

Title of Research project

Ecologies and Identities: a socio-legal exploration of Marine Protected Areas Network in the UK

What is this project about?

This interview will be part of the information gathered for an academic project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council to assess modern trends in UK marine conservation law. The research will consist in a desk-based analysis of the law coupled with empirical research adopting a case study approach. Three case studies have been selected: South- East England, Isles of Scilly and South-West Scotland.

The project was designed and is being undertaken by researchers in the Law School at the University of Bristol.

What are the key questions driving the empirical research?

Are MCZs (MPAs in Scotland) a fundamental component to ensure the creation of a coherent ecological network of marine protected areas?

How are MCZs (MPAs in Scotland) designated and managed?

What are the likely impacts of the MPA network on stakeholders' activities, projects, environmental values and existing management practices?

Who is participating?

Marine stakeholders (fisheries, conservation NGOs, recreational groups) and management bodies (Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Marine Scotland, the Marine Management Organisation and the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities).

Who will carry out the research?

The empirical research will be carried out by Margherita Pieraccini, a law lecturer at the University of Bristol, and her research assistant Emma Cardwell.

What will happen during the interview?

The researcher will give you a consent form to read. If you agree to sign the form once you have read it, the interview will begin. It will last approximately one hour and will be framed by a list of questions (a copy of which will be given to you by the researcher). If you consent, the interview will be recorded.

What will happen with data collected?

There are no commercial or other interests involved and the data collected during the interviews will be used for publication of articles in peer-review journals, policy reports and the website created for the project. These may contain quotes from our conversations but your anonymity will be preserved.

Your personal details will not be shared outside the research team and recordings and transcripts will be kept on University owned computers and identified by a code rather than your name.

What happens at the end of the empirical study?

Three workshops will be held in summer 2014 (one in each of the case study areas). You and the other participants will be invited. The workshops will be an opportunity for the researchers to disseminate the findings and for all the participants to ask questions and collectively reflect and voice opinions on the development of the marine protected areas network.

What happens on completion of the project?

On completion of the research, the information that you gave will be stored at the University of Bristol for a minimum period of ten years. It will also be offered to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for sharing with other researchers. If accepted by the ESRC, the information will be stored securely and only used responsibly by bone fide researchers, all of whom will have to sign a data use agreement stating that they will not disseminate any identifying information.

What if I want to know more about the project before deciding whether to take part?

For further information about the research or your interview, please contact:

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