

# Call for Evidence Response form on the conduct and operations of the ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) 2018-2022.

## Personal details and confidentiality

Would you like your response to be confidential?

- Yes
- No

If you answered Yes to this question, please give us a reason.

## Confidentiality and data protection information

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra). An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (e.g. home address, email address, etc).

If you click on 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a

request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you click on 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data with external analysts.

This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis and provision of a report of the summary of responses only.

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

Please find our latest privacy notice uploaded as a related document alongside our consultation document.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please send them to [consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk)



## Please identify which IFCA(s) you interact with:

Please tick all that apply	
Cornwall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Devon and Severn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isles of Scilly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kent and Essex	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Eastern	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Western	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northumberland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sussex	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
All	<input type="checkbox"/>

All responses apply across all IFCA(s) and should be based on your experience between September 2018 and August 2022. If you have comments about specific IFCA(s) please include the name of the IFCA.

Please refer to pages 8 to 13 of the Consultation document which provides further information on the five Success Criteria.

# Success Criterion 1: Communications and Engagement

Please answer the following questions. All of the questions in this section ask about the IFCA's activities between September 2018 and August 2022. If you interact with more than one IFCA please identify the IFCA when making specific comments.

1.1. Which of the following activities are you aware that the IFCA(s) carried out? Please tick all that apply.

Byelaw development	
Enforcement Activities	
Conservation activities that protect, habitats and species in the marine environment	
Introduction of voluntary local agreements to manage fisheries and protect the marine environment	
Other (please specify)	
Not sure	

1.2. Which methods did you use to engage with the IFCA(s)?

I have attended Authority meetings	
I have spoken at an Authority meeting	
I have read Authority meeting papers	
I have interacted with an IFCA website	
I have contacted the IFCA using social media	
I have emailed the IFCA	
I have contacted an IFCA Authority member directly	
I have contributed to an IFCA consultation	
Other (please specify) .....	
I have not engaged with the IFCA(s)	

1.3. How did the Covid-19 pandemic impact your engagement with the IFCA(s)?

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1.4. How clearly have the IFCA(s) explained fisheries and marine management measures to those affected? Please circle a number

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Clearly	Very clearly	

If you would like to expand on your answer, please write below:

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1.5. To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

I respect the IFCA(s) as a fisheries regulator?

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

1.6. To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

I trust the IFCA(s) as a fisheries regulator?

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

1.7. How well do you feel the IFCA(s) have communicated with the following organisations:

- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Well	Very well	

- Natural England

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Well	Very well	

- Environment Agency

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Well	Very well	

- Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Well	Very well	

- Seafish

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Well	Very well	

1.8. What has been the most effective way(s) the IFCA(s) communicated or engaged with you or your organisation?

## Success Criterion 2: Compliance and Enforcement

Please answer the following questions based on page 10 of the Consultation document. All of the questions in this section ask about the IFCA's activities between September 2018 and August 2022. If you interact with more than one IFCA please identify the IFCA when making specific comments.

2.1. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers are employed by IFCAs to carry out inspections of marine organisms, fishing vessels, fishing equipment and vehicles to monitor compliance and enforce fisheries and environmental legislation both at sea (to six nautical miles) and ashore. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

- "The IFCA(s) has carried out inspections professionally."

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

- "The IFCA(s) has carried out inspections fairly."

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

- "The enforcement policy of the IFCA(s) clearly explains how enforcement decisions will be made."

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

2.2. Does the IFCA gather relevant and timely intelligence and evidence that supports enforcement action?

Yes	No	No opinion
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Please explain:

2.3. How have IFCA's enforcement activities compared to that of other marine regulators such as the Marine Management Organisation? Please specify which marine regulators you are referring to in your response.

2.4. How does the IFCA byelaw making process compare to other regulators?

2.5. If you interact with more than one IFCA and they manage the following activities differently, what impact does this have on you:

- enforcement Positive/Negative/Unsure

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
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- byelaws Positive/Negative/Unsure

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
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- stakeholder engagement Positive/Negative/Unsure

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
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Please use this box to explain your answers:

## Success Criterion 3: Management measures

Please answer the following questions based on page 11 of the Consultation document. All of the questions in this section ask about the IFCA's activities between September 2018 and August 2022. If you interact with more than one IFCA please identify the IFCA when making specific comments.

3.1. To what extent do you think the IFCA(s) has balanced their responsibilities to contribute to sustainable fisheries and protect the marine environment? Please tick one:

<b>Fisheries prioritised</b>	<b>Priorities balanced</b>	<b>Marine environment prioritised</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
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3.2. How well has the IFCA(s) identified the needs of the sea fisheries resources within its district?

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Well	Very well	

Please explain your rating:

3.3. How well has the IFCA(s) responded to the local needs of the sea fisheries resources within its district?

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Well	Very well	

Please explain your rating:

3.4. When in an IFCA's district, is it clear which rules and regulations apply? Please circle one:

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
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Please explain:

3.5. Where differing rules and regulations exist across neighbouring IFCAs, have the IFCAs taken steps to limit the impact on stakeholders?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
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Please explain:

3.6. What fisheries and conservation management measures have been implemented successfully by your local IFCA(s)?

3.7. How well has the IFCA you interact with the most taken relevant stakeholder views into consideration when making decisions over the past four years?

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very poorly	Poor	Neutral	Well	Very well	

Please explain:

3.8. Please rate your satisfaction with the way IFCA's work with other government delivery bodies such as the Marine Management Organisation and the Environment Agency in order to implement sustainable fisheries and protect the marine environment:

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	

Please give more detail/ provide examples. Please specify which organisation(s) your answer refers to.

## Success Criterion 4: Governance and Training

Please answer the following questions based on page 12 of the Consultation document All of the questions in this section ask about the IFCA's activities between September 2018 and August 2022. If you interact with more than one IFCA please identify the IFCA when making specific comments.

4.1. To what extent do you agree IFCA staff have been professional with their approach.

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

4.2. To what extent do you agree IFCA staff have been fair with their approach.

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

4.3. To what extent do you agree IFCA staff have been knowledgeable with their approach.

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

4.4. To what extent do you agree IFCA staff have been consistent with their approach.

1	2	3	4	5	No Opinion
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	

Please explain:

4.5. Have you read the IFCA's annual plans and annual reports? Please tick one:

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
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4.6. IFCA General Members must include people who are familiar with the needs and opinions of the fishing community within the relevant district and those that have knowledge or expertise in marine environmental matters. Between 2018 and 2022, do you think that membership of the IFCA(s) that you interact with the most has been balanced between these different groups?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
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Please explain:

## Success Criterion 5: Evidence and Science

Please answer the following questions based on page 13 of the Consultation document. All of the questions in this section ask about the IFCA's activities between September 2018 and August 2022. If you interact with more than one IFCA please identify the IFCA when making specific comments.

5.1. What types of evidence are you aware of that IFCAs collect to inform their decision-making?

5.2. Are IFCA's decisions well informed, supported by evidence that is fit for purpose, and balance social, environmental, and economic impacts?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
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Please state why:

5.3. Is it clear how evidence is taken into account during the IFCA's decision-making process?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
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Please state why:

5.4. Are you aware of the IFCA publishing the scientific evidence it has used to support its decisions?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
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Please state why:

5.5. When evidence changes, or new evidence emerges do you feel the IFCAs respond appropriately?

**Yes**

**No**

**Don't know**

Please state why:

5.6. What partnerships with external organisations to gather evidence are you aware of (this may include academic organisations, Non-Government Organisations such as the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO) or the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) scientific bodies or Arm's Length Bodies)?

Partnerships:

What more could the IFCA do to make the most of external partnerships:



# Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey

Dear Consultee

Thank you for taking your time to participate in this online survey. It would be appreciated, if you can provide us with an insight into how you view the tool and the area(s) you feel is in need of improvement, by completing our feedback questionnaire.

**Question:** Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool?

1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	

Please let us know why you were unable to complete the online consultation.

Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.