



**Common Ground:
Marine Conservation Society / Eastern IFCA documentary
to be screened at Norfolk Wildlife Trust Cley Marshes
4.30pm Thursday 10th August – FREE ENTRY
(booking advised Tel: 01263 740008)**

The Marine Conservation Society is screening a fascinating documentary at The Green Britain Centre next month, which investigates the coastal communities of Norfolk to uncover the relationship they have with the sea.

Made in 2016, *Common Ground* is a 30 minute documentary featuring local community voices and their views about use and conservation of our shared seas. The film was made as part of the Common Ground community engagement project run by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) in partnership with the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA).

The screening will be followed by a short presentation by Dr Peter Richardson and Susan Ranger of MCS, with a questions-and-answers session about the project and its outcomes.

Rachael Wright, Community Education Officer at Cley, said: “The North Norfolk Coast and the Wash area extremely important areas for wildlife. They provide fantastic landscapes for people to explore and learn more about their local area. We’re looking forward to working with IFCA and MCS to showcase this film at Cley Marshes.

Dr Peter Richardson, head of Ocean Recovery at the Marine Conservation Society, said:

“The Common Ground project gave us a unique opportunity to reach deep into local coastal communities in Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincolnshire and record what people really value about living close to the coast and sea. We can't wait to share this film more widely during Wash Week and find out how else the audiences value the places they live and love.”

Julian Gregory, Chief Officer Eastern IFCA, said: “This project has helped us to think more holistically about fisheries management and the importance of considering biological and ecological issues alongside the social and economic considerations that are often better understood through dialogue with local people – to give us the best chance of achieving a safeguarded marine environment and thriving fishing communities.”

About Norfolk Wildlife Trust Cley Marshes

Cley Marshes is where the Wildlife Trusts movement began in 1926, when a group of twelve friends led by Dr Sydney Long had a vision of a county trust to purchase and protect this precious site and others like it.

NWT now manages over 50 nature reserves and other protected sites around the county including ten kilometres of coastline, nine Norfolk broads, nine National Nature Reserves and five ancient woodlands.

We seek a sustainable environment for people and wildlife: where the future of wildlife is protected and enhanced through sympathetic management; and people are connected with, and inspired by Norfolk's wildlife and wild spaces. www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

About the Marine Conservations Society

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is the UK charity dedicated to protecting our seas, shores and wildlife. MCS campaigns for clean seas and beaches, sustainable fisheries, and protection of marine life. Through education, community involvement and collaboration,

MCS raises awareness of the many threats that face our seas and promotes individual, industry and government action to protect the marine environment. MCS provides information and guidance on many aspects of marine conservation and produces the annual Good Beach Guide and the Good Fish Guide as well as involving thousands of volunteers in projects and surveys such as MCS Beachwatch. www.mcsuk.org

About the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Eastern IFCA is one of 10 Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), which protect the marine inshore environment around the coasts of England. The Eastern IFCA District Boundaries stretch from Haile Sand Fort in the north to Felixstowe in the south, encompassing the counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk and extending a further six nautical miles from their coastlines. IFCAs have been created under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) as a means of modernising the function and powers of Sea Fisheries Committees, reflecting a greater responsibility for conservation of the marine environment in conjunction with fisheries management and enforcement duties. While IFCAs are forward thinking in terms of an integrated approach to marine management, they still retain the SFCs' local focus, benefiting from years of experience and a strong relationship with local fishing communities and other stakeholders. <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk>