



THE VOICE OF ANGLING
www.anglingtrust.net

Sussex Marine Region

Public Consultation on MCZ's Act now to make your views known.

As you may be aware, the Government is currently carrying out a public consultation on the 31 Marine Conservation Zones that are to be considered for designation in 2013. These sites have been chosen by Defra on the basis of the benefits they offer, how much these benefits outweigh the costs of designating the sites and the evidence supporting the reason for protecting them.

The consultation will close at Midnight on March 31st 2013. This is YOUR opportunity to comment on the proposed sites and highlight your support, or concerns, over the areas under consideration.

The consultation documents can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/12/13/marine->

The Angling Trust will be responding to the consultation but we would encourage you to send us details of your response to the consultation so that we can include the views of our members in our response. Amongst other points the Angling Trust's response will include:

1. Disappointment that only 31 of the 127 recommended sites have been proposed for the first tranche.
2. Concerns about displacement of commercial fishing effort
3. Concerns regarding the lack of interim protection for remaining sites that might be reconsidered for protecting in future tranches.
4. Concerns about the socio-economic impact on coastal communities of any restrictive measures on recreational angling activity.
5. Highlighting that the value of recreational sea angling (RSA) has only been included for a handful of the proposed sites, despite there being substantial RSA activity in most of the proposed inshore sites. This short-coming needs to be corrected (especially as RSA forms the large percentage of total cost where it has been included).
6. The decision not to include management measures in the current consultation makes it very difficult for respondents to know what the outcome of designation of the 31 recommended sites will be on recreational sea angling.
7. A re-emphasis of our long-standing position that there is no need for restriction of RSA activities in the proposed sites.

The MCZ's chosen for the Balanced Seas region - here in the South East are

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries
- Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries
- Medway Estuary
- Thanet Coast
- Folkestone Pomerania
- Hythe Bay
- Beachy Head West
- Kingmere
- Pagham Harbour

A response form is included in consultation document. Responses should be sent by post to: MCZ team c/o Post Room, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR or by email to: mcz@defra.gsi.gov.uk Please remember to copy your response to us so that we can reflect the concerns of our members in our response.

Future Designation of More MCZs:

The web site lists the zones requiring further consideration for possible designation. We urge you to include comments on these sites in any response you make. In selecting sites for designation in any future tranches Defra will consider:

- The responses to this consultation.
- The contribution needed to achieve the UK's obligation towards establishing ecologically coherent networks.
- The review of Reference Areas.
- Costs of sites to both industry and the public sector.

Remember, if you want trawling banned in this area then this is your opportunity to make your views known. We encourage you to do so before March 31st.