

By: Chief Fishery Officer

To: Kent and Essex IFCA – 14 September 2026

Subject: Authority Member Training

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report sets out an initial proposal to provide more training to Authority Members

Recommendations:

To **DISCUSS** and provide feedback on future training needs and preferred delivery methods.

With the influx of new IFCA Authority members it would seem like a sensible time to review the training and support KEIFCA and the MMO provide to IFCA members. Currently new Members are provided with a letter providing a brief overview of the work carried out by the IFCA and directed to the Annual Plan and Report on our website, as well as being invited to come out on one of our vessels or visit our office in Ramsgate or Brightlingsea. Whilst, in general, members have indicated that they would welcome more training, finding the time has always been challenging. Officers would like to get feedback from members as to the need and level of training they think would be appropriate for members going forward.

In discussing potential opportunities with the Chairman, a number of new ideas have been put forward including:

- Running an online Teams meeting with the Chief Officer and Chairman to give an overview of the Authority, its duties and some key local issues.
- Develop a series of short videos that give an overview of the Authority and give members a background to the local fishing industry and conservation landscape.

- Running a specific cockle focused afternoon/ morning at Leigh-on-Sea for members to get a first hand understanding of the fishing boats, the gear, the cooking process and the general industry.

Recommendations:

To **DISCUSS** and provide feedback on future training needs and preferred delivery methods.