

# **Turbot Bank**

## **Marine Protected Area**

Photo by Keith Mutch, Marine Scotland, © Crown copyright

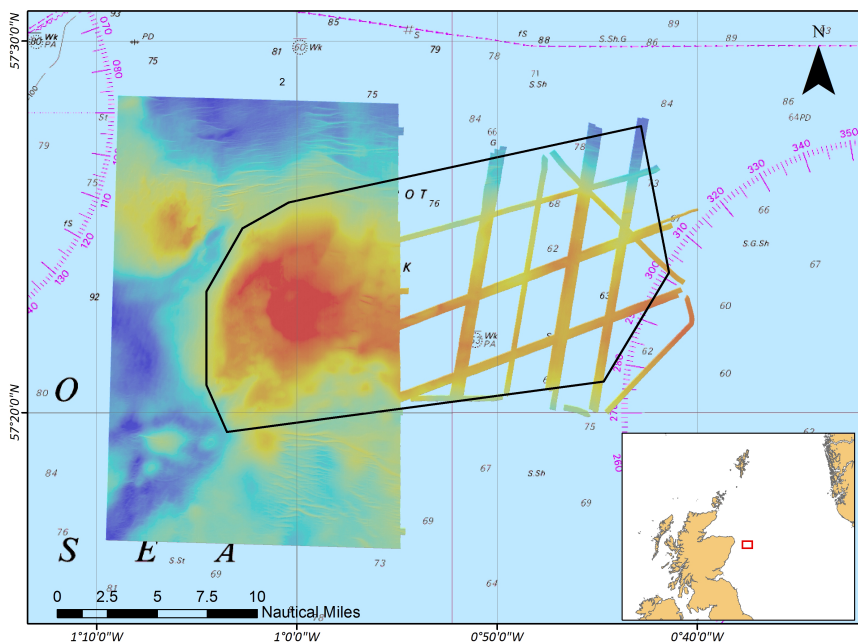
**An important area for sandeels**

# Turbot Bank

## Marine Protected Area (MPA)

The Turbot Bank MPA is located off the east coast of Scotland, to the south-west of the Fladen Grounds. The MPA lies within an area of sandy sediment and includes the shelf bank and mound known as 'Turbot Bank'.

Turbot Bank is important for sandeels which are closely associated with sand habitats, living buried in the sand for months at a time. Sandeels are an important source of food for many types of marine predators, including seabirds such as puffins and kittiwakes, and other types of fish such as plaice.



**Boundary of the Turbot Bank MPA with images showing seabed relief**

**Location: 57° 23.393' N 0° 52.953' W**

**Area: 251 km<sup>2</sup>**



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**Sandeels provide a vital source of food for many other species**

## **Protected Features & Conservation Objectives**

The aim is to **conserve** the **sandeels** within the Turbot Bank MPA.

Sandeels are particular about where they live. The Turbot Bank MPA encompasses areas where high numbers of sandeels have been found, since it hosts the type of sandy sediment in which they prefer to bury themselves. Sandeels play an important role in the wider North Sea ecosystem, providing a vital source of food for larger fish, seabirds and marine mammals such as dolphins. Conserving Turbot Bank will maintain its potential to act as a source of young sandeels for surrounding areas.



# Further Information

Further information on Nature Conservation MPAs, the wider network and protected areas management is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork)

For Nature Conservation MPA site documents and more information about the fascinating range of marine life found in Scotland's seas, please visit

[www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/scottishmpas](http://www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/scottishmpas) - for offshore waters

[www.snh.gov.uk/mpas](http://www.snh.gov.uk/mpas) - for territorial waters



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## Anemones living on a small boulder

