



Berwickshire & Northumberland  
Marine Nature Partnership

## Glossary of Terms

**Appropriate Assessment:** An assessment undertaken to determine the potential effect of a project or plan on a European site (SPA or SAC). Appropriate Assessment forms one part of the wider Habitats Regulations Assessment.

**Biodiversity:** The variety of life. Defined in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."

**Birds Directive:** European Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds (2009/147/EC)

**Bylaw:** A locally made law put in place to meet a specified need.

**Competent Authority:** Under the Habitat Regulations, Competent Authorities include any Minister, government department, public or statutory undertaker, public body of any description or person holding a public office.

**Conservation Objectives:** Objectives for the conservation status of a site required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (for SPAs and SACs) or the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (for MCZs)

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** The process used to evaluating a proposal's impacts on the environment as part of a decision-making process.

**European Marine Site (EMS):** A SPA or SAC which is covered by the sea either permanently or tidally.

**Habitat:** The place in which a plant, animal or other organism lives, characterized by both physical and biological features.

**Habitats Directive:** EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

**Habitats Regulations:** The regulations that transcribe The EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive into UK law. In England these are the Conservation of Habitats Regulations 2017 and in Scotland they are the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994

**Habitat Regulations Assessment/Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA):** A term used to describe the entire process used to identify any aspects of a Plan or Project that has the potential to cause a

likely significant effect on an SPA or SAC (either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects), and to identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation strategies where such effects were identified. The process is called a Habitats Regulations Assessment in England and Habitats Regulations Appraisal in Scotland. Appropriate Assessment forms one part of the wider Habitats Regulations Assessment.

**Intertidal:** The area found between high tide and low tide

**Management Scheme:** A plan, prepared by the relevant authorities, that sets the framework within which activities will be managed to achieve the conservation objectives of a European Marine Site

**Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs):** Areas of national importance for their marine habitats or species, designated under the Marine and Coast Access Act 2009.

**Marine Licence:** Licence issued by the Marine Management Organisation under Section 71 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, or issued by Marine Scotland under Section 20 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

**Marine Protected Area (MPA):** An umbrella term used to describe an area which is covered by the sea and which receives legal protection in recognition of the natural environment found there. This definition includes both areas that are permanently covered by the sea (subtidal areas) and areas that are only covered by the sea during some parts of the tide (tidal areas).

**Natura 2000 site:** An Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The totality of these sites across Europe makes up what is known as the Natura 2000 network.

**OSPAR:** The convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Northeast Atlantic. Annex V addresses the protection and conservation of ecosystems and biological diversity.

**Ramsar Site:** A wetland of international importance designated under the International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971) ["The Ramsar Convention"].

**Relevant authority:** A body that has functions in relation to land or waters within or adjacent to a marine area or European Marine Site.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):** A nationally important area for wildlife or geology notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC):** Site of European importance for its habitats and/or species. A site designation under the EU Habitats Directive.

**Special Protection Area (SPA):** A site of European Community importance for its populations of breeding or migratory birds. Designated under the EU Birds Directive.

**Sublittoral:** The zone below the low-tide mark. The zone is only exposed to the air at its upper limit during the lowest spring tides.