

Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone

Where is this site?

Kingmere MCZ is in the English Channel, between 5 and 10 km off the West Sussex coast to the South of Littlehampton and Worthing. It covers an area of around 47 km².

Why is this site important?

Kingmere MCZ contains several excellent examples of rocky habitats and subtidal chalk outcropping reef systems. These rocky sandstone and boulder habitats are important for biodiversity as they support a wide range of marine life, such as algae, sea squirts and sponges. This area is one of the most well-known (and possibly the most important in the UK) spawning sites for the Black seabream as the rocky habitats and chalk outcrops provide ideal nesting grounds. The MCZ contains two marine Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) known as Kingmere Rocks and Worthing Lumps. SNCI are non-statutory sites identified for their local conservation and geological values. The MCZ will provide statutory protection to the features of the SNCIs.



What does this Marine Conservation Zone protect?

Within this site the moderate energy intertidal rock is covered with a thin veneer of mixed sediments. This creates a complex mosaic of habitats that are particularly important to the Black seabream, a fish species that is also protected by this site.

Black seabream is known to migrate to this area of the English Channel when the water temperature begins to rise in spring. This species has a unique breeding behaviour which has been observed within the Kingmere MCZ. Firstly, the male seabream seek out specific types of seabed on which to spawn. They then use their tails to create nests within the sediment. The females lay their eggs in the nest and these are then guarded by the males until they hatch. After hatching, juvenile black seabream are known to remain in the vicinity of the nest for some time.

Features	General management approach
Subtidal chalk	Recover to favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments	Recover to favourable condition
Black seabream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</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.

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 commercial fisheries and aggregates extraction. Aggregates extraction will be subject to the usual MMO licensing process before any extractions begin.

With regards to fisheries management the Kingmere MCZ site is within the jurisdiction of the Sussex IFCA. All Sussex 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.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/monitoring/regulations_bluebook.htm

Relevant restrictions for IFCA management include the size of the vessel permitted to operate in the area (vessel length) and fishing instrument byelaw which restricts the mesh size which can be used in fishing gear.

For further information visit the Sussex IFCA website at www.sussex-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/