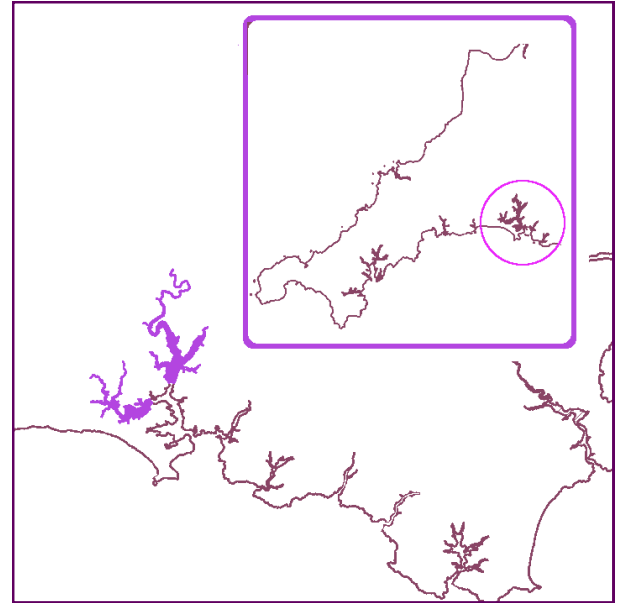


Tamar Estuaries Sites MCZ (Marine Conservation Zone)

Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 24.634' N	4° 12.420' W
B	50° 24.637' N	4° 11.943' W
C	50° 23.422' N	4° 13.856' W
D	50° 23.606' N	4° 14.105' W



The Tamar Estuary Sites Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) provides sheltered habitats which are subject to various salinity levels and tidal exposures. This diverse estuarine environment supports a number of features of ecological importance, including coarse sediments on the shore and biogenic reefs formed by the blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*). These living reefs are ecologically im-

portant as they provide a home for numerous species including seaweeds and animals such as sponges, barnacles, winkles and crabs. Areas of biogenic reef exposed at low tide provide a feeding ground for birds, whilst submerged areas are used by predators and scavengers like fish and crabs.

The site is particularly important as it is the only MCZ where the migratory fish the European smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*) is protected. The MCZ is also home to the native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), a species which experienced significant declines during the 20th century in European waters.

The site is made up of two separate areas; one in the Lynher estuary and the other encompassing part of the Tamar and Tavy estuaries. Both parts of the MCZ fall within the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site.

Reference: Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas. Tamar Estuary Sites MCZ
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UKMCZ00>

Feature	General management approach
Intertidal biogenic reefs	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds	Maintain in favourable condition
Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	Recover to favourable condition
Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>)	Recover to favourable condition