

## Driving Purpose

# Adaptive Risk Management in the context of Marine Protected Areas

The marine environment is a valuable resource, integral to our economy and our way of life. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are increasingly being used as a management tool to protect this environment and by extension, the services it provides.

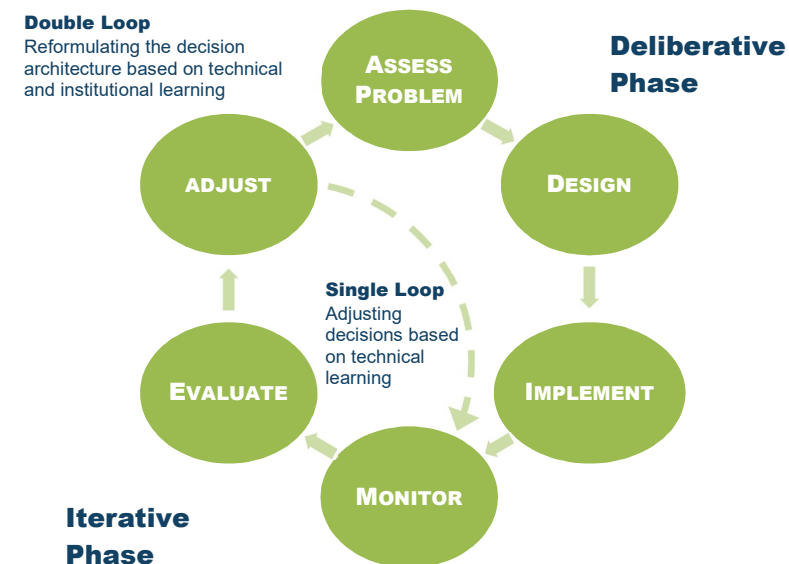
However, the marine environment is a dynamic, frequently data poor, space and there can be substantial uncertainties in the evidence base underpinning the management of sites necessary to achieve the conservation objectives.

There is considerable uncertainty relating to the condition and extent of some MPA features and the impacts of fishing on features can be poorly understood. This is particularly the case for sedimentary habitats, which also represent the areas of highest fishing activity in the UK. Equally, despite fishing being a dynamic activity, assessments of fishing activities to support management are often static. Knowledge of trends and patterns of fishing activity and how they change over time can be critical in delivering effective management.

For management to be effective, it is important that a process exists to ensure that fisheries advice and management continues to evolve as our understanding of these factors improves.

Adaptive management can loosely be summarised as 'learning by doing'. Adapting fisheries management measures based on learning, can maximise the opportunity to achieve the site conservation objectives while minimising the impact on the fishing industry. This approach incorporates feedback loops which can increase the rate at which new information can aid management decisions and creates a shared understanding among scientists, policymakers, stakeholders and managers.

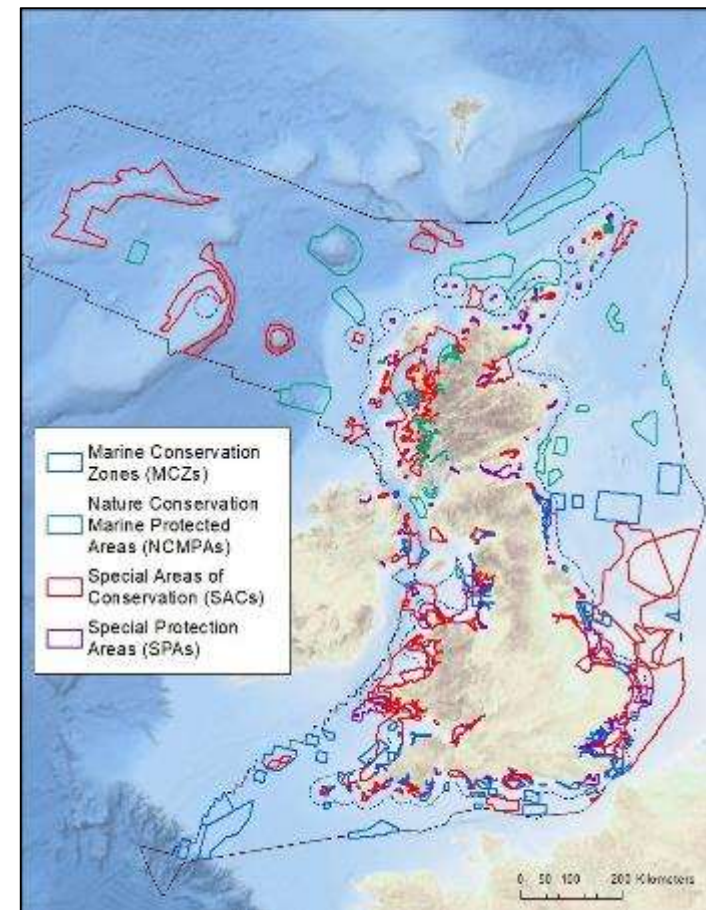
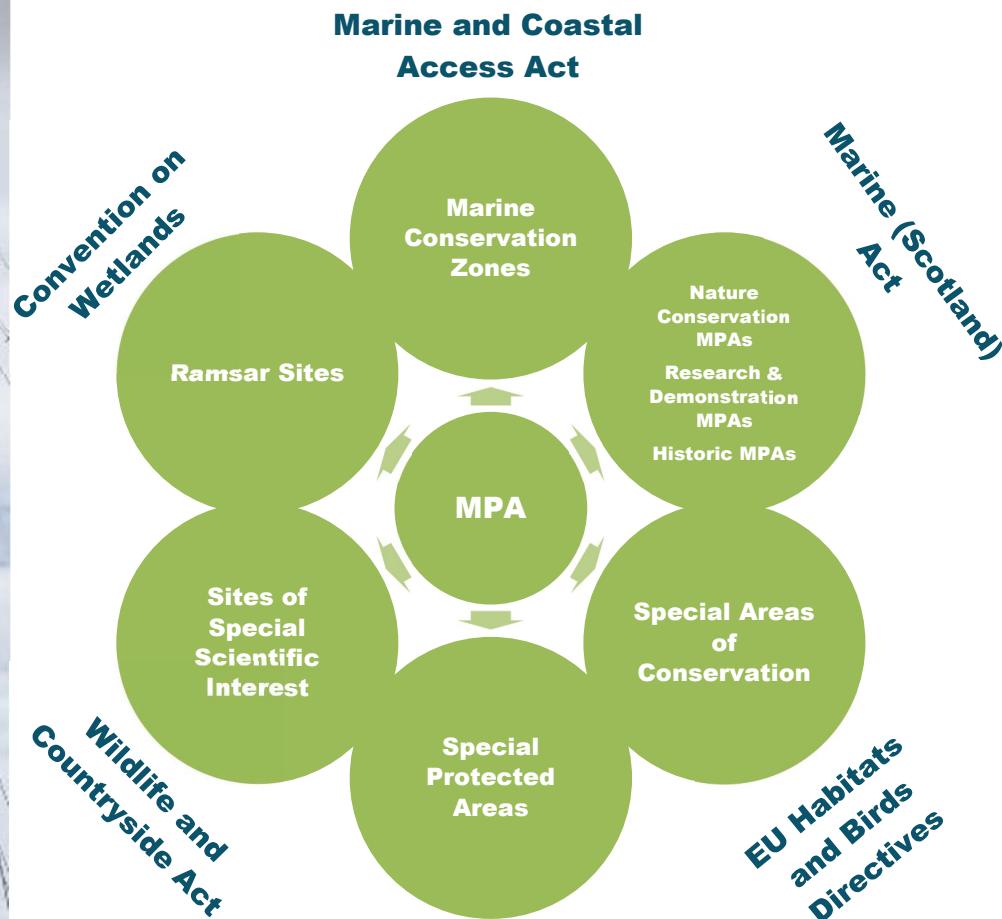
### Adaptive Management Cycle



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## MPA Legislation Summary

Our seas are home to some of the most biologically diverse habitats and species in Europe. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) can help us to protect the marine environment, whilst also enabling its sustainable use, ensuring it remains healthy in the future. The UK is committed to making its contribution to a well-managed network of MPAs in the North-east Atlantic region and there are a range of domestic and international legal and policy commitments underpinning this.



There are multiple legislative instruments which contribute to the UK's MPA network of over 200 MPAs (Image 2020)

## UK MPA Legislation Summary

UK Marine Protected Area	Location	Legislation				Management	
		National	International	Inshore	Offshore	Inshore	Offshore
Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	✓		<a href="#">Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</a> & <a href="#">Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013</a>		In England, the IFCAs (0-6nm) and the MMO (6-12 nm) are responsible for management and can introduce measures (e.g. Byelaws) to manage fishing activity where appropriate. Such measures would be developed following individual site assessments and subsequent stakeholder engagement. In Wales, the Welsh Government manage using Orders for Protection and in Northern Ireland DAERA manages through Byelaws.	Currently*, management in offshore sites (12-200nm) is agreed by EU Member States following Article 18 of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Management of these sites is lead by the MMO (England), Marine Scotland (Scotland), Welsh Government (Wales) and DAERA (Northern Ireland).
Nature Conservation MPA (NCMPA)	Scotland	✓		<a href="#">Marine (Scotland) Act 2010</a>	<a href="#">Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</a>	Marine Scotland are the lead authority regarding the implementation of, and compliance with, any measures to manage fishing activity. Management of these sites is through Marine Conservation Orders.	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	UK		✓	<a href="#">EU Habitats Directive</a>		In England, IFCAs manage within 0-6nm and the MMO manages within 6-200 nm. In Wales the Welsh Government manage through Orders for Protection. In Northern Ireland DAERA manage through byelaws and in Scotland, Marine Scotland manage through Marine Conservation Orders.	
Special Protected Area (SPA)	UK		✓	<a href="#">EU Birds Directive</a>			
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	UK	✓		<a href="#">Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</a>	N/A	In England, IFCAs manage. In Wales, the Welsh Government manage, in Northern Ireland DAERA manage and in Scotland, Marine Scotland manage.	N/A
Ramsar Site	UK		✓	<a href="#">Ramsar Convention</a>	N/A		