



Natural Disturbance Study: Interim Analysis

Interim analysis of acoustic data collected is now available along with non technical summary. The purpose of the analysis was to:

- Examine initial datasets to understand their limitations
- Identify any changes needed for methods and analysis
- Determine how far they support the aims of the study
- Provide early indications of change.

 [READ THE INTERIM ANALYSIS REPORT HERE](#)

Natural Disturbance Study: Independent Review

An independent review has been conducted to strengthens confidence in the Natural Disturbance Study. While the review confirmed the study is fit for purpose, the review identified opportunities to enhance the approach, with recommendations now under consideration.

 [APEM REPORT](#)

 [EIFCA SUMMARY](#)

On trackScheduledDelayedNot started					MANAGEMENT PROGRESS
Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Byelaw 2023					
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.			
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.			
Voluntary Code of Best Practice					
Monitoring		Monitoring of the Code of Best Practice is ongoing. Methods of reporting lost gear are currently being reviewed.			

RESEARCH PROGRESS

Natural Disturbance Study (NDS)		An independent review of the study and a report detailing the interim analysis of acoustic data are now available online with non-technical summaries. The first set of ROV surveys have been completed for this year and compliance with closed areas remains high.
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 on vessels without iVMS. Officers are currently processing and analysing positional data and MMO catch data for 2025 to update fishing activity assessments.
Adaptive Gear Trials		This project is on hold so potting impact surveys can be prioritised.
Assessing potting impacts		Potting gear impact surveys are planned to better understand the rate at which potting gear impacts chalk features during the setting and hauling phases of fishing by quantifying in situ interactions using GoPro's.
Determining value of rugged chalk		The chalk value study has now restarted and sampling is ongoing when conditions are favourable. A questionnaire has been circulated to fishermen to support this project and officers are liaising with industry members to increase uptake and encourage participation. Newcastle University have completed a study investigating the social value of the fishery but final outputs have not yet been published.