

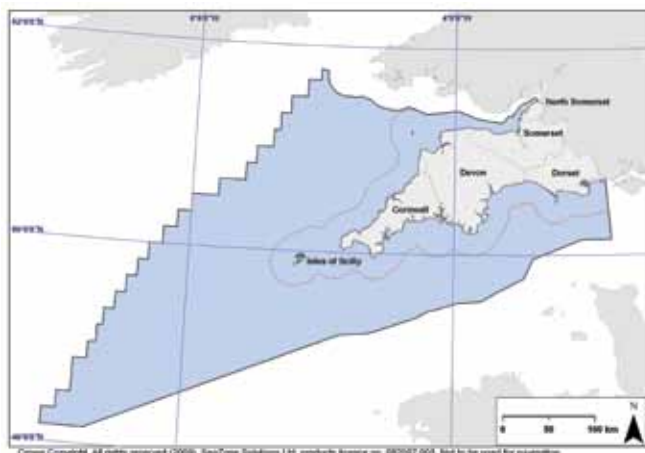


Finding Sanctuary is the most important opportunity for marine protection there has ever been in the south-west of England. Using an unprecedented level of public participation and the best science available, the project will work with sea users and interest groups to plan Marine Conservation Zones for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

### Finding Sanctuary Project Area:



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

From the project outset we have brought together representatives from a wide cross-section of marine sea users and interest groups including scientists, anglers, conservationists and fishermen. These representatives sit on the Finding Sanctuary Steering Group. The Steering Group will work together to explore where MCZs could be located around the south-west, and will make their recommendations to Government in 2011.

## RECREATIONAL SEA ANGLING AND MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES

Recreational Sea Angling is recognised as an important activity in the south-west, both in terms of its contribution to the economy and the opportunities it provides for people socially. Many see it more as a way of life than as a hobby. Having detailed knowledge of local marks and fish ecology, sea anglers will play a vital role in developing ideas for Marine Conservation Zones, ensuring they protect key areas such as spawning and nursery grounds.

In order to meet the targets they are given, the Steering Group may decide that some sites should be highly protected (also known as no take-zones). In these sites all extraction, including take by recreational sea anglers or recreational divers could be stopped. However, by engaging with Finding Sanctuary local sea anglers will help to ensure that all such sites are planned in a way that causes least impact to their activity. We hope that by involving sea anglers from the earliest planning stages we will build understanding and support for the MCZ recommendations put forward by the Finding Sanctuary Steering Group.

## 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 Act. 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 Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities together with the Marine Management Organisation and the Royal Navy will be responsible for ensuring that MCZs are enforced.



## 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, has responsibility for developing recommendations on the location of Marine Conservation Zones (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 MCZs always looking to improve efficiency. This will ensure that MCZs are planned in a way that minimises impacts to sea users and maximises the 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 Recreational Sea Angling representatives on the Steering Group will be representing your interests during negotiations. The Steering Group will make its recommendations for MCZs in the south-west to Government in June 2011. Following a process of public consultation, sites will be designated in 2012.

## HOW ARE ANGLERS GETTING INVOLVED?

A growing number of sea anglers 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.

Many sea anglers have spent years learning a mark and have excellent knowledge of their areas and the fish that inhabit them. 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. Your representatives on the Steering Group need to have accurate information about where sea angling takes place in the region in order to plan MCZs carefully.

Our liaison officers are meeting with sea anglers 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. Although you do not have to disclose the exact location of your marks, the more accurate you can be, the better sites can be planned.

“IF YOU DON'T AIR YOUR VIEWS AND CONCERNS DURING THE DEBATE YOU COULD BE EXCLUDED BY YOUR OWN INACTIVITY.” *Angling Trust*



## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

As sea angling is such a popular activity in the south-west, we are working in partnership with angling organisations and clubs to ensure we speak to a representative sample of sea anglers.

On the Finding Sanctuary Steering Group the three people representing Recreational Sea Angling are Peter MacConnell, Mike Bailey and Paul Taylor.

These representatives are responsible for ensuring that recreational sea angling 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 make decisions on your behalf and to help you establish links with your Steering Group representatives. Sea anglers can also be represented on the local MCZ working groups in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. These groups will provide local input, knowledge and feedback to the Steering Group.

### **Peter MacConnell**

*Member of the Angling Trust Conservation Group and Chairman of B.A.S.S*



### **Mike Bailey**

*Honorary Secretary of Brixham Sea Angling Club*



### **Paul Taylor**

*President of the Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers*



## 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 areas where you go sea angling.
2. You can map the areas you use through our online mapping tool. This interactive tool allows you to see the many different types of data we are collecting, and make your own additions to the maps. Visit our interactive map.

[www.mczmapping.org](http://www.mczmapping.org)

"The engagement of anglers at the regional level and the county working group level is essential. If you don't air your views and concerns during the debate on where the MCZs should be located you could be excluded by your own inactivity rather than through a byelaw. The Angling Trust will support the RSA representatives on all the Regional MCZ Projects to ensure our exclusion is kept to a minimum and such exclusion is based on strong scientific principles and is proportional with other stakeholders."



## CONTACTS

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### Project Partnership

