

Hythe Bay (rMCZ26) Evidence Review

Region	Balanced Seas	
Site Name/number	Hythe Bay rMCZ BS26	
ENG Features present and proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subtidal mud
	Habitat FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mud habitats in deep water Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities.
	Species FOCI	-
ENG Features present but not proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intertidal sand and muddy sand Intertidal mud Intertidal mixed sediments Subtidal coarse sediment.
	Habitat FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ross worm <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reefs.
	Species FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ostrea edulis</i> <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i> <i>Raja undulata</i>.
Non-ENG Features (Geological/geomorphological)		-

Evidence Summary – data provided by Regional MCZ Projects

Feature	Evidence Summary	Key Sources
Subtidal mud	Presence and extent based on data points from Regional Projects - BS	Regional Projects - BS
Mud habitats in deep water	Presence and extent based on data points from Regional Projects BS	Regional Projects BS
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	Presence and extent based on data points from Regional Projects BS	Regional Projects BS

Description of New Evidence Identified by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
EK_Level3_Habitats_MCZ and EUNIS_Level3_Cco_Kent_Region_MCZ.	Kent Wildlife Trust	Subtidal mud
Data points	Seasearch Surveys 2011	Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities

Evidence That Could Not Be Acquired by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
Rock and thin sediment.	British Geological Society	Broadscale habitats
EA MCZ Verification Survey - Hythe Bay	Environment Agency	Subtidal mud Mud habitats in deep water Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
MCZ Verification Survey - Hythe Bay	Cefas	Subtidal mud
Ramsgate Dungeness Multi-beam survey	Channel Coastal Observatory	Mud habitats in deep water

Confidence Assessment undertaken by MB0116 project

Feature	Presence	Extent	Condition	Boundaries (site)
Subtidal mud	Low	Low	Low	Low
Mud habitats in deep water	High	High	Moderate	
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	High	High	Low	

The feature data points do not overlap/ agree with the polygons for 'Subtidal mud' and therefore this feature receives a confidence score of 'low' for presence and extent.

Both 'Mud habitats in deep water' and 'Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities' have been assessed to have 'high' confidence in both presence and extent due to the large amount of point records that are well distributed throughout the rMCZ.

The condition assessment for all the features was based on a Vulnerability Assessment. Mud habitats in deep water was judged to be sensitive (by Project MB0102) to pressures (shallow abrasion/penetration) caused by fishing activities which overlap with this rMCZ. The confidence in condition was therefore assessed as 'moderate'. 'Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities' confidence in condition was assessed as 'low' as there was no evidence that impacting activities (aquaculture and liquid waste disposal) was occurring or overlapping with this habitat.

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 feature 'Subtidal mud' was far more extensive than the boundary of the rMCZ.