

Flyde Offshore (RMCZ8) Evidence Review

Region	Irish Sea Conservation Zones	
Site Name/number	Flyde Offshore rMCZ ISCZ8	
ENG Features present and proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	-
	Species FOCI	-
Non-ENG Features (Geological/geomorphological)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of high biological productivity

Evidence Summary – data provided by Regional MCZ Projects

Feature	Evidence Summary	Key Sources
Subtidal sand	The presence of this broadscale habitat feature is based on predictive modelling from UK SeaMap.	UK SeaMap
Subtidal sands and gravels	The presence of this broadscale habitat feature is based on data from project MB0102 (I.D. GB000681) and predictive modelling from UK SeaMap (I.D. GB001055).	UKSeaMap MB0102

Description of New Evidence Identified by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
Kaiser, M. et al (2002) Predicting the displacement of Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) from benthic feeding areas due to offshore wind farms.	Centre for Applied Marine Sciences, UCNW, Bangor	Subtidal sand Subtidal sands and gravels

Evidence That Could Not Be Acquired by MB0116 project

No new evidence identified

Confidence Assessment undertaken by MB0116 project

Feature	Presence	Extent	Condition	Boundaries (site)
Subtidal sand	Low	Low	Low	Low
Subtidal sands and gravels	Low	Low	Low	

The occurrence of the broadscale habitat feature 'subtidal sand' in this rMCZ was based on predictive, modelled data only as there were no ground truthed datapoints to provide verification. The anecdotal evidence provides survey data that covers the rMCZ area however further classification of the surveyed data into habitat biotope classifications is necessary. The confidence in presence was therefore assessed as 'low' and confidence in extent was scored as 'low'.

Evidence for the habitat feature 'subtidal sands and gravels' was sourced from data and predictive modelling. The anecdotal evidence provides survey data that covers the rMCZ area however further classification of the surveyed data into habitat biotope classifications is necessary. Confidence in presence and extent was assessed as 'low' in both cases.

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 overall confidence in the extent of the respective BSH and Habitat FOCI was determined as low.