**Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA**

**Description:**
The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) is a 12 km² complex of coastal habitats centred on the Tees estuary. These include sandflats, mudflats, rocky foreshore, saltmarsh, sand dunes, wet grassland and freshwater lagoons. Together they support internationally important populations of breeding and non-breeding waterbirds. The SPA is a complex of discrete sites, with additional non-designated areas also used for foraging and roosting.

**Qualifying Features:**
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA supports breeding little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and passage sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*). It also supports wintering knot (*Calidris canutus islandica*), redshank (*Tringa totanus totanus*), and an assemblage of over 20,000 wintering waterfowl. The 2001 SPA review identified an internationally important population of passage ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

**Management:**
- **National Nature Reserve Byelaws** are in place at the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast to manage off road vehicles, dog walkers, bait collectors and jetskis.
- **The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Coastal Codes** covering Sea angling and bait collection; Dog owners; Horse riders; Water sports; Field Study Groups; Birdwatchers and Photographers; and the Seashore Code.
- **North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority byelaw** control.

**Stakeholder Concerns:**
There is an ongoing issue with illegal bait collection and crab tiling.

The presence of collectors on the shore can cause disturbance to birds eliciting a flight response. The removal of target species could reduce prey availability to birds. Some species have been observed to feed on the sediment mounds that bait diggers produce. It is thought that this brings prey items to the surface from a depth where the birds would not normally be able to access. Bran Sands was the most readily disturbed and had the greatest visitor rate compared to all sites.

Although bait digging causes the greatest disturbance events, kite surfers (along with dog walkers) are reported to cause a greater mean response. There has also been reports of motor vehicles (quadbikes and motorbikes) using the sand dunes and disturbing nesting terns.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Intensity</th>
<th>Confidence</th>
<th>MPA Extent</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board sports</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor boating</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCUBA diving</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming / Snorkelling</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bait collection</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach recreation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coasteering</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife watching from the land</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY**

- **FREQUENCY**
  - 4 Regular/daily
  - 3 Regular/weekends
  - 2 Seasonally
  - 1 Sporadically
  - 0 Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **DURATION**
  - 4 >8 hours
  - 3 4-8 hours
  - 2 2-4 hours
  - 1 <2 hours
  - 0 Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **PARTICIPATION**
  - 6 >100
  - 5 51-100
  - 4 21-50
  - 3 11-20
  - 2 6-10
  - 1 1-5
  - 0 Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **INTENSITY**
  - 45-96 High
  - 24-40 Med-high
  - 9-20 Low-med
  - 1-8 Low
  - 0 Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **CONFIDENCE**
  - H High
  - M Medium
  - L Low
  - ? Data missing

- **MPA EXTENT**
  - Whole MPA (solid)
  - Part of MPA (shaded)
  - Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **TREND**
  - ➔ Increase
  - ➔ Stay the same
  - ➔ Decrease
  - ? Data missing

**No. Stakeholders:** 1 online & 3 workshop
Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA

Water based activities
- Board sports
- SCUBA diving
- Swimming / Snorkelling

Land based activities
- Bait collection
- Beach recreation
- Wildlife watching from the land

Supplementary data
- SCUBA diving sites (Seasearch)
- Bait collection areas 2016-2018 (IFCA)
- General boating areas (RYA)
- MPA boundary
Marine Protected Area Designated Features - SPA Supporting Habitats

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (H1140) polygons

SPA_SFCODE
- Intertidal coarse sediment (A2.1)
- Intertidal sand and muddy sand (A2.2)
- Intertidal mud (A2.3)
- Intertidal mixed sediments (A2.4)
- Intertidal seagrass beds (A2.61)

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (H1110) polygons

SPA_SFCODE
- Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)
- Subtidal sand (A5.2)
- Subtidal mud (A5.3)
- Subtidal mixed sediment (A5.4)
- Subtidal seagrass beds (A5.53)

Reefs (H1170) points

SPA_SFCODE
- Intertidal rock (A1)
- Intertidal biogenic reefs: (Sabellaria alveolata) (A2.71)
- Intertidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_5)
- Infralittoral rock (A3)
- Circalittoral rock (A4)
- Subtidal biogenic reefs: (Sabellaria spp.) (A5.61)
- Subtidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_6)

Reefs (H1170) polygons

SPA_SFCODE
- Intertidal rock (A1)
- Intertidal biogenic reefs: (Sabellaria alveolata) (A2.71)
- Intertidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_5)
- Infralittoral rock (A3)
- Circalittoral rock (A4)
- Subtidal biogenic reefs: (Sabellaria spp.) (A5.61)
- Subtidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_6)

SPA_SFCODE
- Saltmarsh (A2.5)