



Marine  
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Ms Helen Venn  
Chief Regulatory Officer  
Office for Environmental Protection  
Send by e-mail to:

Your reference: CMS-354

05 September 2022

Dear Ms Venn,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 July 2022, regarding the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Call for Evidence on our Stage 2 assessment of fishing activity impacts in marine protected areas.

Tom McCormack has asked that I respond to your letter as the relevant MMO lead for this area. Please accept my apologies for not being able to respond fully to you before now.

I note your support for our ongoing efforts to deliver appropriate fisheries management measures for all offshore MPAs in English waters by the end of 2024, this is both appreciated and valued. I also note your comments in relation to the high-level management options we have set out in our Call for Evidence, and particularly your view that if the MMO were to introduce certain management options (specifically our options 1 and 2) then it risks failing to comply with environmental law.

Please let me reassure you that we intend, following a full consideration of the evidence available to us including the responses received to the Call for Evidence, to discharge our duties in a manner which is fully compliant with environmental law.

We recognise the need to ensure that the marine conservation zones and special areas of conservation considered in Stage 2 receive the protection they require. In line with regulatory best practice, we have included options 1 and 2 (alongside more restrictive management options) in our Call for Evidence as high-level management options available to us. It would be premature to predetermine what the appropriate management intervention will be without first undertaking a thorough consideration of the available evidence available, including that provided to us in response to the Call for Evidence.

If you have any follow up questions and/or consider it may be worthwhile to meet to discuss the MMO's ongoing work on MPA's, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for your support for our work in this area.



Acting Director of Operations  
Marine Management Organisation

