



Well managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the UK – what does this mean and how do we achieve it?

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MPAs in the UK



- 24% of UK waters designated as MPAs, committed to 30% target by 2030
- But 59% of MPAs in the EU are commercially trawled and trawling is actually higher than outside MPAs

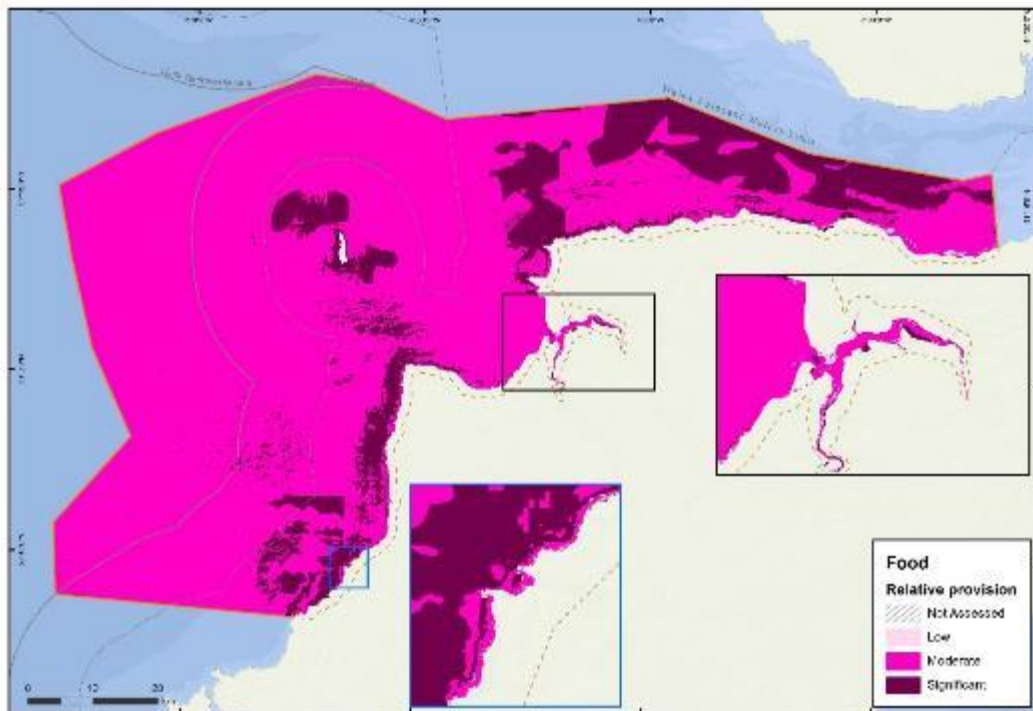
- At EAC sustainable seas inquiry, Defra chief scientist Ian Boyd admitted 'we're not evaluating whether MPAs are working'

UK SEAS Project



- 5 year programme of work led by WWF
- Case study areas in North Devon and Outer Hebrides
- Aim: improve management of MPAs in case study areas, and develop tools and approaches for sharing
- Work areas:
 - Taking a fresh look at marine governance structures
 - Investigating and implementing sustainable funding for MPAs
 - Engaging local communities with their seas

Benefits at risk

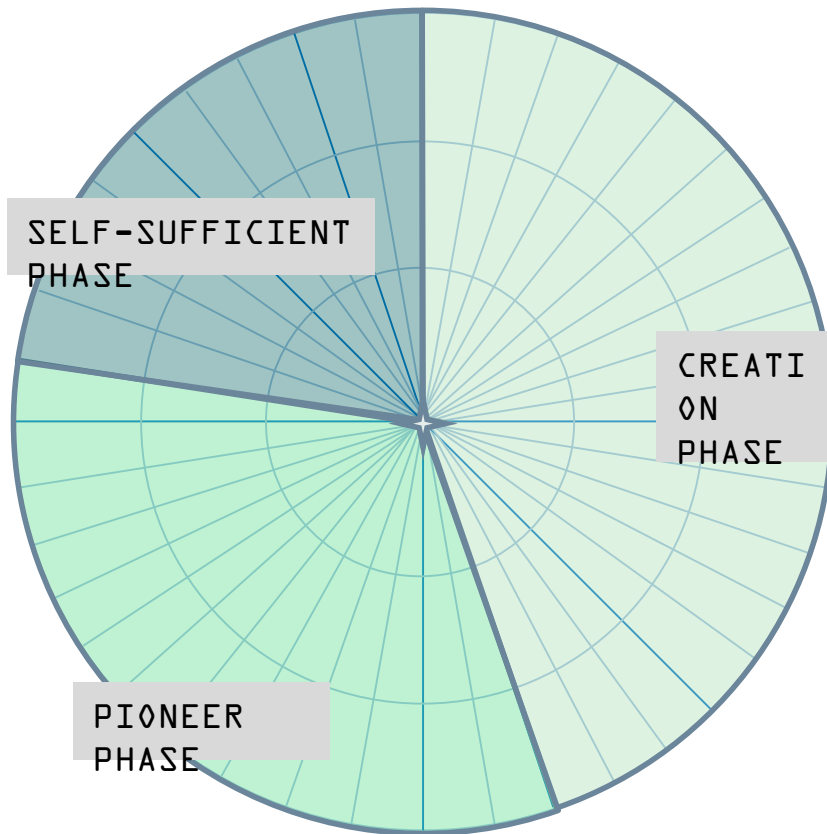


Sian Rees, Matthew Ashley, Andrew Cameron

- Huge potential benefits including food, flood protection, recreation and tourism, healthy climate
- 45% of all habitats in North Devon exposed to pressures that impact them and likely to reduce provision of benefits
- Coastal saltmarsh provides highest contribution but only 1/3 in MPAs has management measures



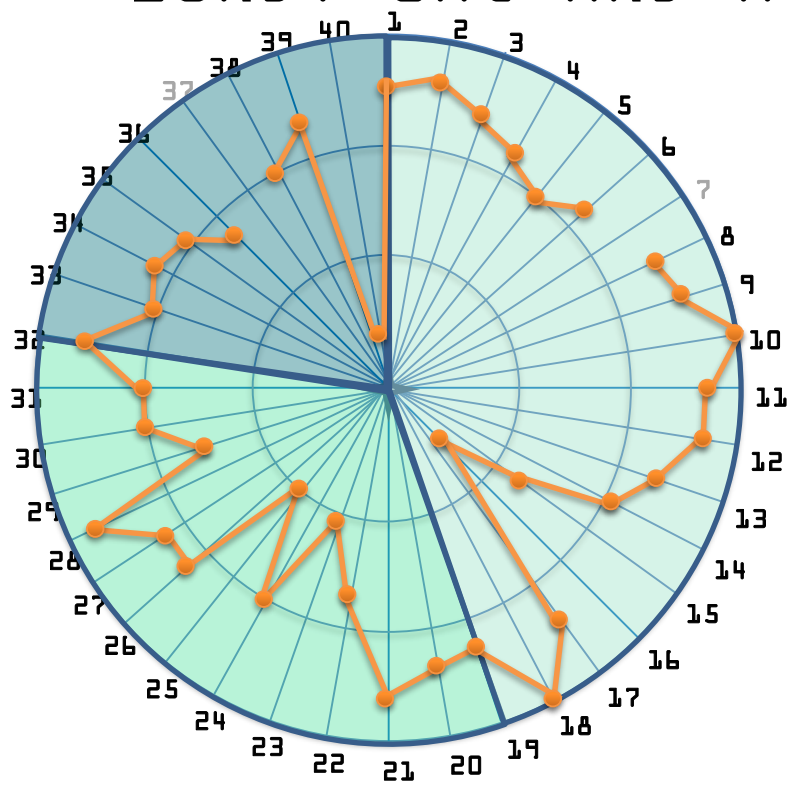
The compass



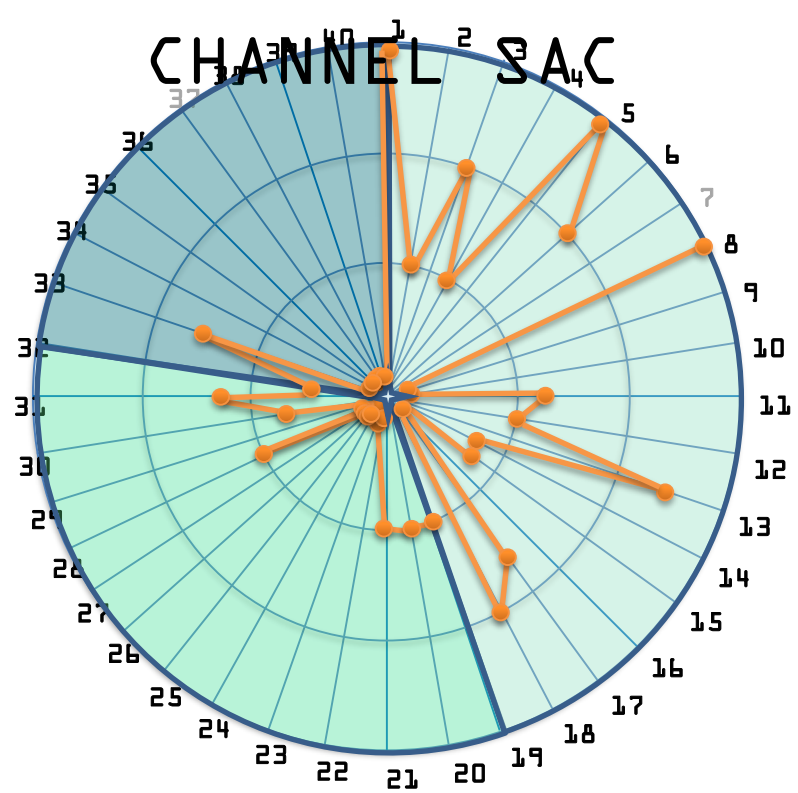
- Three phases
- 38 criteria including plans and management, involving people, resources, monitoring and results
- Identify areas of good practice and aspects which need improving
- Can be used to track MPA progress over time

North Devon pilot

LUNDY SAC AND MCZ



BRISTOL CHANNEL SAC



Results and next steps

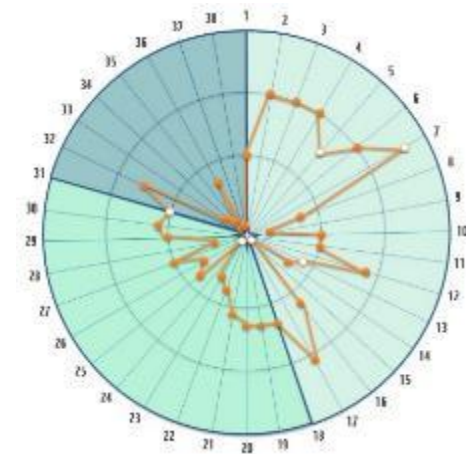
- MPAs scored well in creation phase but not so well on self-sufficient, reflects focus on designation and need to move onto active management
- Lack of public knowledge and understanding of MPAs
- Common theme was concerns over enforcement and long-term funding for MPAs

Next steps:

- Refine tool based on learning from pilot
- Address areas of weakness at local and national scales to improve management effectiveness scores

Key messages

1. MPAs can only deliver benefits when they are well-managed
2. WWF's UK SEAS project is working to improve the way that MPAs are managed
3. The compass evaluates how well MPAs are being managed
4. This can be used to identify areas of good practice and aspects of management which need improving





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Working together to safeguard
Marine Protected Areas