# AFICA Members Forum MINUTES

**3rd March 2026 ONLINE**

The meeting commenced at 11:00

**Members in Attendance**

Samantha Davis
Mat Mander
Cllr Paul Fuller
Robert Pearson
Prof. Jones, Peter
Dr Will Wright,
John Lamb
Prof. Mike Elliott
Julian Gregory
Mark Taylor
Philip Capper
Prof. Mike Williams (Vice Chair)
Colin Trundle
Tony Tomlinson MBE (Chair)
Pia Bateman
Mark Southerton

**Also in Attendance**

Robert Clark
Tim Smith
Simon Pengelly
Emily Bulled
Paul Williams

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Andrew Guy
Colin Trundle
David McCandless
Amelia Henderson
Cllr Tom FitzPatrick

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None declared

**3. Chairmans Announcements**

The Chairman advised the members that the Duke of Northumberland has allowed the use of Alnwick Castle for a national celebration of inshore fishing and to celebrate 15 years of IFCAs. The event will take place on the 1st of July 2026. Chairs and Chief Officers will be invited.

The Chairman advised that a Directors Meeting will follow the Members Forum.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The draft minutes of the December 2025 Members Forum meeting were approved.

**5. Progress Reports**

**5a** **Delivery Projects** Members heard that a series of videos was in final production ahead of formal launch, the videos promote the work of the IFCAs. Members heard that the AIFCA has commissioned work on declaration of interests and complaints policy and that these projects were engaging with the individual IFCAs.

**5b** **Ministerial meeting** Members heard that the Chief Officer and the Chairman met with Dame Angela Eagle DBE. Minister of State (Minister for Food Security and Rural Affairs). A report was provided to the members on the key themes from the meeting.

**5c** **FMP reporting / update** The Senior Policy Officer gave an update on the FMP reporting process and the importance of reporting on the work of the IFCAs to deliver FMPs.

**5d** **Corris update table** The Senior Technical Officer gave an update on the CORIS table (Conduct and Operations Report Implementation Steering Group), this table shows the findings of the last conduct and operations and what actions the IFCA have taken to respond to the report.

**5e** **ISSF Symposium** The Communication & Engagement Mgr. provided an update on the ISSF symposium held in Newcastle.

**5f** **Scottish exchange** The Chairman reported on the exchange held between the AIFCA, NWIFCA, NIFCA and the Scottish Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (RIFGs). A note will be circulated from the meeting.

**5g** **Coastal Health** The Communication & Engagement Mgr. & Snr. Policy Officer updated the members on the project and finances. The engagement with IFCAs has been very positive and a report will be published as the programme phase draws to a close at the end of the financial year.

**Items for Decision**

**6. Budget Control Statement**

Members APPROVED the budget control statement.

**7. Draft Annual Plan**

Members discussed the fisheries focus on the introduction. Members APPROVED the Annual Plan, with the additional focus on support for local government reorganisation.

**8. MPA Project 2026 (commission) Verbal**

The Senior Technical Officer reported to members on the development of an MPA project for 2026.

**Items for Note**

**9. Officers Reports**

The reports were noted

**10. Dates of next meeting**

The dates were noted.