



Completing the MPA network

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International MPA policy drivers

International conventions are driving the development of further marine conservation initiatives in the UK.

Policy driver	Target
WSSD	Establish representative networks of MPAs by 2012.
CBD	Establish representative networks of MPAs globally by 2012.
OSPAR	Establish an ecologically coherent network of well-managed MPAs in the north east Atlantic by 2010.
EU MSFD	Establish coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas contributing to good environmental status of Europe's seas.

The UK vision

UK MPA network vision¹

“We will establish, in consultation with stakeholders, a well managed and ecologically coherent network of UK Marine Protected Areas to maintain and restore / recover the richness and diversity of our marine habitats and species. The network should be well understood by stakeholders and will help to deliver our shared aims for healthy and biologically diverse seas and the UK’s contribution to MPA networks at the European and international level.”

Existing MPAs (e.g. Natura 2000 sites; SSSIs)

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New MPAs



UK MPA network

Draft UK Marine Bill

- The draft UK Marine Bill provides for the designation of:

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)
- MCZs can be designated for the purpose of conserving:
 - Marine flora or fauna;
 - Marine habitats or types of marine habitat; and
 - Features of geological or geomorphological interest.
- ‘Conserving’ should include:
 - ‘any species that is rare or threatened’; and
 - ‘the diversity of such flora, fauna or habitat, whether or not... rare or threatened’.
- MCZ designation will have regard to any economic and social consequences.

- The Welsh Assembly Government will use the MCZ mechanism provided for in the draft UK Marine Bill to establish Highly Protected Marine Reserves (HPMRs) in Welsh territorial waters.
- HPMRs will be selected to complement the existing MPA network in Welsh waters, and to help fulfil international MPA network commitments.
- HPMRs are also part of a wider programme of measures to improve protection and resilience, and facilitate recovery of, the Welsh maritime environment.
- WAG and CCW are embarking on a programme of collaborative work to identify appropriate sites by 2012.

Scotland

