

MARCH 2012



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE PROJECT, WALES

NEWSLETTER 4

www.cymru.gov.uk

This is the latest information on the Marine Conservation Zone Project (MCZ) in Wales – a project established by the Welsh Government to identify and designate a small number of highly protected Marine Conservation Zones.

THE FIRST CONSULTATION – POTENTIAL SITE OPTIONS

The site selection process involves a series of consultation exercises – 3 in total. This is an important element of the process in Wales to ensure that the potential site options are informed and refined by a wide range of views.

We intend to commence the first consultation exercise week commencing 16 April 2012 - this is Stage 4 of the process as set out overleaf. This will be a public consultation lasting 12 weeks, where we want you to tell us what you think and what you know about the options to inform the evaluation of the costs and benefits on a site by site basis and so help decide which ones are considered further.

We will arrange meetings across Wales as part of the first consultation exercise to gather views and information on the potential site options – further information regarding these events will be available soon.

In the meantime, we have published summaries of the notes from meetings of the MCZ Technical Advisory Group and the MCZ Steering Group on the Welsh Government website. Please find them by following this link- wales.gov.uk/marine

TIMETABLE

Overleaf is a copy of the revised timetable for the project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on this project is available on the Welsh Government's website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/marinefisheries/conservation/protected/conservationzones/project/?skip=1&lang=en>

If you have any queries or questions please e-mail the Welsh Government Marine Team: marine@wales.gsi.gov.uk

OUTLINE PROCESS AND REVISED TIMETABLE

WHAT	WHEN
<p>STAGE 1 – Identifying the Focus Sites Identified by CCW using the agreed ecological guidelines and assessment system</p>	January 2011 - March 2011
<p>STAGE 2 – Identifying the Potential Sites Identified by the TAG from</p>	March 2011
<p>STAGE 3 – Developing the first iteration of Potential Sites The Potential Sites are considered and may be refined by the TAG and then the Steering Group in light of social, economic and practical considerations</p>	April 2011- March 2012
<p>STAGE 4 – Consulting on the first iteration of Potential Sites The Welsh Government to undertake a 12 week public consultation exercise seeking views on the site options</p>	April 2012- July 2012
<p>STAGE 5 – Developing the second iteration of Potential Sites The information collected during Stage 4 will be used by the TAG and the Steering Group to inform and refine the next iteration of sites</p>	August 2012 -December 2012
<p>STAGE 6 – Consulting on the second iteration of Potential Sites The Welsh Government to undertake a 12 week public consultation exercise seeking views on the site options</p>	January 2013 -April 2013
<p>STAGE 7 – Recommending Proposed Sites to Welsh Ministers The TAG and the Steering Group will use the information collected during Stage 6 to inform the final recommendations to Welsh Ministers</p>	May 2013 - September 2013
<p>STAGE 8 – Consulting formally on Proposed Sites Subject to the agreement of Welsh Minister the Welsh Government will undertake a 12 week period of formal consultation</p>	Winter 2013
<p>STAGE 9 – Designating process Subject to the outcome of the formal consultation exercise the Welsh Ministers will designate the MCZs</p>	By spring 2014