

Allonby Bay HPMA: what you need to know

- Allonby Bay has been chosen as one of three new Highly Protected Marine Areas in English waters, the first of their kind
- The site will have a higher level of protection than other areas of the sea, giving nature the best possible chance to recover
- Allonby Bay contains several important habitats which are not only important for nature, but also provide us with food, coastal protection and a tool to help fight climate change
- Allowing this area to recover will improve these habitats, the services they provide and hopefully give us an example of what a healthy, natural, unimpacted area of the sea should look like
- It is great news that Allonby Bay has been chosen, we hope it will be the first step towards a network of HPMA's in English waters, giving our marine environments the protection they so desperately need
- Have questions? Take a look inside this leaflet for more information about Allonby Bay, HPMA's, and why it is so important to protect our seas.

Our seas have a remarkable capacity to recover, but only if we give them the chance. Decades of neglect have left our seas damaged and degraded, but it's not too late to save them.



Living Seas North West is a collaboration between Cumbria, Lancashire, and Cheshire Wildlife Trusts, which works for the protection and recovery of the Irish Sea and the wider marine environment.

Our key areas of work are research and monitoring, policy and advocacy, and community engagement.

To find out more visit our website or follow us on social media.

www.livingseasnw.org.uk

@LivingSeasNW

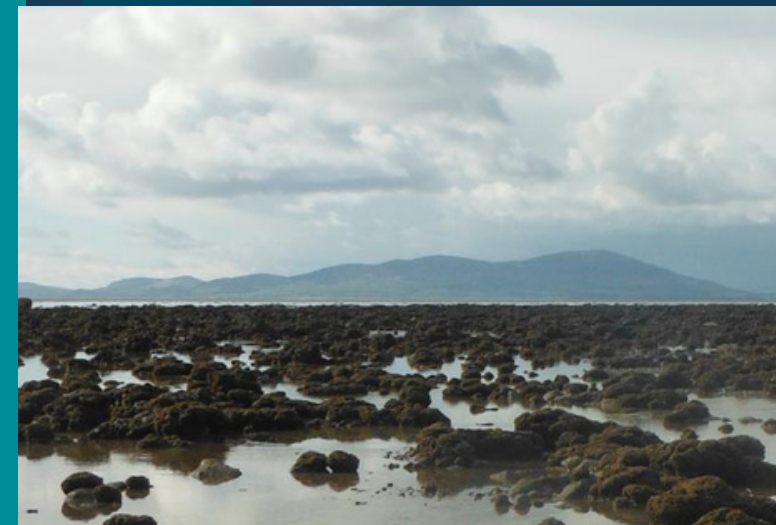


Registered Charity No. 218711



North West
Wildlife Trusts

ALLONBY BAY HPMA: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

What is a HPMA?

HPMA stands for Highly Protected Marine Area. HPMA's provide the highest level of protection to the marine environment. They remove some of the biggest pressures and damaging activities. They prevent everyone from taking anything from the area, undertaking damaging activities like building in the area, or depositing anything in the area. However, people will be still able to enjoy activities such as swimming, walking, kayaking and snorkeling that can be pursued without damaging the site.

Why are they important?

Many of the activities we carry out in the sea cause damage to the habitats and wildlife living there. Our seas are not currently as healthy as they should be, which affects their ability to provide us with services such as food, flood protection and solutions to climate change.

Because HPMA's are given such a high level of protection, the marine ecosystems found within them are given the best possible chance to recover and thrive in the way they would naturally, without pressures from human activity.

Allonby Bay is an important feeding area for coastal birds



Honeycomb worm reefs are an important habitat for other species

Will fishing be allowed in the Allonby Bay HPMA?

In order to fully protect the site, no extractive activities are allowed - including fishing. However, by protecting this area, which many commercially important fish species use as a nursery ground, it is hoped that these populations will increase. This would improve fish populations - and fishing - in areas outside of the HPMA. This is called the spill over effect.

Allonby Bay is in relatively good condition - why protect it more?

Allonby Bay provides us with coastal protection, food, climate solutions and is a beautiful natural area that many people enjoy visiting and experiencing. Protecting it will ensure that it continues to be.

It will also allow us to see the benefits of a fully protected, natural marine ecosystem, and use this as an example and ambition for other, more degraded marine environments in English waters. As the first and only inshore site to receive an HPMA designation, this in itself is something to celebrate!

As a pilot site, Allonby Bay will help develop the process for protecting more of our seas.