

newsletter

Welcome to our first issue

You will have received this because you have asked to be kept informed of our project. If your friends are interested, please forward on and ask them to contact us - we will make sure they are on our database for future editions.

Working with you

The establishment of Marine Conservation Zones may take socio-economics into account. This means that, although the Marine Conservation Zones will be designed according to scientific guidelines, where possible, the location of these areas will be chosen so that it minimises the impact on sea-users.

We need your help!

To do this, Balanced Seas needs to gather as much information as possible on the areas of the marine environment that are valuable to you, for whatever reason, either as a source of income, a beautiful site for your recreational activities or a place you feel is important for wildlife. This information will then be used by the Regional Stakeholder Group to make the recommendations on the locations of Marine Conservation Zones. The more the information truly reflects how people value and use the sea, the more effective the planning process will be.

What are we doing now?

Balanced Seas will be starting to gather information shortly and our Liaison Officers will be meeting as many fishermen, sea-anglers, divers, yachtsmen, wildlife enthusiasts and other sea-users as possible to identify the marine areas they use and value most.

Over the next six months the Liaison Officers will be visiting individuals, ports, harbours and clubs in the region. A standard questionnaire will be used to help collect the data and maps to identify locations you use. We will try and hold meetings in places you visit to avoid you having to travel to us and hope that no longer than an hour of your time is needed.

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Who are we? – a reminder

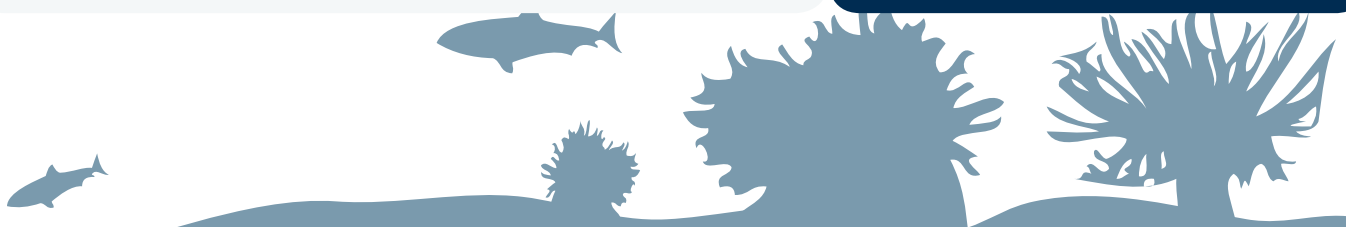
The Marine and Coastal Access Bill received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009. The new Act will create a new type of Marine Protected Area, called a Marine Conservation Zone. Marine Conservation Zones will protect nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology.

Balanced Seas is one of four regional projects in England that will work with sea users and interest groups to identify and recommend Marine Conservation Zones to Government.

For more background information visit www.balancedseas.org

Why are we here?

In order to contribute to the protection and recovery of the richness of our marine wildlife and environment, the UK Government is committed to establishing, by 2012, a strong, ecologically coherent and well managed network of marine protected areas, that is well understood and supported by sea users.



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Download the county meeting reports from our website now

Five county level meetings took place at the end of November and were attended by nearly 260 people, about 30% of whom were fishermen. The participants at the county meetings worked very hard to provide suggestions and ideas for taking forward the process of establishing stakeholder groups.

The joint report of the five meetings is now on the website for downloading and is being sent out to all the participants. Please let us know if you have problems obtaining a copy.

An independent facilitation company is now on board

In January we recruited an independent facilitation company, 3KQ, which will help us to design the process and subsequently help to run the meetings. 3KQ is based in Tunbridge Wells and has worked on many other stakeholder activities. They are currently carrying out a stakeholder analysis for Balanced Seas to ensure the best representation possible for the different interest groups on the Regional Stakeholder Group.

We have just recruited the project economist Bernard Morizet

Bernard has worked for many years with the World Bank, undertaking impact assessments for projects ranging from fish processing plants to cement factories. He brings a wealth of knowledge on how economic costs and benefits should be addressed in new projects. He also emphasises the cross-Channel links that Balanced Seas will have, as he is French! His wife is English and he lives in Canterbury, and so is familiar with Kent. Bernard's main role will be to prepare the Impact Assessment that will accompany the MCZ recommendations.

Our Liaison Officers

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To read what they have been up to lately see www.balancedseas.org

Project contact details

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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.



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