

This list of Principles for Marine Conservation Zones was developed with input from dozens of key stakeholders in the Net Gain English North Seas area. Following a long list generated at the Large Group Meeting in Hull on 11.2.10, a preliminary list of principles was distilled from the many suggestions made. This was then checked, and commented upon by members of the Regional Hubs during March 2010 who amended, edited and added to it, resulting in the list below. The ensuing version was finally checked against the Marine Bill by the Net Gain Project Team to make sure it was in line with the legislation for the designation process.

Principles for Successful Marine Conservation Zones

- 1. The process to recommend them should be open and transparent and conform fully to all relevant guidance.**
- 2. Recommendations should be based on strong, clear and widely agreed evidence and the best available verifiable data which will be subject to review.**
- 3. Evidence for consideration should cover, social, economic, ecological, geological and functional issues and factors.**
- 4. As far as possible all existing and future users and activities will be considered.**
- 5. All stakeholders should, through the regional stakeholder groups, have opportunities at all stages, to provide information and evidence, engage in debate, be genuinely listened to and taken into account.**
- 6. Boundaries should be set for ecologically coherent areas with attention paid to existing designations, overlaps with other areas and implications for areas outside the MCZs.**
- 7. Once in place, all MCZs should be well publicised and enforced, and regularly monitored and reviewed.**
- 8. When areas are recommended (and then designated and managed) they must have clear conservation objectives for environmental benefit. They must also show clearly the impacts (positive and negative) for stakeholders.**
- 9. A group should be established to deliver the management of the MCZs. It should include members of the Regional Hubs, ensuring continuity between stages of the designation process.**