



**Chinese Whispers:  
Myths and misconceptions mask the true  
progress in MPA and inshore fisheries  
management**

Sarah Clark  
Deputy Chief Officer (Environment)  
Devon and Severn IFCA



**“YOU CAN’T MOVE MOUNTAINS BY WHISPERING  
AT THEM.”**

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**Marine life**

## Number of England's marine conservation zones nearly doubles

But leading marine conservationist warns that MCAZs are 'paper parks' and will offer wildlife no real protection from destructive dredging and trawling

Damian Carrington  
@damiancarrington  
Sunday 17 January 2016 06:01 GMT



On the Tide  
The blog of Marine Conservation Institute



**BLOG**

## Is the "Marine Protected Area" label creating the illusion of marine biodiversity conservation?

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 LANCE MORGAN LEAVE A COMMENT

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Marine biologists Mark Costello and Bill Ballantine from Leigh Marine Laboratory in New Zealand recently published a new study stressing the critical importance of no-take marine reserves for marine biodiversity conservation.

THE TIMES

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## Sea conservation zones branded a drop in ocean



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## Cardigan Bay SAC under attack

BY HANNAH LARGIER 10TH DECEMBER 2015

Take a look at our live next best camera. What will you see?

Cardigan Bay or Bae Ceredigion Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Wales stretches from Ceredar Bay in Pembrokeshire to Aberarth in Ceredigion and stretches almost 20 km out from the coast. It is designated to protect 1000 km<sup>2</sup> of marine habitats and species including reefs, sandbanks, caves, dolphins, grey seals and lampreys. A second SAC is also present within Cardigan Bay area, the Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC. This SAC protects similar marine habitats and additionally marine sandbanks, estuaries and coastal lagoons.



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**Marine life**  
George Monbiot's blog

## The UK's marine reserves are nothing but paper parks

The government is in breach of its promise to create a network of marine conservation zones by 2017.

What do the terms "marine reserve" and "marine-protected area" conjure up for you? Places in which, perhaps, wildlife is protected? In which the damaging activities permitted in other parts of the sea – such as trawling and dredging – are banned? Wrong

We need more because the network we have is far from complete. Despite the [50] MCZs, the UK's rich marine life has very little protection. That may sound paradoxical, but six years after the Marine Act was passed, MCZs are still paper parks. They have no management at all, so life within them remains unprotected. They will be worse than useless, giving the illusion of protection where none is present."



A marine-protected area in the United Kingdom is an area inside a line drawn on a map - and that's about it. In most cases, the fishing industry can continue to rip up the seabed, overharvest the fish and shellfish, and cause all the other kinds of damage it is permitted to inflict in the rest of this country's territorial waters. With three tiny exceptions, our marine reserves are nothing but paper parks

"Marine Conservation Zones will not make a jot of difference if they don't get sufficient protection. What we need is to exclude all mobile fishing gears . . . they are completely incompatible with nature conservation."

2 NEWS Visit us at [fishingnews.co.uk](http://fishingnews.co.uk) and on Twitter @YourFishingNews 28 January 2016

# 23 English MCZs announced in second round

## 50 sites in total now cover over fifth of waters

DEFRA has designated another 23 marine conservation zones (MCZs) in English waters, reports **Tim Oliver**



activities – remembering that these are people's livelihoods we are talking about, and that fishermen put food on the table."

He said experience had shown that achieving the support of people who relied on the local resources was critical to the success of MCZs, especially in times of tight public finances when monitoring would be necessarily limited.

"A measured, careful approach also limits the potential of the displacement of fishing and other activities that can actually do more harm than good, by having higher environmental impacts elsewhere if site locations and management measures are not planned properly."



RECEIVED 26 JAN 2016

# FISHING NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY SINCE 1913

## MORE MCZS IN ENGLAND

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£2.99  
28 January 2016  
Issue: 5294

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**REGIONAL NEWS**  
**UK Fish and Chip Awards 2016**  
Simpsons Fish & Chips, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, was crowned the best fish and chip shop in the UK, after being voted on top at the 2016 National Fish & Chip Awards, organised by

**Sustaining Orkney's crucially important shellfish industry**

MYTHS

FACTS

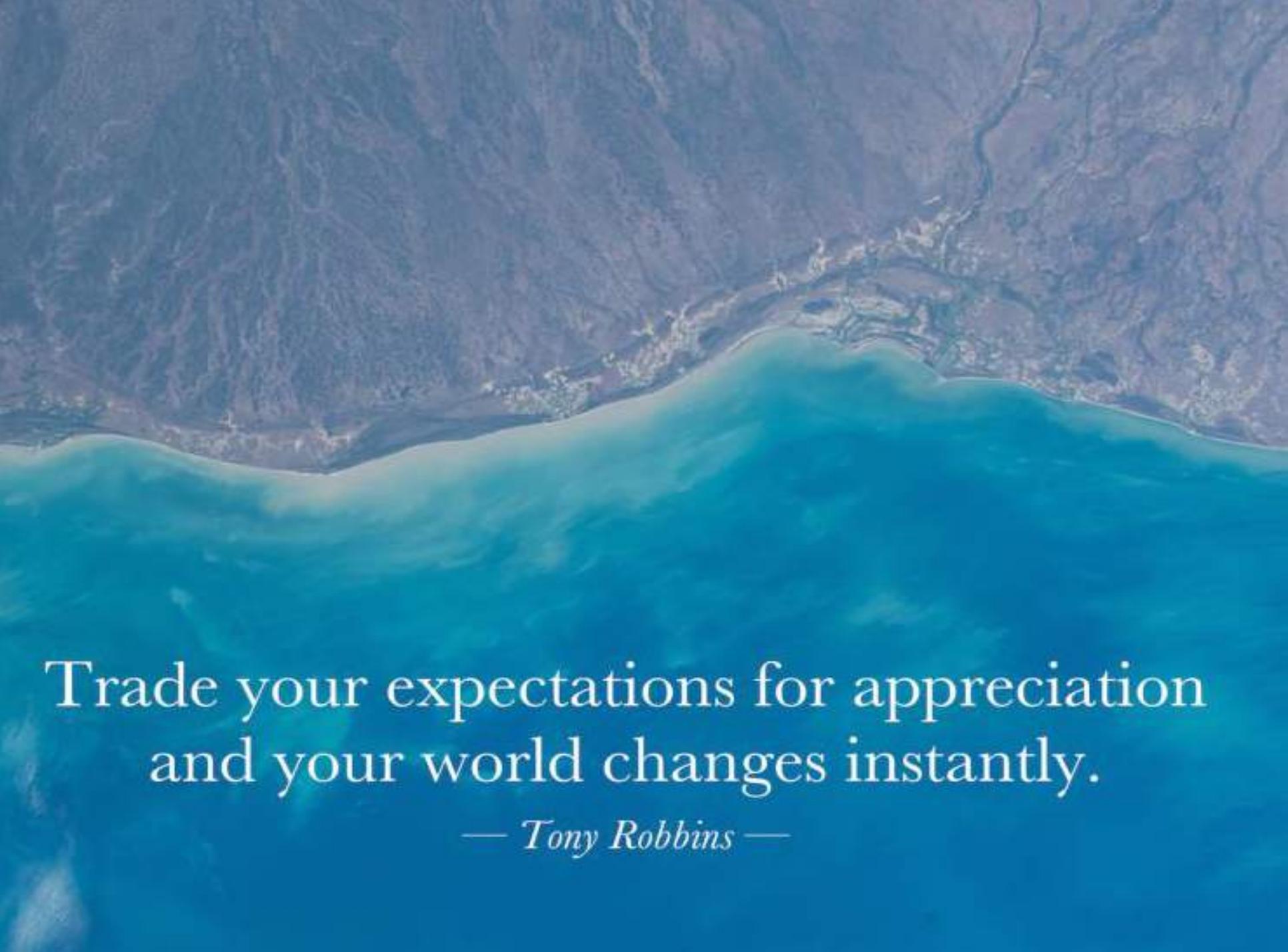


## Myths

- Marine Protected areas are the same as No Take Zones
- Designation of MPA means immediate protection of features
- Best Evidence of feature extent and location already exists
- Even without any verification of features management should be brought in
- Regulators will bow to the pressure of the fishing industry
- MPA designation means no bottom towed gear
- Paper Parks
- Currently no management is in place in MPA

- Marine Protected Areas do provide protection of the designated habitats or species. Some have no take zones
- Assessment of and appropriate management of fishing activities will be brought in within 2 years of designation (post 2016)
- In some cases very poor evidence of feature extent and location exists at designation. Extensive survey work is taking place.
- Management is in place in MPAs
- MPA does not mean all towed gear removed
- The MPA network is building

## Facts

An aerial photograph of a coastline. The top half of the image shows a rugged, brownish landscape with a network of roads and rivers. The bottom half shows a wide, shallow bay with clear, turquoise water. The coastline is irregular, with several small peninsulas and inlets.

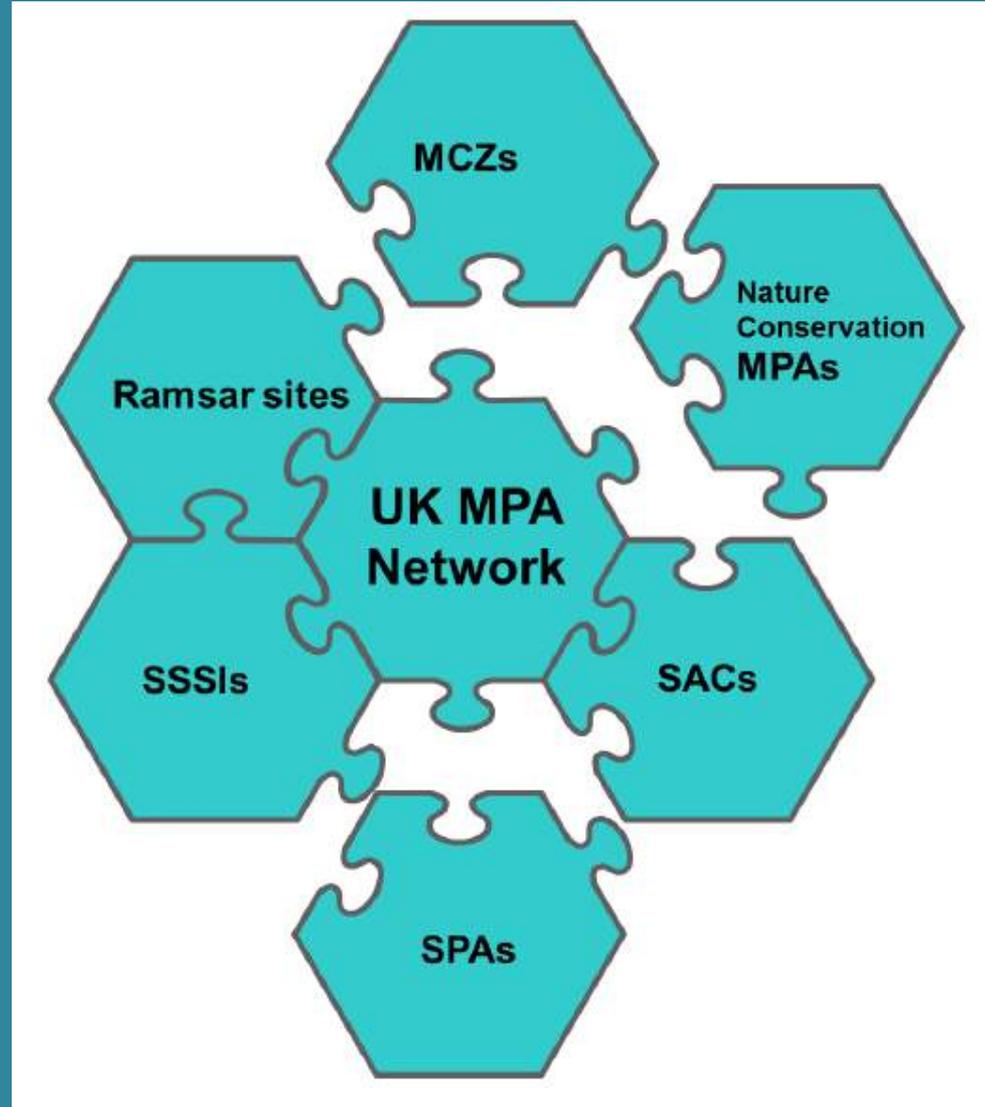
Trade your expectations for appreciation  
and your world changes instantly.

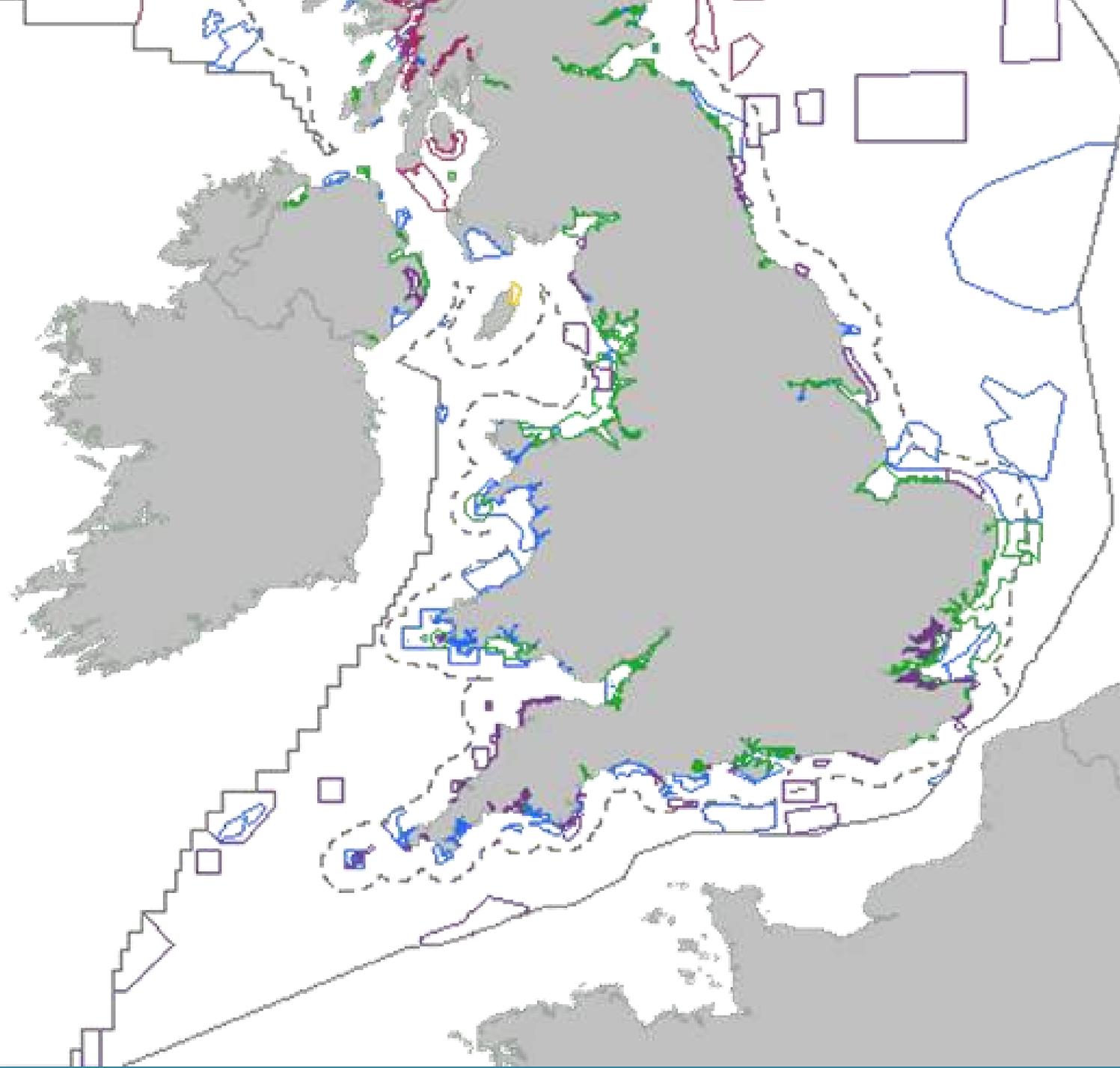
— *Tony Robbins* —



# MPA Network

- Around the coast of England there are extensive areas that are MPA
- MaCAA and EC Habitats Directive
- Currently focus is on MCZ - three tranches
- European Marine Sites are still a focal point in fisheries management
- Defra's revised approach 2012
- IFCAs, MMO & Defra





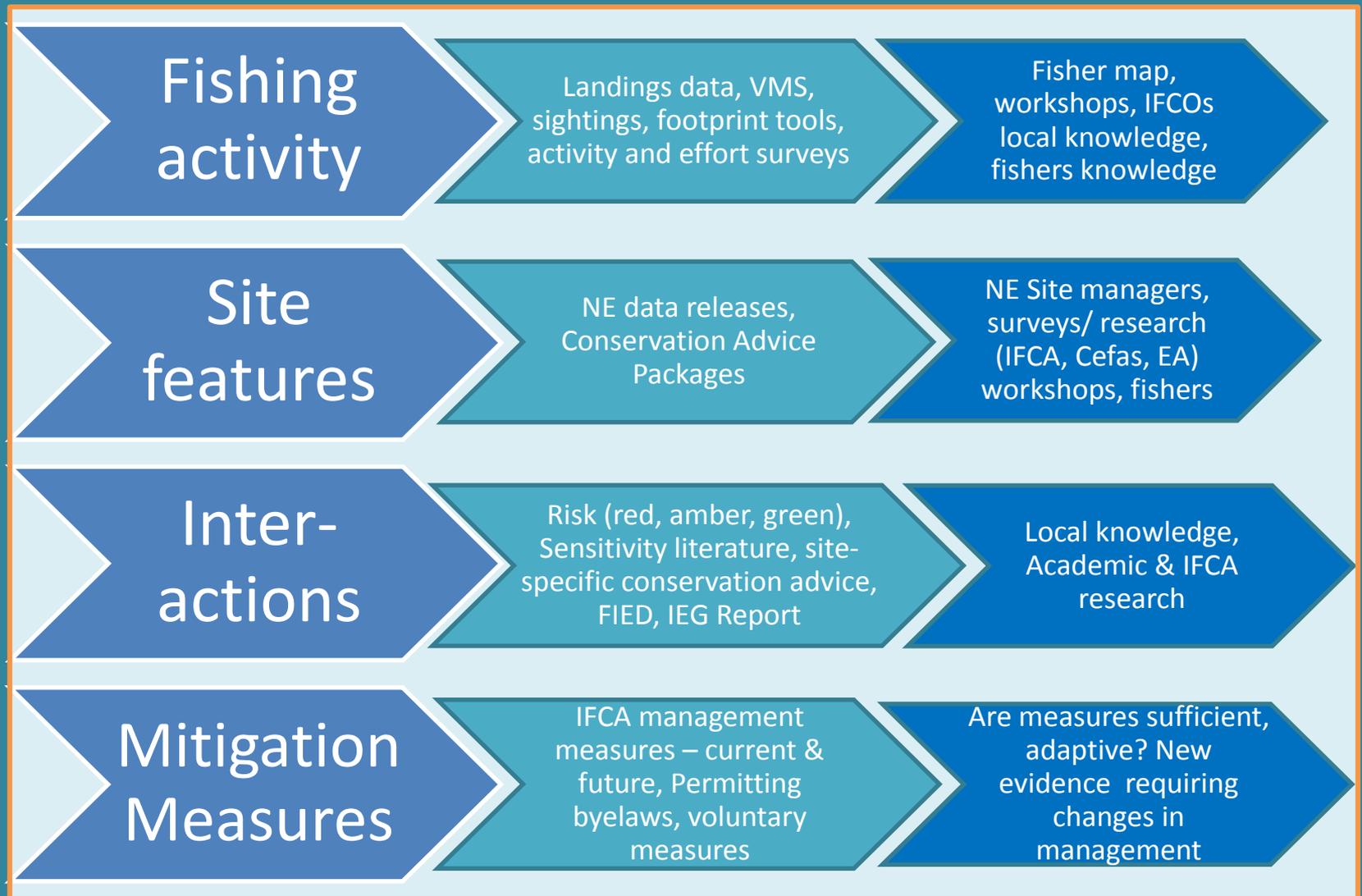
# IFCA and MPA - Progress

No. of EMS	89
No. of EMS features	185
No. of EMS subfeatures	552
No. of gear types in matrix	40
No. of gear / feature interactions	13,615

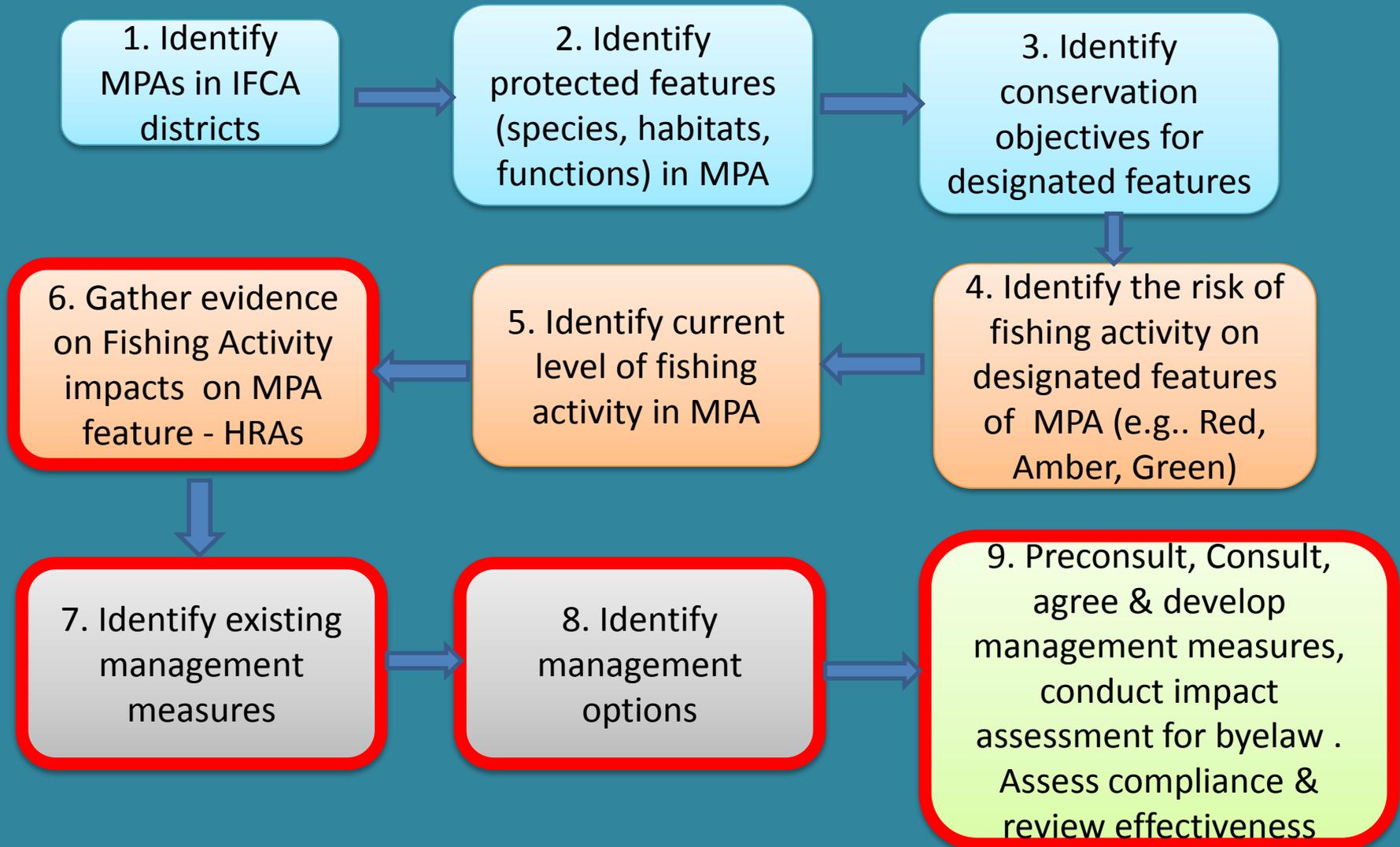
No. of Tranche 1 MCZ	27
No. of Tranche 1 features	167
No. of Tranche 2 MCZ	23
No. of Tranche 2 features	40
No. of Tranche 3 rMCZ	23
No. of Tranche 3 rMCZ features	128

IFCA district sea area	28,607 km <sup>2</sup>
Area of EMS in IFCA districts	11, 581 km <sup>2</sup>
Area of MCZs in IFCA districts	4,642 km <sup>2</sup>
Area covered by MPAs (overlap removed)	13,213 km <sup>2</sup>

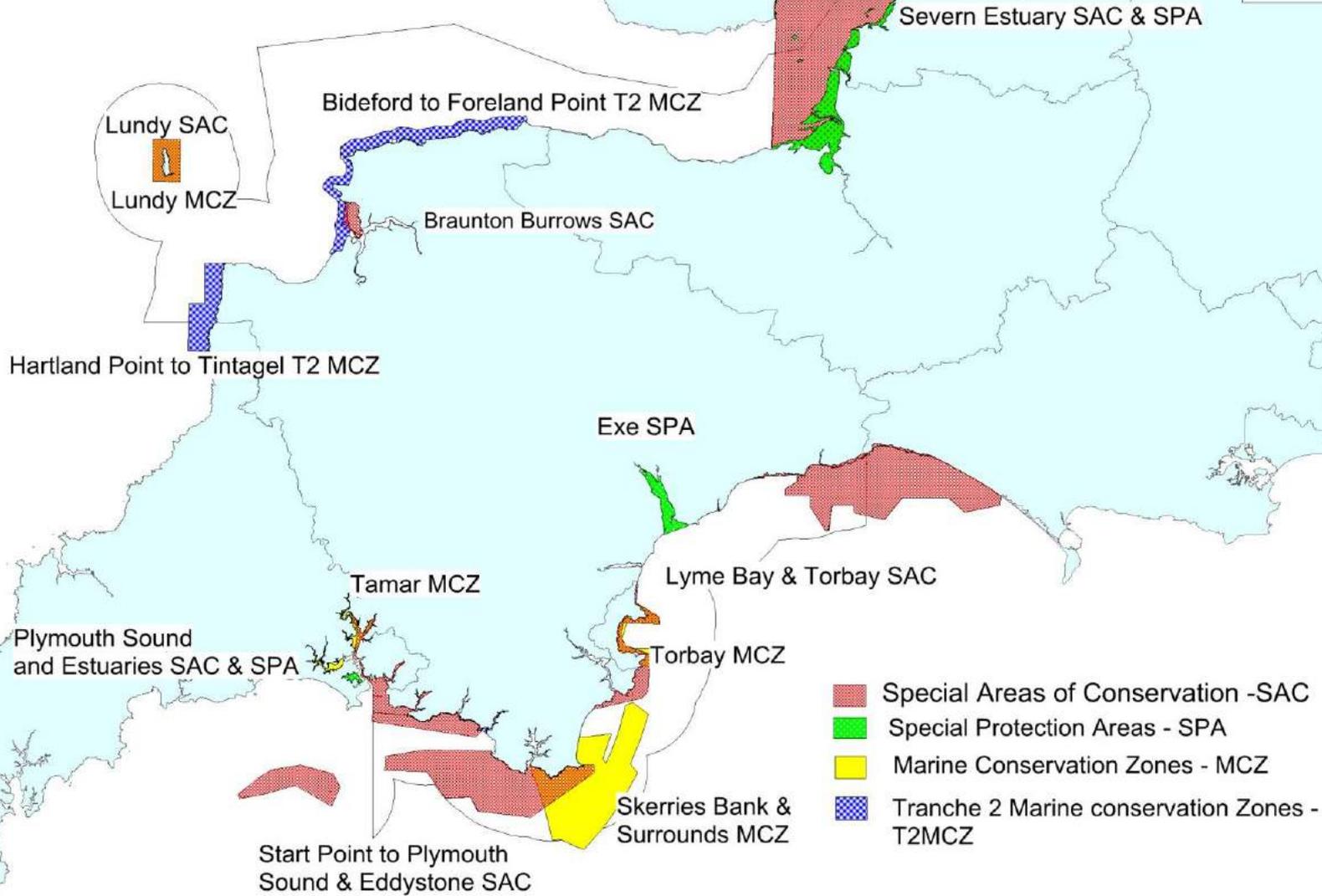
# Progress in fisheries Management in MPAs



# MPA Assessment and Management Process



# Marine Protected Areas in Devon & Severn IFCA District



## 9 EMS

- Lundy SAC
- Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone cSAC
- Lyme Bay & Torbay cSAC
- Exe SPA
- Severn Estuary SAC
- Severn Estuary SPA
- Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC
- Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA
- Braunton Burrows SAC

Total area =  
1160.73 km<sup>2</sup>

## 4 Tranche 1 MCZ

- Skerries Bank & Surrounds MCZ
- Torbay NMCZ
- Tamar MCZ
- Lundy MCZ

Total area =  
318.18 km<sup>2</sup>

## 2 Tranche 2 MCZ

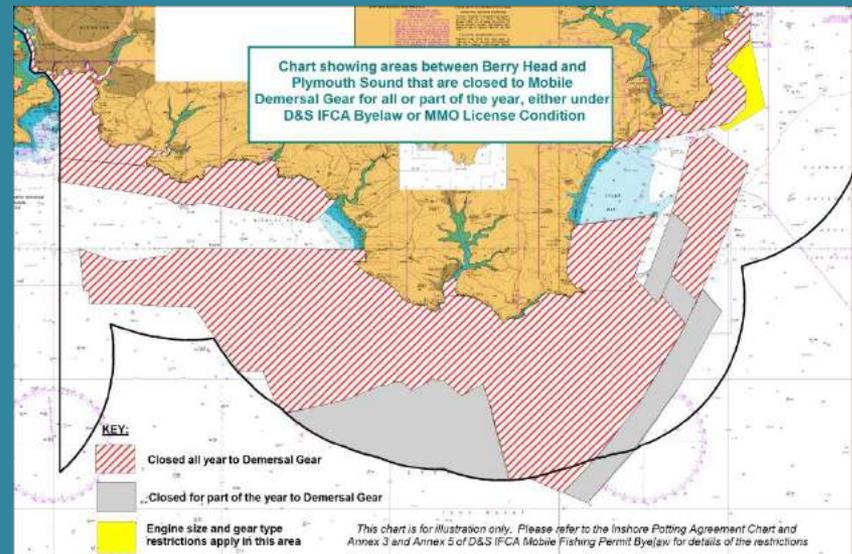
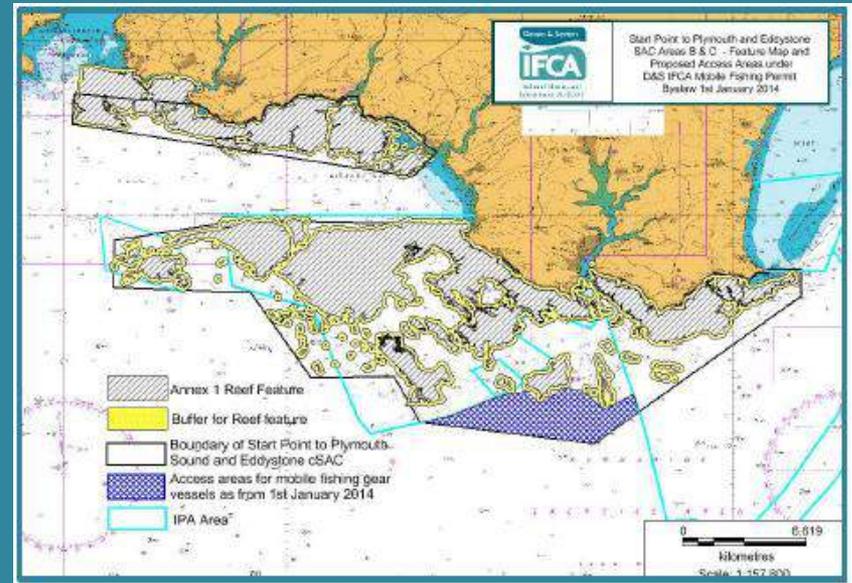
- Bideford Bay to Foreland Point MCZ
- Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

Total area =  
138.20 km<sup>2</sup>

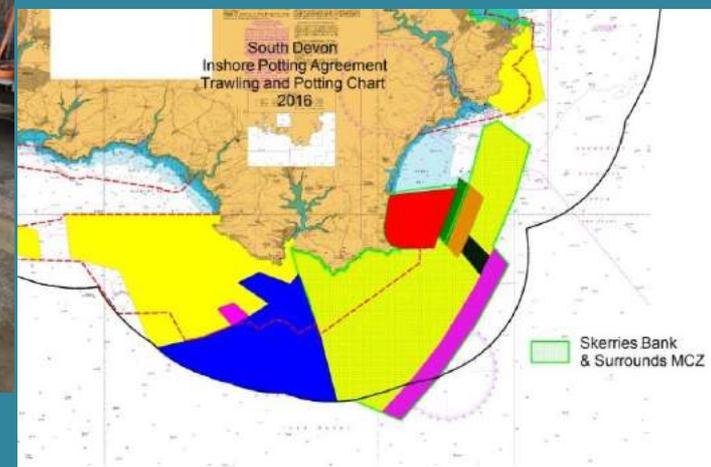
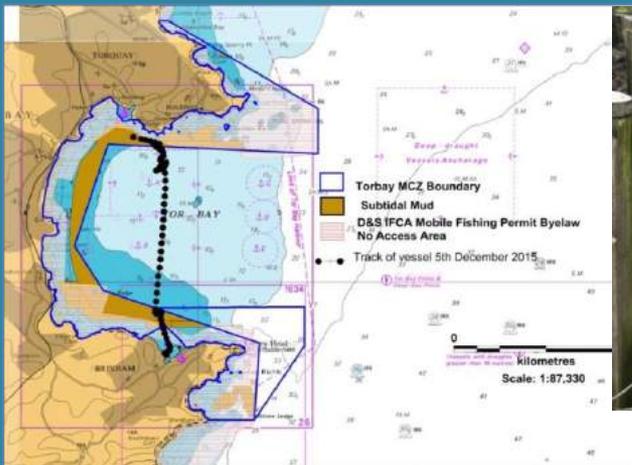
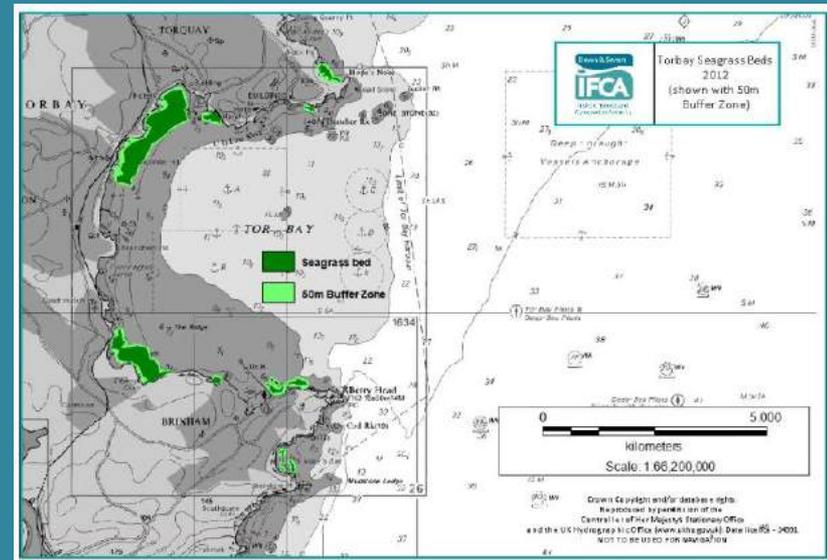
Total of D&S IFCA district covered by MPA =  
1331.40 km<sup>2</sup> or 29.44%  
40% of South Devon coast is MPA

# Devon & Severn IFCA

- Red risk - Revised Approach and MCZ management – Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
- 24.45% of district and 92.5% of MPA area closed to demersal towed gear
- 100% protection of designated features from demersal towed gear in Severn EMS, Lyme Bay & Torbay SAC, SPPSE SAC, Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC
- 77% of Lundy SAC is closed to bottom towed gear – current AA on sand sediments

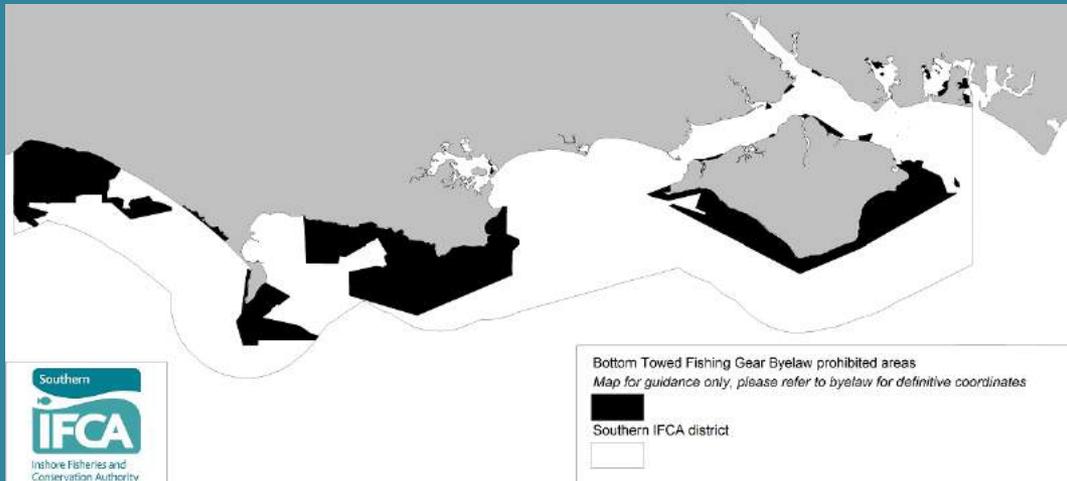
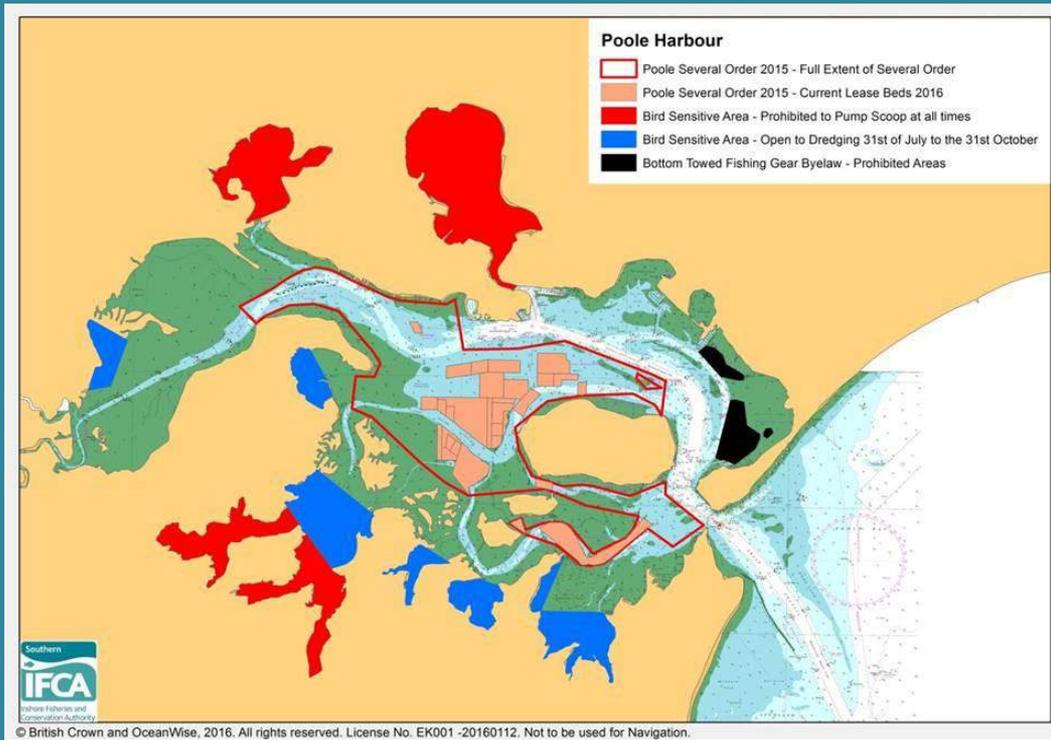


- Sea grass protection in Torbay MCZ
- *Palinurus elephas* landing prohibition Lundy MCZ & Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ - Potting Permit Byelaw
- Managed access Zones in Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ – working with MMO
- Monitoring of MCZ features
- 55% Mud in Torbay MCZ is protected from demersal gear – MSc study looking at gear impacts on remaining mud areas



# Southern IFCA

- Poole Harbour –
  - spatial and temporal management measures including both red and amber management interventions under the revised approach
  - Areas closed to bottom towed gear, closed to pump scoops all year, seasonal closures in some areas to protect overwintering birds
  - aquaculture management (the largest oyster production area in England) coexisting within an SPA.
- Large areas of the district closed to bottomed towed gear



# Kent & Essex IFCA

- 70% of the district is MPA
- 15 European Sites
- 7 MCZ

## MCZ Management: - 2014:

Towed gear prohibition to

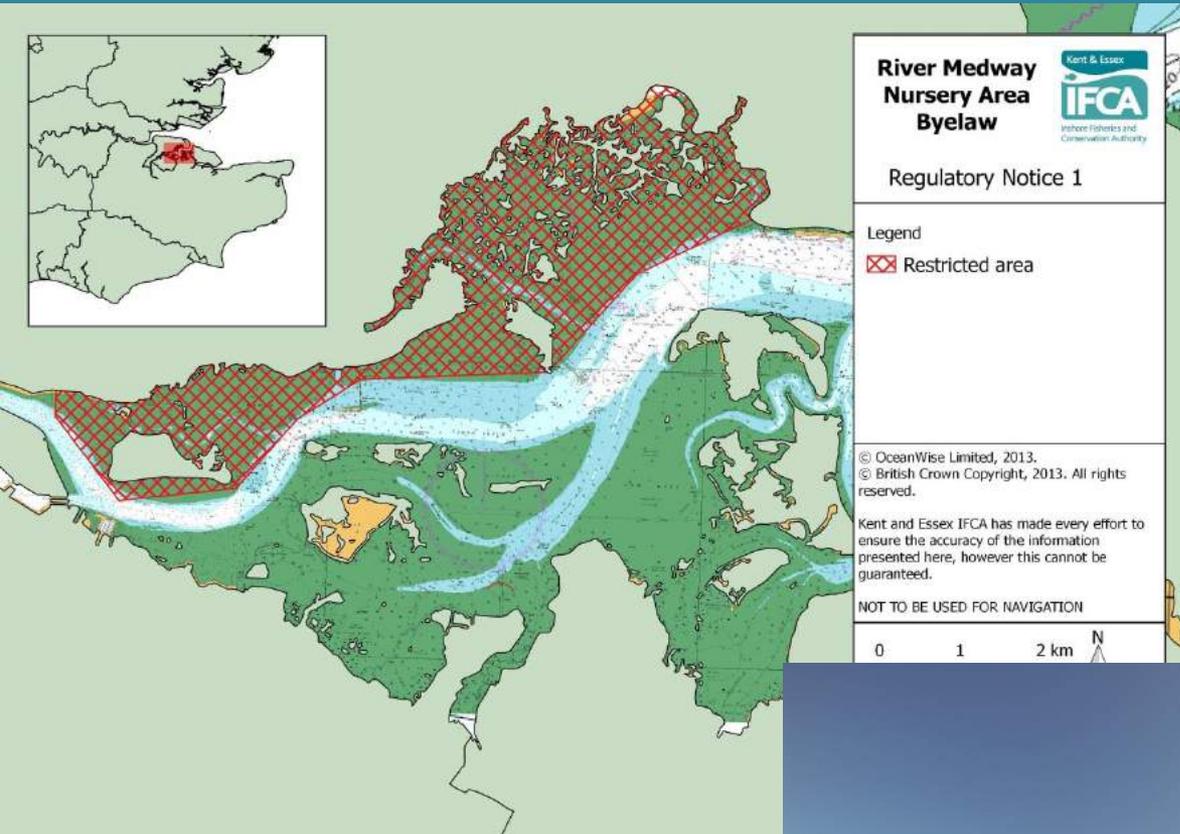
- Protect chalk reef feature in Thanet Coast MCZ
- Protect Sea grass beds in Essex Estuaries SAC

## 2015:

- Prohibition of towed gear across the whole Folkestone Pomerania MCZ (34 km<sup>2</sup>) to protect *Sabellaria spp* reefs and rare fragile sponge and anthozoan communities



## Medway no-take zone (proposed).



## 2016:

- Consultation stage of byelaw to create UK's largest NTZ within Medway MCZ
- K&E IFCA worked with fishing industry
- Prohibit the removal of all sea fish resource in 12 km<sup>2</sup> of intertidal saltmarsh & mudflat



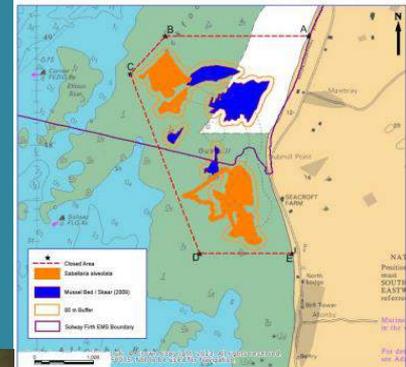
Saltmarsh habitat in Medway Estuary.

# Examples of MPA Management by other IFCAs

- **Northumberland IFCA** – prohibition of use of Mobile fishing gear to protect reef in the English part of the Berwickshire North Northumberland Coast SAC and sea grass in Lindisfarne SSSI/SPA
- **North-western IFCA** – 70% of district is MPA. Bottom towed gear prohibited in 6 SAC to protect reef features. Prohibition of bait digging to protect seagrass.
- **Cornwall IFCA** - MPA byelaw protects large areas of reef from bottom towed gear. Management measure being developed in MCZ
- **Eastern IFCA** – long legacy of managing cockle and mussel fisheries in the Wash SAC/SPA & North Norfolk Coast SAC to manage food resource for birds; disturbance to birds & seals, impacts on substratum. Regulatory notices to protect *Sabellaria* in the Wash SAC



North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority  
Byelaw 6 Protection for European Marine Site Features  
Figure 1. The Solway Firth EMS *Sabellaria alveolata* reef closed area



**Coordinates**  
A 54° 49.01' N 3° 25.69' W  
B 54° 49.01' N 3° 27.95' W

This map is for illustrative purposes only  
NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION





**MYTHS BUSTED**



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1 Channel

Thank You



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