

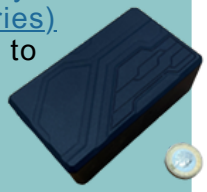
# CROMER SHOAL CHALK BED MCZ ADAPTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



## INTERIM MEASURES CONFIRMED!

### Fisheries positional data

All beach launched vessels fishing within the MCZ using pots must provide location information every 3 mins. Under [Byelaw 11\(Development of shellfish fisheries\)](#). The Authority will provide trackers to transmit this data free of charge. Please contact us if you think you will need a tracker.



### Mandatory closure of the Natural Disturbance Study areas

The closed areas are now mandatory under the [Temporary Closure of Shellfish Fisheries Byelaw](#) For more information please see the [interim measures page](#).

## APRIL 2025

### POT TAG INITIATIVE!

Under the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023 pot tagging within the MCZ will be required.

The Authority are offering tags free of charge to be used voluntarily before the byelaw comes into effect. Once the byelaw is in effect, tags will need to be paid for.





If you think you will require tags please contact us.


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		The focus at the moment is on the proposed interim measures, which includes issuing the trackers and mandating the voluntary closures. The Phase 2 permit conditions have been postponed but discussions with Natural England are ongoing with a view to progressing them in due course.

### Voluntary Code of Best Practice

Monitoring		Monitoring is ongoing with evaluation and adaption being assessed as part of the interim report which is due to be published end of June.
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## RESEARCH PROGRESS

Natural Disturbance Study (NDS)

Whilst initially delayed the study is now ongoing. Multibeam and side scan surveys were completed in March and April. Analysis of data collected last year is ongoing and the next ROV survey is planned for June. No funding has been secured for the 25/26 financial year but suitable funding sources are being sought.

Mapping sensitive features

The final rugged chalk extent review has been published and is available on our [habitat mapping webpage](#). The extent of peat and clay exposures has also been reviewed and risk to this feature is now being reviewed.

Mapping fishing activities

The milestone for determining the baseline fishing activity within the MCZ has not been reached for a number of factors including delays to national implementation of Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems, low uptake of Eastern IFCA trackers (voluntary measure) and the limited spatial resolution of national datasets. Interim measures are now in place to address the data gap and I-VMS is anticipated to come into effect in May 2025.

Adaptive Gear Trials

As a consequence of failing to secure external funding for this project, alternative methods are being considered for the project. It has been agreed to remove the rope modification from the study as a feasibility study showed floats to be ineffective in raising ropes of the seabed. Soft armouring on pots is being prioritised.

Determining value of rugged chalk

Studies looking into the social value of the fishery have been completed by Newcastle University and we are awaiting final results to be shared. A study to determine the economic value of crab caught within rugged chalk has been on hold due to a lack of resource. It is intended that the study will commence in the near future and a method is in development via the research task and finish group.