



Agenda Item B6

Success criteria 4, 5 & 6

By: Chief IFC Officer
To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 20 May 2014
Subject: **FISHING IN THE THAMES**
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: to discuss concerns regarding fishing in the Thames

At the last meeting the Authority discussed the fishing in the Thames. At present there is a lot of debate concerning reports from fishermen of poor returns especially for some stocks like sole. Whilst KEIFCA takes these reports seriously trying to understand the facts behind these concerns and then developing actions is far from simple, as there are a myriad of changing variables in this dynamic estuary/ sea system. The Informing the Future questionnaire is currently being used to collect information from fishermen in Kent and the questionnaire could be used to try and collate information from Essex fishermen.

A useful starting point to try and develop a clearer understanding of this issue, could be to hold a workshop and invite key regulators, fishermen and other stakeholders to discuss the available data and information concerning the different systems within the Thames. At present this is a particularly important topic and is also being discussed by other working groups and there are indications that a scientific study might be in the pipeline and imminent.

The Authority are asked to discuss how best KEIFCA should address this issue and ADVISE as to whether to run a specific workshop or work through other working groups.