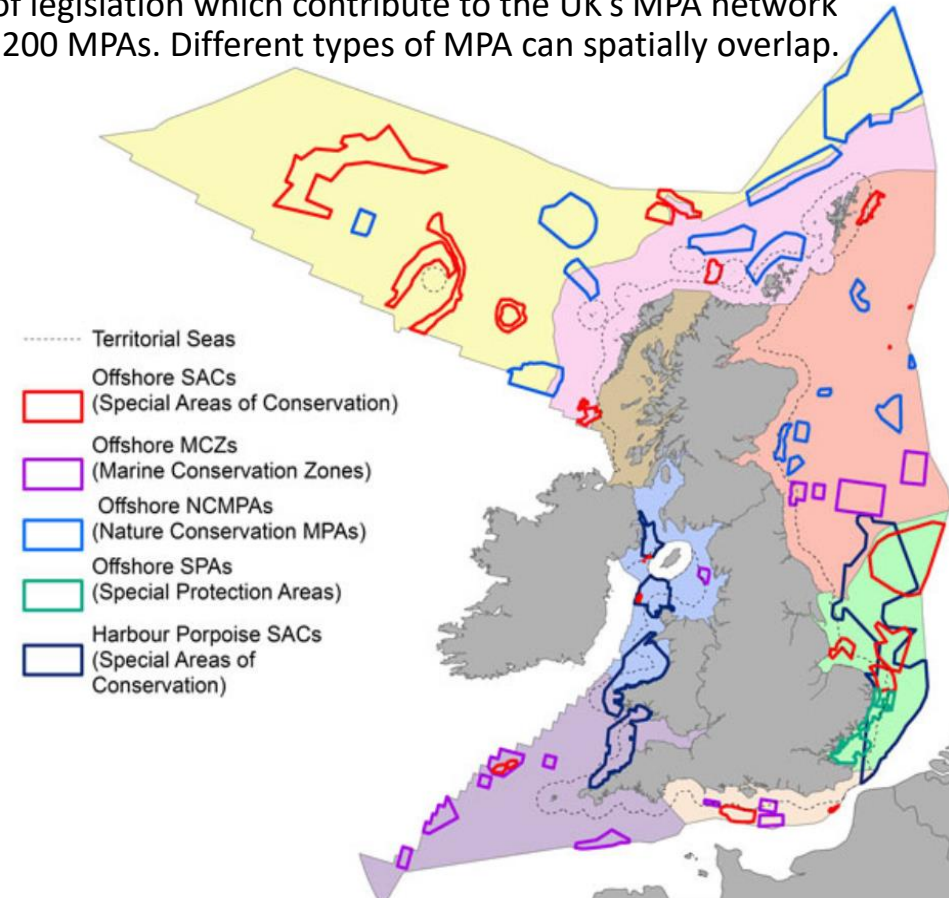
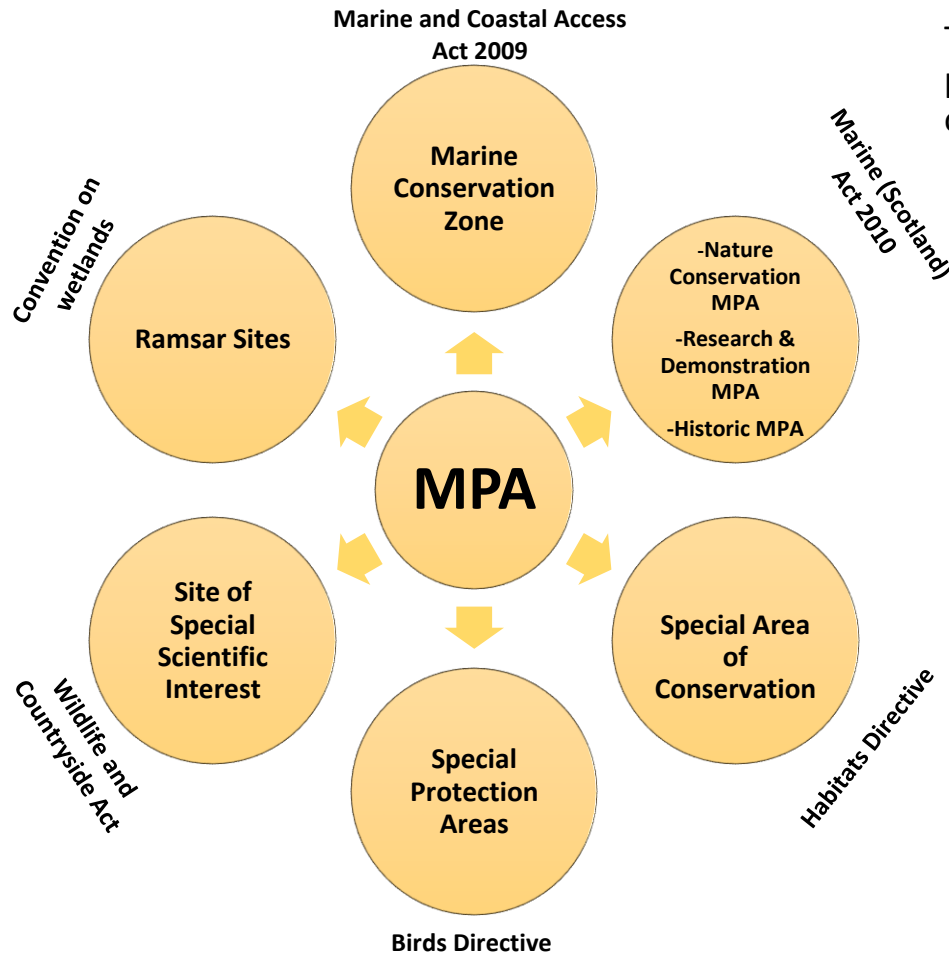


What are Marine Protected Areas?

Our seas are home to some of the most biologically diverse habitats and species in Europe. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are one of the tools that can help us to protect the marine environment, whilst also enabling it's sustainable use, ensuring it remains healthy and contributes to our society for generations to come. The UK is Committed to making its contribution to a well-managed network of MPAs in the North-east Atlantic.

MPAs are 'clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values'. [IUCN]

There are six different types of MPA designated under different pieces of legislation which contribute to the UK's MPA network of over 200 MPAs. Different types of MPA can spatially overlap.



Who is responsible for the Management of MPAs in English waters?

In the English Inshore - Within 0 to 6nm, the Marine and Coastal Access Act places a clear duty on IFCAs to sustainably manage sea fisheries resources in their Districts and to protect marine ecosystems from the impact of fishing under Section 153. Within 6 to 12nm, the MMO are the lead authority regarding the implementation of, and compliance with, any fisheries management measures.

In the UK Offshore - As of 2018, Marine Protected Areas which fall outside the UK's 12 nautical mile limit are exclusively managed under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In accordance with [Articles 11 and 18](#), requests for management have been developed jointly between the UK Government and any Member States with a direct management interest in the area affected. The MMO are the lead authority regarding the implementation of, and compliance with, any fisheries management measures developed and agreed through the offshore process.

UK Marine Protected Area	Location	Legislation				Management	
		National	International	Inshore	Offshore	Inshore	Offshore
Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) (including Marine Nature Reserves (MNR))	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	✓		Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009		Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA) within 0-6 nautical miles, and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) within 6-12 nm.	
Nature Conservation MPA (NCMPA)	Scotland	✓		Marine (Scotland) Act 2010	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	Marine Scotland are the lead authority regarding the implementation of, and compliance with, any measures to managing fishing activity.	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	UK		✓	EU Habitats Directive		Inshore fisheries in the area between 0-6 nautical miles are managed through the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities, and between 6-12 nm by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Both can introduce measures (e.g. bylaws) to manage fishing activity where appropriate. Such measures would be developed following individual site assessments and subsequent stakeholder engagement.	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	UK		✓	EU Birds Directive			
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	UK	✓		Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	N/A	Inshore fisheries in the area between 0-6 nautical miles are managed through the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities	
Ramsar Site	UK		✓	Ramsar Convention	N/A		

[Article 18](#) of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

N/A