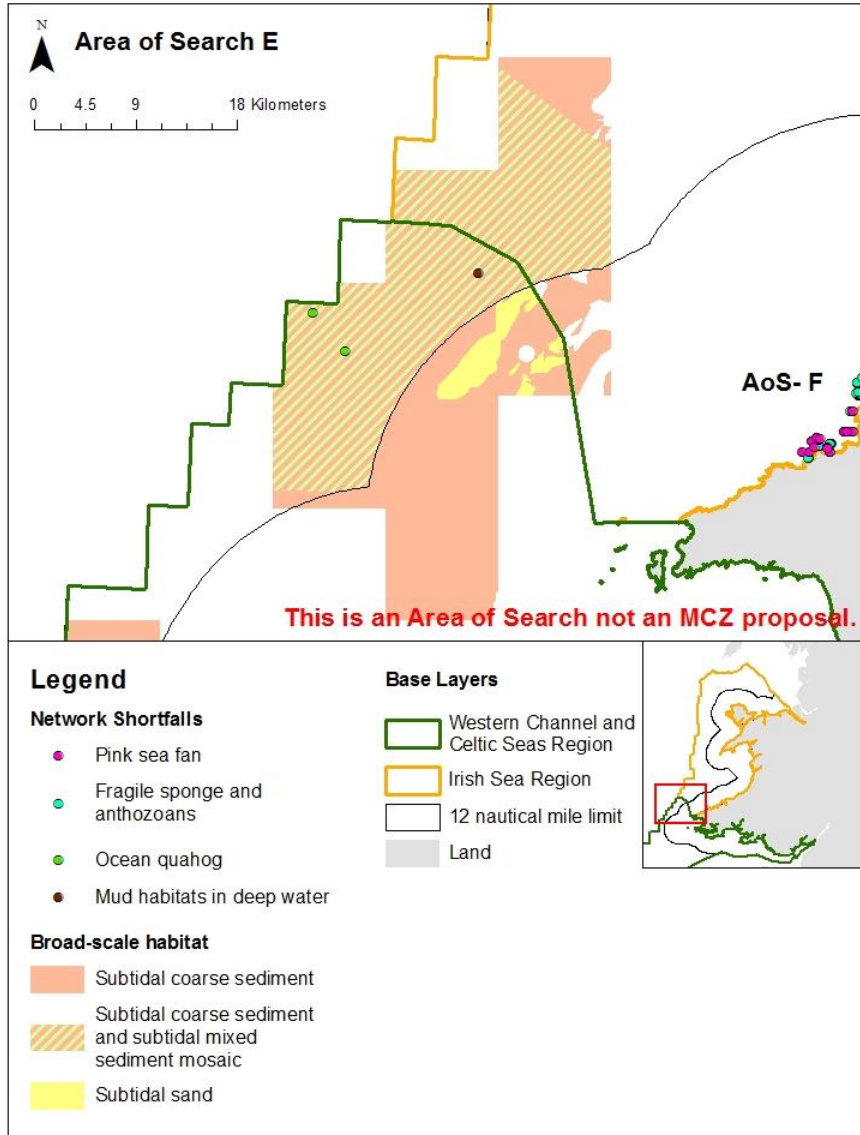


Fact sheet: Area of Search E (AoS-E)

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-E
Regional Sea	Irish Sea and Western Channel and Celtic Sea
General location	North and west of Pembrokeshire, straddling the 12nm boundary
Size	880km ²
Inshore/offshore	Inshore and offshore ¹
Brief description	The area consists largely of subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal coarse and mixed sediment mosaic with a small area of subtidal sand towards the centre. Two records of ocean quahog and a record for mud habitats in deep water are located in the subtidal coarse and mixed sediment matrix within the Western Channel and Celtic Seas region 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
Subtidal coarse sediment	Opportunities to partially address shortfall in Irish Sea region and fully address shortfall in Western Channel and Celtic Seas region
Subtidal mixed sediment	Opportunities to partially address shortfall in Irish Sea region
Subtidal Sand	Opportunities to fully address shortfall in Western Channel and Celtic Seas region
Mud habitats in deep water	Opportunity to address shortfall in Western Channel and Celtic Seas region, further evidence required
Ocean Quahog	Opportunities to fully address shortfall in Western Channel and Celtic Seas region

Justification: Depth zones

AoS-E is inshore and offshore which helps to address the connectivity principle. Within the Irish Sea representation in deeper water is addressed for subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediment. Within the Western Channel and Celtic Sea representation in deeper water is addressed for subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal sand

Activities within Area of Search E:

- Oil and Gas pipelines
- Demersal fishing activity (vessels 12m and over)
- Registered sectoral interest regarding a coastal agreement

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).

