Marine Conservation Zone Assessment

Site name:	Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ UKMO 20160010
Protected feature(s):	Low energy intertidal rock Moderate energy intertidal rock High energy intertidal rock Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal sand and muddy sand Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs

Fishing activities assessed at this site:
Stage 1 Assessment

Seine nets & others: Shrimp push net
Miscellaneous: Crab tiling
Bait collection: Digging with forks
Intertidal handwork: Handworking (access from land and vessel)

Devon & Severn IFCA Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

D&S IFCA Reference
HPT-MCZ-004

Contents

1. Introduction

This assessment has been undertaken by Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) in order to document and determine whether management measures are required to achieve the conservation objectives of marine conservation zones (MCZs). The IFCA's responsibilities in relation to management of MCZs are laid out in Sections 124 to 126, & 154 to 157 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

2. MCZ site name(s), and location

Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ is an inshore site on the north coast of Devon and Cornwall in the south west of England. The site covers 304 km² and follows the coastline along the mean high water mark from Tintagel Head to Hartland Point. This assessment only covers the area in Devon and Severn IFCA's District.

Further information regarding the MCZ and its protected feature can be found in the Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ Factsheet.

3. Feature(s) / habitat(s) of conservation importance (FOCI/HOCI) and conservation objectives

Table 1 - Protected features relevant to this assessment

Feature	General management approach
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy infralittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Recover to favourable condition
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	Recover to favourable condition
Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs	Maintain in favourable condition
Pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*)	Recover to favourable condition

The conservation objectives for these features are that they are brought to, and remain in, favourable condition.

4. Gear/feature interaction in the MCZ categorised as 'red' risk and overview of management measure

The management measures for circalittoral and infralittoral rock are still under consideration (as of January 2017).

5. Activities under consideration

- Intertidal handworking; Handworking (access from vessel & land)
- Siene nets and others; Shrimp push net
- Miscellaneous; Crab tiling
- Bailt collection; Digging with forks

See Curtin (2018) for more information regarding fishing activities occurring in Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ.

6. Is there a risk that activities are hindering the conservation objectives of the MCZ?

Yes,
Evidence:
To determine whether each pressure is capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) the site's feature(s), the sensitivity assessments and risk profiling of pressures from the advice on operations section of the Natural England conservation advice package were used (Natural England, 2015). Table 2 shows the fishing activities and pressures included for assessment. The justifications for the pressures chosen for inclusion in this assessment can be seen in **Error! Reference source not found.**.

Table 2 - Fishing activities and pressures included in this assessment.

Activity	Pressures
Shrimp push net; Crab tiling; Digging with forks; Handworking	Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
	Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion
	Removal of target species
	Removal of non-target species

The relevant targets for favourable condition were identified within Natural England's conservation advice supplementary advice tables (Natural England, 2015). Table 3 shows which targets were identified as relevant to the activity assessed. The impacts of pressures on features were assessed against these targets to determine whether the activities causing the pressures are compatible with the site's conservation objectives.

Table 3 - Relevant favourable condition targets for identified pressures.

Feature	Attribute	Target
Low energy intertidal rock; Moderate energy intertidal rock; High energy intertidal rock; Intertidal coarse sediment; Intertidal sand and muddy sand;	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of communities	Maintain/ Recover the presence and spatial distribution of communities
	Extent and distribution	Maintain the total extent of feature and spatial distribution
	Structure and function: presence and abundance of key structural and influential species	[Maintain OR Recover OR Restore] the abundance of listed species, to enable each of them to be a viable component of the habitat
	Structure: species composition of component communities	Maintain/ Recover the species composition of component communities
Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*)	Extent and distribution	Maintain the total extent and spatial distribution of intertidal *Sabellaria* reef at 0.38 Ha, and spatial distribution.
	Structure and function: presence and abundance of key structural and influential species	[Maintain OR Recover OR Restore] the abundance of listed species, to enable each of them to be a viable component of the habitat
	Structure: population density	Maintain the density of Sabellaria species across the feature.
	Structure: Species composition of the community	Maintain the species composition of the *Sabellaria* reef community.

7. Can D&S IFCA exercise its functions to further the conservation objectives of the site?

Yes,
Evidence: Monitoring and Control Arrangements

- Enforcement of current byelaws
- Monitoring and review of current byelaws
- The review of D&S IFCA byelaws can gauge where any future changes or developments may occur.
- Changes can be made to the permit conditions, via consultation, if the D&S IFCA deems it to be necessary. This could include limitations or spatial/temporal restrictions. The permitting system allows for adaptive management.

8. Referenced supporting information to inform assessment

N/A.

9. In-combination assessment

Table 4 - Relevant activities occurring in or close to the site

Plans and Projects		
Activity	**Description**	**Potential Pressure(s)**
No other plans or projects known to be occurring within Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ	The impact of future plans or projects will require assessment in their own right, including accounting for any in-combination effects, alongside existing activities.	N/A
Other activities being considered		
Activity	**Description**	**Potential Pressure(s)**
Towed gear (demersal) and dredges	Activities assessed occur on the intertidal, therefore no in-combination effect thought to be possible.	Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed. Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion. Removal of target species. Removal of non-target species.
Static nets; Drift nets	Activities assessed occur on the intertidal, therefore no in-combination effect thought to be possible.	
Static pots & traps	Activities assessed occur on the intertidal, therefore no in-combination effect thought to be possible.	
Longlines (demersal); Beach seine/ ringnets; Fyke nets & stakenets; Commercial diving	Activities assessed occur on the intertidal, therefore no in-combination effect thought to be possible.	

D&S IFCA concludes there is no likelihood of significant adverse effect on the interest features from in-combination effects addressed within **Error! Reference source not found.**.

10. NE consultation response

Natural England was contacted in January 2017 to determine when the Tranche 2 MCZ draft conservation advice packages would be available. In absence of draft conservation advice for Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ, as there is a certain degree of standardisation within the packages, advice on operations and supplementary advice tables for other sites with similar features were used, alongside site specific information. A draft conservation advice package was available in September 2017 and this assessment was updated.

11. Conclusion

The activities assessed are not believed to be occurring or occurring at a very low level within the MCZ. Therefore, D&S IFCA conclude that there is no significant risk of the activities hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives for Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ.

12. Summary table

Feature or habitat of Conservation interest	**Conservation objectives/ Target Attributes** (Natural England, 2015)	**Activity**	**Potential pressures from activity and sensitivity of habitats to pressures.** (Natural England, 2015)	**Potential exposure to pressures and mechanism of impact significance**	**Is there a risk that the activity could hinder the achievement of conservation objectives of the site?**	**Can D&S IFCA exercise its functions to further the conservation objectives of the site?** **If Yes, list management options**
Low energy intertidal rock; Moderate energy intertidal rock; High energy intertidal rock; Intertidal coarse sediment; Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Extent and distribution; Presence and spatial distribution of communities; Presence and abundance of key structural and influential species; Species composition of component communities	Commercial fishing; Shrimp push net; Handworking (access from shore and vessel); Digging with forks; Crab tiling	• Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed • Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion • Removal of target species • Removal of non-target species See Annex 2 for pressures audit trail	N/A	Activities not believed to be occurring or occurring at a very low level. At the current levels of activity, D&S IFCA conclude that there is no significant risk of the activities hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives.	Yes, Management measures could include: 1. Monitor activity levels 2. Enforcement of byelaws 3. Monitoring and review of current byelaws
Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs;	Extent & distribution; Presence & abundance of key structural & influential species; Population density; Species composition of the community	Commercial fishing; Longlines (demersal); Beach seine nets/ ringnets; Fyke and stakenets; Commercial diving	• Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed • Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion • Removal of target species • Removal of non-target species See Annex 2 for pressures audit trail	See above	See above	See above

13. References

Curtin, S. (2018) Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ Fishing Activity Report. Devon and Severn IFCA Report.

Natural England (2017) Draft Conservation Advice for Hartland Point to Tintagel Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

Annex 1: Site Map(s)

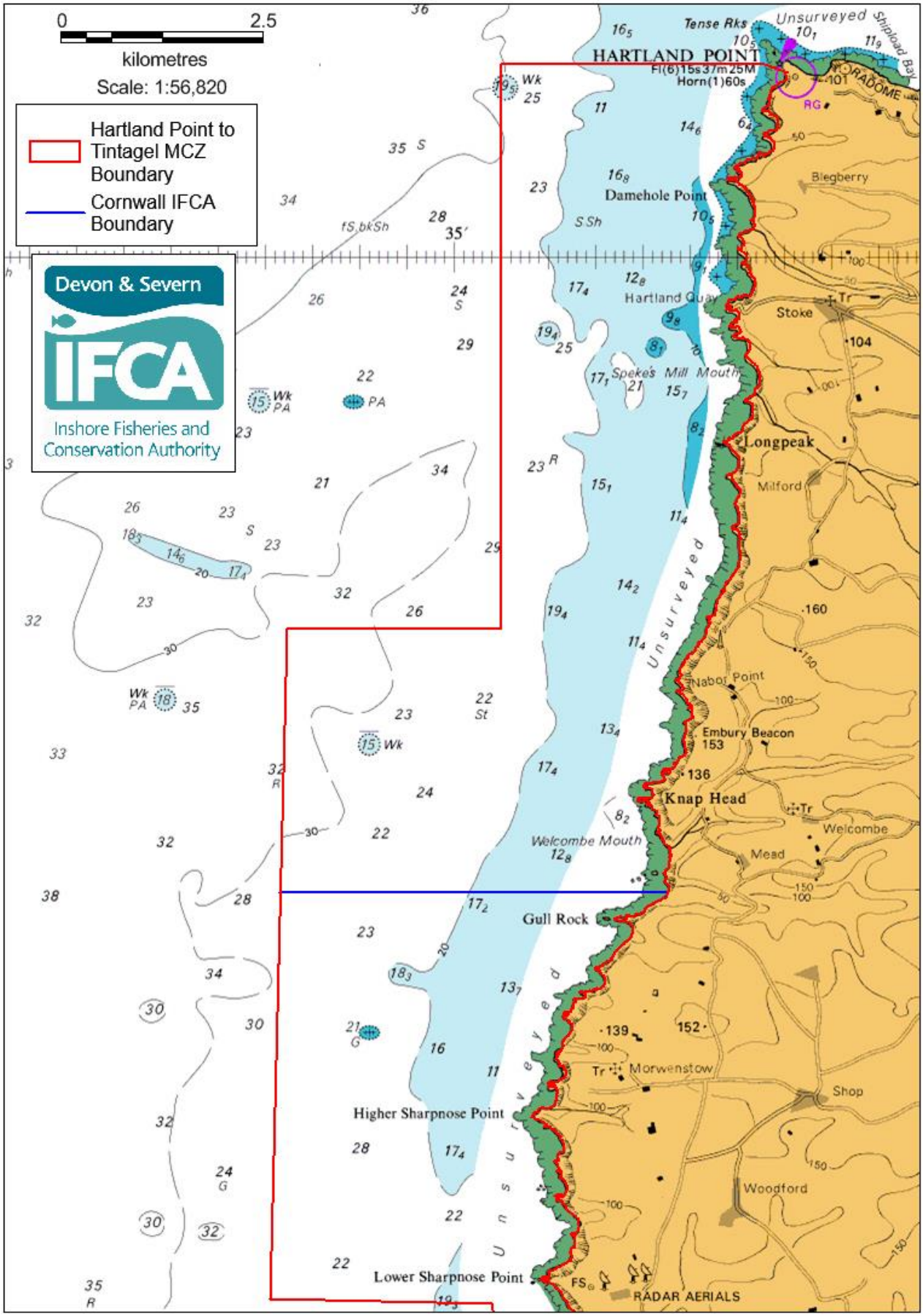

Figure 1 – Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

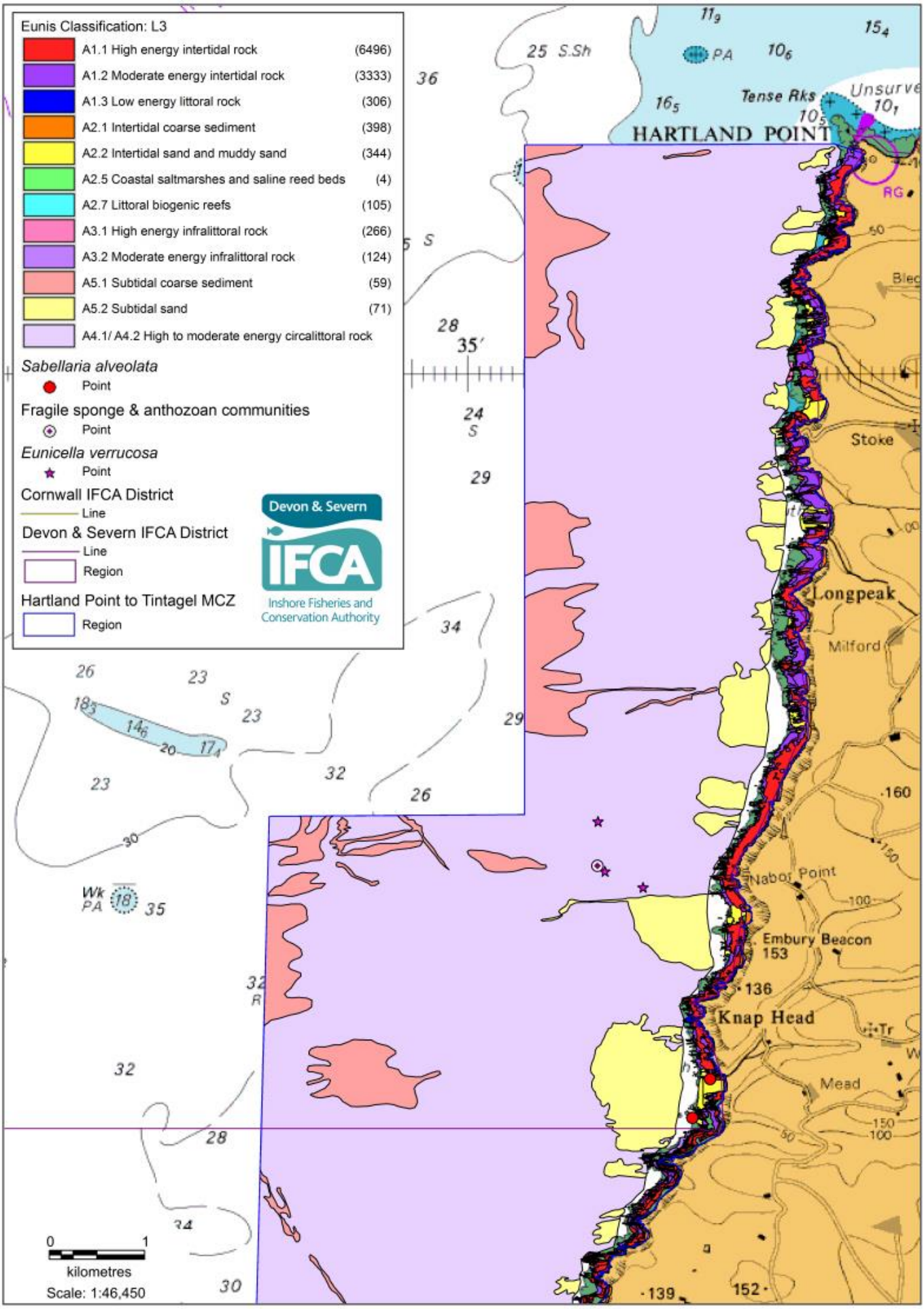

Figure 2 - Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ Features

Annex 2: Pressures Audit Trail

Fishing Activity Pressures: Shore-based activities	High energy intertidal rock	Low energy intertidal rock	Moderate energy intertidal rock	Honeycomb worm reefs	Intertidal coarse sediment	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	**Screening Justification**
Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	S	S	S	S	NS	S	IN - Need to consider spatial scale/intensity of activity to determine likely magnitude of pressure
Habitat structure changes - removal of substratum (extraction)	S	S	S	S	S	S	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk at level of concern
Penetration and/or disturbance of the substratum below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion	S	S	S	S	NS	S	IN - Need to consider spatial scale/intensity of activity to determine likely magnitude of pressure
Removal of non-target species	S	S	S	S		S	IN - Need to consider spatial scale/intensity of activity to determine likely magnitude of pressure
Removal of target species	S	S	S			S	IN - Need to consider spatial scale/intensity of activity to determine likely magnitude of pressure
Visual disturbance						NS	OUT – Not applicable
Deoxygenation	S	S	S	S	NS	S	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk at level of concern
Hydrocarbon & PAH contamination	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk of large scale pollution event
Introduction of light	S	S	S	IE		S	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk at level of concern
Introduction or spread of invasive non-indigenous species (INIS)	S	S	S	S		S	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk at level of concern
Litter	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk at level of concern
Synthetic compound contamination (incl. pesticides, antifoulants, pharmaceuticals)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk of large scale pollution event
Transition elements & organo-metal (e.g. TBT) contamination	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk of large scale pollution event
Underwater noise changes		IE					OUT – Not applicable