

Who is who in managing fisheries in English waters?

DEFRA

In English waters, the **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)** is the [government department](#) responsible for marine [environmental](#) protection, and [fisheries](#) in the UK. **The Secretary of State** is responsible for confirming and revoking byelaws and initiating hearings. The approach and responsibility for conservation and management in English waters varies depending upon location.



Regulators

It is the responsibility of the regulator to make the final decision regarding the management response to a given fishing activity in a given site, taking account of advice from statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs). There will need to be future consideration of the ongoing suitability of management and associated triggers set at the time of the assessment.

IFCA

0-6nm

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) places a clear duty on Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities to sustainably manage sea fisheries resources in their Districts and to protect marine ecosystems from the impact of fishing under Section 153.



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)

IFCAs are either committees or joint committees of the local authorities that fall within an IFC district, there are a total of 10 IFCAs. They are tasked with the sustainable management of inshore sea fisheries resources in their local area. They are made up of representatives from the constituent local authorities (whom along with Defra provide funding for the IFCA) and people from across the different sectors that use or are knowledgeable about the inshore marine area, such as commercial and recreational fishermen, environmental groups and marine researchers, who offer their time voluntarily.



Marine Management Organisation

Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

The MMO is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by DEFRA, created by the Marine and Coastal Access Act. The MMO acts as the competent marine planning authority on behalf of UK Government, delivering marine functions in English territorial waters and UK offshore waters (for matters that are not devolved) such as marine licensing and enforcement of marine legislation. The MMO is responsible for regulating most activities and enforcing sea fisheries, nature conservation measures and licensing legislation.

MMO

6-200nm

The Marine Management Organisation are the lead authority regarding the implementation of, and compliance with, any fisheries management measures within 6-12nm and beyond 12nm for those developed and agreed through the offshore process.

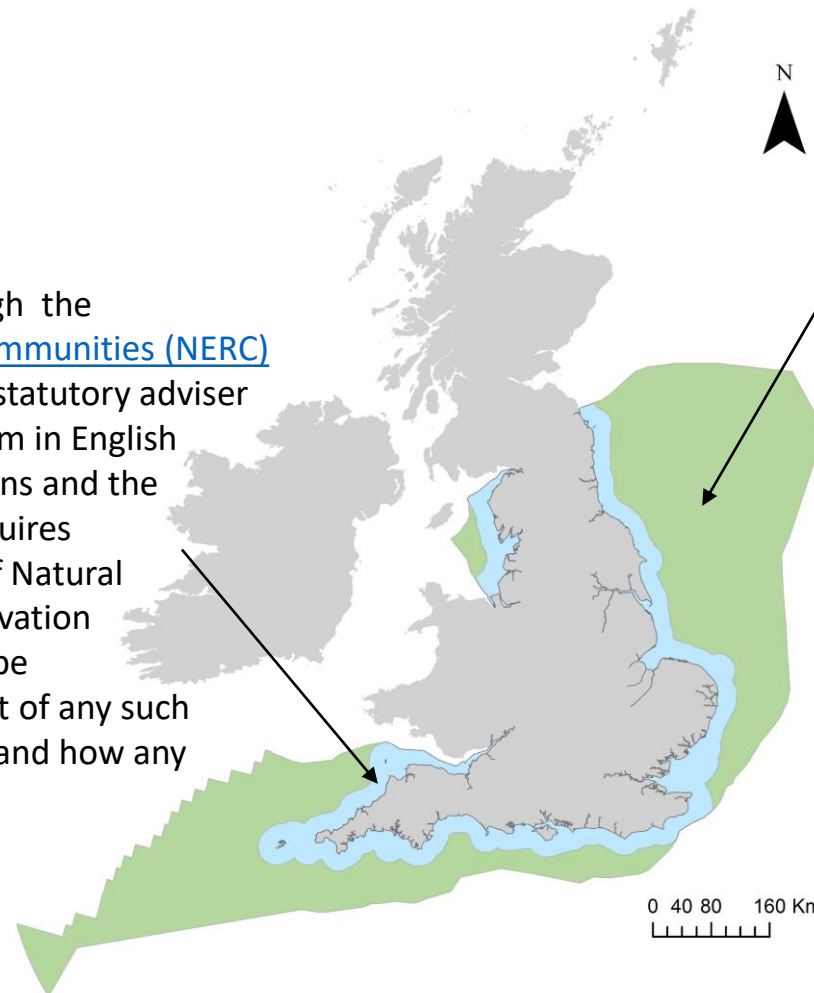
Who are the conservation advisors in English waters?

Advisers – Statutory nature conservation bodies provide advice to government and regulators on Conservation Objectives and activities that may impact the achievement of these. Statutory advisers will have the responsibility to update their advice in the light of feedback on existing management success/failure and the evolving evidence base and have a key role in examining the effectiveness of management measures.



Natural England (NE)

Natural England was vested through the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities \(NERC\) Act 2006](#) and is the government's statutory adviser on nature conservation out to 12nm in English waters. Both the Habitat Regulations and the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires regulators to consult the advice of Natural England regarding how any conservation objectives stated for an MPA may be furthered, or how the achievement of any such objectives may be least hindered, and how any impacts may be mitigated.



Joint Nature Conservation Committee

JNCC has responsibility for the provision of nature conservation advice in the offshore area. JNCC is the public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation. JNCC is legally constituted through the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities \(NERC\) Act 2006](#). In relation to MPA management, JNCC's specific responsibilities for offshore marine nature conservation are set out in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007, the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.