

MPA policy in UK offshore and English territorial waters

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Overview

- Government commitment to MPA network
- Current focus
- Implementing our national measures
- Key messages

Ministerial commitment

“MPAs will play a key role in delivering our vision for the marine area and I am keen that the network should be in place at the earliest available opportunity. I am pleased with Natural England 's commitment to establish a coherent network of Marine Conservation Zones by 2012 ”

Current Focus

- Natura 2000
- Marine Bill MCZ provisions
- MCZ site identification

Next Steps

- Natural England and JNCC evaluation of further sites needed to complete our MPA network
- Will need to consider amongst other things
 - Any existing models
 - Network requirements

Key messages

- Govt committed to MPA network
- Encourage Natural England and JNCC to identify and recommend sites as soon as possible