



Agenda item B7

By: Chief IFC Officer  
To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 14 September 2018  
Subject: The White Paper 'Sustainable fisheries for future generations'  
Classification: Unrestricted

**Summary:**

To update the Authority as to the development and progress of the UK governments white paper 'Sustainable fisheries for future generations'.

**Recommendations:**

This report is for **NOTING, DISCUSSION** and **COMMENT**.

**Background**

This White Paper 'Sustainable fisheries for future generations' sets out the government's vision for future fisheries management. Outside the EU, the UK will be an independent coastal state and will regain control of its waters and the natural resources within them. The UK will also have the flexibility to negotiate with other countries and ensure stocks are fished sustainably. The white paper charts the governments course for managing fisheries after leaving the European Union. The document is set out in four sections:

Section 1 – Setting our course

Section 2 – Pursuing sustainable management

Section 3 – Resourcing the new approach

Section 4 – Partnership working

The full white paper consultation can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fisheries-white-paper-sustainable-fisheries-for-future-generations/sustainable-fisheries-for-future-generations-consultation-document>

## **Engaging and responding to the consultation**

Prior to the release of the white paper discussions were held through the Association of IFCA's (AIFCA) as to how IFCA's should respond. There was general agreement that a combined national reply from all ten IFCA's would best represent our views and achieve the highest impact.

As part of ongoing white paper discussions with DEFRA, the Association of IFCA's arranged a meeting on 13th August 2018 between Defra and the IFCA's. This meeting was one of a number of engagements being conducted by Defra with a variety of stakeholders across the fishing sector regarding the fisheries white paper. Ahead of the meeting the AIFCA had requested any questions which the IFCA Chief Officers wished to ask or points to make.

At the meeting, a presentation was given by Defra on the white paper and its intentions and ideas for future fisheries management in the UK. This was followed by a question and answer session on specific aspects of the white paper including; distribution of additional quota, involvement of IFCA's in national discussions related to management and policy making, future roles of regulators and Defra relationship with IFCA's.

At the close of the meeting, IFCA's requested Defra to approach them with issues they could assist with and Defra stated that the door is always open for IFCA's to approach Defra in a similar manner. Since the meeting, Defra has approached Kent and Essex IFCA to arrange further discussions.

Following the meeting, the AIFCA developed an initial draft white paper response that has going through a further drafting round with individual IFCA's. The final response was submitted prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> September consultation deadline (Appendix A), however officers feel that the reply should be really be discussed and approved by the full Authority, and if required additional information submitted to Defra.

## **Recommendations:**

This report is for **NOTING, DISCUSSION** and **COMMENT**.