Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Black Seabream Site Specific Evidence Packages

Supporting Document for the Black Seabream Management Package

Contents

SITE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE

This document provides site specific evidence for each of the three Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), including feature location & extent, levels of fishing activity and additional data sources on landings, which has been used as one source of best available evidence to inform the MCZ Assessment for each site for each relevant fishing activity. This document should be read in conjunction with the **Black Seabream Marine Conservation Zone Assessment Package**.

1. Purbeck Coast MCZ

1.1 General Description

Purbeck Coast MCZ was designated in 2019 and covers a stretch of the Dorset coast from Old Harry Rocks, Studland to Ringstead Bay in west Dorset. The site covers an area of approximately 282km^2 and protects a number of intertidal and subtidal habitats including sediment, intertidal rocks and maerl beds, all of which support a range of communities including seaweeds, sponges, bryzoans, hydroids, barnacles, sea cucumbers, tube worms and anemones. Specific species protected are Peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*), Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus* sp.) and black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*)[1].

Figure 1 shows a map of the boundary of the site and the location of designated habitats and species. Data on the extent and location of designated features is provided to Southern IFCA by Natural England as an evidence package. The best available evidence used to inform this document is the evidence package provided in 2023. For black seabream however there is additional evidence available at a finer spatial scale, this evidence has been compiled to help inform MCZ Assessments for this species, see Section 1.3 for details of the evidence base.

1.2 MCZ feature under assessment

This assessment relates to the feature of Black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) (nesting) which has a General Management Approach of 'Recover to a favourable condition'.

1.3 Evidence of black seabream using Purbeck Coast MCZ

Figure 2 summarises the location of Black Seabream Nesting sites as reported from a side scan sonar survey carried out by CEFAS and submitted to Natural England in 2021. The survey reported a high concentration of seabream nests from Worbarrow Bay to Kimmeridge and Swanage Bay to Old Harry Rocks. The reported postulated that the lack of nests in the central region could be a result of the south westerly winds at the start of the survey period[2].

Figure 3 displays the outcome of a 2022 Natural England project[3] to collate the existing evidence on the presence and extent of all known Black Seabream nesting sites in the UK. The report combines information from individuals and organizations around the UK and data identifying sites in Dorset includes a combination of remote sensing data, still images, videos

[1] Defra, 2019. Purbeck Coast Marine Conservation Zone - Purbeck Coast Marine Conservation Zone factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[2] Sperry, J. (2021). Black Bream Side-scan survey – Purbeck Coast, 2021. Cefas Project Report for Natural England
[3] Doggett, M. & Baldock, L. 2022. Present knowledge of black bream (Spondyliosoma cantharus) nesting grounds in the English Channel and beyond. A report to Natural England.

and written and verbal descriptions of field observations, the data includes side scan sonar survey data provided by Southern IFCA from a 2016 survey conducted in the area of

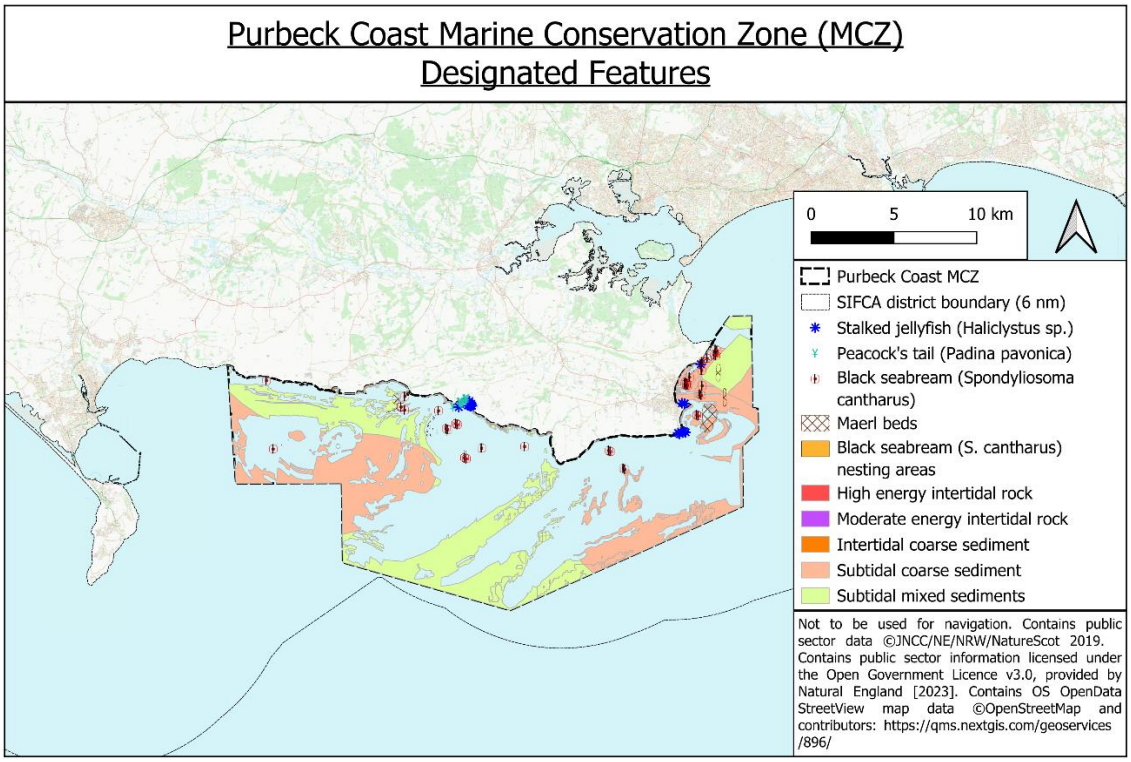

Figure 1. The Purbeck Coast MCZ with location and extent of designated features from the Natural England evidence base provided in 2023.

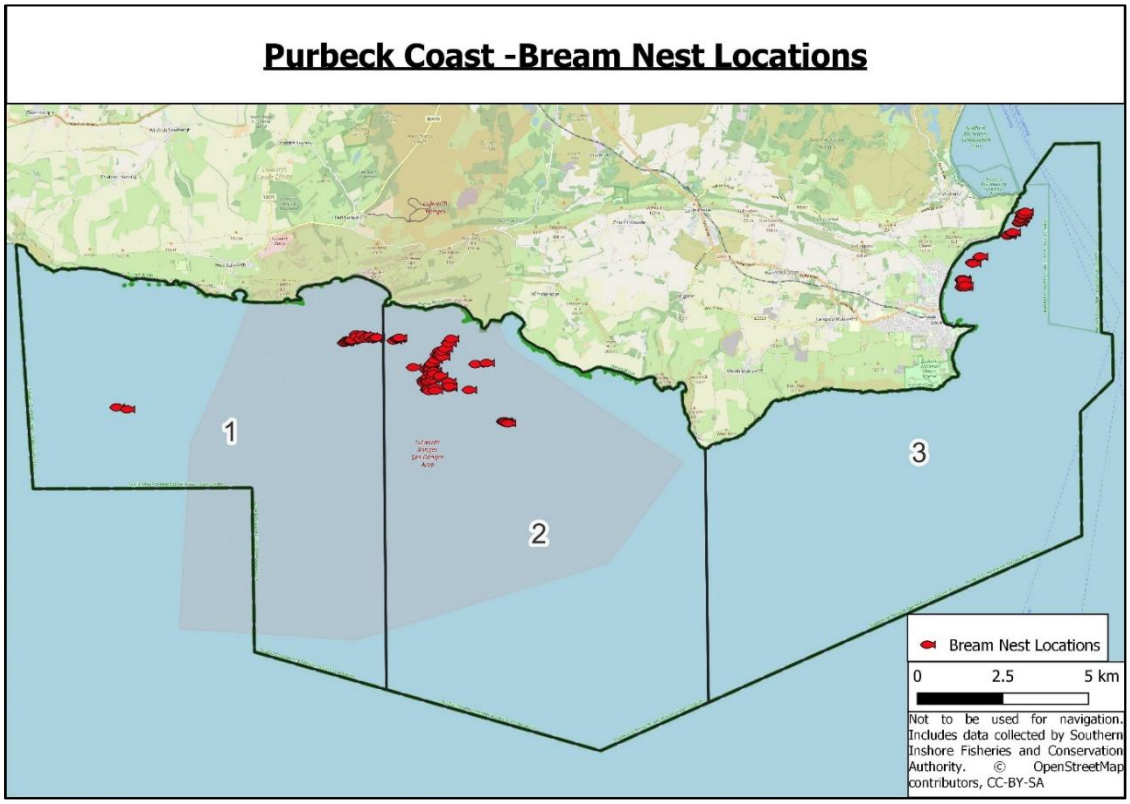

Figure 2. Black Seabream nesting locations as reported in the Cefas Black Seabream Side-scan Survey - Purbeck Coast to Southbourne Rough, 2021[2].

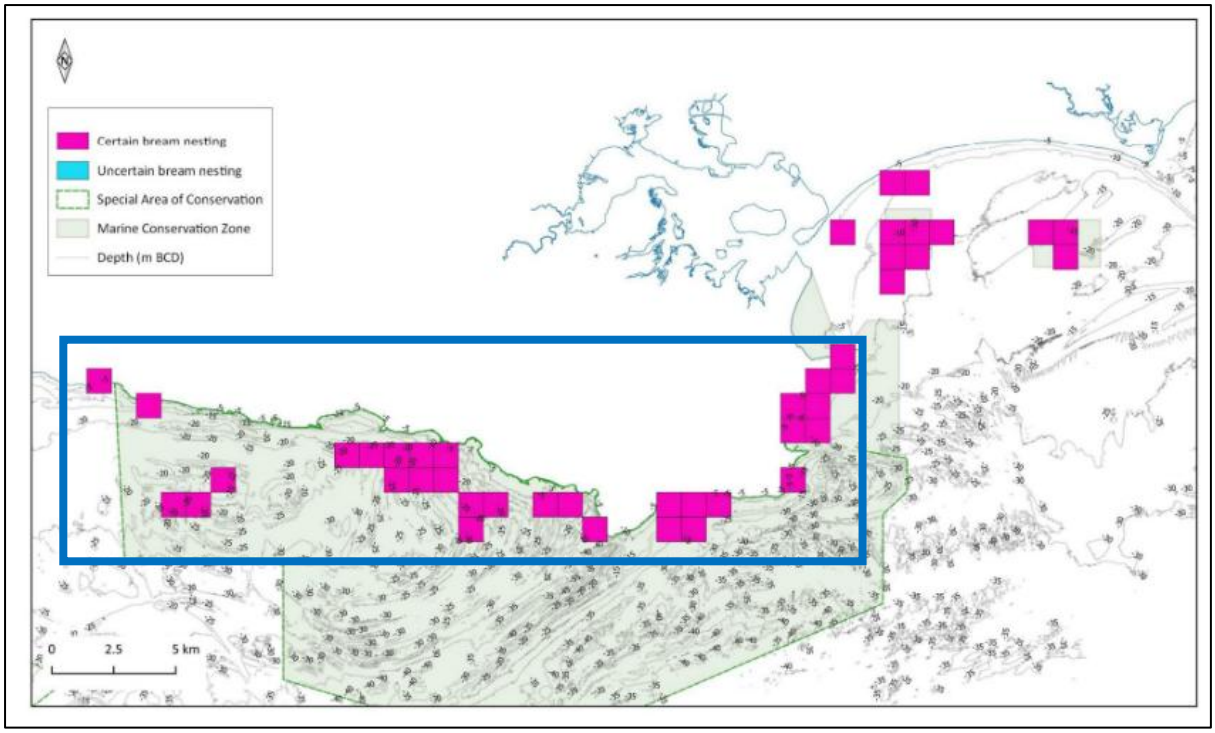

Figure 3. "Detailed distribution of known black bream nesting locations along the Dorset Coast. Contains OS data Crown copyright and database right 2021. Contains public sector information, licences under the Open Government Licence v3.0, from the Maritime and the Channel Coastal Observatory. Not to be used for navigation." – A figure taken from a Natural England Commissioned[3] report detailing the known bream nesting locations on the Dorset Coast. The blue box highlights the data around the Purbeck Coast MCZ.

Chapman's Pool. The resulting indication of nest site presence was compiled using GIS shapefiles, point data and broadscale area descriptions.

The data was assigned to a 1km^2 grid system, where data indicating nest presence overlapped with a grid square, the square was shaded (see Figure 3). For each shaded grid square, one or more nest sites could fall anywhere within the square.

This method was used to account for annual variation in nest location within suitable areas and to reduce the risk to breeding populations by accidental overlap with nests which may be increased if a precision chart of bream nesting areas was used that accounted for exact nest presence over only a short time frame[6].

Confidence levels in the location of Black seabream nests were defined by the Natural England project using an assessment matrix for nest presence and nest site extent as described below. Figure 3 refers to areas of certain and uncertain bream nesting sites, with the confidence levels referring to confidence in the data sources used to inform the project. A full description of the data confidence process used is given in section 2.2 of the Natural England project report.

Nest site presence high confidence:

"Verifiable evidence of nest presence supported by single or multiple records up to six years old. Some records may be older but there must be some records less than six years old. Evidence can take the form of photographs, video, or remote-sensing data."

Nest site presence low confidence:

"Unverified evidence only to indicate nest presence e.g., anecdotal, one-off angling reports with no images or remote sensing. Or the only available data are over 20 years old. Note:

reports of fishers targeting bream outside the breeding season of late March and mid-July should be discounted."

Nest site extent high confidence:

"Evidence exists on the distribution and/ or abundance of nests across a site AND data are less than 6 years old."

Nest site extent low confidence:

"There are no data to provide evidence of the distribution and/ or abundance of nests across a site. Or the only data are over 20 years old."

Data used within the Purbeck Coast MCZ, as stated in the report, has confidence levels ranging from Low to High, West to East[4].

1.3.1 Seasonality

The Purbeck Coast MCZ Factsheet developed by Defra in 2019[5] states that black seabream breed between April and July. The males are noted to remain at the nest site, guarding the nest until the eggs hatch and return to the same site to nest each year.

The Conservation Advice provided by Natural England[6] for the site includes advice on seasonality for Black seabream. A seasonality table (Table 1) is provided which illustrates the advice provided in green, stated on the Natural England designated sites view to represent *"the months in which significant numbers of each mobile designated feature are most likely to be present at the site during a typical calendar year. Months with significant numbers were highlighted on the basis of generic information on seasonal patterns of occurrence in published sources or from additional site specific surveys".* The advice also states that any assessment of potential impacts on the features must be based on up-to-date data and take account of population trends evident from the data provided and any other available information.

A further table (Table 2) is provided to represent information on seasonality gathered from peer-reviewed literature for the south coast of England combined with specific studies which included the Purbeck Coast MCZ. The full details of the relevant studies are included in the **Black Seabream Literature Review.**

Table 1: Seasonality advice for Black seabream in the Purbeck Coast MCZ provided through Natural England Conservation Advice.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Table 2: Seasonality evidence for Black seabream in the Purbeck Coast MCZ based on peer-reviewed literature included in the Literature Review.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

(Wilson, 1958; Lythgoe and Lythgoe, 1971; Pawson, 1995; Collins and Mallison, 2012; Dogget, 2018)

[4] Doggett, M. & Baldock, L. 2022. Present knowledge of black bream (Spondyliosoma cantharus) nesting grounds in the English Channel and beyond. A report to Natural England.
[5] Defra, 2019. Purbeck Coast Marine Conservation Zone - Purbeck Coast Marine Conservation Zone factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[6] Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas: Purbeck Coast MCZ

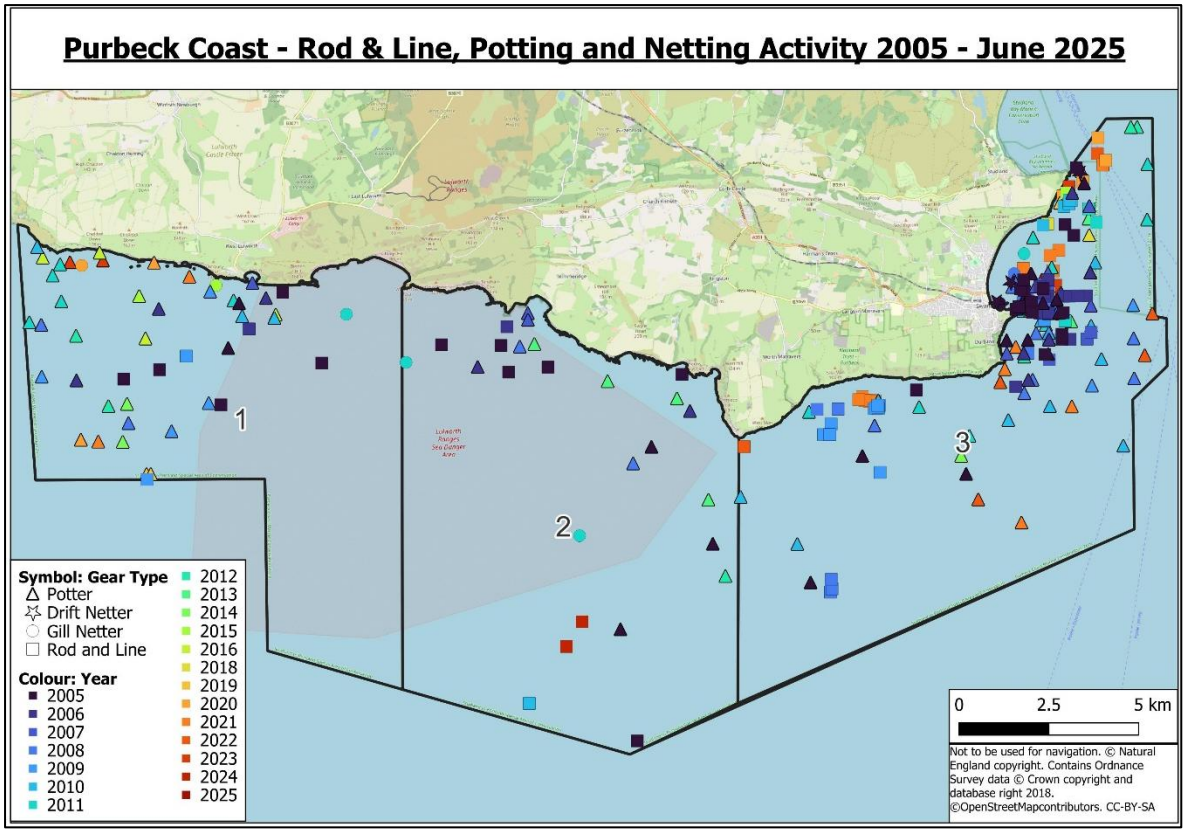

Figure 4. Rod and Line, Net fishing and Pot fishing activity recorded by Southern IFCA in the Purbeck Coast MCZ between 2005 and June 2025.

1.4 Fishing effort data – rod & line, net fishing, pot fishing

Figure 4 displays data on occurrence of different fishing gear types within the Purbeck Coast MCZ as recorded by Southern IFCA between 2005 and June 2025. The site has been split into three distinct areas to accommodate analysis of fishing activity patterns.

The yearly contributions of each fishing method to SIFCA fishing vessel sightings[7] are summarised in Figure 5. Areas 1 and 2 have been predominantly subject to pot fishing activity at low levels since 2005; whereas Area 3 has a more significant proportion of rod and line sightings per year. Area 3 saw a peak in rod and line sightings in 2009 (18), the overall level remaining low when considered over a year period. Combined sightings for all gear types in recent years (2020-2025) have remained below 10 with the exception of Area 3 in 2021(16). Levels of drift netting and gill netting are very low with drift netting not been seen to occur in the site since 2005 and the last sighting of gill netting being in Area 1 in 2020.

In Figure 6, sightings data has been combined for all years (2005-2025) and then the occurrence of each activity has been analysed by month. Both Areas 1 and 3 display peaks in rod and line activity sightings in May however, at the maximum this relates to less than 40 sightings in Area 3 and less than 5 in Area 1.

Potting activity peaked in March and September in Area 1 with an overall lower level of potting activity in the summer months than the autumn and winter months. Area 2 remained relativley constant from April to November however no potting sightings were reported between

[7] Note that sightings taken recorded by Southern IFCA is taken during patrols and is dependent on the location and duration of that patrol, this data therefore does not provide a full representation of fishing effort but provides a good indication of overall patterns and location of fishing effort.

December and March. Area 3 shows a general rise and deciline in pottting activity throughout the year with a peak in June.

Across all three areas there are few sightings of either drift or gill netting. Neither Areas 1 nor 2 have shown any drift netting activity; Area 3 contains only 3 sightings in June and October combined. Gill netting has been sighted more frequently than drift netting however commonly only one sighting in each month, asides from Area 3 which displays a peak of 4 sightings in October. It is not possible to discern a pattern in netting activity from the data available.

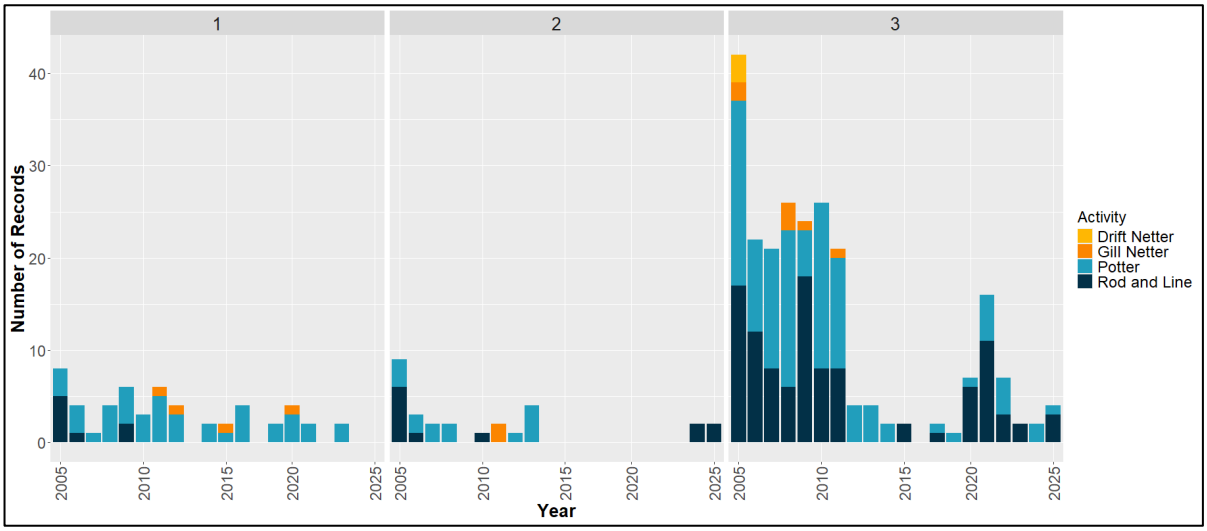

Figure 5. Sightings of fishing activity between 2005 and June 2025 in each of the three sub-areas of the Purbeck Coast MCZ separated by fishing method.

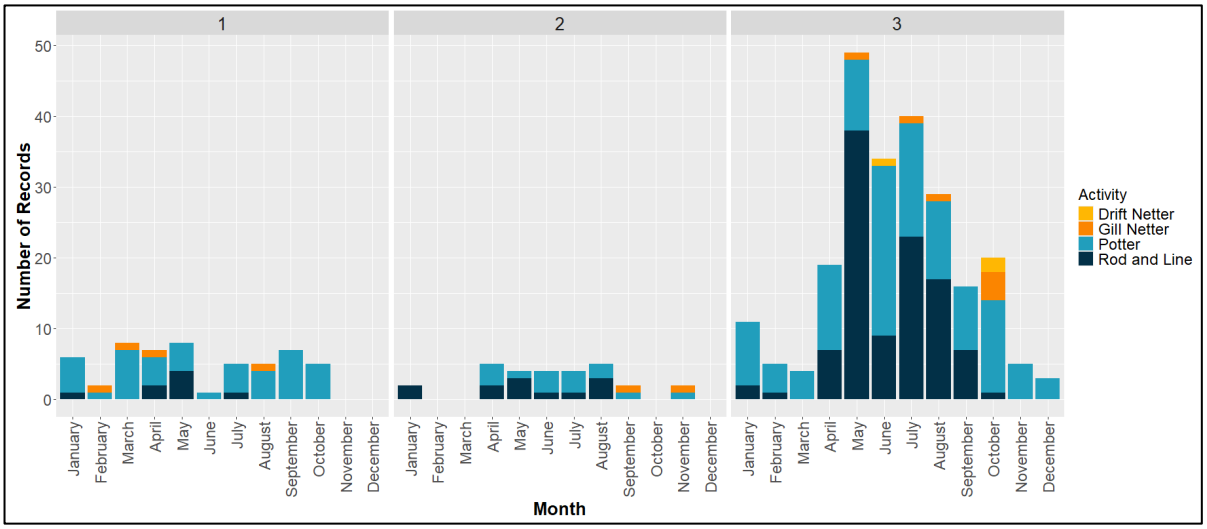

Figure 6. Total (all years combined) monthly fishing activity for all recorded gear types from 2005 to June 2025 in sub-areas 1: Area 1, 2: Area 2, and 3: Area 3 of the Purbeck Coast MCZ.

1.5 Fishing effort data – Southern IFCA data collection program for rod and line fisheries

In order to better understand the effort of black seabream fishing within the district, Southern IFCA carried out a targeted survey during the 2021 nesting season within the Dorset MCZs. The survey undertook repeated visits to the sites at key times to monitor black seabream

fishing patterns. Southern IFCA also received voluntary logbook data from charter fishers which contribute to the results of the survey. The voluntary logbook data was received through both the 2021 and 2022 nesting seasons. Data for the Purbeck Coast MCZ are summarised in Figure 7 and Table 3.

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) is defined as '*the number of Seabream caught per rod per hour*', therefore CPUE can only be calculated when the number of rods and time spent fishing is provided. Figure 7 displays a peak CPUE at the end of May (7). The three days during the survey period with more than one data point (2nd May 2021, 31st May 2021 and 16th June 2022) had mean CPUEs of 0.85, 1.95 and 2.93 respectively. Whilst this may display an anecdotal increase from early May to mid-June, it should be noted that the June data points are from a different year to the May data points. All CPUE data within the Purbeck Coast MCZ was gathered in Area 3.

As summarised in Table 1, the percentage of seabream caught that were retained was highest in Area 1 (35.4%) and lowest in Area 2 (15.4%). It must be noted that this data represents 2021 and 2022 only and angling practices may have changed and evolved in the period up to the present day.

Table 3. Data summary from the Southern IFCA black seabream nesting period survey for the Purbeck Coast MCZ.

Area	Average % of Black Bream Caught that were Retained	Average % of overall catch that was Black Bream	Mean CPUE across the survey period
1	35.4%	n/a	n/a
2	15.4%	n/a	n/a
3	21.5%	46.2% (*)	1.47

(*) Note that the % of overall catch made up of Black Bream for Area 3 should be viewed with caution as it is only representative of a single recorded figure.

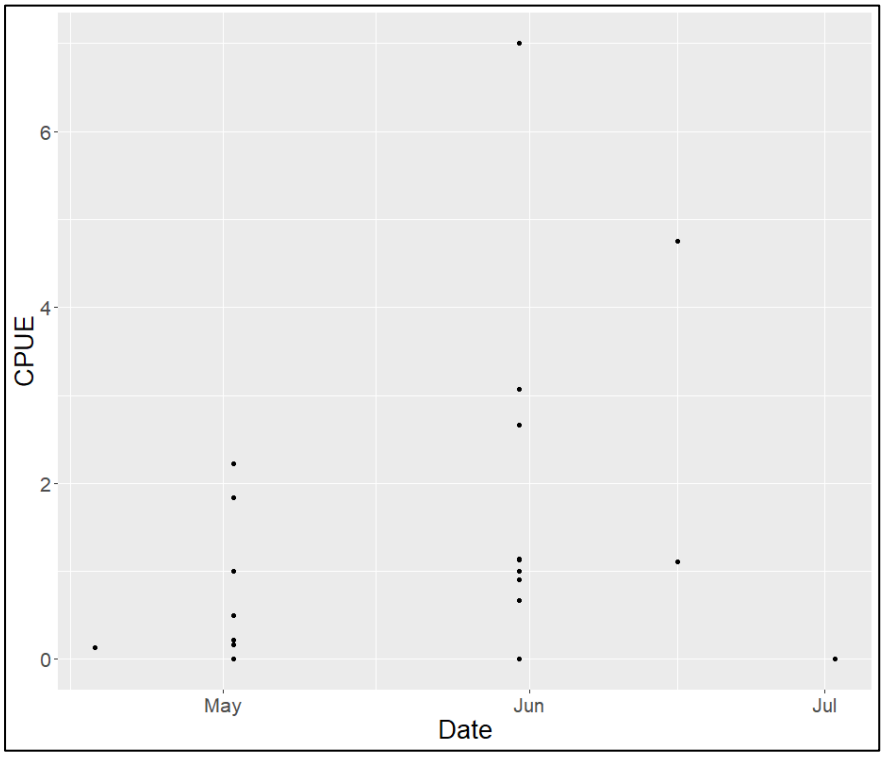

Figure 7. Trends in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of black seabream in the Purbeck Coast MCZ during the nesting season (data was collected in 2021 and 2022 with both years combined in this figure).

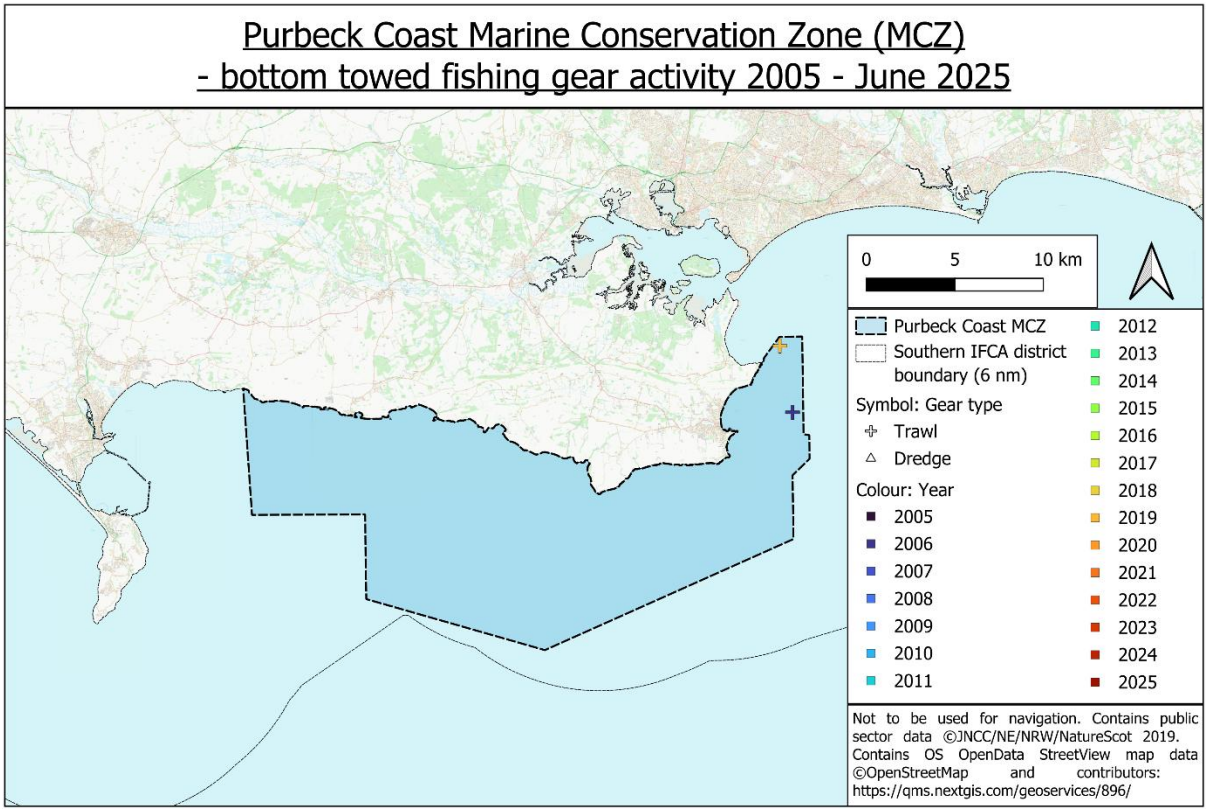

Figure 8. Bottom Towed Fishing Gear activity recorded by Southern IFCA in the Purbeck Coast MCZ between 2005 and June 2025.

1.6 Fishing effort data – bottom towed fishing gear

Sightings of bottom towed fishing gear between 2005 and June 2025 are shown in Figure 8. Activity is limited to trawling only and since 2016 has occurred outside of the area closed under the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016 (closed area in place due to Studland to Portland Special Area of Conservation), and since 2023 outside the area closed under the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023.

2. Poole Rocks MCZ

2.1 General Description

Poole Rocks MCZ was designated in 2013, with additional features added in 2019. The MCZ is an inshore site covering an area of 3.73km^2, lying to the east of the entrance to Poole Harbour and approximately 2-2.5km east of the beachfront at Sandbanks. The site protects an area of rocky outcrops within the sediment-dominated Poole Bay. The site is primarily comprised of silty sand and gravel and contains rocky outcrops which form patch reefs. The habitats support a variety of commercially important fish species, and named species Couch's

goby (*Gobius couchi*), Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and Black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*)[8,9].

Figure 9 shows a map of the boundary of the site and the location of designated habitats and species. Data on the extent and location of designated features is provided to Southern IFCA by Natural England as an evidence package. The best available evidence used to inform this document is the evidence package provided in 2023. For black seabream however there is additional evidence available at a finer spatial scale, this evidence has been compiled to help inform MCZ Assessments for this species, see Section 2.3 for details of the evidence base.

2.2 MCZ feature under assessment

This assessment relates to the feature of Black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) which has a General Management Approach of 'Recover to a favourable condition'.

2.3 Evidence of black seabream using Poole Rocks MCZ

Figure 10 summarises the location of black seabream nesting sites as reported from a side scan sonar survey carried out by CEFAS and submitted to Natural England in 2021. It is reported in the survey report that strong winds prior to the survey likely destroyed a quantity of nests within the MCZ boundary.

A 2022 Natural England project to collate existing evidence on the presence and extent of all known black seabream nesting sites in the UK is discussed in Section 1.3. Figure 11 shows the map from this project for Poole Rocks MCZ. The data is designated with a confidence level using an assessment matrix for nest presence and nest site extent, details of the confidence levels are provided in Section 1.3.

Overall, there is high confidence in data for Poole Rocks MCZ. Evidence is provided that sport anglers target seabream within the site and divers have observed the nests[10].

[8] Natural England. 2013. Poole Rocks Marine Conservation Zone factsheet v2 - Poole Rocks MCZ Factsheet - MCZ041 (naturalengland.org.uk)
[9] Defra, 2019. Poole Rocks Marine Conservation Zone - Poole Rocks Marine Conservation Zone factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[10] Sperry, J. (2021). Black Bream Side-scan survey – Purbeck Coast, 2021. Cefas Project Report for Natural England

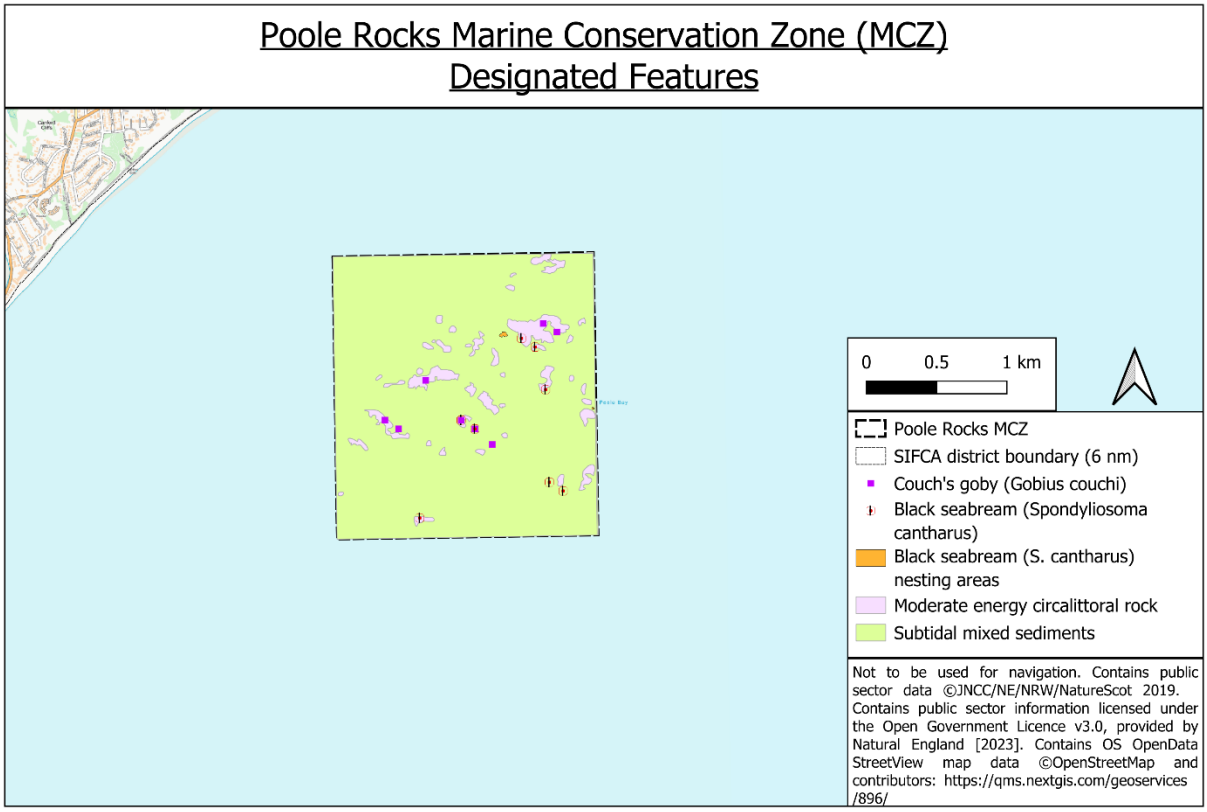

Figure 9. The Poole Rocks MCZ with location and extent of designated features from the Natural England evidence base provided in 2023.

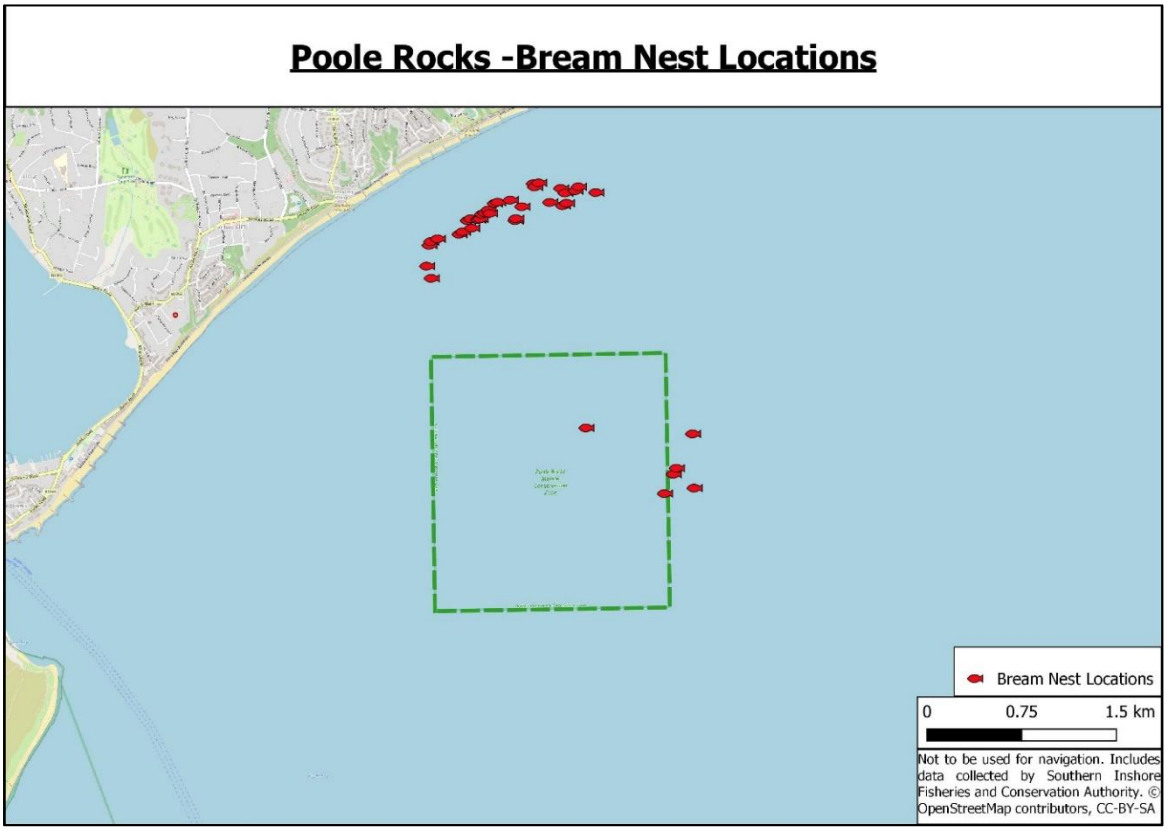

Figure 10. Black Seabream nesting locations as reported in the Cefas Black Seabream Side-scan Survey - Purbeck Coast to Southbourne Rough, 2021[2].

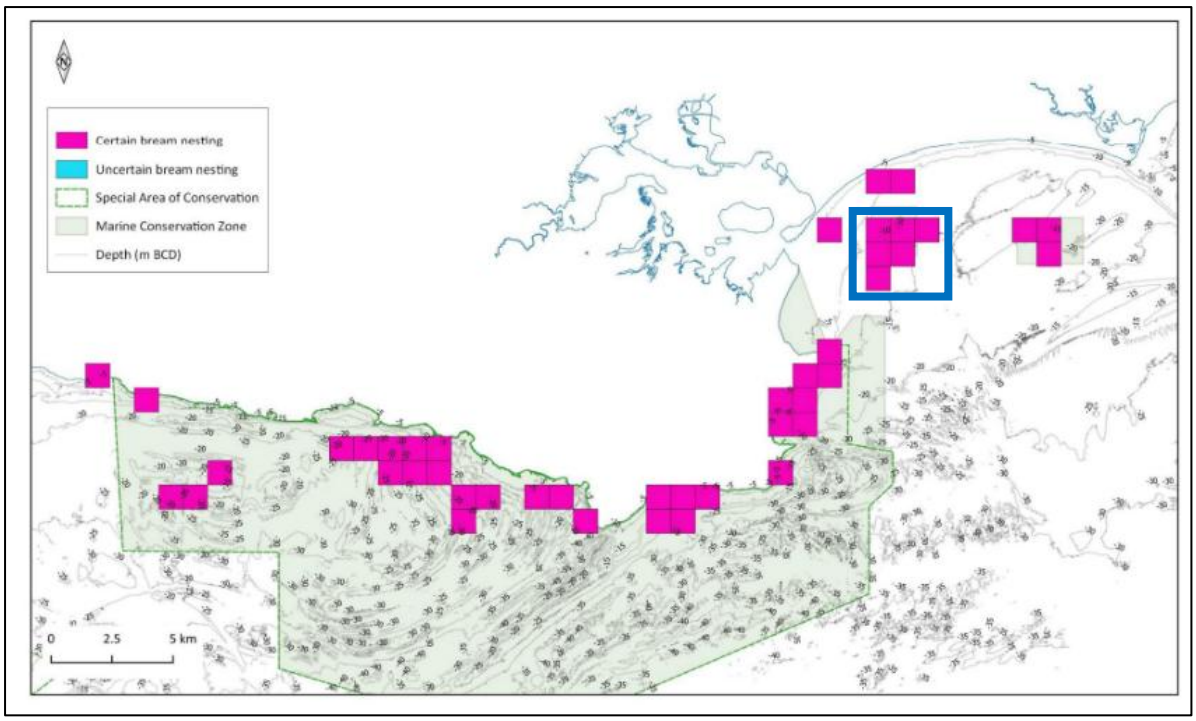

Figure 11. "Detailed distribution of known black bream nesting locations along the Dorset Coast. Contains OS data Crown copyright and database right 2021. Contains public sector information, licences under the Open Government Licence v3.0, from the Maritime and the Channel Coastal Observatory. Not to be used for navigation." – A figure taken from a Natural England Commissioned report detailing the known bream nesting locations on the Dorset Coast. The blue box highlights the area around the Poole Rocks MCZ.

2.3.1 Seasonality

The Poole Rocks MCZ Factsheet developed by Defra in 2019[11] states that black seabream breed between April and July. The males are noted to remain at the nest site, guarding the nest until the eggs hatch and return to the same site to nest each year.

The Conservation Advice provided by Natural England[12] for the site includes advice on seasonality for Black seabream (Table 4). For details of how this advice is formulated see Section 1.3.1.

A further table (Table 5) is provided to represent information on seasonality gathered from peer-reviewed literature for the south coast of England combined with specific studies which included the Poole Rocks MCZ. The full details of the relevant studies are included in the **Black Seabream Literature Review.**

Table 4: Seasonality advice for Black seabream in the Poole Rocks MCZ provided through Natural England Conservation Advice.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Table 5: Seasonality evidence for Black seabream in the Poole Rocks MCZ based on peer-reviewed literature included in the Literature Review.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

(Wilson, 1958; Lythgoe and Lythgoe, 1971; Pawson, 1995; Collins and Mallison, 2012; Dogget, 2018)

[11] Defra, 2019. Poole Rocks Marine Conservation Zone - Poole Rocks Marine Conservation Zone factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[12] Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas: Poole Rocks MCZ

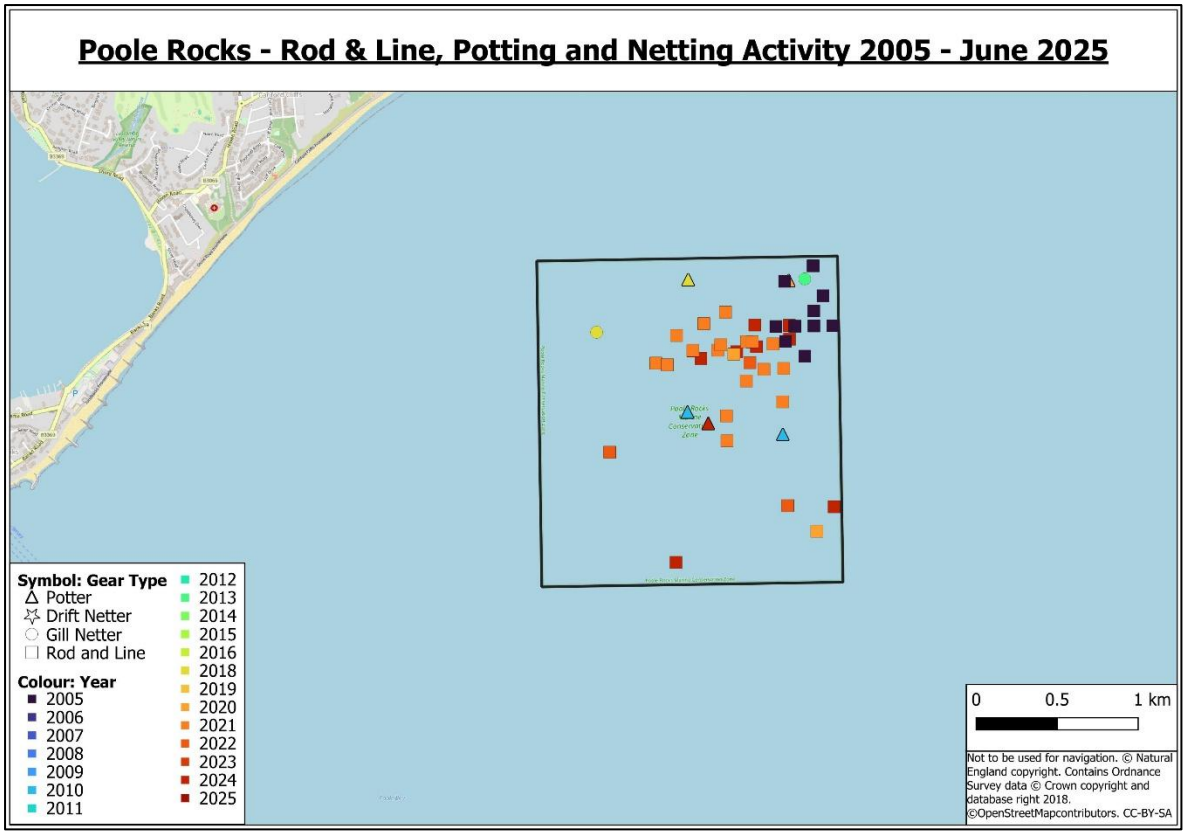

Figure 12. Rod and Line, Net fishing and Pot fishing activity recorded by Southern IFCA in the Poole Rocks MCZ between 2005 and June 2025.

2.4 Fishing effort – rod & line, net fishing, pot fishing

Figure 12 displays data on occurrence of different fishing gear types within the Poole Rocks MCZ as recorded by Southern IFCA between 2005 and June 2025. Activity is predominantly rod and line with yearly contributions of each fishing method to the sightings data summarised in Figure 13. Activity in the Poole Rocks MCZ displays a clear peak of rod and line fishing in 2021.

In Figure 14, sightings data has been combined for all years (2005-2025) and then the occurrence of each activity has been analysed by month. Rod and line fishing activity peaks from April to June (maximum number for a single month is below 30, commonly below 10) however netting and potting display no distinct trends and remain at low levels throughout the year. Overall sightings of net fishing and pot fishing are low for all years where data is available.

There is no observed drift netting activity taking place within the site. Occurences of gill net fishing activity are low and not consistent between years. At a monthly level, when gill net fishing is observed to occur it is focused in January, February and November.

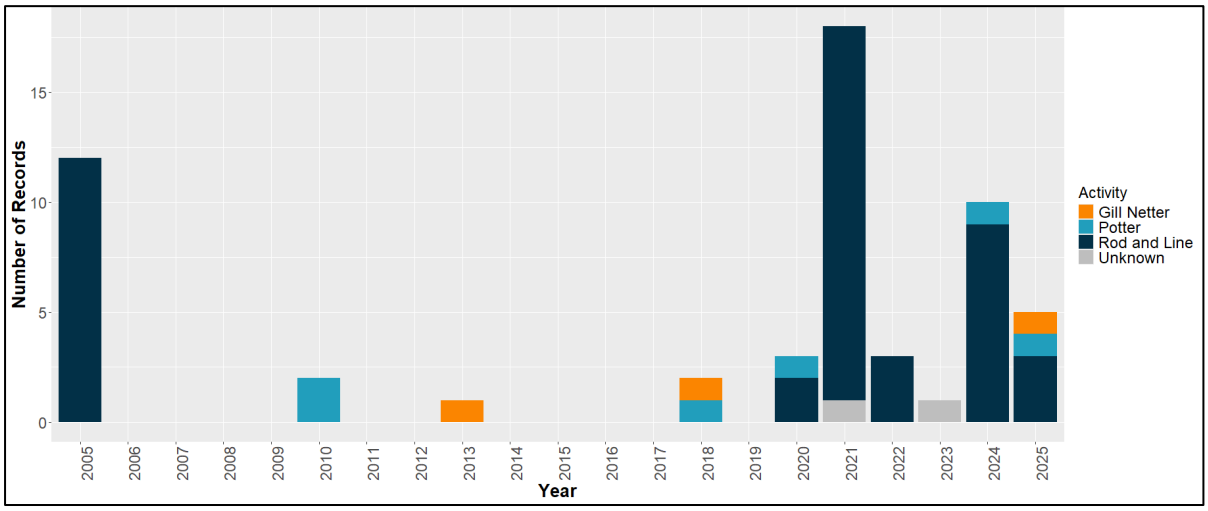

Figure 13. Sightings of fishing activity between 2005 and June 2025 in Poole Rocks MCZ separated by fishing method.

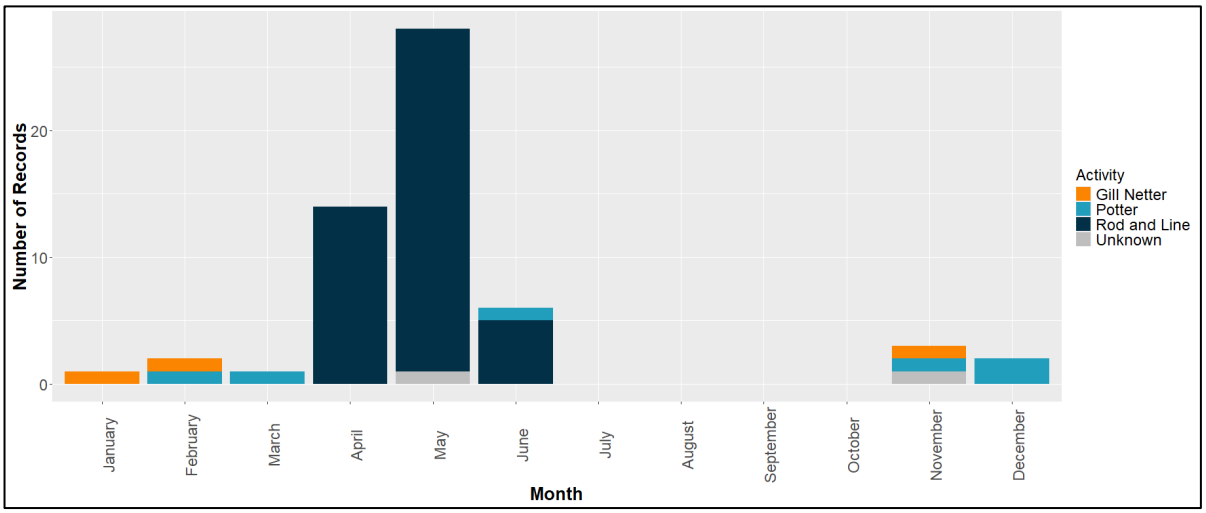

Figure 14. Total (all years combined) monthly fishing activity for all recorded gear types from 2005 to June 2025 in Poole Rocks MCZ.

2.5 Fishing effort data – Southern IFCA data collection program for rod and line fisheries

Data for the Poole Rocks MCZ from the Southern IFCA data collection program detailed in Section 1.5 are summarised in Figure 15 and Table 6.

The highest CPUE occurred on the 31st May 2021 (10) however when compared to the other data points this is an anomalously high CPUE for the area. The two days with more than 1 data point were May 2nd 2021, and May 31st 2021 with mean CPUE values of 0.93 and 0.83 respectively with the outlying point removed. In addition, black seabream made up an average of 44.8% of the total catch of fish submitted in voluntary charter vessel logbooks and the mean CPUE across the survey was 0.72.

Table 6 displays the percentage of bream caught that were retained during the survey in the Poole Rocks MCZ (15.4%). It must be noted that this data represents 2021 and 2022 only and angling practices may have changed and evolved in the period up to the present day.

Table 6. Data summary from the Southern IFCA black seabream nesting period survey for Poole Rocks MCZ.

Average % of Black Bream Caught that were Retained	Average % of overall catch that was Black Bream	Mean CPUE across the survey period
15.4%	44.8%	0.72

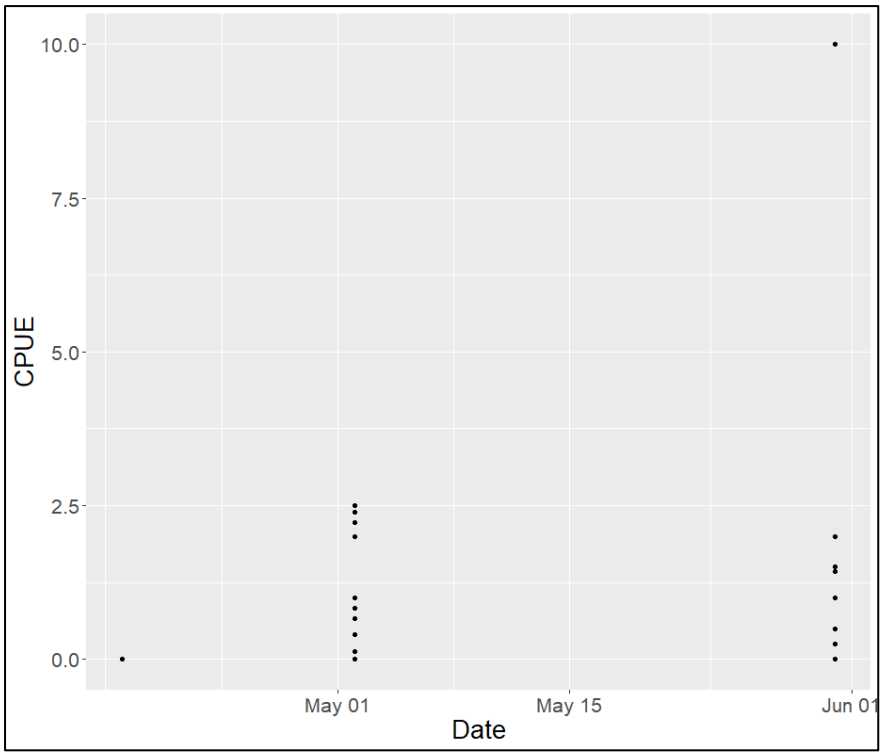

Figure 15. Trends in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of black seabream in the Poole Rocks MCZ during the nesting season (data was collected in 2021 and 2022 with both years combined in this figure).

2.6 Fishing effort data – bottom towed fishing gear

There are no sightings data of bottom towed fishing gear activity within the Poole Rocks MCZ as the activity has been prohibited from the entirety of the site since 2013.

3. Southbourne Rough MCZ

3.1 General Description

Southbourne Rough MCZ was designated in 2019 and covers an area of the Dorset inshore waters to the east of Poole Rocks MCZ, off of Southbourne and Hengistbury Head. The site is located in an area of patchy reefs and covers a rectangular area of 5km$^{2.}$ The site protects the mobile species Black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) during the nesting stage of their lifecycle[13].

[13] Defra, 2019. Southbourne Rough Marine Conservation Zone - Southbourne Rough Marine Conservation Zone factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)

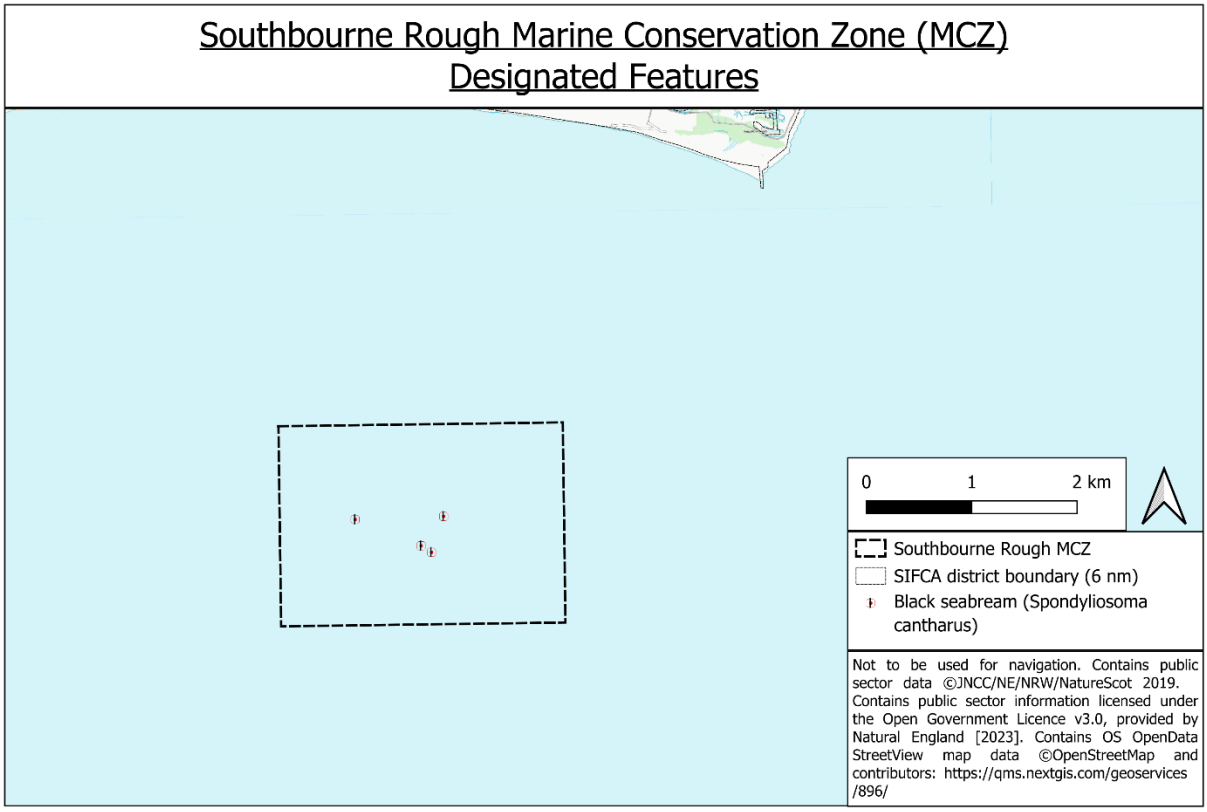

Figure 16. The Poole Rocks MCZ with location and extent of designated features from the Natural England evidence base provided in 2023.

Figure 16 shows a map of the boundary of the site and the location of designated habitats and species. Data on the extent and location of designated features is provided to Southern IFCA by Natural England as an evidence package. The best available evidence used to inform this document is the evidence package provided in 2023. For black seabream however there is additional evidence available at a finer spatial scale, this evidence has been compiled to help inform MCZ Assessments for this species, see Section 3.3 for details of the evidence base.

3.2 MCZ feature under assessment

This assessment relates to the feature of Black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) (nesting) which has a General Management Approach of 'Recover to a favourable condition'.

3.3 Evidence of black seabream using Poole Rocks MCZ

A 2022 Natural England project to collate existing evidence on the presence and extent of all known black seabream nesting sites in the UK is discussed in Section 1.3. Figure 17 shows the map from this project for Southbourne Rough MCZ. The data is designated with a confidence level using an assessment matrix for nest presence and nest site extent, details of the confidence levels are provided in Section 1.3. Overall, there is high confidence in the presence of Black Seabream nesting sites Southbourne Rough[14]. Note that there is no data from the side scan sonar survey carried out by CEFAS and submitted to Natural England in 2021 for Southbourne Rough MCZ.

[14] Doggett, M. & Baldock, L. 2022. Present knowledge of black bream (Spondyliosoma cantharus) nesting grounds in the English Channel and beyond. A report to Natural

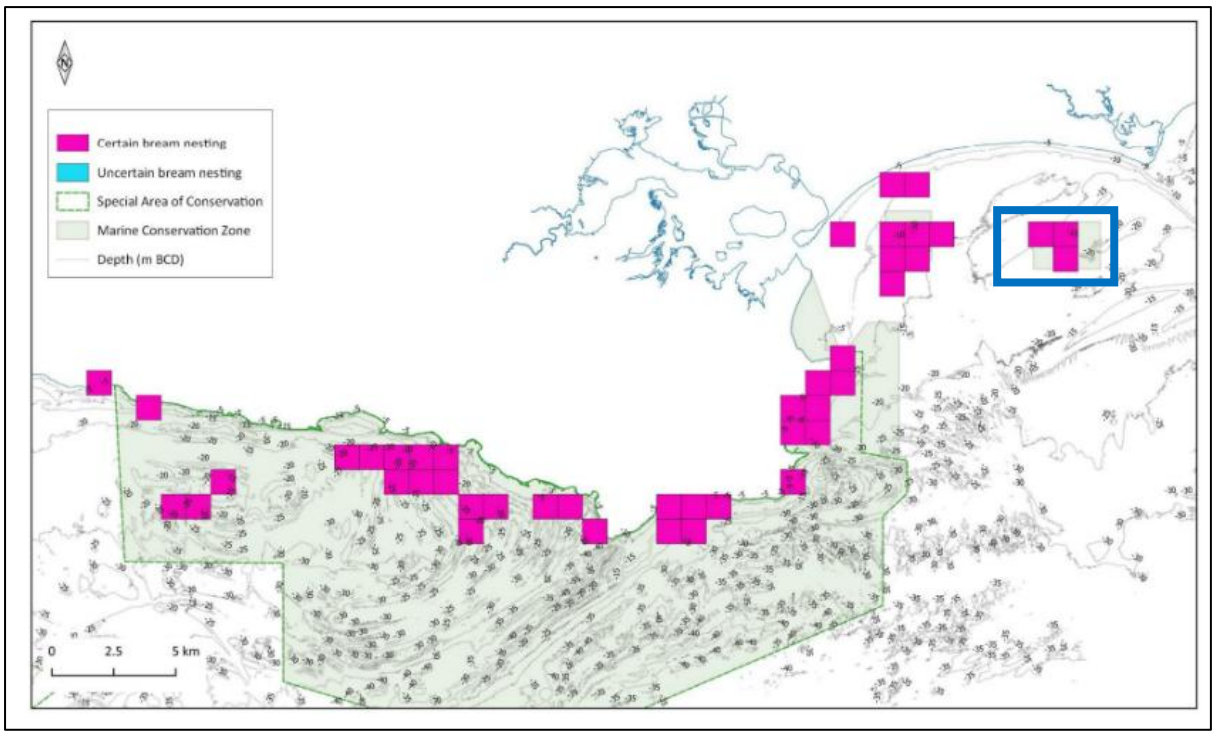

Figure 172. "Detailed distribution of known black bream nesting locations along the Dorset Coast. Contains OS data Crown copyright and database right 2021. Contains public sector information, licences under the Open Government Licence v3.0, from the Maritime and the Channel Coastal Observatory. Not to be used for navigation." – A figure taken from a Natural England Commissioned[18] report detailing the known bream nesting locations on the Dorset Coast. The blue box highlights the data for Southbourne Rough MCZ.

3.3.1 Seasonality

The Southbourne Rough MCZ Factsheet developed by Defra in 2019[15] states that black seabream breed between April and July. The males are noted to remain at the nest site, guarding the nest until the eggs hatch and return to the same site to nest each year. The factsheet states that there is evidence that black seabream have been returning to the site to breed for approximately 14 years.

The Conservation Advice provided by Natural England[16] for the site includes advice on seasonality for Black seabream (Table 7). For details of how this advice is formulated see Section 1.3.1.

A further table (Table 8) is provided to represent information on seasonality gathered from peer-reviewed literature for the south coast of England combined with specific studies which included the Southbourne Rough MCZ. The full details of the relevant studies are included in the **Black Seabream Literature Review.**

Table 7: Seasonality advice for Black seabream in the Southbourne Rough MCZ provided through Natural England Conservation Advice.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

[15] Defra, 2019. Southbourne Rough Marine Conservation Zone - Southbourne Rough Marine Conservation Zone factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[16] Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas: Southbourne Rough MCZ

Table 8: Seasonality evidence for Black seabream in the Southbourne Rough MCZ based on peer-reviewed literature included in the Literature Review.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

(Wilson, 1958; Lythgoe and Lythgoe, 1971; Pawson, 1995; Collins and Mallison, 2012; Dogget, 2018)

3.4 Fishing effort – rod & line, net fishing, pot fishing

Figure 18 displays data on occurrence of different fishing gear types within the Southbourne Rough MCZ between 2005 and June 2025. Activity is predominantly rod and line with contributions from gill netting and potting, noting that the last potting sighting was in 2013. Yearly contributions of each fishing method to the sightings data are summarised in Figure 19. Fishing activity appears to peak in 2021.

In Figure 20, sightings data has been combined for all years (2005-2025) and then the occurrence of each activity has been analysed by month. Rod and line fishing activity peaks in May (20 occurences) but otherwise is at a low level (below 5 sightings per month), however, netting and potting display no distinct trends througout the year and remain at low levels both between years and by monthly analysis.

There is no observed drift netting activity taking place within the site. Occurences of gill net fishing activity, although increased from 2023-2025 onwards remain low with less than 2.5 sightings in a year. At a monthly level, when gill net fishing is observed to occur it is focused in January, April and December.

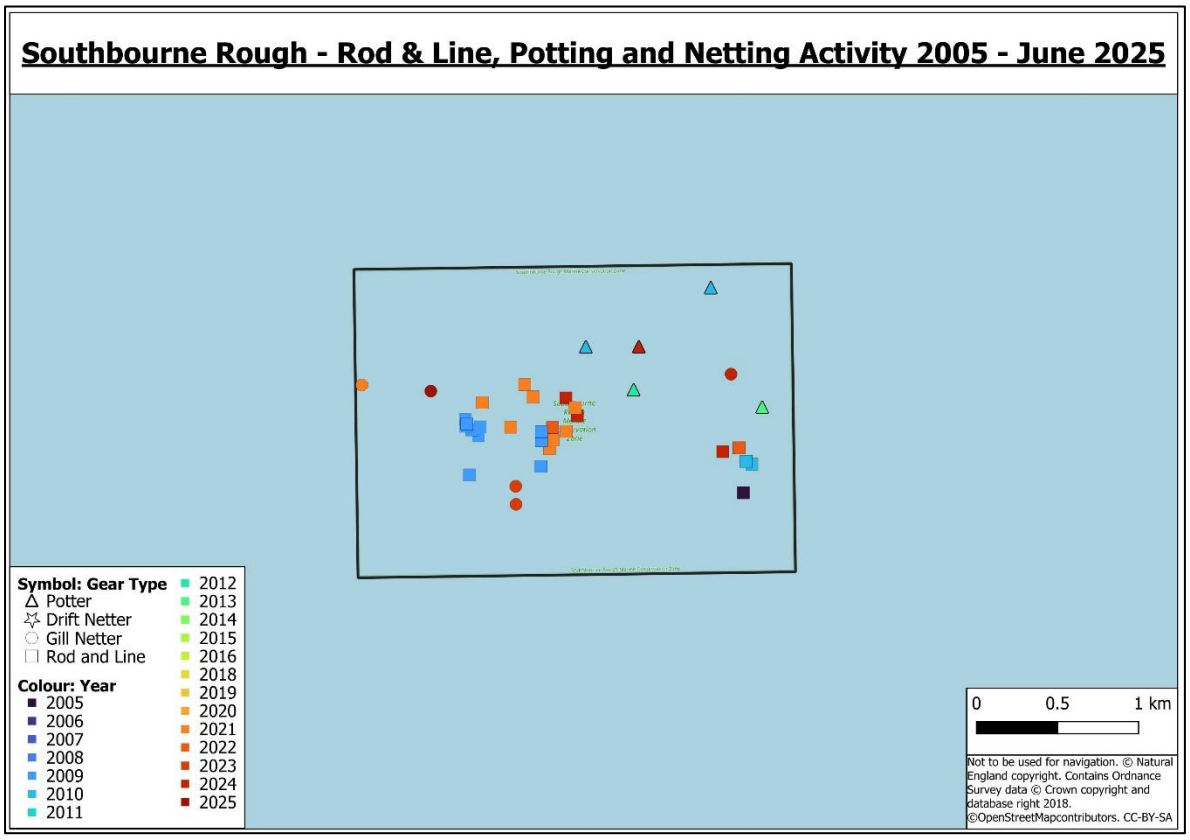

Figure 18. Rod and Line, Net fishing and Pot fishing activity recorded by Southern IFCA in the Southbourne Rough MCZ between 2005 and June 2025.

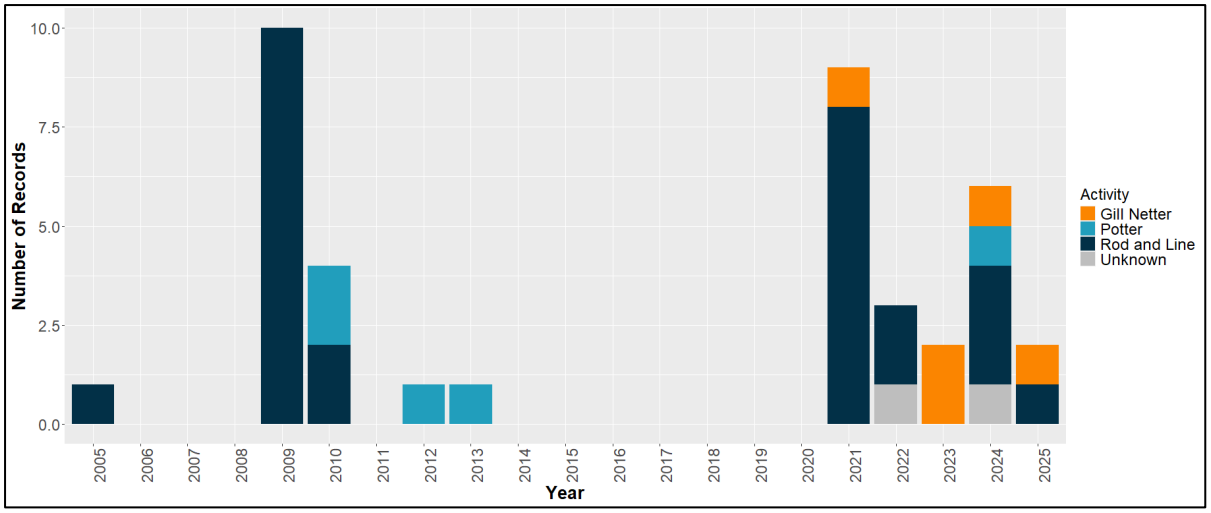

Figure 19. Sightings of fishing activity between 2005 and June 2025 in the Southbourne Rough MCZ separated by fishing method.

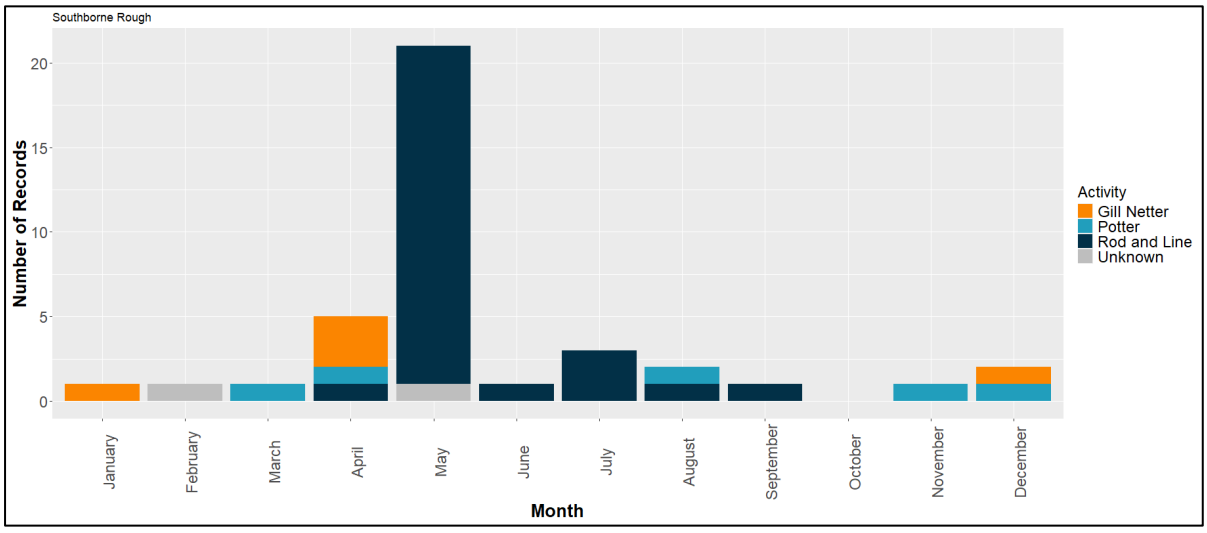

Figure 20. Total (all years combined) monthly fishing activity for all recorded gear types from 2005 to June 2025 in the Southbourne Rough MCZ.

3.5 Fishing effort data – Southern IFCA data collection program for rod and line fisheries

Data for the Southbourne Rough MCZ from the Southern IFCA data collection program detailed in Section 1.5 are summarised in Figure 21 and Table 9.

The highest CPUE occurred on the 2nd July 2021 (2.78). The three days surveyed with more than 1 data point were May 2nd 2021, May 31st 2021 and July 2nd 2021 with mean CPUE values of 0.41, 1.15 and 1.43. In addition, black seabream made up an average of 24.5% of the total catch of fish submitted in voluntary charter vessel logbooks and the mean CPUE across the survey was 0.86.

Table 9 displays the percentage of seabream caught that were retained during the survey in the Southbourne Rough MCZ (21.5%). It must be noted that this data represents 2021 and 2022 only and angling practices may have changed and evolved in the period up to the present day.

Table 9. Data summary from the Southern IFCA black seabream nesting period survey for Southbourne Rough MCZ.

Average % of Bream Caught That Are Retained	Average % of overall catch that are Bream	Mean CPUE across the survey period
21.5%	24.5%	0.86

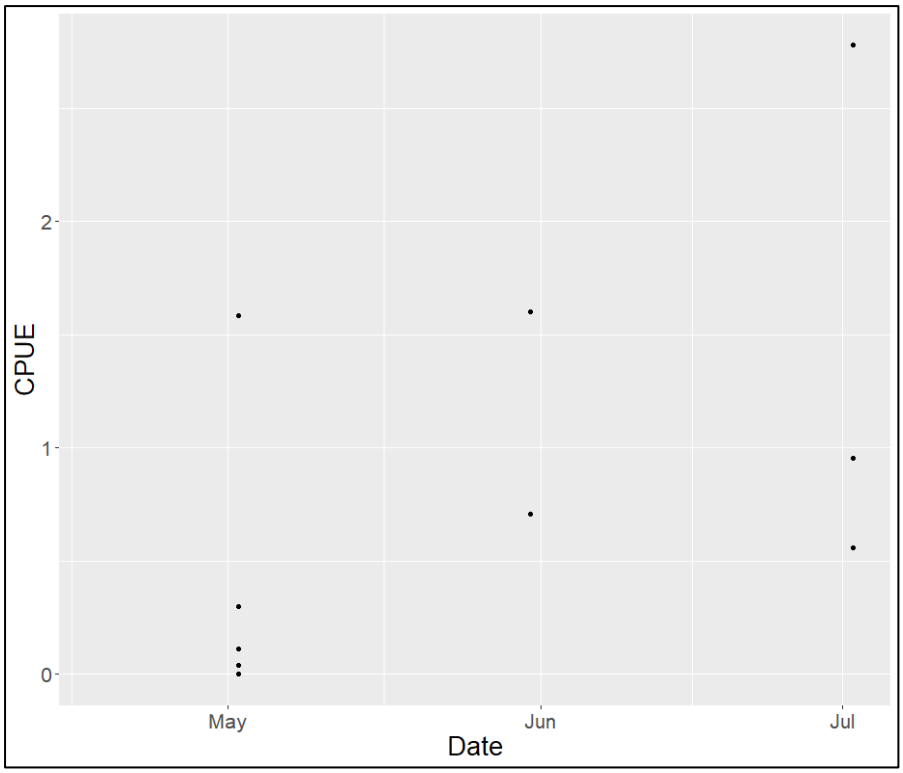

Figure 21. Trends in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of black seabream in the Southbourne Rough MCZ during the nesting season (data was collected in 2021 and 2022 with both years combined in this figure).

3.6 Fishing effort data – bottom towed fishing gear

Sightings of bottom towed fishing gear between 2005 and June 2025 are shown in Figure 22. Activity is limited to trawling only.

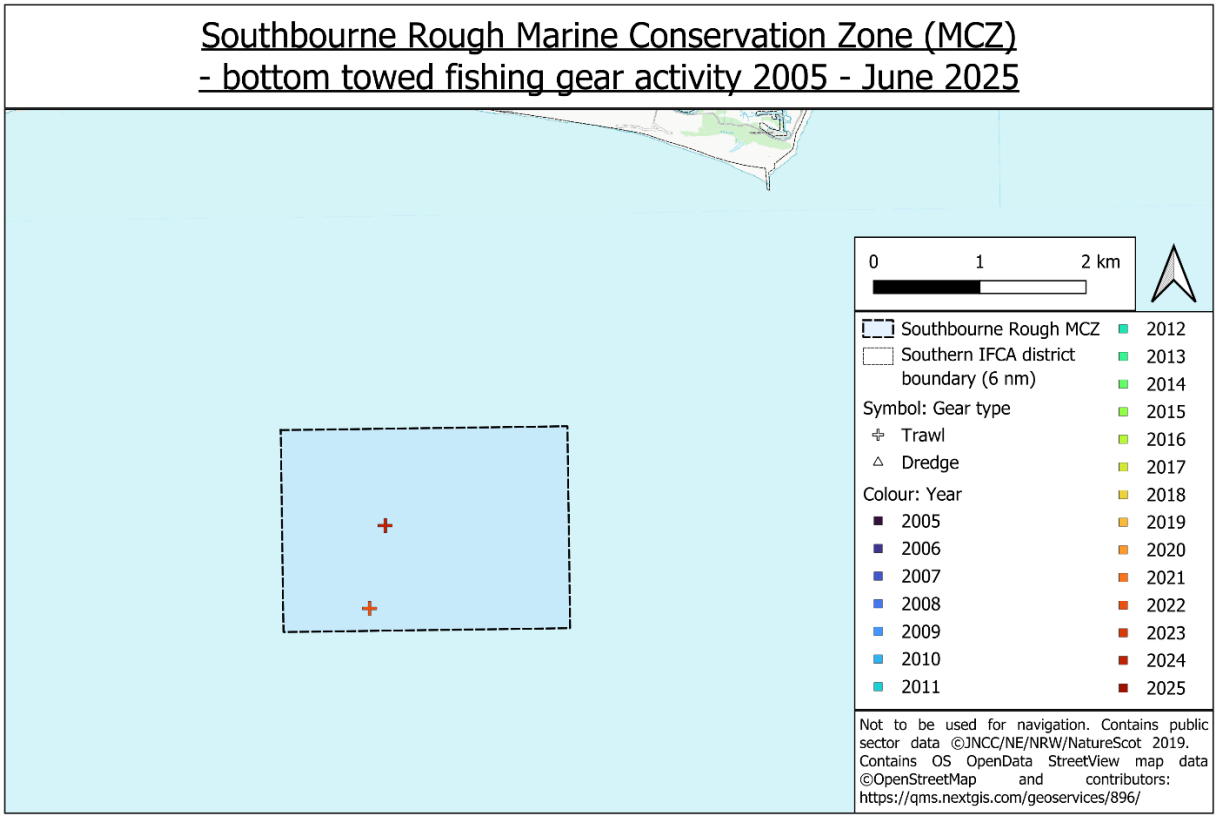

Figure 22. Bottom Towed Fishing Gear activity recorded by Southern IFCA in the Southbourne Rough MCZ between 2005 and June 2025.