

Association of IFCAs Annual Plan 2014/15

Summary:

The Association has been instrumental in achieving some key outcomes in 2013/14, and is in a strong position to continue to support and assist the IFCAs in delivering UK marine policy as the lead inshore fisheries and conservation regulator. In addition, the Association is working closely with Defra to ensure the ongoing sustainable funding of the IFCAs; this follows the Ministerial announcement at the Association Members Forum meeting in January 2014, of the extension of the full new Burdens funding (£3million) for an additional year to April 2016.

Key outcomes for 2013/14:

The Association has been key to achieving:

- The extension to the New Burdens funding (£3m) until April 2016
- Ministerial engagement with the Association of IFCAs and attendance at the January 2014 Members Forum meeting
- The procurement and project management of Defra capital spend 2012/13 (£306k)
- The procurement of the Defra capital spend 2013/14 for £337k
- The successful negotiation of Defra support for IFCA contribution to the set-up of the iVMS project (£60k)
- IFCA engagement in the four yearly Ministerial report to Parliament due autumn 2014
- IFCA engagement in the MPA delivery culminating in the well managed network of MPAs by 2016 including EMS and MCZ
- Early IFCA engagement in the revised Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
- Early IFCA engagement in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- Continued IFCA engagement in the second Programme of Measures for the Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Way forward:

In order to maintain the initiative and continue to progress the Members highest priorities, the following high level objectives will be pursued by the IFCAs and are reflected in the detail of the Association Annual Plan below:

- Sustainable funding of the IFCA model post 2016. The Association will continue to engage with Defra, the Minister and CLG to ensure that the long term sustainable funding of the IFCAs is a high priority. At present, it is not possible to achieve commitment to funding post 2016 due to the 2015 election and spending review that this will trigger. However, maintaining engagement with Government and Defra will be critical.
- Related to the above, the Association needs to continue investigate alternative funding for the IFCAs (such as EMFF and other EU routes). The Association is liaising with Defra Marine Policy to ensure that as the new funding streams become available, IFCA requirements are built into policy decisions
- The Association has completed project management of the Defra EMS capital equipment funding project for 2013/14 (£306k) and has completed a report of the value to the IFCAs gained by utilising this equipment. A copy of the report is available on the Association website: www.association-ifca.org.uk
- The 2014/15 Association Communications and Engagement strategy is included in this plan.
- Continue to represent IFCAs across national projects and seek individual IFCA engagement.
 - MPA implementation – including EMS and MCZ – working towards the well managed network by 2016
 - The Revised CFP – and in particular the plans for regionalisation and the discard ban
 - MSFD – UK plans to implement the programme of measures for the 11 descriptors and in particular Maximum Sustainable Yield for all commercial species (including shellfish) by 2020 and
 - The second six year programme of measures (POM) for WFD due for implementation in 2015

	2014/15 stand still budget		
	2013-14 Budget	Proposed stand still budget 2014/15	Comments re 2014/15 bduget
Salaries, Pensions			Slight increase (£5k) in salaries proposed to allow for uplift in Admin assistant hours following illness
Taxation	77000	82000	
Sundry Expenses	2000	2000	No change
Venue Hire, Conference fees	7500	6000	slight reduction to reflect out turn and forecast
Consumables	1500	1000	reduction to reflect out turn
Membership and subscriptions	3955	4000	No Change
IT Maintenance and Support	2000	1500	Slight decrease
Communications	4700	2000	Reduced as per out turn.
Accountancy and Payroll	3000	3500	Slight increase as this category now includes payroll
Legal Fees, training and Bank Charges	6000	7000	Slight increase due to inclusion of bank charges in this category
Office Provision	1906	1000	slight reduction to reflect out turn
telephone	800	800	No Change
Insurance and licenses	2000	1500	Slight reduction
Travel and Subsistence	7000	7000	No change
Total	119361	119300	

2014/15 Annual Plan

Success Criterion 1: IFCA's have sound governance and staff are motivated and respected.

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(1.1) Consolidate Association Governance:	Written Association Governance (Articles of the Association) agreed with Board	Articles of the Association are reviewed annually. Revised articles published May 2013.	Annual review
(1.2) Detailed Association budget agreed by Directors.	2014/15 budget agreed Autumn 2014. Quarterly progress reports using standard accounting format to be presented to Quarterly members forum and agreed by follow on Directors meeting	Quarterly report shows budget on track.	Quarterly and end of year reports.
(1.3) Prepare 2015/16 budget	Prepare budget proposals for autumn 2015	Budget approved by Directors	Autumn 2015
(1.4) Carry out staff appraisal	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 for the CEO and by the CEO for the Administrative Assistant on an on-going basis and	Annual appraisal

		reported quarterly	
(1.5) Development and production of an Association Annual Plan	To produce an Annual Plan	Publish Annual Plan (paper copy and on website) by end May 2014	Annual
(1.6) Development 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 2014	Annual
(1.7) Produce quarterly CEO reports	Report progress against work plan including more standard financial reporting to the Association Members	Produce papers 5 working days before Board meetings and provide action minutes within 5 working days of Board meeting	Quarterly

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	By when
(2.1) Report on National progress on byelaw review and in particular the Marine Protected Area (MPA) byelaws	Provide a national overview of IFCA progress against Success Criteria 2. Increase the awareness of the IFCA lead role in the delivery of the well managed network of MPAs by 2016	Publish annual report outlining the National achievements of the IFCAs regarding the UK Governments MPA initiative.	Summer 2014 depending on IFCA input to the report.

(2.2) Association project manage and complete Defra 2014/15 MPA capital purchase project (£337k) (2.3) Engage with Cefas throughout the process to ensure joined up working with partners	Provide funding for IFCA's following purchase of £337k of capital equipment. Provide audit trail for Defra/IFCA's Track and report back to Defra/IFCA's on effectiveness and value brought by project	Full audit trail completed Report to Defra/IFCA Directors Report of effectiveness to Defra/IFCA's produced	End 2014
(2.4) Work with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to seek additional funding from Defra of £20k to allow for the purchase for the Cefas/IFCA preferred drop down camera systems	Seek additional funding	Funding approved	Completed
(2.5) 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 Members and Board of Directors	Ongoing

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

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(3.1) Engage and improve effectiveness with National Enforcement Strategy Group	Inputs to National Enforcement Strategy Group any likely or actual changes	IFCA national issues raised at enforcement meetings	Ongoing

	to policy that might impact on enforcement matters.		
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Success Criterion 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(4.1) Work with partner organisations to agree national MOUs, outline ways of working and sharing of information.	Production of practical and workable national MOUs with partner agencies.	MOUs will have been agreed and adopted and reviewed annually.	Annually
(4.2) Engage with stakeholders and feedback to Defra where there are concerns over the current legislative and regulatory framework and the IFCA's ability to "ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry".	To assist the IFCA's in their ability to deliver the vision	Stakeholder feedback	Ongoing
(4.3) Engage with NGOs and other interest groups to promote the IFCA role and seek common visions and ways of working together: Maintain meetings spreadsheet on website	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

(4.4) 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.	Ongoing
(4.5) Review stakeholder and communication strategy/plan – current plan set out in this Annual Plan	Delivery of a proactive Communications and Engagement Strategy.	2014/15 Communication and Engagement Strategy targets met	2014/15
(4.6) 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.	Ongoing
(4.6) Produce National Association Policy statements on a range of issues. E.g. Marine Protected Area management.	Agree high level national statements regarding key policy areas.	Publish on Association website and use in Communications strategy	Ongoing
(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 – e.g. Project Inshore.	Ongoing

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

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(5.1) Work with Chief Officers Group (COG) and Technical Advisors Group (TAG) to assist IFCA's with their research programme. Involve COG and TAG in implementation of policy revisions.	Continue to use Association funding to provide National training and to support COG and TAG	Use the Association as a vehicle for communications of any national funding opportunities.	Ongoing
(5.2) Work with partner organisations through working groups. E.g. 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.	Quarterly

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

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(6.1) Ensure Association and IFCA input to the CSR and funding process for IFCA's beyond April 2016	Engage with Defra to ensure sustainable funding of the IFCA's beyond one year extension of new burdens funding announced by the Minister at the Association Members Forum in January 2014	Full engagement with Defra and appropriate bodies throughout 2014/15 with the aim of securing the future of the IFCA model	Ongoing high priority for the Association
(6.2) Incorporate sustainable management of the marine	To raise awareness of the IFCA role in promoting	Enhanced awareness of the IFCA's and their role.	Ongoing

environment in the Association Communication and Engagement Strategy	sustainable management of the marine environment		
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Success criterion 7: IFCA's are recognised and heard

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(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 Members and Directors to ensure continued good governance and direction of the Association of IFCA's.	Ongoing
(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.	Ongoing
(7.3) Association website updated on a regular basis.	Website re-launched April 2013. Content has been radically updated. Website is kept up to date with relevant information and all forms are available for stakeholders to access. Members' only areas kept updated with meeting papers etc.	Records kept showing AIFCA website is reviewed and updated quarterly.	Ongoing

Conclusion:

With the Association approaching the end of its third year, considerable progress has been made.

The changing priorities of the UK Government, often driven from Europe and coupled with pressure from a variety of stakeholders have led to changing goalposts for the IFCA's and the Association.

The change in emphasis towards the IFCA priorities has led to the Association channelling more resources towards the implementation of MPAs network and the ongoing sustainable funding of the IFCA's.

The Association has had success in being instrumental in the extension of the New Burdens money until April 2016 and beyond the general election and the next comprehensive spending review. In addition, the Association has secured and project managed £620k from Defra for capital spend in 2013 and 2014 and £60k towards the Inshore Vessel Monitoring (iVMS) system set up.

In addition the Association has tightened its governance with a new Members Forum supported by a Board of Directors replacing the single Association Board meetings which did not entirely meet requirements of companies' law.

The Association seeks to continue to support the IFCA's into the future by representing them at a National level and ensuring the IFCA's are both seen and heard as well as playing a full part in the delivery of marine management.