

GD 2019/0098



Isle of Man
Government
Reilys Eilan Vannin

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eiryns

A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE 0-3 M ZONE OF THE MANX TERRITORIAL SEA



To The Hon. Stephen Rodan OBE, MLC, President of Tynwald, and the Hon. Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled;

Ministerial Foreword



The territorial sea has sustained our island for centuries, providing food and transport, and influencing the weather and climate that is such a part of the Manx environment.

Increasingly we are aware that the world's oceans are under human pressure, from over-exploitation of fisheries to the effects of climate change and, as a community, we must seek ways to protect our own seas, and sustain the goods and services they provide.

The Isle of Man is a world leader in scallop fisheries management, and we have an excellent record in marine conservation. Since 1989 we have rolled out a network of marine protected areas for the long-term benefit of fisheries and the protection of marine habitats and species. In 1990 we were the first jurisdiction in the British Isles to protect basking sharks and, in 2011, Ramsey Bay was designated as our first marine nature reserve, which has proven to be a successful and innovative solution to managing fisheries and conservation in the same area.

Based on that success, my Department achieved another milestone in 2018 by designating all ten marine protected areas as Marine Nature Reserves, encompassing almost 52% of the inshore marine area within 3 nautical miles.

The challenge of extending progressive fisheries management to the wider territorial sea, while protecting the marine environment, is significant, and my Department has been working with the fishing industry and scientists over many years to develop options.

This management plan for the 0-3 M marine zone is the next step in this process, and seeks to provide;

- A high-quality marine environment to protect biodiversity and habitats and support sustainable fisheries.
- Opportunities for shared access to the sea, which supports a diverse range of sustainable commercial and recreational activities.
- Opportunities for sustainable, economically-viable commercial fisheries via a co-management approach.
- Opportunities for coordinated management of carbon sequestration, storage and emissions in the 0-3 M zone.

This management plan builds on current policy, delivers on our Programme for Government commitments, the Fisheries Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy, as well as providing significant opportunity and security for the fishing industry and for marine conservation.

Hon. Geoffrey Boot, MHK

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VISION

The vision for the 0-3 M zone of the Isle of Man territorial sea encompasses sustainable use within a high-quality marine environment, aligned with the principles and objectives of Biosphere Isle of Man, and contributing to the island's net-zero carbon objective. This vision includes concepts outlined in the Fisheries Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy and related government policy objectives, including the Programme for Government 2016 - 21.

A high-quality marine environment, managed via an evidence and ecosystem-based, co-management and stakeholder-inclusive approach to provide protection for marine biodiversity, opportunities for a sustainable, high-value fishery sector, for other marine stakeholders, and contributing to the island's net-zero carbon objective.

0-3 M ZONE EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The purpose of the 0-3 M zone management plan is to establish the objectives and mechanisms to achieve the following general outcomes, which are applicable within the 0-3 M and relevant throughout the wider territorial sea;

- A high-quality marine environment that protects biodiversity and habitats and supports sustainable fisheries.
- Opportunities for shared access to a high-quality marine environment that supports a diverse range of sustainable commercial and recreational activities.
- Opportunities for sustainable, economically-viable commercial fisheries via a co-management approach.
- Opportunities for coordinated management of carbon sequestration, storage and emissions in the 0-3 M zone.

SCOPE

The 0-3 M zone management plan acknowledges the multiple users active within this area. However, it primarily includes marine conservation and the mobile-gear scallop fishery sector, with consideration of static-gear fisheries as appropriate.

The plan can be broadened at a later date to include other sectors and stakeholders.

MARINE CONSERVATION

In pursuit of the expected 0-3 M zone outcomes outlined above, the following goals and objectives are provided in relation to marine conservation;

Goals

Achieving the marine conservation outcomes via the management plan involves the following goals;

- As appropriate, enabling the restoration, recovery and protection of native marine biodiversity.
- Accommodating low-impact, sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries within marine nature reserves.
- Providing access for appropriate, low-impact recreational and commercial activities.
- Investigate the production of a carbon audit of the marine nature reserves, linked to their management plans, and with the intent to enhance their carbon storage and sequestration potential.

Objectives

These goals will be met via the following objectives over three phases;

Phase 1 (2019-2020)

- Establish a network of Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs).
- Introduce supporting legislation.
- Develop an Inshore Marine Conservation Policy.

Phase 2 (2020 – 2022)

- Establish a functional stakeholder working group to inform the development of the MNR-specific management plans.
- Develop a carbon audit for each marine nature reserve, including carbon-management objectives.
- Develop MNR- specific management plans, reflective of their respective features, specific conservation and carbon-management objectives and potential.

Phase 3 (Beyond 2022)

- Implement management plans.
- Monitor for restoration and recovery.
- Develop and introduce pilot trials for specific activities (e.g. ecotourism, aquaculture).

Supporting Documents:

- Strategic Purpose of the Isle of Man Marine Protected Area Network (policy document).

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

In pursuit of the expected 0-3 M zone outcomes outlined above, the following goals and objectives are provided in relation to fisheries management;

Goals

Achieving the fisheries management outcomes via the management plan involves the following goals;

- Develop a co-management agreement for mobile-gear scallop fisheries.
- Establish sustainable harvest and economic objectives for the fishery based on good scientific data.
- Ensure that relevant environmental factors are incorporated into fisheries management plans.
- Investigate the production of a carbon audit of the fishery, linked to its management plans, and with the intent to reduce carbon emissions and enhance carbon storage and sequestration potential.

Objectives

These goals will be met by via the following objectives over three phases;

Phase 1 (2019 – 2020)

- Establish a mechanism for the co-management of the scallop fishery with industry stakeholders.
- Develop an Inshore Fisheries Zones Management Policy.
- Ensure supporting legislation and agreements are fit for purpose.

Phase 2 (2020 – 2022)

- Establishment of the Isle of Man Fishermen's Association (including Articles of Association).

- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding between DEFA and the Association.
- Develop Inshore Fisheries Zones Management Plans and implement on a trial basis.
- Investigate a carbon audit for the fishery, including carbon-management objectives.
- Establish a Stakeholder Working Group.
- Review of co-management arrangement as part of fisheries strategy review.

Phase 3 (Beyond 2022)

- Assess inclusion of other fisheries into the Management Plan.

Supporting Documents:

- Management of the Fisheries Zones between 0-3 Nautical Miles within the Isle of Man territorial sea. Policy No. SF/03/2017 Policy approved: 29.08.2017
- MOU between DEFA and Isle of Man Fishermen's Association

Conclusions:

This 0-3 M zone management plan has the potential to;

- Provide opportunities to develop innovative, diverse, efficient and economically-sustainable businesses; seafood/products production, tourism, leisure, that are mutually inclusive.
- Provide opportunities to develop significant value-added marine products, providing important competitive advantage for the island, and consistent with Biosphere status.
- Provide opportunities to efficiently achieve government strategic policy objectives and international treaty targets (e.g. UN Convention on Biological Diversity/Biodiversity Strategy, OSPAR, fisheries strategy, food strategy, amenities and recreation strategy).
- Provide opportunities for the marine sector to be included in, and contribution to, both Biosphere and Climate Change Management plans and outcomes.
- Enable the additional inclusion of other sectors and relevant stakeholders over time.