



**Common Ground:  
Marine Conservation Society / Eastern IFCA documentary  
to be screened at the Coastguard Station, Gibraltar Point  
National Nature Reserve  
4.30pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August – FREE ENTRY  
(booking advised – [gibeducation@lincstrust.co.uk](mailto:gibeducation@lincstrust.co.uk))**

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.

**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 Gibraltar Point NNR**

In 1984, the site was declared a National Nature Reserve and consists essentially of a pair of almost parallel dune systems separated by around half a kilometre of saltmarsh which is host to a great variety of wildlife. The reserve extends for a distance of about 5 km along the coast, from the southern end of Skegness to the northern corner of The Wash. This part of the east coast is a very dynamic one and, in contrast to many parts of eastern England, the tip of the reserve is still accreting.

### **About the Coastguard Station**

The Coastguard Station was built in the 1850's and then coastguards moved to Gibraltar Point to monitor the goods being transported along the River Steeping and to prevent smuggling. The wall which ran around the station created a garden, in which the men and their families stationed here would have grown their food. The top section of the tower was heightened in World War two to provide better views. The building is now used as a Visitor Information Hub and as a base for visiting school groups and room hires.

### **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](http://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>