



BY EMAIL ONLY

11 March 2025

Dear stakeholder,

Formal consultation on proposed byelaw to prohibit anchoring activity in Allonby Bay Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA).

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is consulting on a proposed byelaw to prohibit anchoring activity to protect and allow full recovery of all species and habitats and associated ecosystem processes in Allonby Bay HPMA:

- [Allonby Bay](#)

Formal consultation on the proposed byelaw will run from 11 March 2025 to 7 April 2025.

This letter provides a background to the proposed management measures and information on how to respond to the formal consultation and what to expect next.

All documents referred to below can be found on the MMO management of anchoring activity impacts in Allonby Bay HPMA consultation page:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/allonby-bay-hpma-anchoring-formal-consultation>

Background

Allonby Bay HPMA was [designated](#)¹ by Defra in 2023 under the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#) and as such MMO has duties to further the conservation objective of the site by developing byelaws or other management measures where required².

Table 1 details the designated feature and conservation objective for Allonby Bay HPMA. The location of the HPMA is displayed in **Figure 1**.

¹ Allonby Bay HPMA Designation Order 2023:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukmo/2023/2/pdfs/ukmo_20230002_en.pdf

² For more information see: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/section/126



Table 1: Allonby Bay HPMA designated feature and conservation objective.

Designated feature	Conservation objective
The marine ecosystem of the area, which means all marine flora and fauna, all marine habitats and all geological or geomorphological interests, including all abiotic elements and all supporting ecosystem functions and processes, in or on the seabed, water column and the surface of the sea.	To achieve full recovery of the protected feature, including its structure and functions, its qualities and the composition of its characteristic biological communities present within the HPMA, to a natural state, and prevent further degradation and damage to the protected feature, subject to natural change.

Allonby Bay HPMA mNLA assessment

Using the best available scientific evidence and advice, MMO assessed the impacts of marine non-licensable activities (mNLA) and anchoring in Allonby Bay HPMA and concluded that, in order to further the conservation objective of the site, anchoring should be prohibited throughout the HPMA.

Proposed management

The proposed byelaw includes a whole site prohibition of anchoring activity throughout Allonby Bay HPMA.

The proposed byelaw also mandates that an anchor must be stowed when in the specified area.

Note, the provisions in section 141(1)(e) and (f) and section 141(2) of the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#) remain in force and are not amended by the proposed byelaw. These provide that anchoring can take place within the area prohibited by the proposed byelaw in the event that the act of anchoring:

- 141(1)(e) was necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of any vessel, aircraft or marine installation;
- 141(1)(f) was done for the purpose of saving life.

Please note that subsection (1)(e) does not apply where the necessity was due to the fault of the person or of some other person acting under the person's direction or control.



Documents

All supporting documentation including the draft byelaw, De-minimis assessment and the Allonby Bay HPMA mNLA assessment can be found on the MMO management of anchoring activity impacts in Allonby Bay HPMA consultation page:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/allonby-bay-hpma-anchoring-formal-consultation>

Questions to consider

When reviewing the consultation documents, please provide us with any information you feel could be significant to inform our decision on management. We are interested in understanding the following:

1. Do you have information about the level or nature of [mNLA](#)³ (including anchoring activity) within Allonby Bay HPMA?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed management measures? Please provide reasons for or against.
3. How will the proposed management measures affect you? Please provide supporting evidence if possible.
4. What other effects could the proposed management measures have? Please provide supporting evidence if possible.

How to respond

Please respond no later than **7 April 2025**. You can submit your response by [completing our online survey](#)⁴.

You are also invited to attend an online workshop at 1 – 2 pm on **1 April 2025**. This workshop will provide an opportunity for those interested to learn more about our assessment of marine non-licensable, recreational and anchoring activities in Allonby Bay HPMA and our proposed management measure to prohibit anchoring throughout the site. To attend this workshop, please register via Eventbrite: [Protecting Allonby Bay's marine environment - Have your say Tickets, Tue 1 Apr 2025 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)⁵

³ For more details: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-marine-non-licensable-activities-in-marine-protected-areas>

⁴ Allonby Bay HPMA Anchoring Byelaw Formal Consultation - Online survey: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/allonby-bay-hpma-anchoring-formal-consultation> Last accessed on: 10 March 2025).

⁵ Eventbrite invitation: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/protecting-allonby-bays-marine-environment-have-your-say-tickets-1270318218989>



If you are not able to access the above survey, you can respond via the details below. We are asking all stakeholders to use email rather than post if possible.

By email: conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk

By telephone: 0300 123 1032

In writing:

Allonby Bay HPMA Anchoring Byelaw Formal Consultation
Marine Conservation Team
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

Next steps

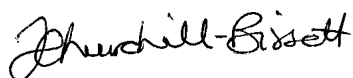
We will review the information received during this consultation, alongside any other relevant information, to make a final decision on the draft byelaw. If we decide that the proposed management measures are required, we will make the byelaw and submit it to the Secretary of State for confirmation.

More information on MMO byelaw making process can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/marine-conservation-byelaws

If you have any further questions or queries, please email conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk or call the MMO helpline on 0300 123 1032.

Yours faithfully,

Jessica Churchill-Bissett



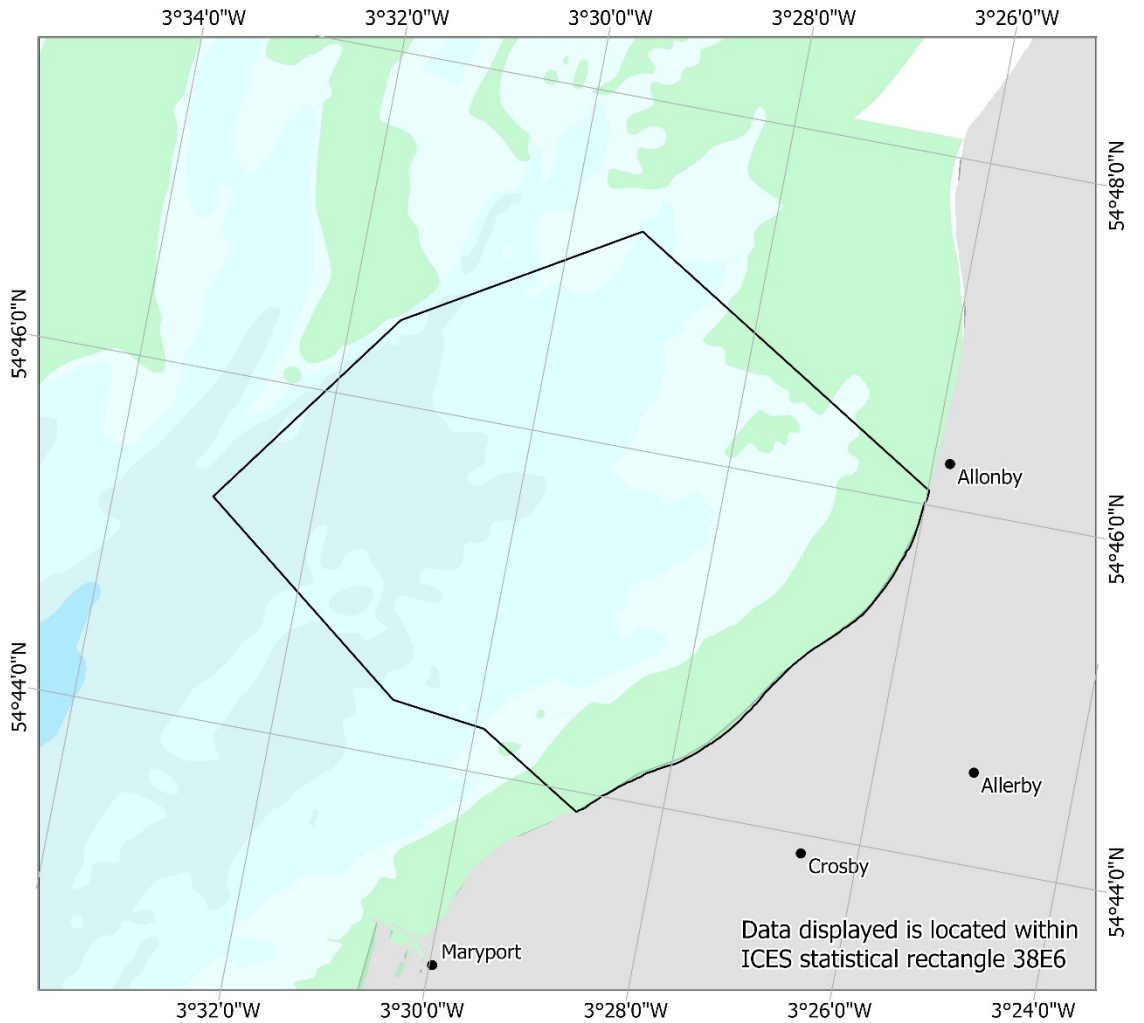
Head of Marine Conservation
Marine Conservation Team
Marine Management Organisation





Marine
Management
Organisation

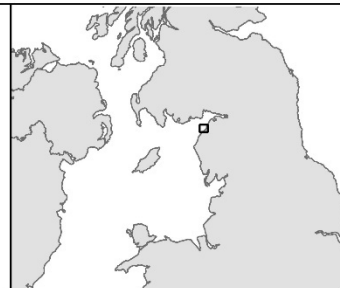
Allonby Bay Highly Protected Marine Area



Highly Protected Marine Area
 □ Allonby Bay HPMA

Sea Depth (metres)

- Drying
- ≥0 to 2.5
- >2.5 to 5
- >5 to 10
- >10 to 25



Date of Publication: 24/01/2025
 Coordinate System: ETRS 1989 LAEA
 Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area
 MMO Reference: 10844

Not to be used for navigation
 Contains Collins Bartholomew, MMO, UKHO, and Natural England data
 © Collins Bartholomew, MMO, and Natural England copyright and database right 2025,
 © Crown copyright and database rights, 2025, OS AC0000849883, © British Crown
 Copyright, 2025. All rights reserved. Permission Number Defra012018.005. This
 product has been derived in part from material obtained from the UKHO with the
 permission of the UKHO, The Keeper of Public Records. Contains public sector
 information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

Figure 1: Allonby Bay Highly Protected Marine Area.

