From: Will Wright, Chief Officer Kent and Essex IFCA

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority **–** 30 November 2017

Subject: **Brexit update**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: An update on the international and national progress on fisheries matters concerning the UK exit of the EU.

Recommendations: Members are asked to **REVIEW** and **APPROVE** the Association of IFCAs Draft Policy statement for EU Exit first day readiness.

Since our last meeting in September, UK negotiations with the EU have been progressing and the Prime Minister has used her Florence speech on the Brexit negotiations to set out what future relationships could look like.

Defra has held a number of high level national Brexit focused industry/ stakeholder meetings which have identified the key decisions, challenges and opportunities of the UK working outside the EU. Although primarily industry/ stakeholder meetings IFCAs have, when invited, attended through the Association of IFCAs. Indications from these meetings are that the Fisheries Bill will be very focused and primarily address aspects needed for EU-Exit (access arrangements and fishing opportunities (quota/days at sea)).   Defra are presently planning for the Fisheries White Paper to be published before Christmas, which is intended to 'set out a long-term vision and will put the scope of the Fisheries Bill into context'.

Although at present there is little firm detail to report on, Defra have written to IFCAs and the MMO (Appendix 1) asking for us to continue our close collaborative working with the MMO and develop a strategy for dealing with joint aspects of the EU exit (both day one readiness and longer-term post Brexit). In the light of this a joint policy position paper (Appendix 2) has been developed through the Association of IFCAs outlining IFCAs' approach to positively engaging in this process.

Recommendations:

1.   Members are asked to **REVIEW** and **APPROVE** the Association of IFCAs Draft Policy statement for EU Exit first day readiness.