

AIFCA MEMBERS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

7th December 2021 @ 14:00

MSTeam Videoconference

The meeting started at 14:08



In attendance

Tony Tomlinson (Chairman)
Les Weller (Vice Chairman)
Mike Hardy
Dr Steve Axford
Julian Gregory
Mat Mander
Prof. Mike Williams
Sam Davis
Pia Bateman
Cllr Mark Roberts
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick
Cllr Paul Williams
Dr Stephen Atkins
David McCandless
Tim Dapling
Robert Clark (Chief Officer)

Also in attendance (or part as indicated)

Charlotte Burnham. Marine Management Organisation
Tim Robbins. Defra.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

Dr Will Wright
Stevie Travis (NLTO)
Tom Hooper
Cllr John Lamb
Ian Jones
Prof. Peter Jones

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that it is the intention, subject to Covid restrictions and safe practice allowing, to hold the March meeting of the AIFCA in person in London.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

4a Minutes of the previous Members Forum Meeting

The following amendments were **AGREED** pg. 1 replace is with his. Remove Profit and Loss. Include Mike Hardy in the attendance list. Replace Updated with update in the angling strategy note.

Following the amendments, the Minutes were **AGREED**

4b To NOTE the minutes of the previous Directors Meeting

The Directors Meeting minutes were **NOTED**

DECISION ITEM

6. Budget Control (brought forward)

Members received a report from Cllr Paul Williams on the AIFCA Budget Control. Members heard that the AIFCA has a cumulative surplus for the year to the end of October of £16,164. Members **APPROVED** the Budget Control.

Progress Reports

i) briefing note on the role of IFCAs for Council Leaders.

The CO reported that a draft had been circulated to the Local Government Coastal Special Interest Group for comment ahead of being circulated.

ii) report on the members allowances provided by the IFCAs to members.

The members heard that this matter had yet to be progressed.

iii) a national response to the Defra consultation on Marine Protected Areas: guidance for developing compensatory measures consultation

The CO reported that the response had been provided as previously circulated.

iv) AIFCA Fisheries Management Plan Project.

The CO reported that a final draft of the report has recently been produced by NEF and will be circulated to Chief Officers.

At 14:30 the members were joined by Charlotte Burnham, Corporate Governance, Marine Management Organisation and Tim Robbins from Defra.

5. Presentations & Updates

a) Progress on the appointment of members to the IFCAs

Members received a report and presentation from the MMO on the proposed timeline for MMO general members recruitment campaign 2022. Ms Burnham reported that there are 35 positions that will become vacant in April and the recruitment campaign will begin w/c 13 December 2021. The advert will be released and promotion via social media campaigns as well as print media. Engagement will also commence with national stakeholder groups. The closing date for applicants will be 17 January 2022. Members heard that the campaign will also advertise for positions which become vacant in the forthcoming year and a merit list will be kept for an 18-month period. Members who have served for longer than ten years at the end of their current term, will be able to apply for a further term.

It was agreed that the IFCAs could help with advertising suggestions. Ms Burnham will be working with the IFCAs and the AIFCA to identify members training opportunities and reviewing wider governance arrangements. The members thanked Ms Burnham for her presentation and report.

b) Defra Update

Mr Robbins presented a verbal report on the introduction of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and metrics across the Defra family. The intention is to introduce the KPIs in April 2022. A draft list of possible KPIs has been passed to the AIFCA for comment and review. Mr Robbins went on to explain that Defra is anticipating a 30% budget cut across the board over the next 5 years and that Defra is evaluating all of its spending accordingly. Mr Robbins was asked to clarify the implications of the budget cuts, in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review 21 outcomes. In response members heard that Defra will be re-prioritising their spending and Defra did not receive the full settlement it identified as necessary and as submitted as part of the Spending Review Bid.

Mr Robbins **AGREED** to provide a written statement to the AIFCA on the budget cut announcement and to clarify the implications for the IFCAs.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

7. The AIFCA 2022/23 draft budget, key activities and subscriptions

Members discussed and **NOTED** the draft budget and members **DISCUSSED** and considered the key additional activities for 2022/23. After a long and detailed debate members **AGREED**, by way of vote, an increase in AIFCA subscriptions for the year 2021/22 to £13,000. Of the eight IFCAs present six IFCAs voted in favour of the proposals and two abstained. Devon and Severn highlighted that they were unable to vote in favour of the proposals given their financial situation, but they supported the activities of the AIFCA and should wish to remain as a member. Kent and Essex, not represented at the meeting had previously by correspondence supported the budget increase.

8. Training Budget 2022/23 and subscription fees

Members **APPROVED** the training budget. Members **APPROVED** the proposed fees for the 2021 to 2022 financial to their individual IFCAs. Members **RECORDED** their thanks to Kent and Essex IFCA for their support in hosting the training programme.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9. Advice on pot marking

Prof Mike Williams introduced the work he and his colleagues have produced on gear marking. Prof. Williams was thanked for his detailed explanation and it was **AGREED** to circulate the note.

10. AIFCA projects (verbal)

The CO was asked to circulate a note for members.

11. Chief Officers Report

The Chief Officers report was **RECIEVED** and the Chief Officer thanked for his work and the production of the report.

12. NLTO Report

The NLTO report was received and Mr Travis thanked for his work and the production of the report and the positive progress **NOTED**.