

# Helford Estuary

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)



## Fact file

This inshore Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) on the southern coastline of west Cornwall protects the intertidal habitat crucial for the key feature of this site: native oysters.

Native oysters are listed by the Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR) as a threatened and declining species and are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species.

Found in shallow water on mixed sediments, oysters are ecologically important as they filter huge amounts of water, provide a solid surface for other species to settle on, and offer protection for other species including juvenile fish.

Intertidal sandflats and mudflats make up the majority of the Helford's shores and are known to support a wide range of invertebrate and bird communities.

## Location



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[wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/helford-estuary](http://wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/helford-estuary)

Protecting Wildlife for the Future

# Marine Conservation Zones



## Helford Estuary

6km<sup>2</sup>

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

## Help us to protect our seas

UK seas have the potential to be some of the most wildlife rich on Earth, but ambitious protection is needed to reverse the decades of decline.

Great progress has been made in securing protected areas at sea but there's still work to be done.

With your help we can make sure that our Marine Conservation Zones and seas are given the protection they need to thrive once again!

- Join our supporters and become a Friend of MCZs today (it's free!)  
[wildlifetrusts.org/MCZFriends](http://wildlifetrusts.org/MCZFriends)
- Find out more about other MCZs  
[wildlifetrusts.org/MCZs](http://wildlifetrusts.org/MCZs)
- You can also send us any information or sightings from this MCZ to  
[marine@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:marine@wildlifetrusts.org)



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[wildlifetrusts.org](http://wildlifetrusts.org)



"The designation of the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones has given us an amazing opportunity to protect our marine wildlife and habitats for future generations. We now have 91 MCZs which is great news, but to help our seas recover we also need the Government to implement proper management and monitoring of these sites."

**Joan Edwards**  
**Director of Living Seas**  
**& Public Affairs**  
**The Wildlife Trusts**