



Agenda item B8

From: Chief IFCO/ Deputy Chief IFCO / Cockle Officer
To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority- 19 May 2026
Subject: Draft TECFO 7-year licence application summary document
Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: In response to industry feedback, KEIFCA officers have developed a draft document to help future TECFO licence applicants understand and navigate the 7-year licence application process and application forms.

Recommendations

The Authority is asked to **AGREE** to the Licence application summary document and the proposed engagement plans with the cockle industry.

Background

With the establishment of the new Thames Estuary Cockle Regulating Order 2024 and the issuing of the first round of 7-year TECFO licences, attention is now starting to focus on the running of the new Order and setting up the processes to help the next 7-year licencing process run smoothly. Although the management plan that accompanies TECFO 2024 does outline the Licence Allocation Process, members of the industry have contacted officers to help them understand and better prepare for the next licencing round that will take place in 6 years' time.

Draft Licence application summary document

As agreed at the last Authority meeting, officers (working with our legal team) have produced a draft summary document that outlines the key sections and questions in the application process (Appendix 1). The document provides an overview of the application process, links the application form questions to the relevant sections of the management plan, provides some pointers on how to go

about answering the questions and navigate the application process as well as answer some frequently asked questions. As outlined in the document all the relevant detail concerning the licence application process can be found in the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery (No.2) Order 2024 Management Plan.

Engaging with the cockle industry

If the Authority approve, officers (Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer and Cockle Officer) will look use this document to engage with the cockle industry and help walk them through the process. After talking to members of the cockle industry, officers are planning to run a surgery style engagement exercise in our offices in Ramsgate on 25 June and Brightlingsea on 9 July where possible future applicants can book a slot to talk though the guidance with officers in person. Individuals or companies that held a permit or a licence over the last 5 years will be contacted directly by KEIFCA making them aware of the licence application summary document and the opportunity to book a slot with officers. Booking will be done on a first come first served basis.

Whilst KEIFCA officers do want to help potential applicants understand the application process and scoring system, it is important to stress that officers are not in a position to advise companies as to the merit or otherwise of specific actions or to give advice on potential scores or outcomes of a potential action.

It is for the directors of each company to make informed business decisions as to the actions they think their company might take.

Recommendations

The Authority is asked to **AGREE** to the Licence application summary document and the proposed engagement plans with the cockle industry.