

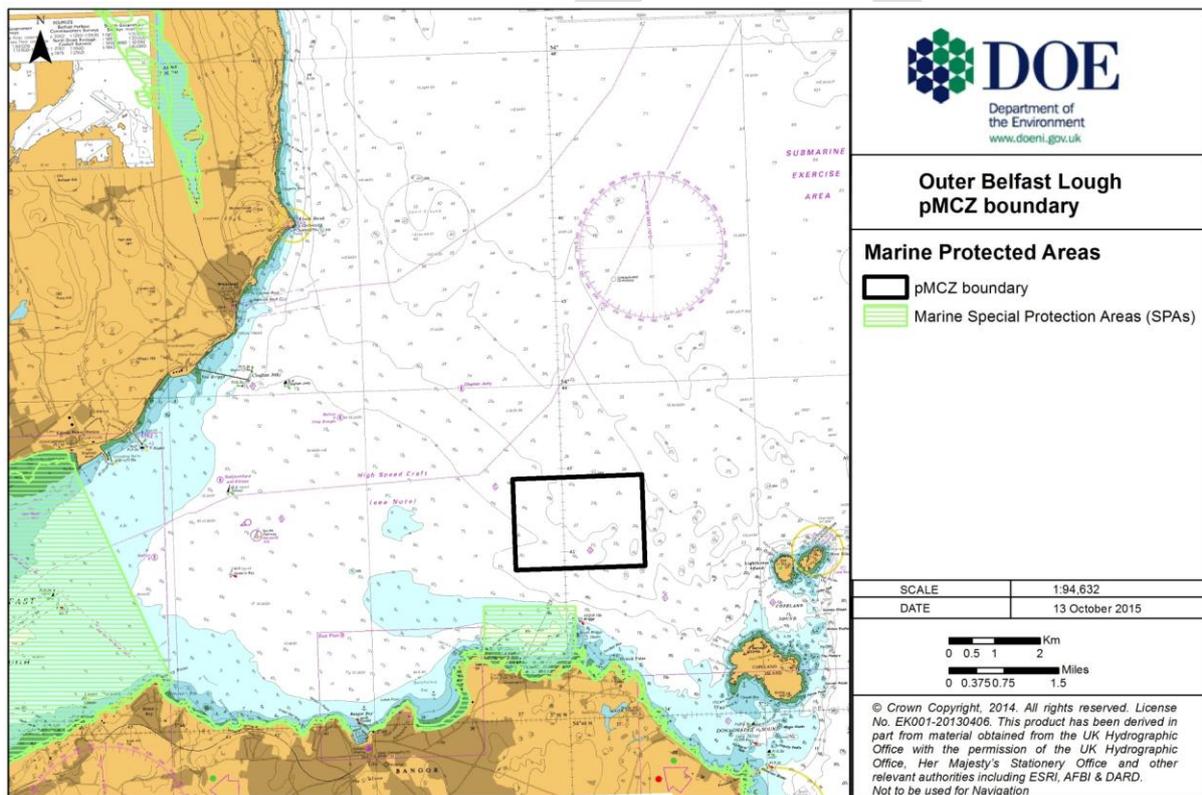
# OUTER BELFAST LOUGH MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE DESIGNATION ORDER

The Department, with the approval of the Secretary of State, makes this Order in accordance with Section 13 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 (the Act).

The Department has published a notice of the proposal to make this Order and consulted with those likely to be interested in, or affected by it, in accordance with Section 16 of the Act.

In deciding to make this Order the Department has had regard to the requirements of Section 14 of the Act and to any obligations under EU or international law that relate to the conservation or improvement of the marine environment.

The area designated as Outer Belfast Lough Marine Conservation Zone is shown below:



This 'marine area' includes any area of seabed or other land (whether or not covered by water) seaward of the mean high water mark within that area and all of the water covering any part of that seabed or other land.

The boundary for this area is described in the following table:

Boundary Line	Set of co-ordinates of points which the boundary line joints	Topographical description of the boundary line
1	A, B	Geodesic line
2	B, C	Geodesic line
3	C, D	Geodesic line
4	D, A	Geodesic line

Where –

“A” is 54° 42.894' N and -5° 37.012' W;

“B” is 54° 42.896' N and -5° 34.365' W;

“C” is 54° 41.804' N and -5° 34.360' W; and

“D” is 54° 41.805' N and -5° 37.011' W.

The protected features and conservation objectives are as follows:

Protected Features	Conservation Objectives
<b>Habitats:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subtidal (sublittoral) sand</li> </ul>	<b>Recover to Favourable Condition</b>
<b>Species:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>Recover to Favourable Condition</b>

Favourable conservation status in relation to marine habitats means that its extent is stable or increasing and its structures and functions, its quality and the composition of its characteristic biological communities (including diversity and abundance) are such that it remains in a healthy condition, which is not deteriorating.

For marine species, it means that the quality and quantity of its habitat and the composition of its population in terms of number, age, and sex ratio ensures that the population is maintained in numbers, which enables it to thrive.

For the purposes of determining whether a protected feature is in favourable condition, any temporary deterioration in condition or reduction in numbers will be disregarded if the habitat or population is sufficiently healthy, thriving and resilient to enable its recovery.

Similarly, any alteration brought about entirely by natural processes will not be considered.

Signed by a Senior Official  
Department of the Environment