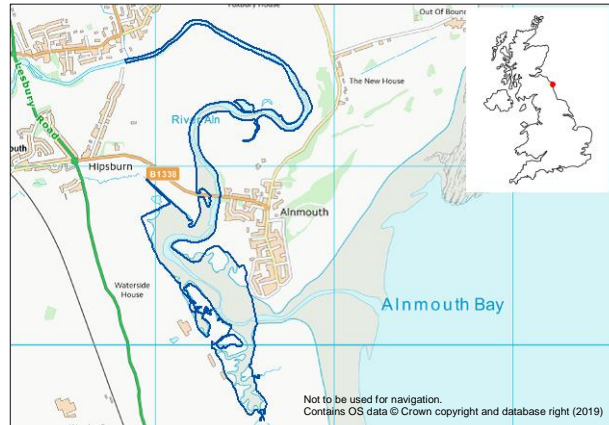


# Aln Estuary MCZ

## Description:

The Aln Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) located on the Northumberland Coast is the smallest designated MCZ, covering an area of 0.39 km<sup>2</sup>. The site partly overlaps with the Alnmouth Saltmarsh & Dunes Site of Special Scientific Interest which already protects some of the coastal saltmarsh within the estuary. The MCZ contains intertidal mud deposits as well as saltmarshes and unusual estuarine rocky habitats, which create an environment capable of supporting a diverse range of species.



## Qualifying Features:

The site is designated for its coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds, intertidal mud, estuarine rocky habitats, and sheltered muddy gravels.

## Management:

None reported

## Stakeholder Concerns:

Although vehicle access, motorboats, and sailing were all identified as activities with the potential to impact on the site features, only minor impacts have been identified.

MPA: Aln Estuary MCZ				No. Stakeholders: 1 online & 7 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Geophysical surveys	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Motor boating	2	2	3	12	H	1	➔
Jetskis	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Paddle sports	2	2	2	8	H	1	➔
Parascending	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Sailing (non-motorised)	2	2	3	12	H	2	➔
SCUBA diving	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Towed water sports	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Wildlife watching from the sea	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Bait collection	1	1	1	1	H	1	➔
Beach recreation	3	1	1	3	H	1	⬆
Coasteering	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	1	1	1	1	H	1	➔
Wildlife watching from the land	4	2	1	8	H	1	⬆
Drone use	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Gliding (unpowered)	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Aircraft (powered)	2	1	1	2	H	2	➔

#### KEY

FREQUENCY	DURATION	PARTICIPATION	INTENSITY	CONFIDENCE	EXTENT	TREND
4 Regular/daily	4 >8 hours	6 >100	45-96 High	H High	2 Whole MPA (solid)	⬆ Increase
3 Regular/weekends	3 4-8 hours	5 51-100	24-40 Med-high	M Medium	1 Part of MPA (shaded)	➔ Stay the same
2 Seasonally	2 2-4 hours	4 21-50	9-20 Low-med	L Low	0 Does not occur	⬇ Decrease
1 Sporadically	1 <2 hours	3 11-20	1-8 Low	? Data missing	? Data missing	? Data missing
0 Does not occur	0 Does not occur	2 6-10	0 Does not occur			
? Data missing	? Data missing	1 1-5	? Data missing			
		0 Does not occur				
		? Data missing				



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the AIn Estuary MCZ

Not to be used for navigation.  
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2019)

## Water based activities

- Board sports
- Motor boating
- Paddle sports
- Sailing

## Land based activities

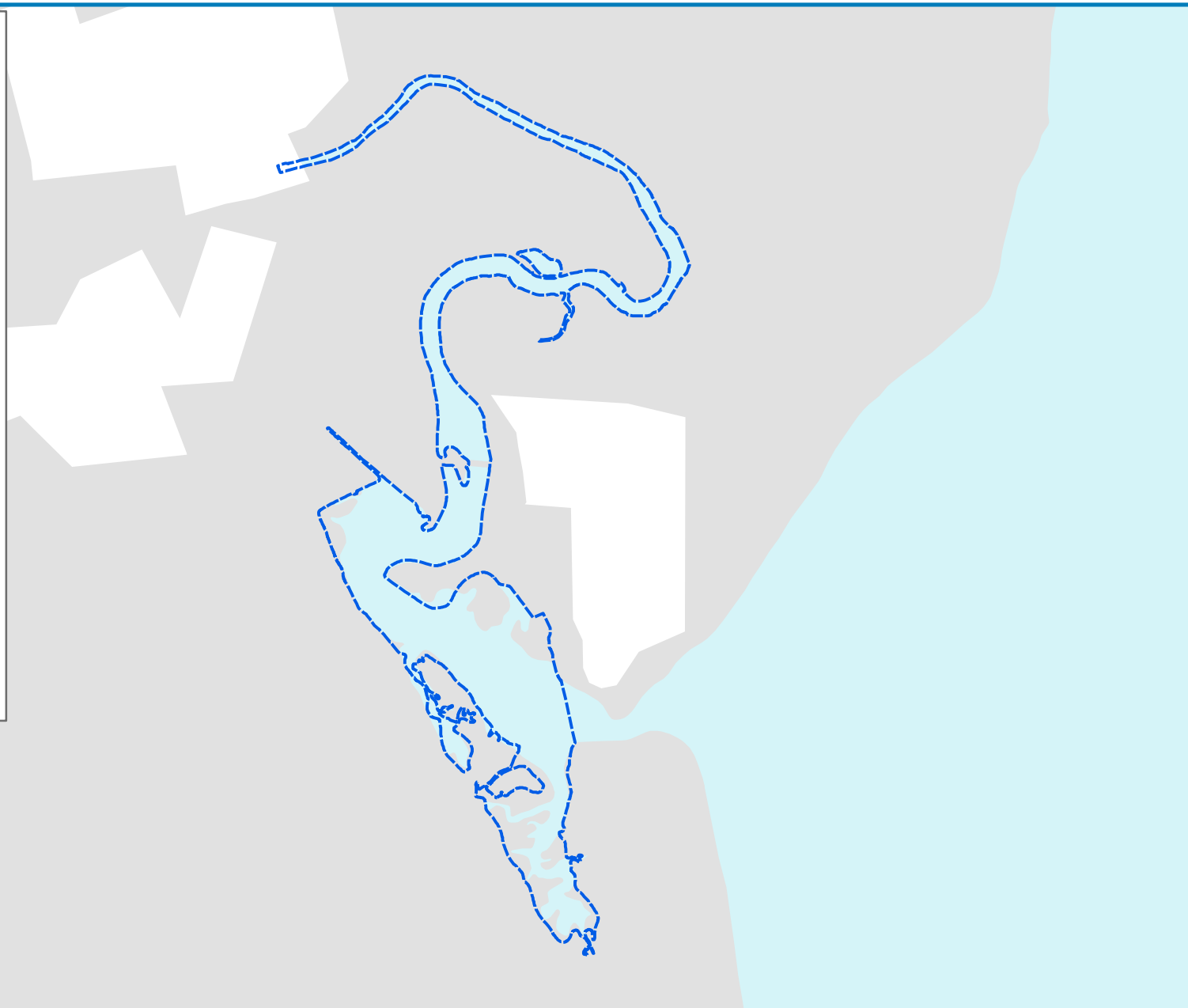
- Bait collection
- Beach recreation
- Land boarding
- Wildlife watching from the land

## Aerial activities

- Aircraft (powered)

## Supplementary data

- Bait collection areas 2016-2018 (IFCA)
- General boating areas (RYA)
- MPA boundary



## Marine Protected Area Designated Features - MCZs

### MCZ Species Features of Conservation Importance (Points)

#### MCZ Feature code

- ★ Tentacled lagoon-worm (*Alkmaria romijni*, SOCI 1)
- ✱ Sea-fan anemone (*Amphianthus dohrnii*, SOCI 2)
- ◆ Ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*, SOCI 3)
- ★ Lagoon sandworm (*Armandia cirrhosa*, SOCI 4)
- ◆ Fan mussel (*Atrina pectinata*, SOCI 5)
- ◆ Defolin's lagoon snail (*Caecum armoricum*, SOCI 6)
- ♥ Burgundy maerl paint weed (*Cruoria cruoriaeformis*, SOCI 7)
- ✱ Pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*, SOCI 8)
- ✱ Lagoon sand shrimp (*Gammarus insensibilis*, SOCI 9)
- ✱ Amphipod shrimp (*Gitanopsis bispinosa*, SOCI 10)
- Giant goby (*Gobius cobitis*, SOCI 11)
- Couch's goby (*Gobius couchi*, SOCI 12)
- ✱ Stalked jellyfish (*Halicystus* sp., SOCI 14)
- Long snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*, SOCI 15)
- Short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*, SOCI 16)
- ✱ Sunset cup coral (*Leptopsammia pruvoti*, SOCI 17)
- ♥ Coral maerl (*Lithothamnion corallioides*, SOCI 18)
- ✱ Stalked jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*, SOCI 19)
- ✱ Stalked jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis campanulata*, SOCI 20)
- ✱ Starlet sea anemone (*Nematostella vectensis*, SOCI 21)
- ♥ Peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*, SOCI 23)
- ✱ Spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*, SOCI 24)
- ◆ Sea snail (*Paludinella littorina*, SOCI 25)
- ♥ Common maerl (*Phymatolithon calcareum*, SOCI 26)
- ✱ Gooseneck barnacle (*Pollicipes pollicipes*, SOCI 27)
- ◆ Lagoon sea slug (*Tenellia adspersa*, SOCI 28)
- ✱ Trembling sea mat (*Victorella pavida*, SOCI 29)
- ♥ Grateloup's little-lobed weed (*Grateloupia montagnei*, SOCI 30)
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*, SOCI 31)
- Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanusi*, SOCI 32)
- Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*, SOCI 33)
- ✱ Black seabream (*Spondyllosoma cantharus*, non ENG 1)

### MCZ Habitat Features of Conservation Importance (Points)

#### MCZ Feature code

- ⊕ Blue Mussel Beds (HOCI 1)
- ◉ Cold-water coral reefs (HOCI 2)
- ⊙ Estuarine rocky habitats (HOCI 5)
- ◉ Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats (HOCI 7)
- ⊙ Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs (HOCI 8)
- ⊕ Horse mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) reefs (HOCI 9)
- ◉ Intertidal under boulder communities (HOCI 10)
- ⊙ Littoral chalk communities (HOCI 11)
- ⊕ Maerl beds (HOCI 12)
- ⊙ Mud habitats in deep water (HOCI 13)
- ⊙ Native oyster beds DO NOT PUBLISH EXTERNALLY
- ⊙ Peat and clay exposures (HOCI 15)
- ⊙ Ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs (HOCI 16)
- ◉ Seagrass beds (HOCI 17)
- ⊙ Sea pens and burrowing megafauna (HOCI 18)
- ⊙ Sheltered muddy gravels (HOCI 19)
- ⊙ Subtidal chalk (HOCI 20)
- ⊙ Subtidal sands and gravels (HOCI 21)
- ⊙ Tide-swept channels (HOCI 22)

### MCZ Habitat Features of Conservation Importance (Polygons)

#### MCZ Feature code

- Blue Mussel Beds (HOCI 1)
- Cold-water coral reefs (HOCI 2)
- Estuarine rocky habitats (HOCI 5)
- File shell beds (HOCI 6)
- Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats (HOCI 7)
- Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs (HOCI 8)
- Horse mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) reefs (HOCI 9)
- Intertidal under boulder communities (HOCI 10)
- Littoral chalk communities (HOCI 11)
- Maerl beds (HOCI 12)
- Mud habitats in deep water (HOCI 13)
- Native oyster beds (*Ostrea edulis*) (HOCI 14) DO NOT PUBLISH EXTERNALLY
- Peat and clay exposures (HOCI 15)
- Ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs (HOCI 16)
- Seagrass beds (HOCI 17)
- Sea pens and burrowing megafauna (HOCI 18)
- Sheltered muddy gravels (HOCI 19)
- Subtidal chalk (HOCI 20)
- Subtidal sands and gravels (HOCI 21)
- Tide-swept channels (HOCI 22)
- Black seabream (*Spondyllosoma cantharus*) nesting areas (non\_ENG\_1)

### MCZ Broadscale Habitat (Polygons)

#### MCZ\_Eunis\_L3

- High energy intertidal rock (A1.1)
- High/Moderate energy intertidal rock (A1.1/A1.2)
- Moderate energy intertidal rock (A1.2)
- Low energy intertidal rock (A1.3)
- Intertidal coarse sediment (A2.1)
- Intertidal sand and muddy sand (A2.2)
- Intertidal sand and muddy sand/Intertidal mud (A2.2/A2.3)
- Intertidal mud (A2.3)
- Intertidal mixed sediments (A2.4)
- Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds (A2.5)
- Intertidal sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms (A2.6)
- Intertidal biogenic reefs (A2.7)
- High energy infralittoral rock (A3.1)
- Moderate energy infralittoral rock (A3.2)
- Moderate energy infralittoral/circalittoral rock (A3.2/A4.2)
- Low energy infralittoral rock (A3.3)
- High energy circalittoral rock (A4.1)
- High/moderate energy circalittoral rock (A4.1/A4.2)
- Moderate energy circalittoral rock (A4.2)
- Low energy circalittoral rock (A4.3)
- Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)
- Subtidal sand (A5.2)
- Subtidal mud (A5.3)
- Subtidal mixed sediments (A5.4)
- Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment (A5.5)
- Subtidal biogenic reefs (A5.6)
- Infralittoral rock and thin sandy sediment (A3.A2, non ENG 20)
- Infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediment (A3.94, non ENG 21)
- Infralittoral muddy sand (A5.24, non ENG 23)
- Infralittoral sandy mud (A5.33, non ENG 24)