

AIFCA Chief Officers Report Spring 2021/22

Defra's Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code

Defra is developing a Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code. The code will provide overarching guidance to the public on minimising disturbance to marine wildlife and to increase the public's safety and the safety of animals. Defra is hoping to publish the code in summer. The AIFCA Chief Officer has been engaging with the Defra team on the draft code.

Draft Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) Consultation

The AIFCA Chief Officer responded to the Draft Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) Consultation. A copy of the draft is reproduced below.

[Please Click Here](#)

Green Paper entitled Nature Recovery Green Paper: Protected Sites and Species

The proposals set out in this Green Paper entitled Nature Recovery Green Paper: Protected Sites and Species are intended to support the Government's ambition to restore nature and halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.

The Green Paper includes options to "bring clarity and coherence to our framework for protected sites; to reform species protections; and to modernise funding arrangements. It also looks at what institutional and delivery arrangements would best support our nature recovery objectives."

The Government is setting out proposals to create a system which "better reflects the latest science and the impending impacts of climate change, which better reflects our domestic species and habitats, and which will help us achieve our significant goals to recover nature." The consultation opened on 16th March 2022 and closed on 11th May 2022.

The AIFCA Chief Officer, produced a briefing paper for the IFCAs and responded to the consultation. A copy of the draft is reproduced below.

[Please Click Here](#)

Capital Investment bid for the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities; Business Case

Working closely with Defra, the Chairman of the Chief Officers' Group and the IFCA Chief Officers, the AIFCA Chief Officer developed a strategic outline business case for two separate capital funding strand requests for the IFCAs 1) Modernisation of Assets 2) Highly Protected Marine Areas.

In assessing the needs of IFCAs at their creation, the capital replacement programme was excluded from the original New Burdens funding allocation as it was envisaged that capital for vessel modernisation would be provided from the control and enforcement funds in the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. In the event insufficient consideration was made of the needs of the IFCAs from this fund with the majority of investment being diverted elsewhere into national programmes, and latterly for EU Exit works.

The AIFCA's grant submission makes the case for capital support for the IFCA's to modernise and replace their patrol assets and support, where relevant the implementation of the HPMAs network.

Office of Environmental Protection Report. 25-year plan Taking stock: protecting, restoring and improving the environment in England

The AIFCA has met with the OEP and discussed their role and the role of the IFCA's.

The OEP has published a [report](#) which calls for the government to aim high and act now to ensure it achieves its ambitions for the environment with its first monitoring report on the government's 25 Year Environment Plan, Taking stock: protecting, restoring and improving the environment in England.

ENDS have published the inaugural Power List of the Top 100 Most Influential Environmental Professionals that have made the greatest impact in the past two years.

ENDS state that "The individuals who made the final list may have shaped or influenced national or local environmental policy. Their actions may have enhanced the reputation of the environmental profession. Their work may have resulted in demonstrable and positive environmental improvements. Or they may be unsung heroes whose work is delivering positive change without receiving the recognition they deserve."

I am very proud and honoured to have made it onto the list.

<https://www.endsreport.com/article/1756270/power-list-2022-uks-100-influential-environmental-professionals>

Defra Project funding

Defra has allocated £130,000 to the AIFCA to deliver priority projects. As set out below to be taken forward and managed by the Association of IFCA's. These projects all align to priority Defra work areas. With thanks to Eastern IFCA for assisting in the facilitation of this funding; we will follow up with Defra to discuss those projects in more detail and set out governance arrangements. Noting that the FMP funding and the HPMAs funded work was delivered in FY 2021- 2021.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Funding Breakdown</u>
Fisheries Management Plans	£15,680.00
Fisheries Management Plan Pilots	£47,000.00
HPMAs	£14,580.00
Evaluation Framework/Theory of Change	£52,740.00

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime deployment

I have been invited to assist the UNODC in a programme training Somali fisheries inspectors, developing their capacity to enforce their fisheries licensing regime. The initial training mission is for 10 days in June. The training is a collaboration between the UNODC, Somali government fisheries inspectors and the Seychelles Coastguard.

End.