

Cromer Shoal MCZ Project Board Meeting Notes

Meeting Time/Date:	15 15 hrs 29 th November 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 Hormbrey, Eastern IFCA Judith Stoutt, Eastern IFCA Ron Jessop, Eastern IFCA Kristina Gurova, Eastern IFCA	Apologies:	Jon Butler, Eastern IFCA

New Actions Arising and Ongoing Actions			
Actions		Owner	Update
<i>New Actions Arising</i>			
29/11/2022	RJ and SH to engage with Bex and come back with recommendation on how to proceed with WT relationship.	RJ/SH	
29/11/2022	SH to chase up Blue Marine Foundation about the industry meeting to discuss	SH	

	proposals for the natural disturbance study.		
29/11/2022	All members to consider alternative communications channels available for promoting meetings and ARM work and reaching wider audiences.	All	
Ongoing Actions			
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	29/11/2022 Ongoing. SH has resumed this work and is aiming to have a draft complete for next week.

Completed Actions from Previous Meetings			
Actions		Owner	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	20/9/2022 Complete. 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. DECISION: To progress the societal value study as a partnership arrangement with MCS.
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	20/9/2022 Complete. SH just been speaking with Orsted. fishermen need to contact fisheries liaison officer Ady Woods to sign up. Orsted are putting together information materials

			about Fishing for Litter and will share with Eastern IFCA for circulation to fishing industry.
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	9/20/2022 Complete . The newsletter has been shared with the Stakeholder Group and made publicly available on Eastern IFCA's website.
4/7/22	AT to share details of the NNDC's Motion for the Ocean event in September with PB	AT	20/9/2022 Complete . The meeting notes conflated two different things – Motion for the Ocean and NNDC's Green Build Event. AT put together a pre-recorded presentation about what the MCZ is for Green Build. She is waiting to hear back on attendance and numbers.

Progress updates and new actions and decisions	
Research & Development Task & Finish Group Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROV surveys have now come to a close for this year due to deterioration in water quality and weather. • Bio-sampling surveys at sea have also drawn to a close over the winter period • Video footage from ROV dives following shanks of gear are currently being analysed in-house. • The ARM project and associated workstreams were presented at the IFCA Technical Advisory Group conference in October. • JL questioned what is being seen in terms of impacts. RJ explained that impacts were larger where chalk features are higher. A potential approach could be to assess those areas that are not overly sensitive to impacts and scope them out. • Natural England have provided further funding for video analysis. A tender document has been produced for an external consultant to analyse the habitat mapping videos. • IS enquired as to how many people were asked to tender. JL noted that it went to a fair list, asking if IS had any recommendations for consideration in future. IS mentioned Benthic Solutions, a survey company based in Norfolk. IS and JL to resume conversation offline.

- Cefas have provided familiarisation training for the Lobstercam system they have developed. There are still some teething issues with the system which Cefas need to rectify before we can use it in the field.
- There are ongoing discussions with Blue Marine Foundation about a planned project to study the impacts of natural impacts to the chalk compared to fishing impacts.
- JL noted that the potential Blue Marine Foundation study into natural disturbance is vital to moving things forward. We currently do not have any idea how significant potting damage is in the context of natural change and the proposed Blue study is the only way that that can be answered.
- The discussion reflected an agreement by Board members that there would be serious potential consequences if the natural disturbance study could not be implemented.
- JD noted that the proposal needs to be fleshed out and that further details are needed.
- The first step is for Blue to initiate discussion with industry. SH noted that this was under discussion but that she had not heard from Blue in a while.
- **ACTION: SH to chase up Blue Marine Foundation about the industry meeting to discuss proposals for the natural disturbance study.**

Potting Assessment

- JL provided an update with regards to NE's delays in providing advice on Eastern IFCA's potting assessment submitted in April 2022.
- The delay is linked to the advice needing to go through multiple levels of QA within NE. This project has generated a lot of internal interest within NE resulting in wider involvement. NE recognise that the letter being prepared is very important. The intention is for it to be useful and clear with respect to NE's position.
- In broad terms, the letter is supportive of ARM but focusses on the need for clearer timescales. Questions have been raised in relation to ARM and whether it is precautionary enough. We have reached a stage in the process where regulatory management needs to be progressed and delays to the byelaw process need to be understood.
- JSt noted that the delays to NE's letter have not hindered or held back Eastern IFCA's work and that ARM continues to be progressed in the site.
- IS raised a question as to whether the final Cefas multibeam data had been received. JL responded that it is expected imminently but noted that this is not the only data source for defining the rugged

	<p>chalk – multiple sources are available and being used to map and define the location of rugged chalk features.</p> <p>Wildlife Trust attendance at Research & Development Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was some discussion on the subject of Wildlife Trust (WT) attendance at Research & Development Group meetings. • JL briefed on discussions had with WT. The feeling within WT is that work is progressing too slowly. JL took the view that a lot of the concern would be alleviated through WT participation in the Research & Development Group. JL felt strongly about the benefit of involving WT in that Group, and considers the organisation could be a valuable partner and would be well placed to contribute to the potential Blue Marine Foundation study into natural disturbance. WT are interested in helping to drive the direction of research. • RJ acknowledged these points. If people are not aware of all the work going on then perceptions could be that it isn't being done. Research & Development Group is a science forum and WT are scientific minded. Having their input could be very useful. • It was discussed that the involvement of a partner like WT could add additional credibility to findings from a stakeholder perspective. • SH suggested a review of the comms strategy and how we communicate. A balance needs to be struck because we are a small team and producing communications can often take resource away from doing the work. • ACTION: RJ and SH to engage with Bex and come back with recommendation on how to proceed with WT relationship.
Management Task & Finish Group update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 of the informal consultation has finished. Phase 1 was an opportunity for industry to provide solutions and we are writing up the results of that. • Phase 2 kicks off at the in-person Stakeholder Group meeting on 6th of December 2022. Phase 2 will reflect a more traditional consultation with the full range of stakeholders. The consultation has been designed to offer multiple options for input and will provide both paper-based and online avenues for involvement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT questioned whether there would be an opportunity to discuss the outcome of Phase 1 during Phase 2, including briefing non-industry stakeholders on the key outcomes. LG confirmed that an outcome report would be made publicly available as is standard practice for any Eastern IFCA consultation and that an overview of industry suggestions would be provided at the Stakeholder Group meeting. • A byelaw will be taken to the Authority in March. • JL questioned how long the process takes (from making the byelaw at the Authority to Ministerial sign-off and implementation). LG explained that on the basis of previous byelaws, the process can take anywhere up to 2 years. It is hoped that this one could be passed through quicker due to its enabling nature. • IS noted that it is clear that the byelaw process is going to take a while and questioned whether there is any emergency procedure in place for something to be done in the interim. LG noted that there are emergency byelaw provisions but that the threshold for exercising those powers is for an urgent need that was not reasonably foreseen. This is not currently met. JL noted that this question was raised internally within NE and their fisheries specialists provided the same answer. • AT commented that community pressure has the potential to assist in speeding the process up. • LG briefed the Board on progress with the development of a voluntary partnership agreement to address lost and stored pots. A number of issues have arisen. There has been some difficulties linked to personal conflicts between stakeholders that have made it challenging to progress the agreement as initially envisioned. A bigger issue relates to the potential risks involved. First in relation to the risk of damage to the chalk and second to the health and safety of people. • Reporting and monitoring aspects are fine but risks emerge in relation to interaction with gears. Local divers have developed a protocol to agree when they can and should interact with gears but the matter is complex, particularly when seeking to define and agree definitions for live, abandoned, lost gear, etc. • We are looking at alternative solutions, namely at engaging with Ghost Fishing UK on the advice of NE dive team to explore options for their potential involvement.
Stakeholder Group (SG) update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since last PB meeting, the SG held an online meeting to respond to Eastern IFCA's newsletter. Initial feedback from stakeholders suggests that they found it useful. One individual has given negative feedback in relation to altering the language of questions sent in.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next meeting will be in-person at Northrepps Village Hall. 1 months' notice has been given, in line with requests from stakeholders. JD expressed some concern about the meeting only being advertised online. Many in industry would not realise the meeting is taking place. There was some discussion around possible print-based options for advertising meetings. JL had to step out at this point. ACTION: All members to consider alternative communications channels available for promoting meetings and ARM work and reaching wider audiences.
Evidence Review Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SH is still liaising with individual members of the group and is planning meetings around distinct workstreams and contributions.
Highlights and exceptions – project progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SH is coordinating the production of an interim report to provide a progress update on project developments since the potting assessment was submitted in April 2022.
A0B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
Date of next meeting	2nd of February 2023

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
20/9/2022	Progress the societal value study as a partnership arrangement with MCS.	