

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs & HPMAs)

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ANGLING TRUST
POSITION STATEMENT
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Background

'Marine Protected Area' (MPA) is a general term used to describe a number of different legal protections given to the marine environment covering United Kingdom waters. These include Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ), Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMA), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The MPAs in the UK are intended to form a coherent network that contributes to the sustainable conservation and use of the marine environment.

Why it matters

Angling and other activities, such as bait collection, can, on occasion, come into conflict with the objectives of Marine Protected Areas and will likely become a conflict of interests with the incoming Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) in particular. This may be directly related to fishing or, for instance, in the case of bait collection may be related to the disturbance of protected bird species. In these cases, restrictions on angling or bait collection may be proposed to achieve the objective of that particular MPA.



What is the Angling Trust doing?

Angling has much to gain from the protection of habitats and species from damaging activities such as trawling and dredging that have destroyed habitats, ecosystems and reduced both the volume and diversity of fish species the UK marine environment supports.

For this reason, the Angling Trust, working with the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) using intentional evidence, campaigns to ensure that Marine Protected Areas include recreational angling and its associated activities where possible. This is typically where angling is compatible with the objectives of the site and is restricted only where there is robust evidence that the impact of angling is having a significant impact on the habitat, species, or ecosystem.

In the case of Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), we submitted a response to the 2020 Benyon Review and are collaborating with Cefas and Defra to investigate the opportunity for buffer zones around HPMAs where angling can continue, and co-management approaches are established where possible.

How can you help?

By joining the Angling Trust you can help to support our work to protect the interest of anglers.

Where Marine Protected Areas are already established, the Angling Trust advocates for anglers to adhere to the recommended code of conduct within that site, and work to ensure angling continues, unless evidence shows it is having a significant impact on the site.

Regarding the upcoming HPMAs, anglers are welcome to submit suggestions for site selection, such as bass or mullet spawning areas and nursery grounds.

Thank You!

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IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE ANGLING TRADE AND WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK, FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED BY EMAILING JOHN.CHEYNE@ANGLINGTRUST.NET



ANGLING TRUST

We are a not-for-profit organisation representing anglers, fighting for fish, fishing and the environment. We are recognised by the Government as the National Governing Body for angling in England and partner with Visit Wales and Natural Resources Wales to promote Fishing in Wales. We are a member-based organisation made up of anglers of all disciplines providing a united front to represent, grow and protect our sport. By becoming a member of the Angling Trust you are helping to protect the waterways you fish in and the fish which live within them, ensuring their health and protection for future generations.

[Click here for more information about how to join the Angling Trust](#)

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