

# Cumbria Coast MCZ

## Description:

The Cumbria Coast marine conservation zone (MCZ) is an inshore site that extends approximately 27 km from south of Whitehaven, around the cliffs at St Bees Head, to the mouth of the Ravenglass Estuary. The total area of the site is approximately 18 km<sup>2</sup>. The surrounding area is particularly important for seabirds with an estimated 10,000 breeding seabirds thought to be present. The MCZ partially overlaps with a site of special scientific interest which protects seabird nesting areas.



## Qualifying features:

The Cumbria Coast MCZ hosts the following habitats: intertidal biogenic reefs; intertidal sand and muddy sand; high energy intertidal rock; moderate energy infralittoral rock; honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs; intertidal underboulder communities; and peat and clay exposures.

## Management:

- [Climbing agreement](#) during the nesting season.
- North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority [voluntary agreement](#) to not set fixed nets close to St Bees Head.

## Stakeholder Concerns:

None raised.

MPA: Cumbria Coast MCZ				No. Stakeholders: 1 online & 3 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	3	2	2	12	M	1	↑
Geophysical surveys	0	0	0	0	?	0	→
Motor boating	2	2	1	4	M	1	→
Jetskis	1	2	1	2	M	1	↑
Paddle sports	3	2	2	12	M	1	↑
Parascending	0	0	0	0	M	0	→
Sailing (non-motorised)	2	2	1	4	H	2	↑
SCUBA diving	0	0	0	0	M	0	→
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	1	3	6	M	1	↓
Towed water sports	1	1	1	1	M	1	↓
Wildlife watching from the sea	0	0	0	0	M	0	→
Bait collection	1	1	1	1	?	1	→
Beach recreation	2	2	5	20	H	1	↑
Coasteering	0	0	0	0	?	0	→
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	M	0	→
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	1	1	1	1	M	1	→
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	1	1	1	1	?	1	→
Wildlife watching from the land	4	3	5	60	M	1	→
Drone use	1	1	1	1	?	1	?
Gliding (unpowered)	1	2	1	2	L	0	→
Aircraft (powered)	1	1	1	1	?	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				



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Cumbria Coast MCZ

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## Water based activities

- Board sports
- Motor boating
- Jetskis
- Paddle sports
- Swimming / Snorkelling

## Land based activities

- Bait collection
- Beach recreation
- Coasteering
- Wildlife watching from the land

## Aerial activities

- Gliding (unpowered)

## Supplementary data

- SCUBA diving sites (Seasearch)
- 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 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 (*Spondylusoma 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 (*Spondylusoma 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)