

# Strategic Assessment 2024



## Summary of Key Fisheries, Risks, and Mitigants

This document is intended to summarise the key outputs from the 2024 Strategic assessment.

Fishery	Key Risk Factors	Key Mitigants
<b>General</b>	Fisheries Management Plans: measures likely to impact fisheries	Contribution to development of FMPs to ensure regional and local context of inshore fisheries accounted for.
	Review of the East Marine Plan: changes could result in special squeeze	Contribution to review of East Marine Plan to ensure inshore fisheries are recognised.
	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regs: risk of unassessed interactions damaging MPAs	Completion of Habitat Regulation Assessments for all fishing / feature interactions.  Implementation of measures to protect 'red-risk' features via confirmation of the Closed Areas Byelaw 2021.
	IVMS: uncertainty regarding exact measures and interaction with IFCA powers	Engagement with I-VMS development process.  Implement measures through IFCA byelaws as required.
<b>Cockle &amp; Mussel</b>	WFO Replacement: necessary to manage Wash Fisheries	Continue delivery of management mechanisms to replace the Wash Fishery Order 1992 including confirmation of the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021 and the Wash Severa Order 2021.
	Wash die-off: threat to sustainability	Investigation and monitoring of cockle & mussel die-off (including through contribution to the Coastal Health Initiative).
	Wash bird and seal species: evidence of population decline	Contribution to the Coastal Health initiative pilot in The Wash.
	Management outside the Wash: inherited byelaws must remain appropriate	Review of inherited byelaws to provide management framework for fisheries throughout the district.
<b>Whelk</b>	Stock sustainability and permit conditions review: permit conditions require review in 2024. Concerns exist regarding stock sustainability and monitoring	Continue to monitor the fishery and develop measures to address the sustainability of whelk stocks as needed.
<b>Crab &amp; Lobster</b>	Management of fishing activity within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ: potential need for a precautionary approach with significant impacts on fishery viability	Continue Adaptive Risk Management (ARM) workstream to protect the MCZ while enabling fishing.
<b>Shrimp</b>	Habitat impacts: towed gear typically considered more likely to damage the environment	Continue to contribute to Marine Stewardship Council accreditation scheme and the Effort Limitation Scheme to mitigate impacts in relation to The Wash Marine Protected Areas.
<b>Key Finfish</b>	Due to the diversity of this fishery, the risk profile is very broad. Key risks revolve around marginalisation or lack of consideration of small-scale fisheries and Recreational Sea Angling activity.	Contribution to FMPs & completion of gear interaction work to inform and highlight local fisheries.

## High Priority Workstreams

These workstreams must be completed to eliminate high risks identified in relation to fisheries. These workstreams are the key focus of the Authority's work over the 2024-25 financial year and represent continuation of existing high priorities identified in previous years, revised priorities to reflect progress made and new priorities to mitigate emerging risks.

These workstreams are in addition to 'business critical' workstreams, which represent established 'business-as-usual' workstreams required to prevent risk increasing in relevant fisheries and 'future priorities' which relate to lesser risks, potential future risks or added value workstreams.

1. **To ensure that the conservation objectives of Marine Protected Areas in the district are furthered through:**
  - a. Implementation of management measures for 'red risk' gear/feature interactions (**carried over**).
  - b. Continued implementation of Adaptive Risk Management of fishing activity within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone (**carried over**).
  - c. Completion of 'amber/green' gear/fishing interaction assessments and development and implementation of management measures as required (**carried over**).
  - d. Participation in the 'Coastal Health' pilot of The Wash (**new priority**).
2. **Management of cockle and mussel fisheries (wild capture and private) through:**
  - a. Confirmation of the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021 to enable management of wild capture fisheries (**carried over**).
  - b. Implementation of Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw access policies (transition) (**carried over**).
  - c. Develop appropriate management of private shellfish aquaculture within The Wash (**carried over**).
  - d. A review of relevant byelaws inherited from Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee (**new priority**).
3. **Obtaining better fisheries data through:**
  - a. Facilitating and contributing to the roll-out of I-VMS by the Marine Management organisation (**revised priority**).
  - b. Development of measures (through byelaws and / or permit conditions) to implement standardised reporting rates across of VMS units (**revised priority**).
4. **Contribute to the development and implementation of Fisheries Management Plans through:**
  - a. Supporting the planning / preparation phase (**revised priority**).
  - b. Supporting the publication phase including by reviewing and evaluation plans (**revised priority**).
  - c. Supporting post-publication phase including implementation (**revised priority**).
5. **Contribute to the development of second-generation Marine Plans through:**
  - a. Collaboration with the Marine Management Organisation to seek opportunities to improve data and evidence for inshore fishing activities (**new priority**).
  - b. Stakeholder engagement to raise awareness of marine planning and identify key issues (**new priority**).
  - c. Contributing to policy development by providing expert advice and relaying information from our stakeholders (**new priority**).