



Agenda item B6

From: Lead Scientific and Conservation Officer

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 25 May 2023

Subject: MPA update

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary:

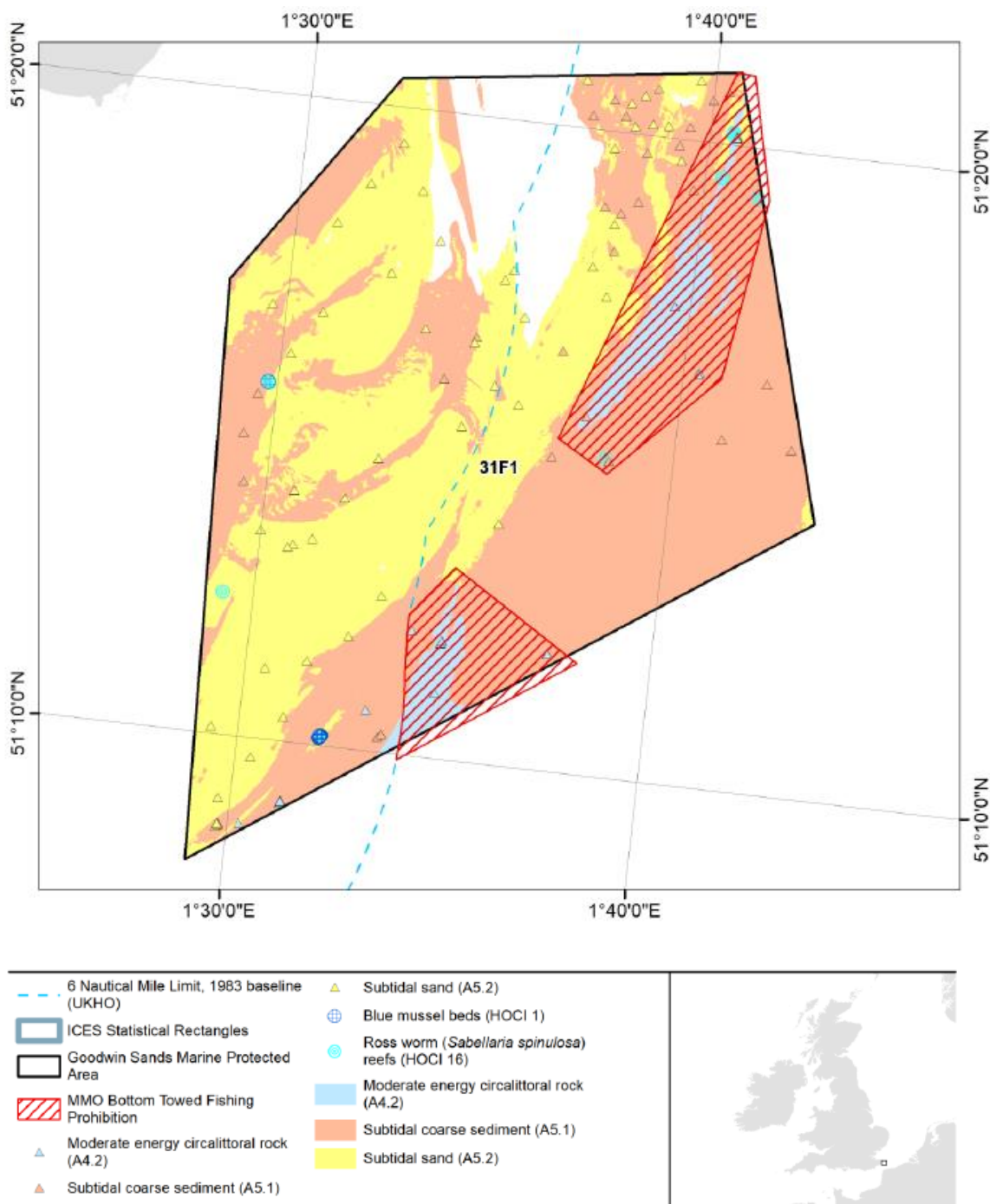
The paper updates Members to the progress in developing fisheries management measures on the Goodwin Sands MCZ site in both the MMOs and KEIFCA's sections of the site.

Recommendation:

The Authority is asked to **NOTE** the report.

Goodwin Sands Consultation MMO

On the 17 January the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) started a consultation seeking views on a draft byelaw, and associated Impact Assessment, to manage fishing using bottom towed gear in specified areas in 13 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Included in this list was the Goodwin Sands MCZ. As reported previously the Goodwin Sands MCZ site straddles the 6nm boundary with half the site managed by KEIFCA and the other half by the MMO (see chart overleaf).



As part of the consultation KEIFCA attended an MMO MPA meeting about the management of the Goodwin Sand MCZ site with Thanet Fishermen's Association on the 14th March. The meeting was very constructive and the MMO took onboard many of the points made by the fishing industry and the Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust who were also in attendance. KEIFCA also worked with Kent

County Council to draft a reply to the consultation and highlight the objectives of the Marine Kent Biodiversity Strategy. The consultation finished on the 28 March 2023.

KEIFCA's next steps for Goodwin Sands fisheries management

Based on the survey work undertaken over the last two summers KEIFCA intend to take a slightly different approach to management of the Goodwin Sand MCZ site than the MMO. Rather than introduce management in two phases like the MMO (introduce management measures on the most sensitive features then in a second phase for the rest of the features on the site), KEIFCA are looking to introduce management for our section of the site in one step. In addition, we want to put the local community at the heart of this process, and our Lead Scientific Officer has developed an innovative new way of using a spatial computer program to aid stakeholders in producing protected area options depending on their priorities as well as KEIFCA legal responsibilities. KEIFCA officers met the Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust to discuss the site and this approach on the 2 May.

We are at the interview stage of recruiting a new science officer to lead this work (funded by DEFRA money), and once in post the officer will start the process of engaging with stakeholders and developing management for KEIFCA's section of the Goodwin Sands MCZ site.

Recommendation:

The Authority is asked to **NOTE** the report.