

# Celebrating 10 YEARS of achievement for NIFCA



## NIFCA News

Commemorative Anniversary Edition



# NIFCA

# Celebrating

JUNE 2021 | ISSUE 26

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## 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.”

## CEO Mike Hardy writes:

Welcome to the latest edition of NIFCA News in which we are celebrating a decade of achievements as an IFCA! Taking a look back over the last ten years, we are delighted to be able to share with you again some of NIFCA’s archive news stories from over the decade we have been in action and some of the more notable events which we have been pleased to be involved with.

Our 10 year anniversary reminds us of how far we’ve come. In the last decade we have produced a suite of byelaws and management measures which enable local fishers to work sustainably in the waters off Northumberland and North Tyneside to ensure a prosperous local fishing industry and a sustainable marine environment for present and future generations. We have established a great team of officers who work together on the operations and enforcement side of our remit to ensure compliance with fisheries legislation. We also have a group of highly qualified marine scientist officers who advise on how to achieve the best possible marine environment and fisheries in the district.

Significant achievements in the last decade include working to conserve environmentally important marine life and ecosystems, including monitoring both lobster and brown crab stocks to ensure sustainable numbers continue into the future. We have also engaged with local schools, universities and community groups including the Sea Cadets, Sea Scouts and the WI, to build understanding of the work we do to educate all ages that it takes ongoing commitment to protect fragile marine ecosystems and understand how the land, sea and people connect.

My sincere thanks to all of the Officers and staff who have worked so hard for NIFCA over the last 10 years and also to the IFCA Chairs and all of our members for their expertise and support which they have given and still give to the work of NIFCA.

I hope you enjoy our celebratory newsletter.

**Mike Hardy**  
Chief Executive

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# News

## 10 years

### A word from the Chair, Les Weller:

During the last ten years the Authority has successfully established itself as custodians of the inshore fishery and marine environment across the district by working closely with partner agencies and communities to develop a professional relationship with the local fishing industry and recreational fishers.

Our remit is a vital one for the benefit of all marine users, both commercial and recreational to deliver sustainable inshore fisheries in our precious marine environment for today and future generations.

I am grateful to our officers both past and present for all of their hard work and to everyone who has been a member and given their valuable time free of charge to support us in delivering our policy initiatives.

**Les Weller**  
NIFCA Chair



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## 2011

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 leads to the creation and inception of 10 IFCA's around the coast of England in April, including Northumberland IFCA.



## 2012

NIFCA takes part in the Recreational Sea Angling Survey with the aim of increasing awareness of sea angling and including benefits for recreational sea anglers.



## 2018

CEO gave a presentation at the Westminster Forum to Parliamentarians, other parties from the fishing industry and related organisations on 'next step for UK fisheries' from the IFCA perspective.



## 2017

After over 25 years' service as a member to the Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee and then NIFCA, Robert Arkless MBE retired as Chair of the Authority and was replaced by his Vice Chair Les Weller, who continues up to the present as the NIFCA Chair.



## 2019

Launch of the NIFCA Cabin RIB Robert Arkless MBE at Amble Marina.



## 2020

After nearly 25 years distinguished service to NSFC and NIFCA, Chief IFCO Al Browne retired and was replaced as Chief Fishery Officer by his deputy Mark Southerton.





## 2013

NIFCA relocated to its present premises in Blyth, providing a more effective working environment and a place to hold Authority meetings and events and to welcome stakeholders and visitors.



## 2014

NIFCA joined forces with the RNLI for a joint training exercise in which they enacted a rescue. This was reported in the local press as being an exercise which will ensure "People who get into trouble off the coast of North Tyneside/Northumberland will stand an even better chance of rescue".



## 2016

NIFCA provided logistical support with our Patrol Vessel and crew at The Tall Ships event in Blyth, as well as setting up a stall in Blyth Market Place to greet the public and share information about our coast and seas and the work of NIFCA.



## 2015

The launch of NIFCA patrol vessel St Aidan at Royal Quays Marina, North Shields presided over by Her Grace The Duchess of Northumberland.



# A Decade full of Achievement

It has been an almost impossible task to condense all of NIFCA's achievements, since establishment in 2011, down into 10 single events, but here are some of the most notable events in NIFCA's timeline so far. Other events included: introduction of NIFCA's new suite of byelaws in 2015; Officers onboard the RIB 'TT St Aidan' filming for ITV Detective series 'VERA' in 2016 as well as the successful bid for the North of Tyne FLAG; filming for a feature slot on Tyne Tees News in 2017 and the creation of NIFCA's Emergency Berried Hen Byelaw, following the introduction of a national ban on landing berried hens; Officers represented the Authority during National Heritage Week at Dove Marine Laboratory in Cullercoats in 2018; NIFCA joined the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme in 2019 placing bins to recycle old fishing line around the district; Officers welcomed officials from Defra (pre-COVID restrictions) to discuss joint working in 2020. NIFCA was also instrumental in the foundation of the Northumberland Lobster Hatchery in Amble and the establishment of the North of Tyne Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) bringing benefits to the local fishing industry.

Sadly, in 2020 NIFCA also learnt of the passing of Jon Green, who gave many years service as an Environmental Officer to the Sea Fisheries Committee and the IFCA as well as the people of Northumberland before retiring in 2019. Our background image pays tribute to and celebrates the life of Jon who can be seen strolling along the shore, carrying out a beached bird survey; a job he truly enjoyed and a place he was always pleased to be.

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Capturing  
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A scenic photograph of a coastal town at dusk. The sky is a deep blue with some light clouds. The town's lights are on, and their reflection is visible on the calm water in the foreground. The town features a mix of traditional and modern architecture, with some buildings having multiple stories and others being smaller, more traditional houses. The water is dark, and the lights from the town create a warm, golden glow that reflects on the surface. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

# Looking Back Over Ten Years.

Here we take a look back at the work of the Northumberland IFCA over the last decade. What have we achieved? Who have we worked with? What were the main objectives of our Authority and what have the Members, Officers and staff done to reach them?

We hope that this section gives you a fuller picture of the work we have done in the last 10 years and clearly demonstrates our commitment to maintaining a sustainable fishery and marine environment within the NIFCA district in the past, present and the future.



# Enforcement & Compliance

A huge aspect of NIFCA's work is enforcement. For 9 of the last 10 years, the NIFCA enforcement team was lead by Chief IFCO Al Browne and in 2020, following his retirement, Chief IFCO Mark Southerton stepped into this position; he is supported by Lead Enforcement Officer Nick Weir and a team of dedicated enforcement IFCOs. Along with European and UK legislation, NIFCA regulate and enforce its own district byelaws. In 2015, NIFCA concluded a full review of its legacy Sea Fishery Committee byelaws as well as bringing in new byelaws under the Government's Revised Approach to European Marine sites. Byelaws continue to be reviewed every 3 years, or earlier if necessary and now in 2021, NIFCA is in the process of bringing in specific measures for Coquet to St Mary's MCZ management.

NIFCA work under their Compliance and Enforcement Strategy and its enforcement officers undergo regular training through a national accreditation programme where they learn to apply the different strands of legislation to the fisheries management required in the district.

NIFCA officers can be seen regularly carrying out foot patrols in the intertidal areas during spring tides checking shore gathering compliance as well as quays and piers popular with recreational sea anglers.

With all the main fisheries (apart from recreational sea angling) now under the authorisation of a NIFCA permit including Shellfish both commercial and recreational, Trawling and dredging with the requirement to supply commercial monthly catch and effort data the Authority has a robust data set on the exploitation of resources from within the district.



IFCO Willis on joint patrol with Environment Agency Officer in March 2019



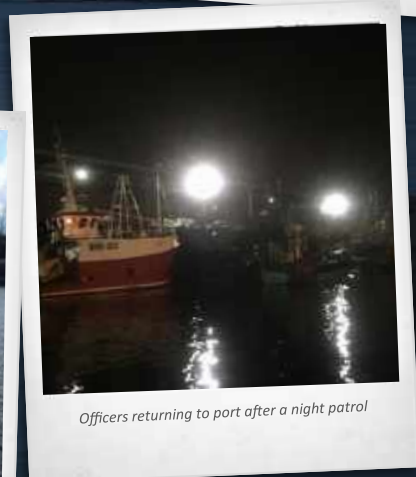
NIFCA Ranger and former RIB Bravo 1



Officers seizing illegal fishing gear from the rocks



Officers undergoing RIB training in 2017



Officers returning to port after a night patrol

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# Partnership Working

Northumberland IFCA pride themselves on working with their partner Agencies including the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Defra and Newcastle University. We are particularly pleased to have a strong history of carrying out joint coastal and offshore compliance as cross-warranted Officers with our partner agency, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). With the MMO located in Newcastle and North Shields, a productive and reliable relationship has formed between both organisations over the last decade leading to the MMO being able to use the NIFCA patrol vessels to train their new Marine Enforcement Officers (MEOs) at sea, as well as being able to carry out coastal and offshore compliance patrols, which support the objectives of both organisations.

Joint working alongside the Environment Agency who regulated historically a salmon and now a seasonal trout netting fishery within the NIFCA district. In 2019, NIFCA was delighted to be joined by Mr James Glass, Fisheries Director of the Islands of Tristan da Cunha for an exchange of knowledge and experiences. Tristan da Cunha is the most remote inhabited group of islands in the world, sitting slap bang in the middle of the South Atlantic and is a British overseas territory. Tristan has a population of 250 and the major industry is their commercial fishery with the export of Tristan rock lobster being essential to it.



James Glass, Fisheries Director of the Islands of Tristan da Cunha meets local Northumberland lobster fisher in July 2019



MEO Martin Arris & (now) Chief IFCO Mark Southerton on board old NIFCA RIB carrying out joint MMO & NIFCA sea patrol in August 2016



New MEO on board St Aidan for 'working at sea' training in September 2018

# Supporting Search & Rescue & Response Training

As well as Organisational training for its staff NIFCA have also assisted with Marine search and rescue exercise with the RAF and MCA SAR helicopter as well as casualty training with local RNLI. A number of NIFCA staff have also undertaken MCA beachmaster courses to help prepare and undertake any coastal and marine pollution incidents.



Sikorsky HM Coastguard SAR helicopter, winchman lowering a personnel on to patrol vessel



RAF sea king SAR helicopter during multi-agency rescue training



RNLI lifeboat alongside former NIFCA patrol vessel St Oswald during training



# Working Towards Cleaner Seas

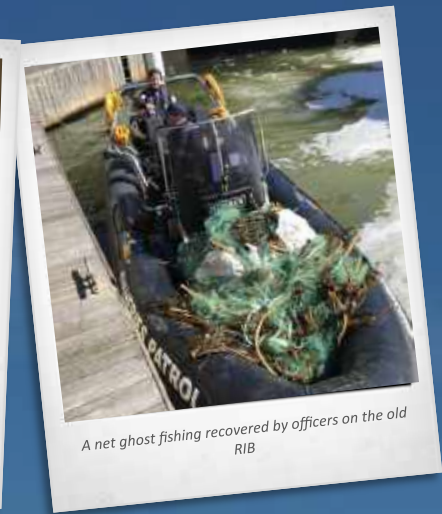
NIFCA works hard to remove marine litter from the district's sea and coast reducing the negative impact waste has on our marine environment. Over the years, the team have addressed this challenge by supporting and forming successful initiatives. Part of our work includes removing where practicable ghost gear that is lost, abandoned or discarded fishing equipment from the shore and sea. This is exacerbated after storms but by recovering and disposing the fishing gear it is another way to minimise environmental damage.



Pots aboard St Aidan



ANLRS bin for recycling unwanted or discarded fishing line

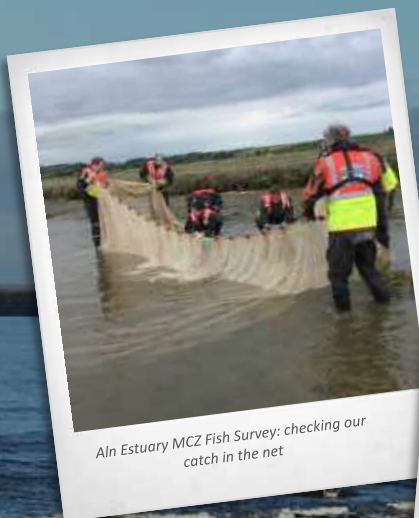


A net ghost fishing recovered by officers on the old RIB

NIFCA have also teamed up with the Coast Care project for local beach cleans. The Authority encourages the recycling of lobster pots tags and supports initiatives to increase the number of returned tags for recycling. Since 2019, NIFCA have participated in the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS). This fantastic scheme allows anglers and other members of the public to recycle discarded fishing line in several ways. NIFCA set up a number of recycling bin points along the Northumberland coast including one based at our office in Blyth. We have seen a great amount of old and damaged fishing gear collected over the years that would have otherwise ended up back in the sea which all helps towards cleaner seas for the future.

## Marine Protected Areas

Within the NIFCA district we have ten Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which were designated for the protection of a range of animals and habitats found here including beautiful rocky reef habitats, birds, and marine mammals. Over the past ten years NIFCA's remit in relation to MPAs has developed. NIFCA have duties to ensure the objectives of MPAs (that they are kept in, or returned to, good condition) are furthered. To do this NIFCA assesses fishing activities in the MPAs within our district to determine any potential adverse impacts. This has led to management of fishing activity in these sites where necessary to protect seabed features.



Aln Estuary MCZ Fish Survey: checking our catch in the net



Identifying and measuring species caught

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# Environmental Research

Northumberland IFCA has a dedicated research team to monitor the impacts of local fishing activity on target stocks, other marine species and the wider environment. This research work includes projects looking at the impacts of specific fishing gears on seabed habitats, and monitoring the health of important fisheries stocks especially European lobster and brown crab.

Our Crustacea stock monitoring work has been an important part of the research work in the life of the IFCA. This involves collecting data from a range of sources including fishers catch returns, collecting information on fishing locations, and through sampling work to generate information on the animals that make up these important populations. By working with the fishers, we can collect data on size, sex, and condition which can all feed into a model to understand the status of the stocks.

Our research work has led to collaborations with partner agencies and we have an excellent working partnership with Natural England and Newcastle University, which has resulted in some brilliant research work. This includes the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) project. This project tested indicators for Good Environmental Status off the north-east coast of England. The project looked at rock and mud seabed habitats in areas subject to different fishing pressures. Results compared indicators such as the number and diversity of species to find out if fishing has any detectable impacts.

We are waiting for the results of this project, but they will be extremely useful to the team's work.



*Environmental Officers onboard the Princess Royal assisting in research into changes in demersal fish populations*



*Preparing the Authority grab sampler for use on St Aidan*



*Former IFCO Michael Docherty returning brown crab to the sea after measurement for the stock assessment project*



*Environmental work being carried out on former NIFCA RIB Bravo 1*



*Officers carrying out AIn survey, measuring and identifying fish species*



# Stock Enhancement: Lobster V notching & Hatchery

Northumberland IFCA (in succession to the Sea Fisheries Committee) had a successful v-notching programme for 17 years (between 2000 and 2017) and has been one of the leading exponents in Britain of this successful conservation tool. During this time, over 20,000 lobsters were v-notched and released on suitable habitat throughout the NIFCA district. The scheme was greatly supported by the local fishing industry, with many in support of the programme, with some even contributing to the v-notching themselves. V-notching refers to the removal of a v-shaped piece of exoskeleton from the tail flap of sexually mature or egg-bearing female lobsters. National and local legislation prohibits the landing of a lobster bearing a v-notch, thereby protecting a proportion of the spawning stock in the fishery.

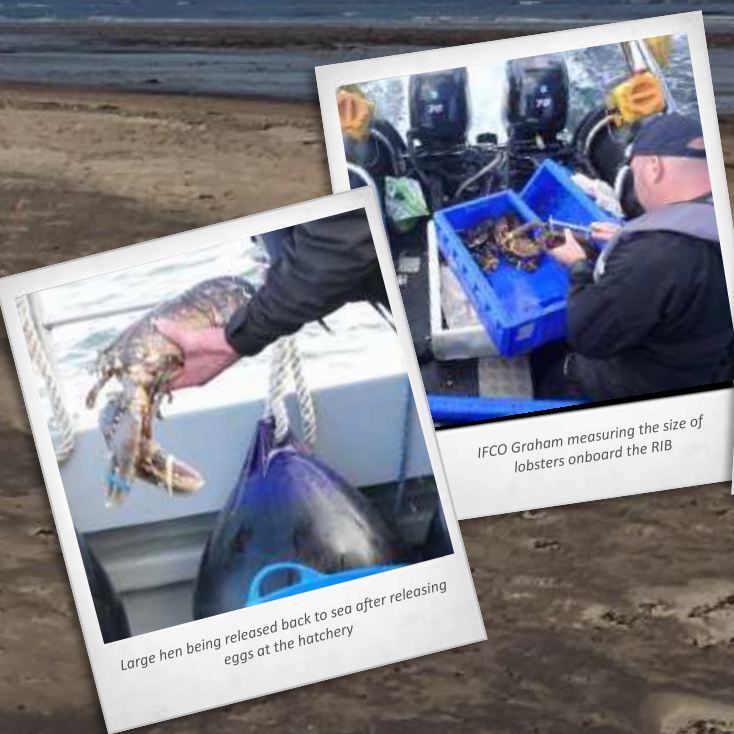
The project ended in 2017 when the national prohibition on landing berried lobsters in England came in to force. This new management has the same objective as the V-notching scheme, to protect the breeding female population to safeguard continuous recruitment into the fishery, thus helping to ensure its sustainability. It was therefore decided that the V-notching scheme would not continue after 2017, given the extra protection in place. In addition to its previous involvement in a v-notching scheme, NIFCA also supports the local lobster hatchery, located in Amble. The Northumberland Seafood Centre is home to the only lobster hatchery in Northumberland and was established to help protect the local lobster population. The hatchery receives berried hens (female lobster carrying eggs) and keeps them in tanks until they release their eggs. Once the females release their eggs, they are v-notched and returned to the sea alive to be able to breed in future. The eggs are then reared in the hatchery until the juveniles are at a size and stage where they are able to hide from predators. At this stage they are released in to suitable habitats where they will have the best chance of survival. NIFCA has been involved with the hatchery since its establishment in 2014, providing some funding and assisting with the release of juveniles to ensure the sustainability of the lobster population.



Cuttings from v-notched lobster tails



Officers notching the tail of an undersized lobster



Large hen being released back to sea after releasing eggs at the hatchery



IFCO Graham measuring the size of lobsters onboard the RIB



V-notched lobster tail

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# Understanding Important Shellfish Stocks within the NIFCA District

In 2020, the value of landings of crab and lobster from within the NIFCA district totalled £5.7 million. Monitoring of the potting fishery is a high priority for NIFCA and Environmental IFCOs can be often seen sampling catches on the quayside, as well as spending the day on board fishing vessels to record the entire catch, including juvenile animals, as well as monitoring and noting bycatch species. These surveys help us to understand the distribution of the overall populations of both crab and lobster within the NIFCA district. Whilst on board fishing vessels, it's a great opportunity for officers to engage with fishers and build excellent working relationships that are invaluable to our shellfish stock research. From this information, we look to assess the health of the fishery and determine whether the stock is being fished at sustainable levels. This information feeds into broader management to ensure the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources that IFCAs aim to maintain.



Lead Environmental Officer Alex Aitken measuring lobsters at a local wholesaler



Senior Environmental IFCO Andrew Boon onboard a local fishing vessel conducting shellfish assessment



European Lobster being returned to the sea after being measured

## Sea Bed Habitat Mapping

One of the challenges in working in the marine environment is the difficulty of not knowing what is going on under the sea! NIFCA have developed the capability to collect information on seabed habitats to better understand the extent and distribution of fishing ground, and potentially sensitive habitats. We have received grant funding over the years to purchase equipment to improve this capability. We have a multibeam system on our patrol vessel St Aidan. This gives us information on seabed hardness from which you can infer habitats and even see some seabed features! Once we have this information, we can confirm what we suspect from the multibeam data by ground truthing. We can do this using subtidal cameras to take photos of the seabed, and by taking samples using grabs in softer sediment areas. If we know what's on the seabed, we can better understand fisheries in relation to this which can have benefits for seabed protection and fishing opportunities.



Imagery captured during seabed mapping of King Scallop *Pecten maximus*

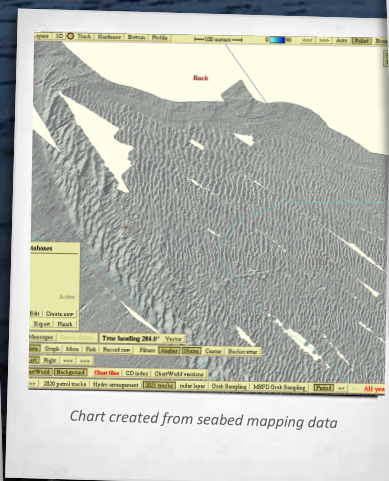
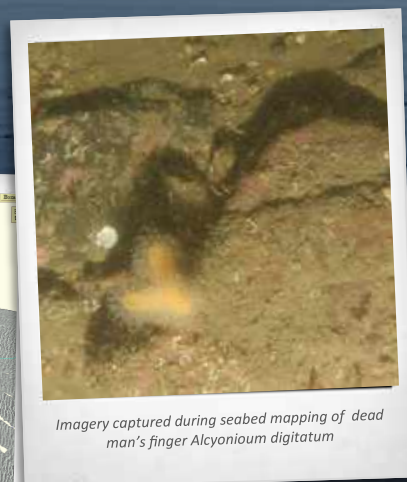


Chart created from seabed mapping data



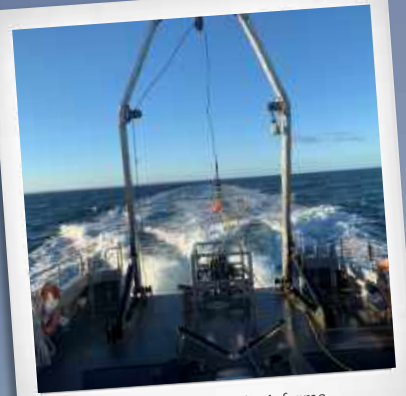
Imagery captured during seabed mapping of dead man's finger *Alcyonium digitatum*



## Patrol Vessel “St Aidan”

In 2015 the Authority took delivery of it's new patrol vessel St Aidan, a purpose built 16.5 metre catamaran, this new vessel replaced the previous 21 metre monohull vessel St Oswald that had served the Authority well since 2001. The new vessel was designed and built by Goodchild Marine to enable the authority to better carry out its functions, in particular the ability to deploy and recover survey equipment as well as maintaining its enforcement capability, carrying a deck launched 5.4 metre RIB to enable offshore boardings of fishing vessels and inspections of fishing gears, an assortment of deck machinery and a hydraulic A frame.

Together with the reduced overall size and GRP construction the vessel is easier to maintain with lower running costs and increased cruising speeds to cover more of the Authorities district while out on patrol.



*St Aidan's hydraulic A-frame*



*St Aidan on a sea patrol*



*St Oswald heading to her new home on the Firth of Forth*



*St Aidan's hull under construction in 2014*

## RIB “Robert Arckless MBE”

In 2019 The Authority again took delivery of a new vessel “Robert Arckless” a 9.5 metre Rib, built by RibCraft, this vessel was procured with the assistance of a 75% EMFF grant and replaced the 7 metre RIB “Bravo 1” which again had served the authority well since 2009. This latter vessel was sold to Sea Shepherd, where she is to be used for a ghost fishing gear campaign, which we think is a fitting retirement role from her work with the Authority.



*The Robert Arckless MBE*

The new RIB's immediate advantage is the fully enclosed wheelhouse and heads onboard which will give crews more welfare and comfort allowing longer duration patrols. Fitted with twin 250 Suzuki engines and berthed in the midpoint of the Authorities district allows this vessel to reach either its northern or southern boundary within 2 hours. The vessel being kept principally in Amble marina as opposed to being towed to and from launch sites within the district facilitates more patrols with fewer officers and allows more time on the sea with the towing time now removed. The vessel is capable of boarding the smallest vessel in our district to the largest as well as supporting MMO offshore patrols in the Farne deeps.

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# 2021 NIFCA NEWS SNIIPPETS



## Recreational Shellfish Prosecution

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On 16 of April 2021 Mr Heng Shun Zhu of Berwick upon Tweed pleaded guilty to three counts of breaching NIFCA byelaws at Newcastle Magistrates Court. Mr Zhu had been observed gathering shellfish on the Berwickshire shoreline and found to be in possession of seventeen lobsters (one soft-shelled), in breach of NIFCA 'Crustacea and Mollusc, Permitting and Pot Limitation' byelaw which restricts non-permit holders to land one lobster per day and all were undersized, in contravention of NIFCA's 'Emergency Minimum Conservation Reference Size' byelaw. Mr Zhu was not represented in court. The bench took into consideration his early guilty plea, forthright apologies, and lack of understanding of fisheries legislation and in passing sentence, Mr Zhu was fined £164 and ordered to pay costs to the sum of £400 and a £30 victim surcharge.

## New Environmental IFCO, Katy Smart

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**Katy Smart says:** "I was thrilled to join the environmental team as an Environmental IFCO at Northumberland IFCA in March of this year. Previously I worked for NIFCA as an Administration Officer which has helped me to understand inshore marine management and speak to sea-users from all sectors of the district.

Before working for NIFCA I was involved in various conservation projects where my roles included monitoring giant otters and Andean cats in Peru, capturing and releasing water voles in Kielder forest and managing an osprey visitor centre in Rutland. I have always had a fascination with marine life since my undergraduate degree where I studied fish ecology, oceanography and human impact upon fish diversity and abundance. Years later I completed a long-distance marine biology course at Newcastle University which sparked a fascination in the plethora of life on the wonderfully rugged Northumberland coastline! After this course I returned to university to study for an MSc in Environment & Development with a focus on using phytoplankton as bioindicators. This gave me a brilliant theoretical understanding that I have subsequently used for practical applications in the sector.

I feel incredibly lucky to work in a role that has built on previous experiences and passions and that also lets me research whilst supporting sustainable marine environments in the North East. I am looking forward to meeting more people from Northumberland fisheries over the coming months."

## Fisheries Management Plans

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The Fisheries Act 2020 brings in a national requirement for Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) and these are now being considered and planned by Defra. NIFCA is engaging with this process, but it is worth noting NIFCA has existing FMPs for lobster and crab stocks in the district, which are kept under review and will be considered in relation to the national FMP position as this develops.



# Coastal Futures

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In early 2021 the Environment Team attended the Coastal Futures annual conference (online, of course) on 'Ocean Recovery'. A really inspiring few days of talks covered ocean restoration, adaptation to the Climate Emergency, blue carbon, marine protected areas and the future of fisheries governance to name but a few. A highlight was a session on 'Youth Voices for the Ocean' by three youngsters already making their mark and inspiring others to do the same. Key themes in many of the talks included the importance of collaborating with a wider range of communities and stakeholders, improving accessibility to include a more diverse range of people in conversations, as well as incorporating climate change thinking into workstreams – for example, recognising the importance of soft sediments (i.e. mud) in storing carbon could change the way we value these habitats.

With the huge recent changes to the political and regulatory landscape and the additional challenges due to Covid-19, the conference set out a hopeful vision for the future provided opportunities are grasped now. We all left the conference feeling motivated and energised by the huge amount of passion and work going into restoring UK seas for wildlife, coastal communities and fishers alike – let's get to it!

## COVID-19 Precautions

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NIFCA continues to take all necessary precautions to ensure we remain COVID safe in the workplace. The office remains closed to the public until further notice and social distancing is maintained whilst those who need to work in the office do so. Officers have now resumed shore patrols and safe boardings of vessels at sea where appropriate and we hope to be able to proceed with planned surveys in the not too distant future.

## Fenham Flats Survey

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Fenham Flats mussel bed in Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve is home to the largest intertidal mussel bed in Northumberland. Tucked away and inaccessible to the public, this beautiful site is where NIFCA carry out mussel surveys every year. Surveys are usually carried out on foot with officers traversing the acres of mussels found here (as well as stopping to greet some seals!).

This year, as well as the usual survey, officers trialled the use of the NIFCA drone. We are hoping to be able to use the drone to carry out parts of the survey to reduce the need for people to survey on foot. This will both increase the accuracy of our survey methods, and mean that fewer people are needed to carry out the survey work!

The drone flight path was pre-programmed before the survey to cover the entire area of the bed. This meant that on the day, we turned the drone on and it followed these tracks with little input needed from officers. NIFCA hope to include drones in our annual monitoring surveys and have partnered with Newcastle University and Natural England on a project which is looking at developing survey and analysis methods that can be replicated by NIFCA for our surveys in the future.

## New NIFCA Administrative Assistant

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Debra Scott joined NIFCA at the end of November 2020 as Administrative Assistant replacing Angela Gray. Debra has a strong administrative background having worked for both the private and public sectors over the years and has settled into her role.



# New to the Area?

Here's our useful guide to help you determine whether you need a NIFCA permit for your planned fishing activity...

## Do you need a 2021 NIFCA Permit?

New permits for many fishing activities which take place in the NIFCA district (from the English/Scottish border in the north to a line drawn through the centre of the river Tyne in the south and out to 6-miles at sea) will require a 2021 permit. But for which fishing activities do you need one?

### Commercial Fishing:-



**Trawling** - if you plan to trawl in the NIFCA district, you must have a valid trawl permit annually. These permits cost £50 each year.



**Dredging** - to dredge in the NIFCA district, you require an annual dredge permit at the cost of £150 per annum.



**Shellfish (commercial)** - commercially fishing for shellfish requires a NIFCA permit at the cost of £180 per annum.

### Recreational Fishing:-



**Shellfish (recreational)** - when using pots, you require a permit and pot tags at the cost of £10 per year. Anyone wishing to take shellfish recreationally can do so but no more than TWO sized lobster per day without berries, a v-notch or mutilation and no more than 5 edible or velvet crabs, 20 whelks or 5 prawns in any one day. Recreational potters must also fit an escape gap in their pots.



**Recreational Sea Angling, shore gathering and cleeking** - no NIFCA permit required, but as with all of the above activities, there must be full compliance with legal requirements including minimum permitted landing sizes and catch limits.

Please visit the NIFCA website at [www.nifca.gov.uk](http://www.nifca.gov.uk) for more information about how to get a permit and check in News on any regulatory changes, and always refer to the NIFCA byelaws when taking part in any fishing activity within the Northumberland IFCA district.

**Please note that this relates only to NIFCA permits and anyone wishing to undertake fishing activity within the district should check restrictions with all relevant bodies, before doing so.**

If you have any questions about permits or the work of NIFCFA, please feel free to contact us on the details below or speak to one of our Officers if you see them on the shore.

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