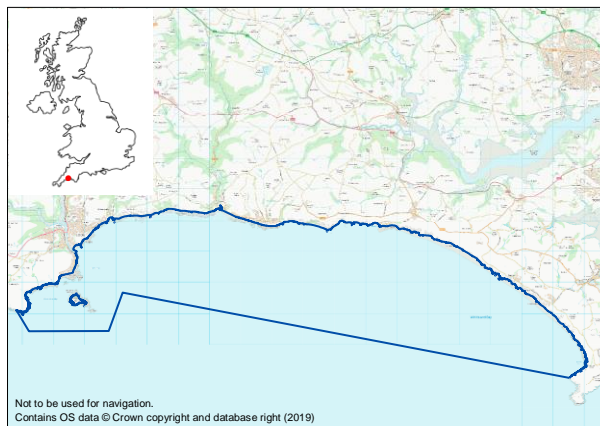


# Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ

## Description:

The Whitsand and Looe Bay Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an inshore site located off the south coast of Cornwall. The site covers an area of 52 km<sup>2</sup> and is 25 metres deep at the deepest point. The landward site boundary follows the coastline along the mean high water mark, from Hore Stone near Talland Bay in the west, to a point between Queener Point and Long Cove on Rame Head in the east. The seaward boundary is formed by a straight line across the bay, with a small extension jutting out to the south around Looe Island.



## Qualifying Features:

Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ hosts the following habitats: intertidal coarse sediment; intertidal sand and muddy sand; subtidal coarse sediment; subtidal sand; low energy intertidal rock; moderate energy intertidal rock; high energy intertidal rock; and seagrass beds. The site also supports ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*); pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*); sea-fan anemone (*Amphianthus dohrnii*); and the stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus auricula*).

## Management:

- There is a voluntary [Coastal Code of Conduct for Cornwall](#).
- [Looe Voluntary Marine Conservation Area](#) (Limmick to Whore Stone).
- [Looe Marine Conservation Group](#) run educational activities and outreach programmes to help sustainable management.
- [Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust](#) – seal watching.
- [Cornwall Wildlife Trust](#) – Looe Island.

## Stakeholder Concerns:

Trampling of the intertidal and seagrass beds through the activities of swimming/ snorkeling, bait collection, beach recreation and coasteering was highlighted as a major concern. The impact of bait collection and the associated ecological unbalancing of an area was also noted, however the individual impacts are dependent on species specific interactions.

Stakeholders also voiced concerns for jetskis, paddle sports and wildlife watching from the sea on the MCZ. The increase in frequency and participation of paddle

sports within the MCZ is allowing access to greater areas of coastline (over a wider range of tide).

The foreshore of Looe Island Nature Reserve is private and landing is only with permission, however, the Coastal Code of Conduct for Cornwall, promoted by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and partner organisations, is not legally enforceable and is often ignored by commercial operators.

MPA: Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ				No. Stakeholders: 2 online & 1 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	3	1	2	6	H	1	➔
Geophysical surveys	1	2	1	2	H	1	➔
Motor boating	4	3	3	36	H	2	⬆
Jetskis	3	2	2	12	H	2	⬆
Paddle sports	3	3	4	36	H	1	⬆
Parascending	0	0	0	0	M	0	➔
Sailing (non-motorised)	4	2	3	24	H	2	⬆
SCUBA diving	3	1	3	9	H	1	⬆
Swimming / Snorkelling	3	1	6	18	H	2	⬆
Towed water sports	3	2	3	18	H	2	⬆
Wildlife watching from the sea	2	1	2	4	H	1	⬆
Bait collection	1	2	1	2	H	1	➔
Beach recreation	2	3	6	36	H	2	⬆
Coasteering	2	1	3	6	M	1	⬆
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	3	1	2	6	H	1	➔
Wildlife watching from the land	4	1	3	12	H	1	⬆
Drone use	3	1	1	3	H	1	⬆
Gliding (unpowered)	3	2	1	6	H	1	➔
Aircraft (powered)	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔

KEY

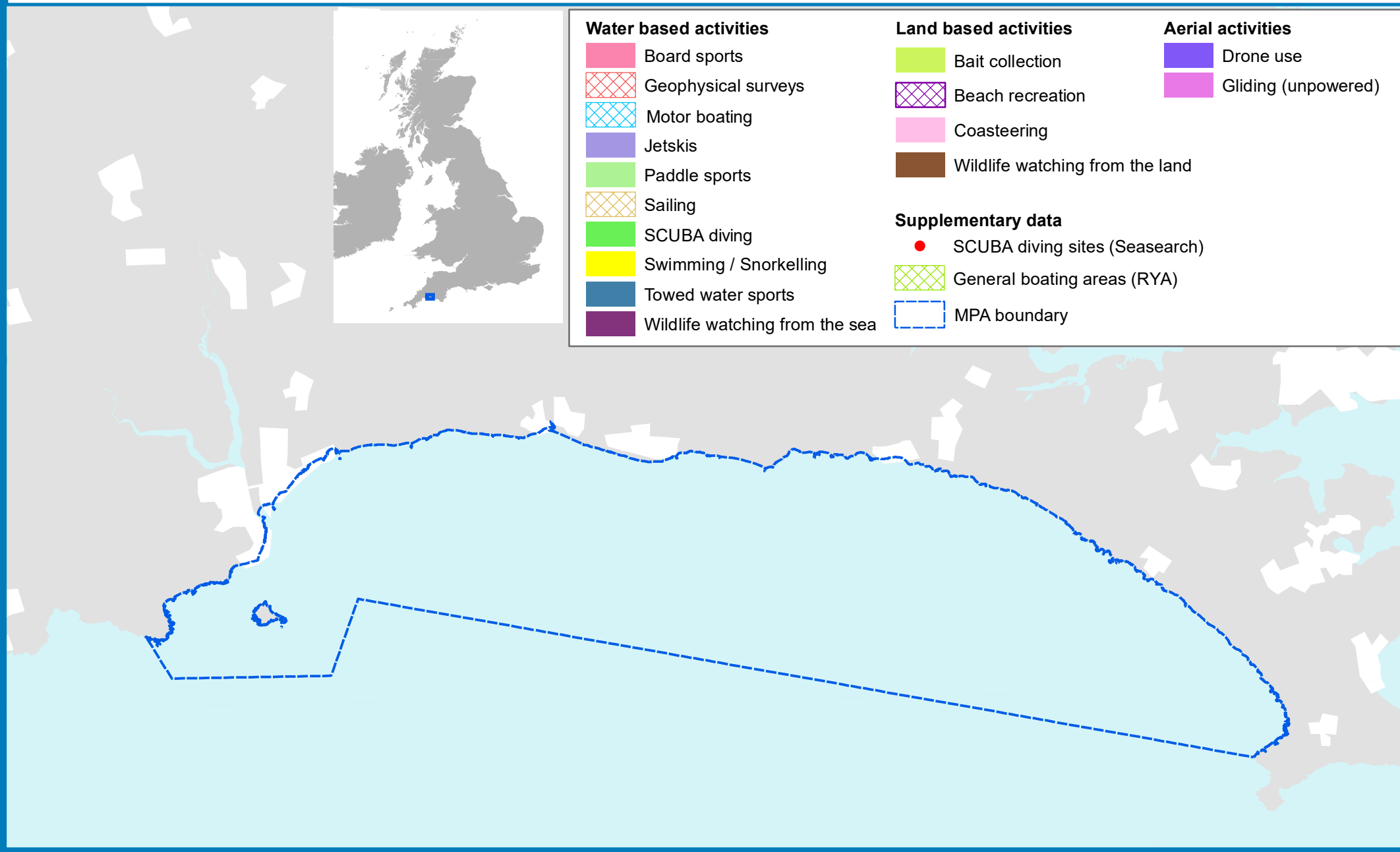
FREQUENCY	DURATION	PARTICIPATION	INTENSITY	CONFIDENCE	EXTENT	TREND
4 Regular/daily	4 >8 hours	6 >100	45-96 High	H High	2 Whole MPA (solid)	⬆ Increase
3 Regular/weekends	3 4-8 hours	5 51-100	24-40 Med-high	M Medium	1 Part of MPA (shaded)	➔ Stay the same
2 Seasonally	2 2-4 hours	4 21-50	9-20 Low-med	L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



# Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ

Not to be used for navigation.

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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 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 adpersa*, 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)