



**Chinese Whispers:
Myths and misconceptions mask the true
progress in MPA management in Devon and the
Severn Estuary**

**Libby Ross on behalf of Sarah Clark
Devon and Severn IFCA**



What do the terms "marine reserve" and "marine-protected area" conjure up for you? Places in which, perhaps, wildlife is protected? In which the damaging activities permitted in other parts of the sea – **such as trawling and dredging – are banned? Wrong**

We need more because the network we have is far from complete. Despite the [50] MCZs, the UK's rich marine life has very little protection. That may sound paradoxical, but six years after the Marine Act was passed, **MCZs are still paper parks**. They **have no management at all**, so life within them remains unprotected. They will be worse than useless, giving the **illusion of protection where none is present.**"



A marine-protected area in the United Kingdom is an area inside **a line drawn on a map** - and that's about it. In most cases, **the fishing industry can continue to rip up the seabed**, overharvest the fish and shellfish, and cause all the other kinds of damage it is permitted to inflict in the rest of this country's territorial waters. With three tiny exceptions, **our marine reserves are nothing but paper parks**

"Marine Conservation Zones will **not make a jot of difference** if they don't get sufficient protection. What we need is to exclude all mobile fishing gears . . . they are completely incompatible with nature conservation."

2 NEWS Visit us at fishingnews.co.uk and on Twitter @YourFishingNews 26 January 2016

23 English MCZs announced in second round

50 sites in total now cover over fifth of waters

DEFRA has designated another 23 marine conservation zones (MCZs) in English waters, reports **Tim Oliver**



activities – remembering that these are people's livelihoods we are talking about, and that fishermen put food on the table."

He said experience had shown that achieving the support of people who relied on the local resources was critical to the success of MCZs, especially in times of tight public finances when monitoring would be necessarily limited.

"A measured, careful approach also limits the potential of the displacement of fishing and other activities that can actually do more harm than good, by having higher environmental impacts elsewhere if site locations and management measures are not planned properly."



MYTHS

FACTS



Myths

- Marine Protected areas are the same as No Take Zones
- Designation of MPA means immediate protection of features
- Best Evidence of feature extent and location already exists
- Management should be brought in without evidence
- Regulators will bow to the pressure of the fishing industry
- MPA designation means no bottom towed gear
- Paper Parks
- Currently no management is in place in MPA

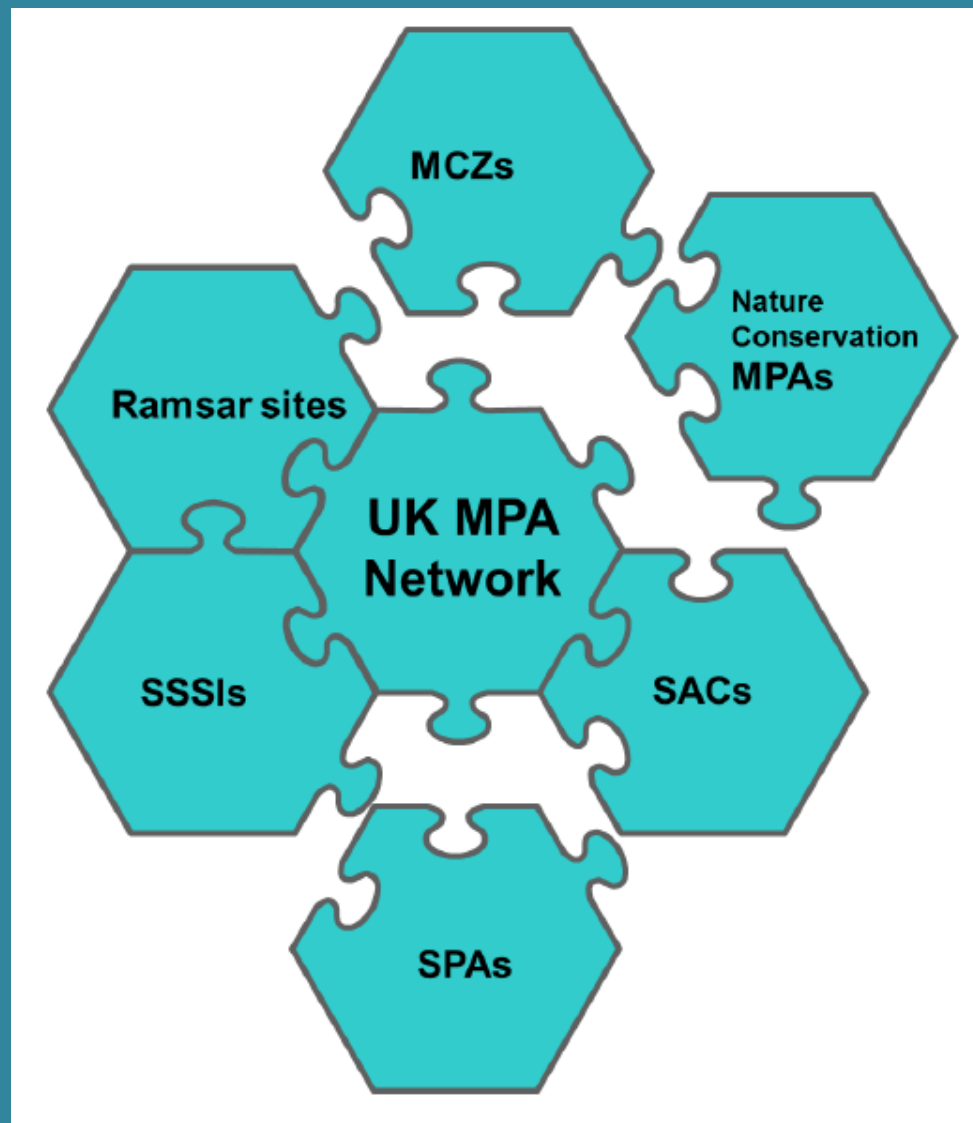
Facts

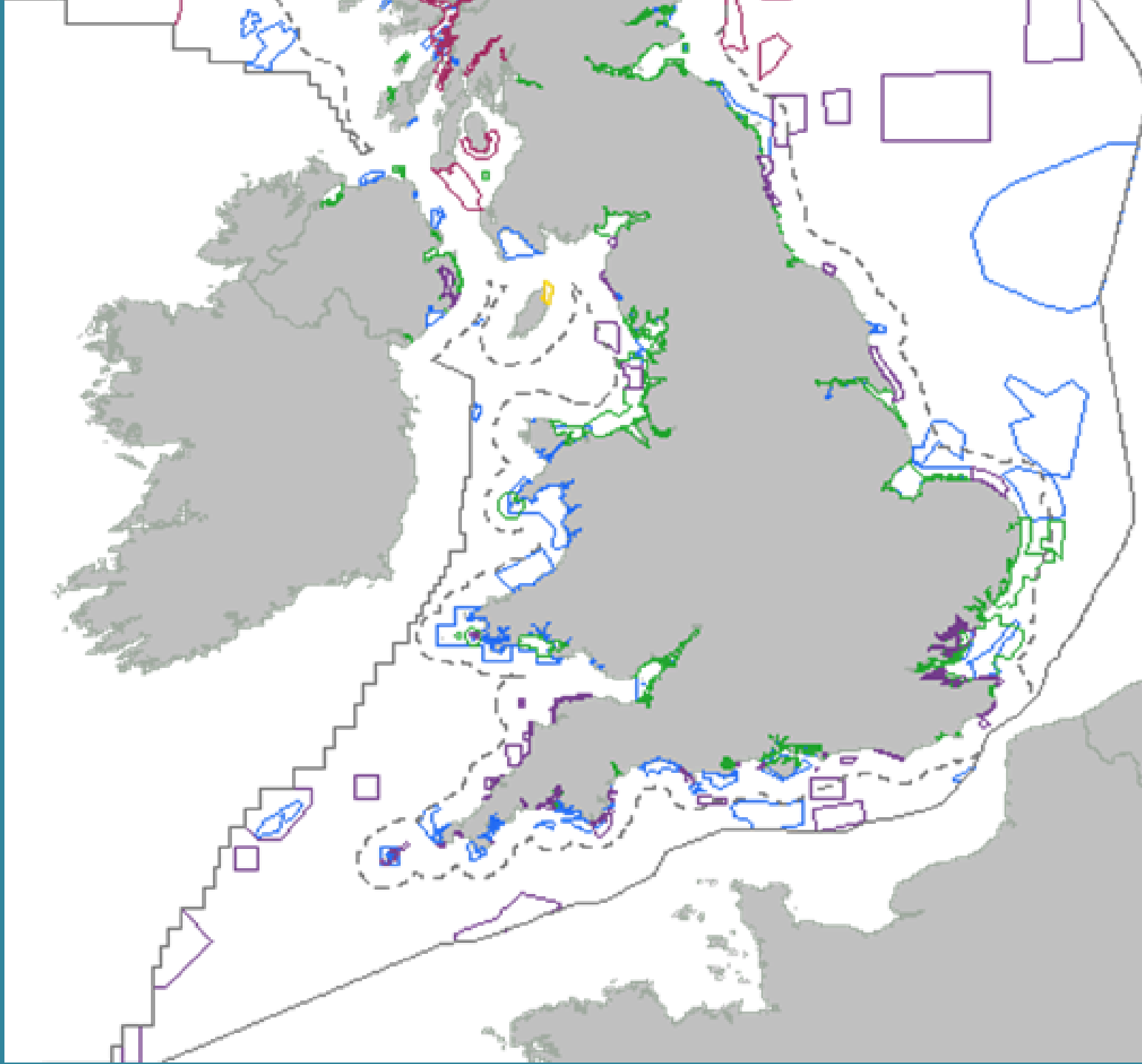
- Marine Protected Areas do provide protection of the designated habitats or species. Some have no take zones
- Assessment of impact and appropriate management of fishing activities will be brought in within 2 years of designation (MCZ)
- In some cases very poor evidence of feature extent and location exists at designation. Extensive survey work is taking place.
- Management is in place in MPAs
- Developing monitoring programmes
- MPA does not mean all towed gear removed
- The MPA network is building



MPA Network

- Around the coast of England there are extensive areas that are MPA
- MaCAA and EC Habitats Directive
- Currently focus is on MCZ - three tranches
- Fisheries management in European Marine Sites
- Defra's revised approach 2012
- IFCA's, MMO & Defra





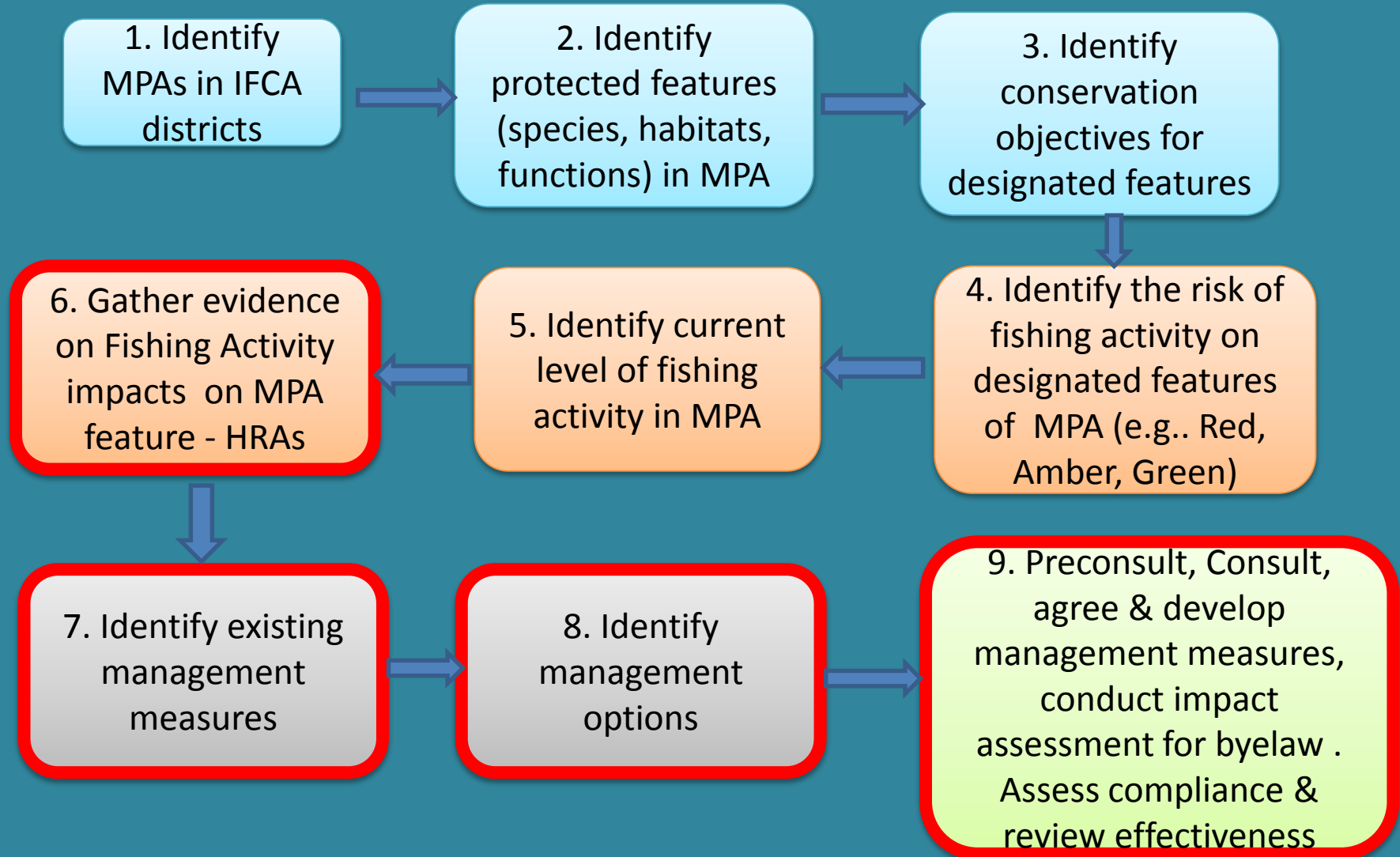
IFCA and MPA - Progress

No. of EMS	89
No. of EMS features	185
No. of EMS subfeatures	552
No. of gear types in matrix	40
No. of gear / feature interactions	13,615

No. of Tranche 1 MCZ	27
No. of Tranche 1 features	167
No. of Tranche 2 MCZ	23
No. of Tranche 2 features	40
No. of Tranche 3 rMCZ	23
No. of Tranche 3 rMCZ features	128

IFCA district sea area	28,607 km ²
Area of EMS in IFCA districts	11, 581 km ²
Area of MCZs in IFCA districts	4,642 km ²
Area covered by MPAs (overlap removed)	13,213 km ²

MPA Assessment and Management Process



9 EMS

- Lundy SAC
- Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone cSAC
- Lyme Bay & Torbay cSAC
- Exe SPA
- Severn Estuary SAC
- Severn Estuary SPA
- Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC
- Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA
- Braunton Burrows SAC

Total area =
1160.73 km²

4 Tranche 1 MCZ

- Skerries Bank & Surrounds MCZ
- Torbay NMCZ
- Tamar MCZ
- Lundy MCZ

Total area =
318.18 km²

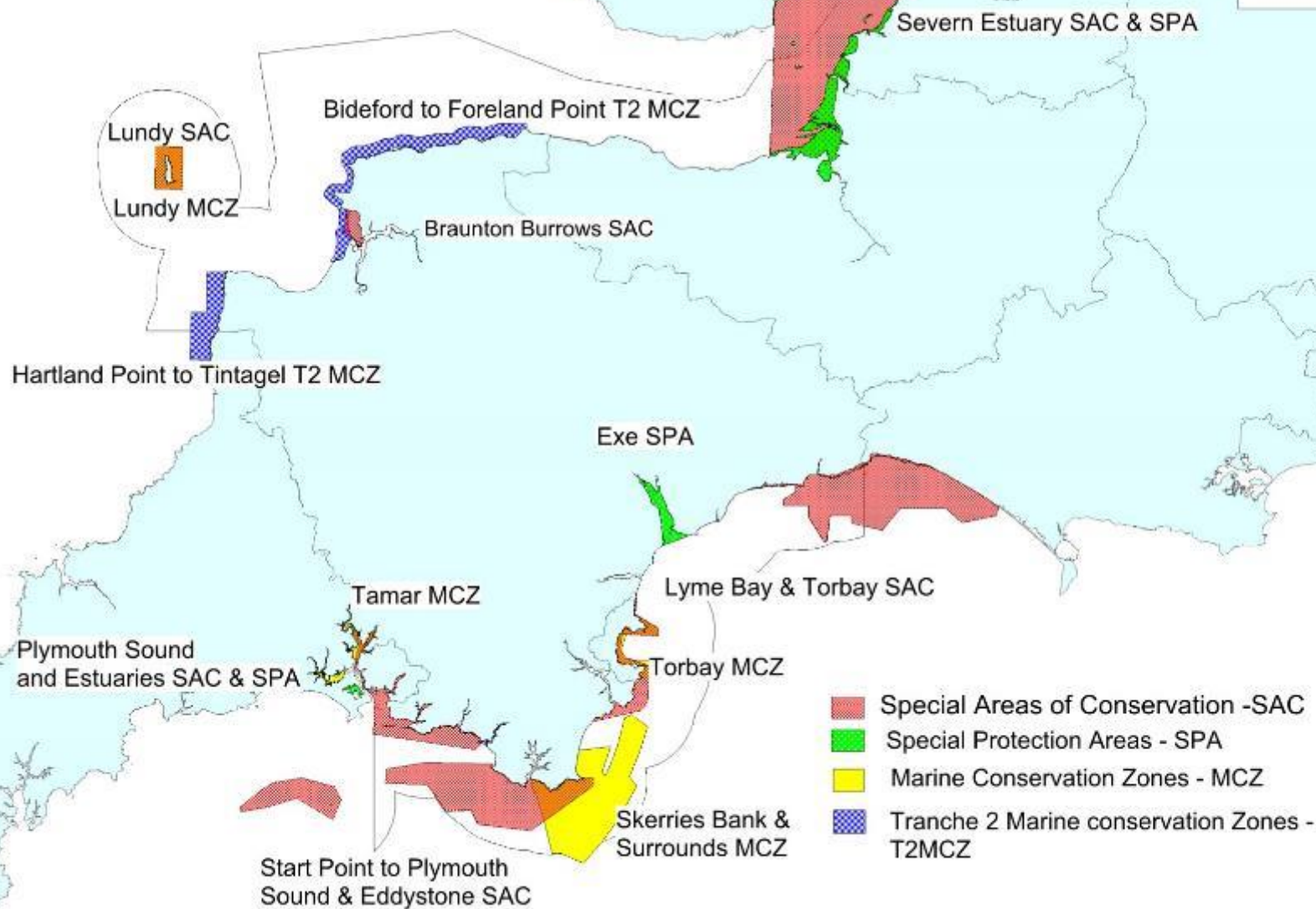
2 Tranche 2 MCZ

- Bideford Bay to Foreland Point MCZ
- Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

Total area =
138.20 km²

Total of D&S IFCA district covered by MPA =
1331.40 km² or 29.44%
40% of South Devon coast is MPA

Marine Protected Areas in Devon & Severn IFCA District

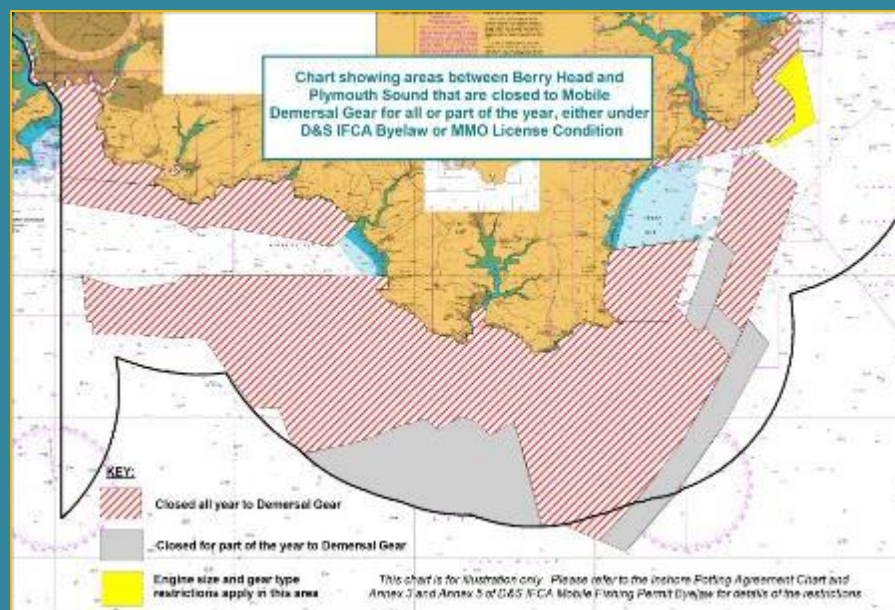
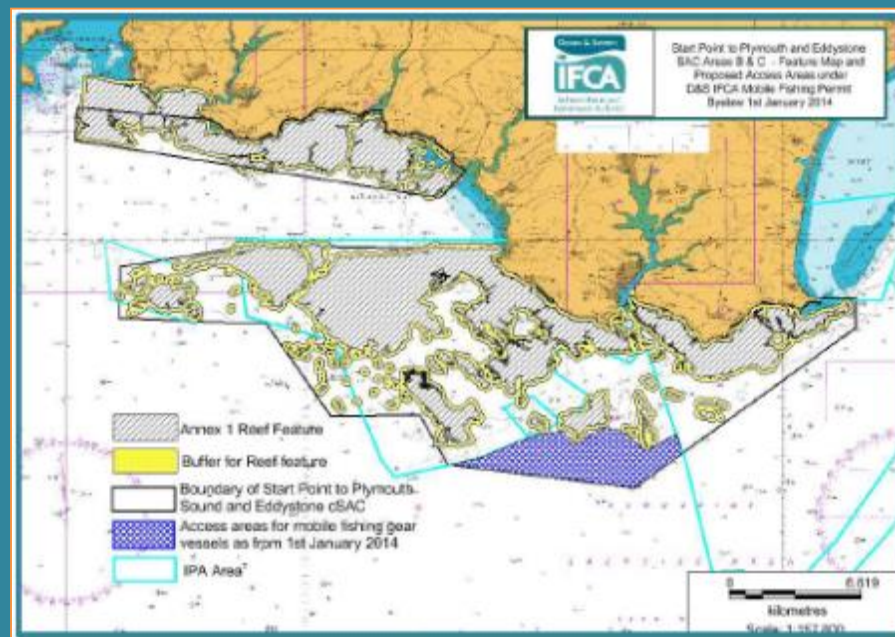


Devon & Severn IFCA's Progress In Assessments To Inform Management

Site	Total gear/feature interactions	<i>Not occurring</i>	<i>Red Risk</i>	Total Screened out	total remaining after intial screening & red risk	HRAs completed	HRAs signed off	Total Remaining (2016)	Total remaining (Bait collection 2018)	% age completed
Plymouth Sound & Estuaries (SAC)	707	253	31	284	423	389	312	0	34	95.19
Tamar Estuaries Complex (SPA)	159	78	0	78	81	61	61	0	20	87.42
Exe Estuary	278	199	0	199	79	44	44	20	15	87.41
Lundy	192	88	12	100	92	88	58	4	0	97.92
SPPSE	26	1	13	14	12	12	6	0	0	100.00
Lyme Bay & Torbay	78	3	35	38	40	40	0	0	0	100.00
Severn Estuary SAC	454	91	54	145	309	275	275	16	14	92.51
Severn Estuary SPA	417	235	36	271	144	130	102	0	14	96.16
Braunton Burrows SAC	17	13	0	13	4	4	2	0	0	100.00
Totals	2328	961	181	1142	1184	1043	860	40	97	93.86

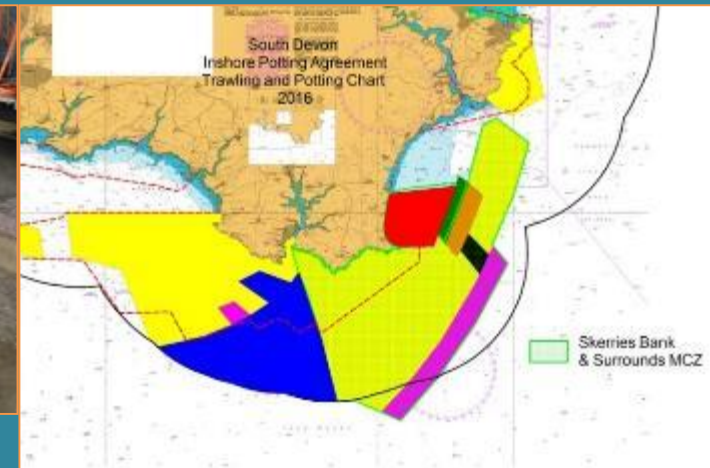
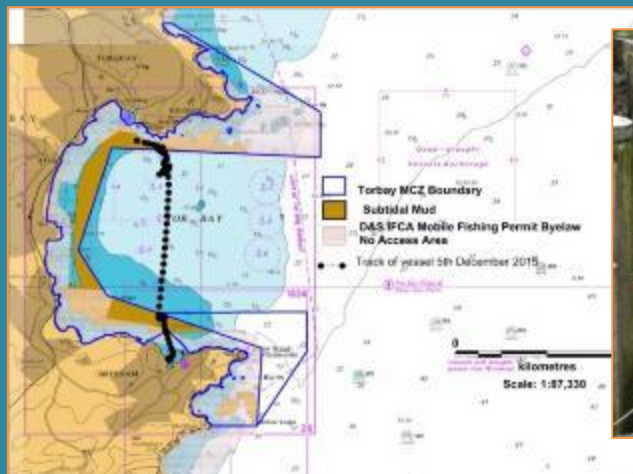
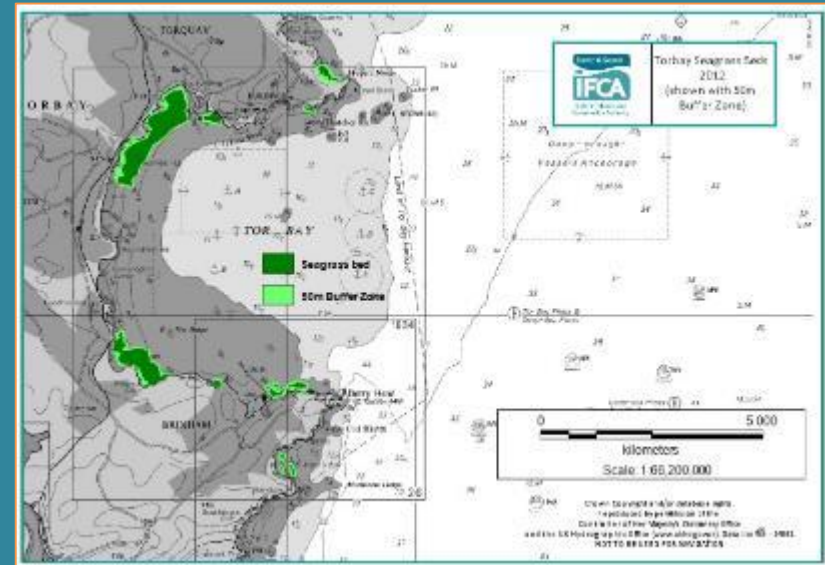
EMS management

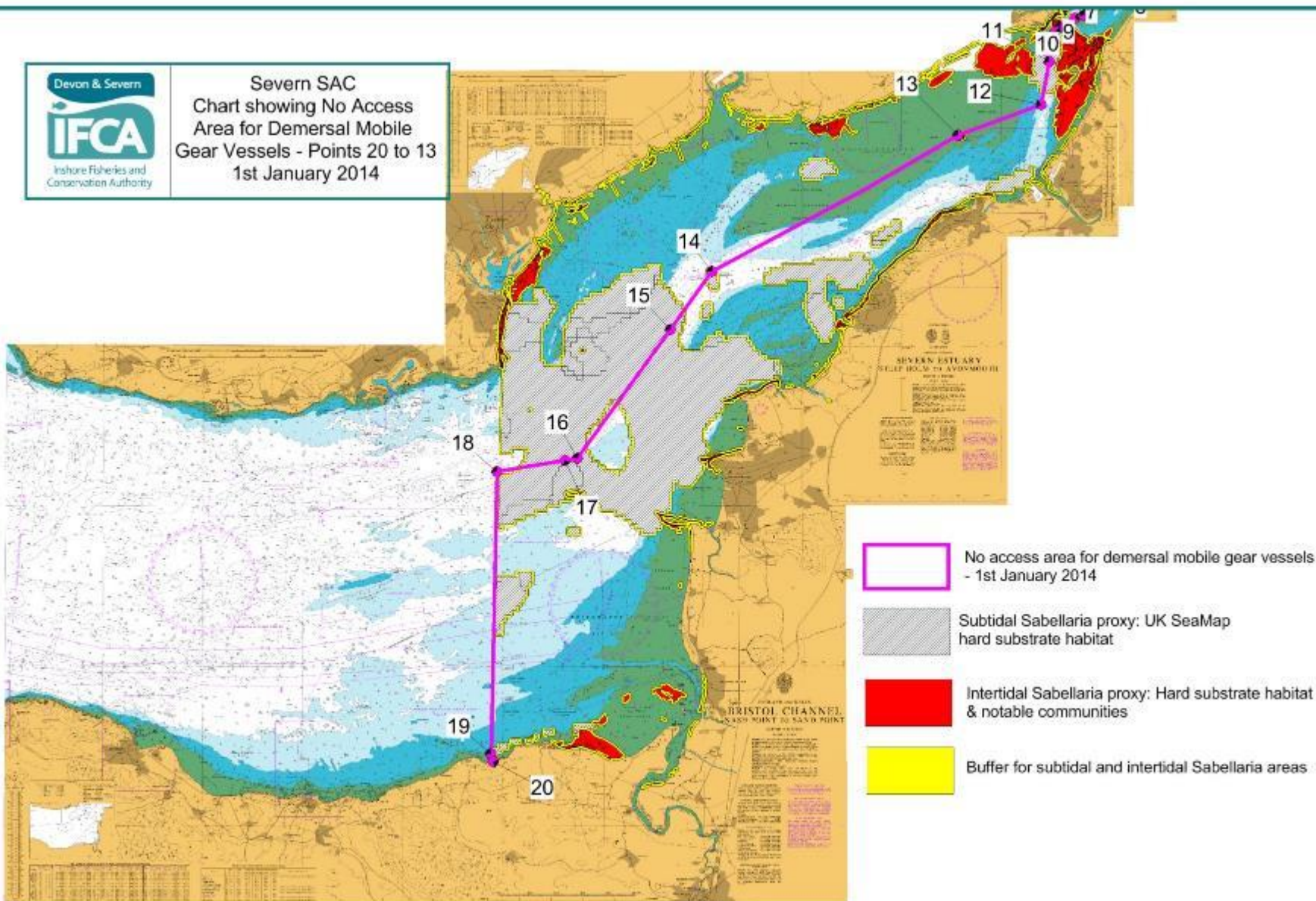
- Byelaw Review
- Red risk - Revised Approach and MCZ management – Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
- **24.45% of district and 92.5% of MPA area closed to demersal towed gear**
- **100% protection of designated features from demersal towed gear in Severn EMS, Lyme Bay & Torbay SAC, SPPSE SAC, Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC**
- 77% of Lundy SAC is closed to bottom towed gear – current AA on sand sediments

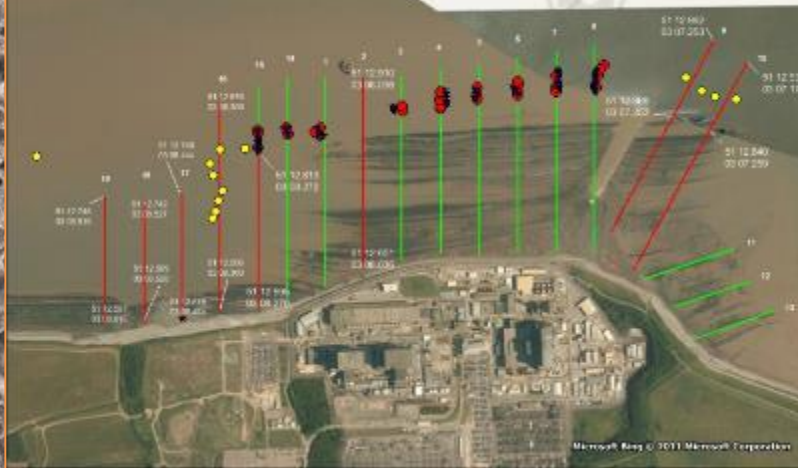


MCZ management

- Sea grass protection in Torbay MCZ
- *Palinurus elephas* landing prohibition Lundy MCZ & Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ - Potting Permit Byelaw
- Managed access Zones in Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ – working with MMO
- 55% Mud in Torbay MCZ is protected from demersal gear – MSc study looking at gear impacts on remaining mud areas







Sabellaria

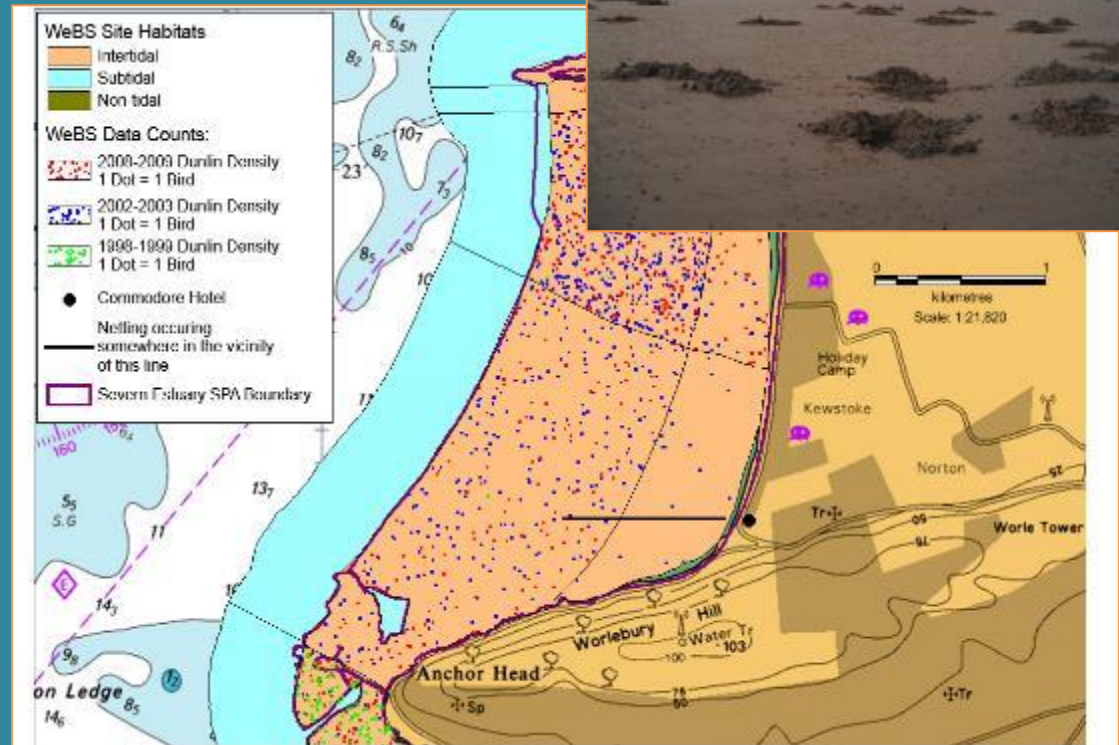
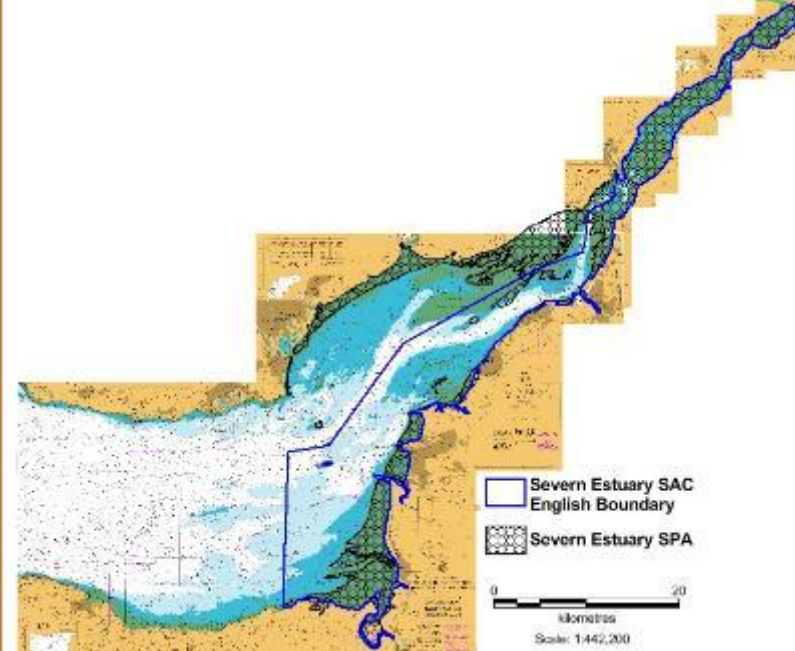
- Extent of intertidal *Sabellaria* survey undertaken
- Monitoring bait digging - 2 year formal survey
- Investigation of angling & netting impacts – trampling or natural processes?
- Netting mud horse Bridgewater Bay – Habitat Regulation Assessment



Fish: Shad, river & sea Lamprey, fish assemblage

- Monitoring commercial catches
- By-catch recording scheme for shad
- Flyers to inform fishers that it is illegal to retain shad
- Monitoring activity through permitting byelaw
- Further on-going survey of netting activity in EMS
- IFCA developing opportunities for sea angling:
 - Somerset Coast angling project – signage at Minehead MCRS; how to fish sustainably; handling of fish; catch & release
 - Fish trail project – encouraging sustainable angling through films and website





Birds

- Monitoring netting activity through permit byelaw – disturbance impacts
- Through work with ASERA develop codes of conduct for bait digging & recreational sea angling
- HRA bait digging not done yet (by 2017) but codes will inform HRA



MYTHS BUSTED



Thank You

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