



FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY SUMMER 2011



The Finding Sanctuary Project Team

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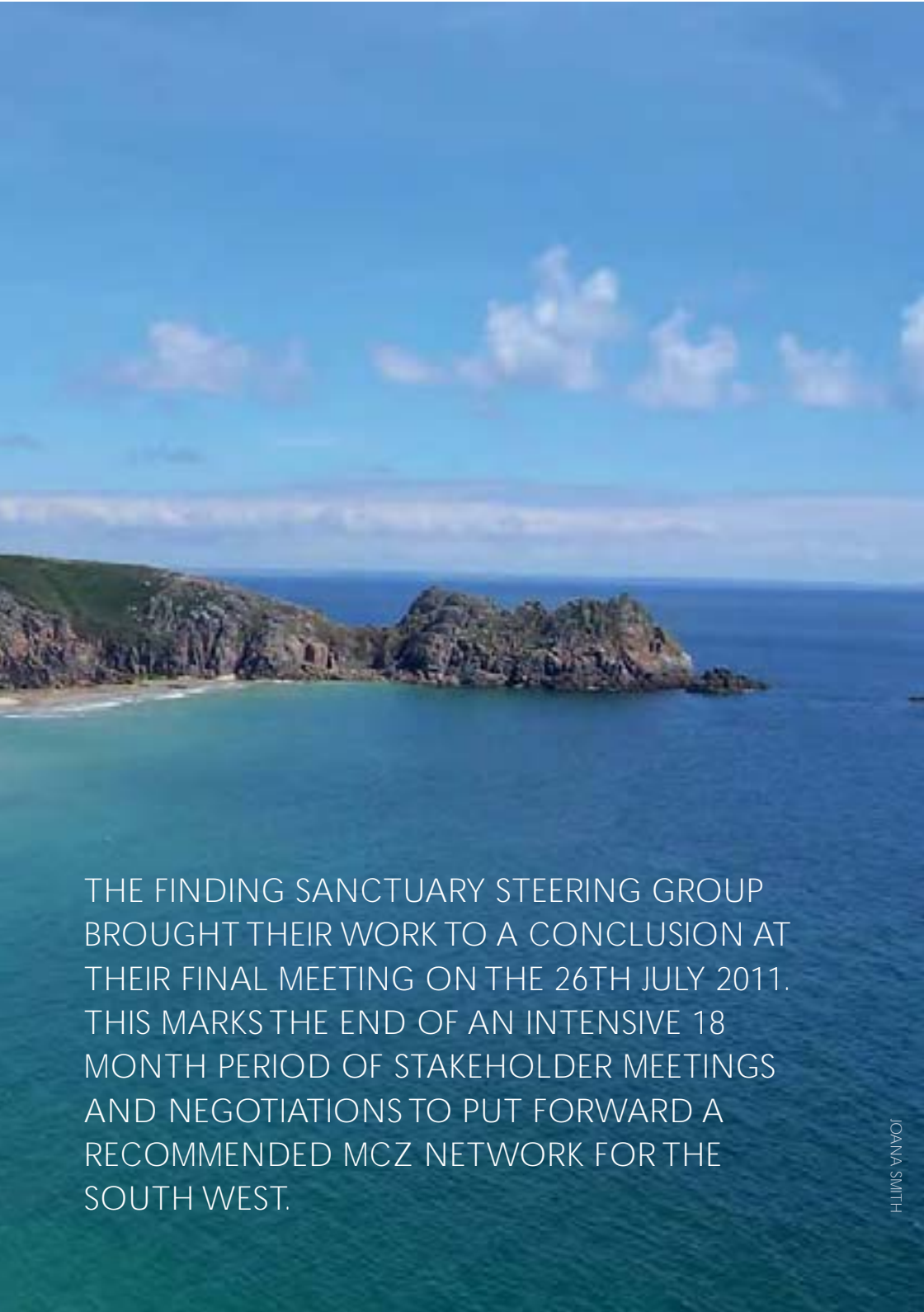
COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Coordinator

Hannah Carr

This document is a brief summary of Finding Sanctuary's final recommendations. It is not intended as a replacement for the project's final report, which presents the recommendations in full. If you would like more detailed information and background then please refer to the final report, available on our website.

Please note that the Finding Sanctuary project will disband at the end of October 2011. Any reports and information related to the project will remain accessible on our website and will subsequently be available in the UK Government Web Archive.



THE FINDING SANCTUARY STEERING GROUP
BROUGHT THEIR WORK TO A CONCLUSION AT
THEIR FINAL MEETING ON THE 26TH JULY 2011.
THIS MARKS THE END OF AN INTENSIVE 18
MONTH PERIOD OF STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS
AND NEGOTIATIONS TO PUT FORWARD A
RECOMMENDED MCZ NETWORK FOR THE
SOUTH WEST.

FINDING SANCTUARY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2009 AS ONE OF FOUR REGIONAL PROJECTS, WHICH TOGETHER MAKE UP THE MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE PROJECT. SEA USERS AND INTEREST GROUPS HAVE WORKED COLLABORATIVELY TO DESIGN A RECOMMENDED NETWORK OF MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES AROUND SOUTH WEST ENGLAND.



"On 31st August 2011, Finding Sanctuary presented a report to Government detailing the recommended MCZs (rMCZs) that have been developed by the project stakeholders.

This final report marks the culmination of two years of hard work to develop MCZ recommendations for the South–West region. It is a successful conclusion for all stakeholders involved, who have worked constructively to design a network configuration that meets national ecological targets, at the same time as reflecting a balance of different interests.

The final recommendations are in line with the original aim of the project, which was to plan a network that would meet ecological targets whilst minimising negative impacts on human activities.

Once designated, MCZs will make important changes to the way our seas are used and managed and it was vital that these planning decisions were carefully considered by those with strong local knowledge and sectoral expertise.

The project consisted of people with different interests and values, but there has been tremendous pragmatism and a collective desire to get the task completed and construct a viable and effective network. The process was not without its challenges and a number of uncertainties around management remain to be resolved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the regional and local stakeholders who participated in the planning process for their hard work to help us reach this successful conclusion."

Tom Hooper, Project Manager

our finished product

Collaborative Working

The recommendations made by Finding Sanctuary were developed regionally by knowledgeable stakeholders to enable the Government to make better and more informed decisions. The final network represents the point at which many differing sectors were able to agree collaboratively. The network configuration is not, of course, what individual stakeholders or sectors might have designed if they had completed the task on their own. It is a shared outcome that represents compromises from all sides.

Stakeholders

Although they come from different sectors, with different values and expectations, the stakeholders have had a collective desire to get the task completed and to construct a viable and effective network. Strong relationships have developed between the group members and they worked with great integrity to try and accommodate each others' needs.

The Network

The network represents a combination of sites that have been developed iteratively over the last 18 months. This approach means stakeholders have consistently set out to improve the network by reviewing each version of the work and then refining further to try and be more effective and efficient in meeting different sectoral needs. The recommendations are the culmination of over 500 changes with numerous additions, deletions, modifications and revisions.



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Transparency

The record of all of our planning meetings are available publicly on our website, which means that it is possible to follow exactly how decisions were taken. The record of planning meetings through 2010 and 2011 show how the location of rMCZs was continuously changed and modified to try to accommodate the different interests of stakeholders around the table.

Maps

The Finding Sanctuary GIS and planning team provided the stakeholders with relevant data on large format maps. These represented the most up to date, available marine data sets for the region, and included broad scale habitats, species records, frontal systems, legislative boundaries and shipping lanes. Fishing information was presented from Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) records. We also collected and mapped detailed information about which areas are used by inshore commercial fishermen and recreational sea users.

The Future

In January 2012, the Finding Sanctuary economist will complete an Impact Assessment that will detail the costs and benefits of the network to society. A public consultation is expected to take place in summer 2012, that will be an opportunity for people to provide feedback on the proposed MCZs before they are taken forward for designation.





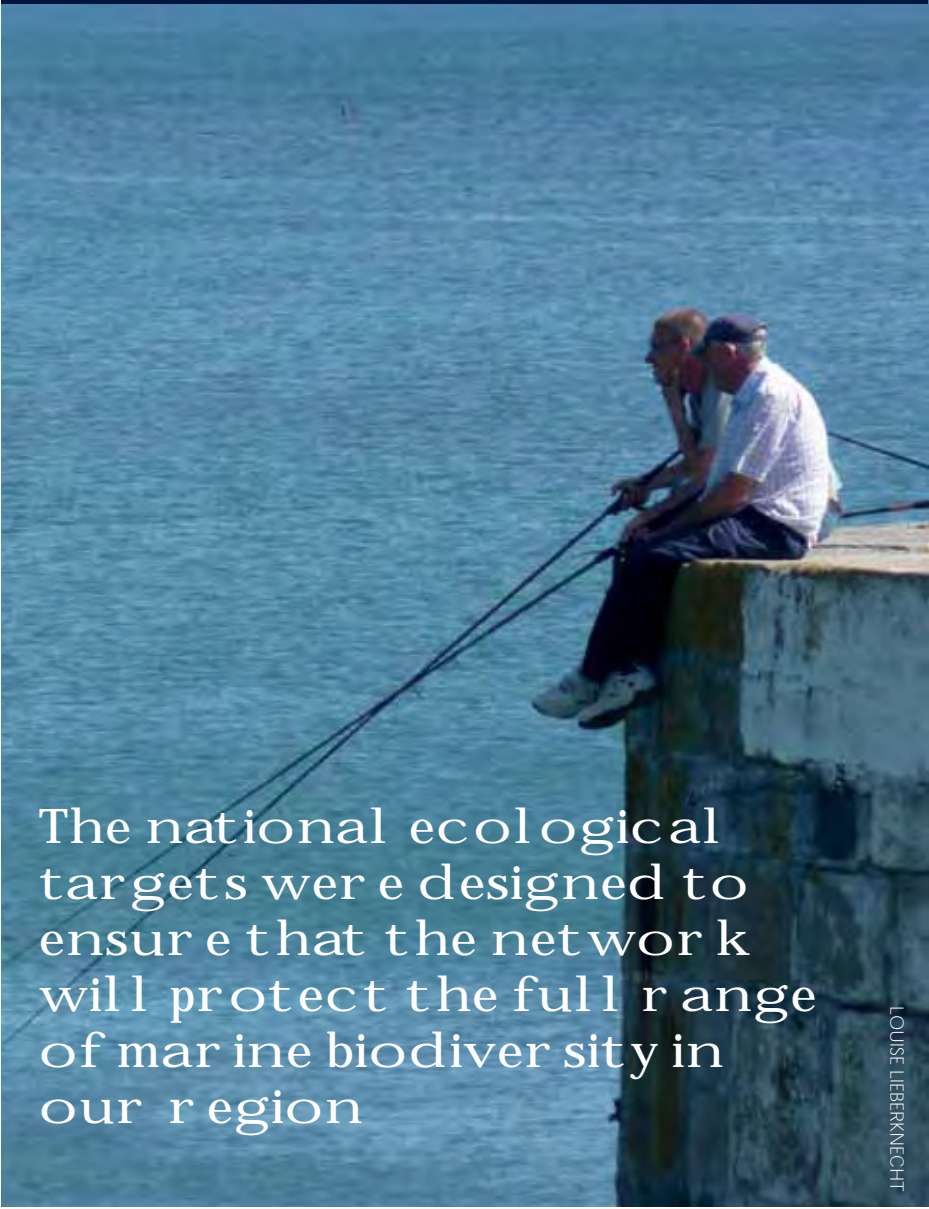
Finding Sanctuary's stakeholder groups

1. The Steering Group

The Steering Group was the project's main stakeholder group, made up of 41 representatives of a full range of marine sectors and interests. The Steering Group had the responsibility to develop and submit MCZ recommendations to Government. Sectors represented were:

- Commercial Fishing (inshore, offshore, national and handliners)
- Canoe and Kayak Paddle Sport
- Leisure Boating
- Scuba Diving
- Spearfishing
- Recreational Sea Angling
- Tourism
- Charter Boat Skippers
- Aggregates
- Offshore Renewables
- Regional Development and Economy
- Shipping and Ports
- Conservation NGOs
- Statutory Conservation
- Land Owners
- Scientific Advisors
- Enforcement
- Environment Agency
- Local MCZ Groups
- Historic Environment
- Military of Defence

The Steering Group met seven times between September 2009 and June 2011.

A photograph of two men sitting on the edge of a concrete pier, fishing with long rods over a vast blue ocean. The man on the right is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers, while the man on the left is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark trousers. The ocean is a deep blue, and the sky is not visible. The text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

The national ecological targets were designed to ensure that the network will protect the full range of marine biodiversity in our region

LOUISE LIEBERKNECHT

2. The Working Groups

The Working Groups consisted of subsets of Steering Group members, who were selected to meet more frequently and carry out the detailed work and planning of rMCZs on behalf of the wider Steering Group. Between April 2010 and November 2010 they operated as separate Inshore and Offshore Working Groups and from December 2010 they merged to form the Joint Working Group. There were seven Offshore Working Group meetings between April and November 2010, seven Inshore Working Group meetings between April and December 2010 and six Joint Working Group meetings between December 2010 and June 2011.

3. Local Groups

Local Groups were set up in Dorset, Devon, Somerset, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. They played an important role in the shaping of rMCZs in their inshore areas and were vital in bringing local knowledge to the Working Groups and the regional Steering Group. Local Groups proactively made site suggestions, as well as providing feedback in response to the network design work carried out regionally.

4. Named Consultative Stakeholders

Named Consultative Stakeholder (NCS) status was set up to allow regional, national or international stakeholders who were not able to attend at the Steering Group meetings to play a less intensive role in the development of the MCZ recommendations.

NCS were able to give their views on the MCZ recommendations being developed by the project at key stages and their comments were considered in the planning process.



Wider Engagement

Regional Steering Group members had the responsibility to ensure that they communicated with their wider constituency. For some sectors this presented a real challenge, particularly where sectors are very large, disparate or reliant on voluntary groupings. Finding Sanctuary staff provided an important supporting role in helping individual stakeholders connect with their representatives and vice-versa.

Liaison staff were employed in each county to ensure that stakeholder activity could be accurately mapped and individual stakeholders were kept up to date with decision making. Drop in days, presentations and sectoral meetings were organised across the region to ensure stakeholders were well informed.



DAVID PEAKE

The proposed network includes a total of 58 newly recommended sites, which cover a range of habitats, from inshore estuaries and coastal areas to deep sea habitats in the offshore.



The Final Recommendations for the Network in the South West

The proposed network includes a total of 58 newly recommended sites, which cover a range of habitats, from inshore estuaries and coastal areas to deep sea habitats in the offshore.

There are 13 rMCZs located in the offshore (beyond 12 nautical miles) and 32 rMCZs within 12 nautical miles of the regional coastline (the Isles of Scilly rMCZ is counted as a single site, although it consists of eleven separate components and two non-disturbance areas). In addition, 13 reference areas have been recommended, where all extraction, deposition or human-derived disturbance is to be removed or prevented. Three of these are beyond 12nm and ten in inshore waters.

Although fishing representatives were involved in the discussions about recommended reference areas, the industry has clearly stated that they will not support any reference areas included in the network recommendations.

The rMCZs proposed by the project stakeholders have been planned to meet national ecological targets set in the Ecological Network Guidance (ENG), provided by Natural England (NE) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

The ENG sets out a series of network design guidelines, which are met as follows:

- The network configuration meets the minimum viable size and connectivity guidelines.
- The network configuration broadly meets targets for subtidal broad-scale habitats listed in national guidance and present in the region.
- The intertidal broad-scale habitat targets have been broadly met, where the distribution of the habitat allows.
- For most of the features of conservation importance (species and habitats) listed in the ENG, the network configuration meets the target of 3–5 replicates. In most instances where the replicate target is not met, this is because the feature is not present in the region, or there is very limited information on its distribution.
- A few of the FOCI habitats and FOCI species are not represented within the set of recommended reference areas, so the ENG have been partially met with respect to reference areas (the planning of these areas prioritised the representation of broad-scale habitats, in line with advice from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee).
- All three geological and geomorphological features of importance that fall within our region are represented within the network configuration.



The national ecological targets were designed to ensure that the network will protect the full range of marine biodiversity in our region, including rare and threatened marine habitats and species to contribute to the sustainability of marine resources in our seas for the future.

Each rMCZ and each recommended reference area has a list of draft conservation objectives for the species and habitat to be protected within it.

Management of rMCZs

The final recommendations include the site boundaries for rMCZs and recommended reference areas, based on specified assumptions on what activity restrictions will be put in place.

The stakeholder groups have been making and recording these assumptions for many months, given that there was no certainty over what restrictions will be put in place when MCZs are designated.

A formal process will be ongoing to finalise the management requirements for each MCZ in preparation for designation.

Throughout the planning process, the fundamental assumption about human activities within MCZs was that activities can continue (under current licensing regimes where applicable), as long as they do not prevent conservation objectives from being achieved.

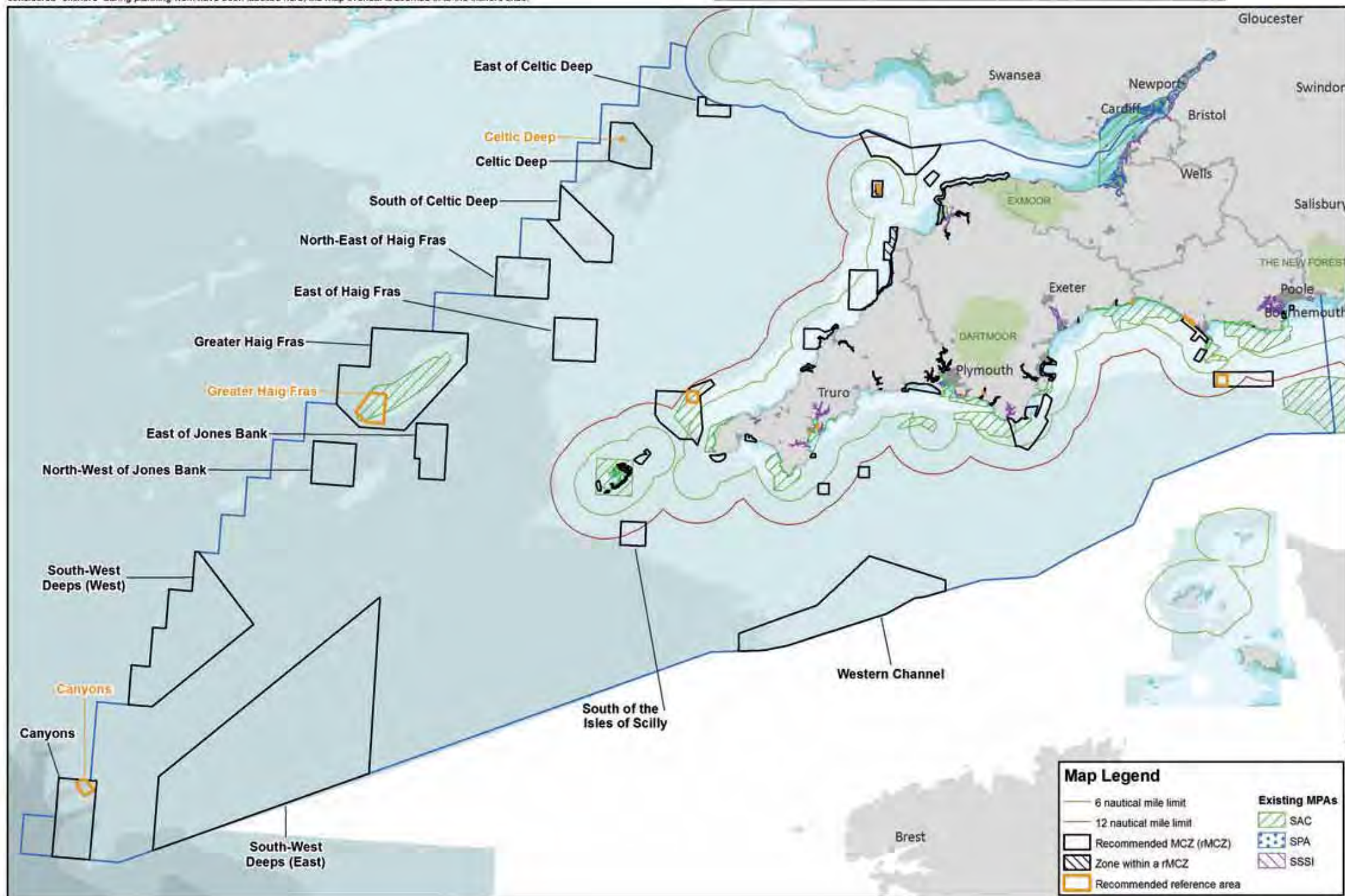
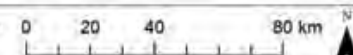
Maps

The maps on pages 14–25 show the network configuration for the South–West which has been recommended to Government. They include both offshore and inshore scale maps of the whole network and more detailed maps of each county. Please note that the maps also show existing MPAs Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas for Birds and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. These have not been planned through the Finding Sanctuary project, but they form part of the overall network of Marine Protected Areas.

Finding Sanctuary's MCZ Recommendations (offshore map)

This map shows Finding Sanctuary's network configuration (August 2011). Only recommended MCZs and reference areas considered "offshore" during planning work have been labelled here; the map overleaf is zoomed in to the inshore sites.

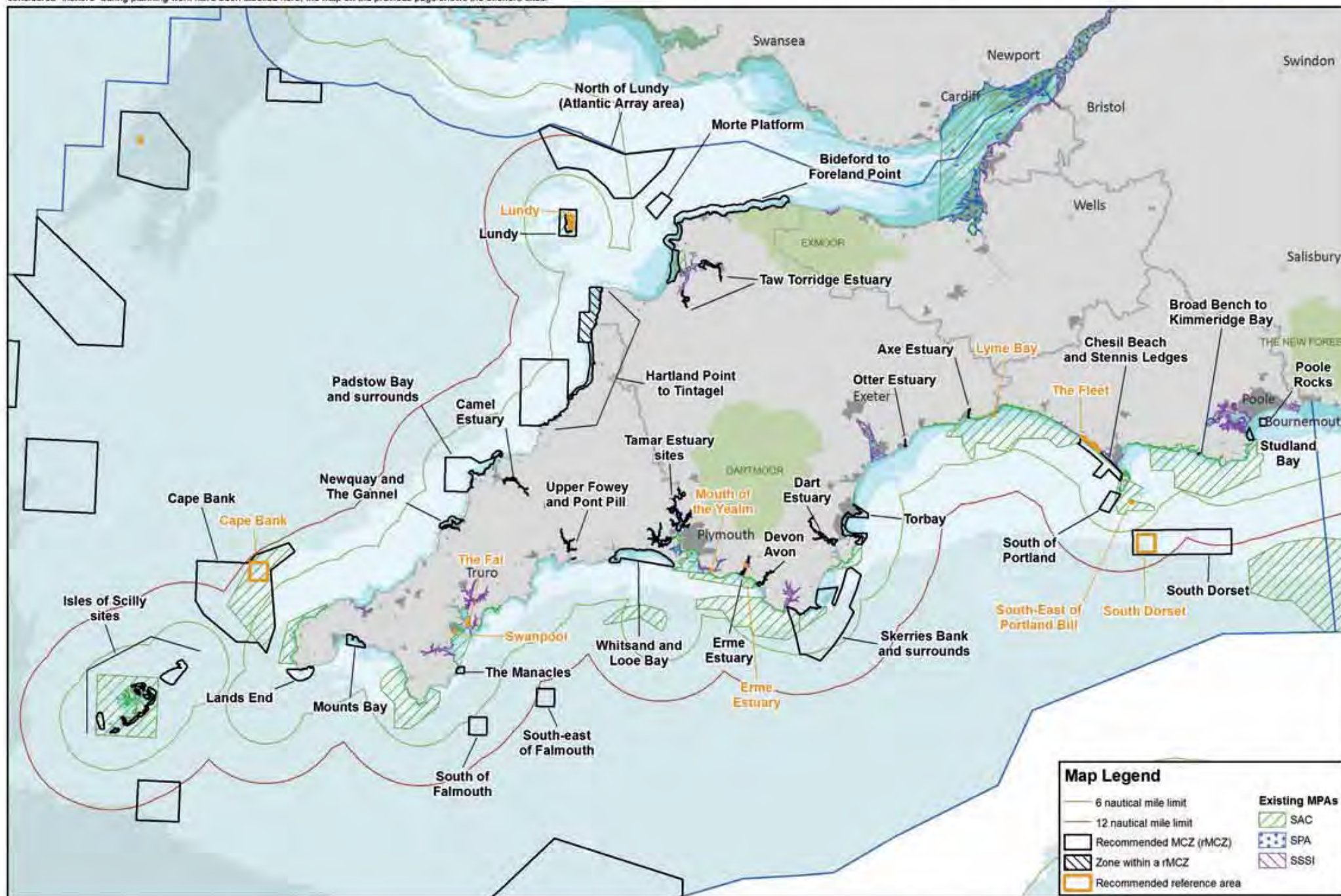
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Finding Sanctuary's MCZ Recommendations (inshore map)

This map shows Finding Sanctuary's network configuration (August 2011). Only recommended MCZs and reference areas considered "inshore" during planning work have been labelled here; the map on the previous page shows the offshore sites.

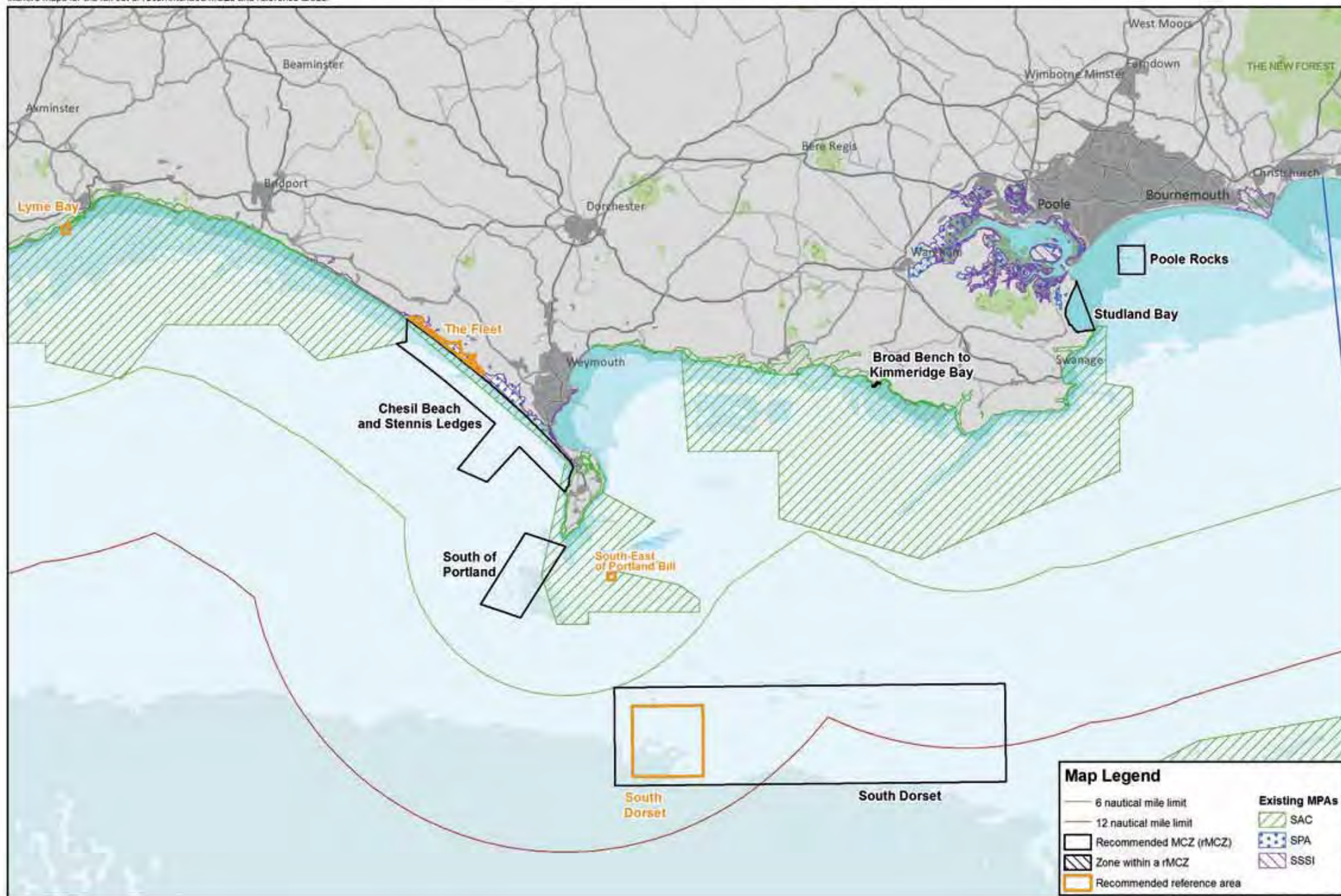
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Finding Sanctuary's MCZ Recommendations (zoom of Dorset)

This map shows Finding Sanctuary's network configuration (August 2011). Please refer to the offshore and inshore maps for the full set of recommended MCZs and reference areas.

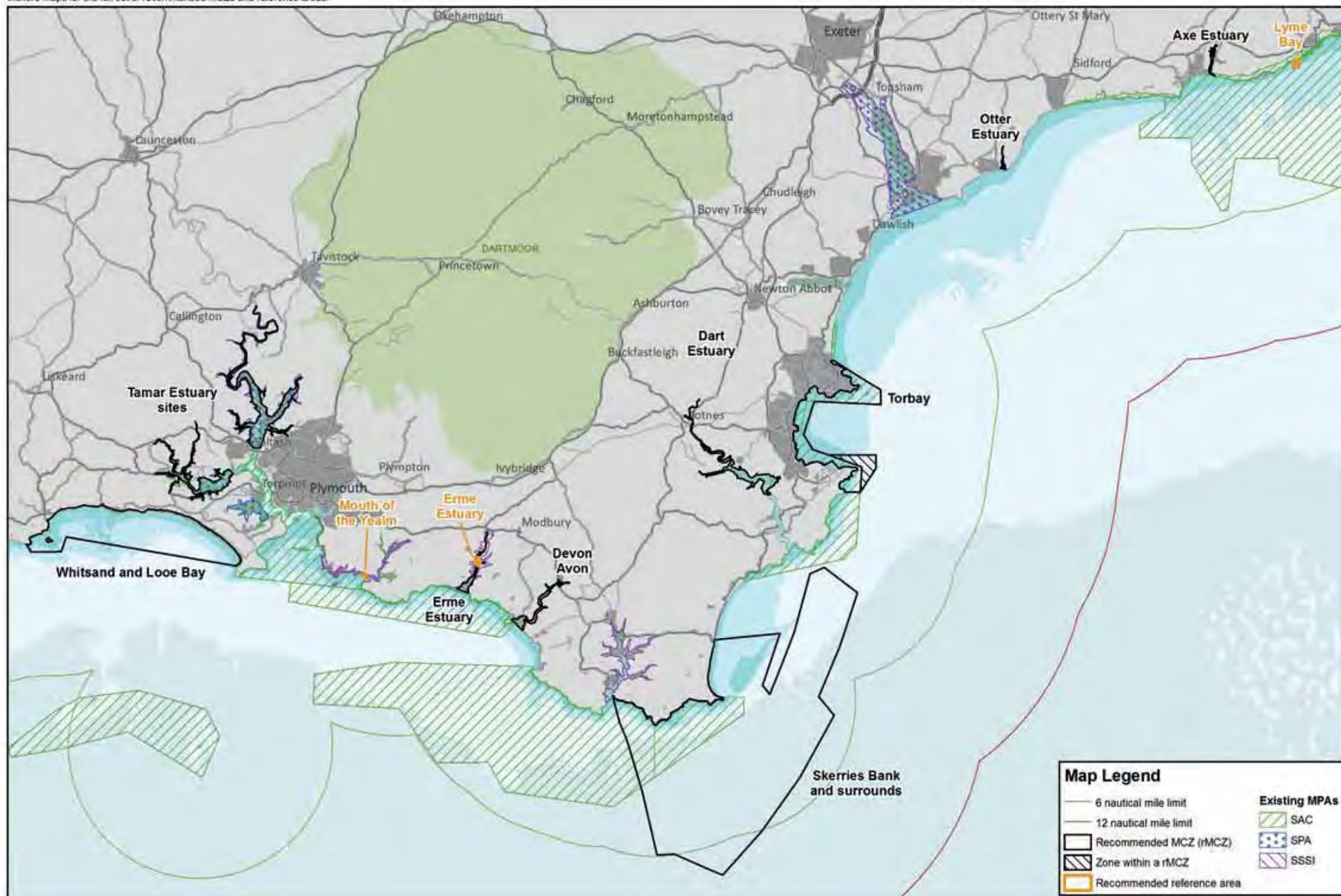
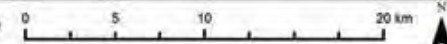
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Finding Sanctuary's MCZ Recommendations (zoom of South Devon)

This map shows Finding Sanctuary's network configuration (August 2011). Please refer to the offshore and inshore maps for the full set of recommended MCZs and reference areas.

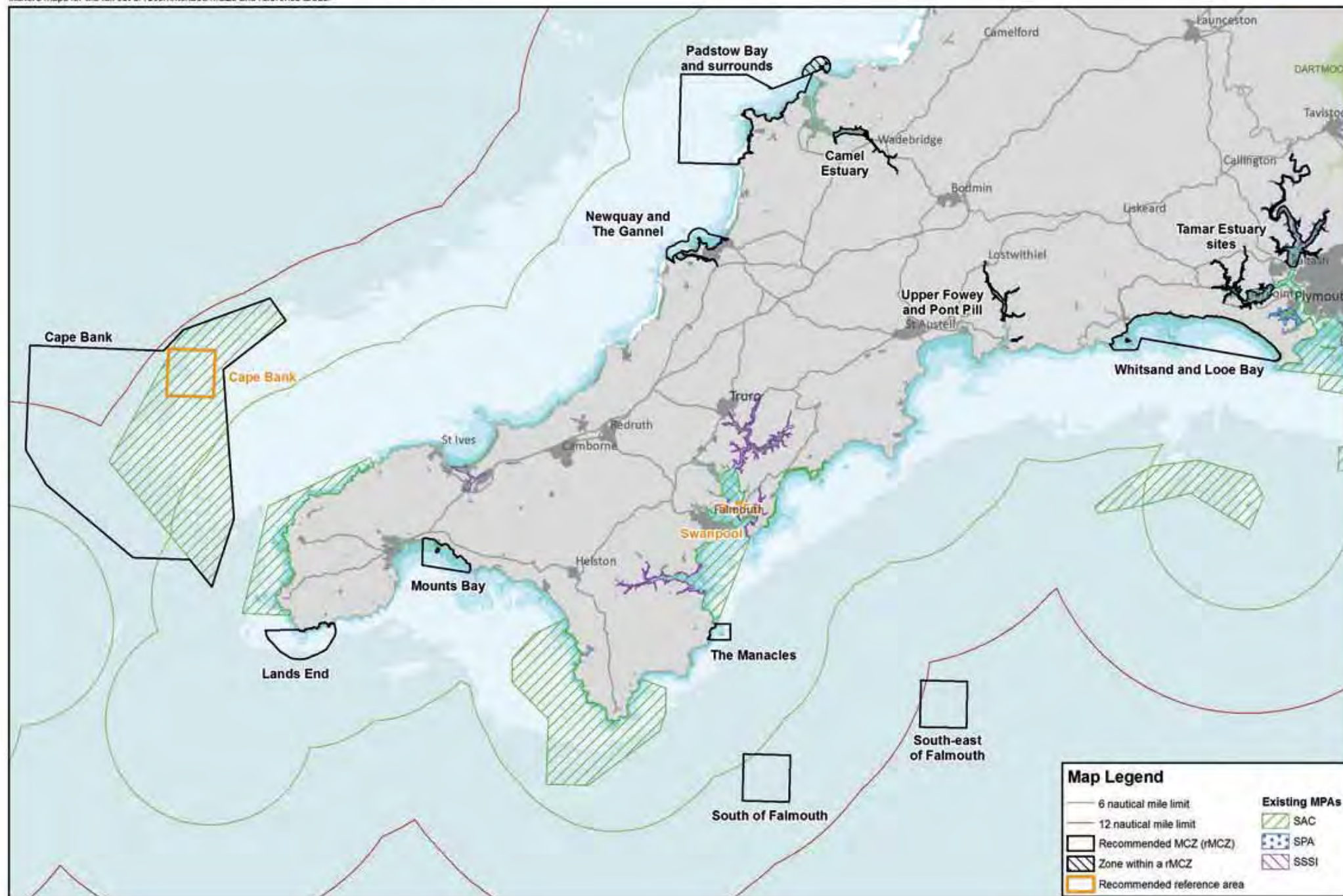
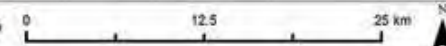
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Finding Sanctuary's MCZ Recommendations (zoom of Cornwall)

This map shows Finding Sanctuary's network configuration (August 2011). Please refer to the offshore and inshore maps for the full set of recommended MCZs and reference areas.

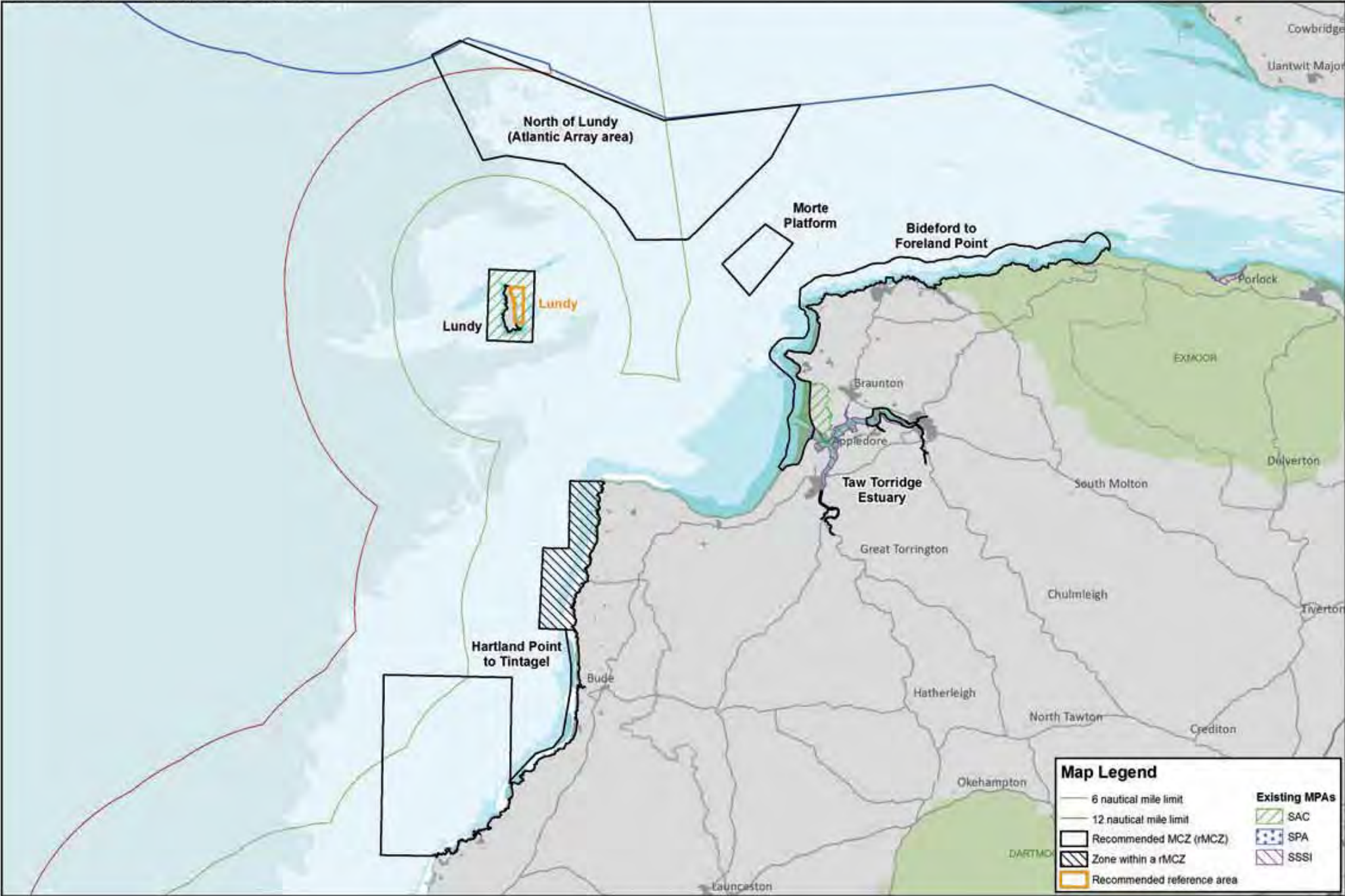
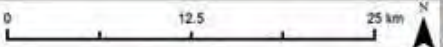
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Finding Sanctuary's MCZ Recommendations (zoom of North Cornwall and North Devon)

This map shows Finding Sanctuary's network configuration (August 2011). Please refer to the offshore and inshore maps for the full set of recommended MCZs and reference areas.

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“It’s a successful conclusion
for all stakeholders
involved, who have shown
tremendous commitment
to design a network
configuration that meets
national ecological targets”

Tom Hooper, Project Manager



The Next Steps

The Government is committed to creating an ecologically-coherent UK network of MPAs, and aims to designate MCZs by the end of 2012.

Now that the final recommendations have been made by the Finding Sanctuary regional Steering Group, further work will involve Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee putting together their supplementary advice to present to Government in January 2012.

Meanwhile, the project team will continue to work on an Impact Assessment that will also be submitted to the government in 2012. Amongst other things, this will assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of designating the recommended Marine Conservation Zones.

Once the final recommendations, Impact Assessment and statutory advice have been received, Ministers will consider which sites to take forward for potential designation.

A public consultation is expected to take place during 2012. This will be an opportunity for people to feedback to the government on the proposed designations before they are finalised.

For more information about the MCZ designation process after August 31st you can email mczproject@jncc.gov.uk or visit the following websites:
www.naturalengland.org.uk
www.jncc.defra.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

The regional MCZ Project newsletters will be finishing but if you wish to continue to receive the latest information and updates on the MCZ Project sign up to the MCZ Project Newsletter:
www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2409



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Project Partnership



Other MCZ Regional Projects

Net Gain
North Sea
www.netgainmcz.org

Balanced Seas
The South-East
www.balancedseas.org

Irish Sea Conservation Zones
Irish Sea
www.irishseaconservation.org.uk