



**Research & Environment
Annual Plan
2014-2015**



1. *RV Three Counties*

This document is available in electronic form from the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority website:

www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk

Alternatively a hard copy can be viewed at the following location:

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
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April 2014



2. Edible crab



3. Plaice

Research and Environment Plan: 2014-2015

Introduction

The Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is one of ten regional authorities in England providing inshore fisheries and conservation management. Its district covers the three counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, from Haile Sand Fort in Lincolnshire to Felixstowe in Suffolk, and extends six nautical miles seawards.

To help the Authority meet its expectations it takes a strategic approach, guided by the specific framework of a vision, success criteria, and High Level Objectives (Defra, 2010) for IFCAs to work to and be measured against.

The vision for the Eastern IFCA is to:

'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'

This vision presents a considerable challenge for all IFCAs in requiring them to balance the needs and expectations of all those with a stake in the inshore marine environment. As a result IFCAs have a responsibility to focus on the marine conservation and sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources through collaborative, local, evidence-based decision making, using on-going and new research paths as a platform.

This annual research and environment plan provides stakeholders with an overview of the key tasks that the Authority's staff will conduct during the 2014-2015 financial year. These work streams flow from the Eastern IFCA Annual Plan and the Research and Environment Strategy 2013-2018. Both of these documents result from instructions and guidance issued to IFCAs by Defra, the Marine Management Organisation and ultimately the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.



4. Bass shoal



5. Eastern IFCA District

Research and Environment team

The Authority's Research and Environment team, consisting of four and three officers respectively, complements the Enforcement and Administrative teams to deliver evidence-based fisheries management that is sensitive to social, environmental and economic needs. A range of inshore fisheries are operated in the district by local fleets and individuals. The main target species are cockle, mussel, shrimp, crab, lobster, cod, sole, herring and bass – varying according to season and area. The district supports a wealth of important natural features that are protected under a suite of UK and EU designations (Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protected Area, Special Area of Conservation, Ramsar site). These collectively form a network of Marine Protected Areas. This network is due to be augmented by the creation of Marine Conservation Zones over the coming years.

The Authority's Research and Environment team faces a considerable challenge in providing the evidence needed to develop fisheries management measures for conservation sites. It must also continue to support the Authority's management of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 which oversees the major molluscan fisheries in The Wash. To achieve these goals the Authority must not only continue the research and monitoring programme conducted by its predecessor organisation, the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, but must develop new skills and deliver a range of projects that will satisfy its new conservation requirements. In March 2014, the Authority agreed to recruit an additional Environment Officer by quarter 2 2014/15, to increase resource available for marine protected area and consultation projects.



6. Surveying shellfish beds in The Wash

Research and Environment priorities

The research and environment team provides a broad range of services to the Authority, including field work, data collection and analysis, partner engagement, impact assessment and provision of advice. The team works synergistically across the organisation, but its two branches have distinctive roles to play within the Authority, as set out in this Plan.



7. Sunrise in The Wash

Research Priorities

The focus of the Authority's research team during 2014-15 will be:

- To review and, where appropriate, continue with existing long-term Core Research Monitoring projects;
- To advance the Authority's understanding of the features, habitats, species and activities (along with their impacts within Marine Protected Areas and European Marine Sites);
- To ensure staff are adequately trained to fulfil their work objectives;
- To work in partnership with other organisations and stakeholders to effectively gather and share information;
- To produce an annual research report to ensure the work conducted by the research team members is recorded and recognised.

Environment Priorities

Key focus areas for the Authority's environment team during 2014-15 will be:

- The prioritised assessment of fishing impacts on protected habitats and species, and development of management measures as required for marine protected areas within the Eastern IFCA district;
- Training and development of personnel to enhance productivity and effectiveness of the expanding environment team;
- Co-ordinating the Authority's management of the Wash Fishery Order (Several Fishery) including resolution of issues with leases and lay applications;
- Enhancing the Authority's existing consultation process by maintaining or improving outputs, and recording effectiveness of responses;
- Close working with the research and enforcement teams to achieve environmental functions, through fieldwork (stock assessment and habitat mapping), desk-based research (fisheries impact assessment, environmental data gathering) and enforcement duties (fishing activity surveillance and interactions with fishers);
- Effective use of the Authority's new data systems for efficient recording, storage and retrieval of information, to meet internal requirements and external enquiries.



8. Deploying survey beam trawl

Partnership Working

Partnership working is crucial to the effectiveness and efficiency of all IFCA's. Key partner organisations for the Authority's research and environment team include our funding authorities Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, other IFCA's (through the Technical Advisory Group), the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the Environment Agency, Local Nature Partnerships, and wildlife NGOs including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Wildlife Trusts and Seasearch. In addition, the Authority benefits from collaborating with other relevant authorities including Local Authorities, Port Authorities and local people on the management groups and advisory groups for the larger European Marine Sites within the district.

Partnership working will be particularly important during the coming years to ensure there is a consistent joined-up approach for monitoring and protecting features and habitats within the developing network of Marine Protected Areas.



9. Beach seine netting in partnership with Environment Agency and K&E-IFCA

KEY WORK FOR RESEARCH TEAM 2014-2015

Table 1. Agreed work activities for Eastern IFCA Research team 2014/15

Activity	Officer days 2014/2015				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Spring cockle surveys	92				92
Autumn mussel surveys		25	55		80
Titchwell Marsh mussel survey		4		4	8
Providing evidence to support the management of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas.	30	40	40	20	130
EHO/DSP Bio-toxin sampling	15	15	15	16	61
Water quality monitoring (SWEEP)	6	6	6	11	29
Crab/lobster biosampling	12	12	12	14	50
Management of Wash Fishery Order 1992 Several Fishery Lays	12	12	4	3	31
Inter-departmental & Collaborative Projects	20	20	20	15	75
Review of survey methodologies	2	1	1	1	5
Stakeholder Liaison meetings	10	10	10	10	40
Technical Advisory Group (TAG)	3		7		10
Annual Research Report			15	45	60
Mussel regeneration Study	43	4	4	14	65
Total	245	149	189	153	736

Research Officer Availability

Team	Total Days	Actual available days*
4 x Research staff	915	732

* The research team has 1 Senior Research Officer and 3 Research officers. Taking into account weekends, public and personal holidays, this team has a maximum total of 915 days available during 2014/15. Of these days, it has been estimated that 20% will be required to fulfil staff development requirements (including inductions, training and appraisals) and necessary administration duties (planning, managing, liaison and reporting). This leaves a total of 732 days research officer time available during 2014/15.

RP2014A Spring Cockle surveys

Objectives

1. Conduct the annual spring cockle survey field work. This involves using the Authority's research vessel, *Three Counties*, to sample approximately 1,300 stations from 21 beds, either using a Day grab deployed from the vessel or quadrats used during foot surveys.
2. Upgrade cockle survey database from Excel to Access in line with MEDIN guidance.
3. Analysis of the survey data to determine the spatial distribution of the adult and juvenile cockle stocks. Production of GIS charts displaying this information.
4. Analysis of the survey data to determine the biomass of adult and juvenile cockle stocks on each of the beds surveyed.
5. Use the information gained from the surveys to develop management recommendations for the 2014 fishery that comply with local byelaws, Wash Fishery Order 1992 regulations and agreed shellfish management policies.
6. Consult with Wash Fishery Order 1992 Entitlement Holders regarding the recommended management measures for the 2014 cockle fishery.
7. Produce a report for the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee. Present the survey results and management proposals to the Sub-Committee.
8. Produce detailed report of the survey results for inclusion in the 2014 Annual Research Report.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

Success Criteria 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders
 Success Criteria 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.

- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.3; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a

Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment

- High Level Objective 6.3; Performance Indicators 6.2c, 6.3a

Outputs & Timescales

Develop Access database	March 2014
Completion of survey field work	May 2014
Report summarising survey results, including recommendations for 2014 cockle fishery	May 2014
Presentation of survey results and management recommendations to MPA Sub-Committee	June 2014
Report of survey results for inclusion in 2014 Annual Research Report	January 2015

Internal links

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cockle Charter agreed between Authority and Fishermen in 2011 • Wash Fishery Order 1992 • Authority’s Shellfish Management Policies • Authority’s Standard Operating Procedure for cockle surveys • Habitats Regulations Assessment for 2014 cockle fishery • Authority reports regarding Hydraulic Suction Dredge and “Prop-Wash” Impact Assessments • Autumn Mussel Survey programme (RP2014B) • EHO/DSP Biotoxin Sampling (RP2014E) • Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K) • Annual Research Report (RP2014M) 	
External links, including partner agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry provides input towards management decisions. • Natural England provides conservation advice through the Habitats Regulations Assessment process 	
External funding	
None	
Reporting officer(s)	
Robin Strigner	Research Officer
Stephen Thompson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Project lead	
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer



10. Deploying Day grab during cockle survey

RP2014B Autumn Mussel survey

Objectives

1. Conduct the annual autumn mussel survey field work. This involves using the Authority's research vessel, *Three Counties*, to conduct low-water foot surveys on 20 inter-tidal beds using the "Dutch wand" method.
2. Upgrade mussel survey database from Excel to Access in line with MEDIN guidance.
3. Analysis of the survey data to determine the biomass and size distribution of mussel stocks within the beds. Production of GIS charts displaying this information and the geographical extent of the beds.
4. Use the information gained from the surveys to develop management recommendations for the 2014/15 fishery that comply with local byelaws, Wash Fishery Order 1992 regulations and agreed shellfish management policies.
5. Consult with Wash Fishery Order 1992 Entitlement Holders regarding the recommended management measures for the 2014/15 cockle fishery.
6. Produce a report for the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee. Present the survey results and management proposals to the Sub-Committee.
7. Produce detailed report of the survey results for inclusion in the 2014 Annual Research Report.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

- Success Criteria 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders
 Success Criteria 5: IFCA's make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives
- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.3; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a
- Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment
- High Level Objective 6.3; Performance Indicators 6.2c, 6.3a

Outputs & Timescales

Develop Access database	September 2014
Completion of survey field work	November 2014
Report summarising survey results, including recommendations for 2014/15 mussel fishery	December 2014
Presentation of survey results and management recommendations to MPA Sub-Committee	December 2014
Report of survey results for inclusion in 2014 Annual Research Report	February 2015

Internal links

- Authority's Standard Operating Procedure for mussel surveys

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash Fishery Order 1992 • Authority's Shellfish Management Policies • Habitats Regulations Assessment for 2014/15 mussel fishery • Spring Cockle Survey programme (RP2014A) • EHO/DSP Biotoxin Sampling (RP2014E) • Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K) • Annual Research Report (RP2014M) 	
External links, including partner agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry provides input towards management decisions. • Natural England provide conservation advice through the Appropriate Assessment process 	
External funding	
None	
Reporting officer(s)	
Robin Strigner	Research Officer
Stephen Thompson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Project lead	
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer



11. Conducting survey of inter-tidal mussel bed

RP2014C Titchwell Marsh Mussel survey

Objectives

1. Conduct field work for two surveys (October and February). These involve conducting foot surveys from the shore at low-water using the "Dutch wand" method.
2. Upgrade mussel survey database from Excel to Access in line with MEDIN guidance.
3. Analysis of the survey data to determine the biomass and size distribution of mussel stocks within the bed. Production of GIS charts displaying this information.
4. Should the identified stocks be sufficient to support a viable commercial fishery, develop management recommendations for the 2014/15 fishery that comply with local byelaws and do not harm the Neolithic peat beds on which the mussels settle.
5. Consult with local Fishermen's Associations, Natural England and the RSPB regarding the management proposals.
6. Produce a report for the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee. Present the survey results and management proposals to the Sub-Committee.
7. Produce detailed report of the survey results for inclusion in the 2014 Annual Research Report.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

Success Criteria 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders

Success Criteria 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.

- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.3; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a

Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment

- High Level Objective 6.3; Performance Indicators 6.2c, 6.3a

Success Criteria 7: IFCA's are recognised and heard

- High Level Objective 7.1

Outputs & Timescales

Develop Access database	September 2014
Conduct field work for autumn survey	October 2014
Conduct field work for winter survey	February 2015
Report detailing survey results and recommended management measures to MPA sub-committee (if required)	November 2014
Report of survey results for inclusion in 2014 Annual Research Report	February 2015

Internal links

- Authority's Standard Operating Procedure for mussel surveys

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIFCA Byelaws • Habitats Regulations Assessment for a 2014/15 Titchwell mussel fishery • Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K) • Annual Research Report (RP2014M) 	
External links, including partner agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry provides input towards management decisions. • RSPB – The mussel bed is situated within a RSPB nature reserve • Natural England provide conservation advice through the Appropriate Assessment process 	
External funding	
None	
Reporting officer(s)	
Robin Strigner	Research Officer
Stephen Thompson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Project lead	
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer



12. Mussels attached to Neolithic peat bed at Titchwell

RP2014D Providing evidence to support the management of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas

Objectives

1. Work in conjunction with the Environment team to identify data gaps in relation to the location, extent and condition of designated features within Marine Protected Areas in order to direct habitat mapping surveys.
2. Where available, obtain relevant information from other agencies and sources, and process so as to meet our requirements for mapping designated habitats and features.
3. Utilise the Authority's resources (including research vessel *Three Counties*, side scan sonar, and other survey equipment) to conduct habitat mapping surveys. These surveys will focus on:
 - a. Designated features of MPAs within our district, where the gap analysis has identified further data is required,
 - b. Eelgrass at the Humber / Horseshoe Point (also incorporating a cockle assessment),
 - c. Native oyster, blue mussel and fish surveys in the Suffolk rivers' SAC's
 - d. Continued monitoring of core *Sabellaria* reef sites in the Wash @ North Norfolk Coast SAC
4. Analysis of the survey data to determine the spatial distribution of any identified features. Production of GIS charts, images and reports to detail this information, providing evidence to support the Environmental team when producing Habitat Regulation Assessments and the Authority's byelaw review.
5. Work in conjunction with the Environment team to utilise existing sources, primarily the CEFAS review of fishing impacts on designated features, to inform management of lower risk activities.
6. To design and undertake fishing impact assessments if required to fill data gaps and inform management decisions relating to lower risk activities.
7. Should any sub-littoral mussel beds be identified during the course of these surveys, provide a detailed stock assessment. Develop management recommendations for opening such beds that comply with local byelaws and shellfish management policies.
8. Obtain and process data from leisure angling interests to quantify changes in fish species abundance, and incidences of Dab Hyperpigmentation.
9. Develop databases for the storage of data that is MEDIN compliant.
10. Produce detailed report of the survey results for inclusion in the 2014 Annual Research Report.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

Success Criteria 2: Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the district

- High Level Objective 2.1; Performance Indicator 2.1a

Success Criteria 5: IFCA's make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.3; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a

Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment

- High Level Objectives 6.1, 6.3, 6.4; Performance Indicator 6.1a, 6.4a, 6.4b

Success Criteria 7: IFCA's are recognised and heard

- High Level Objective 7.1

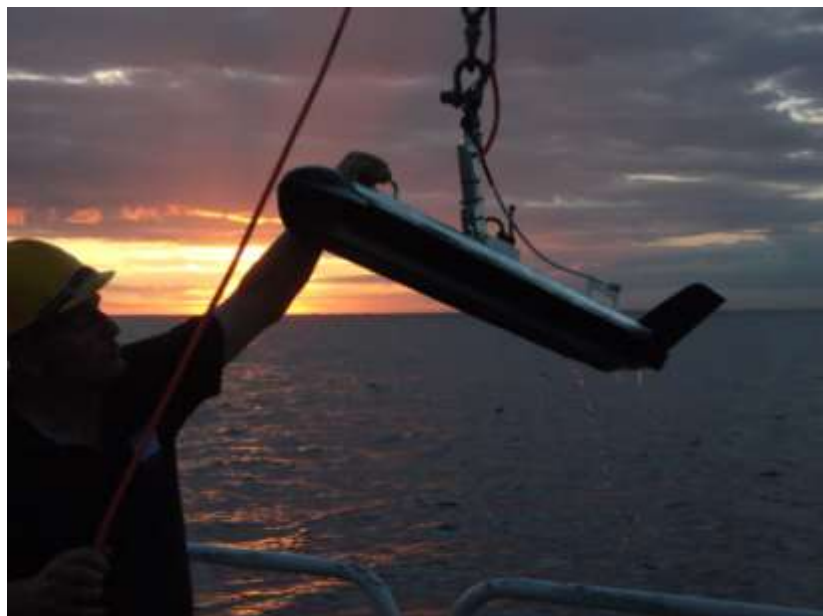
Outputs & Timescales

Identification of data gaps for the extent and condition of designated features within the MPA's in our District.	On-going. April 2014 – March 2015
Identification of data gaps detailing fishery impacts on designated features within the MPA's in our District.	On-going. April 2014 – March 2015
Completion of required field work mapping designated features within MPA's.	On-going. May 2014 – November 2014
Completion of required field work assessing fishery impacts on specific designated features.	On-going. May 2014 – November 2014
Production of reports detailing spatial extent and physical condition of studied features.	On-going. July 2014 – February 2015
Production of reports detailing fishery impact assessments for studied interactions.	On-going. July 2014 – February 2015
Should any sub-littoral mussel beds be identified during the course of the studies, provide survey results and management recommendations to MPA Sub-Committee.	On-going. July 2014 – February 2015
Produce report summarising the survey results for inclusion in the 2014 Annual Research Report.	February 2015

Internal links

- Habitats Regulations Assessment (Wash Fishery Order fisheries; new byelaws, and byelaw derogations) (EP2014D)
- Authority's Byelaw Review
- Authority's Shellfish Management Policies (for Sub-littoral mussels)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for any identified 2014/15 sub-littoral mussel

fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K) • Technical Advisory Group (RP2014L) • Annual Research Report (RP2014M) 	
External links, including partner agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEFAS, MMO, Environment Agency, Natural England, Centrica, Gardline all conduct or commission habitat mapping and fishery impact assessment surveys within the District • Other IFCA's conduct fishery impact assessments • Natural England provide conservation advice through the Appropriate Assessment process • Industry provides input towards management decisions. 	
External funding	
Defra-funded survey equipment: side-scan sonar unit, u/w cameras etc Natural England provide funding for some survey projects	
Reporting officer(s)	
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Robin Strigner	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Project lead	
Stephen Thompson	Research Officer



13. Deploying side scan sonar

RP2014E EHO / DSP Biotoxin Sampling

Objectives

1. Continue the programme to collect, process and despatch live shellfish and water samples to support the classification of shellfish waters within the Wash. This involves using the Authority's vessels to collect eleven shellfish and four water samples each month from fixed sample stations in the Wash.
2. Maintain populations of mussels within holding cages at prescribed sample stations within the Wash, from which samples can be taken as required.
3. Liaise regularly with CEFAS and Local Authorities regarding sampling protocols.
4. Produce report of the classification results for inclusion in the 2014 Annual Research Report

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

- Success Criteria 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders
 Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment
- High Level Objective 6.3; Performance Indicators 6.2c, 6.3a

Outputs & Timescales

Supply CEFAS and Local Authorities with monthly shellfish and water samples	Monthly, throughout year
Report of survey results for inclusion in 2014 Annual Research Report	February 2015

Internal links

- Water Quality Monitoring (SWEEP) (RP2014F)
- Annual Research Report (RP2014M)

External links, including partner agencies

- Local Authorities responsible for monitoring water quality
- CEFAS protocols for sample collection

External funding

Local Authorities provide funding for the sample collection

Reporting officer(s)

Stephen Thompson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Simon Lee	Skipper
Simon Howard	Skipper
Jason Byrne	IFCO

Project lead

Robin Strigner	Research Officer
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RP2014F Water Quality Monitoring (SWEEP)

Objectives

1. Continue the on-going programme recording chlorophyll-a levels in the Wash in order to monitor primary food production fundamental to the health of shellfish beds.
2. To provide samples to CEFAS for use in their own studies, that can in turn help answer questions raised during the Review of Lay Consents and Appropriate Assessments associated with new lays food availability.
3. Conduct regular meat yields of shellfish at sampling stations
4. Conduct regular maintenance of YSI data sondes and data buoy
5. Produce detailed report of sampling results for inclusion in 2014 Annual Research report.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

- Success Criteria 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders
- High Level Objective 4.1
- Success Criteria 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.
- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.2, 5.3; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a
- Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment
- High Level Objective 6.1; Performance Indicator 6.3a
- Success Criteria 7: IFCA's are recognised and heard
- High Level Objective 7.1

Outputs & timescales

Completion of sampling regime	On-going. April 2014 – March 2015
Equipment well maintained and serviced	On-going. April 2014 – March 2015
Report detailing results of project for inclusion in Annual Research report	February 2015

Internal links

- Habitats Regulations Assessment (Wash Fishery Order fisheries; new byelaws, and byelaw derogations) (EP2014D)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for new lay assessments
- EHO/DSP Biotxin Sampling (RP2014E)
- Annual Research Report (RP2014M)

External links, including partner agencies

- CEFAS – Working in partnership on this project
- Environment Agency conduct similar monitoring in estuaries
- Natural England provide conservation advice through the Habitat Regulations Assessment process

External funding

- Natural England provided funding for 2 YSI data sondes
- CEFAS provide “payment in kind” by analysing monthly water samples

Reporting officer(s)	
Stephen Thompson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Project lead	
Robin Strigner	Research Officer



14. Servicing the Authority’s data buoy

RP2013G Crab/Lobster Stock Assessment

Objectives

1. Continue to capture MSAR forms in MS Access to build up a time series of returns and effort data for use in monitoring and updating fisheries models.
2. To ensure that bio-sampling at ports is carried out on a regular basis to agreed monthly goals.
3. To initiate a sampling regime that records the un-landed component of the catch allowing for population structure analysis.
4. Support and collaborate with CEFAS in information gathering efforts.
5. Ensure MEDIN compliance for all recorded data.
6. To review and discuss potential management tools with stakeholders involved in the industry.
7. Production of a report detailing the results of this study for inclusion in the annual research report.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

Success Criteria 5: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.

- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.3; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a

Success Criteria 6: IFCAs support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment

- High Level Objective 6.3; Performance Indicator 6.3a

Outputs & timescales

On-going data collection from MSAR forms and bio-sampling in ports and at sea.	April 2014 – March 2015
Produce advice for potential management measures.	February 2015
Analysis of data and compilation of report detailing conclusions of study for inclusion in the annual research report.	February 2015

Internal links

- Current crustacean bio-sampling regime and data-base
- Authority's Standard Operating Procedure for crab/lobster bio-sampling
- Management of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas (RP2014D)
- Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K)
- Technical Advisory Group (RP2014L)
- Annual Research Report (RP2014M)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (Wash Fishery Order fisheries; new byelaws, and byelaw derogations) (EP2014D)

External links, including partner agencies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEFAS's bio-sampling regime • MMO's MSAR landings data • Other IFCA's Crustacea programmes • Fishing industry for support and advice 	
External funding	
None	
Reporting officer(s)	
Robin Strigner	Research Officer
Stephen Thompson	Research Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment/Data Officer
Jason Byrne	Area IFCO – Lincs
Alan Garnham	Area IFCO – Suffolk
Ady Woods	Area IFCO – Norfolk
Project lead	
Peter Welby	Research Officer



15. Juvenile lobster, *Homarus gammarus*

RP2014H Management of WFO 1992 Several 'Lays'

Objectives

1. Support the Environment team address the current issues relating to the authority's management of the Several Fishery.
2. Support the Environment team process those applications for new lays that were received prior to the commencement of the moratorium.
3. Conduct a localised habitat survey at the site of each application.
4. Produce a report for each application for the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee.
5. Help to develop options for new applications for lays that are received once the moratorium is ended.
6. Provide advice in a Constraints Study to identify limiting factors in the future development of the Several Fishery.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

Success Criteria 2: Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the district

- High Level Objective 2.1; Performance Indicator 2.1a

Success Criteria 5: IFCA's make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives

- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.3; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a

Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment

- Performance Indicator 6.3a

Outputs & Timescales

Produce survey reports for the Marine Protected Area Sub-Committee, detailing the habitats around new lays currently under application.	On-going. April 2014 – March 2015
A robust formal approach to use when processing new lay applications	March 2015

Internal links

- Wash Fishery Order 1992
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (Wash Fishery Order fisheries; new byelaws, and byelaw derogations) (EP2014D)
- Authority's Standard Operating Procedure for habitat mapping surveys (RP2014J)
- Authority's Shellfish Management Policies
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for new lay assessments
- Spring Cockle Survey programme (RP2014A)
- Autumn Mussel Survey programme (RP2014B)
- Management of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas (RP2014D)
- EHO/DSP Biotxin Sampling (RP2014E)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality Monitoring (SWEEP) (RP2014F) • Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K) 	
External links, including partner agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Estates • Industry provides input towards management decisions. • Natural England provide conservation advice through the Habitat Regulations Assessment process • CEFAS provides advice concerning impacts on food availability 	
External funding	
Lay holders charged an initial administration fee following successful applications	
Reporting officer(s)	
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Sandra Cowper	Marine Environment and GIS officer
Stephen Thompson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Project lead	
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment and data officer



16. Mussel Dredging

RP2014I Interdepartmental & Collaborative Projects

Objectives

1. To assist the environment team by contributing towards relevant projects, desk studies and consultations.
2. To assist the Marine Protection team by supporting IFCO's at sea and in ports when carrying out fisheries enforcement duties.
3. To perform crew duties aboard the Authority's vessels.
4. To attend and contribute towards community outreach events.
5. To attend and contribute towards external collaborative events and workshops.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

- Success Criteria 4: IFCAs work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders
- High Level Objectives 4.1, 4.2; Performance Indicators 4.1a, 4.2a, 4.2b, 4.2d
- Success Criteria 5: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.
- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.2, 5.4; Performance Indicators 5.1b, 5.1c, 5.2b, 5.2c 5.4a, 5.4b.
- Success Criteria 6: IFCAs support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment
- High Level Objective 6.1, 6.2, 6.3; Performance Indicator 6.1b, 6.1c, 6.2a, 6.3b.
- Success Criteria 7: IFCAs are recognised and heard
- High Level Objective 7.1, 7.2; Performance Indicators 7.1c, 7.2c.

Outputs & timescales

Assist in environment team projects	As required/On-going
Assist in fisheries enforcement duties	As required/On-going
Perform crew duties aboard vessels	As required/On-going
Attend community engagement events	As required/On-going
Attend collaborative events and workshops	As required/On-going

Internal links

- Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K)
- Technical Advisory Group (RP2014L)

External links, including partner agencies

- Industry provides input towards management decisions.
- Natural England, CEFAS, MMO, Other IFCAs
- Organised community events, county shows

External funding

None

Reporting officer(s)

Robin Strigner	Research Officer
Stephen Thomson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer

Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment/Data Officer
Sandra Cowper	Marine Environment and GIS Officer
Jason Byrne	Area IFCO – Lincs
Alan Garnham	Area IFCO – Suffolk
Ady Woods	Area IFCO – Norfolk East
Project lead	
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer



17. Display tank at community show

RP2014J Develop Best Practice for Standard Operating Procedures for Research Activities

Objectives

1. To conduct a desk based study to research best practice survey methods relevant to our type of work.
2. To develop detailed standard operating procedures for all of the types of work we conduct and equipment/software we use.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

Success Criteria 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.

- High Level Objectives 5.2, 5.4; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a

Outputs & timescales

Formal Standard Operating Procedures

August 2014

Internal links

- Spring Cockle Survey programme (RP2014A)
- Autumn Mussel Survey programme (RP2014B)
- Titchwell Mussel Survey programme (RP2014C)
- Management of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas (RP2014D)
- EHO/DSP Bio-toxin programme (RP2014E)
- Water Quality Monitoring (SWEEP) (RP2014F)
- Crab/Lobster bio-sampling programme (RP2014G)
- Technical Advisory Group (RP2014L)

External links, including partner agencies

- CEFAS, Environment Agency, Natural England, Other IFCA's, JNCC

External funding

None

Reporting officer(s)

Stephen Thompson

Research Officer

Peter Welby

Research Officer

Robin Strigner

Research Officer

Project lead

Ron Jessop

Senior Research Officer

RP2014K Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups

Objectives

1. To liaise with several stakeholder groups at regular meetings ranging from Authority and internal meetings, to liaison meetings with the fishing industry, CEFAS, NE, EA, RSPB etc.
2. Provide papers, presentations and reports for meetings as required.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

Success Criteria 4: IFCA work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders

- High Level Objective 4.2

Success Criteria 5: IFCA make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.

- High Level Objectives 5.2, 5.4

Success Criteria 7: IFCA are recognised and heard

- High Level Objective 7.1

Outputs & timescales

Attendance and participation at Authority and stakeholder meetings.

April 2014 – March 2015

Internal links

- Spring Cockle Survey programme (RP2014A)
- Autumn Mussel Survey programme (RP2014B)
- Titchwell Mussel Survey programme (RP2014C)
- Management of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas (RP2014D)
- EHO/DSP Bio-toxin programme (RP2014E)
- Water Quality Monitoring (SWEEP) (RP2014F)
- Crab/Lobster bio-sampling programme (RP2014G)
- Technical Advisory Group (RP2014L)
- Mussel Regeneration programme (RP2014N)

External links, including partner agencies

- CEFAS, DEFRA, MMO, Other IFCA, Natural England, Environment Agency, RSPB, Fishermen, Recreational Sea Anglers

External funding

None

Reporting officer(s)

Judith Stoutt

Senior Marine Environment Officer

Stephen Thompson

Research Officer

Peter Wellby

Research Officer

Robin Strigner

Research Officer

Project lead

Ron Jessop

Senior Research Officer

RP2014L Technical Advisory Group

Objectives

1. To liaise the research/environmental activities of the IFCA's, CEFAS, NE, EA and MMO.
2. Senior Research Officer to represent groups at 2 meetings each year.
3. To conduct any additional workloads resulting from action points raised by the group including, preparing papers/presentations and moderating the TAG Knowledge Hub forum.
4. Actively participate in TAG workshops, steering groups and training sessions.
5. In the event of the Senior Research Officer being asked to take the role of Chairperson or Secretary, fulfilling these additional duties.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

- Success Criteria 4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders
- High Level Objective 4.1, 4.2
- Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment
- High Level Objective 6.1
- Success Criteria 7: IFCA's are recognised and heard
- High Level Objective 7.1

Outputs & timescales

Attendance at 2 TAG meetings	March 2014 and June 2014
Attendance at TAG workshops/training events	October 2014

Internal links

- Management of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas (RP2014D)
- Standard Operating Procedure Review (RP2014J)

External links, including partner agencies

- Other IFCA's, Natural England, CEFAS, MMO, Environment Agency are all represented on TAG

External funding

None

Reporting officer(s)

Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment Officer

Project lead

Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
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RP2014M Annual Research Report

Objectives

1. To compile an annual report detailing research and monitoring projects undertaken throughout the year.
2. Report provides a valuable historic resource detailing the condition of the stocks that are monitored annually and research projects that have been undertaken.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

Success Criteria 1: IFC Authorities have sound governance and staff are motivated and respected

- High Level Objective 1.2, Performance Indicator 1.3

Success Criteria 7: IFCAs are recognised and heard

- High Level Objective 7.2

Outputs & timescales

Annual research report for 2014 activities

March 2015

Internal links

- Spring Cockle Survey programme (RP2014A)
- Autumn Mussel Survey programme (RP2014B)
- Titchwell Mussel Survey programme (RP2014C)
- Management of fisheries in Marine Protected Areas (RP2014D)
- EHO/DSP Bio-toxin programme (RP2014E)
- Water Quality Monitoring (SWEEP) (RP2014F)
- Crab/Lobster bio-sampling programme (RP2014G)
- Mussel Regeneration programme (RP2014N)

External links, including partner agencies

None

External funding

None

Reporting officer

Stephen Thompson

Research Officer

Peter Welby

Research Officer

Robin Strigner

Research Officer

Project lead

Ron Jessop

Senior Research Officer

RP2014N Mussel Regeneration Study

Objectives

1. Trial practical methodologies that can be used to enhance the recruitment of seed onto the Wash inter-tidal mussel beds, promoting the recovery of healthy beds.
2. Liaise with industry members to discuss potential methodologies and ideas.
3. Develop project plan
4. Source potential funding opportunities.
5. Tender for vessels and source required materials.
6. Conduct fieldwork and monitor results.
7. Analyse data to determine whether recruitment has been successfully enhanced.
8. Produce a report detailing the results of the study for inclusion in the annual research report.
9. Develop measures to implement successful methodologies.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2013/14)

- Success Criteria 5: IFCA's make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.
- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.3; Performance Indicators 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.3a
- Success Criteria 6: IFCA's support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment
- High Level Objective 6.3; Performance Indicator 6.3a

Outputs & timescales

Liaison meeting with industry members	March 2014
Project plan developed	April 2014
Funding opportunities explored	April 2014
Vessel tendering process completed and required materials sourced	May 2014
Initial field work conducted	May 2014
Monitoring of results	June 2014 – October 2015
Data analysed and report produced detailing results of study.	Interim report February 2015 Final report February 2016

Internal links

- Authority's Standard Operating Procedure for mussel surveys
- Wash Fishery Order 1992
- Authority's Shellfish Management Policies
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for 2014/15 mussel fishery
- Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K)
- Annual Research Report (RP2014M)

External links, including partner agencies

- Industry members will be sought for advice and to provide vessels and materials

<p>for field work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural England provides conservation advice through the Habitats Regulations Assessment process 	
External funding	
Wash Fishery Order Fund	
Reporting officer(s)	
Stephen Thompson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Robin Strigner	Research Officer
Project lead	
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer



18. Mussel dredging from Three Counties

KEY WORK FOR ENVIRONMENT TEAM 2014/15

Table 1. Agreed work activities for Eastern IFCA Environment team 2014/15

Activity	Officer days 2014/2015				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Fisheries in European Marine Sites	73	93	93	93	352
Marine Conservation Zones	4	6	7	7	20
Habitats Regulations Assessments	7	3	4	2	16
Wash Fishery Order – Shellfish lays	13	14	8	8	43
Consultations	18	34	37	41	130
Derogations	4	3	4	2	13
Inter-departmental working	13	17	17	17	64
Total	132	170	170	170	642

Environment Officer Availability

Team	Total Days	Actual available days*
2.7 x Environment staff (Q1)	157	126
3.7 x Environment staff (Q2-4)	645	516
Total	802	642

* The environment team currently has one Senior Environment Officer and two Environment Officers, filling a total of 2.7 FTEs. An additional 1 FTE Environment Officer will be recruited by Q2 2014/15. Taking into account weekends, public and personal holidays, the team has a maximum total of 802 days available during 2014/15. Of these days, it has been estimated that 20% will be required to fulfil staff development requirements (including inductions, training and appraisals) and necessary administration duties (planning, managing, liaison and reporting). This leaves a total of 642 days Environment officer time available during 2014/5, an increase of 26% on 2013/14.

EP2014A Fisheries in European Marine Sites**Objectives**

1. To support the conservation of habitats and species in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (European Marine Sites) in the Eastern IFCA district through the management of fishing activities;
2. To assess the impact of lower-risk fishing activities in European Marine Sites, and support the development of appropriate management measures by the December 2016 deadline;
3. To continue to participate in national implementation and working groups, to achieve consistency of approach with other IFCAs and MMO (as appropriate, and in particular with neighbouring IFCAs), and to maintain dialogue with Defra, MMO, Natural England, fishing organisations and conservation groups nationally and regionally with regards to the process;
4. To draft, consult upon, agree and implement measures for the management of lower-risk activities in European Marine Sites;
5. In tandem with the above objective, to draft, consult upon and submit to Defra an impact assessment for any Regulatory Notice issued under the Protected Areas byelaw;
6. To ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement with regards to the process through community meetings and additional dedicated events as required;
7. To refine fishing activity information to distil quantitative data to inform the assessment of fishing activities;
8. To identify the data gaps in relation to the presence, extent and condition of designated features, in order to direct habitat mapping work (RP2014D), working with regional Natural England advisors and site users;
9. To utilise existing sources, primarily the Cefas review of fishing impacts on designated features, to inform the assessment of lower-risk activities;
10. To design empirical fishing impact assessments if required to fill data gaps and inform management decisions relating to lower risk activities.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2014/15)

- 1.3, 2.1, 6.2: Issues affecting sea fisheries resources are identified, prioritised and suitable management plans put in place by 2015;
- 2.1b: All byelaws made after April 2011 meet the requirements of Defra guidance;
- 4.2b: Engagement strategy developed by April 2012
- 5.2c IFCA representative proactively involved in relevant evidence networks to share best practice

6.1a: Identify shared objectives in managing the marine environment with partner organisations	
6.4a: MPA condition is taken into account when developing management plans	
6.4b: IFCA's are effectively represented on management boards/steering groups for MPAs	
Outputs & timescales	
"Ambers and greens" workplan	April 2014
Participation in national MPA working group	Fortnightly
Ambers & greens screening completed	April 2014
Priority amber interactions assessed	Ongoing, April 2014 to March 2015
Potential mitigation measures (priority ambers) considered and agreed	Quarterly Authority meetings or relevant Sub-Committee meetings
Community consultation on mitigation measures for priority ambers	Community engagement and fishermen's association meetings
Implementation of mitigation measures for priority ambers	January 2015
Quarterly progress report to Defra	April, July, October 2014 & January 2015
Internal links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern IFCA's agreed process for the management of fishing activities in marine protected areas (MPA05/11) • RP2014D Evidence for marine protected area management • Eastern IFCA Community Engagement Strategy (EIFCA12/96) • Eastern IFCA byelaw review (an Eastern IFCA priority for 2014/15) 	
External links, including partner agencies	
Defra, MMO, AIFCA, Natural England, Fishing Organisations, Conservation Organisations: Implementation Group and Working Group; regional Natural England officers; neighbouring IFCA's	
External funding	
Defra-funded survey equipment: side-scan sonar unit and computer	
Reporting officer(s)	
Sandra Cowper	Marine Environment/GIS Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment/Data Officer
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Project lead	
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer

EP2014B Marine Conservation Zones

Objectives

1. To review existing knowledge of fishing activities within recommended Marine Conservation Zones, and to fill identified data gaps through desk studies and partnership work;
2. To review existing knowledge of the impacts on fishing activities on site features, and to fill identified data gaps through desk studies and if necessary through empirical fishing impact studies, working with the IFCA Technical Advisory Group to utilise data-sharing opportunities and avoid duplication of effort;
3. To assist the Enforcement Team in investigating the use of Byelaws to regulate fishing activity in recommended MCZs in preparation of potential future designations;
4. To ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement with regards to Eastern IFCA management measures, through community meetings and additional dedicated events as required;
5. To liaise with Natural England and Defra, and to promote meaningful stakeholder engagement between Defra and fishing communities, with regards to potential future Marine Conservation Zones in later tranches of designation.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2014/15)

- 2.1b: All byelaws made after April 2011 meet the requirements of Defra guidance;
- 4.2b: Engagement strategy developed by April 2012
- 6.1a: Identify shared objectives in managing the marine environment with partner organisations
- 6.4a: MPA condition is taken into account when developing management plans
- 6.4b: IFCA's are effectively represented on management boards/steering groups for MPAs

Outputs & timescales

Fishing Activities in MCZ review	July 2014
Gap analysis of MCZ evidence (Fishing activity, feature presence and extent, feature sensitivity) for recommended MCZs	October 2014
Rationalise potential management measures for future MCZ designations	January 2015

Community meetings and consultation on proposed management measures	January – March 2015
Internal links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern IFCA’s agreed process for the management of fishing activities in marine protected areas (MPA05/11). • Fisheries in European Marine Sites project (EP2014A) • Evidence for marine protected areas project (RP2014D) • Eastern IFCA Community Engagement Strategy (EIFCA12/96) • Eastern IFCA byelaw review 	
External links, including partner agencies	
Defra, MMO, AIFCA, Natural England, Fishing Organisations, Conservation Organisations; regional Natural England officers; neighbouring IFCAs; local fishing communities	
External funding	
None identified	
Reporting officer(s)	
Sandra Cowper	Marine Environment/GIS Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment/Data Officer
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Project lead	
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer

EP2014C Habitats Regulations Assessment (Wash Fishery Order fisheries; new byelaws, and byelaw derogations)

Objectives

1. To ensure the bivalve shellfishery activities regulated by Eastern IFCA through the Wash Fishery Order 1992 are managed in a way that supports the achievement of the conservation objectives for the Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site;
2. To ensure the bivalve shellfishery activities permitted by Eastern IFCA through the Wash Fishery Order 1992 (the Several fishery) are assessed in accordance with the Habitats Regulations before leases are granted;
3. To ensure any new byelaws created by Eastern IFCA are compatible with the conservation objectives of European Marine Sites in the Eastern IFCA district;
4. To ensure that the granting of any derogations of Eastern IFCA byelaws (for example, for research purposes) is compatible with the conservation objectives of European Marine Sites in the Eastern IFCA district;
5. To assess the likelihood of damage or disturbance to any European Marine Site features from the granting of derogations from any Eastern IFCA byelaw, as required;
6. To liaise regularly with Natural England to maintain joint understanding of fisheries/conservation issues and ensure a swift turnaround of advice.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2014/15)

Eastern IFCA's agreed process for the management of fishing activities in marine protected areas (MPA05/11).

Fisheries in European Marine Sites (EP2014A)

Outputs & timescales

Wash cockle fishery Habitats Regulations Assessment	May 2014, plus possible additional assessments if fishery is extended
Wash mussel fishery Habitats Regulations Assessment	December 2014, plus possible additional assessments if fishery is extended
Titchwell mussel fishery Habitats Regulations Assessment	August 2014
Wash Fishery Order – shellfish lays Habitats Regulations Assessment	Ongoing as required
Byelaw derogations Habitats Regulations Assessment	As required

Internal links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern IFCA’s agreed process for the management of fishing activities in marine protected areas (MPA05/11). • Spring cockle surveys (RP2014A) • Autumn mussel surveys (RP2014B) • Titchwell mussel surveys (RP2014C) • Wash Fishery Order 1992 – management of Several Fishery lays (EP2014G) • Eastern IFCA Community Engagement Strategy (EIFCA12/96) 	
External links, including partner agencies	
Natural England, local fishermen’s associations	
External funding	
Wash Fishery Order fund could be used for some aspects of this work, if agreed with entitlement holders	
Reporting officer(s)	
Sandra Cowper	Marine Environment/GIS Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment/Data Officer
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Project lead	
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer

EP2014D Derogations

Objectives

1. To ensure that operations conducted by external organisations under derogations from Eastern IFCA byelaws are managed in such a way that supports the achievement of the conservation objectives for the marine protected areas within the Authority's district;
2. To ensure Natural England is consulted where proposed operations are located within or adjacent to marine protected areas;
3. To liaise with Eastern IFCA Area Officers to ascertain impact of proposed operations on local fisheries;
4. To encourage direct liaison between applicant and likely affected stakeholders, including commercial and recreational fishermen;
5. To ensure sufficient information is obtained from the applicant to enable the Authority and Natural England to assess potential impacts on marine protected areas;
6. To liaise regularly with Natural England to maintain joint understanding of fisheries/conservation issues and ensure a swift turnaround of advice.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2014/15)

Eastern IFCA's agreed Derogation process
 Fisheries in European Marine Sites (EP2014A)
 Marine Conservation Zones (EP2014B)

Outputs & timescales

Byelaw derogations Habitats Regulations Assessments	As required, within timescales set out in Derogation process
Collection of survey information from applicants upon completion of surveys undertaken under EIFCA byelaw derogation	As survey data becomes available
Derogation database	Create database in Q1; maintain in Q2-4

Internal links

- Eastern IFCA's agreed process for the management of fishing activities in marine protected areas (MPA05/11);
- Habitats Regulations Assessments project (EP2014C)

External links, including partner agencies

Derogation applicants, Natural England, MMO, local fishermen's associations	
External funding	
Derogation fee if applicable	
Reporting officer(s)	
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer
Sandra Cowper	Marine Environment/GIS Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment/Data Officer
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Jason Byrne	Area 1 IFCO
Ady Woods	Area 2 IFCO
Alan Garnham	Area 3 IFCO
Project lead	
Julian Gregory in Q1	Head of Marine Protection
In post from Q2	Marine Environment Officer – consultation lead

EP2014E Consultation responses**Objectives**

1. To provide timely, accurate, and appropriately detailed responses to consultations on activities affecting the marine environment and inshore fisheries, (for example coastal and marine policies, licensed marine activities and infrastructure developments) to ensure that inshore fisheries and environmental receptors are duly considered by applicants and regulators;
2. To utilise the existing system to manage the consultation process, to record incoming consultations and outgoing responses, and enable consultation cases to be tracked by different members of staff;
3. To develop the spatial information function to enable instant access to location and other details of consultation cases, and to create a graphical record of cumulative or in-combination impacts;
4. To obtain relevant information from different Eastern IFCA officers, particularly the Area IFCOs, in relation to applications affecting their section of the Eastern IFCA district;
5. To follow written responses with liaison with developers and or regulators, as necessary, in order to identify solutions to issues identified during the consultation process;
6. To further develop and maintain the system to enable the effectiveness of responses to be measured and recorded;
7. In order to promote Eastern IFCA, include in all responses a standard paragraph to outline the remit and extent of the organisation;
8. To reduce the large time burden imposed by consultations on the Environment team, by requesting that more specific information is provided (to reduce the amount of time spent reviewing very large Environmental Statements), and by creating standard response paragraphs appropriate for different types of consultation subject;
9. To highlight in responses the need for regulators and developers to consult directly with commercial and recreational fishing interests who could be affected by proposals in the marine environment.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2014/15)

- 1.3, 2.1a, 6.3a Issues affecting sea fisheries resources within the district have been identified, prioritised and management plans put in place by 2015
- 6.2c: Feedback from relevant stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of engagement is routinely sought.

6.3b: Examples of proactive involvement in relevant networks to share best practice are reported in annual reports	
6.4c: The impact of the Marine Policy Statement and the process of marine planning on IFCA's work have been assessed and addressed by April 2015.	
Outputs & timescales	
Timely, accurate and appropriately-detailed responses to consultations	April 2014 to March 2015
Searchable consultation database	Maintain throughout period
Consultation database GIS function, including cumulative and in-combination effects mapping	October 2014
Agreed standard paragraphs	August 2014
Internal links	
Consultation responses will utilise information collated in the Fisheries in European Marine Sites and Marine Conservation Zone projects (EP2014A & B) and data obtained in various Eastern IFCA research projects.	
External links, including partner agencies	
MMO Marine Licensing MMO Marine Planning Commercial and recreational fishing interests Applicants, including offshore renewables, aggregates, ports industries	
External funding	
Cost recovery under consideration	
Reporting officer	
Jason Byrne Sandra Cowper Luke Godwin Alan Garnham Judith Stoutt Ady Woods	Area 1 IFCO Marine Environment/GIS Officer Marine Environment/Data Officer Area 3 IFCO Senior Marine Environment Officer Area 2 IFCO
Project lead	
Sandra Cowper Q1 In post from Q2	Marine Environment/GIS Officer Marine Environment Officer – consultation lead

EP2014F WFO Shellfish Lays Project	
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence gathering and analysis relevant to the requirements for submitting Habitat Regulations Assessments for WFO Shellfish Lay applications on the waiting list; 2. Monitor shellfish lay activity to inform the Enforcement Risk Register as per the Biosecurity Plan 2014; 3. Implement updated WFO Shellfish Lay Lease Agreement, including replacing existing lease agreements; 4. Submit complete HRA for shellfish lay applications and present applications to the Authority for consideration; 5. Produce a project plan for an aquaculture in The Wash constraints study; 6. Manage additional aspects of WFO Shellfish Lays. 	
Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2014/15)	
<p>1.3 & 2.1a: The issues impacting sea fisheries resources have been identified, prioritised and suitable management plans for them are in place by April 2015</p> <p>2.1c: IFCA's have necessary records and database systems in place to inform decision making</p> <p>6.1a: Identify shared objectives in managing the marine environment with partner organisations</p> <p>6.4a: MPA condition is taken into account when developing management plans</p>	
Outputs & timescales	
Collect and analyse evidence pertinent to the submission of HRA for lays on the waiting list	October 2014
Submit WFO Shellfish Lay applications to Natural England (HRA) and the Authority for consideration	April 2015
Monitor shellfish lay activity and utilise this information as per Habitats Regulations Assessment project and the Eastern IFCA Biosecurity Policy 2014	Continuous throughout year
Desk study on aquaculture to inform project plan to 'Aquaculture in The Wash Constraints	January 2015

Study'	
Present project plan for the above to the Authority for their consideration	April 2015
Internal links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern IFCA's agreed process for the management of fishing activities in marine protected areas (MPA05/11). • Habitats Regulations Assessment project (EP2014C) • Management of Wash Fishery Order Several Fishery project (RP2014H) 	
External links, including partner agencies	
Natural England, regional Natural England officers; local fishing communities; WFO Entitlement Holder; WFO Shellfish Lay Lease holders	
External funding	
Potential use of Wash Fishery Order fund	
Reporting officer(s)	
Sandra Cowper	Marine Environment/GIS Officer
Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer
Project lead	
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment/Data Officer

EP2014G Interdepartmental & Collaborative Projects

Objectives

1. To assist the Research team by contributing towards relevant projects, field work, desk studies and consultations;
2. To assist the Marine Protection team by supporting IFCO's at sea and in ports when carrying out fisheries enforcement duties;
3. To perform crew duties aboard the Authority's vessels;
4. To attend and contribute towards community outreach events;
5. To attend and contribute towards external collaborative events and workshops.

Linked high-level objectives (set out in Eastern IFCA Annual Plan 2014/15)

Success Criteria 4: IFCAs work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders

- High Level Objectives 4.1, 4.2; Performance Indicators 4.1a, 4.2a, 4.2b, 4.2d

Success Criteria 5: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.

- High Level Objectives 5.1, 5.2, 5.4; Performance Indicators 5.1b, 5.1c, 5.2b, 5.2c, 5.4a, 5.4b.

Success Criteria 6: IFCAs support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment

- High Level Objective 6.1, 6.2, 6.3; Performance Indicator 6.1b, 6.1c, 6.2a, 6.3b.

Success Criteria 7: IFCAs are recognised and heard

- High Level Objective 7.1, 7.2; Performance Indicators 7.1c, 7.2c.

Outputs & timescales

Assist in research team projects	As required/On-going
Assist in fisheries enforcement duties	As required/On-going
Perform crew duties aboard vessels	As required/On-going
Attend community engagement events	As required/On-going
Attend collaborative events and workshops	As required/On-going

Internal links

- Liaison meetings with Stakeholder Groups (RP2014K)
- Technical Advisory Group (RP2014L)

External links, including partner agencies

- Industry provides input towards management decisions.
- Natural England, CEFAS, MMO, Other IFCAs
- Organised community events, county shows

External funding

None

Reporting officer(s)

Ron Jessop	Senior Research Officer
Robin Strigner	Research Officer

Stephen Thomson	Research Officer
Peter Welby	Research Officer
Luke Godwin	Marine Environment/Data Officer
Sandra Cowper	Marine Environment and GIS Officer
Simon Lee	Senior IFCO
Jason Byrne	Area IFCO – Lincolnshire
Alan Garnham	Area IFCO – Suffolk
Ady Woods	Area IFCO – Norfolk East
Project lead	
Judith Stoutt	Senior Marine Environment Officer

References

Defra. (2010) Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities: Vision, Success Criteria and High Level Objectives. Defra. London.

List of Images

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2. Edible crab *Cancer pagurus* © Rob Spray & Dawn Watson www.1townhouses.co.uk
3. European Plaice *Pleuronectes platessa* © Rob Spray & Dawn Watson www.1townhouses.co.uk
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