



**IFCA COG Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Government of Jersey, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, London, SW1H 9BP**

**Minutes**

**Start: 10:30**

**Attending:** Will Wright (WW), Mike Hardy (MH), Stephen Bolt (SB), Robert Clark (RC), Stephen Atkins (SA), David McCandless (DM), Samantha Davis (SD),

**Defra:** Anne Freeman (AF)

- 1. Apologies:** Julian Gregory (JG), Mat Mander (MM), Greg Morel (GM), Isle of Man, Tom Hooper (TH), Michael Coyle (MMO), Grant Fulton,
- 2. Minutes from previous meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Following queries from SA, amendments and comments to the draft minutes were completed by DM. Further to this, discussions followed surrounding the issue of where individual IFCAS posted their minutes and actions to the COG meetings. It was agreed that the written minutes should be private minutes, however the actions can be worded sensitively before they go into the public domain.

- 3. Matters arising & actions from minutes**

WW continued with the actions from the previous meeting. The **White paper** – SB stated that a meeting has been arranged by Defra. AIFCA will draft bullet points for this meeting. **Fisheries**

**Bill** – SB confirmed there is no forthcoming meetings arranged at this stage. **iVMS** – This has now been superseded.

#### **4. Suggested 2019 COG Meeting Dates**

15 & 16 January 2019

9 & 10 April 2019

16 & 17 July 2019

15 & 16 October 2019

WW suggested that the April and October meetings were hosted by IFCA's in their individual regions. TD will look at possible venues from Sussex. All agreed that the regional meetings over the two-day period should be organized for the ancillary work to take place on the first day and the COG meeting should happen on the second day. **Action: April and October COG regional meetings. SB will speak to MMO to ask for the use of their venue in Newcastle for the April meeting. SS will send outlook invites to all COG.**

#### **5. EIFCA / MMO Pilot Collaboration programme**

SB advised that the transformation board had picked up the proposed collaboration pilot between the MMO and EIFCA. SB confirmed that a meeting had been planned for 15<sup>th</sup> November and that he would be attending to represent EIFCA not the AIFCA; although he can be there to represent the Association if the need arises. He confirmed that this was an exploratory meeting at this stage. The group discussed the pilot and current progress regarding joint working and several concerns and issues were raised and highlighted. The consensus was to maintain momentum of collaborative working with the MMO through the Senior Management Group. WW agreed to prompt the MMO for another meeting. TD suggested that IFCA's should consider making a presentation to MOSC highlighting deliver of key IFCA outputs following collation of a summary matrix. **Actions: WW to request a meeting date for the MMO/IFCA senior managers working group. RC to compile a spreadsheet of what is need for the matrix. SS & SB will ensure the enforcement figures are included in the matrix. SB will also look at a presentation that we may be able to send to MOSC.**

#### **6. National IFCA Training – Update**

MH confirmed the advertisement for Lead Trainer has now been advertised. So far there had been just one applicant. Interviews will be carried out in November and preparation undertaken by Dom Bailey, SB and MH. The plan is for the successful applicant to commence in January 2019. MH confirmed also that individual IFCA's who will be sending delegates will in effect be self-funding all training requirements. The annual Torquay course would cost each IFCA in the region of £850 per delegate, slightly higher than previous years but still representing excellent value. MH advised that the Torquay course was scheduled slightly later than previous years running from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and delegates would need

to arrive no later than 4pm on the Sunday. In terms of the other additional training packages proposed, including the two day introductory and advance courses, these would be charged per delegate in addition to the contribution towards the funding of the lead trainer of £1,500 per IFCA and £300 for IOS as advised in the AIFCA meeting. MH agreed to update everyone on costs once provisional uptakes had been finalized by each IFCA. The group discussed the potential of involving the Environment Agency in the training.

#### **7. MMO/IFCA Vessel Charter Pilot**

SB confirmed that this programme has been driven by Day 1 readiness. Three IFCAs, Cornwall, Southern and EIFCA had been engaged in a pilot study to explore the practicalities of chartering vessels with the MMO with the potential of a wider 'roll out' in due course. The pilot would initially involve a 'dry-run' of two charter trips per IFCA. SD advised that CIFCA would be operating solely in the 6 to 12 zone. The pilot would explore tasking and command structures and assist in the development of a standard MOU. MH expressed gratitude to colleagues for their IFCAs taking on this and asked if we could all be kept up to date as members will be interested in the potential for demands on IFCA resources beyond the local remit. WW suggested COG have an agenda item for this at the next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to review the progress of the pilot and applicability going forward. **Action: COG/NIMEG to review**

#### **8. Review of Association – Update**

DM advised that he had approached East Riding of Yorkshire Council to enquire as to whether they might be able to support a review of this Association, but they were unable to commit resources. SB confirmed that he has had a proposal from a company that Tom Hooper put him in touch with which he will send to everyone once he has received the bid. TD has also looked at a company, Create 51 in Sussex who have kindly sent introductory slides, for which he is happy to put forward a proposal. He confirmed that this company has worked previously with SE water companies and, could deliver by December 2018. **Action: SB to contact Penny Hodge of Create 51 to discuss the review further.**

#### **9. iVMS – Update**

WW confirmed that he had a conversation with JG prior to the COG meeting. JG was absent due to other meeting commitments but wanted to ensure that everyone had received notification from Leanne Stockdale regarding the new set up. The MMO have taken on the responsibility the EMFF funding for iVMS but IFCAs will still play a major role in the project to ensure the best outcome for all fishermen and to get the project moving. **WW asked for it to be noted in the minutes that COG thanks JG for his hard work and persistence in delivering this project.**

## 10. Update from Defra – Anne Freeman

AF advised that all departments and resources within Defra were very focused on EU exit planning which was shifting towards a 'no deal' scenario.

She confirmed the launch of the White paper and thanked the Association and individual IFCA's for their responses. The plan is to publish the responses followed by the release of the Fisheries Bill.

Environmental NGOs are putting on the pressure for sustainability. However, there are mixed views on English Fisheries reform. Defra have completed the intel work and gathered information.

The fisheries bill is expected to be coming soon. If this is introduced, we will do something, before, during and after in terms of briefing IFCA's. AF also confirmed that the Secretary of State will set up quota's, delegate power from EU to amend supporting legislation and manage fisheries flexibly, provide greater cost recovery powers to the MMO, establish UK grant funding powers for fisheries and greater byelaw making powers to the MMO. The publicized tech notice on 'no deal' implications for commercial fisheries has been sent to all IFCA's and AF advised that this could be published in Authority papers.

Day 1 prioritisation – Catch certificates, projects requiring new IT solutions which are being led by MMO, also multiple work streams through business readiness programmes and legislative programmes which AF is leading on.

AF advised that due to the pressure of EU exit work some other programmes would have to be de-prioritised including the report into the conduct and operation of IFCA's which would move into 2019. Given that the consultation period had now closed the group requested preliminary feedback which AF agreed to look at. **Action: AF to consider the provision of preliminary feedback to IFCA's. Also, the IFCA byelaw programme. DM highlighted the need to prioritise some IFCA byelaws particularly those replacing time limited emergency measures.**

## 11. MMO IFCA Byelaw Process Review

Nick Greenwood had contacted WW before the COG meeting to suggest that it might be valuable to arrange a special meeting to discuss the findings and recommendations of the IFCA byelaw process review. NG did suggest a meeting in York; however, WW asked for an agenda item to be added to COG in January 2019. **Action: Byelaw review to be added as an agenda item to the January COG meeting. Nick Greenwood to receive an invite.**

## 12. Future Funding for IFCA's post 2020

Following the Association meeting in June, SB's action was to propose a way forward for the IFCA's and the Association to engage with the 2019 spending review and to continue beyond 2020. SB is asking for case studies from the IFCA's which he could add layers to the present document that will give evidence of the effectiveness of the IFCA's to Defra. As per the AIFCA

meeting, SB wrote to Mat Mander, copied to Elaine Hayes to invite them onto the technical working group; they have accepted the invitation. SB had asked if anyone from another IFCA would like to get involved in this group please let him know. SB has drawn up a communication plan which has been updated from the 2011-15 report to 2015-21. The matrix that RC talked about would be extremely helpful. SB also advised that the information contained on the self-assessment forms that individual IFCAs completed as part of the conduct and operation report would be extremely valuable, but he was still one or two outstanding. **Action: To everyone that hasn't sent SB their self-assessments please do so. He will set out further stages and what his expectations are.** TD requested a timetable and the provision of a clear plan. It was agreed that the core text of a response would be finalized by end of November 2018 with supporting case studies. **Action: SB to finalise IFCA future funding response by end of November 2018.**

### 13. AOB

White Paper – discussed

Marine Conservation Society (MCS) – MH explained the issues that he is now receiving from Jean Luc Solandt of the MCS surrounding the amendment of NIFCA's SAC protection "red risk" byelaw to open soft grounds, which are still protected. Jean Luc got in touch about protecting species when NIFCA were making the byelaws. NIFCA consequently looked at this, objections were unfounded so NIFCA made the byelaw. This subsequently went to MMO. Jean Luc is now stating that it has breached the whole site approach. MH had correspondence with JLS, but he hasn't accepted the relevance of any of the data that NIFCA had collected over the last four years or the balanced approach as per the NIFCA vision which it felt that the proposed amendment enshrines. JLS is also citing EIFCA, K&E and NWIFCA.

Plastics – SB commented that following a phone call there is a directive on single use plastics and fishing gear single use plastics. He confirmed that we will have to comply if fishers buy fishing gear with plastic they will have to pay a tax. He stated that this also includes recreational fishing. **Action: SB will send all the information that he has received on plastics.**