

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Marine Conservation Zones: Consultation on proposals for designation in 2013

Annex I - Glossary

Activity: Human social or economic actions or endeavours that may have an effect on the marine environment, for example fishing or energy production.

Algae: Marine photosynthetic organisms, excluding angiosperms, which include red, brown and green macroalgae, commonly known as seaweeds, and microscopic algae such as phytoplankton.

Anthozoa: Class of marine animal that includes corals, sea anemones and seapens.

Anthropogenic: Caused by humans or human activities; usually used in reference to environmental degradation.

Appropriate Authority: The appropriate authority is Welsh Ministers (for an area in Wales), Scottish Ministers (for an area in the Scottish offshore region) and in any other case the Secretary of State.

Balanced Seas (BS): Regional MCZ Project Area covering South East waters.

BAP: Biodiversity Action Plan

Baseline: Is the best assessment of the world *without* the proposed regulation or policy change. This should incorporate all external changes that will take place in the absence of regulation (i.e changes in demographics, economic activity and technology). We use this baseline scenario as a point of comparison, to assess the impact of Government interventions. An economic analysis of a policy or regulation will compare the current state of the world (baseline) to the expected state of the world with the proposed regulation in place.

Benthic: A description for animals, plants and habitats associated with the seabed. All plants and animals that live in, on or near the seabed are benthos, for example, sponges, crabs and seagrass beds.

Biodiversity: The variety of life forms, including plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes that they contain, and the biotopes and ecosystems that they form.

Biofilm: A thin layer of micro-organisms adhering to a surface.

Biogenic reef: Any structure that has been formed from living material. It is normally used to describe living structures such as those created by cold-water coral (for example *Lophelia pertusa*), colonial worms (for example *Sabellaria* species), and molluscs (for example the horse mussel *Modiolus modiolus*).

Biogeographic region: An area of animal and plant distribution having similar or shared characteristics throughout (IUCN-WCPA 2008).

Biogeography: The geographic distribution of plants and animals.

Biotope: The physical habitat with its associated, distinctive biological communities. A biotope is the smallest unit of a habitat that can be delineated conveniently and is characterised by the community of plants and animals living there, for example, the deep sea *Lophelia pertusa* reef (Anon 2001). Several biotopes will usually constitute an ecosystem.

BNG: British National Grid

BSH: Broad Scale Habitat

Business as usual: Is often interchangeably with 'baseline' in economics to form a projection of how circumstances will develop over time *without* a policy change.

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

Cefas: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

CFP: Common Fisheries Policy

Charting Progress 2: A comprehensive report on the state of the UK seas published by the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment community
<http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/>.

Circalittoral: Region of the seafloor within the sublittoral zone beyond where sunlight reaches the seafloor. This subtidal zone is characterised by animal-dominated communities. The depth at which the circalittoral zone begins is directly dependent on how much light reaches the seabed.

CO: Conservation Objective

COG: Conservation Objective Guidance

Co-location: Where multiple users or activities share the same space, for example, offshore wind farms may be co-located with MCZs.

Community: A group of animals, and/or plants, living within a defined area or zone and functioning together as the living part of an ecosystem.

Community structure: Certain measures used to describe ecological and biological characteristics of species within a community, for example, age classes, sex ratios, distribution of species, abundance, biomass, reproductive capacity, recruitment, range and mobility.

Conservation objective: A statement of the nature conservation aspirations for the feature(s) of interest within a site and an assessment of those human pressures likely to affect the feature(s). In the context of MCZs the Conservation Objective will be to maintain at, or recover to, favourable condition.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): An international legally-binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Its overall objective is to encourage actions which will lead to a sustainable future.

CSA 1964: Continental Shelf Act 1964

DA: Devolved Administration; devolution refers to the transfer of administrative, executive, or legislative authority from Central Government.

Defra: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Deep sea: In the context of the EUNIS habitat classification system, the seabed generally below 200m depth.

Defra marine area: This is defined as English inshore waters and the offshore waters of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Demersal: Species that live on, or in close proximity to, the seabed, for example flat fish. The term also applies to fishing gear that is used on the seabed (for example trawling) (Anon 2001).

Density: The number of living individuals within a given area.

EA: Environment Agency

(Areas of) Ecological importance: Areas that are important for particular life stages or behaviours of species, areas of high productivity and areas of high biodiversity.

Ecology: The study of the interrelationships between living and non-living components of the environment.

ECN: Ecological Coherent Network

Ecosystem: A set of living things inhabiting a given space, the interactions between the different species, and the interactions between the species and their physical environment. It is defined at a much broader scale than the term biotope, that is, an ecosystem would commonly contain many biotopes. A functioning ecosystem is

based on a balance of interactions, such as food webs. Every component of an ecosystem (living things, physical environments, biotopes) has a particular role or function, meaning that its loss or disruption can have knock-on effects that reverberate around the whole ecosystem (Finding Sanctuary 2009).

Ecosystem approach: A decision making framework for looking at whole ecosystems and valuing the ecosystem services they provide, to ensure that we can maintain a healthy and resilient natural environment now and for future generations.

Ecosystem goods and services: Indirect or direct benefits to human society that derive from marine ecosystems. Examples include food provision, recreation, nutrient cycling, gas and climate regulation.

EIFCA: Eastern IFCA

ENG: Ecological Network Guidance

Environment: The physical surroundings and climatic conditions that influence the behaviour, growth, abundance and overall health of a population or species (Anon 2001).

ERCCIS: The Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

ETRS89-LAEA: European Terrestrial Reference System - Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area; this is a spatial co-ordinate reference system.

EUNIS: European Nature Information System; A European habitat classification system developed by the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity, covering all types of habitats from natural to artificial, terrestrial to freshwater and marine.

Evidence: Evidence provided as part of consultation responses should meet Defra's definition of Evidence as defined by Defra's Evidence Investment Strategy¹ and be 'reliable and accurate information that Defra can use to support decisions in developing implementing and evaluating policy'.

Exposure: The level that an interest feature, or the habitat that supports it, is open to a distressing influence resulting from the possible/likely effects of operations arising from human activities currently occurring on the site. The assessment of exposure can include the spatial extent, frequency, duration and intensity of the pressure(s) associated with the activities, where this information is available.

Extent: The area covered by a habitat or community.

European marine site (EMS): The marine areas of both Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

¹ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/04/27/pb13471-evidence-investment-strategy/>

Favourable condition: The state of MCZ features (habitats, species, geological and geomorphological) within a site when all requirements to meet site-specific conservation objectives have been achieved.

For MCZ habitat FOCI and broad-scale habitats favourable condition occurs when, **within the site:**

Its extent/area is stable or increasing; and

The specific structure and functions, such as ecological and physico-chemical structure and functions, which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist; and

Biological diversity of its characteristic communities is maintained such that the quality and occurrence of habitats and the composition and abundance of species are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climatic conditions².

For MCZ species features favourable condition occurs when, **within the site:**

Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its habitat; and

There is sufficient habitat to maintain its population on a long-term basis.

For geological and geomorphological features favourable condition occurs when, **within the site:**

The extent, component elements and integrity of geological and geomorphological features are maintained or able to evolve within the parameters of natural change; and

The structure, integrity and/or inherent functioning of these features are unimpaired and remain unobscured other than through natural processes³.

In applying the term favourable condition to MCZ features, Natural England and JNCC are developing draft attributes specific to MCZ features which represent the generic elements above. It is Natural England and JNCC's goal to eventually develop targets for each feature's attributes, against which favourable condition will be assessed. These targets will be closely linked to the targets for Good Environmental Status being developed for Marine Strategy Framework Directive implementation.

The adoption of the term favourable condition, which is being used for other sites in the MPA network, will encourage consistency in the use of terminology for

² This definition is aligned with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive's biodiversity descriptor.

³ In the marine environment, recovery generally refers to natural recovery through the removal of unsustainable physical, chemical and biological pressures, rather than direct intervention (as is possible with terrestrial features).

conservation objectives and facilitate the implementation of a common approach across the MPA network. Achieving and sustaining favourable condition of MPA features will ensure their appropriate contribution to the progress towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status by 2020 (under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive), and of Favourable Conservation Status (under the EU Habitats Directive).

Favourable Conservation Status: This is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive for habitats listed in Annex I and species listed in Annex II of the Directive. It is applied not applied within an individual Special Area of Conservation but across the full range of the feature.

The conservation status of natural habitats will be taken as 'favourable' when:

- its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing; and
- the species structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined in Article 1(i).

The conservation status of species will be taken as 'favourable' when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced for the foreseeable future; and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Feature: A species, habitat, geological or geomorphological entity for which an MPA is identified and managed.

Feature of conservation importance (FOCI): A habitat or species that is rare, threatened or declining in our waters.

Feature of geological / geomorphological interest: Geological and geomorphological features of interest may include areas of international geological importance, areas containing exceptional geological features, or areas that represent a geological or geomorphological feature or process.

Finding Sanctuary (FS): Regional MCZ Project Area covering South West waters.

Gap analysis table: The MCZ Project gap analysis table lists all broad-scale habitats and FOCI that are afforded protection through a conservation objective within existing MPAs.

Geographic Information System (GIS): A system of hardware, software, and procedures designed to support the capture, management, manipulation, analysis, modelling, and display of spatially referenced data for solving complex planning and management problems (NOAA 2009).

Good Environmental Status (GES): The protection of the marine environment, preventing its deterioration and restoring it where practical, while using marine resources sustainably. There are 11 high-level descriptors of Good Environmental Status which cover all the key aspects of the marine ecosystem and all the main human pressures on them.

Ground-truthing: Direct observations and samples of the seabed provide information that can be used to interpret remotely sensed images; the observations are the 'truth' with regard to the habitats actually present on the seabed. Observations used in this way provide ground truth data. The process of using ground truth data for interpretation is often termed ground truthing. During this process the relationship between properties of the remote images at the observation/sample sites (in the form of points, irregular digitised areas or buffer areas around points) is determined. These relationships are then applied to the whole image to predict the distribution of habitat types (MESH 2007).

Habitat: The place where an organism lives, as characterised by the physical features. For example rocky reefs, sandbanks and mud holes all provide particular habitats that are occupied by animals or algae adapted to live in or on one of them but that probably cannot thrive, or even survive, in others (Anon 2001).

Habitat extent: The area of the habitat being used by the feature species.

Habitat of conservation importance (habitat FOCI): A habitat that is rare, threatened or declining in our waters.

Highly Mobile Species: In the context of MCZs, this means fish, birds, cetaceans and other marine mammals.

Highly Sensitive Features: Features that are so sensitive that even one event, such as abrasive activity could significantly damage or disturb the feature, and thus significantly affect ability to achieve the conservation objectives.

Higher Risk Feature: A feature within an MCZ is considered to be at risk of damage or deterioration if it is vulnerable to a pressure arising from human activities. A feature is considered vulnerable to a pressure when it is both sensitive to, and exposed to that pressure. Therefore, the higher a feature's vulnerability to a pressure, the higher the risk of damage or deterioration.

HOCl: Habitat of Conservation Importance/Interest

Home range: The geographic area in which an animal normally ranges.

IFCA: Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Impact Assessment (IA): In the context of MCZs, an Impact Assessment reports on the anticipated environmental, economic and social costs, benefits and impacts of a proposed policy or range of policies. These impacts are assessed against a baseline scenario in which the proposed policy interventions do not take place. It is a process for analysing and selecting policy options and a tool for communicating how preferred options have been chosen.

Infralittoral zone: Region of the seafloor within the sublittoral zone where sunlight reaches the seafloor. This forms the shallowest subtidal zone (closest to the shore) and is characterised by plant-dominated communities.

Inshore Waters: Coastal waters within 12 nautical miles.

Intertidal: The area of seabed between high water mark and low water mark which is exposed each day as the tide rises and falls. Also known as the littoral zone.

Intolerance: The susceptibility of a habitat, community or species to damage, or death, from an external factor.

Invasive alien species (IAS): A subset of established non-native species which have spread, are spreading or have demonstrated their potential to spread elsewhere, and have an adverse effect on biological diversity, ecosystem functioning, socio-economic values and/or human health in invaded regions (Task Group 2 on Non-indigenous Species 2010).

IoS: Isles of Scilly

Irish Sea Conservation Zone (ISCZ): Regional MCZ Project Area covering the Irish Sea.

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

IUCN Red List: A compilation of species and their conservation status.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC): The statutory adviser to Government on UK and international nature conservation. Its specific remit in the marine environment ranges from 12–200 nautical miles. JNCC delivers the UK and international responsibilities of the four country nature conservation agencies of the devolved regions, including Natural England.

Juvenile: An immature organism that has not yet reached sexual maturity.

Larva: The developing animal after it has hatched from its egg but before it has reached the juvenile or adult stage. Many marine larvae are planktonic.

Littoral: The edge of the sea, forming the region where periodic exposure and submersion by tides is normal.

Macrofauna: Large animals; generally defined as large enough to be seen with the naked eye.

Macrophytes: Large plants; generally defined as large enough to be seen with the naked eye.

Maerl: Red seaweed with hard, chalky skeleton.

Management Measures: Ways to manage activities in a Marine Protected Area in order to maintain or improve the condition of its features. Specific measures may include legislative measures, financial, administrative (for example permits), practical and planning measures, physical modifications (such as buoys and signs), voluntary codes of practice, and education.

Mapping European Seabed Habitats project (MESH): The MESH Project ran between 2004 and 2008 and was made up of a consortium of twelve partners from five European countries led by the JNCC, with financial support from the EC's INTERREG IIIB NWE Programme. The MESH partnership drew together scientific and technical habitat-mapping skills, expertise in data collation and its management, and proven practical experience in the use of seabed-habitat maps for environmental management within national regulatory frameworks.

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Project: A project established by Defra, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to identify and recommend MCZs to Government. The MCZ Project was delivered through four regional MCZ projects covering the South-West, Irish Sea, North Sea and Eastern Channel and worked with sea-users and interest groups to identify MCZs.

Marine Nature Reserve: A type of MPA designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; these have been replaced with MCZs.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD): Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy. The Directive aims at achieving or maintaining Good Environmental Status by 2020 at the latest. It is the first legislative instrument in relation to marine biodiversity policy in the European Union, and it outlines a transparent, legislative framework for an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities which supports the sustainable use of marine goods and services.

Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN): This network promotes sharing of, and improved access to, marine environmental data. It is an open partnership and its partners represent government departments, research institutions and private companies (<http://www.oceannet.org/>).

MCAA: Marine and Coastal Access Act

MCZ: Marine Conservation Zone. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Part 5) enables Ministers to designate and protect Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in English waters. MCZs are a type of MPA.

Megafauna: Large animals; generally defined as larger than macrofauna.

Metadata: Information about the identification, the extent, the quality, the spatial and temporal schema, spatial reference, and distribution of digital geographic data.

MMO: Marine Management Organisation

Monitoring: The regular and systematic collection of environmental and biological data by agreed methods and to agreed standards. Monitoring provides information on current status, trends and compliance with respect to declared standards and objectives (Anon 2001).

MPA: Marine Protected Area

MPS: Marine Policy Statement

MSFD: Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Named consultative stakeholder (NCS): The MCZ Project developed an additional mechanism to engage national and international stakeholders who may not have the resources to engage in the regional stakeholder groups. This was through becoming a Named Consultative Stakeholder. Becoming an NCS allowed stakeholders to provide comment on the MCZ iterations produced by the regional stakeholder groups.

Natura 2000: The EU network of nature protection areas (classified as SPAs and SACs) established under the 1992 EC Habitats Directive.

Natural England (NE): The statutory adviser to Government established to conserve and enhance the natural environment, for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings. Natural England has a statutory remit for England out to 12 nautical miles.

Natural range: The biogeographical range over which the feature species naturally occurs.

Net Gain (NG): Regional MCZ Project Area broadly covering the North Sea.

NFFO: National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations

NGO: Non-governmental organisation

Non-native species: A species that has been introduced directly or indirectly by human agency (deliberately or otherwise) to an area where it has not occurred in historical times and which is separate from and lies outside the area where natural range extension could be expected (Eno, NC; Clark, RA; Sanderson, WG; (eds) 1997).

Nursery area: An area readily identified as one of particular importance, year-on-year, for juvenile fish (Anon 2001).

NW-IFCA: North Western IFCA

Offshore Waters: Waters beyond 12 nautical miles.

OSPAR: Oslo and Paris Convention

Parent feature: The EUNIS Level 2 habitat to which the broad-scale habitat belongs, for example the broad-scale habitat 'High energy circalittoral rock' belongs to the EUNIS Level 2 habitat 'Circalittoral rock'.

PDG: Project Delivery Guidance

Pelagic: Relating to the open sea or ocean, and not directly influenced by the seashore or seabed.

Plankton: Organisms that float in the water column and drift with the tides and currents.

Precautionary Principle: Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Population structure: The age/size distribution and sex ratio of species within a population.

Presence (of feature): Refers to a species, habitat, geological or geomorphological entity being located within a site.

Pressure: The mechanism through which an activity has an effect on any part of the ecosystem, for example the physical abrasion caused by trawling. Pressures can be physical, chemical or biological and the same pressure can be caused by a number of different activities (Robinson, Rogers and Frid 2008). The nature of the pressure is determined by activity type, intensity and distribution.

Primary production: The organic matter produced by organisms that form the base of, and therefore fuel, the higher levels of the food chain. In the marine environment this will mostly be due to photosynthetic organisms including plants and algae.

Productivity: The total net biomass generated by a population, stock or species each year as a result of net growth and reproduction.

Public Authority: A Minister of the Crown, a public body or a public office holder. The meaning of “public body” and “public office holder” are given in section 322(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for example, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) and harbour authorities.

Ramsar sites: Wetland sites of international importance, designated under the Convention for Wetlands of International Importance, signed in Ramsar, Iran. The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, which provides for the conservation and good use of wetlands. RAMSAR sites in the marine environment are a type of MPA.

Rarity: A rare feature that is restricted to a limited number of locations or to small, few and scattered locations in UK waters.

REC: A habitat type classification system that describes features at a finer scale than EUNIS, not to be confused with Regional Environmental Characterisation (see below).

Recoverability: Ability of a habitat, community or species to return to a state close to that which existed before the activity or event caused change.

Recovery: The absence of pressures to which the feature is sensitive, combined with evidence of ongoing improvement of the condition of the feature, until a favourable stable state has been reached.

Reference area (RA): Sites or parts of sites where all extraction, deposition or human-derived disturbance and damage is removed or prevented. In the context of MCZs these represent the most highly protected MCZ.

Regional Environmental Characterisation (REC) surveys: The Marine ALSF commissioned a series of regional surveys to develop understanding of Britain's submerged habitats and heritage. The aim of the Regional Environmental Characterisation (REC) surveys was to acquire data, of the highest quality and detail possible; to enable broad scale characterisation of the seabed habitats, their biological communities and potential historic environment assets within the regions. The Regional Environmental Characterisations (RECs) were conducted in the South Coast, Outer Thames, East Coast and Humber (Cefas 2012).

Regulatory Authority: A governmental agency that regulates business in the public interest

Regional Project: In the context of MCZs, there are four regional projects, each covering a different geographical area. The four are Balanced Seas, Finding Sanctuary, Irish Sea Conservation Zones and Net Gain.

Representativity: The concept of protecting the full range of marine biodiversity within an MPA network by including examples of all habitats (and therefore the species associated with them) across their full geographic and ecological range.

Resilience: The ability of an ecosystem to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or pressures by either resisting or adapting to change (IUCN-WCPA 2008).

Risk: The concept of the current level of possible loss, damage or deterioration of an interest feature, habitat and a site caused by an anthropogenic activity.

Risk Assessment: A judgement and statement on the expected loss, damage or deterioration of an interest feature, habitat or site caused by anthropogenic activity.

rMCZ: recommended MCZ; an MCZ recommended by the Regional MCZ Projects.

RPC: Regulatory Policy Committee

rRA: recommended Reference Area; reference area recommended by the Regional MCZ Projects.

RSG: Regional Stakeholder Groups

RSPB: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Rugose: An extinct species of coral, the term is now used to describe a rough, ridged or wrinkled form.

SAP: Stakeholder Advisory Panel

Seapens: Colonial corals (anthozoan animals).

Sensitivity: A measure of tolerance (or intolerance) of a species or habitat to damage from an external factor and the time taken for its subsequent recovery. See <http://www.marlin.ac.uk/sensitivityrationale.php> for further information.

Sensitivity pressure benchmarks: A series of benchmark levels of intensity for each pressure, where intensity reflects the magnitude, extent and duration of each pressure, were established by ABPmer and MarLIN under the MB102 sensitivity matrix contract (Tillin, Hull and Tyler-Walters 2010). The benchmarks were designed to provide a 'standard' level of impact against which to assess resistance. Where practicable three benchmarks were developed for each pressure, where the

benchmarks describe the breakpoints between high/medium and medium/low pressure level, and the mid-point between these two benchmarks (defined as medium pressure). This medium pressure was used for assessing the sensitivity score within the overall sensitivity matrix. The pressure benchmarks were further refined following review during two two-day workshops with research experts (workshop 1) and industry representatives (workshop 2).

Sessile: An organism that does not move, but stays attached to one place on the sea floor, such as a mussel, sea fan or seaweed.

SFC: Sea Fisheries Committee; SFCs have been replaced by Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) from April 2011 as a result of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): Sites designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended 1985, and superseded by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004)). SSSIs in the marine environment are a type of MPA.

Spawning aggregation: A collection of individuals which converge to mate; this collection is unusually concentrated and, thus, highly vulnerable to fishing effort (NOAA 2006).

Special Area of Conservation (SAC): A protected site designated under the European Habitats Directive for species and habitats of European importance, as listed in Annex I and II of the Directive. SACs in the marine environment are a type of MPA.

Special Protection Area (SPA): A protected site designated under the EC Birds Directive, for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species. SPAs in the marine environment are a type of MPA.

Species of conservation importance (SOCI): Habitats and species that are rare, threatened or declining in our waters.

Stakeholder: In the context of this consultation, a person or group that has an interest in the designation of MCZs.

Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB): A collective term for the Countryside Council for Wales, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Natural England, Northern Ireland's Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (which generally works through the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Sublittoral zone: Region of the seafloor from the average low water line to the edge of the continental shelf.

Substrate/Substratum: The surface or medium on which an organism grows or is attached, for example seabed sediment.

Subtidal: Depths greater than the intertidal zone. This represents the region of the seafloor submerged most of the time (below the low water line).

Tranche: In the context of this consultation, a tranche is a defined set of sites.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP): The UK BAP was the Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed in 1992. The UK BAP included a number of specific plans for species and habitats afforded priority conservation action. More recently devolution has meant that country level strategies have been produced.

UKCS: UK Continental Shelf

UKHO: United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

UKMBPSG: UK Marine Biodiversity Policy Steering Group

UK Territorial Waters: Waters surrounding the UK extending out to 12nm.

Uncertainty: The degree to which the measured value of some quantity is estimated to vary from the true value. Uncertainty can arise from a variety of sources, including limitations on the precision or accuracy of a measuring instrument or system; measurement error; the integration of data that uses different scales or that describe phenomena differently; conflicting representations of the same phenomena; the variable, unquantifiable, or indefinite nature of the phenomena being measured; or the limits of human knowledge. Uncertainty is the opposite of confidence (MESH 2007).

Unfavourable condition: The state of the feature is currently unsatisfactory and management may be required to enable favourable condition to be achieved.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS): This is a form of satellite tracking using transmitters. It is a legal requirement to have VMS on EU fishing vessels over 15 metres in overall length.

Vulnerability: A measure of the degree of exposure of a receptor to a pressure to which it is sensitive.

Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981: A UK Act which consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain.

WT: Wildlife Trust

