

Cromer Shoal MCZ Project Board Meeting Notes

Meeting Time/Date:	1500hrs 4 th April 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/Eastern IFCA member Inge Smith, Eastern IFCA member Julian Gregory, Eastern IFCA Judith Stoutt, Eastern IFCA	Apologies:	Jon Butler, Eastern IFCA Ron Jessop, Eastern IFCA

Actions and updates from previous meeting			
Actions		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. 4/4/2022 Complete.
10/12/21	KG to upload research timeline to the website.	KG	4/4/2022 Action complete.
10/12/21	EIFCA to explore organising more meetings with all fishermen in the new year and to continue to consider the possibility	LG	4/4/2022 – Action complete. Two in-person meetings were held, one with the North Norfolk Fishermen's Society (on 28 th February at Northrepps Village Hall) and one with the Norfolk

	of these being face-to-face, while carefully monitoring the Covid context which may prevent this		Independent Fishermen's Society (on 1 st March at Bodham Village Hall).
10/12/21	ST to investigate criteria and timelines for Fishing News award.	ST	4/4/2022 Action discharged. Decision by the Project Board to reconsider in future.
2/2/2022	AT to share revised Stakeholder Group Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct with PB when agreement has been reached by SG on how to address failures to comply with the Code of Conduct.	AT	4/4/2022 Ongoing. AT has written a proposal on how to deal with breaches of the Code of Conduct. This will be taken to the Stakeholder Group for discussion and approval at the next meeting. AT will share the draft proposal with PB for information, with amendments highlighted.
2/2/2022	Eastern IFCA to share the potting assessment with Natural England following internal review.	JSt	4/4/2022 Ongoing. Internal review is underway. Eastern IFCA are aiming to send the assessment to Natural England the week after Easter.
2/2/2022	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.	ST, RJ	4/4/2022 Complete. First meeting of the Evidence Review Group has been held. More detail in Research and Development T&F Group update below.
4/4/2022	Research and Development Task & Finish Group to take the lead on communications with Blue with a view to inviting representatives to a Research T&F	ST, RJ	

	meeting. Management T&F Group and AT to be kept informed and invited to attend.		
4/4/2022	JSt to start an exploratory conversation with UAE about potential support for research into the wider social importance of the crab and lobster potting fisheries to the local area.	JSt	
4/4/2022	AT to chase up journalist from Norfolk & Suffolk Life regarding article and update members.	AT	

Progress updates and new actions and decisions	
Research Task & Finish Group update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No field work since the last PB meeting (limited access to boats due to competing priorities). • No further progress has been made with the processing of ROV footage due to staff shortages and competing priorities. • A highlight has been the establishment of an Evidence Review Group with select MCNAG members actively involved in data collection. A first meeting has been held to discuss data availability and opportunities for evidence gathering to inform project workstreams. Detailed beach cleaning data is being collected by the Norfolk Beach Cleaner's Collective which can feed into Management T&F work on lost gear mitigation. There is also potential for data collection by bird watchers through buoy counting to assist with fishing effort estimations until a byelaw is in place. Diving representation on MCNAG has many hours of underwater footage that they are analysing. • An in-person T&F meeting was held in JD's yard to examine fishing gear and discuss adaption for trial this season. The suggestion by a Cefas representative for floats to be fastened to the floater line will be trialled and JD will get started on rigging up some of his gear. Consideration is being given to options for pot armouring to minimise abrasive damage.

<p>Management Task & Finish Group update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group is still focussed on delivery of lost gear mitigation • A Code of Best Practice which deals primarily with reducing the likelihood of gear being lost at sea, has been accepted by the two North Norfolk fishing associations relevant to the MCZ and we are developing a press release and other coms to launch this formally, pending consideration by the Project Board. • A voluntary partnership agreement is also being developed which is intended to deal primarily with the removal of 'lost' gear once found. Dialogue with fishing industry, divers and beach cleaners is ongoing and our intention is to have something which can be in place within the first half of the fishing season • Both the code and the agreement are acknowledged as starting points on which we can build a better working relationship and then refine our approach over time to be as effective as possible • Beach cleaners have developed a reporting system and database for fishing gear found during cleans which can feed into our monitoring. • The group is also developing a reporting and monitoring system to underpin the agreement and the code. • Additionally, the group is developing a proposal for an MCZ byelaw to manage potting in the site in accordance with ARM (i.e. through flexible measures). There appears to be general support from industry for a byelaw and fishermen have suggested some initial measures (e.g. pot tagging, closed periods). • Intention is for the T&F group to consider the proposal and agree what is needed before launching an informal consultation. Target is to have a draft byelaw put to the Authority in September of 2022. • DECISION: Based on Management T&F Group's formal recommendation, a decision to begin the byelaw drafting process was formally taken by the Project Board. • DECISION: A 'decision log' will be added to the meeting notes to keep track of decisions taken, as distinct from updates on actions from previous meetings.
<p>Stakeholder Group update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the last Stakeholder Group meeting, a number of suggested amendments have been made to the Code of Conduct and a proposal has been written about how to deal with breaches of the Code. These will be taken to the next Stakeholder Group meeting (currently being planned for early May) for discussion and approval. • Note: Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference are sometimes used interchangeably. Care should be taken to use the correct name to avoid confusion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: AT to share revised Code of Conduct with Project Board for information, with amendments highlighted. • AT is working with MCS to try and arrange an in-person social targeting stakeholders who haven't been able to join the online meetings. This is provisionally being planned for late May. • The invitation to/promotion of such an event needs to target all relevant stakeholders and be mindful of those with a limited online presence.
A0B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was some discussion about a meeting held with Blue Marine Foundation to explore options for collaboration and knowledge sharing. Blue Marine Foundation has expressed an interest in being a delivery partner. They are able to provide resource and expertise, and potentially funding depending on what research on gear redesign will be undertaken. • A researcher working with Blue has extensive experience relating to potting research in Lyme Bay. It should be considered how this could be drawn on to inform the Cromer MCZ project. • It was noted that it would be useful to learn more about the ways in which Blue approached stakeholder collaboration. Lessons learned could be informative for the Cromer MCZ project. • ACTION: Research and Development Task & Finish Group to take the lead on communications with Blue with a view to inviting representatives to a Research T&F meeting. Management T&F Group and AT to be kept informed and invited to attend. • It was noted that what is currently missing is research into the wider social importance of crab and lobster potting to the local area. Eastern IFCA does not have the expertise to conduct such a study in-house. It was suggested that the University of East Anglia could potentially support this research. Involvement from the NNDC should also be explored in view of their 'Motion for the Ocean' pledge. • ACTION: JSt to start an exploratory conversation with UAE about potential support for research into the wider socioeconomic importance of the crab and lobster potting fisheries to the local area. • Communications: AT was approached by a journalist from Norfolk Suffolk Life about an article about the Cromer MCZ. AT has developed responses to the questions asked with input from stakeholders, NE and Eastern IFCA. These have been submitted but AT has not yet heard back and will chase up and update members. • ACTION: AT to chase up journalist from Norfolk Suffolk Life regarding article and update members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GR will be going on maternity leave. Jennifer Love will be stepping in as the Natural England representative on meetings.
Date of next meeting	15.15 on Monday 23 rd May.

Decision Log		
Date	Decision	Update
2/2/2022	PB meeting notes will be succinct and will show key updates and actions and decisions to support the business-like nature of PB meetings.	N/A
2/2/2022	The Chairs of the two Task and Finish Groups will provide bullet point updates at each SG meeting.	N/A
4/4/2022	Based on Management T&F Group's formal recommendation, a decision to begin the byelaw drafting process was formally taken by the Project Board.	
4/4/2022	A 'decision log' will be added to the meeting notes to keep track of decisions taken, as distinct from updates on actions from previous meetings.	NA