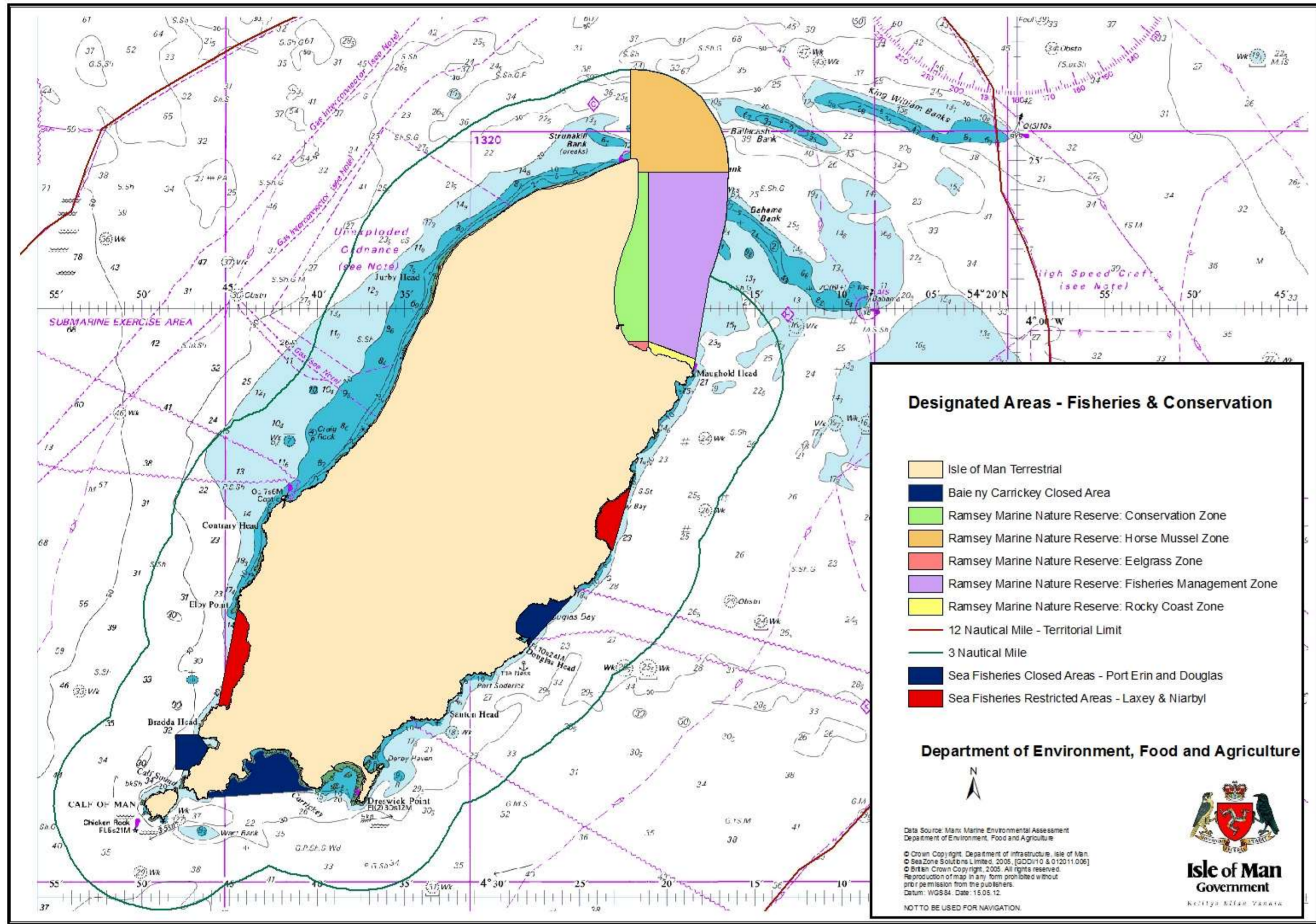


Marine Protected Areas with Fishing Industry Support: A case study from the Isle of Man, British Isles

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ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF MPAS

Between 2008 and 2012 four Fisheries Closed Areas and one Marine Nature Reserve were established around the Isle of Man with active fishing industry support. Vital in gaining the support of the fishing industry for these MPAs was the effectiveness of the first Fisheries Closed Area, established in 1989 off Port Erin. When fishermen saw improvements in catches adjacent to the first Fisheries Closed Area they were proactive in initiating and supporting further closed areas. Other initiatives such as a fisheries science programme for fishermen, community education and an active programme to involve fishermen and other stakeholders in decision making played important roles in accelerating the designation of Marine Protected Areas. The most recently designated site, Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area, was selected by group of stakeholders independent of government.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FISHING INDUSTRY

The Manx fishing industry have taken a proactive approach to fisheries management and marine conservation in partnership with the Isle of Man Government. When the Government started a 3 year process to identify candidate MPAs, the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation (MFPO) suggested the site they wanted to see permanently protected. They believed that protecting Ramsey Bay had the potential to work effectively to boost local fisheries



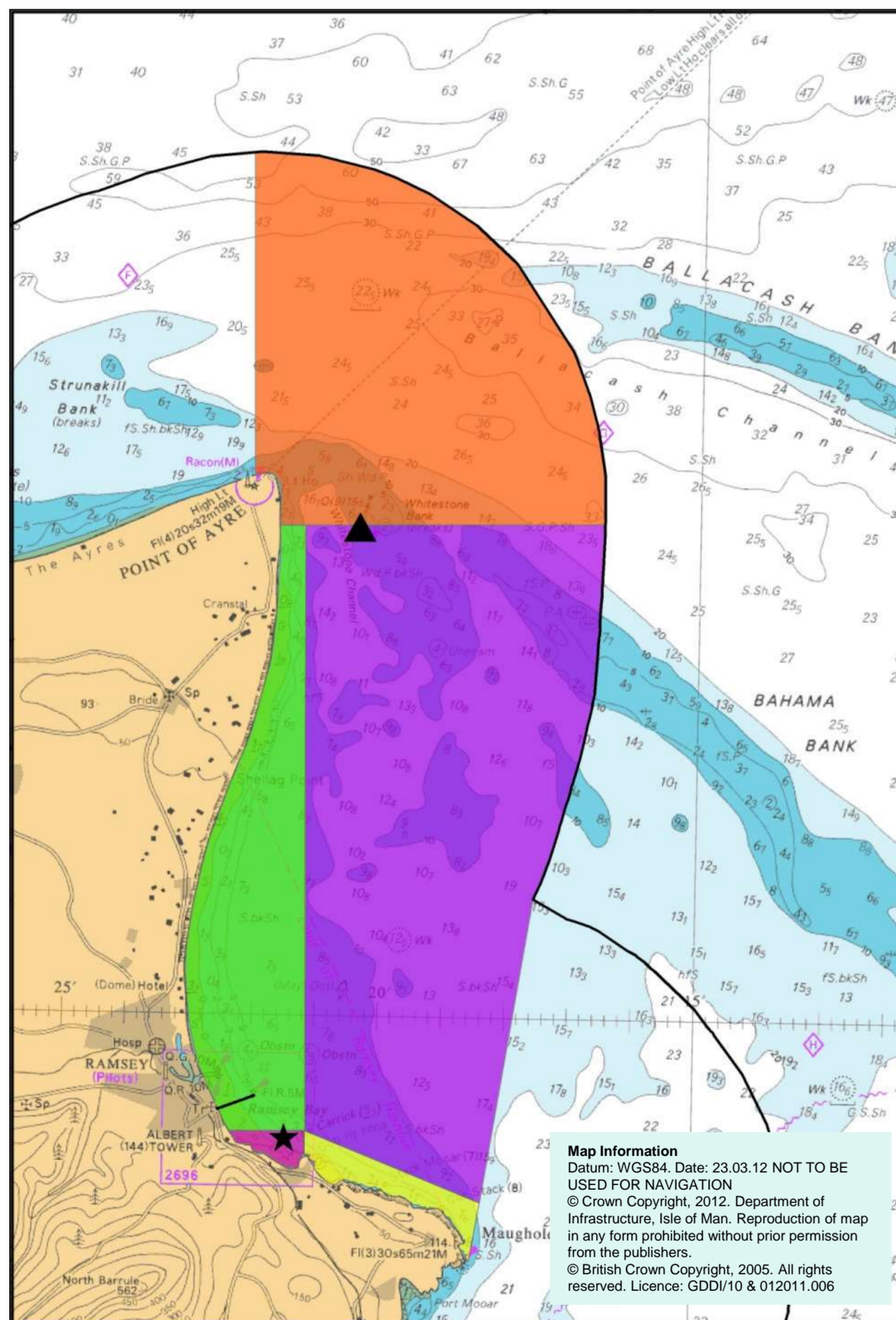
Ramsey Bay had already been shortlisted as a candidate site, meeting OSPAR criteria for protection. The proposal from the MFPO was investigated further and the decision was taken to pursue the site for designation as the Isle of Man's first Marine Nature Reserve. Additional data gathering and public consultation followed and the site was extended to include another candidate site, the horse mussel reef and associated habitats of the Ballacash Channel. Additional surveys of the site were carried out by local divers, fishermen and scientists.

In October 2011 the Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve was designated with the support of the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation and the wider community. A joint press release was issued from the MFPO and the Department of Environment. The MNR came into immediate affect and the byelaws received final approval by Tynwald, the Manx in January 2012. Subsequent surveys have shown building populations of scallops and other species in the area.



RAMSEY MARINE NATURE RESERVE ZONING PLAN

Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve covers a total area of 94.4km².to the north west of the Isle of Man. The whole area of the MNR is protected from construction, aggregate extraction, dumping of dredged material, gill-netting, long-lining and littering. There are five management zone, each with different regulations: The Conservation Zone, Horse Mussel Zone and Eelgrass Zone are highly protected by law and the Fisheries Management Zone is leased to the MFPO to manage responsibility to maintain the ecological integrity of the area. Decisions to fish that area are made by fishermen based on scientific surveys. The Rocky Shore Zone is a voluntary area that was offered by fishermen to protect a newly discovered area of eelgrass habitat.



Name of Zone	Location	Area (km ²)	% of Manx waters	Permitted	Not Permitted
All Coloured Zones	Ramsey Bay and the Ballacash Channel	94.4	2.36	Boating, diving, swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, rock-pooling and a wide range of other activities.	Gill-netting, long-lining, aggregate extraction, dumping of dredged material, littering, construction (unless licensed by DEFA)
Conservation Zone	Inner Ramsey Bay	13.9	0.35	Potting, Angling	Trawling, Dredging, Other extraction of scallops and queenies
Horse Mussel Zone	Point of Ayre to Ballacash Channel	31	0.78	Angling	Potting, Trawling, Dredging, other extraction of scallops and queenies
Fisheries Zone	Outer Ramsey Bay	47.4	1.18	Potting and Angling. Restricted Trawling. Dredging and scallop diving under MFPO and DEFA control	Trawling and dredging not authorised by MFPO and DEFA.
Eelgrass Zone	Southern corner of Ramsey Bay (Port Loughaigue to Ballure)	0.5	0.01	Taking of razorshells and lugworms is permitted from 1 October to 31 March in the intertidal only. Keep pots.	Potting, Trawling, Dredging, Angling, any other extraction of living resources. Extraction of lugworm and razorshells is prohibited 1 April to 30 September.
Rocky Coast Zone	Narrow strip from Gob ny Rona to Maughold Head	1.6	0.04	Potting, Angling	Trawling, Dredging, Other extraction of scallops and queenies

FISHERMEN PROTECTING HABITATS

Horse mussel reefs are diverse, structurally complex habitats which can take hundreds of years to establish. They are home to hundreds of species and form ridges on the seabed of up to 2m in height. Numbers of horse mussels within the reefs are high and they filter feed, playing an important role in maintaining water quality and nutrient cycling. The horse mussel reefs in Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve are permanently protected from all commercial fishing within the Horse Mussel Zone.

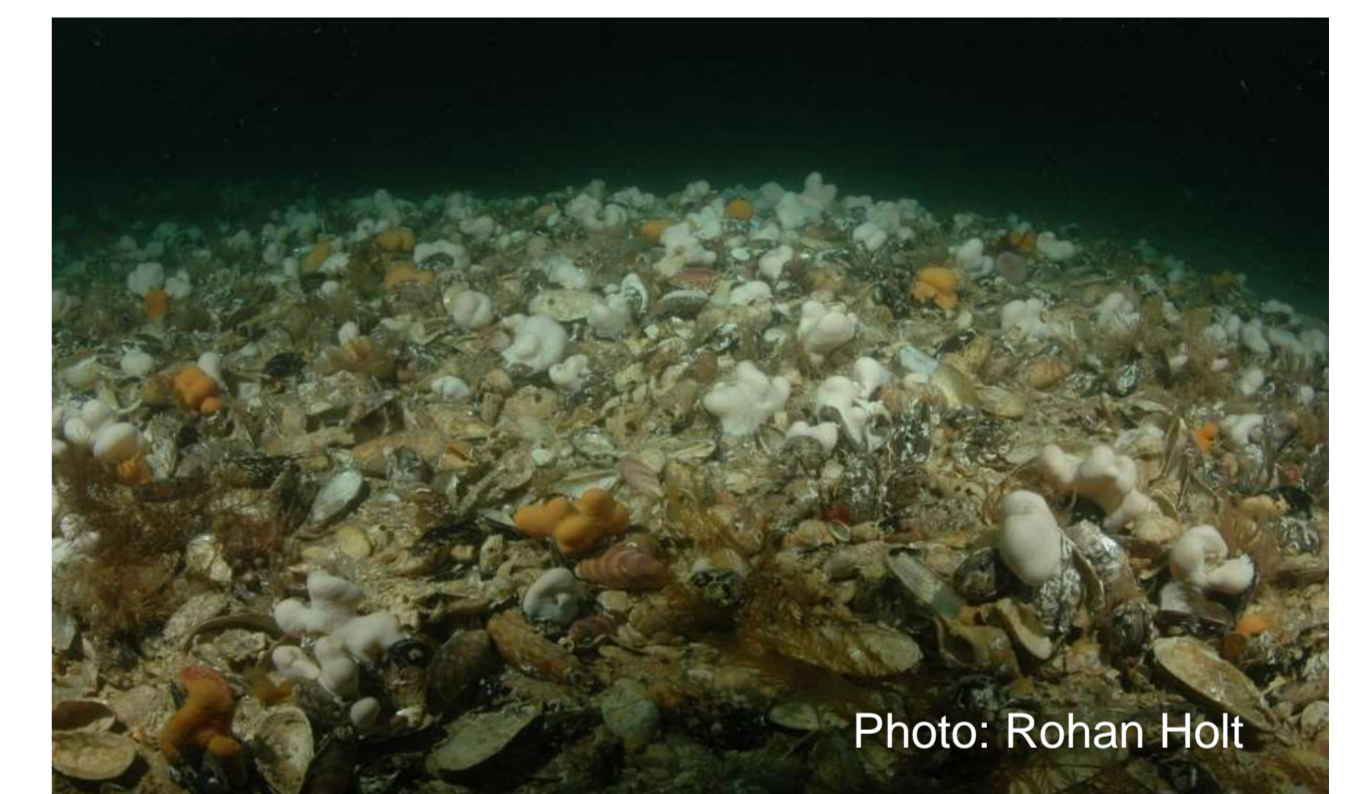


Photo: Rohan Holt



Eelgrass is a rare habitat in Manx waters. It occurs between 5-12m depth in sheltered bays. Eelgrass is recognised as an importance nursery habitat for many species. It also plays an important role in stabilising sediment. Some eelgrass meadows in Ramsey Bay are protected within the highly protected Eelgrass Zone. A more recently discovered eelgrass meadow is protected within the voluntary Rocky Shore Zone where fishermen have agreed not to use mobile gear.

Maerl beds are structurally complex algal habitats which are associated with high levels of biodiversity. They are also known to be important nursery grounds for fish and shellfish. Some maerl beds are permanently protected within the Conservation Zone and the rest are within the Fisheries Management Zone. The fishermen manage the FMZ to maintain the integrity of key habitats like maerl and the area is regularly surveyed.



Photo: Jim Self, Seasearch

LESSONS LEARNED

- Building fishing industry support can be a very slow process but will make a significant difference to conservation outcomes and can ultimately accelerate Marine Protected Area establishment.
- Investing time and resources in extensive community engagement and consultation builds understanding and support for MPAs.
- Innovative approaches such as including fishing zones, giving fishermen responsibility for management and training fishermen in fisheries science can bring real benefits to conservation and fisheries management.
- The human element to MPA designation must be developed alongside the science.

References

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**Isle of Man
 Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin



The Isle of Man is a self-governing Crown Dependency of the United Kingdom, in the middle of Irish Sea. The Island owns the sea out to 12 nautical miles. Population 84,500.