



Agenda Item No. B3

By: Assistant Chief Officer
To: Kent and Essex IFCA – 21 November 2023
Subject: **TECFO licences for 2024 fishery**
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

Members are also asked to consider and approve the issue of licences for existing vessels for the 2024 TECFO fishery

Recommendations:

In respect of the issuing of Cockle Fishery Licences for TECFO 1994 for 2024:

- a) The Regulating Order gives a right, to those that held a licence during 2023, to be granted a licence for the coming 2024 season and therefore those 14 licences should be granted.

In respect of the licence fee for the TECFO 1994 for the 2024 fishery:

- b) The licence fee for TECFO 1994 for the 2024 fishery will increase to £7,916.

2024 will be the last year of the TECFO 1994 before the new T24 regulating order takes over management for the 2025 fishery. The Licence Allocation Process for the T24 licences will start in April 2024, when we would normally be issuing licences for the TECFO 1994.

In order to avoid any confusion, officers are proposing to run the licence application process for the 2024 'TECFO 1994' fishery prior to the end of this year. This will enable licences to be issued to the existing 14 vessels at the start of 2024. The Regulating Order gives a right, to those that held a licence last year, to be granted a licence for this coming season and therefore those 14 licences should be granted. Consideration of additional licences will be undertaken for the May 2024 meeting as is usual following the April stock surveys.

The licence fee has been discussed with individual licence holders or their representatives, and they all agreed with an increase in licence fee in line with

inflation at 6.7%. The 2023 fishery fee was £7,419 per licence, therefore it is recommended that the Minister's consent is sought to increase the licence fee by 6.7% which continues full cost recovery for the fishery and be set at £7,916.

Recommendations:

In respect of the issuing of Cockle Fishery Licences for TECFO 1994 for 2024:

- c) The Regulating Order gives a right, to those that held a licence during 2023, to be granted a licence for the coming 2024 season and therefore those 14 licences should be granted.

In respect of the licence fee for the TECFO 1994 for the 2024 fishery:

- d) The licence fee for TECFO 1994 for the 2024 fishery will increase to £7,916.

