



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Dear Consultee

### **Consultation on third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs invites your views on the proposals for the designation of the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

The UK is surrounded by some of the richest and most diverse sea life in the world. Our seas are also an integral part of our history, economy and way of life. The UK is at the forefront in establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). MCZs will combine with other MPAs to protect areas of our seas that are important for conserving the diversity of our sea life, particularly where it is rare or threatened.

This third and final tranche will substantially complete our ecologically coherent network around our coasts. The first tranche of 27 MCZs was announced in 2013, a further 23 sites were added in 2016 and we are now consulting on 41 new sites and the addition of new features to 12 existing sites. The proposals for the third tranche of MCZs are designed to help fulfil our obligations under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and support the achievement of the UK Government and Devolved Administrations' vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

The following documents may be found on Defra's website:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/consultation-on-the-third-tranche-of-marine-conser/>

- Consultation Document
- Factsheets on proposed sites
- Impact Assessment

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.

### **Responses**

Responses can be submitted at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/consultation-on-the-third-tranche-of-marine-conser/>. Our preferred method is online because it is the fastest and most cost-effective way for us to collate, analyse and summarise responses.

If you prefer not to submit your responses online, you can also email them to [MCZ@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MCZ@defra.gsi.gov.uk), or send them to the following address:

MCZ Team  
Defra  
Seacole 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

A response form is included as Annex D within the consultation materials.

Responses should be received by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018. This is a six week consultation.

### **Consultation Criteria**

This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

### **Confidentiality and data protection**

Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. Please state if you do not want details of your response to be made public or if there are any restrictions on the use of information submitted, with an explanation of why it should be kept confidential.

We will take your reasons into account, but you should be aware that there may be circumstances in which we will be required to disclose this information to third parties on request. This is in order to comply with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not be treated as a confidentiality request. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra).

This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, you can email them to: **[consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk)** or send them to the following address:

Defra Consultation Co-ordinator,  
Area 1C, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London, SW1P 3JR

Yours faithfully,

Marine Conservation Team

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**