

Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Relevant Authority Group (RAG) Progress Report 2010

1. Introduction

The Relevant Authorities for the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) launched their agreed management scheme for the site in August 2008. This is the first public Relevant Authority Group (RAG) report since that time.

Although there is an agreement in the SAC action plan to update stakeholders annually on site condition and management, there was so little information to hand in 2009 that it was decided to leave reporting until 2010. In addition, the SAC Officer had only just returned from maternity leave, and the advent of the Marine and Coastal Access Act in November 2009 signalled many changes for marine environmental management in the UK. This report therefore covers the period August 2008 to Dec 2010.

Noteworthy Legislative Changes

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009. The main provisions within the Act include:

- * Providing a statutory system of marine spatial planning – so that the sea has a planning system as well as the terrestrial environment;
- * Powers for the Welsh Assembly Government to protect important habitats and species by creating Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).
- * New powers for the Welsh Assembly Government to manage fisheries in Welsh waters. (The South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee became amalgamated with the Welsh Assembly Government on 1st April 2010 as the Welsh Assembly took on fisheries management responsibilities for Wales).
- * New powers for the Welsh Assembly Government to license activities taking place in the marine environment (a Marine Consents Unit has been formed within the Welsh Assembly's Marine Branch which undertakes the role of the Marine Management Organisation in England);
- * A new Measure-making power for National Assembly for Wales that will enable the Assembly Government to bring forward proposals for improving public access to the coast in due course.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the UK's transposition of the EU Habitats Directive 1992) came into force in March, updating and consolidating all the amendments to the Regulations since they were first made in 1994. Management schemes now come under Regulation 36, not 34, and Countryside Council of Wales' advice and conservation objectives come under Regulation 35, not 33.

The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 came into force in July 2010. They transpose into UK domestic legislation the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008), which requires Member States to determine Good Environmental Status (GES) for their marine waters, and design and implement programmes of measures aimed at achieving it by 2020, using an ecosystem approach to marine management. By 2012, Member States must provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of the environment, identifying the main pressures on their respective marine regions, and defining targets and monitoring indicators. The goal of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive is in line with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (2000) which requires surface freshwater and ground water bodies - including estuaries and coastal waters - to be ecologically sound by 2015 and the first review of the River Basin Management Plans in 2020.

International Agreements and National Policy

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) came into being in Rio in 1992. Decision making for the CBD is by the Conference of the Parties (COP), which meets biennially to review progress in the implementation of the Convention and to decide on work programmes to achieve its objectives. The 10th meeting of the COP took place in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and coincided with the celebration of the

2010 International Year of Biodiversity, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. 2010 was the year by which international and European targets on halting biodiversity loss should have been met. Along with most Member States, Wales failed to meet its international and national targets; the Wales Environment Strategy Outcome 21 target required 95% of international sites in Wales to be in favourable condition by 2010. Consequently, new targets have been set including the international target agreed at Nagoya that by 2020, at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved (currently just over 1% of the ocean surface is designated as protected areas, although Wales has marine protected area designations covering 36.6% of Welsh territorial seas, albeit not all yet in favourable condition).

The Natural Environment Framework ‘A Living Wales’ was launched in September 2010. This consultation document sets out the Welsh Assembly Government’s new approach to the way Wales’ land, water and seas are managed, dealing with the environment as a whole rather than focusing on separate parts. This new policy is intended to help Wales to meet future biodiversity targets.

2. SAC Management Scheme Action Progress (Regulation 36 work)

Table 1 presents the top six achievements from each relevant authority, and the relevant authorities collectively (the RAG), for the period August 2008 to December 2010. It should be noted that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are not included in this table as their SAC management actions, which are relevant to water quality and water abstraction, are covered within their day-to-day regulated operations.

Progress in achieving agreed management actions has been slow. Changes due to the Marine & Coastal Access Act have been all pervading but have taken time to become incorporated into routine work; much work and understanding remains outstanding. Staff time and financial resource has also been severely impacted by Government cuts, reducing the ability to achieve many actions. In times of financial cuts, it is even more important to pool resources – all the more reason for the RAG as a partnership to share what it can and join forces to implement management actions whenever feasible.

Table 1: Main Relevant Authority Group Achievements Aug 2008 – Dec 2010

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
Ports, harbours & shipping			
PHS 6.0	<i>Develop, implement and maintain under review an integrated dredging strategy to minimise requirement for and effect of dredging and identify most appropriate best practice and also address dredge spoil disposal.</i>	MHPA	Establishment of dredging working group, allowing an integrated approach to Waterway dredging, led by MHPA. Dredging strategy in development.
PHS 8.2	<i>Continue to undertake regular hydrographic surveys in order to identify areas within the Haven where dredging is essential and where it can be reduced (or not undertaken at all)</i>	MHPA	Comprehensive bathymetric survey - consisted of multibeam and single beam throughout the lower Waterway in 2010.
Living resources (including fisheries)			
LR 1	<i>Improve fisheries management capability within the SAC</i>	SWSFC	SWSFC amalgamation with Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) achieved.
LRI.3	<i>Ensure adequate mechanisms are in place to manage 0-12nm to some consistency and so create a more rational basis for inshore fisheries management</i>	SWSFC	Active in making representation for change to Common Fisheries Policy - currently being reviewed.
LR 4.1	<i>Ensure that fishing operations are as selective as possible, by retaining target specimens of the right species and size whilst reducing by-catch</i>	SWSFC	Involved in Sea Fish Industry Association organised trials of 3 types of scallop dredge. Promoted bass square mesh trawl panel work through Cefas (but no trials in Welsh waters).
LR 6.6.1	<i>Following the consideration of relevant information and where appropriate, to introduce well defined 'no towed-gear zones' to safeguard Zostera spp (eelgrass) and Maerl spp beds within Milford Haven from all dredge fisheries</i>	SWSFC	Dredging of all bivalve molluscs prohibited under Byelaw 40 from agreed area to protect maerl & seagrass beds.
		CCW	Provided information and reached agreement with SWSFC to protect maerl & seagrass from dredging
LR 6.6.4	<i>Consider the need to restrict dredge fishing effort within St Bride's Bay (part of the SAC Large shallow inlets & bays feature) and the SAC feature Sandbanks to at or below the conservation objectives' baseline (the level of effort in 1997) in order to prevent damage and deterioration of these features</i>	SWSFC	Scalloping within the entire SAC restricted under The Scallop Fishing (Wales) (No.2) Order 2010, Article 12.
		CCW	Provided information to WAG to protect SAC from scallop dredging.

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
LR 10.2	<i>Petition to improve current legislation for the management of commercial collection of worms within the SAC</i>	SWSFC	Worked hard with DEFRA & lawyers for stronger powers under Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 which should facilitate this and more.
Water quality, pollution & waste disposal			
WQW 1.1	<i>Keep under review existing routine chemical and biological monitoring to meet EU Directives</i>	EAW	An agreed action plan has been developed for water framework directive obligations which will also deliver actions for the SAC. A programme of investigations exists.
WQW 2.1	<i>Continue to raise awareness of pollution potential and encourage best practice through Agri-Environment Schemes, pollution prevention visits and farm management plans. Ensure that best practice adequately addresses marine issues.</i>	EAW	Senior Environment Officers appointed to act as Catchment Co-ordinators. Part of their role is to proactively engage farmers, provide advice, and promote best practice to minimise pollution.
WQW 3.1	<i>Continue to review all permissions, including discharge and abstraction licences, under the requirements of the Habitats Directive (the Review of Consents programme)</i>	EAW	Consents have been reviewed for compliance against the Habitats Regulations. This work is ongoing in terms of maintaining vigilance and scrutiny of new applications.
		PCC	Review of consents work.
		PCNPA	Review of consents work - stage 1 (comprising 1500 planning consents) completed, stage 2 underway.
WQW 4	<i>Ensure no significant pollution risk and consequent possible unfavourable effects to the SAC features from urban and industrial discharge & run-off</i>	EAW	EA regulation of permitted sites operates on a risk based system (including taking into account the sensitivity of location such as SACs). In addition, a compliance categorisation system relates the nature of any breach to the potential harm that could result. This is weighted for sensitive environments. An audit system ensures consistency and best practice is shared.
WQW 6.3	<i>Manage maritime pollution (operational and accidental spills) to safeguard SAC features. Promote and enforce existing pollution regulations, byelaws and agreements.</i>	MHPA	All oil pollutions investigated. 26 (12 in Milford Docks) in 2009 totalling 96L oil; 13 spills (6 in Milford Docks) in 2010 totalling 168 litres.
WQW 8	<i>Manage pollution response to safeguard SAC features</i>	MHPA	Oil pollution exercises have been held by the port and all major industries around the Haven. Joint training exercises have been held for minor chemical spills.
		EAW	EA have introduced a list of specially trained marine contacts to be deployed in the event of a spill to the marine environment. Responding officers have been trained in the application of Environmental Damage Regulations. With partners, EA have

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
WQW 8	<i>Manage pollution response to safeguard SAC features</i>	EAW	developed an environmental sensitivity & response database for inclusion in a revised plan. EA are working with PCC and the Local Resilience Forum on a pollution sub group to make sure protection of the SAC features is embedded in any response. EA have taken part in regular oil pollution exercises, and chemical spill exercises.
WQW 12.1 + 12.2	<i>Further encourage public clean-ups to help reduce the quantities of marine litter within the SAC, and promote & support community based volunteer groups.</i>	RAG	Support of NARC who have raised profile of and cleared subtidal litter. General SAC wildlife awareness benefits too.
WQW 12.3	<i>Continue to sensitively and manually clean amenity beaches of litter during the tourist season</i>	PCC	Beach cleaning is all hand gathered – no mechanical – and only non organic litter is collected.
Recreation			
Rec 2.2	<i>Ensure promotion of the local area for tourism recreation takes account of potential impacts on the SAC</i>	PCNPA	Involvement and support for PCF-run <i>recreation audit</i> project. Also new PCNPA recreation website which only encourages activities where they are seen to be sustainable.
Rec 7	<i>Develop and introduce new management measures, as required, to safeguard the SAC features from any unfavourable effects of organised group foreshore use</i>	PCNPA	Climbing restrictions reviewed annually; agreement in place for activity providers to consult prior to any new coastering routes; and restrict access to sites if occupied by seal pups.
Rec 8 + 12 (+others)	Ensure that organised outdoor activities + wildlife trips within the SAC acknowledge the value of the wildlife resource and are supported both in acting sustainably and helping to raise awareness of the SAC with clients.	PCNPA	Support for marine code and outdoor charter groups. Also member only advertising in <i>Coast to Coast</i> publication.
		RAG	Continued to support work of Marine Code, Outdoor Charter & Waterway Recreation Group in promoting sustainable activities and safeguarding SAC features.
Rec 10+11	<i>Maintain and implement the Milford Haven Waterway Recreation Plan and withdraw mooring rights from persistent offenders</i>	MHPA	Review of recreation plan, incorporating needs of SAC.
Miscellaneous			
Mis 1.2	<i>Undertake Appropriate Assessments where there may be a 'likely significant effect' on SAC features</i>	CCW	Provided advice for over 65 plans or projects, the majority within the Haven.
		PCC PCNPA	Screened many plans and projects for 'likely significant effect' on the SAC features

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
<i>Mis 2.1</i>	<i>Use environmentally sensitive alternatives to harmful chemical agents when cleaning shoreline surfaces (steps, slipways etc.), such as pressure washing with sea water (where this method is effective enough to ensure public safety). Where cleaning agents are necessary, consider only using non-chlorinated products without phosphate. Consider, where appropriate, introducing new surfaces which require less cleaning</i>	PCC	Slipways etc are now cleaned using pressure hose and not hypochlorite.
Resources			
<i>Res 1</i>	<i>Petition to improve legislative powers within the SAC.</i>	RAG	Contributed to consultations on the Marine Bill. Sought to ensure adequate changes were made so that resultant Marine Act better able to deal with the management needs of the SAC.
<i>Res 2</i>	<i>Secure the resources necessary to implement the SAC management scheme</i>	RAG	Funding has been secured each year to maintain SAC officer post and contribute to RAG work programme.
Raising awareness			
<i>AR 16</i>	<i>Raise level of awareness of general stakeholders and the public to enable understanding of the SAC and its management scheme</i>	RAG	Provision of SAC talks, responding to info requests, new SAC video 'advert'.
<i>AR 17+18</i>	<i>Effective/comprehensive relevant and competent authority awareness and understanding of the SAC and its management scheme</i>	PCNPA	Advocacy for the SAC during consultation responses (e.g. UK's Marine Bill, Welsh Assembly Government's "Protecting Welsh Seas").
		RAG	Held 2 seminars for both local and national staff to better understand Habitats Regulations processes and obligations.
<i>AR 17.1</i>	<i>Ensure all relevant departments within relevant and competent authorities are aware of and act upon their SAC management responsibilities.</i>	PCC	New corporate role created to raise profile of biodiversity internally.
Information and data collection			
<i>ID 2.1.8</i>	<i>Research historical contamination within the Haven by analysis of sediments</i>	MHPA	MHWESG work, chaired by MHPA.
<i>ID 5.5.2</i>	<i>Improve understanding of the interaction between fishing activities and the SAC features</i>	CCW	Research conducted into the impacts of cockling on <i>Zostera</i> spp.
<i>ID 8.2.2 + ID 9.2.3</i>	<i>Record and share additional data on the scale, location and seasonality, and effects upon the SAC features of bait collection activities through targeted survey</i>	CCW	Bait collection research commissioned. Report submitted 2010.

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
ID 14.2	<i>Improve understanding of the interaction between diffuse pollution and the SAC features</i>	CCW	Kick started work by the EA to investigate nutrient levels in the Haven, in particular looking at macroalgal growth.
		EAW	Formed an ongoing EAW/CCW Haven nutrients group to guide research.
Monitoring, review and reporting			
MR 2.1	<i>Monitor the condition of the SAC features against the conservation objectives</i>	RAG	Research & monitoring into otter populations - 2008 boat survey and dietary analysis.

3. Routine Assessments (Regulation 61 work)

Authorities routinely deal with what are termed “plans and projects” (something that requires some sort of specific statutory consent, authorisation, licence or permission). When such “plans and projects” occur within or have the potential to affect the SAC, they need to undergo a formal Habitats Regulation Assessment. This is a formal step-wise process that should ensure that any effects to the SAC are considered, and that plans and projects only get the go ahead if they will not have an adverse effect on site integrity, and will not result in deterioration of SAC habitats or significant disturbance of SAC species. Under certain specified conditions, plans and projects with adverse effects on site integrity can go ahead provided that those effects are compensated through other measures.

Dealing with plans and projects, such as large developments with multiple consents associated with them, can often be time-consuming (and costly) both for the consenting authority and for the nature conservation advisors, the Countryside Council for Wales. Plans and projects have perhaps the biggest collective impact on the SAC’s features; there remains room for improvement in how they are dealt with. Consenting authorities benefitted from Habitats Regulation Assessment training in 2009, and the RAG are working hard to build a better understanding of the collective impacts of plans and projects, with plans and projects work one of the priorities for 2011.

Following is a brief list (65+) of the significant plans and projects (considered/completed/ongoing) within the SAC since the SAC management scheme launch in 2008:

Pembroke Power Station construction	Texaco jetty refurbishment
Pembroke Power Station abstraction	Milford Haven harbour refurbishments
Pembroke Power Station aerial emissions	Milford Haven new fisheries pontoon
Pembroke Power Station capital dredging (includes dredging for the intake and outfall)	Gelliswick landings (refinery components) Semlogistics landings (refinery parts removal)
Pembroke Power Station capital dredge disposal (includes material from the intake and outfall)	Wards Yard silt disposal Milford Haven Marina upgrade
Pembroke Power Station cooling water discharge	EON Lunar Energy
Pembroke Power Station fish return system	Marine Energy Ltd. (Castlemartin)
Pembroke Power Station jetty refurbishment	Tidal Energy Ltd. (Ramsey)
Pembroke Power Station sewage discharge	Swan Turbines
Pembroke Power Station site runoff	Wave Dragon
Pembroke Power Station temporary coffer dam construction	Burton marina
South Hook plant construction	Martello Quays
South Hook LNG jetty refurbishment	Fort Road shore defence
South Hook LNG PPC/EPR (discharges)	Brunel Quay
South Hook LNG site runoff	Capital dredging (South Hook LNG, Dragon LNG, SemLogistics berth 3, Pembroke Power)
Dragon LNG jetty works (berth 1)	Capital dredge disposal (South Hook LNG, Dragon LNG, SemLogistics berth 3, Pembroke Power, Maintenance dredging)
SemLogistics jetty works (berths 2 & 3)	

Maintenance dredging
Maintenance dredge disposal
Neyland Marina trickle dredge
Neyland Marina trickle dredge disposal
Black Bridge
Carr jetty
Consented abstractions - multiple
Consented discharges - multiple
Sewage treatment works
Moorings
Mid Channel Rocks marker - renewal
Turbot Bank Met Buoy
Sea Fair Haven Moorings
Warrior Fish Farm building demolition
Warrior Mussel seed rope trial
Angle Shelf mussel seed rope trial
New tug mooring (South Hook)

RORO ferry terminal jetty maintenance
Carew millpond wall repairs
Westfield Pill lagoon fish pass (in process)
Llanstadwell sea wall repairs
Nato Jetty marine access creation
Jenkins Point construction access
Other planning applications.
Angle Shelf Mussel Several Order
Angle Shelf dredging (*Crepidula fornicata*)
Angle cockling
Lawrenny mussels
Milford Haven Waterway oyster dredging
Scallop dredging
Gathering of seaweeds for commercial use
Other permitted fisheries.

4. Site Feature Condition

The last formal assessments of the condition of the SAC features were conducted in 2006 to inform European reporting on the overall state of Natura 2000 features across all member states. The next reporting round to Europe on the condition of SACs is in 2013. Formal assessments are carried out by CCW and then fed up to the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee for submission to Europe. CCW's 2006 assessment, being the first since site designation, was based on just one round of feature monitoring within the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC. The next formal assessment in 2012 (to inform reporting to Europe in 2013) will benefit from, in some cases, annual monitoring, and so will be better informed. The table below summarises the 2006 assessment by CCW of the features within the SAC. Informal updates from CCW, based on work done to date, suggest that the assessment results remain unchanged, except for the feature 'reefs' which have moved to *unfavourable: declining*.

It should be noted that 'condition' relates to how the feature is now, its current condition (in the table below this was the condition in 2006), whereas 'status' (favourable conservation status) incorporates not just current condition, but also its future prospects into the foreseeable future.

Table 2: Summary of 2006 feature assessment by CCW

Feature name (informal)	Condition assessment	Status	Comments	Adverse Activity [unprioritised - some have (or are likely to have) a more adverse impact than others].
Allis shad	Not assessed	Not assessed	No data	
Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable: Declining	Unfavourable	Medium confidence based on data available.	Loss of habitat, pollution.
Estuaries	Unfavourable: Declining	Unfavourable	High confidence	Loss of habitat, pollution, disrupted physical processes and biological quality
Grey seal	Favourable: Maintained	Unfavourable	Medium confidence based on localised limited data available.	Prey depletion, disturbance concerns. Status unfavourable due to Irish Sea fish stocks.
Intertidal mudflats and sandflats	Unfavourable: Declining	Unfavourable	High confidence that the sediment particle size analysis, topography of flats and surface relief are unfavourable. Varying confidence that the species populations, sediment contaminants, spatial range of species and distribution of biotopes are unfavourable. The future management is unfavourable.	Coastal defence, cockle fishery.
Lagoons	Favourable: Maintained	Favourable	Medium confidence based on partial data available.	Nothing specifically identified.

Feature name (informal)	Condition assessment	Status	Comments	Adverse Activity [unprioritised - some have (or are likely to have) a more adverse impact than others].
Otter	Favourable: Maintained	Favourable	Low confidence due to lack of time series data, and therefore ability to establish trends in population structure. Assessment determined on baseline data which indicates widespread coastal otter activity.	Disturbance especially via recreational activity, possible interaction with inshore fisheries potting/netting, habitat modification.
Reefs	Unfavourable: No-change	Unfavourable	Medium confidence in condition and high confidence in status	Fisheries/management security / potential developments including oil/gas industry, power generation and renewable energy
River lamprey	Unfavourable: No-change	Unfavourable	Results based on upstream monitoring of Afonydd Cleddau SAC	Possibly due to water resources issues
Sea caves	Favourable: Maintained	Favourable	Low confidence / lack of data	Very little known to be adverse/possible recreation and tourism pressures
Sea lamprey	Unfavourable: Decline	Unfavourable	Results based on upstream monitoring of Afonydd Cleddau SAC	Possibly due to water resources issues
Shallow inlets and bays	Unfavourable: Declining	Unfavourable	High confidence	Habitat loss/pollution/disrupted physical processes and biological quality
Shore Dock	Favourable: Maintained	Favourable	Population size stable and reproductive.	Nothing specifically identified.
Subtidal sandbanks	Unfavourable: No-change	Unfavourable	Medium confidence	Fisheries/management security
Twaite shad	Not assessed	Not assessed	Medium confidence	Lack of secure fisheries management

5. RAG priorities

Any review of work done is not complete without some forward planning. The RAG is continuously evaluating SAC issues, and priorities may change. Priorities are also set in recognition of feature condition assessments. Current priorities for each relevant authority and also joint RAG priorities for 2011 are summarised in Table 3. It should be noted that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are not included in this table as their SAC management actions, which are relevant to water quality and water abstraction, are covered within their day-to-day regulated operations.

Table 3: Relevant Authority Group Priorities for 2011

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)	No mooring/ anchoring zone to protect maerl & seagrass.	Rec 14.1.1	MHPA
	Resolve bait digging and related fisheries management issues in the intertidal zone.	LR 10+13	PCC, PCNPA
Environment Agency Wales (EAW)	Seek to encourage the development of recovery plans to deal with mitigation and clean up after incidents.	WQW 7 + 8	PCC, PCNPA, RAG
	Look for opportunities to embed work on Directive compliance with partners into the Community Planning process.	AR 17 + 18	PCC, WAG, RAG
	Aim to complete the recommendations made in MHWESG commissioned report (Little, 2009).	ID 2.1.8	-
	Continue to look into the causes of algal mat growth within the Haven.	ID 13 + 14	-
Milford Haven Port Authority (MHPA)	Complete dredge strategy.	PHS 6.0	-
	No mooring/ anchoring zone to protect maerl & seagrass.	Rec 14.1.1	CCW
Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC)	Bait digging – partnership working to halt damage.	LR 10+13	CCW, PCNPA
	Relevant data (EIA/AA etc.) from plans & projects to be provided for inclusion in potential joint system/ database where appropriate.	ID 6.10.22 (also Mis 1.3)	RAG
	Formalise shoreline / pollution response plans and involvement, and provide EROCIPS type data for input to an appropriate database.	WQW 7 + 8	EAW, PCNPA, RAG
	Build greater awareness of SAC issues throughout the Council.	AR 17 + 18	EAW, WAG, RAG
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA)	Contribute to resolution of bait digging and related fisheries management issues in the intertidal zone through partnership working.	LR 10+13	CCW, PCC

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:
	Continue to support the work of the marine code and outdoor charter groups.	Rec 8 + 12 (+others)	-
	Advocacy role for SAC wildlife & its needs in promotion of the Park.	AR 16	RAG
	Continue to advocate for, and contribute to the development, review and exercising of, all marine pollution contingency plans that are relevant to the SAC.	WQW 7 + 8	EAW, PCC, RAG
Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)	Ensure active engagement with SAC management including working closely with RAG.	AR 17 + 18	EAW, PCC, RAG
	Diffuse input of high nutrient load needs addressing at the catchment level, i.e. through change to farming practice/ land management (e.g. via designation as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone). WAG to encourage EAW to address.	WQW 2	-
	Ensure that all fishery permissions undergo a Regulation 61 assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.	LR 2.4	-
	Integration of SAC needs into WAG Fisheries Implementation Plans.	LR 4+5	-
	Manage fishing distribution in order to avoid further deterioration of SAC features, especially in habitats sensitive to physical disturbance. In urgent need of attention is the appropriate management of all mobile gear fisheries in the Milford Haven estuary (particularly dredging for shellfish).	LR 6.2	-
	Record the intensity and distribution of fishing effort - so as to quantify SAC impacts and inform management measures.	ID 4	-
	Greater scrutiny by WAG of consented activities in light of CCW 'adverse effect on site integrity' advice. Enable better integration of assessments (where more than one consent required for activity to occur), and take into account in-combination effects.	Mis 1.3	-
Relevant Authorities Group (RAG)	Continue to raise general awareness of the SAC and its needs, particularly through use of the SAC website.	AR 16	PCNPA
	Develop & maintain database of Plans & Projects relevant to SAC management.	ID 6.10.22 (+ Mis 1.3)	PCC
	Encourage progress with marine contingency plans in order to safeguard the SAC.	WQW 7 + 8	EAW, PCC, PCNPA
	Encourage more active WAG involvement in SAC management.	AR 17 + 18	EAW, PCC, WAG
	Continue to secure resources to continue the work of the RAG (funding the SAC officer and committing appropriate staff time).	Res 2	-
	Develop, maintain & share GIS datasets relevant to SAC management.	ID 6.10.22 (also MR 3)	-
	Develop compliance monitoring systems.	MR 6+7	-

