

Padstow Bay and Surrounds Marine Conservation Zone

Where is this site?

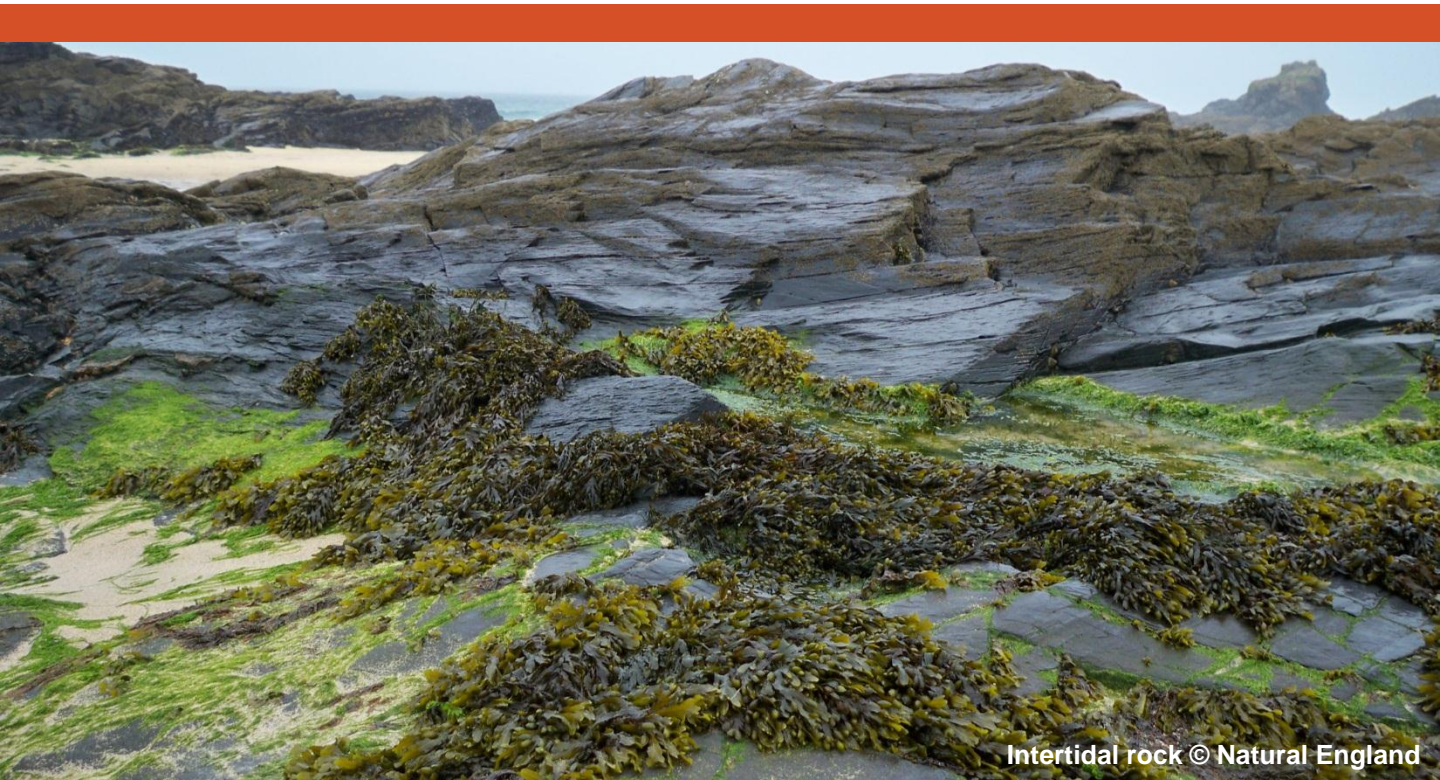
Padstow Bay and Surrounds MCZ is an inshore site located on the Cornish coast. The boundary extends from Park Head near Trenance to Com Head, just east of Pentire Point and The Rumps. An area of approximately 90 km² is protected. This MCZ covers a range of seabed types including intertidal habitats found on the shoreline to circalittoral habitats at a depth of up to 50 metres.



Intertidal sand and muddy sand
© Natural England

Why is this site important?

This stretch of coastline is characterised by exposed cliffs, rocky shores and sandy wave-exposed bays, including the entrance to the Camel Estuary. The site protects extensive rocky outcrops and reefs that support rich underwater communities and covers a range of habitats which are known to be rich in seafloor-dwelling species.



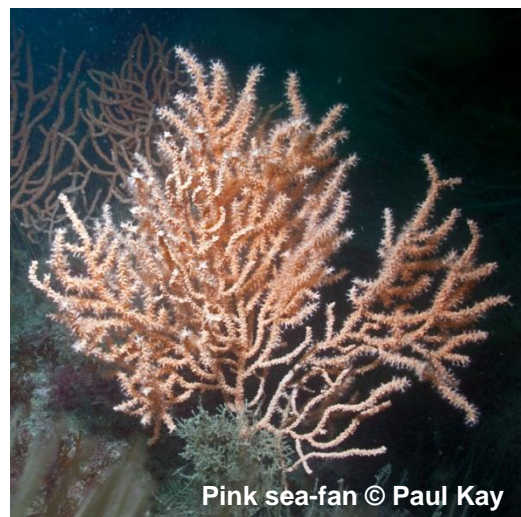
Intertidal rock © Natural England

What does this Marine Conservation Zone protect?

Padstow Bay and Surrounds MCZ protects seven different types of seabed habitat and two marine species. Much of the site is comprised of exposed rocky shorelines that are subject to strong waves or swift tidal currents. A shallow underwater environment such as this tends to be dominated by large kelps and some smaller red seaweeds that are capable of withstanding the powerful water surges.

At greater depths further offshore the lack of sunlight affects which species can live on the rocky habitats. Instead of seaweeds and plants, this environment is dominated by marine animals.

The pink sea-fan, a type of coral, is found growing on rocks throughout the site. These corals are not individual animals but are in fact made up of colonies of tiny anemone-like animals called polyps. They can grow up to 80 cm high and 100 cm across and typically grow perpendicular to the prevailing water currents enabling them to catch as much food from the passing water as possible. Pink sea-fans are very fragile and slow growing, and as such are particularly vulnerable to damage.



Features	General management approach
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>)	Recover to favourable condition

Who will manage Marine Conservation Zones?

Many activities within the marine environment are regulated through marine licences. More information regarding the marine licensing process in relation to MCZs can be found on the MMO website www.marinemangement.org.uk/licensing/marine.htm

Other activities are regulated through different mechanisms. For example fishing activities are managed through European legislation, national statutory instruments, byelaws and self-imposed voluntary agreements. Similar arrangements are in place to manage the range of activities that may impact MCZs including pollution, coastal development and recreation.

Management of sites is currently being prioritised nationally according to the potential or actual adverse impacts of activities on the features designated in relation to fishing activities. This prioritisation will be further refined at a local level taking into account relevant information and will guide regulators to those sites which may need protection before others.

Any management measures that are required for MCZs will be applied on a case-by-case basis. Management measures will be implemented at sites most at risk of damage first, regulating only those activities which have a detrimental impact on the features. In cases where there is a high risk to designated features being damaged emergency measures may be put in place to ensure the protection of vulnerable habitats and species.



High energy infralittoral rock © Natural England

What happens now this site has been designated?

The site specific information below provides an overview of which activities may be affected by the designation of the MCZ and the current management measures. As with all management measures, they may, of course, be subject to change in the light of new evidence becoming available.

Current activities identified at this site which could be affected include ports and harbour operations, commercial fisheries, possible renewable developments (wave energy), archaeological excavations and flood & coastal erosion risk management. All activities, excluding fisheries, will be regulated through the appropriate licensing regimes. MCZ designation will need to be taken into consideration when assessing environmental impacts of marine works as part of the licensing application process.

With regards to fisheries management the site is within the jurisdiction of Cornwall IFCA. All relevant IFCA District-wide byelaws will apply to this site, in addition to all relevant national and EU fisheries legislation. Further information is available at

www.marinemangement.org.uk/fisheries/monitoring/regulations_bluebook.htm

Current relevant restrictions relating to this site include specific restrictions to netting in part of this site, restrictions on the removal of berried (egg bearing) spiny lobsters and a minimum size for the removal of spiny lobsters through Cornwall IFCA byelaws. All existing and legacy byelaws are being reviewed through the Cornwall IFCA Byelaw Review process, due to report in 2015. For further information visit www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk

Where can I find out further information?

An interactive map showing this MCZs and other marine protected areas is available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5201>

Additional information about this site and other MCZs is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment>

and within Natural England's advice available at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/1499649>



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Annex: Management

Lead organisation	Activities
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fisheries (0-6nm) including commercial fisheries and recreational fishing activities such as sea angling For further information visit www.association-ifca.org.uk
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fisheries (management) (6-12nm)• Fisheries (enforcement) national and EU legislation• Licensable activities such as deposit and removal activities below mean high water springs, including subsea cables (up to 12nm), construction (including renewables <100MW, ports and coastal protection), dredging and disposal• Harbour Orders and Harbour Empowerment Orders• Section 36 and safety zone consents• Enforcement of licensable activity and other consents (including deemed marine licences)• Development of marine plans integrating the social requirements, economic potential and environmental priorities of marine plan areas• Activities requiring a wildlife licence For further information visit www.marinemangement.org.uk/fisheries or www.marinemangement.org.uk/licensing/marine.htm
Environment Agency (EA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fisheries management for migratory and fresh water fish• Coastal protection and flood management• Water quality• Permitted discharges from terrestrial sources For further information visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/default.aspx
Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oil and Gas related activities• Renewable energy related activities For further information visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change
Harbour Authorities and local planning authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harbour authorities have management responsibilities for the port and coastal waters within their jurisdiction• Local authorities have role to manage, regulate and facilitate activities at the coast. These include management of coastal recreation, tourism, economic regeneration, flood protection, spatial planning and coastal zone and estuary management, For further information contact your local authority or IFCA
Department for Transport (DfT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for shipping, harbours, ship pollution and offshore safety For further information visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport
Natural England (NE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public access For further information visit www.naturalengland.org.uk/