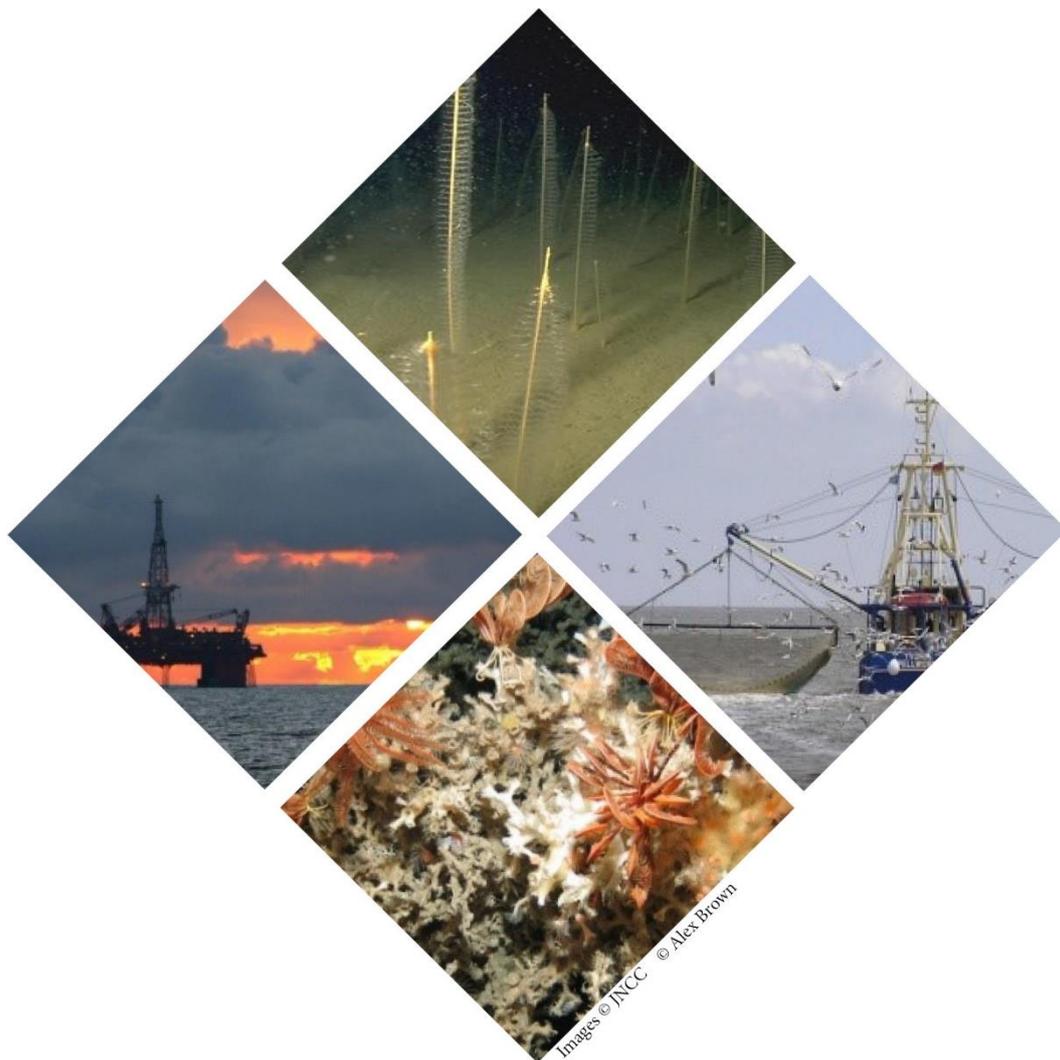


# Conservation objectives for The Barra Fan and Hebrides Terrace Seamount Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area

March 2018



## What the conservation advice package includes

The information provided in this document sets out the site's conservation objectives. This forms part of JNCC's formal conservation advice package for the site and must be read in conjunction with all parts of the package as listed below:

- [Background Document](#) explaining where to find the advice package, JNCC's role in the provision of conservation advice, how the advice has been prepared, when to refer to it and how to apply it;
- Conservation Objectives setting out the broad ecological aims for the site (this document);
- [Statements](#) on:
  - the site's protected feature condition;
  - conservation benefits that the site can provide; and
  - conservation measures needed to further the conservation objectives stated for the site. This includes information on those human activities that, if taking place within or near the site, can impact it and hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the site; and
- [Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives](#) (SACO) providing more detailed and site-specific information on the conservation objectives.

The most up-to-date conservation advice for this site can be downloaded from the conservation advice tab in the [Site Information Centre](#) (SIC) accessible on JNCC's website.

JNCC provide supplementary advice on the conservation objectives in the SACO document (see link in the box above). The SACO is essential reading to support interpretation of these conservation objectives set out below.

The Conservation Objective for the The Barra Fan Hebrides Terrace Seamount Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area is that the protected features listed below:

- so far as already in favourable condition, remain in such condition; and
- so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition, and remain in such condition.

With respect to **Burrowed mud, Offshore deep-sea muds, Offshore subtidal sands and gravels and Seamount communities**, this means that:

- Extent is stable or increasing; and
- Structures and functions, quality, and the composition of characteristic biological communities (which includes a reference to the diversity and abundance of marine fauna forming part of or inhabiting each habitat) are such as to ensure that they remain in a condition which are healthy and not deteriorating;

Any temporary deterioration in condition is to be disregarded if the habitats are sufficiently healthy and resilient to enable their recovery from such deterioration. Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to **orange roughy**, this means that the quality and quantity of their habitat and the composition of their population are such to ensure that the population is maintained in numbers which enable them to thrive.

Any temporary reduction of numbers is to be disregarded if the population of Orange roughy is thriving and sufficiently resilient to enable its recovery from such reduction. Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to the **iceberg ploughmark field, prograding wedges, continental slope turbidite canyons, slide deposits, scour moat, continental slope and Hebrides Terrace Seamount** representative of The Barra Fan & The Peaches Slide Complex Key Geodiversity Areas, this means that:

- Their extent, component elements and integrity are maintained;
- Their structure and functioning are unimpaired; and
- Their surface remains sufficiently unobscured for the purposes of determining whether the points noted above are satisfied.

Any obscuring of the features entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded. Any alteration to the features brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to the area of the **Continental slope** and Hebrides Terrace **Seamount** large-scale features, this means that:

- Their extent, distribution and structure is maintained;
- Their function is maintained so as to ensure that they continue to support their characteristic biological communities (which includes a reference to the diversity of any species associated with the large-scale features) and their use of the site for, but not restricted to, feeding, courtship, spawning, or use as nursery grounds; and
- The processes supporting it are maintained.

Any alteration brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.