

## Summary Report to Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015

At the Council meeting in May 2015, Council agreed to make it a requirement that the Council nominee(s) to four specific outside bodies shall submit summary reports to the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. The specific bodies identified were: -

- Essex Fire Authority
- Southend University Hospital - NHS Foundation Trust
- Essex Police and Crime Panel
- Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

In your response, please indicate which Group / Body this report relates to.

Notes:-

- *Where there is more than one nominee, a joint report shall be submitted.*
- *Council has agreed that updates shall be submitted to every other ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.*

**Name of Group / Body:-** Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA)

### Update on Key Issues

The Kent and Essex IFCA District covers a sea area of over 3,412 km<sup>2</sup> and extends from Rye Bay in Kent to the northern boundary of the River Stour, off Harwich, in the North of Essex. The seaward boundary follows the six mile nautical limit, and because of drying sandbanks stretches some fifteen miles out to sea at its furthest point. Its inshore boundary in the River Thames runs up to Thurrock and its boundary runs from the River Darent at Dartford Creek across to the Mar Dyke on the Northern Shore. All other rivers and estuaries located within its boundaries are covered, including the Medway, Blackwater, Crouch and Colne.

The IFCA has far more responsibilities than the old Sea Fisheries Committee. It is funded by Government and Local Authority Levies, the major contributors being from Government, Kent and Essex County Councils, with Medway, Southend and Thurrock also contributing to the overall precept. The IFCA has responsibilities as implied by its name and its duties are laid down in the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009 sections 153 and 154 are:

- 1) Kent and Essex IFCA must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in its district, in doing so it must:
  - a) Seek to ensure that the exploitation of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way.

- b) Seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting the sea fisheries resources of the district with the need to protect the marine environment, or promote its recovery, from the effects of such exploitation.
- c) Take any other steps which in the Authorities opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development.
- d) Seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district.

2) Kent and Essex IFCA must also seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ in the district are furthered.

In addition the Authority is also responsible for the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Order 1994 and the River Roach Oyster Fishery Order 1992.

Under European Legislation the Authority is defined as a “Competent and Relevant Authority” and is required to perform its duties in regard to:

- The Habitats Directive
- The Water Framework Directive
- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

They have enforcement powers, set by-laws, carry out boarding’s and inspections on all or any fishing vessel within the six mile limit both at sea and in harbour. They will also enforce on Angling Boats and Anglers wherever they are and check on size limits of specie and “bag limits”. Carry out survey work on the foreshore and generally manage all SSSI’S, RAMSAR SITES, MCZ’S, MPA’S. Develop new nursery areas, and manage the bio mass of the different animals living in or on the foreshore and reefs.

Besides the individual IFCA’s there is an Association of IFCA’s which all 10 IFCA’s belong, and which covers the whole of the English Coastal Waters.

**Person Making Response:**

Councillor John Lamb

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