

A sunset over the ocean with a fishing boat silhouette. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The sky transitions from yellow to dark orange and then to a deep blue. The water is dark, and the silhouette of a fishing boat is visible in the foreground.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A Fishing Industry Perspective

The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright yellow circle in the upper left, casting a long, shimmering reflection down the center of the water. The sky transitions from a pale yellow near the horizon to a deep orange and then to a dark, almost black, blue at the top. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a boat is visible, with a vertical mast or pole extending upwards. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

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National Federation of Fishermen's
Organisations

NFFO Seats

- North Sea Regional Advisory Council
- North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council
- Advisory Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Europeche

Marine Protected Areas

Who wants them?

- Habitats Directive
- OSPAR
- Royal Commission
- Environmental Lobby

Marine Protected Areas what are they for?

- * Biodiversity protection
- * Benefits for commercial fish stocks (?)

MPAs & Marine Spatial Planning

- Offshore Development
- Aggregate Dredging
- Windfarms
- Submarine Cables
- Military Ranges
- Oil & Gas Installations

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THE DISTRIBUTION
OF FISHING EFFORT

Marine Spatial Planning

- Chaotic Developments
- Coordinated Approach
- Coherence
- Consistency
- Transparency
- Major Mapping Exercise of Critical Fishing Areas
- North Sea Regional Advisory Council
- North West Waters RAC

Marine Protected Areas What for?

- Biodiversity Protection
- Fisheries Management

MPAs What For? Biodiversity

- Location – Hotspots?
- Size?
- Fit for Purpose?
- Management Measures?
- Socio-economic Impact?

MPAs for Fisheries Management

Immediate Concerns

- Siting of MPAs
- Size
- Displacement
- Loss of Earnings
- Diversion of Effort

MPAs aka NTZs

- No Take Zones
- Highly protected Marine Zones
- No Fishing
- Embedded within a Hierarchy of Restricted Areas

NTZs Rationales

- Reservoirs of Mature Fish
- Spill Over Effect
- Thinking based on Reef Fisheries
- Sedentary Species
- Mobile species

NTZs – Panacea?

- Highly Mobile Species
- Widely Dispersed
- Diversion of Effort
- “Insignificant Effect on Spawning Potential”
- Damage to Benthos – Diverted Effort

Closed Areas

- Have a role
- Eg. Trevoze Closure
- Stakeholder Support
- Scientifically Valid Purpose

Closed Areas Criteria

- North Sea Regional Advisory Council
- Pre-evaluation
- Clear Objectives
- Monitoring
- Diversion of Effort
- Exit Strategy

Ambivalence

- Marine Spatial Planning
- Marine Bill
- Marine Protected Areas
- Benefits?
- Threats?

Jurisdiction

- Devolution
- Outside 6 miles CFP
- Restrictive Measures
 - Council of Ministers
 - 6 – 12 miles Non-discriminatory

In Conclusion

- MPAs are one of many issues confronting the Fishing Industry
- Recognise that MPAs are coming
- Driven by Biodiversity Protection
- Siting is critical
- Wary of bogus claims about NTZ capacity to regenerate stocks
- Large areas of seabed already denied to fishermen

Way Forward

- Marine Environment Working Group
- Dialogue: RACs, Nationally, Locally.
- Rigorous Approach

A photograph of a sunset over a city skyline. The sun is a bright yellow circle in the upper left, casting a glow across the sky. The sky transitions from yellow to orange and then to a dark, deep blue. The city skyline is visible in the lower half of the image, with buildings and structures silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is warm and serene.

Thank You