CROMER SHOAL CHALK BED MCZ
ADAPTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT
NEWSLETTER

Eastern IFCA

Progress against the ARM plan

JANUARY 2025

On track	Scheduled	Delayed	Not started

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.

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

SAVE THE DATE!

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.

WWF

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

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Or speak to one of our IFCOs!