



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# MMO MPA Fisheries Management Stage 3 Consultation Document



...ambitious for our seas and coasts

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Executive summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Background .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Stage 3 overview .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Draft Stage 3 MPA fisheries assessments .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Proposed byelaws .....</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1	The Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024 .	15
5.2	The Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024 .....	16
5.3	The North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024 .....	16
5.4	The Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024 .....	17
<b>6</b>	<b>Minor changes to existing management measures .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Social, economic and environmental impacts of proposed measures .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Displacement.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Documents provided as part of this consultation .....</b>	<b>20</b>
9.1	Stage 3 Call for Evidence Decision Document.....	21
9.2	Stage 3 Fishing Gear Impacts Evidence Documents.....	21
9.3	Draft Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessments.....	21
9.4	Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessment Methodology Document .....	22
9.5	Draft Stage 3 Byelaws.....	22
9.6	Draft Stage 3 De Minimis Assessment .....	22
9.7	Stage 3 WebApp .....	23
<b>10</b>	<b>Decision making process, use of evidence, confidence, and uncertainty</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Independent panel evidence review.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Monitoring and control .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Stakeholder Engagement .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>How to respond.....</b>	<b>29</b>

<b>Annex 1 – Management proposals for each MPA .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Annex 2 – Glossary and maritime boundaries .....</b>	<b>118</b>

# 1 Executive summary

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 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 five 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 km<sup>2</sup>, on fishing using traps of approximately 860 km<sup>2</sup>, and on fishing using bottom set nets and lines in approximately 300 km<sup>2</sup>.

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 measures<sup>1</sup>.

The four proposed byelaws are:

- [The Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024](#) (ICES area 7d)<sup>2</sup>
- [The Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024](#) (ICES area 7a)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This excludes MMO highly protected marine area (HPMA) fisheries measures.

<sup>2</sup> The Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-eastern-channel-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-eastern-channel-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024)

<sup>3</sup> The Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-irish-sea-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-irish-sea-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024)



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

The estimated impacts of the proposed measures are displayed in the draft [Stage 3 De Minimis Assessment](#)<sup>6</sup>. 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.

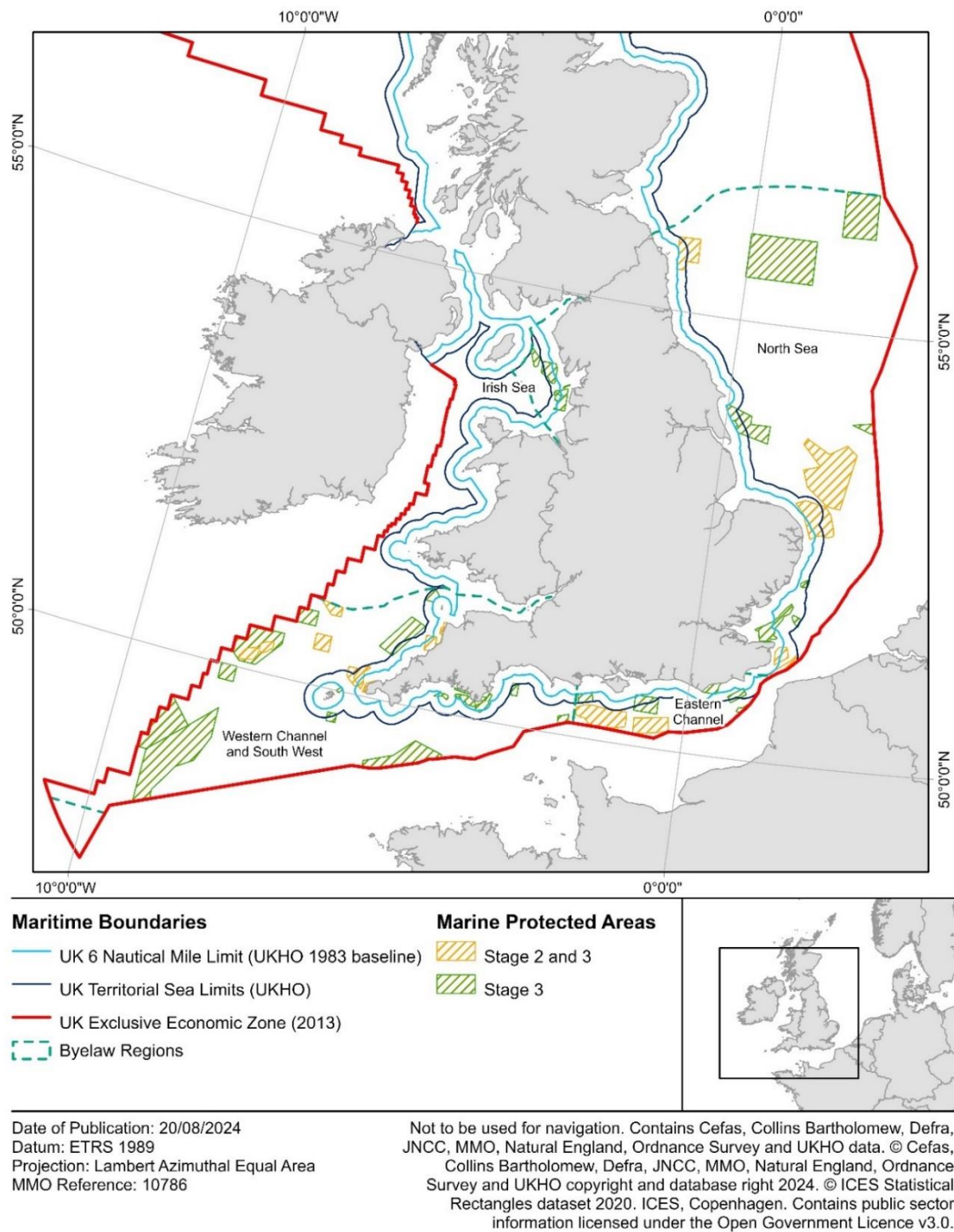
**All responses must be received by 11:59pm on 29 September 2025. Late responses may not be considered.**

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<sup>4</sup> The North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-north-sea-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-north-sea-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024)

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-western-channel-and-southwest-marine-protected-areas-fishing-gear-byelaw-2024)

<sup>6</sup> Stage 3 De Minimis Assessment: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-impacts-evidence](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-impacts-evidence)



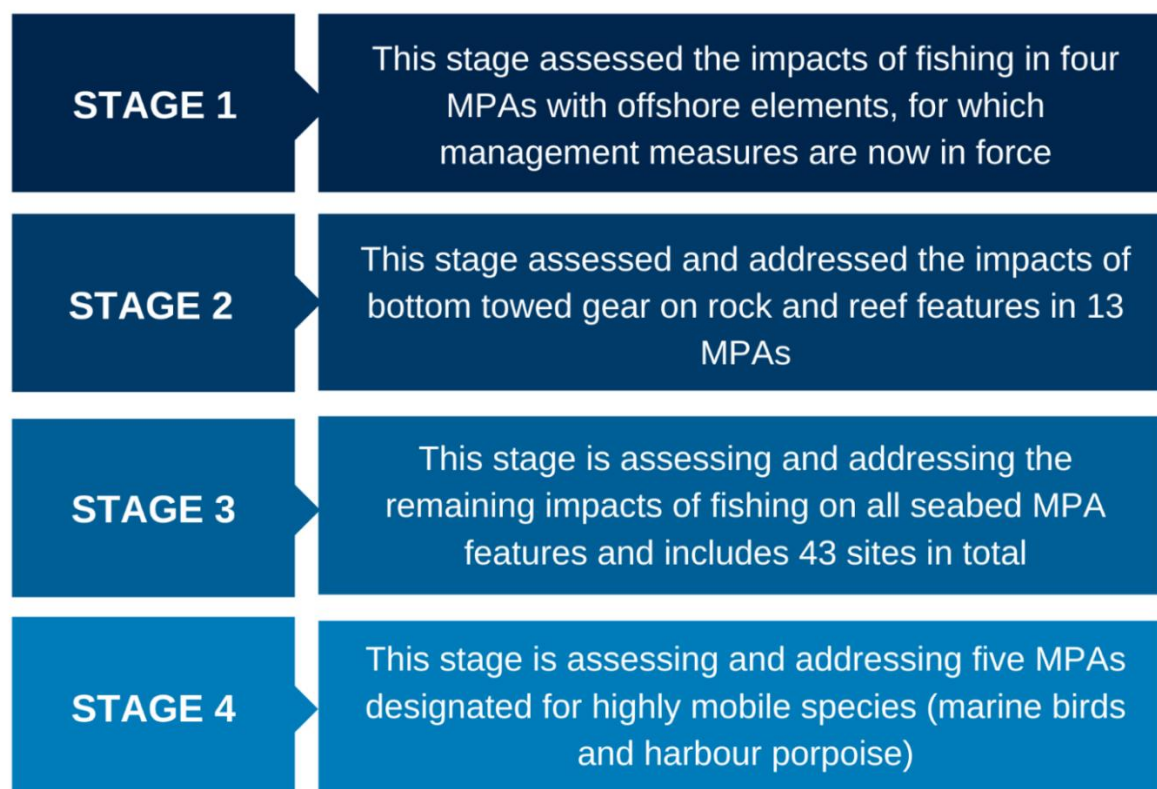
**Figure 1: The location of Stage 3 MPAs and the areas covered by the four proposed byelaws.**

## 2 Background

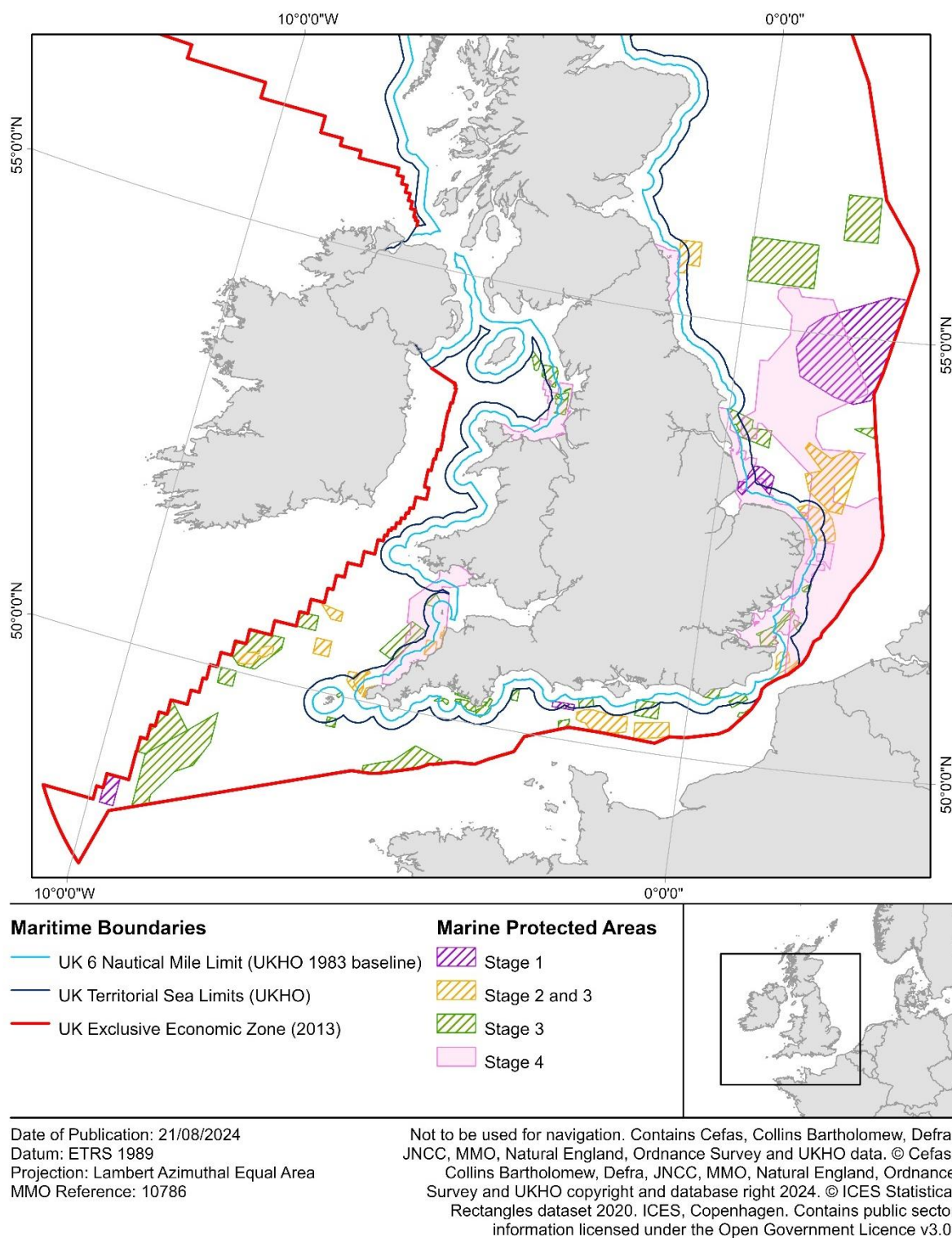
MMO is the lead regulator for fishing in MPAs in English waters offshore of 6 nm and has legal duties to support the achievement of these sites' conservation objectives. These MPAs include marine conservation zones (MCZs), special areas of conservation (SACs) and special protection areas (SPAs). SACs and SPAs are collectively known as European marine sites (EMSs).

MMO is assessing and managing the impacts of fishing on MPAs in four stages. A brief summary of each stage is set out in **Figure 2**. Maps showing the MPAs included in each Stage are displayed in **Figure 3 to 7**. This formal consultation focusses on Stage 3.

MMO works closely with the inshore fisheries and conservation authorities (IFCAs), the lead regulators for fishing in MPAs inshore of 6 nm. MMO and IFCAs agree on a case by case basis the best arrangements for management of sites which straddle the 6 nm boundary, which in certain cases may include MMO leading on the management of a portion of an MPA within 6 nm.

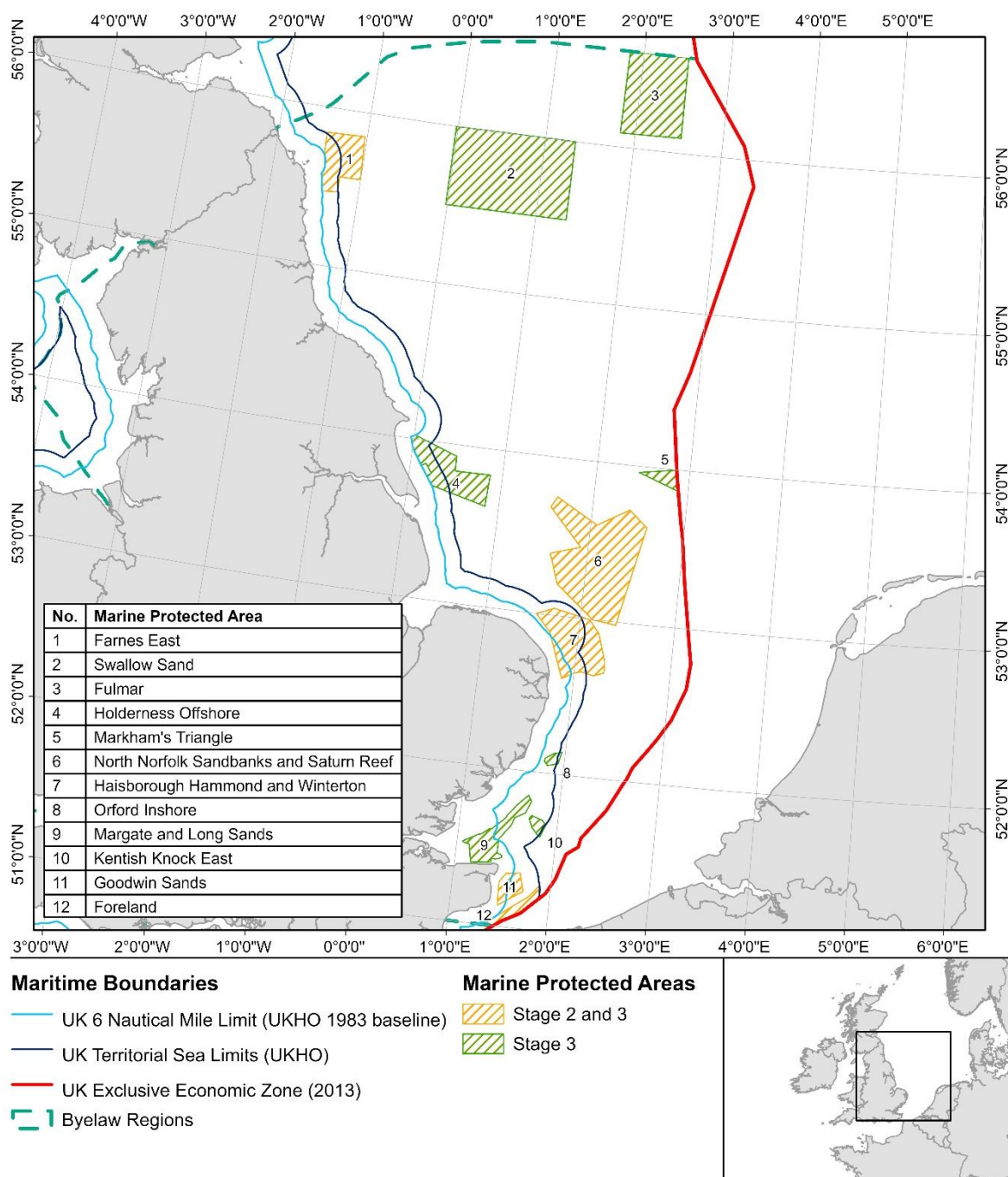


**Figure 2: The four stages of MMO's plan to assess and manage the impacts of fishing in MPAs in English waters.**



**Figure 3: MPAs assessed in Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

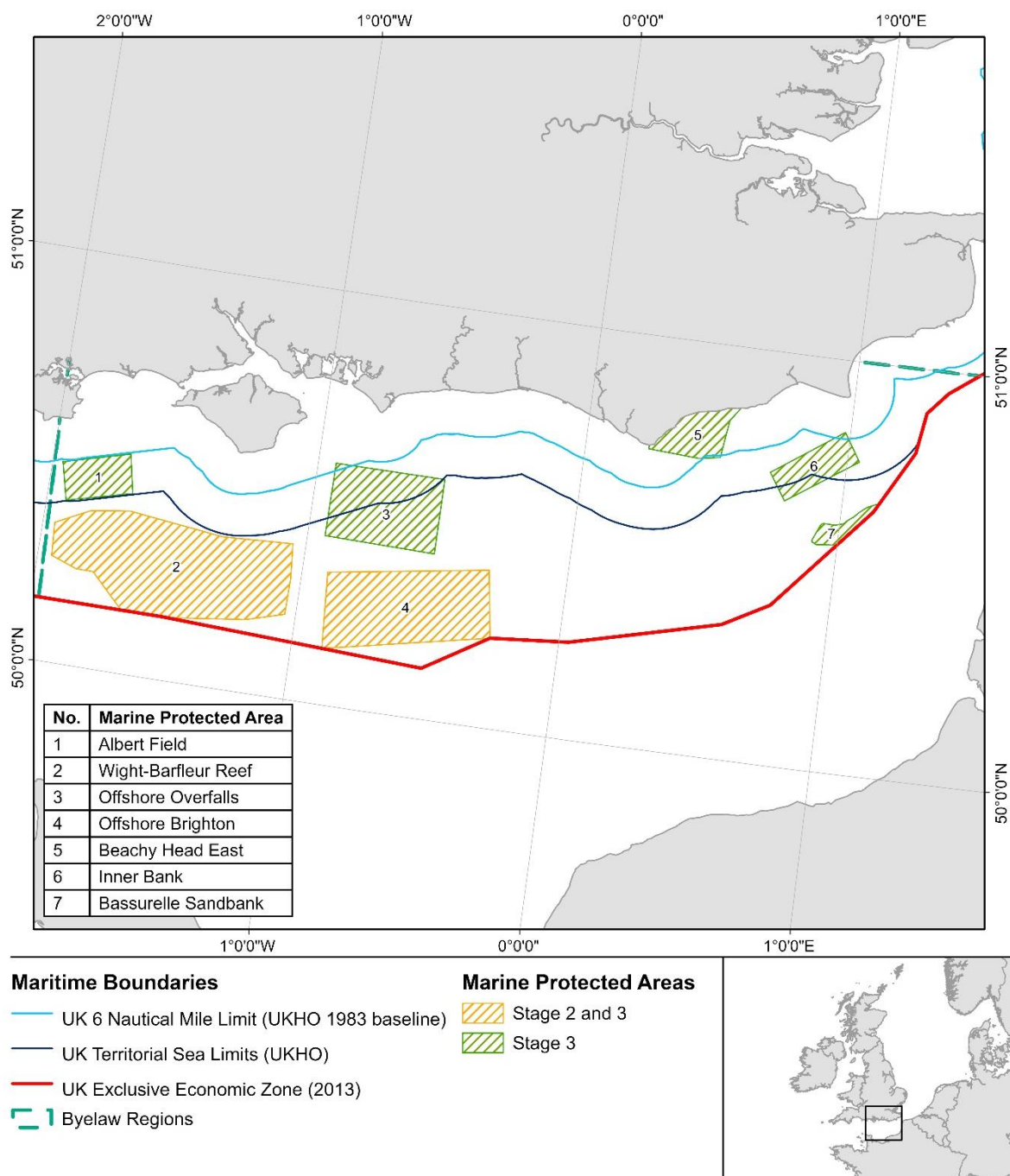




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Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area  
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**Figure 4: Stage 3 MPAs in the North Sea**

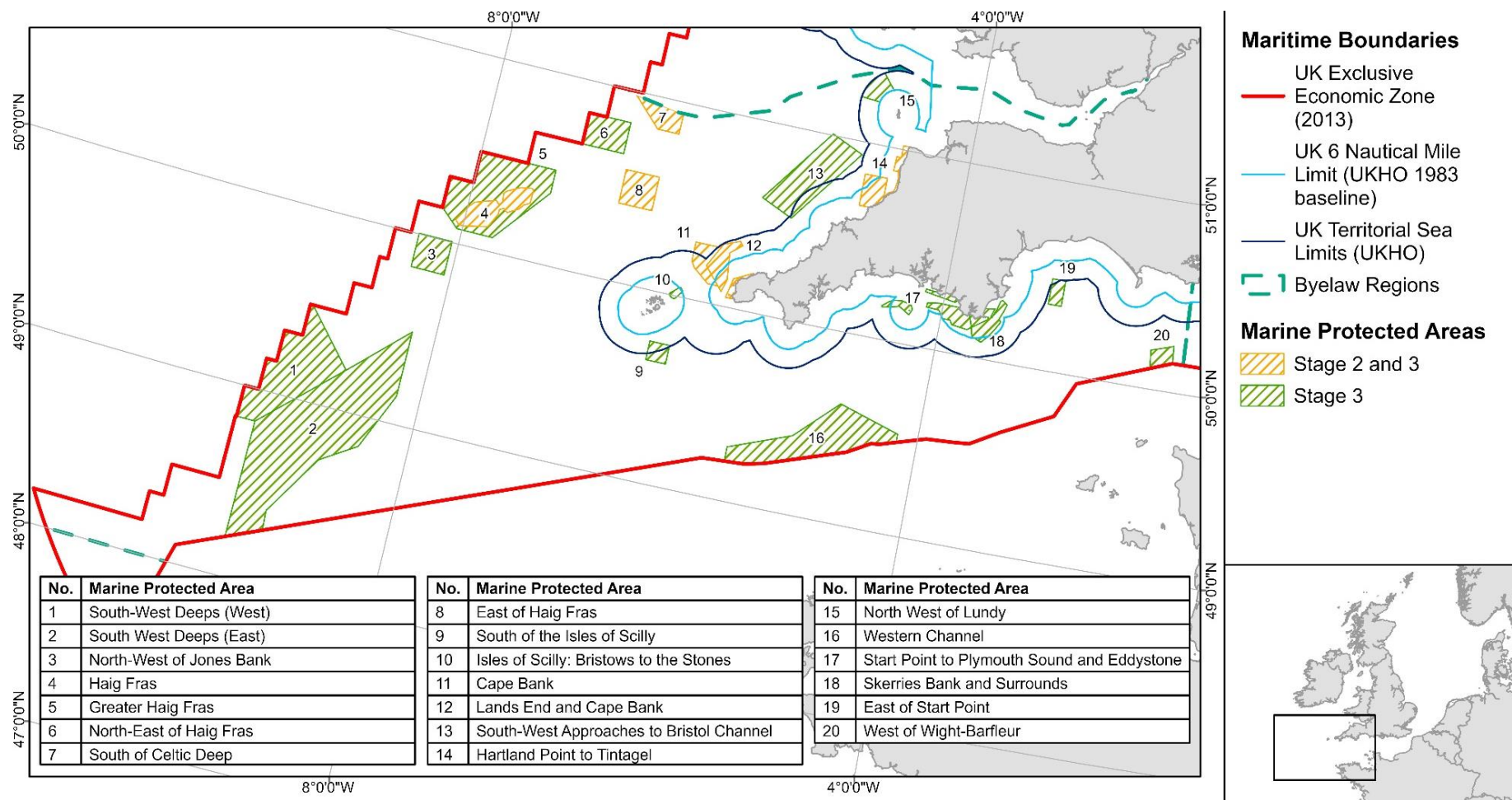


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**Figure 5: Stage 3 MPAs in the Eastern Channel**

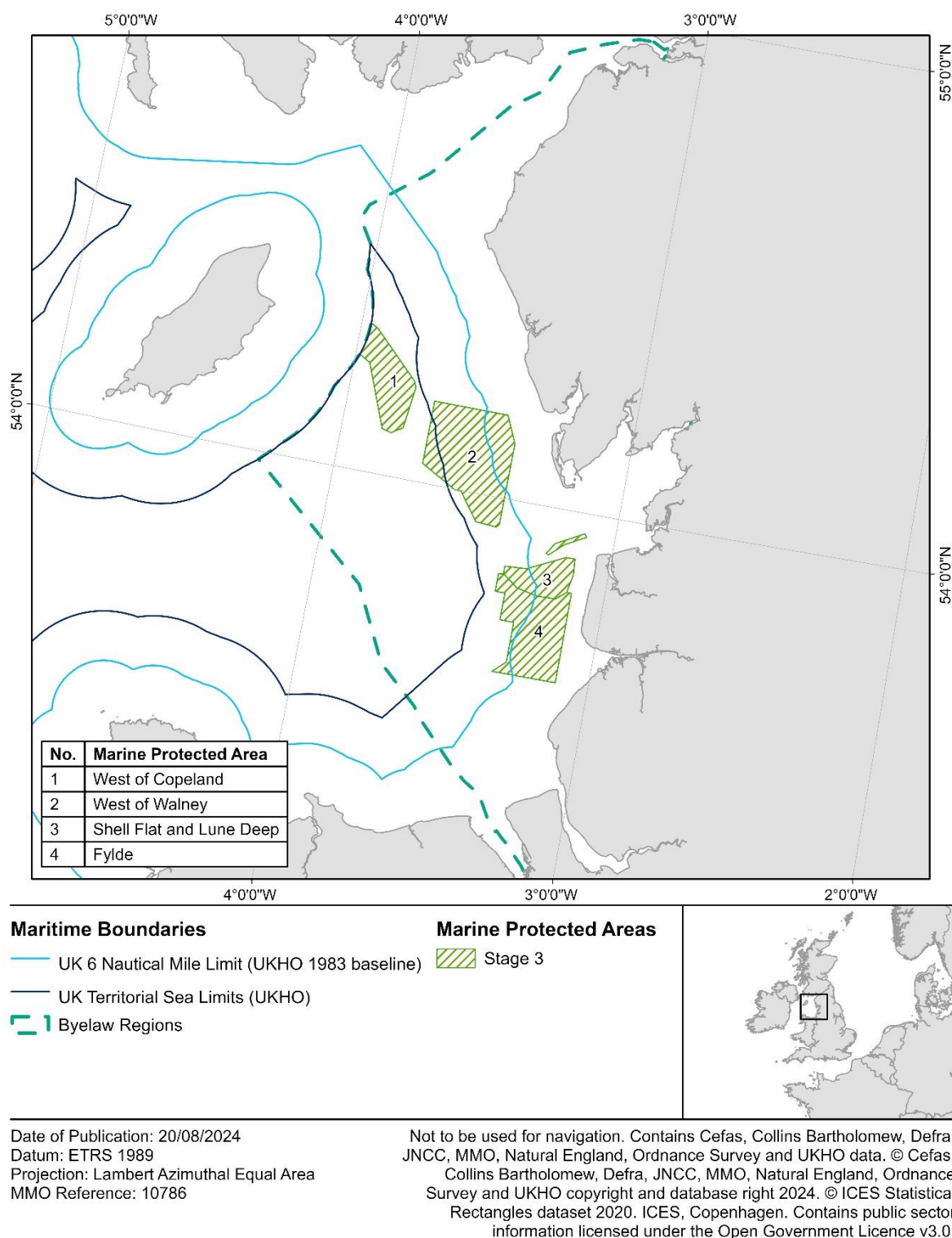




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**Figure 6: Stage 3 MPAs in the Western Channel and South West**



**Figure 7: Stage 3 MPAs in the Irish Sea**

### 3 Stage 3 overview

In Stage 3, MMO is assessing and managing the impacts of fishing on all designated seabed MPA habitats and species not already covered in previous stages. Stage 3 covers 43 sites in total, a combination of MCZs and SACs. Stage 3 includes assessment of the remaining interactions between fishing gears and MPA features (for example static gear fishing on reef features) in the 13 MPAs where management for bottom towed gear on reef features was introduced during in Stage 2.

To determine whether or not management measures are required for Stage 3, MMO has gathered best available evidence on the impacts of different fishing gears on MPA features into three '[impacts evidence documents](#)<sup>7</sup>'.

Based on these documents, and a range of site-specific information, MMO has drafted site-level assessments for each MPA covered in Stage 3. These consider:

- the type, nature and intensity of the fishing activity taking place over several years;
- the location, nature, extent and condition of the habitats and species which each MPA is designed to protect;
- evidence of the impact of different fishing activities on the relevant habitats and species.

Where the MMO assessment determines that ongoing (including potential future) fishing activities will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of an MCZ or adversely affect the site integrity of an SAC, then no management is required. However, where the MMO assessment cannot exclude this, MMO has proposed management measures.

Management proposals have been drafted to ensure that fishing does not undermine the conservation objectives of any Stage 3 MPA, while seeking to minimise wherever possible the social and economic impacts on those affected, principally those involved in the fishing industry.

MMO is now seeking views and additional evidence on these proposals through formal consultation. This formal consultation does not include pre-existing MMO management measures for which no changes are proposed.

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<sup>7</sup> Stage 3 Impacts Evidence documents: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-impacts-evidence](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-impacts-evidence)

## MMO Management of Commercial Fishing in MPAs: Stage 3 Process

<b>Step 1: analyse impacts of fishing on MPAs</b>	Gather best available evidence on the impacts of fishing on MPA features.
<b>Step 2: call for evidence</b>	Seek views from stakeholders and update assessments using the evidence collected.
<b>Step 3: site level assessments</b>	Assess impacts of fishing at MPA level.
<b>Step 4: draft management measures</b>	Where necessary, develop draft byelaw and impact assessment.
<b>Step 5: formal consultation</b>	Consult on site level assessments, draft byelaw and impact assessment. Update documents based on responses.
<b>Step 6: finalise management measures</b>	Finalise documents. If proceeding with management measures, make byelaw and submit to Secretary of State for confirmation.
<b>Step 7: implement management measures</b>	MMO byelaw comes into force on agreed date once confirmed by Secretary of State.
<b>Step 8: monitoring and control</b>	Monitor compliance and take enforcement action where required.
<b>Step 9: review</b>	Review the need for and effectiveness of the MMO byelaw every five years.

Figure 8: The steps for Stage 3, highlighting the current step – formal consultation

## 4 Draft Stage 3 MPA fisheries assessments

The 43 draft [Stage 3 MPA fisheries assessments](#)<sup>8</sup> consider the best available evidence, including both site specific and general evidence, and include draft conclusions as to whether:

- for an SAC – MMO has ascertained that ongoing fishing activities will not adversely affect the integrity of the site, or
- for an MCZ - MMO is satisfied that there is no significant risk that ongoing fishing activities will hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The [Stage 3 Site Assessment Methodology document](#)<sup>9</sup> sets out a detailed explanation of how the draft MPA fisheries assessments have been carried out.

A summary of the assessment outcomes and proposed management for each site is provided in Annex 1.

For bottom towed gears, five Stage 3 MPAs are already subject to a prohibition across the whole of the MMO portion of the site. For the others, the draft assessments **could not conclude no significant risk of hindering the achievement of site conservation objectives/no adverse effect on site integrity** from the ongoing use of bottom towed gears on most or all designated seabed features. MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of fishing using bottom towed gears across most of these MPAs.

Seabed features have varying sensitivities, different types of bottom towed gears have different impacts, and in a small number of sites, very low levels of bottom towed fishing were observed in the years analysed. However, negative impacts on site conservation objectives could not be excluded because:

- negative impacts from the use of bottom towed gears on the seabed habitats assessed (and their constituent biotopes) are documented or cannot be reasonably assumed to be absent for all features;
- published evidence indicates that the first pass of a trawl over seabed habitats does the most damage, meaning even very low levels of existing or future fishing can have significant impacts;
- sediments habitats are mosaic in nature with few clear boundaries between more and less sensitive components;
- displacement or other changes in fishing patterns (eg as a result of MMO MPA fisheries byelaws, offshore wind developments and/or exploitation of

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<sup>8</sup> Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessments: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-site-assessments](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-site-assessments)

<sup>9</sup> Stage 3 Site Assessment Methodology document: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-site-assessments](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-site-assessments)



novel stocks/locations) mean that MPA features left 'open' to bottom towed fishing may experience significantly higher levels of activity in the future than in the years analysed; and,

- the current makeup of seabed habitats reflects decades/centuries of human impacts and therefore represents a significantly shifted baseline from a natural to a more impacted state.

For bottom-set nets and lines and traps the conclusion for most features is that ongoing use will **not pose a significant risk of hindering the achievement of site conservation objectives/result in an adverse effect on site integrity**, and therefore no additional management is required.

However, for biogenic Ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs, deep sea bed, and especially vulnerable rocky reefs in a total of six sites (one site for bottom-set nets and lines, four sites for traps, and one site for both traps and bottom-set nets and lines), the draft MPA fisheries assessments conclude that ongoing fishing may result in negative impacts on these habitats due to the physical impacts of the gears used. The draft assessments therefore **could not conclude no significant risk of hindering the achievement of site conservation objectives/no adverse effect on site integrity**. MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of fishing using these gears over these specific areas.

For Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ, spiny lobster is a feature, and the MPA fisheries assessment concludes that ongoing removal **may pose a significant risk of hindering the achievement of site conservation objectives**. This is because the population of crawfish is still recovering from a population crash due to overfishing during the 1970s, and not enough is known about the species' population dynamics to determine whether any level of removal is compatible with the site population maintaining favourable condition. MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of removal of crawfish from the MMO portion of this site.

## 5 Proposed byelaws

To implement the required management measures, the MMO is proposing to make four regional byelaws, based on ICES areas. These proposed byelaws are:

### 5.1 The Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024

This draft byelaw covers ICES area 7d and includes measures for the following MPAs:

- Albert Field – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Bassurelle Sandbank – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Beachy Head East – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the MMO portion of the MPA, except the far southeast portion of the site.



- Inner Bank – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Offshore Brighton – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the MPA except the south west portion which overlaps the Dolphin Head Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA) and the proposed Highly Protected Marine Areas Fishing Byelaw 2024.
- Offshore Overfalls – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Wight-Barfleur Reef – a minor change to the boundaries of the existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the site (see section 6).

## **5.2 The Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024**

This draft byelaw covers ICES area 7a and includes measures for the following MPAs:

- Fylde – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Shell Flat and Lune Deep – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the Shell Flat portion of the MPA.
- West of Copeland - prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- West of Walney – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.

## **5.3 The North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024**

This draft byelaw covers ICES areas 4a and 4b and includes measures for the following MPAs:

- Farnes East – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Foreland – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Fulmar – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Goodwin Sands – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the MPA, prohibition of traps and bottom-set nets and lines across the Ross worm reefs in the MMO portion of the MPA.
- Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the MPA, prohibition of traps across the Ross worm reefs in the MMO portion of the MPA.
- Holderness Offshore – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Kentish Knock East – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.

- Margate and Long Sands – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the MPA.
- Markham’s Triangle – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA, prohibition of traps over the site’s Ross worm reefs.
- Orford Inshore – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Swallow Sand - prohibition of bottom towed gear across the MPA except in the far north west corner where no designated features are present.

In addition, this draft byelaw also incorporates existing measures for:

- Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge - existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the sandbanks and reefs, and of bottom-set nets and lines and traps over reefs.
- Dogger Bank – existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the MPA remains in place.

## **5.4 The Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024**

This draft byelaw covers ICES area 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h and 7j and includes measures for the following MPAs:

- Bristows to the Stones - prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the MPA.
- Cape Bank - a minor change to the boundaries of the existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the site (see section 6).
- East of Haig Fras - a minor change to the boundaries of the existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the site (see section 6).
- East of Start Point – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Greater Haig Fras – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Hartland Point to Tintagel – prohibition of traps across the whole of the MMO portion of the site and inclusion of the existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the MPA.
- Land’s End and Cape Bank - a minor change to the boundaries of the existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the site (see section 6).

- North East of Haig Fras – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- North West of Lundy – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- North West of Jones Bank – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Skerries Bank and Surrounds – prohibition of bottom towed gear and the removal of spiny lobster across the whole of the MMO portion of the MPA.
- South of Celtic Deep – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- South of the Isles of Scilly – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- South West Approaches to Bristol Channel – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- South West Deep (East) – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA and bottom-set nets and lines prohibited over the deep-sea bed feature.
- South-West Deep (West) – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone prohibition of traps over reef features and a minor change to the boundaries of the existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the site (see section 6).
- Western Channel – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.
- West of Wight-Barfleur – prohibition of bottom towed gear across the whole of the MPA.

In addition, this draft byelaw also incorporates existing fisheries measures for:

- Haig Fras - existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the MPA.
- South Dorset – existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear across the whole of the MPA.
- The Canyons – existing prohibition of bottom towed fishing gear in most of the MPA.

## **6 Minor changes to existing management measures**

The proposed Stage 3 byelaws include minor changes to the existing management measures for five MPAs.

For four MPAs, these changes are due to a review of the depth-based buffers originally applied. Buffers are applied to the management areas to ensure that activities taking place adjacent to a sensitive feature do not negatively impact it

either directly or indirectly. Buffer size for mobile gear is determined based on water depth of the site and warp length of the gear and will be applied in accordance with guidance from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

The buffers applied to previous management measures were reviewed to ensure that they reflect the most accurate and up to date approach and depth information. MMO is proposing to update the buffers for the following MPAs:

- Cape Bank MPA and Land's End and Cape Bank MPA – extending the boundary of the bottom towed gear management measure from 230 metres to 300 metres (except where already following the 6 nm boundary). This would increase the area covered by the management measure by 5.7 km<sup>2</sup> or 1.4%.
- East of Haig Fras MPA – extending the buffer in the south west of the MPA from 200 m to 600 m. This would increase the area covered by the management measure by 5 km<sup>2</sup> or 1.2 %.
- Wight Barfleur Reef MPA – the previous buffer of 300 m has been reduced to 150 m along the northern boundary of the site, and an increase from 300 m to 450 m in the south west corner of the western extent of the MPA. This would reduce the area covered by the management measure by 9.9 km<sup>2</sup> or 0.04 %.

In addition, a minor update has been made to the bottom towed gear management measure for Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone MPA to reflect updated information on the location and extent of the reef feature in the site. This would increase the area covered by the management measure by 2.1 km<sup>2</sup> or 19.5 %.

The estimated impacts of these changes are set out in the draft Stage 3 DMA.

## **7 Social, economic and environmental impacts of proposed measures**

Restriction of fishing activities are likely to result in social and economic impacts, primarily to fishers, but potentially also to others involved in seafood production (e.g. fish processors) and wider coastal communities with a high level of dependency on fishing. MMO always seeks to minimise any negative social and economic impacts of any proposed MPA measures, while ensuring that suitable protection is in place for designated features.

The estimated impacts of the proposed measures are set out in the draft DMA<sup>6</sup>. Indirect impacts are also discussed in the draft DMA, for example on fish processors, or to fishers not directly impacted by the restrictions, but who face increased competition due to displacement of fishing effort from a restricted or closed area. Indirect impacts are not estimated in cash terms, due to the highly unpredictable nature of displacement of fishing activity, and the complexity of supply chains.

Fishers, and others involved or affected by fishing, may also accrue benefits from fisheries restrictions, for example where these restrictions lead to an increase in

commercial fish stocks. However, marine ecosystems are extremely complex, and these benefits are likely to take years to decades to accrue, and it is not possible to accurately predict the precise location or type of commercial stocks that will benefit from the recovery of a particular MPA.

The draft DMA estimates that over the 20-year appraisal period used, the proposed measures will result in a total cost to UK fishers of £7.8 million, resulting in an annual cost of approximately £530,000<sup>10</sup>.

## **8 Displacement**

If the proposed measures are implemented, they will result in the displacement part of the prohibited fishing effort. This may manifest as the movement of a type of fishing to another area, or it may include fishers switching from fishing gears that are prohibited to those that are not. Displacement of fishing activity allows fishers to recoup some of the revenue lost as a result of the measures, although displaced fishing is likely to be less profitable due to increased fuel costs, increased competition, or less availability target species.

The potential impacts resulting from displacement are briefly discussed in the draft Stage 3 DMA. These include higher levels of fishing pressure on areas outside of MPAs, resulting in environmental impacts, pressures on stocks and increased competition between fishers.

MMO has considered displacement in developing the proposed management measures. In particular, MMO has considered the risks to MPA conservation objectives of concentrating displaced fishing activities from management areas into any areas of designated feature not subject to management.

It is not currently possible to accurately and precisely predict displacement as a result of the proposed measures, as fishing patterns are driven by a wide range of factors including the location and movements of target species, the availability of quota or other opportunities for target species, market prices for landed fish and fuel prices. It is therefore not possible to quantify the impacts of displacement of fishing activity.

## **9 Documents provided as part of this consultation**

This section provides a summary of, and links to, the documents provided as part of this consultation.

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<sup>10</sup> The estimated equivalent annualised net direct costs to business

## 9.1 Stage 3 Call for Evidence Decision Document

This document<sup>11</sup> sets out the key themes from the representations received during the Stage 3 Call for Evidence which was held from 17 January to 28 March 2023, as well as a summary of how MMO has addressed these.

## 9.2 Stage 3 Fishing Gear Impacts Evidence Documents

These documents set out in detail and analyse the best available evidence on the impacts of different fishing gears on the habitats and species features of Stage 3 MPAs. The evidence and analysis in these documents inform the site level MPA fisheries assessments. Earlier drafts of these documents were shared as part of the Stage 3 Call for Evidence and have been updated based on the representations received.

There are three impacts evidence documents<sup>7</sup>:

- Anchored Nets and Lines Impacts Evidence Document
- Bottom Towed Gear Impacts Evidence Document
- Traps Impacts Evidence Document

## 9.3 Draft Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessments

Draft site-level assessments have been conducted for each of the 43 MPAs<sup>8</sup>. Each draft assessment takes into account site-specific information, including the condition and location of designated features within the MPA, and levels of fishing activity. This information has been considered alongside the evidence from the impact evidence documents to assess the sensitivity of the habitats and species present within each MPA to the different types of fishing activity which are taking place, or are likely to take place within the site.

For MCZs they assess whether MMO can be satisfied that there is no significant risk that ongoing fishing will hinder the achievement of the site's conservation objectives. If the draft assessment concludes that there may be a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the site's conservation objectives, management proposals are set out to address this.

For SACs they assess whether MMO can ascertain that ongoing fishing will not adversely affect the integrity of the site. If the draft assessment concludes that an adverse effect on site integrity may occur, management proposals are set out to address this.

For both types of MPA, the draft assessments consider the impacts of fishing alone, and in-combination with other relevant activities.

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<sup>11</sup> Stage 3 Call for Evidence Decision Document:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-mpas-call-for-evidence](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-mpas-call-for-evidence)



A summary of the conclusions of each of the draft 43 Stage 3 MPA fisheries assessments and proposed management measures are available in **Annex 1**.

## 9.4 Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessment Methodology Document

The Methodology document<sup>9</sup> provides additional information on how the MMO MPA fisheries assessments have been used to assess the impacts of fishing on MPAs.

## 9.5 Draft Stage 3 Byelaws

Proposed management measures for the 43 Stage 3 MPAs and proposed minor changes to existing measures for 5 MPAs are contained in four draft byelaws. These draft byelaws each cover a specific area of English waters based on ICES areas:

- The Draft Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024 (ICES area 7d) <sup>2</sup>
- The Draft Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024 (ICES area 7a)<sup>3</sup>
- The Draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024 (ICES areas 4a and 4b)<sup>4</sup>
- The Draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024 (ICES area 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h and 7j)<sup>5</sup>

More information on the proposed byelaws is set out in section 5 and in **Annex 1**.

## 9.6 Draft Stage 3 De Minimis Assessment

This document<sup>6</sup> sets out the rationale for the byelaws and their predicted effects.

Benefits are based on estimated improvements to the quality of the marine environment, leading to an increase in the value of the services which our natural environment provides to society (referred to as ecosystem services).

Costs to the fishing industry are estimated based on fisheries landings reported as being caught from the areas where management measures in the proposed byelaw would apply. For UK fishing businesses these landings values are used to estimate impacts on profits. For non-UK fishing businesses profit information is not available and so costs are presented in terms of landings forgone, which is likely to be a significant overestimate of the true financial impacts (i.e. the impact on profits). In addition, cost estimates to both UK and non-UK fishing businesses do not account for the ability of fishers to recoup lost landings by fishing elsewhere, and so are likely to be overestimates.

The estimated impacts of the proposed measures are displayed in the draft Stage 3 De Minimis Assessment (DMA). The proposals are estimated to result in a cost of £3.5 million per year of UK vessel landings (revenue), with an equivalent annual net direct cost to UK business operating profits of approximately £530,000 per year. This is estimated to total a net cost to business over the 20-year appraisal period of £7.8

million. The proposals are also estimated to result in a cost of £15.7 million per year of non-UK vessel landings (revenue)<sup>12</sup>. These impacts are due to loss of access to fishing grounds.

The DMA identifies a range of predicted benefits from the proposed measure. These benefits are expressed as enhanced provision of ecosystem goods and services because of improved environmental condition. These include sustainability of fish stocks and food security, tourism, nutrient cycling, bioremediation of waste and climate regulation and mitigation. A monetary value was then applied to these benefits.

The total benefit over the 20-year appraisal period, taking into account total net cost to UK businesses and public bodies over 20 years of £7.8 million, and the benefits from enhanced environmental protection is estimated to be approximately £3.1 billion.

## **9.7 Stage 3 WebApp**

To support the formal consultation on Stage 3 management measures, MMO have developed interactive WebApps. These webapps contain a wide range of data including MPA designated features; proposed and existing MMO MPA management areas; fishing activity and offshore wind.

Some of the data presented in these WebApps is also included in static maps within other consultation documents such as site assessments and draft byelaws. To ensure the clarity of maps, some MPA feature data has been excluded where it does not add any additional information, typically excluded data consists of point data which overlaps with polygon data and details the same feature. In contrast, all MPA designated feature data is provided in the relevant WebApps and can be toggled on as required.

For guidance on where to access and how to use the WebApps please see the WebApp Guidance: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-protected-areas-stage-3-interactive-maps](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-protected-areas-stage-3-interactive-maps)

## **10 Decision making process, use of evidence, confidence, and uncertainty**

The draft MPA fisheries assessments bring together relevant evidence to determine whether or not fishing activities are compatible with the tests set out in the legal framework for the relevant MPA. The two types of MPA assessed in Stage 3 are marine conservation zones (MCZs) and special areas of conservation (SACs).

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<sup>12</sup> It has not been possible to estimate impacts on non-UK operating profits.

For MCZs, MPA fisheries assessments are consistent with the principles of an MCZ assessment, which determines whether MMO can be satisfied that ongoing fishing activities will not result in a “significant risk of the act hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the MCZ.”<sup>13</sup>.

For SACs, MPA fisheries assessments are consistent with the principles of a habitats regulation assessment (HRA), which determines whether MMO can ascertain that ongoing fishing activities “will not adversely affect the integrity” of the SAC<sup>14</sup>.

Where management measures have been proposed this is because, following the site assessment, MMO is not able to ascertain that ongoing fishing activities will not have an adverse effect on site integrity (for SACs), or is not satisfied that that ongoing fishing activities will not pose a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives (for an MCZ).

The Stage 3 MPA fisheries assessments and management proposals are based on three main categories of evidence:

**Evidence and advice on the marine species and habitats that constitute MPA designated features.**

This evidence has been provided by the government’s statutory nature conservation advisors, Natural England and JNCC. MMO has used information provided in conservation advice packages and conducted direct consultation with Natural England and JNCC. For conservation advice packages for MPAs offshore of 12 nm evidence is available in the JNCC site information centre<sup>15</sup> for that site. For MPAs inshore of 12 nm, conservation advice packages are available in the ‘conservation advice’ section for that site on Natural England’s Designated Sites View<sup>16</sup>. More information on these evidence sources is available in the Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessment Methodology.

**Evidence on the nature, intensity and location of fishing activity.**

This evidence has been sourced from vessel monitoring system data, UK vessel landings records, EU vessel landings data collated by the EU Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries, swept area data collated by the OSPAR commission, and expert opinion from MMO coastal officers. More information on

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<sup>13</sup> Section 126, Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

<sup>14</sup> Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; regulation 28 of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

<sup>15</sup> JNCC MPA site information centres: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/offshore-mpas/>

<sup>16</sup> Natural England Designated Sites View: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

these evidence sources is available in the Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessment Methodology.

### **Evidence on the impacts of fishing on marine species and habitats and the sensitivity of marine species and habitats to particular pressures.**

This evidence has come from Natural England and JNCC, MMO systematic gathering of academic and other relevant literature (including technical reports, and commissioned studies) collated in the MMO Stage 3 Fishing Gear Impacts Evidence documents, and from the Marine Life Information Network (MarLIN)<sup>17</sup> which provides sensitivity reviews for marine species and habitats. More information on these evidence sources is available in the Stage 3 MPA Fisheries Assessment Methodology.

The availability, consistency and confidence of evidence for different gears, features and MPAs varies across the different categories. In some cases there is clear, consistent, and strong evidence, allowing decisions to be made with high levels of confidence. However, in many cases evidence is absent, incomplete, or contradictory. It is therefore necessary to make decisions on imperfect evidence. In carrying out MPA fisheries assessments and developing management measures MMO considers the relative strengths and weaknesses of different evidence sources. In general, direct surveys and recent peer reviewed and published academic papers focussing on the same fishing gear or feature being assessed are considered the strongest source of evidence. However, where strong evidence sources are not available, MMO will use expert judgement to draw conclusions, including considering evidence on the impacts on similar features of similar fishing gears, or in some cases relevant non-fishing activities.

In making decisions about the impact of fishing on MPAs, MMO applies the **precautionary principle**. This means that where there is a threat of serious or irreversible environmental damage, a lack of full scientific certainty will not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. This is also consistent with the precautionary objective in the Fisheries Act 2020 which states “the absence of sufficient scientific information is not used to justify postponing or failing to take management measures to conserve target species, associated or dependent species, non-target species or their environment.”. For SACs specifically, the MPA assessment “must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions to ensure that there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the proposed plan or project”<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> Marine Life Network marine evidence and sensitivity assessments:  
<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/evidence>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment#what-must-an-appropriate-assessment-contain>

The application of the precautionary principle ensures that MPAs are safeguarded against negative impacts from potentially damaging activities. MMO application of the precautionary principle takes into account whether or not there is good reason to believe that harmful effects may occur, alongside the level of scientific certainty available. MMO will review the outcome of the site assessments after no later than five years, or sooner, if relevant new evidence becomes available, particularly evidence which could influence a decision strongly influenced by the application of the precautionary principle.

## 11 Independent panel evidence review

Recognising the complexity and breadth of relevant evidence, and the potential impacts of this project on fishers and the marine environment, in December 2023 MMO commissioned an independent panel of specialists from outside of government to review MMO's use of evidence in assessing the impacts of fishing on MPAs.

The panel reviewed the three draft Stage 3 Fishing Gear Impacts Evidence documents and a sample of 8 draft MPA fisheries assessments (excluding the 'in-combination' part of each assessment which had not yet been drafted).

Although the panel questioned and interrogated aspects of the assessment methodology and the evidence collation and synthesis approach, no matters were raised by the panel that would affect the conclusions of the review of evidence of the impacts of fishing on the MPAs.

**Table 1** contains a summary of the themes raised by the panel, and how MMO has addressed these. A report of the independent panel process and outcomes has also been published<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> Independent Scientific Panel Review Report:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-mpas-independent-scientific-panel-review-report](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stage-3-mpas-independent-scientific-panel-review-report)



**Table 1: Themes raised by the MPA panel and MMO actions and responses.**

Themes raised by MPA panel	MMO actions / response
<b>Decision process</b> – covering comments related to MPA objectives, the precautionary principle, and MMO decision-making processes	MMO will ensure that all factors regarding decision making are clearly outlined in the overarching <b>Stage 3 Consultation Document</b> and the <b>Stage 3 MPA Site Assessment Methodology</b> published for formal consultation. This will include specific information on conservation objectives and legislative tests applied.
<b>Evidence gathering</b> – to provide transparency on how evidence was collated, quality assured and how these methods may impact on conclusions. Also includes explicit recognition of uncertainty and data gaps	MMO will include more information on the approach taken to evidence gathering and MMO's approach to evidential uncertainty. This will be included in the <b>Stage 3 Fishing Gear Impacts Evidence documents</b> , the <b>Stage 3 MPA Site Assessment Methodology</b> document and the <b>Stage 3 Consultation Document</b> .
<b>Evidence use</b> – covers comments or advice in relation to the evidence utilised and the interpretations made from that evidence	MMO will provide more information on the use and application of a range of evidence sources, which vary in strength, timeliness and relevance in the <b>Stage 3 MPA Site Assessment Methodology</b> outlined above. In addition, MMO will complete documentation of its quality assurance of evidence following published methodology and approach <a href="https://publishing.service.gov.uk">Process for evidence quality assurance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a>
<b>Evidence sources and insights</b> – collated comments that suggest further evidence or offers expert knowledge or insights	MMO will maintain a database of evidence used and will review specific recommendations from the panel. MMO will update the <b>Stage 3 Fishing Gear Impacts Evidence documents</b> accordingly.
<b>General evidence</b> – a range of other evidence related comments including graphic presentation, referencing and academic impact	MMO will review the package of information to be published at formal consultation and work with communications and evidence teams to consider best ways to present to the varied audience.
<b>Document content</b> – encompassing document linking, language and terms use and, consistency and editorial elements	MMO will review the package of information to be published at formal consultation and work with communications teams to consider best ways to present to the varied audience.

## 12 Monitoring and control

The draft MPA fisheries assessments draw conclusions about the impacts of ongoing fishing activity based mostly on fishing data from previous years. These conclusions form the basis upon which management measures have been proposed. However, fishing activity changes over time, management measures may need to be updated to ensure that the designated features within the MPAs remain adequately protected.

If the proposed management measures are implemented, MMO will monitor the nature and intensity of ongoing fishing activity. MMO will use data acquired from a variety of sources including (but not limited to) vessel monitoring system (VMS) data and catch and landings data. As new methods for monitoring fishing activity become available, such as inshore vessel monitoring system (I-VMS) and remote electronic monitoring (REM) data, these will be incorporated into the monitoring plan to allow a more comprehensive assessment of fishing activity.

The proposed measures are the prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear over most designated features. Therefore, changes in activity likely to be of concern would relate to the use of static gears such as bottom-set nets and lines and/or traps. In some MPAs, management of fishing using static gear types has not been proposed. This is because the draft MPA assessments conclude that the current and expected ongoing fishing levels will not have an adverse effect on site integrity (for SACs) or result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives for the site (for MCZs).

If changes to fishing activity indicate that there may be an adverse effect on site integrity (for an SAC) or a significant risk of hindering the conservation objectives of the site (for an MCZ), then MMO will take remedial actions. If MMO thinks that there is an urgent need for management measures to be introduced, this may be done by introducing an emergency byelaw under section 131 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. MMO would then undertake a full assessment of fishing activity to determine whether there is a need for permanent management measures to be introduced.

MMO will continue to work closely with the relevant statutory nature conservation bodies (JNCC and Natural England) to assess the appropriateness of the management measures that have been introduced. This includes reviewing management measures if the conservation objectives for an MPA change. All MMO byelaws will be reviewed at least every five years.

## 13 Stakeholder Engagement

During the consultation period MMO will be hosting a number of in-person and online events to allow comments, contributions and questions about the proposed measures.

- Details of these events, and how to register, are available on the MMO Eventbrite site: [Marine Management Organisation Events | Eventbrite](#)

MMO Marine Conservation Team members will also be present at Regional Fisheries Group meetings, online meetings and port visits to discuss these measures. Details of these meetings will be published online and shared through MMOs email news bulletins and social media channels.

## 14 How to respond

We are seeking views and additional evidence on these proposals, in particular:

1. Do you have any additional information about the location, condition, or sensitivity of the designated feature(s)?
2. Do you have information on the type, location, frequency, or intensity of fishing activity within the MPAs?
3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed management measures? Do you have any suggestions for other management measures?
4. How would the proposed management option affect you, or those you represent?
5. What impacts, if any, do you anticipate the proposed management measures will have on UK fishing vessels, operators, or supply chains?
6. What impacts, if any, do you anticipate the proposed management measures will have on non-UK fishing vessels, operators, or supply chains (including those from the EU)?
7. What other impacts could the proposed management measures have? For example, on fishers, the wider fishing community, people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, fish stocks, the marine environment.

You can respond to this consultation in a number of ways:

- Complete the online survey: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/stage-3-formal-consultation>
- By email to [conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk)
- By attending one of our stakeholder events during the consultation period, where your contributions will be recorded.
- By calling 0300 123 1032
- In writing to:

Stage 3 MPA Formal Consultation  
Marine Conservation Team  
Marine Management Organisation  
Tyneside House  
Skinnerburn Rd  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
Tyne & Wear

NE4 7AR  
United Kingdom

**All responses must be received by 11:59pm on 29 September 2025. Late responses may not be considered.**

MMO will review and consider all evidence and views received during this consultation. MMO will use any relevant evidence received to ensure that the proposed measures provide the necessary levels of protection to MPAs, while minimising the social and economic impacts of these measures to those affected, principally the fishing industry.

## Annex 1 – Management proposals for each MPA

### Albert Field MPA

Albert Field MPA is a marine conservation zone (MCZ) covering 192 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Eastern Channel, between 6 and 12 nm from the coast of Dorset. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediments
- subtidal mixed sediments

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over both features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

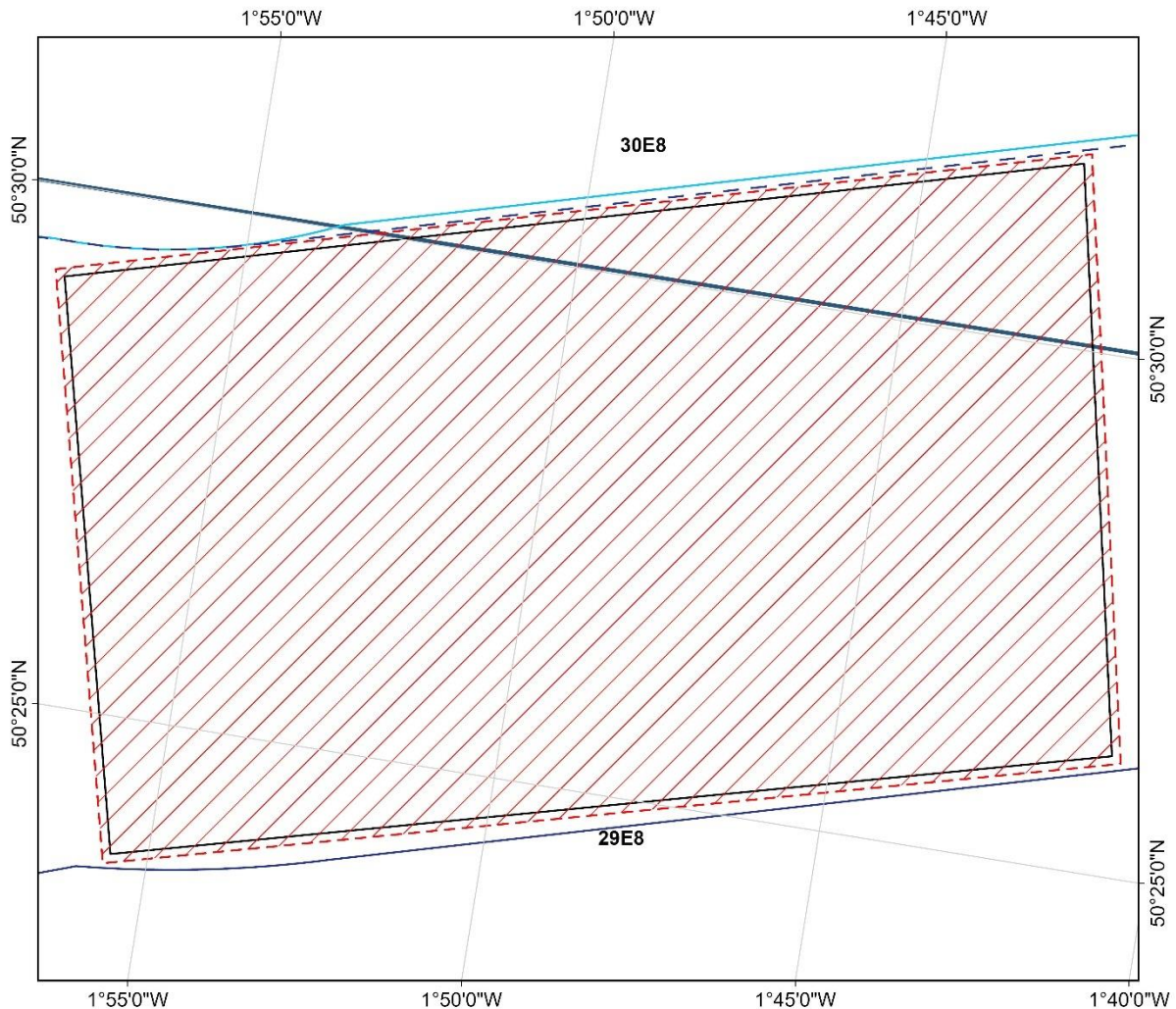




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## Albert Field Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



Date of Publication: 03/07/2024  
Datum: ETRS 1989  
Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area  
MMO Reference: 10786

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## **Bassurelle Sandbank MPA**

Bassurelle Sandbank MPA is a special area of conservation (SAC) covering 67 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Eastern Channel offshore of 12 nm from the south coast of Kent. Part of the MPA borders the median line with French waters. Its designated feature is:

- sandbanks

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the sandbank feature may result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

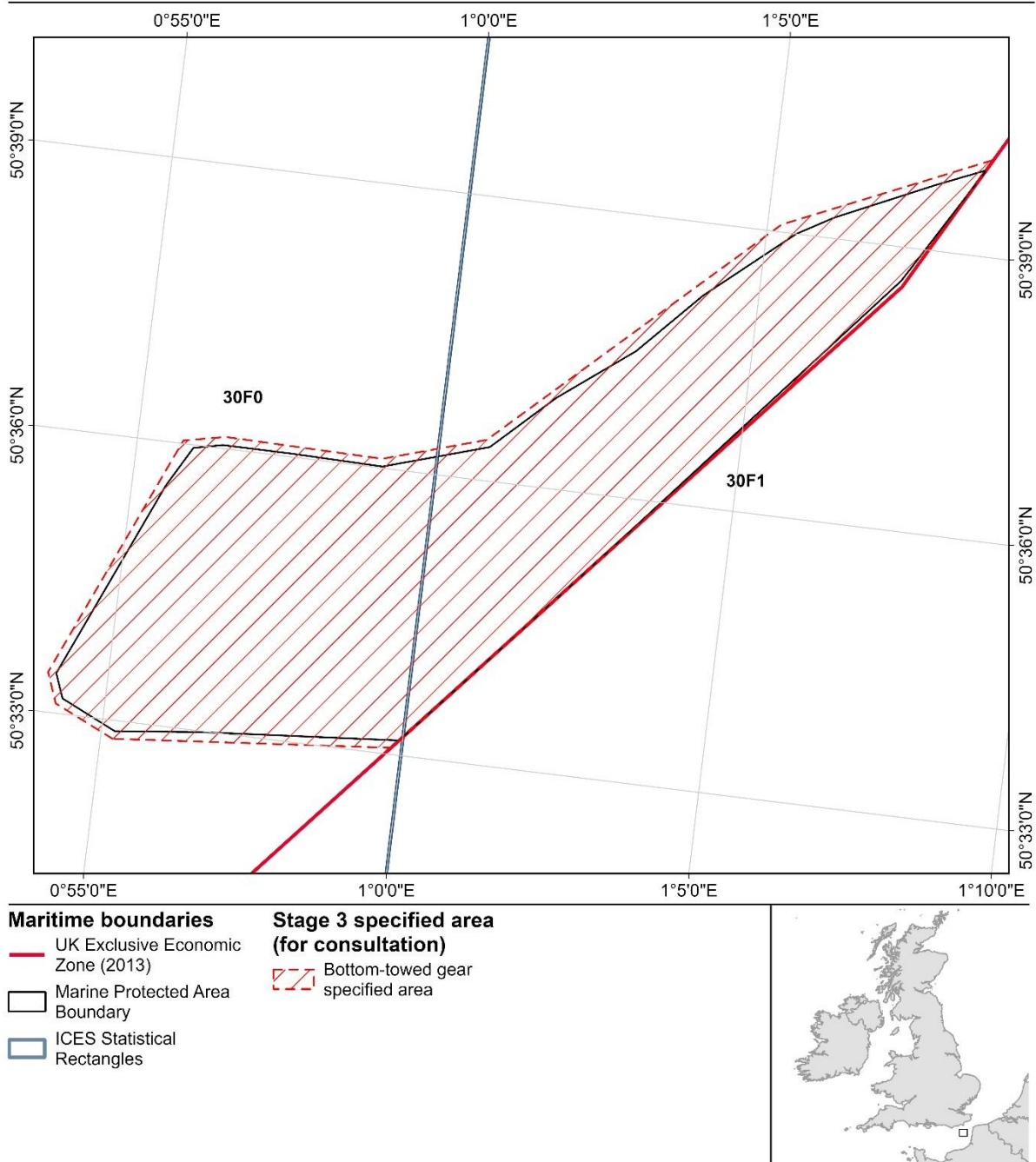
The proposed measure is included in the draft Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Bassurelle Sandbank Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



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## Beachy Head East MPA

Beachy Head East MPA is an MCZ covering 195 km<sup>2</sup> extending offshore from the coast of Sussex. The majority of the site is inshore of 6 nm with approximately 2.6 km<sup>2</sup> extending beyond the 6 nm limit.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Sussex IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the Sussex IFCA is assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- high energy circalittoral rock
- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the circalittoral rock and subtidal sand features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA. The draft assessment also concludes that the ongoing fishing using bottom towed gears over the subtidal coarse sediment feature will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout most of the portion of the MPA offshore of 6 nm (excluding a small area of subtidal coarse sediment in the south east of the site) and a small buffer zone around the boundary of this part of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

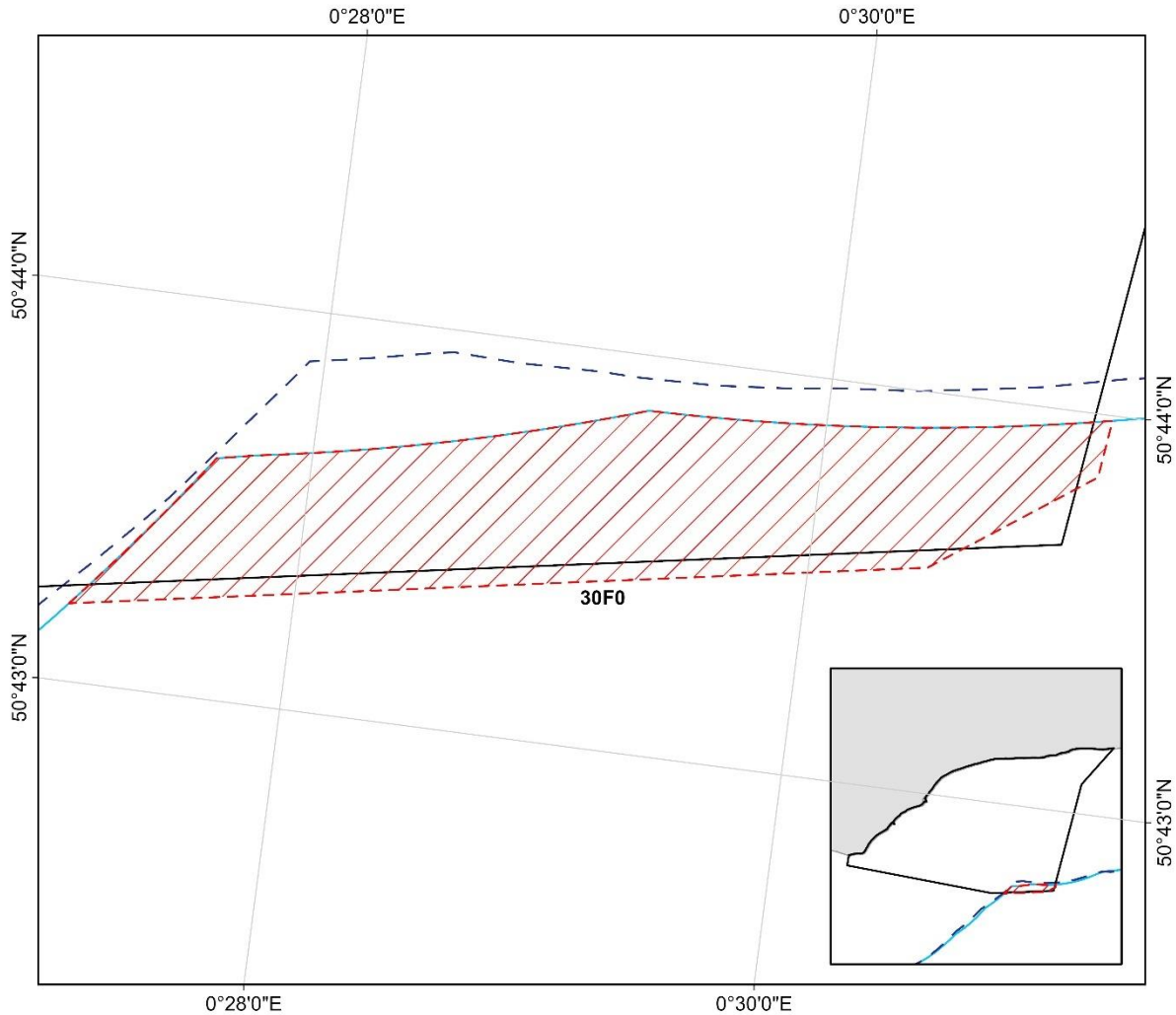




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## Beachy Head East Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of  
bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Bristows to the Stones MPA

Bristows to the Stones MPA is an MCZ covering 28 km<sup>2</sup> just northeast of the Isles of Scilly. The majority of the site is inshore of 6 nm with approximately 1.6 km<sup>2</sup> extending beyond the 6 nm limit.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Isles of Scilly Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Isles of Scilly IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing using bottom towed gears in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the Isles of Scilly IFCA is assessing fishing using bottom towed gears within 6 nm and all other fishing gears throughout the site. The Isles of Scilly IFCA is also assessing the impacts of fishing on the spiny lobster feature throughout the site.

MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

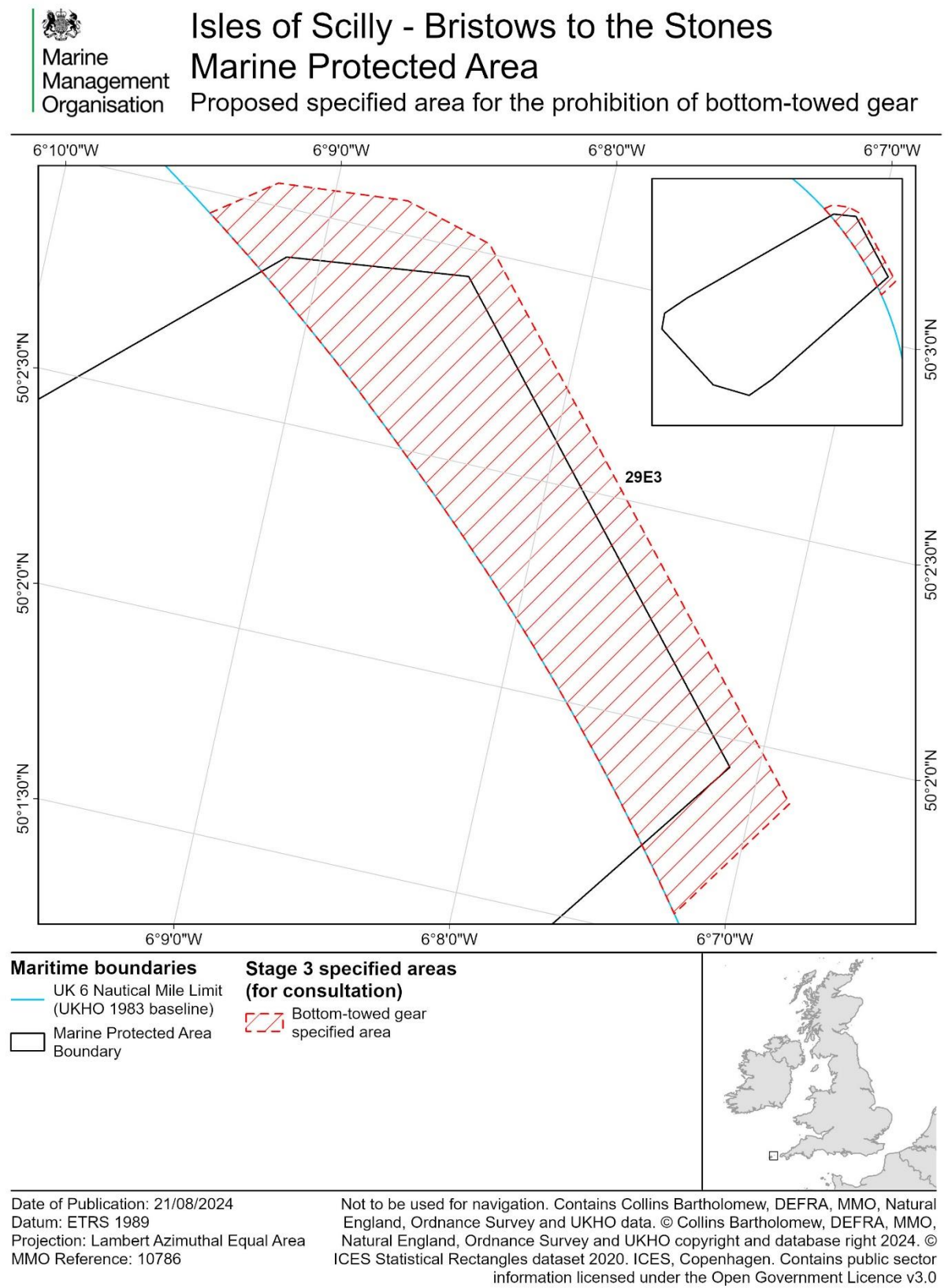
The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats
- high energy circalittoral rock
- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- subtidal coarse sediment
- pink sea-fan
- spiny lobster

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA focusses on the use of bottom towed gear in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm. The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats, circalittoral rock, pink sea-fan, and subtidal coarse sediment features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the portion of the MPA offshore of 6 nm, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of this part of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



## Cape Bank MPA

Cape Bank MPA is an MCZ covering 474 km<sup>2</sup> off the southwest coast of Cornwall. The site straddles the 12 nm and 6 nm limits with approximately 421 km<sup>2</sup> extending beyond the 6 nm limit. The Cape Bank MPA partially overlaps the Land's End and Cape Bank MPA.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Cornwall IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the Cornwall IFCA is assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- subtidal coarse sediment

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear throughout Cape Bank MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using traps and bottom-set nets and lines will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is proposing minor amendments to the boundaries of the existing bottom towed gear management measure, to reflect the most accurate and up to date approach depth information (see section 6).

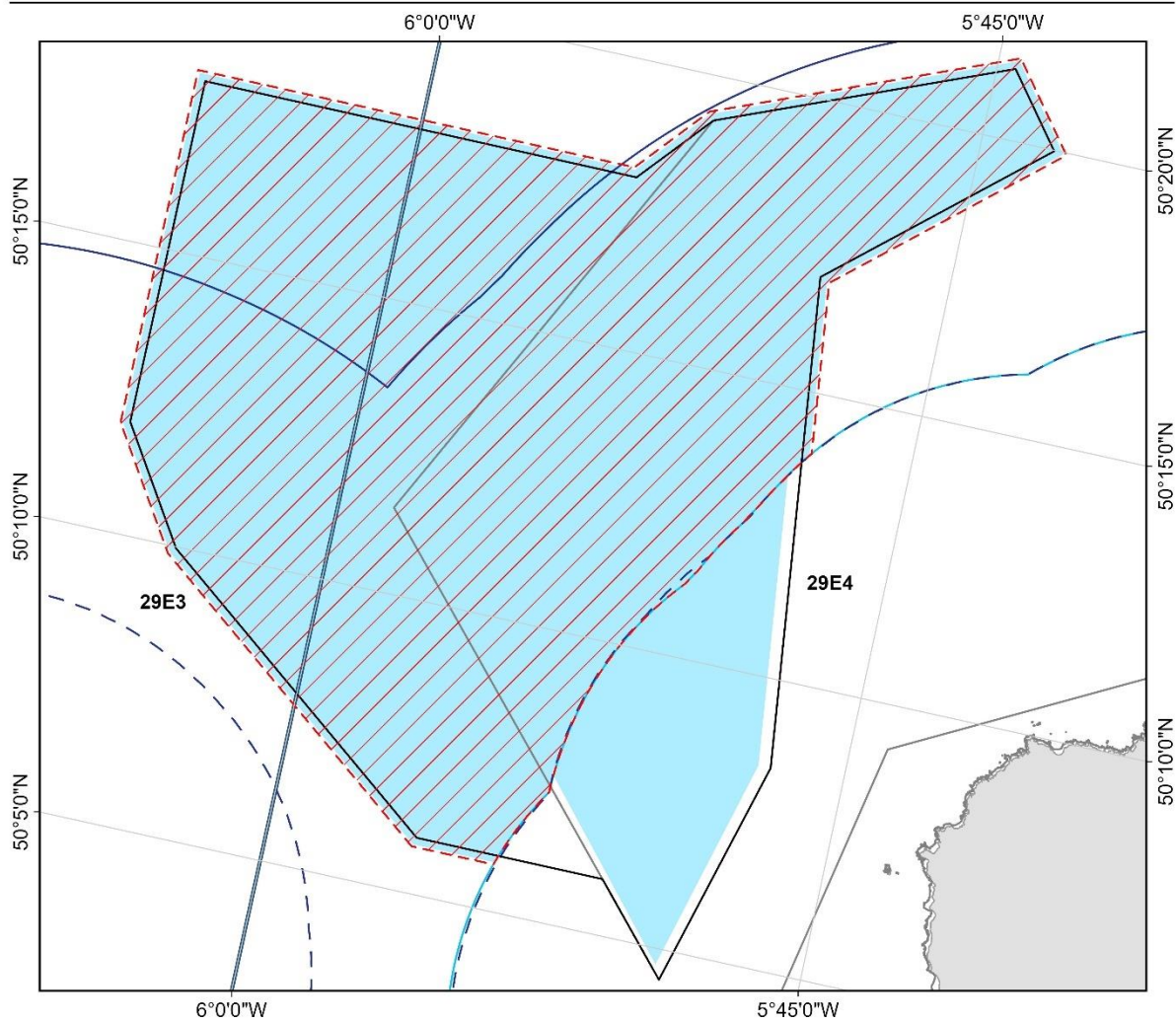
The proposed updated measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Cape Bank Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## East of Haig Fras MPA

East of Haig Fras MPA is an MCZ covering 400 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the west coast of Cornwall. Its designated features are:

- high energy circalittoral rock
- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
- subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediments mosaic
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear throughout East of Haig Fras MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is proposing minor amendments to the boundaries of the existing bottom towed gear management measure, to reflect the most accurate and up to date approach depth information (see section 6).

The proposed updated management measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

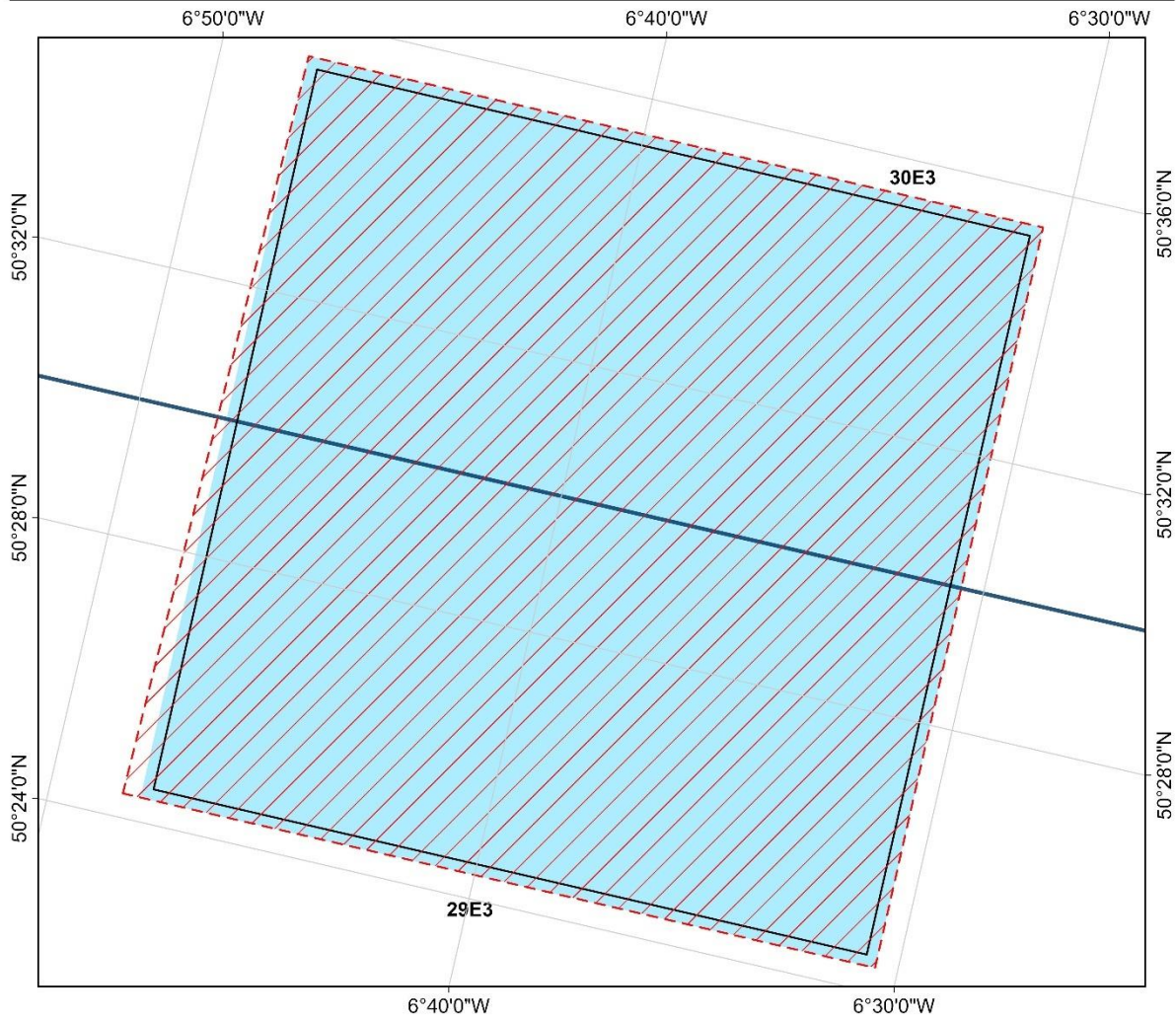




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## East of Haig Fras Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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### East of Start Point MPA

East of Start Point MPA is an MCZ covering 116 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Western Channel, extending offshore from just within the 12 nm limit off the south coast of Devon. Its designated feature is:

- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the subtidal sand feature may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

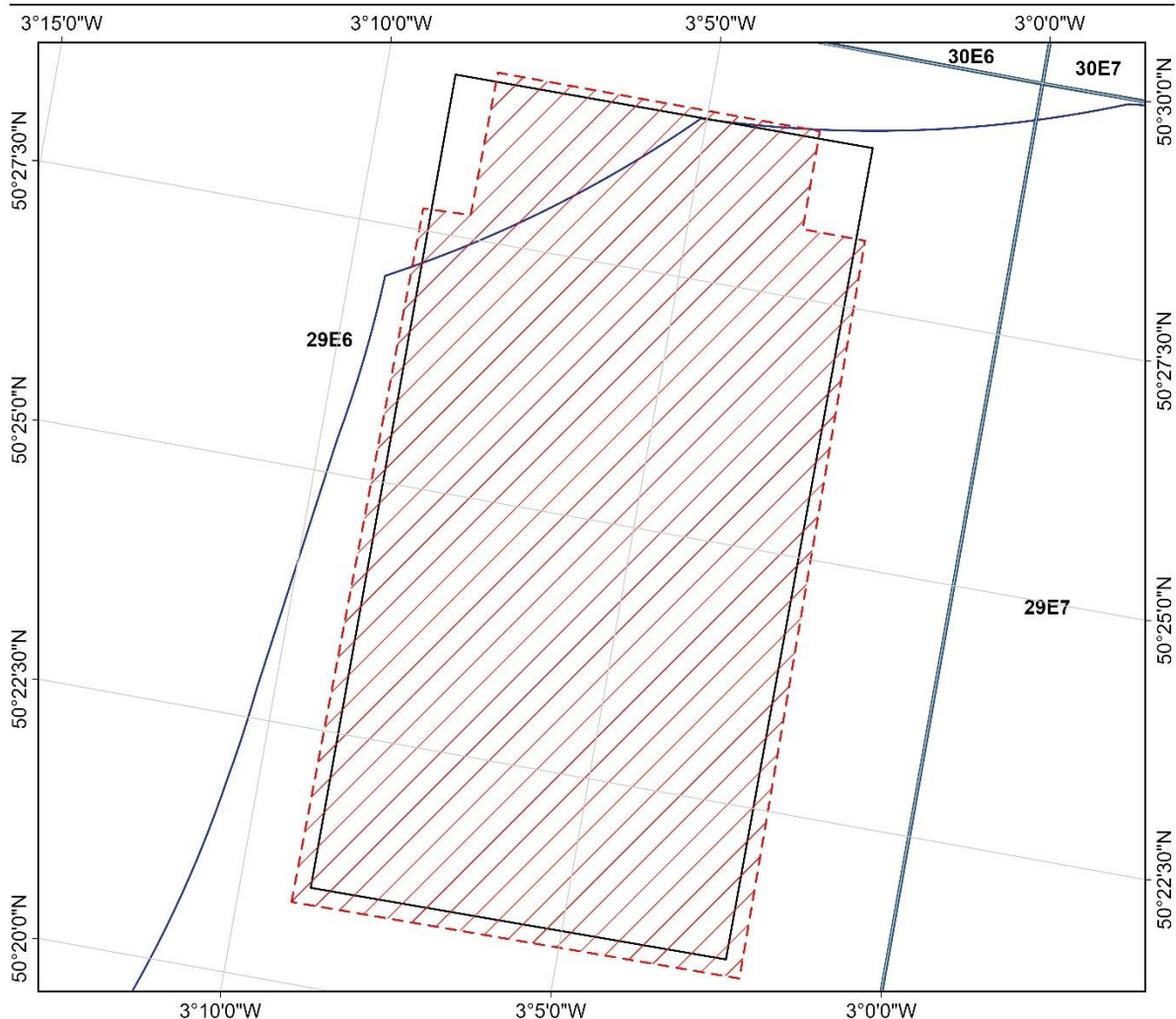
The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## East of Start Point Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Farnes East MPA

Farnes East MPA is an MCZ covering 945 km<sup>2</sup> located in the North Sea, extending offshore from the 6 nm limit off the coast of Northumberland. Its designated features are:

- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over circalittoral rock in Farnes East MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

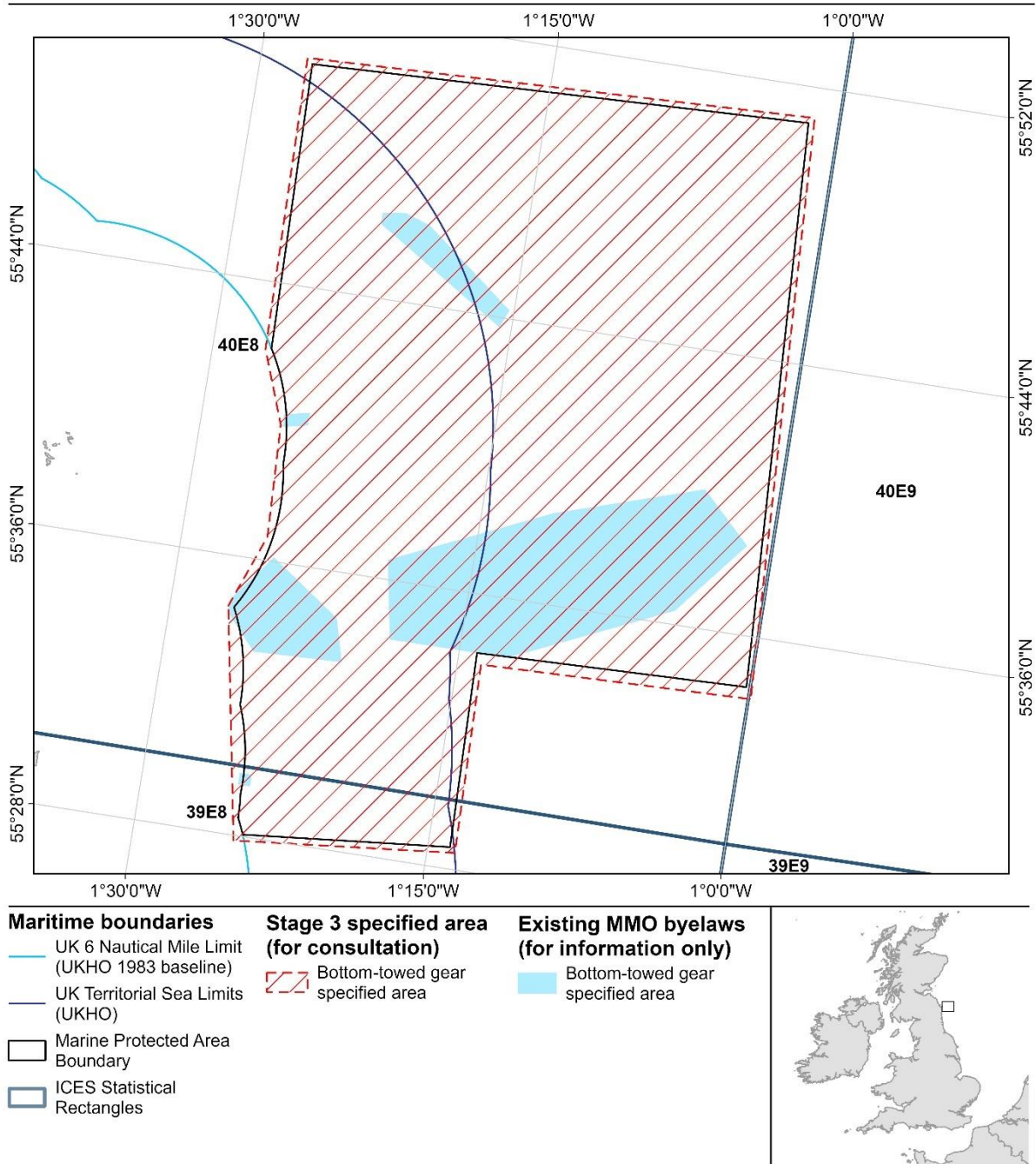




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## Farnes East Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



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## Foreland MPA

Foreland MPA is an MCZ covering 244 km<sup>2</sup> off the east coast of Kent in the Southern North Sea. The western end of the site straddles the 6 nm limit with the majority of the site extending beyond the 6 nm limit. Part of the MPA borders the median line with French waters.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Kent and Essex IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO has agreed with Kent and Essex IFCA that MMO will assess and manage fishing throughout the site, including the portion inshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- high energy circalittoral rock
- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal sand

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over circalittoral rock in Foreland MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal sand features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the whole of the MPA, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

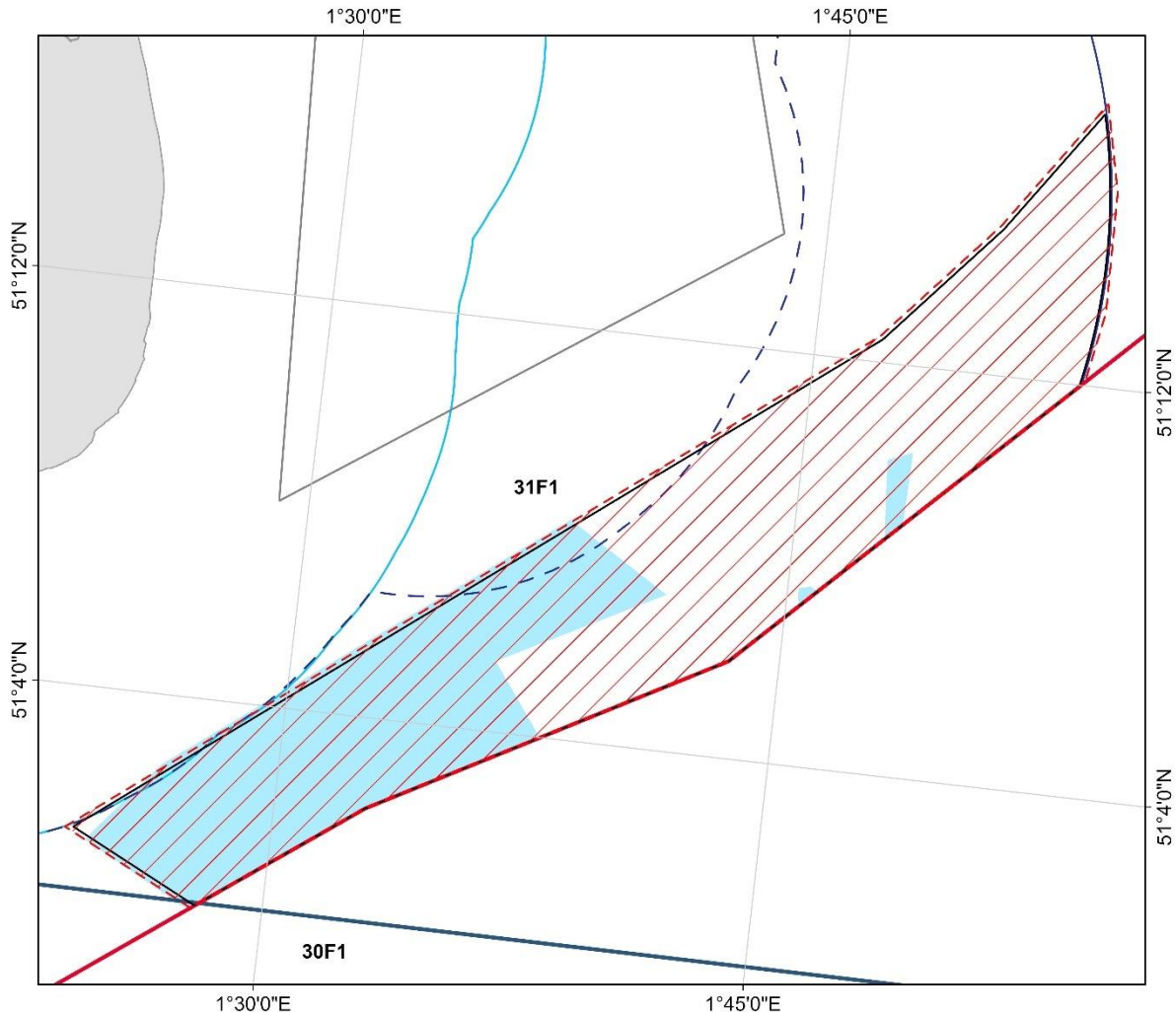




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## Foreland Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Fulmar MPA

Fulmar MPA is an MCZ covering 2,435 km<sup>2</sup> located in the North Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the coast of Northumberland close to the median line with Norwegian waters. Its designated features are:

- ocean quahog
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

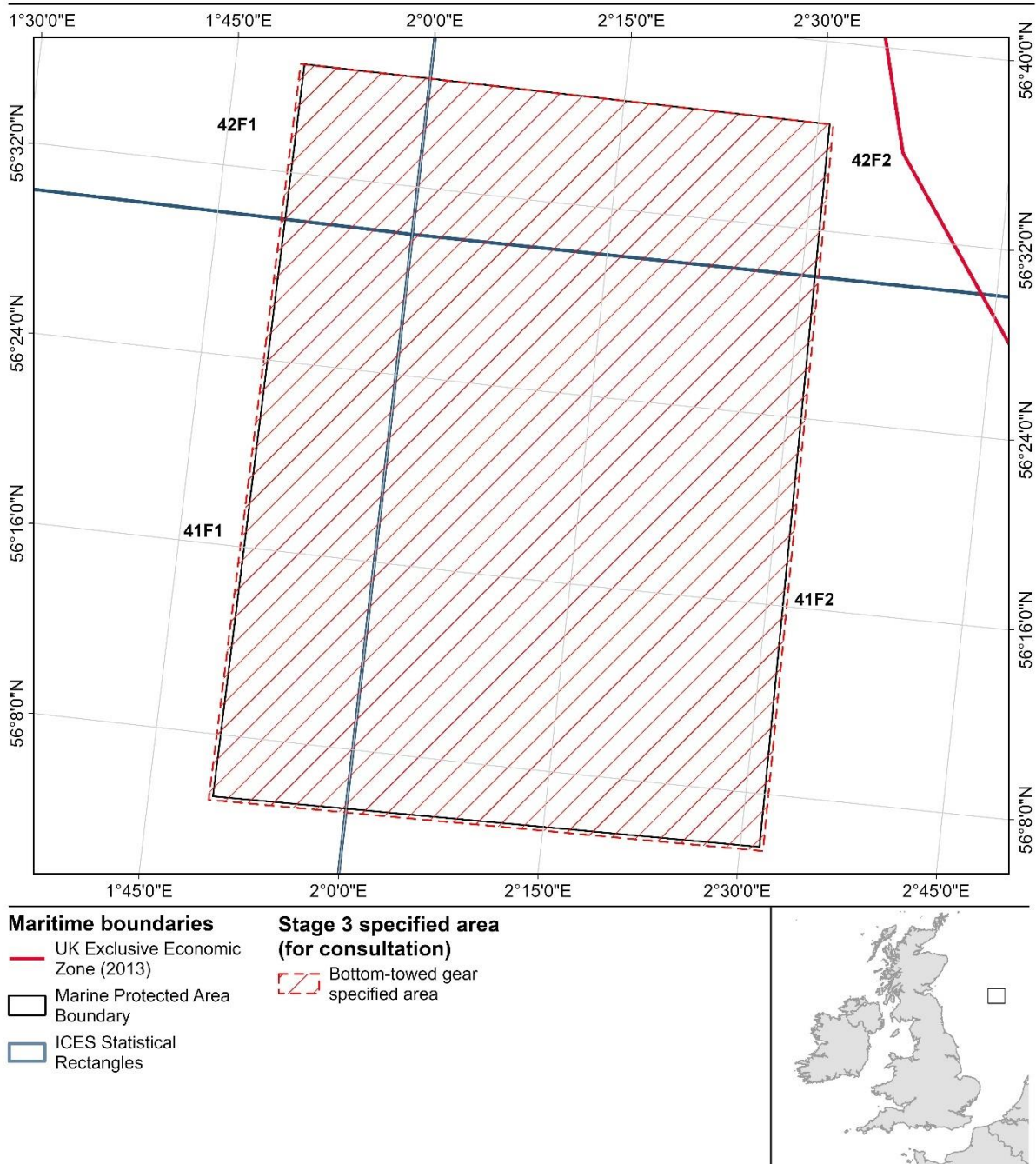
The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Fulmar Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



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## Fylde MPA

Fylde MPA is an MCZ covering 261 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Irish Sea, inshore of 12 nm off the coast of Lancashire. The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the North Western IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO has agreed with North Western IFCA that MMO will assess and manage fishing throughout the site, including the portion inshore of 6 nm.

The designated features of the MPA are:

- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over both features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

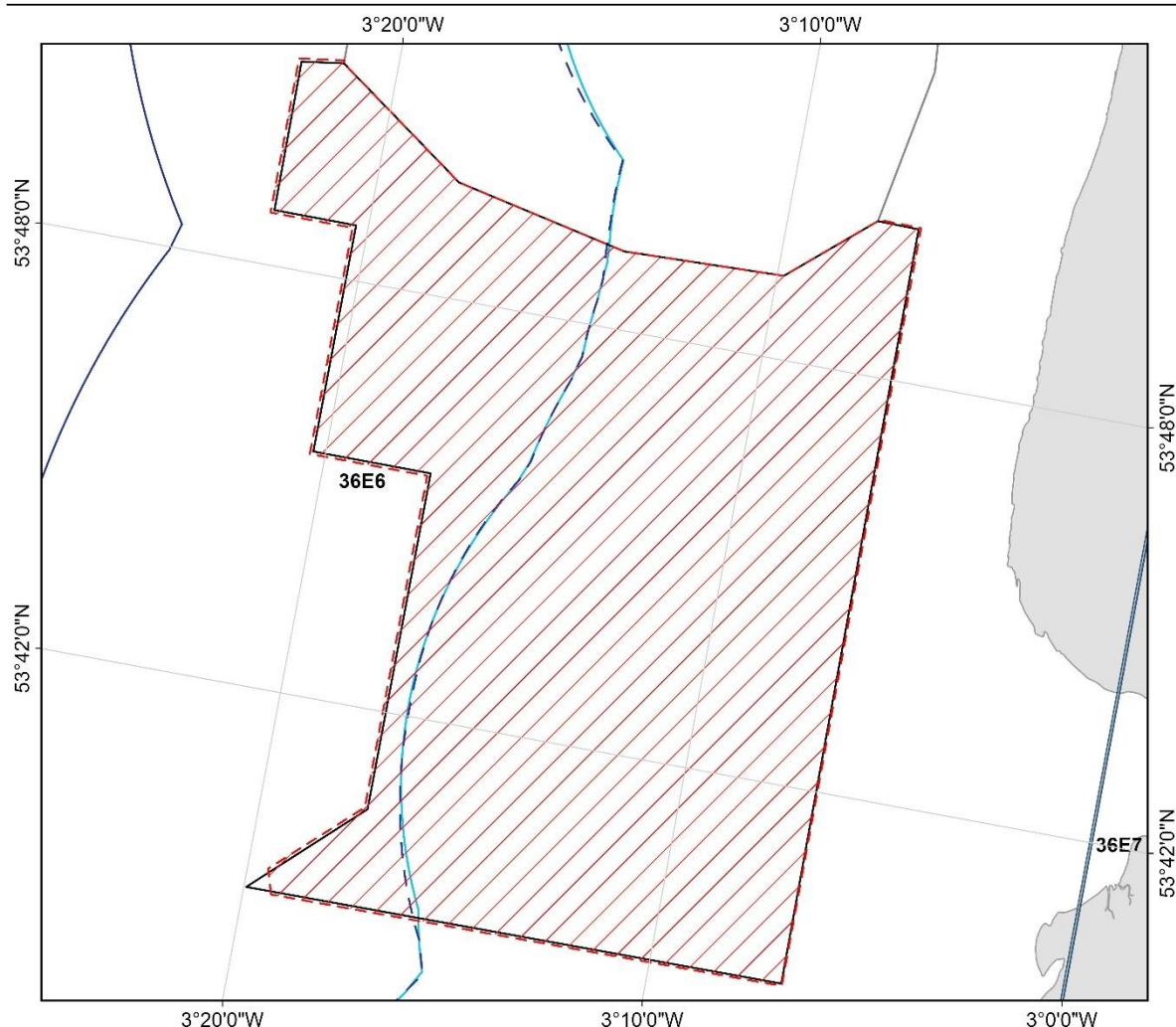




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## Fylde Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)

- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Specified area for bottom-towed gear



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## Goodwin Sands MPA

Goodwin Sands MPA is an MCZ covering 277 km<sup>2</sup> off the east coast of Kent in the Southern North Sea. The site straddles the 6 nm limit with approximately 137 km<sup>2</sup> extending beyond the 6 nm limit.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Kent and Essex IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the Kent and Essex IFCA is assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- Ross worm reefs
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal sand

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over circalittoral rock and Ross worm reefs in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal sand features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps over the Ross worm reef feature may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps over the circalittoral rock, subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal sand features will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the portion of the MPA offshore of 6 nm, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of this part of the MPA.

MMO is also proposing a prohibition of the use of traps and bottom-set nets and lines over the areas of Ross worm reef, and a small buffer zone, in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



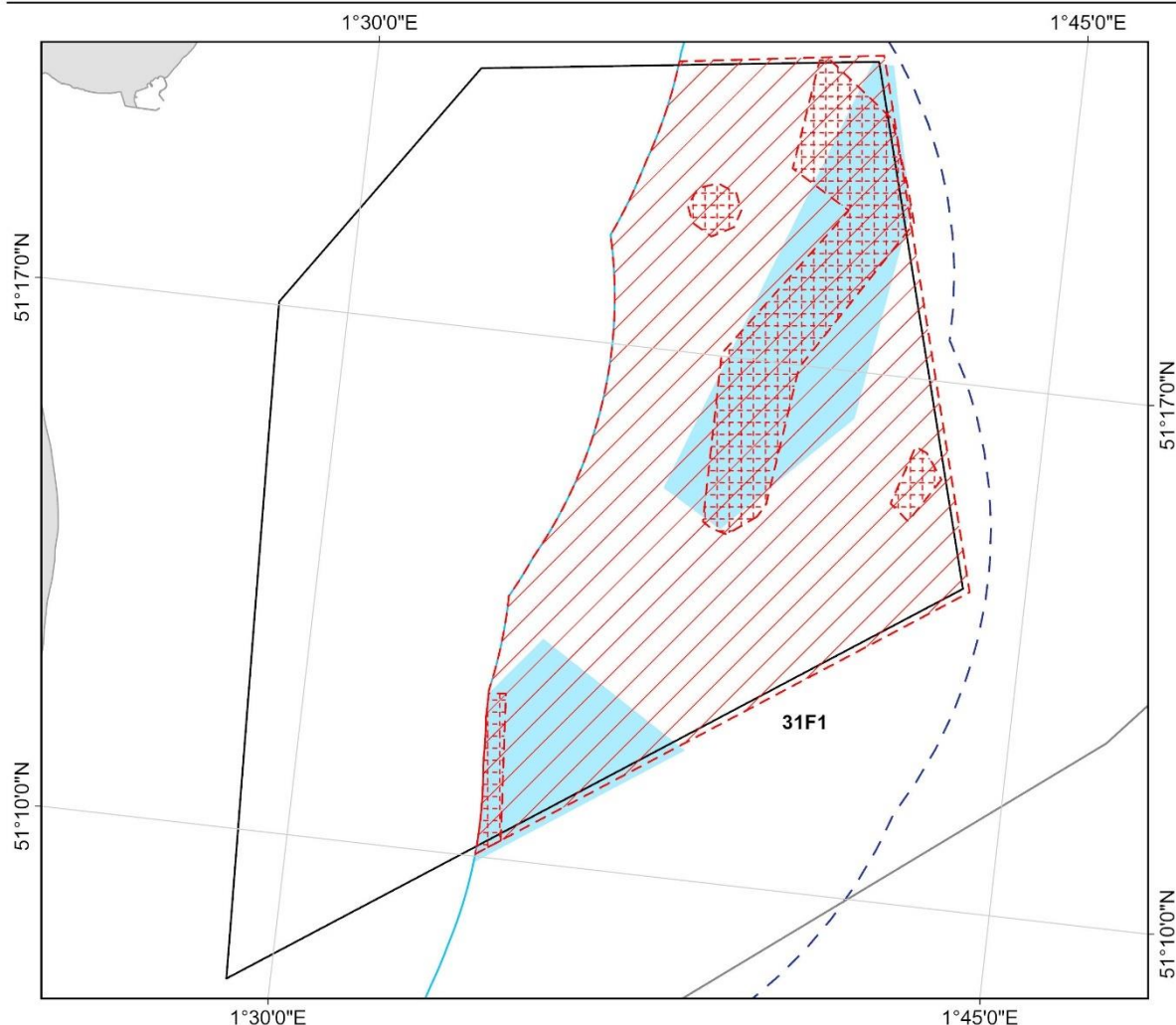
MMO is also proposing that the current bottom towed gear prohibition in the MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 is incorporated into and replaced by the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Goodwin Sands Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified areas for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear, bottom-set nets and lines and traps



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified areas (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area
- Bottom-set nets and lines and traps specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Greater Haig Fras MPA

Greater Haig Fras MPA is an MCZ covering 2,040 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the west coast of Cornwall. Part of the MPA borders the median line with Irish waters. Greater Haig Fras MPA overlaps entirely and extends beyond Haig Fras MPA. Its designated features are:

- sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear throughout Haig Fras MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment for Greater Haig Fras MMPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

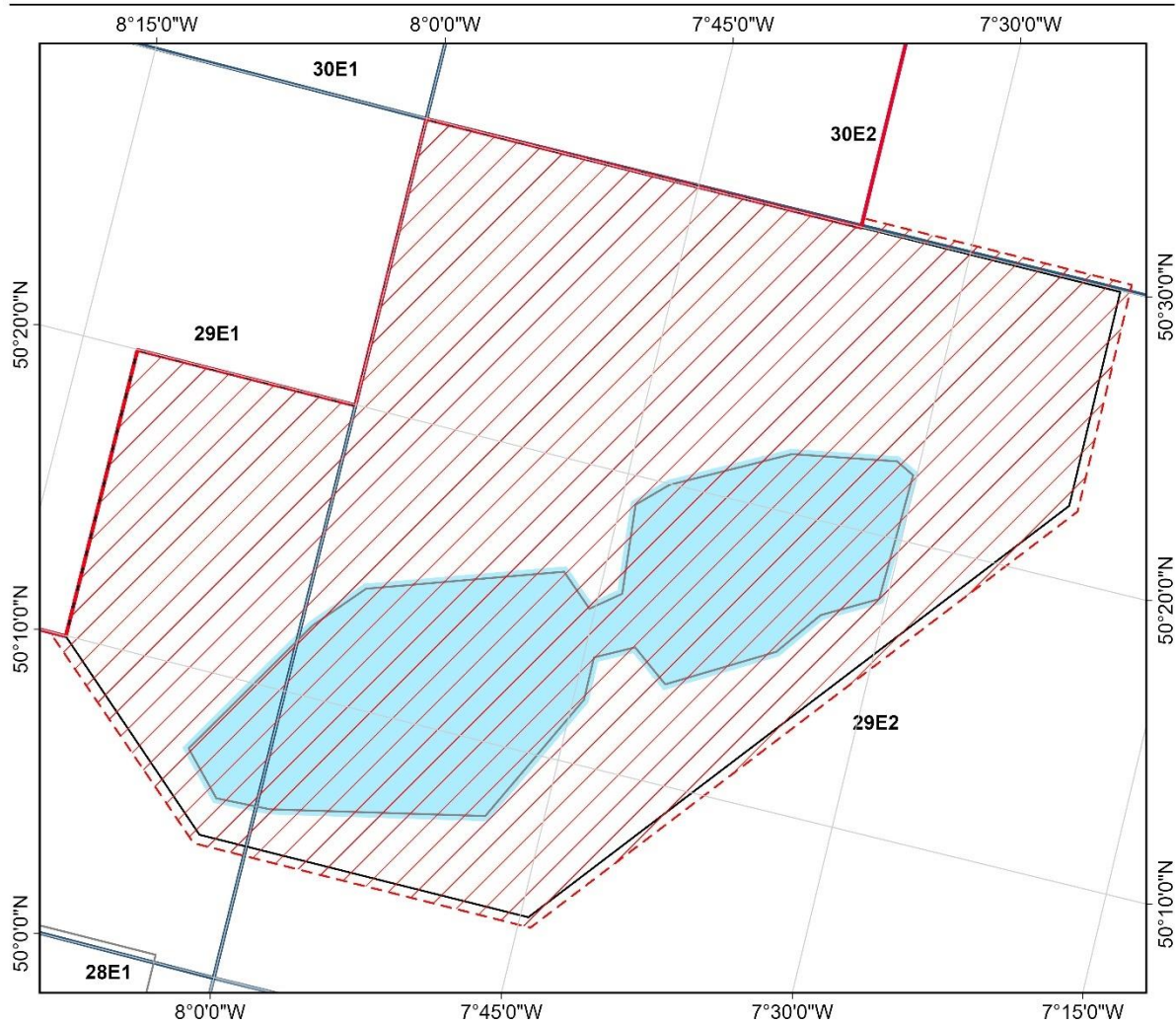
The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Greater Haig Fras Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Haig Fras MPA

Haig Fras MPA is an SAC covering 476 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea offshore of 12 nm from the west coast of Cornwall, close to the median line with Irish waters. Haig Fras MPA is overlapped entirely by Greater Haig Fras MPA. Its designated feature is:

- reefs

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear throughout Haig Fras MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

No further management for this MPA is therefore proposed.

MMO is proposing that the current bottom towed gear prohibition in the MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 is incorporated into the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

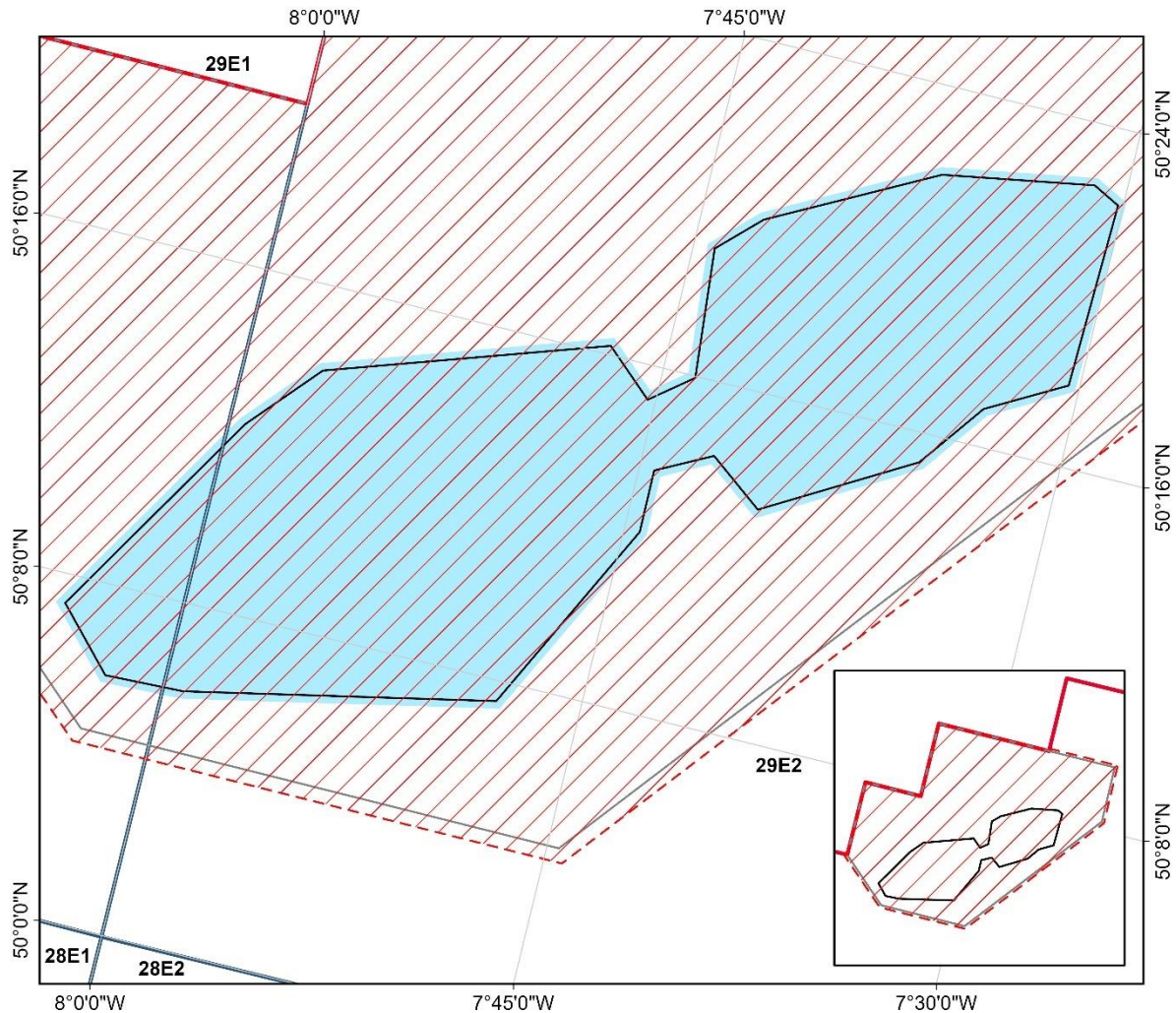




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## Haig Fras Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton MPA

Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton MPA is an SAC covering 1,468 km<sup>2</sup> off the coast of Norfolk in the North Sea. The site straddles the 6 nm and 12 nm limits.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Eastern IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and Eastern IFCA is assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- sandbanks
- reefs

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over Ross worm reefs in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the sandbank feature may result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using traps over the Ross worm reefs feature may result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines over the Ross worm reefs feature will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps over the sandbank feature will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the portion of the MPA offshore of 6 nm, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of this part of the MPA.

MMO is also proposing a prohibition of the use of traps over the areas of Ross worm reef, including a small buffer zone, in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

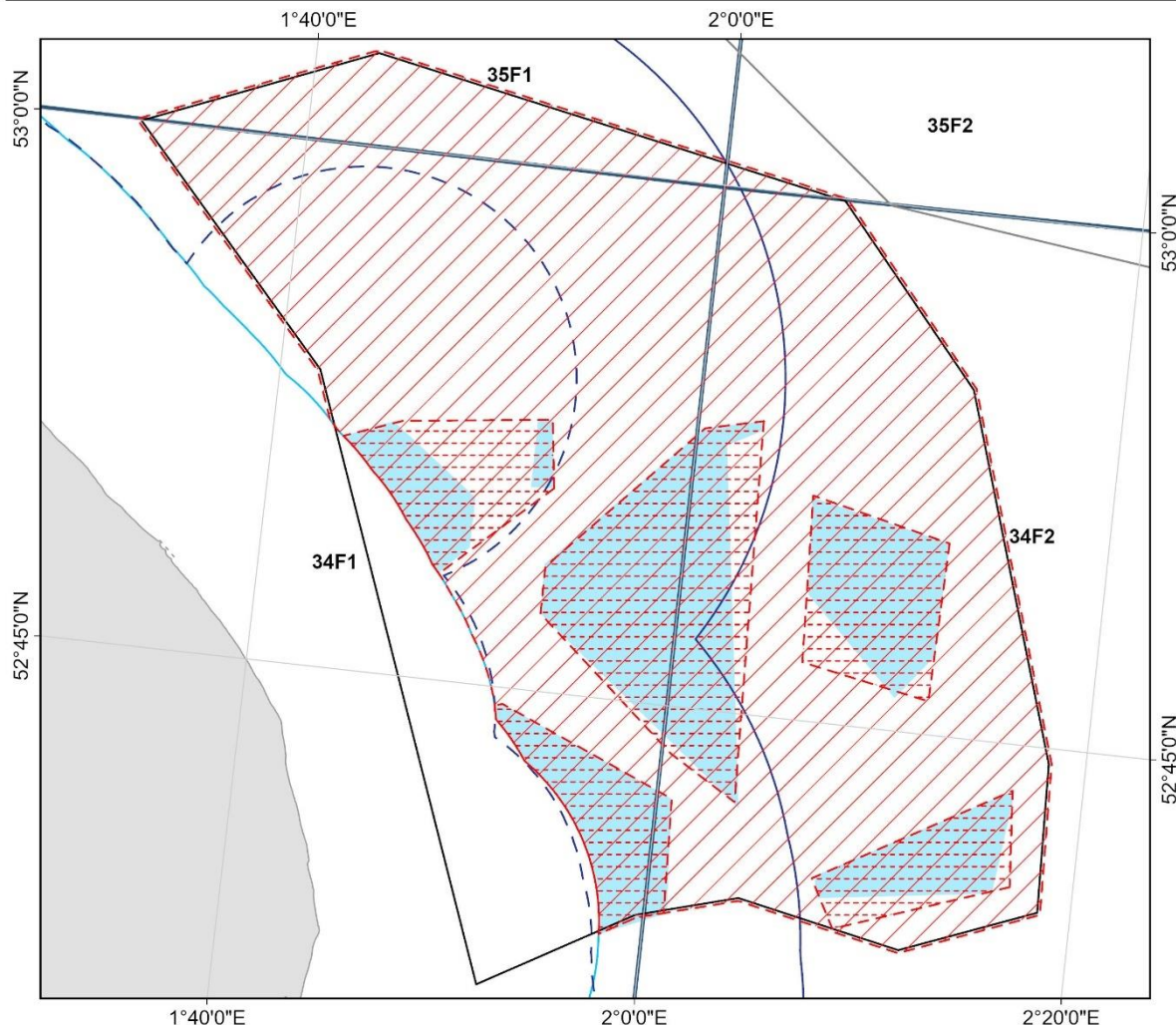
MMO is also proposing that the current bottom towed gear prohibition in the MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 is incorporated into and replaced by the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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# Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified areas for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear and traps



## Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)

- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

- ICES Statistical Rectangles

## Stage 3 specified areas (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area
- Traps specified area

## Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Hartland Point to Tintagel MPA

Hartland Point to Tintagel MPA is an MCZ covering 304 km<sup>2</sup> off the north coast of Devon and Cornwall. The site straddles the 6 nm limit.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Cornwall and the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Districts. MMO is therefore working with the Cornwall and the Devon and Severn IFCAs to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the IFCAs are assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- pink sea fan
- fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats
- high energy circalittoral rock
- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal sand

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using traps over the 'fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats' and circalittoral rock features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is proposing a prohibition of the use of traps over the whole of the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm and a small buffer zone around the boundary of this part of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

MMO is proposing that the current bottom towed gear prohibition in the MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 is incorporated into the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



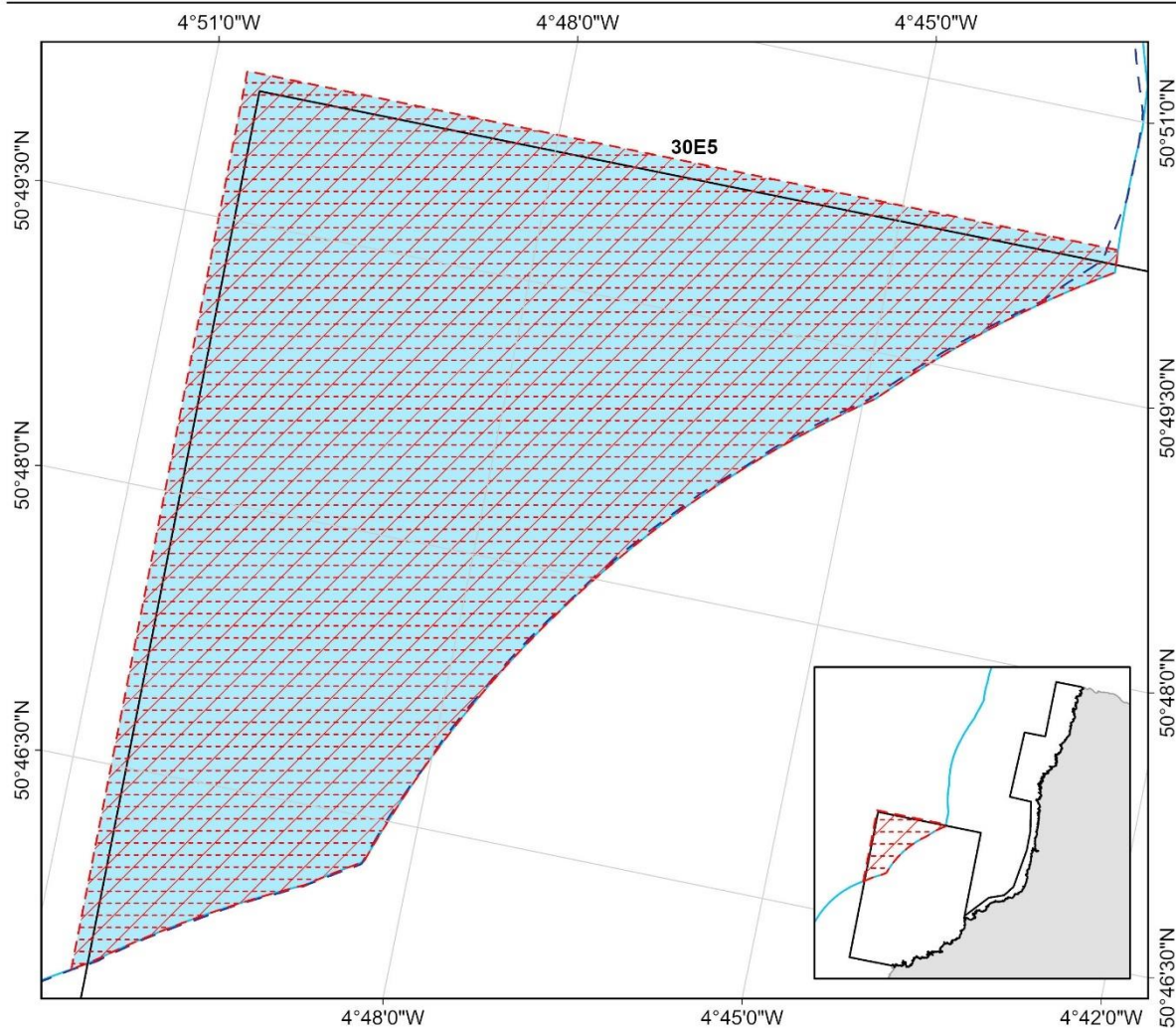


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# Hartland Point to Tintagel

## Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified areas for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear and traps



### Maritime boundaries

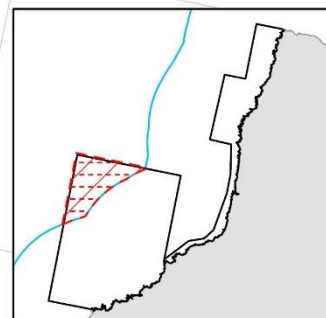
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- - - UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified areas (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area
- Traps specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Holderness Offshore MPA

Holderness Offshore MPA is an MCZ covering 945 km<sup>2</sup> located in the North Sea, extending offshore from the 6 nm limit off the coast of East Yorkshire. Its designated features are:

- ocean quahog
- subtidal coarse sediments
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

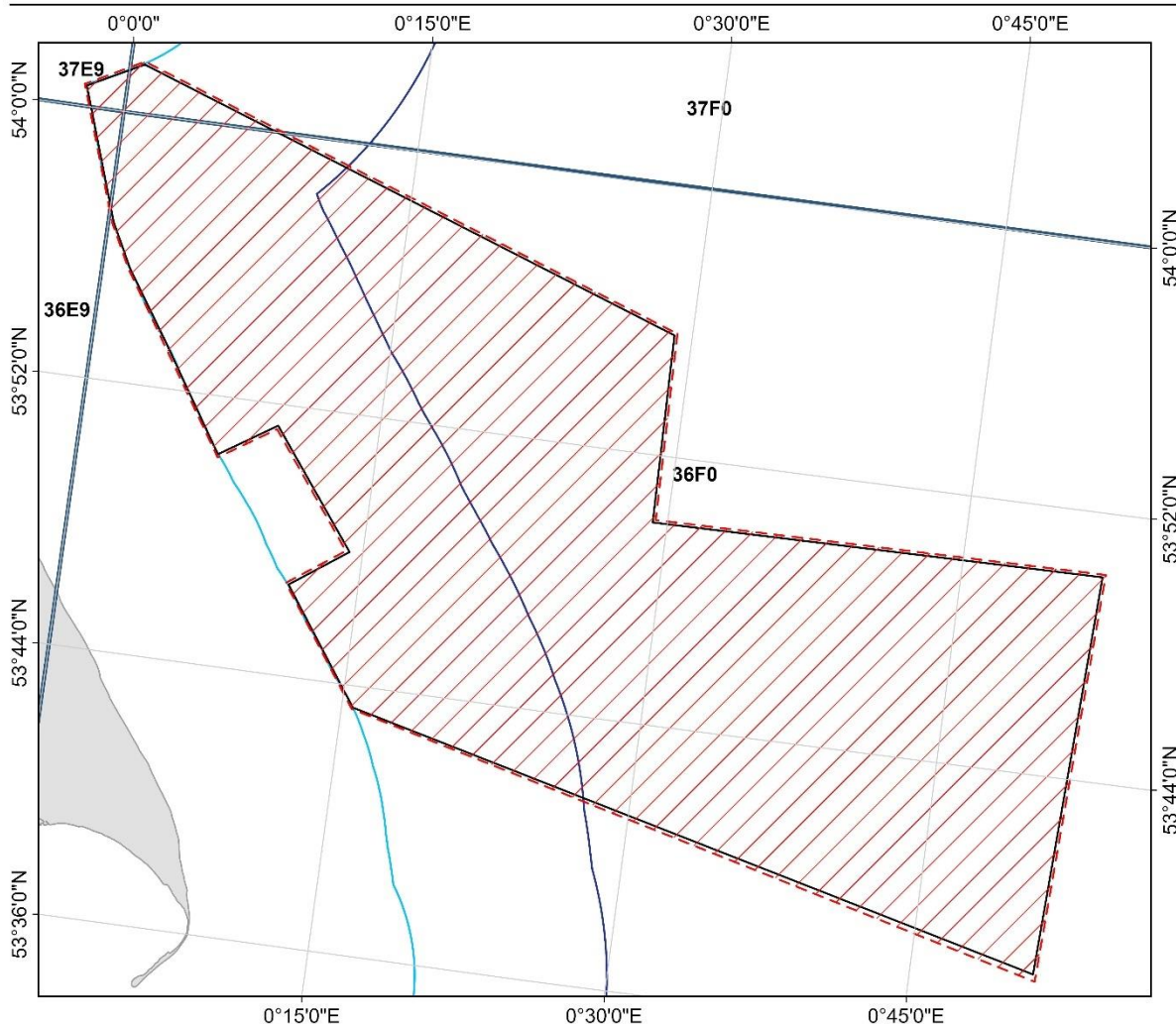
The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Holderness Offshore Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Inner Bank MPA

Inner Bank MPA is an MCZ covering 199 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Eastern Channel, off the coast of Sussex. The northern end of the site straddles the 6 nm limit with the majority of the site extending beyond the 6 nm limit.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Sussex IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO has agreed with Sussex IFCA that MMO will assess and manage fishing throughout the site, including the portion inshore of 6 nm.

Its designated features that occur in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm are:

- subtidal coarse sediments
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

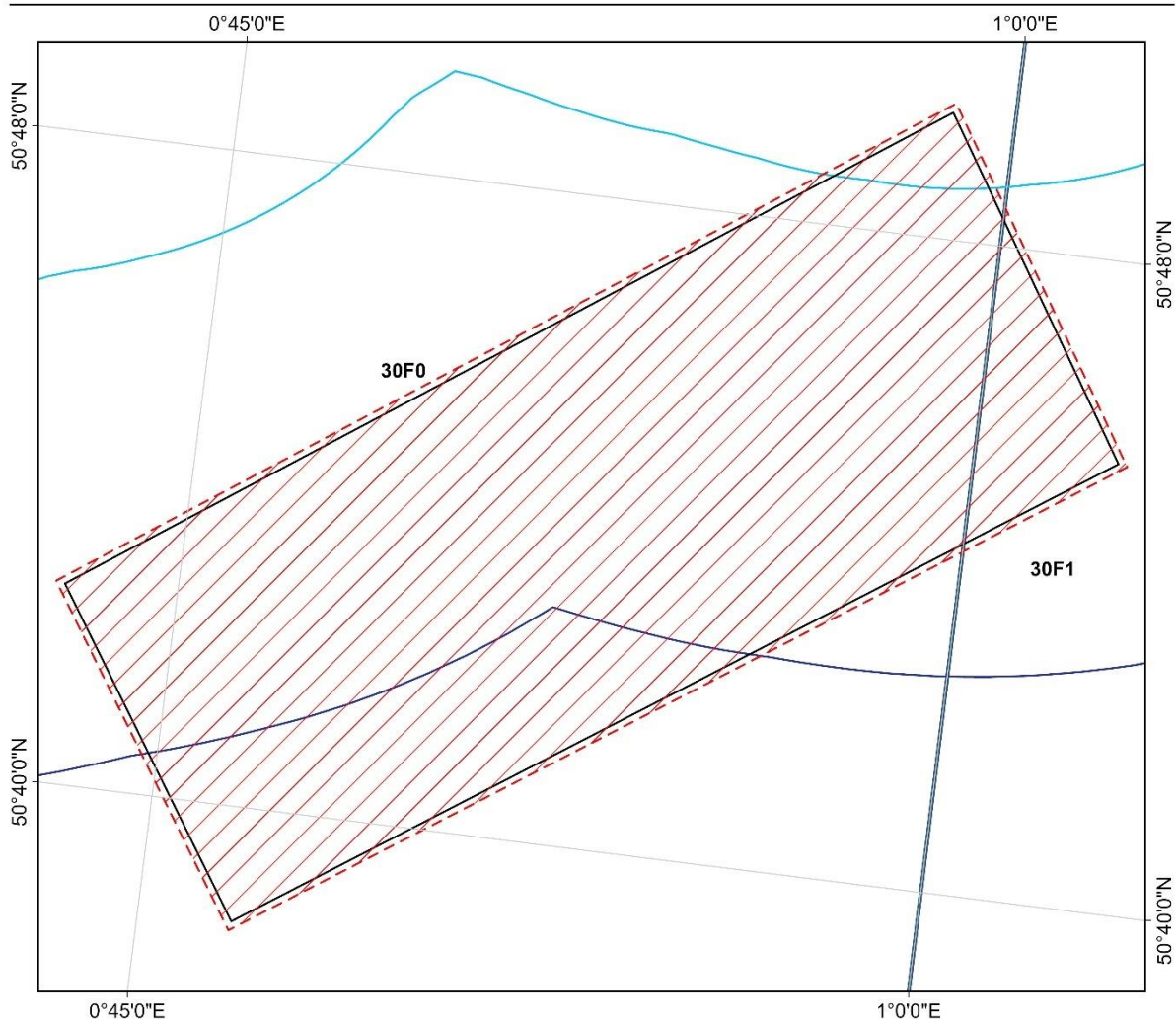
The proposed measure is included in the draft Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Inner Bank Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Kentish Knock East MPA

Kentish Knock East MPA is an MCZ covering 96 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Southern North Sea, straddling the 12 nm limit off the coast of Essex. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

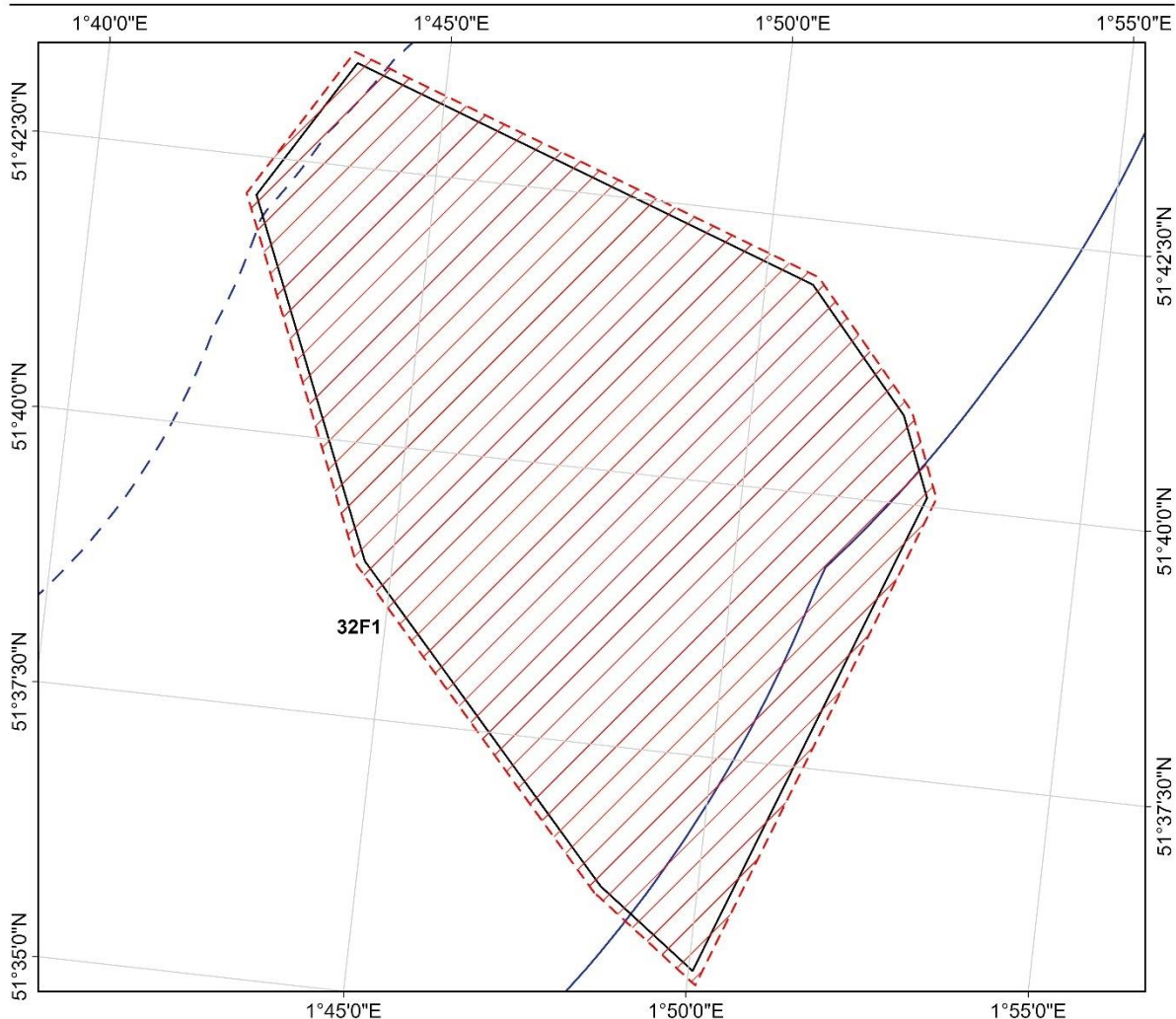
The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Kentish Knock East Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Land's End and Cape Bank MPA

Land's End and Cape Bank MPA is an SAC covering 302 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea extending offshore of 12 nm from the west coast of Cornwall. The Cape Bank part of the MPA is overlapped entirely by Cape Bank MPA.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Cornwall IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the Cornwall IFCA is assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- reefs

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear throughout the Cape Bank part of Land's End and Cape Bank MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

MMO is proposing minor amendments to the boundaries of the existing bottom towed gear management measure, to reflect the most accurate and up to date approach depth information (see section 6).

The proposed updated management measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

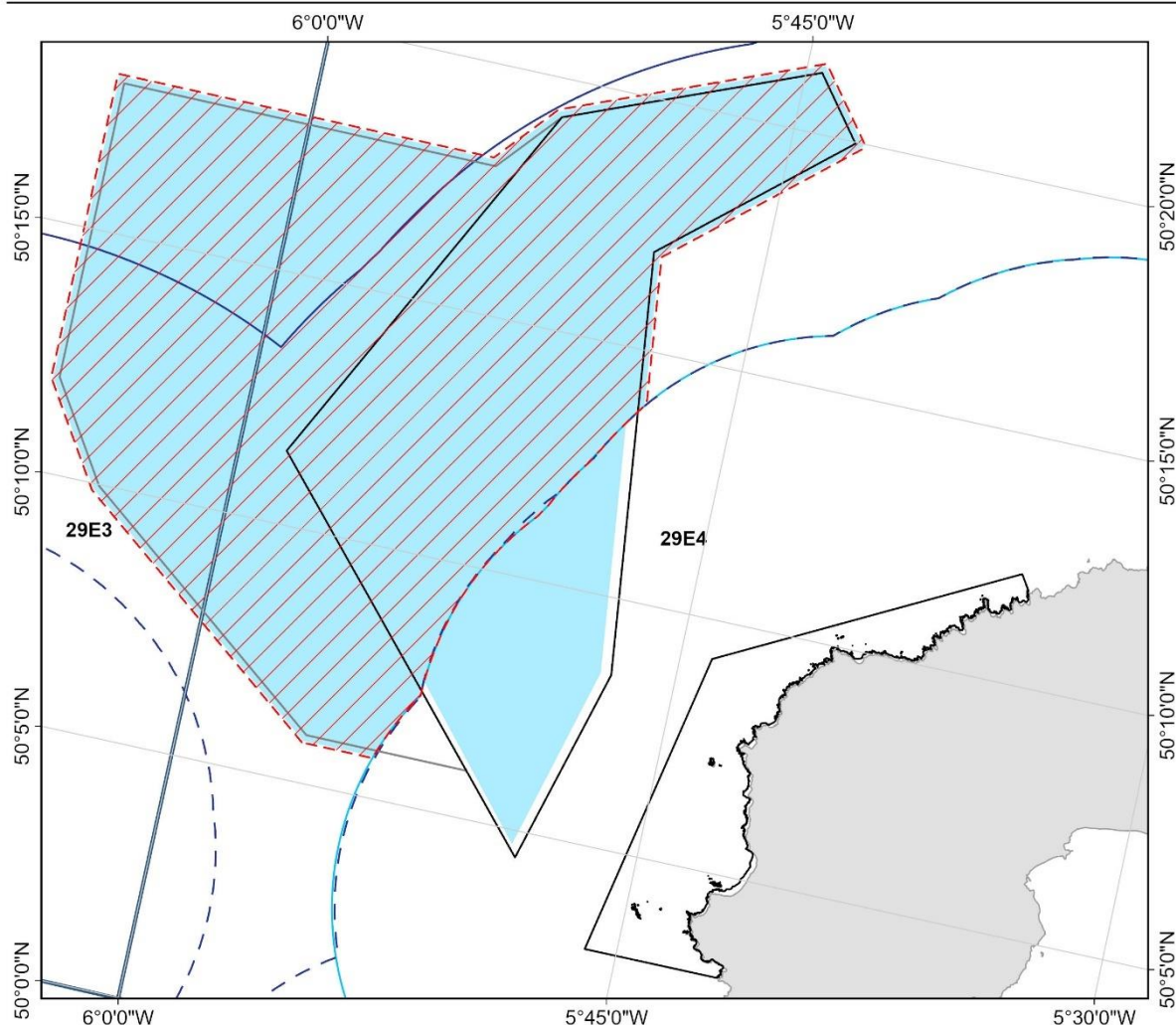




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# Lands End and Cape Bank Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



## Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)

- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

- ICES Statistical Rectangles

## Stage 3 specified areas (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

## Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Margate and Long Sands MPA

Margate and Long Sands MPA is an SAC covering 649 km<sup>2</sup> off the coast of Kent and Essex in the Southern North Sea. The site straddles the 6 nm limit.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Kent and Essex IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the Kent and Essex IFCA is assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated feature that occurs in the portion offshore of 6 nm is:

- sandbanks

The MMO Margate and Long Sands European Marine Site (Specified Areas) Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2017 came into force in 2017 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over two areas of sandbank in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the sandbank feature may result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the portion of the MPA offshore of 6 nm, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of this part of the MPA.

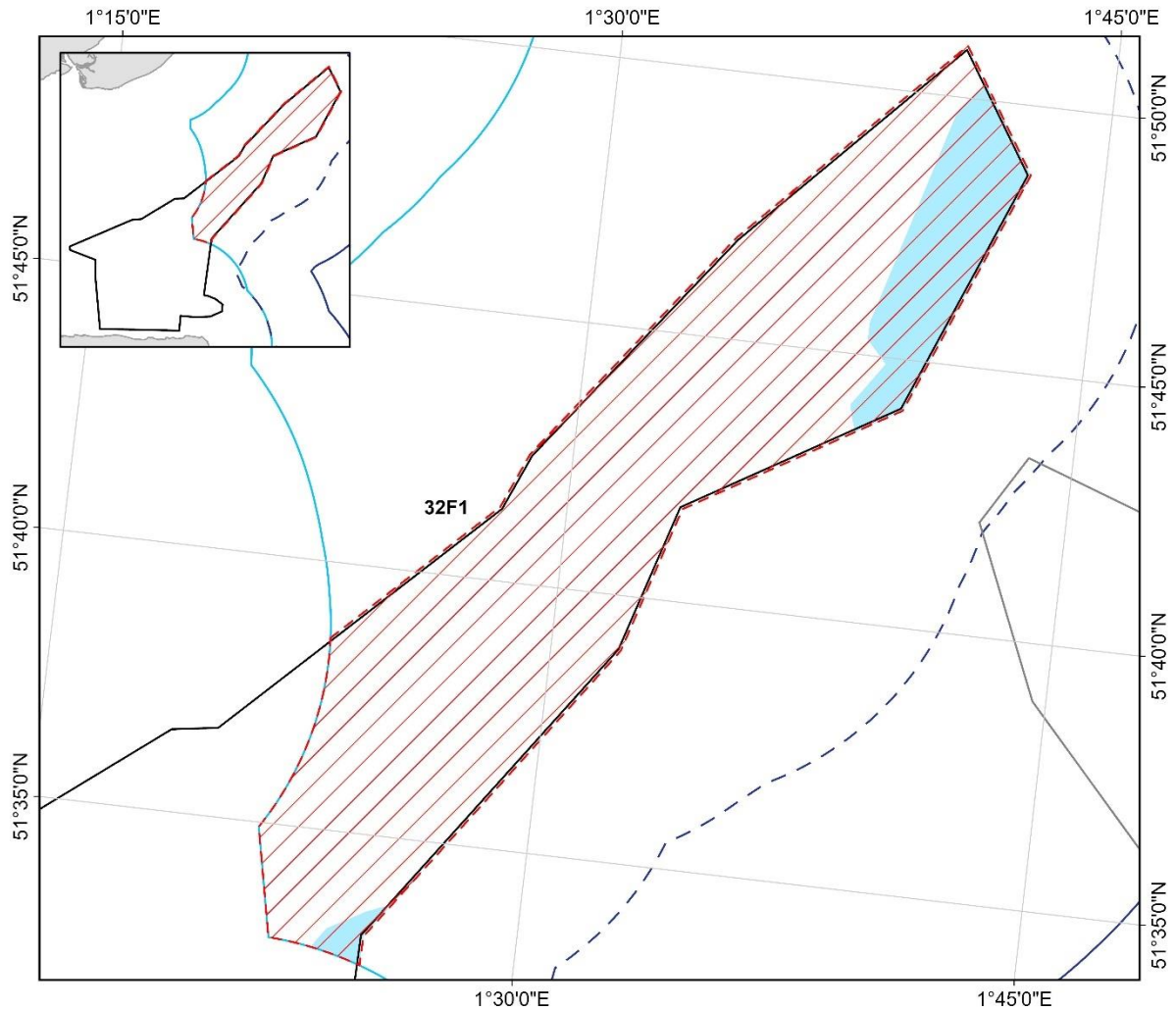
The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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# Margate and Long Sands Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



## Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

## Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

## Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Markham's Triangle MPA

Markham's Triangle MPA is an MCZ covering 200 km<sup>2</sup> located in the North Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the coast of East Yorkshire and bordering the median line with Dutch waters. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

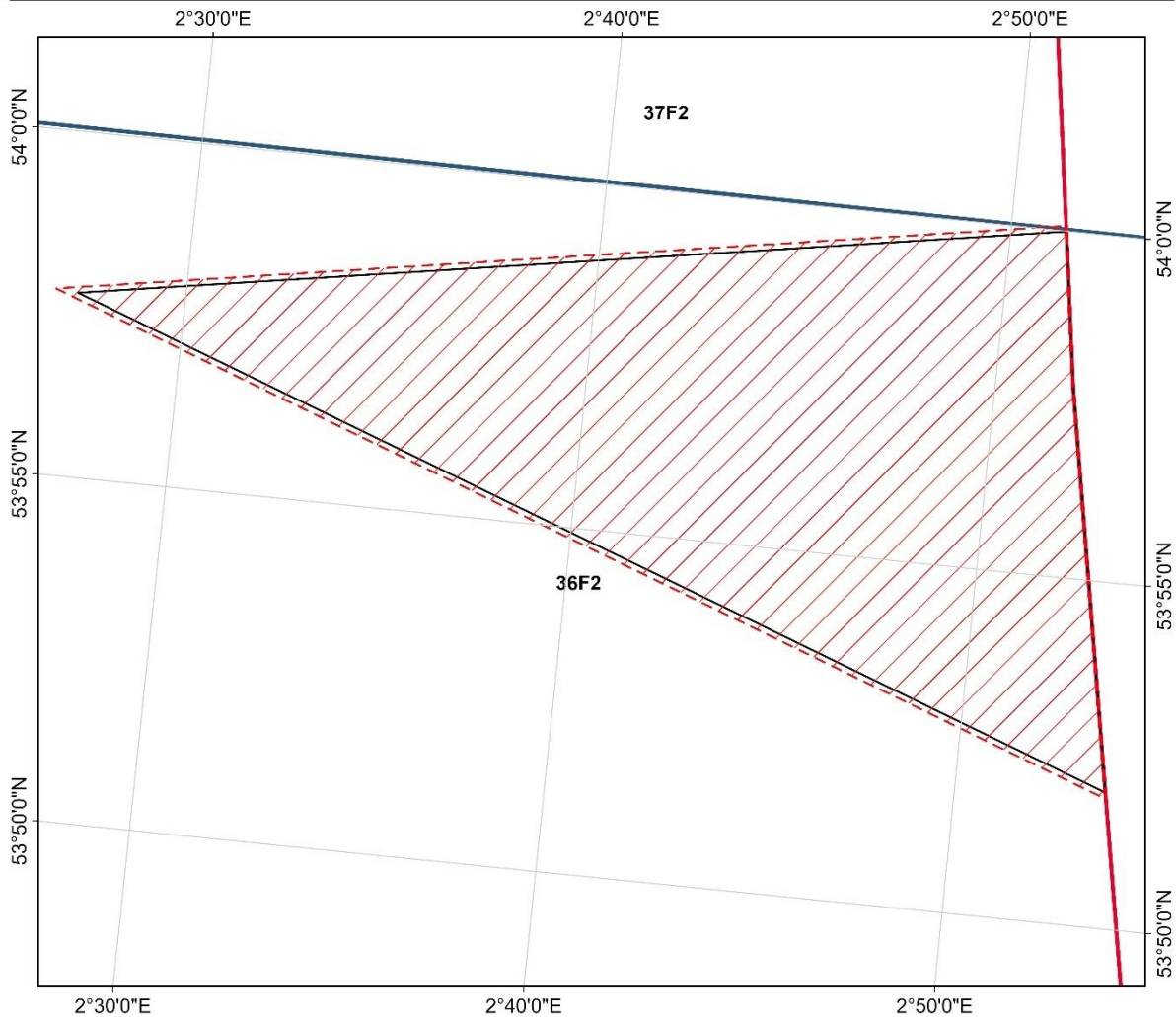




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## Markham's Triangle Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## North East of Haig Fras MPA

North East of Haig Fras MPA is an MCZ covering 464 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the west coast of Cornwall. Part of the MPA borders the median line with Irish waters. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for North East of Haig Fras MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

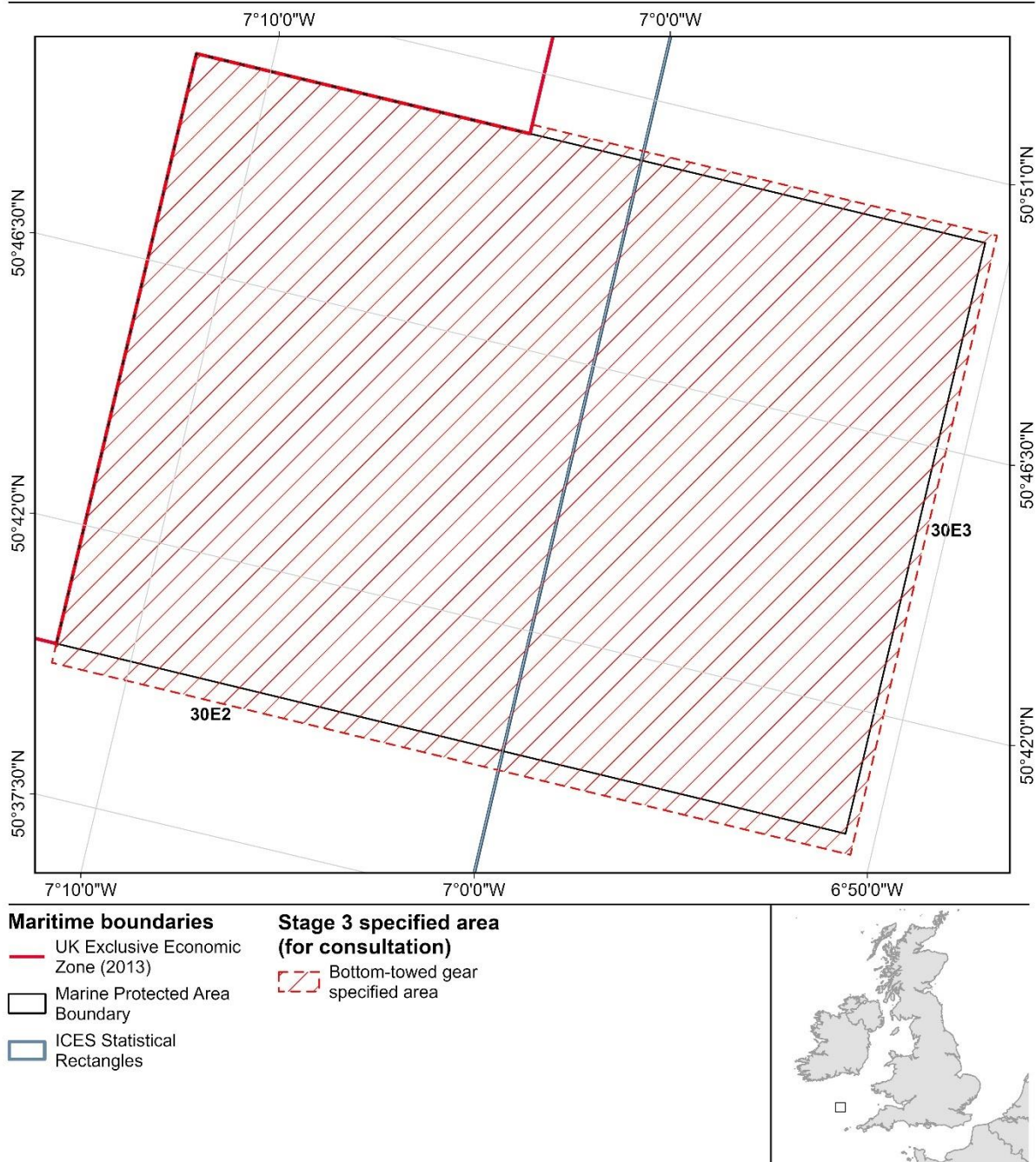
The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## North-East of Haig Fras Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



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## North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef MPA

North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef MPA is an SAC covering 3,603 km<sup>2</sup> off the coast of Norfolk in the North Sea.

The site's designated features are:

- sandbanks
- reefs

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over Ross worm reefs in the site.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the sandbank feature may result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using traps over the Ross worm reef feature may result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines over the Ross worm reefs feature will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps over the sandbank feature will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

MMO is also proposing a prohibition of the use of traps over the areas of Ross worm reef, including a small buffer zone.

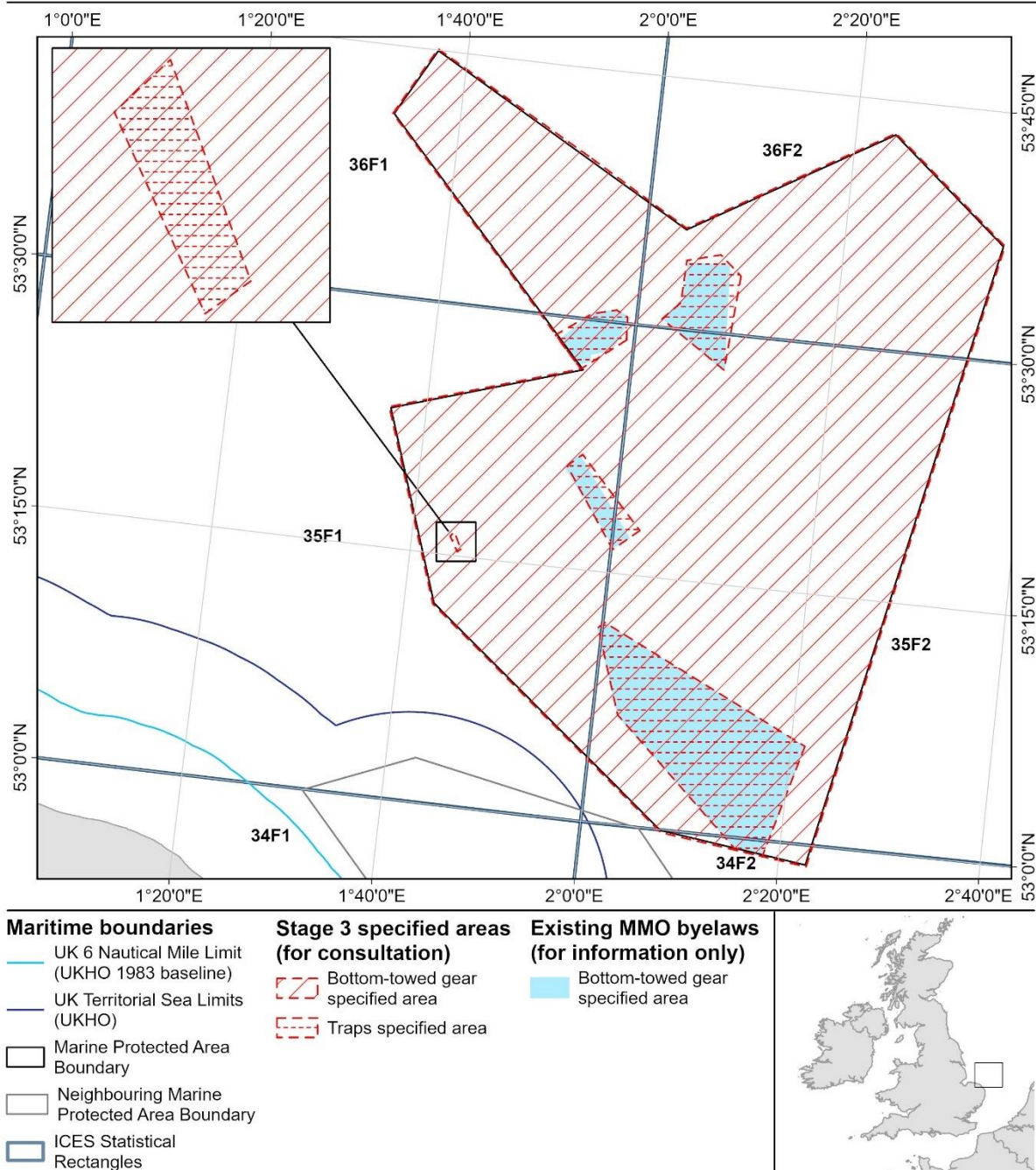
The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified areas for the prohibition of bottom-towed  
gear and traps



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## North West of Jones Bank MPA

North West of Jones Bank MPA is an MCZ covering 398 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the west coast of Cornwall. Its designated features are:

- sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for North West of Jones Bank MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



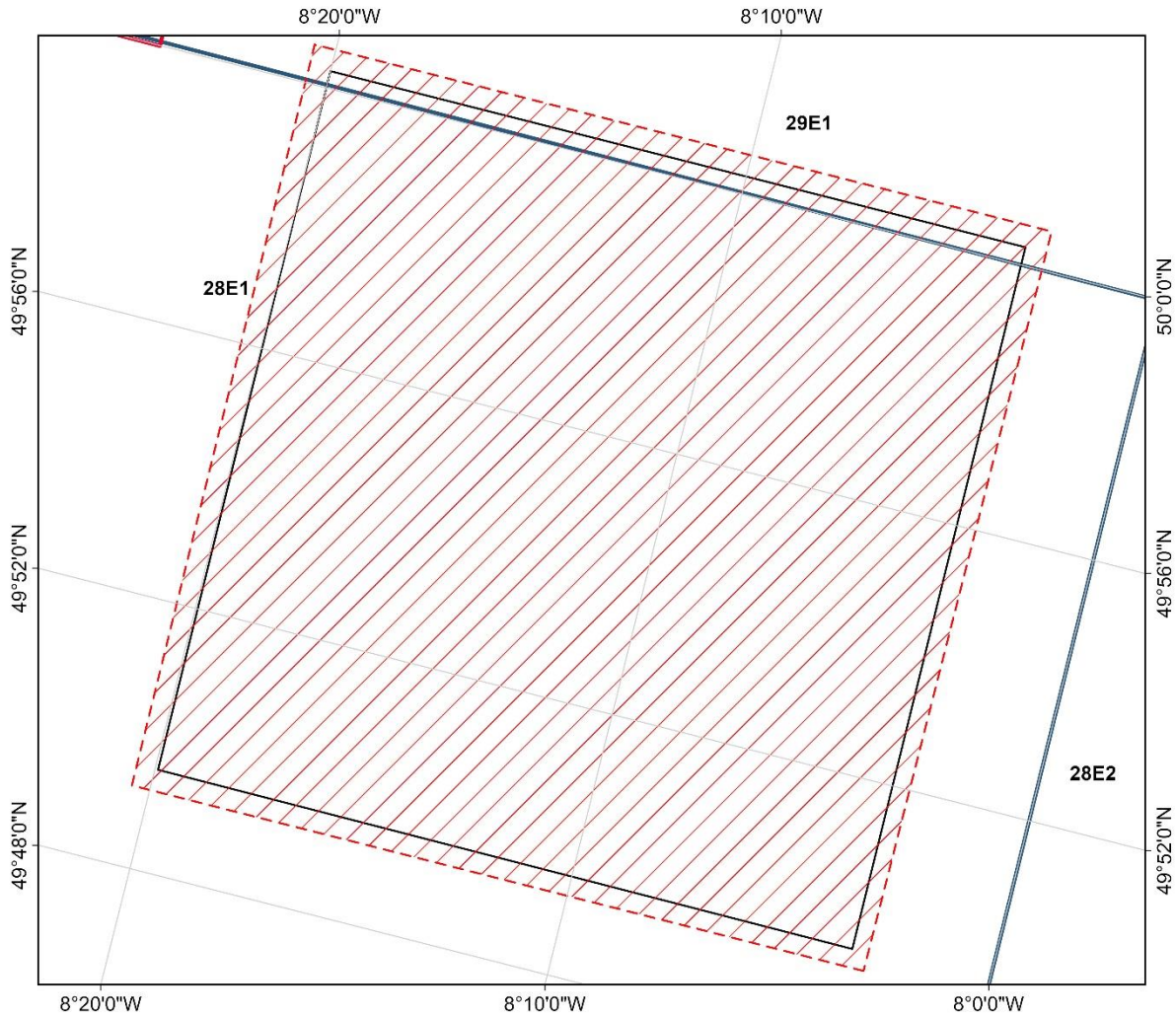


Marine  
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## North-West of Jones Bank

### Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



#### Maritime boundaries

- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

#### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## North West of Lundy MPA

North West of Lundy MPA is an MCZ covering 173 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea, between the 6 nm and 12 nm limits off the north west coast of Devon (Lundy Island). Its designated feature is:

- subtidal coarse sediment

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gears may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

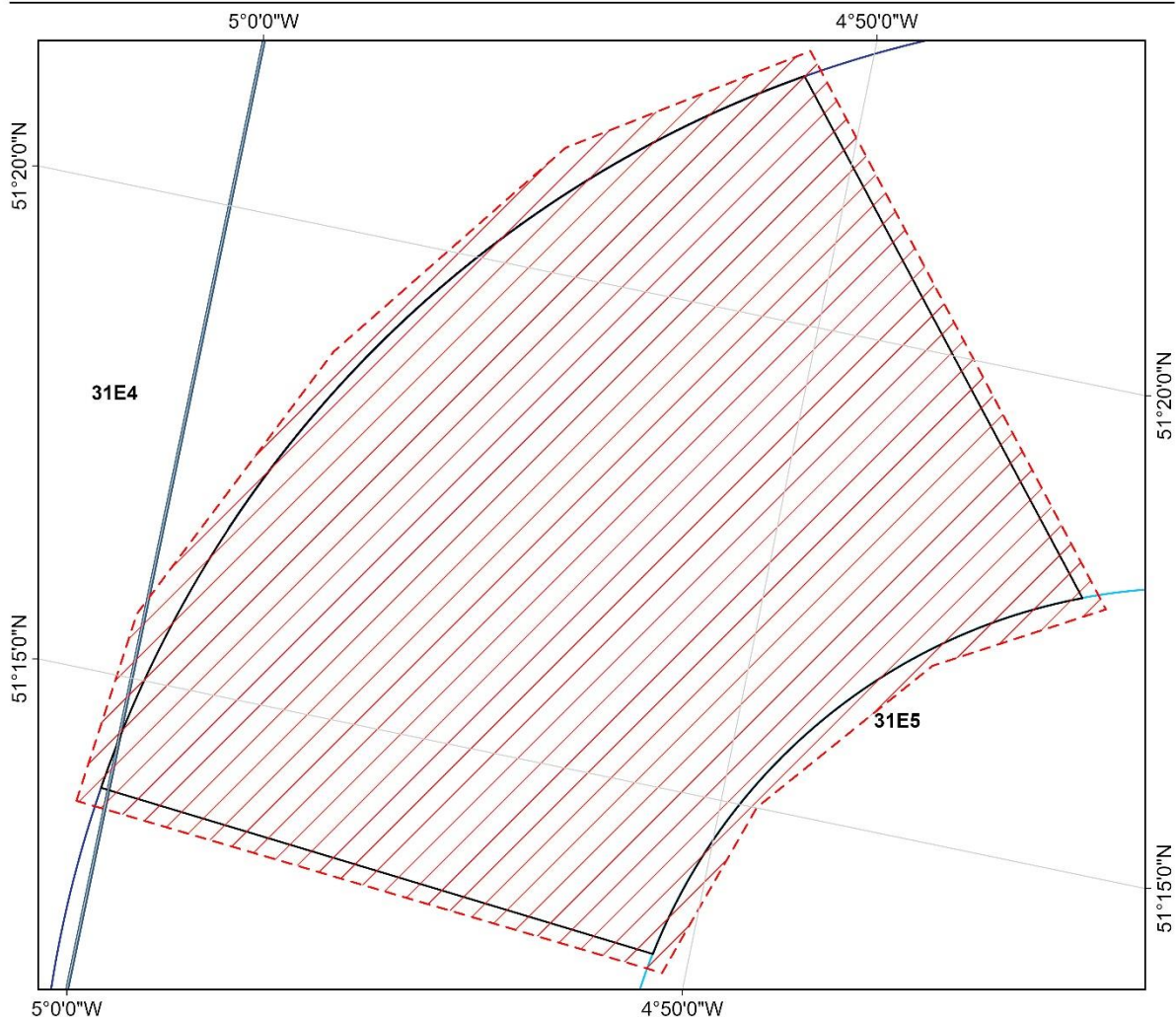
The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## North West of Lundy Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Offshore Brighton MPA

Offshore Brighton MPA is an MCZ covering 862 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Eastern Channel, offshore of 12 nm off the south coast of Sussex. The MPA partially overlaps Dolphin Head Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA). Part of the MPA borders the median line with French waters. Its designated features are:

- high energy circalittoral rock
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over circalittoral rock.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediments features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA, except where this would overlap the proposed Highly Protected Marine Areas Fishing Byelaw 2024.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

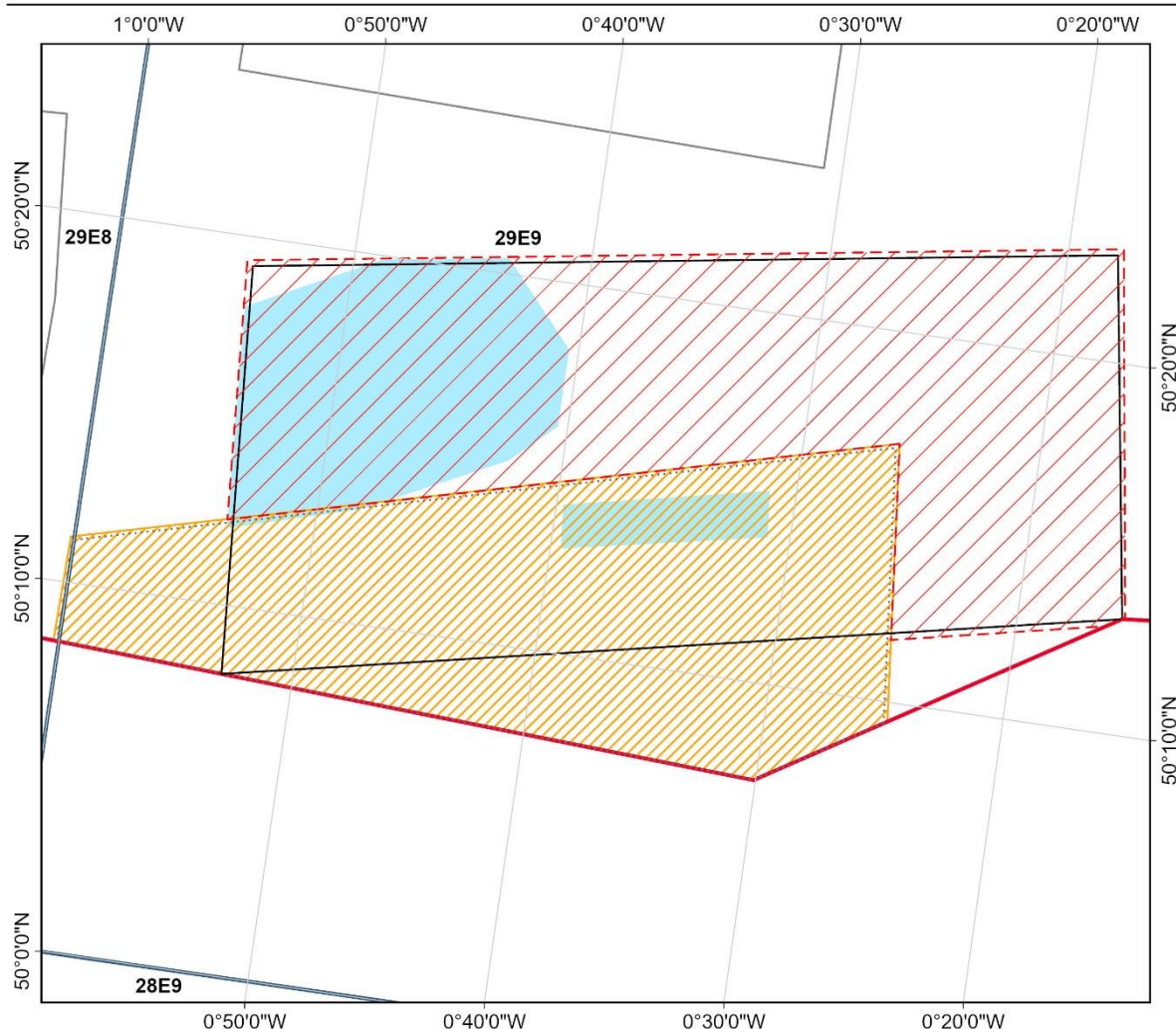




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## Offshore Brighton Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)

Marine Protected Area Boundary

Neighbouring Highly Protected Marine Area Boundary

Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified areas (for consultation)

Bottom-towed gear specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

Proposed highly protected marine area byelaw

Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Offshore Overfalls MPA

Offshore Overfalls MPA is an MCZ covering 595 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Eastern Channel, off the coast of Sussex. The site straddles the 6 nm and 12 nm limits. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediments
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal sand

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Sussex and Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Districts. MMO is therefore working with the Sussex IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO has agreed with Sussex and Southern IFCAs that MMO will assess and manage fishing throughout the site, including the portion inshore of 6 nm.

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

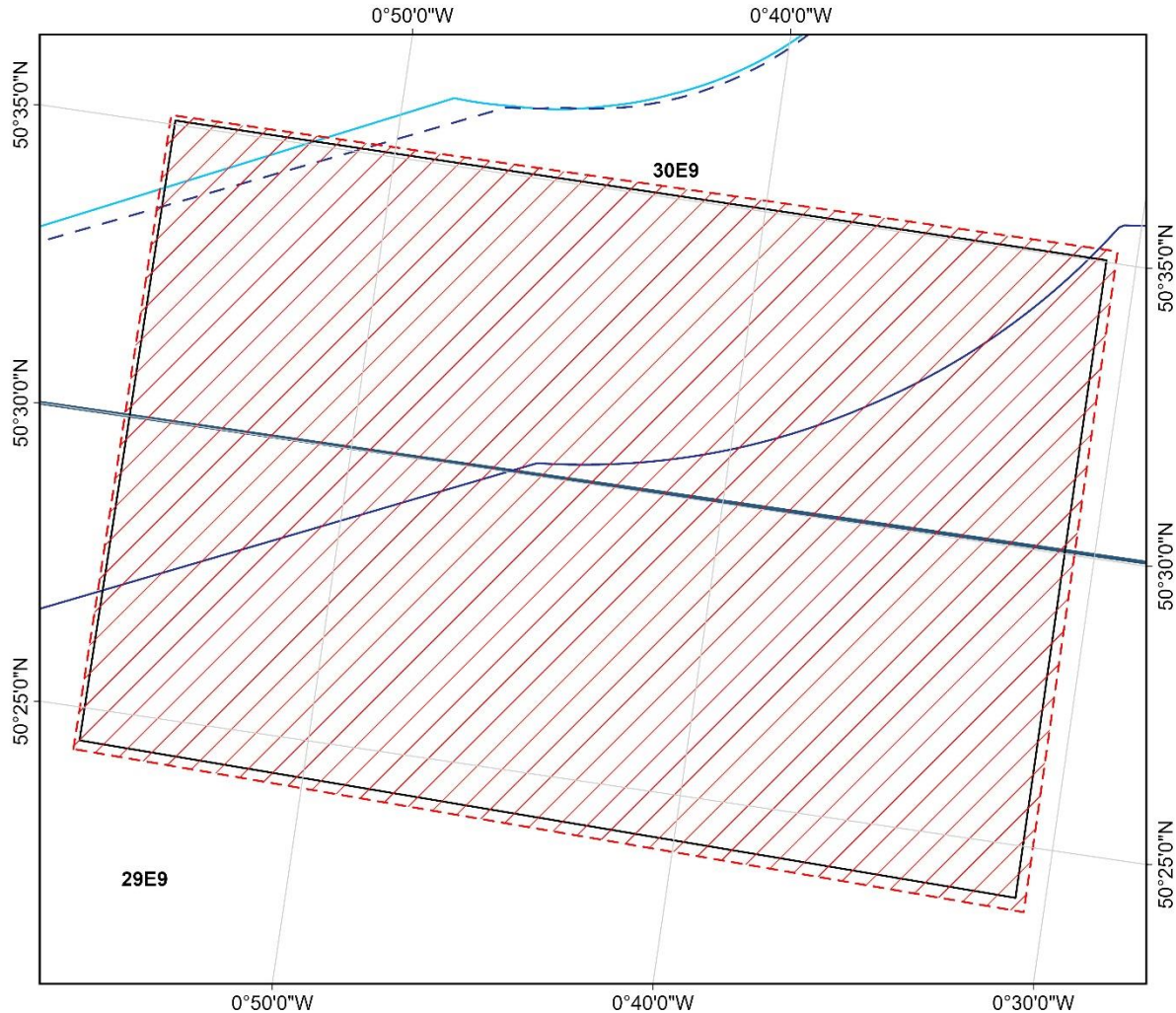
The proposed measure is included in the draft Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Offshore Overfalls Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- - UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Orford Inshore MPA

Orford inshore MPA is an MCZ covering 72 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Southern North Sea, straddling the 12 nm limit off the coast of Suffolk. Its designated feature is:

- subtidal mixed sediments

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

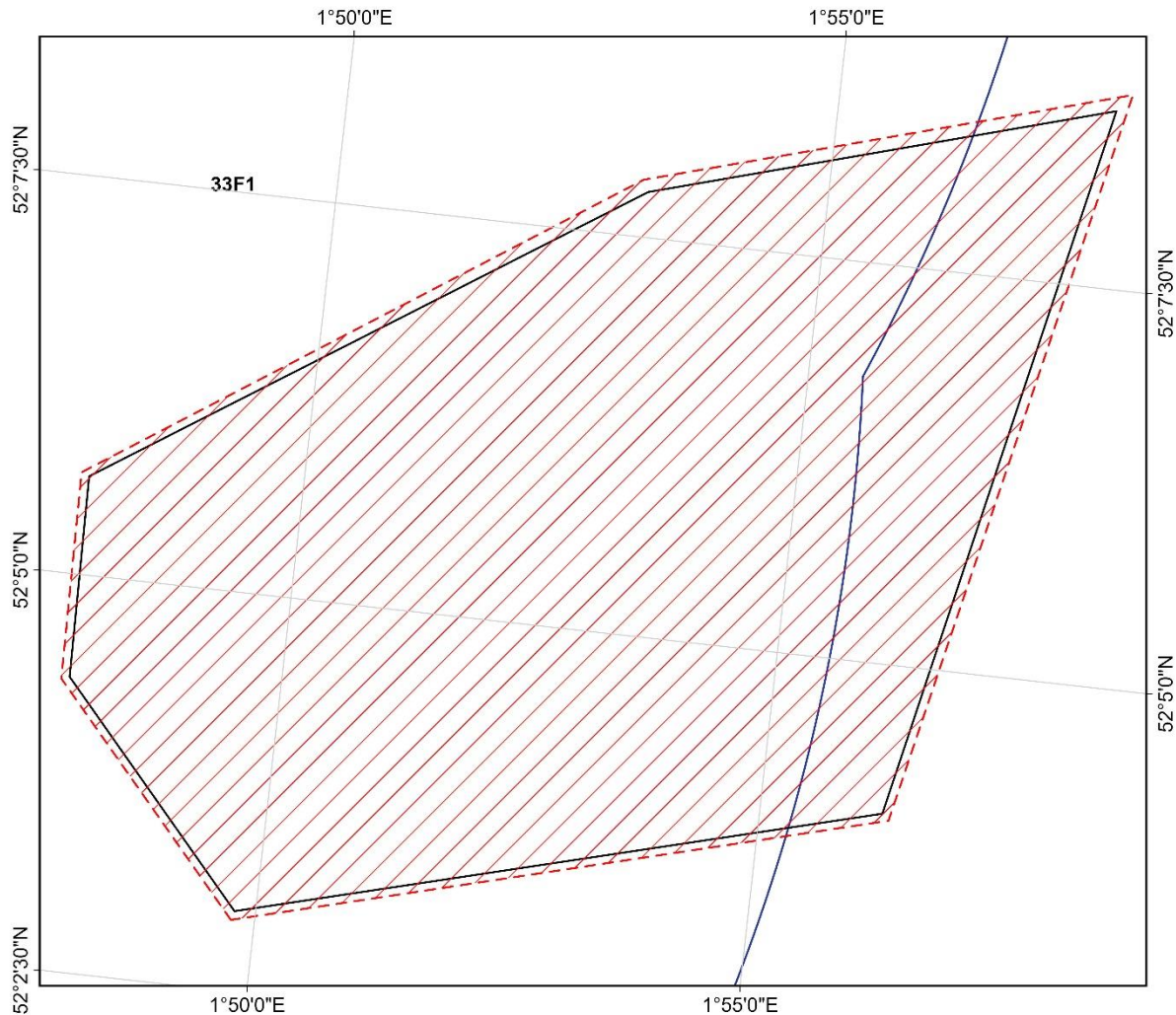
The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



Marine  
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## Orford Inshore Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- ▨ Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Shell Flat and Lune Deep MPA

Shell Flat and Lune Deep MPA is an SAC covering 106 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Irish Sea, inshore of 12 nm off the coast of Lancashire. Its designated features are:

- reefs
- sandbanks

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the North Western IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO has agreed with North Western IFCA that MMO will assess and manage fishing throughout the Shell Flat portion of the site, including the portion inshore of 6 nm.

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear may result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the Shell Flat part of the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

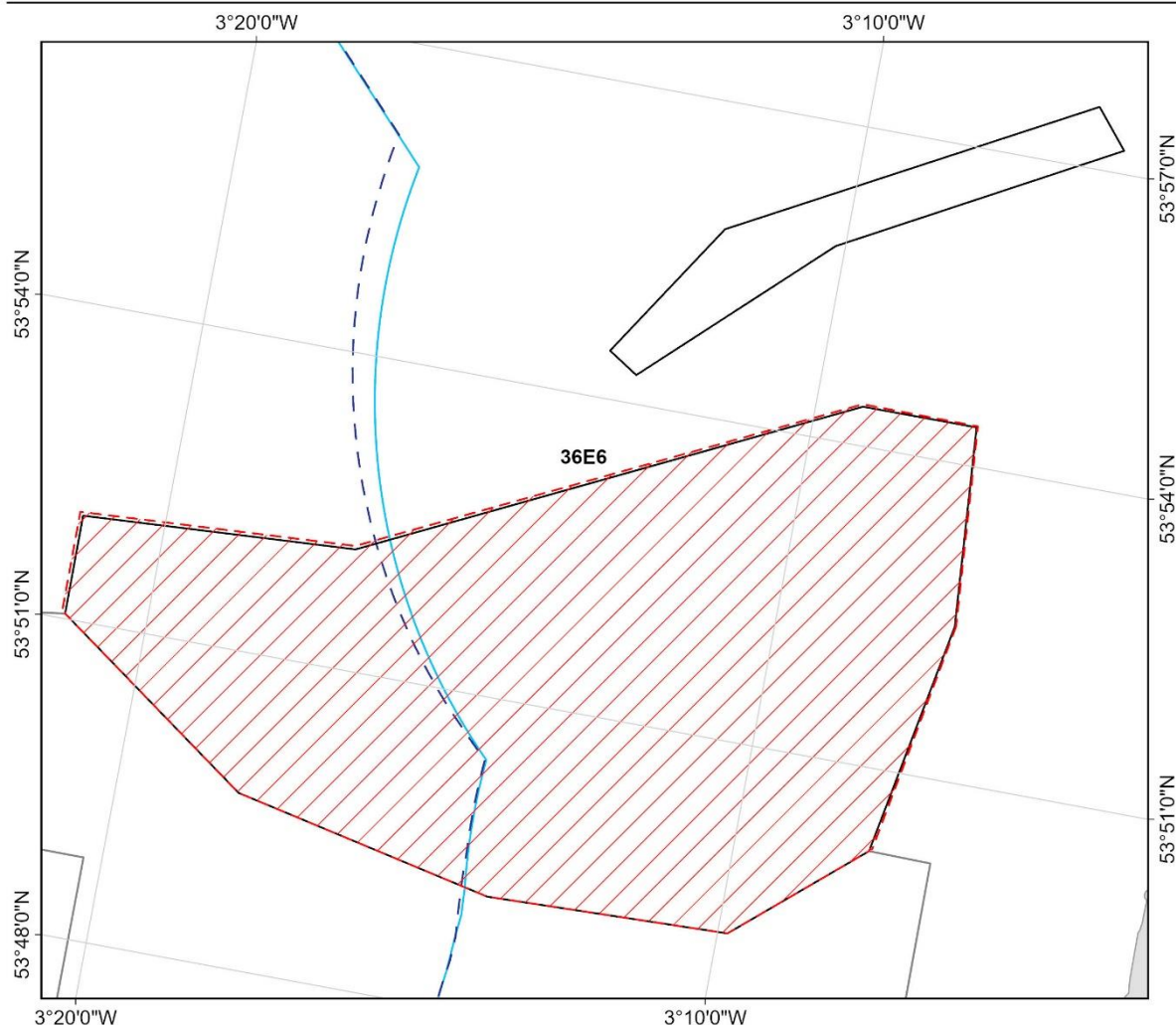




Marine  
Management  
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## Shell Flat and Lune Deep Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

— UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)

- - UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)

□ Marine Protected Area Boundary

□ Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified areas (for consultation)

▨ Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## **Skerries Bank and Surrounds MPA**

Skerries Bank and Surrounds MPA is an MCZ covering 249 km<sup>2</sup> off the south coast of Devon. The site straddles the 6 nm limit.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the Devon and Severn IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the IFCA is assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- spiny lobster
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gears over all the habitat features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing removal of spiny lobster may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear and prohibition of the removal of spiny lobster over the whole of the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm and a small buffer zone around this portion of the MPA.

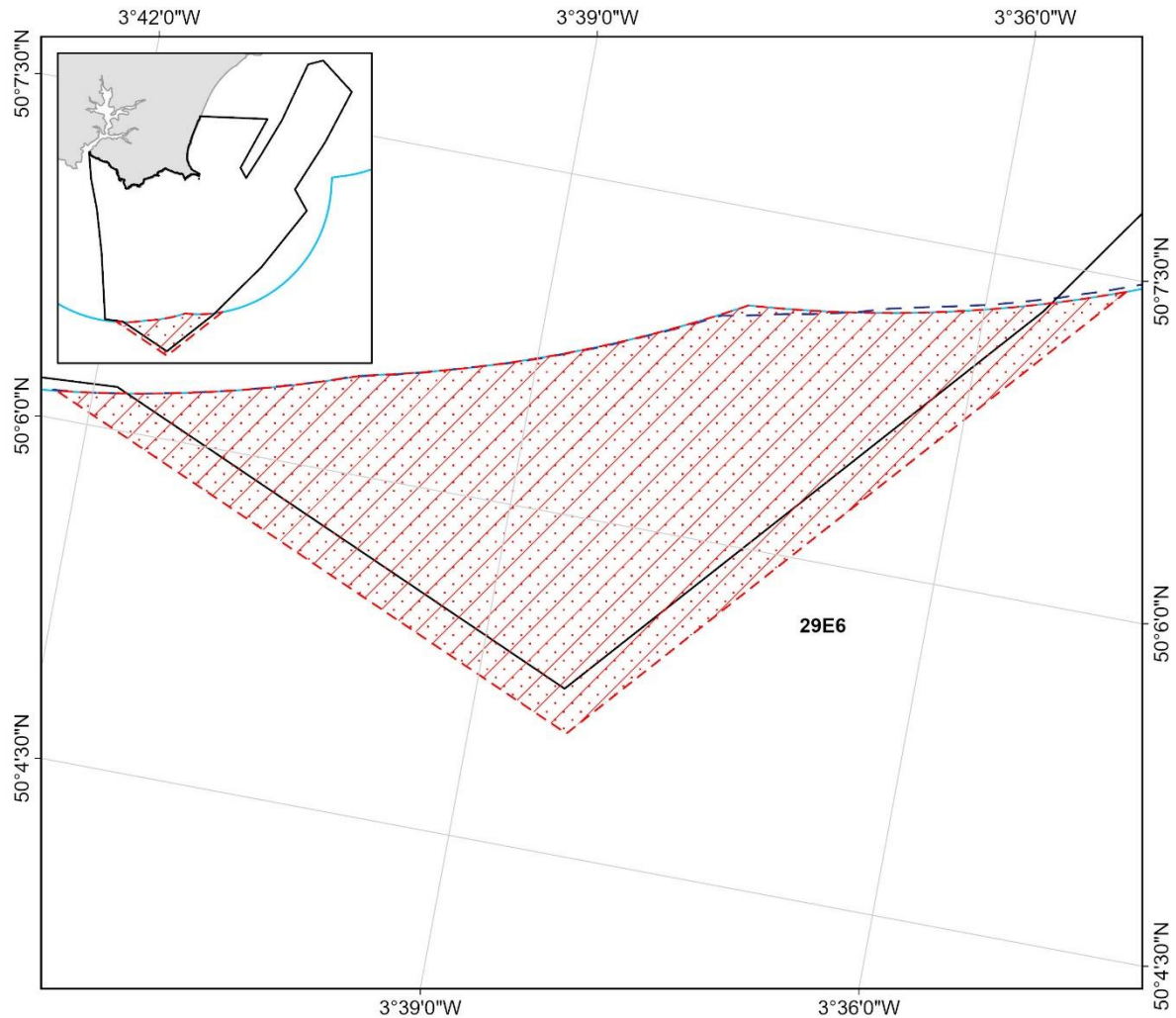
The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Skerries Bank and Surrounds Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified areas for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear and removal of spiny lobster



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified areas (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area
- Spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*) specified area



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## South of Celtic Deep MPA

South of Celtic Deep MPA is an MCZ covering 278 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the west coast of Cornwall and Devon, close to the median line with Irish waters. Its designated features are:

- moderate energy circalittoral rock
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over circalittoral rock in South of Celtic Deep MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment for South of Celtic Deep MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

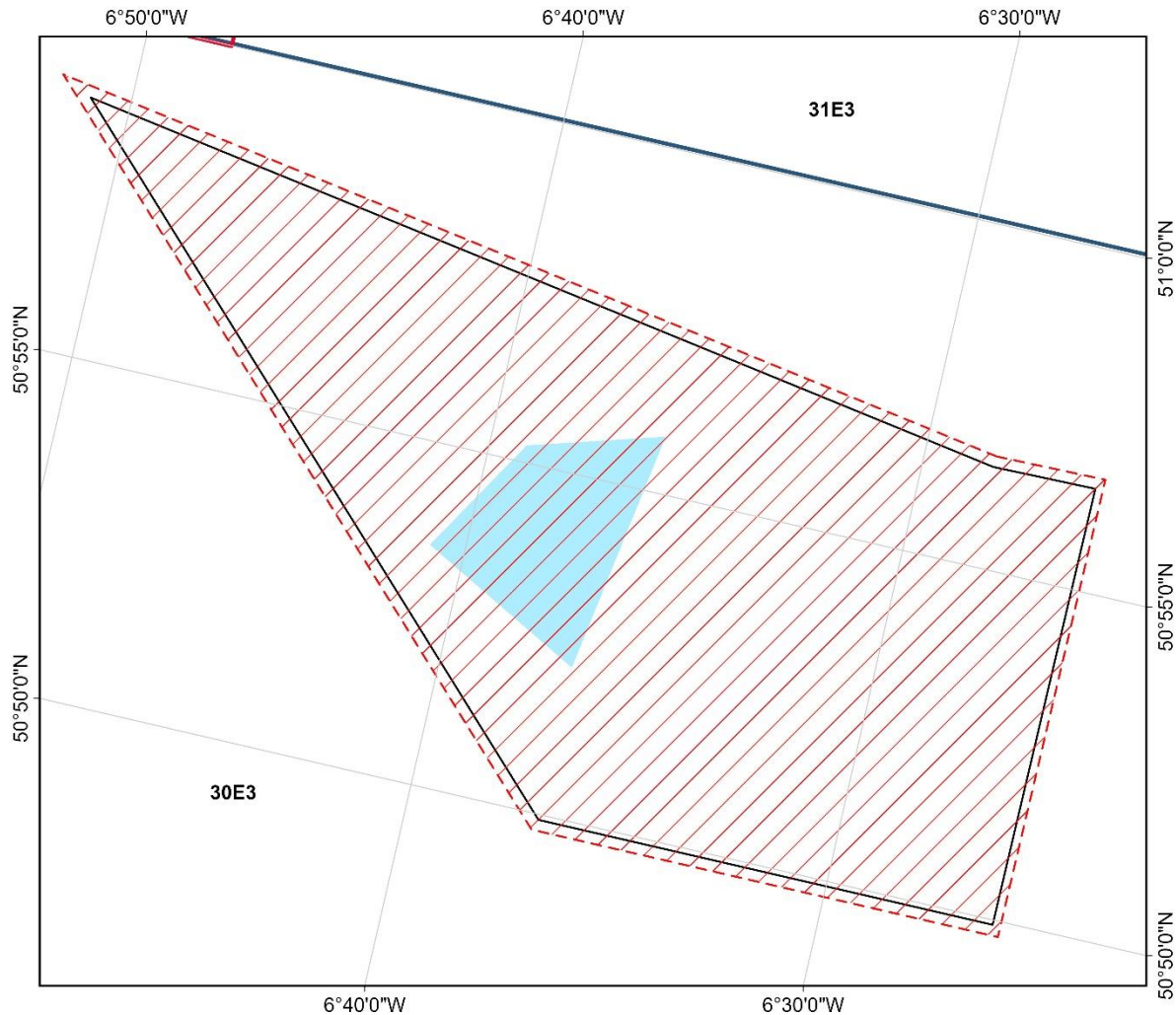




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## South of Celtic Deep Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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### South of the Isles of Scilly MPA

South of the Isles of Scilly MPA is an MCZ covering 132 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Western Channel, straddling the 12 nm limit off the south west coast of Cornwall. Its designated features are:

- fan mussel
- subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediments mosaic
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gears may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

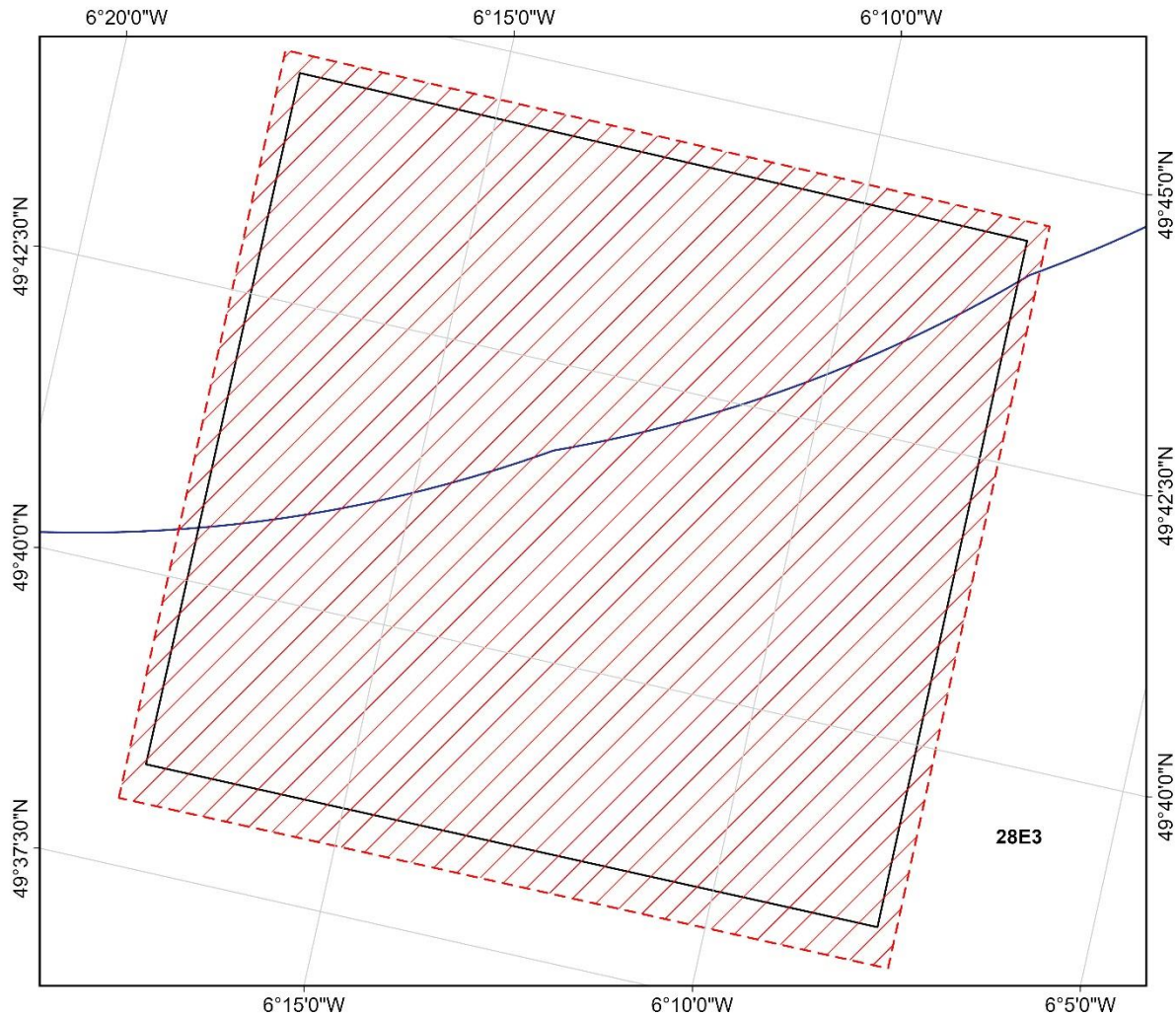
The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## South of the Isles of Scilly Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## South West Approaches to the Bristol Channel MPA

South West Approaches to the Bristol Channel MPA is an MCZ covering 1,128 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Celtic Sea, straddling the 12 nm limit off the north west coast of Cornwall and Devon. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gears over both features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

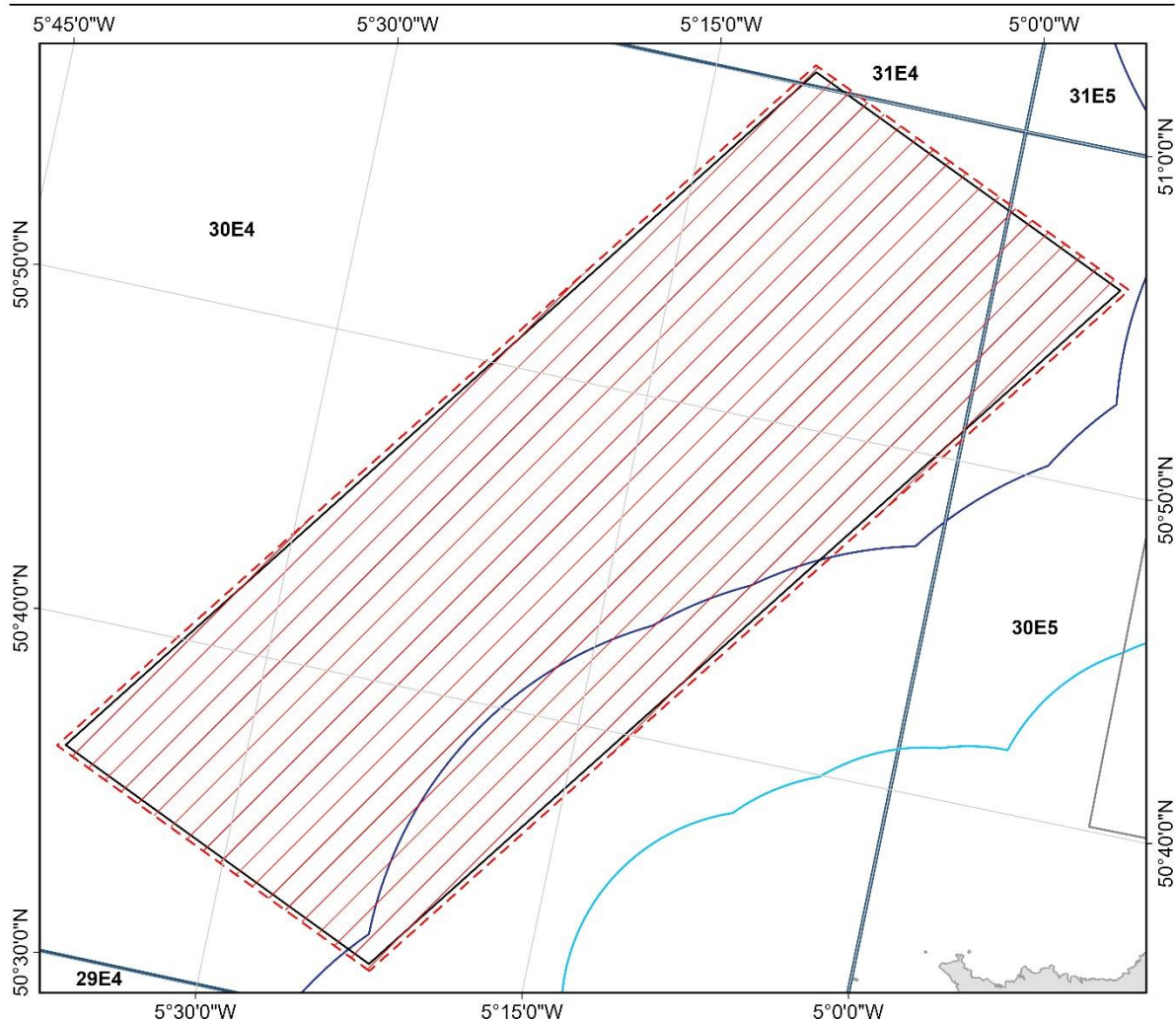
The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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# South West Approaches to Bristol Channel Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



## Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

## Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## South West Deep (East) MPA

South West Deep (East) MPA is an MCZ covering 4,655 km<sup>2</sup> located in south west waters, offshore of 12 nm off the south west coast of Cornwall. Part of the MPA borders the median line with French waters. Its designated features are:

- deep-sea bed
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines over the deep-sea bed feature may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

MMO is also proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom-set nets and lines over the deep-sea bed feature and a small buffer zone.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

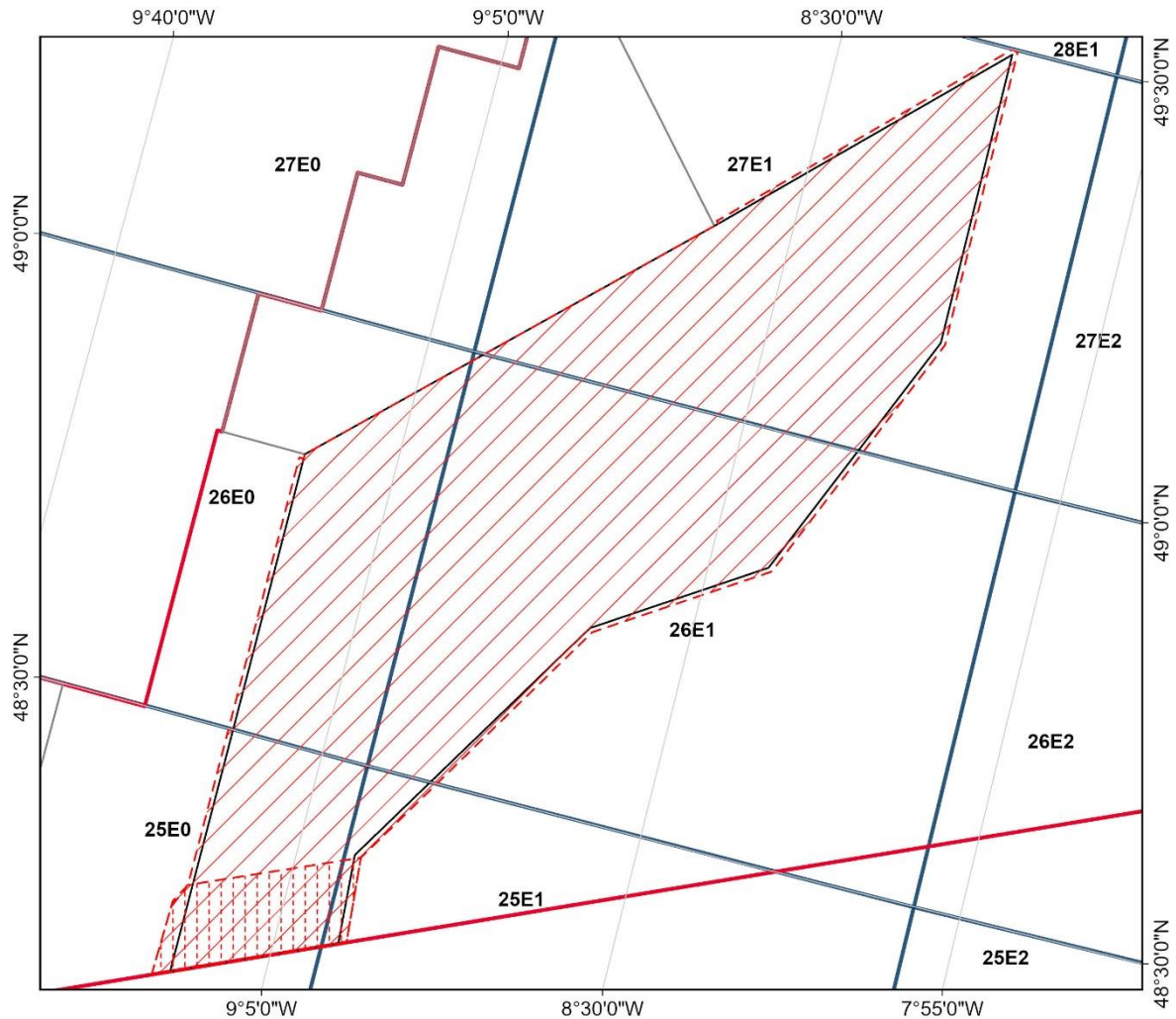




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## South West Deeps (East) Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified areas for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear and bottom-set nets and lines



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified areas (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area
- Bottom-set nets and lines specified area



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### South-West Deep (West) MPA

South-West Deep (West) MPA is an MCZ covering 1,824 km<sup>2</sup> located in south west waters, offshore of 12 nm off the south west coast of Cornwall. Part of the MPA borders the median line with Irish waters. Its designated features are:

- fan mussel
- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

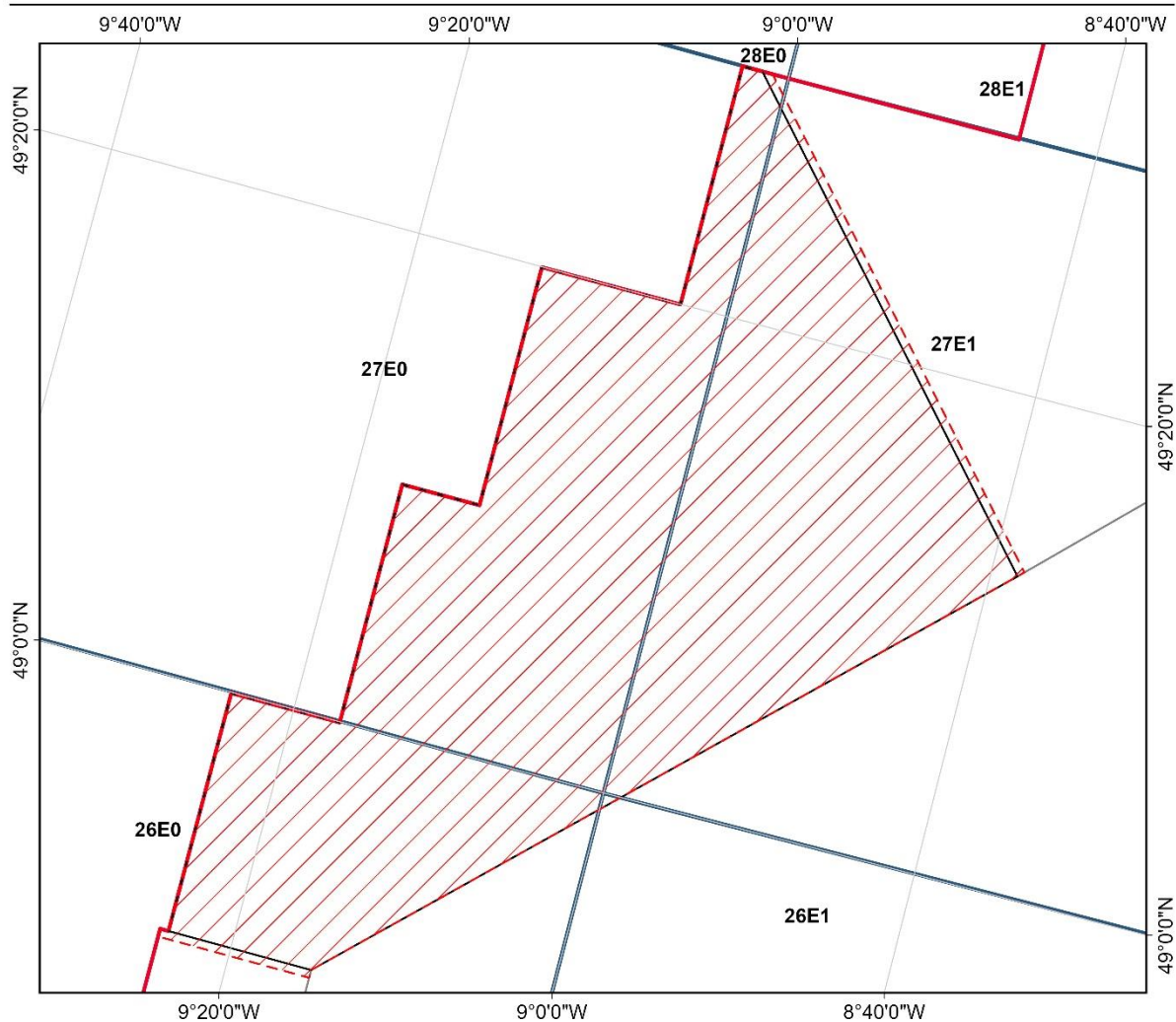


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## South-West Deeps (West)

### Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



#### Maritime boundaries

- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

#### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone MPA

Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone MPA is an SAC covering 341 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Western Channel extending to just over 12 nm offshore from the south coast of Cornwall and Devon.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the Cornwall and the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Districts. MMO is therefore working with the Cornwall IFCA and Devon and Severn IFCAs to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO is assessing fishing in the portion of the site beyond 6 nm, and the IFCAs are assessing fishing within 6 nm. MMO will be responsible for implementing any fisheries management measures required for the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The designated feature of the MPA is:

- reefs

The MMO Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone European Marine Site (Specified Areas) Bottom Towed Gear Byelaw came into force in 2014 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear over the reef feature in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using traps may result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of traps over the reef feature in the portion of the site offshore of 6 nm and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

MMO is also proposing minor amendments to the boundaries of the existing bottom towed gear management measure, to reflect updated information on the location and extent of the reef feature in the site (see section 6).

The proposed management measures are included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

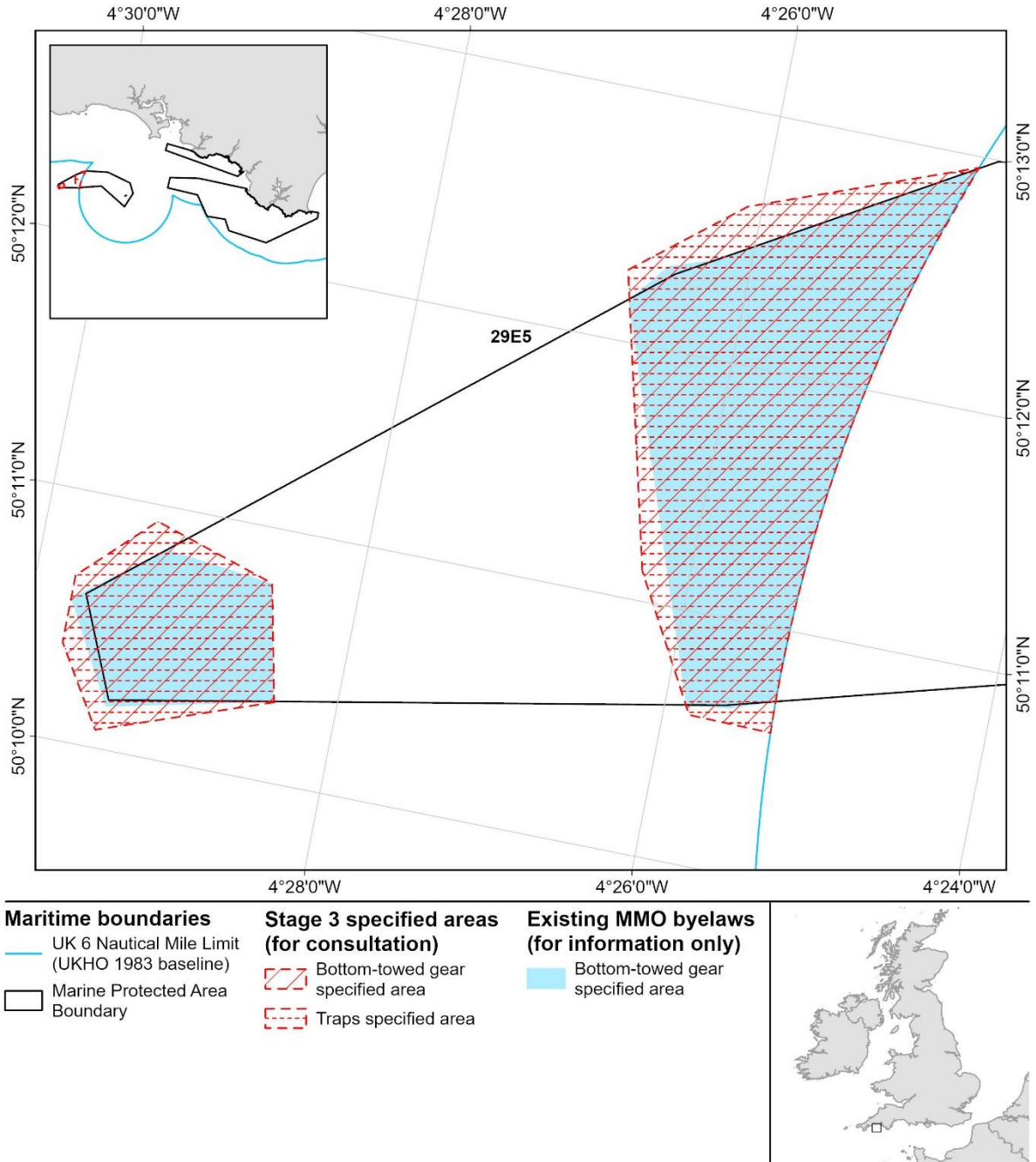




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## Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified areas for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear and traps



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## Swallow Sand MPA

Swallow Sand MPA is an MCZ covering 4,746 km<sup>2</sup> located in the North Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the coast of Northumberland. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediments
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over both features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA, except a small area in the north west of the site where neither feature is present, and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

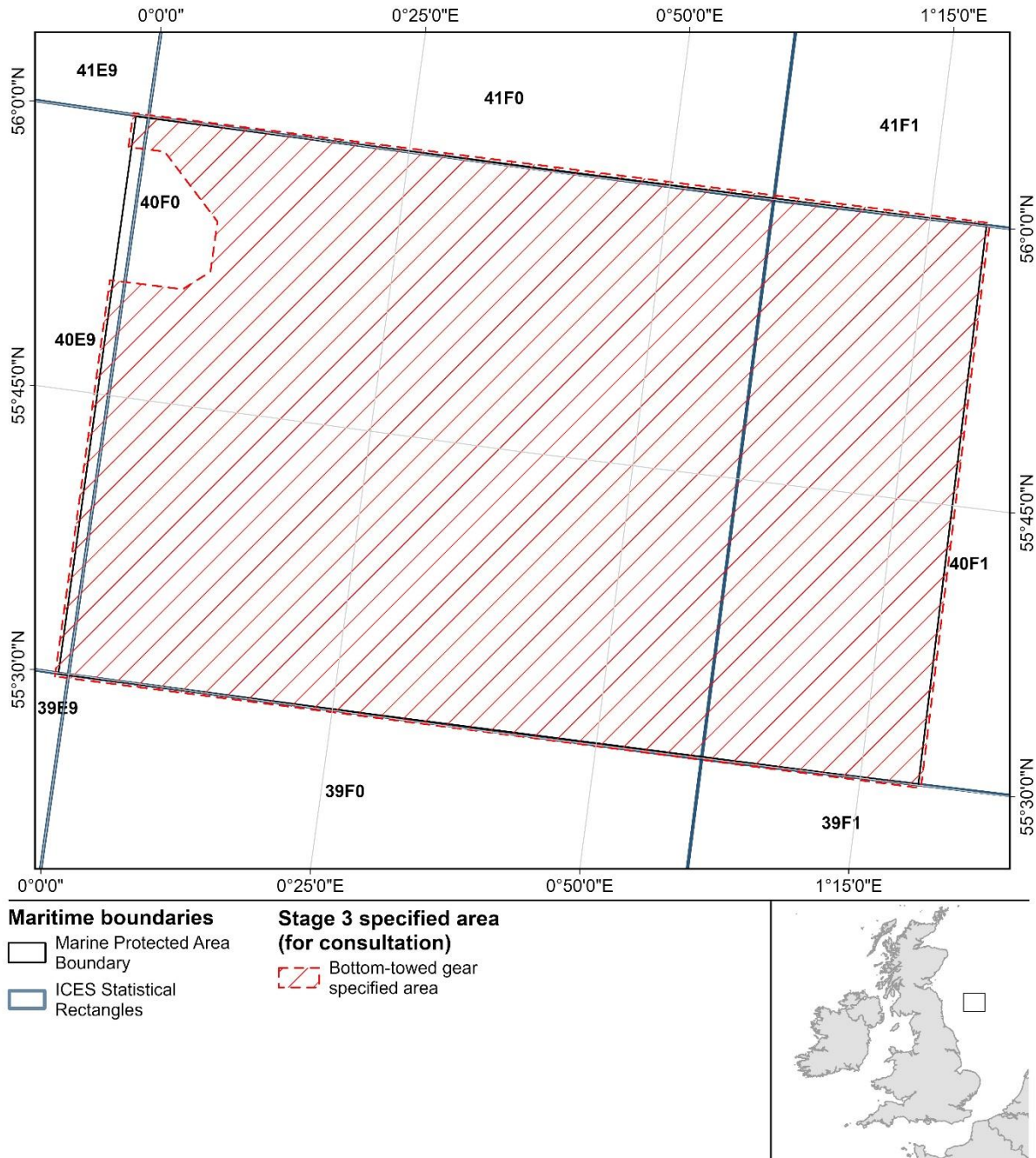
The proposed measure is included in the draft North Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Swallow Sand Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



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## Western Channel MPA

Western Channel MPA is an MCZ covering 1,614 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Western Channel, offshore of 12 nm off the south coast of Cornwall. Part of the MPA borders the median line with French waters. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over both features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the MPA.

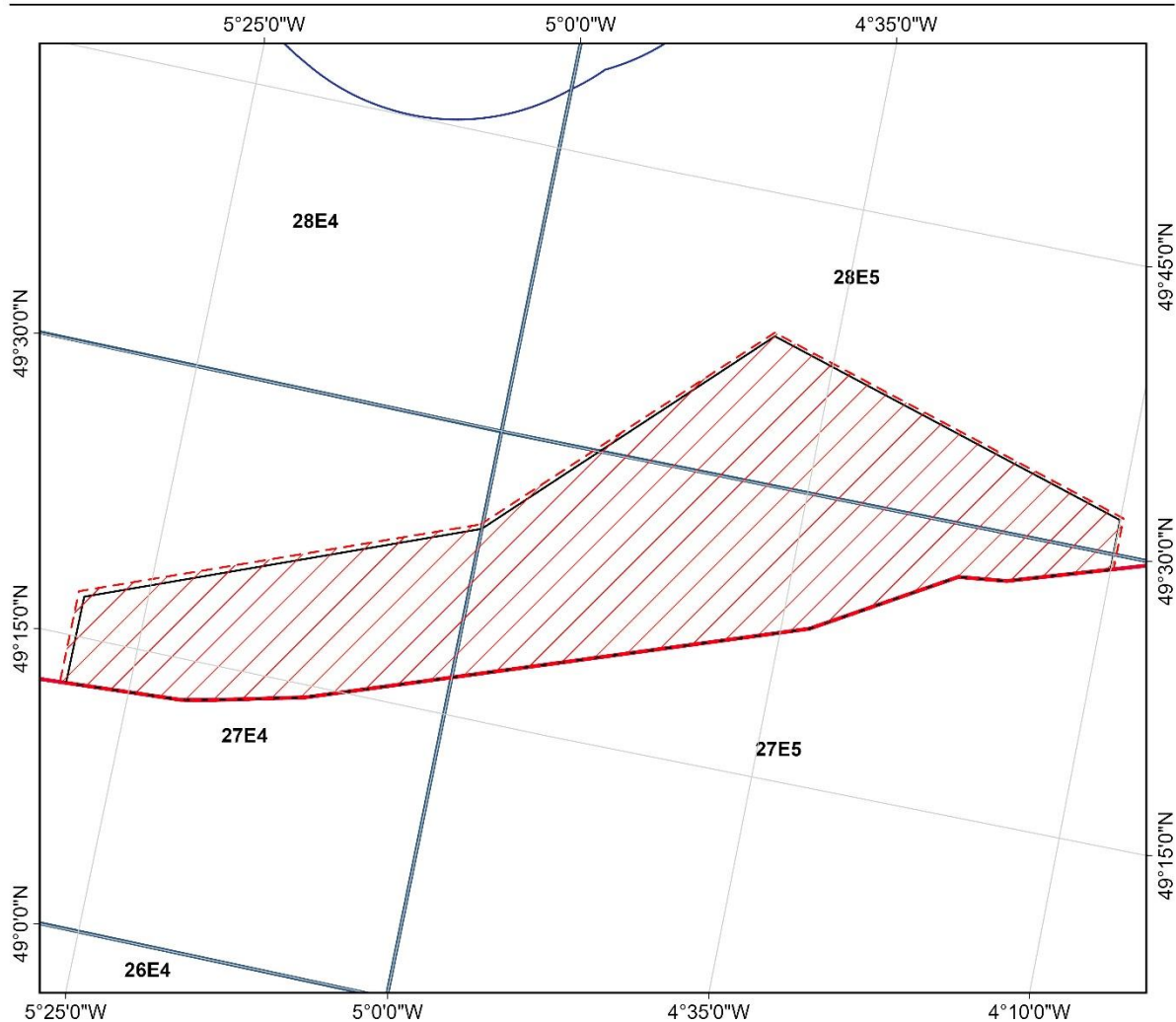
The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## Western Channel Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## West of Copeland MPA

West of Copeland MPA is an MCZ covering 158 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Irish Sea, offshore of 12 nm off the coast of Cumbria. Part of the MPA borders Isle and Man waters. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments
- subtidal sand

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over all features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the whole MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

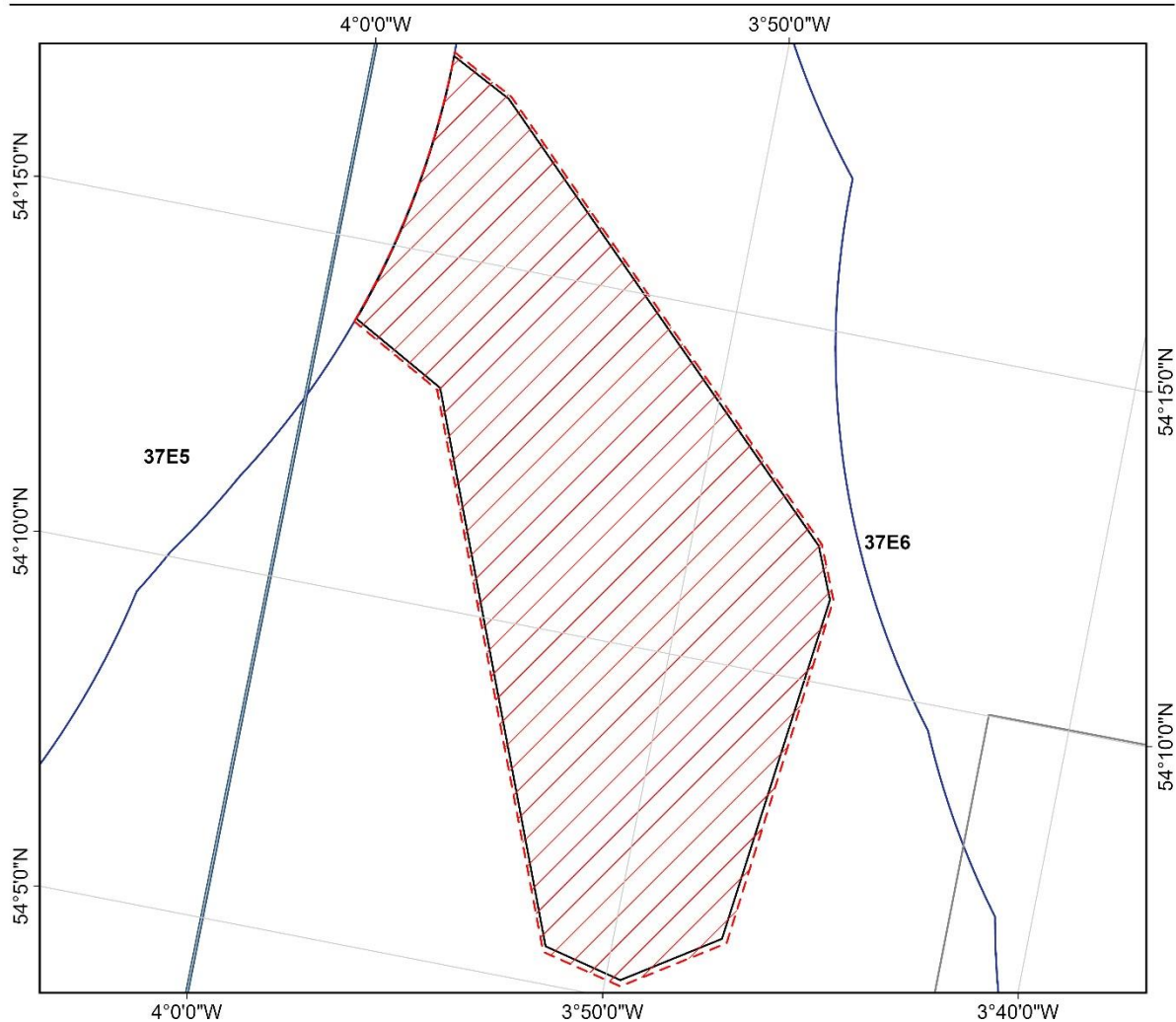




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## West of Copeland Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary
- ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## West of Walney MPA

West of Walney MPA is an MCZ covering 388 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Irish Sea, straddling the 6 and 12 nm limits off the coast of Cumbria.

The portion of this site inshore of 6 nm is within the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District. MMO is therefore working with the North Western IFCA to ensure effective management of fishing in this site. MMO has agreed with North Western IFCA that MMO will assess and manage fishing throughout the site, including the portion inshore of 6 nm.

The designated features that occur in the portion offshore of 6 nm are:

- sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
- subtidal mud
- subtidal sand

The MMO West of Walney Marine Conservation Zone (Specified Area) Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2018 came into force in 2018 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear in the portion of the site inshore of 12 nm.

The MMO draft site assessment for this MPA concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over the features in the portion of the site offshore of 12 nm may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the whole MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

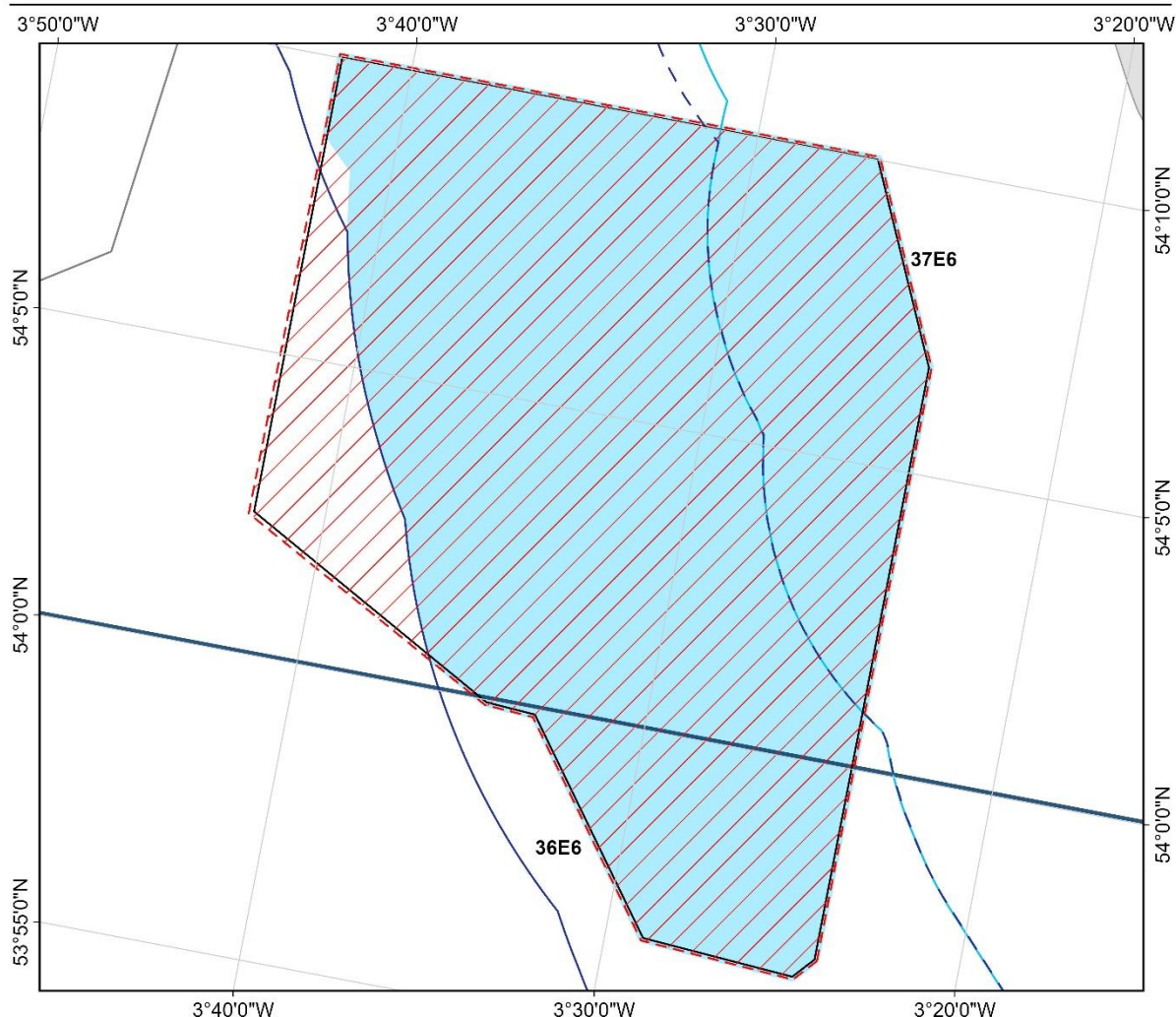
The proposed measure is included in the draft Irish Sea Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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## West of Walney Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 2014 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

ICES Statistical Rectangles

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

Bottom-towed gear specified area

### Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## West of Wight-Barfleur MPA

West of Wight-Barfleur MPA is an MCZ covering 138 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Western Channel, offshore of 12 nm off the south coast of Dorset. Part of the MPA borders the median line with French waters. Its designated features are:

- subtidal coarse sediment
- subtidal mixed sediments

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom towed gear over both features may result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment also concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in a significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the MPA.

MMO is therefore proposing a prohibition of the use of bottom towed gear throughout the MPA and a small buffer zone around the boundary of the MPA.

The proposed measure is included in the draft Western Channel and Southwest Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.

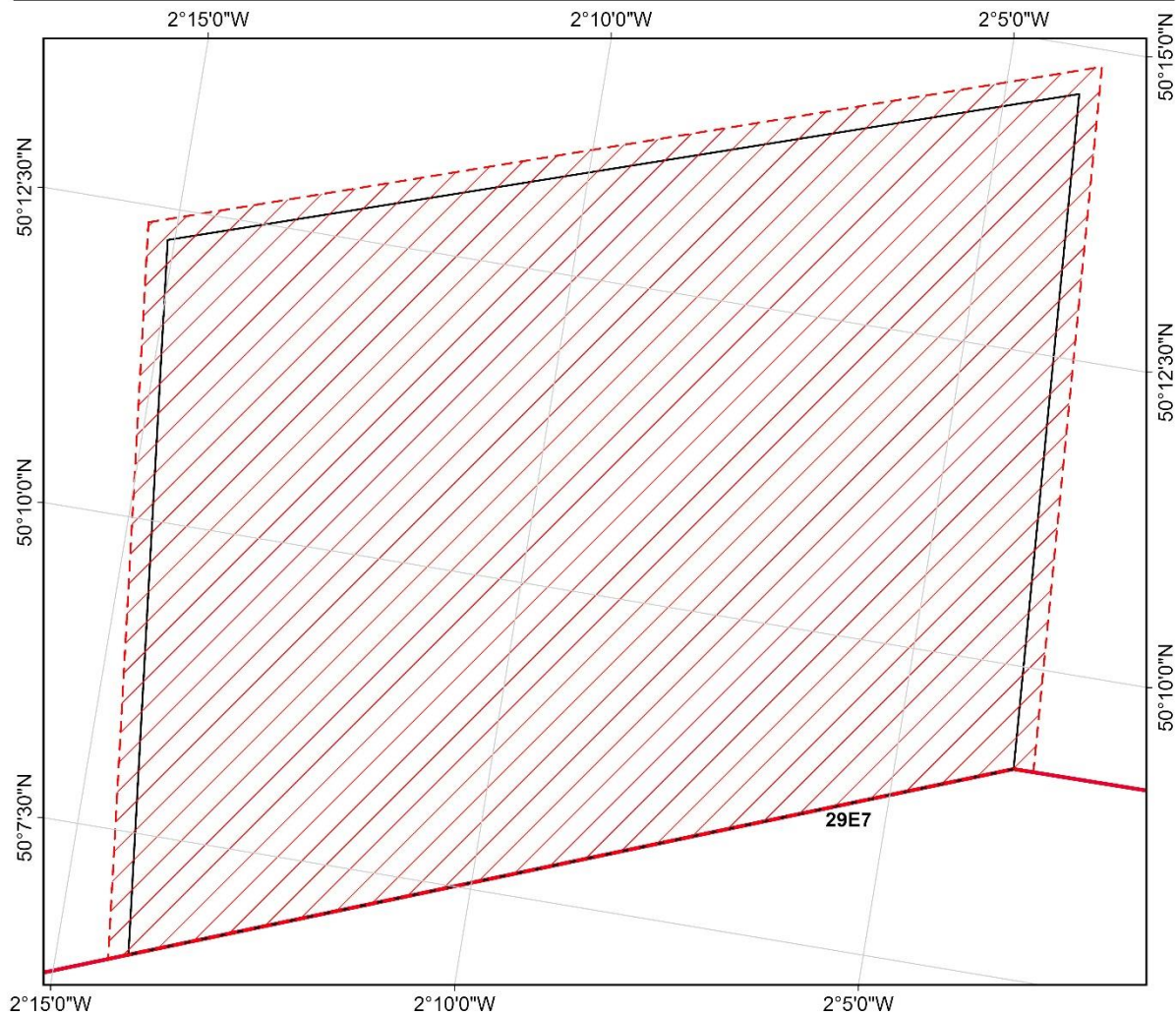




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## West of Wight-Barfleur Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



### Maritime boundaries

- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary

### Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- ▨ Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Wight-Barfleur Reef MPA

Wight-Barfleur Reef MPA is an SAC covering 1,317 km<sup>2</sup> located in the Eastern Channel offshore of 12 nm from the south coast Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Part of the MPA borders the median line with French waters. Its designated feature is:

- reefs

The MMO Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 came into force in 2023 and prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear throughout the MPA.

The MMO draft site assessment concludes that ongoing fishing using bottom-set nets and lines and traps will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

MMO is proposing minor amendments to the boundaries of the existing bottom towed gear management measure, to reflect the most accurate and up to date approach depth information (see section 6).

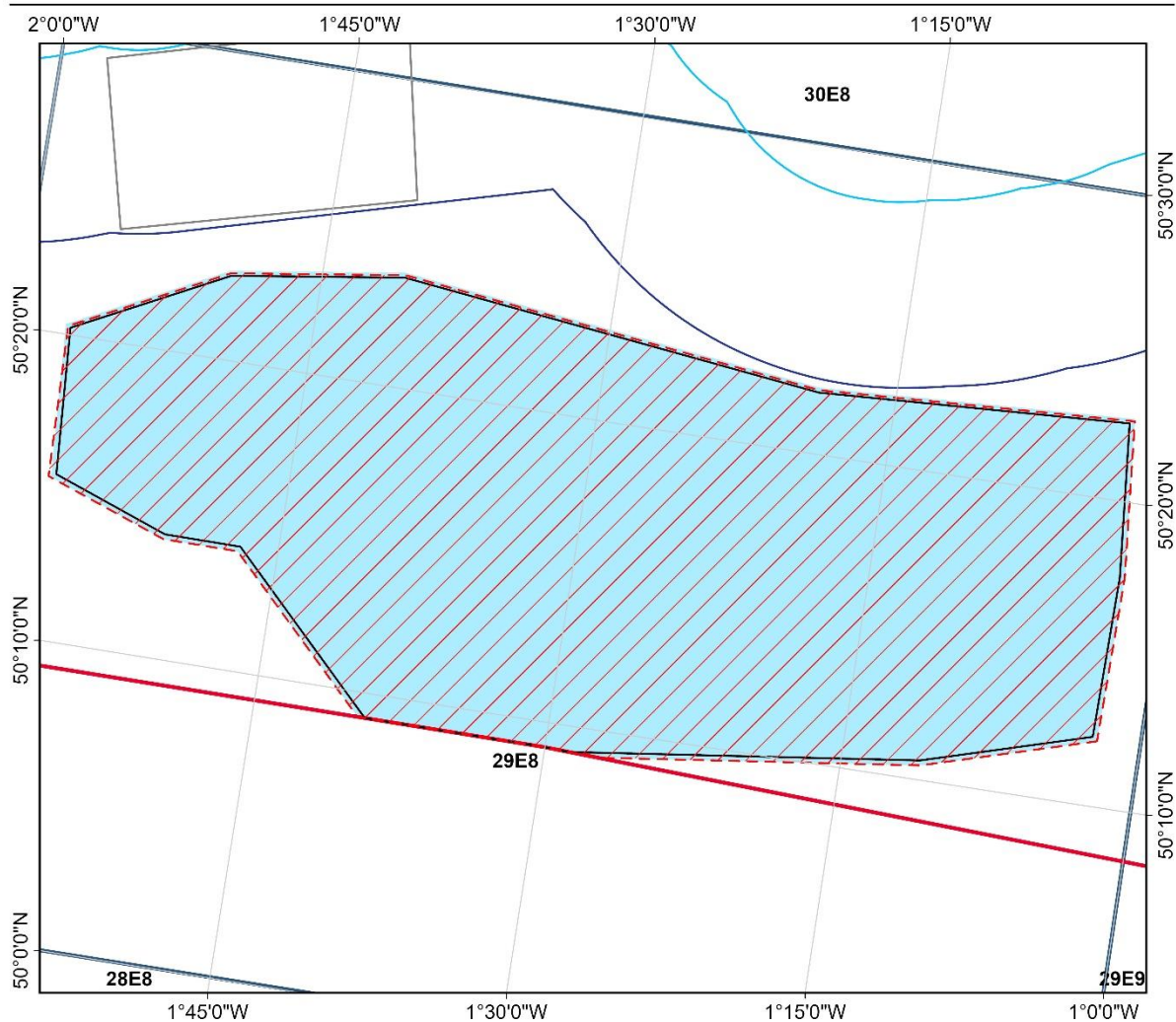
The proposed updated management measure is included in the draft Eastern Channel Marine Protected Areas Fishing Gear Byelaw 2024.



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# Wight-Barfleur Reef Marine Protected Area

Proposed specified area for the prohibition of bottom-towed gear



## Maritime boundaries

- UK 6 Nautical Mile Limit (UKHO 1983 baseline)
- UK Territorial Sea Limits (UKHO)
- UK Exclusive Economic Zone (2013)
- Marine Protected Area Boundary
- Neighbouring Marine Protected Area Boundary

ICES Statistical Rectangles

## Stage 3 specified area (for consultation)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area

## Existing MMO byelaws (for information only)

- Bottom-towed gear specified area



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## Annex 2 – Glossary and maritime boundaries

Commonly used terms in the documents provided as part of this consultation include:

**Biotope** – a habitat and its commonly associated community of species.

**Bottom towed gear** – a range of fishing gear types designed to take or disturb species living on or near the bottom of the seabed. Forms of bottom towed gear include bottom and semi-pelagic trawls, dredges and seines.

**Conservation objectives** – conservation objectives are set for each designated feature of an MPA, to either maintain or restore a designated feature of the protected site.

**Designated features** – a species, habitat, geological or geomorphological entity for which an MPA is identified and managed.

**Ecosystem services** – the benefits provided by ecosystems that contribute to making human life both possible and worth living. Ecosystem services is the term used in conservation advice to describe the service provided by the habitat or species. For example: nutrition, nutrient cycling, climate regulation or bird and whale watching.

**European marine site (EMS)** – any special protection areas (SPAs) and special areas of conservation (SACs) consisting of marine areas.

**Favourable condition** – a description of the target state for MPA features, equivalent to features being in a healthy state. Favourable condition is considered met when defined targets for each attribute of the interest feature, as set out in the conservation advice package for the MPA, are met.

**Impact** – the consequence of pressures (such as habitat degradation) where a change occurs that is different to that expected under natural conditions.

**Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)** – IFCAs are responsible for fisheries management from 0 to 6 nautical miles (nm). There are 10 IFCAs in England, each one funded by local authorities.

**Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)** – a public body that advises the government on UK and international nature conservation. This includes aspects related to the marine environment from 12 nm to 200 nm and have a statutory responsibility to provide conservation advice for MPAs and report on the condition of protected features.

**Marine conservation zone (MCZ)** – a type of MPA in English, Welsh and Northern Irish waters designated under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (for England and Wales) or the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 (for Northern Ireland).

**Marine Management Organisation (MMO)** – MMO is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and is the manager and independent regulator of England's seas. Please see **Figure 3**.

**Marine plans** – MMO marine plans have been designed to help manage the seas around England.

**Marine protected area (MPA)** – a collective term to cover all marine areas that are a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. This includes special areas of conservation (SAC), special protection areas (SPA) and marine conservation zones (MCZ).

**Natural England** – government advisor for the environment in England. This includes aspects of the marine environment of 0 to 12 nm. This organisation has a statutory responsibility to provide conservation advice for MPAs and report on the condition of protected features.

**Precautionary principle** – the precautionary principle is defined in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to which the UK government is a signatory, and states: 'In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation'.

**Pressure** – the mechanisms through which an activity has an effect on a feature. Individual pressures are broadly defined in JNCC's Marine Pressures-Activities Database (PAD) in the 'pressures' tab of the data tables.

**Resilience** – the ability of a species or habitat to recover from disturbance or stress.

**Resistance** – the ability of a species or habitat to absorb disturbance or stress without changing in character.

**Sensitivity** – the sensitivity of a feature (species or habitat) is a measure that is dependent on the ability of the feature (species or habitat) to resist change and its ability (time taken) to recover from change.

**Special area of conservation (SAC)** – SACs are MPAs designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>20</sup>, and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>21</sup> to protect important habitats and species.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1013/contents>

**Special protection areas (SPA)** – SPAs are MPAs put into place to protect threatened bird species, classified under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>7</sup>, and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>8</sup>.

**Sublittoral zone** – extending from the lowest limit of the intertidal to the outer edge of the continental slope. This can be divided into the infralittoral zone (characterised by algae) and the circalittoral zone (the subzone below the infralittoral dominated by animals) (JNCC, 2022).

**Vessel monitoring system (VMS)** – all commercial fishing vessels over 12 metres in length in UK waters must report their position via VMS when at sea. VMS devices on the vessels send regular reports of position and vector.

The documents and maps presented in the consultation refer to a number of different maritime boundaries and areas of jurisdiction:

**1983 6 nautical mile (nm) limit** – the 6 nm limit drawn from the UK baselines as defined in 1983. The 1983 6 nm limit marks the seaward boundary of inshore fisheries and conservation districts

**2014 6 nm limit** – the 6 nm limit drawn from the current UK baselines based on the Territorial Sea (Baseline) Order 2014<sup>22</sup>. This marks the inshore limit of access for EU fishing vessels with historic access rights and a current licence issued by the UK to operate in this area.

**12 nm limit** – also referred to as the UK Territorial Sea limit. This is the 12 nm limit drawn from the current UK baselines based on the Territorial Sea (Baseline) Order 2014<sup>9</sup>. This marks the seaward limit of UK territorial seas. This also marks the inshore limit of access for non-UK fishing vessels (without historic access rights) with a current licence issued by the UK to operate in this area.

**200 nm limit** – the 200 nm limit drawn from the current UK based on the Territorial Sea (Baseline) Order 2014<sup>9</sup>. This marks the maximum extent of UK waters where these meet the high seas.

**Inshore fisheries and conservation districts (IFC Districts)** – the districts in which each inshore fisheries and conservation authority has jurisdiction, including the power to make byelaws.

**Median line** – marks the extent of UK waters where these meet another state's waters, or the waters of the Isle of Man or Gurnsey. The median line is generally drawn along a point equidistant from the two state's baselines, or in the case of the Isle of Man, where UK waters meet the Isle of Man's Territorial Sea (drawn 12 nm from the Isle of Man baselines).

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/1353/made>



