

Holderness Inshore Marine Conservation Zone

This document sets out why this site is important, the features protected and general management information.

17 January 2016



High energy circalittoral rock: deeper water rock, exposed to very strong waves and currents © JNCC

Overview

This site becomes a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) in January 2016. This means that specific features within this area are protected and, where necessary, regulators will manage marine activities.

Where is the site

Holderness Inshore MCZ is an inshore site covering an area of approximately 309km². The site is located north of the Humber estuary mouth and includes Spurn Head geological features.

Why it's important

MCZs, together with other types of marine protected areas, will form the UK contribution to an international network of protected sites in the north east Atlantic. The network will help to deliver the government's vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. MCZs protect typical, rare or declining habitats and species found in our seas.

The seabed in this site is made up of rock, sand, mud and sediment. The mosaic of habitats within the site supports a diverse range of organisms including red algae, sponges and other encrusting fauna. The site also supports fish species such as European eel, dab and wrasse, as well as commercially significant crustaceans such as edible and velvet swimming crabs and lobster.

Partly above the water, the sandy beaches of intertidal sand and muddy sand are uncovered at low tide. These sandy shores may appear devoid of marine life, but are in fact home to many species, buried in the damp sand. On all but the most barren sandy shores, there will be different kinds of worms just beneath the surface. The strandline of seaweed and other debris left behind at

the top of the shore by the falling tide is also home to creatures including shrimp-like sandhoppers. Muddier sands support bivalves (with their paired, hinged shells), including the common cockle, and sea snails like the laver spire shell.

The site also protects a geological feature, Spurn Head, which is in the south of the MCZ. This is a unique example of an active spit system, extending across the mouth of the Humber Estuary.

Designation of this site as a Marine Conservation Zone protects the following features. You can find detailed explanations of each feature at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4527>.

Protected features	General management approach
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Spurn head (subtidal) ¹	Maintain in favourable condition

Management of the site

Now that this site has been designated, some activities may need additional management. Activities and the management measures used to regulate them may need to change if new evidence becomes available.

Most marine activity is already regulated by the relevant regulatory bodies. There are existing byelaws, national laws and European Regulations which regulators use to manage fishing, coastal development, recreation and pollution. These also apply in MCZs.

Regulators will manage each site according to the features and activities in, or near, a specific area. Management measures will be implemented at sites most at risk of damage first, regulating only those activities which have a detrimental impact on the designated features. Any management measures that are required for MCZs will be applied on a case-by-case basis.

Management in MCZs can take several different forms, from using existing licensing framework, specific byelaws and orders or an EU Regulation for a site. There has to be public consultation on permanent byelaws and orders. For activities that already need a marine licence, regulators consider the MCZ in their decision as soon as the site is consulted on. Find out more about marine licensing in MCZs at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zones-mczs-and-marine-licensing>.

¹ Geological feature

Regulators

This table lists the authorities responsible for MCZs and the activities they manage.

Lead regulator	What it manages
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) http://www.association-ifca.org.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries in the inshore area (0-6 nautical miles (nm)) including commercial fisheries and recreational sea angling
Marine Management Organisation (MMO) https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries in the 6-12nm area Fisheries: enforcement of national and EU legislation Licensable activities such as dredging and disposal of dredged material, removal of gravel below mean high water springs, subsea cables (up to 12nm), construction (including renewables below 100MW generating capacity, ports and coastal protection) Harbour Orders and Harbour Empowerment Orders Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and safety zones for offshore renewable energy installations consents Enforcement of licensable activity and other consents (including deemed marine licences) Development of marine plans Activities requiring a wildlife licence
Environment Agency (EA) https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries for migratory and freshwater fish Coastal protection and flood management Water quality Permitted discharges from terrestrial sources
Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and gas related activities Renewable energy related activities
Harbour Authorities and local planning authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbour authorities have management responsibilities for the port and coastal waters within their jurisdiction Local authorities manage activities at the coast. These include coastal recreation, tourism, economic regeneration, flood protection and planning on coasts and estuaries. For further information contact your local authority or IFCA
Department for Transport (DfT) https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ports, shipping, harbours, ship pollution and offshore safety
Natural England (NE) https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access

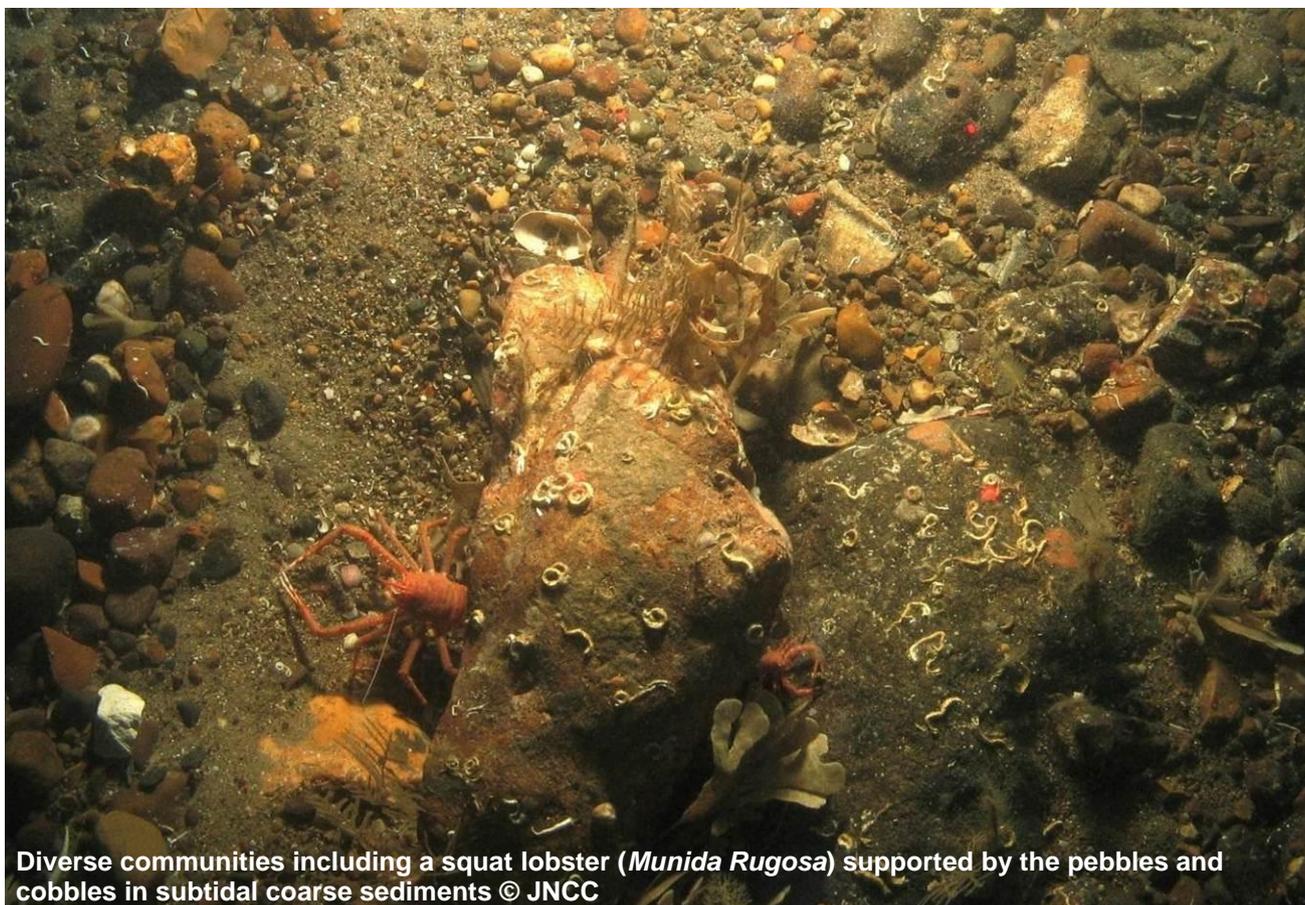
Further information

Read about government policy on MCZs at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/marine-environment>

See Natural England's advice on MCZs at:

<http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/4594304593952768>



Diverse communities including a squat lobster (*Munida Rugosa*) supported by the pebbles and cobbles in subtidal coarse sediments © JNCC

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