

North-west Orkney

Marine Protected Area

Photo by Keith Mutch, Marine Scotland
© Crown Copyright



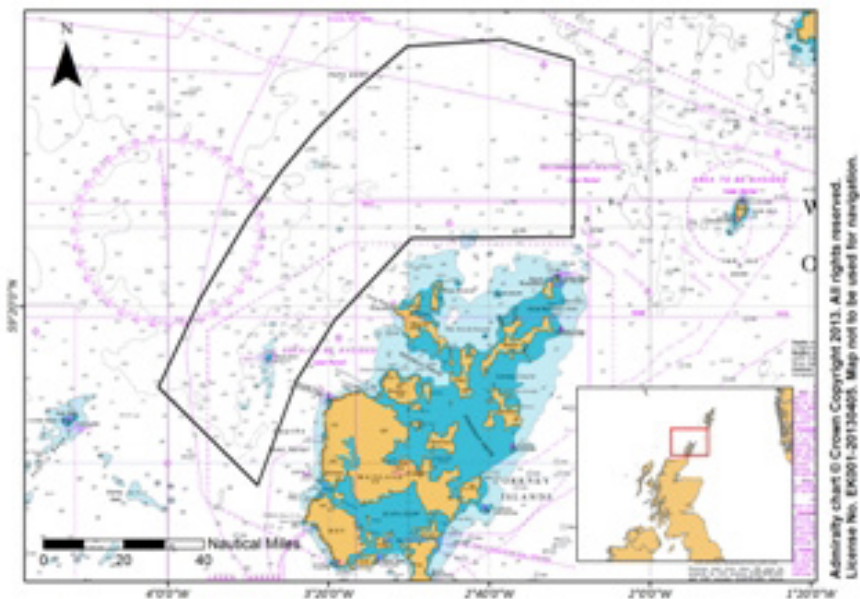
Home to newly
hatched sandeels

North-west Orkney

Marine Protected Area (MPA)

Lying to the north and west of Orkney, this MPA is an important area for sandeels, a fish that burrows into the sand to escape from predators. They are a key source of food for a range of marine wildlife, including many types of larger fish and seabirds, such as puffins. Fishing for sandeels has occurred in many coastal and offshore areas around Scotland in the past but is now limited to occasional fishing off the east coast of Scotland.

This MPA has an important role in supporting wider populations of sandeels in Scottish waters. The area also encompasses several sand banks, and sand and sediment wave fields of geological importance.



Boundary of the North-west Orkney MPA

Location: 59° 30.907' N 3° 08.934' W

Area: 4,365 km²



Sediment wave fields

Protected Features & Conservation Objectives

The aim is to **conserve** the **sandeels** and Marine Geomorphology of the Scottish Shelf Seabed within the North-west Orkney MPA.

Newly hatched sandeel larvae from North-west Orkney MPA are exported by currents to sandeel grounds around Shetland and south of the Moray Firth.

Study of the geodiversity features in this MPA can help improve our understanding of the relationships between currents and seabed sediments.

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

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 - for offshore waters

www.snh.gov.uk/mpas - for territorial waters



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

marine scotland



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad



JNCC
Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Sandeels - a major food source for seabirds

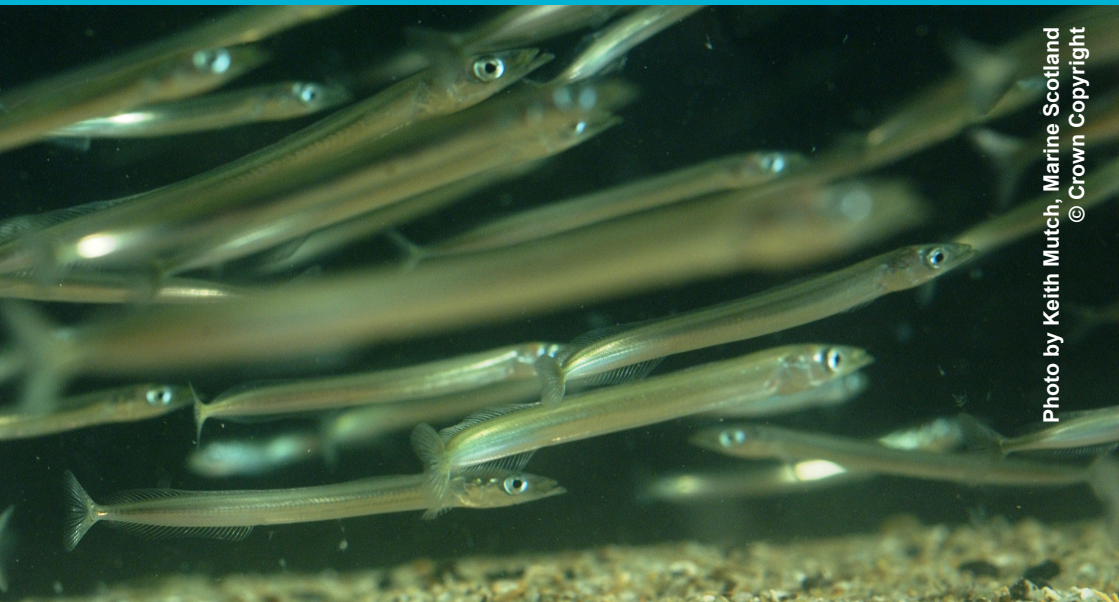


Photo by Keith Mutch, Marine Scotland
© Crown Copyright