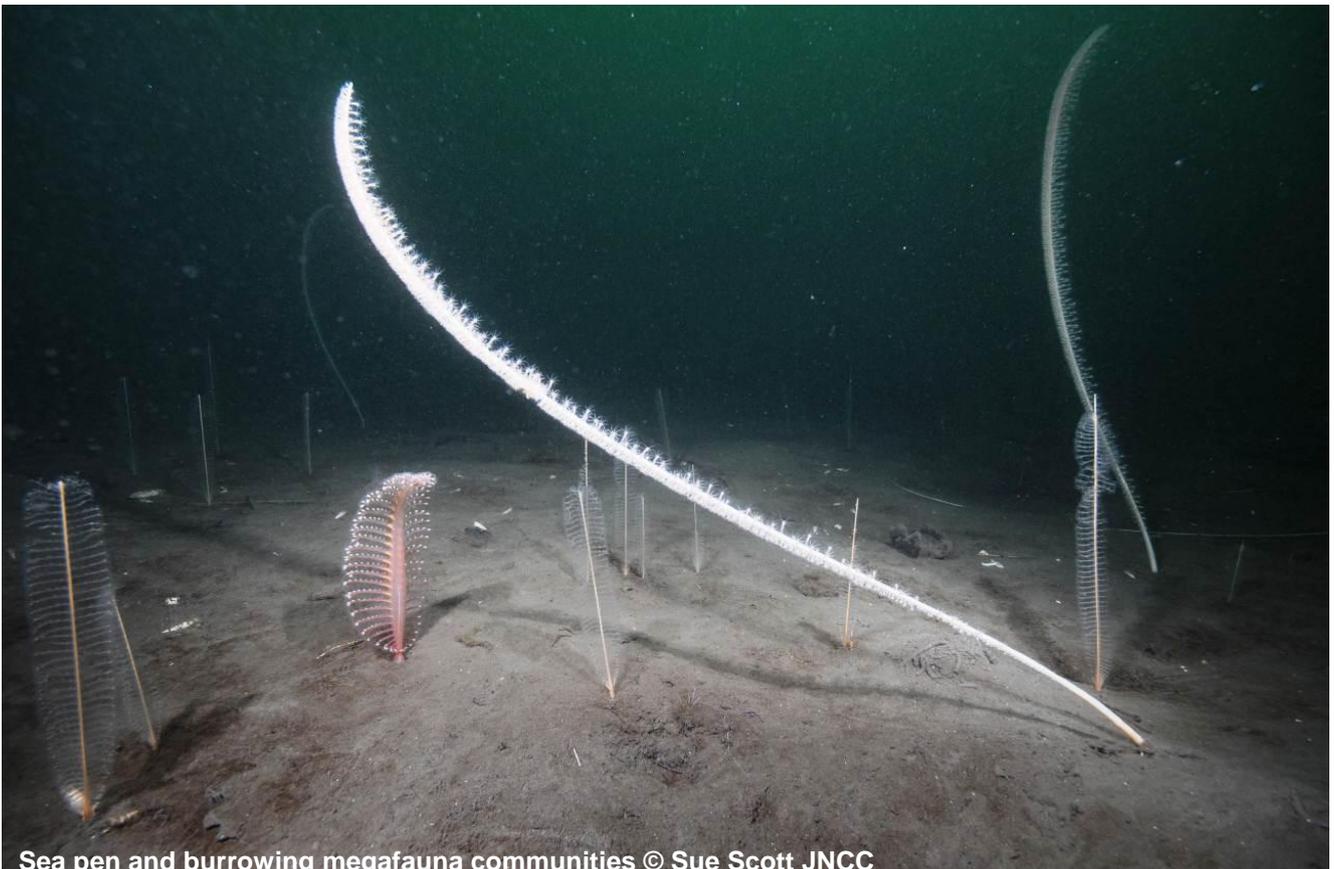


Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

North-West of Jones Bank Site Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

January 2015

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



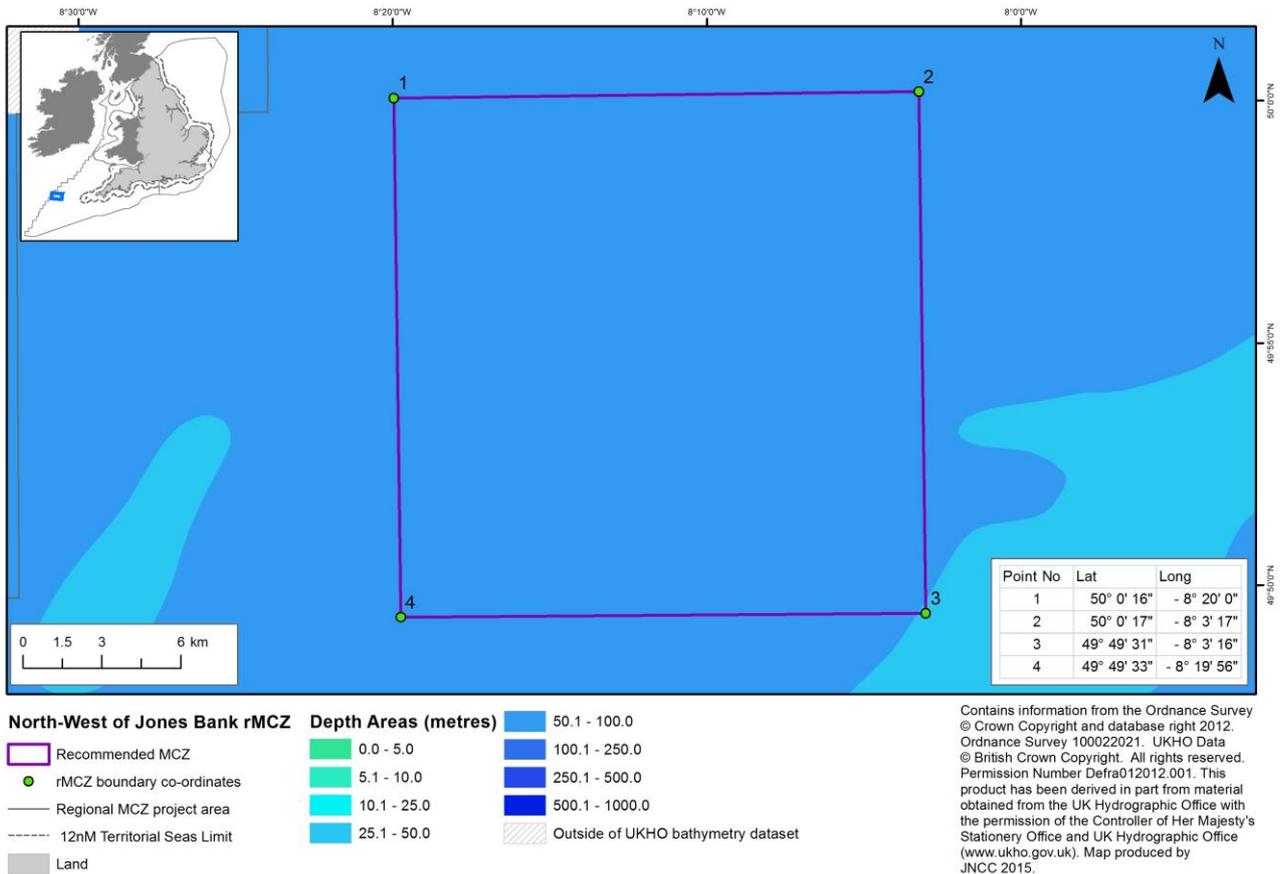
Sea pen and burrowing megafauna communities © Sue Scott JNCC

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Where the site is located

North-West of Jones Bank recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an offshore site approximately 165 km west of Land's End and has an area of 464 km².



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 contains two features which fill network gaps - sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities, and subtidal mud.

Subtidal mud is an important habitat for a number of species including worms, cockles, urchins and sea cucumbers. Burrowing fireworks anemones and brittlestars can also be found as well as luminous sea-pens which protrude from the surface of the mud.

Designation of this site will also protect subtidal sediment habitats, which support a range of burrowing animals such as worms and shrimps, as well as scavenging animals that occupy the surface of the seabed such as crabs and fish. North-West of Jones Bank has also been identified as an important nursery and spawning area for fish.

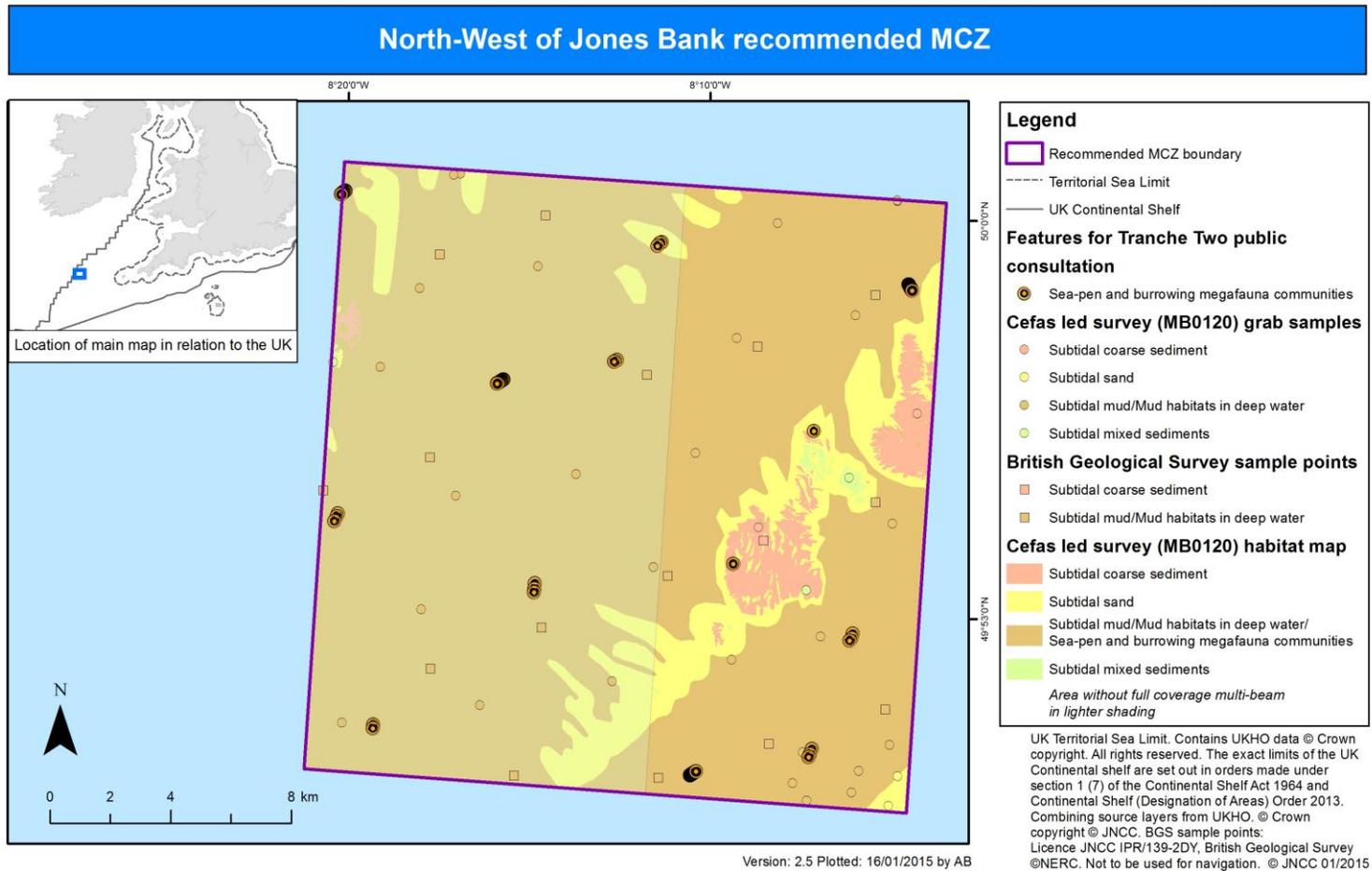
What this site would protect

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
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to a favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	
Subtidal sand	
Subtidal mud	
Mud habitats in deep water	
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	

Where the features are located

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



Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities data points were taken on the Cefas survey in 2012 using video and still images. The British Geological Survey sample points were taken in 1977 and 1978. The Cefas led survey grab samples were taken during the Cefas survey in 2012. The habitat map as been derived from acoustic data and multiple ground-truthing data from the Cefas survey in 2012. Acoustic data do not cover the entirety of the site and some habitat extents have been extrapolated (area with lighter shading on map). More detailed advice available from the JNCC advice documents found here: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6658>

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 impacted by designation		
Sector	Activity Affected	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year
UK commercial fishing	Bottom trawls/dredges, static gears.	1,400
Non-UK commercial fishing	Vessels from France, Ireland and Spain	Unquantified
Cables	Future interconnectors and telecom cables	Unquantified at site level
National defence	Use of training site	Unquantified at site level.
Best estimate total cost		1,400

UK commercial fishing

There is a low level of netting activity by UK vessels, however static gear are not likely to be affected by management in the site. Bottom trawl activity from UK vessels also occurs within the site and is likely to be affected by management in the site.

Non-UK commercial fishing

Non-UK fishing is known to occur throughout the site, with vessels using static gears, bottom trawls/dredges and mid-water trawls within the site. Vessels from Ireland, France and Spain are the main users of the site. It is likely that bottom trawl and dredge activity will be affected by management in the site.

Although impacts outside the UK are not quantified as part of the impact assessment, the implications of designation on non-UK commercial fishing vessels are considered in deciding which sites to designate.

Cables

Costs to the cables sector associated with management of second tranche rMCZs are assessed on a regional scale, rather than individually for each site. This is because it is not certain where cables will be built in the future, and where management will be required. Where a new cable is laid in an rMCZ, the impact on designated features would need to be considered as part of the licence application, which may entail an increased cost.

It is not anticipated that cables already in place will require any management measures following designation.

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 fisheries – netting,
- existing interconnectors and telecom cables - one active cable intersects the site,
- 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 JNCC, please visit

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

For further information, please contact Defra on

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