

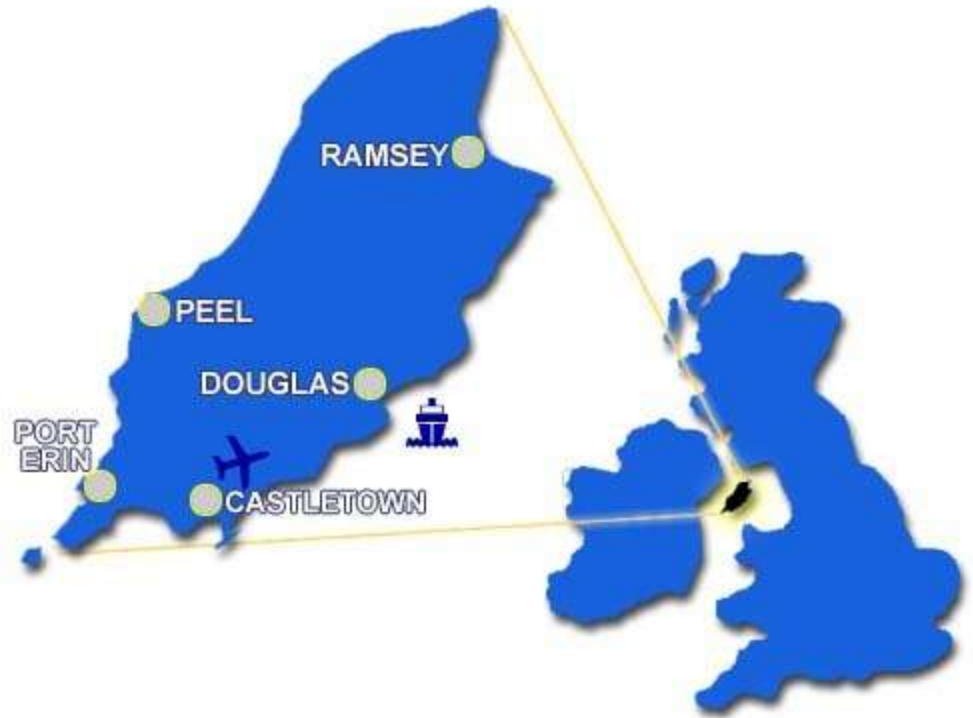


Developing Marine Protected Areas in the Isle of Man

Dr Fiona Gell

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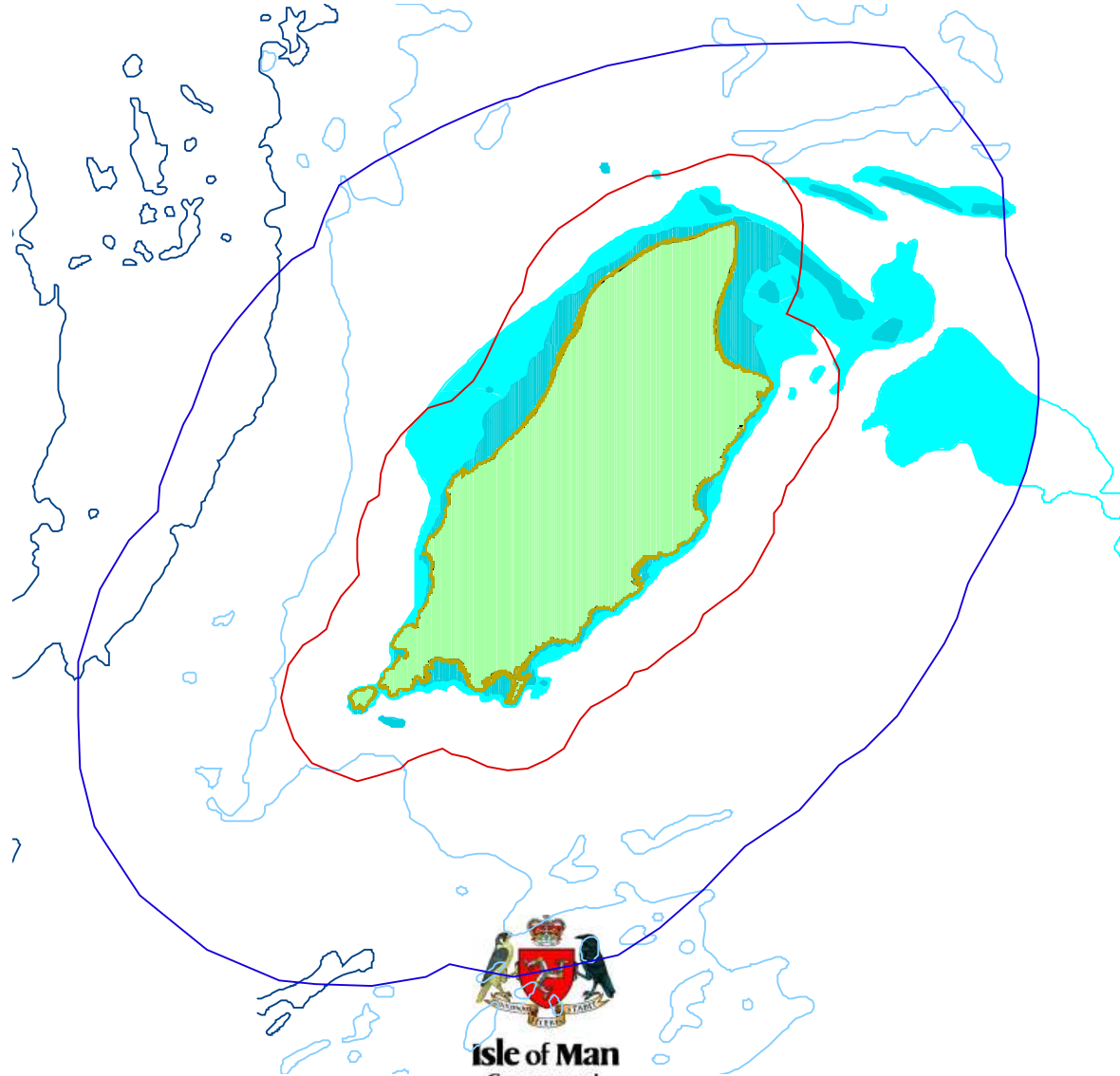
The Isle of Man: Moghrey mie!



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Manx Territorial Waters



Produced by Philippa Tomlinson

The Manx Marine Nature Reserve Project

- ❑ MNR legislation since 1990
- ❑ Attempt to designate Calf in 1992
- ❑ 2008 – start of a 3 year project to select 1 Marine Nature Reserve by 2011 and to consider a wider network
- ❑ Aiming to select an effective Marine Nature Reserve, whilst minimising the effects on other interests
- ❑ Public engagement through consultation and awareness-raising



Phil Roriston

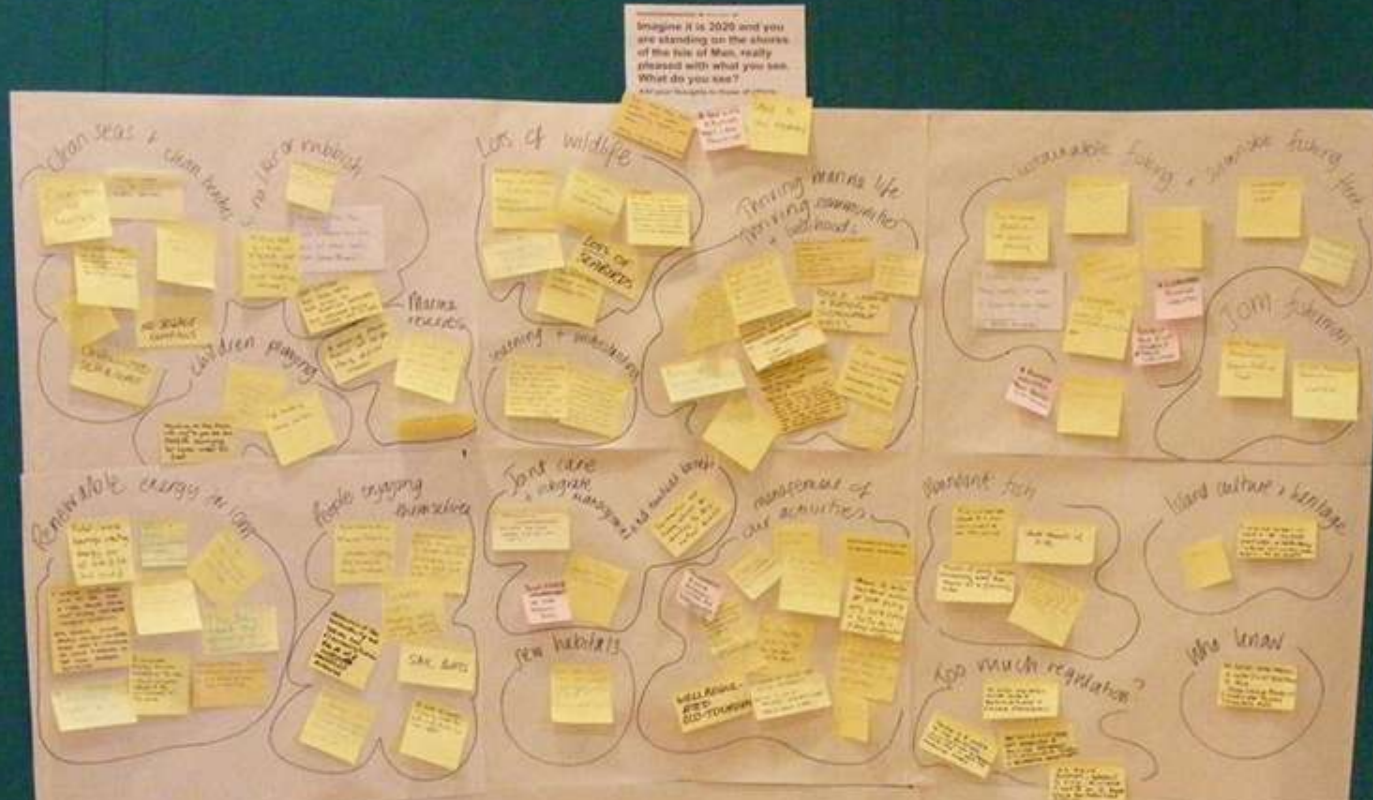
Public consultation and engagement

- ❑ Workshop in November 2008 was independently facilitated and addressed some of the big questions in the Marine Nature Reserve project.
- ❑ In 2009 we held 8 community meetings
- ❑ Lots of key information gathered from the meetings
- ❑ High level of support for the idea from meetings
- ❑ Good input from users of the sea
- ❑ Presentations about Arran, Lundy, SW England, Great Barrier Reef, Irish Sea Conservation Zones and other case studies and background
- ❑ Research by MSc students and DEFA into biological and socio-economic aspects
- ❑ Ongoing opportunities to input information

Gathering information and views



Gathering information and views



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Community meetings



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Public support: 9 community meetings

At this stage, to what extent do you support the idea of a first Marine Nature Reserve in the next three years and a network of Marine Nature Reserves over the long-term?

I oppose the idea	I have reservations	I can live with the idea	I support the idea	I strongly support the idea
12	20	9	50	175
4.5%	7.5%	3%	19%	66%

85% of people attending the 9 meetings supported the idea (total 266)

Public support: Mail survey

- ❑ BSc student Stephanie Halsall sent out 2000 questionnaires to randomly selected addresses.
- ❑ 741 were returned
- ❑ 95% of respondents valued the health of the Manx marine environment very highly
- ❑ 85% said that there should be a percentage of Manx waters protected from all harmful impacts
- ❑ Most people think we already protect large areas of Manx waters

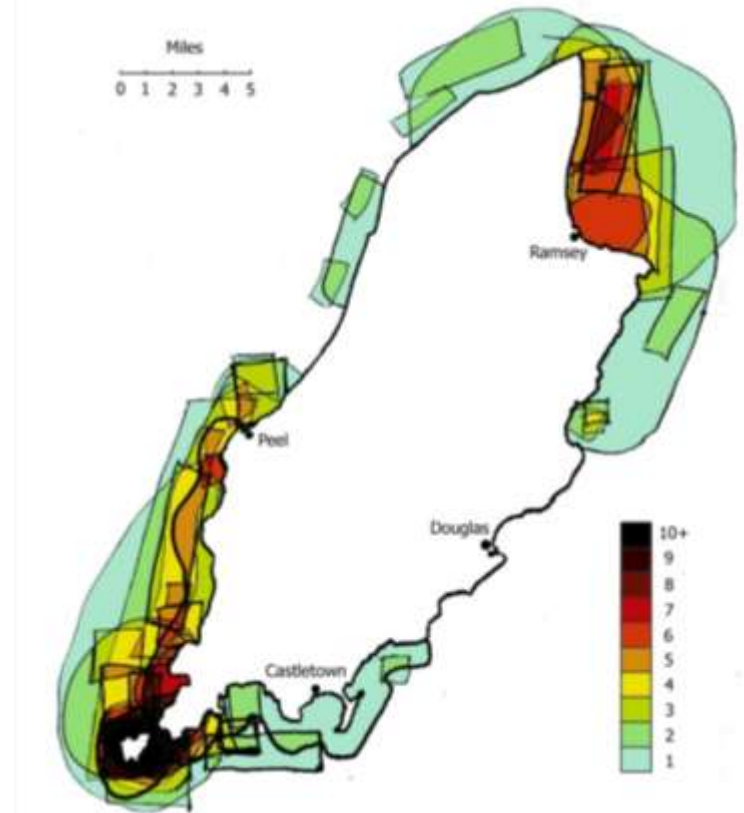


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Public support: Choice experiments

- ❑ Ben Diamond, York MSc student surveyed 1000 residents receiving 158 responses
- ❑ 79% said public money should be spent on Marine Nature Reserves
- ❑ Only 6% said that public money should not be spent on Marine Nature Reserves
- ❑ Southwest and Northeast coasts were most popular locations for a reserve
- ❑ People most valued the maintenance of complex habitat
- ❑ They least valued information boards
- ❑ Total value of a MNR to Manx public estimated at between £5-8 million per year



Where would you like a Marine Nature Reserve to be established?

Fisheries Closed Areas: Port Erin



Closed since 1989




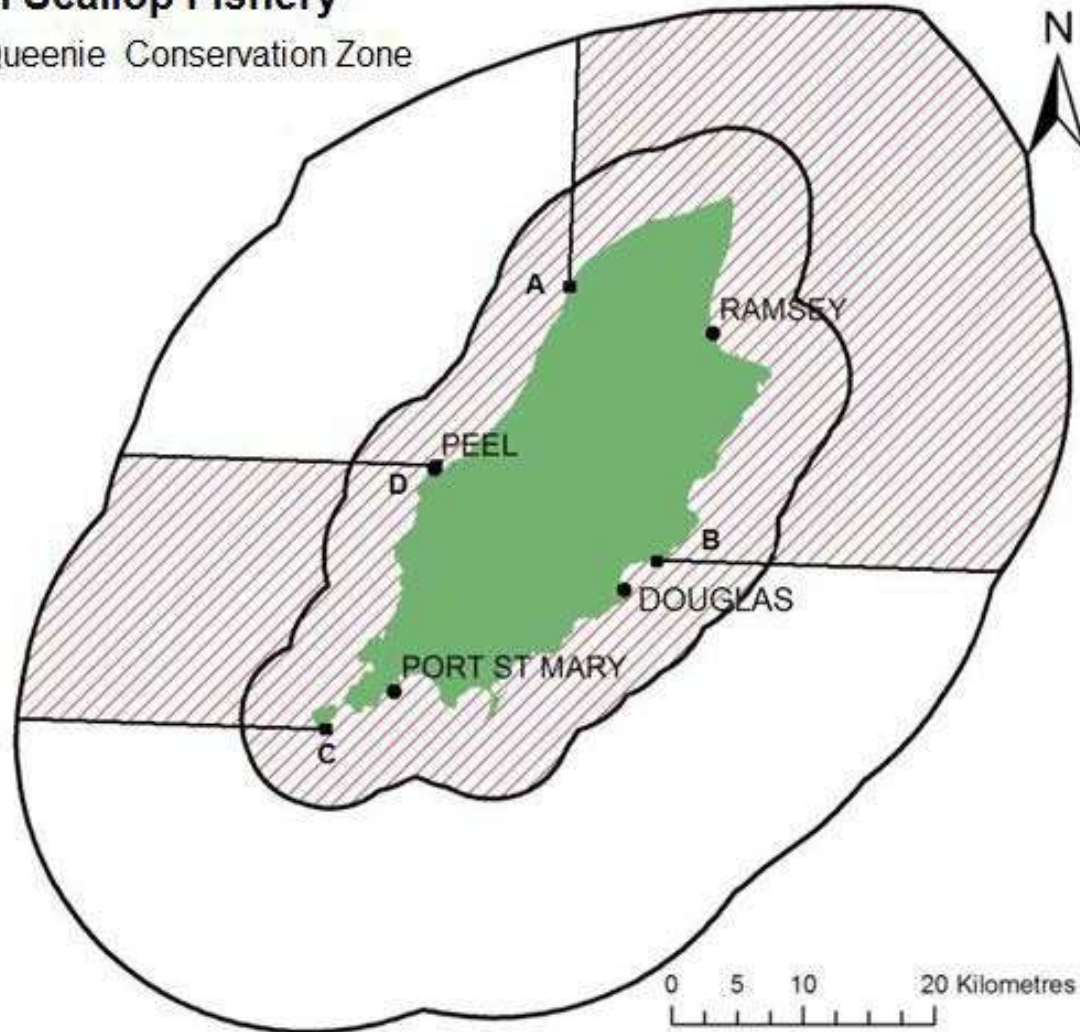
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Queenie conservation measures 2010

Queen Scallop Fishery

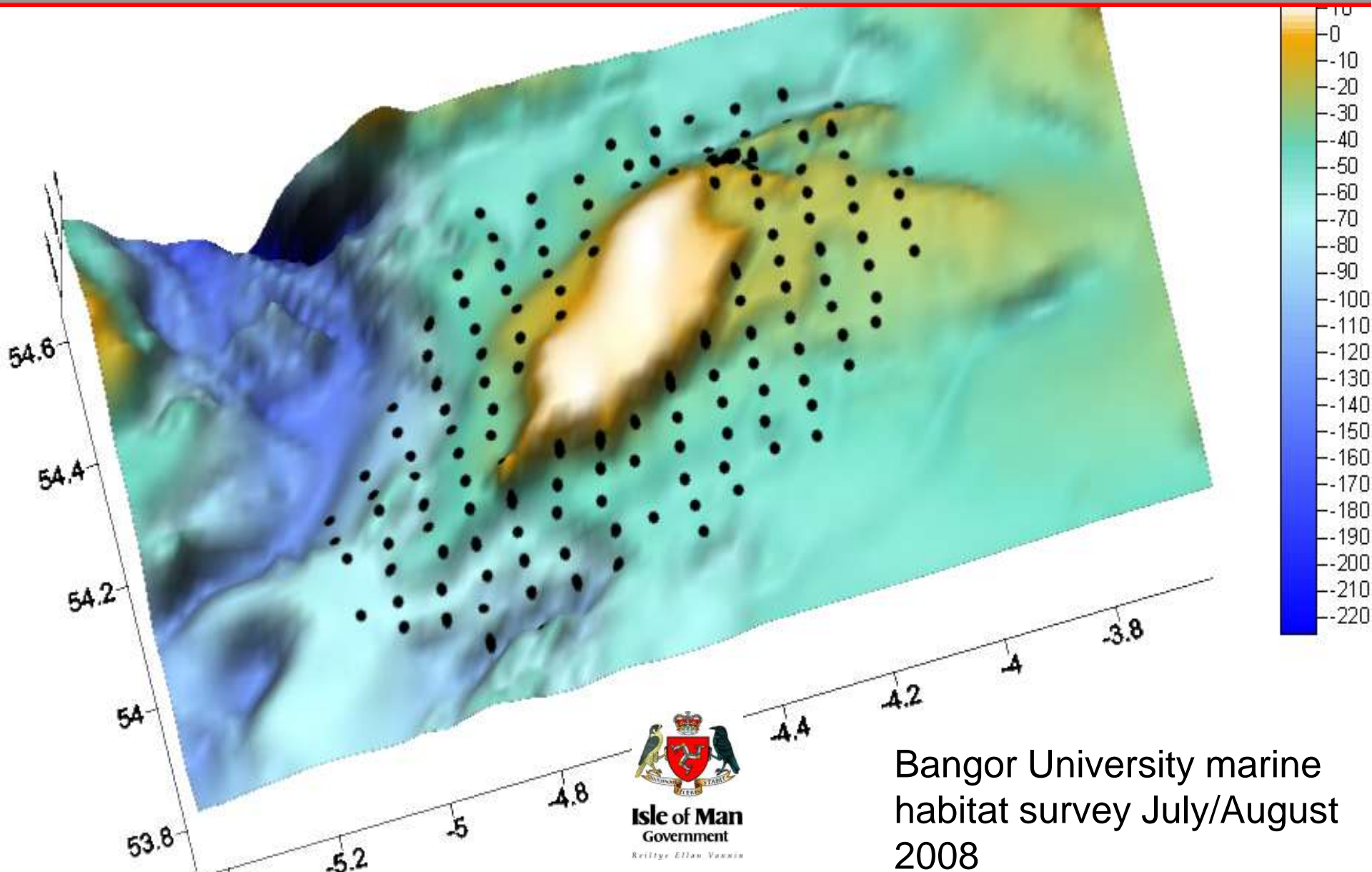
 Queenie Conservation Zone



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New marine habitat research



Initial categorisation of habitats – Bangor University / Isle of Man Government 2010

Yellow - High currents: bryozoans & starfish

Grey - Deep mud with Nephrops and anemones

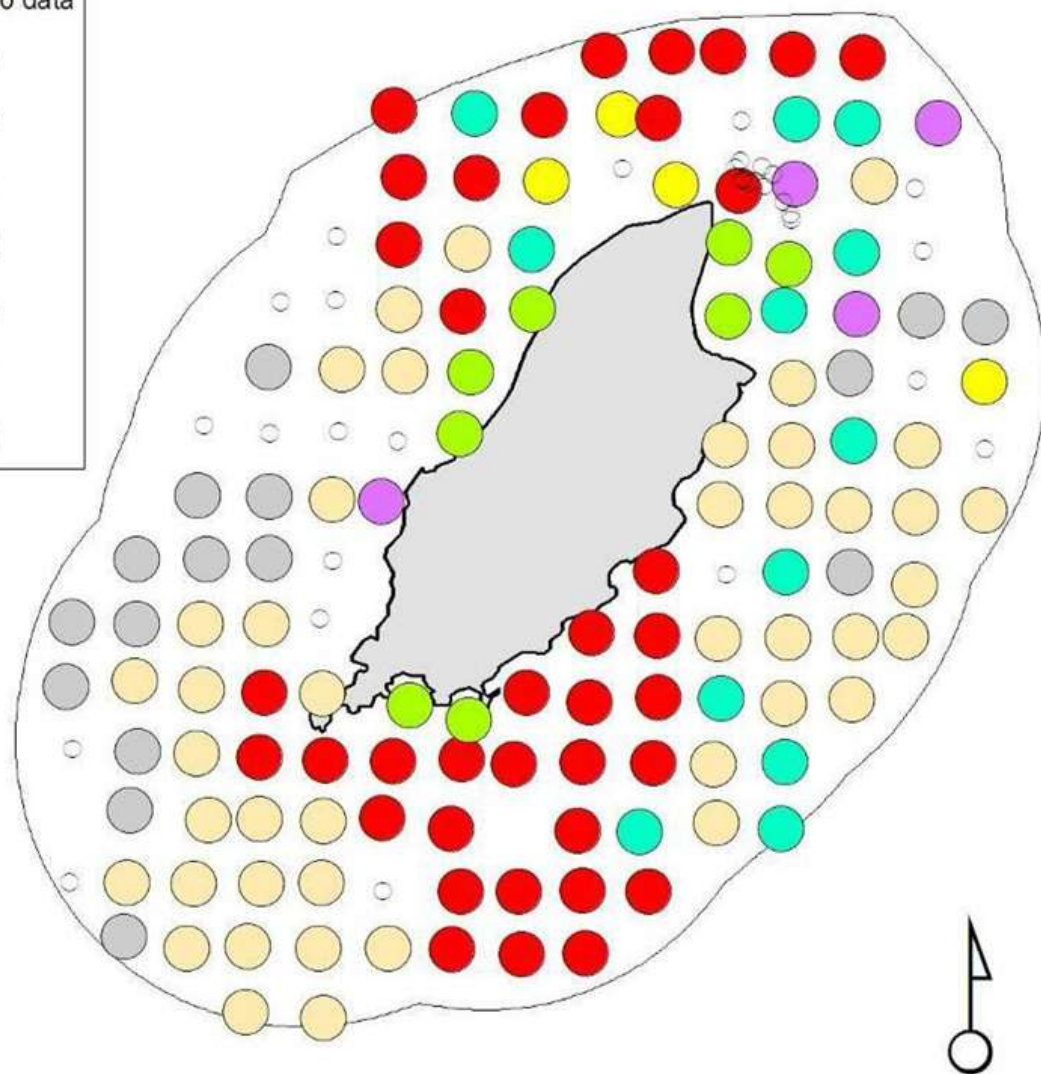
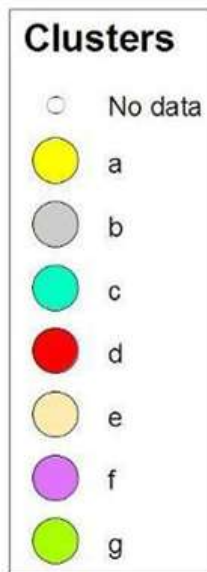
Blue - Brittlestar beds

Red - Course substrate with hydroids, Glycymeris & hermit crabs

Pink - Sand and gravel with brittlestars & polychaetes

Purple - Algal & hydroid turf

Green - Coastal kelp & other algae



Bangor University/DEFA Seabed surveys



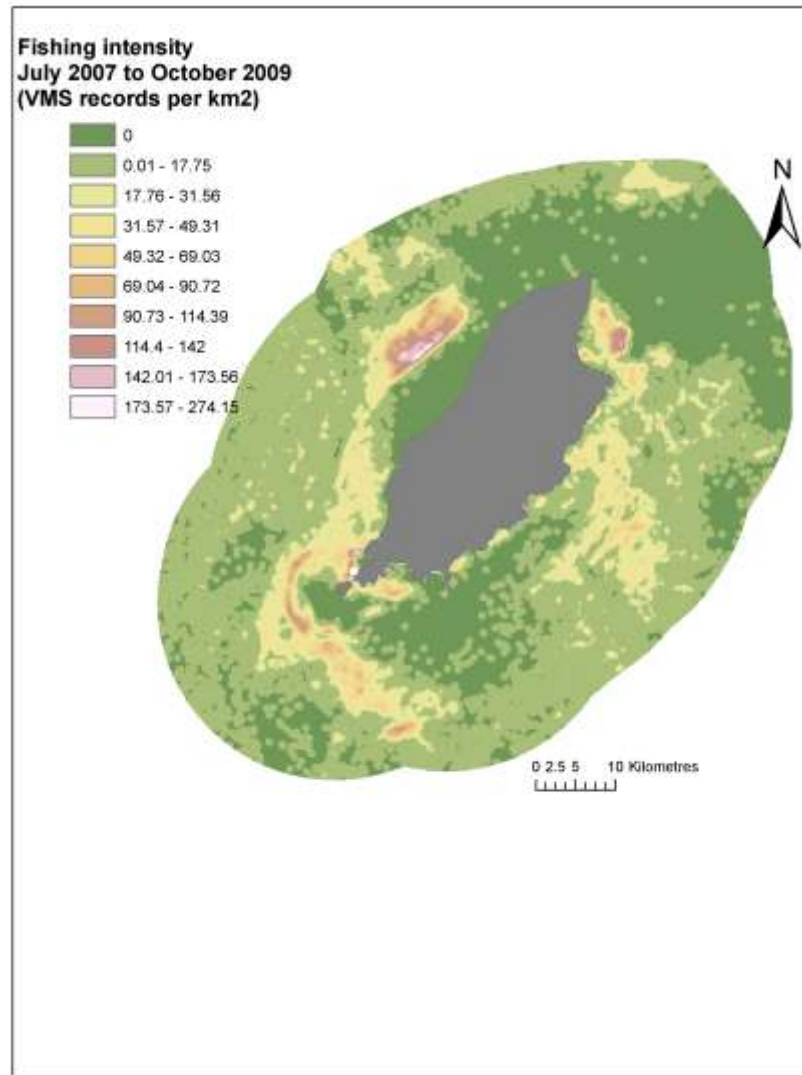






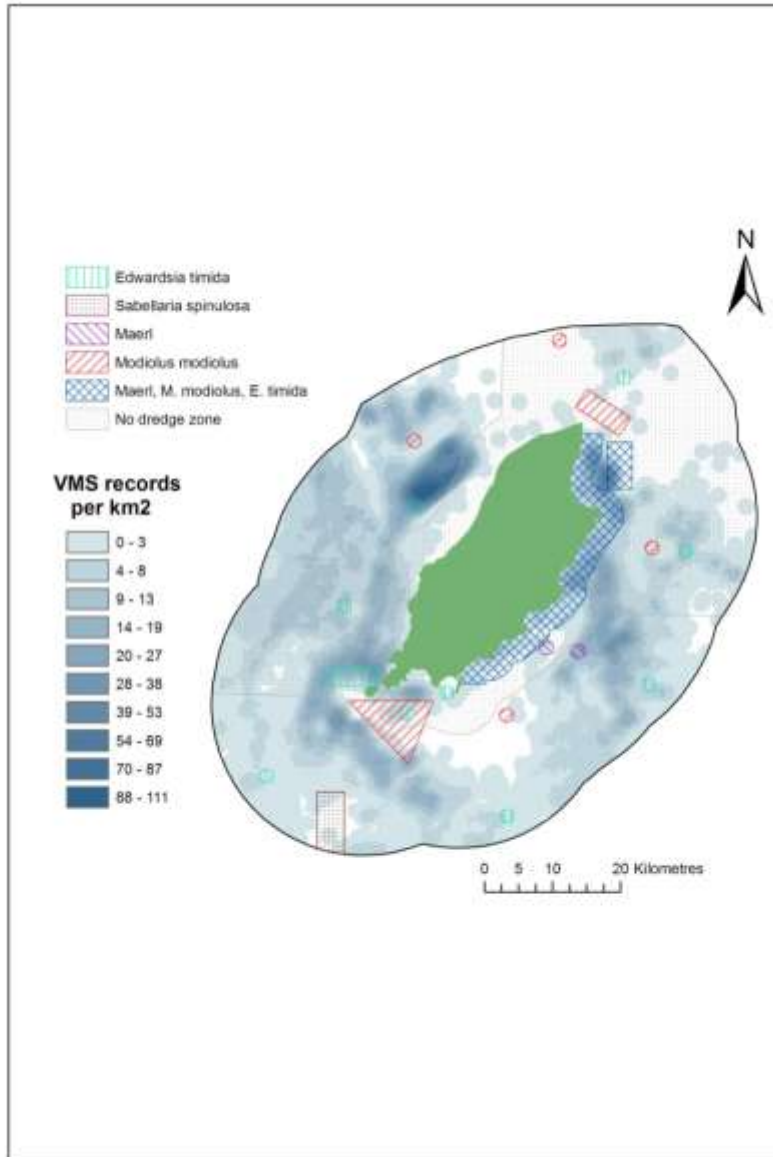


Mapping fishing effort



Lee Murray,
Bangor University

Identifying sensitive areas



All fishing activity between August 2007 and July 2008. General areas containing species of conservation importance are shown.



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Fishing industry Marine Nature Reserve proposal

- ❑ Exciting development!
- ❑ Proactive approach from fishermen
- ❑ Covers > 40km²
- ❑ Incorporates eelgrass, maerl beds and horse mussel reef
- ❑ Meets OSPAR criteria
- ❑ Would be closed to all mobile gear
- ❑ Opportunity for zoning and highly protected area
- ❑ Further management measures will be developed
- ❑ Further survey and consultation required



Next stages in the process

- ❑ Formal consultation on MFPO/DEFA proposal
- ❑ Involvement of other fishermen – different gears
- ❑ Wider consultation with users
- ❑ Community discussions on wider opportunities offered by the site
- ❑ Further biological and socio-economic survey
- ❑ Collaborative approach to developing the management plan and byelaws
- ❑ Site implemented by the end of 2011
- ❑ Assessment of network requirements
- ❑ Another step towards effective habitat protection and international targets!



Lessons learned

- ❑ These things take time!
- ❑ Acceptance of value of Port Erin Closed Area grew slowly
- ❑ Collaboration between DEFA and fishermen has rapidly accelerated in last two years → 4 additional Closed Areas and proposed 40 km² MNR
- ❑ Significantly larger areas now protected
- ❑ Underpinned by good science
- ❑ Progress supported by open approach to conservation and fisheries management and regular communication
- ❑ Education and awareness key
- ❑ **High level of community involvement**



Gura mie eu!

Diverse horse mussel reef habitat



Caroline Roriston



• For more information
contact fiona.gell@gov.im