

Success Criteria 2,3,5,6 and 7

By: Shore Officer Kent

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

Subject: **INFORMING THE FUTURE PROJECT**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Review the initial stage of the 'Informing the Future Project' and decide whether to continue with the project for a further 9 months.

1. Background

The 'Informing the Future Project' looks to working closely with stakeholders to help produce the best available information for KEIFCA. This project uses a Fisheries Liaison officer to talk to local fishermen each month and help them fill in a questionnaire. The standard questionnaire helps collect information relating to the fishing area and effort of the fleet, the species caught and their reproductive condition and basic economic information including how many people they employ, where the fish are sold and how buoyant the market is. The project aims to:

- Improve management of fish stocks
- Improve the management of fishing activity
- Investigate and quantify the amount of effort being used
- Investigate stock levels of commercially important species
- Discuss and get feedback on management options with industry

2. Update and review of project to date (presentation)

The detail and the structure of the project were discussed at the 6 September 2012 Authority meeting, where the Authority asked that the progress of the project be reviewed after the first 3 months of the project running. KEIFCA officers have developed a short presentation to illustrate how the project is run, what data has been produced by the project (and how this data is being used) and recommendations for next steps in the project.

3. Recommendations

The Authority is asked to **APPROVE** the following:

- a) to continue with and fund, the project in Kent for a further 9 months (the costs of which (£1,800) are already budgeted for in the 2013-14 research budget).
- b) to review the project after 9 months and look to expand the project to Essex.