



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Marine Protected Area Network Management Framework for Wales

2018–2023



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Key Terms	Definition and Explanation
<b>Competent Authority</b>	An authority, as defined by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) which must exercise their functions which are relevant to nature conservation, including marine conservation, so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives.
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment. It aims to prevent, reduce or offset the significant adverse environmental effects of development proposals, and enhance positive ones.
<b>EMS</b>	European Marine Site. An area which has been designated under European legislation to provide protection for a marine feature or features. A collective term for marine SACs and SPAs.
<b>HRA</b>	Habitats Regulations Assessment. A recognised step by step process which helps determine likely significant effect and (where appropriate) assess adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of a European site, examines alternative solutions, and provides justification for IROPI.
<b>Inshore</b>	The area of Welsh seas out to 12 nautical miles.
<b>IROPI</b>	Imperative Reason(s) of Overriding Public Interest. If it is not possible to avoid a significant adverse effect of a project on any site, the project may only proceed if there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.
<b>Management Authority</b>	A term used throughout this Framework to refer collectively to organisations with statutory responsibilities in relation to any type of MPA, or who are significant seabed or coastal land owners. This includes relevant and competent authorities as defined by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017), the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) and public authorities as defined by the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009).
<b>MCZ</b>	Marine Conservation Zone. The designation process is set out in Part 5 Chapter 1 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009).

Key Terms	Definition and Explanation
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area. A general term for an area designated under legislation for the conservation of habitats, species or other natural features.
<b>Offshore</b>	The area of Welsh seas from beyond 12 nautical miles to the limits of UK territorial waters (the median line) as illustrated by the map at Figure 2.
<b>OSPAR MPAs</b>	MPAs submitted to the OSPAR Commission for inclusion in their network of MPAs.
<b>RAG</b>	Relevant Authority Group. A voluntary working arrangement established by some management authorities to help them deliver their responsibilities for MPA management.
<b>Relevant Authority</b>	An authority, as defined by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) which has functions in relation to land or waters within or adjacent to a marine protected area.
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation. An area designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) to protect certain habitats and species (except birds).
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment. A formal process for assessing the effect of a plan or programme on the environment. It aims to provide a high level of protection to the environment and to promote sustainable development by the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans or programmes.
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Area. An area classified under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) to protect certain species of birds.
<b>SSSI</b>	Site of Special Scientific Interest. Designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) to protect the best examples of wildlife and geology in Wales. SSSIs are primarily a terrestrial designation, although they can cover the seashore down to the lowest tide.

# Section 1

## Introduction

The Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network Management Framework for Wales (the “Framework”) has been produced by the MPA Management Steering Group<sup>1</sup>. It sets out the structure for improving the management and condition of the network of MPAs in Wales for the period 2018 – 2023. The Framework has a five year lifecycle to allow for delivery of actions ahead of the report due in 2023 under Section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009). The Framework seeks to align with and complement international management and reporting requirements, and will continue to apply once the UK has left the European Union. An annual MPA Network Management Action Plan will set out the priority actions identified to maintain or improve the condition of the network of MPAs in Wales.

Having a clear understanding of the condition of sites and their features, and effective management of MPAs, is essential to achieving conservation objectives and securing an ecologically coherent and well managed network of MPAs in Wales. Effective management of MPAs maximises the contribution the MPA network can make to the health and resilience of marine ecosystems, to Blue Growth<sup>2</sup> and to sustainable, productive fisheries now and into the future.

The Framework contributes to:

- the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)<sup>3</sup> to improve the long-term social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act requires the majority of management authorities<sup>4</sup> to work in accordance with the sustainable development principle to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- the Environment (Wales) Act (2016)<sup>5</sup> in promoting the principles of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including a focus to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and contribute to wider ecosystem resilience.
- the objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales<sup>6</sup>, the Welsh Government’s national strategy for biodiversity which was published in 2015.
- the aims of the UK Marine Strategy<sup>7</sup> to protect the marine environment, prevent its deterioration and restore it where practical, while providing for sustainable use of marine resources.
- the UK commitment to the OSPAR Commission<sup>8</sup> to contribute towards a well-managed and ecologically-coherent network of MPAs in the North-East Atlantic.

<sup>1</sup> Terms of reference for the MPA Management Steering Group:  
[gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/151118-marine-protected-areas-management-steering-group-terms-of-reference-en.pdf](http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/151118-marine-protected-areas-management-steering-group-terms-of-reference-en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Sustainable growth of marine and maritime sectors.

<sup>3</sup> [gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf](http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> In this Framework the term management authorities (MAs) is used to refer collectively to all organisations with statutory responsibilities in relation to any type of MPA, or who are significant seabed or coastal land owners. This includes relevant and competent authorities under the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and public authorities under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (CROW Act).

<sup>5</sup> [gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-act/?lang=en](http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-act/?lang=en)

<sup>6</sup> [gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/?lang=en](http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/?lang=en)

<sup>7</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status)

<sup>8</sup> [www.ospar.org/about](http://www.ospar.org/about)

The Welsh Government has overall responsibility for ensuring Wales' network of MPAs is effectively managed. Management, however, is a shared responsibility across management authorities, including those who have statutory obligations to manage Welsh seas or who are significant seabed or coastal landowners. The Welsh Government works with representatives of the key management authorities in Wales through the MPA Management Steering Group to provide leadership and a strategic steer for the management of the network of MPAs in Wales. The Group's membership provides links to local stakeholder groups at the site level and also to the national stakeholder forum, the Wales Marine Advisory and Action Group. This means the MPA Management Steering Group is well-placed to provide information and strategic direction on the needs for MPA management at the local, multi-site and national level.

The Framework is designed to provide a steer to management authorities who have statutory roles and responsibilities in relation to the network of MPAs in Wales. It includes information on relevant management priorities and activities to improve the condition of the network of MPAs in Wales as a whole. However, everyone has a role in protecting the marine environment and the Steering Group acknowledges the role of volunteers in safeguarding the wildlife and habitats within Wales' marine environment. Group members hope this will continue in future.

Section 2 provides information on the network of MPAs in Wales including the different designations, the number of sites in Welsh waters and where they are located. The network includes MPAs in all Welsh waters, in line with the Welsh Government's extended remit for marine nature conservation in the offshore area<sup>9</sup>. The Framework is designed to apply to all existing and any additional MPAs incorporated into the network in the future.

Section 3 sets out the MPA Management Steering Group's collective vision and objectives for management of the network. This Framework is a key tool for how this vision and the objectives are delivered.

Section 4 outlines activity already underway that contributes to the management of MPAs. Effective application of strategic and project planning, regulation and assessment processes are the primary mechanisms for MPA management. These processes help secure and maintain the conservation objectives of sites, the wider benefits of the MPA network and prevent negative impacts. Other forms of MPA management focus on unregulated activities and delivery of local management actions.

Section 5 highlights how the MPA Network Management Action Plan will be used to improve the management and condition of the network of marine protected areas in Wales. Management authorities, and other interested parties, are encouraged to consider how they can help to progress these actions for the benefit of the marine environment. It also sets out governance and process arrangements for this Framework and MPA Network Management Action Plan.

The Annexes to this Framework contain information on the marine species and habitats protected at sites in Wales, information and guidance for MPA management, and details of Management Authorities in Wales and their responsibilities for MPA management.

<sup>9</sup> The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wales Act 2017.

# Section 2

## The Network of Marine Protected Areas in Wales

The network of MPAs in Wales is made up of different types of sites designated to protect a range of features. Table 1 sets out the type of MPA, what they protect and the relevant legislation or convention used to designate them. There are different management arrangements for each type of designation which is explored further in Section 4.

**Table 1**

Type of MPA	What is Protected?	What is the legislative Driver?
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>	These sites protect wild and migratory birds as listed in Annex I of the Directive, and the habitats they rely on for essential behaviours such as feeding and breeding.	EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Council Directive 2009/147/EC)
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>	These sites protect a range and variety of habitats and (non-bird) species of European importance as listed in Annex I and II of the Directive.	EU Habitats and Species Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
<b>Marine Conservation Zone</b>	These sites protect a range of habitats, species, geological and geomorphology features which are considered nationally important.	Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)
<b>Ramsar Site</b>	These sites protect wetlands which are considered to be internationally important.	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)
<b>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (where these have marine components)</b>	These sites protect the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features. Although they are primarily a terrestrial designation, they can cover the seashore down to the lowest tide.	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

**All MPA designations are relevant under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

There are 139 sites in Welsh waters made up of:

- 13 Special Protection Areas (SPAs);
- 15 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- 1 Marine Conservation Zone (MCZs);
- 107 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs); and
- 3 Ramsar sites.

Some MPAs, such as coastal SACs and SSSIs, share common boundaries but are included separately, as they are designated under different pieces of legislation and in many cases protect different features of interest. Annex 1 sets out a full list of MPAs in Wales with the features they have been designated to protect.

Taken together, these MPAs form a network around Wales. They make a substantial contribution towards an ecologically coherent network of MPAs in the UK and a wider network of sites<sup>10</sup> in the North-East Atlantic established by the OSPAR Commission. An assessment of the network<sup>11</sup> in Wales completed by the JNCC in 2016 concluded sites are well connected with the majority of habitats and species represented and, where possible, replicated to provide resilience in the network. A well designed and managed network of MPAs improves resilience in the marine environment.

Figure 1 shows the network of MPAs in Welsh waters as at July 2018. Figure 2 shows a map of the network of MPAs in UK waters.

<sup>10</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4526](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4526)

<sup>11</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC\\_NetworkProgressWelshWaters\\_Final.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC_NetworkProgressWelshWaters_Final.pdf)

Figure 1: The network of Marine Protected Areas in Wales

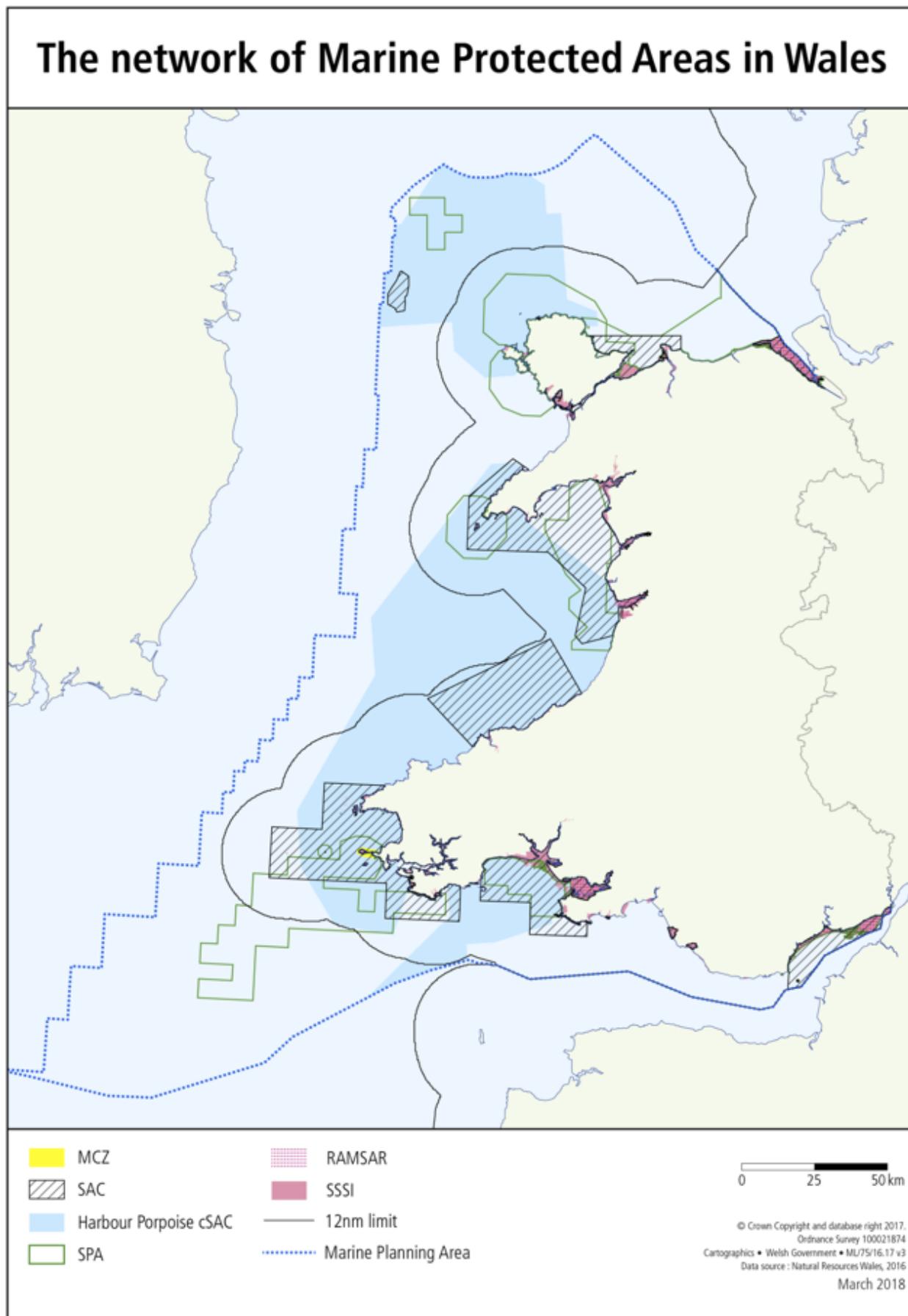
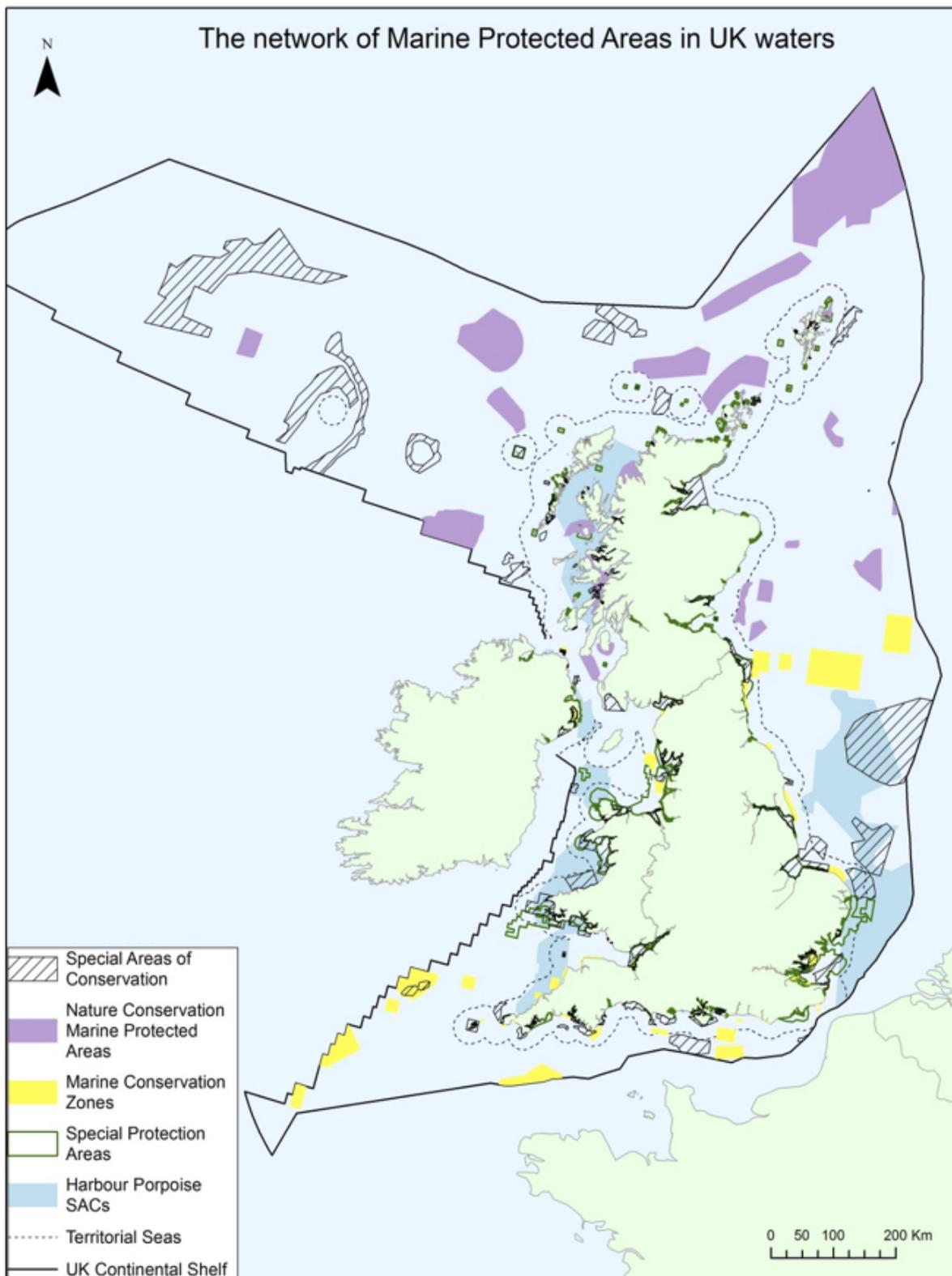


Figure 2: The network of Marine Protected Areas in UK waters



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Contains derived data from Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. 100019741 (2015).  
Contains UKHO data © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. The exact limits of the UK Continental shelf are set out in orders made under section 1 (7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964 and Continental Shelf (Designation of Area) Order 2013.  
Combining source layers from UKHO. © Crown copyright © JNCC. World Vector Shoreline © US Defence Mapping Agency.  
Not to be used for navigation.

# Section 3

## Vision, objectives and principles for management of the network

The MPA Management Steering Group has agreed a vision and objectives for the management of the network of MPAs in Wales. The agreed vision and objectives aim to secure effective management of the MPA network in Wales which ultimately improves condition, safeguarding marine biodiversity, the wider ecosystem and the socio-economic benefits for Wales.

### Vision

The Welsh MPA network is under effective and consistent management which safeguards the marine wildlife and habitats of sites, and leads to site features achieving or maintaining favourable condition. Network management supports resilient marine ecosystems which in turn help to achieve clean, safe, healthy, sustainable, resilient, productive and biologically diverse Welsh seas. MPAs are valued for the long-term benefits they provide to the people of Wales through the protection of their rich natural and cultural heritage.

### Objectives

The five objectives agreed by the MPA Management Steering Group for the management of the network are:

#### I. Sustainable management of the MPA network

**Objective:** To achieve effective protection through proportionate and secure management arrangements, addressing common management challenges across the network. The management of the MPA network has a well-developed and flexible programme of long-term, sustainable funding.

#### II. Effective leadership

**Objective:** MPA network management is guided by clear and effective leadership, commitment and support at both governmental and management authority levels, with a shared vision, ambition and capacity to achieve success.

#### III. Participative and engaged communities

**Objective:** Marine users and communities are proud to celebrate the Welsh MPA network, they understand the value of the network, its benefits and how it is managed. National and local stakeholders – from members of the public through to the public, private and third sectors – have a recognised role and assist in relevant management decisions for the MPA network. All communications are clear and transparent and marine users are aware of, understand, and comply with any relevant regulations and guidance, such as codes of practice.

#### IV. Clear Governance structures

**Objective:** The MPA network has well established effective and transparent mechanisms for addressing and delivering aspirations, strategies and obligations to support effective management.

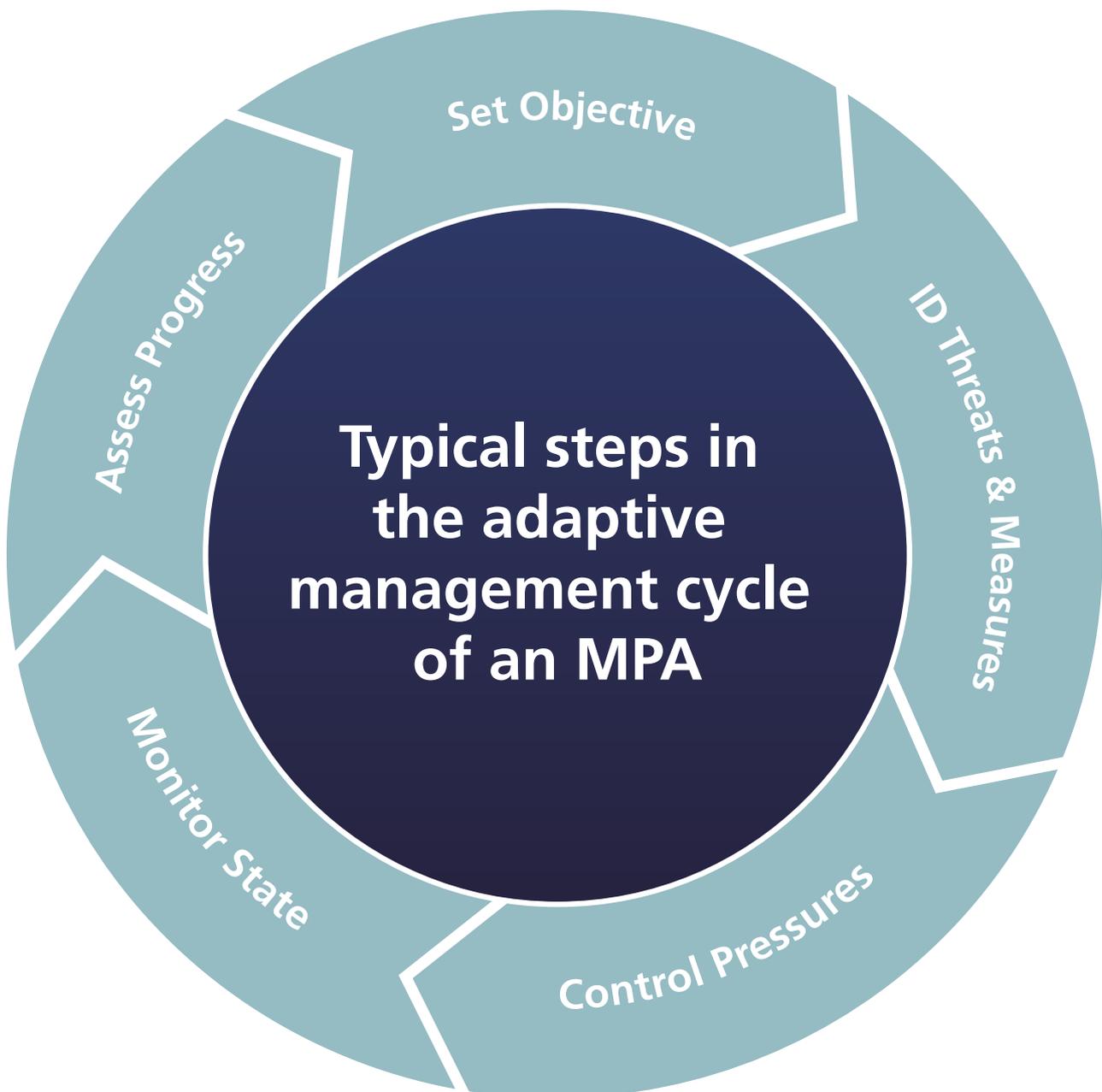
## V. Adaptive management

**Objective:** Management of the network is adaptive, incorporating change as new information becomes available. Environmental, social, cultural and economic information is used to support management, and is regularly updated and used for effective decision-making.

The vision and objectives for the management of the network in Wales align with the OSPAR Commission guidance on managing the network of MPAs<sup>12</sup>.

Figure 3 sets out an adaptive management cycle with five distinct stages, as identified by the OSPAR Commission.

**Figure 3**



<sup>12</sup> [www.ospar.org/documents?d=32690](http://www.ospar.org/documents?d=32690)

In 2016 the OSPAR Commission developed a questionnaire approach to assess the effectiveness of site management. The questionnaire covered two broad themes, each with two specific questions:

1. Consider implementation of the MPA management cycle:
  - Is the MPA management documented?
  - Are the measures to achieve the conservation objectives being implemented?
2. Review whether the MPA is meeting its conservation objectives:
  - Is a monitoring plan in place to assess if measures are working?
  - Is the MPA moving towards or has it reached the conservation objectives?

NRW and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) used this approach to assess the management of MPAs in Welsh seas. The assessment concluded the OSPAR MPAs (marine SACs and SPAs) in Wales are progressing towards being well managed. It also concluded environmental, social and economic information is used to support management, and is regularly updated and used for effective decision-making. This means management of the network incorporates change as new information becomes available, whilst protecting the network against adverse effects.

The MPA Management Steering Group has developed five management principles to guide delivery of the vision and objectives for the management of the network. The management principles are:

### Box 1: Management Principles

**MP1 Strategic Planning:** Management should be guided by strategic planning processes at both a sectoral and all-Wales level. It supports sustainable use of the MPA network in ways which conserve and enhance condition, support resilience of marine ecosystems, support wellbeing and deliver sustainable management of natural resources.

**MP2 Regulation, development consenting and assessment processes:** Regulatory processes and consenting decisions should be delivered consistently and proportionately across the network, and proactively consider and support the maintenance or enhancement (where possible/appropriate) of the condition of relevant sites and features across the network.

**MP3 Management advice and guidance:** Decision-making and management operations should be supported by clear and consistent advice and guidance on MPAs including their conservation objectives.

**MP4 Understanding the condition of, and pressures and threats on, sites and their features to inform management:** Management should be informed by, and consistently refer to, formal assessment and reporting on the health and condition of features, sites and the network as a whole. Assessment and reporting is informed by a prioritised monitoring programme that improves understanding of condition, change and impacts across aspects of the network where key pressures are identified.

**MP5 Wider management:** Management operations on individual and multiple sites should be prioritised to ensure delivery of activity that has the potential for greatest improvement in the management of key pressures, and on condition, across the network. Management activities may maintain or enhance feature condition, identify and address particular local issues and pressures, and raise awareness of MPAs through targeted interventions and engagement with members of the public.

## Section 4

# How Marine Protected Areas are managed in Wales

This section sets out how MPAs are managed in Wales and the activities already underway which contribute to the effective management of the MPA network in Wales.

Although the Welsh Government has overall responsibility for ensuring Wales' network of MPAs is effectively managed, the delivery of management is a shared responsibility across a number of organisations. In this Framework these are referred to as management authorities. Management authorities are organisations with statutory responsibilities in relation to any type of MPA, or who are significant seabed or coastal land owners. They include relevant and competent authorities under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017), the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) and public authorities under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009).

Table 2 gives a summary of key management authorities operating in Wales involved in managing MPAs.

**Table 2**

Sector	Management Authorities
<b>Local Government</b>	Monmouthshire County Council Newport City Council Cardiff County Council Vale of Glamorgan County Council Bridgend County Borough Council City and County of Swansea Carmarthenshire County Council Pembrokeshire County Council Ceredigion County Council Powys County Council Gwynedd County Council Anglesey County Council Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council
<b>National Park Authorities</b>	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Snowdonia National Park Authority
<b>Water and Sewerage Undertakers</b>	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
<b>National Government</b>	Welsh Government UK Government

Sector	Management Authorities
<b>Port and Harbour Authorities</b>	Gloucester Harbour Trustees Newport Harbour Commissioners ABP Newport ABP Cardiff Saundersfoot Harbour Commissioners Milford Haven Port Authority Port of Mostyn Ltd.
<b>Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies</b>	Natural Resources Wales Joint Nature Conservation Committee
<b>General Lighthouse Authorities</b>	Trinity House
<b>Land owners</b>	The Crown Estate Network Rail The National Trust Oil & Gas Authority

A more complete overview of the main management authorities in Wales, their statutory responsibilities and the legislation and conventions which apply to them is set out in Annex 3.

Management can be carried out by authorities either working individually or collaboratively to achieve shared responsibilities, goals and outcomes for an MPA. A number of management authorities in Wales already work together in this way through Relevant Authority Groups, local advisory committees and local partnerships to support delivery of management at the following MPAs within the network:

- Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC
- Cardigan Bay SAC
- Dee Estuary SAC and SPA
- Pembrokeshire Marine SAC
- Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC and SPA
- Severn Estuary SAC and SPA
- Skomer MCZ

There is also scope for some management authorities to work collaboratively through Public Service Boards<sup>13</sup> to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the Board's area by delivering common management goals.

Management of MPAs takes many forms and can depend upon the type of designation. Some management applies to activities or users across the network, and some management activity is carried out at individual sites. Effective application of strategic and project planning, regulation and assessment processes are the primary mechanisms for MPA management to secure and maintain conservation objectives, prevent negative impacts and damage to features and secure wider benefits for the MPA network.

<sup>13</sup> More information about Public Service Boards and their role is available here: [gov.wales/topics/improvingservices/public-services-boards/?lang=en](https://gov.wales/topics/improvingservices/public-services-boards/?lang=en)

Other examples of MPA management, which lead to improvements in site and feature condition where needed, include:

- Management of unregulated activities;
- Working with landowners through management agreements (e.g. SSSIs);
- Orders to control speed limits (such as at Skomer MCZ), and
- Delivery of management actions at site, multi-site and national level.

## 4.1 Strategic planning

Strategic planning and assessment ultimately aims to optimise the use of available resources, whilst minimising adverse environmental and socio-economic impacts, including those on MPAs. Examples of strategic plans which take account of Welsh MPAs are the Welsh National Marine Plan and the UK Marine Strategy. Strategic plans are also published by government and The Crown Estate for the issue of development rights and seabed leases in connection with sectoral development programmes for offshore oil and gas, renewable energy and aggregate extraction.

### Marine planning

The Welsh National Marine Plan recognises the significance of Welsh seas to the people of Wales and the role they play in supporting well-being. Once adopted, the Marine Plan will set the strategic direction for the sustainable use of Welsh seas. It will guide all decision-making in the marine area aiming to maximise the use of the available marine resource, supporting blue growth, while minimising adverse environmental, social and economic impacts, including those on MPAs. It will also help deliver the UK Marine Strategy.

Decisions which may affect the marine plan area must be made in accordance with the plan (unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise). This requirement includes compliance with a range of environmental policies including policies which protect and seek to enhance ecosystem resilience, in particular:

Draft WNMP policy – ENV\_01: Resilient marine ecosystems:

- Proposals should demonstrate how they contribute to the protection, restoration and/or enhancement of marine ecosystems.

Draft WNMP policy – ENV\_02: Marine Protected Areas:

- Proposals should demonstrate how they:
  - avoid adverse impacts on individual MPAs and the coherence of the network as a whole;
  - have regard to the measures to manage MPAs; and
  - avoid adverse impacts on non-marine designated sites.

### River Basin Management Plans

Prepared by NRW and approved by Welsh Ministers, these Plans outline how water bodies in Wales will meet the requirements of the EU's Water Framework Directive. This includes coastal waters up to one nautical mile. The Water Framework Directive requires Member States to meet other relevant Directives, including the Habitats and Birds Directives. As a result the River Basin Management Plans include measures to bring coastal SACs and SPAs into favourable condition.

## NRW Marine Area Statement

NRW is required to prepare area statements under Section 11 of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) to help facilitate the implementation of the Natural Resources Policy (NRP) and support the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. The first suite of seven area statements is being developed from 2018, with one of these covering the inshore marine area of Wales. The marine and terrestrial area statements will work together for join-up at the land-sea interface, particularly where source and impacts cross the coast. The development of the marine area statement will be driven by the over-arching framework set out through the marine planning process, as highlighted in the NRP, and will also integrate with the aims and intended outcomes of the Framework.

## Sectoral planning

Sectoral development planning in the marine environment is carried out at a large scale, typically national or regional. Sectoral plans are accompanied by assessments which take Welsh MPAs into account. Examples include plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessments published by The Crown Estate in support of their strategic seabed leasing programmes for renewable energy<sup>14</sup> and aggregate extraction. The Oil and Gas Authority publish plans as part of their offshore licensing rounds for the oil and gas industry<sup>15</sup>.

## UK Marine Strategy

The UK Marine Strategy is the UK response to the delivery of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The aim of the Strategy is to move towards achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) across UK seas.

The legislation requires an ecosystem approach to the management of UK seas and this scale integrates well with a network approach to MPA management. The Strategy includes:

- an assessment of the current status of UK seas in relation to the state of the marine environment and pressures;
- a programme of measures to move towards achievement of GES; and
- a monitoring programme to monitor status, change and progress.

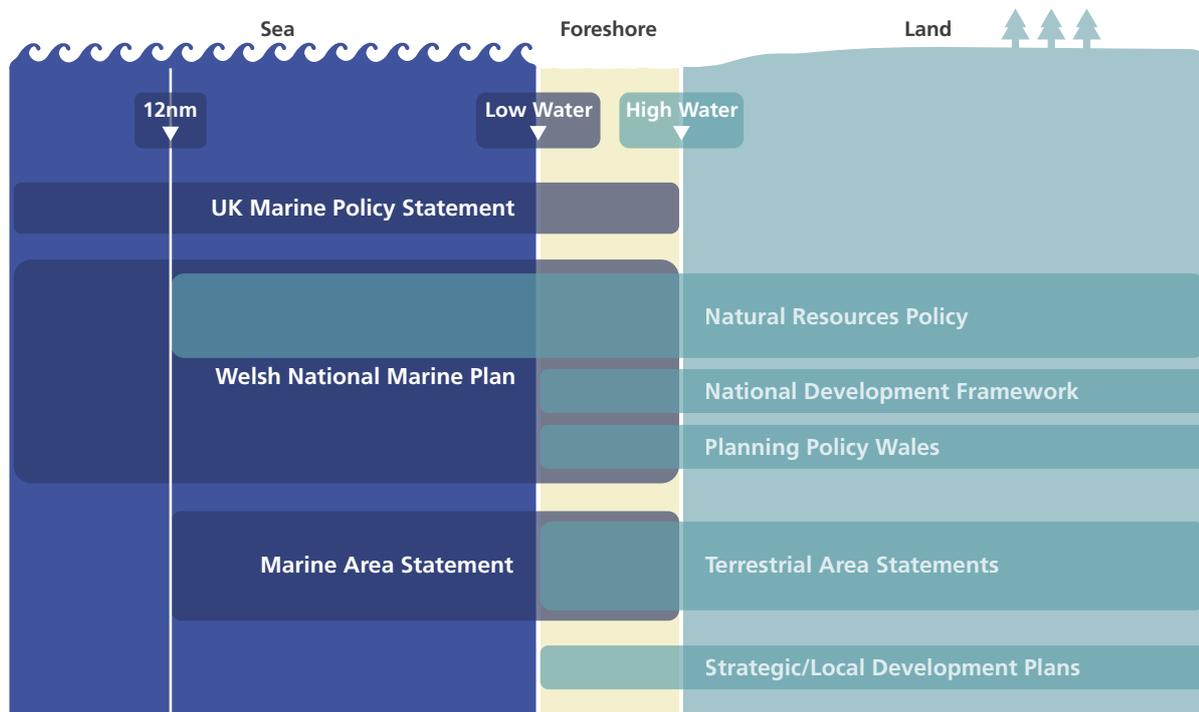
An ecologically coherent and well-managed network of MPAs is a key measure within the UK Marine Strategy. Many of the measures for, and indicators of, GES relate directly to the condition and security of management of the network of MPAs.

<sup>14</sup> [www.thecrownestate.co.uk/energy-minerals-and-infrastructure/offshore-wind-energy/](http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/energy-minerals-and-infrastructure/offshore-wind-energy/)

<sup>15</sup> [www.ogauthority.co.uk/licensing-consents/overview/](http://www.ogauthority.co.uk/licensing-consents/overview/)

Figure 4 sets out the spatial relationship between marine and terrestrial planning systems and natural resource management regimes across land, shore and sea to 12nm and the median line.

**Figure 4: Spatial relationship between marine and terrestrial planning systems**



## 4.2 Regulatory consenting and assessment processes

Many marine developments require careful consideration to understand the effects they may have on MPAs at both the strategic and project level to ensure MPAs are effectively managed and their condition maintained or enhanced. The regulatory regime applies to all types of MPAs (including Ramsar sites, which, as a matter of Welsh Government policy, are treated in the same way as if designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives).

The following text gives a broad overview of the regulatory position but is not intended to provide definitive legal advice.

### Regulatory consenting

Management authorities such as the Welsh Government, NRW and local authorities principally manage MPAs through the regulatory consenting process. Advice is given to developers at an early stage before activities occur. Where necessary the effects of activities are assessed before consents are issued to prevent negative impacts, secure the conservation objectives of MPAs and the wider benefits of the network.

Management authorities have legal duties towards the protection of SSSIs if they are undertaking activities or operations that may affect the features of the site. This duty also applies where authorities are authorising others to undertake activities or operations that may affect an SSSI. NRW must inform landowners and management authorities exactly where every SSSI is, explain why it is protected and provide information about the potentially damaging operations for the site. This information is usually brought together in a Site Management Statement.

There are a range of mechanisms for issuing consents for activities in the marine environment, such as the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) and the Harbours Act (1964). Many activities will require a marine licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009).

Marine licences apply to certain activities proposed within Welsh waters which typically involve the deposit of substances or objects into the sea or onto the sea bed, construction, improvement or alteration works, and any form of dredging. Marine licensing is delivered by NRW on behalf of Welsh Ministers, with approximately 60-70 licence applications determined annually for activities occurring within or near to MPAs in Wales. Where necessary conditions are attached to marine licences to protect the environment, human health and other users of the sea.

Once the Wales National Marine Plan (WNMP) has been adopted, public authorities must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the policies in the plan. This includes those relating to MPAs unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. Public authorities must also have regard to the WNMP in taking any other decision which relates to the exercise of functions capable of affecting the whole or any part of Welsh seas.

### Assessments

Large scale (typically national or regional) development plans and programmes are usually subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This is the process of appraisal through which environmental protection and sustainable development considerations are factored into Government (and other) plans and programmes. High-level plans, such as the Marine Plan, and individual project proposals may also be subject to the requirement to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (or similar for MCZs) before consent can be given.

A large range of activities are assessed and managed in this way, including (but not limited to):

- Port development
- Gas storage
- Marine energy such as offshore wind and tidal stream
- Coastal development
- Coastal defence
- Aggregate extraction
- Cable laying
- Oil and Gas
- Discharges

Projects requiring an EIA will produce an Environmental Statement of the implications of the project, which will typically include the information necessary to allow a regulator to undertake an HRA (or similar for MCZs) before any development can be approved.

The purpose of the HRA process is to prevent significant adverse effects of an activity on the integrity of SACs and SPAs. Depending on the outcome of these assessments, mitigation and/or compensatory measures may be required before a development can be approved.

If it is not possible to avoid a significant adverse effect of a project on any site, the project may only proceed if:

- there are no alternatives that are better from an environmental perspective;
- the project is of overriding public interest; and
- compensatory measures are secured to ensure the coherence of the MPA network.

A similar process of assessment is required for MCZs in line with the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009). Here management authorities have a duty to consider and assess the effect of proposed activities on MCZs when deciding whether to authorise them.

Activities should also be considered for compliance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The assessment should identify if the activity may have an impact on the objectives in the water body it is located, or any hydrologically linked water bodies. Many estuarine and coastal WFD waterbodies in Wales overlap with our MPAs.

### 4.3 Management advice and guidance

Management advice and guidance comes in a number of forms including advice for developers, for management authorities and other marine users.

These include:

- **The Welsh National Marine Plan**, which will set the strategic direction for the use of Welsh seas, providing the overall context for managing marine activities in a sustainable way. Information supporting the marine planning process is available through the Wales Marine Planning Portal<sup>16</sup>, which contains online maps showing the distribution of human activities and natural resources in Welsh seas.
- **Conservation objectives and advice**<sup>17</sup>: NRW provides conservation objectives and advice on operations for Welsh SACs and SPAs within 12 nautical miles of the coast. NRW and Natural England (NE) work together to provide this information for cross-border sites. JNCC produces similar information for offshore sites. SSSIs have a Site Management Statement (SMS) prepared by NRW which informs the land owner/occupier of the aspirations for the site and information on potentially damaging operations.
- **Core management plans**: Developed primarily for terrestrial SACs, these plans contain management requirements for the SACs at the coast which support marine features. Where relevant these plans also contain management requirements for overlapping SSSIs.
- **Management schemes**: Five Special Areas of Conservation have developed management schemes under Regulation 38 of the Habitats Regulations 2017. These plans contain information on the sites, their features and actions to improve condition.
- **Codes of conduct**: These have been developed by sectors or areas and contain advice to sea users and the general public on what they should do to safeguard the features of a site e.g. the RYA boating code, the code of conduct for divers at Skomer MCZ and the Gwynedd marine code.

In March 2018 the JNCC published updated conservation advice<sup>18</sup> for the majority of UK offshore benthic habitat MPAs, including those in Welsh offshore waters<sup>19</sup>. These advice packages provide:

- Conservation objectives for the sites;
- JNCC's view of the site's condition, the conservation benefits it can provide and the conservation measures which, in JNCC's view, are required to ensure the site achieves its conservation objectives;
- Supplementary Advice on the Conservation Objectives where JNCC sets out the important ecological characteristics of the feature which need to be conserved, and includes more detailed advice and site-specific information on these; and
- Advice on operations which sets out advice on how human activities can impact the feature within the site and therefore achievement of the site's conservation objectives.

<sup>16</sup> [lle.gov.wales/apps/marineportal/](http://lle.gov.wales/apps/marineportal/)

<sup>17</sup> [naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/conservation-advice-for-european-marine-sites/?lang=en](http://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/conservation-advice-for-european-marine-sites/?lang=en), [jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SAS\\_Conservation\\_Objectives\\_and\\_Reg\\_18\\_Irish\\_Sea\\_Front.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SAS_Conservation_Objectives_and_Reg_18_Irish_Sea_Front.pdf) and [jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/CCSSAC\\_ConservationObjectives\\_AdviceonOperations.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/CCSSAC_ConservationObjectives_AdviceonOperations.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6849](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6849)

<sup>19</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6530](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6530)

There is also a wide variety of other information produced to inform the management of sites, including guidance on specific activities and Natura 2000 standard data forms. Links to further information and guidance are set out in Annex 2.

#### 4.4 Understanding the condition of sites and their features to inform management

Information on the condition of features, trends and factors affecting pressures (where they exist) at the site level is important for site management. There are significant amounts of data available, such as the Water Framework Directive transitional and coastal waters surveillance programme, the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme<sup>20</sup>, the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) 2016<sup>21</sup> and wider monitoring of the marine area. Sharing this information allows management authorities and others to:

- undertake assessments of plans and projects;
- prioritise resources;
- inform the development of management measures to improve the condition of features; and
- evaluate the effectiveness of management measures.

In January 2018 NRW published indicative feature-level site condition reports<sup>22</sup> for all inshore SACs and SPAs with marine features. The reports concluded the current condition of inshore sites within the Welsh MPA network is variable and provide evidence of the relationship between some activities and feature condition. These reports indicated the network of MPAs is able to support significant populations of seabirds and marine mammals in favourable condition, as well as a variety of seabed species and habitats. The key findings from the reports are:

- 46% of all features in Wales were assessed as in favourable condition, with the majority assessed with high confidence.
- 54% of features in Wales were assessed as in unfavourable condition, with around half assessed with high confidence.
- All marine mammal features, including bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and otter, were assessed as being in favourable condition.
- Water quality issues, pollution, unregulated activities and invasive non-native species were identified as key pressures on feature condition.

#### 4.5 Wider management

Wider management activities focus on action to understand and where necessary remove pressures which will help in improving the condition of the network. This can include management of unregulated activities, delivery of local management actions, targeted awareness-raising and the control and management of invasive non-native species. Actions can be carried out at the local, multi-site, national and international levels<sup>23</sup>.

There are many examples of how activities are being managed in Wales to avoid impacts on MPA features, whilst allowing for access to and enjoyment of seas and wildlife. Many of these management activities are delivered by management authorities working collaboratively, according to the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015), such as through Relevant Authority Groups.

<sup>20</sup> [www.zsl.org/science/research/uk-cetacean-strandings-investigation-programme-csip](http://www.zsl.org/science/research/uk-cetacean-strandings-investigation-programme-csip)

<sup>21</sup> [naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/the-state-of-natural-resources-report-assessment-of-the-sustainable-management-of-natural-resources/?lang=en](http://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/the-state-of-natural-resources-report-assessment-of-the-sustainable-management-of-natural-resources/?lang=en)

<sup>22</sup> [naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/indicative-feature-condition-assessments-for-european-marine-sites-ems/?lang=en](http://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/indicative-feature-condition-assessments-for-european-marine-sites-ems/?lang=en)

<sup>23</sup> For example through the IMO International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment, which helps control the introduction of invasive non-native species: [www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Control-and-Management-of-Ships'-Ballast-Water-and-Sediments-\(BWM\).aspx](http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Control-and-Management-of-Ships'-Ballast-Water-and-Sediments-(BWM).aspx)

Examples of this type of management activity undertaken in Wales include:

- public education and general awareness raising of MPAs e.g. school visits, beach cleans and shore safaris;
- local engagement with stakeholders on plans and developments;
- zoning of activities to reduce impacts e.g. visitor moorings and bait digging codes of conduct;
- provision of signage, e.g. information boards and exclusion notices relating to marine protected areas;
- assessment of local pressures e.g. assessment of recreational boating;
- working with stakeholders to tackle local issues e.g. litter projects and projects targeted at specific features and locations; and
- monitoring compliance with codes of conduct.

### **NRW's MPA Condition Improvement Project**

In 2016 NRW started work with partners on the MPA Condition Improvement Project (CIP). The project builds upon the marine outputs of the LIFE N2K Programme for Wales (2012 to 2015) which developed a strategic forward plan setting out the requirements for the management and restoration of the MPA network in Wales. The overarching purpose of the Programme was to enable Wales to make significant progress towards bringing habitats and species into favourable condition. It focused on inshore SACs and SPAs which are core components of the network of MPAs in Wales.

Five work areas have been identified focusing on activities which will deliver maximum impact on the condition of the network. The five work areas are:

- Access and Recreation – e.g. damage to habitats or disturbance of species;
- Water management and issues – e.g. coastal squeeze, flood and coastal erosion risk management;
- Pollution and waste – e.g. marine litter and diffuse water pollution;
- Marine fisheries – e.g. potting and netting activities; and
- Invasive species – e.g. marine non-native species.

## Section 5

# Improving the management and condition of the network of Marine Protected Areas in Wales

To improve the management and condition of the network of MPAs across Wales the MPA Management Steering Group will, on an annual basis, identify the key management actions in the form of a MPA Management Action Plan. The Plan provides a focus for management authorities on actions which can lead to further improvements in the management, and hence condition, of the network of MPAs in Wales.

The management actions will contribute to at least one of the five management principles set out in Section 3:

- MP1 – Strategic Planning
- MP2 – Regulation, development consenting and assessment processes
- MP3 – Management advice and guidance
- MP4 – Understanding the condition of sites and their features to inform management
- MP5 – Wider management

The MPA Management Steering Group will maintain close links between the MPA Network Action Plan and actions which are agreed and delivered at a local level. The local actions will be reviewed annually to consider whether the outcomes have any wider applicability across the network of MPAs in Wales.

The MPA Management Steering Group will provide advice on which management authority or authorities are best placed to deliver the management actions captured in the Action Plan. Depending on the management action, delivery may be taken forward individually or in collaboration with other management authorities. Some management authorities already choose to work in this way through Relevant Authority Groups, which is in keeping with the spirit of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015).

Responsibility for the governance of the Framework and Action Plan lies with the MPA Management Steering Group. The MPA Management Steering Group is made up of representatives from the main management authorities in Wales who have responsibilities across the network of MPAs in Wales, and is therefore best placed to provide oversight and steer in the development, review and delivery of the Framework and Action Plan.

The MPA Network Management Action Plan will be reviewed, updated and prioritised<sup>24</sup> on an annual basis using information from a variety of sources including the MPA Condition Improvement Project, local site officer knowledge and information on feature condition. Action Plans and progress reports will be disseminated to a wider group of stakeholders through MPA Management Steering Group member's networks, the Wales Marine Advisory and Action Group and the Welsh Government's website. The Framework will be reviewed in full in alignment with the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) reporting cycle in 2023.

<sup>24</sup> Details of the prioritisation process are set out in Annex 2 of the Action Plan.

# Annex 1

## Lists of species and habitats protected at each Marine Protected Area in Wales

Special Area of Conservation	Marine Feature
<b>Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay</b>	Reefs
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time
	Large shallow inlets and bays
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves
<b>Dee Estuary / Aber Dyfrdwy</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>
	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
	Annual vegetation of drift lines
	Estuaries
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
<b>Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau / Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau</b>	Coastal lagoons
	Estuaries
	Large shallow inlets and bays
	Reefs
	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time

Special Area of Conservation	Marine Feature
<b>(Continued)</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves
	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
<b>Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries / Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>
	Estuaries
	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	Large shallow inlets and bays
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>	
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	
<b>Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol</b>	Reefs
	Estuaries
	Large shallow inlets and bays

Special Area of Conservation	Marine Feature
<b>(Continued)</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>
	Coastal lagoons
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves
	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
	Shore dock <i>Rumex rupestris</i>
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	
<b>Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion</b>	Reefs
	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves
	Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	
<b>Severn Estuary / Môr Hafren</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>
	Estuaries
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

Special Area of Conservation	Marine Feature
<b>(Continued)</b>	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time
	Reefs
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
<b>Kenfig / Cynffig</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>
<b>Glannau Môn: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>
	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Estuaries
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
<b>Bae Cemlyn / Cemlyn Bay</b>	Coastal lagoons
<b>Limestone Coast of South West Wales / Arfordir Calchfaen de Orllewin Cymru</b>	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

Site of Community Importance <sup>25</sup>	Marine Feature
<b>North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Môn Forol</b>	Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
<b>West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol</b>	Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
<b>Bristol Channel Approaches / Dynesfeydd Môr Hafren</b>	Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
<b>Croker Carbonate Slabs</b>	Submarine structures made by leaking gases

<sup>25</sup> For management purposes these are managed as if already designated.

Special Protection Area	Marine Feature
<p><b>The Dee Estuary</b></p>	<p>Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>  Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>  Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>  Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>  Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>  Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>  Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>  Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>  Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>  Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>  Great cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>  Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>  Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>  Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>  Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvichensis</i>  Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>  Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i></p>
<p><b>Bae Caerfyrddin / Carmarthen Bay</b></p>	<p>Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i></p>
<p><b>Burry Inlet</b></p>	<p>Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>  Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>  Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>  Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>  Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>  Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>  Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>  Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>  Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>  Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>  Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i></p>

Special Protection Area	Marine Feature
<b>Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl</b>	Red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> Little gull <i>Larus minutus</i> Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>
<b>Severn Estuary</b>	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas Penelope</i> Ring plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
<b>Traeth Lafan / Lavan Sands, Conway Bay</b>	Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
<b>Grassholm</b>	Gannet <i>Morus Bassanus</i>
<b>Skomer, Skokholm and the seas off Pembrokeshire / Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Benfro</b>	Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> Storm petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
<b>Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli / Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island</b>	Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
<b>Northern Cardigan Bay / Gogledd Bae Ceredigion</b>	Red throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>

Special Protection Area	Marine Feature
<b>Anglesey Terns / Morwenoliaid Ynys Môn</b>	Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
<b>Irish Sea Front</b>	Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
<b>Dyfi Estuary</b>	Greenland white-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>

Ramsar sites	Marine Feature
<b>The Dee Estuary</b>	Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
<b>Burry Inlet</b>	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>
<b>Severn Estuary</b>	Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>

Ramsar sites	Marine Feature
(Continued)	Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>

Marine Conservation Zone	Marine Feature
Skomer / Sgomer	TBD

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
Aber Afon Conwy / Conwy Estuary	Estuaries
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
Aber Mawddach / Mawddach Estuary	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	Inter-tidal
	Salt-marsh
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Sheltered mud

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Aber Taf / Taf Estuary</b>	Salt-marsh
	Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
<b>Aberarth – Carreg Wylan</b>	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs An amphipod <i>Pectenogammarus planicrurus</i>
<b>Afon Dyfrdwy / River Dee</b>	Salt-marsh
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
	European smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
<b>Afon Teifi</b>	Inter-tidal
	Salt-marsh
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>(Continued)</b>	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
<b>Afon Tywi</b>	Salt-marsh
	Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
<b>Allt Wen a Traeth Tanybwllch</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	An amphipod <i>Pectenogammarus planicrurus</i>
<b>Arfordir Abereiddi</b>	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Silled saline lagoon
<b>Arfordir Gogleddol Penmon</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Arfordir Marros – Pentwyn / Marros – Pendine Coast</b>	Exposed sand
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Arfordir Niwgwl – Aber bach / Newgale to Little Haven Coast</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Surge gullies
	Under-boulders

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Arfordir Pen-bre / Pembrey Coast</b>	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>
	Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
	Salt-marsh
	Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	Exposed sand
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
<b>Arfordir Penrhyn Angle / Angle Peninsula Coast</b>	A red seaweed <i>Gigartina pistillata</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders
<b>Arfordir Saundersfoot – Telpyn / Saundersfoot – Telpyn Coast</b>	Exposed sand
	Rockpools
<b>Beddmanarch – Cymyran</b>	Common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
	Common greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>
	Inter-tidal
	Salt-marsh
	Eel grass
	Muddy gravel
	Sheltered mud

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
(Continued)	Tide-swept algae
Blackpill, Swansea	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>
	Common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
	Muddy gravel
Borth – Clarach	Moderately exposed rock
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
Bracelet Bay	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
Broadwater	Salt-marsh
	Isolated saline lagoon
Burry Inlet and Loughor Estuary	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
	Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>
	Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>
	Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
	Ruddy turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>
	Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>
	Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
	Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
	European golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
	Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
	Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
	Salt-marsh
Eel grass	

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>(Continued)</b>	Mixed substrata
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Sheltered mud
	A bristleworm <i>Ophelia bicornis</i>
<b>Castlemartin Cliffs and Dunes</b>	A red seaweed <i>Gigartina pistillata</i>
	Exposed rock
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Caswell Bay</b>	Moderately exposed rock
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Cemlyn Bay</b>	Percolation saline lagoon
<b>Coedydd Afon Menai</b>	Chalk and very soft rock
<b>Craig Ddu – Wharley Point Cliffs</b>	Assemblage of RDB and/or Nationally Scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
<b>Craigyfulfran &amp; Clarach</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Creigiau Aberarth – Morfa</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Creigiau Cwm – Ceirw a Ffos-las (Morfa Bychan)</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Creigiau Llansteffan – Llanstephan Cliffs</b>	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
<b>Creigiau Pen y graig</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Creigiau Rhiwledyn / Little Ormes Head</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
<b>Crymlyn Burrows</b>	Salt-marsh
<b>Cynffig / Kenfig</b>	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Dale and South Marloes Coast</b>	A red seaweed <i>Gigartina pistillata</i>
	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Chalk and very soft rock
	Exposed rock
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
<b>De Porth Sain Ffraidd / St Bride's Bay South</b>	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Dee Estuary / Aber Afon Dyfrdwy</b>	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
	Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>
	Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>
	Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>
	Common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
	Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
	Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>
	Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>
	Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
	Great cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
	Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
	Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
	Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>
	Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
	Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	Salt-marsh
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
	European smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>
Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	
Estuaries	
Moderately exposed sand	

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>(Continued)</b>	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	A bristleworm <i>Ophelia bicornis</i>
	Thumbnail crab <i>Thia scutellata</i>
<b>Dyfi</b>	Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
	Breeding bird assemblage on sand-dunes and saltmarshes
	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	Inter-tidal
	Salt-marsh
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Estuaries
	Moderately exposed sand
	Muddy gravel
Sheltered mud	
<b>East Aberthaw Coast</b>	Rockpools
	Under-boulders
	A flatworm <i>Convoluta roscoffensis</i>
<b>Flat Holm</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Freshwater East Cliffs to Skrinkle Haven</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	An amphipod <i>Pectenogammarus planicrurus</i>

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Glanllynnau a Glannau Pen-ychain i Gricieth</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Mixed substrata
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
<b>Glannau Aberdaron</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
<b>Glannau Penmon – Biwmares</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Mixed substrata
	Muddy gravel
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders
<b>Glannau Porthaethwy</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Mixed substrata
	Muddy gravel
	Rockpools
	Sheltered rock
	Tide-swept algae

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Glannau Rhoscolyn</b>	Inter-tidal
	Salt-marsh
	Eel grass
	Exposed rock
<b>Glannau Tonfanau i Friog</b>	Mixed substrata
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Glannau Ynys Gybi / Holy Island Coast</b>	Inter-tidal
	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Under-boulders
	A sponge <i>Stryphus ponderosus</i>
<b>Glaslyn</b>	Salt-marsh
<b>Gower Coast: Rhossili to Port Eynon</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Grassholm / Ynys Gwales</b>	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Exposed rock
<b>Gronant Dunes and Talacre Warren</b>	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>
	Great cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
	Inter-tidal
	Salt-marsh
	Exposed sand

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Gwydir Bay</b>	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Hook Wood</b>	Salt-marsh
<b>Horton, Eastern and Western Slade</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Lydstep Head to Tenby Burrows</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
<b>Merthyr Mawr</b>	Salt-marsh
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Milford Haven Waterway</b>	Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>
	Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>
	Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
	Little grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
	Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
	Salt-marsh
	European smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Eel grass
	Mixed substrata
	Moderately exposed rock
Moderately exposed sand	
Muddy gravel	

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>(Continued)</b>	Rockpools
	Sheltered mud
	Sheltered rock
	Silled saline lagoon
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders
	Tentacled lagoon worm <i>Alkmaria romijni</i>
	An amphipod <i>Gammarus chevreuxi</i>
<b>Monknash Coast</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Morfa Dinlle</b>	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
<b>Morfa Dyffryn</b>	Salt-marsh
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Morfa Harlech</b>	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
	Breeding bird assemblage on sand-dunes and saltmarshes
	Salt-marsh
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Exposed sand
	Moderately exposed sand
	Muddy gravel
<b>Morfa Uchaf, Dyffryn Conwy</b>	Salt-marsh
<b>Mynydd Penarfynnydd</b>	Rockpools

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd a'r Glannau at Garreg yr Imbill</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Muddy gravel
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	An amphipod <i>Pectenogammarus planicrurus</i>
<b>Newborough Warren – Ynys Llanddwyn</b>	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
	Salt-marsh
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
	A bristleworm <i>Ophelia bicornis</i>
<b>Newport Cliffs</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Oxwich Bay</b>	Salt-marsh
	Exposed sand
<b>Pen y Gogarth / Great Ormes Head</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
<b>Pennard Valley</b>	Salt-marsh

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Penarth Coast</b>	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
<b>Penrhynoedd Llangadwaladr</b>	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders
<b>Porth Ceiriad, Porth Neigwl ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Tide-swept algae
	A sponge <i>Stelletta grubi</i>
<b>Porth Dinllaen i Borth Pistyll</b>	Eel grass
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
<b>Porth Towyn i Borth Wen</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
<b>Puffin Island – Ynys Seiriol</b>	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
<b>Pwll-Du Head and Bishopston Valley</b>	Under-boulders

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Ramsey / Ynys Dewi</b>	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Surge gullies
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders
	A sponge <i>Thymosia guernei</i>
<b>Rhossili Down</b>	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
<b>Rhosneigr Reefs</b>	Inter-tidal
	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Under-boulders
<b>Severn Estuary</b>	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
	Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>
	Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>
	Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>
	Common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
	Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>
	Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
	European golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
	Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>(Continued)</b>	Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	Salt-marsh
	Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	European eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>
	Eel grass
	Estuaries
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Tide-swept algae
	<b>Skokholm</b>
<b>Skomer Island and Middleholm</b>	An amphipod <i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>
	A sea slug <i>Tenellia adspersa</i>
	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
<b>Skomer Island and Middleholm</b>	Tide-swept algae
	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Exposed rock
	Surge gullies

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Southerndown Coast</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>St. David's Peninsula Coast</b>	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
<b>St. Margaret's Island</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
<b>Stackpole Quay – Trewent Point</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Stackpole</b>	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Strumble Head – Llechdafad Cliffs</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed sand
	Surge gullies

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Sully Island</b>	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>
	Common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
	Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Tenby Cliffs and St. Catherine's Island</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed sand
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>The Offshore Islets of Pembrokeshire / Ynysoedd Glannau Penfro</b>	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Exposed rock
<b>The Skerries</b>	Rockpools
<b>Tiroedd a Glannau Rhwng Cricieth ac Afon Glaslyn</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Eel grass
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Traeth Lafan</b>	Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
	Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>
	Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	Eel grass
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
Traeth Llanon	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
Traeth Lligwy	Rockpools
Twyni Chwitffordd, Morfa Landimor a Bae Brychdwn / Whiteford Burrows etc	Common oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
	Salt-marsh
	Eel grass
	Exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
Twyni Lacharn – Pentwyn / Laugharne – Pendine Burrows	European golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Exposed sand
	Moderately exposed sand
Ty Croes	Rockpools
	Surge gullies
Tywyn Aberffraw	Salt-marsh
	An amphipod <i>Gammarus chevreuxi</i>
Waterwynch Bay to Saundersfoot Harbour	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Tide-swept algae

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
<b>Wig Bach a'r Glannau i Borth Alwm</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Surge gullies
<b>Y Foryd</b>	Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
	Eel grass
<b>Ynys Enlli</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Under-boulders
<b>Ynys Feurig</b>	Rockpools
	Under-boulders
<b>Ynysoedd y Gwylanod – Gwylan Islands</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Surge gullies

# Annex 2

## Further information and guidance for management authorities

### Legislation and Conventions

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009<sup>26</sup>

EU Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora<sup>27</sup>

EU Directive on the conservation of wild birds<sup>28</sup>

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>29</sup>

The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>30</sup>

Harbours Act (1964)<sup>31</sup>

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (the Ramsar Convention)<sup>32</sup>

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)<sup>33</sup>

Environment (Wales) Act 2016<sup>34</sup>

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015<sup>35</sup>

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the OSPAR Convention)<sup>36</sup>

Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)<sup>37</sup>

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention)<sup>38</sup>

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the Bonn Convention)<sup>39</sup>

<sup>26</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/pdfs/ukpga\\_20090023\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/pdfs/ukpga_20090023_en.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN)

<sup>28</sup> [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147&from=EN)

<sup>29</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made)

<sup>30</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1013/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1013/contents/made)

<sup>31</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1964/40/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1964/40/contents)

<sup>32</sup> [portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=15398&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=15398&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

<sup>33</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69)

<sup>34</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted)

<sup>35</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted)

<sup>36</sup> [www.ospar.org/convention](http://www.ospar.org/convention)

<sup>37</sup> [www.ascobans.org/en/documents/agreement-text](http://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/agreement-text)

<sup>38</sup> [www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/104](http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/104)

<sup>39</sup> [www.cms.int/en/convention-text](http://www.cms.int/en/convention-text)

## Guidance on interpretation of Articles 6.3 and 6.4 of the 'Habitats Directive'

Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>40</sup>

Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC: clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission<sup>41</sup>

### Conservation advice

Conservation Advice Packages provided under Regulation 37 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>42</sup>

Conservation Advice Packages provided under Regulation 21 of the Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017:

Croker Carbonate Slabs SCI conservation advice<sup>43</sup>

Irish Sea Front SPA draft conservation advice<sup>44</sup>

Further information on offshore conservation advice<sup>45</sup>

Draft Conservation Objectives for Harbour Porpoise candidate Special Areas of Conservation:

[naturalresources.wales/media/681291/n-anglesey-draft-objectives-advice.pdf](https://naturalresources.wales/media/681291/n-anglesey-draft-objectives-advice.pdf)<sup>46</sup>

[naturalresources.wales/media/681439/w-wales-marine-objectives-advice.pdf](https://naturalresources.wales/media/681439/w-wales-marine-objectives-advice.pdf)<sup>47</sup>

[naturalresources.wales/media/679449/bristolchannelapproachesconservationobjectivesandadviceonactivities.pdf](https://naturalresources.wales/media/679449/bristolchannelapproachesconservationobjectivesandadviceonactivities.pdf)<sup>48</sup>

### Site information

Links to SAC information and standard data forms<sup>49</sup>

Links to SPA information and standard data forms<sup>50</sup>

Link to site information centres for offshore MPAs<sup>51</sup>

<sup>40</sup> [ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura\\_2000\\_assess\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> [ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/new\\_guidance\\_art6\\_4\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/new_guidance_art6_4_en.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> [naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/conservation-advice-for-european-marine-sites/?lang=en](https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/conservation-advice-for-european-marine-sites/?lang=en)

<sup>43</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6530](https://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6530)

<sup>44</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4565](https://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4565)

<sup>45</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6849](https://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6849)

<sup>46</sup> [naturalresources.wales/media/681291/n-anglesey-draft-objectives-advice.pdf](https://naturalresources.wales/media/681291/n-anglesey-draft-objectives-advice.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> [naturalresources.wales/media/681439/w-wales-marine-objectives-advice.pdf](https://naturalresources.wales/media/681439/w-wales-marine-objectives-advice.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> [naturalresources.wales/media/679449/bristolchannelapproachesconservationobjectivesandadviceonactivities.pdf](https://naturalresources.wales/media/679449/bristolchannelapproachesconservationobjectivesandadviceonactivities.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/SAC\\_list.asp?Country=W](https://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/SAC_list.asp?Country=W)

<sup>50</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1403](https://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1403)

<sup>51</sup> [jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6895](https://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6895)

Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC Core Management Plan<sup>52</sup>

Cardigan Bay SAC Management Scheme<sup>53</sup>

Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries Site Management Scheme<sup>54</sup>

Cemlyn Bay SAC Core Management Plan<sup>55</sup>

Dee Estuary Site Improvement Plan<sup>56</sup>

Kenfig SAC Core Management Plan<sup>57</sup>

Limestone Coast of South West Wales SAC Core Management Plan<sup>58</sup>

Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Management Plan and Action Plan<sup>59</sup>

Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC Management Plan and Action Plan<sup>60</sup>

Severn Estuary Relevant Authority Action Plans<sup>61</sup>

## Reports

2014 Report to the National Assembly for Wales on Marine Protected Areas in Wales published under Section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)<sup>62</sup>

Charting Progress 2: The State of UK Seas<sup>63</sup>

## Monitoring

2018 Indicative feature level site conditions reports for SACs and SPAs produced by Natural Resources Wales<sup>64</sup>

<sup>52</sup> [www.naturalresources.wales/media/670652/Abermenai%20to%20Aberffraw%20Dunes%20WES32%20plan.pdf](http://www.naturalresources.wales/media/670652/Abermenai%20to%20Aberffraw%20Dunes%20WES32%20plan.pdf)

<sup>53</sup> [www.cardiganbaysac.org.uk/?page\\_id=18](http://www.cardiganbaysac.org.uk/?page_id=18)

<sup>54</sup> [english.cbeems.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/CBE-EMS-MS\\_wkg-draft-Jan2013\\_en.pdf](http://english.cbeems.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/CBE-EMS-MS_wkg-draft-Jan2013_en.pdf)

<sup>55</sup> [naturalresources.wales/media/671214/Cemlyn%20WES32%20plan%20English.pdf](http://naturalresources.wales/media/671214/Cemlyn%20WES32%20plan%20English.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> [publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6579320399069184](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6579320399069184)

<sup>57</sup> [www.naturalresources.wales/media/672610/Kenfig%20SAC%20management%20plan%2021.4.08%20English.pdf](http://www.naturalresources.wales/media/672610/Kenfig%20SAC%20management%20plan%2021.4.08%20English.pdf)

<sup>58</sup> [www.naturalresources.wales/media/672656/Limestone%20Coast%20of%20South%20West%20Wales%20English.pdf](http://www.naturalresources.wales/media/672656/Limestone%20Coast%20of%20South%20West%20Wales%20English.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> [www.pembrokeshiremarinesac.org.uk/english/manage/man\\_c.htm](http://www.pembrokeshiremarinesac.org.uk/english/manage/man_c.htm)

<sup>60</sup> [www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk/download.aspx?file=documents\Management\\_Plan\\_English.pdf](http://www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk/download.aspx?file=documents\Management_Plan_English.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> [www.asera.org.uk/management-scheme/action-plans/](http://www.asera.org.uk/management-scheme/action-plans/)

<sup>62</sup> [gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/150518-marine-protected-areas-report-to-national-assembly.pdf](http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/150518-marine-protected-areas-report-to-national-assembly.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> [webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141203170558/http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141203170558/http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/)

<sup>64</sup> [naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/indicative-feature-condition-assessments-for-european-marine-sites-ems/?lang=en](http://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/indicative-feature-condition-assessments-for-european-marine-sites-ems/?lang=en)

## General guidance

NRW monthly funding update leaflet for stakeholders<sup>65</sup>

Wales Marine Planning Portal<sup>66</sup>

Guidance for the development and management of the OSPAR network<sup>67</sup>

Marine Invasive Non-native Species Priority Monitoring and Surveillance List for Wales<sup>68</sup>

Guidance to Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land owners and occupiers<sup>69</sup>

British Marine Aggregates Producers Association & Crown Estate Good Practice guidance on dredging of aggregates<sup>70</sup>

<sup>65</sup> [naturalresources.wales/about-us/funding/?lang=en](https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/funding/?lang=en)

<sup>66</sup> [lle.gov.wales/apps/marineportal/](https://lle.gov.wales/apps/marineportal/)

<sup>67</sup> [www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/marine-protected-areas/guidance-for-the-development-and-management-of-the-ospar-network](https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/marine-protected-areas/guidance-for-the-development-and-management-of-the-ospar-network)

<sup>68</sup> [gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/180122-marine-invasive-non-native-species-priority-list-monitoring-surveillance-en.pdf](https://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/180122-marine-invasive-non-native-species-priority-list-monitoring-surveillance-en.pdf)

<sup>69</sup> [naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/guidance-to-site-of-special-scientific-interest-sssi-land-owners-and-occupiers/?lang=en](https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/guidance-to-site-of-special-scientific-interest-sssi-land-owners-and-occupiers/?lang=en)

<sup>70</sup> [www.bmapa.org/documents/BMAPA\\_TCE\\_Good\\_Practice\\_Guidance\\_04.2017.pdf](https://www.bmapa.org/documents/BMAPA_TCE_Good_Practice_Guidance_04.2017.pdf)

# Annex 3

## Management Authorities in Wales<sup>71</sup>

Type of Management Authority	Statutory Responsibilities	Relevant Legislation and Conventions
<p><b>Local Authorities:</b></p> <p>Monmouthshire County Council  Newport City Council  Cardiff County Council  Vale of Glamorgan County Council  Bridgend County Borough Council  City and County of Swansea  Carmarthenshire County Council  Pembrokeshire County Council  Ceredigion County Council  Powys County Council  Gwynedd County Council  Anglesey County Council  Conwy County Borough Council  Denbighshire County Council  Flintshire County Council</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Landowner (some areas of foreshore).</li> <li>2. Management of (non-permissible) development (down to the Low Water Mark).</li> <li>3. Management of recreation activities (within their area of geographical and organisational responsibility).</li> <li>4. Planning authority (interface between marine and terrestrial).</li> <li>5. Provision of coastal defence and strategic planning.</li> <li>6. Provision and management of public access (coastal paths).</li> <li>7. Beach management and maintenance.</li> <li>8. Waste management.</li> <li>9. Make authorisations and enforcement decisions in line with the Welsh National Marine Plan.</li> </ol>	<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)</p> <p>Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)</p> <p>The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015)</p> <p>Environment (Wales) Act (2016)</p> <p>Planning (Wales) Act (2015)</p>

<sup>71</sup> Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of management authorities with statutory responsibilities to manage the MPA network. Organisations should check against the relevant sections of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for more detailed information.

Type of Management Authority	Statutory Responsibilities	Relevant Legislation and Conventions
<p><b>National Park Authorities:</b></p> <p>Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Snowdonia National Park Authority</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Management of recreation activities (within area of responsibility).</li> <li>2. Planning authority (interface between marine and terrestrial).</li> <li>3. Make authorisations and enforcement decisions in line with the Welsh National Marine Plan.</li> </ol>	<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)</p> <p>Environment Act (1995)</p> <p>Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)</p> <p>The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015)</p> <p>Environment (Wales) Act (2016)</p>
<p><b>Port and Harbour Authorities:</b></p> <p>Gloucester Harbour Trustees Newport Harbour Commissioners ABP Newport ABP Cardiff Saundersfoot Harbour Commissioners Milford Haven Port Authority Port of Mostyn Ltd.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A general duty to exercise their functions with regard to nature conservation and other related environmental considerations.</li> <li>2. An obligation, where a Special Protection Area for Birds or a Special Area of Conservation has been designated under the Wild Birds or Habitats Directives, to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive so far as they may be affected by the exercise of those functions.</li> <li>3. Preparation and implementation of harbour waste management plans.</li> <li>4. Dredging and maintenance of navigational channels.</li> <li>5. Manage access restrictions, speeds, and general activities within Harbour Authority's area of jurisdiction.</li> </ol>	<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)</p> <p>Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)</p> <p>Harbours Act (1964)</p> <p>Environment (Wales) Act (2016)</p>

Type of Management Authority	Statutory Responsibilities	Relevant Legislation and Conventions
<p><b>Water and Sewerage Undertakers:</b></p> <p>Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water</p>	<p>In exercising its functions, water and sewerage undertakers must, for example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have regard to the Habitats and Birds Directives.</li> <li>2. Try to further, or at least not hinder, the conservation objectives of MCZs.</li> <li>3. Maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.</li> <li>4. Further the conservation and enhancement of flora, fauna or geological or physiological features of SSSIs.</li> </ol>	<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)</p> <p>Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)</p> <p>Environment (Wales ) Act (2016)</p> <p>Water Industry Act (1991)</p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)</p>
<p><b>National Government:</b></p> <p>The Welsh Government</p> <p>UK Government – Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy</p> <p>UK Government – Ministry of Defence</p> <p>UK Government – Department for Transport</p>	<p><b>The Welsh Government</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overall responsibility for Wales’ compliance with EU and international obligations towards MPAs in the Welsh inshore region (0-12 nautical miles).</li> <li>2. Designation of MPAs (excluding SSSIs).</li> <li>3. Provides the overall MPA management policy framework, which is to secure effective management of MPAs in Wales that ultimately improves condition of our MPAs by assisting with the delivery of MPA management actions, safeguarding marine biodiversity, the wider ecosystem and the socio-economic benefits for Wales.</li> <li>4. Management and regulation of sea fisheries in Welsh waters (inshore and offshore), in conjunction with the European Commission under the Common Fisheries Policy.</li> <li>5. Powers to make orders to control activities to protect MPAs (including fisheries and recreation).</li> </ol>	<p>EC Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</p> <p>EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds</p> <p>EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive</p> <p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)</p> <p>Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)</p>

Type of Management Authority	Statutory Responsibilities	Relevant Legislation and Conventions
<b>(Continued)</b>	<p>6. Marine plan authority (development of marine plan) to manage marine activities in a sustainable way, taking into account economic, social and environmental priorities.</p> <p>7. The achievement of the Good Environmental Status characteristics and targets under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in Welsh waters.</p> <p>8. Make authorisations and enforcement decisions in line with the Welsh National Marine Plan.</p> <p><b>Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy (UK Government Department):</b></p> <p>1. Regulator of the licensing of exploration and development of offshore oil and gas resources (via the Oil and Gas Authority) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), including major marine renewable energy schemes.</p> <p><b>Ministry of Defence and Department for Transport (UK Government Departments):</b></p> <p>1. A duty under the Habitats and Birds Directives to assess the impact of plans or projects that may have a significant effect on SACs and/or SPAS, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and to secure the integrity of the SAC/SPA if the plan or project proceeds.</p>	<p>The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) (Welsh Government)</p> <p>Environment (Wales) Act (2016) (Welsh Government)</p> <p>Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the OSPAR Convention)</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)</p> <p>Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention)</p> <p>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the Bonn Convention)</p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)</p>

Type of Management Authority	Statutory Responsibilities	Relevant Legislation and Conventions
<p><b>Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies:</b></p> <p>Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>Joint Nature Conservation Committee</p>	<p><b>Natural Resources Wales</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Statutory nature conservation advisor to the Welsh Government for the Welsh inshore region (0-12 nautical miles).</li> <li>2. Development of advice on conservation objectives and operations/ activities (EMS and MCZs).</li> <li>3. Regulator of activities that require a marine licence (delegated from the Welsh Government).</li> <li>4. Management of migratory fisheries out to 6 nautical miles.</li> <li>5. Management of Regulating Orders for cockles in the Burry Inlet and Dee Estuary.</li> <li>6. Under the Water Framework Directive, the competent authority for estuarine and coastal waters to 1 nautical mile for ecological status and to 12 nautical miles for chemical status.</li> <li>7. Environment Permitting Regulations activities e.g. radioactive materials/ship breaking in the Welsh inshore region (0-12 nautical miles) and regulating land based discharges and pollution incidents out to 3 nautical miles.</li> <li>8. Management of flood risk, including Shoreline Management Planning and provision/maintenance of some sea defences.</li> <li>9. Range of environmental monitoring and reporting functions, including the condition of MPAs and their features.</li> <li>10. Preparation of Area Statements to support the sustainable management of natural resources, including a Marine Area Statement.</li> <li>11. Make authorisations and enforcement decisions in line with the Welsh National Marine Plan.</li> </ol>	<p>EC Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</p> <p>EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds</p> <p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)</p> <p>Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)</p> <p>The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) (NRW)</p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)</p> <p>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive)</p> <p>Conservation of Offshore Habitats (England and Wales) (Amendment) Species Regulations (2017)</p> <p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2016)</p>

Type of Management Authority	Statutory Responsibilities	Relevant Legislation and Conventions
<b>(Continued)</b>	<p><b>Joint Nature Conservation Committee:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Statutory nature conservation advisor to UK governments for the offshore marine area (beyond 12 nautical miles); carries out a number of similar functions to those exercised by NRW in relation to Wales and Welsh territorial waters, including the writing of conservation objectives and advice on operations for offshore MPAs and undertaking monitoring of these sites. JNCC also has a UK remit, leading on the provision of scientific advice to Government on the UK MPA network, as well as advising the UK delegation at OSPAR MPA working group meetings on methods of assessment for ecological coherence and management effectiveness.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>General Lighthouse Authorities:</b> Trinity House</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The General LH Authority for England, Wales and the Channel Isles, responsible for providing Aids to Navigation (AtoN).</li> <li>2. Responsible for discharge of Government's obligations under the Safety of Life at Sea Convention 1974 (Chapter V, Regulation 14).</li> <li>3. To mark wrecks and other dangers to navigation when required, and to remove wrecks if so directed by the Secretary of States Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention.</li> <li>4. Consultee on 3rd party AtoN matters in respect of marine activities which require a marine licence.</li> <li>5. Examination of applications for development consent for certain nationally significant infrastructure projects such as offshore wind farms.</li> <li>6. A general duty to exercise their functions so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</li> </ol>	<p>Merchant Shipping Act (1995) Wreck Removal Convention Act (2011) EC Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora Environment (Wales) Act (2016) Planning Act (2008) Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)</p>