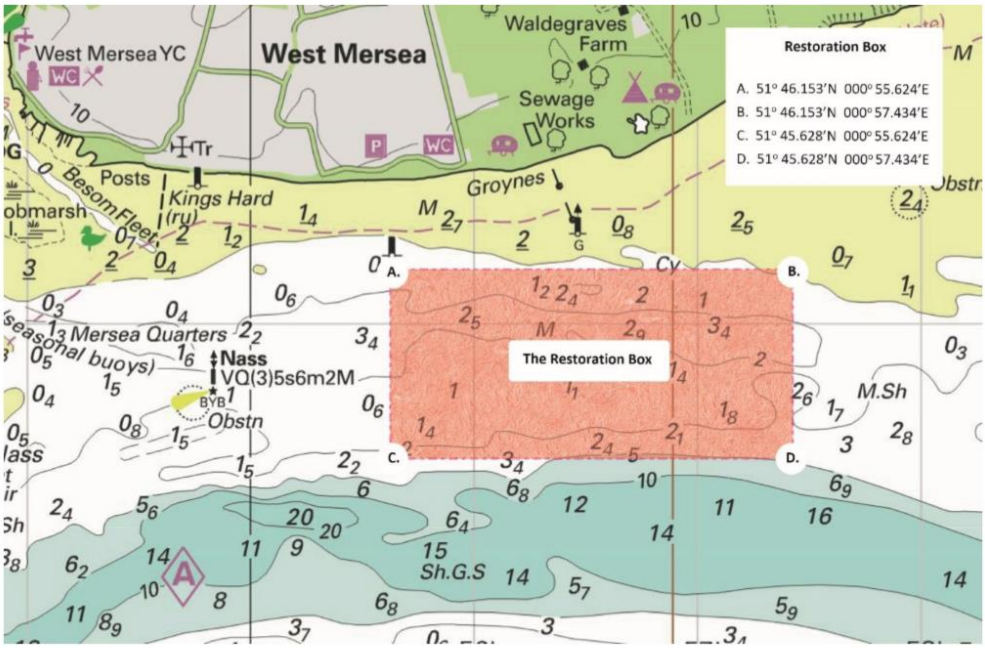
NOTICE TO MARINERS

NATIVE OYSTER RESTORATION WORKS

WEST MERSEA

Starting **Monday 12th April 2021** works will commence on the Essex native oyster restoration project within a defined restoration box, of which the north-west corner is located approximately 500m offshore to the south-east of West Mersea (hereafter referred to as the 'Restoration Box'). The Restoration Box is approximately 2000m (west to east) by 1000m (north to south).



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This work will consist of habitat restoration through the deposition of shell and stone cultch in the North of the Restoration Box. These works are expected to be **concluded by 14th May 2021** subject to satisfactory weather conditions. During the works, mariners are requested to keep clear and avoid any unnecessary wash. On completion of the works, the deposited shell and stone will remain permanently in place on the seabed. Mariners are therefore requested to be mindful of the raised seabed in this location.

The works will be carried out from the Dredger Earn (80ft x 21ft) and Tug Edgar (40ft).

Mariners are reminded of the deployment of spat collectors (large metal frames) within the area marked by large, yellow danger marks. **This smaller marked area should not be entered**.

Other activities to take place this year include Scientific Monitoring and Restoration Management. These activities will take place between May and September 2021 (exact dates to be confirmed) and separate notices will be issued before such work commences.

Should you have any queries about the works, please contact EssexNativeOyster@zsl.org