

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

## **Slieve Na Griddle**

**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**

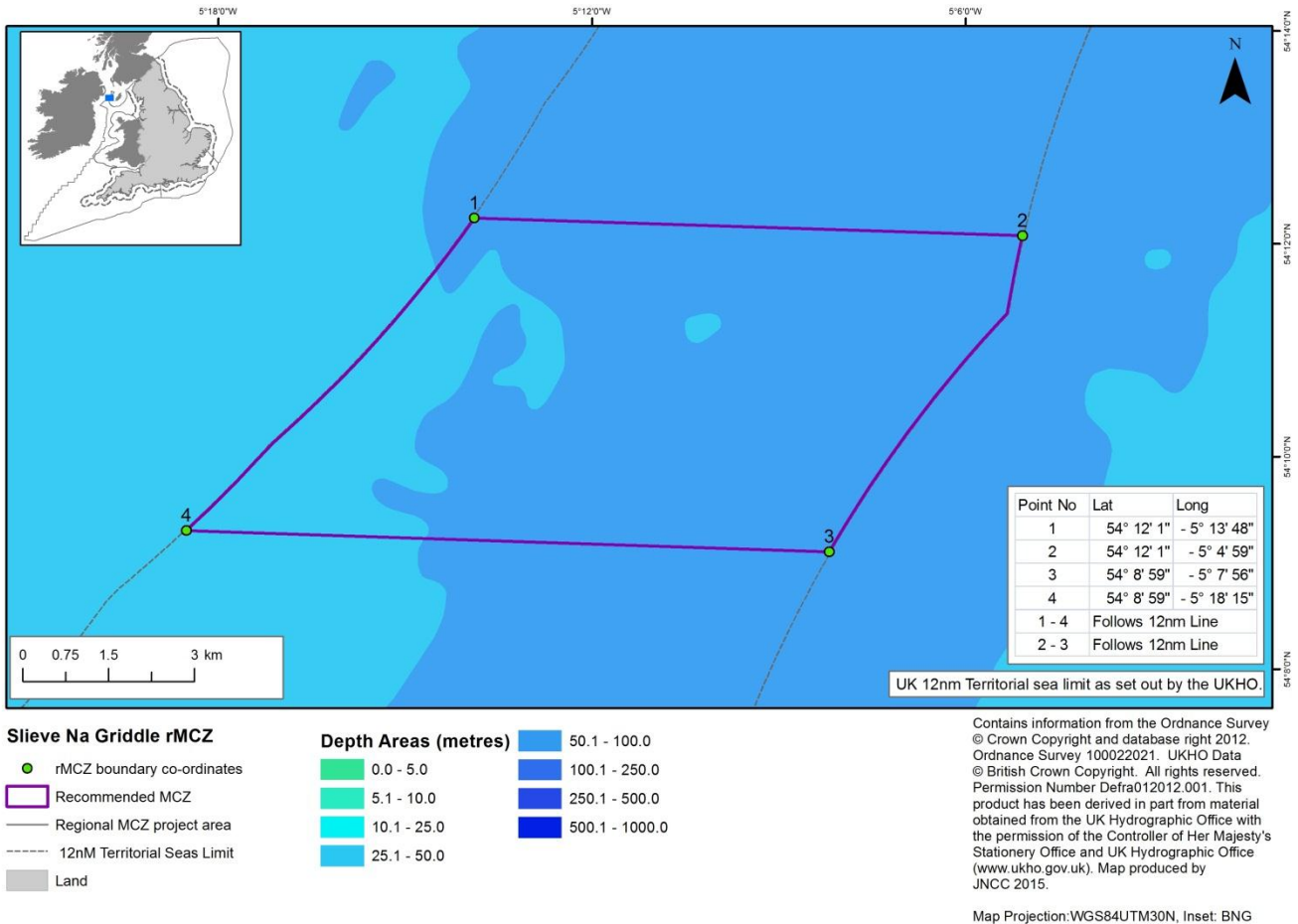
## Contents

Where this site is located .....	3
Why this site was identified as a candidate for the second tranche .....	3
Features considered for designation.....	4
Effects of designation.....	4
Activities that are unlikely to be affected .....	5
Why this candidate site is not being proposed for designation in the second tranche .....	5
Further consideration .....	5
Additional information .....	5

# Where this site is located

The Slieve Na Griddle candidate Marine Conservation Zone (cMCZ) is an offshore site with an area of 58 km<sup>2</sup>.

The site is located in the western Irish Sea, between Northern Ireland territorial waters to the west and the Isle of Man territorial waters to the east.



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

The site was recommended to fill gaps in the network for subtidal mud and mud habitats in deep water. This site supports a diverse animal community, including a range of sponges, starfish, crabs and lobster. Sea-pens can be found in the soft sediment of the site and the area was found to be of significance to basking sharks during the summer months.

## Features considered for designation

The features considered for designation in this site were:

- low energy circalittoral rock,
- subtidal mud,
- mud habitats in deep water,
- sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities.

## 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.

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Best Cost Estimate (£) per year</b>	<b>Details</b>
UK commercial fishing	9,900	There are a number of vessels known to fish within this site and it is an important nephrops fishery for the Northern Ireland fleet that primarily use bottom trawls. The following gear types are also in use: dredges, pots and traps, hook and lines, and nets.
Archaeological heritage	Unquantified	There are three wrecks recorded in the site. There is likely to be an increase in the cost for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for future licence applications within this site.
National defence	Unquantified	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 though additional planning during operations and training.
<b>Best estimate total cost</b>	<b>9,900</b>	

## 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:

- recreational activities,
- transit of ships,
- cables - two active power cables intersect this site.

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

This site is located with an important fishing ground and designation could have a significant impact on the fishing sector, particularly in Northern Ireland. The fishing sector is in the process of developing alternative site proposals for protecting subtidal mud habitats in this region. We will consider all available options in the third tranche.

## Further consideration

Further work is being carried out with the fishing industry and other interested parties to review options to protect subtidal mud in the region, with the aim that suitable sites will be considered 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

- 03459 33 55 77 (UK only)
- +44 20 7238 6951 (from outside the UK)
- [defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)



© Crown copyright 2015

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/) or email [PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

[mcz@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mcz@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

PB 14286