

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 Moderate energy infralittoral rock High energy infralittoral rock Moderate energy circalittoral rock High energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)

Fishing activities assessed at this site:

Stage 1 Assessment

Miscellaneous: Commercial diving



D&S IFCA Reference
HPT-MCZ-007

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. MCZ site name(s), and location	3
3. Feature(s) / habitat(s) of conservation importance (FOCI/HOCI) and conservation objectives	3
4. Gear/feature interaction in the MCZ categorised as 'red' risk and overview of management measure	3
5. Activities under consideration	3
6. Is there a risk that activities are hindering the conservation objectives of the MCZ?	4
7. Can D&S IFCA exercise its functions to further the conservation objectives of the site?	4
8. Referenced supporting information to inform assessment	4
9. In-combination assessment	4
10. NE consultation response	5
11. Conclusion	5
12. Summary table	6
13. References	8
Annex 1: Site Map(s)	9
Annex 2: Pressures Audit Trail	10

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 circalittoral 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 (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs	Maintain in favourable condition
Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)	Recovery to 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.

5. Activities under consideration

- Miscellaneous: Commercial diving

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?

No

Evidence:

- Devon and Severn IFCA Diving Permit Byelaw requires all commercial divers who wish to remove crab, lobster or scallops to have a permit. There are a number of permit conditions to this permit including spatial, temporal and size restrictions.
- There is a total of 22 permit holders in the district, none of which are based in the northern part of the district.
- If activity were to occur it would likely be at low levels. Divers are likely to have minimal contact with the features.
- See Curtin (2018) for more fishing activity information

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
- Monitoring number and location of permits issues

8. Referenced supporting information to inform assessment

N/A

9. In-combination assessment

Table 2 - 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 demersal trawls and dredges	Due to no commercial diving currently taking place, no in-combination effect is thought to be possible. This will be reviewed if there is any new evidence of the activity occurring or increasing	Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed

Hand working	Due to no commercial diving currently taking place, no in-combination effect is thought to be possible. This will be reviewed if there is any new evidence of the activity occurring or increasing	Removal of target species
Pots/creels	Due to no commercial diving currently taking place, no in-combination effect is thought to be possible. This will be reviewed if there is any new evidence of the activity occurring or increasing	
Static and passive nets	Due to no commercial diving currently taking place, no in-combination effect is thought to be possible. This will be reviewed if there is any new evidence of the activity occurring or increasing	

D&S IFCA conclude there is no likelihood of significant adverse effect on the interest features from in-combination effects addressed within 2.

10. NE consultation response

N/A Natural England has not been consulted at this stage.

11. Conclusion

D&S IFCA has concluded that commercial diving is not likely to have an impact on the features of the Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ. There are currently no commercial divers registered in the northern ports of Devon however, D&S IFCA can monitor the situation via the D&S IFCA diving permit byelaw.

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	Extent and distribution	Commercial diving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed Removal of target species 	Yes, commercial diving can take place within the MCZ	No. There is no known commercial diving taking place within the HPT MCZ. If it were to occur it would be at low level. Due to the nature of commercial diving, divers are thought to have minimal contact with the sea bed.	Yes, Management measures could include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor activity levels 2. Enforcement of byelaws 3. Monitoring and review of current byelaws
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Presence and special distribution of communities					
High energy intertidal rock	Presence and abundance of typical species					
Intertidal coarse sediment	Species composition of component communities					
Intertidal sand and muddy sand						
High energy circalittoral rock						
Moderate energy circalittoral rock						
Subtidal coarse sediment						

Subtidal sand						
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats						
Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs						
Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)						

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 2: Pressures Audit Trail

PRESSURE	SCREENING JUSTIFICATION
Abrasion/ disturbance	IN - Need to consider spatial scale/intensity of activity to determine likely magnitude of pressure
Genetic modification & translocation of indigenous species	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk at level of concern
Hydrocarbon contamination	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk of large scale pollution event
Introduction of other substances	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk of large scale pollution event
Introduction or spread of non-natives	OUT - Fleet operates in local area only so risk considered extremely low
Subsurface penetration	OUT - anchoring occurs on such infrequent basis that area of feature affected by pressure would be minimal and recovery from any effects would be highly likely
Removal of target species	IN- Need to consider intensity of activity to determine likely magnitude of pressure
Removal of non-target species	OUT - selectivity of diving results in no incidental catch
Synthetic compound contamination	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk of large scale pollution event
Transition elements & organo-metal contamination	OUT - Insufficient activity levels to pose risk of large scale pollution event