

Highly Protected Marine Areas Review

Richard Benyon, Review Chair

Coastal Futures Conference 2020

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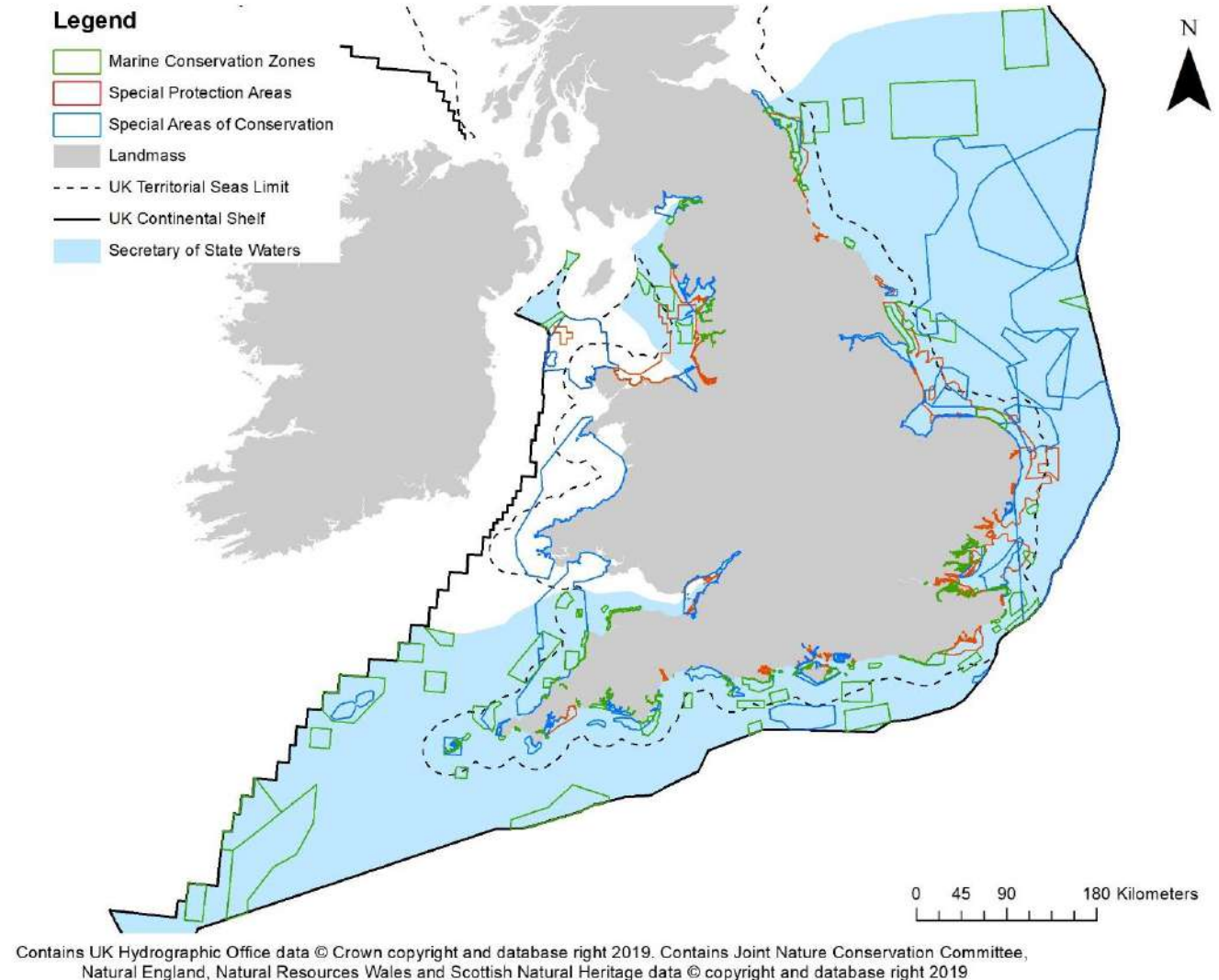
Background to the HPMAs review

- Continued interest in HPMAs
- Defra commissioned Cefas for a review of the evidence for HPMAs –published in 2016
- MCZ Tranche 3 consultation asked for views on HPMAs
- Defra Secretary of State Michael Gove commissioned the review in 2019
- Launched on World Oceans Day 2019
- Purpose of the review:

‘To recommend whether and how HPMAs could be introduced in areas of sea within the UK Government’s competence’

Current MPA network and levels of protection

- In Secretary of State Waters we have **180** Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) conserving almost **40%** of English Seas.
- MPA include:
 - Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs),
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SACs),
 - Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- MPAs protect rare and threatened species and habitats.
- This network of MPAs contributes to the government's efforts to conserve the oceans
- MPAs aim to *conserve* ecosystem and *improve* their resilience to human activities.



The review's advisory panel

Professor
Callum Roberts



Benj Sykes - Orsted



Professor Susan
Owens



Nathan de
Rozarieux - fisher



Joan Edwards -
The Wildlife Trust



Peter Barham -
SUDG

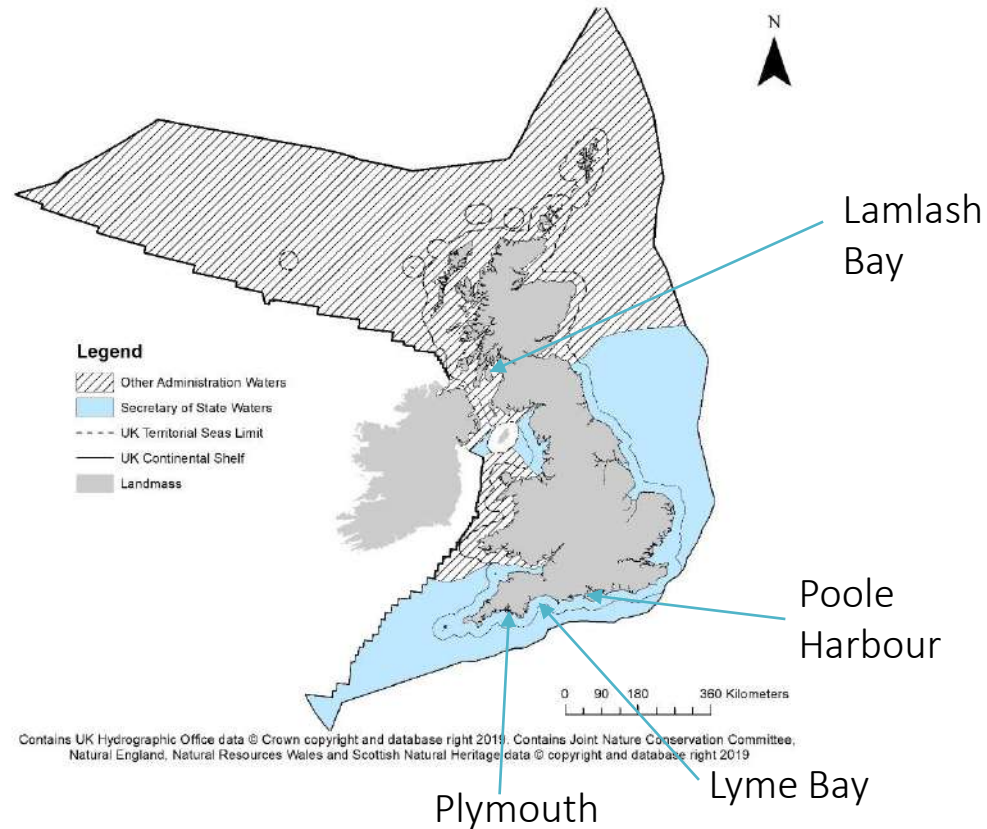


Professor Mike
Kaiser



Who have we been talking to?

Visits



Meetings

- eNGOs and conservation groups
- Fishing representatives
- Seabed Users and Developers Group
- Ports and shipping
- Recreational marine/coastal users
- IFCA Chief Officers Group
- JNCC, NE, MMO and Cefas
- Other Government Departments

Roundtables – over the next 2 weeks

- Marine industries
- Fisheries
- Conservation and recreation
- Social scientists

The Call for Evidence

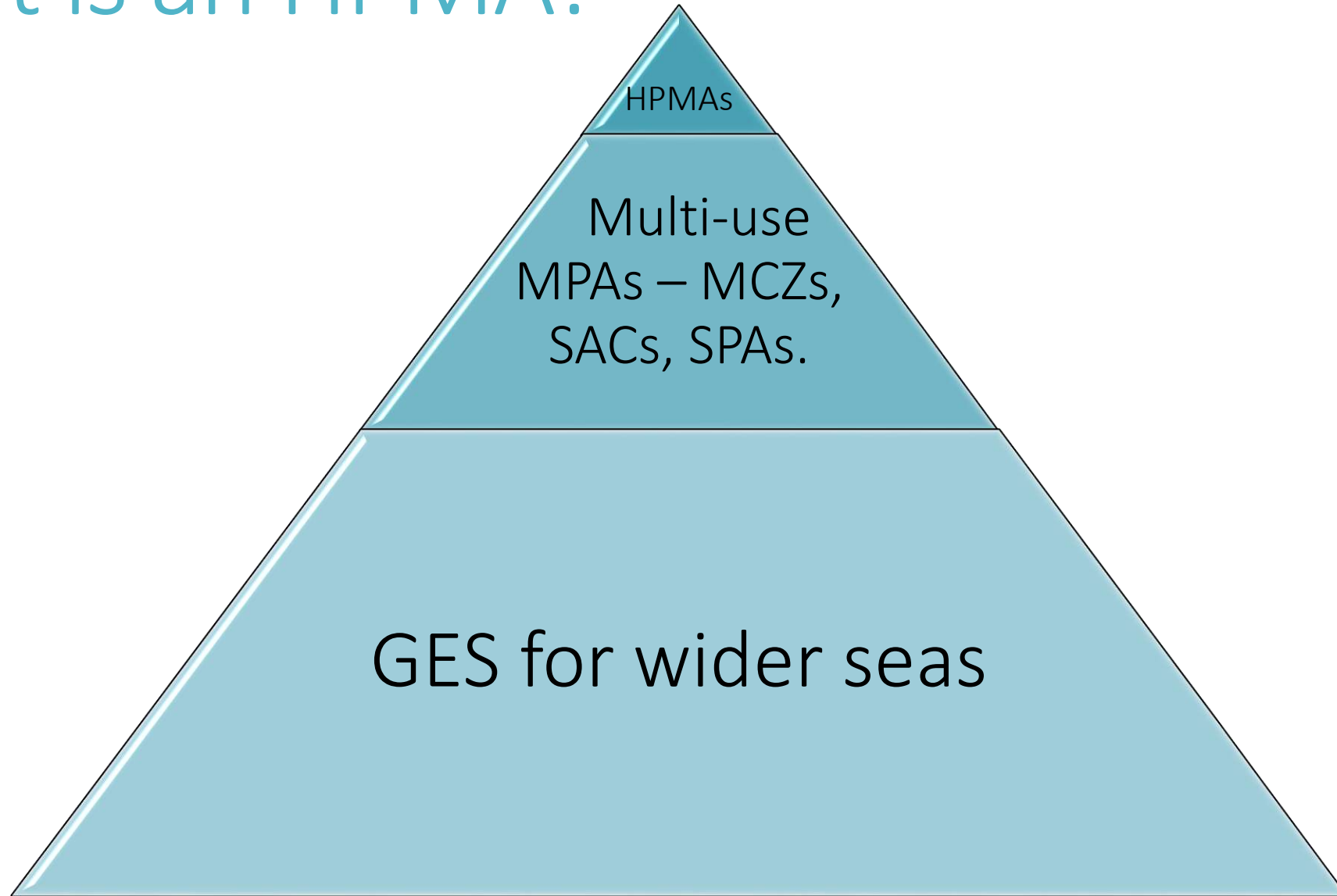
- 4 week Call for Evidence in October
- Questions on:
 - Aims, opportunities and challenges of HPMA*
 - HPMA site selection*
 - Implementation and management of HPMA*
 - Past experiences of MPAs*
- 400 responses
- 8000 campaign responses (MCS and The Wildlife Trusts)
- Defra social scientists analysed the results qualitatively

What is an HPMA?

A Highly Protected Marine Area is an area of the sea designated for the protection and recovery of nature and where only non-damaging activities are allowed. (*Working definition only*)

They are:	They are not :
No take areas	No go areas
No dumping areas	No use areas
Areas for (appropriate) scientific research	

What is an HPMA?



Why HPMAs?

- The UK is a world leader in marine protection and the current MPA network is essentially ecologically complete.
- However, throughout the review we have heard that with no baseline in UK waters available, measuring the success of current management measures is hard.
- HPMAs can provide this baseline for society to understand how the marine environment functions free of damaging or extractive activities.



MPAs have had a good impact on the environment.



What is 'good'?

Why HPMAs?

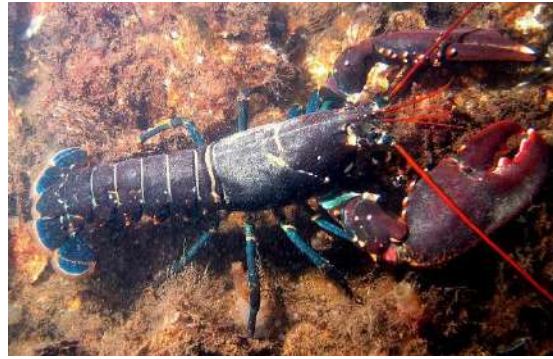
- Highly protective conservation measures deliver strong ecological benefits to the protected area and potentially to surrounding areas.

– *Evidence from highly protected European sites show:*

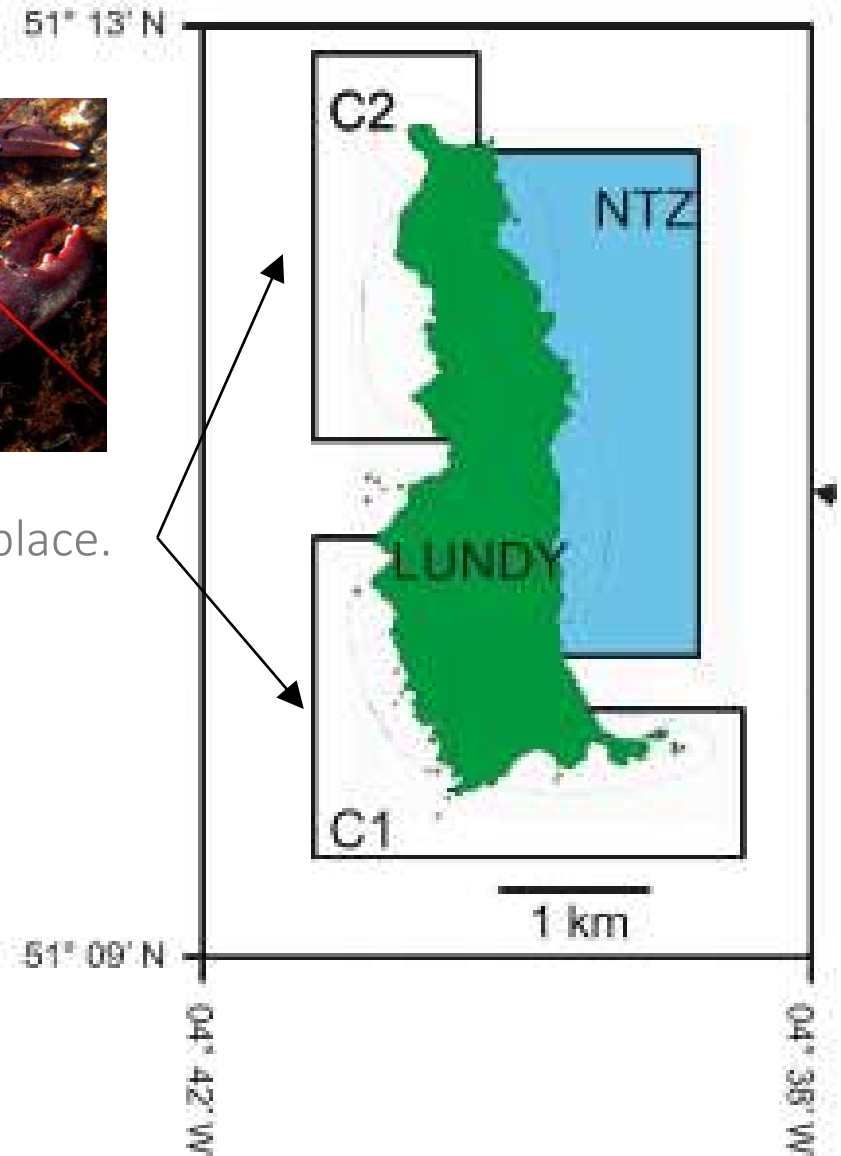
- *Doubling in biomass*
- *Significant increases in density*

Fenberg et al, 2012; Stewart et al., 2009

- Based on the evidence, HPMAs are likely to deliver ecological benefits above and beyond benefits delivered by existing designations.



No restrictions in place.



Hoskin et al., 2011

What have we learnt?

- Firstly, it is clear that Marine Protection is high on the agenda
- There was strong support for the introduction of HPMAs, although people also wanted to see misgivings with current MPA network approached
- Respondents wish to see sites selected based on their environmental and ecological significance and value.
- To be a success HPMAs must be properly managed and have support from the local community

Introducing HPMAs will not be without its challenges but the benefits can be far reaching and long lasting

What's next?

- A series of sector specific roundtables organised.
 - Maritime Industry
 - Fishing
 - eNGOs
 - Social Scientists
- Further site visits
- Lots of thinking and writing



Emerging findings

- We believe there is an environmental case for the introduction of HPMAs but still need to work through understanding the wider implications
- The panel and I want to be ambitious but also realistic
- Recommendations must be rigorously scrutinised before publishing to have most hope of being accepted by government.

After the review

- The report will be submitted to Defra Ministers in early Spring.
- The Government then consider how to respond.



Thank you, Questions?