

By: Lead Scientific & Conservation Officer

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 12 September 2016

Subject: **Strategic Evidence Plan**

Classification Unrestricted

Summary:

To present to the Authority an updated Draft Strategic Evidence Plan 2016-2021

Recommendations:

Members are asked to approve that the KEIFCA Strategic Evidence Plan 2016-2021 is sent for consultation for a period of six weeks with key stakeholders.

Background:

At the Authority meeting on 4 September 2015, KEIFCA decided to produce a strategic evidence plan that defined the direction of the Authority's research and evidence gathering activities and capabilities over the next four to five years. The objectives of the plan, the main evidence gathering themes and criteria for assessing new research projects were agreed by the Authority on 4 September 2015.

In January 2016 a draft strategic evidence plan was submitted to the Authority for initial comment and instruction. The Authority decided that a clearer process should be identified for prioritising new research projects. This section has now been updated and a revised draft is included in these papers as Appendix 1.

It was hoped that Defra's marine plan would be published already so that our priorities and focus for the next five years could be aligned with the national marine plan, however this plan has been delayed. Therefore, we recommend that the KEIFCA strategic Evidence Plan 2016-2021 is shared with key stakeholders for consultation for six weeks. This is an important step in order to gain views from outside the organisation on future directions and how these would align with key stakeholder interests.

Financial Implications:

None identified in relation to agreed budget headings.

Recommendation:

- Members are asked to approve that the KEIFCA Strategic Evidence Plan 2016-2021 is sent for consultation for a period of six weeks with key stakeholders