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#SHOWTHELOVE2025

UK LAWS PROTECTING OUR OCEANS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!





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THE MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT (2009)

The UK's Marine and Coastal Access Act establishes a framework for protecting marine environments.

Key Features:

- Creates Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)
- Regulates fishing & marine planning
- Supports sustainable use of marine resources





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WHAT ARE MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES?

MCZs are protected areas designed to conserve marine habitats, species, and ecosystems.

- There are 91 MCZs across England, covering over 32,000 km² of sea!
- Activities like trawling and dredging are restricted (but not banned) to protect marine life!





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THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT (1981)

Protecting Marine
Species

This act makes it illegal
to:

- Disturb or harm marine mammals (like dolphins & seals)
- Damage protected seabird habitats
- Collect certain marine species without permission





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THE FISHERIES ACT (2020)

Sustainable Fishing Laws

The UK's first
independent fisheries
law since Brexit
ensures:

- Sustainable fishing practices
- Marine ecosystems are considered in fishing policies
- Stricter penalties for illegal, unregulated fishing





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THE ENVIRONMENT ACT (2021)

Fighting Plastic Pollution

This law helps tackle
marine plastic waste by:

- Banning single-use plastics like straws & stirrers
- Strengthening waste management & recycling
- Reducing sewage discharge into rivers & seas





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WHY DO THESE LAWS MATTER?

- Protecting marine biodiversity
- Safeguarding coastal communities
- Tackling climate change
- Ensuring future generations enjoy the ocean!

