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THE COMPASS PILOT REPORT FOR NORTH DEVON

UK SEAS Project, WWF UK

January 2019

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Image: Clovelly Harbour

SUGGESTED CITATION FOR THIS REPORT:

Young, S., Nelson, P., Oates, J, Davis, K.. 2019. The compass pilot report for North Devon compiled by WWF as part of the UK SEAS Project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This report was funded through a partnership between WWF-UK and Sky Ocean Rescue. The authors would like to thank everyone who spent time contributing to our survey, providing invaluable information and insights into the management of North Devon MPAs.

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Executive summary

Funded through a partnership with WWF and Sky Ocean Rescue, the UK SEAS project aims to improve the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the UK and share lessons across Europe and beyond. To do this, we need to know what we mean by ‘good management’, how far away we are from achieving it and what steps are needed in order to get there.

The compass has been developed by WWF as a tool for evaluating MPA management effectiveness. It contains 38 criteria which address different aspects of MPA management. The compass is divided into three phases: the creation phase, the pioneer phase, and the self sufficient phase. Compass criteria can also be grouped into seven themes representing different facets of management: “set up”, “plans and management”, “involving people”, “decision making”, “resources”, “monitoring” and “results”. In summer 2018 we trialled the compass as an evaluation tool in our case study area in North Devon.



Using an online survey, we collected information on each of the criteria for five marine and coastal protected areas in North Devon (Lundy, Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ, Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ, Bristol Channel Approaches SAC, Taw Torridge Estuary SSSI). We received 47 responses to the online survey in total.

Generally, the MPAs in North Devon scored well in the creation phase but did not score so well in the self sufficient phase. This reflects the UK's focus to date on designation of MPAs, and highlights the need to move the focus now towards implementing active management in these areas.

This assessment has helped to identify which aspects of management need to be addressed to help move MPAs towards the later phases of the compass. Generally, there was a lack of public knowledge and understanding of the MPAs. A common theme across the MPAs appeared to be concerns related to enforcement and long-term funding. As Lundy Island scored well on many of the criteria, it is useful to look to this MPA for examples and models of good practice. Notably, none of the MPAs had sustainable income streams to cover management costs.

These results reinforce the work areas that the UK SEAS project has chosen to focus on: we are working to improve governance, increase public understanding, and develop sustainable finance mechanisms for MPAs. Thus we hope to be able to demonstrate improvements in management effectiveness scores over the course of this project.

The compass is also being piloted by WWF offices in Italy, Germany and Spain as part of our international partnership with Sky Ocean Rescue. We will use the findings of these pilots to refine the compass, with the aim of the tool becoming applied more widely across Europe.

Introduction and Methodology

THE COMPASS

The UK SEAS project aims to improve the management of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in North Devon. To do this, we need to know what it is we mean by ‘good management’, how far away we are from achieving it and what steps are needed in order to get there.

There are many tools that already exist which assess the effectiveness of protected areas, and it tends to be the case that each new tool takes elements that have worked well from existing tools and adapts them slightly in order to fit the protected areas unique environment and requirements. After reviewing a range of tools¹ we decided to base our assessment on the compass tool, originally developed by the [French Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#).

The benefits of the compass are that it is a relatively quick assessment which still provides enough detail to be practical, it was also specially designed for the marine environment and the unique challenges MPAs face, finally and crucially it presents the results of the assessment in a visually appealing and easy to interpret way – which allows us to share the results with a range of different people from different backgrounds.

HOW DOES THE COMPASS WORK?

The compass is divided into three phases; the creation phase, the pioneer phase, and the self sufficient phase (figure 1). Each phase contains a number of elements looking at different aspects of a well managed MPA. For instance, in the creation phase, which is looking at how the MPA was set up, there are elements such as “Identify stakeholders and their interest”, “Identify pressures likely to impact important habitats and species” and “Establish zoning for activities”.

¹ Agnesi, S., Mo, G., Annunziatellis, A, Chaniotis, P., Korpinen, S., Snoj, L., GLOBEVNIK, L., Tunesi, L., Reker, J (2017). *Assessing Europe’s Marine Protected Area networks – Proposed methodologies and scenarios*. Ed. Kunitzer, A. ETC/ICM Technical Report 2/2017. Magdeburg: European Topic Centre in inland, coastal and marine waters.

Hatton-Ellis, M., Kay, L., Lewis, M., Lindenbaum, K., Wyn, G., Winterton, A., Bunker, A., Howard, S., Barter, G., Camplin, M., & Jones, J. (2012). *MPA Management Report 2: Assessment of current MPA management in Wales*. CCW Marine Science Series No: 12/06/03, 78pp, CCW, Bangor.

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the north-East Atlantic (2007). *Guidance to assess the effectiveness of management of OSPAR MPAs: a self assessment scorecard*. Reference number: 2007-5

Pomeroy, RS, Parks, JE and Watson, LM (2004). *How is your MPA doing? A guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Stolton, S. and Dudley, N (2016). *METT Handbook: A guide to using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)*, WWF-UK, Woking

Staub, F and Hatzios, ME (2004). *Score Card to Assess Progress in Achieving Management Effectiveness Goals for Marine Protected Areas*. The World Bank.

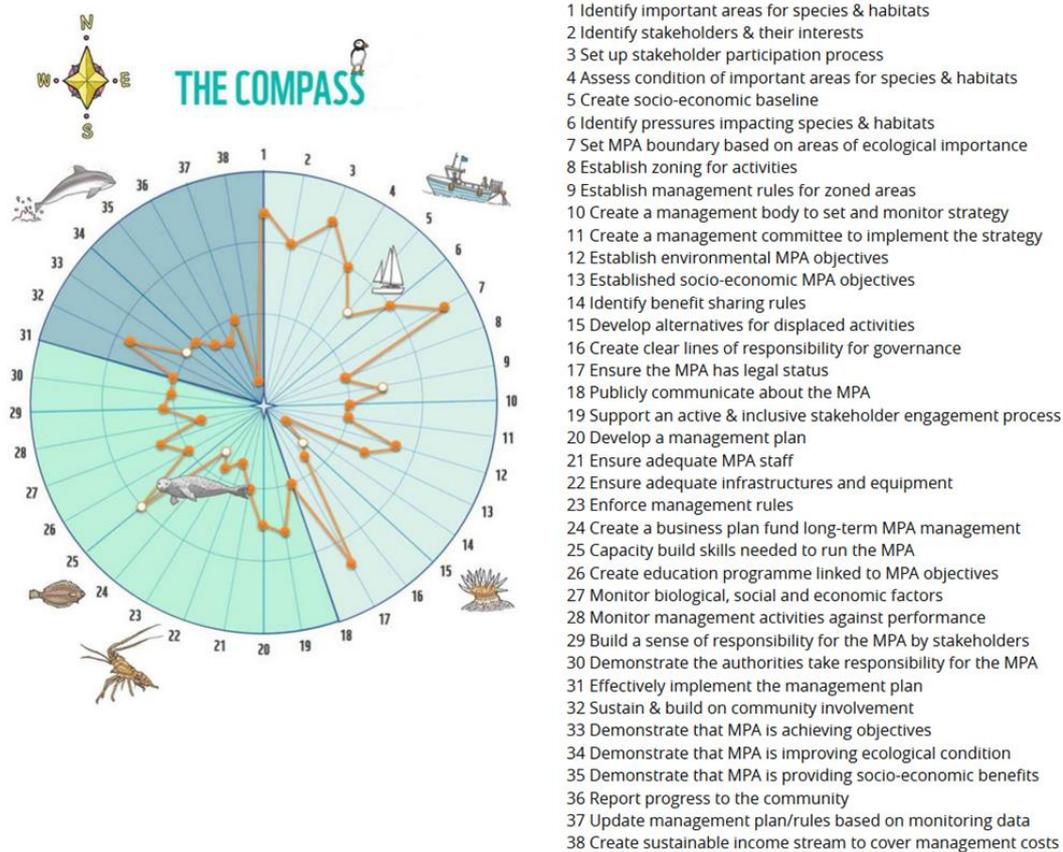


Figure 1: The compass

The UK SEAS project took each of these elements and turned them into questions with four possible answers that stakeholders could choose from. For example:

Have important stakeholders and their interests been identified?			
No Stakeholders have been identified	Stakeholders have been identified ad-hoc	Stakeholders have been systematically identified	Stakeholders have been systematically identified along information about their knowledge attitudes and perceptions
Score: 0	Score: 1	Score: 2	Score: 3

The higher the score an MPA receives for each criterion, the better it is doing in that particular area, and likewise a low score indicates that there is room for improvement. To achieve effective management, an MPA should be achieving the highest score in all areas.

The compass scores can be compared across MPAs in order to see what is working well and identify best practice approaches for sharing. The compass can also be used to track progress over time within a specific MPA.

HOW WE CARRIED OUT THE ASSESSMENT

During August 2018 the UK SEAS team created two online surveys using SurveyMonkey. One longer survey included all technical questions aimed at MPA managers, and one shorter survey which had some of the technical questions removed which was aimed at a wider audience. Please refer to [Annex A](#) to view the survey questions. The online survey link was sent to 120 contacts on the UK SEAS database, advertised on the CMS listserv (an email newsletter targeted at marine stakeholders), Twitter and verbally at conferences, meetings and events attended by the UK SEAS team. The results were collected from the survey after two months and reminders were sent twice.

DATA ANALYSIS

Information from the survey was downloaded and analysed using Microsoft Excel. Mean scores were calculated for each criterion.

An overall percentage score for management effectiveness was calculated by summing the mean results from individual criteria for each MPA and dividing by the maximum possible score of 114 (38 criteria, multiplied by the maximum score, 3). If an MPA scores 100% management effectiveness, all criteria on the compass would have received a mean score of 3, if an MPA scored 0% management effectiveness, the mean score for each criterion would have been 0.

Each MPA was assigned a 'phase' from the compass (either creation, pioneer or self-sufficient) based on the compass results and the length of time the MPA has been designated (Figure 5).

Compass criteria were grouped into seven themes representing different facets of management: "set up", "plans and management", "involving people", "decision making", "resources", "monitoring" and "results" (Figure 2). The criteria assigned to each theme are shown using colour coding on the compass graphic. Scores were calculated by averaging the mean scores for each criterion in that theme and are shown in descending order for each MPA (Figure 6).

Theme	Criterion
Set Up	1 Identify important areas for species and habitats
	4 Assess condition of important areas for species and habitats
	6 Identify pressures impacting species and habitats
	2 Identify stakeholders and their interests
	3 Set up stakeholder participation process
	5 Create socio-economic baseline
	7 Set MPA boundary based on areas of ecological importance
	17 Ensure the MPA has legal status
Plans and Management	20 Develop a management plan
	12 Establish environmental MPA objectives
	13 Established socio-economic MPA objectives
	24 Create a business plan to fund long-term MPA management
	8 Establish zoning for activities
	9 Establish management rules for zoned areas

	15 Develop alternatives for displaced activities
	26 Create education programme linked to MPA objectives
Involving People	18 Publicly communicate about the MPA
	19 Support an active and inclusive stakeholder engagement process
	32 Sustain and build on community involvement
	29 Build a sense of responsibility for the MPA by stakeholders
Decision Making	16 Create clear lines of responsibility for governance
	30 Demonstrate the authorities take responsibility for the MPA
	10 Create a management body to set and monitor strategy
	11 Create a management committee to implement the strategy
Resources	14 Identify benefit sharing rules
	21 Ensure adequate MPA staff
	22 Ensure adequate infrastructures and equipment
	25 Capacity build skills needed to run the MPA
Monitoring	38 Create sustainable income stream to cover management costs
	27 Monitor biological, social and economic factors
	28 Monitor management activities against performance
	37 Update management plan/rules based on monitoring data
Results	23 Enforce management rules
	31 Effectively implement the management plan
	33 Demonstrate that MPA is achieving objectives
	34 Demonstrate that MPA is improving ecological condition
	35 Demonstrate that MPA is providing socio-economic benefits
	36 Report progress to the community

Figure 2: Criteria assigned to each theme

MPAs in North Devon case study

The seas around North Devon are packed with wonderful marine life and habitats. They provide a range of benefits to people, including nursery grounds for young fish provided by intertidal reefs, and coastal protection by saltmarshes. Many businesses in the North Devon area depend on a healthy marine environment, including commercial fishing and tourism/recreation businesses.

North Devon seas are busy and have a range of activities operating in them including:

- Fishing with both static and mobile gear
- Sub-sea cables
- Shipping activity
- Coastal development
- Recreational activities such as diving, boat trips and jet-skis
- Aquaculture
- Historical disposal sites
- Military practice areas

There are also a number of pressures impacting our seas which originate on land such as litter, and threats to water quality through sewage discharges and river run off.

Human activities can impact species and habitats in the marine environment in a number of different ways, whether it's through removing species or habitats from the area; damaging habitats through physical contact; contamination through pollutants; or even from producing harmful levels of noise. It is the role of marine management to ensure that activities take place in a sustainable way so that they do not damage the ecosystem, especially in our Marine Protected Areas.

There are several proposed MPAs in the North Devon marine area, but for the purposes of this study we have only included the sites which have already been designated, which are either entirely marine or contain coastal habitats (figure 3).



Figure 3: North Devon MPAs

A. Lundy SAC (Special Area of Conservation) and MCZ (Marine Conservation Zone)

Located 12 miles off the North Devon coastline, Lundy is home to some of the UK’s most diverse and incredible wildlife; including species of conservation importance like grey seals and spiny lobsters. Habitats of particular importance include reefs, sea caves and sandbanks - thousands of crabs and sea urchins live on one of these sandbanks. Lundy became a voluntary nature reserve back in 1971, and has benefitted from different types of protection ever since, including becoming a SAC in 2005 and the UK’s first MCZ in 2010. There are various fishing regulations in place around the island, including a no take zone set up off the east coast in 2003.

Lundy MPA has a management group (which covers both marine and terrestrial aspects of the island) and an advisory group made of local, interested stakeholders who meet twice a year.

B. Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ

Designated as recently as 2016, this MPA is in place to protect a number of important species and diverse habitats, including rocky reefs, mixed sediments honeycomb worm, pink sea fan and the charismatic spiny lobster. The area is also regularly visited by seabirds and cetaceans including the elusive harbour porpoise.

C. Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

This unusually shaped MPA is designated to protect a wealth of important habitats and species. Running from the shoreline to approximately 50 metres deep, it provides home for an array of species including fragile sponge communities, pink sea fan and honeycomb worm - it's thought the honeycomb worm community here could be the biggest in Britain. Designated in 2016, the site is also in place to protect rocky reef habitats, mud and sand.

D. Bristol Channel Approaches SAC

This site spans the Bristol Channel and has a surface area of over 5,000 km². This area is important for the shy harbour porpoise, the smallest resident cetacean found regularly in UK waters, and consequently was submitted to the European Commission (EC) as a candidate Special Area of Conservation in 2017, the site has received formal adoption by the EC and is therefore known as a Site of Conservation Interest before it is formally designated a SAC by the UK government. We have chosen to refer to this site as a SAC throughout this document to avoid confusion.

E. Taw-Torridge Estuary SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

This site is a haven for a range of bird species and is particularly important for its overwintering and migratory populations of wading birds. The estuary includes mudflats, sandbanks, beaches and saltmarshes which provide a rich and varied source of food for many birds and other animals. The range of different habitats found in this MPA, and the services they provide to nature and people led to its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest back in 1988.

The Taw-Torridge Estuary has a stakeholder group called the Taw-Torridge Estuary Forum.

No stakeholder groups exist for the Bristol Channel Approaches SAC, Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ or Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ.

Results

OVERALL

The online surveys received 47 responses in total. An additional 66 people clicked on the survey link and agreed to the terms and conditions but didn't answer enough questions for the results to be included in the sample. The response rates for individual MPAs are shown in Figure 4 below and alongside the in-depth result cards for each MPA. 47% of the respondents were from civil society (individual, non-governmental organisation, environment group etc.), 28% from a public authority, 15% from the private sector and 10% from academia/research organisations. The most responses were received for Lundy. This was expected, as it is the oldest, most well-known and has an active stakeholder forum. Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and the Taw-Torridge Estuary SSSI also elicited a higher number of responses, perhaps due to their coastal nature and the efforts of the UK SEAS team to promote the survey. Bristol Channel SAC is relatively new, offshore and designated primarily for cetaceans. It was difficult to identify individuals who felt confident enough to answer the survey for this site and for Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ.

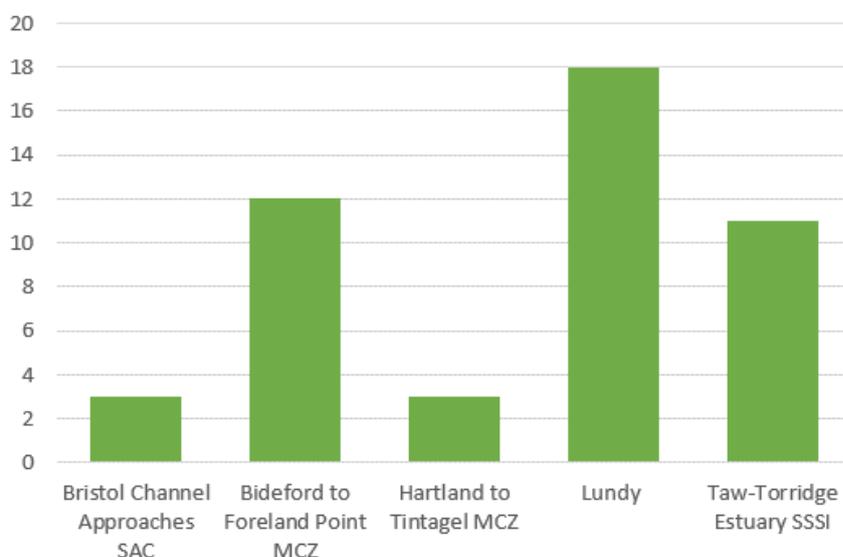


Figure 4: Number of survey respondents by MPA

Three MPAs were assigned to the creation phase; Bristol Channel Approaches SAC, Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ, one to the pioneer phase, Taw-Torridge Estuary MCZ and one to the self-sufficient phase, Lundy. The management effectiveness scores for each MPA in ascending order are: Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ, 27%; Bristol Channel Approaches SAC, 29%; Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ, 34%; Taw-Torridge Estuary SSSI, 43%; and Lundy, 70% (figure 5).

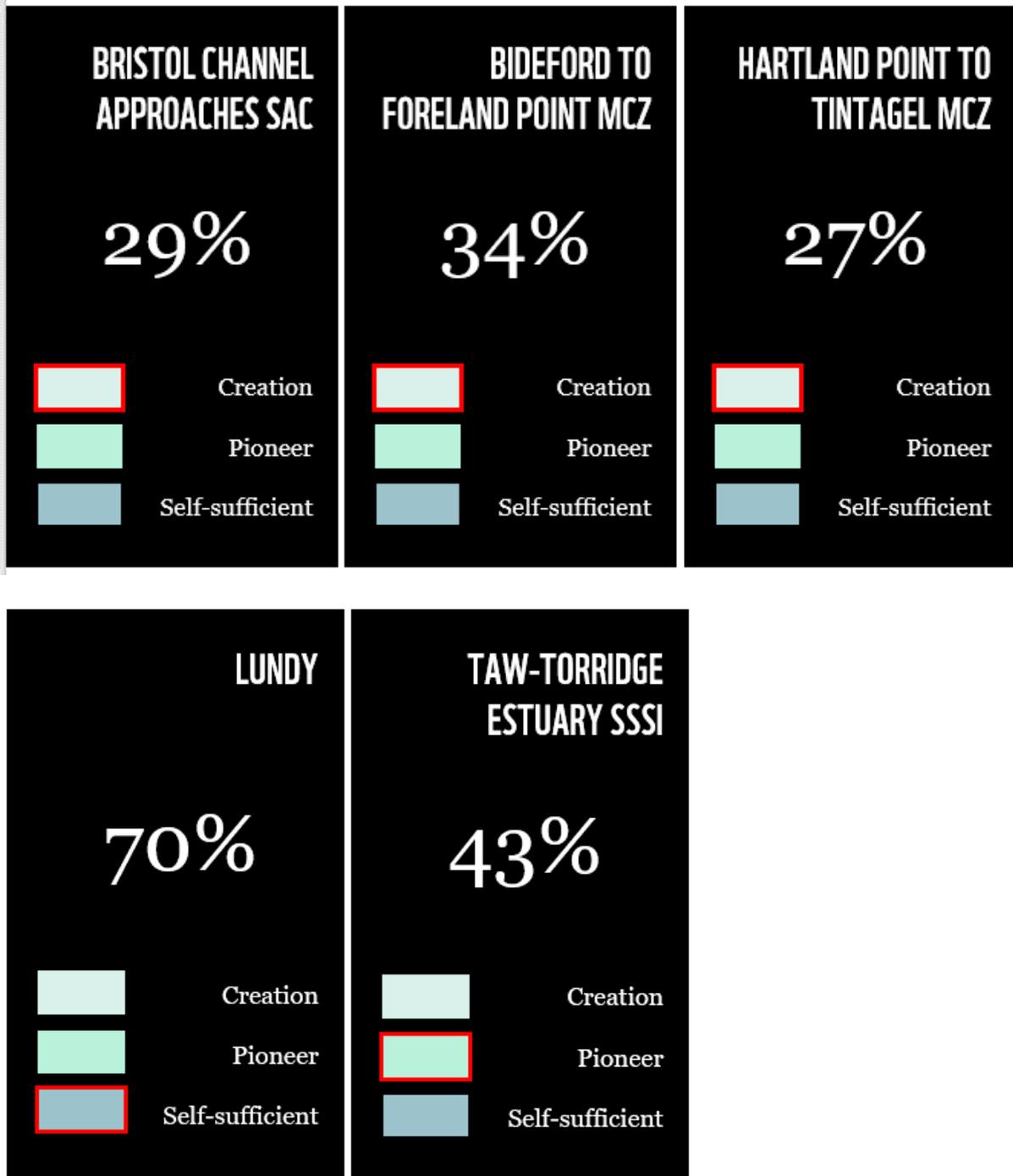


Figure 5: Overall management effectiveness scores and phase for each MPA

The mean scores for each theme, by MPA are shown below in Figure 6. The scores are arranged in descending order and show that across all the sites surveyed, how the MPA was set up received the highest scores, followed by “involving people” and “decision making”. Generally, the themes with the lowest scores were “resources”, “monitoring” and “results”.



Figure 6: Mean score per theme listed in descending order by MPA

BRISTOL CHANNEL APPROACHES SAC

Three people chose to answer the management effectiveness survey for the Bristol Channel Approaches SAC. Two respondents answered the short survey, one the full version. One respondent indicated an academic background and the other two were from civil society. None of the respondents were from the North Devon area. At local marine meetings many people commented, “I’ve never heard of a Bristol Channel MPA?!”.

Bristol Channel Approaches SAC was determined to be in the creation phase of the MPA management cycle and achieved an overall score of 29% management effectiveness (figure 7). An MPA in the creation phase would be expected to receive a lower overall score. 15 of the 38 criteria scored 0 (39.4%) especially in the resources, monitoring and results themes (figure 8). Full marks were awarded for:

- 1 Identify important areas for species and habitats
- 5 Create socio-economic baseline
- 7 Set MPA boundary based on areas of ecological importance

The following criterion scored 2 or higher:

- 3 Set up stakeholder participation process
- 6 Identify pressures impacting species and habitats
- 12 Establish environmental MPA objectives
- 17 Ensure the MPA has legal status

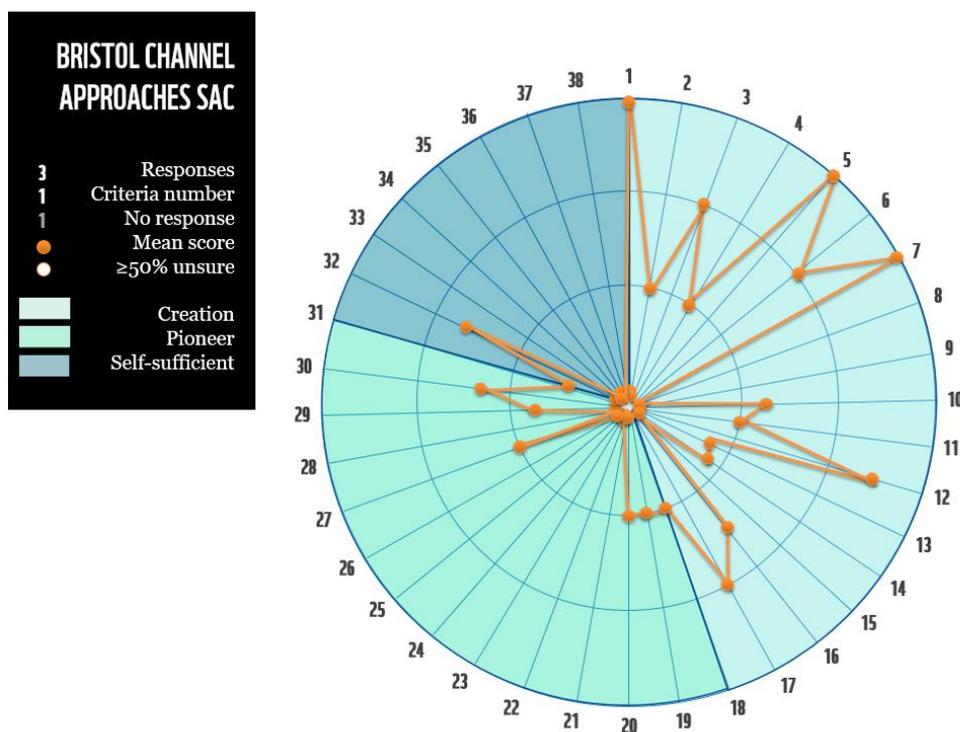


Figure 7: Completed compass for Bristol Channel Approaches SAC

Each number around the outside of the compass refer to a criterion. Scores from 0 (centre of the compass) to 3 (outer edge of the compass) are represented by orange dots. If a criterion receive no responses the number is grey (rather than black). If more than half of the respondents indicated they were “unsure” the dot is shaded in white.

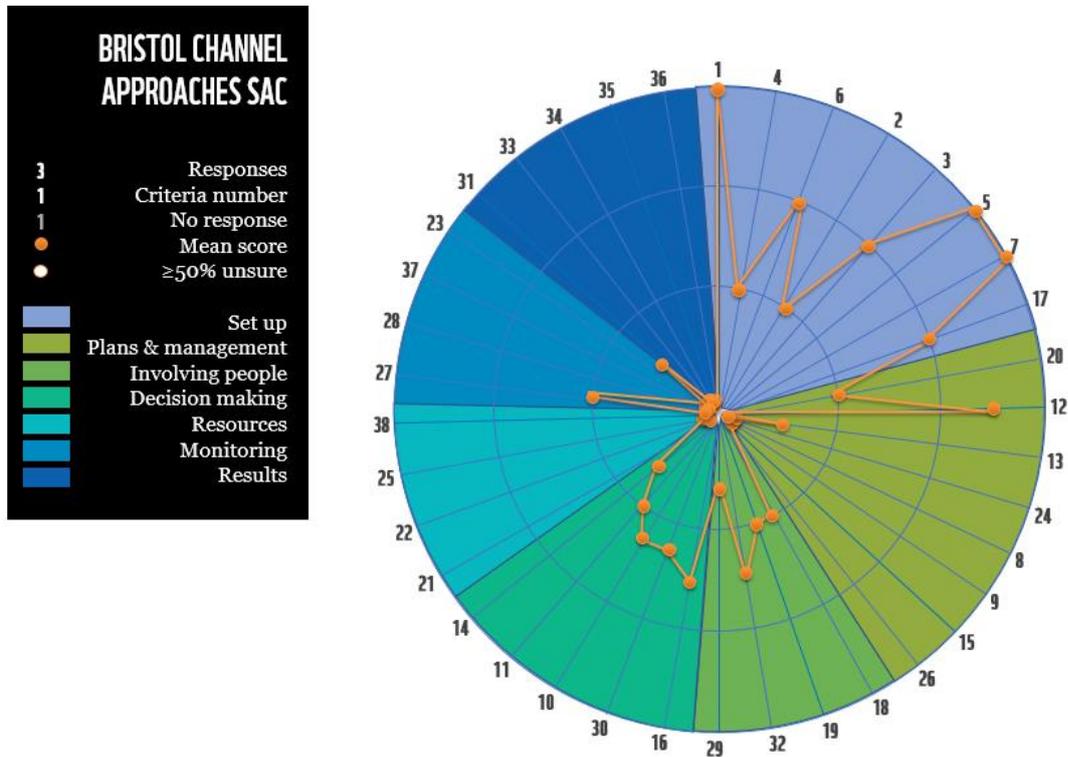


Figure 8: Completed compass with criteria grouped by theme for Bristol Channel Approaches SAC

Please refer to [Annex B](#) for detailed results. Scores were relatively consistent across the respondents and there were very few questions marked as “unsure”. An exception to this were responses in the “involving people” theme, where there was less agreement (see figure 9 below). One respondent commented:

“Depending on the location and nature of the MPA, the underlying reasons for setting up the MPA need to be as clear as possible, and MPA authorities need to be bold in promoting the need (including legal need) for their establishment. Often MPAs are introduced to stakeholders almost apologetically.”

32. How satisfied are you with your involvement with MPA management?

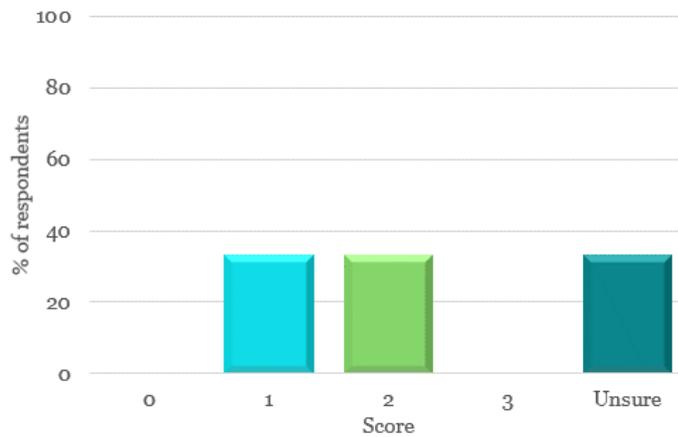


Figure 9: Examples of specific question responses showing disagreement and uncertainty across the 'involving people' theme for Bristol Channel Approaches SAC. A score of 0 = "Very dissatisfied with my involvement with the MPA", a score of 3 = "Very satisfied with my involvement with the MPA".

BIDEFORD TO FORELAND POINT MCZ

Twelve people chose to answer the management effectiveness survey for Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ. Six respondents answered the short survey, six the full version. Nine out of the 12 respondents indicated they were from North Devon. Four associated with the private sector, one from academia, two from a public authority and five from civil society.

Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ was determined to be in the creation phase of the MPA management cycle, although managed some low scores across many of the pioneer phase criterion. It achieved an overall score of 34% management effectiveness (figure 5). Only five criteria scored zero compared to the other creation phase MPAs, however none of the criteria in any phase were awarded full marks.

The following criterion scored 2 or higher (all from the set up phase):

- 2 Identify stakeholders and their interests
- 3 Set up stakeholder participation process
- 4 Assess condition of important areas for species and habitats
- 6 Identify pressures impacting species and habitats
- 7 Set MPA boundary based on areas of ecological importance
- 17 Ensure the MPA has legal status

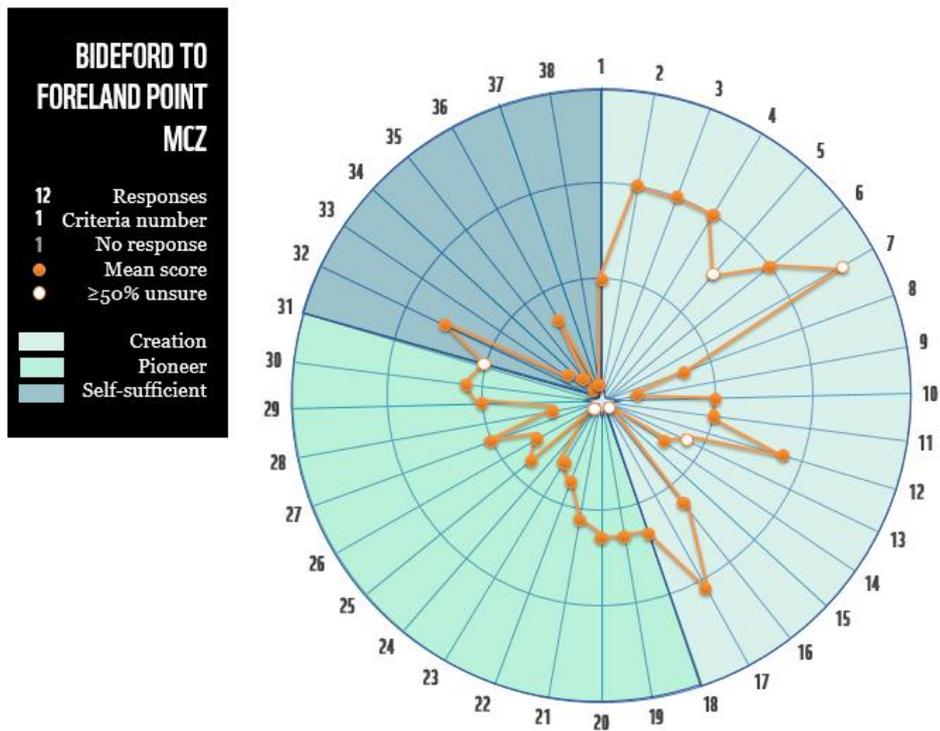


Figure 10: Completed compass for Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ

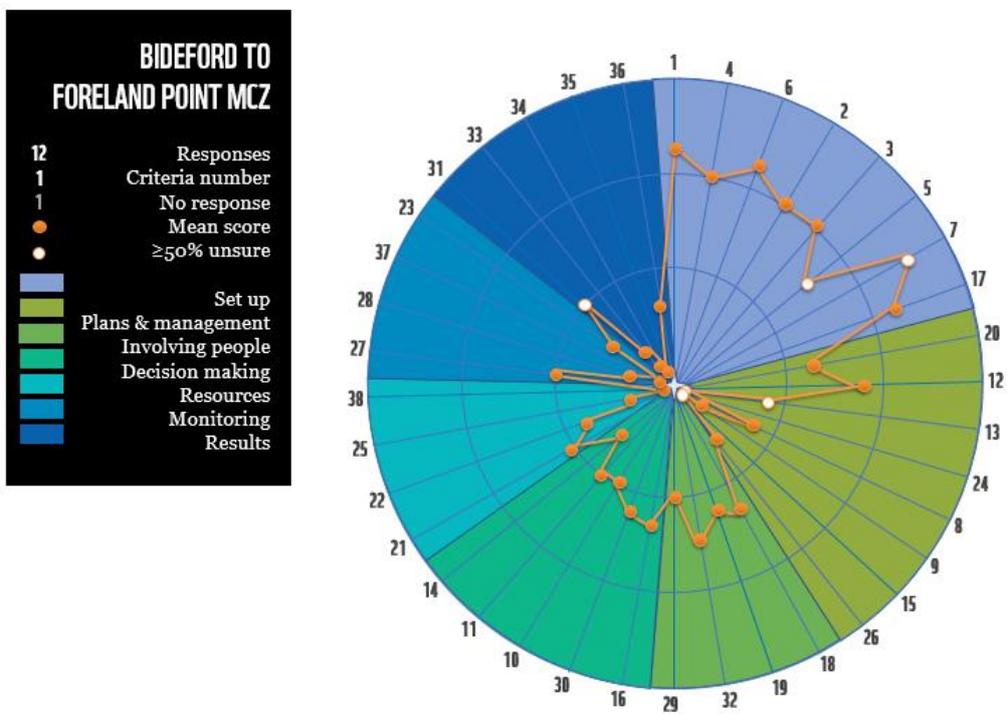


Figure 11: Completed compass by theme for Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ

If more than 50% of the respondents were unsure how to respond the criteria received a white dot (figures 10 and 11). Many of the responses from the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ survey spread across the entire range of answers indicating very little consensus. Please refer to [Annex C](#) for detailed results. People provided a lot of additional information to explain their scores and to improve the questions.

“From an early meeting I recall that we were unsure what the objective was so it was difficult to identify a pathway. I am still unsure what the ultimate goal is.”

“While those in the fishing industry are likely aware of the relevant IFCA by-laws, it is unlikely that those in other sectors (e.g. tourism, recreation) are aware of the designation or its impacts on them (and vice versa).”

HARTLAND POINT TO TINTAGEL MCZ

Three people chose to answer the management effectiveness survey for Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ. Two respondents answered the full survey, one the shorter version. Two out of three respondents indicated they were from North Devon, one from a public authority and two from civil society organisations. Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ was determined to be in the creation phase of the MPA management cycle and came out with the lowest score across all the sites surveyed for management effectiveness, 27% (figure 12).

Thirteen criteria scored zero, mainly in the “plans and management” section. There were three criteria for which none of the respondents felt confident enough to provide a score:

- 7 Set MPA boundary based on areas of ecological importance
- 33 Demonstrate that MPA is achieving objectives
- 37 Update management plan/rules based on monitoring data

Full marks were awarded for:

- 6 Identify pressures impacting species and habitats
- 17 Ensure the MPA has legal status

The following criteria scored 2 or more:

- 1 Identify important areas for species and habitats
- 3 Set up stakeholder participation process
- 21 Ensure adequate MPA staff
- 25 Capacity build skills needed to run the MPA
- 28 Monitor management activities against performance

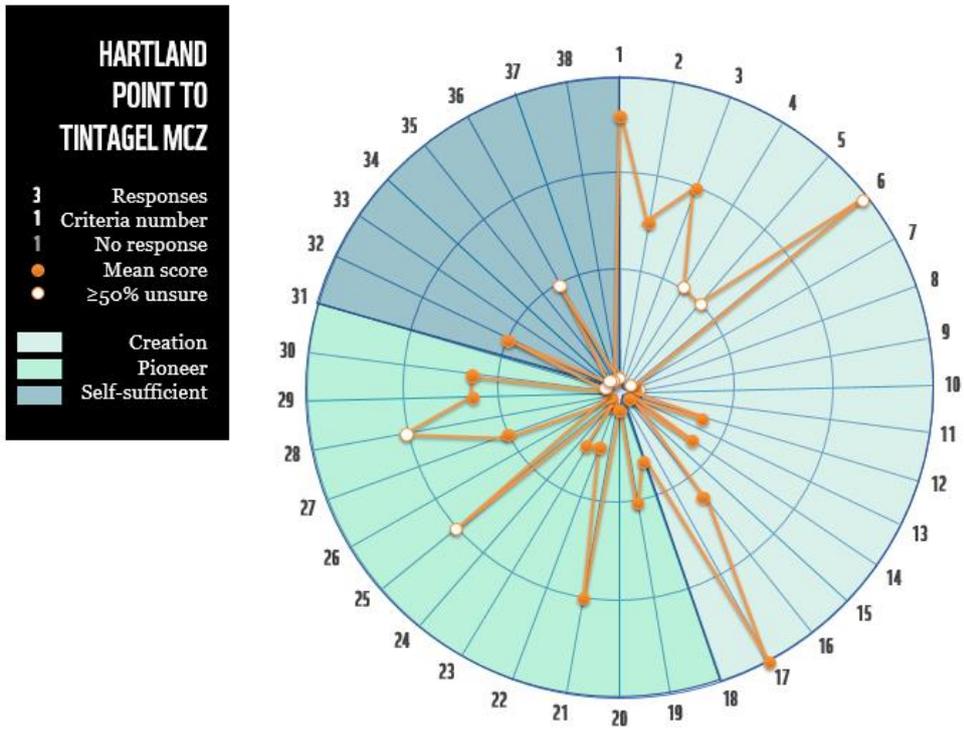


Figure 12: Completed compass for Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

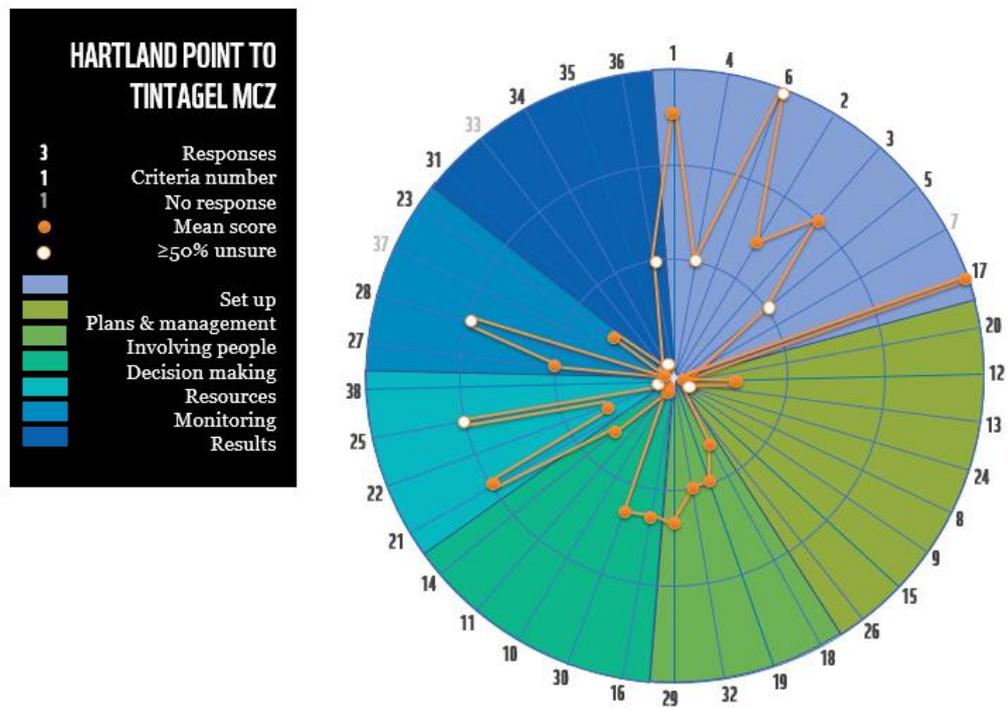


Figure 13: Completed compass by theme for Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

Please refer to [Annex D](#) for detailed results. Scores across the different themes were slightly erratic (figure 13). The set-up phase appeared the strongest with “plans and management” and “results” the lowest. There was a good degree of congruence with the scoring i.e. different respondents all agreed when something was doing well, or doing badly, but there was also a higher level of uncertainty than other sites, demonstrated by three of the criteria receiving no score at all (figure 14). Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ would benefit from more data to be able to say with confidence these scores are a true and accurate reflection of the situation.

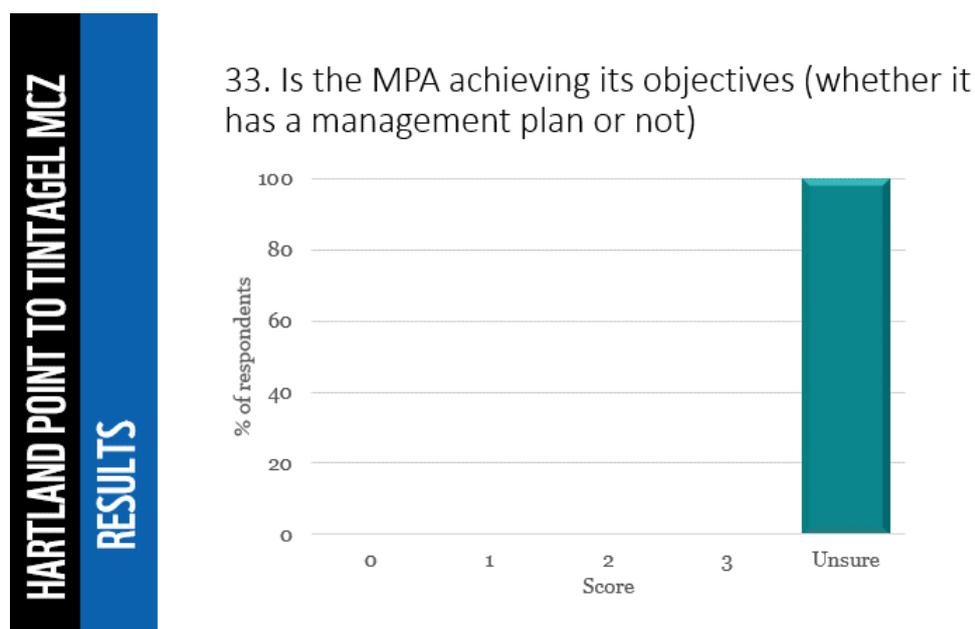


Figure 14: None of the respondents could say if Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ was achieving the objectives for the site.

LUNDY SAC AND MCZ

Eighteen people chose to answer the management effectiveness survey for Lundy. Seven respondents answered the short survey, eleven the full version. Six out of eighteen respondents indicated they were from North Devon. Four associated with the private sector, two from academia, four from a public authority and eight from civil society.

Lundy was determined to be in the self-sufficient phase of the MPA management cycle, and the overall score was the highest of the five MPAs assessed in North Devon at 70% management effectiveness. None of the criteria scored zero and the majority scored a two or higher (figure 15).

Two criteria scored the perfect score of three:

- 9 Establish management rules for zoned areas
- 17 Ensure the MPA has legal status

Two criteria scored significantly lower than the others:

- 15 Develop alternatives for displaced activities
- 38 Create sustainable income stream to cover management costs

When the criteria were arranged by theme (figure 16), both “resources” and “monitoring” received slightly lower mean scores, indicating room for improvement. There were also three criteria in the plans and management theme for which over 50% of the respondents indicated they were too unsure to provide a response. Please refer to [Annex E](#) for detailed results.

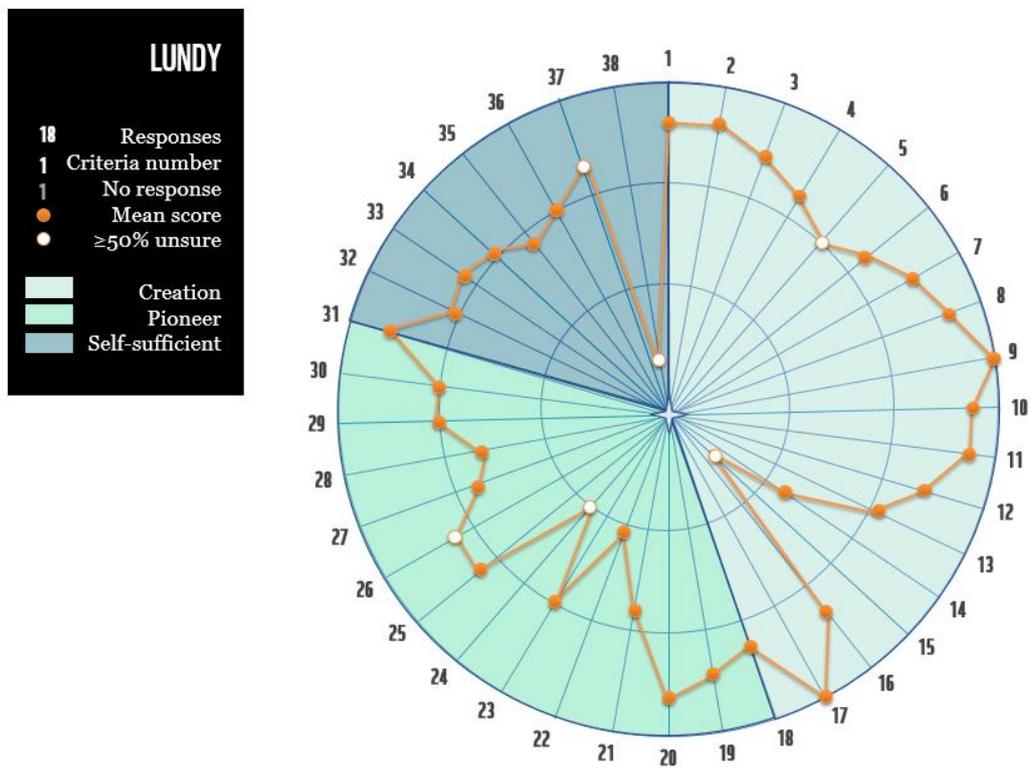


Figure 15: Completed compass for Lundy

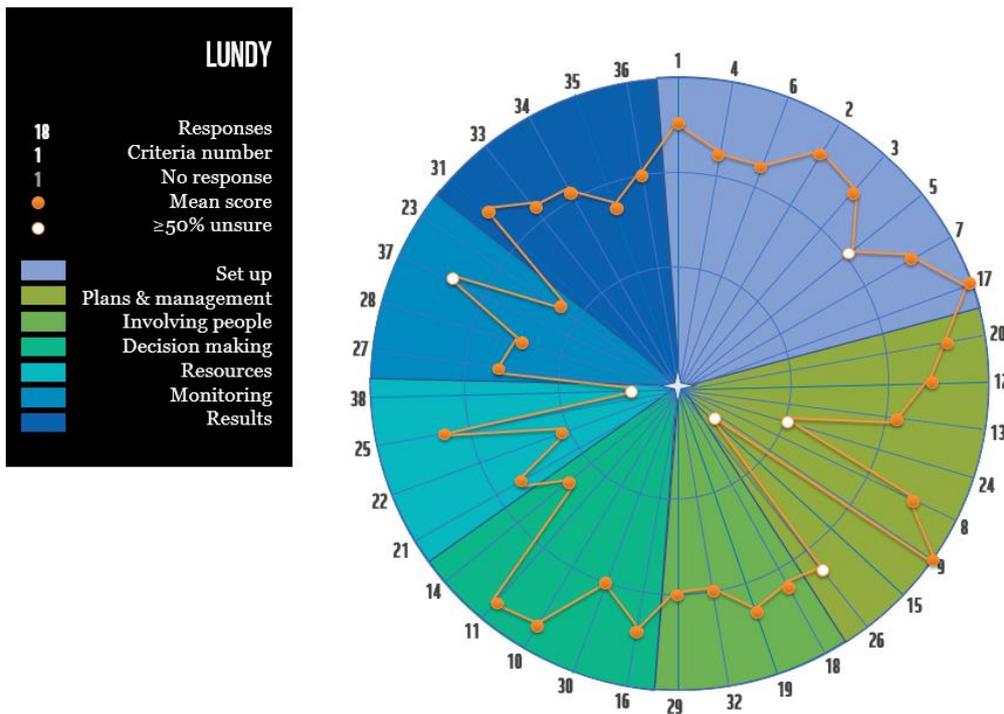


Figure 16: Completed compass by theme for Lundy

Many of the questions in the survey elicited responses across the range of scores, as well as the individual criteria being marked as “unsure”, demonstrating limited consensus. For example, criterion 28 where responses were equally split across zero, one, two and three. Some of the responses raised interesting questions. Respondents were agreed that a “management body exists to set strategy etc.,” but in a later question not everyone agreed that “responsibility for governance is clear”.

TAW-TORRIDGE ESTUARY SSSI

Eleven people chose to answer the management effectiveness survey for the Taw-Torridge Estuary SSSI. Seven respondents answered the short survey, four the full version. Nine out of eleven respondents indicated they were from North Devon. Two associated with the private sector, three from a public authority and six from civil society.

Taw-Torridge Estuary SSSI was determined to be in the pioneer phase of the MPA management cycle (given its age and scores across multiple criteria), and the overall management effectiveness score was 43%. None of the criteria scored zero or full marks (figure 17). Mean scores across the different themes were very close, averaging around 1 (out of 3), except for the set-up theme which scored a 2 (figure 18).

Taw-Torridge SSSI had the highest number of “unsure” criteria (six). Please refer to [Annex F](#) for detailed results.

Criteria scoring above 2 included:

- 1 Identify important areas for species and habitats
- 2 Identify stakeholders and their interests
- 3 Set up stakeholder participation process
- 4 Assess condition of important areas for species and habitats
- 6 Identify pressures impacting species and habitats
- 7 Set MPA boundary based on areas of ecological importance
- 17 Ensure the MPA has legal status
- 25 Capacity build skills needed to run the MPA

The lowest scores were given for:

- 14 Identify benefit sharing rules
- 15 Develop alternatives for displaced activities
- 16 Create clear lines of responsibility for governance
- 38 Create sustainable income stream to cover management costs

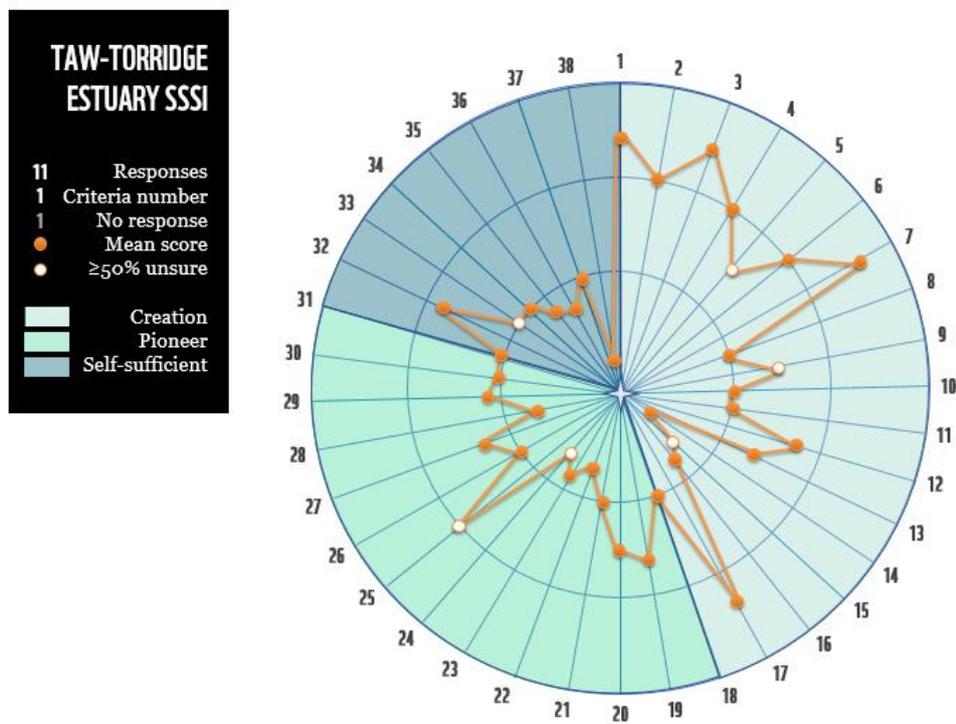


Figure 17: Completed compass for Taw-Torridge Estuary SSSI

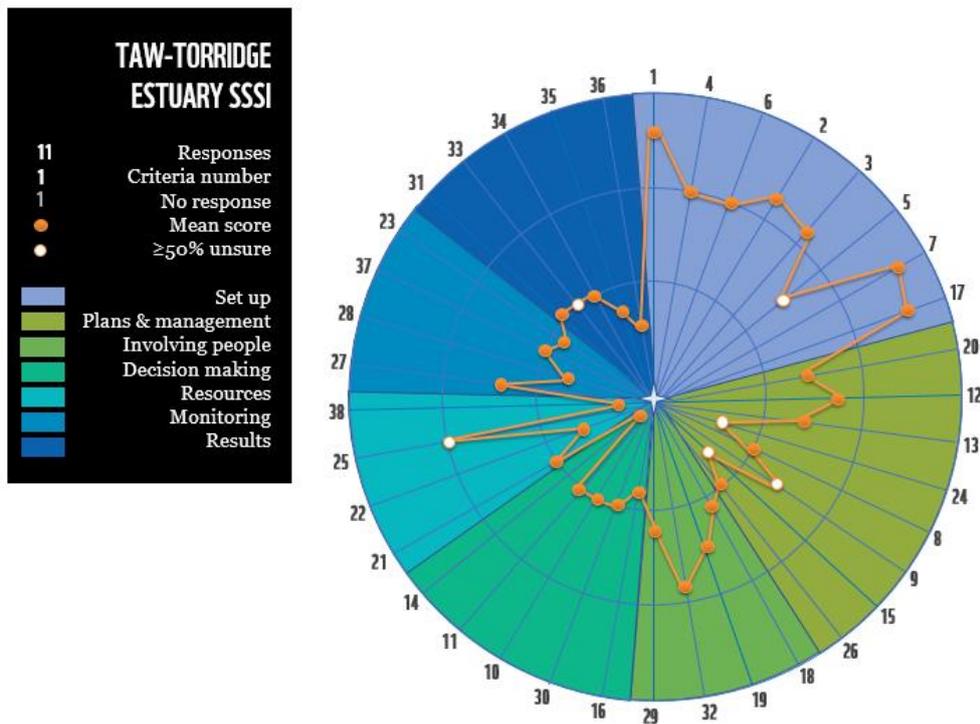


Figure 18: Completed compass by theme for Taw-Torridge Estuary SSSI

Discussion

When considering these conclusions, it is important to bear in mind that this study is a pilot with a relatively small sample size which limits the reliability of the results.

CONCLUSIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MPAS

The three MPAs in North Devon that have recently been designated (Bristol Channel Approaches SAC, Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ) were assigned to the creation phase. This reflects the fact that they scored relatively well on the criteria relating to the set up of an MPA, including identifying important species and habitats, setting boundaries, and gaining legal status. In order to move these MPAs towards being well-managed, it will be important to address the criteria in the later phases of the compass, particularly starting to communicate with the public about these MPAs (many people are currently unaware that these new MPAs exist), developing and implementing management plans, and developing business plans to fund long-term MPA management.

Lundy SAC and MCZ scored well in the assessment, reflecting the fact that this MPA has been established for a long time and has a significant amount of resource associated with it. However, although this MPA was assigned to the self-sufficient phase, it is important to note that it was not considered to have a sustainable income stream to cover management costs, which is a barrier to

long-term self-sufficiency. Lundy MPA also received slightly lower scores for the themes of monitoring and resources, indicating that these could be aspects to focus on to improve future management.

Although Taw-Torridge Estuary SSSI has been established for some time as a protected area, it was assigned to the pioneer phase as it did not score highly in the self-sufficient phase. In order to move this MPA towards the self-sufficient phase, it will be important to address issues such as proper implementation of the management plan, community engagement, demonstrating that the MPA is achieving its objectives, and having a sustainable income stream. Further reflections on each of the key themes from survey respondents are presented in [Annex G](#).

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Across all the MPAs, the 'set up' theme received the highest scores, followed by 'involving people' and 'decision making'. Generally, the themes with the lowest scores were 'resources', 'monitoring' and 'results'.

Generally, the MPAs in North Devon scored well in the creation phase (which includes identification of species and habitats, identifying pressures and ensuring legal status) but did not score so well in the self-sufficient phase (which includes implementing the management plan and demonstrating results). This reflects the UK's focus to date on designation of MPAs and highlights the need to move on to implementing active management in these areas. This is reflected in the quote below from one of the respondents:

"The situation with this - and many MPAs speaks for itself. Indeed, one IFCA chief once put it to me that we need to 'operationalise' our MPAs. i.e. show they are working, doing something for someone, or something.

This assessment has helped to identify which aspects of management need to be addressed to help move MPAs towards the later phases of the compass (see conclusions for individual MPAs above).

As Lundy scored well on many of the criteria, it is useful to look to this MPA for examples and models of good practice. For example, one respondent commented:

"Lundy might be unusual in having both the Lundy Management Forum and the MPA Advisory Group which means a lot meetings and efforts to co-ordinate across groups but it seems to work well and has good participation - so a useful model for other MPAs."

Generally, there was also a lack of public knowledge and understanding of the MPAs, as reflected in these quotes from respondents:

"Public awareness of marine protected areas is a major issue. There is not enough awareness of the existence of sites. If people knew the sites were there then they would be more inclined to show an interest in how they are managed."

"I am not aware of where to look for information - as a member of the community it doesn't appear in places that I go - i.e. local community hubs, local newspapers/social media sites etc."

A common theme across the MPAs appeared to be concerns related to enforcement and long-term funding for the site. None of the MPAs had sustainable income streams to cover management costs.

These conclusions reinforce the work areas that the UK SEAS project has chosen to focus on: we are working to improve governance, increase public understanding, and develop sustainable finance mechanisms for MPAs. Thus, we hope to be able to demonstrate improvements in management effectiveness scores over the course of this project.

Reflections on improvements to the compass

As this study was the first pilot of the compass in North Devon, we were keen to receive feedback on the compass itself and the process we have used to apply it, in order to improve how we carry out the assessment in the future.

We received a good deal of constructive feedback on the survey, which is available in raw format in [Annex H](#), and summarised in the bullet points below:

- Survey was not suitable for general public and level of knowledge, difficult to answer questions unless you are a local person who knows the site
- Language of the questions could be made clearer- some are questions and some are statements
- There is a certain amount of overlap between the criteria
- Need to consider whether questions should focus on results or processes e.g. whether it matters if a good management plan is in place if the condition has improved
- Think about reorganising the questions into different sections to make them more logical
- Could add some additional criteria on the human dimension
- Questions felt like they had a negative bias and were designed to give a generally negative result
- It would be useful to link the compass criteria to the IUCN Green list
- A lot of people answered questions saying they were unsure – for some questions it could be that these weren't the right people to be answering the questions so we wouldn't necessarily expect them to know all the answers.
- Perhaps a survey isn't the best way to collect the information, maybe better to use an objective person to ask questions and compile the scores.
- If an MPA is very new then it won't be able to achieve a high score so need to make sure we reflect this in the write up.
- It would be useful to produce a user guide showing how others could apply the compass
- For the unsure answer, it would be good to have two options a) because I'm not an expert and b) because there isn't enough data
- Could give more weight to important results using colours/graphics. Also, could highlight red lines or must haves (maybe 10 key ones). These could relate to legal obligations. Please refer to [Annex I](#) for more information on presentation and analysis options.
- Might be useful to add a criterion which speaks to whether the MPA is part of an ecologically coherent network.

Next time we conduct this survey, there are some actions we could take to address this feedback and improve the survey:

- Review the questions which a lot of people answered 'unsure' to. Decide which ones are important for improving general understanding and which ones are too technical so aren't appropriate for asking to a broad audience
- Consider doing two surveys for each MPA: an online one which is suitable for the general public, plus a detailed interview survey for people with local knowledge that is carried out in person (one-to-one or in groups)
- Revise the questions to make sure they are clear, neutral and not overlapping, consider changing the categories
- Test the questions out on a suitable trial audience for each survey

Next steps

We plan to follow up with a variety of stakeholders to discuss the results of this study, including Natural England, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Lundy managers and Taw-Torridge Estuary Forum.

Based on workshops with stakeholders and various meetings, we have also developed a list of specific interventions which address different aspects of management. We will use the results of this study to help focus in on those interventions which would be most relevant to the North Devon MPAs in terms of addressing areas of management which need to be improved.

CONTINUED ASSESSMENT

The compass assessment generated a useful baseline of data, reflecting a snapshot in time. However, the compass allows for the presentation of successive years results, helping to highlight progress towards management effectiveness goals. Figure 19 below shows scores for Year one, in orange and Year two in Green. Results like these would indicate a marine protected area is moving from the creation phase into the pioneer phase and significant improvements had been demonstrated across many of the criterion.

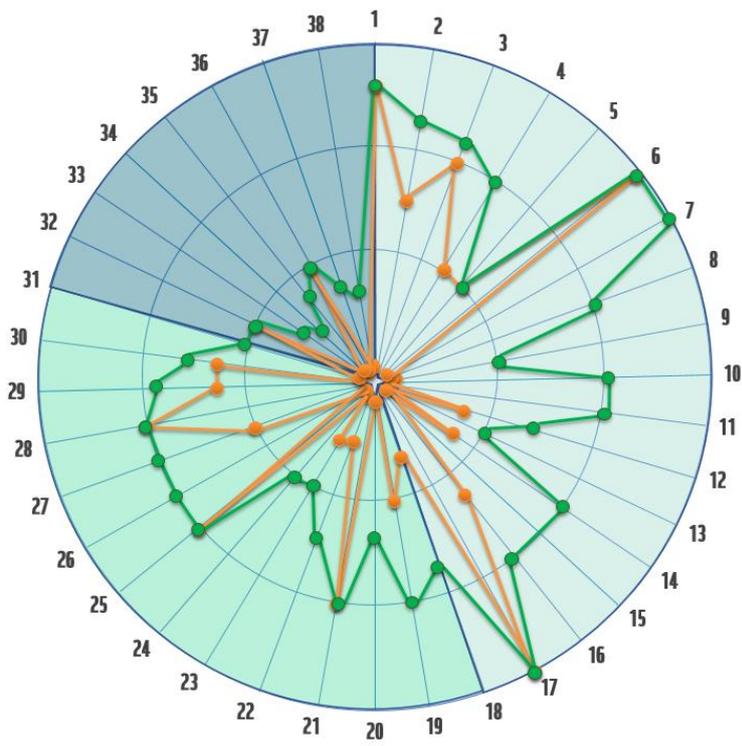


Figure 19: Hypothetical display of multi-year scores (year one = orange, year two = green) for Hartland Point MCZ showing improvement across different management effectiveness criteria.