

New Council Member Nomination- Robert Clark

Rob is Chief Officer of the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (AIFCA), with over 25 years' experience in the management of England's inshore and coastal waters. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the Southern IFCA and Sussex IFCA and formed the IFCA Technical Advisory Group and has held leadership roles across the national IFCA network. His background spans fisheries science, policy, compliance and enforcement at sea, with a strong commitment to evidence-based management and collaboration between science, industry, regulators and coastal communities.

Rob has published on fisheries policy, management and marine protected areas, contributing to the development of approaches that link research with practical management. He led the establishment of England's largest aquaculture area and managed the award-winning Poole Harbour Clam and Cockle Fishery, recognised for innovation, sustainability and effective partnership working. His work has consistently focused on the interface between ecological evidence, marine governance and the social and economic needs of coastal communities.

Rob is keen to contribute to the Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association Council by bringing practical experience of applied coastal management, fisheries governance and marine policy delivery. Through his role with AIFCA, he works closely with IFCAs, Defra, regulators, researchers and stakeholders on issues including sustainable fisheries, marine protected areas, aquaculture, estuarine management and the use of evidence in decision-making.

He would welcome the opportunity to support ECSA's role in promoting estuarine and coastal science, strengthening links between researchers, practitioners and decision-makers, and helping ensure that scientific evidence is accessible and relevant to those managing coastal and estuarine environments.

Rob views membership of the Council as an opportunity to contribute practical management insight, support interdisciplinary collaboration, and help bridge the gap between research, policy and delivery in support of healthy, productive and resilient estuarine and coastal systems.