

The Changing Face of Inshore Fisheries Management

A Personal Perspective

Eddy Derriman

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“A cohort of hopefuls”



September 1964 Class- Maritime College,
Lowestoft

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Guess
who?

Somewhere in the North Sea in
1968

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- And so to the subject of inshore fisheries management.

Early Fisheries Management

- Prior to Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) being created in the 1890s, marine fisheries management in the UK was limited.

It was noted in 1902 by Herdman and Dawson that in the 1880s *“Fishermen fished when and where they wished, used any kind of net, or size of mesh, and captured fish regardless of size or condition. Laws were in force regulating the taking of oysters, game and salmon, but none to prevent the immense destruction of immature and undersized sea-fish which was daily taking place, or to prevent the use of instruments and methods of fishing, which in time, would destroy the fisheries”*.*

* W A Herdman and R A Dawson, *Fishers and Fisheries of the Irish Sea, Lancashire Sea-Fisheries Memoir No11*: London 1902

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Early Fisheries Management

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- The Act allowed for the creation of Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) around the coast of England and Wales.
- By 1892, there were nine SFCs and districts created.

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- The various Committees introduced a number of practical and sensible byelaws to protect the fisheries in their districts.
- For many species minimum sizes were introduced in the early 20th century.
- One little known fact is that the SFCs were the original environment committees in the marine sector in England and Wales.

VI—DETRIMENTAL SUBSTANCES

14th March, 1910

The deposit or discharge of any solid or liquid substance detrimental to sea fish or sea fishing is hereby prohibited: Provided that this Byelaw shall not apply to the deposit by any person, with the consent in writing of the Local Fisheries Committee for the District, given under the hand of their Clerk, and confirmed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, of any solid or liquid substance on any area shown on a chart referred to in the consent, and in accordance with the conditions laid down in the consent.

Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee Detrimental
Substances Byelaw 1910

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- In the mid 1990s, the SFC districts were extended to 6 miles from baselines.
- In 1995 the Environment Act increased the byelaw making powers of the SFCs.
- Creative drafting of some byelaws started to push the the extremes of what was acceptable to the lawyers in Defra.

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- It sets out the powers, the functions and obligations of the regulators.
- It sets out the majority of powers for enforcement officers.

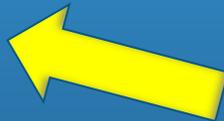
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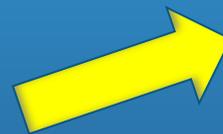
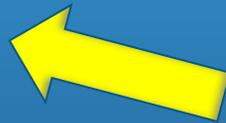
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- Luckily, the historical SFC roots of the IFCAs means there is a 125 year history of the local managers doing the job in difficult circumstances.
- The IFCAs are the right organisations for managing the inshore waters.

My requests

- To the fishing industry I would say, if you want the best for your local fishery, work closely with your local IFCA.

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- To the various environmental organisations I would say, the IFCAs and SFCs before them have a long and successful history of protecting the marine environment with few resources and tools. You can help further.

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- To the various environmental organisations I would say, the IFCA's and SFC's before them have a long and successful history of protecting the marine environment with few resources and tools. You can help further.
- To the national authorities I would say, put in a no surprises policy.

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- The IFCAs have the expertise, capacity and commitment to continue to manage inshore waters in an effective and proactive manner.
- IFCAs will be able to achieve more and quicker if other players use the game rules.
- The IFCAs have had a difficult but successful journey in the first few years.

Finiš

A recently retired colleague once said said “The future is bright, the future is IFCA”.



Thank you