International context of the UK's developing Marine Protected Areas programme
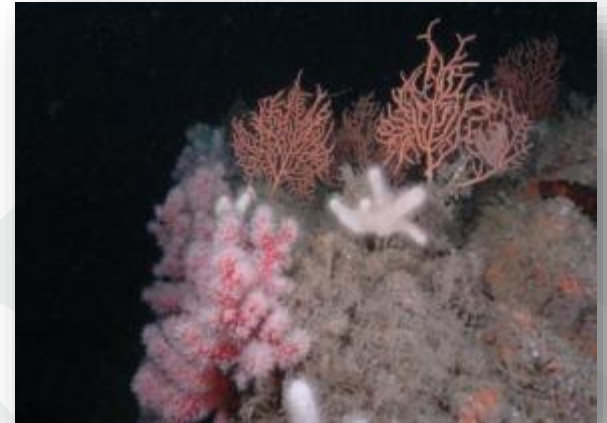
Jon Davies

MPA Programme Leader

JNCC

Who are JNCC?

Statutory adviser to Government & Devolved Administrations on UK and international nature conservation

❖ Scientific advice on policies for, or affecting, nature conservation;

❖ Disseminate knowledge on nature conservation issues; and

❖ **Provide advice on nature conservation in offshore waters around UK.**

Key messages

➢ UK administrations have made significant progress in creating MPA networks

➢ Gaining appropriate management action for offshore sites remains challenging

➢ UK's European Marine Sites make a substantial contribution to meeting our international obligations, particularly OSPAR Convention

What you are going to get

➢ Why are we designating Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)?

➢ What do MPAs really achieve?

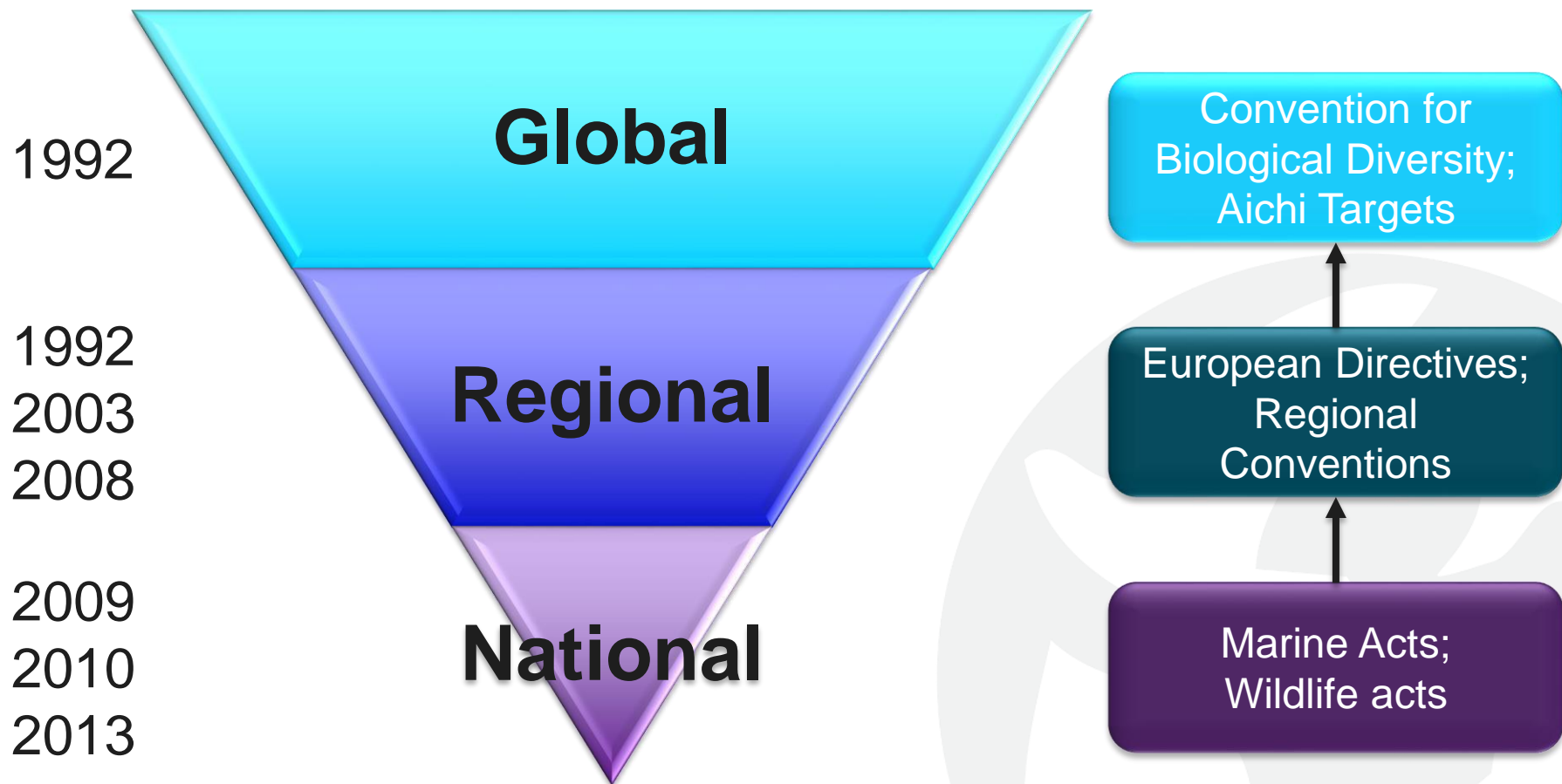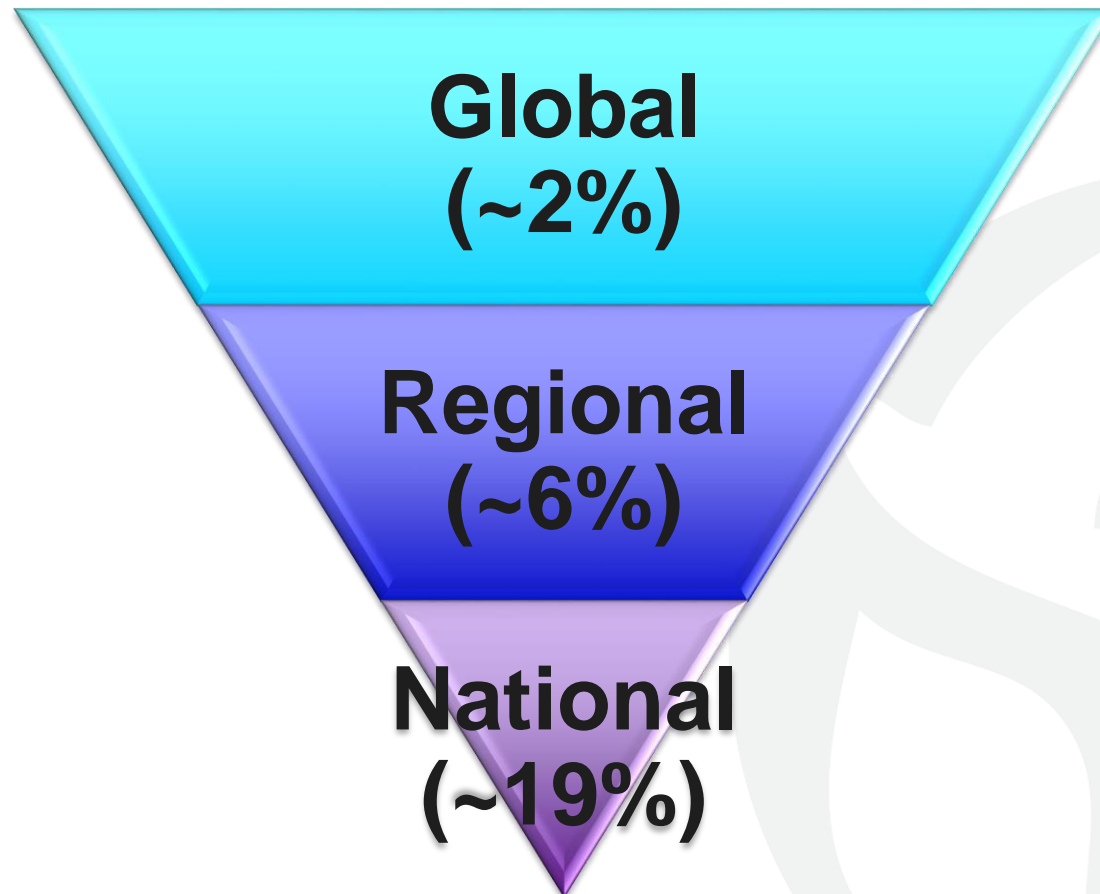➢ How does the UK contribute to global initiatives?

Why are we designating MPAs? JNCC

'To recover and protect the richness of our marine environment and wildlife through the development of a strong, ecologically coherent and well managed network of marine protected areas, that is well understood and supported by all sea users'
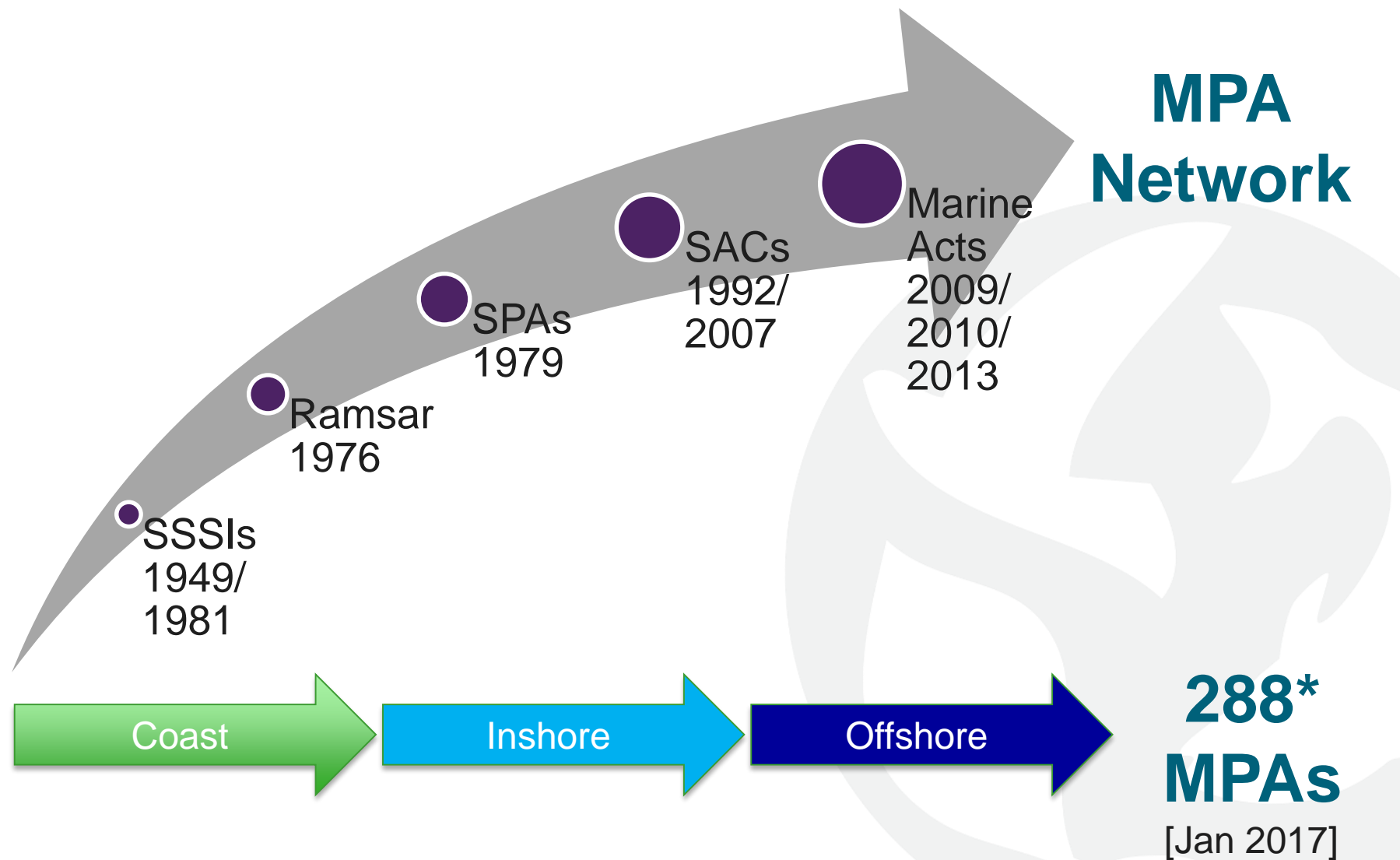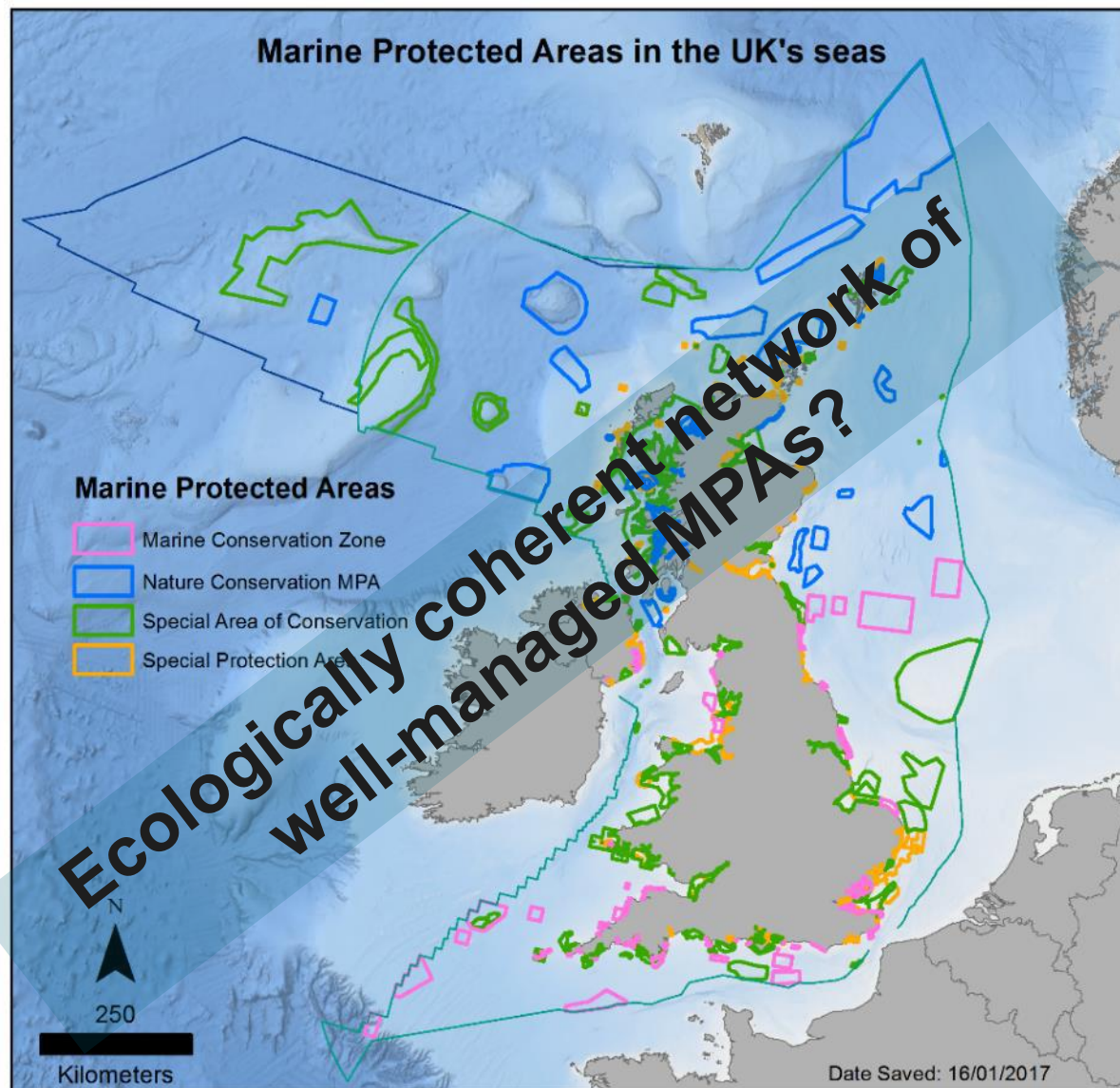
Why MPA networks?

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1992	**Global**
1992 2003 2008	**Regional**
2009 2010 2013	**National**

Convention for Biological Diversity; Aichi Targets

↑

European Directives; Regional Conventions

↑

Marine Acts; Wildlife acts

Areas of MPAs [in networks?]

MPAs in the UK

JNCC

MPA Network

- SSSIs 1949/1981
- Ramsar 1976
- SPAs 1979
- SACs 1992/2007
- Marine Acts 2009/2010/2013

Coast → Inshore → Offshore

288* MPAs

[Jan 2017]

MPAs in UK – Jan 2017

National requirement

There are duties to create a network of conservation sites within the UK Acts that require:

➢ that the features .. protected by the sites … **represent** the **range of features** present in the UK marine area;

➢ that the conservation of a feature may require … **more than one site**; and

➢ that the network contributes to the **conservation or improvement** of the marine environment in the UK marine area.

What to protect?

➤ Network includes:
  ❖ 'Special'
  ❖ 'Ordinary'

➤ Broadscale habitats represent the '*range of marine features*'

Establish a list of features to reflect local & national interest

MPA Network Criteria

➢ **Representativity** – All features represented within a region [and zones];

➢ **Replication** – at least 2 broadscale habitats and 3 FOCI;

➢ **Adequacy** – the proportion of each habitat feature should exceed 10% [and attain ENG targets for 70% of species];

➢ **Size [Viability]** – 'sufficiently large to maintain the integrity of the feature' (OSPAR).

➢ **Connectivity** - sites should 'well distributed in space' [and not be further than ???km apart].

Are we there yet?

- ➢ JNCC completed a 'gap analysis' against network criteria

- ➢ Reviewed existing MPAs to establish what features are already protected

- ➢ Considered any protection offered by other spatial protection measures (such as fisheries closures, military areas)

Progress with the potential MPA network

➤ The MPA network largely represents and sufficiently replicates the features.

➤ Majority of the MPAs protecting broadscale habitats exceed the minimum recommended size.

➤ Sites are well connected and generally meet the connectivity criteria for all broad habitats.

➤ Sites are generally well distributed but there is an imbalance between shallow coastal and deeper shelf areas.

When is enough, enough?

➢ Science cannot provide the answer

➢ Exercise in risk management

➢ Societal choice informed by data & information!
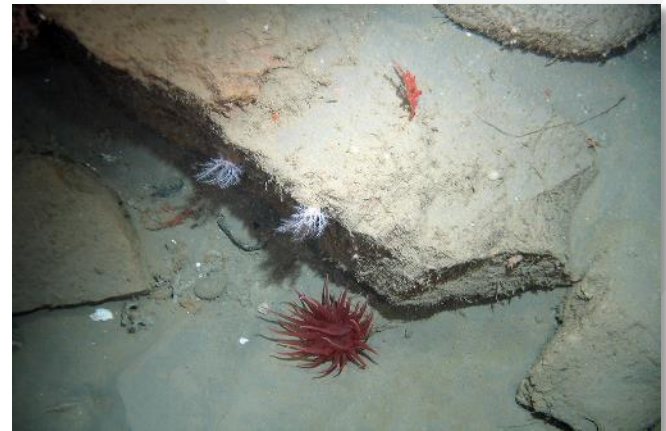
Do MPAs make a difference?

JNCC

The 'M word'…. *Management*

Strict protection

NO ENTRY
NO FISHING

Sustainable use

MPA Site Information Centres
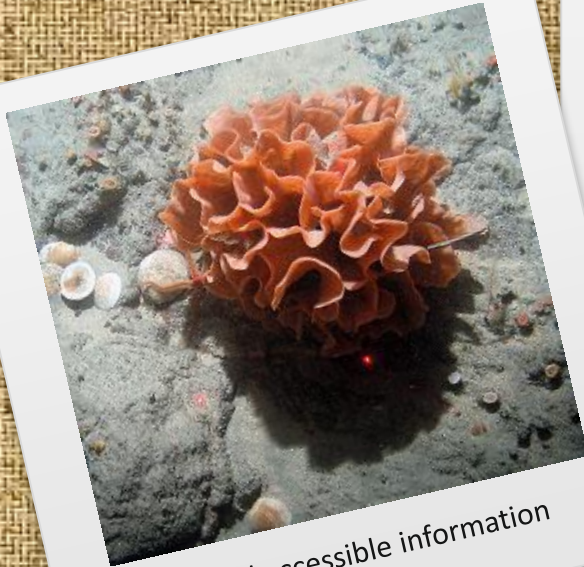
High level accessible information
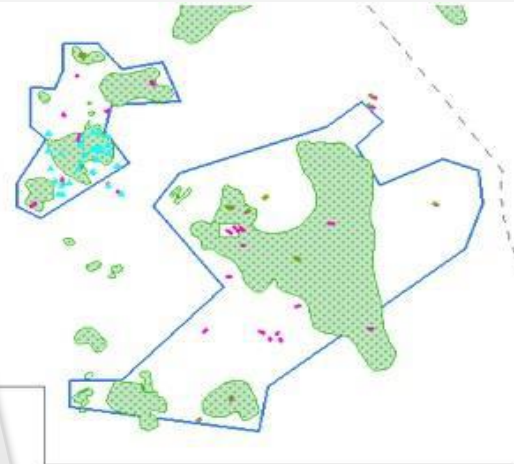
Survey data and interactive map

Technical advice and information

Site Information Centre

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6895

Does an activity create a problem?
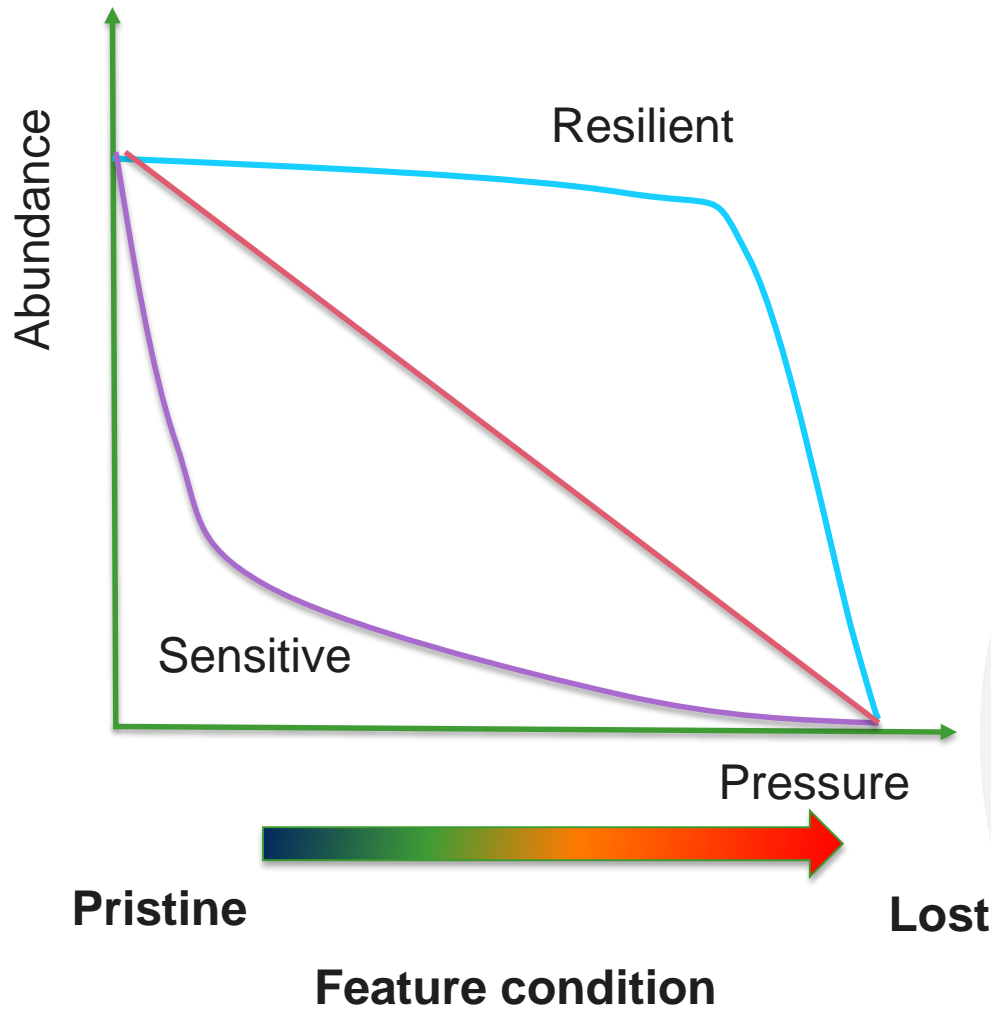
Knowing the limits enables proportionate decisions on management of activities to deliver a sustainable outcome
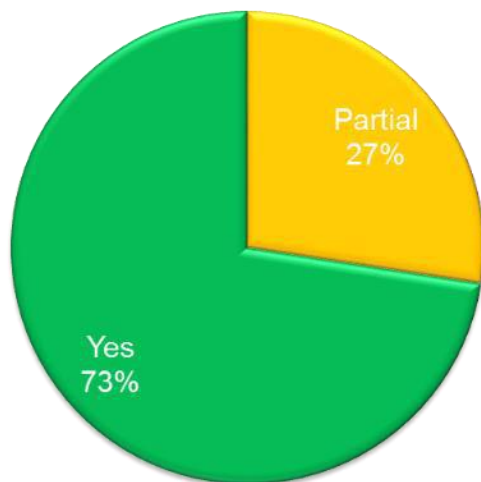
OSPAR Management Assessment

Four basic questions to assess the degree to which OSPAR MPAs are 'well-managed':

➢ Is the MPA management documented?

➢ Are measures to achieve conservation objectives being implemented?

➢ Is monitoring in place to assess if measures are working?

➢ Is the MPA moving towards or has it reached its conservation objectives?
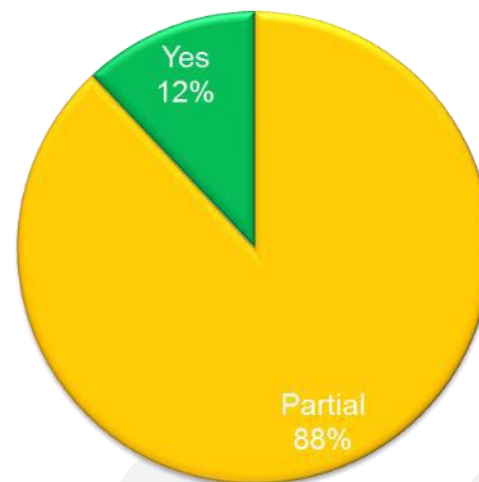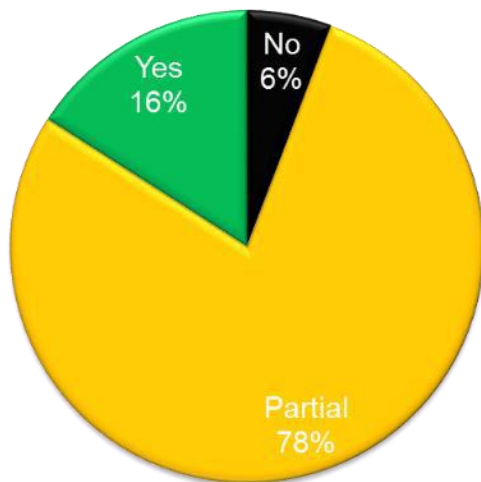
Progess with management

Is management documented?
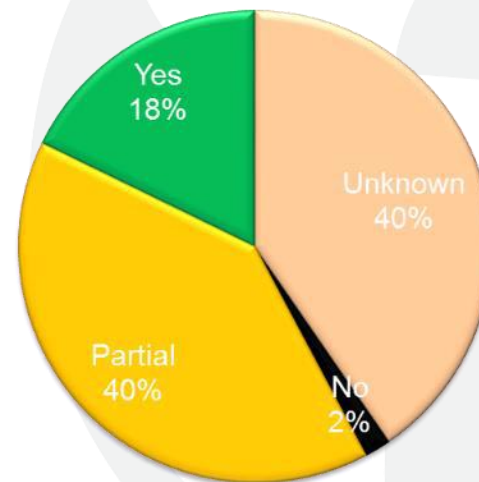- Partial 27%
- Yes 73%

Measures implemented?
- Yes 12%
- Partial 88%

Monitoring in place?
- No 6%
- Yes 16%
- Partial 78%

Moving towards conservation objective?
- Yes 18%
- Unknown 40%
- Partial 40%
- No 2%

Moving towards conservation objective?
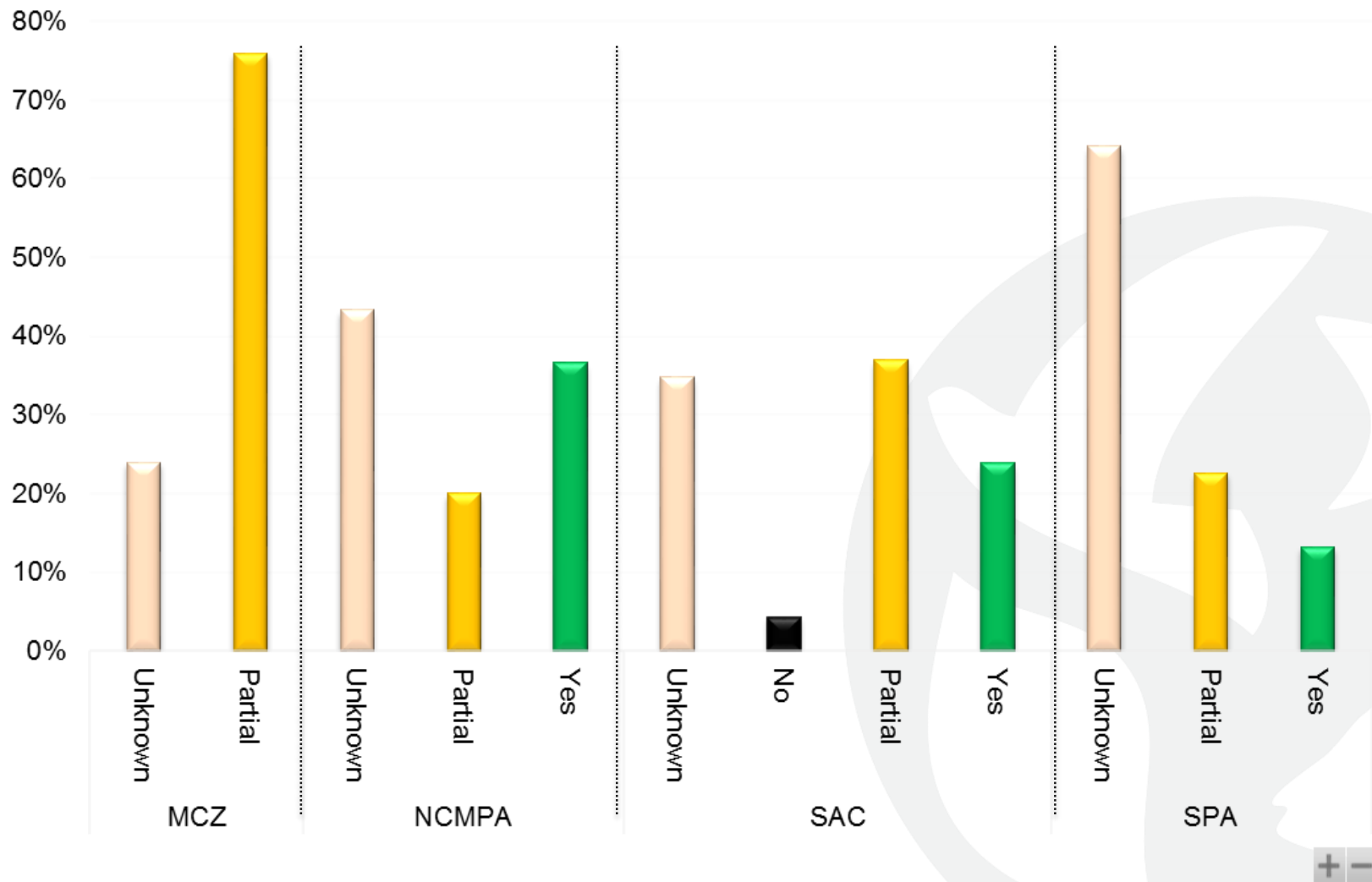
Developing a fisheries management measure

Consult Stakeholders

↓

Draft proposal

↓

Discuss with Member States

↓

Agree Joint Recommendation

↓

Submit to European Commission
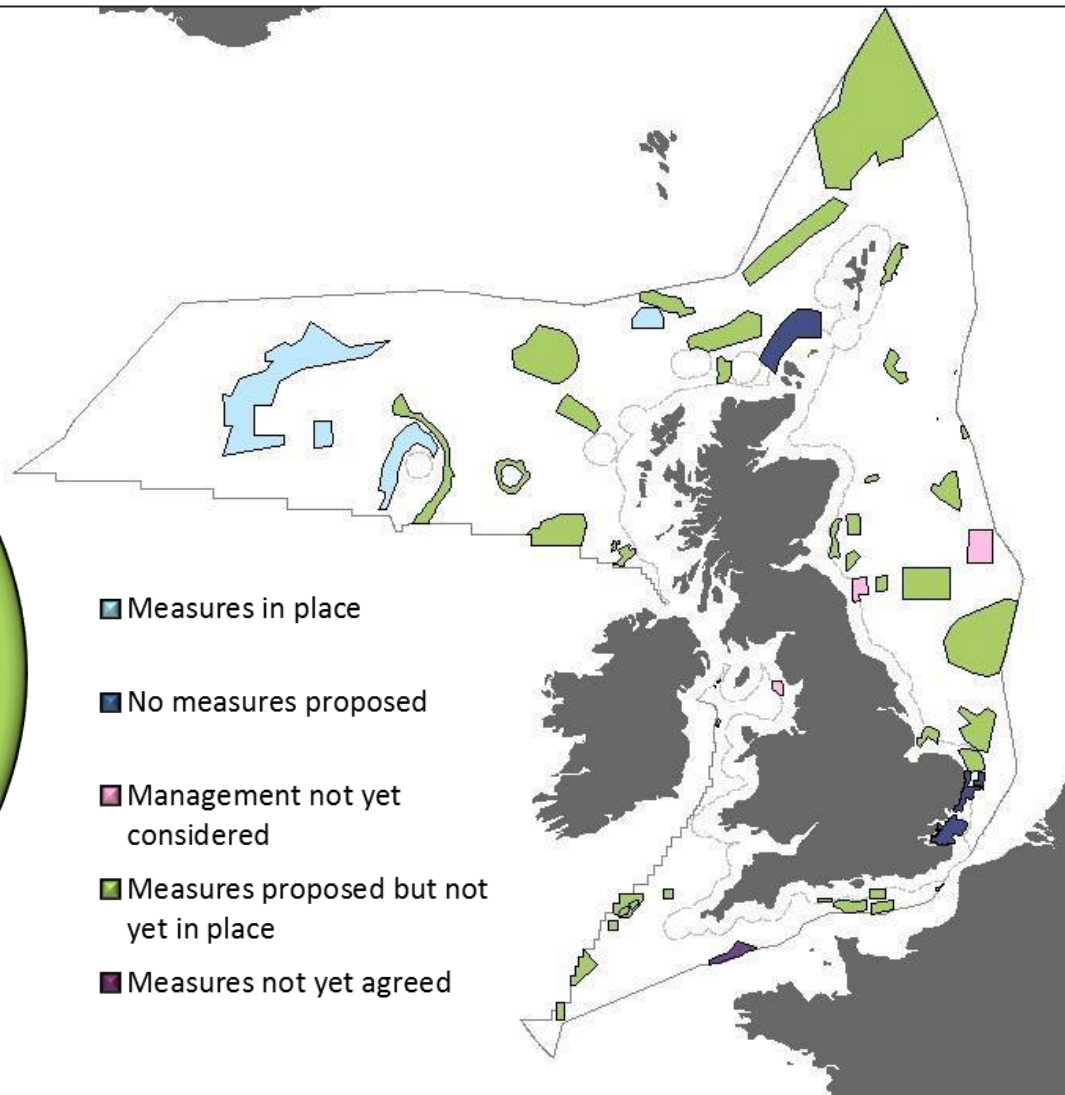
↓

Formal measure adopted

'Article 11 process'

# Progress gaining offshore fisheries management measures
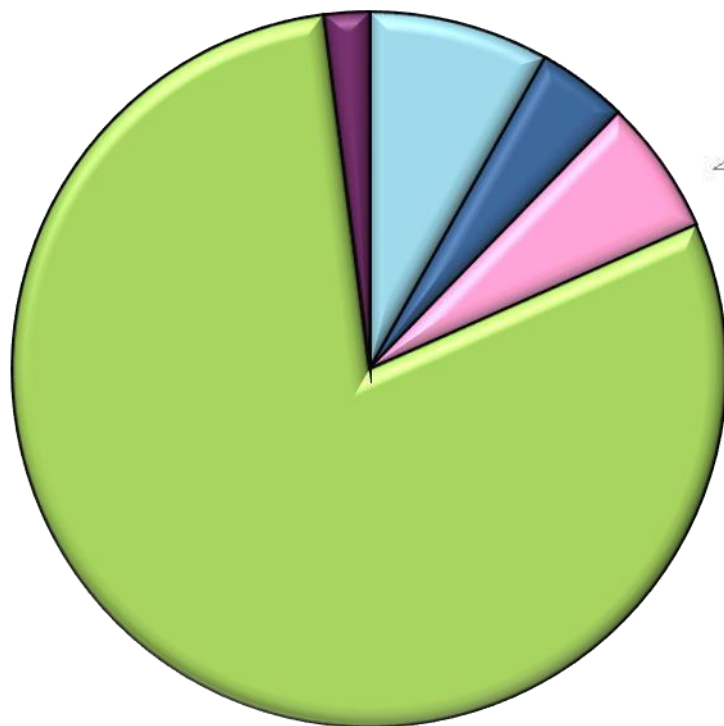
Legend:
- Measures in place
- No measures proposed
- Management not yet considered
- Measures proposed but not yet in place
- Measures not yet agreed

Contribution to international initiatives

➢ European Marine Sites (EMS) contribute nearly 10% of the UK marine area covered by MPAs (19%);

➢ Almost half of the entire current OSPAR MPA network comprises UK-nominated EMS; and,

➢ 27% of OSPAR Threatened & Declining features in UK waters (7 of the 26) are protected entirely by EMS.
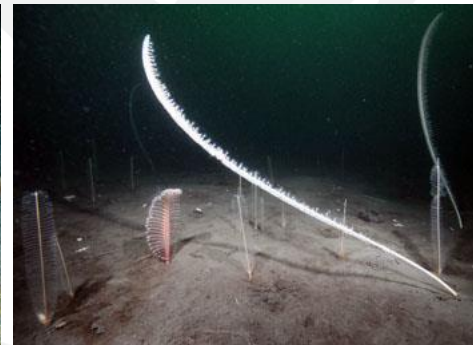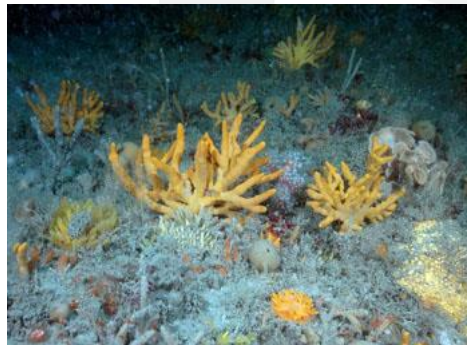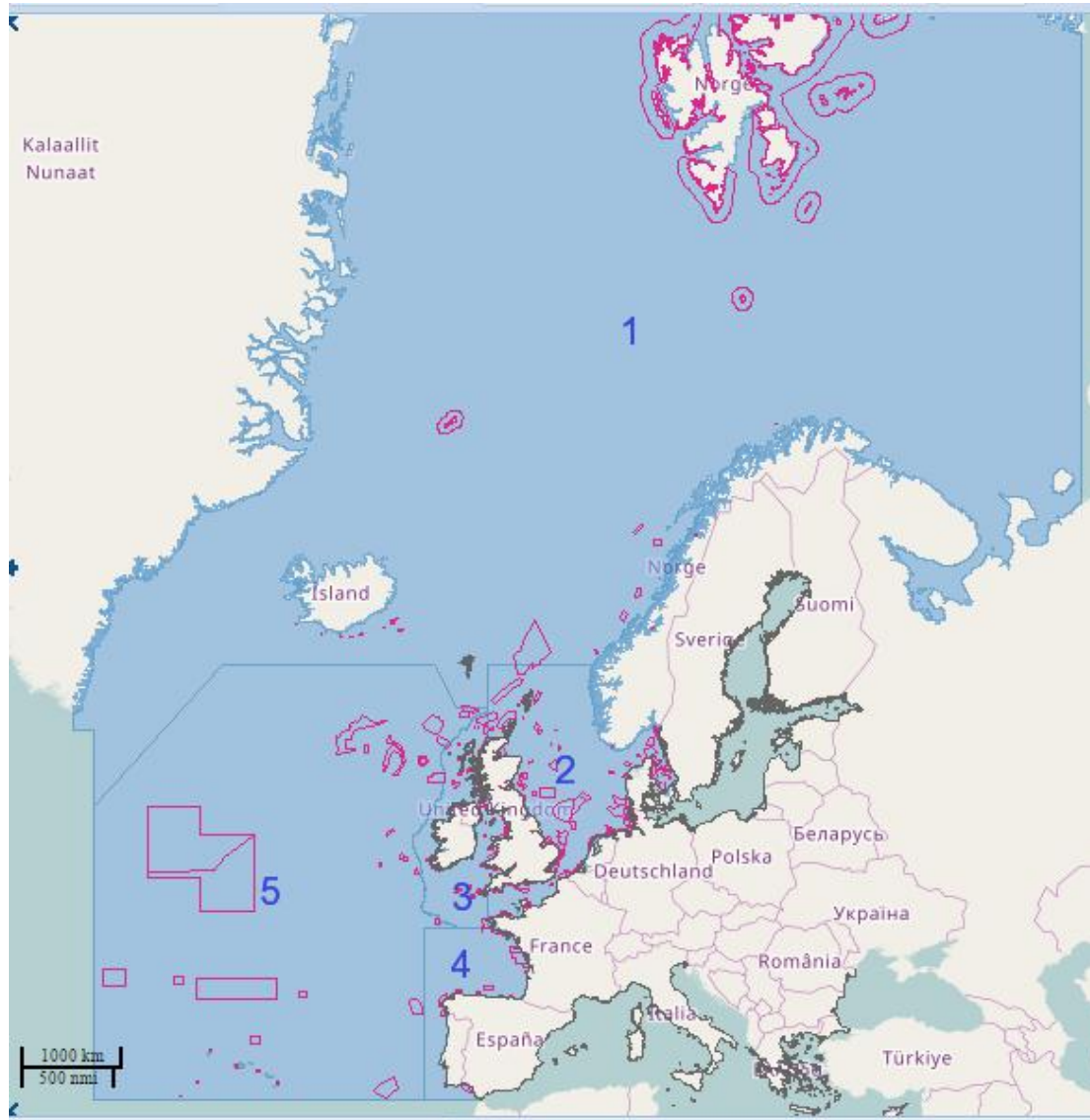
Biogeographic contribution

JNCC

OSPAR Dinter province	% of Dinter in UK waters	% area of MPAs with EMS	% area of MPAs without EMS
Boreal	54%	20%	10%
Boreal-Lusitanean	45%	17%	5%
Lusitanean-Boreal	16%	14%	14%
Arctic	~1%	64%	64%
Atlantic	3%	8%	5%

OSPAR MPAs

http://mpa.ospar.org/home_ospar

Looking to the future

Environmental opportunities of Brexit…?

Non-fisheries environmental benefits of a 'non CFP'

➢ Reduced footprint of demersal fisheries through reducing access to non-UK fleets

➢ Slicker, more *adaptive* process for management measures

Aggregated VMS: Demersal trawl

Non-UK

UK
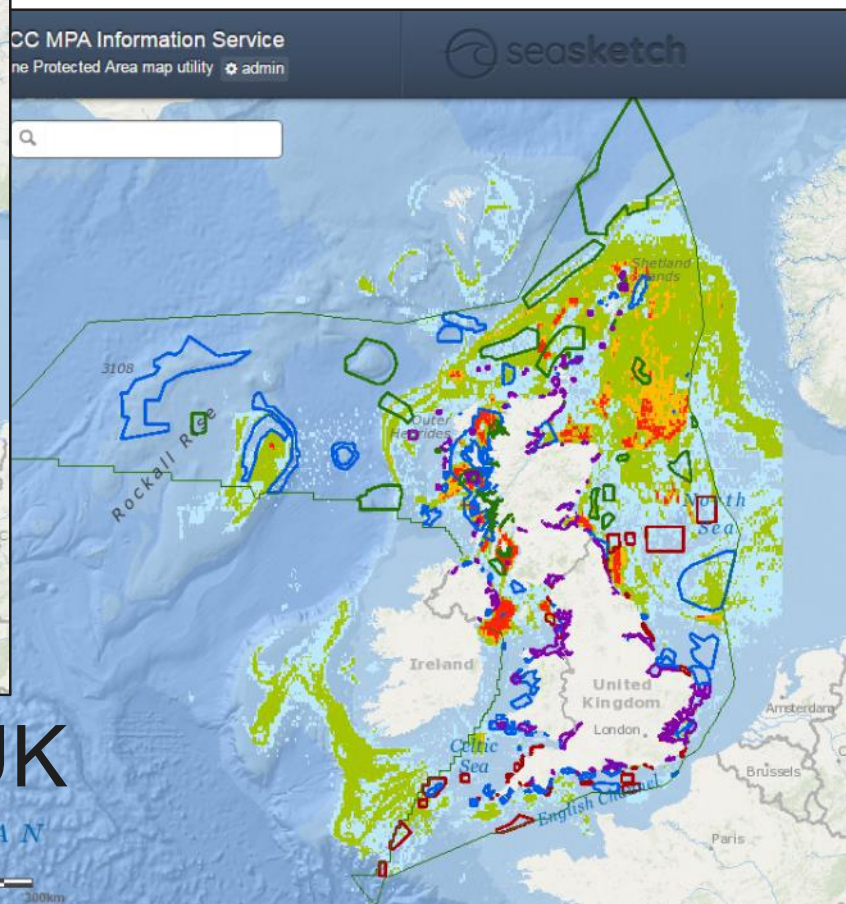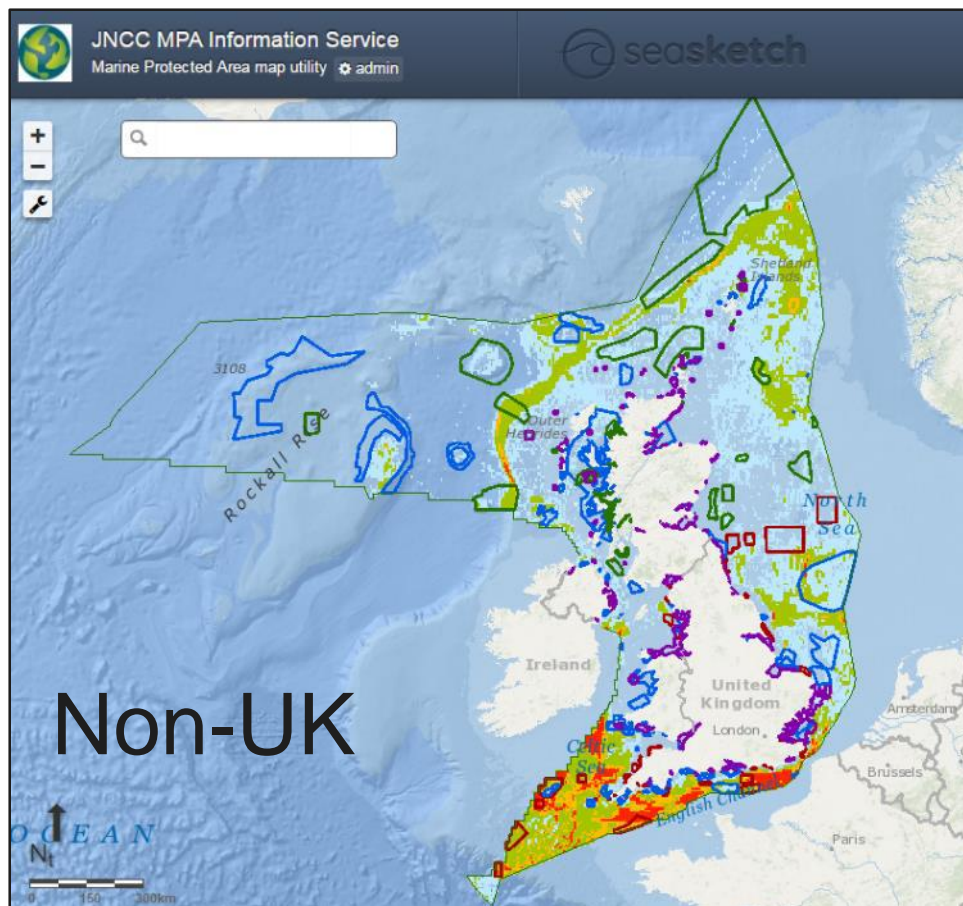
Total hours 2009-2015

Take home messages - national

➢ UK administrations have made substantial progress towards MPA network commitments;

➢ Implementing effective management of MPAs, particularly offshore sites, is an ongoing challenge;

Take home messages - international

➤ UK's MPAs make a significant contribution to European and Regional Sea (OSPAR) protection;

➤ UK's European Marine Sites (SACs & SPAs) comprise ~50% of our contribution to international initiatives; and

➤ Will potential environmental benefits factor in negotiations over the future of fisheries in UK's offshore zone?

This is only the beginning.....

JNCC
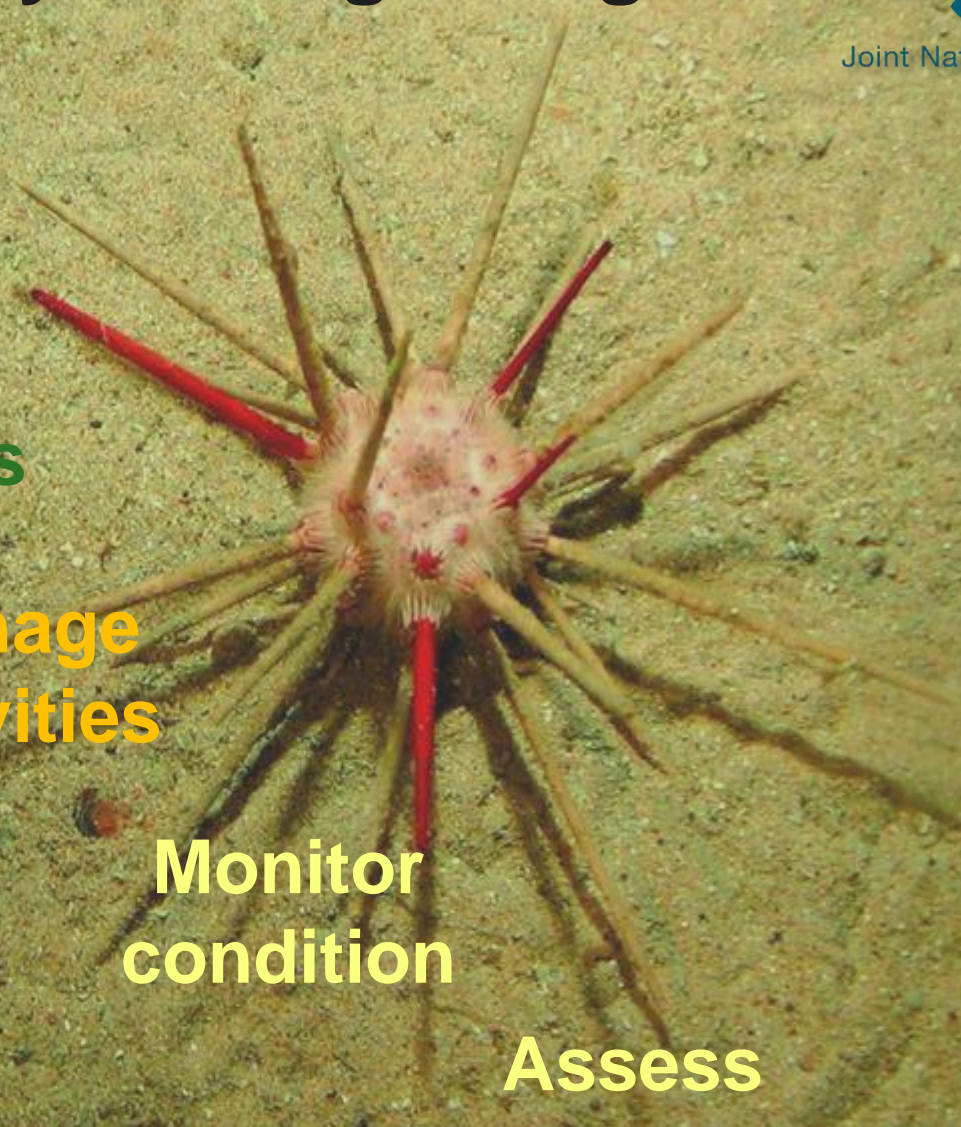Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Identify MPAs

Set objectives

Manage activities

Monitor condition

Assess status

Coherent Network

Thank you

Jon Davies
Jon.Davies@JNCC.gov.uk
www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/marineprotectedareas

JNCC
Joint Nature Conservation Committee