

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority



IFCA Management of Coastal MPAs

Tim Robbins
Chief Officer

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Marine life

Number of England's marine conservation zones nearly doubles

But leading marine conservationist warns that MCZs are 'paper parks' and will offer wildlife no real protection from destructive dredging and trawling


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Sunday 17 January 2016 00:01 GMT



This article is 2 months old

On the Tide

The blog of Marine Conservation Institute



BLOG

Is the "Marine Protected Area" label creating the illusion of marine biodiversity conservation?

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 LANCE MORGAN LEAVE A COMMENT

Marine biologists Mark Costello and Bill Ballantine from Leigh Marine Laboratory in New Zealand recently [published a new study](#) stressing the critical importance of no-take marine reserves for marine biodiversity conservation.

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Cardigan Bay SAC under attack

BY HANNAH LAWSON 16TH DECEMBER 2016

Cardigan Bay or Bae Ceredigion Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Wales stretches from Ceiber Bay in Pembrokeshire to Aberarth in Ceredigion and stretches almost 20 km out from the coast. It is designated to protect 1000 km2 of marine habitats and species including reefs, sandbanks, caves, dolphins, grey seals and lampreys. A second SAC is also present within Cardigan Bay area, the Pen Llyn a' Samau SAC. This SAC protects similar marine habitats and additionally marine sandbanks, estuaries and coastal lagoons.

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Marine life

George Monbiot's blog

The UK's marine reserves are nothing but paper parks

The government is in breach of its promise to create a network of marine conservation zones by 2012

What do the terms "marine reserve" and "marine-protected area" conjure up for you? Places in which, perhaps, wildlife is protected? In which the damaging activities permitted in other parts of the sea – **such as trawling and dredging – are banned? Wrong**

We need more because the network we have is far from complete. Despite the [50] MCZs, the UK's rich marine life has very little protection. That may sound paradoxical, but six years after the Marine Act was passed, **MCZs are still paper parks**. They **have no management at all**, so life within them remains unprotected. They will be worse than useless, giving the **illusion of protection where none is present.**



A marine-protected area in the United Kingdom is an area inside **a line drawn on a map** - and that's about it. In most cases, **the fishing industry can continue to rip up the seabed**, overharvest the fish and shellfish, and cause all the other kinds of damage it is permitted to inflict in the rest of this country's territorial waters. With three tiny exceptions, **our marine reserves are nothing but paper parks**

“Marine Conservation Zones will **not make a jot of difference** if they don't get sufficient protection. What we need is to exclude all mobile fishing gears . . . they are completely incompatible with nature conservation.”

Myths

- Marine Protected areas are the same as No Take Zones
- Designation of MPA means immediate protection of features
- Best Evidence of feature extent and location already exists
- Even without any verification of features management should be brought in
- Regulators will bow to the pressure of the fishing industry
- MPA designation means no bottom towed gear
- Paper Parks
- Currently no management is in place in MPA

Facts

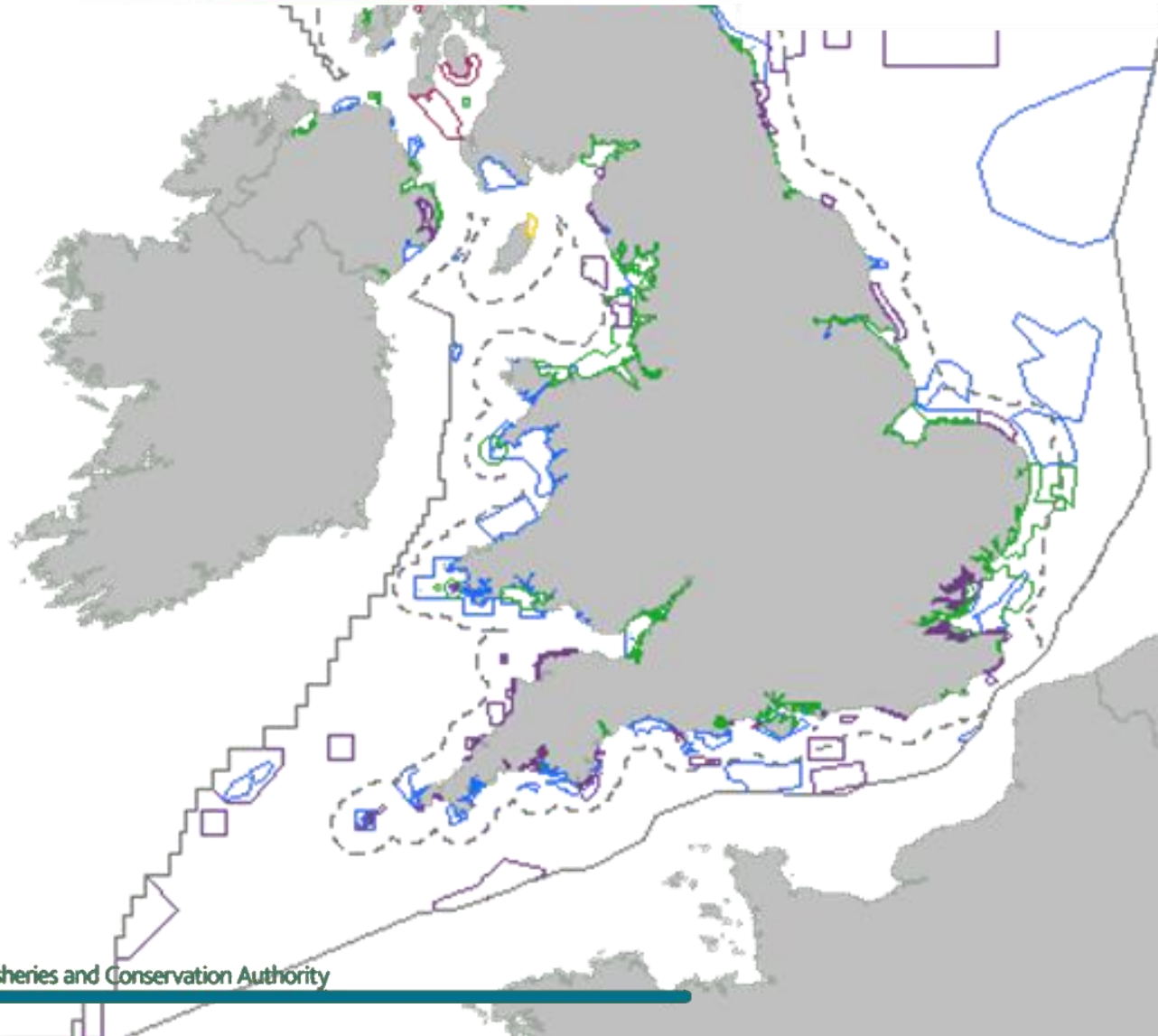
- Marine Protected Areas do provide protection of the designated habitats or species. Some have no take zones
- Assessment of and appropriate management of fishing activities will be brought in within 2 years of designation (post 2016)
- In some cases very poor evidence of feature extent and location exists at designation. Extensive survey work is taking place.
- Management is in place in MPAs
- MPA does not mean all towed gear removed
- The MPA network is building

An aerial photograph of a coastline. The top half of the image shows a rugged, brownish-grey landmass with a network of rivers and valleys. A thin strip of sandy beach separates the land from the water. The bottom half of the image is dominated by a vast expanse of turquoise and blue water, showing some darker patches of seabed or coral reefs. The overall tone is serene and majestic.

Trade your expectations for appreciation
and your world changes instantly.

— *Tony Robbins* —

Current MPA Network



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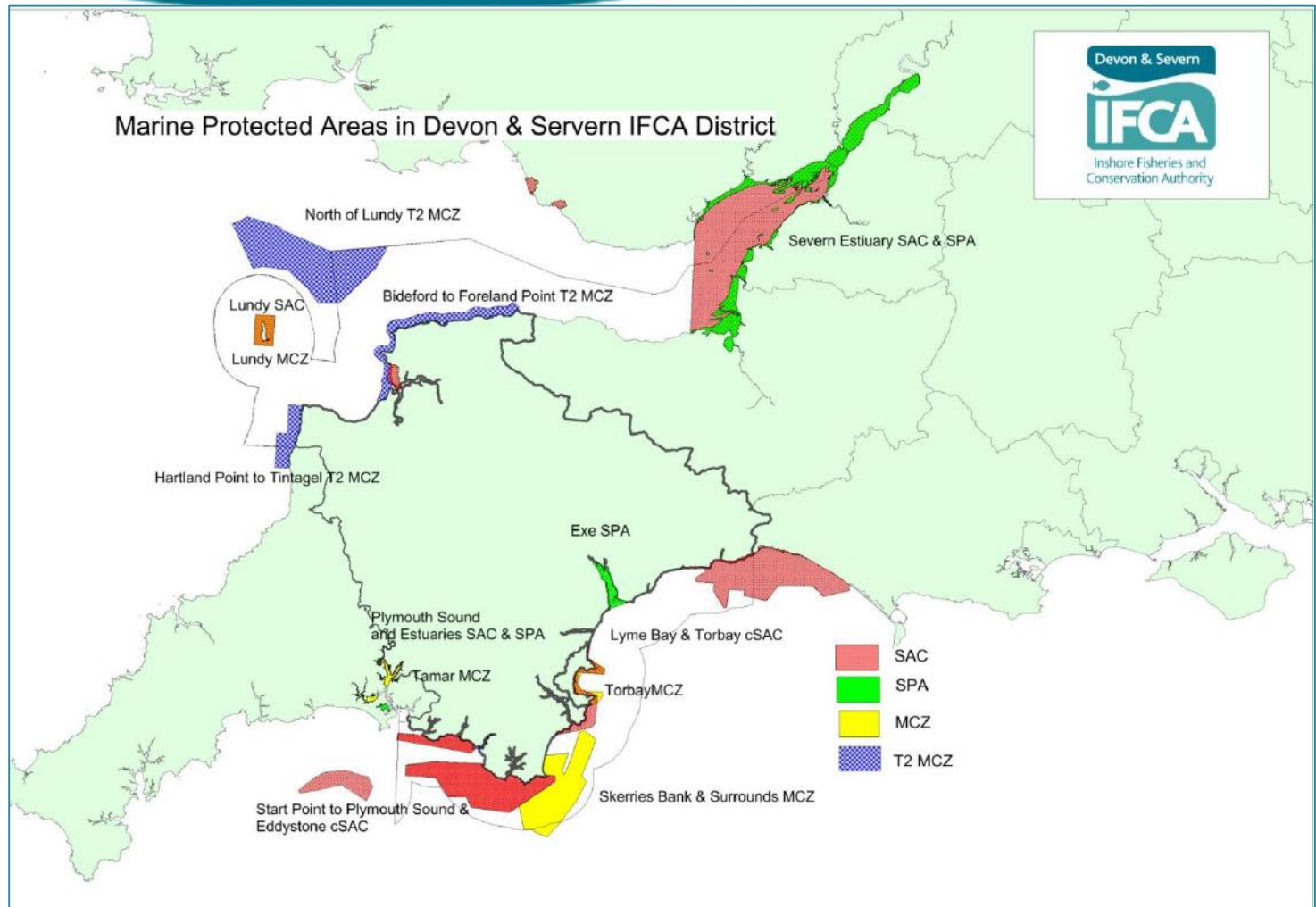
IFCAs and MPA Progress

No. of EMS	89
No. of EMS features	185
No. of EMS subfeatures	552
No. of gear types in matrix	40
No. of gear / feature interactions	13,615

No. of Tranche 1 MCZ	27
No. of Tranche 1 features	167
No. of Tranche 2 MCZ	23
No. of Tranche 2 features	40
No. of Tranche 3 rMCZ	23
No. of Tranche 3 rMCZ features	128

IFCA district sea area	28,607 km ²
Area of EMS in IFCA districts	11, 581 km ²
Area of MCZs in IFCA districts	4,642 km ²
Area covered by MPAs (overlap removed)	13,213 km ²

D&SIFCA District



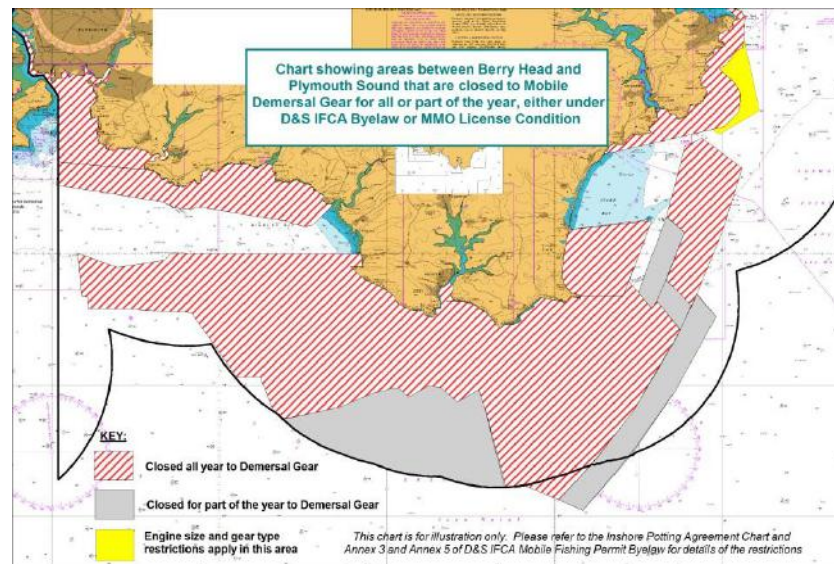
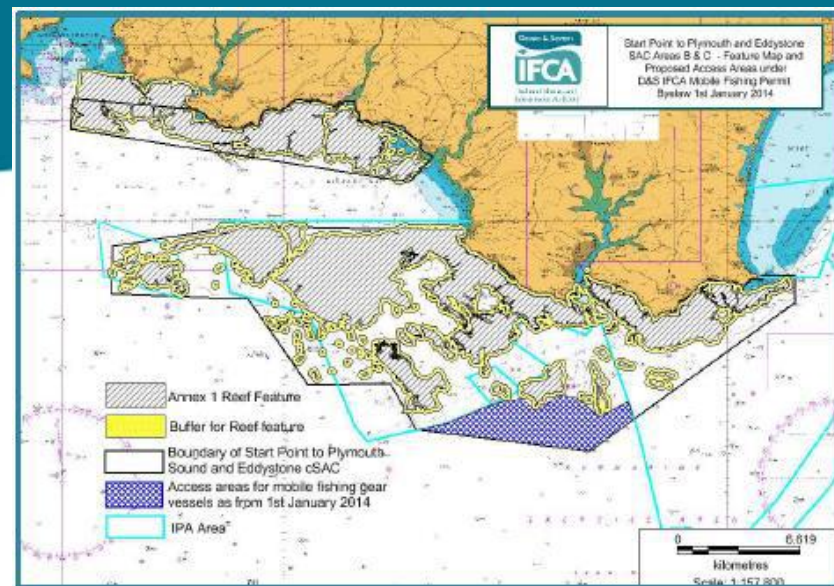
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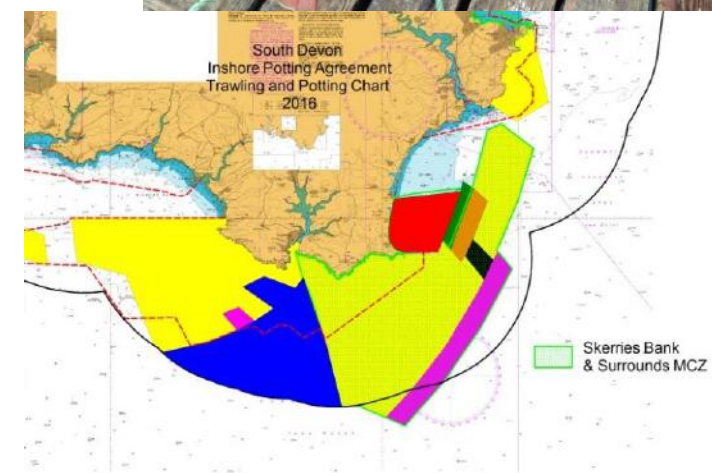
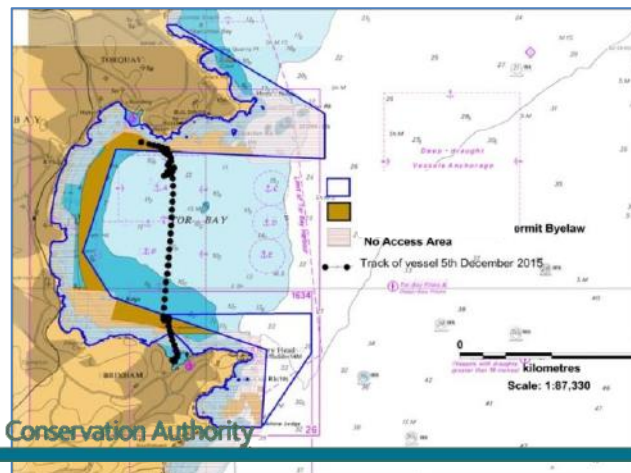
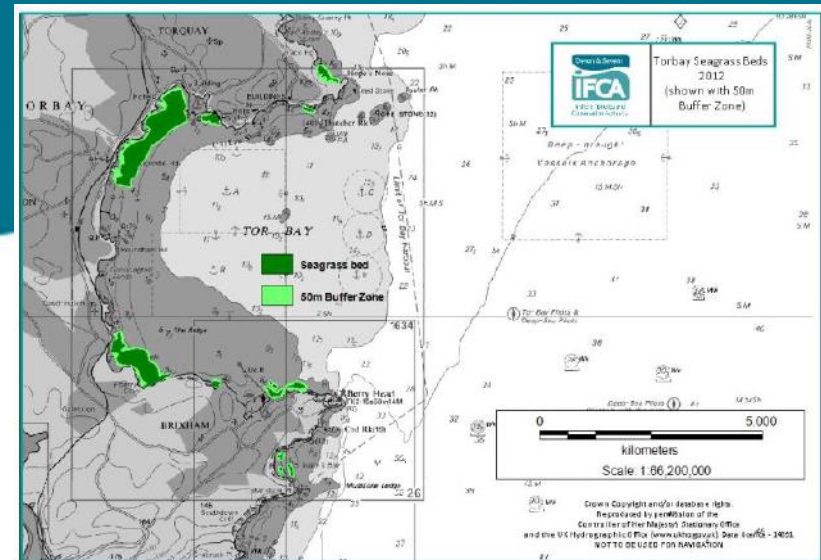
- Red risk - Revised Approach and MCZ management – Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
- 24.45% of district and 92.5% of MPA area closed to demersal towed gear
- 100% protection of designated features from demersal towed gear in Severn EMS, Lyme Bay & Torbay SAC, SPPSE SAC, Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC
- 77% of Lundy SAC is closed to bottom towed gear – current AA on sand sediments



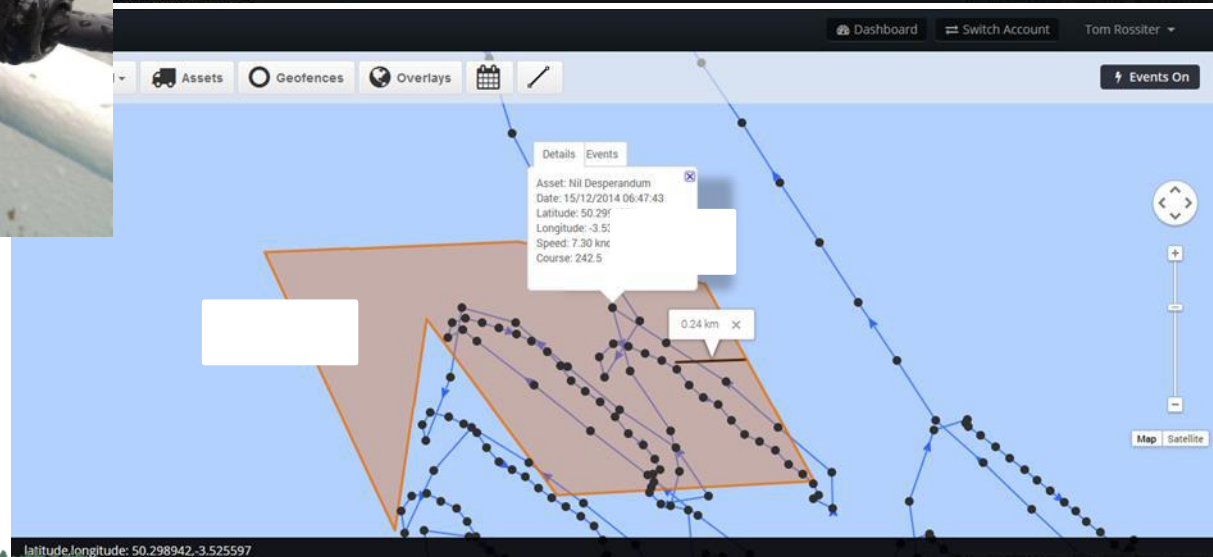
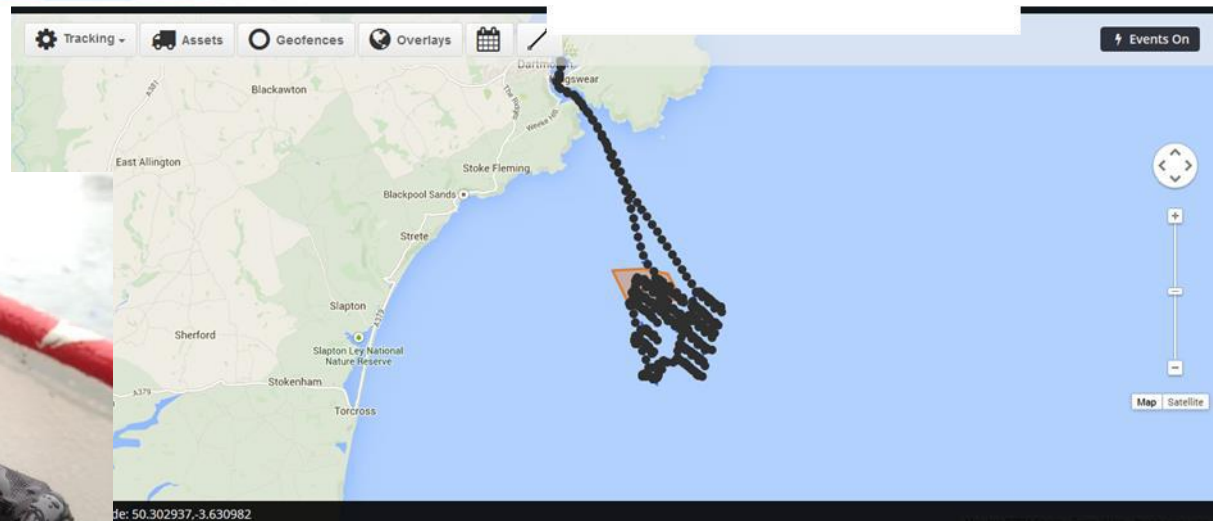
- Sea grass protection in Torbay MCZ

Palinurus elephas landing prohibition
Lundy MCZ & Skerries Bank and
Surrounds MCZ - Potting Permit Byelaw

- Managed access Zones in Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ – working with MMO
- Monitoring of MCZ features
- 55% Mud in Torbay MCZ is protected from demersal gear – MSc study looking at gear impacts on remaining mud areas



Inshore Vessel Monitoring System



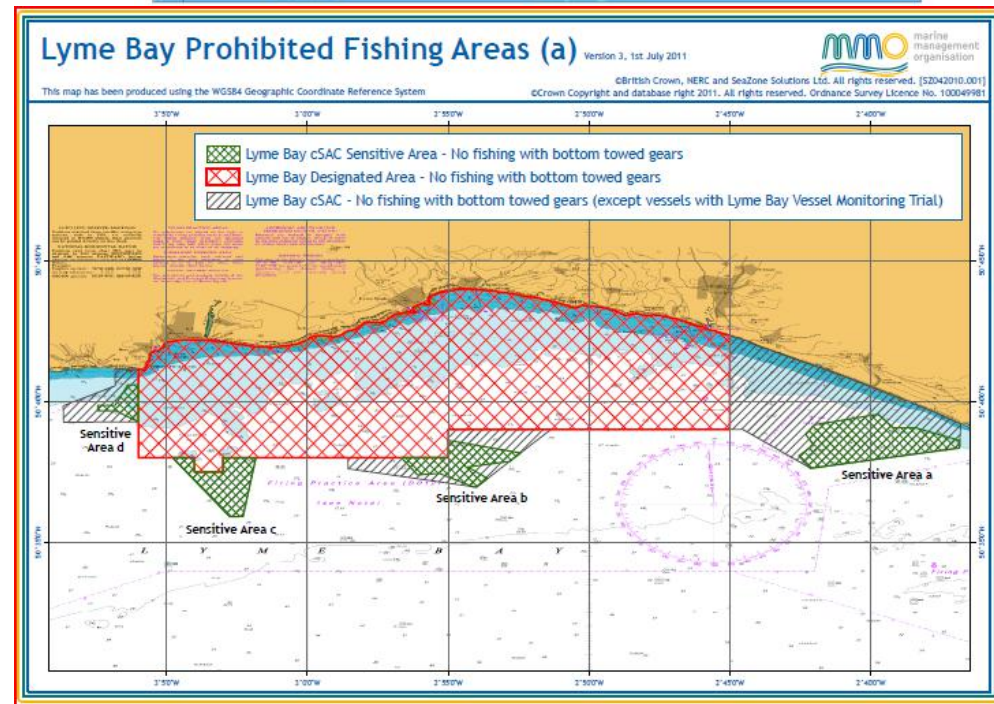
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I-VMS Trial

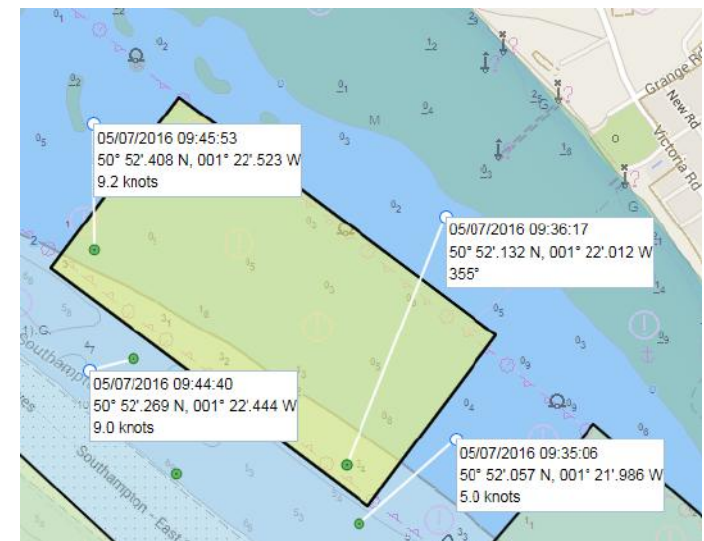
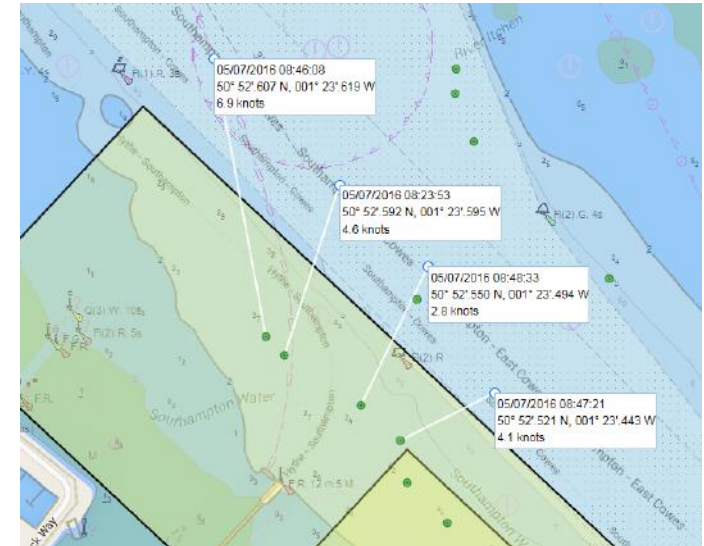
- Sept. 2010 Natural England advice for Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC recommended further measures to protect site features
- Expand existing Defra funded Seafish/industry inspired low cost VMS projects.
- MMO and D&S and Southern IFCA trial I-VMS to assess its suitability as a compliance tool



Approval Programme

Programme Actions

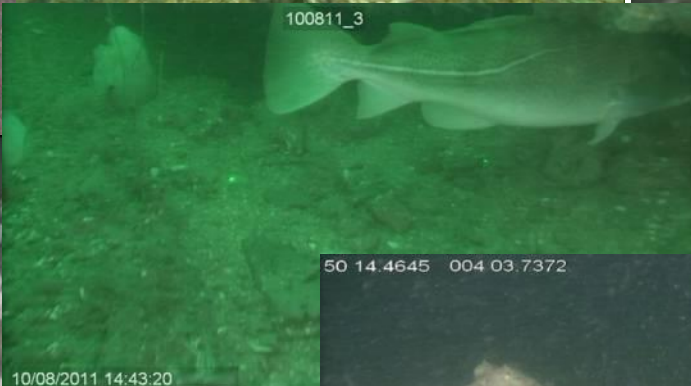
- Developing the specification
- Multiple suppliers
- Technical standards directive
- Procuring an external tester
- Producing testing docs
- Opening the test window



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