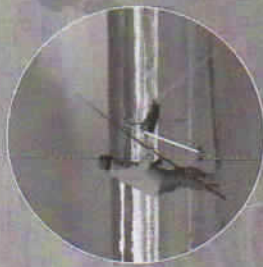


Our Vision

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.



Your Input

We value input from all sea users, coastal communities and the general public, whether by formal consultation and meetings or by informal discussions at the quayside. This helps ensure the decisions we take are based on a fair consideration of social, economic and environmental factors – and ultimately, enables us to deliver responsive and flexible management of sea fisheries resources that meets local needs.



Rob Spray

Speak to any of our officers, or contact us at our headquarters in King's Lynn by telephone, in writing, by email or via our website. Look out for consultations providing you with an opportunity to be a part of managing our shared sea fisheries resources.

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority



www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk

6 North Lynn Business Village
Bergen Way, King's Lynn
Norfolk, PE30 2JG
Tel: 01553 775321
Fax: 01553 772031
Email: mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk



Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk



Research



Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority conducts stock assessments, fisheries impact research, environmental monitoring and habitat mapping to obtain the biological and environmental information required to inform management of the district's sea fisheries resources. This enables the management of sea fisheries resources to be based on sound scientific evidence.



To obtain best value from available resources, the Authority works in partnership with local authorities, government agencies and academic bodies to share information and facilitate best practice.



Conservation



The Authority works to balance the protection of the region's diverse marine species and habitats with the sustainable use of sea fisheries resources.

Within the extensive network of Marine Protected Areas in the district, the Authority regulates fishing activities to ensure they are compatible with conservation targets for marine wildlife and supporting habitats.



Informed by best available evidence, the Authority works closely with nature conservation advisors and sea users to develop best practice in marine resource management throughout the district.



Enforcement

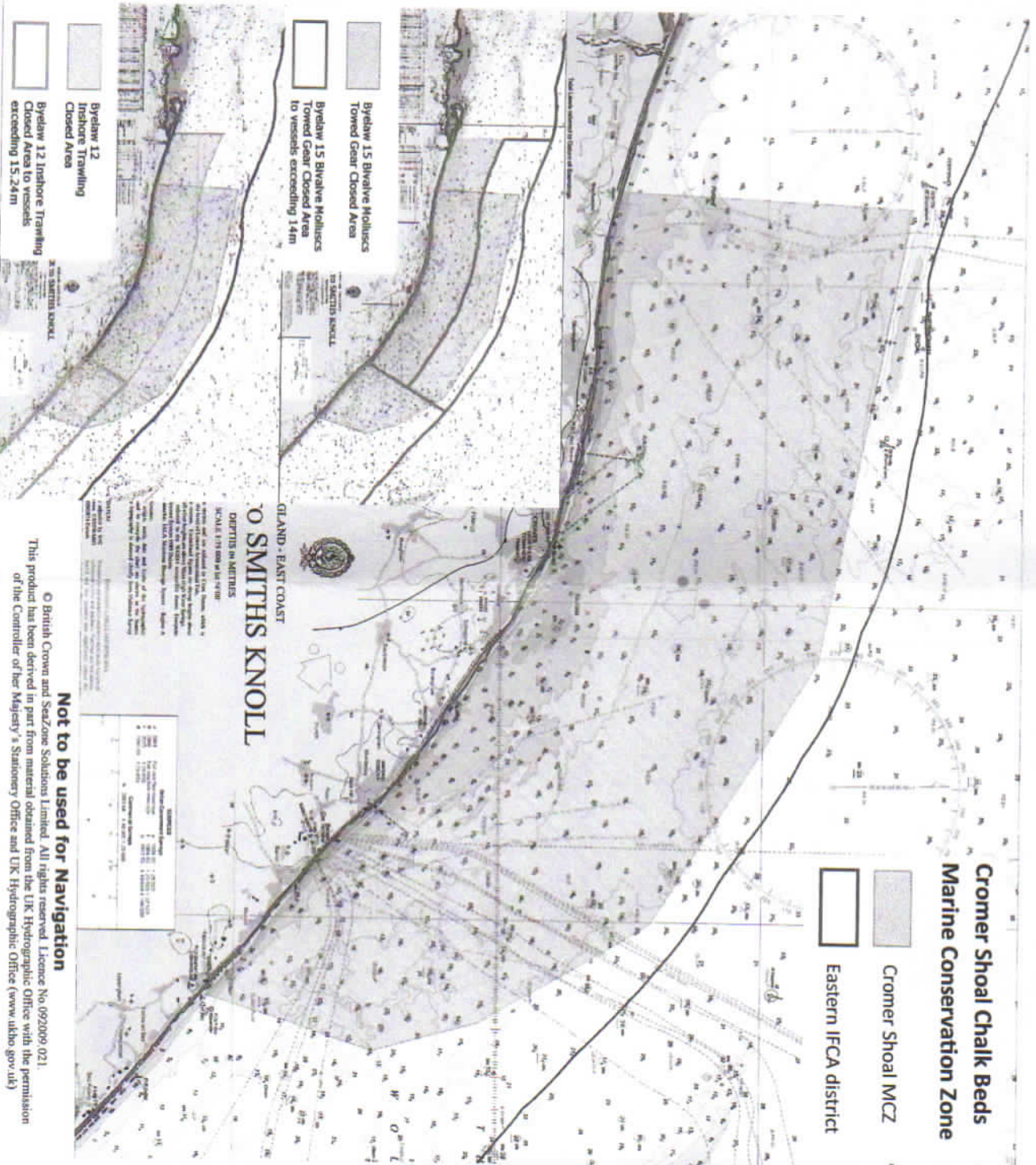


The Authority is responsible for the enforcement of legislation relating to the protection of sea fisheries resources throughout its district. It works with other bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Marine Management Organisation and various Police constabularies to do so.

The Authority's Officers enforce legislation ashore, throughout the three counties of Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Suffolk, and at sea from its patrol vessels within six miles of the coastline.



Where is the site? Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an inshore site off the North Norfolk Coast. It begins just west of Weybourne and ends at Happisburgh. The site starts 200m off the coast and extends approximately 10km out to sea, covering a total area of 321 km².



Management: MCZs are multi-use sites. When an MCZ is designated, it does not automatically mean that economic or recreational activities in that site will be restricted. Restrictions on an activity will depend on the sensitivity of species and habitats (for which the site has been designated) to the activities taking place in that area, and on the conservation objectives for those features.

Eastern IFCA is responsible for managing inshore fisheries. We will assess how fishing activities interact with the designated features — and if necessary, will develop new fisheries measures to reduce impacts. Local stakeholders will be invited to take part in this process. If you are interested in being involved, please check our website for updates: www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk or contact us directly (details overleaf).

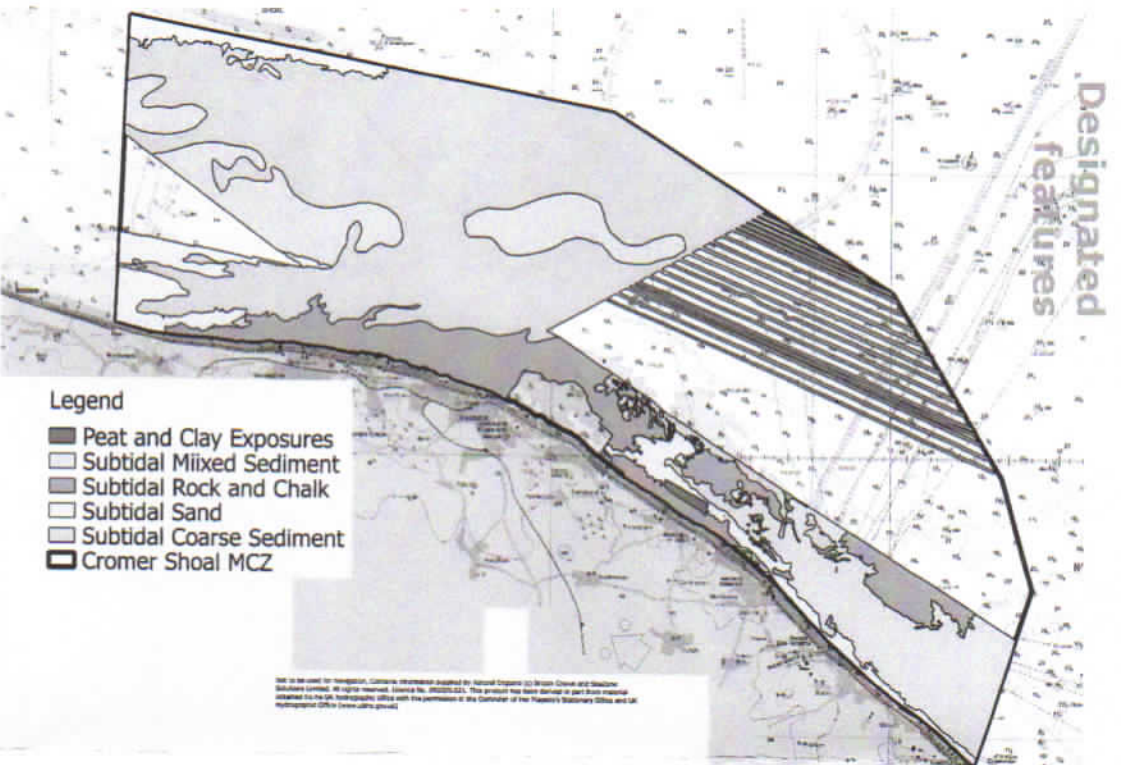
There are existing Eastern IFCA byelaws in place that restrict the use of towed fishing gear in part of the area now designated as Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ (see inset charts).

For more information about this and other Eastern IFCA activities visit www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk

Why is it important? MCZs form the UK component of an international network of protected areas in the north-east Atlantic. The network will help achieve the vision for clean, healthy, safe, **productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas**. MCZs protect typical, rare or declining habitats and species found in our seas.

This site protects infralittoral (shallow, sub-tidal) rock; this provides an important habitat for a variety of small creatures, which shelter and feed amongst the seaweeds. Within a wider, predominantly sandy area, the chalk beds provide stable surfaces for seaweeds and static animals like anemones and sponges to settle on and nursery areas for many juvenile species including whiting and sole.

The chalk beds are also home to lobsters and crabs, which settle within the crevices and holes. The area supports the local crab and lobster fishery which is vital to the character and economy of the area.



Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

6 North Lynn Business Village,

Bergen Way, King's Lynn,

Norfolk, PE30 2JG

Tel: 01553 775321

Fax: 01553 772031

Email: mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk



Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds

Marine Conservation Zone

This site was designated as a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) in January 2016. This means that specific features within this area are protected and, where necessary, regulators will manage activities to protect these features.



© Rob Spray & Dawn Watson – www.1000photos.co.uk

Local seas managed well