



Agenda item B9

Success Criteria 2,3,5 and 6

By: Chief IFC Officer

To: Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority –
14 May 2013

Subject: **BYELAW REVIEW PROCESS AND MEMBERS TRAINING**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

To discuss the idea and remit of running a 2 day KEIFCA sustainability and species review workshop.

To discuss the opportunity of running an Authority members training sessions after the next Authority meeting.

1. Background

Over 2012-13 significant progress was made in developing and reviewing KEIFCA's long term strategic plan (The Way Forward – Our long term approach to fisheries and conservation management); from this document KEIFCA identified and agreed 18 priority species and developed draft management documents for each species. In conjunction with this, 'Project Inshore' started to assess the management processes in place for these species against internationally recognised MSC assessment criteria.

Combining this work will help KEIFCA take a strategic approach to reviewing its inherited SFC byelaws. In conjunction with these work streams KEIFCA has been making progress in assessing the relevance of the large number of byelaws that have been inherited with the expansion of our district and reviewing this management as part of our overall approach. Officers have worked hard to try and develop a fair and proportionate byelaw process that, where possible, tries to work with other regulators to review management options and, when required, explore legislative solutions.

The process that has emerged is to run a series of workshops/technical panels with members, where the Authority systematically reviews the key management issues for each species and starts to prioritise and triage fisheries management plans and management options. As KEIFCA's management is built on EU and National regulations, any change to the current set of regulations (especially the review of the Common Fisheries Policy) could have a significant impact on our prioritisation and triage process.

2. KEIFCA sustainability and species review workshop

As we are aware that KEIFCA members are busy people and that the issues involved in such a large piece of work are complex and detailed, a suggestion has been made that it would be more efficient to run a 2 day byelaw review workshop rather than run 2 individual meetings. Running such a workshop can help facilitate bringing together members, officers, academics and scientists to identify best practice sustainable inshore fisheries. In creating a 2 day window it is hoped that members will be able to develop an understanding of some of the key issues involved in creating a byelaw review framework that helps strike the correct balance between social, environmental and economic benefits.

The meeting would cover 3 key areas:

- Develop KEIFCA policy statements and criteria that help create a framework to develop future fisheries management options
- Help to develop the concept of sustainable exploitation and to evaluate key KEIFCA fisheries against international sustainability criteria
- To evaluate KEIFCA species management plans for key species and to develop management principles/ priorities for these stocks.

The meeting would not look to develop specific policies, but to create a framework of fisheries management principles that will help KEIFCA to develop fisheries management options in a coordinated, systematic and transparent way.

3. The workshop details

KEIFCA administration staff have researched a range of possible venues in our district, with a hotel in Dover (Dover Marina Hotel) being suggested as the best venue due to cost, availability, venue size, number of rooms and conference facilities. The estimated cost for the workshop would be about £4,000 and has already been budgeted to come from the 2013/14 research fund. This would pay for all members of the authority to attend as well as some key speakers from other organisations. Although the sums are significant, KEIFCA byelaw review is a key Defra deliverable and it is important that KEIFCA start delivering against this objective.

The meeting would be held over the 23rd and 24th of September and would start at 10:30/11:00 on the 23rd and finish at 3pm on the 24th of September.

4. KEIFCA Authority members training

In an effort to better help and support KEIFCA members, a training afternoon (run after the Authority meeting on 5 September 2013) has been arranged in Whitstable harbour where members will be able to:

- Talk to local fishermen and see/discuss the vessels and the gear they work
- See and talk to a local fishmonger
- Tour a cockle cooking plant and see/discuss the running of a cockle business
- See one of KEIFCA's patrol vessels and talk to its crew

Instead of a sandwich buffet provided as lunch after the meeting, KEIFCA have developed a menu in conjunction with a local restaurant where members can choose from a selection of the 18 key local species that the Authority has prioritised. The training will of course be discretionary but it is hoped that helping members to experience the issues first hand will help provide them with a context when important decisions need to be made when reviewing byelaws.

5. Recommendations

Members are asked to **APPROVE** the following:

- a) The Authority run a 2 day KEIFCA sustainability and species review workshop as specified in the report.
- b) The Authority set up a Members' training session to run after the KEIFCA meeting on 5 September 2013.