



Agenda item B3

By: Chief and Assistant Chief Officers

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – Technical Panel 6 March 2015

Subject: Bass spawning areas discussion paper

Classification Unrestricted

Summary: Raising the profile of bass spawning areas evidence need and gathering organisational support for the project

Since the Authority meeting on 22 January 2015, officers have worked to try and gather support for a research project and to identify grant funding opportunities. On 28 January the Chief Officer attended Eastern IFCA's (EIFCA) quarterly meeting to ask for support for this project and to adopt this issue as a key priority in the IFCA's bass management plans. EIFCA were very enthusiastic to work collaboratively on this issue and have agreed to prioritise this work stream. The issue of protecting spawning grounds and developing a clearer evidence base has been raised at a recent meeting with Defra and we have a plan to follow up this issue with a KEIFCA formal letter to Defra which hopefully could be supported by other organisations and bodies.

Initial programme funding streams

- Innovation & Environment Regions of Europe Sharing Solutions (INTERREG)

The INTERREG IVC Programme is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). A budget share of 55% is allocated to projects in the first Programme priority 'Innovation and the knowledge economy' and 39% to the second priority 'Environment and risk prevention'. 6% of the funding will be used for Technical Assistance. Kent County Council has been very successful at using this fund before and we have contacted them to identify our interest and discuss any potential options. This is a very large structural fund and would take a lot of work to apply.

- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), which is the successor to the European Fisheries Fund, is currently being developed by Defra and the MMO. The EMFF will be launched in early 2015 with further details being published on

the MMO website. It is expected that the sustainable development of fisheries and evidence gathering for informed decisions will be funding criteria for this fund.

- ICES Science Fund

ICES Science Fund supports innovative projects developed in collaboration with academic and government institutions from ICES member countries. The DKK 500,000 (€67,000) fund supports projects conducting specific value-added activities (e.g. joint data analysis, synthesis research papers, model coding and assessment, etc.) contributing to the delivery of the new ICES Strategic Plan. Interested applicants are invited to submit proposals by 10 March 2015.

Proposals will be evaluated and prioritized by the ICES Science Committee (SCICOM) at its midterm meeting in April 2015. Proposals submitted by scientists in the early stages of their career will be given priority. This fund might be a bit too specific and further research is needed to see if the project would meet the criteria.