# DRAFT AIFCA MEMBERS FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

## 4th June 2024 at 11:00

Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

**In Attendance** (in person)
Amelia Henderson
Rob Pearson
Prof. Peter Jones
Sam Davis
Tony Tomlinson MBE (chair)
Prof. Mike Williams (vice-chair)
Dr Will Wright
John Nicholls
Phil Capper
David McCandless
Julian Gregory
Mark Southerton

**Also present**
Robert Clark
Tim Smith
Paul Williams JP (online)

**Online**
Pia Bateman
Cllr Paul Fuller
Tom Fitzpatrick
Cllr John Lamb

**AGENDA**

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

By way of unanimous vote Tony Tomlinson MBE was elected Chairman and Prof Mike Williams was elected Vice Chairman of the AIFCA for the forthcoming year.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Prof Mike Elliot
Mark Taylor
Cllr Andrew Guy

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations

**4. Chairmans Announcements**

The chairman welcomed Amelia Henderson as the Chair of Northumberland IFCA, Cllr Paul Fuller as acting Chair of Southern IFCA and John Nicholls, vice-Chair of Kent & Essex IFCA.

The Chair gave details of his recent attendance at the MMO stakeholder event in London and a recent meeting with the shadow minister.

**5. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

**5a Draft Minutes of the March Members Forum Meeting**

The Minutes of the March Members Forum were approved by way of ordinary vote.

**5b Draft Minutes of the March Directors Meeting**

The draft minutes of the March Directors meeting were NOTED.

**6. Progress Reports**

6a The Annual Delivery Plan (final version following feedback)

The updated Annual Delivery Plan was NOTED.

**6b The Draft Cockle FMP (update from Senior Policy Officer)**

Forum members NOTED the detailed update on the Draft Cockle FMP by the Senior Policy Officer.

**6c AIFCA response to Conduct and Operations (copy of letter)**

The members NOTED the correspondence from the Chief Officer and the information was welcomed as a resource for future reference.

**6d CDEL and RDEL (Capital and Revenue bids to Defra for Spending Review) (copy of submission)**

The members NOTED the correspondence from the Chief Officer and the information was welcomed as a resource for future reference.

**6e Newcastle University Draft Report (verbal update – Chief Officer)**

The members heard that the report has been subjected to a slight delay and is anticipated in June, at which time it will be distributed to Chief Officers and the AIFCA Chair and Vice Chair for their consideration prior to being presented to members at the September meeting.

**6f CHLE programme (verbal update – Senior Policy Officer)**

Tim Smith gave a detailed update on the CHLE programme. Members noted the progress of the project, including the recent IFCA TAG meeting. Members heard that the AIFCA was entering into delivery agreements with NE IFCA, K&E IFCA and EIFCA.

**6g mNCEA programme of works update – Senior Technical Officer)**

Simon Pengelly updated members on the mNCEA programme including the programme of works with the individual IFCAs which support the aims of the project and further the objectives of the IFCAs.

**6h AIFCA Law Group Update (Mike Williams)**

Prof Williams updated the membership on the work of the Law group, thanking the members of the group for their work and noting the appointment of Dr Emma Bean (member of Devon and Severn IFCA) as Chair of that group. The group has been working on developing a note on the application of the precautionary principle and the relationship with the IFCAs duties in

s.153 and s.154 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act. Members thanked the Law Group for their work.

**7. Draft Annual Accounts**

Members CONSIDERED the draft Annual Accounts of the AIFCA. Mr Williams provided a detailed overview of the draft annual accounts and the draft financial statements. He described how the project income was treated in the accounts and the financial position of the AIFCA. The addition of project income (notably the CHLE and the Cockle FMP) has resulted in a positive outturn. After questions it was agreed that the draft accounts be passed to the external accountants and subject to further scrutiny by directors prior to be submitted.

**8. Women in fisheries management**

The Chief Officer presented a proposal for a project entitled Women in Fisheries Management. Informed by a debate by members it was AGREED that the AIFCA should proceed to seek funded support for the project. Alex Aitken (Northumberland IFCA) was thanked for her work on the project.

**9. AIFCA Members skills audit**

Members gave detailed consideration of an AIFCA Members Skills Audit tool, developed by the Chief Officer. It was AGREED that Kent and Essex IFCA would trial the Audit process and report back on their experience.

**10. Small Scale Fisheries Workshops**

Members received an update from the Chief Officer on two small scale fisheries workshops being organised by the AIFCA as part of a consortium led by Newcastle University. The workshops to be held in Poole and in Whitby were supported by the membership.

**11. Officers Reports**

Members received reports from the Senior Policy Officer and the Senior Technical Officer. Members thanked the officers for their reports.