

North East of Farnes Deep Marine Conservation Zone

Where is this site?

North East of Farnes Deep MCZ is an offshore site in the North Sea. It is located approximately 55 km from the Berwickshire region of the North Northumberland coast and covers an area of about 492 km². Water depth across the site ranges from 50 to 100 metres, making North East of Farnes Deep MCZ a relatively shallow offshore site.

The name of this site has changed since the consultation process from Rock Unique to North East of Farnes Deep MCZ. Recent survey work revealed the site did not contain any areas of outcropping circalittoral rock as previously thought and therefore the site name was no longer considered appropriate.

Why is this site important?

North East of Farnes Deep MCZ protects a large area of sediment seabed and a wide range of associated species that live within or on these habitats.



What does this Marine Conservation Zone protect?

The seabed in the shallower part of this site tends to be made up of coarse sediments, gravels and shingle. These areas are typically characterised by worms, bivalve molluscs, sea cucumbers and mobile crustaceans, such as the squat lobster, but also support a variety of sponge species. Many of the animals that are supported by the subtidal coarse sediment habitat tend to burrow into the surface of the seabed seeking protection from predators.

Sandy seabeds can be found at a variety of depths in the waters around the UK. At these different depths the environmental conditions change and the habitat is able to support different ranges of species. The sandy seabed within North-East of Farnes Deep MCZ is not typically disturbed by waves or strong tidal currents so is able to support species such as worms, bivalve molluscs and amphipod crustaceans. These tend to burrow into the sandy surface, whereas species such as flatfish or sand eels live camouflaged against the surface.



Features	General management approach
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)	Maintain in 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.marinemanagement.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 the UK and EU commercial fisheries sector (predominately mobile gear). As this site is offshore (over 12nm from the coastline) management measures will need to be proposed and agreed through the European Commission in accordance with the Common Fisheries Policy, applying to UK and non-UK fishing vessels alike. Defra will coordinate input from the MMO and JNCC before formally submitting proposals to the EC. The MMO will be the lead authority regarding implementation and compliance of those measures. All current relevant national and EU fisheries legislation apply to this site such as Cod Recovery technical and control measures.

Further information is available at

www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/index.htm

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 JNCC's advice available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6460>



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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/