



Marine
Management
Organisation

MMO MPA Fisheries Management Stage 3 Consultation Document Executive Summary - ENGLISH



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Executive summary to the MMO MPA Fisheries Management Stage 3 Consultation Document

MMO is proposing new management measures for fishing in 42 marine protected areas (MPAs) in English waters. The measures are based on draft [fisheries assessments](#)¹ which conclude that these measures are necessary to ensure that the conservation objectives of these MPAs can be achieved.

The new measures proposed are:

- prohibitions of fishing using bottom towed gear in specified areas in 31 MPAs;
- prohibition of fishing using bottom towed gears and prohibitions on fishing using static gears (traps and/or bottom set nets and lines) in specified areas in four MPAs;
- prohibition of fishing using traps in a specified area of one MPA;
- prohibition of fishing using bottom towed gear and prohibition of the removal of spiny lobster, also known as crawfish (*Palinurus elephas*) in a specified area of one MPA;
- minor changes to existing bottom towed gear prohibitions in 5 MPAs to reflect the most up to date approach, habitat location and depth information.

The proposed measures include prohibitions on fishing using bottom towed gears in approximately 30,000 km², on fishing using traps of approximately 860 km², and on fishing using bottom set nets and lines in approximately 300 km².

These management measures will be implemented through the proposed creation of four byelaws, each covering a different region of England's seas (**Figure 1**). These byelaws will also incorporate and replace all previous MMO MPA byelaws, and thereby provide a single point of reference for all MMO MPA fisheries measures².

The four proposed byelaws are:

- [The Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024](#) (ICES area 7d)³

¹ Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessments: www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-site-assessments

² This excludes MMO highly protected marine area (HPMA) fisheries measures.

³ The Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-eastern-channel-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024

- [The Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024](#) (ICES area 7a)⁴
- [The North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024](#) (ICES areas 4b and 4c)⁵
- [The Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024](#) (ICES areas 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h and 7j)⁶

The estimated impacts of the proposed measures are displayed in the draft [Stage 3 De Minimis Assessment](#)⁷. The proposals are estimated to impact £3.5 million of UK landings (revenue) per year, with an equivalent annual net direct cost to UK business operating profits of approximately £530,000 per year. The proposals are also estimated to impact landings (revenue) of non-UK vessels by £15.7 million per year (it has not been possible to estimate impacts on non-UK operating profits). The total benefit over the 20-year appraisal period, accounting for total net cost to UK businesses and public bodies of £7.8 million, and the benefits from enhanced environmental protection, including enhanced fish populations, nutrient cycling and climate regulation is estimated to be approximately £3.1 billion.

You can respond to this consultation through an online survey, by email, post or attending an online or in person stakeholder engagement event.

All responses must be received by 11:59pm on 1 September 2025. Late responses may not be considered.

⁴ The Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-irish-sea-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024

⁵ The North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-north-sea-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024

⁶ The Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-western-channel-and-southwest-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024

⁷ Stage 3 De Minimis Assessment: www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-impacts-evidence

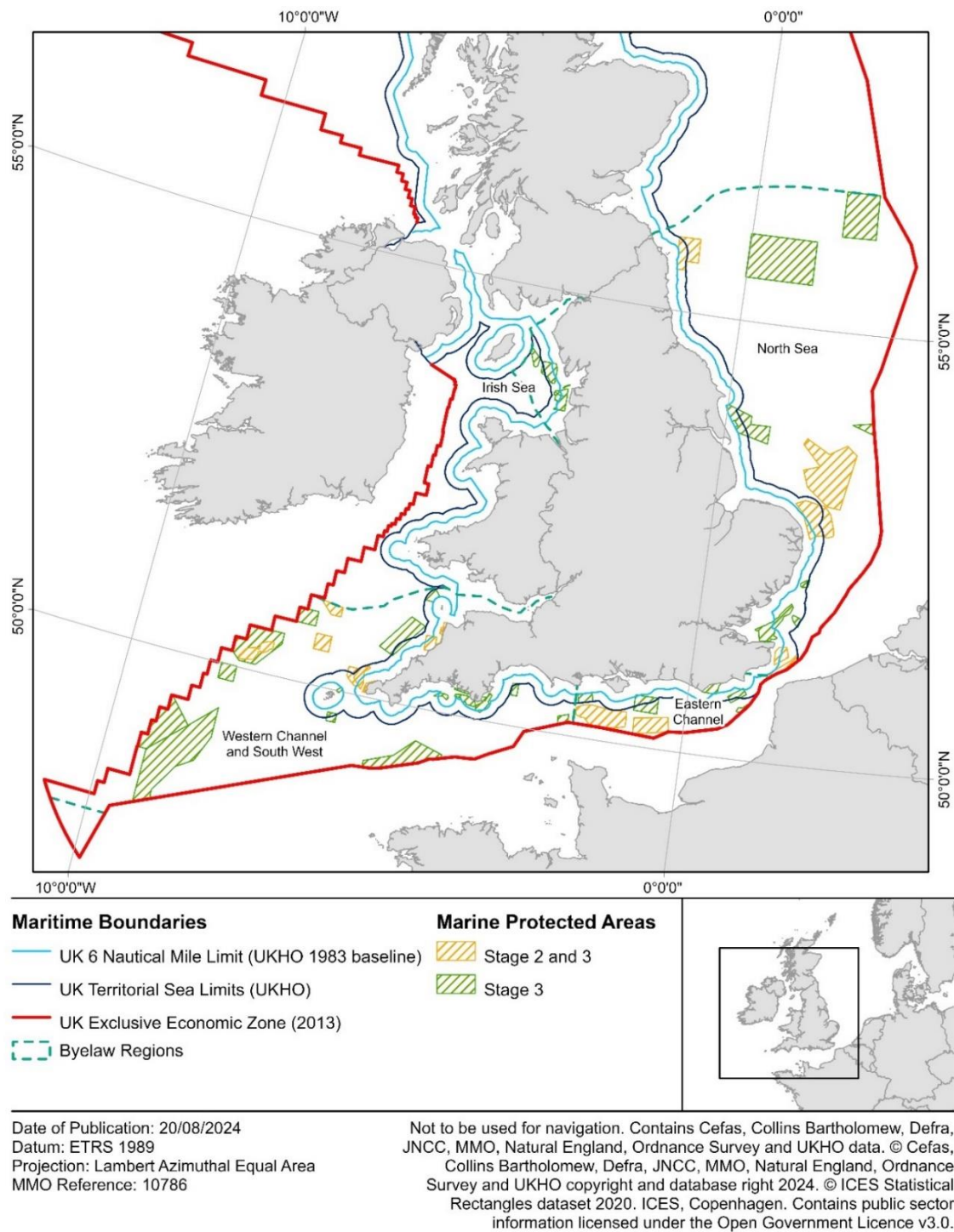


Figure 1: The location of Stage 3 MPAs and the areas covered by the four proposed byelaws.