

## Where are we now.....

### *Marine Conservation Zones*

Net Gain, the North Sea Marine Conservation Zone project is now well underway. Stakeholders, (including conservationists, sea users and industry) are in the planning stages of identifying potential Marine Conservation Zones within the North Sea. The Wildlife Trusts are involved at all levels of this planning process on all four local hub groups and on the regional Stakeholder Advisory Panel.

Our aim is to see our vision of 'Living Seas' become a reality, through the creation of a network of protected sites which allows for both rare and threatened as well as commonly found marine wildlife to thrive alongside our changing marine environment.

The first stage of identifying Marine Conservation Zones has been completed by the Net Gain project and its stakeholders, with the second planning stage occurring during September. The deadline for MCZ recommendations to the secretary of state is June 2011.

- To find out more about Net Gain or to download their latest newsletter go to:  
<http://www.netgainmcz.org/>
- To find out more about the identification of Marine Protected Areas visit:  
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/default.aspx>  
<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4524>



***Are you a diver, wildlife watcher or undertake rockpool or shoresearch surveys?***

***Then Net Gain need your help.....***

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. Ecological requirements will be the first consideration in the selection of MCZs. By engaging with your regional MCZ project, local divers and wildlife enthusiasts can help to plan sites in a way that doesn't unnecessarily restrict people's activities at sea.

Many wildlife enthusiasts have excellent knowledge of their local areas and of the plants and animals that inhabit them. In order to ensure MCZs are placed in the best locations, the Project needs to draw on this wealth of knowledge. It also wants to know which sea areas are most important to you.

You can get in touch with your representative on the relevant regional stakeholder group or visit our Interactive Map ([www.mczmapping.org](http://www.mczmapping.org)) where you can upload information about your marine activities, as well as the location of marine wildlife, notable habitats and geological features you have seen. Or you can view the layers of data to discover more about your region's sea.

# North Sea News



## Out and about with The Wildlife Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts National Marine Week starts this weekend on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August. Now's your chance to get out and about and discover your local marine life. No matter whether you live by the coast or inland there's an event for you.

- To see events happening along the North Sea coastline and inland visit: <http://www.northseawildlife.org.uk/news-and-events/>
- To see all events across the country visit: <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=events>
- To watch our new Living Seas video visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/thewildlifetrusts>
- Access our new North Sea photo booklets: <http://www.northseawildlife.org.uk/news-and-events/new-north-sea-booklets/>

This summer local Wildlife Trusts have already undertaken a wealth of marine events both at the coast and inland.

**Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust bring marine life inland at Lincolnshire's county show.....**



During marine week Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust will be bringing you marine species facts and craft activities on a regular basis through their website ([www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://www.lincstrust.org.uk)) – get started with the common octopus



"60 years of nature conservation from The Humber to The Wash"

### Lincolnshire's Living Seas



Common octopus (Derek Haslam)

#### Common octopus

Able to move using jet propulsion, disappear in a cloud of ink or blend perfectly with its surroundings; there is much more to the common octopus than an ability to predict football results.

Found in temperate and tropical waters of all the world's seas, including the North Sea off the Lincolnshire coast, the common octopus is considered amongst the most intelligent of all invertebrate animals.

➔ Find out more about the common octopus and download activity instructions to make your own.

➔ Help marine wildlife in Lincolnshire by joining the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

**Yorkshire Wildlife Trust bring marine life to a pool near you through their innovative 'Undersea Explorers' sessions.....**



# North Sea News



Fancy learning how to snorkel and discovering Yorkshires marine life then visit:

[http://www.ywt.org.uk/undersea\\_explorers.php](http://www.ywt.org.uk/undersea_explorers.php)



**Durham and Norfolk Wildlife Trust launch new websites with Living Seas section:**

- [http://durhamwt.myzen.co.uk/wp/?page\\_id=452](http://durhamwt.myzen.co.uk/wp/?page_id=452)
- <http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/Conservation/Living-Seas.aspx>



**Fancy sponsoring Yorkshire Wildlife Trust staff and raising money for their Living Seas appeal?**

Staff from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust will be plunging into the chilly waters of the North Sea dressed as these magnificent marine creatures for the Trust's Great North Sea Shark Swim.

[http://www.ywt.org.uk/the\\_great\\_north\\_sea\\_swim.php](http://www.ywt.org.uk/the_great_north_sea_swim.php)

**Exciting news from Seasearch East Anglia.....**

Seasearch East Anglia have managed to undertake further mapping of the chalk reef located off the North Norfolk coast.

**Rob Spray, Seasearch diver comments:**

*'Most divers think you have to go abroad for clear water and great scenery but Norfolk in July has confounded that misconception. Volunteers from Seasearch in East Anglia have spent a week surveying the chalk reefs of North Norfolk and uncovered stunning chalk arches amongst shoals of fish and abundant wildlife.'*

*Every time we dive Norfolk we find something new, to find those beautiful chalk arches just off the beach in only 7m of water was breathtaking - when hundreds of shining fish started swirling around us it was magical.*

Rob Spray



*The survey will continue through the summer and Autumn with support from Norfolk Council's Biodiversity Information Service, Fugro Ltd and The Wildlife Trusts. The aim is to map the extent of the reefs themselves and the wildlife which inhabits them.'*

**How can you help us achieve Living Seas?**

1. Send us photos and videos of marine wildlife
2. Attend an event for The Wildlife Trusts National Marine Week.
3. Receive up to date project updates by joining our facebook group  
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=310084451965>
4. Email 'subscribe' to [marine@ywt.org.uk](mailto:marine@ywt.org.uk) to receive newsletter updates.