



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Highly Protected Marine Areas

Consultation on sites proposed for
designation as Highly Protected
Marine Areas

July 2022

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We're responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy, sustaining thriving rural communities and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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Executive summary

In 2019 the UK Government commissioned an independent review, the [Benyon Review](#), to explore whether, and if so how, government should designate HPMA's. The Review recommended that HPMA's are an essential component of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network, and that government should introduce them as soon as possible. The government published its response to the Review on World Ocean Day 2021, accepting the central recommendation that we should take forward some pilot sites. Candidate sites designated following this consultation will be the pilot sites for this purpose.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on the proposals to designate a number of candidate Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMA's) in English waters.

HPMA's were defined in the Benyon Review and government response as:

“Areas of the sea that allow the protection and recovery of marine ecosystems by prohibiting extractive, destructive and depositional uses and allowing only non-damaging levels of other activities to the extent permitted by international law”¹.

The consultation is seeking additional evidence on potential social and economic aspects of designating these candidate HPMA's, and site level ecological information. We are consulting on five candidate HPMA's. Following this consultation, government will designate a number of these sites. The total area covered by the candidate HPMA's is 1230.4 km² (0.53% of English waters).

The primary intention of HPMA's is biodiversity recovery. By setting aside some areas of sea with high levels of protection, HPMA's will allow nature to fully recover to a more natural state, allowing the ecosystem to thrive. They will contribute to the government's vision for, 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse ocean and seas'².

Pilot HPMA's will be designated as marine conservation zones (MCZs) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. They will complement the existing MPA network and can deliver different or enhanced benefits over existing MPAs.

We have identified the candidate HPMA's in this consultation through an evidence-based process, in collaboration with the experts in Natural England, the Joint Nature

¹ [Government response to the Highly Protected Marine Areas \(HPMA's\) review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/highly-protected-marine-areas-review)

² [Safeguard the seas \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/consultations/safeguard-the-seas)

Conservation Committee, the Marine Management Organisation, Cefas and the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.

The candidate HPMAs cover a variety of inshore and offshore environments, stretching from intertidal areas spread around our coastline to offshore waters at the edge of our exclusive economic zone. The inshore candidate HPMAs include sheltered intertidal mudflats and biogenic reefs supporting feeding seabirds, together with extensive subtidal kelp forest habitats and in deeper areas animal dominated rocky habitats. Further out to sea, the offshore candidate HPMAs include complex mosaics of sediment habitats together with biogenic reefs and rocky reefs supporting a variety of species. The candidate HPMAs have been identified for their high regional biodiversity and contain habitats and species known to be rare, threatened or declining in our seas.

Designating pilot HPMAs will help to protect and recover habitats and species which provide a range of ecosystem services. Blue carbon habitats, important for absorption of carbon from the atmosphere and for providing long term carbon stores, are present in both inshore and offshore candidate HPMAs and are important nature-based solutions in our fight against climate change. In inshore sites, habitats which can help in flood defence, reducing coastal erosion and wave attenuation are present. The rich and diverse seafloor habitats, present in both inshore and offshore sites support key life stages for a range of important commercial species including bass, brown crab and cod.

It is anticipated that, in line with the conservation objectives of an HPMA, management measures would usually be required to prohibit extractive, destructive, and depositional uses within their boundaries. The aim will be for regulators, including the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), to introduce appropriate management measures as soon as practical. There will also be an assessment in respect of each site as to whether any additional measures are needed to manage other activities that are not extractive, destructive, or depositional, based on the species and habitats found in the site.

We have produced an Impact Assessment to accompany this consultation, which assesses the costs and benefits of designating these candidate HPMAs. The sectors affected include commercial fishing, recreational fishing and anchoring activity. The benefits include marine biodiversity, environmental resilience, recreation and potential tourism opportunities.

Your response to this consultation, along with evidence we will gather from other sources including site visits, will be taken into account in determining which pilot HPMA to designate and what the final boundaries of these sites will be.

Introduction

Purpose of consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on the proposals to designate as marine conservation zones a number of candidate HPMA's in English waters and to gather additional social, economic and ecological evidence to support the decision-making process. The consultation is an opportunity to provide your views on the five HPMA's which are candidates for designation, including their boundaries, and provide any relevant evidence you may have. We are not seeking views on the definition of HPMA's set out in the Benyon Review and the Government's response.

Geographical scope

Marine protected areas are a devolved matter. This consultation relates to candidate HPMA's in English inshore and offshore waters only.

Responsible body

This consultation is being carried out by Defra's HPMA Team on behalf of the UK Government.

Audience

This is a public consultation. It is open to anyone with an interest to provide comments, but the consultation has particular relevance to:

- groups or individuals who use the sea for whatever purpose, or have an interest in it,
- business users of the sea and those businesses that have an impact on the sea, and
- national and local interest groups such as environmental and recreational non-governmental organisations and industry federations.

Duration

This consultation runs for 12 weeks. The consultation opens 6 July 2022. The consultation closes 28 September 2022. Responses received after this date may not be considered.

During the consultation, if you have any enquiries or wish to receive hard copies of the documents, please contact hpma@defra.gov.uk

How to respond to this consultation

Consultation questions are listed in part 5 of this document. Please focus your responses on the specific questions asked. Please find guidance on our evidence standards in the data submission form (Annex A). You can respond to this consultation in one of three ways:

- **online** by completing this survey at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/hpma/consultation-on-highly-protected-marine-areas>
- **email** (specifying which question(s) you are answering) to hpma@defra.gov.uk
- **post** (specifying which question(s) you are answering) to:

HPMA Team, Marine and Fisheries Directorate, Defra, 1st floor, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

We will also gather site-specific information on anticipated impacts of pilot HPMA through site-based workshops, giving stakeholders an additional opportunity to share their views and inform our final decisions on site selection.

Responses must be submitted by **28 September 2022**.

Part 1: Context

What are HPMA and why do we need them?

By setting aside areas of sea with high levels of protection, HPMA will allow nature to recover to a more natural state, allowing the ecosystem to thrive. HPMA were defined in the Benyon Review and government response as

“Areas of the sea that allow the protection and recovery of marine ecosystems by prohibiting extractive, destructive and depositional uses and allowing only non-damaging levels of other activities to the extent permitted by international law”.

Higher biomass, density, diversity and individual organism size have been reported in MPAs with high levels of protection compared to other MPAs in the same area,

with commercially and non-commercially important species demonstrating a significant increase in biomass, abundance and species diversity³.

HPMAs can act as a nature-based solution to improve the state of English seas, address biodiversity loss, and ensure a more climate resilient marine ecosystem which will contribute towards achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) under the UK Marine Strategy (UKMS). Further, HPMAs would provide a scientific benchmark for what recovery of our seas looks like and would set standards within our current MPA network.

HPMAs and the MPA network

MPAs and HPMAs are important tools to prevent biodiversity loss and support delivering GES. MPAs are areas where specific species and habitat features are protected while allowing sustainable use of the sea. The MPA network, comprising MCZs, Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas⁴, covers 40% of English waters.

HPMAs will complement the existing MPA network because they can deliver different or enhanced benefits over existing sites and contribute to the value of the network. In MPAs the marine environment can recover to a good, healthy state while HPMAs will allow full recovery to as most natural a state as possible.

Achieving this means some restrictions on activities. In MPAs, activities are allowed as long as there is no significant risk of hindering the conservation objectives of or adversely affecting the integrity of the site. HPMAs will have a higher conservation

³ Lester, S. and Halpern, B. (2008). Biological responses in marine no-take reserves versus partially protected areas. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 367, 49–56.

Sala, E. and Giakoumi, S. (2018). No-take marine reserves are the most effective protected areas in the ocean. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, 75(3), 1166–1168.

Lester, S., Halpern, B., Grorud-Colvert, K., Lubchenco, J., Ruttenberg, B., Gaines, S., and Warner, R. (2009). Biological effects within no-take marine reserves: a global synthesis. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 384 33–46.

Stewart, G. B., Kaiser, M. J., Côté, I. M., Halpern, B. S., Lester, S. E., Bayliss, H. R., & Pullin, A. S. (2009). Temperate marine reserves: global ecological effects and guidelines for future networks. *Conservation Letters* 2 243–253.

Sciberras, M., Jenkins, S. R., Mant, R., Kaiser, M. J., Hawkins, S. J., and Pullin, A. S. (2015). Evaluating the relative conservation value of fully and partially protected marine areas. *Fish and Fisheries* 16 58–77.

⁴ MCZs are designated pursuant to Part 5 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated or classified under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 or the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as appropriate).

objective, and the furthering of this objective should require all extractive, depositional and destructive activities to be prohibited within the entire site. Other activities are or will be allowed in both MPAs and HPMA at levels that don't damage the protected features (MPA) or site (HPMA). There will be fewer permitted activities than in existing MPAs.

The MMO is undertaking a programme of work to manage impacts from fishing activities in offshore MPAs. There is some overlap with the candidate HPMA proposals and current work on offshore fisheries management measures. Please see the candidate HPMA factsheets for details.

HPMAs will take a 'whole site approach', therefore all the features within the HPMA boundary will be designated for protection. The proposed protected feature description for pilot HPMA as will be listed in the designation order is:

'The marine ecosystem, habitats and species of flora and fauna, abiotic elements, and their supporting ecosystem function and processes, including the seabed, water column and sea surface, within the site boundary.'

The proposed conservation objective for all pilot HPMA is:

"To achieve full natural recovery of the structure and functions, features, qualities and composition of characteristic biological communities present within HPMA and prevent further degradation and damage to the marine ecosystem subject to natural change."

HPMA will be designated as MCZs in English inshore and offshore waters using powers in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009⁵. As with existing MPAs, activities in HPMA will be managed by the appropriate regulator in accordance with available powers. Supported by scientific advice from the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB; Natural England or JNCC), acceptable levels of activities that are consistent with full recovery will be determined on a site-specific basis.

Piloting HPMA

Although the evidence of their potential benefits is clear, we acknowledge that HPMA will impact a range of sea users. We committed to identify a number of locations within English waters to pilot our approach and we are referring to these as candidate HPMA because these sites are candidates for designation as pilot

⁵ Part 5 of the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

HPMAs. Following designation of pilot HPMAs, we aim to improve our understanding of:

1. how best to monitor and manage HPMAs;
2. how the marine ecosystem recovers in the absence of direct human pressures in our waters;
3. the suitability of the current legislative provision for MCZs under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 as the legislative vehicle for the designation and management of HPMAs; and
4. the effects of HPMAs on sea users and coastal communities, which will include understanding any displacement of fishing effort at a site level.

Part 2: Identifying candidate HPMAs for designation

We have identified candidate HPMAs using ecological, social and economic criteria, to select areas that provide the maximum biodiversity and ecosystem benefits while seeking to minimise impacts to sea users.

JNCC and Natural England, along with Cefas, developed [ecological criteria](#) to identify potential HPMA locations, and [invited stakeholders](#) to submit proposals for HPMAs that met these criteria. The ecological criteria are based on the principles outlined in the Benyon Review. Defra developed the social and economic criteria (Annex B), also based on principles published in the Benyon Review, which were used to refine the list of potential sites.

To ensure that pilot HPMAs can deliver full protection and recovery, locations with existing and/or consented physical structures and activities that would ordinarily be prohibited within an HPMA were discounted early on in the selection process. In some cases, we also excluded areas of the sea with proposed locations for some structures or licensable activities, because the activities that are likely to begin in the future would not be allowed in HPMAs.

After considering third-party proposals, alongside areas they themselves had identified, Natural England and JNCC developed an initial list of 30 potential areas termed 'Areas of Ecological Interest' (or AElS) which they submitted to Defra (see advice [here](#)). Defra, using data from Cefas, MMO, IFCA and the SNCBs then applied social and economic criteria to help narrow down the list of potential candidate sites. These criteria focused on activities that would be impacted by the candidate HPMAs. This included, but was not limited to, understanding what UK and

non-UK wild capture fishing, recreational angling and anchoring activities were occurring within the location.

For more detail on the process for identifying potential candidate HPMA, please see Annex B.

Stakeholders

Since publishing the Government's response to the Benyon Review we have held discussions with a broad range of stakeholders on several occasions. We remain committed to working with stakeholders and will continue to engage throughout the designation process and beyond into management and evaluation. Specifically, we invited stakeholders to propose locations that meet the ecological criteria and held discussions on the draft ecological, social and economic criteria and areas of the sea that have been excluded for candidate HPMA.

We recognise that HPMA will concern some sea users. In particular, the fishing industry have told us they have significant concerns about HPMA leading to further displacement from fishing grounds when they are already being excluded from some areas by offshore wind energy development and MPA byelaws. We have used data on fishing to remove the areas with the highest impact on fishers.

Recreational anglers have also expressed concern. We have been working with Cefas and a group of sea angling representatives to explore how recreational angling is managed in HPMA around the world, which has informed some of the consultation questions.

Defra is considering the cumulative impacts of fisheries displacement alongside other marine users as part of a programme of work on Marine Spatial Prioritisation, which will consider a future vision for the use of our seas.

As part of the candidate HPMA identification process, we applied social and economic criteria to minimise any potential impact and exclude the most economically risky sites; and we will work further alongside this consultation to undertake local and national meetings and workshops to better understand social and economic impacts of HPMA designation and gather further place-specific information. In addition to consultation responses, we will use the information and evidence we gather during this process to inform our decisions on sites to designate.

Areas included in this consultation document are potential candidates for designation as an HPMA. The designation of the final HPMA will be subject to the findings of this consultation and a further detailed assessment of the place-based social and

economic impacts. This assessment will consider the impact of a potential HPMA on local economic and social measures such as jobs and wellbeing.

Part 3: Proposals

Candidate HPMAs

We are considering five candidate HPMAs (see Table 1 and further information in site factsheets (Annexes C-G) and ecological narratives (Annex H). Figure 1 shows an overview map showing the location of the candidate sites.

Table 1. Candidate HPMAs. Area rounded to nearest whole kilometre.

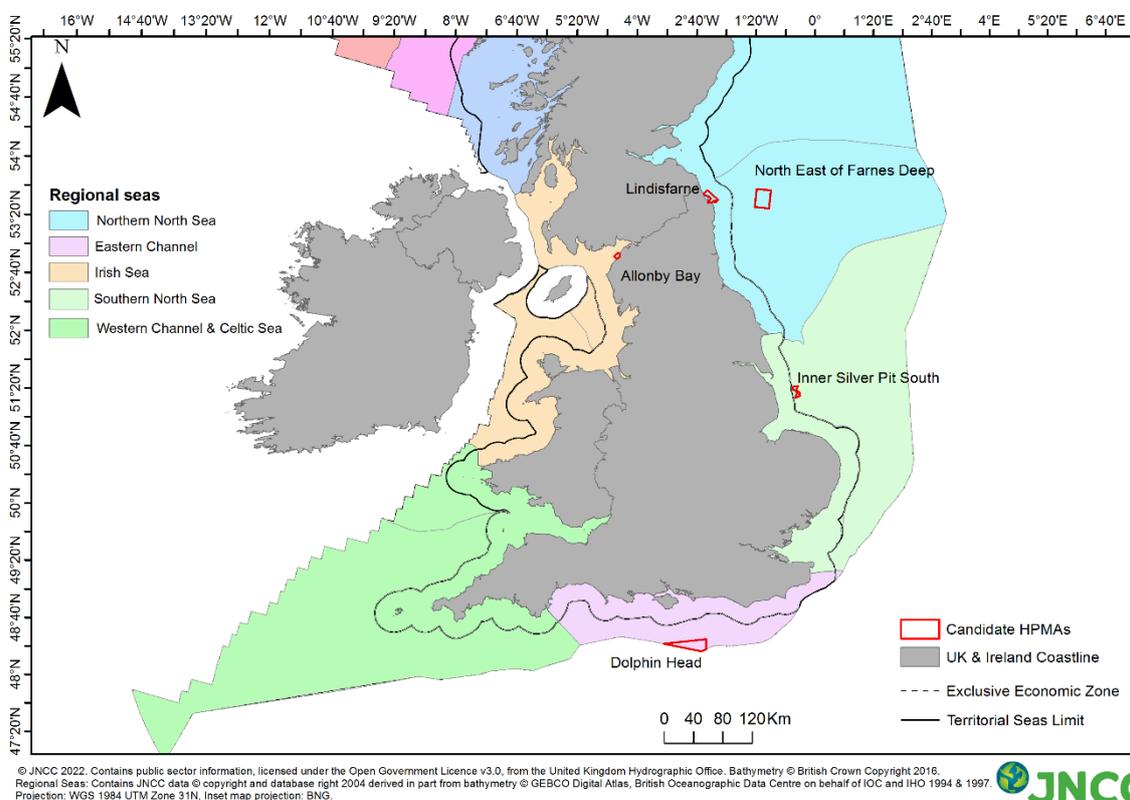
Candidate HPMA	Inshore / offshore ⁶	Area (km ²)
Allonby Bay	Inshore	39
Dolphin Head	Offshore	509
Inner Silver Pit South	Offshore	63
Lindisfarne	Inshore	129
North-east of Farnes Deep	Offshore	492

Your views are sought on these proposals. To aid this, a list of specific consultation questions is provided in part 5 of this document. We welcome any additional evidence that stakeholders wish to submit during the consultation. New evidence must meet certain quality standards. These evidence standards are set out in the data submission form (Annex A). We would appreciate it if any new data could be provided as early as possible during the consultation period. Evidence which has previously been submitted to Defra, JNCC or Natural England does not need to be resubmitted.

A number of the candidate HPMAs have site boundaries which overlap with existing MCZs or other MPAs and where this is the case details are given in the relevant site factsheets. The higher conservation objective proposed for HPMAs will apply in respect of the area of overlap.

⁶ Inshore is within England's territorial waters out to 12 nautical miles and offshore is UK waters around England outside of 12 nautical miles (see section 116(2) of the Marine and Coastal Act 2009 for the areas in which MCZs may be designated).

Figure 1 – Candidate HPMAs in English waters



Management implications

Management measures will be needed to further the higher conservation objective of HPMAs. In line with SNCB advice, it is anticipated that extractive, destructive and depositional activities will be prohibited within each site. This would include activities such as commercial and recreational fishing, dredging, construction, anchoring (this list is not exhaustive; see Table 2). Non-damaging levels of other activities to the extent permitted by international law are allowed.

Public authorities will need to ensure they meet the general duties and specific duties in relation to certain decisions that may affect MCZs within the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Public authorities will have responsibility for ensuring compliance in line with their remit, supported by conservation advice from the relevant SNCB.

Table 2. Examples of activities that would be expected to hinder conservation objectives of an HPMA⁷, and which would therefore require management, to the extent permitted by international law.

Activity	Will the activity be consistent with the conservation objectives of an HPMA?
Anchoring/mooring	No – unless in emergency situations
Collection of flora, fauna, natural materials	No – unless for research that cannot be undertaken elsewhere
Deposition of any material on the seabed or in the water column (including dredge material, installation of structures and cables, littering, discharges and any other works)	No
Dredging (including mineral extraction and maintenance or capital dredging)	No
Fishing (commercial and recreational)	No
Recreational angling	No – but see consultation questions on angling zones

Designation orders for HPMAs will set out the protected features and the conservation objectives for the sites.

Fisheries management measures, including MMO and IFCA byelaws will be used to prohibit or restrict fishing activities from occurring within the site. The MMO has byelaw-making powers to regulate fishing activities in both the English inshore and offshore regions⁸.

The MMO also has byelaw-making powers to regulate non-fishing activities for the protection of MCZs in the English inshore region but it does not currently have corresponding powers in the English offshore region⁹. These inshore region byelaws can relate to the management of activities such as, killing, taking, destroying or disturbing any animals or plants. The MMO has [guidance](#) on determining marine licence applications in candidate and designated MCZs. Guidance is based on the duties set out in sections 125-126 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA).¹⁰ Section 125 places a general duty on public authorities to carry out their functions in the manner that they consider best furthers, or, failing which, least hinders, the conservation objectives set for MCZs. Section 126 covers the duties of

⁷ [Benyon Review Into Highly Protected Marine Areas \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ Sections 129A and 129B of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

⁹ Section 129 of the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰ Sections [125](#) and [126](#) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

public authorities in relation to certain decisions capable of affecting an MCZ. The duties in sections 125 and 126 do not however impose strict prohibitions on the carrying out of specific activities within MCZs. This pilot phase of HPMA designation will enable us to test the suitability of the existing legislative framework.

Management measures for activities that are not extractive, destructive and depositional, most likely non-licensable and/or recreational, will depend on existing activity in the site and the sensitivity of the species or habitat to activities taking place in that area. Examples of non-licensable activities that may threaten biodiversity include motorised recreation, wildlife watching and land-based recreation. Some of these activities currently occurring in the sites could be damaging to the species and habitats. This consultation will help us improve our evidence about activities occurring in the sites, which will help SNCBs to develop the conservation advice for the sites and enable any necessary management measures to be determined. Management may be voluntary. For example, some activities might benefit from voluntary codes of conduct such as diving (to encourage divers to avoid resting on the seabed, removing species or touching features), dog walking (to avoid disturbing species) or powerboating (to encourage users to reduce their speed).

In line with the Government's response to the Benyon Review, as part of this consultation we are also gathering evidence and views on having a recreational angling zone adjacent to an inshore HPMA, within which this extractive activity would be regulated and the impact evaluated as part of the pilot process.

Our aim is that management measures in HPMAs will be designed to take account of the operation of UK Defence and Security services and not hinder their activities. The Defence and Security Services already use Environmental Protection Guidelines (Maritime) to enhance their Standard Operating Procedures to ensure sensitive marine habitats or species are not harmed.

Part 4: Impact Assessment

The Impact Assessment accompanying this consultation (Annex I) identifies some, but not all of the costs and benefits for designating candidate HPMA. The main activities impacted are expected to be commercial fishing, recreational fishing and, to a lesser extent, anchoring. We recognise that gaps remain in the evidence base, for which we welcome responses through this consultation, especially relating to site users, fishing activity, displacement, ecosystem recovery and tourism. More details are outlined in part 3 of the Impact Assessment.

In addition to public costs of monitoring, managing and evaluating the pilot sites, we estimate private sector costs of designation. We are consulting on five possible

locations and the costs to business are dependent on the sites chosen, both which sites and how many. We anticipate a number of the candidate sites will be designated as pilot HPMA's. If only the site with the highest average annual UK fishing revenues was designated, the total cost to business would be £5.3m, which would affect an estimated 57 vessels. If only the site with the lowest average annual UK fishing revenues was designated, the total cost to business would be £5,500, which would affect an estimated 2 vessels. If all five shortlisted sites were designated, the likely cost to business is £9m, with an average of £1.8m per site. This would affect an estimated 113 vessels. These figures include lost revenue only and are intended to be high level indicative costs.

Benefits identified in the Impact Assessment include: the protection and recovery of marine life and its biodiversity and the ecosystem services which those marine ecosystems provide; carbon sequestration and storage through the protection of blue carbon habitats such as seagrass; potential future fishery benefits from protecting nursery grounds; increased abundance of species and tourism and recreation which can benefit from more diverse marine life.

Part 5: Consultation questions

About You

1. Would you like your response to be confidential?

Please see the confidentiality and data protection section at the end of this document.

- Yes
- No

If you answered Yes to this question, please give your reason.

2. What is your sex?

Please select one answer only.

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

3. Please tell us about the total annual income of your household last year (before tax and deductions, but including any benefits/allowances):

Please select one answer only.

- Below £10,000
- £10,001 to £20,000
- £20,001 to £30,000
- £30,001 to £40,000
- £40,001 to £50,000
- Above £50,001
- Prefer not to answer

4. Please enter your postcode sector up to a maximum of five digits.

Your postcode sector includes the outcode (first part of postcode), the space and the first digit of the incode (second part of postcode). For example: AB12 3.

5. Are you responding to this call for evidence on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

Please select one answer only.

- On behalf of an organisation (please specify)
- As an individual

- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

6. Are you a member of an environmental organisation? (e.g., charity, NGO, community action group).

Please select one answer only.

- Yes marine focused environmental organisation (please specify)
- Yes environmental organisation but not marine specific (please specify)
- No
- Prefer not to say

7. Do you currently earn any income from any of the following industries?

Please select all that apply.

- Commercial fishing
- Aquaculture
- Seafood processing
- Recreational sea fishing (incl. charter boat fishing)
- Recreational boating
- Marine recreation and tourism (e.g., scuba diving, cruise tourism. Excl. recreational sea fishing or boating)
- Harbour operations
- Fishing or recreational vessel maintenance
- Ports and shipping
- Offshore oil & gas
- Offshore wind or renewable energy
- Extraction of marine aggregates
- Sub-marine cabling and other infrastructure
- Marine conservation activities
- Marine conservation advocacy
- Marine research (academic/university)
- Marine research (non-university/research institute)
- Marine policy making, planning or management
- Defence
- None
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

8. Have you previously earned but are not currently earning any income from any of the following industries?

Please select all that apply.

- Commercial fishing
- Aquaculture

- Seafood processing
- Recreational sea fishing (incl. charter boat fishing)
- Recreational boating
- Marine recreation and tourism (e.g., scuba diving, cruise tourism. Excl. recreational sea fishing or boating)
- Harbour operations
- Fishing or recreational vessel maintenance
- Ports and shipping
- Offshore oil & gas
- Offshore wind or renewable energy
- Extraction of marine aggregates
- Sub-marine cabling and other infrastructure
- Marine conservation activities
- Marine conservation advocacy
- Marine research (academic/university)
- Marine research (non-university/research institute)
- Marine policy making, planning or management
- Defence
- None
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

9. Do you have any other/additional affiliations with the following industries?

Please select all that apply.

- Commercial fishing
- Aquaculture
- Seafood processing
- Recreational sea fishing (incl. charter boat fishing)
- Recreational boating
- Marine recreation and tourism (e.g., scuba diving, cruise tourism. Excl. recreational sea fishing or boating)
- Harbour operations
- Fishing or recreational vessel maintenance
- Ports and shipping
- Offshore oil & gas
- Offshore wind or renewable energy
- Extraction of marine aggregates
- Sub-marine cabling and other infrastructure
- Marine conservation activities
- Marine conservation advocacy
- Marine research (academic/university)
- Marine research (non-university/research institute)
- Marine policy making, planning or management
- Defence
- None

- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

10. If you are employed, how many people work for your employer? If you are self-employed and employ other people, how many people do you employ?

Please select one answer only.

- 0 - 4
- 5 - 9
- 10 - 19
- 20 - 49
- 50 - 99
- 100 - 249
- 250+
- Don't know
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say

11. Are you responding to this consultation as someone who owns, operates or skippers vessels?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes
- No

12. Please specify if you own, operate or skipper vessels.

Please select all that apply.

- Vessel owner
- Vessel operator
- Vessel skipper

13. Do you own, operate or skipper commercial fishing vessels?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes
- No

14. What type of commercial vessel(s) do you own, operate or skipper?

Please select all that apply.

- Commercial fishing vessel
- Commercial non-fishing vessel
- Other (please specify)

15. How many commercial vessels do you own?

Please select one answer only.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+

16. Please tick the number of commercial vessels of each size that you own, operate or skipper.

	<5m	≥5 and <10m	≥10 and <12m	≥12m
1				
2				
3				
4				
5+				

17. Please list all ports at which you have vessels registered.

18. Please list all ports at which you land catch.

19. Do you own, operate or skipper recreational fishing vessels?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes
- No

20. What type of recreational vessel(s) do you own, operate or skipper?

Please select all that apply.

- Recreational fishing vessel
- Recreational non-fishing vessel
- Other (please specify)

21. How many recreational vessels do you own?

Please select one answer only.

- 1

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+

22. Please tick the number of recreational vessels of each size that you own, operate or skipper.

	<5m	≥5 and <10m	≥10 and <12m	≥12m
1				
2				
3				
4				
5+				

Questions about all candidate HPMA sites

1. To what extent do you support or oppose the designation of pilot HPMA sites in English waters?

HPMAs are defined in the Benyon review and government response as “areas of the sea that allow the protection and recovery of marine ecosystems by prohibiting extractive, destructive and depositional uses and allowing only non-damaging levels of other activities to the extent permitted by international law”. The UK government has committed to identifying several locations within English waters to pilot this approach, referred to as pilot HPMA sites. The five sites in this consultation are the candidate sites that the UK government is considering for designation as pilot HPMA sites.

Please select one answer only and indicate reasons for your response in the comment box.

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

2. What effect do you believe HPMA sites will have on the following uses and values of the marine environment?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Strong Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Strong Positive	Don't know
Recreation and tourism (including recreational boating, recreational sea fishing and tourism businesses)						
Culture and heritage (including community identity, unique or						

culturally important marine activities)						
Health and wellbeing (including mental and physical health, health and safety)						
Industry (including displacement of fishing or other marine industry impacts)						
Local economy (including community livelihoods and employment)						
Opportunities for education and research						
Other (please state)						

Site Selection

Five candidate HPMA sites are being proposed as part of this consultation and you have the option to answer specific questions for each site. There will be an option to select 'yes', or 'no' for if you wish to answer the set of questions for each site. If 'yes' is selected, the set of specific questions for that site will appear. If 'no' is selected, you will skip to the next site.

The sites will appear in the following order:

Allonby Bay

Dolphin Head

Inner Silver Pit South

Lindisfarne

North-east of Farnes Deep

Questions by HPMA site

Allonby Bay

AB1. Do you wish to complete the site-specific questions for the candidate HPMA at Allonby Bay?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes
- No

AB2. Do you support or oppose the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at Allonby Bay?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

AB3. To what extent do you agree that designating a pilot HPMA at Allonby Bay would further the protection of the marine ecosystem?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly agree
- Slightly agree
- Neutral
- Slightly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

AB4. What impact do you believe designating a pilot HPMA at Allonby Bay would have for the provision of the following ecosystem services?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Strong negative	Moderate negative	No impact	Moderate positive	Strong positive	Don't know
Sequestration and storage of						

atmospheric carbon						
Coastal protection and minimising erosion						
Nursery and/or spawning areas for commercially and/or recreationally important fish and shellfish species						

AB5. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for commercial fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

AB6. What impact do you believe HPMA designation will have on the following factors?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please provide any additional comments, calculations, or evidence that you may have in the comment box.

	Significantly decrease	Moderately decrease	No effect	Moderately increase	Significantly increase	Do n't know	Not applicable
Fuel costs							

Labour costs							
Crew share (payments proportional to the revenue of the catch)							
Vessel maintenance costs							
Gear maintenance costs							
Other operating costs (please specify)							
Effort: soaking time for gear (static and non-towed gears)							
Effort: amount and size of gear in water							
Effort: Other (please specify)							
Time spent traveling to							

fishing grounds, not fishing							
Time spent fishing (towed gears such as dredging/trawling)							
Catch: Overall species targeted and caught							
Catch: Volume of current species caught							
Catch: availability of quota species							
Other change in catch (please specify)							

AB7. What species do you target within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Allonby Bay?

Please select all that apply.

- Whelk
- Common shrimp
- European lobster

- Edible crab
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

AB8. What gear do you use within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Allonby Bay?

Please select all that apply.

- Beam trawls
- Otter trawls - bottom
- Pots
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

AB9. In terms of your fishing effort, please estimate how much of your total effort is spent fishing within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Allonby Bay?

Fishing effort is defined here as days at sea for each vessel within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA as a fraction of the vessel's total days at sea.

Please select one answer only.

- All of my fishing effort is in the area
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

AB10. Please estimate the average landed value of your catch per year from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Allonby Bay?

Please select one answer only.

- Below £10,000
- £10,000 - £19,999
- £20,000 - £29,999
- £30,000 - £39,999
- £40,000 – £59,999
- £60,000 - £99,999
- £100,000 or more

AB11. How much of your total landed value comes from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Allonby Bay?

Please select one answer only.

- All of my landed value
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

AB12. If a pilot HPMA were designated at Allonby Bay, would you modify your use of gear to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

AB13. If HPMA designation at Allonby Bay would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpm@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

AB14. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your commercial fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

AB15. What other long-term strategic changes to your commercial fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at Allonby Bay?

AB16. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month

- Less than once a month
- Never

AB17. Please indicate the type of recreational sea fishing that you conduct:

Please select all that apply.

- Catch and release
- Catch for consumption

AB18. What primary platform do you use when engaging in recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- Charter boat
- Personal boat
- Shore-based
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

AB19. Which particular areas within the candidate HMPA boundary do you use for recreational sea fishing?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

AB20. What features make this an important and/or unique site for recreational sea fishing?

AB21. If a pilot HPMA were designated at Allonby Bay, would you modify your use of platform to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

AB22. If HPMA designation at Allonby Bay would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which

will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

AB23. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your recreational sea fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

AB24. What other long-term strategic changes to your recreational sea fishing

	Never	Less than once a month	At least once a month	At least once a week	Multiple times per week	More than once a day
Tourism and leisure						
Professional water sports						
Education and research						
Community/ cultural events						
Other (please specify in the comment box)						

activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at Allonby Bay?

AB25. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for any of the following activities?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all	Somewhat	Significantly	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Tourism and leisure					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Community/ cultural events					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

AB26. To what extent would HPMA designation impact on your current use of the marine environment at Allonby Bay?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all possible	Somewhat possible	Completely possible	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Tourism and leisure					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Community/ cultural events					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

AB27. To what extent is it possible for you to conduct your existing activities at Allonby Bay at an alternative location?

Please tick your preferred option.

AB28. To what extent is your livelihood directly dependent on use of the natural environment at Allonby Bay?

Please select one answer only.

Please explain your answer in the comment box.

- Highly dependent

- Somewhat dependent
- Slightly dependent
- Not applicable

AB29. What support could help you to adapt your activities or mitigate the impact of HPMA designation?

AB30. Do you anchor at this site?

Please select one answer only.

- Always (stationary mooring)
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- Not applicable

AB31. In their current states, how do you think the following factors will affect the likelihood of positive ecological outcomes within the candidate HPMA boundary at Allonby Bay?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views in the comment box (optional).

	Strong Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Strong Positive	Don't know
Capacity for monitoring						
Capacity for enforcement						
Current or future designations or management measures						
Degree of compliance						

Ability of local communities, marine users and management to adapt						
Degree of local understanding of rules/regulations						
Local participation in management						
Community support for HPMA at this location (including wider community not directly impacted by restrictions)						
Local stakeholder support for HPMA at this location (including stakeholders directly impacted by restrictions)						

AB32. If a pilot HPMA was designated at this site, do you have any suggestions for how monitoring and enforcement could be effectively implemented?

AB33. Do you believe any changes should be made to the boundary of the candidate site? If so, what changes would you suggest?

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views and proposal. Note that sites would still be required to meet the [ecological criteria](#) following any boundary changes. Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

AB34. What are your views on the opportunities or impacts of a catch and release angling zone adjacent to an inshore candidate HPMA?

Please provide your views in the comment box.

AB35. Where do you feel would be valuable for a catch and release angling zone?

Please specify in the comment box. Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

AB36. If you would like to provide any additional comments that you feel are relevant to the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at Allonby Bay, please do so in the comment box below.

If you would like to provide additional social, economic and/or ecological evidence, please provide this using the data submission form.

Dolphin Head

DH1. Do you wish to complete the site-specific questions for the candidate HPMA at Dolphin Head?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes
- No

DH2. Do you support or oppose the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at Dolphin Head?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

DH3. To what extent do you agree that designating a pilot HPMA at Dolphin Head would further the protection of the marine ecosystem?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly agree
- Slightly agree
- Neutral
- Slightly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

DH4. What impact do you believe designating a pilot HPMA at Dolphin Head would have for the provision of the following ecosystem services?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Strong negative	Moderate negative	No impact	Moderate positive	Strong positive	Don't know
Sequestration and storage of atmospheric carbon						

Nursery and/or spawning areas for commercially and/or recreationally important fish and shellfish species						
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DH5. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for commercial fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

DH6. What impact do you believe HPMA designation will have on the following factors?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please provide any additional comments, calculations, or evidence that you may have in the comment box.

	Significantly decrease	Moderately decrease	No effect	Moderately increase	Significantly increase	Do n't know	Not applicable
Fuel costs							
Labour costs							
Crew share (payments proportional to the							

revenue of the catch)							
Vessel maintenance costs							
Gear maintenance costs							
Other operating costs (please specify)							
Effort: soaking time for gear (static and non-towed gears)							
Effort: amount and size of gear in water							
Effort: Other (please specify)							
Time spent traveling to fishing grounds, not fishing							
Time spent fishing (towed gears							

such as dredging/trawling)							
Catch: Overall species targeted and caught							
Catch: Volume of current species caught							
Catch: availability of quota species							
Other change in catch (please specify)							

DH7. What species do you target within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Dolphin Head?

Please select all that apply.

- Atlantic mackerel
- Surmullet
- Jack and horse mackerels
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

DH8. What gear do you use within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Dolphin Head?

Please select all that apply.

- Pair trawls - midwater

- Scottish seines
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

DH9. In terms of your fishing effort, please estimate how much of your total effort is spent fishing within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Dolphin Head?

Fishing effort is defined here as days at sea for each vessel within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA as a fraction of the vessel's total days at sea.

Please select one answer only.

- All of my fishing effort is in the area
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

DH10. Please estimate the average landed value of your catch per year from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Dolphin Head?

Please select one answer only.

- Below £10,000
- £10,000 - £19,999
- £20,000 - £29,999
- £30,000 - £39,999
- £40,000 – £59,999
- £60,000 - £99,999
- £100,000 or more

DH11. How much of your total landed value comes from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Dolphin Head?

Please select one answer only.

- All of my landed value
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

DH12. If a pilot HPMA were designated at Dolphin Head, would you modify your use of gear to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

DH13. If HPMA designation at Dolphin Head would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

DH14. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your commercial fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

DH15. What other long-term strategic changes to your commercial fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at Dolphin Head?

DH16. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never
-

DH17. Please indicate the type of recreational sea fishing that you conduct:

Please select all that apply.

- Catch and release

- Catch for consumption

DH18. What primary platform do you use when engaging in recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- Charter boat
- Personal boat
- Shore-based
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

DH19. Which particular areas within the candidate HMPA boundary do you use for recreational sea fishing?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

DH20. What features make this an important and/or unique site for recreational sea fishing?

DH21. If a pilot HPMA were designated at Dolphin Head, would you modify your use of platform to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

DH22. If HPMA designation at Dolphin Head would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

DH23. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your recreational sea fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

DH24. What other long-term strategic changes to your recreational sea fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at

	Never	Less than once a month	At least once a month	At least once a week	Multiple times per week	More than once a day
Professional water sports						
Education and research						
Other (please specify in the comment box)						

Dolphin Head?

DH25. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for any of the following activities?

Please tick your preferred option.

DH26. To what extent would HPMA designation impact on your current use of the marine environment at Dolphin Head?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all	Somewhat	Significantly	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

DH27. To what extent is it possible for you to conduct your existing activities at Dolphin Head at an alternative location?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all possible	Somewhat possible	Completely possible	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

DH28. To what extent is your livelihood directly dependent on use of the natural environment at Dolphin Head?

Please select one answer only.

Please explain your answer in the comment box.

- Highly dependent
- Somewhat dependent
- Slightly dependent
- Not applicable

DH29. What support could help you to adapt your activities or mitigate the impact of HPMA designation?

DH30. In their current states, how do you think the following factors will affect the likelihood of positive ecological outcomes within the candidate HPMA boundary at Dolphin Head?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views in the comment box (optional).

	Strong Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Strong Positive	Don't know
Capacity for monitoring						
Capacity for enforcement						
Current or future designations or management measures						
Degree of compliance						

DH31. If a pilot HPMA was designated at this site, do you have any suggestions for how monitoring and enforcement could be effectively implemented?

DH32. Do you believe any changes should be made to the boundary of the candidate site? If so, what changes would you suggest?

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views and proposal. Note that sites would still be required to meet the [ecological criteria](#) following any boundary changes. Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

DH33. If you would like to provide any additional comments that you feel are relevant to the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at Dolphin Head, please do so in the comment box below.

If you would like to provide additional social, economic and/or ecological evidence, please provide this using the data submission form.

Inner Silver Pit South

IS1. Do you wish to complete the site-specific questions for the candidate HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes
- No

IS2. Do you support or oppose the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

IS3. To what extent do you agree that designating a pilot HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South would further the protection of the marine ecosystem?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly agree
- Slightly agree
- Neutral
- Slightly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

IS4. What impact do you believe designating a pilot HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South would have for the provision of the following ecosystem services?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Strong negative	Moderate negative	No impact	Moderate positive	Strong positive	Don't know
Sequestration and storage of atmospheric carbon						

Nursery and/or spawning areas for commercially and/or recreationally important fish and shellfish species							
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

IS5. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for commercial fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

IS6. What impact do you believe HPMA designation will have on the following factors?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please provide any additional comments, calculations, or evidence that you may have in the comment box.

	Significantly decrease	Moderately decrease	No effect	Moderately increase	Significantly increase	Do n't know	Not applicable
Fuel costs							
Labour costs							
Crew share (payments proportional to the							

revenue of the catch)							
Vessel maintenance costs							
Gear maintenance costs							
Other operating costs (please specify)							
Effort: soaking time for gear (static and non-towed gears)							
Effort: amount and size of gear in water							
Effort: Other (please specify)							
Time spent traveling to fishing grounds, not fishing							
Time spent fishing (towed gears							

such as dredging/trawling)							
Catch: Overall species targeted and caught							
Catch: Volume of current species caught							
Catch: availability of quota species							
Other change in catch (please specify)							

IS7. What species do you target within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please select all that apply.

- Edible crab
- European lobster
- Whelk
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

IS8. What gear do you use within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please select all that apply.

- Pots

- Other (please specify in the comment box)

IS9. In terms of your fishing effort, please estimate how much of your total effort is spent fishing within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South?

Fishing effort is defined here as days at sea for each vessel within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA as a fraction of the vessel's total days at sea.

Please select one answer only.

- All of my fishing effort is in the area
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

IS10. Please estimate the average landed value of your catch per year from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please select one answer only.

- Below £10,000
- £10,000 - £19,999
- £20,000 - £29,999
- £30,000 - £39,999
- £40,000 – £59,999
- £60,000 - £99,999
- £100,000 or more

IS11. How much of your total landed value comes from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please select one answer only.

- All of my landed value
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

IS12. If a pilot HPMA were designated at Inner Silver Pit South, would you modify your use of gear to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

IS13. If HPMA designation at Inner Silver Pit South would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

IS14. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your commercial fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

IS15. What other long-term strategic changes to your commercial fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at Inner Silver Pit South?

IS16. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

IS17. Please indicate the type of recreational sea fishing that you conduct:

Please select all that apply.

- Catch and release
- Catch for consumption

IS18. What primary platform do you use when engaging in recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- Charter boat
- Personal boat
- Shore-based
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

IS19. Which particular areas within the candidate HMPA boundary do you use for recreational sea fishing?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

IS20. What features make this an important and/or unique site for recreational sea fishing?

IS21. If a pilot HPMA were designated at Inner Silver Pit South, would you modify your use of platform to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

IS22. If HPMA designation at Inner Silver Pit South would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

IS23. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your recreational sea fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

IS24. What other long-term strategic changes to your recreational sea fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at Inner Silver Pit South?

	Never	Less than once a month	At least once a month	At least once a week	Multiple times per week	More than once a day
Professional water sports						
Education and research						
Other (please specify in the comment box)						

IS25. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for any of the following activities?

Please tick your preferred option.

IS26. To what extent would HPMA designation impact on your current use of the marine environment at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all	Somewhat	Significantly	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

IS27. To what extent is it possible for you to conduct your existing activities at Inner Silver Pit South at an alternative location?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all possible	Somewhat possible	Completely possible	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

IS28. To what extent is your livelihood directly dependent on use of the natural environment at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please select one answer only.

Please explain your answer in the comment box.

- Highly dependent
- Somewhat dependent
- Slightly dependent
- Not applicable

IS29. What support could help you to adapt your activities or mitigate the impact of HPMA designation?

IS30. In their current states, how do you think the following factors will affect the likelihood of positive ecological outcomes within the candidate HPMA boundary at Inner Silver Pit South?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views in the comment box (optional).

	Strong Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Strong Positive	Don't know
Capacity for monitoring						
Capacity for enforcement						
Current or future designations or management measures						
Degree of compliance						

IS31. If a pilot HPMA was designated at this site, do you have any suggestions for how monitoring and enforcement could be effectively implemented?

IS32. Do you believe any changes should be made to the boundary of the candidate site? If so, what changes would you suggest?

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views and proposal. Note that sites would still be required to meet the [ecological criteria](#) following any boundary changes. Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

IS33. If you would like to provide any additional comments that you feel are relevant to the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at Inner Silver Pit South, please do so in the comment box below.

If you would like to provide additional social, economic and/or ecological evidence, please provide this using the data submission form.

Lindisfarne

LF1. Do you wish to complete the site-specific questions for the candidate HPMA at Lindisfarne?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes
- No

LF2. Do you support or oppose the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at Lindisfarne?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

LF3. To what extent do you agree that designating a pilot HPMA at Lindisfarne would further the protection of the marine ecosystem?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly agree
- Slightly agree
- Neutral
- Slightly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

LF4. What impact do you believe designating a pilot HPMA at Lindisfarne would have for the provision of the following ecosystem services?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Strong negative	Moderate negative	No impact	Moderate positive	Strong positive	Don't know
Sequestration and storage of atmospheric carbon						

Coastal protection and minimising erosion						
Nursery and/or spawning areas for commercially and/or recreationally important fish and shellfish species						

LF5. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for commercial fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

LF6. What impact do you believe HPMA designation will have on the following factors?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please provide any additional comments, calculations, or evidence that you may have in the comment box.

	Significantly decrease	Moderately decrease	No effect	Moderately increase	Significantly increase	Do n't know	Not applicable
Fuel costs							
Labour costs							

Crew share (payments proportional to the revenue of the catch)							
Vessel maintenance costs							
Gear maintenance costs							
Other operating costs (please specify)							
Effort: soaking time for gear (static and non-towed gears)							
Effort: amount and size of gear in water							
Effort: Other (please specify)							
Time spent traveling to fishing							

grounds, not fishing							
Time spent fishing (towed gears such as dredging/trawling)							
Catch: Overall species targeted and caught							
Catch: Volume of current species caught							
Catch: availability of quota species							
Other change in catch (please specify)							

LF7. What species do you target within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Lindisfarne?

Please select all that apply.

- Edible crab
- European lobster
- Norway lobster
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

LF8. What gear do you use within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Lindisfarne?

Please select all that apply.

- Otter trawls - bottom
- Pots
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

LF9. In terms of your fishing effort, please estimate how much of your total effort is spent fishing within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Lindisfarne?

Fishing effort is defined here as days at sea for each vessel within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA as a fraction of the vessel's total days at sea.

Please select one answer only.

- All of my fishing effort is in the area
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

LF10. Please estimate the average landed value of your catch per year from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Lindisfarne?

Please select one answer only.

- Below £10,000
- £10,000 - £19,999
- £20,000 - £29,999
- £30,000 - £39,999
- £40,000 – £59,999
- £60,000 - £99,999
- £100,000 or more

LF11. How much of your total landed value comes from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at Lindisfarne?

Please select one answer only.

- All of my landed value
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters

- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None
-

LF12. If a pilot HPMA were designated at Lindisfarne, would you modify your use of gear to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

LF13. If HPMA designation at Lindisfarne would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

LF14. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your commercial fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

LF15. What other long-term strategic changes to your commercial fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at Lindisfarne?

LF16. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

LF17. Please indicate the type of recreational sea fishing that you conduct:

Please select all that apply.

- Catch and release
- Catch for consumption

LF18. What primary platform do you use when engaging in recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- Charter boat
- Personal boat
- Shore-based
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

LF19. Which particular areas within the candidate HMPA boundary do you use for recreational sea fishing?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

LF20. What features make this an important and/or unique site for recreational sea fishing?

LF21. If a pilot HPMA were designated at Lindisfarne, would you modify your use of platform to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

LF22. If HPMA designation at Lindisfarne would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

	Never	Less than once a month	At least once a month	At least once a week	Multiple times per week	More than once a day
Tourism and leisure						
Professional water sports						
Education and research						
Community/ cultural events						
Other (please specify in the comment box)						

LF23. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your recreational sea fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

LF24. What other long-term strategic changes to your recreational sea fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at Lindisfarne?

LF25. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for any of the following activities?

Please tick your preferred option.

LF26. To what extent would HPMA designation impact on your current use of the marine environment at Lindisfarne?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all	Somewhat	Significantly	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Tourism and leisure					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Community/ cultural events					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

LF27. To what extent is it possible for you to conduct your existing activities at Lindisfarne at an alternative location?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all possible	Somewhat possible	Completely possible	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Tourism and leisure					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Community/ cultural events					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

LF28. To what extent is your livelihood directly dependent on use of the natural environment at Lindisfarne?

Please select one answer only.

Please explain your answer in the comment box.

- Highly dependent
- Somewhat dependent
- Slightly dependent
- Not applicable

LF29. What support could help you to adapt your activities or mitigate the impact of HPMA designation?

LF30. Do you anchor at this site?

Please select one answer only.

- Always (stationary mooring)
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- Not applicable

LF31. In their current states, how do you think the following factors will affect the likelihood of positive ecological outcomes within the candidate HPMA boundary at Lindisfarne?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views in the comment box (optional).

	Strong Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Strong Positive	Don't know
Capacity for monitoring						
Capacity for enforcement						
Current or future designations or management measures						
Degree of compliance						
Ability of local communities, marine users and						

management to adapt						
Degree of local understanding of rules/regulations						
Local participation in management						
Community support for HPMA at this location (including wider community not directly impacted by restrictions)						
Local stakeholder support for HPMA at this location (including stakeholders directly impacted by restrictions)						

LF32. If a pilot HPMA was designated at this site, do you have any suggestions for how monitoring and enforcement could be effectively implemented?

LF33. Do you believe any changes should be made to the boundary of the candidate site? If so, what changes would you suggest?

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views and proposal. Note that sites would still be required to meet the [ecological criteria](#) following any boundary changes. Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

LF34. What are your views on the opportunities or impacts of a catch and release angling zone adjacent to an inshore candidate HPMA?

Please provide your views in the comment box.

LF35. Where do you feel would be valuable for a catch and release angling zone?

Please specify in the comment box. Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

LF36. If you would like to provide any additional comments that you feel are relevant to the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at Lindisfarne, please do so in the comment box below.

If you would like to provide additional social, economic and/or ecological evidence, please provide this using the data submission form.

North-east of Farnes Deep

NF1. Do you wish to complete the site-specific questions for the candidate HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes
- No

NF2. Do you support or oppose the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

NF3. To what extent do you agree that designating a pilot HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep would further the protection of the marine ecosystem?

Please select one answer only.

- Strongly agree
- Slightly agree
- Neutral
- Slightly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

NF4. What impact do you believe designating a pilot HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep would have for the provision of the following ecosystem services?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Strong negative	Moderate negative	No impact	Moderate positive	Strong positive	Don't know
Sequestration and storage of						

atmospheric carbon						
Nursery and/or spawning areas for commercially and/or recreationally important fish and shellfish species						

NF5. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for commercial fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

NF6. What impact do you believe HPMA designation will have on the following factors?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please provide any additional comments, calculations, or evidence that you may have in the comment box.

	Significantly decrease	Moderately decrease	No effect	Moderately increase	Significantly increase	Do n't know	Not applicable
Fuel costs							
Labour costs							
Crew share (payments proportional)							

to the revenue of the catch)							
Vessel maintenance costs							
Gear maintenance costs							
Other operating costs (please specify)							
Effort: soaking time for gear (static and non-towed gears)							
Effort: amount and size of gear in water							
Effort: Other (please specify)							
Time spent traveling to fishing grounds, not fishing							
Time spent fishing							

(towed gears such as dredging/trawling)							
Catch: Overall species targeted and caught							
Catch: Volume of current species caught							
Catch: availability of quota species							
Other change in catch (please specify)							

NF7. What species do you target within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please select all that apply.

- Norway lobster
- Great Atlantic scallop
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

NF8. What gear do you use within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please select all that apply.

- Boat dredges

- Otter trawls - bottom
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

NF9. In terms of your fishing effort, please estimate how much of your total effort is spent fishing within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Fishing effort is defined here as days at sea for each vessel within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA as a fraction of the vessel's total days at sea.

Please select one answer only.

- All of my fishing effort is in the area
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

NF10. Please estimate the average landed value of your catch per year from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please select one answer only.

- Below £10,000
- £10,000 - £19,999
- £20,000 - £29,999
- £30,000 - £39,999
- £40,000 – £59,999
- £60,000 - £99,999
- £100,000 or more

NF11. How much of your total landed value comes from within the boundaries of the candidate HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please select one answer only.

- All of my landed value
- Between three quarters and all
- Between a half and three quarters
- Approximately a half
- Between a quarter and half
- Less than a quarter
- None

NF12. If a pilot HPMA were designated at North-east of Farnes Deep, would you modify your use of gear to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

NF13. If HPMA designation at North-east of Farnes Deep would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

NF14. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your commercial fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

NF15. What other long-term strategic changes to your commercial fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at North-east of Farnes Deep?

NF16. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- More than once a day
- Multiple times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

NF17. Please indicate the type of recreational sea fishing that you conduct:

Please select all that apply.

- Catch and release
- Catch for consumption

NF18. What primary platform do you use when engaging in recreational sea fishing?

Please select one answer only.

- Charter boat
- Personal boat
- Shore-based
- Other (please specify in the comment box)

NF19. Which particular areas within the candidate HMPA boundary do you use for recreational sea fishing?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

NF20. What features make this an important and/or unique site for recreational sea fishing?

NF21. If a pilot HPMA were designated at North-east of Farnes Deep, would you modify your use of platform to allow you to fish elsewhere?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe in the comment box)
- No

NF22. If HPMA designation at North-east of Farnes Deep would prevent or alter your existing use of the site and you were able to relocate to another site to conduct these activities, what alternative location would you use?

Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

NF23. Are there seasonal fluctuations in your recreational sea fishing activity within the area?

Please select one answer only.

- Yes (please describe your answer in the comment box)
- No

NF24. What other long-term strategic changes to your recreational sea fishing activities might you consider if a pilot HPMA were to be designated at

	Never	Less than once a month	At least once a month	At least once a week	Multiple times per week	More than once a day
Professional water sports						
Education and research						
Other (please specify in the comment box)						

North-east of Farnes Deep?

NF25. How frequently do you currently utilise the area within the candidate HPMA boundary for any of the following activities?

Please tick your preferred option.

NF26. To what extent would HPMA designation impact on your current use of the marine environment at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all	Somewhat	Significantly	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

NF27. To what extent is it possible for you to conduct your existing activities at North-east of Farnes Deep at an alternative location?

Please tick your preferred option.

	Not at all possible	Somewhat possible	Completely possible	Don't know	Not applicable
Commercial fishing					
Recreational sea fishing – catch and release					
Recreational sea fishing – catch for consumption					
Professional water sports					
Education and research					
Other (please specify in the comment box)					

NF28. To what extent is your livelihood directly dependent on use of the natural environment at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please select one answer only.

Please explain your answer in the comment box.

- Highly dependent
- Somewhat dependent
- Slightly dependent
- Not applicable

NF29. What support could help you to adapt your activities or mitigate the impact of HPMA designation?

NF30. In their current states, how do you think the following factors will affect the likelihood of positive ecological outcomes within the candidate HPMA boundary at North-east of Farnes Deep?

Please tick your preferred option.

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views in the comment box (optional).

	Strong Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Strong Positive	Don't know
Capacity for monitoring						
Capacity for enforcement						
Current or future designations or management measures						
Degree of compliance						

NF31. If a pilot HPMA was designated at this site, do you have any suggestions for how monitoring and enforcement could be effectively implemented?

NF32. Do you believe any changes should be made to the boundary of the candidate site? If so, what changes would you suggest?

Please explain and provide evidence to support your views and proposal. Note that sites would still be required to meet the [ecological criteria](#) following any boundary changes. Please send any supporting documents (e.g. annotated map) to hpma@defra.gov.uk with your consultation response reference number, which will be produced when you submit your response (ANON ID). Please also cite the question number in your response.

NF33. If you would like to provide any additional comments that you feel are relevant to the proposal to designate a pilot HPMA at North-east of Farnes Deep, please do so in the comment box below.

If you would like to provide additional social, economic and/or ecological evidence, please provide this using the data submission form.

After the consultation

After the consultation we will summarise the responses and publish this summary on our website.

Confidentiality and data protection information

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: www.gov.uk/defra. An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (e.g. home address, email address, etc).

If you click on 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you click on 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data with external analysts. This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis and provision of a report of the summary of responses only.

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

Please find our latest privacy notice uploaded as a related document alongside our consultation document.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation on sites proposed for designation as Highly Protected Marine Areas,
Consultation Coordinator, Defra, 2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme
Green, York, YO1 7PX

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Part 6: Next steps

Final decisions on which pilot HPMA's to designate will be made following analysis of the responses to the consultation including information and views from site visits. Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 any designation orders must be made within 12 months of this consultation.

Decisions will be based on all available evidence, including any new evidence submitted through this consultation. The JNCC and Natural England will provide updated scientific advice based on all available scientific evidence. Cost estimates will be updated in the light of new economic data received through the consultation or which otherwise becomes available.

We have informed the European Commission of this consultation and will notify the Commission ahead of designation as per the terms of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.