



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru**
**Natural
Resources
Wales**

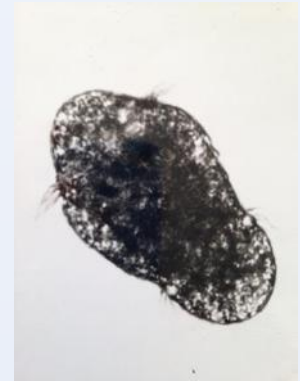
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS PERSPECTIVES ON PROGRESS

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Nothing in this presentation should be taken to represent the views of NRW

CONTENTS



- Introduction – the problem with MPAs
- Historical Overview of MPAs in the UK
- Review of Different Types of MPA
- Institutional Arrangements
- Learning from History
- Applying Learning
- Conclusion - Thinking Out of the Box



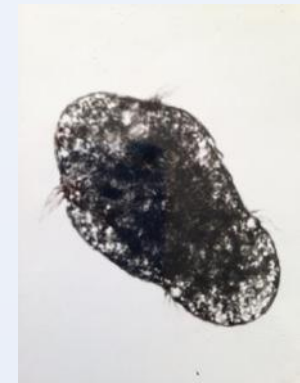
NERC WORKING PART CONCLUSIONS

- Lack of scientific data to make an assessment
- Legal obstacles
- Insufficient evidence of habitats becoming endangered to justify the creation of sublittoral National Nature Reserves

NATURE
CONSERVANCY
COUNCIL



Nature Conservation in the Marine Environment



JOINT NNC/NERC WORKING PART RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendation 4

In order to establish conservation areas representative of particular habitats, relatively large areas should be designated in most cases

- 5-10 miles long
- 2-3 miles to sea
- About 10 such areas

MARINE NATURE RESERVES



- MNRs were not in the Bill as originally drafted
- The Interdepartmental Working Group were unconvinced
- Government did not want to rush the issue but proposed a later consultation exercise
- Opposition amendments rejected
- Government amendment accepted as last minute compromise

MARINE NATURE RESERVES



WCA 1981 s 36

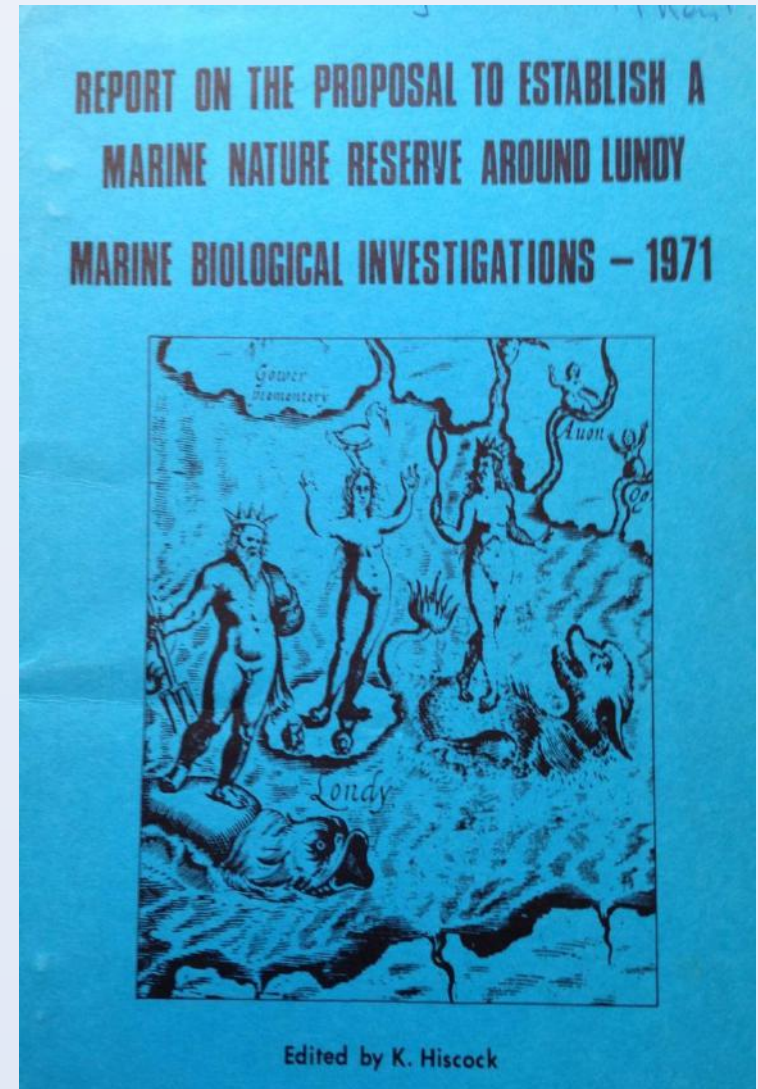
MNRs may be designated by Secretary of State for:

- Conserving marine flora and fauna or geological or physiographical features of special interest; or
- Providing ... opportunities for study of, and research into [these]

MNR IMPLEMENTATION



- Short list of 7 sites
 - Lundy and the Scillies
 - Loch Sween and St Abbs
 - Skomer, Menai Strait and Bardsey



PROPOSED MNRs



EUROPEAN MARINE SITES NATURA 2000



- Coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation
- Composed of sites hosting natural habitats listed in Annex I and habitats of species listed in Annex II
- To maintain or restore habitats to favourable conservation status

HABITATS DIRECTIVE ARTICLE 4



- For animal species **ranging over wide areas** sites shall correspond to places within natural range which present the physical or biological factors essential to their life and reproduction
- For **aquatic species which range over wide areas**, such sites to be proposed only where there is a clearly identifiable area representing the physical and biological factors essential to their life and reproduction

ANNEX I HABITATS AND II SPECIES



- Coastal and Halophytic Habitats is 1 of 9 major habitat types
- Open sea and tidal areas sub category accounts for approx 4% of full list of habitat types
- Marine mammals

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES



Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009

Purpose of conserving

- Marine flora and fauna
- Marine habitats or types of marine habitats
- Features of geological or geomorphological interests

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES



Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009

- Order must state
 - Protected feature or features
 - Conservation objectives for the MCZ
- Designating authority may have regard to any economic or social consequences
- Consultation prior to designation
- MNRs to be treated as MCZs

NETWORK OF CONSERVATION SITES



Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009

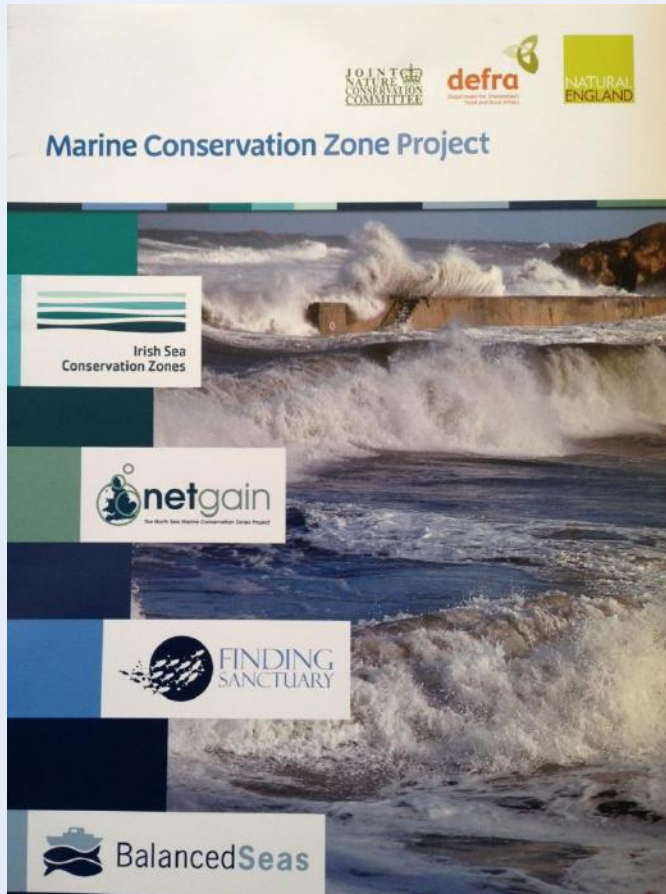
- Network contributing to conservation of UK marine environment
- Features protected by networked sites represent range of features present in UK marine area
- MCZs are to be designated in order to contribute to the network alongside other MPAs

MCZ ECOLOGICAL NETWORK GUIDANCE



- 23 broad-scale habitats
- Features of conservation importance
- Design Principles
 - Representativity
 - Replication
 - Adequacy
 - Viability
 - Connectivity
 - Protection
 - Best available evidence

ENGLAND AND OFFSHORE MCZs



- 127 recommended MCZs including 65 reference areas, covering 15% of Defra marine area
- 31 MCZs consulted on
- 27 MCZs designated
- 2 more phases of designation promised over next 3 years

REASON FOR LEGISLATION



MNR

- Cinderella status of marine conservation
- Political cause
- Evidence of damage

EMS

- EU object of general interest
- Evidence of continuing deterioration

MCZ

- Failure to protect nationally important sites
- OSPAR objectives

SITE SELECTION PROCESS



MNR

- Scientific interest
- Existing knowledge

EMS

- Annex I and II features
- Representative proportion

MCZ

- Ecological Network Guidance principles
- Broad-scale habitat types
- FOCI

EVIDENCE BASE



MNR

- Scientific interest as presented by nature conservation body
- Proof of threats (e.g. Skomer scallop dredging)

EMS

- Commission appraisal

MCZ

- Best available evidence
- Peer review of data

ECOSYSTEMS AND NETWORKS



MNR

- Not considered at the time

EMS

- Natura 2000

MCZ

- Network contributing to conservation
- Cognisant of international and European obligations

WSSD

- Representative networks of MPAs

OSPAR

- Ecologically coherent network of well-managed MPAs

BARRIERS TO UNLOCK MCZ PROCESS



Managing UK's Marine Resources

- Clearer explanation of what is being protected and the implications of this
- Fair, transparent, future-orientated decision-making process allowing ecosystems to punch above their weight
- Ensure low or moderate levels of evidence are not a barrier to designation
- Appropriate regulations to protect
- Clear explanation of purpose of ecologically coherent MPA network

MATTERS OF CONCERN



- Is there a clearly understood purpose for MPAs?
 - What are we seeking to conserve and why?
- Can we achieve ecological coherence?
 - Is the science too difficult
 - Is the marine environment too fluid?
- Is there sufficient understanding of the need for protecting marine biodiversity?
- Do we get too bogged down with the details?

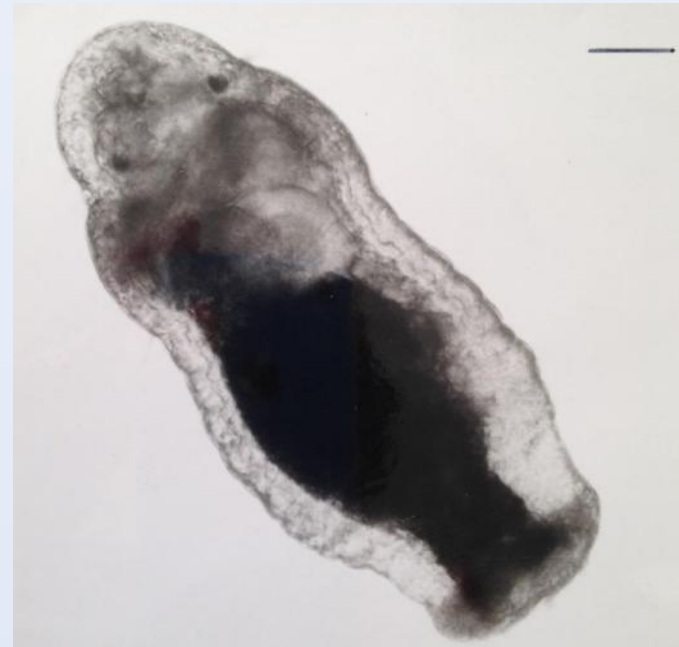
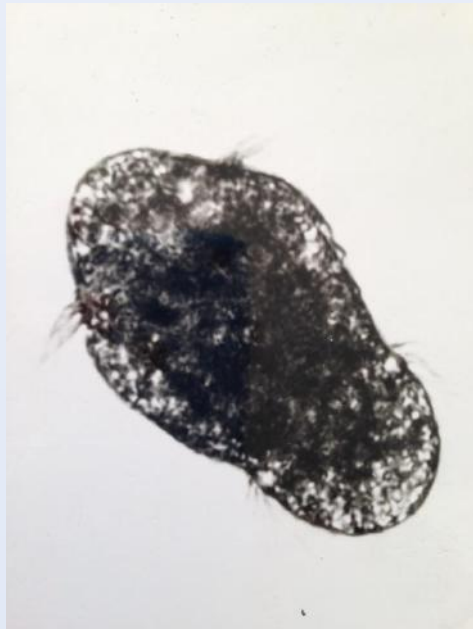
ICONIC SPECIES – HARBOUR PORPOISE



WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE HARBOUR PORPOISE?



HOW ABOUT LOVING THIS INSTEAD?



GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO MNRs



- All interested parties to be consulted
- No interference with functions of relevant authorities or those with vested interests
- Cooperation and consensus to be the foundation of MNRs; designation will not proceed unless all major objections resolved
- No point in having overriding powers because these would not be enforceable

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- *Need must be demonstrated by robust scientific evidence*

CONCLUSIONS



- Is it practicable to achieve an ecologically coherent network?
- Is ecological coherence compatible with taking account of socio-economic considerations?
- Could the objectives be achieved without the need for MPAs?
- Would MPAs be more palatable if they were subsumed into marine spatial plans as a prescribed activity?