Morecambe Bay SAC

Description:

Morecambe Bay is a large, very shallow, predominantly sandy bay at the confluence of four principal estuaries, the Leven, Kent, Lune and Wyre. It is one of the largest areas of intertidal flats in Britain and includes shallow subtidal sands, tide-washed channels (including the unique feature of Lune Deep) and rocky scars of glacially derived material.

Qualifying features:

This site hosts the following habitats: Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes; Atlantic salt meadows; coastal lagoons; dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea*; embryonic shifting dunes; estuaries; fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation; humid dune slacks; large shallow inlets and bays; mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; perennial vegetation of stony banks; reefs; *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria*. The site also supports great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*).

Management:

- None raised.

Stakeholder Concerns:

Morecambe Bay has hotspots of activity close to local urban areas, but with significantly less activity noted when moving away from these areas. Most of the impacts from non-licensable activities are more relevant to the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary special protection area, with the Morecambe Bay special area of conservation being impacted more by licensed or commercial activities.
<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>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geophysical surveys</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor boating</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jetskis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddle sports</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parascending</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing (non-motorised)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCUBA diving</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming / Snorkelling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife watching from the sea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bait collection</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach recreation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coasteering</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land boarding</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</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>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>→</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drone use</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gliding (unpowered)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft (powered)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</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
Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Morecambe Bay SAC

**Water based activities**
- Board sports
- Geophysical surveys
- Motor boating
- Jetskis
- Paddle sports
- Sailing
- Towed water sports

**Land based activities**
- Bait collection
- Beach recreation
- Land boarding
- Motorsports
- Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)
- Wildlife watching from the land

**Aerial activities**
- Drone use
- Aircraft (powered)

**Supplementary data**
- SCUBA diving sites (Seasearch)
- General boating areas (RYA)
- MPA boundary

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Marine Protected Area Designated Features - Marine SAC and Subfeatures

**SAC Complex features (Polygons)**

- **Estuaries (H1130)**
- **Large shallow inlets and bays (H1160)**

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

- **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**

- **Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)**
- **Subtidal sand (A5.2)**
- **Subtidal mud (A5.3)**
- **Subtidal mixed sediment (A5.4)**
- **Maerl beds (A5.51)**
- **Subtidal seagrass beds (A5.53)**

**Reefs (H1170) points**

- **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**

- **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)**

**SAC SFCODE**

- **Sea Caves (H8330)**
- **Saltmarsh (A2.5)**