



**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 MCZs are 'paper parks' and will offer wildlife no real protection from destructive dredging and trawling

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




This article is 2 months old



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

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 LARSON 15TH DECEMBER 2015



Cardigan Bay or Bae Ceredigion Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Wales stretches from Ceredigion in Pembrokeshire to Aberarth in Ceredigion and stretches almost 20 km out from the coast. It is designated to protect 1000 km² 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.




#DONTTAKETHEP OUT OF MPAS

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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 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

TURN TO PAGE 2 FOR THE FULL REPORT

£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 frying 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

Facts

- 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

An aerial photograph of a coastline. The top half of the image shows a rugged, brownish-grey landmass with a network of rivers and valleys. The bottom half shows a vibrant turquoise ocean with visible wave patterns. A thin strip of sandy beach separates the land from the water.

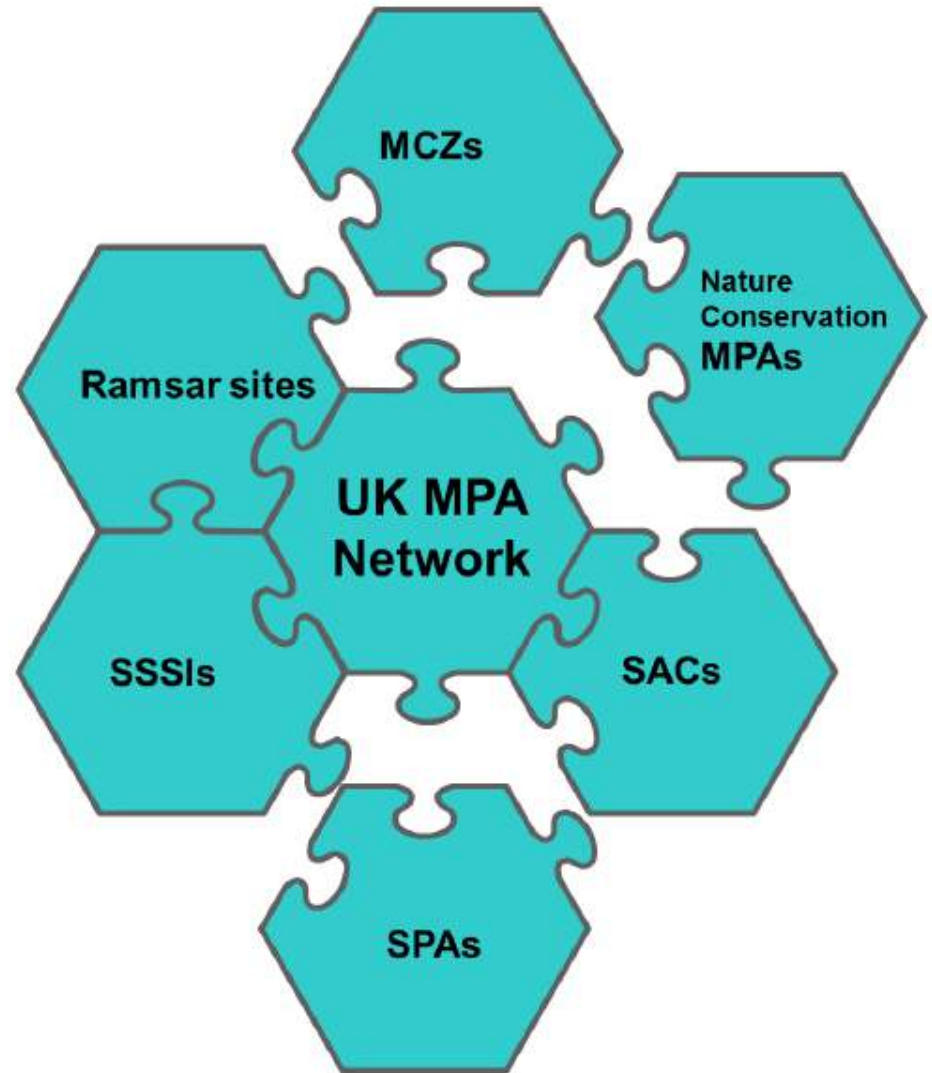
Trade your expectations for appreciation
and your world changes instantly.

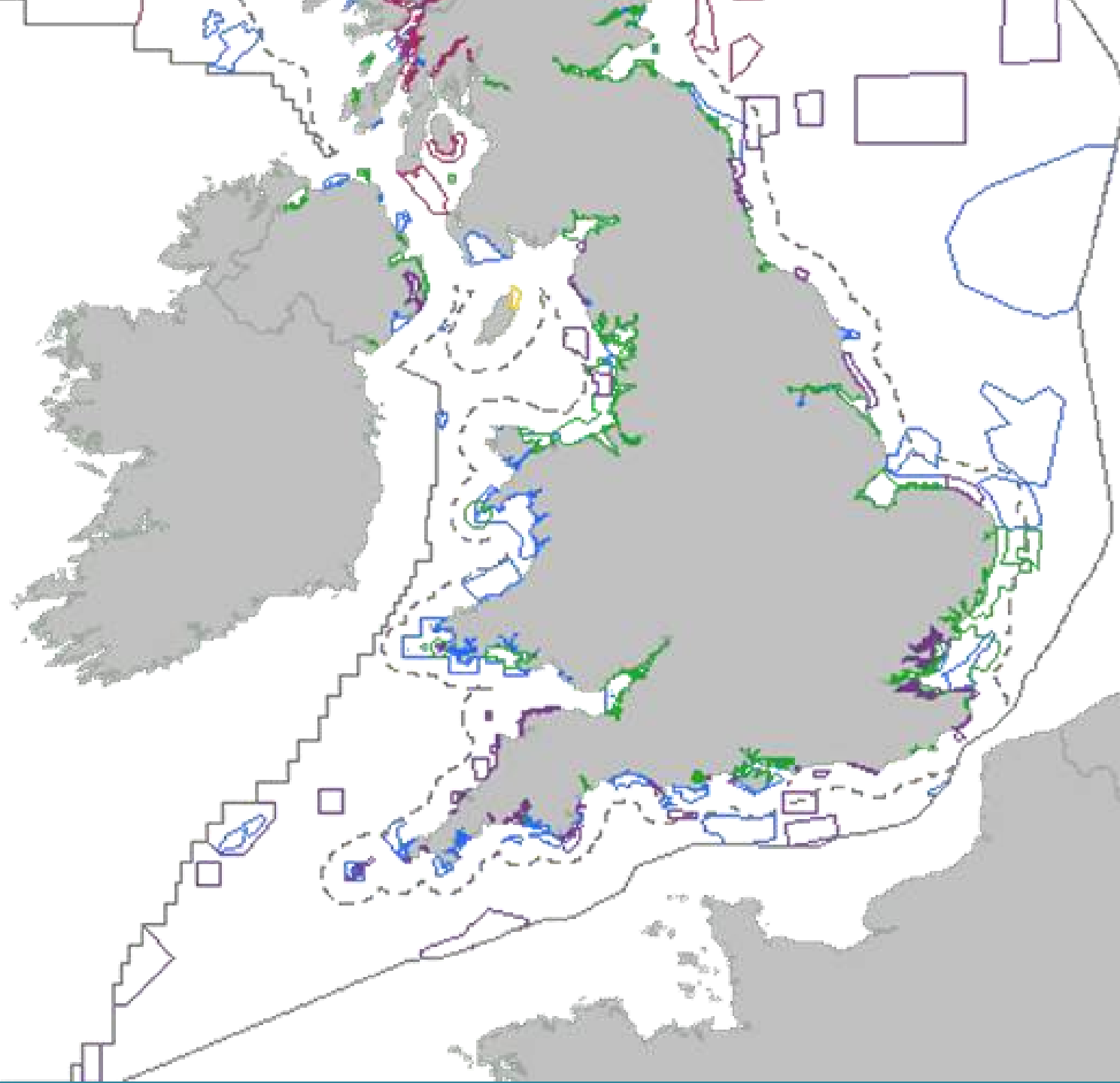
— *Tony Robbins* —



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
- IFCA, MMO & Defra





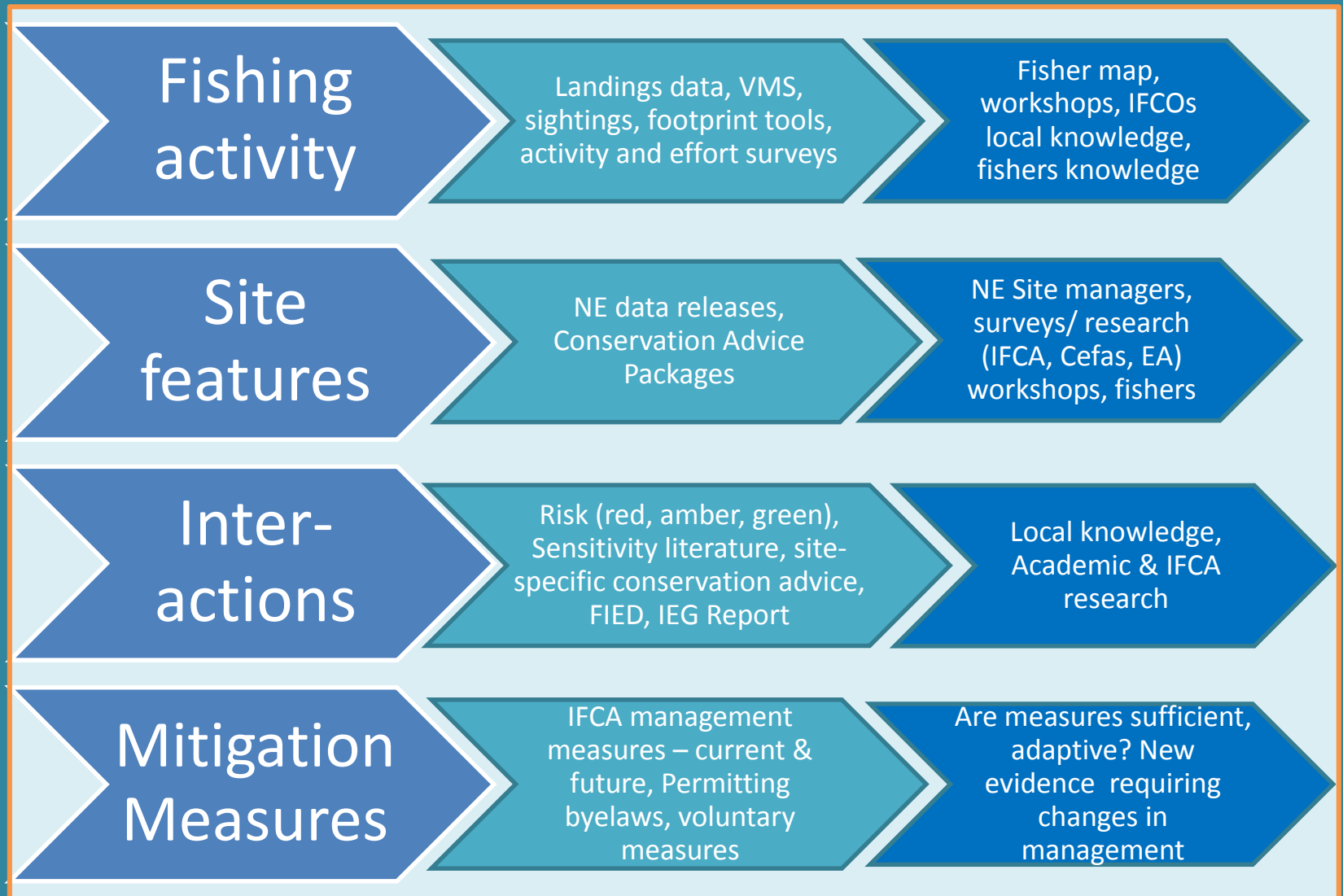
IFCA and MPA - Progress

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

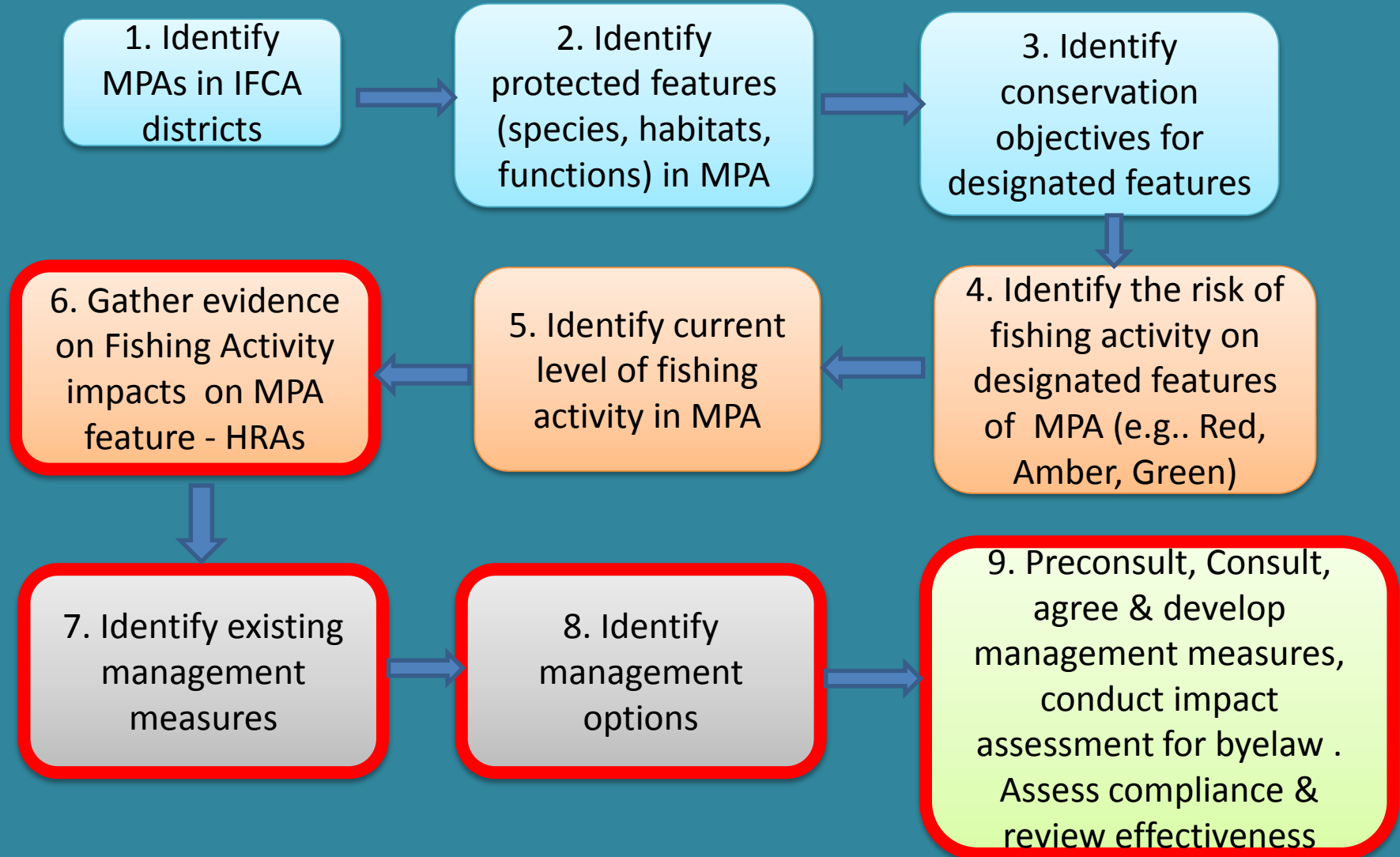
No. of Tranche 1 MCZ	27
No. of Tranche 1 features	167
No. of Tranche 2 MCZ	23
No. of Tranche 2 features	40
No. of Tranche 3 rMCZ	23
No. of Tranche 3 rMCZ features	128

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

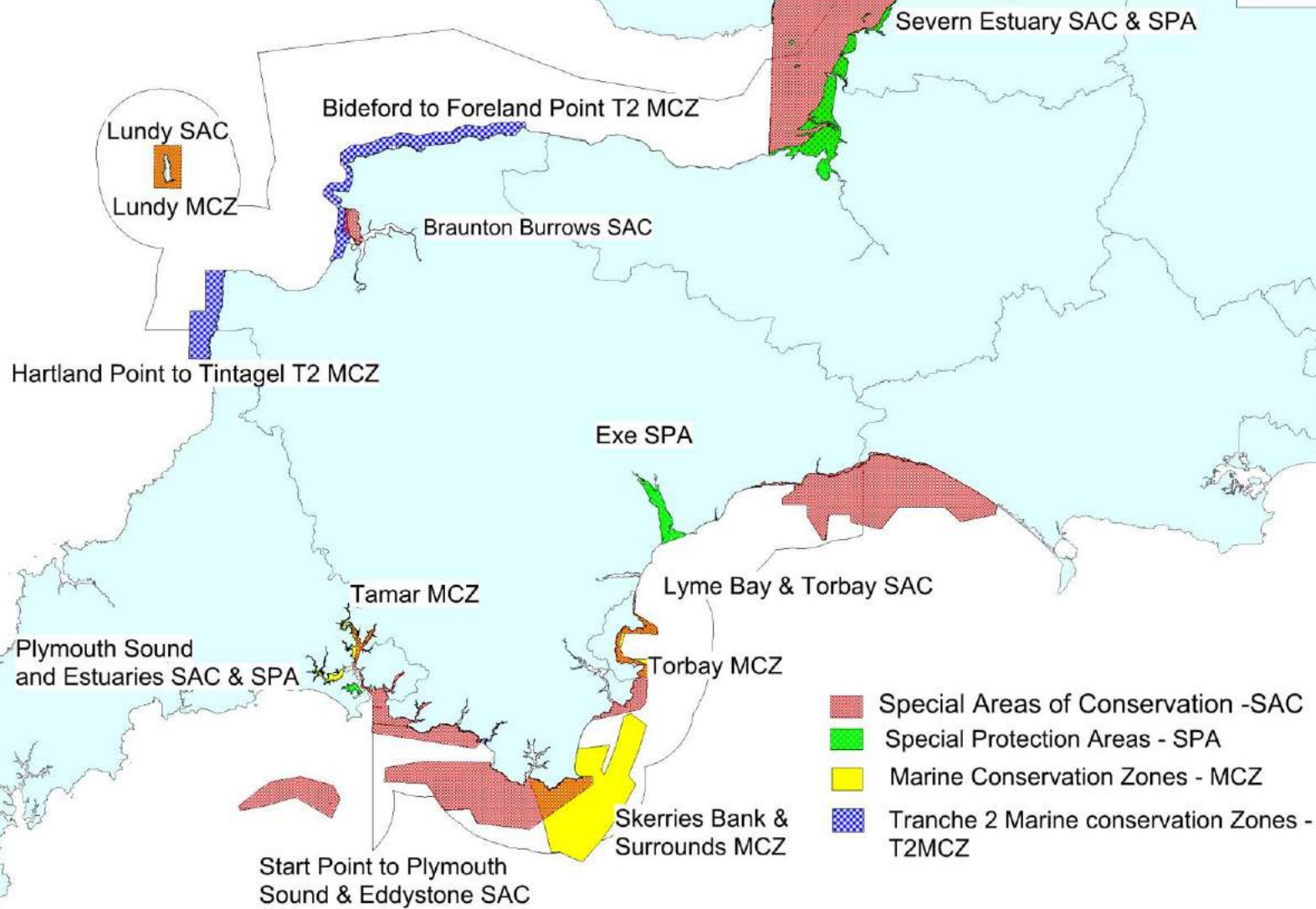
Progress in fisheries Management in MPAs



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 km²

4 Tranche 1 MCZ

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

Total area =
318.18 km²

2 Tranche 2 MCZ

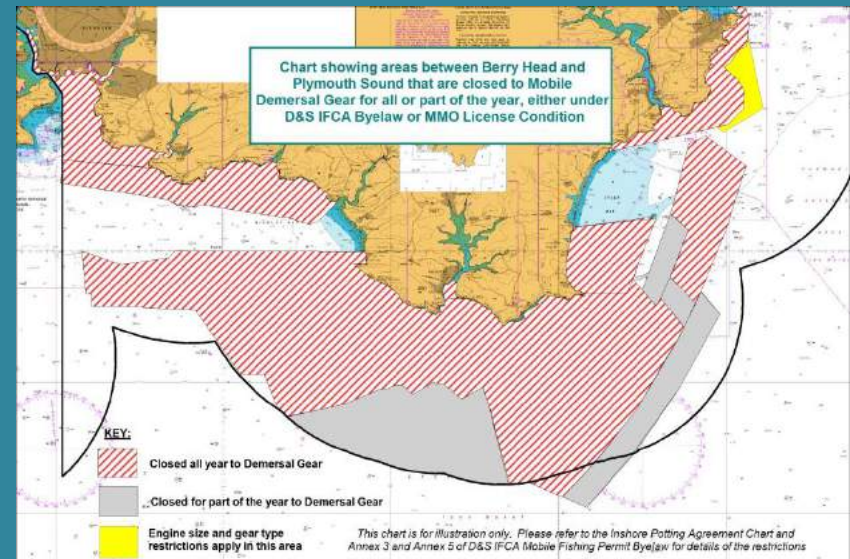
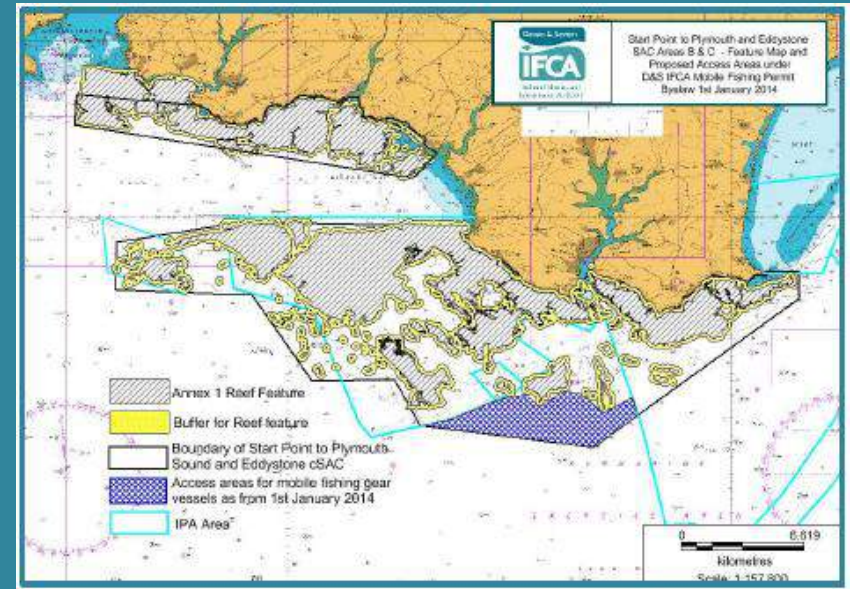
- Bideford Bay to Foreland Point MCZ
- Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

Total area =
138.20 km²

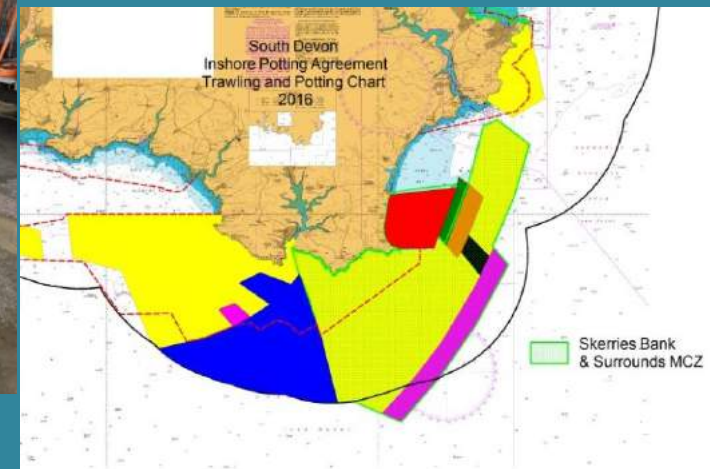
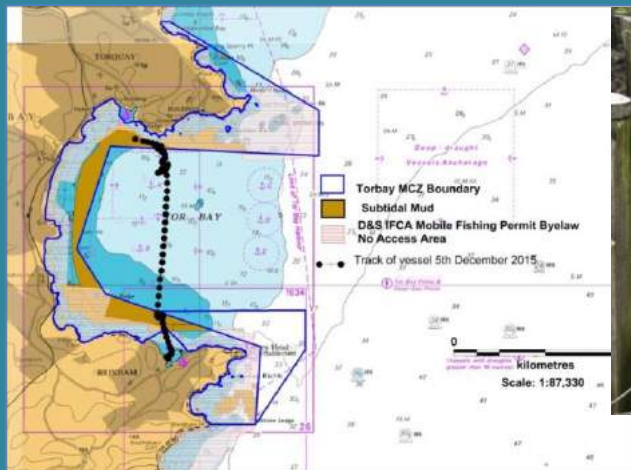
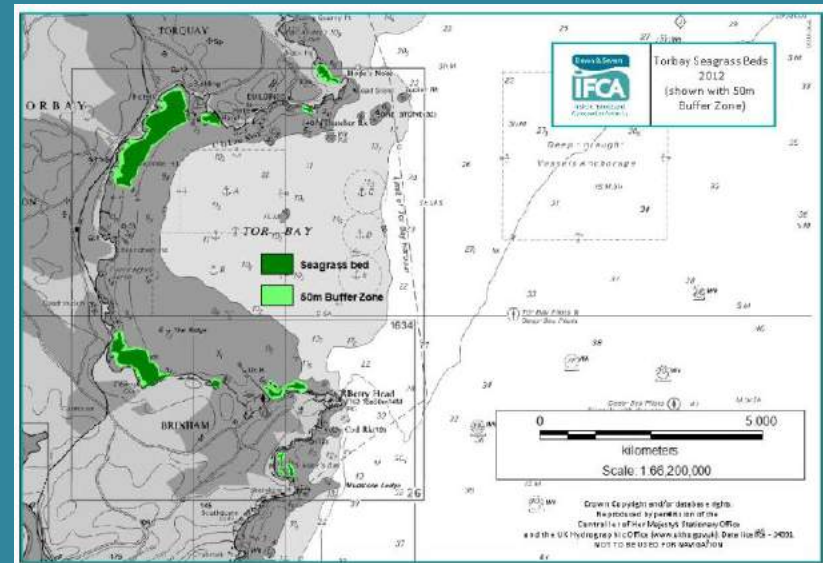
Total of D&S IFCA district covered by MPA =
1331.40 km² or 29.44%
40% of South Devon coast is MPA

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

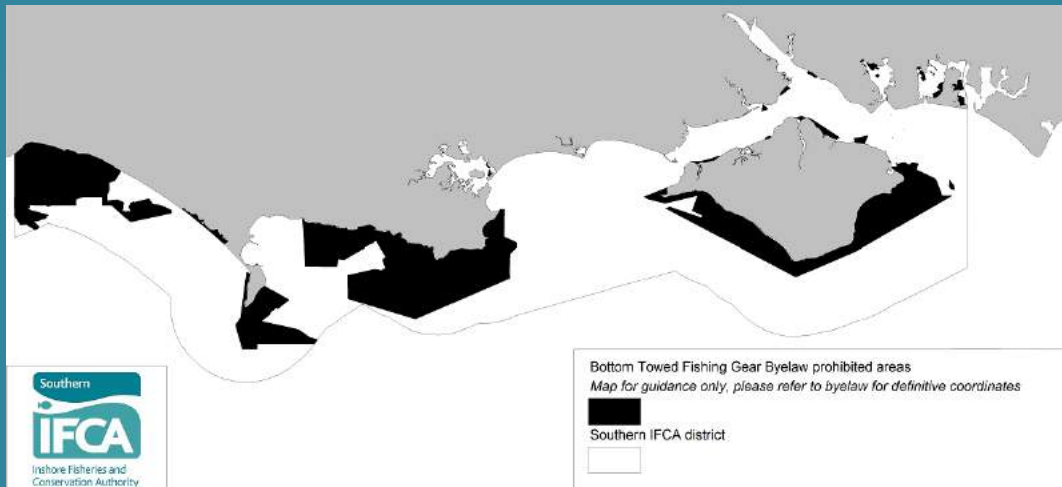
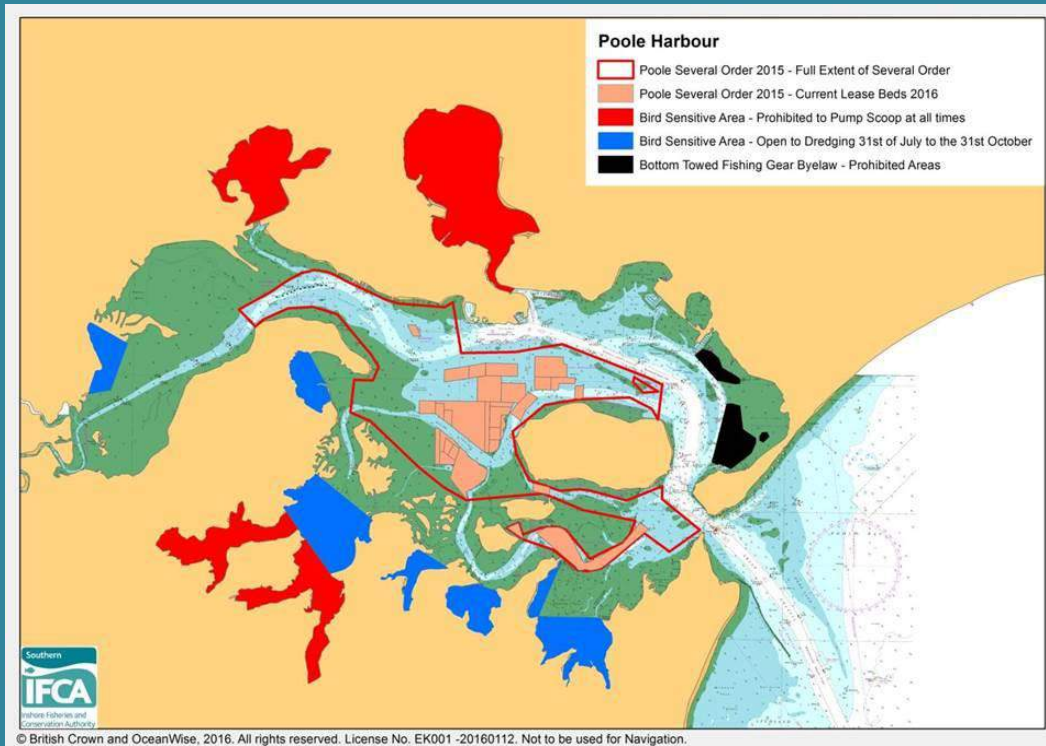


- Sea grass protection in Torbay MCZ
- *Palinurus elephas* landing prohibition
Lundy MCZ & Skerries Bank and
Surrounds MCZ - Potting Permit Byelaw
- Managed access Zones in Skerries Bank
and Surrounds MCZ – working with MMO
- Monitoring of MCZ features
- 55% Mud in Torbay MCZ is protected
from demersal 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

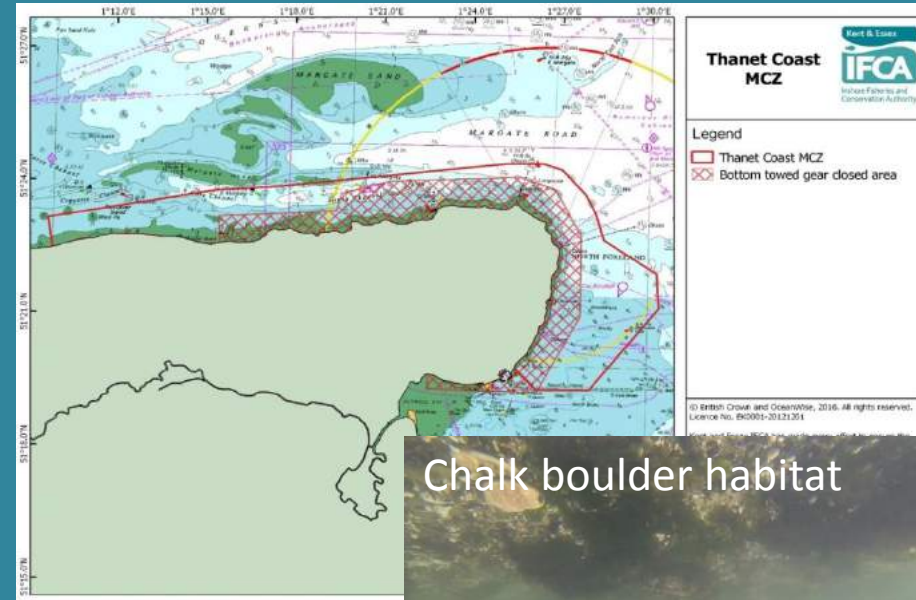
MCZ Management: - 2014:

Towed gear prohibition to

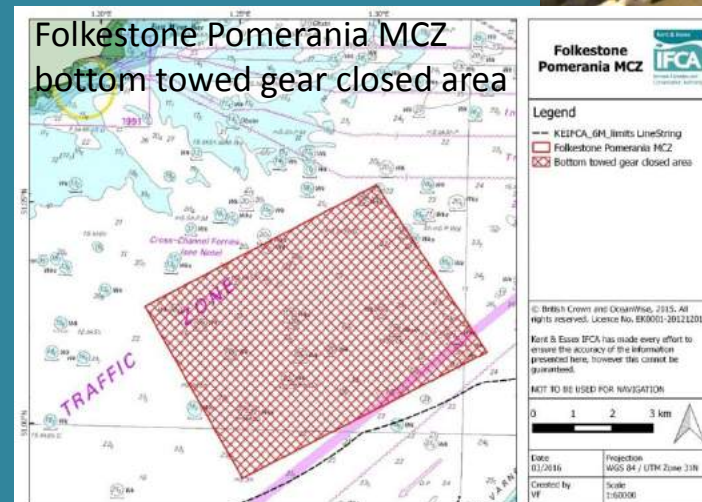
- Protect chalk reef feature in Thanet Coast MCZ
- Protect Sea grass beds in Essex Estuaries SAC

2015:

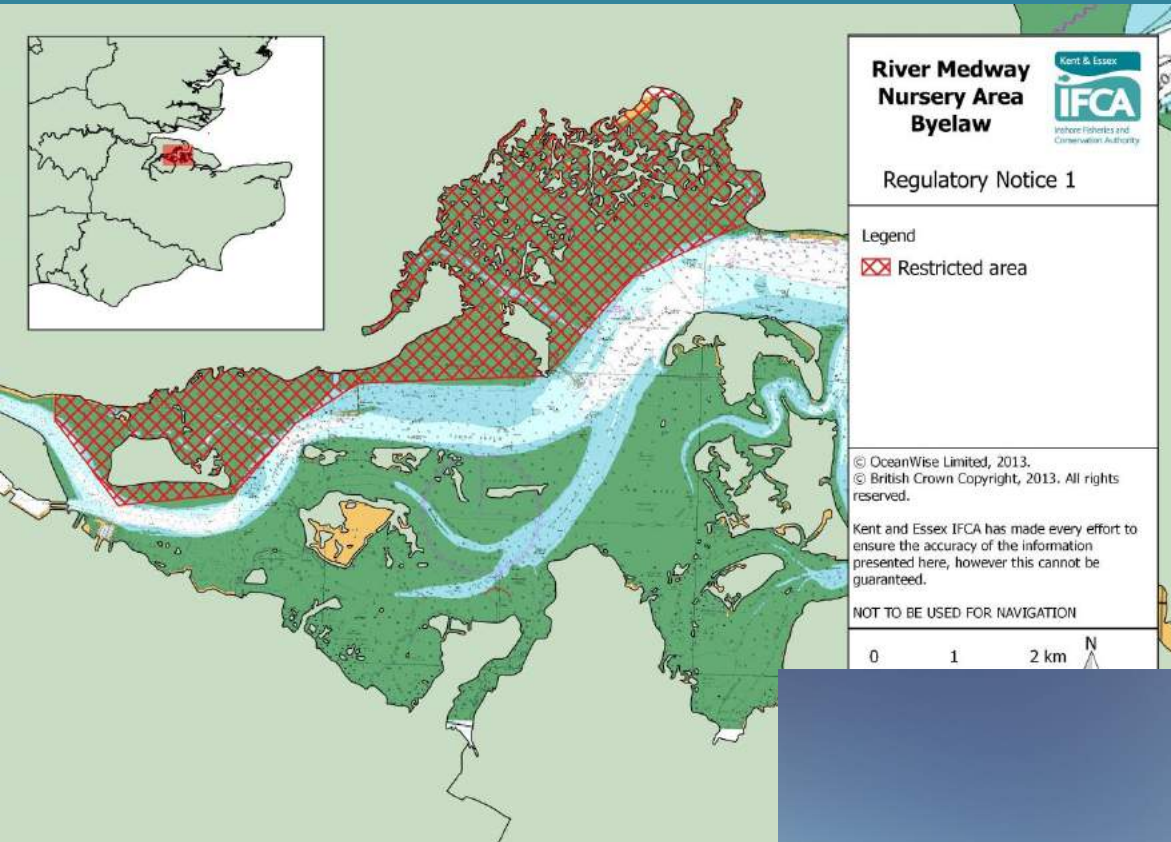
- Prohibition of towed gear across the whole Folkestone Pomerania MCZ (34 km²) to protect *Sabellaria spp* reefs and rare fragile sponge and anthozoan communities



Chalk boulder habitat



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 km² of intertidal saltmarsh & mudflat



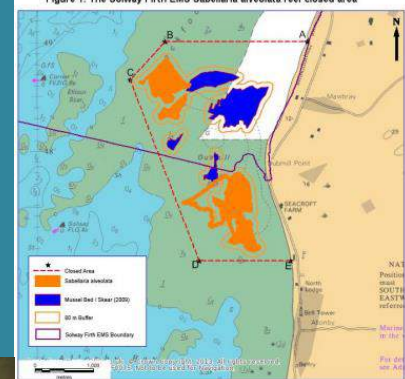
Saltmarsh habitat in Medway Estuary.

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 form 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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