

Précis: Joint Annual Work Arrangement (JWA) for Northumberland IFCA and Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and the Environment Agency – September 2020

This précis is an evolution of the archived JWAs as the work areas have developed since the first JWA was created in 2011 e.g. designations have progressed, Article 6/Fishing in MPAs project has advanced et cetera. Thus the items (◇ in the table below) have been consolidated. Please see previous, detailed versions of the JWAs, available on the NIFCA website, for more information on the various items.

This is, ostensibly, a Memorandum of Understanding between Northumberland IFCA, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and the Environment Agency.

Joint working is vital in achieving a fully functioning IFCA, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and the Environment Agency.

The items outlined in this document will ensure NIFCA has the correct tools and expertise to meet the IFCA vision: 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.

	Item◇	Work Area	Activity	Output	Agreement	Involvement and role (where applicable)			
						NE	IFCA	MMO	EA (also see Annex 1b)
A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	MPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised Approach to management of fisheries within MPAs - Activity monitoring within MPAs - Management of MPAs (current and future) [reactive management of high risk – activities] - Utilise the ecosystem approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well-managed network of MPAs. • Ecosystem Approach inside and outside of MPAs, consideration of ecosystem services, including natural capitals. • Consideration of change in policy, legislation and regulation, as appropriate e.g. around HPMA's and Bait Digging/Hand gathering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties to support each other in the designation process where appropriate. • This includes execution of appropriate regulations (including byelaws) for Northumberland region MPAs within district and Execution of duties in accordance with the requirements of the existing management scheme, where appropriate. • Effectiveness of Management Measures in MPAS: • NIFCA and the statutory bodies to jointly review the effectiveness of the agreed management measures in meeting the conservation objectives within the MPAs and improve/amend where needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support with HRA /MCZ assessment process. Advice regarding Ecosystem Approach inside and outside MPAs Provide statutory and non-statutory conservation advice to partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Responsible for ensuring fishing activity doesn't have a significant effect on MPAs within the NIFCA district. Links to M&C plans/ management plans e.g. shellfish (NIFCA). Appropriate consultation protocols will be followed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide advice, MPA management, monitoring, enforcement, Marine Licensing and Marine Planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EA will work with other agencies to link monitoring and regulatory work. EA regulatory responsibilities salmonid fisheries Provide various types (e.g. conservation, bathing water quality etc.) of statutory advice to partners. Nature recovery work including, not limited to essential fish habitats
									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. regular evidence meetings with NIFCA. stat. advice to MMO
B	8,9,10,11,12	Enforcement (inside and outside of MPAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor fishing activity (link to iVMS in C below) - Conduct vessel and landings inspections - Ensure compliance with legislation - Intelligence sharing - Cross-warranting - Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group - Tactical Co-ordination Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of the marine environment and promote sustainable fish stocks through effective management and legislation. • Intelligence-led, informed joint working as a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant parties will conduct Joint Operations, Cross-warranting and intelligence sharing to ensure compliance with relevant legislation. • Understand each other's priorities. • Increased communication – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Working with NE on site specific issues? E.g. Lindisfarne. Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cross warranted with MMO and EA? Intel Policy and MCSS Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group attendance Attends NIMEG NIFCA shares monthly rotas with the MMO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cross Warranting and joint working with NIFCA. Intel Project and MCSS Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group attendance Attends NIMEG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cross Warranting with NIFCA. Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group attendance Attends NIMEG Since 2004, the EA has used a data base called Memex (used by a number of Police Forces) to store information. It now uses the 3x5x2 (replacing old 5x5x5) grading system that was introduced by the Home Office in March 2016. All EA

			(TCG) – twice a month, opportunity for IFCA, Police, EA officers (as appropriate) to meet and discuss emerging and existing issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weekly vessel monitoring telecalls. - Weekly JMOCC reports - Fisheries Aggregation Devise working group {links to Data collection, monitoring, analysis and reporting [C] and Covid [K]} 	result of the TCG meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective risk-based targeting in line with a national enforcement strategy, which includes (NIMEG national inshore marine enforcement group) and JMOCC – joint marine operations control centre. • Appropriate and proportionate approach to enforcement. • Formal Charter Agreement MOA between MMO and local IFCAs to govern the chartering of IFCA assets to the MMO 	Attends NIMEG	As part of the Formal Charter Agreement, NIFCA charter their vessels and staff on a consent basis	MMO attends JMOCC and communicates with other partners MMO – shares weekly plan with IFCA As part of the Formal Charter Agreement, MMO will request vessels and staff, as required.	Fisheries Enforcement officers have input and search rights.
						e.g. at Lindisfarne NNR	e.g. MMO and NIFCA have undertaken joint operations to meet the prevailing operational needs as required,	e.g. INTEL. Confidential Intel Reports (CIR) have replaced the Suspicious Activity Report (SARs). This has been rolled out nationally and appointed Officers and staff who have secure CJSM email accounts and can send Intel Reports to the MMO	EA enforcement officers have carried out joint operations with NIFCA, including boat patrols. These are intended to carry on into the foreseeable future.
C	13,14,15, 24	Data collection, monitoring, analysis and reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operational monitoring - Bi-annual Marine Monitoring and Evidence group - Fisheries Aggregation Devise working group - Scientific investigations - evidence assessment of data linking to MPA/ management work area - Assist with survey and data collection - Environmental partnership work, formal and informal - Contribute to collation and assessment of evidence to identify evidence gaps and how to address them 	Evidence used to inform management (e.g. threats/risks to features of MPAs, bye law review <i>et cetera</i>).	Parties should work collaboratively where possible this includes – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. sharing resources/assets including data (nbDPA) and GDPR 2. assist with surveys/data collection 3. project- based approach in some areas of work [see item 24 for detailed examples]. 4. provide feedback on reports 5. Engage with working Group approach – attend meetings, host, contribute as appropriate. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Also Links to MPA (A) and Enforcement (B)	Future activity Vessel monitoring to inform on management	Prospect of operational vessel monitoring with iVMS for under 12 metre vessels			NE evidence relating to evidence projects and condition monitoring is made available to partners. National NE data releases Continue working with universities	Continue working with universities Work of this nature is documented in the NIFCA annual research plan [https://www.nifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-20_Annual-Research-Plan.pdf] and report [https://www.nifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Annual-Research-Report-2019-20.pdf]	Comprehensive statistical data collection for all first sale fish sold and vessels (catch recording app) in England, permitting accurate assessments to be carried out in relation to queries from stakeholders and outside agencies	EA work, similar to NE monitoring and research, is made available to partners. https://data.gov.uk/dataset/f49b8e4b-8673-498e-bead-98e6847831c6/freshwater-fish-counts-for-all-species-all-areas-and-all-years
							IFCA sit on the iVMS stakeholder group	Working on a UK iVMS hub. MMO leading; IFCAs involved in user	Covid [K] – EA labs are focussed on Covid analyses. prioritising essential working e.g. emergencies. Working at 20% capacity.

testing. Plans to go live in the future. Themis vessel monitoring system due to go live in June. Currently undergoing user acceptance testing and supplementary e-learning package for all users will remain open until the system is fully implemented

D	16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23	General Joint Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation and communication - Process to ensure that each organisation will work collaboratively and share information to ensure that each other's statutory objectives and requirements are met wherever possible. - Data sharing [see row 17 of 2016 document for details] - Resource/Asset sharing - IFCA Committee Membership - Collaborative working - Review progress - Resolve issues - Share reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables all parties to make the most of resources available to achieve joint goals and ensures efficient and effective management. • Ensure that all parties are consulted on all developments that are relevant to them to ensure openness, transparency and "no-surprises." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All items within the JWA relate to successful joint working and a good working relationship. • All parties understand that the priorities of the different organisations should be balanced. • All parties to attend NIFCA quarterly/Technical and Scientific Meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NIFCA member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NIFCA member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NIFCA member
						Attend meetings and support partners	Attend meetings and support partners	Attend meetings and support partners	Attend meetings and support partners
E	25	Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend meetings - Engage with stakeholders - Share information - Covid [K] working to use remote methods of communications and ensure social distancing 	Promote the aims of NIFCA, NE, EA and MMO.	<p>All parties to engage with fishers and other stakeholders and promote the aims of partners where applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend meetings and conferences - Website and social media (e.g. twitter) - Promotional materials (e.g. leaflets) - stakeholder events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will promote partner organisations /engage with stakeholders where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will promote partner organisations /engage with stakeholders where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will promote partner organisations/engage with stakeholders where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will promote partner organisations/engage with stakeholders where appropriate
F	26,27,28	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint training - Work shadowing - Discuss training needs and opportunities. - Skill development. 	All officers of relevant organisations (as required) to be fully enforcement trained and cross-warranted	<p>All parties should exchange opportunities for staff development –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation 2. Marine Planning 3. Marine Licensing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NE to give relevant training when appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NIFCA to give training to committee members, and partners when appropriate. National aIFCA training programme (with Lead training officer) and is available to other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MMO to give relevant training when appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EA to give relevant training when appropriate.

				and able to develop further skills.	4. Enforcement 5. Fish Identification 6. Survey Methodology 7. MCA Beachmasters course 8. Emergency Response Training		organisations. Additionally, aIFCA with TAG is looking at specific training relating to environmental training. Also, remote learning due to Covid [K]		
							e.g. accreditation training remains an aspiration. New member training for IFCA members	e.g. accreditation training remains an aspiration.	e.g. water quality (abiotic) meter
G	29	Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan contingencies at local level - Membership of Standing Environment Group (SEG) – new boundary of Scottish Borders to Spurn Point. - Understand roles for Marine Pollution Incidents. 	Local issues addressed in National Contingency Plan. Planning and preparation promotes a more effective response in the event of an incident.	<p>All parties sit on the Standing Environment Group (SEG) –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree to communication with respect to emergencies. Emergencies will be dealt with. Emergency byelaws may be used to respond to unseen fisheries management emergencies. 2. SEG deals with pollution incidents. 3. SEG meets particularly and when needed. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
H	30	Marine Planning	North East Marine Plan is being developed		<p>MMO to keep NIFCA. EA and NE informed as to developments</p> <p>Partners will engage with the process as necessary.</p>	<p>✓ will continue to engage and attend events IFCAs must take account of the marine plan when making byelaws [check policies contradicts or prevents NIFCA making byelaws] align with principles and accords of NE marine Plan/</p>	<p>✓ will continue to engage and attend events</p>	<p>✓ will continue to engage and attend events</p>	<p>✓ will continue to engage and attend events</p>
I	Funding	FUNDING	Develop projects in partnership relevant to organisational objectives Pursue funding Project based approach		<p>Should a strategic grant or grants be identified, parties will work together as appropriate/with relevant organisations to develop projects e.g. Core MFF and potentially FLAG should be renewed as a new environmental/fishers grant at this the partnership does not know the structure of this grant. University funding CASE/NERC</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓

J	High level changes	Respond to changes in the government's environment, enforcement, and management approaches e.g. Defra's 25-year plan	Keep up to date Respond to direction of the plan(s), as appropriate		Keep partners informed as to the ramifications of changes in a changing political landscape Support partners	✓	✓	✓	✓
K	Covid	NIFCA Office, functions and operations of the Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimise the risk of transmission of COVID 19 - Follow Government advice and introduce NIFCA Policy and response to COVID. - Risk assess NIFCA operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information and intel • Consistent approach to compliance • Coordination of compliance to avoid duplication of activity and location patrols • Facilitate activity on behalf of other organisations • Mutual support for resourcing of significant staff absence • Consistent messages to fishing industry and stakeholders 	Establish and agree consistent approach around the English coast in supporting the fishing industry, dealing with fisheries management and compliance, providing mutual aid between organisations whilst acknowledging the varied organisational constraints, so that MMO and IFCA are acting in unison		<p>All staff WFH, some admin tasks undertaken from office All staff set up for video conferencing looking at continuing for IFCA meetings</p> <p>bi-weekly Sitreps to MMO now reduced to weekly</p> <p>temporary stop to TCG meeting resumed in June</p> <p>Establishment of National and Regional Covid meetings held with IFCA MMO DEFRA reps</p> <p>Covid specific Intel forms created</p> <p>Weekly Intelligence and COVID specific national report outputs</p> <p>Weekly AIFCA patrol taskings</p> <p>Development of COVID Joint Working Protocol document</p>		

Annex 1.b: Joint work with NIFCA, NE and the MMO that Environment Agency will focus on.

33/8-9. Enforcement (EA & NIFCA) – through the Joint Enforcement Group

- we will look at opportunities for sharing resources and doing joint operations
- we will take forward cross warranting and joint training

14. Marine monitoring (EA & NE & NIFCA)

- we will share our monitoring programmes with NE and NIFCA
- we will continue the sea grass partnership
- we will look for other areas of cross-monitoring with NE and NIFCA
- we will share WFD Trac Fish data with NIFCA

- we will raise the issue nationally of the need for WFD and Common Standards monitoring protocols to be standardised.
- we will share our monitoring programmes with NE
- we will continue the sea grass partnership
- we will look for other areas of cross-monitoring with NE
- we will look at sharing WFD Trac Fish data with NIFCA
- we will raise the issue nationally of the need for WFD and Common Standards monitoring protocols to be standardised.

EA, NE, IFCA Marine Monitoring Meeting priorities:

- Seagrass: Holy Island and Budle Bay (EA/NE)
- Macroalgae survey (at the same time) (EA/NE)
- Saltmarsh: no surveys this year
- Blyth Estuary: benthic invert survey (planned but may not go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions) (EA/NE/IFCA)
- TRaC fish surveys: all EA work cancelled this year, may reform with a different structure next year with opportunity for organisations to work together. LNNR: NE would like NIFCA to do fish surveys in intertidal channels to feed into the Shorebird Project. (EA/NE/IFCA)
- Mussel sampling for contaminants (EA/IFCA)
- Intertidal rocky reef and subtidal stony reef monitoring in BNNC SAC (NE)
- UAV project: practical applications of UAVs for intertidal monitoring (NE/IFCA)
- Native oyster restoration (EA/NE)
- IFCA priorities – see Annual Research Plan (IFCA)

17. Sharing data (EA & NE & NIFCA)

- we will clarify and try to resolve any data protection issues
- adhere open data policies
- share historic and current data e.g. on sea grass, saltmarsh.

27. Marine licensing (EA&NE)

- joint working / shadowing on our responses to marine licences to understand one another's systems and to facilitate coordinated responses

29. Emergency response (EA & NIFCA)

- as chair of the group we will look at the potential for NIFCA membership.

To continue

- Consultation and communication
- Input to the NIFCA Committee
- Sitting on existing Steering Groups (e.g. N2K)
- For existing MPAs we will link our existing monitoring and regulatory work.
- For future MCZs we will work with other agencies to determine management measures and will link our monitoring and regulatory work

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