

Marine Conservation Zones in the Irish Sea



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Irish Sea
Conservation Zones

Who are we?

- Irish Sea Conservation Zones is a team of 7 people:

Project Manager: Rowan Byrne

MPA Network Planner: Greg Whitfield

Liaison Officers: Laura Bates,
Emily Hardman
Holly Deary

Communications Manager: Matthew Sutcliffe

GIS & Data Officer: Kieran Bell


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Where are we located?



- Developing the environmental technologies and services sectors in the northwest.
- Teams that look into:
 - Research & Commercialisation
 - Sector development (helping existing companies to grow)
 - Market development (stimulating market demand)
- Three main areas:
 - Recycling & Waste
 - Energy
 - Water & Wastewater



Why Are We Here?

- In response to the UK Government's vision:
“...to recover and protect the richness of our marine environment and wildlife through the development of a strong, ecologically coherent and well managed network of marine protected areas, that is well understood and supported by all sea users, by 2012 ”
(Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2009).



What is a Marine Protected Area (MPA)?

“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2008).

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Existing Types of MPA

EC Habitats &
Birds
Directives

*Based on scientific
grounds*

SPAs

SACs

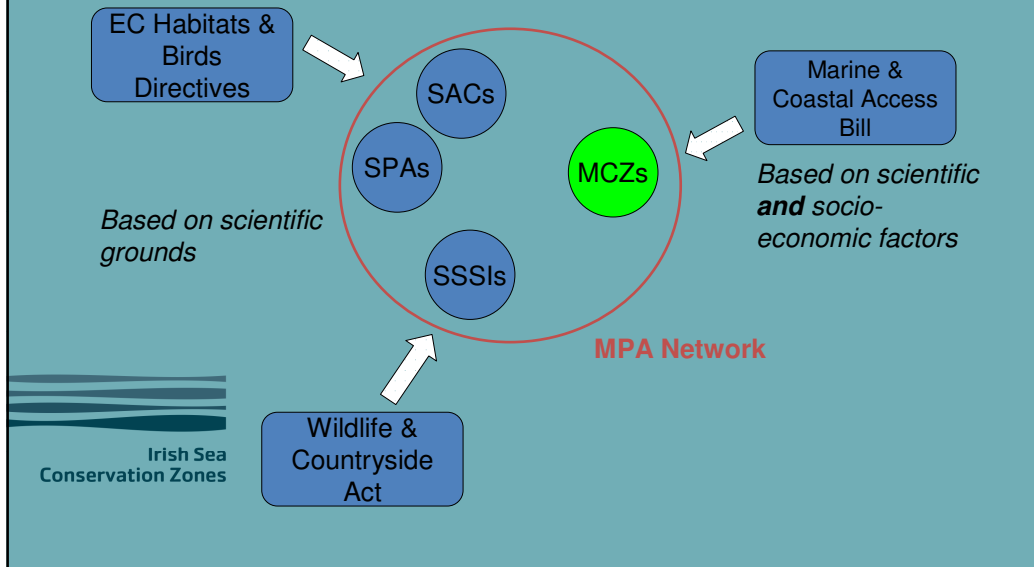
SSSIs

Wildlife &
Countryside
Act

- The UK has signed up to international agreements to establish a network of MPAs by 2012.
- To conserve rare, threatened, and representative species and habitats to conserve or enhance biodiversity.
- We already have some MPAs which cover approximately 2% of the sea nationally.

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A New Type of MPA for England & Wales



What is a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)?

Aim to protect nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology.

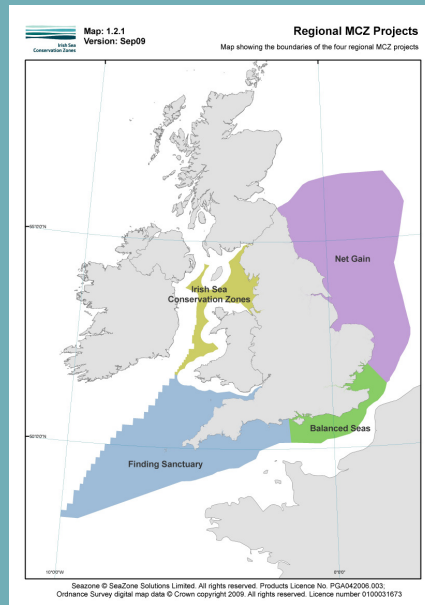


May take socio-economic factors into account in order to minimise adverse impacts on sea users and maximise benefits for society.

Can be designated in English inshore waters and English, Welsh and Northern Irish offshore waters.

The MCZ Project

- The Project has been set-up by Defra, JNCC and Natural England.
- It will be delivered by 4 regional projects:
 - Irish Sea Conservation Zones
 - Finding Sanctuary (south-west England)
 - Balanced Seas (south-east England)
 - Net Gain (North Sea)

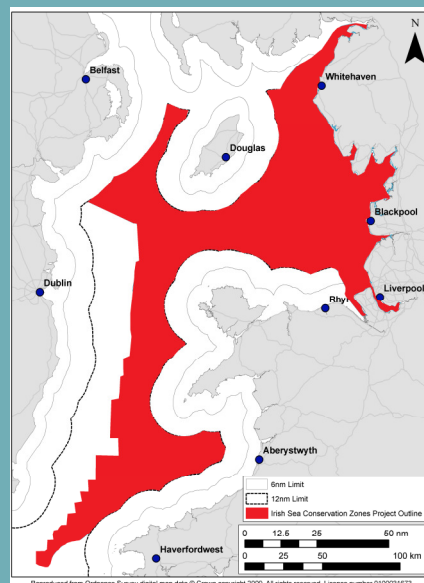


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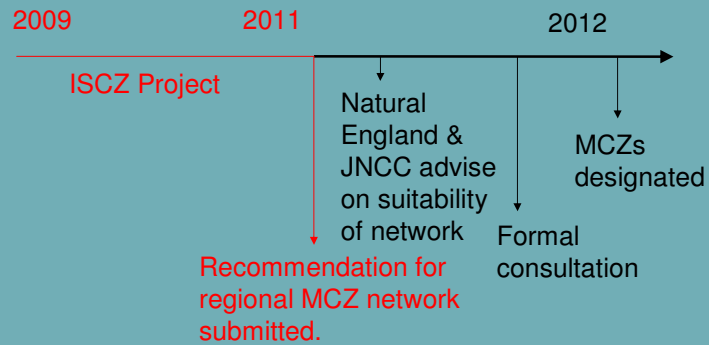
- Project Area:

English coastal waters as well as offshore areas of the Irish Sea 12 nautical miles out from Wales, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland and as far as the median line with the Republic of Ireland .

- MCZs can be located anywhere within this area.



Project Delivery



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What is our role?

- Support sea users in making recommendations on MCZs within the Irish Sea.
- Use of a process that is guided by an independent professional facilitator.
- Ensure that recommendations meet the national ecological guidance.
- Prepare an Impact Assessment to identify the social, environmental and economic implications of the MCZs.
- It is not our role to decide where MCZs will be or how they will be managed.

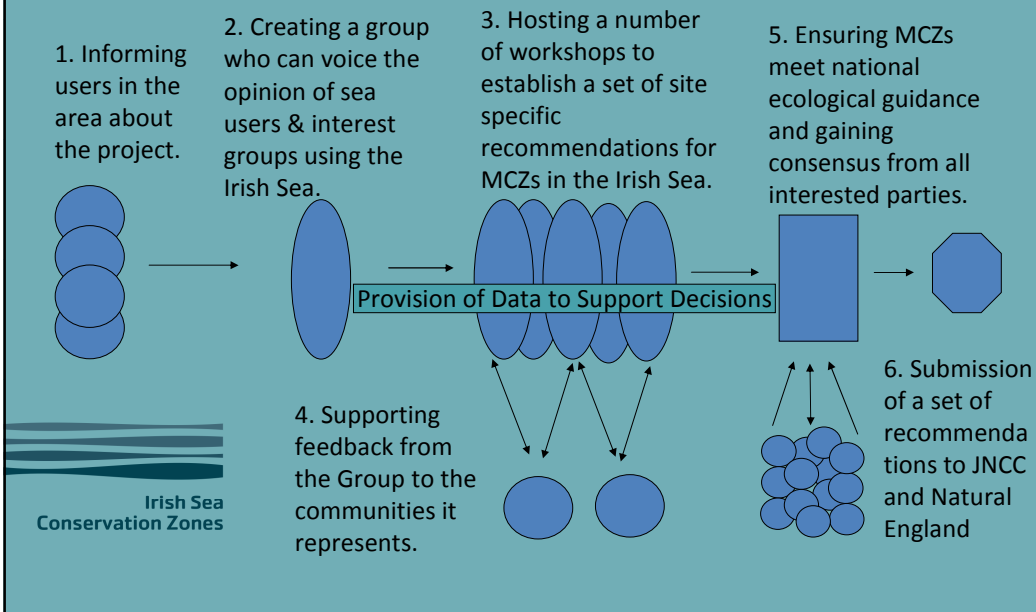
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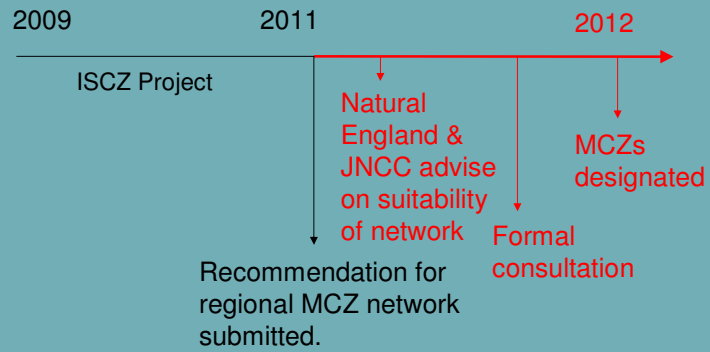
Who are the Stakeholders?



Delivering the Project



Project Delivery



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Questions about MCZs

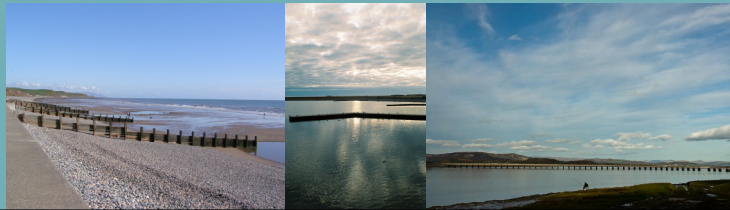
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Where will the MCZs be?

- We don't know yet!
- Sea users and interest groups will be involved in identifying potential MCZs and their boundaries.
- Where possible, it is preferable to select sites where there is least conflict.

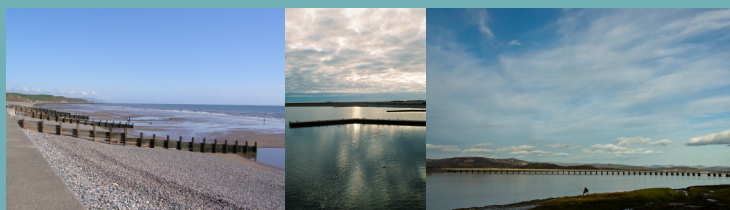
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What will MCZs protect?

- Aim to ensure the long term sustainability of all marine resources.
- Nationally important marine species, habitats, geology and geomorphology.
- National Ecological Guidance will identify which features need to be protected.

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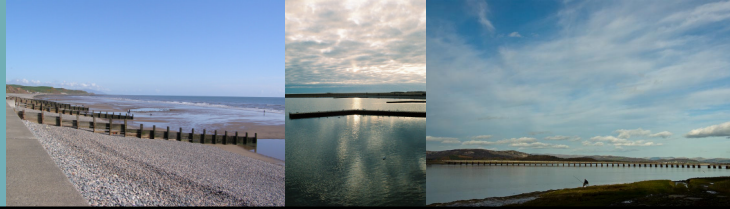


What is the level of protection going to be?

- We don't know yet - it will be agreed on a site-by-site basis & will depend what feature is being protected.
- There is no presumption that any specific type of activity will be restricted.
- There may be MCZs where some activities are not allowed but others can occur or where there are seasonal restrictions, not an outright ban.
- There may be MCZs where many activities are restricted.
- Sea users and interest groups will be involved in developing the conservation objectives for MCZs.

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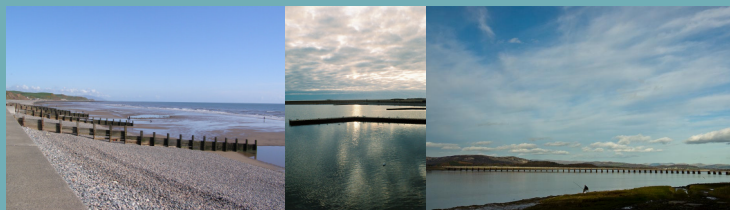


How will that affect me?

- Different MCZs will have different management measures and will affect different sea users.
- For some MCZs, existing activities will be able to continue.
- For other MCZs it may be necessary to exclude some activities.
- Some sea users may face negative effects.
- It is therefore vital that sea users are involved in the process from the very beginning to try to minimise these impacts.

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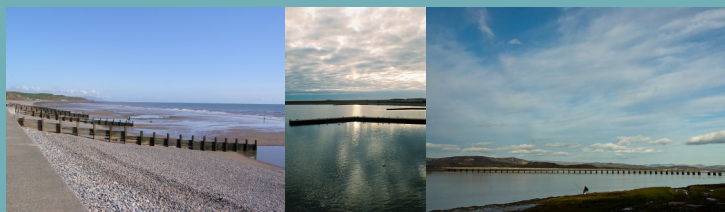
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What happens if we recommend no MCZs?

- The Government considers that MCZs are required to fulfil our international conservation obligations.
- National scientific criteria will set out what the MCZ requirements will be.
- If the Project submits a final recommendation that does not satisfy these criteria then JNCC and Natural England will identify additional MCZs.

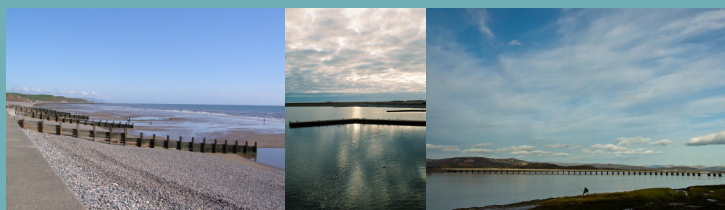
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Will the Government listen to us?

- Defra have asked for this to be a stakeholder-led process.
- It is the job of ISCZ to ensure that your recommendations are:
 - Based on the best available evidence.
 - Follow national guidelines.
 - Supported by the majority of stakeholders.
- If all these criteria are met then there is no reason why they should not be approved.

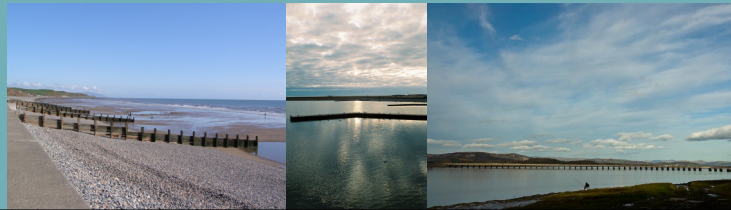
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Will they be permanent?

- They have the intention of being permanent so they can bring about long term benefits
- It will be possible to change the MCZs boundaries and any decisions to use these powers will be based on the best available evidence.
- It is unlikely that this will happen often.

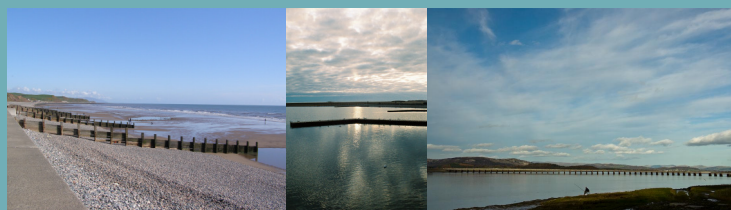
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How will they be monitored and policed?

- By involving sea users in the selection and designation of MCZs it is hoped that they will have a high level of support and compliance.
- Enforcement will be undertaken by the new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities, the Marine Management Organisation and the Royal Navy.
- The Government will work with other Member States and the European Commission to ensure compliance beyond the 6 nautical mile limit.

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Why get involved?

- The design and location of MCZs may have both benefits and costs for people who use and value the sea.
- MCZs are more likely to be successful if they have the support and collaboration of everyone who uses the sea from the outset.
- If the recommendations meet the national guidance and are supported by a wide range of sea users then the Government are likely to adopt them.



Thank you



Laura Bates & Emily Hardman

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Website: www.irishseaconservation.org.uk