

Appendix D: Communication with MCZ Stakeholders

(Cross reference with Section 3.2.4 in Report)

1. Letter to all stakeholders on Defra consultation list
2. Issue 9 of the MCZ Newsletter



MB0116 - In-depth review of the ecological evidence supporting the recommended Marine Conservation Zones

The Ministerial Statement on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) published on 15th November 2011 included a commitment to an in-depth review of the evidence base for all the Regional MCZ Projects' site recommendations.

To address this commitment and support the work already being taken forward by Natural England (NE) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Defra has appointed ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd (ABPmer), supported by the Marine Biological Association of the UK (MBA) and Marine Planning Consultants (MPC), through open competition, to undertake a review of the ecological evidence.

The aim of the project is to build on and extend the evidence-base of the Regional Projects, NE and JNCC which will be used to support the designation of MCZs. It will also complement and extend the evidence reviews that have been recently undertaken by the Science Advisory Panel, NE and JNCC, as well as inform the statutory advice being provided by NE and JNCC. The study will deliver a comprehensive review of the evidence collected by the Regional Projects and will seek to identify any additional data/information relevant to the 127 recommended MCZ (rMCZ) and Reference Areas (rRA), this will focus particularly on the Ecological Network Guidance (ENG) features, see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2409> for information on the location of the sites and the detailed site reports. The study will also advise on how any new evidence would affect the confidence that may be placed in the evidence used for each feature within each site, based on the Evidence Protocols recently developed by NE and JNCC. The work will be undertaken in the period February to June 2012.

The study team is aware that many of you will have already supplied data and information during the data gathering exercises undertaken by the Regional Projects up to Autumn 2010, which has been invaluable in assisting with the recommendations made in August 2011. The Regional Projects, Defra, NE and JNCC are extremely grateful for all your contributions to date. However as part of the work to search for and identify potential additional information sources, particularly any data that have become accessible since Autumn 2010, the study team would like to engage with any organisation or individual that considers that it may have such evidence that would be relevant to any of the 127 rMCZ/rRA sites.

While the study team will be approaching many organisations and individuals, they are happy to be contacted directly, and to receive information via the e-mail contact below. All submissions will be acknowledged. Prior to submission of data the study team will be available to speak to you to clarify any points, to discuss data agreements (to cover the use, storage and distribution of any information provided to the project) and the format to provide data in. Any material submitted will be documented and used to inform the confidence assessment.

If you would like to get in touch with the study team, please contact the Project Manager – Claire Brown – at ABPmer on 023 8071 1864 or by email cbrown@abpmer.co.uk.



Extract from MCZ Newsletter 9 – March 2012.

In-depth review of evidence supporting the recommended MCZs

The Ministerial Statement on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) published on 15th November 2011 included a commitment to carry out an in-depth review of the evidence base for all the regional MCZ projects' site recommendations.

To address this commitment and support the work already being taken forward by Natural England and JNCC, Defra has appointed ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd (ABPmer), supported by the Marine Biological Association of the UK (MBA) and Marine Planning Consultants (MPC), through open competition, to undertake a review of the ecological evidence.

The aim of the project is to build on and extend the evidence-base of the regional MCZ projects, Natural England and JNCC, which will be used to support the designation of MCZs. It will also complement and extend the evidence reviews that have been recently undertaken by the Science Advisory Panel, Natural England and JNCC. The study will deliver a comprehensive review of the evidence collected by the regional MCZ projects and will seek to identify any additional data/information relevant to the 127 recommended MCZs (rMCZ) and Reference Areas (rRA). This will focus particularly on the Ecological Network Guidance features (see [JNCC's website](#) for information on the location of the sites and the detailed site reports). The study will also advise on how any new evidence would affect the confidence that may be placed in the evidence used for each feature within each site, based on the [Evidence Protocols](#) recently developed by Natural England and JNCC. The work will be undertaken in the period February to June 2012.

The study team is aware that many of you will have already supplied data and information during the data gathering exercises undertaken by the regional MCZ projects up to Autumn 2010. This has been invaluable in assisting with the recommendations made in August 2011. The regional MCZ projects, Defra, Natural England and JNCC are extremely grateful for all your contributions to date. However as part of the work to search for and identify potential additional information sources, particularly any data that have become accessible since Autumn 2010, the study team would like to talk with any organisation or individual that considers that it may have such evidence that would be relevant to any of the 127 rMCZ/rRA sites.

While the study team will be approaching many organisations and individuals, they are happy to be contacted directly, and to receive information via the e-mail address below. Before submitting data, the study team will be available to speak to you. They will clarify any points and the format to provide data in, and can discuss data agreements (to cover the use, storage and distribution of any information provided to the project). Any material submitted will be documented and used to inform the confidence assessment.

If you would like to get in touch with the study team, please contact the Project Manager – Claire Brown – at ABPmer on 023 8071 1864 or by email cbrown@abpmer.co.uk .