



Marine conservation zones

The MMO's roles and responsibilities

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is one of many public authorities with a management remit within the marine environment.

The MMO is responsible for enforcing the general offence of damaging a marine conservation zone (MCZ) and measures that the MMO are responsible for enforcing.

The MMO has no role in final decisions regarding the MCZ site selection process that will be put forward to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The MMO acts as an advisor to the regional projects and stakeholder groups.

Roles and responsibilities during MCZ process

During MCZ recommendation stage

- Provide impartial advice based on MMO's remit – fisheries, marine activities (such as construction), enforcement.
- Feasibility, practicalities and effectiveness of MMO management measures.

October 2011 to designation

- Implement possible interim measures based on risk and advice of statutory nature conservation bodies.

Upon site designation

- Use recommendations and impact assessments to develop, implement and enforce regulatory measures.
- Ensure that authorised activities within remit, such as construction, do not impact on protected features.



Potential MMO management measures

Recommendations for management measures within MCZs will be put forward by the regional stakeholder groups.

Byelaws

This is a new function for the MMO. It is principally for unregulated activities out to 12 nautical miles.

Fishing licence conditions

This is an existing function within the MMO. This is one potential option for managing fishing activities within MCZs but there may be other more appropriate options such as inshore fisheries conservation authorities (IFCAs) byelaws and Defra prohibition orders.

Marine licences

This is an existing function within the MMO. Impacts of activities requiring a marine licence will be managed through this system. Mitigation and conditions will be imposed to ensure that conservation objectives are not hindered.

Voluntary agreements or education

There are a number of non-statutory options which could be locally led by appropriate groups with MMO assistance. Such arrangements need to demonstrate that they afford the necessary protection to protected features.



Who to contact

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