



**Tranche Three Marine Conservation Zone  
workshop - Day 2: Summary report of the  
Eastern Channel CP2 region conservation  
advice Breakout**

**Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

**December 2016**

## **JNCC Tranche Three Marine Conservation Zone Workshop: Summary report from Breakout session for the Eastern Channel CP2 region**

This report is an account of the discussions that took place during Day 2 of the JNCC Tranche Three Marine Conservation Zone workshop in November 2016 on the conservation advice and recommended Marine Conservation Zones (rMCZs) in the Eastern Channel CP2 region. Further details about the workshop and the conservation advice can be found in the Workshop Guide<sup>1</sup> and Conservation Advice papers produced as supporting workshop materials<sup>2</sup>.

During the sessions stakeholders were asked two key questions:

- Are there any comments the group may have on any one of these areas to consider as we move forward in the preparation of scientific advice on MCZs for Defra?
- Are there any comments on the information presented in the conservation advice papers in the context of the sites on the table in the region?

### **Summary**

- Three locations are under consideration in the region (in addition to the East of Start Point and South of Chesil Beach Areas of Search), all of which the NGOs are supportive of:
  - Lyme Bay Deeps – (third-party proposal for white-beaked dolphin)
  - Inner Bank rMCZ – (Subtidal coarse sediment, Subtidal mixed sediments, Subtidal sand and Subtidal mud)
  - East Meridian rMCZ (Eastern Side) – (Subtidal coarse sediment)
- Questions were raised regarding the Lyme Bay Deeps proposal and mitigating impacts on the feature including licensable, military and tourism activities;
- Both Inner Bank rMCZ and East Meridian (Eastern Side) rMCZ are of extremely high value to the French and Belgian fishing fleets;
- There are concerns that the designation of the sites would result in fishing activity no longer being viable;
- There was a request to consider alternative locations for features proposed for the rMCZs in the region, including the possibility to extend existing sites (e.g. Bassurelle Sandbank, Offshore Brighton and Offshore Overfalls); and
- There was a general comment highlighting the importance for the impacts of licensable activities and fishing activities to be treated the same way.

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<sup>1</sup> Workshop Guide for the JNCC Tranche Three Marine Conservation Zone Workshop 2016. Available online at [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/MCZWS02\\_T3\\_Workshop\\_Guide\\_Final.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/MCZWS02_T3_Workshop_Guide_Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Conservation Advice documents can be found on the Workshop materials page of the JNCC website. Available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7325>

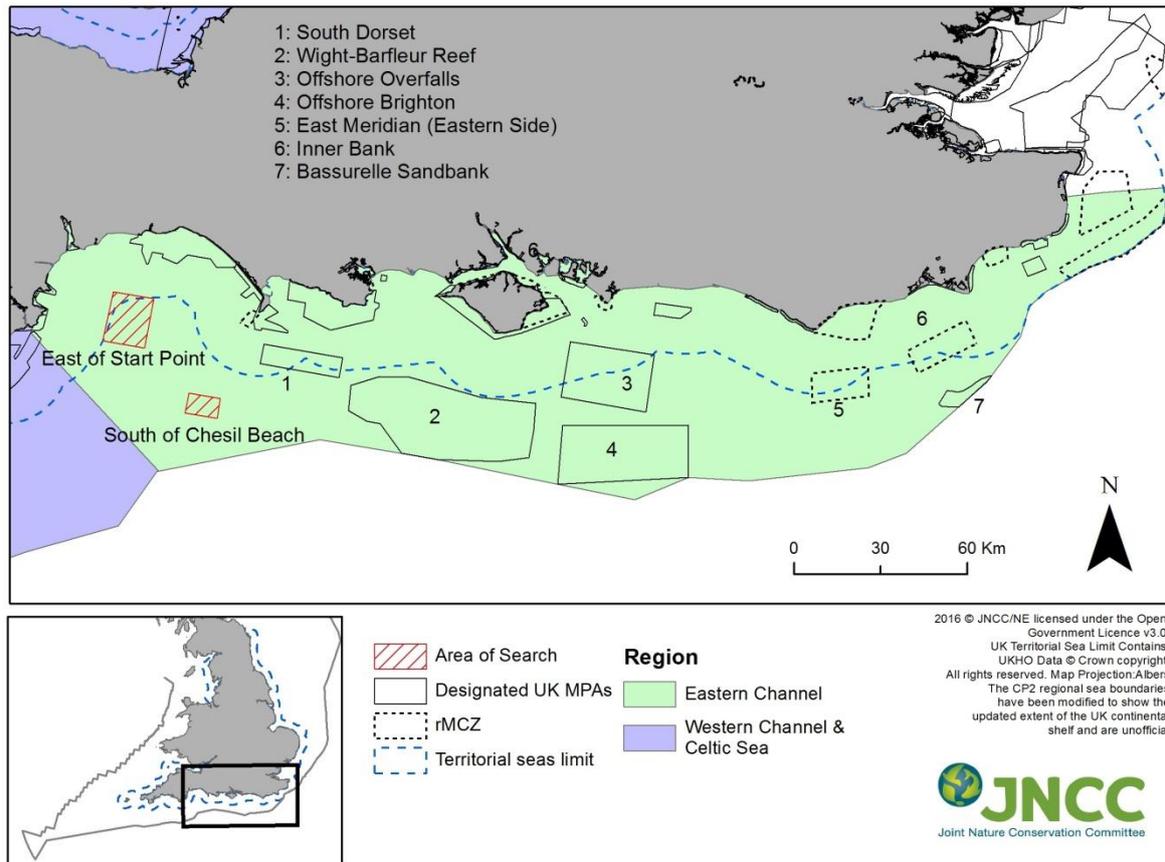


Figure 1: MCZs and rMCZs in the Eastern Channel CP2 region.

**Specific interests or concerns**

- There is a need to look at the cumulative socio-economic impact of management measures combined for the MPA network in the region;
- Both Inner Bank rMCZ and East Meridian (Eastern Side) rMCZ are of extremely high value to the French and Belgian fishing fleets (Inner Bank representing 6% of the entire Belgian fleet’s fishing efforts alone and a value of €1-2 million per annum in French landings based out of Normandy alone);
- More broadly there are concerns around the creation of a ‘bottleneck’ in the region, and that the designation of these sites would result in fishing activity no longer being viable (considering the significant number of other designations in the region and other restrictions in place e.g. around vessel traffic and directions of travel);
- There was a request to consider alternative locations for features proposed for the rMCZs in the region, including the possibility to extend existing sites (e.g. Bassurelle Sandbank, Offshore Brighton and Offshore Overfalls);
- French fishing industry however highlighted the ‘bottleneck’ situation around the Dover Strait area and stressed that extension of sites in the eastern area of this region would not be a viable option for their fisheries; and
- The Crown Estate highlighted there are two aggregate areas approximately 600m from East Meridian (Eastern Side). MMO clarified that the Marine & Coastal Access

Act (2009) does not provide any legislative requirement for a review of consents when MCZs are designated, but where JNCC consider there is a significant risk from an already licensed activity with regards to a newly designated MCZ, the MMO may review license conditions in light of the new designation.

#### *Lyme Bay Deeps (third party proposal)*

- The Wildlife Trusts fielded questions regarding the Lyme Bay Deeps proposal and emphasised that the proposal is about 'future proofing' the conservation status of the feature. Whilst no direct management intervention would be required at the present time, the impacts of underwater noise from future licensable activities (e.g. piling) and Military activities would need mitigation. Also, mammal observation tourist activities operating in the area would need to be 'WISE accredited';
- The Wildlife Trusts commented that they are not responsible for setting management measures for Lyme Bay Deeps. This would be a decision for Defra based on scientific advice from JNCC based on the information submitted by the Wildlife Trusts for this proposal;
- The Wildlife Trusts mentioned that another positive outlook for creating a MPA for white-beaked dolphin in the area is creating local business opportunities;
- The fisheries sector questioned whether time and money should be spent implementing a MPA for white-beaked dolphin if active management was not necessarily required;
- The response by Wildlife Trusts was that this is an exercise in future proofing the conservation status of this group of animals in the region; and
- The fact that Lyme Bay Deeps and East of Start Point AoS overlap should not be a prerequisite for an adaptive management approach here. The feature-based approach should be implemented, which for white-beaked dolphins will result in little, if any, direct management measures so there should be no interaction of measures if the AoS were to be designated for subtidal sand also.

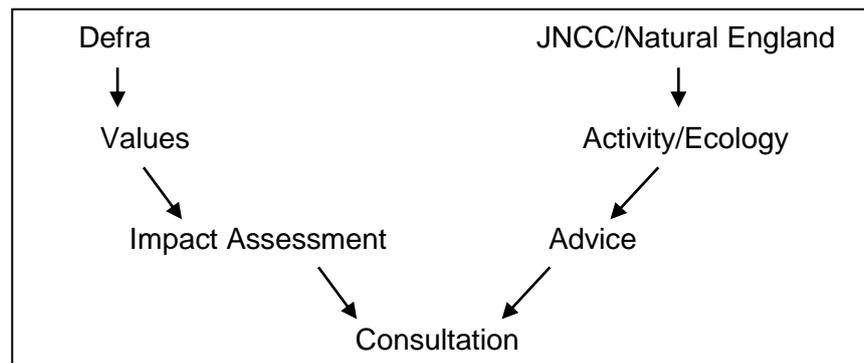
#### **Comments regarding data**

- MoD have requested to work with JNCC regarding the impacts of MoD related activities (in particular regarding Lyme Bay Deeps and white-beaked dolphin);
- Follow up is required to check Crown Estate aggregate zones information and other licensable activities information is correct; and
- The non-UK fisheries representatives would have liked to see a map with all components of the MPA Network being proposed for each region.

#### **General comments or questions**

- There may be health and safety concerns for fisheries due to displacement of fishing vessels operating in more confined areas or further offshore;
- When setting MCZ boundaries it would be of much greater use for the fishing sector to focus on tow lines rather than just using straight lines;

- There was a general comment highlighting the importance for the impacts of licensable activities and fishing activities to be treated the same way;
- There is a need to clarify (particularly to non-UK representatives) the concept of a data call issued by Defra concerning values of activities taking place in the region vs. the provision of activities data for JNCC's purposes (and more generally the timeframes around these). In terms of 'data' and which organisation uses which types of 'data' and for which purposes this following flow diagram was suggested as being helpful:



- The conservation advice feature papers were well received, but there is a need to cite the academic literature in the advice we provide and ensure the materials being drawn upon are up to date. The fishing sector mentioned Cefas work undertaken on functional traits analysis for example;
- NGOs are supportive of the Lyme Bay Deeps and the rMCZs being proposed; and
- Requests were made for a summary table capturing the percentage of feature in each site and the contribution towards the region total.