

Association of IFCAs Annual Report 2012/13

Overview

2012/13 has been an exceptional year with regards to Marine issues. This is bringing unprecedented challenges and opportunities to the IFCAs and to the Association. European Union directives, coupled with domestic legislation and a general increase in public awareness of marine matters is bringing about a step change in the way the marine managers are being asked to manage the sea.

With the IFCAs being recognized as the leading fisheries and conservation manager in the 0-6 nautical mile zone, and with stakeholders increasingly threatening legal challenge, the success criteria set out at the inception of the IFCAs are looking increasingly overtaken by events.

There is no doubt that the ongoing implementation of the revised approach to European Marine Site (EMS) management coupled with the imminent designation of MCZs has raised the profile of the IFCAs and demonstrated an unprecedented level of co-operation between the IFCAs and also with their delivery partners. This continues to challenge resources, timescales and the legislative processes needed to deliver Defra expectations but also demonstrates the value and efficacy of the IFCA model.

Alongside the ongoing roll out of the MPAs, the IFCAs face a wide range of other legislative changes including the review of Common Fisheries Policy, Marine Strategic Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and the viability of the inshore fisheries they are charged to manage.

Against this backdrop the Association has sought to represent the ten individual IFCAs at a National level, working closely with Defra and the Defra family to influence and implement marine policy in a pragmatic and reasoned way as set out in the IFCAs vision.

Summary of outcomes for the Association.

The Association has delivered against the 2012/13 annual plan (see below). Some key deliverables are summarized as follows:

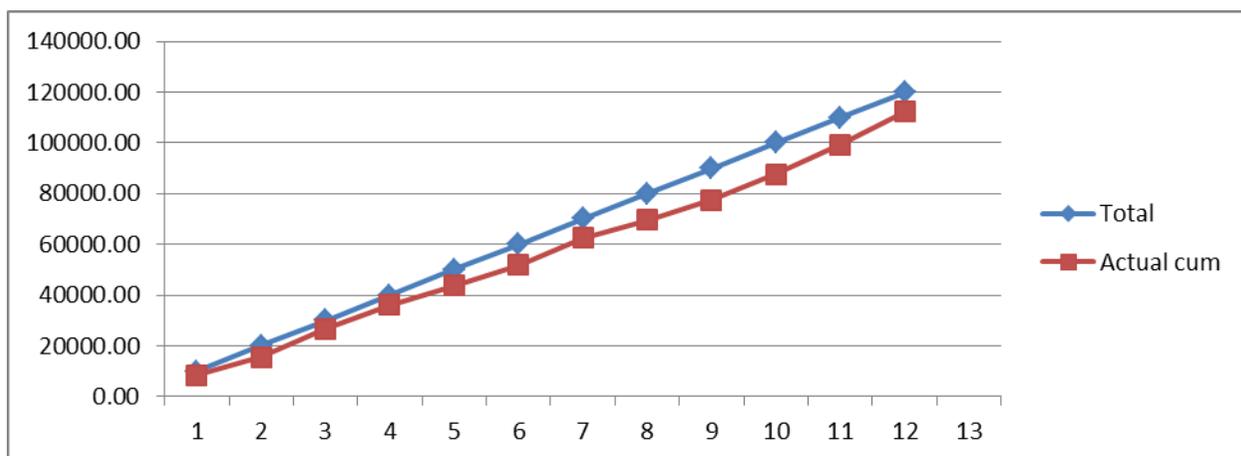
- Raised the profile of the IFCAs and in particular represented the IFCAs at the following
 - Defra project Board for MPAs
 - Defra project Board for EMS
 - Defra project Board for MCZ
 - NE advisory group for MPA conservation advice delivery
 - Project Inshore
 - Cetacean by-catch and strandings committees
 - Project Inshore
- Regular updates for Directors and wider IFCAs on forthcoming issues and legislation changes.
- The Association now employs an Administrative Assistant two days per week which greatly increases the capacity to deliver against its vision. In particular allowing a significant improvement in the Website facility and update
- Instrumental in obtaining and then project managing £306k Defra EMS capital funding project
- Developed a communication plan including:
 - Re-developed website – providing a shop front for the IFCAs
 - Presented at national conferences including SAGB and Coastal futures (reported in Fishing News)
 - Articles in Fishing Focus
- Developed better governance for the Association
 - Facilitated directors training
 - Articles tightened up to improve Governance
 - Differentiated between IFCAs Members Forum (including Chief Officers and Directors) to set direction and
 - Board of Directors to oversee Association delivery
- Outperformed stand still budget.

Budget performance 2012/13

The Association slightly outperformed the 2012/13 £119,406 budget by £8,722 to increase the reserve to £83,057.

The Association agreed a standstill budget for 2013/14 of £119,361 (see annual plan 2013/14)

The Report of the Directors and Financial statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2013 are available on the Members area of the website.



Performance against 2012/13 annual plan

Success Criterion 1: IFCAs have sound governance and staff are motivated and respected.

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	Outcome
(1.1) Consolidate Association Governance: Agree Working	Written Association Governance (articles of	Articles of the Association are reviewed annually.	Association Articles reviewed by Ward

Group membership.	Association) agreed with Board – agreed membership of Working group	Association governance published end May 2013.	Hadaway. Adopted and lodged with Companies House June 2013.
(1.2) Detailed Association budget agreed.	Detailed 2012/13 budget agreed with Board	Detailed budget agreed and delivered at or below budget. Progress against budget reported at quarterly Board meetings.	Budgets agreed – 2014/15 budget review brought forward to September 2013 at Directors request
(1.3) Develop staff appraisal system	Staff appraisal system introduced to measure standard of behaviour toward and interaction with stakeholders, general public and officers/staff of partner organisations.	Staff appraisals will have been undertaken with Chair/vice chair and Association working group on an on-going basis and reported quarterly	Staff appraisal system undertaken – review of process for 2013/14 now in place.
(1.4) Provide training for Directors.	To ensure that the Association Directors have adequate training and understand their role as registered directors of the Association.	Training made available for all Directors by March 2013.	Done – resulted in review of Articles of Association
(1.5) Development and production of an Association Annual Plan	To produce an annual plan of high quality using external support as appropriate.	Publish Annual Plan (paper copy and on website) by end May 2012	Done

(1.6) Develop and production of an Association Annual Report including financial statement.	To produce an annual report of high quality using external support as appropriate	Publish Annual Report on website by end of June 2012	Done – Report on Members area of website
(1.7) Produce quarterly CEO reports	Report to the Association Board progress against work plan	Produce papers 5 working days before Board meetings – provide action minutes within 5 working days of Board meeting	Done

Success Criterion 2: Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the District

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	Outcome
(2.1) Input to IFCA's on policy issues impacting on byelaw revision working with membership and MMO and Defra guidance.	On-going policy scanning to inform IFCA's of national policy changes and horizon scanning	Up to date information provided to IFCA's – reported quarterly to Association Board	CEO report provided to the Members Forum quarterly
(2.2) Report on national progress on byelaw review progress	Provide a national overview of IFCA progress against Success Criteria 2	Publish annual report on the Association website	Annual report published in Members area of website

Success Criterion 3: A fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime is in place

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	Outcome
(3.1) Engage with National Enforcement Strategy Group	Inputs to National Enforcement Strategy Group any likely or actual changes to policy that might impact on enforcement matters.	IFCA national issues raised at enforcement meetings –	Done – however, the national strategic group not considered fully effective. Review underway with new Director of Operations at MMO (Andy Beattie)
(3.2) Engage with individual IFCA's to promote shared enforcement policies.	Release of annual enforcement figures for use by the IFCA's via Monitoring Control Surveillance System (MCSS) – placed on website Supported by National Strategic Group	Produce report and policies and publish on website	Not done – difficulties getting information from MMO see 3.1 above.

Success Criterion 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	Outcome
(4.1) Work with partner organisations to agree national MOUs, outlining ways of working and sharing	Production of practical and workable national MOUs with partner agencies.	MOUs will have been agreed and adopted and reviewed annually.	MoUs all signed – annual reviews now due

of information.			
(4.2) Engage with NGOs and other interest groups to promote the IFCA role and seek common visions and ways of working together	Raise awareness of NGOs and other stakeholders regarding the new duties of the IFCA's and the role of the Association	Better relations with stakeholders. Reduced risk of third party challenge	Ongoing programme for Association to engage with Stakeholders – separate meetings spread sheet updated and on the Members area of website
(4.3) Actively engage with partner organisations and Defra	Ensure IFCA's are fully involved in inputting to policy decisions -	Maintain membership of relevant Boards and steering groups – provide regular updates to the IFCA's and the Association Board.	As 4.2 above
(4.4) Reviewed stakeholder and communication strategy/plans completed by May 2013.	Development of a proactive Communications and Engagement Strategy.	Communications and Engagement Strategy is developed and approved by Board.	Done
(4.5) Respond to Consultations as appropriate.	Agree with Directors of the Association relevant consultations and respond.	Consultations responded to by the due date and placed on Association website.	Responses to: CFP consultation Aquaculture consultation MCZ consultation
(4.6) Produce National Association Policy statements on a range of issues. Eg Recreational Sea Angling and Marine Protected Area management.	Agree high level national statements regarding key policy areas.	Publish on Association website and use in Communications strategy	Policy on IFCA position on Revised approach to EMS and MPA management tabled for information at Members Forum meeting

(4.7) Work with Partner organisations on joint projects.	Using skills and expertise of individual IFCA's to facilitate partnership arrangement	Association to engage with Partners to deliver joint projects – eg Project Inshore.	Association involved in: Project Inshore Angling 2012

Success criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	Outcome
(5.1) Work with Chief Officers Group (COG) and Technical Advisors Group (TAG) to assist IFCA's with their research programme.	Consider using Association funding as seed money for national research programmes in order to attract external funding	Use the Association as a vehicle for communications of any national funding opportunities.	CEO of Association currently attends and feeds into COG group. TAG inputting to EMS working group meetings alongside Association
(5.2) Work with partner organisations through working groups. Eg MPA project board and MSFD steering group	Ensure IFCA interests are fully represented at national level and that relevant information is passed on to the IFCA's.	Updates are included in CEO quarterly reports to the Association. Important information is immediately sent out to Directors.	Updates provided at quarterly Members forum meetings. Updates sent out to Directors.

Success criterion 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine Environment.

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	Outcome
(6.1) Work with partner organisations to develop shared objectives for the	To help IFCA's meet their shared objectives for the management of the marine	By 31 March 2013, shared objectives in managing the marine environment will have	MoUs all signed – annual review ongoing

sustainable management of the District's marine environment.	environment.	been identified with partner organisations.	
(6.2) Incorporate sustainable management of the marine environment in the Association communications plan	To raise awareness of the IFCA role in promoting sustainable management of the marine environment	Enhanced awareness of the IFCAs and their role.	Association presented IFCA role in sustainable management at: Coastal futures 2013 Defra marine team meeting 2013

Success criterion 7: IFCA's are recognised and heard

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	Outcome
(7.1) Effectively engage with national government and partner organisations.	The Association is created, consolidated and well run, to represent the interests on a collective and national basis.	The Association engages with the Directors to ensure good governance and direction of the Association of IFCA's by 31 May 2012.	New articles agreed 2013. Governance improved. Association effectively engaged with Defra and partner organisations at a high level
(7.2) Arrange/attend regular liaison meetings and ad hoc joint or collaborative activities.	Efficient and effective partnership working is embedded into the all IFCA's (and partner organisations).	Regular liaison meetings will be set up and held throughout the year as appropriate.	Done
(7.3) Association website updated quarterly.	Website is up to date with relevant information and all	Records kept showing AIFCA website is reviewed and	Association website re-launched early 2013. The

	forms are available for stakeholders to access.	updated quarterly.	appointment of an Administrative assistant and subsequent increase from 1 to 2 days allows better and more frequent update of website. Now ongoing and not only quarterly.
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The way forward:

The Association is now in a strong position to represent the IFCA's up until the end of the first four year period which ends April 2015. The aims and objective set out in the 2012/13 remain the bedrock of the Association going forward but there are some issues that are now rising to the top of the agenda and these will form the highest priority.

- Sustainable funding of the IFCA model post 2015. With the Defra Comprehensive spending review coupled with the cessation of the “New Burdens” Defra funding, adequate funding for the IFCA's beyond April 2015 becomes a top priority
- Related to the above, the Association needs to investigate alternative funding for the IFCA's (such as EMFF and other EU routes)
- Feedback to Defra stakeholder engagement by individual IFCA's where the regulatory framework compromises the IFCA's ability to achieve its vision.
- The Association is project managing the Defra EMS capital equipment funding project and this needs to be completed by July 2013.
- Implement the Communications plan and input to the Defra MPA communications package.
- Continue to represent IFCA's across national projects but in particular:
 - MPA implementation – including EMS and MCZ
 - CFP – and in particular the plans for regionalisation and the discard ban
 - MSFD – UK plans to implement MSY for all commercial species (including shellfish) by 2020

- WFD

These priorities are rolled forward into the association Annual Plan 2013/14.