



Figure 1. Two-panel presentation of key outcomes from conservation prioritization analyses of the western Irish Sea, completed by the MPA Advisory Group in April 2023.

Panel (a) shows identified areas of comparatively higher priority for potential protection for the selected ecological features (green grid-cells selected in one or more analyses and outlined in black). Suitable areas for potential MPAs could be selected from within these identified areas. Areas of lower priority for potential protection for the selected features are shown in white. Broad areas subject to ORE development applications occur within the pink framed polygons.

Panel (b) shows the same identified areas of comparatively higher priority for potential protection (outlined in black) overlaid with graduated levels of commercial fishing effort in the western Irish Sea, represented by light- to dark-coloured shading of grid-cells (i.e., comparatively lower to higher combined fishing effort).

Further details and discussion are provided in the report (in Sections 3.5.2 and 4.2).