



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol**  
Cymru  
**Natural  
Resources**  
Wales

# Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Byelaws and Codes of Conduct

## **BYELAWS**

The Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) byelaws are summarised below. A copy of the MCZ byelaws is available free on request.

The MCZ's byelaws –

- Prohibit intentional or reckless killing, taking, destruction or disturbance of any plant or animal, damaging any object, interfering with the seabed or depositing rubbish. Permission may be granted for certain activities, such as scientific sampling.
- Limit speed to 5 knots within 100 metres of the shore, except in Jack Sound, Little Sound and Martin's Haven.

Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries department control fisheries in the area of the MCZ and have introduced complementary byelaws.

The byelaws prohibit -

- the use of dredges and beam trawls.
- taking or landing scallops.

Local byelaws impose a speed limit of 8 knots in Martin's Haven and prohibit vessels from being sailed dangerously.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park byelaws prohibit vehicles being driven onto the beach, the pollution of water, the disposal of dangerous litter and operating noisy instruments loud enough to annoy other users of the foreshore or beach.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Noise**

Noise disturbs seals that are out of the water and cliff-nesting seabirds. Avoid making unnecessary noise close to cliffs and beaches.

Divers - The loud noise caused by the sudden discharge of compressed air is particularly disturbing. Fill and purge life-jacket cylinders before setting off from your

launch site. If you need to refill the cylinder at sea, do so well offshore.

### **Boat users**

Adhere to safe boating practices and have due regard for other water users. Be aware of divers at all times; boats flying the international 'A' flag means that there are divers in the water.

Please comply with the seasonal access arrangements for the zones around the seal breeding and cliff nesting seabird sites.

Avoid "rafts" of seabirds on the water. If you land on Skomer, only do so at the permitted landing place.

Do not approach beaches where there are seals ashore.

Take care to avoid causing pollution by spilling fuel.

Water-skiing, jet-skiing and similar activities are not acceptable within the MCZ.

**Moorings.** In order to prevent damage from new moorings, any person wishing to establish a new mooring should consult the MCZ's Marine Conservation Officers. Do not use private moorings without the owner's permission.

**Anchoring.** To minimise damage to underwater habitats and marine life in rocky areas please do not anchor unless absolutely necessary. Within Martin's Haven and South Haven you may anchor freely. In North Haven, anchor north of the buoyed area of the eel-grass bed. Take care to avoid anchor dragging.

### **Anglers**

Return to the water, alive and with care, all fish that you are not taking home.

To protect populations of nearshore territorial fish, you should avoid catching territorial species, particularly wrasse.

Bottom fishing techniques may damage underwater communities and they are strongly discouraged. Fishing with mid-water tackle for pelagic species which pass through the MCZ is acceptable in the MCZ.

Fishing competitions are not in keeping with the aims of the MCZ.

Do not discard fishing tackle. Lost and discarded tackle is a hazard to all wildlife.

### **Divers**

**Safety.** The area can be exceptionally dangerous especially with other users competing for the same space. Please observe the usual safety procedures and practices for divers. Boat traffic is particularly heavy at Martin's Haven.

**Shellfish.** You are asked not to collect crabs, lobsters or crawfish. Collecting scallops is prohibited by byelaw.

Spearfishing is not acceptable because it conflicts with the aims of the MCZ.

Remember that there are many slow-growing, long-lived, beautiful and fragile animals and plants in the MCZ. Take care not to accidentally damage them by careless swimming. There are marked areas where long-term monitoring of animals and plants is being undertaken; be especially careful in these areas.

Dragging anchors or grapnels to locate wrecks can cause considerable damage to life on the seabed and should not be undertaken.

### **Obstruction.**

Avoid obstructing the access lane and beach at Martin's Haven. Remove vehicles to the car park promptly after unloading or loading equipment. Boat trailers should not be left where they cause a nuisance or a hazard. When passing through Marloes village, pay particular regard to the wellbeing of villagers by considerate driving.

Please help keep the area attractive, clean, safe and peaceful.

Please remember that large numbers of people, many with children, come to the Deer Park, Martins Haven and Skomer simply as sightseers. If, therefore, you need to change clothes, into a wetsuit or drysuit, please do so in a manner that will not cause offence and please do not change in the public toilets.

## **FURTHER KEY POINTS**

**Actions taken to prevent personal injury or loss of life, or to save a vessel, are exempt from the byelaws and the Code of Conduct**

### **Permits and approval for research projects**

Proposals for research projects and survey work, including archaeological or other excavations, should be submitted to the Marine Conservation Officer for approval. You will be asked to lodge copies of the results of your work with the Marine Conservation Officer.

Requests for a byelaw permit, or approval for scientific research, new moorings or entry to Seasonal Exclusion Zones should be made in advance to the Marine Conservation Officer.

### **The 'Lucy'**

The wreck of the 'Lucy' is privately owned and under no circumstances should items be removed as souvenirs without the permission of the owners.

### **Explosives**

Owners of wrecks, or anyone with the right to use explosives in the MCZ, should consult the Marine Conservation Officer before planning any operation involving explosives.

## How to recognise disturbance of seabirds and seals

Cliff nesting auk species show that they are nervous in two ways:

- 'Club birds' take flight. 'Club' birds are 'off duty' birds or the next year's breeding birds which gather below breeding colonies on low ledges or intertidal rocks.
- 'Alarm bowing'. Nesting birds on cliff ledges bob their heads up and down to signal alarm. The movements are quite distinctive and can easily be recognised from a distance. Further or prolonged disturbance will provoke nesting birds to leave their ledges in alarm possibly dislodging eggs and chicks from the ledge and certainly leaving them vulnerable to predation.

Seals lying on rocks or beaches show alarm by appearing to 'sit up' and watch 'intruders', and then rushing into the water. Disturbed cow seals will leave their pups alone on a beach in order to reach safety in the water.

Seals that are ashore and aware of you should not be approached, especially if they are in a group or with pups. If seals start moving quickly down a beach toward the sea, withdraw slowly and quietly; do not stand up or look directly at them.

## ACCESS

Access to most of the MCZ area is unrestricted for most of the time. However, the colonies of cliff-nesting seabirds and pupping and moulting grey seals in the MCZ are very sensitive to human disturbance. In order to minimise disturbance there are special voluntary seasonal access arrangements for the areas close to vulnerable seabird and seal sites (see maps).

## Protection zones

To protect nesting seabirds and breeding seals during the specific seasons:

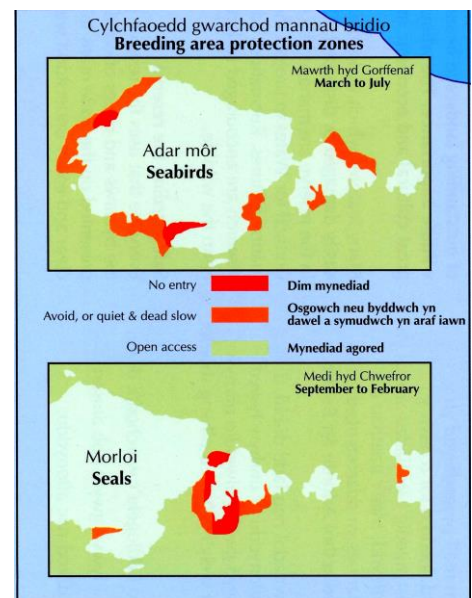
- please do not enter exclusion (red) zones
- avoid limited access (orange) zones unless you need to enter them.

The zones extend from the shore to 100 metres offshore.

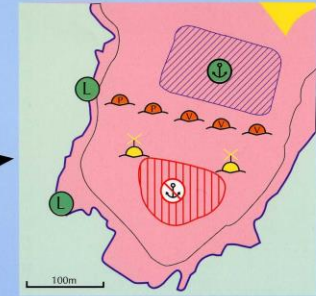
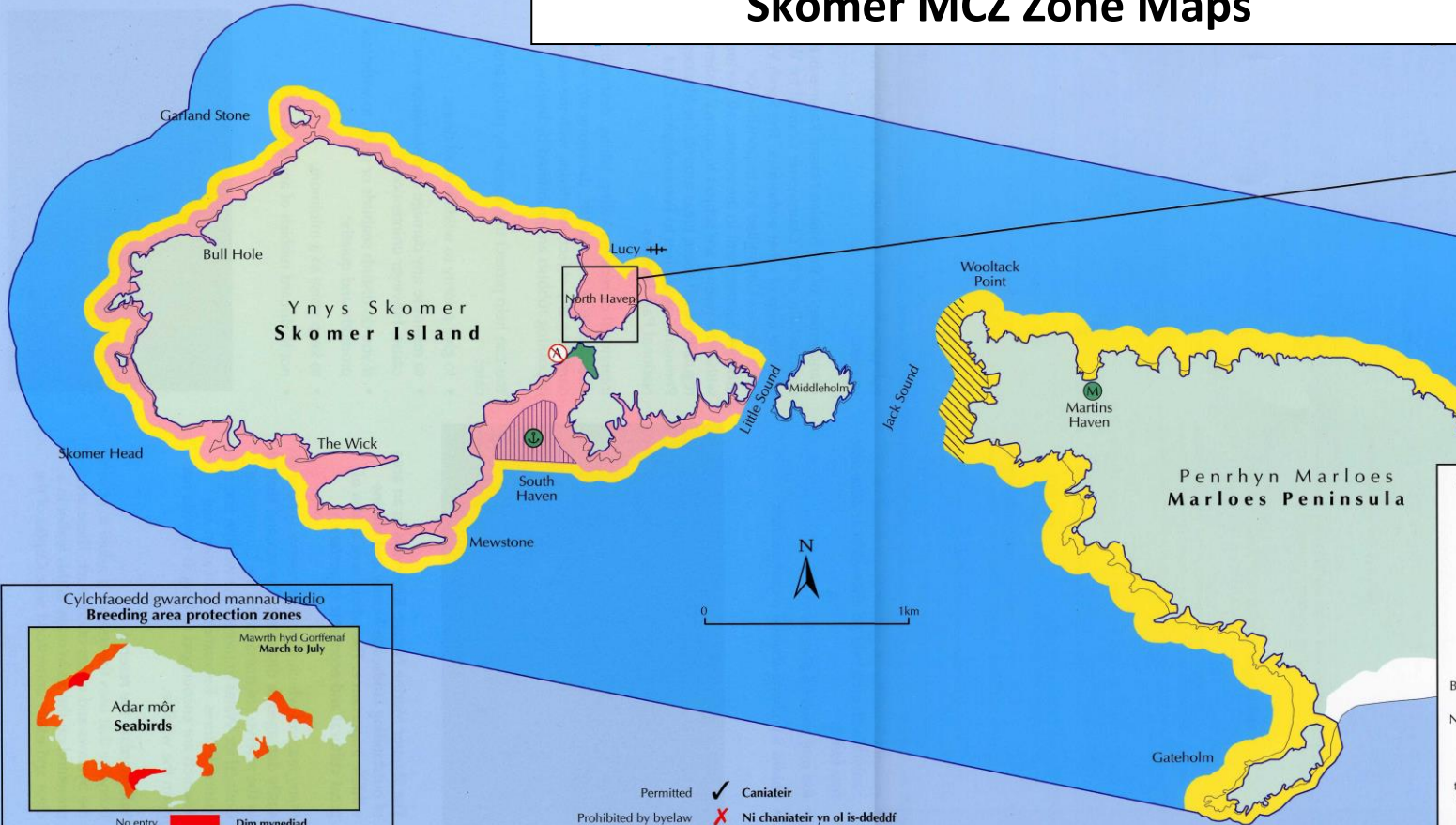
If you do enter limited access zones, please follow the code presented in our "Peace and quiet for birds and seals" leaflet.

## CONTACT

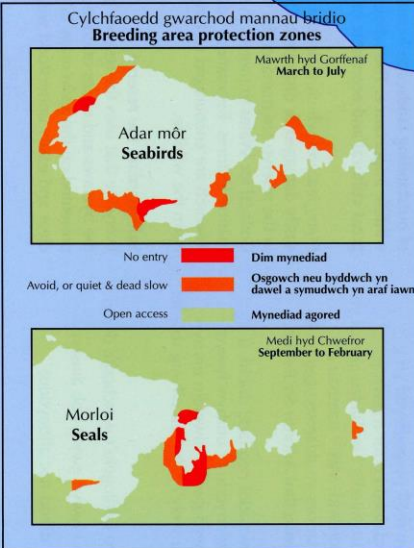
The Marine Conservation Officer may be contacted in the MCZ, or by post at:  
Skomer Marine Conservation Zone  
Fisherman's Cottage,  
Martin's Haven,  
Marloes,  
Pembrokeshire SA62 3BJ  
Tel: 01646 636736



# Skomer MCZ Zone Maps



Rhybudd: Mae'r mapiau hyn yn rhai darluniadaol; ni ddylid eu defnyddio i ffordwyo.  
Warning: These maps are illustrative; they must not be used for navigation.



Marine Nature Reserve	Gwarchodfa Natur Morol
Anchoring area	Ardal angori
No anchoring area	Dim ardal angori
Marker for no anchoring area	Marcwr i nodi nad yw hon yn ardal angori
Visitor mooring (April to October)	Lle glanio i ymwelwyr (Ebrill hyd Hydref)
Private mooring	Glanfa breifat
Island landing point (April to October)	Man glanio i'r ynys (Ebrill hyd Hydref)
Beach landing permitted April to August	Caniateir glanio ar y traeth (Ebrill hyd Awst)
No access to island from South Haven	Dim mynediad i'r ynys o South Haven
See note 3	Gwelwch nodyn 3
Mainland access point to MNR; Reserve office; launch site; island boat service; 999 telephone	Pwnt mynediad y tir mawr i'r Warchodfa Natur Forol; safle lanio'r swyddia; gwasanaeth cychod yr ynys, ffôn argyfwng

- Permitted ✓ Caniateir
- Prohibited by byelaw X Ni chaniateir yn ol is-ddeddf
- Prohibited: code of conduct D Ni chaniateir: cod ymddygiad
- Discouraged X Anogir i beidio
- Permit required P Mae angen trwydded
- See note \* Gweler nodyn

Activity zone	All	All boats	Recreation															Commercial fishing	Science & education		
			All activity *1	Pollution & littering *2	Speed limit (knots)	Anchoring	Landing on islands	Diving	Crafting for wrecks	Spearfishing	Crustacean shellfishing	Salting crustaceans	Salting (biological)	Fishing (recreational)	High speed motor craft	Boat waste	Bottom fishing			Angling for commercial purposes	Angling for territorial fish
General protection zone	X	*1	D	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	D	✓	✓	X	P	✓	Cylchfa warchodaeth gyffredinol		
Nearshore protection zone	X	*3	D	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	D	D	X	✓	✓	P	✓	Cylchfa warchodaeth ger y traeth		
Inshore protection zone	X	5	*4	X	*5	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	D	D	X	✓	X	P	✓	Cylchfa warchodaeth gyda'r glannau	

**NOTES**

- Give priority to wildlife; avoid or go very slow near seabird "rafts"; cutceans; basking sharks, sunfish & turtles. Divers: dive with care to avoid damaging fragile seabed organisms.
- Discarding litter, angling gear; spilling fuel.
- Five knots except shaded area in Jack Sound.
- Except in areas shown; use visitor moorings in North Haven.
- Landing permitted only at marked locations in North Haven.

Zones next to land include the shore up to the level of the highest tide.

**NODIADAU**

- Rhoewch ffenoriaeth i fwyd gwylt: osgowch "raffiau" o adar môr; gwylwch am ac osgowch forllod ac anifeiliaid eraill ar yr wyneb (siarcod, pysgod haul a yn gorweddian). Deithwyr: deifwch yn ofalus i osgoi nivedio organebau bregus o wely'r môr.
- Tafu sbwriel, ger pysgota; tywallt tanwydd.
- 3.5 milltir môr ac eithrio'r ardal wedi ei llinio'n ddyfyll yn Jack Sound.
- Ac eithrio'r yn y ardaloedd a ddangosir; defnyddwch lle glanio i ymwelwyr yn North Haven.
5. Caniateir glanio yn y lleoliadau a nodwyd yn unig. Mae'r cylchfaeod sy'n cyfarfod tir yn cynnwys y traeth hyd at lefel y llanw uchaf.