



Agenda Item B10

Success criteria 1

By: Chief Fishery Officer

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

Subject: **MEMBERSHIP OF TECHNICAL PANELS**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To confirm the composition of Technical Panels and for Members to put themselves forward for membership of these

Background

Since its investment KEIFCA has used the mechanism of technical panels to discuss and address detailed and complex issues and make recommendations that can then brought back to the full Authority. This process has worked well over the last four years and has helped address a range of issues. At the May and September meetings in 2011 the following points below were resolved by the Authority regarding the working and make-up of the Authority. Since we have had an influx of new members it would seem timely to review the previous resolution and agree the new members of a Technical Panel. As stressed previously the concept of a Technical Panel is that it is distant from a full Authority meeting and is a small representative expert group of IFCA members that can incorporate expert opinion and discuss in a relatively informal manner key issues and make recommendations.

Extract from minutes of IFCA meeting 24/05/2011

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TECHNICAL PANEL (A3)

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Chairman and Vice Chairman would sit on this Panel.
- (ii) the total number of Technical Panel Members would be 8 and the quorum for the meetings would be 3.
- (iii) in total 4 Members representing the Local Authorities and 4 Members representing the non-LA Members would sit on this Panel (including the Chairman and Vice Chairman).
- (iv) LA and Non-LA Members were asked to indicate their willingness to attend the Panel meetings and the following indicated their willingness to do so, namely:
Mr Leon Roskilly (MMO), Ms S Abbotson (MMO), Mr S Place (MMO), Mr M Sharp (MMO), Ms S Des Clers (MMO), Ms Lisa Jenner (NE), Mr Barrie Smart (MMO employee), Mr Chris. Hazelton (EA), Mr Charles Hibberd (KCC)
Mr Donald Morris (Proposed by Mr J Jowers) (Essex CC); Mr Steve Liddiard (Thurrock Council).
- (v) One representative from a particular stakeholder group can be co-opted to attend when discussions are taking place on a specific agenda item.
- (vi) It was confirmed that all Technical Panel meetings are open to the public unless discussing exempt or confidential business within the meaning of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- (vii) Mr J Jowers suggested we approach Mr Clive Mills, a Fisherman from West Mersea to attend relevant Technical Panels
- (viii) one representative of the Cockle Industry to be invited to attend Panel meetings discussing the management of the cockle fishery

Extract from minutes of IFCA meeting 01/09/2011

30. TECHNICAL PANEL MEETINGS (B6)

Members were advised that with the creation of IFCA's and the introduction of new legislation in respect of it, the need to hold more Technical Panels looked likely. In the past it has proved difficult to arrange these due to the prior commitments of those Members wishing to sit on them.

The Assistant Chief IFCA advised Members that he proposed to set dates in advance for four Technical Panels in a year in order that those Members who had expressed an interest at the previous meeting (24 May 2011) could reserve those dates. If a Technical Panel meeting was not required then that date would be cancelled and Members advised.

Members were reminded of the decision taken at the meeting of the 24 May 2011 that the Panels would consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 8 members. It was therefore proposed that the Technical Panels would, subject to the issues being discussed, consist of Members proportionally representing each of the different sectors as in the ratio with they have been appointed to the IFCA.

The Chairman reminded Members that a Technical Panel meets to make a recommendation to the Authority. It is then up to the Authority to decide whether to accept its recommendation or not.

It was therefore agreed that the composition of the Technical Panels would be proportional to the ratio in which each of the three sectors had been appointed to the IFCA. The Chairman would also have the discretion to vary this proportionality for any particular Panel meeting by inviting additional representation in the light of the issues under discussion

RESOLVED that:

- (i) four dates are set each financial year for the potential meeting of a Technical Panel.
- (ii) the Chairman be given the discretion to agree to vary the proportionality arrangements by extending an invitation to additional representatives in the light of the issues under discussion

1. The Authority is asked to discuss the previous resolutions and indicate any updated guidance.
2. It is requested that Local Authority and MMO appointed Members are asked to indicate their willingness to attend the Technical Panel meetings.