

By: Chief IFCO and Byelaw and Projects Officer

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation
Authority – 20th May 2016

Subject: **Essex Estuaries bottom trawling (prohibited areas)
byelaw**

Classification Unrestricted

Summary:

This report provides Members with an update on the progress of the proposed byelaw for Essex Estuaries SAC. Members are presented with the draft byelaw (appendix A) and associated impact assessment (appendix B) for approval.

Recommendations:

- **the Authority approves the wording of the byelaw and the draft impact assessment.**
- **the Authority agrees to hold an extraordinary Authority meeting to make the Essex Estuaries bottom trawling (prohibited areas) byelaw in mid July 2016.**

Background:

At the quarterly meeting in January 2016 Authority members were presented with KEIFCA's draft appropriate assessment for trawling in Essex Estuaries SAC and asked to vote on the proposed management option for this activity. Following this the Authority requested that officers draft a byelaw based on the proposed management option to be put to the Authority at the May 2016 meeting. KEIFCA officers have worked hard to deliver a draft byelaw which is as clear as possible, along with a byelaw impact assessment which considers the potential benefits and costs of implementing this byelaw.

Draft byelaw and impact assessment

The byelaw has been drafted to prohibit trawling within the management area proposed and voted on in the January 2016 meeting. KEIFCA officers have taken time to ensure the wording of the byelaw accurately sets down the definition of trawl gear, in order to prevent confusion and only manage the intended interaction, other gear types are subject to other management.

The impact assessment describes the rationale and background to the byelaw, drawing largely on the draft appropriate assessment which was made available to the Authority prior to the January 2016 meeting. The management options considered are laid out, along with the preferred option vote for by the Authority.

The draft byelaw and its associated impact assessment will be discussed with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) who carry out quality assurance on the wording and legality of the management measure.

Making of the byelaw

Defra's revised approach to managing fisheries in EMS requires all management of fisheries to be implemented by December 2016. Due to the time constraints imposed by this deadline, it is proposed to hold an extraordinary Authority meeting to make the Essex Estuaries bottom trawling (prohibited areas) byelaw in mid July 2016. In an effort to best coordinate members' time it is proposed to also discuss potential management options for Margate and Long Sands SAC at the same meeting.

Financial implications:

None identified in relation to agreed budget headings.

Recommendations:

- Members of the Authority are asked to **APPROVE** the wording of the byelaw and the draft impact assessment.
- Members of the Authority are asked to **APPROVE** the holding of an extraordinary Authority meeting to make the Essex Estuaries bottom trawling (prohibited areas) byelaw in mid July 2016.