

Stalked Jellyfish (within Alum Bay) rRA no 20

Marine Conservation Zone: Selection Assessment Document

| Version and Issue date | Amendments made |
|------------------------|--|
| V1.0 07.09.11 | Draft final recommendations refined by the RSG and Local groups in July 2011 and finalised by the RSG 2/3 August 2011. |

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Site name Stalked Jellyfish (within Alum Bay) recommended Reference Area no. 20. | 3. Site surface area 0 ha 0 km ² |
| 2. Site centre location ETRS89 N50 40' 1.622" W1 34' 41.204" N50 40.027' W1 34.687' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the map vertices) | 4. Biogeographic region Eastern English Channel |

5. Features identified for specific protection within the Stalked Jellyfish (within Alum Bay) rRA ¹

| Feature type | Feature name | Area/records within rRA ² |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Species FOCI Low | Stalked Jellyfish (<i>L. campanulata</i>) | 1 record* |

* There is no agreed boundary for this site, but this feature specifically requires protection

6. Other features occurring within the Stalked Jellyfish (within Alum Bay) rRA (to be protected)

None as yet. Boundary to be defined once location of feature has been confirmed.

7. Map of site (see below)

8. Site summary

This site contains the only record for the Stalked Jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis campanulata*) in the project area, and lies immediately north of the Needles. This species is known to attach to algae and seagrasses on the lower shore and sublittoral rocky zones but there is no more recent data than this record of 1999 (DEFRA MB102 2B). There is no local knowledge of any stable population occurring there at present and there is conjecture that this may be the eastern extreme of its range and a serendipitous record; the distribution of the species in the adjacent Finding Sanctuary area should be investigated (Balanced Seas Solent/IOW/Hants Local Group Meeting Report 4, April, 2011). Given that this is the only record in the region, the RSG have recommended an RA, but have emphasized very strongly that additional survey work would be essential prior to any designation.

9. Detailed site description

For further details please see detailed site description for rMCZ 20.

10. Site boundary

No site boundary has been defined due to the uncertainty of the location of the Stalked Jellyfish (*L. campanulata*).

11. Conservation objectives

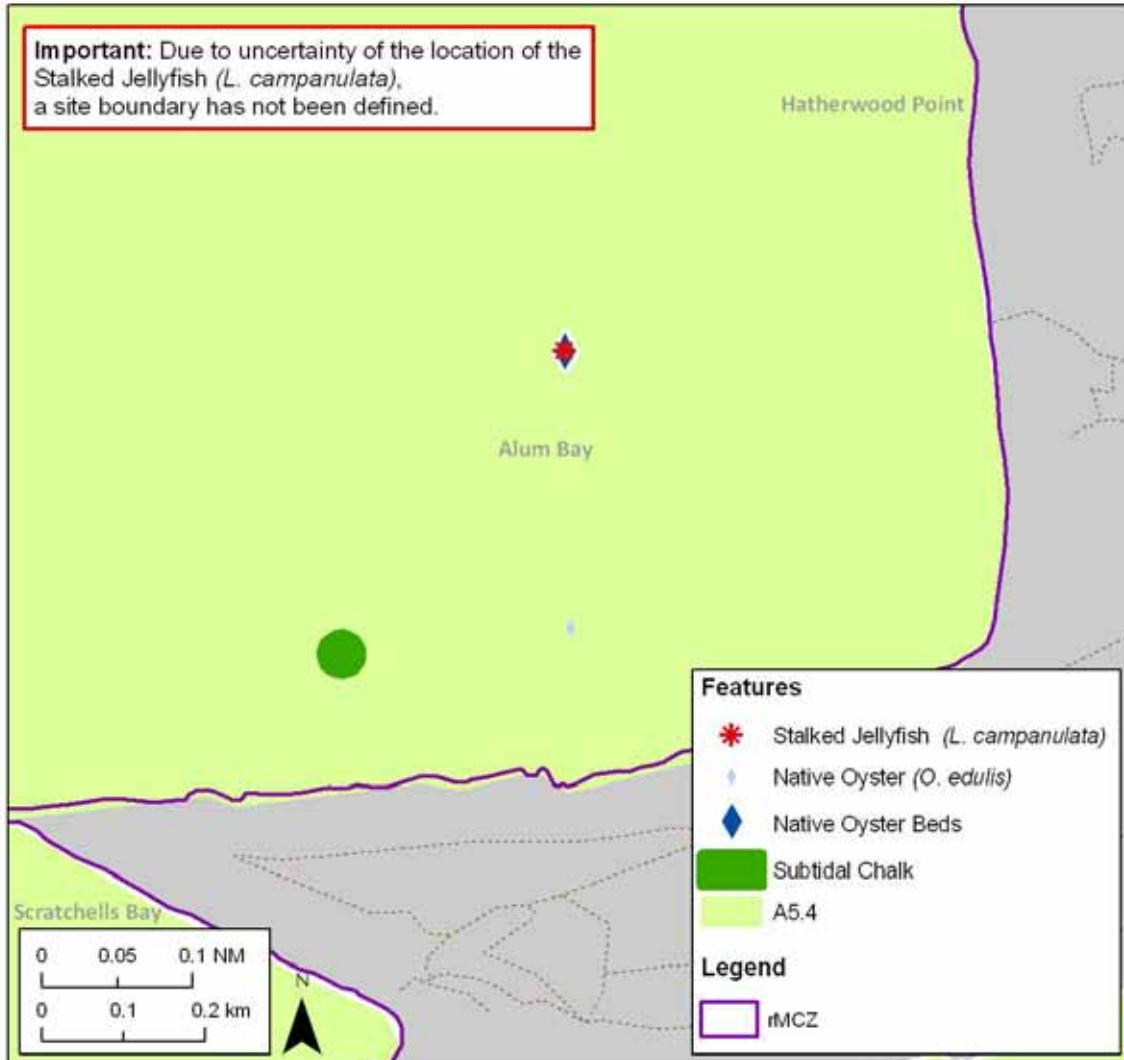
Individual conservation objective forms for each feature can be found in Appendix 1. In selecting the reference areas, stakeholders have identified specific features that merit reference area protection. ALL features in a reference area will, by default, have a Conservation Objective of "RECOVER to Reference Condition."

¹ Sources of information relating to these features are listed in Section 13.

² A "record" is a survey point where a single individual, population or habitat has been found.

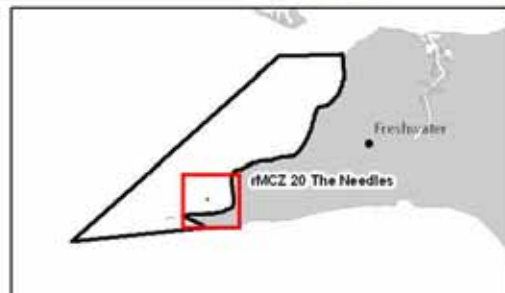
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Stalked Jellyfish (within Alum Bay) Recommended Reference Area no 20



Features to be protected within reference area:

A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments
 Native Oyster (*O. edulis*)
 Native Oyster beds
 Stalked Jellyfish (*L. campanulata*)
 Subtidal Chalk



This map and list show the main features selected by the RSG for inclusion within this Draft Reference Area. However, **ALL** features (including any additional) falling within this area would be given Reference Area protection.

Map and coordinates displayed in WGS84, UTM Zone 31 North.
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12. Sites to which this site is related

This site falls within The Needles rMCZ no 20 and within the South Wight Maritime SAC.

13. Supporting documentation (information relating to ENG features only)

| Information | Type of information | Source | Name of Survey | No of Points | Dates |
|---|---------------------|--|------------------|--------------|------------|
| Stalked Jellyfish (<i>L. campanulata</i>) | Survey | National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C | JNCCMNCR20000801 | 1 | 15/10/1999 |

References

Please refer to the references in the site description of rMCZ 20.

14. Stakeholder support for this site

There is little to no support for this site from local stakeholders and none will be given until a survey has been undertaken to verify the presence and distribution of the Stalked Jellyfish. The RSG agreed with the Local Group on this, but felt that the site should be put forward in their Final Recommendations to fulfil the ENG criteria but without a boundary. They strongly recommended that a survey be completed as per the Local Group suggestion and that the distribution of this feature within the Finding Sanctuary project area should also be investigated.

Individual sectors wishing to note their support or concerns about the site recorded the following at the final RSG meeting in August 2011; their comments have been transcribed verbatim from the form that they completed:

| SECTOR | ORGANISATION | COMMENT for Alum Bay rRA 20 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Yachting | RYA | This is a harbour of refuge and thus an unsuitable site for a reference area. Needs to be surveyed and feature found before any further steps can be taken. |
| Sea Angling | | Area not suitable as it is a refuge anchorage. Research required to see if jellyfish exists. |
| | Local Fisheries Representatives | No support for this because of poor old data. In line with high levels of activity too challenging to achieve sheltered anchorage for safety. |
| Wildlife Trusts | Hampshire Wildlife Trust | I believe this site should be surveyed for the stalked jelly. |
| Marine Ecology | Seasearch | Strongly support a RA here as the only recorded example of <i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i> in the region. Anchoring in bad weather would compromise this as a proper reference, but it still represents the best/only option. |
| Marine Wildlife | Marine Conservation Society | <u>Support</u> . Not viable. Needs expanding. Risk is putting such a small site in place it does nothing. |

15. Evolution of the site recommendations

Initially a simple box was drawn encompassing the stalked jellyfish record, but both the RSG and LG expressed concerns about the age of the record and lack of recent confirmation of a population here, given that recreational activities and commercial potting activities are very intense. The Southern IFCA and local commercial fishermen jointly developed a more acceptable boundary that minimised impact on their activities, and this was presented to the LG. However, the recreational sector still considered it unacceptable and during the Solent/IOW/Hants Sites Meeting in July 2011, representatives of the commercial fishing, recreational sailing, and recreational sea angling sectors developed a new boundary acceptable to all parties involved. The Wildlife sector noted that the species attach to algae and seagrasses on the lower shore and sublittoral rocky zones at the base of the cliffs and therefore a site this far out would probably not capture the appropriate habitat. But a site further in would not be acceptable to the local commercial fishermen as it would overlap with a

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safe anchoring area and potentially impact on the operations of Needles Pleasure Cruisers who maintain moorings and a jetty here. The RSG therefore decided that until surveys had been undertaken to verify the occurrence and distribution of the jellyfish, no boundary would be proposed.

For greater detail on discussions relating to the site and the network, please refer to both RSG and Local Group stakeholder meeting reports at www.balancedseas.org.

16. Implications for Stakeholders

The following issues are associated with this site:

- The yachting sector would not accept any reference area, as this is an anchorage of refuge, for anything down to 2-3metres depth; when anchoring they try to get as close as they can to the southeast corner of the bay.
- The Needles Pleasureboat company uses this area intensively in the summer to bring visitors to Alum Bay
- Local commercial potters rely on this area
- Drift diving occurs here
- Southern IFCA has stated that they will not support a reference area here as they are concerned that this would impact on the safe anchoring refuge; if refuge anchoring were allowed, but anchoring for other reasons prohibited, enforcement would be very difficult .

This list represents only the major issues associated with the site. To see all stakeholder discussions, please refer to the Balanced Seas RSG and Local Group meeting reports at www.balancedseas.org.