

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Wyre-Lune

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

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

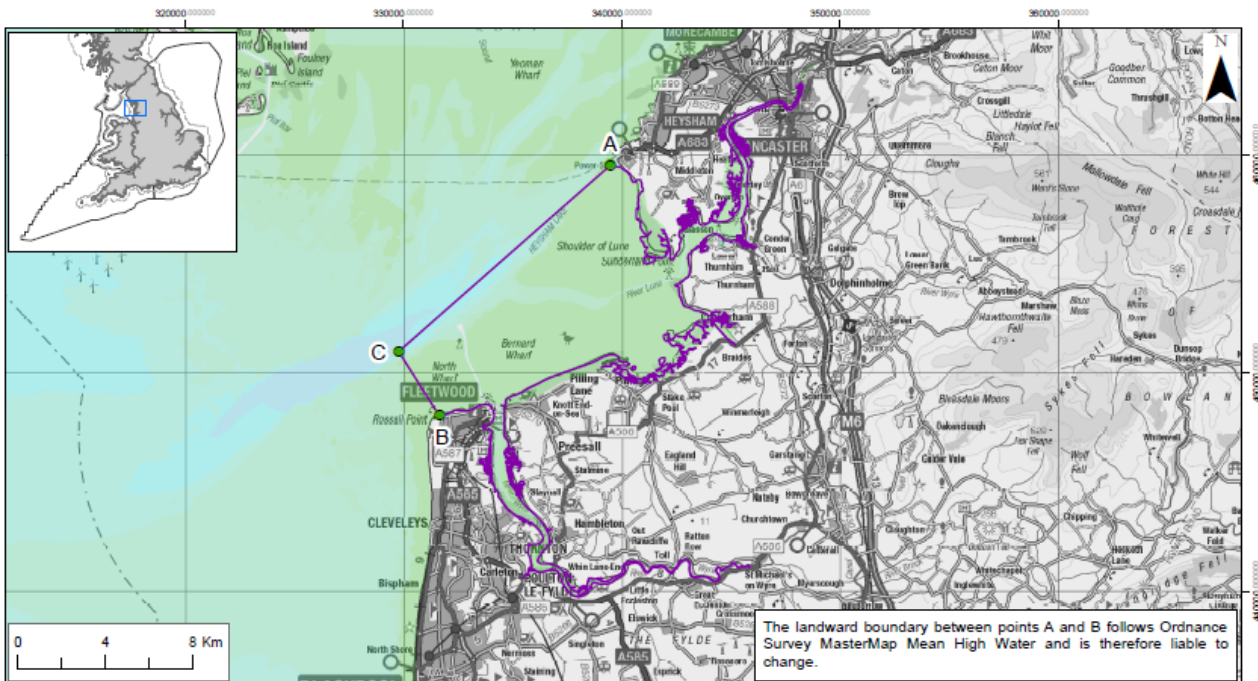


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Where is the site located?

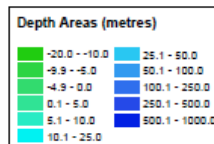
The Wyre-Lune recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an inshore site that covers an area of approximately 92 km². It is located in the southern part of Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, in the Irish Sea. The site boundary has been modified from that proposed by the Regional Project in order to better capture potential smelt spawning habitat. It now extends up to the tidal limit of each estuary at St Michael's on Wyre and Lancaster (Skerton weir).



Wyre-Lune rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 6nM Limit
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long
A	54° 1' 40.957" N	2° 55' 31.309" W
B	53° 55' 26.291" N	3° 2' 32.571" W
C	53° 57' 0.757" N	3° 4' 17.980" W



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Why is the site environmentally important?

Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*) were once widespread in estuaries in the UK but have declined considerably over the past 200 years. They are known to congregate in large shoals in lower estuaries and migrate into freshwater where they spawn in spring. Estuaries such as those around the Wyre and the Lune therefore provide critical habitats required to complete smelt lifecycles, including for feeding and post-larval development.

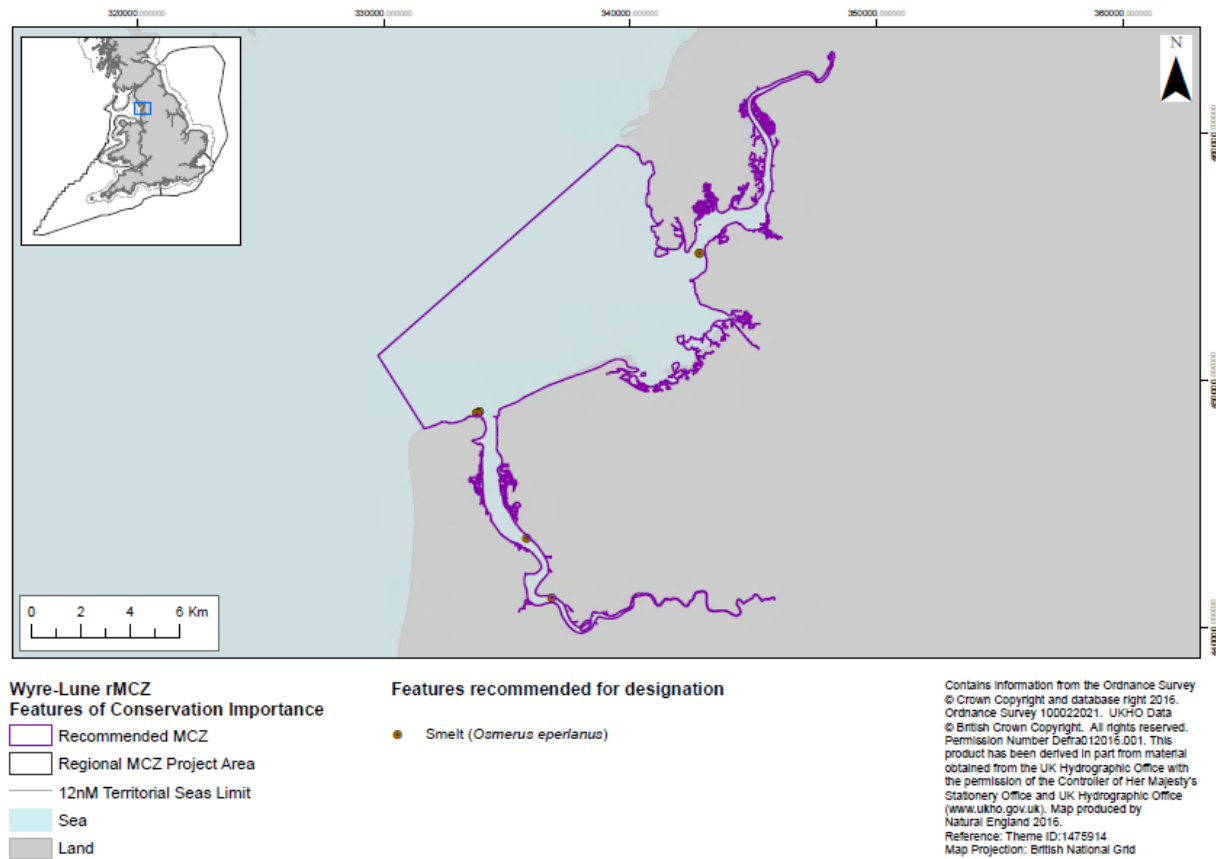
What would this site protect?

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
Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>)	Recover to favourable condition

Where are the features located?

The following map shows the location of the feature 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](#).



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)
Ports and harbours	Disposal site	£8,000
Best estimate total cost		£8,000

Ports and harbours

This site is located close to several dredge disposal sites. There is also maintenance dredging at Fleetwood. All future licence applications made in relation to these activities will need to consider the possible effects on smelt. Environmental Impact Assessments for future licence applications to use disposal sites within 5 km of the boundary of the MCZ are likely to incur additional costs.

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
- Commercial fishing
- Flood and coastal erosion risk management activities
- Recreation

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



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