

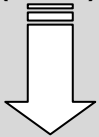
## Offshore SAC Designation Process

### Area of Search



- [Area of Search](#) fulfils the [Annex III SAC Selection Criteria](#)
- Boundary is delineated and draft documentation supporting recommendation of the area as an SAC prepared
- Inter-Agency [Marine Protected Areas Technical Group](#), JNCC MPA Sub Group and Chief Scientists Group provide comment on proposal
- [JNCC Committee](#) approves proposal
- Area is formally recommended to Government by JNCC, at which point it becomes a Draft SAC (dSAC)

### Draft SAC (dSAC)



- Government review proposal and consider whether to proceed to consultation.
- When the site has been approved to go out to formal public consultation, it becomes a Possible SAC (pSAC)

### Possible SAC (pSAC)



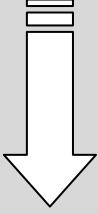
- In preparation for the consultation, Impact Assessments and consultation document are produced, and pre-consultation meetings with stakeholders may be conducted.
- Proposal subject to formal [public consultation](#) (usually 12 weeks)
- JNCC produce a report of responses to the consultation
- JNCC consider the conclusions of the consultation and revise pSAC proposals in light of additional scientific data provided during the consultation if necessary
- JNCC formally recommend revised pSAC proposals to Government
- Government gain approval for onwards submission of pSAC to the European Commission
- Natura 2000 Data Form and GIS data for pSAC prepared by JNCC, and sent to the European Commission, at which point the site becomes a Candidate SAC (cSAC)

### Candidate SAC (cSAC)



- JNCC establish draft Conservation Objectives for the cSAC and advise Competent Authorities on appropriate management actions
- Competent Authorities must manage site in accordance with [Offshore Habitat Regulations \(as amended\)](#)
- European Commission approves site, at which point it becomes a Site of Community Importance (SCI)

**Site of  
Community  
Importance  
(SCI)**



- JNCC establish formal Conservation Objectives for the cSAC and advise Competent Authorities on appropriate management actions. Management of licensed activities is undertaken through the existing licensing system. Management of fisheries in offshore waters takes place under the Joint Recommendation process under the Common Fisheries Policy.
- UK Government designates site as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). SCIs have to be designated by UK Government as SACs within six years of them being adopted by the European Commission, with conservation measures established and applied from the time of designation.

**Special Area  
of  
Conservation  
(SAC)**

- Once designated, the relevant competent authorities are notified.