



# King's Lynn Advisory Group

The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership

- Welcomes/introductions
- Apologies
- Previous minutes/matters arising

## **1. WNNMP**

- Wild Seas Recreation Guide
- Wild Seas Wardens and Monitoring Tool
- Wild Seas Recreation Areas???
- Recreation Projects: Dog Walking and Aviation
- Wild Seas Week

## **2. Coastal Site Manager updates**

### **3. Eastern-IFCA: Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas**

- Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas
- Other Marine Science Workstreams
- Marine Protection Workstreams
- Engagement

## **4. Natural England**

- Condition assessment
- Conservation Advice Package
- England Coastal Path
- Offshore windfarms
- Wildfowling consents
- Other

## **5. Photographs**

## **6. Date of the next meeting**

## **7. AOB**



Last updated: 21 February 2019

## **1. Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas**

### **1.1. Update on the Marine Protected Area Byelaw 2018**

The Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2018 was submitted to Defra for Ministerial approval in November 2018 and is currently under consideration. This byelaw sets out areas to be closed to certain fishing activities for the protection of Marine Protected Areas. Existing closures are included as well as new closures in the Wash that will affect the shrimp fishery. Two of the proposed restricted areas in the inshore part of the North Norfolk Coast were removed from the byelaw to allow for further consideration. Eastern IFCA has now, in consultation with Natural England, concluded that these closures are necessary for the protection of The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation and will seek to include these in the next iteration of this byelaw.

### **1.2. Shrimp Permit Byelaw 2018**

The Shrimp Permit Byelaw 2018 will be submitted to Defra for Ministerial approval in the coming weeks, pending some final minor amendments in relation to electronic monitoring devices. This byelaw will enable Eastern IFCA to manage the shrimp fishery using flexible conditions as required including for example, technical gear requirements and effort limitations.

### **1.3. Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone**

The ongoing review of available evidence for the Cromer MCZ Assessment has indicated that bottom towed fishing gear could damage the chalk feature and therefore measures to exclude towed demersal gear from some or all of the site are likely. The review has also indicated that potting may have an impact upon protruding areas of the chalk feature, but further information is required to properly understand this. Further survey work and management measures to better understand fishing effort are key considerations. The latter are also a consideration for stock sustainability management measures. EIFCA and NE are committed to working with industry to better understand any impacts which may be occurring and to ensure that management decisions are appropriate in an area we all recognise as being extremely important for the local fishery and community.

More information on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds site, including maps of the designations and features and online conservation advice can be found at the following web pages:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zones-cromer-shoal-chalk-beds>

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/SupAdvice.aspx?SiteCode=UKMCZ0031&SiteName=MCZ&SiteNameDisplay=Cromer+Shoal+Chalk+Beds+MCZ&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea>

#### 1.4. Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

This site extends between 5 and 25 miles offshore, off the east coast of Norfolk. Eastern IFCA is responsible for managing fisheries in the 0 to 6 nautical mile area. We are currently developing measures to restrict trawling within this site to protect *Sabellaria spinulosa* (Ross worm) reef from damage. We are still in the process of liaising with Natural England in relation to the extent of this sensitive feature. We want to understand what impacts these closures could have on fishing – so we will be keen to engage with anyone who fishes in that area.

## 2. **Other Marine Science Workstreams**

### 2.1. Annual mussel surveys in The Wash

Eastern IFCA have now completed our annual WFO mussel surveys after some delays and are exploring the potential for a limited relaying fishery.

### 2.2. Annual cockle surveys in The Wash

The annual WFO cockle surveys are due to start at the end of March. These surveys last for about six weeks, during which time officers will use day grab sampling and intertidal foot surveys to assess the densities and sizes of cockles throughout The Wash Fishery Order area, and as of last year the Ferrier sand area too. This information will be used to inform whether a fishery can be opened within The Wash and the areas that are suitable to be fished.

### 2.3. Crab and lobster stock assessment

Eastern IFCA is responsible for ensuring fisheries are sustainable, in relation to stocks as well as interactions with the environment. Our work on crab and lobster stocks indicates that fishing may be at or just beyond maximum Sustainable Yield. We are working closely with Cefas and other experts and we plan to engage with industry shortly in order to explore what management measures might be appropriate to ensure that the fishery remains sustainable.

### 2.4. Benthic habitat mapping off the North Norfolk Coast

In our previous updates we mentioned we were conducting survey work of the North Norfolk Coast. We are currently in the process of working up the data that we collected off the coast of Wells-Next-The-Sea. Initial examination of the data, which is primarily SideScan Sonar data alongside some video footage, indicates that we should be able to get useful information from the results. We intend to go back to collect more video footage to ground truth SideScan data in the area (about 2- or 3-days work).

If you're interested in finding out more about habitat mapping Eastern IFCA have done in the past, a summary of the habitat mapping conducted in 2016 and 2017 can be found on our website here:

[http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2018\\_05\\_10\\_Final\\_2016\\_2017\\_Habitat\\_Mapping\\_Report.pdf](http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2018_05_10_Final_2016_2017_Habitat_Mapping_Report.pdf)

### 2.5. Slipper Limpets in The Wash

In January the Authority approved a project to clear up a small area of high-density slipper limpets on the Roger-Tofts in The Wash. Slipper limpets are an invasive, non-native species of shellfish, listed on the IUCN list of problematic alien species and under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, meaning it is illegal to introduce them into the wild. In high densities, slipper limpets can reduce the growth rate and survival of mussels, change community structure in the intertidal and subtidal areas, create changes to near-bottom currents and sediment composition and have impacts on the fishing industry – in particular, reputational impacts due to legal issues around importing/exporting Schedule 9 species, and expenses and time involved in sorting and cleaning shellfish catch.

Natural England have reviewed a light-touch HRA for the proposed project and are happy that the activity will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site. The current plan is to contract one or two fishing vessels to undertake this work before the beginning of May, using a combination of hand-working and back-raking of sediment.

## 3. **Marine Protection Workstreams**

### 3.1. Fishing vessel owner and crew fined for obstruction

Two fishers engaged in the Wash Fishery Order 1992 cockle fishery appeared at King's Lynn Magistrates Court in a case brought by Eastern IFCA. Both pleaded guilty and were ordered to pay financial penalties totalling £2,560 including legal and enforcement costs for prosecution. <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/fishing-vessel-owner-crew-fined-obstruction/>

### 3.2. EU exit advice

Eastern IFCA has published a summary and links to Government advice for fishery stakeholders to follow under a no-deal EU exit scenario, available here: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/eu-exit-fisheries-update/>

### 3.3. MMO consultation on the introduction of catch recording

The MMO have launched a consultation on the introduction of catch recording for licensed fishing vessels under 10 metres in length, more information can be found here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/consultation-on-the-introduction-of-catch-recordin/>

### 3.4. Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (I-VMS)

Defra's consultation on introducing I-VMS on all British Licenced fishing vessels under 12 meters ended in November of 2018. Defra are analysing the feedback received and intend to publish their response to the public consultation shortly.

### 3.5. 2019 European Seabass Regulations

New regulations have been published for the protection of the European seabass, which came into force from the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The complete measures can be found on the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-fishing-for-sea-bass-in-2019>

#### 3.5.1. *Summary on Commercial Fishing for Bass*

Commercial fishers must have an authorisation issued by the MMO to catch, retain, tranship or land bass. Authorisations are separate for different gear types used. It is prohibited for commercial vessels to fish for bass from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. Commercial fishing from the shore is prohibited throughout 2019. Between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 catch restrictions will apply depending on the gear type used (see the MMO website for specifics).

#### 3.5.2. *Summary on Recreational Fishing for Bass*

From 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, and from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 only catch-and-release fishing of bass is permitted. From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 not more than one bass per person per day may be retained. Any additional bass should be returned immediately to the sea. In addition, the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) of 42 cm applies – any bass smaller than this must be immediately returned to the sea. These measures apply to fishing from vessels and from shore.

## 4. **Engagement**

As always, between these meetings you can follow what we've been up on our social media pages:

[https://twitter.com/eastern\\_ifca](https://twitter.com/eastern_ifca)

<https://www.facebook.com/eastern.ifca>

For any specific questions feel free to message on social media, give us a call on 01553 775321, e-mail us at [mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk) or pop into our office at 6 North Lynn Business Village, Bergen Way, King's Lynn PE30 2JG

## **Natural England Summary to the Advisory Groups**

### **1. Condition Assessment**

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast condition assessment is now available on Natural England's Designated Sites System

We are currently finalising the condition assessments for the two offshore sites (Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC and Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC), the Alde Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC and Orfordness to Shingle Street SAC.

### **2. Conservation Advice Package**

Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA and Minsmere-Walberswick SPA draft conservation advice packages will be published in March 2019, the Invitation to comment consultation period will begin end of March.

An email went out in 2018 regarding GDPR and only a handful of people responded to remain on the stakeholder list. If you are using a personal email address for correspondence and would like to be kept up to date with Conservation advice publications please email the area team mailbox on [EEMarine@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:EEMarine@naturalengland.org.uk) to request to be added the stakeholder list for correspondence, specifying which MPA's are of interest or more generally the area, Norfolk, Suffolk or Lincolnshire).

Following the publication of the draft package for Breydon Water SPA September 2018, Natural England are currently responding to stakeholder feedback.

### **3. English Coastal Path**

The English Coast path will form a national trail which will extend around England's coast.

#### **a. Skegness and Mablethorpe**

The first section of the England Coast Path in Lincolnshire, between Skegness and Mablethorpe is due to be officially opened in on the 27 February at The North Sea Observatory, Chapel Point, Chapel St Leonards, Skegness PE24 5XA. The final works including building a boardwalk, signage and installation of gates etc. has been completed.

#### **b. Sutton Bridge to Skegness section.**

This is still at the same stage i.e. Stage 4 – Determining as was reported at the November-18 meeting.

On 24 January 2018 Natural England submitted its coastal report to the Secretary of State for coastal access for the 57 mile (92km) stretch of the coast between Sutton Bridge and Skegness. The period

for making representations and objections about the report closed at midnight on 21 March 2018. The report is still available to view.

Objections were considered by an independent planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The inspector will make recommendations to the Secretary of State in respect of each one.

Natural England may not make any further changes to the report as a result of the representations and objections. In April Natural England made comments about the representations and objections for consideration by the Secretary of State and, in the case of objections, the appointed planning inspector. The Secretary of State will consider all the representations and objections before making a decision about Natural England's report.

Once the Secretary of State has approved the report, Natural England will start work with Lincolnshire County Council on preparing the route for public use.

The first step will be to contact owners and occupiers of the affected land to discuss the design and location of any new infrastructure which is required such as signs and gates.

When preparations are complete, new access rights will be brought into force along the route and adjoining spreading room.

c. Weybourne to Hunstanton stretch

Background

We published our report for the Weybourne to Hunstanton stretch on 21/3/18, the 8 week period for objections and representations has now closed. A Planning Inspector has been appointed to take an independent look at the objections and advise the Secretary of State on these. The first step is for them to determine which objections are admissible under the legislation, and we have been expecting the Planning Inspectorate to advise objectors on this for a while.

Our ECP proposals for this stretch included statutory restrictions to exclude the new coastal access rights to two areas of saltmarsh on grounds of public safety:

- o Wells-next-the-Sea - approximately 6 km<sup>2</sup> of coastal margin adjacent to approximately 4 km of proposed trail;
- o Burnham Overy Staithe - approximately 0.37 km<sup>2</sup> of coastal margin adjacent to approximately 700m of proposed trail.

We reached these recommendations on the basis of expert advice from the emergency services, to keep people safe on a coastline where tides can catch out people unfamiliar with the local area. Following publication, a large number of objections and representations were received and these largely focus on the restrictions and a perception that existing use by tradition, permission or common law would be affected. Whilst this is not the case, some limited areas subject to CROW 'open access' rights at Burnham Overy Staithe would be affected. Most people who made an objection or representation asked for the existing access arrangements to be maintained.

We therefore reviewed the evidence behind these proposals, analysed any new information brought forward in objections and representations and held structured conversations with a selection of key partners and sought further data from rescue services. This uncovered additional information we weren't aware of when we made our proposals, which we are using to consider whether our proposals are still reasonable. The information we've been given by local people shows us how these areas are being used locally and suggests there are potentially ways, other than statutory restrictions, of managing this use to minimise risk. This review is not yet complete but we do expect that we will make some alternative recommendations to the Secretary of State on this, which we hope will meet local concerns.

#### Update

We are now considering if anything needs to be done to protect the species and habitats for which these sites are designated in the absence of these proposed safety restrictions. At Burnham we don't believe anything is needed but this review is ongoing for Wells where we are still collecting and analysing evidence. If a nature conservation restriction is required we will consult on this separately.

Alongside this review a separate matter has come up which affects the whole country and which we also need to take into account. This is the recent ruling at the Court of Justice of the European Union in the matter of People Over Wind. This requires us to take our proposals through an Appropriate Assessment. This affects a very large number of our reports and each will need an appropriate assessment to be done for them in turn. It will be approximately 6 months before we have completed this.

Once our review of the safety restrictions and Appropriate Assessment are complete we will submit our comments on the objections and associated representations received to the Planning Inspectorate who will advise the Secretary of State on these. The Secretary of State will then determine our proposals. This stage of the process sits outside Natural England and is completely independent of us to ensure fairness. It's hard to say how long it will but experience to date suggest it could be upwards of 18 months before our report is determined for this stretch.

#### d. Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge

Natural England is still visiting land on this stretch of coast that is likely to be affected by our proposals and discussing the options in detail with owner's occupiers and other relevant interests. Due to the length and complexity of this stretch, this phase of site visit work will take some months to complete. The proposals will be finalised and then published in a report to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This is expected to take place in winter 2019.

#### Dogs on the Marsh

Following on to the questions regarding walking dogs along the coastal path (and uncontrolled dogs on the marsh) further information provided by Natural England's solicitor is set out below:

- As it currently stands there is no prohibition on taking dogs on the coastal path along the seawall, save for the request featured on signs here and around The Wash that dogs remain under effective control.
- Currently, until the sea defence is adopted as part of the English Coastal Path and the saltmarsh becomes coastal margin there is so far as Natural England is aware, no right to access the saltmarsh and therefore no additional specific prohibition on the taking of dogs on to it. Where there is no right of access to land and no permission granted, the issue of trespass is raised. However this is not a matter for Natural England to advise on and would be a matter for any relevant landowner to consider. In any event, in this area, we would expect the request to keep dogs under effective control to be carefully considered.
- After the area becomes a “coastal margin” the public can exercise their rights over it, subject to any restrictions. Failure to exercise the right in accordance with the restrictions has the potential to raise the issue of trespass. The general restrictions have been set out as part of the English Coast Path proposals that are currently being reviewed by the Secretary of State. It is likely that specific restrictions regarding dog control – i.e. keeping dogs on leads during the bird nesting season, keeping dogs under effective control, or keeping dogs on a lead will be included at different locations due to the importance of The Wash for birds and its European designated habitats i.e. the saltmarsh.

In addition, under Schedule 2 of The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 it notes (with regards the coastal margin):

6A (1) Whatever the time of year, section 2(1) does not entitle a person to be on any land which is coastal margin at any time if – (a) that person has taken onto the land, or allowed to enter or remain on the land, any dog, and (b) at that time, the dog is not under the effective control of that person or another person. (2) For this purpose a dog is under the effective control of a person if the following conditions are met. (3) The first condition is that – (a) the dog is on a lead, or (b) the dog is within sight of the person and the person remains aware of the dog’s actions and has reason to be confident that the dog will return to the person reliably and promptly on the person’s command. (4) The second condition is that the dog remains – (a) on access land, or (b) on other land to which that person has a right of access.

- For completeness, I should draw your attention to certain offences that may be committed in relation to protected wildlife. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb a bird on Schedule 1 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 while it is building a nest or is in on or near a nest containing eggs or young or to disturb the dependant young of such a bird. There are also the offences in relation to the SSSI of intentionally or recklessly destroying or damaging features of the SSSI or intentionally or recklessly disturbing the fauna for which it is notified. In this case recklessness could include being aware that birds are vulnerable to disturbance, the effects on them and the kind of activities (i.e. letting your dog off the lead) that would cause that disturbance. In cases where it can be shown that there is knowledge that the site that was damaged was a SSSI there is potential for a greater maximum punishment. Breaches of the legal protection afforded to SSSIs, SPAs and SACs can result in proceedings being taken against the parties involved and if convicted can lead to fines of up to £20,000.

More generally Natural England worked with the Kennel Club to produce specific guidance for dog walking within protected sites it is available here through Lincolnshire County Council webpage.

#### **4. Offshore windfarms**

##### Hornsea Project 3

Natural England continues to advise on the Hornsea 3 examination. However, our position in relation to being unable to exclude Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) of several designated sites including The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC remains unchanged. Our advice on the Cromer Shoal also remains unchanged.

There is the last set of Issue Specific hearings next week, but we will not be attending. The end of examination is 2nd April 2019, but it is highly probable that NE will have continued engagement, but with BEIS after this date, due to our position.

##### Race Bank

Natural England is currently finalising our advice on several additional documents provide by Ørsted to support their cable protection application. It is currently unlikely that we will be able to advise beyond reasonable scientific doubt no AEoI.

We are also responding to a further consultation on disposal dredge and Ornithological monitoring plan.

We have responded to their first year saltmarsh monitoring plan. There is still a long way to go on the recovery, but it good to see that some of the restoration measures i.e. 'Sausages' are having a positive effect. We will be approaching Ørsted about some of less successful mechanisms such as plug planting. And adapting the restoration plan accordingly.

##### Race Bank Extension

NE continues to provide advice to the Crown Estate on their Habitat Regulations Assessment for the proposed extension projects of which this is one. We have been consulted by Ørsted under our discretionary advice service in relation to evidence gather to support any application for such an extension

##### Lincs

NE is currently finalising our advice on an operations and maintenance variation request. There may be more information in time for the meetings

##### Sheringham Shoal

We have had some low MMO consultations in relation to this project, but anticipate more contact because benthic surveys are expected this summer

Dudgeon

Bird monitoring in the form of tagging will continue this summer

Equinor Extension

Again NE Natural England continues to provide advice to the Crown Estate on their Habitat Regulations Assessment for the proposed extension projects of which Dudgeon and Sheringham are included.

Triton Knoll

We continue to provide advice to Innogy and MMO on pre-construction documents to discharge their marine licence condition in advance of starting construction this year

Ørsted

We have had a meeting with Ørsted on 21st February and we are looking to explore with them opportunities for Net Gain in the Greater Wash Area and to develop some habitat enhancement opportunities.

## **5. Wildfowling consents**

Natural England is looking to develop the working relationship with Wildfowling groups on The Wash as a part of moving to a longer term way of working and a more regional way of assessing bag returns. Contact from wildfowling groups that Natural England's Gillian Fisher hasn't yet met or worked with would be very welcome.

Please Contact Gill Fisher for further information.

Gillian.fisher@naturalengland.org.uk or 02080261750

## **6. Other**

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone Fisheries Assessment

The ongoing review of available evidence for the Cromer MCZ Assessment has indicated that bottom towed fishing gear could damage the chalk feature and therefore measures to exclude towed demersal gear from some or all of the site are likely. The review has also indicated that potting may have an impact upon protruding areas of the chalk feature but further information is required to properly understand this. Further survey work and management measures to better understand fishing effort are key considerations. The latter are also a consideration for stock sustainability management measures. EIFCA and NE are committed to working with industry to better understand any impacts which may be occurring and to ensure that management decisions are appropriate.

## Friskney Lane

We have been worked closely with The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP), Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), Witham Forth Internal Drainage Board, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, East Lindsey District Council, Skegness and Wainfleet District Wildfowlers and relevant landowners to restrict vehicle access to the marsh at RAF Wainfleet. Over the last 6-months we have been involved in several meetings and discussions to achieve a solution that would meet everyone's requirements. We assisted the DIO by producing the Habitat Regulations Assessment and consent paperwork required to allow the work to be undertaken. The aim of the installation of gates at the end of the public highway at Friskney Lane and concrete blocks on the former helipad is to restrict vehicle access so that it would reduce the occurrence of fly-tipping, minimise the health & safety risks to members of the public to unexploded ordnance and reduce impact on the wildlife/habitats (specifically the saltmarsh and bird interest).

The good news is the gate was installed and the concrete blocks have been installed. Pedestrian access to the saltmarsh is still possible by walking along the Friskney Lane or along the English Coast Path.

We would like to thank everyone involved with this project.

## Boston Haven Flood Embankment

We have been contacted for our statutory advice on Boston Haven flood embankment works from the EA National Environmental Assessment Service. The project is only at investigation and tender stage, but works are expected to start later in 2019. We have been so far involved in assenting and reviewing the Habitat Regulations Assessment for the required geotechnical surveys that are needed. We are aware the RSPB have been contacted by the Environment Agency relating to works within their sites.

## Boston Alternative Energy Facility

Natural England have had an initially project meeting with the Boston Alternative Energy Facility consultancy team. We understand Phase 2 of the consultation on the proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility has now begun. Opportunities to provide feedback will be available at the Public Information Days are being held in February and March 2019. You can also give feedback about the proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility via post, email or using the freephone number which can be found here. The deadline to give feedback is 24 March 2019. Further details are available on their webpage and circulated to the Boston Advisory Group members by Rachel Marriott. If members of the Boston Advisory Group wish – then it may be possible to arrange a presentation on the project at a subsequent Advisory Group meeting.

## Minutes

### Present:

Peter Welberry Smith	Chair, King's Lynn Advisory Group
Sam Lew	The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership
Pat Jary	KLCB Harbour Master
Joan Evans	Lay Member
Alan Evans	Norfolk Association of Local Councils
Elise Quinn	EIFCA
Tracey O'Shea	Natural England
Dinah Smith	Researcher (Fens and The Wash)
John Grimwood	Sutton Bridge PC
Peter Catling	Chair, Fenland Wildfowlers Association
Andrew Murray	Hunstanton Town Council
Carrie Carey	Secretary

### Apologies:

John Hiskett	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
John Butler	EIFCA
John Bridger	Hunstanton Civic Society

### Welcomes/Introductions

PWS welcomed attendees and introduced Carrie Carey (RSPB) as new secretary.

### Previous Minutes/Matters Arising

No minutes available.

### Agenda Items

#### 1. WNNMP (SL)

##### Wild Seas Recreation Guide

Three editions have been produced and a fourth is in progress. This guide to best practice aims to help mitigate recreational pressures along the coast. A draft copy of the guide should be ready in two weeks (from date of meeting) and be available for public and user consultation over a 6-week period

*PC - queried why wildfowling has not been included as a recreation*

*SL – advised not to include wildfowling as there are inconsistencies around policies between wildfowling groups. Raises issues of possible conflict between wildfowlers and birders/nature lovers.*

*PC – stated that activities take place under club membership rules and will prepare paragraph on the place of wildfowling as a traditional coastal activity for inclusion in the guide.*

*JE - queried use of footprints on icons for sensitive habitats. Would this encourage people to walk in these areas rather than deter?*

*SL – to review icons that represent sensitive habitats? remove footprints prior to publication of draft copy.*

##### Wild Seas Wardens and Monitoring Tool

Online tool that records and processes data on disturbances to sensitive habitats which should be more effective than spreadsheet and simpler to use. Training will be given (covering all aspects of recreation and diversity along the coast). Date to be considered for April or May 2019.

*PWS – queried the role of a Wild Seas Warden. Traditionally this role was undertaken by wildfowlers. The role needs to have a consistent regional identity*  
*SL – advised that wardens will be registered to a specific area and will receive training to input data. The system will require support from the KLAG.*

### **Wild Seas Recreation Areas**

Proposed online mapping system for visitors to identify suitable locations/seasons to participate in coastal recreation. Will promote suitable activities while highlighting sensitive areas. Potentially users will be able to zoom in on a specific area and see recreational events plus wildlife activities on a month by month basis. Businesses can use mapping tool to promote own activities.

*DS – queried if this is for online use only or will there be a paper version.*  
*SL – potentially both*  
*Group agreed that SL should investigate this possibility further.*

### **Recreation Projects -Dog Walking and Aviation**

The top three disturbances to coastal habitats comes from dog walkers, general walkers and civil aviation. (a) Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Holkham Hall Estate have funding for an advisory report to review disturbance at Gibraltar Point and Holkham Hall.  
(b) RSPB Titchwell Marsh reserve has logged frequent reports of aircraft flying over the area and helicopters landing at Brancaster helipad. There are other reports of military aircraft flying over sensitive areas in Lincolnshire. SL met with RAF and other groups at a recent aviation forum. Some areas eg RSPB Frampton, Freiston, Titchwell Marsh and Snettisham do not appear on civil aviation authority air map for East England.

*DS – queried the use of drones*  
*SL – advised that drone users must have the consent of landowners and Natural England*

### **Wild Seas Week**

2018 event – over 50 events along the coast, many run by wildlife charities and their partners. Over 3,000 recreation guides were distributed and attendance at events was mixed. Some were well attended but some not so.

*PC – Wildfowlers ran an event which was very poorly attended.*  
*EQ – EA held a talk on flood defences which was attended by 3 people*  
*TO – NE ran a litter pick event which was also poorly attended*  
*JG – queried success of publicity*  
*SL - advised that a widespread marketing campaign had been impacted by time and work constraints. SL is working with LWT to employ a Marketing and Communications Officer for WSW 2019.*  
*EQ – suggested a review of events that were successful and repeat these where possible*

## **2. Coastal Site Manger updates (JS)**

Not available

## **3. EIFCA (EQ)**

### **Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas 1.1. Update on the Marine Protected Area Byelaw 2018**

No comments

## **1.2. Shrimp Permit Byelaw 2018**

No comments

## **2. Other Marine Science Workstreams 2.1.**

No comments

### **2.2. Annual cockle surveys in The Wash**

No comments

### **2.3. Crab and lobster stock assessment**

*DS – queried the impact of CEFAS*

*EQ – advised that CEFAS have more extensive data and expertise available*

### **2.5. Slipper Limpets in The Wash**

*JE – asked if individuals could remove slipper limpets*

*EQ – advised that strict disposal regulations apply, particularly to mass numbers*

*SL – queried if this project would only benefit management of fisheries?*

*EQ – advised there should be both management and environmental benefits.*

*SL – asked about the potential impact on cockle and mussel survival if slipper limpets can fully colonise the substrate and if there has been past success to prevent population explosion.*

*EQ – Colonisation can occur on unaffected mussel beds and there has only been a small achievement in preventing populations from expanding. Dredging eg Menai straights has had limited success.*

*EQ – There is funding to survey The Wash yearly over the next five years to provide ongoing monitoring of the area.*

## **3.5. 2019 European Seabass Regulations**

No comments

### **3.5.1. Summary on Commercial Fishing for Bass**

No comments

### **3.5.2. Summary on Recreational Fishing for Bass**

*PC – asked if bass restrictions are having an impact on local fisherman*

*JE – queried the use of long line fishing from shore*

*EQ – advised that restrictions apply to shore fishing and EIFCA do meet with recreational fisherman to ensure regulations are adhered to*

## **4. Social Media:**

[https://twitter.com/eastern\\_ifca](https://twitter.com/eastern_ifca) and <https://www.facebook.com/eastern.ifca>

## **4. Natural England (TO)**

### **1. Condition Assessment**

*SL has looked at the Condition Assessment and requested an accessible public statement which will be sent to the group.*

### **2. Conservation Advice Package**

No comments

### **3. English Coastal Path**

The English Coast path will form a national trail which will extend around England's coast.

a. Skegness and Mablethorpe

No comments

b. Sutton Bridge to Skegness section.

No comments

c. Weybourne to Hunstanton stretch

*AM – enquired if the coastal path will remain inland at Titchwell or if it will take a route closer to the coastline.*

d. Burnham Overy Staithe

No comments

d. Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge

e. Dogs on the Marsh

*JG – enquired about signage for dog walkers to alert them to ground nesting birds.*

*PWS – suggested there might be funding from NE for signage*

*SL – advised that information on ground nesting birds would be made available to dog walkers in the Wild Seas Recreation Guide*

**4. Windfarms - Race Bank Extension**

*PJ - advised there is currently 7.2 km of unburied the cable on the sea bed which is a potential hazard to shipping. Due to the shifting sands in this area, the Port Authority have designated this as a hazardous zone and the area is surveyed every two weeks. Long term options are to back fill or cover the cable with rock armour. Currently there is a zone agreement to conduct annual surveys.*

*AM – asked who would pay for the cable if it is damaged*

*PJ – advised that this would be the windfarm owners.*

*TO – advised that areas of salt marsh had been damaged when the cable was laid due to the weight of the machinery used.*

*DS – explained that silt traps are in place at strategic points on the salt marsh to trap seeds that are brought in with the incoming tide. The hope is that in time these will germinate and regenerate the salt marsh. Currently plugs of plant matter being planted in the salt marsh are not proving successful.*

**5. Wildfowling Consents**

*PC – James Green (Chair of BASAC) is working with three clubs in Devon to develop long term management plans for NE, BASAC and local wildfowling groups to agree on a way to move forward. Currently NE guidelines are not acceptable to wildfowling community.*

*PC – EA policy has changed from not issuing new shooting leases on their land to prohibiting shooting on EA land altogether.*

**6. Other – Friskney Lane**

*SL – reported that there have been occasions of anti-social behaviour, motor vehicles on the marsh and fly tippers. To reduce risk to the public from unexploded ordnances and*

*reduce disturbance to wildlife a gate and concrete blocks have been installed to restrict large vehicle access on the salt marsh.*

**5. Photographs**

Images of silt traps on the salt marsh at Race Bank were viewed and can be found at the end of this document

**6. AOB**

*SL – If any member of the group has a connection with a catering college or school would they please get in touch.*

*JG – Will not be standing for local election this year but will still remain on the advisory group*

*AM – Hunstanton Heritage Centre has moved to new premises in the former Nat West Bank building. Part of its premise is to promote local environmental issues. AM will use this to market Wild Seas Week and the work of the KLAG. AM suggested that a short article on the work of KLAG is submitted to the Hunstanton Town and Around.*

**7. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 4 July 2019 at 6 pm. King’s Lynn Conservancy Board

**Actions for next meeting**

Wild Seas Recreation Guide	Review icons for sensitive areas? remove footprints	Sam Lew
Wild Seas Recreation Guide	Prepare short summary of wildfowling as traditional activity on the coast	Peter Catling
Wild Seas Recreation Areas	Investigate further online mapping tool for recreational activities	Sam Lew
Wild Seas Recreation Guide	Write article for Hunstanton Town and Around on Recreation Guide	Sam Lew



Race bank marsh cable track damage



Race bank marsh cable track with sediment traps



Race bank marsh cable track with pooling water near the base of the sea wall



Race bank marsh cable track in marsh centre.



Recolonization of the sediment trap by marsh flora



Close up of the sediment trap on race bank marsh cable track