

Developing conservation management regimes in the Channel to support the sustainable use of the seas



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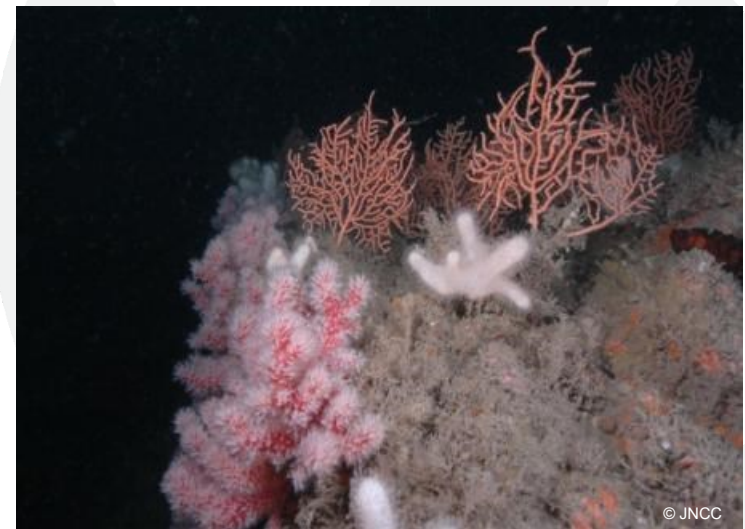
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Workshop Session 1b

- Introduce JNCC and our role
- Highlight considerations for developing conservation management
- Case study – Basseurelle Sandbank cSAC/SCI
- MSFD, MPAs and monitoring
- Breakout sessions

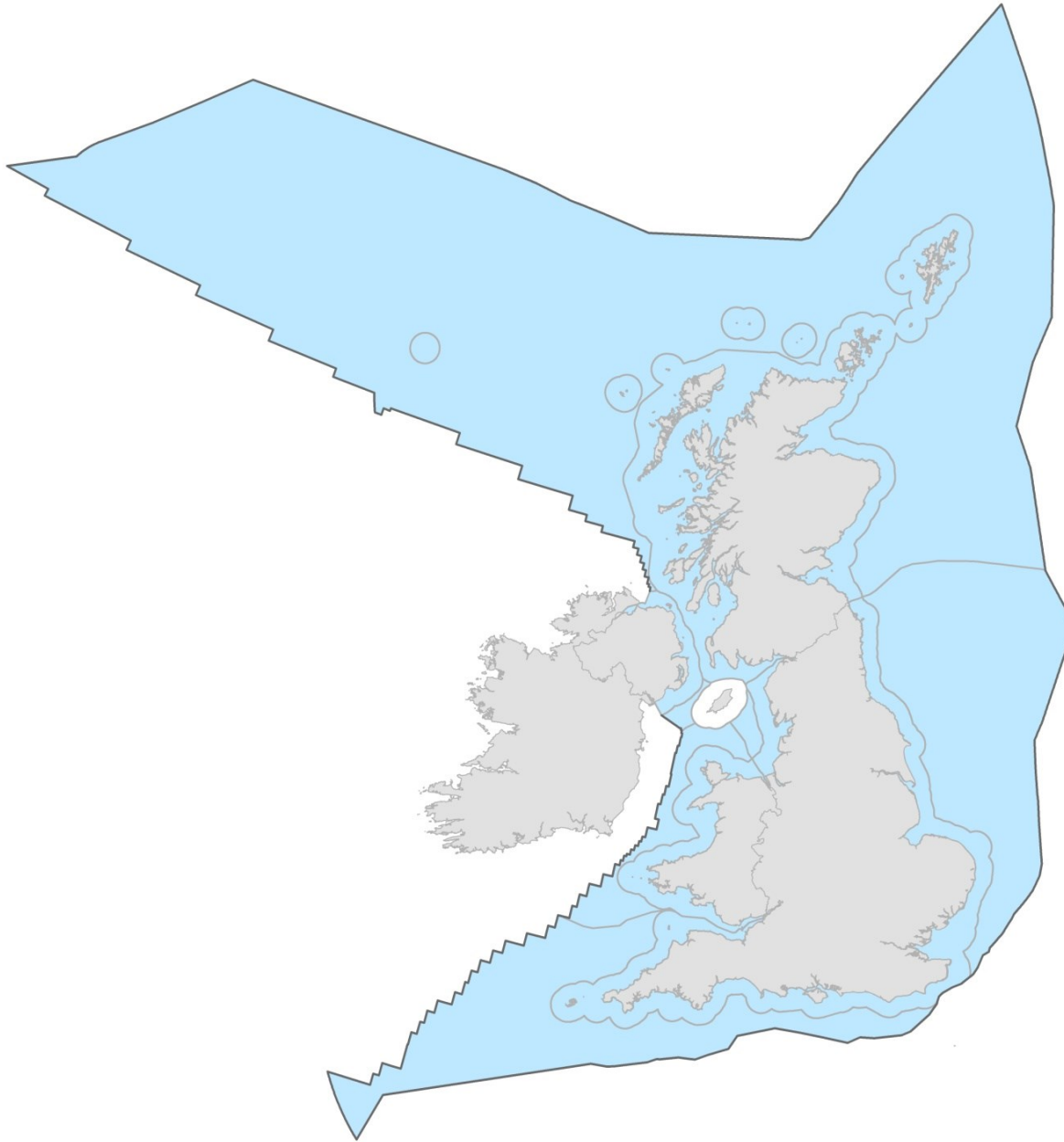


Introduction to JNCC

We are a public body that advises UK Government and devolved administrations on UK and international nature conservation.

- We work in partnership with other Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and administrations to facilitate a collaborative approach to MPA work across the UK;
- We provide scientific evidence-based advice to UK's delegation on topics including MSFD, EU Biodiversity Strategy, OSPAR MPA work and other international discussions, and





- We are responsible for providing conservation and casework advice for the UK's offshore waters beyond 12nm.

JNCC's European Successes

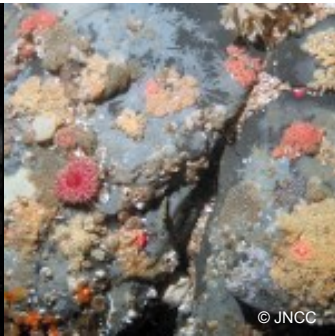


- Lead marine partner in the European Topic Centre for Inland, Coastal & Marine Waters since 2014.
- Active partner in the EMODnet Seabed Habitats project/EU SEAMAP (2013-2016).
- Led the MESH (Mapping European Seabed Habitats) project, providing the first portal for accessing habitat maps in northwest Europe.
- Joint lead for OSPAR/MSFD indicator development.
- Other projects: SCAN I & II, MAIA, NSJMP

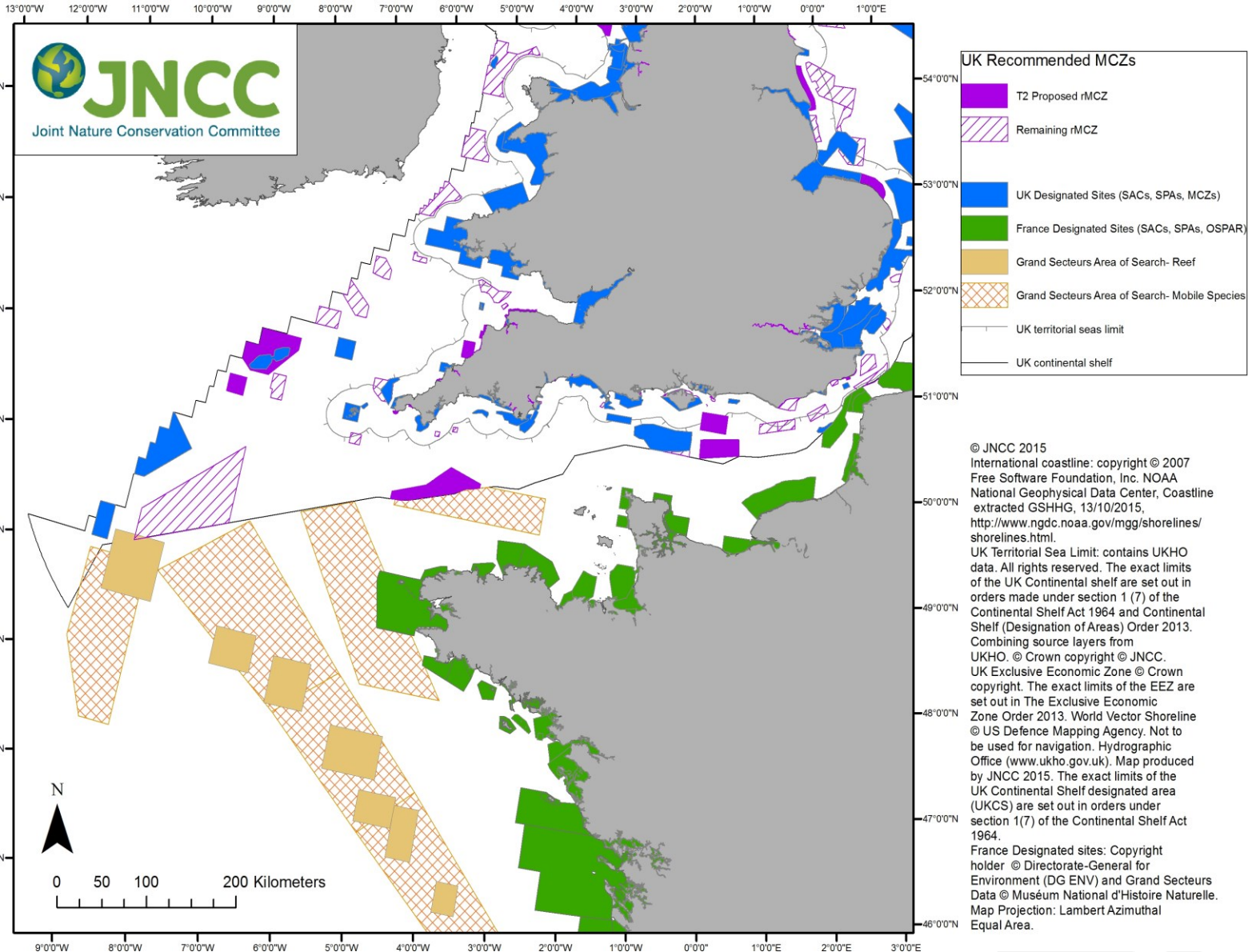


Protecting our marine environment

- UK and Europe committed to protecting biodiversity of our seas. We have also made commitments to encourage marine activities.
- An ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is one of the tools that can help us to protect the marine environment, whilst also enabling it's sustainable use.



Channel and Western Approaches



Developing management for MPAs

- Management decisions are made by UK government/EU based on risk to achieving conservation objective.
- JNCC provides advice on potential options, and collects evidence to support decision making process.
- A risk based approach to developing management is used. Current focus is on fisheries management.



Developing management for MPAs

Three options considered for fisheries management:

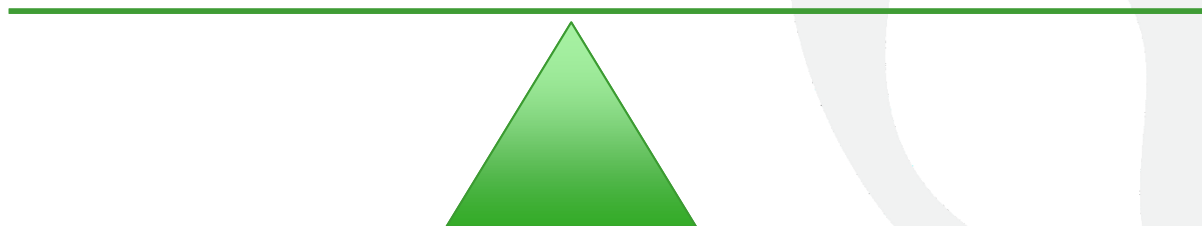
No additional management - Risk of site not achieving Conservation Objective.

Reduce pressure – Risk reduced by e.g. closing a proportion of the site – focus restrictions on particular activities (higher risk).

Remove pressure – Restriction of all impacting activities reduces risk to lowest possible level. Maximum socio-economic impact.

**Risk to
feature**

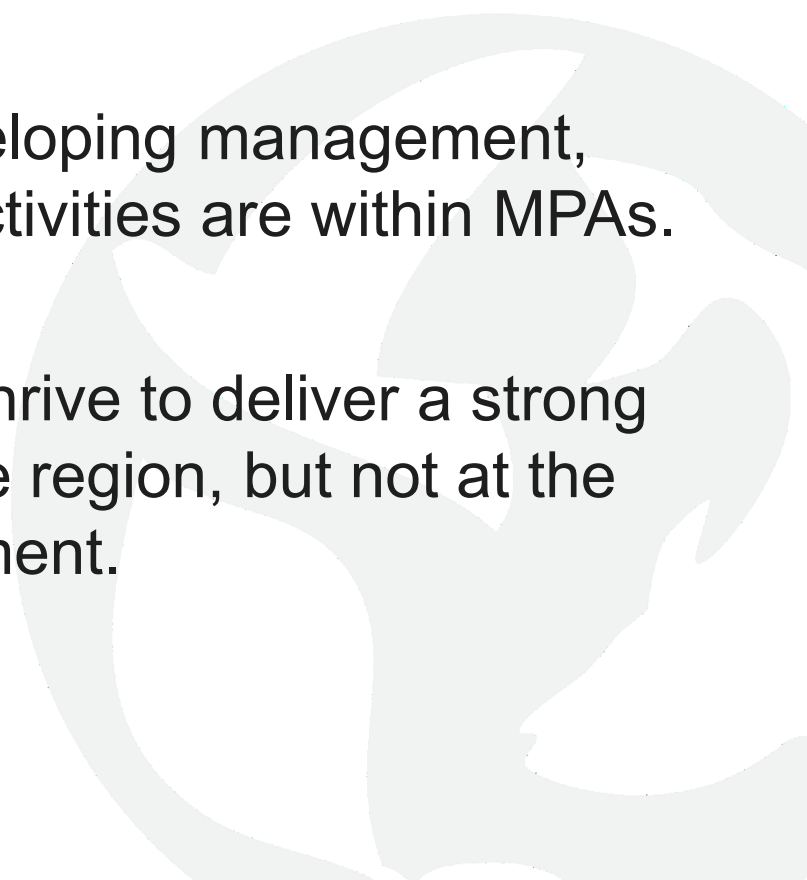
**Sustainable
exploitation**





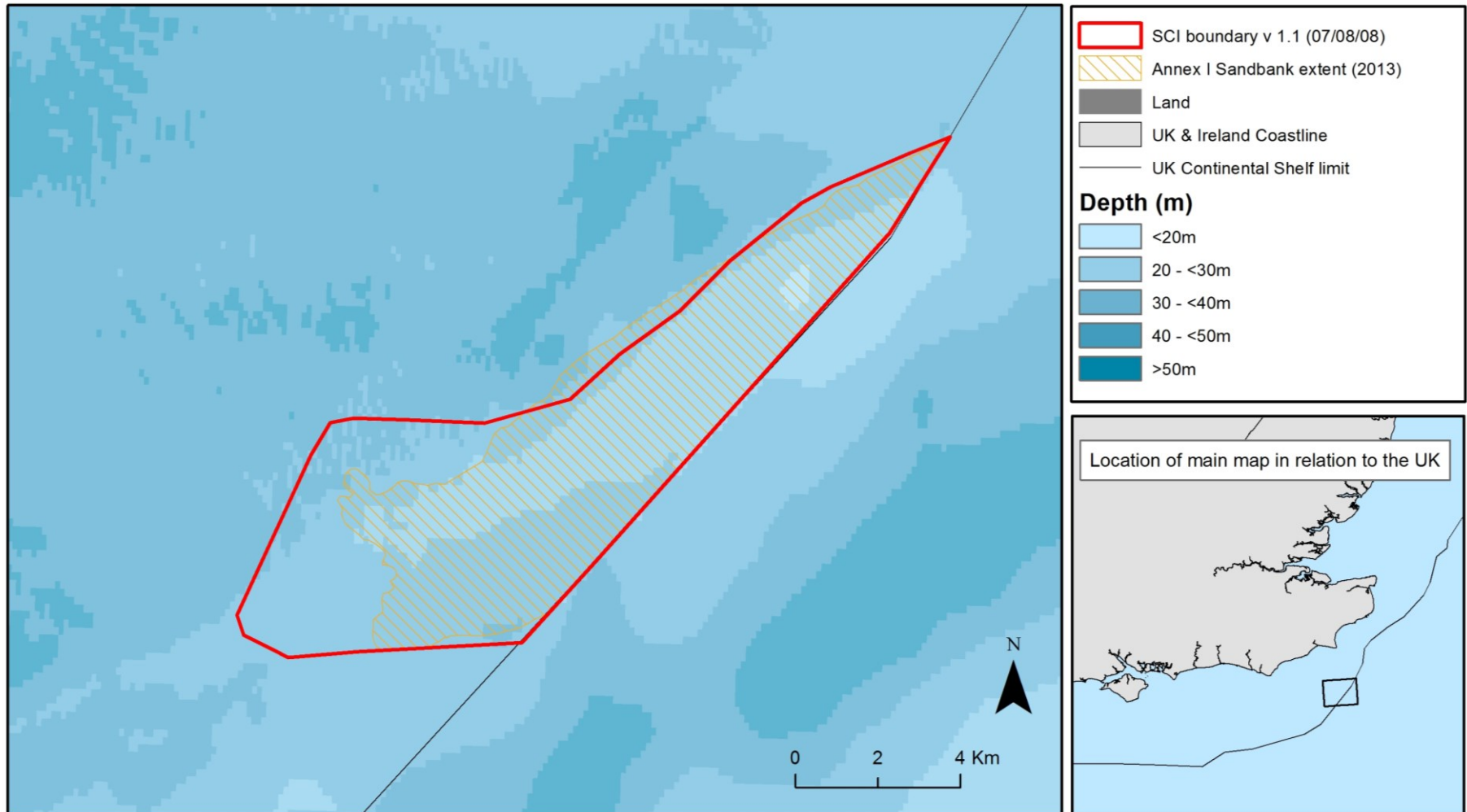
Blue Economy

- Increasing number of activities taking place in marine environment – aggregates, renewables, oil and gas, fisheries.
- Challenges for developing management, particularly when activities are within MPAs.
- Industries need to thrive to deliver a strong blue economy in the region, but not at the cost of the environment.



Case Study: Bassurelle Sandbanks cSAC/SCI

Offshore Special Area of Conservation Site Map: Bassurelle Sandbank





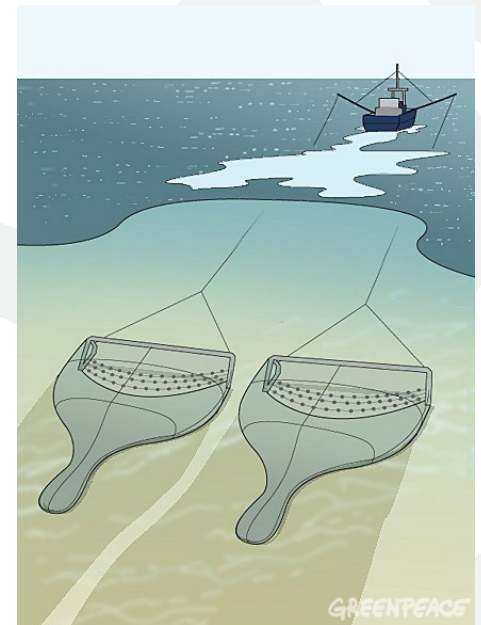
Case Study: Bassurelle Sandbanks cSAC/SCI

- Designated for: Annex I Sandbanks slightly covered by seawater all of the time
- Conservation Objective: Restore to favourable condition
- Activities taking place within site:
 - Fishing*
 - Shipping
 - In an area of interest for Aggregates

Case Study: Bassurelle Sandbanks cSAC/SCI

Fisheries

- Potentially impacting activities
 - Demersal otter trawling
 - Demersal seine netting
 - Beam trawling
- Distribution of sandbank feature
- Structure and function



Case Study: Bassurelle Sandbanks cSAC/SCI

- Involving stakeholders in developing management is important.
- Fisheries Management Workshop for Channel and South West UK MPAs in February/March 2016.



Challenges in developing conservation management

Three main challenges:

1. Building our ecological understanding
2. Managing MPAs at a European scale
3. Adapting management approaches to specific MPAs



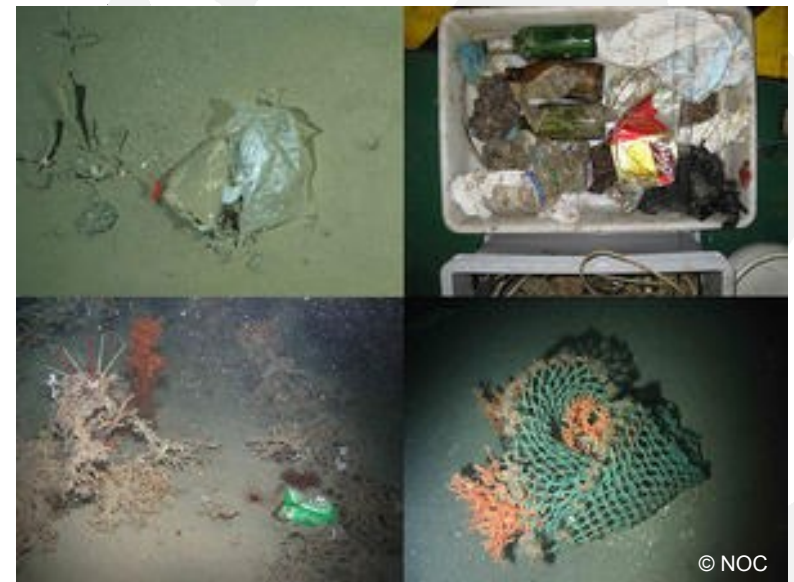
1. Building our ecological understanding

- Limited understanding of the relationship between pressure impacts and the state of a protected feature at an MPA.
- Constraints in our knowledge of ecosystem functions and services.
- Gaps in our understanding of the relationships between biological communities in MPAs, and their interdependency on adjacent areas/habitats.



2. Management of MPAs at a European scale

- Managing activities which extend across different Member States waters can be difficult.
- Need to consider how European MPA network contributes toward achieving broader outcomes e.g. Good Environmental Status.
- Limited understanding of in-combination/cumulative effects of different pressures on protected sites.



3. Adapting management approaches

- Sites have different protected features and vulnerabilities, with different activities occurring.
- Views of stakeholders important in the development of management and monitoring.
- Management of designated sites is still in process of being implemented and tested.



Break out session #1

- We are now going to split into groups to discuss some of these issues.
- Please can each group nominate someone to feedback, and someone to take notes.



Breakout session (20 mins)

- **What constitutes ‘appropriate’ management of MPAs?**
 - What does ‘appropriate management’ mean to you?
 - What do you think is needed to ensure appropriate management is developed in MPAs?
 - Could regional level as well as/or instead of site level management be a useful tool?
 - Could the approach used in developing fisheries management work for other activities, or should we rely on regulatory measures alone?

EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive & MPAs

- JNCC advise on aspects of MSFD that relate to biodiversity.
- Need for co-ordination between member states, particularly in developing indicators and monitoring programmes for Good Environmental Status.
- The management of MPAs will contribute toward achieving Good Environmental Status as required by EU MSFD.



Monitoring our marine environment

- UK Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy developed to provide an integrated monitoring programme to deliver assessment requirements.
- Monitoring of MPAs will be important in monitoring specific ecosystem components (e.g. benthic habitats, ecosystem processes, seabirds).
- Important when adapting management approaches at MPAs.



Break out session #2

- We are now going to split into groups to discuss some of these issues.
- Please can each group nominate someone to feedback, and someone to take notes.



Breakout session (20 mins)

- **How can we best monitor sites and wider marine environment?**
 - Should site users have a direct role in monitoring MPAs, and if so, how can they do this?
 - How do we monitor the success of MPAs?
 - Are you aware of any co-ordination of assessments/monitoring currently undertaken?

Next Steps

- Workshop report
- Fisheries management workshop for MPAs in the Channel/South west (Feb/March)
- Potential projects to explore these questions further?



**Merci beaucoup pour votre
participation!**



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