



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Cllr. John Lamb
Chair, Kent & Essex IFCA
By email correspondence only

19 October 2022

Dear John

Fisheries Management Plan Programme – Delegation FY 22/23

This letter is issued in my capacity as Senior Responsible Officer for the Fisheries Management Plan Programme.

Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) are a new policy tool which Defra, and its Arm's Length Bodies will use to implement the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020. We want each IFCA to play a key role as a partner supporting Defra to drive forward the development of the English FMP programme over the next 3 years.

The requirements set out within this letter relate specifically to the role of the IFCA's in supporting delivery of the FMP programme with approved funding for 22/23. The intention is that each will receive further funding in support of this programme until the end of the SR21 period (24/25). However, as you are aware, given the current uncertainties over departmental budgets, future funding will be determined over the course of the year.

The work we are asking IFCA's to do to includes:

- Supporting the Defra led English FMP programme;
- Helping to coordinate communications and engagement with inshore fishing communities; and,
- Contributing fisheries management experience through technical advice and evidence to support policy development and implementation planning.

The IFCA's will also have an important role in supporting the future implementation of FMPs by contributing to the evaluation of policy and measures in pre-consultation draft and final FMPs. We welcome IFCA expertise to other aspects of the programme such as regulatory assessments (environmental, financial and resource).

IFCA's will engage with FMP working groups through identified single points of contacts (and deputies), who will coordinate requests for information, evidence and data on behalf of the IFCA's. The Association of IFCA's will continue to represent the IFCA's on the FMP programme board (FMP programme board is the designated decision-making authority for the programme).

To allow the IFCA's to support these specific aspects of work we have provided funding of £500,000 for the financial year 2022/2023. This sum will be shared equally amongst all the IFCA's with each IFCA receiving £50,000 for the deliverables listed in Annex A.

We anticipate that the role described in Annex A adequately covers the supportive role that is required of the IFCA's. Defra will however undertake a light touch review towards the end of this financial year to ensure it remains accurate and reflects the broad range of activities that are required for the next financial year. Any changes to this Annex will be discussed with Rob Clarke, Chief Officer of the Association of IFCA's in this first instance who will consult AIFCA members.

Governance and Assurance

Defra will require quarterly reporting on both the requests made to the IFCA's and progress undertaken. We will set up a working group where progress and issues specific to the IFCA's can be discussed. This process will fulfil Defra's responsibility to Manage Public Money effectively and efficiently. To track resource, we will be asking the Association of IFCA's to coordinate a log of all requests to IFCA's from Defra and our delivery partners plus any associated working groups in connection with the FMP programme.

I would like to pass on my thanks to those IFCA and AIFCA staff for their engagement to date and especially the collaborative and constructive way they have supported Defra during the early stages of the FMP Programme. I look forward to continued partnership in our joint endeavour. I will be asking Chief Officer, Will Wright to let Defra know which Local Authority should be asked to facilitate the transfer of this funding as early as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Freeman".

Anne Freeman

Deputy Director – Domestic Fisheries and Reform

Annex A - IFCA requirements and deliverables for FMPs - RDEL funding

Support planning/preparation phase

1. Appropriate IFCA representatives (single points of contact (SPOC) and/or deputy) attend and contribute to FMP working group meetings
2. Contribute expert sectoral and inshore fisheries management advice to FMP projects
3. Contribute evidence and data as requested by delivery partners
4. Evaluate draft FMP content; to include commenting on objectives, management measures, evidence plans
5. Provide links between delivery partners and local IFCA representatives to help co-ordinate engagement with the inshore fishing sector

Support publication phase – review and evaluate

1. Support the pre and post consultation evaluation of draft/final FMPs:
 - a. Contribute to the review/assurance process as required.
 - b. Review efficacy of implementation plans
2. Contribute to environmental assessments
 - a. Evaluate effectiveness of plans in relation to the conservation of MPA features, sensitive species and habitats.
 - b. Contribute evidence and data to inform assessments
3. Contribute to financial and resource assessments

Log requests and feedback concerns

1. Maintain a log and track requests to all IFCA's from delivery partners, FMP projects and Defra across the programme regarding requirements set out above.
 - a. Log existing and ongoing requests.
 - b. Log when requests have been actioned.
 - c. SPOCs to feedback concerns to delivery partners/projects.

Deliverables out of scope of SR funding

Future implementation

- IFCA's role in inshore fisheries management will continue under business-as-usual arrangements – implementing any measures agreed through FMPs would fall under such BAU work rather than require additional funding.
- Any requirement to review HRA and MCZ assessments should fishing activity within MPAs change following implementation of FMPs and subsequent impacts on designated features detected. Any review would be part of the IFCA's standard HRA and MCZ assessments review process.

Cockle FMP

- Potentially act as the delivery partner for the cockle FMP (to be confirmed). If it were an IFCA, Defra would provide additional funding to resource the activities.