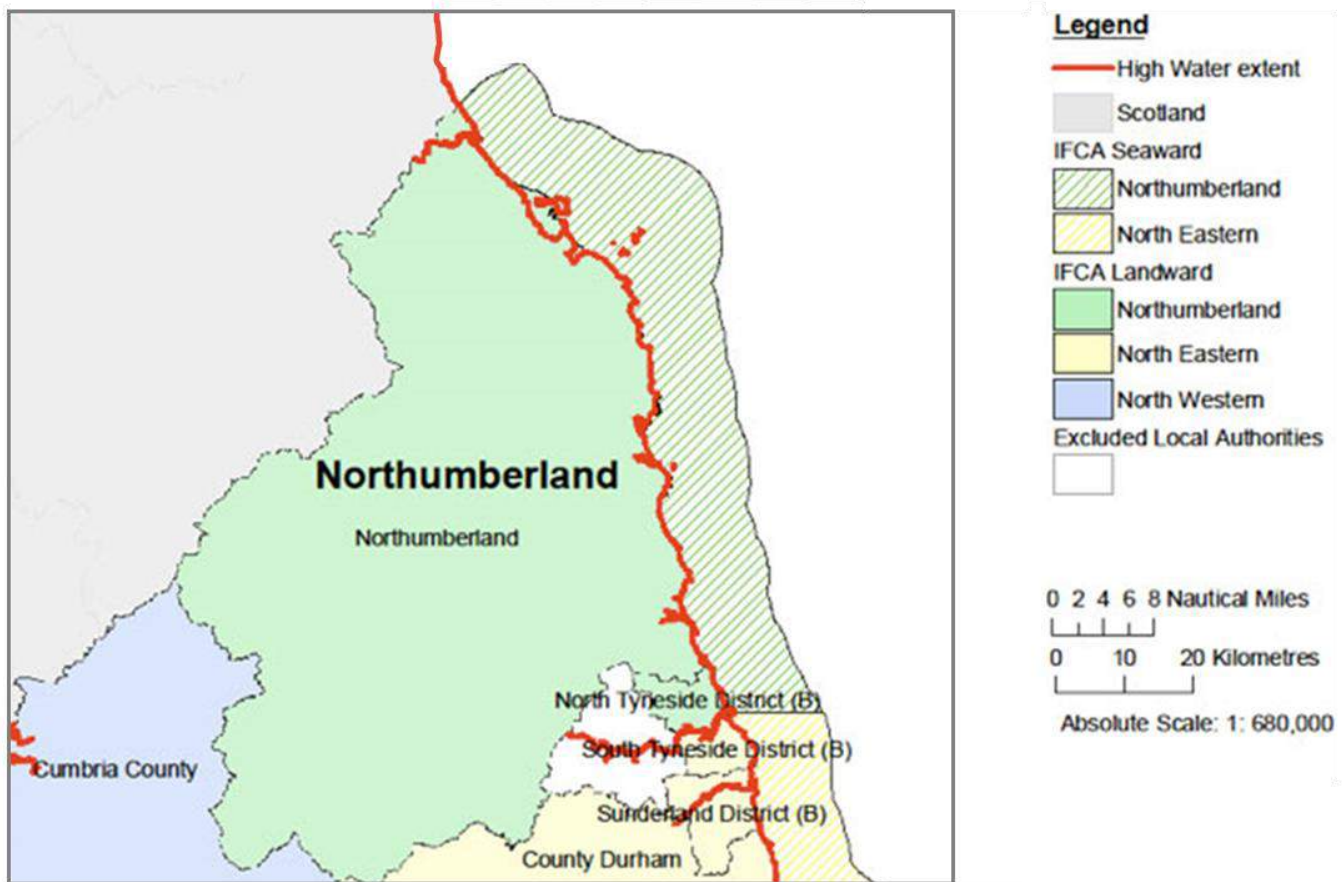


2020-21 Annual Report

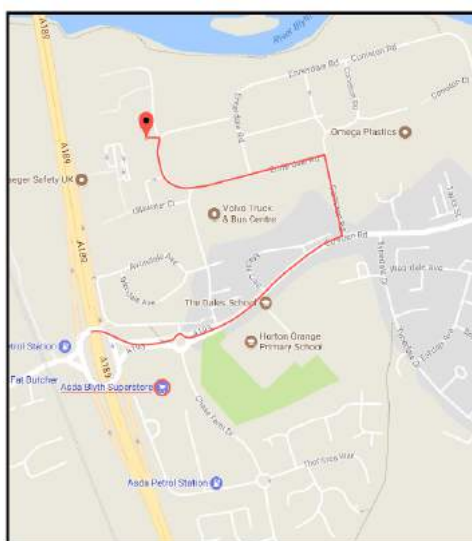
Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (NIFCA)

"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."

Map of Northumberland IFCA District



Finding the NIFCA Office, 8 Ennerdale Road, Blyth



Directions:

- Exit the A189 into Blyth,
- Go straight across the roundabout next to ASDA,
- Continue on Cowpen Road and turn left at the main set of traffic lights onto Coniston road,
- Take the next left onto Ennerdale Road,
- Continue on Ennerdale Road, past Volvo on your left and follow the road round to the right,
- NIFCA is the white building on the left through the green metal gates.

NIFCA Annual Report Covering the Period From 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 (the IFCA year)

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1. Foreword and Introduction from the Chair and CEO



NIFCA Chair Les Weller (left) and CEO Mike Hardy (right) on NIFCA RIB, 'Robert Arkless MBE'

A warm welcome to our Annual Report for the NIFCA Year 2020 – 21. Nobody will need reminding that everything has been overshadowed for everyone since early in 2020 by the Covid pandemic, which really took hold just as the new IFCA year began and continued to a greater or lesser extent for the following 12 months and beyond. This affected the work of the Authority, like with other organisations, in virtually every way and we should firstly pay tribute to the officers and staff of NIFCA for adapting so seamlessly and continuing to deliver everything which could be required in respect of our remit. The health and welfare of everyone including those we come in contact with has been the first and paramount consideration during this period and we are pleased to report that nobody who works for or is a member of the IFCA contracted Covid during the year. A number of people did need to self-isolate however because of those whom they had come into contact with and this inevitably created extra pressure on our workforce and our thanks go to them again for their efforts to overcome this.

Throughout the pandemic, NIFCA has endeavoured to take a safe but pragmatic approach in everything we have done. Therefore, the office remained closed to the public for the whole year, but we have remained fully 'open' as an organisation, with contact maintained by telephone and email and meeting people outside of our office where that was necessary and safe and the feedback from the public and stakeholders has been positive regarding our approach. We are grateful for everyone's patience and understanding.

The day to day working arrangement for the IFCA team quickly evolved to a hybrid one, with officers and staff working both from home and in the office as circumstances required. In the latter instance, the numbers of personnel, social distancing and cleanliness in the workspace were carefully managed, to everyone's satisfaction, including the Health and Safety Executive.

During the height of the pandemic in spring and early summer 2020 and then again later in the year, officer patrols at sea and ashore had to be cut back and very carefully managed by our Chief IFCO Mark Southerton and Lead Enforcement IFCO Nick Weir and this was successfully accomplished so that we maintained a presence in the district and continued liaison with the industry and fishers as much as possible. We also followed national guidelines for operations which were developed by IFCA's nationally with the Marine Management Organisation, with appropriate adaptation for local circumstances.

NIFCA and our officers were also very conscious of the difficulties created for the fishing industry by the pandemic, on top of the initial effects of Brexit after this came to pass and when we finally left the EU on 1st January 2020, particularly the deleterious effect at least in the first few months on trade with the EU, which remains the destination for most of the commercial shellfish caught in the district.

The conduct of the Authority's governance was also affected during the year, as with all public sector organisations. Government regulation permitted the holding of our Quarterly Meetings by Microsoft Teams and this was very important to ensure the reporting and scrutiny of our work, although the regulatory permission was not renewed by the Government when it expired in May 2021. Hopefully, there can be a return to 'normal' meetings with everyone present in the not too distant future.

Practically all of the Authority's external meetings were also conducted on Teams, as well as many internal meetings between colleagues because of so much working from home. It is difficult to envisage what things would have been like without this technology which enabled business to continue quite close to 'usual' and of course there were also considerable savings for our budget, with virtually no travelling during the year to meetings or events.



NIFCA Chair Les Weller presents our Chief IFCO Mark Southerton with a gift on the occasion of our October 2021 Quarterly Meeting and in celebration of Mark's 25 years as an officer

2020 – 21 also saw a number of personnel changes for NIFCA, with Mark Southerton stepping up to Chief IFCO (on the retirement of Al Browne, as recorded in last years Annual Report). Mark could hardly have taken on his new role in more uniquely challenging circumstances than the midst of a global pandemic, but he took to the role and accomplished himself brilliantly, whilst also reaching the 'Silver' anniversary of his joining our predecessor body the NSFC as a Fishery Officer.

We were also delighted to welcome Beth Harvey during the year as a new Environmental IFCO. Beth is highly qualified and brings great capability to the task. Our environmental team was then completed by Katy Smart, following her stint as acting Administrative Officer and with Emma Cosimini making a welcome return to that role as 2020 – 21 came to an end. Katy did a superb job in relation to our administration, to such an extent that she was the deserving recipient of the first NIFCA 'Jon Green Award for Excellence' and which will be given for high achievement every year to a member of the Authority team.

We also bid a fond farewell to our Administrative Assistant Angela Gray during the year upon her retirement to Spain and we were very pleased to welcome Debra Scott as a new Administrative Assistant and who has proved to be an excellent addition to the NIFCA team.

During 2020 – 21 we also bid a kind and grateful farewell to three Authority Members. David Herriot had been a Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee (NSFC) and IFCA Member for over 30 years and rendered great service to both organisations, with his local fisheries knowledge and experience of working with the fishing industry during his career, as well as having a near perfect record of attendance at meetings over many years. Professor Nick Polunin was a NIFCA Member for 10 years and contributed to the Authority's function and policy making with his scientific knowledge of the marine environment and fisheries, as well as assisting officers with the formulation of their advice to members. Nick was also a vital component of the important link between NIFCA and the School of Natural And Environmental Sciences at Newcastle University, which is so important to both organisations. That link includes our work with under-graduate and post-graduate students from the University, a number of whom have gone on to work with NIFCA. The third member to leave us was David Thompson who was with NIFCA for 7 years and brought his knowledge of local boat activity and fisheries in the north of the district to the Authority. Our thanks again to each of these gentlemen. We are looking forward to the recruitment of replacements by the MMO during 2021 – 22.

2020 – 21 also saw the passage into law of the Fisheries Act 2020, the most important piece of national legislation in the IFCA sphere of operations since our inception. Over the latter half of 2020 – 21, our officers began to digest and consider the likely effects of the Act's provisions and particularly in relation to the development of Fisheries Management Plans which will be of great significance in the future. These plans were one of the key areas for discussion at the regular meetings of IFCA Chief Officers, at which we were represented, with Defra officials during the year. Details of all of our meetings with partner and other agencies, organisations and stakeholders can be seen in Annex 1 to this report. We were also very pleased during the course of 2021 to complete all of the byelaw provision which we have in respect of berried lobsters and also in February to receive confirmation from Defra of the making permanent of our previously Emergency Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw, along with the other three East Coast IFCAs (North Eastern, Eastern and Kent and Essex).

Our thanks also go to all of the Authority membership both past and present for their vital contribution to the remit of NIFCA, particularly in respect of our policies and further details of which can be read in this report.

In conclusion we are both very pleased that the Authority was able to consolidate and indeed develop our work in a number of areas, despite the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic. We have an excellent team of officers and a strong member base to ensure that the good work of NIFCA continues in the future. Our thanks and best wishes to all of them and everyone who we came into contact with and worked with during the last year. Your interest in and support of the work of NIFCA is much appreciated and we look forward to continuing to have contact with you in the future. We hope that you find this report to be interesting and informative.

**Les Weller, NIFCA Chair
and Mike Hardy, NIFCA CEO**



Large brown crab caught and measured during a lobster survey in July 2020

2. IFCA Vision and Success Criteria

The National IFCA 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.”

The following National IFCA Success Criteria came into operation in 2015-16.

Success Criterion 1:

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

Definition: IFCAs will be a 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.

Outcomes

- 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.
- The IFCA will contribute to coordinated 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.

Indicators

- **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.
- **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.

NIFCA Delivery of SC1:

NIFCA has continued during 2020-21 in the midst of a Covid pandemic to communicate regularly and as fully as possible with stakeholders, partners and the wider community. Methods of keeping in touch have been reviewed and enhanced as much as possible to deal with the constraints imposed by the pandemic. There was increased focus on the Authority website and social media. At the end of March 2021 NIFCA had 1,022 followers on Twitter and updates continued to be regularly posted there as well as on Facebook. Traditional media outlets such as the *Fishing News*, *Newcastle Journal*, *Northumberland Gazette* and *The Ambler* have been used to inform their readership of NIFCA's work and promote our role within the community. NIFCA also continues to publish periodic newsletters highlighting the work being done along the coast.

Upon the retirement of the Authority's longstanding Media and Communications Advisor Richard

Simpson, NIFCA began to use the services of Amy Maughan Public Relations and preparations were commenced for communications to help celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the inception of NIFCA.

Promotion of and communication regarding the work of the Authority was kept under regular review during the year, including updating the stakeholder database.

All of the above indicators in Success Criterion 1 were complied with and the outcomes achieved.

NIFCA has always maximised the opportunities for close partnership working. This includes with Authority Members from Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Marine Management Organisation, Newcastle University and Northumberland County Council. The Authority also maintained its Joint Working Arrangement (JWA) with NE, EA and the MMO. Officers also worked on patrols and projects with representatives of all of those organisations. Engagement with stakeholders also included the Authority officers on such patrols as had been possible during the pandemic.

Success Criterion 2:

IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

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.

Outcomes

- 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 Tactical & Coordination 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

Indicators

- **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 all Warranted Officers.
- **SC2F:** Warranted Officers attain accreditation. All undertake Continuing Professional Development

NIFCA Delivery of SC2:

The Covid pandemic produced limitations upon the amount of enforcement work which IFCOs were able undertake, particularly during lockdown periods. Guidelines developed and agreed nationally between IFCAs and the MMO were followed and enabled enforcement to be carried out in an effective and proportionate way (see Annex V Enforcement and Operation Summary).

NIFCA has also complied with all of the above indicators SC2A to SC2F during 2020-21. Officers have undertaken continued professional development including the completion of further training programs

run by the Association of IFCA's (see Training Summary in Annex III). NIFCA and its partner organisations continued to work closely within the national IFCA's/MMO intelligence programme, leading to positive and enhanced outputs from what was achieved in previous years and seeing benefits in the level and quantity of intelligence gathered and resultant enforcement, as well as from the structured use of the NIFCA Tactical Coordination Group (TCG). Great benefits flow from the Authority having two former police officers as IFCA Intel Leads. The overall experience and knowledge of the Authority IFCA team and Chief Executive (a former solicitor with extensive experience as a practitioner in criminal law) has also contributed to the success of this IFCA Success Criterion, with benefits also flowing from the use by NIFCA of one of the leading marine solicitors in the country for the Authority's prosecution work and related legal advice.

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 that local management contributes to delivery of targets for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.
- 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.

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.
- **SC3G:** Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.

NIFCA Delivery of SC3:

During 2020-21 NIFCA continued with the implementation and development of measures to manage sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection. This was based upon the Authority having an experienced and knowledgeable team of environmental Officers who undertook research and data analysis in support of management, reporting to Quarterly Meetings of the Authority and its quarterly Technical and Scientific sub-committee meetings. Close working with partner agencies, in particular Natural England, support this workstream. Continued attendance at national IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings, reference to the Authority's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), membership of the Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership (MNP) and a particularly close working relationship governed by a Memorandum of Understanding with Newcastle University School of Natural and Environmental Sciences have all contributed to fulfilment of this Success Criterion and the fulfilment in 2020-21 of the above indicators SC3A to SC3G. The Authority's byelaws and permits have also been kept under review, bearing in mind the balance which is fundamental to the IFCA Vision. Survey work has been carried out with the aim of attaining best available evidence for use in the decision making process.

This year has been challenging in terms of Covid-19 restrictions impacting the research and survey plans for this year. However, despite this the team have adapted plans to continue data collection for long term monitoring plans and projects. This includes Crustacea (crab and lobster) data collection through liaising with fishing industry stakeholders to generate useful data. This data feeds into ongoing Fisheries Management Plans and stock assessment work on the most economically important fisheries to the region. The team have also carried out benthic habitat surveys to understand the impacts of mobile fishing gear on seabed habitats and communities to inform the development of management measures. This year the team have developed and carried out surveys to understand the impacts of intertidal collection activity to build knowledge on periwinkle fishery and bait collection activity.

The team have continued work on Marine Protected Areas in the district resulting in changes to mobile gear management in Coquet to St Mary's MCZ. NIFCA continues to prioritise work in Marine Protected Areas and liaise with Natural England on development of this work area.

All of the research work is detailed in the NIFCA Annual Research Plan and NIFCA Annual Research Report available on the NIFCA website.

Success Criterion 4:

IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional

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. 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.

Outcomes

- 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. The IFCA will record its performance against corporate outcomes and indicators as soon as practically possible following the end of the financial year.
- 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.

Indicators

- **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 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.
- **SC4C:** IFCA staff will have annual performance management plans in place. Annual appraisals

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>for <u>all</u> staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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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NIFCA Delivery of SC4:

Some amendments were required to governance during 2020-21 because of the Covid pandemic, particularly the holding of virtual quarterly meetings and this was successfully achieved by the Authority, including members of the public being able to “attend” these meetings virtually.

NIFCA otherwise continued operating to clear and established policies which were kept up to date where required with oversight by the Chief Executive and Administrative Team. Those policies continued to prove effective in 2020-21 to support and strengthen governance and management of the business of the Authority. This was also aided by the Authority continuing to have an experienced, highly trained, professional workforce together with a well-informed, responsive and supportive membership. All of the above indicators SC4A to SC4E were met during the year, with the Authority subject to the Annual Audit conducted by Northumberland County Council which is reported to and signed off by the membership.

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

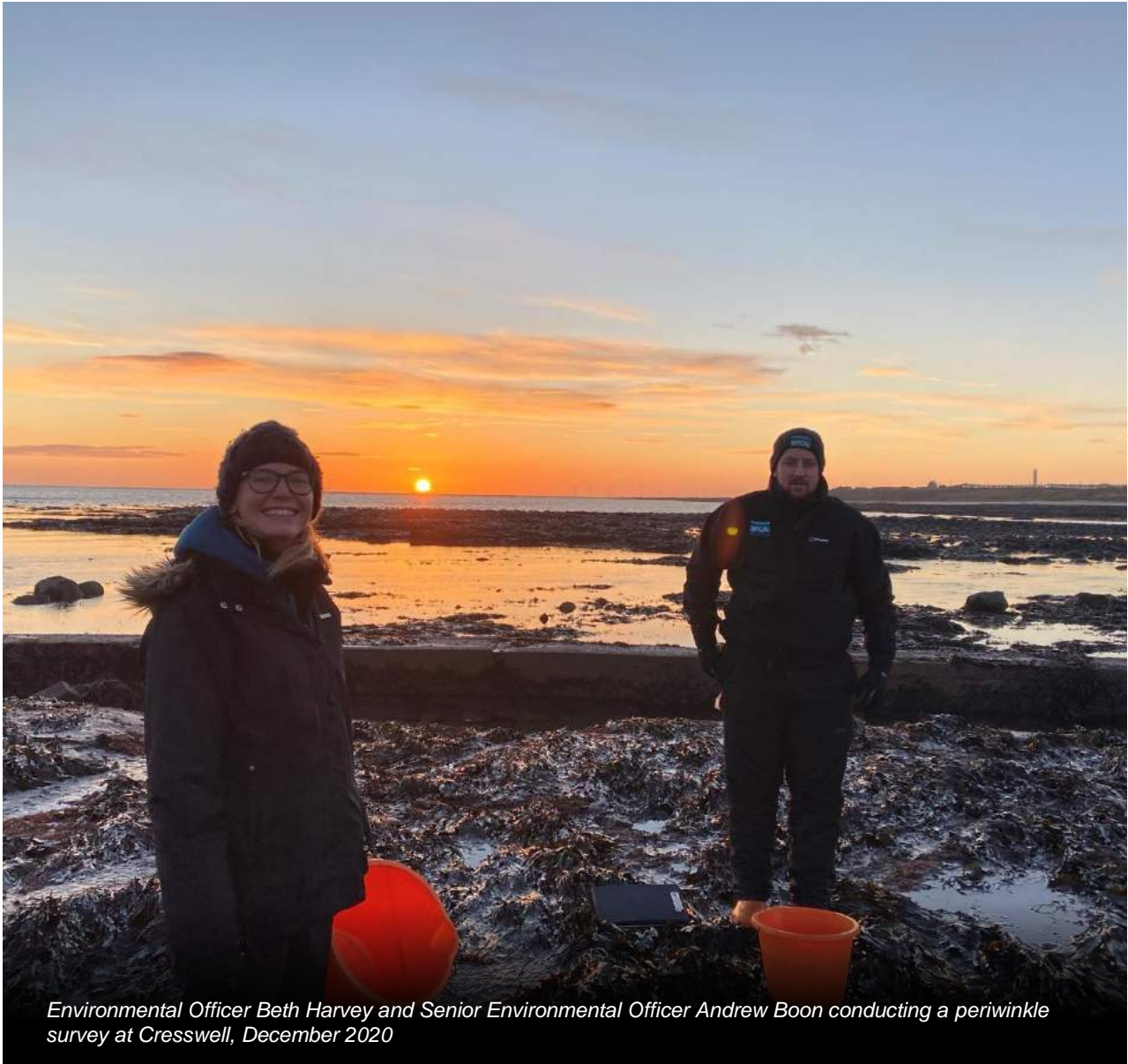
Indicators

- 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

NIFCA Delivery of SC5:

During 2020-21, NIFCA demonstrated a clear track record of meeting this Criterion and fulfilling the above indicators, particularly by publishing its Strategic Research Plan for the following year and Strategic Research Report for the last completed year. NIFCA also contributed to the national IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) through attendance by a member of our Environmental IFCO team contributing to all TAG meetings. All evidence gathering and use is reported to and approved members

of the Authority at regular Technical and Scientific meetings. Regular meetings also took place with the Authority's Natural England member by virtual means as dictated by the exigencies of the pandemic, with detailed analysis of the Authority's work in relation to MPAs, including production of Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRAs) and MCZ Assessments. Close working relationships with partner organisations has led to joint working and data sharing where appropriate. The Authority has a number of MoU's which cover this. Further close working relationships with and support for local organisations, including the North East Cetacean Project (NECP), the Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership, Coastcare and the AONB Partnership in Northumberland has enhanced the working capacity of all organisations involved. All data collected through the work set out in the Annual Research Plan is shared with ERIC NE (Environmental Records Information Centre North East) through which it can be accessed by the research community.



Environmental Officer Beth Harvey and Senior Environmental Officer Andrew Boon conducting a periwinkle survey at Cresswell, December 2020

3. Local Targets and Priorities – NIFCA attainments

<p>1. To ensure the continued successful performance of NIFCA, delivering all of its duties and fulfilling the IFCA vision and success criteria. (Success Criteria 1-5)</p>	<p>1. Achieved in 2020-21 as referred to in this report and with particular reference to the Authority Joint Working Arrangement (JWA) locally with the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency, enshrining principles of joint working and partner agencies achieving joint objectives.</p>
<p>2. To maintain an effective management and enforcement regime in the district to ensure a sustainable fishery and marine environment on an ongoing basis. (Success Criteria 2 & 3).</p>	<p>2. Achieved with regard to effective use of intelligence and assessment of risk, a proactive and beneficial enforcement policy, development of measured policies to achieve the balance in the IFCA Vision (and particular reference to implementation of the NIFCA (Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea) Minimum Size Byelaw and complete Berried Lobsters provision).</p>
<p>3. To refer inter alia to the Authority Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and 2019-20 Annual Research Plan of the district when considering and making management measures. (Success Criterion 3)</p>	<p>3. The Authority SEA is evaluated on a two yearly basis and a copy of the evaluation is on the Authority website. This in particular confirms actions taken under the various recommendations in the SEA and also actions which are needed in the future. The Annual Research Plan has also been followed and referred to in the Annual Research Report of the Authority.</p>
<p>4. Marine Protected Areas - there are a total of 10 of these in the NIFCA district. Firstly, regarding Marine Conservation Zones, we will aim to properly monitor and carry out assessments of fishing activity within the Aln Estuary MCZ, Coquet to St Mary's MCZ, and Berwick to St Mary's MCZ and bring in any necessary management measures, consulting with stakeholders and partner agencies. (Success Criteria 1 & 3)</p> <p>Regarding European Marine Sites (EMS), the NIFCA district has seven of these:-</p> <p>The Tweed Estuary SAC, the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC, which encompasses the Lindisfarne SPA and the Farne Islands SPA, Coquet Island SPA, Northumbria Coast SPA and Northumberland Marine SPA. NIFCA is a competent and relevant Authority in relation to EMS under the Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) and has a duty to fulfil conservation objectives to ensure that qualifying features are maintained in a favourable condition. In accordance with Defra's revised approach to the management of fisheries in EMS, NIFCA has largely completed the review of 'Amber risk' fishing/feature interactions with only one still being worked upon in 2021 and the later designated Northumberland Marine SPA still being worked upon. NIFCA will continue to play an active role in ensuring that the objectives and aims of the management plans for all MPAs within the Authority's district are met and</p>	<p>4. Work to ensure conservation objectives for all MPAs within NIFCA's district has continued in 2020-21. Officers have built on the wealth of work completed since Defra announced the Revised Approach for fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas in 2013. Assessments for fishing activities in MPAs (Article 6 of the Habitats Regulations) have continued to be worked on and significant progress has been made on the Aln Estuary and Coquet to St Marys MCZ assessments. NIFCA also progressed with bait digging and hand gathering assessments. A close working relationship in this regard with the Natural England member of NIFCA is noteworthy.</p> <p>NIFCA implemented management measures for Coquet to St Mary's MCZ restricting mobile gear within the site following the conclusions of the assessment process and after extensive review with Authority members and stakeholders. NIFCA has also continued to develop monitoring and control plans for fishing activity within the district to be kept under continuous review.</p> <p>NIFCA Officers continue to operate effectively in terms of MPA work generally and have an active role in the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership.</p>

enhanced. This will be achieved by Authority activity including NIFCA officers sitting on the management and steering groups of the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership and attending relevant meetings. During regular work at sea IFCOs will continue to undertake extensive monitoring of commercial fishing activity .(Success Criterion 3)

5. To keep the Authority byelaws under continuous review and consider any representations made regarding the same and any other management measures brought in by the Authority such as codes of conduct. (Success Criteria 2)

5. Byelaws have been kept under continuous review and as referred to in 2 above and also regarding byelaw 1 and 2. Byelaw 1 was made by NIFCA during the year and byelaw 2 continued under detailed review. Review also includes the NIFCA Bait Collection Code of Conduct for the River Blyth which was updated in 2021 with input from stakeholders, NIFCA Periwinkle Collection Code of Conduct and NIFCA Gear Marking Code of Conduct which was implemented in April 2018.

6. To support continued lobster v-notching in the district

6. The Authority lobster v-notching programme ceased in 2017-18 because of the commencement of the prohibition on berried lobsters.

V-notching reports can be found on the Authority Website.

The Authority continues to carry out research and monitoring work on this fishery with a fine scale stock assessment conducted every two years.

7. To carry out a further mussel survey at Holy Island and continue with mussel surveying activity in the river Blyth Estuary. (Success Criterion 3)

7. NIFCA conducted mussel surveys on the Blyth Estuary, Holy Island Sands and Fenham Flats in March 2020. Details can be found in the reports on the Authority website. NIFCA have also been involved in partnership projects with Newcastle University to look at the potential reasons for declines NIFCA have recorded through surveys and to look at using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to survey mussel beds in the future.

8. To continue working in accordance with the national IFCA MoUs with each of the MMO, NE, EA (and particularly the local Joint Working Arrangement with the MMO, NE and EA – copy on the Authority website), and Cefas; also with commercial and hobby fishermen including recreational sea anglers, the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences at Newcastle University, the Tweed Commission, Amble Development Trust/ The Northumberland Seafood Centre, the police when necessary and other stakeholders including NECP to facilitate compliance with the IFCA's objectives and duties as resources permit. Also to continue Joint Working with other IFCA's particularly through the Association of IFCA's, Chief Officers Group and Technical Advisory Group. (Success Criterion 1)

8. There has been joint working and a collaborative approach with all of the bodies mentioned and as detailed elsewhere in this report.

9. To keep under review all evidence and data systems to ensure the best use of available evidence and that data is securely held and used appropriately in NIFCA decision making including

9. This has continued and as detailed elsewhere in this report.

in respect of the Intelligence Project with the MMO. (Success Criteria 1 & 5)	
10.To continue an active programme of meeting stakeholders both informally in the district eg. Officers meeting commercial and recreational fishermen when on patrol in the district; and arranging and attending meetings with commercial fishermen, attending Recreational Sea Angling clubs and other stakeholders at events organised by the Authority with the aim of educating interested parties about the remit and work of the Authority. (Success Criterion 1)	10. This has continued in 2020-21 as detailed elsewhere in this report, particularly Annex 1 meetings and events attended.
11.To continue to support the development of the lobster hatchery in the Authority district at Amble, with a wide range of benefits for stocks, the environment, the fishing industry, marine science and education. (Success Criterion 1)	11. There continues to be liaison with the local lobster hatchery which has the support of NIFCA for its objectives and attainments. NIFCA also provided the hatchery with a dispensation to for fishers to land berried lobsters allowing the hatchery to receive berried lobsters for the facility.
12.To continue the Authority's work in connection with the North of the Tyne Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), which NIFCA has been instrumental in the development of.	12. The North of Tyne FLAG came to an end in 2019. NIFCA continued support of the initiative until the end and are grateful to the FLAG for the funding received for the Brown Crab research project.
13.NIFCA projects – NIFCA will continue with research projects –these include the Authority lobster and brown crab stock assessments.. NIFCA will continue annual monitoring work including mussel bed condition surveys and the Aln Estuary MCZ Fish survey. NIFCA began an intertidal monitoring survey to increase knowledge on the impacts of intertidal collection activity which will continue into next year. Other projects include a scallop dredge impacts on benthic communities project, and a Tracking Marine Crustacea project, both with Newcastle University. And a mapping sensitive subtidal habitats project with Natural England. In addition, NIFCA will continue to support the North East Cetacean Project and the North East Beached Bird Survey, which is determining the distribution and abundance of seabirds and cetaceans in the district. NIFCA will also continue to have regard to the need for preservation of any features of archaeological or historic interest whenever or wherever that is possible in the district, although due to resource limitations, development of this area of work is limited. (Success Criterion 5)	13. NIFCA research projects have continued and come into effect, as detailed in the Authority's Annual Research Plan and Annual Research Report.
14.To continue with an adequately resourced and proactive training programme for staff and with training for new Members and also to facilitate continual training development of existing Members to the maximum possible extent. Training of staff will be reviewed through the Authority system of Review/ Appraisals which began in a revised and enhanced form in 2015. Staff and Members will be asked to contribute with ideas and suggestions for training and development and the Authority will seek to meet	14. Training IFCA Officers and staff to the highest possible standard in respect of their area of work is a key NIFCA priority and has obvious benefits in the quality of work undertaken and outputs from the Authority. Details of training undertaken can be seen in Annex 3 of this report, although this has been unavoidably more limited in 2020-21 because of the pandemic and lockdowns.

all reasonable and affordable needs in that respect. (Success Criterion 4)

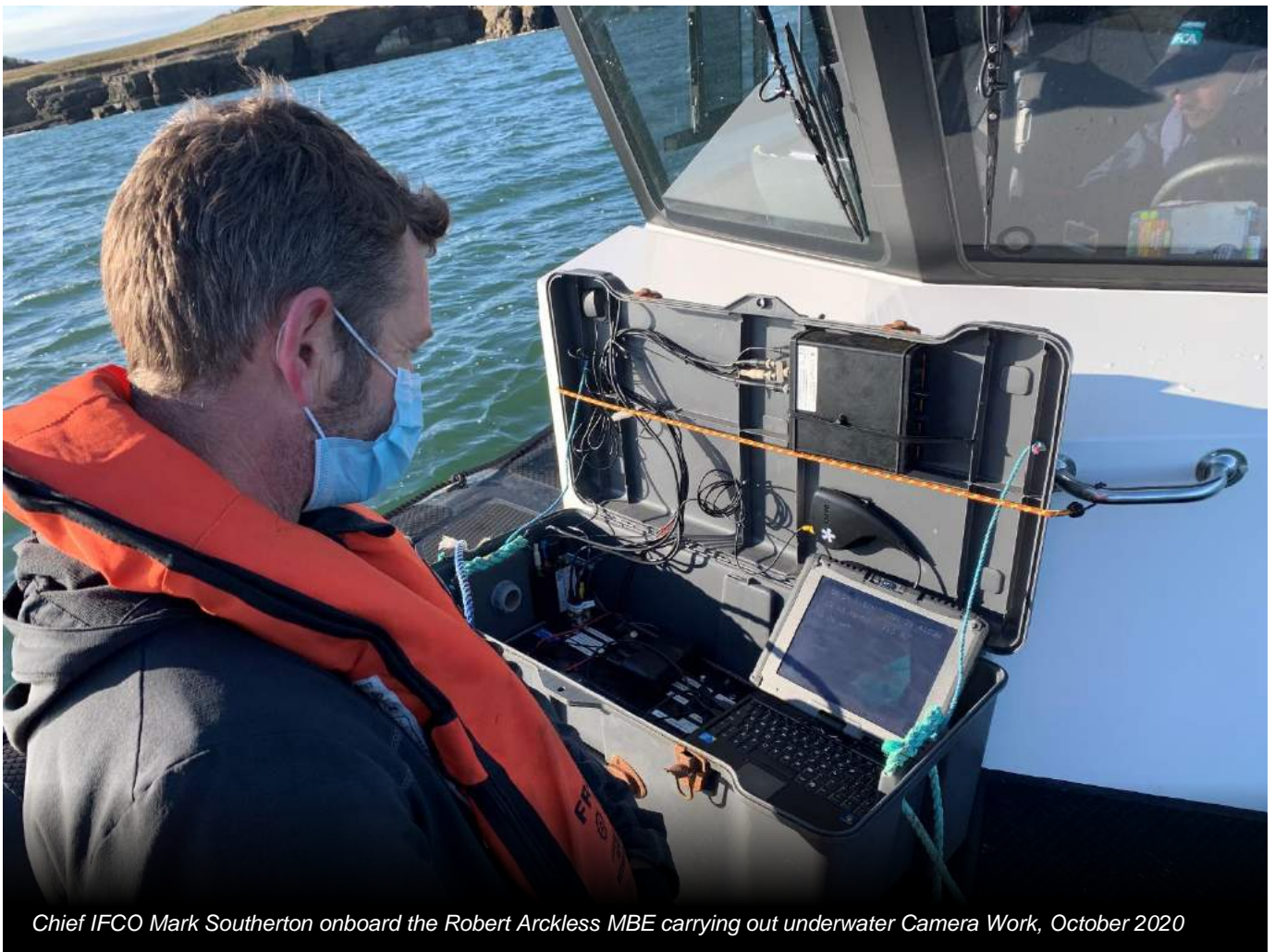
15. To continue with the programme of fish surveys in the district which have been carried out successfully to date in the Aln Estuary. (Success Criterion 3).

15. Surveys have continued to a carefully programmed schedule in the Aln Estuary. Surveys in 2020 were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic but scheduled for May and September 2021. Details can be found in the fish survey reports on the Authority website.

16. To continue with adherence to the principles laid down in the Defra Guidance to IFCAs and as resources permit in:

- a) The common enforcement framework
- b) Evidence based Marine Management
- c) Monitoring and Evaluation and Measuring Performance
- d) Contributing to the Achievement of Sustainable Development
- e) Annual Planning and Report
- f) Byelaw Making Powers under the Marine and Coastal Access Act

16. There is continued adherence to guidance from Defra and also the suite of policies which have continued to be developed particularly by the Authority Admin Officer and kept up to date, including completion of review of the Authority's Member handbook and Governance and with all necessary matters reported upon to quarterly and subcommittee meetings of the Authority, further enhancing, planning and member involvement.



Chief IFCO Mark Southerton onboard the Robert Arkless MBE carrying out underwater Camera Work, October 2020

4. Work Plan Summary 2020-21

In the tenth complete IFCA year we have continued to adhere closely to our Work Plan with overall leadership provided by the Chief Executive and with the team of IFCOs led by their Chief Officer in terms of fulfilling operations and performance requirements. In particular, NIFCA follows the national Success Criteria for IFCA's as well as local targets and priorities, as referred to respectively in Sections 3 and 4 above. Because of the pandemic, the monthly IFCOs rota meeting was in abeyance, but officers led by the Chief IFCO continued to meet regularly by Microsoft Teams and in the office when they could safely get together but with appropriate limitations on numbers and social distancing always being paramount. Other Authority meetings involving officers moved similarly to being held on a virtual basis, including Environmental and TCG Meetings. See also the Enforcement Operations Summary in Annex 5 to this report.

The Authority and its officers are always looking to enhance and improve upon the performance and delivery of objectives for stakeholders despite the limits imposed by the pandemic and lockdowns and to the benefit of sustainable fisheries and the marine environment. The continuation of the Authority's MPA work is a particular example of this, including excellent partnership working with the Authority's Natural England Member and the ongoing development of the Authority's Strategy and outputs in relation to the Fishing in MPAs project (Revised Approach).

Budget management is also a key area for which the Authority has a consistent plan, including the Finance Officer continuing to report weekly and more frequently as required to the Chief Executive and consistent following of the Authority financial regulations, as well as close liaison with the Authority Chief IFCO and Admin Officer. Financial matters are also reported upon quarterly to meetings of the Authority and annual budget planning centres upon an Authority Members meeting in December which in 2020 took place virtually.

A work plan has also been followed but adapted where this was dictated by the exigencies of the pandemic and lockdowns and based particularly upon the Authority policy in respect of Health and Safety, led by our Chief IFCO / Health and Safety Officer. Apart from any incidents requiring immediate attention, the Health and Safety Officer also reports quarterly to the Chief Executive and to the Authority Quarterly meeting.

Strong and long-term external relationships with other bodies were also maintained during 2020-21 by all possible means particularly with the MMO, Natural England, EA, Tweed Commission, Cefas and Newcastle University. Communication and relations with stakeholders were also emphasised and maintained guided by the Authority's Promotion and Communications Policy including the Action Plan thereunder and as also referred to in the list of meetings and events in Annex 1 to this report.

The Authority also kept its Risk Management Strategy under review and updated where necessary every six months following a meeting of the Risk Strategy Working Group led by the Chief Executive.

5. Resources Report 2020-21

Premises

The Authority moved to its current premises at 8 Ennerdale Road, Blyth in September 2013 on an initial 5-year renewable lease. On reviewing the lease in 2017 the Authority decided that it should be renewed for a further 5 years subject to the level of rent being satisfactory. Following negotiations with the Landlord, FES, the lease renewal was duly confirmed in September 2017. The current lease will run until August 2023 with a break clause in 2021. The rent payable will remain at £27,500 p.a subject to periodic review. The premises continue to provide an excellent work base and storage facilities.

Vessels and Vehicles

The Authority's main patrol vessel, berthed at Royal Quays Marina in North Shields, is a 16m GRP catamaran named St Aidan, acquired in April 2015. The vessel cost £680,000 and was financed entirely from the Authority's own reserves. St Aidan is equipped with an on-board 5.3m RIB named TT St Aidan which can also operate independently of the main vessel and be mounted on a trailer and towed to onshore launch areas for shore patrols and survey work.

The Authority also now owns a new 9m cabin RIB, the Robert Arckless MBE which replaced the previous RIB (Bravo 1) in August 2019. The total cost of the new cabin RIB was a little under £150,000, around 70% of which was financed by EMFF grant funding. The new RIB is berthed at Amble Marina and can function as an additional patrol vessel as well as carry out survey work.

In addition, the Authority owns a 5.4m Zodiac inflatable purchased in 2013 at a cost of £1,700. This is used principally for shore patrols and survey work.

The Authority maintains service level agreements with Northumberland County Council for the hire and maintenance of a 1.5 litre Ford Connect minivan and a 2.2 litre Ford Ranger 4x4 for use on shore patrols, surveys and general Authority business. The current lease agreements began in August 20 (for the minivan) and October 20 (for the 4x4) and are both due to run for 5 years at an annual cost of £4,540 and £5,850 (ex VAT) respectively. Leasing two vehicles is intended to reduce to a minimum the number of times it is necessary for Authority personnel to use their own vehicles for work purposes.

Reserves

Total reserves, including both the Capital Replacement and General Reserve funds, were £698,126 as at the end of March 2021.

6. Northumberland IFCA Budget Summary 2020-21

Northumberland IFCA Budget Summary 2019-20

	Estimate £	Actual £	Variance £
	2020-21	2020-21	
Expenditure			
Employee expenses	603,560	597,906	5,654
Patrol vessel, RIB & Ford Ranger expenses	87,000	59,376	27,624
Renewals & Capital Expenditure	0	0	0
Other Enforcement & Environmental expenses	30,000	23,243	6,757
8 Ennerdale running costs	49,200	41,225	7,975
Other management & administrative expenses	76,000	59,491	16,509
Operating expenditure	845,760	781,241	64,519
Income			
Grants & donations	0	10,580	10,580
Fishing permit & tag charges	23,000	22,889	(111)
Other income	8,004	10,616	2,612
Total income	31,004	44,085	13,081
Net cost of service	814,756	737,156	77,600
Annual contribution to Renewals Fund	42,000	42,000	0
Drawings from Renewals Fund	0	0	0
Other contributions to Renewals Fund	2,500	19,223	(16,723)
Contribution to/from (-) General Reserves	(1,300)	59,577	(60,877)
Total expenditure	857,956	857,956	0
Precepted Income			
Northumberland County Council	715,278	715,278	0
North Tyneside Council	142,678	142,678	0
Total Local Authority precept	857,956	857,956	0

Budget Summary Narrative

Overall, the original projected net deficit of £1,300 has been eliminated and turned in to a surplus of £59,577 (a positive variance of £60,877). This is largely due to the Covid19 pandemic which has constrained the Authority's ability to operate normally since the start of lockdown in late March 2020.

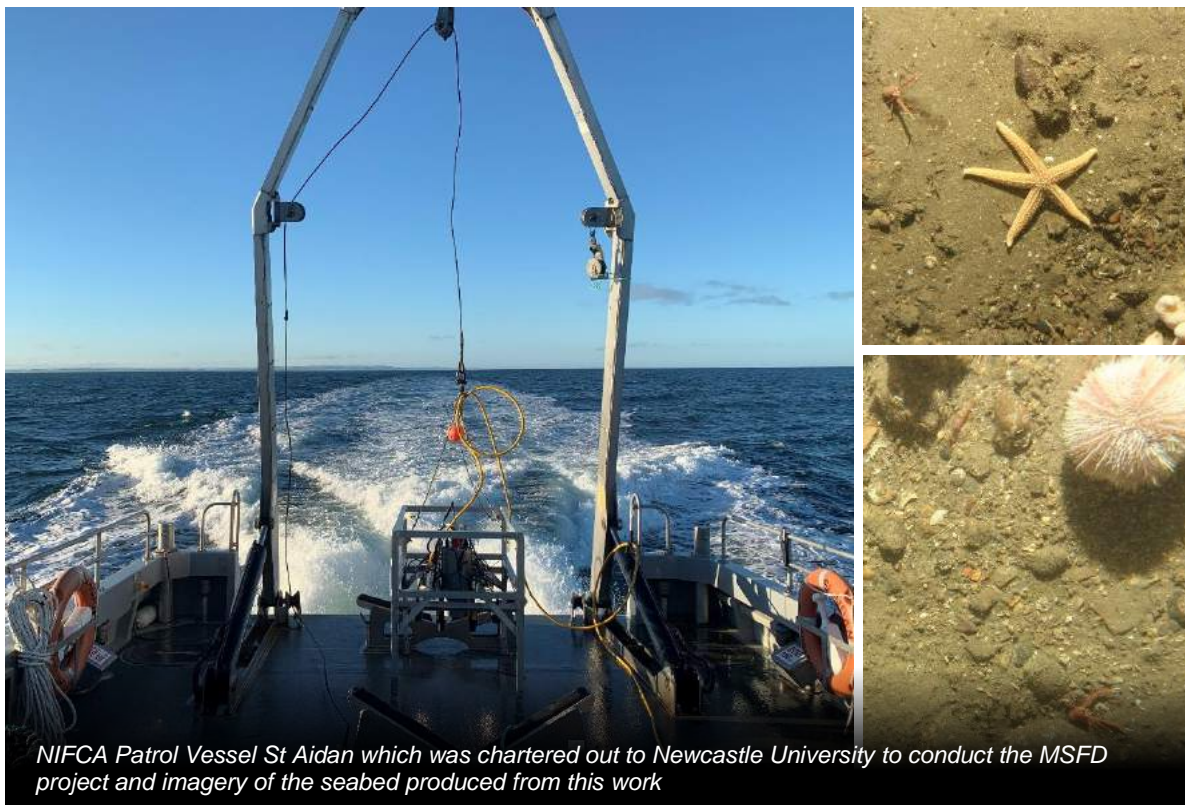
Fisheries patrols and other enforcement activities were significantly reduced during the year which, combined with a sharp decrease in fuel prices, the deferment of the new vehicle lease start from April to August and only leasing one additional vehicle instead of two, reduced overall vessel, RIB and vehicle costs for the year by 27.6K. This positive variance was partially offset by the annual cost of marine insurance almost doubling to 15.3K due to an industry-wide rise in Professional & Indemnity premiums which had not been anticipated in the budget.

Employee expense were 5.7K lower overall due to employing one less IFCO than budgeted for most of the year and reduced IFCO mileage. This variance was partly offset by an increase over budget in Administrative salaries costs.

Spending on Other Enforcement & Environmental areas was reduced by 6.8K overall due to travel to meetings, courses etc having ceased during the Covid19 restrictions. Overall office running and Management costs were also reduced (by around 24.5K) due to the impact of the restrictions and by not needing to use the 10K Contingencies fund. Travel costs for meetings are expected to be lower indefinitely as the use of video-conferencing and remote learning have expanded.

Part of the overall 59.6K budget surplus has been set aside for investment in new equipment during 2021-22 that will enhance the Authority's capabilities. The remainder will be added to General Reserves.

The Authority considers it essential to set aside funds every year to pay for eventual vessel replacement. This year the budgeted transfer of 42K to the Renewals Fund was augmented by a further 19.2K from chartering the vessel and RIB, investment account interest and a one-off grant from the Council to help with adjusting to the pandemic.



7. Governance Report 2020-21

NIFCA is a public body with governance provided ultimately by its committee of Members who are advised by the CEO and who meet quarterly and on other occasions as referred to below.

The Authority has held three General meetings (quarterly meetings) during the year. The April (Annual) meeting had to be cancelled, as permitted by Government Regulation at the height of the pandemic, but a detailed written report covering all current aspects of the Authority business including Finance was sent to members. Due to force of circumstance the January meeting comprised only a General meeting (no separate Finance and Watch meetings as is usually the case) when all Authority business was conducted and all members were eligible to attend. General meetings which are open to the public were held by Microsoft Teams in July and October and January as also permitted by Government Regulation with all Authority members, officers and members of the public / stakeholders able to attend virtually.

Papers are prepared by the Chief Executive with the assistance of Authority officers for all Authority meetings. The General meetings are open to the public and the press and publicised on the Authority website. Procedures at these meetings continue to be governed by the Authority Constitution and Standing Orders, with the Authority completing a further review of Governance led by the Chief Executive during the year. Reference is also made where necessary to the Authority Code of Conduct for Members. Minutes of each meeting are produced as soon as possible and approved at the next Authority quarterly meeting and then posted on to the Authority website.

Subject to the changes enforced by the pandemic and as referred to above, the usual practice remains that before each annual (April) and quarterly meeting and on the same day, the Authority Watch and Finance Committees meet. These meetings are held in private and are reported upon by the Authority Chief Executive (and Chairman when appropriate) to the general meeting which follows. Minutes of those meetings are also produced for approval at the following quarterly Watch and Finance meeting.

In addition to the above meetings, the Authority has several subcommittees and Working Group which have met when required or requested. These meetings are for guidance and make recommendations upon Authority policy to the main meeting of the Authority.

Details of the subcommittee meetings can be seen on the next page of this report



Governance Report (Continued): Members Meetings attended 2020-21

In this section of the report, recognition is given to the work of members of NIFCA in attending Authority meetings, with the attribution of a notional value of £45 an hour. There is thus a more tangible representation of the importance of the work of members who volunteer to assist in a number of ways, but particularly at the meetings of NIFCA. Other significant work which some members may undertake from time to time within their membership remit, eg. assisting with survey work and attending external meetings on behalf of the authority is not included. Similarly, the table below does not include members travelling time to meetings because this varies from member to member but can in some instances exceed 2 hours return per meeting.

Key Code:

1	Member present	na	Attendance not required	A	Apology for absence	0	No explanation for absence
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Member								T&S Meeting		Other Meetings			
	Jul-20			Oct-20			Jan-21	Oct 2020	Dec 2020	HR SC May 2020	Audit June 2020		
	W	F	G	W	F	G	G						
Chair Les Weller	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Frank Armstrong	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	na	A		
David Herriott	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1		
Martin Kitching	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Steve Lowe	A	A	A	1	1	1	A	1	1	na	1		
Nicholas Polunin	na	na	1	na	na	1	1	A	1	na	A		
Sandy Ritchie	A	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	o	na	A		
Jim Stephenson	A	A	A	1	1	1	o	1	1	na	o		
Ian Thomas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
David Thompson	na	na	o	na	na	o	1	o	o	na	A		
*Vice Wendy Pattison	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	na	1		
*Brian Burdis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	o	o	na	o		
*Eileen Cartie	na	na	1	na	na	1	1	A	1	na	A		
*Liz Dunn	na	na	1	na	na	1	1	A	1	na	1		
*Guy Renner-Thompson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	A	na	1		
*Gregah Roughead	na	na	1	1	1	A	1	A	1	na	1		
*Catherine Seymour	na	na	A	1	1	1	1	1	A	na	1		
**Phil Rippon	na	na	1	na	na	1	A	1	1	na	o		
**Patrick Gray	1	na	1	A	A	A	1	1	1	na	A		
**Catherine Scott	na	na	1	na	na	1	1	1	1	na	A		
Meeting Length (min)	30	20	45	45	15	120	30	120	30	45	15	TOTALS	
No. of General Members	5	5	5	8	8	9	8	7	8	4	5	Hours	*£45/hr
Meeting Time (Gen Members - hrs)	2.50	1.67	3.75	6.00	2.00	18.00	4.00	14.00	4.00	3.00	1.25	60.17	£2,708
Number of Councillors	3	3	6	5	5	6	7	2	4	0	5		
Meeting Time (Councillors)	1.50	1.00	4.50	3.75	1.25	12.00	3.50	4.00	2.00	0.00	1.25	34.75	£1,564
Number of Statutory Appointees	1	0	3	0	0	2	2	3	3	0	0		
Meeting Time (Stat. Appointees)	0.50	0.00	2.25	0.00	0.00	4.00	1.00	6.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	15.25	£686
TOTAL HOURS/MEMBER CONTRIBUTION												110.2	£4,958

8. Staffing and Service Standards 2020 – 2021

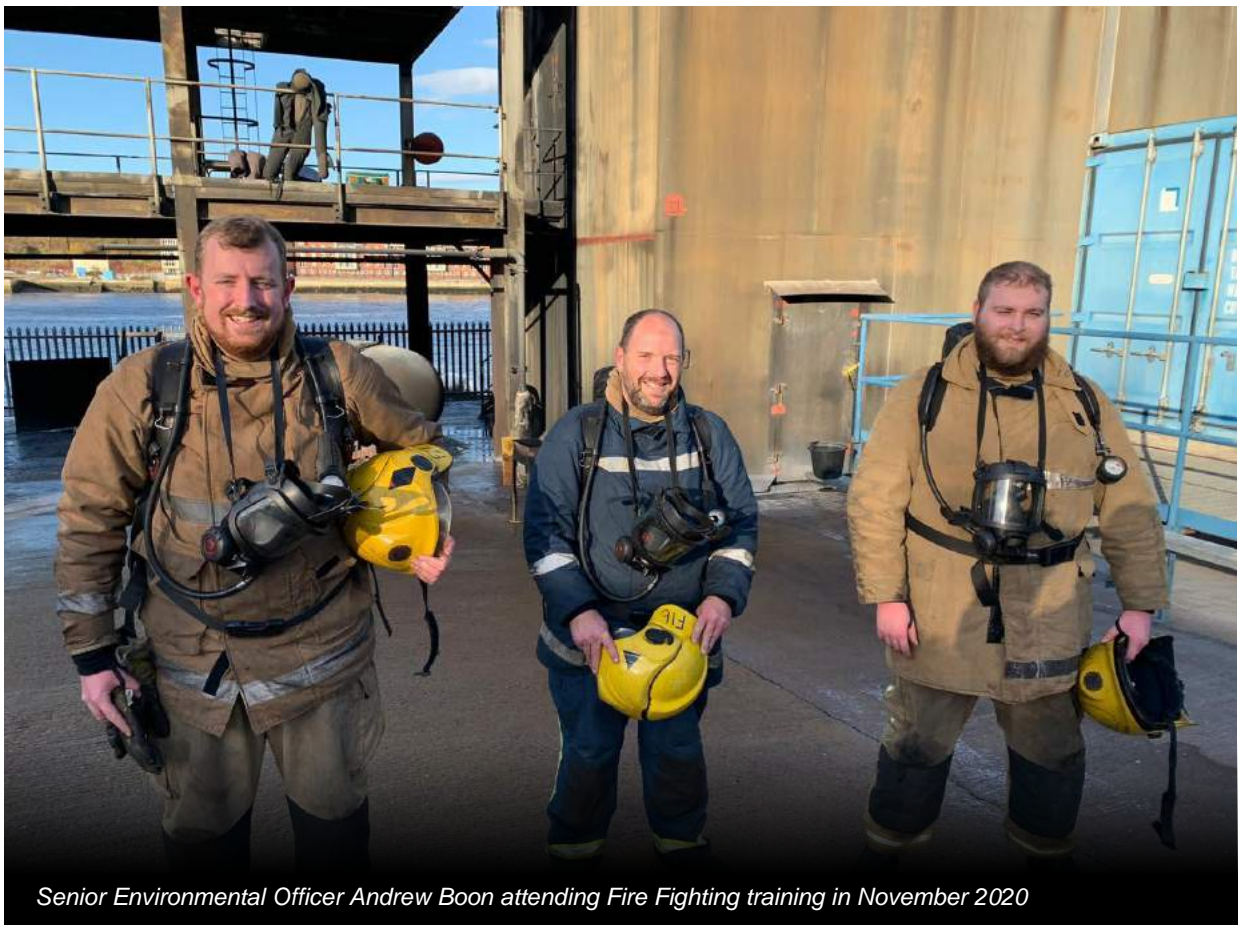
The Authority prides itself upon having an effective and committed workforce who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the task in hand of achieving the IFCA Vision, fulfilling Success Criteria and attaining local targets and priorities. The workforce is generally a stable one and their efforts are regularly commended by the Members, as well as by stakeholders and partner organisations.

The Authority has a robust and thorough recruitment process, and this functioned very well during 2020-21 when new members of staff joined the workforce (see 1. Foreword and Introduction from the Chair and CEO). The new staff members received the benefit of a full training and induction programme to familiarise themselves with their role and the methods of working of the Authority and were successfully integrated into the NIFCA team.

The standards were maintained to a very high level during the pandemic and lockdown.

9. Training Summary

The great significance of a well-trained workforce who are up-to-date in the performance of all aspects of their individual remits continues to be recognised by the Authority and appropriate training is given when required, as well as planned for in the Authority budget. Planning and a strategic approach is always applied to the training programme to maximise the benefits for the cost involved. Full details of training in 2020-21 are contained in Annex 3 to this report.



Senior Environmental Officer Andrew Boon attending Fire Fighting training in November 2020

10. Strategic Review

18.8% of the funding from both Northumberland County Council and North Tyneside Council for Northumberland IFCA is provided to the Councils by Defra under the “New Burdens” scheme which began on inception of IFCA in 2011 and has continued to date. This funding has been allocated for 2021-2022 and will be reviewed at some time between the publication of this report and 2022-23.

NIFCA continues planning for all possible foreseeable developments or financial models which may apply in the future. Due to the success in respect of the work we carry out and delivery of outputs to date, including in respect of Marine Protected Areas, it is felt that there is continued justification for a continuation of funding which has been contributed to date from Defra to IFCA via their constituent Councils.

The Authority also implemented a capital expenditure project in 2021 to monitor purchase of equipment and other assets of a capital nature. This involved liaison with the Authority Finance Committee and reporting to the General meetings of the authority. This supports the attainment of medium and long term strategic Authority goals.

NIFCA also continues to adopt a flexible and proactive approach to developments in the marine environment, planning ahead as far as possible and as well as following core principles for fulfilment of our Vision and as particularly enshrined in the Success Criteria in section 3 of this report. That has continued throughout 2020-21 and will do so beyond. We have given particular focus to delivery of local targets and priorities, whilst also taking account of the wider/national situation especially by working closely with and supporting the Association of IFCA and also through the national Chief Officers Group (COG), Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) which are all attended by senior Authority Officers. The Chief Officer also attends the MAFCO Group meetings which are held between Defra officials and IFCA Chief Officers giving vital assurance regarding appropriate engagement and action required in relation to national development.

The role of members in development of NIFCA policies and also where applicable supporting the implementation thereof, thus aiding the work of the Authority workforce, is also crucial to our success and the continued enhancement of our reputation as managers in the inshore fisheries and marine zone. The Authority has also focussed closely on risk in all areas of our remit in a proportionate manner and as manifest in the Authority’s risk assessment matrix which is kept up to date and reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

In summary, strategic planning has been a key part of the work of NIFCA in 2020-21 and will continue to be a fundamental aspect of what we do.

Annex 1

Northumberland IFCA meetings and events attended by representatives of the Authority in 2020–2021

1st April 2020 Chief Officers Group weekly dial in attended by CEO.

2nd April 2020 Defra monthly dial in with IFCA's attended by CEO.

3rd April 2020 Northumbria Rivers Catchment Partnership Annual Forum (postponed).

3rd April 2020 Environmental video conference, first of – CEO, Chief IFCO and Environmental Team.

6th April 2020 IFCO's video conference led by Chief IFCO.

7th April 2020 Video conference regarding Association of IFCA's Chief Officer appointment attended by Chair and CEO together with the Chair of the Association and Chief Officer of Cornwall IFCA.

8th April 2020 Chief Officer Group weekly dial in attended by CEO.

8th April 2020 Berwickshire Shellfish Symposium to be attended by Andrew Boon (cancelled).

14th April 202 Regional weekly Covid video conference chaired by NIFCA Chief IFCO Mark Southerton with Patrick Gray from the MMO and David McCandless from North East IFCA.

15th April 2020 Admin staff video conference with CEO.

15th April 2020 IFCO's video conference led by Chief IFCO.

16th April 2020 Video conference regarding appointment of Association of IFCA's Chief Officer attended by Chair and CEO together with Association of IFCA's Chair and Cornwall IFCA Chief Officer.

17th April 2020 Environmental video conference (CEO, Chief IFCO and Environmental team).

17th April 2020 Regional weekly Covid-19 video conference chaired by NIFCA Chief IFCO.

22nd April 2020 Chief Officer Group dial in (CEO).

23rd April 2020 Chief Officer Association of IFCA's interviews by Skype (Chair).

24th April 2020 Environmental dial in (CEO and Environmental team).

30th April 2020 COG/Defra dial-in attended by the CEO.

1st May 2020 CEO taking promotion and communications advice from the Authority Adviser, Richard Simpson.

14th May 2020 HR Review Sub Committee meeting attended by the Authority Chair, Ian Thomas, David Herriott, Martin Kitching and CEO.

19th May 2020 Association meeting regarding appointment of Association CEO, attended by the Association Chair, Vice Chair (Les Weller), Cornwall IFCA Chief Officer and NIFCA CEO

28th May 2020 Another Association meeting as referred to above.

29th May 2020 Annual “Joint Working Arrangement” (JWA) review meeting, attended by CEO, Mark Southerton, Alex Aitken, Catherine Scott, Phil Rippon, Rory Lane from the MMO and Zahra Ravenscroft from the Environment Agency.

4th June 2020 Audit meeting attended by the CEO and other IFCA staff plus IFCA members.

4th June 2020 Defra/Chief Officer Group meeting attended by the CEO.

9th June 2020 North East IFCA recruitment meeting attended by CEO together with MMO Officers.

19th June 2020 Shortlisting meeting for the appointment of a temporary environmental officer attended by Alex Aitken, Steve Lowe and the CEO.

25th June 2020 Quarterly Meeting preparation meeting attended by the Chair, acting Admin Officer and CEO.

29th June 2020 CEO meeting Mark Southerton and Nick Weir regarding the viewing of body camera evidence in respect of a reported infringement.

1st July 2020 Admin Officer meeting with members regarding Quarterly Meeting preparation for Microsoft Teams.

6th July 2020 Interviews for the appointment of the temporary environmental officer attended by Alex Aitken, Steve Lowe and the CEO.

7th July 2020 Meeting to decide upon the appointment of the temporary environmental officer attended by Alex Aitken, Steve Lowe and the CEO.

7-9th July 2020 Legal advice being taken regarding Byelaw 1 by “the byelaw team” of IFCOs reporting to the CEO.

8th July 2020 Defra/COG (“MAFCO”) dial-in.

9th July 2020 Mark Southerton and the CEO regarding Health and Safety Quarterly review.

14th July 2020 Chair, Acting Admin Officer and CEO meeting regarding Quarterly Meeting preparation.

17th July 2020 Acting Admin Officer meeting with members regarding Quarterly Meeting preparation.

23rd July 2020 Defra/COG meeting regarding future funding of IFCAs.

29th July 2020 IFCAs Chief Officers Group meeting attended by CEO.

30th July 2020 Member recruitment planning meeting with MMO officials attended by the Chair and CEO.

30th July 2020 Meeting with the Seafood Centre Manager at the Seafood Centre in Amble attended by CEO and Andrew Boon.

4th August 2020 Follow-up member recruitment meeting with the MMO (Chair and CEO).

10th August 2020 CEO discussion with Defra re: Extension of Emergency MCRS Byelaw.

12th August 2020 MAFCO (IFCA Chief Officers and Defra) meeting attended by CEO.

19th August 2020 Chief Officers' Group meeting attended by CEO.

21st August 2020 Chair and CEO attending at North Shields Fish Quay for a meeting with the Shadow Environment Secretary Luke Pollard MP, Mary Glindon MP and North Tyneside Council officials and councillors.

CEO Annual Leave 21st August to 8th September

8th September 2020 CEO catchup with COG Chair.

10th September 2020 MAFCO meeting attended by CEO.

12th September 2020 Royal Quays Marina event attended by Mark Southerton and Alex Aitken on St. Aidan for NIFCA.

17th September 2020 CEO and Katy Smart meeting Emma Cosimini to prepare for shortlisting interviews re: Part-time Admin Assistant vacancy.

17th September 2020 CEO meeting with Mark Southerton and other IFCOs regarding development of Authority Permit Returns Policy.

21st September 2020 Risk Matrix and Crisis Management Review meeting attended by CEO, Katy Smart, Alex Aitken and Julian Sutton.

25th September 2020 Admin Assistant interviews conducted by Vice Chair Wendy Pattison and the CEO and Katy Smart.

30th September 2020 COG meeting attended by CEO.

1st October 2020 Association of IFCA's meeting attended by the Chair with apologies from the CEO.

6th October 2020 Meeting with AONB and Northumberland County Council officials attended by Alex Aitken.

7th October 2020 Technical and Scientific meeting of the Authority.

8th October 2020 MAFCO meeting attended by CEO.

8th October 2020 AONB Climate Change event attended by Environmental IFCO.

12th October 2020 Trial of Messrs C., M., and B. Denton at Bedlington Magistrates Court for alleged offences, attended by officers in the case together with the Authority's solicitor.

14th October 2020 Marine Nature Partnership Steering Group meeting attended by Environmental IFCO.

15th October 2020 Second interviews for the Admin Assistant position conducted by CEO and Katy Smart together with Emma Cosimini.

16th October 2020 Periodic CEO meeting arranged with the Authority Communications and Media Advisor Richard Simpson.

19th October 2020 Occupational Health tests arranged for IFCOs.

21st October 2020 COG meeting to be attended by CEO.

- 28 October 2020** CEO discussion with Iain Robson of the AONB/update on each other's organisation.
- 2 November 2020** CEO began a period of recuperation following an operation, returning to full time duties in January. Chief IFCO Mark Southerton acted up in place of the CEO during this period, including attending meetings on behalf of the CEO and as referred to in reports to the Authority in the New Year.
- 13th January 2021** COG meeting attended by Chief IFCO Mark Southerton.
- 20th January 2021** Andrew Boon attended the SAGB Crustacea Committee meeting.
- 20th and 21st January 2021** Officers attended the Annual Coastal Futures meeting covering marine environmental issues.
- 2nd February 2021** CEO telephone discussion with AIFCA Chief Officer Rob Clark.
- 3rd February 2021** CEO meeting with new NIFCA Communications Advisor Amy Maughan.
- 3rd February 2021** CEO meeting with NIFCA Natural England member Catherine Scott.
- 4th February 2021** CEO periodic meeting with Authority Landlord.
- 5th February 2021** CEO and Chief IFCO meeting for quarterly health and safety review.
- 5th February 2021** CEO meeting with Defra regarding the confirmation of IFCAs Minimum Size Byelaw.
- 9th February 2021** Authority Chair and CEO meeting MMO for discussion pre-interviews for new NIFCA members.
- 10th February 2021** CEO attending IFCAs/MMO Strategic Operations Group meeting.
- 15th February 2021** CEO meeting Amble Lobster Hatchery representative.
- 17th February 2021** Monthly COG meeting attended by CEO.
- 19th February 2021** CEO on the panel with MMO for interviews for new general members for North West and Kent and Essex IFCAs.
- 22nd February 2021** Periodic meeting of Chair and CEO in Northumberland.
- 24th February 2021** IFCA Chief Officers and Defra meeting ("MAFCO") attended by CEO.
- 25th February 2021** All Parties Parliamentary Group event on the Fisheries Act and Brexit attended by Lead Enforcement and Environmental IFCOs.
- 9th March 2021** Quarterly Association Forum meeting attended by NIFCA Chair (as Vice Chair of the Association) and CEO.
- 9th March 2021** NIMEG meeting attended by Chief IFCO.
- 11th March 2021** Association Directors meeting attended by Chair (Vice Chair of the Association) and CEO.
- 19th March 2021** Risk Matrix Review meeting attended by CEO, Admin Officer, Finance Officer, Chief IFCO and Lead IFCOs.
- 19th March 2021** Further of a series of meetings with the Authority Media Advisor.
- 22nd March 2021** Periodic meeting of the Authority Chair and CEO in Northumberland.
- 23rd March 2021** Meeting to discuss Fisheries Management Plans organised by the Association of

IFCAs Chief Officer and attended by the Chair and CEO and representatives from other IFCAs.

24th March 2021 Lead Enforcement IFCO attending APPG event on Data, Technology and Innovation in UK Fisheries.

24th March 2021 Monthly COG meeting attended by CEO.

25th March 2021 Chair and CEO attending at Amble Marina for photo opportunity and meeting another IFCA member and former member.

30th March 2021 SOG meeting attended by CEO.

30th March 2020 Newcastle University Undergraduate Placement Week at NIFCA (cancelled).



Enforcement IFCO Mark Lynn checking gear compliance at St Mary's Island, June 2020

Annex 2

List of Press Reports referring to NIFCA - 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Date	Paper	Title
April 2020	Fishing News	Fisheries Chief calls it a day
18 June 2020	Northumberland Gazette	Probe after discovery of illegal fishing net
25 June 2020	Northumberland Gazette	Action needed to protect our brown crab delicacy
29 July 2020	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Impact of pandemic on Northumberland's fishing industry revealed
29 July 2020	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Northumberland coast backed by fisheries chiefs
6 August 2020	Northumberland Gazette	New byelaw on trawling backed by fisheries chiefs
13 August 2020	News Post Leader	Authority sets out plans for new restrictions for trawlers
18 August 2020	The Ambler	Helping fishers during pandemic
28 October 2020	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Northumberland fisherman threw officer from van during catch inspection
29 October 2020	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Northumberland dredging ban decision deferred after objections from fishermen
5 November 2020	Fishing News	Fisherman convicted of assaulting fishery officer

Annex 3

Training Summary 2020-21

Date	Training	Attendees
23rd April	Competent Officers Accreditation Modules	4 x IFCO's
May 2020	Data Handling and Data Management	1 x IFCO
15 th October 2020	6-week Science & Leadership Training	Lead EIFCO
16 th November 2020	certificate of Proficiency in Personal Survival Techniques from the South Shields Marine School	1 x EIFCO
17 th - 19 th November 2020	Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (basic) South Shields Marine School	1 x EIFCO
19 th 20 th November 2020	Essential Skills for Supervisors	Lead EIFCO
14 th December	A2 Certificate of Competence UAV	x 3 IFCO's
7 th January 2021	certificate of Proficiency in Personal Survival Techniques from the South Shields Marine School	1 x EIFCO

Annex 4

Consultation Summary 2020-21

Date received	Name of organisation	Consultation	Response date
April 2020	MMO	MLA/2019/00459 Dredge at Tyne Dock Enterprise Park	April 2020
April 2020	MMO	MLA/2020/00178 Swan Quay River Wall Repair	May 2020
April 2020	Marine Space	ENQ/2018/00033 England Cable System Desk Top Study	May 2020
May 2020	MMO	MLA/2020/00011 North Sea Fish Quay Protection Jetty	May 2020
May 2020	MMO	MLA/2020/00176 Waren Mill Rock Armour	June 2020
July 2020	MMO	MLA/2020/00240 Floating Lidar Test Zone	August 2020
Nov 2020	Scottish Government	Fish and Fisheries Research to Inform ScotMER Evidence Gaps	December 2020
January 2021	MMO	MLA/2020/0458 NO-UK Fibre Optic Cable System	February 2021
February 2021	CEFAS	EW106-M-742 Shellfish Farm – Port of Blyth (Blue Marine Foundation)	February 2021
February 2021	MMO	MLA/2012/00122/10 Blyth Offshore Demonstration Project	March 2021

Annex 5

Enforcement and Operations Summary 2020 - 2021

During the period 2020-21 the Authority employed the following IFCOs

- Chief IFCO M Southerton

From the Operations and Enforcement Team

- Lead Enforcement IFCO N Weir
- Patrol/Research vessel skipper IFCO D Graham
- IFCO M. Lynn (full time from beginning of 2020)
- Part-time IFCO R Willis
- Engineer IFCO P Ridley

From the Environmental Team

- Lead Environmental IFCO A. Aitken
- Senior Environmental IFCO A. Boon,
- Environmental IFCO B Harvey joined the Authority in August 2020
- Environmental IFCO K Smart joined the Environmental IFCA team from March 2021

Authority IFCO staffing changes meant that particularly for the Environmental Team there were officers in new roles at the start of the year and this was a period of transition but by the end of the year the Environmental team was operating fully resourced.

The most dominant factor within this year has been operating during a global pandemic and a series of national lockdowns throughout the 2020/2021 year. This has had a huge impact on the fishing industry as well as regulators.

Patrol vessel operations had to be reduced in number, with limited crew numbers and in some instances stopped altogether with government advice on social distance rules.

Inspections on vessels at sea as well as on the quayside were also impacted from the government advice on social distancing, with the enforcement outputs reflecting these changes.

The marine and coastal operations during the first national lockdown were limited to monitoring and deterrence patrols throughout the NIFCA district, with a gradual move to a risk-based enforcement strategy. There was also collection of data requested by the Government. Nationally, the IFCA's came together and worked together (and also engaged fully with the MMO in particular) to share information and guidance to maintain the safety of its staff, stakeholders and the general public.

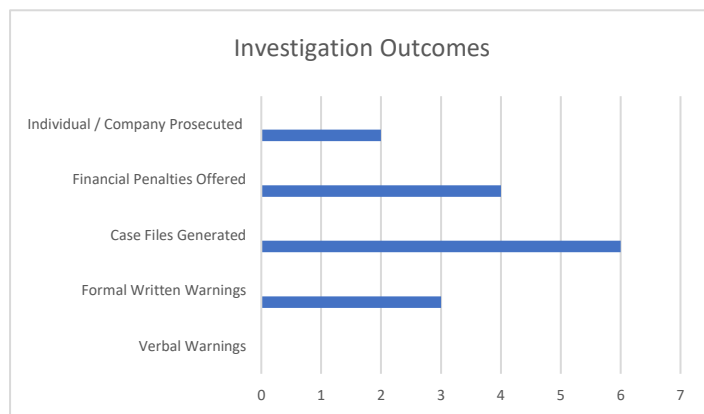
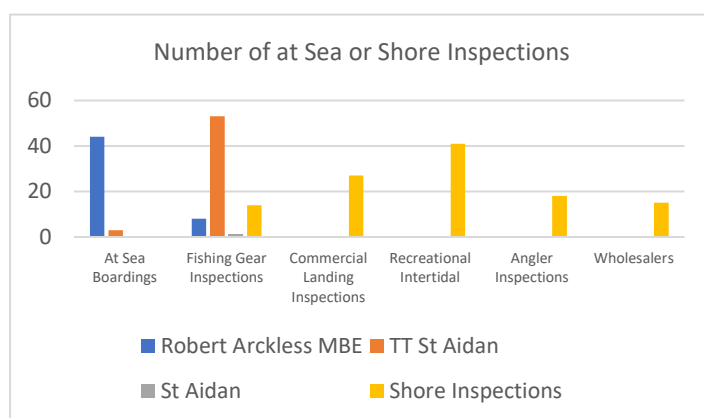
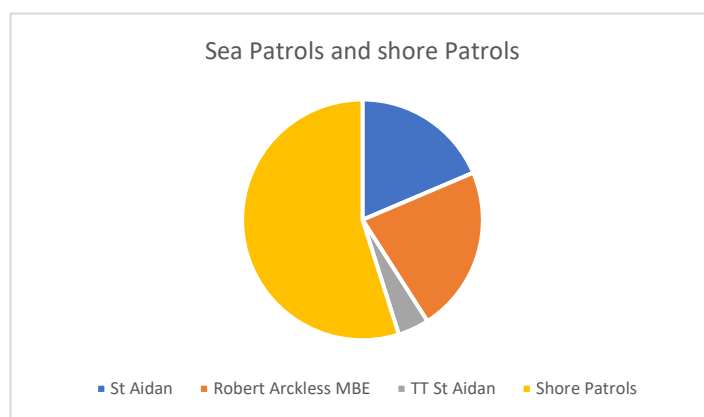
Enforcement activities were focused upon the Authority Enforcement Strategy Matrix, as well as driven by local NIFCA/MMO TCG (Tasking and Coordination Group Meetings), intelligence led and emerging or seasonal trends.

Marine capability

The Authority began the year with its main Patrol/survey vessel St Aidan, a 16m Catamaran, with on-board 5.3m Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) TT-St Aidan, which are both now in their 6th year. The vessel is coded to category 2 and can be operated with a minimum of 3 crew or a maximum of 10. The Authority also operated its 9.5m cabin RIB Robert Arckless, which is moored at Amble Marina, a mid-point in the NIFCA district, allowing the vessel to be capable of reaching either north or south NIFCA border within 2 hours. The vessel can be crewed by a minimum of 2 or maximum of 4 officers, making an ideal boarding platform to vessels operating inshore as well as offshore and coded to operate 20 miles from a safe haven. Both vessels have remained operable although reduced capability, except for planned maintenance. Both vessels have fitted iVMS devices, which allows Fishery Monitoring Centres to see where the vessel assets are located.

Annually the patrol vessel St Aidan gets lifted out of the water at the Royal Quays Marina, North Shields for two weeks annual maintenance and MCA Inspection. 2020 coincided with the 5th year inspection which involves a more thorough examination including prop shafts removed and checked and all underwater line seacocks being replaced, as well as the usual maintenance regime re-antifouled, propellers and rope cutters inspected and anodes replaced. All work and maintenance is carried out inhouse by the Authority's Engineer.

The Authority leased for four years a double cab, Ford Ranger 3.2 TDi 4x4 from Northumberland County Council to assist with towing operations. Since the replacement of the towed RIB in 2019, there is no need to have the larger 3.2 TDi, and at the expiry of the lease agreement it was agreed to exchange to the 2.0 litre engine variant as well as lease an additional vehicle, a Ford Transit Connect 1.5 diesel to carry out coastal patrols and inspections. Due to the ongoing pandemic, delays in getting both of these vehicles delivered were experienced, however by August both vehicles were with the Authority and operational.



Operations Report

Category	Metric	Detail	Total
Inspections at sea	Vessel patrols	Count any patrol by any of the NIFCAs vessels (mother/daughter boat combination counts as one patrol)	82
	Fishing vessel boardings	Count fishing vessels (including unregistered/unlicensed) inspected at sea, where boarding was in pursuit of any relevant duty	47
	Fishing gear inspections	Count store-pots, tiers/strings etc of fishing gear found deployed in the sea, where inspection was in pursuit of any relevant duty. Do not count gear inspected on board a vessel	91
Inspections ashore or in port	Shore patrols	Excursion/visit of any length to any part of the coast for an inspection or observation of fishing related activity	118
	Port visits	Individual port/harbour/beach visits within a shore patrol	314
	Premises inspections	Markets, merchants, refrigerated units, retailers, food producers/outlets etc	22
	Fish/shellfish landing inspections	First-hand observations of fish/shellfish as it was landed ashore from a vessel. Do not count inspections of fish laid out on a market or in a storage facility unless the landing of that fish was observed	28
	Other inspections	Count vessel gear/fish checks in port/ashore, diver and shore angler catches, vehicle contents and shellfish catch from shore gatherers	67
Investigation outcomes	Verbal warnings	Verbal Warnings, for minor breaches of legislation (no further action taken).	0
	Case files generated	For a serious breach of legislation which was thought would, or did, lead to a formal warning letter or the application of a legal sanction	6
	Formal written warnings	For a serious breach of legislation, where evidence gathered was sufficient to take legal proceedings, but where a letter was instead deemed the most appropriate action	3
	FAPs offered	Count all the FAPs relevant to any one case	4
	Individuals / companies prosecuted in court	Count all the persons and companies relevant to any one case	2

Financial Administrative Penalties

Date of offence	FAP
26th July 2020	Recreational fisher, Berwick upon Tweed, fishing pots without a recreational shellfish permit contrary to NIFCA Byelaw 4 Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and Pot Limitation Cat 13, IFCA Permit, Penalty Level 1, First Offence £250. Offered and accepted.
9th of September 2020	Commercial shellfish permit holder retained 3 lobster that were below the minimum conservation reference size contrary to Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019. Offered and accepted Cat 9, Undersize Fish Offences (UK, EU, Byelaw), Penalty Level 2, Second Offence £1000
6th November 2020	Skipper/ Owner of commercial shellfish permit holder failed to return 3 berried lobster to the sea. Contrary to Statutory Instruments 2017 No. 899 The Lobsters and Crawfish (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) (Amendment) (England) Order 2017 Offered and accepted Cat 11, IFCA Technical Conservation (Catch), Penalty Level 2, Second Offence £1000
15th of September 2020	Skipper/Owner of a commercial shellfish permit holder failed to return 3 prohibited berried lobster to the sea. Contrary to Statutory Instruments 2017 No. 899 The Lobsters and Crawfish (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) (Amendment) (England) Order 2017 Offered and accepted Cat 11, IFCA Technical Conservation (Catch), Penalty Level 2, Second Offence £1000

Prosecutions

Date of offence	Prosecution
21st of September 2020	Recreational fisher from Berwick upon Tweed who landed 17 lobsters (<i>Homarus Gammarus</i>) below the minimum conservation reference size contrary to NIFCA Minimum Size Byelaw, also landing 1 soft shelled lobster, contrary to NIFCA Crustacea Conservation 2019 Byelaw, and being in breach of NIFCA Byelaw 4 Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and pot limitation byelaw. Pleaded Guilty at Newcastle Magistrates Court and ordered to pay; £160 Fine £200 for legal costs £200 for NIFCA costs £34 victim surcharge
26th of February 2020	Recreational fisher from Pegswood who failed to comply with a reasonable request from a fisheries officer contrary to Section 292 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, whilst fishing with lobster pots without a NIFCA recreational shellfish contrary to NIFCA Byelaw 4 Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and pot limitation byelaw. Pleaded Guilty at Newcastle Magistrates Court and ordered to pay; £262 Fine £700 for legal costs £800 for NIFCA costs £26.20 victim surcharge

GLOSSARY OF RELEVANT TERMS USED IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT, OF INTEREST AND/OR OF RELEVANCE TO NIFCA REMIT

ABBREVIATIONS

AED	Automated External Defibrillators
AIFCA	Association of IFCAs
AIS	Automatic Identification System
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
B&NNC SAC	Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation
CEFAS	The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CIFCO	Chief IFCO
COG	Chief Officers Group
CPUE	Catch per Unit Effort
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
EMS	European Marine Site
EUNIS	European Nature Information System
FLAG	Fisheries Local Action Group
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
IFCO	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer
iVMS	Inshore Vessel Monitoring System
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
JWA	Joint Working Arrangement (in the district with the MMO, EA and NE)
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LPUE	Landing per Unit Effort
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
MCA	Maritime Coastguard Agency
MaCAA	Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009
MCRS	Minimum Conservation Reference Size
MCSS	Monitor and Control Surveillance System
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MEO	Marine Enforcement Officer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MLS	Minimum Landing Size
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NAREC	National Renewable Energy Centre
NCC	Northumberland County Council
NE	Natural England
NeBBS	North East Beached Bird Survey
NEBOSH	National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NIMEG	National Marine Enforcement Group
NIFCA	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
nm	Nautical Miles
NNR	National Nature Reserve

NSFC	Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee
NTL	Normal Tidal Limit
NTMBC	North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence Act
PPR	Professional Practices and Responsibilities
RIB	Rigid Inflatable Boat
RNLI	Royal National Lifeboat Institution
RSA	Recreational Sea Angling
SAGB	Shellfish Association of Great Britain
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SOG	Strategic Operations Group (MMO and IFCA, attended by CEO)
SOLAS	The International Convention for the Safety of Life At Sea
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STCW	Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping
RYA	Royal Yacht Association
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TCG	Tactical and Co-ordination Group
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

GLOSSARY: POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Birds Directive	Aims to protect all European wild birds and the habitats of the species listed in the directive. The Birds Directive is the abbreviated term for Council Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.
Byelaw	A regulation made by a local authority.
Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)	Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is the fisheries policy of the European Union (EU). It sets quotas which indicate how much of each fish species each member state is allowed to catch, as well as encouraging the fishing industry by various market interventions.
Habitats Directive	Aims to protect the habitats and species listed in the directive's Annexes. The Habitats Directive is the abbreviated term for Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.
Habitats Regulations	Transposes the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive into UK law.
Marine and Coastal Access Act	Seeks to improve management and increase protection for the marine environment within English inshore areas. The Act includes provisions for the establishment of the MMO, IFCA and the creation of a network of MCZs.
NIFCA Byelaws	A set of regulations enforced by NIFCA within the NIFCA district.
Statutory Instruments	This legislation is made in accordance with provisions contained within one or more of the UK primary fisheries Acts.

GLOSSARY: MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Annex I Habitats	A natural habitat(s) listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive for which Special Areas of Conservation can be designated.
Annex II Species	A species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive for which Special Areas of Conservation can be designated.
Annex I Species (Birds Directive)	A particularly threatened species for which EU member states must designate Special Areas of Protection for their survival, and all migratory bird species.
Appropriate Assessment	The process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EC Habitats Directive to assess the impact of a plan or project on a European site
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Area of high landscape value protected by law to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.
Assemblage	A collection of plants and/or animals characteristically associated with a particular environment.
Coastal Change Management Areas	Areas at the coast which have specific temporal and spatial planning policies attached to mitigate the long-term impact of coastal change.
Competent Authority	Any minister, government department, public or statutory undertaker, public body or person holding a public office that exercises legal powers (see also relevant authority).
Conservation objective	The goal of maintaining or restoring natural habitats and populations of species of wild fauna and flora at a favourable conservation status.
European Site	A Special Protection Area (SPA) designated under the EC Birds Directive, or a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive.
European Marine Site	A European site (SAC or SPA) which consists of marine areas.
Favourable Condition	A range of conditions for a natural habitat or species at which the sum of the influences acting upon that habitat or species are not adversely affecting its distribution, abundance, structure or function within an individual Natura 2000 site in the long term. The condition in which the habitat or species is capable of sustaining itself on a long-term basis.
Feature	A natural or semi-natural feature for which a European site has been selected.
Habitat	The place in which an animal or plant lives.
Habitat Regulations Assessment	An assessment required under the EC Habitats Directive of the impacts of plans or projects on European sites.
Implementation	Putting policies and proposals into effect.
Implementation Officer	The officer employed by the Management Group to develop the management scheme and support implementation of the scheme
Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	Co-ordinated management of the coastal and inshore marine area across multiple sectors, taking a long-term approach to planning.

Likely Significant Effect (LSE)	The first step of a Habitat Regulations Assessment to determine whether a plan or project might impact a European site.
Littoral	The margins of a body of water, an area which is occasionally washed by the tide
Maintain	The action required for an interest feature when it is considered to be in favourable condition. Management may still be required to keep this status.
Management Group	A group of statutory and non-governmental organisations working in partnership to manage a European Marine Site.
Management Scheme	The framework established by the relevant authorities at a European marine site under which their functions are exercised to secure, in relation to that site, compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.
Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)	Marine areas in English waters designated under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to protect marine habitats and species typical of UK waters.
Marine Protected Area	A marine area that is protected by statutory or voluntary measures to control human activity. The term is also used to describe Scotland's national network of marine nature conservation sites.
Natura 2000 Network	The European network of protected sites established under the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive, made up of SPAs and SACs.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Important areas for wildlife which are protected, managed and accessible.
Plan or Project	Any proposed development that is within a relevant authority's function to control, or over which a competent authority has a statutory function to decide on applications for consents, authorisations, licences or permissions.
Ramsar Site	A site held on the list of wetlands of international importance, especially as habitats for wildfowl, under the Ramsar convention.
Relevant Authority	The specific competent authority which has powers or functions which have, or could have, an impact on the marine environment within or adjacent to a European marine site.
Restore	The action required for bringing a qualifying feature back to favourable condition.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI)	Areas designated in the UK for their internationally important flora, fauna and geological features.
Shoreline Management Plan	A document setting out strategic guidance for the management of coastal defence over the next 20, 50 and 100 years.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area designated under the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area designated under the European Birds Directive 79/409/EEC
Statutory Nature Conservation Body	Government's main advisors for the natural environment – Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage in England and Scotland

	respectively.
Steering Group	A group of statutory and non-governmental organisations with delegated powers from the Management Group. The Steering Group oversees the work of the Implementation Officer.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	The assessment of environmental effects of major strategic plans. SEA is a European requirement.
Sub-Feature	An important component part of a qualifying feature – e.g. kelp forests are a sub-feature of the rocky reef.
Voluntary Marine Reserve	A marine area that is protected through voluntary agreements with site users.

GLOSSARY: OTHER/FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL

Berried crab/lobster	A crab or lobster with eggs or spawn attached to the tail or other exterior part.
By-catch	A fish or other marine species that is caught unintentionally while catching target species.
Carapace Length	The carapace length of a lobster is measured from the rear of the eye socket to the rear of the carapace on a line parallel to the centre line of the body.
Carapace Width	The carapace width of a crab is measured from the widest part of a crab's carapace.
Crustacea	A group of arthropods, which includes crabs, lobsters, crayfish and shrimp.
Discards	Those components of a fish stock thrown back after capture e.g. because they are below the minimum landing size or because quota have been exhausted for that species.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The assessment of environmental effects of major projects and development proposals to inform decision making. EIA is a European requirement.
Escape gaps	An opening in the pot of a size that allows undersized target- and non-target species to escape, whilst retaining legal sized target species.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	A system which captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data that is linked to a location. The software ArcGIS is used by NIFCA to produce maps.
Ground-truthing	The collection of ground-truth data enables the accuracy of remote-sensing data (such as underwater video footage) to be determined, aiding the interpretation and analysis of the remotely-sensed data.
Landing Obligation	Under the landing obligation all catches have to be kept on board, landed and counted against quotas. Undersized fish cannot be marketed for human consumption. This measure will be introduced fishery by

fishery over the next few years.

Management Regime	The current NIFCA management regime consists of byelaws and regulations.
Maximum Landing Size (MaxLS)	Lobsters greater than the MaxLS in Scotland should be returned to the sea.
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	MSY is the largest average yield (catch) that can theoretically be taken from a species' stock over an indefinite period under constant environmental conditions.
Minimum Conservation Reference Size	The size for a given species below which the sale of catches shall be restricted to reduction to fish-meal, pet food or other non-human consumption products only. (MCRS)
Minimum Landing Size (MLS)	The EU Common Fisheries Policy implemented EU minimum landing sizes (MLS) now known as Conservation Reference Sizes (CRS) for quota species which define the smallest fish measurement at which it is legal to keep or sell a fish.
Mitigation	The action of reducing the severity or seriousness of something.
Stock Assessment	Provide fisheries managers with the information that is used in the regulation of a fish stock. Biological and fisheries data are collected in a stock assessment.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Assesses the impact on the environment from public plans, programmes and strategies
Sustainability	The collection of policies and strategies employed by companies to minimize their environmental impact on future generations.
Soft shelled Crab/Lobster	A crab or lobster which has recently cast its shell
Stakeholder	Any organisation or individual that has a direct interest in actions or decisions. Their interest may be because they will have a role in implementing the decisions, or because they will be affected by the decision.
Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	Catch limits (expressed in tonnes or numbers) that are set for most commercial fish stocks.
V-notching	V-notching puts a notch in the tail flap of a lobster, predominantly sized and berried female lobsters (87mm or larger). This gives the female one or two more chances of spawning before being eligible for recapture. It is an offence to land a V-notched lobster, male or female.

GLOSSARY: ENFORCEMENT

Automatic Identification System (AIS)	An automatic tracking system used on ships and by vessel traffic services (VTS) for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging data with other nearby ships, AIS base stations, and satellites.
Code of Conduct	A set of rules outlining the social norms and rules and responsibilities of, or proper practices for, an individual, party or organization.
Global Positioning	A satellite-based navigation system.

System (GPS)

Landings	The catches of marine fish landed at a port.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	A formal agreement between two or more parties. MOUs are not legally binding.
Nautical Mile (nm)	A nautical mile is a unit of distance, set by international agreement as being 1.852 km; 1,852 m; 1.151 mi or 6,076 ft.
Patrols	Monitoring of a specific geographic area.
Permit	An official document giving someone authorization to fish.
Pot Limitation	Limits the number of pots a permit holder can fish within the district (the NIFCA limit is 800 pots).
TCG	Tactical Co-ordination Group
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	Systems that are used in commercial fishing to allow environmental and fisheries regulatory organisations to track and monitor the activities of fishing vessels.

GLOSSARY: FISHING METHODS AND GEAR

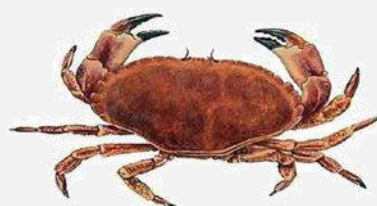
Bait Collection	The collection of intertidal animals to use as bait.
Bait Digging	Method of collecting angling bait which uses a fork, pump or spade to target lugworm and ragworm living in intertidal sediment.
Cleek	Pole with a hook on the end used for catching lobsters.
Cleeking	A method of catching lobsters in the intertidal zone using a long pole with a hook on the end.
Cod-end	The end of a towed net where the catch collects.
Crab Tiling	Collecting soft shelled shore crabs referred to as peeler crabs for use as angling bait. Shelters made from tyres or pipes or set on intertidal sediment.
Dahn	A pole with a float, weight and flag attached.
Dredge	A rigid structure towed on the seabed in order to collect target species
Drift net	Nets which hang vertically in the water column without being anchored to the bottom. The nets are kept vertical in the water by floats attached to a rope along the top of the net and weights attached to another rope along the bottom of the net.
Fixed Engine	A fixed (stationary) net used for the taking of fish.
Gill Net	A single wall of netting that can either be fixed or allowed to drift.
Hand Gathering	The process of gathering sea fisheries resources by hand for food or bait.
J-Net	A net in the shape of the letter 'J'.
Marker Buoy	Any surface marker float which can be used to identify the location of fishing gear.
Mobile Gear	Any dredge, trawl or similar device that is designed to be towed or pushed to take sea fisheries resources on the seabed.
Net	Any trammel, gill, tangle or other enmeshing net used for the capturing of

	sea fish.
Passive Gear	Longlines or nets which are rigged with top, bottom and connecting ropes and may be equipped with anchoring, floating and navigational gear.
Pot	Any pot, creel, trap or cage used for the catching of sea fish.
Purse Seine Net	A large circular net which surrounds fish to capture them.
Static Gear	Static gear is set to allow fish to swim into it, or to attract fish by bait, and consequently become caught in the gear (e.g. pots).
Tangle Net	A net with large meshes set on the seabed.
T-net	A net in the shape of the letter 'T'.
Trammel Net	A net which consists of 3 parallel panels with different mesh sizes.
Trawling	The operation of towing a net to catch fish.

GLOSSARY - SPECIES:

A list of the minimum conservation reference sizes for the following species will be found on the FAQ page of the authority website.

Brown/Edible Crab *Cancer pagarus*



Lobster *Homarus gammarus*



Velvet Crab *Nectora puber*



Green Crab *Carcinus maenas*



Spider Crab *Maja squinado*



Stone Crab
(often
referred to
as a spider
crab) *Lithodes maja*



**Prawn/
Nephrops** *Nephrops
norvegicus*



Whelk *Buccinum
undatum*



Mussel *Mytilus edulis*



**Native
Oyster** *Ostrea edulis*



**Pacific
Oyster**

***Crassostrea
gigas***



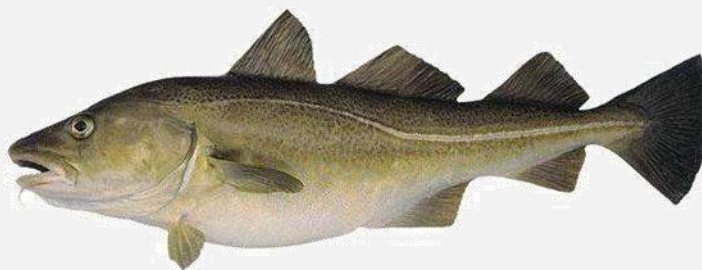
Scallop

Pecten maximus



Cod

Gadus morhua



Haddock

***Melanogrammus
aeglefinus***



Plaice

***Pleuronectes
platessa***

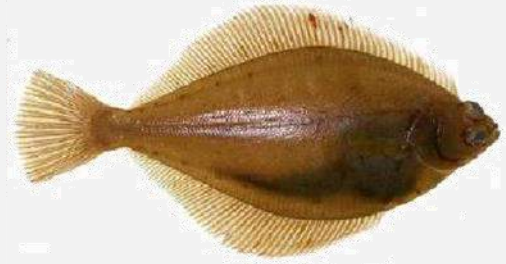


Flounder

***Platichthys
flesus***



Dab *Limanda limanda*



Bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*



Herring *Clupea harengus*



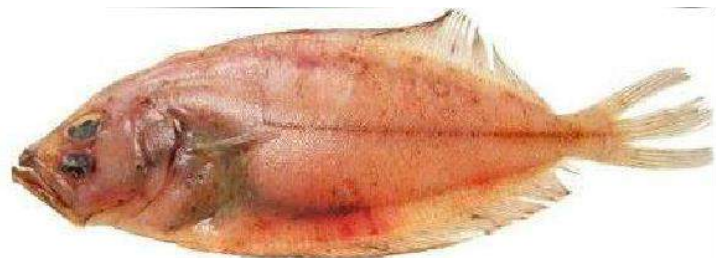
Sprat *Sprattus sprattus*



Mackerel *Scomber spp.*

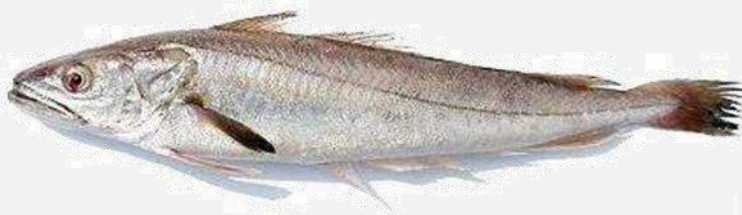


Megrim *Lepidorhombus spp*



Hake

Merluccius
merluccius



Pollock

Pollachius
pollachius



Whiting

Merlangius
merlangus



Ling

Molva molva



Saithe

Pollachius virens



Turbot

Scophthalmus
maxima



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO NORTHUMBERLAND IFCA'S DISTRICT

Local

Protected Sites

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC
Tweed Estuary SAC

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Northumbria Coast SPA
Coquet Island SPA
Farne Islands SPA
Lindisfarne SPA
Northumberland Marine SPA

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

Aln Estuary MCZ
Coquet to St Mary's MCZ
Farnes East MCZ
Berwick to St Mary's proposed MCZ

