

Nature Reserves At Sea

Aims

- To understand how human activities affect the ocean and how we can work together to help this precious environment recover from **over-exploitation**.
- To understand some of the values that people place on the ocean and how the ocean supports many different ways of life.

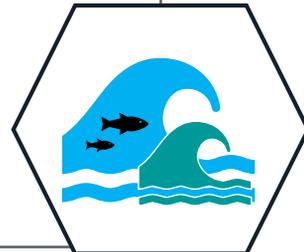


Background

- A Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is a type of nature reserve in the sea. Sections of coastline may be included too. MCZ's protect threatened **species**, important **geological** sites and **habitats** rich in **biodiversity**, which are carefully monitored.
- Human activities that threaten wildlife, such as water sports, swimming and recreational and commercial fishing, are restricted within these zones.
- The *Runswick Bay* (68km²), *Markham's Triangle* (200km²) and *Holderness Inshore* (309km²) & *Offshore* (1176km²) Marine Conservation Zones can all be found along the Yorkshire coastline.



Context:
Conservation



Location:
Europe

Research

- 💡 Find out why the Marine Conservation Zones along the Yorkshire coast were put in place. How are they different to *Lundy Island MCZ* and *Lamlash Bay 'No Take Zone'*?
- 💡 How do rules in Marine Conservation Zones benefit fisheries, tourism companies and coastal towns?
- 💡 For whom might the ocean be culturally important and how should those planning Marine Conservation Zones take this into consideration?

Activity

- Design your own Marine Conservation Zone. Where should it be, what size is it and what will it protect? How will you meet your aims and measure success?
- Make a map of your Marine Conservation Zone and a poster explaining your decisions.
- Present your plans to a group of students acting as different **stakeholders**. They might be representing the owner of a large fishery, a diving instructor or a campaigner for ocean conservation.
- In your group, discuss some of the possible impacts that creating an MCZ will have. Ask the group to vote on whether your plans should go ahead or not.
- During your debate, did you change any design ideas or find a compromise to meet the needs of any stakeholders?

Careers



Fisheries Director

You work alongside small and large fisheries, governments, conservation charities and trade markets to develop sustainable fishing practices with economical, social and ecological benefits.

Marine Policy Advisor

You lead campaigns to improve international marine protection. You might be negotiating with local and national authorities, organising events and building relationships with key policymakers.



Environmental Specialist in Habitat Conservation

You visit existing Marine Conservation Zones. You will be responsible for preparing maps and other geographic displays and reviewing research to obtain background information.