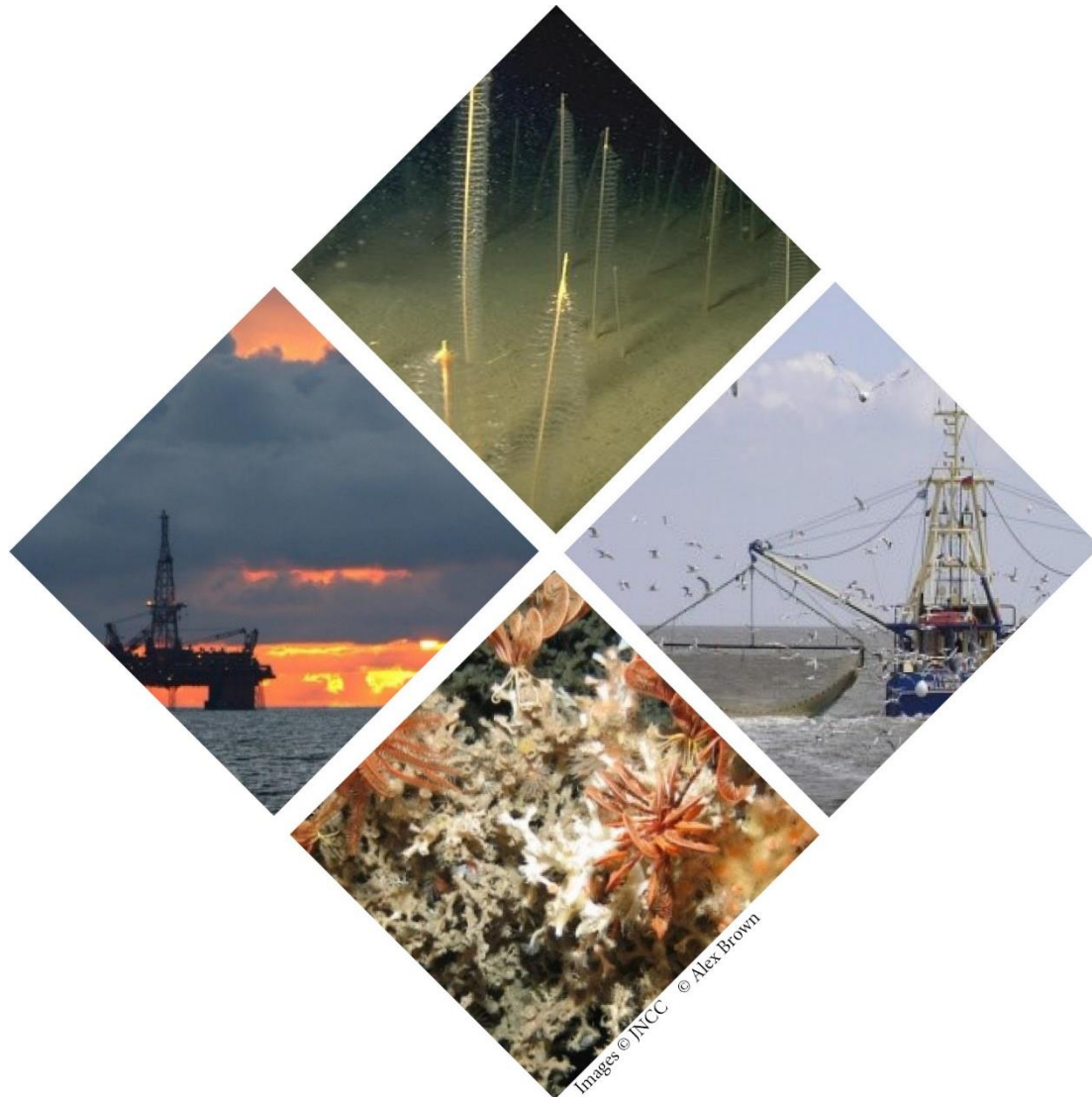


Conservation objectives for West Shetland Shelf Nature Conservation MPA

March 2018



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What the conservation advice package includes

The information provided in this document sets out the site's conservation objectives. This forms part of JNCC's formal conservation advice package for the site and must be read in conjunction with all parts of the package as listed below:

- [Background Document](#) explaining where to find the advice package, JNCC's role in the provision of conservation advice, how the advice has been prepared, when to refer to it and how to apply it;
- Conservation Objectives setting out the broad ecological aims for the site (this document);
- [Statements](#) on:
 - the site's protected feature condition;
 - conservation benefits that the site can provide; and
 - conservation measures needed to further the conservation objectives stated for the site. This includes information on those human activities that, if taking place within or near the site, can impact it and hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the site; and
- [Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives](#) (SACO) providing more detailed and site-specific information on the conservation objectives.

The most up-to-date conservation advice for this site can be downloaded from the conservation advice tab in the [Site Information Centre](#) (SIC) accessible on JNCC's website.

JNCC provide supplementary advice on the conservation objectives in the SACO document (see link in the box above). The SACO is essential reading to support interpretation of these conservation objectives set out below.

The Conservation Objective for the West Shetland Shelf Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area is that the protected feature (Offshore subtidal sands and gravels):

- so far as already in favourable condition, remain in such condition; and
- so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition, and remain in such condition.

With respect to **Offshore subtidal sands and gravels** in the NCMPA, this means that:

- Extent is stable or increasing; and
- Structure and function, quality, and the composition of characteristic biological communities (which includes a reference to the diversity and abundance of marine flora and fauna forming part of or inhabiting that habitat) are such as to ensure that they remain in a condition which is healthy and not deteriorating;

Any temporary deterioration in condition is to be disregarded if the habitat is sufficiently healthy and resilient to enable its recovery from such deterioration. Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.