



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Consultation on proposals for the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones Summary of responses

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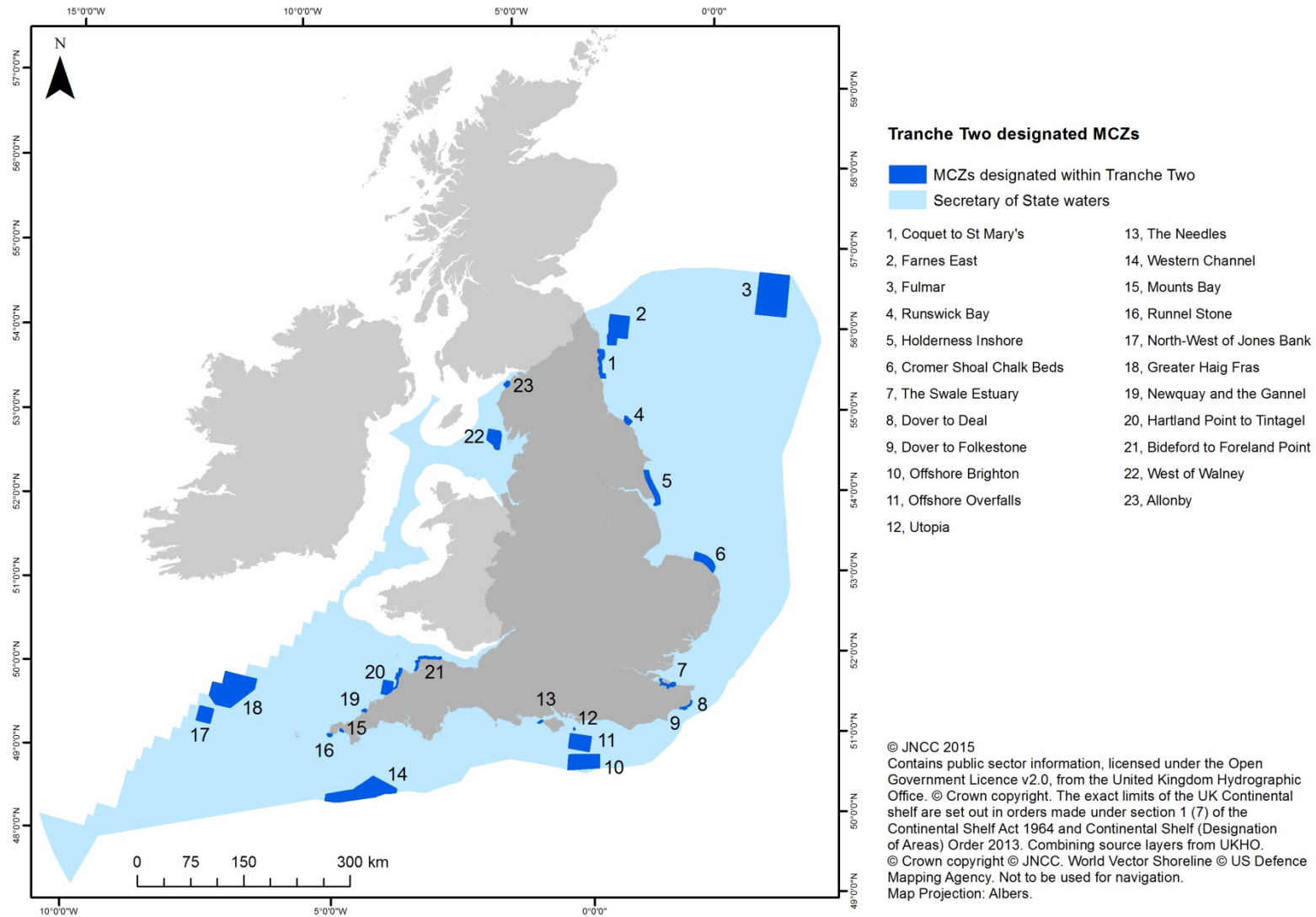
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Part A – Introduction and overview

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document provides a summary of the responses that relate to the 23 sites proposed for designation in the public consultation on the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), as well as to the additional features we proposed to add to 10 designated sites. The consultation ran from 30 January to 24 April 2015. There was a high level of interest in the consultation, with 9,170 responses received. The aim of this document is to provide a broad summary of these responses, respond to the main issues raised, and detail the decisions taken on each site.
- 1.2 The summaries of consultation responses that follow highlight the main issues raised but are not an exhaustive commentary on every response received. However, all responses were considered when taking final decisions.
- 1.3 This document is divided into seven main sections. These are:
 - *Part A – Introduction and Overview* – this section provides the background to the consultation, as well as some high-level information about who responded.
 - *Part B – Campaigns* – this section outlines the responses we received as part of campaigns.
 - *Part C - Broad issues raised* – this section outlines some of the general issues raised that weren't specific to a particular site, together with the Government response to these.
 - *Part D - Sector-specific issues* – this section outlines issues raised that related to particular sectors, together with the Government response to these.
 - *Part E - Generic site issues* – this section outlines some of the general principles of MCZs, which are relevant to all sites.
 - *Part F - Overview of site-specific responses* – this section provides a summary of the key responses in relation to each of the 23 sites, together with the final decisions taken on each site and the features within it. This section also provides an overview of any changes to evidence relating to each site. Finally, this section also includes information on the responses and decisions relating to additional features which we proposed to add to 10 designated sites.
 - *Part G - Next steps* – this section outlines our plans for next steps.
- 1.4 Of the 23 sites proposed, all are being designated in January 2016. Figure 1 shows the location of these sites.

Figure 1: Map of sites being designated in the second tranche



2. Background

- 2.1 The UK has a large marine area, rich in marine life and natural resources. It is important to recognise that our seas are not just places of important biological diversity; they also provide us with a variety of goods and services. This makes the marine environment essential to our social, economic and environmental well-being.
- 2.2 However, the marine environment is coming under increasing pressure from unsustainable human activity, which is damaging and further threatening marine ecosystems¹. By protecting our marine environment now, we can ensure that our seas will continue to contribute to our society for generations to come.
- 2.3 MCZs will contribute, together with other types of Marine Protected Area (MPAs), to a 'Blue Belt' of protected sites around our coasts. This is a key element of an ambitious programme to protect and enhance the marine environment, while supporting sustainable use of its resources, to achieve the Government's vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically-diverse oceans and seas. The Blue Belt will also form the UK contribution to an ecologically-coherent network of MPAs in the North East Atlantic.
- 2.4 Potential MCZs were identified by four stakeholder-led regional projects², who recommended 127 areas for designation. Independent scientific advice³ on the recommendations concluded that there were a number of gaps and limitations in the scientific evidence base. As a result of this, Ministers announced that MCZs would be designated in tranches, with the best evidenced sites being designated first, and additional funding provided for evidence gathering to support the MCZ designation process.
- 2.5 The first tranche of 27 MCZs was designated in 2013. The second tranche aims to address the big ecological gaps in the MCZ network to contribute to the Blue Belt, such as where a species or habitat is currently not protected in a region, or only a very small proportion is protected. The Government's Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs)⁴ undertook an analysis⁵ to identify the ecological gaps within the MPA network. Sites that could help to fill these were selected from the remainder of those sites identified by the four regional projects. Following consideration of this

¹ <http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/>

² Further information about the regional projects can be found here: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/2080291>.

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69451/sap-mcz-final-report.pdf

⁴ Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

⁵ JNCC (2014) *Identifying the remaining MCZ site options that would fill big gaps in the existing MPA network around England and offshore waters of Wales and Northern Ireland*
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/140224_BigGapsMethod_v8.pdf

analysis, we announced 37 potential candidate sites for the second tranche in February 2014⁶.

2.6 Economic and scientific evidence for the 37 candidate sites was reviewed and updated. In the pre-consultation phase we also met local and national stakeholders, including representatives of all the main marine sectors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which may have an interest in the designation of sites to gather their views. Following consideration of the updated evidence, 14 sites were not considered suitable for designation at this time. There were a variety of reasons for these sites not proceeding. These include:

- Locally-contentious sites with potential for significant management impacts around the Isle of Wight and in Studland Bay, where further work is needed to explore local solutions.
- Sites in offshore waters adjacent to Wales. The Silk Commission⁷, which was an independent commission established to review what powers should be devolved to Wales, recommended that offshore waters adjacent to Wales should be the responsibility of the Welsh Government.
- Sites protecting mud seabed habitats and associated species in the Irish Sea and south west waters. These sites are important nephrops fishing grounds and designation could have a significant impact on the fishing sector, particularly in Northern Ireland, and further work is need to consider how best to fill the gap in the MPA network for mud seabed habitats in this region.
- Two other sites (Compass Rose; North of Lundy) are not being proposed for designation at this time. Compass Rose was not included in this tranche because we needed to consider the implications of a recent survey before moving forward with it. North of Lundy was not included because the site had been intended to co-locate with a planned offshore windfarm to minimise cumulative impacts on the fishing sector. However the plans for the windfarm were dropped and stakeholders were less supportive of this site. Local stakeholders are currently exploring alternative options in the area.

2.7 These sites have not been permanently removed from consideration. Sites in areas that the Secretary of State retains responsibility will be further considered for inclusion in the third tranche. Further details on each of these 14 sites, the reasons

⁶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/285304/pb14141-mcz-update-201402.pdf

⁷ <http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/research/Pages/research-silk-commission.aspx>

they were not included in the consultation and planned next steps were published as annexes to the consultation document⁸.

- 2.8 Twenty three sites were identified as suitable to propose for designation in the second tranche.
- 2.9 In addition to the potential designation of 23 sites in the second tranche, views were also sought in this consultation on designating additional features in 10 sites designated in the first tranche. These additional features were proposed in order to fill some of the gaps in the MCZ network where insufficient data had previously been available.
- 2.10 Once sites are designated, the relevant public authorities (mainly the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)) will be responsible for putting in place appropriate management measures to achieve the conservation objectives for the site.
- 2.11 Further background on the process can be found in the consultation document, which can be accessed here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs>.

3. Raising awareness of the consultation

- 3.1 The consultation exercise sought to engage all those who have an interest in the marine environment, including those who may be directly affected by the proposals. Whilst it would be impossible to contact directly all individuals who have an interest, we took steps to raise awareness of the consultation launch as far as practicable. This included holding meetings with relevant national stakeholder groups and organisations, directly alerting by email around 2,250 stakeholders considered to have marine interests and registered on our distribution lists, and placing articles/notifications in relevant media (e.g. the Gov.uk website, Fishing Focus newsletter). The campaigns run by conservation NGOs also served to raise significant awareness and the level of responses received indicates a high level of stakeholder coverage and interest.

4. Handling responses

- 4.1 The consultation closed on 24 April 2015.
- 4.2 All responses that included environmental data/evidence were passed to Natural England and JNCC for consideration. Evidence submitted during the consultation has been used to update the evidence base and confidence assessments for features in the 23 sites proposed for designation, and for the additional features in the 10 tranche one sites. All data considered by JNCC and Natural England for their MCZ

⁸ <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs>

advice will be documented, including any decisions made that relate to the use of individual datasets. The rationale for excluding any datasets from the assessment process has been published alongside the confidence assessment results in the JNCC and Natural England advice⁹.

- 4.3 Social and economic information has been analysed by Defra to update the costs and benefits for each site where relevant. This has been used to update the final MCZ Impact Assessment and informed final decisions on designation. Any changes to cost estimates will be described in this Impact Assessment.¹⁰
- 4.4 All responses were taken into consideration in reaching our decisions on which sites and features to designate in the second tranche. We would like to thank all the organisations, groups and individuals that took the time to contact us with their views. The importance of the marine environment to people is clear from the significant interest generated by these proposals.

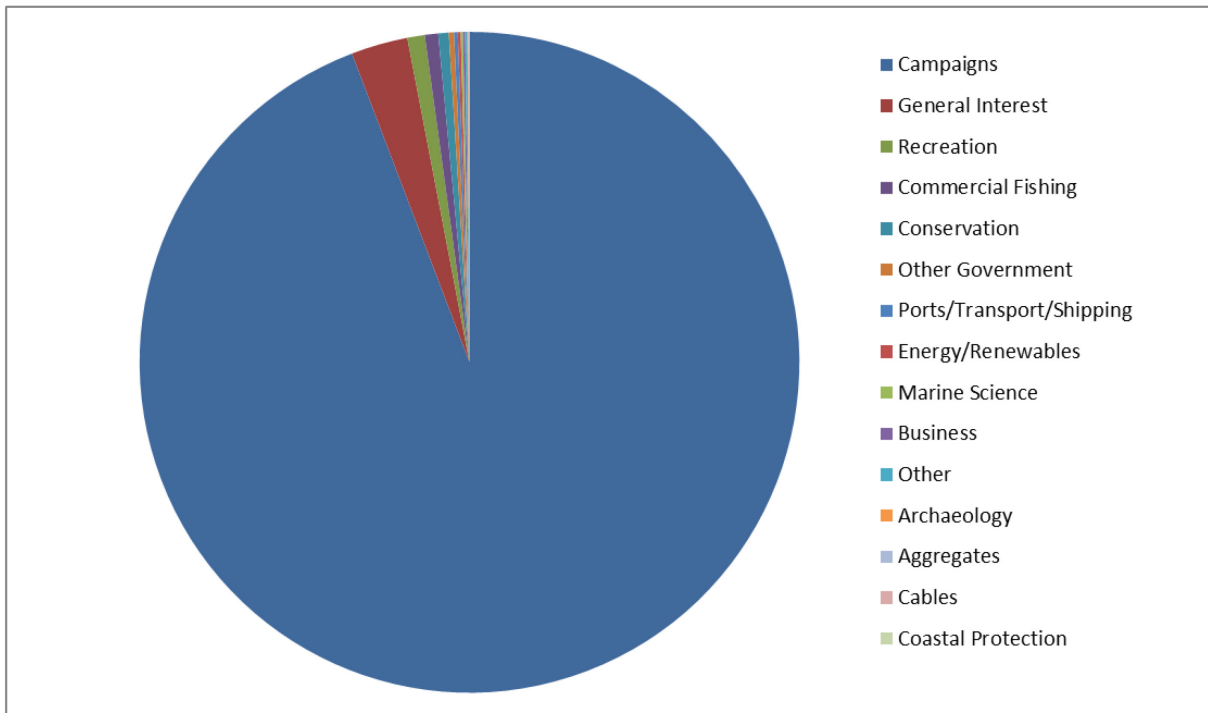
5. Overview of responses

- 5.1 In total, 9,170 consultation responses have been recorded. Of these, approximately 6% were individual or organisational responses, with the remaining 94% submitted as part of campaigns. In total, 6 campaigns submitted responses. The majority of these campaign responses were organised by the Marine Conservation Society and The Wildlife Trusts. Figure 2 illustrates the spread of consultation responses by sector, including those responses which came from campaigns.

⁹ Natural England advice can be found here: <http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/4594304593952768>.
JNCC advice can be found here: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6658>.

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/marine-conservation-zones-second-tranche-of-designations>

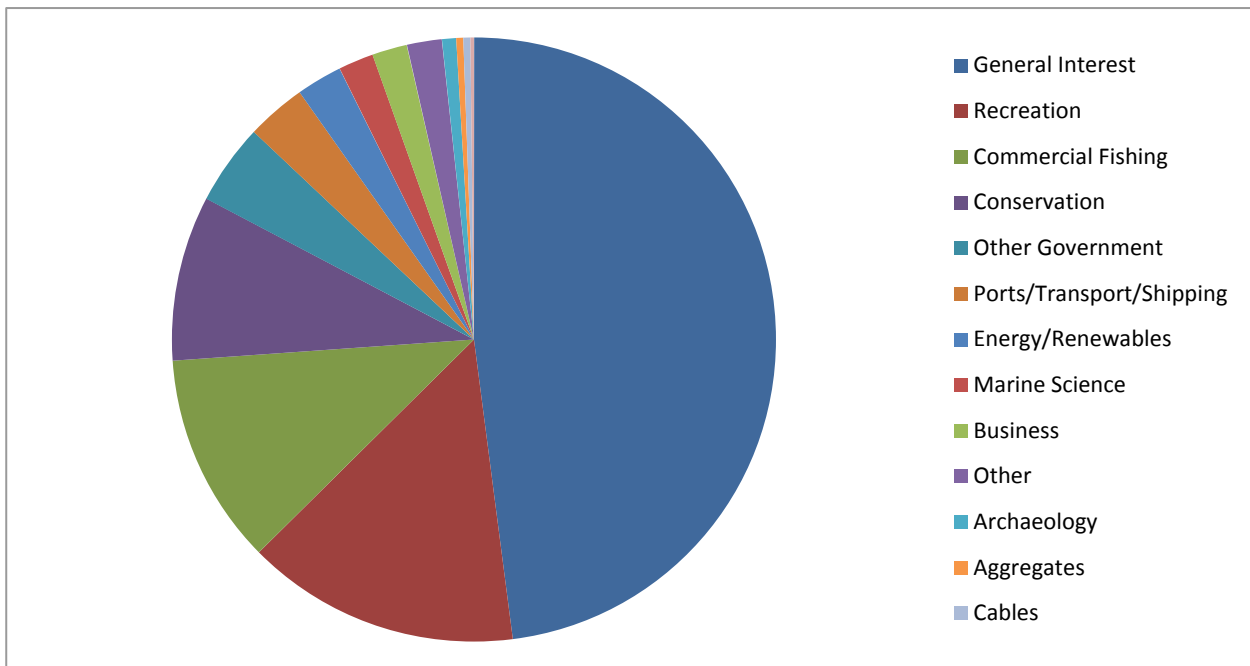
Figure 2: Breakdown of responses by sector, including campaign responses



5.2 Figure 3 illustrates the spread of responses by sector, excluding all the campaign responses. This shows that those having a 'general interest' form just under half of respondents, followed by recreation, commercial fishing and conservation¹¹. After the general interest responses, the main sectors responding were recreation, commercial fishing and conservation interests. Together, these three sectors made up just over a third of responses.

¹¹ The 'General Interest' category is used where respondents did not specify, or it was not obvious in their response, whether they were affiliated with any particular sector. This included members of the general public responding in an individual capacity. Responses from this category expressed a range of viewpoints, and made up the vast majority of individual responses.

Figure 3: Breakdown of responses by sector, excluding campaign responses



5.3 In broad terms, there were two main categories of response to the consultation:

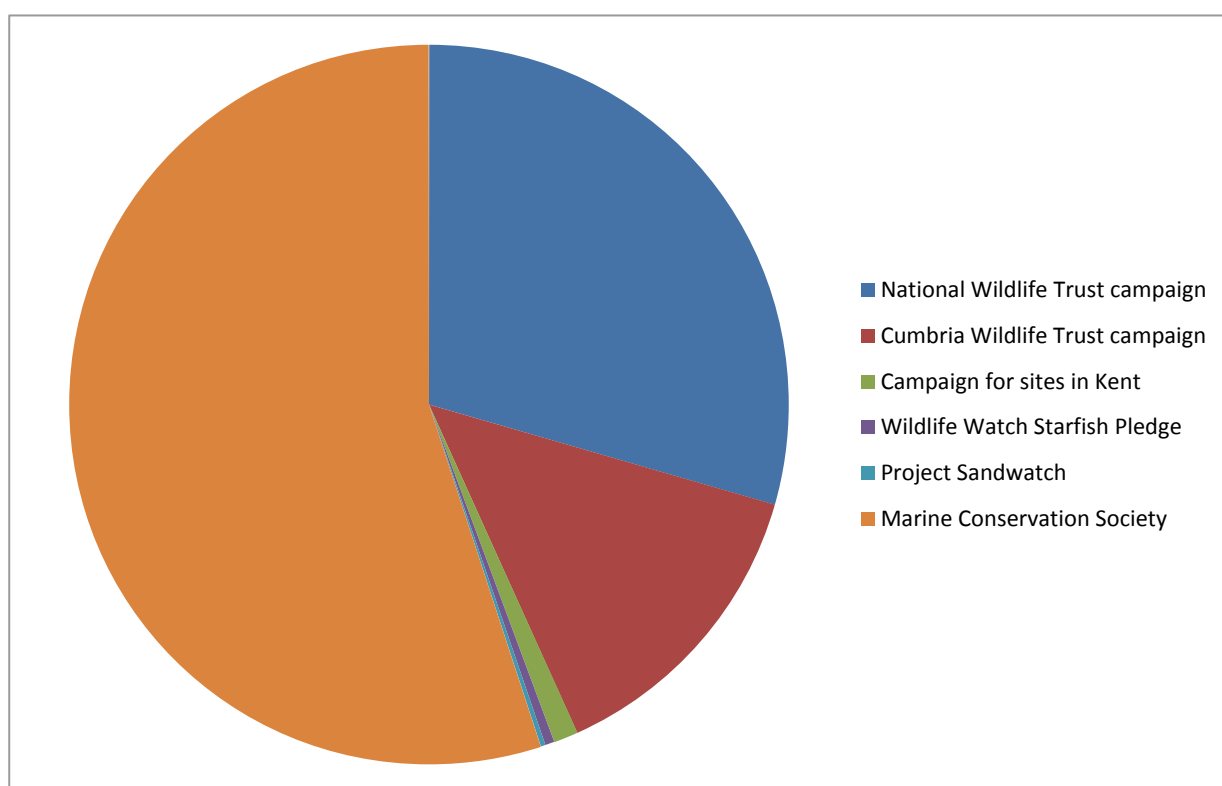
- Those highlighting generic issues about MCZ designation. For example, responses calling for all 127 sites identified by the four regional projects to be designated. Our response to many of these broader issues is covered in the 'broad issues raised' section of this document (Part C).
- Those providing site-specific issues and evidence under questions 1-8 of the consultation, including the provision of potential new evidence. Our response to these is covered in the 'Overview of site-specific responses' section of this document (Part F).

Part B - Campaigns

6. Overview of main campaigns

6.1 The majority (approximately 94%) of responses received to the consultation came from campaigns. We received a number of separate campaigns organised by the Wildlife Trusts: an overall campaign covering all sites; a campaign from the Cumbria Wildlife Trust specifically about sites in the Irish Sea; and a campaign by their youth branch, Wildlife Watch. We also received responses as part of campaigns organised by the Marine Conservation Society, UNESCO Project Sandwatch and one regarding sites in Kent.

Figure 4: Spread of campaign responses only



6.2 The Marine Conservation Society campaign (55% of campaign responses) sought the designation of all 23 sites proposed in the consultation. The campaign also called for details of the third tranche consultation to be confirmed, and for the 14 sites considered for the second tranche but not proposed in this consultation to be included in the third tranche. The campaign also called for the Government to achieve a well-managed ecologically coherent network by 2016. Several, personalised, responses also called for specific sites to be protected.

6.3 The overarching Wildlife Trusts campaign (29.5% of campaign responses) consisted of responses by local members, edited to highlight the benefits of local MCZs. The majority of responses were not site-specific and called for the designation of the 23

sites proposed in the consultation as part of an ecologically coherent network. Some responses called for individual sites to be designated. Many responses also called for the 14 sites not taken forward in the second tranche to be considered, and for a commitment to a third tranche. Some responses also called for further enforcement of managed activities in sites designated in the first tranche.

- 6.4 The Cumbria Wildlife Trust campaign on the Irish Sea (13.8% of campaign responses) was supportive of designating 23 sites and, in particular, of designating Allonby Bay and West of Walney. Those responding as part of this campaign were disappointed that five further sites in the Irish Sea were not included in the consultation, and urged the Government to recognise their contribution to an ecologically-coherent network. The campaign further urged the Government to act quickly to bring in management measures for designated sites.
- 6.5 A campaign of individual letters from Kent residents (1.1% of campaign responses) sought the designation of the 3 sites in Kent: The Swale Estuary, Dover to Deal and Dover to Folkestone. Letters also urged the Government to designate more sites in Kent as part of the third tranche, in particular calling for Hythe Bay to be included.
- 6.6 We received a number of responses as part of the 'Starfish Pledge' campaign (0.4% of campaign responses) organised by the youth branch of the Wildlife Trusts, Wildlife Watch. These responses were from children who urged the Government to bring in protection for the seas and sea life, outlining their favourite thing about the sea.
- 6.7 The UNESCO Project Sandwatch campaign (0.2% of campaign responses) called for the creation of more MCZs. The campaign was from school children, and urged the Government to stop fishing practices that were damaging to the environment to preserve habitats and ensure more sustainable fisheries.
- 6.8 We are particularly grateful to all the children who expressed their views in this consultation.
- 6.9 In addition to campaigns that came in as consultation responses, we also received a petition from the Seahorse Trust of 150,452 signatures. Signatories called for the designation of Studland Bay as an MCZ. This was one of the 14 sites which were initially considered for the second tranche, but which did not proceed to consultation because it was locally contentious and we considered that further work was needed to explore local solutions. This petition has been noted and Studland Bay remains under consideration for inclusion in the third tranche.

Part C - Broad issues raised

7.1 A number of respondents commented on general issues that relate to more than one site or were of a more overarching nature. We have provided a response to the main general issues below. The list is not intended to be exhaustive nor in any particular order.

8. Numbers of sites to be designated

8.1 **Issue:** Many respondents called for all 127 regional project recommendations to be designated to ensure that an ecologically-coherent network of MPAs is established.

8.2 **Government response:** The Government has made a commitment to complete a Blue Belt of MPAs around our coasts. We have made good progress already; 27 sites were designated as part of the first tranche in 2013, with an additional 23 being designated now.

8.3 We have been clear that we want successful, well-managed sites created in the right places in the right way and not just lines on maps. Sites are selected for designation on the basis of their contribution to an ecologically-coherent network¹² of rare, threatened or representative habitats and species. This approach ensures that the right areas are designated as opposed to simply designating large numbers of sites.

8.4 We have also been clear that we will make decisions based on sound evidence. A key challenge in the selection of MCZs has been the weakness of the evidence base, which we have been addressing through a programme of surveys. A strong evidence base is essential in order to ensure the right sites are being designated and can be properly managed. It is also important that we have the evidence to support decisions that may have social and economic impacts, affect people's livelihoods and result in enforcement and monitoring costs that fall on the tax payer.

8.5 We remain committed to completing a Blue Belt of MPAs around our coasts. These sites, with other types of MPAs, form the UK contribution to an ecologically-coherent network in the North East Atlantic.

8.6 **Issue:** Many respondents – in particular those responding as part of a campaign - welcomed the designation of 23 sites, but were disappointed that the 14 other sites which had been initially considered for inclusion in the second tranche were not included in the consultation.

8.7 **Government response:** A longer list of 37 sites under consideration for the second tranche was published in February 2014 to enable Defra and delivery partners to

¹² The concept of an ecologically coherent network continues to evolve, but the UK approach is underpinned by the OSPAR Commission guidance which can be found here <http://www.ospar.org>.

engage with stakeholders more effectively so that we could ensure we had all the information relevant to allow Ministers to select sites for public consultation.

- 8.8 Early engagement with stakeholders resulted in improved information about likely management and impacts, and ensured up-to-date information was used to select sites for consultation.
- 8.8 Fourteen sites were not considered suitable for designation in the second tranche, and were therefore not included in the consultation. These sites have not been permanently removed from consideration and will be considered for inclusion in the third tranche. Further details on each of these 14 sites, the reason it was not included in the consultation and planned next steps were published as annexes to the consultation document.

9. Designation of future tranches

- 9.1 **Issue:** Many respondents sought a clear timetable for the designation of future tranches of MCZs.
- 9.2 **Government response:** We have committed to completing the network of MCZs, to create a Blue Belt of protected sites around our coasts. We are aiming to designate the third and final tranche in 2018.

10. Management measures

- 10.1 **Issue:** A number of respondents, particularly those from the commercial and recreational sectors, raised concerns over the lack of precise details of what management measures would be applied to each site following designation.
- 10.2 **Government response:** Following feedback from the first tranche, a greater level of detail about likely management measures was included in the site summaries provided for each site in the second tranche as annexes to the consultation document. This provided an indication of those activities likely to require management, together with an indication of what this is likely to entail. The summaries also included details of those activities which are unlikely to be subject to management.
- 10.3 We are not able to include actual management measures in the consultation as they will be drawn up separately and put in place by the relevant public authorities after designation.
- 10.4 The main regulatory authorities, the MMO and the IFCA, are developing plans and processes for putting in place management measures. This work includes the prioritising of MCZs on the basis of potential management need and a timetable for next steps for each site at the time of designation. At the heart of any action they

take will be engagement with interested parties. Any management of fisheries for offshore sites needs to be agreed through the Common Fisheries Policy.

11. Approach to an ecologically-coherent network

11.1 **Issue:** A number of respondents from the conservation sector reiterated concerns over the feature-based approach to designating and managing sites. It was suggested that a more holistic, whole-site approach would better protect all the species and habitats within the MCZ boundary and have ecological and practical benefits.

11.2 **Government response:** The MPA network is designed to be representative of marine life, habitats and geological features in our seas. The aim is to protect species and habitats in the most suitable locations, rather than protect every occurrence in every MCZ, as this would involve greater, and unnecessary, socio-economic costs. This allows us to strike the right balance between protecting our marine environment and not placing unnecessary burdens on sea users.

12. Conservation objectives

12.1 **Issue:** Some responses suggested that the baseline assumptions for all features should be that they were declining, and that the aim should be to recover all features in all sites to favourable condition.

12.2 **Government response:** The conservation objective for all MCZ features is that they be in favourable condition. They are either maintained in that state or recovered to that state, depending on whether they are currently in favourable condition or not. SNCBs advise on the current condition of features, either through direct observation in surveys or, where there are not sufficiently detailed survey data available (which is the majority of cases), through an assessment of whether recent or current activities on the site are likely to have damaged the features.

12.3 Whether the aim is to maintain the feature at, or recover it to, favourable condition helps indicate to sea users whether current activities are considered to be affecting the feature, and so whether they will need to be managed or not. Regardless of whether a feature is considered to currently be in favourable condition or a damaged state, any activities considered damaging to the feature will need to be managed.

13. Evidence standard

13.1 **Issue:** Some respondents felt that the evidence standard was too high, and were concerned that data uncertainty was a barrier to designation. However, responses received from other individuals and industry bodies recognised that there was significant additional data available supporting these sites, as a result of survey work

funded by Defra. These responses reiterated calls for standards of evidence to be rigorous.

- 13.2 **Government response:** We recognise the need to deal with uncertainty given the current level of data available on seabed features. Our approach to determining data sufficiency seeks to strike an appropriate balance. Adequate evidence is vital to ensure the right sites are designated and well-managed as soon as possible after designation.
- 13.3 For a site to be designated, and subsequently managed, there needs to be at least a moderate certainty that the feature is present on the site and its extent. This is not an unduly high evidence standard. We have taken a more precautionary approach towards some higher-risk features and propose designating these with less supporting evidence. For MCZs in offshore waters, we will need to secure agreement on fisheries management measures with other Member States and the European Commission. It may be more difficult to achieve other Member State agreement without a good evidence base.
- 13.4 A key challenge in the selection of MCZs has been the weakness of the evidence base supporting the original recommendations for sites. Considerable additional work and effort has gone into improving the evidence base to support the second tranche of MCZ designations. The Defra-funded MCZ survey programme has been used in JNCC and Natural England advice on the majority of sites, informing and improving the evidence base for the presence and extent of features. Stakeholders have also provided significant contributions from dedicated survey work and data submissions. In some sites, this has strengthened our confidence in our existing evidence, but in others it has changed our understanding of sites in terms of the location and presence of features, reaffirming the need to have adequate evidence to support well-managed MCZs.
- 13.5 **Issue:** A number of industry and academic stakeholders noted the importance of continuing to collect data from designated MCZs. They called for monitoring and the further collection of marine survey data from designated MCZs to build on the evidence base and also to detect changes in the status, extent or presence of features within the sites.
- 13.6 **Government response:** JNCC and Natural England are developing an overall monitoring plan for MPAs. This work is part of a wider programme of work looking at all biodiversity monitoring requirements, and will include inshore and offshore MCZs as part of this.

14. Highly mobile species and seabirds

- 14.1 **Issue:** Responses reiterated calls for the inclusion of highly mobile species such as seabirds, sharks and cetaceans to MCZ sites. Concerns were raised that the MCZ

network would be incomplete until such species are protected within MCZs, and that ecological coherence of the network can only be achieved if areas of high productivity are included.

- 14.2 **Government response:** We recognise the importance of highly mobile species as key components of the marine ecosystem and good indicators of the overall state of the marine environment. We consider that in most cases sectoral measures are likely to be the most effective tools in conserving widely dispersed and highly mobile species – such as fisheries management, by-catch mitigation measures and protected species licensing.
- 14.3 MCZs for such species will be considered if there is clear evidence that their conservation would benefit from site-based protection measures. Two highly mobile species are being protected in existing MCZs: black sea bream and smelt. MCZs are just one type of MPA. We are actively considering further protection for birds and mobile species across all types of MPA for mobile species. This includes launching consultations on SACs for harbour porpoise and SPAs to protect feeding and bathing areas used by birds, such as spoonbills in Poole Harbour and puffins on the Northumberland coast.

15. Highly protected marine areas (reference areas)

- 15.1 **Issue:** Responses around reference areas, also known as Highly Protected Marine Areas, were mixed, with some respondents strongly in favour of these as important for marine conservation and as a tool to inform monitoring and understanding of pressures, while others felt they were unnecessary.
- 15.2 **Government response:** As part of their work to identify suitable locations for MCZs, the Regional Projects were asked to identify reference areas, also known as Highly Protected Marine Areas. These are sites or areas within sites where greater restrictions on commercial or recreational activities may be needed. Reference areas were the most controversial aspect of the Regional Projects' recommendations with differing levels of stakeholder agreement within each Project. In response to advice from JNCC and Natural England, we decided not to take forward the reference area recommendations and to commission a review to take a fresh look at the requirements for such areas. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science has been asked to carry out this review, further details are available at http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12292_TPS_MB0139_Final.pdf

16. Issues relating to the estimates for costs and benefits

- 16.1 **Issue:** A number of responses across several sectors were concerned that cost estimates were too low.

- 16.2 **Government response:** Where respondents have provided comments and evidence relating to cost estimates, these have been considered in detail on a case by case basis. In some cases, this has resulted in changes, for example when new information was supplied on activities occurring in sites. These changes are described in the final Impact Assessment accompanying designation, and we have also highlighted the change in the site-specific section of this document, below.
- 16.3 Some respondents had concerns about costs which will not in practice arise through MCZ designation (for example, the management measures will not impact the specific activity referred to in the response). The Impact Assessment only values the additional costs and benefits that arise specifically due to MCZ designation.
- 16.4 **Issue:** Some respondents suggested that the benefits of designation were not adequately presented.
- 16.5 **Government response:** Compared to costs, benefits are much harder to quantify. There are a number of studies valuing overall habitats but there are very few data that help to value benefits specifically brought about by MCZ designation. The consultation Impact Assessment explained these benefits qualitatively using the ecosystem services approach and existing evidence from the National Ecosystem Assessment¹³. We will be continuing to work to address these evidence gaps. We also reviewed the additional information provided on benefits during the consultation to help inform our decisions on MCZ designations. This is presented in the Impact Assessment accompanying designation.
- 16.6 It should be noted that although the benefits are harder to quantify and monetise, it does not mean they were given any less weight in the decision making. We are designating MCZs because of the benefits they will bring in terms of protecting marine biodiversity and resources.
- 16.7 **Issue:** Some respondents questioned why costs to non-UK fishing vessels had not been estimated in the Impact Assessment.
- 16.8 **Government response:** Impacts on non-UK fishing vessels have been taken into account in decision making. It is important that we do consider these, as all offshore fisheries management measures (and in inshore areas where Other Member States have historic fishing rights) have to be agreed at the EU level through the Common Fisheries Policy. However, these costs are not formally included in the Impact Assessment. This is because costs and benefits of regulatory changes to other

¹³ <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/>

countries are not considered in UK impact assessments as a matter of practice, consistent with the published methodology and guidance¹⁴.

- 16.9 We have attempted to quantify lost revenue to non-UK fishing fleets in Annex E of the Impact Assessment, including using updated data on the French fleet received from the French Government in December 2014. Lost revenue is not equivalent to costs to the non-UK fleet. Costs to the UK fishing fleet are assessed on a Gross Value Added (GVA) basis. GVA measures the contribution to the economy of each sector. It can be considered as the *additional* value created by the activity, i.e. without the costs of carrying out the activity, as vessels which no longer fish will no longer incur costs of fishing. However, it is not possible or proportionate to do this for other countries as each country will have different GVA ratios for different fishing gear types and this information is not available.
- 16.10 **Issue:** Some concerns were raised, particularly from conservation NGOs, that social and economic considerations had been given undue weight when selecting sites for consultation and subsequent designation.
- 16.11 **Government response:** It is important that we secure the long term future of coastal communities, particularly in the current economic climate. We are fully committed to meeting our conservation commitments and believe that MPAs can sit alongside sustainable use of the seas. The future of both marine conservation and marine industries depend on them working together.

¹⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/421078/bis-13-1038-Better-regulation-framework-manual.pdf

Part D - Sector-specific issues

17.1 A number of responses related to a particular sector, many of which were about multiple sites. The following section summarises the main issues raised, and the Government response to these. The list is not intended to be exhaustive nor in any particular order.

17.2 Some sites have received a particular response from individual sectors. Where these comments relate primarily to a site-specific issue, these have been covered in the site-specific response section, below.

18. Archaeological heritage

18.1 **Issue:** There were concerns raised that the Impact Assessment took insufficient account of costs to the marine archaeological heritage sector. There was also a concern raised that designation would lead to a new requirement for licences where heritage sites were being accessed.

18.2 **Government response:** Only those activities which currently require a licence will need to be licenced within an MCZ; there is no new requirement for licences. However, some additional assessment may be needed as part of licence applications to assess the impact of activities on the MCZ features. This will be a light-touch assessment in the first instance, and a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) not required as a matter of course.

19. Commercial fisheries

19.1 **Issue:** There were several responses from the fishing sector on the cost assumptions made on the impact to fishing, which they believed underestimated costs to this sector. Many responses commented that cost figures for commercial fisheries appeared lower than the value of fish caught at a site.

19.2 **Government response:** Although many fisheries respondents considered that costs to their sector arising from the designation of MCZs had been underestimated in the Impact Assessment, very few provided additional supporting evidence challenging this. Where respondents did provide anecdotal evidence of landings data, these were verified with IFCA and MMO landings data where possible.

19.3 Fishing interests often refer to their *landings* value in their response i.e. the maximum value of landings which could be lost if the area was totally closed to a particular gear type is the highest cost management scenario. We focus on GVA rather than value of landings¹⁵. This is because part of the revenue earned through fishing will be taken

¹⁵ You can read more about GVA in para 16.9

up to pay for costs of fishing (e.g. fuel); the estimates of GVA account for the fact that vessels which no longer fish will no longer incur these costs. In addition, the Impact Assessment also accounted for the possibility that vessels may displace their activity from MCZs to other areas, thus reducing the costs to the fishing sector.

19.4 **Issue:** Some responses questioned the assumption that fishing could be displaced to other areas, and noted that there are associated implications for health and safety and increased costs associated with longer journeys to alternative fishing grounds, especially in relation to smaller vessels being displaced from local fishing grounds

19.5 **Government response:** Although many fisheries respondents questioned the fisheries displacement assumptions, no evidence was provided to indicate the assumption is unsound. We appreciate that smaller vessels may have less capacity to adapt to the introduction of an MCZ in their area and we have taken this into account when considering designations.

19.6 **Issue:** A number of responses from individual fishermen, as well as fishing organisations, believed that the effect of MCZs was not considered in the wider context of other types of MPA in the area. They believed the cumulative effect should be considered when selecting sites, and the ability of smaller fishing vessels ability to displace to other areas.

19.7 **Government response:** Sites have been carefully considered based on their ecological value and the socio-economic impact they could have on the community and businesses in the local area. When making these decisions, we do take into account wider factors such as other types of MPAs nearby and offshore wind farms where they cannot fish.

20. Ports, harbours and disposal sites

20.1 We received a number of responses from individual ports and harbours, as well as from representative bodies for these sectors. These included a number of concerns about the MCZ process, many of which have been covered by the 'broad issues raised' sections above, for example, on the inclusion of management measures in the consultation, and a suggestion that costs had been underestimated.

20.2 **Issue:** There was a concern about costs arising from EIAs in relation to applications for licences for disposal of dredged material in several responses.

20.3 **Government response:** We have clarified with regulators that a full EIA would only be required where an initial, lighter-touch assessment indicated that this was needed. It should not be assumed that a full EIA will be required as a matter of course. Any additional assessment or mitigating actions associated with disposal activity will be clarified through the normal licencing process and details of these would form part of the licence.

21. Recreation

21.1 **Issue:** There were site-specific concerns raised around potential restrictions to recreational activities, particularly the mooring and anchoring of leisure craft, and challenges to the cost estimates for this. Some consultation respondents also mentioned a knock-on effect for businesses and restaurants used by recreational boaters when anchoring in specific locations if anchoring were restricted in those areas.

21.2 **Government response:** As with all activities, anchoring will only be managed where there is evidence that the features being protected are sensitive to this activity. We believe that some level of management is likely in areas of the Needles and Utopia MCZs. However, it is expected that this will have a low impact on the sector. Management is likely to be focussed on voluntary agreements or anchoring bans in small areas, with recreational boaters able to anchor in other areas close by.

22. Renewable energy

22.1 **Issue:** The renewable energy sector expressed site-specific concerns about possible cost implications for the industry of having MCZs co-located with current or potential offshore wind farms, and where export cables from offshore wind farms pass through coastal MCZs. There were also concerns around the risk of the potential for MCZs to deter investment needed for offshore renewables development.

22.2 **Government response:** We have considered these concerns when making final decisions on the specific sites, and details are in the sections below.

23. Oil and Gas

23.1 **Issue:** We were provided with details of potential oil and gas blocks which had not been considered in the Impact Assessment which accompanied the consultation.

23.2 **Government response:** We are grateful for this updated information, which has led to an upward revision to costs associated with this sector in the revised Impact Assessment.

24. Cables, aggregates, flooding and coastal erosion, aquaculture

24.1 Responses received from these sectors did not raise any general concerns. Site-specific issues were considered as part of the decisions on site designations, which are detailed in the site-specific sections below.

Part E - Generic site issues

25. Site features

25.1 Since the assessment of the evidence base supporting the consultation was completed, a substantial quantity of additional scientific data has been gathered through recent MCZ site surveys and further evidence submitted during the consultation. We are grateful to those stakeholders who have provided additional evidence as part of the consultation. New evidence which meets the evidence standards¹⁶ has been incorporated into the updated evidence assessments carried out by the SNCBs. This has sufficiently improved the evidence base for a number of features which are now being included in designations, where they do not result in significant additional impacts. Details of all the features being designated are included in the overview of site-specific responses in this document and are being published in the Designation Orders and site description documents.

25.2 Where the assessment of new data indicated the general management approach has changed since the consultation, the features are only being designated where we assessed that this will not create significant additional management requirements beyond those that will be needed for the other features in the MCZ.

25.3 We have removed the habitat feature 'mud habitats in deep water' from designation, as the habitat subtidal mud can provide adequate protection for this feature.

26. Site boundaries

26.1 Site boundaries were initially agreed by stakeholders through the four regional projects. Following stakeholder engagement ahead of consultation, a number of further changes were made, which were detailed in the site summary documents which accompanied the consultation. During the consultation, a number of respondents from a variety of sectors proposed further changes to the boundaries of some sites. These proposals were considered on a site-by-site basis and further details can be found in the site summaries section.

26.2 We evaluated each proposed change to determine what implications this would have. Boundary issues were examined where new relevant information or data were presented which were not considered to have been dealt with by the regional projects. Consideration was given to whether the boundary change would have an impact on stakeholder activity, and whether the proposal was a significant change

¹⁶ Further details of this are set out in section 4 of the consultation document

https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs/supporting_documents/Consultation%20Document%20Final.pdf

that would require further consultation before a decision is taken. The ecological implications of proposed boundary changes were also considered with advice obtained from SNCBs where appropriate. When making decisions, we tried to find the right balance between social, economic and environmental factors.

27. Existing activities taking place within sites

27.1 For many sites, responses were received stating that existing activities should not be affected by MCZ designation and should be allowed to continue. In terms of the effect on existing activities, when an MCZ is designated it does not automatically mean that economic or recreational activities in that site will be restricted. Restrictions on an activity will depend on the sensitivity of species and habitats for which a site is designated to the activities taking place in that area. Where the general management approach for features being designated is for them to be maintained in favourable condition, any restrictions on existing activities are likely to be limited. Decisions on whether any restrictions on existing activities are needed are for relevant regulatory authorities to take.

Part F - Overview of site-specific responses

Of the 525 non-campaign consultation responses recorded, approximately 70% raised site-specific issues. The summaries of consultation responses that follow highlight the main issues raised but are not an exhaustive commentary on every response received. However, all responses were considered in taking final decisions.

Coquet to St. Mary's

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal underboulder communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Peat and clay exposures	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. One response sought assurance that existing maintenance dredging would not be affected by designation. We received three separate boundary change requests from the Port of Blyth to remove areas used in port operations, which they considered reduced the impact of designation whilst maintaining the ecological value of the site.
2. We also received a response which raised concerns about the impact of designation on continued access to marine cooling water activity and on potential future development of a decommissioned power station. A boundary change was requested to avoid any impact to existing use of the cooling tower and future plans related to the power plant.

Evidence changes since consultation

3. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as

evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.

4. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
5. Socio-economic information received during the consultation was used to amend costs for the ports, harbours and shipping sector. Evidence submitted during the consultation was also used to amend costs to the cables sector, to reflect new information about plans for an interconnector cable between the UK and Norway. We are not able to quantify these at site level. The Impact Assessment published on our website has further details.

Government response

6. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
7. Following receipt of new advice on certainty of features, subtidal mud has been included in the list of features for designation in 2016. This has not affected the costs for this site.
8. The concerns regarding maintenance dredging are noted. However, we do not expect designation to place an undue burden on the ports and harbours sector. Additional assessment or mitigating actions may be required for maintenance dredging but costs are expected to be low.
9. With regards to the boundary change requested to avoid impacts on the decommissioned power station and water cooling activity in the site, no suggested new boundary or new evidence was provided to allow us to consider a change. However, based on current evidence, we do not expect that current water cooling activity will be subject to management. We note that there is currently no power station in operation at Blyth. It is not possible for us to comment on possible management implications of potential future developments, where there is very limited information regarding the nature of these developments.
10. The three boundary changes suggested by the Port of Blyth have been carefully considered, and the site's boundary has been amended to exclude the Port of Blyth's statutory limits. This does not significantly impact the ecological value of the site. Due to the highly biodiverse nature of the other two areas under consideration, we do not consider that the remaining two changes would achieve a better balance between the socio-economic and ecological value of the site. The two changes would exclude areas of the site which make important contributions its ecological value, and we do not believe their designation would result in undue management burdens on the current activity of the port.

Farnes East

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Recover to favourable condition
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	Recover to favourable condition
Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was general support from local residents and environmental organisations for this site. One response noted that the site provides crucial nephrops fishing grounds and raised concerns that designation could cause significant costs to the industry.

Evidence changes since consultation

2. Additional site-specific scientific evidence was submitted during the consultation, but did not contain evidence relating to recommended features. We also had new data on this site from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Following the consultation, evidence assessments undertaken by JNCC were updated from a broad range of sources. The updated evidence assessments resulted in a decrease in data confidence for some features within the site, and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
3. The sources of evidence used for the JNCC confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).

Government response

4. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
5. Data certainty on the presence and extent of peat and clay exposures is now not sufficient for the feature to be designated; this has resulted in its removal from the list of features to be designated in 2016. This has not affected costs for this site.
6. We were aware that this site is a nephrops fishing ground and costs for the fishing industry have been accounted for in the Impact Assessment for this site. We consider

that this site offers an appropriate balance between the ecological benefits and the socio-economic costs associated with designation.

Fulmar

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was general support from local residents and environmental organisations for this site.
2. The oil and gas industry raised concerns that costs have been underestimated for the impacts to the sector relating to planned developments.

Evidence changes since consultation

3. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Following the consultation, evidence assessments undertaken by JNCC were updated from a broad range of sources. The updated evidence assessments did not result in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site, but have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
4. The sources of evidence used for the JNCC confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
5. New information about oil and gas industry activity was submitted as part of the consultation. This information has been used to update costs, which are published in the Impact Assessment on our website.

Government response

6. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
7. Costs have been considered for new oil and gas developments where sufficient detail has been provided; we still consider the ecological benefits of designating the site outweigh these (updated) costs. Where there are no defined plans for future development we are unable to quantify costs.

Runswick Bay

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. The majority of responses for this site were supportive of designation. One response raised concerns about the possible impact designation of this site would have on coastal protection plans.

Evidence changes since consultation

2. No site-specific consultation responses included additional scientific evidence, but one response did point to existing evidence that had not previously been considered, which has now been used in the confidence assessment of high energy circalittoral rock. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site, and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
3. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).

Government response

4. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.

5. Improved data certainty on the presence of subtidal mud has resulted in its inclusion in the list of features for designation in 2016. Following receipt of new advice on certainty and risk of features, high energy infralittoral rock and high energy circalittoral rock have been removed as features for designation. This has not affected the costs for this site.
6. We do not believe that current coastal defence plans will be affected by designation, as we have no evidence to suggest that these are harmful to features being designated. The proposed rock armouring defence was considered in the Impact Assessment which accompanied the consultation, and no evidence was submitted to change the assumptions made in relation to this.

Holderness Inshore

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Spurn Head (subtidal) ¹⁷	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was general support from local residents and environmental organisations for this site. However, there was some opposition from local fishing groups who were concerned about impacts to fishing activity.
2. Bridlington Harbour raised concerns over the impact of designation to their ability to dispose of dredged material.
3. The oil and gas industry raised concerns that costs have been underestimated in relation to laying new pipelines.

Evidence changes since consultation

4. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site, and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
5. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#).
6. Additional costs have been included for the ports, harbours and shipping sector to include costs for dredging which were not in the consultation Impact Assessment. New information about oil and gas industry activity was submitted as part of the

¹⁷ Geological feature

consultation. This information has been used to update costs, which are published in the Impact Assessment on our website.

Government response

7. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
8. The concerns from local fishing groups have been noted. No new information has been received during the consultation to change the assumption that no management of this activity, at its current level of intensity, will be required as a result of designation.
9. The concerns regarding the impact on port operations are noted. However, we do not expect designation to place an undue burden on the ports and harbours sector. Additional assessment or mitigating actions may be required for use of disposal sites but costs are expected to be low.
10. Similarly, the concerns raised by the oil and gas industry have been considered and whilst additional assessment may be required, we do not consider that this will place an undue burden on those sectors affected.

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal chalk	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Peat and clay exposures	Maintain in favourable condition
North Norfolk Coast (subtidal) ¹⁸	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was strong support from local residents and environmental organisations for this site. However, there were a number of responses from local fishermen which raised concerns about the impact designation would have on their activities, specifically the use of static gear in the site.
2. One response noted that this site is used for water abstraction and raised concerns over the potential impact designation would have on this activity.
3. Another response provided details of a coastal flood protection project in the early stages of planning.
4. A boundary change was requested to exclude a pipeline from the site, in order to allow for maintenance work.

Evidence changes since consultation

5. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.

¹⁸ Geological feature

6. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).

Government response

7. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
8. The on-going concerns of local fishermen over the impact of an MCZ designation on their ability to continue crab fishing in the area have been noted. No new information has been received during the consultation to change the assumption that no management of this activity, at its current level of intensity, will be required as a result of designation.
9. We are aware that water abstraction is taking place within the site and no new evidence was provided to suggest our current assessment that no management of this activity, at its current level of intensity, would be required should be changed.
10. We do not anticipate coastal flood protection activity to be affected due to the site's boundary excluding a 200m buffer from the shoreline, and therefore any coastal defence activities will be outside the MCZ.
11. Concerns about impacts to maintenance of the pipeline in this site and the proposed boundary change were carefully considered. We do not anticipate designation of this site will prevent the maintenance works of the pipe. We have therefore not made the requested change.

The Swale Estuary

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Estuarine rocky habitats	Maintain in favourable condition
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was strong support for this site, primarily from local residents. A number of responses called for the inclusion of blue mussel beds in this site.
2. Some responses highlighted concerns about water quality in this site, due to the effluent disposal pipes in the area.
3. Some responses were conditionally supportive of designation, but sought clarity on whether costs would arise for anchoring within the site
4. A small number of respondents noted planned or possible future development in the site at Faversham and Queenborough creeks.

Evidence changes since consultation

5. Additional site-specific scientific evidence was submitted during the consultation, providing additional evidence for smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*). However, this feature has been removed from designation as new understanding of the local populations does not support the effectiveness of site-based protection for this feature in the Swale Estuary.
6. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments did not result in improvements to the data confidence for the features being designated within the site but have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.

7. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#).

Government response

8. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
9. Following new information on aquaculture within this site, three features have been removed as they would require management of activities not stated in the consultation. These are moderate energy intertidal rock, peat and clay exposures and native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*).
10. Blue Mussel Beds in this site have a high certainty of presence and extent, but there is uncertainty about the impact of management which would be required for this feature. We believe that management of the feature would be required, as it is sensitive to a number of activities taking place in the area, and protection would therefore increase the impact of designation in the Swale Estuary. If a gap for this feature remains following the selection of remaining sites, we will consider for designation in the future.
11. Water quality is managed by the Environment Agency under the Water Framework Directive. The Environment Agency is aware of declining shellfish quality in the Swale and is taking steps to improve it. The local team has been investigating the situation and enforcement action is being taken.
12. Concerns over costs associated with anchoring were noted but no new evidence was provided to suggest our current assessment that no management of the activity, at its current level of intensity, would be required should be changed.
13. Planned and future development at Faversham and Queenborough creeks were included in the consultation Impact Assessment, and no new information has been provided to suggest cost assumptions should be updated.

Dover to Deal

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal underboulder communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Littoral chalk communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal chalk	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was general support for this site from local residents and environmental organisations. However, leisure users and local fishing industry respondents saw no need for designation in light of the current activity having a low impact on the site.
2. A correction was provided on the distance given to disposal sites from the site boundary.
3. We received a number of responses on the site's updated boundary, which saw the western end of the site move back 500m from the harbour wall of the Port of Dover. Several respondents asked that this change be reversed. Other respondents felt this was a pragmatic change. A request was also made for a further boundary change in this site, to extend the site further south to cover the seaward extent of the subtidal chalk feature.
4. We were provided with additional information on a demonstration tidal turbine that will be deployed near to this site.

Evidence changes since consultation

5. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in

improvements to the data confidence for some features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.

6. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
7. Socio-economic evidence submitted during the consultation has been used to update costs for the renewables sector, to include impacts to the demonstration tidal turbine near the site. Costs for the ports, harbours and shipping sector have been updated to include new information received regarding planned development at the Port of Dover. The Impact Assessment published on our website has further details.

Government response

8. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
9. Additional data have improved the certainty for three features so these have now been included as features to be designated. These are intertidal coarse sediment, intertidal sand and muddy sand and subtidal sand. This has not increased the costs for this site.
10. Following consultation, we received updated advice on fishing gears used in this site. As a number of features in the site are sensitive to the type of gear used, this indicates that some fishing activity would require management in this site, a change from what was stated in the consultation. These features have therefore been removed from the list for designation in 2016. However, we plan to consult on these features in the third tranche, at which point we will be able to seek the views of those affected. This has resulted in the removal of four features from the site, which are ross worm (*Sabellaria Spinulosa*) reefs, blue mussel beds, moderate energy circalittoral rock and high energy circalittoral rock.
11. The correction on the distance to disposal sites from the site boundary has been noted, but does not affect cost estimates.
12. The pre-consultation change to the site boundary was made in order to better balance the ecological value of the site and the socio-economic impact of designation. We have not received any new evidence to suggest that the boundary proposed at consultation should be changed. The request for the site to be extended to cover an increased area of subtidal chalk was considered. However, as subtidal chalk is not a gap in this region, we do not believe this change justified the potential increased socio-economic impacts of an enlarged site.

Dover to Folkestone

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal underboulder communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Littoral chalk communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Folkestone Warren ¹⁹	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was general support for this site from local residents and environmental organisations. However, leisure users and local fishing industry respondents saw no need for designation in light of the current activity having a low impact on the site.
2. We received a number of responses on the site's updated boundary published as part of the consultation, which saw the eastern end of the site move back 500m from the harbour wall of the Port of Dover, and asked that this change be reversed. Other respondents felt this was a pragmatic change.
3. A number of responses noted the removal of the short snouted seahorse as a feature of this site, as a result of the pre-consultation boundary change, and a request was made to reinstate this feature, as there is a record within the updated site boundary.
4. The Port of Dover was concerned about the effect designation may have on port and maintenance dredging activities and requested a change to move the eastern

¹⁹ Geological feature

boundary of the site further back from the harbour wall. A correction also was provided on the distance given to disposal sites from the site boundary.

5. We were provided with additional information on a demonstration tidal turbine that will be deployed near to this site.

Evidence changes since consultation

6. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for some features within the site, as well as reduced confidence in others. This updated evidence has been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
7. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
8. Socio-economic evidence submitted during the consultation has been used to update costs for the renewables sector, to include impacts to the demonstration tidal turbine near the site. Costs for the ports, harbours and shipping sector have been updated to include new information received regarding planned development at the Port of Dover. The Impact Assessment published on our website has further details.

Government response

9. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
10. Following surveying by Cefas, decreased confidence in the extent of high energy infralittoral rock has resulted in its removal from this list of features for designation in 2016.
11. Following consultation, we received updated advice on fishing gears used in this site. As a number of features in the site are sensitive to the type of gear used, this indicates that some fishing activity would require management in this site, a change from what was stated in the consultation. These features have therefore been removed from the list for designation in 2016. However, we plan to consult on these features in the third tranche, at which point we will be able to seek the views of those affected. This has resulted in the removal of five features from the site, which are ross worm (*Sabellaria Spinulosa*) reefs, peat and clay exposures, subtidal chalk, moderate energy circalittoral rock and high energy circalittoral rock. As noted above, additional data have decreased the data certainty for high energy infralittoral rock, which has been removed.
12. Updated advice from Natural England on the short snouted seahorse in both the current and pre-consultation boundaries for this site is that there is no confidence in

the presence or extent of this feature. This is because, although there appear to be several records of the feature, we believe these are duplicate entries of a single record. This feature will therefore not be included in the designation.

13. We have considered the requests for boundary changes carefully. The pre-consultation change to the site boundary was made in order to better balance the ecological value of the site and the socio-economic impact of designation. We have not received any new evidence to suggest that the boundary proposed at consultation should be changed.
14. The proposal to move the boundary further back from the harbour wall was considered and has not been accepted. Following discussion with regulators, we do not believe the change would deliver the socio-economic benefits to outweigh the loss of a large area of the site. We have also been able to clarify that the impact of designating this area will be lower than anticipated, as we do not expect a full EIA to be required for disposal as a matter of course. This is covered in further detail in paragraph [20.3](#) within the sector-specific issues. The correction on the distance to disposal sites from the site boundary has been noted, but does not affect cost estimates.

Offshore Brighton

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
High energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was general support from residents near the site. However, responses from the UK fishing industry indicated concern that impacts on their businesses have been understated and displacement assumptions have failed to take into account increased steaming costs and limited availability of alternative grounds (further details provided in paragraph 19.4, above). There was a request for zoned management that protects only the precise locations of conservation importance. There were also concerns that costs to foreign fishing interests have not been fully assessed.
2. Whilst the boundary of the site was adjusted prior to consultation to avoid the most important French scalloping grounds, the French fishing sector and French Government have raised their concerns with this site and its potential impacts on their fishing activities here. The French fishing sector have proposed a new site to replace both Offshore Overfalls and Offshore Brighton MCZs.
3. The general management approach of 'recover to favourable condition' for features in this site has been questioned by some fishing interests given the high degree of natural disturbance which occurs within the site due to local tidal effects.

Evidence changes since consultation.

4. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Following the consultation, evidence assessments undertaken by JNCC were updated from a broad range of sources. The updated evidence assessments resulted in a decrease in data confidence for some features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
5. The sources of evidence used for the JNCC confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
6. Economic evidence submitted by the French Government was used to amend costs to their fishing sector, in terms of updating estimates of potential lost landings as a result of designation. Updated costs are provided within the Impact Assessment and its annexes.

Government response

7. After careful consideration of the issues raised during this consultation, we consider that the important contribution this site makes to the network is sufficient to support designation.
8. The request for zoned management has been noted. We are not able to provide details of actual management measures as they will be drawn up separately and put in place after designation. As explained in paragraph 10.3 and 10.4 above, any action taken will involve engagement with interested parties.
9. The Regional Project extensively considered a wide range of options in formulating its recommendations, and it is unlikely that there are new alternatives with lower impacts on the fishing industry as a whole. Analysis carried out by JNCC indicates that the proposed site put forward by the French fishing sector does not appear to offer the same ecological value to the network as Offshore Brighton and Offshore Overfalls. It would result in the complete loss from the network of the subtidal sand feature, which already represents a significant network gap in the region.
10. Fisheries management measures for offshore MPAs can only be taken forward with the agreement of all Member States with a direct management interest, or failing that, by a European Commission proposal. We will be working with the French Government, the fishing sector and other interests with the aim of securing proportionate management arrangements for this and other offshore MCZs
11. Following survey work by Cefas carried out in 2012, data no longer supports the presence of moderate energy circalittoral rock within the site. This has therefore been removed from the list of features for designation in 2016. This has not affected the costs for this site.
12. No evidence to support a change to the fisheries displacement assumption has been provided.

Offshore Overfalls

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Subtidal coarse sediments	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
English Channel outburst flood features ²⁰	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. We received a number of supportive responses in relation to this site from environmental groups. However, responses from the UK fishing industry (those also with an interest in Offshore Brighton MCZ) indicated concern that impacts on their businesses have been understated. One response expressed concern that costs to foreign fishing interests have not been fully assessed.
2. A number of responses requested that the size of the site be reduced to an area in the north-west corner of the site encompassing only the 'Overfalls' feature.
3. The French fishing sector and French Government have raised their concerns with this site and its potential impacts on their fishing activities here. The French fishing sector have proposed a new site to replace both Offshore Overfalls and Offshore Brighton MCZs.
4. We received two responses supportive of designating Undulate Ray (*Raja undulate*) in this site.

Evidence changes since consultation

5. Following the consultation, evidence assessments undertaken by JNCC were updated from a broad range of sources. The updated evidence assessments did not result in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
6. The sources of evidence used for the JNCC confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#).
7. Economic evidence submitted by the French Government was used to amend costs to their fishing sector, in terms of updating estimates of potential lost landings as a result of designation. Updated costs are provided within the Impact Assessment and its annexes.

Government response

²⁰ Geological feature

8. After careful consideration of the issues raised during this consultation, we consider that the important contribution this site makes to the network is sufficient to support designation.
9. Consideration of the reduced boundary to cover the 'Overfalls' feature only was considered as part of the work of the Regional Project. The Regional Project's final recommendation to Government, with the current boundaries, was significantly larger to provide a significantly greater ecological contribution to the network. We have further considered this change and agree that the boundary change would significantly reduce the ecological value of the site, removing several important features from the designation. The Regional Project extensively considered a wide range of options in formulating its recommendations and it is unlikely that there are new alternatives with lower impacts on the fishing industry as a whole. Analysis carried out by JNCC indicates that the proposed new site put forward by the French fishing sector does not appear to offer the same ecological value to the network as Offshore Brighton and Offshore Overfalls. It would result in the complete loss from the network of the subtidal sand feature, which already represents a significant network gap in the region. We do not consider that either of these boundary changes provide the right balance between the ecological value and socio-economic impacts of designation, and are therefore designating the site with the existing boundaries.
10. Fisheries management measures for offshore MPAs can only be taken forward with the agreement of all Member States with a direct management interest, or failing that, by a European Commission proposal. We will be working with the French Government, the fishing sector and other interested parties with the aim of securing proportionate management for this and other offshore MCZs.
11. No additional supporting evidence challenging the costs associated with the UK fishing sector has been provided (further details provided in paragraph 19.4, above).
12. We did not receive sufficient evidence to support the presence of Undulate ray (*Raja undulate*) or of site fidelity to the area. This feature has therefore not been included in the list for designation in 2016.

Utopia

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. The main issue raised in relation to this site during the consultation was from the aggregates industry, which was concerned that estimated costs provided for this site were too low, and did not take sufficient account of activities that are occurring in the area surrounding the site. They also noted that detailed data records for the site, submitted to Defra in 2014, were not reflected in the consultation materials.
2. We were made aware of an error in the boundary co-ordinates.
3. We received two requests to amend the boundary of this site to include a 'buffer zone' around the MCZ.
4. We received new information about recreational angling and anchoring within this site.

Evidence changes since consultation

5. Site-specific evidence was submitted during the consultation from two marine aggregate operators which provided additional information on the location of seabed habitats, as well as highlighting sources of existing evidence to be considered. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments did not result in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and decreased confidence in others. This updated evidence has been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
6. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).

7. Socio-economic evidence submitted during the consultation was used to include new, unquantified, costs to the recreation sector to reflect new information received about anchoring in the site. The Impact Assessment published on our website has further details.

Government response

8. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
9. We have considered the concerns raised by the aggregates industry. It is not always possible to use data at the point in time it is submitted to us. This is because the nature of the MCZ process means assessments and decisions on the evidence have to be made at a point in time, which is often then overtaken by an improving evidence base. We received data from the aggregates industry after this point, but before the consultation started. This data has now been examined and used to inform expert judgement on feature decisions.
10. Concerns raised by the aggregates industry in relation to costs have also been noted. However, no new evidence was submitted that changed the calculated economic impact to this sector.
11. We are grateful for being made aware of the co-ordinate error, and have corrected this in the co-ordinates provided with the designation documentation.
12. Requests for the boundaries of the site to include a 'buffer zone' were not supported by evidence. We have therefore not made this change.
13. Several features in the site are sensitive to anchoring, so this activity is now included in the Impact Assessment as potentially subject to management. We believe that only a small amount of anchoring takes place in this site, so management may only be monitoring to detect if this changes, when further measures may be needed.

The Needles

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal chalk	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Recover to favourable condition
Sheltered muddy gravels	Recover to favourable condition
Seagrass beds	Recover to favourable condition
Stalked jellyfish (<i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Peacock's tail (<i>Padina pavonica</i>)	Recover to favourable condition
Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. Just under half of the responses for this site were supportive of the protection of this site, in particular the seagrass meadows. The majority of these responses also expressed disappointment at the remaining Isle of Wight sites not proceeding at this time and called for them to be reconsidered. A few of the responses in support of the designation on ecological grounds, stressed a need to ensure that safe and appropriate areas for anchorage and navigation of recreational craft be retained alongside designation.
2. There was a high level of interest in this site from recreational boaters, who believe that impacts on recreational activities have been overlooked and designation could result in damage to the local economy which is heavily reliant on recreational boating and tourism. A number of responses called for management options to include the possibility of anchoring continuing within the site.
3. Whilst no specific requests for a boundary change have been made, suggestions were made to remove some or all of the bays from the site to ensure recreational boating and anchoring can continue unrestricted.
4. The fishery displacement assumption has been challenged by a number of commercial fishermen, given the size of their fishing boats and their limited fishing

range. However, no evidence to support a change to this assumption has been provided.

5. Concerns have been raised about costings relating to the disposal of dredged material in and near the MCZ, with respondents concerned about increased costs associated with requirements to carry out additional environmental assessments, mitigating measures or a requirement to use an alternative disposal site further away.

Evidence changes since consultation

6. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for some features within the site, as well as reduced confidence in others. This updated evidence has been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
7. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#).
8. We received updated information from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) on recreational boating and anchoring within the site and near seagrass features during the consultation, with higher levels of anchoring than they had previously indicated.

Government response

9. After careful consideration, the site has been designated given its important contribution to the network.
10. The disappointment at the remaining Isle of Wight sites not proceeding at this stage has been noted, but as explained in paragraph 2.7, these sites have not been permanently removed from consideration and will be further considered for inclusion in the third tranche.
11. Anchoring and mooring over areas of seagrass may need to be managed as this feature is sensitive to anchoring and mooring activity. However, initial expert judgement based on Natural England's knowledge of the site indicates that overlap of the seagrass with the main anchoring and moorings in the area is minimal and so any management required may also be minimal, unlikely to significantly affect use of the area, and potentially be done on a voluntary basis. It has not been possible to monetise these costs. Management measures will be developed by the MMO in consultation with stakeholders and any byelaws will have their own accompanying impact assessment to assess the impacts on this sector.
12. There is no assumption that dredge disposal sites will be required to move as a result of designation. Where existing licences have been granted prior to designation, these will not change as a result of the site becoming an MCZ. For new licence applications, MMO have clarified that EIAs will not be required as a matter of course for dredge disposal applications, as a lighter-touch assessment approach would be

used instead. This may result in some restrictions on the use of the site, such as disposing of material on particular tides which would be included as licence conditions. We do not believe this will have undue socio-economic effects on local ports and harbours.

13. No evidence to support a change to the fisheries displacement assumption has been provided to enable a change to the displacement assumption. Costs for this sector operating in this site have therefore not been changed
14. Following receipt of new advice on features, moderate energy intertidal rock has been removed from the list of features for designation in 2016 as there was no confidence in its presence or extent. Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment has also been removed from the list of features for designation since the designation of seagrass beds implies this feature is also present. This has not affected the costs of the site.

Western Channel

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. We received a number of responses supporting designation of this site, which expressed the importance of the site for connectivity between MPAs and also the contribution this site makes to protection in the offshore area.
2. Concerns were raised by UK fishing interests regarding displacement of fishing, including implications for the nearby mid-channel potting agreement, and on the cost estimates. There were calls for management to take into consideration the natural level of disturbance of sediment features within the sites, and a request that zoned management is used to protect only the precise locations of features within the site.
3. Concerns were also raised by the non-UK commercial fishing sector and the French Government about the impact on their activities within this site.

Evidence changes since consultation

4. No new data regarding the features in the site were submitted as part of the consultation, and no new survey data were available. Confidence in all features therefore remains unchanged. The sources of evidence used for the JNCC confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
5. Economic evidence submitted by the French Government was used to amend costs to their fishing sector, in terms of updating estimates of potential lost landings as a result of designation. Updated costs are provided within the Impact Assessment and its annexes. The costs have also been updated for UK Commercial Fisheries to reflect that static fishing gear is no longer expected to be restricted in this site and therefore the costs have been reduced.

Government response

6. After careful consideration of the issues raised during this consultation, we consider that the important contribution this site makes to the network is sufficient to support designation.
7. The request for zoned management has been noted. We are not able to provide details of actual management measures as they will be drawn up separately and put in place after designation. As explained in paragraph 10.3 and 10.4 above, any action taken will involve engagement with interested parties.

8. The Regional Project extensively considered a wide range of options in formulating its recommendations, and it is unlikely that there are new alternatives with lower impacts on the fishing industry as a whole.
9. Fisheries management measures for offshore MPAs can only be taken forward with the agreement of all Member States with a direct management interest, or failing that, by a European Commission proposal. We will be working with the French Government, the fishing sector and other interested parties with the aim of securing proportionate management for this and other offshore MCZs.

Mounts Bay

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Seagrass beds	Maintain in favourable condition
Giant goby (<i>Gobius cobitis</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus species</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Stalked jellyfish (<i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Stalked jellyfish (<i>Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. The majority of responses to this site were supportive of designation. Respondents were also generally supportive of the proposal we made in the consultation to extend the boundary to capture an additional area of seagrass. Additional proposed boundary changes to extend the site further westwards to include further seagrass, stalked jellyfish and peat and clay exposures were proposed.
2. Information on the planned development of Penzance Harbour was provided during the consultation. Concerns were raised about the impact of designation of this site on this development, and on ongoing port operations.
3. Reassurance was sought that recreation and nearby dredging activities would not be affected by designation.

Evidence changes since consultation

4. Additional site-specific scientific evidence was submitted during the consultation, providing additional evidence for the three species of stalked jellyfish in this site, and new data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in

improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.

5. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).

Government response

6. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
7. Following improvement in the evidence for intertidal coarse sediment and intertidal sand and muddy sand, these have been added to the list of features for designation in 2016. This has not affected the costs of the site.
8. The proposals to extend the boundary were considered. However, the proposal was not supported by any specific boundary information and did not contain any additional information on conservation advantages to support the proposals. Without further information, this alteration could not be made.
9. We have carefully considered the information provided to us on the planned development of Penzance Harbour, the main area of which is outside the MCZ boundary. The new information provided has not resulted in increased cost estimates to the sector beyond those provided at consultation in the Impact Assessment, which took this development into account.
10. As no new information supported changing our understanding of the impact on recreation and ports and harbours activities, we have not updated the Impact Assessment. Dredging will be regulated through the appropriate licensing regimes. Regulators will need to take account of the MCZ designation when assessing environmental impacts of marine works as part of the licensing application process. Recreation is not expected to be affected by designation.

Runnel Stone

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. The majority of responses that specifically mention this site were supportive, noting its rich biodiversity. One response proposed a boundary change to extend the site, while another noted concerns that the curved boundary may make management difficult.
2. Some responses raised concerns regarding the impact to fishing activity, noting that existing fisheries management measures already protect the site.

Evidence changes since consultation

3. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site, as well as reduced confidence in others. This updated evidence has been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
4. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
5. Costs for the renewable energy sector have decreased, due to a change in the number of features being designated. The Impact Assessment published on our website has further details

Government response

6. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
7. Within the consultation, we proposed to change the name of this site from Land's End to Runnel Stone to better reflect the site's location and avoid confusion with adjacent MPAs. No concerns on this were raised during the consultation, and this change has therefore been made.
8. Moderate energy infralittoral rock has been removed as a feature for designation in 2016. We do not have sufficient data to designate this feature, and had hoped new surveys would provide data to support this. However, following the latest survey, the confidence in its extent remains low.
9. No evidence was provided to support the proposed boundary change so we have not been able to consider it.
10. The curved boundary of the site has previously been discussed with the IFCA and the shape is considered to be easily understandable by stakeholders and suitable for management.
11. We have carefully considered the responses relating to the fishing industry, and we believe the scale and type of current fishing activity is unlikely to be significantly affected.

North-West of Jones Bank

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Recover to favourable condition
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. The majority of responses expressed support for designation of this site.
2. A number of responses from fishing organisation were opposed to designation, due to concerns over the impacts of designation on non-UK fishing activity, which they believed was underestimated. In order to reduce the impact, proposals were made to remove this site from consideration and protect similar features in an extension to Greater Haig Fras MCZ as an alternative.

Evidence changes since consultation

3. Following the consultation, evidence assessments undertaken by JNCC were updated from a broad range of sources. The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
4. The sources of evidence used for the JNCC confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
5. Economic evidence submitted by the French Government was used to amend costs to their fishing sector, in terms of updating estimates of potential lost landings as a result of designation. Updated costs are provided within the Impact Assessment and its annexes.

Government response

6. After careful consideration of the issues raised during this consultation, we consider that the important contribution this site makes to the network is sufficient to support designation.
7. The Regional Project extensively considered a wide range of options in formulating its recommendations, and it is unlikely that there are new alternatives with lower impacts on the fishing industry as a whole. Analysis carried out by JNCC indicates that the proposed new site put forward by the non-UK commercial fishing sector does

not appear to offer the same ecological value to the network as this site. It would result in a substantial loss from the network of subtidal sand, which already represents a significant network gap in the region.

8. Fisheries management measures for offshore MPAs can only be taken forward with the agreement of all Member States with a direct management interest, or failing that, by a European Commission proposal. We will be working with the French Government, the fishing sector and other interested parties with the aim of securing proportionate management for this and other offshore MCZs.

Greater Haig Fras

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Recover to favourable condition
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	Recover to favourable condition
Haig Fras rock complex ²¹	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. The majority of responses for this site supported designation. However, a number of responses from fishing organisations were opposed to designation, due to concerns over the impacts of designation on non-UK fishing activity. We also received responses from the UK fishing industry, who believed costs for commercial fishing were underestimated.
2. In order to reduce the impact on non-UK commercial fishing, proposals were made to remove North-West of Jones Bank from consideration and protect similar features in an extension to Greater Haig Fras MCZ as an alternative.
3. One respondent suggested that existing data to support the Fan Mussel (*Atrina fragilis*) should be sufficient, and that this should be included in the designation under the precautionary principle.

Evidence changes since consultation

4. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Following the consultation, evidence assessments undertaken by JNCC were updated from a broad range of sources. The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
5. The sources of evidence used for the JNCC confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
6. Economic evidence submitted by the French Government was used to amend costs to their fishing sector, in terms of updating estimates of potential lost landings as a

²¹ Geological feature

result of designation. Updated costs are provided within the Impact Assessment and its annexes.

Government response

7. After careful consideration of the issues raised during this consultation, we consider that the important contribution this site makes to the network is sufficient to support designation.
8. Concerns raised over costs to UK commercial fishing have been noted. However, we have not received any evidence to support this. Further details are provided in paragraph 19.1 above.
9. The Regional Project extensively considered a wide range of options in formulating its recommendations, and it is unlikely that there are new alternatives with lower impacts on the fishing industry as a whole. Analysis carried out by JNCC indicates that the proposed new site put forward by the non-UK commercial fishing sector does not appear to offer the same ecological value to the network as North-West of Jones Bank MCZ. It would result in a substantial loss from the network of subtidal sand, which already represents a significant network gap in the region.
10. Fisheries management measures for offshore MPAs can only be taken forward with the agreement of all Member States with a direct management interest, or failing that, by a European Commission proposal. We will be working with the French Government, the fishing sector and other interested parties with the aim of securing proportionate management for this and other offshore MCZs.
11. We have carefully considered the concerns raised in relation to the UK and Irish fishing industry. However, no new information has been provided which alters the assumptions made at consultation.
12. The evidence supporting the addition of Fan mussel (*Atrina fragilis*) in this site was reviewed. However, following analysis, it is apparent that there is no evidence for live specimens at the site. As there is no evidence to support the presence of live specimens, it has not been included in the list of features for designation in 2016. This has not affected costs for the site.

Newquay and the Gannel

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Estuarine rocky habitats	Maintain in favourable condition
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	Maintain in favourable condition
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Giant goby (<i>Gobius cobitis</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. This site received a high level of support from local stakeholders, many of whom suggested including additional features.
2. Several new boundary proposals were made to extend the boundary of the site. These were to incorporate Whipsiderry Bay, Watergate Bay, Nanni reef and Poltexas reef, to change the landward boundary from mean low water to mean high water, and to extend the seaward boundary out to the limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone. One respondent felt that the site should be reduced to cover the Gannel only, as they felt the rest of the site does not require protection.
3. One respondent, who did not object to designation of the site, sought reassurance on the effect of designation on port development at Newquay Harbour.
4. One respondent was concerned that the dredging activities were not included in the Impact Assessment.

Evidence changes since consultation

5. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for some features within the site, as well as decreased confidence for others and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
6. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#). The published verification survey report can also be viewed [here](#).
7. Costs for the renewable energy sector have slightly increased, due to a change in the number of features being designated. The Impact Assessment published on our website has further details

Government response

8. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
9. New advice has improved the data certainty for both the presence and extent of intertidal coarse sediment and high energy circalittoral rock. These have now been included on the list of features for designation in 2016.
10. As no supporting evidence was provided for the inclusion of the suggested additional features, we have not been able to consider them.
11. The new boundary extension proposals were considered. However, there was not sufficient evidence to support these changes so they have not been made. The proposal to reduce the site to the Gannel only has also not been accepted. No evidence was submitted to support the reduction, and we remain of the view that both sections of the site are important; the Newquay area will protect pink sea-fan and giant goby as well as a number of broad-scale habitats.
12. Port development at Newquay Harbour has been considered as part of the consultation Impact Assessment and the development is not considered to be incompatible with the MCZ. No new information has been provided to change this assumption.
13. Concerns over impacts on dredging activities have been noted. Dredging has been assessed as part of the 'Ports, Harbours and Shipping' sector and details are available in the updated Impact Assessment.

Hartland Point to Tintagel

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Coastal saltmarsh and saline reedbeds	Maintain in favourable condition
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	Recover to favourable condition
Honeycomb worm reefs (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. The majority of responses for this site were supportive of its designation. Some responses noted ongoing maintenance activity within Bude harbour, and were concerned about the impact of designation on this activity.
2. Boundary changes were proposed by a number of different stakeholders, including a proposal for an extension of the northern extent of the site around the Hartland Point headland to encapsulate important features. Additional data was provided to support this boundary change.

Evidence changes since consultation

3. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for some features within the site, as well as

decreased confidence for others. This updated evidence has been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.

4. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#).

Government response

5. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
6. New data on coastal saltmarsh and saline reedbeds has increased our confidence in both the presence and extent of this feature. It has therefore been added to the list of features for designation in 2016. The general management approach for pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*) has changed from maintain to recover. There are no additional costs associated with these changes.
7. The concerns raised over ongoing maintenance activity at Bude harbour have been noted. However, this activity has already been considered and is not considered to be incompatible with the MCZ.
8. We have considered the proposed boundary change carefully. Although there is no evidence to suggest that it would increase the economic costs of this site, we do not believe that this change would significantly improve its ecological value. We have therefore not accepted these changes.

Bideford to Foreland Point

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal underboulder communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Littoral chalk communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Low energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	Maintain in favourable condition
Honeycomb worm reefs (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>)	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. The majority of responses for this site were supportive of designation.
2. One respondent noted that this site overlaps with a tidal demonstration zone, but noted that management measures will allow the deployment of marine energy devices.
3. One response proposed a boundary change to exclude an area used for fishing activity.

Evidence changes since consultation

4. Additional site-specific scientific evidence was submitted during the consultation, but did not contain evidence relating to recommended features. We also had new data on this site from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using a broad range of sources including surveys and databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for some features within the site, as well as a decrease in confidence for others. This updated evidence has been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
5. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#).

Government response

6. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
7. Following receipt of new advice on certainty of features, estuarine rocky habitats has been removed from the list of features for designation in 2016 due to insufficient data. This has not affected the costs of the site.
8. The overlap with the tidal demonstration zone had been considered prior to the consultation, and we agree that this is not incompatible with designation with the MCZ.
9. We have considered the proposed boundary change carefully. This change would have a significant impact on the ecological value of the site and no evidence was provided to suggest that it would make a difference to the economic costs of the site to fishing. We have therefore not accepted this change.

West of Walney

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Recover to favourable condition
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	Recover to favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was a high level of support for designation from individuals and environmental organisations, which highlighted the ecological benefits of this site to the network.
2. The main concerns expressed in the public consultation were from the renewable energy sector, who sought certainty on the implications of designation of the MCZ on the operation and maintenance of the wind farms that would be co-located with the site.

Evidence changes since consultation

3. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using evidence from a broad range of sources, including evidence from databases of marine evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
4. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#).

Government response

5. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
6. We understand the concerns of the renewable energy industry and are grateful for its constructive engagement during this MCZ process. We remain of the view that we do not expect wind farm activities to be unduly affected by an MCZ designation, and we have received no new evidence to suggest otherwise. We cannot provide the absolute certainty on management and licencing implications being sought by the sector as the individual details of proposals will need to be considered at the time they are submitted for licencing. We consider that co-location of an MCZ with windfarms offers a mutually-beneficial solution to balancing conservation needs alongside the multiple uses of our marine environment.

Allonby Bay

Features being designated in this site	General management approach
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal biogenic reefs	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal biogenic reefs	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Peat and clay exposures	Maintain in favourable condition
Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds	Maintain in favourable condition
Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs	Maintain in favourable condition

Summary of consultation responses

1. There was a high level of support for designation from individuals and environmental organisations, which highlighted the ecological benefits of this site to the network.
2. Some consultation responses raised concerns about whether the boundary was appropriate for the features, with specific concerns regarding the boundary extending to high water mark and the inclusion of the subtidal area with an apparent lack of features present.
3. We received new information during the public consultation about a possible future tidal lagoon in the area of the site. Developers considered that it would be premature to designate the site because the consultation Impact Assessment had not considered the available evidence on the potential tidal lagoon project. They therefore requested that this site be deferred to allow further consideration of that evidence.

Evidence changes since consultation

4. New data on this site were available from recent Defra-funded surveys of the area. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England were updated using evidence from a broad range of sources, including evidence from databases of marine

evidence as well as evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts). The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.

5. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England confidence assessments are listed within its [published advice](#).

Government response

6. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in respect of this site, it has been designated.
7. Following receipt of new advice on certainty of features, subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal sand and subtidal biogenic reefs have been included in the list of features for designation in 2016. This has not affected the costs of the site.
8. On reviewing the landward boundary of the site, it is considered appropriate that this is defined by the high water mark to ensure coverage of intertidal features, including the intertidal honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*). The subtidal area is also considered to be appropriate for inclusion as it contains broad-scale habitats, for which verification surveys have now improved the evidence for the presence and extent of subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal biogenic reefs and subtidal sand within this area
9. We have carefully considered the information received relating to a tidal lagoon in the area of this site. As the lagoon is in the early stages of planning, we consider that there is not sufficient certainty to delay designation of this site. MCZs are not intended to prevent developments, but to ensure they progress in a suitably environmentally-friendly manner. This may create some additional but relatively modest costs to developers in preparing their plans and conducting EIAs. If it is decided that the tidal lagoon is incompatible with the MCZ, then it may still be allowed to proceed if it is considered to be in the greater public interest.

Additional features

1. In addition to consulting on 23 new MCZs, we also proposed to fill some of the gaps in the network by designating additional features within first tranche sites, where there is now sufficient data to support their inclusion.
2. Inclusion of these features has been assessed on the same principles as selecting MCZs for the second tranche. The table below shows the list of features and the sites to which they have been added.

Tranche one site	Features being designated	General management approach
North East of Farnes Deep	Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
	Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
	Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Beachy Head West	Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
	High energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
South Dorset	Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges	High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Torbay	Peat and clay exposures	Maintain in favourable condition
Upper Fowey and Pont Pill	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
The Manacles	Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
	Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover to favourable condition
	Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)	Recover to favourable condition
East of Haig Fras	Subtidal mud	Recover to favourable condition
South West Deeps (West)	Subtidal mud	Recover to favourable condition
	Fan mussel (<i>Atrina fragilis</i>)	Recover to favourable condition
Fylde	Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition

3. Evidence assessments were updated by Natural England which resulted in the general management approach for high energy infralittoral rock in Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges to be changed from recover to maintain.
4. A very low number of comments were received in relation to adding features to sites. Several respondents were supportive of the idea of adding features to existing

sites, as this provides additional protection to features important to an ecologically coherent network

5. A small number of respondents were not supportive of adding features to existing sites, which they felt was unnecessary in a site that was already protected. MCZs are managed for the specific features protected by designation (i.e. only those activities that are identified by the appropriate authority as having a negative impact on the conservation objectives for the specific features within the site will be managed). If these features are not listed, we cannot ensure they are appropriately protected in the site.
6. No consultation responses provided additional scientific evidence on any of the features being added to first tranche sites. However, recent verification survey data from the Manacles and Upper Fowey and Pont Pill were available. Evidence assessments undertaken by Natural England and JNCC were updated utilising evidence from a broad range of sources. This included evidence submitted during the consultation which related to multiple sites (such as from The Wildlife Trusts and Seasearch data), as well as data from verification surveys, marine recorder and local studies. The updated evidence assessments resulted in improvements to the data confidence for features within the site and have been used to produce an updated map of features proposed for designation.
7. The sources of evidence used for the Natural England and JNCC confidence assessments are listed within their published advice.
8. As no new significant issues were raised in the consultation in relation to the additional features proposed, they have been designated.
9. There are no significant additional costs attributable to inclusion of these extra features. The impact of additional features is outlined in further detail in the Impact Assessment.

Part G - Next steps

1. We are very grateful for all the time and effort of individuals, groups and organisations in providing us with evidence, data and information to enable us to make decisions on which MCZ sites to designate in 2016. We are also grateful for all the views expressed on the merits of these MCZs. These have all been given careful consideration in making final decisions on designations.
2. Now sites are designated, regulatory authorities are considering the management needs for each site and will be engaging with relevant stakeholders as appropriate in taking these forward.
3. Further details on sites designated in the second tranche, including maps, designation orders and factsheets can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-conservation-zone-designations-in-england>.
4. We have committed to completing the network of MCZs, to create a Blue Belt of protected sites around our coasts. We are aiming to designate the third and final tranche in 2018.
5. Future sites will be identified using the same principles as have been used for the first and this second tranche of sites. This means we will seek to achieve ecological benefits while minimising costs to business and Government. We will also ensure that site selection does not go beyond what the evidence will support and does not unduly compromise coastal development. Proposals for designation of future tranches of MCZs will again be subject to full public consultation and full impact assessment before any decisions are taken.

Annex A: List of organisations who responded to the consultation

A Rocha UK and A Rocha International
Allerdale Borough Council
Amble Marina Limited
Amble Sea Angling Club
Amble Seinenet & Keelboat Assoc (Sec)
Angling Trust
Angling Trust Conservation Officer
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Associated British Ports
Atlantic Reach
BASC
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust
Blackrock Charters & Fishing
Boat Owners' Response Group
Bridlington Harbour
British Marine Federation
British Ports Association
British Sub-Aqua Club
Carbon Capture and Storage Association
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Chichester District Council
CNP MEM - *French National Committee for Marine Fisheries and Sea Farming*
Coastwise North Devon
Communities Against Dean
Superquarry Ltd
Cornish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership
Cornwall Catchment Partnership
Cornwall Council
Cornwall Geoconservation Group
Cornwall MLG
Cornwall Seal Group
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Crown Estate
Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Deal with it
Devon Archaeological Society
Devon County Council
Devon Wildlife Trust
DONG energy
Dorset Wildlife Trust
Dover Harbour Board
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Eastern IFCA
EDF Energy
Energy UK
Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Faversham Creek Navigation Company
Faversham Oyster Fishery Company
Flamborough Head European Marine Site Management Scheme (Project Officer response only)
Freshwater Parish Council
Friends of the Earth, Cornwall
Friends of the Lake District
Gloucestershire County Council
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Haslemere Sub Aqua Club
Helford Marine Conservation Group
Historic England
Holderness Fishing Industry Group
Hollowshore CC
Institute of Fisheries Management
Irish Fish Producer Organisations

Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy
Committee
Kent County Council
Kent Wildlife Trust
Lafarge Tarmac Marine Ltd
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
London Wildlife Trust
Lymington Fishing Association
Lymington Harbour Commissioners
Marine Aggregates
Marine Biological Association of the
UK
Marine Conservation Society
Marinet
MEP for the SW of England
Minster-on-Sea Parish Council
Mortehoe Parish Council
MPAC
National Grid
National Trust
Needles Fishermans Co-operative,
Southern Commercial Fishermen
Needles Pleasure Cruises
NEIFCA
New Dawn Boat Charters
Newquay Marine Group
NFFO
Norfolk Coast Partnership
Norfolk Wildlife Trust
North Devon Biosphere Reserve
Partnership
North Devon Coast Area of
Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
North Devon Council
North Norfolk District Council
North Norfolk Fisheries Local Action
Group
North York Moors National Park
Authority
Northern Ireland Marine Task Force
Northumberland IFCA
Northumberland Wildlife Trust
Oil & Gas UK

Overfalls Group
Penzance Town Council
Plymouth University Marine Institute
Port of Blyth
Port of London Authority
Private Venture Sports fishing
Project Seagrass
Projects Abroad
Queenborough Harbour Trust CIC
Realisations UK
Regen SW / South West MEP
Renewable Energy Association
RenewableUK
BRSC
Royal Lymington Yacht Club
Royal Solent Yacht Club
RSPB
RYA
Scarborough Borough Council
Scottish Association for Marine
Science
ScottishPower Renewables
Seahouses Fishermens Association
Shark Trust
Shire Oak Quarries
Solent Fort (Management) Ltd
Solent Local Enterprise Partnership
Solent Marine & Maritime Steering
Group
Solent Protection Society
Solway Coast AONB
South Devon and Channel
Shellfishermen
Southern Water
St Bees Parish Council
Stimson Fishing
Sub-Aqua Association
Subsea Cables UK
SUDG
Sussex IFCA
Sussex Wildlife Trust
Swale Borough Council
SWFPO Ltd

Taw Torridge Estuary Forum
The Cruising Association
The Hut Restaurant
The Kent Wildfowling & Conservation
Association
The Lee Abbey Fellowship
The Seahorse Trust
Tidal Lagoon Power
Totland Parish Council
Trinity House
Trustees of the Fifth Earl Sondes'
Settlement
UK Major Ports Group
VisNed
Warkworth Harbour Commissioners
West Solent Fishing
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Society
Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust –
Living Coasts
Wightlink
Wildlife and Countryside Link
Wildlife Trust

Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & the
Black Country
Wildlife Trust for Lancashire,
Manchester & North Merseyside
WWF
Yarmouth Harbour Board
Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners
Yarmouth Sailing Club
Yarmouth Town Council

338 individuals (those not responding on behalf of a specific organisation, and not part of a campaign) also provided responses. Some respondents wished to remain anonymous.

Annex B: List of features protected by 2016 MCZ designations

Coastal saltmarsh and saline reedbeds
Estuarine rocky habitats
Peat and clay exposures
Intertidal biogenic reefs
Intertidal coarse sediment
Intertidal mixed sediments
Intertidal mud
Intertidal sand and muddy sand
Intertidal underboulder communities
Seagrass beds
Sheltered muddy gravels
Low energy intertidal rock
Moderate energy intertidal rock
High energy intertidal rock
Low energy infralittoral rock
High energy infralittoral rock
Moderate energy infralittoral rock
High energy circalittoral rock
Moderate energy circalittoral rock
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats
Subtidal biogenic reefs
Subtidal chalk
Subtidal coarse sediment
Subtidal mixed sediments
Subtidal mud
Subtidal sand
Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs
Littoral chalk communities
Fan mussel (*Atrina fragilis*)
Giant goby (*Gobius cobitis*)
Ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)
Peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*)
Blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) beds
Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)
Spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*)
Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus species*)
Stalked jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis campanulata*)
Stalked jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*)
Pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*)

Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities

Haig Fras rock complex²²

Folkestone Warren²²

Spurn Head (subtidal)²²

English Channel outburst flood features²²

North Norfolk Coast (subtidal)²²

²² Geological feature