

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority



Strategic Research Plan 2012-2015





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NEIFCA
Town Hall
Quay Road
Bridlington
East Riding of Yorkshire
YO16 4LP

Telephone: (01482) 393515
Fax: (01482) 393699
Email: ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk

This document can be downloaded from www.ne-ifca.gov.uk

Foreword

Contents

Executive Summary

- 1 Introduction
 - 1.1 IFCA Principles
 - 1.2 IFCA Vision
 - 1.3 IFCA Success Criterion
 - 1.4 IFCA High Level Objectives
 - 1.5 Annual Planning & Reporting

- 2 Research Resources and Capabilities
 - 2.1 North Eastern IFCA Staff
 - 2.2 North Eastern IFCA Equipment
 - 2.3 North Eastern IFCA Partners

- 3 3. Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - 3.1 Shellfish
 - 3.2 Finfish

- 4 Core Research Priorities 2012 - 2015
 - 4.1 Research Summary
 - 4.2 Research Theme 1 – Stock Monitoring
 - 4.3 Research Theme 2 – Ecosystem Based Management
 - 4.4 Research Theme 3 – Environmental Projects

- 5 Data Management
 - 5.1 Data Storage
 - 5.2 Data Sharing
 - 5.3 Data Dissemination

- 6 Funding

Executive Summary

Since vesting on 1 April 2011, NEIFCA has adopted a number of operational plans which support and inform various core work streams and link to the positive progression of its local and national objectives and overarching organisational aims. One of those plans identified as central to the effective management of the Authority's district was the Strategic Research Plan.

The Authority has clearly demonstrated its commitment to delivering a sustainable well managed marine environment through significant achievements in the first year of the NEIFCA in a wide range of work areas, including the development of the Authority's stock monitoring programmes and its offshore marine survey capabilities. However, many new challenges lie ahead for the Authority in the next few years including; the formal designation of new Marine Conservation Zones, implementation of the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and a re-assessment of fisheries management within current European Marine Sites.

In order to address these challenges and ensure the ongoing sustainable management of the marine environment within the district, NEIFCA has developed a formal Strategic Research Plan. This strategy will inform the assessment and monitoring of exploited commercial fish and shellfish stocks, the assessment and mapping of sea bed habitats and marine environmental monitoring work and other research work streams such as the recording and collation of offshore activities.

This Strategic Research Plan sets out the main priorities and objectives for the period 2012 – 2015, building on the positive achievements and successes of the Authority's first year and enabling it to meet on-coming challenges head on.

1. Introduction

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) is one of ten such Authority's established in October 2010 under provisions contained within the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. On 1 April 2011 the Authority assumed full statutory responsibility for managing the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its jurisdiction.

The Authority currently comprises representatives from the eleven coastal Local Authorities within its area, representing 13 Local Authority members, together with 14 members appointed by the Marine Management Organisation and singular members representing Natural England (NE), the Environment Agency (EA) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The total membership of the Authority is 30 members.

The NEIFCA Strategic Research Plan clearly identifies the key areas that the committee feels are central to delivering empirically based management of the NEIFCA district. This strategy builds on and furthers the strategic environmental assessment work initiated under NEIFCA's predecessor, the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee (NESFC). The NESFC was recognised for its forward thinking approach to fisheries management, having developed a sound programme of stock assessment and monitoring that will now be enhanced and broadened under the new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) remit. IFCA's now have a specific framework that helps guide work streams, including a vision, success criteria and high level objectives, allowing a more targeted and long term approach to research planning.

This Strategic Research Plan was developed by the NEIFCA Environmental Team in consultation with the internal Science and Governance Working Group, and approved by the NEIFCA Executive Committee. This long-term plan will help inform and direct the annual research plans that will be published in conjunction with the NEIFCA Annual Plan.

1.1 The IFCA Principles

Under provisions contained within the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, IFCA's are responsible for the sustainable management of inshore sea fisheries resources within their jurisdictional area. Their statutory duties include the following:

- Seeking to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way;
- Seeking to balance the social and economic benefits of exploitation with the need to protect the marine environment from, or promote its recovery from, the effects of such exploitation;
- Taking any other steps which, in the IFCA's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Seeking to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district; and
- Seeking to further the conservation objectives of Marine Conservation Zones.

1.2 The IFCA National Vision

To assist focus on the positive delivery of the above statutory duties, IFCA's have agreed the following national vision which has been adopted by NEIFCA:

"Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's will 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."

1.3 IFCA Success Criteria and High Level Objectives

To support the positive delivery of the above national vision, IFCA's have agreed a set of success criteria matched with corresponding high-level objectives. The vision, success criteria and high level objectives are designed to assist in the creation of a shared understanding of the aims and objectives of IFCA's, nationally, and focus positive service delivery towards achievement of the national vision.

The following success criteria have been agreed and adopted nationally:

- IFCA's have sound governance and staff are motivated and respected;

- Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the district;
- A fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime is in place;
- IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders;
- IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives;
- IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment; and
- IFCA's are recognised and heard.

Of the seven specific success criteria, four have a particular resonance with regard to the need for a strategic research plan. These, along with the agreed national high level objectives and associated performance indicators, are summarised in table 1.

Table 1: Summary of High Level Objectives

Success Criterion 2: Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the district		
<i>The decisions to introduce, amend or repeal byelaws are evidence-based, timely, based on appropriate consultation and can be shown to have a positive impact in line with their intended effect to manage, protect and promote the recovery of sea fisheries resources from the effects of exploitation.</i>		
High Level Objective	Outcome(s)	Performance indicator(s)
By April 2015 demonstrate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key issues likely to impact on the sustainable management of the marine environment in the IFC District are identified and evaluated using the best available evidence and a range of management options is considered; • The impacts that different courses of action might have in managing those key issues are thoroughly evaluated; • Proportionate regulation (for example introducing a legal mechanism such as a byelaw) is used as a last resort; • The effectiveness of 	Agreed policies and processes in place to review and amend byelaws and make new ones as required. Process to decide on the most appropriate management measure to apply to address fisheries and wider sustainability concerns as they arise, including the making of emergency byelaws. Process to assess the effectiveness of management measures in the District.	The issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the IFC District have been identified, prioritised and, where appropriate, suitable management plans for them put in place by April 2015; management plans and progress against them are reflected in annual plans and reports. All byelaws made after April 2011 meet the requirements of Defra guidance. IFCA's have necessary records and database systems in place to inform decision-making.

<p>interventions to improve the delivery of beneficial outcomes is continuously monitored; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clear IFCA Committee process for dealing with agreed interventions quickly, efficiently and effectively, particularly for emergency byelaws. 		
<p>By April 2015, all legacy byelaws have been reviewed and evaluated against current evidence base; redundant and duplicate byelaws have been removed and gaps covered.</p>	<p>By April 2015, all legacy byelaws have been reviewed and evaluated against current evidence base; redundant and duplicate byelaws have been removed and gaps covered. Byelaws meet the management and enforcement goals of IFCA at all times.</p>	<p>The byelaw review and changes are on schedule to meet objectives.</p> <p>All byelaws made after April 2011 meet the requirements of Defra guidance.</p>
<p>Success Criterion 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders</p>		
<p><i>IFCA's will work across boundaries, engaging effectively with local and central government, other government bodies, other delivery bodies, industry and other NGO's, recreational users and individuals in the work that they do. Through this partnership approach to working, IFCA's will deliver the socio-economic and environmental outcomes they were created under the Marine and Coastal Access Act to deliver.</i></p>		
<p>High Level Objective</p>	<p>Outcome(s)</p>	<p>Performance indicator(s)</p>
<p>By April 2011, develop Memoranda of Understanding (MoU's) or Service Level Agreements with key partners, including Cefas, Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency, that outline agreed ways of working and sharing information and, by April 2012, demonstrate that they are being utilised. Consideration should be given to having a Service Level Agreement with a lead local authority within the IFC District.</p>	<p>IFCA's and key partners have a clear understanding of their roles and joint responsibilities. The production of a comprehensive package of national and local Memoranda of Understanding and/or service level agreements (Service Level Agreements). Efficient and effective partnership working between all relevant parties and each IFCA.</p>	<p>Initial Memorandum of Understandings are agreed and adopted by end of April 2011.</p> <p>Discussions have been held with partner organisations with regard to Service Level Agreements; Service Level Agreements (if required) are agreed and adopted by April 2012.</p> <p>Identify and discuss with lead local authority requirement for Service Level Agreement by October 2011.</p> <p>Each Memoranda of Understanding and Service Level Agreement is reviewed annually to ensure effective delivery of objectives as defined in the annual plan; progress against Memoranda of Understanding action plans is reflected in annual reports.</p>
<p>By April 2012, develop a stakeholder engagement and communication strategy with corresponding plans that:</p>	<p>Develop a strategy for engagement with the wider public. Work with other agencies. Develop website to allow proper</p>	<p>Set-up database of stakeholders from current list by April 2011. Update list every 6 months. Review contacts list annually.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate transparency and a balanced approach to dealing with key stakeholders; and • Enable consideration of stakeholder views when making decisions. 	<p>engagement with identified and agreed stakeholder groups. Develop database of identified and agreed stakeholder groups that would find it difficult to engage via the website.</p>	<p>Engagement strategy developed by April 2012.</p> <p>By April 2012 each IFCA to create a website to give access to current information; all regular forms and documents to be provided electronically by April 2013. Website is reviewed and updated monthly.</p> <p>Develop interpretation boards and presentations to allow greater interaction with stakeholders.</p>
<p>By April 2014, review stakeholder engagement and communication strategy/plans and implement any necessary improvements by April 2015.</p>	<p>Stakeholder and communication strategy/plans are kept up to date.</p>	<p>Reviewed stakeholder and communication strategy/plans and stakeholder database completed by April 2014.</p>
<p>Success Criterion 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives</p>		
<p><i>IFCA's, by acquiring and sharing their own internal data and by seeking and sharing those generated and recorded by others (including the Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency, Natural England and Cefas), will have access to the necessary scientific, statistical and socio-economic information relating to inshore fishing and the marine environment to enable effective delivery of their duties.</i></p>		
<p>High Level Objective</p>	<p>Outcome(s)</p>	<p>Performance indicator(s)</p>
<p>By April 2012, put procedures, plans and appropriate records systems in place that demonstrate that the best available, quality-assured evidence, whether acquired in-house or externally, is used appropriately in decision-making at all levels. These procedures, plans and records systems must meet minimum standards as set out in government guidance and EU legislation.</p>	<p>IFCA's are provided with accurate and timely evidence-based information upon which to base their management decisions and the reasons for decisions are clear, transparent and communicated effectively.</p>	<p>By April 2012, committee to sign off strategic research plan, which has undergone consultation, covering the period until April 2015.</p> <p>Research plan is published each year.</p> <p>Previous year's research report published each year.</p> <p>IFCA annual report to demonstrate how evidence has been used in decision-making processes.</p>
<p>By April 2012, have an agreed action plan of how key, mutually beneficial information will be shared between IFCA's and with key delivery partners to improve efficiency and the delivery of beneficial outcomes.</p>	<p>IFCA's provide relevant information to and have access to relevant information from key delivery partners.</p>	<p>By April 2012 develop and agree Memoranda of Understanding's with delivery partners and review annually.</p> <p>IFCA representative to take part in annual IFCA scientific conference.</p> <p>IFCA representative to proactively be involved in relevant evidence networks to share best practice, e.g. Technical Advisory Group.</p>

By April 2013, demonstrate that there is the in-house capability to collect, analyse and interpret evidence to inform management policy decisions and meet the minimum requirements laid out in government guidance on evaluation and monitoring.	IFCAs have the technical capability to collect, analyse, interpret and manage evidence. IFCAs have personnel within the organisation with appropriate skills to ensure that management decisions make the best use of available evidence.	IFCA annual plan and report demonstrate use of evidence, resources and capability as per strategic research plan. Seek appropriate peer review of research reports [prior to publication]. IFCA annual plans and reports, including research plans and reports, are published online on the IFCA and Technical Advisory Group websites.
By April 2014, review evidence and knowledge sharing procedures and implement any necessary improvements by April 2015.	Knowledge sharing plans and procedures are effective and appropriate.	Develop knowledge sharing plans and procedures by April 2014. Knowledge sharing plans are reviewed and amended annually.
Success Criterion 6: IFCAs support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment		
<i>IFCAs will deliver responsive and flexible management of sea fisheries resources to meet local needs, in line with the legislative frameworks and guidance set by Central Government and others, such as the Marine Policy Statement (in place from Spring 2011) and subsequent Marine Plans. In doing this, IFCAs will be able to show that they are having a positive impact, leading to more sustainably exploited sea fisheries resources in their districts.</i>		
High Level Objective	Outcome(s)	Performance indicator(s)
By April 2012, with partner organisations (such as the Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency and Natural England) develop shared objectives for the sustainable management of the Districts marine environment and ensure that they are reflected in annual plans.	Shared objectives for management of the marine environment have been identified with partner organisations and IFCAs meet their own objectives in conjunction with others, where possible.	Identify where there are shared objectives in managing the marine environment with partner organisations by April 2012 and identify how these impact on IFCAs objectives. Shared objectives are set out in annual plans. Progress of shared objectives reported on, in annual reports.
By April 2013, develop and implement action plans for communicating and educating coastal communities about sustainable management of the marine environment.	Raised awareness of IFCAs work allows marine and coastal users to be better able to engage with the sustainable management of the marine environment.	Plans and processes for raising awareness of IFCAs work in place by April 2013. Examples of engagement set out in annual reports. Feedback from relevant stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of engagement is routinely sought.
By April 2015, demonstrate adoption of the principles of best practice in sustainable management of marine environment for the District, as exemplified	IFCAs are aware of and adopt the principles of best practice in sustainable management of the marine environment for the District. IFCAs are adopting the	The issues impacting sea fisheries resources within the IFC District have been identified, prioritised and, where appropriate, suitable management plans for them put in place by April 2015; management plans and progress against

<p>using tools such as Strategic Environmental Assessments.</p>	<p>principles of the UK's Marine Policy Statement and marine plans.</p>	<p>them are reflected in annual plans and reports.</p> <p>Examples of proactive involvement in relevant networks to share best practice are reported in annual reports.</p> <p>The impact of the Marine Policy Statement and the process of marine planning on IFCA's work are assessed and addressed annually from April 2011.</p>
<p>By April 2015 at the latest, but showing progress from April 2011, demonstrate adoption of minimum standards (for example in line with government guidance on sustainable development) and a precautionary approach for the management and protection of sites of special scientific interest, national nature reserves, Ramsar sites, European marine sites, and/or Marine Conservation Zones within the IFCA District.</p>	<p>IFCAs are working in partnership with key delivery bodies to enable marine protected areas within their Districts to be managed sustainably.</p> <p>IFCAs are delivering the principles of sustainable development, as set out in Government guidance.</p>	<p>Assessment of the condition of marine protected areas by statutory bodies, where available, have been taken into account when developing suitable management plans.</p> <p>IFCAs can demonstrate effective representation on relevant management boards/steering groups.</p> <p>IFCAs can demonstrate delivery of the principles outlined in Government guidance on sustainable development.</p>

1.5 Annual Plan & Reporting

NEIFCA is required to prepare and publish Annual Plans, which provide a 'road map' for the forthcoming year linking the national IFCA vision, high level objectives and success criteria to local strategic objectives and performance indicators. The Authority then measures the success of implementing this plan through Annual Reporting. The plan also highlights how the training and development of the Authority's Officers and members is integrated to the successful achievement of its own local performance indicators and objectives and ultimately positive delivery of the national vision. The plan details the key policies and strategies which guide the Authority's work streams and are central to its successful implementation during the year ahead.

This research strategy highlights the next three years of NEIFCA research priorities. Each year an annual research plan will be defined, with an associated timeline of activities, and will be annexed to the Authority's Annual Plan.

2. Research Resources and Capabilities

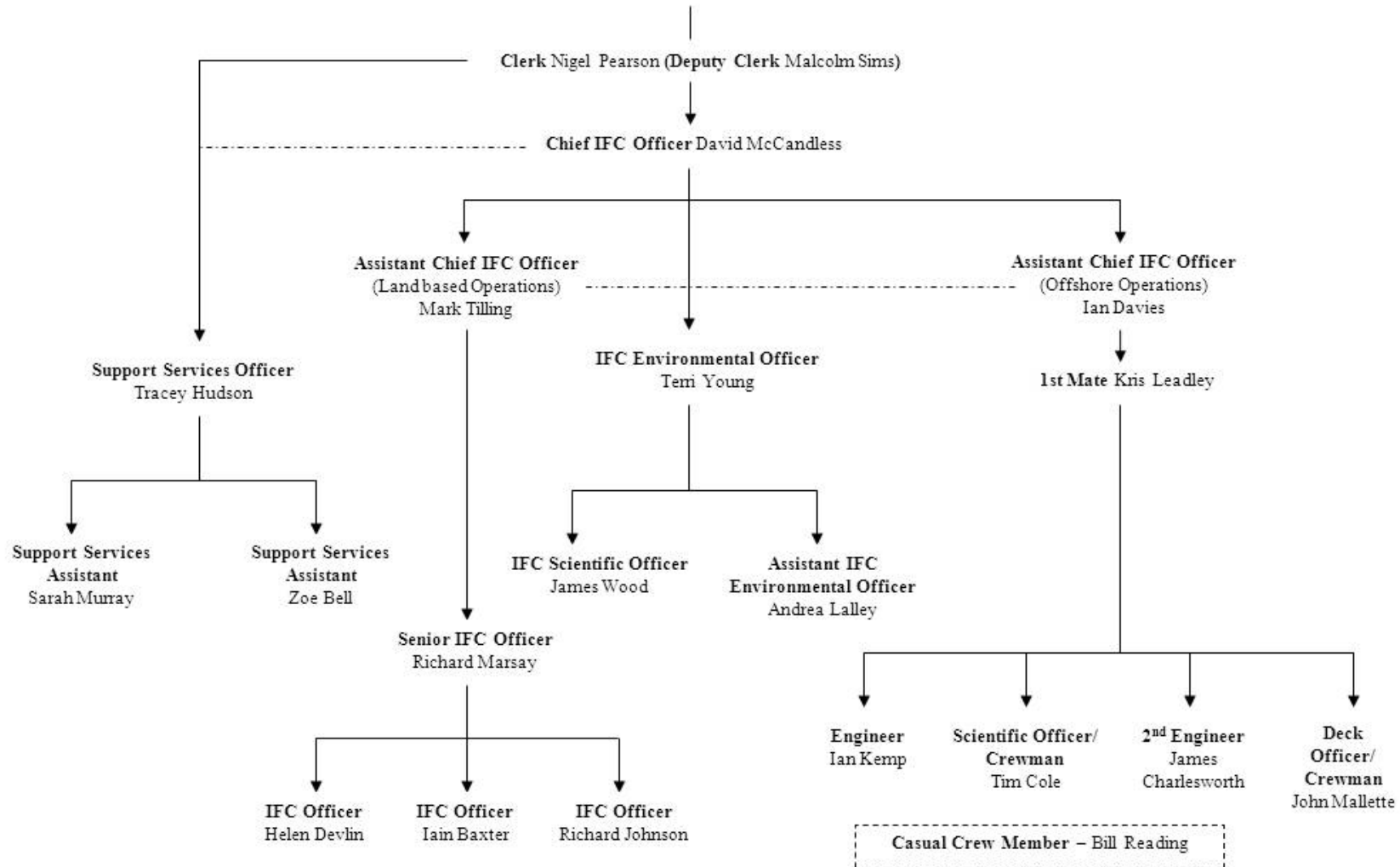
2.1 North Eastern IFCA Staff

The Authority is a direct employer having an establishment comprising a Chief Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Officer (IFCO), Assistant Chief IFCO (Land based), Assistant Chief IFCO (Offshore), four shore based IFC Officers, five offshore IFC Officers, an IFC Environmental Officer (EO), an Assistant IFC Environmental Officer and a IFC Scientific Officer (SO).

Clerkship, secretarial, administrative, financial, human resources and legal functions are undertaken by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council - one of the member Authorities.

NEIFCA Organogram

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



2.2 North Eastern IFCA Vessels and Equipment

Under the 2011 North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Commencement Order all resources, including staffing, were transferred from its predecessor organisation, North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee.

2.2.1 Vessels

The North Eastern Guardian III



The North Eastern Guardian III (NEG III) is a 26m-patrol boat, (built and delivered November 2007), capable of a top speed of 26 knots and equipped with the latest electronic navigation systems and marine survey and monitoring equipment.

Bravo 1



The NEGIII carries a 6.4 metre RIB capable of speeds up to 30 knots. The RIB is primarily used for supporting offshore enforcement operations, but is also available to support scientific survey work, such as side scan sonar.

Humber Protector



programme.

The Authority also operates a 6.5 metre land-based RIB which is capable of achieving a speed of 40 knots. The RIB is specifically designed to enhance land-based enforcement operations and is also used to support the Authority's scientific and environmental

2.2.2 Survey Equipment

- YSI multi-functional sonde
- Seabotix LBV 300 series ROV
- Tritech towfish side scan sonar (2nd generation)
- Starfish side scan sonar
- Delta vision 500ft drop down camera
- Waterproof Peli case with inbuilt 8" monitor, SD recorder and GPS data overlay
- Sea viewer drop down camera
- Sea-Trak GPS video overlay
- 3 x RF concepts drop down cameras
- Olex sea bed mapping system
- WASSP Multibeam sonar with Olex interface
- Roxann Acoustic Ground Discrimination System
- Van veen grab
- 3m beam trawl
- 2 x beach seine nets
- Bass Hi-lift trawl
- Small otter trawl
- Survey parlour pots
- Waterproof Panasonic Toughbook laptop i5
- Rigiflex inshore / estuarine survey boat
- 3 x Newhaven spring toothed scallop dredges
- 3 x scallop envirodredges

2.2.3 Miscellaneous

- Wet laboratory
- Sieves
- Scales
- Digital USB Microscope
- Digital callipers
- Mapinfo GIS platform
- SonarTRX
- Coda Octopus

2.3 North Eastern IFCA Partners

The NEIFCA, and its predecessor NESFC, developed an excellent track record of working collaboratively with partner organisations, including academic institutions. These links allow for the expertise that exists within such institutions to be accessible and to provide opportunities for undergraduates and postgraduates to work on projects beneficial to the Authority. Officers will strengthen or create links with external institutions and meet to exchange project ideas on a regular basis.

Nationally, relationships will be strengthened between the Environment Agency, the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and Cefas, in order to identify opportunities for collaboration, the collation and dissemination of data and adoption of best practices.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG), comprised of IFCA Environmental/Technical Officers and members of the MMO, NE, EA and Cefas, provides a mechanism for developing these links and strengthening relationships. Furthermore, the group allows for standardisation of best practice between IFCA's and national bodies with regards to research, encouraging the sharing of information and non-duplication of effort. NEIFCA officers have been a part of this since its inception and will continue its involvement.

National workshops and conferences are also recognised as valuable opportunities to strengthen the knowledge base and experience of NEIFCA Officers. The Chief Officers Group and the TAG are currently exploring future options for the provision of a scientific conference and workshop.

3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a statutory process which aims to provide high level protection of the environment. It seeks to ensure the integration of environmental considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development. During 2008, NESFC commissioned a consultant, Mott MacDonald, to pilot this process for assessing the environmental impacts of the current shellfish management programme within its district. This was the first time

both in the UK and Europe that the SEA process had been developed for a fisheries management regime, although similar processes are used in America and Australia.

The outputs were two fold. An Environmental Report, outlining the status and impact of management against a number of environmental factors and; a Generic fisheries SEA framework that will allow for SEA to be completed on another fishery.

This methodology now forms the foundation of the Authority's fisheries management regime for shellfish. The Output of SEA depends on high quality data and implementing and monitoring of new management feeds directly back into the SEA process in order to assess its success in broader terms.

3.1.1 Shellfish

This work area, initially developed by the NESFC and ultimately handed over to the IFCA, has provided the foundation for the consultation and in turn, creation of management options for the shellfisheries within the IFCA district. The next stage of the process in terms of re-visiting the SEA will be to re-appraise the management of the fishery based upon best available evidence.

3.1.2 Whitefish

The Authority has committed to the application of the SEA process to the Authority's whitefish fisheries. The objectives of this research strategy will feed directly into this area as with the aforementioned Shellfish SEA. Once assessed any measures identified to improve the sustainability of whitefish species and increase the viability will be evidence based.

4. Research Priorities 2012 – 2015

This strategy outlines core NEIFCA research priorities which may be supplemented with additional projects through external funding streams. Particular areas for development will be informing the Authority's management of whitefish and research on the socio-economic parameters of the NEIFCA fisheries. The research plan will be subject to revision as required.

4.1 Research Summary 2012-2015: Core Activities*

Theme 1: Stock Monitoring						
	Project	Project Description	Time Period	SEA Condition	Monitoring Systems	Success Criteria
Shellfish	Lobster	Stock assessment	Annual		DEFRA Returns / Quayside / Offshore	2; 5; 6
	Edible Crab	Stock assessment	Annual		DEFRA Returns / Quayside / Offshore	2; 5; 6
	Velvet Crab	Stock assessment	Annual		DEFRA Returns / Quayside / Offshore	2; 5; 6
	Whelk	Baseline assessment	2013- 2015		DEFRA Returns / Quayside / Offshore	2; 5; 6
	Cockle	Stock assessment	Annual		Site specific monitoring	2; 5; 6
	Scallop	Baseline assessment	2012-2015		DEFRA Returns / Quayside / Offshore	2; 5; 6
	Nephrop	Baseline assessment	2012-2015	N/A	DEFRA Returns / Quayside / Offshore	2; 5; 6
	Mussels	Stock assessment	Annual		Site specific monitoring	2; 5; 6
	Brown Shrimp	Baseline assessment	2012-2015		EU logbook	2; 5; 6
Finfish	Sea Bass Intertidal	Stock assessment	Annual		NEIFCA Returns / Quayside	2; 5; 6
	Sea Bass Subtidal	Stock assessment	Annual		NEIFCA Returns / Quayside	2; 5; 6
	Sole Intertidal	Stock assessment	Annual	TBD	NEIFCA Returns	2; 5; 6
	Estuarine Fish Surveys	Baseline assessment	2012-2015	TBD	Site specific monitoring	2; 4; 5; 6

	Project	Project Description	Time Period	SEA Condition	Monitoring Systems	Success Criteria
	Finfish Monitoring	Baseline assessment	2012-2015	TBD	EU logbook / Spawning and Nursery Area Identification	2; 5; 6
Theme 2: Ecosystem Based Management						
	Flamborough Head NTZ	Conservation / Monitoring	2011-2015	N/A	Independent monitoring strategy	2; 3; 4; 5; 6
	European Marine Sites	Conservation / Monitoring	As required	N/A	Site specific strategy	2; 3; 4; 5; 6
	Marine Conservation Zones	Conservation / Monitoring	As required	N/A	Site specific strategy	2; 3; 4; 5; 6
	Prohibited Trawl Areas	Conservation / Management	As required	N/A	Site specific strategy	2; 3; 4; 5; 6
	Habitat Mapping	Ecosystem Based Management	Annual	N/A	Broad scale and targeted site specific	5; 6
	Environmental Parameter Monitoring	Monitoring	Ongoing	N/A	Monthly site specific	5; 6
Theme 3: Environmental Projects						
	GIS layer development	Management	2013 - onwards	N/A	Overlay development of sightings / species / gear types / habitat	2; 3; 4; 5; 6
	Livelihood Diversification Scoping Study	Socioeconomic	TBD	N/A	TBD	4; 5; 6
	Economic Analysis of Total Value Chain	Socioeconomic	TBD	N/A	TBD	4; 5; 6
	Fisheries Local Action Group	Socioeconomic / Management	2012-2015	N/A	Assistance in development and delivery of Holderness FLAG	4; 5; 6; 7
	CEFAS Sea Angling 2012	Conservation / Socioeconomic	2012-2013	N/A	Survey questionnaires	4; 5; 6; 7
	Data Management	Management	2012-2015	N/A	In-house data holdings / MEDIN	2; 3; 4; 5; 6

	Project	Project Description	Time Period	SEA Condition	Monitoring Systems	Success Criteria
	Regulatory Impact Assessments	Socioeconomic / Management	2012-2015	N/A	In-house reports / desk based research	2; 3; 4; 5; 6
	Project Inshore	Conservation / Management	2012-2013	N/A	Working with Project Inshore team	2; 3; 4; 5; 6

*Subject to revision

4.2 Research Theme 1 – Stock Monitoring

Research theme 1						
Lobster stock assessment	Current SEA condition [REDACTED]					Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measureable) Informs stock secondary performance indicators (monitored) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives
1. Quayside →	Recruit and Industry catch representation					
2. Offshore →	Pre-recruit, recruit and bycatch representation					
3. DEFRA Returns →	Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information					
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Quayside* - 48 days per annum →	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass Reduce discards
Offshore** - 30 days per annum →	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
DEFRA Returns input →	Offshore	*	*	*	*	
Report Production →	Admin	*	*	*	*	
	Environmental	*	*			
Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.				
*Quayside and **Offshore monitoring assesses a range of species captured by the static pot fishery and the commitments are grouped throughout theme 1						

Research theme 1						
Edible Crab stock assessment	Current SEA condition [REDACTED]					Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measureable) Informs stock secondary performance indicators (monitored) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives
1. Quayside	Recruit and Industry catch representation					
2. Offshore	Pre-recruit, recruit, bycatch and discard representation					
3. DEFRA Returns	Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information					
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Quayside* - 48 days per annum	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass
Offshore** - 30 days per annum	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
DEFRA Returns input	Offshore	*	*	*	*	
Report Production	Admin	*	*	*	*	
	Environmental	*	*			
Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.				

Research theme 1						
Velvet Crab stock assessment	Current SEA condition [REDACTED]					Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measureable) Informs stock secondary performance indicators (monitored) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives
1. Quayside 2. Offshore 3. DEFRA Returns	Recruit and Industry catch representation Pre-recruit, recruit, bycatch and discard representation Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information					
Resources	Project Delivery					
Quayside* - 48 days per annum Offshore** - 30 days per annum DEFRA Returns input Report Production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Project Outcomes 2012-2015 Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass
	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
	Offshore	*	*	*	*	
	Admin	*	*	*	*	
Environmental	*	*				
Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.				

Research theme 1						
Whelk baseline assessment	Current SEA condition [REDACTED]					Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measureable) Informs stock secondary performance indicators (monitored) Allows development of long term monitoring systems
1. Quayside 2. Offshore 3. DEFRA Returns	Recruit and Industry catch representation Pre-recruit, recruit, density, as bycatch only Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information					
Resources	Project Delivery					
Quayside* - 48 days per annum Offshore** - 30 days per annum DEFRA Returns input Report Production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Project Outcomes 2012-2015 Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass
	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
	Offshore	*	*	*	*	
	Admin	*	*	*	*	
Environmental	*	*				
Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.				

Research theme 1						
Scallop baseline assessment	Current SEA condition ████████					Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report
1. Quayside 2. Offshore 3. NEIFCA Returns	Recruit and Industry catch representation Pre-recruit, recruit, bycatch and discard representation Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information					Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Quayside* - 48 days per annum Offshore - TBC EU logbook returns - TBC Report Production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Identify frequency, abundance and location of fishery Maximise recruitment Identify frequency, abundance and location of fishery
	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
	Offshore Admin				*	
Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.				

Research theme 1						
Nephrops baseline assessment	Current SEA condition ████████					Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report
1. Quayside 2. Offshore 3. DEFRA Returns	Recruit and Industry catch representation Pre-recruit, recruit, bycatch and discard representation Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information					Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Quayside* - 48 days per annum Offshore** - 30 days per annum DEFRA Returns input Report Production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Identify frequency, abundance and location of fishery Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime
	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
	Offshore Admin	*	*	*	*	
	Environmental	*	*			
Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.				

Research theme 1							
Cockle stock assessment	Current SEA condition [REDACTED]					Project Details	
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems Estimate of site KG and density	
1. Site specific	Shell length, shell width, sample wet weight						
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Site specific - 4 days per annum Biometrics - 2 days per annum Report production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass	
	Environmental		*				
	Environmental				*		
Environmental					*		
Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.					

Research theme 1							
Mussel stock assessment	Current SEA condition [REDACTED]					Project Details	
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems Estimate of site KG and density	
1. Site specific	Shell length, shell width, sample wet weight						
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Site specific - 4 days per annum Biometrics - 2 days per annum Report production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass	
	Environmental		*				
	Environmental				*		
Environmental					*		
Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.					

Research theme 1						
Brown Shrimp baseline assessment		Current SEA condition			Project Details	
Monitoring Systems		Outputs			Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems	
1. EU logbook		Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information				
Resources		Project Delivery			Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Information Input - 2 days per annum Report production		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
		Admin	*			
		Environmental	*			
		Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.		

Research theme 1						
Sea bass (intertidal) stock assessment		Current SEA condition			Project Details	
Monitoring Systems		Outputs			Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Informs stock secondary performance indicators (monitored) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems	
1. Quayside 2. NEIFCA Returns		Recruit and Industry catch representation Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information				
Resources		Project Delivery			Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Quayside - 8 days per annum NEIFCA returns - 2 days per annum Report production		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
		Environmental	*		*	*
		Environmental	*			*
		Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.		

Research theme 1							
Sea bass (subtidal) stock assessment		Current SEA condition					Project Details
Monitoring Systems		Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Informs stock secondary performance indicators (monitored) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems
1. Quayside 2. NEIFCA Returns		Recruit and Industry catch representation Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information					
Resources		Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Quayside - 8 days per annum NEIFCA returns - 2 days per annum Report production		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass
		Environmental	*		*	*	
		Environmental	*			*	
		Success Criteria: 2; 5; 6.					

Research theme 1							
Sole net (intertidal) stock assessment		Current SEA condition				TBD	Project Details
Monitoring Systems		Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Informs stock secondary performance indicators (monitored) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems
1. Quayside 2. NEIFCA Returns		Recruit and Industry catch representation Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information					
Resources		Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Quayside - 8 days per annum NEIFCA returns - 2 days per annum Report production		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass
		Environmental	*		*	*	
		Environmental	*			*	
		Success Criteria: 2; 5; 6.					

Research theme 1							
Estuarine Fish Surveys		TBD				Project Details	
Monitoring Systems		Outputs				Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems	
TBC		Pre-recruit, recruit, bycatch and discard representation					
Resources		Project Delivery				Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Surveys - TBC Report production		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass
		Environmental	*			*	
		Environmental	*				
		Success Criteria:		2; 4; 5; 6.			

Research theme 1							
Finfish Monitoring						Project Details	
Monitoring Systems		Outputs				Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems	
1. EU logbook 2. Offshore		Catch, effort and ICES rectangle information Pre-recruit, recruit, bycatch and discard representation					
Resources		Project Delivery				Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Information input - TBC Offshore sampling - TBC		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass
		Admin	*	*	*	*	
		Offshore					
		Success Criteria:		2; 5; 6.			

4.3 Research Theme 2 – Ecosystem Based Management

Research theme 2							
Flamborough Head No Take Zone							Project Details
Monitoring Systems		Outputs					Provides information for annual stock assessment report Informs stock primary reference points (measurable) Addresses SEA and MSC environmental objectives Allows development of long term monitoring systems
1. Offshore shellfish monitoring 2. Mussel stock monitoring		Pre-recruit, recruit, bycatch and discard representation Pre-recruit, recruit, density and bed size					
Activities		Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Offshore shellfish monitoring - 1 day Mussel stock monitoring - 2 days Report Production		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improve stock condition to sustainable position Identify weaknesses in stock structure and harvest regime Maximise recruitment Increase spawning stock biomass
		Environmental		*	*		
		Environmental		*			
		Environmental			*	*	
		Success Criteria: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6.					

Research theme 2							
European Marine Sites							Project Details
Monitoring Systems		Outputs					To carry out an appropriate assessment of fishing gear interactions with designated features within protected areas.
1. Appropriate Assessments 2. Management Group Meetings 3. Responsive monitoring /research		Impact assessment of gear types Management recommendations As required					
Resources		Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Desk based research - TBD Report production NEIFCA representation - 12 days		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Environmental impacts identified Responsive monitoring/research plans implemented Appropriate management measures introduced
		Environmental	*	*	*	*	
		Environmental			*	*	
		Environmental	*	*	*	*	
		Success Criteria: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6.					

Research theme 2						
Marine Conservation Zones						Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					To carry out an appropriate assessment of fishing gear interactions with designated features within protected areas.
1. Appropriate Assessments 2. Offshore surveying 3. Management Group Meetings 4. Responsive monitoring /research	Habitat maps Monitoring of designated features Report As required					
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Desk based research - TBD Offshore surveys - WASSP - TBD Report Production NEIFCA Representation - TBD	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Environmental impacts identified Responsive monitoring/research plans implemented Appropriate management measures introduced
	Environmental	*	*			
	NEG/Environmental		*	*		
	Environmental	*			*	
	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
Success Criteria: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6.						
Caveat: The overall role of IFCA's with regards to MCZ's has not yet been finalised. Therefore this research stream is likely to change to accommodate a more defined role.						

Research theme 2						
Prohibited Trawl Areas						Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					AGDS surveys to monitor habitat recovery of the sea bed within prohibited trawl areas.
1. WASSP 2. Camera sled 3. Responsive monitoring /research	High resolution habitat maps Ground truthing and imagery of sea bed As required Report					
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Offshore surveys - 6 days per annum Analysis - 12 days per annum Report production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Responsive monitoring/research plans implemented
	NEG III		*			
	Environmental			*		
	Environmental				*	
Success Criteria: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6.						

Research theme 2						
Habitat Mapping						Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					To develop maps of benthic habitats within the district. To assess baseline condition of MCZ designated features and develop and implement a monitoring plan. Existing data from external sources will be identified and utilised where possible.
1. WASSP system	Habitat maps - District/targeted					
3. Sidescan sonar	Habitat maps - targeted					
4. Camera sled	Ground truthing					
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Offshore surveys - 20 days Ground truthing - 10 days Analysis Report production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Baseline habitat maps developed indicating extent/health/condition. Features of interest identified. Monitoring plans implemented.
	NEG/Environmental		*	*		
	NEG/Environmental		*	*		
	Environmental	*			*	
	Environmental	*			*	
Success Criteria:		5; 6.				

Research theme 2						
Environmental Parameters						Project Details
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					Monthly offshore sampling at eight sites within the district, using a portable sonde, to monitor oceanographic parameters.
1. Sonde	Longterm data sets of salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and specific conductivity. Data analysis Report					
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Sample collection - 12 days per annum Data analysis - 5 days per annum Report production	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Long term monthly/annual trends in environmental conditions to provide indicators of progress in achieving good environmental status by 2020 (Marine Strategy Framework Directive).
	NEG III	*	*	*	*	
	Environmental	*			*	
	Environmental	*			*	
Success Criteria:		5; 6.				

4.4 Research Theme 3 – Environmental Projects

Research theme 3							
GIS Layer Development							Project Details
Monitoring Systems		Outputs					Overlay of maps to conduct management gap analysis.
1. Map info		Data layers for management regimes, fishing effort, habitat type, species range, protected areas etc. Report					
Resources		Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015
Data management - 20 days Map creation - 20 days Gap analysis - 10 days Report production - 10 days		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Spatial representation of key information throughout the district. Spatial analyses capabilities developed.
		Environmental	*	*	*		
		Environmental		*	*		
		Environmental		*	*	*	
		Success Criteria: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6.					

Research theme 3								
Livelihood Diversification Scoping Study							Project Details	
Monitoring Systems		Outputs					To identify environmentally sustainable avenues for enhancing income diversification for the Authority's fishing communities.	
1. Socioeconomic study		Socioeconomic analysis of NEIFCA district Identification of potential alternative livelihoods Report and recommendations						
2. Analysis of development opportunities								
3. Consultation								
Resources		Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Data harvesting Consultation Report development		Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Increased social resilience against future challenges to the inshore fishing fleet.	
		Environmental	*	*	*	*		
		Environmental	*					*
		Environmental	*					*
		Success Criteria: 4; 5; 6						

Research theme 3						
Economic Analysis of Value Chain		Project Details				
Monitoring Systems	Outputs	To analyse the distribution of benefits in the value chain to inform management and policy decisions.				
1. MMO RBS returns 2. Retail price index 3. UKFEN 4. Metadata	First sale value dataset for key commercial fisheries End sale value dataset for key commercial fisheries Processing value dataset Report					
Resources	Project Delivery	Project Outcomes 2012-2015				
Desk based research - 80 days	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improved knowledge of value chain economics. Identify areas of maximising economic returns for the NEIFCA district fisheries.
	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
Success Criteria:		4; 5; 6.				

Research theme 3						
Fisheries Local Action Group		Project Details				
Monitoring Systems	Outputs	Supporting EFF axis 4 regional FLAG group				
1. Assist partner project development 2. Attend Board meetings 3. Attend fisheries sub-group meetings	Improved reputation of IFCA, some projects address success criteria Provide advice and guidance on projects Provide advice and guidance on projects					
Resources	Project Delivery	Project Outcomes 2012-2015				
Grouped 20 days per annum	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Successful delivery of FLAG projects and funding by 2015
	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
Success Criteria:		4; 5; 6; 7.				

Research theme 3							
CEFAS Angling 2012						Project Details	
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					The Angling 2012 project is a collaboration between the MMO, CEFAS and IFCA's to determine what fish are being caught by anglers and the importance of this sport to businesses around the coast of England.	
1. Questionnaire 2. Project steering group	Dataset for NEIFCA district Monthly reporting to CEFAS Annual research report						
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Survey - 48 days per annum Report production Administration - 15 days per annum	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Improved scientific understanding of inshore fish stocks and more effective representation of the sea angling community in decision making.	
	Environmental	*	*	*	*		
	Environmental	*	*	*	*		
Success Criteria:		4; 5; 6; 7.					

Research theme 3							
Data Management						Project Details	
Monitoring Systems	Outputs					To adopt best practices in the management of NEIFCA data holdings through the standardising of storage and metadata protocols. The sharing of data through engagement with the MEDIN online database.	
1. In-house assessment 2. Metadata development 3. MEDIN / DASHH	Data catalogue Metadata standardised for data holdings Online representation of NEIFCA data and reports						
Resources	Project Delivery					Project Outcomes 2012-2015	
Data sorting Metadata development and upload Ongoing maintenance	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Up to date catalogue of NEIFCA data holdings. Up to date and standardised metadata. Contribution to the MEDIN network through the upload of metadata on NEIFCA data holdings.	
	Environmental	*	*	*	*		
	Environmental	*	*	*	*		
Success Criteria:		2; 3; 4; 5; 6					

Research theme 3						
Regulatory Impact Assessments		Project Details				
Monitoring Systems	Outputs	To identify potential impacts, both positive and negative, to inform regulatory process.				
1. Data gathering and analysis 2. Examination of literature 3. Options development and Assessment 4. Consultation	Evidence based needs analysis Literature review on potential social, economic and environmental impacts					
Resources	Project Delivery	Project Outcomes 2012-2015				
Desk based study Consultation	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Scientifically sound and appropriate byelaw making to support the sustainable management of the NEIFCA district fisheries.
	Environmental Administration	*	*	*	*	
Success Criteria:		2; 3; 4; 5; 6				

Research theme 3						
Project Inshore		Project Details				
Monitoring Systems	Outputs	Proactively engage with the Project Inshore team to assess the state of inshore fisheries within the NEIFCA district, through the pre-assessment stage of the MSC certification standards.				
1. Fishery analysis 2. MSC pre-assessment gap analysis 3. Sustainability review	The development of management recommendations to aid in the sustainable management of the NEIFCA district.					
Resources	Project Delivery	Project Outcomes 2012-2014				
Data provision	Lead	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	NOTE: The Authority's management regime will remain grounded in the SEA process. However, it is recognised that synergies exist between the two processes and therefore, NEIFCA will consider Project Inshore outputs in relation to the SEA.
	Environmental	*	*	*	*	
Success Criteria:		2; 3; 4; 5; 6				

5. Data Management

5.1 Data Storage

All raw data gathered from the Authority's district is stored electronically in spreadsheet and database format enabling ease of manipulation, import into other programmes and statistical analysis. There is a need to conduct an assessment of the Authority's data holdings in order to catalogue and structure the files in a coherent system.

Spatial data is stored in shape file format for presentation and analysis in the GIS platform MapInfo. This is a developing work stream that aims to generate key data layers that present information related to the Authority's district, such as management regimes, fishing effort, habitat types and commercial species ranges.

5.2 Data Sharing

Data sharing is a key objective within the IFCA success criteria. The TAG has been leading on examining ways of sharing meta-data within the framework of the Marine Environmental Data & Information Network (MEDIN). NEIFCA will utilise and contribute to the network through the development and upload of metadata on NEIFCA data holdings. A report will be made to the Authority when this work stream reaches a suitable stage in its development.

While the sharing of data is encouraged, NEIFCA is mindful of the need to act prudently with regards to data protection. The sharing of data with external parties is subject to review, and may require a memorandum of understanding containing terms and conditions on how the data can be used.

5.3 Data Dissemination

NEIFCA are constantly generating new datasets through its stock assessment and monitoring programmes. This data is analysed using the statistical programme 'R', and deductions made on the health of the Authority's fisheries. The data is presented in report format and disseminated to Authority members, key partners and the general public on the Authority's website.

6. Funding

Financial sources for funding the scientific research of the Authority are mainly derived from central proceeds. In addition to this, NEIFCA has a good track record of developing and collaborating on externally funded projects. The North Sea is a particularly busy area with extensive offshore development, such as oil and gas exploration and storage, ports and navigation, dredging and disposal and offshore wind farms to name a few. A horizon scanning exercise will be conducted to assess the potential for generating external funding streams, with a view to identifying areas of research that will assist offshore developments in minimising impacts on the marine environment. NEIFCA will ensure that any future project development directly feeds into the Scientific Research Plan and the high level objectives of the IFCA.