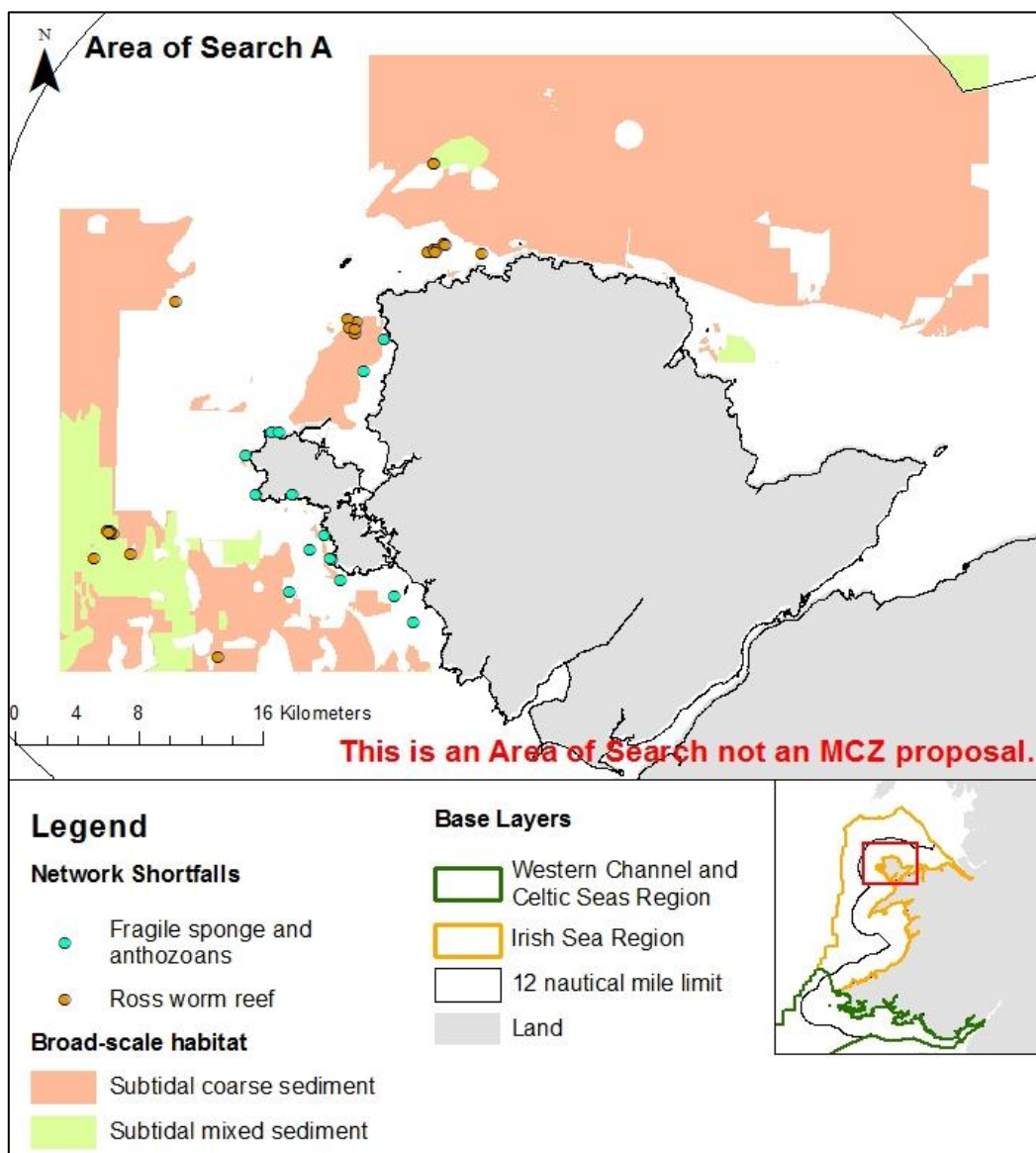


Fact sheet: Area of Search A (AoS-A)

This Area of Search fact sheet is a summary of information provided in the 'Overview of Area of Search within Welsh Waters' which should be referred to for further information and justification. Frequently Asked Questions and the Process Document are available on the project website for further context.



Area of Search	AoS-A
Regional Sea	Irish Sea
General location	North and west of Anglesey
Size	1,290km ²
Inshore/offshore	Inshore and offshore (predominantly inshore) ¹
Brief description	The area is largely dominated by subtidal coarse sediment in the south-west and north-east corners with patches of subtidal mixed sediment throughout. Records of fragile sponge and anthozoan communities and Ross worm reef are located within the western half of the area.

¹ Inshore waters are those between the mean high water spring tide and the 12 nautical mile limit of territorial seas. Offshore waters are those between the 12 nautical mile limit of territorial seas and the median line.





Shortfall Feature	Justification
Ross worm reef	Only opportunity to address the shortfall in the Irish Sea region. Only location in the Irish Sea where there are consistent records of the feature over a number of years.
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	One of two required opportunities to address the shortfall in the Irish Sea region. One of two locations in the Irish Sea where there are consistent records outside of existing MPA reef feature.
Subtidal coarse sediment	Opportunities to fully address the shortfall in Irish Sea region
Subtidal mixed sediment	Opportunities to partially address the shortfall in Irish Sea region
Justification: Depth zones	
AoS-A is predominantly inshore, to ensure the connectivity network principle is fully addressed an additional area for subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediments would be required in deeper waters	

Activities within Area of Search A:

- Oil and Gas pipelines
- Marine licensing applications
- Anchorage areas
- Area of Offshore Wind
- Area of Offshore Tidal Stream
- Marine Licensed Disposal Sites
- Demersal fishing activity (vessels 12m and over)
- Registered sectoral interest regarding disposal sites, cable agreements, coastal agreements, wind, and wave and tidal
- Scallop Dredging

Other fishing activities are known to occur in this area (e.g. potting and charter vessels). We do not have reliable, recent data to include at this point and further discussions are needed to establish key areas for other fishing activities.

What are Areas of Search (AoS)?

Welsh Government, NRW and JNCC have worked with the MPA Network Completion Project Task and Finish Group (TFG) to identify Areas of Search within Welsh waters.

The aim is to focus attention on key areas which could address network shortfalls within Welsh waters. As presented in the process below, AoS are identified within Broad Areas of Search. Possible MCZs will then be identified from the AoS. **The AoS are larger than the shortfall requirement to allow a number of options to be developed and refined later on in the process.** Please see the Process Document and the Overview of Areas of Search within Welsh Waters for more information (available on the project website).

