

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ

Project Board

Meeting 28



Date: 06 May 2026

Time: 1530hrs

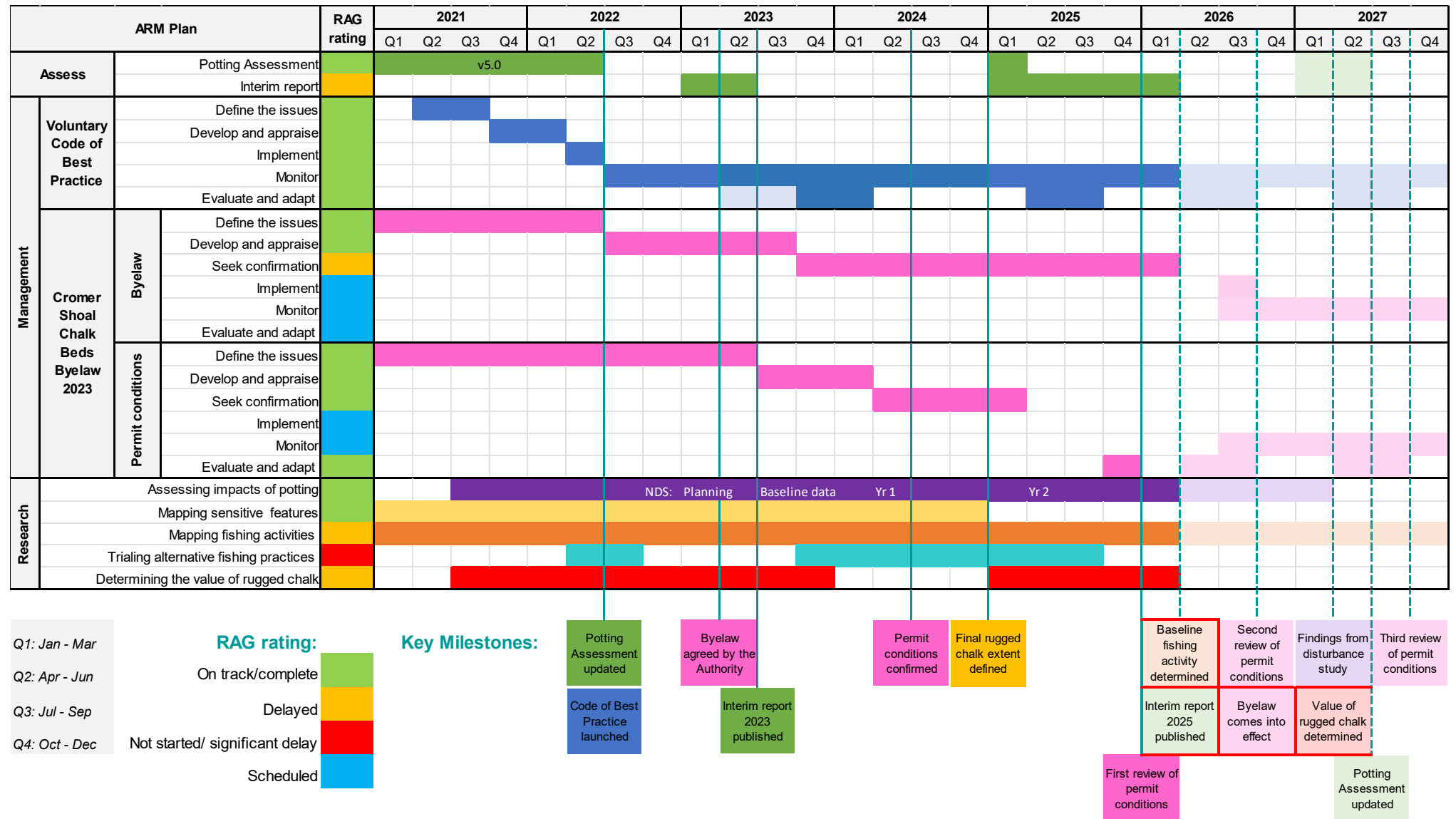
Venue: Online via Teams video conferencing

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Notes of last meeting
3. Actions and Decisions
4. Progress against ARM plan (SH)
5. Risk review
 - a. Project Risks (SH)
 - b. MCZ Risks (SH)
6. ARM budgets and Funding (SH)
7. Research Task & Finish Group update (RWJ)
8. Management Task & Finish Group update (LG)
9. Stakeholder Group update (EC)
10. Evidence subgroup (LG)
11. Communications update (EC)
12. Date of next meeting (SH)
13. AOB

Item 4: Progress against ARM plan

Verbal update. Please see progress tracker below.



Item 5a: Project Risk Assessment Review (December 2025)

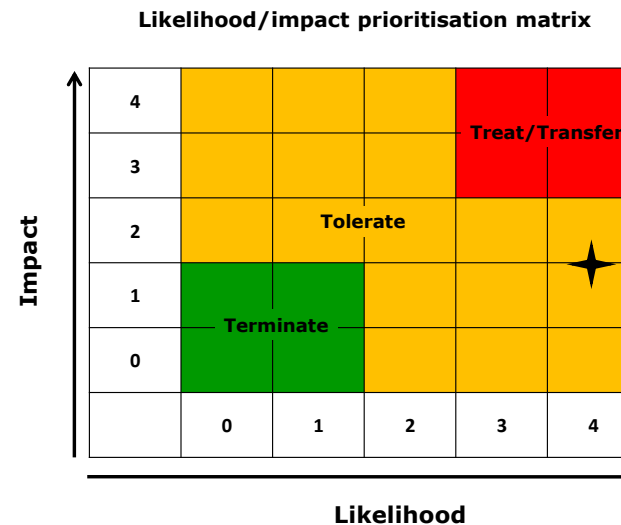
Verbal update. Please see risk review below.

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ Adaptive Risk Management Project: Risk Management

This risk matrix sets out risks to completion of the project's aims, considering the severity of the impact and the likelihood of such occurring, and the mitigation in place or needed to address the risk as necessary.

Impact and likelihood is ranked on an arbitrary scale from 0 (low) to 4 (high) and plotted on figure 1 (below) to identify a level of associated risk for each factor identified. One of four actions are assigned to each risk factor dependant on the level of risk as per the table below.

Treat	Take positive action to mitigate risk
Tolerate	Acknowledge and actively monitor risk
Terminate	Risk no longer considered to be material to Eastern IFCA business
Transfer	Risk is out with Eastern IFCA's ability to treat and is transferred to higher level.



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Project Risk Assessment Review (May 2025)

Identified Risk	Risk Score (last review)	Action taken	Current risk	Further action required to mitigate risk
Non-compliance with voluntary and mandatory management measures.	3	Buoys were removed overwinter but have now been redeployed in response to improved weather and fishing activity starting to pick back up. No incursions have detected over the last period.	6 Severity: high (3) - no change Likelihood: possible (2) – increased as a result of chalk sediment plume created by Hornsea Three cable works (specifically dredging of subtidal chalk) causing frustration amongst industry members around management of the site which could lead to lack of support of the project.	Develop comms to share with industry regarding the sediment plume to allay any concerns regarding potential impacts on the study and rugged chalk and ensure clarity regarding the situation.
The Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023 is not confirmed or is significantly delayed	4	No action required.	4 Severity: very high (4) – no change Likelihood: unlikely (1) – no change	No further action required
Failure to implement management measures which are proportionate to the risk posed and adequately precautionary	8	No action required.	8 Severity: very high (4) – no change Likelihood: possible (2) – no change	No further action required
Failure to evidence effectiveness of management measures	4	No action required.	4 Severity: very high (4) – no change Likelihood: unlikely (1) – no change	No further action required
Lack of stakeholder buy-in for management measures	6	No action required.	6 Severity: high (3) - no change Likelihood: possible (2) – no change to overall score however frustration caused by sediment plume (see above) amongst	Develop comms to share with industry regarding the sediment plume to allay concerns and

				stakeholders could result in reduced buy in for management measures.	ensure clarity regarding the situation.
Change in Natural England advice (i.e. that a precautionary approach is required)	3	No action required.	3	Severity: high (3) - no change Likelihood: unlikely (1) – no change	No further action required
Inability to secure funding for the project	4	Whilst the FASS application has been successful for the 25/26 financial period, seeking funding for the next financial period remains a priority.	4	Severity: very high (4) - no change Likelihood: unlikely (1) – no change	Continue identifying other sources of funding.
Inability to deliver research projects (particularly practical components including vessel breakdown, research equipment / contractors unavailable, poor weather, lack of internal resources)	6	Continued careful planning and project management.	6	Severity: high (3) - no change Likelihood: possible (2) – no change	Continued careful planning and project management.
Vessel positional data not available to monitor fishing activities and Natural Disturbance Study Closed areas.	5	Continued collection on positional data via trackers where IVMS is not available.	5	Severity: high (3) –no change Likelihood: possible (2) – no change	No further action required

Item 5b: MCZ Risk Review

Currently under review. Verbal update.

Item 6: ARM Budgets and Funding

Report by: Samantha Hormbrey, SMSO

Purpose: To provide an update on project costs and secured funding for ARM related workstreams to inform members of the financial restraints and requirements and to ensure transparency.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that members:

- **Note** the contents of the report

Report

This report provides an update on the financial projections for each ARM workstream:

Fishing Activity Mapping

No external funding has been identified for this project for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Interim measures were agreed at the 59th Authority Meeting (12 March 2025) to mandate the provision of vessel positional data from vessels fishing in the MCZ using Byelaw 11 (Development of Shellfish Fisheries). To facilitate compliance with interim measures the Authority have provided trackers to fishers who require them. The total cost of this to the Authority so far has been £1770.54 (excluding VAT) for the current financial year. The national requirement for IVMS has now come into force and so further subscription renewals will be reviewed on a case by case basis depending on the availability of IVMS data for individual fishers. This will be affected by the ongoing dispute between the MMO and one of the IVMS suppliers.

Tagging Project

Specific project funding for this project ceased at the end of 2024. No additional funding has been secured for the 2025/2026 financial period.

Adaptive Gear Trials

This project has been put on hold due to resource constraints and competing higher priority projects.

Natural Disturbance Study

The Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FASS) claim for funding secured for the 2024/2025 financial period is currently being processed by the MMO.

A breakdown of estimated costs for the project for the current financial period is provided in Table 1. Officers have been successful in securing £12,000 of funding from the MBIEG¹ for multibeam data analysis and £95,000 from the FASS² for this project for the 25/26 financial period. Costs approved under the FASS fund are presented in Table 2.

¹ Marine Biodiversity Impact Evidence Group

² Fisheries and Seafood Scheme

Table 1: Breakdown of initial estimated costs for the 2025/2026 financial period for the Natural Disturbance Study.

Project component	Estimated cost (Ex VAT)
Multibeam surveys	£33,000.00
ROV data analysis	£16,000.00
Multibeam data analysis	£12,000.00
Marker buoys	£1,000.00
Accommodation	£1,000.00
Vessel fuel	£4,500.00
Travel	£2,500.00
Officer time	£60,000.00
Total	£130,000.00

Table 2: Natural Disturbance Study costs approved for FASS funding for 2025/2026.

Item	Approved funded cost
Travel Costs (Car)	£2,382.30
Staff Costs	£39,975.60
Multibeam Surveys	£40,111.20
Multibeam Data Analysis	£16,440.00
ROV Data Analysis	£17,496.00
Stakeholder Meeting Catering	£330.00
Accommodation (8 nights)	£800.00
Buoy Materials - Buffs (12)	£452.87
Buoy Materials - pea shingle (2 tonnes)	£119.98
Buoy Materials - Rope floats (30)	£15.00
Buoy Materials - Floating Line (220m)	£40.80
Vessel Fuel Costs	<i>Not eligible</i>
Self-Service Marine Licence for buoys	<i>Not eligible</i>
Total Approved Cost	£118,163.75
Matched Fund (25%)	£ 29,540.94
FASS Funded	£ 88,622.81

Rates of damage assessment

Natural England have secured £7,200 of funding for the analysis of existing video footage of in situ gears to support the rates of damage assessment.