

Developing a participatory approach to the management of fishing activity in UK offshore Marine Protected Areas

Summary

The overarching aim of the project is to develop and trial a framework and tools to deliver a participatory approach to managing fishing activity in MPAs, ensuring fair and effective management in the face of uncertainty. The project has brought together the fishing sector, regulators, NGOs, conservation bodies, scientific advisors and academic researchers to explore the challenges of managing sedimentary habitats in MPAs and used key case studies to aid the development of a management toolkit which can be applied to other MPAs.

Work involved

JNCC, Natural England, NFFO, MMO, Bangor University and CAG Consultants have been exploring participatory processes for establishing, evaluating and adapting fisheries management in offshore MPAs with sedimentary habitats as protected features. Through a series of workshops potential governance frameworks and participatory processes have been developed to integrate stakeholders within the management review process, seeking to build awareness and consensus. An ecological model has been developed to predict ecological outcomes of different management scenarios. The project has also focused on how to overcome data limitations to achieve effective management.

Key Outcomes

The project will not aim to draw conclusions about the validity of policy-decisions for MPA management measures, rather it will develop and test a participatory process for making management decisions, ensuring that this is fair, transparent and uses the best available evidence. The project deliverables include:

- MPA Fisheries Management Toolkit
- Project Report and Presentation
- Key messages video
- Ecological model and associated guidance

Future Work

Development of the ecological model

Identified research priorities

Partnerships with fishing industry to collect data, establishing protocols for using anecdotal evidence and fishing fleets contributing to scientific research.

Further information

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/mpa-adaptive-management/>

Key words: Marine Protected Area, Fisheries management, Uncertainty, Adaptive management, Communication, Stakeholders, Decision-making processes



PRIFYSGOL
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The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations



Marine
Management
Organisation



Country: UK

Main Driver: Fisheries Bill,
MPA adaptive management

Period of work: April 2018-
March 2020

Contact point:
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Partnership: JNCC, Bangor
University, MMO, Natural
England, NFFO, CAG
Consultants

Total project value: £249,751



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