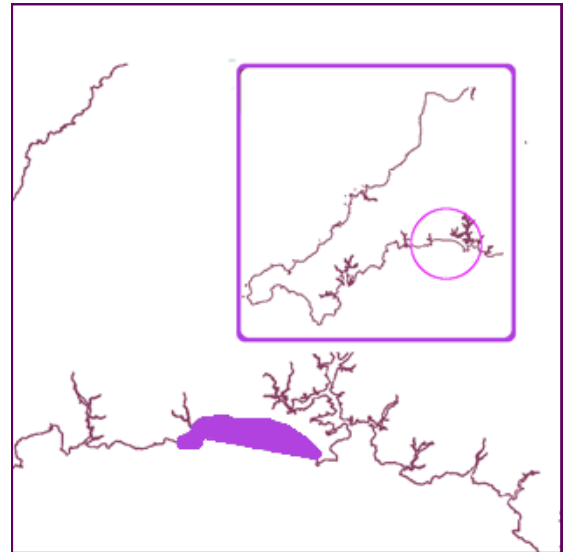


Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ (Marine Conservation Zone)

Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 21.032' N	4° 27.088' W
B	50° 21.057' N	4° 27.068' W
C	50° 19.145' N	4° 13.638' W
D	50° 20.375' N	4° 25.775' W
E	50° 19.705' N	4° 26.120' W
F	50° 19.654' N	4° 28.273' W
G	50° 19.991' N	4° 28.614' W



The Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ is an inshore site located on the south coast of Cornwall. The landward site boundary follows the coastline along the mean high water mark, from Hore Stone near Talland Bay in the west, to a point between Queener Point and Long Cove on Rame Head in the east. The seaward boundary is formed by a straight line across the bay, with a small extension jutting out to the south around Looe Island. The site covers an area of 52 km² and is approximately 25 meters deep at the deepest point.

Whitsand Bay is a 6 km stretch of sand, shingle and rock, with gullies that have been carved by strong tides and cross-currents. The MCZ encompasses a range of habitats supporting a diverse array of marine life. The site contains intertidal and subtidal sand and coarse sediment habitats, as well as intertidal rocky habitats.

The sediment communities support populations of bivalves and marine worms and provide habitats for commercially important fish and shellfish. There are extensive seagrass beds within the shallower part of the site. These are likely to provide a nursery ground for ecologically and commercially important species such as cuttlefish. The ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) has been recorded within sediment habitats in the site.

The site's intertidal rocky habitats are characterised by animals such as sponges, bryozoans, anemones and sea squirts, and support a high diversity of seaweeds and invertebrates. The rocks around Hannafore in Looe Bay are especially rich in intertidal species. The rocky habitats also support commercially important species such as common lobster and edible crab, and the rare giant goby has been recorded in mid-shore rockpools within the site.

Feature	General management approach
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Seagrass beds	Maintain in favourable condition
Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition
Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)	Recover to favourable condition
Sea-fan anemone (<i>Amphianthus</i>)	Recover to favourable condition
Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus auricula</i>)	Maintain in favourable condition

Further out to sea there are shipwrecks and areas of subtidal rocky reef that support pink sea-fans (*Eunicella verrucosa*) and rare sea-fan anemones, both of which are protected within the site.

Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus auricular*) and (*Haliclystus octoradiatus*) are also present within this MCZ.

Reference: [Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ](#)