



**GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORMAL JOINT COMMITTEE ADVICE ON
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORMAL JOINT COMMITTEE ADVICE ON MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Paper by Marcus Yeo

1. Annexes 1a and 1b set out the current arrangements for formal Joint Committee advice on marine protected areas.
2. It is proposed that these arrangements are updated in the light of experience. Proposed roles are as follows:

2.1 *Joint Committee*

- i. Approve offshore sites and offshore components of trans-boundary¹ Natura 2000 sites.
- ii. Endorse inshore Natura 2000 sites as a contribution to the UK network, post-consultation.
- iii. Approve offshore, and offshore components of trans-boundary, MPAs designated under national legislation.
- iv. Endorse inshore MPAs designated under national legislation as a contribution to the UK network.

2.2 *MPA Sub-Group*

- i. Consider contentious proposals for offshore Natura 2000 sites and offshore components of transboundary and/or cross-border Natura 2000 sites and advise the Joint Committee accordingly (including conservation objectives, impact assessments and management measures where appropriate).
- ii. Endorse consultation reports on offshore Natura 2000 sites and offshore components of transboundary and/or cross-border Natura 2000 sites prior to formal submission to Government and consider any significant issues raised.
- iii. Consider contentious proposals for offshore MPAs designated under national legislation, and advise the Joint Committee accordingly.

2.3 *JNCC Chair*

- i. Approve minor changes to proposals for offshore Natura 2000 sites and offshore national MPAs (where the proposals have previously been approved by Committee), taking advice from the Executive Management Board and the Marine Sub-Group as appropriate.

¹ Trans-boundary refers to the boundary between inshore and offshore zones

3. In the case of the formal advice on MCZs due to be submitted to Defra by JNCC and Natural England by 18 July 2012, it is proposed to retain the temporary delegation made by Committee in June 2011 (see Annex 1a), i.e. the JNCC Chair will sign-off proposals in conjunction with the Natural England Chair or convene a special meeting of Committee if necessary.

Annex 1a. Roles of the Joint Committee and the MPA Sub-Group in relation to site identification (as agreed by the Joint Committee in June 2009)

The following text comprises extracts from paper JNCC 09 P11 (Governance arrangements for work on marine protected areas).

Joint Committee

- *Approve offshore sites and offshore components of trans-boundary² Natura 2000 sites.*
- *Endorse inshore Natura 2000 sites as a contribution to the network, post-consultation.*
- *Approve offshore, and offshore components of trans-boundary, Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) (MPAs in Scotland).*
- *Endorse inshore MCZs (MPAs in Scotland) as a contribution to the UK network.*

MPA Sub-Group

- *Consider difficult proposals for offshore Natura 2000 sites and offshore components of transboundary and/or cross-border Natura 2000 sites (prior to Committee approval), including conservation objectives, impact assessments and management measures where appropriate.*
- *Endorse consultation reports on offshore Natura 2000 sites and offshore components of transboundary and/or cross-border Natura 2000 sites prior to formal submission to Government and consider any significant issues raised.*
- *Consider difficult proposals for offshore MCZ (MPAs in Scotland) site proposals (prior to Committee approval).*

Annex 1b. Delegation from Joint Committee in relation to identification of Marine Conservation Zones

The following text is an extract from the confirmed minutes of the June 2011 Joint Committee meeting.

8.6 Committee agreed that the Sub-Group should thoroughly evaluate the proposals it receives from staff [in relation to Marine Conservation Zones] and raise any issues of concern with Dr Bridgewater. Under delegation from the Committee, Dr Bridgewater would sign-off proposals in conjunction with Mr Christensen (taking account of Natural England's responsibilities) or convene a special meeting of Committee if necessary.

² Trans-boundary refers to the boundary between inshore and offshore zones