

By: Chief IFCO

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority –
24th November 2015

Subject: **Draft Revised IFCA Performance Framework**

Classification Unrestricted

Summary: The IFCA performance framework is now out of date and requires revision. A new draft document has been developed collaboratively by IFCAs, with input from Defra; with the aim of producing a final version that all IFCAs will agree to and use in their planning and reporting.

1. Background

Prior to the establishment of the IFCAs in 2011, a framework was developed to guide IFCA work and to help IFCAs to deliver against their statutory duties as set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This was achieved through a series of national groups held in 2010. This work resulted in a document which contained an agreed national vision, setting out our overall aim, followed by a series of seven success criteria (SC) together with the corresponding high-level objectives (HLO) for achieving them. The vision, success criteria and high-level objectives helped to create a shared understanding of the aims and objectives of our new organisations. The success criteria established a framework against which IFCAs could structure their work, measure progress and ensure that collectively and individually, the IFCAs could show that were delivering their statutory duties.

The overarching framework is now out of date as many of the HLOs had completion dates that have passed, and in the main have been completed. As a result, it has been necessary to develop a new framework, drawing upon the strengths of the previous one but informed by our experiences in delivering our statutory duties and associated workstreams.

2. Developing new shared objectives

Initial work was undertaken by the IFCA Chief Officers to draft a revised set of success criteria and high-level objectives which were then presented as a first draft to Defra for their feedback. This latest draft (Appendix 1) incorporates ideas from Defra, and is structured quite differently from the original, in that it now links our work far more

clearly to the delivery of the overarching UK Marine Policy Statement. The new HLOs are now aligned to the separate themes contained within that statement, linked to a number of our previous success criteria. Within each of the five remaining success criteria, there is a clear definition of what it aims to achieve, the outcomes that should be delivered and the indicators to establish a time frame and to monitor our progress.

3. Why is it important?

Crucially this framework is now aligned with the delivery of the UK Marine Policy Statement which is at the core of Defra's marine work programmes. The High Level Objectives offer a clear, coordinated, IFCA lead statement of intent to Defra. The document lays out our shared IFCA aims and objectives in delivering against national work programmes as well as articulating our priorities and how we intend to deliver our statutory duties within our respective districts. Such a document also helps KEIFCA to structure and communicate its business as well as forecast pressures to key local and national partners and funders.

4. What happens next?

If the document is approved by the respective ten IFCA Authorities through submission to the current round of quarterly meetings, it will be submitted to the Association of IFCAs (AIFCA) with an agreement that the IFCAs will adopt the revision. The AIFCA can then write to the Minister proposing that the IFCAs adopt this new set of HLOs. If members have any suggestions for amendments, these can be collated by the Chief Officer and submitted to the national AIFCA group for discussion. However, it should be noted that consensus is necessary across the ten organisations in order to submit this document to Defra in December. At the time of writing seven out of the ten IFCAs have adopted the proposed document.

Recommendation: Members approve the Draft Revised IFCA Performance Framework included in Appendix 1, subject to minor alterations. If there are any substantive changes, the Chief Officer will notify members of these changes.