

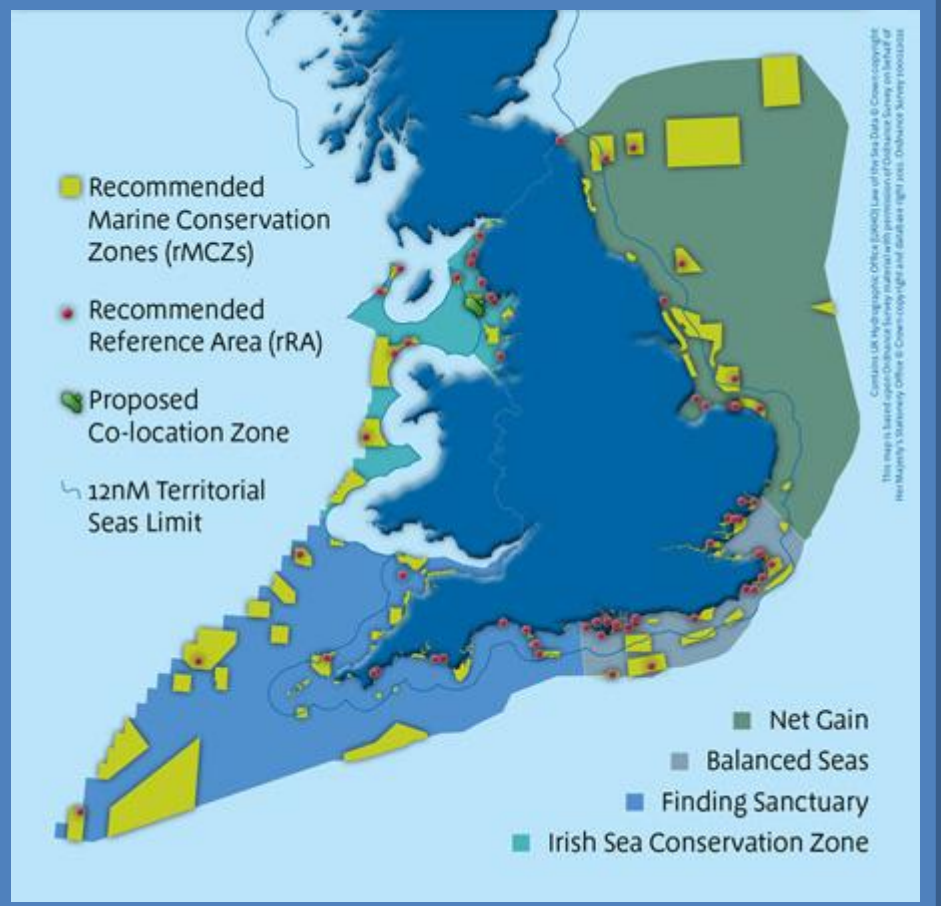


Pevensey's Environment - The Sea

The eastern English Channel has a wide variety of sea bed conditions; mud, sand, gravel and rock all of which offer different kinds of habitat. There are also dozens of wrecks that provide a solid foundation for plants and animals that aren't able to move about; for instance mussels, sponges and anemones. They provide fish with protection from waves, currents and predators as well as food that colonising invertebrates offer.

There are lots of organisations interested in, and providing information on, inshore marine ecosystems. A good place to search for them is on the links page of the UK Marine Protected Areas website, which covers government, industry, conservation and recreational aspects (<http://www.ukmpas.org/index.php>).

Perhaps the most important recent development has been the 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act, which enables government to designate and protect Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). Identification of potential MCZs for England was split into four different areas, with "Balanced Seas" covering the south-east. In our region 30 potential MCZs were recommended. Their recommendations were made in September 2011, with the Science Advisory Panel submitting their final report to government on 15 November 2011. After consultation with the public in 2012 the first MCZ designations are expected in 2013.



There is a wealth of marine information on the websites of national organisations such as Natural England & Seasearch



PCDL is in regular contact with the local county ecologist and biodiversity team as well as the local fishing industry. Their sites are among those that provide excellent information specific to Sussex.

