

From: Kirsty Lindenbaum
Sent: 03 March 2011 08:41
To: George, Louise (ESH - ECM)
Cc: Kirsten Ramsay; Natasha Lough
Subject: Further comments on ecological guidance

Hi Louise,

We have looked again at the paragraph on size in the ecological guidance. Our view is that setting a minimum site size can and should be based on best available evidence, which suggests that 5km square is the smallest size at which you would expect to accrue biodiversity benefits within an MPA. This is already reflected in the proposed approach to stages 1 and 2 with supporting text on p47 ' This 5 km2 minimum site is based on evidence from published research regarding larval dispersal and from other temperate marine reserves (Barrett et al. 2009, Kelly et al. 2000, Roberts et al. 2010, Shanks et al. 2003, Willis et al. 2000) '.

On the other hand it is appropriate that the maximum site size will be more influenced by socio-economic interests, which are clearly built in to the MCZ Project Wales process and will therefore influence the outcome of the sites that are ultimately chosen, including their size. Beyond our view that a minimum size should be set at 5km2 we think the existing wording in the guidance is appropriate as is WAGs response on this issue.

Happy to discuss further,

Kirsty