

By: KEIFCA Chief Fishery Officer

To: Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
– 26 November 2021

Subject: Meeting national and international targets to become
carbon neutral

Classification Unrestricted

Summary: This paper reflects on the international process to address climate change and starts the process to help KEIFCA and the local fishing industry map out how to reach national CO₂ reduction targets.

Recommendation: Members are asked to **DISCUSS** the paper and **AGREE** that officers will bring back an initial ideas paper to the next Authority meeting.

Background

COP26 saw world leaders from around the world join together to accelerate action towards the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. COP26 concluded with 200 countries committing to an agreement to keep 1.5C alive and urgently accelerate climate action. Scientist have warned that if temperatures rise beyond 1.5C, the worst effects of climate change will be felt. The 'Glasgow Climate Pact' was adopted, keeping 1.5C in sight – requiring global emissions to be cut by 45% by 2030 and to zero by 2050.

Kent and Essex IFCA play an important and leading role in the management and protection of local seas. With the end of COP26, it is now more urgent than ever that we actively support the governments ambitions and adapt to the impact of climate change and achieve 'Good Environmental Status'. There is also the realisation that this target will not be achieved by governments alone, but by every section of society engaging, planning and taking positive actions to meet this target. KEIFCA have an important role to play in this both within our organisation and as leaders and conduits for the local fishing industry to adapt to

and become carbon neutral. Although this problem seems insurmountable, and there are no easy off the shelf solutions, we need to start this process now and work together to develop and trail new ways of working.

What can we do?

The transition to zero emission vehicles is gathering pace. Port of London Authority are currently working the UK's first hybrid pilot cutter, operating speeds of up to 15nm in electric mode. As we come out of the COVID pandemic we need to focus attention to this issue and work with partners to make a plan which can map out how KEIFCA and the fishing industry can move, over the next decade, to a carbon natural future. Our first step was to draw on the experience and contacts of our Authority members to start discussing the issue, then based on feedback from the members to bring back initial ideas in a paper at the next Authority meeting.

Recommendation: Members are asked to **DISCUSS** the paper and **AGREE** that officers will bring back an initial ideas paper to the next Authority meeting.