# **Cromer Shoal Marine Conservation Zone –**

# **Eastern IFCA request for information**

Eastern IFCA is gathering information regarding potting fisheries in and around the Cromer Shoal Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). We need to know more about levels of activity, fishing areas and what is important to fishing businesses in the area.

Having accurate information will reduce the uncertainty over possible impacts from fishing on the protected features of the MCZ. Any uncertainty means that managers have to be “precautionary”, and in effect assume the worst. We want to avoid this happening, which is why we are asking for your help – fishers are the people who know best their own industry.

*Why is the MCZ so important?*

The site was designated as an MCZ due to the uniqueness of its habitats and its importance to ecosystems. The site is characterised by the chalk seabed which is in places raised from the surface to provide complex and important undersea structures. These support a wealth of life including the commercially important species associated with the area, such as crabs and lobsters.

The chalk seabed is a designated feature in its own right, being considered a feature of geological importance. Damage to the chalk, particularly the raised structures, may have impacts on the wider ecosystems including the commercial fisheries.

More information about the MCZ, including a factsheet, can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zones-cromer-shoal-chalk-beds>

*What will we do with the information?*

We recognise the sensitivity of your data and individual responses will be treated as confidential. However, we will create a summary of the responses which may be published. Eastern IFCA has a privacy notice which sets out how your personal data will be used and your rights in relation to that data. This is available on request from the Eastern IFCA Office or from the Eastern IFCA website (<https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/privacy-notice-eastern-ifca-consultations/>).

If you have any queries about this consultation or the form, please contact the office. We recognise that this is a long questionnaire and will be time consuming for you to complete. **If you would like some assistance completing the form, please contact the office to arrange some time with an Officer who will go through the questionnaire with you over the phone or in person, completing the form based on your verbal answers**.

**Please let us have your comments by 3rd March 2020**

# **Section 1. About you.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Personal details** | | |
| Full Name |  | |
| Contact Address |  | |
| Email |  | |
| Telephone / Mobile |  | |
| Vessel Name |  | |
| Vessel PLN |  | |
| Port / beach of vessel launch |  | |
| Do you have a commercial fishing licence? (if no please skip section 3) | | **Yes / No** |

# **Section 2. Fishing activity**

**Please mark on the charts provided estimated fishing locations and number of pots**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What type of pots do you fish with? (circle all those that apply) | Inkwell/Creel, Parlour, Whelk, Other (please specify) | | | | |
| How many of each pot do you set? | Total number of pots owned | | Set within the MCZ | | Set outside the MCZ |
| Inkwell/Creel |  | |  | |  |
| Parlour |  | |  | |  |
| Whelk |  | |  | |  |
| Other |  | |  | |  |
| How many days per year do you typically spend at sea fishing using pots? | Within the MCZ | | | Outside the MCZ | |
| How long do you typically soak your pots for? | Within the MCZ | | | Outside the MCZ | |
| Can you please briefly explain why you place pots in the areas you have marked on the charts, and not in other areas?  Continue on another sheet of paper if necessary |  | | | | |
| Do you store pots at sea when they are not being used to fish? | | **Yes / No** | | | |
| If yes to the above, where do you usually store pots? – please mark on chart | | ***Please mark answer on charts provided*** | | | |

**Which months do you fish your pots (please tick), and how often do you turn them over?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Months* | *Fish?* | *Turn over every* | *Months* | *Fish?* | *Turn over every* |
| January |  |  | July |  |  |
| February |  |  | August |  |  |
| March |  |  | September |  |  |
| April |  |  | October |  |  |
| May |  |  | November |  |  |
| June |  |  | December |  |  |

# **Section 3. Your Business (*Commercial fishers only*)**

To understand how any management might affect local businesses, Eastern IFCA must understand some aspects of the range of fishing businesses which operate within the area. We have identified the points below as those which are probably the most important – if you think we have missed anything important, please add comments in the final line of this section.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Business model** | | | |
| Please circle the best description of your business: | * Small independent (1 vessel, 1-2 crew, no association with or assets in the name of a company) * Small / family business (less than 5 vessels, associated with or assets in the name of a company) * Medium / large business (more than 5 vessels, association with or assets in the name of a company) | | |
| What is your most important route to sell your catch? Please circle the most relevant | * Fishing to sell to market * Fishing to sell to processor * Fishing to sell direct to the public | | |
| Do you intend to grow your business (e.g. purchase additional vessels, employ additional crew, buy more pots)? | | **Yes / No** | |
| If yes to above, please provide an explanation below: | | | |
| What are the overhead costs of your fishing activity? *Please estimate as far as possible the costs for each of the sections below. Please also specify the associated time period (e.g. per year, per month, per trip etc.);* | | | |
|  | Cost, £ | | Time Period |
| 1. Fuel costs |  | |  |
| 1. Vessel maintenance |  | |  |
| 1. Gear maintenance |  | |  |
| 1. Bait costs |  | |  |
| 1. Crew costs / expenses |  | |  |
| 1. Other (*please specify*) |  | |  |
| Please indicate the ‘range’ of your vessel in terms of miles from the shore that you typically fish. |  | | |
| Please indicate the ‘range’ of your vessel in terms of miles along the shore from launch point that you typically fish. |  | | |
| Please note any other points that you think are important so that we can best understand your business activity. |  | | |

Thank You

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