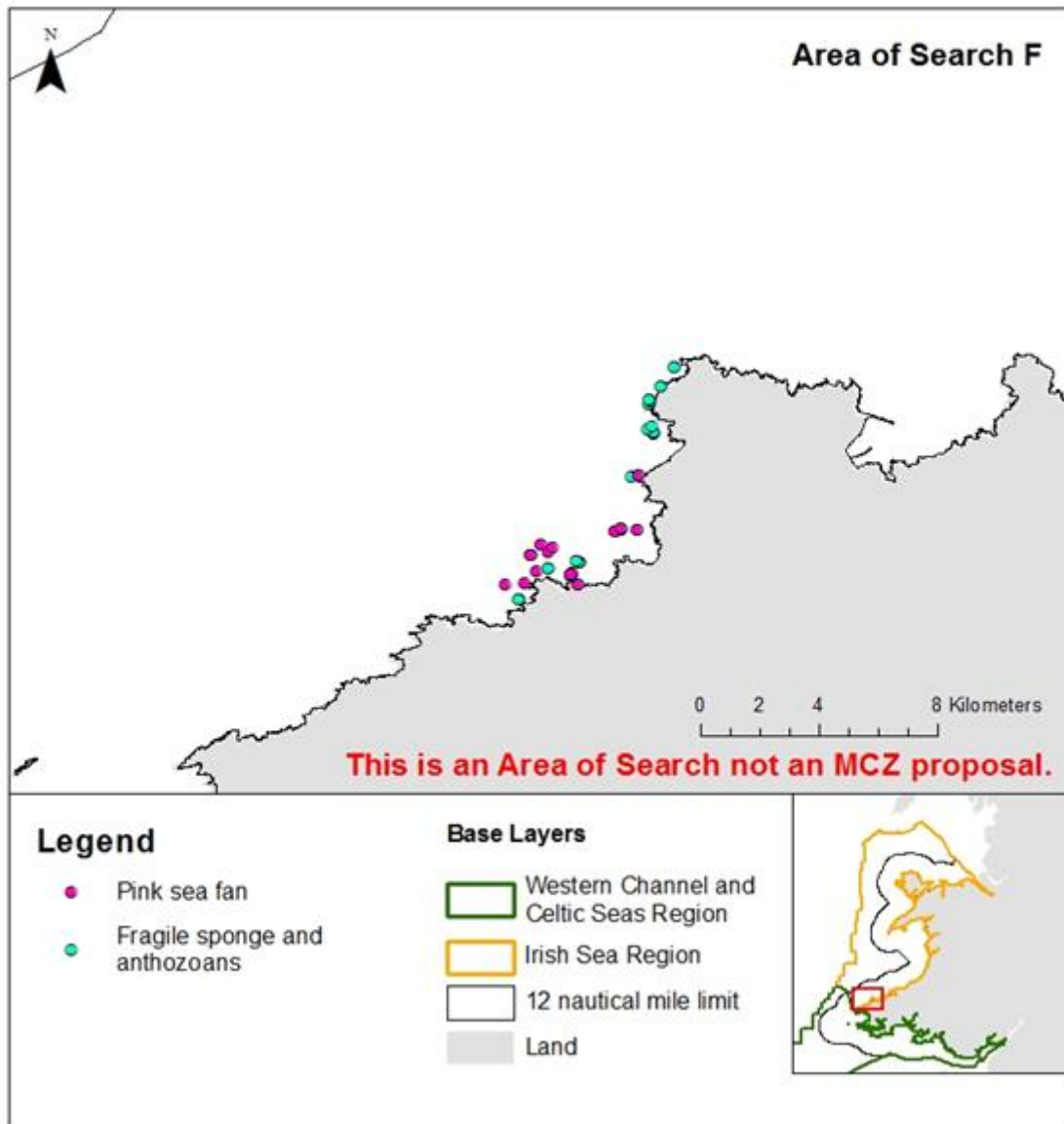


Fact sheet: Area of Search F (AoS-F)

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-F
Regional Sea	Irish Sea
General location	Seas around Strumble Head
Size	267km ²
Inshore/offshore	Inshore only ¹
Brief description	Records of pink sea fan and fragile sponge and anthozoan communities are located along the coast within 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
Pink sea fans	Provides opportunities to fully address shortfall in Irish Sea region
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities	Provides opportunities to partially address shortfall in Irish Sea region
Justification: Depth zones	
AoS-F is entirely inshore however, due to the nature of the features this area is focussing on, providing opportunities for deeper water areas are not required in this AoS.	

Activities within Area of Search F:

- Oil and Gas pipelines
- Anchorage areas
- Marine Licensed Disposal Sites
- Demersal fishing activity (vessels 12m and over)
- Registered sectoral interest regarding disposal sites, cable agreements, coastal agreements

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).

