



Annual Plan 2021 - 2022

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Overview | 3 |
| Introduction | 4 |
| Part 1: | 5 |
| 1.1 Overview and Policy Drivers | 5 |
| 1.2 The Ecosystem Approach and Fisheries Management | 5 |
| 1.3 Improving the Ecological Evidence Base for Management of Key Species | 7 |
| 1.4 Compliance Management | 7 |
| 1.5 Marine Protected Area Management | 8 |
| Part 2: | 9 |
| Key Tasks: Management of Fishing Activities | 9 |
| Management of Fishing Activities Table: | 11 |
| Key Tasks: Evidence | 13 |
| Evidence Table (1): | 16 |
| Key Tasks: Internal Processes | 18 |
| Internal Processes Table: | 19 |
| Key Tasks: Communication | 20 |
| Communication Table:..... | 21 |
| National IFCA Success Criteria | 22 |

Overview

Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) and the District for which it has responsibility, was established under sections 149 and 150 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) and took on its full Statutory role from the 1st April 2011.

Under Sections 153 and 154 of MaCAA, D&S IFCA, whilst managing the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in its District, must:

- Seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way,
- Seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the District with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote the recovery from, the effects of such exploitation,
- Take any other steps which in the D&S IFCA's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development,
- Seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the District, and
- Seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any Marine Conservation Zone in the District are furthered

D&S IFCA also contributes significantly to the delivery of many other national policy commitments in the marine environment including the management and enforcement of the Marine Protected Areas network in the coastal waters around England. The introduction section of this Annual Plan provides further details on how other legislative drivers help determine the work required to be delivered by the D&S IFCA.

To guide D&S IFCA's work, Members established core [Principles](#) and committed to delivering the national IFCA vision to;

'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'

This is the D&S IFCA's 11th Annual Plan, and it sets out the priorities for the forthcoming year. The Annual Plan sets out the Key Tasks that must be delivered but also identifies much of the essential work that is carried out as Business as Usual under the nationally agreed Success Criteria.

An Internal Annual Report for the Financial Year 2019-2020 has been used to help identify which of the incomplete tasks from the last financial year need to be carried over to this Annual Plan.

Critical to the success of this Annual Plan will be the release of funding from D&S IFCA's Reserves. Notwithstanding the ability to deliver some of the workstreams identified in this Annual Plan through the use of Reserves, the continued pressure on the Revenue Budget means that resourcing of D&S IFCA has reached a critical level. Any additional workload, as has been reported in the previous Annual Reports, or financial pressure will, more likely than not, lead to D&S IFCA not being able to fulfil all its Statutory duties.

Introduction

The Fisheries Act 2020 will help transform the way that fisheries are managed across the UK. The prospects of the Environment Bill also passing into law will provide the legislative framework to deliver real change in the way that fisheries and marine conservation are managed in the future. These laws will build on the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) that introduced some significant changes including the way inshore fisheries and conservation was undertaken.

Over the last ten years, D&S IFCA has met the many challenges that have been presented in order to deliver its Statutory duties set out in MaCAA and has introduced new ways of working including the introduction of fishing activity-based permit byelaws and the use of technologies to assist with the management of the mobile gear sector. Four activity-based permit byelaws have been introduced and the Annual Plan set out where they are in the review cycle. The level of work identified in the Annual Plan to progress the review of the existing permit byelaws means that it will not be possible to develop further the proposed Handworking Permit Byelaw.

In 2018, D&S IFCA introduced the requirement for all commercial vessels operating with mobile gear within the District to have a fully functioning vessel monitoring system on board reporting positional information every ten minutes but at least every three minutes intervals whilst operating within Marine Protected Areas. The Annual Plan sets out the next stages of development in the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring onboard commercial fishing vessels to deliver a further step change in the way that fishing activity is monitored and managed.

There is still much to do to fully integrate inshore fisheries and conservation management and to deliver balance between the varied interests of marine stakeholders including commercial fishers, conservationists, and the recreational fishers.

This Annual Plan identifies what work needs to continue to develop these established workstreams further but also looks at the role that D&S IFCA may have in the development and delivery of the Fisheries Management Plans created under the Fisheries Act 2020. D&S IFCA expects to fully engage in the development and delivery of locally based plans that support the overarching national plans. The new Fisheries Management Plans are designed to develop much stronger stakeholder involvement in the design and delivery of the plans. The Annual Plan identifies a further communication initiative to allow D&S IFCA's Members and Officers to engage more fully and regularly with stakeholders.

The Fisheries Act 2020 and MaCAA both recognise the importance of integrating the recreational fishing sector's activities and interests in fisheries and conservation management. Despite many reviews such as Angling 2012 and follow up assessments in 2016 & 2017, notable change, in the way fisheries are managed to reflect the importance of the sector, has not yet occurred. This Annual Plan will look to build on the work carried out by D&S IFCA to explore how angling interests may be better met by reviewing the impact and success of the Angling Zones established in 2015, under D&S IFCA's Recreational Sea Angling Strategy.

Mariculture has significant potential to grow in the D&S IFCA's District, significant mussel and scallop farms already exist and interest in seaweed farming continues to grow. D&S IFCA has produced a Mariculture Strategy through which it will support the delivery of its Statutory Duty under S.153 (c) of MaCAA and elements from the Strategy flow into the Annual Plan.

The Annual Plan identifies what specific survey work will be undertaken to provide the necessary information to inform further Tranche 2 and Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zone activity assessments and further European Marine Site Habitat Regulation Assessments. In addition, this Annual Plan highlights the increasingly significant workstream that involves D&S IFCA responding to numerous and sometimes potential very significant marine planning applications and consultations. These include proposed new works, dumping at sea applications and mariculture sites. In addition, D&S IFCA remains involved with the development of the Hinkley Nuclear Power Station and is preparing to give evidence at the scheduled Public Inquiry in April 2021.

Part 1:

1.1 Overview and Policy Drivers

To fulfil its duties under the MaCAA, the D&S IFCA's work must also be responsive to developments in other legislation and to Government and external policy drivers, which could directly or indirectly impact fisheries or the status of the fish stocks or ecosystems upon which they depend.

D&S IFCA needs to be able to respond to changing marine policy, especially the increasing focus on local management, using the best available evidence at the appropriate scale, and flexible and adaptive management measures.

1.2 The Ecosystem Approach and Fisheries Management

The Ecosystem Approach underpins the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). In 2018, the Government published its 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) which confirms the UK's commitment to the Ecosystem Approach in relation to marine and fisheries management. One of the core principles of the Ecosystem Approach is that management should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level to involve all stakeholders and balance local interests with the wider public interest with the understanding that, the closer management is to the ecosystem, the greater the responsibility, sense of ownership, accountability, public participation, and use of local knowledge. This resonates strongly with the generic IFCA's vision and D&S IFCA's Vision formalised in 2020, which states:

We believe in shared responsibility for the health and benefits of the marine environment and uphold our duties, now and in the future. We will be proactive in our management to restore and recover marine ecosystems, habitats and species. We envisage that the waters, under our authority, will support sustainable fishing practices serving local, national and international communities. We will innovate, and champion the use of technology, the delivery of low impact fisheries and the UK Government's 'Net Zero' by 2050 carbon target. We embrace co-management and will drive change in inshore recreational and commercial fisheries, recognising their social and economic benefits, and securing a future for sustainable fishing in the coastal belt.

The Fisheries Act was introduced in 2020 and will transform fisheries management across the UK. Key elements of the Act are the fisheries objectives, which include:

1. “sustainability objective” that—
 - (a) fish and aquaculture activities are—
 - (i) environmentally sustainable in the long term, and
 - (ii) managed so as to achieve economic, social and employment benefits and contribute to the availability of food supplies, and
 - (b) the fishing capacity of fleets is such that fleets are economically viable but do not overexploit marine stocks.
2. The “precautionary objective” that—
 - (a) the precautionary approach to fisheries management is applied, and
 - (b) exploitation of marine stocks restores and maintains populations of harvested species above biomass levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield.
3. The “ecosystem objective” that—
 - (a) fish and aquaculture activities are managed using an ecosystem-based approach so as to ensure that their negative impacts on marine ecosystems are minimised and, where possible, reversed, and
 - (b) incidental catches of sensitive species are minimised and, where possible, eliminated.
4. The “scientific evidence objective” that—
 - (a) scientific data relevant to the management of fish and aquaculture activities is collected,
 - (b) where appropriate, the fisheries policy authorities work together on the collection of, and share, such scientific data, and
 - (c) the management of fish and aquaculture activities is based on the best available scientific advice.

Another key component of the Fisheries Act is the production of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for each species of sea fish and must specify the types of fishing for these species, the geographical area, the relevant authorities involved in the management of fisheries and indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of the plans. D&S IFCA has developed Fisheries Research and Management Plans (FRMPs) for five key species in the north of its District and will roll out these plans for these species across its District and develop further FRMPs for other key species. Under these FRMPs D&S IFCA will explore the benefits of increasing the access to historic non-quota species that are the key components of inshore fisheries.

D&S IFCA’s commitment to the Ecosystem Approach, underpins its ongoing engagement in marine planning discussions and input into technical working groups for specific marine developments likely to impact fish (e.g. Hinkley Point C), and research projects looking at the evidence base for licensing decisions relating to fish impacts from such developments. The working groups have allowed, and will continue to allow, D&S IFCA to look at how an Ecosystem Approach will more directly underpin fisheries management in the future. The inclusion of a local perspective on

fisheries management and the utilisation of IFCA's expertise in practical delivery of fisheries management is of crucial importance for the development of an Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management. Input into some major consultations for developments, will continue to be a major workstream for 2021-2022.

1.3 Improving the Ecological Evidence Base for Management of Key Species

Whilst the management of inshore fisheries has been increasingly devolved to a local level, many fish stocks have distributions, which span the IFCA's six nautical mile seaward limits to its District and multiple national State jurisdictions. Therefore, the management of many fish stocks was governed by the EU CFP and the major evidence collection frameworks for fish operate at an EU or national level (such as ICES data series, WFD TrAC sampling). The UK will maintain its current involvement with ICES post EU exit as ICES is not an EU institution. The development of Fisheries Management Plans will acknowledge finer population structure for many fish species which is significant in managing viable local stocks especially when considering the management units currently in place. Short-term project-based work helps to build on this evidence base for individual species, but these projects are often short lived and are not necessarily focussed on providing evidence at the appropriate spatial scale for IFCA management. D&S IFCA is therefore increasingly involved in the management of, or research into, fish stocks and this is highlighted in its FRMPs.

D&S IFCA will produce a Taw Torridge Mussel fisheries management plan which will take a holistic look at both the intertidal and sub-tidal mussel resource and how best to manage the resource for the SSSI designated overwintering birds whilst allowing for a viable commercial hand gathering mussel fishery.

1.4 Compliance Management

Full compliance with UK and in particular local fisheries and environmental legislation is the overall aim of the D&S IFCA. This aim is best achieved through the adoption of an adaptive, co-management approach to fisheries management. The key to achieving high compliance is ensuring that those users, who are potentially affected, have a real opportunity to engage with the D&S IFCA over the local management approach to be taken and understand why this approach has been adopted. D&S IFCA's Communication Plan and use of permitting byelaws are designed to support better engagement and the production of detailed committee reports does allow everyone to understand how management decisions were arrived at.

D&S IFCA is fully engaged with the National Intelligence Model. The model is designed to encourage the adoption of an intelligence led, targeted approach to enforcement. By taking this approach the D&S IFCA complies with the Hampton Principles of Better Regulation as set out in the Regulators' Compliance Code and the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 (as amended). In support of another Principle of Regulation created by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, the D&S IFCA has created a robust decision-making process that is used to consider the appropriate disposal of all its investigations. The process involves the D&S IFCA's prosecuting Solicitor using the Code of Crown Prosecutors to determine whether the evidential test and public interest tests have been satisfied. If these tests are passed the Solicitor provides independent

advice on the most appropriate action to take to dispose of the case. More detail on how the D&S IFCA conducts its work and what sanctions are available when offending is detected is set out in the D&S IFCA's Compliance and Enforcement Strategy.

D&S IFCA's practical approach to enforcement has always included searching for alternative ways of working and exploring the use of technologies. This is best represented by the D&S IFCA's decision to introduce Vessel Monitoring Systems on all towed gear vessels operating in the District as a key part of the D&S IFCA's approach to spatial enforcement. Drones are already used in connection with estuarine surveys carried out by D&S IFCA. For 2021-2022 a key task the trialling the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring equipment on board vessels in the D&S IFCA's District to aid further monitoring and management of fishing activities.

1.5 Marine Protected Area Management

D&S IFCA has ten European Marine Sites designated under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, and four Tranche 1, two Tranche 2 and six Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) designated under MaCAA.

Many of these sites co-locate and some have shared boundaries with other IFCA's, the MMO and Welsh Government. D&S IFCA is the appropriate and relevant authority to manage the exploitation of fishing activities within these Marine Protected Areas (MPA), or parts thereof, within the six nautical mile seaward limit of its District and officers undertake evidence gathering, monitoring and enforcement relevant to this duty. This year's work will focus on the completion the necessary assessments of fishing activities in Tranche 3 MCZ but also the requirement to review its management approach in many of the other designated MPAs. In addition, D&S IFCA is committed to supporting the four Monitoring and Control plans that have been agreed to gather additional information on certain fishing activities occurring within MPAs.

Some of the assessments relate to potentially opening access to demersal mobile gear into areas within MPAs that have been closed under precautionary measures, due to inability, at the time, to monitor the mobile fleet remotely. With the introduction of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and increased positional reporting rates (three minutes inside MPAs and every ten minutes elsewhere in the District) these activities can be more closely monitored.

The Defra family has formed a working group to define the 'Whole Site Approach' to MPA management, which is highlighted in the 25YEP and to integrate it into the management of fishing activities in MPA. It is expected that consideration would be given to protecting all habitats in the site against potentially damaging fishing activities and assess the ecosystem services they provide, as opposed to continuing with a feature-based approach. It is anticipated that during the year an announcement will be made regarding the Government's review into whether and how Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMA) could be introduced.

Part 2:

Key Tasks: Management of Fishing Activities

Under Ss. 5 & 6 of MaCAA, D&S IFCA inherited byelaws from Devon Sea Fisheries Committee and the Environment Agency. There is a requirement to review these byelaws to determine whether the byelaws were fit for purpose. The Authority has provided the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) with delegated powers to perform this key element of core working within the framework of an overarching strategy and a series of [principles](#) to guide strategic decision making.

The B&PSC has recognised and made use of S.156 of MaCAA in order to introduce permit-based byelaws. Permit-based byelaws provide scope for both fixed and flexible management measures via the conditions of use within the permits issued to fishers. The permit model is intended to promote stakeholder engagement and this engagement can influence decision making. The review procedure of flexible conditions is detailed within the byelaws and D&S IFCA has a duty to review all the flexible conditions (per byelaw) at least every three years. Any new permit byelaw needs to be reviewed every five years. The key tasks for 2021-22 reflect the requirement to undertake both a review of existing permit conditions and continue the process to review already introduced Permit Byelaws.

A review of the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw has already begun, and work set this year will see progression on the re-making of this byelaw (and associated permit conditions). The completion of environmental assessments related to European Marine Sites (EMS) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) will enable the B&PSC to revisit previously deferred decision-making regarding access for mobile fishing vessels operating within the District, and potentially introduce new measures in Tranche 2 MCZs.

Work will begin on a review of both the Potting and Diving Permit Byelaws. Both of these byelaws require re-making and to recognise that the timeframe for delivery will extend beyond April 2022, officers will present “review planning documents” to the B&PSC later this year. These planning documents will identify the separate elements of work that may be undertaken to deliver the overarching objective of re-making these byelaws and associated permit conditions. Planning documents for the review of these Byelaws will identify key steps that may be needed over a longer time frame including pre-consultation requirements and written work such as legal drafting and the creation of Impact Assessments.

A review will also begin on a legacy byelaw inherited by Devon Sea Fisheries – Size of Vessels Byelaw. Officers will assist the B&PSC in determining what aspects of work will be needed during 2021-22 to progress this work. The introduction of a Hand Working Permit Byelaw does not feature in the 2021-22 Annual Plan; however, a National Working Group (FISHGIG) has been established to potentially develop a joint approach with the view to a creating a consistent regulatory framework. It is envisaged that this collaborative working will be influential for future development of the Hand Working Permit Byelaw, including defining its scope and the content of the associated permit conditions.

The Netting Permit Byelaw was introduced in 2018 and therefore the associated permit conditions will be subjected to a review (Three-Year Review of Permit Conditions) beginning in 2021-22. The focus will once again be to prepare a planning document that will be presented for approval by the B&PSC. Breaking the larger task into focussed elements will allow the required work to flow whilst allowing scope for other work to feed into the overarching task.

The Taw Torridge Estuary in North Devon is one of the few estuaries in D&S IFCA's District that has a commercially viable public mussel resource. Mussel beds on this estuary exist intertidally and there is known to be a sub-tidal resource where mussel spat settles. Intertidal mussel surveys have been conducted by D&S IFCA since 2011 on an annual basis. As the Taw Torridge Estuary is a Site of Special Scientific Interest the results of the mussel surveys are fed into a bird food availability model to determine the food source available for the overwintering birds that the SSSI is designated for. The model predicts the amount of mussel resource that can be taken by hand gatherers on the estuary on an annual basis. D&S IFCA continues to work with Natural England to manage the resource and determine the monthly biomass of mussels that can be harvested. In 2020, alongside the intertidal survey, a sub-tidal mussel survey was undertaken working collaboratively with a mussel fisher and Natural England. Natural England gave assent for a trial to take place to remove some of the subtidal resource and relay it in specific areas of the intertidal beds to determine if this a viable option to manage the resource within the estuary. For FY 2021/2022 a Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Management Strategy, using the evidence gathered from sub-tidal and intertidal surveys and food availability modelling, will be developed to provide a framework for the management of the mussel resources and fishery in this estuary.

D&S IFCA drafted a Mariculture Strategy in 2019/2020. The final Strategy includes several actions to aid mariculturists and developments in the D&S IFCA's District. Actions include: - mapping spatial zones for the potential for future mariculture developments; providing a comprehensive guide and on-line resource pack for new and existing mariculturists; reviewing and responding to marine licence application relating to mariculture developments; reviewing and managing the Waddeton Regulating Order; continuing to engage with mariculturists and national aquaculture groups, and working with regulatory agencies. One action within the Strategy relates to conflict between mariculture developments and the commercial fishing sector. Due to conflict between mobile gear vessels and existing mariculture sites, damage to mariculture sites and loss of gear, stock and earnings to these businesses, has occurred. Consideration by the B&PSC on including mariculture sites within the Mobile fishing Permit annexes as spatially restricted areas, may provide some protection to the sites and aid monitoring of activities in and around the sites.

GIS mapping is integral to D&S IFCA Officers work. A key task for 2021/2022 is to review and produce a portfolio of map and chart products using GIS that will support D&S IFCA's management of fishing activities. With changes to permit conditions, periodic review and production of annexes associated with the permits are required. This key area of work will establish consistency in chart production across all teams and support several other workstreams detailed in this plan, such as producing fishing activity charts and supporting the aims of the Mariculture Strategy. A GIS Officer will be contracted to undertake this work and provide templates for all mapping and chart products for use in future workstreams.

Management of Fishing Activities Table:

| Topic | Annual Plan Ref: | Success Criteria Outcome | Actions | Rationale |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Review of the existing Netting Permit Conditions | KT001 | SC31 | To present an officer "Planning Report" to the B&PSC which identifies potential weaknesses or suggested potential changes to the overarching Potting Permit Byelaw (and associated permit conditions). The plan will also identify areas where pre-consultation may be required and identify potential changes in management within the regulatory framework. | Agreement by the B&PSC to potentially action the officers' plan will enable different aspects of the Netting Permit Condition Review to be conducted without the need to report to the B&PSC at every stage. Officers will report back at key stages for further decision making. |
| Review (re-make) of the Potting Permit Byelaw | KT002 | SC31 | To present an officer "Planning Report" to the B&PSC which identifies potential weaknesses or suggested potential changes to the overarching Potting Permit Byelaw (and associated permit conditions). The plan will also identify areas where pre-consultation may be required and identify potential changes in management within the regulatory framework. | Agreement by the B&PSC to potentially action the officers' plan will enable different aspects of the Byelaw Review to be conducted without the need to report to the B&PSC at every stage. Officers will report back at key stages for further decision making. |
| Review of the existing Potting Permit Conditions | KT003 | SC31 | To present the findings of the 2021 Live Wrasse Fishery and the comparison with all data collected since 2017 to the B&PSC. | This evidence will be help inform decision making by the B&PSC on potential changes to management measures for the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery |
| Review (re-make) of the Diving Permit Byelaw | KT004 | SC31 | To present an officer "Planning Report" to the B&PSC which identifies potential weaknesses or suggested potential changes to the overarching Diving Permit Byelaw (and associated permit conditions). The plan will also identify areas where pre-consultation may be required and identify potential changes in management within the regulatory framework, including the scope of the Byelaw to introduce management measures for fin fish. | Agreement by the B&PSC to potentially action the officers' plan will enable different aspects of the Byelaw Review to be conducted without the need to report to the B&PSC at every stage. Officers will report back at key stages for further decision making. |

| Topic | Annual Plan Ref: | Success Criteria Outcome | Actions | Rationale |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| Review (re-make) of the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw | KT005 | SC31 | To present an officer "Planning Report" to the B&PSC which identifies potential weaknesses or suggested potential changes to the overarching Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (and associated permit conditions). The plan will also identify areas where pre-consultation may be required and identify potential changes in management within the regulatory framework. | |
| | KT006 | SC31 | Consideration by the B&PSC of potential management of mobile gear activities to protect Mariculture Sites within the D&S IFCA's District. | To fulfil elements detailed in the D&S IFCA Mariculture Strategy |
| To Review the Size of Vessels Byelaw | KT007 | SC31 | To present an officer "Planning Report" to the B&PSC which identifies potential weaknesses or suggested potential changes to the Size of Vessels Byelaw. The plan will also identify areas where pre-consultation may be required as well as process related tasks needed to re-make this Byelaw. | Agreement by the B&PSC to potentially action the officers' plan will enable different aspects of the Byelaw Review to be conducted without the need to report to the B&PSC at every stage. Officers will report back at key stages for further decision making. |
| Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Management Strategy | KT008 | SC33 | To develop a Management Strategy for the Taw Torridge Estuary mussel resource which identifies a programme of actions for the development of the mussel fishery. | To inform the further development of the Hand Working Permit Byelaw. |
| GIS Mapping of all spatial and activity data | KT009 | SC31 | To review and produce a portfolio of map and chart products using GIS that will support D&S IFCA's management of fishing activities. This task links with other workstreams in this Annual Plan. | With changes to permit conditions, periodic review and production of annexes associated with the permits are required. Through contracting a fixed term GIS Officer this work can be done and all chart products can be reviewed. |
| Trialling Remote Electronic Monitoring Equipment | KT010 | SC | To undertake a trial of new technologies in remote electronic monitoring to include gear-in gear-out equipment and on-board cameras | To further D&S IFCA's vision by using new technologies to increase D&S IFCA's capability to monitor fishing activity and compliance with Permit Conditions. |

Key Tasks: Evidence

Evidence gathering is at the core of management decisions for D&S IFCA. The very best available evidence is needed to fulfil the IFCA's duties under Ss. 153 and 154 MaCAA. Whilst many aspects of research are covered by D&S IFCA's Success Criteria there are key research and evidence gathering tasks outlined in this Annual Plan.

There are many on-going research projects which will continue throughout 2021 and 2022, such as monitoring of the Live Wrasse Fishery the results of which will feed into the management of this fishery and determine any changes to Potting Permit Conditions. Surveys will be undertaken through use of the PV David Rowe accompanying the fishing vessels or through on-board surveys. The aim is to achieve 10% coverage of the known fishing trips, the majority of which will take place between July and October 2021. The data gathered from these surveys provide the most detailed evidence which together with environmental parameters will be analysed at the end of the fishing season and feed into a detailed report to be considered by the B&PSC in February 2022.

D&S IFCA, as part of the Marine Pioneer and working in partnership with North Devon UNESCO Biosphere, hosted a Fisheries Research and Management Plan (FRMP) Officer in 2020. D&S IFCA's FRMP Officer has been exemplary in working with the scientific community as well as with the fishing industry to produce comprehensive FRMPs for five key species in the north of D&S IFCA's District. The FRMPs use a localised and ecosystem-based fisheries approach to summarise current knowledge and explore research and management needs for key fisheries. In addition to providing thorough reviews of the ecology, fisheries, and management for the focal species, the FRMPs take a pioneering approach to integrate local and historical knowledge with scientific research outcomes, building the knowledge base and highlighting knowledge gaps to inform future research and management opportunities. Each FRMP includes a prioritised set of research requirements that needs to be addressed (by D&S IFCA and/or external organisations) to enable appropriate management of the relevant stock(s). The FRMPs also provide recommendations for fisheries management, making the case for local, sustainable, ecosystem-based fisheries management where realistic and appropriate. To build on this work D&S IFCA will extend the plans for Bass, squid, herring, skates and ray and whelks across the whole of the District to produce D&S IFCA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for these species. Once these plans are completed this work will continue on other species in the District including scallops, spurdog, cod, sole, plaice, crab, and lobster. National policy drivers such as the 25YEP and Fisheries Act have the commitment to an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. National FMPs are a requirement of the Fisheries Act 2020 and will form the basis of future UK fisheries management. D&S IFCA's FRMPs will inform the national FMPs and shape high level discussions.

A key task for 2021/2022 involves continued input into considerations relating to Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station, and the scale of this workstream is likely to be very large. D&S IFCA's Senior Environment Officer will input into the Marine Technical Forum of Hinkley Point C, the public inquiry related to the environmental permit appeal (triggered by EDF, regarding cancellation of the Acoustic Fish Deterrent), other relevant consultations (closed and public, including for marine licences and environmental permits) and other related Hinkley meetings and workstreams.

Additional responses will be submitted to appropriate national consultations and discussions relating to Hinkley Point C and related issues including water abstraction for direct cooling and acoustic fish deterrents on abstraction infrastructure. D&S IFCA has substantial concerns relating to the impacts of Hinkley Point C on the Severn Estuary EMS, in particular the fish assemblage (as well as broader concerns relating to the impacts of the methods proposed if applied elsewhere); these concerns have been outlined at length in recent consultation responses. It is important that D&S IFCA continue to express these concerns and engage with the industry and regulators via appropriate channels in fulfilment of S.154 MaCAA. Additionally, D&S IFCA has a non-statutory role on Hinkley C Marine Technical Forum. Using this position, the D&S IFCA believes that it can highlight its concerns over the development of such a significant project and the impact on the Severn Estuary EMS. D&S IFCA will attend the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) public inquiry, and give evidence as dictated by PINS and will provide updates to D&S IFCA Members.

MPA assessments will continue to be undertaken for fishing activities taking place in the MPAs in the D&S IFCA's District. Key tasks for FY 2021/2022 include the completion of the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and Hartland Point to Tintagel T2 MCZ assessments using the best available evidence on features, habitats, fishing activity and literature reviews. The Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ assessments for demersal fishing gear will also be completed using the best available evidence from ground-truthing surveys previously undertaken, analysis of IVMS data to assess demersal fishing activity in the site and a review of relevant scientific literature reviews. Once completed, assessments will be sent to Natural England for formal advice and where appropriate management measures will be recommended for consideration by the B&PSC. In FY 2020/2021 several strands of research were undertaken on the seagrass beds in the Torbay MCZ. These included a side scan survey of the location and extent of seagrass, the mapping of potting and netting effort on or adjacent to the seagrass beds and filming to ground truth the side-scan survey and investigate the impact of pots on the seagrass in Torbay. This research was carried out following Natural England's formal advice on the completed MCZ assessments for netting and potting on seagrass in Torbay MCZ, which suggested that the evidence provided indicating no significant effect was insufficient. The key tasks in this Annual Plan are to analyse all the evidence collected from the surveys and review the MCZ assessments for potting and netting in Torbay MCZ.

Evidence gathering, on the fishing activities within the T3 MCZs in the D&S IFCA's District, will continue in FY2021/2020 and will be used to produce fishing activity reports for these MCZ. These will inform draft MCZ assessments to identify any potential significant impacts of fishing activities on the designated features of the six T3 sites in the District. Where MPA assessments were undertaken and Natural England's formal advice suggested that there were uncertainties in the data and evidence used in the assessment, D&S IFCA has produced four Monitoring and Control Plans (M&CPs). These M&CPs are for shad in the Plymouth Sound EMS and in the Severn EMS, and for mobile gear in the Torbay MCZ and in the Lundy SAC. Baseline M&CP reports were produced in 2020 and further evidence will be collected and analysed in 2021 to identify any significant changes from the baseline information.

Spiny lobster research on sightings, catches and tagging of spiny lobsters continued in 2020, working closely with the fishing industry. The key task under this Annual Plan is to collate all data on spiny lobsters collected to date from fishers returns, tagging work, Seasearch surveys and

any relevant environmental information, as well as up to date landings and sales information, and produce a report on the findings. This evidence gathering will be reinforced by further fishing industry and stakeholder engagement to help inform a review of current management measures in MCZs and may provide recommendations to the B&PSC on potential changes to management of this species in the D&S IFCA's District

In 2017 the D&S IFCA's Netting Permit Byelaw was introduced. During the consultation phase on the Netting Permit Byelaw, representation was made from fishers from the Salcombe Estuary who highlighted that the estuary was not used by migratory fish and therefore salmon and seatrout would not be impacted by the existing netting activity. Proposals were put forward during the consultation, to have a limited fishery with nets set for a limited time, and fishers in attendance to mitigate capture of bass and allow them to be returned to sea alive, whilst being able to land other species such as mullet and gilthead bream. Whilst a prohibition on netting was introduced in the estuary thereafter, fishers have now requested that D&S IFCA look at the possibility of a limited net fishery and to undertake research and investigations to assess bass survivability in the nets after a limited soak time. Two key tasks are set for 2021/2022: firstly, to undertake a literature review of the survivability of bass through netting activities and the techniques used to assess these; and secondly, if appropriate, to undertake site-specific research to understand the netting techniques used for the capture of mullet, gilthead bream, and bass, and to investigate the survival of bass in the field.

Partnership working is at the core of the evidence gathering that D&S IFCA undertakes. Much of the research could not be achieved without working with stakeholders, fishing industry members, NGO bodies and agencies such as Cefas, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Collaboration with academic institutes is also key to fulfilling the evidence gathering function of the IFCA. D&S IFCA is increasingly involved in finfish research and working with a range of respected specialists in this field, which has increased the knowledge of the IFCA and the development of robust research projects. To fulfil D&S IFCA's Success Criteria the Environment Team undertakes work such as Marine Licence Application Consultations, EIRs, MPA reporting, issuing dispensation/authorisations, attending conferences and events, and giving presentations not only on research topics but on the overall management strategies and achievements of the IFCA. Many coastal and estuary fora meetings, and fishing association meetings are attended where D&S IFCA officers give regular updates on its workstreams. The Environment Team members sit on Defra initiated national groups e.g., Shellfish Industry Advisory Group, Crab management Group, Marine Protected Area Group and Impact Evidence Group, Defra's Blue Carbon Working Group as well as the IFCA Technical Advisory Group and the Hinkley C Marine Technical Forum. Officers are also involved in national and regional projects such as ReMeMaRe Project (Restoring Estuarine and Coastal Habitats), ReMEDIES seagrass restoration Project, and the FISHINTEL Interreg project led by University of Plymouth.

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Evidence Table (1):

| Topic | Annual Plan Ref: | Success Criteria Outcome | Actions | Rationale |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| Wrasse | KT011 | SC33 | To undertake surveys during the fishing operation of vessels in the Live Wrasse Pot fishery. | To fulfil the D&S IFCA's objective to have a fully- monitored sustainable Live Wrasse Fishery in its District as agreed by the B&PSC. |
| | KT012 | SC33 | To analyse the data for 2021 and compare it to data collected annually since 2017 to investigate changes in LPUE and CPUE for all species caught and to produce a report of the data collected for 2021 compared with previous years' data and present to the B&PSC | |
| Fisheries Management Plans (FMP) | KT013 | SC33 | Extend the first five FRMP to District FMPs for herring, bass, whelk, skates & rays and squid and to commence work on FMP for additional species. | To fulfil national policy drivers and objectives. |
| Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station | KT014 | SC13 | To participate in the PINS Pre -and Public inquiry as dictated by PINS relating it the cancellation of the Acoustic Fish deterrent and input into meetings and relevant consultations. | To highlight D&S IFCA's concerns over the development of such as significant project and the impacts of Hinkley Point C on the Severn Estuary EMS. |
| EMS/MCZ Assessments | KT015 | SC32 | To complete the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and Hartland Point to Tintagel T2 MCZ assessments. | These assessments will inform the review of Mobile Fishing Permit conditions. |
| | KT016 | SC32 | To complete the T1 Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ assessments for demersal fishing gear. | These assessments will inform the review of Mobile Fishing Permit conditions. |
| | KT017 | SC32 | To gather evidence and produce Tranche 3 MCZ fishing activity reports and commence drafting of MCZ assessments for the six sites within the D&S IFCA's District. | To fulfil the D&S IFCA's environmental duties and Defra's revised approach to managing commercial fishing activity. |
| | KT018 | SC32 | To analyse all the data collected from surveys undertaken in FY2020/2021 and produce a report on the seagrass in Torbay and fisheries interactions with it. | The results and conclusions of the analysis of evidence collected will help inform the assessment and may led to consideration of potential management with the B&PSC. |
| | KT019 | SC32 | To review data and evidence collected regarding fishing activity within four MPAs in the D&S IFCA's District to inform the Monitoring and Control Plans for these MPAs. | This will identify any changes in activities that may lead to a review of MPA assessments. If further |

| Topic | Annual Plan Ref: | Success Criteria Outcome | Actions | Rationale |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | management is recommended it can be considered by the B&PSC. |
| Spiny Lobster (Crawfish) evidence review and dissemination | KT020 | SC31 | To review all data and evidence on spiny lobsters collected to date and produce a report. | To inform a review of current management measures in MCZs and may provide recommendations to the B&PSC on potential changes to management of this species in the D&S IFCA's District |
| Salcombe Scallop Fishery | KT021 | SC33 | To analyse all data from the fishery from 1998 to 2020 and produce a report. | To feed into a D&S IFCA FMP for scallops. |
| Bass Survivability | KT022 | SC31 | To undertake a literature review of the survivability of bass through netting activities and techniques used to assess these. | To inform the review of D&S IFCA's Netting Permit conditions |
| | KT023 | SC31 | Site-specific research will be undertaken to understand the netting techniques used for the capture of mullet, bream, and bass, and to investigate the survival of bass in the field. | |
| Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery | KT024 | SC33 | To assess the intertidal and sub-tidal mussel stocks in the Taw Torridge Estuary, and to assess the success of the relaying trial. | To inform the development of a Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Management Strategy |

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Key Tasks: Internal Processes

D&S IFCA is a Statutory Authority that sits within the local government family and it is essential that D&S IFCA is supported by an organised, efficient, and effective secretariat. The majority of the internal process workstreams form part of success criteria; some critical aspects of work relating to internal systems and the governance of the organisation have been highlighted as key tasks for 2021-22.

In 2020 the D&S IFCA established the Governance Working Group (GWG) to drive specific elements of reform. The Governance Working Group has identified priorities for 2021, which have been set out in a dynamic catalogue for their delivery and a dedicated website page has been created within the secure area of the website to support the GWG. Priorities for 2021 include establishing new Schemes of Delegation which are fundamental to improve how the organisation functions.

Meetings and processes in general must run smoothly to be efficient and for that reason additional training on meeting protocol has been identified as a key task for 2021-22.

The development and ongoing use of an Information Management System is vital to provide the D&S IFCA and its staff, operating on a day-to-day basis, with the correct framework to comply with legislative requirements. The use of an external service provider to examine internal systems with a focus on all data Protection (and standards) and advice accordingly may improve on what is already in place.

D&S IFCA is accountable for its use of public resources and a system to better capture the time spent by officers delivering different aspects of work has become a key task for 2021-22. The assignment of codes in the tables within this Annual Plan has been developed to allow for more detailed recording of how officers spent their time delivery the required workstreams.

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Internal Processes Table:

| Topic | Annual Plan Ref: | Success Criteria Outcome | Actions | Rationale |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| To introduce Schemes of Delegation | KT025 | SC41 | For the Governance Working Group to establish Schemes of Delegation and for them to be approved by the Authority at the AGM. | To enable the organisation to function more efficiently. |
| Governance: Training and guidance on meeting protocol | KT026 | SC43 | For members and officers to receive training on meeting protocol and for simplified guidance to be created to accompany formal standing orders. | To allow meetings and decision making to be conducted with support from DCC Democratic Services |
| Accountability | KT027 | SC42 | To introduce a detailed time accounting system to record officers' time on Annual Plan workstreams. | To enable costs/staff time to be effectively evaluated |
| Internal Systems | KT028 | SC43 | To review internal systems & all Data Protection Policy (and Standards) and refine documentation where necessary. | The assistance of an external independent expert will enable officers to refine existing documentation and internal frameworks to meet required standards. |

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Key Tasks: Communication

IFCAs should be visible, respected, and a trusted regulator within coastal communities. D&S IFCA has implemented a Communications Strategy to identify how it will engage with different stakeholders. Most communication tasks form part of on-going IFCA Success Criteria; however, a key task for 2021-22 builds on better use of technology to reach its audience. The Covid-19 pandemic provided the catalyst for a change in approach to some forms of communications and for many people in society virtual “on-line” meetings have become the norm and have replaced attendance at physical venues. The key communication task for 2021-22 builds on the officers’ experience of using Zoom and a pilot roadshow will be undertaken using this communication tool. It is hoped that different fishers and stakeholders will embrace the opportunity to engage with officers and discuss a wide range of topics relating to D&S IFCA’s work.

In order to improve communications with the stakeholders D&S IFCA will be undertaking a pilot roadshow of virtual stakeholder meetings. This key task is split into three elements. Fishing port specific virtual meetings will be undertaken to provide topical information about the work of D&S IFCA and to understand issues that impact commercial fishing sectors at these ports relevant to D&S IFCA’s work. The virtual roadshow will also include setting up two stakeholder fora to facilitate engagement with other relevant sectors such as marine conservationists and recreational sea angling. It is hoped that these meetings will provide greater opportunities for collaborative engagement and promote open channels of communication.

The Skerries Bank Angling Zone was set up in 2015. In 2019-2020, a report reviewing the Skerries Bank Angling Zones was produced, along with two reports, one on Blonde rays and plaice Landing and stock assessment and the second on a Skerries Bank Angling Zone Shore Report in 2020. D&S IFCA will increase its outreach to the sectors involved to assess the effectiveness of the Skerries Bank Angling Zone. This key task will involve gathering views on levels of activity in the angling zone and assessing whether activity had changed. Other elements to this task will include an assessment on how the angling zone has worked, identifying what issues might have arisen since its formation and to consider the next steps. The action for FY 2021/2022 is to carry out consultation and meetings with the three interested sectors who utilise the Angling Zone and to review the voluntary management approach in the Skerries Bank Angling Zone.

In addition to the evidence task on spiny lobsters within this Annual Plan (KT020), commercial fishing sectoral virtual meetings will take place at key port locations in the D&S IFCA’s District to disseminate the results of the evidence collected and discuss with the fishers their views on what potential management measure they might wish to be introduced. Outputs from the research and engagement will inform a review of potential management of this species across all sectors which can be considered by the B&PSC.

Communication Table:

| Topic | Annual Plan Ref: | Success Criteria Outcome | Actions | Rationale |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Pilot Roadshow of virtual stakeholder meetings | KT029 | SC11 | To undertake fishing port specific meetings to engage with commercial fishers. | To provide greater opportunities for communication and engagement with the fishing industry. |
| | KT030 | SC11 | To set up a stakeholder forum to facilitate engagement with recreational angling representatives. | To provide greater opportunities for communication and engagement with the recreational angling stakeholders. |
| | KT031 | SC11 | To set up a stakeholder forum to facilitate engagement with marine conservation representatives. | To provide greater opportunities for communication and engagement with marine conservation stakeholders. |
| Skerries Bank Angling Zone | KT032 | SC11 | To carry out consultation and meetings with the three interested sectors who utilise the Angling Zone. | To review the effectiveness of the voluntary management approach in the Skerries Bank Angling Zone |
| Spiny Lobster sectoral meetings | KT033 | SC11 | To undertake commercial fishing sectoral meetings at key port locations within D&S IFCA's District to disseminate evidence collected and gather information on potential management measures that these fishing sectors would like to see introduced | Outputs from these meetings will inform a review of potential management measures for this species across all sectors. |

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National IFCA Success Criteria¹

| Success Criterion 1: | IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders | |
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| <p>Definition: IFCAs will be 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> | | |
| Outcomes: | Indicators and Reference Number | Further Detail: |
| 1. The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective communication strategy. | SC1A: The IFCA will maintain a database of stakeholder contacts that will have been reviewed and updated by 31 March each year. | This includes details of D&s IFCA Permit Holders and forms the basis of direct communication with recreational and commercial fishers. |
| 2. 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. | SC1B: The IFCA will have completed a review of its communication strategy and implementation plan by 31 March each year. | |
| 3. The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level. | SC1C: The IFCA will have reviewed its website by the last working day of each month. | The website will be reviewed and updated on a weekly basis. Indicators SC1C & SC1D have been combined and represent tasks including building new web pages, updating the publication scheme, adding links and other information to different areas of the website. D&S IFCA's website supports a large publication scheme (Resource Library) which holds all published papers, reports, minutes and papers of meetings, byelaws, and permit conditions. |
| 4. The IFCA and its principal partners will have a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. Memoranda of Understanding with | 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 | |

¹ Additional indicators and reference numbers (red codes) have been added to the National IFCA Success Criteria in order to better reflect the work that D&S IFCA undertakes to achieve the outcomes.

| Success Criterion 1: | IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders | |
|--|--|---|
| 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. | 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. | D&S IFCA officers attend a range of regional and national meetings and participate in all relevant national groups. |
| | SC1G: News and Information items will be created by staff to report their activities throughout the year. Production of e-newsletter and use of social media platforms | This task meets the requirements of the D&S IFCA Communication Strategy & Delivery Plan. |
| | SC1H: Direct liaison and communication with stakeholders through phone calls, e-mails and visits to offices. | Officers will spend a significant time engaging with stakeholders on a daily unplanned basis. |
| | SC1I: Marine Licence Applications (MLAs) and Consultations | Officers respond to MLAs and national and local consultations. Each MLA has its own code set by the MMO and other consultation response will be set an individual code so that work relating to responses can be well documented and time assigned appropriately. |

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| Success Criterion 2: | IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime. | |
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| <p>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.</p> | | |
| Outcomes: | Indicators and Reference Number | Further Detail: |
| <p>1. 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.</p> | <p>SC2A: D&S IFCA will ensure its enforcement risk register and strategy are published and available on its website from 1 April each year</p> | |
| | <p>SC2B: D&S IFCA will demonstrate in its Annual Report how it has worked with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application, and enforcement of management measures.</p> | <p>Investigations and joint working will be demonstrated by the publication of an investigation table on the website which is to be frequently updated and within information news items posted on the website. Joint work will be recorded.</p> |
| <p>2. The IFCA will have developed consistency in regulations (byelaws) with other organisations.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>Investigations and joint working will be demonstrated by the publication of an investigation table on the website which is to be frequently updated and within information news items posted on the website. Collation of information includes sea and shore patrols, inspections, IVMS monitoring and inputting into MCSS.</p> |
| <p>3. D&S IFCA will manage operational activity (e.g. through a Tasking & Co-ordination Group) and capture, record, evaluate and disseminate intelligence that is compatible with partner organisations. It is engaged in joint working with partner organisations.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>Internal review will take place and outcomes fed into NIMEG.</p> |
| <p>4. 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</p> | <p>SC2E: The Code of Conduct for IFCOs is reflected in work objectives and annual appraisals for all Warranted Officers.</p> | |
| | <p>SC2F: Warranted Officers attain accreditation. All undertake Continuing Professional Development.</p> | <p>Officers will undertake internal and external training as required and participate in the national continuing professional development scheme.</p> |

| Success Criterion 2: | IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime. | |
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| deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity | SC2G: D&S IFCA's officers will undertake investigations and production of case files in line with its Enforcement and Compliance strategy | |
| | SC2H: D&S IFCA will hold bi-weekly Tactical Enforcement Group (TCG) in line with the National Intelligence Model (NIM). | Officers prepare intel reports. Outcomes of TCG and intel reports are disseminated among other regulators in line with the NIM. |

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| 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 its district. | |
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| <p>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.</p> | | |
| Outcomes: | Indicators and Reference Number | Further Detail: |
| <p>1. The IFCA will identify issues likely to affect sustainable management of the marine environment in the D&S IFCA District; undertake risk assessment and gap analysis; review appropriateness of existing measures; evaluate management options and develop and implement proportionate marine management solutions.</p> <p>2. 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</p> | <p>SC3A: D&S IFCA will record site-specific management considerations for Marine Protected Areas and report progress to the Authority.</p> | <p>This will be met through reviewing Byelaws and Permit conditions.</p> |
| | <p>SC3B: D&S IFCA will publish data analysis and evidence supporting new management measures, on its website.</p> | <p>D&S IFCA fully documents its byelaw working and decision making. Byelaw development plans and reports will be created and published on its website. Research reports used to provide evidence to support management measures are published on its website.</p> |
| | <p>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</p> | <p>Monitoring & Control Plan work will be assigned as a key task (KT019).</p> |
| | <p>SC3D: D&S IFCA will have developed a range of criteria-based management options that are explained to stakeholders through the D&S IFCA's website and reviewed by 31 March each year.</p> | <p>D&S IFCA has produced guiding principles for the development of management measures and details the triggers on how Permit Conditions can be reviewed.</p> |
| | <p>SC3E: New IFCA management measures selected for development and implementation are delivered within agreed timescales.</p> | <p>This includes the issue and re-issue (as required) of permits for fishers.</p> |
| | <p>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.</p> <p>SC3G: Progress made in relevant Fisheries Management Plan areas, including Maximum Sustainable Yield commitments, will be noted in the IFCA's Annual Report.</p> | <p>D&S IFCA is developing FMPs for species and fisheries under key tasks (KT009 and KT013).</p> |

| 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 its district. | |
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| <p>Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.</p> <p>3. 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.</p> | <p>SC3H: A Mariculture Strategy has been developed and actions from this will be implemented</p> | <p>Management of the Waddeton Regulating Order will continue.</p> |
| | <p>SC3I: D&S IFCA chairs the Inshore Potting Agreement (IPA) meetings and provides the secretariat.</p> | <p>Decisions made by the IPA committee are reflected in D&S IFCA's Permit Byelaws.</p> |
| | <p>SC3J: D&S IFCA receives many exemption authorisation applications under its Exemption Byelaw 2019 for scientific, stocking and breeding purposes, which are determined within 60 days of receipt.</p> | <p>A table of all authorisations is published on D&S IFCA's website.</p> |
| | <p>SC3K: D&S IFCA will seek to trial new technologies to aid the management of fishing activities in its District.</p> | |

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| Success Criterion 4: | IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional | |
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| <p>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.</p> | | |
| Outcomes: | Indicators and Reference Number | Further Detail: |
| <p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. 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.</p> <p>3. 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</p> | <p>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.</p> | |
| | <p>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.</p> | |
| | <p>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.</p> | <p>Training opportunities will be identified through this process and align with organisation objectives. General members receive an annual appraisal and new members receive an induction pack.</p> |
| | <p>SC4D: An efficient secretariat of IFCA staff support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders.</p> | <p>Officers will arrange meetings and circulate papers for all Authority meetings including Sub-Committees. Papers are also posted on the website.</p> |
| | <p>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.</p> | |
| | <p>SC4F: To work through the task catalogue set by the GWG</p> | <p>The GWG have set their own priorities in a dynamic catalogue which is set out on the website (members area) – GWG display page.</p> |

| Success Criterion 4: | IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional | |
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| <p>documentation will be made available in line with Standing Orders.</p> <p>4. The IFCA Committee meetings will be held in public unless material is either confidential or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972.</p> | <p>SC4G: Attending formal meetings</p> | <p>It is the intention to continue with a blend of virtual and face-to-face meeting for all Authority, and Sub-Committee meetings.</p> |
| | <p>SC4H: Internal meetings and communication.</p> | <p>These include staff meetings, team meetings, IFCA working groups meetings and e-mail correspondence with members and officers.</p> |

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| Success Criterion 5: | IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives | |
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| <p>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.</p> | | |
| Outcomes: | Indicators and Reference Number | Further Detail: |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources. 2. Standard Operating Procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners. 3. A list of research databases held by the IFCA and the frequency of their review. 4. Non-confidential meta-data collected through the IFCA research programme should be recorded in a database available to the marine research community. | <p>SC5A: The IFCA will demonstrate progress that has made towards identifying its evidence needs by publishing a research plan each year</p> | <p>Research work is set out as part of the Annual Plan and identifies evidence gathering workstreams.</p> |
| | <p>SC5B: The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making</p> | <p>Research work as outlined in the Annual Plan is reported in the Annual Report submitted to Defra.</p> |
| | <p>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</p> | |
| | <p>SC5D: The IFCA will undertake surveys to gather evidence to inform decision making</p> | <p>Main evidence gathering is set out in key tasks (KT011- KT024) for 2021/202. Additional research work may be undertaken where necessary relating to projects that D&S IFCA has already showed support for but have yet to be formalised e.g., SMMR. The existing herring project working with academic institutions may need some officer support and will feed into the FRMP for herring.</p> |
| | <p>SC5E: Review previous assessments where appropriate in relation to formal advice and data protection and publish on website</p> | <p>D&S IFCA will continue to publish completed MPA assessments and where formal advice is given by Natural England will review these assessments</p> |
| | <p>SC5F: Meta-data of the surveys work undertaken by D&S IFCA will be regularly updated on MEDIN</p> | |
| | <p>SC5G: Research methodologies and Standard Operating Procedures will be produced and updated when required.</p> | |

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|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Success Criterion 5: | IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives | |
| | SC5H: D& SIFCA will work collaboratively with other IFCAs to undertake research and share equipment and expertise. | |

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Abbreviations and Definitions

Annex 2 - Budget Summary March 2021

Annex 3 - D&S IFCA Metric

Annex 4 - Risk Assessment Matrix

Annex 5 - Staff Structure March 2021

End.