

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

Around the coasts of England and Wales there are already a range of Marine Protected Areas covering, SSSIs, SPAs (Special Protection Areas for birds), MSACs (Marine Special Areas of Conservation for habitats such as saltmarsh) and protected sites designated under the Ramsar convention. Under the Marine & Coastal Access Act which has passed into law, there is provision for the setting up a network of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) alongside the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) around England and Wales. Provision for Scotland, will be covered by the Scottish Marine Bill. For England and Wales there will be four areas of zones of which the one of immediate concern to us is the 'Balanced Seas' project, which runs round the South East from Felixstowe to the Hampshire/Dorset Border. We also will be involved with the Southern part of the 'Net Gain' project which covers the North Sea from Felixstowe to the Scottish border.