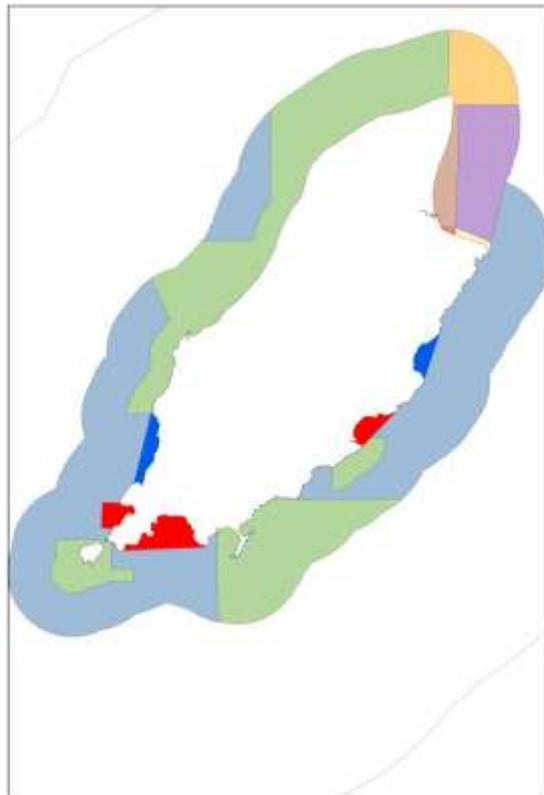




**Isle of Man**  
Government

*Reillys Ellan Vannin*

## **Consultation on the designation of inshore Marine Nature Reserves**



**Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture**

*Rheynn Chymmhtaght, Bee as Eirinys*

**Consultation Paper**

**June 2017**

# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Objectives of consultation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Designation of current Conservation Zones as Marine Nature Reserves:</b>	<b>7</b>
	• <b>Little Ness</b>	<b>8</b>
	• <b>Langness</b>	<b>9</b>
	• <b>Calf of Man and Wart Bank</b>	<b>10</b>
	• <b>West Coast</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Extension of protection of Fisheries Closed Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas:</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>Port Erin</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Douglas</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Baie ny Carrickey</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Niarbyl</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>Laxey</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Proposed additional management measures for Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Feedback on consultation</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Consultation response form</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Appendix 1 – Features of Conservation Importance</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Appendix 2 – List of consultees</b>	<b>31</b>

## 1. Introduction

“We have a natural and built environment which we conserve and cherish and which is adapted to cope with the threats from climate change.”

Isle of Man Programme for Government, 2016-2021.

The work of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) is guided by the core principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability. Seeking to apply these principles to the fisheries sector, the Department is progressing options for protecting the marine environment and supporting sustainable fisheries in the Isle of Man territorial sea.

In the DEFA delivery plan for the Programme for Government 2016-2021 there is a commitment to increase the proportion of territorial seabed which is protected as marine nature reserve, from the current level of 3% to at least 6%. This target is aligned to the Programme for Government outcome “We have a diverse economy where people choose to work and invest” and the policy statement “Maximise the social and economic value of our territorial seabed.”

The Isle of Man Government is a signatory to the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Convention on Biological Diversity was extended to the Isle of Man in 2012. The Isle of Man Biodiversity Strategy, agreed by Tynwald in 2015, has a target of 10% of marine areas under some form of protection by 2020, in line with the Aichi target of the Convention of Biological Diversity.

‘Marine Protected Area’ is a broad term for an area of the sea which is protected from human impacts, to varying degrees. Protection ranges from full protection of areas as “No Take” through to minimal protection from particular activities. Many Marine Protected Areas fall somewhere in between, offering appropriate protection from the most damaging activities, whilst allowing well-managed sustainable use of the areas.

Marine Protected Areas are a management tool acknowledged to protect habitats and species and they can also be effective in promoting sustainable fisheries. These areas protect spawning populations and nursery habitats of species of commercial and conservation importance. They also offer an opportunity for rare or declining species to recover and thrive, in the absence of damaging activities. Many marine species have a life stage when they are part of the plankton, which enables Marine Nature Reserves to provide a source of young animals and plants which can move out of the protected area into surrounding areas, resulting in widespread benefits from protecting a relatively small area of the sea.

Marine Protected Areas are also increasingly being acknowledged for the role they can play in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, with a recent paper identifying Marine Protected Areas as a “viable, low-tech, cost-effective adaptation strategy that would yield multiple co-benefits from local to global scales, improving the outlook for the environment and people into the future.” (Roberts et al 2017).

There are currently 10 Marine Protected Areas in the Isle of Man, forming a network that has been building since 1989. Some areas, such as Port Erin Closed Area and Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve have been well-studied and provide examples of how protection can benefit fisheries and the environment. Many of the areas also form the marine core zone of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, which gives international recognition to the Isle of Man’s

environment, culture and heritage. This consultation focuses on developing this Marine Protected Area network, improving the protection offered and clearly identifying the conservation features being protected. The creation of new Marine Protected Areas is not within the scope of this consultation, but we do ask a question about sites of conservation importance which should be considered in future.

The Isle of Man Territorial Sea is an open access resource used by commercial fishermen, recreational anglers and a wide variety of commercial, leisure and scientific users. These users of the sea hold a wealth of knowledge which can complement the scientific information collected by DEFA and our partner organisations and we welcome input from as many people as possible.

## **2. Objectives of the consultation**

This consultation builds on a long term project to identify areas of conservation importance and to start the process of designating Marine Nature Reserves in Manx waters, which started in 2008, and ongoing work to improve the sustainability of Manx fisheries, working in partnership with the fishing industry.

As part of this process, extensive public consultation and scientific research has been carried out. An extensive consultation with key stakeholders and a full public consultation on inshore zoning and scallop management in May 2016 resulted in the protection of 4 new Conservation Zones from mobile fishing gear and a significant reduction in the number of vessels fishing for king scallops within the 0-3 mile zone (Phase 1 of the Inshore Zoning Project). This consultation seeks the views of stakeholders on further protection measures, Phase 2 of the Inshore Zoning Project

This consultation has the following objectives:

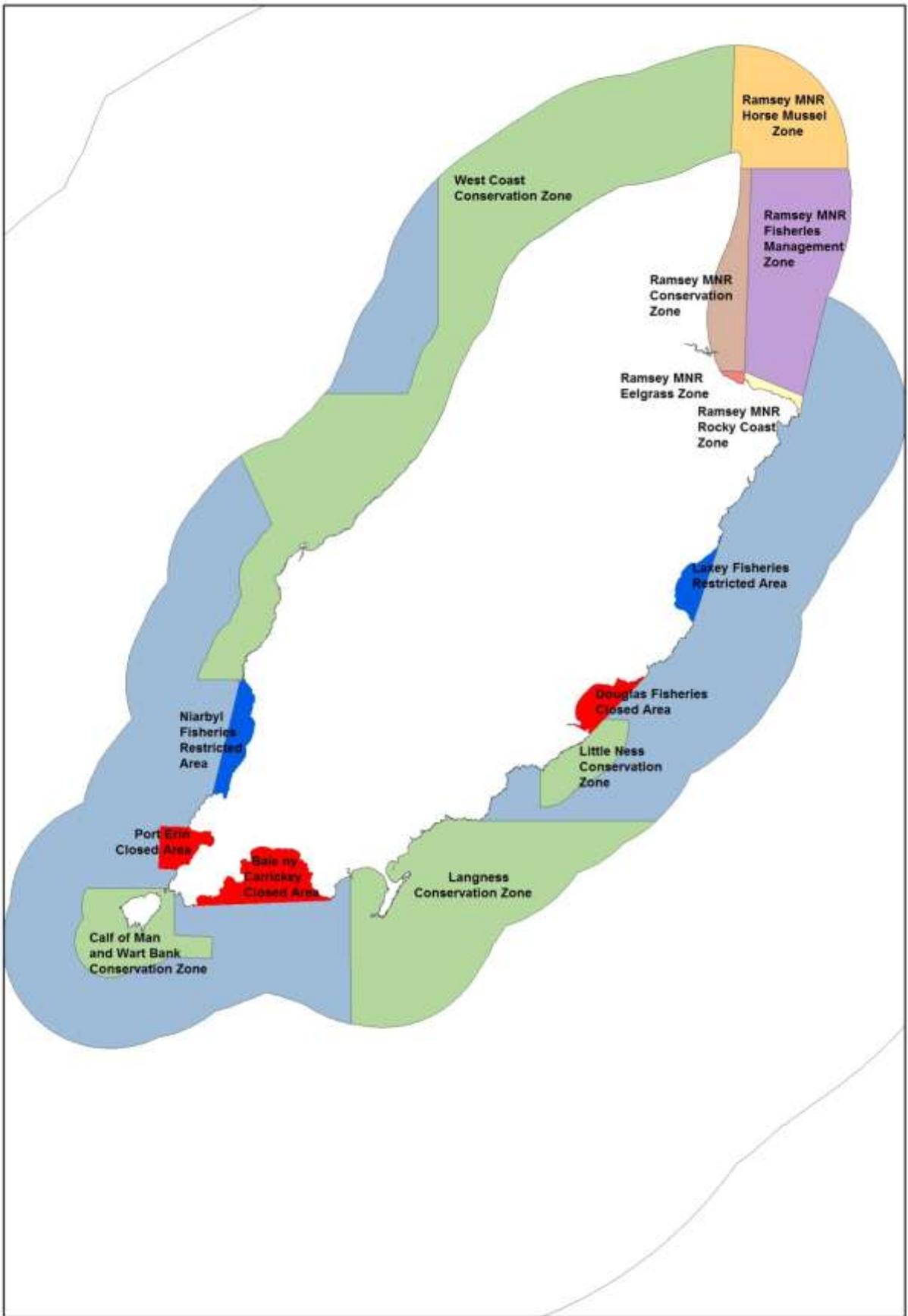
1. To gain feedback on the designation of the current inshore Conservation Zones as Marine Nature Reserves and the implementation of additional conservation measures.
2. To consult on the future of the Niarbyl and Laxey Fisheries Restricted Areas and the Douglas Fisheries Closed Area, which expire at 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 bring it in line with the other proposed Marine Nature Reserves.
5. To get input from the public 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 designation in future.

### **3. Background**

The Isle of Man already has a network of 10 Marine Protected Areas. This consultation seeks to define the conservation features of the 10 sites and improve management measures for these defined features. This consultation does not suggest any new areas for marine protection, only increased protection 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 Areas (designated 2009)
- Niarbyl Fisheries Restricted Areas (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)

The network has been developed through a dedicated project to protect Manx marine features, the Manx Marine Nature Reserve Project which began in 2008 (Gell and Hanley 2013) and through fisheries management initiatives. A high level of engagement with stakeholders has been essential in the development of these areas. Extensive research and survey by DEFA, Bangor University, local environmental organisations and visiting students and researchers has also been essential to inform the development of these areas.



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

#### **4. Designation of current Conservation Zones as Marine Nature Reserves**

After a long consultation process with the fishing industry in 2015-16 and a full public consultation in 2016, DEFA brought in a new network of Conservation Zones in November 2016. The four new Conservation Zones are:

- Little Ness Conservation Zone
- Langness Conservation Zone
- Calf of Man and Wart Bank Conservation Zone
- West Coast Conservation Zone

These zones are protected from mobile fishing gear (trawls and dredges) by fisheries licence conditions. The zones were developed to protect key marine habitats and species that have been identified over the past 10 years, through scientific survey and stakeholder consultation. Important habitats protected include horse mussel reefs at Little Ness and Jurby, maerl beds and an eelgrass meadow at Langness and rocky reefs at the Calf of Man. Key information about the conservation features is presented in this consultation, and additional evidence and information can be found in the Manx Marine Environmental Assessment: [www.gov.im/categories/planning-and-building-control/marine-planning/manx-marine-environmental-assessment/](http://www.gov.im/categories/planning-and-building-control/marine-planning/manx-marine-environmental-assessment/)

And on the DEFA Fisheries Directorate website: [www.gov.im/mnr](http://www.gov.im/mnr)

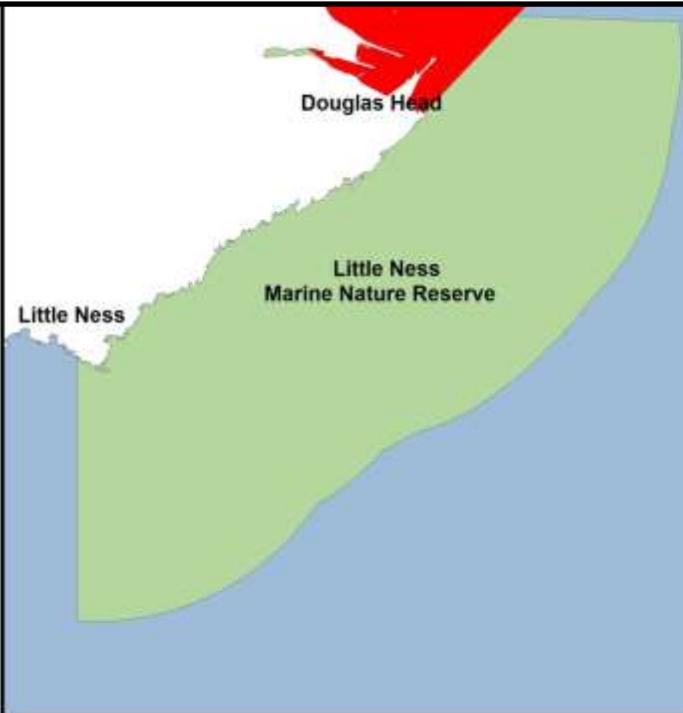
Additional reports and MSc theses can be found at:  
<http://fisheries-conservation.bangor.ac.uk/iom/reports.php.en>

Whilst mobile fishing gear, particularly scallop dredging, has been identified as one of the primary threats to marine habitats, there are other impacts on the conservation features which need to be managed. Examples include activities that may damage sensitive eelgrass meadows, such as anchoring or potting, or activities that may smother diverse horse mussel reef habitats such as the dumping of dredged material. Some species are also at risk from direct extraction, for example the long-lived bivalve the ocean quahog. In this consultation we define the conservation features for each of the current Conservation Zones and propose additional protection measures to be put in place when the sites are designated as Marine Nature Reserves. It is proposed that in most cases these measures will have a statutory basis, as Marine Nature Reserve byelaws, but in some cases voluntary measures may be more appropriate.

The conservation features identified include species protected under Manx law and species and habitats listed as threatened or declining under the OSPAR Convention and other international agreements. Further information about the features of conservation importance can be found on the DEFA web page (link given above).

Full details of the conservation features and the new conservation measures proposed for the 4 Conservation Zones proposed to be designated as Marine Nature Reserves are given in the following tables. Each table described the site, the conservation features and the proposed management measures.

## Little Ness Marine Nature Reserve (currently Little Ness Conservation Zone)



### Conservation Features

#### Primary:

- horse mussel reefs
- maerl beds
- sea anemone *Edwardsia timida*
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- harbour porpoise
- Risso's dolphin
- black guillemot
- fulmar
- shag
- lesser black back gull
- raven
- chough
- peregrine

#### Additional:

- whiting spawning ground
- herring spawning

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- horse mussels
- maerl
- ocean quahog
- *Edwardsia timida*
- European eel

#### No dumping of dredged material

No anchoring on horse mussel reef (currently a designated anchoring zone, so initially it is proposed that this is done through education and awareness and a voluntary measure)

#### Current management (to continue)

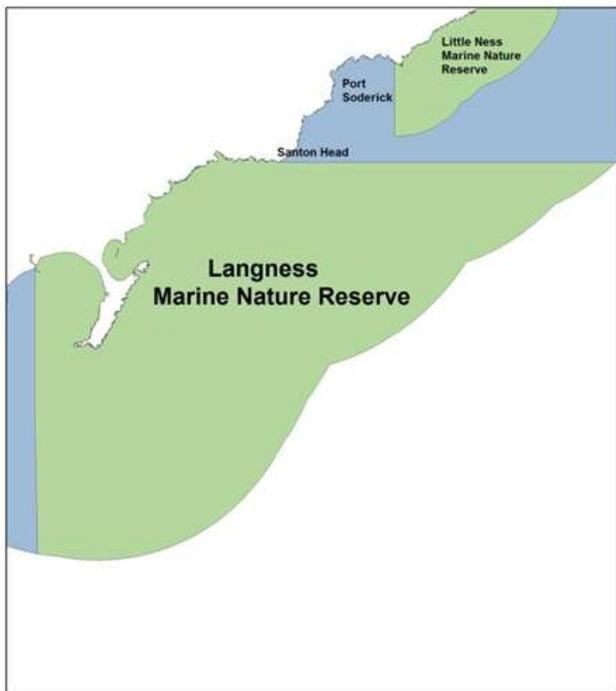
- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)



The Little Ness horse mussel reef: a spider crab and other marine life on densely packed horse mussels. Photo: Caroline Perry and Phil Roriston

Site description: Little Ness Marine Nature Reserve extends from Douglas Bay in the north, to just beyond Little Ness in the south, and out to 1 nautical mile. The key conservation feature of this site is the rich horse mussel reef, which is well-studied and acknowledged to be one of the most diverse and densely packed horse mussel reefs in the British Isles. 296 species of marine animal have been identified from the horse mussel reef and the habitat provides a nursery ground for whelk, an important commercial species. Marine Drive is a well-known area for cetacean watching and Risso's dolphins, harbour porpoise, minke whale and bottlenose dolphin. The coast is important for seabirds, including black guillemot, fulmar, shag and lesser black back gull.

## Langness Marine Nature Reserve (currently Langness Conservation Zone)



### Conservation Features

- maerl beds
- eelgrass meadows
- sea caves
- horse mussel reefs
- intertidal mud habitat
- kelp forest
- sea anemone *Edwardsia timida*
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)
- dog whelk
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- grey seal and common seal
- basking shark
- harbour porpoise
- Risso's dolphin
- fulmar
- lesser black back gull
- herring gull

### Additional:

- cod and herring spawning ground

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- horse mussels
- maerl
- eelgrass beds
- ocean quahog
- *Edwardsia timida*
- European eel
- sea caves
- intertidal mud habitat
- kelp forest

#### No dumping of dredged material

No potting or anchoring in the eelgrass meadow (a small zone between Langness and Fort Island)

#### Current management (to continue)

- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)



The Fort Island eelgrass meadow.

Photo: Tony Glen,  
Seasearch Isle of Man

Site description: Langness Marine Nature Reserve extends from Santon Head to Castletown Bay, from astronomical high tide, out to 3 nautical miles from shore. The key conservation features of the site include the eelgrass meadow between the Langness Peninsula and Fort Island, maerl beds offshore and sea caves close to the airport runway extension. There is a grey seal haul out site at the southern end of the Langness peninsula and the area is used by Risso's dolphins and harbour porpoise. There are areas of horse mussel reef which are thought to be part of a much large reef area recorded in the 1950s.

## Calf of Man and Wart Bank Marine Nature Reserve (currently Calf of Man and Wart Bank Conservation Zone)



### Conservation Features

- rocky reef
- kelp forest
- subtidal sandbank
- sea caves
- maerl beds
- the sea anemone *Edwardsia timida*
- spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*)
- flame shell (*Limaria hians*)
- dog whelk (*Nucella lapillus*)
- sand eel
- basking shark
- grey seals and common seals
- Risso's dolphin and minke whale
- Harbour porpoise
- puffins
- kittiwakes
- fulmars
- eider ducks
- lesser black back gull
- Manx shearwater
- Herring gull
- Purple sandpiper

### Additional (previously recorded from site)

- horse mussel reef
- *Pentapora folicea*

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- rocky reef
- kelp forest
- subtidal sandbank
- sea caves
- maerl beds
- the sea anemone *Edwardsia timida*
- spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*)
- flame shell (*Limaria hians*)
- dog whelk (*Nucella lapillus*)
- sand eel

#### No dumping of dredged material

#### Current management (to continue)

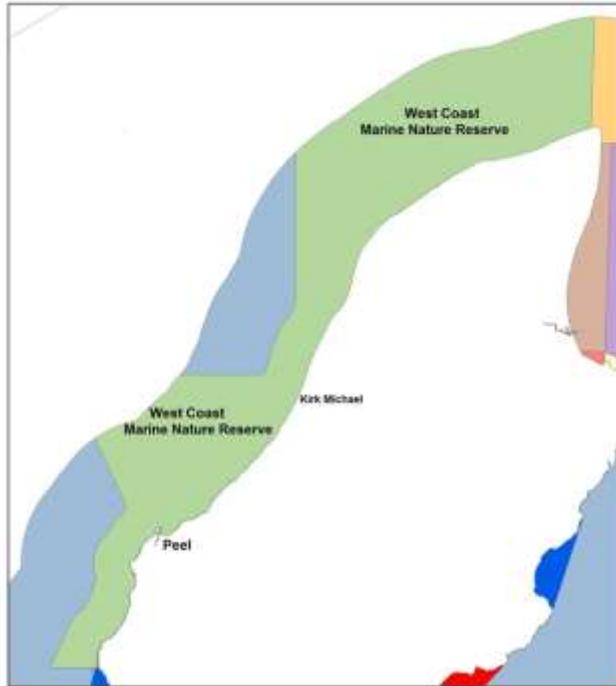
- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)



Rocky reef habitat at the Calf of Man - a wall of anemones, and hydroids. Photo: Chris Wood, Seasearch

**Site description:** The Calf of Man and Wart Bank Marine Nature Reserve extends from the Sound, around the Calf of Man to a maximum of 1 nautical mile from shore. The key conservation feature of the Calf of Man is the diverse, well-studied rocky reef habitat. Rich walls of animal turf are found at sites all around the Calf of Man, making it a well-known dive site. An extension to the east of the area provides protection to Wart Bank, an important sand bank feature associated with sand eel populations, important for fish, marine mammal and bird feeding. The isolated beaches and sea caves around the Calf are important for grey seal pupping, and Kitterland (an islet between the Isle of Man and the Calf) and the coast of the Calf are important seal haulout sites. The sea caves are also used by purple sand piper.

## West Coast Marine Nature Reserve (currently West Coast Conservation Zone)



A king scallop in rich horse mussel reef habitat off Jurby.

Photo: Caroline Perry and Phil Roriston

### Conservation Features

#### Primary

- maerl
- horse mussel reef
- rocky reef
- intertidal blue mussel beds
- dog whelk *Nucella lapillus*
- plaice spawning and plaice nursery
- European eel
- Grey seal
- basking sharks
- harbour porpoise
- kittiwakes
- shag
- fulmar
- black guillemot
- gannet
- Manx shearwater
- little tern
- Arctic tern
- lesser black back gull
- puffin
- herring gull

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- maerl
- horse mussel reef
- rocky reef
- dog whelk *Nucella lapillus*
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- intertidal blue mussel beds

**No dumping of dredged material (outside the current licensed dump site off Peel)**

#### Current management (to continue)

- **No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)**

**Site description:** The West Coast Marine Nature Reserve runs from Elby Point north to the Point of Ayre, and from astronomical high tide, out to at least one nautical mile and up to three nautical miles. Key conservation features within this site include horse mussel reef off the Jurby coast, maerl beds and plaice spawning and nursery areas. The coast is important for basking sharks and is also used by harbour porpoise. A wide range of seabirds nest and forage along this coastline and sea area, including puffins off Peel Hill, and Manx shearwaters, little terns and Arctic terns off the Ayres.

## **6. Extension of Protection of Fisheries Closed Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas**

At the moment the Isle of Man network of Marine Protected Areas is protected under a mixture of different designations. The Fisheries Closed Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas were originally established as fisheries management measures, allowing scallop populations to increase and providing a source of young scallops to seed fishing grounds elsewhere.

The Port Erin Closed Area is the oldest of the Marine Protected Areas and was established in 1989. This site is permanently closed to scallop fishing. As the longest protected area of seabed in the Territorial Sea, this site has particular ecological and historical importance. The scallop populations of the Closed Area were studied by scientists at Port Erin Marine Laboratory, and more recently there have been surveys of the marine habitats of the Bay. Research on scallop populations in Port Erin Closed Area between 1989 and 2006 showed large increases in scallop densities and hence the capacity for those scallops to produce scallop larvae that could then seed fishing grounds in Manx waters and further afield. Historically, Port Erin Bay is known to have been important for eelgrass, but this species has not been recorded recently. Port Erin Closed Area is permanently protected from mobile fishing gear, but we propose to extend the protection of the site to ensure that important conservation features are protected in the long term.

Douglas Closed Area was closed at the request of the fishing industry in 2008, with the intention of establishing a long term Fisheries Closed Area like the Port Erin Closed Area. A systematic survey of the marine habitats in Douglas was carried out by Bangor University and DEFA in 2016. Maerl, a conservation priority habitat, has been found in the Bay. The area does include good habitat for king scallops, so it is likely that king scallop populations are present but further data analysis is required to quantify densities for this site. On the basis of the importance of maerl habitat and other conservation features, we propose permanent protection of this site as a Marine Nature Reserve.

Baie ny Carrickey was closed to mobile fishing in 2012. The closure was subsequently made permanent. Since the initial closure of the Bay additional features of conservation importance have been identified, most notably an eelgrass bed near Gansey Point. During habitat surveys in 2015 further conservation features were identified, including maerl beds. On the basis of the importance of these habitats it is proposed to designate Baie ny Carrickey as a Marine Nature Reserve with conservation measures to protect key features.

Full details of the conservation features and proposed conservation management measures for designating the Fisheries Closed Areas as Marine Nature Reserves can be found in the following tables:

## Proposed Port Erin Marine Nature Reserve (currently Port Erin Closed Area)



### Conservation Features

#### Primary

- kelp forest
- rocky reef
- brittlestar bed
- ocean quahog
- flame shell
- stalked jellyfish *Lucernariopsis campanulata*
- dog whelk
- gannet
- shag
- fulmars
- herring gulls
- harbour porpoise
- basking shark

#### Additional

- former eelgrass site
- plaice nursery

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- Kelp forest
- Rocky reef
- ocean quahog
- flame shell
- stalked jellyfish *Lucernariopsis campanulata*
- dog whelk

#### No dumping of dredged material

#### Current management (to continue)

- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)



Brittlestars, hydroids and a scallop in Port Erin Bay

Photo: Bangor University

Site description: Port Erin Closed Area was established in 1989 and is the oldest Marine Protected Area in Isle of Man waters. The area extends from Bradda Head to just beyond Bay Fine, from high astronomical tide. The core zone of the Closed Area has not been fished by mobile gear for 18 years and is an example of scallop fishing ground that has been allowed to recover and regenerate into a rich seabed habitat. Kelp beds are an important habitat within the Bay and there are also patches of brittlestar bed. Historical survey information from Port Erin Marine Laboratory shows areas of eelgrass in 1919 and there are anecdotal accounts of the presence of eelgrass habitat more recently, so there is potential for this habitat to recover/be restored in the area.

## Proposed Douglas Marine Nature Reserve (currently Douglas Closed Area)



Maerl bed habitat in Douglas Bay.

Photo: Chyanna Allison, Bangor University

### Conservation Features

#### Primary

- maerl
- rocky reef
- kelp forest
  
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- dog whelk *Nucella lapillus*
  
- bottlenose dolphin
- Risso's dolphin
  
- cormorant
- shag

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- maerl
- rocky reef
- kelp forest
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- dog whelk *Nucella lapillus*

#### No dumping of dredged material

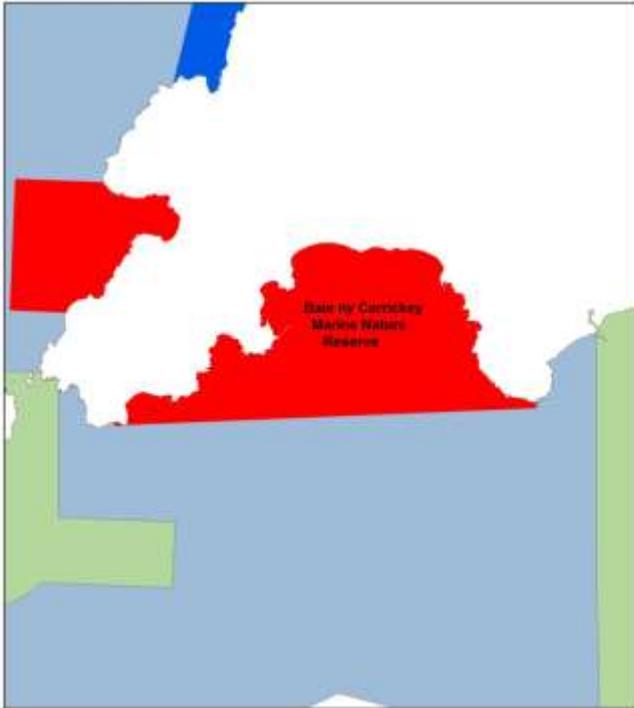
#### No anchoring with fishing gear, except in a defined zone.

#### Current management (to continue)

- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)

Site description: Douglas Marine Nature Reserve extends from Onchan Head south to Douglas Head, excluding the harbour area. The primary conservation feature is the maerl habitat found throughout the Bay. Significant areas of live maerl have been found and there are also large areas of dead maerl. Other important habitats include kelp forest and rocky reef, with communities of soft corals and sponges. Despite being a busy commercial Bay, the area is regularly used by bottlenose dolphins and Risso's dolphin, and cormorant and shag.

## Proposed Baie ny Carrickey Marine Nature Reserve (currently Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area)



Maerl habitat in Baie ny Carrickey

Photo: Bangor University

### Conservation Features

- rocky reef
- maerl
- eelgrass
- sea caves
- kelp forest
- European eel
- dog whelk
- spiny lobster
  
- basking shark
- harbour porpoise
- Risso's dolphin
- Bottlenose dolphin
  
- razorbill
- common guillemot
- fulmars
- kittiwakes
- eider ducks
- black guillemot
- puffin

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- rocky reef
- maerl
- eelgrass
- sea caves
- kelp forest
- European eel
- dog whelk
- spiny lobster

#### No dumping of dredged material

No potting or anchoring in the eelgrass meadow (a small zone to the west of the site)

#### No anchoring using fishing gear

#### Current management (to continue)

- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)
- Existing protection of marine mammals, eelgrass and birds

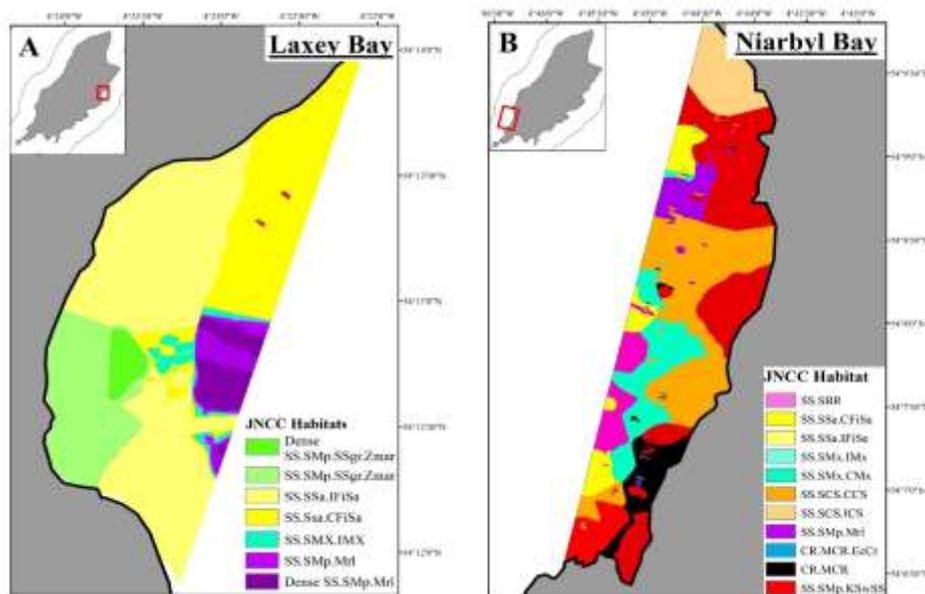
**Site description:** Baie ny Carrickey Marine Nature Reserve extends from Spanish Head to Scarlett Point, encompassing the whole bay and the shore up to astronomical high tide. The key conservation features are maerl beds, eelgrass meadows, rocky reefs and sea caves, with a wide variety of other habitats.

The coast is used by a wide variety of seabirds, many of which also forage within this area, with important nesting areas for razorbill, common guillemot and kittiwake at the Sugar Loaf. Harbour porpoise are seen year round and Risso's dolphins and bottlenose dolphins are regular visitors.

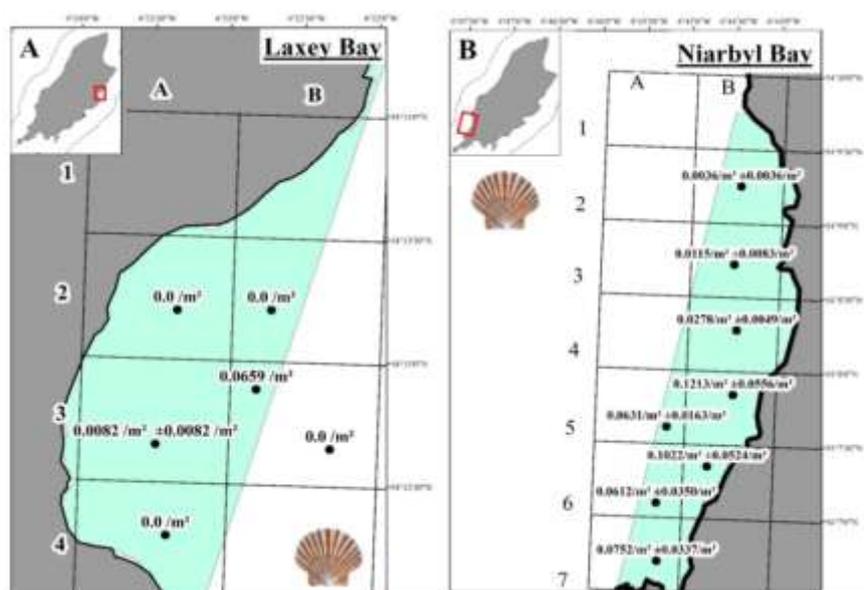
## 7. Laxey and Niarbyl Fisheries Restricted Areas

Laxey and Niarbyl Fisheries Restricted Areas were originally closed in 2009 to facilitate king scallop ranching, whereby the areas could be seeded with scallops, protected from fishing and then harvested at a later date. The areas were seeded with young scallops, but recent surveys indicate that scallop densities in both areas are very low (amongst the lowest of sites surveyed in Manx waters). This is probably because there is limited good scallop habitat within these bays.

A Bangor University survey in 2016 (Allison 2016) assessed scallop densities and also surveyed habitats within both areas. On the basis of the low king scallop populations and the presence of habitats of conservation importance including maerl and eelgrass, the recommendations from that survey were to keep both areas closed in the long term. On the basis of this, we are proposing to extend the protection of both sites from mobile fishing gear, and designating the sites as Marine Nature Reserves on the basis of the presence of features of conservation importance.

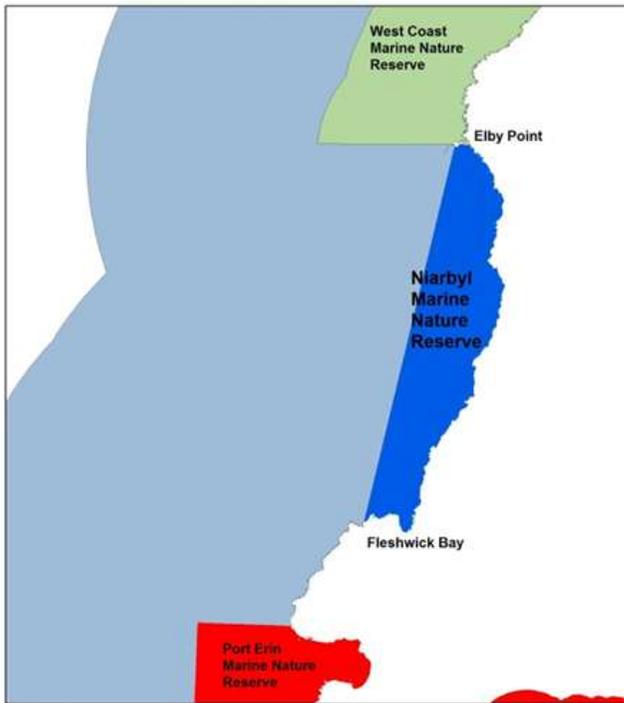


**Figure 2: Habitat maps of Laxey Bay and Niarbyl Bay (C. Allison MSc Thesis 2016)**



**Figure 3: Scallop densities in Laxey Bay and Niarbyl Bay (C. Allison MSc Thesis 2016)**

## Proposed Niarbyl Marine Nature Reserve (currently Niarbyl Fisheries Restricted Area)



Maerl habitat in Niarbyl Marine Nature Reserve.

Photo: Chyanna Allison, Bangor University

### Conservation Features

#### Primary

- maerl
- sea caves
- rocky reef
- kelp forest
- intertidal blue mussel beds
- stalked jellyfish *Lucernariopsis campanulata*
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- dog whelk *Nucella lapillus*
  
- fulmars
- shag
- black guillemot
- lesser black back gull
- herring gull
  
- basking shark
- harbour porpoise
- grey seals

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- maerl
- sea caves
- rocky reef
- kelp forest
- intertidal blue mussel beds
- stalked jellyfish *Lucernariopsis campanulata*
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- dog whelk *Nucella lapillus*

#### No dumping of dredged material

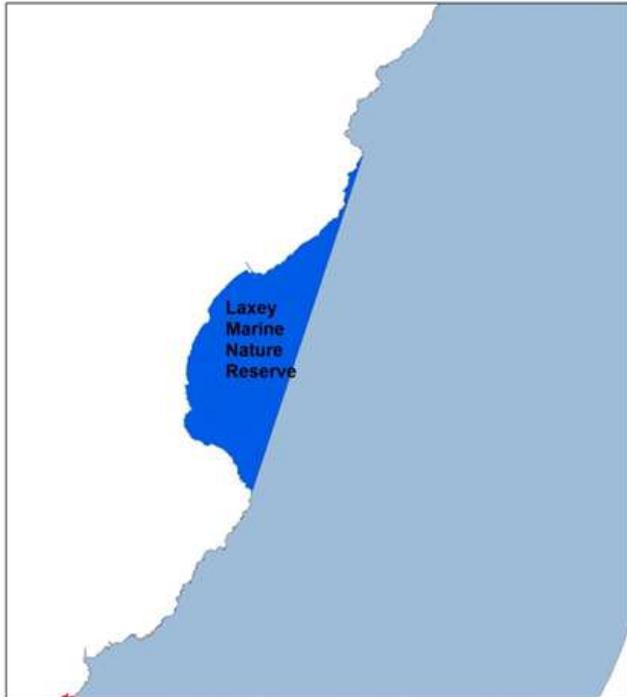
#### Current management (to continue)

- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)

Site description: Niarbyl Marine Nature Reserve extends from Elby Point in the north to Fleshwick Bay in the south. The habitats of the bay had been little studied until a habitat survey was carried out by a Bangor University MSc student in 2016. This survey indicated the presence of maerl and kelp. Sea caves are also recorded from around this coastline. The long-lived bivalve the ocean quahog has been reported from this site.

Surveys in 2016 also indicated that king scallop densities in Niarbyl Fisheries Restricted Area are very low compared to fished grounds, so there would be very limited benefit in re-opening the area to scallop fishing.

## Proposed Laxey Marine Nature Reserve (currently Laxey Fisheries Restricted Area)



### Conservation Features

#### Primary

- Maerl
- eelgrass
- kelp forest
- rocky reef
  
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)
- dog whelk *Nucella lapillus*
  
- minke whale
- harbour porpoise
- bottlenose dolphins
  
- black guillemot
- herring gull
- lesser black back gull
- fulmar
- shag

### Proposed management measures

#### No extraction of or damage to:

- Maerl
- eelgrass
- kelp forest
- rocky reef
  
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)
- dog whelk *Nucella lapillus*

#### No dumping of dredged material

#### No potting and no anchoring on the eelgrass bed at Garwick (a small zone)

#### Current management (to continue)

- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)



Garwick Bay eelgrass, in the south of Laxey Bay.

Photo: Tony Glen, Seasearch Isle of Man

**Site description:** The Laxey Marine Nature Reserve runs from Carrick Roayrt north of Laxey to Clay Head. The area has been closed to mobile fishing gear since 2009, as a Fisheries Restricted Area. The main conservation features of Laxey Bay are the maerl beds to the north and east, the eelgrass bed in Garwick Bay to the south. There are also relatively large numbers of the long-lived bivalve the ocean quahog within the bay.

Minke whales are frequent visitors to the Bay in the Autumn and harbour porpoise regularly use the area.

## **8. Proposed additional conservation features and management measures for Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve**

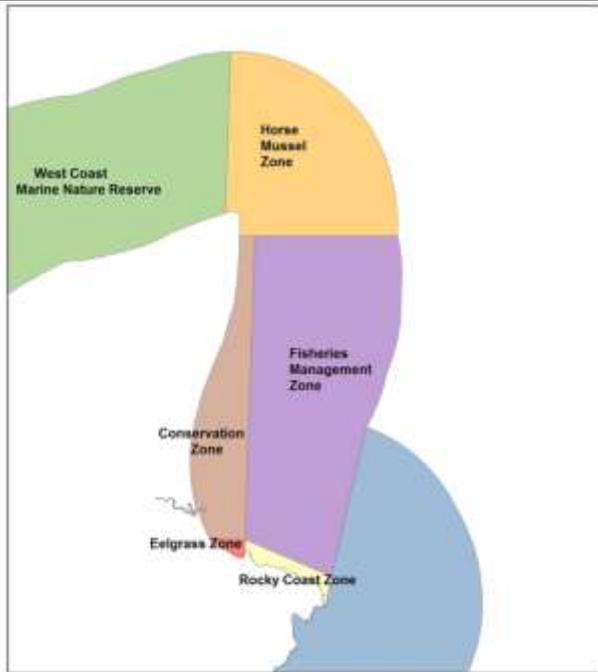
Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve was designated in 2011 after an extensive public consultation process. The key conservation features protected at the time included maerl beds, horse mussel reefs and eelgrass meadows. The designation of Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve was supported by the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation and they have played a key role in the management of the Fisheries Management Zone.

This consultation seeks to formally identify the conservation features of the site, and

Since designation of the MNR comprehensive surveys and regular monitoring have highlighted additional areas of eelgrass along the Maughold Brooghs coast (within the voluntary Rocky Shore Zone) and around the Queen's Pier. It is proposed that these areas will be protected.

It is also proposed that management measures will be put in place to allow fishing vessels to anchor using their fishing gear in a small dedicated area, whilst protecting the rest of the Bay from this potentially damaging activity.

## Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve – conservation features and proposed additional conservation measures



Horse mussel reef in the Ballacash Channel, Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve.

Photo: Rohan Holt, Natural Resources Wales

### Conservation Features

- Horse mussel reef
- Maerl
- eelgrass
- rocky reef
- kelp forest
- brittlestar beds
- European eel
- ocean quahog (*Artica islandica*)
- common skate (*Dipturus batis*)
- intertidal blue mussel beds
- dog whelk
- grey seal and common seals
- fulmars
- gannets
- golden eye
- cormorant
- puffin
- kittiwake
- little tern
- Arctic tern
- herring gull

**Additional: juvenile seabass**

**historical records of native oyster**

### Proposed management measures

**No extraction of or damage to:**

- Horse mussel reef, maerl or eelgrass
- rocky reef
- kelp forest
- European eel
- ocean quahog (*Artica islandica*)
- dog whelk
- intertidal blue mussel beds

**No potting or anchoring on eelgrass meadows (a small area within in the Eelgrass Zone and Rocky Coast Zone to be defined)**

**No anchoring with fishing gear, except in a defined zone.**

### Current management (to continue)

- **No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)**
- **Existing protection of marine mammals, eelgrass and birds**
- **Existing MNR byelaws (incl no dumping of dredged materials)**

**Site description: Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve was designated in 2011 and extends from the Point of Ayre to Maughold Head out to 3 nautical miles.**

**The key conservation features are maerl beds, horse mussel reefs and eelgrass beds, along with a wide variety of other important marine habitats.**

## 9. References

**This project has been informed by a wealth of research by local research organisations and visiting researchers. Some of the key references are given below and further references can be found in the relevant Manx Marine Environmental Assessment chapters:**

Allison, C.M. 2016. Assessing the association between scallops, *Pecten Maximus*, and the benthic ecosystem within the Isle of Man marine reserves. MSc thesis, Bangor University.

Barnett C., Selman, R., Hanley, L., Sharpe, C., Spencer, E., Rowan, E., McEvoy, P. 2013. Birds. In Hanley et al., (eds.), Manx Marine Environmental Assessment. Isle of Man Marine Plan. Isle of Man Government, pp. 20

Dempster, N. 2016. Benthic habitat mapping of Ramsay Marine Nature Reserve in the Isle of Man. MSc thesis, Bangor University.

Felce, T., Stone, E., Gell, F.R., Hanley, L. 2013. Marine Mammals-Cetaceans. In Hanley et al., (eds.), Manx Marine Environmental Assessment. Isle of Man Marine Plan. Isle of Man Government, pp. 51

Gell, F.R., Thomas, A., Hanley, L., Tomlinson, P. 2013. Marine and Coastal Conservation. In Hanley et al., (eds.), Manx Marine Environmental Assessment. Isle of Man Marine Plan. Isle of Man Government, pp. 47

Gell, F.R. and Hanley, L. 2013. Subtidal Ecology. In Hanley et al., (eds.), Manx Marine Environmental Assessment. Isle of Man Marine Plan. Isle of Man Government, pp. 45

Gubbay, S. 2000. Review of sites of Marine Nature Conservation Importance around the Isle of Man. A Report to the Manx Wildlife Trust.

Hall, J., Stone, E., Gell, F.R. and Hanley, L. 2013. Basking Sharks. In Hanley et al., (eds.), Manx Marine Environmental Assessment. Isle of Man Marine Plan. Isle of Man Government, pp. 38

Hawkins, S.J., A. J. Geffen & E.M. Fisher. 1990. The status of marine nature conservation in the Isle of Man. A report to the Isle of Man Government. Port Erin Marine Laboratory, University of Liverpool.

OSPAR List of threatened and declining species and habitats: [www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats/list-of-threatened-declining-species-habitats](http://www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats/list-of-threatened-declining-species-habitats)

Roberts, C.M. et al 2017. Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences PNAS 114 (24) 6167-6175.

JNCC and Natural England. 2016. Review of the MCZ Features of Conservation Importance.

Kennington, K. 2011. Ramsey Bay Marine Nature Reserve Base-Line Survey (August 2011). Preliminary Report. DEFA, Isle of Man.

Koskinen, M. 2004. Selecting sites for Marine Protected Areas in Isle of Man Coastal Waters. MRes Placement Project Report to DAFF.

Mackenzie, C.L, R.C. MacPherson and JS Porter. 2017. Assessment of Little Ness (Isle of Man) Horse Mussel Reef. Survey Data, Genetic Analyses, Stress Response. Heriot Watt University Report for the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

Manx Bird Atlas. 1999. Report on a survey of breeding seabirds of the Isle of Man. 84 pp.

May, L. 2015. Identifying habitat associations of European lobster, *Homarus gammarus* (L.) and brown crab, *Cancer pagurus* (L.) in an Isle of Man marine protected area.

Sharpe, C. 2007. Report on a survey of Grey Seals around the Manx coast, undertaken from April 2006 to March 2007. Report to Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Isle of Man Government.

Stone, E., Gell, F.R., Hanley, L. 2013. Marine Mammals-Seals. In Hanley et al., (eds.), Manx Marine Environmental Assessment. Isle of Man Marine Plan. Isle of Man Government, pp. 19

White, S. 2011. Biotope distribution and susceptibility to fishing pressure. MSc Thesis, Bangor University.

## 10. Feedback to the consultation

Please consider the proposals above, the conservation features identified and the conservation measures suggested. Please respond to the questions below and provide any additional information that will help us develop these proposals. It is important to note these options have been prepared for the purpose of consultation and that further refinement may take place in the light of responses received.

Copies of this document may be downloaded from either the DEFA website or from the consultations webpage of the Isle of Man Government website at [www.gov.im/consultations.gov](http://www.gov.im/consultations.gov)

Should you require a paper copy of the consultation document then please contact DEFA Fisheries at the postal or email address indicated below.

You may also respond online using the link provided at:  
<https://www.gov.im/consultations.gov?menuid=16916&type=current>

**A drop in session will be held at DEFA, Thie Slieau Whallian, on Tuesday 11 July from 12-7pm.** It will also be possible to meet with a DEFA officer to discuss the proposals in more detail outside these times if necessary.

If you have any queries please contact the Fisheries Directorate (postal address is given below):

Email: [fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im)

Tel: (01624) 685838

The closing date for the receipt of comments is **5pm on Friday 4 August 2017**

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.

When giving your feedback, please make reference to the specific proposal(s) and questions set out in the document that you wish to comment on/discuss.

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.

## 11.DEFA consultation response form:

### Consultation on the designation of inshore Marine Nature Reserves

Please respond to the consultation by answering these questions. You are welcome to include additional pages as necessary to provide your comments. For collation purposes, it would be helpful if comments could be sent in Microsoft Word format. Anonymous responses will not be considered or included in the summary of comments.

**You may either respond via the online survey at:**

<https://www.gov.im/consultations.gov?menuid=16916&type=current>

**Alternatively, responses should be sent in writing and preferably by email to:**

Fisheries Directorate  
DEFA  
Thie Slieau Whallian  
Foxdale Road  
St John's  
Isle of Man, IM4 3AS

**Email:** [fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im)

**Tel:** (01624) 685857 – Fisheries Enquiries

#### Contact details:

Please supply details of who has completed this response.

Response completed by:

Vessel name & PLN (if appropriate):

Name of organisation or interest group  
(if appropriate):

Position in organisation (if appropriate):

Address:

Contact telephone number  
& email address:

Date:

**Consultation questions:**

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

(a)	Little Ness Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(b)	Langness Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(c)	Calf of Man Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(d)	West Coast Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N

**Any specific comments on these designations:**

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

(a)	Laxey Restricted Area	Y	N
(b)	Niarbyl Restricted Area	Y	N
(c)	Douglas Closed Area	Y	N
(d)	Port Erin Closed Area	Y	N
(e)	Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area	Y	N

**Any specific comments on these designations:**

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

**Y**

**N**

**Any specific comments on this:**

**4. Do you agree with the conservation features identified for each of the Marine Nature Reserves**

<b>(a) Little Ness Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(b) Langness Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(c) Calf of Man Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(d) West Coast Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(e) Laxey Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(f) Niarbyl Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(g) Douglas Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(h) Port Erin Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(i) Baie ny Carrickey Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>(j) Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>

**Any comments on the conservation features:**

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

(a)	Little Ness Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(b)	Langness Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(c)	Calf of Man Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(d)	West Coast Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(e)	Laxey Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(f)	Niarbyl Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(g)	Douglas Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(h)	Port Erin Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(i)	Baie ny Carrickey Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N
(j)	Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve	Y	N

**Any comments on the conservation measures:**

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

Y N

**Please provide details of the feature(s) and how they should be protected:**

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

**Y**

**N**

**Please provide details of the feature(s) and how they should be protected:**

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

**Y**

**N**

## **Appendix 1: Features of conservation importance**

### **OSPAR threatened or declining habitats (those found in IOM waters)**

- Intertidal mudflats
- Maerl beds
- Horse mussel beds
- Intertidal blue mussel beds
- Native oyster beds
- Eelgrass beds

### **OSPAR threatened or declining species:**

- Ocean quahog
- Dog whelk
- Native oyster
- European eel
- Basking shark
- Common skate
- Spotted ray
- Cod
- Porbeagle
- Sea lamprey
- Thornback ray
- White skate
- Salmon
- Spurdog
- Angel shark
- Leatherback turtle
- Harbour porpoise

### **Species protected under the Wildlife Act:**

- Birds
- All whales, dolphins and porpoises
- Turtles
- Grey seals and common seals
- Eelgrass

### **JNCC/Natural England Revised List of MCZ Features of Conservation Importance (see JNCC and Natural England 2016)**

#### **Habitat Features of Conservation Importance**

- Blue Mussel beds (including intertidal beds on mixed and sandy sediments)
- Cold-water coral reefs
- Coral Gardens
- Deep-sea sponge aggregations
- Estuarine rocky habitats
- Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats Intertidal underboulder communities
- Littoral chalk communities
- Maerl beds
- Horse mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) beds
- Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
- Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) beds
- Peat and clay exposures
- Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs
- Ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs
- Seagrass beds
- Sheltered muddy gravels

- Subtidal chalk
- Tide-swept channels

### **Species Features of Conservation Importance**

- Peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*)
- Burgundy maerl paint weed (*Cruoria cruoriaeformis*)
- Grateloup's little-lobed weed (*Grateloupia montagnei*)
- Coral maerl (*Lithothamnion corallioides*)
- maerl (*Phymatolithon calcareum*)
- Tentacled lagoon-worm (*Alkmaria romijni*)
- Lagoon sandworm (*Armandia cirrhosa*)
- Giant goby (*Gobius cobitis*)
- Couch's goby (*Gobius couchi*)
- Long snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*)
- Short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*)
- Trembling sea mat (*Victorella pavida*)
- Sea-fan anemone (*Amphianthus dohrnii*)
- Pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*)
- Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus species*)
- Sunset cup coral (*Leptopsammia pruvoti*)
- Stalked jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis campanulata*)
- Stalked jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*)
- Starlet sea anemone (*Nematostella vectensis*)
- Lagoon sand shrimp (*Gammarus insensibilis*)
- Amphipod shrimp (*Gitanopsis bispinosa*)
- Gooseneck barnacle (*Pollicipes pollicipes*)
- Spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*)
- Ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)
- Fan mussel (*Atrina fragilis*)
- Defolin's lagoon snail (*Caecum armoricum*)
- Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)
- Lagoon sea slug (*Tenellia adspersa*)

### **Highly Mobile Species Features of Conservation Importance**

- Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*)
- Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*)

## **Appendix 2 Consultation Stakeholder List**

### **Registered fishermen**

### **Hobby potters**

#### **Fishermen's organisations:**

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

#### **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  
Society for the Preservation of Manx Countryside & the Environment  
Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society  
Manx Birdlife  
Manx Ornithological 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  
DONG Energy  
Manx Tidal Energy

#### **Other:**

All Members of Tynwald  
Attorney General's Office  
Local Authorities  
Isle of Man Government Departments, Chief Officers  
Manx National Heritage  
Manx Utilities Authority  
Law Society  
DEFRA  
JNCC  
Natural England  
Marine Management Organisation