



Marine
Management
Organisation

Marine Conservation Team
Marine Management
Organisation
Lancaster House
NE4 7YH

T +44 (0)300 123 1032
www.gov.uk/mmo

BY EMAIL ONLY

17 January 2023

Dear stakeholder,

Call for evidence on the impacts of fishing on seabed features of English offshore marine protected areas (MPA) – Stage 3

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is launching a call for evidence seeking additional evidence and views on our draft Stage 3 Fishing Gear MPA Impacts Evidence documents in relation to the impacts of fishing on seabed features of Stage 3 MPAs.

The Fishing Gear MPA Impacts Evidence documents collate and analyse the best available evidence on the impacts of fishing gears on seabed MPA features and will inform site-level assessments of the impact of fishing on seabed MPA features as part of Stage 3 of the MMO's work to manage fishing in offshore MPAs.

Earlier this year MMO held a call for evidence for Stage 2 MPAs which focused on interactions between bottom towed fishing and rock and reef features. We are now consulting on a proposed byelaw to manage these impacts. Stage 3 covers all remaining interactions between fishing gears and designated seabed features within offshore MPAs not already assessed in Stages 1 and 2. The impacts of fishing on MPAs designated for marine birds and harbour porpoise will be addressed in a separate Stage 4.

The locations of Stage 3 MPAs are displayed in a map at the end of this letter. You can find details of the sites and designated features within the Stage 3 Call for Evidence Introduction.



Documents

All documents referred to in this letter can be found: [Managing Fishing in Marine Protected Areas: Consultations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-fishing-in-marine-protected-areas)

Questions to consider

Please provide us with any information you feel could be relevant to inform our assessment and decision for management at these sites. We are particularly interested in understanding the following:

1. Do you have any additional evidence about the interactions of fishing gear and MPA seabed features?
2. Do you agree with MMO analysis of the available evidence provided in each Stage 3 Fishing Gear MPA Impacts Evidence document? If not, please provide details.

How to respond

Please respond no later than **28 March 2023**. You can respond by completing our online survey by visiting: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/stage-3-call-for-evidence>

If you are not able to access the above survey, you can respond via the details below.

By email: conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk

By telephone: 0300 123 1032

In writing:
Stage 3 Call for Evidence
Marine Conservation Team
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

Next steps

We will review the information received during this call for evidence to update and finalise the Stage 3 Fishing Gear MPA Impacts Evidence documents. The Fishing Gear MPA Impacts Evidence documents will then be used to inform site-level assessments of the impacts of fishing on each MPA, which will in turn inform the development of appropriate fisheries management measures for these MPAs. If management measures are required, these will be subject to appropriate levels of consultation.



Further information on the MMO's Stage 3 call for evidence is available [here](#).

More information on the MMO byelaw making process can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/marine-conservation-byelaws

If you have any further questions or queries, please email conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk or call the MMO helpline on: 0300 123 1032.

Yours faithfully,

Nicholas Greenwood



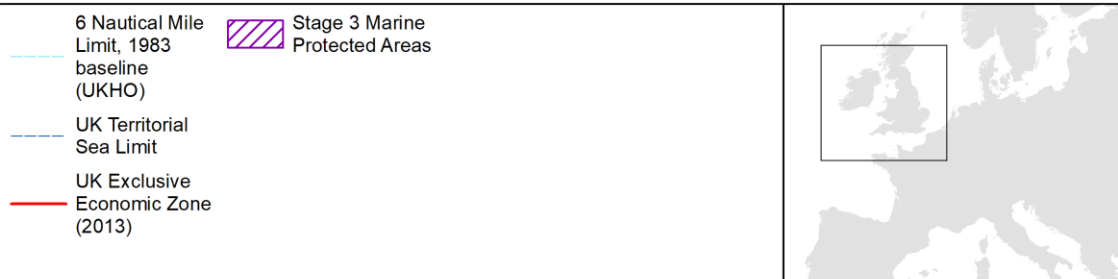
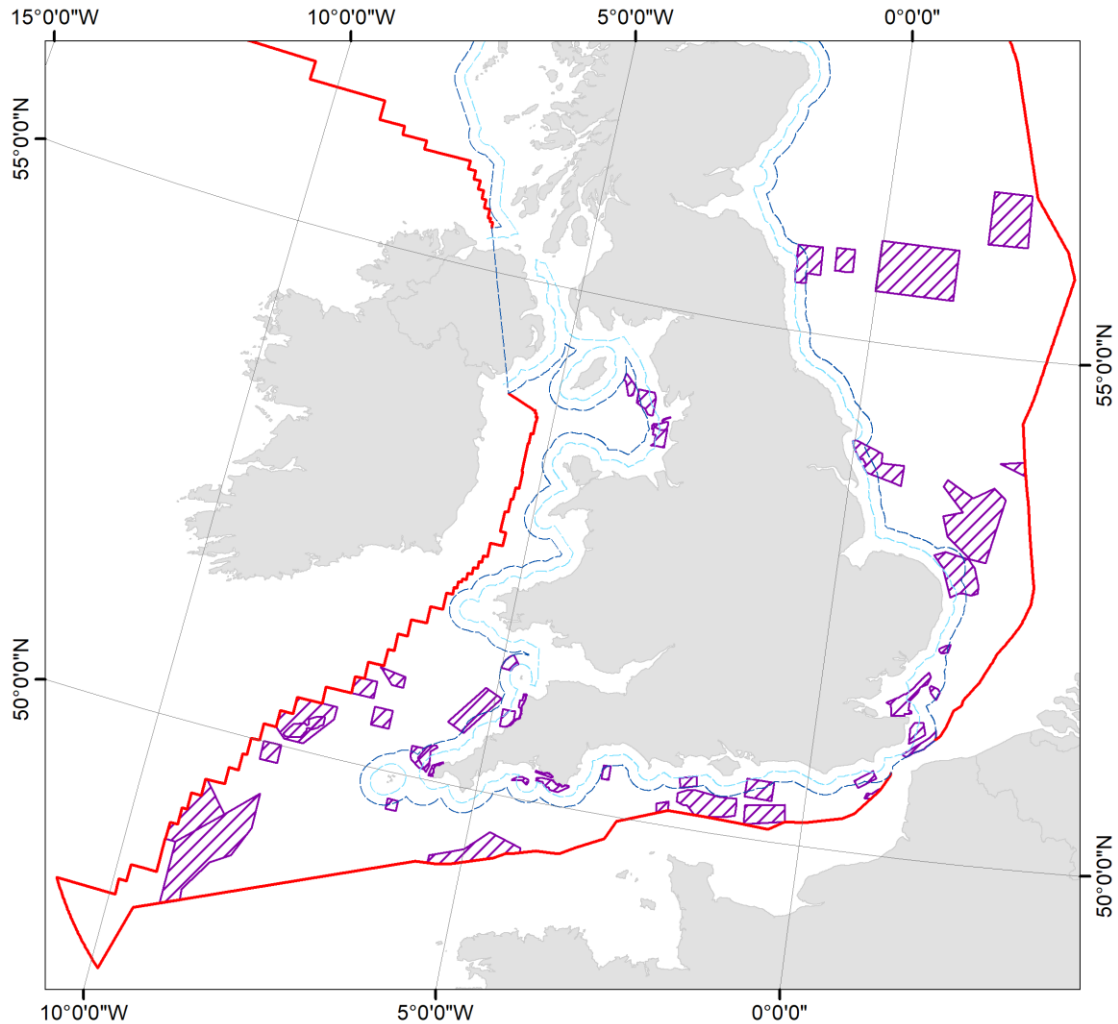
Head of Marine Conservation

Marine Conservation Team
Marine Management Organisation





Stage 3 Marine Protected Areas



Date of Publication: 28/10/2022
 Coordinate System: ETRS 1989 LAEA
 Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area
 Datum: ETRS 1989
 MMO Reference: 10562

Not to be used for navigation.
 Contains Collins Bartholomew, UK Hydrographic Office, Natural England, JNCC and MMO data. © Collins Bartholomew, UKHO, Natural England, JNCC and MMO copyright and database right 2022.
 Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

