



# Environment Information Regulations

Fisheries measures in Natura2000 sites in UK waters

For a Link to the FOI/EIR page visit: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6077>

For further information about the Joint Nature Conservation Committee visit:

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>

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## Request

For a Belgian project, I'm looking for fisheries measures in Natura2000 sites in UK waters. Can you provide me management plans with fisheries restrictions in MPAs and maybe shapefiles with the specific areas of these restricted areas?

If JNCC does not have that kind of information; do you know where I should search further?

## Reply

In relation to your request for information on fisheries measures in Natura 2000 sites in UK waters. You requested: "management plans with fisheries restrictions in MPAs and maybe shapefiles with the specific areas of these restricted areas". JNCC is responsible for the provision of advice to the UK Government and devolved administrations for UK offshore waters (i.e. waters beyond 12nm). We have therefore compiled information we authored or hold in relation to existing fisheries management measures, or proposed measures, for Natura 2000 sites in offshore waters. We have also provided details of organisations who will be able to provide this information for SACs in inshore waters. Please note we are providing information on measures (or proposed measures) directly related to achieving the conservation objectives for UK offshore Natura 2000 sites. We have not provided information relating to wider fisheries management measures under the Common Fisheries Policy (e.g. technical measures for fish stock management) which may overlap with MPAs in UK waters.

The file links contains a summary spreadsheet and relevant files (removed to do time constraints on storage). To limit file sizes, where information is available in the public domain we have provided links to this within the spreadsheet rather than sending documents directly – this is indicated within the summary spreadsheet.

### **Natura 2000 sites where fisheries management measures are currently in place**

- Darwin Mounds SAC – use of demersal trawl and similar towed nets prohibited within the site under Council Regulation (EC) No. 602/2004. Further information is available on the activities and management tab on the [Darwin Mounds Site Information Centre](#) and the management shapefile is attached.
- Hatton Bank cSAC – use of demersal fishing gears prohibited within the site under NEAFC Recommendation 10:2018. Further information is available on the activities and management tab on the [Hatton Bank Site Information Centre](#) and the management shapefile is attached.
- North-west Rockall Bank SAC – use of demersal fishing gears prohibited across most of the site under Regulation (EU) No. 227/2013 and NEAFC Recommendation 20:2018. Further information is available on the management tab on the [North-West Rockall Bank Site Information Centre](#) and the management shapefile is attached.

### **Natura 2000 sites where fisheries management measures are being developed under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**

Fisheries management measures are currently being developed under Article 11 of the CFP for a number of Natura 2000 sites in UK offshore waters. We have provided relevant information JNCC holds, including:

- Fisheries Options Papers – JNCC advice provided to the UK Government on the broad range of fisheries management options available for each site;
- JNCC feedback on proposed fisheries management measures – JNCC advice provided to the UK Government on proposed measures;
- Draft joint recommendations for each site – documentation forming the basis of joint recommendations under Article 11 of the CFP. Please note that these are flagged as draft and should be treated as such: discussions with other EU Member States and wider stakeholders are ongoing and proposals may therefore be subject to change;
- Shapefiles for proposed management measures. Again, these should be treated as draft. Please also note that all proposals for sites in Scottish offshore waters are in one shapefile, which also includes proposals for MPAs designated under national legislation.

**The following falls under EIR Exception reg 12(4)(a) Does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received.**

**Sites for which JNCC has not yet provided advice on fisheries management**

- The UK submitted 5 offshore SACs for harbour porpoise to the European Commission in 2017. JNCC has not yet been requested to provide formal advice to the UK Government in relation to fisheries management within these sites therefore we do not hold information relating to management plans.
- Three SPAs or existing SPA extensions were designated in 2017 (Irish Sea Front; Skomer, Skokholm and the seas off Pembrokeshire extension, Liverpool Bay extension). For two of these, JNCC has not yet been requested to provide formal advice to the UK Government in relation to fisheries management within these sites therefore we do not hold information relating to management plans. For one site, JNCC have produced a Management Options Paper to support future management discussions (linked in spreadsheet). In addition, the Outer Thames Estuary SPA is located mainly in inshore waters and fisheries management measures were not considered necessary in the offshore portion at this time (a link to a Fisheries Options).

JNCC does not hold information relating to fisheries management measures for Natura 2000 sites in UK inshore waters. We suggest contacting the relevant Administration, Regulator or Statutory Nature Conservation Body for each UK country administration:

- Defra, MMO or Natural England for English inshore waters
- Marine Scotland or Scottish Natural Heritage for Scottish inshore waters
- Welsh Government or Natural Resources Wales for Welsh inshore waters
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for Northern Irish inshore waters.

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