

CROMER SHOAL CHALK BED MCZ ADAPTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



Progress against the ARM plan



JULY 2024

MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023

Byelaw: Seek confirmation		The Marine Management Organisation have provided commentary on the byelaw in their role providing quality assurance. Consideration of this feedback has been delayed but it is anticipated that the byelaw will be re-submitted in July.
Permit conditions: Seek confirmation		Responses to the consultation on Phase 1 Permit Conditions (inshore vessel restriction and winter closure) were carefully considered and influenced refinement of the proposed permit conditions. Approval of the permit conditions by the Authority was delayed due to rules for publicity during the pre-election period.

Voluntary Code of Best Practice

Monitor		Monitoring is ongoing.
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COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Updated Engagement Strategy agreed at the June Project Board meeting is now available on our website!

Stakeholder Group will now be chaired by Eastern IFCA (previously MSC). If you would like to be involved please contact us.

NEXT MEETING:



WWF POT TAGGING TRIALS

Funding for the project has been secured and tags have been ordered. Applications will be shared shortly with the trial due to commence at the end of July.



RESEARCH PROGRESS

Natural Disturbance Study		Multibeam surveys were completed in May and ROV survey work is planned for July. The need for dive surveys is under review but they are tentatively arranged for September. The closed areas are being monitored and fishing industry appear to be complying with the closure. The deployment of marker buoys is delayed due to a number of challenges which are actively being addressed.
Mapping sensitive features		Analysis of 2023 habitat data is almost complete and will inform a review of the extent of rugged chalk features and peat and clay exposures later this year.
Mapping fishing activities		Whilst monitoring of tracker data is ongoing, uptake of trackers this year has so far been poor. Significant efforts have been made over the last couple of months to address this. The I-VMS Statutory Instrument has not yet been implemented and the project does not currently have access to I-VMS data.
Adaptive Gear Trials		A research project is in development with a view to starting trials in August. Proposed trials will test soft armoured pots and floats on drop lines.
Determining value of rugged chalk		The chalk value study, which seeks to determine the economic value of rugged chalk to local fishing stakeholders, is on hold pending internal review. The social value study has commenced and an MSc student completed field work in Cromer during June.

PRIORITIES

- Jul ● ROV Surveys
Launch Tagging trial
- Aug ● Adaptive Gear Trials
- Sep ● Multibeam (and dive) surveys
Confirmation of permit conditions

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