



Net Gain, (the North Sea MCZ project) Update....

Net Gain's 2nd Iteration Report to the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) is now available for download <http://www.netgainmcz.org/docs/NetGain2ndIterationProgressReport.pdf> The report details recent progress made towards recommendations for a network of Marine Conservation Zones in the English North Sea by June 2011. At this 2nd iteration stage, a list of 22 draft MCZs have been compiled. Preliminary discussions have been held regarding site conservation objectives, potential impacts and management implications of these sites. This work will progress during the next round of hub meetings.



Add your voice to fisheries reform

Help change the way fisheries are managed by signing up to the 'Fish Fight' campaign. River Cottage and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall are spearheading the campaign, which will be officially launched with the broadcast of "Hugh's Fish Fight" in January 2011.

In the meantime have your say and log on to www.fishfight.net and register your support to reduce the "insane waste" that is fishery discards. Your signature will then be added to a letter for presenting to Commissioner Maria Damanaki, members of the Common Fisheries Policy Reform Group, and all MEPs. From here you can also link to the Fish Fight Facebook page.

Mapping Europe's largest chalk reef



Rob Spray

Seasearch East have identified and begun mapping Europe's longest chalk reef, located off the coast of Norfolk. This has generated media interest from a wide variety of sources. The reef has been found to be approximately 20 miles long and home to several interesting species. For more details on this story see the following links:

<http://www.sportdiver.co.uk/News/Latest-News/Divers-map-Europe-s-longest-chalk-reef-off-Norfolk>

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<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1332965/The-Great-Barrier-Reef-Norfolk-20-mile-chalk-bank-British-coast-worlds-longest.html>

http://www.metro.co.uk/news/848460-longest-chalk-reef-discovered-off-norfolk-coast?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Funding for the surveys came from Norfolk Council's Biodiversity Information Service, Fugro Ltd and The Wildlife Trust's North Sea Project.

The North Sea in Norwich!

The wonders of North Sea marine life were brought to life in the heart of Norwich thanks to the combined efforts of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Forum Trust and Seasearch East divers Dawn Watson and Rob Spray. Members of the public, at a rate of 100 per hour, were free to 'drop in' to this unique event which combined presentations with the visual treat of seeing Rob and Dawn's stunning photography projected onto a 24m screen!



Rob Spray

Donna Nook continues to boom

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Donna Nook reserve is once again hosting one of the UK's most dramatic wildlife spectacles – breeding grey seals. As of Monday 29th November the site boasted 405 bulls and 1085 cows. This year's total number of pups born already looks set to be a record breaker with 1329 pups born so far and around 4 weeks left of the season. Visitors are reminded to follow set guidelines to reduce disturbance to the seals and ensure their own safety. These include staying within the viewing area and behind the fence; observing all red flag and bombing range warnings; and not getting too close to the seals.



Kirsten Smith



Kirsten Smith

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Durham Wildlife Trust on Countryfile

Sunday 10th October saw Durham Wildlife Trust appear on Countryfile not once, but three times! This included a section from Blackhall Rocks as they carried out the Big Sea Survey.



Suffolk Wildlife Trust AGM

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's AGM, held in early September, focused on marine conservation and featured three keynote speakers. Rob Spray of Seasearch East began by talking about East Anglia's hidden marine life before John Nichols of CEFAS talked about North Sea Herring. Kirsten Smith gave the final talk, on safeguarding the North Sea marine environment.

IFCA's and Marine Planning

The former Sea Fisheries Committees are now in the process of being transformed into Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA's). These are currently classified as shadow IFCA's and will receive full IFCA status in April 2011.

There are 10 IFCA's in total, with three covering the North Sea Project area. These are Northumberland, North Eastern and Eastern. The Wildlife Trust's Kirsten Smith has a place on the North Eastern IFCA,

whilst Rob Spray, Seasearch East coordinator, holds a place on the Eastern IFCA.

Introductory workshops have recently taken place for the new IFCA committees, introducing the new roles and expectations. These authorities are exciting in that they now have a conservation remit and will deal not only with inshore fisheries but with issues such as MCZ enforcement and biological monitoring of important species and habitats.

More information on IFCA's can be viewed on the DEFRA website by following the link below.

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/ww/ifca/>

The Marine Management Organisation will be taking charge of offshore issues, such as future management of MCZs and Marine Spatial Planning. The East Inshore and East Offshore areas are the first areas in England to have been selected for marine planning. The first issue of their newsletter can be downloaded from the following link.

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/documents/newsletter01.pdf>



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