

Issue 1 – March 2010

Where are we now.....

The process for designating an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the North Sea is now well underway. MPAs are sites in which human activities are restricted to varying degrees. They are a tried and tested means of safeguarding important habitats and wildlife. They protect wildlife within their boundaries and allow nature to recover and thrive.

Four types of site designation will complete the MPA network. These are:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated for a narrow range of habitats and species protected by European Law
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated for birds, as required by law under European Wild Birds Directive
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest – designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, to protect nationally important species, habitats and geological features.
- Marine Conservation Zones – designated under the new Marine and Coastal Access Act, to protect places that are of national importance for their marine wildlife, habitats and geology.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act.....

November 12th 2009 saw the passing of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, an exciting new piece of legislation that will for the first time allow for:

- For the creation of an ecologically coherent network of MPAs
- Modernised inshore fisheries management – IFCAs

- Creation of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Strategic Marine Spatial Planning
- Improved marine licensing



Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust representatives at the Marine and Coastal Access Bill Lobby in May 2009

Marine Conservation Zones.....

October 2009 saw the launch of the North Sea Marine Conservation Zone Project – *Net Gain*. This project will bring together representatives who use and wish to conserve the North Seas marine environment. This project will over the next year bring together local people with local expertise about their marine environment to make informed decisions as to the location of North Sea Marine Conservation Zones. The Wildlife Trusts are very pleased to announce that Net Gain have invited local Wildlife Trusts to act as conservation representatives on all of the Net Gain local hub groups along the length of the North Sea region.



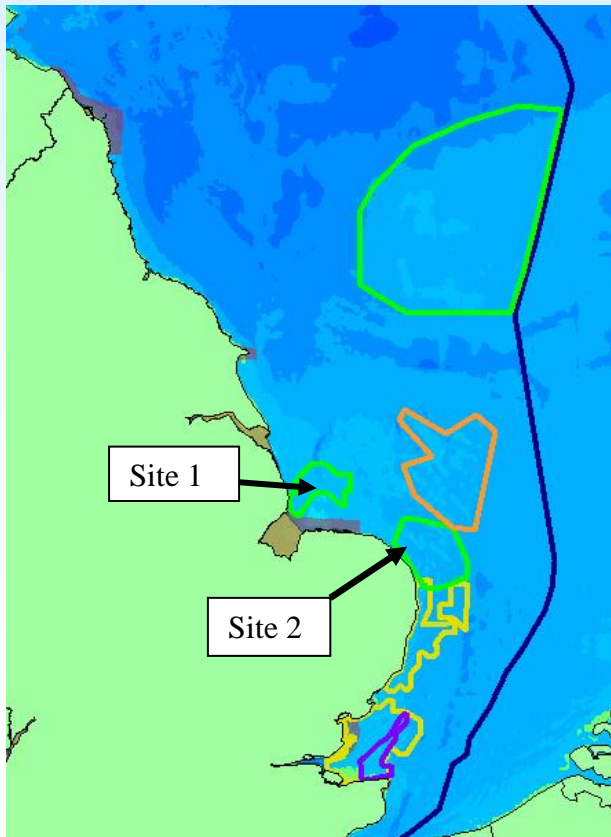
For more information on Net Gain, visit
<http://www.netgainmcs.org/>

Natura 2000.....

Within the English North Sea two Special Areas of Conservation have just been subject to formal consultation:

- Site 1 - Inner Dowsing-North Ridge-Race Banks
- Site 2 - Haisborough-Hammond-Winterton

These sites will contribute to the establishment of the North Sea MPA network. The Wildlife Trust were consulted regarding these sites and are highly supportive of the establishment of these two sites.



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The Wildlife Trusts vision for Living Seas.....

Earlier this year The Wildlife Trusts launched their vision for Living Sea. The principle of the vision is that wildlife thrives, from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows. In Living Seas:

- Wildlife and habitats are recovering from past decline as our use of the seas’ resources becomes environmentally sustainable.
- The natural environment is adapting well to climate change, and ocean processes are helping to slow down climate change.
- People are inspired by marine wildlife and value the sea for the many ways in which it supports our quality of life.

To download our Vision for Living Seas visit:

<http://www.northseawildlife.org.uk/downloads/>

How can you help us achieve Living Seas?

1. Send us photos and videos of marine habitats and species to help us develop peoples awareness of marine wildlife
2. If you have information or marine data available get in touch with the Net Gain team
info@yhsg.co.uk
3. The Wildlife Trusts National Marine Week is 31st July - 15th August. Events will shortly be listed on our North Sea website
<http://www.northseawildlife.org.uk/news-and-events/> please keep checking for details.
4. Receive up to date project updates by joining our facebook group
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=310084451965> or email ‘subscribe’ to marine@ywt.org.uk to receive newsletter updates.