

## Using activities data to support Marine Protected Area planning

### Summary

Marine Protected Area (MPA) planning needs to take into consideration the context of wider use of the UK marine environment – providing the balance behind effective marine environmental protection and ongoing sustainable use.

### Work involved

JNCC have played a leading role in collating information on the spatial extent of marine activities at the UK level, and combining this with information on the pressures associated with these activities to develop pressure maps to support the selection and management recommendations for MPAs.

In undertaking this work, JNCC has developed a wealth of expertise in: using advanced geographic information and database software packages; undertaking evidence-led processes for the identification of MPAs; collecting and managing data for the designation and management of MPAs; and engaging with key stakeholders and decision makers.

### Key Outcome

The development of activities/pressure maps that have been applied to MPA selection processes in the UK. For example, developing a Least Damaged/More Natural data layer to support MPA planning in Scotland's seas (Chaniotis *et al* 2011).

### Future work

Continue to develop and maintain MPA activities/pressures maps in support of MPA network planning and management.

### Identified research priorities

- Improved understanding of the interactions between marine activities and habitats and species of conservation importance.
- Improved understanding of the impacts of cumulative pressures resulting from multiple activities and marine habitats and species of conservation importance.

### Further information

Chaniotis, P.D., Crawford-Avis, O.T., Cunningham, S., Gillham, K., Tobin, D. & Linwood, M. 2011. Various reports detailing production of the Least Damaged/More Natural data layer in Scotland's seas. Available from: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/locations>

**Country:** UK

**Main Driver:** UK Marine & Coastal Access Act (2009)

**Period of work:** 2009 - 2014

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LDMN data layer output from Chaniotis *et al* 2011



Pulsewing beam trawler © Declan Tobin



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