

# AIFCA DIRECTORS MINUTES

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 via Videoconference



## Directors Present

Tony Tomlinson MBE  
Les Weller  
Dr Will Wright  
Julian Gregory  
Pia Bateman  
Mat Mander  
Sam Davis  
Robert Clark

## Also in attendance

Paul Williams  
Tim Smith

*The meeting commenced at 15:05*

### 1. Apologies for absence

Tom Hooper  
David McCandless

### 2. Declaration of interests

None

### 3. Minutes of previous meetings

- a. The minutes of the AIFCA Directors 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved.
- b. The draft minutes of the Members Forum meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were received and noted.
- c. In accordance with the articles of association Tony Tomlinson MBE was elected chairman and Les Weller was elected vice chairman.

### 4. Chairman's announcements

The chairman requested that members remained after the formal meeting to discuss the forthcoming Fisheries Management Plan response.

### 5. Progress Report

5a. SR21 Funding Update (Verbal).

Directors discussed the revenue and capital funding. The need for the 'chairs letters' was considered a matter of urgency given that the IFCA's were expected to deliver against those outputs.

**5b. Developing a Theory of Change and evidencing existing capacity for IFCA's to deliver fisheries co-management**

Directors considered a report from the chief officers entitled Developing a Theory of Change and evidencing existing capacity for IFCAs to deliver fisheries co-management. It was AGREED that the Chief Officer be delegated to enter into contract with Newcastle University to deliver the programme of work.

#### **5c. Cockle fisheries management plan**

Directors considered a report from the Chief Officer and heard a verbal report on the Cockle fisheries management plan. It was AGREED that the Chief Officer should enter into contract with Defra to deliver to cockle fisheries management plan and the chief officer was authorised to enter into contract with Defra. It was also AGREED that the Chief Officer should report to the Members Forum on an extension to the Senior Policy Officers position at the next Forum meeting.

#### **5d. Training**

Directors discussed that Defra had undertaken to reimburse the AIFCA for certain works undertaken in FY 2022/23. The Chief Officer asked that Directors consider whether this money should be made available for Training. After discussion this was agreed in principle, but until a) a formalised training plan had been adopted and b) the monies were received, that the matter be left for later reports.

#### **5e. AIFCA Briefings Project**

Further to the reports at the last meeting, the Directors NOTED that the contract had been let to the IFM.

#### **5f. Coastal Fisheries of England Project**

Given the commitment to lead the Cockle FMP it was AGREED that the Coastal Fisheries of England project, as identified in the AIFCA annual plan be reviewed and paused, pending reports due to the lack of available staff time.

#### **5g. AIFCA & Kent and Essex IFCA FMP project (verbal)**

Directors received an update on the project and Dr Will Wright was thanked for his work. It was AGREED, in accordance with the direction of the Members Forum that £20k be allocated to Kent and Essex IFCA to deliver the programme.

### **6. AIFCA Budget Control Statement**

Directors received a budget control statement and financial control reports from Mr Paul Williams. It was discussed that the project income and expenditure would be reported separately and how income from Defra would appear on the accounts. Directors APPROVED the budget control statement.

### **7. Appointment of new Directors**

Directors, in accordance with the Articles of Association, approved the appointment of three new Directors to the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Ltd. The new Directors being also the Chief Officers of member IFCAs. The Chief Officer was asked to notify Companies House of the appointment of Mark Southerton, Mark Taylor and Robert Pearson.

*The meeting concluded at 16:38*