



## MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES IN THE SOUTH-WEST INFORMATION FOR FISHERMEN



Finding Sanctuary is the most important opportunity for marine protection there has ever been in the south-west of England. Using an unprecedented level of public participation and the best science, the project will work with sea users to plan Marine Conservation Zones for a healthy, sustainable marine environment in the south-west.

## FINDING SANCTUARY

Finding Sanctuary is a partnership project working with people who use the sea for their livelihood or leisure to identify Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) around south-west England. The goal of MCZs will be to safeguard and encourage recovery of wildlife and habitat, and to help ensure the long-term sustainability of marine resources in the region. Finding Sanctuary is the first of four projects of its kind around the English coast, tasked with making recommendations for Marine Conservation Zones to Government in 2011.

From the project outset we have brought together a wide cross-section of marine sea users and interest groups including scientists, anglers, divers and fishermen. These stakeholder representatives will explore where MCZs could be located, identify possible conflicts and find ways of working around them.



## COMMERCIAL FISHING AND MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES

Commercial fishing activity is widespread, varied and of importance to coastal communities across the south-west. It was therefore a priority for Finding Sanctuary to better understand the activities of this sector in particular, which is why our liaison initially focused on the fishing industry. Having unique and unrivalled knowledge of the sea areas they use, fishermen will play an important role in the creation of Marine Conservation Zones, ensuring they are placed in the best locations.

To achieve the conservation targets, it is possible that some sites will have to be highly protected (also known as 'no-take zones') in order to allow the environment to return to its natural state, or as close as possible to it. In these sites all extraction, including take by commercial fisheries and recreational users could be stopped. However, the fishing sector's engagement with Finding Sanctuary and representation on the Steering Group will help to ensure sites are planned in a way that minimises impacts to the industry.

## MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are a new type of Marine Protected Area (MPA) being introduced through the UK Marine and Coastal Access Bill. MCZs will protect nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology. Sites will be selected both inshore and offshore, up to mean high water to protect the full range of marine wildlife.

MCZs together with other types of MPA, will make up an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas. This means the MPA network will be a collection of areas that work together to provide more benefits than an individual area could on its own. MCZs will have a range of protection levels that reflect the level to which a particular habitat or wider ecosystem needs to be safeguarded.



The Finding Sanctuary study region extends over 93,000km<sup>2</sup> of sea and includes 1,500km of coastline.

## WHICH AREAS IN THE SOUTH-WEST WILL BE PROTECTED?

We don't yet know which areas will be protected or what degree of protection they will receive. The Finding Sanctuary Steering Group, made up of a range of sea users and interest groups, will have responsibility for developing recommendations on the location of MCZs in the south-west, and how activities within them should be managed. Over a number of meetings the Steering Group will negotiate and discuss potential options for Marine Conservation Zones always looking to improve efficiency. This will ensure that MCZs are planned in a way that minimises impacts to sea users and maximises their benefits for nature conservation. Local MCZ groups will also provide input to the Steering Group to ensure that local knowledge and feedback is also incorporated.

The fishing industry representatives that sit on the Steering Group will be representing your interests during negotiations. The Finding Sanctuary Steering Group will make its recommendations for MCZs in the south-west to Government before October 2011. Following a process of public consultation, sites will be designated in 2012.

## HOW ARE FISHERMEN GETTING INVOLVED?

A growing number of fishermen are getting in touch with us to share their life-learned knowledge of sea areas, their views on MCZs and to tell us which areas are important to them.

Fishermen have a particularly detailed knowledge and understanding of the sea. In order to ensure MCZs are placed in the best locations, we need to draw on this wealth of knowledge. We also need to know which sea areas are most important to you. To be able to plan MCZs carefully, your representatives on the Steering Group need to have accurate information about where fishermen go and what methods of fishing they use there.

Our liaison officers are meeting with fishermen throughout the region to help them map out their activity and record their valuable knowledge. For the most part this will be done through one-to-one interviews using questionnaires and maps.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Finding Sanctuary liaison officers are working closely with the fishing industry to develop an understanding of the pattern of fishing activities across the region. This is vital for ensuring MCZs are planned in a way that minimises impacts to fishing.

On our Steering Group we have six people representing the fishing industry:

### **Jim Portus**

*Chief Executive Officer  
South-west Fish Producers Organisation*



### **John Butterwith**

*Chief Executive  
North Devon Fishermen's Association*



### **Dale Rodmell**

*Assistant Chief Executive  
National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation*



### **Dave Cuthbert**

*Co-Chairman  
New Under Ten Fishermen's Organisation*



### **Richard Stride**

*Chairman  
South Coast Fishermen's Council*



### **Armand Toms**

*Ex-Inshore fisherman, Cornwall*



These representatives are responsible for ensuring that commercial fishing interests are taken into account during the planning of MCZs. It is the Finding Sanctuary team's job to provide them with the data they need to take decisions on your behalf and to feed back your views and suggestions to them. Fishermen can also be represented on the Local MCZ groups in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. These Groups will provide local input, knowledge and feedback to the Steering Group.



## GET INVOLVED

There are two ways to get involved:

1. You can contact your local liaison officer who will be happy to meet with you, explain the project in more detail, listen to your opinions and help you to map the sea areas where you can fish.
2. You can map the areas you use through our online mapping tool. This interactive tool allows you to see maps of the many different types of data we are collecting, and make your own additions to the maps. Follow links to 'Interactive Map' from our website:

[www.finding-sanctuary.org](http://www.finding-sanctuary.org)

## THE FISHING SECTOR'S ENGAGEMENT WITH FINDING SANCTUARY AND ITS REPRESENTATION ON THE STEERING GROUP WILL HELP TO ENSURE SITES ARE PLANNED IN A WAY THAT MINIMISES IMPACTS TO THE INDUSTRY.

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FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE  
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DELIVERING MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES IN THE SOUTH-WEST

Project Partnership

