

FAL AND HELFORD MARINE NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

APPENDICES

FINAL MARCH 2025



March 2025
Version: FINAL


Cornwall Catchment
Partnership



Kaja Curry
CONSULTING & SERVICES



Cornwall
Wildlife Trust



NATURAL
ENGLAND



Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
Marine & Coastal
Partnership



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This project was funded by the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund

PREFACE

These are the appendices that accompany the report entitled “Fal and Helford Marine Nature Recovery Action Plan”

The report is an output for Year 3 of the project entitled “Coordinating Cornwall’s Coastal Recovery: coast and marine nature recovery action plans to achieve 30 by 30” project which ran from October 2024 - March 2025.

The partnership taking this phase of the work forward is hosted by Cornwall Wildlife Trust and includes Cornwall Council, Cornwall Catchment Partnership, Environment Agency, and Natural England. The project is funded through the Environment Agency’s Water Environment Improvement Fund under the banner of ‘Championing Coastal Collaboration’ (3Cs).

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All reports are available at:

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/our-conservation-work/at-sea/coastal-partnerships>

APPENDICES

This document is the appendices to the Fal and Helford Marine Recovery Action Plan.

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APPENDIX I: TABLE OF MPAS WITH THEIR DESIGNATED FEATURES

With links to Natural England's Designated Sites System.

| MPA Component Site | Conservation Objectives | Designated Features (Terrestrial features in green) | Conservation Advice | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | | Link to Feature Condition on DSS | Link to Operations requiring Natural England consent | Link to Views about Management |
| Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Marine site detail | The objectives are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its qualifying features, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the extent and distribution of habitats of the qualifying features the structure and function (including typical species) of the habitats of the qualifying features the supporting processes on which qualifying features rely the populations of each of the qualifying species | Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time | Feature condition | Supplementary advice | Advice on operations |
| | | Estuaries | | | |
| | | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | | | |
| | | Large shallow inlets and bays | | | |
| | | Reefs | | | |
| | | Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the distribution of qualifying species within the site | Shore dock, <i>Rumex rupestris</i> | | | |
| Falmouth to St Austell Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) Marine site detail | <p>The objectives are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely the populations of each of the qualifying features the distribution of qualifying features within the site | Black-throated diver, <i>Gavia arctica</i> | Feature condition (not assessed) | Supplementary advice Advice on seasonality | Advice on operations |
| | | Great northern diver, <i>Gavia immer</i> | | | |
| | | Slavonian grebe, <i>Podiceps auritus</i> | | | |
| Helford Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Marine site detail | <p>The conservation objective of the MCZ is that the protected feature:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> is maintained in favourable condition if it is already in favourable condition, or be brought into, and remains in, favourable condition if not already so. | Native oyster, (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) | Feature condition (not assessed) | Supplementary advice | Advice on operations |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| The Manacles Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Marine site detail | The conservation objective of the MCZ is that the protected features are: 1. maintained in favourable condition if it is already in favourable condition or 2. be brought back to favourable condition if they are not already so. Conservation objectives | Intertidal coarse sediment | Feature condition | Supplementary advice Advice on seasonality | Advice on operations |
| | | Maerl beds | | | |
| | | Moderate energy circalittoral rock | | | |
| | | Moderate energy infralittoral rock | | | |
| | | Moderate energy intertidal rock | | | |
| | | Pink sea-fan anemone, <i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i> | | | |
| | | Sea-fan anemone, <i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i> | | | |
| | | Spiny lobster, <i>Palinurus elephas</i> | | | |
| | | Stalked jellyfish, <i>Haliclystus spp</i> | | | |
| | | Subtidal coarse sediment | | | |
| | | Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment | | | |
| | | Subtidal mixed sediments | | | |
| | | Subtidal sand | | | |

| MPA Component Site | Conservation Duty | Designated Features (Terrestrial features in green) ** included in SAC designation | Conservation Advice | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | Link to Feature Condition on DSS | Link to Operations requiring Natural England consent | Link to Views about Management |
| Malpas Estuary SSSI Ref No: 1050348 SSSI detail | The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) places a legal duty on Natural England to support and protect Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) . It must take reasonable steps, within its functions, to | Littoral sediment** | Site feature condition | Operations requiring NE consent | Views About Management |
| | | Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (non-breeding) | | | |
| | | Saltmarsh** | | | |
| | | Lowland mixed deciduous woodland | | | |
| | | Littoral sediment** | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Upper Fal Estuary and Woods SSSI Ref No: 1001000 SSSI detail | <p>further their conservation and enhancement. To safeguard SSSIs from potentially harmful activities, the Act requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners and occupiers to seek Natural England's consent before carrying out or permitting operations that may damage their SSSI. • Public bodies to obtain Natural England's assent before conducting operations that could harm an SSSI's special interest, whether within or beyond its boundary. • Public bodies authorising or permitting third-party activities that may harm an SSSI to first seek Natural England's advice. | Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (non-breeding) | Site feature condition | Operations requiring NE consent | Views About Management |
| Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI SSSI detail | | Lowland mixed deciduous woodland | | | |
| Meneage Coastal Section SSSI SSSI detail | | Littoral sediment** | Site feature condition | Operations requiring NE consent | Views About Management |
| Rosemullion SSSI SSSI detail | | Littoral rock and inshore sublittoral rock** | | | |
| | | Marine Devonian | Condition of SSSI features and units | Operations requiring NE consent | Views About Management |
| | | SW England igneous | | | |
| | | Algae assemblage ** | Site feature condition | Operations requiring NE consent | Views About Management |
| | | Littoral rock and inshore sublittoral rock** | | | |
| | | Earth heritage | | | |

** SSSI features that are also designated features of the SAC, SPA or MCZ.

APPENDIX II: CONDITION OF DESIGNATED SITES

Current condition is taken from Natural England's Designated Sites System. Accessed March 2024 and 2025. ([Designated Sites View \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk))

Improving = ↑ ; Declining = ↓ ; No change = ⇔ .

| Feature | Subfeature | Condition | Trend | Confidence | Date |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|------------|------|
| Fal and Helford SAC | | | | | |
| Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time. | Maerl beds | Unfavourable | ↓ | High | 2020 |
| | Subtidal coarse sediment | Favourable | - | Low | 2018 |
| | Subtidal mixed sediments | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Medium | 2020 |
| | Subtidal sand | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Subtidal seagrass beds | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2018 |
| Estuaries | Intertidal coarse sediment | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2018 |
| | Intertidal mixed sediments | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Intertidal mud | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Intertidal sand and muddy sand | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Maerl beds | Unfavourable | ↓ | High | 2020 |
| | Infralittoral rock | Favourable | - | Low | 2018 |
| | Subtidal mixed sediments | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Subtidal mud | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2018 |
| Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | Subtidal seagrass beds | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2018 |
| | Intertidal coarse sediment | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2018 |
| | Intertidal mixed sediments | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Intertidal mud | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Intertidal sand and muddy sand | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| Large shallow inlets and bays | Intertidal seagrass beds | Favourable | - | Low | 2018 |
| | Circalittoral rock | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Infralittoral rock | Favourable | - | Low | 2020 |
| | Intertidal coarse sediment | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2018 |
| | Intertidal rock | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Medium | 2020 |
| | Intertidal sand and muddy sand | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Maerl beds | Unfavourable | ↓ | High | 2020 |
| | Subtidal mixed sediments | Unfavourable | ⇔ | Medium | 2020 |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|---|--------|------|
| | Subtidal mud | Unfavourable | ↔ | Medium | 2020 |
| | Subtidal sand | Unfavourable | ↔ | Low | 2018 |
| | Subtidal seagrass beds | Unfavourable | ↔ | Low | 2018 |
| Reefs | Circalittoral rock | Unfavourable | ↔ | Low | 2020 |
| | Infralittoral rock | Favourable | - | Low | 2020 |
| | Intertidal rock | Unfavourable | ↔ | Medium | 2020 |
| Atlantic Salt Meadows | | Feature not assessed. | | | |
| Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA | | | | | |
| Black throated diver | | This site was designated in 2017. No condition assessments have been undertaken since then. | | | |
| Great northern diver | | | | | |
| Slavonian grebe | | | | | |
| Helford Estuary MCZ | | | | | |
| Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) | | This site was designated in 2019. The designated feature has not been assessed. | | | |
| The Manacles MCZ | | | | | |
| Intertidal coarse sediment | | 100% favourable (2025) | | | |
| Moderate energy circalittoral rock | | | | | |
| Moderate energy infralittoral rock | | | | | |
| Moderate energy intertidal rock | | | | | |
| Pink sea-fan anemone, <i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i> | | | | | |
| Sea-fan anemone, <i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i> | | | | | |
| Spiny lobster, <i>Palinurus elephas</i> | | | | | |
| Stalked jellyfish, <i>Haliclystus spp</i> | | | | | |
| Subtidal coarse sediment | | | | | |
| Subtidal mixed sediments | | | | | |
| Subtidal sand | | | | | |
| Maerl beds | | 100% Unfavourable. Recovering (2024) | | | |
| Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment | | | | | |
| Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSIs (marine features only) | | | | | |
| Littoral rock and inshore sublittoral rock | | No assessments since 2013 when it was found to be favourable. | | | |
| Littoral sediment | | | | | |
| Upper Fal and Woods & Malpas SSSIs (marine features only) | | | | | |
| Aggregations of non-breeding birds – black-tailed godwit | | Not recorded. | | | |
| Littoral sediment | | Favourable | | 2010 | |
| Meneage SSSIs (geological) | | | | | |
| Marine Devonian (geological) | | Favourable | | 2025 | |
| SW England igneous | | Favourable | | 2010 | |

| Rosemullion SSSI | | |
|--|------------|------|
| Algae assemblage | Favourable | 2010 |
| Littoral rock and inshore sublittoral rock | Favourable | 2010 |
| Earth heritage | Favourable | 2024 |

APPENDIX III: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS FOR FAL & HELFORD

| Category | Organisations | Category | Organisations |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Access Recreation & Tourism | CC Cornwall Council - ex Beach Officer Coastlands (ex Windsport) Devoran Gig Club Duchy Divers (Truro / Fal) Falmouth Beach Users Group Falmouth Gig Club Falmouth Marine Conservation Group Flushing and Mylor gig club Flushing Sailing Club Greenbank Falmouth Rowing Club Helford River Boats Helford River Sailing Club Mylor Boat Hire Mylor Sailing School Mylor Yacht Club Mylor Yacht Club Penryn Gig Club Port of Falmouth Sailing Association Restronguet Sailing Club Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) Roseland Gig Club Royal Cornwall Yacht Club (Falmouth) Royal Yachting Association (RYA) - SW Region Sailors Creek CIC Seaways Dive Centre, Penryn SW Coast Path National Trail Partnership Truro Gig Club | Climate Change | Cornwall Environmental Adaptation Team Environment Agency Falmouth community climate network panel Transition Falmouth |
| | | Coastal Partnerships | Fal & Helford SAC Management Forum (secretariat, officers, and chair) |
| | | Community | Cornwall Council Localism Officers – Falmouth and Truro-Roseland. Falmouth Area Coastal Community Team Falmouth Community Network Panel Local councillors |
| | | Fisheries & Aquaculture | Cornwall Fish Producers Organisation Cornwall IFCA Fal Fisheries Committee Fal Fishery Coop CIC Helford Oyster Farmer |
| Heritage & Culture | Cornwall National Landscape Partnership | Land owners | Duchy of Cornwall Helford River Moorings Lizard National Nature Reserve National Trust |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Marine & Coastal Infrastructure & Development | Cornwall Council – Environmental Partnerships & Policy Marine Management Organisation | Marine economy | Cornwall Marine Network |
| Marine Conservation | Blue Marine Foundation Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership Cornwall Local Nature Partnership Cornwall Local Nature Recovery Working Group Cornwall Marine Liaison Group Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) Fal SAC Advisory Group Falmouth Marine Conservation Group Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Group Natural England -Fal Wild Roseland | Ports, Harbours & Navigation | CC Cornwall Harbour Master Falmouth Harbour Port of Truro Harbour Master St Mawes Harbour (private) |
| | | Research & Data | Cornwall College / Portsmouth University Exeter University Plymouth University |
| | | Water quality | Cornwall Catchment Partnership Fathoms Free Plastic Free Falmouth South West Water Surfers Against Sewage |

APPENDIX IV: LIST OF ALL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR 2023 - 2029:

Stakeholders attending the workshop held in February 2023, were asked to identify all of the marine and coastal projects that they were aware of, coming forward, or in progress, in the upcoming six years. (Curry, 2023)

| Ref | Who | Where | What | Timing |
|-----|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1 | EA | Catchment | Moving abstraction into Environmental Permitting Regulations | 2023-2029 |
| 2 | EA | Catchment | Improved water quality | 2023-2029 |
| 3 | EA | Upstream | Agricultural Regulatory Task Force | 2023-2029 |
| 4 | A&P | Falmouth Docks | Port development and maintenance | 2023-2029 |
| 5 | Port of Truro | Port of Truro waters | Disposal of end-of-life boats | 2023-2029 |
| 6 | Port of Truro | Port of Truro waters | Funded CWT and volunteers Pacific Oyster removal | 2023-2029 |
| 7 | Falmouth Town Council | Falmouth | Foreshore regulatory responsibilities | 2023-2029 |
| 8 | Cornwall AONB (now Cornwall National Landscapes) | | See 12. | |
| 9 | Cornwall AONB (now Cornwall National Landscapes) | Section 08: Lizard/Helford | Farming in Protected Landscapes - multiple projects | 2023-2029 |
| 10 | Cornwall AONB (now Cornwall National Landscapes) | Lizard | Lizard Landscape Recovery Project, Farm for Nature | 2023-2029 |
| 11 | Port Health Authority | | - To maintain shellfish classification across Fal, Helford and other locations in Cornwall - More collaborative work with SWW & EA to improve Water quality and improve the classification of shellfish beds. | 2023-2029 |
| 12 | Cornwall AONB (now Cornwall National Landscapes) | Upstream | AONB Farm Engagement Project to target specific farms to improve upstream water quality | Idea for a priority? |
| 13 | Falmouth Harbour Commission | Fal Harbour | Advanced Mooring System development and roll out | 2023-2029 |
| 14 | Falmouth Town Council | Falmouth Harbour Foreshore | - Beach Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) - Boat and public ASBO | 2023-2029 |

| Ref | Who | Where | What | Timing |
|-----|--|--|--|-----------|
| 15 | Cornwall Council | Fal & Helford | Estuary Officer workplan: - Infinite - Recreational impact mitigation - Education - Comms - Management | 2023-2029 |
| 16 | Cornwall Council | Cornwall | - Marine Nature Recovery Strategy: - work with partners - funding projects with partners | 2023-2029 |
| 17 | Natural England | Fal Estuaries and beyond | - Monitoring - Condition assessment - Bird Bycatch looming eye | 2023-2029 |
| 18 | Natural England | Fal Estuaries and beyond | - ReMEDIES (maerl and seagrass) - Water quality monitoring (live) - Marine nature recovery - Marine wildlife disturbance - Maerl priority habitat - Policy - Connecting people with nature | 2023-2029 |
| 19 | Falmouth Marine Conservation Group with Falmouth Harbour | Fal Harbour | Dolphin monitoring CATT Project (Cetacean Acoustic Trend Tracking). | 2023-2029 |
| 20 | Falmouth Harbour Commission | Falmouth Harbour & Bay excluding Penryn, Falmouth Docks, Truro Boundary & St Mawes | Creating a long-term Master Plan for future including natural capital | 2023-2029 |
| 21 | Clean Ocean Sailing | All marine | Boat disposal and litter | 2023-2029 |
| 22 | Cornwall AONB (now Cornwall National Landscapes) | All AONB | Priority Aims: - Responding to planning applications, - To conserve & enhance landscape character and natural beauty - "light spill" | 2023-2029 |
| 23 | Cornwall AONB (now Cornwall National Landscapes) | All AONB | CAONB Management Plan: strategic priorities: People - Place - Nature - Climate | 2023-2029 |
| 24 | Sailors Creek CIC | Sailors Creek | Removal of detritus | 2023-2029 |
| 25 | Restranguet Sailing Club | Restranguet | Redevelopment of Restranguet Sailing Club | 2024 + |

| Ref | Who | Where | What | Timing |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 26 | Flushing Sailing Club | Flushing | Installations at Flushing Sailing Club | 2023-2029 |
| 26 | ? | Penryn Creek | Reduce moorings | 2024 + |
| 27 | Falmouth Marine Conservation Group | Fal Harbour | Pacific Oyster Rockpool Sea Watch (Dolphins, seals) Seagrass Outreach (school sessions) Dolphin monitoring (Acoustics) Connecting people with nature | 2023-2029 |
| 28 | Falmouth Harbour Commission | Fal Harbour | Raising awareness of sensitive seabed with harbour users and with Ocean Conservation Trust | 2023-2029 |
| 29 | Falmouth Harbour Commission | Fal Harbour | Taking action to try and decarbonise harbour activities | 2023-2029 |
| 30 | Cornwall AONB (now Cornwall National Landscapes) | Section 09: South Coast Central | Farming in Protected Landscapes Project - multiple | 2023-2029 |
| 31 | MMO | Whole area | SW Marine Plan runs on 3-year cycle which puts us on now in the plan monitoring phase to see how successful the policies are. This means we're now reviewing data for the SW covering all plan policies to see how policies are being applied/if they work. Data collection is a project in itself which may have useful outputs. | 2023-2029 |
| 32 | Helford Marine Conservation Group | Helford | Communications | 2023-2029 |
| 33 | Helford Marine Conservation Group | Helford | Advisory Section | 2023-2029 |
| 34 | Helford Marine Conservation Group | Helford | Public Engagement & Education | 2023-2029 |
| 35 | Duchy of Cornwall | Helford | ReMEDIES Seagrass project | 2023-2029 |
| 36 | Duchy of Cornwall | Helford | Port Navas Oysterage | 2023-2029 |

APPENDIX V: ALL OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED AT THE 2024 WORKSHOP AND SCORED IN THE 2025 WORKSHOP

Opportunities

When participants were asked to identify opportunities, 124 were identified and where possible these have been grouped and mapped into the following categories:

- Maerl and kelp
- Seagrass
- Native oysters
- Invasive Pacific oysters
- Fish and marine mammals
- Recreational boating management (including abandoned boats)
- Upper estuarine, reedbed, saltmarsh and SSSI sites
- Water quality
- Resilience, habitat improvements and whole site approach
- Public awareness and education
- Monitoring and Data Gaps

Maerl










Given the significance of the area for Maerl, it was not surprising that maerl was identified as a key target species for recovery actions. Table 1 shows these projects and they have been mapped and are shown in Figure 1 and should include the removal of invasives such as Wakame Kelp.

Discussion: The 'fishery management' activity was too broad a statement; It was thought that targeting any trawling activity would be better (as trawling is permitted within Falmouth Bay but not Carrick Roads. Also, monitoring should include citizen science.

And anchoring management; both recreational and commercial needs to be addressed.

Active restoration measures for maerl not properly identified as yet, so maybe better to prioritise research and pressure management, although work needed to identify what might work. More might come forward through the Maerl Forum e.g. translocation or growing them in the laboratory.

Table 1: Opportunities: Maerl restoration projects

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % | Comment |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|--|----------|---|---|
| M1 | Maerl | Research & Monitoring | Maerl research into effective restoration methods | 4 |  | Research needed into effective restoration methods. |
| M2 | Maerl | Research & Monitoring | Maerl Forum | 2 |  | already planned |
| M3 | Maerl | Research & Monitoring | Maerl research to understand mooring pressures, both from big ships and recreational | 2 |  | |
| M4 | Maerl | Active Restoration | None identified | | | No active restoration methods identified as yet - most focus has been on pressure management. |
| M5 | Maerl | Pressure management | Fishery management | | | |
| M6 | Maerl | Pressure management | Improved boat race-mark management | 1 |  | mooring points. |
| M7 | Maerl | Pressure management | Reduction of use of mobile gear on maerl beds | 1 |  | |
| M8 | Maerl | Pressure management | Commercial anchoring | 1 |  | |
| M9 | Maerl | Pressure management | Target The Bizzies, Gerrans Bay, Falmouth Bay, Crick East and West, St Mawes, Helford Mouth. | 0 | | |
| M10 | Maerl | Pressure management | Commercial anchoring management | 2 |  | |
| M11 | Maerl | Pressure management | Water quality management | 8 |  | |
| M12 | Maerl | Pressure management | Manage impacts from bottom trawled gear | 10 |  | |
| M13 | Maerl | Pressure management | Develop integrated project to understand protect maerl | 1 |  | |
| M14 | Maerl | Pressure management | Potential innovation around anchoring and moorings to reduce impacts. | 4 |  | |
| M15 | Maerl | Education & Awareness | Maerl awareness thru education and social media | 3 |  | |
| M16 | Maerl | Education & Awareness | Public engagement eg snorkel safaris | 0 | | |
| M17 | Maerl | Education & Awareness | ROV & dive surveys: combining citizen science projects to meet both education and research | 2 |  | |

Kelp

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % | Comment |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|---|----------|-------|---|
| K1 | Kelp | Research & Monitoring | Kelp condition assessment to include EA Kelp Reef mapping data | 5 | 11.1% | |
| K2 | Kelp | Research & Monitoring | Kelp research including mapping to inform management thru seasearch kelp snorkel surveys | 2 | 4.4% | |
| K3 | Kelp | Research & Monitoring | Citizen science to inform water quality monitoring | | 0.0% | |
| K4 | Kelp | Active Restoration | Green gravel for kelp restoration in the future | 2 | 4.4% | |
| K6 | Kelp | Active Restoration | Restoration Kelpedo habitat are potential habitat and basis for small scale aquaculture. | 1 | 2.2% | |
| K7 | Kelp | Pressure management | Kelp Aquaculture Framework | 6 | 13.3% | Kelp framework may be eligible for FAS funding from the MMO |
| K8 | Kelp | Pressure management | Wildlife tourism tax eg on car park machines | 1 | 2.2% | |
| K9 | Kelp | Pressure management | Better policies & guidance for developers re water managemtn | | 0.0% | |
| K10 | Kelp | Pressure management | Seasonal restrictions on harvesting / foraging | 7 | 15.6% | |
| K11 | Kelp | Pressure management | Holistic water management plan | 2 | 4.4% | |
| K12 | Kelp | Pressure management | Removal of invasives eg Wakame | 1 | 2.2% | |
| K13 | Kelp | Pressure management | Target areas : Maenporth | 1 | 2.2% | |
| K14 | Kelp | Pressure management | Target areas: The Bizzies | 3 | 6.7% | |
| K15 | Kelp | Education & Awareness | Social media / knowledge sharing | 0 | 0.0% | |
| K16 | Kelp | Education & Awareness | Forest for Underwater Cornwall education programme (Sea Forest for Cornwall) to include impacts of poor water quality | 13 | 28.9% | |
| K17 | Kelp | Education & Awareness | Falmouth Marine Group kelp monitoring surveys | 1 | 2.2% | |

Discussion: In response to the question of whether there is any anchoring or bottom trawling over the kelp, there is little anchoring or bottom trawling over the kelp since kelp tended to be on rocky seabed, which is not suitable for bottom-trawling.

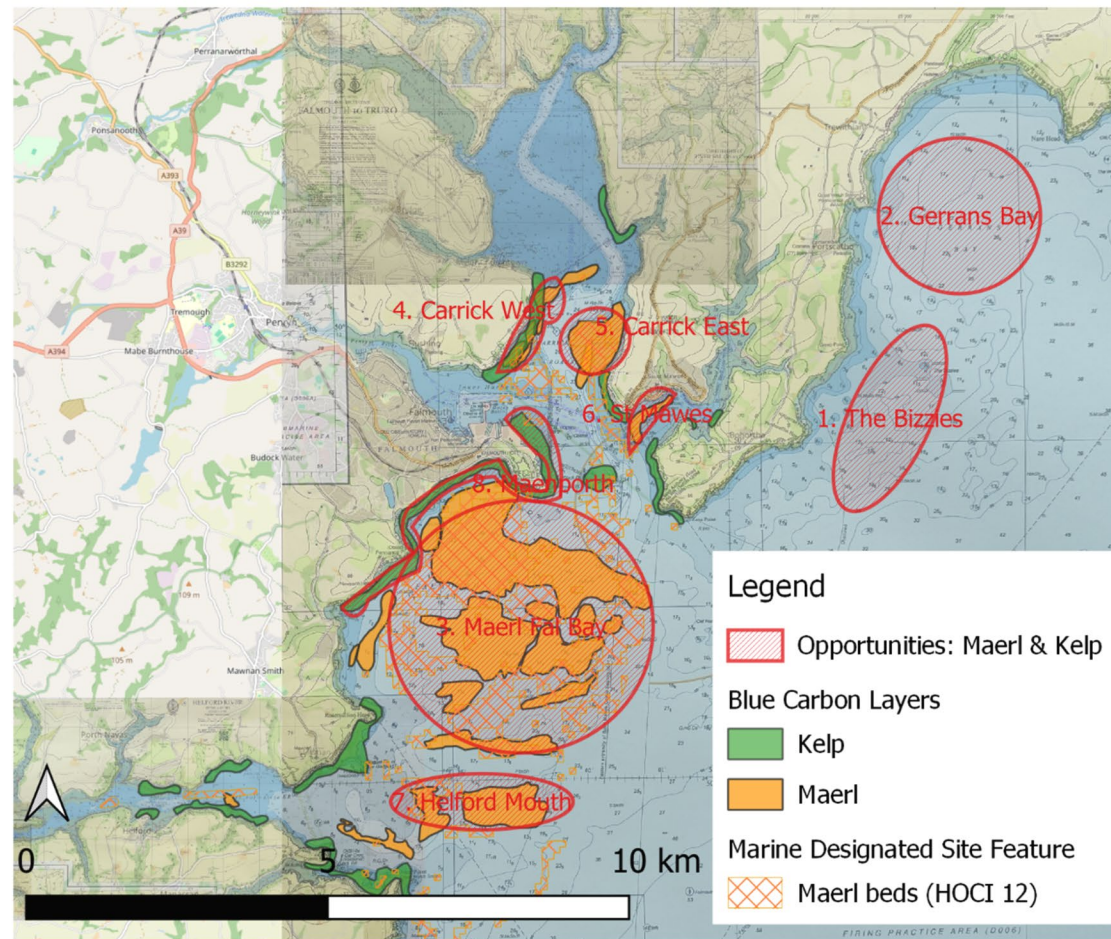
There was a lot of strong support for the Kelp Aquaculture Framework which could include multi-species including mussels and kelp. Nobody knew of any national work being done on this

matter. Any work could be eligible for Fisheries and Seafood Funding through the MMO which is due to launch again in Spring 2025.

[Fisheries and Seafood Scheme - GOV.UK](#)

[Fisheries and Seafood Scheme \(FaSS\): General Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Figure 1: Maerl and Kelp Potential Recovery Projects



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Seagrass

Numerous opportunities were also identified relating to seagrass restoration, both for the intertidal dwarf seagrass (*Zostera noltii*) as well as the deeper water *Zostera marina*, which build on the work that has already taken place. A combination of protecting the existing beds by removing pressures from anchoring and mooring, active replanting through seed bombs and the like and awareness raising to encourage stronger stewardship especially amongst boat users. A package of interventions was proposed which included:

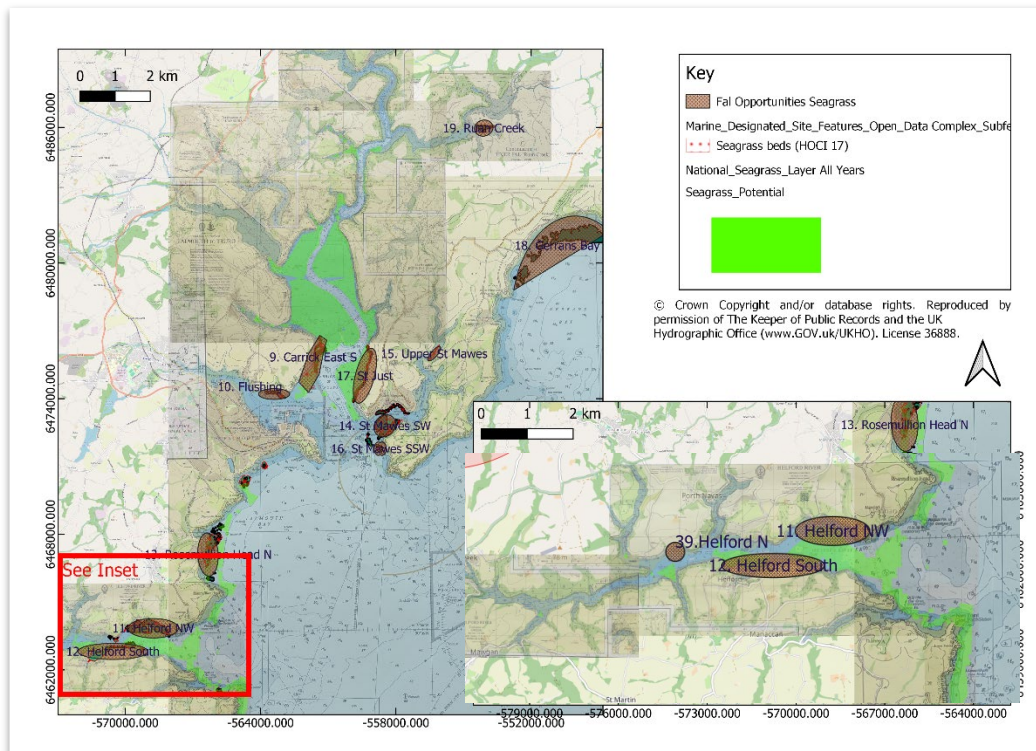
- Building on the [ReMEDIES Project](#) to include a recreational boating survey on how boaters interact with seagrass and a seagrass survey for 2024 which could potentially involve Falmouth Marine Group.
- Citizen science project around seagrass and biodiversity.
- Continuation of collection of seagrass seeds for seed bombs (and control of permitted seed collection for use outside of the area).
- Awareness project to connect people with nature and seagrass.
- Monitoring of water quality with a buoy to measure live turbidity, working with Falmouth Marine Group, Falmouth Harbour, Natural England, and University of Exeter.
- Seasearch monitoring to measure regrowth.
- Continuation of installation of 'eco' moorings / removal of moorings.
- Extension of more voluntary no-anchor zones with 'Blue Meadow' markers and awareness raising.
- Boat patrols to raise awareness and increase sensitive mooring.
- Continuation of 'Seeding Change Together' Dwarf Seagrass restoration in Ruan Creek and potentially in other upper estuarine areas e.g. upper St Mawes potentially.

Many of these projects were identified with specific locations and these are shown in the map.

Table 2: Opportunities – Potential Seagrass Recovery Projects

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % | Comment |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|--|----------|-------|--|
| S1 | Seagrass | Research & Monitoring | Seagrass research | 0 | 0.0% | Comments / Discussion: It was highlighted that a byelaw could be considered to prevent anchoring on seagrass if necessary and that this is part of the review of unlicensed activities work – so if there is an area where voluntary measures are not working, then the MMO could consider it, although it would need comprehensive consultation. Unclear to what extent cross-warranting could be used to enable other bodies to enforce them other than ports and MMO. MMO are also looking at potential of cameras being positioned at certain places to monitor adherence to certain measures, although this would still require enforcement. |
| S2 | Seagrass | Research & Monitoring | Impact of blackwater on seagrass | 2 | 5.0% | |
| S3 | Seagrass | Research & Monitoring | Build on Remedies project to include recreational boating survey on boaters' interactions & involve FMG | | 0.0% | |
| S4 | Seagrass | Research & Monitoring | Citizen science project around seagrass and biodiversity incl FMC / CWT seagrass monitoring project & Seasearch | 4 | 10.0% | |
| S5 | Seagrass | Research & Monitoring | Measure water quality thru a buoy with live data | 2 | 5.0% | |
| S6 | Seagrass | Research & Monitoring | Continue seagrass monitoring at Helford NW. | 1 | 2.5% | |
| S7 | Seagrass | Active Restoration | Active seagrass restoration | 3 | 7.5% | |
| S8 | Seagrass | Active Restoration | Continue collection of seagrass seeds for seedbombs in a controlled way | | 0.0% | |
| S9 | Seagrass | Active Restoration | Potential seagreass restoration at Carrick East S | | 0.0% | |
| S10 | Seagrass | Active Restoration | Potential seagreass restoration at Rosemullion Head N. | | 0.0% | |
| S11 | Seagrass | Active Restoration | Potential seagreass restoration at St Just | | 0.0% | |
| S12 | Seagrass | Active Restoration | Potential seagreass restoration at St Mawes SW | | 0.0% | |
| S13 | Seagrass | Active Restoration | Seagrass restoration for Z noltii at Helford N | | 0.0% | |
| S14 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Improved catchment water management | 6 | 15.0% | |
| S15 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Extend voluntary no anchor zonew with blue meadows markers | 1 | 2.5% | |
| S16 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Contine with alternative mooring systems | 1 | 2.5% | |
| S17 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Reduce nutrient input into nearby waters | 2 | 5.0% | |
| S18 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Continue boat controls to raise awareness incl a harbour direction at Gylly Beach & indirect removal of anchoring pressures. | 2 | 5.0% | |
| S19 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Continue 'Seeding Change Together' dwarf seagrass project in Ruan Creek and identify other sites incl Upper Helford. | 5 | 12.5% | |
| S20 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Continuation of Falmouth Harbour project at Flushing | 2 | 5.0% | |
| S21 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Reduce impact of yacht racing with ROV MarkSetBots to help remove pressure from race marks and other marks to be moved to AMS. | 2 | 5.0% | |
| S22 | Seagrass | Pressure management | Seagrass no anchor zone in Gerrans Bay | 1 | 2.5% | |
| S23 | Seagrass | Education & Awareness | Raise awareness through educaiton / social media. | 0 | 0.0% | |
| S24 | Seagrass | Education & Awareness | Continue engagement with boat users at St Mawes SW & Helford | 4 | 10.0% | |
| S25 | Seagrass | Education & Awareness | Seagrass Snorkel sessions with FMCG | 1 | 2.5% | |
| S26 | Seagrass | Education & Awareness | Explore whether introduction of no anchoring bylaws would be necessary with MMO. | 1 | 2.5% | |

Figure 2: Seagrass: Location of Potential Recovery Projects
























Native Oysters

Given the significance of the Native Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) to Falmouth and that it is the last natural native oyster fishery in England, the native oyster was seen as an important species on which to focus restoration efforts. Opportunities were identified for species restoration as well as to manage the invasive Pacific Oyster that was impacting on the natives. Actions identified included:

Native oyster recovery:

- Native oyster restoration project at Port Navas, Mylor and Helford and also as part of The Bizzies.
- Improved management including increase in minimum landing size;
- Aquaculture spat collection and growing-on in nursery (there was mention that it could be as successful as the Lobster hatchery at Padstow);
- Aquaculture biomass for larval reproduction;
- Native oyster hatchery in Mylor Harbour
- Working with Fal Fishery Cooperative CIC.
- More research around the use of crushed shells to create native oyster-friendly habitats in the upper Carrick Roads and to understand the distances of spat fall in order to best locate artificial reefs.
- Trial native oyster artificial reef structures in a range of locations e.g. The Bizzies where it was thought that the extensive rocky habitat would be good for settlement.

Table 3: Native oysters: potential restoration projects

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % | Comment |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|---|----------|---|---------|
| NO1 | Native oysters | Research & Monitoring | Conduct historical stock assessments | 3 |  | 8.3% |
| NO2 | Native oysters | Research & Monitoring | Assess substrate limitations for restoration sites | 0 |  | 0.0% |
| | | | Research around the use of shells to create oyster-friendly habitats in the upper Carrick Roads - needs marine license. Shells could be mussel shells & need to be dried to minimise biosecurity risks. | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO3 | Native oysters | Research & Monitoring | Early discussions needed around Appropriate Assessment and licensing as need marine license | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO4 | Native oysters | Research & Monitoring | Water quality monitoring | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO5 | Native oysters | Research & Monitoring | Learn from Conwy Bay and Solent Seascapes projects | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO6 | Native oysters | Research & Monitoring | | | | |
| NO7 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Design & implement active restoration | 4 |  | 11.1% |
| NO8 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Ensure restoration stocks are biosecure and sustainable | 0 |  | 0.0% |
| NO9 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Explore spatting ponds and suspended oyster cages as alternative methods | 7 |  | 19.4% |
| NO10 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Consider artificial surfaces for broodstock to encourage growth. | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO11 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Rejuvenate beds by harrowing and addint shell substrate in areas with previous management success and monitor. | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO12 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Explore restoration project at Port Navas, Mylor and Helford and also as part of The Bizzies , poss with Blue Marine and grants. | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO13 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Aquaculture with spat collection & growing-on in nursery - explore links to others eg lobster hatchery. | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO14 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Trial native oyster artifical reef structures in various locations incl The Bizzies. | 0 |  | 0.0% |
| NO15 | Native oysters | Active Restoration | Consider active restoration at Boscawen Park to also improve water quality. | 0 |  | 0.0% |
| NO16 | Native oysters | Pressure management | Address water quality and runoff issues critical for restoration success. | 10 |  | 27.8% |
| NO17 | Native oysters | Pressure management | Prevent disease spread and manage risks from restoration of fishery stocks. | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO18 | Native oysters | Pressure management | Improved management incl increase in minimum landing si ze | 0 |  | 0.0% |
| NO19 | Native oysters | Education & Awareness | Falmouth Poly are doing lots of films | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO20 | Native oysters | Education & Awareness | Cornwall Good Seafood Guide | 1 |  | 2.8% |
| NO21 | Native oysters | Education & Awareness | Increase understanding of the filtration benefits to water quality. | 1 |  | 2.8% |

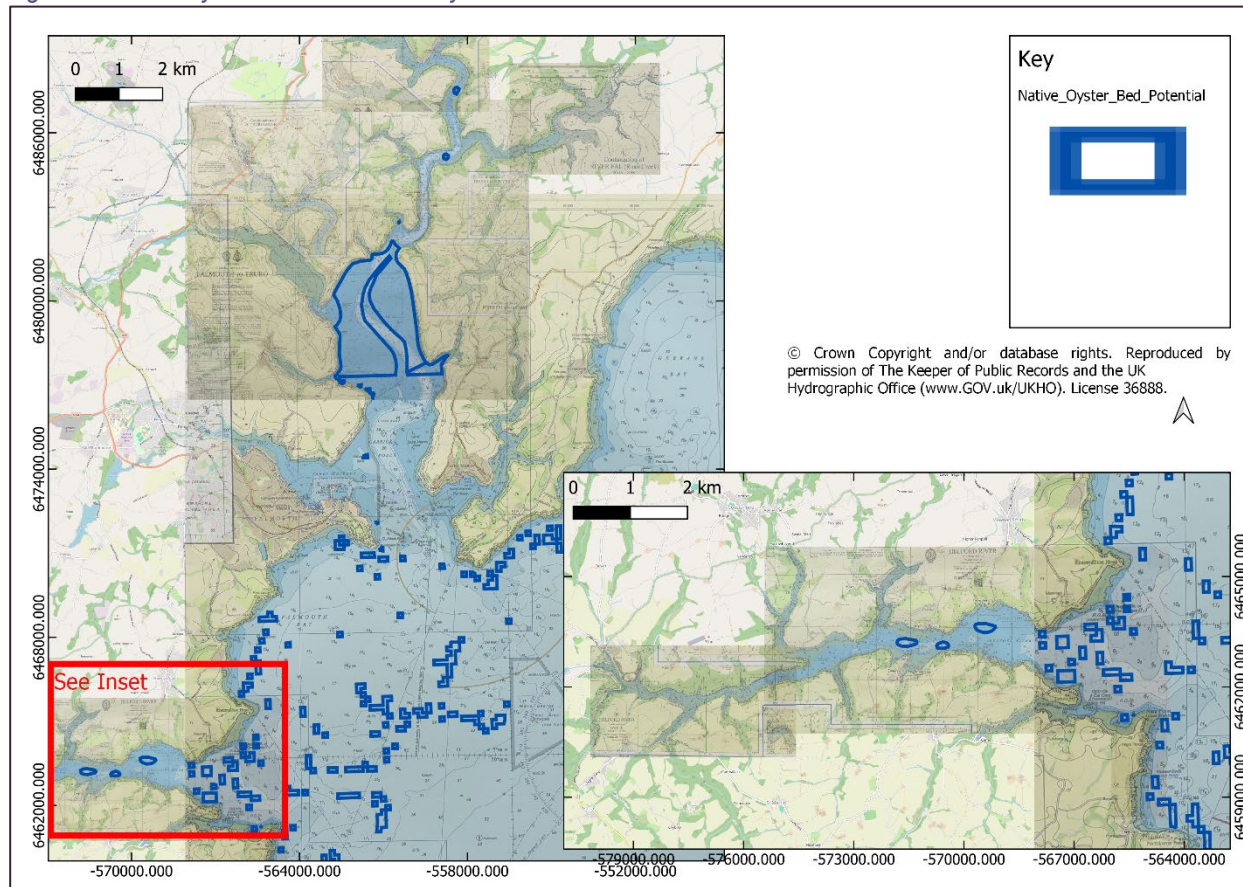
Comments/ Discussion: Need to ensure that education and awareness is included in all projects – that their impact is understood by the public.

Important to avoid existing oyster fishery for active restoration projects.

It was highlighted that licenses are needed to place shells onto the oyster beds – they do need to be dried to safeguard biosecurity. And that Blue Marine, in the Solent, have got round this by suspending them from cages. Mention was made that the shells have been placed in the Fal for centuries.

Mention was made of a Masters student who had done some work into the benefits of harrowing the oyster beds.

Figure 3: Native Oyster Potential Recovery Locations



Invasive Pacific Oysters

As mentioned, the importance of tackling the invasive Pacific Oysters was mentioned by many participants, and that over the last 3 years: 103,000 had been culled; 64 surveys had been carried out with 325 volunteers. Opportunities for recovery were identified as follows:

- introduce local bylaws to prevent the spread of Pacific oysters,
- raise awareness and introduce measures prevent their 'escape' from farms;
- carry out Pacific oyster surveys,
- active management & removal,
- control new Pacific oyster farms,
- work with Falmouth Marine Conservation Group to control them and remove them where appropriate.

Fish, Marine Mammals & seabirds

Cetaceans are frequent visitors to Falmouth Bay and Carrick Roads dolphins, common harbour porpoises, Risso's dolphins and even fin whales and tuna with reports of 44 fin whales seen in one week in August. Data on sightings are collected through the Seawatch and Seaquest as well as through the F-POD acoustic monitoring buoy. Increasing numbers of tuna are also being seen although basking shark numbers have declined. Seals are also present with popular haul-outs in the area for example at Black Rock.

Opportunities were identified as follows:

- Improved monitoring of cetaceans through the F-POD acoustic monitoring buoys;
- Improved monitoring through the citizen science programmes of Seawatch and Seaquest;
- Awareness and education programme to reduce disturbance incidents from people (both land-based for walkers with dogs as well as boat-based) to include updated WISE accreditation scheme for all wildlife operators.
- Further monitoring of seal haul-outs to be carried out with the Seal Research Trust.
- Improved net and pot marking in order to be able to identify fishing gear.
- Removal of ghost fishing gear to protect wildlife.

Table 4: Fish, marine mammals, and seabirds: potential restoration projects

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % | Comment |
|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|----------|-------|---|
| FMS01 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Research & Monitoring | Monitor cetaceans thru F-POD acoustic monitoring buoys. | | 0.0% | Discussion: There are F-Pods up Falmouth Creek, near King Harry Ferry, and there is also one up Carrick Roads. So there is regular data from 2020. The Marine Group has a project around acoustic data and their data is showing that cetaceans are going up there from Nov to March between dusk and dawn. All part of the Cetacean Acoustic Trend Tracking Project. Work being done on how best to showcase this being worked on by PhD students. |
| FMS02 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Research & Monitoring | Monitoring of seal haul-outs through Seal Research Trust. | | 0.0% | |
| FMS03 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Research & Monitoring | Monitoring thru Seawatch and Seaquest (links to Ed & Awareness) | 5 | 13.2% | |
| FMS04 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Research & Monitoring | Better research and monitoring of seabird data | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS05 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Research & Monitoring | CGSG Water User surveys to monitor activity that overlaps with marine life. | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS06 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Pressure management | Scheme to improve net and pot marking to identify fishing gear. | 2 | 5.3% | |
| FMS07 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Pressure management | Marine litter and removal of ghost fishing gear. | 6 | 15.8% | |
| FMS08 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Pressure management | Development of alternative bycatch mitigation technology | 2 | 5.3% | |
| FMS09 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Pressure management | Fishery management of improve food stocks and avoid bycatch. | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS10 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Pressure management | Water basin management to reduce pollutants entering the marine environment & reduce plastic pollution. | 3 | 7.9% | |
| FMS11 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Pressure management | Fisheries management to reflect seabird needs | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS12 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Pressure management | Impacts of static nets need to be better understood, monitored and managed. | 2 | 5.3% | |
| FMS13 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Education & Awareness | Awareness & education programme to reduce disturbance incidents for water users and land users incl dog-owners. | 6 | 15.8% | |
| FMS14 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Education & Awareness | Updated WISE accreditation scheme for al wildlife operators. | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS15 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Education & Awareness | Educate fishers and anglers on safe release methods for sharks & rays. | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS16 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Education & Awareness | If ecotourism is seen as an issue to wildlife disturbance and we can evidence that, then we could look at developing a permit system through a byelaw for accredited operators. | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS17 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Education & Awareness | FMG carry out Easter Shark Case hunts around education and monitoring. | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS18 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Education & Awareness | Raise awareness of Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code | 1 | 2.6% | |
| FMS19 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Education & Awareness | Improvement of enforcement and reporting of marine disturbance. | 2 | 5.3% | |
| FMS20 | Fish, Mammals & Seabir | Education & Awareness | MMO looking to develop a national MPA summary and wildlife disturbance webform to collect more data on both. With hope that it becomes citizen science project, but soft launch required over 3 years. | 1 | 2.6% | |

Recreational Boating Management

Unmanaged recreational boating can negatively impact in many ways on the species and habitats, both directly and indirectly. In terms of opportunities to address this, there were many that were identified through the workshop, some of which are site specific and others are more general:

- Removal of old abandoned boats, particularly in the upper creeks where they are slowly disintegrating resulting in GRP pollution as well as other pollutants, particularly in Polwheveral Creek, Porth Navas Creek, Penryn River, Mylor Creek, Restronguet Creek. This was seen to be an increasing problem. These are mapped and shown on Figure 4 and listed in Table 6: Upper estuary restoration opportunities.
- Improved management of boat hire, to include the requirement for a license with some wildlife accreditation or voluntary awareness programme, especially on where and how to anchor.
- Further WISE accreditation for all wildlife operators to reduce wildlife disturbance.
- Further river patrols by recreation rangers to other areas outside of Helford.

Discussion: Where there is evidence that boat operators are causing disturbance or contributing to it, then the MMO could look at whether a bylaw would be necessary – this would need to be evidenced before they could consider it. There is also national funding available with the MMO for a recording platform in MPAs and marine disturbance, so it is hoped that this could tie in with citizen science. There is a steering group for this – CWT to check whether someone from CWT is on it. MMO will need to do a soft launch to test the amount of data that is generated.

Table 5: Recreational boating management opportunities

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|----------|-------|
| RB01 | Recreational Boating | Research & Monitoring | CGSG (Cornwall Good Seafood Guide) Water Users Surveys | 3 | 8.6% |
| RB02 | Recreational Boating | Pressure management | Pumping out enforcement | 1 | 2.9% |
| RB03 | Recreational Boating | Pressure management | Convert sailing marks to AMS and use MarkSet bots for race marks. | 2 | 5.7% |
| RB04 | Recreational Boating | Pressure management | Removal of old abandoned boats in upper creeks. See Uppe | 8 | 22.9% |
| RB05 | Recreational Boating | Pressure management | Improved management of boat hire; to include wildlife accreditation or voluntary awareness programme and even basic boat handling. | 3 | 8.6% |
| RB06 | Recreational Boating | Pressure management | WISE accreditation for all wildlife operators to reduce wildlife disturbance. Consider limiting the numbers of ecotourism businesses. | 3 | 8.6% |
| RB07 | Recreational Boating | Pressure management | Links to Seagrass actions. | | 0.0% |
| RB08 | Recreational Boating | Pressure management | Better enforcement and awareness of marine disturbance and how to avoid causing it. | 3 | 8.6% |
| RB09 | Recreational Boating | Education & Awareness | Further river patrols by recreation rangers to other areas outside of Helford | 5 | 14.3% |
| RB10 | Recreational Boating | Education & Awareness | Comprehensive engagement programme with all recreational users incl paddleboarders. | 4 | 11.4% |
| RB11 | Recreational Boating | Education & Awareness | The sailing clubs have environmental talks over winter, these include seagrass and marine disturbance. Is it the same for rowing clubs? | 1 | 2.9% |
| RB12 | Recreational Boating | Education & Awareness | Putting together an environmental plan for race-sailing in Falmouth. | 2 | 5.7% |

Upper Estuarine, Reedbed, Saltmarsh and SSSI sites

There was much discussion about how little monitoring is carried out on the upper estuarine SSSIs (see Appendix for information on the condition assessment monitoring), and for the potential to carry out restoration works on the reedbeds and saltmarshes. The work included:

- Further regeneration at Sailors Creek (near Flushing) to include installation of reedbed walkway, filtering of grey water and other restoration works through the Sailors Creek CIC.
- Removal of abandoned boats (see previous) to prevent pollution.
- The need to explore further compensatory habitat to offset losses caused by climate change.

Opportunities for Boscawen Park for restoration as part of work being undertaken for the Truro Loops project and replacement of flood defences to include reedbed restoration and native oyster beds which could be beneficial for erosion and flood protection, particularly in the face of increasing impacts from climate change. See the New York project that uses shells to help restore oyster beds with flood erosion benefits and using community engagement for implementation ([Oyster Reefs — Billion Oyster Project](#)).

These key sites have been identified on Figure 4 map and the list of projects are shown in the table.

Figure 4: Other Opportunities (Reedbed / saltmarsh and abandoned boat removals)

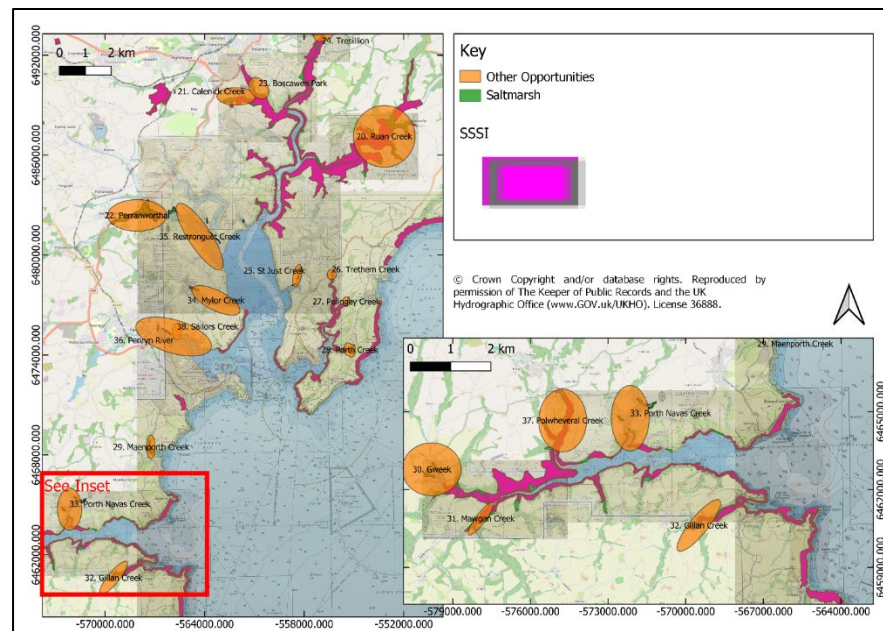


Table 6: Upper estuary restoration opportunities

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % |
|--------|------------------|---------------------|---|----------|-------|
| UE01 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Ruan Creek - reedbed restoration | 4 | 28.6% |
| UE02 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Calenick Creek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | 1 | 7.1% |
| UE03 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Perranworthal - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE04 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Boscawen Park - reedbeds and potential oyster bed restoration | 1 | 7.1% |
| UE05 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Tresillion - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE06 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | St Just Creek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE07 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Trethem Creek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE08 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Polingey Creek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE09 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Porth creek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE10 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Maenporth Creek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE11 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Gweek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | 1 | 7.1% |
| UE12 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Mawgan Creek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE13 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Gillian Creek - Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |
| UE14 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Port Navas Creek - remove abandoned boats | 1 | 7.1% |
| UE15 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Mylor Creek - remove abandoned boats | 1 | 7.1% |
| UE16 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Restronguet Creek - remove abandoned boats | 2 | 14.3% |
| UE17 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Penryn River - remove abandoned boats | 1 | 7.1% |
| UE18 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Polwheveral Creek - remove abandoned boats | 2 | 14.3% |
| UE19 | Upper Estuaries | Active restoration | Sailors Creek- Reedbed / saltmarsh restoration | | 0.0% |

Water Quality, resilience, and whole site management









There were many opportunities related to improving water quality and given the way in which water quality underpins the health of the marine and coastal environment, such projects would lead to improvements in many species and habitats as well as human health. For whole site management, projects were identified around improving habitats through restoration techniques, adopting a whole site approach and also to build resilience from climate change and flooding:

Projects included:

- Upstream thinking/ inland working / Source to Sea project to increase awareness of surface water runoff and actions to reduce pollution entering, including yellow fish markers on surface water drains in urban areas along with awareness campaign, links to Catchment Partnership to reduce agricultural runoff and reduction in combined sewer outfall discharges.
- Improved monitoring especially through citizen science to measure changes to water quality, potentially linked to monitoring buoys and working with West Country Rivers Trust.
- Broader awareness programme to increase understanding of catchment and links to the water for young people.
- EA to continue shoreline evaluation for shoreline realignment to identify habitat creation sites: saline lagoon / mudflats/ saltmarsh / reefs etc.
- Look at creating a new reserve / restoration test site at The Bizzies using a whole site approach and testing active restoration techniques such as artificial reefs for oysters;
- Adopting a 'whole site approach' for integrated management for all the key species, habitats, and designations within the Fal and Helford study area in order to deliver multiple benefits including fisheries and the local economy.
- Testing 'living sea wall tiles' within the harbours and using them to raise awareness.

There was cross-over with habitat creation, particularly through oyster beds or the use of oyster shells to help with water quality. The New York Oyster Reefs Project is a good example of where this has delivered interesting results Oyster Reefs — Billion Oyster Project. Also, Fal Harbour are using drones to monitor spills. IFCA has used drones to monitor crab tiles.

Table 7: Water quality and whole site management opportunities

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % | Comment |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|----------|---|--|
| WRW01 | Water Quality, Resilience | Whole site | Upstream thinking / inland working / source to sea actions | 7 |  38.9% | Could include actions to reduce pollution entering; yellow fish markers in urban |
| WRW02 | Water Quality, Resilience | Whole site | Resilience and whole site management | 1 |  5.6% | |
| WRW03 | Water Quality, Resilience | Whole site | Adopting a 'whole site approach' for integrated management for all of the key species, habitats and | 3 |  16.7% | |
| WRW04 | Water Quality, Resilience | Research & Monitoring | Improved monitoring especially thru citizen science, buoys and working with West Country Rivers Trust | 2 |  11.1% | Government water quality does/should not rely on citizen science. |
| WRW05 | Water Quality, Resilience | Research & Monitoring | Smart ports, clean waters project. Years worth of water quality monitoring already underway. | |  0.0% | |
| WRW06 | Water Quality, Resilience | Active Restoration | Explore creating a new reserve / restoration test site at The Bizzies using a whole site approach and testing active restoration techniques such as artificial reefs for oysters | 3 |  16.7% | |
| WRW07 | Water Quality, Resilience | Active Restoration | Testing 'living sea wall tiles' within the harbours and their use to raise awareness. | 2 |  11.1% | There is funding available for a couple of these. |
| WRW08 | Water Quality, Resilience | Education & Awareness | Broader awareness programme to increase understanding of catchment and links to the water for young people. | |  0.0% | |

Public awareness & education

Public awareness was seen as critical, with a need to improve understanding to drive behaviour change and build a stronger sense of stewardship to the marine environment:

- Engagement action plan to bring in the wider community, working with the SAC working group, NE, harbours, and the Fal Marine Conservation Group.
- Using rockpool rambles and snorkel safaris to raise awareness.
- Comprehensive engagement with boat users to ensure they understand and value the seagrass and support the anchoring and mooring controls.

Table 8: Public awareness & education opportunities

| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % | Comment |
|--------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------|-------|--|
| AE01 | Public Awareness & education | | Rockpool rambles & snorkel safaris to raise awareness | 1 | 7.1% | |
| AE02 | Public Awareness & education | | Engagement action plan to bring in the wider community, working with the SAC working group, NE, harbours & Fal MCG as well as terrestrial groups and adjacent marine conservation groups. | 3 | 21.4% | Schools are becoming more difficult to engage with as resources are tighter. |
| AE03 | Public Awareness & education | | Comprehensive engagement with boat users to ensure they understand and value the seagrass and support the anchoring and mooring controls. | 1 | 7.1% | |
| AE04 | Public Awareness & education | | Importance of citizen science to support all work plus robust data collection. | 3 | 21.4% | |
| AE05 | Public Awareness & education | | Smart monitoring programme, especially for sites which have poor regimes such as SSSI. Making use of data being collected. | 3 | 21.4% | Strong link between monitoring and public awareness & education. |
| AE06 | Public Awareness & education | | More accessible public talks. | 2 | 14.3% | |
| AE07 | Public Awareness & education | | Social media to engage with younger generation. | 1 | 7.1% | |

Discussion:

There are strong community groups and these are key; and that they almost need a section for themselves.

Monitoring and data gaps

Monitoring came through repeatedly and has already been picked up in many of the themes above. However, it is worth picking them up again here for completeness:

- The importance of a citizen science project, linked to the Shoresearch, Seaquest and Seasearch programmes, potentially with easier apps to be developed for people to input their data and to link to site management.
- Smart monitoring programme, especially for sites which have poor monitoring regimes such as SSSIs and using monitoring buoys and F-PODs for acoustics.

Participants were also asked to identify subject areas for which more data is needed:

1. Mining impacts from all mining activities on water quality in the whole area.
2. The status of the SSSIs were unknown due to lack of monitoring so more research was needed on these.
3. The impact of the ReMEDIES project to include boating activities, how boaters interact with seagrass and monitoring into the impact of the wider project on the seagrass and whether there is any regrowth.
4. More research to show how people are connecting with nature.
5. Water quality data generally e.g. through monitoring with buoys to also live data on turbidity which could potentially be carried out through Falmouth Marine Conservation Group, Falmouth Harbour, Natural England, University of Exeter, and West Country Rivers Trust.
6. More research was called for into cetaceans using acoustic monitoring such as with 'F-PODs' which monitor the presence and activity of dolphins, porpoises, and other toothed whales.
7. Monitoring of sea haul-outs and seal disturbance working with the Seal Research Trust.
8. More research was called for in Gerrans Bay, particularly as there is not an active Your Shore group in the area.
9. More citizen science research was called for generally, particularly using Shoresearch, Seaquest and Seasearch.
10. More monitoring of maerl seagrass beds through Seasearch volunteers.
11. Environment Agency to carry out more shoreline evaluation for potential habitat creation sites especially saline lagoons, mudflats, saltmarsh, reefs etc.
12. More research was needed into the acceptability of artificial structures for recovery to include acceptance levels amongst the public and ease of licensing.
13. More research around the use of crushed shells to create native oyster friendly habitats in the upper Carrick Roads and to understand the distances of spat fall in order to best locate artificial reefs.

Table 9: Monitoring and data gaps opportunities

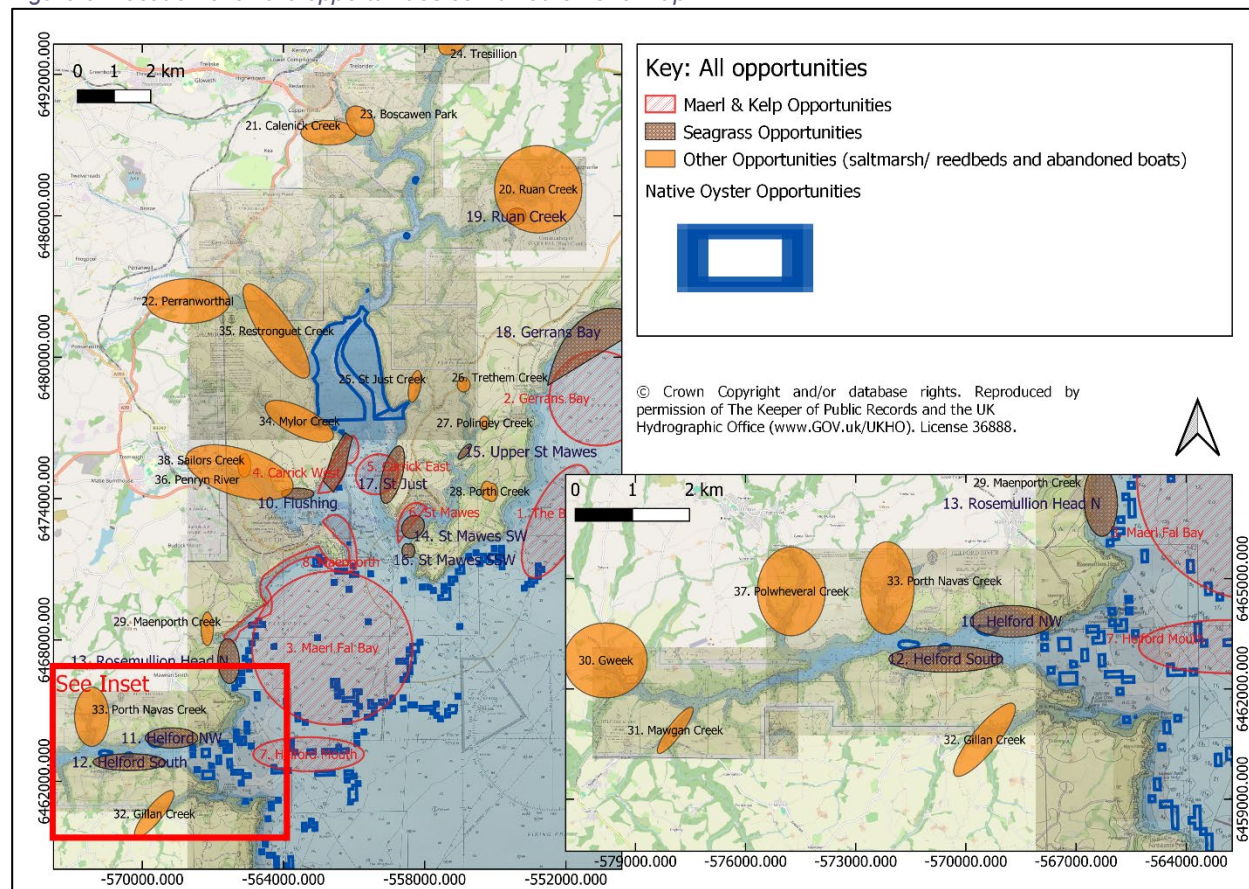
| Ref No | Priority Feature | Type of restoration | Activity | No Votes | % | Comment |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------|--|----------|-------|--|
| MD01 | Monitoring & Data Gaps | Citizen science | The importance of citizen science projects linked to the Shoresearch, Seaquest and Seasearch programmes' potentially with easier apps to be developed for people to input their data and to link to site management. To include input from recreational boats. | 4 | 44.4% | There are opportunities around using an online reporting app for boat disturbance. |
| MD02 | Monitoring & Data Gaps | Monitoring | Smart monitoring programme, especilly for sites which have poor regimes such as SSSI and using monitoring buoys and F-PODs for acoustics monitoring and rovs. | 4 | 44.4% | |
| MD03 | Monitoring & Data Gaps | Monitoring | Review whole list to identify all needs. | 1 | 11.1% | |

Discussion: Members expressed concern around enforcement of bylaws and marine legislation where it can be difficult to know who and how to report matters in order to see enforcement action being undertaken.

Summary of Opportunities

The comprehensive list of opportunities listed above provide the means to deliver some real marine and coastal nature recovery, through a range of actions and interventions and are shown combined on Figure 5. This long list will now need further refining as part of the next stage before it can be adopted and plans put in place to further develop the projects.

Figure 5: Location of all the opportunities combined on one map



APPENDIX VI: LIST OF ALL FAL AND HELFORD SAC RECREATION MITIGATION PROJECTS

Under planning obligations, certain developments are required to make contributions to the “Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS) in order to manage the otherwise increased recreational pressures on the Fal and Helford SAC arising from the new housing.

The following lists the current agreed projects to be funded:

| Projects | SAMMS Requirements |
|----------|--|
| 1. | Patrol / Estuary Officer Water based patrols in addition to current harbour authority patrols to look at use of anchoring areas and recreational usage. Educational Workshops for marine / boat club etc operators. SAC awareness to increase the public awareness and appreciation of the Fal and Helford SAC, why it was designated, what is special about it, how users’ activities could potentially impact on the SAC features etc. |
| 2. | Writing / designing signs Material cost of sign and installation Working to signposting people away from sensitive areas, combined with interpretative material providing information about the sensitive areas that they were being directed away from, for example voluntary no anchor zones; codes of conduct/practice. |
| 3. | Production of Signs Material cost of sign and installation. Signs to be renewed every five years. |
| 4. | Writing and printing codes of conduct Voluntary codes of conduct to be developed for various recreational activities that occur in and around the Fal and Helford SAC, as has been done in other sites. Zoning could be included as part of the code of conduct, which could direct people away from certain activities depending on the location of sensitive habitats. |
| 5. | Buoys Putting out buoys around no anchor zones. |

| | |
|----|--|
| 6. | Beach cleans Cost to have materials collected disposed of for NEW beach cleans. |
| 7. | Monitoring Early establishment of baseline data and survey methodology for monitoring the site. Visual monitoring of the SAC (every 5 years) to include visitor habits, anchoring locations, site uses, use and success of signs. Visitor Surveys (every 5 years) to gauge visitor number changes, use of the site, use and success of signs and awareness training & events. Monitoring of ecological features of the SAC and its condition including mapping of sensitive areas to identify no anchor zones. |