CROMER SHOAL CHALK BED MCZ
ADAPTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT
NEWSLETTER

Eastern IFCA

Progress against the ARM plan

OCTOBER 2024

On track	Scheduled	Delayed	Not started

MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023		
Byelaw: Seek confirmation		The MMO have provided further minor comments through the formal quality assurance process, and these are currently being considered by officers.
Permit conditions: Seek confirmation		Permit conditions were provisionally agreed at the 57th Eastern IFCA Meeting. Members will consider the proposed 'rugged chalk management area' at the 58th Eastern IFCA Meeting.
Voluntary Code of Best Practice		
Monitor		Monitoring is ongoing with evaluation and adaption planned overwinter.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder Group - Please contact Eastern IFCA and agree to the membership and privacy notice to receive an invite.

Evidence Sub Group - The agreed Terms of Reference is now available on our website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Stakeholder Group Meeting:

SAVE THE DATE!

Microsoft Teams
21st November 2024.

PRIORITIES

- **Oct** – Multibeam surveys
- **Nov** – Finalise adaptive gear trial proposal
  Potting knowledge sharing days
- **Dec** – Agree rugged chalk management area

CONTACT US

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Or speak to one of our IFCOs!

RESEARCH PROGRESS		
Natural Disturbance Study		The Project Board agreed to remove the dive survey component from the study on the basis that the proposed sample size was determined to be too small and the data collected from the multibeam surveys being sufficient. An updated proposal is being reviewed externally to ensure validity of the methods. Non-compliant activity was identified in the voluntary closed areas with a relatively small quantity of gear detected in August, but this was resolved with immediate engagement with industry. A report has been drafted, considering the implications on the incursions on the validity of the study and will be published externally.
Mapping sensitive features		Mapping sensitive features is on track with analysis of the 2023 habitat data completed and being used to review and inform an updated extent for chalk rugged and peat and clay exposures. A finalised area will define a management area, which will be taken to the 58th Authority meeting in December for consideration.
Mapping fishing activities		Mapping fishing activities is delayed primarily as a consequence of the limited uptake and use of voluntary vessel trackers (in lieu of the national implementation of I-VMS requirements) and has been compounded by limitations of available national (MMO) data sets (including their limited spatial resolution). The Project Board has created an action to investigate other means of gathering fishing activity data.
Adaptive Gear Trials		Initial trials were completed over the summer months to inform and refine the proposal. The project has been delayed but discussions with an interested funder have begun with the aim of securing funding to assist with the data analysis aspect of the study.
Determining value of rugged chalk		The chalk value study has been delayed significantly and is on hold and under review due to lack of resource. It is anticipated that we will not achieve the relevant milestones set out in the ARM plan. Although beneficial it is not considered an essential part of ARM. The social value study fieldwork was completed during the summer and the results are awaited.