

## Provision of advice on impacts of fishing in Marine Protected Areas

### Summary

The seas beyond our coastline provide a rich source of food, a livelihood for fishing communities and are home to an array of diverse wildlife. Careful management of this resource is central to ensuring that it remains productive for future generations. The implementation of an ecologically coherent and well-managed network of UK Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is one way in which the UK Government is seeking to achieve this.

### Work involved

JNCC plays a pivotal role in this work area by providing advice to the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on the impacts of fishing gears on a range of marine habitats and species. The advice supports fisheries managers in the development of appropriate management measures for MPAs under UK and EU laws (i.e. Common Fisheries Policy). JNCC also engages with key stakeholders to help refine fisheries management advice, and to help find the optimum balance between conservation outcomes and socio-economic use of UK seas.

In undertaking this work, JNCC have applied the following skill sets: a detailed understanding of the interactions between fishing activities and UK marine biodiversity; successful track records in developing and maintaining trusted relationships with the fishing sector, regulators, decision-makers, research bodies and NGOs, both within the UK and internationally; and experience of spatial treatment of fishing activities data based on interpretation of Vessel Monitoring System data.

### Key Outcome

The implementation of appropriate MPA fisheries management measures, enabling sites to achieve their conservation objectives

### Future Work

Work on developing proposals for management measures for offshore MPAs is ongoing. The concept of adaptive management of fishing activities in MPAs is also an area JNCC are exploring with UK Governments.

### Identified research priorities

- Partnerships with industry and research institutions to improve understanding of the scientific evidence base informing fisheries management action.
- Monitoring the success of fisheries management measures to inform future approaches to the management of UK marine biodiversity.

### Further information

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk>

**Country:** UK

**Main Drivers:** Marine (Scotland) Act; Marine and Coastal Access Act; EU Habitats and Birds Directives; Common Fisheries Policy

**Period of work:** 2006 – Present

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**Partners to date:** Natural England; Scottish Natural Heritage

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Fishing vessel © Peter Bruce



Engaging stakeholders © JNCC

**Key words:** Marine Protected Areas, impacts of fishing, offshore, Common Fisheries Policy