



King's Lynn Advisory Group

The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership

1900-2100 Thursday 2nd November 2017

King's Lynn Conservancy Board, Common Staithe Quay, King's Lynn, PE30 1LL

- Welcomes/introductions

- Apologies

- Previous minutes/matters arising

1. Chair and Secretary: positions open

2. Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas

- Development of fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas
- Community Voice Method project update
- Marine Protection update

3. Marine Management Organisation: introduction to the KLJAG

4. Natural England

- English Coastal Path
- Conservation Advice Package
- Offshore windfarms
- Wildfowling consents

5. Coastal Site Manager's updates

6. WNNMP updates

- a. Communications, Promotion and Outreach
- b. Recreational Disturbance: dog walking
- c. Research and education: the broader values of Marine Protected Areas
- d. Relevant Authority support

7. Date of the next meeting(s)

8. AOB

Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas: Eastern IFCA

Development of fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast

Eastern IFCA is progressing its assessment of the brown shrimp fishery in the Wash and remains in the process of developing management measures for this fishery. This work has presented considerable difficulties, primarily because of the low level of evidence available to inform the assessment, however remains a high priority for the marine science team. Eastern IFCA officers are continuing to maintain close dialogue with Natural England as the assessment is progressed; further engagement with stakeholders will be undertaken in the development of revised management measures.

Cromer Shoal Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

A first assessment has been drafted for potting on all subfeatures of the Cromer Shoal MCZ. It is ready to be sent to Natural England, pending internal review. If any management will be required, all stakeholders will be included in consultation.

Community Voice Method (CVM) Project Update

The Marine Conservation Society have produced the final CVM report. This is due to be published on the Eastern IFCA website shortly. The next stage in the process will be producing an Action Plan, which will communicate how we will address the 253 actions and issues highlighted in the CVM process and will detail how Eastern IFCA intend to embed the lessons learnt into everyday work.

Student Eleanor Kowalska O'Neil is still working on her project on what young sea users think of Marine Protected Areas, if anyone is interested in participating at the last minute (it would still be great to hear from young fishers, recreational anglers, RNLI, NGOs, people involved in tourism, etc.) please contact Sandra Cowper from Eastern IFCA at sandracowper@eastern-ifca.gov.uk or by telephone at 01553 775321.

Marine Protection Update

Wash Fishery Order Licence Fees

Eastern IFCA commits a significant resource to undertake research, management and enforcement to enable a cockle fishery within The Wash, one of the most heavily designated sites in the UK. Eastern IFCA currently recoups circa 7% of the cost to the public purse in licence fees. Because of austerity and as a reflection of the use of public money to effectively subsidise this fishery, Eastern IFCA is increasing licence fees to achieve 50% cost recovery by 2020. To achieve this, the increase would be from £330 (current licence fee) to £1375. Impacts on the industry are considered in an Impact Assessment and indicate that impacts on the industry will be small in the context of average earnings from the annual cockle fishery. Eastern IFCA undertook a formal consultation regarding the increase in licence fees, which closed on the 18th October 2017 and the results will be used to refine the associated impact assessment.

The current impact assessment and rationale for the increase are available on the Eastern IFCA website (<http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/website-info.pdf> and <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Impact-Assessment.pdf>).

Wash Fishery Order Review – Regulations, fisheries management plan and policies

Eastern IFCA is reviewing the current regulations, management plan and policies associated with the WFO. The intention is to update these to reflect contemporary practices and provide more clarity to

fishers. Further dialogue with the industry will be undertaken to inform this work but consultation is pending further dialogue with Natural England regarding the associated Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Crab and Lobster Measures

Eastern IFCA has been assessing the crab and lobster fisheries within the district for several years. These assessments have indicated that both fisheries are operating at or above maximum sustainable yield. In addition, the industry has raised concerns regarding the level of effort, the small size of crabs and the need for escape gaps in pots. The Authority has agreed that management is required to protect stock sustainability in the long-term and Eastern IFCA will be informally seeking the views of the industry to inform what measures will be most effective. This will also include discussions regarding the outcomes of the Cromer Shoal MCZ assessment which is currently underway.

Permitting schemes (response to concerns raised regarding enabling young fishers to enter fisheries)

The management of fisheries often require an ability to manage the levels of effort and permit schemes (and licences) are an effective means of doing this. However, where the number of permits are limited this can often make it difficult for new fishers to enter a fishery, particularly when considering track record.

Eastern IFCA seeks to balance the needs of all within the fishery and looks to support different business models. One particularly difficult aspect of this is balancing the protection of current businesses against the ability for new/young fishers to join. This has been a key consideration with regards to whelk and shrimp management. Whelk permits are not currently limited but could be if needed. Similarly, initial proposals for shrimp management included an unlimited permit system where effort was controlled through closures during the year in accordance with a 'threshold model'. We also understand that there are parts of the industry in favour of limiting the number of permits and that this is based on track record. All views will be considered when developing future management measures.

Natural England update

Coast Path - Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge

We have a route to propose for 80% of the length. We are still in discussions with a few landowners about the preferred route and the impact on protected areas. We can't therefore give a publication date but it is unlikely to be for a year.

Coast Path - Sutton Bridge to Skegness

Proposals for the Sutton Bridge to Skegness stretch are now planned to be published by the end of December 2017. As expected, the proposed route will follow the line of the outer seabank for almost the entire length as the assessment for sensitive features has identified suitable measures that can be incorporated into the trail to avoid any significant disturbance to wildlife.

Conservation Advice

The conservation advice packages for The Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS were updated following an invitation to comment. The formal packages were published in September and are now available online at the following page: <http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Offshore windfarms

We have undertaken a site visit with the MMO and DONG Energy on 20th September. During this site visit it was agreed the Unit 18 Terrington Marshes would be changed to unfavourable condition due to both Lincs and RB cable installation causing damage greater than predicted. In addition to that it was identified that immediate remedial works are required May-July next year to address the pooled water adjacent to the sea defence at RB cable corridor. This will involve infilling the pools with locally sourced sediment from reclaimed land. There is an issue with macro algae that needs to be addressed under the Water Frame Work directive.

We are working with MMO, DONG Energy on the cable reburial works in The Wash using a mass flow excavator. We believe that this is near conclusion and the works are likely to happen soon. We are supportive of this approach as it will hopefully avoid the need for rock armouring in the future.

We have had two further operation and maintenance marine licence requests for the life time of the RB projects that we are currently considering. Please note that this doesn't included the saltmarsh area, but does include the cockle beds

NOTES of the KINGS LYNN & WEST NORFOLK JOINT ADVISORY GROUP Meeting

held at The Conservancy Board Harbour office Common Staithe King's Lynn

Thursday 2nd November 2017 @ 7.00pm

Present:

Peter Welberry Smith	The Wash
Pat Jary	Harbour Master
Peter Catling	The Wildfowlers
Dinah Smith	The Wash & Fens
Georgina Roberts	Natural England
Fred Cooke	Birder – The Wash
Joan Evans	Lay member
Julian Gregory	EIFCA
Alan Evans	Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC)
Sam Lew	The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership

Apologies:

John Hiskett	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Nicola Chapman	Marine Management Organisation
Paul Richards	True's Yard

Previous Minutes/Matters Arising.

Minutes agreed-no matters arising.

Introduction:

Sam welcomed everyone. He spoke of Roger Ward (Ex Chair) and Janet Blundell (Ex Secretary) and their resignations. He talked of their invaluable contribution to KLJAG.

The chair and secretary positions were open. Sam felt as Project Manager that he could not stand as suggested.

Peter Welberry Smith was proposed by PC and seconded by JE for the Chair.

No secretary was proposed. PWS thanked AE for doing the temporary job role but stressed the need for an immediate replacement.

MANAGING FISHERIES IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:

JULIAN GREGORY:

JG gave an update on the complex issues in the development of Fisheries Management in Marine Protected Areas.

The Amber Risk area in The Wash is behind schedule for many reasons. It will be necessary to bring in some 'Closed Areas' which will impact on industry.

There is an ongoing dialogue with NE concerning conservation and industry in The Wash. Conservation comes first by law.

The Red Risk area, inherited from Northridge is outside The Wash.

EIFCA was dealing with the Amber risk first as it was more important to fishing in The Wash.

In fishing issues it has not been a good year for cockles. After two bumper years, yields have been low this year.

Shrimp yields have also been lower.

Anecdotal Observations include: (JG)

Divers have not seen the water so clear; possibly less nutrients in the water. The North sea is colder this year.

Sea bass have been moving out and cod moving north.

IFCA regulates the fishing of cockles and mussels in The Wash and is moving towards fees of 50% cost recovery.

PJ What is the backlash on licence fees?

JG The increase in fishing fees is not liked but difficult to argue against regarding catches and revenues.

North Norfolk Coast: MCZ (Marine Conservation Zone)

The chalk bed (reef) is a primary marine conservation zone. IFCA is currently working on assessment and impact on fishing. No answers yet.

Community Voice Project.

This involved a film and workshops bringing stakeholders together. This was considered very successful and valuable and the identity of common themes was powerful. (link on Website WNNMP).

There is a final report with 253 issues. Not all have been addressed yet.

People at meetings endorsed the value of the CVP and considered it to be really positive.

JG. The Marine Conservation Society has established a spin off project, Agents of Change. The project aims to establish the broader community values of MCZs

NATURAL ENGLAND

GR Update on THE COASTAL PATH from Hunstanton to Skegness. 80% of The Path from Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge has been decided with discussions ongoing with a few landowners.

SL There has been nothing from Sandringham as yet.

GR. NE are in discussion with Sandringham. Full publication is unlikely for a year or so.

Proposals for Sutton Bridge to Skegness stretch will be in place by dec.17th 2017.

PJ There would be problems regarding the South Quay, i.e. working ships again. With 'Health and Safety' unable to give right of access to the public.

GR. NE will feed back answers to queries.

A Citizens Advice Package for the coastal path will be published in Dec 2017.

Offshore Windfarms:

There was a site visit in Sept. The marshes at Terrington have been changed to unfavourable because of cable OWF burial condition with remedial work required. NE was working with the MMO re: the re burying of the cables in The Wash.

PWS asked about practicalities-bringing in earth, sand, etc.

PWS – can NE confirm there will be no spreading room on the marsh please

Yes, we will be restricting access to saltmarsh across the Wash. This is on grounds of it being unsuitable for access (water, mud, creeks etc). If areas had been suitable for access then we could have separately excluded access on conservation grounds. The restriction does not have any effect on current users e.g. wildfowlers.

FC inquired as to cattle restrictions.

There aren't any specific restrictions about people and cattle. The National Farmers' Union produces advisory signs and the coast path has its own signage. Dogs will need to be on a short lead in the vicinity of livestock.

PJ. talked on burial depth of cables and the varying geological conditions, eg. sand, gravel, rock, and that rock armour has or will be used. Burial of the cable has not been successful. "Wind Farms have been built. Now they want to sell it " A ship will be used to lay the cables. The MMO will be deciding. The main problems are way out in the Wash. Rock armour might be buried.

PWS asked what action would be taken over any damage done to the marshes.

Discussion followed.

NE will be carefully monitoring this.

WILDFOWLING CONSENTS:

GR said there was no news at present.

PC gave up-to-date information from Wildfowlers. A Consultation Document has been produced with some disagreement with NE. Instead of simplification there was more bureaucracy.

Regulators Code: The WF feel it unfair being regulated when many others are not.

SL suggested a way that the WF could liaise with NE using the information already gathered to manage recreational pressures.

PC replied it would not be an easy ride. "Fighting at National Level"

FC stated that he had always found the WF excellent to deal with.

THE WASH AND NORTH NORFOLK MARINE PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

SL displayed slides of the WNNMP website with detailed information on five work areas.

Protecting nature – Relevant Authority support

SL Annual Management Plan is under review and will provide detail on RA duties and responsibilities to the site

Protecting culture – Advisory Group support

SL Future meetings to provide a summary of other AG key discussion points and issues

Communications and Outreach

Appreciation for the website was expressed for its accessibility and information.

SL spoke on Wash Week. It was a 'mad rush' with ~50 different events.

There might be themed events for 2018 with time to plan.

General discussion on litter...any ideas to SL.

JE mentioned the plastic problem in the oceans.

Tourism and Recreational Pressure

SL A dog walking workshop was held recently at Holkham and collectively identified major dog walking issues shared across the WNNC.

The Dog Walking Workshop was said to be very productive (!) work to be liaised with Dog Behavioural Specialist.

Research and Education

A research project funded by NERC Valuing Nature Placement scheme on the broader values and ecosystem services provided by saltmarshes will be undertaken between Nov 2017 and March 2018

Date of next meetings

1st week of March, July and Nov

AOB

Time of meetings 6.00-8.00pm (1800-2000).

Janet has all the hard minutes from 2004 onwards.

DS Gate missing and gate to carpark locked. (Visitors Centre)

PWS East lighthouse trees were too overgrown around the carpark, discouraged visitors from leaving there vehicles

Meeting closed 8.50pm.

ADDENDUM:

GR Jonathan Clarke has provided further information on the Coastal Path in response to queries raised by KLJAG meeting.

FC said that cattle had not come up as an issue previously and had only been mentioned when the cattle had been in a separate field away from the path.

PWS Asked could NE confirm that there will be no spreading room on the path near the saltmarsh. There were concerns about Health & Safety and breeding birds.

GR Yes we will be restricting access to saltmarsh across The Wash. This is because it is unsuitable for access. (Water, mud, creeks etc).

If areas had been suitable for access then we could have separately excluded access on conservation grounds. The restriction does not have any effect on current users .eg. Wildfowlers.

DS Will there be restrictions going near cattle?

GR There are not any specific restrictions about people and cattle.

The NFU (National Farmers Union) produces advisory signs and the Coast Path has its own signage. Dogs will need to be on a short lead near livestock.

Has the route by Sandringham been resolved? SL answered see above.