

## **Assurance Statement Chief Officer**

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. In discharging this accountability, members and senior officers are responsible for putting in place proper risk management processes and internal controls to ensure the proper stewardship of the resources at its disposal.

As Chief Officer, I have direct responsibility for maintaining sound systems of internal control and risk management processes with regard to NEIFCA's 'day to day' operational activities. These controls are designed to -

- support the achievement of NEIFCA's aims and objectives and ensure high quality services are delivered efficiently and effectively
- ensure compliance with the law, the constitution, NEIFCA policies and procedures
- ensure expenditure is lawful
- ensure resources (human, financial and other) are used efficiently, effectively and economically

NEIFCA is committed to developing and operating effective governance arrangements. The system of internal controls is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the NEIFCA's aims and objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. These risks are identified in strategic and operational risk registers which are reviewed every six months and are reported to the Authority and reflect the objectives and targets set by the Authority in the Annual Plan.

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives, it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness, recognising that the cost of control procedures should not exceed the expected benefits.

In providing this assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls systems I have taken into account the following -

- Adequacy and effectiveness of management review processes including financial and performance management processes.
- Ongoing identification, monitoring and review of key risks and the controls in operation over those risks.
- Relevant self/internal assessments of key service areas
- Outcomes from reviews of services by other bodies including internal audit, best value reviews, Inspectorates and the Audit Commission and progress in implementing recommendations.


**Changes to identified risks and controls**

**Improvements to control**

The following improvements are planned for next year-

Continued improvements in the effective monitoring and management of all current assets

I am satisfied that a sound system of internal control was in place during the 2015/2016 financial year within the areas for which I was managerially responsible.

Signature  .....

Date.....24/2/16.....