



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Marine Protected Areas Network Report 2019–2024

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Marine Protected Areas Network Report 2019–2024

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 124 of the Marine and Coastal
Access Act 2009



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2024 Report to Parliament under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 on progress on a Marine Protected Areas network

Executive summary

The report has been laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It meets the requirements of section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) to describe progress made through the Act in establishing a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network within UK waters during the period 2019–2024.

This report provides an update on the current state of the Secretary of State's part of the UK MPA network as of 2024. References hereafter to the 'MPA network' are to the English waters (inshore and offshore) and Northern Ireland offshore waters. Since the last reporting period in 2018, designation of the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) has taken place, which introduced 41 new sites to the MPA network. There have also been some new and extended SPAs and the designation of three Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs). The MPA network now consists of 181 MPAs across 35,000 square miles, or 40% of English waters. After the third tranche of MCZ designations in 2019, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) considered the MPA network to be substantially complete and representative of the English and Northern Ireland offshore marine environment.

Notable management measures that have been implemented during this reporting period are stages 1 and 2 of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) offshore fishing byelaw programme. These have introduced measures to limit the use of damaging fishing gear over sensitive habitats within offshore MPAs. Currently, 60% of our MPAs are protected by fisheries byelaws. Further steps required to fulfil any management gaps present within the MPA network include consulting on and implementing stages 3 and 4 of the MMO's offshore fishing byelaw programme; completion of necessary fisheries management measures for inshore MCZs; implementing management measures for recreational activities where these impact on MPAs; and ongoing management of all activities which require planning consents and a marine licence.

In order to deliver Net Zero, the government is committed to a significant expansion of offshore wind. This will likely create additional pressure on the MPA network and its designated features. Where offshore wind developments cause unavoidable adverse impacts on protected features, environmental compensation must be secured. To ensure sufficient compensation is available, we are delivering the Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package. This will include establishing a Marine Recovery Fund to facilitate the delivery of strategic compensatory measures. These measures should have a greater ecological benefit than smaller-scale measures delivered by individual offshore wind projects.

In 2023, a statutory target was introduced to protect MPAs in England through the Environment Act 2021. This requires at least 70% of designated features in MPAs to be in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition. Our scientific advisors have assessed the designated features within the MPA network to be at 44% in favourable condition. Defra recognises that the MPA network requires ongoing effective management measures to allow sites to achieve their conservation objectives. Plans to implement these measures are already in progress.

Part 1. Background

1.1 Why do we need an MPA network?

The UK has over 11,000 miles of mainland coastline and our seas are inhabited by a wide diversity of marine species and ecosystems. Thousands of marine species are found within UK waters, including many of national and European importance, ranging from seahorses to corals. In addition to marine life, the UK has a rich diversity of seabeds, including subtidal sand and glacial tunnel valleys.

The biological diversity of the UK's seas is important for its own sake and provides us with a variety of goods and services. These include cultural and heritage services, such as recreation, education and tourism opportunities (and associated income and well-being), the provision of marine products (e.g. fish and shellfish), certain 'regulating' services (e.g. climate regulation) and potential energy sources (e.g. renewable energy). This makes the marine environment essential to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the UK. Respondents to Defra's Survey on Attitudes to the Environment¹ showed habitats for fish, birds, plants and marine mammals were perceived to be the most important benefits and services provided by the marine environment (83%). Protecting the UK's marine natural resources and enabling their sustainable use provides significant opportunities for the prosperity of our nation.

The marine environment currently faces significant pressures from human activities, which, if not appropriately managed, will adversely impact UK waters and associated benefits. The MPA network is one of the main tools available for protecting a wide range of important sensitive habitats and species in UK waters, and ensuring related benefits remain sustainable.

MCAA provides powers for the appropriate authority to designate MCZs and establish a network of MPAs that contribute to achieving the objective stated in section 123(2) of MCAA.

¹ Defra, Survey on Attitudes to the Environment – NT0821, available from: <https://randd.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectId=20907>

The objective in MCAA section 123(2) is that the MCZs designated, together with other MPAs in the UK marine area, form a network which satisfies the following conditions:

- The MPA network contributes to the conservation or improvement of the marine environment in the UK marine area.
- The features which are protected by the sites comprised in the network represent the range of features present in the UK marine area.
- The designation of sites comprised in the network reflects the fact that the conservation of a feature may require the designation of more than one site.

In addition to the MCAA objective, the UK has committed to establishing an ecologically coherent network of MPAs through both international and national commitments (see section 1.2). This refers to all the different types of MPAs interacting with, and supporting, the wider environment, as well as other MPAs. The MPA network is dependent on appropriate management to support good ecosystem health and function within and outside the MPAs. The UK MPA network is formed of:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations) and Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Offshore Regulations).
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Habitats Regulations and Offshore Regulations.
- Marine Conservation Zones designated under MCAA.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- Sites designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention).
- HPMAAs designated under MCAA as a type of MCZ.
- Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) designated under The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.
- Scottish MPAs are designated under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for inshore sites (within 12 nautical miles) and MCAA for offshore sites (beyond 12 nautical miles).

1.2 National and international commitments

To protect the marine environment, the UK has made several commitments on MPAs at both a national and international level. The relevant national and international commitments include the following.

1.2.1 National

- **Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP23):** The EIP23, for England, is the first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP). The framework sets out how the government aims to deliver the 10 environmental goals set out in 25YEP. The Environment Act 2021 commits to review the 25YEP every five years. To ensure the current EIP targets and delivery plans are fit for purpose, the

government has commissioned a rapid review of the EIP. The review will also gather evidence on whether targets can be made more ambitious.

- **The Environmental Targets (Marine Protected Areas) Regulations 2023:** The statutory instrument made under Section 1 of the Environment Act 2021 requires at least 70% of protected features in MPAs to be in a favourable condition (a good and healthy state) by the end of December 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition (measures necessary to remove or manage all relevant impacts on features have been implemented).
- **Habitats Regulations and Offshore Regulations:** The Habitats Regulations and Offshore Regulations transpose the Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive into UK law. These directives provide for the designation of SACs and SPAs, which together form the Natura 2000 protected areas network. The network is an EU-wide coherent network of nature protection areas, which aims to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. The Habitats Regulations enables the designation and management of SPAs and SACs on land and within the UK's inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles of the coast). The Offshore Regulations specifically address designation and management of SPAs and SACs in the offshore marine area (beyond 12 nautical miles from the coast to the UK's continental shelf).
- **The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010:** The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 transpose the Marine Strategy Framework Directive into UK law. They require action to be taken to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status in our seas. Any programme of measures must include spatial protection measures, to contribute to coherent and representative networks of MPAs, in accordance with Article 13(4) of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The Regulations require the production of a 'Marine Strategy' for all UK waters and for the approach to be coordinated across all four UK governments. It also requires compliance with the directive's obligation for cooperation with other countries sharing our seas.

1.2.2 International

- **Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention):** Through this Convention, the countries bordering the North-East Atlantic, including the UK, have agreed to establish an ecologically coherent network of MPAs in the North-East Atlantic and ensure it is well-managed.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity and Global Biodiversity Framework:** The Convention on Biological Diversity is an overarching international treaty that sets the general goals and principles for biodiversity conservation, suitable use and fair benefit-sharing arising from genetic resources. In 2010, parties to this Convention made a commitment to ensure that "by 2020 ... 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape." The Global Biodiversity Framework is a specific and time-bound strategic plan developed under the convention to guide and measure progress

towards achieving the Convention's goals. Most notably, the UK has signed up to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to effectively conserve and manage at least 30% of the global ocean by 2030 (30by30 target).

1.3 Reporting requirements

Section 124 of MCAA sets out a requirement for the appropriate authority to lay before Parliament every six years a report setting out the extent to which the authority believes the objective of section 123(2) has been achieved and any required further steps.

The establishment of the MPA network is a devolved responsibility. Therefore, this report will only focus on regions of the MPA network that the Secretary of State is directly responsible for, which includes the English waters (inshore and offshore) and Northern Ireland offshore. A brief description of the MPA network overseen by devolved governments will be noted in Parts 2.5–2.7.

Section 124 of MCAA also requires details of the number of MCZs designated during the relevant period; the size and conservation objectives of individual MCZs; the number of MCZs where there are restrictions or prohibitions on any licensable marine activity or on fishing or the taking of animals or plants; achievement of the conservation objectives; any amendments made to any order under section 116; the extent to which the conservation objectives for individual MCZs have been achieved; and any further steps required in order to achieve those conservation objectives. As the English MPA network is comprised of 89 MCZs, the information is presented in annexes.

The focus of the MPA network report is to provide an update of the actions that have taken place since the last reporting period in 2018, detail the opinion of the authority as to whether the conservation objectives for each MCZ have been achieved, and outline any further steps required to achieve the conservation objectives.

1.4 Marine Conservation Zones

MCZs are intended to protect nationally important marine species, habitats, geology and geomorphology. This includes not just rare and threatened features, but the range of marine features present in the UK marine area. The sites contribute to an ecologically coherent UK network of MPAs as well as wider biodiversity commitments.

The first tranche of 23 sites was designated in 2013, with the second tranche of 27 sites designated in 2016. The third tranche of MCZs was designated in 2019, which introduced 41 new sites and 12 additional features to already designated sites. The MPA network consists of 91 MCZs (excluding HPMAs) within Secretary of State waters, which cover an area of approximately 32,123.6 km². Annex A shows the details of all MCZ designations (tranches 1–3), their size (km²), protected features, conservation objectives, Defra's view as to whether conservation objectives have been achieved, and any amendments made to an order under section 116.

1.5 Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas

SACs and SPAs contribute towards the MPA network and were originally classified/designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives (as transposed into UK law by the Habitats Regulations and Offshore Regulations) to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

SACs may protect entirely marine features or a combination of marine and terrestrial features in coastal areas. No new SACs were designated or extended between 2019 and 2024, which brings the total number of SACs within Secretary of State waters to 43, covering an area approximately of 58,081 km².

SPAs protect areas identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or migration of rare and vulnerable bird species found within Europe. There has been one new SPA designation, one site extension of a terrestrial site resulting in a newly 'marine' site, and two extensions to existing marine sites within Secretary of State waters between 2019 and 2024. The total number of SPAs in Secretary of State waters is 50, covering an area of approximately 14,706 km².

MCAA does not require the same site-specific details to be included in this report for SACs and SPAs as for MCZs, but details on them can be found using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) MPA mapper².

1.6 Highly Protected Marine Areas (a type of MCZ)

HPMAs are areas of the sea that allow the protection and recovery of marine ecosystems by preventing extractive, destructive and depositional uses, only allowing non-damaging levels of other activities to the extent permitted by international law or where certain limited exceptions apply.

HPMAs take a 'whole site approach', meaning the protected feature of a HPMA is the marine ecosystem of the area. This includes all marine flora and fauna, all marine habitats and all geological or geomorphological interest, including all abiotic elements and all supporting ecosystem functions and processes, in or on the seabed, water column and the surface of the sea. This includes mobile species passing through the site, including birds both in the water and on the surface of the water, within the area designated.

HPMAs are designated as MCZs but do not fall under the MPA target, although they all overlap to some extent with existing MPAs. The total number of HPMAs in Secretary of State waters is three, covering an area of approximately 0.4%, or 985.2km², of English waters and protect a variety of habitats and species.

² Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), MPA Mapper, available from: <https://jncc.gov.uk/mpa-mapper/>

1.7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

SSSIs are a national suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features. SSSIs protect important biological features such as saltmarsh, reef and muddy gravels. They protect geological features such as coastal geomorphology, exposed rock formations and fossils in the marine or intertidal area.

SSSI notification may extend into intertidal areas, and sometimes boundaries extend more widely within estuaries and other enclosed waters and therefore can contain marine components. In total, there are 97 SSSIs with marine components in Secretary of State waters, covering an area of 2,348.2km².

MCAA does not require the same site-specific details to be included in this report for SSSIs as for MCZs, but details on them can be found within additional reports³.

1.8 Ramsar sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention). Sites are identified using criteria that recognises whether:

- Sites contain representative, rare or unique wetland types.
- Sites are of international importance for conserving biological diversity (including species, ecological communities and specific criteria based on water birds, fish or other taxa).

In England, all listed Ramsar sites are currently SSSIs and, as internationally important areas for habitats and species, many are also designated as SACs or SPAs. This common overlap of designations highlights where complex or important areas of ecological importance may be designated under several different national or international principles to protect the range and features present. A total of 40 Ramsar sites with marine components are present within the Secretary of State waters, covering an area of 2,373.9 km².

Further details pertaining to Ramsar sites with marine components are not included in this report because these sites are underpinned by other designations, which protect the same features. Additionally, the purpose of this document is to comment on the current state of the MPA network established under MCAA.

³ Peter Chaniotis, Alice Cornthwaite and Amy Ridgeway (JNCC), 'Defining ASSI/SSSIs with "marine biological components" and setting out a process for determining their contribution to the UK MPA network', 2018, available from: <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/2cde282c-2358-4d3f-9072-b1f4f4086545>

Part 2. Current state of the Marine Protected Area network

2.1 MPA network contribution to UK marine conservation

England has progressed conservation efforts in the marine environment since the last reporting period through a series of actions. In 2019, Defra designated a third tranche of MCZs within Secretary of State waters, which established 41 new sites and added additional features to previously designated sites. Within the offshore environment, protection was provided to 13 new areas in the form of MCZs, which is the highest number of offshore designations out of the three tranches. All tranche 3 designations can be viewed in **Figure 1**.

Since 2019, one new SPA designation, one site extension resulting in a newly ‘marine’ site and two site extensions have occurred in Secretary of State waters. Additionally, the first three HPMAs in English waters were designated in July 2023.

To complement the MPA network, Defra established a statutory target under the Environment Act 2021 that requires at least 70% of protected features in MPAs across the network to be in a favourable condition (a good and healthy state) by the end of December 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition (defined as measures necessary to remove or manage all relevant impacts on features have been implemented).

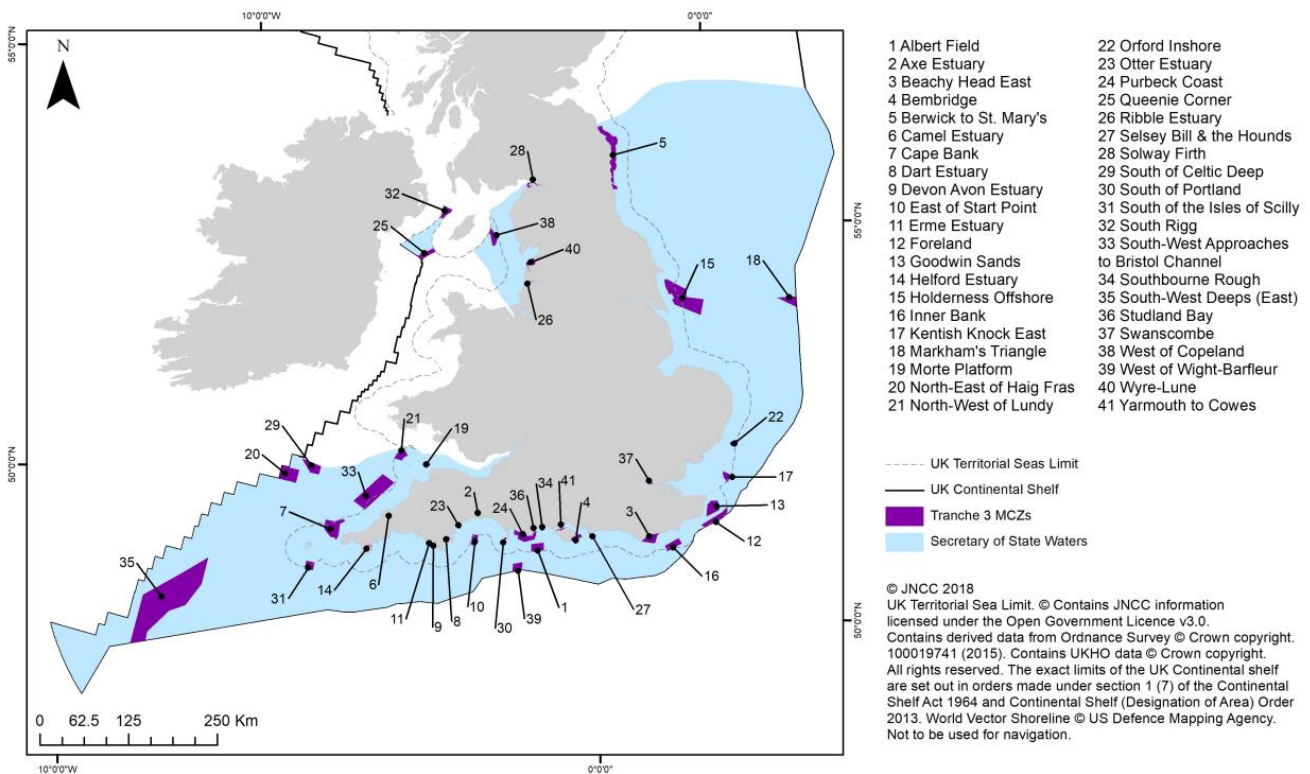


Figure 1. Map of tranche 3 MCZ designations

2.2 Feature representation within the MPA network

The MPA network aims to protect the best or representative examples of English marine features (habitats and species) within the Secretary of State waters. Protected habitats include broad-scale habitats such as subtidal sand, intertidal mud or rocky seabeds, and rare or threatened habitats such as maerl beds, native oyster beds and subtidal chalk. By safeguarding a variety of seabed types, the MPA network ensures that the species relying on these habitats are represented. In addition, species of conservation importance including rare, threatened or declining species are protected, such as pink sea-fans, seahorses and spiny lobsters. Areas of geological and geomorphological interest are also protected.

MCZs were established based on the Ecological Network Guidance (2010)⁴, which explains how to identify and create a coherent network of MCZs. The guidance outlines target requirements for features that should be protected, the number of MCZs required for each feature, and the recommended size and spacing between sites. In 2016, the list⁵ of important habitats and species was updated following a review. The guidance was developed by Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), using the best scientific evidence available at the time.

2.3 Assessment of achievement of section 123(2) of MCAA

MPAs are one of the most important tools we have for protecting the wide range of important and sensitive habitats and species within English waters. The designation of tranche 3 MCZs has contributed towards a comprehensive network of 181 MPAs covering 40% of English waters. The requirement now is to ensure each MPA is properly managed so each site can achieve its conservation objective. The progress towards conservation objectives for each MCZ (including HPMAs) can be viewed in Annex A.

To help achieve the conditions outlined in section 123(3) of MCAA, each MCZ has a specific conservation objective, which is defined in its designation order. The conservation objective for each MCZ is for designated features to reach favourable condition (a good and healthy state defined by Natural England and JNCC for each feature). The general management approach required to achieve site objectives is either to maintain it in favourable condition (if it is currently in this state), or for it to be recovered to favourable condition (if it is currently in a damaged state) and then to be maintained in favourable condition. Defra aims to achieve the conservation objectives of each MPA by ensuring

⁴ JNCC and Natural England, 'Marine Conservation Zone Project: Ecological Network Guidance', 2010, available from: <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/94f961af-0bfc-4787-92d7-0c3bcf0fd083/MCZ-Ecological-Network-Guidance-2010.pdf>

⁵ JNCC and Natural England, 'Review of the MCZ Features of Conservation Importance', 2016, available from: <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/94f961af-0bfc-4787-92d7-0c3bcf0fd083/MCZ-review-foci-201605-v7.0.pdf>

regulators remove or effectively manage pressures that adversely impact protected features by implementing appropriate management measures (see section 2.4).

The latest data we have from our Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (Natural England and JNCC) shows 44% of protected species and habitats are in favourable condition. At this time, we do not yet have all required management measures in place for all features to recover, but actions are underway to implement them. Once management measures are in place, the rate at which features recover will depend on the biological nature of the species and habitats (for the latter it will depend on the rate of recovery of the component biological community). Natural England and JNCC are developing an MPA monitoring strategy to assess progress towards meeting the statutory MPA target, including whether the necessary management measures are in place.

Defra's aim for the third tranche of MCZ designations was for the sites to substantially complete the MPA network and address any ecological gaps that would otherwise hinder the achievement of the conservation aims outlined in MCAA. To achieve this, JNCC and Natural England undertook an analysis of the existing MPA network to determine the ecological gaps that needed to be filled by tranche 3 of MCZ designations in Secretary of State waters.

Natural England and JNCC provided pre-consultation scientific advice on all MCZ options being considered to complete the network, alongside proposals from third parties for sites for highly mobile species. Natural England's advice⁶ covers the inshore MCZs under consideration in tranche 3, with JNCC providing complementary advice⁷ regarding the offshore sites.

2.4 Management of fishing and other activities within MCZs

All environmentally damaging activities within and around the vicinity of MPAs are managed by a range of regulators such as the MMO, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) and local authorities through the existing marine licensing regimes, byelaws or voluntary measures (see section 2.4.2).

⁶ Natural England, 'Summary of Natural England's confirmed advice provided to Defra on Marine Conservation Zones to be considered for consultation in 2018', JP026, 2018, available from: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6079955233931264>

⁷ JNCC, 'Overview of JNCC's scientific advice on possible offshore Marine Conservation Zones around England considered for consultation in 2018', 2018, available from: <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/4ea8c2c1-0176-4f6f-b4be-40b90719cab/JNCC-MCZT3OverviewReport-v2.0.pdf>

2.4.1 Management of commercial fishing

Commercial fisheries in English MCZs are regulated by IFCA in the 0–6 nautical mile zone and by the MMO in the 6–200 nautical mile zone, with Natural England and JNCC providing scientific advice in the inshore and offshore, respectively.

Byelaws are not always specific to a particular MCZ. They can be used to control particular types of fishing activity throughout multiple protected areas. Regulators may also have existing byelaws prior to designation, referred to as legacy byelaws, which may provide sufficient protection to the MCZ, which negates the need for additional measures.

Fishing management measures for MCZs within English waters are introduced through a structured process run by the MMO or IFCA. Firstly, evidence is gathered and assessed to identify activities posing a threat to the conservation objective of an MCZ. Based on the available evidence, the relevant IFCA or MMO will then develop a management measure (byelaw or voluntary measure), specifying the activities to be regulated, the geographic scope within the MCZ and outline the restriction or prohibition. If required, a public consultation process is carried out, inviting comments from stakeholders (local communities, industry representatives, fishers, environmental non-government organisations, etc). For byelaws led by the IFCA, an informal consultation with stakeholders takes place prior to drafting a byelaw, and then a formal consultation occurs after the byelaw has been made, which is then sent to the MMO for quality assurance and Secretary of State confirmation. For byelaws led by the MMO, stakeholders will be consulted before the management measure is developed. Once the consultation closes, the IFCA or the MMO may make amendments to the proposed management measure based on stakeholder feedback. An impact assessment is also performed to assess the potential economic, social and environmental impact of the proposed management measure to ensure it is proportional and effective. If the proposed measure is a byelaw, the byelaw is submitted to Defra for Secretary of State confirmation. Following confirmation, the byelaw is formally published, and its provisions become legally enforceable.

All inshore fishing management measures can be viewed in Annex B. In terms of offshore byelaws, the MMO is currently implementing the offshore fisheries byelaw programme, which contains four stages:

- **Stage 1⁸:** This came into force on 13 June 2022 and introduced byelaws that prohibited the use of damaging fishing gear within sensitive areas of four MPAs.

⁸ Marine Management Organisation (MMO), 'Government continues its plans for nature recovery in our seas', news story, June 2022, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-continues-its-plans-for-nature-recovery-in-our-seas>

- **Stage 2**⁹: A byelaw was introduced restricting the use of bottom-towed gear in 13 MPAs and came into force on 22 March 2024.
- **Stage 3**¹⁰: The MMO held a call for evidence in January to March 2023 for Stage 3 MPAs. This sought additional evidence and views on evidence and analysis of the impacts of fishing on remaining seabed features in 43 English MPAs.
- **Stage 4**¹¹: A call for evidence on stage 4 of the programme, covering highly mobile species (harbour porpoise and marine birds), closed in February 2024. The MMO is analysing the responses received to this latest call for evidence before deciding what measures might need to be consulted on.

All offshore fishing management measures can be viewed in Annex C.

2.4.2 Marine licensing

The MMO is responsible for marine licensing in English inshore and offshore areas and for the Northern Ireland offshore area. Other Defra agencies, such as Natural England and the JNCC, act as advisors. Nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs), including offshore wind farm developments, follow a dedicated planning process led by the Planning Inspectorate. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and its arm's-length bodies regulate energy NSIPs, ensuring they align with national energy and environmental targets. DESNZ collaborates with the MMO, which provides marine licence and environmental assessments essential for offshore compliance. A development consent order under the Planning Act 2008 may include provision for a deemed marine licence under MCAA, Part 4. In contrast, smaller coastal structural developments are managed by local authorities, also incorporating feedback from the MMO. The marine licensable activities are set out under section 66 of MCAA. These fall broadly into six categories of activity:

- Construction, alteration or improvement of works.
- Dredging.
- Deposits of any substance or object.
- Incineration of any substance or object.
- Removal of any substance or object.
- Scuttling of any vessel or floating container.

In determining a marine licence application, the MMO assesses the potential impact on any designated MCZ. Such an assessment follows the requirements of section 126 of

⁹ MMO, Defra, Natural England and The Rt Hon Lord Benyon, 'Bottom towed fishing gear prohibited over reef habitats in 13 marine protected areas', news story, March 2024, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bottom-towed-fishing-gear-prohibited-over-reef-habitats-in-13-marine-protected-areas>

¹⁰ MMO, 'Marine protected areas – Stage 3 impacts evidence', guidance, August 2023, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-protected-areas-stage-3-impacts-evidence>

¹¹ Defra, 'Call for evidence – Stage 4 fishing in marine protected areas', available from: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/stage-4-call-for-evidence/>

MCAA and is made up of three key stages: screening; a stage-1 MCZ assessment (to determine if the activity is capable of affecting, other than insignificantly, any protected feature of an MCZ or any ecological or geomorphological process on which the feature relies); followed (where necessary) by a stage-2 MCZ assessment (to determine either that there is no significant risk of hindering the conservation objectives of the MCZ or, where that is not possible, that the activity should still proceed in limited circumstances – see below). As a result of the MCZ assessment, the MMO may refuse to grant a licence, may issue a marine licence without conditions, or may grant a licence subject to conditions, including restricting that activity to ensure that it does not hinder the conservation objectives of the MCZ. A potentially damaging activity may be approved if there is no other lower risk alternative, the public benefit of proceeding with the act clearly outweighs the environmental damage caused, and the applicant satisfies the MMO that they will implement or arrange for the undertaking of measures of equivalent environmental benefits to counterbalance the likely damage to the MCZ.

Licensable marine activities are prohibited or restricted in all MPAs, including the MCZs, where the activity is judged to impact the MPA's conservation objectives. Since 2019, the MMO has granted 374 marine licences with significant restrictions imposed, and 57 applications were refused or withdrawn. There are currently 73 MCZs in which a licensable marine activity is prohibited or significantly restricted. The details of all marine licensable applications are available on the MMO's Public Register¹².

2.4.3 Non-licensable activities

The MMO has responsibilities, alongside other governmental bodies, for managing non-licensable activities (often recreational), which take place in MCZs within its jurisdiction between 0 and 12 nautical miles in English waters. Non-licensable activities are often recreational and do not require a marine licence under Section 66 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹³. Recreational fishing activities are managed by the IFCA's within 0–6 nautical miles. Examples of non-licensable recreational activities include but are not limited to:

- Non-motorised watercraft (e.g. kayaks, windsurfing, kite surfing, dinghies).
- Powerboating or sailing with an engine – anchoring and mooring, launching and recovery, participation.
- Sailing without an engine – anchoring and mooring, launching and recovery, participation.
- Diving and snorkelling.
- Recreational fishing.

¹² MMO, marine licence applications and requests, public register, available from:

https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO_PUBLIC_REGISTER/

¹³ Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Section 66, available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/section/66>

Management measures are selected on the basis that they are the most effective way to further each site's conservation objectives. Management measures may range from voluntary measures to statutory byelaws and are developed through engagement and consultation (if required). Examples of managing recreational activities include the following.

- In December 2021, the MMO introduced a voluntary no anchor zone to ensure that anchoring over seagrass beds (a protected feature) in Studland Bay MCZ did not undermine the conservation objectives of the MPA. The results of the measure can be viewed in the 2023 Review¹⁴.
- Sussex IFCA has introduced a voluntary measure to use circle, barbless or de-barbed hooks when recreationally angling.

Through the management of marine recreational activities, the MMO will be contributing towards its key services of protecting marine habitats and wildlife as set out in the MMO Corporate Plan 2022–2025¹⁵.

2.5 MPA network in Scotland

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and MCAA include powers for Scottish Ministers to designate MPAs for nature conservation purposes. Approximately 37% of Scotland's seas are in the UK network. This comprises:

- 36 MPAs to protect habitats and species such as maerl beds, coral gardens and common skate.
- 58 SACs under the Habitats Regulations and Offshore Regulations to protect species and habitats such as bottlenose dolphin, coral reefs and seals.
- 58 SPAs under the Habitats Regulations and Offshore Regulations to protect a range of vulnerable or migratory bird species such as puffins and kittiwakes.
- 65 SSSIs for the further protection of habitats and species in the intertidal zone.

2.6 MPA network in Wales

The UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 includes powers for Welsh Ministers to designate MPAs for nature conservation purposes. In 2018, the nature conservation powers for the Welsh offshore region transferred from the Secretary of State to the Welsh Ministers.

¹⁴ MMO, 'Studland Bay – Voluntary No Anchor Zone: 2023 Review', March 2024, available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6602c04565ca2fa78e7da893/2023_Studland_Review_Report.pdf

¹⁵ MMO, 'Corporate plan', June 2022, updated July 2023, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/corporate-plan--4>

There are 139 sites in Welsh waters made up of:

- 13 SPAs.
- 15 SACs.
- 1 MCZs.
- 107 SSSIs.
- 3 Ramsar sites.

These cover 69% of Welsh inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and 50% of all Welsh waters (out to the median line). The network includes MPAs in all Welsh waters, in line with the Welsh Government's extended remit for marine nature conservation in the offshore area.

Taken together, these MPAs form a network around Wales. They make a substantial contribution towards an ecologically coherent network of MPAs in the UK and a wider network of sites in the North-East Atlantic established by the OSPAR Commission.

2.7 MPA network in Northern Ireland

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 and MCAA include powers for Ministers in Northern Ireland to designate MPAs in order to conserve marine flora, fauna, habitats or features of geological or geomorphological interest. The current MPA network in Northern Ireland is made up of 48 MPAs covering approximately 38% of the inshore region, this includes:

- 7 SACs.
- 9 SPAs.
- 20 ASSIs.
- 5 MCZs.
- 7 Ramsar sites.

During this reporting period, there have been significant achievements in monitoring and managing Northern Ireland's MPAs, including projects like MarPAMM, SeaMonitor and COMPASS, which have advanced the understanding of marine ecosystems and informed conservation strategies.

MPA Fishing Regulations were enacted through the Marine Protected Areas (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022, which prohibited the use of mobile demersal fishing gear and introduced management for static fishing gear, such as pots and creels, in nine inshore MPAs.

Part 3. Further steps for the MPA network

3.1 MPAs

Since the last reporting period ended in 2018, significant progress has been made towards achieving the objective stated in section 123(2) of MCAA. Most notably, the delivery of tranche 3 MCZ designations, which has substantially completed the MPA network by encompassing representative habitats and species present within English waters, the introduction of the statutory MPA target, fisheries management measures for 17 offshore MPAs, and designation of three HPMAs. Despite the steps taken, Defra recognises that management gaps within the MPA network exist, and further action is required to ensure MCZs, and other MPAs, achieve their conservation objectives. Further steps are expected to include:

- Consult on and implement the consultation outcomes of Stage 3 of the MMO offshore fishing byelaws programme, to manage damaging fishing activity in 43 MPAs (led by the MMO).
- Consult on and implement the consultation outcomes of Stage 4 of the MMO offshore fishing byelaw programme, to protect highly mobile species (harbour porpoises and marine birds) (led by the MMO).
- Review and implement any necessary management measures for recreational activities including angling (led by the MMO, local councils and IFCAs).
- Completion of inshore fishing management measures (led by IFCAs).

The government's ambitions for offshore wind, and the current and planned leasing of offshore wind farm sites in MPAs mean there are likely to be further pressures on the MPA network and its designated features. The Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package seeks to support the acceleration of offshore wind consenting, while continuing to protect the marine environment.

3.2 HPMAAs

- In August 2023 the MMO consulted on a byelaw to prohibit commercial and recreational fishing activities across the three designated HPMAAs.
- The government continues to work with public authorities to develop further management measures as necessary for wider activities considered likely to hinder the conservation objective of an HPMA, including recreational activities. Management could include further byelaws or voluntary codes of conduct.

Annexes

Annex A

All MCZs designated under the MCAA and their protected features (habitats and species) are covered within this annex. The protected features added to previously established MCZs during the third tranche of the designations process appear in **bold** with associated date. Species names may differ from the designation orders to reflect current taxonomic nomenclature, where that has changed since the MPA was designated.

The specific conservation objectives for each MCZ can be viewed via the link within the conservation objective and amendments to Order column. The extent to which Defra considers the conservation objectives have been achieved for each MCZ are based upon the column titled 'Natural England and JNCC condition assessments', populated using data provided by Natural England and JNCC on 18 September 2024. If a feature has been reported to be in favourable condition, then Defra considers the conservation objective to be achieved for that feature. If a feature's condition is noted as unfavourable, then the conservation objective has not been achieved and additional management measures are required, or the feature requires additional time to recover.

The two forms of condition assessment are used: direct (D) survey data and vulnerability (V) assessments. In the absence of direct survey data, Natural England or JNCC perform a vulnerability assessment, which estimates the sensitivity of protected features to human activity occurring within their vicinity.

The conservation objectives for all protected habitats and species are similar, which entail the feature reaching or maintaining favourable condition. The conservation objectives for HPMAs differ from other MCZs as these sites take a 'whole site approach', meaning the protected feature of a HPMA is the marine ecosystem of the area (examples below).

The conservation objectives for Albert Field MCZ protected features (subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediment) are as follows.

- (1) Is that the protected features— (a) so far as already in favourable condition, remain in such condition, and (b) so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition, and remain in such condition.*
- (2) In paragraph (1), "favourable condition", with respect to a habitat within the Zone, means that— (a) its extent is stable or increasing, and (b) its structure and functions, its quality, and the composition of its characteristic biological communities are such as to ensure that it remains in a condition which is healthy and not deteriorating.*
- (3) In paragraph (2)(b), the reference to the composition of the characteristic biological communities of a habitat includes a reference to the diversity and abundance of species forming part of, or inhabiting, that habitat.*
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(b), any temporary deterioration in condition is to be disregarded if the habitat is sufficiently healthy and resilient to enable its recovery.*

- (5) *For the purpose of determining whether a protected feature is in favourable condition within the meaning of paragraph (2), any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.*

The conservation objective for Berwick to St Mary's MCZ protected features (common eider (*Somateria mollissima*)) are as follows.

- (1) *The conservation objectives of the Zone are that, in relation to common eider (*Somateria mollissima*)— (a) the habitat used by members of that species ("supporting habitat")— (i) so far as already in favourable condition, remain in such condition, and (ii) so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition and remain in such condition; (b) the population of that species— (i) so far as already in favourable condition, remain in such condition, and (ii) so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition, and remain in such condition.*
- (2) *In paragraph (1), "favourable condition"— (a) with respect to supporting habitat within the Zone, means that— (i) its extent and distribution is stable or increasing, and (ii) its structures and functions, its quality, and the composition of its characteristic biological communities are such as to ensure that it remains in a condition which is healthy and not deteriorating; (b) with respect to the population of that species occurring within the Zone (whether temporary or otherwise), means that the distribution, size, age and sex ratios of the population are such as to ensure that it is maintained in numbers which enable it to thrive.*
- (3) *In paragraph 2(a)(ii), the reference to the composition of the characteristic biological communities of a habitat includes a reference to the diversity and abundance of species forming part of, or inhabiting, that habitat.*
- (4) *For the purpose of determining whether the protected feature is in a favourable condition within the meaning of paragraph (2), any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.*

The conservation objectives for Allonby Bay HPMA are:

- (1) *The conservation objective of the Allonby Bay Highly Protected Marine Area is to—*
- a. achieve full recovery of the protected feature, including its structure and functions, its qualities and the composition of its characteristic biological communities present within the Allonby Bay Highly Protected Marine Area, to a natural state, and*
 - b. prevent further degradation and damage to the protected feature, subject to natural change.*
- (2) *Paragraph (1) does not prevent human intervention to enable or facilitate recovery or enable or facilitate the prevention of degradation or damage.*
- (3) *In paragraph (1), "protected feature" has the meaning given by article 4.*

Article 4 protected feature:

- (1) *The protected feature of the Allonby Bay Highly Protected Marine Area is the marine ecosystem of the area.*

(2) In this Article— “the marine ecosystem” means all marine flora and fauna, all marine habitats and all geological or geomorphological interests, including all abiotic elements and all supporting ecosystem functions and processes, in or on the seabed, water column and the surface of the sea; “water column” means the vertically continuous mass of water from the surface of the sea to the seabed.

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
2023 HPMA designations				
Allonby Bay Highly Protected Marine Area	28	1. The marine ecosystem of the area	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2023/2/contents/created	1. Not in a fully recovered condition (V)
Dolphin Head Highly Protected Marine Area	466	1. The marine ecosystem of the area	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2023/1/contents/created	1. Not in a fully recovered condition (V)
North East of Farnes Deep Highly Protected Marine Area	492	1. The marine ecosystem of the area	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2023/3/contents/created	1. Not in a fully recovered condition (V)
2019 MCZ designations (tranche 3)				
Albert Field	192	1. Subtidal coarse sediment 2. Subtidal mixed sediment	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/1/contents/created	1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
Axe Estuary	0.3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds 2. Intertidal coarse sediment 3. Intertidal mixed sediments 4. Intertidal mud 5. Estuarine rocky habitats 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/2/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (D) 3. Favourable (D) 4. Favourable (D) 5. Favourable (D)
Beachy Head East	195	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtidal coarse sediment 2. Subtidal sand 3. Littoral chalk communities 4. Short-snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>) 5. High energy circalittoral rock 6. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 7. Peat and clay exposures 8. Ross worm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reefs 9. Subtidal chalk 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/3/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V) 7. Unfavourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V) 9. Unfavourable (V)
Bembridge	75	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtidal coarse sediment 2. Subtidal sand 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		3. Sheltered muddy gravels 4. Short-snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>) 5. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia campanulata</i>) 6. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus</i> species) 7. Subtidal mixed sediment 8. Subtidal mud 9. Maerl beds 10. Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities 11. Seagrass beds 12. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 13. Peacock's tail (<i>Padina pavonica</i>)	/contents/created	3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Unfavourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V) 9. Unfavourable (V) 10. Unfavourable (V) 11. Unfavourable (V) 12. Unfavourable (V) 13. Unfavourable (V)
Berwick to St Mary's	634	1. Common eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/5/contents/created	1. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
Camel Estuary	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds Estuarine rocky habitats Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal mud Low energy intertidal rock 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/6/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V)
Cape Bank	474	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/8/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
Dart Estuary	5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds Tentacled lagoon-worm (<i>Alkmaria romijni</i>) Estuarine rocky habitats Intertidal mud Low energy intertidal rock 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/11/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Unfavourable – no change (D) Unfavourable – no change (D) Unfavourable – no change (D)
Devon Avon Estuary	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds Intertidal mud Intertidal sand and muddy sand 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/12/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Moderate energy intertidal rock 5. Tentacled lagoon worm (<i>Alkmaria romijni</i>) 		
East of Start Point	116	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtidal sand 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/15/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V)
Erme Estuary	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High energy intertidal rock 2. Intertidal mixed sediments 3. Low energy intertidal rock 4. Moderate energy intertidal rock 5. Sheltered muddy gravels 6. Tentacled lagoon-worm (<i>Alkmaria romijni</i>) 7. Estuarine rocky habitats 8. Intertidal coarse sediment 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/16/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V)
Foreland	244	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English Channel outburst flood features 2. Subtidal sand 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. High energy circalittoral rock 4. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 5. Subtidal coarse sediment 	7/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V)
Goodwin Sands	277	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English Channel outburst flood features 2. Subtidal coarse sediment 3. Subtidal sand 4. Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds 5. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 6. Ross worm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reefs 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/18/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V)
Helford Estuary	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/19/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V)
Holderness Offshore	1,176	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North Sea glacial tunnel valleys 2. Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>) 3. Subtidal coarse sediment 4. Subtidal mixed sediments 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/20/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		5. Subtidal sand		
Inner Bank	199	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal mixed sediments Subtidal sand 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/21/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
Kentish Knock East	96	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal sand Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal mixed sediment 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/23/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
Markham's Triangle	200	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal mixed sediment Subtidal mud Subtidal sand 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/24/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
Morte Platform	25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> High energy circalittoral rock Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/26/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
North-East of Haig Fras	464	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal mud Subtidal sand 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/27/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
North West of Lundy	173	1. Subtidal coarse sediment	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/28/contents/created	1. Unfavourable (V)
Orford Inshore	72	1. Subtidal mixed sediments	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/29/contents/created	1. Unfavourable (V)
Otter Estuary	0.1	1. Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds 2. Intertidal coarse sediment 3. Intertidal mud	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/30/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V)
Purbeck Coast	282	1. High energy intertidal rock 2. Intertidal coarse sediment 3. Moderate energy intertidal rock 4. Peacock's tail (<i>Padina pavonica</i>) 5. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus</i> species) 6. Subtidal coarse sediment 7. Subtidal mixed sediments	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/32/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V) 9. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Black seabream (<i>Spondyllosoma cantharus</i>) (nesting) 9. Maerl beds 		
Queenie Corner	146	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities 2. Subtidal mud 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/33/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V)
Ribble Estuary	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/34/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V)
Selsey Bill and the Hounds	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bracklesham Bay geological feature 2. Short-snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>) 3. Subtidal mixed sediments 4. Subtidal sand 5. High energy infralittoral rock 6. Low energy infralittoral rock 7. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 8. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/35/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V) 7. Unfavourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V) 9. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		9. Peat and clay exposures		
Solway Firth	43	1. Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>)	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/36/contents/created	1. Unfavourable (V)
South of Celtic Deep	278	1. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 2. Subtidal coarse sediment 3. Subtidal mixed sediments 4. Subtidal sand	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/38/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V)
South of Portland	17	1. Portland Deep geological feature 2. Subtidal sand 3. High energy circalittoral rock 4. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 5. Subtidal coarse sediment 6. Subtidal mixed sediments	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/39/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V)
South of the Isles of Scilly	132	1. Fan mussel (<i>Atrina fragilis</i>) 2. Subtidal coarse sediment/subtidal	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/4	1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<p>mixed sediment mosaic habitat</p> <p>3. Subtidal sand</p>	0/contents/created	
South West Approaches to the Bristol Channel	1,128	<p>1. Subtidal coarse sediment</p> <p>2. Subtidal sand</p>	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/42/contents/created	<p>1. Unfavourable (V)</p> <p>2. Unfavourable (V)</p>
South West Deeps (East)	4,655	<p>1. Celtic Sea Relict Sandbanks</p> <p>2. Deep seabed</p> <p>3. Subtidal coarse sediment</p> <p>4. Subtidal sand</p>	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/43/contents/created	<p>1. Favourable (V)</p> <p>2. Unfavourable (V)</p> <p>3. Unfavourable (V)</p> <p>4. Unfavourable (V)</p>
Southbourne Rough	5	<p>1. Black seabream (<i>Spondyllosoma cantharus</i>) (nesting)</p>	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/44/contents/created	<p>1. Unfavourable (V)</p>
Studland Bay	4	<p>1. Intertidal coarse sediment</p> <p>2. Long-snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i>)</p> <p>3. Subtidal sand</p> <p>4. Seagrass beds</p>	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/45/contents/created	<p>1. Favourable (V)</p> <p>2. Favourable (V)</p> <p>3. Favourable (V)</p> <p>4. Unfavourable (V)</p>
Swanscombe	3	<p>1. Intertidal mud</p>	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/4	<p>1. Favourable (V)</p> <p>2. Favourable (V)</p>

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		2. Tentacled lagoon worm (<i>Alkmaria romijni</i>)	6/contents/created	
West of Copeland	158	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal sand Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal mixed sediments 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/49/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Favourable (V)
West of Wight-Barfleur	138	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal mixed sediments 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/50/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
Wyre Lune	92	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/52/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V)
Yarmouth to Cowes	16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bouldnor Cliff geological feature Estuarine rocky habitats Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal underboulder communities Littoral chalk communities Low energy intertidal rock 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/53/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Moderate energy intertidal rock 8. Subtidal coarse sediment 9. High energy circalittoral rock 10. High energy infralittoral rock 11. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 12. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 13. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 14. Peat and clay exposures 15. Sheltered muddy gravels 16. Subtidal chalk 17. Subtidal mixed sediments 18. Subtidal mud 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Unfavourable (V) 12. Unfavourable (V) 13. Unfavourable (V) 14. Unfavourable (V) 15. Unfavourable (V) 16. Unfavourable (V) 17. Unfavourable (V) 18. Unfavourable (V)
South Rigg	141	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 2. Subtidal mixed sediments 3. Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/41/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Subtidal coarse sediment 5. Subtidal mud 6. Subtidal sand 		
2016 MCZ designations (tranche 2)				
Allonby Bay	39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low energy intertidal rock 2. Moderate energy intertidal rock 3. High energy intertidal rock 4. Intertidal biogenic reefs 5. Intertidal coarse sediment 6. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 7. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 8. Subtidal biogenic reefs 9. Subtidal coarse sediment 10. Subtidal mixed sediments 11. Subtidal sand 12. Peat and clay exposures 13. Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/1/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Favourable (V) 13. Favourable (V) 14. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		14. Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs		
Bideford to Foreland Point	104	1. Low energy intertidal rock 2. Moderate energy intertidal rock 3. High energy intertidal rock 4. Intertidal coarse sediment 5. Intertidal mixed sediments 6. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 7. Intertidal underboulder communities 8. Littoral chalk communities 9. Low energy infralittoral rock 10. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 11. High energy infralittoral rock 12. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 13. High energy circalittoral rock 14. Subtidal coarse sediment	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/2/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (D) 5. Favourable (D) 6. Favourable (D) 7. Favourable (D) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Favourable (V) 13. Favourable (V) 14. Favourable (D) 15. Favourable (D) 16. Favourable (V) 17. Favourable (D) 18. Favourable (V) 19. Favourable (D) 20. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Subtidal mixed sediments 16. Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats 17. Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs 18. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>) 19. Subtidal sand 20. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 		
Coquet to St Mary's	192	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low energy intertidal rock 2. Moderate energy intertidal rock 3. High energy intertidal rock 4. Intertidal mixed sediments 5. Intertidal coarse sediment 6. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 7. Intertidal mud 8. Intertidal underboulder communities 9. Peat and clay exposures 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/3/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Favourable (V) 13. Favourable (V) 14. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 11. High energy infralittoral rock 12. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 13. Subtidal coarse sediment 14. Subtidal sand 15. Subtidal mixed sediments 16. Subtidal mud 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Favourable (V) 16. Favourable (V)
Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds	320	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 2. High energy infralittoral rock 3. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 4. High energy circalittoral rock 5. Subtidal chalk 6. Subtidal coarse sediment 7. Subtidal mixed sediments 8. Subtidal sand 9. Peat and clay exposures 10. North Norfolk Coast assemblage of 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/4/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Unfavourable – no change (D) 6. Unfavourable – no change (D) 7. Unfavourable – no change (D) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		subtidal sediment features and habitats		
Dover to Deal	10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High energy intertidal rock 2. Intertidal coarse sediment 3. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 4. Intertidal underboulder communities 5. Littoral chalk communities 6. Low energy intertidal rock 7. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 8. Moderate energy intertidal rock 9. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 10. Subtidal chalk 11. Subtidal mixed sediments 12. Subtidal sand 13. Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds 14. High energy circalittoral rock 15. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 	<p>Order 2016: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/5/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/13/contents/created</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Favourable (V) 13. Unfavourable (V) 14. Unfavourable (V) 15. Unfavourable (V) 16. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		16. Ross worm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reefs		
Dover to Folkestone	20	1. Low energy intertidal rock 2. Moderate energy intertidal rock 3. High energy intertidal rock 4. Intertidal coarse sediment 5. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 6. Intertidal underboulder communities 7. Littoral chalk communities 8. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 9. Subtidal coarse sediment 10. Subtidal mixed sediments 11. Subtidal mud 12. Subtidal sand 13. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 14. Folkestone Warren	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/6/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Favourable (V) 13. Favourable (V) 14. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
Farnes East	946	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal mixed sediments Subtidal sand Subtidal mud Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/7/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
Fulmar	2,437	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal mixed sediments Subtidal sand Subtidal mud Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/8/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V)
Greater Haig Fras	2,041	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal coarse sediments Subtidal mixed sediments Subtidal sand Subtidal mud Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities Haig Fras rock complex 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/9/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
Hartland Point to Tintagel	304	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds 2. Low energy intertidal rock 3. Moderate energy intertidal rock 4. High energy intertidal rock 5. Intertidal coarse sediment 6. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 7. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 8. High energy infralittoral rock 9. Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs 10. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 11. High energy circalittoral rock 12. Subtidal coarse sediment 13. Subtidal sand 14. Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats 15. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>) 	<p>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/10/contents/created</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Unfavourable (V) 11. Unfavourable (V) 12. Unfavourable (V) 13. Unfavourable (V) 14. Unfavourable (V) 15. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
Holderness Inshore	309	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 2. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 3. High energy circalittoral rock 4. Subtidal coarse sediment 5. Subtidal mixed sediments 6. Subtidal sand 7. Subtidal mud 8. Spurn head (subtidal) and “the Binks” 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/11/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V)
Mounts Bay	12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderate energy intertidal rock 2. High energy intertidal rock 3. Intertidal coarse sediment 4. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 5. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 6. High energy infralittoral rock 7. Subtidal sand 8. Seagrass beds 9. Giant goby (<i>Gobius cobitis</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/12/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		10. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus</i> spp) 11. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia campanulata</i>) 12. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia cruxmelitensis</i>)		
Newquay and the Gannel	9	1. Estuarine rocky habitats 2. Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds 3. Low energy intertidal rock 4. Moderate energy intertidal rock 5. High energy intertidal rock 6. Intertidal coarse sediment 7. Intertidal mixed sediments 8. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 9. Intertidal mud 10. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 11. High energy infralittoral rock 12. Subtidal sand	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/13/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Favourable (V) 13. Favourable (V) 14. Favourable (V) 15. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Subtidal coarse sediment 14. High energy circalittoral rock 15. Giant goby (<i>Gobius cobitis</i>) 		
North-West of Jones Bank	398	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtidal coarse sediment 2. Subtidal sand 3. Subtidal mixed sediments 4. Subtidal mud 5. Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/14/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V)
Offshore Brighton	862	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High energy circalittoral rock 2. Subtidal coarse sediment 3. Subtidal mixed sediments 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/15/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V)
Offshore Overfalls	595	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtidal coarse sediment 2. Subtidal mixed sediments 3. Subtidal sand 4. English Channel outburst flood features (Quaternary fluvio-glacial erosion features) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/16/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
Runnel Stone	20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High energy intertidal rock 2. Intertidal coarse sediment 3. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 4. High energy infralittoral rock 5. High energy circalittoral rock 6. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 7. Subtidal coarse sediment 8. Subtidal sand 9. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/17/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V)
Runswick Bay	68	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low energy intertidal rock 2. Moderate energy intertidal rock 3. High energy intertidal rock 4. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 5. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 6. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/18/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Subtidal coarse sediment 8. Subtidal mixed sediments 9. Subtidal sand 10. Subtidal mud 11. Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>) 		
The Needles	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 2. High energy infralittoral rock 3. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 4. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia campanulata</i>) 5. Subtidal chalk 6. Subtidal coarse sediment 7. Subtidal mixed sediments 8. Subtidal sand 9. Subtidal mud 10. Sheltered muddy gravels 11. Seagrass beds 12. Peacock's tail (<i>Padina pavonica</i>) 13. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/19/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V) 7. Unfavourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V) 9. Unfavourable (V) 10. Unfavourable (V) 11. Unfavourable (V) 12. Unfavourable (V) 13. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
The Swale Estuary	51	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Estuarine rocky habitats 2. Low energy intertidal rock 3. Intertidal mixed sediments 4. Intertidal coarse sediment 5. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 6. Subtidal coarse sediment 7. Subtidal mixed sediments 8. Subtidal sand 9. Subtidal mud 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/20/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V)
Utopia	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 2. High energy circalittoral rock 3. Subtidal coarse sediment 4. Subtidal mixed sediments 5. Subtidal sand 6. Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/21/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
West of Walney	388	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal sand Subtidal mud Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/22/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
Western Channel	1,614	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/23/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Unfavourable (V)
2013 MCZ designations (tranche 1) – Bold protected features were added as part of MCZ tranche 3				
Aln Estuary	0.3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds Intertidal mud Estuarine rocky habitats Sheltered muddy gravels 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/1/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V)
Beachy Head West	24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Intertidal coarse sediment Subtidal mixed sediments Subtidal mud Subtidal sand Infralittoral muddy sand Infralittoral sandy mud 	<p>Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/2/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Low energy infralittoral rock and thin sandy sediment 8. Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds 9. Subtidal chalk 10. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 11. Short-snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>) 12. Littoral chalk communities 13. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 14. High energy circalittoral rock 	4/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Favourable (V) 13. Favourable (V) 14. Favourable (V)
Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries	283	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intertidal mixed sediments 2. Clacton Cliffs and Foreshore 3. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) beds 4. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/3/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable – no change (D) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Unfavourable – recovering (D) 4. Unfavourable (V)
The Canyons	660	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities 2. Coral gardens 	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (D) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (D)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Deep-sea bed 4. Cold-water coral reefs 	<p>/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/7/contents/created</p>	
Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges	38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High energy infralittoral rock 2. High energy intertidal rock 3. Intertidal coarse sediment 4. Subtidal coarse sediment 5. Subtidal mixed sediments 6. Subtidal sand 7. High energy circalittoral rock 8. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 9. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>) 	<p>Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/5/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/25/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/9/contents/created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Unfavourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V) 9. Unfavourable (V)
Cumbria Coast	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High energy intertidal rock 	<p>Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs 3. Intertidal biogenic reefs 4. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 5. Intertidal underboulder communities 6. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 7. Peat and clay exposures 8. Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) 	<p>k/ukmo/2013/6/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/10/contents/created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V)
East of Haig Fras	400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fan mussel (<i>Atrina fragilis</i>) 2. High energy circalittoral rock 3. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 4. Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities 5. Subtidal coarse sediment and mixed sediments mosaic 6. Subtidal mud 7. Subtidal sand 	<p>Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/7/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/26/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/10/contents/created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V) 7. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
			4/contents/created	
Folkestone Pomerania	34	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand High energy circalittoral rock Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs Ross worm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reefs 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/8/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V) Favourable (V)
Fylde	261	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal sand Subtidal mud 	<p>Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/9/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/31/contents/created</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable (D) Favourable (D)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Bishop to Crim	8	1. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>)		1. Unfavourable (V)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Bristows to the Stones	28	1. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>) 2. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 3. Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats 4. High energy circalittoral rock 5. Subtidal coarse sediment 6. Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/10/contents/created Order 2019 (amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/22/contents/created	1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Gilstone to Gorregan	1	1. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 2. High energy intertidal rock 3. Moderate energy intertidal rock		1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Hanjague to Deep Ledge	3	1. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 2. High energy intertidal rock 3. Intertidal coarse sediment		1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Intertidal underboulder communities 5. Moderate energy intertidal rock 		
Isles of Scilly Sites: Higher Town	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kaleidoscope jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus</i> species) 2. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia cruxmelitensis</i>) 3. Intertidal coarse sediment 4. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 5. Intertidal underboulder communities 6. Low energy intertidal rock 7. Moderate energy intertidal rock 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Lower Ridge to Innisvouls	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 2. Moderate energy intertidal rock 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Favourable (V)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Men a Vaur to White Island	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Giant goby (<i>Gobius cobitis</i>) 2. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia campanulata</i>) 4. High energy intertidal rock 5. Intertidal coarse sediment 6. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 7. Intertidal underboulder communities 8. Moderate energy intertidal rock 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Peninnis to Dry Ledge	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kaleidoscope jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus auricula</i>) 2. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 3. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia cruxmelitensis</i>) 4. Intertidal coarse sediment 5. Intertidal mixed sediments 6. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 7. Intertidal underboulder communities 8. Low energy intertidal rock 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		9. Moderate energy intertidal rock		
Isles of Scilly Sites: Plympton to Spanish Ledge	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 2. High energy intertidal rock 3. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 4. Intertidal underboulder communities 5. Moderate energy intertidal rock 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Smith Sound Tide Swept Channel	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 2. High energy intertidal rock 3. Moderate energy intertidal rock 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V)
Isles of Scilly Sites: Tean	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intertidal coarse sediment 2. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 3. Intertidal underboulder communities 4. Moderate energy intertidal rock 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V)
Kingmere	48	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtidal chalk 2. Moderate energy infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		3. Black seabream (<i>Spondyllosoma cantharus</i>)	1/contents/created	
Lundy	31	1. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>)	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/12/contents/created	1. Unfavourable (V)
The Manacles	3	1. Intertidal coarse sediment 2. Subtidal sand 3. Moderate energy intertidal rock 4. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 5. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 6. Sea-fan anemone (<i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i>) 7. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus auricula</i>) 8. Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment 9. Maerl beds 10. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 11. Subtidal coarse sediment 12. Subtidal mixed sediments	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/13/contents/created Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/27/contents/created	1. Favourable (D) 2. Favourable (D) 3. Favourable (D) 4. Favourable (D) 5. Favourable (D) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Unfavourable (V) 9. Unfavourable (V) 10. Unfavourable (V) 11. Favourable (D) 12. Favourable (D) 13. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		13. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)		
Medway Estuary	61	1. Estuarine rocky habitats 2. Intertidal mixed sediments 3. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 4. Low energy intertidal rock 5. Peat and clay exposures 6. Subtidal coarse sediment 7. Subtidal mud 8. Subtidal sand 9. Tentacled lagoon worm (<i>Alkmaria romijni</i>) 10. Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>)	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/14/contents/created Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/25/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Unfavourable (V)
North East of Farnes Deep	492	1. Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>) 2. Subtidal coarse sediment 3. Subtidal mixed sediments 4. Subtidal mud 5. Subtidal sand	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/15/contents/created Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/15/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
			https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/28/contents/created	
Padstow Bay and Surrounds	90	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intertidal coarse sediment 2. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 3. Moderate energy intertidal rock 4. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 5. High energy intertidal rock 6. High energy infralittoral rock 7. High energy circalittoral rock 8. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>) 9. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/16/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Unfavourable (V)
Pagham Harbour	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seagrass beds 2. DeFolin's lagoon snail (<i>Caecum armoricum</i>) 3. Lagoon sand shrimp (<i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/17/contents/created	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable – declining (D) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V)
Poole Rocks	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Subtidal mixed sediments 3. Black seabream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>) 4. Couch's goby (<i>Gobius couchi</i>) 5. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 	<p>k/ukmo/2013/18/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/31/contents/created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V)
Skerries Bank and Surrounds	249	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intertidal coarse sediment 2. Intertidal mixed sediments 3. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 4. Subtidal coarse sediment 5. Subtidal mud 6. Subtidal sand 7. Moderate energy intertidal rock 8. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 9. High energy intertidal rock 10. High energy infralittoral rock 11. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>) 	<p>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/19/contents/created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (D) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (D) 4. Unfavourable – declining (D) 5. Favourable (D) 6. Favourable (D) 7. Favourable (D) 8. Favourable (D) 9. Favourable (D) 10. Favourable (D) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Unfavourable – declining (D) 13. Unfavourable (D)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		12. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 13. Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>)		
South Dorset	193	1. Subtidal coarse sediment 2. High energy circalittoral rock 3. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 4. Subtidal chalk	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/20/contents/created Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/29/contents/created Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/37/contents/created	1. Favourable (D) 2. Unfavourable – recovering (D) 3. Unfavourable – recovering (D) 4. Unfavourable – recovering (D)
South West Deeps (West)	1,824	1. Subtidal mixed sediments 2. Subtidal mud 3. Subtidal coarse sediment 4. Subtidal sand	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/21/contents/created Order 2016 (Amendment):	1. Unfavourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Celtic Sea Relict Sandbanks 6. Fan mussels (<i>Atrina fragilis</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/30/contents/created	
Swallow Sand	4,746	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtidal coarse sediment 2. Subtidal sand 3. North Sea glacial tunnel valleys (Swallow Hole) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/22/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V)
Tamar Estuary	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds 2. Intertidal biogenic reefs 3. Intertidal coarse sediment 4. Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>) 5. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/23/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfavourable – declining (D) 2. Unfavourable – declining (D) 3. Favourable (D) 4. Unfavourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V)
Thanet Coast	64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds 2. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 3. Moderate energy infralittoral rock 4. Peat and clay exposures 5. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus</i> species) 	<p>Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/24/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Unfavourable (V) 8. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia cruxmelitensis</i>) 7. Subtidal chalk 8. Subtidal coarse sediment 9. Subtidal mixed sediments 10. Subtidal sand 11. Ross worm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reefs 	7/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V)
Torbay	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intertidal coarse sediment 2. Intertidal mixed sediments 3. Intertidal mud 4. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 5. Intertidal underboulder communities 6. Low energy intertidal rock 7. Moderate energy intertidal rock 8. Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) 9. Peacock's tail (<i>Padina pavonica</i>) 10. Peat and clay exposures 	<p>Order: 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/25/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/32/contents/created</p> <p>Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/48/contents/created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V) 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Unfavourable (V) 12. Unfavourable (V) 13. Unfavourable (V) 14. Unfavourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		11. Long-snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i>) 12. Seagrass beds 13. Subtidal coarse sediment 14. Subtidal mud		
Upper Fowey and Pont Pill	2	1. Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds 2. Estuarine rocky habitats 3. Intertidal coarse sediment 4. Intertidal mud 5. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 6. Low energy intertidal rock 7. Sheltered muddy gravels	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/26/contents/created Order 2016 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2016/33/contents/created	1. Favourable (V) 2. Unfavourable (V) 3. Unfavourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Unfavourable (V) 6. Unfavourable (V) 7. Unfavourable (V)
Whitsand and Looe Bay	52	1. Giant goby (<i>Gobius cobitis</i>) 2. High energy intertidal rock 3. Intertidal coarse sediment 4. Intertidal sand and muddy sand 5. Low energy intertidal rock	Order 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2013/27/contents/created Order 2019 (Amendment): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2019/5	1. Favourable (V) 2. Favourable (V) 3. Favourable (V) 4. Favourable (V) 5. Favourable (V) 6. Favourable (V) 7. Favourable (V) 8. Favourable (V)

MCZ	Size (km ²)	Protected features	Conservation objectives and amendments to Order	Natural England and JNCC condition assessment result (direct (D) and vulnerability (V) assessments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Moderate energy intertidal rock 7. Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>) 8. Seagrass beds 9. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia campanulata</i>) 10. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia cruxmelitensis</i>) 11. Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus auricula</i>) 12. Subtidal coarse sediment 13. Subtidal sand 14. Moderate energy circalittoral rock 15. Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>) 16. Sea-fan anemone (<i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i>) 	1/contents/created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Favourable (V) 10. Favourable (V) 11. Favourable (V) 12. Unfavourable (V) 13. Unfavourable (V) 14. Unfavourable (V) 15. Unfavourable (V) 16. Unfavourable (V)

Annex B

All inshore (0–6 nautical miles) fishing byelaws for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) introduced between 2019 and 2024 are included within the annex. All other management measures including voluntary, codes of conduct and measures implemented before 2019 can be found on the website of each Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA).

- [Cornwall IFCA](#)
- [Isles of Scilly IFCA](#)
- [Devon & Severn IFCA](#)
- [Southern IFCA](#)
- [Sussex IFCA](#)
- [Kent & Essex IFCA](#)
- [Eastern IFCA](#)
- [North Eastern IFCA](#)
- [Northumberland IFCA](#)
- [North Western IFCA](#)

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
Isles of Scilly MCZ	Isles of Scilly	2020	Crawfish Minimum Landing Size Byelaw	All commercial and hobby fishermen to ensure that no crawfish less than 110 mm carapace length are landed.
Isles of Scilly MCZ	Isles of Scilly	2020	Recreational Fixed Gear Permit Byelaw	Non-commercial 'hobby' or recreational fishers required to have a permit and attach tags to mooring buoys for up to a maximum of six pots.
Axe Estuary	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.
Bideford to Foreland Point	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.
Dart Estuary	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
Devon Avon Estuary	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.
Erme Estuary	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
Morte Platform	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.
Otter Estuary	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.
Skerries Bank & Surrounds	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
Torbay	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.
Hartland Point to Tintagel	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
Tamar	Devon & Severn	2020	Exemptions Byelaw	The authority is enabled to grant or deny permission for an activity that would contravene an existing byelaw if it is for a scientific purpose.
		2024	Size of Fishing Vessel Byelaw	Size of vessel for fishing restricted to 14.99 metres in overall length.
Bembridge	Southern	2020	Scallop Fishing Byelaw	Daily restriction on scallop fishing.
		2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching minimum conservation reference size (MCRS).
		2023	Net Fishing Byelaw	Prohibition of net fishing in specified areas.
Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges	Southern	2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.
		2023	Net Fishing Byelaw	Prohibition of net fishing in specified areas.
Poole Rocks	Southern	2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2023	Net Fishing Byelaw	Prohibition of net fishing in specified areas.
Purbeck Coast	Southern	2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.
		2023	Net Fishing Byelaw	Prohibition of net fishing in specified areas.
South of Portland	Southern	2019	Scallop Fishing Byelaw	Daily restriction on scallop fishing.
		2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.
		2023	Net Fishing Byelaw	Prohibition of net fishing in specified areas.
Southbourne Rough	Southern	2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.
Studland Bay	Southern	2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
The Needles	Southern	2019	Scallop Fishing Byelaw	Daily restriction on scallop fishing.
		2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.
Yarmouth to Cowes	Southern	2019	Scallop Fishing Byelaw	Daily restriction on scallop fishing.
		2021	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.
		2023	Net Fishing Byelaw	Prohibition of net fishing in specified areas.
Beachy Head East	Sussex	2021	Nearshore Trawling Byelaw	No fishing with towed gear is permitted within the nearshore trawling prohibition area year-round.
Beachy Head West	Sussex	2021	Nearshore Trawling Byelaw	No fishing with towed gear is permitted within the nearshore trawling prohibition area year-round.
Pagham Harbour	Sussex	2021	Nearshore Trawling Byelaw	No fishing with towed gear is permitted within the nearshore trawling

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
				prohibition area year-round.
Selsey Bill and the Hounds	Sussex	2021	Nearshore Trawling Byelaw	No fishing with towed gear is permitted within the nearshore trawling prohibition area year-round.
Foreland	Kent & Essex	2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.
		2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
Goodwin Sands	Kent & Essex	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries	Kent & Essex	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
		2019	Native Oyster Flexible Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for harvesting native oysters within MCZ.
Dover to Deal	Kent & Essex	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
Dover to Folkestone	Kent & Essex	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
Folkestone Pomerania	Kent & Essex	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
Medway Estuary	Kent & Essex	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
Inner Bank	Kent & Essex	2020	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
Swanscombe	Kent & Essex	2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
Thanet Coast	Kent & Essex	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
The Swale Estuary	Kent & Essex	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
		2021	Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw	Permit required for whelk fishing within the district.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2021	Vessel Length and Engine Power Byelaw	A person must not use fishing gear from a relevant fishing vessel with an overall length of more than 14 metres.
Cromer Shoals	Eastern	2021	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Prohibition of removing species before reaching MCRS.
		2022	Shrimp Permit Byelaw	To fish for shrimp from a British Registered Fishing Vessel, the vessel, the vessel's owner and any person nominated to fish from the vessel must be named on a Shrimp Permit.
AIn Estuary	Northumberland	2019	Crustacea Conservation Byelaw	Prohibition of removing 'berried' shellfish.
		2019	Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and Pot Limitation Byelaw	Prohibition of potting without a permit.
		2020	Trawling Byelaw	Prohibition of trawling without a permit and restrictions on gear.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2020	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Restriction in removing species below a certain size.
Berwick to St Mary's	Northumberland	2019	Crustacea Conservation Byelaw	Prohibition of removing 'berried' shellfish.
		2019	Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and Pot Limitation Byelaw	Prohibition of potting without a permit.
		2020	Trawling Byelaw	Prohibition of trawling without a permit and restrictions on gear.
		2020	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
Coquet to St Mary's	Northumberland	2019	Crustacea Conservation Byelaw	Prohibition of removing 'berried' shellfish.
		2019	Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and Pot Limitation Byelaw	Prohibition of potting without a permit.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2020	Trawling Byelaw	Prohibition of trawling without a permit and restrictions on gear.
		2020	Minimum Sizes Byelaw	Byelaw setting MCRSs for selected species fished in the IFCA region.
Fylde	North Western	2020	Potting Permit Byelaw	Permit required to use pots for fishing.
		2024	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of the removal of fish and shellfish which are below the minimum size established within European legislation.
		2019	Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit Byelaw	Permit required to fish for cockles and mussels.
Allonby Bay	North Western	2020	Potting Permit Byelaw	Permit required to use pots for fishing.
		2024	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of the removal of fish and shellfish which are below the minimum size established within European legislation.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2019	Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit Byelaw	Permit required to fish for cockles and mussels.
Cumbria Coast	North Western	2020	Potting Permit Byelaw	Permit required to use pots for fishing.
		2024	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of the removal of fish and shellfish which are below the minimum size established within European legislation.
		2019	Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit Byelaw	Permit required to fish for cockles and mussels.
Ribble Estuary	North Western	2020	Potting Permit Byelaw	Permit required to use pots for fishing.
		2024	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of the removal of fish and shellfish which are below the minimum size established within European legislation.
		2019	Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit Byelaw	Permit required to fish for cockles and mussels.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
Solway Firth	North Western	2020	Potting Permit Byelaw	Permit required to use pots for fishing.
		2024	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of the removal of fish and shellfish which are below the minimum size established within European legislation.
		2019	Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit Byelaw	Permit required to fish for cockles and mussels.
Wyre-Lune	North Western	2020	Potting Permit Byelaw	Permit required to use pots for fishing.
		2024	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of the removal of fish and shellfish which are below the minimum size established within European legislation.
		2019	Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit Byelaw	Permit required to fish for cockles and mussels.
West of Walney	North Western	2020	Potting Permit Byelaw	Permit required to use pots for fishing.

Site	IFCA	Date	Byelaw name	Description
		2024	Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	Prohibition of the removal of fish and shellfish which are below the minimum size established within European legislation.
		2019	Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit Byelaw	Permit required to fish for cockles and mussels.

Annex C

All offshore (6–200 nautical mile zone) fishing management measures for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are implemented as byelaws and regulated by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The ‘Management name’ column will show either a specific byelaw title or the name of a regulation programme stage, which may include multiple byelaws.

Site	Date	Management name	Description
Cape Bank	2024	MMO Stage 2 fishing byelaw	Full site closure from the use of bottom towed gear.
East of Haig Fras	2024	MMO Stage 2 fishing byelaw	Full site closure from the use of bottom towed gear.
Farnes East	2024	MMO Stage 2 fishing byelaw	Zoned closure from use of bottom towed gear.
Foreland	2024	MMO Stage 2 fishing byelaw	Zoned closure from use of bottom towed gear.
Goodwin Sands	2024	MMO Stage 2 fishing byelaw	Zoned closure from use of bottom towed gear.
Hartland Point to Tintagel	2024	MMO Stage 2 fishing byelaw	Sensitive features of site protected from use of bottom towed gear.
Offshore Brighton	2024	MMO Stage 2 fishing byelaw	Zoned closure from use of bottom towed gear.
South Dorset	2022	MMO Stage 1 fishing byelaw	Full site closure from the use of bottom towed gear.
South of Celtic Deep	2024	MMO Stage 2 fishing byelaw	Zoned closure from use of bottom towed gear.

Site	Date	Management name	Description
The Canyons	2022	MMO Stage 1 fishing byelaw	Zoned closure from use of bottom towed gear and anchored nets and lines.
West of Walney	2018	The West of Walney Marine Conservation Zone (Specified Area) Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2018	Zoned closure from use of bottom towed gear.

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