



Berwickshire & Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE No.8 July 2019

Welcome to the latest of our regular news digests from the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership. Please feel free to forward this update to any colleagues who you think might find it of interest. If you have any news items or details of events to include in future updates then please send the details to nick.brodin@northumberland.gov.uk

DESIGNATIONS

Berwick to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

Defra announced the designation of a new Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) on 31st May. The Berwick to St Mary's MCZ is designated in recognition of the nationally important numbers of eider duck which breed and winter along the Northumberland coast. The designation brings the number of inshore marine protected areas within the partnership boundary up to eleven.

The site stretches from Berwick-upon-Tweed in the north to St Mary's Island in the south and covers an area of 634 km². The southern part of the site overlaps with the similarly named Coquet to St Mary's MCZ which was designated in 2016 for a range of tidal and subtidal habitats.

Further details, including links to a factsheet about the site, can be found at <http://www.xbordercurrents.co.uk/berwick-to-st-marys-marine-conservation-zone-mcz-a-new-marine-protected-area-for-northumberland/>

MARINE NATURE PARTNERSHIP NEWS

New marine protected area Infographics

We have recently commissioned a set of eleven infographics about each of the individual marine protected areas within our partnership area. These are designed as a short encapsulation of the main details of each site, including details of size, location and the reason for designation. The infographics can be downloaded [at this link](#)

We are also in the process of producing a story map to give further information about each of our eleven marine protected areas. Our story map for the Northumberland Marine SPA can be found [HERE](#)

Workshop on joint data and research priorities - 2nd May

A workshop was held on 2nd May to discuss joint data and research priorities. The notes from this are available [HERE](#)

A common theme throughout all the discussions was the need to develop baselines against which changes or impacts could be assessed. This appears to be an area of joint priority for members of the Marine Nature Partnership. Action to address this is likely to require mapping and mobilisation of historic data and could include elements of public engagement.

Further meetings are planned to develop this work further.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Seaweed Hand Harvesting - a literature reviews of disturbance distances and vulnerabilities of marine and coastal birds

Scottish Natural Heritage have produced this useful report into the impacts of hand gathering of seaweed. While hand gathering of seaweed is not a particular issue on the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast, the information on the sensitivity of different bird species which the report contains will be of wider applicability to partners. The report can be viewed [HERE](#)

Alternative use of dredge material in the north east, north west, south east and south west marine plan areas

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) have published a report into alternative uses of dredged material. This includes a consideration of sites in the North East plan area.

The report can be accessed [HERE](#)

Identifying sites suitable for marine habitat restoration or creation

MMO report on a project which aimed to develop a national dataset of sites that are suitable for habitat restoration or creation. A copy of the report can be downloaded [HERE](#)

NIFCA Publications

Northumberland IFCA have published their [2019-20 Annual Plan](#), their [2018-19 Annual Research Report](#) and their [2019-20 Annual Research Plan](#)

FUNDING

Northumbrian Water Branch Out

Northumbrian Water's Branch Out fund is open for applications until 31 August. The Branch Out fund helps to deliver projects that benefit the natural environment and their local communities with grants of up to £25,000. Further information, including details of the aims of the fund, can be found [HERE](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Highly Protected Marine Conservation Areas review

In June 2019, Defra announced a review to examine whether and how the strongest protections for areas of sea, known as Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), could be introduced.

The review will be led by Richard Benyon MP. It will run from June 2019 and complete by the end of 2019. The review will consider the waters for which the Secretary of State has responsibility: the English inshore and offshore and Northern Ireland offshore zones.

Further details can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highly-protected-marine-areas-hpmas-review-2019>

Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS)

Northumberland IFCA will be supporting the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS) in Northumberland. The Scheme aims to establish an easy way to discard and recycle fishing lines to prevent them from ending up in the marine environment or landfill. Further details can be viewed [HERE](#)

EVENTS

Big Watch Weekend - 3rd and 4th August 2019

ERIC North East will once again be holding their annual cetacean watch on the weekend of 3rd and 4th August. The event has been organised as part of the Sea Watch Foundation's National Whale and Dolphin Watch.

A cetacean id training session will be held on 1st August with Martin Kitching from MARINELife. Contact eric.ne@twmuseums.org.uk for more information.

Coast Care

The Coast Care project have a number of events and activities coming up in north Northumberland. These include practical management activities, beach cleans and survey training. Further details can be found at

<http://www.coast-care.co.uk/activities/upcoming-activities/>