



Natural England's: 'Norfolk and Suffolk MPA evidence conference'

#NEMarine @NENfolkSuffolk

Programme



09:00 Arrival and Registration with tea and coffee

Morning Presentations

9:30 Welcome & Introduction, Jenni Fincham and Conor Donnelly (Natural England)

9:40 Effect of a propeller-wash technique in a handworked cockle fishery, Emma Thorpe (Natural England)

An assessment of the physical impact of preparation of cockle beds for handworked fishing through propeller wash activity. This study used a remote sensing technique to assess a section of a cockle bed open to the cockle fishery to establish the physical effects of the cockle fishery over a real fishing season. In addition, ground-truthing work was carried out to assess the effects of prop-washing on macrobenthic communities and sediments over the course of the fishing season.

9:55 *Sabellaria spinulosa* (Ross worm): monitoring and protecting an ephemeral feature, Stephen Thompson and Judith Stoutt (Eastern IFCA)

Eastern IFCA will speak about the methods they use to monitor the distribution and quality of *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef, and how the data are used to develop management measures to protect this feature from damage from fishing.

10:10 Identifying areas that consistently support *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef, Georgie Roberts (Natural England)

Our understanding of *S. spinulosa* reef distribution is confounded by its variability in space and time, combined with the difficulties inherent to delineating it. A method has been developed to overcome these challenges by synthesising historical datasets in order to identify areas which most consistently support *S. spinulosa* reef.

10:25 Sabellaria Reef monitoring in the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC, Chris Jenkins (Cefas)

Cefas and the JNCC executed a multi-disciplinary monitoring survey to the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SCI in the Autumn of 2013. This work explored the distribution and condition of *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef across the SCI along with investigating sandbank community variability. We will present some of the issues around extent mapping from remote datasets along with the proposed development of a 'patchiness' score for reef condition assessments.

10:40 Questions for the morning speakers

11:00 Tea and Coffee

Lunch Time Presentations

11:30 Marine Conservation Zone Project, Hester Clack (Natural England)

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are an important tool in England's protection of the marine environment and support the government's requirements under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Decisions regarding MCZs are based on sound evidence, and Natural England's evidence-based, scientific advice is used to support these decisions. This will help to ensure that the government can create successful, well-managed MCZs network.

11:45 Marine Designated Features Mapping: A Demonstration of our work, Philip Ray (Natural England)

Where NE data comes from, the standards we work to and how it is analysed to inform mapping. How we use data translation is to create feature maps including the tools that inform our confidence and the final products we produce including MCZ consultation map, MAGIC & how the data is transferred to the IFCAs and MMO. How this is shared with our customers, partners and others, and what it means for them.

12:00 Marine Evidence management, Sue Ware (Cefas)

12:15 'Local' versus 'expert' knowledge in MPAs: Making qualitative data count as evidence, Carole White (PhD)

Drawing on qualitative research in Norfolk, I illustrate how the values and knowledge of fishermen, and other coastal residents and visitors can contribute to setting more holistic conservation and management objectives. I suggest ways in which qualitative data and participatory data collection methods can and should be included in the evidence base for the planning, monitoring and the evaluation of marine conservation goals. If we are to achieve, 'a balance between the social, economic and environmental benefits', the inclusion of social science in marine conservation needs to become a priority. To achieve this in practice, a cultural shift is first required so that all forms of knowledge are critically evaluated and used as evidence for marine conservation.

12:30 Questions for the lunch time speakers

13:00 Lunch

Afternoon Presentations

13:30 Review of potential impacts of fishing gear and offshore windfarms along the Norfolk Coast, Alastair Grant (UEA/ NNFLAG)

This project is part of the ongoing efforts of the North Norfolk Fisheries Local Action Group (NNFLAG) to ensure the sustainability of North Norfolk fisheries. The aims of this project are to (1) identify the specific potential impacts of currently operating and proposed offshore wind farms (OWFs) on North Norfolk Fisheries, and to (2) outline the extent of current fishing activities in the region and their potential interactions with the features of the Marine Protected Areas (the collective name for the EMS and rMCZs) located within the North Norfolk FLAG area.

13:45 The Norfolk Storm Surge, Trevor Tolhurst (UEA)

Trevor Tolhurst, from UEA, presenting his work on the North Norfolk storm surge.

14:00 Saltmarsh Creation: where the habitats directive bites, Alastair Grant (UEA)

Alastair Grant, from UEA, presenting his work on saltmarsh creation.

14:15 MKEN network, Martin Johnson (Cefas/ UEA)

Martin Johnson, from Cefas and UEA, to talk briefly about the Marine Knowledge Exchange Network in East Anglia.

14:30 Questions for Speakers

14:45 Closing talk, Jenni Fincham (Natural England)

15:00 Posters, tea and coffee