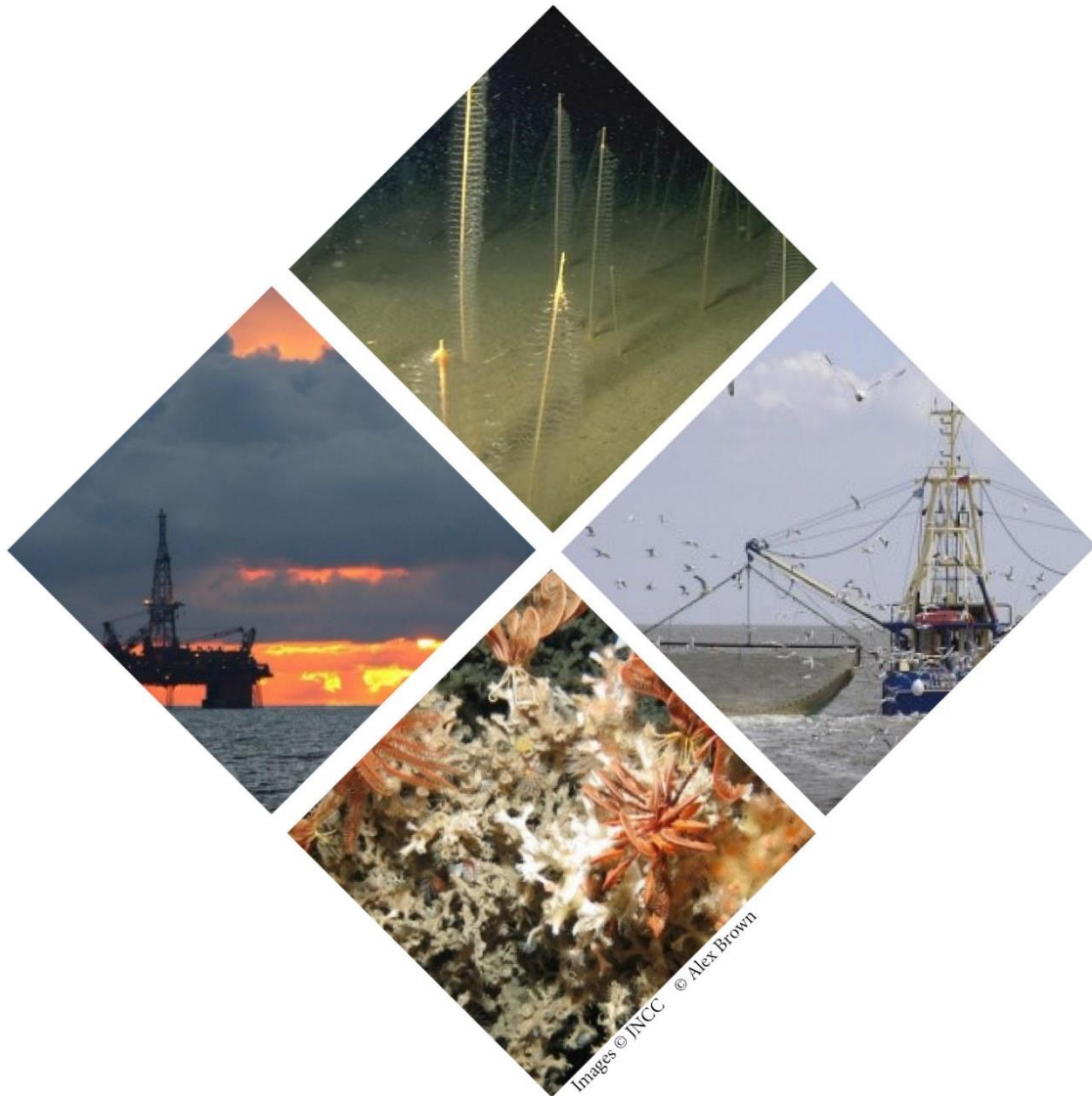


Conservation Objectives for South-West Deeps (West) Marine Conservation Zone

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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 and General Management Approach;
 - conservation benefits that the site can provide; and
 - conservation measures needed to support achievement of the conservation objectives set for the site.
- [Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives](#) (SACO) providing more detailed and site-specific information on the conservation objectives; and
- [Advice on Operations](#) providing information on those human activities that, if taking place within or near the site, can impact it and present a risk to the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the site.

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. Please note the SACO for Fan mussel is to be considered Draft whilst it undergoes external review.

The Conservation Objective for the South-West Deeps (West) Marine Conservation Zone is that the protected features -

- 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 **Subtidal coarse sediment, Subtidal sand, Subtidal mud and Subtidal mixed sediments** within the Zone, means that—

- Extent is stable or increasing; and
- Structures and functions, quality, and the composition of characteristic biological communities (which includes a reference to the diversity and abundance of species forming part of or inhabiting each 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 habitats are sufficiently healthy and resilient to enable its recovery.

Any alteration to the features brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to the **Fan mussel (*Atrina fragilis*)** within the Zone, means that the quality and quantity of its habitat and the composition of its population in terms of number, age and sex ratio are such as to ensure that the population is maintained in numbers which enable it to thrive.

Any temporary reduction of numbers is to be disregarded if the population is sufficiently thriving and resilient to enable its recovery.

Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to the **Celtic Sea Relict Sandbanks** within the Zone, means that—

- i. its extent, component elements and integrity are maintained;
- ii. its structure and functioning are unimpaired; and
- iii. its surface remains sufficiently unobscured for the purposes of determining whether the conditions in paragraphs (i) and (ii) are satisfied.

Any obscurement of that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.