

Toolkit for challenging the management of fishing in Natura 2000 marine sites

Key scientific references to show damage to reefs, maerl, and rich sandbank features:

1. [Bradshaw et al](#) (2001) Impacts of scallop dredges on soft and harder seabeds.
2. [Sheehan et al](#) (2013) Recovery of seabeds (soft and hard grounds) after cessation of trawling and dredging.
3. [Rees et al](#) (2013) Legal and ecological definitions of 'site integrity' (particularly for reef and rich cobble habitats).
4. [Solandt et al](#) (2013) protecting SACs with maerl/sandbank features from scallop dredging.

Legal briefings and analysis of issues:

1. Interpretation of article 6(2) and 6(3) - [ClientEarth briefing series](#).
2. A document setting out the [main legal arguments](#) that can be used in a campaign and/or correspondence with regulators.
3. Environmental NGO [critique](#) of legality of byelaws by local fisheries regulators in England.
4. A sample letter to regulators (available [upon request](#)).

What you might borrow from the English approach...:

1. The development of a 'new' [precautionary approach](#) by UK government (policy documents from government).
2. The [matrix](#) of SAC 'FEATURE' Vs 'FISHING GEAR' vulnerability (linked excel spreadsheet)
3. Specific [habitat papers](#) (from sandbanks to reefs) detailing damage risk evidence from UK government.
4. A list of the specific [location \(site names\)](#) of sites where high risk (red) features are, and where they were protected from bottom towed fishing gears between December 2013 and May 2014.
5. This [presentation of the history of the case](#) also given at a recent EU N2K marine conference (St Malo, May 2015).

Documents from the EU Marine Expert Group:

1. A [feature-gear interaction matrix](#), which identifies activities that could have *a priori* significant negative impacts on features for which Natura 2000 sites have been selected (extracted from this [report](#)).

You can also watch the [webinar](#) on a 'Guide to Consistent Protection Across Europe from Destructive Fishing in EU Natura 2000 Sites' presented by MCS and ClientEarth on 14 July 2015.