



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**

Report to the National Assembly for Wales  
on Marine Protected Areas in Wales

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January 2019.

## **PART 1 INTRODUCTION**

1. This document is the Welsh Government's report to the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with Section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Marine Act).
2. Section 124 of the Marine Act requires the Welsh Ministers to lay a report before the National Assembly for Wales every six years to set out:
  - a) The extent to which the objectives of Section 123(2) have been met, and
  - b) Any further steps which are required to be taken in order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of Section 123(2).
3. Section 123(2) of the Marine Act requires the Welsh Ministers to designate Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) which together with any other MCZs, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas (European Marine Sites), Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Ramsar sites form a network across the UK marine area.
4. The network is required to:
  - a) Contribute to the conservation or improvement of the marine environment in the UK marine area,
  - b) Represent the range of features present in the UK marine area,
  - c) Reflect the fact the conservation of a feature may require the designation of more than one site.

### **Reporting Period**




5. This report is the third report to the National Assembly for Wales. It covers progress made in Welsh inshore waters between January 2014 and December 2018.
6. The report also covers Welsh offshore waters between April 2018 and December 2018. This reflects the transfer of nature conservation powers for the Welsh offshore region from the Secretary of State to the Welsh Ministers, which transferred in two phases during 2017 and 2018.
7. Previous reports to the National Assembly for Wales were provided in December 2012, this being the first report and a subsequent report in February 2014, in response to a recommendation from the Environment and Sustainability Committee inquiry into marine policy for the period January 2013 to December 2013.

### **National and International Biodiversity Obligations**

8. The Welsh Government has a number of obligations to protect marine biodiversity. These are listed in Table 1. The national and international obligations listed include the establishment of a network of Marine Protected

Areas (MPAs), which protects, conserves and restores where possible, the range of species, habitats and ecological processes found within the marine environment whilst supporting the sustainable use of our seas.

**Table 1 Marine Biodiversity Obligations**

International	
	<p>The <b>Convention on Biological Diversity</b> – requires parties to the convention to establish and maintain representative and effectively managed marine protected areas that contribute towards a global network of protected areas.</p>
	<p>The <b>Oslo and Paris Convention (OSPAR)</b> – aims to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. One of the tools to achieve this is the establishment of an ecologically coherent well-managed network of marine protected areas.</p>
	<p>The <b>Bern Convention</b> - aims to conserve and protect wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats and seeks to establish the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</p>
	<p>The <b>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971</b> aims to conserve wetlands to support their sustainable use.</p>
UK	
	<p>UK <b>Marine Policy Statement</b> – provides a framework for marine planning. It requires marine plan authorities and decision makers to take account of how developments may impact on the UK’s aim to halt biodiversity loss and the legal obligations relating to MPAs, their conservation objectives, and management.</p>
	<p>The <b>Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</b> - places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to form a network of sites, which contribute towards the conservation and improvement of the marine environment in the UK.</p>
	<p>The <b>UK Marine Strategy (MSFD)</b> - requires Member States to put in place measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in their seas by 2020. A network of MPAs will be a key tool in contributing to the achievement of GES.</p>
	<p>The <b>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</b> and The <b>Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</b>- provide for the establishment of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.</p>
	<p>The <b>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</b> protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK and provides for the designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.</p>
National	
	<p>The <b>Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015</b> – aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It sets out seven wellbeing goals for the Wales we want, the goals include a Wales which is globally responsible and resilient.</p>
	<p>The <b>Environment (Wales) Act 2016</b> - sets out Wales' approach to planning and managing natural resources at a national and local level in line with the principles of the sustainable management of natural resources and places a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.</p>

## PART 2 MPA NETWORK IN WALES

9. A marine protected area (MPA) is a general term for any area of sea or shore protected by law for the conservation of habitats, species or other natural features.
10. A coherent and well-managed MPA network provides greater benefits to the marine environment than individual MPAs. It contributes to the conservation and improvement of the marine environment, the sustainable management of marine natural resources and the achievement of Good Environmental Status as required under the UK Marine Strategy.
11. The benefits to marine biodiversity, to society and our economic activity include, but are not limited to:



Conservation and enhancement of biological diversity, which builds ecosystem **resilience**.



**Sustainable** fisheries by protecting certain habitats, which may be important for key life cycle stages, including spawning or nursery grounds and major feeding grounds,



Local **communities**, through job creation, personal well-being, energy security and by providing opportunities for nature based tourism and leisure activities,

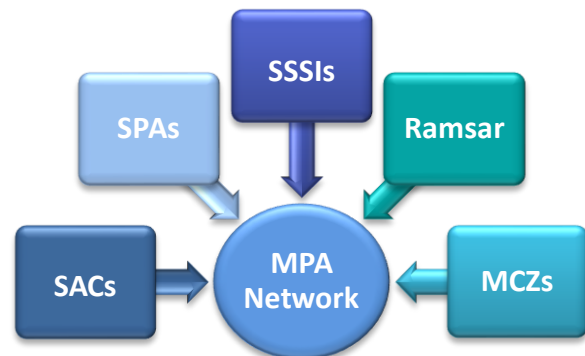


Opportunities for education, training and research, inspiring **future generations** and building a shared sense of ownership of our oceans.

12. In general, we are aiming for a network of MPAs which:
  - represents the range of habitats and species in the UK marine area;
  - protects enough replicates to provide resilience;
  - protects an appropriate amount of each broad habitat feature;
  - provides connections between areas; and
  - is appropriately managed to contribute to the conservation or improvement of the marine environment.
13. There are 139 MPAs in Wales, covering 69% of Welsh inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and 50% of all Welsh waters (out to the median line). Individual MPAs are designated under a range of different legislation. When taken together individual MPAs form a network around Wales, the UK and the North-east Atlantic.

14. In Wales, the network is made up of the following types of MPAs:

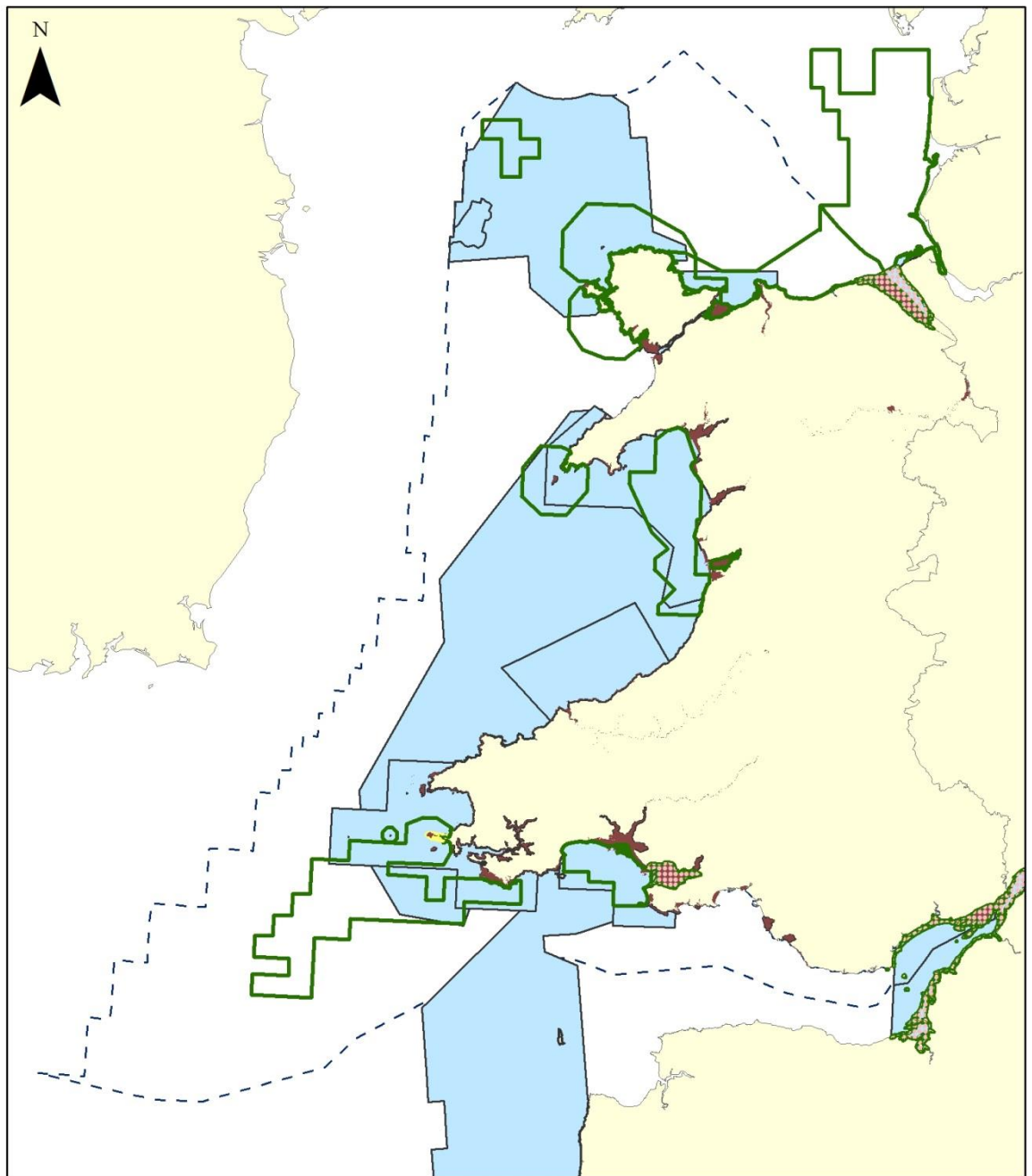
- **Special Areas of Conservation** (SACs x 15) protect certain habitats and species under the European Habitats Directive (1992). SACs are designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- **Special Protection Areas** (SPAs x13) protect wild bird populations under the European Birds Directive (1979). SPAs are designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- **Marine Conservation Zones** (MCZs x 1) protect marine species, habitats, or geological features of interest. MCZs are designated under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009).
- **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSIs x 107) protect certain wildlife and geology under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. SSSIs are primarily a terrestrial designation, although they can cover the seashore down to the lowest tide and the seabed of estuary channels.
- **Ramsar sites** (x3) protect internationally important area of wetland habitats and associated species, mostly birds. Sites are required by the 1971 international wetlands convention ('Ramsar Convention').



15. A map of the current MPAs in Welsh waters (inshore and offshore) can be found at Figure 1. A table of the MPAs and the features they protect can be found in **Annex A**.

Figure 1.

## The network of Marine Protected Areas in Wales



### Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  MCZ    |  SSSI              |
|  Ramsar |  SAC               |
|  SPA    |  Welsh marine area |

0 25 50 100 km

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Data Source Natural Resources Wales, 2018  
November 2018

## PART 3 ASSESSMENT AGAINST SECTION 123(2)

### MPA Network Assessment on Ecological Coherence

16. In 2012, the Welsh Government reported to the National Assembly for Wales and noted its intention to supplement the existing MPA network in Wales with the designation of MCZs. The intention was for these MCZs to be afforded the highest level of protection from all extractive, dispositional, damaging and disturbing activities.
17. As a result the Welsh Government consulted on proposals to designate a number of highly protected MCZs. The consultation generated over 6000 responses expressing highly divergent and strongly held views. Many responses were in favour of the principle for highly protected MCZs, while others felt the highly protected approach would create unacceptable socio-economic impacts with little evidence of the benefits.
18. Following the consultation, the Welsh Government established a Task and Finish Team to review the consultation feedback and recommend how MCZs should be progressed in Wales<sup>1</sup>.
19. In 2013, the Welsh Government formally withdrew its MCZ proposals. At the same time it committed to undertake additional work to understand the contribution existing MPAs in Wales are making towards its network obligations to inform future use of the MCZ power.
20. In 2014, the Welsh Government asked the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to assess the contribution existing MPAs are making towards a UK network of MPAs and to provide evidence on<sup>2</sup>:
  - how existing MPAs in Wales contribute towards an ecologically coherent network of MPAs in the UK,
  - whether there are any shortfalls in the network of MPAs in Welsh waters (inshore and offshore) that need to be addressed to meet the Welsh Ministers network obligations.
21. The network assessment concluded MPAs in Wales are making a substantial contribution towards ecological coherence across the UK. The majority of habitats and species are represented and where possible replicated, and the network is well connected.
22. The assessment did identify some gaps in ecological coherence, which where possible need to be addressed. These gaps are detailed in **Annex B**.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/130717task-and-finish-team-report-on-mczs-in-wales-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC\\_NetworkProgressWelshWaters\\_Final.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC_NetworkProgressWelshWaters_Final.pdf)



23. Full detail of the network assessment can be found here:

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

### Nature Conservation in the Welsh Offshore Region

24. In 2014 the Commission on Devolution in Wales (Silk II) reported and recommended the Welsh Ministers executive functions for marine nature conservation in the Welsh inshore area be extended to the Welsh offshore marine area. These functions include European and domestic obligations for:

- identifying, designating and managing MPAs as part of a network;
- protecting certain species from deliberate capture, injury and death through licensing and enforcement; and
- monitoring the status and condition of habitats and species.

25. The transfer of the Secretary of State's nature conservation functions to the Welsh Ministers was delivered through:

- amendments to the Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations 2007, which transpose the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. This transferred European related nature conservation functions to Welsh Ministers in November 2017; and
- the Wales Act 2017, which transferred domestic nature conservation functions to the Welsh Ministers, namely the powers contained in Part 5 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, in April 2018.

### MPA Designations during the Reporting Period

26. In 2014, Part 5 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act came into force. As a consequence, the Marine Nature Reserve at Skomer was reclassified as an MCZ in line with the transitional provisions set out in Schedule 12 of the Marine Act. This is currently the only MCZ in Welsh waters.

27. Since 2014 the network has been strengthened with additional MPAs. Table 2 provides a list of the additional MPAs designated during this reporting period. It includes MPAs in the Welsh offshore region, which became the responsibility of Welsh Ministers following the transfer of offshore nature conservation powers.

**Table 2 New MPA Designations**

MPA Name	Size of MPA (hectares ha)	Feature Protected / Reason for Designation	Advice on Conservation Objectives
West Wales Marine SAC **	737614.0ha	Harbour Porpoise	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7343">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7343</a>
North Anglesey Marine SAC **	324949.0ha		
Bristol Channel and Approaches SAC **	584994.0ha		
Croker Carbonate Slabs SAC***	11599.0ha	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6530">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6530</a>
Liverpool Bay SPA *	252757.73ha	SPA extended and little Gull, little tern and common tern were added as new qualifying features  Red breasted merganser and Cormorant were added as named components of the existing waterbird assemblage	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7507">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7507</a>
Skomer, Skokholm and seas off Pembrokeshire SPA* ** ***	166800.74ha	SPA extended twice during reporting period to include marine foraging areas for Manx shearwater, Atlantic puffin, common guillemot and razorbill.	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7497">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7497</a>
Anglesey Terns SPA *	101931.07ha	SPA renamed and extended to bring together the three breeding sites with the marine foraging area under one site boundary	<a href="https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/675726/anglesey-terns-pspa-draft-conservation-objectives-final.pdf">https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/675726/anglesey-terns-pspa-draft-conservation-objectives-final.pdf</a>
Northern Cardigan Bay SPA	82703.68ha	New SPA for wintering red-throated divers	<a href="https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/675730/northern-cardigan-bay-pspa-draft-conservation-objectives-final.pdf">https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/675730/northern-cardigan-bay-pspa-draft-conservation-objectives-final.pdf</a>
Grassholm SPA*	1774.42ha	SPA extended to include marine area for Gannet	<a href="http://naturalresources.wales/media/674134/grassholm-spa-management-plan-21-1-408-english.pdf">http://naturalresources.wales/media/674134/grassholm-spa-management-plan-21-1-408-english.pdf</a>
Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island SPA*	33942.42ha	SPA extended to include marine foraging areas for Manx Shearwater	<a href="http://naturalresources.wales/media/672092/glannau-aberdaron-plan-english.pdf">http://naturalresources.wales/media/672092/glannau-aberdaron-plan-english.pdf</a>
Irish Sea Front SPA***	118000ha	New SPA for Manx Shearwater	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4565">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4565</a>

\* Extensions to existing SPAs

\*\* Extends into Welsh offshore waters

\*\*\*Wholly offshore (designated by UK Secretary of State) now the responsibility of the Welsh Ministers

## Assessment of Feature Condition

28. The marine environment is very dynamic and natural fluctuations in feature condition are to be expected. The Welsh Government continues to implement management measures to address the pressures on MPAs to improve the condition of features and strengthen the contribution the network makes to the health and resilience of the marine environment.
29. In January 2018, NRW published indicative feature-level site condition reports for all inshore SACs and SPAs. The reports constitute NRW's advice on the indicative condition of protected features<sup>3</sup> and were produced to improve our understanding of the condition of site features. The reports are important for site management, in particular they inform the development of management measures to improve the condition of features, assist with the prioritisation of resources and help with the assessments of plans and projects.
30. The site condition reports indicate 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 are in favourable condition, with the majority assessed with high confidence in the evidence used to assess condition.
  - 45% of features are in unfavourable condition, with around half assessed with high confidence.
  - 9% of features are in unknown condition, meaning there is currently insufficient evidence to make an assessment of indicative condition.
  - Marine mammal features, including bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and otter, are in favourable condition.
  - Most seabird populations are generally stable or increasing.
  - Where SPA features have been assessed as unfavourable, the main reason is linked to UK, European or worldwide trends rather than site level issues.
  - For SACs, water quality issues, pollution, non-licensable activities and invasive non-native species were identified as key pressures on feature condition.
31. For the two MPAs wholly in Welsh offshore waters, Croker Carbonate Slabs SAC and the Irish Sea Front SPA, the current status of the features is 'Unknown'. This is largely due to the fact these MPAs are relatively recent designations and therefore there is limited site condition monitoring information available with which to infer condition.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://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>  
<https://documents.hf.wales.gov.uk/id:A21346950/document/versions/published>

32. The tables at **Annex C** detail results from NRW's feature-level site condition reports and Article 17 reporting under the Habitats Directive, for each marine feature protected by inshore and offshore SACs and SPAs.

#### Achievements in MPA Network Management

33. In 2014 the Welsh Government established the MPA Management Steering Group. The Group brings together representatives from the main management authorities in Wales to work towards a shared vision, agreed objectives and management principles. The MPA Management Steering Group aims to secure effective management of the MPA network, which ultimately improves its condition, safeguarding marine biodiversity, the wider ecosystem and socio-economic benefits for Wales.

34. Further details on the role of the Steering Group can be found here:  
<https://beta.gov.wales/marine-protected-area-management-steering-group-mpamsq-terms-reference>

35. Between 2015 and 2016 the Steering Group conducted a stakeholder engagement exercise looking at options for an area-based approach to managing MPAs as a network. Following a review of the engagement responses, the Steering Group concluded, in light of funding pressures, securing the resources needed to introduce and replicate an area-based approach across Wales would be too challenging for the management authorities concerned. The Steering Group agreed to focus activities on providing support and guidance to management authorities to facilitate improvements in the condition of species and habitats and the MPA network as a whole. This includes identifying opportunities where management authorities can work together to achieve better outcomes for MPAs in Wales.

36. As a first step, the Steering Group produced a document setting out the roles and responsibilities of management authorities for managing MPAs in Wales. In 2017, on behalf of the Steering Group, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs sent a copy of the roles and responsibilities document to all management authorities in Wales.

37. Following a significant period of activity in 2018 the Steering Group published the MPA Network Management Framework for Wales 2018-2023. The Framework sets out in one place how MPAs are managed now, and how they will be managed in the future to improve the condition of the network. It explains the main tool for managing the network is through the well-established regulatory system, which includes the marine licensing process. It also highlights the work already underway to improve the management and condition of the network and its protected features.

38. A copy of the MPA Network Management Framework for Wales 2018-2023 can be found here: <https://beta.gov.wales/marine-protected-area-network-management-framework-wales>
39. The Framework was published alongside an action plan. The MPA Network Management Action Plan 2018-2019, provides a focus for management authorities on the priority actions, identified by the MPA Management Steering Group, to further improve the management and condition of the network of MPAs in Wales. The Action Plan builds on the Prioritised Improvement Plans and the five priority work areas identified by NRW following the conclusion of the LIFE N2K Programme in Wales.
40. The actions set out in the MPA Network Management Action Plan 2018-2019 will be delivered in partnership with management authorities across Wales: <https://beta.gov.wales/marine-protected-area-network-management-action-plan-wales>

## **PART 4 FURTHER WORK REQUIRED TO MEET SECTION 123(2)**

41. Significant progress has been made during this reporting period towards Section 123 of the Marine Act and towards establishing an ecologically coherent, well managed network of MPAs in Wales.
42. The Welsh Government is fully committed to maintaining and enhancing marine biodiversity and ecosystems and will continue to work with the other UK administrations to fulfil our obligations.
43. Further work to meet the Welsh Ministers obligations, detailed below, will be undertaken during the next reporting period:

- a) **Completing the Welsh Contribution towards the MPA Network in UK Waters**

The 2016 network assessment provides the evidence to demonstrate additional MPAs in Welsh waters are required to meet the Welsh Ministers obligations under the Marine Act and to satisfy commitments under the OSPAR convention.

Using the MCZ powers under the Marine Act, the Welsh Government will work in partnership with NRW, JNCC and stakeholders to consider the outcome of the 2016 network assessment to address the gaps identified, where possible. Further details on how MCZs will be identified to address these gaps and complete the Welsh contribution towards the MPA network in UK waters will be published in early 2019.

- b) **Skomer MCZ**

Following its transition from a Marine Nature Reserve to an MCZ under the Marine Act the Welsh Government needs to introduce a designating order for the existing MCZ at Skomer. The order will detail the protected features of the MCZ and associated conservation objectives. NRW and stakeholders will inform this future phase of work, which is expected to start late 2019.

- c) **Highly Mobile Marine Species**

The Welsh Government will also consider whether there is a need for MCZs for highly mobile species within the MPA network.

- d) **The MPA Management Cycle**

The MPA Management Steering Group will continue to implement the MPA Network Management Action Plan for 2018-19. This includes NRW building on the condition assessment work and reports published in January 2018 to develop an approach to undertake improved and periodic MPA condition assessments. The project, which started in 2018 and is scheduled for

completion in 2021, will develop indicators and a process for future reporting on the condition of features protected within the network of MPAs.

The Welsh Government will also work with NRW and JNCC to develop and support the implementation of a prioritised and affordable marine biodiversity monitoring programme for Wales. The programme will build on existing monitoring activities to:

- provide an understanding of the health, condition and resilience of Welsh seas;
- provide an understanding of the key pressures on marine biodiversity and interactions with human activity; and
- inform management decisions and measures.

The marine biodiversity monitoring programme will cover MPAs, including any designated in the future.

The MPA Management Action Plan will be reviewed, updated and published on an annual basis. It will be supported by an annual MPA Network Management Report which will set out progress against delivery of the actions. In developing the Annual Report, the Steering Group will seek contributions from management authorities, European Marine Site Officers and others on projects which contribute to the management principles.

A review of the MPA Network Management Framework will be carried out in 2023.

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

Special Area of Conservation	Marine Feature
Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay	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
Dee Estuary / Aber Dyfrdwy	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia 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>
Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau / Lleyen Peninsula and the Sarnau	Coastal lagoons
	Estuaries
	Large shallow inlets and bays
	Reefs
	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time
	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia 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>
	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries / Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd
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	



Special Area of Conservation	Marine Feature
	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 Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia 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>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i> Estuaries Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 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>Cynffig / Kenfig</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>
<b>Glannau Môn: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh</b>	Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>

Special Area of Conservation	Marine Feature
	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Estuaries
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
Bae Cemlyn / Cemlyn Bay	Coastal lagoons
Arfordir Calchfaen de Orllewin Cymru / Limestone Coast of South West Wales	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves
North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Môn Forol	Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol	Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
Bristol Channel Approaches / Dynesfeydd Môr Hafren	Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
Croker Carbonate Slabs	Submarine structures made by leaking gases

Special Protection Area	Marine Feature
Aber Dyfrdwy / Dee Estuary	Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> Eurasian 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> 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 tetanus</i> Waterfowl assemblage
Bae Caerfyrddin / Carmarthen Bay	Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>
Burry Inlet	Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Eurasian wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> Eurasian 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> Waterfowl assemblage
<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> Waterfowl assemblage
<b>Môr Hafren / Severn Estuary</b>	Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> European white-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Waterfowl assemblage
<b>Traeth Lafan / Lavan Sands</b>	Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
<b>Grassholm</b>	Northern gannet <i>Morus Bassanus</i>
<b>Skomer, Skokholm and the seas off Pembrokeshire / Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Benfro</b>	Atlantic puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> European storm petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> Seabird assemblage
<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>
<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
The Dee Estuary	<p>Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>  Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>  Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i>  Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>  Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>  Eurasian 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 tetanus</i>  Estuaries  Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide  Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)  Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand  Annual vegetation drift lines  Waterfowl assemblage</p>
Burry Inlet	<p>Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>  Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>  Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>  Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>  Waterfowl assemblage</p>
Severn Estuary	<p>Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>  Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>  Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>  Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>  Gadwell  Whimbrel  Waterfowl assemblage  Estuaries  Assemblage of migratory fish species</p>

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>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Dwarf spike-rush <i>Eleocharis parvula</i>
	Salt-marsh
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Sheltered mud

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
Aber Taf/Taf Estuary	Salt-marsh
	Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Assemblage of RDB and/or national scarce vascular plants
Aberarth-Carreg Wylan	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
	Rock sea-lavender <i>Limonium britannicum</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or national scarce vascular plants
	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	An amphipod <i>Pectenogammarus planicrurus</i>
Afon Dyfrdwy/River Dee	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>
Afon Teifi	Inter-tidal
	Salt-marsh
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
Afon Tywi	Salt-marsh
	Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
	Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
	Ringed plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
Allt Wen a Traeth Tanybwllch	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	An amphipod <i>Pectenogammarus planicrurus</i>
Arfordir Abereiddi	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	Silled saline lagoon
Arfordir Gogleddol Penmon	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
Arfordir Marros-Pentywyn/Marros-Pendine Coast	Exposed sand
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
Arfordir Niwgwl - Aber bach/Newgale to Little Haven Coast	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Surge gullies
	Under-boulders
Arfordir Pen-bre/Pembrey Coast	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>
	Eurasian 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
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
Ground-beetle <i>Eurynebria complanata</i>	
Arfordir Penrhyn Angle/Angle Peninsula Coast	A red seaweed <i>Gigartina pistillata</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders
Arfordir Saundersfoot-Telpyn/Saundersfoot-Telpyn Coast	Exposed sand
	Rockpools
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	Common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
	Common greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Spiral tasselweed <i>Ruppia cirrhosa</i>
	Inter-tidal
	Eelgrass
	Muddy gravel
	Sheltered mud
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

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
Broadwater	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>
	Eurasian 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
	Dwarf Eelgrass <i>Zostera noltei</i>
	Mixed substrata
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Sheltered mud
Polychaete worm <i>Ophelia bicornis</i>	
Coastal geomorphology of Wales	
Eelgrass	
Castlemartin Range Cliffs and Dunes	A red seaweed <i>Gigartina pistillata</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Caves and overhangs
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Exposed rock
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Surge gullies
	Ground-beetle <i>Eurynebria complanata</i>
Caswell Bay	Moderately exposed rock
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
Cemlyn Bay	Percolation saline lagoon
	Spiral tasselweed <i>Ruppia cirrhosa</i>
Coedydd Afon Menai	Chalk and very soft rock
Craig Ddu – Wharley Point Cliff	Assemblage of RDB and/or other Nationally Scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
Craigyfulfran & Clarach	Sand influenced biogenic reefs



Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
Creigiau Aberarth-Morfa	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
Creigiau Cwm-Ceriw a Ffos-las (Morfa Bychan)	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
Creigiau Llansteffan – Llanstephen Cliffs	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
Creigiau Pen y graig	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
Creigiau Rhiwledyn/Little Ormes Head	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
Crymlyn Burrows	Salt-marsh
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Ground-beetle <i>Eurynebria complanata</i>
Cynffig/Kenfig	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Soft piddock bored substrata
Dale and South Marloes Coast	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
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Lichen assemblage: marine and maritime associations, Lichen assemblage: marine and maritime associations
	Lichen <i>Degelia ligulata</i>
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
De Porth Sain Ffraid/St Bride's Bay South	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders
Dee Estuary/Aber Afon Dyfrdwy	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>
	Eurasian 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>	



Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	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 flat-sedge <i>Blysmus rufus</i>
	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
	European smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>
	Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
	Estuaries
	Salt-marsh
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
Dyfi	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Polychaete worm <i>Ophelia bicornis</i>
	Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
	Greenland white-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>
	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	Inter-tidal
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Salt-marsh
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Estuaries
East Aberthaw Coast	Moderately exposed sand
	Muddy gravel
Flat Holm	Sheltered mud
	Rockpools
Freshwater East Cliffs to Skrinkle Haven	Under-boulders
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Caves and overhangs
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
Glanllynnau a Glannau Pen-ychain i Gricieth	Rockpools
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Caves and overhangs

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	Mixed substrata
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
<b>Glannau Aberdaron</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Ciliate strap-lichen
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Exposed rock
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	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
<b>Glannau Rhoscolyn</b>	Ciliate strap-lichen
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Salt-marsh
	Eelgrass
	Exposed rock
<b>Glannau Tonfanau i Friog</b>	Mixed substrata
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Glannau Ynys Gybi/ Holy Island Coast</b>	Ciliate strap-lichen
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Caves and overhangs
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Rockpools
	Under-boulders
<b>Glaslyn</b>	Salt-marsh
	Dwarf spike-rush <i>Eleocharis parvula</i>
<b>Gower Coast: Rhossili to Port Eynon</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	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>
	Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>
	Great cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Inter-tidal
	Salt-marsh
	Exposed sand
	Shingle/boulders above high water mark
	Strandline vegetation
<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
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Sea-lavender <i>Limonium procerum</i>
	Lagoon snail <i>Paludinella littorina</i>
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
<b>Merthyr Mawr</b>	Salt-marsh
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Ground beetle <i>Eurynebria complanata</i>
<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>
	Saltmarsh invertebrate assemblage
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Dwarf Eelgrass, <i>Zostera noltei</i>
	Salt-marsh
	European smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Eelgrass
	Mixed substrata
	Moderately exposed rock
Moderately exposed sand	

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	Muddy gravel
	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
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Morfa Dinlle</b>	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
<b>Morfa Dyffryn</b>	Salt-marsh
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Strandline vegetation
<b>Morfa Harlech</b>	Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
	Salt-marsh
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Exposed sand
	Moderately exposed sand
	Muddy gravel
	Dwarf spike-rush <i>Eleocharis parvula</i>
	Welsh mudwort <i>Limosella australis</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
Other strandline vegetation	
<b>Morfa Uchaf, Dyffryn Conwy</b>	Salt-marsh
<b>Mynydd Penarfynnydd</b>	Rockpools
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
<b>Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd a'r Glannau at Garreg yr Imbill</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Muddy gravel
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Newborough Warren - Ynys Llanddwyn</b>	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
	Salt-marsh
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Polychaete worm <i>Ophelia bicornis</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
<b>Newport Cliffs</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Oxwich Bay</b>	Salt-marsh
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Exposed sand
<b>Pen y Gogarth/Great Ormes Head</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
<b>Pennard Valley</b>	Salt-marsh
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Isle of Man cabbage <i>Coincia monensis subsp.monensis</i>
<b>Penarth Coast</b>	Rockpools
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
<b>Penrhynoedd Llangadwaladr</b>	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Tide-swept algae
	Under-boulders
<b>Porth Ceiriad, Porth Neigwl ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Exposed rock
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Rockpools
	Tide-swept algae
<b>Porth Dinllaen i Borth Pistyll</b>	Eelgrass <i>Zostera marina</i>
	Eelgrass
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Moderately exposed sand

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature	
	Rockpools	
Porth Towyn i Borth Wen	Caves and overhangs	
	Moderately exposed rock	
	Rockpools	
Puffin Island - Ynys Seiriol	Soft piddock bored substrata	
	Under-boulders	
Pwll-Du Head and Bishopston Valley	Sand influenced biogenic reefs	
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants	
	Red hemp-nettle <i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales	
Ramsey/Ynys Dewi	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	
	Caves and overhangs	
	Exposed rock	
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices	
	Rockpools	
	Surge gullies	
	Tide-swept algae	
	Under-boulders	
	A lichen <i>Ramalina polymorpha</i>	
	A sponge <i>Thymosia guernei</i>	
	Rhosneigr Reefs	Caves and overhangs
		Rockpools
Under-boulders		
Rhossili Down	Coastal geomorphology of Wales	
Severn 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>	
	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>	
	Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	
	Gadwell <i>Anas strepera</i>	
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants	
	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>		
Eelgrass <i>Zostera marina</i>		

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	Eelgrass
	Estuaries
	Rockpools
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Tide-swept algae
	An amphipod <i>Gammarus chevreuxi</i>
	Lagoon sand shrimp <i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>
	Lagoon sea slug <i>Tenellia adspersa</i>
Skokholm	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Tide-swept algae
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
Skomer Island and Middleholm	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Exposed rock
	Surge gullies
Southerndown Coast	Caves and overhangs
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
St. David's Peninsula Coast	Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Ciliate strap-lichen <i>Heterodermia leucomelos</i>
	Lesser scalewort <i>Frullania microphylla</i>
	Sea scalewort <i>Frullania teneriffae</i>
St. Margaret's Island	Caves and overhangs
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Under-boulders
Stackpole Quay - Trewent Point	Caves and overhangs
	Moderately exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
Stackpole	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
	Lichen assemblage: Maritime cliff and slope
	Lagoon snail <i>Palundinella littorina</i>
	Soft piddock bored substrata
<b>Strumble Head - Llechdafad Cliffs</b>	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Surge gullies
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
<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
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
<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
	Eelgrass
	Moderately exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Traeth Lafan</b>	Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
	Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>
	Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
	Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
	Dwarf Eelgrass <i>Zostera marina</i>
	Eelgrass
	Moderately exposed sand
Rockpools	
<b>Traeth Llanon</b>	Sand influenced biogenic reefs
<b>Traeth Lligwy</b>	Rockpools
<b>Twyni Chwitfordd, Morfa Landimor a Bae Brychdwn/Whiteford Burrows etc</b>	Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
	Ground beetle <i>Eurynebria complanata</i>
	Salt-marsh
	Eelgrass
	Exposed sand
Rockpools	



Site of Special Scientific Interest	Marine Feature
	Soft piddock bored substrata
	Tide-swept algae
	Saltmarsh morphology
	Sand dune
	Polychaete worm <i>Ophelia bicornis</i>
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
Twyni Lacharn - Pentwyn/Laugharne - Pendine Burrows	European golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Exposed sand
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
Ty Croes	Rockpools
	Surge gullies
Tywyn Aberffraw	Salt-marsh
	Coastal geomorphology of Wales
Waterwynch Bay to Saundersfoot Harbour	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed sand
	Rockpools
	Tide-swept algae
Wig Bach a'r Glannau i Borth Alwm	Caves and overhangs
	Rockpools
	Surge gullies
Y Foryd	Eurasian widgeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
	Eelgrass
Ynys Enlli	Caves and overhangs
	Exposed rock
	Rockpools
	Under-boulders
	Assemblage of RDB and/or nationally scarce vascular plants
	Maritime cliff and associated ledges and crevices
Ynys Feurig	Rockpools
	Under-boulders
Ynysoedd y Gwylanod - Gwylan Islands	Caves and overhangs
	Surge gullies

\*NB: Since 2012 NRW and JNCC have undertaken a review of the SPAs and SSSIs to determine which features utilise the marine environment and should therefore be considered as a marine feature. As a result there are some changes to the features listed above compared to those listed in previous reports. Further information can be found on the JNCC website: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7438>. Alternatively, please contact NRW for the most up to date feature lists.

## Gaps identified in the MPA network in Welsh waters

Gap	Reason for Gap	Regions where gaps are identified in Welsh waters	Can the gap be addressed at this time? Y/N
Seabed of coarse sand, gravel and/or stones <i>Sublittoral coarse sediment</i>	Adequacy (shortfall in amount of habitat protected)	Irish Sea and Western Channel and Celtic Sea	Yes
Sandy seabed <i>Sublittoral sand</i>	Adequacy (shortfall in amount of habitat protected)	Western Channel and Celtic Sea	Yes
Muddy seabed <i>Sublittoral mud</i>	Adequacy (shortfall in amount of habitat protected)	Western Channel and Celtic Sea	Yes
Seabed of mixture of stones, gravels, sand and muds <i>Sublittoral mixed sediment</i>	Adequacy (shortfall in amount of habitat protected)	Irish Sea	Yes
Estuarine rocky habitat	Replication (another example needed in the network)	Irish Sea	No*
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitat	Replication Another example needed in the network	Irish Sea	Yes
Mud habitats in deep water	Replication (another example needed in the network)	Irish Sea and Western Channel and Celtic Sea	Yes
<i>Musculus discors</i> beds Green crenella (carpet mussel beds)	Replication (another example needed in the network)	Irish Sea	No*
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	Replication (another example needed in the network)	Western Channel and Celtic Sea	Yes
Sheltered muddy gravels	Replication (another example needed in the network)	Western Channel and Celtic Sea	No*
Ocean quahog	Replication (another example needed in the network)	Western Channel and Celtic Sea	Yes
Pink sea-fan <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>	Replication (another example needed in the network)	Irish Sea	Yes
Stalked jellyfish <i>Haliclystus auricula</i>	Representation (not currently represented in Welsh network)	Irish Sea	No*
Flat/native oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Representation (not currently represented in Welsh network)	Irish Sea and Western Channel and Celtic Sea	No*
Crayfish (crawfish/spiny lobster) <i>Palinurus elephas</i>	Representation (not currently represented in Welsh network)	Irish Sea	No*

\*Limited or no evidence currently. Feature will be reassessed as new evidence becomes available and as part of any future network assessment.

## Feature Level Indicative Condition Assessment

### Anglesey Coast SAC: Saltmarsh

Feature	2005-07 assessments*	2017 indicative assessments**
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Favourable	Favourable
Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable (2010)	Unfavourable
Estuaries	Favourable	Favourable
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Unfavourable	Favourable

### Cardigan Bay SAC

Feature	2005-07 assessments	2017 indicative assessments
Bottlenose dolphin	Favourable	Favourable
Grey seal	Favourable	Favourable
River lamprey	Unfavourable	Favourable
Sea lamprey	Unfavourable	Unknown
Reefs	Not assessed	Favourable
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	Not assessed	Unfavourable
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Favourable	Unknown

### Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC

Feature	2005-07 assessments	2017 indicative assessments
Estuaries	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Favourable	Favourable
Large shallow inlets and bays	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Allis shad	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Twaite shad	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
River lamprey	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sea lamprey	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Otter	Favourable	Favourable

### Cemlyn Bay SAC

Feature	2005-07 assessments	2017 indicative assessments
Coastal lagoon	Not assessed	favourable

### Dee Estuary SAC

Feature	Previous assessment (2011)	2017 indicative assessments
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Not assessed	Favourable
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Favourable	Favourable
Atlantic salt meadows	Favourable	Favourable
Estuaries	Not assessed	Unfavourable
River lamprey	Not assessed	Unfavourable
Sea lamprey	Not assessed	Unfavourable

### Kenfig SAC

Feature	2009 assessments	2017 indicative assessments
Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable	Unfavourable

### Limestone Coast of South West Wales SAC

Feature	2005-07 assessments	2017 indicative assessments
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Favourable	Unknown

### Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC

Feature	2005-07 assessments*	2017 indicative assessments**
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Unfavourable	Favourable
Reefs	Unfavourable	Favourable
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	Unfavourable	Favourable
Large shallow inlets and bays	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Favourable	Unknown

### Pembrokeshire Marine SAC

Feature	2005-07 assessments	2017 indicative assessments
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Large shallow inlets and bays	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Estuaries	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Reefs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Coastal lagoons	Favourable	Unfavourable
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Favourable	Unknown
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Grey seal	Favourable	Favourable
Allis shad	Not assessed	Favourable
Twaite shad	Not assessed	Favourable
River lamprey	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sea lamprey	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Otter	Favourable	Favourable
Shoredock	Not assessed	Favourable

### Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC

Feature	2005-07 assessments	2017 indicative assessments
Reefs	Favourable	Unfavourable
Large shallow inlets and bays	Unfavourable	Favourable
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	Favourable	Unfavourable
Estuaries	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Coastal lagoons	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Favourable (2011)	Unfavourable
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Favourable	Unknown
Bottlenose dolphin	Favourable	Favourable
Otter	Unfavourable	Favourable
Grey seal	Favourable	Favourable

## Severn Estuary SAC

Feature	2005-07 assessments	2017 indicative assessments
Estuaries	Not assessed	Unfavourable
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Not assessed	Unfavourable
Atlantic salt meadows	Not assessed	Unfavourable
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	Not assessed	Favourable
Reefs	Not assessed	Unknown
Sea lamprey	Not assessed	Unfavourable
River lamprey	Not assessed	Unfavourable
Twaite shad	Not assessed	Unfavourable

## Croker Carbonate Slab SAC

Feature	2013 Assessment
Submarine structures made by leaking gases	Unknown

## Harbour porpoise SACs

Feature	2005-07 assessments (informed site selection)
Harbour porpoise	Favourable

## Summary of indicative condition of SPA features (Welsh inshore)

SPA Name	Indicative Condition Assessment		
	Favourable (number of species)	Unfavourable (number of species)	Unknown (number of species)
The Dee Estuary	9	7	0
Liverpool Bay	2	0	1
Traeth Lafan	3	1	1
Anglesey Terns	3	1	0
Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island	1	0	0
Northern Cardigan Bay	0	0	1
Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire	3	1	1
Grassholm	1	0	0
Carmarthen Bay	1	0	0
Burry Inlet	7	5	1
Severn Estuary	3	4	0

## Irish Sea Front SPA

<b>Feature</b>	<b>2013 Assessment</b>
Manx Shearwater	Unknown