



Spatial scales for harbour porpoise bycatch management

Options for managing harbour porpoise bycatch are being considered at two spatial scales:

- 1) **MPA scale:** Managing bycatch within MMO's remit of the Southern North Sea MPA and Bristol Channel Approaches MPA (Figure 1) (areas of the MPAs in English waters offshore of 6 nautical miles, nm).
 - This is because the two harbour porpoise MPAs were designated for persistently high densities of harbour porpoise relative to the Management Units (Figure 1). Therefore, MMO are considering options for managing bycatch within the MPA boundaries (in English waters offshore of 6 nm) where porpoise densities are high.
- 2) **Wider seas scale:** Managing bycatch within MMO waters of the relevant Management Units (Figure 1) (all English waters offshore of 6 nm).
 - Harbour porpoise are highly mobile and therefore do not have a site population, therefore the population associated with the MPAs is the relevant Management Unit. Consequently, bycatch occurring outside of MPAs impacts site condition meaning that bycatch both inside and outside of MPAs may need to be managed to meet the MPAs' conservation objectives.

Management at an MPA scale could be developed either across the whole site (within MMO waters) or within specific areas of the two MPAs (areas of seasonal importance for porpoise (Figure 1)).

Management at a wider seas level could be implemented across all of MMO waters or specified areas. Specific areas would need to be identified and could be based on bycatch hotspots, for example, where high gillnet effort and porpoise density overlap spatially and temporally.

Inshore of 6 nm the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) assess and manage fishing impacts on MPAs. MMO are working closely with the relevant IFCAs to develop, and where possible, align appropriate management of harbour porpoise MPAs.



Harbour Porpoise Management Units

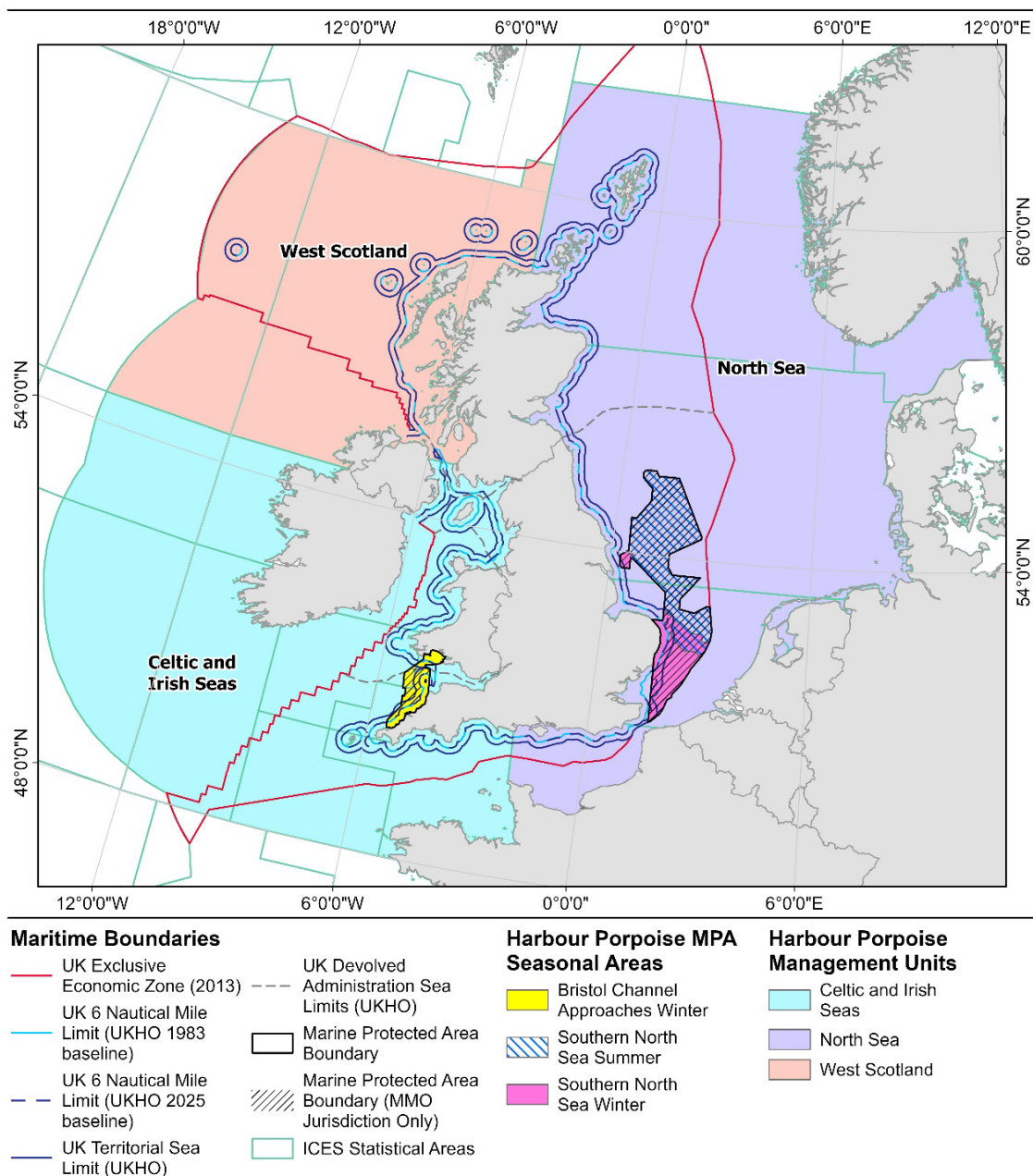


Figure 1: Harbour porpoise Management Units and seasonal areas of Southern North Sea MPA and Bristol Channel Approaches MPA.