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**John Tuckett**, CEO of the MMO  
**John Lamb**, Chair of the Association of IFCA's  
**Tim Robbins**, Chair IFCA Chief Officers Group  
**Andy Beattie**, MMO Chief Operating Officer  
**IFCA Chairs**  
**IFCA Chief Officers**

**12 May 2015**

By email only

Dear Colleague

### **OPTIONS FOR JOINT WORKING BETWEEN IFCA'S AND THE MMO**

At the Tripartite meeting in April I indicated that I would write to you to initiate a piece of work aimed at identifying options for collaboration and joint working between IFCA's and the MMO. You will recall this is one of the main recommendations of the MMO Triennial Review and the IFCA four year report, which Ministers have endorsed.

Following the general election, the new administration will be asking government departments to identify how they might deliver future savings. Our returning Secretary of State, Liz Truss, has already indicated her priorities include the Spending Review and reforming the organisational landscape, which aim to transform Defra into a more modern and efficient department which encourages economic growth and efficiently protects the environment. As part of this work Defra and its arms-length bodies will contribute to budget savings exercises commissioned by new Ministers.

Between the IFCA's and the MMO you have a number of enforcement and research staff and own assets used in day-to-day monitoring and fisheries enforcement work.

I would be grateful if the IFCA Association, the IFCA Chief Officers and the MMO Chief Executive and Senior Executive Team can now begin to define and develop opportunities for joint working, with a view to delivering efficiencies and savings to central government. Your work should initially focus on the scoping of costed options, with co-enforcement and asset sharing as the core.

I would be grateful if you can share an agreed scope and approach to this work by 15 June, with firm costed proposals by the end of July which we can then factor into a Spending Review led by new Ministers. Your scope should exclude considerations around organisational matters concerning the Defra network of arms-length bodies.

A copy of this letter has been sent to John Tuckett, CEO of the MMO; John Lamb in his capacity as Chair of the Association of IFCA's; Tim Robbins in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Officers Group; Andy Beattie; and all IFCA Chairs and Chiefs.

Yours sincerely

**Prof Sam Evans CBE**  
**Defra Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Planning Division**