



# IFCAs update – 2011-2019

## Coastal Futures, 24<sup>th</sup> Jan

Dr Stephen Bolt – Association of IFCAs

# IFCAs update – Dr Stephen Bolt, CEO Association of IFCAs



- Eight years of local inshore fisheries and conservation management and stakeholder engagement
- Effective and efficient track record in delivery and operations
- Looking forward to Challenges and opportunities – sustainable seas for the benefit of all



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# Introduction



- IFCA model
- IFCA work on MPAs
- Enforcement
- Fisheries management
- Challenges and opportunities
- Summary



# Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities

## April 2011



- A new type of regulator – doing things significantly differently
- New duties to include Conservation – additional “new burdens” money
- English Coast – including Isles of Scilly
- Local Authority landward boundaries
- Estuaries to tidal limit including all sea fish except migratory fish
- Out to 6 nautical miles from baseline

# IFCA model



## □ Success Criteria

- 1. IFCA's are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders
- 2. IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime
- 3. IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts
- 4. IFCA's have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional
- 5. IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

10 regional IFCA's championing a local approach with over 140 paid staff managing a total of 28,607 km<sup>2</sup> sea area using £8.7M combined annual budget to manage the seas to 6 nautical miles around the coast of England

At the Heart of the Community...Local People, Local Decisions

IFCA's have over 30 vessels, carrying out enforcement, monitoring and research with over 1400 days at sea per year

# IFCA model



- Set up under the Marine Act 2009 and in place April 2011 with byelaw and enforcement powers.
- Committees made up of:
  - General Members appointed by MMO drawn from a wide range of sectors – Fishing, recreational fishing, scientific, eNGOs
  - Members representing the Funding Authorities (Councillors)
  - Representatives from MMO, NE and EA.
- Local stakeholder input to decision making



Membership profile of the IFCA committees



# IFCAs

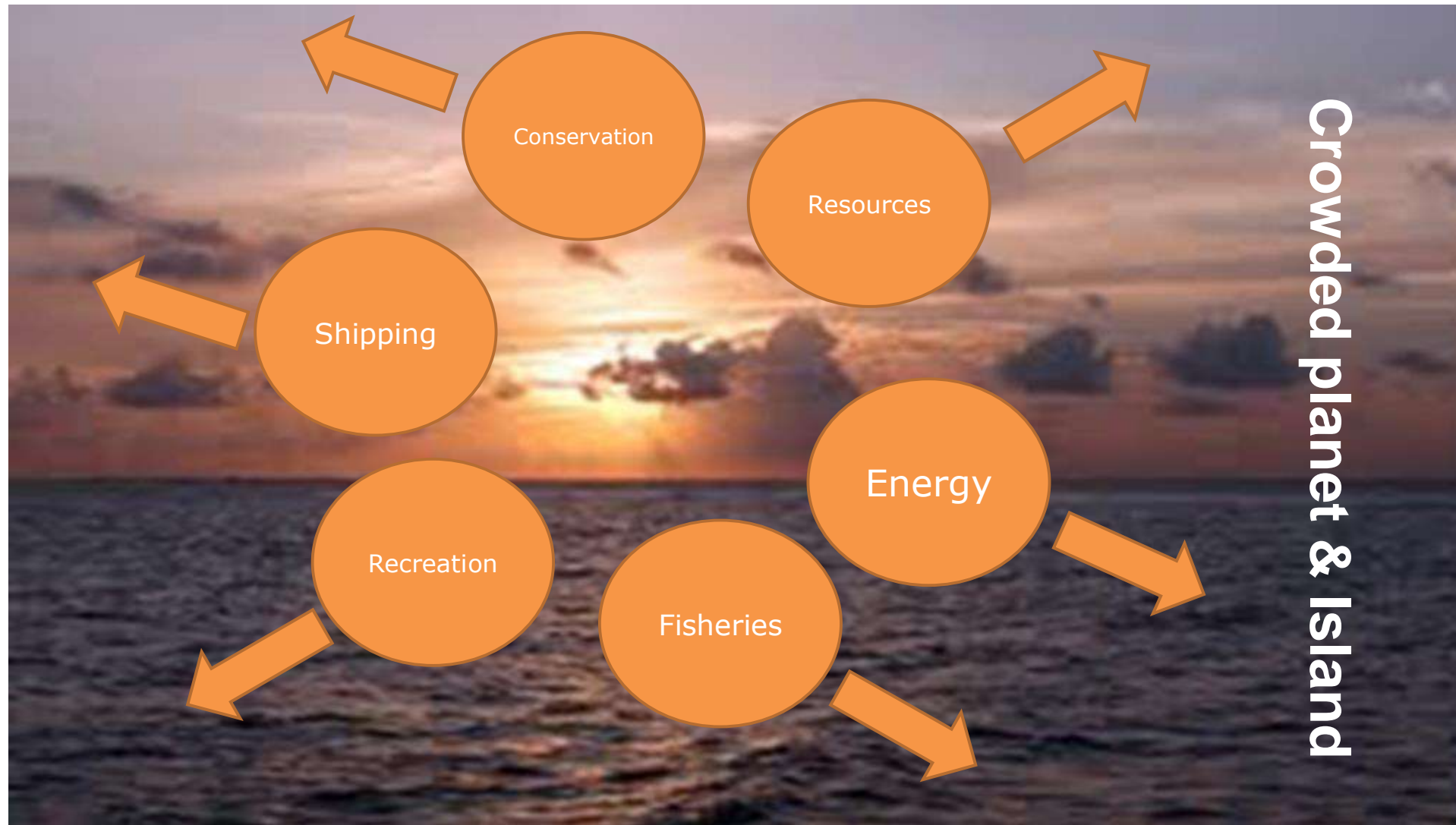


## □ Delivering the ambition:

- Fisheries management of MPAs to contribute to achieving conservation objectives
- Promoting sustainable fisheries – food security
- Promoting recreation – Sea Angling
- Achieving balance
- Supporting local communities
- Engaging at a local and national level – local ownership

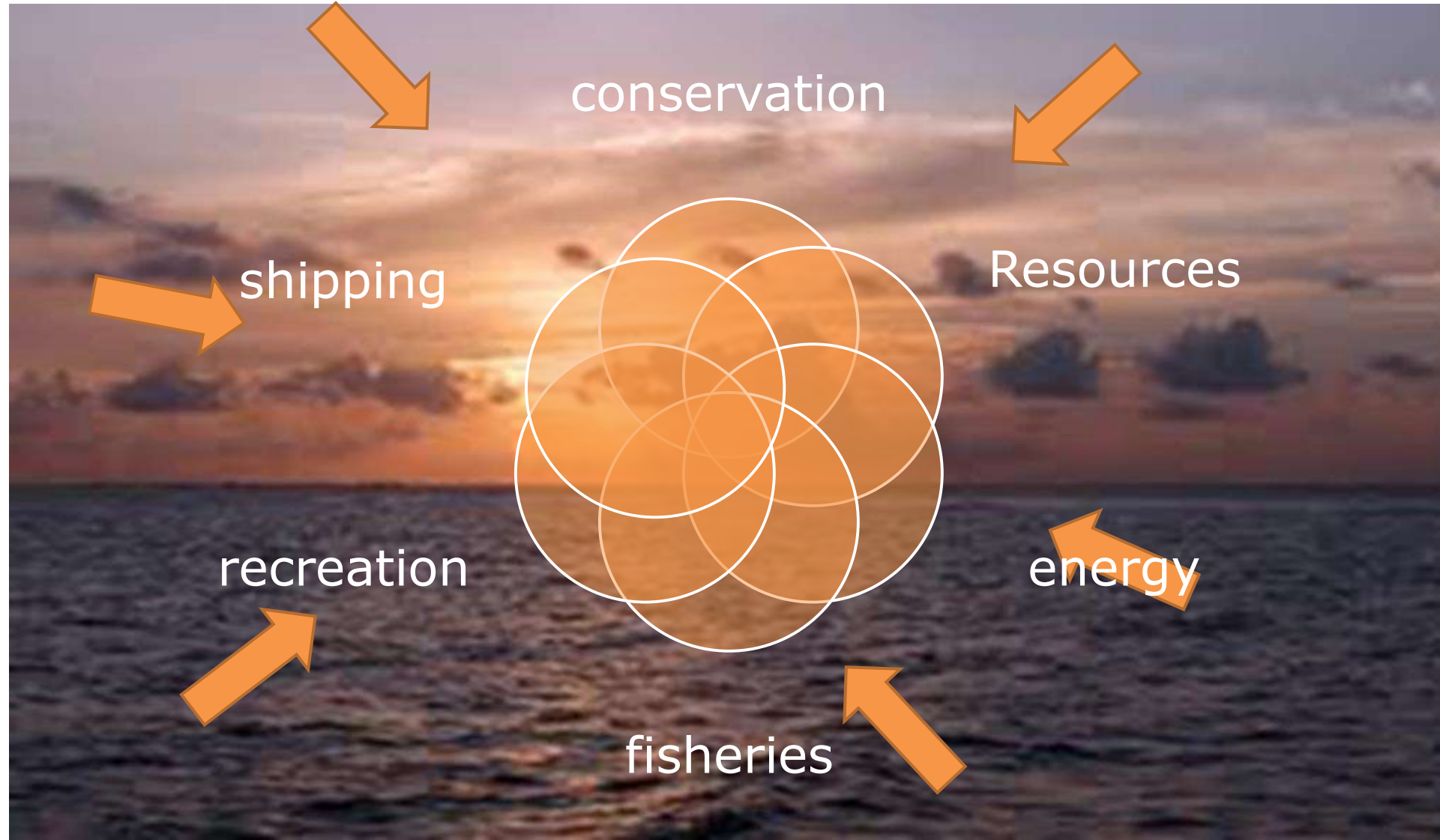


# Single issue agendas





# Common Goal – Sustainable seas for the benefit of all



# Marine Protected Areas

- UK Blue belt (25 yr. environment plan)
- MPAs – 296 in UK
- Within IFCA areas
  - 38 MCZs
  - 45 SPAs
  - 39 SACs
- 56% of the IFCA sea area covered by MPAs and still increasing.
- Opportunity to maintain and increase visibility – working with partners at a local and national level
- National MPA project collating IFCA progress to date due for publication February 2019



# IFCAs duties in EMS and MCZs

- IFCA's must exercise their functions which are relevant to conservation, so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats and New Wild Bird Directives\* [Avoid damaging activities]
  - IFCA's must seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ in the district are furthered.
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- \*The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and 2012
  - \*\*s.154 Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009

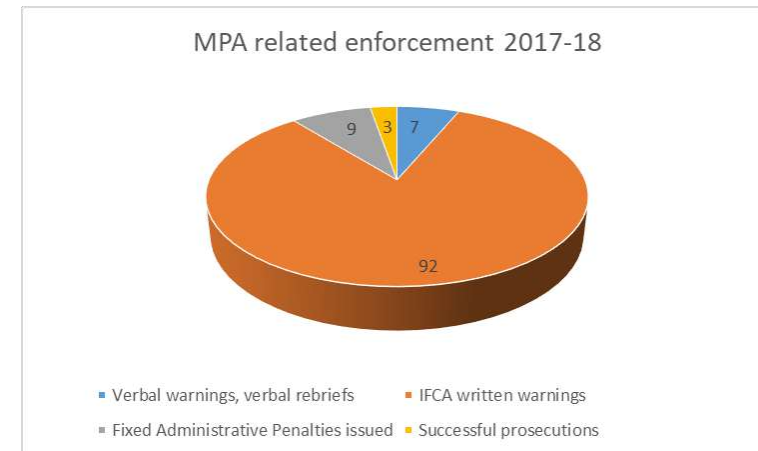
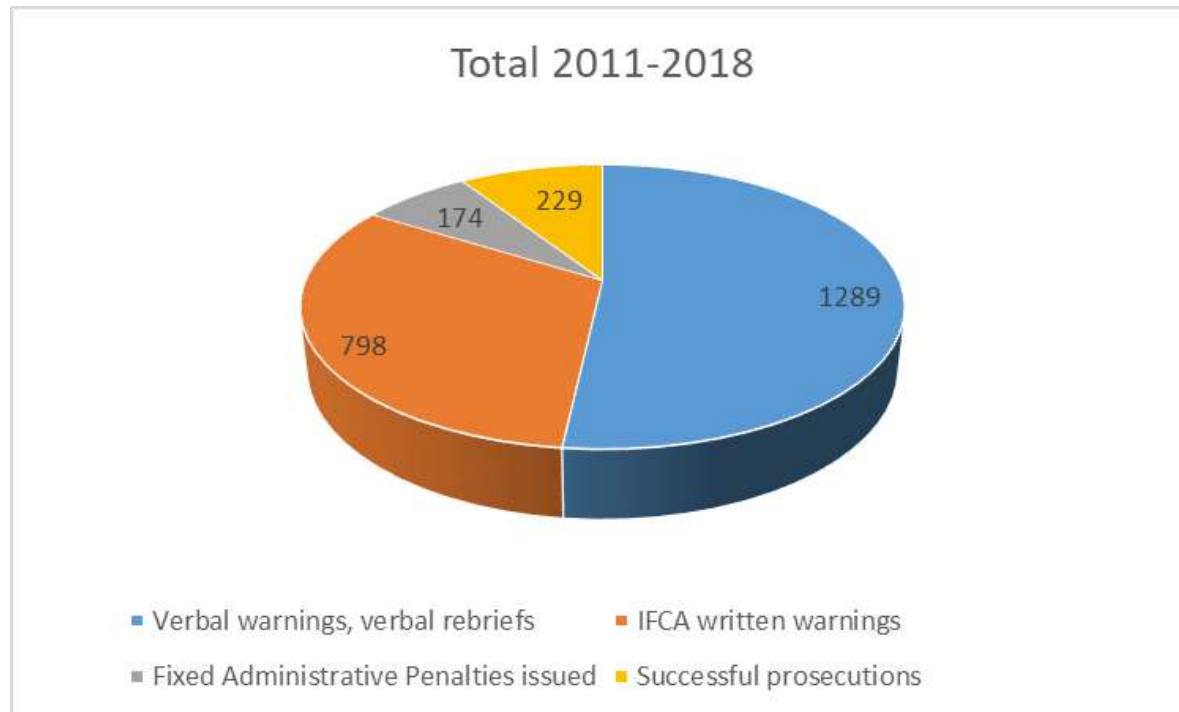
# Marine Protected Areas

- Assess activities against conservation objectives
- Promote sustainable fisheries where consistent with conservation objectives
- measures include
  - Monitor to ensure no deterioration
  - Suite of management measures where appropriate including
    - Voluntary measures
    - Bylaws – including 66 MPAs including closure to bottom towed gear totalling 3900km<sup>2</sup>
    - National statutory instruments –eg buried lobster SI
    - Other regulatory instruments – eg regulatory orders
    - Stock assessments to set fishing levels – eg Wash cockles
    - Enforcement



# Enforcement

- Protecting the vast majority of fishermen from the small minority who seek to gain unfair advantage.
- Protect the marine environment for the benefit of all



- Cascade of enforcement measures
  - Verbal warnings
  - Written warnings
  - Fixed Administrative penalties (FAPs)
  - Prosecutions

# Operational duties

- Shore Inspections, Commercial, Recreational, Shore Gatherers, Divers, Shore Anglers
- Sea Patrols
- Boardings/Inspections at Sea, Fishing Gear Inspections
- Premises Visits & Inspections, including, Wholesalers, Restaurants, Public Houses, Angling Shops, Dive Shops



# Opportunities and challenges

- Brexit:
  - ▣ Independent coastal state
  - ▣ Opportunities for inshore fleet – IFCAs extend to 12 nm?
  - ▣ Trade – in both directions
- 25 year environmental aspirations
  - ▣ Productive and biodiverse seas
- Sustainable funding for the IFCAs
  - ▣ Currently £9m - £6 from funding authorities, £3m from Defra
  - ▣ IFCA bid for central funding beyond 2020 to continue to deliver against UK Government aspirations

# Summary

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- IFCAs seek to achieve balance to:
  - ▣ Promote inshore fisheries
  - ▣ Achieve conservation objectives from a fisheries management perspective
  - ▣ Engage with local stakeholders and local communities for local decision making and ownership
- Provide value for money and effective marine fisheries and conservation management



Check out our website:  
[www.association-ifca.org.uk](http://www.association-ifca.org.uk)

