



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

PRESENTATION BY DEFRA ON 3RD TRANCHE DESIGNATION OF ENGLISH MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES

**The Main Conference Centre – Dublin Castle
Thursday 15th September 2016
09:50 – 10:30**

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman, Bertie Armstrong, welcomed the members and the attendees to the meeting, especially welcoming the delegation from DEFRA that had asked to further introduce the new tranche of designations for English MCZs at the NWWAC meeting. The full list of participants is included as an annex to these minutes.

The agenda¹ was adopted as drafted.

2. Presentation of the UK's third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

Tina Blandford from the UK's Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), introduced the purpose of the presentation which was to present those areas that may be investigated for designation as MCZs in 2018, and to start the pre-consultation engagement. After this presentation, stakeholders would be invited to comment on the areas and provide information on fishing activity in order to inform the UK minister's decision on the list of areas to be consulted on in 2017.

The presentation listed new sites that are currently being considered to be put forward as proposed new MCZs. This final selection was based on gaps identified within the current network of MCZs (the 'Blue belt' around the UK) to implement the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), protecting specific sites rather than species. At the same time, ecological importance, evidence and social and economic consequences should be considered.

In order to submit the best options for sites for designation to the UK Minister, stakeholder input was required to ensure the proposals are based on the most accurate information. A list of areas and known activities was presented, and stakeholders were asked to comment on the accuracy of the knowledge, any further activities on the sites in order to judge how site designation would affect stakeholders. Data on landing values and quantities had been requested from the relevant Member States but any information from the industry would be welcomed as well.

¹ All relevant documents to the meeting can be found on the NWWAC website: [link](#)

Site name	Protection for
East Meridian (Eastern Side)	Subtidal coarse sediment Undulate Ray English Channel Outburst Flood features
South of the Isles of Scilly	Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand Subtidal mixed sediments Fan Mussel
South West Deeps (East)	Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand Deep-sea bed Celtic Sea Relict Sandbanks
North East of Haig Fras	Subtidal sand Subtidal mud
South of Celtic Deep	Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand Subtidal mixed sediments
Inner Bank	Subtidal coarse sediment Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal sand Subtidal mixed sediments
Cape Bank	Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment Spiny lobster
Goodwin Sands	Moderate energy circalittoral rock Moderate energy infralittoral rock Subtidal sand Subtidal coarse sediment Ross worm reefs Blue mussel beds
Kentish Knock East	Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand Subtidal mixed sediments
Offshore Foreland	High energy circalittoral rock Moderate energy circalittoral rock
Mud Hole	Subtidal mud Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
Slieve Na Griddle	Subtidal mud Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities.
South Rigg	Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal mud Subtidal sand Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal mixed sediments Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities High energy circalittoral rock Low energy circalittoral rock Ocean quahog
Queenie Corner	Subtidal mud Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities

The deadline for the consultation was the 31st October 2016, but if any data become available after that date, these could be taken into account in the first round of discussions on the proposal.

At the end of the presentation, the Chair thanked Ms Blandford and noted that it would not be the designation of sites that will cause problems, but the management measures taken later on to protect the designated sites. It was therefore important for stakeholders to ensure all relevant information on local fisheries was made available.

Industry members of the NWWAC commented that it was important to take into account the socio-economic value from the proposed areas as the basis for decisions. Industry members further noted that already over 50 areas were in place, and the total surface area was already affecting the industry negatively.

Ms Blandford informed the meeting that a balance is going to have to be struck between ecologic and economic effects of measures. Information from all stakeholders was considered important to inform the decision for this final tranche of areas. The objective laid down in the manifesto was to develop a well-managed blue belt of areas that protect both species and features, and it should be noted that management will not always mean closure of areas to fisheries.

Questions were raised on how ecologic impacts could be evaluated and weighed against economic impacts, specifically when redistribution of effort is taken into account, and ecologic impacts could take place elsewhere. Mr Ollie Payne (JNCC) answered that the evaluation so far used a range of vessel specifications collected via VMS, such as course evaluation as well as differences in fishing gear. Once management options were being discussed, this evaluation will be more detailed. Ms Blandford explained that evaluation of the effects of areas that were already closed to assess ripple effect of displacement of effort were being discussed, based on off-shore management of areas from the 1st and 2nd tranche, which will take place in the next 6 months. The results can be used for the evaluation of this tranche.

Other interest groups stressed the need to look at intrinsic value of potential areas, including tourism and the maintaining of local communities.

Next to the English MCZs, Scotland had also initiated a process for expanding the blue belt. A workshop was announced for the 27-28th October 2016. Stakeholders were invited to join this meeting to help determine if there was sufficient information to make decisions on new sites. Four seats would be available for the NWWAC.

3. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

The Chair concluded that it would be very important for NWWAC members to take part in these consultations, and the Secretariat was asked to forward any relevant information.

NWWAC Document
Chairman: Bertie Armstrong
Rapporteur: Barbara Schoute

Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC members	
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Louis Vantorre	Rederscentrale VZW
Marina Le Gurun	Blue Fish
John Crudden	European Anglers Alliance
Despina Symons	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk Organisation
Andrew Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs
Paul Françoise	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marine: CDPMEM 14
Romain Le Bleis	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère
Alain Coudray	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins des Côtes d'Armor
Caroline Gamblin	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins
Daniel Lefèvre	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins de Basse Normandie
Olivier Le Nezet	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins de Bretagne
Richard Brouzes	Copeport Maree OPBN
Thierry Missonier	FROM Nord
Marc Ghiglia	Union des armateurs de la pêche en France
Sinéad Cummins	BirdWatch Ireland
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Francis O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation
Enda Conneely	Irish Islands Marine Resources Organisation
John Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij / Dutch Fisheries Organisation (2)
Stephan Beaucher	Fundació ENT
Liane Veitch	ClientEarth
Thomas Bryan-Brown	Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association
Alex Kinninmonth	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, representing Birdlife International
Bertie Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (1)
Paul Fletcher	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Jim Portus	South Western Fish Producer Organisation
Observers	
Dimitri Rogoff	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marine: CDPMEM 14
Dana Miller	Oceana
Gonzague de Moncuit	Ministère d'environnement, énergie et mer
Juana Poza Poza	Mº DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACION Y MEDIO AMBIENTE
Jonathan Shrives	European Commission
Maeve White	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Ollie Payne	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Robert Griffin	European Commission
Franck Le Barzic	Cobrenord
John Richardson	The Shark trust
Paul Duane	SFPA
Edward Fahy	Eatenfishsoonforgotten.com

NWWAC Secretariat		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Sara	Vandamme	Project Development and Communications Manager
Aoibhín	O Malley	Financial Administrator and Event Manager