



Boston Advisory Group Meeting: Agenda

1900-2100, Thursday 20th July 2017

Boston Witham Sailing Club, 13 Witham Bank West, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8PU

- Welcomes/introductions

- Apologies

- Matters arising

1. Natural England updates

- a. Conservation Advice Package
- b. English Coastal Path
- c. New designations
- d. Windfarms cable routes
- e. Redshank results
- f. Wildfowling consents

2. Environment Agency updates

- a. Boston Barrier
- b. Wrangle Sea Banks Capital Works Programme

3. Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas (E-IFCA)

1. Development of fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas
 - a. The Wash & North Norfolk coast
2. The Wash cockle fishery
3. Community Voice Method project update
4. Eastern IFCA Marine Protection update

4. Coastal Site Manager's updates

5. RAF Holbeach

6. European Marine Site updates

- a. Communications, Promotion and Outreach
- b. Tourism and Recreational Disturbance
- c. Relevant Authority Support

7. AOB

8. Date of next meeting

Natural England update summary

Updated Conservation Advice packages

Invitation to comment closed on 23rd of June. Comments will be reviewed and where appropriate updates will be made to the draft Conservation Advice packages which include;

- The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC
- The Wash SPA
- North Norfolk Coast SAC
- North Norfolk Coast SPA
- Gibraltar Point SPA
- Inner Dowsing Race Bank North Ridge SCI
- Haisborough Hammond & Winterton SCI
- Orfordness Shingle Street SAC
- Alde Ore SPA
- Alde Ore SAC

The updates will be published in September 2017 alongside a new draft package for Cromer MCZ.

English Coastal Path

There is little new to report to the group for the path, as we are still at the stage of putting together a detailed route to be submitted (delayed now until Autumn 2017) for Secretary of State approval. The work to complete the proposed route is currently on hold until a decision can be reached for the section (Friskney to Gibraltar Point) where assessment for the protected site has raised the most concerns. Once this has been made we will then contact the affected landowners and others with interests.

New Designations

Formal consultation on the [Greater Wash pSPA](#) closed on 17th of January. We have since considered and responded to all consultation responses which we have summarised in a report to Defra. This report will accompany our final recommendations to Defra which we aim to submit this summer for consideration by the Secretary of State for Environment.

Redshank Survey

NE staff, with help from local volunteers, successfully surveyed all four chosen sites (three times each in April/May) for signs of breeding redshank and associated habitat characteristics. This in addition to further sites surveyed by RSPB mean that coverage this year was probably the best it has ever been. Results are being collated and analysed at the moment and will be available later in the summer

Wildfowling consents

The guidance document '*Natural England's approach to assessing and responding to wildfowling notices on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and European sites*' is currently being reviewed.

It's in part being informed by PhD research which found that in Poole Harbour at least, the current level of wildfowling is so low compared to other recreational activities that it (as well as disturbance

in general) is not predicted to be affecting numbers of wintering waders that can be supported by the site. Discussions are ongoing as to how much this conclusion can be applied more widely and to wildfowl as well as waders.

Since the new guidance won't be ready in time for the renewals that are currently due, those affected have been/will be granted one-year extensions under the same terms as the existing consents. These are therefore likely to be used to pilot the new guidelines when they are ready next year.

Eastern-IFCA update summary

1. Management of Fishing Activities in European Sites

Progress to date: measures in place to protect MPAs (The Wash cluster MPAs)

Activities related to implementing management measures

- All feature-fishing interactions have been assessed and are currently undergoing a review process.

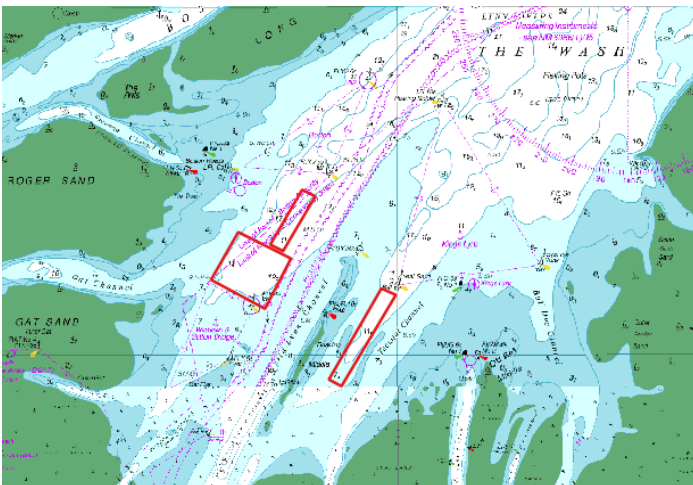
Shrimp management measures (shrimp trawling interactions with subtidal mud and subtidal mixed sediment):

Assessment conclusions: Cannot rule out no adverse effect. Therefore, mitigation is required and will be applied via:

- Spatial closures (to protect most sensitive seabed areas)
- Effort management (via a new shrimp fishery permitting scheme).

The detail of these measures is currently being developed. Management of effort needs to occur outside the closures otherwise displacement could lead to increased efforts in this area. A full consultation will be undertaken before any fishery restrictions are implemented.

We are also committed to considering technical innovation as part of future management measures in the shrimp fishery. We cannot rely on gear improvements alone to mitigate impacts at this stage but trials of new gear are being developed with the fishing industry (European funding has been secured for this) and could be a part of the solution in the future. Eastern IFCA is currently mapping areas of seabed habitat within The Wash, aiming to find suitable areas for the shrimp gear trials. Three potentially suitable areas have been located, subject to "ground truthing" to determine seabed type.



This involved the use of drop-down video cameras and grab sampling aboard the research vessel 'Three Counties'.

2. Cockle Fishery

The Wash cockle fishery was opened on 20 June 2017. Following a bumper year in 2016, stock levels are once again very high and likely to support a significant fishery.

Key management measures set for the 2017/18 fishery include:

- Hand-worked fishing only
- Closed areas introduced to protect juvenile cockles and sensitive areas for seals during the most sensitive pupping/breeding season.
- A quota of 7,016 tonnes. The daily quota is 3 tonnes per vessel (an increase from the usual 2 tonne daily quota to allow full exploitation of the overall quota). This is informed by annual stock surveys.
- A requirement for fishers to provide weekly catch returns, which will be used to calculate remaining quota and ensure amount fished does not surpass the set limits.
- Management measures also set out that fishers may use a sea-anchor to slow vessels down and facilitate prop washing (preparing the ground for hand-raking cockles), however are not permitted to use any anchor that affixes a vessel to the seabed to do so.
- Fishers are provided with a code of best practice, and 'skippers packs' which set out all the key management measures. These are available on Eastern IFCA's website.

3. Community Voice Method Project Update

This was a joint project between:

- Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA) and;
- The Marine Conservation Society (MCS), with assistance from;
- The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP).

The project sought to identify what people value about the coast and sea, what issues exist and what local marine managers (Eastern IFCA) could potentially do to resolve issues. It aimed to gather a broad spectrum of views, including those from people less used to participating in community meetings or consultation events.

A series of filmed interviews with local stakeholders and related workshops were held in EIFCA's district during 2016 (further background details about the CVM project can be found on the EIFCA's website: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/>).

We look forward to sharing the final report with you in August.

The initial raw data from the CVM workshops was considered by EIFCA when developing their 2017/18 Strategic Assessment, (an annual priority-setting exercise) available at: http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Strategic_Assessment_2017_Final.pdf.

Following the publication of the CVM report, EIFCA aims to develop an action plan to address the **253 actions** identified by the CVM workshops, although we are very much applying the lessons we've learned through the CVM process to our ongoing working practices.

Student CVM project extension

EIFCA have been approached by a student from Plymouth University, Eleanor Kowalska O'Neil, who would like to do an extension of our CVM project focusing on 'the next generation'.

Eleanor's project is at an early stage and details haven't been confirmed – but it will seek to capture—*what young sea users think of Marine Protected Areas.*

If you can think of any 'young folk' who might like to get involved please let Sandra Cowper at EIFCA know via email: sandracowper@eastern-ifca.gov.uk or by Tel: 01553 775321, it would be great to hear from e.g. young fishers, recreational anglers, RNLI, NGO's, people involved in the tourism sector etc, anyone from the 'next generation' with a marine interest who would be willing to take part in a filmed interview.

4. Eastern IFCA Marine Protection team

A healthy relationship with local stakeholders and a thorough understanding of local fisheries is fundamental to successful fisheries management. The role of warranted Eastern IFCA officers (Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Officers or IFCOs) includes liaison with local fishermen; inspection of licences, catches and fishing gear; and the communication and enforcement of a suite of local, national and European regulations relating to fisheries and marine conservation.

In May 2017, Eastern IFCA updated its approach to Marine Protection, moving away from a single "Area Officer" for different parts of the district towards establishing two "Area teams". Previously IFCO Jason Byrne was responsible for Lincolnshire/The Wash, and IFCO Ady Woods for north and east Norfolk. Now, additional Marine Protection officers will be seen on the ground, gaining a closer insight to fishers and fisheries in their areas. IFCOs will work in one of two dedicated teams, covering:

- the West area (Lincolnshire coast, the Wash and West Norfolk) and
- the East area (Wells, East Norfolk and Suffolk Coast).

IFCOs are happy to explain their role further or answer specific fisheries/conservation questions, so please do interact with them on the coast or at our King's Lynn or Lowestoft offices, via (01553) 775321.

Minutes: Thursday 22 July 2017, 7pm

Boston Witham Sailing Club, 13 Witham Bank West, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8PU

Attendees:

Project Manager: Sam Lew
Chairman: Bryan Bowles
LWT: Tammy Smalley
RSPB: John Badley
Natural England: Catherine Collop
EIFCA: Tom Bridges
Stephen Thompson

NFU: Andrew Roughton

Boston Borough Council: Peter Udy

Wildfowlers: Tim Bee

Peter Clayton

Tom Holland

Boston Belle: Rodney Bowles

Secretary: Rachel Marriott

Apologies:

RAF Holbeach: Christa Lawrence

Boston Witham Sailing Club: Ceri Morgan

Simon Reinhold

LWT: Kev Wilson

LWT: Dave Miller

The Environment Agency

Welcome, apologies, any matters arising

The chair welcomed the group and there were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

1.0 Natural England updates

Catherine Collop has taken over from Anna Millard.

1.1 Conservation advice packages update

Invitation to comment closed on 23rd June 2017. Comments will be reviewed and where appropriate updates will be made to the draft Conservation advice packages which will include;

- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC
- The Wash SPA
- North Norfolk Coast SAC
- North Norfolk Coast SPA
- Gibraltar Point SPA
- Inner Dowsing Race Bank North Ridge SCI
- Haisborough Hammond & Winterton SCI
- Orfordness Shingle Street SAC
- Alde Ore SPA
- Alde Ore SAC

The updates will be published in September 2017 alongside a new draft package for Cromer MCZ. There will be a six monthly update cycle.

1.2 English coastal footpath

There is little new to report to the group to the path, as we are still at the stage of putting together a detailed route to be submitted (delayed now until autumn 2017) for Secretary of State approval. The work to complete the proposed route is currently on hold until a decision can be reached for the section (Friskney to Gibraltar Point) where assessment for the protected site has raised the most concerns. Once this has been made we will then contact the affected landowners and others with interests.

Bryan commented that the refurbishment of the sea wall at Wrangle will mean a diversion of the path. Natural England will not be encouraging access to the marshland due to the health and safety aspects

of visitors being unaware of the tides, and also to protect the wildlife. There will not be 'spreading room' as there is along other stretches of the path, but equally they will not be erecting fences either. Wildfowling will still be able to have access to the marsh. Peter commented that there is no wildlife left at RAF Holbeach due to visitors causing damage. Dog walkers are a major problem and have ruined some areas of the marsh. The wildfowling hope that Natural England's 'code of conduct' signs will be better than previous signs and that there will be the opportunity for local input. The question was raised – how is it going to be policed? Visitors don't seem to understand the implications of disturbance. Sam mentioned that he is organising a workshop with the local council to address the issues of dog walking – to be covered later in the meeting.

1.3 New designations

Formal consultation on the Greater Wash pSPA closed on 17th January 2017. We have since considered and responded to all consultation responses which we have summarised in a report to Defra. This report will accompany our final recommendations to Defra which we aim to submit this summer for consideration by the Secretary of State for Environment.

There is currently no timeline from the Secretary of State. The designation increases the protection for a wider area of the sea – it is a maritime designation.

1.4 Windfarm cable routes

There has been an issue with burying one of the joining pits for Race Bank – so far it has failed. A hydraulic pumping system is going to be trialled. The cable can't support its own weight in the running silt. The unwanted alternative is for it to run along the surface. It is about 2.5 miles out. Lou Burton said the Natural England response was that cabling through the Wash was a 'bad idea' and that the British Geological Association had told them that it wouldn't work.

1.5 Redshank survey

NE staff, with help from local volunteers, successfully surveyed all four chosen sites (three times each in April/May) for signs of breeding redshank and associated habitat characteristics. This in addition to further sites surveyed by the RSPB mean that coverage for this year is probably the best it has ever been. Results are being collated and analysed at the moment and will be available later in the summer.

The redshank survey showed fairly similar numbers to the 2011 survey which is encouraging. John Badley commented that some research scientists are carrying out research on the effects cattle have on redshanks and suggesting mitigation measures. John will check if anyone in the LWT is involved in the project. Trampling by the cattle is an issue. The cattle are also eating the flowering plants (sea wormwood) that the scarce pug moth lay their eggs on. The cattle are then accidentally eating the moth larvae, which the redshank feed on. Suggested mitigation methods include altering grazing densities and the moving of troughs and cattle. Graziers have been invited to input into this research. The rise in sea level could also contribute to the redshanks population decline. The high tides in May washed out some of the redshanks breeding areas. This could become a bigger problem in the future.

1.6 Wildfowling consents

The guidance document 'Natural England's approach to assessing and responding to wildfowling notices on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and European sites' is currently being reviewed.

It's in part being informed by PhD research which found that in Poole Harbour at least, the current level of wildfowling is so low compared to other recreational activities that it (as well as disturbance in general) is not predicted to be affecting numbers of wintering waders that can be supported by the site. Discussions are ongoing as to how much this conclusion can be applied more widely and to wildfowl as well as waders.

Since the new guidance won't be ready in time for the renewals that are currently due, those affected have/will be granted one year extensions under the same terms as the existing consents. There are therefore likely to be used to pilot the new guidelines when they are ready next year.

Catherine would like to work with the wildfowlers in the Wash and would like to make it clear that she will not be changing things for the sake of change. Catherine will approach each club individually. Generally, wildfowling doesn't have a negative impact on the winter waders. There are investigating whether or not the theory researched at Poole Harbour can be applied to the Wash as the mudflats are much more extensive in the Wash. They are investigating the principles of the mechanisms that are causing the problems.

There is also the possibility that a researcher from Bournemouth might use the Wash as a secondary site to study wildfowler disturbance issues. The wildfowlers would like it to be known that they are keen to support a research project like this.

2.0 Environment Agency update

A representative from the Environment Agency was unable to attend this meeting.

2.1 Boston Barrier update

The Boston Barrier plans are with the Secretary of State and the results are due in August 2017.

2.2 Wrangle sea banks capital works programme

The work has just gone out to tender and the results of this are due back in August. Where is the soil coming from? Soil from a hill on Bryan's land has been offered, as long as the topsoil is retained, and the second defence could be used in order to reinstate the first defence. It is important to retain the ability to graze the marsh.

3.0 Managing fisheries in MPAs (EIFCA update)

3.1 Management of fishing activities in European sites

Progress to date: measures in place to protect MPAs (the Wash Cluster MPAs):

- Activities related to implementing management measures
 - All feature-fishing interactions have been assessed and are currently undergoing a review process
- Shrimp management measures (shrimp trawling interactions with subtidal mud and subtidal mixed sediment)

Assessment conclusions: cannot rule out no adverse effect, therefore, mitigation is required and will be applied via:

- Spatial closures (to protect the most sensitive seabed areas)
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The detail of these measures is currently being developed. Management of effort needs to occur outside the closures otherwise displacement could lead to increased efforts in this area. A full consultation will be undertaken before any fishery restrictions are implemented.

We are also committed to considering technical innovation as part of future management measures in the shrimp fishery. We cannot rely on gear improvements alone to mitigate impacts at the stage but trials of new gear are being developed with the fishing industry (European funding has been secured for this) and could be part of the solution in the future. Eastern IFCA is currently mapping areas of seabed habitat within the Wash, aiming to find suitable areas for the shrimp gear trials. Three potentially suitable areas have been located, subject to 'ground truthing' to determine seabed type. This involved the use of drop-down video cameras and grab sampling aboard the research vessel 'Three Counties'.

The licensers need to produce a Habitat Regulations Assessment. As they can't rule out that shrimp fishing has no damaging effect, some rules are going to have to be put in place. Eastern IFCA need to know what the targets are for the feature to achieve designation. They are not necessarily going to ban shrimp fishing completely. The problem at the moment is the lack of information available. The fishing and processing are exclusively local. A bye-law will come into effect after the Habitat Regulations Assessment. Will spatial closures help? If the impact is what Eastern IFCA believe it to be, they may have to remain closed.

3.2 Cockles fisheries

The Wash cockle fishery was opened on 20 June 2017. Following a bumper year in 2016, stock levels are once again very high and likely to support a significant fishery.

Key management measures set for the 2017/18 fishery include:

- Hand-worked fishing only
- Closed areas introduced to protect juvenile cockles and sensitive areas for seals during the most sensitive breeding/pupping season (between June and August, with additional buffer zones)
- A quota of 7016 tonnes. The daily quota is three tonnes per vessel (an increase from the usual 2 tonne daily quota to allow full exploitation of the overall quota). This is informed by annual stock surveys
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- Management measures also set out that fishers may use a sea-anchor to slow vessels down (used for drag) and facilitate prop washing (preparing the ground for hand-raking cockles), however, are not permitted to use any anchor that affixes a vessel to the sea bed to do so
- Fishers are provided with a code of best practice, and 'skippers' packs' which set out all the key management measures. These are available on Eastern IFCA's website

It has been a contentious year anecdotally from fisherman, with meat yields being 30% down on last year. There has also been less algae present than last year.

Chlorophyll levels within the algae may be affecting the meat yields. The shells are developing to normal size but the meat inside the shell is much less. It is interesting that the shell is showing normal growth. Eastern IFCA would like to reinstate the measuring of chlorophyll. There is the potential here to work with Hull University, but it may be challenging to measure due to the murkiness of the Wash. Phosphate levels can affect algal blooms. The Environment Agency must sample out to at least one nautical mile so they will have the data Eastern IFCA need. Tammy will assist Tom in getting access to the data. It was suggested by a member of the group that the growth issues may be down to hormone levels. Sam thought it would be surprising if it was purely down to nutrient limitations due to the shells demonstrating normal growth. It could be parasitic. Micro-plastic content in the Wash is very high and can have a detrimental effect of filter feeders.

Harvested weight is live weight – the question was raised that if the live weight per cockle is down, does this mean a higher quantity of cockles is being harvested this year compared to last year? It was also suggested that as the cockle population is so large currently, is the sheer number of cockles present in the Wash putting the population under stress?

3.3 Community voice method project update

This was a joint project between:

- Eastern IFCA
- Marine Conservation Society (MCS)
- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Marine Partnership (WNNMP)

The project sought to identify what people value about the coast and the sea, what issues exist and what the local marine managers (Eastern IFCA) could potentially do to resolve issues. It aimed to gather a broad spectrum of views, including those from people less used to participating in community meetings or consultation events.

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Eastern IFCA look forward to sharing their final report in August.

The initial raw data from the CVM workshops was considered by EIFCA when developing their 2017/18 Strategic Assessment (an annual priority-setting exercise), available at http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Strategic_Assessment_2017_Final.pdf

Following the publications of the CVM report, EIFCA aims to develop an action plan to address the 253 actions identified by the CVM workshops, although EIFCA are very much applying the lessons they have learnt through the CVM process to our ongoing working practices.

The Community Voice Method was developed by American Contractors hired by the MCS and has proved to be a remarkably successful and effective method of community engagement.

Student CVM project extension

Eastern IFCA have been approached by a student from Plymouth University, Eleanor Kowalska O'Neil, who would like to do an extension of their CVM project focusing on 'the next generation'. Eleanor's project is in an early stage and details haven't been confirmed, but it will see to capture what young sea users think of Marine Protected Areas.

If you can think of any 'young folk' who might like to get involved, please let Sandra Cowper know via email sandracowper@eastern-ifca.gov.uk or by telephone 01553 775321. It would be great to hear from, for example, young fishers, recreational anglers, RNLI, NGOs, people involved in the tourism sector etc. - anyone from the 'next generation' with a marine interest who would be willing to take part in a filmed interview.

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust could assist with this project. The group decide that a 'next generation' person was aged between 10 and 30 years old.

3.4 Eastern IFCA Marine Protection team

A healthy relationship with stakeholders and a thorough understanding of local fisheries is fundamental to successful fisheries management. The role of warranted Eastern IFCA officers (IFCOs) includes liaison with local fishermen; inspection of licences, catches and fishing gear; and the communication and enforcement of a suite of local and European regulations relating to fisheries and marine conservation.

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- The West area (Lincolnshire coast, The Wash and West Norfolk)
- The East area (Wells, East Norfolk and Suffolk Coast)

IFCOs are happy to explain their role further or answer specific fisheries/conservation questions, so please do interact with them on the coast or at our King's Lynn or Lowestoft offices via 01553 775321.

4.0 Coastal Managers updates

4.1 RSPB Frampton and Freiston

Visitor numbers year to date are up by 5% on last year with 49,000 at Frampton and 20,000 at Freiston Shore. About two thirds of these are bird watchers. There is a very different demographic compared to a few years ago, with Frampton attracting visitors from nationwide. 540 children attended the Easter event.

There will be two 'Big Wild Sleepouts' at Frampton and John would like to thank Natural England for granting the derogation. There will also be raft building events this summer. The RSPB 'Nature's Home' magazine has a readership of 2.3 million, and they are expecting a three page spread in the next edition, so it is likely that visitor numbers will increase even more.

There are 4-5 pairs of breeding snipe on site which is a reference to how wet the site is. Male ruff have been displaying for the females, although John is not sure they are nesting. Two pairs of bearded tit are nesting in the reed beds and there are bittern on site. As mentioned at the previous meeting, they experienced huge numbers of winter birds, including 10,000 widgeon. Badgers predated the birds have been a major problem and they may need to erect an anti-predator fence around the perimeter. Three setts have been identified. Lapwings are showing a 0.78 success rate despite the badgers. Frampton's avocets are doing well but at Freiston they are being affected by foxes or badgers. There are only 60 black-headed gulls at Freiston and numbers are well down on previous years (from 1600). The young are being eaten by predators. A fence is an option but will cost £40,000.

HLS agreements are due for renewal in 2-3 years and there is an uncertainty about funding in the future.

4.2 Gibraltar Point

The LWT are in the process of securing Natural England funding to look at the breached Bulldog Bank – to either remove it or re-profile it. It is no longer considered to be the primary source of protection from the sea.

Terns are being afforded a high level of protection with Nigel Lound as the Night Tern Warden and Richard as the Shorebird Warden. Numbers are down on previous years and the heavily resourced protection has been funded through the EU, so the future of this project is in question. Their agri-environment scheme is also due. Due to the new visitor centre, visitor numbers are exceptionally high.

5.0 RAF Holbeach

There was no one present to provide an update, but it was mentioned that there have been a lot of activity at RAF Holbeach lately. Some felt that they were not kept adequately informed of out of hours activity, but others said they were always informed by telephone. Out of hours activity in the summer usually occurs between 5 and 10pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

6.0 European Marine Site updates

6.1 Communications, promotion and outreach

It was established that the public were not really aware of the EMS, and it was felt that the name was too long, the logo over-complicated and the website out-dated. Following consultation with the advisory groups, the image of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS has had a refresh. It will now be known as the 'Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership – protecting nature and culture'. Sam shared with the group the new logo, which resembles waves and incorporates the first letters of the Wash and North Norfolk. The new website will be launched at the beginning of August and will be much more user friendly. Sam will have the ability to add information to it and keep it up to date.

Wash Week 4 August 2017

Started by Tammy when she was part of the WESG, Wash Week is going to be re-launched this year. Events are being hosted by the LWT, RSPB and other groups and it is hoped that it will evolve over time. Tammy and Chris Night will be launching Wash Week at the Marriott's Warehouse in King's Lynn on 4 August. They would like to include a wildfowling event next year. Graham is Head Marsh Warden on the Holbeach bombing range and is leading a walk, but not as a wildfowler. Kevin Fletcher has agreed to do a salt marsh talk on North Norfolk for next year's Wash Week.

6.2 Tourism and recreational disturbance

The EMS applied for funding to employ someone to look at tourism and disturbance, but unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful. The aim was to develop sustainable tourism within the Wash. The bid will be re-submitted next year.

The MMO have produced a report including visitor surveys looking at recreational use and disturbance, which will be released shortly. Dog walking is by far the biggest recreational use of the marsh and also causes the biggest disturbance issues. The advisory groups have been collecting data on disturbance since 2004.

On 11 October, Sam is hosting a dog walking disturbance workshop at Holkham Hall. There is a maximum of 30 people and the event is by invite only. There will be representatives from each of the advisory groups. He would like to develop a co-ordinated approach – love dogs/love nature. Peter Udy commented that we need to locate areas that are most effected by dog walking and disturbance. Natural England should already have that data. The more restrictions that are put in place, the higher the concentration in other areas. It has been an important topic for the Boston Advisory Group for years. It was stated that 30 people isn't very many – the group may lack local knowledge, and the BAG asked if Sam was going to collect data beforehand. The invitees include:

- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- RSPB – Lincolnshire and Norfolk
- National Trust
- Holkham Estate
- Natural England – East Midlands and Norfolk
- Borough and district council reps
- EMS advisory group members

It is not in the scope of this workshop to map out the individual sites. It varies greatly depending on the area, for example roughly 1% of visitors at Frampton are dog walkers but at Freiston they comprise 50% of all visitors. Boston Borough Council have a strong policy for dog fowling and have access to bye-laws and enforcement officers – all you need is a photograph and a number plate and they will prosecute. Could we have this option for the Wash if the local councils are supportive?

6.3 Relevant authority support

The relevant authorities have a legal duty to the marine sites, and there are statutory obligations. The EMS will create one page summaries for each relevant authority's legal responsibility to the site. A review of the management scheme is due – it has not been done for 15 years. They will catalogue all the monitoring programmes taking place in the Wash so people can see what is being done and identify any gaps. The advisory group felt that this will be very useful.

7.0 A.O.B.

On Thursday 14 September, the LWT is taking various internal groups, including their marine team, out on the Boston Belle. There are still some seats left – Tammy offered places to those present at the meeting and took down the names of those who wished to attend. Tammy will contact them via email with more information.

Sam asked if the group if the pre-meeting summary paper was useful? Everyone agreed that it was and would like to continue to have one prior to meetings.

The MMO are attending meetings with the King's Lynn and North Norfolk advisory groups – would the Boston advisory group like them to attend? It was agreed that we would.

8.0 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 November at 7pm at the Boston Witham Sailing Club.