**Supplementary Information: Hawkins, J.P., O’Leary, B.C., Basset, N., Peters, H., Rakowski, S., Reeve, G., Roberts, C.M.** Public awareness and attitudes towards marine protection in the United Kingdom.*Marine Pollution Bulletin*



**Figure S1:** Demographic characteristics of respondents:(a) Percentage of male (black): female (grey) respondents, respondents who declined to answer this question are represented in white; (b) Age of respondents in 2005 (white), 2010 (grey) and 2015 (black); (c) Distance respondents said they lived from the coast in 2010 (grey) and 2015 (black), question not asked in 2005; (d) Percentage of respondents who said they were a member of an environmental organisation (black) or were not (grey) in 2005, 2010 and 2015, respondents who declined to answer this question are represented in white; and (e) Percentage of respondents reporting they utilised the sea for a particular activity (at least one activity, black; no activities, grey; no response, white).

**Table S1:** Questions asked in 2005, 2010 and 2015 surveys. Text in italics refers to information provided in each questionnaire.

| **Qu. No.** | **Question** | **Answer options** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2005 Survey** |
| 1 | Would you rate the health of the sea as: | Very, quite or not at all important |
| 2 | Indicate how important you think the sea is as:1. a food source for people
2. a place for recreation
3. a habitat for fish and other wildlife
4. a place for waste disposal
 | Very, quite or not at all important |
| 3 | Do you think that the seas around Britain are currently in: | Good, fair or poor health |
| 4 | In the past ten years do you think that the health of Britain's seas has: | Improved, stayed the same, got worse |
| 5 | Have you ever heard about the idea of declaring parts of the sea as Marine Protected Areas or Fully Protected Marine Reserves? | Yes or no |
| *Marine Protected Areas are places where regulations put limits on certain activities in order to protect wildlife and the environment. For example, marine protected areas may prohibit oil exploitation, or prevent dumping of waste.* |
| 6 | Given this definition, what percentage of the total area of UK coastal waters would you estimate are currently declared as Marine Protected Areas?  | Open answer |
| *Britain has set up a number of Marine Protected Areas called Special Areas of Conservation around the country under European Law. These areas are designed to protect marine wildlife. However, only a handful of species and habitats are protected within these areas and few restrictions have been placed on recreational and commercial activities which have the potential to harm wildlife.* |
| 7 | Do you think that protection should be strengthened in these conservation areas? | Yes or no |
| 8 | How would you feel to learn that commercial and recreational fishing activities that can harm fish and other wildlife are permitted within most of these Special Areas of Conservation? | Very concerned, concerned, not at all concerned |
| *In many countries of the world, governments have been setting up marine reserves that are fully protected from all fishing as well as other practices that could harm wildlife such as dumping, dredging and mining. After five to ten years of protection, fish populations typically grow to become two to five times larger, and the variety of fish and other marine wildlife also increases.* |
| 9 | What percentage of the total area of the seas around Britain do you think is protected in fully protected marine reserves? | Open answer |
| *The UK government is currently considering establishing more marine reserves around the United Kingdom. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has recommended that marine reserves should cover 30% of British waters in order to safeguard the marine environment and help rebuild commercial fish stocks.* |
| 10 | What percentage of the total area of the seas around Britain do you think should be protected in marine reserves?  | Open answer |
| 11 | Which (if any) activities do you participate in within UK coastal waters? | None, sailing, swimming, snorkelling, recreational sea angling, commercial sea fishing, power boating, jet skiing, waterskiing, scuba diving, surfing, sea kayaking |
| 12 | Would you change your answer about what percentage of UK coastal waters should be protected if there was a chance that the creation of a marine reserve would include your favourite fishing location? | Yes or no |
| 13 | If yes, what would this new answer be? | Open answer |
| 14 | Are you: | Male or female |
| 15 | How old are you? | 18-30, 31-50, 51-70, 71+ |
| 16 | What is your occupation | Open answer |
| 17 | Are you a member of any environmental organisation, such as the RSPB, World Wide Fund for Nature, National Trust, Marine Conservation Society, etc? | Yes or no |
| **2010 Survey** |
| 1 | Are you interested in the current health of British seas? | Yes, no or indifferent |
| 2 | Do you think that the seas around Britain are currently: | In good, fair or poor health |
| 3 | In the past 10 years, do you think that the health of Britain’s seas has: | Improved, stayed the same, or deteriorated |
| 4 | Have you ever heard about the idea of declaring parts of the sea as Marine Protected Areas or Fully Protected Marine Reserves? | Yes or no |
| *A Marine Protected Area limits the amount of activity within a designated region of the sea, aiming to conserve and protect marine species, habitats and ecosystems.**In many countries of the world, governments have been setting up fully protected marine reserves prohibiting all fishing as well as other practices that could harm wildlife such as dumping, dredging and mining. After five to ten years of protection, fish populations typically grow to become two to five times larger, and the variety of fish and other marine wildlife also increases.* |
| 5 | What percentage of the total area of the seas around Britain do you think is in fully protected marine reserves? | Open answer |
| *The UK government is currently considering establishing more marine reserves around the United Kingdom. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has recommended that marine reserves should cover 30% of British waters in order to safeguard the marine environment and help rebuild commercial fish stocks.* |
| 6 | What percentage of the total area of UK coastal waters around Britain do you think should be protected in marine reserves? | Open answer |
| Please give a reason for your answer | Open answer |
| 7 | Have you heard of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill that is currently passing through parliament? | Yes or no |
| *The Marine and Coastal Access Bill proposes that designated Marine Conservation Zones will be established around much of the UK’s coastline. These will provide different levels of protection from different marine activities. A Marine Management Organisation will issue licenses for permissible activities within Marine Conservation Zones and impose penalties such as fines and license points against lawbreakers. Marine Policy Statements will be drawn up to outline the government’s future marine objectives and priorities.* |
| 8 | Below are four provisions which are currently contained within the Marine Bill. Please indicate how important each one is to you.1. Designation of Marine Conservation Zones to protect wildlife and habitats
2. Establishment of a Marine Management Organisation to co-ordinate management of different activities
3. Creation of a walkable route around the entire English coastline
4. Enforcement of penalties and fines for breaching Marine Licensing and damaging Marine Conservation Zones
 |  Very, quite or not important |
| 9 | Are you aware that some fish species such as Bluefin Tuna, Skate and wild Atlantic Cod are severely overfished and highly vulnerable to extinction? | Yes or no |
| 10 | Do you buy seafood? | Yes or no |
| *If you don’t buy seafood please move on to question 13.* |
| 11 | When you buy seafood do you look out for any of the following product information (I.e. ecolabels)?1. Marine Stewardship Council
2. Organic product
3. Dolphin friendly tinned tuna
4. RSPCA Freedom Foods
 | Yes, no or don’t buy seafood |
| 12 | Do you look out for information on the fishing methods used to catch the seafood that you buy? | Yes, no or don’t buy seafood |
| 13 | Which (if any) of the following do you participate in within UK coastal waters? | Commercial sea fishing, recreational sea angling, sailing (on the sea), scuba diving, surfing, swimming (in the sea), jetskiing (on the sea), waterskiing (on the sea), power boating (on the sea), snorkelling, sea kayaking, none |
| 14 | Are you: | Male or female |
| 15 | How old are you? | 18-30, 31-50, 51-70, 71+ |
| 16 | How far away do you live from the coast (estimation in miles)? | <20, 21-40, 41-60, >60 |
| 17 | Please indicate any environmental organisations of which you are a member (e.g. WWF, National Trust, RSPB, Greenpeace etc.) | Open answer |
| **2015 Survey** |
| 1 | Do you think that the seas around the UK are currently: | In good, fair or poor health |
| 2 | In the past 10 years, do you think that the health of the UK’s seas has: | Improved, stayed the same or deteriorated |
| 3 | Are you familiar with the concept of declaring parts of the sea as “Marine Protected Areas”? | Yes or no |
| *A Marine Protected Area limits the amount of activity within a designated region of the sea, aiming to conserve and protect marine species, habitats and ecosystems.**In many countries of the world, governments have been setting up fully protected marine reserves prohibiting all fishing as well as other practices that could harm wildlife such as dumping, dredging and mining. After five to ten years of protection, fish populations typically grow to become two to five times larger, and the variety of fish and other marine wildlife also increases.* |
| 4 | What percentage of the total area of UK seas do you think should receive full protection in marine reserves? | Open answer |
| Please give a reason for your answer | Open answer |
| 5 | Have you heard of the Marine and Coastal Access Act passed in the UK in 2009? | Yes or no |
| *An over-arching aim of the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) is to provide “clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas”. To help achieve this goal in England, a network of protected areas called “Marine Conservation Zones” is being established.* *After a two-year review involving hundreds of people from a wide variety of interests, including fishing, oil and gas, offshore windfarms, tourism, wildlife conservation and many others, a network of 127 Marine Conservation Zones was recommended to the Government. This number of sites was advised by experts to be the minimum necessary to deliver adequate protection to UK marine life.* *In 2013, the Government accepted and established less than a quarter of these sites (27). None will receive any new protection until 2016.* |
| 6 | How satisfied are you with the outcome described above? | Extremely or slightly satisfied, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied, slightly or extremely unsatisfied |
| Please give a reason for your answer | Open answer |
| *In February 2015, the Government began a consultation to add more Marine Conservation Zones in English waters and are now consulting on a further 23 sites from the original 127 proposed.* |
| 7 | How satisfied are you with this level of expansion? | Extremely or slightly satisfied, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied, slightly or extremely unsatisfied |
| Please give a reason for your answer | Open answer |
| *Scotland has passed its own marine conservation legislation and 30 Marine Protected Areas around the Scottish coastline were designated in August 2014. Management strategies for 20 of these are currently being developed. At present there are no plans to stop bottom trawling and scallop dredging throughout most of these areas. These fishing methods involve dragging heavy nets and steel dredges across the seabed, damaging and killing animals and plants living on the bottom and catch large quantities of marine life that will not be eaten by people.* |
| 8 | How satisfied would you be if trawling and dredging were permitted in Marine Protected Areas in Scotland? | Extremely or slightly satisfied, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied, slightly or extremely unsatisfied |
| Please give a reason for your answer | Open answer |
| *Under present proposals, less than 1% of Scottish coastal waters will be fully protected from trawling and dredging.* |
| 9 | Do you think more of Scotland’s seas should be fully protected from trawling and dredging? | Yes, no or don’t know |
| *Wales has pursued a different approach to protecting its seas. Following a public consultation, the idea of fully protecting ten small sites from fishing in “Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones” was rejected by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2012, citing concerns from the fishing industry. The plan received approximately 7,000 responses, of which 70% favoured creating the conservation zones.* |
| 10 | How satisfied are you with this outcome? | Extremely or slightly satisfied, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied, slightly or extremely unsatisfied |
| Please give a reason for your answer | Open answer |
| 11 | Please tick any of the activities below that you perform in UK waters. | Commercial seafishing, scuba diving, jet skiing (on the sea), snorkelling, recreational sea angling, surfing, water-skiing (on the sea), sea kayaking, sailing (on the sea), swimming (in the sea), power boating, none. |
| *The following questions are personal, if you would prefer not to answer them please leave them blank.* |
| 12 | Are you: | Male or Female |
| 13 | How old are you? | 18-30, 31-50, 51-70, 71+ |
| 14 | How far do you live from the coast (approximate number of miles)? | <20, 21-40, 41-60, 60+ miles |
| 15 | Please indicate any environmental organisations that you belong to (e.g. WWF, National Trust, RSPB, Greenpeace etc.). | Open answer |

**Table S2:** Comparison of 2015 respondent profile against 2014 UK adult population demographics (data from: UK Office for National Statistics1)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age category | Total UK population (%) | 2015 respondents (%) | Total male UK population (%) | 2015 male respondents (%) | Total female UK population (%) | 2015 female respondents (%) |
| 18-30 | 21.9 | 15.8 | 22.7 | 13.8 | 21.1 | 19.1 |
| 31-50 | 34.4 | 28.6 | 34.9 | 25.7 | 33.8 | 33.9 |
| 51-70 | 29.6 | 35.0 | 29.8 | 43.1 | 29.3 | 30.4 |
| 71+ | 14.2 | 16.2 | 12.6 | 17.4 | 15.8 | 16.5 |

1<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/overviewoftheukpopulation/february2016> [accessed 7th June 2016]