



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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To: MPs in coastal constituencies close to
proposed new Marine Conservation Zones

Dear Colleague

Consultation on the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones

I am writing to tell you about the consultation on the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones.

The UK is surrounded by some of the richest and most diverse sea life in the world. Our seas are also an integral part of our history, economy and way of life. The UK is at the forefront in marine conservation. These Marine Conservation Zones will help protect areas of our seas that are important for the diversity of our sea life, particularly where it is rare or threatened, delivering on our Manifesto commitment to “conserve the marine environment off the coast of the United Kingdom”.

This third and final tranche will substantially complete our ecologically-coherent network of protected areas around our coasts. The first tranche of 27 Marine Conservation Zones was announced in 2013, a further 23 sites were added in 2016 and we are now consulting on 41 sites.

This public consultation is an opportunity for any further comments and evidence on the benefits or impacts of the sites to be provided to Defra ahead of final decisions. Please encourage your constituents to take part in the consultation which is being launched on the Defra website today, Friday 8th June.

If you wish to discuss the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones further, I would be happy to meet in person to do so.

With best wishes,

DAVID RUTLEY MP