

## Delivering Conservation Advice for offshore Marine Protected Areas

### Summary

Conservation advice for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) supports sustainable use of resources by setting out: what a healthy MPA looks like (often referred to as the 'conservation objectives' for a site); and advice on how human activities can affect the health of the protected features within an MPA (often referred to as 'advice on operations' for a site).

### Work involved

JNCC is responsible for providing conservation advice to public authorities and stakeholders for all UK offshore MPAs. JNCC is developing updated conservation advice packages for all offshore MPAs, which will implement best practice and incorporate feedback from sea users.

JNCC have utilised their experience and understanding of: our obligations under UK offshore marine conservation legislation; and the relationships between marine industries and marine ecosystems to provide comprehensive and high quality advice on the management of marine activities.

In undertaking this work, JNCC have developed strong relationships with a range of sea users, and have updated our evidence base to best ensure that our revised conservation advice packages are fit for purpose.

### Key Outcome

Our advice supports sustainable use of offshore MPAs by helping sea users to consider the impacts of their activities within or near MPAs, and assisting regulators when they consider whether to consent planned activities.

### Future Work

- Improved understanding of the marine ecosystem services delivered to society by offshore MPAs;
- Improved understanding of the interaction of human activities with the protected features of offshore MPAs; and the accessibility of our advice.

### Identified research priorities

To better understand: the ecosystem services that offshore MPAs provide; and how human activities impact offshore MPAs

### Further information

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/offshoreMPAs>  
[www.jncc.gov.uk/offshoreMPAs](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/offshoreMPAs)

**Country:** UK

**Main Driver:** Marine Coastal Access Act (2009) and Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 2007

**Period of work:** 2014 - Present

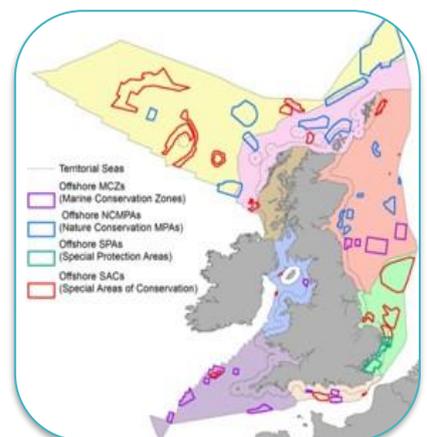
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MPAs in UK offshore waters (Jan 2017)