

MINUTES AFICA Members Forum

6th December 2023 Fishmongers Hall & Online



Attendees

Members in-person

Sam Davis
Phil Capper
Mark Taylor
Tom Hooper
Paul Williams
Prof Peter Jones
Tony Tomlinson MBE (Chairman)
David McCandless
Mark Southerton
Les Weller (Vice Chairman)
Julian Gregory
Will Wright
Robert Clark (AIFCA)

Members Online

Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick
Cllr Mark Roberts
Dr Steve Axford
Rob Pearson
Pia Bateman

Also Present In person

Amelia Henderson (NIFCA)

Online

Leanne Tan (MMO)
Julia Templeton (MMO)
Tim Smith (AIFCA, Senior Policy Officer)
Simon Pengelly (AIFCA, Senior Technical Officer)

Apologies

Cllr John Lamb
Cllr Andrew Guy

The meeting started 10:30

1. 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 September Members Forum Meeting were APPROVED, subject to an amendment on the numbering on the numerals on Item 8, and the Draft Minutes of the August Directors Meeting were NOTED.

Cllr Roberts joined the meeting.

4. Chairmans Announcements

there were no announcements.

5. Progress Reports

a) Tim Smith AIFCA Senior Policy Officer gave an overview and update on the development of the AIFCA led Cockle FMP. Mr Smith highlighted the development of the draft objectives and gave an overview of the stakeholder engagement to date. Members discussed the definition of sustainability and its application. Mr Smith was thanked for his work on FMP and the update.

b) The Chief Officer gave an update on the AIFCA Newcastle University Project. The progress of the project, following the recent workshop, was discussed. The benefits of separating the

“stories component” from the emergent recommendations were agreed. Members thanked Dr Coulthard for their comprehensive work on the project and the comprehensive primary research undertaken.

c) Leanne Tan and Julian Templeton gave an update on the MMO Members recruitment process and outlined how the process would move, following the recent round of recruitment, to a rolling programme, whereby applicants for the AIFCA general membership maybe received at anytime and interviews would be held quarterly. The MMO provided details of how the application forms would be altered to make them more accessible. Ms Templeton and Tan were thanked for their work in improving the application process.

d) Mr Smith gave an update on the AIFCAs role in the successful Shared Outcome Fund Coastal Health, Livelihoods & Environment. Members heard how following agreement at the last meeting that the AIFCA has engaged with the project team and with members to allocate activities and resources.

e) The Chief Officer notified the members that following direction at the last meeting a Reserves Account has been opened.

f) The Chief Officer and Dr Wright provided an update on the AIFCAs response to the Fisheries Management Plan and the Poole workshop that informed the process. Members thanked the officers and members of Kent and Essex for supporting the project and the successful project delivery.

Ms Tan and Templeton left the meeting

6. Budget Control Statement

The Chief Officers introduced the budget control statement and accounts. Mr Paul Williamson provided further details on the income and expenditure and balance sheet. Members agreed by unanimous consent to APPROVE the Budget Control Statement.

7. Annual Accounts

The Chief Officer and Mr Paul Williams introduced the Draft Annual Accounts the Directors Approved the Annual Accounts.

8. 2024/2025 Budget and Subscriptions

The Chief Officer introduced a paper which set out the rationale for a draft budget and also the basis for recommendation for next year’s subscription. Paul Williamson described how the budget had separated the core or institutional costs from the AIFCA project costs. After scrutiny the Members, by way of vote, approved the AIFCA 2023/24 Budget and Subscriptions. Devon & Severn IFCA abstained from the vote, with all other IFCAs in favour. Prof Williams asked that it be noted that their Authority supported the AIFCA.

9. Pledge for the Coast

Members agreed to support the APPG Pledge for the Coast and asked that the Chief Officer write accordingly as per the (amended) draft in the meeting pack.

10. Chief Officers Report

Members noted the report

11. Senior Policy Officers Report

Members noted the report

12. Senior Technical Officers Report

Members noted the report

The officers were thanked for their reports.

- The Senior Technical Officer and Senior Policy Officer left the meeting.
- 13. Employment matters**
Members approved the contractual change to the Senior Policy Officers employment.

The meeting concluded at 12:52