



Copyright George Mitchell



Copyright Alexander Mitchell

The Interactive Map - a new information gathering tool for the project

An important part of the Balanced Seas project is to understand, as accurately as possible, where activities occur. This information is very scattered for some sectors, such as fisheries and recreation. For this reason, the Balanced Seas Liaison Officers have been conducting interviews around the project area with fishermen, anglers, watersports enthusiasts and divers.

The interviews involve a questionnaire and a digital mapping exercise. So far about 80 commercial fishermen, 50 anglers and 30 watersports clubs and centres (representing several thousand people) have been interviewed. The interviews are providing vital information that will be used by the Regional Stakeholder Group and Local Groups to minimise the socio-economic impact when developing recommendations for MCZs

We now have a new tool to help collect such information: the MCZ Project Interactive Map. This is a web based system which allows information to be displayed on-line, and has two roles:

- 1 To show the diversity and range of information that is being used by the MCZ Project
- 2 To collect information from stakeholders who are using UK seas.

The interactive map allows users to zoom in to areas of interest and to choose which information 'layers' they look at by switching them on or off. The layers of spatial information include plants and animals, different types of habitats and human activities.

Once registered, users are able to draw on the map areas of the sea or coast which are important to them, and explain why. For example, divers can show particular sites they visit whereas others may want to map their ecological knowledge, such as important breeding sites for fish.

How should I submit information to Balanced Seas?

Interactive map: this is designed particularly with recreational users (divers, anglers, sailors etc) and wildlife enthusiasts in mind. To see and use the interactive map, visit www.mczmapping.org.

Interviews: these are particularly for commercial fishermen and club-based groups as they allow more detailed discussion of the project; please contact a Liaison Officers to arrange an interview. However, the Liaison Officers will be happy to carry out interviews with others as well.

How will my information be used?

The data will be anonymised and collated by sector (e.g. all sites recorded by charter boat operators will be amalgamated to show the sites that are important to that sector in general). The result will be an overall picture of each activity within the region. Maps from individuals will never be published.



A quick guide to using the interactive map...

1. Visit www.mczmapping.org
2. A window allows you to choose from a series of shortcuts, including a detailed tutorial option.
3. Once on the interactive map page, the tabs in the box on left of the screen at the top allow you to navigate around the site. See the FAQs or Help tabs for further advice.
4. Select the View tab to access the data layers. For example, to look at sea depth, click on the box marked Physical, and then tick the box next to Bathymetry and the box underneath.
5. Place your mouse on the map to grab and move the map, and to zoom into particular areas, as with Google Maps.
6. Investigate the many data layers available.
7. To add your own data, register first and then click on the Add tab.
8. You can add sites over a number of visits; sites will be saved and visible under the Add tab on following visits.

Copyright Solent Forum



© Natural England / Paul Kay



Copyright Solent Forum

Regional Stakeholder Group takes its first planning steps

The Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) held its second meeting in London on 7/8th June. This meeting was extremely positive as the group worked hard to put together a draft set of "broad areas of interest". This very preliminary first draft focussed on protecting representative samples of broad scale habitats throughout the project area, as identified in the Ecological Network Guidance.

The process helped to show the RSG members the methodology that will be used to develop the final recommendations, allowed them to identify additional data that will be needed, and highlighted some important sectoral issues to be addressed. During the work, the RSG identified specific questions they would like the Local Groups to respond to with regard to certain inshore areas and more detailed data to help the process.

These "broad areas of interest" will be worked on further in subsequent meetings. Information about these areas, including a report of the required data, discussions and caveats, will be submitted to the Science Advisory Panel at the end of June for constructive comment and advice. This process represents an important stage of the development of MCZs and the RSG members believe they have made a good, encouraging start.

The report of the RSG meeting will be available on the website in a couple of weeks.

Have your say

You can comment on any of the issues raised in our newsletter by emailing balancedseas@kent.ac.uk. We value your feedback.

Our Liaison Officers

Jules Martin

(commercial fishing and sea-angling)
j.p.b.martin@kent.ac.uk 07584 020752

Amy Pryor

(commercial fishing, sea-angling and recreational activities)
a.e.pryor@kent.ac.uk 07584 020771

Kate Mills *(recreational activities)*

k.a.mills@kent.ac.uk 07584 020761

To read what they have been up to lately see

www.balancedseas.org/news

Project contact details

Balanced Seas
Regional MCZ Project for the
South-East
Durrell Institute for Conservation
and Ecology (DICE)
University of Kent
Canterbury,
Kent. CT2 7NR

Tel: 01227 827839



Unsubscribe If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please email us with "unsubscribe" in the subject line

Balanced Seas is a partnership project with the University of Kent, Kent County Council, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.