



Marine Management Organisation

South Inshore and South Offshore Marine Plan Areas

Statement of Public Participation: First revision – February 2015



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1. Introduction

The future development of our marine area affects many people. In order to create places and spaces where people can work, live and enjoy spending time, it is important that those with an interest can have their say in the marine planning process and contribute to shaping our seas and coast.

This document describes how and when The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will involve people in preparing the marine plans for the South plan areas and indicates who will be involved in the plan-making process.

This is the first revision to the Statement of Public Participation published in April 2013. This revised document provides details of changes made to the marine planning process for the South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas.

What is this document?

The Statement of Public Participation (SPP) is required under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹ (“MCAA”), which created a framework for the marine planning system. It is important that, as well as drawing on best practice and experience, we take account of stakeholders² views on how they want to be involved to ensure their participation at appropriate stages in the planning process. The aim of this document is to describe how we will do this, when we will do this and what we will do with the outcomes of your views and opinions.

The Act³ sets out the requirement to produce a marine plan and SPP for each plan area; however, early engagement with stakeholders has indicated the value in producing a single SPP incorporating both the South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas.

Who is this document for?

This document is for those who have an interest in the plan areas or those who may be affected by decisions taken on the basis of the plan. Stakeholders could represent a wide range of interests, including those who live or conduct business in and around the area, enjoy it, care about it or help to manage it, from individuals to groups and organisations.

People have the opportunity to be involved in shaping their marine area. If you are part of a local group, business or an individual with an interest in the South Inshore and/or Offshore Marine Plan Areas, you may have information and ideas that can help determine their future. By taking part in the marine planning process you can influence the decisions being made about the marine plans.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

² Stakeholders for the purpose of marine planning are defined by the Marine Management Organisation as “people, groups, individuals, and businesses with an interest in the marine area”.

³ MCAA (S51): “(1) A marine plan authority may prepare a marine plan for an area (a “marine plan area”) consisting of the whole or any part of its marine planning region.

Set out below are our core principles for marine planning engagement which we are committed to following throughout the planning process.

Our principles of engagement

We have drawn up a list of principles to shape marine planning engagement. These are based on how we believe we should work and how you have told us you would like us to work.

We will:

involve people early on in the decision making process and in developing policy within the framework provided by the Marine Policy Statement⁴

- engage with interested people and organisations at the appropriate time using effective engagement methods and allowing sufficient time for meaningful consultation
- be adaptable, recognising that different consultation methods work for different people and that a one size fits all approach will not work
- respect the diversity of people and their lifestyles and give people a fair chance to have their voice heard regardless of gender, age, race, abilities, sexual orientation, circumstances or where they live
- be clear in the purpose of any engagement and how you may contribute, and let people know how their views have been taken into account within agreed timescales
- make documents publicly available on our website (located at GOV.UK) and across our network of coastal offices and be consistent in our approach
- communicate clearly with people using plain English and avoiding jargon and acronyms as much as possible

Getting involved

If you would like to get involved in marine planning and would like to be added to our contacts database, follow our twitter account or receive the MMO blog, please get in touch with the MMO Marine Planning Team:

Email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

Tel: 0191 376 2790

By post: Marine Planning Team
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle Business Park
NE4 7YH

or contact your local Implementation Officer:

Poole: Clare Kavanagh 01202 677 539
Portsmouth: Peter Cosgrove 02392 864 917

⁴ [HM Government Marine Policy Statement](#) (2011)

2. Background to marine planning

Why marine planning?

As the seas around England become increasingly crowded, with competing demands on space for marine activities together with an ever present need to protect the environment, there is a recognised need to adopt an integrated and strategic approach to manage the use of our seas in the most sustainable way. Marine planning has been established to do this, complementing existing measures such as licensing and day-to-day management. It focuses on a specific area, considers economic, environmental and social issues, encompasses all sectors, and is forward-looking with clear vision, objectives and policies. In doing so, our seas will finally have a system comparable to the well-established and tested planning system on land.

The marine planning system in England

Through the Act, the UK Government introduced a number of measures that will help to deliver its vision for the marine area of “clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas”. The Act establishes the legal basis for a marine planning system.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the marine plan authority and has delegated most of the functions in respect of marine plans to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). One of the functions they have retained is to approve this SPP prior to its publication⁵.

The UK Government published the Marine Policy Statement (MPS)⁶ in March 2011. This was adopted by all UK Administrations and provides the policy framework for the preparation of marine plans, establishing how decisions affecting the marine area should be made. In the absence of marine plans, decisions affecting the marine area must be made in accordance with the MPS⁷.

Benefits of the marine planning system

Marine planning will contribute to the effective management of marine activities and focus on the sustainable use of our marine resources.

Benefits could include:

- Clear mapping of marine uses – to benefit both individual licence applications and national infrastructure projects, and enable sustainable development for new activities
- Greater certainty for investors/developers – clear indications of areas to consider or avoid, saving time and money for developers. This is because plans will be based on the best available technical and scientific evidence, including early and consistent engagement with stakeholders together with a sustainability appraisal⁸

⁵ The SPP relates to retained functions for the purposes of section 60 of the MCAA.

⁶ [HM Government Marine Policy Statement](#) (2011)

⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents> s58 (1)

⁸ As set out in A Description of the marine planning system for England published by Defra in March 2011.

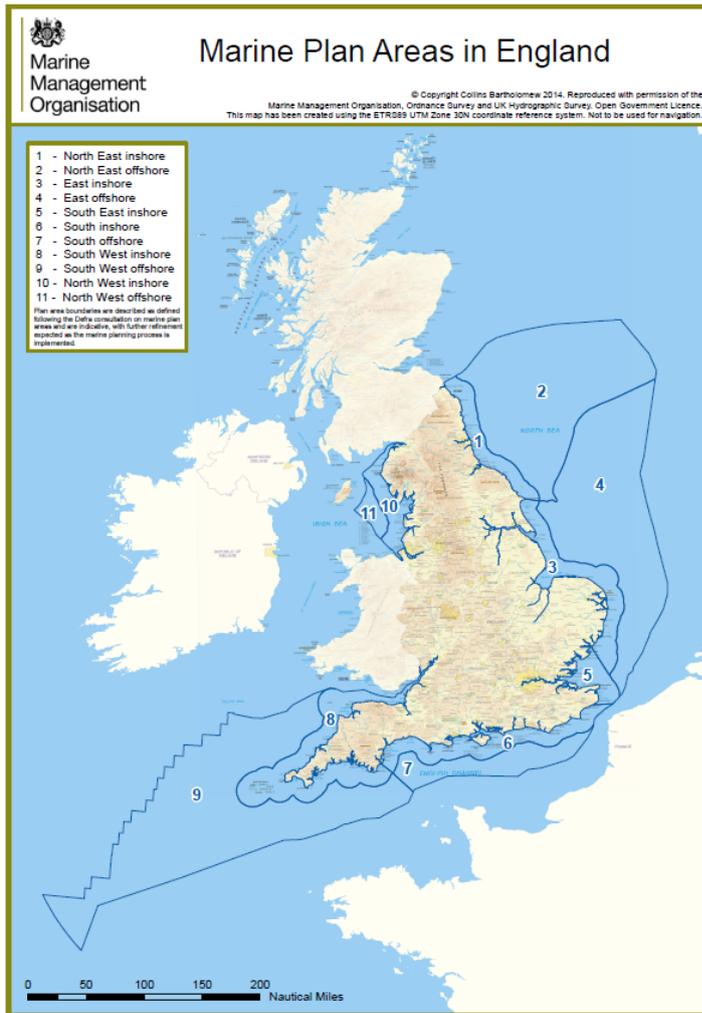
- Shared use of busy areas - so that as many industries as possible can benefit. We will look at all the competing uses of our seas and identify opportunities for sharing space sustainably.
- Earlier and better involvement of nearby communities – sharing information with a wide range of people at the plan-making stages, and listening to their views and needs.
- Making the most of growth and job opportunities – by linking new marine development with communities on land, so new jobs can benefit local people
- Recognising local interests - and rejecting a 'one size fits all' approach by liaising with local authorities, local coastal groups and others to understand each area.
- Taking account of environmental factors at an early stage – marine plans will look at the cumulative effect on the marine ecosystem of all the activities and pressures in each plan area
- Sustainable development – all plans will focus on development that focuses on the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, economic and social)
- Opportunities for multiple benefits – encouraging developments to also enhance benefits for marine ecology and/or biodiversity.

It will enable the Government to set a clear direction for managing our seas, to clarify objectives and priorities, and to direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards more strategic and efficient use of marine resources.

Overview of the plan areas

There are 11 marine plan areas, covering the English inshore and offshore waters, and the MMO will produce marine plans for each (see map 1). The inshore region extends from the mean high water mark out to 12 nautical miles. The offshore region includes the area from 12 nautical miles out to the UK Exclusive Economic Zone, and maritime borders with France and the Channel Islands.

The boundaries may be subject to minor refinement during the course of the marine planning process but cannot be substantially changed.



Map 1: Marine plan areas in England

A higher resolution version of this map can be found [here](#)

Progress in marine planning

Marine planning began in the East Inshore and East Offshore Plan Areas in April 2011. Following public consultation The East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans were adopted on 2 April 2014, the first marine plans in England. The box below provides a snapshot of the engagement carried out to date in producing the first plans.

Work on the marine plans has been developed by talking with coastal groups and other partnerships, learning from pilot projects in England and marine planning processes elsewhere, and workshops with interested parties in the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Areas

Our experience in the East

Since planning began in the East, and based on the East Plan Areas SPP, we have carried out many stakeholder events, provided many opportunities for involvement in the draft plan and carried out informal consultations on the different stages. Some of these include:

- Five series of **stakeholder workshops** attended by over 300 people
- 400 **one-to-one meetings** with marine sector reps, such as, offshore wind, fishing, recreation, aggregates and cabling Members of Parliament etc
- **Local liaison officers** based in Lowestoft and Grimsby met with many local stakeholders, attended their meetings and events
- 23 public **drop-in sessions** across the East attended by over 700 people
- **Specific groups or fora**, e.g. Local Authority elected members, Local Government Associations, Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities, etc
- **International workshops** with France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Denmark and European Commission
- **Informal consultations** on plan stages - more than 2,000 comments from 70 different organisations in 2012.
- 106 responses, over 2000 comments on the Consultation Drafts
- Two reporting area and two decision-makers workshops.

3. The South Inshore and Offshore Plan Areas

The South plan areas are the third and fourth areas to be selected for marine planning. The South plan areas include over 20,000 square kilometres of sea.

The South Inshore Marine Plan Area covers an area of c.1000 kilometres of coastline stretching from Folkestone in Kent to the river Dart in Devon, taking in some 10,000 square kilometres of sea. The area comprises of 40 local authorities (including six counties), six Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, two National Parks, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) world heritage site in Dorset and a Geopark site in Devon. The area has 10 blue flag beaches and very busy ports at Portsmouth and Southampton.

The South Offshore Marine Plan Area includes the marine area from 12 nautical miles to bordering territorial waters, a total of approximately 10,000 square kilometres of sea. France and the Channel Islands of Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney border the South Offshore Marine Plan Area.

The Act defines the marine area to include "the waters of every estuary, river or channel, so far as the tide flows at mean high water spring tide"⁹. Such waters can extend quite far inland, such as the Solent, the Exe and the Dart. The Act (S. 51(2)) is clear that every part of the marine area must be within a marine plan. Depending upon the circumstances it may, however, be that marine planning will not in practice make a significant difference in these areas. It should also be noted that S.6 of MCAA requires the marine plan authority to take all reasonable steps to secure that any marine plan for the English inshore area is compatible with any relevant terrestrial plan which is related to the marine plan area.

⁹ Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009), Section 42:
<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/legislation/mcaa/index.htm>

4. Stages and timeline for production of marine plans

When will we engage?

Marine planning for the South Inshore and South Offshore Plan Areas began in 2013. Throughout the process, we will carry out ongoing engagement as the plans develop and will work closely with our key stakeholders and other people who are interested in the South marine areas. There are certain stages in plan-making in which we are legally required to engage in a more structured and formal way, for example formal representations on the consultation draft plans, but it will be important for us to hear stakeholders' views and opinions on how they feel the plans are progressing throughout the process.

To date, we have held three sets of workshops with stakeholders across the South marine plan areas. These workshops were held at key times in the marine planning process - in January 2013 to introduce the marine planning process and engage on the statement of public participation, in October 2013 to ask stakeholders to assist us in evidence gathering and issues analysis, and in July 2014 to help define a vision and objectives. The workshops have been attended by a diverse range of stakeholders offering differing opinions to inform the marine planning process. In addition to the workshops, we have complemented our engagement with appropriate public consultation. This has proved beneficial to those who could not attend the workshops or wished to provide comment following attendance of a workshop. This engagement complements the many individual meetings, including bilateral meetings with partner organisations, and engagement undertaken by South implementation Officers.

The timeline below sets out our proposed stages of plan-making, highlighting a number of key opportunities for stakeholder input into the planning process. However, it is to be noted that these timelines represent an illustrative guide only and as plan-making is an iterative process these stages may be subject to amendment.

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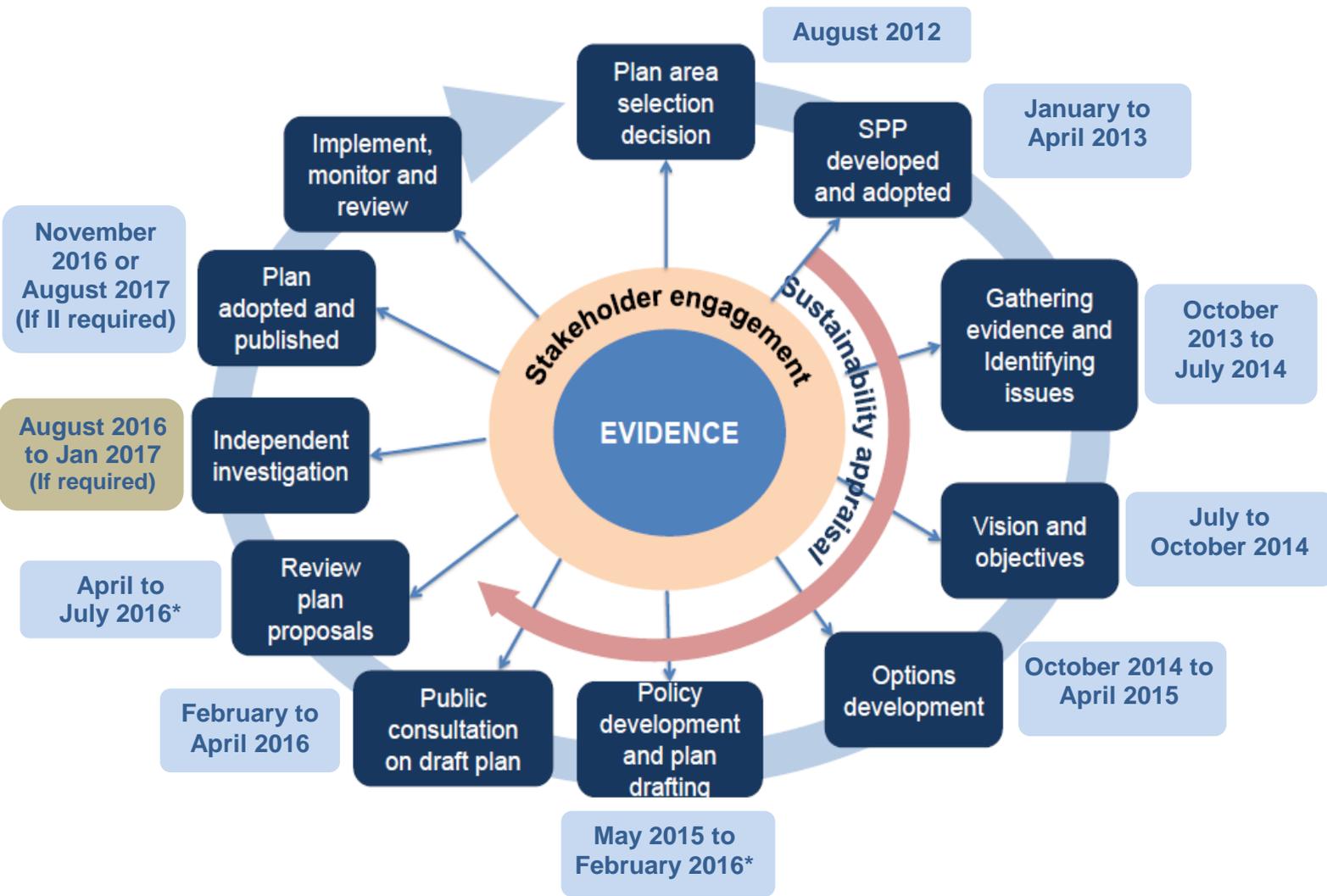


Figure 1: Stages and indicative timeframe for marine plan-making in the South Inshore and South Offshore Plan Areas. *The marine plans will spend a proportion of this time in Whitehall clearance. The MMO will maintain its engagement throughout this time.
 'The dates indicted would need to be adjusted if an Independent Investigation were required'. Habitats Regulations Assessment and Impact Assessment will be undertaken alongside the Sustainability Appraisal.

5. Who will we engage with?

Engaging with stakeholders and interested parties

As previously mentioned, the marine plans are for anyone who has an interest in the marine plan areas. However, there are certain sectors that are immediately recognisable as playing a key part in marine planning, such as:

- aquaculture
- defence and national security
- energy production and infrastructure development
- fisheries
- local communities and elected members
- local authorities
- marine aggregates
- marine conservation
- marine dredging and disposal
- ports and shipping
- telecommunications and cabling
- tourism and recreation
- waste water treatment and disposal¹⁰.

This is not intended to be an exclusive list and will be expanded upon throughout the marine planning process. We are committed to communicating and engaging with as many groups and individuals as possible.

Engaging with stakeholder groups

There are certain groups and organisations which represent the interest of these sectors and they will be key contributors when engaging in marine plan-making. It is expected that these groups will play a major role in marine planning, adding value to the work of the MMO by contributing to the overall stakeholder engagement process. We will have regard to existing management arrangements within the plan areas and existing consultation arrangements.

- **Coastal partnerships and fora**

Coastal partnerships and fora aim to raise awareness of local and national issues, empower local stakeholders and seek to resolve the numerous conflicts that occur in coastal areas. These groups offer real benefits to the development and implementation of the marine planning system, not least a readily available, established and locally trusted means of engaging with local stakeholders. It is expected that they will play a role in marine planning, adding value to the work of the MMO by contributing to the overall stakeholder engagement process. Coastal partnerships and fora in the plan areas can represent a wide range of interests and have a wide demographic and geographic coverage, therefore operating as a key channel for reaching many stakeholders. Examples of some coastal partnerships who we will engage with in the South include Devon Maritime Forum, Dorset Coastal Forum and the Solent Forum among others.

¹⁰ List derived from the Marine Policy Statement, published by Defra in March 2011.

- **Local authorities and other regulators**

Local authorities and other land-based regulators will have an important role to play in marine planning. There are 46 local authorities, six Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and two national parks in the South Inshore Plan Area. We need to engage with these authorities throughout plan-making and ensure that we integrate marine plans with those within local development frameworks¹¹, AONB plans and other plans such as Shoreline Management Plans, River Basin Management Plans and others. We will maintain an ongoing and open dialogue with the relevant authorities in the plan areas and beyond, consulting with them at each stage of plan-making and have due regard to the Localism Act¹² and in particular, the duty to co-operate.

Local authorities can also act as a channel for communicating with local communities, representing their interests and offering another opportunity for engagement, such as newsletters and community events. Elected Members will also play an important part in the marine planning process, representing the interests of their local communities.

- **Bordering nations and Administrations**

We will consult and engage with Marine Scotland, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland throughout plan-making. We will also engage with neighbouring international administrations throughout the marine planning process to ensure that we take into account their relevant policies and emerging marine plans.

The South Offshore Plan Area borders France and the Channel Islands of Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney. We will engage with these neighbouring countries and Crown Dependencies throughout the process, especially in relation to international fisheries, migrating birds and transport and in particular when consulting on the draft marine plans.

- **Non-Governmental Organisations**

The third sector, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), will play an important role in marine planning. These NGOs such as Wildlife and Countryside Link, RSPB, WWF-UK and many others, have a great deal of experience in land use and coastal planning and of marine ecosystems. These organisations can represent a wide range of interests of groups and individuals and are therefore important to engagement throughout the process.

- **Industry representative groups**

There are many industry groups which represent a number of sectors making use of marine resources such as fisheries, aggregates and renewable energy. These representative groups will have an important input into marine planning. It is essential to engage with these groups and the individuals they represent to obtain their views throughout the process, making best use of their knowledge and

¹¹ Including each Local Authority Statement of Community Involvement and Sustainable Community Strategies.

¹² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

experience.

- **General public, local communities and local interest groups**

As part of the planning process, we will need to ensure the interests of local people, their communities and local interest groups are taken into account. The MMO will support the empowerment of local communities through the marine planning process, together with local authorities.

- **Sustainability appraisal consultees**

The sustainability appraisal (SA) process feeds into the production of marine plans at critical stages and acts as a mechanism for ensuring marine plans support sustainability taking account the social, economic, and environmental impacts and benefits. The SA is carried out in parallel with the production of marine plans and will obtain input from SA consultees¹³.

- **Statutory partners and other Government bodies**

Government partners and bodies will also be involved in the marine planning process these include: Government departments (e.g. DEFRA) Department for Communities and Local Government,, Environment Agency, Natural England, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), English Heritage, National Infrastructure Directorate of the Planning Inspectorate, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), Maritime and Coastguard Agency, The Crown Estate, Planning Inspectorate and harbour authorities¹⁴

As we progress through plan-making, we will continually identify new stakeholders and interested individuals taking into account their interests and views during the planning process.

A full list of stakeholder organisations that we are currently consulting with can be found on our website (located at GOV.UK). If you or your organisation would like to be added to this list, please contact us (see [getting involved](#)).

¹³ Including the Environment Agency, Natural England, and English Heritage.

¹⁴ For more information on these agencies, see 'Description of the marine planning system for England', published by Defra in March 2011.

6. When and how will we be carrying out stakeholder engagement

Table 1 below sets out the schedule for marine planning in the South. It outlines the methods for engaging stakeholders at each stage of the planning process¹⁵. Following early stakeholder engagement, we appreciate the need to consider the differing opinions of stakeholders and stakeholder groups and that some methods of engagement may not be appropriate for all. The marine planning process will therefore, aim to be inclusive through a variety of communication channels to ensure stakeholder participation.

As the marine planning process evolves, our methods of engagement and communication with stakeholders and interested parties will take developments into account. Engagement, in this context, is concerned with both informing stakeholders of progress and ensuring stakeholder input into the planning process. Details of the plan-making process will be communicated to ensure stakeholders are aware of the future stages of marine plan production. We will keep you up to date on general marine planning progress via the Marine Developments blog, emails, web updates, and media coverage.

The scoping stage is a significant proportion of the development of the marine plans. The sustainability appraisal (SA) will run alongside the plan-making process, with stakeholders involved in the SA in all stages, with the key milestones set out in the table below (and is aligned with figure 1 on page 13)¹⁶. The SA process is a prescribed process, for more information on the key stages of the SA for the marine plans see the 'Description of the marine planning system for England'.¹⁷

Table 1: Indicative key stages of the marine plan-making process and stakeholder engagement

Marine planning stages and stakeholder engagement	Methods for engagement	Estimated timing
Development and adoption of the SPP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement on the draft SPP 	<p>We held workshops in January 2013 with stakeholders to get input into the draft SPP with regards to who we engage with, when we engage and how we engage during the plan-making process.</p> <p>The published SPP will be available online</p>	<p>January to March 2013 for adoption in April 2013</p>

¹⁵ In accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

¹⁶ Denoted by an asterisk under each relevant stage.

¹⁷

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121204124616/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-planning/110318-marine-planning-descript.pdf>

Marine planning stages and stakeholder engagement	Methods for engagement	Estimated timing
	with hard copies available on request.	
Gathering evidence and issues identification		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders to input on plan areas evidence and data. • Stakeholders to input into plan areas issues identification • Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Stage A – Consultation with designated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) consultation bodies and other relevant stakeholders on the scope of the SA. • Stakeholders to input to development of visions and objectives for the two plan areas. 	<p>Continued engagement through events and updates (e.g. bi-monthly e-newsletter) to seek the views and input from stakeholders and interested parties.</p> <p>For key elements of this stage we will be adopting a wide range of methods of engagement and communication.</p> <p>Throughout this process we will keep stakeholders informed of developments requiring their input.</p> <p>Our engagement process may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshops • targeted meetings and events • web portal • one-to-one meetings • exhibitions and drop-in sessions • attendance at stakeholder meetings • questionnaires • web updates • newsletters • dissemination of information via stakeholder groups (as set out in section 5). • Use of social media such as Facebook and twitter for updates and discussion 	<p>October 2013 to July 2014</p>
Defining the plan areas' vision and objectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders to input plan areas vision and objectives 	<p>Continued engagement through events and updates to seek the views from stakeholders and interested parties</p> <p>For key elements of this stage we will be adopting a range of methods of engagement and communication.</p> <p>Throughout this process we will keep stakeholders informed of developments requiring their input.</p>	<p>Vision and objectives - July to October 2014</p>

Marine planning stages and stakeholder engagement	Methods for engagement	Estimated timing
	<p>Our engagement process may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshops • web portal • one-to-one meetings • exhibitions and drop in sessions • attendance at stakeholder meetings • questionnaires • web updates • blog and social media • dissemination of information via stakeholder groups (as set out in section 5). • use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter for updates and discussion 	
Options development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders to input into plan options 	<p>Continued engagement through events and updates to seek the views from stakeholders and interested parties</p> <p>For key elements of this stage we will be adopting a range of methods of engagement and communication.</p> <p>Throughout this process we will keep stakeholders informed of developments requiring their input.</p> <p>Our engagement process may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshops • web portal • one-to-one meetings • exhibitions and drop in sessions • attendance at stakeholder meetings • questionnaires • web updates • blog and social media • dissemination of information via stakeholder groups (as set out in section 5). • use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter for updates and discussion 	<p>Options development - October 2014 to May 2015</p> <p>Plan policy development - May 2015 to February 2016</p>

Marine planning stages and stakeholder engagement	Methods for engagement	Estimated timing
Policy development and drafting plans (and associated documents)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders to input into plan policy development MMO to draft the marine plans (and associated documents) Stakeholders input in drafting the delivery framework, including implementation bodies and indicators to monitor 	<p>Continued engagement through events and updates to seek the views from stakeholders and interested parties</p> <p>For key elements of this stage we will be adopting a range of methods of engagement and communication.</p> <p>Throughout this process we will keep stakeholders informed of developments requiring their input.</p> <p>Our engagement process may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> workshops web portal one-to-one meetings exhibitions and drop in sessions attendance at stakeholder meetings questionnaires web updates blog and social media dissemination of information via stakeholder groups (as set out in section 5). use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter for updates and discussion <p><i>Note: time is required to draft and refine the marine plans before the next stage of public consultation; therefore there may be a period where engagement is limited at this point. However, we will keep you informed and up to date as to progress of the plans through regular communication mentioned above.</i></p>	<p>Plan policy development and drafting marine plans - May 2015 to February 2016</p>
Public consultation on draft plans and associated documents		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to stakeholders and general public to make representations as to the proposals included in the consultation draft plans and associated documents (including the Sustainability Appraisal, 	<p>Up to 12 week public consultation</p> <p>Engagement through events and updates to seek the views from stakeholders and interested parties on the consultation draft plans.</p> <p>We will notify stakeholders and interested parties of the consultation Our engagement</p>	<p>February to April 2016 (12 weeks)</p>

Marine planning stages and stakeholder engagement	Methods for engagement	Estimated timing
<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment and Impact Assessment).</p>	<p>process may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • localised press releases • email notifications • web-based consultation • e-newsletter • hard copies at coastal offices and on request • notification through social media such as Facebook and Twitter • dissemination of information via stakeholder groups (as set out in section 5). • public drop-in sessions • targeted events <p>Representations on the draft must be made in writing via email or letter within the stipulated (up to 12-week) period.</p>	
<p>Review plan proposals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with stakeholders to clarify responses to the public consultation (where necessary) • Recording main changes to the marine plans 	<p>Continued engagement with stakeholders throughout the process to analyse points raised through the public consultation.</p> <p>Much of this engagement will be coordinated through a single point of contact picking up a variety of comments made by an organisation or person/people. Our engagement process may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • telephone conversations; • face to face meetings; • bilateral meeting. <p><i>Note: time is required to draft and refine the marine plans before the next stage of public consultation; therefore there may be a period where engagement is limited at this point. However, we will keep you informed and up to date as to progress of the plans through regular communication mentioned above.</i></p>	<p>April – July 2016</p>
<p>Independent Investigation (if required)</p>		

Marine planning stages and stakeholder engagement	Methods for engagement	Estimated timing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement to be determined but will be set out in appropriate documents separate from the SPP 	<p>A guidance note setting out the process for Independent Investigation has been produced by the Planning Inspectorate and Defra. It is available from the Planning Inspectorate website at: http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/marine_plans_independent_investigation.pdf</p>	<p>(if required) August 2016 to January 2017</p>
Adoption and publication of the marine plans (and associated documents)¹⁸		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders to be informed of the adoption and publication of the marine plans. 	<p>Stakeholders will be alerted to the adoption and publication of the marine plans (and associated documents) Our engagement process may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> media and press email notifications newsletters details and relevant documents on MMO website 	<p>November 2016 (or August 2017 if independent investigation takes place)</p>
Implement, monitor and review (ongoing process after adoption)		
<p>Although the legislation focusses the SPP on plan preparation and adoption¹⁹ this stage is included here for completeness to match Figure 1. The arrangements for ongoing engagement will be set out in appropriate documentation at or soon after plans adoption</p>	<p>Will be set out in documents separate to the SPP including the relevant Implementation and Monitoring Plan or associated documents.</p>	<p>From date of plans' adoption onwards</p>

¹⁸ The Secretary of State (SoS) decides to adopt the Marine Plans and they are developed in collaboration with sponsoring departments.

¹⁹ MCAA (Schedule 6: 4-6)

Making a representation on the draft marine plans (public consultation- stage 5 above)

At each possible stage of plan-making (as set out above) we will make draft plan text available on our website and invite stakeholders to comment on them²⁰. When we are consulting or seeking representations at certain stages of the marine plans, we will clearly set out how long you have to make your views known and how best to do so. Comments at each of these stages must be made in writing via email or letter.

Public consultation will take place for up to 12 weeks and will be carried out via email and using web-based consultation rather than paper consultation documents. However, we are keen to include as many people as possible and for those who do not have access to computers or web material; we can provide paper versions of any consultation document on request.

Any representations made on the draft marine plans may be included as part of the Independent Investigation and used as evidence.

More information on the process of Independent Investigation is available on the Planning Inspectorate website and can be viewed here:
http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/marine_plans_independent_investigation.pdf

²⁰ There may be no draft text available during the very early stages of the plan as the focus will be on collection and collation of information and evidence.

7. What will we do with your views and comments?

Whenever we carry out stakeholder engagement on the planning process or the content of draft plans we will provide general feedback on the views and representations made. This is understood to be fundamental to the success of plan development, in addition to our duty to maintain transparency throughout the marine planning process.

Feedback to stakeholders may take various forms such as updates on the marine planning website, newsletters and information bulletins. We may also produce a summary of consultation activities/responses where appropriate.

All stakeholder input will be considered in plan-making. However the marine planning system must integrate different views on current and future needs within the plan areas, in addition to factors such as legal constraints and the need to operate within national government policies.

We will ensure we are clear with stakeholders as to how decisions will be made within the marine planning process. This includes showing where stakeholder input has shaped the plans, and acknowledgment where the need to balance the wide ranging of views and overriding factors and constraints have restricted changes to the plan. It is a requirement of the Act that we publish a summary of the differences between the draft plans which were subject to public consultation and the final adopted plan text including a statement of the reasons for any changes²¹.

While we recognise that within the planning process some stakeholder input may not result in an alteration to the plan itself (for the reasons outlined above), we trust that that all parties understand that any plan is unlikely to satisfy everyone and some degree of compromise will be required.

Review and revision to the SPP

The MMO began marine planning in April 2013 following the publication of the first statement of public participation for the South marine plan areas and the process continues to develop. It is not a static process and is dynamic and evolving in nature. As we move through the process, it is possible that changes may be made to the SPP to reflect the views of stakeholders and to ensure their full participation to ensure the overall aims of marine planning are met. Any significant revisions to the SPP would need to be approved by Government. Any revision the SPP will be publicised to stakeholders.

²¹ Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) Schedule 6. 11(2):
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

Contact us

If you would like to get involved in marine planning, be added to our contact database or would like to talk to a marine planner, please get in touch with the MMO's Marine Planning Team:

Email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

Tel: 0191 376 2790

By post: Marine Planning Team
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle Business Park
NE4 7YH

or contact your local Implementation Officer:

Poole: Clare Kavanagh 01202 677 539
Portsmouth: Peter Cosgrove 02392 864 917

Glossary of terms

Activities – A general term that encompasses development and uses. Examples of uses might include fishing or recreation.

Development – Built infrastructure and ‘activities’ as defined in the Marine and Coastal Access Act (S66 and other legislation, for example oil and gas activities (under Petroleum Act 1998) and carbon dioxide storage (under Energy Act 2008). Includes Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects under the Planning Act 2008. The definition is analogous to that in section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 of ‘carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land’. Encompasses, but is not restricted to, what is sometimes commonly called ‘development’. Examples include built or fixed structures, such as a gas platform or a wind farm comprising pilings, turbines, and associated structures (converter stations etc.), and activities such as aggregate extraction and maintenance dredging.

Evidence – For the purpose of marine planning evidence includes policy, data, information, surveys, maps, and other relevant information and data.

Implementation and Monitoring Plan – A description of how and when the marine plan policies and objectives will be implemented and monitored.

Independent Investigation – Once the consultation draft of the marine plans has been published, and the Marine Management Organisation has assessed comments received, resolved any issues where possible and identified any issues that remain unresolved, the Marine Management Organisation will consider whether or not to recommend the need for an Independent Investigation (II). The Secretary of State will then determine (in accordance with paragraph 13 of Schedule 6 of the Marine Coastal Access Act), whether or not to initiate. If an Independent Investigation is initiated by the Secretary of State the Marine Management Organisation will appoint an independent person to assist the Planning Inspectorate to investigate the draft marine plans’ proposals, to make any recommendations and the reasons for those recommendations will be published.

Local Planning Authority – An organisation that has powers under the Town and Country Planning Act to determine applications for planning permission and prepare development plans for its area. In England local planning authorities are: (1) district councils; (2) London borough councils; (3) metropolitan district councils; (4) county councils in relation to any area in England for which there is no district council; (5) the Broads Authority. A National Park authority is the local planning authority for the whole of its area.

MCZ – Marine Conservation Zone – Specific areas designated under the Marine Coastal Access Act for the purposes of conserving marine flora or fauna, marine habitats or features of geological or geomorphologic interest.

Nautical mile - A nautical mile is a unit of distance used in marine navigation and marine forecasts.

Objectives – Desired outcomes of the marine plans. Objectives form the link between the vision and the detailed strategy, including policies.

Options – In planning terms, this is the part of the planning process for considering different ways of achieving the objectives of a plan and addressing any significant issues.

Policy - The marine plans will interpret and present the Government's policies and objectives for UK waters, as set out in the MPS, into a clear spatial, temporal and local expression of policy.

Proposals – general term, usually for something new but could also be for a change that encompasses development and uses, subject to management by public authorities, eg fishing or certain recreation activity, together with management measures. Proposals may relate to either type of decision specified in the Marine Coastal Access Act (see 'Decisions').

Public authority – This means a Minister of the Crown, a public office-holder or a public body (Marine Coastal Access Act S322 (1)). A “public body” includes government departments, The Crown Estate, local authorities, local planning authorities, Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities and statutory undertakers. A “public office holder” means a person holding an office under the Crown, an office created by an Act or devolved legislation, or an office paid for by Parliament. Public authorities are responsible for ensuring that relevant decisions (see 'Decisions') take appropriate account of the marine plans and plan policies.

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) - A strategic environmental assessment is a generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European SEA directive (2001/42/EC) requires a formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of marine planning.

Sustainability appraisal – The purpose of the sustainability appraisal (SA) is to promote more sustainable development by checking and testing a plan, policy or programme for the quality and robustness of its environmental, social and economic content. Sustainability appraisal is iterative and must be closely linked with the plan-making process.

Sustainable development – Development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Vision - The vision defines the desired or intended future state of the plan areas in strategic terms. The vision is the long term view describing how the stakeholders would like the marine area look like in future.

Acronyms used in this document:

AONB – Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cefas – Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

IFCA – Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities

JNCC – Joint Nature Conservation Committee

MCAA – Marine and Coastal Access Act (the Act)

MCZ – Marine Conservation Zones

MMO – Marine Management Organisation

MPS – Marine Policy Statement

NGO – Nongovernmental organisation

RSPB – Royal Society of the Protection of Birds

SA – Sustainability Appraisal

SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment

SPP – Statement of Public Participation

WWF – World Wildlife Federation