



Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2022-2023

Version 1.0

27th March 2023



CONTENTS



Office Address:

Brixham Laboratory

Freshwater Quarry

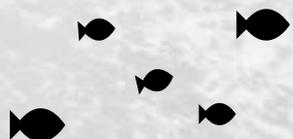
Brixham

TQ5 8BA

Tel: 01803 854648

Office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk



Foreword	03
Vision	04
Executive Summary	05
Executive Summary – Achievements	06
Introduction & Context	07
Income & Expenditure	08
The Officers & Staff Structure	09
Governance	10 - 11
Enforcement	12 - 13
Environment & Scientific Research	14
Research – Out in the Field	15
Marine Licence Applications, Permits & Exemptions	16
Exemptions to Byelaws & Permits to Fish	17
D&S IFCA – Working with Others	18
Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)	19
Marine Protected Areas	20
Using Technology, Innovation & Trailing New Technology	21
Staff Training & Development	22
Communications & Consultation	23 - 24
Byelaw Development & Permit Condition Review	25 - 26
National IFCA Success Criteria (introduction)	27
Success Criteria (1 to 5) Workstreams	28 - 43
Annex 1: Attendance Record – Authority meetings	46 – 47
Annex 2: Attendance Record – B&PSC Meetings	48



FOREWORD



Chair of the Authority
Professor Mike Williams

“This report covers the twelfth year of operations and provides a summary account and review of the Authority’s achievements during the financial year 2022/2023.

Members participated extensively with the work of the IFCA and I am pleased to see this happening through the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee and involvement in the working groups. D&S IFCA Members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience across a wide range of relevant disciplines and capturing and using this resource has supported the work of Officers. Members’ contribution should be acknowledged.

On my reappointment as the Chair of the Authority, I set out that my priority was to address the inadequate funding structure of the Authority. D&S IFCA has the largest District of all IFCAs with 4,522 km² of sea area and two separate coasts to manage. However, D&S IFCA operates on the lowest mainland IFCA Revenue Budget with only thirteen full-time and two-part time - Officers and an operational budget of £43,000 to undertake all of the Authority’s research and enforcement work.

The Chief Officer and I repeatedly attempted to address the financial crisis with the Minister and their Defra officials during the year. Following a request from Defra, D&S IFCA organised a meeting of the eight funding Local Authorities to explore the Chief Officer’s options on how the funding structure of the Authority could change and provide more resilience. No agreement was reached and so Defra has confirmed that it will now address the issue. To-date, despite repeated requests, Defra has not indicated how this will be taken forward nor the timescale.

I welcomed the additional funding from Defra that was outlined in correspondence to me in October 2022 that related to Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) and what D&S IFCA will be expected to deliver to support the Defra led English FMP programme. As this report sets out, the additional £100,000 of funding to support the national delivery of sustainable development and management of the Marine Protected Area network is vital. However, I am concerned that the necessity to prioritise the delivery of national workstreams reduces D&S IFCA’s ability to address issues that are of concern to our Authority Members, local fishers, conservation groups and the wider public.

Despite the funding challenges that I have outlined, I hope that this Annual Report will help all readers to gain a better understanding of the excellent work being delivered by D&S IFCA and the value this organisation has, as it continues to strive to meet its statutory duties and the expectations of all stakeholders”.

IFCAs' National 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”.

D&S IFCA's VISION

“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”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The impacts from the Covid-19 Pandemic lessened as the year progressed. The Authority's Members and Officers returned to a way of working that had not been possible since early 2020. Officers still tested when they had Covid related symptoms and when testing positive officers worked from home or took sick leave. Officers no longer wore masks at face-to-face meetings or whilst undertaking their other duties. Some working practices that were necessary during the period of mandatory Covid measures remain. Officers continued to engage largely by meeting virtually. Although this method of engagement loses some of the benefits of face-to-face meetings such as non-verbal cues and the building of relationships and brings its own challenges in the form of technical glitches, virtual meetings do provide much more flexibility and allow for much wider engagement and opportunity for participation. There is clearly a significant reduction in cost and the loss of productivity from travelling to and from meetings. Officers did not attend any meetings in London and no train journeys were undertaken. Officers were expected to carry out their full range of activities including undertaking surveys and patrols when required but could still benefit from the flexibility of working from home where possible.

Another global event, the financial crisis, accelerated the speed at which D&S IFCA had to face the issues caused by its inadequate funding structure. Increases in staff pay above predicted levels and in inflation meant that the already considerable deficit in the Revenue Budget for FY 2022-23 rose from £65,000 to £127,500. This financial crisis was offset by D&S IFCA receiving an additional £150,000 from Defra following a successful bid for funding by the Association of IFCAs as part of Defra's Spending Review (SR21) bid.

With the additional SR21 funding came Defra's expectations of delivery of and support for three national workstreams: Fisheries Management Plans (FMP), Marine Licensing and Marine Protected Areas. D&S IFCA already relies on receiving New Burdens Funding of £409,297 from Defra (54% of the 2022/23 Revenue Budget) and already had a national focussed workstream strategy which meant that reprioritising work during the year was more easily achieved. This Annual report sets out how Officers engaged with the development, support and evidence gathering for five out of the six frontrunner FMPs, continued to support sustainable development by responding to Marine Licence Applications, including Hinkley Nuclear Power Station, and assessed activities within the Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zones.

D&S IFCA continued to represent IFCAs' interests in the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) rollout of Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (IVMS) devices on-board licensed fishing vessels, less than 12 metres in overall length. In line with its Vision, D&S IFCA sees the introduction of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) as the inevitable progression from IVMS of on-board technology. During the year, D&S IFCA continued to trial on-board cameras and gear sensors on a locally based scallop dredging vessel and presented the encouraging results to a wide range of audiences. Technologies such as REM, are a low cost, highly effective means of monitoring fishing activity but they also provide the opportunity to gather environmental and fisheries data and change the way that fisheries are managed. The national roll out of IVMS was a key factor in D&S IFCA's decision to amend its management of the commercial dive caught scallop fishery and increase summer access opportunities and the REM project demonstrated how scallop management could be changed to improve access and reduce costs, consistent with proposals set out in the national Scallop FMP.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - ACHIEVEMENTS

Key achievements and outputs during 2022/2023

- Commercial scallop dive fishery was opened in July, August, and September: following a series of consultation phases with fishers and stakeholders the Authority agreed to open specified areas to diving for scallops.
- Two new Byelaws reached the formal consultation phase, and a review of the commercial diving permit conditions was completed that has recognised the needs of this sector with tailored management.
- D&S IFCA has successfully trialled REM technology and continues to use IVMS as an evidential component in its investigations and to inform the potential displacement and impact of the mobile fleet by marine developments.
- Following the marking of gear inspection programme, the compliance with the gear marking requirements was much improved.
- D&S IFCA has contributed to the development of five out of the six first tranche of national FMPs through provision of knowledge and experience of managing these stocks, sitting on specialist sub-groups and inputting into the drafting of the plans.
- Introduction of updated Job profiles for every role as part of the external Job Evaluation exercise
- Twenty-eight MLAs have been reviewed and 12 responses submitted Work included Hinkley Public Inquiry where D&S IFCA gave evidence following submission of a response to an MLA on the acoustic deterrents at Hinkley, and the disposal of dredge material following a licence variation.
- Thirty-eight T3 MCZ Assessments have been completed on 132 gear / feature interactions, many of which have received formal advice from Natural England. The Morte Platform MCZ Assessment has already informed drafting work for the new Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw that is being developed.
- D&S IFCA has engaged extensively with a range of stakeholders through its contacts database (including permit holders) and website news items. Examples of this engagement include consultations for byelaw development, the Angling zone review, MCZ fishing activity surveys and the review of Monitoring and Control Plans.
- Schemes of Delegation were introduced in 2022 that clearly define responsibilities for different areas of work.
- Extensive staff training has been completed by all officers to support the delivery of their roles including: QGI mapping, conflict resolution, manual handling, accounting, Competent Officer training and STCW95.
- The Governance Working Group (assisted by Officers) have overhauled the Members Induction Handbook

INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

Background

D&S IFCA has the largest of the ten IFCA's districts and has two separate coastlines. The area of the District is 4,522km² and is defined in the Statutory Instrument (2010 No. 2212). D&S IFCA's District includes the areas of Devon, Somerset, and Gloucestershire County Councils; Bristol and Plymouth City Councils; North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils and all adjacent waters out to six nautical miles offshore or the median line in the Bristol Channel with Wales.

The Full Authority is comprised of 30 Members drawn from relevant Local Authorities (Councillors), General Members (appointed to the Authority by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)) and Statutory Appointees representing the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE).

D&S IFCA is funded primarily from Central Government, with additional contributions from the eight relevant funding Local Authorities.

As specified in Section 178 Marine and Coastal Access Act (MaCAA), D&S IFCA must prepare a report on its activities each year which will be published and sent to the Secretary of State.

To support the delivery of the national vision, IFCA's agreed with Defra a set of national success criteria matched with corresponding working-level objectives. The vision, success criteria and national working objectives are designed to assist in the creation of a shared understanding of the aims and objectives of all IFCA's nationally and focus service delivery towards achievement of the national vision. These national IFCA performance criteria also link directly to the UK Marine Policy Statement.

This Annual Report details the work undertaken in FY 2022/23 and provides a summary of progress and achievements as measured against key objectives set in the 2022/23 Annual Plan (the Authority's goals) and as measured against the national IFCA success criteria and high-level objectives (outcomes). The delivery of relevant workstreams is captured using the RAG system below:



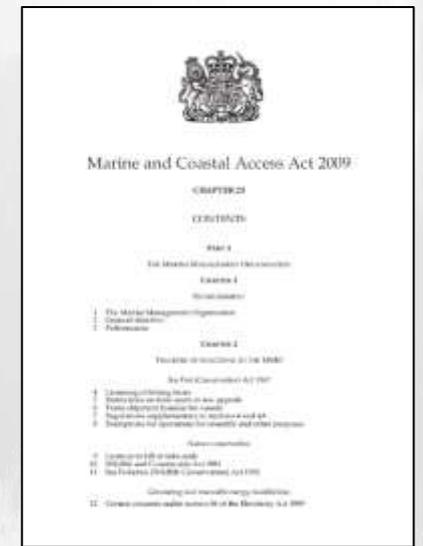
Completed Work



Started Work



Work - Not Started



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

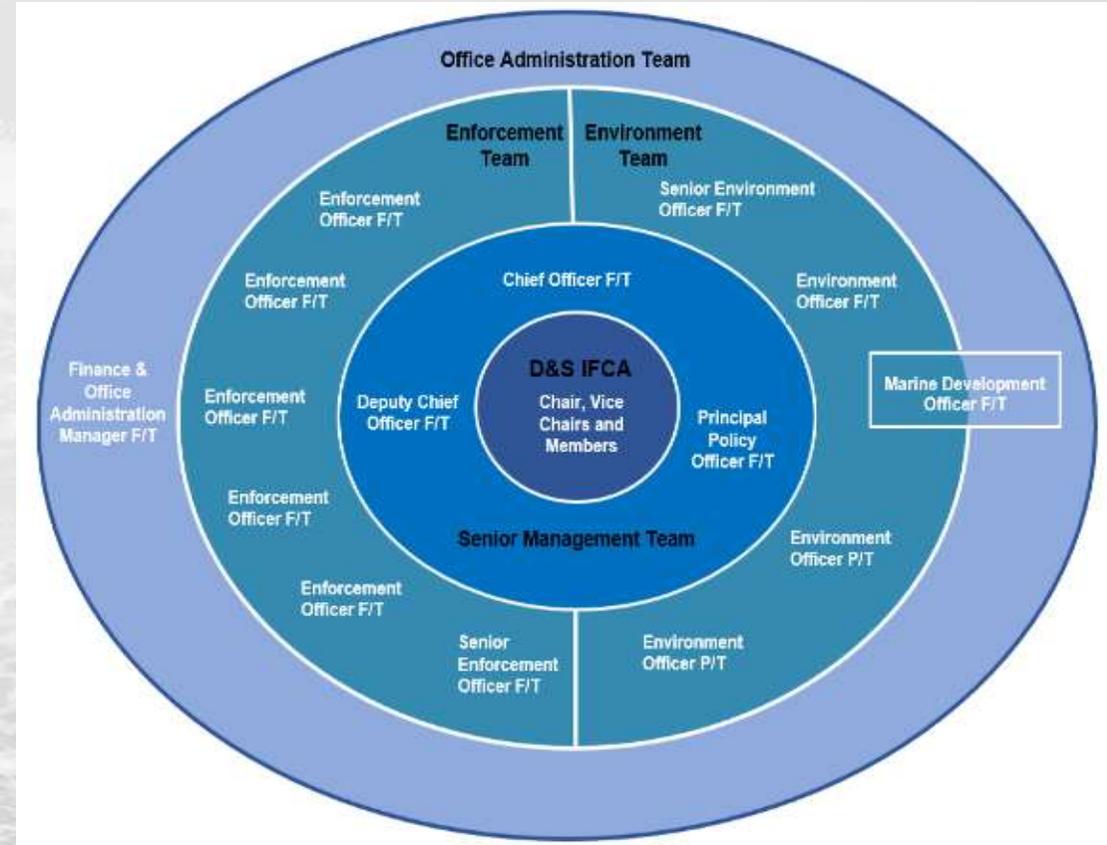
Financial Overview

D&S IFCA’s Revenue Budget of £827,700 for FY 2022-23 was the lowest among the nine mainland IFCAs and was £64,580 lower than the next lowest IFCA’s Revenue Budget and £747,130 less than the best resourced IFCA.

Higher than forecast cost of living increases raised the risk to General Reserves to £127,500 or ~39% of available General Reserves. The risk to General Reserves was offset by the provision by Defra of additional SR21 money (£150,000). The Authority recognises that this situation is not sustainable.

	2022/2023 Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £
Employees	644,000	670,300	26,300
Premises	34,600	35,100	500
Transport	14,400	14,200	(200)
Supplies & Services	70,700	73,900	3,200
Boat Costs	25,800	28,400	2,600
Environmental Research	17,200	11,200	(6,000)
Support Services	62,200	81,900	19,700
Income Fees & Charges	(41,200)	(45,300)	(4,100)
Payback of EMFF IVMS Grant	0	20,000	20,000
Net Expenditure (before DEFRA grant)	827,700	889,700	62,000
DEFRA SR21 Funding	0	(150,000)	(150,000)
	827,700	739,700	(88,000)
Transfer (from) / to General Reserves	(65,500)	22,500	88,000
Total Funding from Levies	762,200	762,200	0

THE OFFICERS & STAFF STRUCTURE



D&S IFCA Officers – March 2023

Back row – left to right – Sarah Curtin (Environment Officer – Part Time), James Stewart (Senior Environment Officer), Lauren Henly (Environment Officer – Part Time), Dan Cresswell (Enforcement Officer), Gavin Mayhew (Senior Enforcement Officer), Jon Norman (Enforcement Officer), Nadine Hanlon (Marine Development Officer), Lauren Parkhouse (Environment Officer), Neil Townsend (Principal Policy Officer), Ben Mitson (Enforcement Officer).

Front Row – left to right – Sarah Clark (Deputy Chief Officer), Callum Bedford (Enforcement Officer), Olga Pepper (Finance & Administration Manager), Chris Mills (Enforcement Officer), Mat Mander (Chief Officer).

GOVERNANCE

Governance related work is relevant to different Success Criteria – however the Authority is 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 documentation will be made available in line with Standing Orders.

There is a rolling twelve-month schedule of quarterly Authority meetings and Officers organise and prepare relevant information for these and other meetings including the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee and the working groups that have been established by the Authority to assist with different workstreams.

Planning, organising, and managing different elements of work undertaken by the Authority is a time consuming, but necessary requirement if goals are to be achieved. Internal working and systems must meet legal requirements and other areas of internal process are constantly under review. This financial year has seen a range of Health & Safety documentation overhauled and changes to on-going safety requirements, including record keeping.

D&S IFCA's Publication Scheme has expanded during 2022-23, with the website Resource Library maintained as the platform for the Authority to continue to be as transparent as possible with its information. The range of meetings undertaken by Officers is divided between internal and external, the later catering for a wide range of interests applicable to the organisation.

Publishing of Non-Reserved IFCA Committee Papers.



There were seven Authority & B&PSC meetings in FY 2022/23. All Officers' papers and minutes from those meetings are published on the website.

Governance Working Group (GWG)



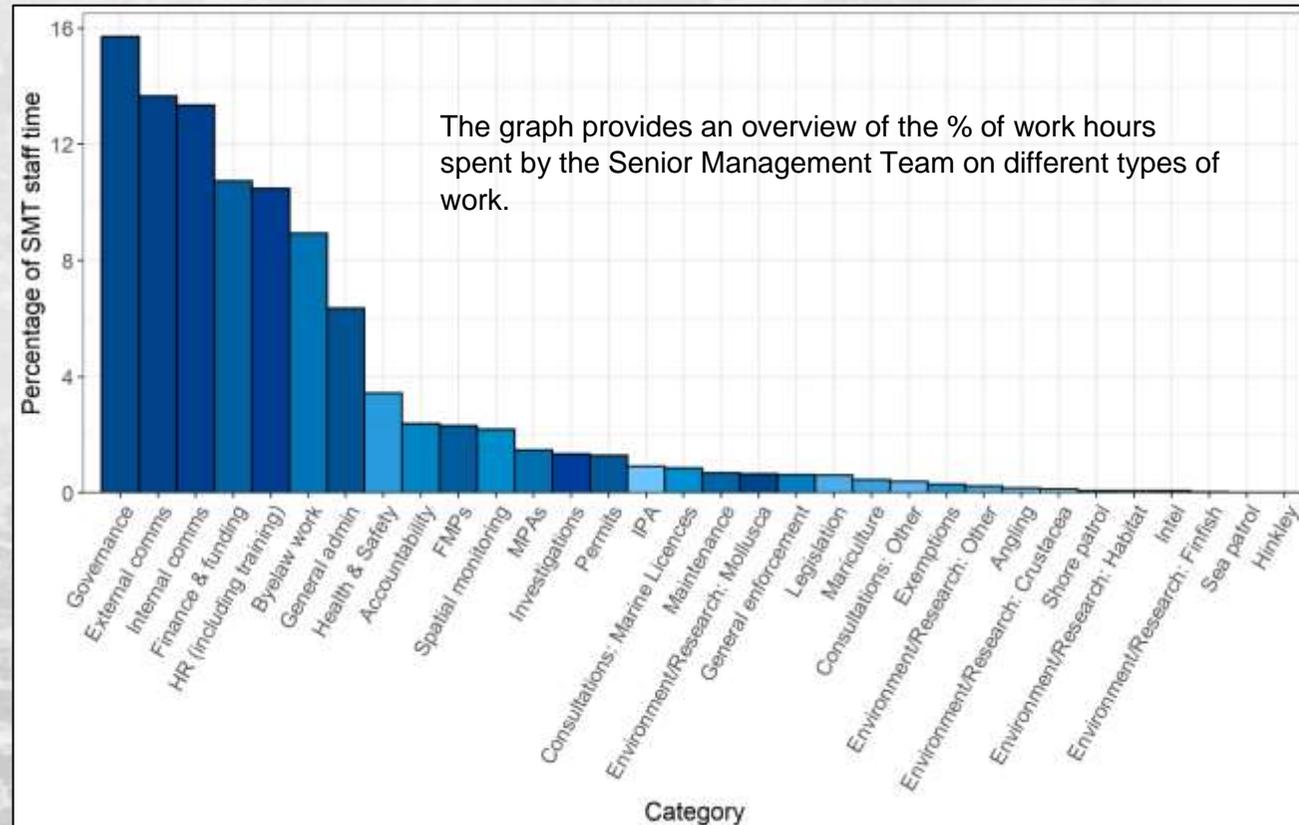
This working group (with assistance from Officers) have overhauled the General Member Induction Book.



The GWG has begun its overhaul of D&S IFCA's Communication Strategy.



The GWG were tasked with the review of D&S IFCA's Compliance & Enforcement Strategy in 2022/23, although this has not started.



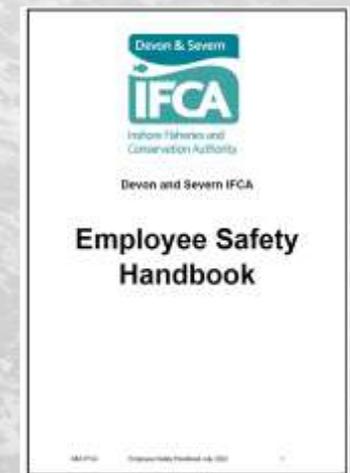
Members Induction Handbook

Following its completion in May 2022, a new Members' Handbook is now in place. A presentation on the Members' Induction Guide (the Members' Handbook) was provided at the June 2022 Authority meeting. The Members' Handbook was updated in October 2022, re-circulated to all Members and is available on the Members area of the website. It provides an overview of the structure of the Authority, terms of reference, standing orders and use of the website as a source of information and how to access information. The handbook focusses on decision making procedures by Members to make them more confident to engage and provide their expert opinion in making motions and amendments.

Health and Safety

D&S IFCA's Governance work also includes Health and Safety considerations to address the key areas of operational risk. As part of the Health and Safety work of D&S IFCA, the appointment of two key roles has been implemented. The Chief Officer is the Health and Safety Responsible Person, and the Deputy Chief Officer is the Duty Holder. The Duty Holder has worked closely with an external provider, Peninsula, who has provided support and, advice and audited the Health and Safety Policies, safe working practices and documentation required for D&S IFCA to meet its legal obligations.

D&S IFCA Officers have spent a significant amount of time developing new Health and Safety Policies and safe working procedures throughout the year and have also reviewed several of its existing risk assessments as well developing new ones. The new Policies developed include a Fire Safety Policy, Menopause Policy, and Mental Health Policy. Safe Practices have been reviewed through the Employees Safety Handbook and Safety Services booklet and three new Safe Systems of Work have been produced and implemented relating to Towing, Launching and Recovery of D&S IFCA's vessels and Inspections and Boardings at sea. Several new risk assessments (RA) have been produced including a Stress RA, Fire RA, and dissection of shellfish RA. Other documents have been reviewed and updated such as Working from Home and Office RAs and Towing a vessel RA. Policies and procedures are shared with Officers and require a signed record of receipt and read.



ENFORCEMENT WORK

Success Criterion 2: IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime

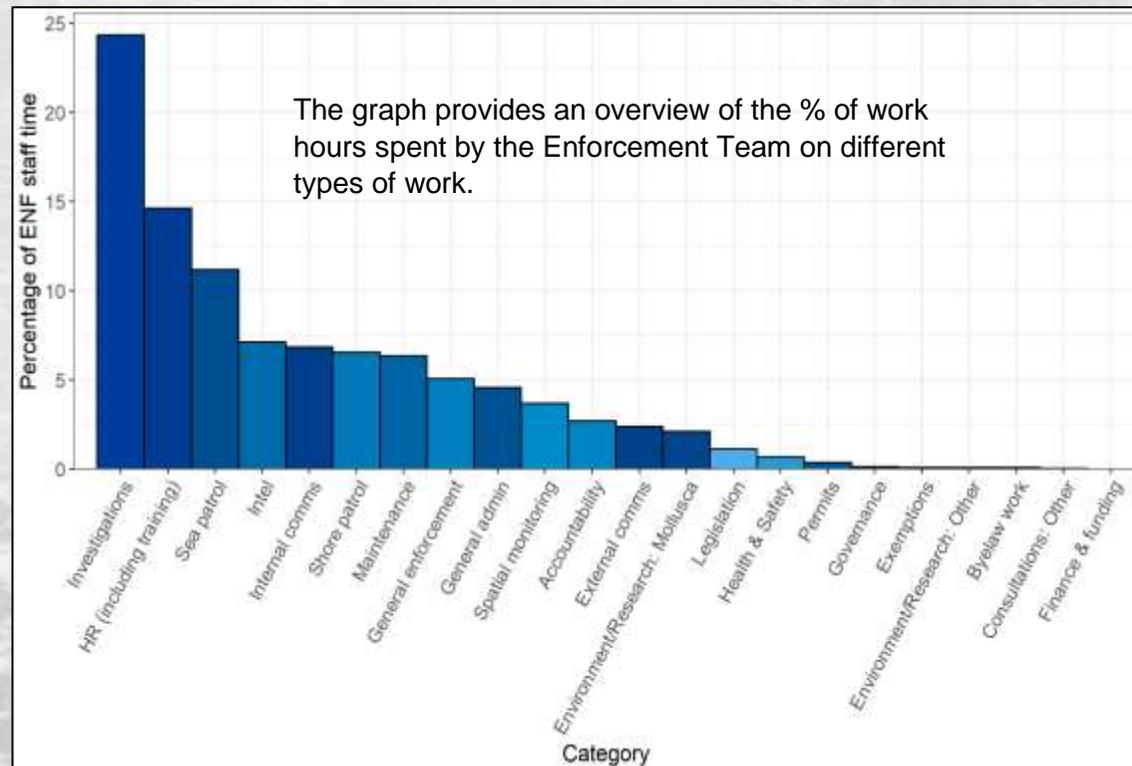
Definition: The IFCA enforcement regime is risk-based, makes appropriate use of intelligence, meets legislative standards, and complies with the Regulators Code. It should make effective use of the resources available to regulators, complement and align, if possible, with the regimes in adjacent IFCA Districts and management by other organisations including the MMO and Environment Agency. Consistency and fairness are important. Regulatory compliance is promoted. Enforcement action is carried out by trained, professional officers working to clear standards of conduct.

The Enforcement Team of six officers undertook a total of 70 new investigations and progressed other investigations that had continued from previous years. The most notable of the historic cases, dated back to 2016 and was concluded in October 2022 in Plymouth Crown Court. HHJ Linford ruled that D&S IFCA's case against the Master and Owner of the fishing vessel Stella Maris of Newquay PH97 should be stayed due to the inability of the Master to stand trial due to ill health. In 2018, in the Magistrates' Court, the Master and Owner had been found guilty on 16 counts of illegally trawling in a Marine Protected Area and the appeal in the Crown Court had taken nearly another four years.

Four of the Enforcement Officers had less than two years' experience so considerable time and resource were spent on mandatory enforcement training, STCW training and training towards attaining their qualifications to act as helmsman on the Authority's RIBs. The main focus for the Enforcement Team was monitoring the compliance of the demersal towed gear fleet with Marine Protected Area restrictions, and the prohibition on the use of nets in estuaries. Investigations into suspected spatial incursions are normally complex and this is reflected in the time it takes officers to complete the case files. This in turn reduces the time available for sea and shore patrols. Having additional officers has meant that more shellfish inspections have been possible and illegal landings of undersize crab and lobster, 'V' notched lobster and berried lobster have been found.



Photograph above – Enforcement Officer removing bass from an abandoned gill net.



ENFORCEMENT WORK

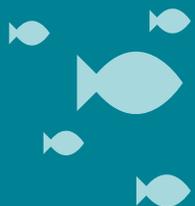
In 2022, D&S IFCA passed the milestone of investigating over 50 incursions into Marine Protected Areas by demersal towed gear vessels since 2014. D&S IFCA has a significantly larger mobile gear fleet operating in its District compared to all other IFCAs and activity by French vessels just outside its District. In 2022, D&S IFCA fined a third French vessel for illegally fishing within its District and forwarded two case files to the MMO, where the investigations identified that the illegal incursions were outside of the District. Out of the 50+ investigations, 23 met the evidential test set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors and were disposed of by either the acceptance of a Financial Administrative Penalty or prosecution in court. D&S IFCA does not have the resources to regularly monitor the mobile gear fleet either through sea patrols or using IVMS, VMS or AIS and its investigations normally follow a witness reporting of illegal activity. D&S IFCA has for many years operated a duty phone (07740 175479) where fishers and members of the public can report suspicious fishing activity at any time outside normal working hours.

It is therefore likely that the level of illegal incursions into Marine Protected Areas is much higher than the 50 investigations represent. Due to the continuing illegal activities of some fishers within the mobile gear sector, the conclusion must be that D&S IFCA's Marine Protected Areas are not fully protected despite the best efforts of the Enforcement Team. D&S IFCA has successfully trialled a low-cost REM solution that could provide the necessary level of monitoring and evidence to deter illegal fishing within MPAs and afford meaningful protection to these sites.

In addition to spatial incursions, 22 investigations related to non-functioning IVMS devices. IVMS positional data are normally key evidential components in D&S IFCA's investigations and so when the device stops working, the vessel effectively goes 'dark' and the risk of non-compliance increases significantly.

Technology, in the form of Body Worn Cameras (BWC), is now required by D&S IFCA's Health and Safety Policy to be used by Officers during each inspection at sea and ashore. The footage from the cameras can be useful as evidence for breaches of fisheries legislation but the main benefit is to protect the Officers and fishers. Obstruction or assault of Officers is rare but does occur and cameras are known to moderate actions, both physical and verbal. Equally, fishers benefit as the use of BWC can demonstrate that Officers adhere to the national Code of Conduct for Inspections.

Following an engagement campaign with fishers in early spring, Officers conducted a number of patrols primarily looking to improve compliance with D&S IFCA's gear marking requirements. Further patrols later in the summer identified much higher levels of compliance. Invariably during these patrols commercial and recreational potting vessels were encountered and boarded to provide additional advice relating to marking of gear and inspect catch and gear onboard.



Investigations Tables:

Please visit the D&S IFCA website for more detailed investigation tables for 2020 / 2021 / 2022 / 2023.

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Enforcement-Legislation/Investigation-Tables>

ENFORCEMENT

OUTPUTS

2022/2023

<u>Enforcement Output</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Sea Patrols	51
Shore Patrols	43
Investigations	70
Verbal Warnings	0
Advisory Letters	7
Written Warnings	21
Formal Cautions	1
Financial Administrative Penalties	7
Formal Prosecutions	1

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK

Success Criterion 3: IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within its district.

Definition: IFCA's 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.

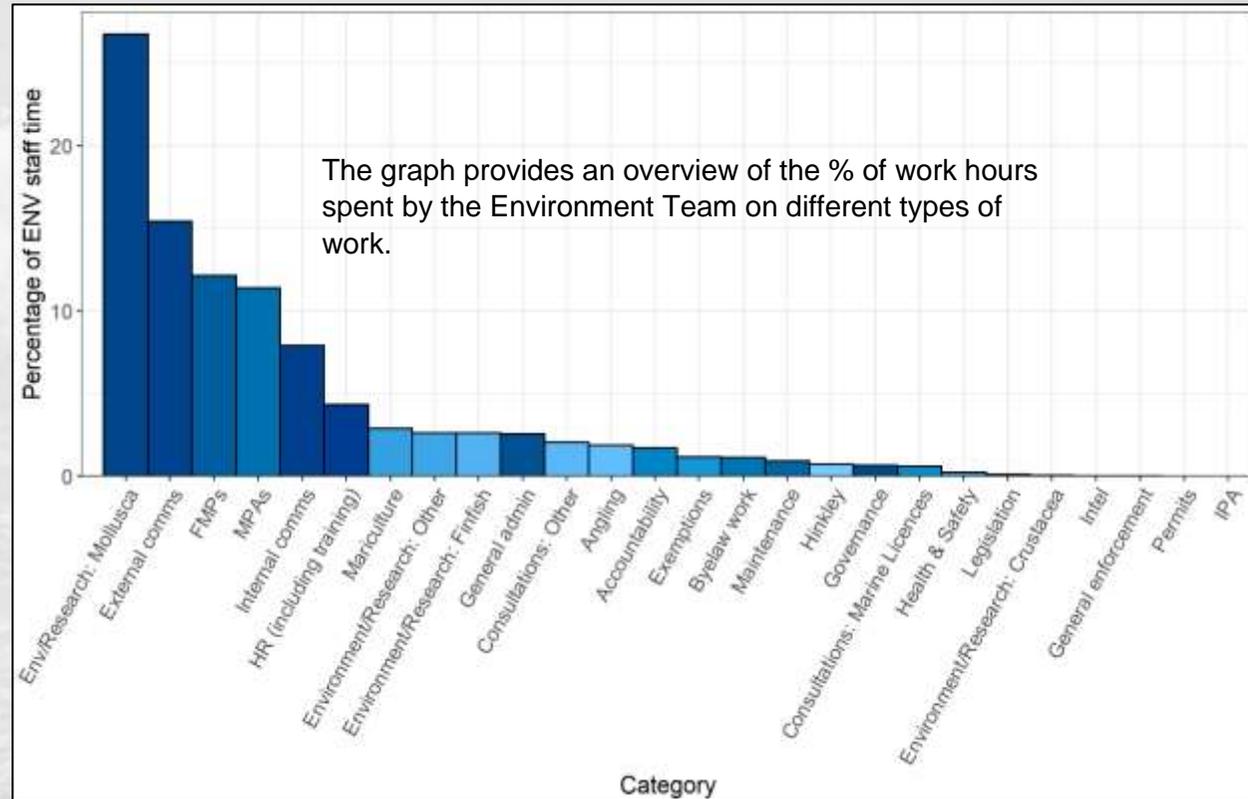
An important part of D&S IFCA's research work this year has been surveying bivalve shellfish beds in estuaries across the District. This included stock assessment of mussels and cockles in the Exe, Teign and Taw Torridge Estuaries to inform local fisheries management (catch allowances and review of mussel bed closures).

In addition, detailed research on the timing of scallop spawning in the south of D&S IFCA's District was undertaken. The scallop research took place in partnership with the University of Plymouth and was presented as an executive summary to the B&PSC in February 2023.

Environment Officers actively engaged with a wide range of stakeholders including individuals from different sectors including the fishing industry, estuary fora, management groups, and at conferences.

This external engagement included the presentation of a range of environment work at the IFCA's Technical Advisory Group Conference, covering molluscan and finfish research in the District, and D&S IFCA's Fisheries Research and Management Plans (FRMPs). The FRMP/FMP workstream has included further development of District-specific Fisheries Research and Management Plans with the completion of the Bass FRMP. This will feed into the development of the national Bass FMP.

Marine Protected Area (MPA) related workstreams were foremost in the Environment Team's work, including completing 38 assessments of 132 gear-feature interactions for Tranche 3 MCZs, as well as assessments for early designated MCZs, in particular in relation to the designation of new features in these sites. Habitat Regulation Assessments for European Marine Sites and reviewing of Monitoring and Control Plans for fisheries interactions with species and habitats in MPAs were also undertaken. The remaining work of the Environment Team included areas such as additional research for ecosystem-based fisheries management, development of angling and mariculture opportunities and responding to marine planning and policy consultations.



RESEARCH – OUT IN THE FIELD

Stock Assessments

Mussel & Cockles

Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery: Intertidal surveys have been carried out, data analysed, and a report produced. This workstream will be included in the Annual Plan 2023/2024 and help inform the Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Strategy workstream. Taw Torridge cockle beds were also surveyed.

The sub-tidal mussel resource and subsequent relaying did not take place due to weather conditions and availability of CIFCA's research vessel and will therefore be included in the Annual Plan 2023/2024 and help inform the Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Strategy workstream.

Intertidal Mussel and Cockle Stock Assessments:

Surveys were completed and mussel stock assessment reports for the Exe, and Teign Estuaries were produced. These surveys are used to inform whether the temporary closure is maintained. Regarding cockle surveys, these were completed and stock assessment reports for the Exe, Taw-Torridge and Teign Estuaries were produced.

Bass

Survivability Study

The task in FY 2022/23 was to continue site-specific acoustic monitoring of sea bass tagged during FY 2022-2023 to investigate the survival of bass in the field; to analyse acoustic and vitality data and publish a report on this work.

Progress:

Acoustic receivers are in place in Salcombe and along the south coast as part of the FISHINTEL project. First data sets have been downloaded (July/August 2022) and analysed. Additional tagging took place in January 2023 to provide inter-annual data to inform survivability.

A report on the additional research undertaken in January 2023 will be produced under this workstream in the Annual Plan 2023/2024.



Success Criteria

The work undertaken on these workstreams meets Defra Success Criterion 3 – with different Success Outcomes.

“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”.

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.

Information and Evidence

Please visit the D&S IFCA – Environment & Research display pages for a range of information.

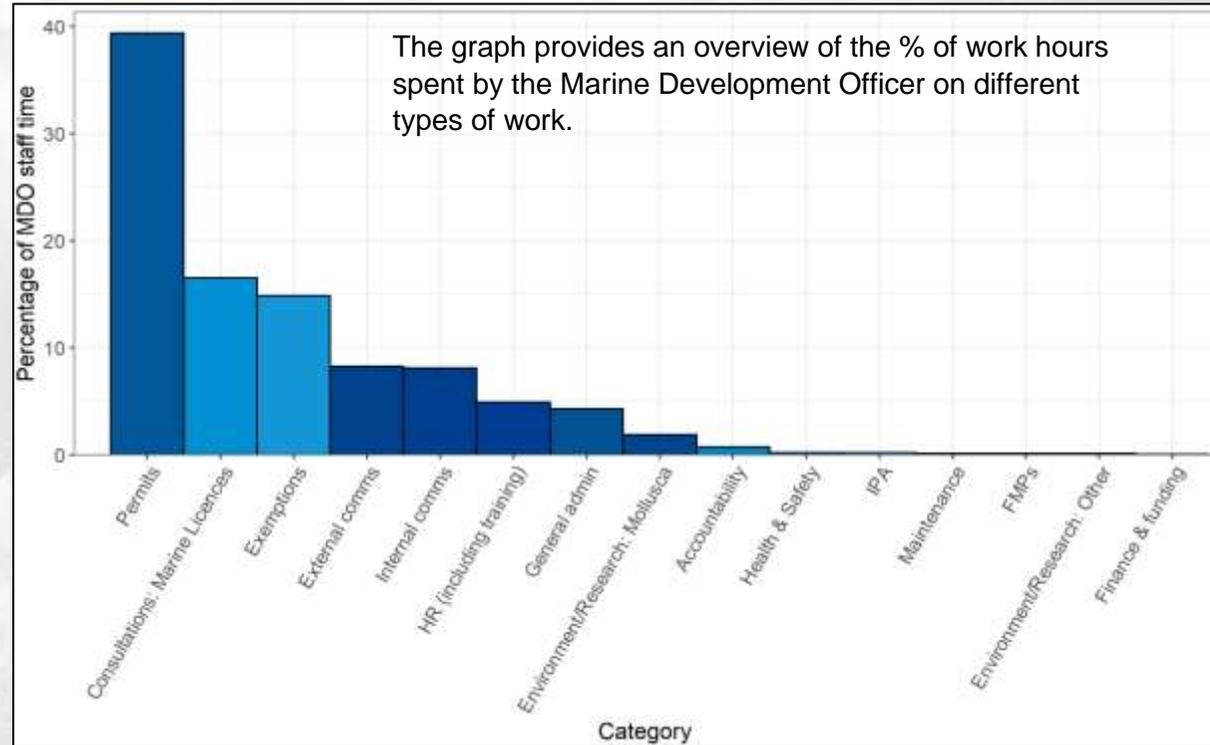
Section H of the website Resource Library contains many completed research reports.

MARINE LICENCE APPLICATIONS, PERMITS & EXEMPTIONS

During FY 2022/23 D&S IFCA reviewed 28 Marine Licence Applications (MLAs) and submitted responses on 12 MLAs to the MMO.

Officers responded to MLAs and national and local consultations. Some of these MLAs required very detailed review of many documents and research and evidence gathering to inform a D&S IFCA response in particular relating to its Statutory duties as well as information of potential impacts of the proposed development, e.g. proposed seaweed farm applications. In addition to submitting formal responses to MLAs, D&S IFCA Officers are engaged in discussions with proposed developers prior to submission of an MLA to help inform the proposal and in particular the location and potential impacts on existing users of the marine space. National consultations have been responded to such as the Defra Environmental Targets Consultation.

This is an on-going task and will meet Defra’s expectations – IFCA’s to participate in Marine Spatial Prioritisation.



Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station



Actions in 2022/23: To engage with the outcome of the PINS Public inquiry regarding the Acoustic Fish deterrent and to engage as appropriate with the application and consultation process for a material change. Input into meetings and relevant consultations including relevant Marine Licence Applications.

Progress in 2022/23: Continued engagement with HPC Marine Technical Forum, consultations on marine licence applications and process for material change to the Development Consent Order (DCO) and a new application to vary the Water Discharge Activity (WDA) Permit to remove the Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD). The Secretary of State’s decision on the outcome of the PINS inquiry was published in early September 2022. The Inspector made specific reference to the evidence provided by D&S IFCA, in making his recommendations.

Further action in 2023/24: Work relating to this workstream is expected to continue into 2023/2024 in relation to applications to remove the AFD from the cooling water intake system (Material Change to DCO, variation to WDA Permit, variation to Marine Licence). This will meet the Marine Spatial Prioritisation programme, as an example of IFCA commitments to national engagement to support sustainable development, directly funded by Defra.

Success Criterion Outcome

The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level.

Information and Evidence

Please visit the D&S IFCA – Environment & Research display pages for a range of information.

Section H of the website [Resource Library](#) (Marine Environment Matters) contains many completed MLA responses.

EXEMPTIONS TO BYELAWS & PERMITS TO FISH

Exemptions

This task is related to the consideration and potential issue of authorisations (Exemptions) under the Exemption Byelaw 2019 (or individual Byelaws) for scientific, stocking and breeding purposes, which must be determined within 60 days of receipt.

D&S IFCA received 23 Exemption requests and issued 21 Authorisations to a range of stakeholders including academic institutions, Cefas, IFM, Environment Agency, consultants, and fishers.

This is an on-going workstream.

The Authorisation request form, to obtain an exemption, is available on D&S IFCA's website – on the Exemptions display page - or can be requested by contacting the Office.

Permits for Fishing Activity

Permits are needed to conduct mobile fishing, potting, netting, and diving for specific species.

Other than mobile fishing, there are permits for both commercial and recreational fishers.

The permit conditions contain most of the control measures for each fishing method.

At present there is a total of 366 commercial permit holders and 845 recreational permit holders: In total there are 1350 permits in use.

Mobile Fishing (at sea) -	121	Potting (commercial) -	193
Mobile Fishing (estuary) -	11	Potting (recreational)-	507
Netting (commercial) -	142	Diving (commercial) -	18
Netting (recreational) -	51	Diving (recreational) -	307

- In FY2022/23 D&S IFCA issued 515 Permits. This number mostly includes renewals of existing permits although some new permits were issued.
- The information provided in each application for a Permit is cross-checked. For example, the commercial permits are checked with the MMO to ensure the boat has a fishing licence and the details are correct.
- D&S IFCA attempts to process each permit application within seven working days.

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.

The image shows a document titled "Exemptions Byelaw 2019 - Authorisation Request". At the top, there is the IFCA logo and the text "Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA)". Below the logo, the address is listed: "Brixham Laboratory, Fishermen's Quay, Brixham, TQ8 8BA, Devon, TQ8 8BA, 01323 854540, ifca@dco.gov.uk, www.dco.gov.uk". The document contains several sections of text, including a paragraph explaining the purpose of the Exemptions Byelaw 2019, a section for "Determinations" stating that applications are processed within 60 days, and a section for "Advice" regarding the type and detail of information and evidence required. It also includes instructions on how to complete the application form and where to send it. At the bottom, there is a section for "Your Responsibilities" and a version number "Exemptions Byelaw 2019 - Authorisation Application Form, Version control 17/06/2022".

Information and Evidence

The Enforcement & Legislation drop down menu includes a page for issued Exemptions.

The Enforcement & Legislation drop down menu includes a page about current Permit Byelaws & Permit Conditions.

D&S IFCA has also introduced an on-line Permit Application facility on the website.

D&S IFCA – Working with Others

Research – Working with Fishers



Bass Survivability Study – Salcombe Estuary – South Devon. Senior Environment Officer Dr James Stewart, working with a local fisherman.

Information & Evidence

D&S IFCA produces a selection of news items about different work undertaken by Officers, including work undertaken in conjunction with stakeholders and partner organisations. Please visit the Latest News Tab or the archive of news items stored in Section G of the website Resource Library.

Recovery of Ghost Fishing Gear



D&S IFCA Enforcement Officers working with the charity group "Fathoms Free" to help collect and dispose of un-marked and deteriorated fishing gear that had been recovered from sea.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS (FMPs)

Development of District Wide Fisheries Research and Management Plans (FRMPs)

Under the Defra-funded Marine Pioneer Programme, D&S IFCA developed five FRMPs for the Northern part of the District. For the Annual Plan 2022/2023 D&S IFCA Officers commenced the development of plans for the same species to cover the South of the District – to produce, in effect, District-wide FRMPs. A decision was made to halt the production of these plans as it became clear that the National Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) were gathering pace through the publication of the Joint Fisheries Statement 2022 and implementation of Fisheries Act 2020.

Actions in 2022/23:

Complete District-wide FRMPs for herring, bass, whelk, skates & rays, squid and cuttlefish. These plans require extensive stakeholder engagement and review work prior to completion.

Progress in 2022/23:

FRMPs' work was suspended with the development of national FMPs. A draft of the south coast FRMP for sea bass was sent to Defra to help inform development of the national sea bass FMP.

National FMPs

All IFCA's have received additional funding from Defra to undertake work to support the development and implementation of national Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 FMPs. D&S IFCA has been involved in the Crab and Lobster FMP development from the outset - sitting on the Shellfish Industry Advisory Group, the Crab & Lobster FMP working Group and the Crab & Lobster Science Group. Officers also attended FMP stakeholder events for Crab & Lobster, Whelk, and Scallop. Senior Officers have provided comments on the drafts of three Tranche One FMPs.

D&S IFCA also sits on the Finfish Industry Advisory Group and the Tranche Two Channel Non-Quota Finfish Species FMP. FMP work will be a workstream of the Annual Plan 2023/2024. Officers have also participated in the stakeholder events for the Bass FMP.

Success Criterion

The work undertaken on these workstreams meets Defra Success Criterion 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.



Information and Evidence

In 2021 D&S IFCA completed an initial series of Fisheries Research & Management Plans for five commercially important species in the north of the District.

Please visit the “Fisheries Research & Management Plans” website display page for more details.

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Environment-and-Research/Fisheries-Research-Management-Plans>

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Within the D&S IFCA's District there are currently twenty-two MPAs: ten European Marine Sites (SAC, SPA), four Tranche 1 MCZs, two Tranche 2 MCZs and six Tranche 3 MCZs. The protection afforded under MPA designation to the features of the sites is aimed at reducing destruction, damage, or the reduction in distribution of marine species and/or habitats.

- D&S IFCA has the largest mobile fishing fleet (demersal towed gear vessels) working within an IFCA district
- 1100 km² of the designated MPA area (1914.35km²) is currently closed to demersal fishing gear to protect the sensitive features, which equates 57.37%. 1302.26 km² (68%) of the designated MPA area are subject to MPA management measures for the protection of sensitive habitats and species (e.g. spiny lobster).
- D&S IFCA has introduced 63 management measures within its permit byelaws to recognise Marine Protect Areas.

Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zones



The Tranche 3 MCZs in the D&S IFCA's District are the Axe Estuary, Dart Estuary, Devon Avon Estuary, Erme Estuary, Morte Platform, and the Otter Estuary. Thirty-eight MCZ assessments have been completed for 132 gear feature interactions for these MCZs this year; these were undertaken to assess the impacts of commercial fishing activity on the designated species and habitats. For each MCZ a fishing activity report has been produced which accompanies the assessments. In order to inform these reports, a 'Call for Information' was undertaken to build the evidence base on the fishing activity taking place in the Morte Platform MCZ. IVMS data were also used to inform the mobile gear activity in and around the Morte Platform MCZ. Once complete, assessments were sent to Natural England for Formal Advice.

Other MPA Assessment Work and Monitoring and Control Plans



Other MPA assessments have been completed including review assessments where new features have been designated for an existing site e.g. in Torbay MCZ for the coarse sediment feature.

Four Monitoring and Control Plans have been implemented in MPAs in the District: Lundy SAC, Torbay MCZ, Plymouth Sound EMS and Severn SAC. These have been introduced due to the uncertainty regarding the level of fishing effort, and with advice from Natural England, Officers monitor the level of activity ever year. This is done by analysing IVMS data, engagement with fishers and questionnaires to obtain bycatch information.

Success Criteria

The work undertaken on these workstreams meets Defra Success Criterion 3

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 Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.

Publishing MPA Assessments

D&S IFCA had a large range of completed Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessments and Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRAs) published on its website.

Resource Library – Section H

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Resource-library/H-Environment-and-Research>

USING TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, & TRIALING NEW TECHNOLOGY

Remote Electronic Monitoring

D&S IFCA has embraced new technology and introduced the requirement, in August 2018, for all mobile gear vessels, over seven metres in overall length to have a fully functioning IVMS device on board when operating in its District. IVMS data has been proven to be very useful in monitoring fishing activity and has been used as a component in many investigations. In addition, IVMS data has been used to respond to Marine Licence Applications to show where fishing vessels operate and fish, and to identify potential locations for marine developments, such as seaweed farms, to minimise impact and displacement. IVMS data is limited but, when linked to other on-board technologies, can become a very powerful management tool that can benefit everyone.

In September 2022, Officers reported the successful outcomes from D&S IFCA's Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) project. The project successfully demonstrated that D&S IFCA could change its approach to management benefitting the fishers and by having a fully automated system to monitor compliance with the Marine Protected Area restrictions. The cost of the purchase and installation of the camera and gear sensor system was approximately £3,000 and to provide the automatic monitoring service and maintenance of the onboard technology was approximately £660. It would therefore be possible to have a fully monitored scallop dredge fishery (65 vessels) in D&S IFCA's District for approximately £43,000 per annum.

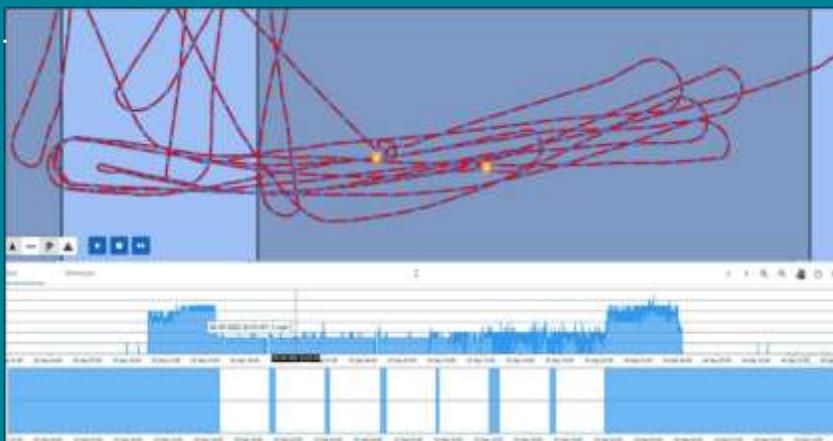


Image taken from monitoring report showing vessel track, speed profile and when gear is deployed (blue bars).



Image from starboard camera showing compliance with six dredges aside limit.

Success Criterion 3

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 Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans.

Actions: To continue the trial of REM and cameras on a scallop dredger operating within the D&S IFCA district to test its success and application.

Progress: The REM trialled continued throughout 2022-2023. The data collected from the trial has been presented to various stakeholder groups including D&S IFCA Authority Members, IPA committee, South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen's Association, Defra, Baie de Seine French Fishermen's group, Western Producer Organisation and IFCA's Chief Officer's Group.

Further Action: D&S IFCA Officers are currently looking for funding to roll out the trial of REM and Cameras on to 10 Mobile Fishing Vessels operating in its District. This is with a view to potentially use these technologies to further manage the exploitation of sea fish resources in Marine Protected Areas in the District and protect sensitive designated features.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Enforcement Training:

Task: Warranted Officers attain accreditation. All undertake Continuing Professional Development.

Update:

Training has been an important and essential workstream for the Enforcement Team. Two Enforcement officers were employed in 2021 and two more in 2022. This means that two thirds of the Enforcement Team are fairly new in their roles. External national enforcement training has been provided and significant internal training and guidance has been provided by more experienced officers. RYA Powerboat Level 2 Advanced training, Sea Survival (STCW95) courses have been undertaken as well as towing of a vessel training. The training of new officers is very time consuming for the team.

Other Training

GIS – This was provided by the University of Southampton, to aid the use of updated chart products used by officers in enforcement and research work.

Accountancy - The Finance and Administration Manager has undertaken an Assistant Accounting course as part of an Apprenticeship. She was awarded a Level 3 Diploma in Accounting with the Association of Accounting Technicians in December 2022. This has been extremely useful in her work.

Conflict Resolution - With the recent changes in staffing levels, all officers undertook conflict resolution training to support them in their engagement work.

Manual Handling – D&S IFCA's external Health and Safety advisors recommended that Manual Handling training was undertaken to support the recently revised Manual Handling Risk Assessment. All Officers attended this training.

Staff Performance Planning:

Personal Development Plans were implemented in April/May 2022 and meetings were held with Officers to discuss these plans. Training needs were identified and training has been carried out to meet these needs. All Officers' personal development training is recorded. A six-month review of the Performance Plans for officers was undertaken to ensure progress was being met.

Staff performance planning/development is an annual workstream.

Success Criterion 4

IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.

Success Criterion 2 – Outcomes:

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 deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity.

Success Criteria 2 – Outcomes:

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.

COMMUNICATION & CONSULTATION

D&S IFCA Website

www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

The Authority's website and social media, such as Facebook, remains a key component of D&S IFCA's Communication Strategy.

D&S IFCA is committed to transparency with information and can demonstrate successful delivery by publishing its outputs (in the Resource Library on its website).

The website supports a range of display pages to inform stakeholders (and Members) about our role with the marine environment, fisheries legislation, our enforcement activity, meetings, news (flexible content depending on requirements) and more.

Home Page – The Latest News Scroll



Other Communication:

- Focussed communication relating to Fisheries Management Plans – to assist the MMO with national engagement.
- Assisting the MMO with IFCA Member Recruitment
- Byelaw Consultation – Pre consultation & Formal Consultation
- Fishing Activity Surveys – Engagement – to inform MCZ Assessments
- Focussed engagement with Angling Sector
- Attendance at local, regional & national meetings

Success Criterion 1

IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

Success Criterion 1 Outcomes:

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.

Outputs:

32 news items were produced – various content.

21 direct circulation information mail shots

Information and Evidence:

The website is updated every week.

D&S IFCA has over 1500 contacts on its mailing list.

All news items are produced both in blog format & in pdf format.

An archive of all news items is maintained in the website Resource Library (Section G).

Information circulated for different work such as byelaw consultations, and fishing activity surveys is also held as an archive.

Partnership Working

From a communications perspective, D&S IFCA has recognised how it can help support the MMO with focussed communications. Examples in FY2022/23 include helping to spread the news about FMP engagement events, national recruitment of IFCA General Members and advertising opportunities to respond to MMO Byelaw consultations.

Maintaining a database of contacts

D&S IFCA has adopted a permit-based model to manage fishing activity. This has enabled a large data base of contacts to be established.

The mailing list has been expanded to a range of other stakeholders with an interest in the work of D&S IFCA. The contacts list is maintained by Officers and is the foundation for a significant amount of D&S IFCA's communications; direct notification has significant benefits and ensures better outreach.

Consultation & Have Your Say

Communication is required for different elements of D&S IFCA's work. This includes byelaw development and the review of permit conditions, but also is required for evidence gathering to inform Marine Conservation Zone Assessment work and other objectives such as the development of angling.

“Have Your Say” or “Call for Evidence”, both informal and formal is supported by a mixture of news items, direct notification (email or Mailchimp), populating website display pages, use of Facebook, twitter, and officer engagement (in person, telephone, or email).

Engagement campaigns in FY2022/23 included formal consultation for two proposed new byelaws, amendments to diving permit conditions, Fishing Activity Surveys to inform MCZ Assessments, and engagement relating to the Skerries Bank Angling Zone.

Upcoming Engagement Events - (NQS) FMP

As part of the ongoing development of the Channel demersal non-quota species Fisheries Management Plan (FMP), Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will be holding a fresh round of in person and MB Teams engagement events with commercial and recreational fishers. The dates and times of the sessions are listed below. **Please note that commercial and recreational fishers are welcome to attend any of the events. The sessions in yellow have been designed to help recreational fishers attend but commercial fishers are welcome too. We hope to see you there!**

Date	Time	Location
07/03/2023	9am - 12pm	Weymouth - Quayside
07/03/2023	6pm - 8pm	Lyme Regis - Fishing College
07/03/2023	4pm - 6pm	Online*
07/03/2023	7pm - 9pm	Falmouth - Charadeer Pub
08/03/2023	9am - 12pm	Newlyn - CFPO office
08/03/2023	2pm - 4pm	Newlyn - Quayside
08/03/2023	10am - 1pm	Lyme Regis - Quayside
08/03/2023	3pm - 5pm	Axeouth - Quayside
09/03/2023	9am - 12pm	Fowey - Quayside
09/03/2023	9am - 12pm	Emswath - Quayside
09/03/2023	2pm - 5pm	Loe - Venue to be confirmed
09/03/2023	4pm - 8pm	Plymouth - Quayside
09/03/2023	4pm - 6pm	Online*
09/03/2023	7pm - 9pm	Loe - Venue to be confirmed
10/03/2023	10am - 1pm	Mevagissey - Venue to be confirmed
10/03/2023	10am - 12pm	Eritham - Quayside

*For online events, please email help@marinemanagement.org.uk for links

18/01/2023

IFCA Recruitment – General Members Vacancies

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has several current vacancies in the ten regional Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA) across England.



The MMO have announced that there is an exciting opportunity to participate in the management of inshore fisheries and marine conservation. The MMO will be seeking to appoint to fill current vacancies for general members and to create a reserve list for upcoming vacancies. These voluntary roles require candidates who can take a balanced approach for taking for our seas, assessing the priorities and needs of all users and stakeholders.

The MMO have stated that: "Dorset and Severn IFCA welcome applications from anyone with a willingness to engage with the IFCA in their work in undertaking the management of fisheries within their district. Applicants from the recreational fishing sector would be particularly welcomed"

- As the current membership for D&S IFCA is at full capacity, successful candidates would be added to the list of reserves being created by the MMO.

It is essential that candidates have some local knowledge of the IFCA area for which they are applying. The members of the IFCA contribute their knowledge and experience to provide sustainable management of their IFCA district. To find out more, including details about the application process, please click [here](#).

Applications must be submitted no later than 13th February 2023 and sent to the following address: maritime@marinemanagement.org.uk

or, by post to:

IFCA Recruitment,

Marine Management Organisation,

Lancaster House,

Newcastle upon Tyne.

NE4 7YN

Other links to information:

- [IFCA Application Form \(Digital Version\) \(PDF, 24 KB, 8 pages\)](#)
- [IFCA Application Form \(Print Version\) \(PDF, 314 KB, 8 pages\)](#)
- [IFCA General Member Terms and Conditions for Appointment \(PDF, 143 KB, 3 pages\)](#)
- [IFCA General Member Candidate Pack \(PDF, 379 KB, 8 pages\)](#)

Should you have any questions about the recruitment process please contact the Marine Management Organisation on 0300 123 1032.

Information and Evidence

- D&S IFCA now has over **1500** contact email addresses for direct circulation of information.
- The findings of specific consultations and other engagement initiatives are often documented and posted on the “*Engagement & Have Your Say*” website display page.
- Publishing consultation reports enables stakeholders to see how their contribution was recognised.

BYELAW DEVELOPMENT & PERMIT CONDITION REVIEW

The Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC)

Byelaw development and reviews of permit conditions are the remit of the B&PSC. In FY 2022/23 there have been three meetings of the B&PSC. The agendas for the meetings in the reporting period have primarily focussed on the development of two new proposed byelaws and a review of the Category One Diving Permit Conditions. Significant amounts of work are required in between meetings and to react to decision making of the B&PSC at the meetings. The Byelaw Technical Working Group (BTWG) (which includes Officers) undertakes drafting work on behalf of the B&PSC.

Review of existing Category One Diving Permit Conditions

Actions in 2022/23: To complete the review of the Category One Permit Conditions in relation to the Scallop Closed Season. Actions included the completion of the Formal Consultation, creation of Officers' papers and reports, Annex production, decision making of the B&PSC, potential drafting, and administration work.

Progress in 2022/23: Initial task completed.

Following the decision making by the B&PSC in June 2022, Diving Permits were amended and re-issued (valid from 1st July 2022). Commercial Scallop Divers now have greater access to scallop stocks within July, August, and September.

The change in the Permit Conditions was supported by communication work. A final Byelaw Development Report that documents the entire process has been produced and published.

Revoke & Remake the Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw

The task was not completed by 31st March as originally anticipated; however, progress has been made. Actions included B&PSC decision making, drafting with support from the BTWG, creation of Impact Assessments, Formal Consultation, managing responses, the MMO Quality Assurance phase, potential approval of the Secretary of State and finally additional communication.

Progress in 2022/23: The B&PSC agreed to make the Byelaw on 20th October 2022. A period of formal public consultation on the Byelaw the Permit Conditions and the Impact assessment associated with the Byelaw commenced on 25th November 2022 and ended on 20th January 2023.

On 23rd February 2023 the B&PSC considered the responses to the Formal Consultation and Officers' recommendations. Not all tasks have been completed and therefore this task will continue and will be included within the Annual Plan for FY 2023-24.

This will include creation of a Final Impact Assessment and submission to MMO for quality assurance. It is anticipated that the new Byelaw will be confirmed by Defra in FY 2023 - 2024.

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.

Success Criterion

Outcomes

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.

Information and Evidence

All papers and reports presented to the B&PSC are published on the website.

They will appear on the meetings tab and can also be found in the website Resource Library.

Information such as Impact Assessments and final Byelaw Development Reports can be viewed in Section F of the website Resource Library.

Revoke & Remake the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw

The task was not completed by 31st March as originally anticipated; however, progress has been made.

To complete the task to revoke and re-make the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. Actions include B&PSC decision making (deferred decisions on management measures and scope of management), drafting, Annex production, creation of Impact Assessments, Formal Consultation, managing responses, an MMO Quality Assurance phase, seeking approval of the Secretary of State and finally administration requirements (Permit Issue) and additional communication.

Progress in 2022/23: The B&PSC agreed to make the Byelaw on 20th October 2022. A period of formal public consultation on the Byelaw, the Permit Conditions, and the Impact assessment associated with the Byelaw commenced on 25th November 2022 and ended on 20th January 2023.

On 23rd February 2023 the B&PSC considered the responses to the Formal Consultation and Officers' recommendations for amendment & re-drafting.

Not all tasks have been completed and therefore this task will continue and will be included within the Annual Plan for FY 2023-24. Work for 2023-2024 will include minor re-drafting, amendments to Annexes, creation of a Final Impact Assessment and submission of the "Byelaw Package" to the MMO for quality assurance. It is hoped that the new Byelaw will be confirmed by Defra in FY 2023 - 2024.

Review of the Existing Netting Permit Conditions (as part of re-making the Byelaw)

This task was not started in FY2022/2023. Agenda time for the B&PSC is limited and other byelaw work was prioritised.

The task of reviewing the Netting Permit Byelaw and Permit Conditions must recognise other considerations such as communication, the outcomes from engagement, evidence gathering, and consideration of the findings of research (for example bass survivability studies).

A review of the Netting Permit Conditions was due for a formal review in 2021. Stakeholder expectation is that this review will be undertaken; however, it is advantageous that relevant information to inform the review is available at key phases of discussion and decision making otherwise momentum is lost. Research work is reaching stages where it can help to inform the review.

Information and Evidence

B&PSC Meetings in FY 2022/23

- 9th June 2022
- 20th October 2022
- 23rd February 2023

All minutes from B&PSC meetings are published and can be found within Section B of the website Resource Library.

Success Criterion 1:

IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

Success Criterion 2:

IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.

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 their districts.

Success Criterion 4:

IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.

Success Criterion 5:

IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.

NATIONAL IFCA SUCCESS CRITERIA

To support the positive delivery of the national vision, IFCAs have agreed a set of national success criteria matched with corresponding working-level objectives. The vision, success criteria and national working objectives are designed to assist in the creation of a shared understanding of the aims and objectives of all IFCAs nationally and focus positive service delivery towards achievement of the national vision. These national IFCA performance criteria also link directly to the UK Marine Policy Statement.

Focus and Priorities for the Year – Annual Plan 2022/2023

Each year the Authority Members agree and set their objectives for the year ahead which are outlined within the summary work programme contained within the Authority's Annual Plan. The 2022/2023 Annual Plan was adopted by Members on 17th March 2022.



Workstream Completed/Meeting Success Criteria



Workstream Started



Workstream Not Started

Success Criterion 1 IFCA's are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

Outcomes

The IFCA will maintain and implement an effective Communication Strategy.

Workstream & Actions

Skerries Bank Angling Zone

To carry out consultation and meetings with the three interested sectors who utilise the Angling Zone

To Review D&S IFCA's Communication Strategy & Delivery Plan

Familiarisation with current documentation, Governance Working Group (GWG) meetings, potential questionnaires for Members, drafting of material, potential presentations to the Authority, adoption by the Authority.

Stakeholder Database

To maintain a database of stakeholder contacts which will be reviewed and updated by 31 March each year. This will facilitate engagement with stakeholders.

Also, to maintain the database of details of D&S IFCA Permit Holders

Progress to March 2023 & Success Indicator

The consultation was conducted in November 2022 and ended on 9th December 2022 and a report was produced in March 2023 and published on the website.

This task has not been completed. It is an in-depth task and GWG meetings have taken place. Relevant information has been circulated to all Members and is highlighted within the GWG Catalogue and as links on the dedicated GWG website page within the Members' secure area. GWG meetings were held on 29th November 2022 and 16th January 2023 to discuss communications and the development of a new Strategy.

A database was maintained and updated regularly. This is used in consultations, as well as direct engagement with stakeholders from different sectors. The D&S IFCA Permit Holders database is also maintained and updated regularly and when there are permit changes and this allows direct communication with recreational and commercial fishers.

Further Actions (if required) and why?

The desire for change of the Angling Zone was not identified. A longer-term plan for this workstream will be developed to identify short- and long-term goals. Part of this work will be use of VMS (IVMS & VMS) and catch app data over a longer timeframe to look at the commercial use of the site and identify the potential for seasonal management to the site.

Defra High Level objectives set out that the Communications Strategy should be reviewed annually.

The GWG have taken on this responsibility.

This task will continue and will be included within the Annual Plan for 2023-24.

This task is an on-going task to ensure up to date contact details for dissemination and sharing of information, as detailed in the D&S IFCA Communication Strategy.

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.

Website

To review the website by the last day of each working month and by the 31st March each year to ensure it meets its objective of D&S IFCA's Communication Strategy.

The website was reviewed and updated at least on a weekly basis. Tasks included 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. Meetings regarding proposed changes to the website functionality and design have taken place.

Maintenance, review and updating of the website is an on-going task.

All minutes from Authority meetings and B&PSC meetings will continue to be published.

Website – Communications and information sharing

Producing and uploading news items on the work of D&S IFC and other relevant information to the website

News items are produced regularly. At time of writing (20th Feb 2023) 29 news items were produced and published on the D&S IFCA's website in FY 2022/23.

This is an on-going task. Communication through the website is an integral part of the D&S IFCA Communication Strategy and allows far reaching dissemination of information.

Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station

The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level.

To engage with the outcome of the PINS Public inquiry regarding the Acoustic Fish deterrent, to engage as appropriate with the application and consultation process for a material change. Input into meetings and relevant consultations including relevant Marine Licence Applications.

Continued engagement with HPC Marine Technical Forum, consultations on marine licence applications and process for material change to Development Consent Order. Secretary of State decision on outcome of June 2021 PINS inquiry was published early September 2022.

Work relating to this workstream is expected to continue into 2023/2024 in particular in relation to the development & proposing material changes to the water intakes at Hinkley Point C. This will meet the Marine Spatial Prioritisation programme, as an example of IFCA commitments to national engagement to support sustainable development, directly funded by Defra.

Participation in national and regional fisheries and conservation activities

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 including attendance at meetings e.g. NIMEG, RFG, TAG.

D&S IFCA participated in many regional and national meetings relating to fisheries and conservation activities and collaborated with many agencies such as Natural England, Defra, MMO, Cefas, and Environment Agency. On a national level these include NIMEG, MAFCO, TAG, IFCA Whelk Working Group, MMO Marine planning meetings, FMPs engagement events, Finfish and Shellfish Industry Advisory Groups, individual species FMP groups, IVMS Project Board, SAGB meetings, conferences and presentations to conferences. Regionally D&S IFCA participates in the Regional Fisheries Group, Standing Environment Groups, Hinkley Point C DCO group, meetings and collaboration with adjacent IFCAs as well as monthly meetings with Natural England. Locally D&S IFCA attends marine and estuary fora meetings, local fishermen’s associations meetings, sea angling club meetings, FHI and shellfish harvesting classification

D&S IFCA will continue to participate in all relevant national, regional, and local meetings.

Participation in national and regional fisheries and conservation activities

Review and respond to respond to Marine Licence Applications (MLAs) and Consultations

Officers responded to MLAs and national and local consultations. Some of these MLAs required very detailed review of many documents and research and evidence gathering to inform a D&S IFCA response in particular relating to its Statutory duties as well as information of potential impacts of the proposed development e.g., proposed sea weed farm applications.

This is an on-going task which involves several Officers. Depending on the applications and consultations this can be time consuming and will be documented in the Officers time recording. This will meet the Defra request for IFCAs to participate in Marine Spatial Prioritisation.

National consultations have been responded to such as the Defra Environmental Targets Consultation.

The IFCA will contribute to co-ordinated activity at a national level.

Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station

To respond to a Marine Licence Application to vary the application with regard to the amount of dredged material and the new disposal ground at Portishead.

Officers formally responded to the application and objected to the use of a variation to amend the licence and to the disposal site. MMO dismissed challenges from D&S IFCA and NGOs and approved the variation.

No further action required unless further variations to Marine Licences are received.

Success Criterion 2 IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.

Outcomes

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.

Workstream & Actions

Marking of Gear Project

To communicate to all recreational and commercial potting and netting permit holders the D&S IFCA gear marking requirements ahead of conducting a marking of gear monitoring programme.

Increase number of gear and catch inspections across shellfish sector.

In conjunction with the monitoring of gear marking, boarding commercial and recreational vessels to monitor compliance with other gear restrictions, (escape gaps, tags on recreational gear) and catch restrictions (Minimum sizes, berried lobster, 'V' notched lobster etc.)

Progress to March 2023 & Success Indicator

Updated news item posted on the website on 11.05.22 to remind of requirements along with update on findings so far. Between May and August 2022 an average of 6 patrols in the south coast per month targeting gear marking took place. Issue has improved greatly with patrols recording high numbers of marked gear, although some gear has been seized for non-compliance with permit requirements.

With additional Enforcement Officers now in place, targeted inspections have increased and consequently, detection rates have increased. Investigations relating to non-compliance with shellfish restrictions have increased from 10 during 2021/2022 to 16 in 2022/2023.

Further Actions (if required) and why?

Patrols in the District will continue in FY 2023/2024 and will be used to continue to target gear marking and monitor compliance. Feedback from fishers has highlighted concerns over non-compliance with this requirement.

Patrols will continue in the District to monitor compliance with the Potting Permit Conditions. Achieving high rates of compliance remains an ongoing objective.

Review the Compliance and Enforcement Strategy

To review the current strategy and consider introducing new ways of operating.

The review of the Compliance and Enforcement Strategy did not take place in FY 2022 – 2023.

The review was allocated to the GWG to conduct and other workstreams were prioritised and limited meetings of the GWG have taken place.

This is a task for the GWG in 2023/24.

Spatial Monitoring of towed gear vessels

To monitor IVMS, VMS and AIS data for mobile fishing gear vessels. Undertake patrols to target mobile gear vessels that may be operating without fully functioning IVMS and VMS devices.

Officers have undertaken spatial monitoring throughout the year. From 1st January to 21st November 2022, 21 investigations related to Non-Functioning IVMS have been undertaken. A triaging process has been implemented to streamline this workstream .

This remains a priority workstream for D&S IFCA. This workstream is imperative to ensure monitoring of compliance of spatial restrictions under the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions and to seek to ensure the protection of designated features of Marine Protected Area. Continued monitoring will identify gear conflict between the mobile fishing fleet and other fishing sectors.

Tasking & Co-ordination Group

To hold bi-weekly Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TCG) meetings in line with the National Intelligence Model (NIM).

Officers have prepared intel reports. Outcomes of TCG and intel reports have been disseminated among other regulators (NIMEG) in line with the NIM.

This is an on-going task.

Creation of Case Files

Officers will prepare a case file for reported illegal fishing activity. Each casefile will be shared with the D&S IFCA Legal representative for a decision as to whether there is sufficient evidence to pursue a prosecution and whether it is in the public interest to do so.

The preparation of case files is an essential part of the Enforcement Officer role. Officers have gathered the relevant information when potential illegal fishing activity has been identified and have produced prosecution case files for all investigations.

This is an on-going task.

Two case files were forwarded to the MMO as they related to incursions into MPAs outside the 6nm limit.

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.

Investigation Tables

To 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.

Officers have compiled a list of all investigations undertaken in 2022/2023. This has been shared with NIMEG and published on the D&S IFCA's website.

This is an on-going task.

Code of Conduct

The national Code of Conduct for IFCOs is published on the D&S IFCA website.

The review is an annual task for NIMEG. Any amendments to the Code will be published on the website.

The review is an annual task for NIMEG. Any amendments to the Code will be published on the website.

Accreditation and Training

Warranted Officers attain accreditation. All undertake Continuing Professional Development.

Training has been an important and essential workstream for the Enforcement Team. Two Enforcement officers were employed in 2021 and two more in 2022. This means that two thirds of the Enforcement Team are relatively new in their roles. External national enforcement training has been provided and significant internal training and guidance has been provided by more experienced officers. RYA Powerboat Level 2 Advanced training and Sea Survival (STCW95) courses have been undertaken as well as towing of a vessel training. The training of new officers is very time consuming for the team.

Further training of Enforcement Officers will be identified through the Personal Development Plans. Internal training will continue, in particular with scenario training, to ensure all warranted Officers are effective in their enforcement roles.

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 deliver efficient, effective enforcement activity.

The IFCA will have developed consistency in regulations (byelaws) with other organisations.

Collaborate with other regulators.

To work with other regulators to achieve consistent quality, application, and enforcement of management measures.

D&S IFCA has led IFCA representation on the MMO IVMS project and provided experience gained from the rolling out of IVMS on all D&S IFCA's Mobile Fishing vessels since 2018.

Officers have reviewed the impact assessments and proposed management that the MMO are considering for Offshore MCZs to determine whether their approach is consistent with D&S IFCA's management measures.

It is envisaged that completion of the MMO's roll-out and D&S IFCA's involvement in the project will continue throughout 2023/2024 to provide consistency in IFCA support.

Success Criterion 3 IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within its district.

Outcomes

Workstream & Actions

Progress to March 2023 & Success Indicator

Further Actions (if required) and why?

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.

Review of the existing Netting Permit Conditions (as part of re-making the Byelaw)

To begin the review of the Netting Permit Byelaw and Permit Conditions and progress actions within the "Planning Report" that was presented to the B&PSC in FY 2021-22.

Process elements of this task include communication / engagement, drafting, creation of Officers' papers and decision making of the B&PSC.

This task was not started in FY2022/2023. Agenda time for the B&PSC is limited and other byelaw work was prioritised.

The task of reviewing the Netting Permit Byelaw and Permit Conditions must recognise other considerations such as communication, the outcomes from engagement, evidence gathering, and consideration of the findings of research (for example bass survivability studies).

A review of the Netting Permit Conditions was due for a in 2021. Stakeholder expectation is that this review will be undertaken; however, it is advantageous that relevant information to inform the review is available at key phases of discussion and decision making otherwise momentum is lost. Research work is reaching stages where it can help to inform the review.

A Review of the Netting Permit Conditions will be a workstream in the Annual Plan 2023/2023. The review of the Netting Permit Byelaw will be deferred to 2024/2025.

Review of the existing Category One Diving Permit Conditions

To complete the review of the Category One Permit Conditions in relation to the Scallop Closed Season. Actions include to complete the Formal Consultation, creation of Officers' papers and reports, potential Annex production, decision making of the B&PSC, potential drafting, and administration work.

Initial task completed.

Following the decision making by the B&PSC in June 2022, Diving Permits were amended and re-issued – valid from 1st July 2022. Commercial Scallop Divers now have greater access to scallop stocks within July, August, and September.

The change in the Permit Conditions was supported by communication work.

A final Byelaw Development Report that documents the entire process has been produced and published.

Further action is required as the B&PSC recognised that it was important to monitor and evaluate the changes in management.

Further monitoring of the activity (separate to another formal review of the Diving Permit Conditions) is included as a task in the Annual Plan 2023-24

Revoke & re-make the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw

To complete the task to revoke and re-make the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. Actions include B&PSC decision making (deferred decisions on management measures and scope of management), drafting, Annex production, creation of Impact Assessments, Formal Consultation, managing responses, an MMO Quality Assurance phase, potential approval of the Secretary of State and finally administration requirements (Permit Issue) and additional communication.

All initial tasks are not yet completed.

The B&PSC agreed to make the Byelaw on 20th October 2022. A period of formal public consultation on the Byelaw the Permit Conditions and the Impact assessment associated with the Byelaw commenced on 25th November 2022 and ended on 20th January 2023.

On 23rd February 2023 the B&PSC considered the responses to the Formal Consultation and Officers' recommendations for amendment & re-drafting.

The B&PSC has recognised that the introduction of the new Byelaw & amended permit conditions will strengthen D&S IFCA's management of mobile fishing activity. Not all tasks have been completed and therefore this task will continue and will be included within the Annual Plan for 2023-24. Work for 2023-2024 will include minor re-drafting, amendments to Annexes, creation of a Final Impact Assessment and submission of the "Byelaw Package" to the MMO for quality assurance. It is hoped that the new Byelaw will be confirmed by Defra in 2023-2024.

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.

Revoke & re-make the Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw

To complete the task of revoking and remaking the Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw. Actions include B&PSC decision making, drafting with support from the BTWG, creation of Impact Assessments, Formal Consultation, managing responses, the MMO Quality Assurance phase, potential approval of the Secretary of State and finally additional communication.

Monitoring of Commercial Scallop Dive Fishery

Spatial monitoring, catch and landings analysis of commercial dive vessels operating in D&S IFCA's District during July, August and September.

Bass Survivability

Continue site-specific acoustic monitoring of sea bass tagged during FY 2022-2023 to investigate the survival of bass in the field; analyse acoustic and vitality data and publish a report on this work.

The B&PSC agreed to make the Byelaw on 20th October 2022. A period of formal public consultation on the Byelaw the Permit Conditions and the Impact assessment associated with the Byelaw commenced on 25th November 2022 and ended on 20th January 2023.

On 23rd February 2023 the B&PSC considered the responses to the Formal Consultation and Officers' recommendations.

All data on the vessels operating in the commercial dive fishery during July, August and September was collated. These included IVMS data, Catch app data, Sales notes and landings data. The data was analysed using R and QGIS and a report was produced on 15th February 2023 and submitted to the B&PSC for consideration on 23rd February 2023.

Acoustic receivers are in place in Salcombe and along the south coast as part of the FISHINTEL project. First data sets have been downloaded (July/August 2022) and analysed. Additional tagging took place in January 2023 to provide inter annual data to inform survivability

The B&PSC has recognised that the introduction of the new Byelaw will address the weakness that exists with the current Size of Vessels Byelaw.

Not all tasks have been completed and therefore this task will continue and will be included within the Annual Plan for FY 2023-24.

This will include creation of a Final Impact Assessment and submission to MMO for quality assurance. It is anticipated that the new Byelaw will be confirmed by Defra in 2023 - 2024.

Monitoring of compliance will feed into D&S IFCA's Enforcement planning process.

A report on the additional research undertaken in January 2023 will be produced under this workstream in the Annual Plan for FY 2023/2024.

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.

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.

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.

EMS/MCZ Assessments

To complete outstanding MCZ assessments and review MPA assessments as and when required.

EMS / MCZ Assessments

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. Use Monitoring and Control Plan findings to review MPA assessments as appropriate.

The Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Management Strategy

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.

All outstanding MCZ assessments, in particular for T3 sites, have been submitted to Natural England for formal advice. Other MPA assessments have been reviewed when new conservation advice or features have been added to the sites and where condition assessments have been undertaken.

Data was reviewed in February/March 2023 and Monitoring and Control Plans were updated where appropriate.

This workstream was not started in 2022/2023.

This is a workstream that will continue into the Annual Plan 2023/2024 as assessments are reviewed in light of MPA conditional assessments provided by Natural England and new feature designation.

Defra has provided IFCA's with additional funding to support its expectation that all MPA assessments will be undertaken by the summer of 2024.

This is a workstream that will continue into the Annual Plan 2023/2024 as M&CPs are reviewed annually to inform whether additional management is required.

The development of a Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Strategy will be a workstream under the Annual Plan 2023/2024. The Taw Torridge mussel resources will need to be assessed and actions within the strategy will promote sustainable development with regard to the availability of the resources. Work will be undertaken in conjunction with the North Devon Biosphere.

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.

Fisheries Management Plans (FMP)

To complete District-wide FRMPs for herring, bass, whelk, skates & rays, squid and cuttlefish.

These plans require extensive stakeholder engagement and review work prior to completion.

FRMPs work was suspended with the development of national FMPs.



All IFCAs have received additional funding from Defra to undertake work to support the development and implementation of national Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 FMPs.

FMP work will be a workstream of the Annual Plan 2023/2024.

The FRMPs will be shared with Defra to help inform national FMPs.

Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery

To assess the intertidal mussel stocks in the Taw Torridge Estuary.

Intertidal surveys have been carried out, data analysed, and a report produced.



This workstream will be included in the Annual Plan 2023/2024 and help inform the Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Strategy workstream.

Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery

To assess the subtidal mussel stocks in the Taw Torridge Estuary and to assess the success of the relaying trial.

The sub-tidal mussel resource and subsequent relaying did not take place due to weather conditions and non-availability of CIFCA's research vessel.



This workstream will be included in the Annual Plan 2023/2024 and help inform the Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Strategy workstream.

Intertidal Cockle Stock Assessments

To assess the intertidal cockle stocks in the Exe, Taw Torridge and Teign estuaries.

Surveys were completed and cockle stock assessment reports for the Exe, Taw-Torridge and Teign Estuaries were produced.



A cockle survey will be undertaken on the Taw Torridge in 2023/2024 to feed into the bird food availability model

Intertidal Mussel Stock Assessments

To assess the intertidal cockle stocks in the Exe and Teign estuaries.

Surveys were completed and mussel stock assessment reports for the Exe and Teign Estuaries were produced

These surveys will be part of the Annual Plan 2024/2025 and results will be used to inform whether the temporary closure is maintained.

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.

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 Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and Marine Plans

Inshore Potting Agreement Areas

To chair the South Devon Inshore Potting Agreement (IPA) Committee, produce minutes of the meeting, produce an annual chart of the IPA area, disseminate any changes in management of the IPA to permit holders and to MMO for licence variation purposes.

Exemption Authorisations

To review all Exemption Authorisation applications under its Exemption Byelaw 2019 for scientific, stocking and breeding purposes, and determine them within 60 days of receipt.

Trialling New Technologies

To continue the trial of REM and cameras on a scallop dredger operating within the D&S IFCA district to test its success and application.

The annual meeting of the IPA Committee was held on 19th October 2022 to consider proposed changes to the IPA management. A chart for 2023 was produced and circulated to all relevant permit holders on 30th December 2022.

D&S IFCA has reviewed, determined and issued 21 Authorisation requests from a range of stakeholders including academic institutions, Cefas, IFM, Environment Agency, consultants and fishers.

The REM trial continued throughout 2022-2023. The data collected from the trial has been presented to various stakeholder groups including D&S IFCA Authority Members, IPA committee, South Devon and Channel Shell fishermen’s Association, Defra, Baie de Seine French Fishermen’s group, Western Producer Organisation and IFCA’s Chief Officer’s Group.



This is an annual workstream. D&S IFCA, MMO and fishers from the different sectors meet to discuss co-management options for the IPA. This fisheries management system has been in place for decades and allows for fishing opportunities for the static and mobile gear sector through D&S IFCA’s Mobile Fishing Byelaw permit conditions and MMO Licence Variation.

This is an on-going annual workstream.

D&S IFCA Officers are currently looking for funding to roll out the trial of REM and Cameras on 10 Mobile Fishing Vessels operating in its District. This is with a view to potentially using these technologies to further manage the exploitation of sea fish resources in Marine Protected Areas in the District and protect sensitive designated features.

Outcomes

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.

Workstream & Actions

Annual Plan

To 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.

Annual Report

To publish a Report after the end of the financial year, 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.

Workstream Reporting

To accurately record time spent by Officers in different areas of work to inform the Annual Report and to assist with the Annual Plan.

Scheme of Delegation

To develop and introduce Scheme of Delegation. To organise and attend Governance Working Group meetings, draft the scheme of delegation for agreement in principle and present these to the Authority for adoption. To revise Terms of Reference to synchronise with Scheme of Delegation.

Progress to March 2023 & Success Indicator

An Annual Plan was developed by Officers and presented to the Authority in March 2022. The agreed Annual Plan for 2022/2023 was published on the D&S IFCA’s website on 30th March 2022.

The Annual Report for 2021/22 was completed and sent to the Secretary of State on 31st October 2022.

Officers have recorded the time spent on different tasks throughout the year. This is displayed in graphs.

This task is complete. D&S IFCA’s Scheme of Delegation was finalised, following support and clarification from DCC, and approved and adopted by the Full Authority on 13th October 2022.

Further Actions (if required) and why?

This is an on-going annual workstream.

This is an on-going annual workstream.

This is an on-going annual workstream.

No further action is required.



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.

Long Term Funding and Organisational Stability

Funding Local Authorities to actively engage with D&S IFCA and Defra to discuss potential funding solutions and deliver financial stability to D&S IFCA.

Staff Performance Planning

To develop and implement annual performance management plans for all staff members. Annual appraisals for all staff will have been completed by 31 May each year.

Job Evaluation Exercise for all D&S IFCA Staff

For the Senior Management Team to investigate the requirements and costs for the job evaluation and to provide any required documentation such as revised job descriptions. Engagement and discussion with all staff before, during, and on completion of exercise. To report findings to the Authority.

A meeting was held on Friday 30th September 2022. All funding Local Authority Councillors were invited and representatives from six out of the eight Local Authorities attended. Defra attended the meeting virtually as observers. A financial paper was prepared by the CO and circulated prior to the meeting and a summary report was provided to Defra.

Personal Development Plans were implemented in April/May 2022 and meetings were held with Officers to discuss these plans. Training needs were identified and training has been carried out to meet these needs. All Officers' personal development training is recorded. A six-month review of the Performance Plans for Officers was undertaken to ensure progress was being met.

D&S IFCA's Chief Officer (CO) contracted Cornwall County Council (CCC) to undertake a Job Evaluation of D&S IFCA roles. New job profiles and Role Information Questionnaires were prepared for each role and sent to CCC. CCC undertook a job evaluation and scores were provided to all staff in December 2022. Each staff member reviewed their points evaluation for their role and any appeals were made to CCC. CCC were also tasked to undertake a benchmarking exercise to review current pay scales compared with other organisations. The outcome of the Job Evaluation exercise will be reported to the Authority later in 2023, potentially at the AGM.

Defra has committed to engaging directly with the Local authorities to find a way forward to alleviate the financial challenges D&S IFCA faces.

This is an annual workstream.

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 documentation will be made available in line with Standing Orders.

Members Induction Package

To introduce an “Induction Package” including a booklet for Members.

To organise and attend Governance Working Group meetings, draft material for adoption by the Authority.

Authority Secretariat

To provide an efficient secretariat of IFCA staff to support IFCA Authority meetings which are held quarterly and are quorate. Meeting documentation will meet Standing Orders. To hold Committee meetings in public unless material is either confidential or exempt within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972.

Internal Meetings & Communications

To hold internal meetings with Staff; prepare papers for and attend IFCA working group meetings; and communicate with Authority Members and staff.

The task is complete. Following its completion in May 2022, a new Members’ Handbook is now in place. A presentation was provided at the June 2022 Authority meeting. The Members’ Handbook was updated in October 2022, re-circulated to all Members and is available on the Members area of the website.

Officers have arranged Authority, Sub – committee and working group meetings and circulated papers for all Authority and Sub-Committees meetings. Papers and minutes of formal meetings were published on the website. Authority and Sub-Committee meetings are always open to the public and questions can be put to these meetings in line with Standing Orders.

Internal communications have taken place through the year. These have been integral to the functioning of D&S IFCA and for monitoring progress against the Annual Plan. With many staff members working remotely regular virtual meetings have been undertaken to discuss workstreams, workloads and progress to meet deadlines.



No further action is required in the short term; however, the Members’ Handbook can be periodically reviewed.

This is an on-going task.

This is an on-going workstream.

Success Criterion 5 IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.

Outcomes

A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources.

Workstream & Actions

Research Planning

To include within D&S IFCA's Annual Plan areas of research (Evidence) that will be undertaken and published.

To develop an individual plan for all research workstreams.

Research Reporting

The IFCA will publish research reports annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making.

Progress to March 2023 & Success Indicator

The research workstreams for 2022/2023 were developed planned and implemented and the progress of these workstreams is described under SC3. Each workstream and survey was planned to take into account the evidence needs to aid the management of the resource, weather and environmental conditions, Health and Safety considerations and following standard operating procedures.

All data gathered from the research undertaken has been analysed, and reports have been produced on each workstream. Outputs from the research has been presented to the B&PSC and helped inform any changes to management measures. All papers and minutes of the B&PSC are published on the D&S IFCA website and document how the research has been used to inform decision making. Finalised reports have been published as soon as possible on the D&S IFCA website, placed in the website Resource Library and highlighted in News items on the website.

Further Actions (if required) and why?

This is a workstream that is conducted every year to feed into the D&S IFCA Annual Plan.

This is an on-going workstream.

Standard Operating Procedures describe how data is captured and shared with principal partners.

TAG & National Evidence Need

To contribute to TAG and identify the progress that has made towards a national evidence needs programme will be recorded in the IFCA's Annual Report.

Standard Operating Procedures

To review and develop Standard Operating procedures (SOPs) and share with other IFCAs and partner organisations.

MEDIN

To collect research/ survey meta data and upload it to the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network using national agreed formats.

D&S IFCA Officers have attended TAG meetings and completed workstreams determined by the group to fulfil national/ Defra workstreams. Officers presented at the Annual TAG Conference on 11th and 12th October 2022 on four topics:

- Understanding Bass survivability in inshore netting
- Wrasse Fishery Update - Data driven management of a multispecies inshore fishery
- Intertidal and Subtidal mussel surveys and the development of a small-scale fishery
- FRMPs

SOPs were developed for areas of research such as the Bass survivability work and those used for annual surveys were reviewed to ensure the best methodologies were used to collect the relevant data for research and management needs.

All metadata developed for survey work undertaken by D&S IFCA is recorded in MEDIN and information relating to the access to data is provided.

D&S IFCA will continue to attend TAG meetings and contribute to the progress of national evidence programme requirements.

This is an on-going workstream.

Non-confidential meta-data collected through the IFCA research programme should be recorded in a database available to the marine research community.

A strategic research plan that contributes to greater understanding of the marine environment and delivery of cost-effective management of sea fisheries resources.

Respond to Research Enquiries and Information Provision

To engage with academic institutions, Cefas and other research programmes, respond to enquiries and share information and data, where appropriate, to further marine research and evidence gathering.

D&S IFCA Officers worked with many universities including Plymouth, Exeter Bangor and with, in particular the shellfish team at Cefas, to provide data and research information and letters of support for research funding opportunities.

D&SIFCA has received enquiries from consultants and students and provided relevant fisheries and conservation information.



A list of research databases held by the IFCA and the frequency of their review.

Research Databases and Literature Review

The IFCA will publish a research report annually that demonstrates how evidence has supported decision making.

D&S IFCA Officers accessed a wide range of literature through its evidence reviews. All reports have listed the research papers used in the report preparation.



This is an on-going workstream.

Annex 1: Attendance Record – Authority Meetings

Table 1: Elected Members

Elected Member	Role	Date of Meeting & Location				Attendance		
		16/06/2022: Newton Abbot	13/10/2022: Exeter	15/12/2022 Newton Abbot	16/03/2023 Exeter	Expected	Present	Absent
Cllr Dewhirst	Devon County Council	Absent	Present	Present	Present	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Cllr Crabb	Devon County Council	Deputy (Cllr Channon)	Present	Absent	Absent	4	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Cllr Hughes	Devon County Council	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	4	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Cllr Twiss	Devon County Council	Present	Present	Absent	Present	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Cllr Peart	Devon County Council	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	4	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Cllr Amil	Torbay Council	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Cllr Bingley	Plymouth City Council	Absent				1	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Cllr Wakeham	Plymouth City Council		Absent	Deputy (Cllr Stoneman)	Absent	3	1 (33%)	2 (66%)
Cllr Murphy	Somerset Council		Absent	Absent	Absent	3	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Cllr Napper	Somerset Council	Absent				1	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Cllr Petty	North Somerset Council	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
Cllr Birchill	South Gloucestershire Council	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
Cllr Preest	Gloucestershire Council	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	4	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Cllr Goggin	Bristol City Council	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	0 (0%)	4 (100%)

Total expected attendances at Authority meetings: 48

Total of attendances: 15

Attendance percentage: 31%

Table 2: MMO Appointees and Statutory Appointees

General Member	Role	Date of Meeting & Location				Attendance		
		16/06/2022: Newton Abbot	13/10/2022: Exeter	15/12/2022 Newton Abbot	16/03/2023 Exeter	Expected	Present	Absent
Professor Mike Williams (Chair)	MMO Appointee (Chair)	Present	Present	Present	Present	4	4 (100%)	0 (0%)
Dr Pamela Buchan	MMO Appointee (Vice Chair)	Absent	Present	Present	Present	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Dr Emma Bean	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Present	Present	4	4 (100%)	0 (0%)
Natasha Bradshaw	MMO Appointee	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Anthony McDowell	MMO Appointee	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
Caroline Acton	MMO Appointee	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Guy Baker	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Absent	Present	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Simon Thomas	MMO Appointee		Present	Present	Absent	3	2 (66%)	1 (33%)
Wayne Thomas	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Present	Present	4	4 (100%)	0 (0%)
Tom Birbeck	MMO Appointee	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
Dave Saunders	MMO Appointee	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	4	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
Jon Dornom	MMO Appointee	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	4	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Felicity Sylvester	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Present	Present	4	4 (100%)	0 (0%)
David Morgan	MMO Appointee	Present	Absent	Present	Present	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Mark Day	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Present	Absent	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Rachel Irish	MMO Appointee (MMO Officer)	Present	Present	Present	Present	4	4 (100%)	0 (0%)
Jay Boyle	Statutory Appointee (Natural England)	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	4	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Simon Toms	Statutory Appointee (Environment Agency)	Present	Present	Absent	Present	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)

Total expected attendances at Authority meetings: 71

Total of attendances: 43

Attendance percentage: 60%

Annex 2: Attendance Record – Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee Meetings

General Member	Role	Date of Meeting & Location				Attendance	
		09/06/2022: Exeter	20/10/2022: Newton Abbot	23/02/2023 Exeter	Expected	Present	Absent
Dr Emma Bean	MMO Appointee (Chair)	Present	Present	Present	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Professor Mike Williams	(Vice Chair)	Present	Present	Present	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Dr Pamela Buchan	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Absent	3	2 (66%)	1 (33%)
Cllr Dewhirst	Devon County Council	Absent	Present	Absent	3	1 (33%)	2 (66%)
Cllr Amil	Torbay Council		Present	Absent	2	1 (50%)	1 (50%)
Cllr Wakeham	Plymouth City Council		Absent	Absent	2	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
Caroline Acton	MMO Appointee		Absent	Absent	2	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
Guy Baker	MMO Appointee		Present	Present	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Simon Thomas	MMO Appointee		Present	Absent	2	1 (50%)	1 (50%)
Wayne Thomas	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Present	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Dave Saunders	MMO Appointee	Present	Absent	Present	3	2 (66%)	1 (33%)
Jon Dornom	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Present	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Felicity Sylvester	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Present	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
David Morgan	MMO Appointee	Present	Present	Absent	3	2 (66%)	1 (33%)
Mark Day	MMO Appointee		Present	Present	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Andy Wray	MMO Appointee	Present			1	1 (100%)	0 (0%)
Rachel Irish	MMO Appointee (MMO Officer)	Present	Present	Present	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Jay Boyle	Statutory Appointee (Natural England)	Present	Absent	Present	3	2 (66%)	1 (33%)
Simon Toms	Statutory Appointee (Environment Agency)	Absent	Present	Present	3	2 (66%)	1 (33%)

Total expected attendances at Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee meetings: 49

Total of attendances: 36

Attendance percentage: 73%

D&S IFCA Annual Report 2022-2023



Version Control

27th March 2023: Version 1.0 - D&S IFCA Annual Report 2022-2023.