



## **Natura 2000 at Sea**

# **Draft Special Areas of Conservation**

# Introduction

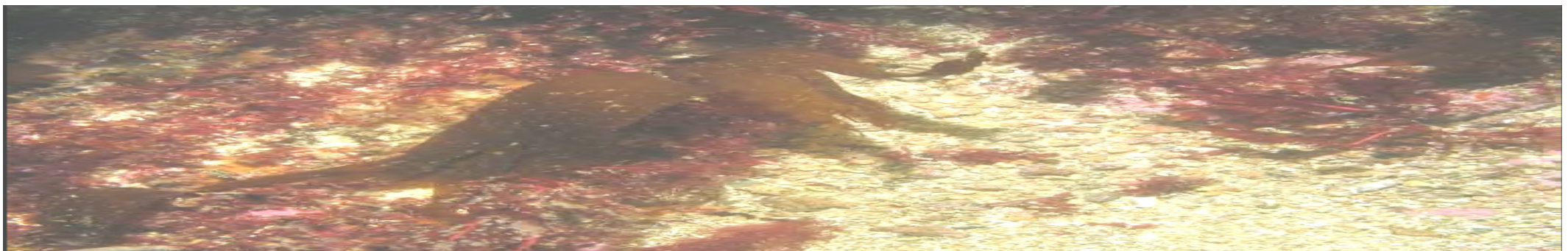
- Draft Special Areas of Conservation (dSAC)
- Poole Bay to Lyme Bay draft Special Area of Conservation – overview
- Conservation objectives & potential management measures
- What the Poole Bay to Lyme Bay dSAC means for marine spatial planning in Dorset



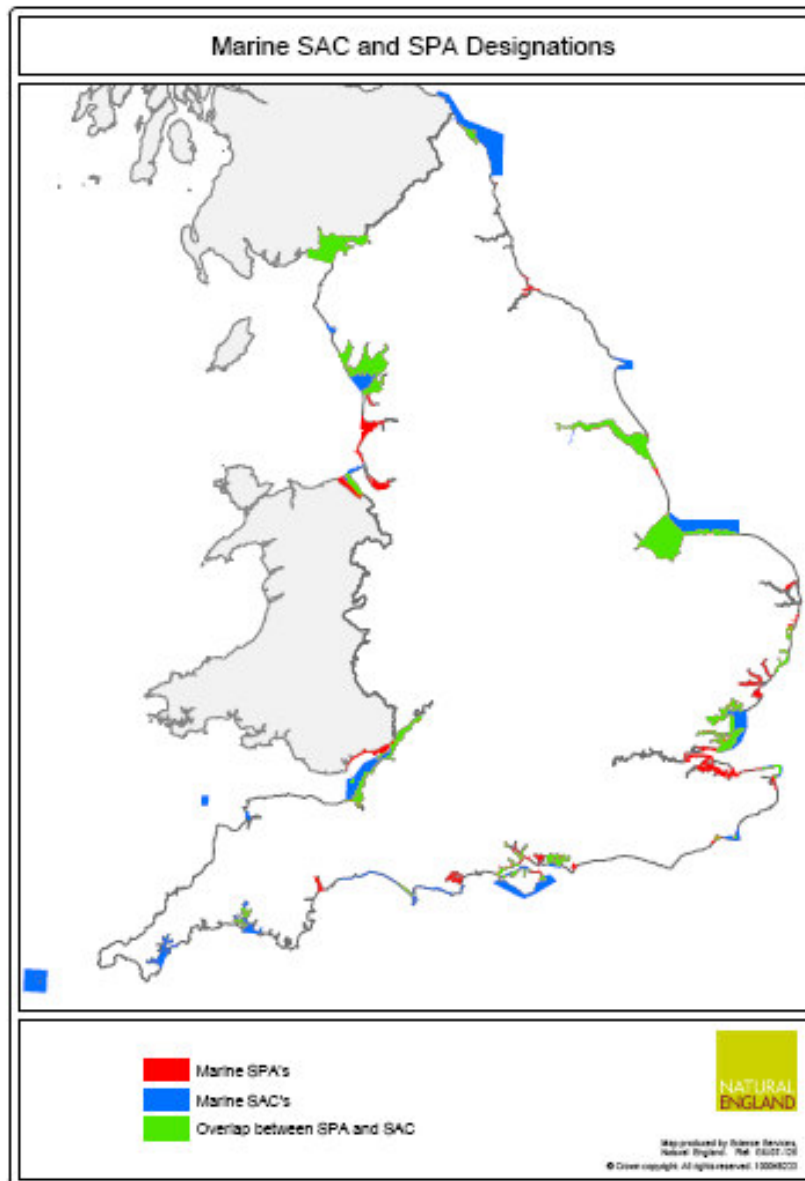
# Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)



- Designation under the Habitats Directive to help protect Europe's diverse wildlife.
- Protects certain habitats, including reefs, sandbanks and seacaves in non coastal waters.
- Natural England will recommend to government 4 marine SACs in the southwest
- Proposals will be formally consulted on in November 2009, but currently want to explain reasons for site selection and discuss potential impacts.



# England's current MPAs



- **8 % English inshore waters** covered by **SACs / SPA sites** (i.e. 0-12 nm zone).
- Considerable intertidal and coastal areas designated **SSSIs**.
- One '**highly protected site**' (**0.002%** of the 0-200 nm zone) – Lundy.
- The UK has around **2% of sea area protected** (i.e. 0-200 nm zone).

# Why are we doing this?

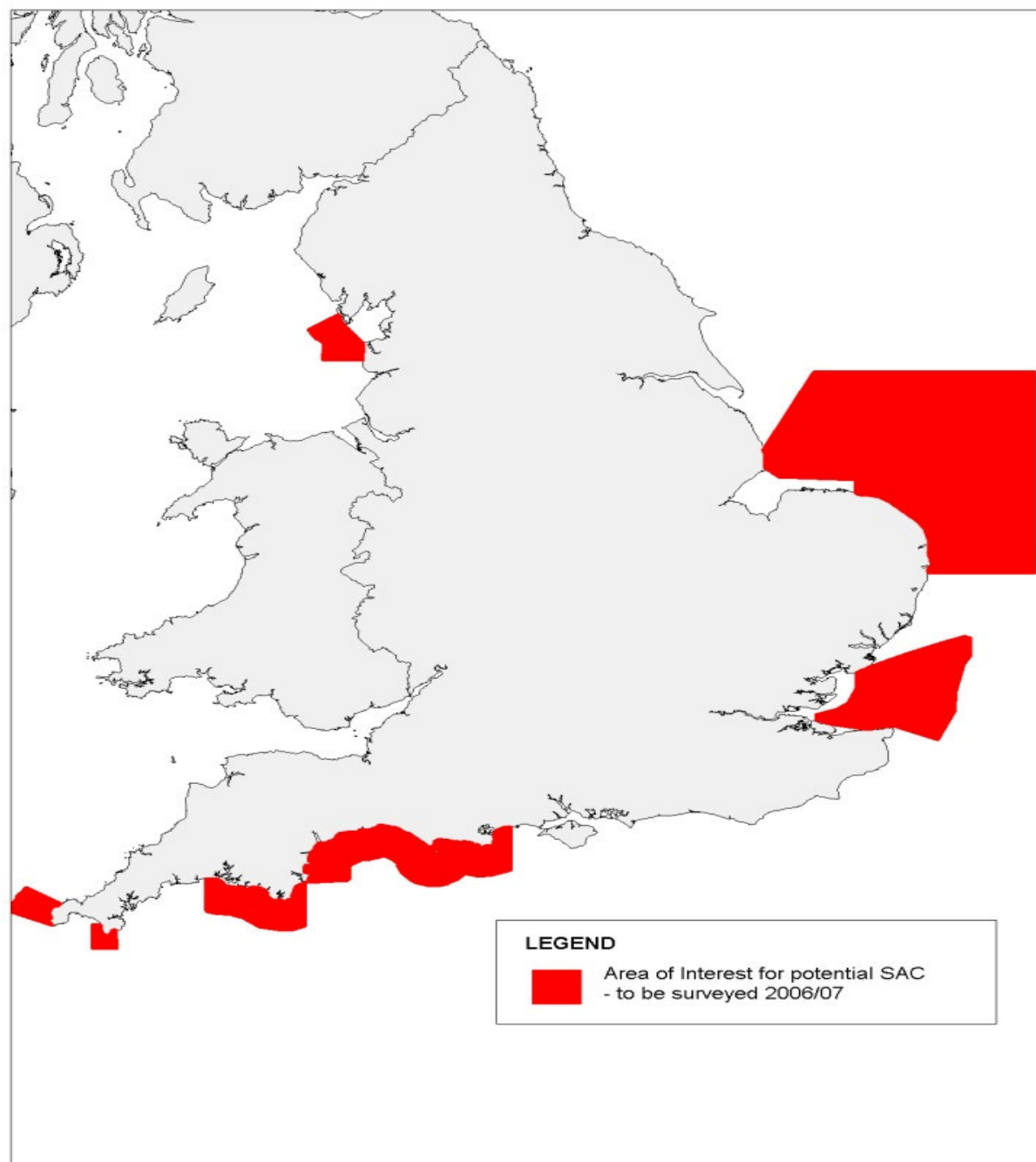


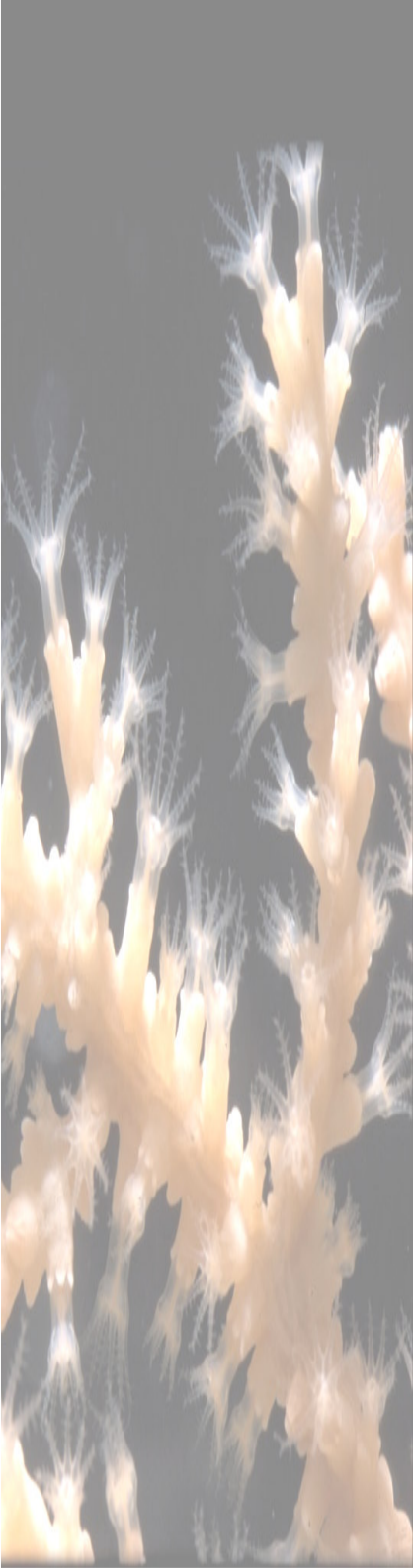
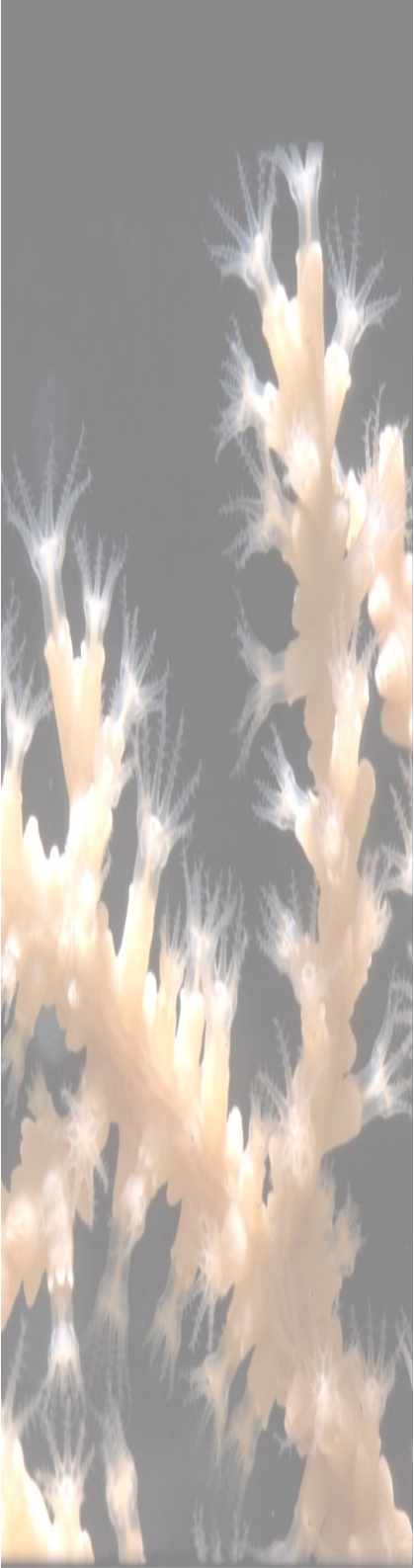
- European Commission 1992 Habitats and Species Directive requires Member States to identify and manage Special Areas of Conservation.
- Implemented in UK by 1994 Habitats Regulations.
- Most current sites are 'coastal marine', e.g. Fal & Helford SAC.
- 1999 successful Greenpeace challenge re: Darwin Mounds – member states must identify SACs across the whole of territorial waters.
- European Commission advised UK Government that present coverage was inadequate.
- UK Government requested Natural England (and JNCC) to identify and recommend further qualifying areas.



# Draft SAC site selection process

NATURAL  
ENGLAND





# **Poole Bay to Lyme Bay draft Special Area of Conservation**



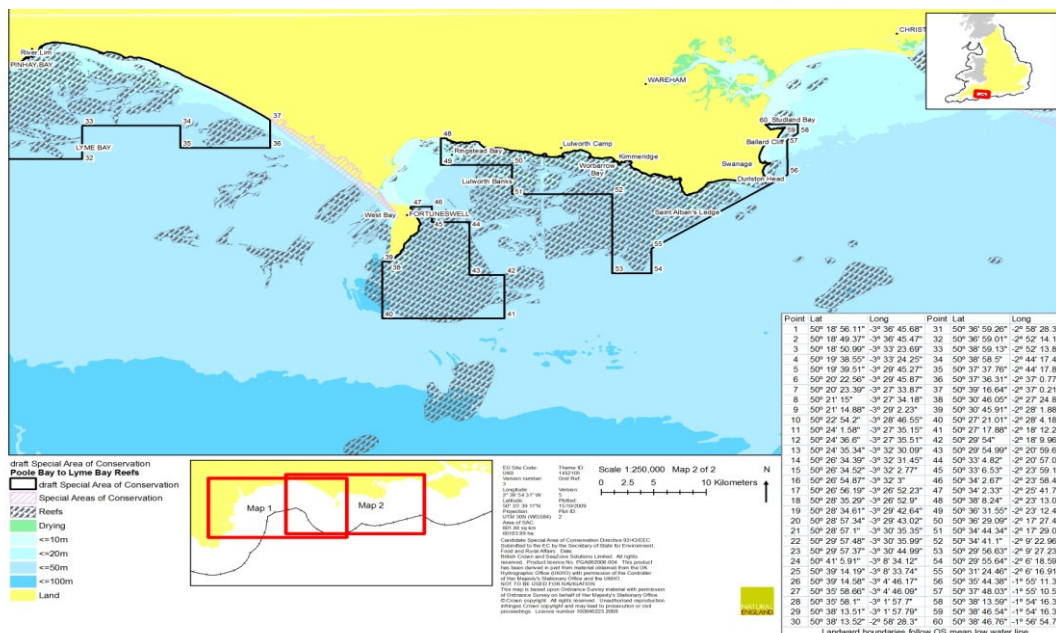
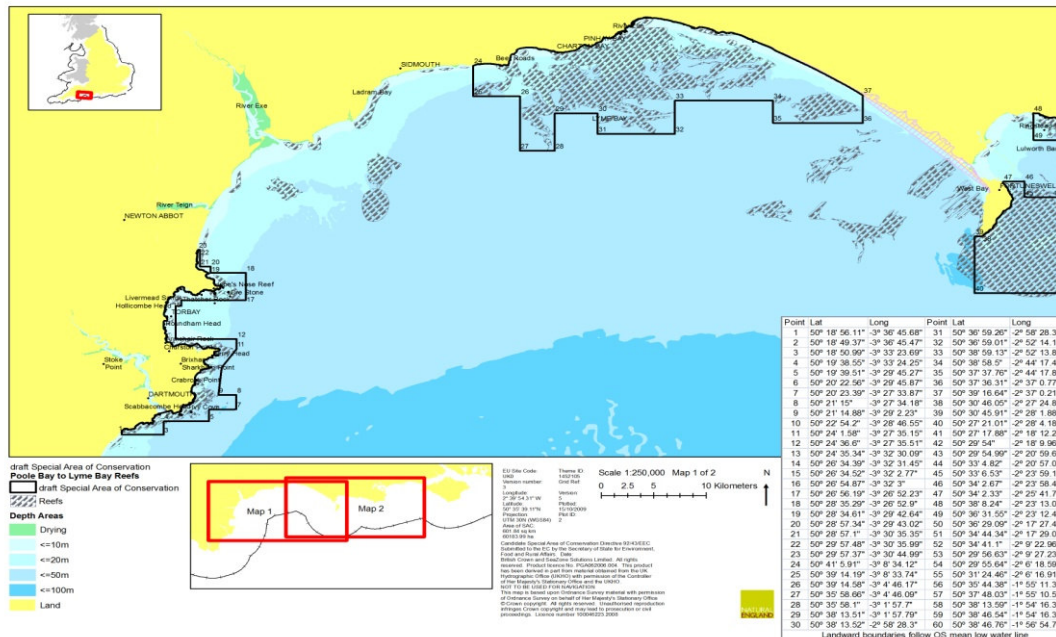


# Poole Bay to Lyme Bay dSAC



## OVERVIEW

- Size of dSAC = 60183.99 ha / 601.8 km<sup>2</sup>
- 4 mosaic areas within dSAC:
- Studland Bay to Ringstead Bay
- Portland
- Lyme Bay
- Watcombe to Dartmouth
- Designated for reefs & sea caves



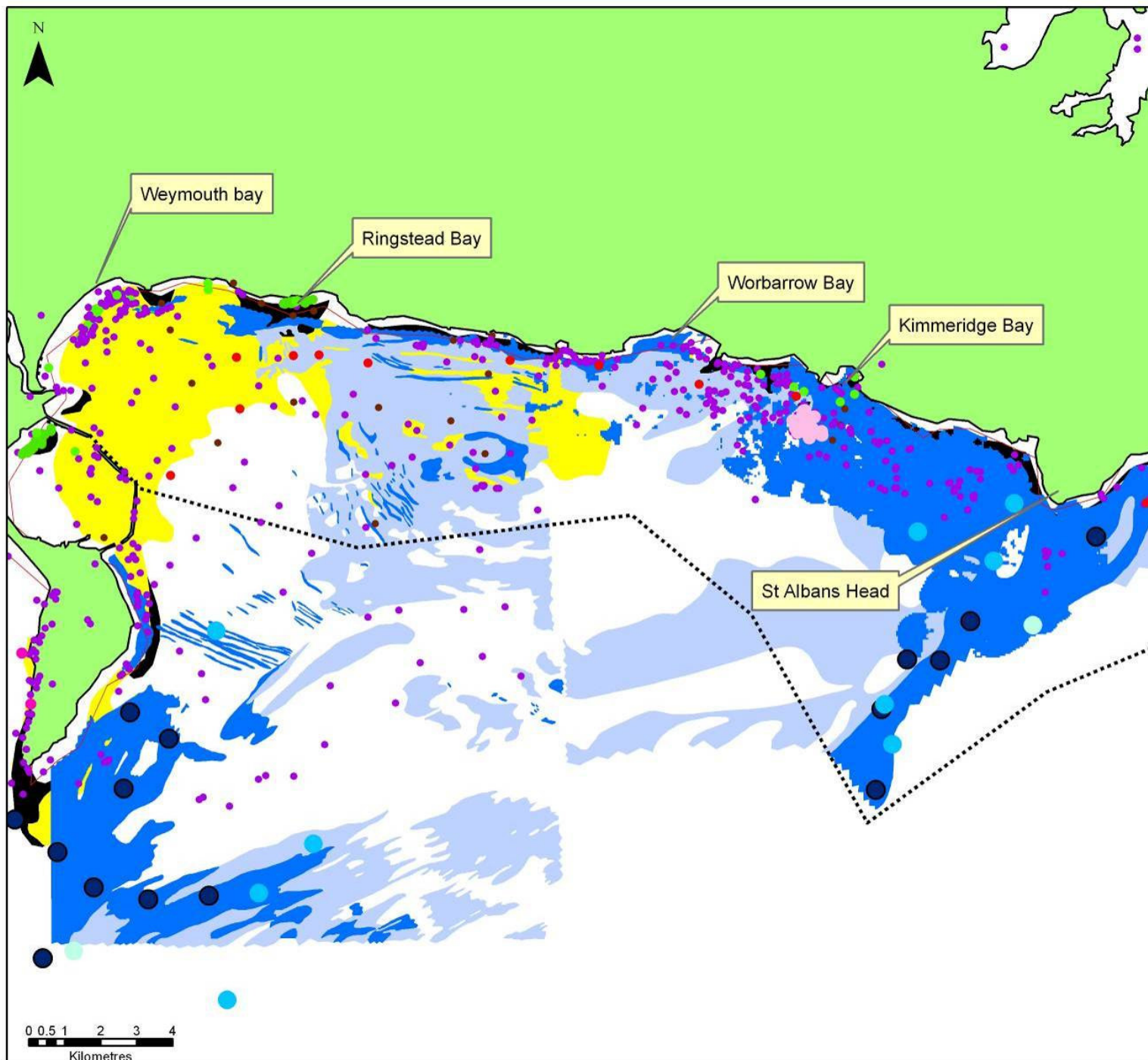


Figure: 6.7a  
Title: PL05 Weymouth to Southbourne

#### Legend

- Bedrock reef (2008 video)
- Bedrock & stony reef (2008 video)
- Stony reef (2008 video)
- Seagrass (diver record)
- Maeri (diver record)
- Mussel beds
- Brittlestar beds
- Diver survey
- Trawl survey
- Grab sample
- Seagrass bed
- reef (acoustic data)
- Rock & Gravel (acoustic data)
- Reef (BGS data)
- Sand <20m (BGS data)
- Area of Interest
- Area of Search
- Land

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Not to be used for Navigation

Created: Peter Gaches

Checked: Mat Cork

Projection: WGS 84, UTM Zone 30N

Date: 15.01.2008

File Ref: I/9S0282/techdata/mxd/  
survey coverage\_PL05a

Data Source: DBRC, BGS, marine  
bioimages, ERT, DWT, DERC



# Poole Bay to Lyme Bay Site Overview



Pink sea fan courtesy of Keith Hiscock

- Several types of reef present
- High biodiversity
- Many key reef species, and several rare / scarce species (large colonies of pink sea fans)
- Video records = high habitat complexity
- Extensive biogenic reefs
  - *Mytilus edulis* beds
  - *Sabellaria spp.* reefs
  - Brittlestar beds
- Reef habitat is mostly well conserved
- Some damage (Pink Sea Fans)



# **What does the Poole Bay to Lyme Bay dSAC mean for Dorset's marine spatial planning?**





# Conservation Objectives



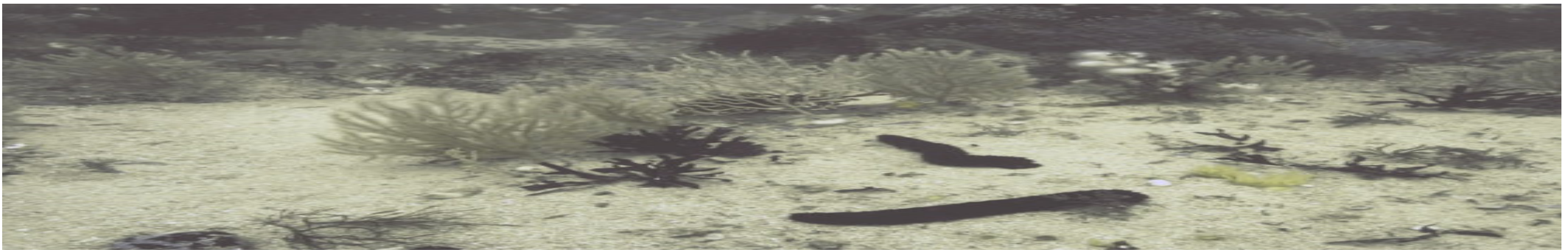
- Conservation Regulations 1994 transpose Habitats Directive into British law
- NE has a statutory responsibility to advise on conservation objectives
- Conservation objectives are the starting point from which management schemes may be developed
- Set out what needs to be achieved for the site to deliver the aims of the Habitats Directive
- Advice on operations – nature and extent of operations
- Draft documents available to download:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/sacconsultation/default.aspx>

# Site management



- No management measures are finalised – depends on input from competent and relevant authorities, and a better understanding of activities in the sites and what may be needed.
- NE advise on the environmental outcome of a measure, but don't pick the management measure
- If an activity does not have / is not having a significant effect on the interest features or their typical species (alone or in combination with other activities) then there should be no need to put a management measure in place to control it. But may need to cap effort at existing level.



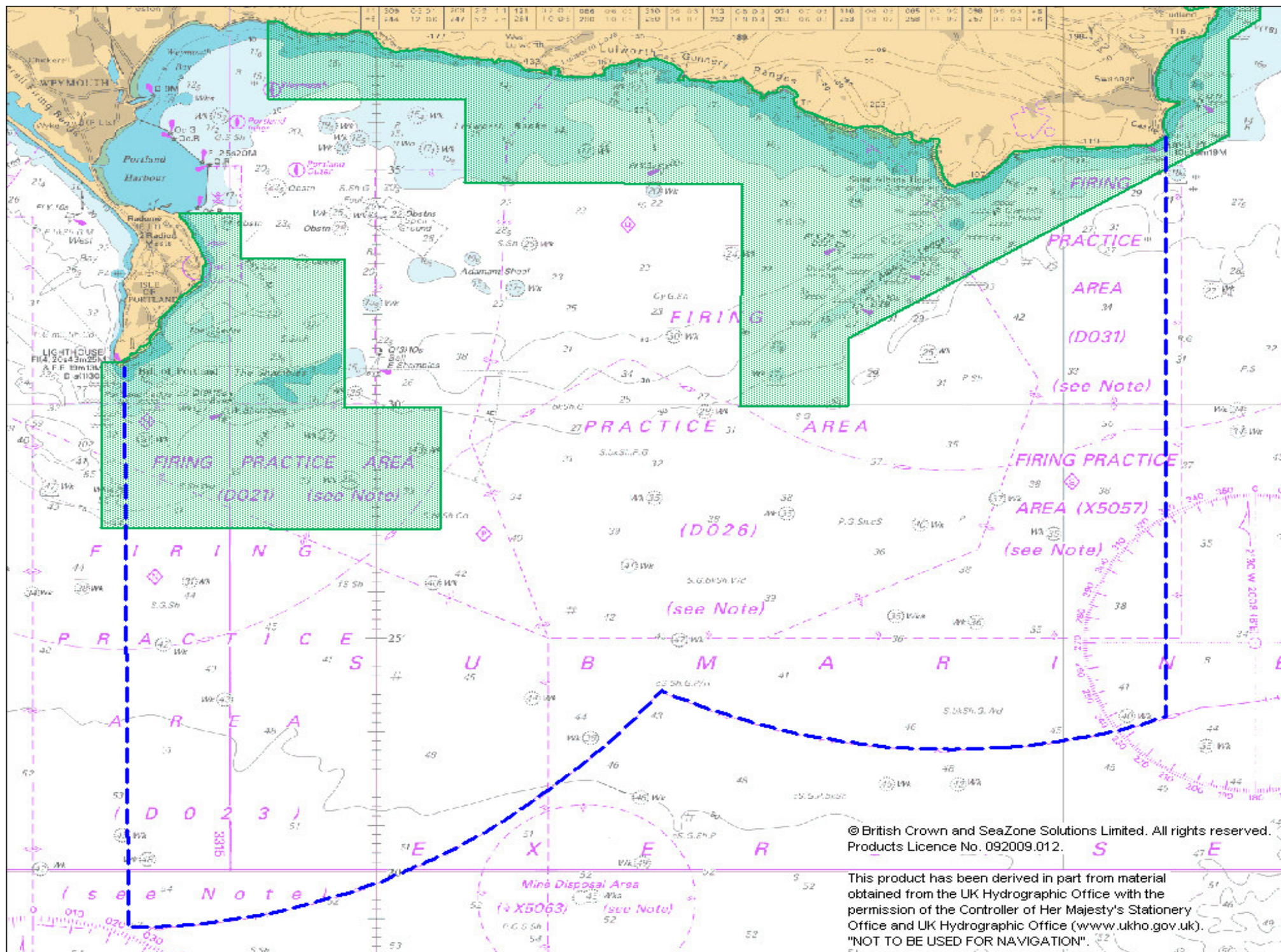


## Integration of dSAC and Dorset MSP



- The dSAC is not a no go area
- Activities should be able to carry on as long as they are not damaging the reefs & sea caves





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## Integration of dSAC and Dorset MSP



- The dSAC is not a no go area
- Activities should be able to carry on as long as they are not damaging the reefs & sea caves
- Marine Spatial Plan & the management measures for the dSAC should both ensure this
- Marine Spatial Plan has potential to identify win: win situations by providing for activities restricted in the dSAC, elsewhere in the marine management area

## Key contacts within Natural England



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