

Press Release from Marinet Community Marine Network.

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House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee- Marine Protected Areas.

Although mentioned in despatches, Marinet's concept of employing co-location to deliver more marine conservation zones (MCZ/MPA) did not make it into the Committee's Recommendation list.

Note: co-location is where marine reserves exist in conjunction with other licensed uses of the sea.

As Journalists you should be able to ask why, when this happens de facto anyway around wind farm networks and oil and gas platform fields.

This was an opportunity to increase the protected areas within our territorial seas by about 20%. It would have created a real partnership between marine industries, conservation objectives and NGOs. However everyone involved is being too precious, and meanwhile the need to protect our marine environment is being ignored according to leading marine scientist Professor Callum Roberts.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jun/17/england-marine-conservation-zones>

To really understand the opportunities for co-location consult OSPAR Commission Quality Status Report 2010 ratified by Defra Minister Richard Benyon at the Ministers Conference Bergen 2010.

<http://qsr2010.ospar.org/en/index.html> . Look at:

Page 64 : Gas and Oil Fields 2009 map.

Page 93 : Figure 9.1 Shipping Traffic .

Page 102 : Figure 9.7 Wind Farms 2009.

Page 104 Figure 9.8 Subsea Cables.

Page 108 Figure 9.10 Sand and Gravel Extraction, and

Page 113 Figure 9.12 Dumped Munitions .

Overlay each map, and it will become clear which parts of the sea lend themselves to natural and common sense areas where MCZs could be actioned.

The questions are:

- Why is this not a part of the Env. Audit Committee's Recommendation list?
- Why does the urgent need for conservation not place this concept front and centre?
- Why was the Env. Audit Committee so inadequately briefed that it did not question the Minister about the benefits of co-location ?

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