

Inshore Fisheries (IFCA Implementation Team)
Defra Marine and Fisheries Directorate
Area 2C
Nobel House
17 Smith Square,
London
SW1P 3JR

Our Ref: MRM/jah/1/18

30th April 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority District Boundaries

Please consider this document and the attached Statutory Meeting paper together as the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee response to the Defra consultation regarding the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority district boundaries. I realise that the deadline for submissions in relation to this consultation was the 22nd of April 2009; however, the Joint Committee received an extension to this deadline from the IFCA Implementation Team to allow Members to consider the matter at the Statutory meeting. The background paper was presented to, and subsequently discussed at, the Joint Committee's Statutory meeting held yesterday. Officers made three proposals within the paper. Each proposal is addressed below.

Proposal One (EIFCA Boundaries):

It is the Officers recommendation that the Clerk and Chief Fishery Officer writes to Defra on behalf of the Joint Committee, recommending the northernmost boundary between the proposed EIFCA and NEIFCA is amended as proposed above and the southern boundary is better defined following further consultation.

The officers' proposal as detailed within the paper was accepted by the Joint Committee. Please see the attached paper for detailed information in relation to this.

Proposal Two (EIFCA Committee size and structure):

Officers propose the following membership composition for EIFCA:

- 4 Norfolk County Councillors (elected)*
- 3 Suffolk County Councillors (elected)*
- 3 Lincolnshire County Councillors (elected)*
- 1 Environment Agency (government)*
- 1 Marine Management Organisation (government)*

1 Natural England representative (government)
4 Commercial fishing industry representatives (Defra appointees)
2 Environmental specialists (Defra appointees)
2 Recreational Sea Angling representatives (Defra appointees)
Total: 21 members

Members discussed the composition of the proposed EIFCA Committee at length which resulted in a member tabling an amendment which increased the commercial fishing representatives to six and removed the two proposed Environmental Specialists. The Joint Committee voted on the amendment was carried and therefore became the substantive proposal which was then voted on and carried. The Joint Committee's response to the Defra consultations in regard to member composition of the proposed EIFCA is therefore detailed below:

4 Norfolk County Councillors (elected)
3 Suffolk County Councillors (elected)
3 Lincolnshire County Councillors (elected)
1 Environment Agency (government)
1 Marine Management Organisation (government)
1 Natural England representative (government)
6 Commercial fishing industry representatives (Defra appointees)
2 Recreational Sea Angling representatives (Defra appointees)
Total: 21 members

One member did make a very valid point during the general discussion preceding consideration of the officers proposals which I believe is worthy of further consideration by Defra. The member pointed out that as IFCAs will have a duty to consider socio economic factors when making decisions, representation from the most appropriate Rural Development Organisation with knowledge and experience in this area would be beneficial.

Proposal Three (number of IFCAs)

Officers proposed that no recommendation should be made on this matter as they believed that other individuals and organisations would be better placed to make comment as to the appropriateness of either six or ten IFCAs. The Joint Committee agreed with this.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Mander
Clerk & Chief Fishery Officer