

MAIA

Marine protected areas
in the Atlantic arc

**MAIA : un réseau d'aires marines protégées
sur l'arc atlantique**



▣ Understanding the diversity and complementarity of Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

The acronym "MPA" encompasses a wide range of tools, approaches and goals that different countries implement in different ways.

Launched in 2010, the MAIA network aims to promote and **share this wealth and these differences to foster mutual understanding** and the development of a recognized, effective, sustainable and well-managed network of marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc.

This document aims to (re)present the full diversity of approaches and tools, i.e. the MPA categories.

Some twenty sites are presented in the form of descriptive data sheets to paint a picture of the main MPA categories in effect in the Atlantic arc. Each data sheet presents one MPA together with the other MPAs (with a different category) located in the same geographic area. The blue tab at the top of the page indicates the category covered in the description, while the shaded tabs specify the other categories in force within the geographic area (they may be adjacent to or overlap with the MPA presented).

Useful insights

Categories

Categories of protected areas are defined by legal instruments on nature conservation (laws, decrees, codes, statutes, etc.). The type of legislation differs from one country to another. Although categories often have similar names in different countries, such as "National Park" for example, their aims and methods of governance and funding etc., do not necessarily match.

Summary and correspondence of the names of 'national' categories presented in the document, in the original languages and in English

Portugal Parque natural Reserva natural	In English Nature Park Nature Reserve
Spain Parque natural Reserva marina de interés pesquero (Galicia)	In English Nature Park Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest (Galicia)
France Parc naturel marin Réserve naturelle nationale Arrêté de protection de biotope	In English Marine Nature Park National Nature Reserve Biotope Protection by Law
United Kingdom Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ - England) This category may include Highly Protected MCZ (HPMCZ – Wales)	

Summary and correspondence of the names of categories resulting from the European "Birds" and "Habitats" directives

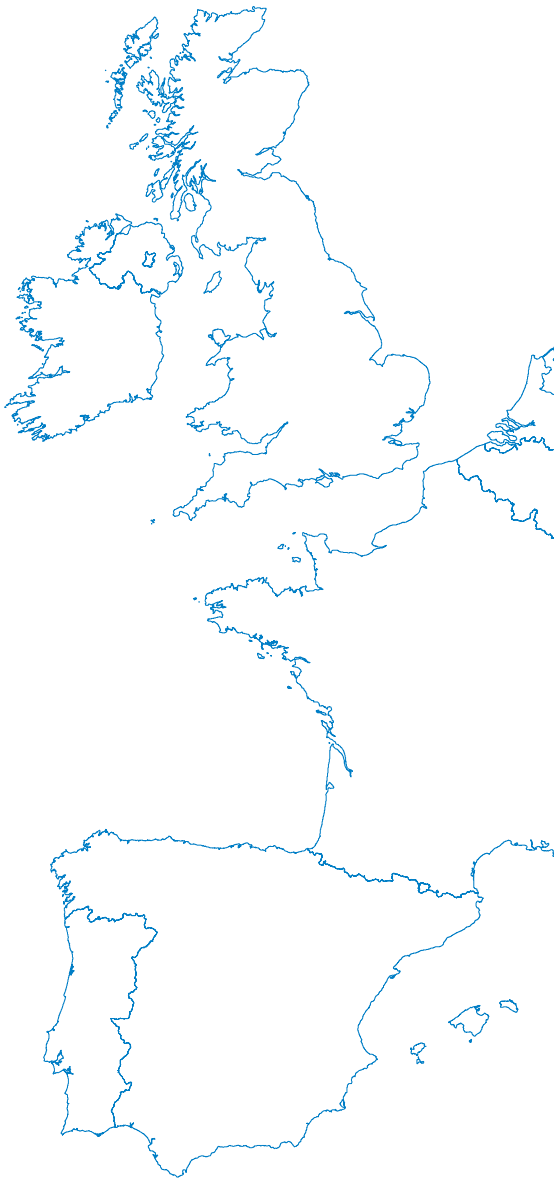
English	Portuguese	Spanish	French
Site of Community Importance (SCI)	Sítio de Importância Comunitária (SIC)	Lugar de Importancia Comunitaria (LIC)	Site d'Importance Communautaire (SIC)
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Zona Especial de Conservação (ZEC)	Zona Especial de Conservación (ZEC)	Zone Spéciale de Conservation (ZSC)
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Zona de Protecção Especial (ZPE)	Zona de Especial Protección para las Aves (ZEPA)	Zone de Protection Spéciale (ZPS)

Summary and correspondence of the names of 'international' categories

English	Portuguese	Spanish	French
Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO)	Reserva de biosfera	Reserva de biosfera	Réserve de biosphère (UNESCO)
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	/	Sitio Ramsar	Zone humide d'importance internationale (Ramsar)

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Marine Protected Area
(OSPAR)

Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas

MPA Designation: Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2012
Total surface: 177 700 km²
Designation scope: water column

Charlie-Gibbs Fracture zone

MPA Designation: Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2010
Total surface: 145 420 km²
Designation scope: water column and seabed

Altair Seamount High Seas

MPA Designation: Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2010
Total surface: 4 384 km²
Designation scope: water column

Milne Seamount Complex

MPA Designation: Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2010
Total surface: 21 000 km²
Designation scope: water column and seabed

Mid-Atlantic Ridge

North of the Azores High Seas

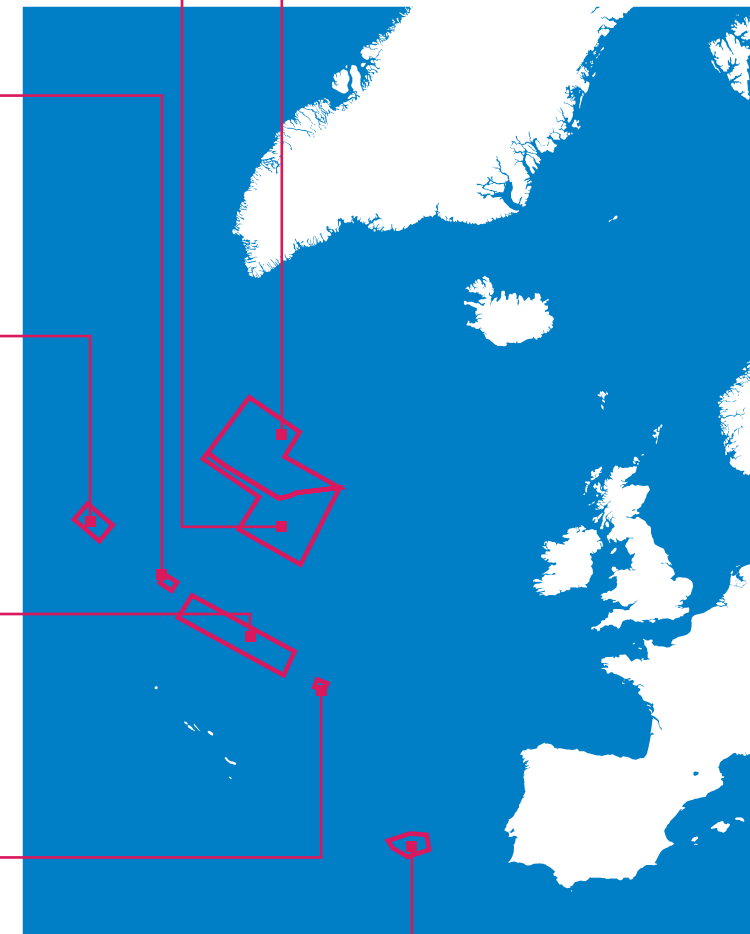
MPA Designation: Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2010
Total surface: 93 416 km²
Designation scope: water column

Antialtair Seamount High Seas

MPA Designation: Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2012
Total surface: 2 807 km²
Designation scope: water column

Josephine Seamount High Seas

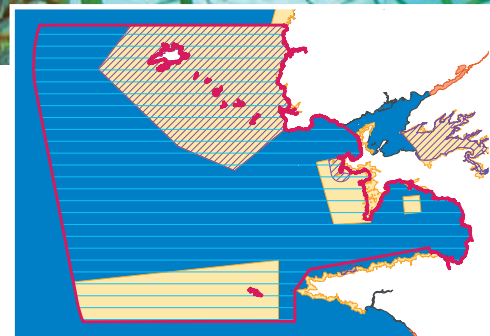
MPA Designation: Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2010
Total surface: 19 371 km²
Designation scope: water column





MPA Designation: Parc Naturel Marin
Country: France
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2007
Total surface: 3 428.6 km²
Marine surface: 3 428.6 km²

MPA Designation: Réserve Naturelle
Country: France
Status: Designated
Status Year: 1972
Total surface: 24.58 km²
Marine surface: 23.16 km²



- Site of Community Importance
- Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Iroise Marine Nature Parc Main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- POINTE DE CORSEN, LE CONQUET - Site d'importance communautaire
- CAP SIZUN - Site d'importance communautaire
- PRESQU'ÎLE DE CROZON - Site d'importance communautaire
- COTES DE CROZON - Site of Community Importance
- CAP SIZUN - Zone de protection spéciale
- IROISE - Zone marine protégée (OSPAR)
- CAMARET - Zone de protection spéciale
- CHAUSSEE DE SEIN - Site d'importance communautaire
- OUESSANT - MOLENE - Site d'importance communautaire
- OUESSANT-MOLENE - Zone de protection spéciale



Geographical and morphological description

Off the department of Finistère, the Marine Nature Park of Iroise stretches from the south of the island of Sein to the north of the island of Ouessant, an goes as far as the limits of the French territorial waters.

Main and official objectives

The creation of the Marine Nature Park of Iroise marks the coming of a new way of environment management in France.

The conseil de gestion is the governance body of the Park and gathers fishermen, scientifics, amateur / leisure sailors, local respresentatives, State administrators, environment protection organizations / NGOs. Therefore, the Park is managed by those who live for and by the sea. Nature Marine Parks answer to 3 goals: know and protect marine environment and develop sustainable marine activities.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

- Deepening and diffusion of the knowledge on marine ecosystems;
- Preservation of protected species and of their habitats;
- Reduction of pollution of maritime and land origin;
- Control of the activity of material extraction;
- Sustainable exploitation of halieutic resources;
- Support of the occupational inshore fishing;
- Sustainable exploitation of seaweed fields;
- Support of maritime activities on islands;
- Preservation and development of the archeological and architectural maritime heritage;
- Reasonable development of water-based recreational activities.

MPA Main regulations enforced

No specific regulations from the MPA.

Main habitats and species

- **Habitats:** Maërl bed, Seagrass (*Zostera marina*), Seaweed fields.
- **Species:** Common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), European Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*), Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*).



Geographical and morphological description

The National Nature Reserve encompasses the sand bank or all of the sand banks emerged at high tide and which form at the entrance to the Arcachon Bay. Under the combined effect of the winds, swell and tidal currents, the sand banks continually change shape and move between the Cap-Ferret headland and the largest dune in Europe, the dune of Pilat.

Main and official objectives

National heritage conservation is the priority management objective. Secondary objectives are to contribute to the emergence of a coherent policy for managing the inter-functional natural environments of the Arcachon Bay and to raise public awareness of marine environment conservation.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

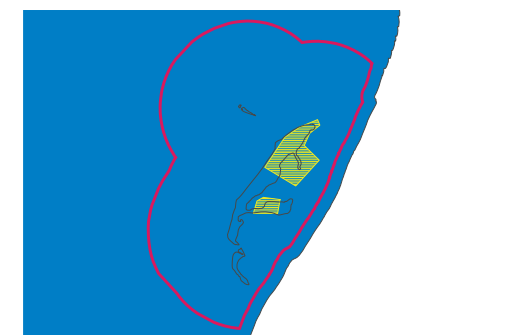
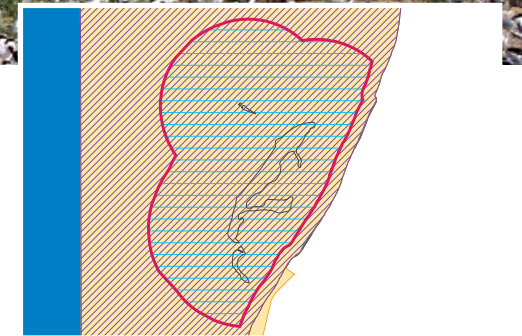
The reserve has national or international responsibility for the conservation of several bird species. In its own way, it illustrates the management issues inherent in coastal natural areas, particularly the problem of trying to reconcile socio-economic activities and the protection of habitats and species.

MPA Main regulations enforced

- No change to the condition or appearance of the site is permitted;
- Integral protection zones are delimited and access is strictly prohibited as they are feeding, resting and nesting areas for birds;
- Craft, trade and advertising activities are forbidden. Hunting, picking and disturbance of the wildlife are forbidden. Camping is forbidden. The speed limit is 5 knots. The landing of dogs is prohibited.

Main habitats and species

- **Habitats:** Sandbanks with low permanent cover by marine water, Sandy berm discovered during low tide, Embryonic moving dunes.
- **Species:** Sandwich terns - *Sterna sandvicensis*, Dunlin - *Calidris alpina*, Oystercatcher - *Haematopus ostralegus*.



- Site of Community Importance
- Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
- Special Protection Area
- Banc d'Arguin national nature reserve main considered perimeter
- Banc d'Arguin national nature reserve sub perimeters
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- BANC D'ARGUIN - Zone marine protégée (OSPAR)
- BASSIN D'ARCACHON ET BANC D'ARGUIN - Zone de protection spéciale
- BASSIN D'ARCACHON ET CAP-FERRET - Site d'importance communautaire



ROCHES DE PENMARC'H

Special Protection Area

Site of Community Importance

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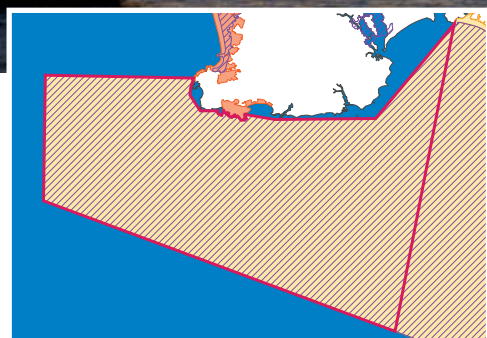
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Marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc

PLATEAU DE ROCHEBONNE

Site of Community Importance

Special Protection Area



- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Roches de Penmarc'h site of community importance main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- BAIE D'AUDIERNE - Zone spéciale de conservation
- ROCHES DE PENMARC'H - Zone de protection spéciale
- ARCHIPEL DES GLENAN - Site d'importance communautaire
- MARAIS DE MOUSTERLIN - Site d'importance communautaire
- ARCHIPEL DES GLENAN - Zone de protection spéciale



Geographical and morphological description

Located in the southern Finistère, the Roches de Penmarc'h site is dominated by granitic rocks exposed to the tides and winds and extending beneath the sea's surface in a vast rocky flat that is home to a particularly abundant kelp field. Further offshore, these reefs meet the vast mud flat at its northern limit, creating a mosaic effect giving rise to great specific diversity and a wealth of fish.

Main and official objectives

Maintain or restore habitats and species of community interest to a positive conservation state while taking the territorial socio-economic and cultural requirements into account.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

- Maintain sustainable professional fishing;
- Manage water-based recreational activities;
- Protect the seaweed resources;
- Improve scientific knowledge of the site's habitats and species, and monitor their conservation state;
- Inform the public and raise awareness.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Management scheme currently being developed. No specific regulations apply to this site.

Main habitats and species

- **Habitats:** Reefs (rocky flat and block fields with kelp forests, lower sublittoral rocks with gorgonian, alcyonarians, spongiae and rose coral); Sand banks, mud flats, Zostera beds.
- **Species:** Common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*); Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*); Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*).



MPA Designation: Site d'Importance Communautaire
Country: France
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2010
Total surface: 97.15 km²
Marine surface: 96.98 km²

Geographical and morphological description

The bedrock of the *Plateau de Rochebonne* consists of metamorphic rocks (mica schist). The pinnacles which dominate by 30 to 40 metres a bed of very hard pink granite, slightly shaly and sometimes indurated with black mica, can show less than 4 metres beneath the surface. According to geological and sedimentological surveys done in the past (*Callame B. 1965 and 1966*), the *Plateau de Rochebonne* is thought to be a granitic extension of Belle-Ile and the Ile d'Yeu. Apparently, this plateau was once a complex of emerged islets surrounded by beaches, a reef area that has undergone major continental wind erosion and then marine erosion during the last rises in the sea level.

Main and official objectives

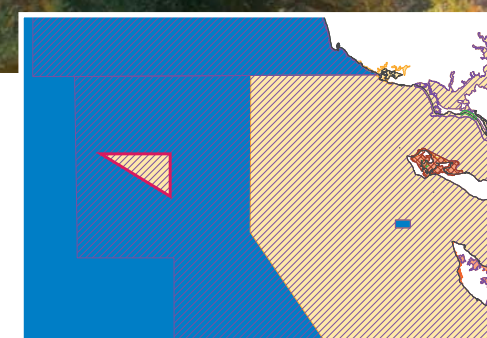
The *Plateau de Rochebonne* site is home to flora and fixed fauna of outstanding biodiversity and conservation. Its dangerous nature and distance from the coast naturally protect it from excessive human presence. The site's main objective is to maintain the good state of conservation.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

The main challenge of this site located more than 30 nautical miles from the nearest coasts, is to conserve and maintain the functions of natural habitats, habitats of species and species of community interest which led to its designation, as part of the Natura 2000 network, while ensuring that socio-economic activities are done in a manner compatible with and respectful of this environment.

Main habitats and species

- **Habitats:** Reefs (Habitat 1170).
- **Species:** The Common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and the Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) warranted classification as a site of community importance.



- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Plateau de Rochebonne site of community importance main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- PERTUIS CHARENTAIS - ROCHEBONNE - Zone de protection spéciale



SECTEUR DE L'ÎLE D'YEU

Site of Community Importance

Special Protection Area

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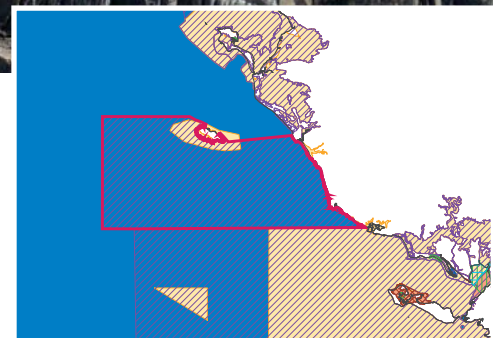
National Nature Reserve

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)

Special Protection Area

Special Area of Conservation

Site of Community Importance



- Site of Community Importance
- Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
- Special Protection Area
- Secteur de l'Île d'Yeu site of community importance main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- COTES ROCHEUSES, DUNES, LANDES ET MARAIS DE L'ÎLE D'YEU - Site d'importance communautaire
- MARAIS BRETON, BAIE DE BOURGNEUF, ÎLE DE NOIRMOUTIER ET FORÊT DE MONTS - Site d'importance communautaire
- PLATEAU ROCHEUX DE L'ÎLE D'YEU - Site d'importance communautaire
- DUNES DE LA SAUZAIE ET MARAIS DU JAUNAY - Site d'importance communautaire
- MARAIS DE TALMONT ET ZONES LITTORALES ENTRE LES SABLES ET JARD - Site d'importance communautaire
- MARAIS BRETON, BAIE DE BOURGNEUF, ÎLE DE NOIRMOUTIER ET FORÊT DE MONTS - Zone de protection spéciale
- PERTUIS CHARENTAIS - Site d'importance communautaire
- PERTUIS CHARENTAIS - ROCHEBONNE - Zone de protection spéciale



Geographical and morphological description

The extensive marine area, around and off the shores of Ile d'Yeu, forms a major site for marine avifauna on the Atlantic coast, both on a national and global scale. The general conditions of this area (distance from the continent, substantial trophic resource, transition zone for the distribution range of numerous species) explain this wealth and the heightened responsibility for the conservation of these species of community interest.

Main and official objectives

Maintain or restore habitats and species of community interest to a positive conservation state while taking the territorial socio-economic and cultural requirements into account.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

- This site accommodates a large part of the world's population of Balearic Shearwaters during migration.
- This site is the scene of very large gatherings of birds in winter, making it particularly vulnerable to marine pollution.

MPA Main regulations enforced

No specific regulations for this site except for the generic system of incidence evaluation reproduced in amended Article L414-4 of the French Environmental Code.

Main species

- Species:** Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*), present during the non-breeding season; Red-throated loon (*Gavia stellata*), Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge*), Razorbill (*Alca torda*) and Little gull (*Larus minutus*) during the wintering season; Northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*), Great skua (*Catharacta skua*), Sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*), and British Storm-petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) during the migration period before and after the breeding season; Black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) during breeding.

MPA Designation: Zone Humide d'Importance Internationale (Ramsar)
Country: France
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2003
Total surface: 44.5 km²
Marine surface: 15.5 km²

Geographical and morphological description

This vast area combines large mud flats and sand banks uncovered at low tide, embanked marshes, salt marshes both in operation and disused, a dune massif and rocky foreshores. This patchwork of habitats produces a remarkable landscape where natural and cultural heritage have developed over the centuries.

Main and official objectives

During the 20th century, the development of human activities relating to the primary industry and recreation caused a significant decline in certain habitats and considerable disturbance to avifauna. Today, in addition to biodiversity conservation issues, there are problems of marine erosion with regard to dune systems and submersion, particularly as a result of climate change.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

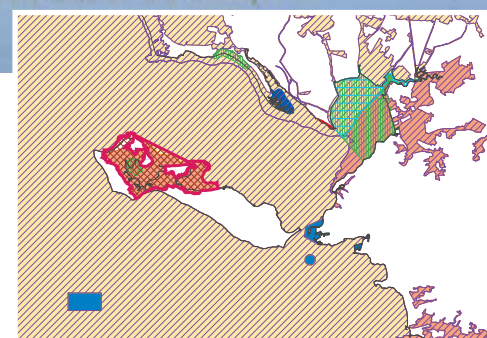
- Maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, the natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes under protection status;
- Maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, the natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes out of protection status;
- Maintain key ecological functions (spawning areas, nursery, feeding grounds, rest areas, areas of productivity, etc.);
- Protect, preserve and restore cultural heritage.

MPA Main regulations enforced

No specific regulations apply to this site

Main habitats and species

- Habitats:** Dwarf eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*); Salt marshes; Mudflats.
- Species:** Brant (*Branta bernicla*) during the winter season; Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) during the winter season; European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), an emblematic species of these marshes.



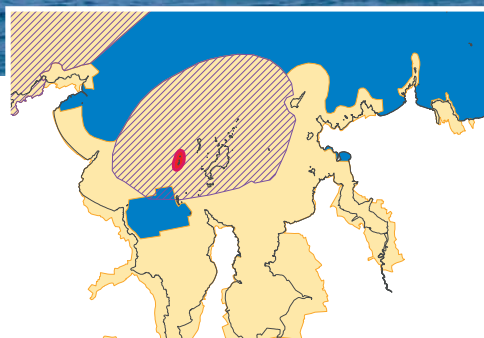
- Biotope Protection by Law
- Marine state property managed by Conservatoire du littoral
- National Nature Reserve
- Site of Community Importance
- Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)
- Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Marais du Fiers d'Ars Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- FIERS D'ARS ET FOSSE DE LOIX - Zone de protection spéciale
- PERTUIS CHARENTAIS - ROCHEBONNE - Zone de protection spéciale
- LILLEAU-DES-NIGES - Réserve naturelle nationale
- ÎLE DE RE : FIER D'ARS - Zone spéciale de conservation
- PERTUIS CHARENTAIS - Site d'importance communautaire





- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Île de la Colombière Biotopie protection by law main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- BAIE DE LANCIEUX, BAIE DE L'ARGUENON, ARCHIPEL DE SAINT MALO ET DINARD - Site d'importance communautaire
- ÎLES DE LA COLOMBIÈRE, DE LA NELLIERE ET DES HACHES - Zone de protection spéciale

MPA Designation: Arrêté de Protection du Biotopie
Country: France
Status: Designated
Status Year: 1985
Total surface: 0.076113 km²
Marine surface: 0.073321 km²

Geographical and morphological description

The Ile de la Colombière is a satellite island of the Ile des Hébiens, set on a granitic plateau. The island is edged with small cliffs and rocky scree. Vast expanses of sand are uncovered around the island at low tide.

Main and official objectives

Maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, the natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes under protection status.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

- The main conservation focus of the Biotopie Protection by Law is to maintain the colony of common terns, sandwich terns and roseate terns. As the island can be reached on foot at low water during the spring tides, these breeding birds are potentially exposed to land-based predators (rats, foxes);
- The secondary conservation objectives relate to the habitats, flora, invertebrates and other birds of lower heritage value but which interact with the communities of seabirds;
- In addition to these conservation issues, there is the aim of acquiring knowledge (ecology of terns and particularly their feeding), plus an educational and socio-cultural focus (integrating the MPA into the local socio-cultural fabric, improving awareness of seabirds and fostering acceptance of regulations).

MPA Main regulations enforced

A biotope protection by-law prohibits access to the land part and within a radius of 100 metres around La Colombière from 15 April to 31 August to preserve the tranquillity the seabirds need to reproduce. Terns are particularly sensitive to disturbance.

Main habitats and species

- Habitats:** Cliffs with vegetation typical of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.
- Species:** Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvisensis*); Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*); Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*).



- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Sillon de Talbert Marine state property managed by Conservatoire du littoral main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- TREGOR - GOELO - Zone de protection spéciale
- SILLON DE TALBERT - Réserve naturelle régionale
- TREGOR GOELO - Site d'importance communautaire

MPA Designation: Domaine Public Maritime du Conservatoire du Littoral
Country: France
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2001
Total surface: 2 km²
Marine surface: 1.8 km²

Geographical and morphological description

Over an exceptional 3 Km length, the Sillon de Talbert is the biggest narrow spit of France and one of the most spectacular of Europe. Made up with sand and pebble stones, it presents a real geomorphologic originality. The swell is the main evolution source of this remarkably nature structure, formed during the last marine transgression. In addition, the terrestrial part of the MPA hosts fauna and flora of interest.

Main and official objectives

Maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, the natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes under protection status; Maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, the natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes out of protection status; Maintain key ecological functions (spawning grounds, nurseries, feeding grounds, rest areas, productivity areas, etc.); Protect, preserve and restore cultural heritage; Promote sustainable management / development of socio-economic activities; Educate in environmental issues and improve public awareness; Foster scientific research; Create socio-economic added value.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

- Protect the Sillon de Talbert geomorphological heritage by continuing its restoration towards the closer natural state. Thus, in the aim of giving back to the furrow its natural reactivity, 7 000 m³ of rip-rap have been removed by the Conservatoire du littoral in 2004 with the support of the DREAL Bretagne (public administration in the Bretagne region) and European funds;
- Improve the scientific knowledge. The Pleubian town, manager of the MPA, commissions annual topographic surveys;
- Protect species and habitats present on the terrestrial part of the furrow by controlling the tourists visits.

MPA Main regulations enforced

The existing regulation is not specific to the domaine public maritime du Conservatoire du Littoral (marine state property).

Main habitats and species

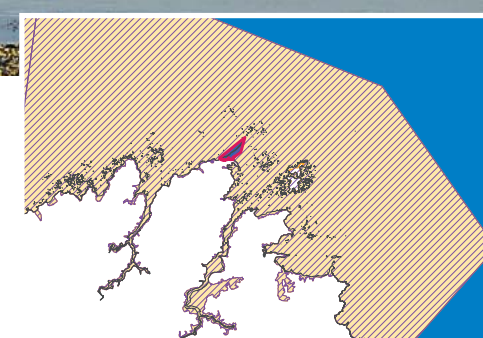
- Habitats:** Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*), Reefs.
- Species:** Little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), Common ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), seakale (*Crambe maritima*).



Conservatoire du littoral



ESPACE REMARQUABLE DE BRETAGNE

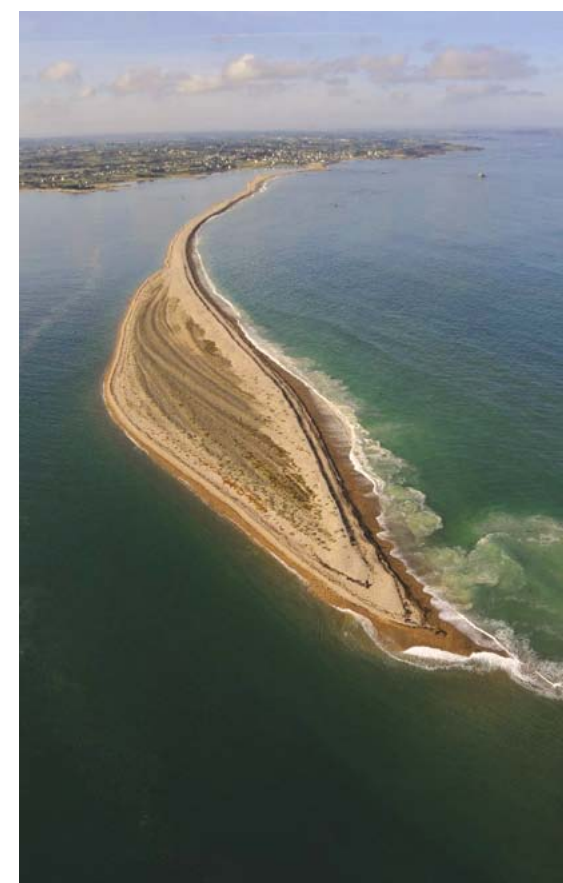


- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Sillon de Talbert Marine state property managed by Conservatoire du littoral main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

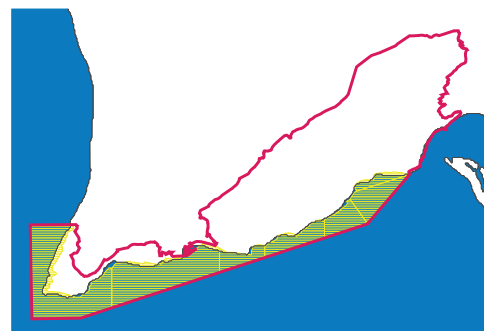
NAME - designation

- TREGOR - GOELO - Zone de protection spéciale
- SILLON DE TALBERT - Réserve naturelle régionale
- TREGOR GOELO - Site d'importance communautaire





MPA Designation: Parque natural
Country: Portugal
Status: Designated
Status Year: 1998
Total surface: 176 km²
Marine surface: 52 km²



- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Arrábida nature park main considered perimeter
- Arrábida nature park sub perimeters
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs NAME - designation

- ARRÁBIDA/ESPICHEL - Sítio de importância comunitária
- CABO ESPICHEL - Zona de protecção especial



MPA Designation: Reserva natural
Country: Portugal
Status: Designated
Status Year: 1998
Total surface: 95.60 km²
Marine surface: 94.62 km²



Geographical and morphological description

An archipelago some 6 miles off the Western coast of Portugal (Peniche) consisting of 3 sets of islands and islets: *Berlengas*, *Estelas* and *Faílhões-Forçadas*. The main island is 1,500m x 800m, with a maximum height of 88m. The Marine Reserve area boasts a great diversity of habitats which in turn are home to considerable biodiversity, the main feature being the rocky seabeds and underwater caves. The sea is moderately choppy to very rough.

Main and official objectives

Maintain, preserve and restore biodiversity an natural habitats, local species and natural or seminatural landscapes or those with some protection status; Maintain key ecological processes (reproduction breeding and feeding grounds); Foster sustainable management of socio-economic activities; Manage the use of natural resources; Environmental education and awareness; Promote scientific research.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

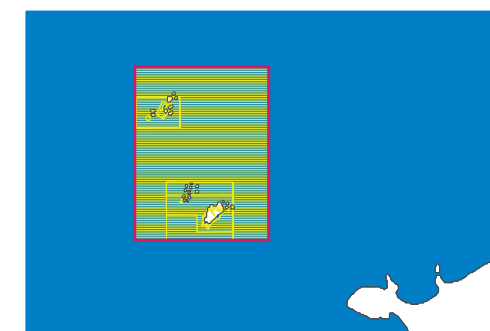
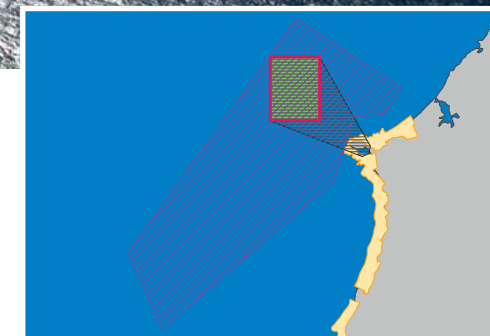
Protect habitats and marine species in an area where human presence is strongly felt (tourism) and where natural resources are subject to significant use. The main activities carried out in the area include professional and recreational fishing, boating and particularly marine tourist activities and amateur diving. The islands suffer from an excessive bird population (seagulls) and invasive plant species (*carpobrotus edulis*).

MPA Main regulations enforced

Main activities forbidden: professional fishing with nets, trawl fishing, harvesting of seaweed or other species and underwater fishing. Activities limited depending on the zone: trap fishing, recreational angling, navigation close to the shore. Activities subject to licensing or special permits: professional harvesting of barnacles, diving and other organized leisure activities, installation of any kind of structure and scientific research.

Main habitats and species

- **Habitats:** Rocky seabeds, underwater or partially submerged caves.
- **Species:** In addition to the general biodiversity of marine species, seabirds such as the Common Murre (*Uria aalge*), Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), the Band-rumped Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) and the European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) are worthy of mention.

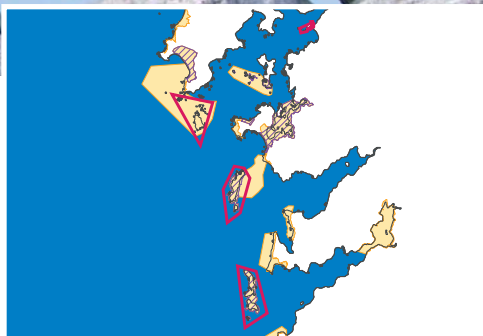


- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Natural Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO)
- Berlengas natural reserve main considered perimeter
- Berlengas natural reserve sub perimeters
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs NAME - designation

- ILHAS BERLENGAS - Zona de protecção especial
- BERLENGAS - Biosphere Reserve





- National Park
- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Islas Atlánticas national park main considered perimeter
- Islas Atlánticas national park sub perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- COMPLEXO HUMIDO DE CORRUBEDO - Lugar de importancia comunitaria
- COMPLEXO ONS-O GROVE - Lugar de importancia comunitaria
- ILLA DE ONS - Zona de especial protección para las aves
- ILLAS CIES - Lugar de importancia comunitaria
- ILLAS CIES - Zona de especial protección para las aves



MPA Designation: Parque nacional
Country: Spain
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2002
Total surface: 83.33 km²
Marine surface: 72.85 km²

Geographical and morphological description

The distribution is perpendicular to the coast, with a north-south direction; they formed during the Tertiary Period and are mainly made up of granitic rock.

- The Cíes Islands have a mountainous terrain and the highest elevation is 197m. The west coast side is rough with steep cliffs while the east is less steep with beaches and dunes;
- The islands Ons and Onza have a plateau relief with a maximum elevation of 128m.

The west coast is jagged with two coves while the east is straight and low with beaches;

- Sálvora has a rocky oval morphology except for three beaches on the east side. Maximum elevation is 71m;
- Cortegada is rectangular and flat with a highest elevation of only 22m.

Main and official objectives

Protect the integrity of ecosystems relating to the coastal zones and the continental platform in the Euro-Siberian region. Protect and restore habitats and species, preserve genetic diversity, and promote environmental values and natural heritage, by regulating both educational and research activities and visitor access in a manner compatible with conservation. Within the park, promote and support traditional activities that are compatible with the protection of the natural environment.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

The main conservation issue in this area is human pressure. In the islands, particularly the Cíes Islands, plantations of eucalyptus, pine and acacia trees have caused the displacement of native vegetation in various areas. The eradication of non-native species is a very lengthy process already underway, and the results are gradually being seen. Furthermore, there is a risk of overfishing and of using fishing gear and techniques harmful to the marine environment.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Only professional, traditional small-scale fishing and shellfish harvesting are permitted, all other types of fishing being prohibited (including recreational). There are visitor quotas to prevent overcrowding that can harm ecosystems. Access to certain areas is prohibited for visitor safety, but also owing to their vulnerability or high ecological value.



XUNTA DE GALICIA
CONSELLERÍA DO MAR

PARQUE NACIONAL MARÍTIMO TERRESTRE
DAS ILLAS ATLÁNTICAS
DE GALICIA



MPA Designation: Lugar de importancia comunitaria
Country: Spain
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2004
Total surface: 2.97 km²
Marine surface: 1.02 km²

Geographical and morphological description

The landscape is greatly marked by the geomorphology, combining a steep rocky coast with beaches lying at the foot of cliffs, some intertidal and other large expanses with dunes, forming a typical mixed coast. The vertical "tea table" cliffs, with their many spectacular landforms (arches, tunnels, blow holes), are an important part of the Galician geomorphological heritage.

Main and official objectives

Maintain or, as required, restore a good state of conservation. Control public use in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural value and research. Promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

Human pressure is the main conservation issue in this environment. Urban development and pressure from tourism are the two most harmful phenomena for this coastal ecosystem.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Not known.

Main habitats and species

- **Habitats:** Cliffs with vegetation typical of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; White dunes; Grey dunes.
- **Species:** *Woodwardia radicans*; *Discoglossus galganoi*; *Lutra lutra*



- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Catedrais Site of Community Importance main considered perimeter
- Sea



COMPLEJO INTERMAREAL UMIA - O GROVE MAIA

Site of Community Importance

Special Protection Area

Marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc

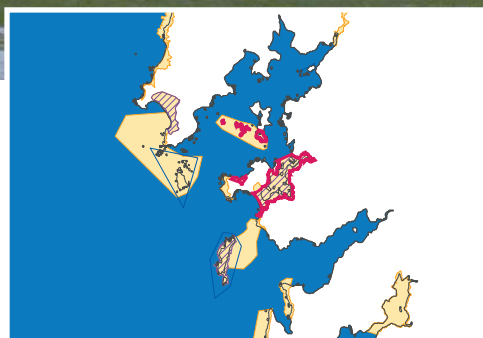
MAIA

Marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc

Os Miñarzos

Reserve of Fishing Interest

Site of Community Importance



- National Park
- Site of Community Importance
- Special Protection Area
- Complejo Intermareal Umia - O Grove Special Protection Area main considered perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- COMPLEXO ONS-O GROVE - Lugar de importancia comunitaria

MPA Designation: Zona de especial protección para las aves
Country: Spain
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2004
Total surface: 28.12 km²
Marine surface: 14.25 km²

Geographical and morphological description

Located between the Arosa and Pontevedra rias, this complex consists of three clearly different areas. The largest is the O Grove cove and the river Umia estuary, formed by a very protected shallow bay, with extensive intertidal areas, and separated from the open sea by a tombolo consisting of sand and dunes. The second area consists of a small dune system with lagoon coast, located north of O Grove peninsula (Mexiloeira beach and A Bodeira lagoon). The third area is located to the

south of Arousa island and the surroundings (O Carreirón, Guidoiros islets and Rúa island) and consists of several rocky and sandy islets and sections of well-preserved low coast within the ria.

Main and official objectives

It is home to bird populations requiring site conservation and appropriate management. These areas frequently used by migratory birds must be protected.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

Extensive shellfish harvesting activity in the intertidal zone: presence of 600 shellfishermen and motor vehicles. High anthropogenic pressure on beaches and sand in summer. Pressure from excessive urban development in the area. High vulnerability of coastal resources to road and port infrastructures.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Plan General de Explotación Marisquera, a yearly general shellfish harvesting plan published by the Consellería do Medio Rural e do Mar (Sea and Rural Environment Council).

Main habitats and species

- Habitats:** Coastal lagoons, brackish or salt marshes; Salt meadows. Salt steppes, rivers and estuaries subject to tidal dynamics; Sand banks or mud flats.
- Species:** Ceba (*Zostera noltii*, *Zostera marina*); Common spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*); Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*); Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*); Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*); Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*).

MPA Designation: Reserva marina de interés pesquero
Country: Spain
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2007
Total surface: 20.40 km²
Marine surface: 20.40 km²

Geographical and morphological description

The site is located on the Seno de Corcubión, between Punta Raposeiros and Punta Larada in the town of Carnota (A Coruña). The oceanography of this coast is characterized by upwelling processes of the central North Atlantic water occurring between May and September. Two types of streams converge and intensify this upwelling: a polar stream that surfaces in Cabo Prior and a subtropical stream rising up in Fisterra.

Main and official objectives

Protect and foster the regeneration of fish stocks. Promote small-scale fishing and sustainable development. Preserve and protect the flora and fauna of the marine environment and its diversity. Share the fishing and environmental values of the Galician coast. Facilitate the development and implementation of fishing management models with the involvement of fishermen and shellfishermen.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

The impact of human activities on the sea, either by direct fishing or in other ways endangering both the fished resources and all of the flora and fauna, and significantly altering the functioning of ecosystems.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Within the marine reserve, two integral reserve areas are delimited in which fishing, the extraction of flora and fauna and underwater activities are prohibited. To do any fishing and shellfish harvesting activity in the marine reserve, entry on a specific licensee register is required.

Main habitats and species

- Habitats:** Low rocky bottom, brown alga meadows, sandy bottoms.
- Species:** Goose neck barnacle (*Pollicipes pollicipes*), common octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*), crab (*Maja brachydactyla*).



- Site of Community Importance
- Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest
- Os Miñarzos Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest main perimeter
- Os Miñarzos Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest sub perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- CARNOTA-MONTE PINDO - Lugar de importancia comunitaria
- MONTE E LAGOA DE TOURO - Lugar de importancia comunitaria



XUNTA DE GALICIA
CONSELLERÍA DO MAR



XUNTA DE GALICIA
CONSELLERÍA DO MAR



STANTON BANKS

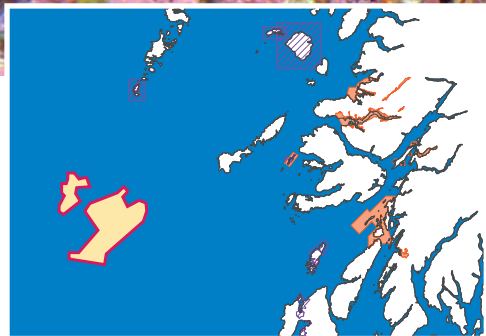
Site of Community Importance

MAIA

MAIA

ISLE OF SCILLY COMPLEX

Special Area of Conservation



- Site of Community Importance (Offshore)
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation (Onshore)
- Stanton banks main considered perimeter
- Sea



Geographical and morphological description

Stanton Banks are a series of granite ridges up to 130 metres tall that protrude from the seabed to the south of the Outer Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. The tops of these ridges are smooth and covered in encrusting species such as red algae and small sponges, whilst the rougher sides of the ridges support species such as featherstars, dead man's fingers and hydroids. Inter-connecting gullies between these ridges are filled with rippled coarse shell sand.

Main and official objectives

To maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes under protection status.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

The main challenges in progressing Stanton Banks SCI have been:

- Progressing a site which is in offshore waters when little is known on the precise location or condition of the Annex 1 reef feature;
- Ascertaining how close to the Annex 1 reef features fishing activity is occurring; and
- Identifying relevant stakeholders who use the area within and around the site, to include them in discussions on the identification of Common Fisheries Policy management measures for the site.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Stanton Banks SCI does not have any management measures in place, however JNCC has been working with Marine Scotland and stakeholders to forward Common Fisheries Policy management measures for this site. In addition, regulations are in place to regulate oil and gas activity in and around SACs in the UK Continental Shelf Designated Area, should oil and gas exploration/exploitation occur in this region. The laying of submarine cables and pipelines also requires regulatory consent.

Main habitats and species

Interest feature under the EU Habitats Directive – 1170 Annex I Reef.



Marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc.

MPA Designation: Site of Community Importance
Country: United Kingdom
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2008
Total surface: 817.27 km²
Marine surface: 817.27 km²



Marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc.

MPA Designation: Special Area of Conservation
Country: United Kingdom
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2005
Total surface: 268.51 km²
Marine surface: 266.72 km²



Geographical and morphological description

Situated off the south west coast of England, the Isles of Scilly are a scattered archipelago of over 100 granite islands, surrounded by the clear oceanic waters of the Atlantic. The largest 5 islands are permanently inhabited: St Marys, St Martins, Tresco, Bryher and St Agnes. The marine environment has long been known to be extremely diverse due to the clean south western waters. Marine biologists have been studying the islands for over a hundred years, and yet new species are still being discovered.

Main and official objectives

In recognition of the unique marine wildlife, the islands were designated as a Special Area of Conservation in 1996 for Reef, Subtidal Sandbank, and intertidal sandflat features. Management has been light touch, aiming to maintain features. Destructive fishing practices have been controlled, and further studies undertaken on habitats. Projects have increased public understanding of the rich wildlife and provided interpretation such as displays and guided wildlife walks. To maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes under protection status. To maintain key ecological functions.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

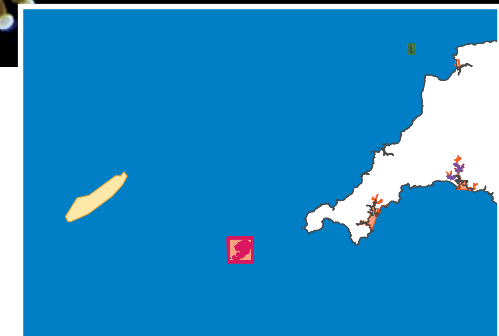
The Special Area of Conservation is managed by local organisations, advised by local users. Fisheries are managed by the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, again, with significant input by the local community. Being an isolated group of islands it has been critical to develop management of the site with local community support.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Work has been undertaken to control damaging fishing activities, with the support of local fishers. These regulations are enforced by the Isles of Scilly Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. Protection of the features of the SAC are also taken into account in development decisions by the Isles of Scilly Council.

Main habitats and species

Rocky reefs on the western islands are extremely wave exposed and dominated by jewel anemones and encrusting sponges.

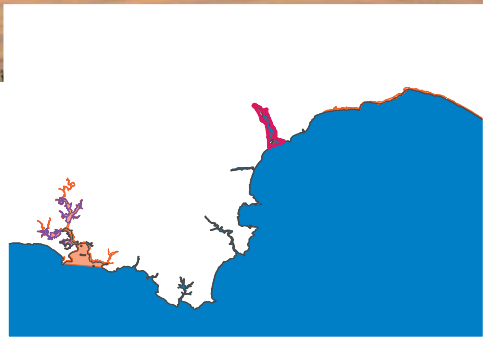


- Site of Community Importance (Offshore)
- Special Area of Conservation (Onshore)
- Isles of Scilly Complex main considered perimeter
- Sea





MPA Designation: Special Protection Area
Country: United Kingdom
Status: Designated
Status Year: 1992
Total surface: 23.46 km²
Marine surface: 18.59 km²



- Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation (Onshore)
- Exe Estuary Special Protection Area main perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- DAWLISH WARREN - Special area of conservation
- EXE ESTUARY - Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)



Geographical and morphological description

The Exe estuary is a broad shallow inlet on the coast of south Devon. Extensive intertidal mudflats are sheltered from the open sea by a spit of duneland known as Dawlish Warren. The sediments in the estuary grade from mobile sands near the narrow tideswept entrance channel, to extensive estuarine soft muds at the head of the estuary.

Main and official objectives

The site is designated as a Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. With 20,000 wintering wildfowl including Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). The key objectives of the site are to maintain the mudflat food resource and adjacent high tide roosting areas.

To maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes under protection status.

To maintain key ecological functions.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

The site is a heavily used estuary, with intertidal fisheries for mussels and cockles, and high recreational pressure. As an intensively used estuary, management concentrates on reducing conflict between users and wildlife, and promoting sustainable development.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Management of the estuary is complex, with a range of regulations in place to assist with management of activities. Fisheries are managed by the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. Developments which may impact on the features of the SPA/Ramsar site are considered by the Local Planning Authorities around the estuary.

Main habitats and species

The estuary has extensive mudflats, with some areas of intertidal seagrass.

Adjacent to the estuary are important areas of wet grassland which form important high tide roost sites.

At the mouth of the estuary, sediments are more sandy and mobile.



MPA Designation: Marine Conservation Zone
Country: United Kingdom
Status: Designated
Status Year: 2010
Total surface: 30.64 km²
Marine surface: 30.55 km²

Geographical and morphological description

Lundy is a small granite island in the Bristol Channel off the coast of north Devon. Extending north to south, the island has a wave exposed western coast, with a more sheltered east coast. Strong tides around the island create rich communities on subtidal rocky reefs, while areas of sediment vary from mobile sand to sheltered mud.

Main and official objectives

Lundy is currently the only Marine Conservation Zone in England, having previously been a Marine Nature Reserve prior to the introduction of new legislation. It is important for its rocky reef communities, including a range of soft and hard coral species, subtidal sandbanks, seacaves and Grey Seal population.

- To maintain, conserve and restore biodiversity, natural heritage of habitats, species and landscapes under protection status.
- To maintain key ecological functions.
- To improve water quality.
- To educate in environmental issues and improve public awareness.
- To foster scientific research.

Main stakes and challenges of the site

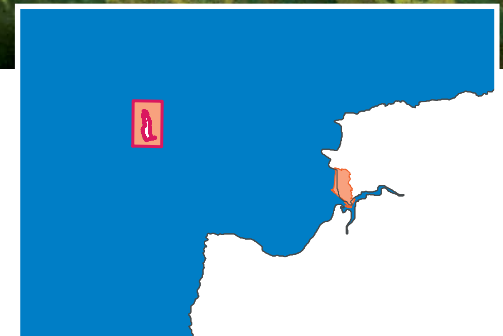
As an offshore island with a limited resident population, Lundy is a showcase for Marine Protected Areas and marine wildlife. Fishing around the island is managed, with a No Take Zone in place. Visitors to the island can receive information about the marine life, and take part in guided shore walks or snorkel safaris. Visiting divers receive information and guidance from the resident wardens.

MPA Main regulations enforced

Fisheries regulations, including the No Take Zone, are enforced by the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

Main habitats and species

The east coast of Lundy is notable for populations of the sunset cup coral (*Leptopsammia pruvotti*) and a range of other hard and soft corals including (*Parazoanthus spp*), red sea fingers (*Alcyonium glomeratum*) and the sunset and gold cup coral (*Balanophyllia regia*).



- Special Area of Conservation (Onshore)
- Lundy Marine Conservation Zone main perimeter
- Sea

Intersection with other MPAs

NAME - designation

- LUNDY - Special area of conservation



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MAIA

Marine protected areas
in the Atlantic arc

Networking for better protection

From the Shetlands to the Azores, from the UK to Portugal, marine biodiversity conservation is at the heart of national concerns, particularly through the establishment of marine protected areas. The acronym “MPA” encompasses a **wide range of tools, approaches and goals that need to be better understood**.

MAIA contributes to **promoting** and **sharing** this wealth and these differences to **foster mutual understanding** and the **development of a recognized, effective, sustainable and well-managed network of marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc**. Four years is a short lifespan for any network, yet MAIA is taking off and gradually developing as time goes by.

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