

Zonal demarcations in the Channel

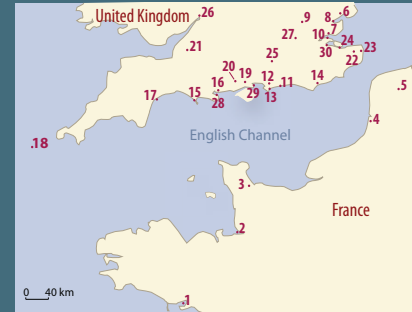
Operational limits and special reserve areas



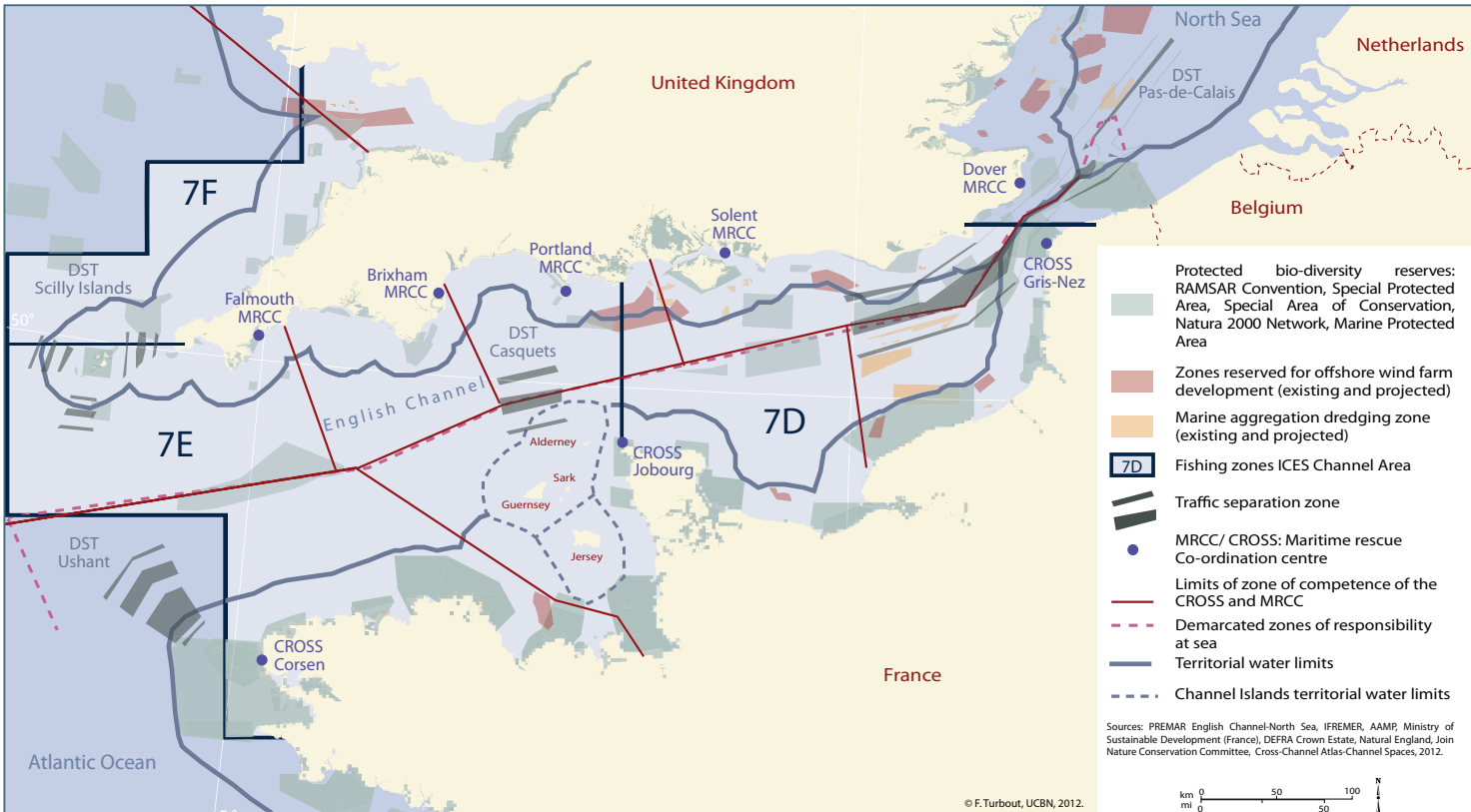
Reference points

RAMSAR sites		
1 - Golfe du Morbihan (Brittany)	7 - Benfleet & Southend Marshes (Essex)	15 - Chesil Beach & The Fleet (Dorset)
2 - Baie du Mont Saint-Michel (Lower-Normandie)	8 - Blackwater Estuary (Essex)	16 - Dorset heathlands (Dorset)
3 - Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin, Baie de Veys (Lower-Normandie)	9 - Lee Valley (Essex)	17 - Exe Estuary (Devon)
4 - Baie de Somme (Picardy)	10 - Thames Estuary and Marshes (Essex)	18 - Isles of Scilly (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly)
5 - Le marais audomarois (North Pas-de-Calais)	11 - Arun Valley (West Sussex)	19 - Solent and Southampton Water (Hampshire)
6 - Abberton reservoir (Essex)	12 - Chichester & Langstone Harbours (West Sussex)	20 - The New Forest (Hampshire)
	13 - Pagham Harbour (West Sussex)	21 - Somerset Levels and Moors (Somerset)
	14 - Pevensy Levels (East Sussex)	22 - Stodmarsh (Kent)
		23 - Thanet Coast & Sandwich bay (Kent)
		24 - The Swale (Kent)
		25 - Thursley and Ockley Bog (Surrey)
		26 - Walmore Common (Gloucestershire)
		27 - South West London Waterbodies (London)
		28 - Poole Harbour (Poole UA)
		29 - Portsmouth Harbour (UA)
		30 - Medway Estuary & Marshes (Medway UA)

Location of RAMSAR sites



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MPA

Marine Protected Area (MPA): Any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated fauna, flora, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment. Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs): Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are a new type of Marine Protected Area (MPA) brought in under the UK Marine Act. Marine Conservation Zones will form a key part of the UK MPA network.

Natura 2000 network

Natura 2000 is the EU-wide network of protected sites established under the Birds Directive (SPA) and the Habitats Directive (SAC)

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

A site designation specified in the Habitats Directive. Each site is designated for one or mores of the habitats and species listed in the Directive. The Directive requires a management plan to be prepared and implemented for each SAC to ensure the favourable conservation status of the habitats or species for which it was designated.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

A site of European Community importance designated under the Wild Birds Directive. Natural habitat as defined by the Habitats Directive .

Ramsar Convention

Ramsar Convention was adopted on 02 February 1971 in Ramsar (Iran). It is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands in order to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future, recognising the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

The multiplication of activities has progressively led to their being assigned boundaries and specially reserved zones. Indeed historically, it is in the Channel that the first legally established boundaries based on international law (Bay of Granville Convention 1839-1843) were introduced.

As such the sea component of the Channel has become increasingly viewed in territorial terms. Internally, it is therefore organised with reference to marine area use plans. By identifying the zonal boundaries, the areas of jurisdiction and those parts reserved for specific activities, the Channel is aspiring to become a fully managed, developed as well as protected space.

Above all the whole area is defined by the management limits in question, the first of which are the territorial sea limits within which French and British sovereignty reigns, including those specific to the Channel Islands.

Superimposed on this first level are those additional areas of marine responsibility defining where French and British authorities are allowed intervene in the event of an accident. These areas of responsibility are between those covered by sea rescue and surveillance centres in France (CROSS: Regional Operational Centre of Surveillance and Sea Rescue) and in England (MRCC: Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre). The latter are tasked with keeping an eye on maritime traffic and carrying out rescue missions in the event of accidents or shipwreck.

The maritime use plan additionally takes account of zones reserved for any specific resource development. Fishing zones established by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) cover the whole of the Channel. These allow for a regular census of the resource fished by the various maritime professionals. These broadly defined zones encompass more restricted areas reserved for the extraction of aggregates, shellfish farming and operation of offshore wind farms.

Finally, it should be emphasised that this system of the superimposition of boundaries and zones defined over decades is itself further subject to a wide array of regulations categorising the parts of the area to be set aside for protecting biodiversity. Protected marine areas belong to this category, as do RAMSAR zones, special protection and conservation zones as well as the Natura 2000 network.

The schema produced by this series of boundaries – albeit invisible to the naked eye – underpins the overall Channel marine use management plan.