

By: Lead Scientific & Conservation Officer

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 14th September 2018

Subject: **Strategic Evidence Plan**

Classification Unrestricted

Summary:

This report provides Members with an updated Strategic Evidence Plan which has been circulated to the Technical Advisory Group for comments/input. The Strategic Evidence Plan now returns to the Authority for approval.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to approve the Strategic Evidence Plan 2018-2023

Background:

In 2016 Members were presented with a draft Strategic Evidence Plan (SEP). At that time Members resolved that the SEP be amended to show that the Authority would approve any new research project before it was undertaken and that the SEP (as amended) should then be sent for consultation for a period of six weeks.

While the SEP was amended as required, staff maternity leave and new recruitment meant that the second phase of the resolution was not addressed at the time. On 7th June 2018, the draft SEP was distributed to all members of the IFCA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for consultation. TAG is comprised of scientific staff from each IFCA, along with other scientific experts from Cefas, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation, the Welsh Government and the States of Jersey.

Following this consultation period, the SEP has been updated to accurately reflect the 2018 state of the IFCA, and the document is now presented to members once again for approval as Appendix A

Recommendation:

Members are asked to approve the Strategic Evidence Plan 2018-2023