



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Six-year report on progress with marine plans in England

For the period 2015 to 2021

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 61 of the
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

October 2021

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We're responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy, sustaining thriving rural communities and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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Introduction

This is the second six-year report, updating on progress with marine plans in England. The first was published on 5 November 2015 covering the period 2009 to 2015. It fulfils a reporting requirement set out in Section 61(1)(c) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, (the Act).

Marine plans provide a transparent framework for consistent, evidence based decision-making for potential investors and marine users. The Act divides the UK marine area into inshore and offshore marine planning regions for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In England, the inshore and offshore marine planning regions are subdivided into marine plan areas, as detailed in the map in Annex A.

Section 61 of the Act requires each marine plan authority, for England's inshore and offshore marine planning regions this is the Secretary of State, to prepare and lay before the appropriate legislature a report setting out progress on the relevant marine plans, including detail of:

- any marine plans the authority has prepared and adopted
- the authority's intentions for their amendment
- its intentions for the preparation and adoption of any further marine plans

Marine plans prepared and adopted

The [first six-year report](#) (November 2015) documented the publication of the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans (the East Marine Plans) on 2 April 2014. Since then, the following marine plans have been prepared and adopted:

- South Inshore and South Offshore Marine Plan (the South Marine Plan) - 17 July 2018
- North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plans - 23 June 2021
- North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plans - 23 June 2021
- South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plans - 23 June 2021
- South East Inshore Marine Plan - 23 June 2021

The publication of these marine plans means that for the first time there is a marine plan in place for each marine plan area around England, a combined area of approximately 230,000 square kilometres.

Intentions for amendment

East Marine Plans

The first three-year report on the East Marine Plans (for the period 2 April 2014 to 1 April 2017) was published on 1 April 2017. The Secretary of State decided that the East Marine Plans did not need to be amended at that time.

The second three-year report on the East Marine Plans (for the period 2 April 2017 to 1 April 2020) was published on 26 March 2020. Numerous changes to the legislative and policy landscape since the Plans' adoption mean that there are policy gaps when compared to the other marine plans. The Secretary of State therefore decided that the East Marine Plans should be amended or replaced. Having recently published the final marine plans for England, a refreshed East Marine Plan will be the first in a second generation of marine plans. We are currently undertaking a programme of work to understand how this next generation of plans can meet the changing and increasing uses of the ocean.

South Marine Plan

The first three-year report on the South Marine Plan (for the period 17 July 2018 to 16 July 2021) was published on 14 July 2021. The Secretary of State does not intend to amend the South Marine Plan at this time.

Intentions for the preparation and adoption of any further marine plans

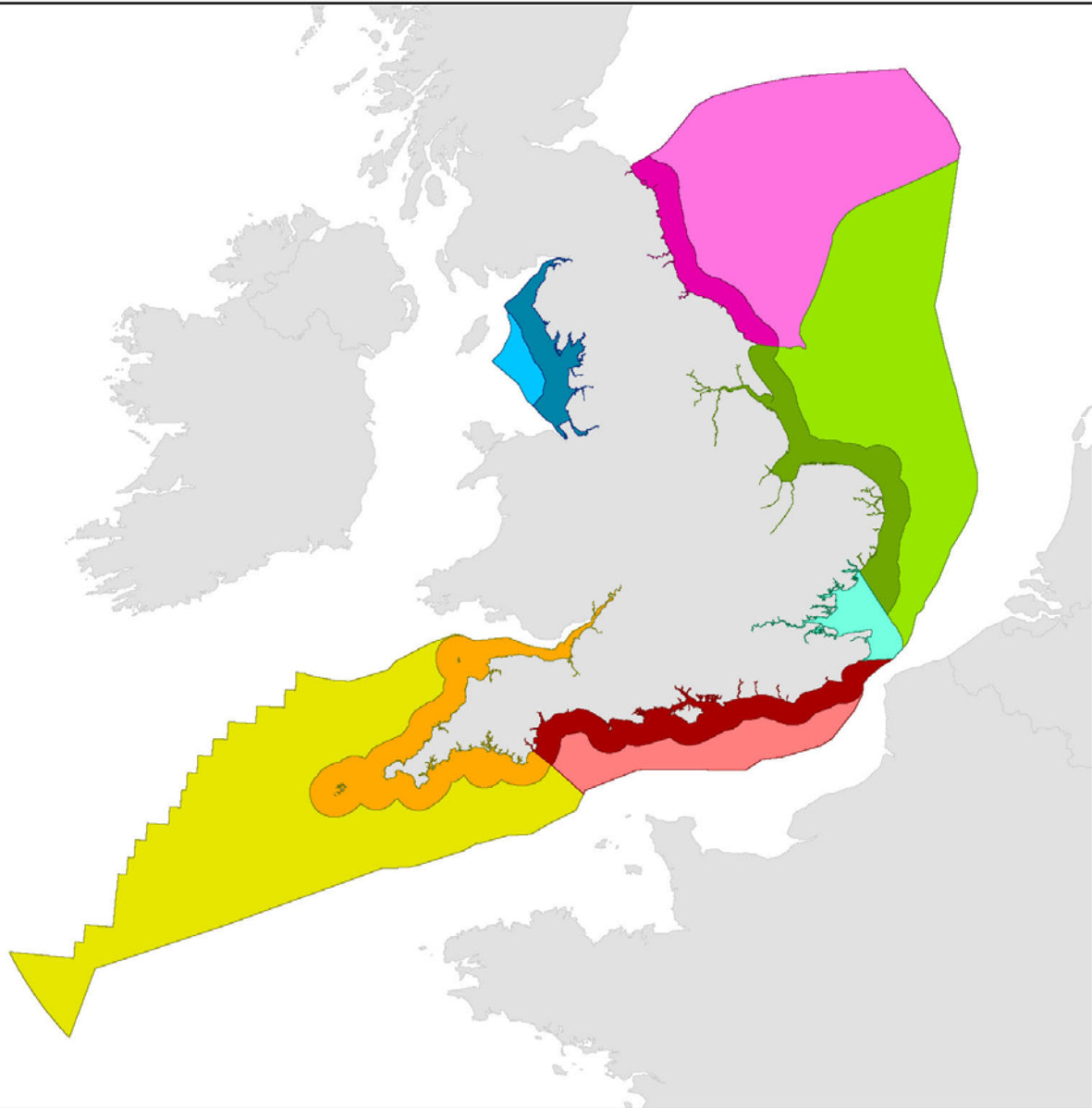
The Secretary of State does not intend to prepare and adopt any further marine plans as marine plans have been prepared and adopted for each marine plan area around England. The Secretary of State will decide whether or not to amend or replace these marine plans following the publication of each three-year report.

Annex A: Marine plan areas in England



Marine
Management
Organisation

Marine Plan Areas in England



Marine Plan Areas		
North East Offshore	South West Inshore	
East Inshore	North West Inshore	South West Offshore
East Offshore	North West Offshore	South Inshore
North East Inshore	South East Inshore	South Offshore

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Marine plan areas

The offshore areas of all England's marine plans extend from the seaward limit of the territorial sea (approximately 12 nautical miles from the English coast) out to the boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

The inshore areas of all England's marine plans extend from the English coast to the seaward limit of the territorial sea.

The sections of the English coast covered by each marine plan are as follows:

- North East inshore: from the Scottish border to Flamborough Head in Yorkshire
- East inshore: from Flamborough Head in Yorkshire to Felixstowe in Suffolk
- South East inshore: from Felixstowe in Suffolk to Folkestone in Kent
- South inshore: from Folkestone in Kent to the river Dart in Devon
- South West inshore: from the River Dart in Devon to the Severn Estuary border with Wales
- North West inshore: from the River Dee border with Wales to the Solway Firth border with Scotland

If you have any questions regarding this map, contact us at:

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