

Annex G

SUMMARY OF SITES RECOMMENDED FOR SECOND TRANCHE

Recommended sites for the 2nd tranche of MCZs are described below. These sites fill ecological gaps within the network and have sufficient supporting evidence (both ecological and economic). Site numbers refer to the map in Annex I

NE WATERS

Coquet to St. Mary's (1)

This is an inshore site located on the Northumberland coast in the North East of England. The site covers approximately 199 km². This site fills big gaps in the region for subtidal mixed sediment, infralittoral and circalittoral rock.

The overall costs associated with this site are £11.3k per year relating to the ports and harbours sector, although this is considered to be an overestimate due to economies of scale savings from multiple dredge disposal applications. We are currently working with the Port of Blyth to adjust the boundary of this MCZ to take into account concerns raised by the port.

Farnes East (2)

This is an offshore site located off the Northumberland Coast. The site covers an area of 945 km². This site protects a wide range of features including: moderate energy circalittoral rock, subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal sand, subtidal mud, mud habitats in deep water, sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities and ocean quahog and will contribute to the percentage protection of several habitats. It is only one of two options to offer a replicate for moderate energy circalittoral rock and also to fill a spatial gap for circalittoral rock. The data is sufficient to support the designation of eight of the features recommended by the Net Gain Regional Project. This site provides the only option to fill a gap in the region for the 'Peat and Clay exposures' feature however JNCC has low confidence in both the presence and extent for this feature. However, several regional stakeholders have suggested that the feature is present and therefore additional survey work has been commissioned. We are recommending including this feature in the consultation, where we will highlight that additional evidence is being collected on this site which will be considered in making final decisions on the designation and which features to include.

The overall costs associated with this site are low at £3.6k per year affecting the UK fishing industry with some minor, unquantified, impact on the non-UK fishing industry.

Fulmar (3)

This is an offshore site located off the Northumberland coast. The site covers an area of 2,437 km². This site is one of four options to provide a replicate for subtidal mixed sediment and increase the percentage protection in the region for subtidal sand, shallow sands and shelf sands. The data sufficiency is good for five features.

There are no monetised costs for this site as no additional management of fisheries is expected. There is some overlap with oil and gas works being carried out within the site. JNCC are undertaking case work related to the decommissioning of any overlapping works. We do not anticipate any significant costs to fall on this sector.

Runswick Bay (4)

This is an inshore site covering an area of approximately 68 km². This site protects a wide range of features and fills a spatial gap for infralittoral rock, circalittoral rock and subtidal sediments. It is one of four options to fill a gap for ocean quahog and the only option to increase the percentage protection of high energy infralittoral rock in the region. The site would also increase the percentage protection of coarse and mixed sediments within the region.

The best estimate costs to this site are £3.4k per year which falls on the ports sector for additional licence application costs.

Holderness Inshore (6)

This is an inshore site covering an area of approximately 307 km². Although this site does not fill any big gaps within the network it does have the potential to fill smaller gaps with seven features having sufficient data for designation. Additionally, it is recommended that high energy circalittoral rock and moderate energy circalittoral rock are included in the consultation, recognising that while the features are technically present they are not typical examples of the features.

The costs associated with this site are low at £3.0k per year falling primarily to the Ports and Harbour sector due to the proximity of one disposal site and one navigational dredge site within 5km of the MCZ.

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds (7)

This is an inshore site located off the North Norfolk coast covering an area of 316 km². This site fills a gap for high and moderate infralittoral rock. It also provides a replicate for high energy infralittoral rock, increases the percentage protection in the region for moderate energy infralittoral rock and fills a spatial gap for infralittoral rock and circalittoral rock.

At present there are no associated quantified costs identified with regards to this site.

The Regional Project proposal for this site had the inner boundary at 200m from the shoreline to allow for future coastal protection works. Natural England has suggested extending the site by moving the inner boundary to 50m from the shoreline. This would allow a greater area of the features present in the location to be included in the site. The Environment Agency has confirmed that this boundary change would not affect any future coastal protection works and local advice indicates that economic costs for the site would be unchanged. We recommend consulting on both boundary options.

SE WATERS

The Swale Estuary (8)

This inshore site covers the Swale Estuary and covers an area of 51 km². This site fills a big gap for smelt and provides replicates for several other features including native oyster and subtidal coarse sediment.

The costs associated with this site are £3.7k per year to the ports sector, although this is considered to be an overestimate due to economies of scale savings from multiple dredge disposal applications. The sector most affected is ports and harbours due to the proximity of a disposal site, with licensed maintenance and navigational dredging associated with local

port and harbour operations. Private fishing ground operators have expressed concerns that their activities would be affected but this is unlikely as the features do not appear to have been damaged by current their activities.

Dover to Deal (9) & Dover to Folkstone (10)

The Dover to Deal site is located in the Dover Straits, between Deal in the north and Dover harbour in the south. It has an area of 10 km². The site protects a wide range of features in intertidal and subtidal habitats and will offer replicates for Rossworm reef, intertidal underboulder communities and will contribute to the percentage protection of subtidal coarse sediment.

The Dover to Folkestone site has an area of 20 km². This site protects a wide range of features and will fill a gap for moderate energy intertidal rock and peat and clay exposures. It also provides replicates for short snouted seahorses, intertidal boulder and littoral chalk communities. Both littoral chalk and intertidal boulder communities are considered to be the best regional examples of these features.

The cost of both sites is £10.1k each per year, relating to the ports sector due to the proximity of Dover harbour and its ongoing operations. We are considering an amendment to these sites' boundaries, creating a 500m exclusion zone from the harbour wall. This would allow port operations such as dredging and disposal to continue unaffected while the sites would remain ecologically viable although with some impacts on features included. In the Dover to Deal site half of the subtidal sand would be lost and there would also be reductions in subtidal chalk and subtidal coarse sediment features. In the Dover to Folkestone site moderate energy circalittoral rock sediments and subtidal sand would reduce by a quarter across the site, and the short snouted seahorse would become unviable as a feature within this site (data records are from within the area to be removed).

Offshore Brighton (11)

This is an offshore site with an area of 862 km². The site lies in the deeper waters of the mid English Channel. This site is the only option to fill the gap for high energy circalittoral rock, the only option to provide a replicate for moderate energy circalittoral rock and one of two options for replicates for subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediments.

This site overlaps a productive fishing ground and therefore costs are associated with the commercial fisheries sector. Best estimate costs for the site, quantified only for UK commercial fishing activity, are £3.0k per year. This site is heavily fished by the Belgian, Danish, French, German and Dutch fleets therefore there may be significant costs to these fleets.

Due to the high level of concern from the commercial fishing sector, boundary changes for the site may be considered during the consultation to reduce socioeconomic concerns, whilst still maintaining an appropriate level of conservation benefit.

Offshore Overfalls (12)

This site sits across the 12 nautical mile inshore-offshore boundary and has an area of 593 km². This site is the only option to fill a gap for subtidal sand and provides replicates for subtidal mixed sediments and subtidal coarse sediment. This site also contains a geological channel outburst flood feature.

The overall cost to this site is £49.7k per year, mostly falling on the ports and harbour sector, although this is considered to be an overestimate due to economies of scale savings from

multiple dredge disposal applications. The cost to UK fishing is £4.9k per year, with significant costs to the non-UK fishing sector as the site is heavily fished by the Belgian, French and Dutch fleets.

Boundary options may be considered with stakeholders during the consultation to reduce socioeconomic concerns, whilst still maintaining an appropriate level of conservation benefit.

Utopia (13)

This is a small inshore site located to the east of the Isle of Wight and has an area of 2.7 km². The site covers an area of bedrock and large boulders hosting rich communities of sponges, anthozoans, hydroids and bryozoans. This site does not fill a big gap within the network, but the bedrock feature is thought to be locally unique, being an isolated area of rock surrounded by extensive sediment, with significant amounts of reef.

A number of new features have been proposed which would contribute to the overall percentage protected within the region. Natural England advises that new survey data will soon be available and will be likely to improve the confidence it has in these features. On that basis, we advise that these additional features should be included in the consultation, pending the arrival of that new data.

The overall cost to this site is £7.1k per year, mainly affecting the aggregates and ports sectors which operate in close proximity to the site.

The Needles (17)

The site covers the stretch of the Solent adjacent to the northwest side of the Isle of Wight and covers an area of 11 km². This site fills network gaps for subtidal coarse sediment and moderate circalittoral rock. It also provides replicates for stalked jellyfish, peacocks tail and seagrass beds.

The cost associated with this site is £16.2k per year. The ports and harbours sector is most affected due to the proximity of two disposal sites which are heavily used and two navigational dredge channels, although this is considered to be an overestimate due to economics of scale savings from multiple dredge disposal applications.

The 3 other candidate sites around the Isle of Wight are not being recommended for inclusion in the second tranche (details in annex D).

SW WATERS

Western Channel (19)

This is a large offshore site south of Cornwall with an area of 1,614 km². It provides a significant contribution towards protection of subtidal sediment features within the MPA network which are not well protected within the region. The location of the site is also important to improve spatial connectivity between MPAs. Recent survey work has improved our understanding of features within the site, and there is good data supporting the features proposed for designation.

The site overlaps a productive fishing ground and therefore is associated with high UK fishing costs and significant non-UK fishing costs. Best estimate costs for the site, quantified only for UK commercial fishing activity, are £12.7k per year. There may also be significant unquantified costs to non-UK vessels depending on the management measures chosen and the scope for displacing to fishing elsewhere. The site is used by vessels from Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, and is particularly important to French vessels.

Boundary options may be considered with stakeholders during the consultation to reduce socioeconomic concerns, whilst still maintaining an appropriate level of conservation benefit.

Mounts Bay (20)

This inshore site covers an area of 11 km². It will protect a range of habitats and species, including the giant goby which is not well protected in MPAs within the region. The site is recognised for its importance to stalked jellyfish. The site is also important for connectivity and offers protection to features that are not included in any existing MPAs.

There are costs related to additional requirements for licence application of £3.0k attributed to the ports sector for a nearby disposal site and navigational dredging.

Minor amendments to the boundary are being considered to include an additional patch of sea grass, which is thought to be important for several species including the Stalked jellyfish. No significant socioeconomic impacts due to the boundary alteration are anticipated.

Lands End (Runnel Stone) (21)

This inshore site covers an area of 19 km². It will protect a number of habitats from rock to soft sediments. The site will protect important supporting species such as the Pink sea-fan. The site also contains the Runnelstone reef which is of high ecological importance for a range of mobile species and has scientific value.

The estimated cost associated with this site is £0.9k per year. This falls on the renewable sector assuming that 1 wave and tidal development will be applied for in the next 20 years, however no specific anticipated renewable energy developments are known to be present within or near the site or proposed for the near future. The site is locally important for small amounts of fishing activity, but this is unlikely to be significantly impacted under the current management scenarios. There is a proposal for a change in the site name to Runnel Stone, to more accurately reflect the location of the site and reduce confusion with adjacent MPAs. Minor amendments to the boundary are being considered to improve and simplify for management and enforcement purposes.

North West Jones Bank (22)

This offshore site is west of Cornwall and has an area of 464 km². It provides an important contribution to the network by protecting subtidal sediment habitats, and in particular subtidal mud which is not well protected within current MPAs. The site will also protect important supporting species of seapens and burrowing megafauna. Recent survey work undertaken at the site provides good data to support the features.

The designation of the site will impact UK and non-UK commercial fishing interests. Best estimate costs for the site, quantified only for UK commercial fishing activity, are £1.4k per year. Vessels from France, Ireland and Spain may be significantly impacted depending on the management measures chosen and ability to fish elsewhere.

Greater Haig Fras (23)

This is a large offshore site west of Cornwall with an area of 2,041 km². The site encompasses the geomorphological feature Haig Fras rock complex and Haig Fras Special Area of Conservation. The site contains a wide range of habitats ranging from rocky to soft sediment habitats which contribute significantly to the network. The site will protect important

supporting species such as seapens and burrowing megafauna. Recent data has also identified fan mussels within the site, which are currently unprotected by MPAs in the region, and are one of the most endangered animals of their kind in UK waters. The site makes a significant contribution towards achieving the adequacy targets for several subtidal sediment features which are not well protected in the region, as well as additional protection for geological features in the network.

The site sits within an area of high fishing activity from non-UK commercial fishing vessels. Quantified best estimated costs are to UK commercial fishing activity is £5.5k per year, plus potentially significant costs to Non-UK fishing (particularly French, Spanish and Irish vessels).

Newquay and the Gannel (24)

This relatively small, 9 km², inshore site covers the Gannel estuary and coastline around Newquay. The site is proposed for a range of habitats and species, including the giant goby which is not well protected in MPAs within the region. The site has been highlighted as an area of high biodiversity, and includes sediment and saltmarsh habitats which may be important nursery areas for juvenile fish.

Quantified best estimate costs for the site are £0.9k per year to the renewable sector assuming that one application will be made for a wave and tidal development in the next 20 years. While the site overlaps a potential wave energy development area, no specific developments are currently planned. The site is important for local fishing activity, particularly static gear fishing activity. However, this sector is not expected to be impacted under current management scenarios.

Minor amendments to the boundary are being considered to improve and simplify the site boundary for designation and management.

Hartland Point to Tintagel (25)

This inshore site covers an area of 304 km² across the north coast of Devon and Cornwall and contains a wide range of habitats ranging from rocky to soft sediment. The site also offers an option to be a replicate in the region for Honeycomb worm reefs.

A number of sectors will be impacted depending on specific management measures. Quantified best estimated costs are £1.9k per year, mainly for the renewables sector (the site is a potential wave and tidal development area). The site contains locally important fishing activity, particularly using static gear, but this is not expected to be significantly impacted under current management scenarios.

Bideford to Foreland Point (26)

This inshore site covers an area of 101 km² and would include a large number of features, including both habitats and species that are currently unprotected along this area of coast. This site is critical for connectivity along the north coast of Devon and Cornwall, and contributes large areas of broad-scale habitats. The site is one of two options to protect honeycomb worm reefs.

A number of sectors will be impacted depending on specific management measures. Quantified best estimated costs are £3.4k per year, due to impacts to the renewable energy and ports, harbours and shipping sectors. Baseline values for commercial fishing activity are likely to be underestimated in this region due to data gaps, however, significant impact to

local fishing activity is not expected, and the site is generally well supported by local stakeholders.

IRISH SEA

West of Walney (35)

This site is located off the Cumbrian coast and covers an area of 388km². This is one of the sites that would provide an important contribution to protecting subtidal mud habitats in the region and contains about 3% of the subtidal mud in the Irish Sea. The other habitat in the site is subtidal sand.

Estimated costs of the site are £3.1k per year, falling on UK commercial fisheries, plus limited unquantified impact on non-UK fishing activity. Unlike the other sites in the region proposed for protecting mud, this site is not strongly opposed by the fishing industry, due to lower levels of current fishing in the site due to part of it being co-located with a windfarm. There are concerns from the windfarm developers about the effects an MCZ designation might have on their future operations. Officials are organising a workshop with the industry and regulators to explore possible licensing scenarios in an attempt to ease the industry's concerns.

Allonby Bay (37)

This site is in inshore waters near the Solway Firth in Cumbria and covers an area of 39km². It would protect a variety of features including intertidal and infralittoral rock, reefs, blue mussel beds, peat and clay exposures, intertidal sand and coarse sediments. None of these features fill big gaps in the marine protected area network but will contribute to filling smaller gaps. One feature that could fill a big gap, subtidal coarse sediment, is currently deemed by Natural England to be unsuitable for designation because it has low confidence in the feature's presence and extent within the site. However, Natural England advises that new survey data will soon be available and is likely to improve the confidence it has in the feature. On that basis, we advise that this site should be included in the consultation, pending the arrival of that new data.

The site has low potential costs associated with it and the local IFCA considers it would be uncontroversial with fishing stakeholders (there are consistently low levels of fishing there). There is a cost associated with the ports sector for this site of £0.9k per annum due to licence application renewals for one disposal site within 5km of the MCZ.