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<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5201>

## Introduction

The JNCC and the four UK country conservation bodies have an ongoing programme of work to identify Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to contribute towards an ecologically coherent network. There are currently 108 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) with marine components, 108 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) with marine components, one Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) and two Marine Nature Reserves (MNR). Together these protect 8.4% of UK seas\*.

Dissemination of information on MPAs is a UK statutory requirement. This highlights the importance of communicating effectively to technical specialists, stakeholders and also the general public. The JNCC interactive web-based Geographical Information System (webGIS) is an important tool which allows us to reach such a varied audience.

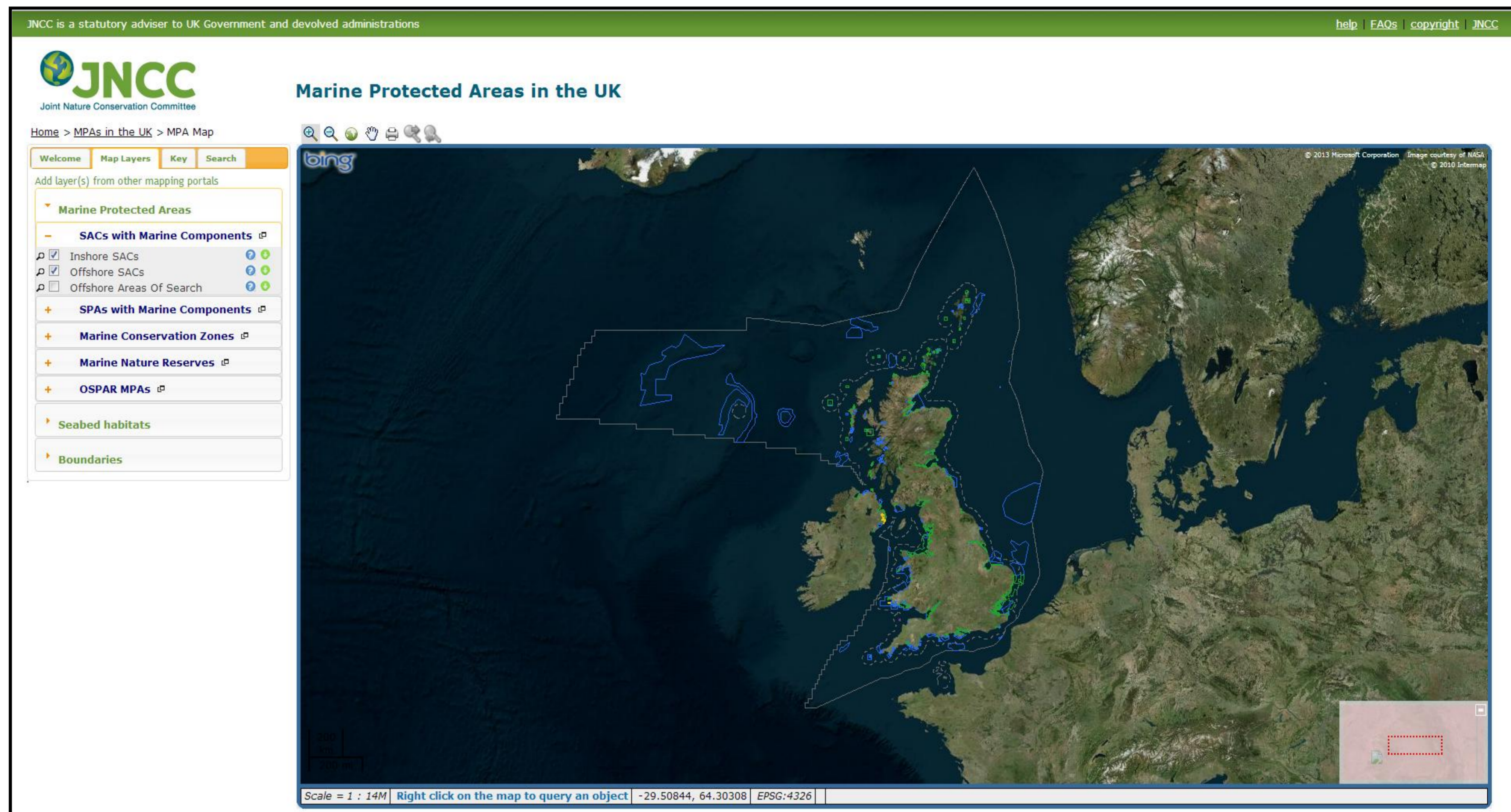
\* There are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar sites that protect marine areas and will be included in the MPA network. These areas will be displayed on the Interactive Map in due course.

## Other features

Further features we are planning to incorporate in the mapper include:

- Filter function – enabling selection of specific MPAs in specific countries/regions.
- Web Mapping Service (WMS) capabilities – allowing integration of webGIS data with personal GIS systems or with other sites such as the MESH webGIS system\*.
- MEDIN compliant data – data used within our mapper are structured to conform to MEDIN standards enabling standardisation and easy external re-use.
- Links to DACs – the ability to download certain layers as shpfiles subject to license restrictions direct from the website. Future functions will further allow users to link directly with appropriate UK Data Archive Centres to allow easy access to specific datasets unavailable from the JNCC site.

\* The MESH mapper can be found at:  
<http://www.searchmesh.net/Default.aspx?page=1974>



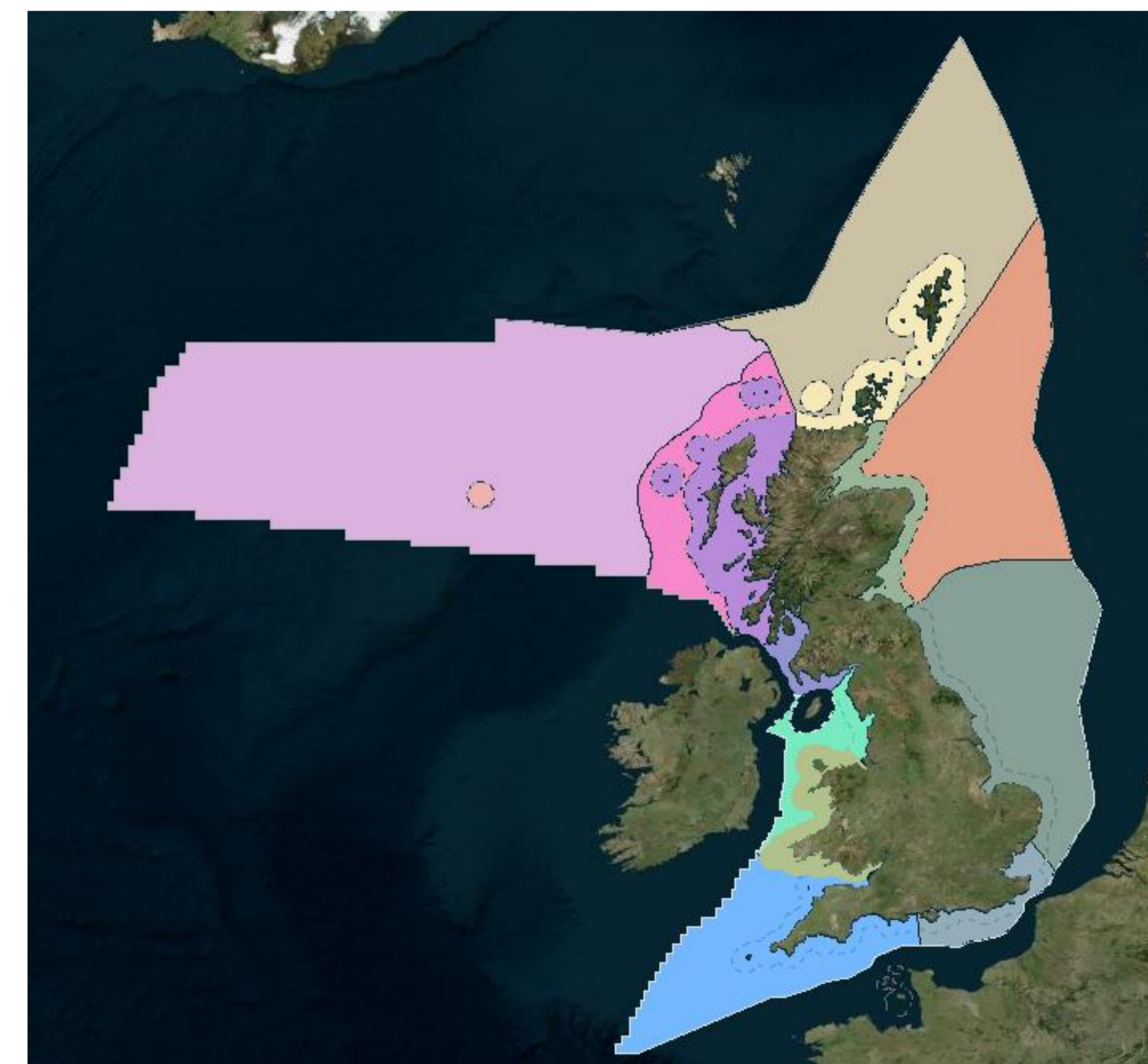
## Mapper content

The MPA mapper currently provides an online resource for displaying SACs, SPAs, designated MCZs, MNRs and OSPAR MPAs. Like Google Maps and Google Earth, you are able to zoom and pan to any area of interest to create bespoke pdf maps for printing.

The website currently displays UK MPA site boundaries along with queryable data on Annex I features such as reef and sandbank extent. Planned developments are to incorporate survey data that has been collected within each site, as well as related industry or human activity data (such as renewable energy development blocks) that JNCC can display publicly. Where possible, the survey data will include Multibeam / sidescan sonar imagery, grab samples / photo locations and video transect lines. The intention is also to display a selection of 'pop-up' photographs taken within the sites to show the range of habitats and species found within it. Hyperlinks will be updated to fully integrate the site with new SAC web profile pages for each site.

This web tool currently displays additional information by using the right click of the mouse button. This includes links through to related webpages and resources on the JNCC website, including SAC data forms, site assessment documents and survey pages.

## UK regions for the MCZ, Welsh MCZ and Scottish MPA projects



## Pop-up information from right click button. Background map showing UK Annex I reef distribution

