



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Proposed fisheries management measures for English offshore MPAs in the Channel, the Southwest Approaches and the Irish Sea

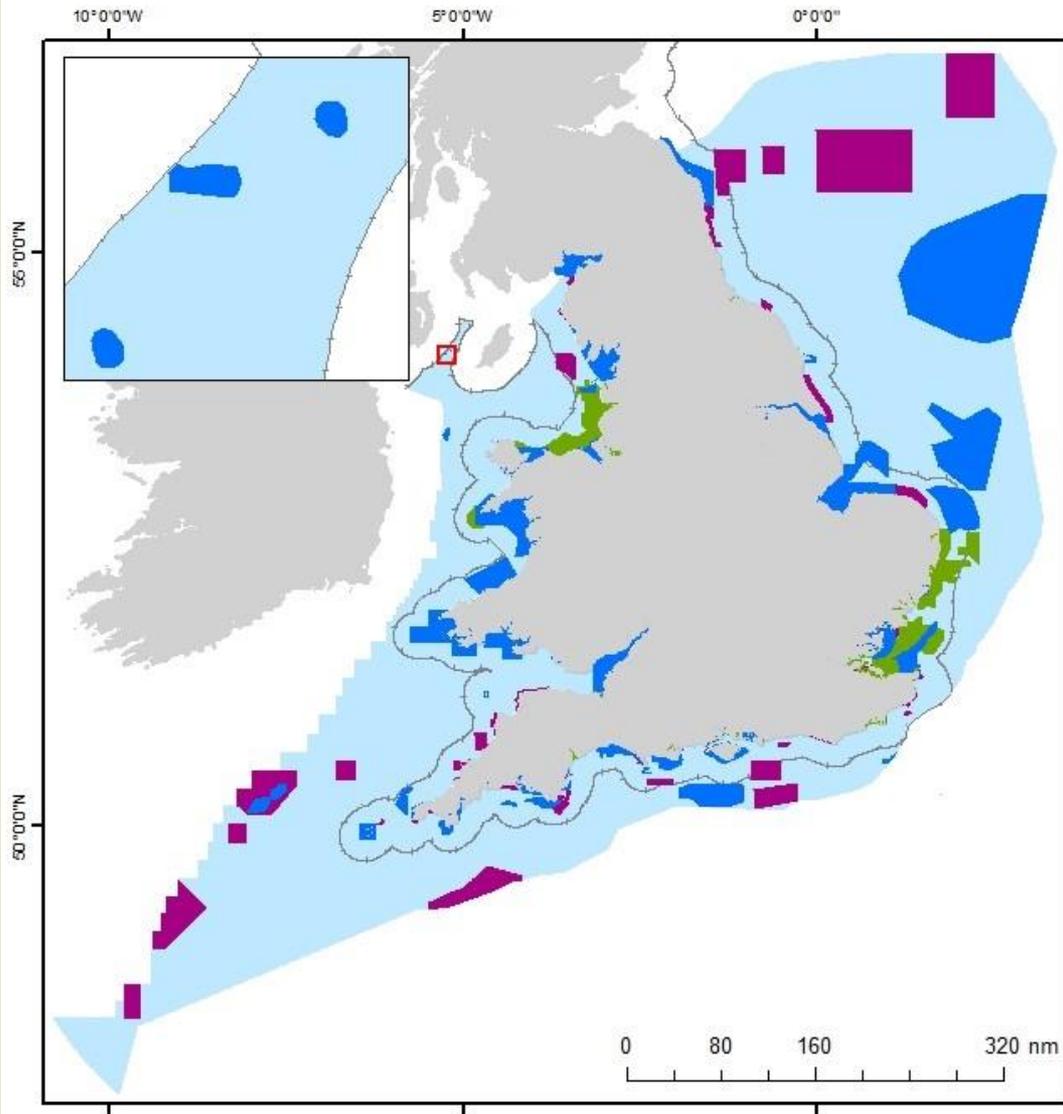
Date: 28 February 2017
Paris

Designation and Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in UK

- The UK MPA network forms an integral element to meeting EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requirements to put in place spatial protection measures which contribute to a coherent and representative network of MPAs and provide an effective measure to deliver Good Environmental Status.
- There are two main types of MPA:
 - European Marine Sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives, and
 - Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 aimed at meeting commitments relating to the MSFD
- For European sites, there is a common criteria for selection and a common legal regime to avoid deterioration to the sites and achieving the sites conservation objectives.
- The selection of MCZs is guided by principles set out by OSPAR, and have a similar regulatory regime to minimise adverse impacts of activities.
- For all the sites, the conservation objectives ensures that a site remain in, or are restored to, a favourable condition.



English MPA Network



MPA Network

Marine Protected Areas in Secretary of State waters

- SACs or cSACs with Marine Components
- SPAs with Marine Components
- Marine Conservation Zones
- UK & Ireland
- UK Territorial Waters (12nm)
- Secretary of State waters

MPA boundaries © JNCC/NRWNE licensed under OGL v2.0.
 UK Territorial Sea Limit. Contains UKHO data © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. The exact limits of the UK Continental shelf are set out in orders made under section 1 (7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964 and Continental Shelf (Designation of Areas) Order 2013. Combining source layers from UKHO. Map produced by JNCC 2017. Map projection WGS1984 World Mercator © Crown copyright © JNCC. UK Exclusive Economic Zone © Crown copyright. The exact limits of the EEZ are set out in The Exclusive Economic Zone Order 2013. World Vector Shoreline © US Defence Mapping Agency. Not to be used for navigation.

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

- Article 11 provides a process through which Member States can propose fisheries management measures for sites designated under the Nature Directives and other sites identified as requirement to deliver the MPA aspects of the MSFD
- All measures passed under Article 11 need to be sufficiently robust as to meet EU environmental law obligations and the objectives of the CFP.
- These measures should include applying:
 - The precautionary principle
 - Avoiding the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as the disturbance of the species for which they have been designated
 - Establishing “necessary conservation measures” that will meet the ecological requirements of the protected habitats or species in a SAC
 - Establishing “spatial protection measures” that will contribute to a “coherent and representative network of MPAs”

Common Fisheries Policy (cont.)

- The initiating Member State and other Member States with a direct management interest may submit a joint recommendation as referred to in Article 18(1) within 6 months from the provision of sufficient information.
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- Under Article 18(2) Member States are obliged to consult Advisory Councils as part of this process
- If all Member States succeed in reaching an agreement on the measures, these are submitted to the Commission, who shall adopt the measures, within 3 months



UK approach to management of fisheries MPAs

- Reflects Commission guidance on the management of fisheries that “the proposed measures should be consistent with the conservation objectives for the sites concerned” and “the absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take management measures”
- UK has identified a matrix approach to dealing with management measures in MPAs which is consistent with Commission guidance on management of fisheries “Common methodology for assessing the impact of fisheries on marine Natura 2000”
- Fishing activities are assessed according to their potential impact on site features and habitats
- Inshore and offshore fisheries and UK and other Member States fishing fleets are treated equally (non-discrimination), applying the same standards/principles throughout UK waters

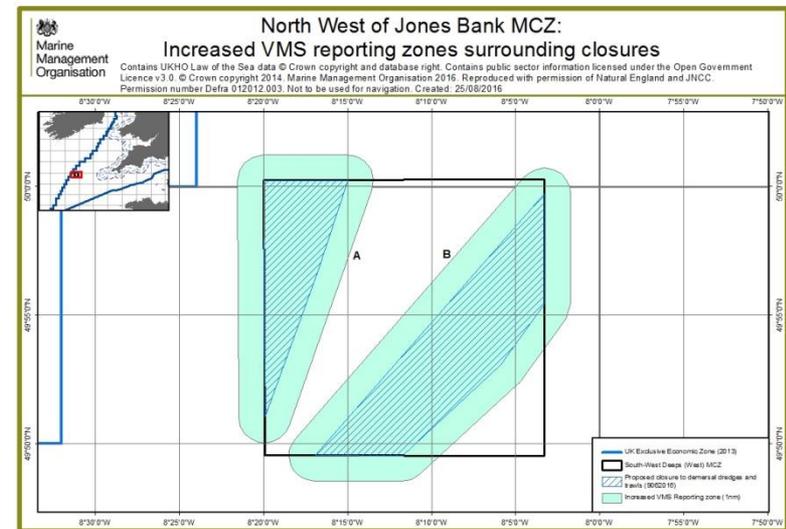
Principles for identification of management areas

Where uncertainty remains around fishing impacts, we have taken a zoned approach to identifying management areas using the following principles:

1. Ensure that they contribute to the delivery of the feature's conservation objectives,
2. In the absence of detailed information on the biotopes present, the management zones should cover, as far as practicable:
 - a) The range of sedimentary habitat sub-types that occur within the site (e.g. encompassing the various depth ranges);
 - b) cover the geographic spread of the habitat within the site;
 - c) include all areas where we have evidence to support the presence of highly sensitive biological communities; and
 - d) where possible, include large areas of continuous feature rather than smaller, fragmented areas.
3. Minimise the impact on fishing activity, whilst ensuring that closures cover a range of differing fishing intensity within the site.
4. Take into account enforceability issues, and should be, as far as practicable, simple geometric shapes, with no more than five closed areas being desirable.

Increased reporting zones

- Proposals include increased VMS reporting zones to ensure that vessels within the vicinity of sites can be identified.
- Site specific reporting zones of between 1-3nm and with required reporting intervals of 10-30 minutes have been proposed.
- Discussions are ongoing at Member State level over a common approach to control and enforcement for industry, Member States and regulators



Channel, Southwest Approaches and Irish Sea sites

- Following a stakeholder workshops in the Exeter in May 2016 and an earlier workshop held in Dublin in May 2014, fisheries management measures are proposed for the following sites in the Channel, Southwest Approaches and Irish Sea:
 - Bassurelle Sandbank SCI
 - The Canyons MCZ
 - East of Haig Fras MCZ
 - Greater Haig Fras MCZ
 - Offshore Brighton MCZ
 - Offshore Overfalls MCZ
 - North-west of Jones Bank MCZ
 - South Dorset MCZ
 - South-west Deeps (West) MCZ
 - Wight-Barfleur Reef SCI
 - Croker Carbonate Slabs SCI
 - Pisces Reef Complex SCI

CSW anticipated timeline

- Informal consultation with NWWAC and Other Member States
 - December 2016 – February 2017
- Consideration and revision of final Joint Recommendations
 - March – May
- NWW Art.11 Sub-group meeting
 - May 2017
- Formal consultation to agree Joint Recommendations with other Member States
 - May to October (up to 6 months)
- Submit to the Commission
 - October 2017

- Croker Carbonate Slabs SCI
 - Currently consulting on a site boundary amendment so dependent on outcome of this will likely be on a delayed timeline



Defra group roles

- **MMO** are the regulatory advisor responsible for the control and enforcement of offshore fisheries management measures. Also for advising that fishing activities are managed in accordance with offshore MPA conservation objectives and fisheries regulations.
- **NE** (<12nm) and **JNCC** (>12nm) are the statutory nature conservation bodies responsible for providing advice on conservation status and operations likely to damage MPAs.
- **Defra** are the lead organisation with overall responsibility for the development and implementation of fisheries management in UK waters.



Marine
Management
Organisation



- **Cefas** have also provided independent peer review of the proposed fisheries management measures.