



North Norfolk Advisory Group

The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership

1900-2100 Monday 19th March 2018
Sack House, Staithe Street, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1AU

- Welcomes/introductions

- Apologies

- Previous minutes/matters arising

1. WNNMP

- Outreach: Wild Seas Week (formally Wash Week): 3rd - 12th of August 2018
- Recreational disturbance
- Research: the benefits of The Wash saltmarshes
- Annual Management Plan 2018/19

2. Eastern-IFCA: Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas

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

3. Marine Management Organisation

4. Natural England

- New development impact mitigation (HRA levy)
- Conservation Advice Package
- English Coastal Path
- Offshore windfarms
- Wildfowling

5. Coastal Site Manager's updates

6. Sedimentation Working Group

7. Marine Conservation Society "Agents of Change": working with the Cromer Marine Conservation Zone

8. Date of the next meeting

9. AOB

Eastern IFCA update

Marine science and the development of management in marine protected areas

MSC Accreditation of The Wash Shrimp Fishery

The Wash shrimp fishery remains in the process of meeting the requirements to gain Marine Stewardship Council accreditation – industry-led “sustainable fisheries” initiative. The accreditation auditors are set to visit in May. The impacts of the fishery on protected habitats and species within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS are considered in the accreditation process. Eastern IFCA is working with the accreditation group in the development and delivery of appropriate management of this fishery.

Cromer Shoal MCZ

Eastern IFCA have drafted an assessment of the impacts of potting fisheries on features of the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone. This work is ongoing; we are currently considering whether additional fishery measures are required within that site to protect sensitive habitats. If new management is proposed, it will be introduced following engagement with fishery stakeholders as well as public consultation.

Assessing the impact of our intertidal activities

Eastern IFCA have conducted a “Habitats Regulations Assessment” of our own intertidal activities, including our research and enforcement work, to ensure the activities we undertake do not cause excessive damage or disturbance to the site’s features.

The Study of The Wash Embayment Environment and Productivity (SWEEP Project)

Eastern IFCA are working with King’s Lynn Conservancy Board to service our “data buoy” – a monitoring station in the central Wash – results help ascertain food availability (chlorophyll indicator) and water quality in The Wash. We have also obtained a new spot sonde (portable water quality sensor) which will be used for regular water testing during monthly shellfish sample collection (environmental health monitoring).

Marine protection

Seed mussel relaying fishery

The Authority has approved a seed mussel relaying fishery from certain mussel beds in The Wash– subject to Natural England advice on the Habitats Regulations Assessment. This will be the first fishery on the “public” mussel beds for several years. The mussel bed extent has increased beyond the SAC conservation objective target of 500 ha for the first time ever this year. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the fishery is proposed at 1,500 tonnes, including a 150-tonne TAC available only to hand working, from a total stock of nearly 16,000 tonnes. The TAC has been set with the intention of the stocks supporting a further fishery in 2019.

Marine Protected Area byelaw 2016

Eastern IFCA’s Marine Protected Area Byelaw came into effect in February 2018 – this renews protection for intertidal seagrass beds, subtidal *Sabellaria* (ross worm) reef and subtidal stony reef within The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC, in the same areas initially protected in 2014. Eastern IFCA remains committed to reviewing these restricted areas to ensure that all closures are still appropriate for purpose. The review will

be conducted in conjunction with other work to ensure The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC habitats are protected from fishing impacts (including a focus on the shrimp fishery).

Crab and lobster management measures

Eastern IFCA are starting pre-consultation regarding crab and lobster fishery sustainability measures, with a full public consultation to follow in due course.

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning on the North Norfolk and East Coast

Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) have carried out tests in the wake of the deaths of two dogs on Norfolk (Cley) and Suffolk (Felixstowe) beaches in December 2017/January 2018. Symptoms indicated paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) was the cause of death. Tests found high concentrations of PSP toxins in dead starfish, shore crabs and fish that had been washed ashore and eaten by the dogs. To assess any risk to public health, a programme of sampling of commercially-targeted fish and shellfish (including crabs, whelks and shrimps) has been set up. Results have shown either extremely low levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins (well below thresholds for human consumption) or no toxins at all. Further tests on starfish samples found extremely high levels of toxins. It is thought that the contaminated animals were washed up on beaches during winter storms and are likely to have now been washed back into the sea. It is believed it is unlikely that starfish with elevated levels of PSP toxins pose any health risk to people handling them but, as a precaution, people should refrain from handling any starfish found on the beach.

Bivalve shellfish (e.g. cockles and mussels) within designated shellfish areas (e.g. The Wash) are monitored routinely on a monthly basis for shellfish toxins and *E. coli* bacteria. This monitoring in The Wash has not revealed any issues with cockles or mussels. Owners of pets who become ill after consuming items on a beach are asked to report the matter to the District or Borough Council for the area where the incident occurred.

Cefas has produced further advice to pet owners and vets, available at: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/paralytic-shellfish-poisoning-information-vets-pet-owners/>

Community Voice Method

During the CVM project stakeholders were asked what they most valued about their local coast and sea, what issues they thought should be addressed and what actions they felt EIFCA should carry out. This data has subsequently been analysed and actions outside our remit and duplicates were removed, leaving 194 actions. The analysis demonstrated that 168 of 194 actions are already in progress or are completed in some way. This indicates that although Eastern IFCA carry out a lot of the work that stakeholders value, it has not necessarily been communicated effectively. Therefore, it has been proposed that the focus of communication and engagement this year will be to communicate how we have addressed or have active workstreams relating to the actions highlighted through the CVM project.

Additionally, regarding North Norfolk, we're really pleased to be working with Agents of Change staff on Cromer Shoal MCZ communications, which recently has included a press release for the Norfolk Coast Guardian and providing leaflets for Hilary's tour of local Parish Councils and other groups where she will be talking to local people about the amazing marine environment on their doorstep.

Minutes 19th March 2018

Attendees	Apologies
Kevin Thatcher – NNAG Chair Sam Lew – WNNMP Project Manager Sarah Henderson – Holkham Estate Angie Fitch-Tillett - NNDC Hilary Cox – Agents of Change Cyril Southerland – Fisherman & Common Rights holder Geoff Needham - Common rights holder Judith Stoutt - Eastern IRCA Jon Butler - Eastern IFCA Richard Brazier - Fisherman Nicky King - Fisherman Peter Connor - Common rights Chris Cotton – Common rights holder Brian Everett – Common rights holder Peter Terrington – Local resident and sailor Jonathan Webster – Mussel fisherman Willie Weston - Fisherman John Ebbage - Natural England Jonathan Webster – Mussel fisherman Stephen Bocking – Common rights holder Peter Bickle – Ex-fisherman Mark Randell – Mussel fisherman Henry Randell - Mussel fisherman John Hall – Bait digger Victoria Egan – National Trust Marie Strong – NCC councillor Mike Strong – Local resident	Guy Warren (Wells TC) George Baldock (NWT) Nicky Chapman MMO

Matters Arising

Titchwell Seed Mussel Fishery

BE – No value in placing conservation measures at Titchwell

CS – In 2016 fishermen removed mussels before damaged by storms but some were left. IFCA approached in September/October the following year but permission not granted until October, by which time it was too late and as a result the scorps are now bare.

JS – Explained that an assessment is necessary prior to IFCA giving authorisation. Recent advice is stricter which results in more delays. IFCA shares frustration with mussel fishermen.

CS – asked if delays can be avoided in future

JE – Keen to avoid future problems and asked to speak to those affected after the meeting so problems can be avoided in the future

Conservation Advice Package

BE – Concerned that the Conservation Advice Package supersedes Regulation 33 or is it just advice? Or does Regulation 33 still stand?

JS – Regulation 33 part of Habitats Regulation, 1994 which was updated in 2010 and 2017. NE consulted extensively with the group and held a number of workshops. All the information is on line <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/southern-north-sea-marine-area-index-map-and-site-packages>

SL – Confirmed discussions had taken place and outlined the extensive consultation process

BE – Disagreed as was missing minutes from the spring 2017 meeting

1. WNNMP

- Outreach: Wild Seas Week 3- 12 August 2018

Memorandum of Agreement from 2018 onwards

- WNNMP – The Partnership
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- Continuous Memorandum of Understanding

Six categories of events this year:

Marine Nature and Culture: events celebrating the balance between protecting marine nature and culture: events celebrating saltmarsh are especially welcome.

Litter Free Coast and Sea: A fantastic opportunity has arisen! [The Litter Free Coast and Sea](#) campaign in Dorset, Devon and Somerset is coming to Norfolk and Lincolnshire. Using this well-developed brand we can start to coordinate region wide litter campaigns. Coastal litter picks using the [Marine Conservation Society Beach Watch strategy](#) can be used to raise awareness for both the need for improved waste management and the fantastic work many organisations and clubs are already do to help. There are also opportunities and funding to develop other litter projects

Wash wildfowling organised a litter pick which also raised awareness of wildfowling.

PT – Marine Conservation Society organise beach cleans around the UK

AF – check website for local events

GN – How do bags of waste get disposed of?

SL – Responsibility of organiser to dispose of collected rubbish but Terracycle will recycle sorted items of rubbish

KT – Litter was discussed at recent Core Management meeting. There is increased awareness and more funding available

WW – There should be more bins

SL – Not just about removing rubbish as recycling important

JE – Raised the question of paper casing for non- toxic shoot and whether large estates would sponsor research

KT – Explained background to why different casings used and that research is already being undertaken

SL – Surfers Against Sewage will provide free bins and mentioned national and local campaigns such as 2 Minute Beach Cleans, The Last Straw and Refill Norfolk (Hunstanton)

Seafood Sanctuary: events celebrating the historic seafood industry and the traditional and sustainable sourcing of wild marine species

Share with Care: events to promote best practise for recreational activities along the coast and how the public can participate in coastal conservation

Coast-Folk: community and individual interest events celebrating the local passion for marine nature and culture

- **Recreational Disturbance**

Dog Walking Workshop held in October 2017 at Holkham. Issues were identified, and a meaningful campaign strategy can be based on the information collated. There have been successful campaigns in other coastal communities such as Devon Loves Dogs. Staffing for these projects has been via the Habitats and Monitoring Mitigation Fund (£50 levy on new houses). Funding is available from BCKLWN but although NNDC is collecting the levy it is currently not distributed.

Hull University working on issues of recreational disturbance.

AF – Will speak to Head of Planning at NNDC to find out where the money is

SL – To write up report from workshop

- **Research: the benefits of The Wash saltmarshes**

Sat Tech and Hull University working on a project looking at how the saltmarsh is used and what it means to local people.

2. Eastern-IFCA: Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas

Judith Stoutt circulated an E-IFCA update with the agenda. Items discussed below:

- **Community Voice Method project update**

A total of 194 actions identified of which 168 already in progress or completed in some way. This indicates that although Eastern IFCA carry out a lot of the work that stakeholders value, it has not necessarily been communicated effectively. Will address this in 2018.

Pleased to be working with Agents of Change staff on Cromer Shoal MCZ communications, which recently has included a press release for the Norfolk Coast Guardian and providing leaflets for Hilary's tour of local Parish Councils and other groups.

- **Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning**

Following deaths of two dogs Cefas tests indicated paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) was the cause. High concentrations of PSP toxins were found in dead starfish, shore crabs and fish that had been washed ashore and eaten by the dogs. A programme of sampling of commercially-targeted fish and shellfish (including crabs, whelks and shrimps) has been set up to assess risk to public health. Results have shown either extremely low levels PSP toxins (well below thresholds for human consumption) or no toxins at all. As a precaution, people should refrain from handling any starfish found on the beach.

Bivalve shellfish (e.g. cockles and mussels) within designated shellfish areas such as The Wash are monitored routinely on a monthly basis for shellfish toxins and E. coli bacteria. This monitoring in The Wash has not revealed any issues with cockles or mussels. Owners of pets who become ill after consuming items on a beach are asked to report the matter to the District or Borough Council for the area where the incident occurred.

Further advice to pet owners and vets, available at: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/paralytic-shellfish-poisoning-information-vets-pet-owners/>

WW – asked for an update on Bass. JS advised that up to date information is in the MMO website <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-2018-bass-fishing-published>

CC – asked if common rights would be affected

KT asked if JS could report back with a definitive answer.

3. Marine Management Organisation

MMO unable to attend but have they do wish to participate in future meetings.

4. Natural England

- **New development impact mitigation (HRA) levy**

In December 2017, NE met with King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council to discuss strategic mitigation against recreational disturbance across the Norfolk Coastline, based on the Suffolk RAMS model.

The Suffolk RAMS identifies 'zones of influence', within which residents of new housing are likely to regularly visit for recreation. Where residential development falls within these zones, the Suffolk RAMS specify requirements for developer contributions, via a per house tariff, to an agreed and costed scheme of mitigation measures which have been developed to mitigate impacts to specific coastal designated sites. Attendees of the meeting agreed that a strategic approach was needed.

The councils have decided to continue this discussion Norfolk wide, through the Norfolk Strategic Framework. The Norfolk Strategic Framework (NSF) is comprised of all planning authorities in Norfolk and deals with all aspects of planning under 'the duty to cooperate'.

NE hope to attend a NSF meeting to discuss a county wide approach and are expecting an invitation from Alan Gomm who is responsible the GI and open space.

- **Conservation Advice Package**

No update on Conservation Advice Package but JE offered to take any questions back to colleagues at the end of the meeting.

- **English Coast Path**

The Weybourne to Hunstanton Coastal Access report will be published during March and available to view at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-weybourne-to-hunstanton>.

NE welcome comments during the 8 week period following publication. Comments to be received by Wednesday 16th May.

Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge – NE are still working with owners and occupiers to finalise the proposals for the coast path and hope to publish them towards the end of spring 2019.

JE – confirmed that most of saltmarsh excluded from spreading room.

- **Offshore windfarms**

NE have been consulted and currently reviews information and have concerns regarding Water Framework Directive assessment. There are on-going discussions and a further saltmarsh survey is needed.

NE have on-going concerns in a number of areas and currently do not have sufficient information to make a decision.

PT – No mention of sediment movement.

JE – Happy to take that point back

NK – Raised issue of cables that are active but have not been buried. This is a condition of operation and asked why they are getting away with it.

SL – MMO have a statutory duty to carry out enforcement

- **Wildfowling**

A NNAG sub group has been formed to discuss wildfowling issues along the North Norfolk Coast and met in December 2017. The main area of concern is visiting wildfowling as they do not follow local traditions. A Code of Conduct will be written for visiting wildfowling to follow.

NE area having discussions with NCC regarding the sale of common rights.

KT – Will consult over Code of Conduct as need to protect the wildfowling tradition which is being eroded by Kent Wildfowling.

JE – NE support wildfowling locally and need to address legal issues but it is helpful to demonstrate other avenues have been pursued first.

5. Coastal Site Manager's Updates

- **National Trust**
- Working with Brancaster and Blakeney to remove unused boats
- Blakeney Rangers starting contracts earlier and holding a Meet the Ranger session. All welcome.
- John Sizer leaving in April. Leaving do on 18th April 14.00 – 16.30

- **Holkham**
- Possible delay on opening visitor centre
- Large numbers of Muntjac being killed by dogs

6. Sediment Working Group

At the last meeting the issues of increased sand and what was causing it was raised. A review was carried out in 2014 following the tidal surge which considered the process to be natural but this is now deemed inconclusive. Need to consider all the available evidence, PT collating literature.

SL has met with UEA and Exo Environmental and has made an expression of interest for a research bid.

PT – There is a good baseline from 2010 but need to find out where the material is coming from

AF – NNDC, UEA and Southampton University have done work on scope modelling and sediment transfer

7. Marine Conservation Society 'Agents of Change'

Now six months into the project and another 12 months left. Agents of Change want to put accurate information about Cromer Shoal Bed MCA into wider domain and involve all of the community, not just fishermen and highlight the area as a working asset.

8. Date of Next Meeting

3rd week of July. Exact date TBC

9. Any Other Business

BE – Would like a copy of the July minutes