

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

## **Southbourne Rough**

### **Recommended Marine Conservation Zone**

**June 2018**

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



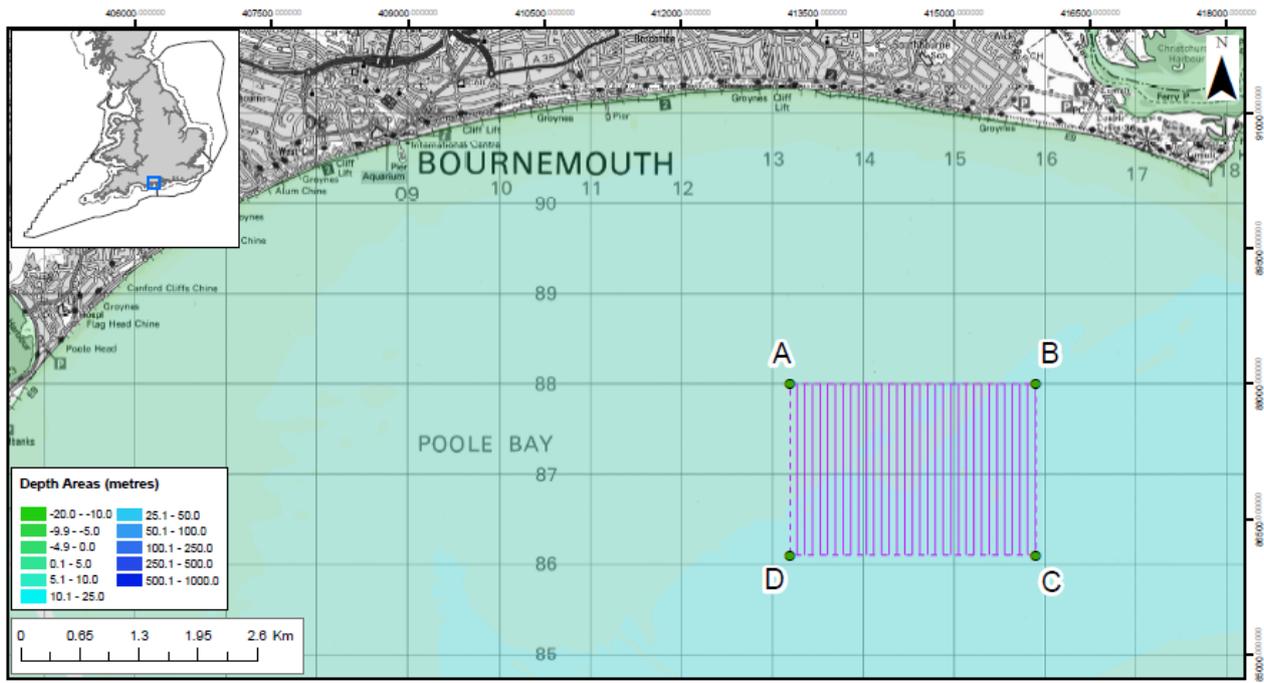
**Black seabream © Matt Doggett**

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# Where is the site located?

Southbourne Rough recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an inshore site that covers an area of 5 km<sup>2</sup>. The site is located in an area of patchy reefs to the east of Poole Rocks MCZ in Poole Bay, slightly further offshore and deeper than Poole Rocks MCZ.



Dorset - Southbourne Rough - Mobile Species Site Boundary

- Boundary Points
- ▭ Mobile Species Site
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Regional MCZ project area
- Land

Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 41' 29.407" N	1° 48' 52.163" W
B	50° 41' 29.165" N	1° 46' 34.557" W
C	50° 40' 27.656" N	1° 46' 34.849" W
D	50° 40' 27.897" N	1° 48' 52.405" W

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## Why is the site environmentally important?

Southbourne Rough is of particular ecological importance to black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*). The site provides important habitat for critical life stage (nesting) behaviour. Black seabream spawn in specific habitats characterised by smooth bedrock with a veneer of sediment in shallow water. The males remain at the nest site guarding the nests, until the eggs hatch and they return to the same site to nest each year. There is evidence that black seabream have been returning to the site to breed for approximately 14 years. Nesting occurs from April through to July.

## What would this site protect?

Designation would protect the following feature. You can read more about the feature this site protects and why it is important [here](#).

Feature	General management approach
Black seabream ( <i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i> ) (nesting)	Recover to favourable condition

## Where are the features located?

Black seabream nest sites are not mapped here due to commercial sensitivity.

## 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. In this instance, restrictions will likely be seasonal to protect nesting black bream. 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, rod and line fishing, netting, potting & trapping	£600
Recreation	Recreational angling and charter boats	Unquantified
<b>Best estimate total cost</b>		<b>£600</b>

## Commercial Fishing UK

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

- Bottom trawls
- Rod and line fishing (commercial), anchored nets, pots & traps

Low levels of trawling take place all year round within the site, including beam trawling for plaice, sole, skate and rays. Low levels of anchored netting target flat fish and bream, alongside low intensity commercial rod and line fishing and trapping and potting for whelks, crabs and lobster. The activities likely to be affected by designation are shown in the table above and restrictions are likely to be needed during the spawning and breeding season only (April to July).

## Recreation

The site is popular for recreational angling and charter boats. There is a charter boat sector that targets black seabream when they are nesting and breeding as it is a known and reliable fishery. This is more prevalent than recreational angling and has a greater impact. Restrictions on recreational angling and charter boats are likely to be needed

during the spawning and breeding season only (April to July). The costs to the recreational sector have not yet been quantified due to uncertainties.

## 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:

- Commercial shipping
- Oil, gas and carbon capture storage
- Recreation (excluding recreational fishing)

## 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>

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