

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE (MCZ) PROJECT BOARD

Meeting 7	18th October 2021	3:30pm
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MEETING NOTES

Present		
Julian Gregory	JG	Eastern IFCA
Jon Butler	JB	Eastern IFCA
John Davies	JD	Fisherman
Alice Tebb	AT	Agents of Change, Marine Conservation Society
Luke Godwin	LG	Eastern IFCA
Stephen Thompson	ST	Eastern IFCA
Ron Jessop	RJ	Eastern IFCA
Judith Stoutt	JSt	Eastern IFCA
Apologies		
Georgina Roberts	GR	Natural England

Agenda Item	Key points of discussion; decisions and actions
1. Introductions/ Apologies	Apologies were received from GR (Natural England).
2. Notes and actions from previous meeting	<p>Notes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p> <p>ACTION 17 and ACTION 22 were merged: Development and review of an updated Communications Strategy, with a view to formally adopt it at the next PB meeting. Ongoing: KG to circulate.</p> <p>ACTION 18: EIFCA to draft timeline for research and management. Ongoing: Timeline has been drafted. RJ to share ARM Research Plan including general timeline with PB for agreement, with a view uploading it to the website ASAP.</p> <p>ACTION 24: EIFCA to upload all relevant documents onto MCZ page. Ongoing: KG to receive website login and training and complete the action.</p> <p>ACTION 25: PB to sign off Code of Best Practice after Management Task & Finish Group have finalised it using the wider feedback. Ongoing: Final draft completed at Management T&F level. KG and LG to develop comms for industry engagement, working with JD and NW.</p> <p>ACTION 26: RJ/LG to identify location of gear seen in video, involve JD to check whether the gear is lost, and speak to divers about possible opportunity to recover the gear. Ongoing: RJ to expedite. RJ returned with ROV to the place where the gear was spotted and found it again. Samantha Hormbrey (MSO) still working to identify exact position to share with JD. JD able to work with rough position and suggests this to be provided in real-time via text when MSOs are on the boat. Noted that pots found</p>

	were not old and JD may be able to assist with identifying owner.
3. Terms of Reference – Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Group members have been given 2 weeks to submit comments/notes on the Terms of Reference. To allow for these to be taken into account, final sign-off to be taken at the next PB meeting.
4. Research update (RJ, Research Task & Finish Group Co-ordinator)	<p>RJ provided an update on research workstreams.</p> <p><u>NE/Cefas multibeam work:</u> NE has commissioned Cefas to reanalyse previously obtained multibeam data and initial outputs were presented at the Research T&F Group. Positive impression of the results – a lot of detail. JSt – “As well as the results seeming to align with our own developing understanding of where the rugged chalk is, I was struck by Cefas's enthusiasm and support for this work. I am pleased they are involved”.</p> <p><u>EIFCA ROV footage:</u> shows ropes float above the height of the seabed. There is potential to look at multibeam data and analyse it alongside data on where the ropes sit in the water column. Science team has found a way to follow pots and shanks with the ROV (half a dozen videos recorded) and has seen for the first time some of the damage previously mentioned in the dive survey. This seems to occur where ropes are not floating high enough above some of the more raised chalk features (result of rope rubbing against chalk). NE input is needed to consider whether damage is significant in terms of chalk being able to function and support biological communities. Clarity/weather conditions likely to prevent ROV surveys during the winter months, though it may be possible to survey and map deeper/offshore areas. JD is happy to keep EIFCA informed of weather conditions/clarity.</p> <p>Concern was raised over recent <u>NE tweet</u> on subject of multibeam work with Cefas – image has the potential to cause alarm to some stakeholders and the short nature of tweets means that it is difficult to provide sufficient context.</p> <p>ACTION 27: RJ/ST to raise the issue of the need for a coordinated approach to comms and to be mindful of varying stakeholders at the next Research & Development T&F Group.</p> <p><u>Trackers:</u> ST informed that Cefas are considering using EIFCA/industry tracker collaboration as example of best practice.</p> <p>JD suggested a meeting to be held with fishermen to inform them of preliminary analysis of survey results and research work and that this can also be used to get feedback on the Code of Best Practice for potting. AT to attend and ‘pitch’ the Stakeholder Group to industry.</p> <p>ACTION 28: EIFCA to organise a meeting with industry in the week commencing 15th November to 1) Update on research activities (mapping and trackers); 2) Get</p>

	feedback on Code of Best Practice; 3) Promote the Stakeholder Group.
5. Management update (LG, Management Task & Finish Group co-ordinator)	<p>LG provided an update on Management T&F Group.</p> <p><u>Code of Best Practice</u>: A final draft of the Code of Best Practice has been agreed. LG and KG working on developing comms for industry consultation which are to be reviewed by JD and NW. Consultation with industry should focus on identifying the barriers faced by fishermen. Following industry consultation, the Code could be taken to the Stakeholder Group for wider discussion/to generate ideas to tackle barriers identified. Management T&F Group have also started discussions on gear accountability, potentially through pot marking.</p> <p><u>Gentlemen's Agreement on Lost Gear</u>: EIFCA has been engaging with divers and the next step is to redevelop the agreement to make it more accessible. Consideration is being given to setting up a 'working group' for fishermen and divers to coordinate their actions on gear marking and recovery. If this is set up, it would sit under the Management T&F Group and the organogram will need to be updated to reflect that.</p> <p>Other actors, including windfarms and the East of England Plastics Coalition, are also looking at recovering lost gear and removing marine litter in the MCZ and The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation.</p>
6. Stakeholder Group update	<p>The first meeting of the Stakeholder Group took place on 16th September. Aside from a few technical issues, it went well. Roughly 30 local people/stakeholders attended, in addition to 8 facilitators from MCS and EIFCA. 20 apologies were received. Due to unforeseen circumstances, AT was unable to get notes out when planned. Agents of Change are looking to hire for a support position to assist with admin to avoid any delays in future.</p> <p><u>Next meeting</u>: The next meeting is provisionally planned for the week of 22nd November. Provisional themes are around understanding chalk and lost pots, with the aim of looking into the wider community for potential solutions to problems and barriers.</p> <p>ACTION 29: RJ to provide AT with Cefas contacts so that she can potentially invite them to present at the next Stakeholder Group on provisional topic, 'understanding chalk'.</p>
7. Any other business	<p><u>MCS's Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ website</u>: still in development and designer will need further support following stakeholder feedback. When complete, this will be another communication tool available to PB.</p> <p><u>HPMAs</u>: It is understood that CSCB MCZ has been suggested as a site for consideration. It is understood that Defra may publish a list of 20 sites up for consideration. IFCA's are liaising with Defra through the association of</p>

	IFCAs. EIFCA are doubtful that CSCB MCZ is appropriate for HMPA designation due to ongoing Adaptive Risk Management work. MCS perspective is that offshore sites should be considered first, and that any inshore sites require a thorough consideration of social and economic factors.
8. Next meeting	TBC. Friday 10th December 2.30pm

Summary of Actions

No.	Action	Owner
17	EIFCA (LG/KG) to work with NW to develop Communications Strategy, with a view to reviewing and adopting the Strategy at the next PB meeting.	LG/KG/NW; All
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
24	EIFCA to place all related documents onto MCZ webpage	ST/KG
25	Project Board to sign off Code of Best Practice after Management Task & Finish Group have finalised it using the wider feedback.	PB
26	RJ/LG to identify location of gear seen in video, involve JD to check whether the gear is lost, and speak to divers if there is an opportunity to recover the gear.	RJ/LG/JD
27	JSt to liaise with NE on the need for coordinated approach to comms and to be mindful of varying stakeholders.	JSt
28	EIFCA to organise a meeting with industry in the week commencing 15 th November to 1) Update on research activities (mapping and trackers); 2) Get feedback on Code of Best Practice; 3) Promote the Stakeholder Group.	LG/KG/JD/NW/JB
29	RJ to provide AT with Cefas contacts so that she can potentially invite them to present at the next Stakeholder Group on provisional topic, 'understanding chalk'.	RJ