



Wildlife and
Countryside

LINK



Cyswllt Amgylchedd
Cymru



Northern Ireland

**environment
link**



Joint Links Marine Strategy Framework Directive Priority Measures to achieve Good Environmental Status

Melissa Moore

Senior Policy Officer

Marine Conservation Society @MelissaMooreMCS

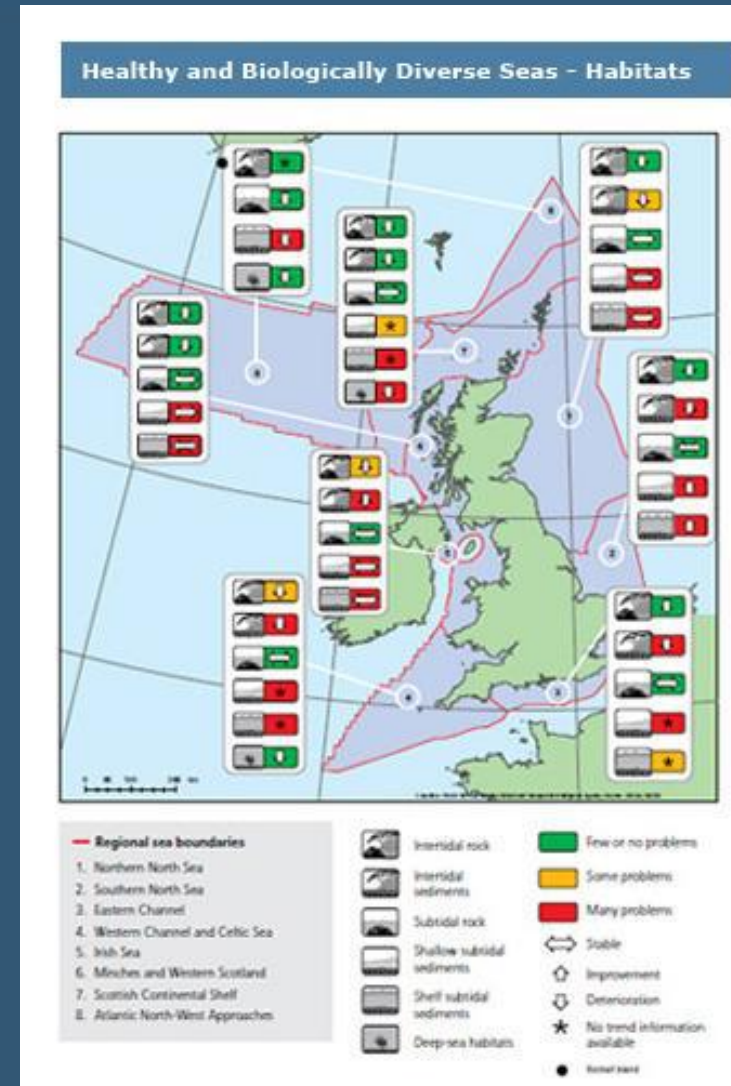


Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- First all-encompassing piece of European legislation specifically aimed at the protection of the marine environment.
- Its ultimate objective is to achieve GES by 2020
- Member States must implement “Marine Strategies” consisting of:
 - An Initial Assessment 2012
 - Target & Indicators 2012
 - Monitoring Programme 2014
 - **Programme of Measures 2015**

State of our Seas

- Declines in our marine environment have been well documented at a regional sea, UK, European and indeed a global level
- EEA: less than 20% of EU biodiversity is in GES
- EC states “EU is still very far from enjoying healthy oceans & seas”
- Charting Progress II provides UK evidence of degraded marine ecosystems.
- Northern Ireland’s State of our Seas and Scotland’s Marine Atlas



MSFD Descriptors

- D1 Biological diversity** is maintained.
- D2 Non-indigenous species** do not adversely alter the ecosystems.
- D3** Populations of **commercially exploited fish** are within safe biological limits
- D4 Marine food webs**, occur at normal abundance and diversity
- D5** Human-induced **eutrophication** is minimised
- D6 Sea floor integrity** is at a level that ensures that safeguards structure and function
- D7** Alteration of **hydrographical conditions** does not adversely affect marine ecosystems.
- D8** Concentrations of **contaminants** are at levels not giving rise to pollution effects.
- D9 Contaminants in fish** and other seafood do not exceed EC levels
- D10** Properties and quantities of **marine litter** do not cause harm to environment.
- D11 Underwater noise**, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment.

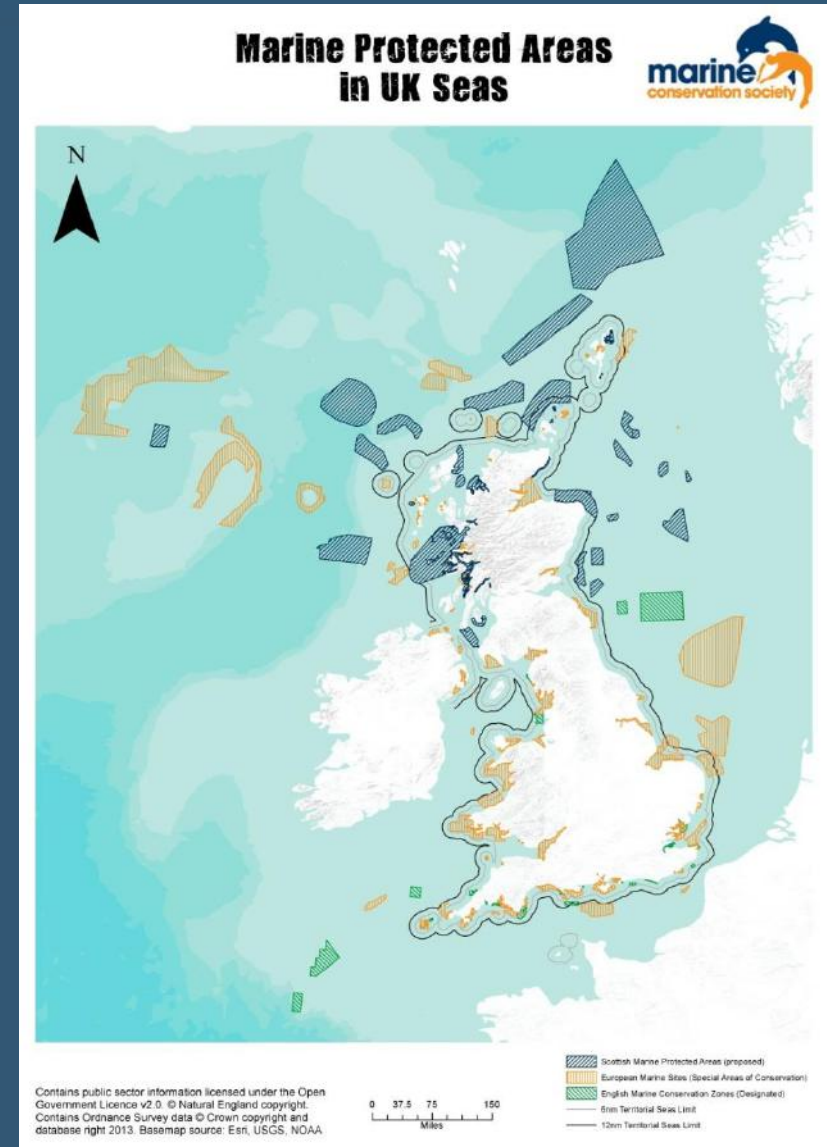
Cross cutting action **Integrate MSFD Descriptors into Marine Spatial Planning, Strategic Environmental Assessments, EIAs, CZM, River Basin Plans etc**

Descriptor 1: Biodiversity

Implement existing measures

An ecologically coherent network of well managed Marine Protected Areas

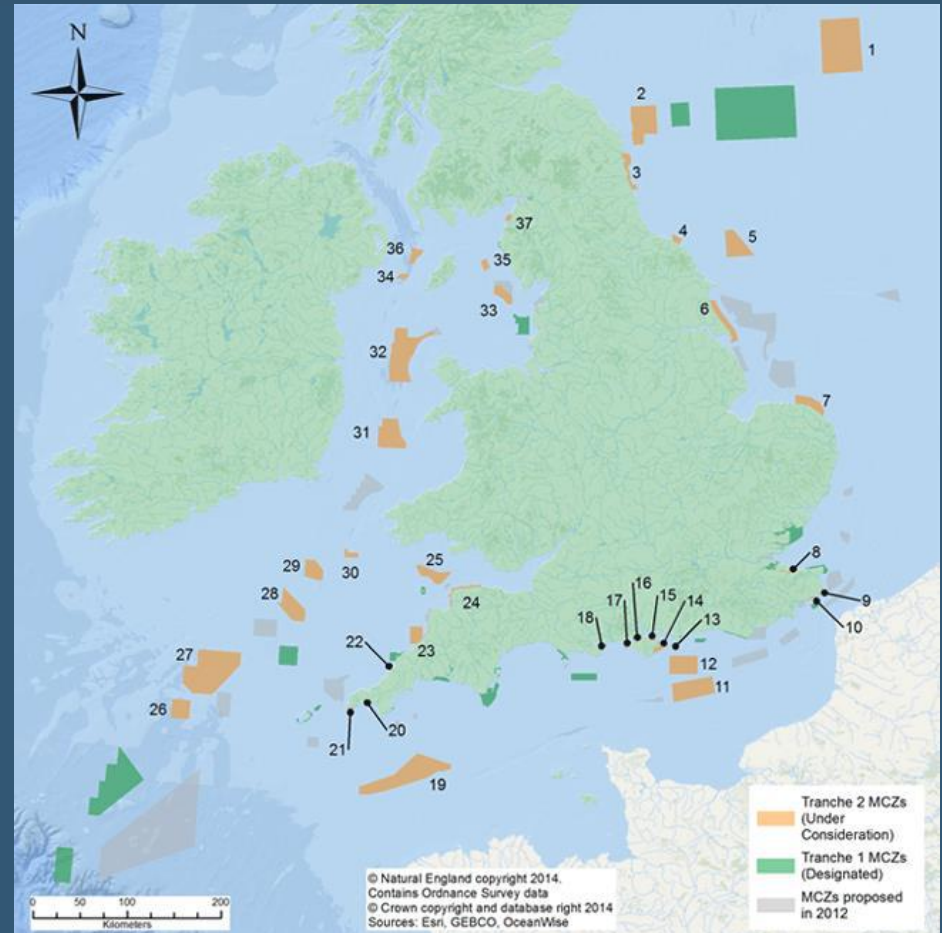
- Designation
- Management



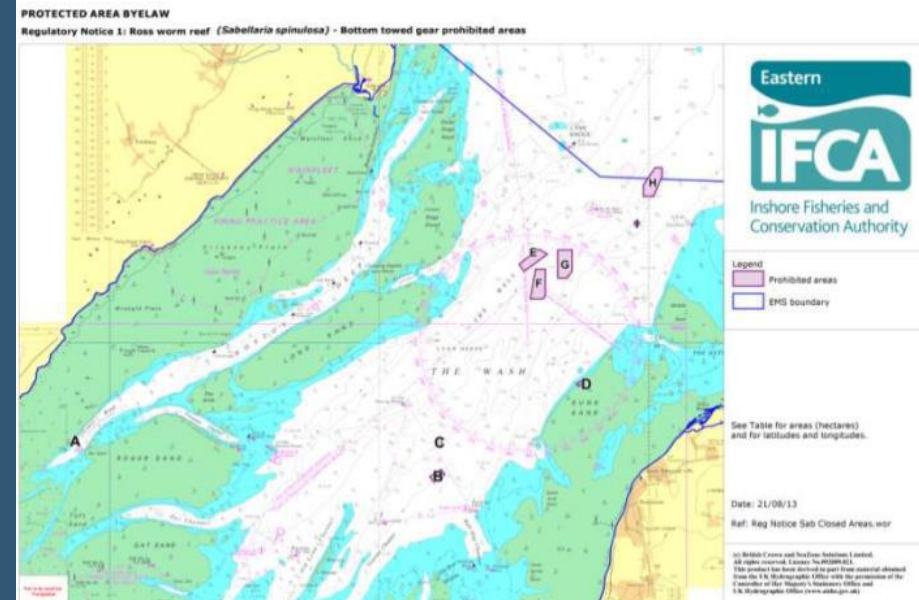
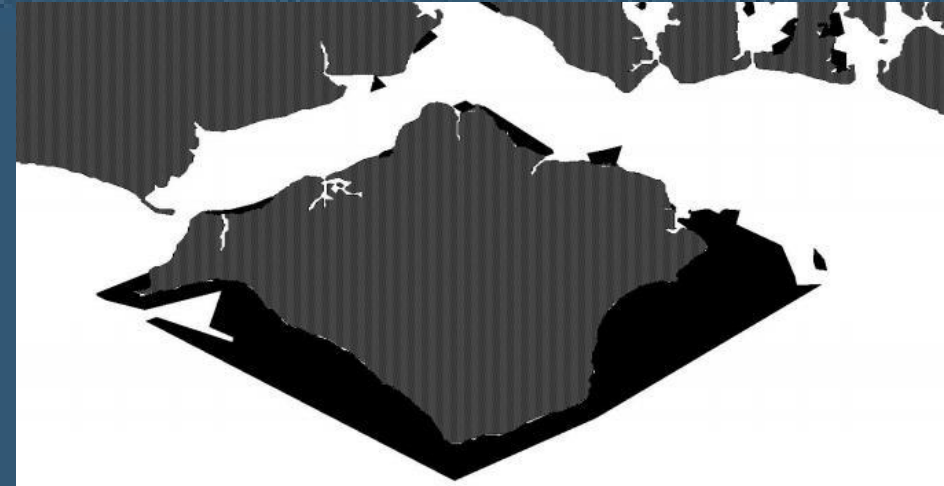
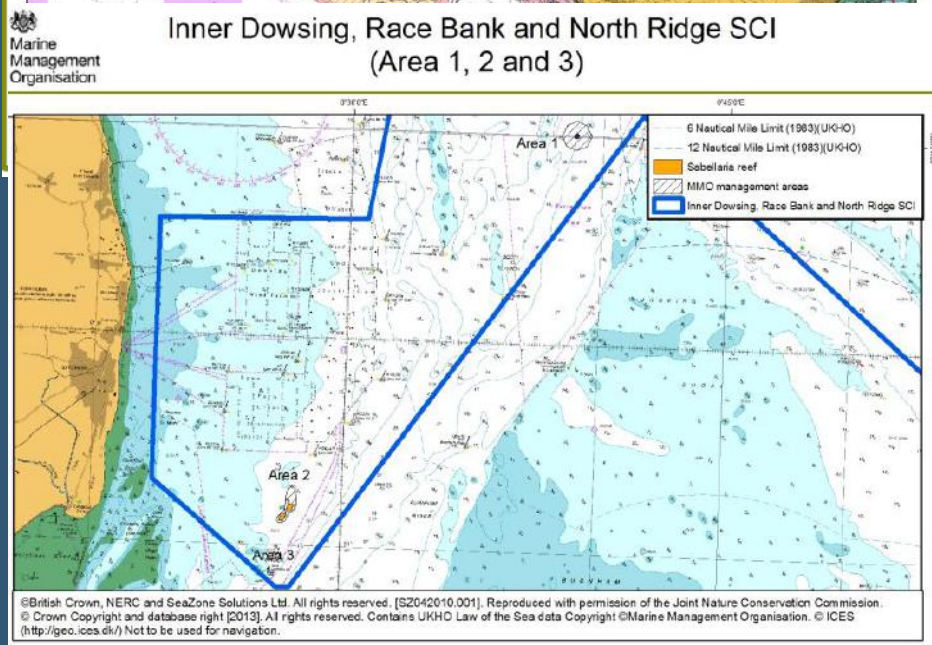
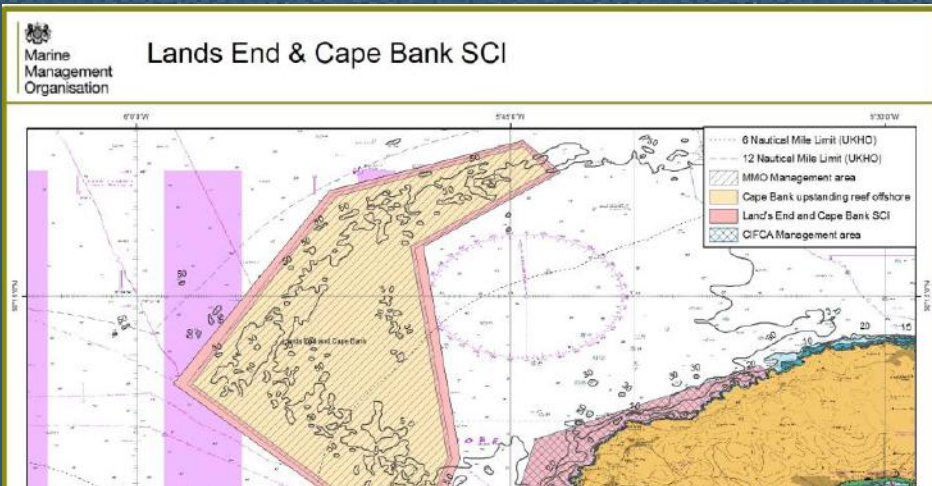
Descriptor 1: Biodiversity

A network must meet ecological coherence principles

- Representivity
- Replication
- Adequacy
- Viability
- Connectivity
- Mobile species
- Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
- Best *available* evidence
- Favourable condition



Descriptor 1: Biodiversity



Descriptor 1: Biodiversity

g Pr x CP Summary x The Deep Si x Protect Our x DontTakeTi x Byelaws : Se x

w.youtube.com/watch?v=zjbQg7qd4kM&feature=youtu.be

Google: Save Scottish Seas

d/I 2nd Feb



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

We need your help to make sure no-one takes the P- out them.

0:15 / 3:00

DontTakeTheP out of Scotland's MPAs

Save Scottish Seas (Scotlink)

Subscribe

92 views

Descriptor 1: Biodiversity

Possible new measures

Marine mammals

- **Ban/mesh ducted propellers to prevent seal deaths**
- Extend ban on pair trawling
- Protect migratory corridors & feeding grounds

Fish (non commercial species)

- Protected sites for some species esp elasmobranch
- **Measures to reduce boat strikes and fishing gear entanglement on basking sharks**
- **Reduce bycatch of non-target species** through gear limitations and adjustments, MSY assessments, (temporary) area closures

Birds

- **a programme of predator eradication and biosecurity for seabird breeding islands**
- management and technical mitigation of seabird bycatch.



Descriptor 4: Food Webs

We need Measures to focus more on managing food webs rather than single species and avoid fishing down the food chain e.g.

- **More Benthic** – pelagic food modelling, with protection of benthic species e.g. sand eels to support food webs. Also protection of spawning & nursery grounds
- Further consider size composition of monitored stocks to assess sustainability. OSPAR large fish index can demonstrate healthy food webs
- Promote Maximum and minimum landing sizes
- Recreational fishing measures in line with commercial measures to ensure sustainability.
- Strong measures under other Descriptors e.g. eutrophication (D5) will also benefit food webs



Descriptor 6 : Sea-floor Integrity

Existing measures

- **MPA network**
 - approx 30 byelaws and fishing orders to restrict bottom towed gear in MPAs.
- **Scallop Orders & Regulations**
 - In England, Scotland, Wales & NI
 - Consultation in Scotland at present
- **Aggregates measures:**
 - minimise the area of seabed used
 - leave seabed in a similar condition post-extraction.
- **Environmental Impact Assessments**
 - Oil & gas, cables, ports, renewables, aggregates



Descriptor 6 : Sea-floor Integrity

New measures

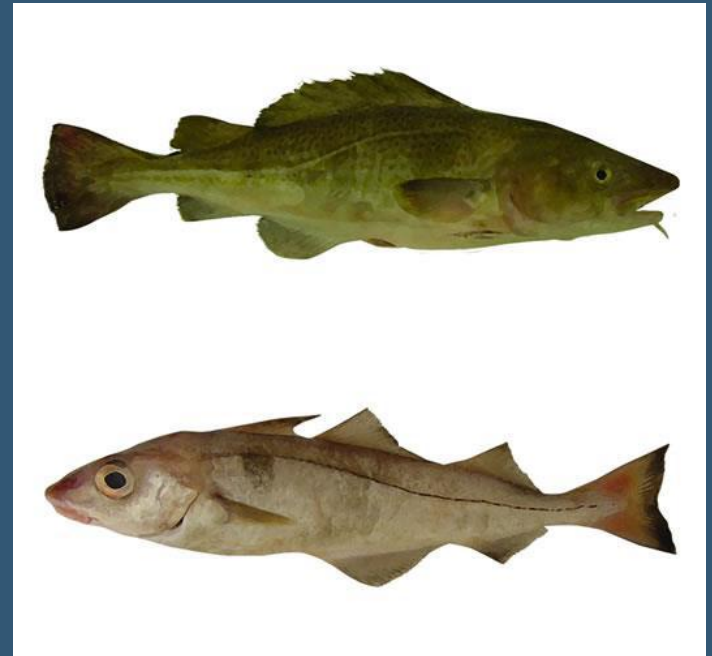
- Better protection of deep sea marine species and habitat, including a ban on fishing on VMEs and specific deep sea species
- Spatial management measures & licensing for fisheries that use heavy demersal gear (both dredgers & trawlers) outside (as well as inside) MPAs. Or exclusion zones e.g. Clyde, Cornwall, Portugal.
- SEAs and EIAs for fisheries
- Further reduce footprint & refine restoration following aggregates dredging and avoid spawning, nursery, feeding grounds
- Satellite tracking for under 10 vessels- iVMS



Descriptor 3 : Commercial fish

Implement existing measures, of reformed CFP e.g:

- **Set fishing limits for all commercially exploited species below MSY**
- In mixed fisheries, base management on the most vulnerable stock.
- **Implement the Landings Obligation** (“Discards ban”) to reduce discards – a staggering 34% of total catch. 2015 pelagic, 2016-2019 demersal.
- **In accordance with Article 17 of the CFP reward & incentivise sectors of the UK commercial fleet that are adapting more selective, low-impact methods**



Descriptor 3 : Commercial fish

Implement new measures e.g:

- Establish fish stock recovery areas (CFP Article 8)
- Precautionary and risk based measures to manage data deficient species
- Maximum landing sizes

Bass as an example (as an 80% reduction is required by the end of 2015)

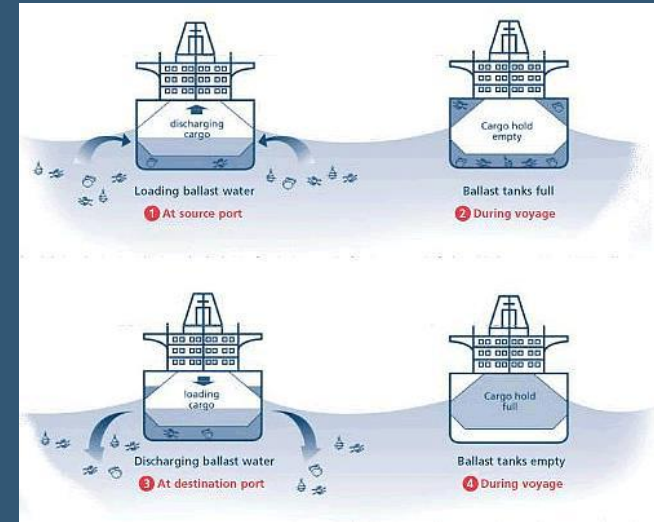
- Spatial / temporal closures. On Tues EC announced emergency measures banning pelagic trawling of sea bass during the spawning season
- A bag limit (proportionate) applied to recreational angling
- An EU wide ban on pelagic pair trawling for sea bass (if 80% not reached by 2015)
- Increase the Minimum Landing Size (MLS) to at least 45cm to allow fish to spawn at least once



Descriptor 2: Non-indigenous species

Implement existing measures

- **IMO Ballast Water Management Convention**
Need 35% world tonnage to ratify. UK could help
- **EU Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regulations**
- **Revised GB Invasive Non Native Species Strategy** (GBINNS) & country strategies e.g. an Invasive Species Strategy for Northern Ireland
- **Support public monitoring of NIS** or reporting historical information through national, regional, and European networks e.g. Seasearch
- Testing of HELCOM bio-pollution index in OSPAR MSFD subregions



Descriptor 2: Non-indigenous species

NEW measures

- Biosecurity protocols and codes of practice for high-risk/vulnerable areas.
- Harbour agreements and training on the prevention of introduction of NIS at all major ports. This includes a pathway action plan to address the risk of ballast and hull fouling.
- Agreements and training on the prevention of introduction of NIS at islands free of mammalian predators (rats, mice, cats etc)
- Central recording system for NIS, which can include citizen science reporting data, MARLIN, PANACHE.
- Industry-funded emergency release fund for rapid response to NIS.



Descriptor 10: Litter

Implement existing measures

- The UK MSFD target for marine litter is too weak. Need EC target of 30% min.
- Integrate existing EU and OSPAR Regional Action Plan recommendations into UK MSFD Programme of Measures
- Continue to support existing measures to reduce marine litter from beach cleaning to recycling
- Improve implementation, enforcement, integration and amendment of existing legislation e.g. EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive



Descriptor 10: Litter

New measures

- England and Wales should follow NI and Scotland's lead in producing Marine Litter Strategies

Egs of Measures to reduce sea-based sources of litter:

- Revised Port Reception Facilities (PRF) regulations bring in a 'No Special Fee' system Europe wide
- Establish measures to reduce fisheries-related marine litter e.g. "no-blame" reporting systems

Egs of Measures to reduce land-based sources of litter:

- Introduce a charge on all single use bags in England in line with the schemes in Wales, Scotland and NI
- Encourage the cosmetics & detergents industry to halt the use of plastic micro beads
- Incentivise retailers to introduce drinks bottle deposit schemes



Descriptor 11: Noise

Implement existing measures

- Establish & maintain a comprehensive noise registry, to include all sources of impulsive noise (including military activities).
- Implement Habitats & Birds Directives
- EIA & SEA Directive (including noise risk assessments)
- Mitigation measures such as slow start up for wind piling



Descriptor 11: Noise

New measures

- Alternatives to pile driving offshore wind to be further explored & incentivised
- Establish a 'noise levy' to fund research
- Seismic data to be compiled into a shared register as a condition of licensing
- Set species relevant biological thresholds to reduce (behavioural and injury) impacts.



CONCLUSION

EXISTING MEASURES

- MPA network
- CFP
- Marine Planning

NEW MEASURES

- Proper protection of MPAs
- Fish stock recovery areas
- Plastic bag ban
- Alternatives to pile driving

YOUR IDEAS

We will send round a Survey to all attending for your own ideas



