

Cromer Shoal MCZ Project Board Meeting Notes

Meeting Time/Date:	15 15 hrs 4th July 2022	Venue:	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees:	<p>Jennifer Love, Natural England (joined the meeting at 15.47 during the Management Update)</p> <p>Alice Tebb, Agents of Change</p> <p>Luke Godwin, Eastern IFCA</p> <p>John Davies, Fishing industry</p> <p>Inge Smith, Eastern IFCA member</p> <p>Julian Gregory, Eastern IFCA</p> <p>Samantha Hormbrey, Eastern IFCA</p> <p>Judith Stoutt, Eastern IFCA</p> <p>Ron Jessop, Eastern IFCA</p> <p>Kristina Gurova, Eastern IFCA</p>	Apologies:	<p>Jon Butler</p> <p>Jen Love will not be able to attend the first hour of the meeting</p>

Actions and updates from previous meetings

Actions		Owner	Update
2/2/2022	Eastern IFCA to share the potting assessment with Natural England following internal review.	JSt	<p>4/4/2022 Ongoing. Internal review is underway. Eastern IFCA are aiming to send the assessment to Natural England the week after Easter.</p> <p>23/5/22 Complete. Eastern IFCA have shared the potting assessment with Natural England and are awaiting feedback.</p>

			4/7/2022 No further update. Eastern IFCA are still 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. 4/7/2022 Update: A further meeting was held with the Evidence Review Group the purpose of which was to update on progress since the last meeting and to further explore evidence gathering in the context of various workstreams. It is anticipated that this group will meet on a regular basis.
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. 4/7/2022 Complete. SH has resumed dialogue with Blue to explore possible collaboration (see Research update).
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> <p>Ongoing. JSt and AT have had a meeting with MCS meeting with Alice and Sue Ranger to discuss developing a proposal. This still needs further elaboration.</p>
4/4/2022	AT to chase up journalist from Norfolk & Suffolk Life regarding article and update members.	AT	<p>Complete. AT checked in and has been sent a holding message – the piece is with the editors of Norfolk Suffolk life.</p> <p>4/7/2022 Update: AT has chased the magazine up on multiple occasions. The assumption is that the piece did not make it into the issue. AT will share it with PB members as a resource to potentially share using other channels.</p>
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	4/7/2022 Complete. AT to circulate around for everyone's review.
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	4/7/2022 Ongoing. SH has been progressing this workstream and looking to get input from NE.

4/7/22	KG/SH to follow up with Orsted about how fishermen can sign up to Fishing for Litter so that this information can be shared by IFCOs.	KG/SH	
4/7/22	KG to prepare a newsletter-style update within the next two weeks and to share with PB for review and input. The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in the update to provide reassurance to stakeholders.	KG/All	
4/7/22	AT to share details of the NNDC's Motion for the Ocean event in September with PB	AT	

Progress updates and new actions and decisions	
Research & Development Task & Finish Group Update	<p><u>2021 ROV video analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from BlueROV 2 footage captured in 2021 has been analysed by external consultants commissioned by Natural England who have now provided a final report. Eastern IFCA have met with them to discuss the report and are now waiting to hear back from Natural England about making it available on our website. The Wildlife Trusts have enquired about receiving a copy of the report. Further analysis, primarily looking at gear impacts is currently being conducted in-house. The Wildlife Trusts have now purchased their own BlueROV 2 and have enquired about the possibility to accompany us on a survey and learn best practice from our experience in deploying the ROV. <p><u>Trackers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the trackers are continuing to collect data, however a few have experienced issues. The team has been in contact with those fishermen who are experiencing issues with their trackers to resolve these as quickly as possible.

- We are continuing to liaise with University of St Andrews regarding automated data analysis that they have developed.

Economic value on and off the rugged chalk workstream

- We originally looked at recording catches using onboard camera systems. As the technology for this is still in development, it was decided the best approach would be regular bio sampling at sea aboard a commercial fishing boat.
- We are aiming for 2 trips/month during fishing season and have conducted 2 trips so far during June.

2022 surveys

- We are continuing with ROV surveys to refine our map of the rugged chalk and to identify gear impacts. Surveys were started back in May but most of the initial trips were cancelled due to poor weather or poor water clarity. Where surveys had to be cancelled, we took the opportunity to train new members of staff on how to deploy and fly the ROV.
- Three surveys were completed in June. On the last trip, the connection on the umbilical cable was damaged and we are using a spare cable while this is repaired. More surveys are taking place this week.

Adaptive gear trials

- We are planning to trial the effectiveness of using soft armouring on pots and attaching floats to drop lines for reducing gear impacts from the pots and ground ropes.
- We have ordered a set of pots to use in the trial, which were due to be delivered at the beginning of June. The order has been chased up, but we are still waiting for it to arrive
- We are also considering the use of accelerometers on the pots and lines to investigate the movements of the gear and liaising with the University of St. Andrews regarding the development of these.

Blue Marine Foundation discussions

- The Group has been in contact with Blue Marine Foundation (BMF). Morven Robertson attended last meeting (plus a follow up meeting) to discuss potential projects that we do not have the capacity to take on ourselves but that could potentially be taken on by BMF as a delivery partner.
- Some ideas include assisting with the georeferencing and analysis of the Seasearch image library/database, a study into the societal value of the Cromer crab fishery or potential for a study to understand natural chance in the MCZ and how this compares to change resultant from potting

	<p>activity (focusing on changes to the structure of exposed chalk features). BMF seem particularly interested in the latter. SH is arranging a follow up meeting to pursue these discussions further.</p>
<p>Management Task & Finish Group update</p>	<p><u>Code of Best Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Code of Best Practice has been launched officially and is endorsed by North Norfolk Fishermen’s Society and Norfolk Independent Fishermen’s Association whose members fish in rugged chalk areas of the MCZ. The Code includes a mechanism for reporting snagged or lost gear. • Through engagement, we have identified another group of fishermen who fish in the MCZ. We will be engaging to find out whether they fish in the rugged chalk areas with a view to encouraging them to sign up to the Code if that is the case. <p><u>Voluntary Partnership Agreement (reporting recovery and disposal of ALDFG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Voluntary Partnership Agreement aimed at facilitating effective communication between fishermen, divers and beach cleaners on reporting, recovery and disposal of ALDFG is still under development. • At our last meeting, we discussed the ‘divers’ protocol’ which has been sent to us by a group of divers as a proposal for how they intend to interact with and mark for recovery by fishermen any lost gear they come across during their dives. Rob Spray presented the protocol to the group for feedback, changes and agreement and although we had a productive discussion, we were missing fishing industry representation which was needed to answer some practical questions which arose (relating to the capabilities of local vessels, vessel and human safety, and how to ascertain that gear is actually lost) which could only be answered by a fisherman. • Recognising that fishing industry feedback and agreement on the divers’ protocol is crucial to the overall Voluntary Agreement and being mindful that this is the busiest time of the year for crab and lobster potters, we will be going forward with a different approach to getting feedback. We are putting together engagement materials summarising the proposals and highlighting the unanswered questions where industry input is required. We will then share these with fishermen and seek feedback through targeted dialogue with officers. • We are working to progress this workstream, however it has been slightly delayed due to competing priorities, most notably our informal consultation on the byelaw for crab and lobster potting. <p><u>Disposal of recovered ALDFG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH and KG had a meeting with Orsted a couple of weeks ago to find out more about the Fishing for Litter scheme they are working to set up as part of their Marine Debris Removal Campaign

	<p>(compensatory measures for Hornsea Three windfarm) and whether unidentifiable lost gear recovered under our agreement could be disposed of in the Fishing for Litter bins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orsted confirmed that this would be the case: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) As long as fishermen have signed up to take part in the Fishing for Litter scheme, and 2) The gear recovered cannot be traced back to its owner and truly constitutes marine debris • Bins have been installed at Grimsby, Boston, King’s Lynn, Cromer and East Runton and Orsted are actively engaging with fishermen to take part in the scheme (recognising that there are many fishermen who bring litter back to shore already and that this scheme could encourage others by providing dedicated bags for storing litter onboard vessels and reliable disposal options). • JD observed that there is some confusion among the fishing industry regarding this scheme. • ACTION: KG/SH to follow up with Orsted about how fishermen can sign up to Fishing for Litter so that this information can be shared by IFCOs. <p><u>Crab and Lobster Potting Byelaw</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have launched a district-wide scoping exercise on a crab and lobster potting byelaw to enable the continued delivery of ARM in the MCZ to ensure that potting activity does not hinder the conservation objectives of the site and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the crab and lobster fisheries across the district. • Being conscious that this is the busiest time of the year for crab and lobster potters, and based on industry feedback, we are taking a slightly different approach to this scoping exercise and launching it by organising a series of meetings with potting fishermen across the district. We will then follow these up with informal consultation via written communications (letters and questionnaires) and hold additional follow-up meetings over the coming months. • The intention is to have a lengthy engagement period. At this first stage, engagement is focused on the fishing industry whose activity will be regulated, to inform our impact assessment. We will then engage with wider stakeholders, in line with ARM, through the established channels of the Stakeholder Group.
Stakeholder Group update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT has not been able to arrange a meeting due to capacity constraints within MCS but has been working to update the meeting plan. To avoid conflict with other Groups and the busy surveying period, and to encourage industry attendance, AT is thinking of holding the meeting in September. • Recognising that this is some time away, AT is liaising with SH about arranging the face-to-face social before then.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was discussed that it would be beneficial to provide the Group with a comprehensive update on ongoing work to keep stakeholders informed and engaged on the progress being made. It was noted that some stakeholders have shared that they feel out of the loop due to the delay in organising a meeting. • ACTION: KG to prefer a newsletter-style update within the next two weeks and to share with PB for review and input. The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in the update to provide reassurance to stakeholders.
Highlights and exceptions – project progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing of note in terms of project progress that has not been covered in Research and Management Updates.
A0B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT brought to the attention of the group that the NNDC intends to organise an event similar to last year’s Green Bill event relating to COP26 which consisted of a series of events to talk about what’s happening in North Norfolk in relation to climate and environment. This year’s event will be around the NNDC’s Motion for the Ocean. The Council have asked AT to speak, however AT feels that it would be more interesting to hear from Eastern IFCA, NE and the stakeholders they have been working with on wider community initiatives. The event will be held virtually on Tuesday 6th September from 14.00 – 16.00. • ACTION: AT to share the details of the event with the PB for more info. • Eastern IFCA has been invited to participate in MCNAG’s annual conference. Although there were some initial concerns around the branding of the event, a revised agenda and structure has now been published which promotes inclusive and constructive discussion and the decision has been taken to attend. • NE had been included in the provisional agenda but had not been approached about attending. JL followed up with Rob Spray. NE had similar concerns to Eastern IFCA around branding but is encouraged that this has been revised and so will revisit the idea of recording an item on that basis.
Date of next meeting	15.15. on Tuesday 20th September

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