

From: Assistant Chief IFCO

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority –  
22 May 2024

Subject: Procurement of new cabin RIB

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Summary:** This paper updates Members on the progress to procure a new cabin RIB

**Recommendations:**

The Authority is asked to **NOTE** the report

Following the last Authority meeting on 22 March 2024, officers worked with the Kent County Council procurement team to finalise the award letters and tender process. In addition, officers held meetings with the National Shipbuilding Office and also with the KEIFCA Accountant and the KCC Commercial Accounting Manager who carried out the financial checks on the tendering companies. This was part of the ongoing work to ensure the financial stability of the tendering companies.

On 28 April 2024, Ribcraft UK Limited was informed that they had been successful in their tendered bid. The Business Case for Defra funding for the vessel was submitted on 29 April 2024, and a final decision is awaited. Officers visited Ribcraft on 9 May 2024 to meet staff and also to have discussions regarding timeframes and moving forwards.

At present, the build contract is being written by KEIFCA solicitors and it is still anticipated that the vessel could be delivered by February 2025 as set out by Ribcraft in their tender.

**Recommendations:**

The Authority is asked to **NOTE** the report