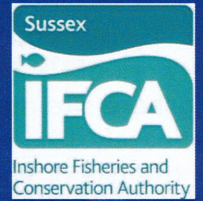


Sussex IFCA Utopia MCZ Voluntary Code of Conduct



These voluntary measures have been put in place to support the management of the MCZ, support the elasmobranch (sharks and rays) fishery and help achieve the best conservation outcomes for the site.

- Consider practicing and promoting catch and release.
Purpose: To support a sustainable fishery.
- Use circle, barbless or de-barbed hooks when fishing.
Purpose: To minimise fish damage and enable easy unhooking, to reduce fish mortality post catch and release.
- Lift fish out of the water using a landing net, unhook the fish whilst in the landing net and return to sea quickly if practicing catch and release.
Purpose: To minimise damage and promote survival of returned fish.
- Wet hands before handling fish carefully and if a photograph is desired, support the fish while taking a photograph and unhooking.
Purpose: To promote good handling and unhooking practice, minimising damage and increase potential survivability of returned fish.
- If retaining fish, dispatch cleanly and quickly.
Purpose: For fish welfare.
- Return female fish with eggs.
Purpose: To allow eggs to hatch and contribute to the next generation.
- Use methods that minimise damage to sensitive areas. Consider drifting where practicable or a lower impact anchor.
Purpose: To minimise rocky reef damage.
- Maintain a log of elasmobranch captures. Please see The Shark Trust website www.thesharktrust.org for more information.
Purpose: To provide important information to help inform management.
- Encourage other fishers to understand and support the voluntary code.
- Record and report any information on tagged fish and return them alive.



UTOPIA

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE

Fisheries Management Measures Summary

Utopia Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is one of a network of UK Marine Protected Areas. The small inshore site measures 2.7km² and is located approximately 10km south of Selsey Bill and 20km east of the Isle of Wight.

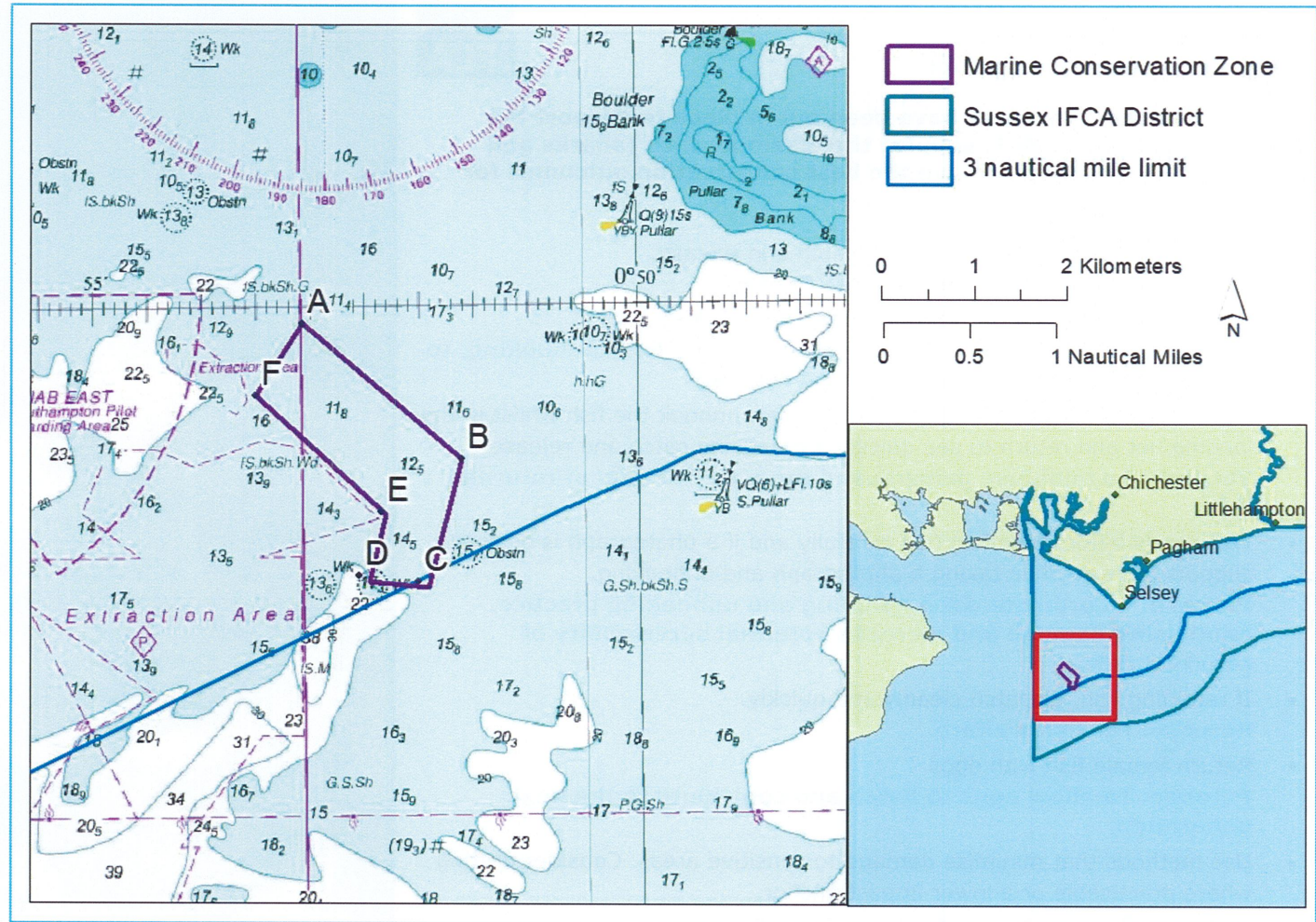
The Utopia MCZ is a reef that consists of an area of bedrock and large boulders that host rich communities of fragile sponges, corals, sea fans, cup corals and anemones. The established animal communities are principally dominated by large, slow growing species such as branching sponges with hard, crinkly 'petals' providing hiding places for small fish, prawns and crabs. The area also provides a suitable habitat to support tope pupping.

Utopia MCZ legal requirements

Under the Sussex IFCA Marine Protected Area Byelaw and associated Utopia MCZ Schedule, it is prohibited for any person to:

- Fish with towed gear in the designated area
- Fish with towed gear within 0.5 nm of the designated area without a vessel information and monitoring system fitted

Towed gear on vessels which are not fishing through the designated area must be secured and stowed. Please contact Sussex IFCA on 01273 454407 if you have information on any boat or person not complying with the statutory management for Utopia MCZ.



Designated area co-ordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	50° 39.93' N	00° 53.17' W
B	50° 39.12' N	00° 51.72' W
C	50° 38.37' N	00° 52.03' W
D	50° 38.41' N	00° 52.58' W
E	50° 38.81' N	00° 52.42' W
F	50° 39.51' N	00° 53.61' W

Inspections & Powers

Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers have the legal powers to board and inspect any vessel and inspect persons who may have been fishing. Please cooperate and support fisheries officers if you are inspected. Failure to comply with a fisheries officer's reasonable request during an inspection is an offence.

To view or obtain a copy of the Marine Protected Area Byelaw and Utopia MCZ management, please go to our website www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk or contact our office on 01273 454407.