

Offshore SAC Designation Process

[Area of Search](#) fulfils the [Annex III SAC Selection Criteria](#)



JNCC draft documentation supporting recommendation of the area as an SAC



Inter-Agency [Marine Natura 2000 Project Group](#) and Chief Scientists Group provide comment on proposal



[JNCC Committee](#) approves proposal



Area is formally recommended to Defra by JNCC



Draft SAC (dSAC)



Defra gain Cabinet Committee approval for dSAC to proceed to consultation



Possible SAC (pSAC)



Impact Assessments and consultation document produced. Pre-consultation meetings with stakeholders conducted.



12 week [public consultation](#)



JNCC produce a report of responses to the consultation



JNCC discuss conclusions of consultation and revise pSAC proposals in light of additional scientific data provided during the consultation if necessary



JNCC formally recommend revised pSAC proposals to Defra



Defra gain Cabinet Committee approval for onwards submission of pSAC to the European Commission



Natura 2000 Data Form and Site Map for pSAC sent to the European Commission



Candidate SAC (cSAC)



JNCC establish Conservation Objectives for the cSAC and advise Competent Authorities on appropriate management actions



European Commission approves site



Site of Community Importance (SCI)



Competent Authorities must manage site in accordance with Offshore Habitat Regulations



UK Government designates site as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)



Special Area of Conservation (SAC)