

## MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE (MCZ) STEERING GROUP

<b>Meeting 4</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>	<b>2:30pm</b>
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### MEETING NOTE

<b>Present</b>		
Jon Butler	JB	Eastern IFCA
Georgie Roberts	GR	Natural England
John Davies	JD	Fisherman
Kevin Jonas	KJ	Jonas Seafoods
Nicola Webster	NW	North Norfolk Fishermen's Society
Keith Shaul	KS	Fisherman
Luke Godwin	LG	Eastern IFCA
Stephen Thompson	ST	Eastern IFCA
Ron Jessop	RJ	Eastern IFCA
Judith Stoutt	JSt	Eastern IFCA
Kristina Gurova	KG	Eastern IFCA
<b>Apologies</b>		
Julian Gregory	JG	Eastern IFCA
Johnny Seago	JSe	Fisherman
Alice Tebb	AT	Agents of Change

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Key points of discussion; decisions and actions</b>
1. Introductions/ Apologies	KG introduced herself. She has just joined the Eastern IFCA Projects Team (working with LG) and will be closely involved in MCZ work. Apologies received from JG, JSe and AT.
2. Notes and actions from previous meeting	<p><b>Correction:</b> JD highlighted Action 9 had been recorded incorrectly: it should read "JD to provide LG with a local filmmaker's contact details". Correctly recorded as completed. Noting this change, the meeting notes were <b>agreed</b>.</p> <p><b>ACTION 3:</b> LG to set up Management Task &amp; Finish Group and arrange first meeting. <b>Ongoing: LG to arrange as soon as possible</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 4:</b> Management Task &amp; Finish Group to develop objectives for the group for approval of the Steering Group. <b>Ongoing.</b> Objectives drafted for discussion at first Management Task &amp; Finish Group</p> <p><b>ACTION 10 and 12:</b> AT to be invited to join Steering Group as Agents of Change representative. <b>Complete</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 11:</b> ST to provide data sharing agreement and deliver tracker to JD. <b>Complete</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 13:</b> JSt to progress getting EIFCA MCZ webpage online. <b>Complete</b></p>
3. Research update (ST)	a) Trial use of vessel tracker (on JD's vessel) has been very successful. Many thanks for JD

	<p>participation. No-hassle system – compact device, attaches to metal surface on boat, splash-proof, good battery life. Can differentiate (based on vessel position and space between “pings”) between vessel steaming (underway), shooting pots and hauling. Potential use for locating lost gear and for identifying if gear moves position between shooting and hauling. Ability to layer up info from different vessels. Have ordered 10 more units. Next steps: setting up data-sharing agreement, roll-out to additional vessels.</p> <p><b>ACTION 14: EIFCA to create data-sharing agreement, aiming for roll-out in early June (ST/LG).</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 15: Ask IFCOs to speak to JD in relation to wider roll-out (ST)</b></p> <p>b) Need to design research actions urgently, to work out how to move the research forward. Will need direction from Steering Group. Natural England (NE) have obtained funding to re-process Cefas multibeam data. University of Essex are examining rugged chalk sensitivity to fishing. GR highlighted that Defra advice is clear: cannot use lack of evidence as reason to delay management; ARM approach is do assessment, then start to do management and monitor. NE provided advice to EIFCA in August 2020; EIFCA has responsibility to meet statutory duties or will be open to challenge. GR: we need a plan with timelines for research.</p> <p>c) Gear adaptations (GR): we should consider gear adaptations now if we want to trial any this summer. Potting assessment should identify what element of the fishery is causing concern – we should then look at relevant gear innovation. Seems that ropes cause more damage than pots. KS: might be difficult to change fishing habits. Potentially could bridle pots in different position (e.g. attach on top of pot instead of at one end). Need to use anchors to prevent pots moving. Could use divers to monitor alternatively-bridled pots. GR: dive survey was limited in number of dives that could be done; now looking to use a remotely-operated vehicle (ROV). JD: also considering rubber on pots and/or plastic bottoms, if these could prevent damage. Doubt over practicality of changing pot bridling position – pots might get moved over, and difficult to haul. Leaded ropes have been tried with crab pots but didn't work. We use the best adaptation in order to</p>
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	<p>fish properly and keep pots stationary. Heavier pots stay put; moving pots cause damage. If we use single pots, thousands would be lost because of the amount of shipping etc. Also difficult to retrieve single pots – easier to retrieve shanks. Keen to look at adaptations.</p> <p>d) GR: Wildlife Trusts have offered to present on work they've been doing with Seasearch.</p>
<p>b. Management update (LG, Management Task &amp; Finish Group co-ordinator)</p>	<p>a) Although this group has not yet met, LG has drafted Terms of Reference for this group.</p> <p>b) LG has structure of a plan for lost and stored gear measures – will start conversations with JD and GR on this before the Terms of Reference are agreed.</p>
<p>c. Communications &amp; Engagement</p>	<p>a) Stakeholder group: Group names and membership were discussed. It was felt “Project Board” better reflects what the Steering Group does, and that this the Board should focus on delivery. There was a range of views on the subject of membership of the Board. GR felt The Wildlife Trusts would provide valuable input. A majority of members considered that NGO involvement should not be a part of this core fisheries decision-making group but would work better in a wider MCZ stakeholder group. It was noted that conservation representation does exist on the EIFCA Board where fisheries management decisions are ultimately made. A wider Stakeholder Group would allow more stakeholders (e.g. conservation groups, NGOs and other fishermen) to feed in. Concerns were raised about increasing the number of meetings and failure to make progress. GR asked whether a plan with timelines could be developed, for the Project Board to oversee. It was agreed this would be beneficial to demonstrate forward momentum to overcome the perceived view there has been little progress. RJ emphasised the need to take time to do things properly, and focus on what is needed, because of the big implications for the fishery.</p> <p><b>ACTION 16: JB to report back to JG on discussions, including name change, majority (but not unanimous) view that NGOs should not be in the Steering Group/Project Board, and regarding JG’s liaison with AT about how she feels the Agents of Change project could co-ordinate wider stakeholder discussions about the MCZ.</b></p> <p>b) Communications strategy: it was recognised that good information-sharing reduces suspicion.</p>

	<p>It was agreed that a strategy could help guide delivery of information.</p> <p><b>ACTION 17: EIFCA (LG/KG) to work with NW to develop communications strategy.</b></p> <p>a) The One Show have expressed interest in doing a piece about the MCZ. They did one previously, which was considered reasonably well balanced. This could also be an opportunity to take GR out on the boat to see potting activity first-hand. It was felt to be important that the “sustainable fisheries” concept is pushed in any media piece.</p>
d. Any other business	a) KS queried what is being done about ships anchoring in the MCZ. GR reported that NE are investigating – and give advice to shipping regulators as well as fishing regulators.
e. Next meeting	<b>Monday 28th June 2:30pm</b>

### 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
14	EIFCA to create data-sharing agreement, aiming for roll-out in early June (ST/LG).	ST/LG
15	Ask IFCOs to speak to JD in relation to wider roll-out (ST)	ST
16	JB to report back to JG on discussions, including name change, majority (but not unanimous) view that NGOs should not be in the Steering Group/Project Board, and regarding JG’s liaison with AT about how she feels the Agents of Change project could co-ordinate wider stakeholder discussions about the MCZ.	JB
17	EIFCA (LG/KG) to work with NW to develop communications strategy.	LG/KG/NW
18	<i>*Action taken by EIFCA after meeting, reflecting agreement of need for a timeline although no “owner” was agreed during meeting for this action*</i> EIFCA to draft timeline for research and management	RJ/LG/KG