

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Mounts Bay Site

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

January 2015

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

Seagrass bed (*Zostera marina*) with snakelocks anemones © Paul Kay



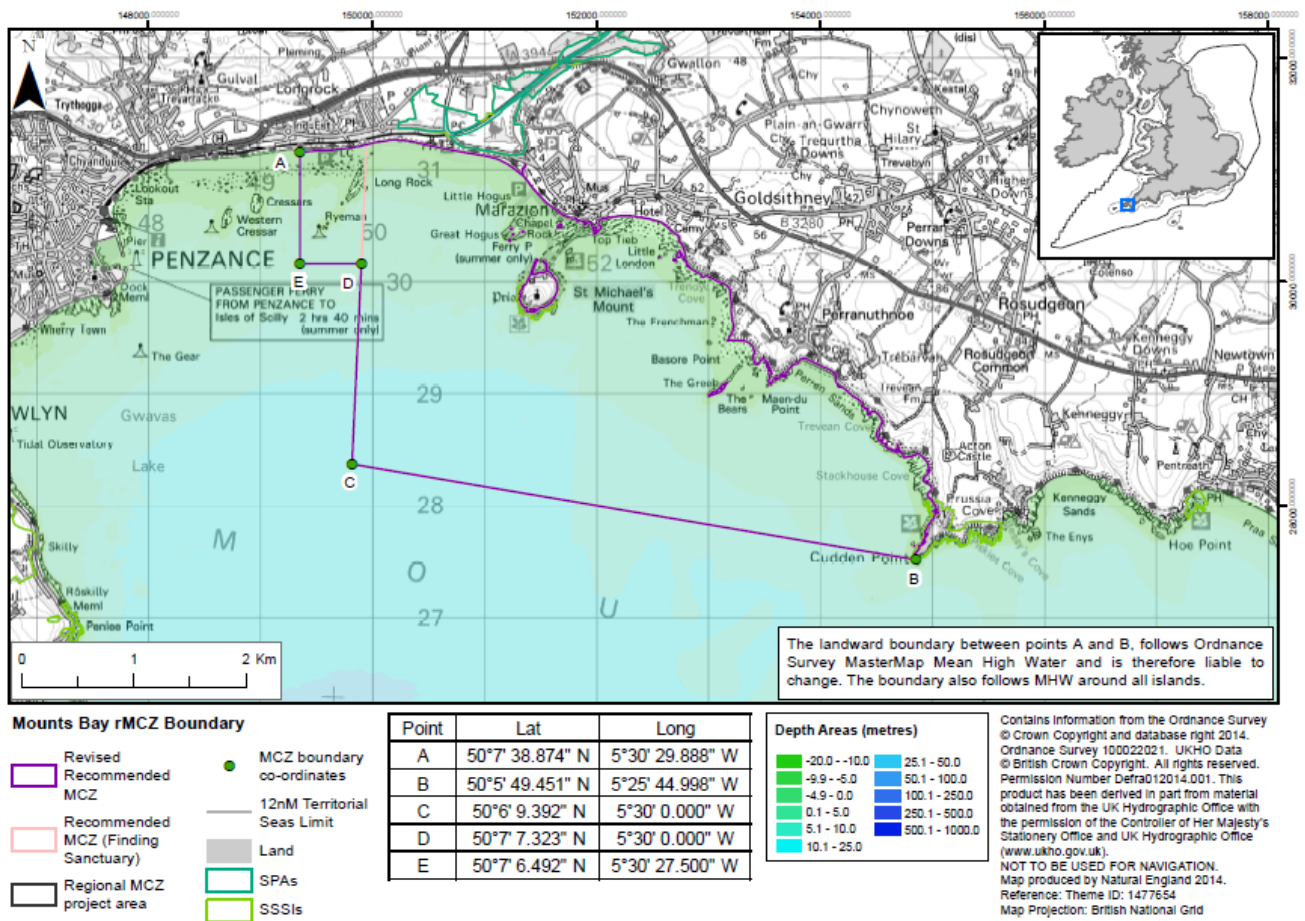
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Where the site is located

Mounts Bay recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an inshore site which covers an area of almost 12 km² surrounding St. Michael's Mount.

We have made minor amendments to the boundary, which has been extended approximately 500 metre westwards to include an additional patch of seagrass, which is thought to be important for several species including the stalked jellyfish. No significant socio-economic impacts due to the boundary alteration are anticipated.



How to comment on the consultation

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

Why the site is environmentally important

This site protects a variety of habitats and species including intertidal and subtidal areas of sand and soft sediment habitats, rocky habitat and seagrass beds in more sheltered areas. The range of habitats leads to a wide diversity of plant and animal species, including worms and bivalves living in soft sediments, and rocky shores covered in seaweeds, sea snails, anemones, crabs, sponges and sea squirts.

The site fills a gap in the network for stalked jellyfish, and is proposed to protect several different stalked jellyfish species within the site. Stalked jellyfish are small, bell-shaped animals which spend their lives attached to the seabed or seaweed with a sucker like attachment and use their arms to catch passing prey. In the UK they have been subject to decline so therefore are identified as a priority species for protection.

The site also fills a network gap for the rare giant goby.



Stalked Jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis campanulata*) © Paul Kay

What this site would protect

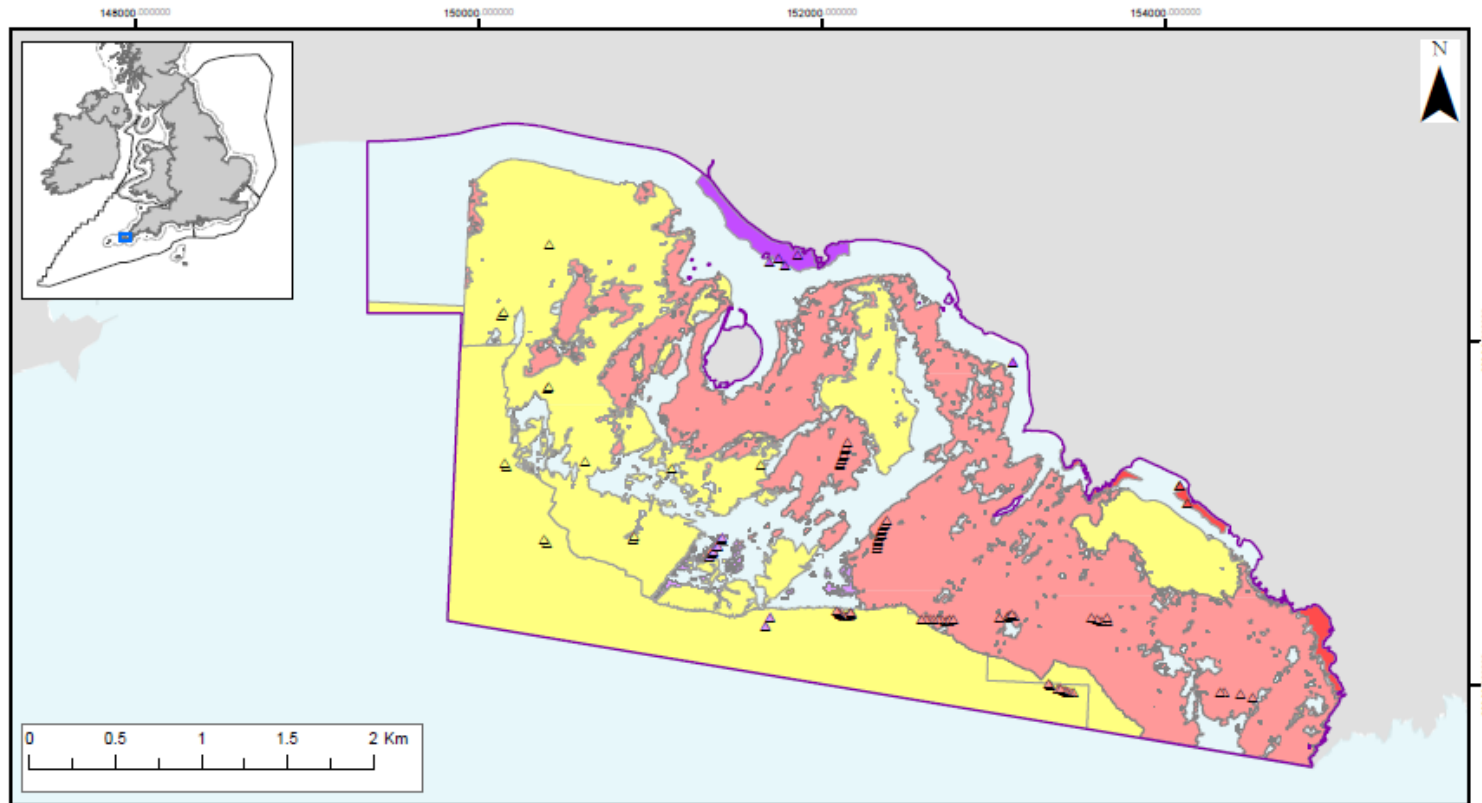
Designation would protect the following features. You can read more about the features this site protects and why they are important [here](#).

| Feature | General management approach |
|---|----------------------------------|
| High energy intertidal rock | Maintain at favourable condition |
| Moderate energy intertidal rock | |
| High energy infralittoral rock | |
| Moderate energy infralittoral rock | |
| Subtidal sand | |
| Seagrass beds | |
| Giant goby (<i>Gobius cobitis</i>) | |
| Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus species</i> ¹) | |
| Stalked jellyfish (<i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i>) | |
| Stalked jellyfish (<i>Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis</i>) | |

¹ The stalked jellyfish *Haliclystus auricula* is now referred to as *Haliclystus* species for the purpose of MCZ protection to account for potential presence of *Haliclystus octoradiatus* that has not been consistently differentiated within scientific records. The species are therefore considered jointly as an MCZ feature.

Where the features are 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](#).



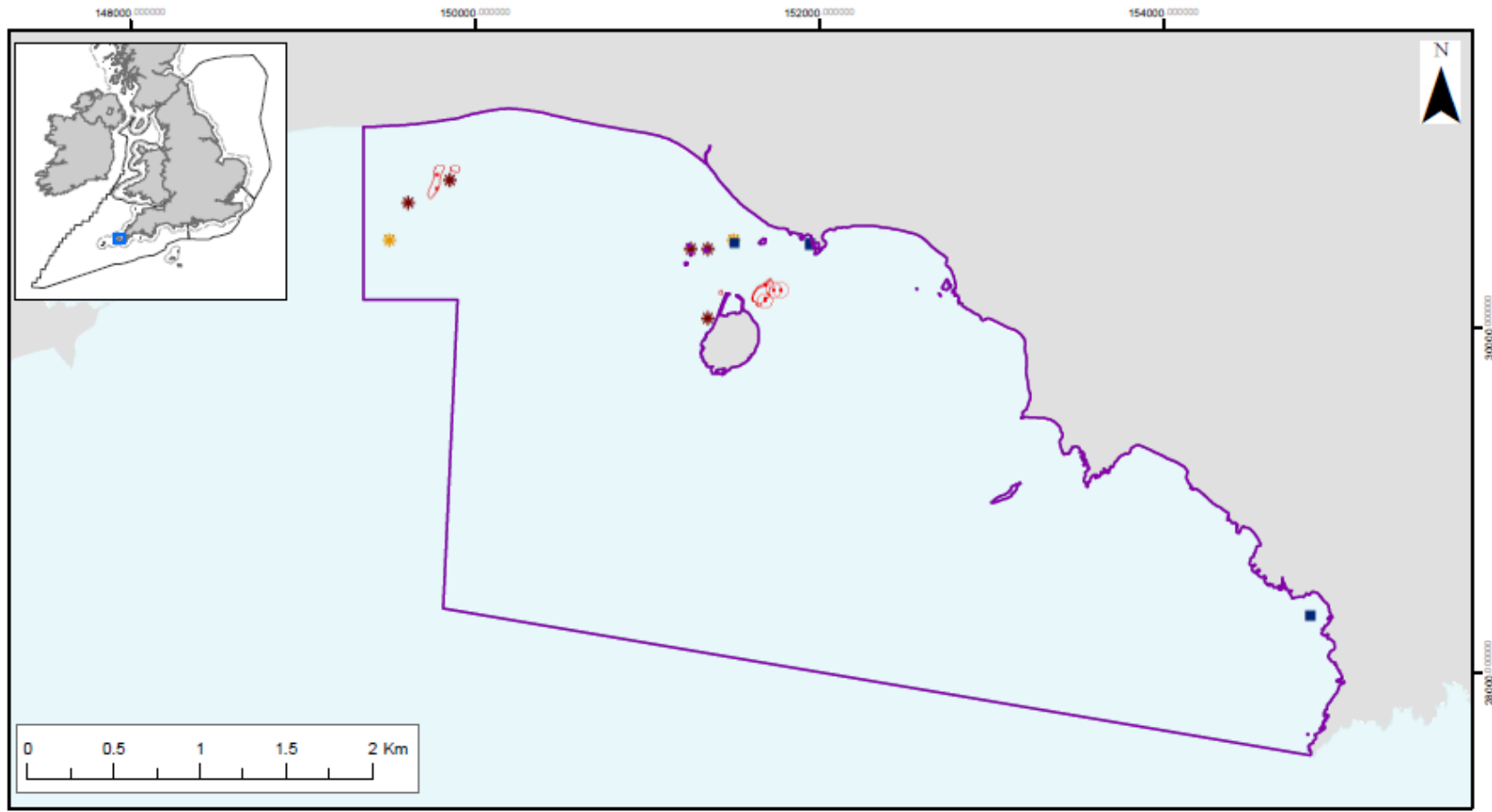
Mounts Bay recommended MCZ Broad Scale Habitats

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

Features proposed for 2015 designation

- High energy intertidal rock (A1.1)
- Moderate energy intertidal rock (A1.2)
- High energy infralittoral rock (A3.1)
- Moderate energy infralittoral rock (A3.2)
- Subtidal sand (A5.2)
- Shaded areas represent habitats mapped according to data originating from surveys and mathematical models
- Groundtruthing sampling points, such as diver survey, grab sampling, drop down video, walk over survey or core sampling

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 (www.ukho.gov.uk). Map produced by
 Natural England 2014.
 Reference: Theme ID: 1477654
 Map Projection: British National Grid



**Mounts Bay recommended MCZ
Features of Conservation Importance**

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

Features proposed for 2015 designation

- Giant goby (*Gobius cobitis*)
- ✱ Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus auricula*)
- ✱ Stalked jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis campanulata*)
- Seagrass beds
- Seagrass beds

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 (www.ukho.gov.uk). Map produced by
 Natural England 2014.
 Reference: Theme ID: 1477854
 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 if scientific evidence becomes available:

- intertidal coarse sediment,
- intertidal sand and muddy sand,
- intertidal mixed sediments,
- subtidal mixed sediments,
- peat and clay exposures,
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*),
- common maerl (*Phymatolithon calcareum*).

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 affected by designation | | |
|--|---|---|
| Sector | Activity Affected | Best Cost Estimate (£) per year |
| Ports, harbours and shipping | Harbour development, navigational dredging, disposal sites. | 3,000 |
| Archaeological heritage | Future investigations of site | Unquantified |
| Flood and coastal erosion management | Future development | Unquantified |
| National defence | Use of training site | Impacts costs assessed at a national level. |
| Best estimate total cost | | 3,000 |

Ports, harbours and shipping

All future 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. Therefore there will be additional costs when carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

The activities which we are aware take place and are likely to need to consider the potential effects on designated features through an EIA are as follows:

- navigational dredging, which is anticipated to occur once every three years from 2017,
- disposal of materials within a disposal site that is within 1 km of the site boundary.

St Michael's Mount harbour is within the rMCZ. Ports within 5 km include Mousehole, Newlyn and Penzance. The impact on features in the rMCZ will also need to be considered if there is any future port development.

Archaeological heritage

Nine wrecks are located in the site, and several artefacts have been found in the area including two boilers from the 1947 wreck of a British battleship. 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 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 MCZ site will require an added assessment within the EIA to consider the potential effect(s) of the activity on the features designated at this site, which could lead to an increase in cost of the EIA package.

National defence

The Ministry of Defence is known to make use of the site for training activities.

We expect this activity to be able to continue. Activity which is harmful to features can be avoided through additional planning during operations and training.

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:

- commercial fishing activities:
 - bottom trawls,
 - dredges,
 - hooks and lines, nets,
 - pots and traps,
- renewable energy,
- recreational activities,
- water abstraction,
- water pollution from activities on land (as this is managed under the Water Framework Directive),
- 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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