Joint Recommendation regarding the protection of the Annex I feature "Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time" within Bassurelle Sandbank Site of Community Importance under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 under Articles 11 and 18 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy (the Basic Regulation).

DRAFT

Contents Page

Joint Recommendation

1. Introduction 8

2. The Recommendation to be implemented.....8

3. Control and enforcement of the proposed fisheries management measures

.....10

Tables

Table 1: Gear types to be prohibited within the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI management boundary 8

Table 2: Coordinates for the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI site boundary 9

Table 3: Coordinates for proposed closure to demersal trawls and dredges within Bassurelle Sandbank SCI.....9

Supporting Documentation

1. Introduction 12

1.1 General remarks..... 12

1.2 Overall aim of the present proposal 12

1.3 Recommendations to be implemented 13

2. Legal framework 15

2.1 Common Fisheries Policy 15

2.2 Fisheries access to Bassurelle Sandbank SCI..... 16

2.3 Designation of Bassurelle Sandbanks SCI..... 16

3. Process.....17

3.1 Stakeholder workshops..... 18

3.2 Consultation on management proposals..... 18

DRAFT

3.3 Formal agreement of Joint Recommendations 18

3.4 Involvement of North West Water Advisory Council..... 19

4. Rationale for measures 19

5. Principles 20

6. Proposal scope 21

Tables

Table 4: Gear types to be prohibited within the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI management boundaries 13

Table 5: Coordinates for the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI management zone boundary 14

Figures

Figure 1: Map of Bassurelle Sandbank SCI site and management boundary.....15

Figure 2: Map of Bassurelle Sandbank SCI site boundary.....17

List of Annexes

Annex A – Meeting note from workshop..... 22

Annex B – Overview of the 11 information items in the Commission's guidelines from 2008 23

Annex C – Map of English MPA network 68

Annex D – Map and coordinates for Bassurelle Sandbank SCI increased reporting zone 69

Annex E – References 72

Annex B – Overview of the 11 information items in the Commission's guidelines from 2008

DRAFT

1. Comprehensive description of the natural features including distribution within the site 23

2. Scientific rationale for the site's selection in accordance with the information provided in the Natura 2000 data form. Intrinsic value of its features. Specific conservation objectives 24

2.1 Conservation objectives 25

3. Basis for the spatial extent of the site boundary clearly justified in terms of conservation objectives 25

4. Threats to the long-term natural distribution, structure and functions of the habitats and the long-term survival of associated species from different types of fishing gear. List of other human activities in the area that could damage the habitats 27

4.1 Demersal trawls and dredges (including scallop dredges, beam trawls and otter trawls) 27

4.2 All demersal static gears (including gillnets, trammel nets, longlines, pots and traps) 28

4.3 Other Human activities 28

5. Fleet activity in the area and in the region, distribution of fleets (by nation, gear and species) and information on target and bycatch species over 6 years from 2010 to 2015 inclusive 28

5.1 Validity of data 28

5.1.1 Data analysis 29

5.1.2 Data limitations 30

5.2 Fleet activity by state 30

5.3 Landings values 32

5.4 Annual variation in fishing activity 36

5.5 Fleet activity by gear group – Geographical distribution 45

5.6 By-catch 52

6. Seasonal trends in fisheries for years 2010 to 2015 inclusive 53

DRAFT

7. Proposed fisheries management measures to maintain the habitat feature in favourable condition. Are they proportionate and enforceable? Other conservation measures that apply to the area.....60

7.1 Options for fisheries management measures..... 60

7.2 Proposed management option 61

7.3 Other fisheries measures which apply to the site 62

8. Control measures envisaged by the Member State, possible ecological and control buffer zones to ensure site protection and/or effective control and monitoring measures.....62

8.1 Measures envisaged by Member States for Control, Enforcement and Compliance 62

8.1.1 Surface surveillance..... 62

8.1.2 Remote Vessel Monitoring..... 62

8.2 Vessel position monitoring system requirements and increased reporting costs...63

8.3 Key provisions to include in EC regulation to manage the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 65

9. Measures to monitor and assess the maintenance and/or recovery of the features within the site.....66

10. Coordination with neighbouring Member States as appropriate 66

11. Evaluation of possible displacement of fishing effort and impact on new areas 67

Tables

Table 1: Number of vessels and pings (0-6 knots) associated with the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI by year and Member State. 34

Table 2.1: Vessel size and gear type for vessels operating in 30F0 and 30F1 by year and Member State showing effort (tonnage caught) 32

Table 2.2: Vessel size and gear type for vessels operating in 30F0 and 30F1 by year and Member State showing landing values.....34

DRAFT

Figures

Figure 1: Photographs taken from the 2013 CEND0313 survey of Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 24

Figure 2: Site boundary for the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 26

Figure 3: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2010 by Nationality 39

Figure 4: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2011 by Nationality 40

Figure 5: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2012 by Nationality 41

Figure 6: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2013 by Nationality 42

Figure 7: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2014 by Nationality 43

Figure 8: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2015 by Nationality 44

Figure 9: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2010 all nationalities 46

Figure 10: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2011 all nationalities 47

Figure 11: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2012 all nationalities 48

Figure 12: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2013 all nationalities 49

Figure 13: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2014 all nationalities 50

Figure 14: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2015 all nationalities 51

DRAFT

Charts

Chart 6.1: Belgian seasonal fishing activity (all gears) in Bassurelle Sandbanks SCI.....52

Chart 6.2: Dutch seasonal fishing activity (all gears and years 2010-2015) in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI. 55

Chart 6.3: French seasonal fishing activity (all gears and years 2010-2015) in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI. 57

Chart 6.4: UK seasonal fishing activity (all gears and years 2010-2015) in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI. 58

DRAFT

Joint Recommendation

1. Introduction

This joint recommendation contains a proposal for the regulation of fisheries activity and is initiated by the United Kingdom (UK) and submitted to the European Commission jointly by the UK and the following Member States: Belgium, France and Netherlands being those Member States who have a direct management interest affected by the joint recommendation.

The overall aim of this joint recommendation is to ensure the protection of sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (Habitat type 1110) within Bassurelle Site of Community Importance (SCI) from fisheries, thereby contributing to the obligation to restore the sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time to Favourable Condition in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive[1].

It is the intention of the UK government (as the initiating Member State) to take forward measures in respect to fisheries activities exercised by all fishing vessels including those carrying the flag of other Member States of the EU.

2. The Recommendations to be Implemented

The following recommendation is proposed for adoption in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI:

- The exclusion of demersal trawls and dredges from a proportion of the site and an increased reporting zone around the management boundary (see Section 8 of Annex B).

Table 1: Gear types to be prohibited within Bassurelle Sandbank SCI management boundary as shown in figure 1 (page 13)

Gear types to be prohibited within the site's management boundary	Habitat code	Gear code Annex XI in EU Regulation No 404/2011	International Standard Classification of Fishing Gears
Beam Trawl	H1110	TBB	TBB

[1] Council Directive 92/43/EEC, of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:EN:PDF

DRAFT

Bottom Trawl/Otter Trawl	H1110	OTB, OTT, PTB,TBN,TBS,TB	OTB,OTT,OT,PTB,TB
Dredges	H1110	DRB	DRB, DRH

Table 2: Coordinates for the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI site boundary.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	50°38’38.774” N	1°7’19.671”E
2	50°34’13.077” N	1°1’24.769”E
3	50°33’10.000” N	1°0’0.000” E
4	50°32’59.613” N	0°56’39.064”E
5	50°32’53.417” N	0°55’13.359”E
6	50°33’9.939” N	0°54’17.599”E
7	50°33’25.428” N	0°54’8.306”E
8	50°35’32.436” N	0°55’34011”E
9	50°35’58.250” N	0°55’56.728”E
10	50°36’2.381” N	0°56’25.640”E
11	50°36’2.381” N	0°57’35.856”E
12	50°36’1.348” N	0°59’6.724”E
13	50°36’22.000” N	1°0’51.015”E
14	50°36’58.140” N	1°1’50.905”E
15	50°37’33.860” N	1°3’4.568”E
16	50°38’14.280” N	1°4’4.699”E
17	50°39’0.303” N	1°5’29.712”E
18	50°39’13.458” N	1°6’5.427”E
19	50°39’41.699” N	1°7’41.864”E
20	50°39’55.137” N	1°8’31.213”E

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Table 3: Co-ordinates for the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI management zone boundaries

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	50° 38' 24.562" N	1° 4' 23.691" E
2	50°38’14.280” N	1°4’4.699”E
3	50°37’33.860” N	1°3’4.568”E
4	50°36’58.140” N	1°1’50.905”E
5	50°36’22.000” N	1°0’51.015”E
6	50°36’1.348” N	0°59’6.724”E
7	50°36’2.381” N	0°57’35.856”E
8	50°36’2.381” N	0°56’25.640”E
9	50°35’58.250” N	0°55’56.728”E
10	50°35’32.436” N	0°55’34011”E
11	50° 34' 1.672" N	0° 54' 32.763" E
12	50° 35' 1.060" N	1° 2' 28.862" E
13	50° 38' 34.704" N	1° 7' 14.235" E

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3. Control and enforcement of the proposed fisheries management measures

Control and enforcement of the proposed fisheries management measures will be based on the risk-based systems in accordance with the model developed by the UK’s Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

Key provisions which should be included in an EC regulation to facilitate control, enforcement and compliance include:

- A prohibition on any demersal trawls and dredges being deployed in the management area of the SCI. All gear types are permitted to fish in the reporting zone outside the management area with increased VMS reporting.
- Establishment of a 1nm (1.852km) reporting zone around Bassurelle Sandbank SCIs management area. All fishing vessels within this area shall be required to record or report

vessel positions at a rate of 10 minute intervals. This area shall be defined by the reporting zone and coordinates displayed in Annex C.

- A requirement for all fishing vessels entering the reporting zone to have a system for recording and reporting vessel position which meets prescribed specifications (see section 8.2 of Annex A for minimal requirements) and is installed and operative. Any fishing vessel entering Bassurelle Sandbank SCI management area or the reporting zone without such a system will be committing an offence.

- A requirement for all fishing vessels transiting the prohibited area carrying prohibited gears to have all gears on board lashed and stowed.

- A requirement for all fishing vessels transiting the restricted area carrying prohibited gears to ensure that the speed during the transit is not less than 6 knots except in the case of force majeure or adverse conditions[2]. In such cases the master shall immediately inform the fisheries monitoring centre of the flag member state which shall then inform the Marine Management Organisation Fisheries Monitoring Centre (MMO FMC).

The proposal on which gear types to prohibit is formulated in terms of Gear Codes in Annex XI in EU Regulation 404/2011 and is explained in more detail in Section 8 of Annex A.

The ongoing management needs of this site will be assessed on an annual basis. If changes to the current management status are required, the UK will coordinate such a requirement in accordance with Articles 11 and 18 of the Basic Regulation and in collaboration with those Member States with a direct management interest in Bassurelle Sandbank site.

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[2] Article 50 4(b) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:343:0001:0050:EN:PDF

Joint Recommendation regarding the protection of the Annex I feature "Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time" within Bassurelle Sandbank Site of Community Importance under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 under Articles 11 and 18 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy (the Basic Regulation).

Supporting Documentation

1. Introduction

1.1 General Remarks

The Bassurelle Sandbank site was submitted to the European Commission as a possible Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in August 2010 and approved by the Commission as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) in November 2011.

Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, Member States have a duty to take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats for which SACs have been designated. Commercial fishing has been identified as an activity which could adversely impact the integrity of the site's feature and as such require being assessed and, if necessary, managed to reduce its impact. The conservation objective for Bassurelle Sandbank SCI is to restore the "Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time" to favourable condition.

As the proposed management area of the Bassurelle Sandbank site falls beyond 12 nm of the UK coastline, all Member States have access to this part of the site. UK, Belgium, France and Netherlands, are currently the Member States with an active fishing interest in the site, however Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania and Norway have operated in the vicinity and could have an interest. It is the intention of the UK government (as the initiating Member State) to take forward measures in respect to fisheries activities exercised by all vessels including fishing vessels carrying the flag of other Member States of the EU.

1.2 Overall aim of the present proposal

The overall aim of this joint recommendation is to ensure the protection of sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (Habitat type 1110) within Bassurelle Sandbank SCI from fisheries, thereby contributing to the obligation to restore the sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time to Favourable Condition in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats

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Directive[3]; which states that Member States shall take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats for which the areas have been designated.

The Conservation Objective for Bassurelle Sandbank SCI is to restore the "Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time" (H1110), to Favourable Condition. According to advice provided by Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the UK Government's statutory scientific advisor for offshore habitats, where fishing using demersal trawls or dredges overlaps with the feature it may pose a risk to achieving the conservation objectives for the site. Management measures may focus on the removal of pressures (in order to reduce the risk of not achieving the conservation objectives to the lowest possible level), or the reduction of pressures (in order to reduce the risk of not achieving the conservation objectives).

The UK is proposing to restrict demersal trawling and dredging within a zoned management area inside the site. Where there is any uncertainty regarding the impacts of fishing on the features, an "adaptive management" approach is proposed, which would allow the site to move towards its conservation objectives while providing the opportunity to improve our understanding of the impacts and subsequently adapt management accordingly. The content of the proposed fisheries management measures is explained in more detail in section 1.3.

The proposal has been reviewed by CEFAS (see section 5).

1.3 Recommendation to be implemented

The following recommendation is proposed for adoption in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI:

- the exclusion of demersal trawls and dredges within the site's management boundaries and an increased reporting zone around the site (see Section 8 of Annex B).

Table 4: Gear types that are prohibited in the management boundary of the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI as shown in figure 1 (page 13).

Gear types to be prohibited within the site's management boundaries	Habitat code	Gear code Annex XI in EU Regulation No 404/2011	International Standard Classification of Fishing Gears

[3] Council Directive 92/43/EEC, of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:EN:PDF

Beam Trawl	H1110	TBB	TBB
Bottom Trawl/Otter Trawl	H1110	OTB, OTT, PTB,TBN,TBS,TB	OTB,OTT,OT,PTB,TB
Dredges	H1110	DRB	DRB, DRH

Table 5: Coordinates of the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI management boundary for demersal trawls and dredges.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	50° 38' 24.562" N	1° 4' 23.691" E
2	50°38’14.280” N	1°4’4.699”E
3	50°37’33.860” N	1°3’4.568”E
4	50°36’58.140” N	1°1’50.905”E
5	50°36’22.000” N	1°0’51.015”E
6	50°36’1.348” N	0°59’6.724”E
7	50°36’2.381” N	0°57’35.856”E
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10	50°35’32.436” N	0°55’34011”E
11	50° 34' 1.672" N	0° 54' 32.763" E
12	50° 35' 1.060" N	1° 2' 28.862" E
13	50° 38' 34.704" N	1° 7' 14.235" E

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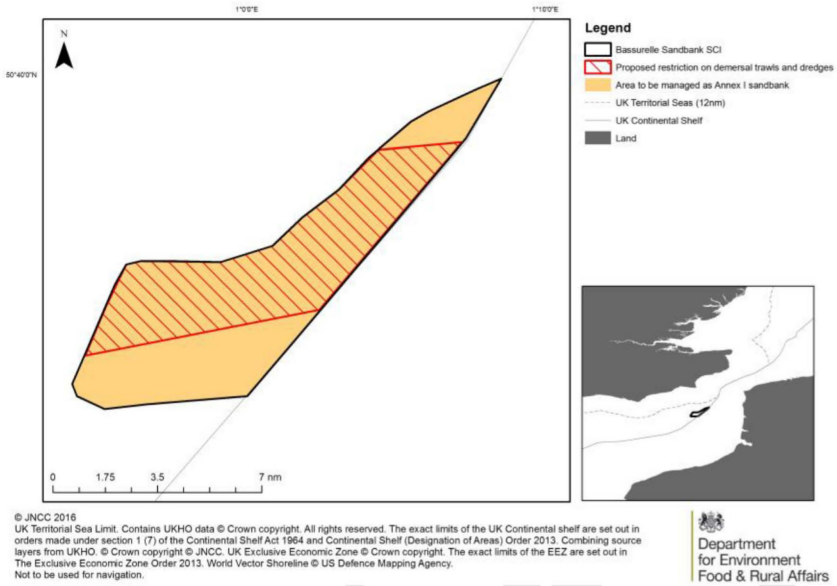


Figure 1: Bassurelle Sandbank SCI site map including protected features for which management is being proposed

2. Legal framework

2.1 Common Fisheries Policy

The Common Fisheries Policy (Regulation No 1380/2013 (The Basic Regulation) Article 11) states that Member States are empowered to adopt conservation measures not affecting fishing vessels of other Member States that are applicable to waters under their sovereignty or jurisdiction and that are necessary to comply with the obligations under Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC and Article 13(4) of Directive 2008/56/EC.

Where a Member State ("initiating Member State") considers that measures need to be adopted for the purpose of complying with the obligations referred to above, and other Member States have a direct management interest in the fishery to be affected by such measures, the European Commission shall be empowered to adopt such measures, upon request, by means of delegated acts. For this purpose cooperation between Member States having a direct management interest is foreseen with a view to formulating a joint recommendation in agreement on draft fisheries management measures to be forwarded to the Commission.

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The initiating Member State shall provide the Commission and the other Member States having a direct management interest with relevant information on the measures required, including their rationale, scientific evidence in support and details on their practical implementation and enforcement. Member States shall consult the relevant Advisory Councils.

The initiating Member State and the other Member States having a direct management interest may submit a joint recommendation within six months from the provision of sufficient information. The Commission shall adopt the measures, taking into account any available scientific advice, within three months from receipt of a complete request (Reg 1380/2013, Articles 11 and 18).

The following chapters describe how the UK, as the initiating Member State, has taken the Commission's criteria for decision making into account, as well as the requirements for regional coordination in line with the new Basic Regulation.

2.2 Fisheries Access to Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

In accordance with the Basic Regulation, Norway and the following Member States operate demersal towed gears within the proposed management zone: UK, Belgium, France and Netherlands.

Of these Member States, UK, Belgium, France and Netherlands have used demersal towed gear within the proposed management zone in the past 6 years; from 2010 to 2015 inclusive (details of activity and gear type can be found in table 2.1). The most significant activity was from French vessels with lower, but substantive, levels of activity from the UK, Belgium and occasionally Netherlands.

2.3 Designation of Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1842)[4], as amended, provide the legal basis for the designation of Natura 2000 sites in offshore waters and areas of the extended continental shelf in the UK. In accordance with Regulation 7 of the above Regulations, the Bassurelle Sandbank site was submitted to the European Commission as a Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) in August 2010 and adopted by the Commission as a SCI in November 2011. In accordance with Article 4(4) of the Habitats Directive, Member States have a maximum of six years from the site being adopted as a SCI to implement the necessary management measures and formally designate the site as a SAC.

[4] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/1842/contents/made

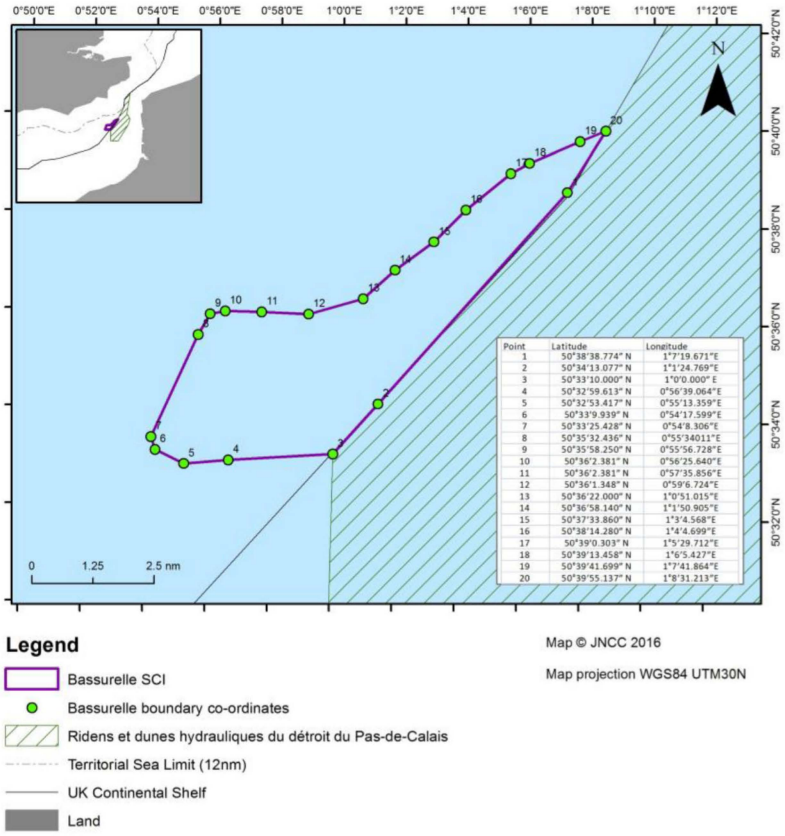


Figure 2: Site boundary for Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

3. Process

This chapter describes the process from when the initiative to protect deep sea bed (habitat type A6), and cold-water coral reefs from fisheries activities at Bassurelle Sandbank SCI were commenced at a fisheries management workshop held in Exeter in May 2016 jointly by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) until submission of fisheries management measures in form of 'A Joint Recommendation' by the UK, Belgium, France and Netherlands to the European Commission. Other member states such as have access to the site but have not actively fished the site (using proposed prohibited gears). Germany and Ireland have been recorded in the site with a proposed prohibited gear but are not deemed to have had active fishing operations in the site over the years analysed 2010-2013.

3.1 Stakeholder workshops

A stakeholder workshop was held in Exeter on 18 and 19 May 2016. The workshop was attended by French, Irish and UK fisheries representatives as well as delegates from the French, Irish and Spanish governments and the Northwest Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC). There was also representation from NGOs and conservation organisations.

Before the workshop, participants were provided with fisheries management options papers for the site, and they were invited to contribute to the process of developing appropriate management measures to achieve the conservation objectives while complying with the principals of proportionality and non-discrimination.

Attendees considered amendments to the proposal, which would ensure inclusion of the range of communities associated with the sandbank feature, while limiting socio-economic impact.

The site specific discussion from the report of the meeting is at Annex A.

3.2 Consultation on management proposals

Draft proposals for fisheries management measures were developed using feedback from the stakeholder workshops as well as advice from the UK's statutory nature conservation bodies, the JNCC and Natural England, and offshore fisheries regulator, the MMO.

Fisheries management measures were developed in close coordination with other Member States with a direct management interest in the sites. Draft management proposals were subject to a six week period of consultation with Member States with a direct management interest in the sites and the Northwest Waters Advisory Council.

3.3 Formal agreement of Joint Recommendation

Finalised management proposals were then presented to other Member States with a direct management interest in the sites for agreement that sufficient information had been provided in order to commence the formal agreement of the proposals as Joint Recommendations. [Following this, ad hoc meetings of the Northwest Waters Article 11 sub-group were held to start formal agreement proceedings for the Joint Recommendations. Any outstanding issues were then addressed before agreement was reached on the Joint Recommendations by members of the Northwest Waters High-Level Group and they were submitted to the European Commission for adoption.]

3.4 Involvement of the North West Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC)

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The North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) attended the workshop in Exeter in May 2016 where initial proposals for management were discussed and the UK presented its rationale behind the measures proposed. In January 2017, the UK consulted the NWWAC on proposals for fisheries management measures in 12 MPAs, in line with the provision outlined in Article 11 of the CFP. The NWWAC held a meeting on 28 February 2017 where the proposed measures were presented and discussed, which the UK attended.

On 30 March 2017, the UK replied to a response from the Secretariat covering general comments on the proposals as well as some specific comments on several of the proposals for the MPAs in question. With respect to Bassurelle Sandbank SCI some industry member's considered the prohibition of trawl gear to be excessive. The UK responded that there is evidence to suggest that mobile bottom contacting gears have the potential to impact sandy habitats resulting in modification of that feature. As such, given the uncertainties a precautionary closure over a proportion of the site is considered both compliant with the Directive and proportionate to the level of risk.

4. Rationale for measures

The sandbank is comprised of a mixture of sand and gravelly sand, with shell and gravel visible at the surface. The site contains areas of fine sand as well as slightly more gravelly sediments, with coarser sediment often collecting in the troughs between sandwaves. The available evidence indicates that the features designated may be sensitive to prevailing fishing activities and as such measures are proposed to reduce the level of risk to achieving the conservation objectives for the site.

Demersal towed gears

Whilst it is unlikely that demersal towed gears can affect the long-term natural distribution of the protected features within the site, there is some evidence to indicate that the use of demersal trawls and dredges can impact the structure and function of the habitat and the long term survival of its associated species. This site covers a broad range of habitats and biological communities which is likely to be reflected in an equally broad range of sensitivities to demersal trawl and dredge activity. It is expected that such activities could result in some degradation of the associated benthic communities relative to the un-impacted state particularly with a reduction in the abundance of fragile long lived species. Stable sediments are likely to be more susceptible to disturbance from mobile demersal fishing gears while in higher energy areas much of the natural fauna will be well adapted to recover from disturbance. There is evidence that severity of impact over certain habitats may be cumulative[2] and may be less severe where fishing pressure is low. As with demersal trawls and dredges, demersal seines may impact the structure and function of sedimentary habitats and the long term survival of their associated species. However, demersal seines (Danish and Scottish

seines) lack the heavy gear components of other mobile demersal gears, such as otter doors and trawl shoes (Suuronen et al. 2012; Donaldson et al. 2010), so the risk of impact to sedimentary features and thus to achieving the conservation objective for the site is likely to be lower.

Demersal static gears

It is not expected that demersal static gears will have a significant impact on sedimentary features within the site; however, the impacts of repeated exposure to these types of fishing gear at high levels of fishing activity are unknown.

5. Principles

The UK Government is responsible for ensuring favourable conservation status of designated marine habitats and species in its respective Natura 2000 network and to take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as the disturbance of the species for which the Natura 2000 site has been designated.

Based on advice from JNCC concerning the level of risk associated with a range of management options, and the consideration of socio-economic factors, the UK has decided to protect Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater at all times from physical disturbance due to demersal trawl and dredge activity.

When formulating the present proposal, the following principles have been focal points:

1. Sound scientific basis

This proposal for fisheries management measures is based on available scientific evidence and advice, and takes all relevant information into account. JNCC has provided scientific advice in relation to the risk to achieving the conservation objectives for the site. The proposal has also been reviewed by CEFAS. The advice from Cefas was that this approach reduces the pressures from demersal trawls and dredges sufficiently to contribute to long term progress in recovering the feature towards favourable condition.

2. Stakeholder involvement

An important element of the process of formulating fisheries management measures has been the involvement of stakeholders. This has been outlined in further detail in sections 3.1 and 3.2.

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3. Transparency

In this proposal the UK has been transparent on the data being used, the steps being taken and the methodology used, as well as the involvement of stakeholders.

4. *Proportionality*

An approach was sought that would deliver a regulatory proposal that delivers a key contribution to the achievement of the conservation objectives while minimising the effect on the fishing industry. A key safeguard in the process to deliver such an outcome was to follow the European Commission guidance in this regard, which described a proportional approach towards balancing sustainable exploitation of resources and the need to conserve important habitats, including a precautionary approach to fisheries management.

5. *Non discrimination*

The proposal will need to ensure that measures are not applied in a discriminatory manner. A coordinated approach between Member States is the only way of ensuring non discrimination for fleets affected by the proposed measures. Ultimately, a proposal is presented to the European Commission for regulation in the framework of the CFP, ensuring a level playing field for the fishing sector affected.

6. Proposal scope

The proposed management boundary for a closure to demersal trawls and dredges encompasses approximately 61% of the site and 61% of the Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater at all times within the site.

List of Annexes:

Annex A – Meeting note from workshop

Annex B – Overview of the 11 information items in the Commission's guidelines from 2008

Annex C – Map of English MPA network

Annex D – Map and Coordinates for Bassurelle Sandbank SCI reporting zone with increased reporting

Annex E – References

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Annex A – Meeting note from workshop

Bassurelle Sandbank SAC

It was observed that fishing activity mainly occurs in the deeper waters located in the southern and northern parts of the SAC. The initial proposed management zone covered a range of depths across the sandbanks, potentially providing a good opportunity to release a range of habitats from the pressures of fishing. However it was pointed out that this would need a comprehensive monitoring program to assess the subsequent impacts.

It was proposed the management area should be shortened in height and extended to the west of the site to include a further range of depths in the potential management area. Attendees indicated this change would be widely acceptable.

It was noted that in the French site Banc de Flandre SAC there are no current management measures proposed and given it was designated for the same feature as Ridens et dunes hydrauliques du Detroit du Pas de Calais SAC there may similarly be no management introduced for that site; this could appear unusual and inconsistent to the European Commission. The UK will monitor what measures are proposed for this French site but noted that every sandbank is different. Defra has taken a precautionary approach given the amount of knowledge on the habitat and feature and has attempted to strike a balance between pragmatism and precaution. How this is approached will be different in every Member State and each will interpret this differently and subsequently assume different management measures based on the information available to them. The UK, however, stated that it is keen to develop measures in line with other Member States as far as possible.

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Annex B – Overview of the 11 information items in the Commission's guidelines from 2008

The Commission has issued guidance on a consistent approach to requests for fisheries management measures under the Common Fisheries Policy[5]. Accordingly, this document provides the scientific and technical information required to support a formal request to the Commission for fisheries regulation under the Common fisheries Policy.

1 Comprehensive description of the natural features including distribution within the site

The Bassurelle Sandbank is a linear sandbank in the Dover strait which straddles the boundary between UK and French waters (Figure 2). It is an example of an open shelf ridge sandbank, formed by tidal currents (Graham *et al*., 2001). The southern boundary has been aligned with the boundary of the "Ridens et dunes hydrauliques du Detroit du Pas de Calais" (Meggaripples and hydraulic dunes in the Pas-de-Calais/Dover Strait) Site of Community Importance (SCI). The "Ridens et dunes hydrauliques du Detroi du Pas de Calais" site encompasses a number of different features in French waters, including the remainder of Bassurelle Bank.

The sandbank is comprised of a mixture of sand and gravelly sand, with shell and gravel visible at the surface. Although the surrounding seabed is also predominantly sandy, Bassurelle Sandbank is distinct due to the thickness of the sediment (up to 25m thick) and the elevation above the surrounding area.

Areas of fine sand within the site have an infaunal community dominated by polychaete worms, and bivalves such as *Moerella pygmaea* (little tellin) and *Ensis* sp. (razorshell). In places on Bassurelle Sandbank, and on the margin of the wider sandwave field, the sediment is slightly more gravelly and shelly, with the coarser sediment often collecting in the troughs between sandwaves. In these areas, a slightly different infaunal community of polychaete worms is found (Figure 1).

Scientific information on the UK part of Bassurelle sandbank comes from several sources. Four surveys (two geophysical and two biological) were conducted between 2005 and 2006 as part of the Eastern English Channel Marine Habitat project (James *et al* 2007) which informed the initial identification of the site.

A dedicated survey was conducted on the UK portion of the sandbank in March 2013 to gather further acoustic and ground-truthing data (see Barrio Frojan et al. 2013). The survey found that

[5] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/docs/fish_measures.pdf

DRAFT

Bassurelle Sandbank SCI is characterised by Sublittoral coarse sediment and Sublittoral sand. The distribution of the two EUNIS level 3 habitats recorded within the survey area coincided with the distribution of the two broad groups of distinct infaunal and epifaunal assemblages identified – the more taxon rich assemblages inhabiting the coarser and deeper sediments and the more depauperate assemblages inhabiting the shallower, sandier sediments at the top of the bank

At the time of designation, delineation of the sandbank feature was based on sandy sediments in less than 20m water depth. Based on information from the 2013, the delineation of the Annex I sandbank within the site was updated. It is now considered that the Annex I feature covers the entire site, including the flanks and areas sloping into deeper waters. The Selection Assessment Document[6] and the 2013 survey report (Frojan et al. 2013) recognise that Bassurelle bank is composed of both sand and sandy gravel sediments and supports communities typical of these sediment types. The communities found on the top of the bank, flanks and deeper areas of the west of the site support similar communities.

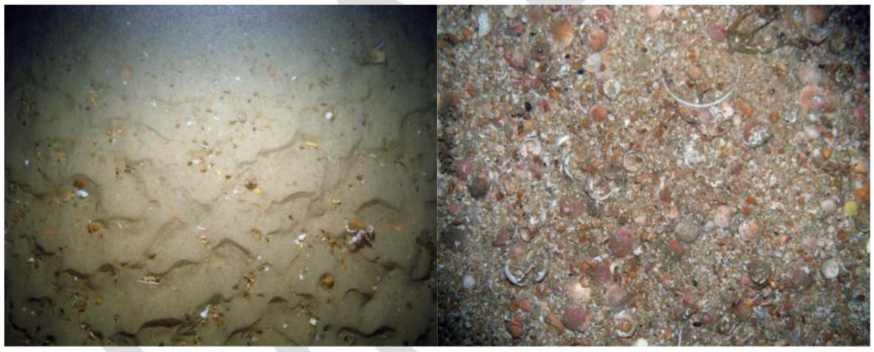


Figure 1. Photographs taken from the CEND0313 survey 2013 of Bassurelle Sandbank

Annex I Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time including rippled sand and gravel substrata with hermit crabs (*Paguridae*) and scallop (*Pecten maximus*)

2 Scientific rationale for the sites' selection in accordance with the information provided in the Natura 2000 data form. Intrinsic value of its features. Specific conservation objectives

The Bassurelle Bank is located in the Eastern English Channel Regional Sea, and represents non-vegetated, sublittoral, open shelf ridge, tidal current sandbanks consisting of sandy sediment. The interest feature is located in full salinity waters, away from coastal influences. Sandwaves and megaripples present on the north flank and crest of the bank indicate that the surface sediment is

[6] http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/BassurelleSandbank_SACSAD_4.0.pdf

regularly mobilised by tidal currents. The biological communities present include those typical of sandy sediments, being dominated by polychaete worms such as the tube-worm Lagis koreni and the bristleworm Spiophanes bombyx. Where the sand is more gravelly, the community contains a variety of crustaceans and polychaetes more typical of gravel sediments such as the hermit crab Pagurus bernhardus and the brittlestar Ophiura spp.

2.1 Conservation Objectives

Conservation objectives set out the desired quality of the protected features within each Natura 2000 site. The conservation objective for the Bassurelle Sandbank SAC is to, subject to natural change, **restore** the **sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time** to favourable condition, such that

- the natural environmental quality, the natural environmental processes and extent are maintained;
- the physical structure, diversity, community structure and typical species, representative of *sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time* in the Eastern English Channel are restored.

3 Basis for the spatial extent of the site boundary clearly justified in terms of conservation objectives

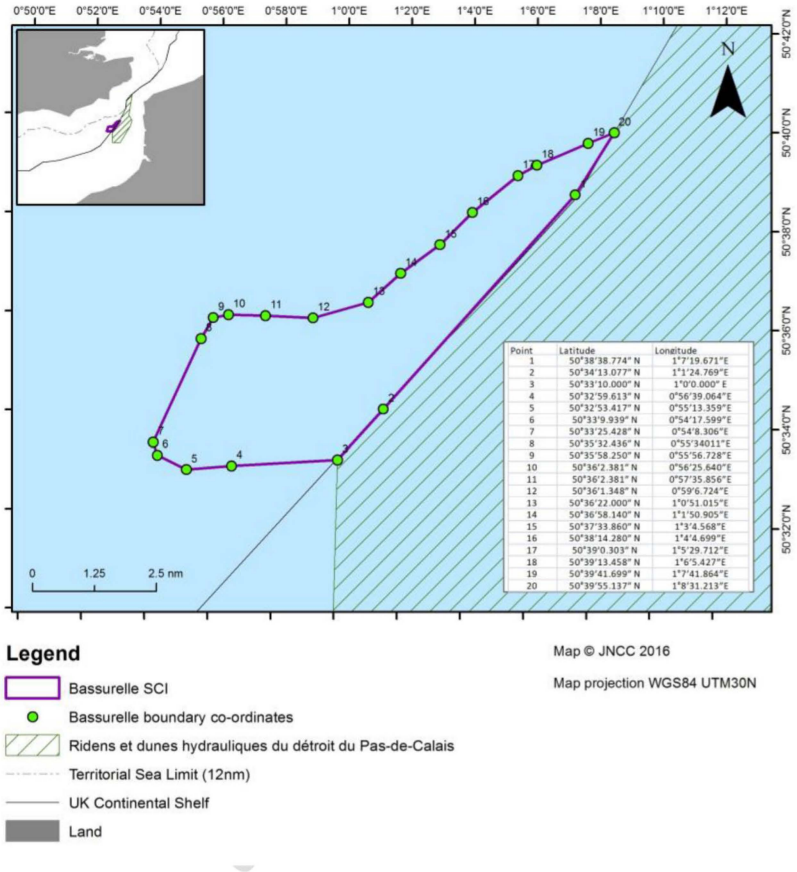
The site boundary has been drawn using the guidance provided by JNCC (2012). The key parts of this guidance are that the boundary should be defined as simply as possible with a minimum number of straight lines, and should include the minimum area necessary to ensure protection for the Annex I habitat of interest. More complex shapes drawn more tightly around the feature of interest are favoured over simple square/rectangle boundaries, to reduce the area of “non-interest-feature”.

The proposed boundary includes both ‘sandy sediments in less than 20m water depth’ and the flanks and troughs of the bank which are also part of the sandbank feature but extend into deeper waters. The boundary has been drawn to closely follow the 30m contour, which appears (from Admiralty Charts and recent survey data) to correspond with the extent of the sandbank. Coordinate points have been positioned as close to the bathymetric contour as possible, whilst trying to avoid an overly-complicated boundary. The southern boundary has also been aligned with the proposed boundary of the Ridens et dunes hydrauliques du Detroit du Pas de Calais (Megaripples and hydraulic dunes in the Pasde-Calais/Dover Strait) possible SAC and therefore, the vertex on the UK-

DRAFT

France median line deviates slightly (<2km) from the 30m contour, in order to meet the corresponding boundary (Figure 2).

No buffer to allow for mobile gear was added to the site boundary due to the shallow water depth and the lack of a precise feature edge.



Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	50°38'38.774" N	1°7'19.671"E
2	50°34'13.077" N	1°1'24.769"E
3	50°33'10.000" N	1°0'0.000" E
4	50°32'59.613" N	0°56'39.064"E
5	50°32'53.417" N	0°55'13.359"E
6	50°33'9.939" N	0°54'17.599"E
7	50°33'25.428" N	0°54'8.306"E
8	50°35'32.436" N	0°55'34011"E
9	50°35'58.250" N	0°55'56.728"E
10	50°36'2.381" N	0°56'25.640"E
11	50°36'2.381" N	0°57'35.856"E
12	50°36'1.348" N	0°59'6.724"E
13	50°36'22.000" N	1°0'51.015"E
14	50°36'58.140" N	1°1'50.905"E
15	50°37'33.860" N	1°3'4.568"E
16	50°38'14.280" N	1°4'4.699"E
17	50°39'0.303" N	1°5'29.712"E
18	50°39'13.458" N	1°6'5.427"E
19	50°39'41.699" N	1°7'41.864"E
20	50°39'55.137" N	1°8'31.213"E

Legend

- Bassurelle SCI
- Bassurelle boundary co-ordinates
- Ridens et dunes hydrauliques du détroit du Pas-de-Calais
- Territorial Sea Limit (12nm)
- UK Continental Shelf
- Land

Map © JNCC 2016

Map projection WGS84 UTM30N

Figure 2: Site boundary for Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

4 Threats to the long-term natural distribution, structure and functions of the habitats and the long-term survival of associated species from different types of fishing gear. List of other human activities in the area that could damage the habitats

4.1 All demersal towed gears (including scallop dredges, beam trawls,otter trawls and seines)

The extent to which mobile gear impacts on sand and gravel communities can vary considerably, according to the type of gear, the intensity of fishing and the sediment composition. Trawling and dredging tend to cause increased mortality of fragile and long lived species and favour opportunistic, disturbance-tolerant species (Bergman & Van Santbrink, 2000; Eleftheriou & Robertson, 1992). Some particularly sensitive species may disappear entirely (Bergman & Van Santbrink, 2000). The net result is benthic communities modified to varying degrees relative to the un-impacted state (Bergman & Van Santbrink, 2000; Kaiser et al. 2006).

In higher energy locations, for example the sandy bank tops or wave and/or tide exposed areas the associated fauna tend to be well adapted to disturbance and as a result are more tolerant of fishing-related disturbance (Dernie et al. 2003; Hiddink et al. 2006). The habitat may be maintained in a modified state; however modification is likely to be low relative to natural variation. In lower energy locations, such as muddy sands and sand in deep water, or on the flanks and towards troughs between banks, sediments tend to be more stable and their associated fauna less tolerant of disturbance (Kaiser et al. 2006; Hiddink et al. 2006). The habitat may be maintained in a modified state with reduced abundance of fragile, long lived species.
Considering the degree of uncertainty regarding the impacts of trawling and dredging and the level at which their effects would be considered unacceptable, it was decided to implement an “adaptive management” approach, whereby a proportion of the feature will be closed to these gears and subsequently monitored to improve our understanding of impacts and inform future management.

Demersal seines (Danish and Scottish seines) lack the heavy penetrating gear components of other demersal trawls, such as otter doors and trawl shoes (Suuronen et al. 2012; Donaldson et al 2010), so the risk of impact to the sandbank feature is considered likely to be lower. In this case, the risk to the achievement of the conservation objective for *sandbanks slightly covered by seawater* is considered to be sufficiently low that no additional management is considered necessary. However, if monitoring indicates impacts from these gears, it may be necessary to impose some degree of management in the future.

DRAFT

4.2 All demersal static gears (including gillnets, trammel nets, longlines, pots and traps)

Demersal static gears are considered unlikely to have a significant effect on the long term natural distribution of sandbanks, or on the structure and function of their associated biological communities at any level.

The risk to the achievement of the conservation objective is considered to be sufficiently low that no additional management is considered necessary for demersal static gears. However, if monitoring indicates impacts from these gears, it may be necessary to introduce some degree of management in the future.

4.3 Other Human activities

The information within this section represents current knowledge of the nature and extent of activities taking place within or close to the site.

A high level of commercial shipping activity takes place within the MPA, which involves vessels transiting the site. It is unlikely that vessels will anchor within the site. Under international law, ships have a right of passage at sea including in areas designated as MPAs (unless management specifies the restriction of ship transiting as outlined through an International Maritime Organisation measure). The pressures associated with shipping activity within Bassurelle Sandbank cSAC/SCI are not considered likely to impact the protected features of the site.

5 Fleet activity in the area and in the region, distribution of fleets (by nation, gear, and species), and information on target and bycatch species over 6 years from 2010 to 2015 inclusive.

5.1 Validity of data

In this section relevant fleet statistics for the years 2010-2015 are provided as requested by the European Commission guidance. The UK, as the initiating Member State, analysed fishing from Member States active in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI over a six year period. This approach is consistent with other management proposal methodologies across Member States. A four year dataset is considered to be representative of the contemporary fisheries carried out in the area and thus valid for the purpose of underpinning the current proposal.

Overall, fisheries have been changing since the early 2000s as a result of changes in economic and regulatory conditions, e.g. fuel prices and engine efficiencies, the introduction of individual

DRAFT

transferable quota (ITQ) systems[7] in various forms. Fishing fleets have been reduced in terms of the number of vessels and fishing effort has decreased. Fishing opportunities are dictated by stock status, market conditions, fuel prices and technological opportunities, as well as quota availability. In addition, policy decisions on alternative use of marine habitat, sustainable exploration and environmental policies will influence fishing opportunities.

The fisheries are dynamic and sound judgement is required when using the data. However, more recent datasets are expected to improve our understanding of the structure of fisheries.

Vessels from four Member States have been present within the relevant area according to VMS reports or "pings". However, French vessels routinely reported every hour and not every two hours like all other Member States' vessels. The data concerning the number of French vessels will be accurate but their activity through pings may appear distorted. To maintain consistency across all vessels and Member States' data, the information on French vessels has been displayed as it was received into the MMO Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC); therefore it has not been altered to reflect possible one hour vessel pings as this could alter the validity of the data further. To establish which vessels specifically report at a higher level would require additional processing and information.

To note: Unknown gear classification relates to a specific VMS report which does not have valid corresponding log book information.

5.1.1 Data analysis

Data presented has been analysed by applying the standard methodology used to identify whether or not vessels have been fishing in a specified spatial area. VMS reports ("pings") were used to indicate vessel fishing activity based on the speed of the vessel as contained within the VMS report. Each ping was classified as indicative of fishing activity if the speed was greater than or equal to zero knots and less than or equal to six knots[8].

Each speed filtered VMS ping (0-6 knots) received from a vessel in ICES statistical rectangles 30F0 and 30F1 (the ICES rectangle location of the site) was extracted from the UK VMS system. Each ping will hold the following information: the vessel identity (CFR) number; position and speed; and the date and time of that ping. These fishing pings from the rectangles concerned are then processed in

[7] Individual transferable quotas (ITQs) are a type of catch share system, which is a tool used by some governments to manage fisheries

[8] Article 50 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 : http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:343:0001:0050:EN:PDF

GIS software to identify whether the position was inside or outside Bassurelle Sandbank SAC or the proposed management areas. This provides a proportion of pings falling within the area for the vessels of each Member State.

This proportion was then applied to landings data to allow estimates of landings value and quantity derived from within Bassurelle Sandbank SCI or proposed management areas. Landings values and quantities for UK vessels were derived from UK statistical data held by the MMO.

5.1.2 Data limitations

The data provided in this section is subject to several limitations:

1. Data are only available from vessels that are required to carry EU VMS (i.e. vessels 12 metres and above in length). As such their pattern of activity may differ from vessels of less than 12 metres in length.
2. Vessel numbers derived from VMS can suggest increase over the years analysed, however it is important to note that during this period VMS was introduced to the 12m and above fleet, in addition to the 15m and above fleet.
3. Unless stated otherwise, all VMS data shown in this paper is over a six year period 2010-2015. Landings information is over a five year period 2010-2014, as a result of datacall to member states for information in 2015.
4. The speed thresholds (0-6 knots) used to make assumptions as to whether a vessel is fishing or not only provide indications, not definitive proof of fishing and may not be equally valid for all gear types.
5. The proportion of activity inside an area is based on the number of pings as opposed to actual fishing time.
6. VMS reports are sent by every fishing vessel at 2 hourly intervals, with the exception of the French VMS activity. This was witnessed at an hourly rate.
7. One UK vessel had a significant fault with their VMS device between January and March in 2010. Thus generated a large increase of pings by the vessel's VMS device over-reporting, causing the distortion.
8. There may be a number of smaller under 12metre vessels active in the site France. As under 12metre vessels do not operate VMS reports, the data displayed may not show all French activity.

5.2 Fleet activity by state

From 2010 to 2015 vessels from four Member States (Belgium, France, Netherlands, and UK) were active (at speeds 0-6knots) within and around Bassurelle Sandbank SCI (see table 1). Of these, the

DRAFT

most significant activity was from French vessels, with lower levels of activity from the remaining Member State vessels.

Table 1: **Number of vessels and pings (0-6 knots) associated with Bassurelle Sandbank SCI by year and Member State.**

Nationality		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
Belgium	Number of vessels	27	16	13	18	21	20
	Number of pings	238	130	169	164	172	172
France*	Number of vessels	40	43	40	45	44	54
	Number of pings	906	551	600	631	596	977
Germany	Number of vessels	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Number of pings	0	0	0	1	0	2
Ireland	Number of vessels	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Number of pings	0	0	1	0	1	0
Netherlands	Number of vessels	4	8	9	9	4	12
	Number of pings	12	31	26	41	21	168
UK	Number of vessels	8	15	8	12	8	6
	Number of pings	109	40	42	49	32	22

* Some French VMS reporting is on average hourly, all other Member States' reporting is on average two hourly.

DRAFT

5.3 Landings values

As shown in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 the gear groups of major importance in terms of effort (tonnage) and economic importance (value) include (1) Beam Trawls directed at demersal fish (flatfish), (2) Otter board bottom trawls for demersal fish, (3) otter board bottom trawls for demersal and semi pelagic fish. Fishing for these species occurs in the Southern Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and North East Atlantic.

The fisheries data for 2010 – 2015 inclusive in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI involve similar gear types but only two groups (demersal (bottom) trawls and pelagic trawls) are of major importance regarding effort and three (demersal trawls, pelagic trawls and nets) regarding value as can be seen in Table 2.2.

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Table 2.1: Landings (tonnes) from vessels operating in ICES rectangles 30F0, 30F1 by gear type, year and Member State

Sum of Quantity Tonnes	Year						
Nationality	Gear	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Grand Total
BEL	Dredge	16.96	0.65	0.00	4.74	21.27		43.62
	Gill nets	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.38
	Otter trawl bottom	47.29	33.17	3.65	5.94	18.14		108.19
	Scottish seine	78.82	72.38	118.54	136.70	180.52		586.96
	Beam trawl	2,657.72	2,182.52	1,868.29	1,932.09	2,233.36		10,873.97
BEL Total		**2,801.17**	**2,288.72**	**1,990.48**	**2,079.46**	**2,453.29**		**11,613.12**
FRA	Anchored seine	3.26	213.22	124.94	194.05	257.80		793.26
	Beam trawl	0.00	35.17	56.32	47.34	82.82		221.65
	Bottom trawls	79.68	5,839.20	4,382.11	3,885.32	3,662.44		17,848.77
	Dredge	18.40	457.95	468.10	373.19	510.89		1,828.53
	Lines	0.00	9.14	3.43	3.62	10.99		27.18
	Nets	15.15	2,116.28	2,461.98	2,537.85	2,282.51		9,413.77
	Pelagic trawls	4.09	3,638.91	4,815.18	3,752.88	2,730.61		14,941.67
	Traps	3.53	216.29	248.72	234.10	240.90		943.54
FRA Total		**124.13**	**12,526.17**	**12,560.78**	**11,028.35**	**9,778.96**		**46,018.38**
UK	Beam trawls	293.52	166.46	242.29	262.60	207.60	153.29	1,325.77
	Boat dredges	969.19	681.20	519.32	570.79	505.61	400.49	3,646.60
	Driftnets	15.22	6.05	35.20	41.00	139.99	60.17	297.64
	Gillnets (all)	753.72	712.90	428.33	444.79	481.04	417.24	3,238.01
	Hand fishing	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
	Hand lines and pole-lines (hand-operated)	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.15	0.24
	Hooks and lines (not specified)	15.16	14.21	23.11	17.47	15.35	18.17	103.47
	Longlines (not specified)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00	0.39
	Mechanized dredges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.47

DRAFT

	Miscellaneous gear	0.00	0.47	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55
	Nephrops trawls	0.00	6.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.31
	Otter trawls (Bottom and not specified)	457.40	481.29	603.16	699.25	469.62	249.84	2,960.56
	Otter trawls – mid water	0.00	0.00	0.00	878.31	0.42	329.02	1,207.75
	Otter twin trawls	14.90	1.61	2.11	0.00	0.14	1.49	20.25
	Pair trawls - bottom	7.83	12.57	4.02	0.90	0.06	0.14	25.52
	Pair trawls – mid water	656.70	152.07	27.31	2,440.90	2,440.77	2,460.92	8,178.67
	Pots	815.34	752.51	1,675.09	2,184.57	2,074.74	2,109.82	9,612.08
	Scottish seines	336.35	340.00	372.06	260.01	479.84	564.87	2,353.12
	Trammel nets	111.86	260.10	306.17	282.07	321.04	228.71	1,509.95
	Traps (not specified)	51.02	39.35	66.07	76.29	27.23	42.18	302.14
UK Total		**4,498.31**	**3,627.10**	**4,304.33**	**8,159.41**	**7,163.91**	**7,036.49**	**34,789.56**
Grand Total		**7,423.61**	**18,441.99**	**18,855.59**	**21,267.22**	**19,396.16**	**7,036.49**	**92,421.06**

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Table 2.2: Landings values (£) from vessels operating in ICES rectangles 30F0, 30F1 by gear type, year and Member State

Kommenterede [AJW1]: Please note: the UK will need to work with Belgium in order to capture the correct landing values.

Sum of Value £		Year						
Nationality	Gear	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Grand Total
BEL	Dredge							0.00
	Gill nets							0.00
	Otter trawl bottom							0.00
	Scottish seine							0.00
	Beam trawl							0.00
BEL Total		**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**		**£0.00**
FRA	Anchored seine	£5,301	£354,407	£209,462	£281,871	£358,086		£1,209,128
	Beam trawl	£0	£59,041	£77,380	£64,629	£111,995		£313,045
	Bottom trawls	£85,176	£7,643,723	£5,903,972	£4,979,837	£5,040,304		£23,653,013
	Dredge	£42,856	£932,972	£972,213	£772,951	£1,190,137		£3,911,129
	Lines	£0	£81,859	£17,825	£19,581	£50,244		£169,509
	Nets	£23,259	£8,013,177	£8,511,988	£8,576,510	£7,478,346		£32,603,280
	Pelagic trawls	£22,064	£2,472,406	£2,383,307	£2,085,801	£1,588,840		£8,552,419
	Traps	£9,721	£523,007	£606,364	£502,693	£536,452		£2,178,237
FRA Total		**£188,378**	**£20,080,591**	**£18,682,510**	**£17,283,873**	**£16,354,405**		**£72,589,758**
UK	Beam trawls	£953,685	£550,931	£719,008	£673,383	£577,462	£439,501	£3,913,971
	Boat dredges	£1,529,003	£1,227,766	£901,252	£971,373	£931,149	£788,684	£6,349,228
	Driftnets	£55,225	£14,598	£166,503	£233,731	£901,418	£440,691	£1,812,165
	Gillnets (all)	£2,502,249	£2,303,658	£1,346,406	£1,391,833	£1,574,826	£1,441,616	£10,560,589
	Hand fishing	£241	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£241
	Hand lines and pole-lines (hand-operated)	£0	£87	£0	£0	£360	£587	£1,034
	Hooks and lines (not specified)	£116,224	£115,372	£190,057	£138,803	£134,490	£161,244	£856,191
	Longlines (not specified)	£0	£0	£0	£0	£357	£0	£357
	Mechanized dredges	£0	£0	£0	£807	£0	£0	£807

DRAFT

	Miscellaneous gear	£0	£476	£28	£0	£0	£0	£504
	Nephrops trawls	£0	£9,654	£0	£0	£0	£0	£9,654
	Otter trawls (Bottom and not specified)	£1,063,036	£1,404,194	£1,426,983	£1,555,189	£1,087,026	£571,402	£7,107,829
	Otter trawls – mid water	£0	£0	£0	£207,621	£756	£109,078	£317,455
	Otter twin trawls	£62,392	£6,399	£9,087	£0	£337	£6,903	£85,118
	Pair trawls - bottom	£30,289	£37,773	£12,787	£2,090	£243	£697	£83,880
	Pair trawls – mid water	£180,752	£41,909	£7,511	£671,538	£828,096	£871,098	£2,600,904
	Pots	£885,653	£956,101	£1,610,677	£2,037,773	£2,252,153	£2,404,622	£10,146,979
	Scottish seines	£821,859	£932,645	£919,363	£528,454	£1,248,842	£1,005,403	£5,456,566
	Trammel nets	£433,549	£1,093,284	£1,130,964	£925,493	£1,065,861	£813,948	£5,463,098
	Traps (not specified)	£83,793	£93,519	£151,686	£110,741	£51,529	£60,856	£552,124
UK Total		**£8,717,951**	**£8,788,366**	**£8,592,313**	**£9,448,830**	**£10,654,906**	**£9,116,330**	**£55,318,696**
Grand Total		**£8,906,329**	**£28,868,957**	**£27,274,823**	**£26,732,703**	**£27,009,311**	**£9,116,330**	**£127,908,454**

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5.5 Annual variation in fishing activity

Over the years analysed (VMS: 2010-2015), the total number of vessels fishing in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI were 43 from the UK and 431 from other Member States, making a total of 474. Vessels have been counted more than once if they enter the SCI in separate years. See Table 1 for a breakdown per year.

VMS Activity

Fishing effort is indicated by the number of VMS reports (pings) at speeds indicative of fishing (from 0 to 6 knots) received by the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre. Reports are sent by every fishing vessel at two hourly intervals.

Belgian VMS activity has fluctuated slightly in terms of vessel numbers over recent years. In 2010 there were 27 vessels recorded in the site. This dropped to 16 the following year in 2011 and dropped to 13 vessels the year after in 2012. In 2013 the number rose to 18 vessels and rose again to 21 vessels in 2014. In 2015 there were 20 vessels recorded. With the exception of 2010 and 2011, the volume of VMS pings stayed fairly static in 2012 to 2015. In 2010 there were 238 pings recorded, in 2011 this decreased to 130 pings, in 2012 there were 169 pings recorded before 172 pings in 2015. The Belgian VMS activity is witnessed all year round and the majority of activity is from vessels carrying beam trawls (TBB). The VMS activity mainly resides within the southern portion of the SCI, south of Latitude 53°35'00"North.

French VMS activity in terms of vessel numbers has been fairly static over recent years until 2015, with 40 vessels recorded in 2010 to 44 vessels in 2014. This then rose to 54 vessels recorded in the site in 2015. The number of VMS pings fluctuated, starting with 906 pings in 2010 dropping to 551 pings in 2011. This rose to 631 in 2013 before decreasing slightly to 596 pings in 2014. In 2015 the number rose to a high of 977 pings. The French VMS activity is witnessed all year round and peaks in the months between August to September and January to February, mostly from those vessels carrying bottom otter trawls (OTB). The activity is concentrated along the southernmost portion of the site, with tows stretching across the UK and French Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) respectively.

The UK activity in terms of vessel numbers has fluctuated over the years, from 8 vessels in 2010, before rising to 15 the following year in 2011. The number dropped to 8 vessels again in 2012 before rising a second time to 12 in 2013. The numbers then decreased to 8 and 6 vessels during 2014 and 2015. UK VMS activity is witnessed all year round and remains at relatively low ping volumes, with 109 pings in 2010, dropping to 22 pings in 2015. However between January and March 2010 there was a large increase of pings compared to the rest of the period reviewed. Upon review this was due to a vessel's VMS device over-reporting, causing the distortion (See Chart 6.4 for the seasonal breakdown). The UK activity is shows a multitude of gears recorded in the site, ranging from demersal towed gears to pelagic gears and seines.

The Dutch activity had been of low levels until a recent activity increase in 2015. Vessel numbers were low, ranging from 4 in 2010, rising to 12 in 2015. However the volume of pings shows a greater difference. In 2010 there were 12 pings recorded in the site, in 2015 this rose to 168 pings. The previous highest volume was in 2013 with 41 pings.

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Landings information

The values (£) and landings (tonnes) effort taken within ICES rectangles 30F0 and 30F1 vary between each member state.

Belgian landings within ICES rectangles 30F0 and 30F1 have been fairly static in recent years in terms of tonnes landed, averaging around 2,322 tonnes. In 2010 there were 2,801 tonnes landed with an approximate value of XXXXX, the quantity gradually decreased to 1,990 tonnes in 2012 with an approximate value of XXXXX, before rising again to 2,453 tonnes with an approximate value of XXXXX in 2014. There are two main gear types that have generated the majority of landing is these ICES rectangles, these area Beam trawls (TBB) and Seines (SSC).

Kommenterede [WILLS2]: UK will need to work with Belgian colleagues to correctly demonstrate Belgian landings values.

French landings within ICES rectangles 30F0 and 30F1 have gradually decreased in terms of tonnes landed since 2012. In 2010 there were 124 tonnes landed with an approximate value of £188,378, this rose to 12,526 and 12,560 tonnes in 2011 and 2012 with an approximate value of £20million and £18.6million respectively. The quantity of landings then gradually decreased down to 9,778 tonnes in 2014 with approximate value of £16.3million. The landings had been generated by three main gear types, Bottom trawls, Nets and Pelagic trawls.

UK landings within ICES rectangles 30F0 and 30F1 has fluctuated over recent years, from 4,498 tonnes with an approximate value of £8.7million in 2010, down 3,627 and 4,304 tonnes in 2011 and 2012. The quantity of landings rose the higher levels the following three years, with 8,159 tonnes in 2013, 7,163 tonnes, in 2014 and 7,036 tonnes in 2015, with approximate values of £9.4million, £10.6million and £9.1million. Although a multitude of gears have operated in the two ICES rectangles, the majority of landings came from two gear types, mid water pair trawls and potters.

No Dutch landings information for ICES rectangles 30F0 and 30F1 has been provided in the resubmission of landings information.

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Figure 3: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2010 by Nationality

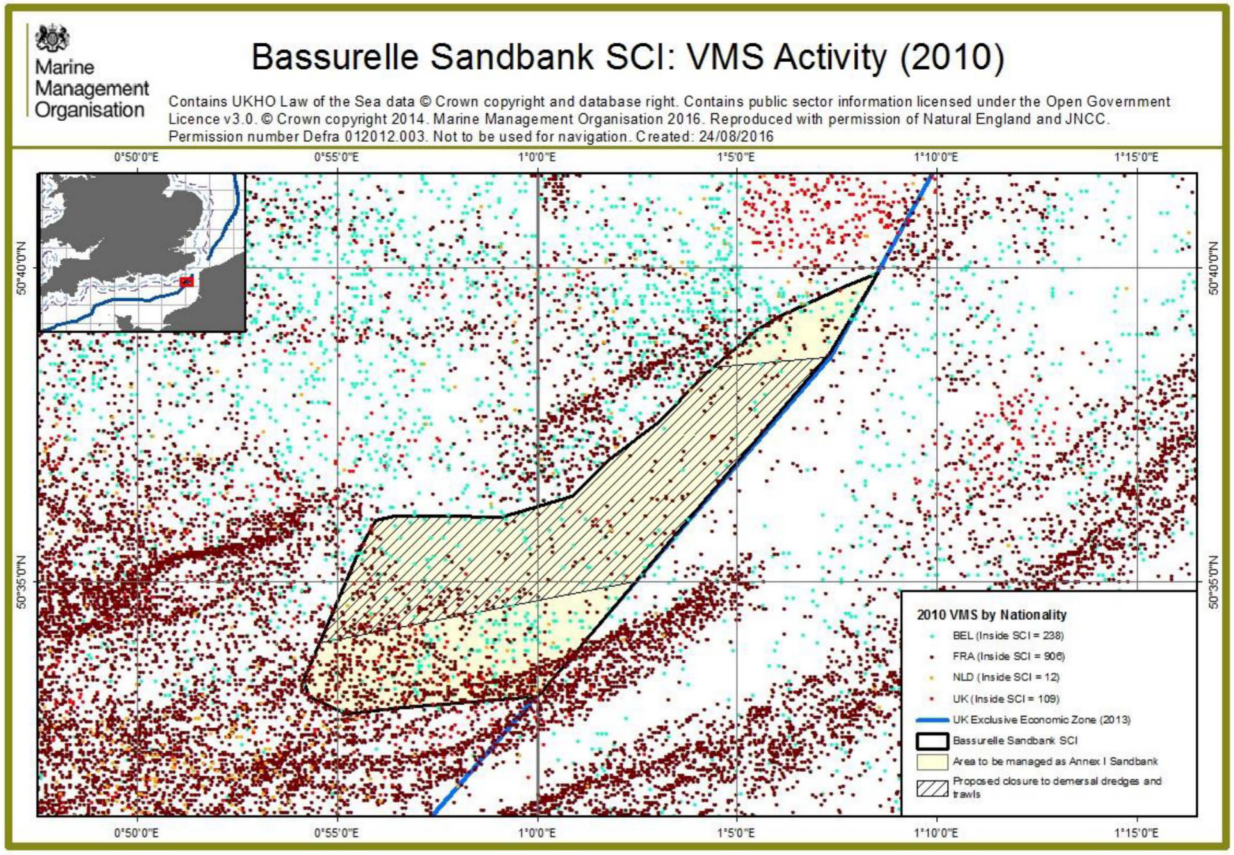


Figure 4: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2011 by Nationality

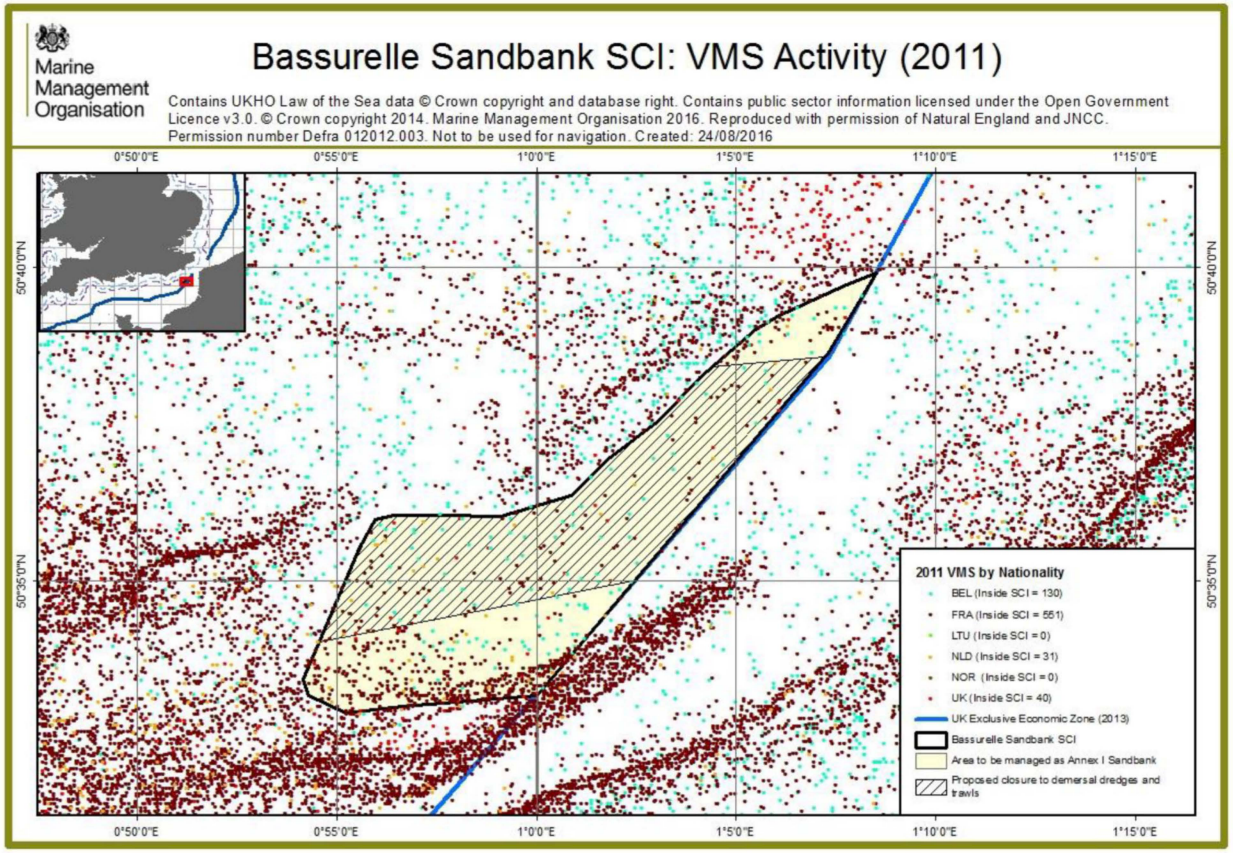


Figure 5: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2012 by Nationality

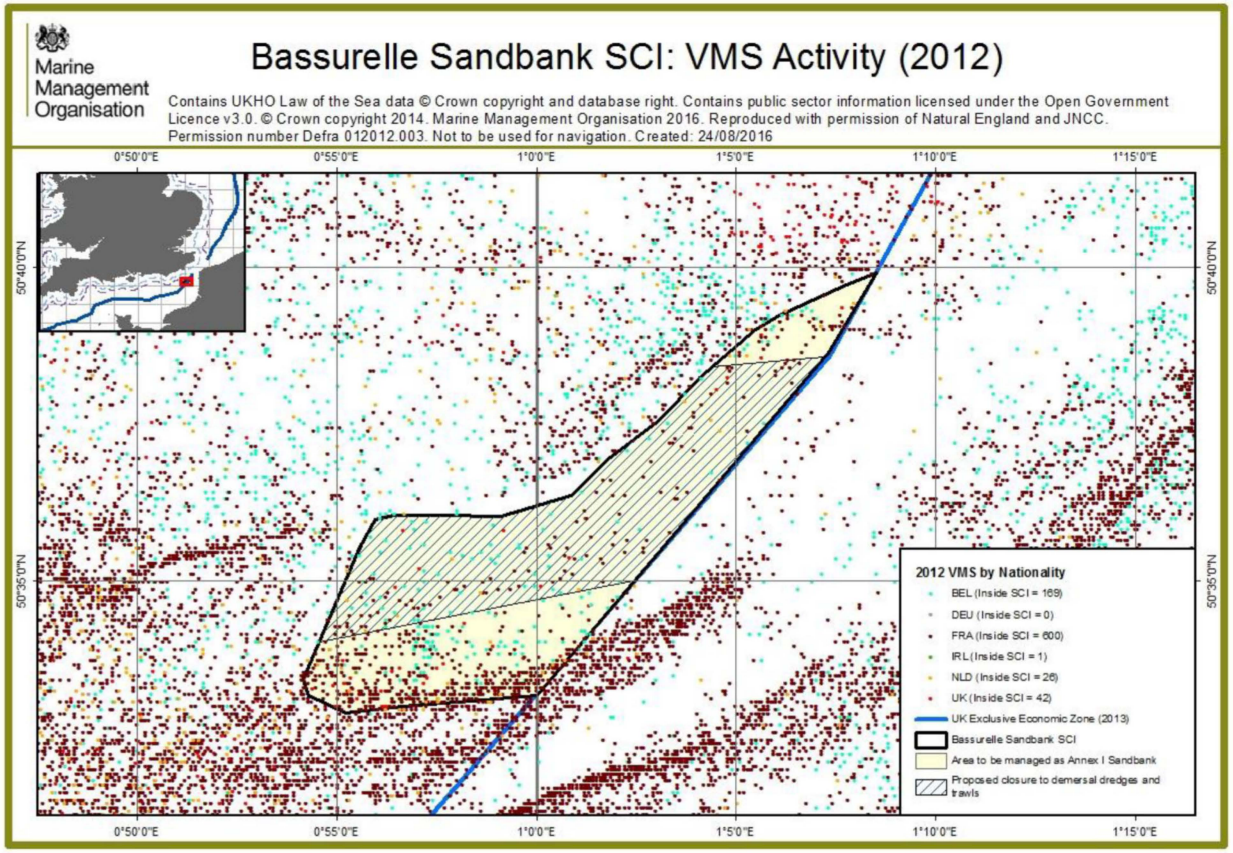


Figure 6: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2013 by Nationality

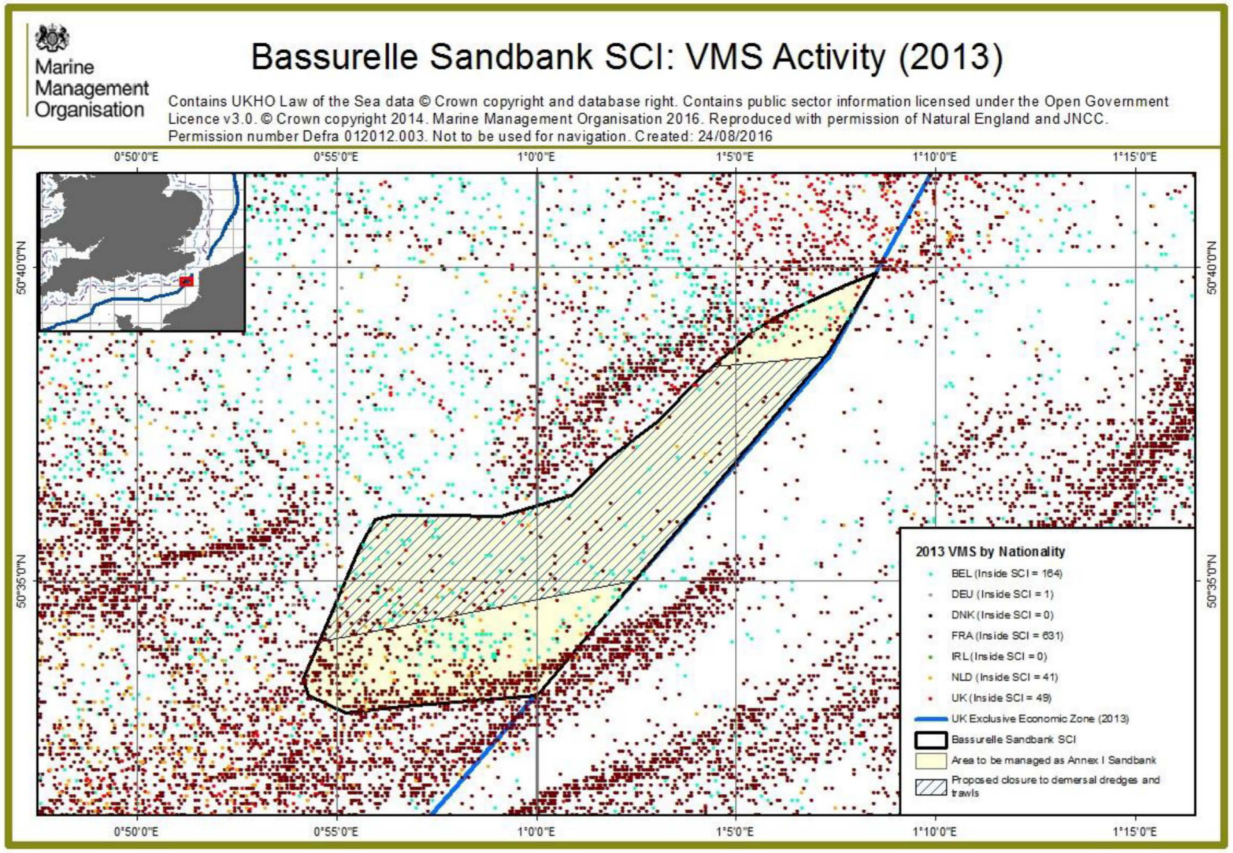


Figure 7: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2014 by Nationality

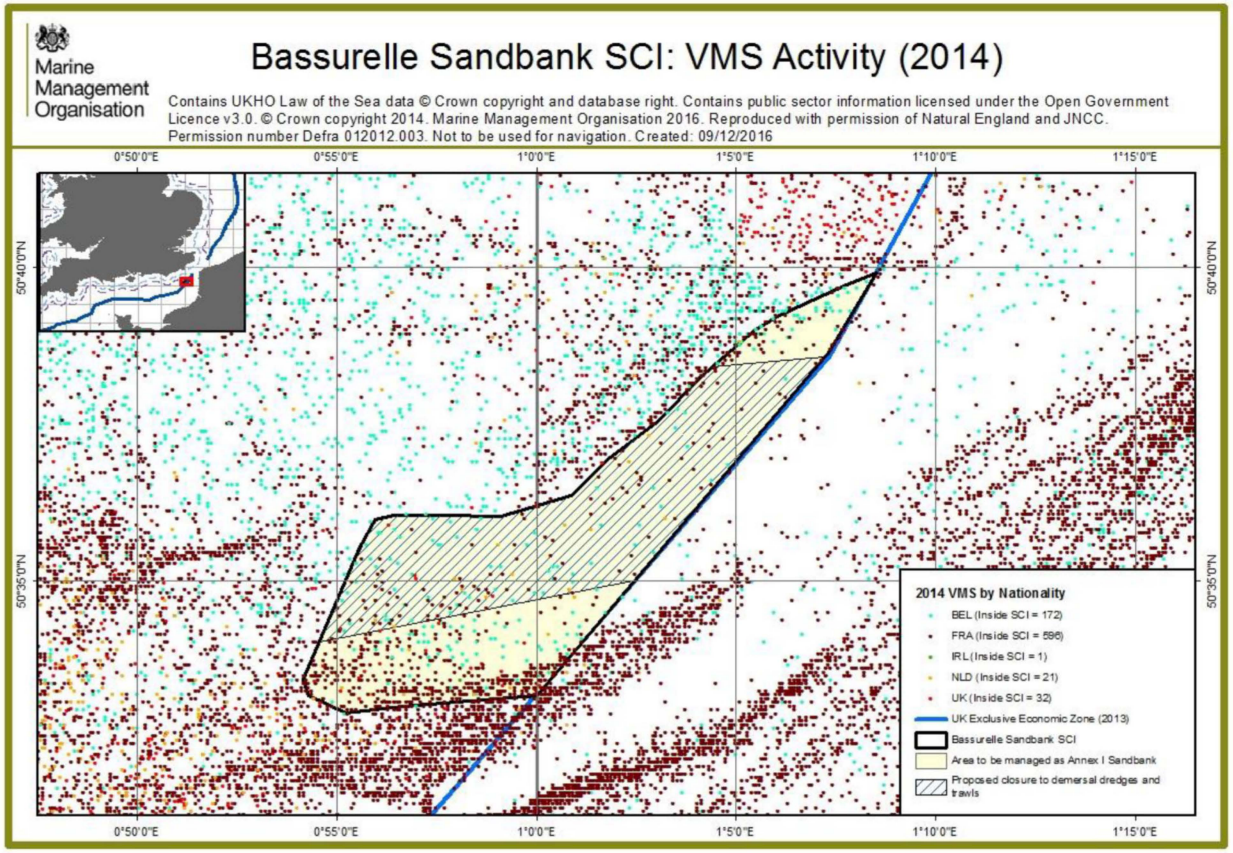
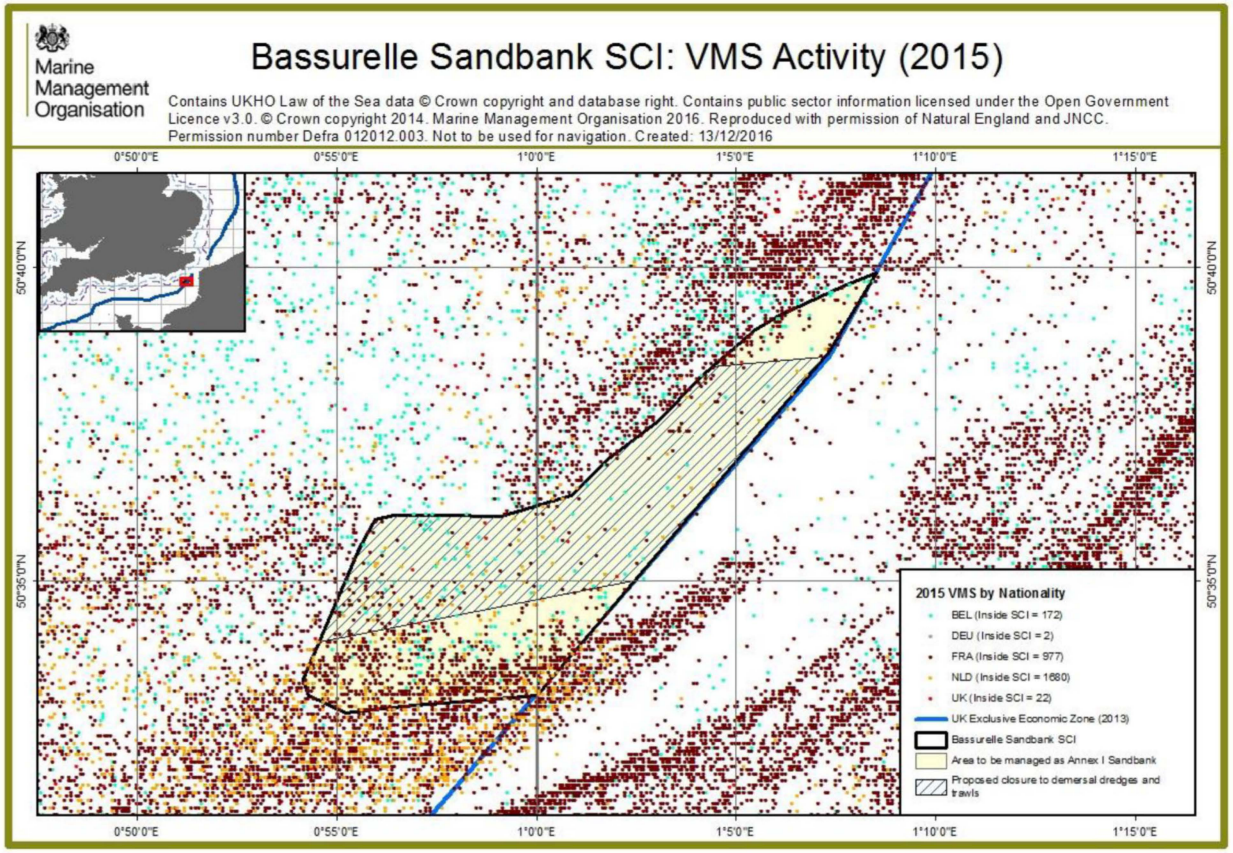


Figure 8: VMS reports indicating all fishing activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2015 by Nationality



5.6 Fleet activity by gear group – Geographical distribution

In the charts depicted in this section demersal gears have been classed as all gear types which are to be excluded from the closed area as stipulated in the gear table on page 6. The charts show all demersal and non-demersal gear types for each year and each Member State and where possible, the specific gear type recorded has been included.

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Figure 9: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2010

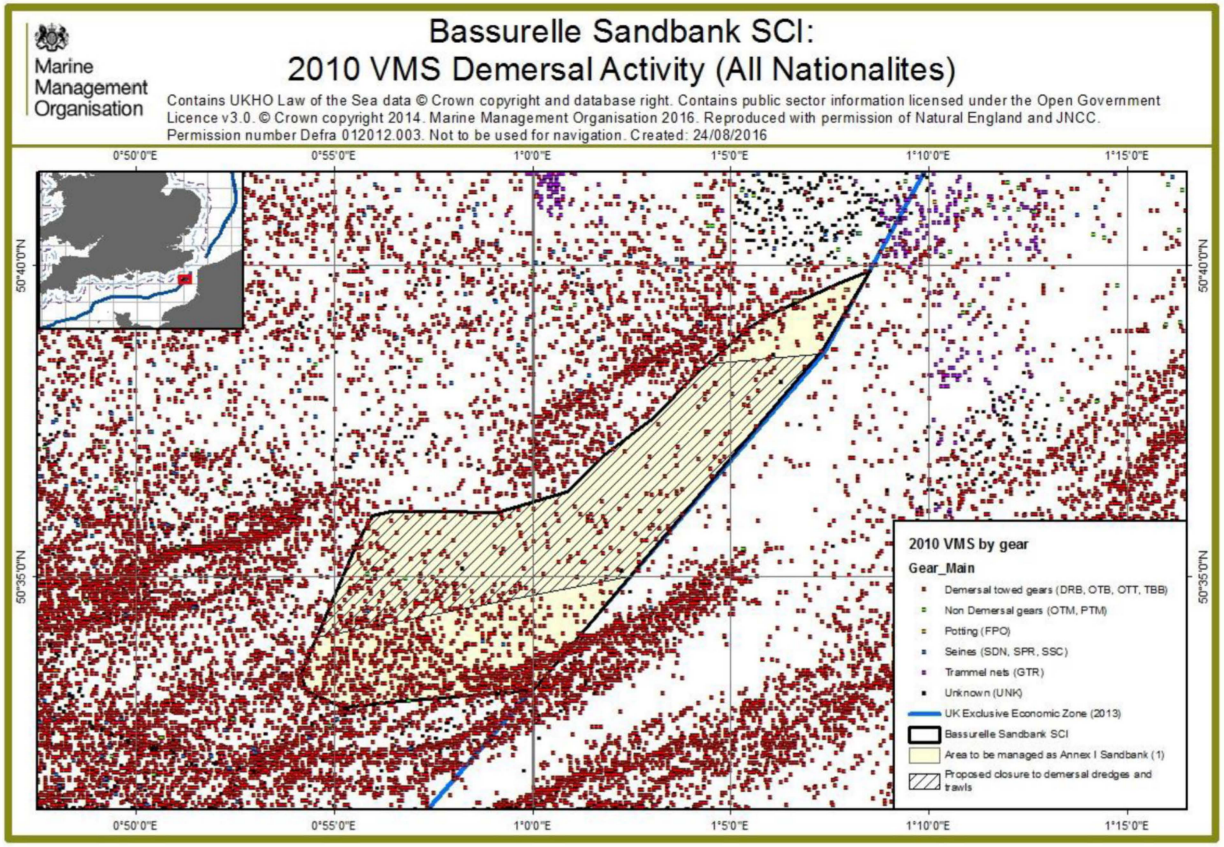


Figure 10: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2011

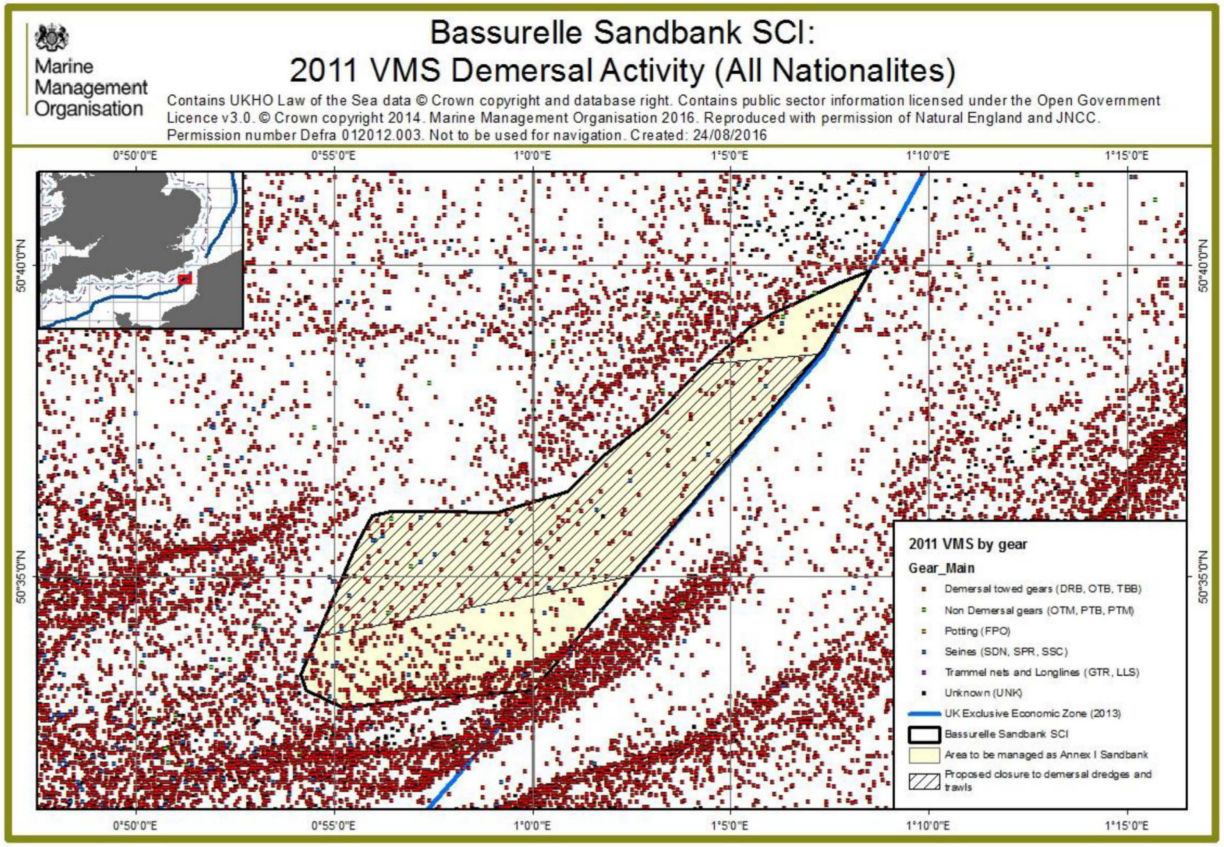


Figure 11: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2012

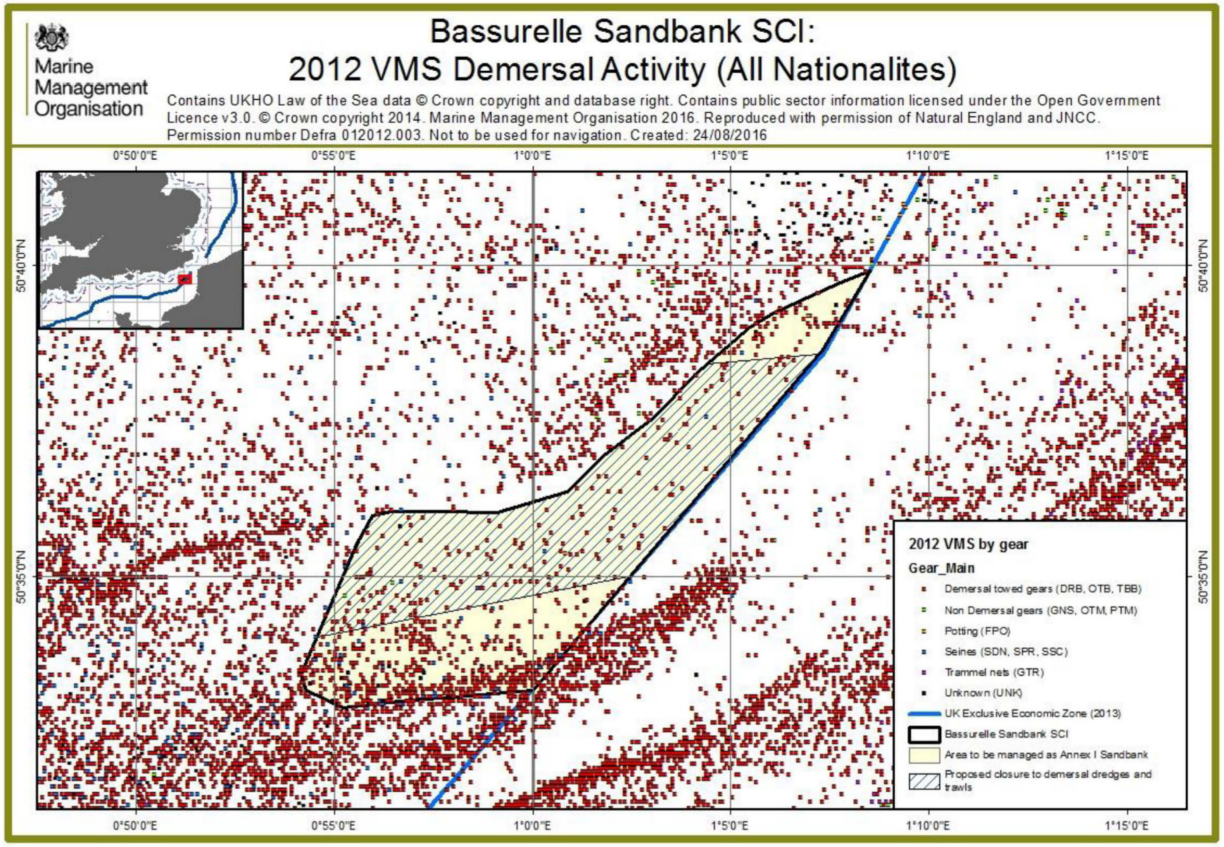


Figure 12: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2013

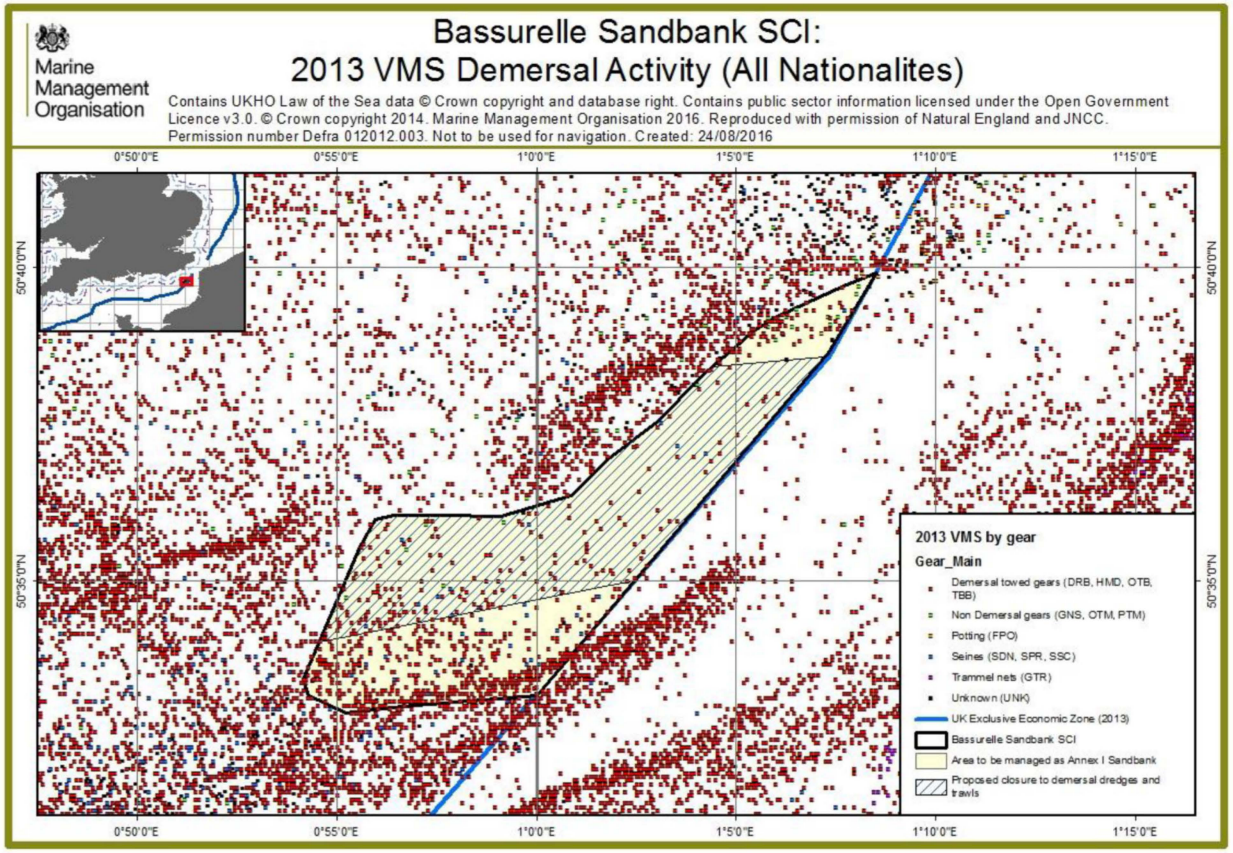


Figure 13: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2014

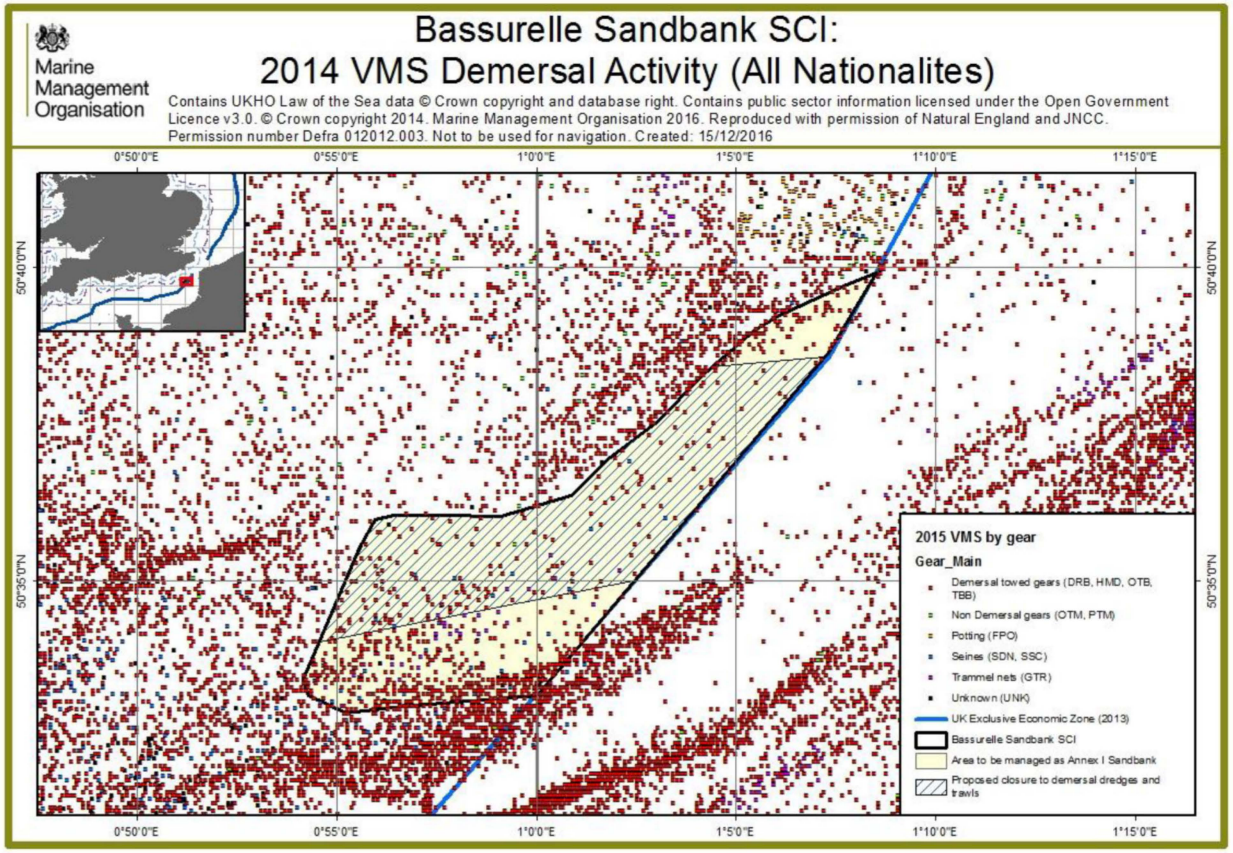
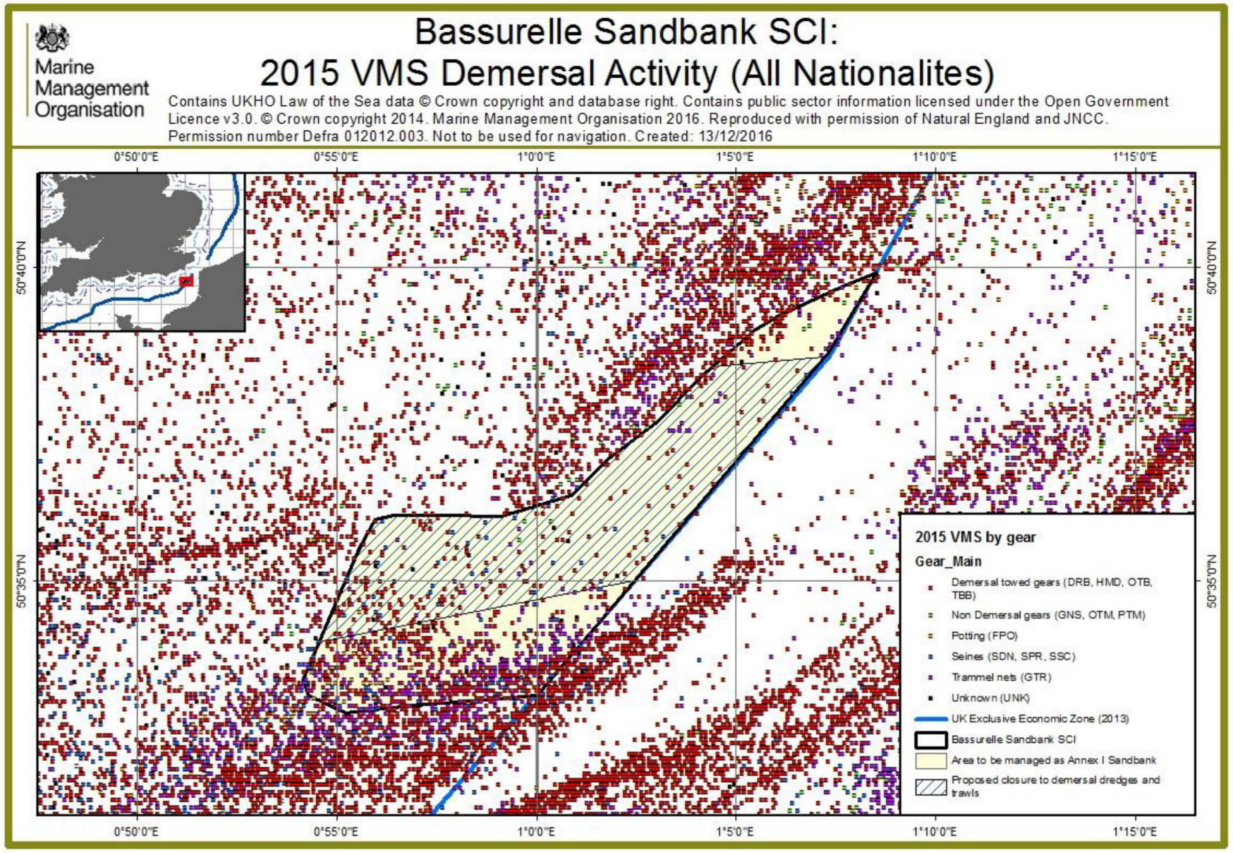


Figure 14: VMS reports indicating demersal activity in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI 2015



5.7 By-catch

Bottom (demersal) trawling, pelagic trawling, dredging and netting are the most common activities taking place in the site based on landings in the ICES rectangles. Bottom (demersal) trawling and dredging being the most common activities recorded in the site based on VMS activity. The demersal activity in the Channel mainly targets sole, plaice, bass, whiting and cod to name a few. The flatfish fisheries (beam and bottom otter board trawl) land a number of other species as by-catch (e.g. cod, lemon sole). Where these species are landed these are included in the total gross landing value statistics. Additional species may also be caught as bycatch but are not landed and there are no current systematic statistics available for these catch components.

The fishery focuses on all four species group, Pelagic, Mollusc, Demersal and Crustacean.

- UK Demersal top species landed in terms of weight are Horse Mackerel, Whelks, Scallops, Sole, Plaice, Crabs, Bass and Herring.
- Other member states generally land Mackerel, Herring, Sole, Whiting, Plaice, Cod, Scallops and Squid

With the introduction of Common Fisheries Policy reform, which includes a landing obligation (namely a ban on the discard of certain species by certain vessels/within certain circumstances), it could become possible in the future to collate information on bycatch that could contribute to the overall catch and landings statistics in certain areas. A ban on demersal fish discards was introduced at the end of 2015, following a discard ban on pelagic fish introduced at the end of 2014, with a ban on discarding all other quota species by 2016.

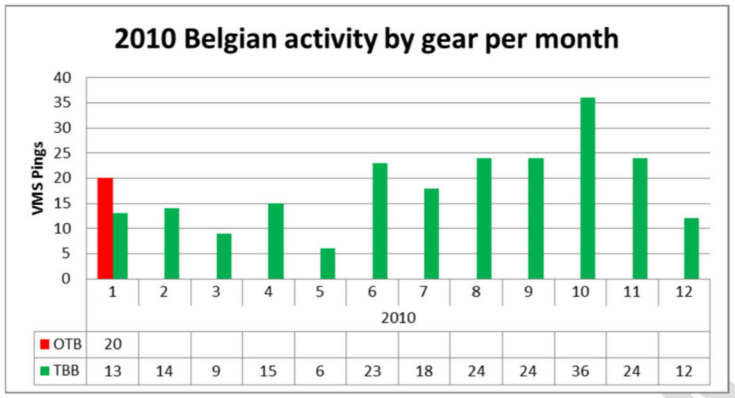
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6 Seasonal trends in fisheries over years 2010 to 2015 inclusive.

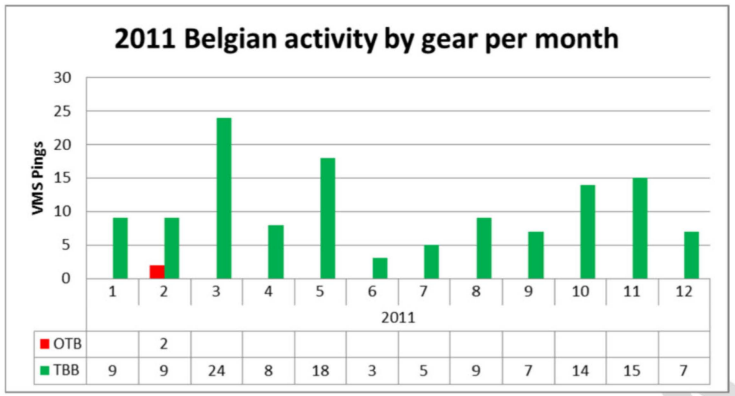
During the period analysed, 2010-2015, only one German vessel was recorded in 2013 (one ping) and 2015 (two pings). One Irish vessel was recorded in 2012 (one ping) and 2014 (one ping).

Charts 6.1: Belgian seasonal fishing activity (all gears) in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

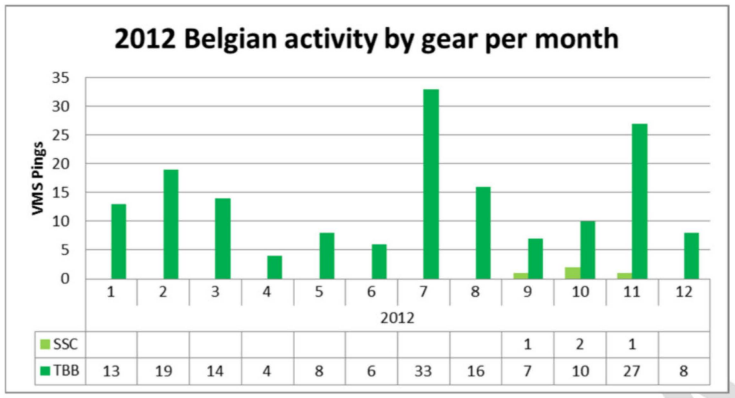
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2010 Belgian activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2010
OTB 20
TBB 13 14 9 15 6 23 18 24 24 36 24 12

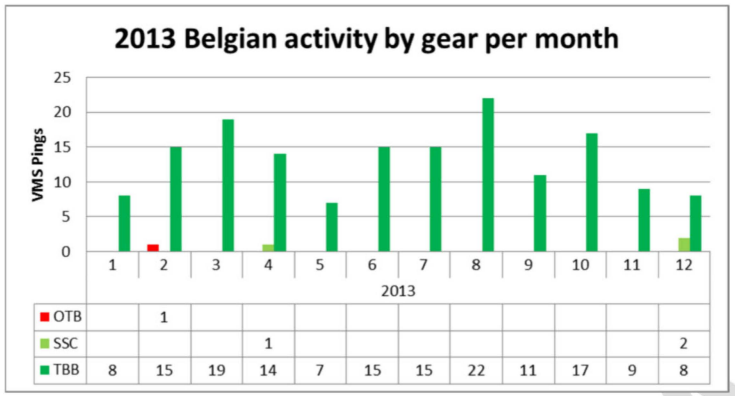
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2011 Belgian activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2011
OTB 2
TBB 9 9 24 8 18 3 5 9 7 14 15 7

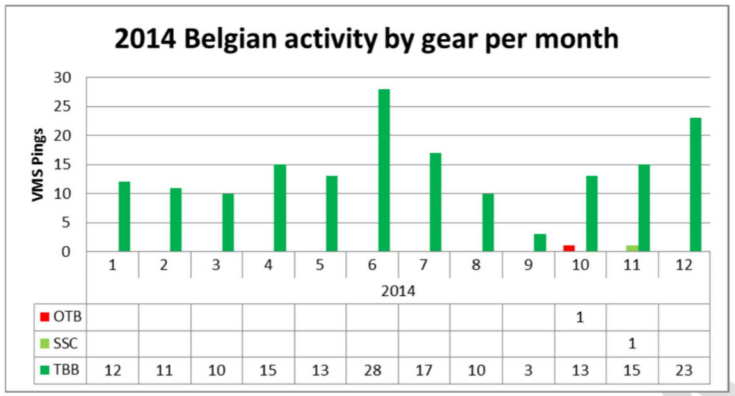
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2012 Belgian activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2012
SSC 1 2 1
TBB 13 19 14 4 8 6 33 16 7 10 27 8

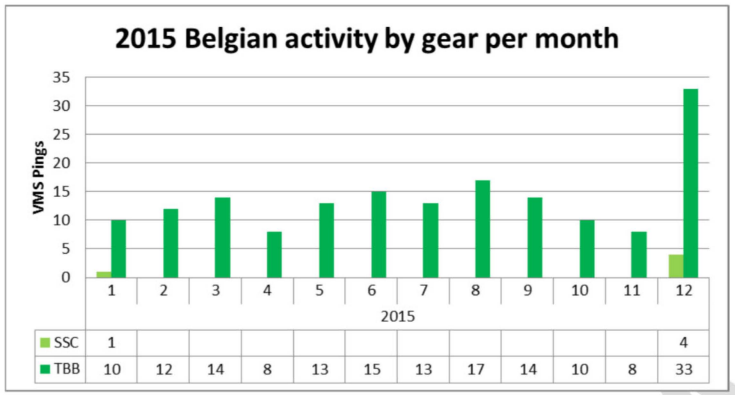
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2013 Belgian activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
25
20
15
10
5
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2013
OTB 1
SSC 1 2
TBB 8 15 19 14 7 15 15 22 11 17 9 8

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2014 Belgian activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2014
OTB 1
SSC 1
TBB 12 11 10 15 13 28 17 10 3 13 15 23

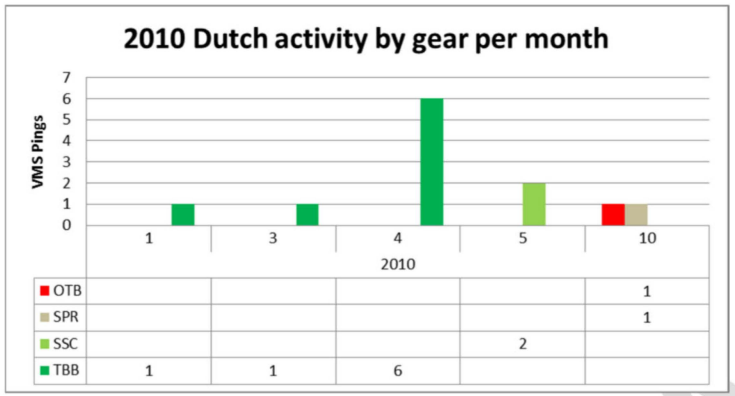
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2015 Belgian activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2015
SSC 1 4
TBB 10 12 14 8 13 15 13 17 14 10 8 33

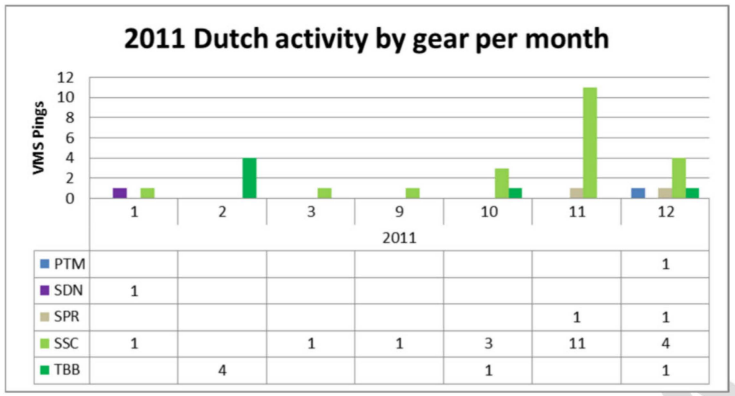
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Charts 6.2: Dutch seasonal fishing activity (all gears) in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

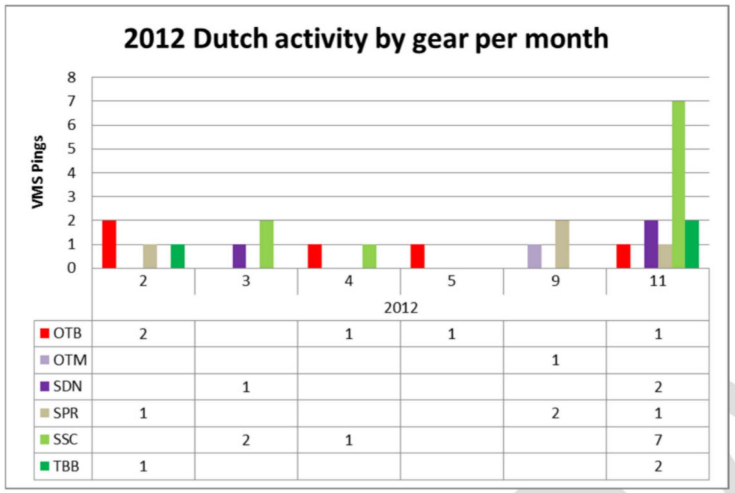
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2010 Dutch activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
1
3
4
5
10
2010
OTB 1
SPR 1
SSC 2
TBB 1 1 6

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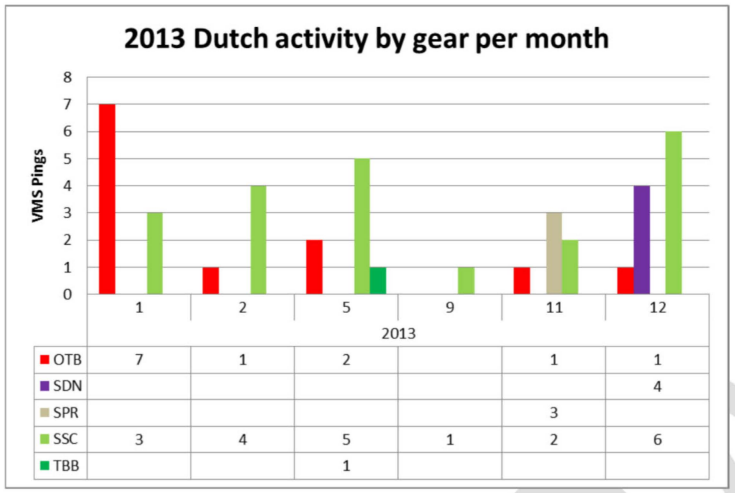

2011 Dutch activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1
2
3
9
10
11
12
2011
PTM 1
SDN 1
SPR 1 1
SSC 1 1 1 3 11 4
TBB 4 1 1

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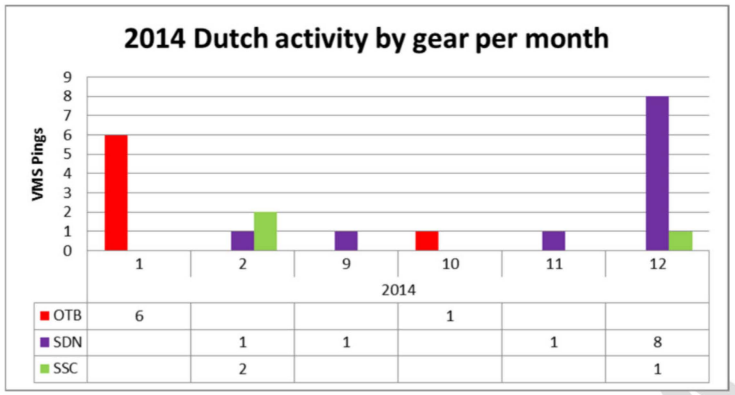


	2	3	4	5	9	11
OTB	2		1	1		1
OTM					1	
SDN		1				2
SPR	1				2	1
SSC		2	1			7
TBB	1					2

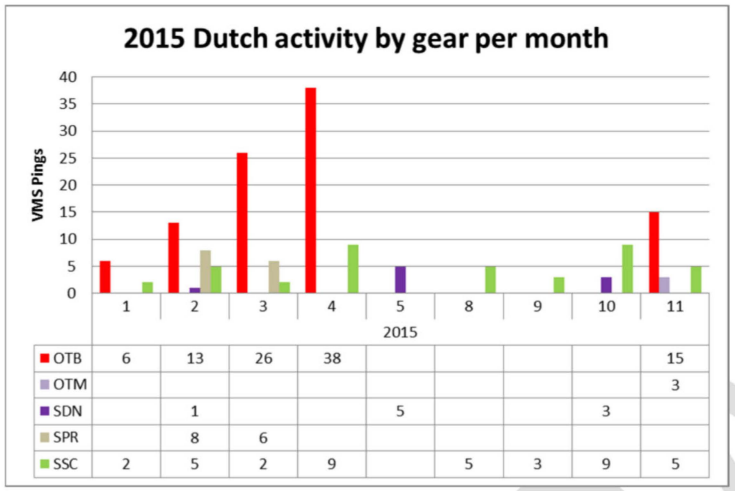
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2013 Dutch activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
1
2
5
9
11
12
2013
OTB 7 1 2 1 1
SDN 4
SPR 3
SSC 3 4 5 1 2 6
TBB 1

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2014 Dutch activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
1
2
9
10
11
12
2014
OTB 6 1
SDN 1 1 1 8
SSC 2 1

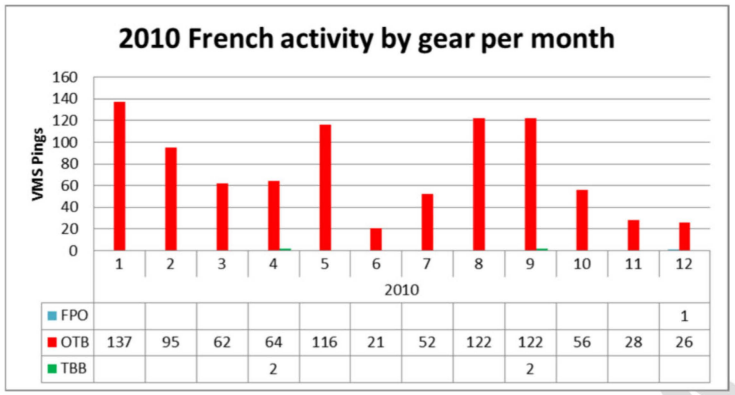
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2015 Dutch activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1
2
3
4
5
8
9
10
11
2015
OTB 6 13 26 38 15
OTM 3
SDN 1 5 3
SPR 8 6
SSC 2 5 2 9 5 3 9 5

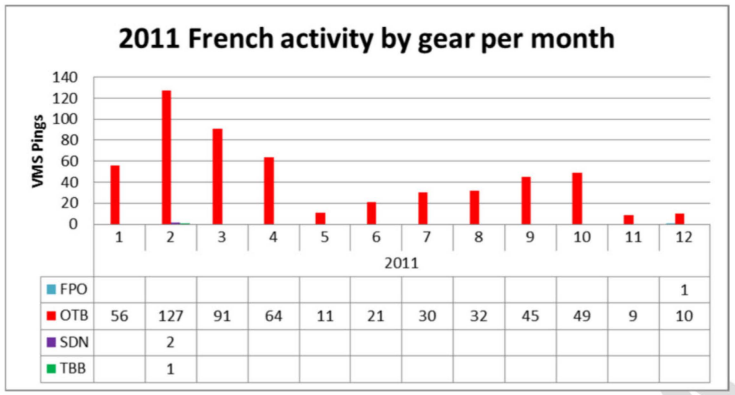
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Charts 6.3: French seasonal fishing activity (all gears) in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

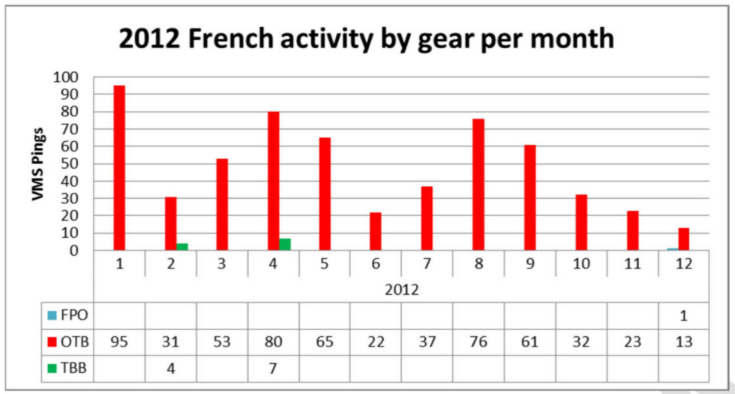
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2010 French activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2010
FPO 1
OTB 137 95 62 64 116 21 52 122 122 56 28 26
TBB 2 2

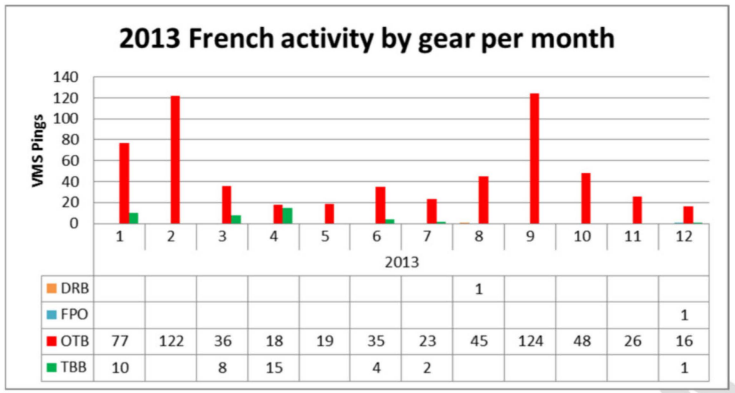
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2011 French activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2011
FPO 1
OTB 56 127 91 64 11 21 30 32 45 49 9 10
SDN 2
TBB 1

DRAFT

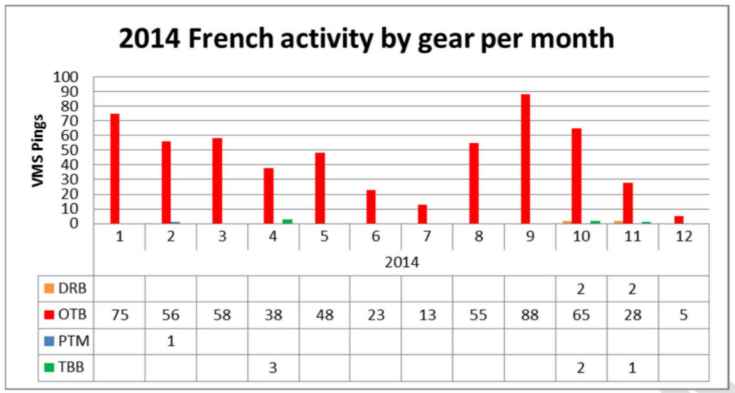

2012 French activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2012
FPO 1
OTB 95 31 53 80 65 22 37 76 61 32 23 13
TBB 4 7

DRAFT

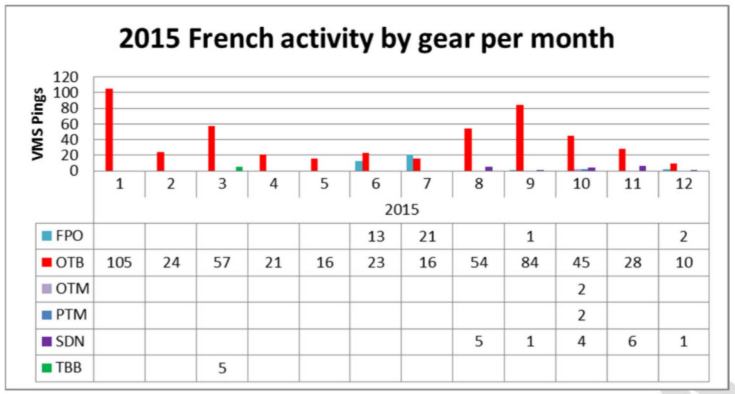


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DRB								1				
FPO												1
OTB	77	122	36	18	19	35	23	45	124	48	26	16
TBB	10		8	15		4	2					1

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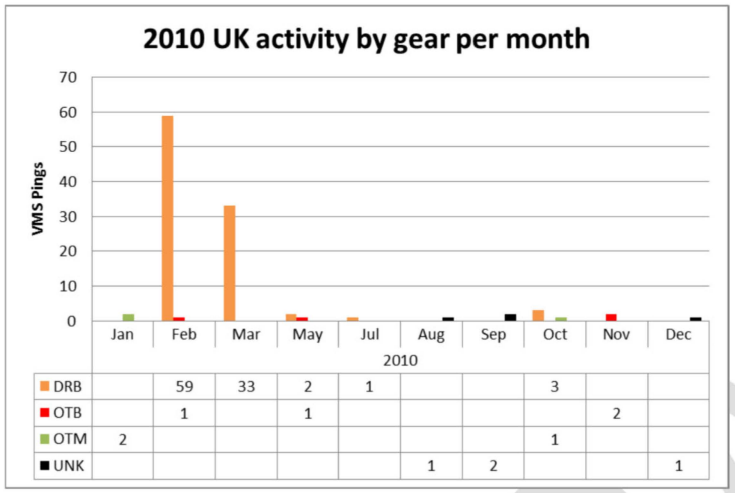

2014 French activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2014
DRB
OTB 75 56 58 38 48 23 13 55 88 65 28 5
PTM 1
TBB 3 2 1

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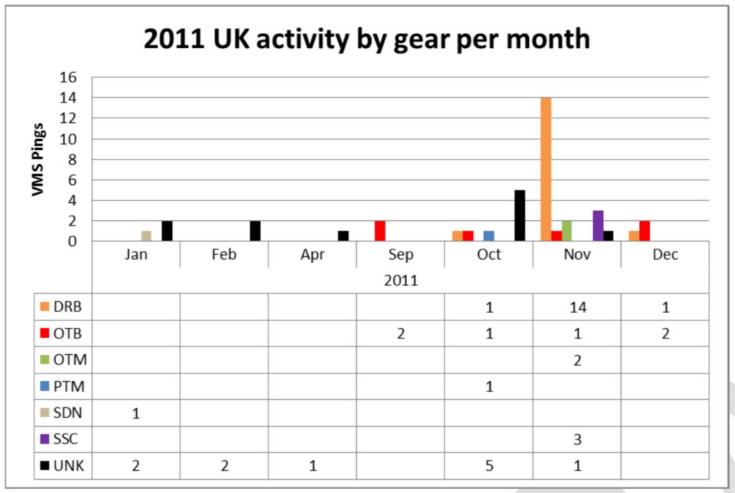


Charts 6.4: UK seasonal fishing activity (all gears) in Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

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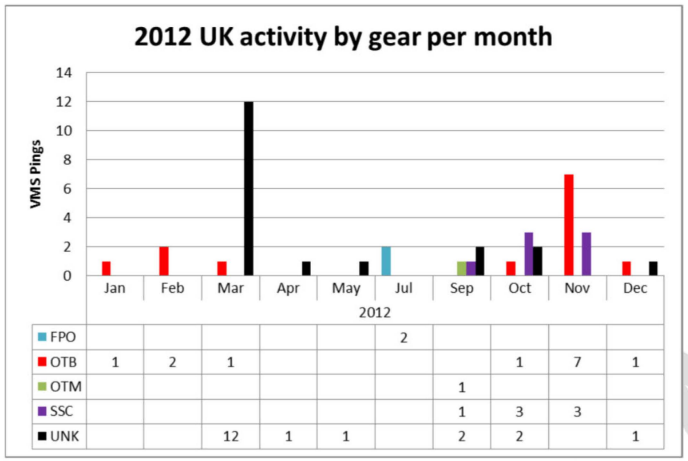

2010 UK activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
May
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
2010
DRB 59 33 2 1 3
OTB 1 1 2
OTM 2 1
UNK 1 2 1

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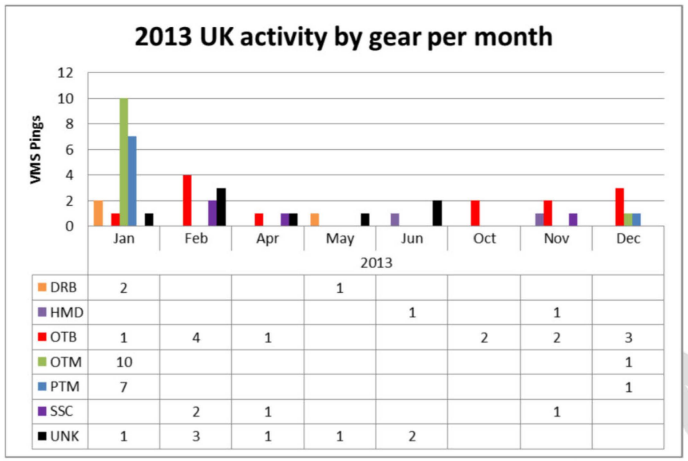


	Jan	Feb	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
DRB					1	14	1
OTB				2	1	1	2
OTM						2	
PTM					1		
SDN	1						
SSC						3	
UNK	2	2	1		5	1	

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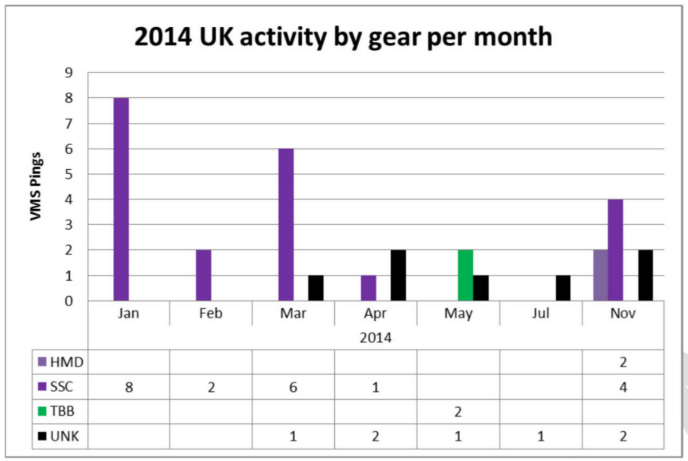

2012 UK activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jul
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
2012
FPO 2
OTB 1 2 1 1 7 1
OTM 1
SSC 1 3 3
UNK 12 1 1 2 2 1

DRAFT

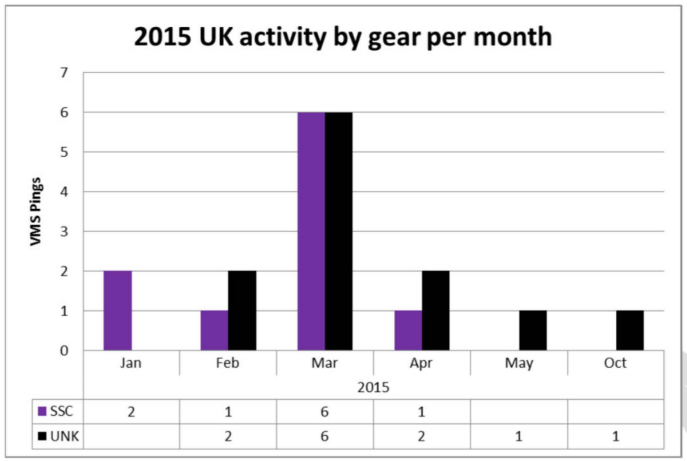


	Jan	Feb	Apr	May	Jun	Oct	Nov	Dec
DRB	2			1				
HMD					1		1	
OTB	1	4	1			2	2	3
OTM	10							1
PTM	7							1
SSC		2	1				1	
UNK	1	3	1	1	2			

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2014 UK activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jul
Nov
2014
HMD 2
SSC 8 2 6 1 4
TBB 2
UNK 1 2 1 1 2

DRAFT


2015 UK activity by gear per month
VMS Pings
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Oct
2015
SSC 2 1 6 1
UNK 2 6 2 1 1

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7 Proposed fisheries management measures to maintain the habitat features in favourable condition.

7.1 Options for fisheries management

A range of MPA fisheries management options are available to managers, differing in the degree of restriction they would play on fishing operations, and the risk they would pose to achieving the conservation objectives. These have been grouped into three broad categories of possible management: No additional management, additional management to reduce/limit pressures and additional management to remove pressures.

Although it is not generally possible to quantify the degree of risk to achieving the conservation objectives posed by each option, it is possible to identify where risks may exist, and where this could be reduced through the introduction of management measures.

Risks have been evaluated using existing data and information on protected features and our understanding of the relationships between the feature and relevant activities.

Broad management options categories

1) **No additional management** – where fisheries managers choose to apply no additional site specific fisheries management within a site. For some gear/feature combinations, where the feature is not considered sensitive to the pressures associated with demersal fishing activity, this management option may pose little or no risk to achievement of the conservation objectives. For features which are considered sensitive to the pressures associated with certain demersal fishing activities, the risk posed to achieving the conservation objectives will increase as the sensitivity of the feature increases. As outlined in the features fisheries impacts section, this will vary between features and gear types.

2) **Additional management to reduce/limit pressures** – where fisheries managers may wish to consider a range of measures that could be used to reduce the risk posed by fishing activity to achieving the conservation objectives. These could include:

    - Area restrictions: This would involve closing some or all of a specific feature's area. Restrictions could be permanent in some cases or temporary/adaptive in others. The risk of the conservation objectives not being met will increase as the size of areas restricting pressure decrease, or if the pressure reduction across the site relative to natural change is low.

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- Gear restrictions: This could involve restricting the use of gears to which a feature is more sensitive.

In situations where there is high uncertainty regarding the impacts of fishing on features, management measures to reduce/limit pressures could be "adaptive", i.e. changes in the feature's condition following the introduction of management measures will be monitored and future management may be adapted accordingly.

3) **Additional management to remove pressures** – where managers choose to exclude fishing activities known to adversely affect a feature. Such exclusions may apply to the parts of the site where the feature is present, or to an entire site. This would reduce the risk of not achieving the conservation objectives to the lowest possible level.

7.2 Proposed management option

Management to reduce the pressures resulting from demersal trawling and dredging within the site is the proposed management option to protect Annex 1 Sandbank (option 2 described in Section 7.1). In recognition of the uncertainty that exists regarding the impacts of demersal trawling and dredging on the feature, an "adaptive management" approach shall be taken, whereby a proportion of the feature will be closed to these gears and subsequently monitored to improve our understanding of impacts and inform future management. This option is deemed proportionate to the risk posed by the fishing activities to the feature.

The proposed closure is illustrated in Figure 1 along with the coordinates in Tables 3 and 4 of the Supporting Documentation.

No additional management is proposed for demersal seines on sandbanks and demersal static gear for sandbanks as the risk to the achievement of their conservation objectives from the gear types are considered to be sufficiently low. However, if monitoring indicates impacts from these gears, it may be necessary to introduce some degree of management in the future.

A control and enforcement regulation is proposed to accompany management measures. For further information on this, refer to Section 8 and Annex B.

The proposed management option is a zoned approach which restricts demersal trawls and dredges over a proportion of the area to be managed as Annex I sandbank.

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7.3 Other fisheries measures which apply to the site

Bassurelle Sandbank SCI is within the Hake Effort Areas (EC Reg 811/2004 Art 7) and the Cod Recovery Area (423/2004 Art 9). Theses recovery zones are decided monthly so are not always active. There are no recovery zones in September each year.

8 Control measures envisaged by the Member States, possible ecological and control buffer zones to ensure site protection and/or effective control and monitoring measures

8.1 Measures envisaged by Member States for Control, Enforcement and Compliance

The proposed control, enforcement and compliance regime for Bassurelle Sandbank SCI consists of a combination of a reporting zone around the prohibited zone, increased reporting within zones, remote monitoring of vessel position and at-sea surveillance measures. Such a regime would be in line with future control and enforcement challenges of the Common Fisheries Policy.

8.1.1 Surface surveillance

Surface surveillance of Bassurelle Sandbank SCI will be continued under the existing surveillance plans for the Dover Strait. This plan will coordinate the at-sea surveillance capacity of the UK (which may include Navy fisheries protection vessels, or other enforcement vessels and aerial response). Changes to surveillance will be in line with the MMO's risk based compliance and enforcement strategy.

8.1.2 Remote Vessel Monitoring

Increased Position Reporting

Vessels entering the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI prohibited zone will be subject to increased vessel position reporting (every 10 minutes).

EU fishing vessels over 12m in length are required to report, through satellite, every two hours. Reports can be viewed in real time but this reporting frequency would allow vessels to cross the prohibited area of the SCI without being identified between the two hourly reporting times. Increased reporting within the prohibited zone will reduce this risk.

Vessels will be allowed to transit the prohibited zone. Increased reporting will also allow the MMO FMC to identify fishing or transiting patterns and identify non-compliance.

Increased reporting zone

Vessels fishing within 1nm of the prohibited zone will be subject to 10min reporting.

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Fishing patterns are likely to result in vessels 'clipping' the prohibited zone, or cutting across a corner rather than transiting across the entire site. A reporting zone which surrounds the prohibited area adds additional feature protection and ensures non-compliant vessels can be identified.

Vessels will still be allowed to fish in the increased reporting zone.

The increased 1nm reporting zone proposed to be established around this site will cease at the meridian line between UK and French waters.

8.2 Vessel position monitoring system requirements

Increasing the frequency of vessel position reporting is integral to the preferred control, enforcement and compliance plan.

Increased reporting can be set up using geofences[9] recognised by the vessel's VMS devices, which would trigger higher frequency reporting if a vessel enters the reporting zone.

In order to improve monitoring and compliance, fishing vessels within the Bassurelle Sandbank SCI and the reporting zone should be required to carry a system capable of:

- Recording high frequency position reports (up to one report per ten minute interval) when within the prohibited area or reporting zone for the site.
- Transmitting position reports via GPRS/GSM[10](when available).
- When GPRS/GSM signal is not available: storing positions and forwarding stored reports when the signal is available.
- Recreate prohibited area and reporting zone coordinates and associated reporting frequency rules in the form of geofences.
- Transmitting an email and/or text message alert via GPRS/GSM (when signal available) to the flag state and MMO FMC when a vessel enters a reporting or prohibited zone for the site.
- High frequency reporting would end when a vessel leaves the reporting area for the site.

[9] A geofence is a spatial virtual barrier. Programs that incorporate geofencing allow an administrator to set up triggers such as increased reporting so when a device enters (or exits) the boundaries defined by the administrator it performs the trigger and if required a text message or email alert.

[10] General Packet Radio System (GPRS) and Global System for Mobile communications (GSM): These are types of mobile phone technology which meet European telecommunications standards.

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Increased reporting via GPRS/GSM is recommended to reduce the reporting cost (which will be borne by the fishing vessels) as charges are made per report. Satellite reporting, currently used, is costly at high frequency.

Mobile network signal is not currently widely available for offshore sites; enforcement action using this system will therefore be retrospective.

In the UK, vessels which are fitted with a VMS+ device can meet all the above system requirements. The VMS+ device is capable of transmitting increased reporting either through satellite or GPRS/GSM. There is also development work on another device known as I-VMS (inshore vessel monitoring system), which although designed primarily for the English inshore fleet (those vessels under 12m in length), can also meet the above requirements.

Estimation of the increased reporting costings for offshore Marine Protected Areas in English waters.

This information relates to the UK estimates of the increased reporting proposals.

The cost of a VMS report through GPRS[11] is approximately **$0.06**[12] (As of April 2015). Please find below a table of the total cost of increased after a period of X minutes.

GPRS Costs	Total duration cost after X minutes					
Reporting rate (X minutes)	**60**	**120**	**180**	**240**	**300**	**360**
1 minute	$3.60	$7.20	$10.80	$14.40	$18.00	$21.60
10 minutes	**$0.36**	**$0.72**	**$1.08**	**$1.44**	**$1.80**	**$2.16**
30 minutes	$0.12	$0.24	$0.36	$0.48	$0.60	$0.72
60 minutes	$0.06	$0.12	$0.18	$0.24	$0.30	$0.36

To note: The UK proposes a reporting rate of ten minutes.

Increased reporting caveats:

[11] General Packet Radio System (GPRS) and Global System for Mobile communications (GSM): These are types of mobile phone technology which meet European telecommunications standards.

[12] GPRS values are presented in US dollars

- These costs are based on a 'pay as you go' (PAYG) service and correct as April 2015.
- Costs will vary depending individual member states VMS service providers.
- GRPS Network roaming may affect overall costs

It should be noted that fishing vessels affected by the proposed closures may potentially modify or change their activities, along with fishing patterns as a result of the implementation of an increased reporting zone.

8.3 Key provisions to include in EC regulation to manage Bassurelle Sandbank SCI

Key provisions which should be included in an EC regulation to facilitate control enforcement and compliance include:

- A prohibition on any demersal trawls and dredges being deployed in the management area of the SCI.
- Establishment of a 1nm (1.852km) increased reporting zone around the management area of Bassurelle Sandbank SCI. All fishing vessels within this area shall be required to record or report vessel positions at 10 minute intervals. This area shall be defined by the map and coordinates displayed in Annex C.
- A requirement for all fishing vessels entering the increased reporting zone to have a system for recording and reporting vessel position which meets prescribed specifications (see Section 8.2 for minimal requirements) and is installed and operative. Any fishing vessel entering the management area of Bassurelle Sandbank SCI or the reporting zone without such a system will be committing an offence.
- A requirement for all fishing vessels transiting the management area carrying prohibited gears to have all gears on board lashed and stowed.
- A requirement for all fishing vessels transiting the management area carrying prohibited gears to ensure that the speed during transit is not less than six knots except in the case of force majeure or adverse conditions. In such cases, the master shall immediately inform the FMC of the flag Member State which shall then inform the MMO FMC.

The proposal on which gears to prohibit is formulated in terms of Gear Codes in Annex XI in EU Regulation 404/2011. In general prohibited gear types are demersal towed gears including dredges. Formulation of the regulation requires clear and precise definitions which distinguish allowed gear types from prohibited gear types. This includes, for trawls which can be operated both with and without bottom contact, distinguishing between these different gear riggings (if such a distinction is not feasible, these gears should be prohibited).

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Management measures for the site will be periodically reviewed in line with advancements in technology, specifically the development of improved remote vessel monitoring and gear in/out technologies.

9 Measures to monitor and assess the maintenance and/or recovery of the features within the site

Cefas/JNCC are currently leading a research and development programme to develop an integrated system of monitoring for marine biodiversity. The ambition is to cost-effectively encompass Defra's policy and statutory obligations, such as the:

- Marine and Coastal Access Act
- OSPAR Convention;
- EC Habitats Directive; and
- EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

For benthic marine habitats, the task of developing monitoring options is extremely complex. The UK has 48 offshore Marine Protected Areas designated for benthic habitats covering an area of over 126,000 km^2. This presents a challenge due to the diversity of benthic habitats occurring in UK waters and the number, size and geographic spread of offshore MPAs, the paucity of data on the range, extent and condition of many habitat types (especially in the offshore environment) and the underdeveloped nature of suitable state and pressure indicators for monitoring.

The draft offshore habitats monitoring options evaluate the risk of damage to habitats in UK offshore MPAs, assess the type of monitoring required for each MPA and estimate the indicators, equipment and number of samples required to assess change in the condition of the habitats within MPAs. Due to the number of UK offshore MPAs, the area of seabed encompassed within the offshore MPAs, the diversity of offshore habitats and the cost of offshore monitoring surveys, it may not be possible to monitor every MPA within a single reporting cycle. In certain cases, monitoring studies to assess the effectiveness of management measures in one MPA may be used as a proxy for assessing the effectiveness of management measures in MPAs with similar features and management measures in the same regional sea.

10 Coordination with neighbouring Member States as appropriate

Fisheries management measures were developed in close coordination with other Member States with a direct management interest in the sites.

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Draft management proposals were subject to a six week period of consultation with Member States with a direct management interest in the sites and the Northwest Waters Advisory Council.

Finalised management proposals were then presented to other Member States with a direct management interest in the sites for agreement that sufficient information had been provided in order to commence the formal agreement of the proposals as Joint Recommendations. [Following this, ad hoc meetings of the Northwest Waters Article 11 sub-group were held to start formal agreement proceedings for the Joint Recommendations. Any outstanding issues were then addressed before agreement was reached on the Joint Recommendations by members of the Northwest Waters High-Level Group and they were submitted to the European Commission for adoption.]

11 Evaluation of possible displacement of fishing effort and impact on new areas

As the SCI will be closed to demersal trawls and dredges, some displacement is likely to occur both within and outside the site.

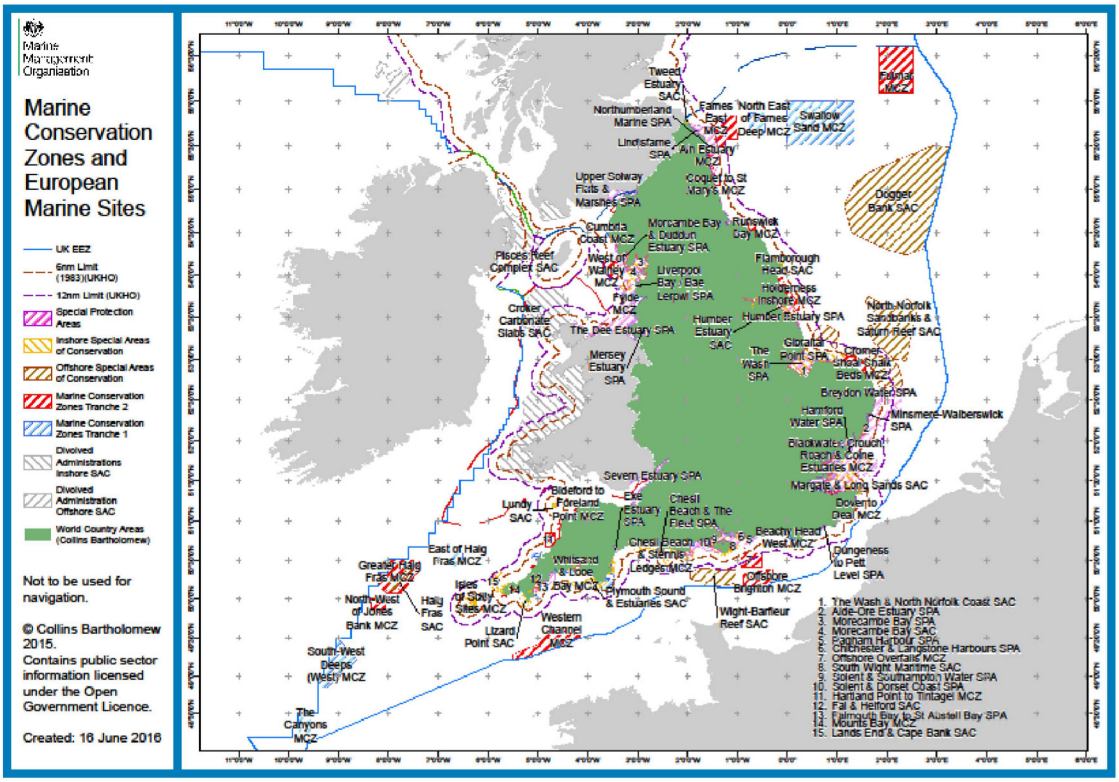
Displacement is difficult to quantify, and it is impossible to predict where exactly activities will be displaced to. As a result of stakeholder input in the management process, some of the areas currently fished within the site will remain open to fishing thus reducing the potential for displacement.

Displacement is dependent on the intensity and distribution of fishing activities within the site before the closure and on external factors (such as fish distribution, TAC/quota, fuel prices, other spatial claims).

As part of the MMOs risk-based enforcement, regular monitoring of fishing activity is collated on a Monitoring Control and Surveillance System (MCSS). MCSS does not analyse fishing trends and activity, but stores information, which can be accessed at any time. The MMOs monitoring of activity in each site could assist in any future considerations relating to displacement and could be used to indicate any changes in fishing trends and activity.

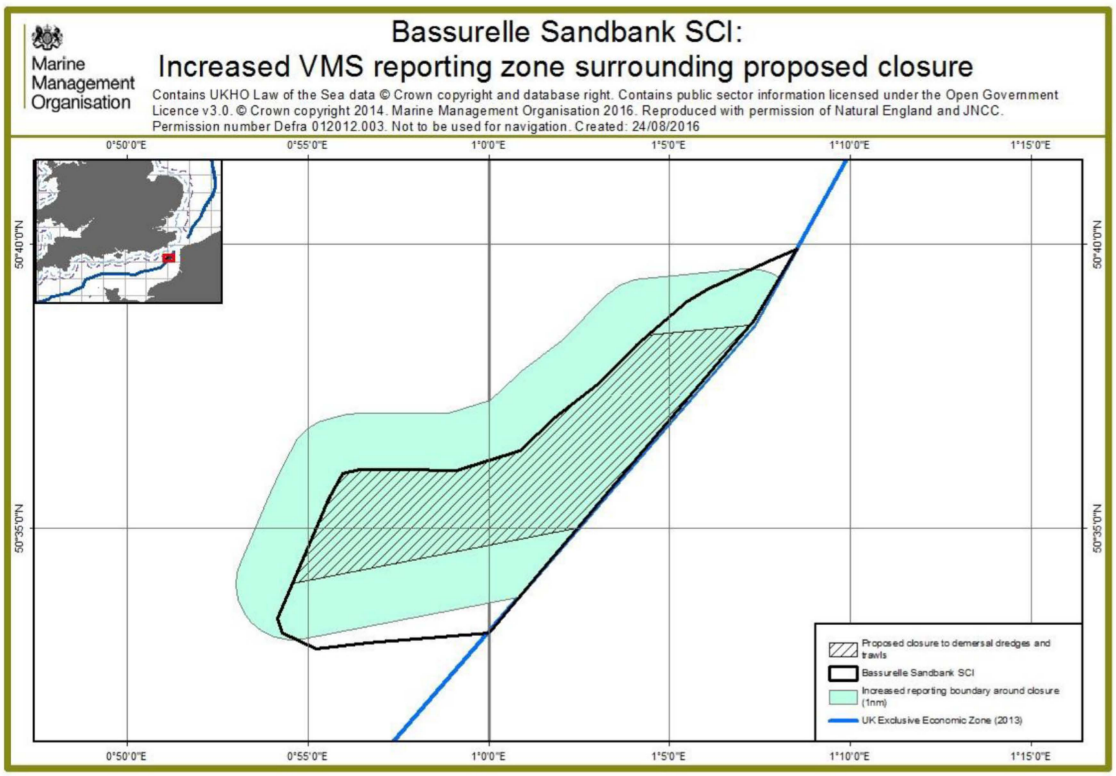
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Annex C – Map of English MPA network



Annex D – Map and coordinates for Bassurelle Sandbank SCI increased reporting zone

The increased 1nm reporting zone proposed to be established around this site will cease at the meridian line between UK and French waters.



Increased VMS reporting zone coordinates:

	Degrees Minutes		**Degrees Minutes Seconds**	
Point	Lat (North)	Lon (East)	Lat (North)	Lon (East)
1	50°33.78960'	001°00.79800'	50°33'47.3760"	001°00'47.8800"
2	50°33.05160'	000°54.87420'	50°33'03.0960"	000°54'52.4520"
3	50°33.03420'	000°54.48660'	50°33'02.0520"	000°54'29.1960"
4	50°33.08400'	000°54.07380'	50°33'05.0400"	000°54'04.4280"
5	50°33.19080'	000°53.72400'	50°33'11.4480"	000°53'43.4400"
6	50°33.34800'	000°53.42580'	50°33'20.8800"	000°53'25.5480"
7	50°33.52980'	000°53.21340'	50°33'31.7880"	000°53'12.8040"
8	50°33.75660'	000°53.06160'	50°33'45.3960"	000°53'03.6960"
9	50°34.00020'	000°53.00220'	50°34'00.0120"	000°53'00.1320"
10	50°34.23000'	000°53.03280'	50°34'13.8000"	000°53'01.9680"
11	50°34.42260'	000°53.12760'	50°34'25.3560"	000°53'07.6560"
12	50°35.48820'	000°53.84340'	50°35'29.2920"	000°53'50.6040"
13	50°35.98740'	000°54.21660'	50°35'59.2440"	000°54'12.9960"
14	50°36.35940'	000°54.49680'	50°36'21.5640"	000°54'29.8080"
15	50°36.57480'	000°54.69480'	50°36'34.4880"	000°54'41.6880"
16	50°36.75120'	000°54.96540'	50°36'45.0720"	000°54'57.9240"
17	50°36.87060'	000°55.26660'	50°36'52.2360"	000°55'15.9960"
18	50°36.95160'	000°55.65120'	50°36'57.0960"	000°55'39.0720"
19	50°37.01400'	000°56.08380'	50°37'00.8400"	000°56'05.0280"
20	50°37.03800'	000°56.44260'	50°37'02.2800"	000°56'26.5560"

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21	50°37.02240'	000°58.88220'	50°37'01.3440"	000°58'52.9320"
22	50°37.25040'	001°00.03300'	50°37'15.0240"	001°00'01.9800"
23	50°37.69260'	001°00.76500'	50°37'41.5560"	001°00'45.9000"
24	50°37.76220'	001°00.89400'	50°37'45.7320"	001°00'53.6400"
25	50°38.31540'	001°02.03520'	50°38'18.9240"	001°02'02.1120"
26	50°39.11160'	001°03.27660'	50°39'06.6960"	001°03'16.5960"
27	50°39.19380'	001°03.42180'	50°39'11.6280"	001°03'25.3080"
28	50°39.27420'	001°03.60900'	50°39'16.4520"	001°03'36.5400"
29	50°39.33660'	001°03.81300'	50°39'20.1960"	001°03'48.7800"
30	50°39.38040'	001°04.02900'	50°39'22.8240"	001°04'01.7400"
31	50°39.40380'	001°04.25280'	50°39'24.2280"	001°04'15.1680"
32	50°39.56640'	001°07.06260'	50°39'33.9840"	001°07'03.7560"
33	50°39.57000'	001°07.25880'	50°39'34.2000"	001°07'15.5280"
34	50°39.55440'	001°07.48560'	50°39'33.2640"	001°07'29.1360"
35	50°39.51840'	001°07.70700'	50°39'31.1040"	001°07'42.4200"
36	50°39.46200'	001°07.91760'	50°39'27.7200"	001°07'55.0560"
37	50°39.40620'	001°08.07060'	50°39'24.3720"	001°08'04.2360"

Then re-join back to point 1 following the EEZ boundary contour.

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Annex E – References

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