

By: Chief IFC Officer

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation
Authority – 23 May 2017

Subject: Brexit and the implications for IFCAs

Classification **Unrestricted**

Summary:

To update the Authority as to the process and progress of the UK leaving the EU, and the changes and opportunities this creates for English fisheries and marine environment management

Recommendation:

The Authority is asked to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** this report.

Background

After the triggering of Article 50 the UK government has entered negotiations regarding the UK leaving the EU. Fisheries and the management of the UK territorial sea (0-12nm) and the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (0-200nm) will be discussed as part of this process. Although it is not clear exactly where the negotiations will lead, there is the potential for a significant change in relationship, access and management of seas and fisheries for the UK outside the EU. IFCAs, through the Association of IFCAs (AIFCA), have been working with other regulators and DEFRA to help best inform and support this process.

So far DEFRA have been in 'listening mode' and are receptive to initial ideas and possible future options regarding these issues. To respond to this workstream the AIFCA has developed an initial high level paper highlighting possible future approaches and opportunities (Appendix 1). The AIFCA document 'Opportunities for inshore management and marine environment – *Future management in England*' is an initial attempt to address what is likely to become a very significant national and local work stream and helps initiate and inform the debate which is likely to evolve as the UK progresses through the negotiation process. As the UK/EU negotiations take shape, options will enviably become clearer and more detailed, and initial ideas and documents can be developed and refined.

Recommendation:

The Authority is asked to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** this report.