



PRESS RELEASE

Devon people invited to have their say on new measures to protect sea life

If you are a yachtsman, fisherman, charter boat operator, sea angler, diver or have an interest in marine wildlife, come along to the **Finding Sanctuary drop-in day** at The Mansion, Fore Street, **Totnes**, TQ9 5RP on **Wednesday the 2nd December** between **10am and 8pm**.

David Murphy, Finding Sanctuary's liaison officer for Devon said: "We are asking people who use the sea around Devon to come along and find out about how new Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) could affect their lives."

"Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are being introduced through the Marine and Coastal Access Act and are coming soon. At Finding Sanctuary, we believe that the people and groups that could be affected by the MCZs, should be involved in deciding where they are located and how they are managed. We are working on behalf of everyone to achieve the best possible outcome for MCZs, both in terms of conservation and people's livelihoods and leisure interests. However, we can only achieve this if sea users come and tell us what they think."

Successful Finding Sanctuary drop-in days have already been held at Looe, Padstow, Exmouth and Newlyn, with further drop-in days currently being planned for Ilfracombe, Falmouth, Plymouth, Bude, Weymouth and other towns in the south-west.

To find out more call Sarah McLintock on 01392 878 340/ 07544 590 294 or email: sarah.mclintock@southwestfoodanddrink.com or look at our website www.finding-sanctuary.org

Drop in Day Details

Wednesday 2nd December 2009
10am – 8pm The Mansion, Fore Street, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5RP

Ends

For more **press information** please contact Joana Smith, Communications Coordinator on 01392 878 328 or email joana.smith@southwestfoodanddrink.com

Notes to Editors

- **Finding Sanctuary** is a partnership project between South West Food and Drink, the South West Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust, Natural England, JNCC and the County Councils of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. Finding Sanctuary is working with sea users and interest groups across the south-west to plan new Marine Conservation Zones in the region.
- **Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)** are a new type of marine protected area being introduced through the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act. MCZs will be implemented to 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 life. MCZs will have a range of protection levels that reflect the level to which a particular habitat or wider ecosystem needs to be safeguarded.
- MCZs together with other types of marine protected area, will make up an ecologically coherent **network of marine protected areas**. This means the marine protected area network will be a collection of areas that work together to provide more benefits than an individual area could on its own.
- The **Marine Conservation Zone Project** has been established by Defra, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to identify and recommend Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) to Government. The Marine Conservation Zone Project will be delivered through four regional MCZ projects covering the south-west (Finding Sanctuary), Irish Sea (Irish Sea Conservation Zones), North Sea (Net Gain) and south-east (Balanced Seas). These regional MCZ projects will work with sea users and interest groups to identify MCZs and provide recommendations for sites within their regions to Government.