

Agenda Item 7

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Full Authority Meeting
18th March 2021

D&S IFCA Annual Plan 2021-2022

Recommendation 1 – D&S IFCA Members agree to the appointment of a FRMP Officer on a two year fixed term contract to be paid for out of General Reserves (Annex 2)

Recommendation 2 - D&S IFCA Members agree to the appointment of a GIS Officer on a fixed term contract for one year to be paid for out of General Reserves (Annex 3)

Recommendation 3 - D&S IFCA Members agree to trial the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring Equipment associated with IVMS to be paid for out of General Reserves (Annex 4)

Recommendation 4 - D&S IFCA Members agree to contract the services of an External Provider to review Internal Systems and Policy documents to be paid for out of General Reserves (Annex 5)

Recommendation 5 – D&S IFCA Members adopt the draft Annual Plan 2021-2022 (subject to amendment) as the Final Annual Plan 2021/2022 to be published on the D&S IFCA's website and submitted to Defra by 31st March 2021 (Annex 6)

Overview of Recommendations

D&S IFCA's Officers have drafted an Annual Plan for the FY 2021-2022. D&S IFCA's Draft Annual Plan 2021-2022 contains many tasks that have been informed by the Internal Annual Report 2020-2021 (Annex 1) produced by Officers on the status (whether completed or not) of workstreams set out in the previous year's Annual Plan. This internal reporting has helped determine those workstreams that need to be included in the 2021-2022 Annual Plan, and details workstreams where, although some elements were completed in 2020-2021, there are still incomplete areas of work that need to be finalised. The Annual Plan 2021-2022 will be published on the D&S IFCA's website by 31st March 2021, as indicated in the IFCA's Success Criteria 4.

The draft Annual Plan 2021-2022 is D&S IFCA's 11th Annual Plan, and it sets out the priorities for the forthcoming year. It has a different format from previous Annual Plans and separates out the Key Tasks that must be delivered and also identifies much of the essential work that is carried out as Business as Usual under the nationally agreed Success Criteria.

If the Annual Plan 2021-2020 is approved by the Authority, there are four areas of work which will require the use of D&S IFCA's General Reserves to be undertaken and completed. Annexes 2 to 5 included with this paper detail those workstreams. A summary is given below:

Annex 2: Fisheries Research and Management Plan Officer

In order to complete District wide FRMPs, to fulfil national policy drivers such as the 25YEP and the Fisheries Act 2020, the funding of a D&S IFCA FRMP Officer on a two year fixed term contract, from General Reserves, is required

The costs for the FRMP Officer, employed for one year under the Marine Pioneer Project, were £28,895 including pension contributions and National Insurance. The costs to employ an officer for two years, at this year salary would be £57,730 including on costs.

Annex 3: GIS Officer

The work of a Contracted GIS Officer for one year will be to review and produce a portfolio of map and chart products using GIS that will supporting D&S IFCA's management of fishing activities.

The salary range for the contract, depending on skills and experience, would be between £28,895 and £35,487 including pension contributions and National Insurance.

Annex 4: Trialling Remote Electronic Monitoring Equipment

Officers estimate that for a project of between £10,000 and £15,000 a camera trail onboard trawlers and scallopers could be undertaken. Officers have approached fishers already and had confirmation from them that they would be willing to volunteer to be part of the trial. Those fishers that are willing to take part have highlighted how the technology may be able to improve their fishing businesses and may lead to changes in the management of fisheries that will benefit them.

The camera project would enable D&S IFCA to assess the opportunities to use technology with IVMS data and logbook or catch app data to understand, monitor and manage fisheries at levels not previously possible.

Annex 5: External Service Provider for Reviewing Internal Systems

A review of internal systems including D&S IFCA's Data Protection Policy and Standards is required and contracting an external Service Provider will provide advice and assistance to carry out this work.

D&S IFCA Officers have already been in contact with a potential external Service Provider and if the Members agree to the use of Reserves for this work stream officers will explore this further. It is not possible to establish exact costs for this work at this time, however it is likely to cost of between £5,000 and £10,000.

Annex 6: D&S IFCA's Draft Annual Plan 2021-2022