

The Scottish MPA Project: Selecting Nature Conservation MPAs in the seas around Scotland

Katie Gillham & David Donnan
Marine Policy & Advice Managers
Coastal & Marine Ecosystems Unit

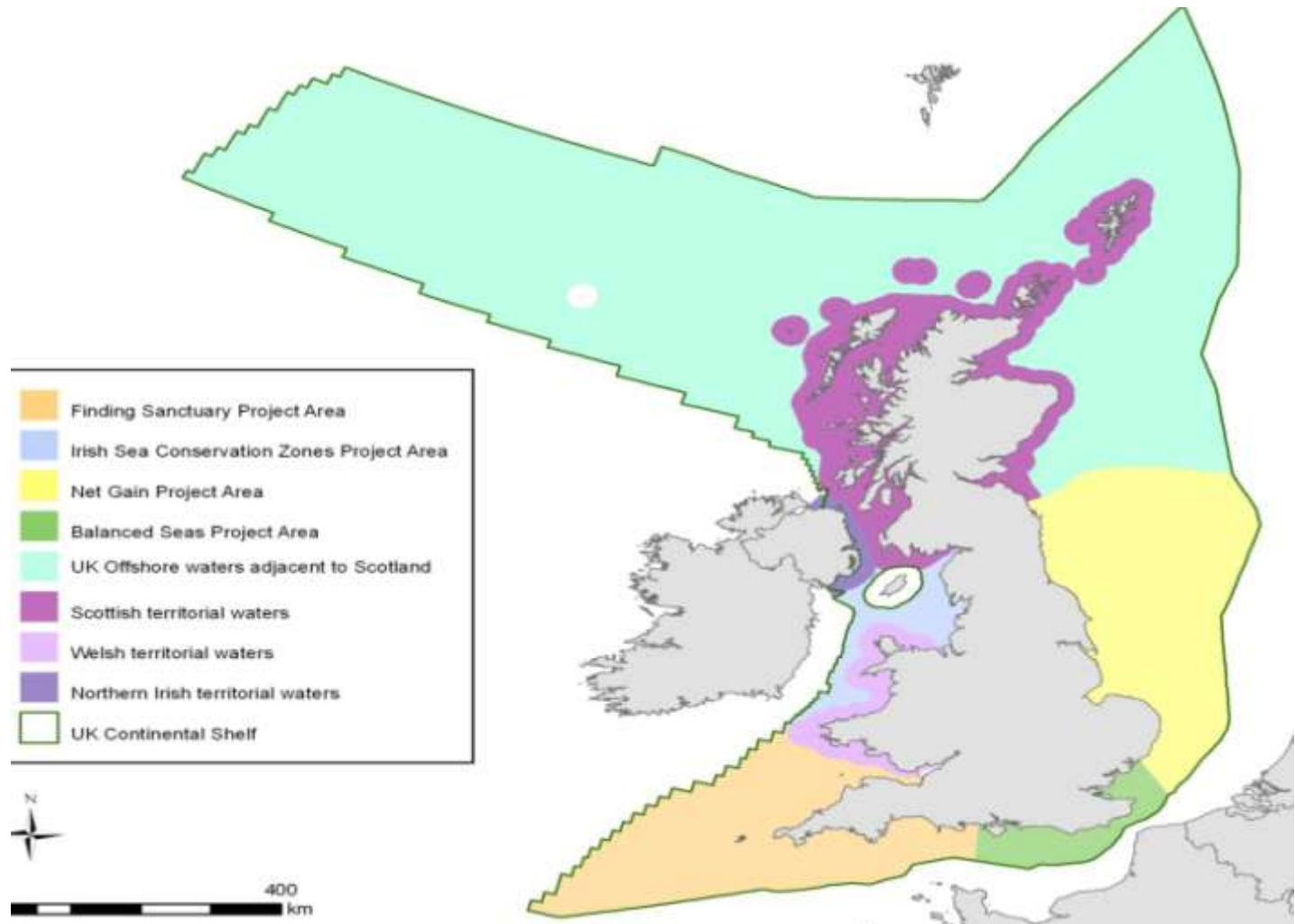
The Scottish MPA Project

- What is the Scottish MPA Project?**
- Why has the Project been established?**
- How will MPAs be selected?**
- What have we been doing in 2010?**
- How can communities get involved?**



What is the Scottish MPA Project?

Context



What is the Scottish MPA Project?

- Joint project between Marine Scotland, JNCC, Historic Scotland and SNH
- Providing advice to Scottish Ministers on selection of MPAs in seas around Scotland
- Involves range of work from developing the Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines, reviewing existing data, undertaking new surveys, assessing against the Guidelines and developing advice on proposals...
- Opportunities for stakeholder involvement



Why has the project been established?

- International commitments for ecologically coherent networks of MPAs
- Provisions of the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Scottish Marine Act
- MPAs for Nature Conservation, Demonstration & Research and Historic interests.
- MPAs are one of Scottish Government's three pillars for nature conservation (sites, species and wider seas measures)



How will MPAs be selected?

Draft MPA Selection Guidelines

Public consultation closed in June and final guidelines to be published in Autumn

- Stage 1: presence of important features
- Stage 2: prioritisation of areas
- Stage 3: assessment of scale of area
- Stage 4: assessment of potential management
- Stage 5: contribution to the ecologically coherent network of MPAs

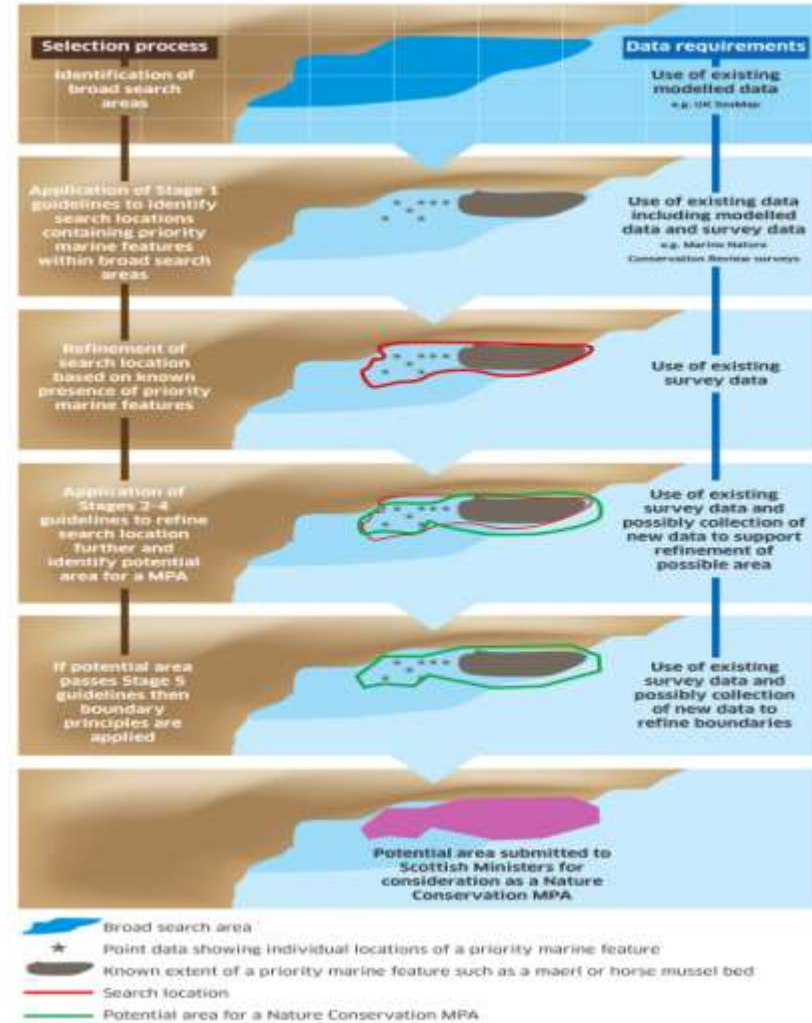


How will MPAs be selected? Process

Process starts in 2010



Areas will be assessed against latter stages at different times



What have we been doing in 2010?

Overview

- Data collation and review (ongoing)
- Initial discussions with stakeholders
- Consultation on MPA Selection Guidelines consultation & peer review of Priority Marine Features
- Survey work in Sound of Canna, Ullapool and surrounding area and Firth of Clyde & collaborative work
- Planning for first national application of the Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines



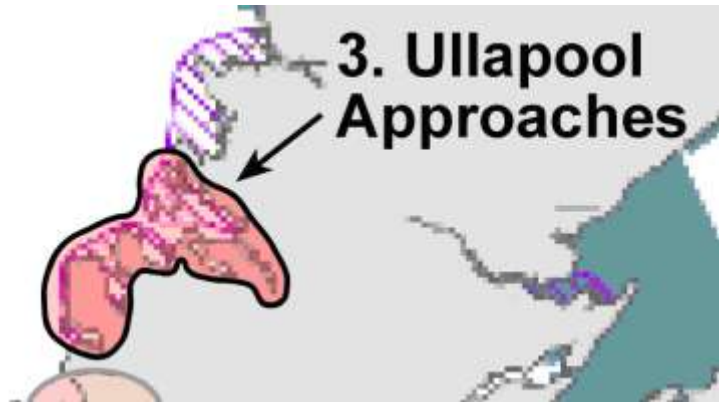
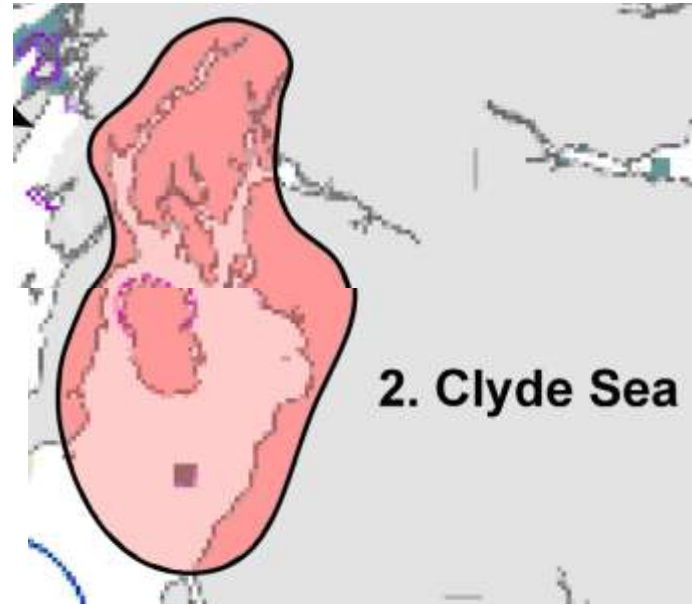
What have we been doing in 2010?

Survey work

SNH broadscale work

SNH detailed survey e.g. Canna

Collaborative work e.g. Fair Isle



What have we been doing in 2010? Sound of Canna Survey

Priority Marine Features:

Fan mussels

Seagrass beds

Northern sea fan

Sea pens

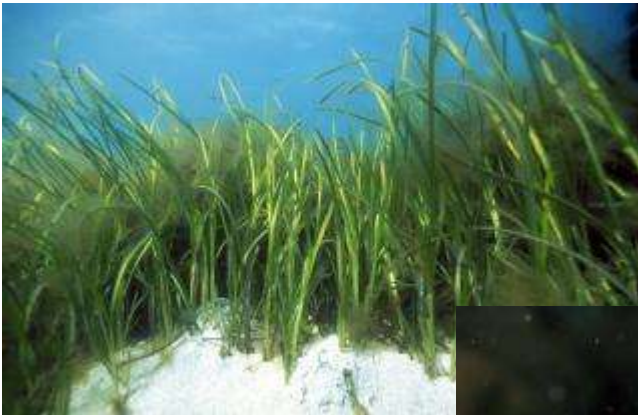
Burrowed mud

Egg wrack beds

Burrowing sea anemones

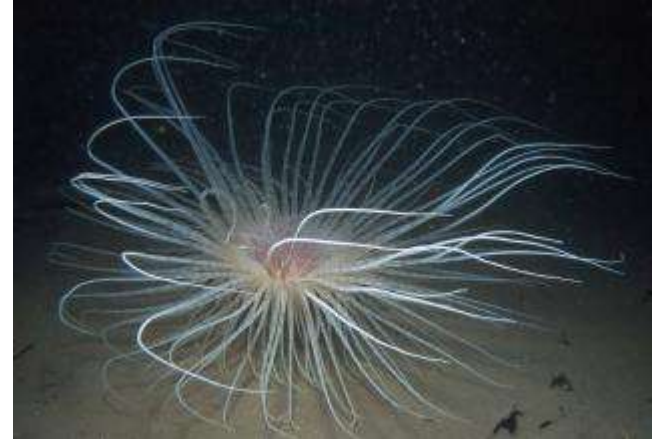


What have we been doing in 2010? Sound of Canna Survey



How can communities get involved?

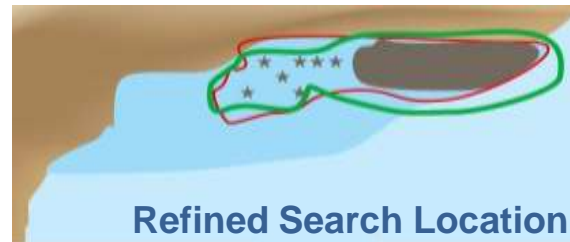
- Initial discussions
- Stakeholder workshops to discuss application of the Guidelines
- Third-party proposals
- Informal discussions on potential areas
- Formal consultation on designation of MPAs



Note the level of detail will change through the process from national/regional to site specific
Proposed approach is to use existing groups where possible



Scottish Natural Heritage



Initial discussions

Consultation on the draft MPA selection guidelines and draft list of Priority Marine Features

Discussions on data and identification of least/damaged more natural areas

Workshops to discuss application of the selection guidelines & third party proposals

Informal discussions on potential areas for MPAs

Discussions on boundaries of potential MPAs

Formal consultation on site proposals and Impact Assessment

How can communities get involved?

Third-party proposals

- **Marine (Scotland) Act makes provision for third-party proposals through Marine Planning Partnerships**
- **Can also be raised for discussion at stakeholder workshops to discuss application of Guidelines**
- **Proposals will be considered alongside search locations for Nature Conservation MPAs**
- **Planning to identify the network by the end of 2012 including third party proposals**



Informal and formal consultation on designation

Summary

- **The Scottish MPA Project is a joint project between Marine Scotland, SNH and JNCC**
- **Aim is to provide advice to Scottish Ministers on the selection of MPAs & development of the MPA network**
- **Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines set out the agreed policy & selection process**
- **Centrally-led process with engagement opportunities for stakeholders, including communities, throughout**



Contact details

JNCC: scottishmpas@jncc.gov.uk

SNH: mpa@snh.gov.uk

Marine Scotland: marineconservation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

