



**Irish Sea Conservation Zones
County Workshop
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Location: Runcorn, Cheshire**

**Workshop outputs
Word for Word Report**

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About the workshop and this report

▪ Purpose of the workshop

The Irish Sea is rich in marine life and important for fishing, recreation, tourism, shipping, energy production and extraction. All these human uses are important and help to support our way of life. However, the more we use the sea, the more we put pressure on the marine wildlife and natural places.

The UK Government has now made a commitment to set aside areas of our sea for nature, in the form of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

The Government has also committed to a new approach where stakeholders will help to work out where these Marine Conservation Zones should be in order to ensure that marine wildlife thrives, whilst minimising the negative effect on people.

This workshop was one of four workshops held in Runcorn, Liverpool, Blackpool and Penrith in the early part of October 2009. All four workshops followed the same questions and format.

The workshops brought together interest groups, organisations and individuals to find out more about the project and influence what happens. These workshops provided the opportunity for people to:

- **Learn more about a network of Marine Conservation Zones and the work of the Irish Sea Conversation Zones team.**
- **Consider the issues and opportunities of a network of MCZ**
- **Put forward their own ideas**
- **Say how they wanted to be involved in the future**
- **Comment on draft ideas for a regional Stakeholder Group that will be responsible for making recommendations to Government**

▪ About this report.

The discussion was recorded on flip charts, 'post-it' notes, or question sheets. Following the workshop these have been typed word for word and then sorted to put similar ideas together from within a particular discussion. This is to aid understanding. This report follows the same order as the event.

▪ Why sort the outputs?

Conversations do not progress in a linear fashion but go off at tangents, circle back and change direction suddenly. As a result, it can be very difficult to make sense of a dialogue when it is reported in the sequence in which it happens and important themes and ideas can be obscured.

It is for this reason that the outputs of the workshops are sorted and grouped.

The sorting is done by 'emergent processing' ie seeing what themes emerge rather than to a predetermined set of titles. The ideas could have been grouped differently, or different titles chosen, so no weight should be attached to them.

Whilst this report serves as a record of what was discussed, and an *aide memoir* for those who took part in the workshop, the contents are inevitably quite cryptic in places so it is strongly recommended that it is not used as a means of communicating with non-participants without proper explanation.

Acronyms used in this report	Meaning
	(* some acronyms were unfamiliar to us and we or the IS CZ team researched the likely definition but may have got it wrong)
ASAP	As soon as possible
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BSAC	British Sub Aqua Club
CEH	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
DCWASA	<i>District of Colombia Water & Sewage Authority *</i>
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
EAPP	<i>Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes*</i>
EPSRC	Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council
ESRC	Economic & Social Research Council
GoNW	Government Office for the North West
IOM	Isle of Man
ISCZ	Irish Sea Conservation Zones
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
M & CA Bill	Marine & Coastal Access Bill
MARINET	Marine Network of Friends of the Earth
MBC	Mersey Basin Campaign.
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MNR	Marine Nature Reserve
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NP	National Park
NR	Nature Reserve
NW	Northwest
NWNWSFC	North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Ofwat	Water Services Regulation Authority.
RAC	Regional Advisory Councils
Ramsar	Protected site designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
RECORD	Local biological Record Centre serving Cheshire, Halton, Warrington & Wirral.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SFC	Sea Fisheries committee
SIMCAT	Computer model that allows SIMulation of the water quality of CATchments
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UK	United Kingdom
UKCPC	United Kingdom Cable Protection Committee
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WQ	Water Quality
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

1 Starting activities

1.1 It is 2030 and you are pleased with what you see above or beneath the waves of the Irish Sea. What do you see?

Vibrant fishing industry

- Vibrant fishing industry
- A vibrant fishing industry and healthy marine environment
- Sustainable fisheries and good marine life
- At sea fish farms to improve fish stocks

Sustainable use

- A functional and sustainable symmetry between the needs of the economy and environment
- Appropriately used.

Healthy sea

- Healthy seas
- Healthy marine environment
- Sustainable and healthy ecosystems
- Health seas (bio-diverse)

Abundant fish

- Fully protected areas creating abundance of fish life
- Good shellfish populations (nephrops and scallops), whitefish? Not sure, uncertainties due to global warming.
- Productive seas

Clean seas

- Clean water and healthy life
- Clean water
- Water should be even cleaner
- Clean seas
- Clean clear water
- A continuation of the clean-up of the pollution
- Below the sea a clean unpolluted area, vibrant with healthy marine life
- More effective means of propulsion – hence little pollution and cleaner waters.

Renewable energy

- Rows and rows of wind farms
- Power abstracted renewably – waves and wind
- Lots of wind turbines
- Sympathetically installed alternative energy sources
- Plenty of renewable energy...wind farms, tidal power
- Marine-based energy generation

Lots of sea life

- Lots of wildlife!
- Increased marine life
- Wealth of wildlife
- High biodiversity
- Sea life below
- Abundant biodiversity (habitats and species extensive and protected)
- At least the same amount of marine life as when I started diving

No Take Zones

- No Take Zones
- No take Zones

Cross border management

- The Irish Sea being managed as a sea – cross borders!

Reef creation

- Creation of larger reefs in warmer waters

A sea available to all

- A sea that is available to all

Sea transport

- Vibrant use of sea transport (pleasure and commercial)

1.2 At this stage, to what extent do you support the idea of a network of Marine Conservation Zones?

I oppose the idea	I have reservations	I can live with the idea	I support the idea	I strongly support the idea
0	5	2	3	11

1.3 Q and A following the presentation

Q: How does this affect areas of sea bed leased from the Crown Estate?

A – Exactly same way as all other areas, but will depend on activity undertaken and contracts that are in place.

Q: What percentage of the sea are we talking about and are current projects e.g. wind farms factored in the %?

A – Unknown as yet

Q: When will you know? Needs to be ASAP

A – As far as ISCZ know – it won't be a % target. But may be % of habitats that must be protected.

Q: When does the scientific input (on selection criteria/potential sites) come in?

A – National ecological guidance due at same time as Marine Bill – end of 2009

Q: Why bother getting involved? Nobody took any notice when the windfarms were being built, why will this be any different?

A – Here with honest intentions – involvement can steer the outputs and outcomes.

Q: Why are MCZs inshore and offshore in England and just offshore for Wales?

A – Inshore in Wales 32% protected already therefore focus on offshore.

Q: Who will pay for all of this?

A – Currently paid for by DEFRA many change with new bill and new regulations.

Q: Project staff employed by Envirolink but who funds the posts?

A – Funded by DEFRA but arms lengths by hosting at Envirolink.

Q: MCZs will be based on scientific advice. Presentation suggests that socio-economics may (not must) be taken into consideration - what is the real story?

A – Where science says 'must' protect that will override but socio-economic will inform other decisions.

Q: Does the 2% of current protected areas include the new SACs/SPAs proposed?

A – No, national figure of designated sites not proposed sites.

Q: Given our knowledge of the distribution of marine habitats and species is generally poor will the process be flexible as new information comes to light?

A – New information should help the case and strengthen recommendations.

Q: Will this project collect scientific information?

A – There is a project to achieve this but not in this project – parallel to this process. Data due October 2009 and early 2010.

Q: Will MCZs be big enough? Or will vested interest groups water recommendations down so that they're not big enough to be useful?

A – ISCZ responsibility for ensuring equitable input across all users/interests and by a transparent process.

Q: How will you engage with foreign fishermen?

A – Engaged through JNCC process and separate to this process but they will be involved.

Q: Could you give us a straw-person example of what a MCZ might be like?

A – No, generic MCZs not designed.

Q: Least conflict? Surely they need to be in areas of fish spawning?

A – Possibilities to get win-win outcomes e.g. windfarms protect sea beds - for example types of ideas hope to get from this process.

Q: How does this link to the River Basin Management Plan?

A – We don't know, intentions are understood but not how they tie together.

Q: Surely it's more important that marine life/environment is protected than having a clash with human interest?

A – A debate to be held at stakeholder level.

Q: Will MCZs cover inshore waters?

A – Not in North Wales as already protected via other mechanisms (32% inshore waters already protected). Printed maps available.

2 Developing understanding & commenting on the Stakeholder Group

2.1 What do you value now about the Irish Sea?

2.1.1 What do you value most now as it is?

Marine life - biodiversity of species and habitats

- Diversity of species we have – fish, wildlife, birds etc
- Bird populations
- Biodiversity in the Irish Sea at the moment
- Healthy marine life around the Isle of Man
- Diversity of marine habitats.
- Liverpool Bay from Great Orme to Liverpool out as far as Douglas rig – place of work, full of marine life – fish, basking sharks, seals, porpoises, dolphins, sunfish and whales

Important areas for species of conservation importance

- Global importance for basking shark.

Conservation designations

- BAP Habitats and Species currently present.
- Current designations – SSSIs etc

Commercial fishing / aquaculture

- Fishing industry
- Aquaculture
- Production of commercial (edible) species
- Quality of nephrops and scallops
- Opportunity to develop new fisheries
- Opportunity to further develop aquaculture particularly offshore
- Local produce

Local livelihoods / economy

- Earn my living from it

Public access

- Good access for the public
- Nearest bit of coastline we have in the northwest

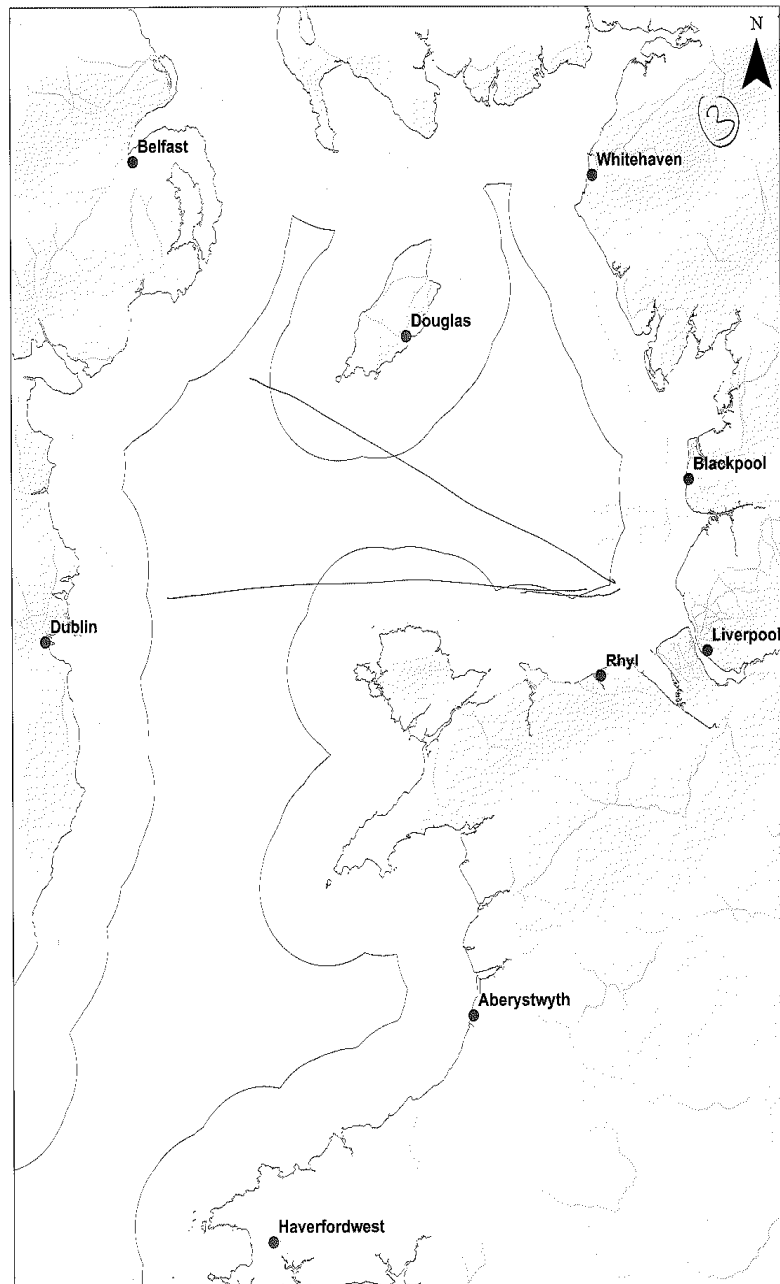
Sea views

- Looking out over the sea.

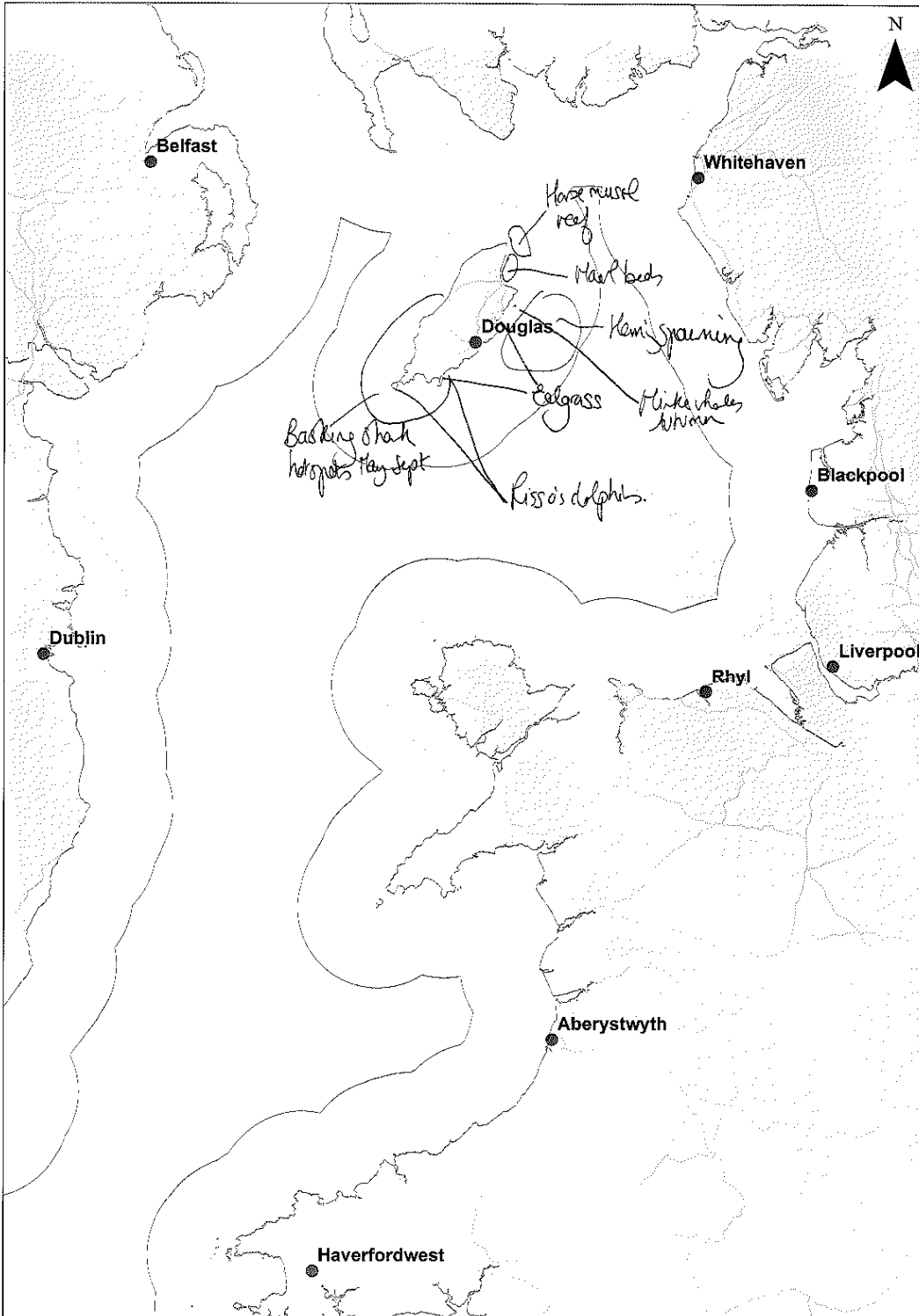
Great place for recreation

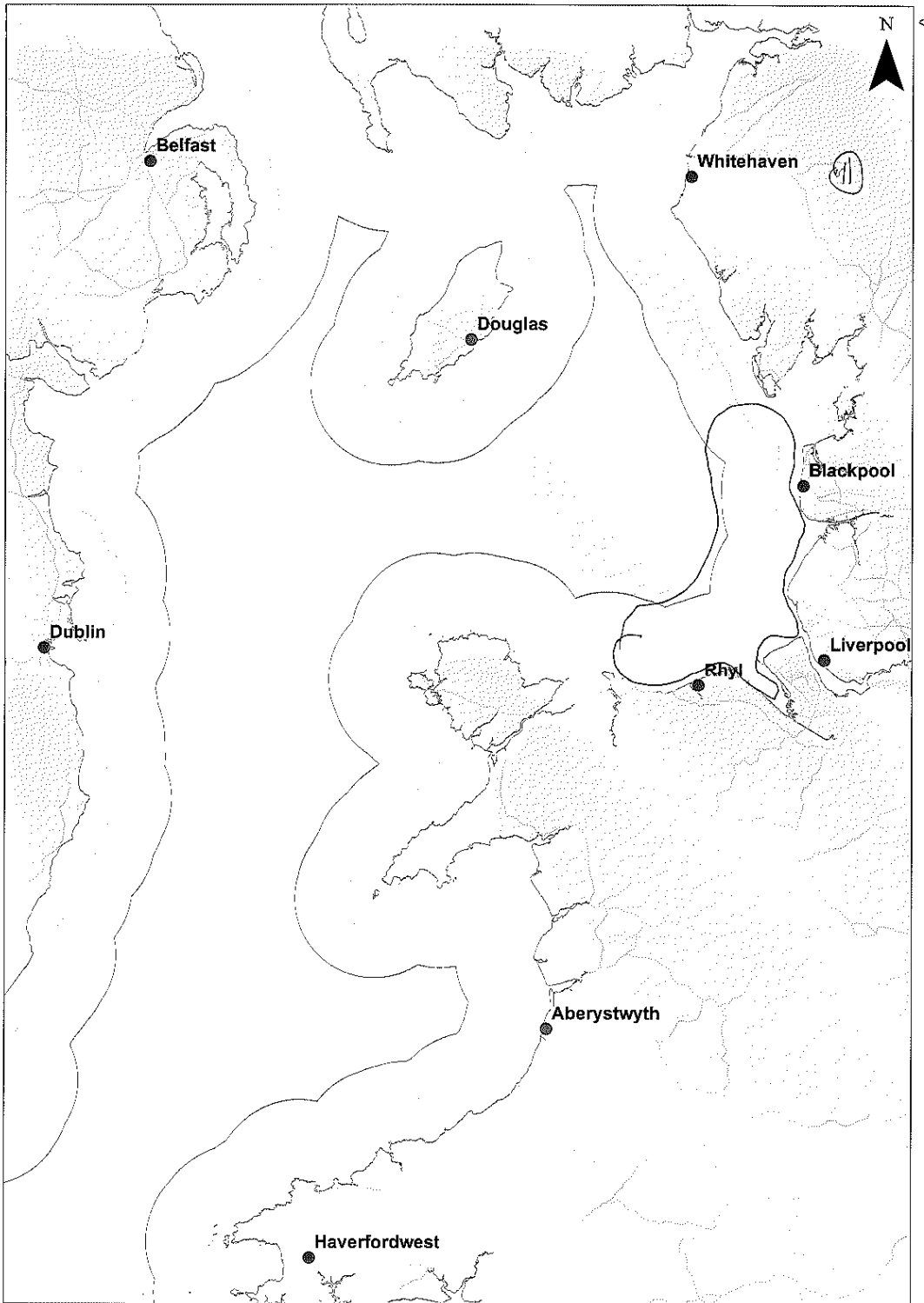
- Freedom to fish, sail and dive where I like
- Fantastic diving
- Best rod and line fishing area for numbers of species and quantity of fish in the whole country.

2.1.2 Where do you value most and why?

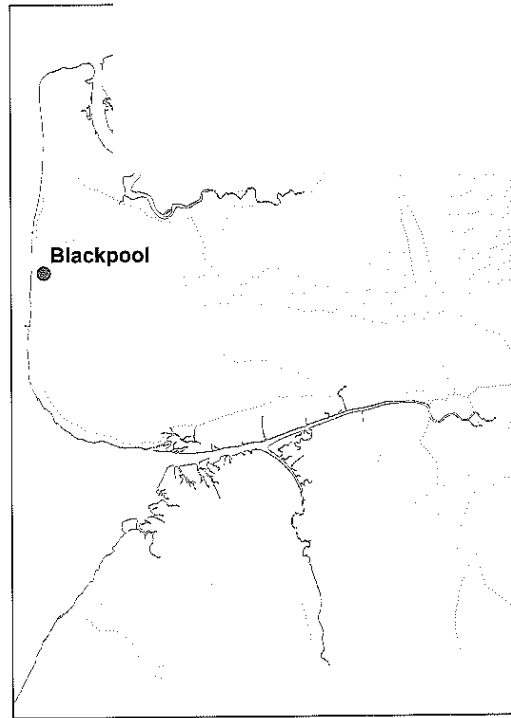
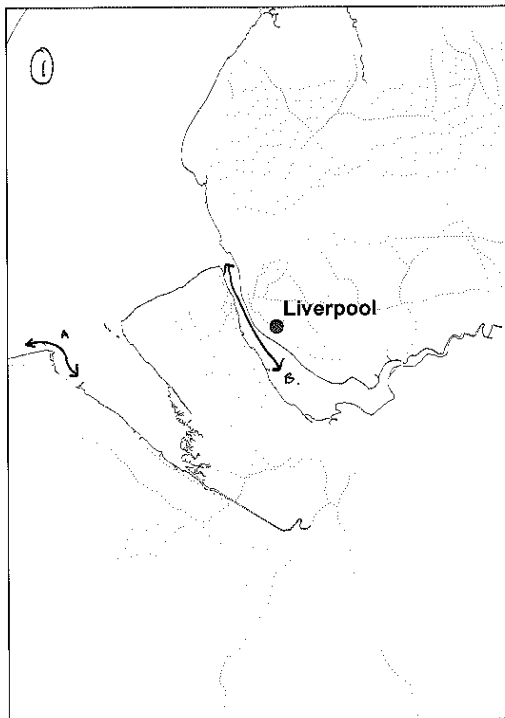
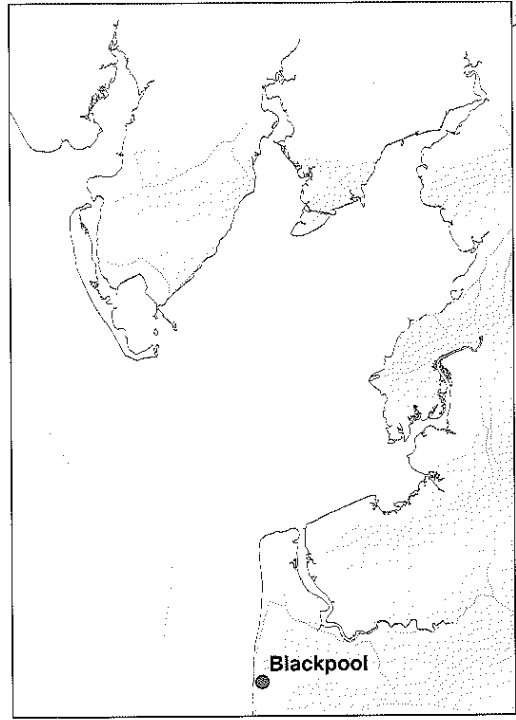
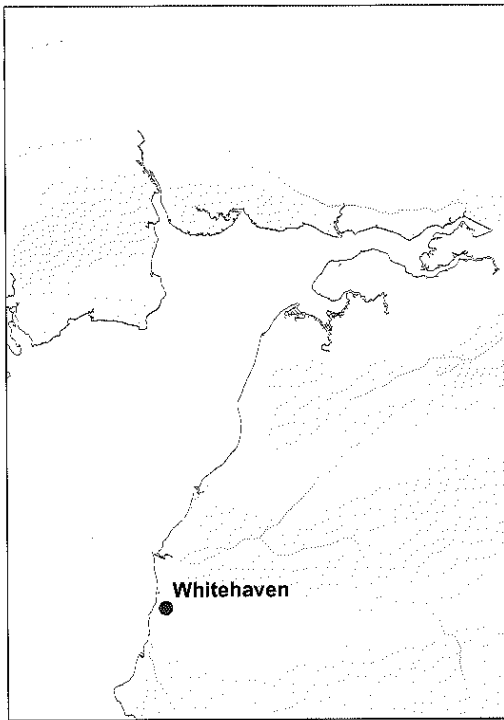


There are wrecks along these lines which are important for chartered boat angling. Big fish which are taken home by paying participants (5%) or released (95%)



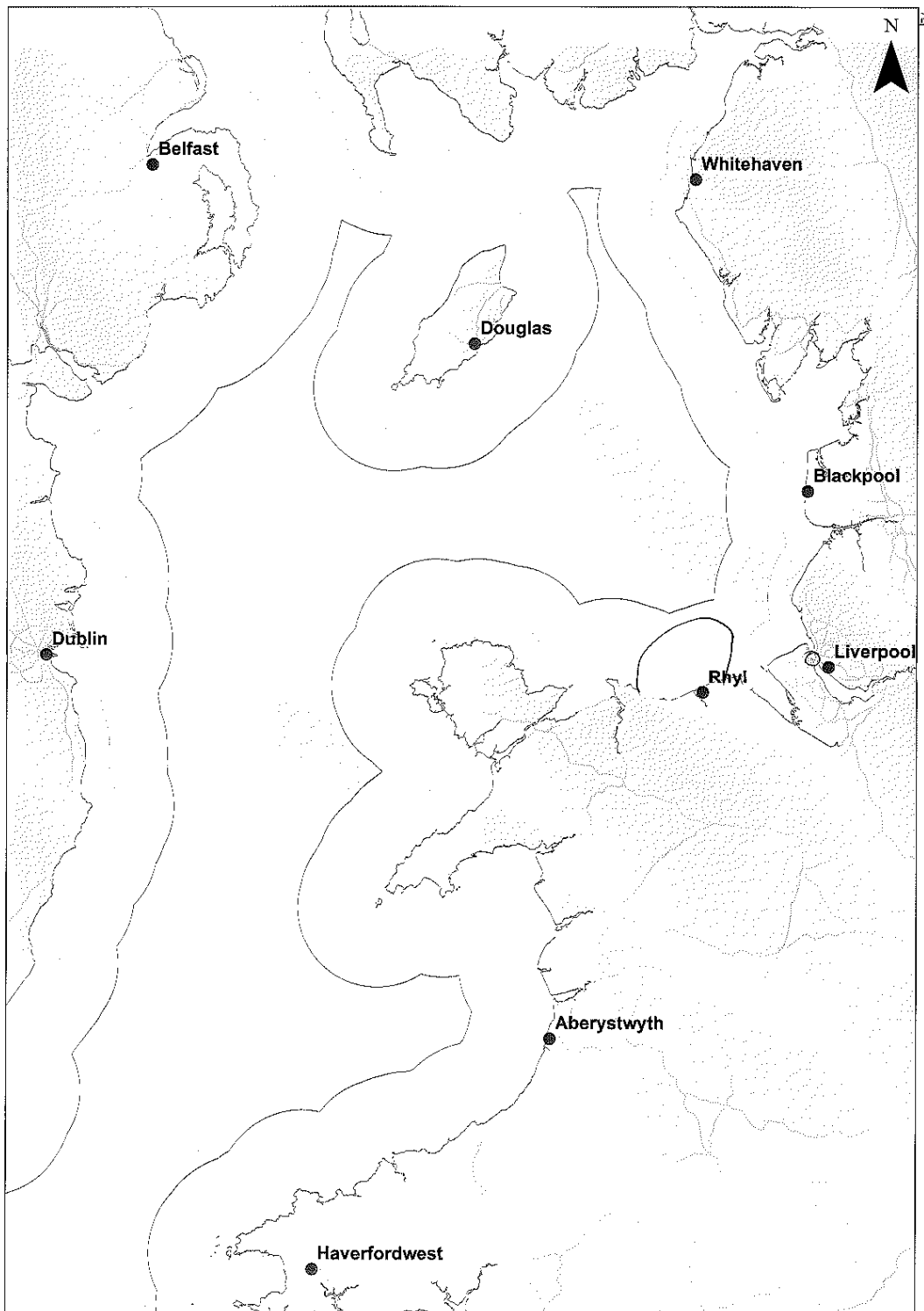


Shallow waters important for rod and line: Big charter angling area.
 Commercial fishing decreased as hardly any rays there, whereas before there used to be 100+ caught a day.
 Pending 150 turbines in the south of this area further reduces the fishing grounds.
 Mersey Boats – 7 run north & west
 Rhyl – 8
 Conway – 6/7
 Rhos - 5



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Excellent winter fishing for angling boats from Rhyl, Liverpool and Birkenhead.
 Species Caught: Ray, Whiting, Cod, Dabs, Conger Eel.



It's local to our home base

2.2 Thinking about how things are now

2.2.1 What are the current trends or changes that need to be taken into account?

Changes to the environment

Effects of climate change

- Temperature change
- Change in species distribution (and habitats)
- Climate change – should we climate ‘proof’ the marine environment?
- Ocean acidification – distribution of species
- Changes in local weather patterns

Changes in species diversity and abundance

- Change in distribution of food source for species of conservation interest (e.g. dolphins)

Conservation measures

- Local conservation measures - protection

Water quality

- Reduction in nutrients delivered by river systems as a result of the WFD

Changes in river management

- Changes in activity in river basins e.g. catchment restoration to improve water quality

Changes in human activities

Commercial fishing / aquaculture industry trends and changes

- Changes in fishing patterns as a result of regulation / market opportunities / changes in technology and fishing techniques
- Recognition of aquaculture in fulfilling the UK’s protein requirements and an industry that is currently underdeveloped (especially offshore) e.g. rope mussels (cultivation)
- Changes in foreign fishing activity in the Irish Sea
- Long term sustainability (of species of commercial importance) – currently over exploited

Developments and their effects

- Separate development of other marine industries

Renewable energy

- Changes in wind farms (more in number / area) and renewable energy structures – impact on hydrology – need to understand

Increased beach access

- Better access to the beach

Socio-economic climate

- Economic climate – change socio-economic importance/relevance

Food security / local produce

- Food security and trend recognition of the importance of local product / provenance
- Need to ensure local community food supply e.g. Isle of Man

Sea Fisheries Committee changes

- Changes in the structure of SFCs

2.2.2 What are the current issues and challenges?

Challenges in the Irish Sea

Effects of wind farms

- Wind farms scare fish away from an area.
- We need the scientific data to back up this statement in order to defend the argument.
- Depending on who builds the wind farms i.e. companies they will say that the wind farms attract fish.
- Drawing from experience from other areas doesn’t necessarily relate to our area.
- Plenty of shellfish life such as limpets, mussels and winkles are found encrusting the base of each turbine.
- There are also plenty of brown crabs here.
- 1sq foot of area on the turbine base has been found to contain 7 different types of algae.

Pollution

- Pollution/outfall/farming (fertilisers going into the sea)

Human population

- Human population

Climate change impact

- Climate change impact on seabed habitats and species.

Holistic approach to river/ sea system

- Holistic approach to the river feeding into the sea – the whole system.
- Areas in hydrological connectivity – positive and negative impacts of development

Flexible planning system

- Flexible planning system (issue and challenge)

Economic crisis

- Economic crisis - fuel costs/prices – current issues

Pressures on the fishing industry

- Awareness of existing pressures on the fishing industry (quota) (economics)

Challenges for identifying and then managing MCZ

Gaps in understanding / information

- Lack of understanding about distribution and condition of marine habitats.
- Not enough science generally e.g. current levels of biodiversity
- Don't know enough about what species we have - invertebrates
- Don't understand the routes fish /cetaceans take through the Irish Sea when migrating and what the impacts are on those movements.
- Obtaining current and past fishing spatial data
- Lack of spatial information on habitats and species and how to address that. How to obtain the above from the marine users e.g. fishing industry
- Confidentiality of marine data e.g. fishing grounds provided by the industry. Challenge to reassure marine data providers.
- Restoration to what? Do we understand how the system used to work – how we want it to work in the future?
- What impact is there from past bad practice and effect on the biodiversity of the Irish Sea?

Scientific input within the process

- Confused about the scientific input coming into the process

Reaching potential / no deterioration

- To reach potential and ensure no deterioration – current issue.

Network definition

- Whole management regime e.g. networks of closed areas – why do we need them and what defines the network?

Engaging the fishing industry

- Engaging the fishing industry (challenge)

Trust

- Distrust of environmental initiatives such as MCZ projects – the challenge is how to engender trust

2.2.3 What are the current uses and activities in the Irish Sea?

Commercial fishing

- Important area for fisheries
- Areas have been objective 1 status or currently are objective 1. So socioeconomics for fisheries are very important.
- Impact current fisheries have on BAP species and fish cetaceans
- IoM fisheries management goes out to 3 nm, need input from devolved governments 3-12 nm

Exploitation of mineral resources

- Seismic testing for oil and gas

Water quality and management

- Effects of freshwater quality on estuarine ecology and processes
- 'Source to sea'

Wildlife interest

- Protection of Ribble saltmarshes

Submarine cables

- Cables – telecoms – surface – 1m down; power – 2 m(ish)
- Rock dump of material on cables

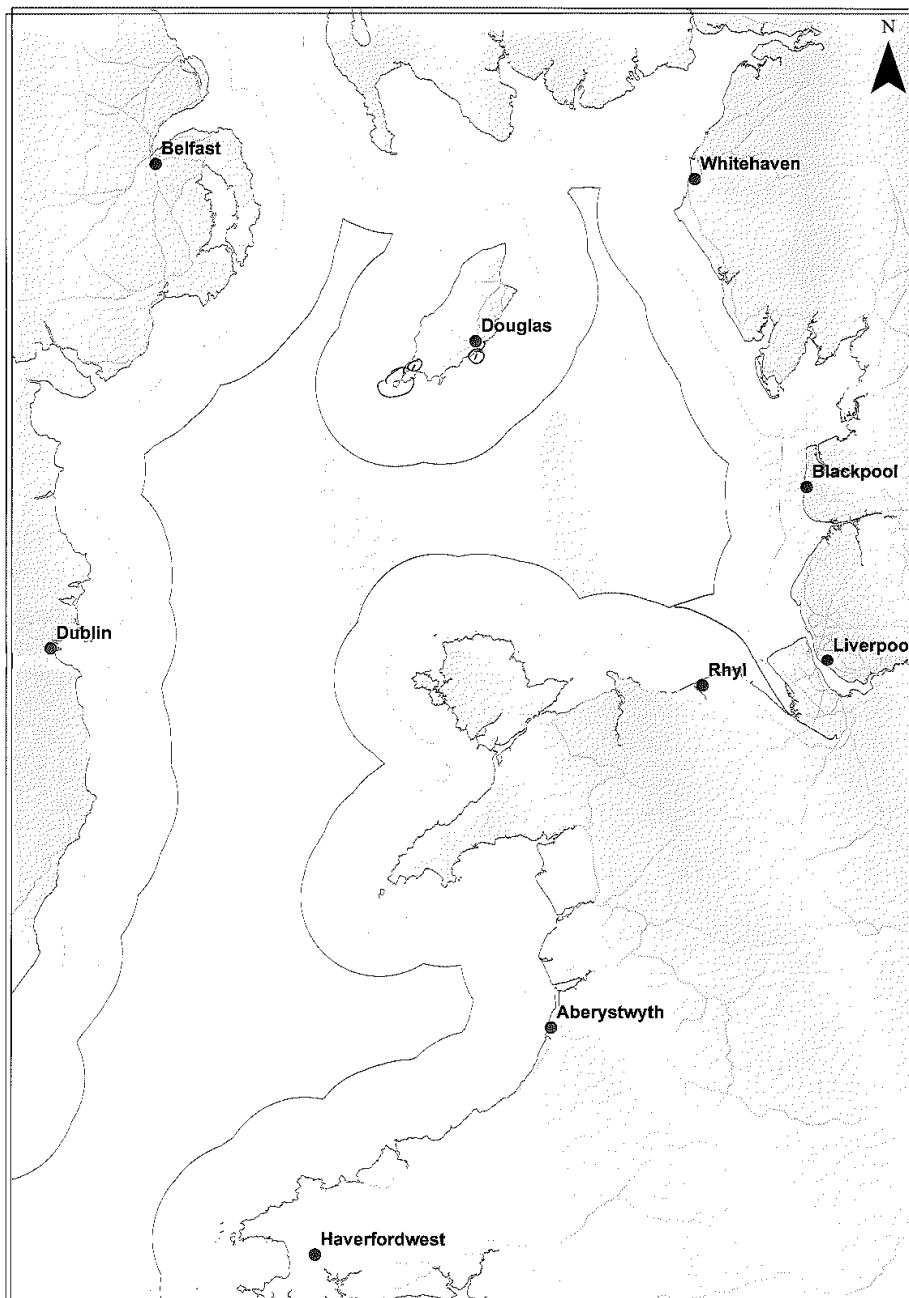
MCZ issues

- How to prove MCZs work (success criteria)
- The activities carried out on land influence what is being achieved by MCZs

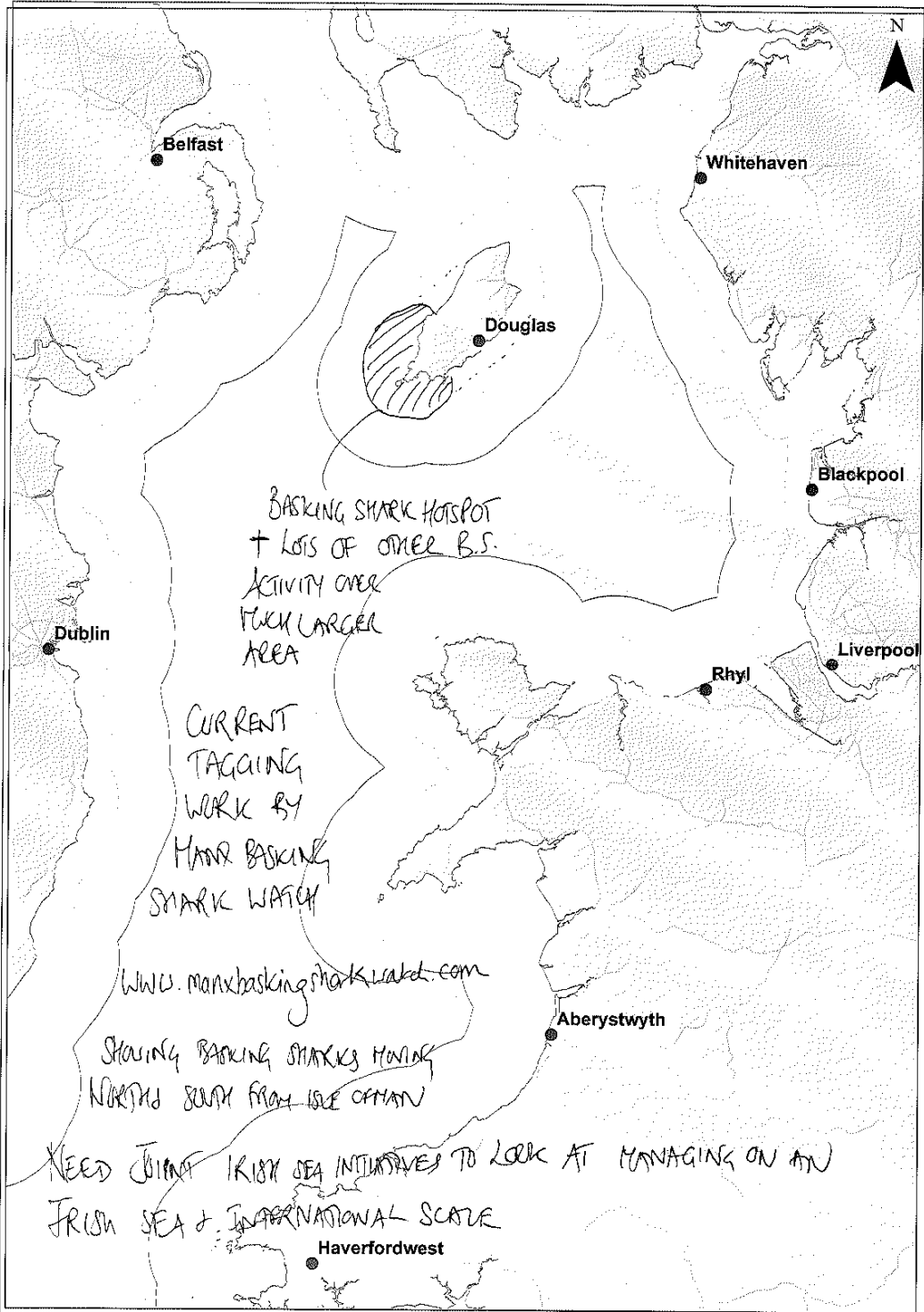
No take zones

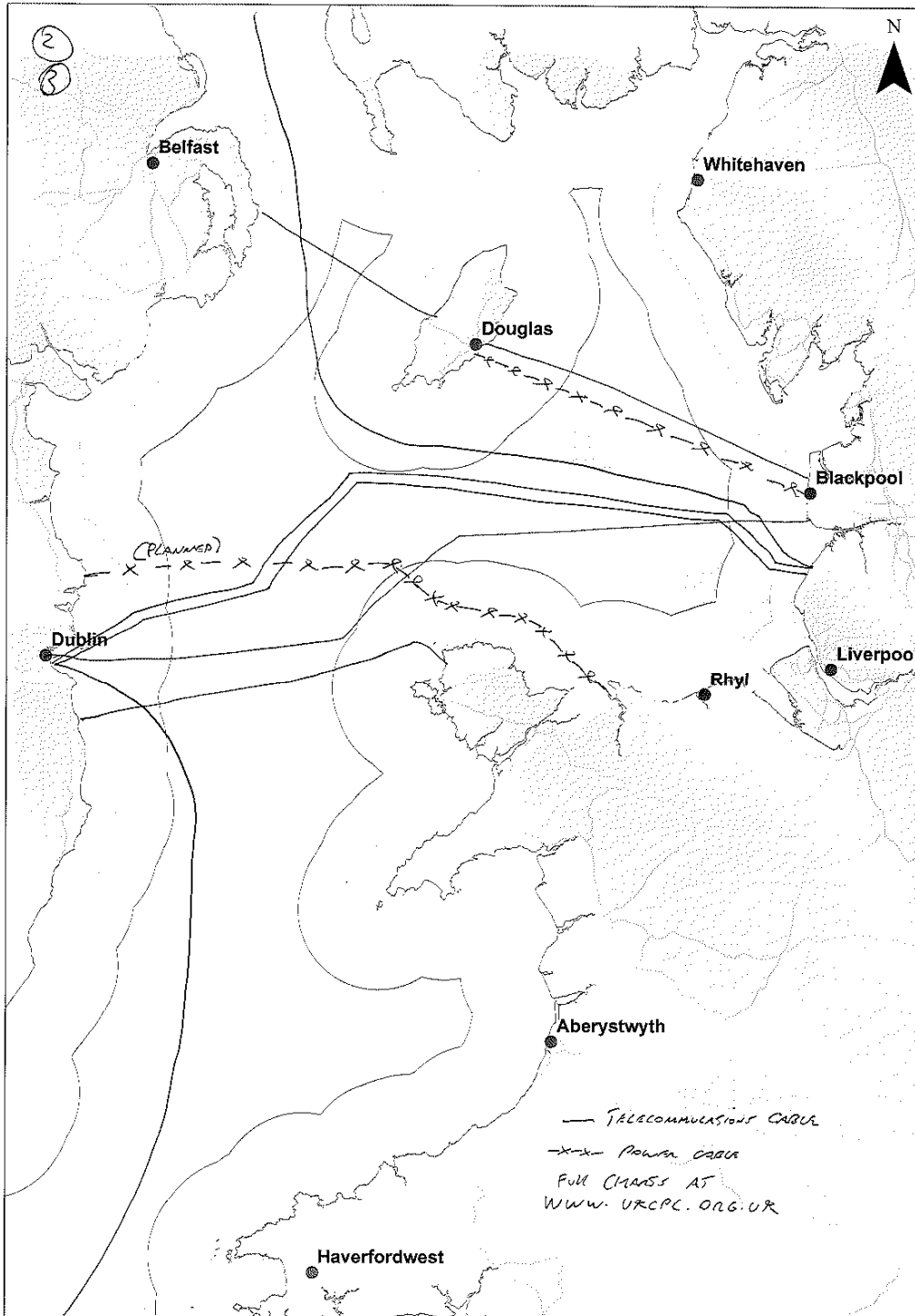
- No take zones

2.2.4 Roughly, where do they take place?

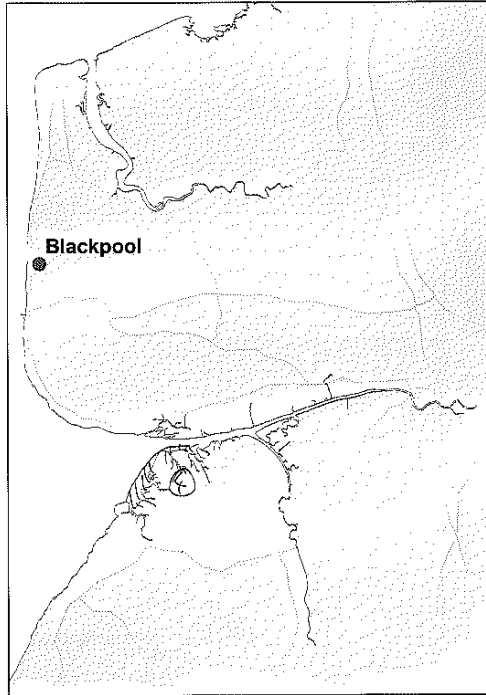
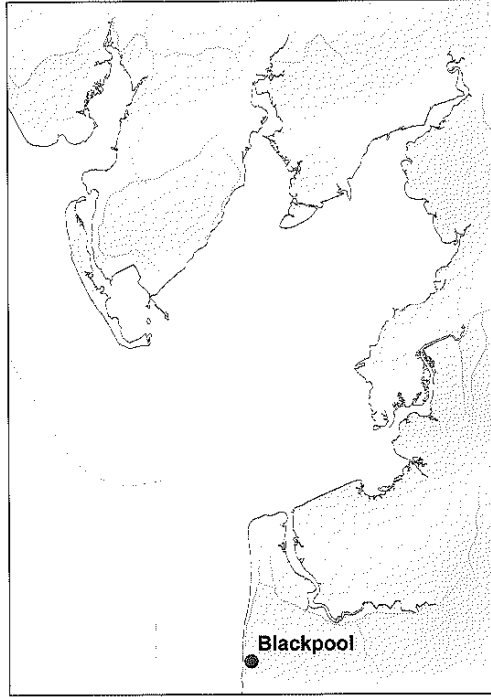
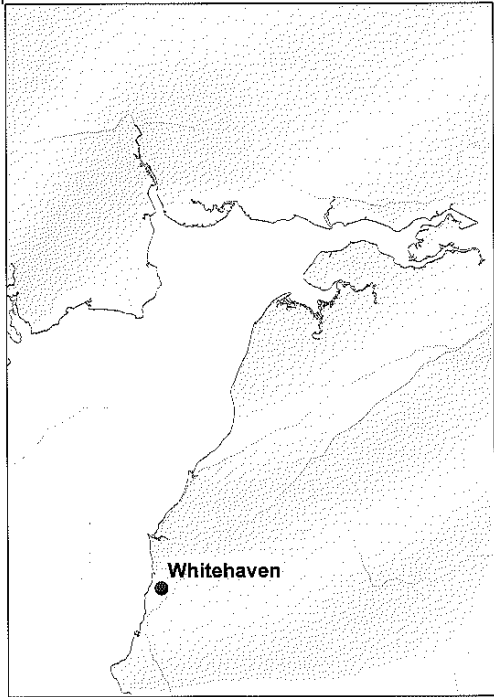


No Take Zones



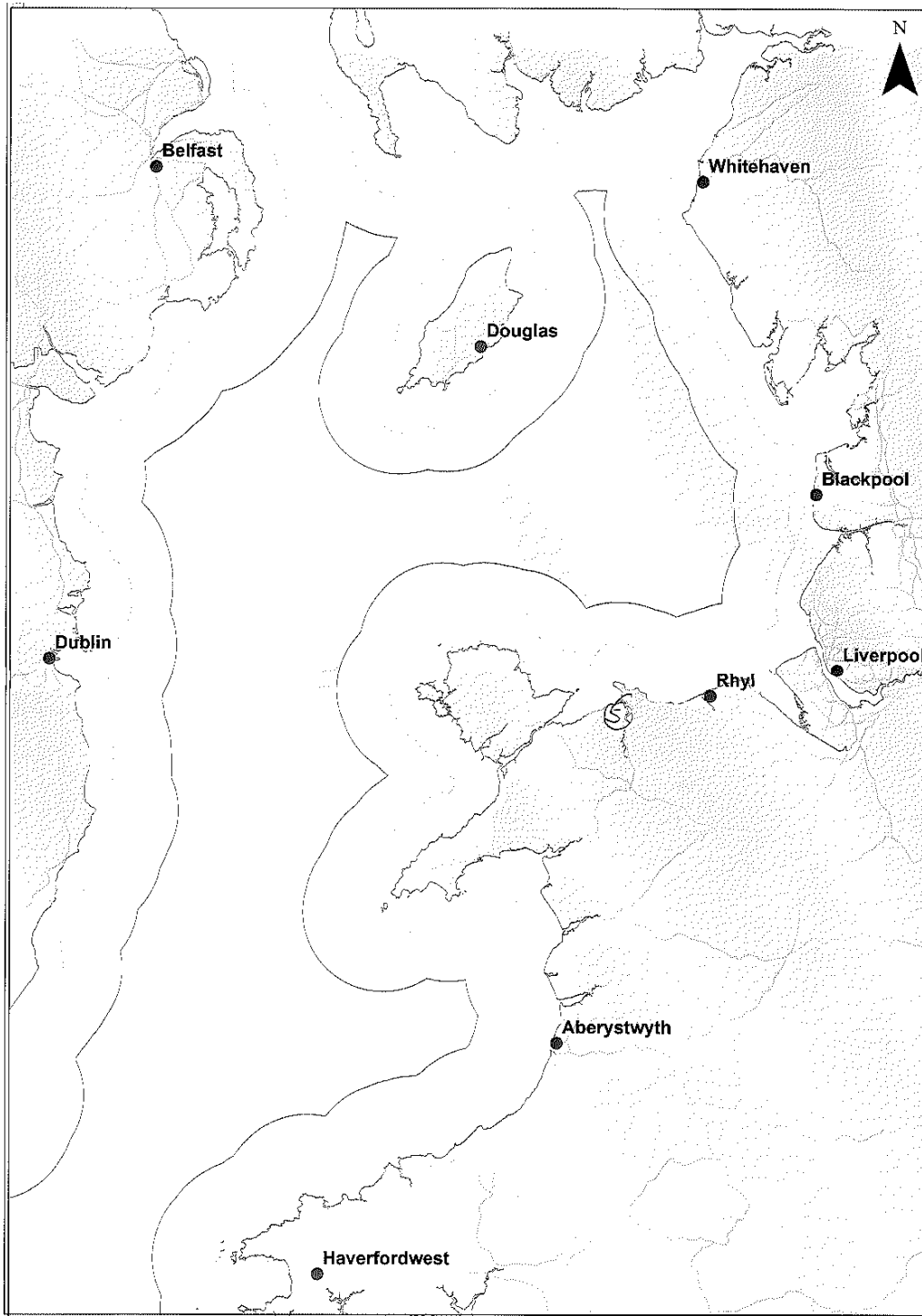


Cables (telecoms) and rock dump of material.



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Protection of Ribble saltmarshes



Effects of freshwater quality on estuarine ecology and processes.

2.3 Learning from success

There are quite a few projects already contributing to the sustainable management and use of the Irish Sea. What can we learn from them for this work?

Name of Project	What can we learn from their work?
CEH Source 2 Sea	Conwy, Ribble and Wyre.
Coastnet	Existing network of stakeholders and source of data.
In IOM Scallop Technical Conservation Regulations	Measures have in all probability helped to enhance stocks and reduced impact. Could be mirrored elsewhere. Joint Scottish /IOM project for MSC accreditation for queen scallops. Shows the capability of what can be achieved when groups work together.
Isle of Man scallop closed areas	Port Erin closed area has been in place for 20 years. Douglas closed area led by fishermen. Monitoring and feedback of data very important.
Manx Marine Nature Reserve project	A parallel Marine Protected Area project aiming to designate one marine nature reserve by 2011. Opportunity to work together with common aims.
MARINET (Marine Network)	Friends of the Earth funded group campaigning for clean seas, sustainability and strong Marine Bill.
Mersey Basin Campaign	The culture and approach to stakeholder engagement set by the MBC is a great model to follow.
Mersey Estuary Conservation Group	Local group of wildlife enthusiasts collecting and analysing data. Also Dee Estuary Conservation Group. As above – bird records.
Mersey Gateway	Extensive scientific research on habitat and species in Mersey through Halton.
Modern approaches (not a project more an activity)	To fisheries management - how to apply the ecosystem approach in a real world situation. How to determine the extent of the meaning of sustainable utilisation.
Ofwat Business Planning	Stakeholder engagement willingness to pay → through to capital programmes. Operational activity to provide service - is a good and well developed model.
RECORD	Collates biological records for Cheshire and Wirral -will have some information relevant to this project
Sea Fisheries Committee	There are fishery scientists on the staff who have data especially on inshore shellfish. The data goes back at least 30 - 40 years.
Shoreline Management Planning	Lee Swift and Jo Maines, Environment Agency Modelling impacts of climate change on coastal/intertidal environments

2.4 Information and questions?

2.4.1 What questions do you have about MCZ and this project?

Areas currently with protection status

- Will seabed habitats and species currently protected within European Marine Sites (SACs and SPAs) count against the % targets issued for the MCZ project?
- Will seabed habitats and species currently protected within other protected areas e.g. MoD count against the % targets issued for the MCZ project?
- Will the MCZs include some highly protected areas for biodiversity such as No Take Zones?
- Why do we need MCZs at all when there are already mechanisms for protection?
 - Where/what is the scientific basis?

MCZs - co-ordination with other projects

- Will the ISCZ Project link in with conservation activities elsewhere e.g. Isle of Man?

Interconnected network of MCZs

- Is there any formal coordination between the various Marine Protected Area projects in the Irish Sea?

MCZs and inland activities

- What will MCZs mean for inland activities such as United Utilities and others including farmers?
 - How does it link to the Water Framework Directive?

Compensation

- Will compensation be offered to people who lose out economically?

Powers to restrict activities

- Does the Project have any authority outside the 12 mile limit in terms of enforcement after designation?
 - Telecoms industry believes that outside 12 nautical miles (cables) it is exempt from restrictions in terms of installation and maintenance: it will seek exemption around cables within 12 miles.

No Take Zones

- With a No Take Zone could rod and line anglers (recreational) fish that area on a catch and release basis?
- Would rod and line anglers be banned from No Take Areas?
- Would rod and line anglers be allowed to fish areas adjacent to No Take Zones?

Timescale of MCZs

- Why is the timing so tight?
 - Why has it apparently changed since the 2007 White Paper?

2.4.2 What information do you think is needed to inform the selection of Marine Conservation Zones?

MCZ decision making process

- MCZs should be decided on needs not conflict

Stakeholder input

- Give everyone a chance to have their say.

Up to date information

- Current status of habitat and species (whether rehabilitation is possible)
- Gather information from scientists/fishermen on where the most productive areas of fish sessile species are.
- More analysis into cause and effect regarding species/habitats
 - More scientific information on benefits of interventions - is it worth doing?
- Useful to have current information on seabed/biodiversity etc.
 - Information on terrestrial activities and what influence this has on biodiversity (activities of man: sewage, farming, agriculture).

Prioritisation of status

- Degree of species/habitat rarity

Direct and indirect impacts of / within MCZs

- Consider both direct and indirect impacts of and within MCZs

Determine distribution of interests

- Need for a map that shows: windfarm sites, oil and gas sites, subsea cables (power, telecom) and wrecks i.e. any obstruction on the seabed so it can be determined which areas should be a No Take or limited activity zone. It would also identify areas of potential overlap between conservation and continued activity.
- Spatial and temporal distribution of marine activities
- Distribution of seabed habitats and species

Determine value of marine activities

- Determining the true value of marine activities i.e. those activities that support onshore activities add jobs (value multiplies)

Fishing industry

- Will there be more MCZs in the future (2020) - will there be more pressure on commercial fisheries?
- Look at RAC for dissemination of information for fishery purposes.

Extraction of mineral resources

- Gravel/sand extraction (aggregates)

Local knowledge

- Consult/ask local people/fishermen/shellfish/cocklers etc (local knowledge)

Knowledge of historical activity

- Knowledge of historical activity

2.4.3 What information do you have that you could make available if it is needed?

Information you have	Your participant number
– United Utilities has information on sea outfalls and information of storm overflows.	9
– WQ of discharge waters from WWTP – some direct to sea	9
– Developing ‘SIMCAT’ models with Environment Agency – models WQ in river catchments	9
– There may be marine models that interface with SIMCAT	9
– Local Records Centre has all eco-survey data that has been gathered in relation to Mersey Crossing e.g. bird data	
– Olex data and chart data of current fishing patterns	
– Environment Agency has SMP modelling data – coastal impacts and climate change	
– Maps for subsea cables, telecoms and power and also windfarms and gas and oil are all available on www.ukcpc.org.uk and www.kisca.org.uk and/or Kingfisher Services (within Seafish) who maintain ‘kis-ca’	
– NWNWSFC data especially inshore shellfish annual surveys (30-40 years)	

2.5 The Stakeholder Group

There can only be a limited number of people on the Stakeholder Group. The group needs to be as fair as possible across interests, marine users, and the area. Participants were asked to respond to a questionnaire and comment on the following:

- Draft ideas on the roles, responsibilities and structure of the stakeholder group.
- What they liked about what the draft ideas
- Ideas for how they thought it could be improved.

Please note the results of the questionnaire from the workshops are being processed separately and will be made available in a separate document as soon as possible

2.6 MCZ and your interests

Organisation	Sector	Would a sea richer in marine life be of benefit to your interests and if so how?	What are the benefits of a network of Marine Conservation Zones to your sector?	What are the challenges of a network of Marine Conservation Zones for your sector?	From your perspective, what would a successful Marine Conservation Zone network be like?
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	Research	The value of maximising biodiversity is a "given". It would be worthwhile framing benefits under Ecosystem Services as defined through the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (e.g. provisioning/cultural/functioning). This may help in justification and communication.		The challenge would come through quantifying the value/benefits of MCZs once in place. Pre- and post-designation monitoring will be required and success criteria defined (e.g. species richness/water quality/economic etc).	An area that not only takes into account the natural environment, but also has clear socio-economic deliverables.
UKCPC	Sub-sea Cables	No – from an industry perspective (yes - from a personal perspective).	Fishing restrictions would obviously reduce instances of damage to sub-sea cables. Other than that, there are no direct benefits.	MCZs must not be restrictive to the installation and maintenance of cables within the 12 mile limit and we would look to seek exemptions in regards to that.	One that does not hamper the sub-sea cable industry but still achieves its objectives.
Wildlife & Conservation Division	Conservation	Yes – improved quality of marine habitats and marine life throughout the Irish Sea will benefit Manx marine conservation and fisheries sustainability,	Source areas for species colonising Manx waters; improved ecosystem health on an Irish Sea scale.	Displaced fishing activity into Manx waters threatening unprotected but sensitive habitats; possible displacement of other activities.	There would be co-ordination throughout the Irish Sea to look at the area as an ecological system across political boundaries.
Isle of Man Friends of the Earth & MARINET & Scuba Diver	Environmental/Marine	Yes, as I am a SCUBA diver and live on an island (IOM)	More marine life to see whilst diving, tourism numbers increased on IOM due to large amounts of fish life. More food for island inhabitants.	Commercial fishermen are in opposition to more MCZs around IOM. Policing is difficult if above not a willing participant.	One's that linked together in sufficient amounts and size to help increase and sustain fish stocks and protect the very valuable beauty and life that is under our seas.
Manx Fish Producers	Fishing	Yes it would; commercial reasons.	None.	Impedes fishing activity.	Designed to impact on fisheries as little as possible.

2.7 Speaking the same language

To help people from different sectors and interests understand each other we want to put together a list of relevant words and terms. What should be on the list?

Acronym or word	Meaning
JNCC	– Joint Nature Conservation Committee
DEFRA	– Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
NWNWSFC	– North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee (inshore fishery managers)
IFCA's	– Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (inshore fishery management agencies >2011)
MMO	– Marine Management Organisation
SIMCAT	– Simulation of Catchment model – river and sewerage system.
UKCPC	– UK Cable Protection Committee

3 The Irish Sea network of Marine Conservation Zones

Please note: To maximise the opportunity for people to discuss these questions, this session was run with participants in small groups of between 8 to 10 people. For this report, the discussion of all the small groups was put together and then sorted so that key themes, topics and points can be seen.

3.1 What are the benefits of a network of Marine Conservation Zones?

Benefits:

Conservation benefits of network for marine species/habitats

- More abundant fish life.
- More abundant marine life.
- This is questioned – does it mean more marine life?
- Greater variety of marine life – more stocks leads to bigger fish.
- Could benefit the freshwater catchment e.g. Liverpool Bay, Mersey Basin.
- Safeguard biodiversity
- Allow regeneration

Conserve diversity for possible future benefit

- Could be an undiscovered species which may have e.g. pharmaceutical use.

Management – continuity / consistency

- Determine 'appropriate' management
- Allow continuity in terms of management/use
- Continuity rather than stand-alone areas.
- Application of management measures in a consistent manner

Data recording and monitoring – enabling understanding of processes

- Better monitoring.
- Monitored health of marine environment – contributing to understanding of the marine environment

Climate change

- If it's done properly could be good for climate change adaptation – things will move – spawning grounds and fishing grounds may change - does this make it difficult to select areas?
- Climate change – impacts on species in the future – need for flexibility

Preventing and managing damaging activities

- Potential to control polluting activities
- Stricter penalties for misuse
- Ability to restrict non licensed activity?
- Restrictions on other marine/structures near-shore

Clarity

- Understanding the definitions of conservation
- Clarity of conservation objectives
- Clarity over exclusion zones

Demonstrates commitment

- It demonstrates we (the nation) are serious.

Consensus building / conflict resolution

- Can lead to greater planning consensus and identification of disputes which can be subject to special deliberative mechanisms
- Potential to reduce future conflict
- Meet everyone's needs
- Get people to take on board
- Potential conflict between what is decided and what is needed.

Potentially increased stocks of commercial species

- Could be benefits for commercial fishing e.g. if seasonal closures benefit local fishers rather

- than fishers from elsewhere.
- May help enhance stocks of sessile species.
- Ensure productivity (continued)
- Educational value / awareness raising**
- Raise awareness of importance of seas.
- A cultural change in attitude to the natural world.
- Increased eco and other tourism**
- Potential for ecotourism e.g. IOM
- Tourist opportunities.
- Create jobs.**
- Employment opportunities.
- Potential to create jobs (monitoring)

Challenges identified during this session:

Decision-making

- Which stakeholders make the decisions?

Livelihoods and activities negatively affected

- Disadvantages to peoples' livelihoods and restrictions of lifestyle choices e.g. recreation.

Information collation

- Need to improve knowledge of marine environment
- Lack of information of seabed habitats/species

Determine buffer zones

- Determining appropriate 'buffer zones'

Delegated authority

- Delegated authority needs to be a formal process

Policing / enforcement

- Policing of policy decisions
- Challenges with having users as 'enforcers' – may not be effective

3.2 What are the challenges of a network of Marine Conservation Zones?

Challenges of having a network of MCZ

Multi- purpose needs

- Liverpool Bay has many pressures for different activities e.g. tidal power.

Threats to livelihoods / activities

- Reduced fishing (commercial) opportunities.
- Persuading people who stand to lose out financially to abide by the network.
- Relative impact of different activities
- Geographical restriction of certain uses

Challenges in achieving a network of MCZ

Clarity in aims / objectives / definition of terms

- Lack of clarity and potential management/meaning of conservation – is there a government agenda?

Dispel myths

- Need to dispel myths – not necessarily about being detrimental to fishing or other trades but about protecting resource for everyone.
- MCZs are not necessarily no takes and SSSIs on land are managed

Ecological understanding

- Lack of scientific understanding e.g. around ecological balance and that is managed and what do you have to do to achieve a particular effect.
- What does ecological coherence actually mean?
- Will ecological guidance help?
- Understanding the ecology of the Irish Sea so that the network is as beneficial as possible.

Monitoring / measuring change

- Need to monitor, ensure adaptation routes.

Unforeseen effects

- Avoiding unforeseen effects e.g. Lundy – large lobsters and now increasingly diseased (black spot and bacteriological) due to density of population.
- Zones themselves can upset the balance of habitats and species.

A coherent network

- Making sure the network is coherent and so benefits species.

Stakeholder engagement / consensus

- Getting everyone on board and agree or acquiesce to MCZ.
- Convincing people that the benefits out-weigh the costs/detrimental effects.

Conflict

- User conflict: such a wide variety of people who want to exploit the sea.

Time frame

- Tight time frame – is this sufficient to allow marine users to adapt?

Challenges for management and enforcement

Policing and enforcement

- Policing it
- Government has no authority outside 12 miles re subsea cables so how can they enforce?
- M & CA Bill will change this (jurisdiction and confirms the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone)).
- But this won't affect subsea cables – that's under a UN convention on Law of Sea (UNCLOS)

Possible compensation for livelihoods.

- Compensation of activities/to users following previous investment

3.3 What will a network of Marine Conservation Zones need to achieve to be worthwhile?

Marine environment

Government aims

- Government objective '*clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas*'.

Meets conservation objectives

- Effective in achieving objectives – need to prove - measurable
- Big enough and comprehensive to fulfil the conservation and sustainable objectives.
- Real, monitored and measured benefits in line with what was expected in each zone.
- Needs to be ecologically coherent and ensure connectivity to be effective as an MCZ
- Effective habitat protection.
- They will be for particular habitats and species but will also benefit understanding of wider ecosystem.
- Sustainable

Improved fisheries

- Greatly improved fish stocks.
- Happy fishermen.

Cleaner water

- Cleaner water.

Adaptable network

- It can help us adapt to climate change in 20 or 30 years time – creatures moving north are able to do so.
- Need flexible boundaries especially if things migrate north to new areas.

Working together

Stakeholder consultation / engagement / consensus

- Engagement of users – not just support but involvement.
- Consensus around the network.

Collaborative action and clear objectives

- Get everyone on board to deliver clear, defined and achievable objectives – which we don't have.

Wide support and workable for all

- Only effective when supported by users - [Research particular to marine policy/management]
- Achieve support and acceptance from people using the marine environment

Benefit to majority

- Beneficial to the majority.

Understanding

Improved understanding of marine systems

- Making us aware of what's there: diversity/interest for nature conservation and also potential new things to exploit.

Create reference areas to understand our impacts

- If going to do things differently e.g. undersea energy turbines can inform about potential effects of new structure or changes – could demonstrate if there is quick recovery.

Why is this a great idea?

- Why is this a great idea?

Good management

Good management

- Proportionate and accountable management
- Good management of zones – how will this be achieved?

Permitted / restricted activities

- Clear guidelines on e.g. nautical chart and what is/is not allowed within the zones

3.4 What would happen if there were no Marine Conservation Zones?

Don't know – more information needed

- Hard to say because we don't know what they will deliver.
- If we don't know what's there how can we identify where?
- So much we don't know so will learn more about what's out there.

Continued biodiversity loss.

- Some species or habitats lost.
- Declining ecosystem health.
- Decline in quality of marine environment

Current trends continue – free for all

- Things would just go downhill – free for all.
- Free for all

Less restrictions/less cost / less bureaucracy

- No zones means less restrictions.
- Less cost to the tax payer
 - No quangos – 4 in UK (4 MCZ projects)
- Less red tape.

Continued sectoral management

- Restrictions now are sectoral.

Commercial fishing

- This could be unique opportunity and if don't have zones could trawl out everywhere.
- But are limits now.
- If don't conserve fish stocks then long term cost.
- Aren't we saving fish stocks now without MCZs?
- Loss of fish stocks
 - Leading to negative impact on tourism
 - Leading to loss of commercial fishing.
- If have MCZs things might migrate in.

Other forms of protection could deliver the same as MCZ?

- Marine Spatial Planning on Ecosystem Based Approach – this should deliver same as MCZ, so why have MCZ now? Why in place before diminishes opportunity to apply EAPP management.
- If no MCZ still have network of SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites – but perhaps these are less flexible in terms of management.

Less stakeholder involvement / interest

- Risk of less stakeholder involvement
- Lack of desire to understand the underwater landscape and to control impacts on it.
- Bring diverse views together

Increased conflict between users

- Uncontrolled access and use => conflict between users and shrinking fish stocks
- Greenpeace/activist campaigns

Very little

- Very little.

Process is rushed

- This process is rushed.

3.5 What are the challenges to identifying and implementing a network of Marine Conservation Zones?

Clear objectives

MCZ objectives

- We don't know what ecological guidance is trying to achieve - might there be zones aimed at different objectives?
- Clear picture of what we need/would like to achieve

Information and understanding

Scientific evidence / information

- Lack of knowledge of current situation – do we know enough?
- Lack of scientific evidence.
- Must be based on historic fishing patterns.
- Must be based on reliable scientific evidence
- Need to collate info on other sectors (link to above point)
- We don't know enough about what's above let alone below the water.
- Without proper data see as a moot exercise see MCZs as NP of the sea but could be like making a NP in Manchester because you don't know what's there.
- Selling the idea of no take zones – easier to sell idea if convincing science.
- Historical changes – understand why

Co-ordinate with research councils

- Need to coordinate with the research councils NERC, ESRC, EPSRC – they're funding research.

Commercial information

- Commercial sensitive information e.g. about where the best fishing spots are.
- Lack of info on commercial fishing – what is the 'true' value?

Using information

- How do you incorporate:
 - Ecological, geological, geomorphological – how do they interact in the structure of the sea?
 - Pelagic, demersal, sea birds, under sea bed.
 - Multi-dimensionality creates challenges.

Time and costs

Timescale

- Timescales to do this is not enough.
- Ensure that decisions made in the MCZ process have a long lifetime

Costs / funding

- Who is going to pay for designation and management?

Working together

Stakeholder flexibility

- Need of flexibility from fisherman and other marine users

Complexity of incorporating varied interests

Conflicts of interest

- Deciding where the network will be - local resistance.
- Conflict of interest e.g. fishing vs. environment.

International perspective

- International challenge in implementing this – need for international users of the sea and other countries.

Public and political awareness / understanding

- Political and public perception into the reasons the zones will be beneficial.

Links with other policy or drivers

Protection levels

- Designation of SPA's/SAC's – inheritance of existing MPAs – are they relevant?
- Potential overlap or not between different areas and designations – with different timescales and reason (SPA, SAC, fish closed zone, closed seasons, areas for MoD).

Consistency with other management policies

- Relationship between river basin management and coastal/marine management/environment. Need to ensure consistency between policy.

Adaptability to change

- Climate Change – impact on species/habitats => need for flexibility

Enforcement

Enforcement / control

- Capability to enforce the restrictions.
- Cost of enforcing the restrictions.
- How policed and notified to all user groups.

3.6 What suggestions do you have of how these could be overcome?

Information and understanding

More research / information

- Need more information to identify boundaries with science, fishers.
- Centralised knowledge bank from all sectors

Balance between different needs

- Good use of social and economic data, as well as scientific data.

Learn from case studies

- We do have scientific evidence that MPAs do work e.g. New Zealand show marine life does become more abundant.
- Take guidance from other MPA projects elsewhere in the world – Problems – feed into a best practical approach.
- Need to communicate repeatedly – benefits that have been achieved from MCZs.

Confidentiality

- Confidentiality of gathered information/data (more applicable to the commercial sector)

Time and costs

Sufficient resources

- Bring in existing agencies to help, especially in terms of staff,

Be pragmatic

- Be as practical and pragmatic as possible.
 - This may have to come before/ahead of what is purely ecologically desirable.

Timeframes

- Extend the time frames and make more realistic e.g. to 2016 ref MSFD
- Time frames of the Bill for marine planning – marine policy.
 - Work to this time frame not sectoral time frame.

Working together

Stakeholder support

- MPAs only successful if supported by users.
- Needs to be a collective agreement by all users

Transparency

- Need for trust from marine users – need to demonstrate – accountability/transparency

Links with other policy or drivers

Co-ordination

- Things that need to be coordinated are happening in uncoordinated way like a 'land group'.

Enforcement and management

Stakeholder groups – long term

- What happens after MCZs identified – need to continue with stakeholder groups once designated.

Split area

- Split the area into zones so it's easier to focus on and contact people.
 - New staff to cover these zones/areas.

Helping those whose livelihoods are affected

- Ensure that stewardship can benefit users
- Fair and transparent compensation for any genuine disadvantage.
- On land, farmers encouraged to diversify to tourism as well as food - can the same apply in marine environment, support and help positively.

Critical infrastructure

- Will have to be exceptions for critical infrastructure.

Policing the network

- Needs to be enforceable

4 Involving people

4.1 Two-way communication

The Regional Stakeholder Group is the forum that will make the recommendations to government about the MCZ network. To help them make good decisions, the local knowledge, know-how and views of a broad range of other stakeholders will be needed. The people who are not on the Regional Stakeholder Group will also want to hear about and be able to comment on draft information, maps and ideas as they develop.

- Suggest ideas for how ISCZ can help with two-way communication between the Regional Stakeholder Group and other stakeholders.

Who to communicate with

umbrella bodies / other organisations / projects / clubs / networks

- Visit other associations e.g. UKCPC (cables) have plenary 2x a year and guest speakers, ISCZ attends to give a presentation.
- Inform all community leaders or inform everybody?

Communication and feedback between groups

- Pull together a list of lots of organizations with links so people can stay in touch with each other
- Need to ensure that small groups liaise with each other

Focal points

- Establish focal points for all

Recognise effect on those who would lose income to be involved

- Minimise conflict with 'days working'
- Finding time to communicate with user groups is difficult – More time taken off work = more loss of earnings

Stakeholder group

- Make sure that the appropriate people are on the stakeholder group

What to communicate

Communication at key stages

- Events/conference to feedback work at key milestones (periodically) to inform all stakeholders

Reinforce benefits

- Keep reinforcing the benefits of the process and zones

Learn from existing projects

Case studies

- DCWASA is a good example
- Learn from other 3 regions – what are they doing – keep us informed about other projects too
- Shoreline management plan coastal.org

Methods of communication

Targeted approach

- Ensure that communication is relevant to the individuals/organizations interested

Media

- Documentary on TV
- News reports on TV – NW tonight
- Use media/local newspapers

Newsletter mailing

- Newsletter – i.e. via mail
 - Decisions
 - Updates
 - Scientific reports & updates
 - Information
- Features of interest for different areas/proposed zones
- Different methods – post and electronic
- Use post for newsletters

Website / electronic communication

- Depends on computer literacy – Make sure we don't exclude those who aren't computer literate.
- Email
- Email Steve!
- Email – need to ensure that it isn't lost as junk.
- Regular bulletins for updating - alert people by email
- Make sure that attachments (if any) are concise
- Website
- Website
- Use of a good website/email/discussion forum
- Discussion forum on the website
- Documents/minutes online

Small scale meetings

- More meetings like this – perhaps on a smaller scale
- Small groups scattered over the coastline – geographical representation

4.2 Explore the idea of 'MCZ groups'.

One suggestion for keeping people involved is to set up 'MCZ groups'. These groups would be hosted by organisations or forum that focus on an area of the Irish Sea and bring different sectors together (eg coastal, estuary or marine forum or similar)

4.2.1 What do you like about this idea?

Bringing people together

- Broad group of stakeholders with diverse interests
- Useful if coastal/estuary forum but need to involve others to hear broader issues.
- Like idea – allows and encourages dialogue but how could they be hosted and frequency?

Local

- Local knowledge
- Feel involved at local level
- Local knowledge => strength of MCZ designation
- Detailed local information feeding into the process

Information / experience sharing

- Provides a forum for discussion

Public awareness

- Project Taken to the public

Issue resolution

- Opportunity for representation of people who stand to be disadvantaged
 - Opportunity to look for win-win situations

Opportunity to use existing groups

- Good to use existing networks but risk that people excluded are still excluded
- Avoid creating yet another group – but if a different focus need a different group

Transparency

- Transparent government

4.2.2 What are the challenges?

Balanced representation

- Difficult to get the correct representation
- Ensure representativeness (on geographical area)

Conflict

- Meeting turns into 'bun fights'

Two way communication and influence on outcome

- Feeding the info/opinions from the groups up the chain to the stakeholder group effectively
 - Making sure it is taken into consideration
- Communication in terms of getting information and feeding it back
- Active transfer of information from local users to members of the stakeholder group

Focus will tend to be too local

- Tendency to only worry about issues that are local
- People are too focussed on their own issues/area
- If based on geog area how does it fit into things covering a wider area e.g. birds/marine mammals/fish
- Define 'local'

Meeting practicalities

- Practical servicing – booking rooms, buffets, facilitation
- Cost commitment for people on groups
- Someone taking ownership to pull the groups together

Just another group

- Could be just another group to attend

Commitment

- Time commitment for people on groups
- Local communities already over committed

- Travel commitment for people on groups

Topic-based discussions

- Could do topic based discussions rather than area based

4.2.3 Suggest organisations or forum that could host an MCZ group.

Organisations / forums

- NW Coastal Forum, run out of GoNW Caroline Salthouse
- All main estuaries have groups.
- Association of the North Wales Commercial fishermen
- Helpful to incorporate Welsh offshore fleet “10” can provide contact details.
 - Could host
- On IOM there is a Marine NR advisory group
- Ribble Conservation Group, Mersey
- Voluntary groups: Dee estuary conservation groups
- SFC – have a statutory function but could host meetings
- Environment Agency

Location accessibility

- Prioritise major cities because easier to get to for people e.g. coming in from the Isle of Man

Venues

- Bolsach – Newry Road, Holyhead, Anglesey.
- Lancashire Wildlife trust, Seaforth
- Liverpool Marina have a meeting room etc
- Liverpool University
 - Liverpool is a good location to get to
- Mersey docks and harbour
- Natural England in Manchester
- Plas Menai
- Sailing club on Menai Strait
- Llyn Peninsula/Holyhead

Representation

- Would like to include chartered skippers

Funding

- Funded by European money

Impartiality

- Wouldn't look negative to other sectors

5 Individual Questionnaire

5.1 What do you think about a network of Marine Conservation Zones?

5.1.1 Which did you tick when you came in this morning?

I oppose the idea	I have reservations	I can live with the idea	I support the idea	I strongly support the idea
0	1	2	5	7

5.1.2 In the light of all that you have heard and discussed today, to what extent do you now support the idea of a network of Marine Conservation Zones?

I oppose the idea	I have reservations	I can live with the idea	I support the idea	I strongly support the idea
0	4	1	5	5

5.1.3 What would need to happen to increase your support and move your tick to the right?

More information

- Can't suggest anything in moving tick to the right. Still more information required to change to strong support.
- Justification for why they are needed – are current regulatory controls inadequate?
- Better appreciation of the merits accruing from these plans – would the benefits justify the effort/expense

Evidence

- Evidence that it will work
- More demonstrable evidence as to the benefit of the areas and published guidelines as to how areas will be selected. Also guarantees that cables will not be subject to any restrictions.

Reassurance of biodiversity protection

- Reassurance that biodiversity will be protected in its own right at appropriate locations, regardless of the socio-economic impacts i.e. as it is on land currently through SSSI legislation etc.
After today I am reasonably optimistic that this will happen but not without strong advocacy from the conservation sector.

Dialogue

- Listen to local people
- More discussion

Make it happen

- Make it happen!

Fishing activities – likely negative impact

- Due to the likely negative impact on fisheries I think it unlikely that I will change my mind. I would however, still like to be involved

Nothing more

- Nothing – I support the ethos of MCZs whole heartedly

5.2 Staying involved

5.2.1 Please tick one of the following columns and add names where relevant:

Please take me off the mailing list	Keep me informed by email/post	My organisation would like to be actively involved in this and the key contact is.....	I would like to be actively involved on behalf of my organisation. My name is...
	9	2	4

5.2.2 What help or resources would you like to help you communicate about this with others?

Clear maps, short papers relevant to my interest group; not all information becomes available.

ISCZ Website

Email alerts, E-bulletin updates, website to access, telephone calls.

Website should suffice

Press release about the project to Isle of Man press, project updates that we could forward to our marine contacts by post and email.

5.3 MCZ Groups

5.3.1 What do you think of the idea of MCZ Groups?

I oppose the idea	I have reservations	I can live with the idea	I support the idea	I strongly support the idea
0	3	2	7	3

5.3.2 If an MCZ group is set up in your area would you or your organisation want to be involved?

My organisation would like to be actively involved in an MCZ group and the contact is.....	I would like to be actively involved in an MCZ group on behalf of my organisation. My name is...
Jensen Sea Angling Wildlife Trusts - for Wirral: Hilary Ash Merlin Sea Anglers NWNWSFC - Dr Stephen Atkins Manx Fish Producers Organisation - Thomas Bryan-Brown Environment Agency - Clive Gaskell Isle of Man MNR group could possibly act as basis for MCZ group for Isle of Man issues?	Jed Nicholson (Natural England) Steve Andrews (Supreme Sea Services Rhyl)

5.4 Have we missed anyone?

Are there any other individuals, interests or organisations that you think ISCZ need to be communicating with but who you think have been missed out?

- Yes I feel strongly that fishermen will be the biggest affected group and think that westwards from Rhyl to Anglesey and around the Llyn should have been involved in the discussion.
- The media.
- Bolsach Newry Road, Holyhead, Anglesey, North Wales Fisherman's Association

- Opportunity to link in with the Irish Sea project on marine spatial planning – change for cross border cooperation.

6 Parking Place points or questions

- Copy of presentation please
- Travel from IOM is not easy: where are the future meetings going to be?
 - Where do MCZs extend to?
- Studies into the economic advantages of MCZs?
 - Increase in tourism through healthier seas and rivers? Better coastal access paths, what are the unique selling points of the ISCZ, how can this be capitalised on through designation?
- Question regarding impact on nearshore uses such as harbour extensions etc
- North Wales coast and west of Rhyl need to be involved as still fish in the area outlined by ISCZ e.g. Bolsach, Newry Street, Holyhead, Anglesey represents commercial fishermen
- Suspicion surrounding government agenda
 - Are some things known but not being communicated?
- Making use of users to gather data and to monitor and police MCZs once implemented – “opportunity”
- Need for clear definition of ‘conservation’ as this will dictate what activity would be permitted, what excluded – this must be clear.
- Web-based forum for information dissemination and discussion (but keep simple!)
 - BSAC should represent divers on the Stakeholder Group

Annex 1 List of Attendees

Name	Organisation
Amy Peace	Chemicals Northwest
Andrew Pannell	Halton Borough Council
Angus Garbutt	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Anthony Parry	Jensen Sea Angling (Rhyl)
Charlotte Harris	Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Chris Holden	Chester Sub Aqua Club
David Norman	North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
David Toke	University of Birmingham
Fiona Gell	Isle of Man Government
Helen Lacy	Warrington Borough Council
James Wilson	Bangor Mussel Producers Association
Jed Nicholson	Natural England
Karl Fenney	Jesters Sub Aqua Club (Ellesmere Port)
Mark Dittrich	North Wales Sea Angling Club
Mark Gray	Seafish
Mark Pierce	Rossett & Gresford Fly Fishing Club
Paul Tyers	East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club
Peter Jamieson	UKCPC
Peter Jones	Consultant
Philip Corlett	Isle of Man Friends of the Earth
Roger Daniels	Merlin Sea Angling (Rhyl)
Simon Parry	Jensen Sea Angling (Rhyl)
Steve Andrews	Supreme Fishing Trip (Rhyl)
Steve Whip	United Utilities
Sue Slamon	Environment Agency
Thomas Bryan-Brown	Manx Fish Producers Organisation

Annex 2 Agenda

Irish Sea Conservation Zones - County Workshop

Agenda

For details of topics and questions, please see over the page

9:30 Informal Start

Registration, coffee and tea will be available

Starting activities

- It is 2030 and you are pleased with what you see above or beneath the waves of the Irish Sea. What do you see? Add your thoughts to those of others.
- At this stage, to what extent do you support the idea of a network of Marine Conservation Zones?

10:00 Formal start and welcome

Rowan Byrne of ISCZ

Facilitators introduction:

Diana Pound. **dialogue matters**

Introduction to Irish Sea Conservation Zones:

Laura Bates and Emily Hardman of ISCZ

Questions to clarify what you have heard (*What do you mean by...? or Can you please explain...? Please write your question on one of the white cards.*)

11:00 Tea and Coffee

11:15 Developing understanding & commenting on the Stakeholder Group

Visit each of the different topics and have your say
(*See over the page for topics and questions*)

12:15 Lunch

1: 15 The Irish Sea network of Marine Conservation Zones - benefits and challenges

(*See over the page the questions for discussion*)

2:15 Tea and Coffee

2:30 Involving people

(*See over the page the questions for discussion*)

Questionnaire

- What do you now think about a network of Marine Conservation Zones?
- Staying involved
- Have we missed anyone?

Last things – What happens next

- Feedback
- What happens next?

No later than 3:30 Finish

Developing understanding and commenting on the Stakeholder Group

What do you value now about the Irish Sea?

- What do you value most now as it is?
- Where do you value most and why?

Thinking about how things are now

- What are the current trends or changes that need to be taken into account?
- What are the current issues and challenges?
- What are the current uses and activities in the Irish Sea?
- Roughly, where do they take place?

Learning from success

- There are quite a few projects already contributing to the sustainable management and use of the Irish Sea. What can we learn from them for this work?

Information and questions?

- What questions do you have about MCZ and this project?
- What information do you think is needed to inform the selection of Marine Conservation Zones?
- What information do you have that you could make available if it is needed?

The Stakeholder Group

There can only be a limited number of people on the Stakeholder Group. The group needs to be as fair as possible across interests, marine users, and the area. Take a look at draft ideas on the roles, responsibilities and structure of the stakeholder group.

- What do you like about what you see?
- Suggest ideas for how you think it could be improved.

MCZ and your interests

- What are the benefits of Marine Conservation Zones to your sector?
- What are the challenges of Marine Conservation Zones to your sector?
- From your perspective, what would a successful Marine Conservation Zone network be like?

Speaking the same language

- To help people from different sectors and interests understand each other we want to put together a list of relevant words and terms. What should be on the list?

The Irish Sea network of Marine Conservation Zones

- What are the benefits of a network of Marine Conservation Zones?
- What are the challenges of a network of Marine Conservation Zones?
- What will a network of Marine Conservation Zones need to achieve to be worthwhile?
- What would happen if there were no Marine Conservation Zones?
- What are the challenges to identifying and implementing a network of Marine Conservation Zones?
- What suggestions do you have of how these could be overcome?

Involving people

1. Two-way communication

The Regional Stakeholder Group is the forum that will make the recommendations to government about the MCZ network. To help them make good decisions, the local knowledge, know-how and views of a broad range of other stakeholders will be needed. The people who are not on the Regional Stakeholder Group will also want to hear about and be able to comment on draft information, maps and ideas as they develop.

- Suggest ideas for how ISCZ can help with two-way communication between the Regional Stakeholder Group and other stakeholders.

2. Explore the idea of 'MCZ groups'.

One suggestion for keeping people involved is to set up 'MCZ groups'. These groups would be hosted by organisations or forum that focus on an area of the Irish Sea and bring different sectors together (eg coastal, estuary or marine forum or similar)

- What do you like about this idea?
- What are the challenges?
- If you like the idea, suggest organisations or forum that could host an MCZ group.