



Authority Meeting

Final Minutes from 18th March 2021

Version Control and Drafting

Version & Date	Comments
Version 0.1 8 th April 2021	1 st Draft of minutes completed for circulation to officer's present at the meeting for potential internal amendment and or additions.
Version 0.2	Sarah Clark reviewed and made additions/amendments
Version 0.3	Olga Pepper review and made additions/ comments
Version 0.4	MM comments
Final Version 1.0 20 th July 2021	Minor amendments (spelling errors on pages page 5 and 13) applied following the Authority meeting held on 16 th July 2021.

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Minutes of the Authority Meeting

Held virtually on 18th March 2021 on Zoom (start at 13.00 hrs)

Present:

Professor Mike Williams (Chair)

Cllrs:

Rufus Gilbert (Devon), Ian Hall (Devon), Linda Hellyer (Devon), Christine Channon (substitute for Cllr Hughes) (Devon), Robert Griffin (South Gloucestershire), Afzal Shah (Bristol City Council), Bridget Petty (N. Somerset), Nicole Amil (Torbay), Pam Buchan (Plymouth), Jonathan Hawkins (Devon), Terry Napper (Somerset County Council).

General Members/Statutory Members:

Natasha Bradshaw, James Marsden, David Morgan, David Murphy, Jim Portus (MBE), Felicity Sylvester, Andrew Wray, Jim Masters, Rachel Irish, Sangeeta McNair, Simon Toms, Dave Saunders, Stephen Gledhill.

Officers:

Angela Stirland (Devon), Jessica Maunder (Devon), John Flannigan (North Somerset), Stephen Dury (Somerset), Simon Excell (Gloucestershire), Sarah Jackson (Bristol) (substitute for Kathy Derrick).

D&S IFCA/Representing D&S IFCA:

Mat Mander (Chief Officer), Sarah Clark (Deputy Chief Officer), Neil Townsend (Principal Policy Officer) Olga Pepper (Finance & Administration Manager), Dr Tom Stamp (presenting during Agenda Item 9).

Public:

Dr Emma Bean
Daniel Moore (Natural England) – observing.

Notes:

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting at 15.15.
Cllr Hellyer reported she would leave the meeting at 17.20.
Cllr Channon left the meeting at 16.15.
Cllr Afzal Shah joined at 13.22 and left the meeting at 15.23.
Cllr Petty left the meeting 15.30 and re-joined the meeting at 15.50.
Natasha Bradshaw left the meeting at 15.05.
Jim Portus joined the meeting after Agenda Item 1 and left the meeting at 15.40.
Felicity Sylvester joined the meeting at 13.35.
Simon Toms joined the meeting at 13.37.
Cllr Hawkins left the meeting during Agenda Item 7

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair formally welcomed members to the virtual meeting and thanked them for their attendance. It was noted that this would be the last meeting for Jim Portus, Stephen Gledhill, and Simon Pollentine. The Chair thanked all of these members for their commitment to the work of the D&S IFCA over many years. Stephen Gledhill thanked members and officers and said that it had been a privilege to be part of the D&S IFCA and to see how the organisation had developed and achieved so much since 2011. The Chair informed members that Dr Emma Bean would be observing proceedings along with Daniel Moore from Natural England. It was

explained that Dr Bean had completed a PhD on the public right to fish and would soon be appointed as a general member of D&S IFCA. Both Dr Bean and Daniel Moore were welcomed by the members.

The Chair asked Finance and Administration Manager (F&AM) Olga Pepper to read out the list of apologies provided in advance of the meeting which were noted as follows:

Cllr Stuart Hughes (Devon), Cllr Will Windsor-Clive, Jessica Bishop, Jon Dornom, Simon Pollentine and Dave Saunders.

Absentees were noted as:

Adam Parnell, Brian Glasson, Kathy Derrick.

The Chair explained that the meeting would be held in two parts with the public to be excluded from the second part of the meeting subject to the formal process that would be undertaken.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Napper explained to members that he wished to declare an interest in the discussions relating to Hinkley Point C Power Station as Somerset County Council is supportive of the Hinkley Point C Power Station and the works required in connection with it.

Part 1 Meeting - Action Items:

3. Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held on 17th December 2020

The draft minutes from 17th December 2020 were examined page by page. Simon Excell reported that his name was not spelled correctly on page 11 and this was noted by Principal Policy Officer (PPO) Townsend. No other errors or required changes to the draft minutes were highlighted by members.

That the minutes from 17th December 2020 (subject to amendment) are a true and accurate record.

Proposed:

Cllr Buchan

Seconded: Cllr Hall

It was suggested that the accuracy of the minutes would be taken as all in favour unless anyone wished to vote against or abstain. Members that were not present at the meeting held on 17th December did not vote.

In favour:

All

4. Matters Requiring Urgent Attention

The Chair explained that before the meeting had been arranged, but after circulation of the agenda, Cllr Petty had requested that an application by EDF energy for dredging and disposal in the Severn Estuary be discussed by members and that two relevant documents be circulated to members prior to the meeting. Chief Officer (CO) Mander apologised for not circulating the documents to date; however, it was confirmed that they would be circulated soon after the meeting. The Chair explained to members that D&S IFCA had already been involved with other aspects of work relating to Hinkley Point C Power Station and the nature of the request by Cllr Petty for further assistance would have resource implications for the Authority. The Chair asked Cllr Petty to present an overview of the issue.

Cllr Petty explained that a Marine Licence Application for extraction of sediments and its disposal had been submitted to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and that as North Somerset Council is committed to conservation and marine protection, it is therefore intending to object. As the proposed dumping site for “nuclear mud” is near Portishead, the residents would have concern if this were supported. Cllr Petty raised concerns about the impact on coastal communities in the area such as Western Super Mare and Portishead. Key questions, that need answers, include why EDF is proposing to dump extracted material so far away from the power station and why near Portishead. Cllr Petty informed members that an extension to the consultation period needed to be requested and it was the expectation of the Council that it should be able to work with D&S IFCA with the potential that it may lead to a Public Inquiry. Cllr Napper said that he had concern regarding the phrase “nuclear mud” and asked the Member to withdraw that description of the dredged material. Cllr Shah commented that if the dumping of material is potentially considered to be safe, then why is it banned by other countries. James Marsden thanked Cllr Petty for the brief presentation on the issue and highlighted some relevant published papers that had been reported in national newspapers. James Marsden offered to provide links to the articles to members that wished to read them.

CO Mander informed members that D&S IFCA had already engaged in work relating to Hinkley Point C and that Senior Environment Officer (SEO) Dr James Stewart was continuing to lead this work. CO Mander informed members that some aspects of the work involving the recent application may be beyond the expertise of D&S IFCA’s staff and that D&S IFCA’s resources to take on additional work not already set out in its draft Annual Plan would be a factor. Rachel Irish explained that the opportunity to request an extension to the consultation process, is available to all, and this should be recognised when balanced against D&S IFCA’s resources. The Chair added that, to the best of his knowledge, an extension would only be provided to an organisation that had requested it, rather than a general extension open to all. Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) Clark informed members that SEO Stewart was requesting an extension to the consultation period from the MMO; however additional clarity will be required regarding the process and demands of a potential Public Inquiry.

Natasha Bradshaw explained how she had been involved with previous work associated with Hinkley Point C Power Station. From her own experience it was known that the developer uses Cefas for the assembly of evidence and that past evidence had been challenged by the Environment Agency. This latest issue would involve a lot of work and it was suggested that a past working group, the Hinkley Nuclear Working Group, be re-established to explore, or assist with, aspects of any required work wherever possible.

Cllr Petty recognised the limitations that D&S IFCA may have regarding its resources and ability to lead on the work; however, the Council does contribute to the annual budget and in the view of North Somerset Council, D&S IFCA would be the expert authority to approach the issue in more detail. CO Mander summarised the discussions and confirmed that D&S IFCA would engage in the initial phases and officers would be able to assess the contribution that can be made. It was recommended that the working group highlighted by Natasha Bradshaw be re-instated.

5. Questions from the Public

CO Mander reported that there were no questions from the public to consider.

6. To receive and note the Budget Monitoring Report (Month 11)

The Chair invited Jessica Maunder to present the CO and Treasurer (DCC) report before taking questions from members. Jessica Maunder went through the joint report in detail highlighting the different sections including the variances set out in the financial tables. It was reported that the underspend, at Month 11, of approximately £28,000 was mainly due to different impacts associated with Covid-19. Members were informed about minor errors on the final page of the paper, and it was clarified that the underspend was £28,200 and the reserves were £560,366. The Chair thanked Jessica Maunder and Angela Stirland for their work associated with D&S IFCA's finances and the report.

CO Mander informed members that approximately £15,000 of additional expenditure was not yet accounted for within the report which included a tax return to HMRC and invoices for legal fees. CO Mander explained that a re-occurring underspend is often as a result of staffing issues and that a staffing level of 12.63 FTE is not sufficient given the recent levels of resignations. CO Mander emphasised that the recruitment and retention of staff is a major concern and, as previously reported, the increased volume of work that officers must attempt to achieve when the organisation is short staffed is not sustainable in the longer term.

The Chair invited questions and comments from members. Cllr Buchan enquired if it was standard practice for any underspends to be transferred into the General Reserves. Angela Stirland explained aspects of money transfer (budget line mechanics) protocol and how the General Reserves are used to invest in Treasury Deposits to generate some interest. Cllr Channon focussed on the underspend on staff and asked if it was possible to assess what impact this had caused over a defined period of time. CO Mander explained that underspends on staff had been evident in many previous budgetary reports. Regarding impact, CO Mander confirmed that remaining staff had often had to work harder to fill gaps and it was becoming impossible to achieve many of the tasks as set out in the Annual Plans each year. CO Mander added that the Internal Annual Report and previous Annual Reports highlight the number of incomplete workstreams, with many of them as a result of a lack of staff to do the required work in a given time frame. Cllr Channon asked if incomplete work would have a negative impact on marine conservation. CO Mander explained how D&S IFCA is prioritising its work as set out in its Annual Plans and the non-delivery of management measures associated with incomplete or delayed workstreams would potentially have an adverse impact over time. DCO Clark added that delivery weaknesses extend into many areas of D&S IFCA's work and include reductions in the numbers of surveys undertaken. Members were informed that D&S IFCA undertakes less engagement and communication work that would be considered, by many stakeholders, to be the required level. DCO Clark informed members that delivery limitations heighten the risks of reputational damage to the organisation. Cllr Gilbert stated that he was pleased to see that the papers for the several agenda items are seeking to use some of the General Reserves. With no further questions or comments, the Chair stated that the budget report was noted by members and once again thanked Jess Maunder and Angela Stirland.

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7. To receive and approve the recommendations in the Annual Plan Paper

The Chair informed members that this agenda item would include decision making relating to five separate recommendations, cumulating in the potential adoption of the 2021-22 Annual Plan. CO Mander was invited to provide an overview of the separate papers (Annexes) and provide an overview of the draft Annual Plan 2021-22 that formed part of the member's bundle.

Presentation

CO Mander explained how the internal Annual Report 2020-2021 (Annex 1 of bundle) had highlighted the tasks that had been both completed and not completed as planned and had therefore informed elements of the draft Annual Plan for 2021-22. CO Mander explained how the draft Annual Plan had been created in a

different style to previous versions and was a mixture of “Key Tasks” for completion within 12 months, coupled with “Business as Usual” work that centred around National Success Criteria for all IFCA’s. The draft Annual Plan for 2021-22 had recognised the potential use of the General Reserves to enable some key workstreams to be delivered and depending on the decision making of members, the draft Annual Plan 2021-22 would be amended accordingly for publishing and submission to Defra by the end of March 2021. Given the timeframe for completion, it was recommended that any minor changes could be raised by members in email correspondence and any fundamental issues could be raised in the discussion that would follow. The Chair asked members to ask any questions or raise any issues.

General Comments & Questions

Sangeeta McNair congratulated officers on the papers submitted and stated that the internal Annual Report and Draft Annual Plan were very clearly laid out. Cllr Buchan suggested that in future Annual Plans it would be beneficial to demonstrate more clearly the tasks that had been carried forward due to them not being complete in the previous financial year. Regarding communications, and the key tasks as set out in that section, Cllr Buchan recommended some evaluation work on the effectiveness of communications which could interlink with a review of D&S IFCA’s overarching Communication Strategy. CO Mander highlighted that a review of the Communications Strategy is planned as part of “Business as Usual” tasking for 2021-22. CO Mander explained how as part of the existing Communications Strategy, D&S IFCA had experimented with and undertaken a mixture of communication work including the engagement work associated with the “Pioneer Project” and the development of Fisheries Research and Management Plans. Other initiatives/best practice had included the establishment of a Data Sharing Agreement.

James Marsden agreed with Cllr Buchan that it would be good to see a clearer link to the tasks that had been carried forward and why they had been carried forward. Referring to the Internal Annual Report, James Marsden raised his concern regarding 20 or more tasks that had not been completed and that this was obviously due to the lack of resources, which in his view was not acceptable. James Marsden also suggested that the Annual Plan could be a mechanism to demonstrate the tasks that D&S IFCA cannot complete due to its financial weakness and limited resources including a shortage of staff. James Marsden highlighted that a “Triage” could be applied to better prioritise the work to be undertaken and encouraged regular reporting to the Authority regarding progress made on the tasks as set out.

In response, CO Mander reassured members that future editions of the Annual Plan can better demonstrate tasks carried forward; however, it was his view that listing tasks that were not achievable would not be the best approach to take. By default, the Annual Plan only lists the “Key Tasks” that officers predict can be achieved in twelve months, with the remainder linked to Success Criteria that all IFCA’s must achieve to meet the minimum expectations of Defra. It would be for Defra and Stakeholders to determine if the output and successful delivery of work meets the requirements of what D&S IFCA should achieve. CO Mander informed members that all the “Key Tasks” are effectively priority tasks and emphasised that D&S IFCA is not equipped to take on work that was un-planned unless something already planned gives way to it. This is where the strategic decision making of members can impact on the prioritisation of work at the expense of other work. At the request of members, CO Mander explained how officers were developing and introducing a new time recording system for 2021-22 that will help to evaluate the time spent on different areas of work and ultimately improve reporting to members and the wider public. DCO Clark commented that different types of quarterly reports had been produced in recent years and overtime the members can guide officers in the style of reporting that they would like to receive.

Felicity Sylvester raised her concern that the draft Annual Plan did not focus enough on Brexit and the social, economic and conservation impacts this may have on the fishing industry. Whilst recognising the potential difficulties facing fishermen, especially the shell fisheries, after Brexit, the Chair clarified the position of the

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IFCA with reference to Section 153 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the limitations this imposes on its work. The Chair informed members that he would follow up this point in email correspondence after the meeting. DCO Clark highlighted that the key drivers as set out in the draft Annual Plan included the Fisheries Act which provided the basis for the development of Fisheries Management Plans. It was for this reason that the first recommendation was to use general reserves to fund the appointment of a Fisheries Research and Management Plan Officer (FRMP). As there were no further general questions or points to raise, the Chair moved onto the five separate decision-making items beginning with the appointment of a FRMP Officer.

Decision Making

1. Appointment of a Fisheries Research & Management Plan (FRMP) Officer

CO Mander built on the previous comments of DCO Clark and guided members through the covering paper (Annual Plan Recommendation - Annex 2). It was highlighted that FRMPs are at the heart of the Fisheries Act and this is a key reason why the recommendation is to use the General Reserves to fund a fixed term, full time post for two years. The appointment will enable previous work and engagement via the partnership “Pioneer Program” to continue but be extended to the whole of the District. CO Mander highlighted the detail provided in the covering paper that included the achievements to date and the planned future work before taking any questions from members.

Sangeeta McNair said that she applauded the work done to date and questioned if a two-year contract would be sufficient to complete the required work as set out. The Chair informed members that the two-year period reflected employment law rather than the time potentially needed to complete the work. Cllr Hall stated that he was pleased to see an option to use the General Reserves to assist the IFCA to undertake essential work and would propose a motion. Before voting, the Chair asked if any member would firstly like to propose any amendments.

Felicity Sylvester said that in her opinion not all of the work to date with the Pioneer project had been that positive. It was explained that the herring fishermen in North Devon had not been involved in the engagement work and that she would like to see the exact job description for the post before voting on the issue. DCO Clark informed members that the Marine Pioneer engagement work had been split into different port areas and although not every individual fisherman may have been involved, there had been liaison with the North Devon Fisherman’s Association and the fishers from Clovelly, some of which were herring fishers. DCO Clark informed members that the exact job description was not to hand but that the officer paper contained an overview of the expectations of the role. Cllr Shah stated that he was not proposing an amendment, but he wanted it recorded that he very much supported the use of the General Reserves to fund the new IFCA position and that he would appreciate updates regarding the progress of the work in due course. The Chair put the motion proposed by Cllr Hall to the vote.

That D&S IFCA Members agree to the appointment of a FRMP Officer on a two-year fixed term contract to be paid for out of General Reserves.

Proposed: **Cllr Hall** **Seconded: Cllr Hellyer**

The Chair asked each member to vote in turn and Finance & Administration Manager (F&AM) Pepper recorded the votes.

In favour: **22**
Against **1**
Abstain **0**

2. Appointment of a GIS Officer

CO Mander introduced the officer paper (Annual Plan Recommendation – Annex 3). CO Mander informed members how critical GIS mapping work and the production of chart products is to a variety of D&S IFCA’s

work. Although some officers have existing skills, the employment of a specialist will save time and it is envisaged that the end product will be consistent. The appointment would also enable other officers to learn from the appointed officer and therefore increase their existing skill base. CO Mander explained the importance of having an up-to-date portfolio of charts that ensure compliance with the Inspire Directive and the production of charts will support the FRMP role and the Mariculture Strategy.

Cllr Buchan expressed some concern that a one-year contract may not be long enough. CO Mander explained that the type of work required is very time consuming and potentially may not be completed within a one-year time frame as per the one-year contract being considered. CO Mander added that progress of the work can be monitored and the potential to extend the contract, still using General Reserves, can be discussed if there is a need to do so.

With no other questions, the Chair read out the officer's recommendation and asked if there were any amendments being suggested. There were no amendments and Cllr Buchan said that she would propose the motion for a vote.

That D&S IFCA Members agree to the appointment of a GIS Officer on a fixed term contract for one year to be paid for out of General Reserves.

Proposed: **Cllr Buchan** **Seconded: David Morgan**

The Chair asked each member to vote in turn and Finance & Administration Manager (F&AM) Pepper recorded the votes.

<i>In favour:</i>	23
<i>Against</i>	0
<i>Abstain</i>	0

3. Trial of Remote Electronic Monitoring Equipment (and remaining recommendations 4 & 5)

CO Mander explained how D&S IFCA had already embraced new technology, both in how the organisation is being run and how it is managing fishing activities. The recommendation is to take D&S IFCA even further forward with the potential use of on-board cameras and other onboard technology with the aims of transforming the way fisheries are managed. CO Mander explained that several fishers have already been approached and have indicated that they are willing to participate in the trial as they recognise how improved technology may improve their business operations while providing the potential for changes in D&S IFCA's management of fishing activity.

Cllr Petty stated that in her view an investment of approximately £10K to £15K would be money well spent and enquired if drone technology could also be explored. DCO Clark informed members how drones had already been used for aspects of D&S IFCA's research work with the counting of crab tiles cited as an example. Cllr Channon echoed the views of Cllr Petty and stated that it is essential that D&S IFCA embraces new technology and explores different options. Cllr Channon said that, in her view, the use of General Reserves is both a good and appropriate source of funding for this recommendation and recommendation number four which is also important for the governance of the organisation. For these reasons, Cllr Channon said that she would support combining all the remaining decision-making items for Agenda Item 7.

James Marsden, Cllr Petty and Cllr Hall agreed that they would be supportive of combining recommendations three, four and five. As the use of public money was involved, Cllr Hall asked the advice of Angela Stirland (DCC Finance) if this would be an allowable course of action. Angela Stirland confirmed that as all the money is coming from General Reserves, the decision making could either be combined or separated as the members wished. With clear signs that members favoured this option of combining the recommendations, the Chair asked for a formal proposal which was offered by Cllr Petty.

That D&S IFCA Members agree to:

- a) Use the General Reserves to fund a trial using Remote Electronic Monitoring Equipment associated with IVMS**
- b) Use the General Reserves to contract the services of an External Provider to review Internal Systems and Policy Documents, and**
- c) To adopt the draft Annual Plan 2021-22 (subject to any amendments via email correspondence) as the Final Annual Plan 2021-22 to be published on the D&S IFCA's website and submitted to Defra by 31st March 2021.**

Proposed:

Cllr Petty

Seconded: James Marsden

The Chair asked each member to vote in turn and Finance & Administration Manager (F&AM) Pepper recorded the votes.

In favour:	23
Against	0
Abstain	0

8. To receive and approve the Mariculture Strategy 2021

DCO Clark informed members that the original draft Mariculture Strategy had been presented in 2020 and at the request of members it had been amended by herself and different members of the Environment Team, including SEO Dr James Stewart, to include external impacts of Mariculture and a regulatory framework. The Chair briefly interrupted the presentation to state how impressed he was with the work and wanted this recorded in the minutes. DCO Clark continued and provided an overview of the revised Mariculture Strategy and highlighted some key actions within the Strategy, which included the production of maps of existing use and the potential for future mariculture developments; the development of a Taw Torridge Mussel Fishery Strategy and considerations of potential management of mobile gear activities to protect mariculture sites in the D&S IFCA's District.

The Chair asked if members had any questions or comments. Sangeeta McNair applauded officers on the Mariculture Strategy but raised some comments and suggested amendments, as follows:

- Page 4 – that the legislation should include the duties of D&S IFCA on all MPAs i.e. European Marine Sites, not just MCZs.
- Fig 1 – that the chart does not appear to include the River Yealm and mariculture within it.

Pages 17/18 – that the threat of wild pacific oysters and their impact within MPAs is not a perceived threat but a significant one. Natural England is leading an EMFF project on the potential to cull wild pacific oysters and the results are showing that culls are effective. The report from this project is currently being peer-reviewed and will be available later in the year. Sangeeta McNair requested that all reference to the 'perceived threat' of wild pacific oysters should be reviewed.

James Marsden commented on the value of the Mariculture Strategy but agreed with the revisions suggested by Sangeeta McNair. A point was raised regarding the spatial conflict issues which should be highlighted further and how Mariculture developments would benefit from greater integration into Marine Planning. James Marsden asked about the impact of Brexit on the export of shellfish and that this could be expanded on in the Strategy. DCO Clark explained that the industry needs to adapt to the changes as a result of Brexit but there may be opportunities ahead to allow exports. DCO Clark raised concern about an issue with access to scallop

spat from Norway by the scallop ranch business in Torbay. Jim Portus explained that it is very unlikely that Live Bivalve Molluscs (LBM) will be allowed to be exported again to the EU and that purification plants within the UK will be essential to allow export of depurated LBM. Jim Portus also highlighted that there should not be an issue with importing spat from Norway as it is a third country to third country trade.

Cllr Buchan began to ask an additional technical question but then said that she would instead put it to DCO Clark after the meeting in email correspondence as it would not impact her intention to support adoption of the Mariculture Strategy.

Following the discussions and questions of the members, the Chair highlighted the recommendation as set out on the officers' paper. No amendments were put forward and Cllr Buchan said she would propose as per the officers' paper. The Chair said that as it was not considered to be a controversial issue it would be taken as all in favour unless members said otherwise.

That Members agree to adopt the draft D&S IFCA's Mariculture Strategy 2021 (subject to minor editing as discussed).

Proposed: ***Cllr Buchan*** ***Seconded: Sangeeta McNair***

In favour: ***22***
Against ***0***
Abstain ***1***

Part 1 Meeting - Information Items:

9. To receive a presentation by Dr T. Stamp - "Insights into tagging and tracking European bass across several nursery sites within the D&S IFCA District"

Dr Stamp informed members how his PhD had been co-funded by D&S IFCA before presenting a Power-Point presentation. Members were informed about how the research had used acoustic tracking to investigate how effective selected Bass Nursery Areas (BNAs) are at protecting bass and to monitor fish movements around the coast. The research focussed on three BNAs within the District:

- Dart Estuary
- Salcombe Harbour
- Taw Torridge Estuary

The tracking system involved implanting small transmitters within 146 bass, however eleven were not detected via strategically placed receivers placed at and near boundaries as well as within the BNAs. It was reported that bass spend approximately 30% of their time within the BNAs, often leaving and returning as part of repeating behaviour. The research showed that most activity by bass was at the seaward end of each estuary studied. The tagged bass on the South coast of Devon moved greatly between the Dart and Salcombe Estuaries. 85% of the bass tagged returned to a particular location even though they may have travelled huge distances. Although not all BNAs are active all year round from a legislative perspective, bass are present in the selected sites all year round. Dr Stamp's work highlighted that whilst bass are considered a single fish stock (in terms of management), covering an area of 600,000km, bass appear to spend a significant amount of the year remaining local to an estuary, approximately 3/4km from that estuary or coastal area, and that there appear to be hot spots of activity.

The Chair and other members thanked Dr Stamp for the presentation which many members agreed was fascinating. CO Mander also thanked Dr Stamp and commented how the research work shows the value of technology for fisheries work. The Chair invited questions from members.

Felicity Sylvester asked a series of questions including seeking clarification on what was meant by the terminology “hot spots”. Dr Stamp explained that these are the regions where the fish spend the majority of their time with some areas being the most frequent. Sangeeta McNair enquired when the work would be published and shared. Dr Stamp responded and explained that the research work, as well as a non-technical summary, would be published as soon as possible. In addition, Dr Stamp told members that he would be happy to circulate links to the work in due course.

Rachel Irish was interested in the potential for this work to influence future management of bass and asked if the channel population was the same population found inshore. Dr Stamp explained that bass move out to the Channel to breed and spawn and move inshore to feed. He also added that the research work included some recommendations but was unsure if it would be influential on a national scale. The Chair asked about future research work and required funding. Dr Stamp explained that funding was being sought for further research, under the FISH INTEL Project, that will do more research on the use of the coastal environment and will be expanded to include different fish species including blue fin tuna, pollock and spiny lobsters. With no other questions, the Chair thanked Dr Stamp once again for the presentation and Dr Stamp said that he had would be happy to present more information at a future Authority meeting.

James Marsden added a final comment about the Annual Plan and his concern that the financial pressure on D&S IFCA will cause Annual Plan elements to be dropped. As a supplementary note he requested sight of the information he had requested on the inflationary pressure on the budget over future years. CO Mander reassured the members that he would circulate the budget inflation information.

10. Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee Report

The Chair highlighted the report that had been circulated and asked if there were any questions. No questions or comments were put forward by members and it was taken as read.

11. Date of next Meeting (AGM)

CO Mander confirmed that the date of the next Authority meeting was scheduled for 17th June 2021 and would potentially be another virtual meeting.

Part 2 Meeting – Excluding the Public

The Chair informed members that the second part of the meeting would be used to discuss matters not suitable for public viewing and the first matter would be procedural.

Note: Several members had already left the meeting which is reflected in the reduced number of votes cast.

12. Exclusion of the Public

The Chair read out the following to the members as the motion for a vote.

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Item Number 8 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Proposed: Cllr Hellyer **Seconded:** Cllr Hall

In favour: 17 (All)

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13. To consider the pay award for one of the D&S IFCA's officers

CO Mander highlighted the officers' paper that had been circulated and expanded on several aspects of it. Due to the absence of a Human Resources Policy at this time, CO Mander explained that a decision was needed by members as he lacked the authority to act independently. James Marsden commented that establishing and introducing Schemes of Delegation is essential for D&S IFCA and must be considered as priority work for the Authority. Cllr Buchan informed members that the Governance Working Group have identified several priority tasks for 2021 including the Schemes of Delegation. Members discussed the subject matter and CO Mander clarified aspects of salary structures and spinal salary ranges. After discussions, the Chair read out the recommendation and with no amendments it was proposed by Cllr Buchan.

That Members agree to increase the pay scale of the Senior Enforcement Officer

Proposed: Cllr Buchan **Seconded:** Cllr Hall

In favour: 14
Against 1
Abstain 2

Cllr Buchan enquired if all the public had left the meeting (logged off) and this was confirmed by F&AM Pepper. It was also questioned if officers, including Simon Excell, should be in attendance for the part II discussions. CO Mander confirmed that all officers should leave the meeting, other than himself and F&AM Pepper. DCO Clark, PPO Townsend and Simon Excell logged off.

.....

14. To consider the appointment process for a FRMP Officer (as approved in Agenda Item 7)

Members considered the paper that had been provided by CO Mander. Members again commented that this item of business reinforced the need for the Authority to have a clear policy regarding recruitment but recognised in the absence of a recruitment policy or Scheme of Delegation that Members needed to take the decision at the meeting.

That Members agree to offer the FRMP role to the former Marine Pioneer Project FRMP Officer

Proposed: Cllr Buchan **Seconded:** Cllr Hall

In favour: 15
Against 0
Abstain 2

Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance.

End.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white rectangular background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Mr Williams." with a period at the end.