

MPAs and Brexit: An NGO Perspective

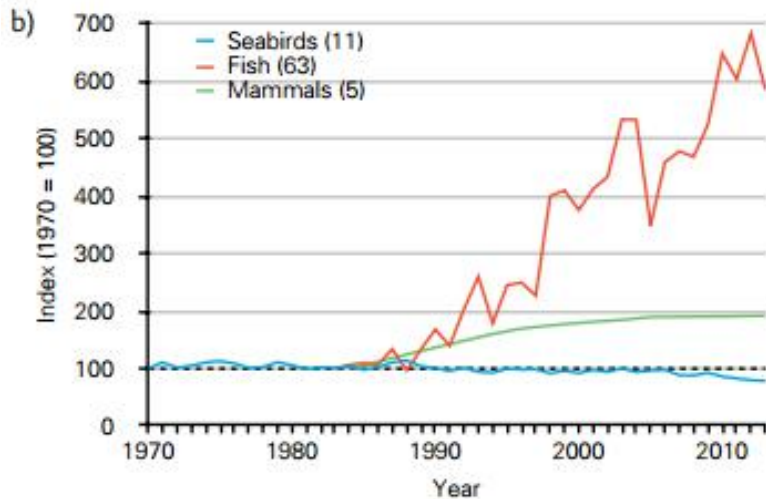
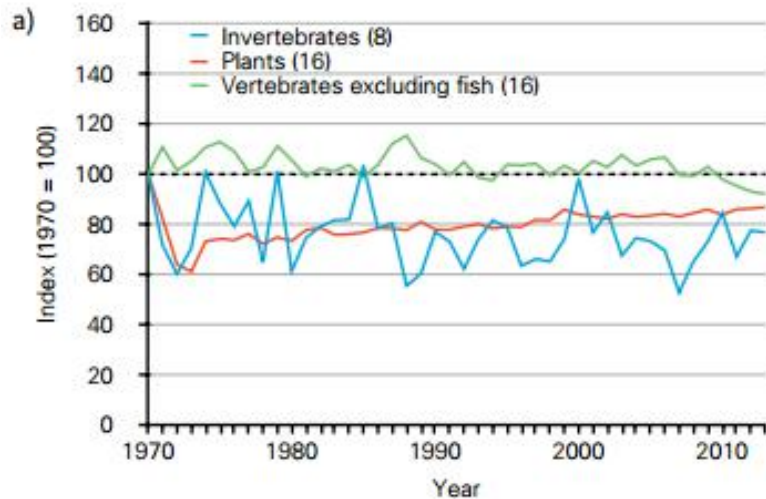
Kate Jennings

Head of Site Conservation Policy

Coastal Futures 2017



The state of the UK's seas



MPAs vs. 'other conservation measures'



UK ambitions for MPAs

- The UK and Devolved Authorities have a high stated ambition for the MPA network, i.e.
 - *“at least 10% of coastal and marine areas...are conserved through effectively and equitably managed,...protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures”*. **Aichi Target 11 CBD**
 - *“put in place a new ‘Blue Belt’ to protect precious marine habitats”* **Conservative Manifesto 2015**
 - *I am committed to ensuring Wales contributes to an ecologically coherent, well-managed network of marine protected areas”* **Lesley Griffiths Wales’ Cabinet Secretary for Environment & Rural Affairs**

The Brexit question



- To what extent has UK MPA designation and management been reliant on EU legislation?

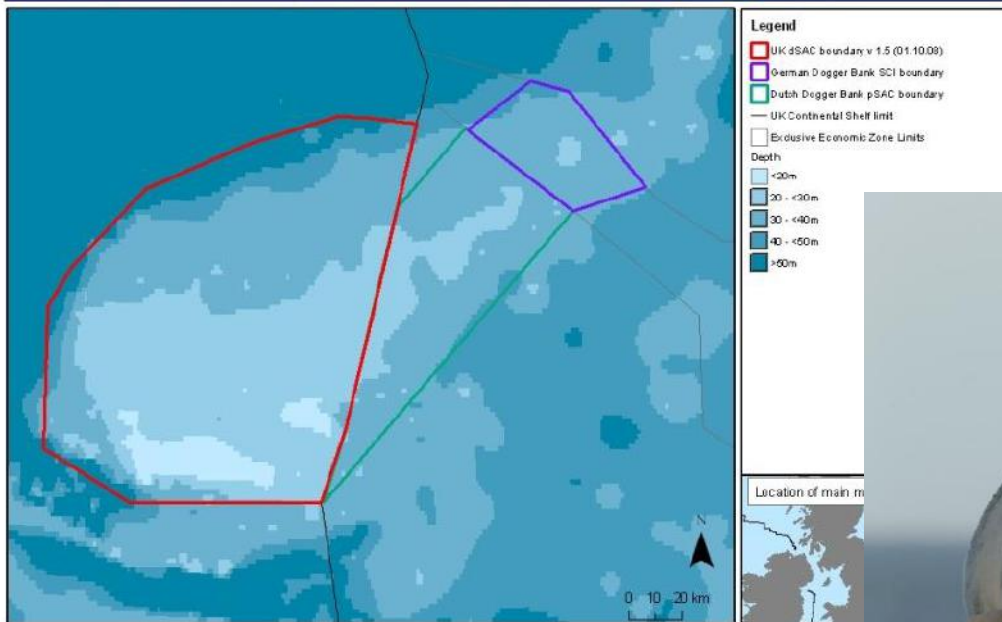


- What might the future for UK MPAs look like post-Brexit?



What has Europe ever done for ... UK MPAs?

Offshore Special Area of Conservation Site Map: Dogger Bank



Map projected in WGS84 (Zone 31N). World Vector Shoreline © US Defense Mapping Agency. Bathymetry © The GEBCO Digital Atlas published by the British Oceanographic Data Centre. The exact limits of the UK Continental Shelf are set out in order made under section 1(7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964 © Crown Copyright. Map copyright JNCC 2008.



What has the UK done for MPAs...



Is past performance an indicator of future progress?



Short-term prognosis

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Devolution and the deep blue sea....



Hope springs eternal ... (?)



Reasons to be cheerful (Part 1)

- *“in the ... majority of cases ... implementation of the Directives is working well, allowing ... development of key infrastructure and ensuring ...a high level of environmental protection is maintained.”* **Defra Habitats Regulation Review 2012**
- *“increases in the extent of ... protected areas ..., both terrestrial and marine, is considered to be transformational change that can be attributed to the implementation of the [Nature] Directives.”* **Fitness Check Consultants’ Report**
- *“Article 6 of the Habitats Directive has been in effect for many years and businesses/industry have adapted their processes and timescales to account for the demands of the legislation. This provides a high level of certainty for businesses, and is of value even if, in a minority of cases, the Directives do cause difficulties.”* **DECC evidence to the Fitness Check**
- *‘If it ain’t broke – don’t fix it!’*
WWF and SUDG, Coastal Futures 2017!

Reasons to be cheerful (Part 2)



83% of people said Britain should pass new laws providing better (46%) or the same (37%) protection for wild areas and wildlife as current EU laws

YouGov Poll, August 2016



Reasons to be cheerful (Part 3)

- *“we will ensure that we maintain at least the standards that we have maintained in the past”* **Robin Walker, DExEU Minister 2016**
- 145 MPs from across the political spectrum have pledged to ensure the UK in becomes a world leader on the environment (post-Brexit). **Greener UK Pledge 2016**
- *“...we remain committed to maintaining, protecting and enhancing our environment.”* **ScotGov ‘Scotland’s Place in Europe’ 2016**
- *“...we will not row back on our existing legislation, nor on our commitment to biodiversity”* **Lesley Griffiths, Welsh Govt Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, 2016**

The Future...

