



NIEAs role in delivering an Ecologically Coherent Network of Marine Protected Areas within Northern Ireland

Joe Breen, 18th November 2011

CEO, John McMillen

Environmental Protection
Director
Dave Foster

Water Management Unit

Land & Resource
Management

Industrial Pollution &
Radiochemical Inspectorate

Drinking Water Inspectorate

Strategy Unit

Built Heritage
Director
Michael Coulter

Historic Bldgs Unit –
North

Historic Bldgs Unit –
South

Historic Mons Unit –
North

Historic Mons Unit –
South

Natural Heritage
Director
Graham Seymour

Conservation Science

Conservation
Designations &
Protection

Countryside & Coast

Regional Operations

Biodiversity

Corporate Services
Director
Damian Campbell

Corporate Planning
& Services

Finance

Co-ordination Unit

Information
Technology

Corporate
Communications

Freedom of
Information

EA
SEPA
EPA

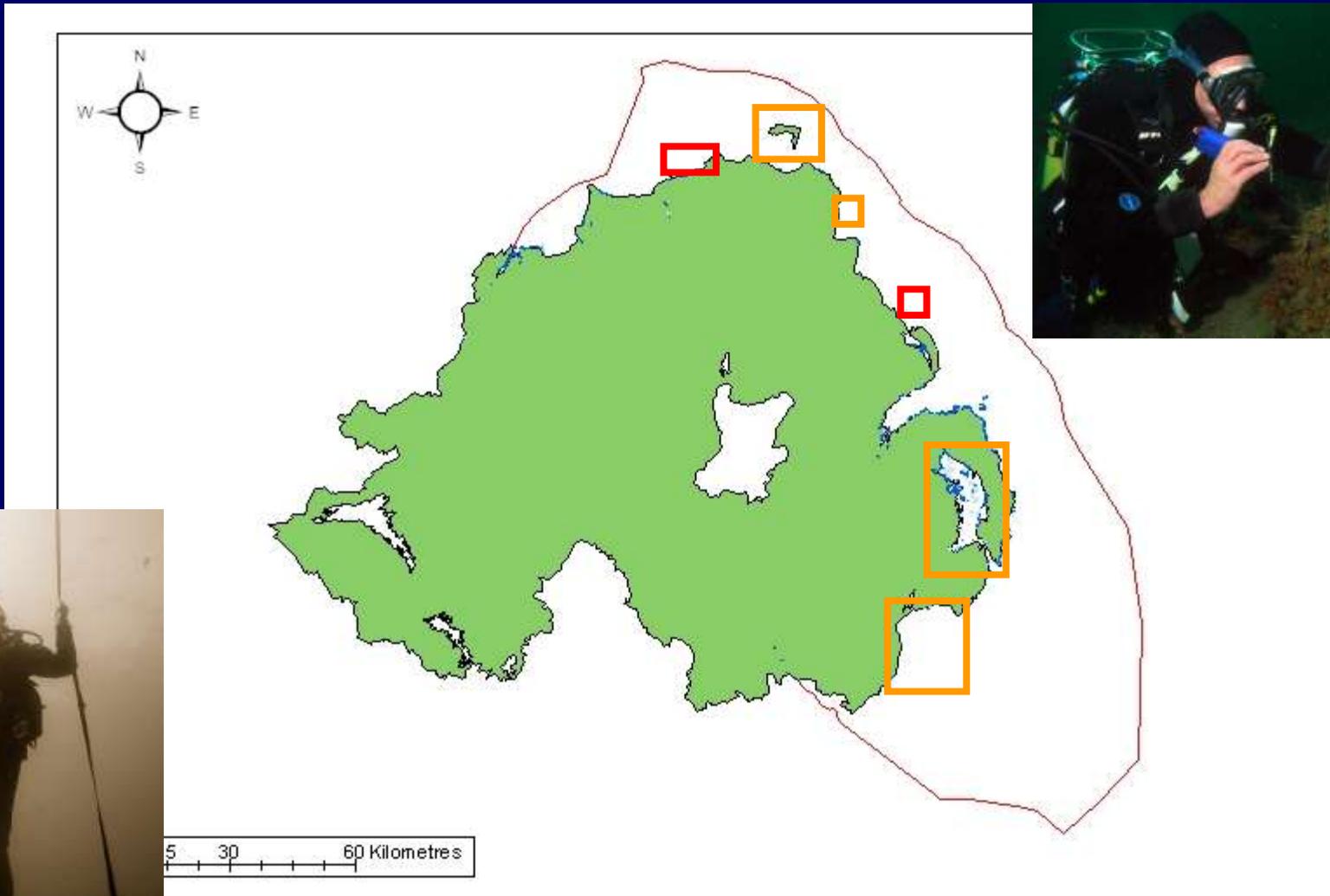
English Heritage
Historic Scotland
OPW

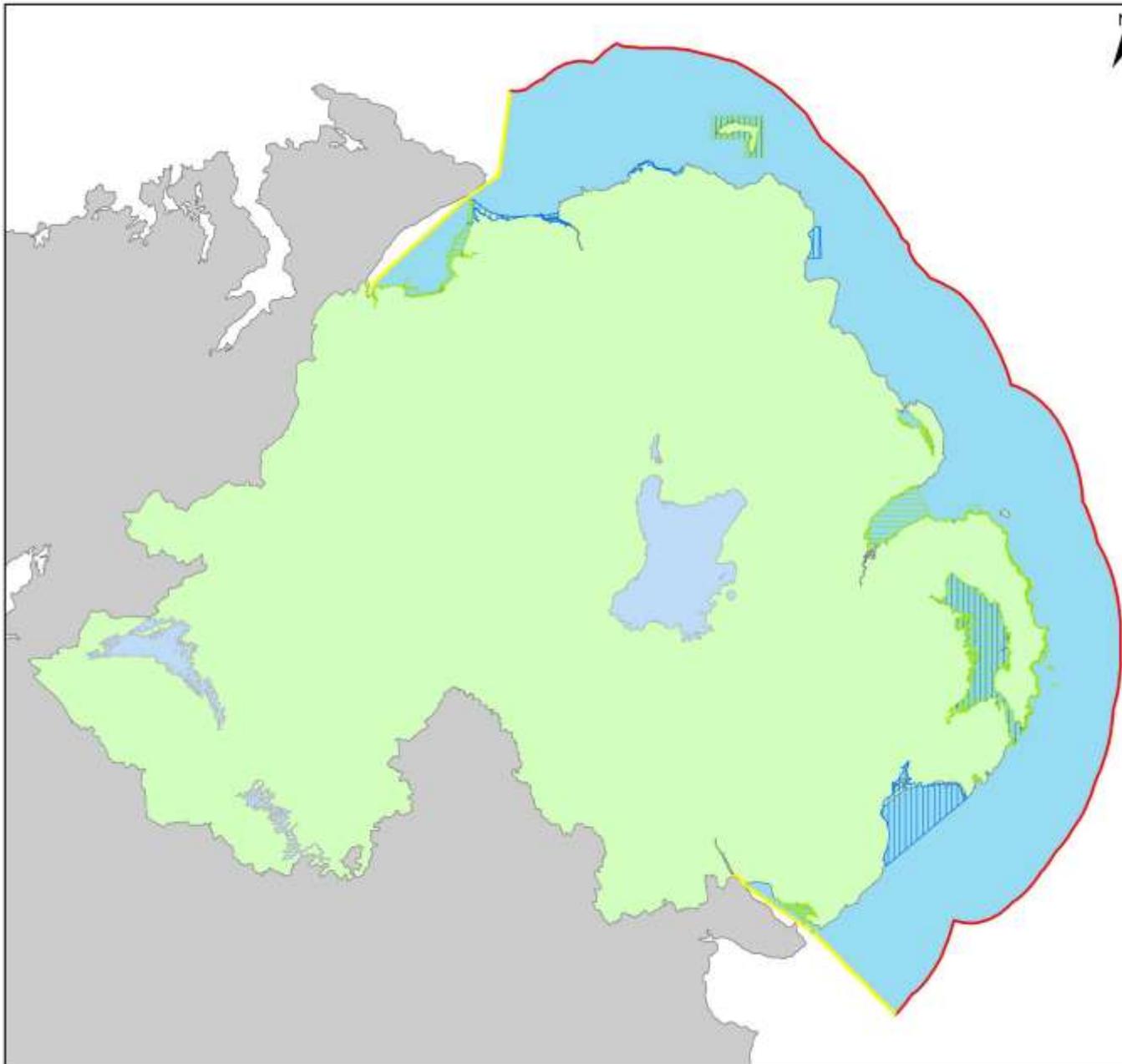
NE
SNH
NPWS

Current marine protected areas

- Marine Nature Reserve
- Birds Directive: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Habitats directive: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Ramsar
- Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)
- AONB's

Current marine protected areas





NORTHERN IRELAND MARINE SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA) AND SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC) IN RELATION TO THE 12 NM TERRITORIAL WATERS BOUNDARY.

Legend

-  Marine SPAs
-  Marine SACs
-  Shared Waters Boundary
-  12 Nm Territorial Waters
-  12 Nm Territorial Waters

Total area of SAC as % of TW = 7.29697

Total area of SPA as % of TW = 6.55180

Total area of SAC and SPA, including Skerries and Maidens, as % of TW = 13.71121

Total area of SAC and SPA, without Skerries and Maidens, as % of TW = 9.70234

Total area of all sites merged as % of TW = 9.70234

Note: -

The information, figures and borders represented by this map do not reflect any agreement between the Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland Governments and as thus all figures should be treated as approximates.

The border represented by the yellow line is a notional boundary highlighting the Shared Waters between Southern and Northern Ireland.

SCALE	1:950,000
ELEVATION	0 - 850 m
MAP PRODUCTION DATE	06/09/2011



Why more MPAs

- Convention of Biological Diversity
- EU Habitats Directive
- EU Birds Directive
- European Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- OSPAR Convention
- ICZM recommendations
- UK Marine and Coastal Access Act
- UK Marine Nature Conservation Review
- UK Marine Policy Statement
- Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy

Its not because we want to, we have to

clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans

 HM Government

UK Marine Policy Statement

HM Government
Northern Ireland Executive
Scottish Government
Welsh Assembly Government

- Marine Planning
- Marine Licensing
- Marine Nature Conservation

- Marine Coastal Access Act 2009
- Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
- NI Marine Bill 20XX

- Manage competing demands on the marine area taking an ecosystem based approach (MPS)
- This means an approach which ensures that the collective pressure of human activities is kept within the levels compatible with the achievement of Good Environmental Status (MSFD)
- Achieved through the establishment of an 'ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas' (OSPAR)
- The UK signed up to a representative network in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.
Managed by OSPAR
- Target date is 2012

What is an Ecological Coherent Network

- Representative
- Replication
- Viability
- Adequacy
- Connectivity
- Protection
- Best available evidence



■ Recommended Marine Conservation Zones (rMCZs)

● Recommended Reference Area (rRA)

■ Proposed Co-location Zone

└─ 12nM Territorial Seas Limit

■ Net Gain

■ Balanced Seas

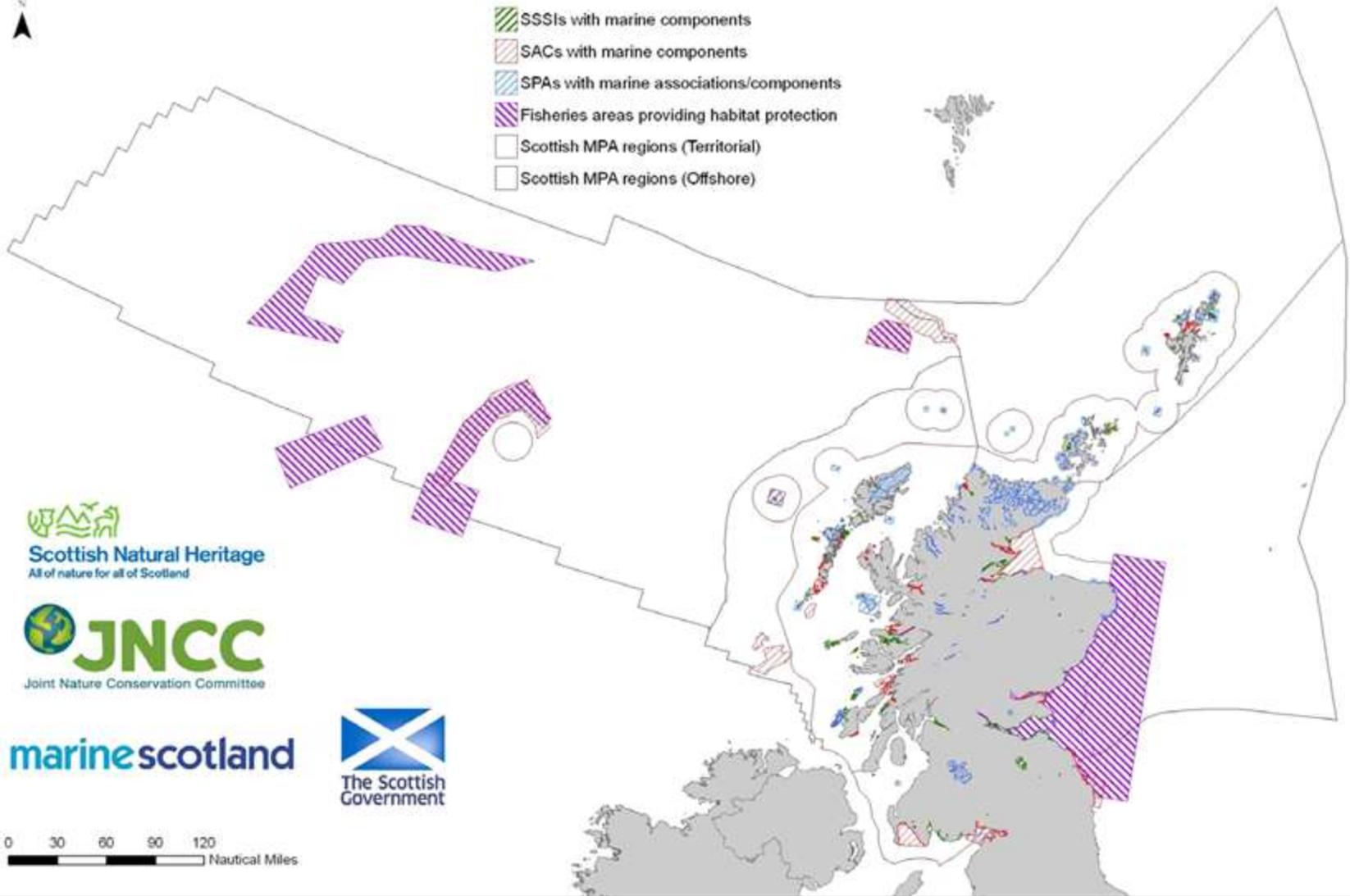
■ Finding Sanctuary

■ Irish Sea Conservation Zone

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-  SSSIs with marine components
-  SACs with marine components
-  SPAs with marine associations/components
-  Fisheries areas providing habitat protection
-  Scottish MPA regions (Territorial)
-  Scottish MPA regions (Offshore)



Scottish Natural Heritage
All of nature for all of Scotland



JNCC
Joint Nature Conservation Committee

marinescotland



The Scottish
Government

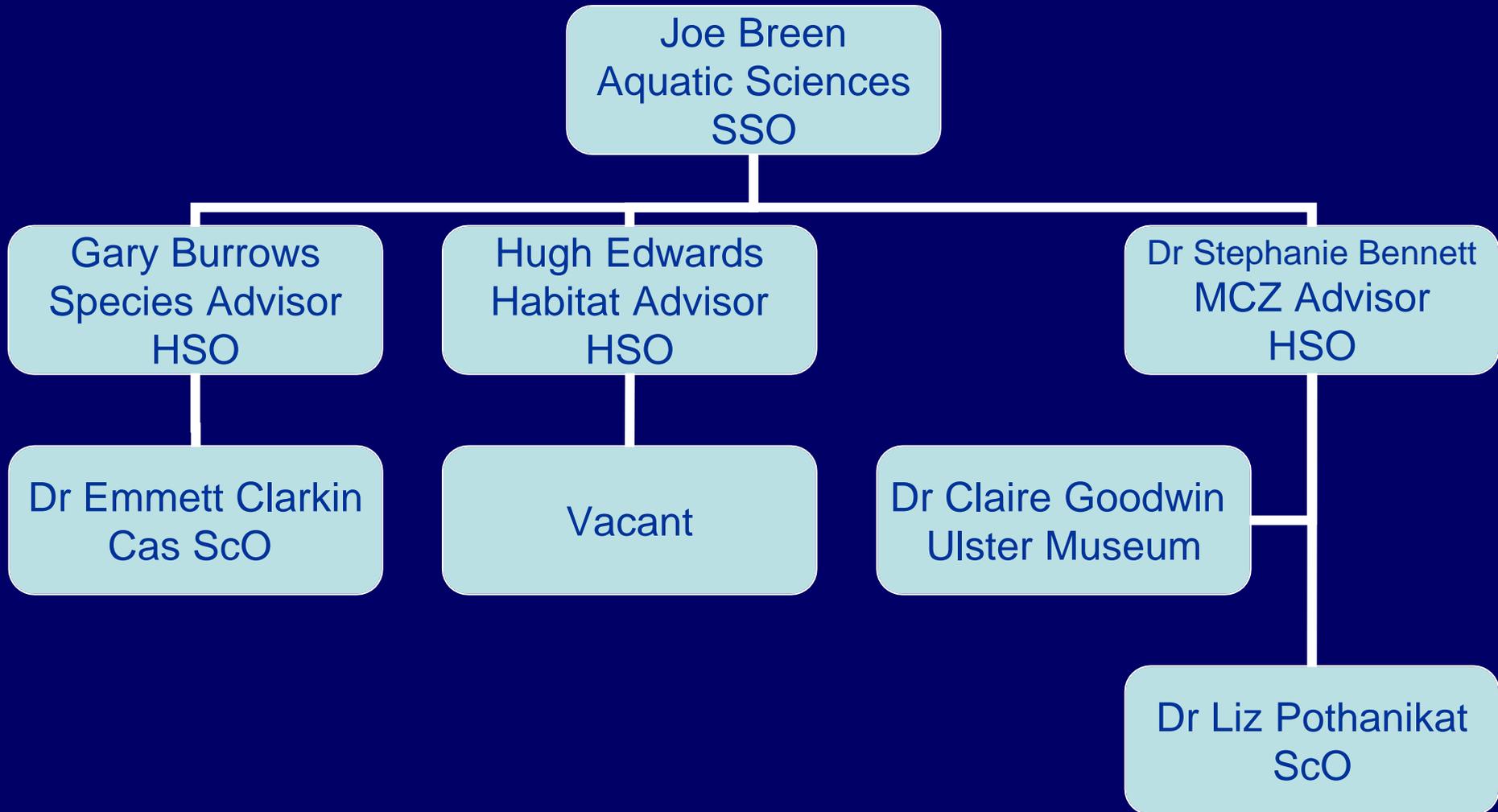
0 30 60 90 120
Nautical Miles

Northern Ireland

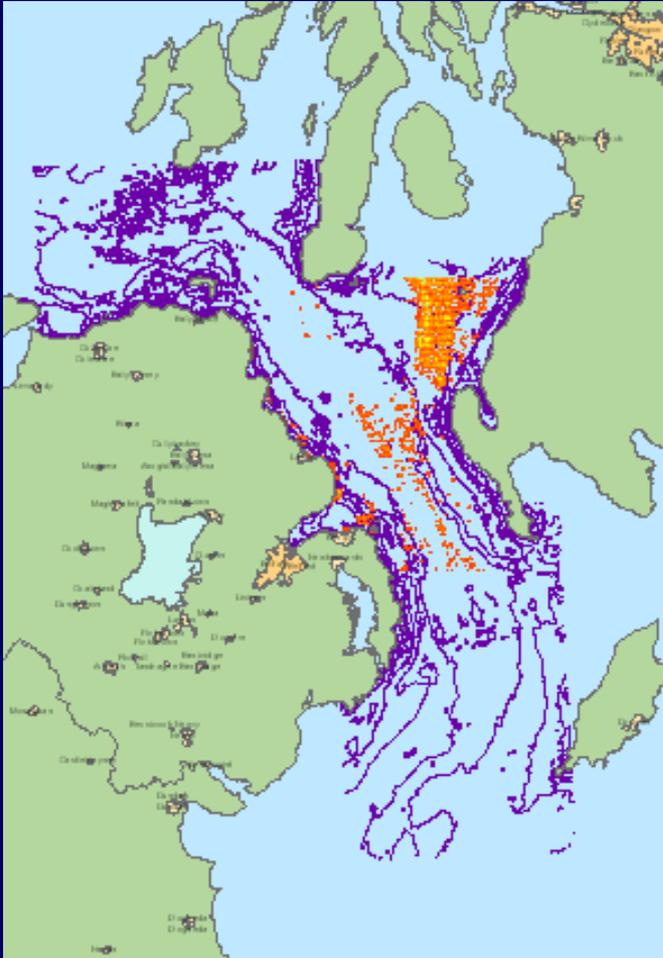
Have drafted a NI Marine Bill which addresses

- Marine Spatial Planning
- Marine Licensing
- Marine Nature Conservation

Marine Team



Types of MCZ



- Demonstration Research Zones
 - Pilot renewable devices
 - Re-introduction of species
 - Sustainable exploitation research
- Co-location zones
- Highly Protected Areas
- Reference Areas

Least damaged, most natural

Habitat and Broad Habitat FOCI to be protected within Northern Ireland MCZ's

- Blue Mussel beds
- Estuarine Rocky habitats
- Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats
- Intertidal under boulder communities
- Maerl beds
- Horse mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) beds
- File shell beds
- Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs
- Seagrass beds
- Sheltered muddy gravels
- Subtidal chalk
- Subtidal sands and gravels
- Tide-swept channels
- Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) beds
- Deep sponge communities
- Mud habitats in deep water

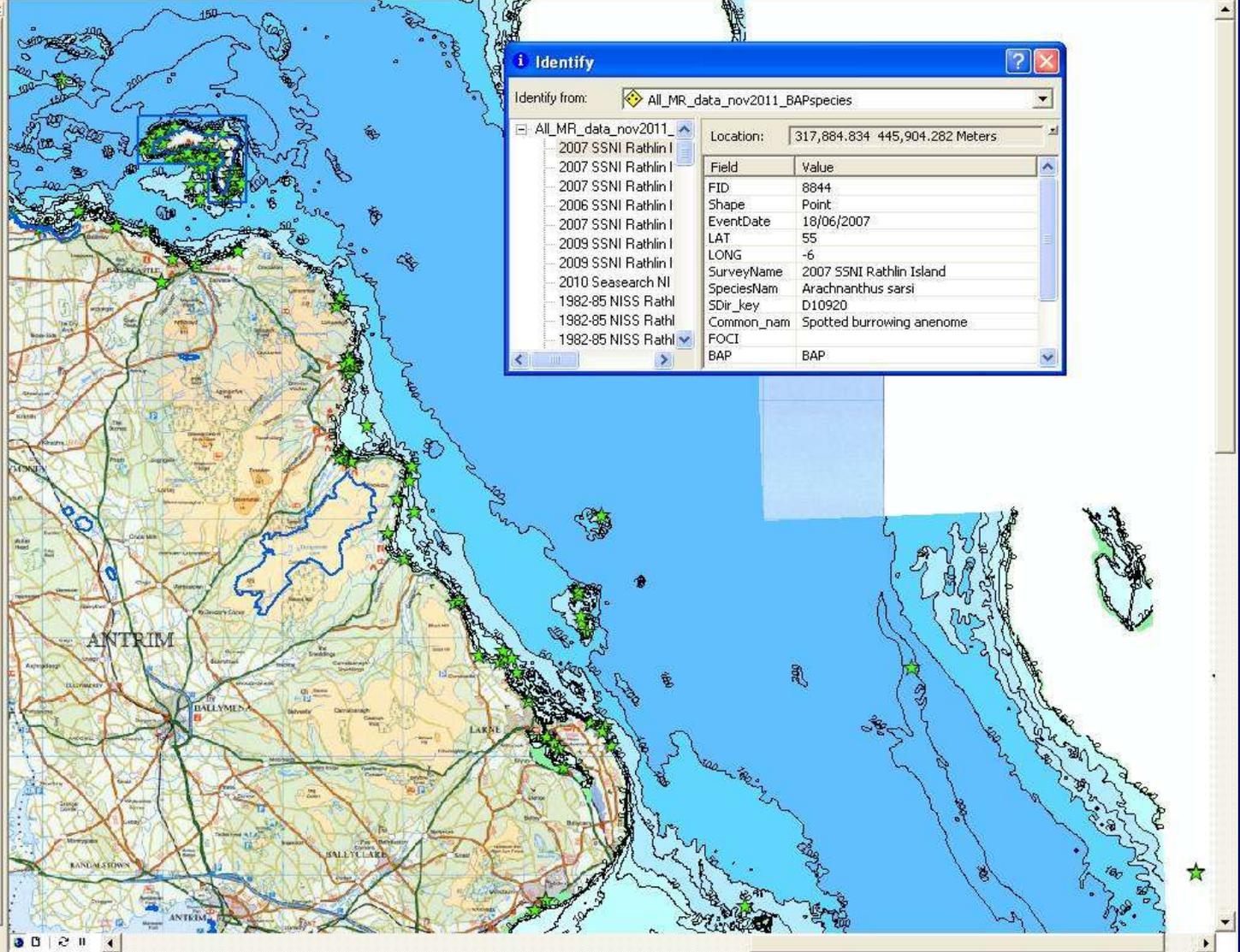
Limited mobility FOCI to be protected within Northern Ireland MCZ's

- Maerl
- Fan mussel
- Stalked jellyfish
- Native oyster
- Quahog
- Spiny lobster
- Common Skate
- Maerl coaral weed
- Timid burrowing anemone

Current Work Programme

- Working on the development of a Northern Ireland focused marine geo-database
- Direct liaison with JNCC, SNH, NE, MMO and Marine Scotland
- Need a steer on site MCZ designation guidelines
- Selection of habitats and species, survey boundaries, stakeholder engagement, consultation, arbitration,

- ASST
- NMR
- Ramsar
- SAC
- SPA
- All_MR_data_nov2011_BAPspecies
- MR_data_2011_priority_species
- All_MR_data_nov2011
- Seasearch 2003-2010
- NISS_SONI_2010
- Proposed Marine ASSIs
- Marine SPAs
- Marine SACs
- Marine ASSIs
- NISS_biotopes
- niss_shore
- Rathlin_NILLS_sites
- prpassi
- GSNI
- RIVERS AGENCY
- Intertidal_area
- CORINE
- DARD FORESTRY
- SOILS HOST
- BE Bathymetry & Elevation
 - Points
 - Elevation
 - Polylines
 - Bathymetry
 - Elevation
 - Depth Areas
 - Regions
 - Bathymetry



Identify

Identify from: All_MR_data_nov2011_BAPspecies

Location: 317,884.834 445,904.282 Meters

Field	Value
FID	8844
Shape	Point
EventDate	18/06/2007
LAT	55
LONG	-6
SurveyName	2007 SSNI Rathlin Island
SpeciesNam	Arachnanthus sarsi
SDir_key	D10920
Common_nam	Spotted burrowing anemone
FOCI	
BAP	BAP

What are the risks from not introducing a coherent MPA Network

- Failure to deliver on International commitments (infractions and censure)
- Short-term sustained versus long-term sustainability
- Societal loss in terms of ecological goods and services

Take home message

The sustainability of our marine environment is dependant on an ecosystem based approach its management.

- Marine Spatial Planning
- Joined up licensing
- A network of Marine Protected Areas

Key to all of this is a transparent process, effective stakeholder engagement and decisions based on the best available science/evidence

