

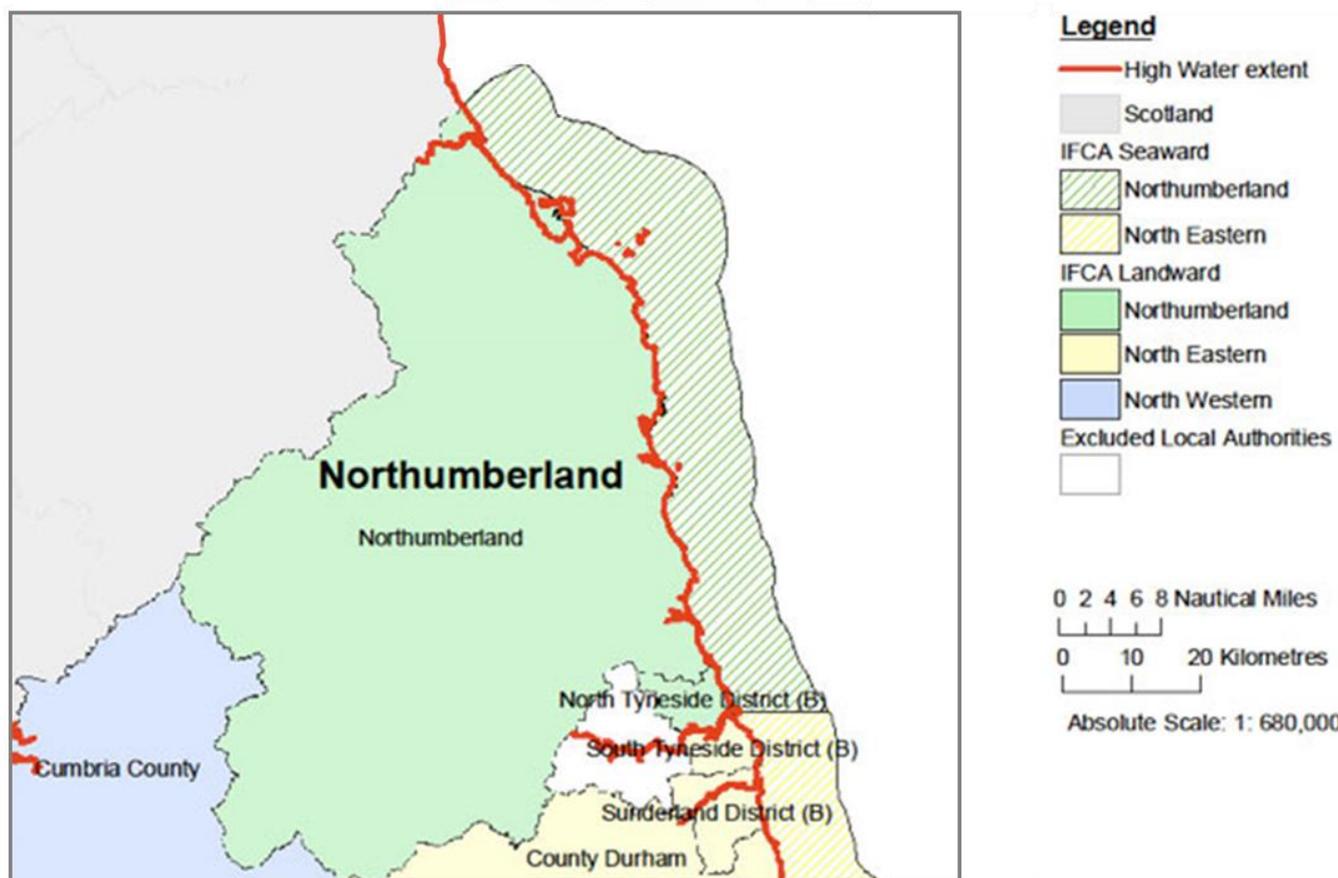


2021-22 Annual Report

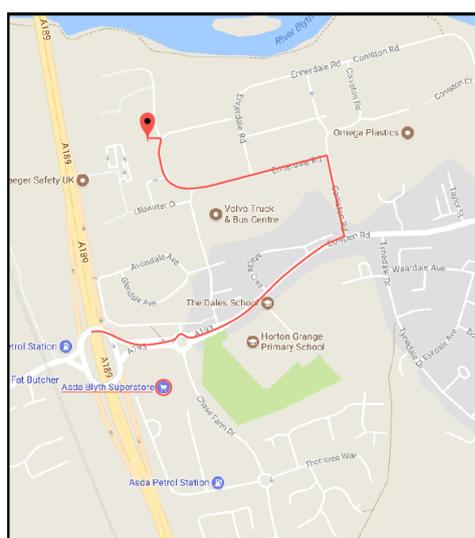
Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (NIFCA)

"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 2021 – 31st March 2022 (the IFCA year)

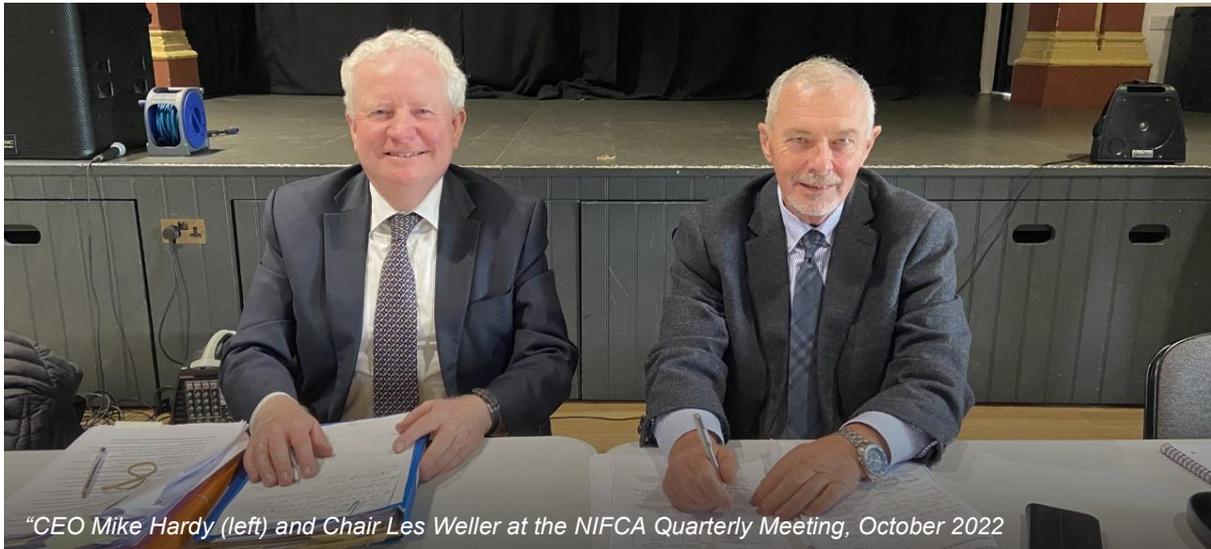
Contents:

1.	Foreword and Introduction from the Chair and CEO	Page 2 - 3
2.	IFCA Vision and Success Criteria	Page 4 - 9
3.	Local Targets and Priorities	Page 10 - 12
4.	Work Plan Summary	Page 13
5.	Resources Report	Page 14
6.	NIFCA Budget Summary	Page 15 - 16
7.	Governance Report	Page 17 - 18
8.	Staffing and Service Standards	Page 19
9.	Training Summary	Page 19
10.	Strategic Review	Page 20
Annex 1.	NIFCA meetings and events attended by representatives of the Authority	Page 21 – 25
Annex 2.	List of Press Reports referring to NIFCA - 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022	Page 26
Annex 3.	Training Summary	Page 27
Annex 4.	Consultation Summary	Page 28
Annex 5.	Enforcement and Operations Summary	Page 29 – 33
	Glossary.	Page 34 – 45

1. Foreword from the Chair

Welcome to the NIFCA Annual Report for 2021 – 2022 and what is for Mike Hardy his final Annual Report before his retirement at the end of 2022 after 19 years as Chief Executive Officer of Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee and then NIFCA. The Authority would like to thank Mike for his dedication and service and he will be sadly missed, but we are looking forward to a new era after a very successful 19 years.

Les Weller, NIFCA Chair



“CEO Mike Hardy (left) and Chair Les Weller at the NIFCA Quarterly Meeting, October 2022

Introduction from the Chair and CEO

Over the last 19 years, we have seen many developments and both of us would say great improvements in the delivery of regulation and management of inshore fisheries and the marine environment and everything which underpins that. At NIFCA, and looking back particularly over 2021-22, we now have a full and balanced membership who bring great knowledge and understanding to the work of NIFCA and particularly the setting of our policy. We also have a fantastic team of officers. Both our membership and officer corps have been enhanced with new additions during 2021 – 2022 (and shortly after), of which more below and which puts NIFCA in an extremely strong position for the future.

Looking back over 2021 – 2022, it has overall been an eventful year with many challenges but great achievements of which both of us and our officers and members are justifiably proud. That is against the background, of course, of the beginning of the IFCA year (April 2021) being over-shadowed by the continued presence of Covid and again we would wish to record our sympathies with everyone who suffered serious illness and loss as a result. Fortunately, we can say that Covid only affected our workforce and operation to a limited degree and the Authority was able to continue to function with “business as usual”, whilst taking a precautionary approach and guarding the health and safety of all of our colleagues and everyone with whom we come into contact.

As referred to above, we welcomed a number of new people during 2021 – 2022. Membership wise, this comprises Dr Pip Moore from Newcastle University, Dr James Wood who has a strong background of involvement with IFCAs and experienced local fisherman Steven Moss. Another experienced local fisherman Paul Dent, became a member shortly after the end of 2021 – 22. All of the above have already made their mark in the most positive way with the Authority, contributing to our debates and the decisions which have to be made. We were also pleased to welcome as new Councillor Members Barry Flux and Colin Hardy, to supplement our existing councillor membership. During the year we also bid farewell to a number of members and our thanks go to David Thompson who served for 7 years and brought an interesting perspective from the north of the district. Sandy Ritchie retired after 10 years as a member and David Herriott after 10 years with the IFCA and an even longer period beforehand with the Sea Fisheries Committee. All of them are missed, but have our profound thanks for everything

which they contributed during their time with us. Councillor wise, we were also sorry to see the departure of Wendy Pattison who had served as Vice Chair for 4 years (and was replaced in that role by Guy Renner-Thompson). Eileen Cartie also departed the membership after 4 years. Both of them continue as Northumberland County Councillors and we will remember their willingness to serve the best interests of NIFCA and our remit.

Regarding officers, there were no additions or departures during 2021 – 2022 except our engineer Paul Ridley moved to part-time working, which has proceeded very well. The Authority also began a process to recruit two new enforcement officers, culminating most satisfactorily in Emily O'Regan and Toby Nash joining the Authority in the summer of 2022.

During the NIFCA year there were many developments in national policy with which NIFCA fully engaged through the Chief Officers Group, The Association of IFCAs, the Technical Advisory Group and NIMEG (all of the aforesaid meetings taking place mainly by Microsoft Teams but with plans being developed during the year for a return to some of those meetings being held in person in 2022 – 2023). The main policy areas which saw development are as follows:-

- Under the provisions of the Fisheries Act 2020, we saw the beginnings of the development of the Joint Fisheries Statement and Fisheries Management Plans;
- Regional Fisheries Groups came more to the fore, with NIFCA represented by Chief Officer Mark Southerton;
- IFCA was very pleased to engage with the Anglers Forum Meetings. The one focussing upon Northumberland IFCA in October 2021 went particularly well, with NIFCA represented by the CEO, Chief IFCO and our main angling IFCO Katy Smart, who also oversaw the enhancement and development of our Angling Strategy, with a number of meetings being held with anglers and also full participation in the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme.

During the year we also saw the Authority's new trawling byelaw receive confirmation from DEFRA and come into legal effect, giving increased protection in the Coquet to St Marys MCZ, whilst allowing commercial fishing activity to continue proportionately and sustainably in the district.

In October 2021, after much consideration by officers and members and extensive consultation with the local commercial fishing industry and stakeholders, the Authority made its new dredges byelaw bringing in a complete prohibition on such activity in the district. This was followed by a statutory consultation and then the process of consideration of the byelaw by the MMO and DEFRA, leading to the byelaw coming into force during 2022 – 2023.

Throughout the year the Authority budget was managed effectively by our Finance Officer, liaising on a virtually daily basis with the CEO and with both reporting to the membership at our Quarterly Meeting. We also completed our Annual Audit satisfactorily, undertaken for us by Northumberland County Council Auditors and approved by the Authority in June 2021. There is no strict legal requirement for the IFCA to undertake this audit, but it is something which the membership and senior officers are very keen for us to continue doing and showing the strength and robustness of the Authority's financial processes and systems.

At the end of 2021 – 2022 we have moved into the new IFCA year in a position of strength, based upon the hard work and active collaboration of our officers and members and our proactive collaboration with stakeholders and partner agencies in the district. We were therefore able to look forward to the challenges lying ahead without complacency but with positivity and confidence.

Finally, we hope you enjoy reading this report and please do not hesitate to contact NIFCA if you have any queries or would just like to discuss something. Our thanks also to everyone with whom we have worked and engaged during this year and will continue to do so. We hope to continue to see as many of you as possible during 2022 – 2023.

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

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.

<p>Success Criterion 1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders</p>	
<p>Definition: IFCAs will be 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.</p>	
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy. • The IFCA will maintain its website, ensuring public access to current fisheries and conservation information for the District, including management requirements and byelaws. Non-reserved IFCA Committee papers will be published. • 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. 	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year • SC1B: The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year. • SC1C: The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month. • SC1D: The IFCA will have reviewed its website and ensured it meets the objectives of its communication strategy, by 31 March each year. • 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 2021-22 to communicate regularly and fully with stakeholders, partners and the wider community. Improved communication methods introduced as a consequence of the ongoing covid 19 pandemic and restrictions, have been revised and enhanced allowing NIFCA to effectively communicate with the stakeholders, this has been especially prevalent in communicating with partner agencies with video conferencing. As restrictions lifted throughout the year NIFCA's officers were able to increase their presence at ports, piers and shore locations restoring relationships with stakeholders whilst following social distance protocols. NIFCA again increased its focus on the Authority website and social media including the launch of an upgraded website in March 2022. At the end of March 2022 NIFCA had 1,072 followers on Twitter and updates continued to be regularly posted there as well as on Facebook, where NIFCA have 1023 followers. 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.

Media and Communications Advisor Amy Maughan provides professional advice to NIFCA on managing and promoting the Authority's image and works.

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. During 2021-22 NIFCA has improved its ties to both the Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) and Northumbria Police as a result of changing enforcement risks with in the district, Joint patrols and liaised activity have been conducted, and will be built on.

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:

NIFCA has also complied with all of the above indicators SC2A to SC2F during 2021-22. Officers have undertaken continued professional development including the completion of further training programmes 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/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 IFCA 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 2021-22 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 2021-22 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.

Covid-19 and the restrictions in place through parts of this year continued to impact the research and survey plans for this year. However, despite this the team continued with annual monitoring surveys and routine Crustacea sampling. Fisheries Management Plans have been developed for brown crab and European lobster which include information on catch and effort, and aim to understand the level of fishing effort and exploitation levels on the local stocks.. Results of survey work from the previous year have supported a change in scallop dredging management in the NIFCA district, with all scallop dredging prohibited under a byelaw. Work continues on local intertidal fisheries and the impacts of collection.

The team have continued work on Marine Protected Areas in the district and NIFCA continues to prioritise work in Marine Protected Areas and liaise with Natural England on development of this work area. The NIFCA team also remain cognisant of national policy and have worked to understand policies such as the Natural Capital Ecosystem Approach and national Fisheries Management Plans.

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



NIFCA Officers conducting a Fish Survey at the AIn Estuary, April 2022

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.
- 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

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 for all staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.
- **SC4D:** An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.
- **SC4E:** The IFCA will have demonstrated, in its Annual Report, how marine, land and water management mechanisms in the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation District have worked responsively and effectively together.

NIFCA Delivery of SC4:

In early May 2021 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) Regulations 2020 expired. This saw the return to normal patterns for authority meetings, however the lessons learnt from the Covid pandemic have not been forgotten and have increased efficiency in many areas.

NIFCA operated within 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 2021-22 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 2021-22, 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 by members of the Authority at regular Technical and Scientific meetings. Regular meetings also took place with the Authority's Natural England member, 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.

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 2021-22 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 updated NIFCA Trawl, Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and Pot Limitation and Dredge byelaws).</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.</p> <p>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 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 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</p>	<p>4. Work to ensure conservation objectives for all MPAs within NIFCA's district has continued in 2021-22. 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 bait digging and hand gathering assessments. A longstanding close working relationship in this regard with the Natural England member of NIFCA is noteworthy.</p> <p>NIFCA implemented management measures for scallop dredging, prohibiting this activity in the whole district 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>

<p>Partnership and attending relevant meetings. During regular work at sea IFCOs will continue to undertake extensive monitoring of commercial fishing activity .(Success Criterion 3)</p>	
<p>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)</p>	<p>5. Byelaws have been kept under continuous review and as referred to in 2 above. Amendments to NIFCA byelaw 1, Trawling and 4. Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and Pot Limitation were signed into legislation during the year and a comprehensive review of byelaw 2 Dredging was conducted with the intention of an amended byelaw being introduced in mid-2022. Reviews 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.</p>
<p>6. To continue annual monitoring of established mussel beds in the district (Fenham Flats, Holy Island, and Blyth Estuary). (Success Criterion 3)</p>	<p>6. NIFCA conducted mussel surveys on the Blyth Estuary, Holy Island Sands and Fenham Flats in March 2021. 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.</p>
<p>7. 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, National Inshore Maritime Enforcement Group (NIMEG) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG). (Success Criterion 1)</p>	<p>7. There has been joint working and a collaborative approach with all of the bodies mentioned and as detailed elsewhere in this report.</p>
<p>8. 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 in respect of the Intelligence Project with the MMO. (Success Criteria 1 & 5)</p>	<p>8. This has continued and as detailed elsewhere in this report.</p>
<p>9. 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)</p>	<p>9. This has continued in 2021-22 as detailed elsewhere in this report, particularly Annex 1 meetings and events attended.</p>

10. 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)

10. 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 for fishers to land berried lobsters allowing the hatchery to receive berried lobsters for the facility.

11. NIFCA projects – NIFCA will continue with research projects –these include the Authority monitoring of the local lobster and brown crab population. NIFCA will continue annual monitoring work including mussel bed condition surveys and the AIn Estuary MCZ Fish survey. NIFCA will continue intertidal monitoring surveys to increase knowledge on the impacts of intertidal collection activity. Other projects include a mapping sensitive subtidal habitats project in the BNNC SAC with Natural England. In addition, NIFCA will continue to support the North East Cetacean Project 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)

11. NIFCA research projects have continued and come into effect, as detailed in the Authority's Annual Research Plan and Annual Research Report.

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

12. 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 2021-22 because of the pandemic and lockdowns.

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

13. Surveys have continued to a carefully programmed schedule in the AIn Estuary. Details can be found in the fish survey reports on the Authority website. Lobster and crab surveys on local fishing vessels also recommenced.

14. 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

14. 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.

4. Work Plan Summary 2021-22

In the eleventh 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 IFCAs as well as local targets and priorities, as referred to respectively in Sections 3 and 4 above. Staff meetings were held, with virtual meetings when appropriate. 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 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.

A work plan was also followed and adapted where this was dictated by the exigencies of the pandemic 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 2021-22 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.



NIFCA Rib 'Robert Arkless MBE' on patrol in May 2021

5. Resources Report 2021-22

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 not exercised. 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. The St Aidan undertakes patrol work within the district as well as surveys for the Authority. 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 owns a 9.5m cabin RIB, the Robert Arckless MBE which was delivered in August 2019. The cabin RIB cost £150,000, around 70% of which was financed by EMFF grant funding. The RIB is berthed at Amble Marina and functions as the Authority's primary enforcement patrol vessel as well being able to carry out survey work as required.

In addition, the Authority owns a 5.4m Zodiac inflatable purchased in 2013 at a cost of £1,700. This is used principally for 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 reduces to a minimum the number of times it is necessary for Authority personnel to use their own vehicles for work purposes.

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 13.4K from chartering the vessel and RIB and by investment account interest. This increased the Fund to £562,637 as at 31/3/22.

The Authority's General Reserves are separate from the Renewals Fund and are maintained at a level equal to at least 10% of total Turnover in order to fund budget deficits, cover any financial emergencies and fund additional capital expenditure to enhance the Authority's capabilities. Any budget surpluses are transferred to General Reserves.

The net effect of the net budget surplus and the capital expenditure drawings for 21-22 (see Narrative) was to reduce the level of General Reserves from £190,889 to £175,463 as at 31/3/22. This still leaves the Reserves level well above the 10% threshold.

6. Northumberland IFCA Budget Summary 2021-22

Northumberland IFCA Budget Summary 2021-22

	Estimate £ 2021-22	Actual £ 2021-22	Variance £
Expenditure			
Employee expenses	641,500	639,693	1,807
Patrol vessel, RIB & Leased vehicles expenses	76,400	67,815	8,585
Renewals & Capital Expenditure	38,400	19,986	18,414
Other Enforcement & Environmental expenses	36,000	37,736	(1,736)
8 Ennerdale running costs	47,000	45,063	1,937
Other management & administrative expenses	70,200	61,247	8,953
Operating expenditure	909,500	871,539	37,961
Income			
Fishing permit & tag charges	23,000	23,415	415
Hire of vessels & equipment	0	11,900	11,900
Other income	6,544	4,178	(2,366)
Total income	29,544	39,493	9,949
Net cost of service	879,956	832,046	47,910
Annual contribution from Revenue to Renewals Fund	42,000	42,000	0
Other contributions to Renewals Fund	2,500	13,400	(10,900)
Capital Expenditure drawn from General Reserves	(38,400)	(19,986)	(18,414)
Surplus / (Deficit)	(14,035)	4,561	(18,596)
Total expenditure	872,021	872,021	(0)
Precepted Income			
Northumberland County Council	727,004	727,004	0
North Tyneside Council	145,017	145,017	0
Total Local Authority precept	872,021	872,021	0

Budget Summary Narrative

The original projected deficit of £14,035 has turned in to a net budget surplus of £4,561 (a positive variance of £18,596) after deducting the 42K annual contribution to the Patrol Vessel Fund. This can be attributed largely to the effects of the Covid pandemic, staff absences and the 10K Contingency Fund not needing to be used.

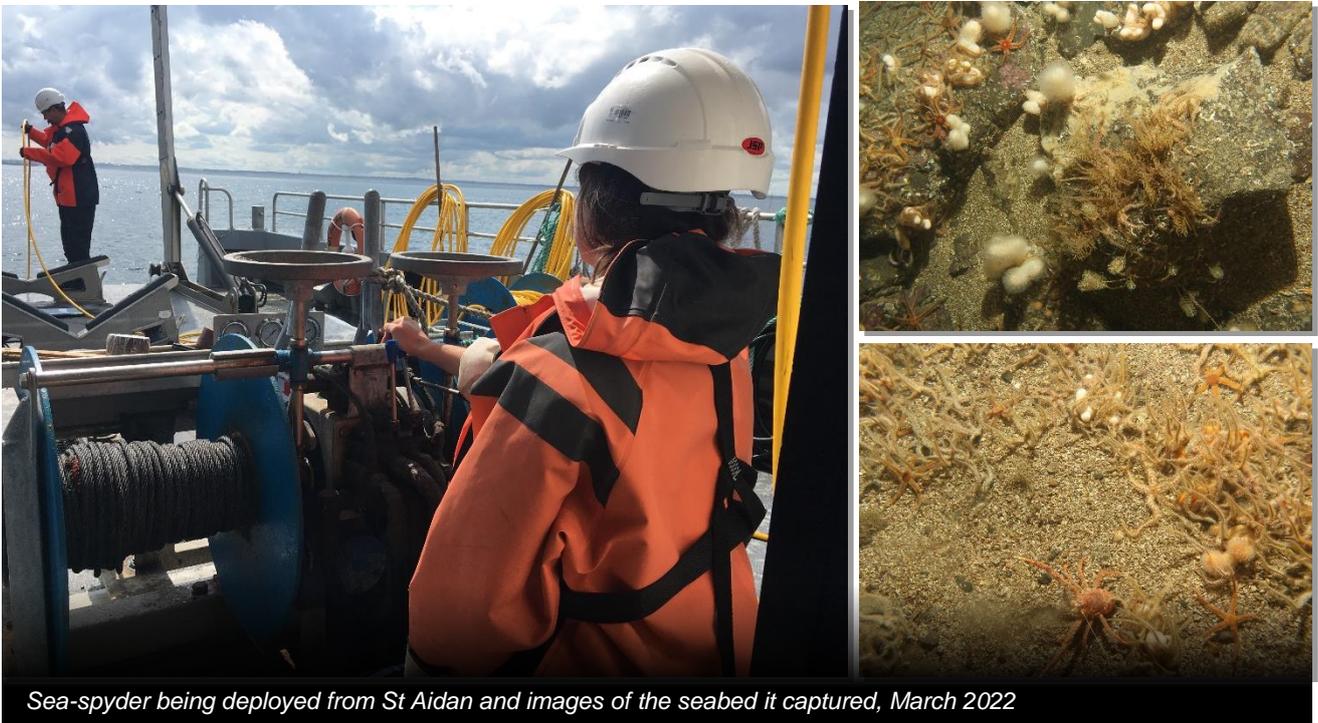
Overall vessel and vehicle usage costs were less than budgeted because the frequency of patrols and inspections were reduced due to Covid19 precautions during the 1st half of the year, and also because of the absence due to illness of the St Aidan skipper.

Overall management expenses were reduced due to the Contingency Fund not being used and because increased staff training costs were offset by reductions in staff travel, office stationery and insurance costs. Office maintenance expenses were lower than forecast due to increased home-working by office staff.

Other Enforcement & Environmental expenses were slightly higher than budgeted due to an increase in prosecutions and related legal costs, and cost rises for new pot tags. These increases were partly offset by reduced spending on equipment, IFCO training and travel.

Other Income was reduced by continuing very low interest rates and reduced court remittances, partly offset by funding from Newcastle University for a dredging data project.

The amount of Capital Expenditure drawn from General Reserves for 2021-22 was reduced to under 20K from the originally-budgeted figure of 38.4K. This was due to not buying the Hypack software (budgeted at 7K) and not needing to spend the budgeted 10K on the Sea-Spyder camera due to the insurance company meeting most of the cost of replacing the damaged camera. The enhancements to the Authority website were also around 2.7K below budget.



Sea-spyder being deployed from St Aidan and images of the seabed it captured, March 2022

7. Governance Report 2021-22

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 held four General meetings (quarterly meetings) during the year. The April (Annual) meeting was at a time when COVID was a factor and was held by Microsoft Teams, as permitted by Government Regulations. The Authority July meeting was held at the Defra building in Alnwick as the most suitable available venue with concern about COVID still being a factor and therefore whilst NIFCA has good meeting facilities at 8 Ennerdale Road, somewhere larger enabling people to “keep their distance” was felt to be appropriate. For the October and January meetings during 2021-22, the Authority was therefore fortunate to be able to hire at very reasonable cost the facilities at East Bedlington Community Centre and which proved to be a very good venue.

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, which are kept under review. 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.

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



Officers (including IFCA/Engineer Paul Ridley, right) welcome visitors from the Angling Trust onboard St Aidan, January 2022

Governance Report (Continued): Members Meetings attended 2021-22

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.

Colour Code: 1 Attended A Apologies A Unable to attend due to COVID restrictions o Did not attend (no apologies) na Not on subcommittee

Member	T&S Meeting												Other Meetings						
	Apr-21			Jul-21			Oct-21			Jan-22			Apr 21	June 21	Sep 21	Audit June 2021	Budget Dec 2021	Climate Change Dec 21	
	F	W	G	F	W	G	F	W	G	F	W	G							
Chair Les Weller	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	A
Frank Armstrong	na	na	1	na	na	1	na	na	1	na	na	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	A
Martin Kitching	1	1	1	A	A	A	o	o	o	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1
Steve Lowe	1	1	1	A	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pip Moore (joined Apr 21)	na	na	1	A	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	A	1	1
Steven Moss (joined Feb 22)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Nick Polunin (left Apr 21)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	1	na	na	na	na	na
Sandy Ritchie (left Oct 21)	1	1	1	A	A	A	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	1	na	na	A	na	na
Jim Stephenson	1	1	1	A	A	A	A	A	1	A	A	A	A	A	1	A	1	o	o
Ian Thomas	1	1	1	A	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
David Thompson (left Oct 21)	na	na	o	A	A	A	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
James Wood (joined Apr 21)	na	na	1	A	A	A	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1
*Brian Burdis	1	1	1	A	A	A	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	o	1	o	1	1
*Eileen Cartie	na	na	1	na	na	1	na	na	1	na	na	1	1	A	1	na	1	1	1
*Liz Dunn	na	na	1	na	na	A	na	na	1	na	na	1	1	A	1	na	1	1	1
*Barry Flux (joined June 21)	na	na	na	na	na	A	na	na	A	na	na	1	na	1	na	1	1	1	1
*Colin Hardy (joined June 21)	na	na	na	1	1	1	A	A	A	A	1	A	na	1	na	1	1	1	1
*Wendy Pattison (left May 21)	A	A	A	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	1	na	na	na	na	na
*Guy Renner-Thompson	A	A	1	1	1	1	A	A	1	A	A	A	o	1	A	1	o	o	o
*Gregah Roughead (left May 21)	na	na	1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
*Catherine Seymour	na	na	1	na	na	A	na	na	1	na	na	A	o	A	na	A	o	o	o
**Phil Rippon	na	na	1	na	na	A	na	na	o	na	na	1	1	1	1	A	A	1	1
**Patrick Gray	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	A	A	1	A	1	A	A	A	A
**Catherine Scott	na	na	1	na	na	A	na	na	o	na	na	1	1	1	1	1	A	A	1
Length of Meeting (mins)	30	50	90	35	50	75	75	60	120	40	135	120	180	75	65	20	15	60	60
No. of General Members	6	6	9	1	1	2	4	4	7	6	6	7	8	7	5	7	6	5	5
Meeting Time mins (General Members)	180	300	810	35	50	150	300	240	840	240	810	840	1440	525	325	140	90	300	300
Number of Councillors	1	1	6	2	2	3	0	0	4	1	2	4	2	5	1	5	5	5	5
Meeting Time (Councillors)	30	50	540	70	100	225	0	0	480	40	270	480	360	375	65	100	75	300	300
Number of Statutory App'ees	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	2	0	0	2	2
Meeting Time (Stat. App'ees)	30	50	270	35	50	75	75	60	120	0	0	240	540	150	130	0	0	120	120

Total hours & cost	
Hours	Cost @ £45/hr
126.92	£5,711
59.33	£2,670
32.42	£1,459
218.7	£9,840

8. Staffing and Service Standards 2021 – 2022

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.

High standards were maintained throughout the year and this includes all Officers and staff completing an Annual Appraisal (of which there is also a 6-month review) to a well-established format with their line manager. In addition, all Officers and staff were provided with an Occupational Health Test by Best Practice Ltd.

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 2021-22 are contained in Annex 3 to this report.



Environmental Officers, Beth Harvey and Katy Smart attending Fire Fighting Training, February 2022

10. Strategic Review

17.73% 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 2022-2023 and will be reviewed at some time between the publication of this report and 2023-24. More complete strategic planning can be undertaken when there is financial certainty for as far ahead as possible.

Extra emphasis will be given during the remainder of calendar year 2022 to the strategic direction of NIFCA because of the pending retirement of Mike Hardy at the end of the calendar year. Meanwhile, 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 2021-22 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 Authority Annual Research Plan also details strategic planning for the NIFCA Environmental team and directs their research and monitoring work for the year ahead and beyond when possible

In response to the growing concern around climate change, NIFCA is developing the capability to monitor and improve its carbon impact. This is being considered on two levels: firstly, reviewing NIFCA’s response to climate change as an organisation and secondly, NIFCA’s local response for the industry. This priority will be carefully considered during the creation and review of future policy to ensure our response to the crisis is both proactive and pragmatic.

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 2021-22 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 2021–2022

- 7th April 2021** Authority Technical and Scientific meeting attended by officers and members.
- 8th April 2021** Update on HPMAs provided by Defra to IFCA Chief Officers.
- 28th April 2021** MAFCO meeting (between IFCA Chief Officers and Defra Officials) attended by the CEO.
- 30th April 2021** Member induction meeting (Pip Moore and James Wood) attended by the Chair and CEO.
- 30th April 2021** Chair and Sussex IFCA CEO attending Angling Trust Forum.
- 5th May 2021** First North Eastern Regional Fisheries Group meeting attended by Chief IFCO in absence of CEO.
- 6th May 2021** Talk on NIFCA given to Longhorsley WI by CEO.
- Week commencing 10th May 2021** Audit of NIFCA by Northumberland County Council Audit Team.
- 12th-14th May 2021** SAGB Conference (the first virtual one) with a number of sessions attended by the CEO and also by the Chair.
- 14th May 2021** Chair attended AIFCA meeting with Defra regarding HPMAs and recreational sea anglers.
- 18th May 2021** HR and Employment Law update provided by Authority Solicitors Ward Hadaway to their clients attended by CEO and Admin Officer.
- 20th May 2021** Seafish IFCA Byelaw Mapping meeting attended by IFCO Weir in the absence of the CEO.
- 24th May 2021** Fisheries Management Plans Seminar led by Kent and Essex Chief IFCO for all IFCAs attended by the CEO.
- 26th May 2021** Chief Officer Group meeting attended by the CEO (and following this meeting, COG meetings became every other month rather than monthly).
- 27th May 2021** Discussion with the Fishermen's Mission regarding their 140 year celebration service in August.
- 28th May 2021** CEO meeting Pip Moore regarding continuation of the NIFCA/Newcastle University MoU following Professor Nick Polunin leaving the NIFCA.
- 2nd June 2021** CEO meeting Association Chief Officer regarding forthcoming AIFCA Forum and Directors' meeting.
- 2nd June 2021** Chair attending Sussex IFCA Angling Trust Forum (evening).
- 8th June 2021** Association Quarterly Forum meeting attended by Chair and CEO.
- 10th June 2021** In absence of CEO due to other commitments Lead IFCO Weir attending Chief Officers' meeting regarding Regional Fisheries Groups.

10th June 2021 Joint IFCAS MMO Special Operations Group (SOG) meeting attended by the CEO together with Eastern IFCA's CEO on behalf of IFCAs.

17th June 2021 Association Directors' meeting attended by Chair and CEO.

17th June 2021 Audit meeting followed by Technical and Scientific meeting for members and officers and including a presentation by Georgina Hill.

18th June 2021 CEO attending meeting with the MMO regarding member recruitment.

18th June 2021 Chair attending AIFCA meeting with Defra regarding Recreational Sea Anglers Policy Group.

22nd June 2021 Chief IFCO and CEO holding their quarterly health and safety review meeting.

23rd June 2021 MAFCO meeting attended by CEO where he gave a short presentation on NIFCA Annual Planning and Report writing.

24th June 2021 AIFCA Angling Trust Forum meeting for Kent and Essex IFCA attended by the Authority Chair.

25th June 2021 Annual Joint Working Arrangement meeting attended for NIFCA by CEO, Chief IFCO and Lead Environmental IFCO with Patrick Gray, Catherine Scott and from the Environment Agency Hannah Westoby.

30th June 2021 Chair, Vice Chair and CEO review meeting.

1st July 2021 Chair and CEO members induction meeting with new councillor members Mr Hardy and Mr Flux.

12th July 2021 APPG Climate and Fisheries meeting attended by CEO and a number of IFCOs.

15th July 2021 National RFG Meeting with industry representatives and regulators, hosted by Defra.

21st July 2021 COG meeting attended by CEO.

23rd July 2021 CEO, Chair, Chief IFCO Mark Southerton, Ian Thomas and Alex Aitken meeting to discuss industry concerns regarding scallop dredging.

5th August 2021 CEO meeting Amy Maughan to discuss promotion and communication matters for the Authority.

5th August 2021 CEO attending COG special meeting re: IFCAs and the Government Spending Review (SR21).

9th August 2021 Chair, CEO and Chief IFCO meeting Ian Levy MP at the Authority office to brief him upon NIFCA's work.

CEO Annual Leave 11th-24th August inclusive

6th September 2021 CEO and Alex Aitken meeting with Steve Lowe as Chair of the Authority Technical and Scientific Subcommittee to discuss arrangements for the forthcoming meeting.

6th September 2021 CEO and Chair meeting with the MMO regarding forthcoming member recruitment for the Authority.

6th September 2021 CEO attending in Rothbury the Coquetdale Wildlife Trust evening meeting to make a presentation in respect of the work of NIFCA.

7th September 2021 Association of IFCAs Quarterly Forum meeting attended by the Authority Chair and CEO.

8th September 2021 “MAFCO” meeting between Defra officials and COG including the CEO.

9th September 2021 CEO attending at the Buffalo Centre to see Eileen Cartie regarding a possible meeting venue.

12th-13th September 2021 Authority Chair and Chief IFCO attending the Boat Show at Southampton to look at possible equipment acquisition for the Authority.

14th September 2021 Association of IFCAs Directors meeting attended by the CEO.

16th September 2021 Authority Technical and Scientific meeting attended by officers and members.

20th September 2021 CEO meeting Amy Maughan re: Promotion and Communication matters.

20th September 2021 Chair, CEO and Chief IFCO meeting at Amble Marina aboard Robert Arckless MBE to discuss outputs from the recent visit to the Boat Show in Southampton.

21st September 2021 Angling Trust liaison meeting attended by Chair and Association Chief Officer with Angling Trust Chief Executive and Chief Scientist.

22nd September 2021 Chief Officers Group meeting attended by CEO.

22nd September 2021 CEO attending Nevin Hunter of the Angling Trust to discuss preparation for the NIFCA Angling Trust Evening on 21st October.

29th September 2021 CEO visiting the Holiday Inn to check as a possible quarterly meeting venue.

30th September 2021 CEO attending Bedlington Station Community Centre as a possible meeting venue and also the Buffalo Centre (Eileen Cartie).

4th October 2021 COG meeting re: fisheries matters attended by the CEO.

5th-7th October 2021 Various sessions at the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) attended by Environmental IFCOs.

5th-6th October 2021 Inshore Fisheries Natural Capital Workshop attended by Alex Aitken.

7th October 2021 Ward Hadaway Recruitment Seminar attended by Emma Cosimini and CEO.

7th October 2021 Risk Matrix Review meeting attended by CEO and other officers

21st October 2021 Angling Trust Virtual Sea Angling Forum hosted for NIFCA by CEO, Mark Southerton and Katy Smart.

CEO on leave 29th October – 8th November inclusive.

1st November 2021 DEFRA Sea Angling, Strategy Group meeting re: HPMAs and buffer zones, attended by Les Weller representing the Association.

9th November 2021 Chair and CEO met MMO representatives regarding future MMO recruitment policy.

10th November 2021 Update and review meeting regarding Authority promotion and communications by the CEO with our advisor Amy Maughan.

16th November 2021 Strategic Operations Group (SOG) meeting held by the CEO and Chief Executive of Eastern IFCA on behalf of all of the IFCAs with MMO representatives.

17th November 2021 Chief Officers Group (COG) meeting attended by CEO.

25th November 2021 Blyth Rotary Club Lunch attended by the CEO to give a talk upon NIFCA to club members and the meeting was also attended by Ian Levy MP.

2nd December 2021 Chair and CEO met with MMO representatives regarding current NIFCA member recruitment.

6th December 2021 Chair, Vice Chair, Finance Officer and Chief Executive met to discuss and prepare for the Authority Budget Planning Meeting.

6th December 2021 CEO attending a meeting regarding IFCA byelaw making process with Association Chief Officer and other IFCA Chief Officers.

7th December 2021 Chair and CEO attended the Association of IFCAs Forum (Quarterly Meeting).

8th December 2021 Steve Lowe as Chair of the Authority Technical and Scientific Subcommittee, Alex Aitken and CEO met to discuss climate change and the forthcoming Authority meeting regarding the same.

9th and 17th December 2021 Occupational health tests for IFCOs and staff.

9th December 2021 COG meeting attended by CEO.

14th December 2021 Association Directors meeting attended by Chair and CEO.

16th December 2021 Budget and Climate Change meetings attended by Authority members and officers.

22nd December 2021 CEO meeting with Amy Maughan to discuss 2022 plan for IFCA promotion and communications.

23rd December office closed in the afternoon until the morning of 29th December and 30th December (working both mornings) with the office re-opening for business but still closed to public except by arrangement on 4th January 2022

CEO discussing public sector meeting arrangements in the current Covid climate with the Authority Vice Chair Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson.

Review of IFCO training by Chief IFCO with IFCOs and CEO.

10th January 2022 Audit meeting with Authority Finance Officer and CEO and Northumberland County Council officials.

11th January 2022 Chief IFCO and CEO meeting for Quarterly Health and Safety Review.

12th January 2022 COG meeting attended by CEO.

19 January 2022 COG special meeting to discuss Regional Fisheries Groups

20th January 2022 National Regional Fisheries Group meeting.

25th January 2022 Office for Environmental Protection introductory webinar regarding their remit, attended by CEO.

26th January 2022 Defra meeting with IFCA Chief Officers (MAFCO) attended by CEO.

26th January 2022 Meeting to discuss financial investment for the Authority with Nigel Swan of Ellis Bates attended by Julian Sutton and CEO.

28th January 2022 Landlord visit to view 8 Ennerdale Road and meeting with CEO.

1st February 2022 Ward Hadaway Seminar on Grievances and Whistle Blowing in Organisations, attended by CEO.

2nd February 2022 CEO meeting with Amy Maughan to discuss Authority promotion and communication.

3rd February 2022 Authority Chair, CEO and Chief IFCO meeting in lieu of subcommittee (due to members apologies received) regarding IFCO recruitment.

11th February 2022 Chair and Chief IFCO (in absence of CEO) meeting with MMO re. General Member recruitment

16th February 2022 Chief Officers Group (COG) meeting attended by CEO.

18th February 2022 Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) testing at 8 Ennerdale Road.

23rd February 2022 Meeting at 8 Ennerdale with representatives of the Tweed Commission, (Jamie Stewart and Karl Ferguson) attended by the CEO and Chief IFCO.

1st March 2022 IFCOs rota meeting attended by CEO.

2nd March 2022 UK Governments “Joint Fisheries Statement” information session event attended by CEO.

3rd March 2022 UK Defra Climate Change event attended by CEO.

4th March 2022 Ward Hadaway legal webinar on ‘Living with COVID’

8th March 2022 Association Forum meeting attended by Chair (with CEO apologies because of illness).

16th March 2022 COG meeting attended by CEO.

17th March 2022 Risk Matrix Review meeting attended by CEO and Chief IFCO plus Emma Cosimini, Alex Aitken and Julian Sutton.

17th March 2022 Meeting to prepare for Technical and Scientific meeting attended by Steve Lowe as Chair of the Subcommittee, Alex Aitken and CEO.

22nd March 2022 Association Directors meeting attended by Chair and CEO.

23rd March 2022 MAFCO meeting attended by CEO.

23rd March 2022 Meeting with MMO regarding member recruitment attended by Chair and CEO.

24th March 2022 Technical and Scientific meeting attended by members and officers.

24th March 2022 New member induction for Stephen Moss provided by Chair, Steve Lowe, Ian Thomas, CEO and Chief IFCO.

24th March 2022 Prosecution Subcommittee meeting attended by members and officers.

31st March 2022 CEO meeting Kent and Essex Chief Officer and National Lead Training Officer for IFCA's to discuss training.

31st March 2022 Association Challenges and Opportunities meeting attended by CEO and Chair.

Annex 2

List of Press Reports referring to NIFCA - 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Date	Paper	Title
6 April 2021	The Ambler	Update from Inshore Fisheries Authority
10 April 2021	The National (Scottish newspaper)	Scottish lobster fishermen demand more action on failure to net rule-breakers
6 May 2021	Northumberland Gazette	Celebrating ten years of marine conservation
7 May 2021	News Post Leader (online)	Ten years of marine conservation experts at work between the Tyne and Tweed
7 May 2021	News Guardian (online)	Ten years of marine conservation experts at work between the Tyne and Tweed
7 May 2021	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Ten years of marine conservation experts at work between the Tyne and Tweed
27 May 2021	The Journal	Protecting the valuable sealife that calls our coastline home
28 May 2021	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Recreational shellfish gatherer fined for conservation breaches
28 May 2021	Berwick Advertiser (online)	Recreational shellfish gatherer fined for conservation breaches
28 May 2021	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Ten years of marine conservation experts at work between the Tyne and Tweed
10 June 2021	Fishing News	NE shellfish gatherer pleads guilty to three conservation breaches
14 July 2021	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Fisheries group seeks applications
22 July 2021	Fishing News	Opportunities to help manage inshore fisheries and conservation
30 July 2021	The Journal	Man fined over haul of illegally-caught shellfish
August 2021	The Ambler	Northumberland IFCA seeks new members
5 August 2021	Fishing News	Illegal shellfishing costs NE fisherman £1,500
26 August 2021	Fishing News	NIFCA updates trawling byelaw
26 August 2021	FishFocus (online)	Northumberland trawling bylaw update
18 October 2021	The Ambler	Lobster hatchery welcomes back visitors
13 January 2022	Northumberland Gazette (online)	Marine organisation looking to appoint new members to Northumberland board

Annex 3 Training Summary 2021-22

Date	Training	Attendees
Ongoing during 2021	Leadership in Science Training	1 x IFCO
April - June 2021	At Sea Boarding Training	11 x IFCOs
April - June 2021	Survival of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Training	4 x IFCOs
April - June 2021	Opensource Intelligence Training (OSINT) course	3 x IFCOs
April - June 2021	Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) Training	1 x IFCO
April - June 2021	Manual Handling Training	2 x IFCOs
April 2022	Marine Plan Implementation Training	4 x IFCOs
July – Sept 2021	Basic Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting Training	2 x IFCOs
July – Sept 2021	Personal Sea Survival Training	2 x IFCOs
July – Sept 2021	Opensource Intelligence Training (OSINT) course	1 x IFCO
July – Sept 2021	National IFCA Competent Officer remote	3 x IFCOs
Ongoing during 2021	Assessor Training	2 x IFCOs
Oct – Dec 2021	Personal Sea Survival Training	1 x IFCO
Oct – Dec 2021	vessel stability Seafish workshop	2 x IFCOs
Oct – Dec 2021	Man Overboard (MOB) Training	11 x IFCOs
Oct – Dec 2021	Fish ID Training	2 x IFCOs
Oct – Dec 2021	Mastering Public Speaking Training and Communications for Conservation Projects	1 x IFCO
Oct – Dec 2021	Grab Sampling Training	11 x IFCOs
Jan – Mar 2022	First Aid Training	2 x IFCOs
Jan – Mar 2022	3-day Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting training	2 x IFCOs
Jan – Mar 2022	2-day RYA Powerboat level 2	1 x IFCO
Jan – Mar 2022	RIB boarding and vessel pacing training	11 x IFCOs
Ongoing during 21/22	CIPD Level 5	Admin Officer

Annex 4

Consultation Summary 2021-22

Date received	Name of organisation	Consultation	Response date
April 2021	MMO	MLA/2021/00013 – Bedlington Viaduct	April 2021
June 2021	MMO	ENQ_2021_00066 – Scotland England Green Link 1 Environmental Appraisal Response	July 2021
August 2021	MMO	ENQ/2021/00124 - Scotland England Green Link 2 Environmental Appraisal Scoping	September 2021
September 2021	MMO	MLA/2021/00320 – Viking Energy Network, Jarrow	October 2021
September 2021	MMO	MLA/2021/00342 - Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Project	October 2021
November 2021	Defra	Call for Evidence on Future Management of Sandeels and Norway Pout	November 2021
October 2021	MMO	Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm (revised design) Consultation on Request for Scoping Opinion	November 2021
February 2022	MMO	MLA/2021/00500 – River Tyne Restoration Facility Summary	April 2022
March 2022	MMO	MLA/2021/00553 West Staithes	April 2022
February 2021	MMO	MLA/2012/00122/10 Blyth Offshore Demonstration Project	March 2021

Annex 5

Enforcement and Operations Summary 2021 - 2022

During the period 2021-22 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
- Part-time IFCO R Willis
- Part-time Engineer IFCO P Ridley

From the Environmental Team

- Lead Environmental IFCO A. Aitken
- Senior Environmental IFCO A. Boon,
- Environmental IFCO B Harvey
- Environmental IFCO K Smart

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.

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 year, Covid 19 restrictions remained in place and initially this did affect the Authorities ability to perform enforcement inspections, however with the lessons learned through 2020-2021 NIFCA was able to undertake intelligence-based compliance inspections and conduct both shore and sea patrols to monitor fishing activity. As the national picture changed and restrictions eased NIFCA's officers were able to modify their approach as required ensuring appropriate enforcement activity took place throughout the year.

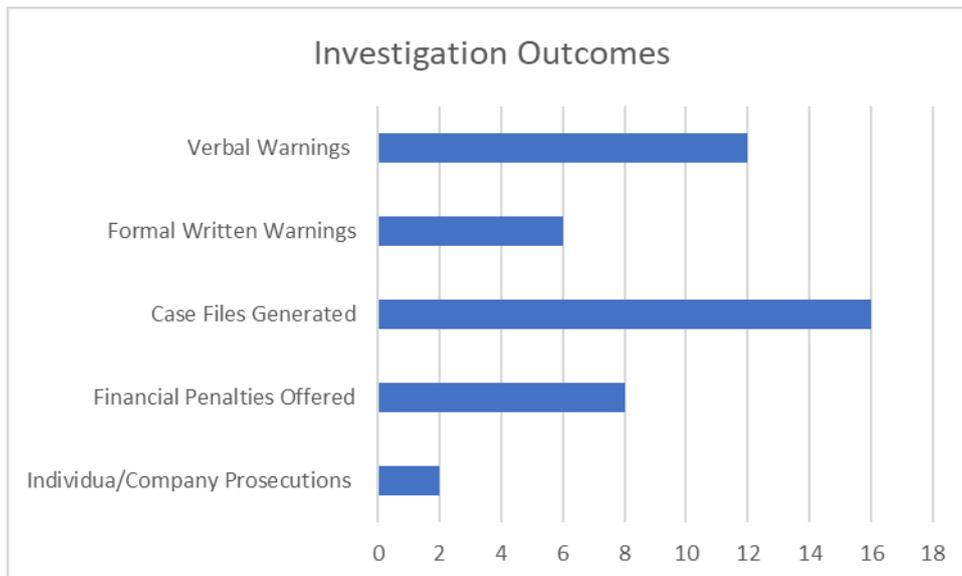
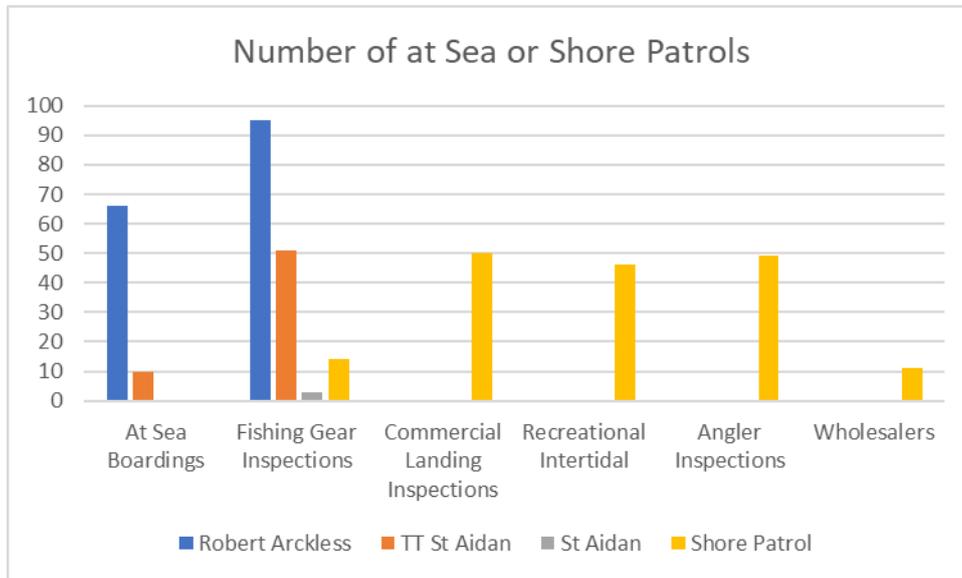
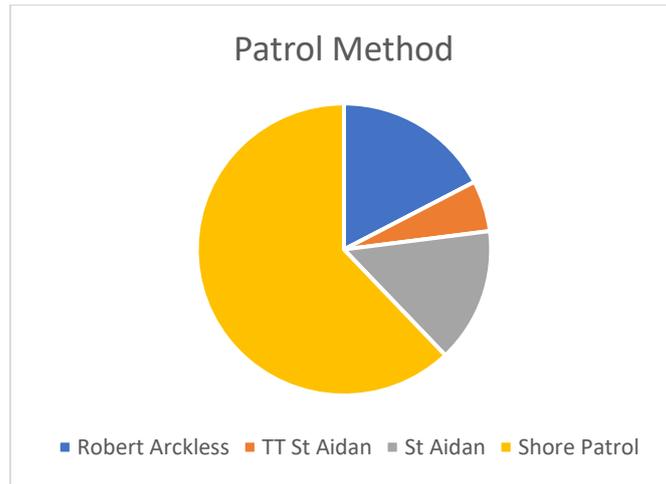
Marine capability

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 7th year. The vessel is coded to category 2 and can be operated with a minimum of 3 crew or a maximum of 10 and moored at Royal Quays Marina. 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 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. All work and maintenance is carried out inhouse by the Authority's Engineer.

The Robert Arckless undergoes periodic maintenance inspections and services as directed by the outboard engine servicing routine, this is set for every 100 hours and is undertaken by the manufacturer's local representatives. These services are conducted at Amble Marina and the other maintenance is carried out by the Authority Engineer.

The Authority operate 2 vehicles that can be used by IFCO's for shore work. These are a 2.2 litre Ford Ranger 4x4 which provides towing capacity for TT St Aidan and a 1.5 litre Ford Transit Connect minivan.



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)	97
	Fishing vessel boardings	Count fishing vessels (including unregistered/unlicensed) inspected at sea, where boarding was in pursuit of any relevant duty	76
	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	131
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	154
	Port visits	Individual port/harbour/beach visits within a shore patrol	459
	Premises inspections	Markets, merchants, refrigerated units, retailers, food producers/outlets etc	11
	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	52
	Other inspections	Count vessel gear/fish checks in port/ashore, diver and shore angler catches, vehicle contents and shellfish catch from shore gatherers	117
Investigation outcomes	Verbal warnings	Verbal Warnings, for minor breaches of legislation (no further action taken).	12
	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	16
	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	6
	FAPs offered	Count all the FAPs relevant to any one case	8
	Individuals / companies prosecuted in court	Count all the persons and companies relevant to any one case	2

Financial Administrative Penalties

Date of offence	FAP
1 st June 2021	Commercial Fisher, Seaton Sluice, failure to supply accurate permit returns information to the authority, 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.
1 st July 2021	Commercial Fisher, Amble, failure to supply accurate permit returns information to the authority 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.
17 th August 2021	Recreational shellfish permit holder, Blyth, fished with pots within the district that were not fitted with escape gaps, 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.
20 th of September 2021	Skipper/Owner and Commercial shellfish permit holder, Holy Island, fished with pots within the NIFCA district that were not fitted with NIFCA issued tags, 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.
1 st October 2021	Commercial Fisher, Seahouses, failure to supply accurate permit returns information to the authority 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.
1 st October 2021	Commercial Fisher, North Shields, failure to supply accurate permit returns information to the authority 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.
1 st December 2021	Recreational fisher, Cullercoats, fished with pots within the district that without a NIFCA 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.
1 st February 2022	Commercial Fisher, Co Down, failure to supply accurate permit returns information to the authority contrary to NIFCA Byelaw 1 Trawling. Cat 13, IFCA Permit, Penalty Level 1, First Offence £250. Offered, not accepted, prosecution thresholds not met.

Prosecutions

Date of offence	Prosecution
10 th of February 2022	Pending, Commercial Fisher from Newbiggin by the Sea. Who failed to comply with a reasonable request made by a fisheries officer contrary to section 292 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and who fished with in the NIFCA district using a Trawl without a NIFCA permit, contrary to NIFCA byelaw 1. Trawling.
10 th of February 2022	Pending, Owner, Unlicensed Fishing Vessel, Newbiggin by the Sea whose vessel fished with in the NIFCA district using a Trawl without a NIFCA permit, contrary to NIFCA byelaw 1. Trawling.
25 th of February 2022	Commercial Fisher, Seahouses. Who failed to return to the sea berried female lobsters contrary to the Sea fish conservation Act 1967 in respect to UK statutory instrument 2017 No 899. Who landed prohibited parts of shellfish contrary to NIFCA Byelaw 3. Crustacea Conservation. Who landed edible crab claws amounting to more than 10% of the weight of the vessels catch. Who failed to return to the Authority accurate information regarding his permit returns contrary to NIFCA Byelaw 4 Crustacea and Mollusc Permitting and Pot Limitation.

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's, 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's 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.
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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	The assessment of environmental effects of major strategic plans. SEA

Environmental Assessment (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 System (GPS)	A satellite-based navigation system.
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



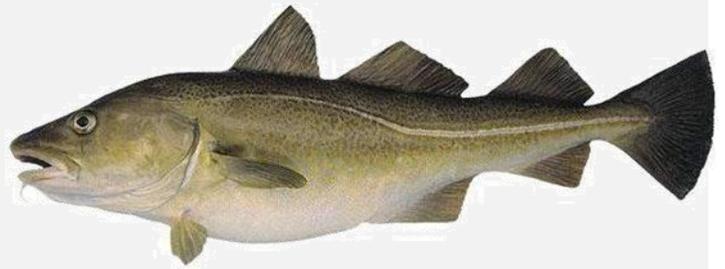
Scallop

Pecten maximus



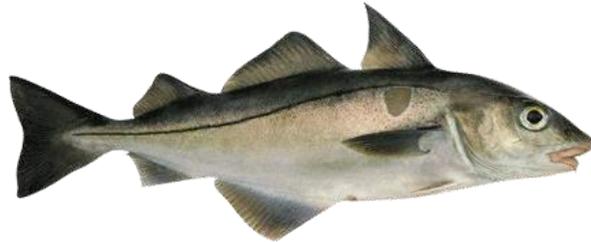
Cod

Gadus morhua



Haddock

Melanogrammus aeglefinus



Plaice

Pleuronectes platessa

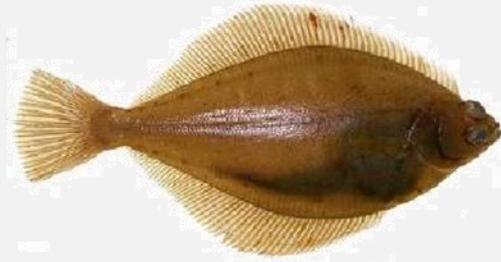


Flounder

Platichthys flesus



Dab *Limanda limanda*



Bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*



Herring *Clupea harengus*



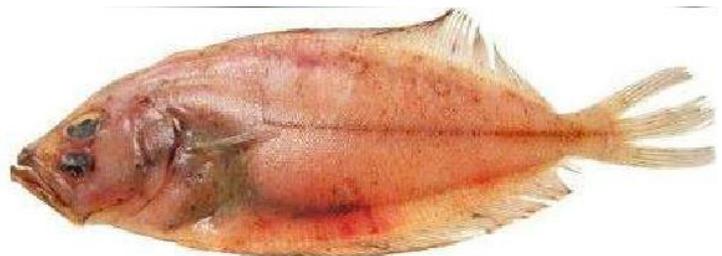
Sprat *Sprattus sprattus*



Mackerel *Scomber spp.*



Megrim *Lepidorhombus spp*



Hake

*Merluccius
merluccius*



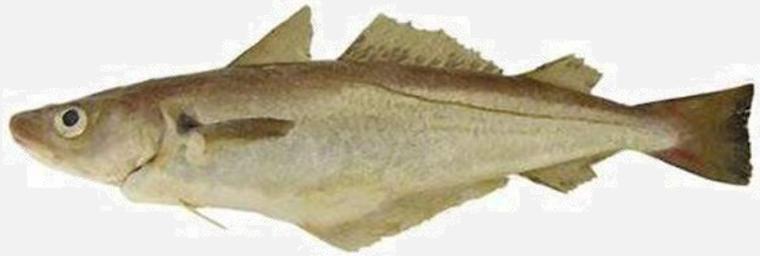
Pollock

*Pollachius
pollachius*



Whiting

*Merlangius
merlangus*



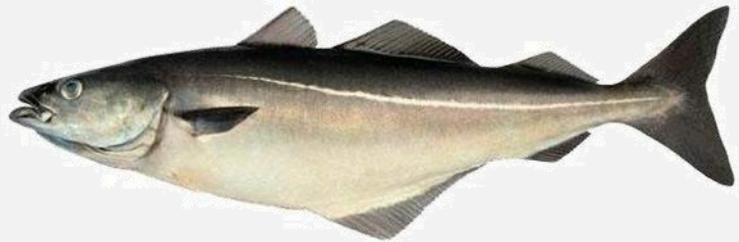
Ling

Molva molva



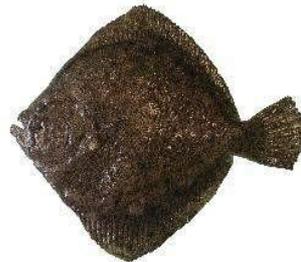
Saithe

Pollachius virens



Turbot

*Scophthalmus
maxima*

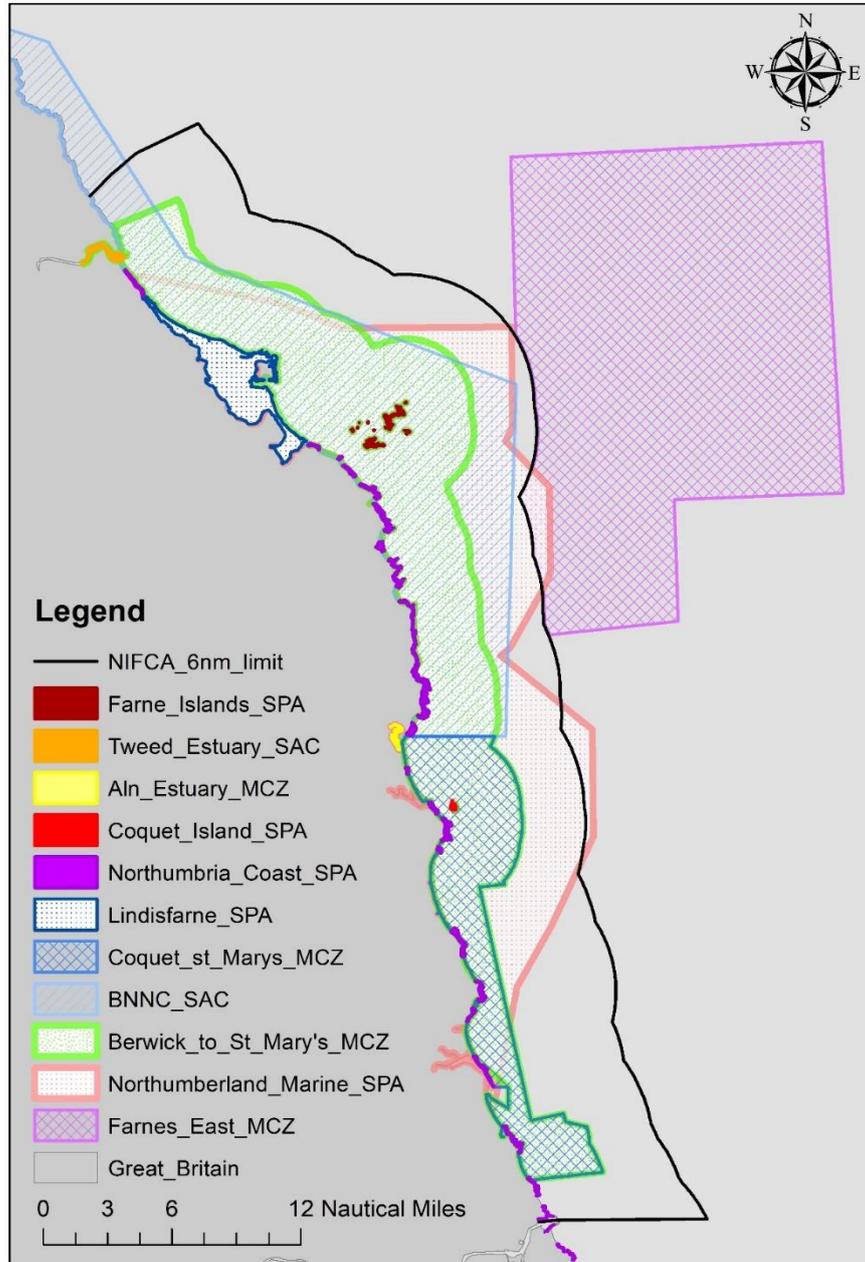


MARINE PROTECTED AREAS WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO NORTHUMBERLAND IFCA'S DISTRICT

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





'Scorpion fish at Cresswell demonstrating camouflage'