

Cromer Shoal MCZ Project Board Meeting Notes

Meeting Time/Date:	15 15 hrs 23 rd May 2022	Venue:	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees:	Jennifer Love, Natural England Alice Tebb, Agents of Change Luke Godwin, Eastern IFCA John Davies, Fishing industry Inge Smith, Eastern IFCA member Julian Gregory, Eastern IFCA Samantha Hornbrey, Eastern IFCA Judith Stoutt, Eastern IFCA Jon Butler, Eastern IFCA Ron Jessop, Eastern IFCA Kristina Gurova, Eastern IFCA	Apologies:	None.

Actions and updates from previous meetings			
Actions		Owner	Update
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. 23/5/22 Complete . AT shared the draft proposal with the PB and incorporated suggestions (minor textual amendments).

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. 23/5/22 Complete. Eastern IFCA have shared the potting assessment with Natural England and are awaiting feedback.
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. 23/5/2022 SH arranging a follow-up meeting for the week beginning 6 th June.
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 meeting. Management T&F Group and AT to be kept informed and invited to attend.	ST, RJ	23/5/2022 Ongoing. SH to pick up conversation.
4/4/2022	JSt to start an exploratory conversation with UEA about potential support for research into the wider societal importance of the crab and lobster potting fisheries to the local area.	JSt	23/5/2022 Ongoing. JSt has drafted an initial proposal outlining the rationale for a study looking into the societal value of the Cromer crab fishery. This is to form the basis of the exploratory conversation with UEA. JSt to continue to progress this action.

			<p>NB. A revision was made to the meeting notes which referred to a socioeconomic study. The notes should have referred to a societal study instead.</p> <p>This proposed study is different from Eastern IFCA research into the economic value of the rugged chalk to the local fishery.</p>
4/4/2022	AT to chase up journalist from Norfolk & Suffolk Life regarding article and update members.	AT	Complete. AT checked in and has been sent a holding message – the piece is with the editors of Norfolk Suffolk life.
23/5/2022	AT to consider how best to facilitate SG input and discussion on the broader financial and non-financial value of the rugged chalk to different sectors and the local area as a whole.	AT	
23/5/2022	Research & Development T&F Group to update the precautionary rugged chalk area by incorporating the additional data (from ROV and Cefas multibeam study).	SH/RJ	

Progress updates and new actions and decisions	
Terms of reference & Code of Conduct SG	<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. AT circulated the draft proposal with PB members and made a few minor textual amendments based on the feedback received. • AT intends to take the proposals to the next Stakeholder Group meeting for discussion and approval. • DECISION: PB signed off on revised ToRs and Code of Conduct to go back to SG for deliberation and agreement.
Stakeholder Group update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT ran the PB through the provisional plan for the next Stakeholder Group meeting (planned for Monday 13th June, 4pm – 7pm). AT would like to use this meeting to showcase different voices and hear from the stakeholders who are working with Eastern IFCA. • AT intends to introduce AOB as a new element in this meeting. • It was noted that meetings need to strike the right balance between providing stakeholders with information and allowing stakeholder input through breakout discussions. • AT explained that discussion time has been doubled from 10 min to 20 min.
ROV analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH updated the PB on progress with the analysis of ROV footage. • The Research & Development T&F Group has produced a guidance document to be used by NE commissioned contractors in the analysis of ROV footage collected last year. The intention of this document is to have a standardised approach that will enable a comparative analysis of footage collected moving forward. • The guidance document includes guidance on categorising chalk, anthropogenic impacts, severity levels, impact position, impact extent, and impact attribution. • The guidance uses the 11 impact categories from NE's dive study but where it is not possible to go into that level of detail, 4 broader categories are used (strikes, grates, cuts, and rubble) which align with the recording forms used by Seasearch divers. A categorisation code developed by Seasearch divers is also included to enable a direct point of comparison with their data. • The contractors have finished their analysis and Eastern IFCA are awaiting their final report. Eastern IFCA have also asked the contractors to provide feedback on the guidance document. • A concern raised was about how we cannot be certain that every impact observed is a result of potting activities and that some chalk impacts could be a result of natural damage. We can only be certain that an impact has been caused by potting activities if the gear is observed in situ having an

	<p>impact. This is why one of the assessments made is to record whether the gear is in situ or not so that we can identify those observation where we can be certain that the impact has resulted from potting gear. This aims to keep the assessment as objective as possible. SH explained that although a degree of subjectivity is inherent in such assessments, the guidance document is intended to mitigate this as far as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL noted that the issue of how to assess natural change alongside anthropogenic impacts in order to accurately attribute and measure damage was discussed at NE some years ago. At the time, it was suggested that closed areas would be key to understanding how chalk is changing naturally and how potting is or is not contributing. This discussion should be picked up by the Research & Development T&F Group. This is also where Blue Marine Foundation researchers can contribute with knowledge and experience. • The PB questioned how the ROV data can be turned into quantitative data to enable the degree of anthropogenic damage to be quantified. • SH explained that we still have not covered enough area and that we need to be able to identify areas surveyed. Lasers have been ordered for the ROV to assist with locating the position of the ROV. A lot more data is needed alongside setting up an experimental design to make sure that we are collecting enough replicates. • JD suggested that tracker data can be used to evidence a certain degree of potting in an area and that this could be cross-referenced with ROV footage to get an indication of the amount of damage. • DECISION: to take JD's suggested approach moving forward i.e. to cross-reference tracker data with ROV footage. • NB: When cross-referencing tracker data, we need to take into account that tracker data currently only provides a partial picture of activity representing 10 vessels out of around 30 that we know pot in the area
Societal Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSt has put together a proposal for commissioning research into the societal value (as opposed to economic) of the rugged chalk and shared this with the PB. The idea behind this would be to provide a reference that people can use to demonstrate the value of the fishery in terms other than monetary. JSt asked the PB on their views as to whether such a study would be useful and/or if they are aware of any research which has already been done. • AT's perspective is that this kind of research is extremely valuable and noted that it would be an important part of the rationale to inform Eastern IFCA's impact assessment. In terms of research already done, AT pointed to UEA researcher Dr. Carole White's work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LG noted that although this research would be hugely beneficial, the degree to which it would affect an impact assessment would be limited as IFCA's have an overriding duty in relation to MCZs. • IS pointed to Dr Rebecca Jefferson from Human Nature as an expert in the field of social science surveys in a conservation context. She could potentially be able to assist with shaping/framing initial requirements for a study. • An email address for Dr. Jefferson was shared with the PB. • ACTION: JSt to progress further.
<p>Research & Development Task & Finish Group update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern IFCA's potting assessment has been submitted to NE. Eastern IFCA are now awaiting NE's feedback (expected in July). • The NE commissioned external contractors have completed their analysis of last year's ROV footage using a guidance document prepared by the Research & Development T&F Group. Eastern IFCA are awaiting their final report. • 2022 ROV surveys are scheduled to commence on Tuesday 24th May. The intention is to carry out more mapping work and to try to follow more shanks of pots to get more evidence on the extent of impacts. Two new members of staff are being trained in how to use BIIGLE (image and video annotation software). • Two more individuals have signed up to carry trackers on board their vessels. 12 fishermen are now voluntarily carrying trackers. SH has picked up on discussions with the University of St. Andrews about automating the analysis of tracker data. • The Group will also look into trialling gear modifications this year. There are two main interactions which are considered to be problematic – pot strikes leading to abrasion and ground ropes sawing into chalk. The Group will be examining whether pot strike impacts can be mitigated through pot armouring and whether light buoys attached to the drop lines on shanks will minimise rope interactions. • Eastern IFCA will be using their own shank of pots as this will enable more freedom over the design of the experiment. Armoured pots are expected to arrive in the week starting 30th May. • The study into the economic value of the rugged chalk to the fishery will commence this year. Officers will be taken aboard JD's boat twice a month to record samples from random pots along shanks of JD's gear on and off the chalk. • PB members discussed the value of broader research into the financial and non-financial value of the rugged chalk to different sectors and the area as a whole. It was agreed that such work was beyond

	<p>the scope of the project. However, it was suggested that NNFS could potentially look into funding options. AT has previously spoken with NNFS' secretary about this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that this is an area where the Stakeholder Group (SG) can contribute. It was felt that this would be a good discussion to have in that space to try and capture the wider interest in the rugged chalk. • ACTION: AT to consider how best to facilitate SG input and discussion on the broader financial and non-financial value of the rugged chalk to different sectors and the local area as a whole.
<p>Management Task & Finish Group update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The informal consultation on the Code of Best Practice has been closed after a careful review of the responses received. Eastern IFCA, NE, NNFS and NIFA have published a joint press release about the Code. • The voluntary agreement is still in progress. The divers' protocol is the final aspect that needs agreement. It will be presented at the next Management T&F meeting where there will be an opportunity for fishing industry feedback on the protocol. • At the last meeting, the proposal for a byelaw was discussed and comms for an informal consultation are now being developed. The informal consultation will be aimed at fishing industry as this is the group who will be affected by the implementation of regulation. However, broader stakeholder discussion will be facilitated through the established channels of the Stakeholder Group.
<p>Highlights and exceptions – project progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potting assessment has been completed and was submitted to Natural England at the end of April. Timeframes for Natural England's advice on the assessment is July • There was a discussion at both T&F groups about refining the rugged chalk area. Since the precautionary area was defined, we now have additional data from the ROV and Cefas' multibeam work. • ACTION: Research & Development T&F Group to incorporate the additional data and update the map. • Although winter surveys were planned, these did not happen as there was no window of opportunity. • The timeline for the byelaw is now Dec. 2022.
<p>A0B</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH has taken over from ST as Project Manager. • Eastern IFCA have been asked to participate in MCNAG's annual conference. Attendance will be considered alongside other priorities.

Date of next meeting	15.15 on Monday 4 th July.
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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.	23/5/2022 Informal consultation comms are in development
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
23/5/2022	The amended Stakeholder Group ToRs and Code of Conduct are to go back to the Stakeholder Group for deliberation and agreement.	
23/5/22	Moving forward, tracker data will be cross-referenced against ROV footage to enable impacts to be assessed.	N/A