

# Newquay and the Gannel MCZ

## Description:

Newquay and the Gannel Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is a 9 km<sup>2</sup> inshore site on the north Cornwall coast in the south west of England. The site covers the beaches around Newquay with the site boundary extending along the mean high water mark from Kelsey Head to Trevelgue Head at Porth Beach. The site includes the estuary area of the Gannel as far as the tidal limit. The habitats protected within the MCZ



include exposed sandy beaches and rocky shores, estuarine rocky habitats, coastal saltmarsh and rocks and sediment in deeper water away from the coastline.

## Qualifying Features:

Newquay and the Gannel MCZ host the following habitats: estuarine rocky habitats; coastal salt marshes and saline reedbeds; low energy intertidal rock; moderate energy intertidal rock; high energy intertidal rock; intertidal coarse sediment; intertidal mixed sediments; intertidal sand and muddy sand; intertidal mud; moderate energy infralittoral rock; high energy infralittoral rock; subtidal sand; subtidal coarse sediment; and high energy circalittoral rock. The site also supports the giant goby (*Gobius cobitis*) species.

## Management:

- [Harbour byelaws](#).
- [Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code](#) Group has written a coastal code and other resources for Cornwall. The group has engaged with the jetskis rental business operating in Newquay bay with positive results.
- [Newquay marine group](#) – disturbance research.

## Stakeholder Concerns:

The key non-licensable activities highlighted by the stakeholders as causing the most disturbance within the MCZ include jetskis, coasteering, motor boating and paddlesports. However, their impact is reported on non-designated features (e.g. seals, birds, cetaceans). Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust has ongoing monitoring within the MCZ and the University of Exeter currently has a monitoring programme recording spatial and temporal trends of activity at Towan Head. Although there is lots of ongoing monitoring, it is considered uncoordinated, mainly voluntary and therefore unfunded.

MPA: Newquay and the Gannel MCZ				No. Stakeholders: 2 online & 3 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	4	2	6	48	H	1	↑
Geophysical surveys	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motor boating	3	2	3	18	H	1	↑
Jetskis	3	2	3	18	H	1	↑
Paddle sports	3	2	1	6	H	1	↑
Parascending	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	1	1	1	1	H	1	→
SCUBA diving	3	1	2	6	M	1	↑
Swimming / Snorkelling	3	1	6	18	M	1	↑
Towed water sports	2	1	1	2	M	?	?
Wildlife watching from the sea	3	2	2	12	H	1	↑
Bait collection	1	1	1	1	M	1	↑
Beach recreation	4	3	6	72	H	1	↑
Coasteering	3	2	6	36	H	1	→
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	2	4	1	8	H	1	→
Wildlife watching from the land	4	2	5	40	H	1	↑
Drone use	1	1	1	1	M	1	↑
Gliding (unpowered)	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Aircraft (powered)	4	1	1	4	M	2	→

#### KEY

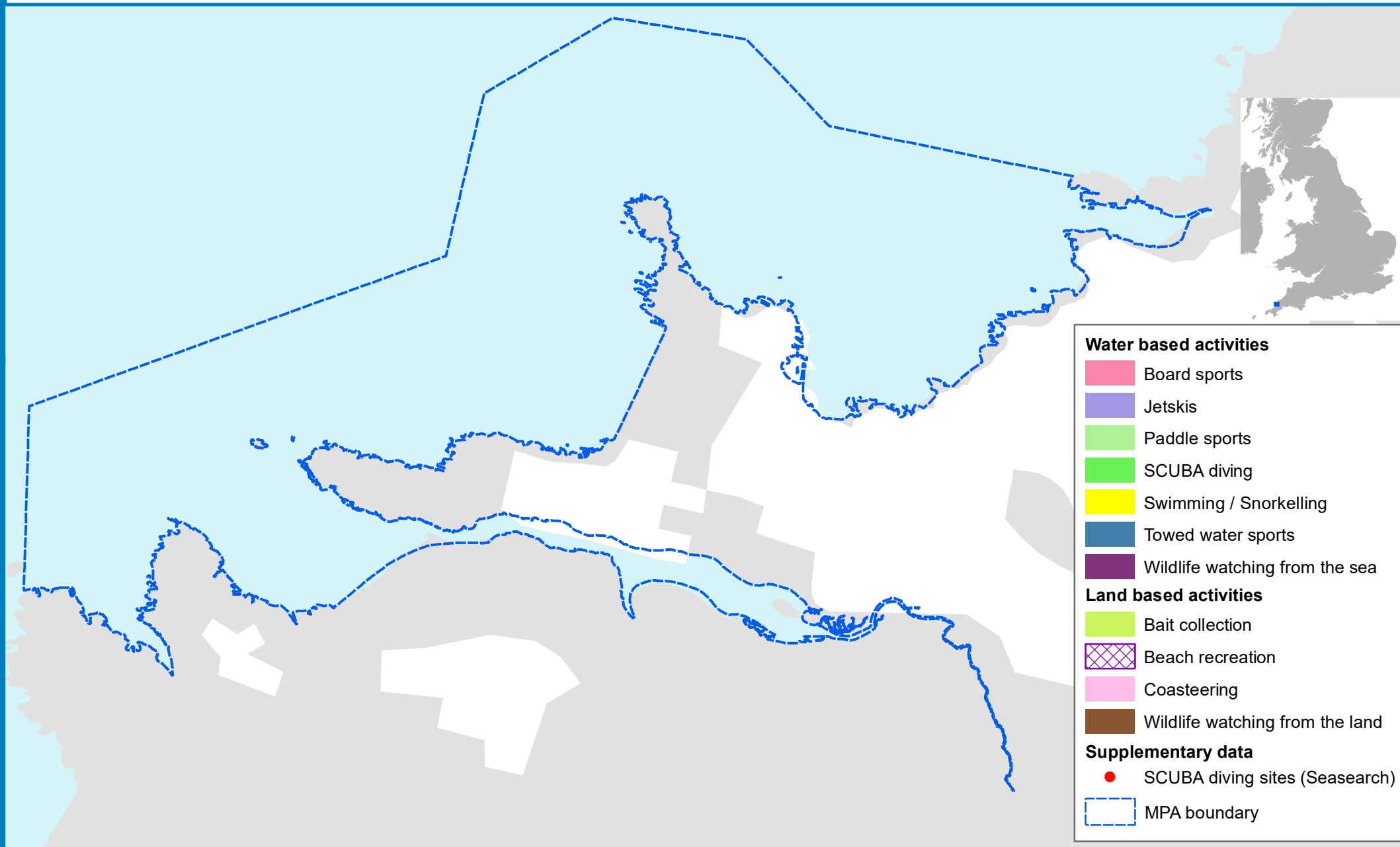
FREQUENCY	DURATION	PARTICIPATION	INTENSITY	CONFIDENCE	EXTENT	TREND
4 Regular/daily	4 >8 hours	6 >100	45-96 High	H High	2 Whole MPA (solid)	↑ Increase
3 Regular/weekends	3 4-8 hours	5 51-100	24-40 Med-high	M Medium	1 Part of MPA (shaded)	→ Stay the same
2 Seasonally	2 2-4 hours	4 21-50	9-20 Low-med	L 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 Newquay and the Gannel MCZ

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## 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 amoricum*, 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 (*Paludina 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)