



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru Countryside Council for Wales

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES' ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO MARINE POLICY IN WALES

WRITTEN EVIDENCE FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES September 2012

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1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

- 0.0.1 CCW welcomes this important and timely inquiry. There is good scientific evidence that the state of global, UK and Welsh seas has declined over the last 50 to 100 years (see Annex 1). Recognition of this fact has placed marine issues high on the agenda across the EU, the UK and Wales. It has been CCW's advice, and a view shared by many, that some form of new ecosystem-based management framework is needed now to reverse this overall negative trend.
- 0.0.2 The broad scope of this inquiry allows examination of the key areas of marine policy, governance and legislation that, as an integrated package, have the potential to protect and restore the health of our seas and secure sustainable use of Welsh seas.
- 0.0.3 CCW is the statutory nature conservation advisor to Welsh Government. We champion the environment and landscapes of Wales and its seas as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. We aim to make the environment a valued part of everyone's life in Wales. CCW therefore has a key supporting, advisory and delivery role in the majority of the areas of work that the Committee is examining.
- 0.0.4 CCW has considerable experience in the gathering and interpretation of evidence. We hold, and continue to gather, significant amounts of data that can be used to support marine planning and management. We also have substantial experience in awareness raising and partnership building at local, regional and national levels. We have well established and recognised marine environmental expertise which we apply in the provision of our advice to WG and others, including:
- The delivery of Government marine policy objectives
 - The status of the marine environment and management priorities, including protected sites
 - Potential and actual impacts upon the marine environment and how these can be avoided or mitigated
- 0.0.5 CCW has a direct interest in and experience relating to the delivery of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) (hereafter referred to as the Marine Act), and especially in relation to planning and conservation measures. We have provided advice to the UK and Welsh Government on the need for a fit for purpose legislative framework for the marine environment, including measures for sites of national importance and powers to enable marine planning. As part of WCMP, we also work with others to provide integrated advice to Government on areas of key marine policy delivery.
- 0.0.6 As Government's statutory nature conservation advisor CCW has been closely involved in the implementation of nature conservation provisions in the Marine Act. With our broad marine remit, we consider that CCW has an important position in supporting delivery of marine planning for Wales through both the provision of advice and evidence to the planning process.

- 0.0.7 CCW has a key role in supporting delivery of marine EU obligations, in particular the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive and aspects of the Water Framework Directive. We work with partners to deliver these important obligations. We recognise that the Environment Agency has a lead delivery role for the Water Framework Directive and Bathing Water Quality Directive and refer the Committee to the Environment Agencies response for further detail in these areas.
- 0.0.8 CCW also works to support delivery of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and we have experience of operationalising ICZM principles resulting from the 2002 EU recommendation. We have advised on the EU Integrated Maritime Policy which provides the high level policy framework for marine governance and development across Europe, and in particular in relation to marine spatial planning.
- 0.0.9 Overall, CCW commends Government's progress to date in establishing a policy and legislative framework for the management of our seas. This framework is enabled by the Marine Act and framed by the UK Marine Policy Statement. The powers now in place are also appropriate for supporting the delivery of the wider European framework intended by the MSFD.
- 0.1.0 Significant progress has been made in introducing the legislation and rationalising and consolidation of governance arrangements, (for example, Welsh Government has gained powers and functions for marine planning in the Welsh zone, marine licensing is delivered for Wales in Wales, fisheries management has been taken on by Welsh Government etc). However, progress in delivery of some areas of marine policy delivery has been slow.
- 0.1.1 It is clear that resourcing of marine policy delivery in Wales has had an impact on progress to date and potential progress in the future.
- 0.1.2 The new Natural Resources Body for Wales (NRBW) offers an exciting and significant opportunity to integrate the various existing marine supporting and delivery functions of the Environment Agency Wales and CCW. With adequate resources this new organisation can provide significant support to Government and partners to deliver Government's vision of a clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

2. RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRY'S SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 What progress has been made in relation to the development of marine spatial plans for Wales?

- 0.1.3 Wales has been well-placed to take forward marine planning with Welsh Government having been proactive in seeking advice on marine spatial planning from the Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership in 2007. However,

since gaining marine planning powers in 2009 through the Marine Act, there has been limited progress in Wales relative to England.

- 0.1.4 CCW has responded to a number of relevant consultations in the recent past, including the joint Government consultation on the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), and Welsh Government's initial consultation on the marine planning process for Wales in May 2011. We have also inputted to the WCMP marine planning sub-group.
- 0.1.5 We welcomed the adoption by UK Government administrations of the UK Marine Policy Statement in 2011, and are keen that the positive opportunities for better, more integrated management of our seas are realised through planning. We note that following the adoption of the MPS Welsh Government are now under a duty to seek to ensure that marine plans are prepared for all parts of their region where the MPS governs marine planning¹. For Welsh Government this means ensuring full coverage of the Welsh inshore and offshore region² with marine plans.
- 0.1.6 Our advice to date on marine planning has centred around the importance of setting appropriate governance arrangements for planning that ensure an integrated and inclusive approach. We note that the new marine planning powers offer a significant opportunity for Welsh Government to deliver the aspirations set out in 'Sustaining a Living Wales', in particular in terms of resource use planning and securing ecosystem services.
- 0.1.7 CCW holds a large amount of data and evidence that we expect to contribute to support the development of marine plans. Much of this will need further work to translate or 'interpret' the available evidence into a form useful to the planning process, and this can be time consuming. We also have ongoing evidence needs. CCW has been working on collation and presentation of our data and evidence to support the process of marine planning in Wales. One output has been the creation of CCW's Marine Evidence Directory³. However, given the lack of clarity regarding the progress of marine planning in Wales, we are facing difficulty in planning appropriately for contributing further to the planning process.
- 0.1.8 Marine planning is progressing across the UK and there remains clear support for the process at an EU level⁴. At the same time, a variety of significant areas of marine management and planning work have been moving ahead in Wales, such as marine renewable energy planning and deployment, fisheries management and the recent Marine Conservation Zone Project Wales. Wales will benefit from a marine planning process that can provide a structure, and

¹ Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 – Section 51(2).

² The Welsh inshore and offshore regions are defined in Section 322 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act. In summary Welsh inshore and offshore regions collectively cover from mean high water spring tide out to the median line with adjacent countries.

³ CCW's Marine Evidence Directory is available on CCW's website: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/managing-land-and-sea/marine-evidence-directory.aspx?lang=en>

⁴ Marine spatial planning has been directly promoted and supported at an EU level through a series of Commission communications including: the 2007 Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union; the 2008 Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU; and the 2010 communication on marine spatial planning in the EU.

policies, that integrate the various sectoral planning and decision making processes and ensures all activity in the marine environment is contributing to a shared vision supported by clear objectives and priorities.

2.2 What is the current status of marine protected areas in Wales and what role should the new Marine Conservation Zones have in this network of protected areas?

0.1.9 A coherent, well-managed network of marine protected areas (MPAs) is a crucial part of a healthy, well-planned and managed marine environment and an essential tool in delivery of good environment status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Related to this, delivery of coherent well-managed suite of MPAs in Wales is also central to supporting delivery of the Living Wales programme and an ecosystem-based approach to management. It is therefore important that we continue to improve our understanding of the condition of Welsh MPAs, and issues affecting their condition.

0.2.0 Wales has an extensive suite of marine protected areas representing many years of significant work and commitment. In total there are 125 MPAs in Wales, covering 35% of Welsh seas. The type, numbers and coverage of MPAs in Wales are summarized in Box 1 and all existing MPAs are shown on a map in Annex 2. These sites make a substantial contribution to the UK MPA network.

0.2.1 Nevertheless, Welsh MPAs are not consistently in good condition and further work is needed before Wales has an ecologically coherent and well managed suite of MPAs.

0.2.2 CCW carries out and contributes to various reporting cycles on types of MPA. Details of reporting cycles (see Annex 3). Past reporting indicated that a significant proportion of coastal and marine features were not in favourable condition:

0.2.3 **SACs:** Article 17 of the Habitats Directive requires member states to report on measures taken and their outcome in terms of conservation status for species and habitats listed in the Directives' Annexes, (for further detail of Article 17 reporting requirements see Annex 3). The most recent reporting round under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive was in 2007. At that time, 53% of species features and 46% of habitat features were reported as being in favourable condition with 100% of species and 79% of habitats reported as being in unfavourable conservation status (conservation status is a measure of security of management to maintain or improve condition).

Box 1: Summary of coverage of MPAs in Welsh Seas (MHW to 12 nm)

Number of sites

SAC	= 11
SPA	= 6
SSSI	= 103
Ramsar	= 4
MNR	= 1
Total number of MPAs	= 125

Proportion of Welsh Seas within:

MPAs	= 35.08%
SACs	= 31.41%
SPAs	= 8.08%
SSSIs	= 2.64%
Ramsar	= 1.21%
MNR	= 0.08%

- 0.2.4 CCW is currently preparing data for submission to the third round of six-yearly Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting, due in 2013. Work to contribute to this round of reporting is still ongoing, but early indications are that, despite some improvement in condition in places, most features are considered to be in the same or worse condition and same or worse conservation status; however this summary has yet to be confirmed by completion of the full analysis of data.
- 0.2.5 The suite of new powers created by the Marine Act (fisheries, nature conservation orders, MCZs, marine planning and licensing) in theory improves our ability to provide security of management for our SACs which should lead to an improvement in their conservation status. Early indications that conservation status has not improved since the last round of Article 17 reporting in 2007 may reflect the fact that we are still in the early stages of implementation of these new powers. The lack of change in site condition and conservation status also indicates the length of time it can take to make significant, long-term management changes and subsequently record a measurable effect.
- 0.2.6 **SSSIs:** In 2006 a ‘Rapid Review’ was undertaken to assess the condition of Welsh SSSIs. In the review, 73% of the intertidal habitat features were in favourable condition. It should be noted that the most recent information used for assessing some of the sites dated as far back as 2000 and hence many results may have changed.
- 0.2.7 Reporting cycles also occur for Ramsar sites, SPAs and MCZs. MCZ reporting has not yet occurred, and the first two have not, to date, provided the type of detailed data on condition of marine sites in Wales that would assist the Committee’s enquiry.
- 0.2.8 A key tool for understanding the status of MPAs and identifying priorities in Wales will be the six-yearly Marine Act reporting duty. Welsh Government is required to report to the National Assembly for Wales in 2012 and every six years thereafter on its contribution to the UK MPA network (see Annex 3 for further details). The first report is therefore due later this year. CCW is preparing evidence and advice for Welsh Government to support this reporting duty.
- 0.2.9 CCW has also developed a Special Site Database for Welsh conservation sites. This database, which forms part of the CCW Special Sites Project, records CCW’s recommendations about the management needs of protected areas in Wales⁵. CCW has used the database to identify strategic cross-Wales issues affecting site condition across many MPAs. We are working to identify priority action address these issues. Cross-Wales issues include:
- Sea fish industries
 - Pollution and waste including litter
 - Coastal and flood defence

⁵ The overall aim of the Special Sites Project is to develop CCW and partner organisations’ capacity to manage an efficient and effective programme of works and policy change that will deliver Outcome 21 of the Wales Environment Strategy.

- Non-native species
- New development and activities
- Climate change

0.3.0 From the various strands of work discussed above it is clear that Wales has some way to go to achieve a healthy suite of MPAs in Wales, delivering their objectives.

Issues to address to improve the status of Welsh MPAs

0.3.1 The most pragmatic way for Wales to make its full contribution to a coherent network of MPAs at a UK level and to the conservation and improvement of the Welsh marine environment is by ensuring:

- a) that sites are under effective and secure management and
- b) that the suite of sites in Wales satisfies key network design principles.

0.3.2 It is CCW's view that the suite of MPAs in Wales is not currently making their full potential contribution to the conservation and improvement of the Welsh marine environment or to a coherent UK MPA network. Two key areas where CCW considers that further work is needed to improve the status of our MPAs and their contribution to the wider marine environment:

- a) Improving management of sites, and
- b) Improving our understanding of the degree to which the current suite of MPAs satisfies key network design principles including representivity, replication, connectivity and different levels of protection

0.3.3 **Site management:** Previously, CCW has advised that because of the extent of the existing suite of MPAs in Wales, the priority for our MPAs should be securing favourable management of existing sites. To better understand the issues affecting MPA management CCW recently carried out a review of the management of MPAs in Wales⁶. The evaluation report⁶ concluded that "It is clear that while there has been, and continues to be positive management of some Welsh MPAs (by CCW, other statutory bodies, voluntary groups and individuals), there remains inconsistency in approach, resource allocation and involvement of management authorities as well as a lack of strategic steer across the suite of Welsh MPAs. These issues are hampering delivery of effective management across all MPAs in Wales".

0.3.4 A key conclusion from this review is the need for a stronger lead in MPA management to achieve a more coherent and focused approach to management of the network. The review led to high level recommendations from CCW to Welsh Government (See Annex 4) including recommendations for

⁶ The findings of the MPA Management Review are presented in two reports, the first is an overview of MPA management in Wales, and the second is an evaluation of MPA management. Reports are available from CCW: Overview report: M. Hatton-Ellis, L. Kay, K. Lindenbaum, G. Wyn, M. Lewis, M. Camplin, A. Winterton, A. Bunker, S. Howard, G. Barter & J. Jones, 2012. *MPA Management in Wales 1: Overview of current MPA management in Wales and a summary of new MPA management tools*. CCW Marine Science Report 12/06/01, 56pp, CCW, Bangor.

Evaluation report: M. Hatton-Ellis, L. Kay, M. Lewis, K. Lindenbaum, G. Wyn, A. Winterton, A. Bunker, S. Howard, G. Barter, M. Camplin & J. Jones, 2012. *MPA Management Report 2: Assessment of current MPA management in Wales*. CCW Marine Science Series No: 12/06/03, 78pp, CCW, Bangor.

establishing new governance arrangements for the management of MPAs including a Wales MPA Management Steering Group led, potentially, by Welsh Government. At the time of writing CCW and Welsh Government are yet to agree a way forward.

- 0.3.5 **Network design principles:** There are various commonly recognised principles used to design MPA networks and to assess them for overall ecological coherence, including: representivity of species and habitats in the network area; replication of features; connectivity between sites, and different levels of protection. Whilst representivity of features across Wales and as part of the wider network appears to be good, there is still work to be done to create a fully coherent suite of sites. In particular there is ongoing work to fully implement the Birds Directive in the marine environment across the UK. (This is covered further in section 2.4, paragraphs 0.6.4 – 0.6.7). In addition, we do not yet fully understand the degree to which conservation measures within large sites such as SACs protect other features that the site was not designated for, consequently, we do not yet fully understand how representative our suite of MPAs is.
- 0.3.6 CCW has consistently advised that a coherent network of MPAs should include a variety of levels of protection and that we currently do not have any site with a high level of protection for all habitats and species present from human-induced impacts. Levels of protection are discussed further in the next section addressing Marine Conservation Zones.

The role of Marine Conservation Zones

- 0.3.7 The purpose of the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) designation is to conserve (a) marine flora or fauna, (b) marine habitats or types of habitats, or (c) features of geological or geomorphological interest.
- 0.3.8 CCW has advised that the MCZ power should be used in Wales to secure a small number of highly protected sites. This advice has been provided based on assessment of the scientific evidence which indicates that highly protected sites, if in the right locations and effectively managed, can provide significant and measurable biodiversity gains as well as improvements in understanding of the marine environment and human impacts.
- 0.3.9 The advice to use the MCZ power to create some highly protected sites also reflects our understanding of wider commitments and policy intent at the time. The value of an MPA network that incorporates varying levels of protection in order to contribute to the health of the wider marine environment is recognised through a number of national and international commitments, including the Convention on Biological Diversity⁷. The requirement in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, to contribute to a coherent MPA network is directly intended to contribute to delivery of the objectives of the CBD.

⁷ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) commits states to securing a coherent network of marine protected areas which should include both multiple use and strict protection sites.

- 0.4.0 During the Marine Act's development and passage through parliament there was considerable discussion on the need for highly protected sites within the UK MPA network. The Joint Committee (including Welsh members) that carried out pre-legislative scrutiny of the Marine Bill clearly recommended that the MPA network should include Highly Protected Marine Reserves⁸. During the Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons, the Minister confirmed Government's intention to designate highly protected sites as part of the MPA network; 'MCZs will include areas that have not only a high level of protection, but a high level of protection where extractive industries, for example, are prohibited'⁹. The Marine Act requires Welsh Government to report on its contribution to the UK MPA network every 6 years, including how many MCZs have been created where extraction and deposition are excluded.
- 0.4.1 CCW has contributed to the MCZ project Wales. Our role during the MCZ Project Wales has been to provide technical advice and support to the Technical Advisory Group, to sit on the Steering Group, and to attend the Stakeholder and Citizen's Engagement Group as an observer member. Some issues relating to the MCZ Project Wales are discussed further in section 2.7 on stakeholder engagement.
- 0.4.2 CCW will continue to contribute to work led by Welsh Government to best use the MCZ designation in Wales, and we will continue to draw on and develop our research and advice to date.
- 0.4.3 In summary, the main focus for Wales should be on the existing suite of sites and improving their management. It is also important to continue to improve our understanding of the ecological coherence of the suite of MPAs in Wales, both in terms of coverage of and adequate conservation of features in Welsh waters, but also in terms of appropriate levels of protection.
- Skomer Marine Nature Reserve***
- 0.4.4 CCW has statutory responsibility for management of Skomer Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). CCW (and previously the Nature Conservancy Council for Wales) has been working to improve the conservation and understanding of the MNR, in collaboration with local users and the local community, since its designation in 1990. In considering how Welsh Government intends to use the MCZ designation, CCW therefore has a particular interest in securing the future for Skomer MNR. Skomer must be converted to an MCZ at some point, and this will happen automatically when Welsh Government commences the MCZ provisions in the Marine Act¹⁰.

⁸ House of Lords / House of Commons (2008) *Joint Committee on the draft Marine Bill – First Report* 16 July 2008

⁹ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/>

¹⁰ The MCZ provisions in Chapter 1, Part 5 of the Marine Act do not come into force until Welsh Ministers commence the provisions by order.

0.4.5 CCW would wish to fully consider the type of protection and management afforded to Skomer in its conversion to an MCZ. Whilst the Marine Act allows for the conversion of Skomer to an MCZ with its current bylaws retained as Marine Act Orders, we think the opportunity should be taken to examine and potentially enhance the levels of protection and management at Skomer. CCW remains committed to the management of Skomer MNR/MCZ as a long standing, well supported marine conservation site that provides a positive demonstration of how locally managed sites can work.

2.3 The development of the Welsh Government's functions in relation to marine licensing and fisheries and whether this has been effective?

Marine licensing

0.4.6 CCW has previously advised that it is less important who delivers marine licensing functions in Wales, relative to how it is delivered; we still consider this to be the case. Welsh Ministers have responsibility for Marine Licensing in Wales and the Welsh inshore region as defined by Section 113 of the Marine Act. As part of the rationalisation of marine governance that occurred with the passage of the Marine Act, UK and Welsh Government effectively rationalised the system of consenting many marine activities. The new system largely replaced Part 2 of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985; Section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949 and The Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (Wales) Regulations 2007. It also removed the need for separate consent under the Electronic Communications Code. In April 2010 Welsh Government also took responsibility for administering the regulation of activities consented under the Marine Act Licence (previously administered on Welsh Government's behalf by the Marine Management Organisation).

0.4.7 CCW's role is to act as an advisor to Welsh Government about the effects of licensable activities on natural heritage and this includes providing advice on the nature of survey and assessment methodology required to understand potential effects. One constraint to decision making in marine licensing is the fact that we often know very little about impacts of developments on the marine environment. CCW has been proactive in addressing this issue, and examples relating to evidence of impacts on mobile species are presented in Box 2.

0.4.8 In CCW's experience, the systems established by Welsh Governments Marine Consents Unit (MCU) have proved effective and efficient. For more complex projects especially, the early scoping of environmental issues is critical so that project designs can take these into account and so that conflicts can be avoided at a later stage. The MCU has been proactive in encouraging developers to undertake the studies and consultation that is necessary to achieve this.

0.4.9 From our perspective, Welsh Government has therefore successfully developed and delivered its marine licensing functions since taking on the responsibility, albeit with minimum resources for delivery of this crucial

function. In future however, greater emphasis will need to be placed on developing the role further such as on developing tools for assessing projects risks, the re-use of data and information gathered during project assessment and improving access to information about project consents.

- 0.5.0 The key constraint to developing the licensing function further is availability of resources. If the marine license function moves to the new Natural Resources Body for Wales it will be vital that sufficient resources are made available to continue to provide and further develop the licensing system that supports sustainable use of Welsh seas.

Box 2: Improving the evidence base for mobile species for marine licensing and planning.

Knowledge and data on the distribution, abundance and life histories of mobile species (fish, seabirds and marine mammals) and their sensitivity to impacts from anthropogenic activities is often very limited and can be seen as a constraint to decision-making. CCW works with partners to develop the evidence base for mobile species and to facilitate the consideration of impacts upon them in marine consenting decisions and marine planning. CCW has undertaken a number of pieces of work to address this issue, for example:

1. Production of mobile species spatial evidence layers

The best available information on the distribution and abundance of seabirds and marine mammals in Welsh waters has been collated to produce GIS based evidence layers available for use in marine planning and consenting decisions. Maps have also been produced presenting the relative sensitivity and vulnerability of marine birds and mammals around Wales to impacts from activities, based on their biology, life history traits and conservation status. These evidence layers been incorporated into marine spatial planning processes for marine renewable energy and have wider potential application to marine spatial planning in general.

2. Improving the evidence base on impacts from activities

Marine renewable energy developments present a challenge for marine licensing, given the high level of uncertainty over their potential environmental impacts, the lack of information from deployments elsewhere and the level of precaution required by environmental legislation. CCW has worked proactively with the Welsh Marine Consents Unit and Tidal Energy Ltd, on a proposal to deploy a tidal stream device in Ramsey Sound Pembrokeshire. By adopting an adaptive management approach to deployment, controlled by strict operational conditions and subject to a specifically designed monitoring programme, crucial data on close-scale interactions between an operating device and marine mammals will be provided for the first time anywhere in the world.

3. Developing a framework for assessing impacts on mobile species populations

Individual activities or projects may not present a threat to the maintenance of marine mammal populations, but cumulatively have the potential to significantly affect their long-term viability. The difficulty of assessing such impacts is compounded by the wide geographical range of many mammal populations, which may span UK administrative boundaries. CCW is a founder partner in a project to develop an agreed UK wide framework for assessing the potential effects of marine renewables on marine mammal populations, addressing not only the impacts of individual projects, but also the possible cumulative effects of multiple projects and activities.

Welsh Government fisheries functions

- 0.5.1 The functions of the two Welsh Sea Fishery Committees were brought in house by Welsh Government in 2010. Since the beginning of 2012, Welsh Government has recruited a number of staff to fill key roles, and are now effectively developing and delivering key areas of their functions in relation to the Marine Act 2009 and wider EU conservation related Directives. For example the new Horse Mussel Order 2012 to protect the *Modiolus* reefs of north Wales from the impacts of mobile gear¹¹, the new Boat Tracking System Order 2012¹² to assist in the enforcement of the Scallop Order 2010 and the new Cockle and Mussel (Specified Area)(Wales) Order 2011 managing commercial cockle fishing.
- 0.5.2 Bringing forward the Scallop Order (Wales) 2010 was a particularly significant achievement from a nature conservation perspective. This is a comprehensive piece of legislation that considers Article 6 of the Habitats Directive by protecting designated features of the marine environment and mobile species from the impacts from scallop dredging.
- 0.5.3 Welsh Government is currently undertaking a strategic review of all current Welsh fisheries legislation. Currently this involves integrating and rationalising the legislation that applies in north and south Wales since the amalgamation of the former Sea Fishery committees in to the WG. CCW are working in partnership with the WG Fish legislative review staff to highlight any areas of nature conservation concern with regards to proposed fisheries legislation and to identify appropriate mechanisms and processes for limiting these effects for example using a restrictive permit to manage the scallop fishery in Wales or looking at the potential effects of rotational and zonal management for the scallop fishery.
- 0.5.4 Both CCW and Welsh Government recognise the biggest issue for this exercise (and managing marine activities in general) is the lack of information available to be able to effectively assess impacts from fishing activities. This is an area that CCW and WG are currently working on through the population of the fisheries elements of the CCW Special Sites Database (see paragraph 0.2.9). Through a process of prioritisation of fisheries activity impacts based on current evidence it will be possible to identify areas of risk or issues that require further investigation of impacts, and areas where fisheries management powers can be used to deliver conservation improvements.

¹¹ The *Modiolus* Order 2012 that will be come into force later this year is intended to protect a vulnerable habitat from the effects of mobile fishing gears. Areas of *Modiolus* reef, a Biodiversity Action Plan species, exist both within and adjacent to a European Marine Sites. They are a slow growing species that support a rich diversity of marine life with few remaining examples within Welsh waters.

¹² The Boat Tracking System Order 2012 that will come into force later this year is at the fore front of UK real time management of fisheries activities that may impact Marine Protected Area features. This Order will make it a legislative requirement for all boats prosecuting the scallop fishery in Wales to have a satellite monitoring system onboard. This system will real time information to an operations room in Milford Haven Fishery Office that will indicate where the scallop boats are operating allowing the tasking of fisheries assets for enforcement purposes to be efficient and effectively used. This system will aid in enforcing the Scallop Order 2010.

- 0.5.5 Welsh Government developed the Welsh Fishing Strategy 2008 and subsequent implementation plans outlining the direction of travel for fisheries until 2020. CCW understands that the Strategy will be reviewed later this year as there have been significant developments within marine policy and legislation both in a UK and EU context since 2008. The new strategy will look to make the links between the various UK and EU marine fisheries initiatives that currently exist and those such as the reformed Common Fisheries policy that will be introduced in 2013. CCW looks forward to engaging with the review to build on progress in management of fisheries for the benefit of the industry and the environment.
- 0.5.6 Recent communications from Defra indicate that Defra want to initiate a new approach to applying the Habitats Directive to fishing activities within European Marine Sites. They will assess proposed activities within European Marine Sites using a risk-based approach on their impacts and use local management to bring forward legislation as necessary to protect sites. Welsh Government have already been applying this approach in some areas as they have been assessing the impacts from fishing activities against Article 6 of the Habitats Directive during the consultation for the Scallop Order (Wales) 2010. The same process is currently being used when considering forthcoming fisheries legislation later in 2012 and with the review of Welsh fisheries legislation in general.
- 0.5.7 There is still much to do to address the impacts of fisheries in particular in MPAs, but overall there has been steady progress in improvements in the management of fisheries and impacts on the marine environment.

2.4 What progress has been made by the Welsh Government in the implementation of key European Directives?

- 0.5.8 The suite of key European Directives that apply to the marine environment provide collectively some of our most significant conservation, management and planning tools and structures. For CCW, the key directives include the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Water Framework Directive, as well as key policy initiatives such as the Common Fisheries Policy, EU Integrated Maritime Policy and ICZM Recommendation.
- 0.5.9 The MSFD is a new and exciting opportunity to address the health of the whole marine environment by seeking to secure Good Environmental Status, equated to sustainable use, across all European marine waters. The MSFD appears to be increasingly seen by Government administrations across the UK as the overarching key legislative driver in marine protection, conservation and management
- 0.6.0 The various Directives are all at different stages and we are still learning a great deal from the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives passed in 1979 and 1992 respectively. This ongoing learning process and the fact that we still do not have all our SAC, for example, in favourable condition

and conservation status, indicates the length of time it can take to realise the full intended benefits of these significant pieces of European legislation. This highlights the need for long term commitment and resourcing.

Habitats Directive

- 0.6.1 The Habitats Directive is an important piece of legislation for the environment providing us with, at current stages of legislative implementation, our key marine conservation and protection tools. SACs under the Habitats Directive, together with SPAs under the Birds Directive create the EU Nature 2000 network and to date collectively protect our most important marine and coastal biodiversity.
- 0.6.2 There has been strong early progress in establishing sites, with 11 marine SACs covering just over 30% of Welsh seas. Conservation Objectives¹³ have been published for all Welsh SACs and a number of sites now have, or are developing Management Schemes¹⁴. A number of the larger SACs also have Relevant Authority Groups (RAGs) that develop the Management Schemes and oversee and coordinate their collective management functions. CCW is a key partner in these RAGs, and has also provided core funding of these groups and supporting officers.
- 0.6.3 Although good progress has been made in coverage of sites and in some cases management structures, issues remain over site management delivery and the condition of sites, and hence the delivery of conservation objectives. These issues have been discussed in more detail in section 2.2.

Birds Directive

- 0.6.4 Good early progress was made in Wales compared to the rest of the UK with the designation of the first marine SPA in Camarthen Bay for wintering Common Scoter, classified in 2003. This was followed by the cross-border Liverpool Bay SPA for wintering Red-throated Diver and Common Scoter in 2010.
- 0.6.5 Despite the two existing sites, in comparison to the Habitats Directive, recent progress with delivery of the Birds Directive in the marine environment has been relatively slow and the network remains incomplete. Wales is, however, progressing at a similar pace to the other UK countries. JNCC is leading work to understand the evidence and need for further sites across the UK. CCW has been contributing to this UK-wide work since 2005.
- 0.6.6 There are four key strands of work relevant to Wales:
- i. Boundary extensions on some existing seabird breeding SPAs to protect areas of sea that are ecologically important for the seabirds
 - ii. Inshore non-breeding waterbirds
 - iii. Off shore seabirds
 - iv. Important foraging areas for terns in Welsh waters.

¹³ Under Regulation 35 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

¹⁴ Under Regulation 36 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

0.6.7 We are all waiting on final conclusions for the different branches of the work. The colony extension work stream has progressed sufficiently to enable CCW to recommend three seaward extensions to existing breeding colony SPAs to Welsh Government (see Table 1). Welsh Government have asked CCW to take forward these recommendations in 2012/13.

Table 1: Recommendations for SPA boundary extensions

SPA	Recommended extension	Species
Skokholm & Skomer	4 km	Common Guillemot, Razorbill, Puffin, Manx shearwater
Grassholm	2 km	Northern Gannet
Aberdaron Coast & Bardsey Island. / Glannau Aberdaron & Ynys Enlli	9 km (from CCW & JNCC research)	Manx shearwater

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

0.6.8 Delivery of the Marine Strategy Directive is still in the early stages. Implementation of the MSFD is being coordinated by Defra via a UK MSFD Policy Steering Group, on which CCW sits. Technical support is coordinated via the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy; again CCW is represented in this structure.

0.6.9 CCW has contributed to key consultation phases in the development and implementation of the Directive, including the UK Government administrations consultation in Spring 2012 on proposals for Good Environmental Status and the UK Initial Assessment. (These are the first 2 key requirements of the Directive.). CCW, and a number of other organisations, did comment that there is a lack of ambition in the UK proposals for Good Environmental Status description and targets, meaning it is unlikely that the first round of implementation of the Directive will drive substantial improvements in the status of Welsh and UK seas.

0.7.0 Under the transposing Marine Strategy Regulations (2010), Welsh Government is responsible for establishing a monitoring programme and programme of measures for Welsh seas. It is a particular concern that at present we do not have the resources in Wales needed to adequately deliver the next stages of the Directive.

0.7.1 In bringing together the functions of CCW and EAW, we can expect the new Natural Resource Body for Wales to have a crucial advisory role across all requirements of the Directive and delivery role for monitoring and management measures.

0.7.2 The MSFD is a very significant work area that needs to be adequately resourced if it is to deliver both the overarching framework it is expected to

provide, and the intended marine environmental benefits that take us towards truly sustainable use of our seas.

Water Framework Directive

- 0.7.3 There are strong links between the MSFD and the WFD which overlap in coastal waters out to 1 nm (and for chemical status out to 12 nm). MSFD focussed on the achievement of Good Environmental Status in marine waters, and WFD aiming to achieve Good Ecological and Good Chemical Status in rivers, lakes, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters. In order to improve the consistency of approaches across the two Directives, the UK proposals for Good Environmental Status targets and indicators for MSFD have been aligned as far as possible with similar targets and assessment tools under the WFD.
- 0.7.4 We are working closely with the Environment Agency at (national?) regional and local levels to ensure that the priority actions for protected sites (SAC, SPAs Ramsars etc.), set out in Annex D of the River Basin Management Plans, are linked closely to the appropriate measures. Although compared to the fluvial measures, there has been relatively little progress in the estuarine and coastal environment, CCW are continuing to work closely with the Agency to ensure additional measures are identified where necessary, the process is kept up to date with our Special Sites Actions Database (see paragraph 0.2.9) and as measures become operational they are monitored and reported on.
- 0.7.5 We are also liaising with the Agency to ensure that the Conservation Objectives for protected sites continue to remain the standard used to measure Good Ecological Status where appropriate and that the RBMPs seek to integrate the annex D actions into the mainstream delivery of the WFD.
- 0.7.6 Finally, we are working with all partners but particularly the water companies, Environment Agency and WG to ensure the review of the RBMPs and Action Plans take full account of the opportunities offered, particularly in bringing together complementary work areas, for example the developing PR14 work, Glastir and catchment initiatives such as the Cambrian Mountains Project, to build on and develop the ecosystem services approach as far as possible.

Common Fisheries Policy

- 0.7.7 The Committee interest in reform of CFP is welcome. CCW provided written and oral evidence to the Committee's enquiry in to the CFP and we refer the Committee to this previous response.

EU Integrated Maritime Policy

- 0.7.8 CCW advised on the development of the European Commission's Integrated Maritime Policy, which was published in 2007¹⁵. The Integrated Maritime Policy provides the high level governance framework for marine planning and management in Europe with the aim of providing a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas.

¹⁵ Communication from the Commission, *An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union*, COM(2007)575, 10/10/2007.

A number of projects (actions) were proposed in the Policy, including the development of a roadmap for maritime spatial planning, which has subsequently been published¹⁶. The EU continues to promote and fund priorities for the Policy illustrating the continuing importance placed on integrated planning and management in the marine environment.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

- 0.7.9 The European Parliament and Council published its ICZM Recommendations in May 2002¹⁷ which made recommendations on a number of areas including: a strategic approach to the management of coastal areas; a series of ICZM principles; production of national strategies. Although a review of the Recommendation was launched in 2001, the ICZM Recommendation as a policy initiative appears to have been somewhat overtaken by other integrated policy developments at a European level, including the Marine Policy Statement, and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and interest in marine spatial planning.
- 0.8.0 Welsh Government published a strategy for delivery of ICZM in Wales in 2007¹⁸. CCW has worked to take forward its own actions in the strategy. We are not aware of future plans for specific ICZM related work, which may be due to the breadth of other marine policy and legislative commitments on the agenda for Wales at the present time.
- 0.8.2 ICZM remains an important process for bringing together the many and varied activities and priorities at the coast, and the process of marine planning, MSFD delivery and other areas of marine policy delivery may present further opportunities to implement ICZM principles.
- 2.5 Whether there is sufficient cooperation and coordination between the Welsh Government and its neighbouring administrations in relation to the management of its seas?**
- 0.8.3 Many marine management functions are areas of devolved responsibility, such as marine planning, marine licensing, fisheries management and nature conservation. Responsibility for some key remains at a UK level areas such as licensing of large infrastructure projects, overall UK delivery of European Directives. The mix of responsibility, and limited resources naturally focussed on internal delivery in Wales, does make cooperation and coordination a challenge. However despite this challenge there has been good cooperation in a number of areas.
- 0.8.4 The joint UK administrations Marine Policy Statement was published in 2011 after an inclusive process of consultation with stakeholders. There has also been good coordination to date over delivery of the MSFD, with Defra taking

¹⁶ Communication from the Commission, *Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU*, COM/2008/0791 final

¹⁷ Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2002 concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe, 2002/413/EC

¹⁸ Welsh Assembly Government (2007) *Making the Most of the Coast: the ICZM Strategy For Wales*

a strong lead and Welsh Government contributing to the governance and decision making process. Defra intend to continue playing a coordinating role in the next stages of delivery (monitoring programme and programme of measures) although direct responsibility for these stages lies with Welsh Government. Given concerns over lack of resources to deliver the next stages of MSFD in Wales, it is not clear now well the existing good coordination will continue.

0.8.5 There is a need to join up and collaborate on development and delivery of similar areas of marine policy and legislation with neighbouring administrations to avoid conflict that creates difficulties for stakeholders, and also to ensure the full potential environmental, economic and societal benefits are achieved. Differences in timing of delivery across administrations, however, makes meaningful collaboration harder; for example the different pace of development of the Welsh and neighbouring MCZ Projects made meaningful interaction difficult. The disparity in progress with marine planning in Wales compared to England also mean that we are likely to miss the opportunity for meaningful collaboration over marine planning in border areas.

0.8.6 Following the formation of Inshore Fisheries Conservation Agencies and the Marine Management Organisation in England, and the absorption by Welsh Government of the functions of the Welsh sea fisheries committees, there are now opportunities for development of joint working arrangements and agreements across the borders of Wales.

0.8.7 CCW works actively with other statutory nature conservation bodies throughout the UK to address collective marine nature conservation issues, and where appropriate provide joint advice to Government. The JNCC has an important function in coordinating advice on UK-wide conservation issues. We expect to see CCW's collaborative UK role continued in the new Natural Resources Body for Wales. However, the increasing volume of marine work in recent years coupled with pressure on resources has meant this UK-wide collaboration has become harder to achieve as fully as in the past.

2.6 Whether the Welsh Government has sufficient financial and staff resource to deliver on its marine policy and legislation objectives?

0.8.8 As is clear from the scope of the Committee's inquiry the breadth of the current programme of marine policy and legislative delivery is substantial. The availability of adequate resources, both finance and people, is challenging not only Welsh Government, but Wales in general. Many areas of marine work are also new compared to terrestrial conservation, planning and management systems (such as the MSFD, and new powers in the Marine Act) creating further challenges in terms of capacity for delivery.

0.8.9 It is clear that the current level of resources is not enabling Wales to keep pace with policy delivery elsewhere in the UK. At current levels of resourcing Wales may also struggle to keep pace with the next stages of MSFD delivery,

certainly at the scale indicated by recent UK government administration proposals for delivery of Good Environmental Status in UK seas (see section 2.4, paragraphs 0.6.8 – 0.7.2).

- 0.9.0 Government has published detailed Impact Assessments of the cost and benefits of delivery of substantial pieces of new legislation in recent years, including the Marine Act and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive¹⁹. These assessments show that implementation comes with significant costs but we have not yet seen equivalent additional funding from Government to match the forecast necessary investment. However, the assessments also show that if this investment in delivery is made, this should result in economic benefits that are orders of magnitude higher than the costs. For example, the Impact Assessment for the Marine Act concluded that the total cost of implementation was £736m – £1.54bn, whilst the total benefit was £8.6bn – £19.6bn.
- 0.9.1 If resourced better, the size of Wales and well connected organisations represents a huge opportunity to improve the condition and management of our important marine environment and heritage. It is also an opportunity to lead the way in integrated, ecosystem-based marine planning and management.
- 0.9.2 Despite limited resources, Welsh Government has none the less made significant progress in implementing key areas of marine policy, such as the Marine Consents Unit, and delivery of new fisheries management functions.
- 0.9.3 Whilst noting that more resources are needed, CCW recognises the reality that resources are not unlimited, especially in the current financial climate. It is therefore all the more important to have a clear vision and integrated governance structure to make effective and efficient use of available resources. CCW understands that Welsh Government has been examining its marine governance structures; we therefore look forward to the efficiencies and coherence this may bring to marine policy delivery.
- 0.9.4 The new Natural Resources Body for Wales will have a vital role in advising on and supporting delivery of marine policy and legislation in Wales. This new organisation therefore represents a major opportunity for more integrated delivery, but this will need to be led by a clear coherent vision and priorities from Government, coupled with the resources to actively deliver on these priorities.

¹⁹ Examples of Impact Assessments include:

Defra (2009) *Marine and Coastal Access Act Impact Assessment: Final - Royal Assent*, Defra, March 2010

Defra (2010) *Transposition of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive: Final Impact Assessment*, Defra, June 2010

Defra (2012) *Marine Strategy Framework Directive Consultation: UK Initial Assessment and Proposals for Good Environmental Status*, Defra, March 2012

2.7 Whether stakeholders have been sufficiently involved in the shaping of new policies and the development of legislation?

0.9.5 Actively involving stakeholders in initiatives that affect their interests and concerns is fundamental to the way CCW works. We recognise the relevance and importance of the Making the Connections Agenda and the need for citizen focussed delivery of our functions.

Box 3: FishMap Môn

FishMap Môn aims to work collaboratively with fishers to help improve the sustainability of fisheries around Anglesey and the Menai Straits and in doing so, help achieve the vision of the Wales Fisheries Strategy which is to “support the development of viable and sustainable fisheries in Wales as an integral part of coherent policies for safeguarding the environment”. As a pilot project, FishMap Môn will engage with the local fishing industry in trialling approaches of collecting and mapping information on fishing activity and combining it with existing data on habitat type and sensitivity.

0.9.6 Partnership working is central to CCW’s approach and we work daily with stakeholders at a national and local level. The FishMap Môn project is a good example of CCW’s active collaborative working; details of the project are given in Box 3. It is encouraging to see this ethos of collaborative partnership working in advocated in the recent “Striking the Balance” Publication by the Welsh Fisherman’s Association²⁰.

0.9.7 CCW understands the value of regular informal engagement and building relationships and understanding of our work and that effective ongoing stakeholder engagement takes considerable time and resources. We also recognise that at times there are areas of policy that Government and other organisations may need to develop to a certain point before engaging more widely and that this is a difficult judgement to get right.

0.9.8 CCW recognises that Welsh Government does seek to engage stakeholders in marine policy and legislation development, and there are some good examples of this. The system of stakeholder engagement groups established by Welsh Government fisheries that look at fisheries policy proposals is one such example. Stakeholders have also been engaged in developing thinking in others areas such as on marine planning through advice from WCMP in 2007 and Government’s initial consultation on the marine planning process for Wales in May 2011.

0.9.9 Welsh Government also recently conducted a stakeholder engagement exercise through the consultation on proposals for highly protected MCZs. This consultation provoked significant debate not only on the proposals themselves but on the process of engagement. There are therefore lessons to be learnt from this process in terms of timing, depth and nature of stakeholder engagement as well as anticipating and mitigating potential problems.

²⁰ Wooler, A (2012) *Striking the Balance: An Ecosystem-based Approach for MPA Management in Wales* Welsh Fishermen’s Association Ltd, July 2012

- 1.0.0 One principle of effective stakeholder engagement is identifying the right organisation to take that engagement forward. For national policy issues and development of legislation it is clearly the role of Government to lead stakeholder engagement. However, for detailed delivery proposals that have clear direct local impact, it may be more appropriate for a delivery organisation with a local presence to undertake the necessary communication and engagement.
- 1.0.1 There are a variety of existing structures in Wales, such as the WCMP and local coastal partnerships that can provide the opportunity to engage directly with stakeholders in the development and delivery of policy and legislation. Stakeholders could be more actively and consistently used to input to the work of Government, including better use of these existing structures.

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Countryside Council for Wales
September 2012

ANNEX 1: Evidence of changes in the marine environment

Example publications that review changes in our seas include:

- Defra (2010) *Charting Progress II: The State of the UK's Seas*.
<http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk>
- Gubbay, S. (2009) *A Selective review of historical information about the marine environment around Wales*. Report to WWF Cymru

The following extracts are from an Article for CCW's Winter 2010 H₂O newsletter, summarising findings from Charting Progress II:

The key **UK scale environmental messages** from the report are:

- Sea levels have risen by about 14cm during the last century and surface temperatures have increased by 1°C since the late nineteenth century;
- Populations of sea birds and harbour seals are declining in some areas;
- Fish stocks have improved but many are still fished unsustainably;
- Many estuaries are cleaner and this has increased the diversity and number of fish species;
- Contamination by hazardous substances (such as heavy metals)
- has reduced in most regions, and there are few or no problems relating to radioactivity, eutrophication, or algal toxins in seafood;
- Litter, particularly plastic, was found on all beaches surveyed, as well as the sea and on the seabed;
- Marine industries, contributed £47 billion to the economy in 2008; and
- The main pressures on the marine environment are damage to, and loss of, habitat on the seabed from fishing and the presence of physical structures.

Welsh observations based on *Charting Progress 2* and CCW experience:

Since the mid-1980s the Irish Sea has one of the clearest regional warming profiles, with sea level rise and flood risk identified as important issues for north Wales and around the Bristol Channel. The state of intertidal rock and sediment habitat is deteriorating as a result of rising sea level and water temperatures, with localised shell fish harvesting, litter, coastal structures and non-native species having a cumulative effect.

In general new records of marine non-native species are being frequently reported, and some have a detrimental invasive capacity.

Subtidal sediment habitats are being affected to varying degrees by dredging and trawling for fishing. Localised pressures on subtidal habitats include aggregate extraction, and the installation of renewable energy infrastructure.

The main pressure on fish populations is the removal of fish by commercial fishing activities. There is some commercial species farming, such as mussels in the Menai Strait.

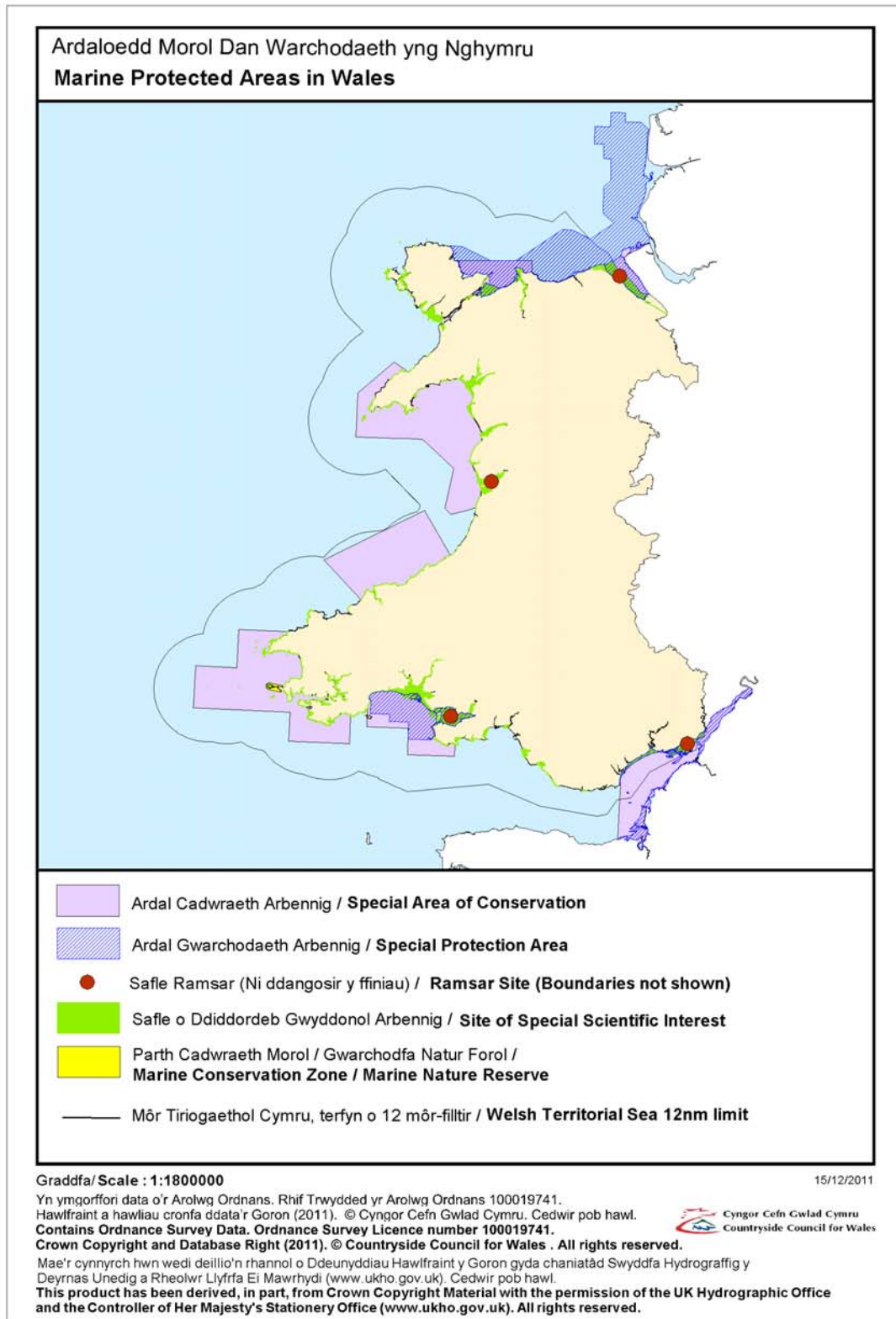
Welsh seabird colonies have not experienced the population declines recorded in other regions. Changes in the Welsh wintering distribution of estuarine birds have been noticed recently and may be related to climatic change.

Grey seal populations are thought to be relatively stable but they are difficult to survey in Wales as they use caves and remote locations for breeding. Equally, cetacean populations may be stable but there is a low level of confidence associated with the assessment in *Charting Progress 2*.

Some Welsh estuaries (and river systems) are known to have a legacy of contaminated sediments resulting from historic industrial activity. In general, beach litter is considered an aesthetic and economic problem but more research is needed to fully understand the ecological implications.

(Extracts from article by Catherine Duigan.)

ANNEX 2: Map of Marine Protected Areas in Wales



ANNEX 3: MPA reporting cycles and requirements

Special Areas of Conservation: SAC reporting is governed by Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. Article 17 requires member states to report on measures taken and their outcome in terms of conservation status for species and habitats listed in the Directives' Annexes. The reporting relates to features wherever they are found (i.e. not just in SACs). There have been 2 previous reporting rounds the most recent being in 2007. The next reporting date is 2013, with reporting at a UK level coordinated by JNCC.

CCW is also currently preparing data for submission to the third round of six-yearly Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting, due in 2013. CCW is collating data on distribution and extent (range) of features and how this has changed, as well as information on structure and function. CCW will also break down data on a site by site basis to improve our understanding of the condition of MPAs and follow on from site based reporting also done in 2007.

Special Protection Areas: Article 12 of the Birds Directive requires member states to report on implementation of the Directive every 3 years, although the UK has not adhered strictly to this timetable. The European Commission is planning to change reporting requirements to synchronise better with Habitats Directive reporting requirements.

JNCC's 2001 review of implementation of the Bird's Directive mainly focused on the terrestrial environment but recognises the need for a review of implementation in the Marine Environment. The next major review of implementation of the Bird's Directive is due in December 2013 (the beginning of the process of synchronising reporting with the Habitats Directive)

SSSI: Where SSSIs overlap with EMSs and the same marine habitats and/or species are encompassed by both designations, information about the marine features is collected through a single programme of monitoring. However, there are many SSSI with marine features out-with EMS and monitoring the condition and conservation status of all of these in Wales is a challenge. Currently CCW monitors marine SSSI features as far as resources allows, employing a risk based approach in prioritising monitoring activities and working collaboratively with other organisations undertaking marine monitoring work (such as the Environment Agency) in order to maximise monitoring capacity.

In 2006 a 'Rapid Review' was undertaken to assess the condition of Welsh SSSIs. This process used the best available information for features, combined with CCW officers' professional judgement. The review data has not been broken down for all marine SSSI features, however intertidal habitat was reported on.

Ramsar sites: Ramsar reporting is submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat every 6 years. Reporting is quite high level and integrated across the UK²¹. It is therefore hard to

²¹ The latest UK report (June 2012) on the implementation of the Ramsar convention on wetlands can be found at <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/nr/cop11-nr-uk.pdf>

extract specific information to make a clear judgment on the status of Ramsar sites that form part of the suite of Welsh MPAs.

Marine Conservation Zones: Section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) requires Welsh Government to lay a report before the National Assembly for Wales in 2012, and six yearly thereafter, on the extent to which they have achieved the objectives in the Act to use MCZs to contribute to a UK MPA network. The report must also cover further steps needed, as well as various details on any MCZs designated. The objectives for the network that must be met by a combination of EMSs, SSSIs, Ramsar sites and MCZs are that:

- (a) that the network contributes to the conservation or improvement of the marine environment in the UK marine area;
- (b) that the features which are protected by the sites comprised in the network represent the range of features present in the UK marine area;
- (c) that the designation of sites comprised in the network reflects the fact that the conservation of a feature may require the designation of more than one site.

The objectives a, b and c above can be interpreted as:

- (a) Effective/ favourable management leading to favourable condition of sites
- (b) Representivity
- (c) Replication

Skomer MNR reporting: The conservation status of MNR features is assessed according to performance indicators set out in the site management plan. MNR features differ from those in the surrounding European marine site in that they are selected and assessed in a similar way to those on National Nature Reserves and they are at a different scale (except for species such as the Atlantic grey seal).

MNR monitoring data and conservation status assessments are also used to help determine the condition and conservation status of EMS features for the surrounding Pembrokeshire Marine SAC of which the Skomer MNR forms part.

ANNEX 4: CCW's conclusions and recommendations to Welsh Government following CCW's MPA management review

The follows recommendations were made to Welsh Government in Spring 2012:

Overall CCW has concluded that there is a need for greater leadership in securing well managed MPAs. Welsh Government, supported by CCW, the Single Body, and others should take on this role, working to deliver effective MPA management that is integrated across Government with a strong element of stakeholder involvement in line with the Sustaining a Living Wales approach and thereby clearly contributing to the wider sustainable development agenda for Wales. Effective MPA management needs to be more clearly recognised as being an integral part of achieving the Government's shared vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, as well as delivering the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. We advise Welsh Government that this can be achieved by:

- Building on Government's commitment to secure a well managed network of MPAs by adopting a strategic vision for the suite of Welsh MPAs and their management which acts to guide delivery of MPA management across Wales. For example: Welsh MPAs are under effective and consistent management that safeguards the marine wildlife and habitats of those sites and delivers wider ecosystem benefits including the delivery of clean, safe, healthy, productive and biologically diverse Welsh seas. MPAs are valued for the benefit they provide to the people of Wales through the protection of their rich natural and cultural heritage, and their role in helping ensure that the marine environment continues to provide a full range of benefits to society for the long term.
- Ensuring that Welsh MPAs and delivery of effective MPA management are integral to delivery of the Sustaining a Living Wales Programme and sustainable development in Wales.
- Establishing a Welsh Government-led MPA Management Steering Group in order to provide a clear steer and a coordinated approach to the management of Welsh MPAs. The group should develop Terms of Reference that support delivery of the Welsh Government vision and MPA strategy. We would suggest that the group should focus on:
 - Establishing better ways of working to improve management of our MPAs and steer national and local MPA management work accordingly.
 - Ensuring that MPA Management Authorities²² in Wales play an active role in the Group and the delivery of effective MPA management.

²² 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 Regulations 2010 and public authorities under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (CROW Act).

- Guiding the formation of local MPA Management Groups to oversee the management of all MPAs within suitably sized Management Areas.
 - Ensuring that prioritised, focussed local action and delivery plans with clear objectives, or equivalent, are prepared and implemented for each Management Area.
 - Working with the new MPA Management Groups to prioritise gaps in knowledge and facilitate better dissemination of relevant information.
 - Raising awareness and understanding among all stakeholders of the value of the suite of Welsh MPAs, the benefits that they provide and, at a strategic level, their management needs.
- Ensuring that appropriate incentives are in place to secure the long term, adequate resourcing of integrated MPA management delivery and supporting structures.
 - Encouraging, supporting and funding the continuing development of a sound, accessible, freely available and integrated evidence base to underpin management of Welsh MPAs.
 - Ensuring that the suite of Welsh MPAs and their management needs are integrated with existing and future policy and relevant legislation.
 - Ensuring that Wales continues to contribute to wider MPA networks (UK, European and world-wide) including working effectively with cross border management authorities on cross border MPAs in the UK.
 - Ensuring that Welsh MPAs continue to provide a wide range of benefits to society and contribute to wider ecosystem health and function.



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Countryside Council for Wales

Prosiect AmdW /
MPA Project

Ardaloedd Morol dan Warchodaeth ym Moroedd Cymru - Ystadegau Cryno

Marine Protected Areas in Welsh Seas - Summary Statistics

Paratowyd gan / Prepared by: Jennie Jones
Ymgynghorydd Rheoli'r Môr / Marine Management Advisor
Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru / Countryside Council for Wales

20/09/2012

Rheoli fersiynau /
Version control

Version	Change	Made by	Date
1.0	Original	J.Jones	22/07/2010
2.0	MPA map included.	J.Jones	17/05/2011
3.0	MPA map updated.	J.Jones	18/08/2011
4.0	Title changed from Welsh Territorial Seas to 'Welsh Seas' acknowledging inclusion of intertidal (MHW to MLW) and MLW to 12 nautical mile boundary.	J.Jones	20/10/2011
6.0	SPA dataset amended for change in definition of 'marine SPAs' ¹ reducing number of SPAs from 10 to 6 sites.	J.Jones	15/12/2011
7.0	Calculations for MHW to 6 nautical mile boundary included and number of SSSI with saltmarsh as the only feature corrected from 9 to 11 sites.	J.Jones	15/05/2012
8.0	Format amendment to document	J. Jones	20/09/2012

¹ Change in criteria for selection of species considered as marine components agreed with JNCC December 2011. Amended to include species that are dependent on the marine environment within the protected area. This change has not yet been reflected in the list of SPAs with marine components available on JNCC website 20/09/2012.

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Ardaloedd Morol dan Warchodaeth ym Moroedd Cymru /

Marine Protected Areas in Welsh Seas

Ystadegau Cryno / Summary Statistics

	Nifer yr Ardaloedd Morol dan Warchodaeth (AMdW) / Number of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Arwynebedd Moroedd Cymru a orchuddir gan / Area of Welsh Seas covered (km²)	Cyfran o Fforoedd Cymru o fewn / Proportion of Welsh Seas covered (%)	
Moroedd Cymru / Welsh Seas²		15,941.76		
Ardaloedd Morol Dan Warchodaeth / Marine Protected Areas	125		35.08	(see statistic number 18 in list below)
Ardaloedd Cadwraeth Arbennig (ACA) / Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	11	5,007.45	31.41	(see statistic number 3 in list below)
Ardaloedd Gwarchodaeth Arbennig (AGA) / Special Areas of Protection (SPAs)	6	1,287.51	8.08	(see statistic number 5 in list below)
Safleoedd o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig / Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	103	421.18	2.64	(see statistic number 9 in list below)
Ramsar	4	240.14	1.21	(see statistic number 13 in list below)

² Welsh seas include the area of intertidal (Mean High Water to Mean Low Water) plus the area of Welsh territorial sea (below MLW to 12 nautical mile limit).

Calculation of Area Totals of Marine Protected Areas in Welsh Seas^{3 4}

NB. To avoid double-counting where designated sites overlap, only those portions of SPAs and SSSIs that lie outside of SAC have been included in the calculations. All measurements use Cartesian area calculated by MapInfo GIS converted using $1 \text{ km}^2 = 100 \text{ Ha}$. The area may differ slightly from the registered area⁵.

1. **Area of Welsh seas** = 15,941.76 km²

(= Intertidal (Mean High Water to Mean Low Water) +
Welsh territorial sea (below MLW to 12 nautical mile limit))

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

2. SAC total area within Welsh seas = 5,007.45 km²

3. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by SAC = 31.41%

(= Area of SAC 5007.45 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

4. SPA total area within Welsh seas = 1,287.51 km²

5. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by SPA = 8.08%

(= Area of SPA 1287.58 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

6. Area of SPA outside of SACs within Welsh seas = 542.02 km²

(= Area of SPA outside SACs 542.02 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

7. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by SPA that are not within SAC = 3.4%

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)⁶

8. SSSI total area within Welsh seas = 421.18 km²

9. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by SSSI= 2.64%

(= Area of SSSI 421.18 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

10. Area of SSSI that is outside SAC or SPA or Ramsar within Welsh seas = 42.36 km²

11. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by SSSI that are not within SAC or SPA = 0.34%

(= Area of SSSI not in SAC or SPA 42.36 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

³ See Annex 1 for list of sites, amounts and areas included in calculations

⁴ See Annex 2 for map of Marine Protected Areas listed included in calculations

⁵ [Weblink to CCW Designated Site Search](#) for site information including registered areas.

⁶ SSSI that have notified or qualifying intertidal or marine features see Appendix 1 list 6

Ramsar

12. Ramsar total area within Welsh seas = 193.46 km²

13. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by Ramsar = 1.21%

(= Area of Ramsar 193.46 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

14. Area of Ramsar that is outside SAC or SPA within Welsh seas = 0 km²

Marine Nature Reserve (MNR)

15. MNR total area within Welsh seas = 13.24 km²

16. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by Marine Nature Reserve = 0.08%

(= Area of MNR 13.24 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

Suite of MPAs

17. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by SAC + SPA outside SAC = 34.81%

(= Area of SAC 5007.45 + Area of SPA outside of SAC 542.08 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

18. Percentage of Welsh seas covered by SAC + SPA outside SAC + SSSI outside SAC or SPA + Ramsar outside of SAC or SPA = 35.08%⁷

(= Area of SAC 5007.45 + Area of SPA outside SAC 542.08 + Area of SSSI outside SAC or SPA or Ramsar 42.36 + Ramsar outside of SPA or SAC 0 / Area of Welsh Seas 15,941.76 *100)

Within Six Nautical Mile Boundary

19. SAC total area within 6nautical mile (nm) to Mean High Water (MHW) = 4,573.09 km²

20. Percentage of 6nm to MHW covered by SACs = 45.72%

(= Area of SAC 4,573.09 / Area of sea within 6nm to MHW 10,001.63 * 100)

21. SPA total area within 6nm to MHW = 1,209.87 km²

22. Percentage of 6nm to MHW covered by SPAs = 12.09%

(= Area of SPA 1,209.87 / Area of sea within 6nm to MHW 10,001.63 * 100)

23. Area of SPAs outside of SACs within 6nm to MHW = 462.60 km²

24. Total area of SACs and SPAs outside of SACs within 6nm to MHW = 5,035.69 km²

(= Area of SACs 4,573.09 + Area of SPAs outside of SACs 462.60)

25. Percentage of 6nm to MHW covered by SACs and SPAs outside of SACs = 50.35%

(= Area of SACs 4,573.09 + Area of SPAs outside of SACs 462.60 / Area of sea within 6nm to MHW 10,001.63 * 100)

⁷ This figure is inclusive of the area of Skomer MNR that lies within the Sir Benfro Forol / Pembrokeshire Marine SAC

Annex 1: Table of Marine Protected Areas (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR, SSSI – intertidal and saltmarsh, MNR) included in the suite of MPAs in Wales.

NB. For consistency, all calculations have been carried out using Cartesian area of sites calculated by MapInfo GIS. The area may differ slightly from the registered area⁸.

Existing Marine Protected Areas (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR, SSSI – intertidal and saltmarsh, MNR) to be Considered as Part of the MPA network	Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km ²)) ⁹	English and Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km ²))
1. SAC		
Bae Cemlyn / Cemlyn Bay	0.44	
Bae Ceredigion / Cardigan Bay	958.65	
Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd / Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	661.08	
Aber Dyfrdwy / Dee Estuary (Wales)	74.98	158.06
Glannau Môn: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh	10.58	
Cynffig / Kenfig	11.91	
Arfordir Calchfaen de Orllewin Cymru / Limestone Coast of South West Wales	15.95	
Sir Benfro Forol / Pembrokeshire Marine	1380.66	
Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau / Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau	1460.35	
Môr Hafren / Severn Estuary (Wales)	267.70	737.15
Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay	265.02	
Total Area of 11 SAC (km²) =	5107.57	
3. SPA¹⁰		
Bae Caerfyrddin / Carmarthen Bay	334.10	
Burry Inlet	66.73	
Môr Hafren / Severn Estuary	68.89	244.90
Aber Dyfrdwy / Dee Estuary	68.02	131.61
Traeth Lafan / Lavan Sands, Conway Bay	27.03	
Liverpool Bay SPA (Wales)	753.40	1702.93
Total Area of 6 SPA (km²) =	1318.17	
4. RAMSAR		
Burry Inlet	66.73	
Cors Fochno and Dyfi (33.92% or 844.66 Ha of this site lies outside of Dyfi Estuary/Aber Dyfi SPA)	25.08	
Severn Estuary (Wales)	68.89	244.90
The Dee Estuary (Wales)	79.44	143.03
Total Area of 4 RAMSAR sites (km²) =	240.14	
5. MNR/MCZ		
Skomer	13.24	
Total Area of MNR (km²) =	13.24	

⁸ [Weblink to CCW Designated Site Search](#) for site information including registered areas.

⁹ Areas include total area of SAC, SPA or SSSI in Wales. For consistency, these are Cartesian areas calculated by MapInfo GIS not registered areas of sites.

¹⁰ Number SPAs with marine components reduced from 10 sites to 6 after change in definition for marine species = those dependent on the marine environment within the protected area agreed with JNCC December 2011. This change is not yet reflected in the list of SPAs with marine components available on JNCC website 20/09/2012.

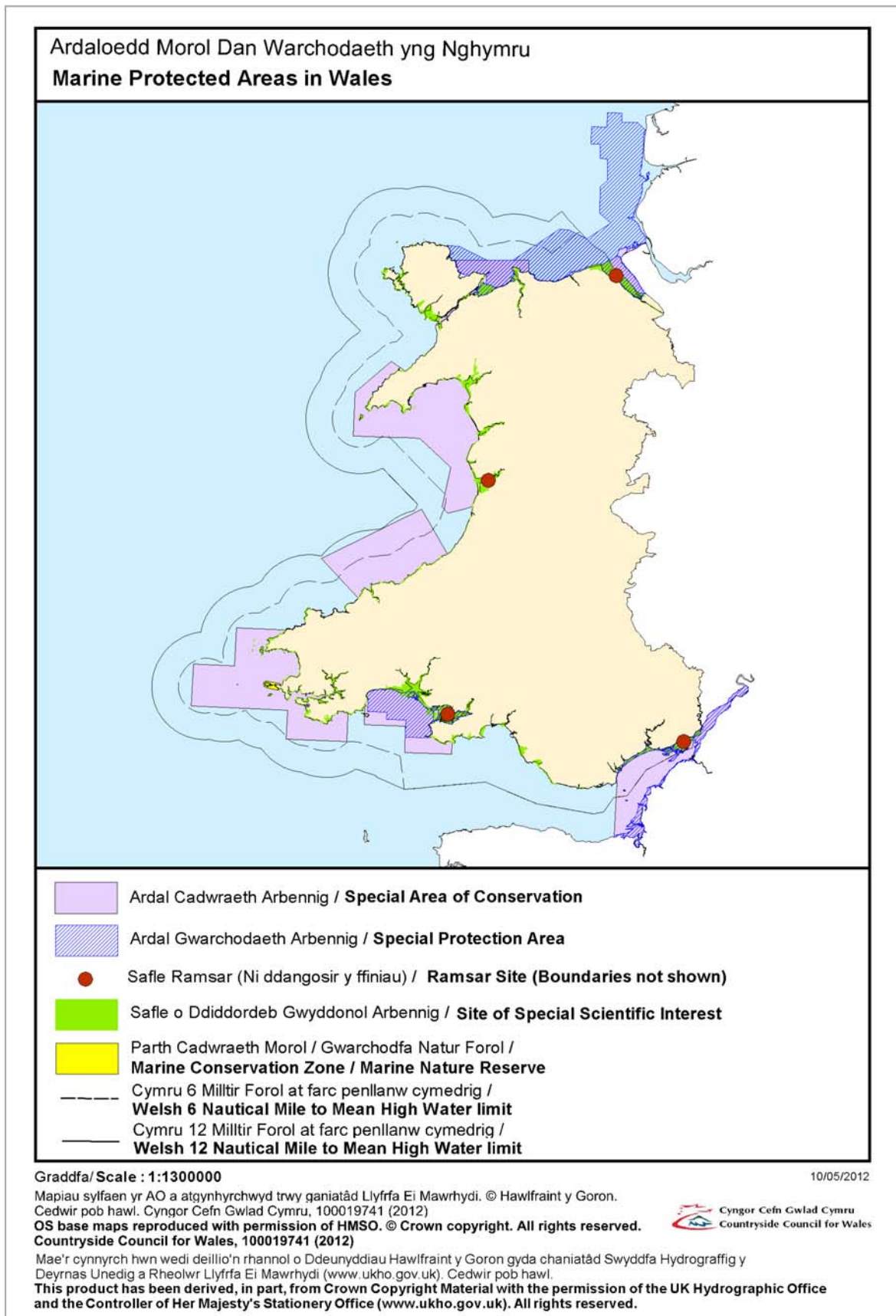
6. SSSI with Notified or Qualifying Intertidal Marine Features (NB Sites may also have Notified or Qualifying Saltmarsh - see number 7 below for separate list of saltmarsh only sites)	Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km²))	English and Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km²))
Aber Afon Conwy	13.01	
Aber Mawddach / Mawddach Estuary (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	13.51	
Aber Taf / Taf Estuary (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	15.00	
Aberarth-carreg Wylan	9.97	
Afon Dyfrdwy / River Dee (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	14.91	
Afon Teifi (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	7.78	
Afon Tywi (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	13.14	
Allt Wen a Traeth Tanybwllch	0.36	
Arfordir Abereiddi	0.64	
Arfordir Gogleddol Penmon	1.03	
Arfordir Marros-Pentywyn / Marros-Pendine Coast	2.49	
Arfordir Niwglwl - Aber bach / Newgale to Little Haven Coast	2.06	
Arfordir Pen-bre / Pembrey Coast (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	41.32	
Arfordir Penrhyn Angle / Angle Peninsula Coast	1.34	
Arfordir Saundersfoot - Telpyn / Saundersfoot - Telpyn Coast	1.52	
Beddmanarch - Cymyran (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	8.91	
Blackpill, Swansea	4.54	
Borth - Clarach	0.86	
Bracelet Bay	0.06	
Broadwater (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	2.62	
Burry Inlet and Loughor Estuary (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	58.51	
Castlemartin Cliffs and Dunes	7.58	
Caswell Bay	0.63	
Cemlyn Bay	0.44	
Coedydd Afon Menai	0.23	
Craigyfulfran & Clarach	0.25	
Creigiau Aberarth-Morfa	0.20	
Creigiau Cwm-Ceriw a Ffos-Las (Morfa Bychan)	0.32	
Creigiau Pen y graig	0.23	
Creigiau Rhiwledyn / Little Ormes Head	0.36	
Crymlyn Burrows (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	2.35	
Cynffig / Kenfig	7.77	
Dale and South Marloes Coast	2.90	
De Porth Sain Ffraid / St Bride's Bay South	1.35	
Dee Estuary / Aber Afon Dyfrdwy (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	74.08	
Dyfi (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	37.95	
East Aberthaw Coast	0.68	
Flat Holm	0.35	
Freshwater East Cliffs to Skrinkle Haven	1.40	
Glanllynau a Glannau Pen-Ychain i Gricieth	1.43	
Glannau Aberdaron	3.04	
Glannau Penmon - Biwmares	1.71	
Glannau Porthaethwy	0.68	
Glannau Rhoscolyn (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	1.45	
Glannau Tonfanau i Friog	1.71	
Glannau Ynys Gybi: Holy Island Coast	4.01	
Glaslyn (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	4.35	
Gower Coast: Rhossili to Porteynon	3.62	
Grassholm / Ynys Gwales	0.12	

6. SSSI with Notified or Qualifying Intertidal Marine Features (NB Sites may also have Notified or Qualifying Saltmarsh - see number 7 below for separate list of saltmarsh only sites)	Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km²))	English and Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km²))
Gronant Dunes and Talacre Warren (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	5.19	
Gwydir Bay	0.55	
Hook Wood (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	0.12	
Horton, Eastern and Western Slade	0.54	
Lydstep Head to Tenby Burrows	2.01	
Merthyr Mawr (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	4.78	
Milford Haven Waterway (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	21.92	
Monknash Coast	1.29	
Morfa Dyffryn (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	7.41	
Morfa Harlech (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	22.20	
Morfa Uchaf Dyffryn Conwy (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	1.95	
Mynydd Penarfynnydd	1.61	
Mynydd Tir Y Cwmwd a'r Glannau at Garreg Yr Imbill	1.65	
Newborough Warren - Ynys Llanddwyn (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	23.43	
Newport Cliffs	0.48	
Oxwich Bay (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	4.07	
Pen y Gogarth / Great Ormes Head	3.30	
Penard Valley (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	0.32	
Penarth Coast	0.88	
Penrhynoedd Llangadwaladr	1.77	
Porth Ceiriad Porth Neigwl ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal	5.59	
Porth Dinllan i Borth Pistyll	1.29	
Porth Towyn i Borth Wen	0.74	
Puffin Island / Ynys Seiriol	0.31	
Pwll-Du Head and Bishopston Valley	1.60	
Ramsey / Ynys Dewi	2.97	
Rhosneigr Reefs	0.28	
Severn Estuary (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	68.54	
Skokholm	1.16	
Skomer Island and Middleholm	3.32	
Southerndown Coast	1.53	
St. David's Peninsula Coast	6.86	
St. Margaret's Island	0.11	
Stackpole	3.14	
Stackpole Quay - Trewent Point	0.64	
Strumble Head - Llechedafad Cliffs	2.05	
Sully Island	0.11	
Tenby Cliffs and St. Catherine's Island	0.47	
The Offshore Islets of Pembrokeshire / Ynysoedd Glannau Penfro	0.29	
The Skerries	0.17	
Tiroedd a Glannau Rhwng Cricieth ac Afon Glaslyn	5.77	
Traeth Lafan	26.91	
Traeth Llanon	0.27	
Traeth Lligwy	0.27	
Twyni Chwitfordd Morfa Landimor a Bae Brychdwn / Whiteford Burrows etc (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	13.96	
Twyni Lacharn - Pentywyn / Laugharne – Pendine Burrows	23.02	
Ty Croes	0.28	
Twyn Aberffraw (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	3.70	
Waterwynch Bay to Saundersfoot Harbour	0.87	

6. SSSI with Notified or Qualifying Intertidal Marine Features continued (NB Sites may also have Notified or Qualifying Saltmarsh - see number 7 below for separate list of saltmarsh only sites)	Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km²))	English and Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km²))
Wig Bach a'r Glannau i Borth Alwm	0.44	
Y Foryd	2.83	
Ynys Enlli	2.06	
Ynys Feurig	0.25	
Ynysoedd Y Gwylanod, Gwylan Islands	0.05	
Number of SSSI 103, Total area (km²) =	662.03	
7. Saltmarsh sites (terrestrial - no intertidal features - included in 6. above)		
Aber Taf / Taf Estuary (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	15.00	
Afon Dyfrdwy / River Dee (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	14.91	
Afon Teifi (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	7.78	
Afon Tywi (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	13.14	
Crymlyn Burrows (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	2.35	
Glaslyn (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	4.35	
Hook Wood (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	0.12	
Morfa Uchaf Dyffryn Conwy (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	1.95	
Oxwich Bay (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	4.07	
Penard Valley (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	0.32	
Tywyn Aberffraw (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	3.70	
Number of SSSI exclusively saltmarsh sites = 11, Total area (km²) =	67.69	
8. SSSI with Notified or Qualifying Intertidal Marine Features that are not in SAC or SPA (included in 6. above)		
Afon Dyfrdwy / River Dee (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	14.91	
Allt Wen a Traeth Tanybwllch	0.36	
Beddmanarch - Cymyran (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	8.91	
Blackpill, Swansea	4.54	
Bracelet Bay	0.06	
Caswell Bay	0.63	
Coedydd Afon Menai	0.23	
Craigyfulfran & Clarach	0.25	
Creigiau Aberarth-Morfa	0.20	
Creigiau Cwm-Ceriw a Ffos-Las (Morfa Bychan)	0.32	
Creigiau Pen y graig	0.23	
Crymlyn Burrows (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	2.35	
East Aberthaw Coast	0.68	
Glannau Rhoscolyn (saltmarsh and intertidal features)	1.45	
Glannau Ynys Gybi: Holy Island Coast	4.01	
Glaslyn (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	4.35	
Gwydir Bay	0.55	
Hook Wood (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	0.12	
Monknash Coast	1.29	
Morfa Uchaf Dyffryn Conwy (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	1.95	
Newport Cliffs	0.48	
Penard Valley (saltmarsh only – no intertidal features)	0.32	
Mynydd Penarfynnydd	1.61	
Rhosneigr Reefs	0.28	
Southerndown Coast	1.53	
St. Margaret's Island	0.11	
Strumble Head - Llechdafad Cliffs	2.05	
Traeth Llanon	0.27	

8. SSSI with Notified or Qualifying Intertidal Marine Features that are not in SAC or SPA (included in 6. above)	Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km ²))	English and Welsh waters covered (Cartesian Area (km ²))
Traeth Lligwy	0.27	
Ty Croes	0.28	
Number of SSSI not in SAC or SPA = 28, Total area (km²) =	54.57	

Annex 2: Map of Marine Protected Areas in Welsh waters



Annex 3. Derivation of summary statistics

The suite of EMS encompasses 125 SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites with marine components and SSSIs with marine or intertidal features. Saltmarsh as a feature of SSSI has led to the inclusion of eleven SSSI sites within the suite of MPAs that would otherwise be classified as terrestrial. Saltmarsh sites are noted in Annex 1, List 7.

Calculations of summary statistics do not include areas of SACs, SPAs, Ramsar or SSSIs that extend shoreward above Mean High Water. Where designated sites overlap, only non-overlapping portions of SPAs and SSSIs that lie outside of SACs have been used in calculations to avoid double-counting.

Welsh waters, for the purpose of this report, have included both the intertidal region: Mean High Water to Mean Low Water, and the Welsh territorial sea region below Mean Low Water out to 12 nautical mile boundary. For consistency, Cartesian areas (calculated using MapInfo GIS), as shown in Annex 1, rather than registered areas of sites have been used to produce summary statistics. Registered areas and other site information can be obtained from: [Weblink to CCW Designated Site Search](#)