

Marine Conservation Zone: Selection Assessment Document

Version and Issue date	Amendments made
V1.0 07.09.11	Draft final recommendations refined by the RSG in July 2011 and finalised at their meeting on 2/3 August 2011.

1. Site name Dolphin Head (recommended Reference Area no. 10)	3. Site surface area 7477 ha 74.82 km ²
2. Site centre location ETRS89 N50 15' 1.209" W0 30' 43.520" N50 15.020' W0 30.725' (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 Dolphin Head rRA¹

Feature type	Feature name	Area ²
Broad Scale Habitats	A4.1 High energy circalittoral rock	15.4 km ²
	A4.2 Moderate energy circalittoral rock	11.0 km ²
	A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments	48.4 km ²
Habitat FOCI	Subtidal sands and gravels	7.37 km ²
	Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	939.5 m ²

6. Other features occurring within the Dolphin Head rRA (to be protected)

All features identified for protection.

7. Map of site (see below)

8. Site summary

This site lies within the Offshore Brighton rMCZ 14 and captures an area of high energy and moderate energy circalittoral rock where there is higher confidence in its occurrence than elsewhere in the region due to the Eastern English Channel Synthesis REC study. Offshore examples of two habitat FOCI are also captured within the boundaries.

9. Detailed site description

Please see detailed site description for rMCZ 14.

10. Site boundary

The boundary has been drawn as an 8.66km X 8.66km (approximately 75 km²) area within the rMCZ.

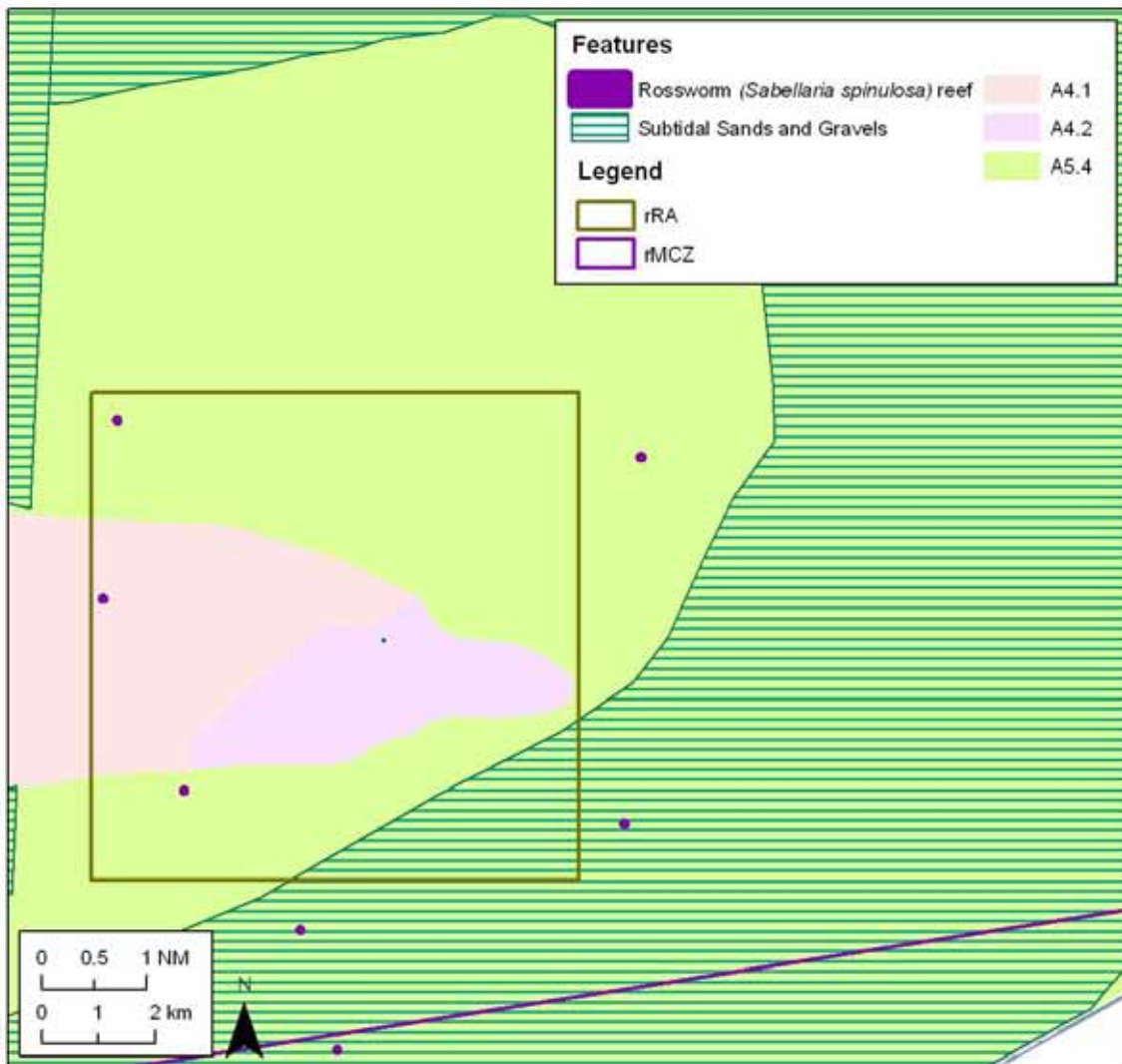
11. Conservation objectives

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.

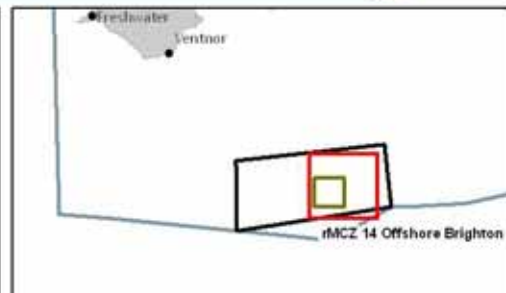
² Areas have been calculated according to spatial GIS data and are indicative only.

Dolphin Head Recommended Reference Area no 10



Features to be protected within reference area:

- A4.1 High energy circalittoral rock
- A4.2 Moderate energy circalittoral rock
- A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments
- Rossworm Reef (*S. spinulosa*)
- Subtidal sands and gravels



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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NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

Dolphin Head rRA no 10

12. Sites to which this site is related

This site falls within Offshore Brighton rMCZ no 14.

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

Information	Type of information	Source	Name of survey	No of points	Dates
broad scale habitats	Modelled and survey data	UKSeaMap/MESH v7	Combined	n/a	2011
broad scale habitats	Modelled data	MALSF Synthesis REC	Synthesis study of the eastern and central English Channel	n/a	2011
Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	Survey	Cefas channel survey 2005 2006		3	01/01/2005
Subtidal sands and gravels	Survey	National contract data, DEFRA MB102 2C		2	2008

References

Please refer to the references in the site description of r MCZ 14.

14. Stakeholder support for the site

There were varying levels of support for this area due to its intense use as an offshore trawling ground for both national and international fleets.

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 Dolphin Head rRA 10
Yachting	RYA	See on dMCZ14. [Needs survey to establish condition of subtidal sediments before setting conservation objectives.]
Sea Angling		RSA notes that the target is to control bottom trawling.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		No support.
Birds	RSPB	Support.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this.
Marine Ecology	Seasearch	Strongly support this RA which needs to be at least this size to be viable for 3 broadscale habitats.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	Support site. Recover CO for all broadscale habitats from all bottom towed fishing.
French fishing interests		My sector can't be agreed with this very big area. The fishing effort will be [?] in adjacent area.

15. Evolution of the site recommendations

Originally the site was drawn in accordance with the ENG guidance for RAs for broad scale habitats with minimum dimensions of 5km by 5km. The SAP advised that in general broad-scale habitats should be a minimum of this size, preferably much larger, and where possible capture the minimum dimension for each habitat. Subsequently the site was expanded to achieve ecological viability for all three broad scale habitats, and now covers an area of nearly 75 km².

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:

- Concern from French fishing industry that the reference area is very big although the location was thought not to be so problematic.
- Least worst option for the UK fishing fleets.
- Potting activity may occur here but further investigation is needed.

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.