

MPA mapping for fishermen:

A consolidated
simplified & practical
view of the UK's
MPA network



Background and project overview

The increasing environmental focus on fishing and marine protection is leading to a greater number of protected and restricted zones – Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Restrictions are being placed on fishermen dependent upon the type of fishing activity, the size of the vessel and the time of year.

We plan to create and deliver a consolidated dataset of all UK MPAs, displaying the relevant regulations in a simplified form, and supply this to fishermen for use in port and at sea.

The project will bring together the fishing sector, regulators, scientific and environmental advisors to explore the challenges around fishery management measures within in MPAs, and also to use this project as a key case study for future projects as well as to aid the development of a consolidated and simplified practical view of UK's MPAs.

MPA statistics

Key

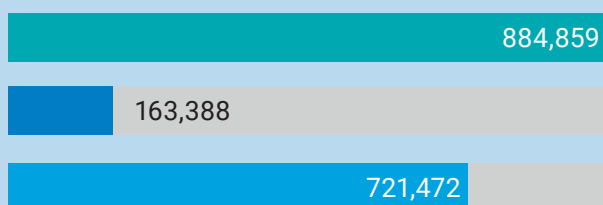
Statistics exclude IFCAs MPAs (0-6nm)

All UK waters

Inshore

Offshore

UK waters area (km²)



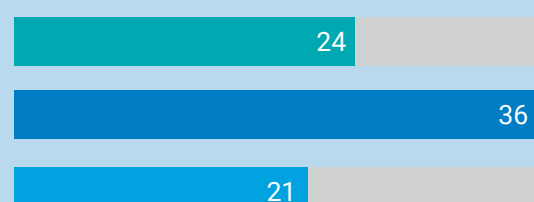
UK waters covered by MPAs (km²)



Number of MPAs



UK waters covered by MPAs (%)



The Project objectives

The objective of the project is to produce electronic charts and associated materials for use by fisheries stakeholders on land and on-board fishing vessels. These would inform commercial fishermen of the location of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) around the UK and the prohibited and permissible fishing operations in each area – ensuring that fishermen are aware of, and able to comply with, fisheries regulations.

At present, commercial fishermen face great practical difficulties in doing this: they must grapple with complex regulations and rules, which they cannot access from a single source or with the level of positional data they need. As responsible users of the sea and seabed, fishermen wish to comply with MPA regulations; however, full compliance is made less likely by the difficulty of accessing consolidated data, both on land and at sea.

By making it easier to access and use such information about MPAs, the project aims to raise levels of compliance and promote environmental protection. Given that the compliance task for fishermen will grow in coming years, as Fisheries Management Measures are agreed for each zone, their need for a single source of data will only intensify and become increasingly urgent.

The provision of better information to fishermen would support this UK commitment to good management of MPAs.

Project benefits

- Supply of a free service to the fishing industry, supporting both inshore vessels and vessels operating further offshore;
- Promotion of compliance with UK fisheries legislation and regulations;
- Improved awareness of new regulations as they become authorised;
- Improved fisheries management, helping the fishing industry to carry out sustainable fishing.
- Practical outputs to improve the protection of the marine environment and conservation measures;
- Support for relevant bodies with restoration and preservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

Project outcomes and deliverables

This unique and challenging project aims to improve fisheries' understanding of MPAs, by:

- Collating a UK wide dataset of positional and meta data.
- Simplifying the principles of underlying legislation and regulations.
- Delivering practical and easily-to-access information for use at sea and on land.
- Production and import to spatial database to hold and export data.
- Development of software to display data on electronic charts.
- Development of web portal, including interactive mapping and search.
- Production of electronic charts downloads and uploads to portal.

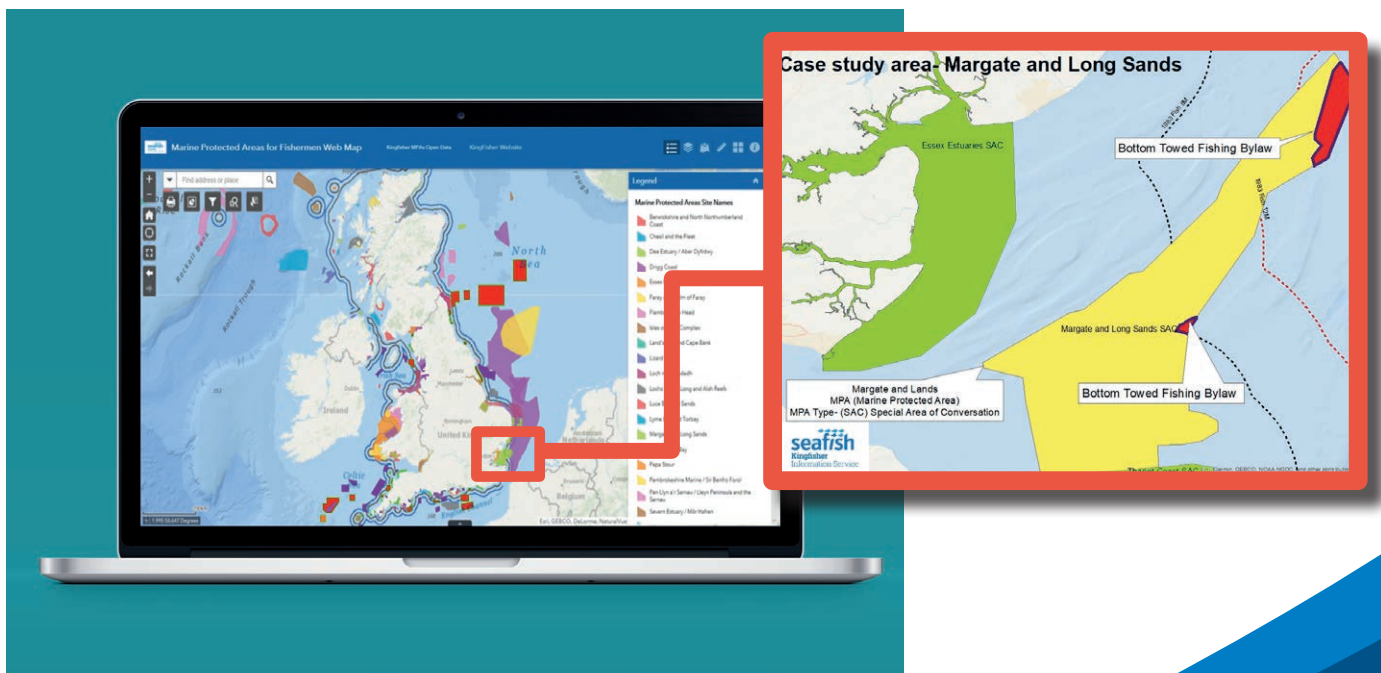
Project key deliverables

The delivery outputs of the project come in two broad areas: A. Data converted for use with on-board electronic charting systems at sea, and B. Data presented in a user friendly and interactive mapping interface on a website.

A. Data converted for use with on-board electronic charting systems at sea.



B. Data presented in a user friendly and interactive mapping interface on a website.



Project phases overview

Stage 1

Data assessment and consultation with industry, including:

- ▶ Consultation with MPA data holders, and assessment of data.
- ▶ Consultation with fisheries bodies.
- ▶ Assessment of technical solutions for data supply.
- ▶ Assessment of legal liability issues.
- ▶ Production of technical spec for data delivery.

Stage 2

Collection, production and delivery of data

- ▶ Collect and collate MPA spatial and meta data from official sources.
- ▶ Quality check and verify all spatial and meta data.
- ▶ Production and import to spatial database to hold and export data.
- ▶ Development of software to display data on electronic charts.
- ▶ Development of web portal, including interactive mapping and search.
- ▶ Production of electronic charts, downloads and upload to portal.
- ▶ Export and delivery of data to the fishing industry.

Stage 3

Data update proposal

- ▶ Consultation with fisheries bodies for update schedule and design.
- ▶ Consultation with MPA stakeholders for update schedule and design.
- ▶ Review of financial and funding considerations.
- ▶ Production of a proposal document.

Project workshops

NFFO and SFF
Fisheries bodies

MMO, Marine Scotland, Welsh Government, DAERA
Regulatory bodies

NE\SNH\NRW\JNCC\NIEA
Environmental Agencies

Seafish-Kingfisher
Seafood industry body

The main purpose of the project workshops is to:

- Provide regulatory, technical expertise and advice to the project.
- Help steer the project ensuring mutual benefit
- Support the project through project phases.

Commitment:

Three workshops to be scheduled combined with ad – hoc meeting:

- Upcoming workshop event will be in spring 2019.

Other workshops will follow subsequently:

- Autumn/Winter 2019
- Spring/Summer 2020

Project timeline

No.	Task	Year 1				Year 2			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
A	Data assessment and consultation with industry								
1	Consultation with MPA data holders and assessment of data								
2	Consultation with fisheries stakeholders and principle requirements								
3	Assessment of technical solutions for data supply								
4	Assessment of legal liability issues								
5	Production of technical specification for data delivery								
B	Collection, production and delivery								
1	Collect and collate MPA spatial and meta data from official sources								
2	Quality check and verify all spatial and meta data								
3	Production and import to spatial database to hold and export data								
4	Development of software to display data on electronic charts								
5	Development of web portal, including interactive mapping and search								
6	Production of electronic charts, downloads and upload of data to portal								
7	Export and delivery of data to the fishing industry								
8	Promotion of project at fisheries exhibitions and events								
C	Data update proposal								
1	Consultation with fisheries stakeholders for update schedule and design								
2	Consultation with MPA stakeholders for update schedule and design								
3	Review of financial and funding considerations								
4	Production of a proposal document								