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Local Fisheries Managers given 'Best Innovator' Award by Marine Stewardship Council

The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, has been given the "best innovator" award at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)'s 2018 awards night.

the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) was awarded "best innovator" for its efforts in "leading and championing a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries".

MSC has worked with Southern IFCA for a long time and has witnessed great commitment towards sustainability, it said. At the awards, MSC commended the IFCA's partnership with Poole & District Fisherman's Association to ensure good management of their fisheries, and the certification of Poole Harbour cockles and clams this year.

The IFCA was also commended for following through on "Project Inshore" using the MSC standard for sustainable fishing, by assessing what was needed to manage the inshore fishery and impact on sensitive inshore habitats.

The recommendations were put in place by Southern IFCA and the fishing industry "through hard work and innovation over the last few years, and the improvements were commended at the MSC awards".

Southern IFCA took a novel approach to eradicate illegal fishing from their fishery, mainly to do with innovative policy, but even extending to low profile patrol boats to get under bridges. The decision to grant an MSC certificate to the Poole Harbour clam and cockle fishery is a vote of confidence in the fishery, the certification group said.

Rob Clark, chief officer for Southern IFCA, said: "It's an absolute honour to accept this award on behalf of the Southern IFCA. The development of management which has led to the turnaround and transformation of the fishery is as a consequence of the hard work of many people and organisations who worked together to achieve a sustainable fishery. This award reflects the brilliant work of all those involved, in particular, the fishermen and their leaders, who recognized the benefits of working together to deliver improvements."

Other winners included:

J Sainsbury, supermarket of the year

Waitrose, fish counter of the year

Lidl, mid-size store retailer of the year

John West, canned brand of the year

Birds Eye, frozen brand of the year

Sainsbury's, for UK marketing campaign of the year

New England Seafood International, retail supplier of the year

Café Rouge, MSC UK menu of the year

Mitch Tonks, chef of the year

Brakes, foodservice wholesaler of the year

M&J Seafood, fresh foodservice wholesaler of the year

University of Nottingham, MSC university of the year

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The Reel Fish Co, newcomer of the year

END

Notes;

The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's vision is to:

“lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry”.

There are ten IFCAs whose jurisdictions cover the entire coastline of England. The marine element of the IFCA District extends 6 miles seaward and the terrestrial element covers the constituent local Authority areas. Southern IFCA manage the coastal waters of Hampshire Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

Southern IFCA is a joint committee of the Councils which fund the Authority's. Southern IFCA is tasked with the sustainable management of inshore sea fisheries resources in their Districts.

Further information

For further information please contact Southern IFCA on 01202 721373 email enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk

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