

Annex E4 Existing local fisheries management (Net Gain)

E4.1 This annex is focussed on existing local management for fisheries in the Net Gain project area. Information on existing local management of recreation that is relevant to the rMCZs is not provided by Net Gain because it was not feasible to conduct a systematic review of all of the existing management within the project area.

E4.2 This annex describes the known site-specific fisheries restrictions, or fisheries restrictions that apply to a particular area within the Net Gain project area. It does not describe generic fisheries restrictions applicable to the whole of the Net Gain project area. These can be accessed via *The Blue Book*, which is a consolidated version of UK and EU fisheries legislation that can be accessed at http://marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/monitoring/regulations_bluebook.htm

E4.3 A summary of any relevant restrictions that are specific to individual sites that have assumed restrictions on fisheries is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Outline of existing local fisheries management that could contribute to the management scenarios suggested for recommended Marine Conservation Zones (rMCZs)

Site	Restriction
rMCZ Reference Area 1 North Norfolk Blue Mussel Beds	There is an existing prohibition on under-14 metre vessels fishing for bivalve molluscs with towed gear within the site.
rMCZ Reference Area 7 Seahenge Peat and Clay	There is an existing prohibition on under-14 metre vessels fishing for bivalve molluscs with towed gear within the site (Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA)).
rMCZ Reference Area 9 Flamborough Head No Take Zone	As the Flamborough Head No Take Zone, the area has an existing ban on the taking of all seafood by any method of extraction. This currently does not include the taking of fauna and flora from the intertidal area of the site; this is expected to be addressed in a review of the byelaw in 2013. It is not possible to state whether the byelaw will be renewed following this or further review periods (North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, pers. comm., 2011). However, any changes will not be enacted until at least 2018.
rMCZ Reference Area 11 Berwick Coast	All trawlers within 3 nm of the coast are required to be smaller than 11.59 metres. There are existing prohibitions on all vessels using purse seine and ring nets within the site and on fishing or taking any 'V' notched or mutilated lobsters of the species <i>Homarus gammarus</i> (common lobster). There are also restrictions on the type of trawl gear that can be used, the number of pots each vessel may fish with and where nets can be set. These are regulated and enforced by

	Northumberland IFCA.
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1 Marine Special Areas of Conservation that overlap with rMCZs with assumed management restrictions for commercial fisheries

E4.4 Table 2 outlines proposed or existing management in Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) that overlap with rMCZs and rMCZ Reference Areas in the Net Gain project area.

Table 2: Proposed or existing management in SACs that overlap with rMCZs

SAC	Measures
Wash and North Norfolk Coast <i>rMCZ Reference Areas 2a & 2b, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7</i>	As a consequence of the designation of The Wash and North Norfolk Coast as a SAC, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, fisheries proposals within these sites are subject to Reg 61 of the Habitats Regulations. For example, the Eastern IFCA undertakes appropriate assessments of the state of the area's mussel and cockle fisheries. The Eastern IFCA is currently working with Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and local fishermen to develop voluntary closed areas to protect <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> (Ross worm) reef (a protected European Marine Site (EMS) habitat) within the Wash. This is 'likely future management' – the Eastern IFCA is seeking to obtain agreement over the coming months, but if this process fails it will turn to regulatory measures (Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS Officer, pers. comm., November 2011).
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge <i>Partial overlap with rMCZ NG 6 and rMCZ NG 4</i> <i>Management for this SAC is yet to be assigned. The measures outlined opposite are the most restrictive management option for the SAC, as outlined in its Impact Assessment:</i> www.naturalengland.org.uk/images/IDRB-finalIA_tcm6-21633.pdf	Measure 1: Closure of the site for all towed demersal gear (including rock-hopper, otter, beam and scallop/shellfish dredging and trawling). This aims to prevent damage to certain sea-floor habitats for which the site has been designated and stationary species. Measure 2: Cap on the number of pots deployed; reduction by 50%. This aims to reduce the number of crustaceans taken from the site. It is intended to protect typical species found at the site. Measure 3: Three-month spatial closure of sensitive areas to all gears except potting. This aims to protect spawning and nursery grounds. Measure 4: Cap on mortality resulting from all gear with any bottom contact, excluding potting; mortality reduced by 25%. This aims to prevent damage to certain sea-floor habitats for which the site has been designated and stationary species.

	<p>Measure 5: Cap on mortality resulting from all activity except for potting; fishing effort reduced by 25% (targeting effort reduces discarding of bycatch). This aims to reduce the biomass of typical species taken from the site.</p> <p>Measure 6: Increase the minimum landing size and introduce a maximum landing size for crustaceans. The minimum landing size aims to help crustaceans reach maturity and breed and the maximum landing size aims to enable the presence of larger crustaceans at the site (thereby protecting typical species at the site).</p> <p>Alongside these, the Eastern IFCA is currently working with Natural England, the MMO and local fishermen to develop voluntary closed areas to protect <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> (Ross worm) reef (a protected EMS habitat) within the SAC. This is 'likely future management' – the Eastern IFCA is seeking to obtain agreement over the coming months, but if this process fails it will turn to regulatory measures (Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS Officer, pers. comm., November 2011).</p>
<p>Flamborough Head <i>rMCZ Reference Area 9</i></p>	<p>The site is wholly within a current No Take Zone. See above for details of the current management of the site.</p>
<p>Berwick and North Northumberland Coast <i>rMCZ Reference Area 11</i></p>	<p>Northumberland IFCA is managing fisheries resources within the site. The Berwick and North Northumberland Coast EMS has the following policies, which complement the management of fisheries within the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that sustainable fishing practices are used within the EMS by actively developing and applying suitable management measures with fishers and fisheries managers to maintain the qualifying features in a favourable condition; • maintain in a favourable condition all EMS qualifying features, identify potential causes of declines and implement solutions to address them.

References

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