

Success criteria 1

By: Chief Fishery Officer

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 4 September 2015

Subject: COLLABORATION AND JOINT WORKING BETWEEN IFCAs AND THE MMO

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To report on the work carried out to identify options for joint working with the MMO

Following discussions at a Tri-partite meeting between the IFCAs, MMO and Defra a letter was sent from Professor Sam Evans on 12th May (Appendix 1) initiating a piece of work aimed at identifying options for collaboration and joint working between IFCAs and the MMO as part of a wider department spending/cost saving review. The letter suggested that IFCAs should initially scope costed options focusing on:

- Co-enforcement
- Assets sharing

The 15th June was set as a deadline for the initial scope (Appendix 2) and approach to this request with an expectation of firm costed proposals for the end of July 2015. A number of meetings of the IFCA Chief Officer Group, the Association of IFCAs as well as face-to-face meetings with senior MMO managers were held to start to draft a reply to the letter (Appendix 3).

As discussions progressed the remit of the project started to get consumed into a broader debate as to the budget, nature and priorities of delivering Defra marine duties. After the upcoming government spending review and once budgets have been set and Defra priorities identified, it would then be timely to review the times scales and resource of implementing the proposals suggested in the joint MMO and IFCA letter (7th August).

Recommendation

That Members **APPROVE** the joint IFCA and MMO letter of 7th August 2015.