



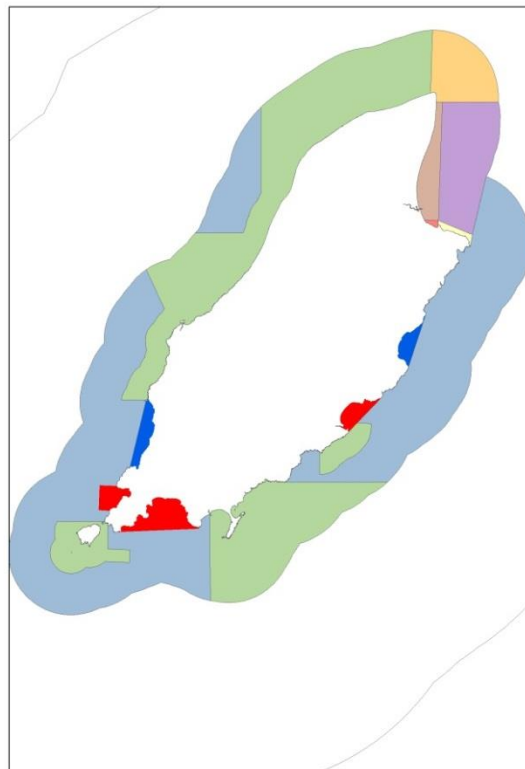
Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUMMARY REPORT

The Designation of Inshore Marine Nature Reserves



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmiltaght, Bee as Eirinys

December 2017

Introduction

A public consultation on 'The Designation of Inshore Marine Nature Reserves' was conducted between 23rd June and 4th August 2017.

The Isle of Man has a network of 10 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), under a variety of designations (see Figure 1). The consultation sought to obtain views on the designation of these existing MPAs as Marine Nature Reserves, define/confirm the conservation features of these sites and improve management measures for these conservation features. The consultation did not propose any new areas for protection, only to improve protection options for existing sites. The 10 sites are:

- Little Ness Conservation Zone (designated 2016)
- Langness Conservation Zone (designated 2016)
- The Calf of Man and Wart Bank Conservation Zone (designated 2016)
- West Coast Conservation Zone (designated 2016)
- Laxey Fisheries Restricted Area (designated 2009)
- Niarbyl Fisheries Restricted Area (designated 2009)
- Douglas Fisheries Closed Area (designated 2008)
- Port Erin Closed Area (designated in 1989)
- *Baie ny Carrickey* Closed Area (designated 2012)
- Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve (5 zones, designated 2011)

Specifically the consultation had the following objectives:

1. To gain feedback on the designation of the current inshore Conservation Zones (see Figure 1) as Marine Nature Reserves and the implementation of additional conservation measures.
2. To consult on the future of the Niarbyl and Laxey Fisheries Restricted Areas and the Douglas Fisheries Closed Area (see Figure 1), which expired at the end of October 2017.
3. To gain input on the designation of the existing Fisheries Closed Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas as Marine Nature Reserves and the implementation of additional conservation measures.
4. To consult on additional management measures for Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve, to achieve concurrence with the other proposed Marine Nature Reserves.
5. To get public input on the Conservation Features identified for the proposed Marine Nature Reserves, to highlight species, habitats and other features that may have been omitted.
6. To get input from the public on other measures that could be considered within the new Marine Nature Reserves that would protect habitats and species and/or facilitate more sustainable use of the marine environment.
7. To get input from the public on other conservation priority areas in Manx territorial waters that should be considered for future designation.

Full details of the conservation features, new measures proposed and the consultation questions may be found in the original consultation document;

<https://consult.gov.im/environment-food-and-agriculture/designation-of-inshore-marine-nature-reserves/>

Summary of Consultation Responses

A total of 45 consultation responses were received. Where affiliation was indicated, the respondents identified with the following groups;

GROUP	Number of respondents
Fishing Industry	10
Government (Local and Central)	8
Diving	7
Conservation Organisations	5
Marine-related business/user	2
Recreational fishing	2
Academic	1

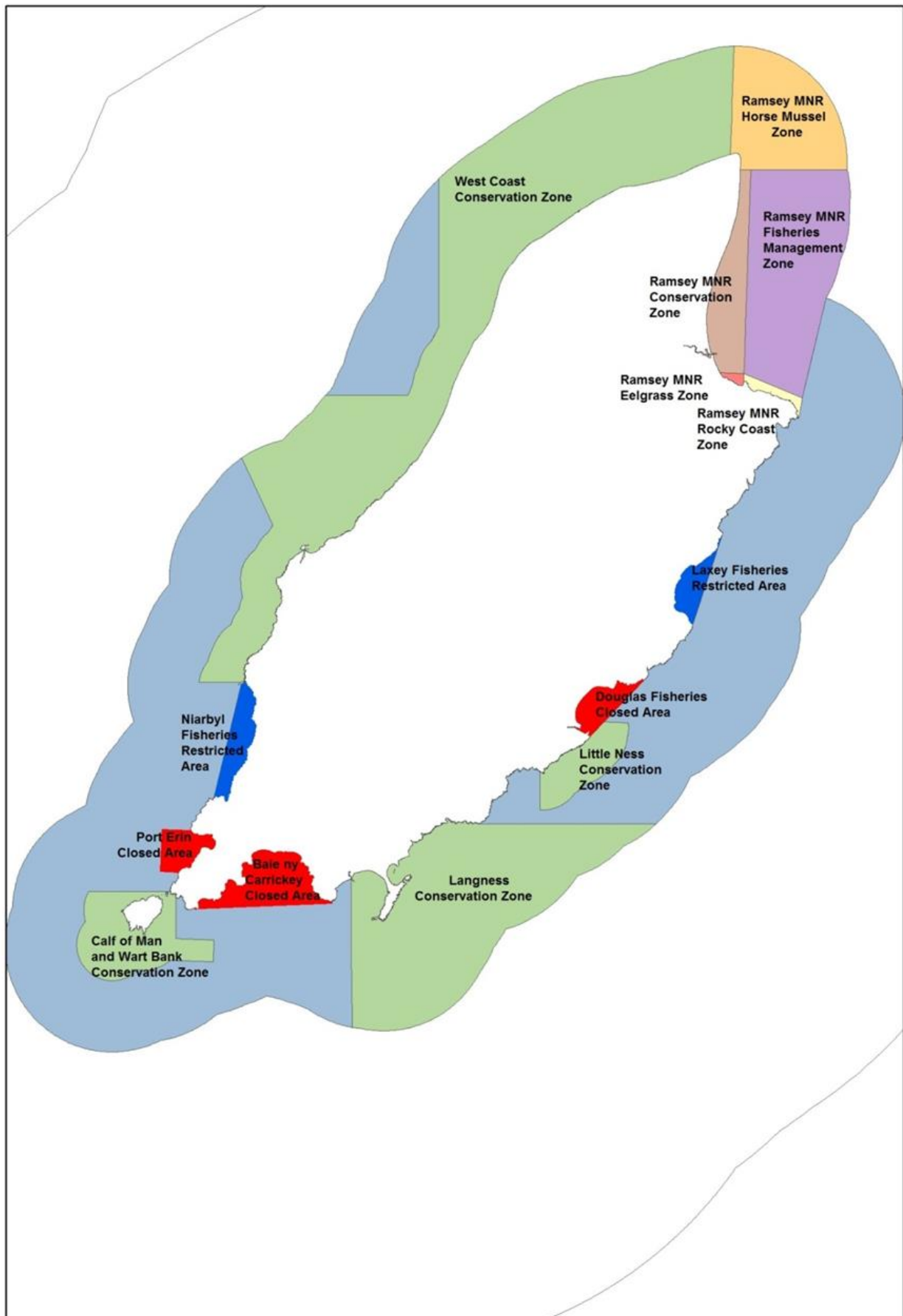
Next Steps

This summary document presents an overview of the results of the public consultation process. These results will be used to develop the next stage of the MPA network project. Careful consideration of all responses will be undertaken, with resulting recommendations expected to be presented to DEFA Policy and Strategy and Wildlife Committees in early 2018.

Additional consideration by Government committees may also be undertaken.

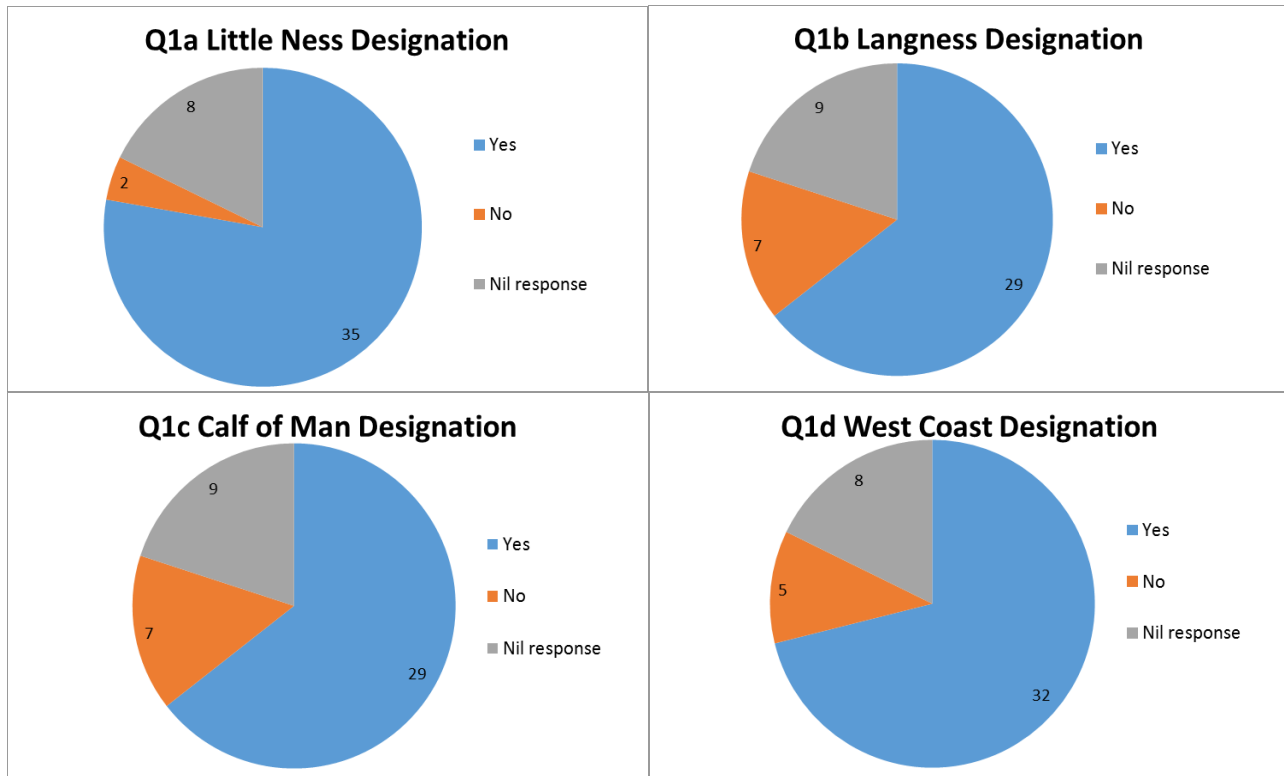
If approved, any recommendations will form the basis of a designation order to be put before Tynwald in 2018.

Figure 1: The current network of Marine Protected Areas around the Isle of Man



CONSULTATION QUESTIONS AND SUMMARY RESPONSES:

1. Do you support the designation of the 4 current Conservation Zones as Marine Nature Reserves?



The strongest support for MNR designation was for Little Ness (95% affirmative), followed by West Coast (86.5% affirmative), Langness and Calf of Man (80.5% affirmative)(nil-responses were not included in the summary).

Specific comments on these designations:

- Offers opportunities for innovative conservation measures.
- Protection would benefit biodiversity and fishing interests.
- Calf of Man is of particular importance to conservation.
- Langness needs potting protection for sea grass area.
- Some areas historically fished for scallops, so don't support complete mobile gear ban.
- MNRs enable effective and appropriate management, but can allow for fishing activity.
- Maerl is an important and vulnerable habitat.
- Intertidal mussels are uncommon and declining, proposals offer some protection.
- Continued monitoring needed for dredge dumping site as Peel Harbour and the Neb catchment and Estuary has a long history of heavy metal pollution. Dispersion modelling would be valuable to evaluate risk to upstream biodiversity including intertidal mussels.
- Dog whelks are not currently vulnerable on IoM.
- Proposals represent a sensible network for IoM waters.
- Future development of Douglas harbour may extend into the Little Ness area.
- Objection to licenced dump site at Peel castle (seafood waste/shells) and contaminated harbour sediment which are perceived to be negatively impacting, particularly where stored within the catchment.

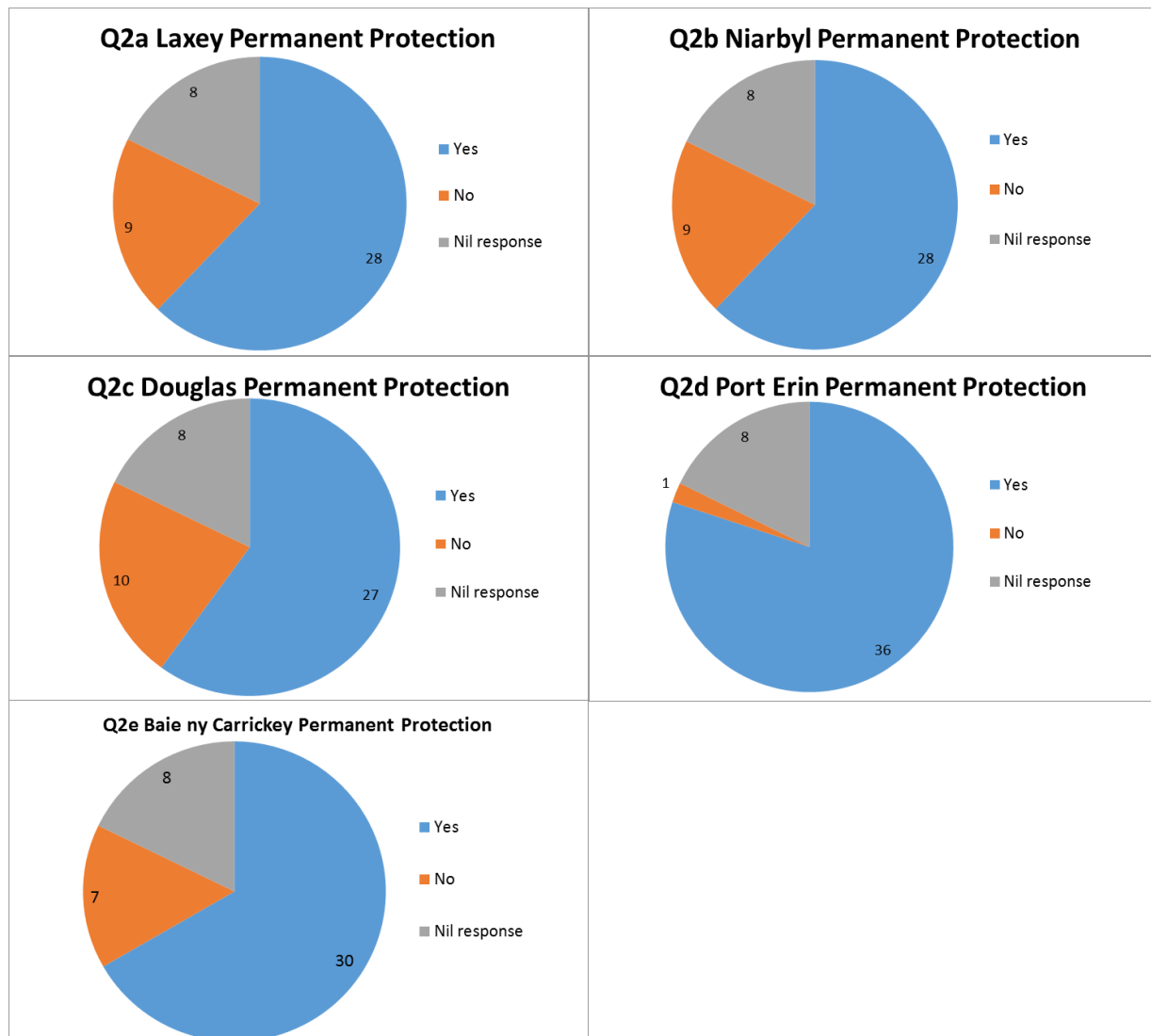
- Ensure continued access for recreational fishers, including sandeels for bait.

CONCLUSION

The Little Ness designation appears to be well supported as currently presented.

Further consideration regarding specific management measures for the other 3 conservation zones appears warranted.

2. Do you support the permanent protection as a Marine Nature Reserve of:



Support for permanent protection of existing 'closed areas' varied from 97% for Port Erin, 81% for *Baie ny Carrickey*, 75.7% for Laxey and Niarbyl and 72.9% for Douglas (nil-responses were not included).

Specific comments on these designations:

- These proposed changes of designation have been carefully and appropriately selected.
- Hopefully lead to more extensive system of controlled crustacean fisheries.

- Potting and recreational fishing should be allowed in these areas.
- Mobile gear should be allowed in scallop season, because left alone for rest of year.
- Fishery Management Zones in Laxey, Niarbyl and Douglas.
- Include some no-take zones with scientific monitoring.
- Port Erin acts a plaice nursery. Niarbyl also a nursery ground.
- Port Erin’s long protection, data quality and quality warrant permanent protection.
- Consider future development of Douglas harbour.
- Douglas proximity to large town could make it a particularly engaging MNR for the public.
- *Arctica islandica* in Laxey are important
- Maerl in Niarbyl is an important habitat.
- No take status for Niarbyl.
- *Baie ny Carrickey*, good features at Kallow point, suggestion to extend area to Scarlett Point.

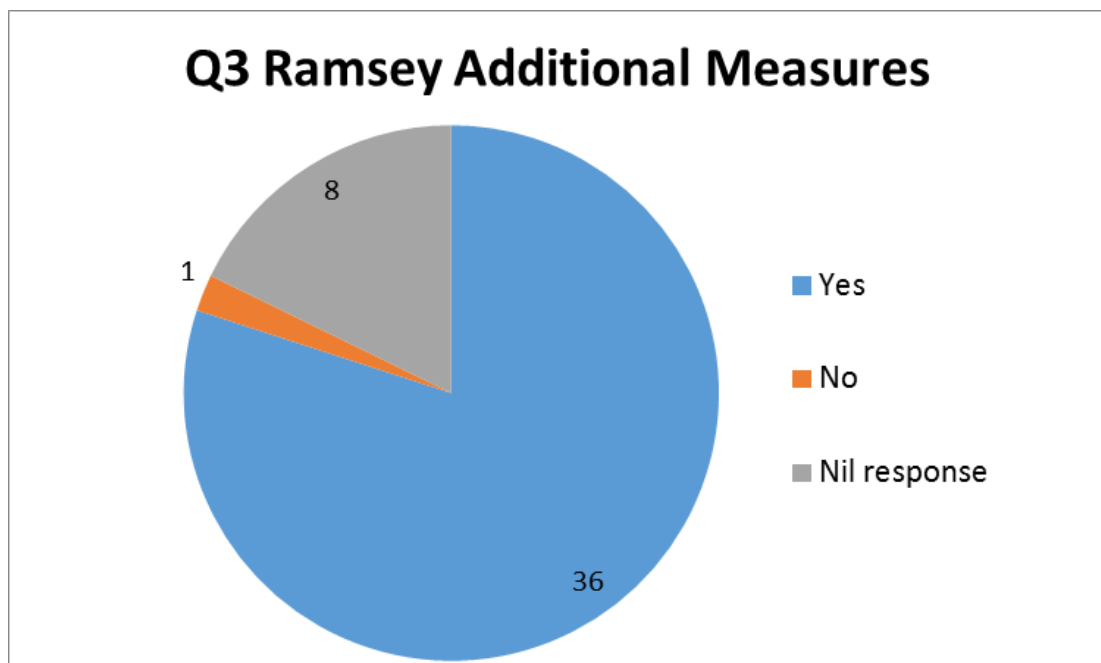
CONCLUSIONS

The Port Erin designation appears to be well supported as currently presented.

Reduced support for some of these proposed designations may indicate that further consideration regarding specific management measures is warranted.

Note: since the completion of this consultation the Douglas, Laxey and Niarbyl Closed Areas have been retained as Closed Areas for a period of 10 years with provision to permit restricted and managed fishing opportunities within defined areas, with the agreement of the Department.

3. Do you support the additional management measures proposed for Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve?



There was very strong support for the additional measures proposed for Ramsey MNR (97% affirmative)(nil-responses were not included).

Specific comments on this question:

- Generally supportive comments, important site, showing recovery.
- Fishery Management Zone is a successful process.
- Current MNR too big, replace with a 1 mile limit.
- Protection for boating lake, saline lagoon and estuary suggested.
- Clarify if protection is for complete feature/area, or just dominant organism e.g. horse mussel, sea grass.
- Ramsey is important for Bass and salmonids, should be reflected with appropriate management.
- Fishermen should anchor in an area decided by fishermen, and with a suitable anchor, not fishing gear.

CONCLUSION

The high positive response rate for this question indicates that the proposed additional management measures are well supported by all respondent groups.

Some additional comments received will be considered for any final management proposals.

4. Do you support the conservation features identified for each of the Marine Nature Reserves?

Question	Site	Yes	No	Nil-Response	% Agreement
Q4a	Little Ness	32	2	11	94
Q4b	Langness	31	2	12	94
Q4c	Calf of Man	32	2	11	94
Q4d	West Coast	32	2	11	94
Q4e	Laxey	32	2	11	94
Q4f	Niarbyl	32	2	11	94
Q4g	Douglas	31	2	12	94
Q4h	Port Erin	33	1	11	97
Q4i	<i>Baie ny Carrickey</i>	32	2	11	94
Q4j	Ramsey	31	2	12	94

There was strong support for the identified conservation features identified within the proposed MNRs (all $\geq 94\%$ affirmative)(nil-responses were not included).

Comments on the conservation features:

- We appreciated the effort that has gone into identifying the rich variety of conservation features, and wholeheartedly support the proposals.
- Important to get fishing industry support as they are best placed to protect the sites if they believe in them.
- (Based on long term surveys) dog whelk should not be considered threatened around Isle of Man.
- Calf of Man - introduce no-take zones.
- Niarbyl - introduce no-take zones.
- Calf of Man: include *Creg y jaghee* too, which is as important as the Sound at the Cletts.
- Wider recognition of fish species should be noted, including bass, migratory salmonids and sandeels.

CONCLUSIONS

Answering this question probably requires specific knowledge of the sites themselves, which may explain the relatively high 'nil-response' rate (24-27%). However, from the responses received, which does include people with experience of these areas, it can be concluded that the features identified are generally correct and accurately reflect the primary conservation features. Further survey work in the future may provide additional details on specific sites.

The conservation features identified generally reflect the conservation value of the nominated sites, and their justification for designation as MNRs.

5. Do you support the conservation measures proposed for each of the Marine Nature Reserves?

Question	Site	Yes	No	Nil-Response	% Agreement
Q5a	Little Ness	33	2	10	94
Q5b	Langness	26	10	9	72
Q5c	Calf of Man	25	11	9	69
Q5d	West Coast	28	8	9	78
Q5e	Laxey	26	10	9	72
Q5f	Niarbyl	26	10	9	72
Q5g	Douglas	25	11	9	69
Q5h	Port Erin	34	2	9	94
Q5i	<i>Baie ny Carrickey</i>	27	9	9	75
Q5j	Ramsey	34	2	9	94

Different conservation measures were proposed for different sites, dependant on existing species, habitats and potential threats to them. Responses received broadly reflect current uses and potential changes to those uses.

Strongest support for proposed management measures were returned for Little Ness, Port Erin and Ramsey MNR (94% affirmative). For West Coast (78% affirmative), *Baie ny Carrickey* (75%), Langness, Laxey and Niarbyl (72% affirmative) proposals, negative responses chiefly related to the 'no-mobile fishing gear' proposal, and came from fishing industry members. Douglas and the Calf of Man proposals returned 69% support for proposed management measures, again relating to concerns from the fishing industry about mobile fishing gear bans.

Any comments on the conservation measures:

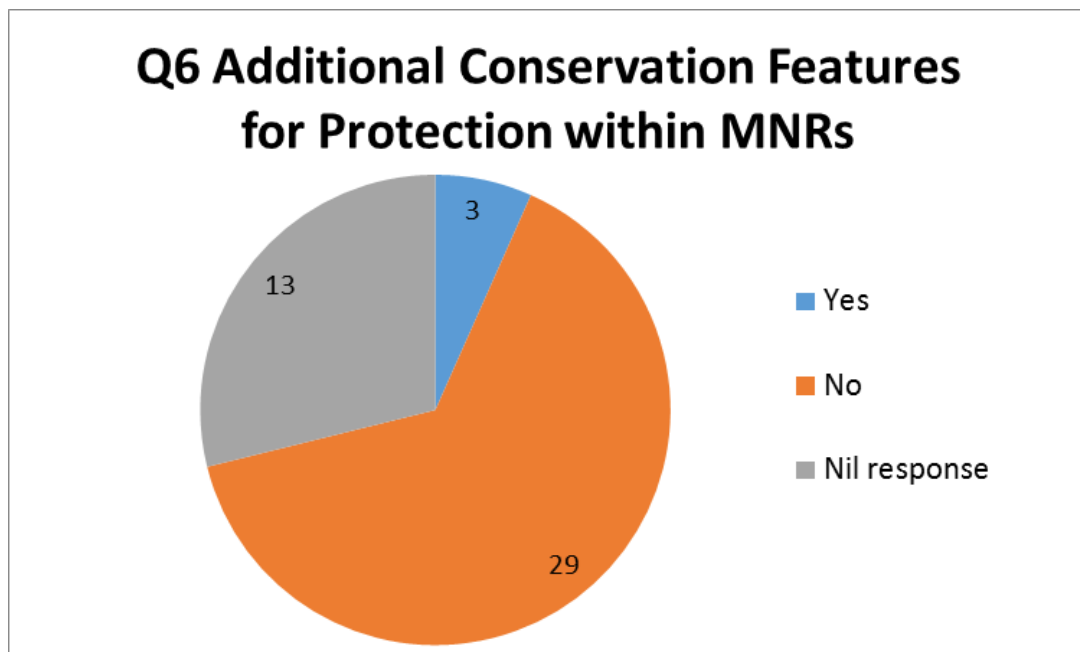
- Work with stakeholders to designate some total no-take zones within proposed conservation areas and monitor over the next 3-5 years.
- As one of the island's landmark sites for tourism and recreational outdoor activities, Calf of Man MNR should be a no-take-zone with high protection for all wildlife.
- Fishing industry typically do not support complete ban of mobile gear in proposed MNRs
- Langness management should include 'no damage to sea grass beds'.
- Ensure recreational angling remains permissible within the zone.
- Sandeels should be removed from the conservation measure for Calf/Wart Bank.

- Western MNR: catch and return angling for European eels.
- Consider extension of current inshore restrictions on netting.

CONCLUSION

There is reduced support for proposed management measures where existing interests are most affected. As such, future management in such areas may require further consideration and discussion.

6. Do you know of any additional conservation features that should be protected within the proposed Marine Nature Reserves?



Details of the feature(s) and how they should be protected:

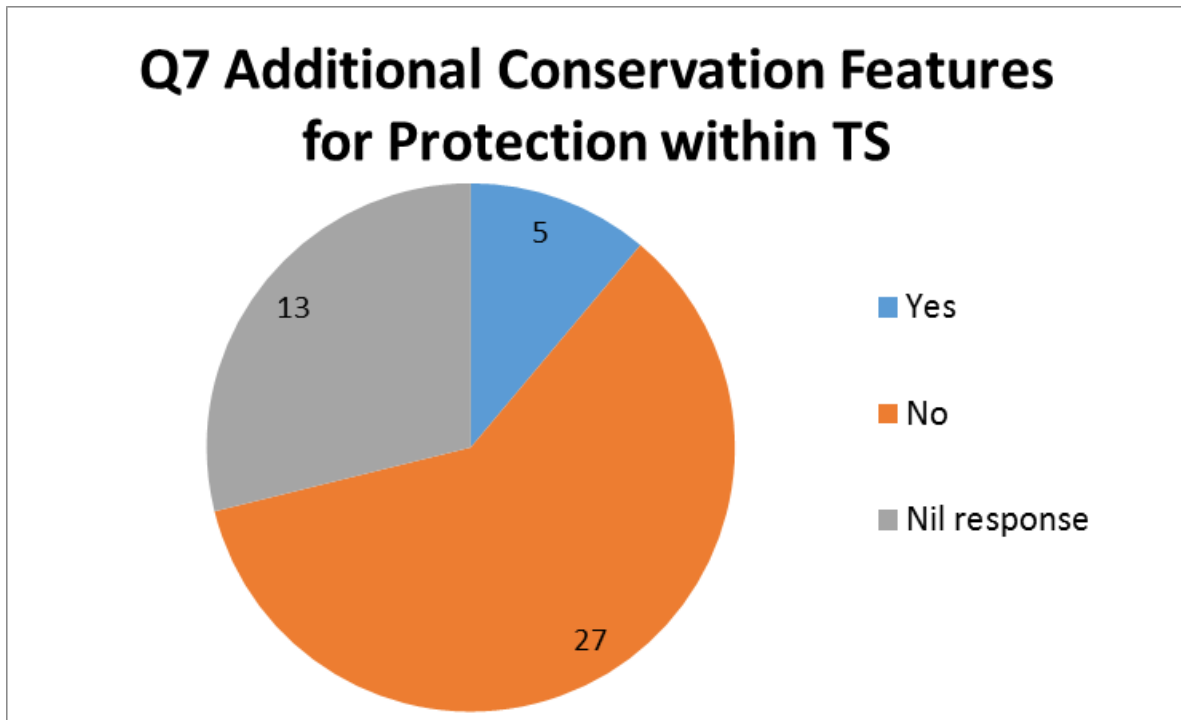
- Sand eels should be better protected, no specific recommendations.
- Seagrass coverage in Laxey may be expanding.
- Are Tope (and spurdog, bass, seatrout) sufficiently protected from commercial and recreational fishing (catch and release as a general rule)?

CONCLUSION

As for Question 4, answering this question probably requires specific knowledge of the sites themselves, which may explain the relatively high 'nil-response' rate (29%). From responses received, which does include people with experience of these areas, it can be concluded that there are no additional significant conservation features known for the proposed sites at this time. Survey work in the future may provide additional details on specific sites.

It may be further concluded that the conservation features identified generally reflect the conservation value of the nominated sites, and their justification for designation as MNRs.

7. Do you know of any additional conservation features that should be protected elsewhere in Manx territorial waters?



Details of the feature(s) and how they should be protected:

- Ensure depletion of wrasse (for salmon aquaculture purposes) does not occur in Manx waters.
- Sand-eels; mobile fishing and angling in a limited number of sites (*presumed to indicate wider protection of sand eels is required*), but that some bait catching for anglers should be permitted.
- Where scarce populations of animals and/or rare habitats under threat are identified, consider protection/restrictions in areas in the 3 to 12 mile zone.
- Mud habitats in west, NW offshore and southern *Sabellaria* reefs, pelagic habitats around fronts, *Modiolus* (horse mussel) beyond 3 M in NE and SE.
- 'Close the whole inshore mile to mobile gear and anchoring.'
- 'Catch and release' policies expanded where appropriate'.

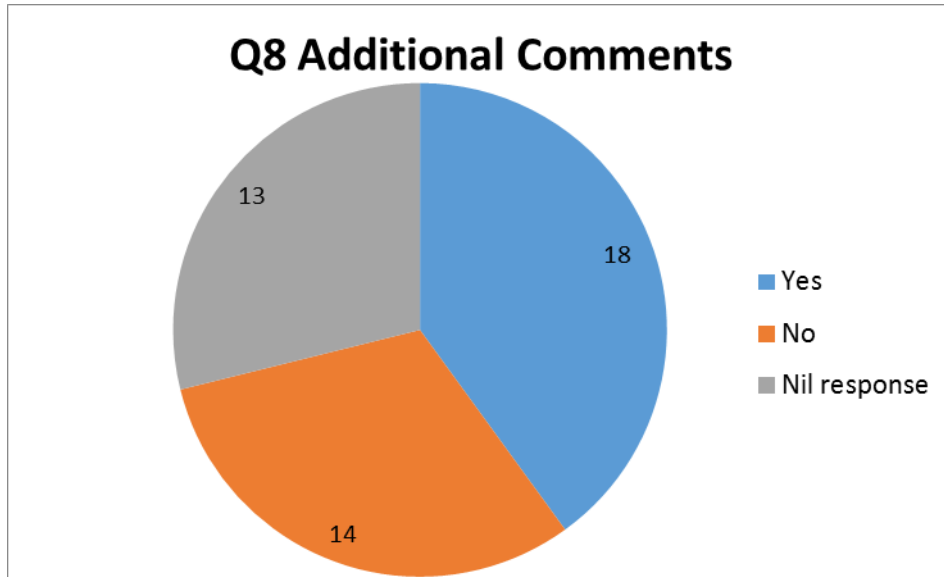
CONCLUSIONS

As for questions 4 and 6, responding to this probably requires specific knowledge of the wider territorial sea, which again may explain the relatively high 'nil-response' rate (29%). From received responses, which do include people with experience of the wider territorial sea, it can be concluded that there are no additional significant conservation features known at this time. Survey work in the future may provide additional details for specific areas.

It may be further concluded that the conservation features identified within the proposed MNRs generally reflect the primary conservation sites within the territorial sea, and the primary justification of the proposed MNR designations.

8. Do you have any further comments on these proposals?

Most (60%) of respondents did not have additional comments to make on the proposals, however a number of additional comments were received.



Further Comments

- Generally positive support for establishing MNRs and the overall marine conservation approach.
- Consideration needs to be given to any future development of Douglas harbour.
- Programme for Government's policy statement limits itself to maximising 'the social and economic value of our territorial seabed', without mention of environmental value.
- Establishing MNRs in 3 to 12 miles zone to reflect species range in our waters. Limited impact on local fishermen since zone is shared with other countries.
- Need to consider future aquaculture proposals and aggregate extraction within management arrangements.
- Identify and protect scallop spat/juveniles and other fish nursery areas.
- Seasonal protection for basking sharks.
- Any future extension into offshore areas should not prevent economic development opportunities.
- Controlled and limited fishing access in MNRs (within designated FMZs) would ensure protection of key habitats, allow for new conservation measures and enable 'buy-in' from fishing industry. Would contribute to 0-3 management.
- Consider vessel displacement if too many areas are closed to mobile fishing.
- Anchoring within some (proposed MNR) areas is necessary for safety or when harbour berths are full.
- Generally excellent. Important to work with all stakeholders to get compliance in proposed designations. Some places left without designation to act as controls, and for people to have fun fishing and make living from the sea.
- Consideration of climate change implications (as noted in Programme for Government)
- Marine litter needs to be considered.

END OF RESPONSES SECTION

The following text is reproduced from the original consultation document;

- *Unless specifically requested otherwise (see below), responses received may be published either in part or in their entirety, together with the name of the person or body submitting the response. If you are responding on behalf of a group it would be helpful to make your position clear. To ensure that the process is open and honest responses can only be accepted if you provide your full name with your response.*
- *The purpose of consultation is not to be a referendum. It is an information, views and evidence gathering exercise from which to take an informed decision on the content of proposed legislation or policy. As with any consultation exercise, the responses received do not guarantee changes will be made to what has been proposed.*
- *Confidentiality*
In line with DEFA's policy of openness, at the end of the consultation period copies of the responses we receive may be published in a summary of the responses to this consultation. If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated as confidential. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in email responses will not be treated as such a request. Respondents should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which DEFA will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2015.

Any comments on this summary report should be sent in writing and preferably by email to:

Fisheries Directorate
DEFA
The Slieau Whallian
Foxdale Road
St Johns
Isle of Man
IM4 3AS

Email: fisheries@gov.im

Tel: (01624) 685857 – Fisheries Enquiries

Appendix 1 Consultation Stakeholder List

Individual owners: Isle of Man registered commercial fishing vessels

Fishermen's organisations:

Manx Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Baie ny Carrickey Crustacean Fisheries Management Association

Seafood processors and related:

IOM Scallop Processors Association
Devereaux
Island Seafare
Isle of Man Seafood Products Ltd
C B Horne and Co.
Robinsons
Carrick Bay Seafoods

Environmental groups:

Manx Wildlife Trust
Manx Basking Shark Watch
Manx Whale & Dolphin Watch
Manx Society for Marine Conservation
SeaSearch Isle of Man
Friends of the Earth (IoM)
Manx Conservation Forum
Manx National Heritage
Society for the Preservation of Manx Countryside & the Environment
Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

Marine-related businesses and recreational organisations:

Anglers Forum
Isle of Man Angling Federation
Ramsey, Peel, Mannin Angling Clubs
Isle of Man Charter Skippers Association
Adventurous Experiences
7th Wave
Gemini Charter Angling
Discover Diving
Isle of Man Sub Aqua Club
Isle of Man Aquaholics
Isle of Man Steam Packet Company
Mezeron

Other:

All Members of Tynwald
Attorney General's Office
Local Authorities
Isle of Man Government Departments, Chief Officers
Law Society
DEFRA
JNCC