



marine
management
organisation



MARINE ACTIVITIES BASED
SCIENCE: MONITORING, OPTIMAL PLANNING FOR THE OCEAN AND COASTAL WATERS IS IT ALL ABOUT? © EUROPEAN UNION, 2012

How does marine planning fit in with marine conservation zones (MCZs)?

Did you know?

MCZs are specific areas, designated to conserve nationally important wildlife, habitats and other features. They contribute to the Government's commitment to create an ecologically coherent and well managed UK network of marine protected areas (MPAs) – enhancing and conserving our valuable marine wildlife and undersea habitats.

MCZs will be just one of the many factors taken into account within marine plans.

Marine plans take a wider view of all uses across all of England's marine area and highlight areas for sustainable development while taking into account a range of social, environmental and economic factors. These plans will inform and guide marine users and regulators.

Ministers will consider recommendations for MCZs before deciding sites to take forward for consultation in December 2012, and possible designation in 2013.

What will the MMO's role be?

Once the MCZs are formally designated by the Government, the MMO will be responsible for monitoring and enforcement of these zones, together with the inshore fisheries and conservation authorities (IFCAs) and other regulators where appropriate. This is a key responsibility in

our commitment to integrate the sustainable development of marine industries with the need to conserve and protect marine species and habitats.

Marine plans will help us do this, by pinpointing where marine activities are – and are not – appropriate. As a part of the new marine plan-led management system, they may indicate where bye-laws and/or guidance are required to support MCZ objectives.

How will you monitor all the waters around England?

The MMO currently oversees all fishing activity around England, so is well placed to ensure restrictions for specific areas are respected.

We have access to a fleet of aircraft and Royal Navy vessels, in addition to more than 100 officers in our coastal offices to ensure we are able to meet this challenge. We will also work with the IFCAs and other partners from across the marine area.