

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Compass Rose

**Candidate Marine Conservation Zone not
proposed for designation in the second tranche**

January 2015

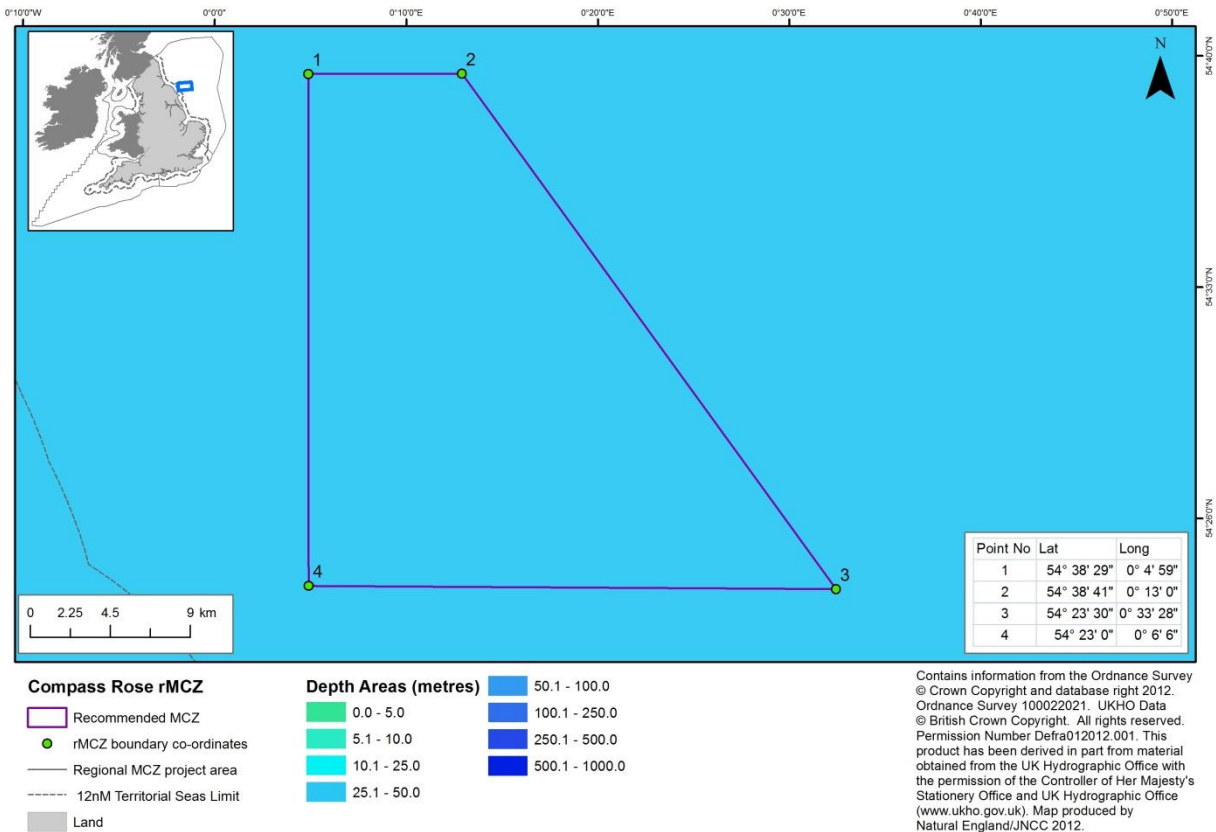
**Consultation on Sites Proposed for Designation in the Second Tranche
of Marine Conservation Zones**

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Where the site is located

Compass Rose candidate Marine Conservation Zone (cMCZ) is an offshore site located approximately 30 km from the North Yorkshire coast. The site covers an area of 552 km², reaching a depth of around 50 metres.



Why this site was identified as a candidate site for the second tranche

The site covers a small portion of the Flamborough frontal system. The Flamborough frontal system is defined by the distinct temperature gradient between the waters to the north and south of Flamborough Head, where mixing of the warmer waters of the southern North Sea and the cooler waters of the northern North Sea occurs. The upwelling in locations such as this allows nutrients to be transported to the surface from deeper, colder waters, which creates a site of increased primary biomass production.

The site contains spawning grounds for plaice, herring, lemon sole, sand eel and sprat. It is also a nursery ground for cod, whiting, lemon sole, sand eel and sprat.

Features considered for designation

The features considered for designation in this site were:

- moderate energy circalittoral rock,
- subtidal sand,
- subtidal coarse sediment,
- subtidal mixed sediments,
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*),
- smelt (*Osmerus eperianus*).

Effects of designation

If the cMCZ was to be designated in its current form, the following activities would likely be affected by management. This information will be updated if a revised site proposal is recommended for designation at a later date.

Sector	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year	Details
Oil and gas	Unquantified	This cMCZ overlaps with an area that has potential for future oil and gas exploration and production. If the site were developed for oil and gas extraction, developers would need to take into account the impact of the development on the features in the site. This would increase the cost of the licence application. As a result of uncertainty about whether any development will take place, costs for the oil and gas sector have not been quantified at site level.
Best estimate total cost	Unquantified at site level	

Activities that are unlikely to be affected

These activities are known to take place at this site but are not likely to be damaging to the features identified at their current levels of intensity:

- two active telecommunication cables and one gas pipeline intersect the site,
- Dogger Bank Creyke Beck wind farm planned export cables could pass within 2 km of the site but are not expected to intersect,
- UK commercial fishing - all gear types,
- transit of ships.

Why this candidate site is not being proposed for designation in the second tranche

Compass Rose cMCZ was originally proposed to fill a big gap for moderate energy circalittoral rock and smaller gaps for smelt and ocean quahog. After further survey work it has been established that moderate energy circalittoral rock is not present in the site and that there is only poor data certainty for ocean quahog and smelt. There is good data for subtidal sand, which would potentially fill a big gap.

Further consideration

Defra will re-consider the site for inclusion in the third tranche for subtidal sand, which would fill a big gap in the network. An assessment of the economic implications of designating this feature will be carried out ahead of consideration as a site in the third tranche.

Additional information

To read the full consultation document, or respond to the consultation, please visit

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs>

To read the advice provided by JNCC, please visit

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6658>

For further information, please contact Defra on

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