

The Danish approach to fisheries management of marine Natura 2000 sites



Photo Jan Nicolaisen, Orbicon

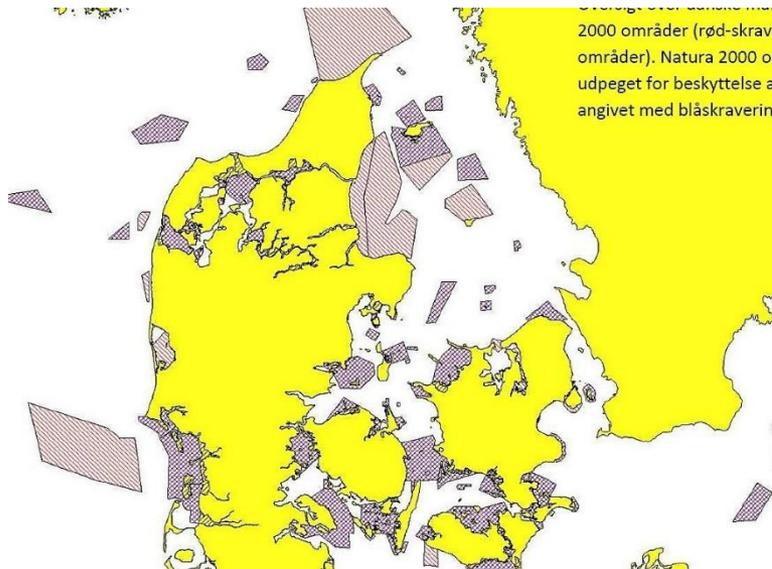
Kaare Manniche Ebert

Biologist

Danish Sportfishing Association

97 Designated Marine Habitat 2000 sites. Cover 18 % of the Denmark's marine waters. 65 are reef structures.

- Most of them "Reefs" (H1170).
- Few are submarine "structures made by marine gasses" (H1180).
- The 4 sites in the proposal are also all designated for the protection of sandbanks, porpoises (2) and seals (2). But the proposal only concerns protection of reef structures.



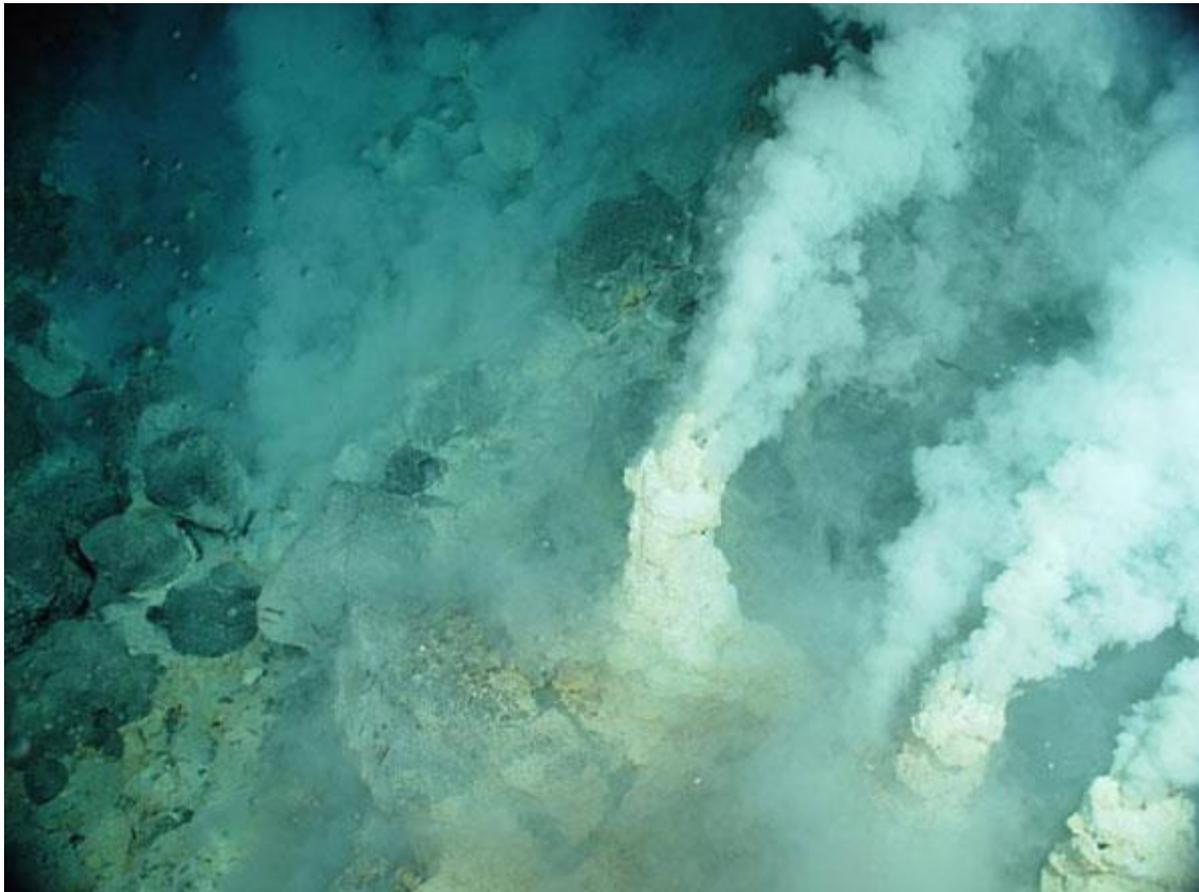
Reference # 1

“Proposal for Fisheries Management Measures for the protection of reef structures in Natura 2000 sites located in Danish territorial waters in Kattegat” Draft proposal 2016.

Reefs (H1170)

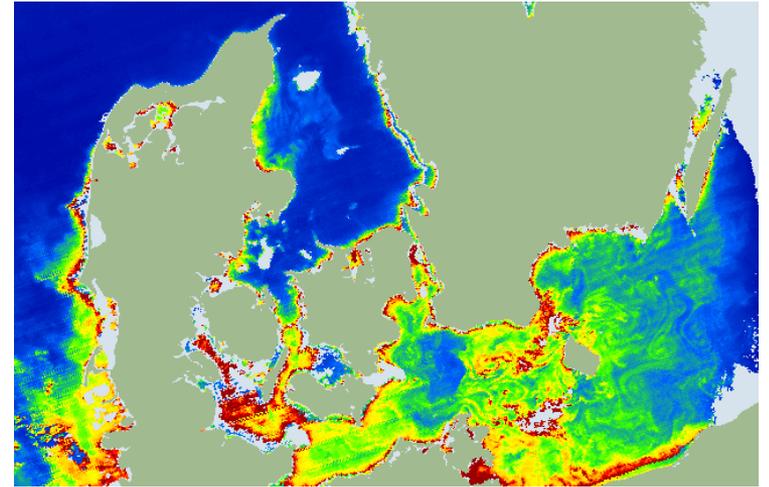


Structures made by marine gasses (H₁₁₈₀) "Bubbling Reefs"



The challenge

“In general, the conservation status of reef structures in the Danish Natura 2000 sites are classified as unfavorable due to physical disturbances and high nutrient content in the water column.”



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Management of marine Natura 2000 sites

“The overall aim of the regulation is to ensure **adequate protection** of reef structures from fishery, and thereby contribute to the obligation of achieving **favorable conservation status** for these habitat types in accordance with Article 6 (2) of the Habitats Directive.”

Scientific advisors and dialogue

- Scientific advice and peer review from Aarhus University (Danish Centre for Environment and Energy) The Danish Technical University (Institute for Aquatic Resources) and ICES.
- Dialogue Forum with NGO's, scientists, relevant authorities, commercial and recreational fishers. Chaired by Danish AgriFish Agency,

The proposal (ref.1)

- Fishing activity with **mobile bottom contacting gear** is prohibited in areas mapped as reefs (H1170).
- In areas mapped as bubbling reefs (H1180), fishing activity with **passive gears such as gillnets, lines, traps and pots is also prohibited** in addition to the above mentioned mobile bottom contacting fishing gears.
- The reef structures mapped in the Natura 2000 sites will be protected from impact from fishing activity by placement of **buffer zones**.

Consultation response at the public hearing

Commercials: A little too ambitious!

NGO's: Too little ambitious 😊.

But nobody mentioned the need for regulating angling in other sites than at the "bubbling reefs".

Why? Propably because they all acknowledge that angling is NOT a limiting factor in achieving favorable conservation status.



Will the protection of porpoises and seals in the Natura 2000 sites cause regulation of angling?

- We have the highest density of porpoises in the world in the Western Baltic.
- The seal population is at the highest level in maybe the last 50-100 years.
- Both species live in highly populated areas where all kinds of angling takes place.
- There will probably not be any scientific evidence which could justify any regulation of angling in the Danish Natura 2000 sites.



Closing the Natura 2000 sites for angling will NOT improve the possibility of achieving the conservation goals. Allowing anglers to fish there could be an important way to open the public's eyes to the fantastic values and give a greater general acceptance of conservation measures.

