



AIFCA

Business Plan

2021 to 2024



We are the national voice of IFCAs working with committees to support, promote and improve

Introduction

Every day Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities make a difference, managing inshore fisheries and working hard to secure the right balance between the social, environmental and economic benefits associated with our coastal seas to ensure a healthy marine environment, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry in all its forms. The regional IFCAs are firmly at the forefront of delivering an ambition to develop a world class system of fisheries management following the UK's departure from the Common Fisheries Policy.

IFC committees bring together democratically elected leaders, councillors who play a central role in meeting the challenges we face, with local experts appointed for their skills and knowledge in coastal fisheries and the marine environment. Whether by providing guidance and support, high quality scientific evidence or regulation and enforcement, IFCA provide clear and effective leadership to their places and communities that is successful, transparent and accountable.

This business plan sets out how the Association of IFCAs will continue to support and be an advocate for IFCAs in the next three years. Through our work we will make the case for a new settlement for English IFCAs that gives IFCAs the powers, freedoms, funding and certainty to support flourishing coastal fisheries and local economies, respond to climate change and lead the sustainable development agenda and the delivery of the 25-year environment plan.

Promoting the values of local government and supporting IFCAs in their roles as community leaders remains our central mission. Whilst this business plan sets out the general scope of the AIFCAs work, our annual delivery plans set out specific actions against the priorities herein identified.

As we move into a critical period for inshore fisheries, we will continue to prioritise the things that you tell us are important, working with government and Parliament to ensure that those priorities are reflected in national decision-making. We will continue to support IFCAs to continuously improve and innovate.

This is our promise to you, our members, and we look forward to continuing to work on your behalf.



Tony Tomlinson MBE
Chairman



Robert Clark
Chief Officer



Working for IFCA's

The AIFCA is the national membership body for IFCA's. Our core membership is made up of ten IFCA's in England. We work on behalf of IFCA's to give local fisheries managers a strong, credible voice.

We aim to influence and set the agenda on the issues that matter to IFCA's so they can deliver local solutions to national problems. We fight IFCA's corner, supporting IFCA's and focusing our efforts where we can have real impact.

We also provide membership services to other organisations including devolved administrations and Crown Dependencies and through our training programme.

Our Vision for Inshore Fisheries and Conservation

The IFCA's have an agreed national vision, which sets out their overall aim; sustainably managing the inshore marine environment to achieve the intentions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and wider UK legislation.

IFCA vision: "Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and viable industry"

AIFCA vision: "The aim of the Association is to assist and promote the regional IFCA's to ensure that the Authorities develop a leading and effective national role in fisheries and conservation management in line with the IFCA vision".

Our Business Plan

The three-year rolling business plan sets out our key priorities and commitments and demonstrates how our work will support IFCA's, promote sustainable economic development and contribute to the delivery of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'. Whilst the business plan sets out the general scope of the AIFCA's work, the annual delivery plans set out specific actions against the identified priorities

Our purpose and priorities

Our work on behalf of IFCAs falls under four overarching themes:



National voice of IFCAs ~ promoting IFCAs value

We campaign to influence the agenda and secure funding and powers on behalf of IFCAs and we promote and defend the reputation of effective inshore management

Supporting IFCAs ~ making a difference

We support IFCAs to deliver better fisheries management & conservation outcomes, to continuously improve and innovate. Through our programme of practical peer based support, led by strong local leadership, our support for collaboration & collective actions we add value through our service delivery partnerships

An effective Forum ~ driving collaboration

We provide an effective forum to ensure communication and dialogue between IFCAs and partners to underpin all of our work. The AIFCA supports local leadership and innovation in inshore fisheries management.

Our business ~ delivering value

The AIFCA work on behalf of IFCAs is an efficient, cost effective and forward-thinking business; we are membership led, committed to equalities and diversity and we aim to operate in an environmentally and financially sustainable way.



The national voice of IFCAs ~

promoting IFCAs value

The AIFCA will work to ensure that IFCAs are recognised and heard whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.

Funding for IFCAs

Fair and sustainable funding enables IFCAs to plan and deliver essential public services beyond the short term, to raise more funds locally and to promote greater collective working across local public services.

Local communities at the heart decisions

IFCAs locally accountable decision making ensures that local communities are at the heart of fisheries and conservation decision making. The AIFCA supports members and promotes awareness of fisheries and their management, to develop and promote integration with the work of local government and others in regional planning.

Sustainable inshore fisheries management

IFCAs have a strong and effective voice in ensuring that a system of world leading inshore fisheries and conservation management enables coastal communities to prosper and our coastal waters are protected effectively.

Building and Nurturing relationships

The AIFCA maintains effective relationships with key stakeholders, to learn not only their perspective, to gather insights on issue and seek solutions, but also to aid effective decision making, to build trust, to drive efficiencies, to manage risks and to ensure accountability.

Promotion and Awareness

IFCAs deliver! The AIFCA communicates widely to provide information about the work and services of IFCAs. We promote the organisations, handle enquiries about the IFCAs and advertise the organisations.



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Reform of fisheries management

IFCAs will secure the many opportunities which emerge as a consequence of the UK's exit from the CFP. The IFCAs will support the implementation of the Fisheries Act 2020 so that the benefits are realised for coastal communities in England.

Training

IFCA staff are trained and professional. The AIFCA provides training leadership, direction and supports the National Lead Training Officer to coordinate and respond to the needs of the IFCAs and their partners.

Leading collective action

The AIFCA support IFCAs to mount collective actions where we believe they have a strong case, commissioning expert legal advice and sources of funding where appropriate

The AIFCA will prepare New Burdens submissions on behalf of the IFCAs where new legislation or regulations result in additional duties or costs to councils.

Benchmarking and Performance

The AIFCA coordinates the monitoring of nationally agreed standards and metrics to demonstrate the effective delivery of the IFCAs and which communicate the collective activity of the IFCAs against, amongst other things, national marine fisheries and conservation targets.

Develop Joint Projects

The AIFCA will identify, deliver and participate in relevant joint projects to increase capacity, access to new knowledge and expertise and access greater resources. We will identify, promote and share best fisheries conservation practice.



An effective Forum ~ driving collaboration

We provide an effective forum to ensure communication and dialogue between IFCA's and partners to underpin all of our work. The AIFCA supports local leadership and innovation in inshore fisheries management.

Regular Engagement

The AIFCA provide a forum for the sharing and promulgation of ideas as well as providing a space to identify opportunities and solve collective issues. AIFCA meetings and conferences are well attended and supported by IFCA members.

Joint positions statements

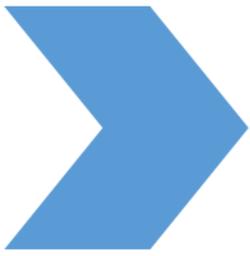
The AIFCA provides a forum which identifies where it is necessary to develop collective positions. The work of the members, through joint position statements, is to set the direction on national policy and issues of collective benefit to all IFCA's, as well as the management of and sustainable inshore fisheries and conservation”

Briefings

The AIFCA provides regular briefings to members to enable a collective understanding of issues and opportunities.

Support to IFCA members and national groups

The AIFCA provides advice and information to members and to IFCA national groups, maintaining regular engagement and sign-posting information to support resilience, collaboration and driving a coordinated approach which respects local diversity.



Our Business ~ delivering value

The AIFCA work on behalf of IFCAs is an efficient, cost effective and forward-thinking business; we are membership led, committed to equalities and diversity and we aim to operate in an environmentally and financially sustainable way.

Internal policies and procedures

The AIFCAs structure & internal policies establish the framework through which we deliver our business and serve the IFCAs. Working well they support our delivery and exist in the background, as a source of reference and direction, serving to ensure that the AIFCA is open, transparent, accountable. Through regular review our policies and procedures enable us to make effective decisions on behalf of its members.

Annual planning process

Whilst this business plan sets out the general scope of the AIFCA's work the annual delivery plans set out specific actions against the priorities herein identified. The annual planning process enables members to shape the activities of the organisation and monitor progress against the business plan. The planning process includes regular feedback as well as quarterly & annual reporting frameworks.

Financial control and planning

The AIFCA is funded by the IFCAs which in turn are funded by the public. The highest standards of financial control are necessary to ensure that the AIFCA maintains and monitors financial control through effective business planning and effective oversight. The AIFCA, acting as a coordinator and convenor of projects, develops additional resources to support its members.

Performance monitoring

The performance of the AIFCA will continuously improve when it does good work that aligns to the business objectives. The AIFCA will do good work through establishing agreed and a shared direction. The AIFCA and members know what is expected, and receive helpful feedback and critical resources through an effective feedback system.