

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE (MCZ) STEERING GROUP

Meeting 2	22 nd March 2021	2:30pm
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MEETING NOTE

Present		
Jon Butler (chair)	JB	Eastern IFCA
Georgie Roberts	GR	Natural England
Hilary Cox	HC	Agents of Change
John Davies	JD	Fisherman
Kevin Jonas	KJ	Jonas Seafoods
Nicola Webster	NW	North Norfolk Fishermen's Society
Johnny Seago	JSe	Fisherman
Keith Shaul	KS	Fisherman
Luke Godwin	LG	Eastern IFCA
Stephen Thompson	ST	Eastern IFCA
Ron Jessop	RJ	Eastern IFCA
Judith Stoutt	JSt	Eastern IFCA
Apologies		
Julian Gregory	JG	Eastern IFCA

Agenda Item	Key points of discussion; decisions and actions
1. Introductions/ Apologies	Apologies from JG. JB is chairing today in place of JG. JD noted that other fishermen have expressed interest in joining the Steering Group, subject to availability.
2. Action from previous meeting	<p>ACTION 1: JSt to circulate ARM document to Steering Group members - Complete.</p> <p>ACTION 2: RJ to finalise Research Task & Finish Group objectives at the first meeting of the group for approval of the Steering Group Complete</p> <p>ACTION 3: LG to set up Management Task & Finish Group and arrange first meeting Carried forward.</p> <p>ACTION 4: Management Task & Finish Group to develop objectives for the group for approval of the Steering Group Carried forward.</p>
3. Research update	<p>3a. Terms of Reference</p> <p>RJ: Two Research Task & Finish Group meetings have been held. The Group has agreed aims and objectives and developed Terms of Reference, for ratification at this Steering Group meeting. These were discussed by the Steering Group. The Research Task & Finish Group has also produced an overview document setting out issues relating to pressures and impacts from potting.</p> <p>The Steering Group agreed that the aims and objectives document sets out the questions that need addressing in the Adaptive Risk Management approach – and that this approach is better than closures based on the</p>

	<p>precautionary principle. Key issues were recognised as “how to define acceptable level of damage/potting activity”, “how to assess impacts across the whole chalk beds” and “how to assess impacts over time” (current vs historical evidence).</p> <p>DECISION: The Terms of Reference document, including the Aims and Objectives of the Research Steering Group, was agreed by the Steering Group.</p> <p>ACTION 5: RJ to change Terms of Reference document from draft to final.</p> <p>3b. VMS unit trial</p> <p>The idea of trialling vehicle trackers on fishing vessels to obtain data on fishing location was discussed. The Steering Group agreed it would be beneficial to conduct a trial sooner rather than later, and to obtain at least one full fishing season’s worth of data. The Group noted that some fishermen do recognise the benefits of providing locational information, to show the importance of fishing areas. It was noted there is a national project developing appropriate positioning systems for small fishing vessels, but the timescales of that work might not fit with the Cromer MCZ work.</p> <p>GoPros or dashcams on vessels were also considered to be a potentially useful research tool, particularly for recording catch rather than just landed catch.</p> <p>KS noted EIFCA trialled a system two years ago, and devices on pots that sent information to the system when pots were hauled.</p> <p>It was considered that at least one device per beach should be trialled.</p> <p>ACTION 6: LG to investigate the national vessel tracking project further and report back to the Steering Group.</p> <p>ACTION 7: ST to check with Tom Bridges (EIFCA marine science officer) re. Go Pro / dashcam project and feed back to the Steering Group on costs and timescales.</p> <p><i>HC left the meeting.</i></p>
4. Management update	No update as no Management Task & Finish Group meetings have been held so far.
5. Communications & Engagement	<p>5a. Cromer MCZ short film</p> <p>University of Essex have proposed to approach the BBC with a view to making a short film (e.g. <i>Countryfile</i> or <i>Inside Out</i> piece) on the MCZ, local fishing culture, environmental aspects and developing research technology. The Steering Group discussed the opportunity that involvement in a film could present, so long as the piece was properly balanced and well-timed.</p>

	<p>DECISION: Steering Group will seek to be involved in the film with a view towards achieving a balanced piece and highlighting partnership working.</p> <p>ACTION 8: LG to ask University of Essex to share a plan for the proposed film with the Steering Group.</p> <p>ACTION 9: JD to provide LG with contact details of a local filmmaker with a view to possible involvement.</p> <p>5b. Hilary Cox</p> <p>HC's position on the Steering Group was discussed in light of her coming to the end of her Agents of Change project. Members felt HC is a valuable member of the group because of her expertise and local knowledge / contact with fishermen (particularly important when fishermen are not available for meetings). It was noted that Alice Tebb could be asked to represent Agents of Change on the Steering Group in place of HC, although AT does not have the same local connections. Further, NW is already a member of the Steering Group with contacts for all the North Norfolk Fishermen's Society.</p> <p>DECISION: HC to remain on the Steering Group as an independent member, if she is willing to do so.</p> <p>ACTION 10: JSt to invite Alice Tebb to join Steering Group as Agents of Change representative.</p>
6. Any other business	<p>JB noted that the Wildlife Trusts had requested to join this Steering Group, but JG had advised them that the Group is being kept small and focused, existing to oversee delivery of research and management rather than a operate as a wider discussion group.</p>
7. Next meeting	<p>Monday 26th April 2021. 2:30pm.</p>

Summary of Actions

No.	Action	Owner
3	LG to set up Management Task & Finish Group and arrange first meeting.	LG
4	Management Task & Finish Group to develop objectives for the group for approval of the Steering Group.	LG
5	RJ to change Research Task & Finish Group Terms of Reference document from draft to final	RJ
6	LG to investigate the national vessel tracking project further and report back to the Steering Group.	LG
7	ST to check with Tom Bridges re. Go Pro / dashcam project and feed back to the Steering Group on costs and timescales.	ST
8	LG to ask University of Essex to share a plan for the proposed film with the Steering Group.	LG/ST
9	JD to provide LG with contact details of a local filmmaker with a view to possible involvement.	JD

10	JSt to invite Alice Tebb to join Steering Group as Agents of Change representative.	JSt
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