



King's Lynn Advisory Group

The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership

King's Lynn Joint Advisory Group meeting: 1800-2000 Thursday 22nd March 2018

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

- Welcomes/introductions
 - Secretary: Alison Perkins

- 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
- Saddle Bow Power Plant

5. Coastal Site Manager's updates

6. Photographs

7. Date of the next meeting

8. AOB

Natural England update

Visitor/new development impact on EMS mitigation (HRA levy) How are NE involved in deciding the levy?

The Norfolk council's strategy for the levy is implemented through Local Plan core policy, which is being reviewed as part of the Local Plan process. Natural England provide statutory advice on the strategy and core policy.

Conservation Advice Package

We published the Conservation Advice packages for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS in September 2017. We currently preparing draft packages for Cromer Shoal MCZ, Deben Estuary SPA and Stour & Orwell Estuaries SPA which will be published March 2018.

English Coastal 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.

Offshore windfarms

Race Bank

- NE has been consulted on the first yr. Saltmarsh survey and are still in the process of reviewing it. However, we are aware that remedial works are required in the upper saltmarsh adjacent to the sea defence due to large areas of pooled water with large algal mats that have a water Framework Directive concern
- We also are in discussions about post consent monitoring for the offshore elements as they move into the operation and maintenance phase. Ian Renshaw will remain the contact for cable issues, but Sara Thomas will be taking on the consents manger role going forwards

Lincs

- The array has been sold in its entirety to Ørsted. The cable route/transmission asset continues to be owned by TPC Lincs. NE currently has no contact details in Ørsted for this project
- NE has provided advice to MMO requesting that further saltmarsh surveys are undertaken as the impacts are not as were predicted – we are unaware of advice provided to developer from MMO
- There are ongoing discussions with the MMO in relation to impacts to Red Throated Diver

Sheringham Shoal

- There remain concerns in relation to the benthic monitoring that has been undertaken in relation to the Cromer Shoal MCZ
- We are still working with Statoil and their consultants on determining the results of the post construction bird monitoring

Dudgeon

- We are in discussions with MMO and Statoil in relation to tagging of Sandwich terns
- Again, there remains concerns in relation to the benthic monitoring in relation to the Cromer Shoal MCZ

Hornsea P3

- The evidence plan working groups are completing in the next couple of weeks and the application is due in mid-May
- Natural England has ongoing concerns about the level of data on which project decisions and assessments are being undertaken - we currently don't have a formal position to share

Other OWF projects – for information

Triton Knoll

- Gearing up for construction and we are working closely with Innogy

Vanguard

- Final stages of the evidence plan process and plan to submit application end of June 2018
- We are working closely with Vattenfall, EIFCA and CEFAS to address Annex 1 habitat concerns

Boreas

- We expect the PEIR (draft application) in for this project in November
- We have ongoing evidence plan working group meetings

Thanet Extension

- Plan to submit application in Mid-June
- Ongoing cabling issues

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 Thursday 22 March 2018, 1800

Held at The Conservancy Board, Harbour Office, Common Staithe, Kings Lynn

Present:

Peter Welberry Smith	Chair, The Wash
Pat Jary	Harbour Master
Joan Evans	Lay Member
Rebecca Treacy	EIFCA
Michael Rae	KL&WN Wildfowlers Association
Alan Evans	Norfolk Association of Local Councils
John Hiskett	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Peter Catling	Fenland Wildfowlers
Julian Carlile	Fenland Wildfowlers
Paul Garnett	KL Fishing Ind Co-op
Heidi Richardson	Natural England
Louise Denning	Natural England
John Grimwood	Sutton Bridge PC
Dinah Smith	Researcher Fens and Wash
Sam Lew	WNNMP
Alison Hallett	Secretary

Apologies:

Paul Richards	True's Yard
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Previous Minutes/Matters Arising

There was an amendment made by RT. First line on page 2 should read "There is a Red Risk area in the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC outside the Wash".

Introduction

PWS welcomed the new members Rebecca Treacy, Heidi Richardson, Louise Denning and Paul Garnett.

It was proposed by PWS and seconded by SL that Alison Hallett become Secretary.

1. The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership

Outreach: Wild Seas Week 3-12th of August 2018.

A week-long series of events celebrating marine nature and culture: 6 themes including 1. Marine nature and culture; 2. Litter Free Coast and Sea; 3. Share with Care; 4. Seafood Sanctuary; 5. Coast-Folk; 6. Inspire and Create. Please get in touch to submit an event.

The pictures of litter. Litter pick was carried out by Wildfowlers. Most of it was jetsam. PG commented that the floats were being chopped off by ships, a situation he is unhappy about.

JG informed us that he had the access code to the barrier of the lighthouse carpark. The Council had decided to leave it locked except from Friday evening to Monday morning. PC commented that Wildfowlers go down there and it would be beneficial for it to open all week. JG responded that there had been anti-social behaviour in the past. It may be possible to give Wildfowlers the code so they can gain access. PWS commented that since it had been cleared he would be more likely to use the car park. All the litter had now been picked up.

Recreational Disturbance

Dog walking workshop next steps are being followed up and a strategy report for the region is being requested and funding sought. Recreational Best Practise Guides and the Incident Recording Process are to be reinvigorated this year.

Research

Investigating the natural features and social benefits of saltmarsh is almost complete and will be available online soon. MR ask what is the desired out from the project, similar work has been done SL, a refresh of older work and a toolkit for other practitioners to use the satellite methods for mapping saltmarsh.

Annual Management Plan

SL, this is a synthesis of conservation work and human activities within the region. A call for information will be sent out later this year.

2. Eastern IFCA: Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas – Rebecca Treacy

MSC Accreditation of the Wash Shrimp Fishery. EIFCA is working with the accreditation group in the development and delivery of appropriate management of this fishery.

Cromer Shoal MCZ

An assessment has been drafted of the impacts of potting fisheries on features of the Chalk Beds. Work is ongoing.

Assessing the impact of our intertidal activities

A Habitats Regulation Assessment has been conducted.

Marine Protection

Seed mussel relaying fishery – has been approved and is to open in April. It is the first fishery on the “public” mussel beds for several years. The total allowable catch for the fishery is proposed at 1,500 tonnes set with the intention of the stocks supporting a further fishery in 2019.

Crab and lobster management measures – no firm measures in mind as of yet.

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) on the North Norfolk and East Coast

EIFA is co-ordinating the activity of relevant agencies in seeking to establish the source and extent of PSP. Agencies involved include CEFAS, the Food Standards Agency, local authority Environment Health departments, the Marine Management Organisation and the Environment Agency. CEFAS tests high concentrations of PSP toxins. Results so far have shown either extremely low levels of PSP toxins or no toxins at all.

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. Data has subsequently been analysed and actions outside our remit and duplicates were removed. Although EIFCA carry out a lot of the work that stakeholders value, it has not necessarily been communicated effectively. 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 projection.

3. Natural England – Heidi Richardson

HRA Levy. SL asked if anyone in Lincs considering this levy for new development? LD replied that East Lindsey will have levy. West and North Norfolk is being reviewed.

English Coastal Path. Update on the Coastal Path from Hunstanton to Skegness. Sutton Bridge to Skegness stretch is available on internet. 20% is still under discussion – Snettisham, Royal Estate and Crown Estate. The link to the website will be forwarded to SL. Weybourne is now open to consultation. The lead time is around 6-8 weeks. Planning to open footpath in 2019.

Concerns raised by PWS regarding the wind turbine towards Lynn Point. The blades over-sail the public right of way. MR said there was worry of ice falling off blades. PWS asked about the proposed bio digester on top of sea wall and impact on The Wash. HR to check on any further information.

PG asked HR to check about original access on Cross Bank Road, through the docks. This road was for the use of fisherman. Concerned about high volume of traffic.

Offshore Windfarms. Issues regarding the cable not buried at Race Bank. PJ commented that Grand Canyon 3 will be used to attempt to bury cable. PWS raised concerns over electrical discharge from the cables and fish movement. PG had heard about this. Is there a risk in Wash of the migrating route? It was noted that catches went off nearer the cables.

DS commented that there had been damaged caused near Race Bank due to the burying of the cables. It seemed to be turning into a creek. Plenty of water in front of sea wall. PG said that Horse Shoe Point was caused by quad bikes.

PWS raised the issue of bird deaths at windfarms and the nests in the blades. HR to find more information. RSPB not concerned about northern ones, only southern ones.

Wildfowling. Nothing new to report. PC asked about consultation paper.

Saddle Bow Power Plant – nothing to report.

4. Site Manager's Update

JH commented on the amount of erosion at Holm last week. Also happened 10-15 years ago. The last few years have been stable.

5. Photographs

Members were given the option to send their images to Alison to help illustrate any points they might wish to raise. Email alison@virtuallyalison.online.

It was noted that Google Maps are sending people to The Wash National Nature Reserve incorrectly. HR will attempt to sort out with Google. SL showed problem area.

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 5th July, 6pm.

AOB

DS raised the issue about piling protruding on the bank. Needs looking at again. The gate also needs attention. Discussion over whose responsibility this is. Lincs CC or Environment Agency.

PC spoke about putting on website the film "Ethical Carnivore" by Louise Gray. DS also asked if the minutes would be going on the website too.

Meeting closed 1940.

Natural England Answers to Questions

1. Is it the RSPB, Sandringham and the Crown Estate that make up the landowners we are working with to finalise the outstanding 20% of the Hunstanton – Sutton Bridge stretch?

a. At the moment we are working with the Sandringham estate to open up this stretch of coast. Any proposal also needs to be considered by our conservation staff. When that is concluded we will be able to have detailed discussions with the neighbouring farmer

(Crown Estate) and wildfowlers. An agreement has already been reached with the RSPB.

2. How long should it take for the coastal path to open after consultation has concluded?

a. Currently it is taking approximately 18 months from the time a consultation closes to the path opening. This timescale depends on whether any objections have been received to the proposal and the amount of work needed to prepare a route to be opened.

If objections have been received then these are considered by an independent planning inspector. The Secretary of State considers the proposal and consultation comments and decides on whether the proposal can go ahead without changes or whether it should go ahead with modifications. If the proposal can go ahead, the next stage is to complete the establishment works to make the path usable, such as adding signage or any other infrastructure needed. Establishment works need to be undertaken around factors such as nature conservation concerns and the weather. Further information on the process can be found [here](#).

3. For the Hunstanton- Sutton bridge section, does the proposed path go under a wind turbine?

a. A wind turbine has been built very close to the existing by-way near King's Lynn. Generally, when considering options for the England Coast Path, we will use existing rights of way or currently walked routes where they meet the Scheme criteria. In this case we are using best practice advice about access near turbines to propose a route which is away from the turbine.

4. Has Natural England received a planning application for a biodigester in Kings Lynn?

a. No.

5. Has Natural England received a planning application for a new gas power plant at Saddle Bow, Kings Lynn?

a. No.

If you have any additional questions about the above please get in touch with Heidi Richardson by email on Heidi.Richardson@naturalengland.org.uk or by phone on 020 8225 8991.