

# Schedule 5 of the Marine Protected Areas Byelaw 2023

## Beachy Head East Marine Conservation Zone Management Factsheet



**Do you fish within, or otherwise use Beachy Head East Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)?**

**If so, then you need to know about our new fisheries management proposal for this protected site:**

### **What is being proposed and why?**

- Each IFCA has a duty to introduce fisheries management for each MCZ within its District
- This management must:
  - o Protect and recover sensitive marine habitats
  - o Promote sustainable fisheries
  - o Meet the Conservation Objectives (see below)
- Currently there is no site-specific fisheries management of the site

### **How is the management developed?**

- Natural England provides details of sensitive species and habitats, or “features”, for each MCZ
- Sussex IFCA identifies the interactions between features and fishing gear types that are not compatible with the Conservation Objectives, which either state that a feature must be:
  - o Maintained in favourable condition
  - o Recovered to a favourable condition
- Sussex IFCA proposes the management required to achieve the Conservation Objectives
- The IFCA seeks advice on the management proposal from stakeholders, and informally consults the public and local fishers
- The proposed management goes through formal consultation before being submitted for quality assurance and to be signed into law

Sussex



## Information about the Beachy Head East MCZ

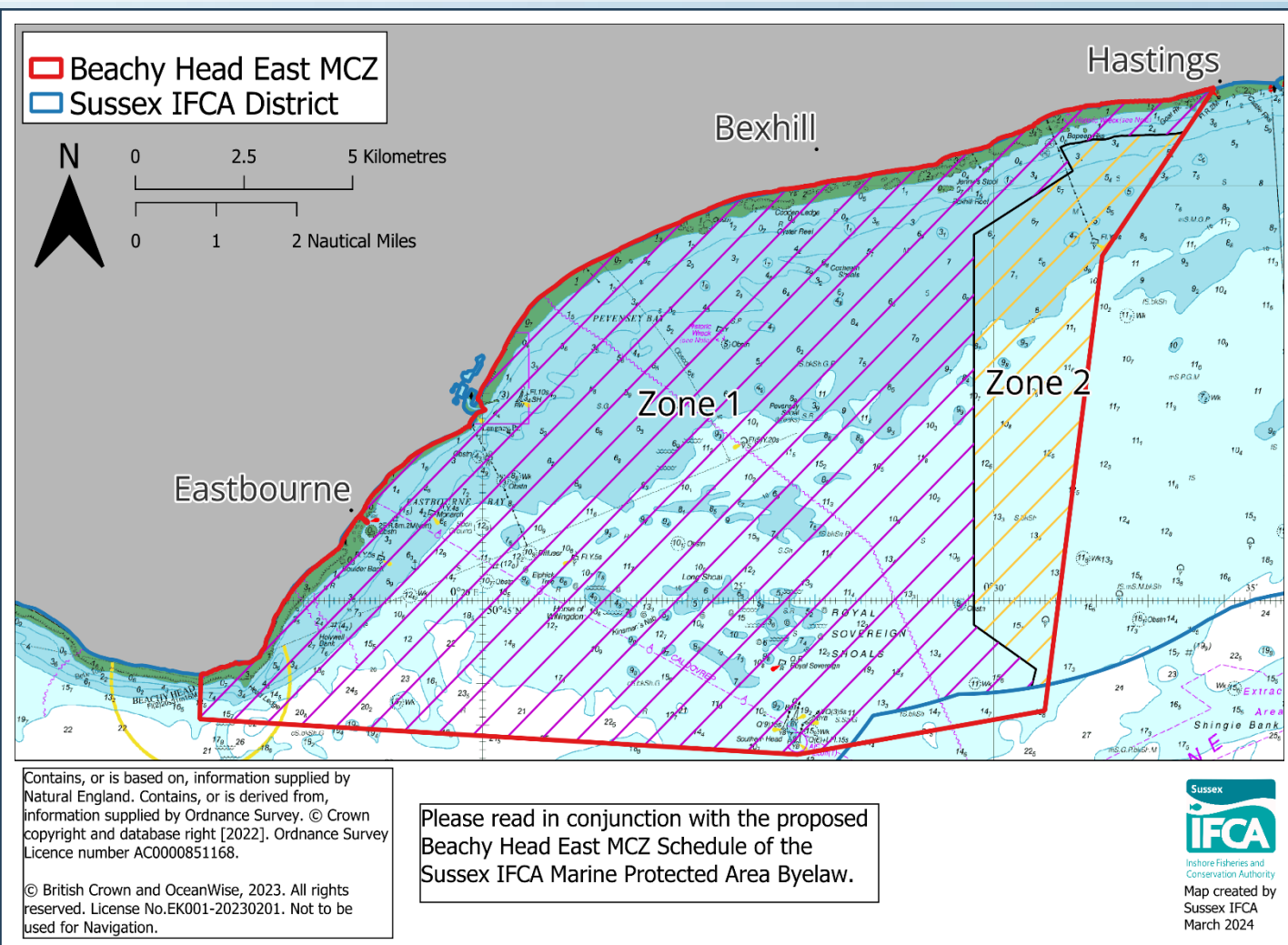
Beachy Head East MCZ is the largest MCZ within inshore Sussex waters (~195km<sup>2</sup>) and was designated in May of 2019. The site was designated for several key features, which include:

- Circalittoral Rock
- Peat and clay exposures
- Subtidal chalk
- Littoral chalk communities
- Ross worm reef (*Sabellaria spinulosa*)
- Short-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*)
- Subtidal sand
- Subtidal coarse sediment

Approximately 192 km<sup>2</sup> of the site falls within the Sussex IFCA district, and therefore the Authority has a responsibility to introduce fisheries management that aims to achieve the Conservation Objectives of the site. It was concluded that all forms of towed gear activities require management over some of the sensitive marine habitats listed above to ensure their protection and recovery.

In order to secure a balance between the social, environmental, and economic objectives of fisheries management, as per the remit of Sussex IFCA, we propose a zonal approach to towed gear management, which protects sensitive habitats and promotes sustainable fishing practices:

- **Zone 1** – Year-round prohibition of towed gears to protect sensitive designated features – Purple hatching
- **Zone 2** – No towed gear prohibition due to more resilient soft sediment habitats/features – Yellow hatching



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**Consultation information:**  
<https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/live-consultations>

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