

CROMER SHOAL CHALK BED MCZ

ADAPTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT

NEWSLETTER



MAY 2026

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

Guidance on management has been published to summarise existing management in the area.



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STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

The February Stakeholder Group Meeting was held in-person at Northrepps Village Hall.



Stakeholder Group Meeting Notes



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| On track | Scheduled | Delayed | Not started |
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MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023

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| Byelaw | Confirmation of the byelaw is delayed due to unexpected additional commentary from the MMO (via the formal Quality Assurance process) and limited capacity to consider feedback but is prioritised for resubmission within the next quarter (mid-June). |
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| Permit conditions | The need for a permit condition review is informed by quarterly consideration of risk. Risk remains within acceptable levels at this time and as such no review is currently required. |
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Voluntary Code of Best Practice

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| Monitoring | Monitoring of the Code of Best Practice is ongoing. Methods of reporting lost gear are currently being reviewed and options considered to increase reporting rates as informed by the February Stakeholder Group Meeting. |
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RESEARCH PROGRESS

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| Natural Disturbance Study (NDS) | | The closed area marker buoys have been re-deployed for the season and ongoing monitoring has shown high compliance so far. Multibeam and side scan surveys were completed in February. Contracts for the analysis of multibeam and ROV data collected so far have been underway with outputs currently being reviewed before they are published on our website. A summary of the independent review will also be published on the website. |
| Mapping sensitive features | | This workstream is complete. The final rugged chalk extent is available on our habitat mapping webpage . |
| Mapping fishing activities | | Whilst challenges remain in terms of accessing IVMS data, trackers are being used by the fleet to supplement this data set. Data from these units will be used alongside MMO catch data to quantify effort levels for 2025 and inform the latest iteration of the rates of damage assessment. |
| Adaptive Gear Trials | | Whilst this project is on hold, gear impact surveys are being planned for summer to build on our understanding of the rate at which potting gear impacts chalk features by quantifying in situ interactions. |
| Determining value of rugged chalk | | The chalk value study has now restarted following development of a method. A questionnaire has been circulated to fishermen but responses have so far been limited. Officers are liaising with industry members to increase uptake and encourage participation. Recent planned sampling surveys have been cancelled due to strong winds but will recommence once the weather allows. Newcastle University have completed a study investigating the social value of the fishery but final outputs have not yet been published. |