

By: KEIFCA Chief Fishery Officer

To: Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority  
– 26 November 2021

Subject: Revised process for the development of future cockle  
fishery management

Classification Unrestricted

**Summary:** This paper outlines a revised proposed process and timescales relating to the development of future cockle fishery management. It informs Members of the reports and actions officers consider important to allow Members to be better informed in making their decisions.

**Recommendation:** Members are asked to **APPROVE:**

1. the revised provisional process (including indicative dates) by which the review and development will be undertaken, including an additional in year spend of £7,000- £8,000 for running the February special Authority meeting and £8,500-£9,500 of running the filmed oral evidence hearing, with funds to be taken from reserves.
2. the commission of a legal overview document;
3. the commission of an economics report;
4. the compiling of a report to compare the KEIFCA cockle fisheries with other cockle fisheries in the UK and overseas;
5. the compiling of a report to review spatial and stock data for the cockle beds in the KEIFA district;
6. the upgrading of the KEIFCA website to better host and present data from the cockle review and future management development process; and
7. that the costs of these reports and any website upgrade be approved by the CFO in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman

## Background

Using the feedback from stakeholders and experience of officers during the listening phase (Paper B8) officers have reviewed the proposed process for the development of future cockle fishery management outlined in the paper B3 approved at the September meeting.

In general feedback on the process and timelines for the development of future cockle fishery management was positive with a range of comments reflecting the feeling that the process was starting early enough to allow a full discussion and for new legislation to be developed and introduced in a timely manner. Several members of the industry reflected on the usefulness of having a clear timetable and dates for the process and in general most people seemed happy with the structure of the process. All the specific individual feedback from the listening phase can be found in Appendix 1.

Comment	Reply/ action
<b><i>Run zoom meetings as part of the consultation process</i></b>	<p>We have held cockle management meetings on zoom in the past, with both fishers and KEIFCA officers reflecting after the meeting, that in person meetings were far better.</p> <p>Officers would be happy to give a zoom meeting another go however it is proposed that the meeting would be used to explain the detail or background behind any option rather than to collect evidence or discuss options that would be submitted to the Authority.</p>
<b><i>In future try to make the language used in the consultation material more accessible to the non-cockle industry.</i></b>	The feedback has been taken onboard by officers and used to inform an updated management development process. Officers will make a concerted effort to use as little technical language as possible.
<b><i>Please interact as much as possible with fishers in person as well as questionnaires. We are currently going through this process in the Wash, and I believe due to Covid preventing physical meetings at an early stage a large divide between fishers and EIFCA was developed that we are still struggling to overcome and as such our process is not going well.</i></b>	<p>The process outlined in this paper looks to create a clear process that will help stakeholders and fishers interact and feed into the process.</p> <p>There are a number of specific Authority meetings outlined in the plan where fishers can represent their views both in person, and in public to the Authority.</p>
<b><i>The whole review of the current TEFCO should be addressed by an independent body to avoid any bias x2 responses</i></b>	The current legislation provides a mechanism for KEIFCA to either apply for a Regulating Order or make, and then have signed by the Sectary of State a byelaw. Under both these systems KEIFCA is clearly the lead Authority with responsibility to review and then develop the legislation.

<p><b><i>The presence of IFCA officers at certain points brings things into question and should be avoided. Brightlingsea Harbour have shared the review on Facebook?! Some fishermen have been telephoned directly by fisheries officers advising them to get their point across whereas other fishermen have not been contacted at all. This in my opinion is putting the whole thing in jeopardy.</i></b></p>	<p>KEIFCA is clearly the lead Authority with responsibility to review and then develop the legislation. KEIFCA instructed its officers to engage a range of stakeholders and the wider coastal community in the Listening Phase.</p> <p>Following the communication plan officers reviewed the feedback from different sectors 17<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November and found that certain sectors seemed not to be engaging to the extent expected. Senior officers contacted key industry leads to make sure everyone was aware of the Listening Phase and had an opportunity to engage. KEIFCA has published the statistics from the Listening Phase.</p>
<p><b><i>I feel keifca have started the process in a very fair and transparent way.in doing so IFCA guidance has been followed and long may it continue. x4 responses</i></b></p>	<p>Thank you, we will try our best.</p>

## **Changing the process based on feedback**

Feedback from stakeholders currently not involved in the cockle fishery was that there was a considerable challenge in understanding, in detail, the structure, technical language, and wording of the current cockle fishery. It is therefore proposed to make some minor changes to the process to aid engagement. Hopefully the suggested changes will not only help the wider fishing industry but will help new KEIFCA authority members work through the detail of cockle fishery management and help avoid KEIFCA officers and staff from becoming overwhelmed by the process.

### *1) Spreading out the four consultation steps*

Although it has been really positive that the Listening Phase consultation generated a lot of interest and engagement from across the fishing industry, running the process has taken a lot of time and resource for senior KEIFCA officers, admin staff and officers engaging on the coast. Extending the four-step consultation process into July 2023 would still allow the year that is required for the statutory process to be undertaken. Giving the process a bit more time will also help spread-out the time commitment from Authority members and take the pressure off members of the fishing industry in developing detailed responses in a short period of time.

### *2) Endeavour to make sure each step has at least a 6-week consultation phase*

Experience from the listening phase showed that a number of members of the industry contacted and chatted with officers about the consultation on several different occasions during the consultation period, as officers answered questions or explained current technical detail. Providing enough time for this interaction would help the consultation process especially during the initial stages of developing a management framework.

### *3) Portion up the critical decisions in each consultation step into clearer bite-sized chunks*

The initial plan looked to develop and evaluate relatively complex management framework models from the first consultation process. Feedback and answers from the questionnaires and the oral evidence suggests this was probably a bit too ambitious. There are a wide number of factors which are critical to evaluate and agree in arriving at a final cockle management framework model (area covered by legislation, type of gear used in area, whether access to the area would be limited or unlimited, how would access be regulated, who would own a permit or licence and for how long and when and how would the management system be reviewed in the future). The new process looks to focus each consultation on a specific issue and work through a stepwise process of narrowing down different framework model options whilst adding more detail to the remaining options.

## **Proposed process to develop future cockle management**

In general, we are looking to keep the same overall cockle management development process as outlined in Appendix 2, keeping the three strategic phases of legislative framework development, technical detail development and finally the statutory process (paper B3 Sept 2021). Under this structure we would like to keep the stepwise approach, with clear calendar plan outlining the key consultation and decision-making dates and meetings as outlined previously. Each of the four consultations would follow the same overall procedure outlined below.

### 1) Hold Special Authority meeting to agree initial consultation options

Feedback from the Listening Phase showed there was a wide range of ideas and options put forward from different sectors of the cockle industry and wider fishing community regarding the future management of the cockle fishery. The first process in each consultation step will be to review the feedback from the Listening Phase and use it to help inform and structure the Authority Members approach to the issues outlined in each consultation. Authority Members will then have the opportunity of getting legal and technical input, before discussing and evaluating different options and arriving at either a group of preferred options or one preferred option (depending on the consultation step). It is envisaged that KEIFCA legal opinion would be presented and discussed throughout the meeting, making the meeting exempt under the Local Government Act and therefore not open to the public.

### 2) Run a consultation to get feedback on options or suggest new options

Each consultation step will last for a least six weeks, with longer consultation times over holiday periods. Where possible we will publish the consultation dates as early as possible and have included provisional dates in Appendix 2. Final dates will be confirmed at the end of the prior consultation step (this will allow the Authority to adapt the process if required).

It is proposed that each consultation will include a written consultation document with structured questions and an opportunity for oral evidence to be given either at a filmed Authority member panel (like in the listening phase) or at an in-person meeting with Authority members.

### 3) Hold an Authority meeting to review consultation feedback and vote on options

Using the evidence submitted in the consultation KEIFCA staff will, as in the Listening Phase, anonymise written evidence and put it on our website. Depending on how the oral evidence was given, individually filmed oral evidence sessions will also be added to the website.

Using the evidence from the consultation replies, the feedback per option will be compiled. In addition, a technical assessment of each option will be developed by KEIFCA officers using the agreed evaluation criteria as a framework to compare each option against the agreed vision. The documents produced from this process will be put on to the KEIFCA website using the same procedure as normal Authority papers.

Prior to the public meeting (before lunch), Authority Members will meet to receive and discuss legal and technical advice concerning the options under discussion. In the public meeting, KEIFCA officers will then outline each option and there will be an opportunity for members of the public to make comments on each option (following the procedure in the standing orders). Members will then consider the feedback and comments from stakeholders as well as a technical assessment from KEIFCA officers before voting on the options.

## Detailed outline for each consultation step

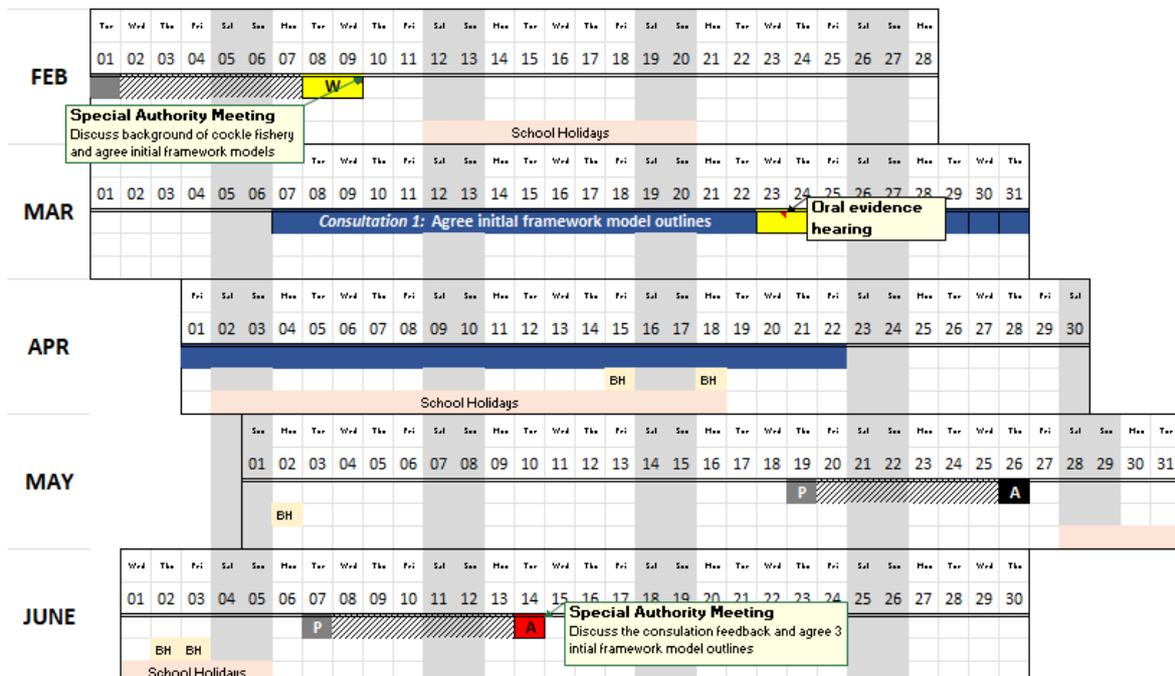
### Legislative Framework Phase

#### **Consultation 1 – Agree initial framework model outlines**

The first step would be to review and evaluate a range of basic management framework models. The key features included in the basic framework model would include the size and shape of any specific management areas (e.g. the TEFCO area and outside the TECFO area), the type of fishing gear (e.g. suction dredge or other fishing method) whether access to an area would be limited and if so to what kind of number/ range of licences or permits would likely be issued. Finally, whether the IFCA would use a Regulating Order or byelaw to manage the area.

Using stakeholder feedback from the Listening Phase one significant question that needs to be decided in this consultation step is whether to develop further management framework models that accommodate a small-scale cockle fishery and a suction dredge fishery or develop framework management models that are primarily setup for suction dredge fishing.

It is anticipated that at the end of this stage, the Authority would agree several different framework models to progress through to the next stage in the process. This would help narrow the range of options whilst allowing more detail to be added to the remaining options in the next consultation step.

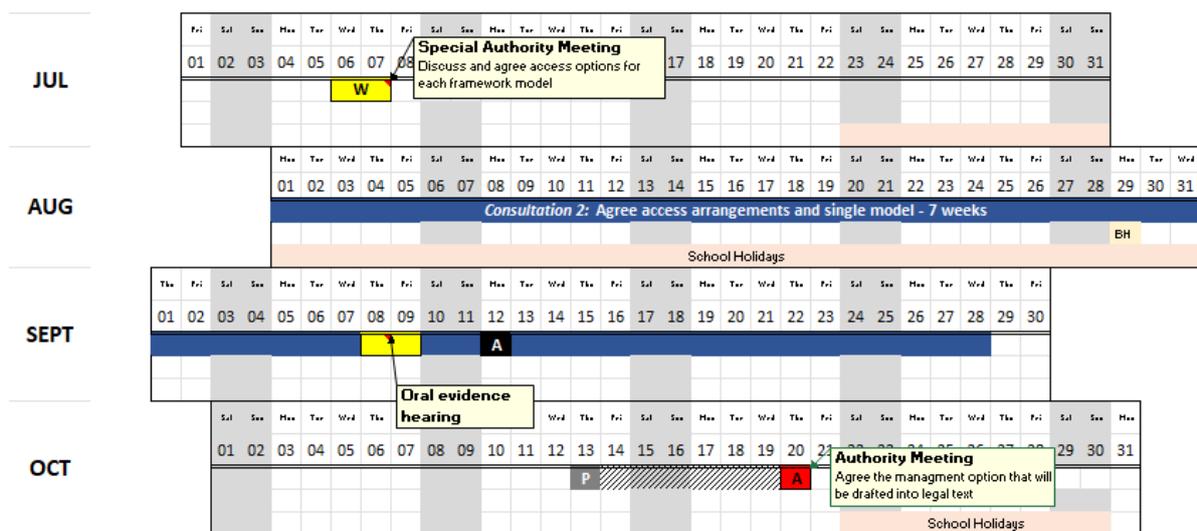


**Consultation 2 – Agree access arrangements for framework models and a single framework to take to next stage**

Consultation 2 looks to explore the different methods, systems or criteria that the Authority might use to manage, limit or control access to a specific cockle management area. Building on the decisions made in Consultation 1 the wide range of different possible access arrangements or criteria for potential permit or licence holders can be thoroughly discussed and evaluated within the context of each agreed framework model.

This is a complex legal area with very far-reaching long-term consequences which can not only impact current fishermen but also possibly a generation of future fishermen. The Listening Phase highlighted that this was an area poorly understood by fishers outside the current cockle fishery and it was important to spend time to clearly work through the mechanisms, outcomes and impacts to different sectors of different possible access arrangements.

At the end of this step in the process the Authority would agree the final framework model and access arrangements/ criteria to develop further and take into the technical development phase.

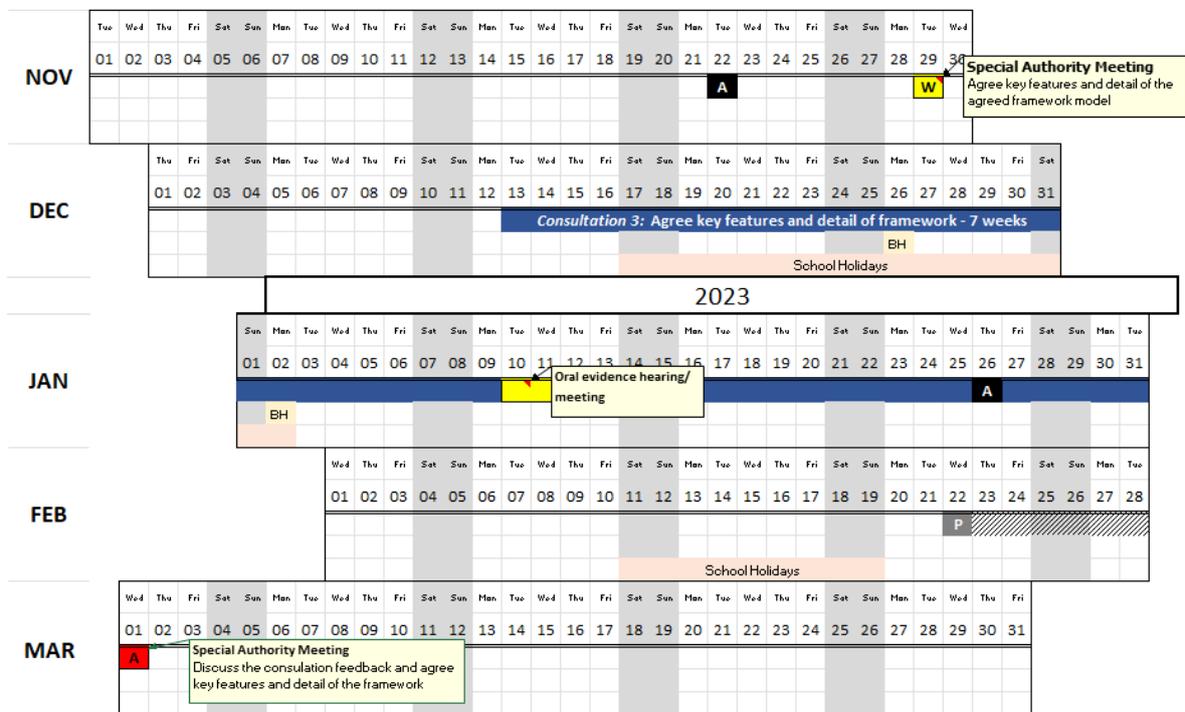


Technical detail development Phase

**Consultation 3 – Agree key features and detail of the agreed framework model**

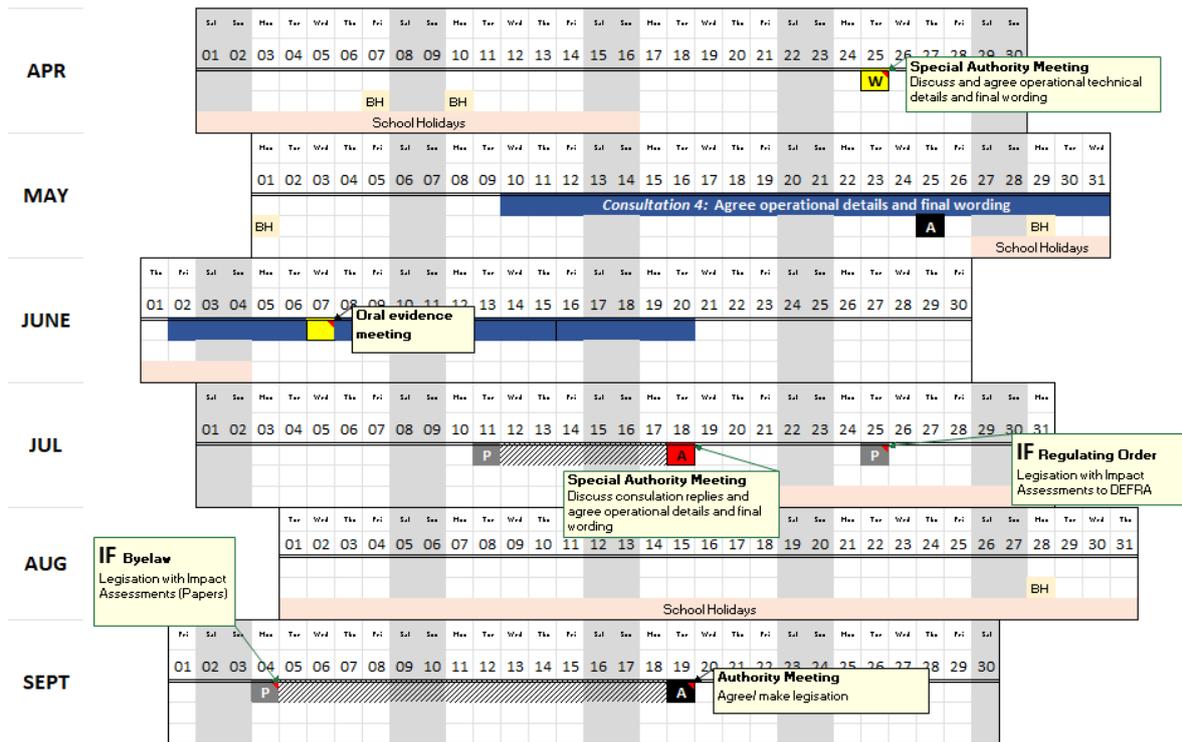
One of the key issues that has been raised throughout the Listening Phase are whether operators that acquire a permit or a licence could transfer that permit or licence in the future either to an individual like a family member or via the purchase of their company. Having a clear management framework model with agreed access arrangements/ criteria will help inform this decision and allow a focused debate on what can be a very emotive discussion with very strong views on either side.

Other important areas of detail that would need to be discussed and agreed include the timing and scope of any review of the legislation, agreeing any fine detail of the access arrangements/ criteria and finalising boundary and fishing area coordinates.



**Consultation 4 – Agree operational technical details and final wording**

The fourth consultation focuses on the practical day to day details of how the cockle fishery will be managed and run. This step would review regulations concerning the gear and equipment used in the fishery, fishing trip details (amount per trip, landing procedure etc) and management procedures/management plan. There would also be an ambition to have a draft wording of the proposed legislation and a draft Impact Assessment for comment.



*Creating an iterative process that responds to feedback*

In creating a step-by-step process to develop future cockle management it is important to strike the right balance between creating a structured laid-out process and a process that responds to feedback. As with learning lessons from the Listening Phase, officers will look to give an overview of engagement at the end of each consultation step and, if necessary, suggest appropriate changes in Authority meetings.

## **Technical evidence documents to support the decision-making process**

As well as collecting evidence from stakeholders there is a wealth of technical information that can be collated to help the Authority make informed management decisions. It is suggested that the documents outlined below would be produced for the February 2022 Special Authority meeting and where possible the expectation would be that these reports (apart from the legal overview document) would be made public and kept on the KEIFCA website.

### 1) Legal overview document

The document will give a legal introduction to the history of the TECFO, a summary of the steps involved in making Regulating Orders and byelaws and an overview and context of the legal risks and areas of possible challenge to the Authority from making new legislation/ regulations. If the Authority is happy to take this report further, specific details and costs can be discussed and agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The expectation is the document will be compiled with technical input from our legal team and will not be a public document due to the privileged legal opinion contained within it.

### 2) Economics report

As highlighted by feedback from the Listening Phase understanding the economics of the cockle fishery is an important factor in assessing any future management option. The ambition is that the economics report would look to provide Authority Members with a clear understanding of the income and costs incurred by the cockle fleet, within the context of other fisheries in the district. KEIFCA officers have contacted Seafish to see if such a report could be developed and initial ideas have been discussed. If the Authority is happy to take this report further specific details and costs can be discussed and agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

### 3) Review of UK and international cockle fishery management

Several replies from the Listening Phase highlighted what respondents felt were best practices used in other UK cockle fisheries. Developing a document to compare the KEIFCA cockle fisheries with other cockle fisheries in the UK and overseas will help identify what works well in other fisheries or potential problems of taking an alternative management approach. The document would also look to highlight best practice and alternate frameworks for running cockle fisheries. The document would be compiled by the Assistant Chief Officer.

### 4) Spatial and stock data for the cockle beds in the KEIFA district

To help inform the management development process it is proposed to compile a document that outlines the current and historic distribution of cockle stocks in the KEIFCA district. The document will draw together information from annual cockle reports (stock assessments, landings data etc) and other useful spatial data. The document would be compiled by the Lead Scientific and Conservation Officer.

## **Cost of the proposed process**

Running the management development process will not be cheap whatever approach we take, as facilitating engagement takes time and resources and the task ahead is complex, with small details making a big difference to different stakeholders. If the Authority were to set up a Regulating Order and decide how the cockle fishery will be run for the next 30 years, it is important that the decision is made taking in all the best available data and is as thorough as possible. Whatever decision the Authority finally makes, it is likely that not everyone will be happy, and with such a potentially valuable fishery the threat of legal action from a stakeholder or a group of stakeholders is reasonably high.

If the Authority agrees to the process outlined in this paper, there would be additional estimated costs to the 21-22 KEIFCA annual budget of between £7,000- £8,000 for running the February Special Authority meeting and £8,500- £9,500 of running the filmed oral evidence hearing. It is proposed that money would be drawn from reserves to meet these additional in year costs. Moving forward the costs for the process to review and develop of future cockle management will be included and laid out as part of the 22-23 and the 23-24 KEIFCA annual budgets.

As we move through the management development process presenting and storing information, replies from stakeholders, Authority papers and outcomes from Authority votes will be important. Creating a way in which this can be accessed by stakeholders quickly and easily, will help support the fair and transparent process we wish to create.

Using our experience from the Listing Phase, our intention would be to explore options of better hosting and presenting this information on our website. Although we have some ideas at present, officers need to sit down and workout the cost and benefit of different potential options. If the Authority is happy to take this suggestion further, specific details and costs can be discussed and agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

**Recommendations:**

Members are asked to **APPROVE:**

1. the revised provisional process (including indicative dates) by which the review and development will be undertaken, including an additional in year spend of £7,000- £8,000 for running the February special Authority meeting and £8,500-£9,500 of running the filmed oral evidence hearing, with funds to be taken from reserves.
2. the commission of a legal overview document;
3. the commission of an economics report;
4. the compiling of a report to compare the KEIFCA cockle fisheries with other cockle fisheries in the UK and overseas;
5. the compiling of a report to review spatial and stock data for the cockle beds in the KEIFA district;
6. the upgrading of the KEIFCA website to better host and present data from the cockle review and future management development process; and
7. that the costs of these reports and any website upgrade be approved by the CFO in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman

## Appendix 1 – Individual replies from stakeholders

### ***S3E1. Do you have any thoughts or comments with the proposed process for reviewing and developing new cockle fisheries management in the TECFO area and the wider KEIFCA district?***

- It is good as it is a very in-depth process
- NO ALREADY STATED ABOVE
- It is time for a positive change to be equal
- The two areas should not be separate. It should be one whole area
- No, I think that it's good to be ahead of the game and reviewing early x 2 responses
- The current fishery has evolved and is now the most sustainable and successful MSC cockle fishery in Europe x 2 responses
- I think it has worked very well the last 27 years fisheries and management
- It should not be the sole aim of the process to develop new cockle fisheries management but also to see whether it needs doing. The current TECFO management system has evolved over 27 years and produced a sustainable fishery with MSC accreditation and is highlighted in a Seafish report as an example of best practice. Sometimes the old ways are the best!
- The cockle fishery has worked well but no room for newcomers, this should be a priority for change
- no
- It is time for a positive change to be equal
- As long as communication channels between those managing the review and the licence holders are kept open, I hope that the review process will work. Both have vast experience in how the fishery has been managed so far over the last 25 years and therefore need to be consulted and informed at every vital part of the review x 4 responses
- No, but there must be transparency
- The TECFO has worked very well over the last 27 years
- It's great that it's being looked at and hopefully will create a lot of opportunities
- It is a good thing that it is being phased
- I wouldn't want to change how the process is working. It was beneficial for me to go to Thurrock and talk face to face as this is better for me to process information. I would like to be consulted in any further developments.
- unable to comment due to lack of knowledge
- It is a costly exercise that is capable of undermining and ruining a sustainable TECFO fishery, however on the CFFPB area the review is necessary to encourage a future fishery with unknown opportunities
- Decisions will invariably be made with inputs from wide sectors, however sight must not be lost that it is the industry along with the management of the old Sea Fisheries Committee and the now IFCA that has made this industry what it is today and without the hard work of all the fishermen that have worked in this industry for the last few hundred years, hardships losses as well as financial gains but most of all determination to succeed in a challenging world. The right decisions have to be made. This industry has the youngest demographic of all fishing and long may it remain that way x 5 responses
- I hope that the review of the TECFO regulating order will provide a sustainable future for the current licence holders for another 30 years at least. I hope that the review of the CFFPB will create a fishery that stands alone and creates its own merits within the district.
- You do not need to develop a new cockle fisheries management in the TECFO area because it has worked in the last 30 years, however, the CFFPB requires a complete re-think.

**S3E2. Are there any changes you would make to the provisional review process outlined above?**

- NO x 9 responses
- N/A x 2 responses
- We need the option to keep things the way they are.
- The prime concern should be what the current cockle fisheries within KEIFCA have achieved and how they have been successful. Not to have influence from outside parties that have not invested time, finance or knowledge yet want a piece of the action because the way the fishery has been successful.
- There needs to be an option to keep things the way they are. The emphasis seems to be on new options.
- Bring a few more licences in without going overboard as think fishery could stand them.
- unable to comment due to lack of knowledge
- Don't make any changes to TECFO because it works. The prime concern should be that the current cockle fishery within the TECFO has achieved, how they have been successful, how to maintain the status quo, not to have influence from outside parties who have not invested time finance or knowledge, yet want a piece of the pie because of the way the fishery has been successful. The grass is always greener on the other side, until you get there !!! x 2 responses
- The presence of IFCA officers at certain points brings things into question and should be avoided. Brightlingsea Harbour have shared the review on Facebook?! Some fishermen have been telephoned directly by fisheries officers advising them to get their point across whereas other fishermen have not been contacted at all. This in my opinion is putting the whole thing in jeopardy.
- The prime concern should be what the current cockle fishery's within the KEIFCA have achieved, how they have been successful, how to maintain that status quo, not to have influence from outside parties that have not invested time finance or knowledge, yet want a piece of the action because of the way the fishery has been successful x 4 responses.
- Don't make any changes to TECFO because it works because the prime concern should be what the current cockle fishery's within the KEIFCA have achieved, how they have been successful, how to maintain that status quo, not to have influence from outside parties that have not invested time finance or knowledge, yet want a slice of the cake because of the way the fishery has been successful.

**S3E3. Does the process provide a mechanism to adequately address the key issues as you see them?**

- Dialogue is king.
- NO
- N/A x 2 responses
- Yes x 10 responses
- Yes. Please ensure that as key stakeholders in the fishery, we are consulted at all phases.
- No process can provide a mechanism to address the key issues if the consultation is put

out to such a vast ranging audience, unless there are sufficient measures in place from experts that understand all of the key issues.

- Works well on the whole but needs a bit of work, but overall your regulating order has been good.
- I would hope so, but only time will tell
- yes, apart from nothing mentioned about harvesting other shellfish within the regulated area.
- To take into account that local fishermen know the grounds and seasonal activity of the area.
- Happy with the way the process is now and can't think of any way it can be changed.
- No process can provide a mechanism to adequately address the key issues if the consultation is put out to such a wide-ranging audience that does not necessarily have the in-depth knowledge that understand all of the key issues and intricacies of such a complex fishery and industry *x 3 responses*
- I have concerns that the review of such a complex and intricate fishery is being put out to a very broad spectrum for its opinion which will encourage such a wide variety of ideas that will be impossible to filter.
- No process can provide a mechanism to adequately address the key issues if the consultation is put out to such a wide-ranging audience unless, there is adequate measures in place from experts that understand all of the key issues *x 4 responses*

***S3E4. How can we best represent your views during the review process?***

- Please consider what I have said, if you are not sure of what I have said please contact me for more detail. I do not expect you to agree with everything I say but I have spoken with honesty and the industry at heart.
- read and understand my views from an individual's point of view
- Take a fair representation of the whole fishing industry in our coastal community going forward.
- visit my boat while I am fishing
- just with the committee, and transparency. let everyone know what you are doing and why. if letters to KEIFCA are made available to committee members and shared, then this isn't right, and makes a mockery of KEIFCA and their professionalism. if letters opinions are shared outside of the committee, then publish all the letters and questionnaires, so that is non-biased, and everyone has a chance to read and reflect on the industries opinions *x 2 responses*
- Listen to the existing licence holders *x 2 responses*
- Listen to our views, understand an industry that has been successful for 100's of years, ensuring that those on the Authority are ready to understand that the decisions they take will be affecting lots of jobs in the UK & Europe.
- Please just ensure our views are reported accurately.
- Please take into account the years that my family and I have fished in the Thames and that I and the family get on very well with fisheries and local fishermen and hope this stands me in good stead for the future.
- Take a fair representation of the whole fishing industry in our coastal community going forward. Think of the future, with the industry having many who are getting on in life, they will not be about to carry on the job in years to come.

- By listening to the current cockle industry's views on how well the fishery is managed at present and understanding how little needs to be changed.
- By doing what you have done from the start will help KEIFCA represent mine and others' views along the way. Regular updates and occasional Zoom or Team Meetings will assist this also *x 4 responses*.
- By keeping in touch and transparency
- Keep in contact, more face-to-face conversations, more oral interviews
- to be consulted
- listen to the fishermen's opinions and ideas
- By listening to our views, understanding an industry that has been successful for over 100 years and ensuring that those that sit on the Authority fully understand that the decisions that they make will be affecting thousands of jobs in the local community and throughout the UK and Europe for generations to come *x 3 responses*
- By listening to companies within the industry that have a vested interest in its future. Although only a small number of companies, these companies when making their decision are considering the thousands of livelihoods that rely on the fishery.
- By listening to our views, understanding an industry that has been successful for over 100 years, ensuring that those on the Authority ready do understand that the decisions they will make will be affecting 100's of jobs thru out the UK and Europe *x 4 responses*

**S3E5. Any other comments or thoughts on the review and development process?**

- It's going to take people with conviction to get a fair outcome on the fishery for future generations and not just the few at present, especially the Spanish and Dutch interests *x 2 responses*
- I would like to praise the way Kent & Essex have set about handling this sensitive issue and their well thought out timetable. I wish Eastern had copied your approach.
- I would like to build my new depuration factory for shellfish in Leigh on Sea which would create more local jobs and increase the value of the catch.
- 12 x boats owned and skippered over 40 years in the Thames
- No *x 6 responses*
- To keep the existing regulated fishery as it is, to protect all the jobs and investments that have been made. As is the case it's always the small minority that want into this fishery that would potentially destroy all that has been achieved and built over the last 27 years! *x 2 responses*
- The current industry feels that it is being listened to and are taken seriously on the impact that decisions will have on all those involved within the fishery.
- There is an interesting statement at the beginning of section 'E'. "The cockle fishery provides income and jobs for a large number of fishermen", and this statement highlights a problem that has always plagued us. It has always been the purpose of, first the sea fisheries committee and now, the IFCA to manage the fishery. Neither body was or is obliged to pay heed to the shore based industry. For Leigh on Sea the majority of jobs were never in the catching of cockles but in the processing of cockles, with the catching of cockles just the first step in the commercial process of getting a product to market. Past committees have, more often than not, focused on the jobs on the boats with the ones ashore all but invisible. It has always been our priority to maintain and protect all the jobs in the industry. Hopefully this process will allow us to highlight just how important this

local resource is to all their livelihoods and not just those working the boats!

- Ever hopeful
- The current fishery within the district produce an average of 7000 metric tons per year, if there were unlimited licences as within the Wash fishery say for argument's sake 70 vessels that would give an average catch of 2.5 tons per trip, it would be totally unviable for both the catching and processing sectors along with a total environmental disaster, we certainly need to protect the district from these measures within the review process x 3 responses
- The beds within the TECFO produce an average of 7000 tons per year. An unlimited amount of licences, say 70 similar to The Wash, would mean an average of 2.5 tons per trip. This would have a devastating effect on the nature of the fishery ecologically, financially and ethically. The unviability of the fishery would be completely against the ethos of the MCS accreditation, the regulating and the remit of the KEIFCA.
- That the current industry feels that it is being listened to completely and that its views are taken seriously on the impacts that decisions will have on all those involved with in the fishery's x 4 responses
- I started fishing late 2012 when I left school, which is nine years to date, I have served a full apprentice in the cockle industry on my family firm. I have skippered the regulating boat which was cockle fishing, I have the skills to fish environmentally friendly in the cockle industry gained through years of experience working in the Thames. I am a local Leigh-on-Sea fisherman and I would like to be able to maintain myself as a local fisherman but opportunities must arise for the upcoming generations.

## Appendix 2 – Dates and timelines

Date	Type of meeting	Purpose
17/09/2021	IFCA quarterly meeting – Thurrock Hotel	Agree premise of review and development process
20 + 21/10/2021	Oral Evidence Hearing – Thurrock Hotel	Two day hearing to listen to and question stakeholders on their opinions/issues relating to the current or future management of cockles in the district
26/11/2021	IFCA quarterly meeting – Chelmsford Council offices	Summary of listening phase Key issues to address Commission work
14/12/2021	MMO/defra/legal meeting – venue - online	Regulators workshop - Discuss legal options based on feedback from listening phase
08 + 09/02/2022	Special Authority Meeting -Dover Marina Hotel, Dover	Discuss background of cockle fishery and agree initial framework models
23 + 24/03/2022	Oral Evidence hearing – Thurrock Hotel	Two day hearing to listen to and question stakeholders on their opinions/issues relating to the proposed management of cockles in the district
14/06/2022	Special Authority meeting – venue tba	Discuss the consultation feedback and agree 3 initial framework model outlines
06 + 07/07/2022	Special Authority Meeting -venue tba	Discuss and agree access options for each framework model
08 +09/09/2022	Oral Evidence hearing – Thurrock Hotel	Two day hearing to listen to and question stakeholders on their opinions/issues relating to the proposed management of cockles in the district
20/10/2022	Special Authority meeting – venue tba	Agree the management option that will be drafted into legal text
29/11/2022	IFCA quarterly meeting – venue tba	Agree key features and detail of the agreed framework model
10 + 11/01/2023	Oral Evidence hearing – Thurrock Hotel	Two day hearing to listen to and question stakeholders on their opinions/issues relating to the proposed management of cockles in the district

Date	Type of meeting	Purpose
01/03/2023	Special Authority Meeting – venue tba	Discuss the consultation feedback and agree key features and detail of the framework
25/04/2023	Special Authority Meeting – venue tba	Discuss and agree operational technical details and final wording
07/06/2023	Oral Evidence hearing – Thurrock Hotel	One day hearing to listen to and question stakeholders on their opinions/issues relating to the proposed management of cockles in the district
18/07/2023	Special Authority Meeting – venue tba	Discuss consultation replies and agree operational details and final wording
19/09/2023 – <b>only if decision is to make a Byelaw</b>	IFCA meeting – venue tba	Make Byelaw



		2022																														
JAN		Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
FEB	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
MAR		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
APR	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
MAY	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
JUNE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu		
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
JUL	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
AUG	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
SEPT	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri		
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
OCT	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
NOV	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
DEC	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

		2023																																			
		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue					
JAN		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
		BH										Oral evidence hearing/meeting										A															
FEB		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28								
		School Holidays																							P												
MAR		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
		A	Special Authority Meeting Discuss the consultation feedback and agree key features and detail of the framework																																		
APR		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
		BH										School Holidays										W						Special Authority Meeting Discuss and agree operational technical details and final wording									
MAY		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
		BH	School Holidays										Consultation 4: Agree operational details and final wording										A														
JUNE		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
		Oral evidence meeting										School Holidays																									
JUL		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
		P										Special Authority Meeting Discuss consultation replies and agree operational details and final wording										A															
AUG		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
		School Holidays																							BH												
SEPT		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
		P	School Holidays										A										Authority Meeting Agree/ make legislation														
OCT		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
		IF Byelaw Legislation with Impact Assessments (Papers)																																			