

Cromer Shoal MCZ Project Board Meeting Notes

Meeting Time/Date:	1500hrs 2 nd February 2022	Venue:	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees:	Stephen Thompson, Eastern IFCA Georgina Roberts, Natural England Alice Tebb, Agents of Change Kristina Gurova, Eastern IFCA Luke Godwin, Eastern IFCA John Davies, Fishing industry Inge Smith, Eastern IFCA member Julian Gregory, Eastern IFCA	Apologies:	Jon Butler, Eastern IFCA Ron Jessop, Eastern IFCA Judith Stoutt, Eastern IFCA

Actions, decisions and updates			
Actions from previous meetings		Owner	Update
10/12/21	KG to circulate a further revised version and PB members to review and provide feedback by Friday 17 th December 2021. Once agreed by PB, KG to share the final Strategy with University of Essex partners.	KG/All	2/2/22 Comms strategy updated to address coordination between agencies. Final version to be circulated to all partners. JG and KG to consider publication on the EIFCA website.
10/12/21	KG to upload research timeline to the website.	KG	2/2/22 KG to check with RJ that the current version is the final version and if so to upload to the website.
10/12/21	EIFCA to place all relevant documents onto MCZ webpage	ST/KG	2/2/22 Ongoing.
10/12/21	Project Board to sign off Code of Best Practice after Management Task & Finish Group have finalised it using the wider feedback from the informal consultation.	PB	2/2/22 Ongoing – action discharged because this is a key workstream and will be monitored by the PB.

10/12/21	EIFCA to explore organising more meetings with all fishermen in the new year and to continue to consider the possibility of these being face-to-face, while carefully monitoring the Covid context which may prevent this	LG	2/2/22 Ongoing – suitable venues being identified to account for Covid risk.
10/12/21	AT to share final Stakeholder Group ToR and Code of Conduct for KG to upload on MCZ page.	AT/KG	2/2/22 action discharged – see new action.
10/12/21	ST to investigate criteria and timelines for Fishing News award.	ST	2/2/22 Some debate about the timing and whether it is appropriate. Applications not required for several months – to be re-considered at the next meeting.

New actions, decisions and updates

Terms of Reference – Stakeholder Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Stakeholder Group (SG) Terms of Reference are agreed in principle, but it was agreed that these would be taken back to the Group to clarify how failures to comply with the SG Code of Conduct will be addressed. <p>ACTION: AT to share revised Stakeholder Group Terms of Reference with PB when agreement has been reached by SG on how to address failures to comply with the Code of Conduct.</p>
Research Task & Finish Group update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No field work since the last PB meeting due to adverse weather. There is a standing request if boat availability coincides with suitable conditions to conduct ROV work to repeat examination of some of the sites which were looked at last summer. Eastern IFCA has prioritised progressing the assessment of the impacts of potting on chalk and recording this in an assessment document. The assessment is a “live” document, rather than a final statement. Eastern IFCA intend to further update it as our Adaptive Risk Management work helps us understand the difference made by gear adaptations or other measures. The assessment includes a scientific literature review relating to interactions between potting gear and rocky habitats. There is very little literature relating to potting impacts on chalk habitats as most published studies have looked at harder rocky habitats. The assessment document will be submitted to Natural England within the next few weeks, following internal review of the draft. <p>ACTION: Eastern IFCA to share the potting assessment with Natural England following internal review.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been development of a protocol for the Natural England financed review of Eastern IFCA ROV footage to characterise and quantify man-made impacts on chalk. The project is due to deliver results by the end of March. • Eastern IFCA are conducting ongoing examination of their video footage over the winter. • The second ROV has arrived and the first is to be returned to suppliers for some remedial work once the second has been commissioned. • Tracking data shows that there are still some boats fishing (at end December), but fewer in number. Data is still being acquired, and initial processing conducted. Work on higher level processing has not progressed since last PB meeting due to competing pressures. • As all ten of the trackers initially purchased have been placed, we are getting an additional five to have them available if the opportunity to place them arises. • The Marine Science Officer responsible for the developing research into the economic value of brown crab on and off the rugged chalk has left Eastern IFCA. This workstream will be picked up by others, possibly in a simplified form. <p>ACTION: KG to check with RJ that the current version of the research timeline is the final version and if so to upload to the website.</p>
Management Task & Finish Group update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Code of Best Practice (Lost & Stored Gear) is still undergoing informal consultation and will be brought to the Project Board for approval when work is complete. • A draft agreement for joint marking and recovery of lost gear by fishermen and divers is being developed. The agreement will seek to outline the commitments of all parties in the process, including Natural England (natural environment advisor) and the MMO (licensing). • We are working with a group of divers on a funding bid for a boat to enable them to contribute more to the outputs of the work relating to lost gear and also with acquisition of evidence. • Gear accountability is the next priority workstream.
Stakeholder Group update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last SG meeting was held on 25th January 2022 and was attended by 29 members. The meeting was joined up with a Marine Debris Workshop organised by the East of England Plastics Coalition (EEPC) Marine Debris Working Group. • The SG part of the meeting was centred around Eastern IFCA's feedback on SG input on the Code of Best Practice. The update was generally welcomed by SG members and AT will share any further comments she receives. The presentation by Eastern IFCA could have been improved if it was clearer on which SG comments would be progressed. • AT will share the full feedback on the second half of the meeting (EEPC Marine Debris Workshop) when received.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SG has voted for the next meeting to be online. However, recognising that there are stakeholders who wish to join the Group but are unable to do so due to its online nature, as well as a subset of the SG who would like to meet in person, the Agents of Change are considering organising an in-person social and how such an event could be supported. Topic of the next meeting: It would be good if this could be centred on conversations around active gear and ground rope adaptations and how the SG can be brought along. Additionally, this meeting could cover a code of conduct for divers in the marking and recovery of gear. AT reported that the Agents of Change project is being made a core Marine Conservation Society project.
A0B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a discussion about the style of meeting notes and ensuring that these are clear, concise and informative. It was agreed that these would be in the format of actions and decisions to support the business-like nature of PB meetings. It was agreed that Task and Finish Group Chairs would give brief updates at each SG meeting. <p>DECISION: PB meeting notes will be succinct and will show key updates and actions and decisions to support the business-like nature of PB meetings.</p> <p>DECISION: The Chairs of the two Task and Finish Groups will provide bullet point updates at each SG meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JG, ST, RJ and LG met with three representatives from MCNAG yesterday. They are keen to work with the project and state that they have a lot of relevant information to provide that can assist with workstreams. They requested a seat on the Project Board, but it was explained why this would not be appropriate. <p>ACTION: ST and RJ to establish an evidence review group with MCNAG representatives to look at the data that MCNAG can provide and the format in which it can be provided. The objective is to identify what is relevant to the project and to work with MCNAG to ensure that the data is in a useable format and, where possible, to support ongoing data collection. There may be potential to develop this concept further to include other stakeholders.</p>
Date of next meeting	1500hrs Tuesday 5 th April 2022