

LIVING SEAS



DECEMBER
2011

Newsletter

Welcome to our first Living Seas North West newsletter, we hope you will enjoy receiving marine updates from across our region, including what the Wildlife Trusts are doing and how you can get involved.

Our seas are home to amazing species and habitats but sadly after centuries of neglect they are not in a good state. Living Seas is The Wildlife Trusts' vision for the future of the UK's seas, where marine life thrives, from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows and only together can we make this happen.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

MCZs are a new type of marine protection which will complement existing protected areas. Currently less than 2% of our seas have any form any protection, with only 0.001% being adequately managed, I'm sure you'll agree this simply isn't good enough.



Photo: Paul Naylor

A Government - funded project brought together all seas users, including ourselves, fishermen and renewable industries as a stakeholder group. Together stakeholders worked to recommend where MCZs should be located maximising ecological protection and minimising socio-economic impact.

127 MCZs have been recommended around the UK, 15 are in the Irish Sea. These recommendations have been submitted to the Government for consideration and if they go through to designation this will be an amazing step forward for marine conservation, protecting 25% of the Irish Sea.

However the Government are now backing out of their promise to designate a full network of sites and are looking to designate only a fraction of the recommended MCZs. We urgently need your help to make sure we get full designation.



Photo: Paul Naylor



Photo: Tom Marshall



Photo: Paul Naylor



Turning the tide for marine protection...
www.irishsea.org



Petition Fish

MCZ recommendations were based on best available data and have wide stakeholder support.

We believe all 127 MCZs must be designated and be adequately managed to protect the future of our seas. Thank you to everyone who has signed Petition Fish in support of MCZs. It is crucial that we show the level of public support for marine protection so here are ways in which you can help;

- Ask family and friends to sign Petition Fish too @ www.wildlifetrusts.org/petitionfish
- Spread the word, post the Petition Fish link on your Facebook status
- Write to your MP, saying that you support full designation of all MCZs

We have a **once in a lifetime** opportunity to make a major **breakthrough** in marine protection, please don't let it slip away.

Reefs at Risk

The **Honeycomb Worm** is the sole builder of our very own coastal reefs. This tiny creature builds substantial structures from **sand** and **shell** which create a stable environment for other species to inhabit. Without them, our western sandy shores would be very different and wouldn't support such a wide variety of life as they do now.

BUT they are **fragile** and need our consideration. They are most common between the tides and create rock pools as the tides recede.



Don't Trample Me!



Shoresearch reaches the North West

Shoresearch is now coming to the North West! Join us for this **exciting** opportunity to **get involved** in monitoring our **amazing** coast. We will collect baseline data that will identify **habitats** and **species** in our region, showing patterns, trends and anomalies that will all contribute to our knowledge and future conservation.

Tell Me More!

Cumbria, Lancashire and soon **Cheshire Wildlife Trusts** will all be running Shoresearch, offering **workshops** and **survey** events to build and share knowledge and begin recording in your region. Shoresearch is for everyone, **regardless of experience** so if you're interested, please come along.

Get Involved

To get involved and find out more, simply send an email to livingseasnw@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk with **'Shoresearch'** and your **location** in the subject line, or write to; Living Seas, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 8LX.



If you would like further info about Living Seas North West, please contact...

Marine Conservation Officer Cheryl Nicholson
Tel: 01539 816300
Email: livingseasnw@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Web: www.irishsea.org



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