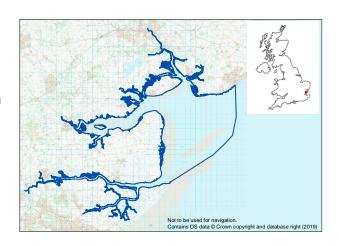# Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries MCZ

Description:

This Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is located on the Essex coast and is the largest inshore MCZ covering an area of 284 km^2. The site protects one of the largest estuaries in the East of England and includes the Blackwater, the largest tidal river in Essex. There are already a number of designations within the area including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation and Mid Essex Coast Special Protection Area.

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Qualifying Features:

The MCZ hosts intertidal mixed sediments, extensive areas of mudflats, salt marshes, native oyster beds, and the Clacton Cliffs and Foreshore. The MCZ also supports a wide range of species including the native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and internationally and nationally important numbers of waterfowl such as brent goose (*Branta bernicla*) and curlew (*Numenius arquata*).

Management:

None reported.

Stakeholder Concerns:

Birds in the autumn and winter are disturbed by jetskiers within this MCZ. Para-gliding also causes disturbance to overwintering birds.

MPA: Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries MCZ				No. Stakeholders: 1 online			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	4	2	1	8	M	1	↑
Geophysical surveys	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motor boating	4	1	2	8	H	2	↑
Jetskis	3	1	1	3	H	1	↑
Paddle sports	3	1	1	3	H	1	?
Parascending	1	?	?	?	L	1	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	4	2	5	40	M	2	↑
SCUBA diving	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	4	1	?	?	M	?	?
Towed water sports	1	1	1	1	L	1	?
Wildlife watching from the sea	3	?	?	?	M	1	↑
Bait collection	?	?	?	?	L	1	?
Beach recreation	3	2	6	36	H	1	?
Coasteering	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Land boarding	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	1	?	?	?	M	1	?
Wildlife watching from the land	3	2	1	6	H	2	→
Drone use	1	1	1	1	M	1	?
Gliding (unpowered)	3	1	1	3	H	1	?
Aircraft (powered)	3	1	1	3	H	1	?

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				