

Association of IFCAs Annual Report 2013/14

Overview

2013/14 saw a rapid increase in workload for the IFCAs and the Association, with the acceleration of delivery of the European Marine Sites “revise approach” coupled with the designation of 27 tranche 1 MCZ sites, 22 of which lie in the IFCAs area. The delivery of all 13 new byelaws by the IFCAs in meeting Defra’s expectations in managing the high risk EMS sites illustrated the effectiveness and hard work put in by the IFCAs working with limited resources. The Association has sought to assist the IFCAs by working closely with Defra and managing expectations at a policy level.

The IFCAs are now clearly the lead regulator in the delivery of inshore fisheries and conservation management. However, the pace of change and delivery is likely to prove challenging with the UK committed to a “well managed network” of Marine Protected Areas by 2016, coupled with implementing other key legislation such as the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the revision of the CFP. In addition to being key to the implementation of English Marine Policy, the IFCAs also have a statutory duty to carry out all the other functions set out in the Marine Act such as enforcement and the legacy byelaw review.

Against this backdrop, the Association is working with Defra and our other partner organizations to ensure effective delivery and also seeking to ensure the IFCAs funding is sustained beyond the election and the extended New Burdens commitment of April 2016.

Summary of Outcomes for the Association.

The Association has delivered against the 2013/14 Annual Plan (see below). Some key deliverables are summarized as follows:

- Worked with Defra and the IFCAs to secure a £3million extension to April 2016 of the New Burdens funding - announced by the Minister at the Association Members meeting January 2014.
- Ensured IFCAs were consulted on marine policy issues and in particular MPA designation and the delivery programme at an early stage as appropriate.
- Raised the profile of the IFCAs and in particular represented the IFCAs at the following
 - Defra project Board for MPAs
 - Defra project Board for EMS
 - Defra project Board for MCZ
 - Standing member of the EMS (now MPA) Implementation group
 - NE advisory group for MPA conservation advice delivery
 - Cetacean by-catch and strandings committees
 - Project Inshore
- Delivered legal advice where that advice was relevant at a National Level
- Delivered Directors training for Association Directors
- Regular updates for Directors and wider IFCAs on forthcoming issues and legislation changes.
- The Association now employs an Administrative Assistant two days per week which greatly increases the capacity to deliver against its vision. In particular allowing a significant improvement in the Website facility and update
- The Association project managed £306k Defra EMS capital funding project and produced an end of project report.
- Secured £337k of capital funding for the 2014/15 financial year.
- Developed a communication plan including:
 - Re-developed website – providing a shop front for the IFCAs
 - Production of the guide to IFCAs leaflet
- Developed better governance for the Association
 - directors training
- Outperformed stand still budget.

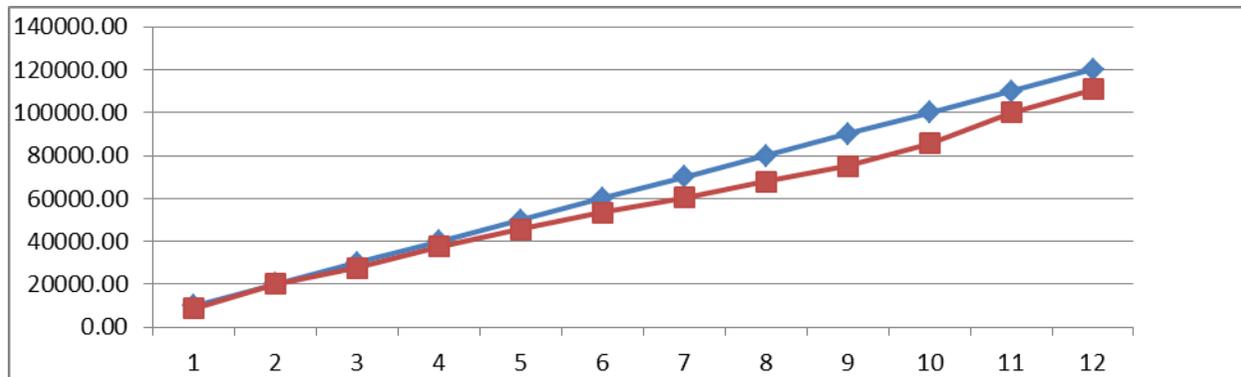
Budget performance 2013/14

The Association slightly outperformed the 2013/14 budget of £119,406 by £14,000, which increased the reserve to £100k

The Association agreed a standstill budget for 2014/15 for the third year running. The budget stands at £119,300 (see annual plan 2014/15)

The Report of the Directors and Financial statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2014 are available on the Members area of the website.

Budget spend 2013/14



The full financial statement is available on the Association website members area and has been circulated to Members prior to the Members Forum meeting 17th June 2014.

The Association outturned £14k below budget. In addition the £2.3k made available from the now closed Association of IFCAs increased the Association reserves to £100k.

Performance against 2013/14 annual plan

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	Outcome
(1.1) Consolidate Association Governance: Agree Working Group membership.	Written Association Governance (articles of Association) agreed with Board – agreed membership of Working group	Articles of the Association are reviewed annually. Association governance published end May 2013.	Articles now in place – will need light touch review during 2014/15
(1.2) Detailed Association budget agreed.	Detailed 2013/14 budget agreed with Board	Detailed budget agreed and delivered at or below budget. Progress against budget reported at quarterly Board meetings.	Stand still budget agreed September 2013 – progress against budget reported at Quarterly meetings - £14k underspend achieved for f/y 2013/14
(1.3) Develop staff appraisal system	Staff appraisal system introduced to measure standard of behaviour toward and interaction with stakeholders, general public and officers/staff of partner organisations.	Staff appraisals will have been undertaken with Chair/vice chair and Association working group on an on-going basis and reported quarterly	review of process for 2013/14 now in place. Admin assistant appraisal completed
(1.4) Development and production of an Association Annual Plan	To produce an annual plan	Publish Annual Plan (paper copy and on website) by end May 2012	Annual Plan agreed and published on website
(1.5) Development and production of an Association Annual Report including	To produce an annual report of high quality using external support as appropriate	Publish Annual Report on website by end of June 2012	Annual Report agreed and published on website

financial statement.			
(1.6) Produce quarterly CEO reports	Report to the Association Members progress against work plan	Produce papers 5 working days before Board meetings – provide action minutes within 5 working days of Board meeting	Quarterly papers all produced within 5 working days

Success Criterion 2: Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the District

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(2.1) Association project manage and complete Defra EMS capital purchase project (£306k)	Provide funding for IFCAs following purchase of £306k of capital equipment. Provide audit trail for Defra/IFCAs Track and report back to Defra/IFCAs on effectiveness and value brought by project	Full audit trail completed Report to Defra/IFCA Directors Report of effectiveness to Defra/IFCAs produced	Project completed 2013, project report circulated to Members, Cefas, Defra, NE and MMO Jan 2014 – project summary published on website
(2.2) Seek additional funding from Defra to cover some or all of the Overspend by individual IFCAs regarding (2.1) above	Seek additional funding	Funding approved	Small overspend agreed. (£7k)
(2.1) Input to IFCAs on policy issues impacting on byelaw	On-going policy scanning to inform IFCAs of national	Up to date information provided to IFCAs – reported	Ongoing – included in quarterly reports

revision working with membership and MMO and Defra guidance.	policy changes and horizon scanning	quarterly to Association Members and Board of Directors	
(2.2) Report on national progress on byelaw review progress	Provide a national overview of IFCA progress against Success Criteria 2	Publish annual report on the Association website	Annual – Report to be included in June 2014 Members meeting

Success Criterion 3: A fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime is in place

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(3.1) Engage and improve effectiveness with National Enforcement Strategy Group	Inputs to National Enforcement Strategy Group any likely or actual changes to policy that might impact on enforcement matters.	IFCA national issues raised at enforcement meetings –	Ongoing – national issues raised – particularly with MMO but meeting still not delivering to full potential

Success Criterion 4: IFCA work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(4.1) Work with partner organisations to agree national MOUs, outline ways of working and sharing of information.	Production of practical and workable national MOUs with partner agencies.	MOUs will have been agreed and adopted and reviewed annually.	MMO MoU recently revised and agreed.

(4.2) Engage with stakeholders and feedback to Defra where there are concerns over the current legislative and regulatory framework and the IFCA's ability to "ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry".	To assist the IFCA's in their ability to deliver the vision	Stakeholder feedback	Feedback form on website now live – the Association is currently receiving regular queries.
(4.2) Engage with NGOs and other interest groups to promote the IFCA role and seek common visions and ways of working together: Maintain meetings spreadsheet on website	Raise awareness of NGOs and other stakeholders regarding the new duties of the IFCA's and the role of the Association	Better relations with stakeholders. Reduced risk of third party challenge	Particularly relevant with the roll out of the MPA network by 2016 and through the revised Implementation group – no third party legal challenges to date.
(4.3) Actively engage with partner organisations and Defra	Ensure IFCA's are fully involved in inputting to policy decisions -	Maintain membership of relevant Boards and steering groups – provide regular updates to the IFCA's and the Association Board.	List of meetings now included in Quarterly Members Forum CEO report.
(4.4) Reviewed stakeholder and communication strategy/plans completed by May 2013.	Development of a proactive Communications and Engagement Strategy.	Communications and Engagement Strategy is developed and approved by Board.	Revised Communication and Engagement Strategy with actions included in 2014/15 Annual Plan
(4.5) Respond to Consultations as appropriate.	Agree with Directors of the Association relevant	Consultations responded to by the due date and placed	Responded to MMO triennial review – responded to NE

	consultations and respond.	on Association website.	stakeholder questionnaire, read the Defra consultation on the CFP discard ban – no response appropriate
(4.6) Produce National Association Policy statements on a range of issues. Eg Recreational Sea Angling and Marine Protected Area management.	Agree high level national statements regarding key policy areas.	Publish on Association website and use in Communications strategy	National strategy on MPA produced – Draft National position on Sea Angling produced. Included in June 14 papers
(4.7) Work with Partner organisations on joint projects.	Using skills and expertise of individual IFCA's to facilitate partnership arrangement	Association to engage with Partners to deliver joint projects – eg Project Inshore.	Engaged with IFCA Chief Officers to ensure operational matters included in Project Inshore working group (Eastern and Northumberland). Engaged with TAG to ensure technical input to the Defra Marine Biodiversity project.

Success criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(5.1) Work with Chief Officers Group (COG) and Technical Advisors Group (TAG) to assist IFCA's with their research programme.	Consider using Association funding as seed money for national research programmes in order to attract external funding	Use the Association as a vehicle for communications of any national funding opportunities.	Association funding agreed for TAG training (EUNIS £5k) and Chief Officer accreditation (£1.5k).

Involvement of COG and TAG in Implementation of policy revisions.			
(5.2) Work with partner organisations through working groups. Eg MPA project board and MSFD steering group	Ensure IFCA interests are fully represented at national level and that relevant information is passed on to the IFCAs.	Updates are included in CEO quarterly reports to the Association. Important information is immediately sent out to Directors.	Updates included in CEO reports for quarterly meetings

Success criterion 6: IFCA support and promote the sustainable management of the marine Environment.

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(6.1) Ensure Association and IFCA input to the CSR and funding process for IFCAs beyond April 2015	Engage with Defra to ensure sustainable funding of the IFCAs beyond the first four year period and beyond the ending of new burdens funding	Full engagement with Defra and appropriate bodies by December 2013 with the aim of securing the future of the IFCA model	The Minister (George Eustice) announced at the Association Members meeting 8 th Jan 2014 an extension of £3m to the New Burdens money until April 2016
(6.2) Incorporate sustainable management of the marine environment in the Association communications plan	To raise awareness of the IFCA role in promoting sustainable management of the marine environment	Enhanced awareness of the IFCAs and their role.	Revised leaflet and updated Website during 2013/14

Success criterion 7: IFCA are recognised and heard

Action	Intention	Performance indicator	By when
(7.1) Effectively engage with national government and partner organisations.	The Association is created, consolidated and well run, to represent the interests on a collective and national basis.	The Association engages with the Members and Directors to ensure continued good governance and direction of the Association of IFCAs.	Ongoing
(7.2) Arrange/attend regular liaison meetings and ad hoc joint or collaborative activities.	Efficient and effective partnership working is embedded into the all IFCAs (and partner organisations).	Regular liaison meetings will be set up and held throughout the year as appropriate.	Ongoing
(7.3) Association website updated quarterly.	Website re-launched April 2013. Content being radically updated. Website is kept up to date with relevant information and all forms are available for stakeholders to access.	Records kept showing AIFCA meeting papers are reviewed and updated quarterly.	Much work and improvements have been completed during 2013/14 with the website now holding substantial material including many IFCA news items and updates. Website now updated weekly.

The way forward:

The Association is now in a strong position to represent the IFCAs into the future. The aims and objective set out in the 2012/13 remain the bedrock of the Association going forward but the issue of long term sustainable funding is now firmly at

the top of the Associations agenda. The Association has to date secured an additional £703k Defra funding plus the £3bn extension to New Burdens funding but recognises that funding beyond 2016 is problematic with the election in May 2015.

- Sustainable funding of the IFCA model post 2015. With the Defra Comprehensive spending review coupled with the cessation of the “New Burdens” Defra funding, adequate funding for the IFCAs beyond April 2016 becomes a top priority
- Related to the above, the Association needs to investigate alternative funding for the IFCAs (such as EMFF and other EU routes)
- The Association is assisting Defra in producing the 2015 Ministerial four yearly report to parliament.
- Feedback to Defra stakeholder engagement by individual IFCAs where the regulatory framework compromises the IFCAs ability to achieve its vision.
- The Association is project managing the new 2014 Defra £337k (with the possibility of additional funding to assist with IFCA stakeholder engagement) EMS capital equipment funding project following the successful completion of the 2013 £306k spend.
- Implement the Communications plan and input to the Defra MPA communications package.
- Continue to represent IFCAs across national projects but in particular:
 - MPA implementation – including EMS and MCZ
 - CFP – and in particular the plans for regionalisation and the discard ban (pelagic Jan 2015 and demersal Jan 2016).
 - MSFD – UK plans to implement MSY for all commercial species (including shellfish) by 2020
 - WFD – watching brief on the de-designation of highly modified water bodies by reason of fishing effort.

These priorities are rolled forward into the association Annual Plan 2014/15.