



**Royal
HaskoningDHV**
Enhancing Society Together

Assessing Development Impacts in MPAs

MCZ Assessments

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Introduction

- What are the stages involved in an MCZ Assessment?
- What practical steps does a developer need to consider for an MCZ assessment?
- What are the challenges and potential solutions for sustainable development and ensuring a well managed network of MPAs?



Examples of Marine Industry Clients



Boskalis



PORT OF DOVER

nationalgrid



SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES



Sheringham Shoal
Scira Offshore Energy



centrica

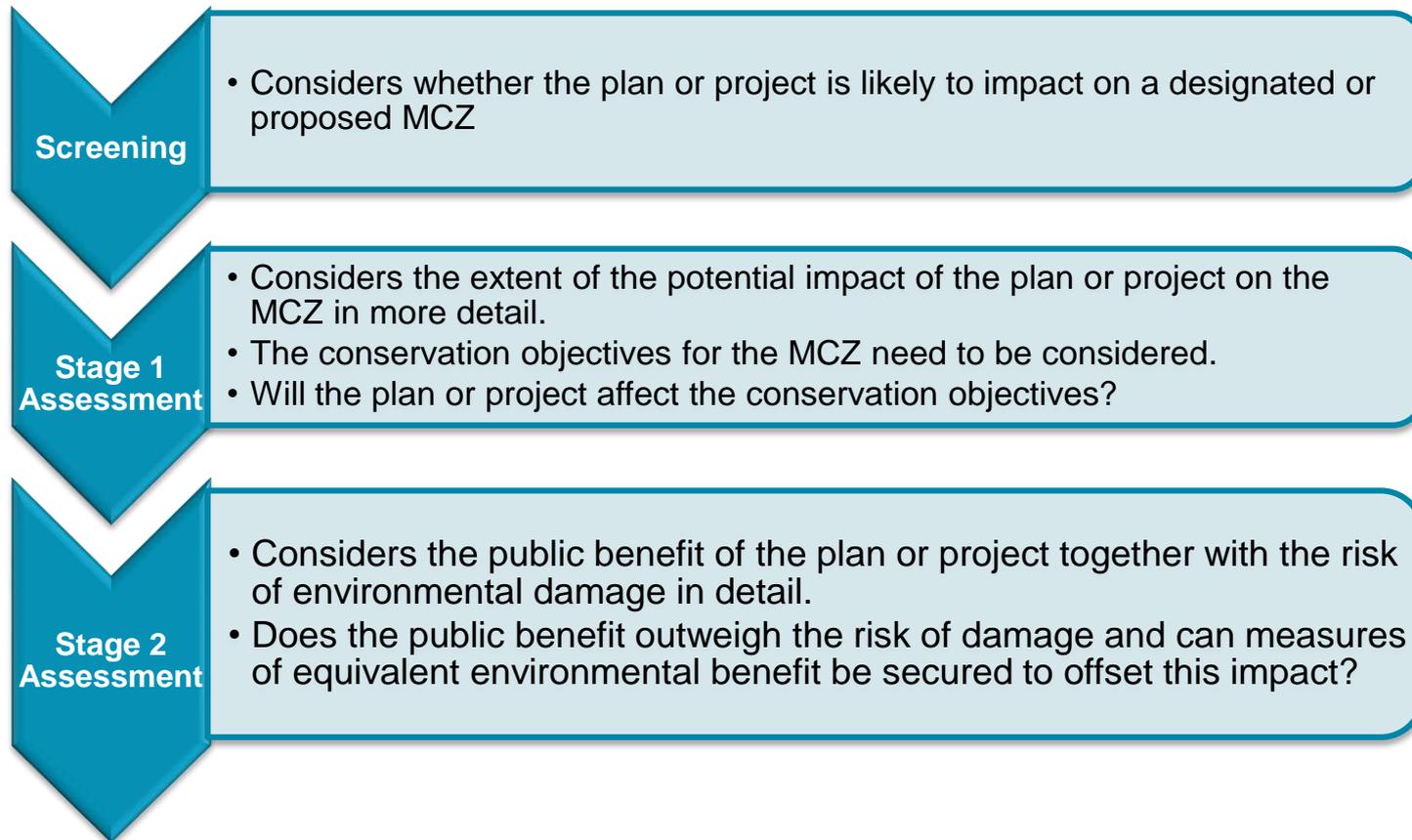


An approach to MCZ Assessment

- New legislation
- Easily understood staged-approach
- Few example cases to date

The RHDHV approach looks at the MCZ assessment process set out by the MMO but considers in greater detail the practical steps that need to be taken at each stage of the MCZ assessment process

What are the stages involved in the MCZ assessment process?



Screening

“ *the plan or project is within or near to an area designated, or put forward for designation, as a MCZ.*

the plan or project is capable of affecting the protected features of a MCZ, or any ecological or geomorphological processes on which the conservation of the features wholly or partly depend. ”



Stage 1

1. Establish **early dialogue** with the **relevant** Statutory Nature Conservation **Bodies**.
2. Identify **interest features**, associated conservation objectives and current state in the MCZ and wider MPA network.
3. Identify **potential environmental impacts** on features of the MCZ. Are they likely to affect the conservation objectives?
4. Identify potential impacts which could cause a **gradual state of decline** in features and affect the conservation objectives.
5. Identify and secure **appropriate avoidance strategies** and **mitigation measures** to reduce or eliminate both immediate and future potential impacts.
6. Secure and present **evidence to support conclusions** of whether the activity risks hindering the achievement of the site conservation objectives.



Alternative options

When a Stage 1 assessment concludes that the plan or project, having gone through the appropriate steps, **will** have an impact which is likely to **hinder the conservation objectives of the MCZ** and that, having considered all other options, there are **no suitable alternatives...**

the plan or project will require a Stage 2 assessment.



Stage 2

Key steps:

1. Establish **early dialogue with local planning authorities** and local economic partnerships to inform a current economic baseline for the local area, using available economic data.
2. Identify the **economic implications** of the plan or project in relation to the baseline at all levels (local, regional and national) and for all stages of the development.
3. Identify any **economic impacts from the environmental impact** on the MCZ features established in the Stage 1 assessment.
4. Present **conclusions on the public benefit** in relation to socio-economic implications at the local, regional and national level.



Stage 2 cont...

Frequency and distribution of the habitat or species within and outside of the MPA network

Potential for the habitat or species to be **successfully translocated** to an alternative area

Recoverability of the habitat or species following damage

Potential to be able to secure **equivalent habitat** type and quality through compensatory measures

Equivalent Environmental Benefit – the challenges

- What is equivalent environmental benefit?
- Can we consider habitat creation approaches?
- Subtidal habitat creation – is this possible and can this work...?

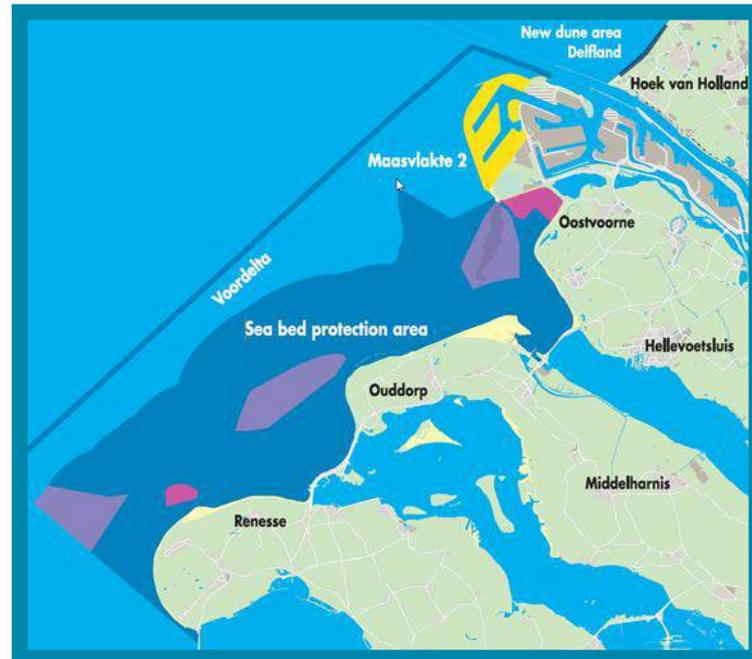


Equivalent Environmental Benefit - subtidal habitat creation?



Maasvlakte - a case study from the Netherlands

- Compensatory Habitat for development in the Port of Rotterdam
- Secured a **seabed protection area** including **seabird resting areas** as well as creation and protection of intertidal habitat.
- Compensatory habitat delivered at 1ha loss to 10ha created.
- Monitoring has demonstrated a 10% increase in habitat quality from **managing or excluding damaging activities** within the protection area.



Conclusions

- **Stage 1 MCZ examples emerging now for more complex cases and helping us build understanding**
- **Still to date no examples for Stage 2 assessment but these will come and we should be prepared**
- **Ideas on how this might look – food for thought**
- **Greater challenges around MPA management**

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