

Code of Best Practice

POTTING IN CROMER SHOAL CHALK BEDS MCZ

This Code of Best Practice seeks to build upon and promote existing best practice to mitigate the risks posed by lost and stored gear. The Code will be refined and broadened over time as we develop our understanding of what works and as new ideas emerge.

- 1** Pots will never be stored in the MCZ while not being used to actively fish.
- 2** Pots will be kept out of the rugged chalk if not regularly turned over (at least every 3-4 days) to minimize the risk of damage to gear and the rugged chalk of the MCZ.
- 3** During winter months and periods of bad weather pots will be kept away from the rugged chalk of the MCZ to minimize the risk of gear loss and damage to the chalk as a result of bad weather.
- 4** Fishermen will make every effort to retrieve or otherwise make secure (e.g. by moving to deeper water and away from the rugged chalk) any pots at sea prior to any forecasted storm event to prevent pots from becoming lost and to minimize any potential damage to the rugged chalk resulting from stormy weather.
- 5** If a fisherman is unavailable (e.g going on holiday) they will remove any gear from rugged chalk areas or make arrangements for their gear to be regularly turned over (at least every 3-4 days) by somebody else in their absence.
- 6** Fishermen will maintain all gear and avoid using old and damaged gear that is more likely to become lost.
- 7** If gear is old and unwanted, it will be disposed of safely and responsibly and never discarded at sea.
- 8** Fishermen will make every reasonable attempt to recover gear which has become snagged or lost as soon as possible.
- 9** If a fisherman is unable to recover gear which has become irretrievably snagged, missing or lost, they will notify Eastern IFCA as soon as practicable.
- 10** A notification to Eastern IFCA will be as detailed as possible and include such information as:
 - Name and PLN of vessel
 - Type and quantity of gear missing, lost or snagged
 - Date/time when the gear became missing, lost or snagged
 - Position
 - Measures taken to retrieve the gear