



SOLENT PROTECTION SOCIETY

Protecting the Solent and its environment for future generations

22nd April 2015

Ms Eva Elks
Defra
17 Smith Square
London SW1P

Dear Ms Elks

Response to the Marine Conservation Zone consultation by The Solent Protection Society

The Solent Protection Society was formed in 1956 to monitor development around the Solent and to ensure the ecological and environmental well-being and wise management of the Solent area, its natural beauty and amenities, so that these may continue to be enjoyed by present and future generations.

The Solent Protection Society welcomes the Marine Conservation Zone initiative and considers that MCZs will greatly benefit the environs and ecology of the Solent, provided that designation and enforcement are based on sound science and wise management.

The Needles MCZ lies just outside the Solent area, however the Society supports the designation of this site provided that careful consideration is given by Defra to any detrimental effects on local businesses in the fragile economy of the West Wight. This Society does not hold scientific or specific economic evidence for the Needles MCZ area which is relevant to the consultation.

The Solent Protection Society respects and supports the decision by Defra to delay the designation of the Bembridge, Norris to Ryde and Yarmouth to Cowes MCZs, and considers that further scientific and economic evidence, coupled with further work with stakeholders, will lead to greater understanding and better management options.

Yours faithfully

William G Pimlott
Chairman
Solent Protection Society

**Secretary – secretary@solentprotection.org. www.solentprotection.org
Driftwood, 4 Tides Way, Marchwood, Southampton, Hampshire. SO40 4LB**

Solent Protection Society – Registered Charity No.1154317