

Working Group Update on The Possible Creation of a CIO

Background

At the June meeting the Authority agreed that a working group should be established to consider setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to complement the work of the Devon and Severn IFCA and with a remit to support sustainable exploitation of the marine environment across the South West. The group comprised of the Acting Chief Officer, both Vice Chairs, Richard White (MMO appointee), Natasha Barker-Bradshaw (MMO appointee) and, at the request of Devon County Council, Angela Stirland.

Summary

The meeting opened with the Chair providing some further background to the proposal to the working group. She then invited each member of the group to articulate any concerns that they may have so that these could be addressed.

Issues/concerns

- Needs to be clear delineation between the IFCA and any CIO
- Clarity over what information could and couldn't be shared between bodies
- Principle that this is new money for new work
- Need to continue to work in partnership
- Needs to happen to support our work
- CIO is the best vehicle available
- Need quality trustees
- Need to clarify any relationship between IFCA and CIO

Responses

- Agreed. The CIO has by law to be a separate body with its own constitution etc. The link is that the objects of the charity would align with the broader requirements of S153 of MaCAA. Trustees would be independent from the IFCA Authority but members of the authority could become trustees through an open appointments process. This would then need to be declared as part of the potential conflicts of interest.
- The CIO like the IFCA would be required to comply with all relevant legislation. If there was a collaborative project then the issue of data and extent of sharing would be agreed in any written contract.
- The purpose of the CIO is to support marine research and education within the IFCA district and beyond. The purpose is clear, geographically delineated and distinct. Money would not pass from the IFCA to the CIO unless the two bodies were entering into a contract. For both parties their own relevant financial policies and procedures would apply.
- By its very nature the aim of the CIO will be to convene partnerships to work on issues of interest

- The success of the CIO will depend on the effectiveness of the trustees so recruiting good trustees is essential
- Already discussed but the CIO is a completely independent body separate from the IFCA

Following on from the discussions the general consensus was that the group should progress to the next stage, namely the preparation of a set of objects that could form the basis of the CIO. This would require a second meeting to be arranged once the holiday season was over and diaries more settled.

Recommendation: That the Authority notes the progress of the working group and raises any questions or concerns.