



The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) (2009): Section 126

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Screening Opinion

Table 1. MMO's decision-making process with regards to the MCZ Screening Opinion for the project listed below.

Title of project	Ilfracombe Watersports Centre	
Applicant name	North Devon Council	
Applicant address	Brynsworthy Environment Centre Barnstaple EX31 3NP	
Type of licensable activity/ies	Construction of a slipway Construction of a new sea wall	
Case reference	DC10164	
Location of works	Larkstone Cove, Ilfracombe	
Description of project	Construction of a new watersports centre (land based) with associated slipway. The existing quay wall will also be brought forward by 5m to create an extended quayside.	
Is a licensable activity taking place within or near an area being put forward for or already designated as an MCZ?	Yes - Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ within 300m	
MCZ site name	Bideford to Foreland Point	
<i>Protected feature</i>	<i>Type of feature</i>	<i>Conservation objective</i>
Low energy intertidal rock	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal mixed sediments	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition

Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal underboulder communities	Marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Littoral chalk communities	Marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Low energy infralittoral rock	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Broad scale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Broad scale marine habitat	Recover to favourable condition
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	Marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Honeycomb worm (Sabellaria alveolata) reefs	Marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Pink sea-fan (Eunicella verrucosa)	Species of marine fauna	Maintain in favourable condition
Spiny lobster (Palinurus elephas)	Species of marine fauna	Spiny lobster (Palinurus elephas) Recover to favourable condition
Is a licensable activity capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) the protected features of an MCZ or any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of an MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependant?		
Protected feature	Hazard	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known
Low energy intertidal rock	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.

Moderate energy intertidal rock	Habitat loss	<p>Areas of this feature were seen on MAGIC around 100m away from the works area, however these areas are not actually in the MCZ.</p> <p>The Moderate energy intertidal rock which is in the designated area is 1.2km away and is around the headland. It is not considered that the proposed activities will be have an impact on the moderate energy intertidal rock due to their nature and distance from the feature.</p>
High energy intertidal rock	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Intertidal coarse sediment	Habitat loss	The intertidal coarse sediment was found around 750m away from the works. The activities from this proposal are localised and it is not considered they will affect the intertidal coarse sediments as they are too far away.
Intertidal mixed sediments	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Intertidal underboulder communities	Habitat loss Smothering of organisms	These are found approx 350m away from the works site, around the headland. The proposed works do not involve any activities which would have an effect on these, for example dredging which could suspend sediment. The works will be created from pre-cast concrete sections, lifted in by crane.
Littoral chalk communities	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Low energy infralittoral rock	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Habitat loss	<p>Areas of this feature were seen on MAGIC around 100m away from the works area, however these areas are not actually in the MCZ.</p> <p>The Moderate energy infralittoral rock which is in the designated area is 1.2km away and is around the headland. It is not considered that the proposed activities will be have an impact on the moderate energy intertidal rock due to their nature and location.</p>

High energy infralittoral rock	Habitat loss	Areas of this habitat were found on MAGIC around 700 m away. The activities from this proposal are localised and it is not considered they will affect this feature due to the distance to the feature and the nature of the works.
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
High energy circalittoral rock	Habitat loss	Areas of this feature were seen on MAGIC around 380 m away from the works area, however these areas are not actually in the MCZ. Areas of this habitat were found in the MCZ around 700 m away. The activities from this proposal are localised and it is not considered they will affect this feature due to the distance to the feature and the nature of the works.
Subtidal coarse sediment	Habitat loss	This feature was found in MAGIC approximately 850 m away. The activities from this proposal are localised and it is not considered they will affect this feature due to the distance to the feature and the nature of the works.
Subtidal mixed sediments	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Subtidal sand	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	Habitat loss Smothering	These were found approximately 1.1km from the site. The proposed works do not involve any activities which would have an effect on these, for example dredging which could suspend sediment. The works will be created from pre-cast concrete sections, lifted in by crane.
Honeycomb worm (Sabellaria alveolata) reefs	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Pink sea-fan (Eunicella verrucosa)	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Spiny lobster (Palinurus elephas)	No pathway identified	This habitat was not found in a 2km buffer from the proposed works site.
Is an activity capable of affecting (other	(i) the protected features of an MCZ?	No; see above

than insignificantly) either:	(ii) any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of an MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependant?	The MMO has determined that the proposed activity is not deemed to be capable of affecting either (i) the protected features of the MCZ; or (ii) any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of the MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependant.	
Conclusion		The proposed construction and operational activities at Larkstone Cove as part of the Ilfracombe Watersports Centre are not deemed capable of affecting either the protected features of the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ, or any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any such features is dependant.	
Name of officer	Melissa Gaskell-Burnup	Date	28/12/2018