

Position paper on fisheries management in relation to nature conservation, including a zoning proposal, for the combined area covered by the 3 national Natura 2000 sites (SACs) on the Dogger Bank.

Draft Contents

Version: June 20th 2011

Cross-check if advice concurs with Commission's guidance for Member State proposals for fisheries management measures in N2000 sites.

1. Executive summary

2. Introduction

2.1. Purpose and scope of plan

- Introduce goals and objectives
- Role of the NSRAC
- Recipients of the plan

2.2. Legislative authority for the plan (national and international)

- Advice to 4 member states (UK, NETHS, GER, DK) for cooperative approach, but noting that at governmental level they are less joined up.
- Stick to N2000 scenario (geographical) and add extra things outside area as appropriate.
- Clarify decision-making process (Commission/MSs/NSRAC) in relation to FIMPAS project and ICES advice.

3. Description of the site and its features (based on and linked to existing documents)

- Need to deal with national differences in data-availability and conservation objectives (i.e. UK has more detailed species information, some national datasets will overlap, others not). Describe limitations of datasets used.
- Context: Dogger Bank + edge (WWF have data to add from Van Moorsel on broad ecological description of the area; summarize in tables and reference).

3.1. Regional setting: delineation

3.2. Resources (facts pertinent to management; other data in an appendix or separate document)

3.2.1. Physical: e.g., marine landscape features, currents, bathymetry, hydrology

3.2.2. Biological: ecosystems; critical habitats (e.g. feeding, spawning); species

3.3. Fisheries on the Dogger Bank

- Consider changes in the fisheries themselves (e.g. gear changes, capacity reduction, fishing patterns, etc.)

3.4. Impacts of fisheries

- ##### 3.4.1. a. Fishing effects: ILVO, Kaiser & Hiddink have information on bottom impacts of specific gear.

- 3.4.2. b. Spatial effects: In time and space there are differences in different sites on the Dogger Bank (some sites may not be trawled at all)
- 3.5. Impacts of other uses affecting the goals/objectives, including concerns with displacement issues
 - 3.5.1. Combine VMS data with detailed track plots. Qualitative appraisal of VMS maps. Use best available evidence.

4. The plan

- 4.1. Habitats Directive objectives for N2000 Sites
- 4.2. Goals and objectives (general and specific)
 - 4.2.1. Give advice on the question asked but don't refrain from giving them more (white paper for N2000, 'yellow paper' for the bigger picture related to MSFD, OSPAR).
 - 4.2.2. How do we translate general conservation objectives into specific spatial measures? Which ones are important?
- 4.3. Management tactics (comparing with the zoning proposal in Dutch coastal zone)
 - 4.3.1. Zoning framework (what is the zone?)
 - 4.3.2. Management measures (what are rules within the zone?)
 - Adaptive management
 - 4.3.3. Boundaries (how to apply these rules, coordinates)
 - 4.3.4. Zoning plan
 - Role of reference sites and control sites as part of the zoning proposal
 - Co-location
 - Displacement
 - Take into account experience with Cleaver Bank and FIMPAS (see 2.2)
- 4.4. Surveillance and enforcement
- 4.5. Monitoring and evaluation of plan effectiveness
 - Up to science to design indicators for measuring if we meet the objectives
- 4.6. Timetable for implementation

5. Appendices

6. References