

From: Will Wright, Chief Officer Kent and Essex IFCA

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

Subject: **Marine Plan Update**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Summary:**

This report will inform Members of the actions taken by officers since the last Authority meeting regarding the South-Eastern Marine Plan

**Recommendations:**

This report is for **COMMENT** and **NOTING** only

Since the last meeting KEIFCA officers have been in contact with the MMO, NE and Essex University regarding the development and the potential of marine plans. On 23 November KEIFCA will host a meeting with the MMO and members of the local fishing industry to discuss how we can start to shape the South-Eastern Marine Plan.

Following on from the presentation at the last Authority meeting in September, and building on the development of the Southern Plan, there were four fundamental points that both KEIFCA officers and the members of the local industry felt needed to be adopted by the MMO planning and licencing teams:

1. A clearer process for assessing the impact of new plans or projects within the context of the activities already taking place or planned to take place within the South-Eastern Marine Plan Area.
2. The development of a clear mitigation process guidance (building upon previous projects that have developed guidance (Cowrie – windfarm mitigation report, Seafish report)).
3. Development of two mitigation funds (a community and an environment fund) that are focused on mitigating the impact of the plan or project on the scale of the south eastern marine plan.

4. Working to develop a far more detailed data layer that identifies key habitat and areas for commercial fish species within the South-Eastern Marine Plan area. Working with the MMO and partners we would look to build on the 'Essential Fish Habitat' approach used for the last 20 years in North America (US and Canada) as a method of taking appropriate regard of fish stocks into the marine planning and licencing system.

As the meeting with the MMO will be held after these papers go to press, officers will give a verbal update on any progress.

**Recommendations:**

This report is for **COMMENT** and **NOTING** only