

26. MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL HIGH RISK AREAS

Source: Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Former Notice 26/19 is cancelled. This is a repetition of the former Notice.

1. In 1994 Lord Donaldson recommended in his report ‘Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas’ that a comparatively limited number of areas of high environmental sensitivity, which are also at risk from shipping, should be identified and established around the UK coast.

Lord Donaldson referred to these areas as Marine Environmental High Risk Areas (MEHRAs) and said that their primary purpose was to inform ships’ masters of areas where there is a real prospect of a problem arising.

In 2001 the areas eventually identified as MEHRAs were those which combined both high sensitivity and a high level of shipping pollution risk. They represent approximately 9% of the UK coastline, which is consistent with Lord Donaldson’s view that not more than 10% of the UK coastline should qualify as MEHRAs.

2. Location of MEHRAs.

The UK Government has identified 32 MEHRAs:

Name of Area	Approximate location
Bass Rock	56° 05N., 2° 38W
Berry Head	50° 24N., 3° 29W
Berwick	55° 46N., 2° 00W
Dunbar	56° 00N., 2° 31W
Dungeness	50° 55N., 0° 58E
Farne Islands	55° 38N., 1° 37W
Fethaland, Mainland Shetland	60° 38N., 1° 20W
Flamborough Head	54° 07N., 0° 05W
Gallan Head, Isle of Lewis	58° 18N., 6° 48W: 58° 15.5N., 6° 54.0W and 58° 14N., 7° 00W
Harwich & Felixstowe (2 MEHRAs)	51° 55N., 1° 16E and 51° 56N., 1° 19E
Hastings	50° 51.5N., 0° 35.0E
Holy Island	55° 41N., 1° 48W
Islandmagee, County Antrim	54° 50N., 5° 42W
Isle of May	56° 11N., 2° 33W
Kinnaird Head	57° 38N., 1° 53W and 57° 42N., 2° 05W
Muckle Flugga	60° 51N., 0° 55W
Newburgh	57° 19N., 2° 00W
North St Kilda	57° 49N., 8° 35W
Pembrokeshire Islands	51° 44N., 5° 29W: 51° 44N., 5° 17W and 51° 42N., 5° 16W
Plymouth	50° 19N., 4° 12W and 50° 19N., 4° 05W
Portland	50° 35N., 2° 27W
St Abb’s Head & Eyemouth	55° 54N., 2° 08W
South Foreland to Ramsgate (2 MEHRAs)	51° 09N., 1° 23E and 51° 20N., 1° 25E
South St Kilda	57° 49N., 8° 35W
Spurn Bight Hastings	53° 36N., 0° 08E
Tees Holy Island	54° 40N., 1° 10W
Tor Ness, Hoy	58° 51N., 3° 23W
Western Solent	50° 42N., 1° 34W
West Islay, Argyll and Bute (2 MEHRAs)	55° 47N., 6° 29W

3. The UK Government expects mariners to take note of MEHRAs and either to keep well clear or, where this is not practicable, to exercise an even higher degree of care than usual when passing in close proximity to MEHRAs.
4. The complete MEHRA report showing details of the areas can be accessed from the national archives at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/shippingports/shipping/elc/secmehras/pdfmehras>