



ENORI

ESSEX NATIVE OYSTER RESTORATION INITIATIVE



oystermen – government – conservation - science

Working together to recover native oysters and native oyster beds in the Blackwater, Roach, Crouch, Colne Estuaries MCZ.



A spatial management approach to recover native oyster population and beds.



We have created a 2km² 'restoration box' where we are piloting restoration strategies by tackling substrate deficiency by improving the seabed by adding cultch

Within this box we have created Mother Oyster Sanctuary. These oysters are 'no-take' and will act as a source of spat for the oyster bed restoration and wider-MCZ

We have closed the public fishery and are letting nature take its course (282km²). If stocks recover and show resilience, a temporary depletion (sustainable fishery) may be allowed.

How do we create an enabling environment to achieve recovery at a national ecosystem-scale?



Build the momentum - change the dialogue - share best-practice. Meetings such as today are brilliant for this. We have also established the Native Oyster Network – UK & Ireland.

Favourable licencing system – onerous requirements for recovering a native species at a very small-scale; charges are prohibitive at least for NGOs and small outfits.



Remove the pressures – all public fisheries need to be well managed through bye-law. Every fishery must have a closed 'Mother Oyster' broodstock sanctuary to facilitate recruitment.

Be imaginative - seek every opportunity whether through 'Net Gain' or by being innovative.



Be collaborative – we can access funds but it needs to be at a big-scale. We need to have sites around the country to minimise risk. We also have to have a mechanism for underwriting it.