

North of Celtic Deep (RMCZ5) Evidence Review

Region	Irish Sea Conservation Zones	
Site Name/number	North of Celtic Deep rMCZ ISCZ5	
ENG Features present and proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand.
	Habitat FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal sands and gravels.
	Species FOCI	-
ENG Features present but not proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	-
	Habitat FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse mussel (<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>) beds.
	Species FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Arctica islandica</i>.
Non-ENG Features (Geological/geomorphological)		-

Evidence Summary – data provided by Regional MCZ Projects

Feature	Evidence Summary	Key Sources
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	The presence of this broadscale habitat is based on predictive modelling from UK SeaMap (I.D. GB001055)	UK SeaMap
Subtidal coarse sediment	The presence of this broadscale habitat within this site was supported by two data polygons based on predictive modelling (from UK SeaMAP, I.D. GB001055 and 19 validating data points collected by specialists from the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) (I.D. MRCCW169000000AD, MRCCW169000000AE, MRCCW169000000AF, MRCCW169000000B0, MRCCW1690000002D, MRCCW16900000034, MRCCW169000000C3, MRCCW169000000C0, MRCCW169000000C2, MRCCW1690000002E, MRCCW169000000BF).	UK SeaMap CCW survey data held by MESH
Subtidal sand	The occurrence of this feature was based on a data polygon derived from predictive modelling (UK SeaMap) and supported by five survey data points collected by CCW (surveys MRCCW16900000030, MRCCW16900000032, MRCCW16900000033)	UK SeaMap, CCW survey data held by MESH.
Subtidal sands and gravels	Six areas of polygon data and validating data points from surveys. Four of the data polygons were based on data from the British Geological Survey (BGS; one polygon) and evidence from	British Geological Survey, Defra project MB0102, UK SeaMap

	the Defra project MB0102 (three polygons, ID GB 00039). Two further polygons were based on predictive modelling from UK SeaMAP. The 22 sampled data points were collected by CCW survey- MRCCW1690000002	and CCW survey data held by MESH.
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Description of New Evidence Identified by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
HabMap (2009) polygon and point data	K. Mortimer and H. Wilson	Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand

Evidence That Could Not Be Acquired by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
Benthic biodiversity in the southern Irish sea.	Mackie, 1995	<i>Arctica islandica</i>
MCZ Verification Survey - North of Celtic Deep	Cefas	Unknown
BGS seabed sediments data points	BGS/JNCC	Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand. Subtidal sands and gravels.

Confidence Assessment undertaken by MB0116 project

Feature	Presence	Extent	Condition	Boundaries (site)
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Low	Low	Low	Low
Subtidal coarse sediment	Moderate	Moderate	Low	
Subtidal sand	Moderate	Moderate	Low	
Subtidal sands and gravels	Moderate	Moderate	Low	

The presence of the broadscale habitat 'moderate energy circalittoral rock' was based on predictive modelling (UK SeaMap) without ground truthed data points from surveys. According to the assessment protocol confidence in extent was assessed as 'low'.

Confidence in the presence and extent of the broadscale habitat 'subtidal coarse sediment' was assessed as 'moderate'. For this feature the presence of predicted (modelled) habitat areas was supported by 19 datapoints, however as these were only 49% of the total, overlapping datapoints confidence in presence was assessed as 'moderate'. As the sampled data for this feature did not cover more than half of the feature, the assessment protocol required that confidence in extent was assessed as 'moderate'.

The 'subtidal sand' broadscale habitat feature data polygons were supported by two datapoints (out of four that occurred in the polygons), this led to a confidence in presence of 'moderate',

while confidence in extent was assessed as 'moderate' as the samples were not distributed over more than 50% of the feature.

For the habitat FOCI 'subtidal sands and gravels', confidence in presence was assessed as 'moderate' as 83% of verifying datapoints agreed with the areas where spatial data (based on surveys and predictive modelling) had suggested this habitat occurred. Confidence in the extent of this habitat was categorised as 'moderate' because the validating survey data points covered less than 50% of the spatial extent of the feature (based on the polygon data).

The condition assessment for all the features was based on a Vulnerability Assessment and could not be improved beyond a 'low' confidence score.

The confidence assessment in the boundary of the site was classified as low primarily because the site boundary was not closely aligned to the boundary of the individual features. The mapped extent of the 'subtidal coarse sediment' feature, for example, was far more extensive than the boundary of the rMCZ.