

# Eastern IFCA Closed Areas Byelaw 2021 Informal Consultation: Questionnaire

**This consultation closes at midday on 28th June 2021.**

This questionnaire is an opportunity for you to have your say on the development of management measures in the Eastern IFCA district.

Eastern IFCA are considering new management in two locations:

- **The Lincolnshire Coast:** we are investigating the need for closures to bottom-towed gear in the inshore section of the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank, and North Ridge Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- **Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), North Norfolk Coast:** we are investigating the need to restrict netting activity (fixed nets and drift nets) within the zone.

We are seeking to learn more about fishing activity in these areas. This will help us to understand the impact that management may have on activity, resulting in better informed decisions.

Your responses to this consultation are confidential. A summary of the responses may be produced, for example, to show how your responses inform decisions. This summary will not contain any personal information, information about specific activity, or be traceable back to individual responses.

There are two sections to this questionnaire. **Please respond to the questions that are relevant to your activity.**

- Section 1 – Lincolnshire Coast: questions about bottom-towed gear fishing activity within management focus areas.
- Section 2 – Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ: questions about netting activity on the zone.

The information you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy notice found here: <https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/consultations/>

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

## Your Details

Please provide your details below. This will enable us to provide specific support if it is requested and to potentially contact you about your answers if we require further clarification.

Full name: .....

Operating port: .....

Vessel name and PLN: .....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone (landline): .....

Mobile: .....

Email: .....

# 1. Lincolnshire Coast: Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC

Eastern IFCA is **considering the need for closures to bottom-towed gear** (e.g. trawling and dredging) within two areas in the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC, because they contain habitats sensitive to fishing using bottom-towed gear.

These areas are in addition to the areas for management that have previously been agreed within the SAC.

**This section asks for information about your activity using bottom-towed gear in the proposed areas for management.** This will help us to consider the impact on industry of closures within the proposed areas.

## Charts

Charts 1 and 2 enclosed with this consultation show the proposed areas A and B where management is being considered. The charts show the same areas, but one is more close up.

### **1.1. Do you fish using bottom-towed gear in either area marked on Chart 1 & 2 titled 'Lincolnshire Coast?' (Please tick as appropriate)**

A

B

Not sure (please explain):

.....

### **1.2. Please mark onto Chart 2 any important fishing areas / trawl lines.**

Please be as specific as possible in marking fished areas. The more accurate our understanding of your fishing measures, the better informed our measures will be.

**1.3. For each area that you fish in please provide the following information:**

Area	Type of bottom-towed gear used	Species targeted (using bottom towed gear)	Number of trips fishing in this area per year on an average year (using bottom towed gear)	Proportion / percentage of income generated from catch from this area (using bottom towed gear)
<b>A</b>				
<b>B</b>				

**1.4. Do you have any further comments or observations about the proposed areas A & B off the Lincolnshire Coast?**

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## 2. Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ

Eastern IFCA are seeking **more evidence on netting activity** (fixed nets and drift nets) on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ. Information about the effort level and location of activity will inform if management of netting on the site is required.

It is very useful to see in person, or in a photo, the gear used on the site to better understand any potential impact. If you fish using nets on the MCZ an officer may contact you to arrange gathering this information.

### Charts

Chart 3 enclosed with this consultation is of the whole MCZ. It marks area 1, the whole MCZ site, and area 2 which is an outline of the rugged chalk area. The outline of area 2 (marked on the chart in orange) is based on currently available evidence that we have of the location of the 'rugged chalk'. The exact outline of this area is under review.

This section of the questionnaire seeks information about your **netting activity across the whole site** (area 1) and your netting activity within the 'rugged chalk' area (area 2).

#### **2.1. Do you fish using nets (fixed nets or drift nets) inside area 1 or 2 as marked on chart 3? (Please tick as appropriate)**

- Area 1
- Area 2
- Not sure (please explain): .....

#### **2.2. Please mark onto chart 3 where you fish using nets (fixed nets or drift nets) in areas 1, 2 or both.**

Please be as specific as possible in marking fished areas. It is recognised that the exact location of where you fish using nets is likely to change over time or that you will fish within a broader area. The more accurate our understanding of your fishing measures, the better informed our measures will be.

**2.3. Are there any areas that you AVOID when fishing using nets in areas 1 and 2 and if so, why?**

It can help us to build a picture of the activity on the site if we have a better understanding of the areas that are deliberately avoided, as well as those that are well-visited.

**2.4. What type of netting gear do you use in areas 1 & 2 (e.g. fixed nets or drift nets)?**

**2.5. What species do you target using netting gear in areas 1 & 2?**

**2.6. In an average year, how many days do you spend fishing using netting gear in areas 1 & 2?**

**2.7. If it is possible to calculate, how much of your income (what proportion or percentage) is generated from fishing using nets in areas 1 & 2?**

**2.8. Do you have any further comments or observations about your netting activity in area 1 & 2?**



## **QUESTIONNAIRE END.**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please post your responses, including your marked charts, to:

The CEO

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

6 North Lynn Business Village

Bergen Way

King's Lynn

Norfolk PE30 2JG

This consultation closes at 12pm on Monday 28th June 2021.

### Contact Us

The office is closed because of the COVID-19 crisis, but officers remain at work based at home. Should you need to contact us please use the email or mobile number provided below:

Phone: (during office hours) 07385 769305

Email: [mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk)

If you require this questionnaire in a larger format, please contact the office and we can provide one for you.