

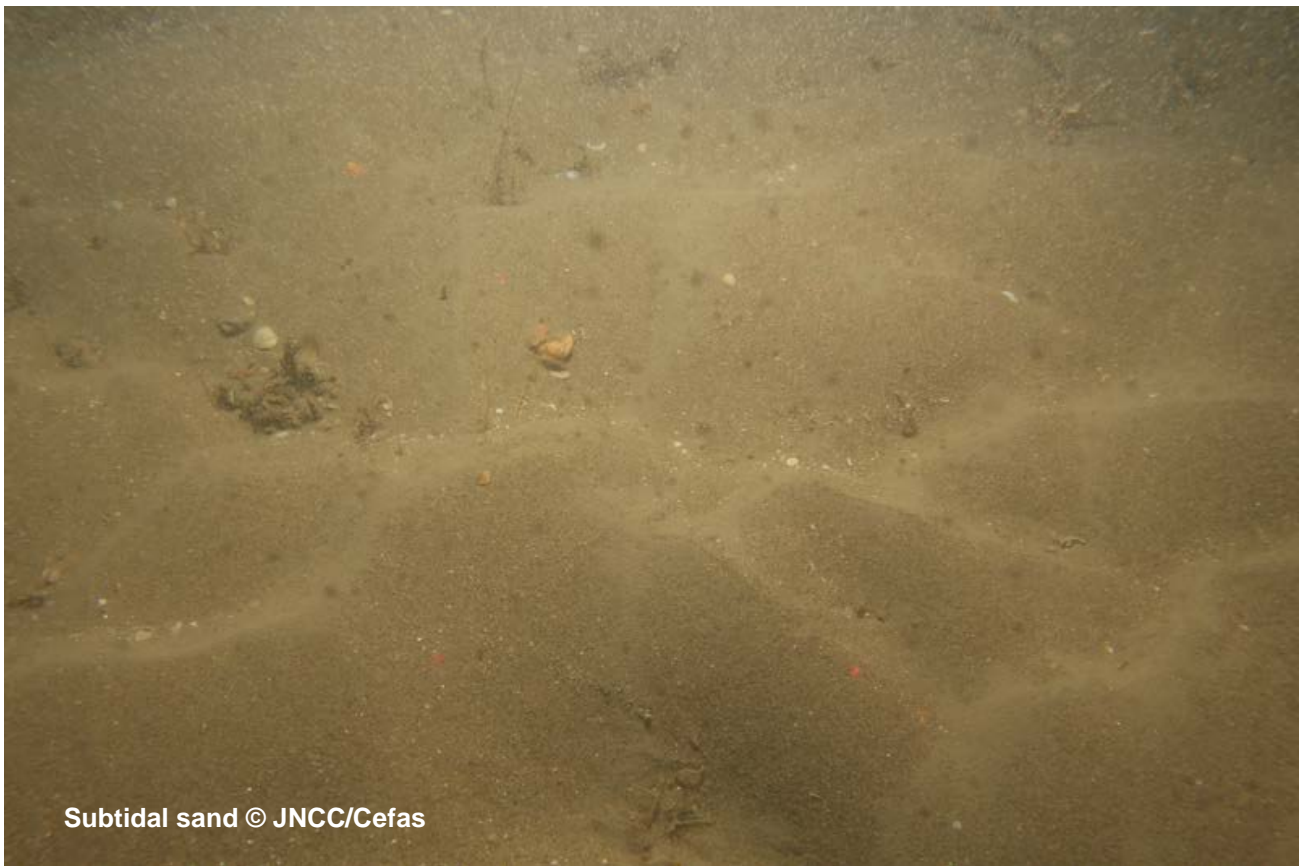
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

South Rigg

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

Consultation on Sites Proposed for Designation in the Third Tranche of Marine Conservation Zones

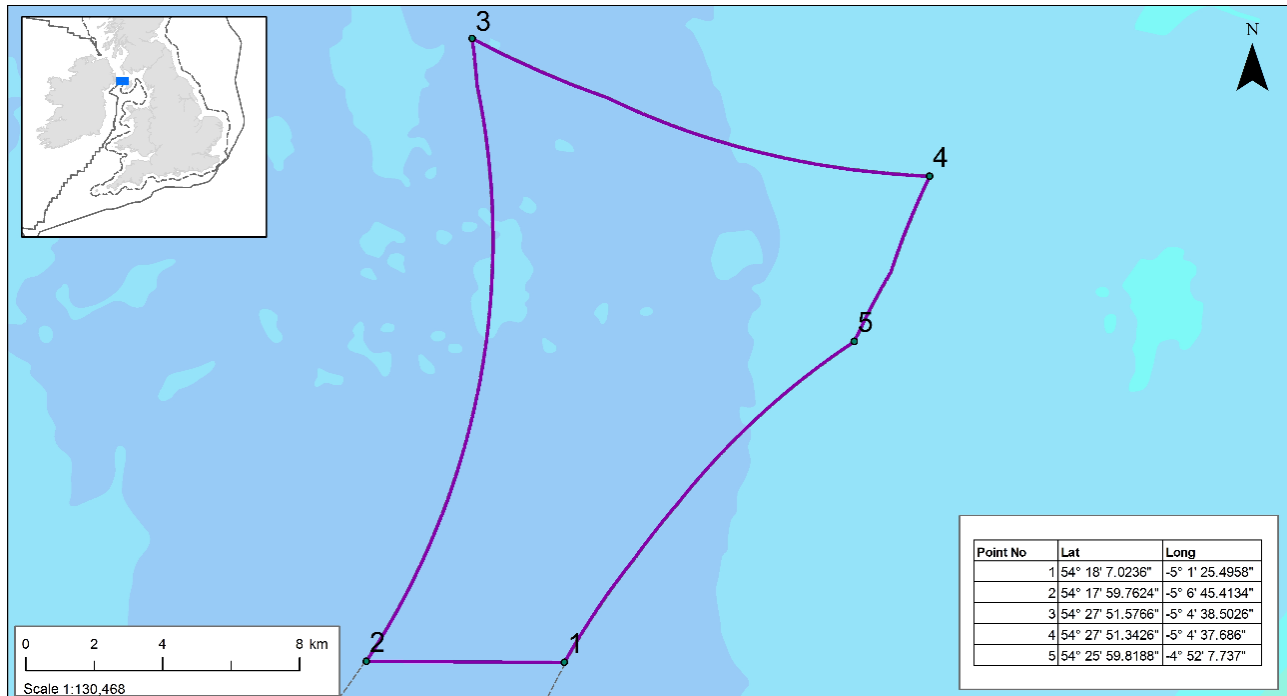


Contents

Where is the site located?.....	3
Why is the site environmentally important?.....	3
What would this site protect?	4
Where are the features located?.....	5
Which activities are likely to be affected?	6
Which activities are not likely to be affected?	7
Additional Information	8

Where is the site located?

South Rigg recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an offshore site that covers an area of 143 km². The site is located in the western Irish Sea, approximately 23 km west of the Isle of Man. Depths within the site range between 50 and 150 metres.



South Rigg rMCZ

- rMCZ boundary point
- UK Continental Shelf designated area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land
- Recommended MCZ

Depth (metres)

- 0.0 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 25.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0

© JNCC 2017. Contains Joint Nature Conservation Committee data © copyright and database right 2017. Contains Natural England data © copyright and database right 2017. Contains UK Hydrographic Office data © Crown copyright and database right 2014. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012. Not suitable for navigation.

Why is the site environmentally important?

The South Rigg site includes a variety of habitats from finer sediments to rocky habitats, and supports a wide range of species. Subtidal sediments can provide protection for species such as bristleworms, anemones, starfish, urchins, burrowing anemones, clams and cockles. The rocky habitats within the site support a range of species, including sponges, cup corals, anemones, sea fans and star fish.

The fine muds in the area are characterised by mounds and burrows formed by burrowing species such as mud shrimp and Norway lobsters. These burrows provide protection to a variety of species such as worms, bivalves, brittlestars, star fish and hermit crabs.

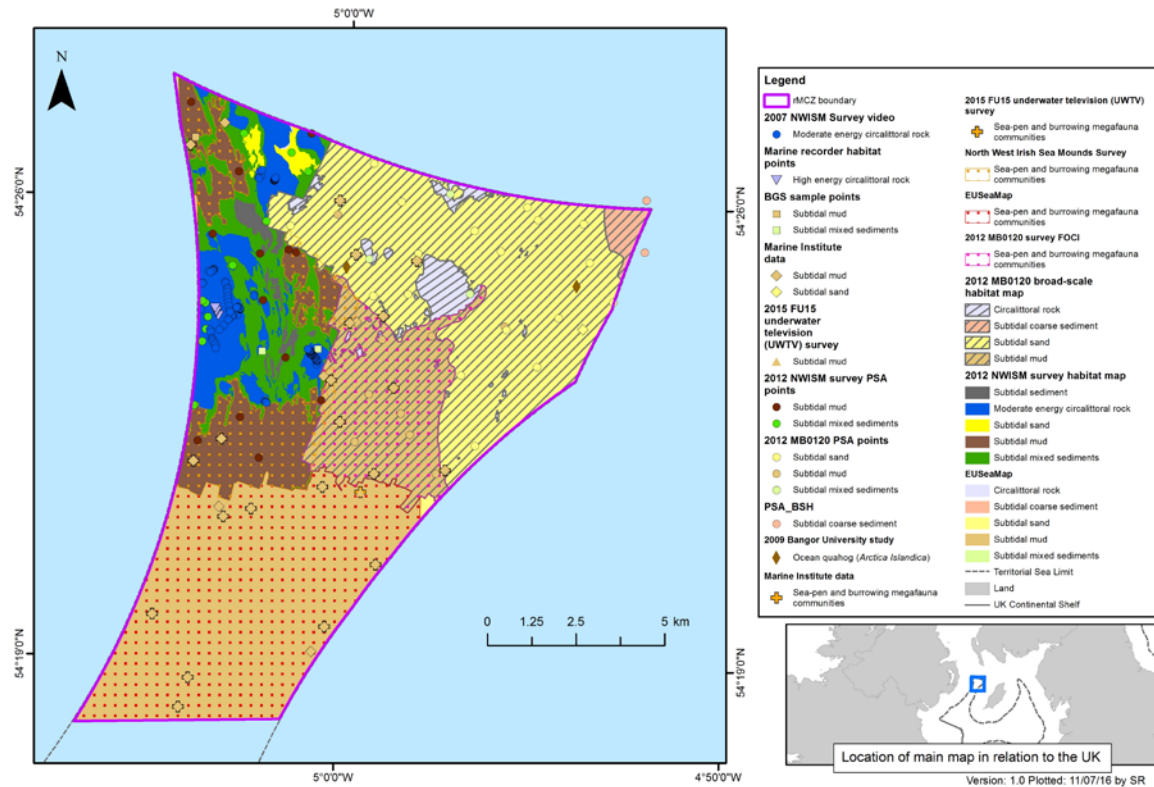
What would this site protect?

Designation would protect the following features. You can read more about the features this site protects and why they are important [here](#).

Feature	General management approach
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	
Subtidal mud	
Sea-pen & burrowing megafauna communities	

Where are the features located?

The following map shows the location of the features to be protected within the site. A range of different types of surveys have been used to create site maps. More detailed information on the techniques used can be found [here](#).



© JNCC 2016. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v2.0, including United Kingdom Hydrographic Office and Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright (2015). 2015 BGS PSA Sample points contains British Geological survey materials © NERC. MB0120 Survey data and broadscale habitat map © Defra. 2015 FU15 underwater television survey © AFBI Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch. © Marine Institute 2003-2012. © Marine Institute 2003-2012. © Paul Butler, University of Bangor 2009. Marine Recorder data is derived from a variety of sources © NBN. Contains data from EUSeaMap2012, available from EMODnet Seabed Habitats. Map Projection: VGS84UTM29N, Inset: BNG.

Which activities are likely to be affected?

Management decisions are taken on a case by case basis by relevant regulators. If an activity is identified as requiring management this does not necessarily mean that it will need to be significantly restricted. Decisions will be based on the specifics of each case and any restrictions will depend on the sensitivity of the species, habitats or geological/geomorphological features to be protected to the activity taking place. More detail is available in the Impact Assessment.

Sectors and activities likely to be affected by designation		
Sector	Activity Affected	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year (rounded to nearest £100)
Commercial fishing UK	Bottom trawling and dredging	£20,000
Commercial fishing non-UK	Bottom trawling	Unquantified
Best estimate total cost		£20,000

Commercial Fishing UK

The following gears are known to be used within the site:

- Bottom trawls, dredges and mid-water trawls

The activities likely to be affected by designation are show in the table above.

Commercial Fishing non-UK

Fishing vessels from Belgium, The Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland are known to operate within this area.

Although impacts outside the UK are not quantified as part of the impact assessment, the implications of designation on non-UK commercial fishing vessels are considered in deciding which sites to designate. The activities likely to be affected by designation are show in the table above.

Which activities are not likely to be affected?

These activities are known to take place at this site but at their current levels of intensity the best available evidence indicates they are not likely to be damaging the features to be protected:

- Archaeological heritage
- Cables – power and telecommunication cables currently intersect the site
- Commercial fishing – mid-water trawling
- Commercial shipping
- Oil and gas exploration and/or production
- Ports and harbours (disposal sites)
- Recreation – cruising routes

Additional Information

To read the advice provided by Natural England, please visit

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6079955233931264>

To read the advice provided by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, please visit

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7119>

For further information, please contact Defra on

- 03459 33 55 77 (UK only)
- +44 20 7238 6951 (from outside the UK)
- defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk



© Crown copyright 2018

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications