

Success criteria: 4, 5 & 6

By: Chief IFC Officer

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation  
Authority – 4 September 2014

Subject: **FISHING IN THE THAMES**

Classification Unrestricted

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Summary: Update on progress - Fishing in the Thames Agenda Item B6 May  
2014 Quarterly meeting

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#### *Background*

At the last Authority meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014 a decision was made for KEIFCA to work with the MMO and the EA to hold a workshop to review the state of commercial fish stocks in the Thames. At the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May a discussion was also held regarding the Authority not wanting to replicate work that was already being carried out by other groups.

#### *Rescheduling of the meeting*

The initial plan was to hold the joint regulators meeting after the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) Fisheries Action Group meeting due to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July (potential joint regulators meeting proposed for the 6<sup>th</sup> August). Unfortunately the TEP meeting was cancelled at relatively short notice and after consultation with the Chairman it was decided that this postponement combined with the unavailability of some key contributors meant that we should reschedule our meeting until 25<sup>th</sup> September (TEP meeting to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September).

#### *Outline of the proposed meeting*

Joint Agency Workshop to review the state of commercial fish stocks in the Thames  
11:30 – 15:00 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Johnson Room, Tickfield Centre, Southend on Sea

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (KEIFCA) and the Environment Agency (EA) are organising a joint agency workshop, to bring

together industry leaders and national experts to review the available data concerning the current state of key commercial fish stocks in the Thames.

The workshop is being held to address the concerns raised by members of the commercial fishing industry regarding the reduction in the amount of sole being caught in the Thames Estuary. As fish stocks like sole naturally fluctuate it is difficult to conclude whether the changes in catches reflect naturally changing conditions or other external influences such as other activities in the marine environment or changes in fishing methods throughout the wide range of the species. It is hoped that by bringing together and reviewing a wide range of regional as well as local fisheries data firmer conclusions can be reached.

#### Agenda

- Identifying the problem
- Fishers observations
- Fish stocks

#### LUNCH

- Sea bed ecology
- National infrastructure developments in the Thames
- Water quality
- Next steps

The room that is booked at the centre holds about 20 people. At present the intention would be to invite the following people:

John Lamb	IFCA
John Nichols	IFCA
Peter Wexham	IFCA
Will Wright	CIFCO
Dominic Bailey	ACIFCO
Joss Wiggins	PO
Barrie Smart	MMO (maybe plus more officers?)
Chris Hazelton/ EA officer	EA (maybe plus more officers?)
Andrew Bichenough	CEFAS
Carl O'Brien	CEFAS
Nuala Carson	Defra
Tanya Ferry	Port of London
Marcus Pearson	London Gateway
Amy Pryor	TEP
Mervyn Littlewood	Chair of the TEP Dredging and Sediment Liaison Group
Steve Colclough	Institute of Fisheries Management / Consultant (Ex- EA)
Tim Cook	Fisherman West Mersea
Paul Gilson	Fisherman Southend
Glyn Gilson	Fisherman Southend
Steve Dell	Fishermen Leigh (Cockler)
Mick Selling	Fisherman Queensborough
Tom Brown	Thanet Fishermen's Association

The Authority is asked to **DISCUSS** and **APPROVE** the focus and structure of the meeting.