

MINUTES AFICA Members Forum

5th September 2023 Online



Present

Cllr. John Lamb
Prof. Michael Williams
Les Weller
Julian Gregory
Tony Tomlinson MBE (Chairman)
Pia Bateman
Samantha Davis
Mark Southerton
Phil Capper
Mat Mander
Dr. Will Wright
Cllr. Tom FitzPatrick
Cllr. Mark Roberts (part)

Also Present

Robert Clark (Chief Officer)
Tim Smith (Senior Policy Officer)
Simon Pengelly (Senior Technical Officer)

Meeting started 10:34

1. Apologies for absence

Prof. Peter Jones
Prof. Mike Elliot
David McCandless
Robert Pearson
Mark Taylor
Paul Williams

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any interests. There were none raised.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The Draft Minutes of the July Members Forum Meeting were APPROVED and the Draft Minutes of the August Directors Meeting were NOTED

4. Progress Reports

Members received an update on the AIFCA FMP Review Project from Dr Will Wright and the Chief Officer. The current membership survey was discussed and the plans for the forthcoming meeting in September were presented. Officers were thanked for the presentation and Kent and Essex IFCA staff thanked for their work in developing this project. The Chief Officer was asked to recirculate the FMP survey and members asked to encourage their members to complete the survey.

Members heard that the Newcastle University Project was on track and that the research led by Dr Coulthard had so far visited five of the ten IFCA's. The project will conclude in December 2023 and there will be a workshop on the 5th of December.

ITEM(S) FOR DECISION

5. Budget Control Statement

Following a presentation by the Chief Officer, members APPROVED the budget control statement.

6. Reserves Policy Update

Members AGREED that:

- 1) the AIFCA update the reserves policy to reflect an increase in the Fixed Reserve to £90 thousand (from £45 thousand)
- 2) That the AIFCA deposit a total of £90 thousand pounds in accounts which are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.
- 3) That the Chief Officer be authorised to act on behalf of the association to open and access a new account for the purpose of the "Fixed Reserve Account" and that the Chairman be also authorised to act on behalf of the AIFCA and named on the account.

7. Fisheries Management Plan response

Following debate and discussion on the FMP response process members agree to;

- 1) provide feedback to the Chief Officer on the draft FMP response before 22nd September.
- 2) That the Chairman be authorised to approve a final draft response, based on feedback received, before the 1st of October.

8. Shared Outcome Fund. Coastal health outcome and environment.

Members heard how the Coastal Health Livelihoods & Environment: Shared Outcome bid had been successful and the AIFCA has been asked to cooperate in the delivery of the project. Members discussed the programme aims which are to determine a minimum but sufficiently comprehensive ongoing coastal monitoring framework that can operate routinely and country-wide after the pilot programme period, resulting in the ability to: ensure government responds quickly, effectively, and robustly to adverse marine events (for example mass mortalities of marine animals and impacts of pollution and microbiological contamination effects on human health) to minimise ecological and economic damage, communicating in a consistent 'one government' manner to stakeholders & Improve our understanding of the health of the coastal ecosystem.

Members NOTED the Shared Outcome Fund project and AGREED to establish a working group to engage with and deliver aspects of the project.

ITEM(S) FOR INFORMATION

9. The Cockle FMP Update

The AIFCA has agreed to lead the Cockle Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). Tim Smith provided a report and an update on the progress towards the delivery of the Cockle FMP. Members were provided with copies of the contract and delivery plan. It was agreed to NOTE the report.

10. Chief Officers Report

The quarterly report of the Chief Officer was NOTED

11. Senior Policy Officers Report

The quarterly report of the Senior Policy Officer was NOTED

12. Senior Technical Officers Report

The quarterly report of the Senior Technical Officer was NOTED

13. Date of Next Meetings

The next meeting of the AIFCA Members Forum will be on the 6th of December 2023 – preceding the meeting to discuss the Newcastle University Project.

Meeting concluded 12:32