

# Cumbria Coast MCZ



Cumbria Coast MCZ was designated in November 2013. It is an inshore site covering an area of 18km<sup>2</sup>. The site stretches for approximately 27km along the coast of Cumbria extending from south of Whitehaven, around the cliffs at St Bees Head, to the mouth of Ravenglass Estuary.

**Designated Features:** high energy intertidal rock, honeycomb worm reefs, intertidal biogenic reefs, intertidal sand and muddy sand, intertidal under boulder communities, moderate energy infralittoral rock, peat and clay exposures, razorbill (Razorbill was added as a protected feature on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019).

**Management:** Cumbria Coast MCZ partially overlaps with a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and an RSPB reserve as the area is particularly important for many species of seabirds which nest on the cliffs and feed on fish in the area. The management for the MCZ comes in the form of the St Bees Headland Voluntary Code of Practice.

The first St Bees Headland Voluntary Code of Practice (COP) was introduced by NWIFCA in 2018, and since then has been implemented each year. The COP recommends that no netting of any type takes place in a 1km area around the St Bees Headlands. The timings of the COP are reviewed yearly and can change depending on the assessments by Natural England and RSPB, and the behaviour of the birds, but typically the COP is between mid-March to the end of July.

Here is the latest COP – [St-Bees-Voluntary-Code-of-Practice-2024.pdf \(nw-ifca.gov.uk\)](#)

**NE site view** – [Designated Sites View \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

**NEs advice** – [Marine site detail \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

**Defra factsheet** – [Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone factsheet \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

**Magic map** – [Magic Map Application \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)