

## Précis: Joint Annual Work Arrangement (JWA) for Northumberland IFCA and Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and the Environment Agency – October 2022

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

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

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

The items outlined in this document will ensure NIFCA has the correct tools and expertise to meet the IFCA vision: Lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.

	Item◇	Work Area	Activity	Output	Agreement	Involvement and role (where applicable)			
						NE	IFCA	MMO	EA (also see Annex 1b)
A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	MPAs (including conservation and sustainability on a wider scale) _	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revised Approach to management of fisheries within MPAs</li> <li>- Activity monitoring within MPAs</li> <li>- Management of MPAs (current and future) [reactive management of high risk – activities]</li> <li>- Utilise the ecosystem approach</li> <li>- Consideration of wider environment outside of MPAs (see marine planning)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A well-managed network of MPAs.</li> <li>• Ecosystem Approach inside and outside of MPAs, consideration of ecosystem services, including natural capital.</li> <li>• Consideration of change in policy, legislation and regulation, as appropriate e.g. around, Nature Recovery Network, HPAs and Bait Digging/Hand gathering.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parties to support each other in the designation process where appropriate.</li> <li>• This includes execution of appropriate regulations (including byelaws) for Northumberland region MPAs within district and Execution of duties in accordance with the requirements of the existing management scheme, where appropriate.</li> <li>• Effectiveness of Management Measures in MPAs:</li> <li>• NIFCA and the statutory bodies to jointly review the effectiveness of the agreed management measures in meeting the conservation objectives within the MPAs and improve/amend where needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Support with HRA /MCZ assessment process.</li> <li>Advice regarding Ecosystem Approach inside and outside MPAs</li> <li>Provide statutory and non-statutory conservation advice to partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Responsible for ensuring fishing activity doesn't have a significant effect on MPAs within the NIFCA district.</li> <li>Links to M&amp;C plans/ management plans e.g. shellfish (NIFCA).</li> <li>Appropriate consultation protocols will be followed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide advice, MPA management, monitoring, enforcement, Marine Licensing and Marine Planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ EA will work with other agencies to link monitoring and regulatory work.</li> <li>EA regulatory responsibilities salmonid fisheries</li> <li>Provide various types (e.g. conservation, bathing water quality etc.) of statutory advice to partners.</li> <li>Nature recovery work including, not limited to essential fish habitats</li> </ul>
						e.g. regular evidence meetings with NIFCA. stat. advice to MMO			e.g. advice to MMO
B	8,9,10,11,12	Enforcement (inside and outside of MPAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor fishing activity (link to iVMS in C below)</li> <li>- Conduct vessel and landings inspections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of the marine environment and promote sustainable fish stocks through effective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All relevant parties will conduct Joint Operations, Cross-warranting and intelligence sharing to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Working with NE on site specific issues? E.g. Lindisfarne.</li> <li>Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group attendance</li> <li>Attends NIMEG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cross warranted with MMO and EA [note also cross warranted with the Tweed Commission]</li> <li>Intel Policy and MCSS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cross Warranting and joint working with NIFCA.</li> <li>Intel System and MCSS and the Mobile Working app.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cross Warranting with NIFCA.</li> <li>Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group attendance</li> <li>Attends NIMEG</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure compliance with legislation</li> <li>- Intelligence sharing</li> <li>- Cross-warranting</li> <li>- Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group</li> <li>- Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG) – once a month, opportunity for IFCA, Police, EA officers (as appropriate) to meet and discuss emerging and existing issues.</li> <li>- Weekly vessel monitoring telecalls.</li> <li>- Weekly JMOCC reports</li> <li>- iVMS project in process of being rolled out</li> </ul>	<p>management and legislation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intelligence-led, informed joint working as a result of the Tactical Coordination Group (TCG) meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand each other's priorities.</li> <li>• Increased communication –</li> <li>• Effective risk-based targeting in line with a national enforcement strategy, which includes NIMEG (national inshore marine enforcement group) and JMOCC – (joint marine operations control centre).</li> <li>• Appropriate and proportionate approach to enforcement.</li> <li>• Formal Charter Agreement MOA between MMO and local IFCAs to govern the chartering of IFCA assets to the MMO</li> <li>• Strategic Operations Group (SOG) between IFCA and MMO at a higher level</li> </ul>		<p>Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group attendance</p> <p>Attends NIMEG</p> <p>NIFCA shares monthly rotas with the MMO</p> <p>As part of the Formal Charter Agreement, NIFCA charter their vessels and staff on a consent basis</p> <p>Monthly enforcement meeting between MMO and NIFCA [also NEIFCA]</p>	<p>Annual Local Joint Enforcement Group attendance</p> <p>Attends NIMEG</p> <p>MMO attends JMOCC and communicates with other partners</p> <p>MMO – shares weekly plan with IFCA</p> <p>As part of the Formal Charter Agreement, MMO will request vessels and staff, as required.</p> <p>Monthly enforcement meeting between MMO and NIFCA [also NEIFCA]</p>	<p>Since 2004, the EA has used a data base called Memex (used by a number of Police Forces) to store information. It now uses the 3x5x2 (replacing old 5x5x5) grading system that was introduced by the Home Office in March 2016. All EA Fisheries Enforcement officers have input and search rights.</p> <p>NIFCA and MMO share intel directly with EA Intel Unit and such intel is logged onto Memex for Area attention.</p> <p>We will work with our partners to promote and support specific joint enforcement operations (eg 'Operation Seabird', covering coastal wildlife crime, led by Northumbria Police).</p>
						e.g. at Lindisfarne NNR	e.g. MMO and NIFCA have undertaken joint operations to meet the prevailing operational needs as required,	e.g. INTEL. Confidential Intel Reports (CIR) have replaced the Suspicious Activity Report (SARs). This has been rolled out nationally and appointed Officers and staff who have secure CJSM email accounts and can send Intel Reports to the MMO	EA enforcement officers have carried out joint operations with NIFCA, including boat patrols. These are intended to carry on into the foreseeable future.
C	13,14,15, 24	Data collection, monitoring, analysis and reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operational monitoring</li> <li>- Marine Monitoring and</li> </ul>	Evidence used to inform management (e.g. threats/risks to features of MPAs,	Parties should work collaboratively where possible this includes –	✓	✓	✓	✓
					1. sharing resources/assets	NE evidence relating to evidence projects and condition monitoring is	Continue working with universities	Comprehensive statistical data collection for all first	EA work, similar to NE monitoring and research, is made available to partners.

	Also Links to MPA (A) and Enforcement (B)		<p>Evidence group ^</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Various working group</li> <li>- Scientific investigations</li> <li>- evidence assessment of data linking to MPA/ management work area</li> <li>- Assist with survey and data collection</li> <li>- Environmental partnership work, formal and informal</li> <li>- Contribute to collation and assessment of evidence to identify evidence gaps and how to address them</li> </ul>	bye law review <i>et cetera</i> ).	<p>including data (nbDPA) and GDPR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. assist with surveys/data collection</li> <li>3. project- based approach in some areas of work [see item 24 for detailed examples].</li> <li>4. provide feedback on reports</li> <li>5. Engage with working Group approach – attend meetings, host, contribute as appropriate.</li> </ol> <p>^ agree to meet annually November to discuss next year's monitoring and evidence needs.</p>	<p>made available to partners. National NE data releases</p> <p>Continue working with universities</p> <p>NE evidence database: <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>Work of this nature is documented in the NIFCA annual research plan <a href="https://nifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-22-Annual-Research-Plan-V0.2-compressed.pdf">https://nifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-22-Annual-Research-Plan-V0.2-compressed.pdf</a> and report [<a href="https://nifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Annual-Research-Report-2020-21.pdf">https://nifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Annual-Research-Report-2020-21.pdf</a>]</p>	<p>sale fish sold and vessels (catch recording app) in England, permitting accurate assessments to be carried out in relation to queries from stakeholders and outside agencies</p>	<a href="#">fish and ecology data explorer</a>
		Future activity Vessel monitoring to inform on management	Operational vessel monitoring with iVMS for under 12 metre vessels [internal testing ongoing] Statutory Instrument (SI) delayed (as of Sept 2022)				IFCA sit on the iVMS stakeholder group	. Themis vessel monitoring system is live. iVMS will be included when it starts .	
D	16,17,18,19,20, 21,22,23	General Joint Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation and communication</li> <li>- Process to ensure that each organisation will work collaboratively and share information to ensure that each other's statutory objectives and requirements are met wherever possible.</li> <li>- Data sharing [see row 17 of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enables all parties to make the most of resources available to achieve joint goals and ensures efficient and effective management.</li> <li>• Ensure that all parties are consulted on all developments that are relevant to them to ensure openness,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All items within the JWA relate to successful joint working and a good working relationship.</li> <li>• All parties understand that the priorities of the different organisations should be balanced.</li> <li>• All parties to attend NIFCA quarterly/Technical and Scientific Meetings.</li> </ul>	<p>✓ NIFCA member</p> <p>Attend meetings and support partners</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Attend meetings and support partners</p> <p>NIFCA and MMO have a signed data agreement</p>	<p>✓ NIFCA member</p> <p>Attend meetings and support partners</p> <p>NIFCA and MMO have a signed data agreement</p>	<p>✓ NIFCA member</p> <p>Attend meetings and support partners</p>

			<p>2016 document for details]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree to share data and abide by principles, such as GDPR</li> <li>- Resource/Asset sharing</li> <li>- IFCA Committee Membership</li> <li>- Collaborative working</li> <li>- Review progress</li> <li>- Resolve issues</li> <li>- Share reports</li> </ul>	transparency and “no-surprises.”					
E	25	Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend meetings</li> <li>- Engage with stakeholders</li> <li>- Share information</li> <li>- Consideration of hybrid working and people’s flexible working requirements</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	Promote the aims of NIFCA, NE, EA and MMO.	<p>All parties to engage with fishers and other stakeholders and promote the aims of partners where applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend meetings and conferences</li> <li>- Website and social media (e.g. twitter)</li> <li>- Promotional materials (e.g. leaflets)</li> <li>- stakeholder events</li> </ul>	<p>✓</p> <p>Will promote partner organisations /engage with stakeholders where appropriate</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Will promote partner organisations /engage with stakeholders where appropriate</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Will promote partner organisations/engage with stakeholders where appropriate</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Will promote partner organisations/engage with stakeholders where appropriate</p>
F	26,27,28	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint training</li> <li>- Work shadowing</li> <li>- Discuss training needs and opportunities.</li> <li>- Skill development.</li> </ul>	All officers of relevant organisations (as required) to be fully enforcement trained and cross-warranted and able to develop further skills.	<p>All parties should exchange opportunities for staff development –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conservation</li> <li>2. Marine Planning</li> <li>3. Marine Licensing</li> <li>4. Enforcement</li> <li>5. Fish Identification</li> <li>6. Survey Methodology</li> <li>7. MCA Beachmasters course</li> <li>8. Emergency Response Training</li> </ol>	<p>✓</p> <p>NE to give relevant training when appropriate.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>NIFCA to give training to committee members, and partners when appropriate.</p> <p>National aIFCA training programme (with Lead training officer, Stevie Travis) and is available to other organisations.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>MMO to give relevant training when appropriate.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>EA to give relevant training when appropriate.</p>
							<p>e.g. accreditation training remains an aspiration.</p> <p>New member training for IFCA members</p>	<p>e.g. accreditation training is ongoing.</p>	<p>e.g. water quality (abiotic) meter, fish ID</p> <p>aspiration for pollution training [see G]</p>
G	29	Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan contingencies at local level</li> <li>- Membership of North East Standing Environment Group (SEG) – new boundary of Scottish Borders to Spurn Point.</li> </ul>	Local issues addressed in National Contingency Plan. Planning and preparation promotes a more effective response in the event of an incident.	<p>All parties sit on the Standing Environment Group (SEG) –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree to communication with respect to emergencies. Emergencies will be dealt with. Emergency byelaws may be used to respond to unseen fisheries management emergencies.</li> </ol>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>

			- Understand roles for Marine Pollution Incidents.		2. SEG deals with pollution incidents. 3. SEG meets particularly as and when needed.				
H	30	Marine Planning	North East Marine Plan has been formally adopted June 2021	Consideration of the Ecosystem Approach to management.  Wider consideration of the environment, habitats and species (including transitional spp.) outside of MPAs  Consult the marine plan where appropriate	MMO to keep NIFCA. EA and NE informed  Partners will engage with the process as necessary.  Talk to partner agencies around marine casework to reduce the of contradictory advice, and where appropriate alert partner agencies regarding casework along the coast.  IFCAs must take account of the marine plan when making byelaws [check policies contradicts or prevents NIFCA making byelaws] align with principles and accords of NE marine Plan/	✓ will continue to engage and attend events Take account of Marine Plans in work going forwards  Watch this space	✓ will continue to engage and attend events  Take account of Marine Plans in work going forwards  Watch this space	✓ will continue to engage and attend events Take account of Marine Plans in work going forwards  Watch this space	✓ will continue to engage and attend events Take account of Marine Plans in work going forwards  Watch this space
I	Funding	FUNDING	Develop projects in partnership relevant to organisational objectives Pursue funding Project based approach		Should a strategic grant or grants be identified, parties will work together as appropriate/with relevant organisations to develop projects University funding CASE/NERC, and other funding opportunities as they arise	✓	✓	✓	✓
			Highlight socio-economic, cultural support for individuals and communities		Flagging local issues resulting in hardship to National/government, which may benefit from additional support, where possible/appropriate.	✓	✓	✓	✓ [not in EA's remit would support in principle]

J	High level changes	Respond to changes in the government's environment, enforcement, and management approaches  e.g. Defra's 25-year plan Fisheries Act Environment Act Fisheries Management Plan development	Keep up to date Respond to direction of the plan(s), as appropriate		Keep partners informed as to the ramifications of changes in a changing political landscape Support partners	✓	✓	✓	✓
K	Covid /illness	NIFCA Office, functions and operations of the Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hybrid working</li> <li>- Minimise the risk of transmission of COVID 19 and other illnesses</li> <li>- Follow Government advice</li> <li>- Risk assess operations</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing information and intel</li> <li>• Consistent approach to compliance</li> <li>• Coordination of compliance to avoid duplication of activity and location patrols</li> <li>• Facilitate activity on behalf of other organisations</li> <li>• Mutual support for resourcing during sicknesses</li> <li>•</li> </ul>		move to hybrid working  field work, as appropriate following H&S guidelines	Developed Hybrid working [circumstances required and H&S consideration]	MMO Enforcement is also hybrid working. Largely aligned with NIFCA's way of working	move to hybrid working  field work, as appropriate following H&S guidelines

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

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

- we will look at opportunities for sharing resources, intelligence and information as well as carrying out joint operations
- we will take forward cross warranting and joint training

14. Marine monitoring (EA & NE & NIFCA)

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

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

EA, NE, IFCA Marine Monitoring Meeting priorities:

- Seagrass: Holy Island and Budle Bay every year (EA/NE)
- Macroalgae survey Holy Island and Budle Bay (1 in 3 year at the same time as seagrass) (EA/NE)
- Saltmarsh: Surveyed Holy Island and Budle Bay in 2022, Plan to survey Farne Islands to Newton Haven (Long Nanny) Waterbody in 2022
- Blyth Estuary: benthic invert survey (Requested but waiting to see if is on Local Commission) (EA/NE/IFCA)
- TRaC fish surveys: all EA work cancelled this year, may reform with a different structure next year with opportunity for organisations to work together. LNNR: NE would like NIFCA to do fish surveys in intertidal channels to feed into the Shorebird Project. (EA/NE/IFCA)
- Mussel sampling for contaminants at Blyth and Holy Island(EA/IFCA)
- Intertidal rocky reef and subtidal stony reef monitoring in BNNC SAC (NE)
- UAV project: practical applications of UAVs for intertidal monitoring (NE/IFCA)
- restoration work (EA/NE)
- IFCA priorities – see Annual Research Plan (IFCA)

17. Sharing data (EA & NE & NIFCA)

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

27. Marine licensing (EA&NE)

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

29. Emergency response (EA & NIFCA)

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

**To continue**

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

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