

CROMER SHOAL CHALK BED MCZ ADAPTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



Progress against the ARM plan

JANUARY 2025

On track	Scheduled	Delayed	Not started
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MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023

Byelaw	The byelaw is continuing through the formal Quality Assurance process with the Marine Management Organisation prior to submission to the Secretary of State for confirmation.
Permit conditions	Phase 1 permit conditions have been agreed. A revised rugged chalk management area was agreed at the 58th Eastern IFCA Meeting. Work is underway to develop proposals for Phase 2 permit conditions which will seek to reduce risk to the MCZ further and these will be the subject of consultation during 2025.

Voluntary Code of Best Practice

Monitoring	Monitoring is ongoing with evaluation and adaption underway.
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COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The project board meeting notes are available on our [Cromer MCZ webpage](#) under the [meeting notes](#) heading.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Stakeholder Group Meeting:
Northrepps Village Hall
20th February 2025.
Please RSVP if you would like to attend



Voluntary Pot Tagging Initiative!

Following a successful trial Eastern IFCA have secured funding for a voluntary pot tagging initiative in the Cromer MCZ. Tags will be issued in the coming weeks to all those who responded.



RESEARCH PROGRESS

Natural Disturbance Study

Whilst initially delayed the study is now ongoing. Focus overwinter is on data processing, analysis and reporting and securing funding for next year. Multibeam surveys are planned for March.

Mapping sensitive features

The final rugged chalk extent has been determined and is available to read on the Cromer MCZ webpage under the habitat mapping heading. The extent of peat and clay exposures was also determined and consideration will be given to management of these features within the 2025 interim report on ARM.

Mapping fishing activities

The milestone to determine baseline fishing activity has not been reached. The priority for Q1 is to address data gaps and identify solutions to move forward.

Adaptive Gear Trials

Whilst this study has been delayed, we are on track to commence trials this summer. Focus for Q1 is to finalise planning and secure funding.

Determining value of rugged chalk

The social value study has been completed and is currently being reviewed. The economic value study has been on hold due to capacity issues. However, it's intended this study will be picked up again this year. Although the milestone to determine value rugged chalk has not been achieved, these projects have the aim of informing us of the impacts any applied management measures will have rather than addressing uncertainties around the level of impact, delays in completing the study will not delay the development of management thus are considered lower priority than other workstreams.

UPCOMING PRIORITIES

- Interim report
- Phase 2 permit conditions
- Fishing Activity Mapping
- Data processing and analysis (NDS)
- Planning for Adaptive Gear Trials

CONTACT US



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Or speak to one of our IFCOs!