

rMCZ Qualifying Interest Feature Sensitivities and Confidence Levels from Net Gain Final Recommendations Submission to Natural England & JNCC and Annexes (2011)

Pressure						Removal of Sediment	Fine Sediment Plume/Elevated Turbidity	Sand Deposition		Changes to Particle Size	Changes to Wave Heights	Changes to Tidal Currents
rMCZ Benchmark						Physical removal (extraction of substratum) - Extraction of sediment to 30cm	Water clarity changes - A change in one rank on the WFD scale e.g. from clear to turbid in one year	Siltation Rate Changes (high) - 30 cm of fine material added to the seabed in a single event	Siltation Rate Changes (low) - 5 cm of fine material added to the seabed in a single event	N/A	Wave exposure changes - local - A change in nearshore significant wave height >3% but <5%.	Water flow (tidal current) changes local - Peak mean spring tide flow change between 0.1m/s to 0.2m/s over an area >1km ² or 50% of width of water body for > 1 year
Suitability of benchmark						Based on low level of activity and predicted to be reasonable assumption	Precautionary as will only be a temporary if regularly occurring impact	Assumed worst case out to 200 m	Assumed for 200 - 2km	N/A	Modelled change less except for NG5 where some % change up to 15% predicted	Modelled change less than used for sensitivity - in all cases +/- 0.02-0.05m/s
Feature	Supporting rMCZs					Sensitivity (Confidence Level)						
	NG4	NG5	NG6	NG8	NG9							
Subtidal Mixed Sediments	✓	✓	✓		✓	High (Low)	Not Significant - Medium (Low)	Medium (Low)	N/A	N/A	Not Significant - Low (Low)	Not Significant - Low (Low)
Subtidal Sand	✓	✓	✓	✓		Low-High (Medium)	N/A	High (Low)	Medium (Low)	N/A	N/A	Not Significant - Low (Low)
Subtidal Sands and Gravels	✓	✓	✓	✓		Medium (High)	N/A	Not significant - Medium (Medium-High)	Medium (Medium-High)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peat and Clay Exposures		✓		✓		Low (Medium)	N/A	Low (Medium)	N/A	N/A	Low (Low)	N/A
Subtidal Coarse Sediment		✓		✓	✓	Low - High (Low)	N/A	Not Significant - Medium (Low)	Not Significant - Medium (Low)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sabellaria spinulosa Reefs			✓	✓		High (Low)	N/A	Medium (Low)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low (Low)
Intertidal Mixed Sediments				✓		High (Low)	Medium (Low)	High (Low)	Medium (Low)	N/A	Medium (Low)	N/A
Subtidal chalk				✓		Medium (Medium)	Not Significant -Medium (Medium)	Medium (Low)	Low (High)	N/A	N/A	N/A