

Devon and Severn IFCA News

D&S IFCA's Annual Report 2022/2023 and its Annual Plan 2023/2024

Read about the achievements of D&S IFCA set out in its Annual Report 2022/2023 and the work to be undertaken by D&S IFCA in its Annual Plan 2023/2024.

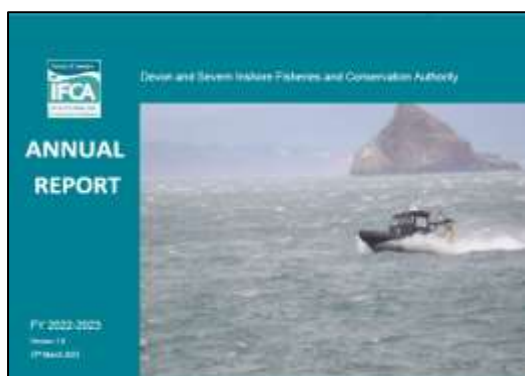
Background

D&S IFCA has the largest of the ten IFCA's districts and has two separate coastlines. 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. D&S IFCA's core work is divided into enforcement work, research work and byelaw work (including engagement).

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). A list of our Authority Members can be viewed [here](#). D&S IFCA is funded primarily from Central Government, with additional contributions from the eight relevant funding Local Authorities.

Annual Report 2022/2023

As specified in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, D&S IFCA must publish an Annual Report. The Report can be read [here](#).



The 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).

Professor Mike Williams, Chair of the Authority said....

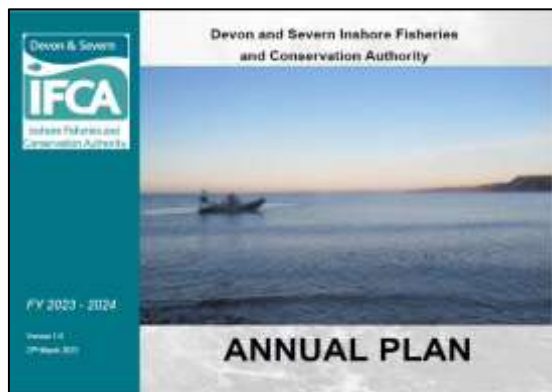
"This report covers the twelfth year of operations. D&S IFCA operates on the lowest mainland IFCA Revenue Budget with only thirteen full-time and two-part time Officers and an operational budget of £43,000 to undertake all the Authority's research and enforcement work.

I welcomed the additional funding from Defra 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”.

Annual Plan 2023/2024

As specified in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, D&S IFCA must publish an Annual Plan. The Annual Plan can be read [here](#).



D&S IFCA's 13th Annual Plan sets out the known priorities for the forthcoming year and sets out many other areas of work necessary to support the organisations governance and business as usual functions.

Additional SR21 funding (£150,000) from Defra is intended to provide all IFCAs with additional financial support so that they can assist with the delivery of three key national workstreams.

- Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs).
- Marine Spatial Prioritisation including marine licensing and sustainable development.
- Marine Protected Areas (including- implementation of necessary management measures).

D&S IFCA's officers have already progressed these workstreams and the Annual Plan 2023/2024 sets out the additional work required to deliver Defra's expectations. However, due to its financial situation, D&S IFCA will need to deliver this additional work within its existing team and resources.

D&S IFCA intends to continue to contribute to five out of the first six FMP by continuing to participate in the development meetings and provide further evidence. D&S IFCA will continue to respond to all relevant Marine Licence Applications including further engagement in the Hinkley Power Station development and mariculture development. Through the research and governance work, D&S IFCA is on track to introduce the necessary measures to protect MPAs from interactions with fishing gears.

D&S IFCA intends to review its management approach to the important potting fisheries in the District in response to the concerns raised by commercial fishers regarding the potential increases in fishing effort within the District. A key part of the planned work for 2023/2024 will be to begin the review of the netting permit conditions. The focus of the review will be to engage with the relevant stakeholders including commercial and recreational net permit holders and recreational sea anglers.

Innovation, including the use of on-board technologies, has been a long-standing core value for D&S IFCA. The trial of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) on board demersal towed gear vessels will be extended during 2023/2024 and D&S IFCA also intends to undertake a pilot project to look at how REM may provide options for management in the potting fisheries.

More Information

A website page has been developed to display all recent Annual Plans and Annual Reports. The website page "Annual Business Plans & Reports" can be viewed [here](#).