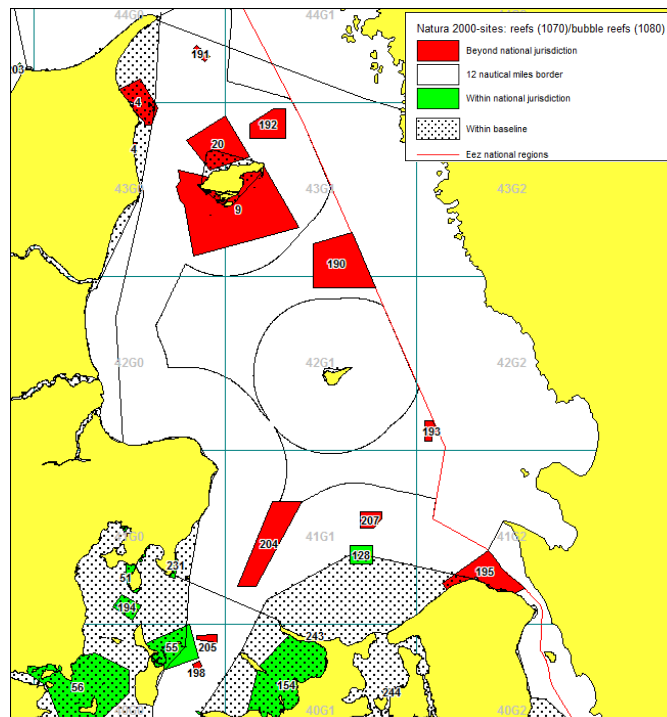




Proposed measures for fisheries management in Natura 2000-sites in the Danish territorial area of the Kattegat and Samsø Belt



Meeting at the AgriFish Agency, Copenhagen 20 March 2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Designation of Natura 2000-sites

In Denmark, the Ministry of Environment is responsible for designating the Natura 2000-sites and formulating the Natura 2000 management plans describing the conservation status for the habitats and species for which the area has been designated and the possible threats for obtaining favorable conservation status. The Commission has approved the proposed Natura 2000-sites as being sufficient.

Denmark has designated 90 marine Natura 2000-sites, which equal 18 percent of Denmark's marine area. A total of 17 Natura 2000-sites are located in the Danish territorial area of the Kattegat. Germany and Sweden have historical fishing rights in 13 of these sites of which 10 have been designated for bubble reefs (habitat type 1180) and reefs (habitat type 1170) among other habitat types and species. Fisheries measures to ensure adequate protection of reefs and bubble reefs have been formulated. Fisheries measures for the remaining 3 sites will be formulated at a later stage. In addition to the 10 sites in the Kattegat, Germany and Sweden also have historical fishing rights in two Natura 2000-sites in the Samsø Belt located in northern part of the Great Belt, which have been designated for a protection of reefs (1170).

The majority of the Danish Natura 2000-sites were designated in 2008 with additional designations in 2010/11. Denmark therefore has until 2015 to formulate and implement the necessary fishery measures for the initial 86 sites and until 2020 for the additional four sites.

In December of 2011, the Natura 2000 management plans were adopted by the Danish government, and it is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries to formulate and propose adequate fisheries measures for the marine Natura 2000-sites. The marine Natura 2000-sites cover a broad spectrum of areas in Denmark, and thereby a range of fishing activities.

1.2 State of play in Denmark

Since the Natura 2000 management plans have only recently been adopted for the 90 designated marine Natura 2000-sites, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries has so far paid special attention to the obligation to prevent irreversible damage to habitats and species from current fishing activities. Special attention has therefore been given to the protection of bubble reefs and reefs from bottom contacting gear and by-catch of harbor porpoise and seabirds in gillnet fisheries.

Initiatives are currently being taken to protect harbour porpoises from by-catches in gillnet fishery – especially in the Belt Sea. The specific management measures are still being formulated, but will include mandatory use of pingers. The focus area for this initiative is the Natura 2000-sites in the Great Belt. With regard to seabirds, a project is about to be launched in order to estimate the by-catch rates of seabirds for selected Natura 2000-sites in the Kattegat and the Belt Sea.

2. Proposed fisheries measures in the Kattegat and Samsø Belt for protection of bubble reefs (1180) and reefs (1170)

In the Danish area in the Kattegat and Samsø Belt, Germany and Sweden have historical fishing rights in 10 Natura 2000-sites, which all have been designated for the protection of bubble reefs (1180) and reefs (1170). Some sites have also been designated for a protection of sandbanks, seabirds and harbour porpoise.

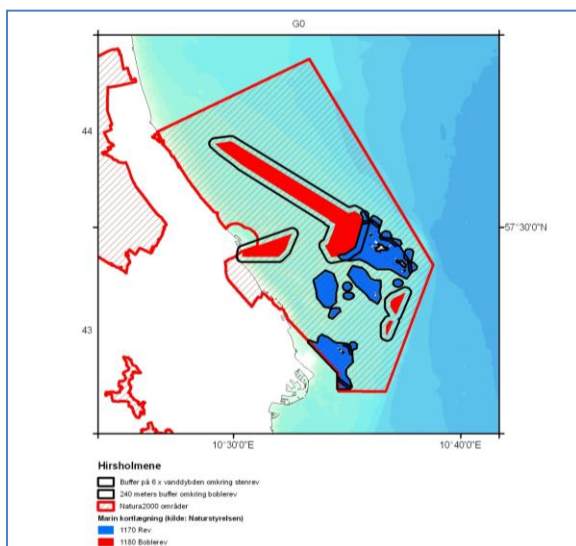
Analyses of VMS data from Danish trawl and gillnet vessels indicate, that no fishery activity is taking place in the areas designated for bubble reefs and reefs. Gillnet fishery, however, is taking place in the areas designated for reefs.

Denmark is proposing to protect bubble reefs from trawling in general and static gillnet fishery, whereas areas designated for reefs is proposed protected from bottom contacting gear. In order to ensure adequate protection, buffer zones of 240 meters will be placed around the bubble reefs and reefs. The buffer zone is calculated as 6 times the water depth (40 meters).

2.1 Description of the 12 Natura 2000-sites in which Germany and Sweden have historical fishing rights

2.1.1 Hirsholmene, H4 (EU Code: DK00FX112)

The Natura 2000-site Hirsholmene has been designated for a protection of reefs (1170), bubble reefs (1180), sandbanks (1110), spotted seal (1365), grey seal (1164), otter (1355), sea lamprey (1095), and seabirds.



According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs and bubble reefs and is possibly a threat to sandbanks. Fishery using static gillnets is described as a threat to bubble reefs, whereas fishery in general is described as a threat to sea lamprey.

Figure 2.1.1 shows the Natura 2000 site and the location of the reefs and bubble reefs including the 240 meter buffer zones.

Figure 2.1.1 Hirsholmene, H4 (reefs are shown in blue & bubble reefs in red)

2.1.2 Beach meadows on Læsø island and the waters south of Læsø island, H9 (EU Code: DK00FX10)

The Natura 2000-site south of Læsø island has been designated for a protection of reefs (1170), bubble reefs (1180), sandbanks (1110), mudflats (1140), coastal lagoons (1159), spotted seal (1365) grey seal (1164) and sea birds.

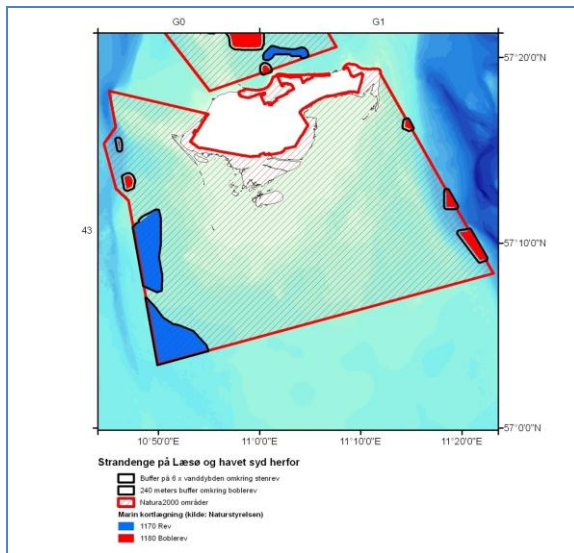


Figure 2.1.2 Beach meadows on Læsø island and the waters south of Læsø island, H9 (reefs: blue, bubble reefs: red, sandbanks: white)

2.1.3 Nordre Rønner, H20 (EU Code: DK00FX257)

The Natura 2000-site Nordre Rønner has been designated for a protection of reefs (1170), bubble reefs (1180), sandbanks (1110), mudflats (1140), spotted seal (1365) and sea birds.

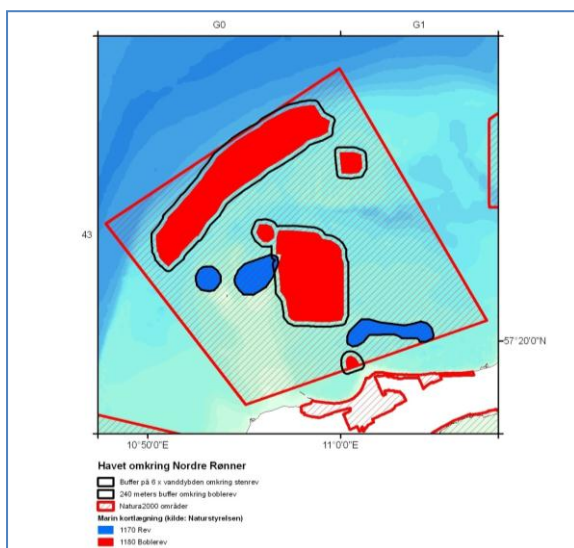


Figure 2.1.3 Nordre Rønner, H20 (reefs: blue, bubble reefs: red)

According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs and bubble reefs and is possibly a threat to sandbanks. Fishery using static gillnets is described as a threat to bubble reefs.

Figure 2.1.2 shows the Natura 2000-site and the location of sandbanks, reefs and bubble reefs including the 240 meter buffer zones.

According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs and bubble reefs, and is possibly a threat to sandbanks. Fishery using static gillnets is described as a threat to bubble reefs.

Figure 2.1.3 shows the Natura 2000-site and the location of the reefs and bubble reefs including the 240 meter buffer zones.

2.1.4 Kim's Top and the Chinese Wall, H190 (EU Code: DK00VA247)

The Natura 2000-site Kim's Top has been designated for a protection of reefs (1170) and bubble reefs (1180).

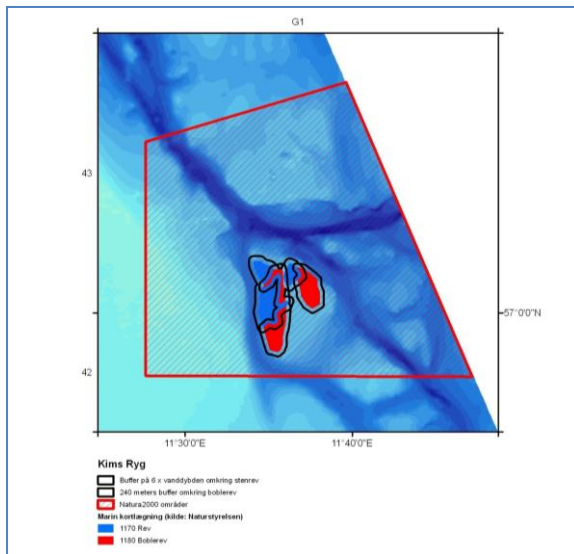


Figure 2.1.4 Kim's Top, H190 (reefs: blue, bubble reefs: red)

According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs and bubble reefs. Fishery using static gillnets is furthermore described as a threat to bubble reefs.

Figure 2.1.4 shows the Natura 2000-site and the location of the reefs and bubble reefs including the 240 meter buffer zones.

2.1.5 Herthas Flak, H191 (EU Code: DK00VA248)

The Natura 2000-site Herthas Flak has been designated for a protection of reefs (1170) and bubble reefs (1180).

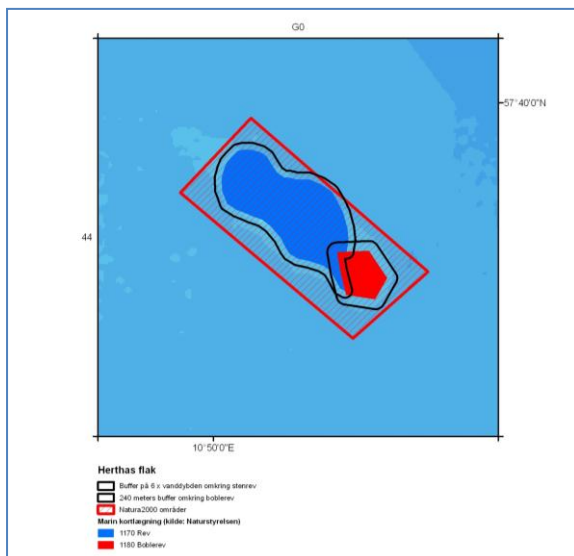


Figure 2.1.5 Herthas Flak, H191 (reefs: blue, bubble reefs: red)

According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs and bubble reefs. Fishery using static gillnets is furthermore described as a threat to bubble reefs.

Figure 2.1.5 shows the Natura 2000-site and the location of the reef and bubble reef including the 240 meter buffer zones.

2.1.6 Læsø Trindel and Tønneberg Bank, H192 (EU Code: DK00VA249)

The Natura 2000-site Læsø Trindel and Tønneberg Bank has been designated for a protection of sandbanks (1110), reefs (1170) and bubble reefs (1180).

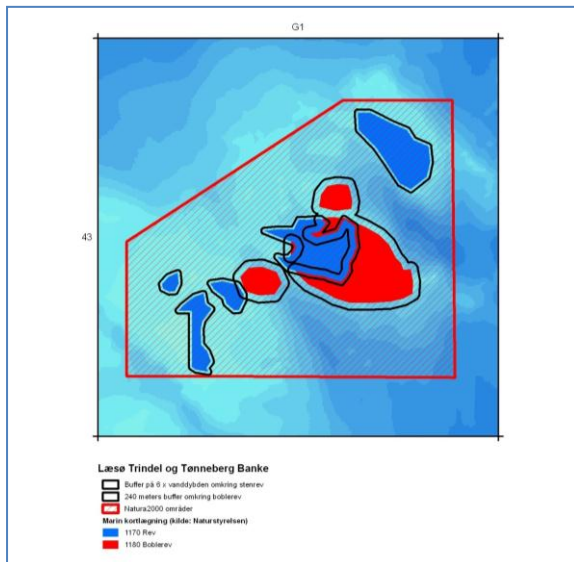


Figure 2.1.6 Læsø Trindel and Tønneberg Bank, H192 (reefs: blue, bubble reefs: red)

According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs and bubble reefs, and is possibly a threat to sandbanks. Fishery using static gillnets is furthermore described as a threat to bubble reefs.

Figure 2.1.6 shows the Natura 2000-site and the location of the reefs and bubble reefs including the 240 meter buffer zones.

2.1.7 Store Middelgrund, H193 (EU Code: DK00VA250)

The Natura 2000-site Store Middelgrund has been designated for a protection of sandbanks (1110), reefs (1170), bubble reefs (1180) and harbour porpoise (1351). Bubble reefs are yet to be mapped.

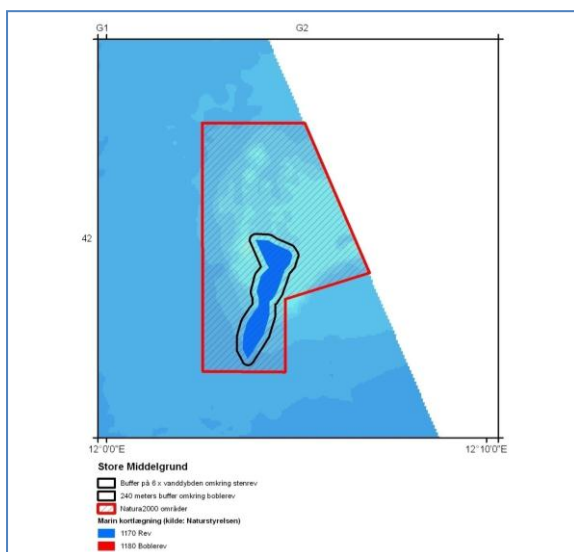


Figure 2.1.7 Læsø Trindel and Tønneberg Bank, H192 (reef: blue)

According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs and bubble reefs, and is possibly a threat to sandbanks. Fishery using static gillnets is furthermore described as a threat to bubble reefs, whereas gillnet in general is describes as a threat to harbor porpoise because of by-catches.

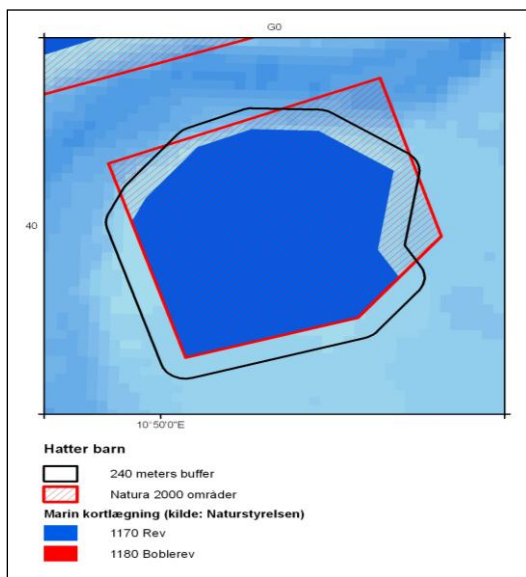
Figure 2.1.7 shows the Natura 2000-site and the location of the reef and the 240 meter buffer zones.

2.1.8 Gilleleje Flak, H195 (EU Code: DK00VA171)

The Natura 2000-site Gilleleje Flak has been designated for a protection of sandbanks (1110), reefs (1170) and harbour porpoise (1351). The Natura 2000-management plan is yet to be adopted. Once the reefs have been mapped, adequate protection will be formulated and implemented.

2.1.9 Hatter Barn, H198 (EU Code: DK00VA255)

The Natura 2000-site Hatter Barn has been designated for a protection of reefs (1170).



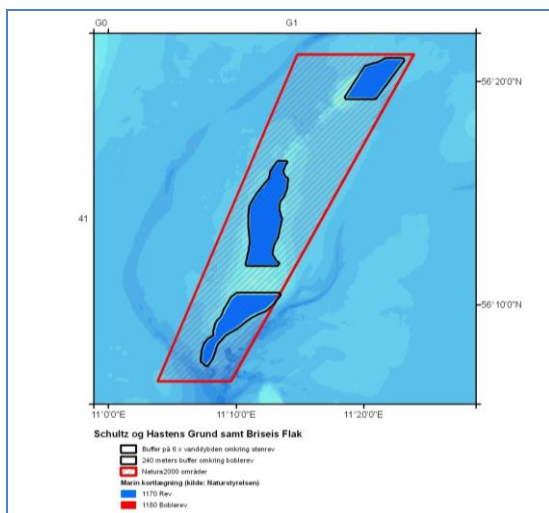
According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs.

Figure 2.1.9 shows the Natura 2000 site and the location of the reef and the 240 meter buffer zone.

Figure 2.1.9 Hatter Barn, H198 (reef: blue)

2.1.10 Schultz and Hastens Ground, H204 (EU Code: DK00VA303)

The Natura 2000-site Schultz and Hastens Ground has been designated for a protection of sandbanks (1110) and reefs (1170).



According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs, and is possibly a threat to sandbanks.

Figure 2.1.10 shows the Natura 2000 site and the location of the reefs and the 240 meter buffer zones.

Figure 2.1.10 Schultz and Hastens Ground, H204 (reefs: blue & bubble reefs: red)

2.1.11 Munke Ground, H205 (EU Code: DK00VA304)

The Natura 2000-site Munke Ground has been designated for a protection of reefs (1170).

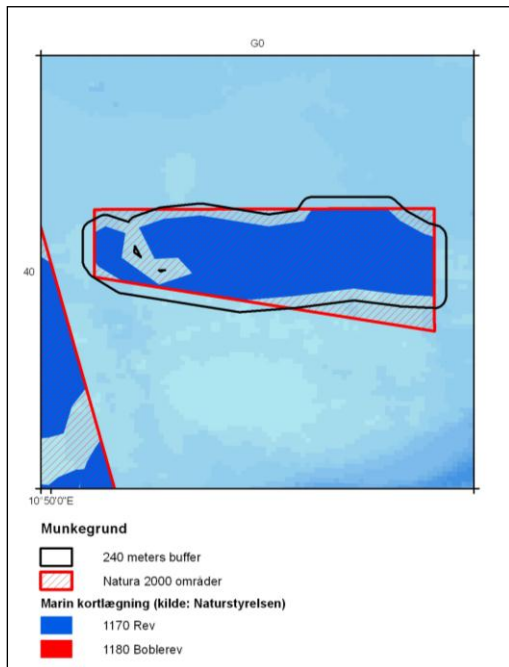


Figure 2.1.11 Munke Ground, H205 (reefs: blue, bubble reefs: red)

According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs.

Figure 2.1.11 shows the Natura 2000-site and the location of the reef and the 240 meter buffer zone.

2.1.12 Lyse Ground, H207 (EU Code: DK00VA299)

The Natura 2000-site Lyse Ground has been designated for a protection of sandbanks (1110) and reefs (1170).

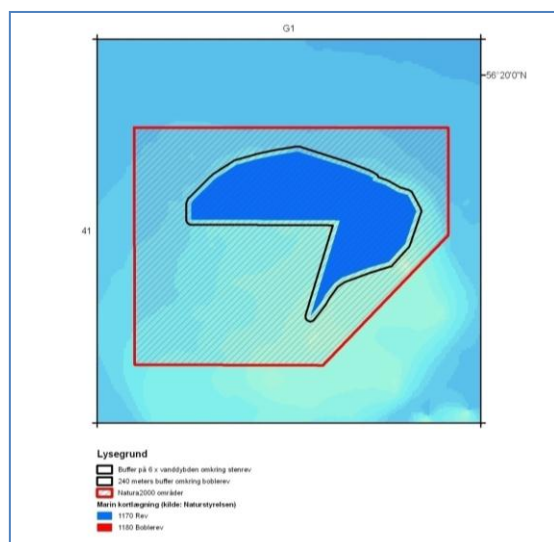


Figure 2.1.11 Lyse Ground, H207 (reefs: blue, bubble reefs: red)

According to the Natura 2000-management plan, fishery with bottom contacting gear is described as a threat to reefs, and is possibly a threat to sandbanks.

Figure 2.1.11 shows the Natura 2000-site and the location of the reef and the 240 meter buffer zones.