

Fishing and Marine Conservation Zones

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Affiliations

- Nat. Fed. Fishermen's Orgs (NFFO)
- North Sea Regional Advisory Council
- North West Waters Regional Advisory Council
- Europeche
- EU Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (NACFA)

Marine Protected Areas

- Habitat Directive (SACs)
- Birds Directive
- UK Domestic legislation (Marine and Coastal Access Act) > Marine Conservation Zones

- “A coherent network of marine protected areas”

Fishing – a dispersed but vulnerable economic activity

- 4 Regional Projects
- “Stakeholder led”
- Motor car or TGV?

- Potential for displacement of fishing effort from customary fishing grounds
- Social and economic consequences
- Multi-species; multi-gear; multi-jurisdiction

MPA Fishing Coalition

- A voice for fishermen in the process of establishing MPAs
- Broad UK membership
- Subsequently supported by Dutch, Irish, French and Belgian fishing organisations
- Recognises the legitimacy of MPAs
- Concerned about the process of establishing them
- Independent Chair –Dr Stephen Lockwood
- Principle industry interlocutor with government and statutory conservation agencies

MPA Fishing Coalition - Concerns

- Rushed process undermines genuine stakeholder involvement
- Weak evidence base/ quality of science
- Precautionary approach/unintended consequences
- Uneven representation on the regional stakeholder groups
- Confused jurisdictions
- No marine spatial planning framework
- Choice and implementation of management measures

- Failure to adequately address the issue of displacement

Lessons of Lyme Bay

- Minimal consultation
- Ministerial dictat
- Closure decision opaque
- Disputed evidence base

- Displaced effort impacts in adjacent and distant fisheries

Stanton Bank – a consensual approach

- Scottish Fishermen's Federation and JNCC
- Dialogue
- Agreed approach
- Meet conservation objectives whilst maintaining fishing activity

- No displacement issues
- Win -win

Management Measures

- From light monitoring to complete exclusion
- Issue of displacement
- 2001 North Sea cod closure
 - pristine areas damaged
 - Juvenile haddock areas – discards
- Impact on adjacent fisheries
- Impact on distant fisheries
- Difficulties in modeling
- Degraded marine environment outside MPAs

An incremental approach?

- Designation process is approaching its conclusion
- Focus is now on choice of management measures to protect features
- Learn lessons
- Adaptive approach?
- Inclusive?
- Legitimate?
- Dealing with uncertainties?

Management approach

- Top-down or Big Society?
- Dictat or consensus
- Incremental or Big Bang

Europe

- Habitats
- Birds Directive
- MSFD – Good Environmental Status
- Outside 6 mile limit –international fleets
- RACs and a reformed CFP – regional management

Key

- Close engagement between fishing industry representatives with the decision makers (IFCAS, MMO, Defra, regional bodies)
- Institutional space where they can discuss and agree management options
- Appropriate scale
- Must have legitimacy
- Must deal with uncertainties and limitations to knowledge

Thank You