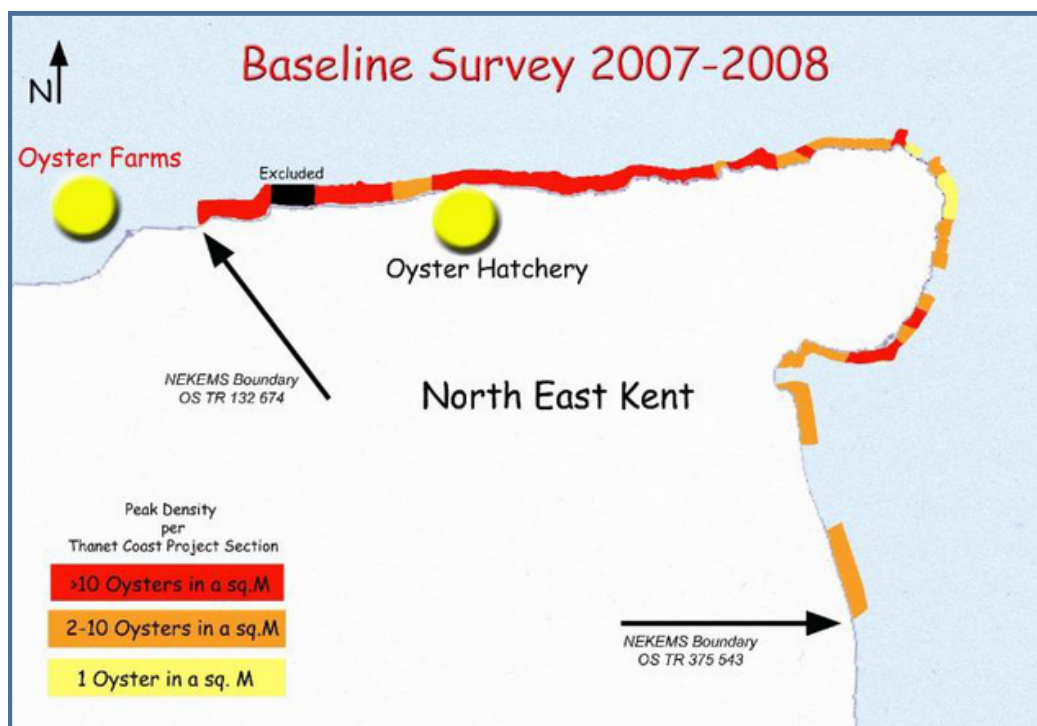


Coastbusters



Natural England's Coastbusters team was created in 2012 to test the feasibility of controlling the spread of invasive Pacific oysters *Magallana gigas* within the intertidal zone of the North East Kent Marine Protected Area using volunteer labour.

The majority of volunteers were recruited from the Thanet Coast Project. Training, field kit and supervision were provided by Natural England. This was part of a project launched in 2007 which recorded the distribution of wild Pacific oysters within the Marine Protected Area. The following figure shows the baseline results.



Since 2012, the team has removed a total of 495.559 invasive oysters from the inter-tidal zone of the Marine Protected Area. Priority is given to the sections within Sandwich & Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve where the aim is to protect the chalk reef, mussel bed and mudflats.

In addition, Natural England has agreed best practices for the removal of invasive Wireweed *Sargassum muticum* and 1384.3 kg have been removed from the tidal bathing pools at Louisa Bay Broadstairs and Western Undercliff Ramsgate.



Pacific oyster control
at Kingsgate



Wireweed control
at Louisa Bay

The North East Kent Marine Protected Area contains approximately 46 km of coast between Swalecliffe and Deal and is recognised for its coastal habitats, including chalk, their communities and birds. The area is cared for by a Management Group which consists of representatives of relevant organisations that have regulatory authority within the site.

More info about non-
native species in the
NEKMPA

