

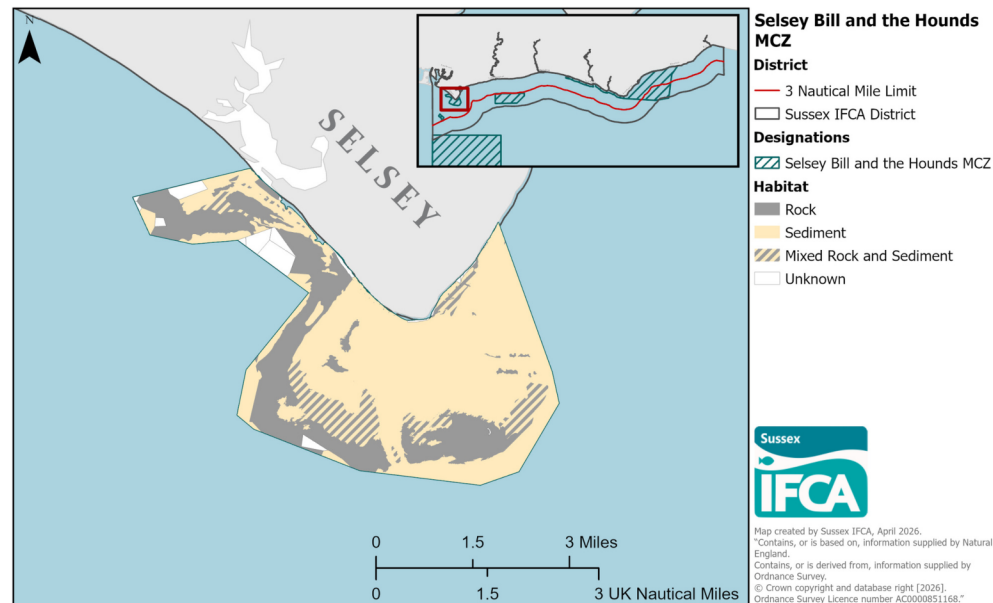
Voluntary Code of Conduct

This voluntary Code of Conduct has been developed by Sussex IFCA to support the management of Selsey Bill and the Hounds Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) and support the conservation objectives for the site's sensitive habitats and protected species.

Anchoring

- Use anchoring methods that minimise damage to sensitive seabed habitats.
- Avoid anchoring on rocky reef areas (see site habitat map below) where possible. Consider drifting where conditions allow or using lower-impact anchoring methods where appropriate.

Purpose: To minimise rocky reef damage.



Seahorses

- Return seahorses to the sea immediately if accidentally caught.
- Record and report sightings or accidental catches (location, species and photographs) to Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre.
- Avoid fishing in areas where repeated seahorse bycatch is known to occur.

Purpose: To improve understanding of seahorse distribution, habitat use and interactions with fishing gear, while reducing unnecessary disturbance to this protected species.

Scan for Byelaw regulations and guidance



SELSEY BILL AND THE HOUNDS

Marine
Conservation Zone

Fisheries Management
Measures Summary

Designated Area Co-ordinates

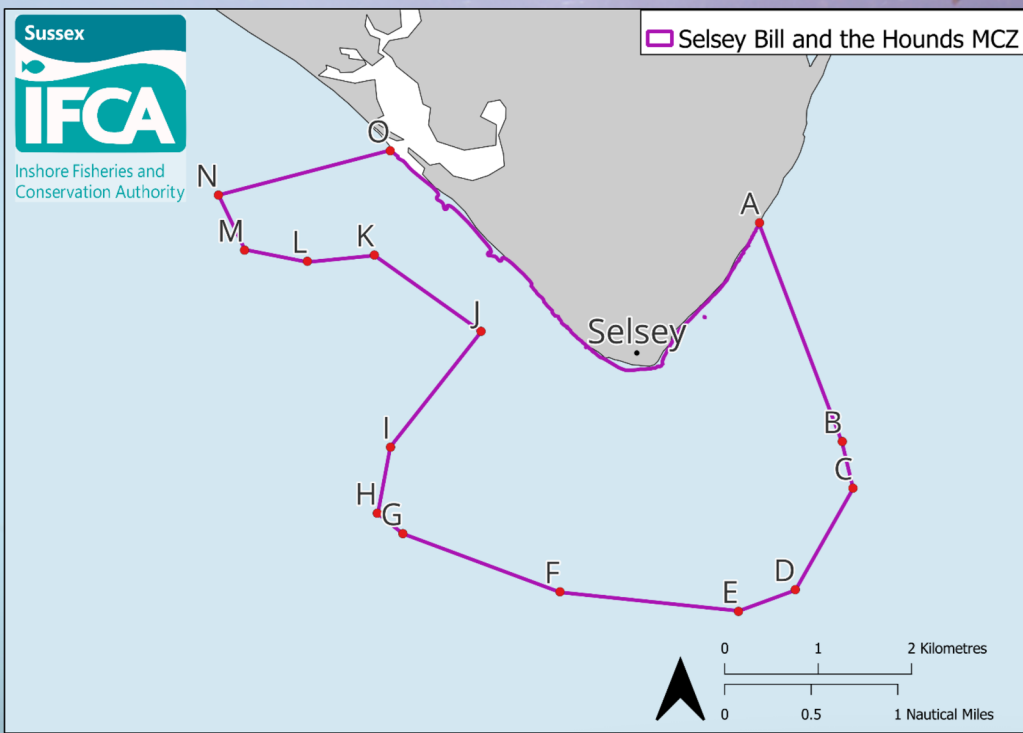
Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	50° 44.16' N	0° 46.20' W
B	50° 42.89' N	0° 45.48' W
C	50° 42.62' N	0° 45.39' W
D	50° 42.04' N	0° 45.93' W
E	50° 41.92' N	0° 46.45' W
F	50° 42.05' N	0° 48.07' W
G	50° 42.40' N	0° 49.49' W
H	50° 42.52' N	0° 49.72' W
I	50° 42.90' N	0° 49.59' W
J	50° 43.56' N	0° 48.75' W
K	50° 44.01' N	0° 49.71' W
L	50° 43.98' N	0° 50.32' W
M	50° 44.05' N	0° 50.89' W
N	50° 44.37' N	0° 51.12' W
O	50° 44.61' N	0° 49.55' W

Selsey Bill and the Hounds was designated on the 31st of May 2019 and covers an area of approximately 16km² off the coast of Selsey, West Sussex. The landward boundary is at Mean Low Water, and the site adjoins the Bracklesham Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The site is recognised for its high biodiversity and varied habitats, which range from rocky reef to soft sediments. It also contains notable geological features known locally as “The Hounds”, consisting of limestone and clay exposures.

Selsey Bill and the Hounds holds one of the best examples of peat and clay exposures in south-east England. Within the south-east section of the site lies Mixon Hole, a deep seafloor feature exposing clay cliffs capped with limestone. This feature supports a diverse range of marine species.

The site has also been identified as an important habitat for the short-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*).



Legal Requirements

Hand Gathering Byelaw

Bait diggers and hand gatherers must comply with the Sussex IFCA Hand Gathering (Restrictions and Permitting) Byelaw. This byelaw applies across the Sussex IFCA district, including Selsey Bill and the Hounds MCZ, and includes restrictions on species and collection limits.

By following best practice and complying with Sussex IFCA byelaws, hand gatherers can help minimise environmental impacts and support sustainable fisheries management.

Nearshore Trawling Byelaw

In recognition of the sensitivity of the site’s habitats and geological features to bottom towed fishing gear, Sussex IFCA included the entirety of Selsey Bill and the Hounds MCZ within the Sussex IFCA Nearshore Trawling Byelaw. The Nearshore Trawling Byelaw prohibits the use of towed fishing gear throughout the site.

Further information on Sussex IFCA byelaws and Marine Protected Area management is available on our website

Inspection & Enforcement Powers

Sussex IFCA officers have statutory powers under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to board and inspect any vessel and inspect persons who may have been fishing.

Fishers are expected to cooperate fully with officers carrying out inspections. Failure to comply with a reasonable request made by an authorised officer may constitute an offence under fisheries legislation.

Anyone with information relating to suspected non-compliance within the site is encourage to contact Sussex IFCA
www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/report-illegal-fishing

To view or obtain additional information on Marine Conservation Zones within the Sussex IFCA district, please contact us



01273 454407



www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk

www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/marine-protected-areas