

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

# Hartland Point to Tintagel Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

January 2015

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



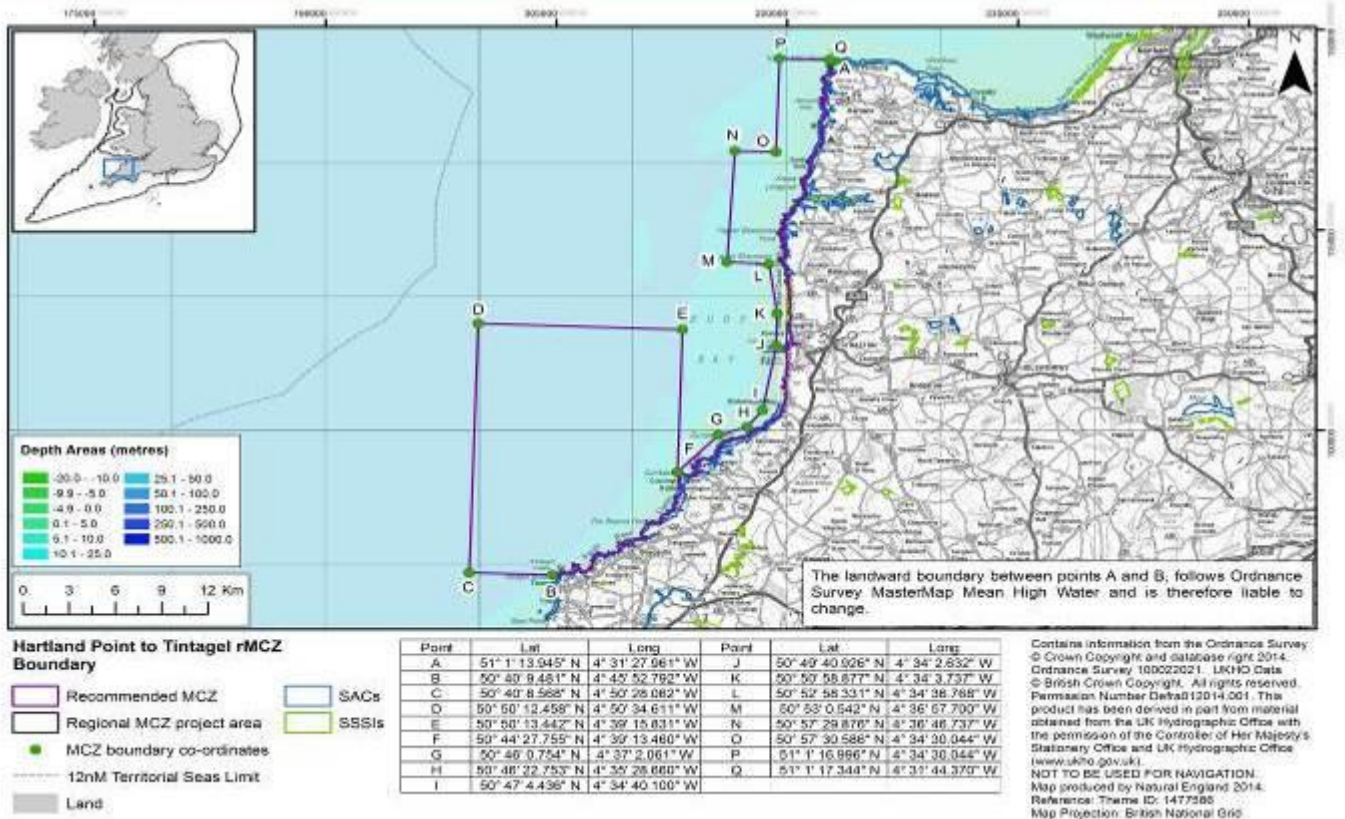
Pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*) © Paul Kay

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# Where the site is located

Hartland Point to Tintagel recommended Marine conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an inshore site that covers an area of 304 km<sup>2</sup> across the north coast of Devon and Cornwall. The site boundary follows the coastline along the mean high water mark from Tintagel Head to Hartland Point and extends from the shoreline to depths of approximately 50 metres. The irregular shape of the boundary is a result of agreement during the Regional Project process to find a compromise between conservation benefits and local socio-economic activity.



# How to comment on the consultation

You can comment on this proposal by responding to the [consultation](#) taking place between 30<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

## Why the site is environmentally important

This site contains a particularly wide range of seabed habitats and species. The site is recommended to protect a wide range of features which range from rocky habitats to soft sediment and are important to the network both regionally and nationally. The site is also important for the network as it contributes to protection of large areas of intertidal habitats in the region, and is crucial for connectivity along the North Coast of Devon and Cornwall.

Hartland Point to Tintagel rMCZ contains rocky habitats in deeper waters (circalittoral rock) which are dominated by a mosaic of different marine creatures such as sponges, anemones and sea-fan corals living on the rocky surfaces. Intertidal sand and rocky areas also provide habitats for a range of species, including the honeycomb worm. The honeycomb worm reefs are formed from the closely-packed sand tubes constructed by these colonial worms. The reef structures resemble honeycomb and can extend for tens of metres across and up to a metre tall. They are able to support a wide range of shore-dwelling species including anemones, snails, shore crabs and seaweeds.

The pink sea-fan coral which is a slow-growing colony of tiny anemone-like animals feeds from the water column and can provide shelter to other creatures.

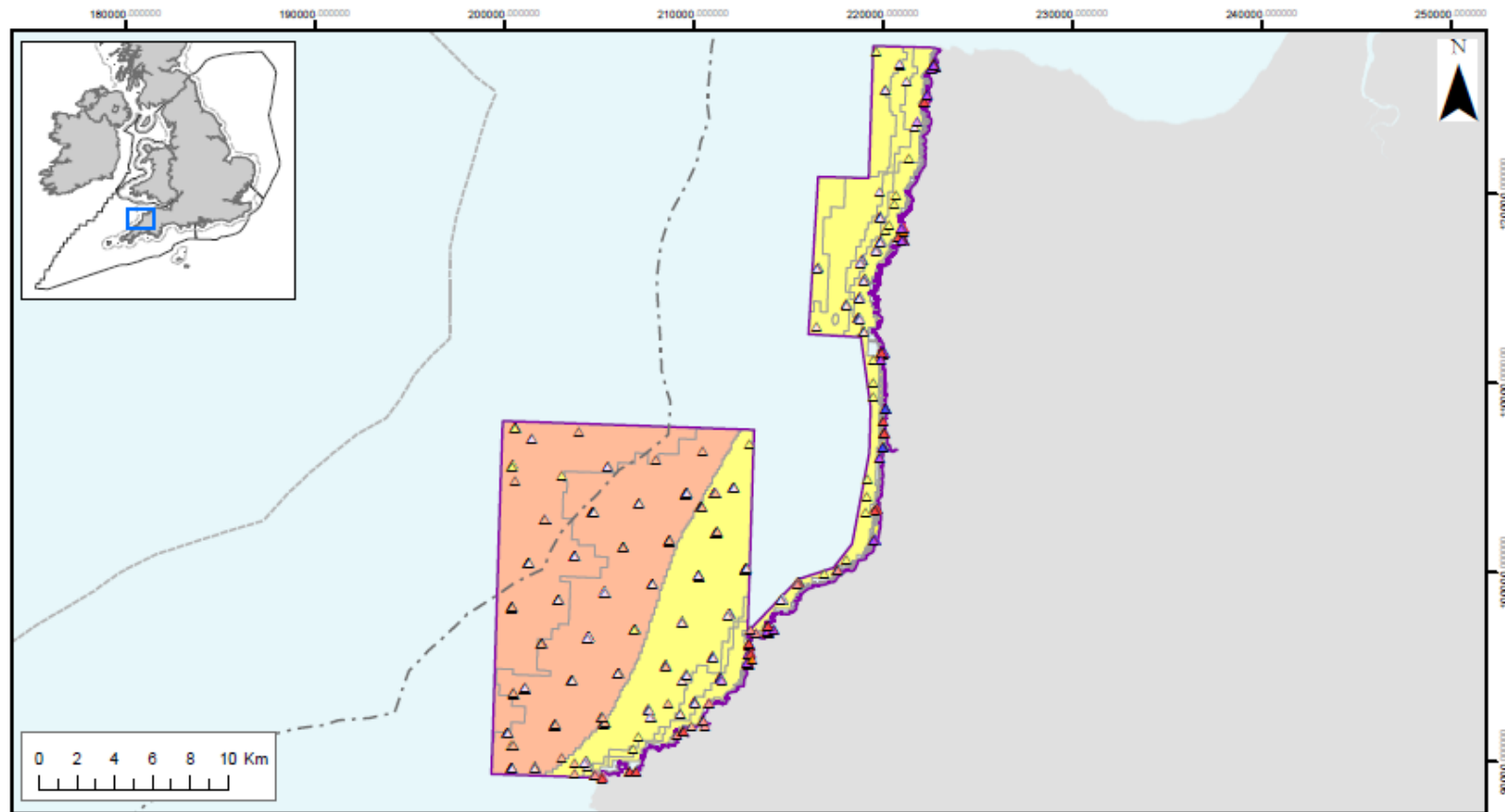
## What this site would protect

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
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain at favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	
High energy intertidal rock	
Moderate energy intertidal rock	
Low energy intertidal rock	
Intertidal coarse sediment	
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	
Honeycomb worm reefs ( <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> )	
Pink sea-fan ( <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i> )	
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	
High energy circalittoral rock	
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	

# Where are the features located

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



## Hartland Point to Tintagel recommended MCZ

### Broad Scale Habitats

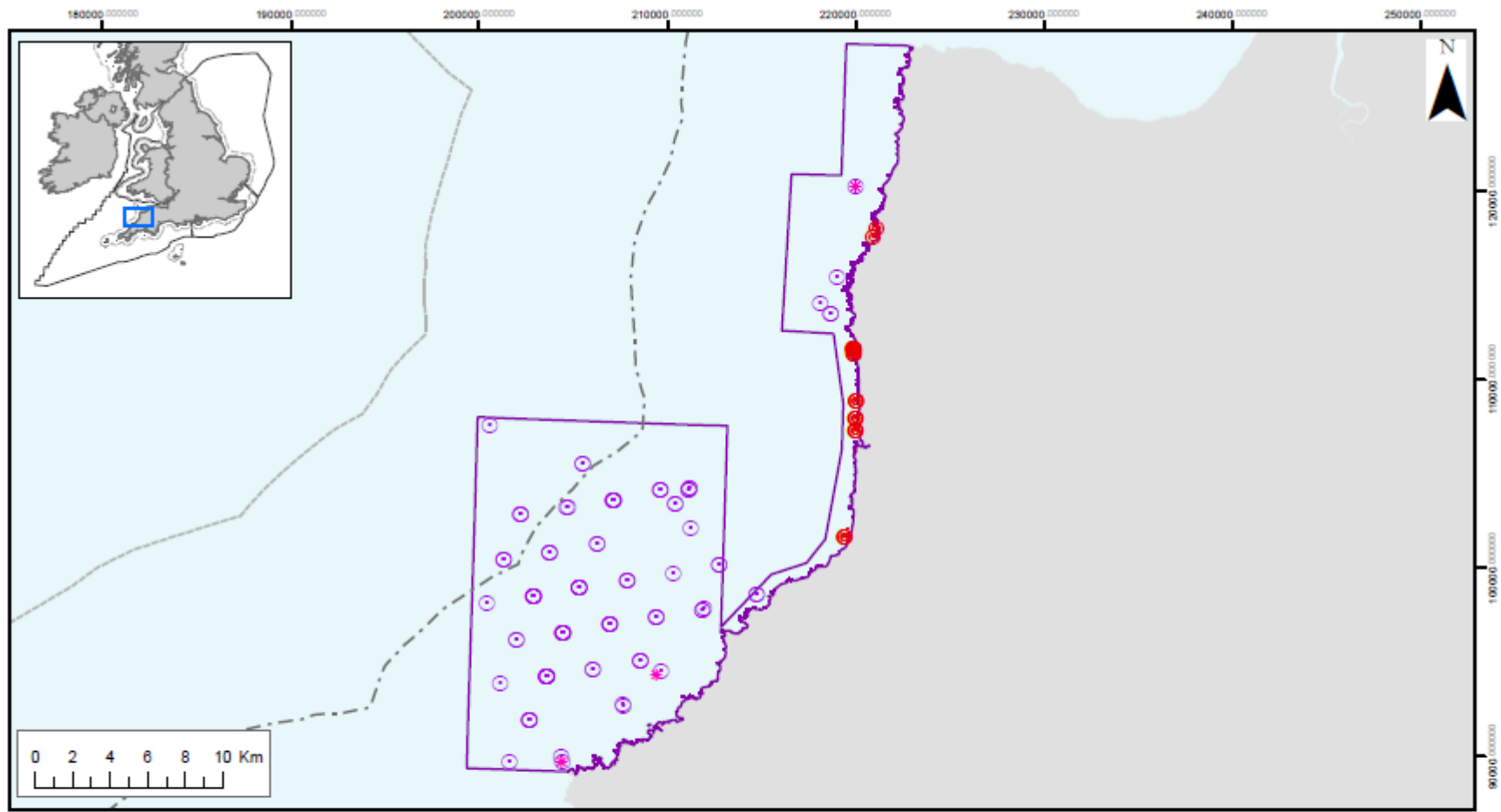
- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ Project Area
- 6N Limit
- 12N Territorial Seas Limit
- Sea
- Land

## Features proposed for 2015 designation

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="background-color: red; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> High energy intertidal rock (A1.1)  | <span style="background-color: purple; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Moderate energy infralittoral rock (A3.2)                  |
| <span style="background-color: blue; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Moderate energy intertidal rock (A1.2)   | <span style="background-color: pink; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> High energy circalittoral rock (A4.1)                        |
| <span style="background-color: orange; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Low energy intertidal rock (A1.3)  | <span style="background-color: lightpurple; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Moderate energy circalittoral rock (A4.2)             |
| <span style="background-color: yellow; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Intertidal coarse sediment (A2.1)  | <span style="background-color: lightorange; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)                       |
| <span style="background-color: lightyellow; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Intertidal sand and muddy sand (A2.2)   | <span style="background-color: yellow; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Subtidal sand (A5.2)                                       |
| <span style="background-color: lightred; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> High energy infralittoral rock (A3.1)  |  |
| <span style="background-color: lightgrey; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Shaded areas represent habitats mapped according to data originating from surveys and mathematical models | <span style="color: black;">△</span> Groundtruthing sampling points, such as diver survey, grab sampling, drop down video, walk over survey or core sampling |

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**Hartland Point to Tintagel recommended MCZ  
Features of Conservation Importance**

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ Project Area
- 6nM Limit
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Sea
- Land

**Features proposed for 2015 designation**

- \* Pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*)
- Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats
- Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs
- Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs

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 Natural England 2014.  
 Reference: Theme ID: 1477663  
 Map Projection: British National Grid

## Features that are not proposed for designation

The following features are not proposed for designation as there is currently insufficient supporting evidence. Inclusion of these features may be considered in the future if scientific evidence becomes available:

- intertidal mud,
- intertidal mixed sediments,
- subtidal mixed sediments,
- subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment,
- peat and clay exposures,
- peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*),
- coastal saltmarsh and saline reedbeds.

## Activities which are likely to be affected

Management decisions are taken on a case by case basis by relevant regulators. Management will not automatically mean that economic and recreational activities will be restricted, decisions will be based on the specifics of each case. Restrictions on an activity will depend on the sensitivity of species, habitats and geological/geomorphological features (for which a site is designated) to the activities taking place in that area. More detail is available in the [Impact Assessment](#).

Sectors or activities likely to be affected by designation		
Sector	Activity Affected	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year
Renewable energy	Tidal and wave energy	1,900
UK commercial fishing	Bottom trawls, dredges.	<£100
Archaeology heritage	Future investigations of site	Unquantified
Flood and coastal erosion risk management	Future development	Unquantified
Ports, harbours and shipping	Harbour development	Unquantified
<b>Best estimate total cost</b>		<b>1,900</b>

## Renewable energy – wave and tidal

This site and the surrounding area has the potential to be developed for tidal and wave energy as it overlaps with a small section of the Lundy and Outer Severn tidal energy Potential Development Area (PDA) and the North Cornwall and Devon Coastal wave energy PDA. As the locations of any potential installations are not known, the possible overlap of installations and cables with the site is also unknown.

All future licence applications 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.

## UK commercial fishing

The site is predominately fished by static gear, principally pots and nets, with fishing fleets from Bude, Clovelly, Appledore, Padstow and Boscastle, which operate throughout much of the site.

The following gears are known to be used within the site and are likely to be affected by management:

- dredges - in recent years there is thought to have been some dredging activity around the north-west corner of the site, however current dredging activity is thought to be very low,
- bottom trawls - a low level of bottom trawling occurs within the southern part of the site, and a number of commercial fishing restrictions already exist. Historically there has been trawling by fishermen from North Devon within the site, although this is currently thought to be a low level of activity. Much of this activity occurs in a corridor that is outside the site and runs between the western and eastern halves of the rMCZ.

## Archaeological heritage

There are 12 reported wrecks in the area, several further possible wrecks, and other coastal archaeological interests in the vicinity of the site. English Heritage has indicated that this site is likely to be of interest for archaeological excavation in the future as it is relevant to its National Heritage Protection Plan.

There is likely to be an increase in the cost for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for future licence applications within this site. Following designation, these will need to consider the effect of the activity on the features designated at this site.



## **Flood and coastal erosion risk management**

Following designation, any future permit/licence applications within or near to the site will require an added assessment within the EIA to consider the potential effect of the activity on the features designated at this site, which could lead to an increase in cost of the EIA package.

## **Ports, harbours and shipping**

Boscastle Harbour and Bude Harbour are both situated on the coastline of the rMCZ. Any future EIAs for licence applications made in relation to port, harbour and commercial shipping activities will need to consider the possible effects of their activities on the features designated within the site.

## **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 proposed for designation at their current levels of intensity:

- cables (existing interconnectors and telecom cables) – six active telecoms cables intersect with the site,
- commercial fisheries - nets, pots and traps,
- transit of ships.

## 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 Natural England, please visit

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5803843768025088?category=6742552893980672>

For further information, please contact Defra on

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